



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 179

### August 2021

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people with an interest in history*

### Safe Childbirth in Australia

On 20 June 2021 Dr John Paull OAM presented the ninth Pugh Day Lecture on behalf of Professor Alicia Dennis who could not travel from Melbourne. The presentation provided an overview of the historical use of pain relief during childbirth covering five eras of obstetric anaesthesia. Starting with drinking lots of alcohol, to administering a few drops of chloroform on a mask, the twilight sleep era (1902-50), the combination era when standards of practice and techniques were established, and the new world COVID-19 era. What will the future be like? The annual lecture was held in conjunction with the LGH Historical Committee. President Marion Sargent is pictured with speaker John Paull.



### Historic Wallpaper

Alan Townsend presented a fascinating talk on historic wallpapers on 18 July 2021. He accidentally started collecting historic wallpapers and reproduces some of the colourful and intricate designs he finds in old buildings. These are often just remnants hidden behind cupboards, bookshelves, mirrors and even a fuse box – that have survived the horrors of 1970s renovations. Alan, with Linda Clark's expertise at separating up to 20 layers, has uncovered a history of decorating fashions from early colonial times in Tasmania. He showed photographs of wallpaper that looks like buttoned silk, oak wall panelling, leather, and some depicting romantic scenes from exotic places.

Colonists who wanted to make a statement about their wealth were not afraid of adorning their walls with 'room paper' depicting bold designs, bright colours, glittering gold, or embossing. Alan mentioned some Tasmanian paper hangers, often ex-convicts, namely Henry Mottram, Charles Woolley, and John Perry, who had colourful lives. A few of the houses where he has found stunning wallpaper are Clairville near Perth, Patterdale at Nile, The Towers and Runnymede at New Town, the Jordan Inn at Broadmarsh, and Oak Lodge at Richmond. *The Examiner* published an article on the talk on 19 July 2021, page 3, *Peeling back the layers of history*.

## August Meeting

**Robert Smith, *William Henry Clayton: an amateur's perspective of the legacy of the architect in Tasmania and New Zealand***

**Sunday 15 August 2021 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**



From 1848-1863, William Henry Clayton set up as an architect, surveyor, and engineer in Tasmania. His many achievements can still be seen in and around Launceston. He left some legacies which we can enjoy today but some of his better works have sadly disappeared.

Before his untimely death he spent another 14 years in New Zealand where he is probably more recognized and studied.

**Robert Smith** is the great-great-nephew of Clayton and will explore many of the architect's buildings displaying some lesser-known images and some previous works from a different perspective. Robert has spent many years researching his family history book, *The Clayton's of 'Wickford' Tasmania*.

## September Meeting – Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture

**Dr Nic Haygarth, *Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applicants for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888–1909***

**Sunday 19 September 2021 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**



**A thylacine at Wynyard, 1915. Myra Sargent Photo.**

In the years 1888-1909 the Tasmanian government paid a £1 bounty for a dead adult thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) and ten shillings for a dead juvenile thylacine. The scheme was established at the request of Glamorgan MHA and east coast wool-grower John Lyne, who demanded relief from the thylacine's alleged sheep predation. Bounty applicants submitted a carcass—or sometimes less than a full carcass—to their local police office to claim the reward. About 2200 bounties appear to have been paid before the bounty scheme was cancelled due to dwindling applications in 1909.

The surviving records of bounty payments are not complete, that is, no locations are given, and often it is difficult to identify the applicant simply from an initial and surname. Zoologist and thylacine expert Dr Eric Guiler composed a chronological list of bounties paid, with attribution and location for each. However, the sources of his information are not clear. The present state of digitised historical records makes it much easier to identify the bounty applicants and to examine their lives.

The bounty payment records provide a prism by which to analyse the Tasmanian rural underclass in the period 1888–1909. Preliminary analysis suggests that most of the thylacine bounty applicants were 'unskilled' shepherds, stockmen, labourers and small farmers for whom the fur industry was a vital source of income—and for whom a dead thylacine was an incidental bonus. This casts doubt upon the idea that the thylacine's supposed extinction was the result of a concerted campaign of extermination by wool-growers.

**Nic Haygarth** is a professional historian and freelance writer who was awarded a PhD in history by the University of Tasmania. A prolific author, he is particularly passionate about wild places, high country and those who populate such areas.

## New Members

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Rosslyne Borth, Wayne & Jill Dearing, Wendy & Michael Gray and Jennifer McDonnell.

## Membership Form

A membership form is available on our website: [Membership Form.pdf](#). Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and \$4 for visitors. As most of the Sunday Lectures were postponed in 2020, financial memberships have been rolled over to 2021.

## LHS Activities for 2021

Launceston Historical Society meetings are usually held at the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, on the third Sunday of the month at 2pm, unless otherwise notified.

Bookings are not required. For enquiries email [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com). Free for members, visitors are welcome to attend at \$4 each. Bring some cash for a chance to win a fabulous prize in the raffle.

From 1 May 2021 all visitors to the QVMAG are required to check in with the Tas App by scanning the QR code displayed in the foyer. If you do not have a smart phone the attendant staff can check you in on the QVMAG device.

The meeting will be livestreamed on Zoom. A link will be provided to members closer to the date.

**17 October**                 **Nigel Burch**, *The little skipper: Sir John Evans* (Seniors Week)

**1 November**               **Excursion to Swansea** (Monday long weekend, see the itinerary on page 5)

**21 November**             **Graeme Williams**, *Around Tasmania with Spurling*

Earlier talks are available on our website, so catch up on ones you missed or listen to them again: <http://launcestonhistory.org.au/lhs-lecture-series/>

## Our History

These stories on Launceston's history and beyond have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 470 words, with at least three pictures, to the president [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com). Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

We are preparing a book with 100 of these stories, each with a photograph – more information to come.

No	Date	Page	Author	Title	Topic
185	13 Jun 2021	21	Prue McCausland	Female citizen scientists blazed a trail	Seaweed collectors of George Town
186	20 Jun 2021	21	Marion Sargent	Healthcare for city's women delivers after a very difficult birth	Beginnings of the QVH
187	27 Jun 2021	17	Nigel Burch	Remembering Longford's lost leader	Premier Albert E Solomon
188	4 Jul 2021	21	Jenny Gill	Homestead enjoyed learned reputation	Sidbury Farm
189	11 Jul 2021	23	Rod Oliver	Life in the slow lane: A caravan adventure to St Helens and back	Voyage in a Caravan
190	18 Jul 2021	21	Nigel Burch	Walter a builder of Beaconsfield's future	George Walter, builder of Beaconsfield
191	25 Jul 2021	23	Julian Burgess	An inaugural trip offered snapshot of Australia's defences	The flight of the Seagull
192	1 Aug 2021	21	Nigel Burch	Tasmanian women tackled opposition to blaze a hockey trail	The ancient art of Hockey
193	8 Aug 2021		Nigel Burch		Osmiridium – the gold they threw away
194	15 Aug 2021		Paul Richards		Two centuries of iodine deficiency

## Milton Hall and City Baptist (Christ Church Congregational)



**View of Christ Church and Milton Hall, Frederick Street, by Clyde Coombe, 18 October 1964. QVM:1997:P:1962.**

for a wide range of contemporary community programs.”

The announcement on 15 July 2021 of the sale of Milton Hall and City Baptist Church shocked many Launceston residents.

Originally called the St John’s Square Congregational Chapel, Milton Hall has been part of Launceston’s landscape since 1842. Rev. John West, for whom our annual lecture is named, preached from here until he left for Sydney in 1854.

Christ Church Congregational was built next door in 1883-85 under the ministership of Rev. William Law who served for 48 years. The old chapel, renamed Milton Hall, became the church hall, Sunday School. EA Nathan’s Launceston High School, and a venue for a wide variety of community entertainments.

In 1975 Christ Church Congregational combined with Chalmer’s Presbyterian and Paterson Street Methodist churches to become the Pilgrim Uniting Church, in Paterson Street. In 1981 the Central Baptist Church (Duncan House, Brisbane Street) bought Christ Church and Milton Hall, forming Christ Church Baptist Church. In 2001 they amalgamated with Elphin Road Baptist Church and became City Baptist Church.

Pastor Jeff McKinnon said “There is a great deal of sadness in contemplating letting go of magnificent historic buildings. But they are no longer fit for purpose

Now we await the next chapter in the history of these two iconic buildings overlooking Princes Square.



**Frederick Street, between St John and Charles. William Cawston photo, taken in 1866 for the Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. LPIC147-6-337.**

# Swansea Excursion

Monday 1 November 2021

## The Launceston Historical Society's Spring Excursion for Members

- 9.00 am Veterans and Community Bus departs from the Eardley Street carpark behind the RSL. Park in the bottom carpark. Bring a mask.
- 9.45 am Arrive at Campbell Town for a 25-minute comfort stop. There may be time to grab a coffee or bring a thermos.
- 11.00 am Arrive at Swansea. Maureen Martin Ferris will provide a guided tour of the **East Coast Heritage Museum** and Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society rooms.
- 12.00 pm Maureen will take us on a **walking tour** of Swansea.
- 1.00 pm Lunch **Artifakt Gallery & Café**. Tables have been booked and a limited menu will be emailed three weeks before the trip so we can pre-book our meals to save time. Lunch is at **your own expense**.
- 2.00 pm Visit the Anglican and Catholic **cemeteries** by bus.
- 3.00pm Depart Swansea.
- 5.00 pm Proposed arrival back in Launceston.



Historic Swansea model at the Museum.

Please post or email the details below @ **\$35.00 per person**.

Post a cheque to the Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, Launceston, TAS 7250, **or** pay by direct debit BSB 067 003 A/C 2804 8638, and email Leonie Prevost: [leonie.prevost@bigpond.com](mailto:leonie.prevost@bigpond.com) or Marion Sargent: [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com), phone 0438 432 848.

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<b>Swansea Excursion, Monday 1 November 2021</b>	Return to:
Name.....	LHS Inc.
Address.....	PO Box 1296
Mobile.....	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Email.....	<b>\$35.00 per person</b>
Lunch at Artifakt Café: Yes.....No.....Dietary requirements.....	

## Launceston Advertiser, Thursday 4 August 1842, page 2

The New Independent Chapel in the Church Square will be dedicated to the service of God on Friday the 12th instant. The erection of this building reflects much credit upon the congregation; the funds were raised entirely by voluntary subscription without any aid from Government. It is a neat and substantial edifice, and when completed, will be a great ornament to that part of the town.

### Other Items and Events of Interest

**George Town & District Historical Society:** *The Grove*, George Town at 7.30pm. 16 August 2021, Jill Holland, *12 years of living in New Guinea (1973-1985)*; 20 September 2021, Diane Philips, *James Galloway, master mason*. Email: [info@qtdhs.com](mailto:info@qtdhs.com)

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. 10 August 2021, Kristyn Harman, *Exploring 1840s New Zealand through Australian convict records*; 14 September 2021, Kirstie Ross, *Tasmania's mystery train hikes of 1932 and the commercialisation of bushwalking*. Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au)

**National Book Council:** Launceston Library at 1pm. 18 August 2021, Pete Hay, *Poetry and Tasmanian speech*; 15 September 2021, Patsy Cameron, *Discussing two books: Grease and Ochre & Sea Country*. RSVP: [nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com](mailto:nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com) or phone Jackie 0429 317 531.

**Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Branch):** Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum, Inveresk, 1.30pm. 22 August 2021, UTAS PhD candidates, Priya Bindal, Eric Gubesch, & Kate Edwards, *Breaking new ground – Science Week event*; 12 September 2021, Sebastien Meffre, *East Meets West: the geological development of northern Tasmania*. Email: [apcachris@gmail.com](mailto:apcachris@gmail.com)

**National Oral History conference:** The biennial conference of Oral History Australia *Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges* will be held in Launceston on 14–17 October. The full program with 50 presentations and registration details are on the Oral History Australia website: <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/conference-registration-now-open/>

**Iodine Deficiency Symposium:** *The Status of Iodine in Tasmania: a medical history & research symposium*, Peppers Silo Hotel, Lindsay Street, Launceston on Saturday & Sunday 20-21 November 2021. A landmark symposium will be presented in Launceston featuring Australia's leading researchers in the field of Iodine Deficiency. A full day Symposium with keynote speaker Prof. Creswell Eastman will be followed by a dinner with guest speaker Dr Mark Veitch - Director of Public Health, Tasmania. On Sunday there will be a Medical Walk in Launceston followed by a tour of the Launceston Whisky Distillery & BBQ Lunch. Enquiries: [admin@cliffordcraig.org.au](mailto:admin@cliffordcraig.org.au). Website with more information and booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/iodine-symposium-tickets-157426901099>

#### Launceston Historical Society

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

#### Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Oct 2021** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.

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