



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library  
Hours:  
Tuesday  
10am – 3pm**

**Monday - Thursday:  
By appointment**

**Next  
Workshop**

**Wednesday  
15 Sept 2021  
2:30 - 4:30pm**

**Investigating  
Your Scottish  
Ancestors**

**at  
Elderly Citizens  
Club  
Invermay**

*See page 4 for an  
overview and booking  
details*

**Join Our  
Christmas  
Celebration!**

**Sunday  
28 Nov 2021  
2:00 – 4:00 pm**

**Franklin House**

*See page 3 for  
booking details*

## Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

45 Tamar St, Launceston  
PO Box 1290, Launceston 7250  
Telephone: 0490 826 863

Website: [www.launceston.tasfhs.org](http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org)  
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**President:** Helen Stuart

**Editor:** Fran Keegan

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## Introducing.....

Over upcoming editions, we will be introducing our committee members and other members who play a key part in the day to day running of TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch.

In this edition we are getting to know..... **Robyn Gibson.**

Robyn (*pictured right*) is our research officer and committee member and has been active in Launceston Branch for about eight years. Robyn says her interest in her own family history went up a notch about 10 years ago, when retirement gave her more time to delve into her ancestors' lives.

Like many family historians, Robyn regrets not having the opportunity to talk to older members of the family when her interest was much keener. By then, she says, she **was** the 'older generation!'

However, she recalls she was fortunate in that she grew up in a family environment in Victoria where there was certain amount of information about "who was who" and how various relations fitted in and she knew the maiden names of her grandmothers and a couple of great grandmothers. Robyn's initial goal when starting her family history was to determine when and how each of her direct ancestral lines arrived in Australia, then work backwards.

Not long after joining TFHS, Robyn was co-opted to assist with research requests received by Launceston TFHS branch from Australian and international enquirers. Currently, she is the main research officer, although from time-to-time branch library volunteers assist. Research involves sometimes lengthy research and results in a written report with attachments – fees are very reasonable. Robyn has found that one of the benefits of researching other people's families is that she has found out quite a lot about things in which she would not usually be interested. Some research requests have involved British families in India, where Robyn has no ancestral connections, but she has discovered that there are good resources available for research purposes in India, which has enabled informative research reports for clients.

As a committee member, Robyn has taken on the role of minute secretary for the committee. Thanks Robyn, for your great efforts in making TFHS Inc. such a useful resource to family historians – keep up the good work!

*Research request form, details and charges are available at the branch library, our website [www.launceston.tasfhs.org](http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org) or Ph. 0490 826 863*



## Using the LIST – with John Dent

In June twenty-nine members and friends gathered at Invermay for John Dent's extremely interesting and useful workshop: *Searching Tasmanian Land Records – Using the LIST*. John began by explaining the terminology of 19<sup>th</sup> century land deeds before going on to discuss sources of property data available for Tasmania, including the LIST (Land Information System of Tasmania) now available on-line.

Prior to 1826 land registration was not required by law. It was only from 1827 that property registration became compulsory, though many transactions still slipped between the cracks. Finally in 1862 the Real Property Act created the titles system we have today. Nevertheless, in the early examples presented to us by John, it was possible to see how additional data from other sources might be pieced together to help fill our research gaps. In fact, the variety of possible data available was almost overwhelming and there was much note-taking at this point in the workshop.

John is to be commended for coping without any AV support (the Launceston TFHS committee is working to remedy this issue). Fortunately, he was able to speak from printouts from his power point presentation, augmented by the handouts he had prepared for workshop participants. TFHS very much hopes to present this beginner's workshop again with the added benefit of the LIST on screen, so that John can demonstrate its use to participants. Certainly, this topic attracted much interest from members and warrants inclusion in next year's program.

*Thanks to Jai Paterson for this workshop report*



**Above left: Julie Airey and Jennie Timmins**

**Above right: Sally Mills, Nigel Mercer and Fran Williams**

**At right: Guest Speaker John Dent OAM with Graeme Campbell**



## Christmas Afternoon Tea

Join us for high tea to celebrate Christmas at our end of year High Tea!

When: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
2:00 – 4:00pm  
Where: Franklin House, 413/419 Hobart Road, Franklin Village  
Cost: \$20.00 per person

RSVP and payment by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct debit to Acc. No. 563150 BSB: 037-608. If paying by direct debit, please quote the reference: CHRISTMAS and your surname and send an email or note with the names of attendees to reserve your place. Email: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) Phone: 0490 826 863 Mail: PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250



## British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG has been an enthusiastic sub-group within the branch since 1995 and over that time many members have been assisted with their British family history research.

The group usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly at the City Park Stables library in Tamar Street. Meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of either a specific topic, current problems being encountered, or more usually, both.

New members are always welcome (\$10 to join) so if you need help with your British research or would just like to participate, please contact Sandra Duck Ph. 63 443263 or [sfrd@iprimus.com.au](mailto:sfrd@iprimus.com.au).

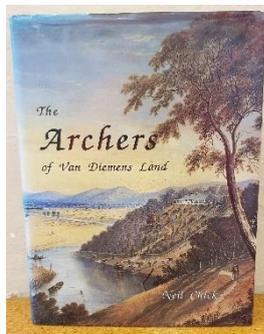
**Next Meeting: Wednesday 8 September, 2:00pm – 4:00pm: Topic: Find a Grave**

Final meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 10 November, 2:00pm – 4:00pm.: Topic: TBC

**Note: there will be no October meeting.**

## New on the Library Shelves

**The Archers of Van Diemens Land: A History of Pioneer Pastoral Families**  
by Neil Chick



**A Guide to Researching Australian Records**, a resource folder, compiled by Helen Stuart, with up-to-date information about resources available for researching your ancestors in each of the Australian states.



**Thank you to new member, Evie Lilley, who has taken up the challenge to assist Sandra Duck and Judy Gibson in the enormous task of transcribing to a database, the many thousands of index cards currently taking up needed space in our library. Over 20,000 cards have been transcribed so far!**

**If you can help with this project, able to be done at home, we would love to hear from you**  
[ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) or 0490 826 863.

## Calling All Writers!

Applications are invited for the Lilian Watson Family History Award which is awarded by the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. annually with the aim of encouraging family historians to present the results of their research for others to read. Entries should be in book form, produced or published on paper, dealing with family or biographical history and having a significant Tasmanian content. Closing date for applications is 1 December 2021. Further information and entry forms are available from the Launceston branch library, City Park Stables, 45 Tamar St., Launceston or [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org) or The Secretary, PO Box 326, Rosny Park, Tas, 7018 or email: [secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)



## Workshop: Investigating Your Scottish Ancestors



Did any of your forebears hail from Scotland? If so, come along to this workshop conducted by Robyn Gibson, Research Officer with the Launceston Branch of Tasmanian History Society Inc. Previously unavailable, or hard to access information is becoming easier to find every day. Robyn will discuss what types of records might help you learn more about your Scottish ancestors and their lives and where, and how, to access them.

**When: Wednesday 15 September, 2.30 pm – 4.30pm. Afternoon tea included.**

**Where: The Elderly Citizens Club, 16 Landale Street Invermay**  
(Free parking is available behind the hall, with entry off Queen Street)

Open to Members and Non-Members – **Bookings essential**

Registrations and fee of \$10.00 are payable by Tuesday 14 September. Payment can be by cash, cheque or direct debit to Acc. No. 563150 BSB: 037-608. If paying by direct debit, please quote the reference: SCOTLAND and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place. Email: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) Phone: 0490 826 863

### Workshop Booking Form

I/We wish to attend the above workshop on 15 September 2021

Name/s: .....

Address: .....

Phone/Mobile: ..... Membership No. (if applicable): .....

Please return the completed form as soon as possible to the: Library Co-ordinator, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250, or register by phone, email or in person at the Branch Library.

*We would love to hear your ideas for future workshops or your suggestions about someone you know who might lead a workshop of interest to TFHS Members.  
Contact details are on the front page.*

### Upcoming Events of Interest

#### Launceston Historical Society

**Sunday 1 November 2021** – Excursion to Swansea – members only.

Monthly meetings:

**Sunday, 19 September 2021** – Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Memorial Lecture: Dr Nic Haygarth, *Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applications for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888-1909.*

**Sunday, 17 October 2021** – Nigel Burch, *Sir John Evans, the Reluctant Premier.*

**Sunday, 21 November 2021** – Graeme Williams, *Around Tasmania with Spurling*

Bookings essential as seating is limited. Non-members welcome (\$4). More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

#### Oral History Tasmania

**2021 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference October 14–16 2021** - at Tramsheds Function Centre, Launceston. The conference theme is *Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges.*

The conference proper on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 October will include a keynote address by US oral historian Mark Cave, a plenary panel about 'palawa people of lutriwita Tasmania: challenges and opportunities', and some fifty presentations about diverse aspects of, and approaches to, oral history. Topics include family history, Indigenous oral histories, migration, creative writing and performance, working lives, protest and activism, community history, queer history and the AIDS epidemic.

On Thursday 14 October participants can join workshops. On Sunday Dr Aunty Patsy Cameron will lead an aboriginal cultural walk and there will be a tour to historic Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre.

Early bird registrations close on 12 September - All information about the conference is on the Oral History Australia website at: <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/conference-registration-now-open/>

Organisers are monitoring the COVID situation and will make a final decision about the conference format by 1 October and will move to an online Plan B if required. If a registered participant is prevented from attending by COVID restrictions, then the registration fee will be fully refunded. Enquiries [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto:president@oralhistorytas.org.au)