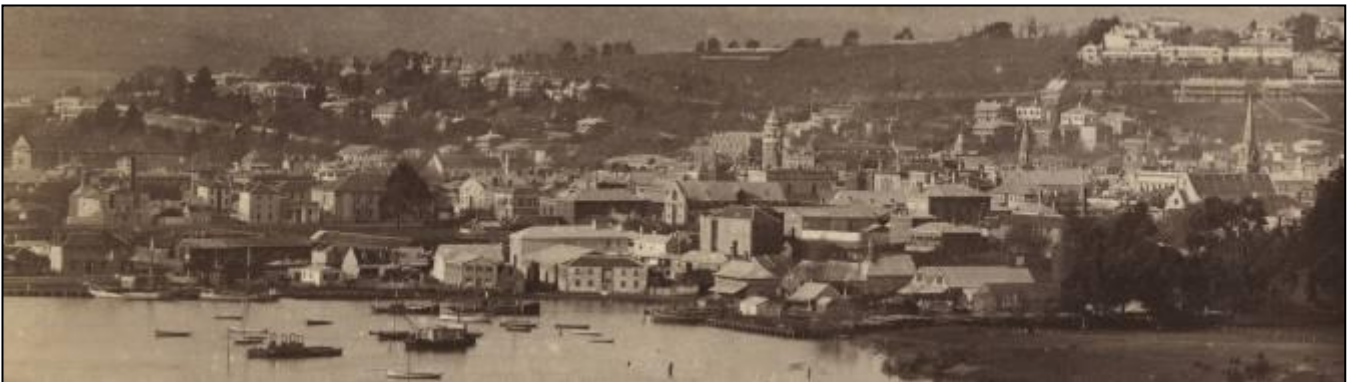


Launceston Historical Society Inc.

"Bringing together people with an interest in history"

Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2022



Alfred Coleman Bonner, 'Launceston from Trevallyn', 12 March 1890. TAHO Launceston, LPIC 21, NTCC Album 6, No 171

**Presented at its Annual General Meeting held at the
Meeting Room, QVMAG Museum at Inveresk
Sunday 19 February 2023**

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Introduction

As President of the Launceston Historical Society (LHS), and on behalf of the members and visitors here today, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this event is taking place.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Launceston Historical Society for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.

John West Memorial Lecture



Dr Alison Alexander and Marion Sargent

On Thursday 3 March 2022 Dr Alison Alexander presented the 34th John West Memorial Lecture with the topic *John West and the battle to end convict transportation*. This excellent lecture was well received by an appreciative audience at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania. President Marion Sargent was the master of ceremonies, Dr Alexander was introduced by Professor Dominic Geraghty from UTAS, and LHS committee member Prue McCausland offered a vote of thanks.

This year the John West Memorial lecturer will be Dr Nick Brodie, historian, archaeologist, author – speaking on *The Long Shadow of John West's War* – at the Meeting Room,

Queen Victoria Museum on the third Sunday of the month, 19 March 2023 at 2pm. The committee decided to change the time and venue to our usual meeting arrangements. We hope this proves to be a successful move.

Monthly meetings

We once again hosted a variety of fascinating speakers who presented papers at our monthly Sunday meetings in 2022. Following the Annual General Meeting in February our guest speaker, Richard Mack, gave an engaging talk on his aunt, the intrepid physio Margaret Mack. In April Mark Cameron presented an overview of Tasmanian Artillery from 1856 to WWI, and in May Stefan Petrow looked back at how nineteenth-century Tasmanian communities coped with shock infectious diseases.

In June Dr Michael Cooper presented the 10th Pugh Day lecture on the history of anaesthesia and surgery in Antarctica. Due to some difficulties, this will be the last Pugh Day Lecture we will be involved with. In July John Dent presented the second Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Memorial Lecture on the Annandale Community Dig and in August Jai Paterson spoke on Launceston's nineteenth-century hotels.

In September Dr Louise Zarmati told us about the mystery of the Oatlands scrimshaw walking cane. In October Duncan Grant spoke on some Launceston Christian Missions. The final speaker for the year was Nick Clements who presented a lecture on Tongerlongeter, a Tasmanian Aboriginal leader in the Black War.

We appreciate the support of the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk for making the meeting room available to us. And thank you also to Bent Eared Records who looked after our audio-visual needs. Our lectures continue to be videoed and live streamed by Zoom so our members can watch from home in real time or enjoy them later from the links on our website.

Executive Committee

The extent of events and activities conducted by the Historical Society would not be possible without the many hours of work performed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Thank you to the members of the Executive Committee who have helped keep the Society ticking over nicely.

In February 2022, the following committee members were elected: Marion Sargent (President), Kelli Schultz (Vice-President and raffle), Leonie Prevost (Treasurer and Public Officer), Prue McCausland (Correspondence Secretary and History Prize), Catherine Pearce (Minute Secretary), Karin Lê (Publicity Officer), Bradley Wood (History Prize and YouTube), Sue Bell (archaeology), Wendy Roberts (Representative on the City of Launceston Heritage Advisory Committee), Carol Fuller (History Prize) and one recruit Phil Page (Launceston History Centre representative).

History Prize

The 15th annual Primary History Prize in 2022 received 62 excellent entries submitted by seven schools: Evandale, Glen Dhu, Mowbray Heights, and Summerdale Primary Schools, St Thomas More's, Launceston Christian School, and Scotch Oakburn College. A total of \$735 in book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop was awarded to 15 children. Every student received a certificate of participation.

The fourth and final Rebecca Phillips Memorial Prize of \$50 was awarded to Delightful Odeyemi for her creative work on *Why is Australia so good at swimming?* We did not hold a ceremony at the Town Hall again this year, but each child was recognised at their own school assemblies. We partnered with the Children's University this year for the first time.

Thank you to Carol Fuller, Brad Wood, and Prue McCausland for organising and judging the awards.

The annual \$500 Launceston Historical Society History Prize was awarded to Matthew Griffioen at the University of Tasmania for the best History essay written in 2022 by a student enrolled at Launceston in first year History.

Spring Excursion to the West Tamar and Beaconsfield

Despite the bus breaking down, we enjoyed our Spring excursion along the West Tamar to Beaconsfield on 7 November 2022. Members visited the Rosevears Hotel, Swan Point and Paper Beach, the Supply River Mill, the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum, and Brady's Lookout while Terese Binns drove the Veterans and Community Bus. Marion Sargent and Prue McCausland provided historical commentary along the way.



Archaeology Group

The LHS archaeology group, convened by John Dent, completed a dig at Annandale near Pateena Road in November 2022. Participants led by archaeologist Darren Watton excavated a large stone building dating from the 1840s and an earlier small stone hut. Many artefacts were found and will be used to inform the final report on the dig.

Launceston History Centre

The Launceston History Centre was formed at a public meeting held on 23 May 2022. The incorporated body brings together three independent history groups – the Launceston Historical Society, Tasmanian Family History Society (Launceston Branch), and Friends of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute. The aims include the provision of a place for the collection, preservation and storage of historical materials that can be used for research by the people of Launceston and visitors to the city. We are still looking for a suitable premises.

Community Outreach

The Society has assisted individuals and community organisations in various ways throughout the year. Six members contributed to articles in *The Examiner's* special publication on 12 March celebrating 180 years. An article was published in that newspaper's quarterly magazine *Northern Exposure* in March written by Marion Sargent: *From Government Garden to City Park*.

In 2022 seven members submitted articles on various aspects of the region's past for the popular 'Our History' series in *The Sunday Examiner*. They are also on our Facebook page. At the end of December these numbered 263, and contributions are still coming in after five years.

Publications

A sub-committee is slowly working on publishing 100 of the 'Our History' stories in a book, each with a photo. We are more than halfway through the first draft. This should be a popular book, as we have had numerous requests for a compilation of the series published in *The Sunday Examiner* and on our Facebook page.

The two free audio apps created by our committee members Catherine Pearce and Wendy Roberts with 'Cya on the Road' – *A Walk Along Historic Cameron Street* and *Launceston City Walk* – were the most popular audio walks with that company in 2022. Launceston Central City has actively promoted these for us.

We thank the staff at Simon Wood's office for printing the Newsletters and Annual Report free of charge.

Membership

The Historical Society had 172 financial members at the end of 2022, including 29 new people. One member, Peter Cox, sadly passed away in 2022.

Conclusion

Once again, thank you to my dedicated Committee whose expertise and energy ensures that this Society functions well. And thank you also to members who attend our meetings and excursions and support the Society in so many ways. Although our membership and attendees at meetings were down a little in 2022, we are still a vibrant Society.

Marion Sargent
President 2022