

Launceston Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No 189

July 2023

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Bringing together people with an interest in history

Anzac talk by Stephen Cornish

Commander Stephen Cornish RAN presented an interesting, illustrated address on "A journey into family military history, or how I became an historian by accident" to the Launceston Historical Society meeting on 16 April 2023. The family connections are Parry, Briggs, Lee, Cooper, and Lawrence - all descended from Isaiah and Maria Briggs of Longford. Stephen focussed on his two great-uncles, paymaster Cyril Parry who wrote a diary and gunner Athol Parry who was killed on Gallipoli. An article about the talk was in *The Examiner* on 15 April 2023. The full address is posted on our website with illustrations under "What's New" and "Activities: Meetings of the LHS":

<http://launcestonhistory.org.au/>



Commander Stephen Cornish and Jill Cornish.



Toby Martin, Maureen Martin Ferris and Sandra Duck.

Tasmanian Pictorial Church Index

On 21 May, Sandra Duck gave an overview of the church indexing project which began in the 1990s with St Bartholomew's Church at Apsley. Maureen Martin Ferris and Sandra have collected photos and basic information about 1,500 churches in Tasmania and Norfolk Island. Maureen's son, Toby, has developed a website and new app for the information gathered with links to references. They welcome contributions from the public. So far, 141 people have helped with the never-ending project. The website is taschurches.org. An article about the project was in *The Examiner* on 21 April 2023.



Speaker Moira McAlister and President Marion Sargent

Dr Barry Cotter & Inez Fitzgerald

On 18 June, Moira McAlister presented a fascinating account of how she researched and wrote about her great-great-grandparents. Dr Barry Cotter's life was easier to research as it is well-documented in the newspapers, diaries, and official letters of the day. He arrived in Hobart in 1830 and was appointed as the Assistant Surgeon at Campbell Town where he was responsible for convicts. In 1835 he was dismissed for neglect of duty. In Launceston, he met John Batman and sailed to Port Phillip with him. There are 52 entries in JP Fawkner's diary about Cotter's time in Melbourne.

Meanwhile, there are very few facts about Inez Seville Fitzgerald, but it appears she was born in Spain to an Irish father. She too spent time in Launceston, working as a milliner. She ventured to Melbourne with

the postmaster's family and married Dr Cotter in 1838. He amassed a fortune, the family returned to England but lost everything in the financial crash of the 1840s. The marriage fell apart, and they both married other people. Inez's story has been recreated by Moira in a historical fiction book called *Izzy*, where the few known facts can be linked together to tell a story of romance, betrayal, infidelity, shipwreck, destitution, courage, a fortune made and lost, death, exile, action, and adventure. More information can be found on Moira's website: moiramcalister.com

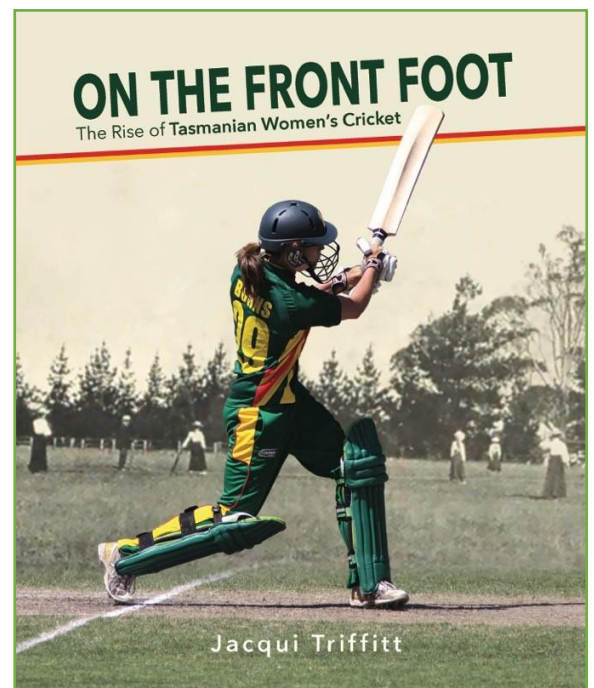
July Meeting

Jacqui Triffitt, *On the Front Foot: The Rise of Tasmanian Women's Cricket*

Sunday 16 July 2023 – 2pm, Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk

Jacqui Triffitt is the author of *On the Front Foot: The Rise of Tasmanian Women's Cricket*. Jacqui is a past Tasmanian cricketer having represented Tasmania, playing 21 matches for her State, including being vice-captain. She has also been a state coach and administrator. Jacqui also played hockey for Tasmania.

On the Front Foot tells the fascinating and spirited story of Tasmanian women's cricket from its beginnings in 1891 to the emergence of Tasmanian Roar in 2009. And it's a history of firsts including Lily Poulett-Harris who founded organised women's cricket in Tasmania, and the Tasmanian team that played in the first interstate women's cricket match. Jacqui will talk about the emergence of women's cricket across Tasmania from the early 1900s on the North-West Coast and the tour of a Victorian team that played matches in Devonport, Wynyard, Latrobe, and Ulverstone. She will also talk about the influence of Mary Fox who was instrumental in developing a schoolgirl's competition and tours by a NSW schoolgirls and senior team to Launceston in the 1930s. She will discuss the evolution of women's cricket in the modern era, a professional sport watched by millions of spectators across Australia and around the world.



Front cover of Jacqui Triffitt's book.

August Meeting

Tabatha Badger, Florence Perrin (1884-1952): botanist, bushwalker, philanthropist, photographer: How Launceston's Florence Perrin helped to shape our wild Tasmania.

Sunday 20 August 2023 – 2pm, Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk



Visionary Tasmanian bushwalker and botanist, Florence Perrin (1884-1952), lived an eclectic life, passionately devoted to the community and environment. Based in Launceston, 'Flossie' was drawn to the natural world, enjoying bushwalking, skiing, and photography in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair region. The remote massif, Perrins Bluff was conferred in her honour in 1920, after six years of summiting many of the peaks in the region; was Florence the first female, post colonisation, to do so?

Over the course of her life Florence became a known figure in botanical specimen collection, specialising in Tasmanian orchids, ferns, and most predominantly Australian seaweeds. With Professor A.H.S. Lucas she co-authored *Seaweeds of South Australia* and frequently lectured on her various study subjects to the Country Women's Association, Launceston Horticultural Society, Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania, and the Launceston Field Naturalists.

Florence owned much land at Low Head, she was a member of over a dozen boards and committees in any given year, and undertook significant philanthropic work; how did this extraordinary woman's life go largely undocumented until so recently? And what impact did the depth of her work have on the wild Tasmania we enjoy today?

As an ardent bushwalker and wilderness photographer, **Tabatha Badger** stumbled onto the enigmatic Florence Perrin's stereographic work in 2019. Quickly discovering there was, like many women of her time, little accurately recorded about this remarkable woman's life achievements, Tabatha began compiling a biography, which was completed in 2023. Tabatha is based in the Derwent Valley and runs a small conservation business.

September Meeting

Third Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture

Marion Sargent, *JM Haenke's architectural legacy*

Sunday 17 September 2023 – 2pm, Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk



The architect Johannus Martyn Haenke worked in Launceston for nearly three and a half years from 1903 to 1906. He left behind a small number of significant buildings, despair amongst other architects, and a broken heart. This lecture will trace Haenke's early days in Ipswich, the buildings he designed in Launceston, some of his private life, and his achievements in California and beyond. He reinvented himself and was loose with the facts, so trying to track him down was not an easy task. Marion Sargent is president of the Launceston Historical Society and spent 26 years as a librarian with the State Library of Tasmania. She is passionate about history and loves researching.

LHS Activities 2023

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 \$5 each. Bring some cash for a chance to win a prize in the raffle. The meetings will no longer be livestreamed on Zoom, so come along to learn about our history.

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/>

- 15 October** **Kate Bagnall**, *Tasmanian Chinese History & Heritage*
- 6 November** **East Tamar Excursion** (Monday long weekend)
- 19 November** **Michelle Blake**, *Virtual tour of local heritage in Launceston: Why we live the way we do*

Members' Column

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Noel Christensen, Chris Lawrence and Robyn Priestley.

Vale: It is with sadness that we announce the passing of a long-term member Judith Hollingsworth on 4 June 2023. She was an Historical Society committee member in 1995-6 and treasurer in 1997, and the Local Studies Librarian at the Launceston Library for some years.

Award: Terese Binns OAM, current LHS member, committee member in 2011, and excursion bus driver, was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List for service to veterans, and to the community. Congratulations Terese.

Membership Form

Membership forms are available on our website in both PDF and Word formats. Sunday meetings are free for LHS members, and we have raised the visitor's fee to \$5. Renewals for 2023 were due on 31 December 2022. We encourage members to pay by direct debit into our Commonwealth Bank of Australia account: BSB 067-003 A/C No. 2804 8638, by cheque in the mail, or cash at the next meeting you attend.

Other Events of Interest

George Town & District Historical Society: The Grove, George Town, on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm. 17 July 2023, Craig Dixon, *The building of the Norfolk*; 21 August 2023, Marita Bodman, *The Olivia – a shipwreck and a pocket watch*; 18 September 2023, Debbie Rainbow, *The Yankee whalers*. Email: info@gtdhs.com.

National Book Council Tasmania: Launceston Library, Level 2. Wednesday, 19 July 2023, 1.00pm, Tatlers women writers of Northern Tasmania. Members free; non-members \$5. A special meeting will be held before the talk. RSVP: nationalbookcounciltasmania@gmail.com.

Royal Society of Tasmania (Northern Branch): Meeting Room, QV Museum, Inveresk on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1.30pm. 23 July 2023, Jon Addison, *Tasmanian origins of the Australian flag*; 27 August 2023, Michael Attard, *Waste management and resource recovery in Launceston*; 10 September 2023, Dr Michael Roach, *Armchair geology*; 24 September, Dr Ian Kidd, *The Tamar – 200+ years of mud and misunderstanding*. Inquiries: Lois Beckwith, loisbeckwith27@gmail.com

Tasmanian Historical Research Association: Legacy Function Rooms, 159 Macquarie St, Hobart on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. 11 July 2023, Stefan Petrow, *Making libraries free for all: the case of Launceston, 1929-1945*; 8 August 2023, Alison Alexander, *How they contrive to live, is a mystery: the problems of early settlement*; 12 September 2023, Ian Terry, *Uninnocent landscapes: following George Augustus Robinson's Big River Mission*. Email: info@thra.org.au.

Tasmanian Aviation Historical Society: In the Air Aviation Seminar, Friday, 8 Sep 2023, 9.30am to 5pm, \$50 + soiree 6pm, \$25. Launceston Church Grammar School, Mowbray. RSVP: info@tahs.org.au.

Oral History Australia: Watch four videos from the 2022 Biennial Conference on their new YouTube channel: [We're on YouTube - Oral History Australia](#)

East Tamar Excursion

Monday 6 November 2023

The Launceston Historical Society's Spring Excursion for Members

- 9.00am Bus departs from the **Northern Inveresk Car Park**, 14 Forster Street, Invermay.
- 9.20am Stop at **Hillwood Berries Farmgate** for coffee and snack (at your own expense).
- 10.00am Drive to **Lefroy** for some history on gold mining and a walk in the cemetery.
- 11.00am Drive to **George Town** for a guided tour with Des Wootton. Visit the **Watch House** which includes a model village of the town around 1815. Admission included.
- 12.15pm Drive to the **Low Head Pilot Station Maritime Museum** for a guided tour by Des Wootton. Admission included.
- 1.00pm **Lunch** at your own expense at [Seafood Shack](#), **Low Head**. Bring a picnic lunch if you prefer.
- 2.00pm Visit the **Low Head Lighthouse Precinct**, Marine Education Centre, foghorn building, and manual arm telegraph system.
- 2.45pm Drive to St Mathias Church, [Windermere](#), walk around the cemetery, and see inside.
- 4.00pm Return via Dilston to Launceston.
- 5.00pm Arrive in Launceston.

Please post or email the details below @ **\$50.00 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 or Marion Sargent: marionsargent@bigpond.com, phone 0438 432 848.

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East Tamar Excursion, Monday 6 November 2023	Return to:
Name.....	LHS Inc.
Address.....	PO Box 1296
Mobile.....	LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
Email.....	\$50.00 per person
Entry to the Museums is included. Coffee and lunch at own expense.	
Lunch at the Seafood Shack? Yes / No	

Our History

These stories on Launceston's history and beyond have been contributed by our members. You are welcome to send articles of 475 words, with at least three pictures, to the president marionsargent@bigpond.com. Read the stories in *The Sunday Examiner* or on [Facebook](#).

No	Date	Page	Author	<i>The Sunday Examiner</i> Title	Topic
278	9 Apr 2023	35	Nigel Burch	The March King's 'magnificent' visit	The March King visits – John Phillip De Sousa
279	16 Apr 2023	29	Nigel Burch	The debacle of the Dalmayne Colliery	The debacle of the Dalmayne Colliery
280	23 Apr 2023	29	Marion Sargent	The Riva monument: A memorial to an only beloved son	The Riva monument: Jack Eugene Riva and family
281	30 Apr 2023	29	Nigel Burch	Beaconsfield's Black Bob: a story of heroism, heartbreak	The heroism and heartbreak of Black Bob
282	7 May 2023	31	Nigel Burch	Shegog found success on national stage	Kevin Shegog
283	14 May 2023	27	Nigel Burch	Bromby didn't stand a chance against a master of rhetoric	The Bromby-Coote Battle of 1879
284	21 May 2023	27	Marion Sargent	Photographer Grattan made his mark in Launceston	HW Grattan, photographer
285	28 May 2023	19	Nigel Burch	Newspaper rivalry kickstarts Tassie's Tour de France	Cycling: Tour of the North
286	4 Jun 2023	33	Nigel Burch	The changing face of our oldest surviving hotel	The changing face of the Launceston Hotel
287	11 Jun 2023	23	Nigel Burch	How no-nonsense Annie established hotel, gifted cup	Our "No-Nonsense" Annie Huston
288	18 Jun 2023	25	Julian Burgess	Simply the best: when Tina turned up in Launceston	Ike & Tina Turner
289	25 Jun 2023	37	Nigel Burch	Manufacturing business lasts the test of time	Peter Foundry
290	2 Jul 2023	25	Nigel Burch	Remembering the firebell towers of Launceston	Brisbane Street firebell tower
291	9 Jul 2023	23	Julian Burgess	Waverley Woolen Mills marks 150 th anniversary	Waverley Woollen Mills 150 th anniversary
292	16 Jul 2023	23	Marion Sargent	Northern pioneers spearhead rise of women's cricket	Ladies' Crescent Cricket Club

Launceston Historical Society

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Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Oct 2023** at marionsargent@bigpond.com or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.