



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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No. 68  
February 2022

President: Helen Stuart  
Editor: Fran Keegan

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

Monday - Thursday:  
By appointment

**Library  
Reopening  
Tuesday  
1 March  
2022**

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### Notice of AGM

**Wed. 20 April  
2022  
2:00 – 4:00pm  
at  
Elderly Citizens  
Club  
Invermay**

**Guest Speakers:  
Terrill Riley-Gibson  
& Barbara Rees**

See page 2 for more  
details

## Introducing.....

### ***Helen Stuart – Launceston Branch President***

Helen is Tasmanian through and through. Her father's family lived at Bothwell and then moved to Gretna where they were farming for eleven years before settling on *Valmont* at Whitemore (part of the original Adelphi estate). Her mother was Nancy Bell from *Sillwood* at Carrick.

At *Valmont* Helen's father moved into sheep and cattle breeding, particularly Poll Dorsets. In 1954 Lyell Stuart was the foundation president of the Australian Poll Dorset Association and when the Tasmanian branch was formed in 1963 Helen became its first secretary. In her youth she joined the Junior Farmers (later Rural Youth) where she also held a number of positions on the committee and enjoyed the camaraderie of activities such as judging competitions and participating in camps and exchange trips.

At the Methodist Ladies College in Launceston Helen took the commerce option before working as secretary for the family company, LA Stuart Proprietary Limited, keeping the books, writing up pedigrees and attending shows and sales with the family.

In 1977 Helen moved into Launceston and successfully operated Harmony Interiors in George Street until 2003.

Her previous experience on committees and running her own business has admirably fitted Helen for her long-term commitment to the TFHS (thirty years to date).

In 1991 Helen joined the Genealogy Society of Tasmania (as we were then) to research her family history. By 1993 she was again involved in committee work and has since held far too many positions to name. Helen has twice taken on the Branch presidency, for a total of ten years.

Sadly, Helen has decided to step down as our branch President at the next AGM in April 2022. After April, Helen hopes to continue those activities she especially enjoys and continue researching her own family history



Thanks to Jai Paterson for this article

## Notice of Annual General Meeting, Launceston Branch

**When:** Wednesday 20 April, 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**Where:** Elderly Citizens Club, Landale St, Invermay

**Guest Speakers: Terrill Riley-Gibson and Barbara Rees: ‘Dolly’ Dalrymple, the first living child born of Tasmanian Aboriginal and European Ancestry.**

*Our guest speakers are both direct descendants of a particularly significant Northern Tasmanian woman known to history as ‘Dolly Dalrymple’, the first living child born of Tasmanian Aboriginal and European ancestry and a granddaughter of Manggalargenna.*

*Many of us have heard of Dalrymple Mountgarrett Briggs Johnson from one source or another, but none of us know her story as it pertains to the family she created from the unique circumstances in which she found herself.*

*In December 2020 Terrill Riley-Gibson was awarded a UTAS Indigenous Higher Degree Research Scholarship specifically to research the life and voice of her matriarchal ancestor. Terrill has been researching her family history for over twelve years now.*

*Barbara Rees was closely involved in the restoration of ‘Dolly’ and Thomas Johnson’s house, Sherwood Hall, and its transportation to Bells Parade in Latrobe. Barb is also responsible for compiling and presenting the audio about the house and its occupants. This c.1850 house officially opened to the public in November 1995, the 150th anniversary of the Johnson’s move to Sherwood and the Tarleton area after residing in Perth.*

**Nominations for office bearers and committee:** nominations close 3:00pm on Tuesday 12 April 2022. Nomination forms are available from the TFHS library. Please consider putting yourself forward for nomination of our committee – this could be a way of you becoming more involved in our society. If interested, contact the branch - we need you!

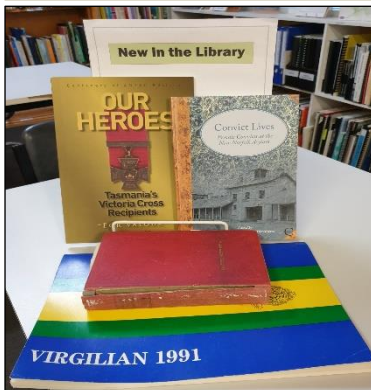
### New on the Library Shelves

***Our Heroes: Tasmania’s Victoria Cross Recipients*** by Guy Barnett MP

***Convict Lives: Female Convicts at the New Norfolk Asylum*** edited by Dianne Snowden & Jane Harrington

***Walch’s Tasmanian Almanac 1934***

***The Virgilian: Yearbook of St Virgil’s College, Hobart 1991***



### Volunteers Needed at Our Branch Library!

Our library duty officer numbers are dwindling so we are looking for members who might be willing to assist. Duty officers are the people who staff the desk and welcome visitors to our library, assist with family history queries, take and receipt payments and undertake small, usually admin, tasks and projects that keep our service running. People often think they would not have the knowledge or expertise to help others in their research but if you have a moderate amount of experience researching your **own** family history, and are familiar with some of the resources available, you probably **could** help someone else. Attendance between 10:00am and 3:00pm on Tuesday is the norm, but even helping for a couple of hours once a month would be of assistance.

Training is provided and there is always someone else, more experienced than you, on duty. It is a good way to see exactly what resources we have in the library and meet others with an interest in family history. If you think you might be interested, come along any Tuesday (10am-3pm) after 1<sup>st</sup> March to see how the library works and have a chat with Helen.

## Extended Library Closure

We apologise for the current closure of our City Park Stables library as a precautionary measure during this COVID-19 outbreak. As many of our volunteers and visitors are in the vulnerable group for transmission, and we have limited space within our premises, it seems to be the most responsible approach at this time.

**Reopening is planned for Tuesday 1 March 2022, 10am – 3pm.**

The number of people in the library will be restricted to 6 people at a time and we ask that visitors limit their visit to one hour. Facemasks are required. If you are thinking of visiting in the initial period after 1<sup>st</sup> March, it is advisable to phone beforehand to check that we are definitely open as, as we all know, things can change rapidly with COVID. Appointments can also be made if preferred. In the meantime, while closed, we are available to assist you with your family research queries or purchase requests and can be contacted by phone or email - Ph. 0490 826 863 or Email [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)

**DNA Workshop postponement** – unfortunately our DNA workshop, planned for March, has been postponed until later in the year. Something to look forward to!



## British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG has been an enthusiastic sub-group within the branch since 1995 and 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 March 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm: Topic: *Royal Navy/Royal Marines***

**Wed. 13 April 2022, 2:00pm – 4:00pm: Topic *TBA***

## Upcoming Events of Interest

### ❖ Launceston Historical Society: Monthly meetings

**Sunday, 20 February 2022** - Annual General Meeting with guest speaker Richard Mack, *Margaret Mack: Intrepid Physio*

**Thursday, 3 March 2022** – John West Memorial Lecture held at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre, University of Tasmania, Newnham at 8pm Dr Alison Alexander, *End of Convict Transportation*. Held in partnership with the University of Tasmania. Bookings on Eventbrite: [Island of Ideas Events Calendar](#)

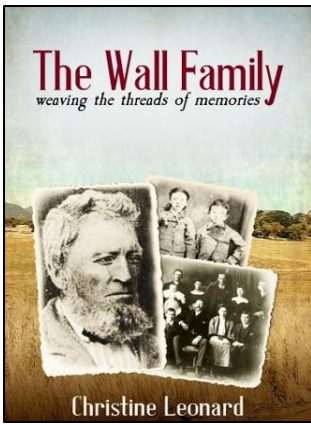
**Sunday, 10 April 2022** - Mark Cameron, *Tasmanian Artillery from Federation to Gallipoli*

**Sunday, 15 May 2022** - Jeanette Thompson, *The Knave of Diamonds, Opera Singer*

Bookings not required for monthly meetings. Mandatory check-in and facemasks required. Non-members welcome (\$4). More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

### ❖ Friends of the Library

**Saturday 5 March 2022** - Annual Book Sale, St Ailbe's Hall, 46 Margaret St - 9:00am – 1:00pm. Mandatory check in and facemasks required.



### ***Are You Descended from William 'Cocky' Wall?***

If so, you might be interested in a new book written by one of his descendants, Christine Leonard, of Queensland. The book traces his life from transportation to Van Diemens Land and his later life in Victoria, his two marriages, to Mary Long and Eliza Clarke, and stories of 13 of his surviving children and their descendants.

For more information about the author, photos, other stories and purchasing details for the book visit Christine's website at <https://www.leonardstories.com/>

### ***Did You Know?***

#### ***Enhancements to the Tasmanian Names Index.***

The Tasmanian Names Index is a great resource for those of us researching our Tasmanian ancestors. Libraries Tasmania advise that there have been some recent enhancements to how you can search the Tasmanian Names Index. More fields have been added to the search filters on the drop-down menu to the left of the search bar. Some of these have always been there, while some are new additions. Readers might not have been aware of the drop-down menu at all, but it can be a useful tool for refining searches in the ever-expanding database of Tasmanian life. A short guide to what those options mean and when it might be useful to use them can be found [here](#).

#### ***1921 Census Records of England and Wales is Available!***

You are now able to search and explore online (charges apply) the 1921 Census of England and Wales at genealogy site, *Findmypast*, the digitisation partner with The National Archives. Of course, you do need to have a *Findmypast* subscription (or know someone who has) to access these records currently as they are not available yet via Libraries Tasmania.

The 1921 Census offers more detail than all previous England and Wales censuses as individuals were asked not only about their occupations but also their place of work, employer, and were given 'Divorced' as an option for marital status. It will be 2052 before the next census release because the 1931 Census was destroyed in a fire and the 1941 Census was cancelled due to the Second World War. But don't forget that the 1939 Register, a snapshot of the civilian population of England and Wales just after the outbreak of the second World War, does have useful information for family researchers and is also available on *Ancestry* and *Findmypast* – charges apply.

The 1921 Scotland Census release was postponed because of the pandemic, but it is expected that it will be available in the latter half of 2022.