

President's Report 2017–2018

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It gives me great pleasure to present the President's report for 2017–2018.

In August 2017 we held a very interesting seminar. Ian Terry gave a fascinating lecture about 'One hell of an inferno: oral history and the 1967 Tasmanian bushfires', illustrating his talk with video clips from his interviews. Dr Jen Thompson then transported us to another world with 'The Secrets of the Shakespeare Ladies', a group of women from the Wagga Wagga Shakespeare Club who meet regularly to read Shakespeare aloud. Finally, Dr Nicolás Goc spoke about 'The migrant experience and oral history'. All were well received by the audience.

There were two changes with the seminar's organisation. We used a different company for technological assistance and Bent-Eared Records proved an excellent choice, providing friendly and efficient service at a much more reasonable price. We are using them again for the 2018 seminar. Unfortunately, after several years the Launceston Historical Society decided not to continue as collaborators, but we nevertheless had a good attendance.

The Annual General Meeting approved the change to the constitution which will allow us to hold the AGM and seminar in October, i.e. within four months of the last financial year, rather than the three which the constitution had previously specified. This will not always happen but the change was made in case we again have difficulty in choosing a date which does not clash with other events.

Three Tasmanians attended last September's biennial national conference in Sydney which was a record. Rena Henderson proved a very worthwhile recipient of our scholarship, participating enthusiastically in the program and writing a comprehensive and insightful report for *Real to Reel*. I am grateful to the committee for helping pay my expenses and allowing me to represent the state at the conference and in the national Annual General Meeting. The third Tasmanian, Anthony Black, is one of the speakers at the 2018 seminar.

The retractable banner which we bought last year has been commented on favourably when it is used. Regrettably, it was damaged in a strong wind during the last workshop and the banner itself had to be re-done, although the hardware that holds it in place was able to be re-used.

I was asked last year to write a history of Oral History Tasmania to be included in the upcoming book, *The Kaleidoscope of Launceston: Shedding More Light on the Fabric* (a follow-up to

2016's *The Fabric of Launceston*). The task proved very interesting and, importantly, it will provide the association with more publicity.

This year's Oral History Workshop was held at the new venue of the St Johns Parish Centre. The major reason for moving from the Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk is that it now closes earlier and there is not enough time to cover everything by 3.30. The location was a good one although more expensive. It was unfortunate that the National Trust's publicity for the workshop inserted the wrong date, but this did not seem to cause problems for anyone.

The committee is still running smoothly, with Alison Johnston continuing to take the minutes and Lana Wall keeping track of the finances. In addition, Leonie Prevost undertook to keep the list of correspondence while Pauline Schindler helped with the production of *Real to Reel*. Jen Thompson volunteered for several tasks including keeping the website up to date, and also agreed to be the Tasmanian representative on the national conference planning committee. It is therefore with regret that I have to announce that she has decided not to continue on the committee due to increased work commitments. I wish to thank them all, along with Terry Fritsche and Andrew Parsons. And as always I would like to thank the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery for its continued support.