



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library

## Hours:

**Tuesday**

10am–3pm

Monday - Thursday:  
By appointment

## Presentation

Wednesday  
**18 July**

2-4pm

At the Stables

**Following Family  
History in France  
& Britain: One  
Person's  
Perspective**

See last page for  
response slip

## DNA Discussion Circle

Next meeting:  
September 2018

If you're not already on  
our DNA mailing list,  
contact us to register  
your interest in attending

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch Library**

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President: Helen Stuart

Editor: Leanne Bishop

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## From the Library:

The Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 17 April at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall, St George's Square. Along with appointing our 2018/2019 Committee Members, attendees enjoyed a light supper and heard from John Dent on the very interesting topic of 'Kerry Lodge'.



Thanks to all who attended the Launceston Branch AGM.

The following members were elected to the Launceston Branch Committee for 2018/2019:

President: Helen Stuart

Vice-President: Lucille Gee

Correspondence Secretary: Murette Lawson

Minute Secretary: Robyn Gibson

Treasurer: Barrie Robinson

Assistant Treasurer: John Reimers

Committee: Leanne Bishop, Fran Keegan, Russell Watson

Society Delegates: Robyn Gibson & Helen Stuart

Alternate: Lucille Gee

## Are You Our Next Duty Officer?

Quite often we call for volunteers to help out at our Branch Library, and one of the roles available is 'Duty Officer'. If you've ever thought about volunteering but are not quite sure what this involves, you are more than welcome to call in and find out! Far from being daunting, potential Duty Officers are encouraged to visit and 'shadow' our more experienced volunteers to learn, ask questions, and simply explore the library until they feel comfortable enough to join the team.

Each Tuesday two Duty Officers are rostered on, with the main role of welcoming and helping visitors as they conduct their own research or look for information. This can involve suggesting one of our many and varied resources, showing them the latest research resources and acquisitions, assisting them to get set-up on a computer, or simply asking questions to help them gain clarity on what they are seeking.



*Lesley and Colin on their last day as Duty Officers. A big thank you and good luck from all of us at the Branch Library!*

On quieter days, Duty Officers are also welcome to undertake some project work – for example indexing, sorting or filing material – depending on what's needed.

There is also some administration work involved (for example recording data and issuing receipts), but all of this occurs in a highly supported environment; there is always another volunteer around to help if you are unable to answer a question.

For visitors to the library who are newer to genealogy, this may also involve helping them get started, and working alongside them as they continue to explore and find information.

The main criteria is a love of family history!

If this sounds like you, we'd love for you to contact us or come along any Tuesday (10am-3pm) to see how it all works. Duty Officers typically work in the library one day per month, however we are very flexible and happy to discuss individual circumstances.

We are also calling for expressions of interest from Members wishing to volunteer as a "**Research Assistant**". For further information on this particular role, please contact or visit the Library.

## England and Wales Certificate Service

If you do not have easy access to the internet yourself, or aren't comfortable using your credit card details online, you can still order a certificate from GRO (General Register Office). Call in and see us at the Branch Library to ask about the record(s) you are interested in.

Birth, Death & Marriage records for England & Wales (from 1 July 1837) can be ordered on your behalf for \$25 per certificate which includes postage. You will need to have some information about the record (names, year, quarter, district etc). Bring what information you have, and we will check to see if it is correct, before ordering. Please allow up to 5 weeks for delivery from UK.

## Land Titles Update

Did you know that work has commenced on a project to digitise of a wide range of Land Tasmania paper records currently stored in the Lands Building? According to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) website work has commenced on a project to scan, compile and index the Registry of Deeds, with the aim of documents being available in the future via online access.



The digitisation began in December 2017, with expected completion by May this year. Deeds Indexes were expected to be available online in February 2018, with the remaining Deeds Memorials accessible online by July 2018.

The Project will deliver digital copies of over 1.5 million records, allowing more convenient and instant access through [The LIST website](#).

Very exciting news for those of us who have spent time examining documents in the Land Titles Office in Hobart.

To find out more, including access to the Deeds Office in the Lands Building during this time, visit the [DPIPWE website](#) or contact Richard Fielding by email at [Richard.Fielding@dipwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Fielding@dipwe.tas.gov.au) for availability.

Thanks to the TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch for the image and 'heads up' to this information via their Facebook page.

## Society AGM and Conference

A reminder that the **Society Annual General Meeting and Conference** will be held **Saturday 23 June** in Ross. See the March edition of the *Tasmanian Ancestry* for a registration form (closing date 16 June 2018).

**Conference programme Saturday** – registration from 10.30am followed by morning tea.

**Cost:** \$20.00 each – morning tea and lunch.

10.55 Welcome and presentation of 'Early Bird' Prize.

11.00 **Colin Thomas** – Whaling in early Hobart Town and Scrimshaw, the Ancient Art of the Mariner.

11.35 **Garry Richardson** – Chinese in the Portland Municipality & European Migrants at Pyengana.

12.10 Lunch

1.10 **Alison Alexander** – The O'Connors of Connorville: wealthy graziers employing many Tasmanians.

1: 50 **AGM**, incorporating:

- Lilian Watson Family History Award
- Best Journal Article Award
- Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Awards.

## Don't let your Membership Become History

If you have not yet renewed your membership with TFHS Inc., there is still an opportunity to do so. Please refer to the renewal form posted with *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol 38 No 3, or contact us at the Launceston Branch Library.

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# **British Interest Group**



**Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
Meeting Room 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the LINC building, Civic Square  
from 2:00 to 4:00.**

We are a small group of enthusiastic members of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc., Launceston Branch, with an interest in anything associated with British research. The meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of either a specific subject, current problems being encountered, or more usually, both.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday 6 June.***

**Newsletter articles – always welcome!**

Have you made any interesting family history discoveries recently?  
An article (about 300 words) on your discovery, or any other family history topic, would be a welcome addition to the Newsletter.  
Come to the Library and tell us about your ideas.

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**Presentation at The Stables, 45 Tamar Street**

**Wednesday 18 July, 2 pm – 4 pm**

***Following Family History in France & Britain:  
One Person's Perspective***

Come along and hear Robyn Gibson talk about her recent trip to France and Britain.

**Application to attend the Branch Presentation**

I wish to attend the above presentation on 18 July 2018

Name/s: .....

Address: .....

Phone/Mobile:..... Membership Nos: .....

Please return the completed form as soon as possible to the:

The Library Co-ordinator, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston. 7250

Or register in person at the Branch Library by Tuesday 17 July.

*Fee of a gold coin donation payable on the day.*

**Change to Newsletter Distribution:** Please note that from our February 2018 Issue, the Branch Newsletter will be distributed electronically. Please contact us to ensure your email details are up to date (if you have been receiving this by mail). Printed copies are still available for collection from the Library for those without email access, and from our website.