



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:
Tuesday
10am – 3pm**

**Monday - Thursday:
By appointment**

Please Note:

**Xmas/New
Year Closure**

Our City Park
Stables library is
closed for the holiday
period from Tues 7
December 2021 at
3:00pm, reopening
on Tues 18 January
2022 at 10.00am.

The pre-opening
Clean Up is from
10:00am – 12:00pm
Monday 17 January
2022

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**Exciting  
Workshop  
on DNA!**

**Using DNA to  
Solve Family  
History  
Mysteries  
with Ros Escott**

**Wednesday  
16 March 2022  
2:00 - 4:00pm  
at  
Elderly Citizens  
Club  
Invermay**

See page 4 for an  
overview and 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)  
Email: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)  
Research/President: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)

No. 67  
December 2021

**President:** Helen Stuart  
**Editor:** Fran Keegan

## Introducing.....

### John Reimers

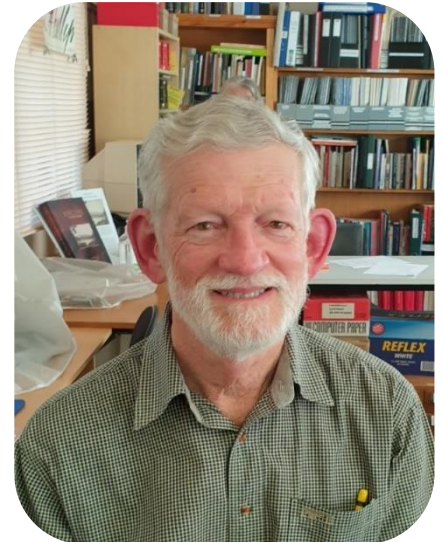
TFHS Launceston Committee Member, John Reimers (*pictured right*) has been part of the society for ten years now. He volunteers as a Duty Officer on Tuesdays and is currently also our Assistant Treasurer.

John spent most of his life in Queensland where his German grandfather, Johan Reimers, began farming sugar cane in the 1880s. This explains John's surname, though his original German heritage has been augmented by Swedes and Scots.

John also worked in the sugar cane industry. He enjoyed a long career as a scientific technician for the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, the last 27 years at Bundaberg. After retirement John and his wife, Sue, decided to move to Tasmania for that most understandable of Queensland reasons – to escape the heat and humidity. In Launceston they both attended a TFHS Scottish Ancestry workshop, after which John became interested in the Society and decided to help. It was also time to research the stories behind the family photographs John had previously scanned.

As a Duty Officer, John's primary role is to assist anyone who walks in the door. These days a proportion of visitors have already searched the Internet, so the Duty Officer can assist with extra sources, such as name indexes, books and articles. John finds this particularly interesting, creating timelines for people and seeking out variant spellings of old names which in turn throw up new side issues. Researching ancestor's houses is another popular theme.

John hopes his daughter will write up the Reimers family story, while he follows a possible side project. And this is a great idea for anyone finding the Whole Family Saga too big a job – John is considering collecting images and writing up facts and reminiscences on every Australian house his family ever lived in. With his photographic archive already scanned and Google Earth at his fingertips, John has every hope of creating an interesting and useful record for following generations.



Thanks to Jai Paterson for this article

## Scottish Ancestry Workshop

Twenty members and friends attended a very informative workshop, *Investigating your Scottish Ancestors*, conducted by Robyn Gibson on Wednesday 16 September at the Elderly Citizens Club Rooms in Landale Street, Invermay. Robyn provided an overview of the type of records that would likely be useful in researching Scottish forebears including parish records (pre-1855), statutory records (1855 onwards), censuses, land records, newspapers and many more. *ScotlandsPeople*, the best known of the online Scottish databases, is an obvious choice, but Robyn highlighted other, sometimes more useful, options and provided some examples of how to search for information. Thanks, Robyn, for a very instructive session.



*Enjoying a cuppa during the workshop were (left to right) Carolyn Scott, Robyn Gibson, Glennis Boxhall and Judy Pierce*

## Successful Seniors Week Event

Once again, our Seniors Week event **Tracing Your Family History**, held on Wednesday 13 October, was a great success. Bookings were limited but the one-on-one sessions provided an opportunity to dip the toe into family history research for some, or deal with a 'brick-wall' for others. These events also give our Branch the chance to demonstrate what we have to offer, with often new memberships resulting from attendees who 'catch the bug'.

## Christmas Celebrations at Franklin House

Twenty members and friends enjoyed a pre-Christmas celebration on Sunday 28 November in the grounds of historic Franklin House at Youngtown. We were well looked after by Julie Dineen and her team of volunteers who provided a sumptuous high tea, many refills of the tea and coffee pots and, as you can see, the weather was beautiful.

A fitting end to the year!



## Vale Jenny Gill



Jenny Gill, well-known local historian and long-standing TFHS member, passed away after a short illness on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Jenny was an archivist at a number of places in Launceston and a prolific author of historical stories, principally about the Launceston area. She was a member of many historical organisations, including the Tasmanian Family History Society, which she joined in 1982 and held the positions of secretary, vice president and president of the Launceston branch between 1989 and 2000.

One of Jenny's TFHS projects was an index, on cards, of school teachers appearing in the Tasmanian Directories from 1824 to 1980, and these index drawers were affectionately known as "Jenny's drawers". She also compiled an extensive archive of school teachers and schools which was a work in progress at the time of her death. Jenny wrote prolifically, mostly on historical subjects, and published at least five history books as well as writing stories and chapters for over 10 books, and many articles for *Tasmanian Ancestry* and the *Examiner*.

Jenny's considerable contribution to the understanding and recording of Launceston's history and the many organisations she belonged to will be sorely missed. Her sense of humour, love of life, music and cats and her friendship will be fondly remembered by all her friends. Jenny will be engraved in our memory, forever.

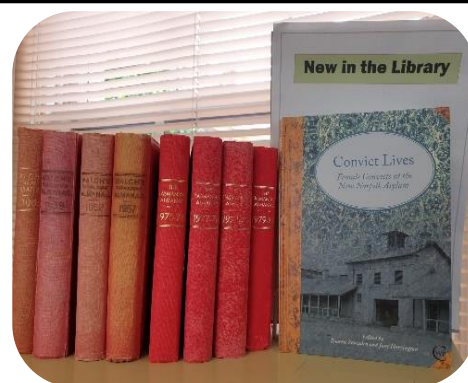
John Dent OAM

### New on the Library Shelves

***Convict Lives: Female Convicts at the New Norfolk Asylum***  
by Diane Snowdon & Jane Harrington (Eds)

***Walch's Tasmanian Almanac 1905, 1939, 1952, 1957, 1975-76, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80.***

Other years are also available on our shelves.



### 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).

#### Upcoming Meetings:

**Wed. 9 February 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm: Topic:** *An Interesting Book you have Purchased Recently to aid your Family History Research*

**Wed. 9 March 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm: Topic:** *Royal Navy/Royal Marines*

**Note:** *No meetings in December 2021 or January 2022.*



## Workshop:

# Using DNA to Solve Family History Mysteries

With Ros Escott



Have you wondered about the current interest in DNA testing? Should you have your DNA tested? What's entailed and how might it add to the knowledge of your family history?

If you have these and other questions, then come along to what promises to be an interesting and informative workshop.

**Ros Escott**, vice-president of TFHS Hobart Branch and coordinator of their DNA Interest Group, has developed a reputation as an expert in the use of DNA analysis for family history research purposes. In this workshop Ros goes through the basics of how DNA matching works and illustrates with five short stories of real people whose family history mysteries were solved with DNA analysis.

**When: Wednesday 16 March 2022, 2.00 pm – 4.00pm. 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, cost \$10 pp. – **Bookings essential**



Registrations and \$10.00 fee are payable by Tuesday 15 March. 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: DNA and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

Email: [tntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:tntasfh@bigpond.com) Phone: 0490 826 863

### Workshop Booking Form

I/We wish to attend the above workshop on 16 March 2022

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.

### Welcome to New Members!

We welcome the following new members who have joined over the last few months: **Judith Barrett, George Beckett, Sue Burns, Lorraine Carroll, Loris Cole, Debbie Cousens, Janette Daniel, Bruce Dineen, Richard Dixon, Elizabeth Grey, Josey Holly, Shane How, Mark Lawrence, Evie Lilley, Richard Mack, Celia McCausland, Douglas McKinlay, Warren Meacham, Noel Oliver and Dianne Stebbing.**

We hope your time with us is of assistance to you with your family history research.

***Thank you to our members and friends for your continued support during 2021.***

***A special thankyou to our volunteers who help in so many ways throughout the year.***

***We hope that those of you who have been waiting for borders to reopen have a wonderful time reconnecting with families and friends.***

***We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our library or one of our functions in 2022.***



**Helen Stuart (President) and Committee TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch**

