

Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 182

February 2022

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Annual General Meeting + Richard Mack

Sunday 20 February 2022 – 2pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk

Welcome to another year of history! A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will be shown before the short AGM which starts at 2pm, followed by our guest speaker Richard Mack.

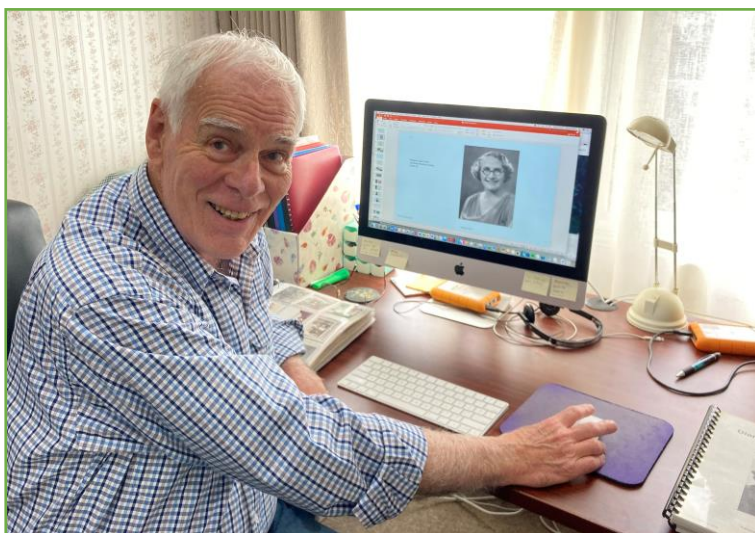
All eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members will be declared vacant. All the current committee members are happy to stay on for yet another year, so no further nominations are required.

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

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 staff can check you in on the QVMAG device. Masks are mandatory.

Bring cash for the chance to win a great raffle prize!

Memberships are now due for renewal for 2022. Thank you to all those who have already paid. Lectures are free for members, visitors \$4.



Margaret Mack: Intrepid Physio

Margaret Mack – “Miss Mack” to generations of her patients and colleagues – OAM, physiotherapist, war veteran, Soroptomist, bridge player, world traveller, inspiration to many, fearless and eccentric – was one of Launceston's most notable residents from the late 1930s until her death in 2005. Using samples from a vast collection of personal documents, photos, newspaper reports and other sources, this talk will focus on the woman behind the image, with an emphasis on her early years.

Eighty years after Margaret, her nephew, **Richard Mack**, made a similar journey from

Victoria to northern Tasmania. He has had a career in education – secondary teaching, TAFE administration, and training consultancy. Whenever work took him to Tasmania he would visit his aunt and learn about her life and community. With a lifelong passion for history and cricket, he and his wife now enjoy a quiet retirement in Longford, used as a base for exploring the beauty of the island.

The 34th John West Memorial Lecture

Dr Alison Alexander

End of Convict transportation

Thursday 3 March 2022 – 8pm

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham



John West, kind and unassuming, was the hero of Tasmania's fight against transportation in the 1840s. He stood up to the might – and force – of the British Empire in defence of what he believed to be just and right. This talk sets the anti-transportation battle, and John West, in the context of the two-century story of the British Empire.

Alison Alexander was born and educated in Tasmania and has had a career writing Tasmanian history. Her books range from commissioned books for institutions ranging from Launceston Grammar to the Clarence Football Club, to general works and biographies. Her latest book is *Tasmania v. British Empire: the fight against convict transportation*.

Held in partnership with the University of Tasmania. Numbers are limited to 60. Bookings on Eventbrite: [Island of Ideas Events Calendar](#)

Membership Renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2021. The [Membership Form](#) is on our website. Pay directly into the Society's CBA bank account BSB 067-003 A/C No. 2804 8638 (put your name in the reference field), by cheque or cash. Please email your details to launcestonhistory@gmail.com, or hand the form to Leonie Prevost at the next meeting, or post to:
Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Members Column

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following **new members**: Don Garden & Sue McKerracher, Beverley Goldfarb, Bob & Terri Ruddick, Craig & Sarah Stenton

Vale: Sadly, our long-time member Barbara Valentine passed away recently. She was correspondence secretary for six years and contributor, editor, and mentor to *Way Back When*, *Fuller Papers* and many other historical publications.

LHS Activities 2022

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.

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. For enquiries email launcestonhistory@gmail.com.

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 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.

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/>

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| 10 April | Mark Cameron , <i>Tasmanian Artillery from Federation to Gallipoli</i> |
| 15 May | Jeanette Thompson , <i>The Knave of Diamonds, Opera Singer</i> |
| 19 June | Michael Cooper , Pugh Day Lecture TBC |
| 17 July | John Dent & Darren Watton , Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture, <i>Annandale Archaeological Dig</i> |
| 21 August | Jai Paterson , <i>Launceston Hotels</i> |
| 18 September | Louise Zarmati , <i>Scrimshaw Cane from an Oatlands' Dig</i> |
| 16 October | Duncan Grant , <i>Lesser-known Launceston Churches and Missions</i> |
| 7 November | Excursion to Beaconsfield (Monday long weekend) |
| 20 November | Nick Clements , <i>Tongerlongeter: First Nations Leader and Tasmanian War Hero</i> |

Other Events of Interest

George Town & District Historical Society: Monday, 21 February 2022, 7.30pm, Hillwood Hall, with the Hillwood Garden Club; Monday, 21 March 2022, 7.30pm, Tam O'Shanter Community & Golf Club, Keith McLauchlan, *The development of Tam O'Shanter*. Email: info@gtdhs.com

National Book Council & Tamar Valley Writers Festival: Sunday, 27 February 2022, 2-4pm, Rowella Community Hall, *Food & Words to Warm the Heart*. Join Sally Wise and Chris Wisbey in celebrating the release of Sally's new book *The Comfort Bake*. Email: nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com

Royal Society of Tasmania: Sunday, 27 February 2022, 1.30pm, QVMAG Inveresk. Prof. Kimberley Norris, *From Antarctica to outer space*. Book by email: apcachris@gmail.com or phone 0417 330 118.

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. 8 February 2022, Jim Everett - *purulia meenamatta, Life as a Tasmanian Aboriginal man*; 8 March 2022, *History of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania*. Email: info@thra.org.au

Library Book Sale: Saturday, 5 March 2022, 9am – 1pm, St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street, Launceston.

Bike Week History Ride: Friday, 11 March 2022, 9.45am. Marion Sargent will lead a TBUG history ride from the Punchbowl Reserve car park to Carr Villa and the Smallpox cemetery off Quarantine Road.

Iodine Deficiency Symposium: 9 April 2022, now deferred. Queries: pacrichards1@bigpond.com

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. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

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

| No | Date | Page | Author | Title | Topic |
|-----|-------------|------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 211 | 12 Dec 2021 | 35 | Rod Oliver | Australian post was up, up and away with Kingsford Smith | First airmail service |
| 212 | 19 Dec 2021 | 39 | Nigel Burch | Residents not keen to go with North Esk flow at St Leonards | Clark's Ford, St Leonards |
| 213 | 2 Jan 2022 | 39 | Nigel Burch | Political potential tragically unrealised | Margaret McIntyre |
| 214 | 8 Jan 2022 | 27 | Nigel Burch | Tasmanian officer Churchill's choice | Churchill's choice: Tom Davies DSO MC |
| 215 | 16 Jan 2022 | 29 | Nigel Burch | New mill pumped lifeblood to residents after a transplant | First Cataract Mill |
| 216 | 23 Jan 2022 | 27 | Nigel Burch | Visitors got in touch with inner Dolittle at popular animal park | Punchbowl Zoo |
| 217 | 30 Jan 2022 | 29 | Marion Sargent | Tip blaze sparked an inferno that turned livelihoods to ashes | Newstead Fire 1961 |
| 218 | 6 Feb 2022 | | Nigel Burch | | A crime at Corra Linn |



In the water at Swan Point. *Weekly Courier*, 12 March 1914, page 20.

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2022** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.