



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:
Tuesday 10am
– 3pm**

Monday - Thursday:
By appointment
(Fees may apply)

**Next
Workshop!**

**Using DNA to
Solve Family
History Mysteries**

with Ros Escott

**Wednesday
21 September 2022
2:00 - 4:00pm
at
Elderly Citizens
Club
Invermay**

**See page 4 for an
overview and booking
details**

**New
Venture!**

**Launceston
History Centre**

More info page 2

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
Email: ltntasfh@bigpond.com
Research/President: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

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President: John Dent OAM
Editor: Fran Keegan

Introducing.....

John Dent OAM – Launceston Branch President

Unlike most of us who came to family history in middle-age, John Dent began his foray into the past as a teenager, and it was family history that got him started. He remembers his father receiving a lawyer's letter about a share in an ancestor's estate, which listed the other possible beneficiaries – all of whom were related in some way. This piqued John's



interest and, with his mother's backing, he began exploring graveyards and interviewing elderly relations. From there, John went on to join the Genealogical Society of Tasmania as Member No.171 and to attend the inaugural meeting of the Launceston Branch.

Family history (his Hortle ancestors were at the North's nascent York Town settlement) led John further into research and writing – this time using his invaluable knowledge of local surveying. Through Ted Pedley he undertook work experience at Campbell-Smith, Phelps and Pedley and it is fortunate for us all that John continued in the profession, all within the same company – through the merger with Peacock, Darcy and Anderson, and now PDA Surveyors. On 1 July 2022 he retired as Director and Office Manager and now undertakes part-time consultancies.

John is fortunate to have begun training under the old system of chains and manual calculations, prior to the introduction of modern equipment and electronics. His knowledge of the Tasmanian terrain, his ability to interpret the often-cryptic notebooks of colonial surveyors and his love of maps, have all contributed to his second career as a prolific and wide-ranging local historian and volunteer archaeologist.

As the TFHS membership is well aware, John Dent is our new Launceston Branch President. While intending to continue the good work undertaken by all who have gone before, John is especially desirous to see the TFHS Launceston Branch in dedicated permanent premises. To this end he is heavily involved in the development of the Launceston History Centre (a vision of the late Jenny Gill and already an incorporated body with its own constitution) – a vision which will result in the greater cohesion of Launceston's history community, and a more effective use of our volunteer time.

Thanks to Jai Paterson for this article

Trawling Trove Treasures – Beyond the Newspapers

Branch Workshop 15 June 2022

Nineteen members and friends attended our June workshop, presented by Robyn Gibson and John Dent (*pictured right*), which focused on the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) one of Trove's many resources. Robyn and John walked us through the history of this amazing project reiterating, as most members would know, that Trove provides access to over 6 billion records about Australia, or of interest to the Australian community. Trove focuses on freely available digital content created, and held in, the collections of Australian Libraries, Archives, Museums, Galleries, University, Research and community organisations. However, what may not be widely appreciated is that within the *Diaries, Letter and Archives* category of Trove is the AJCP. The initial AJCP (1948 – 1997) involved microfilming, and paper handbooks to facilitate usage, of some 10,000+ records in the UK relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Records filmed by the AJCP include a diverse range of material from UK Government departments, such as the Admiralty, Home Office, Colonial Office, War Office, held by the National Archives of the UK and County Record Offices. AJCP Online continued from 2017-2020 and digitised 8.2 million microfilm images, converted over 10,000 pages of descriptive text and provided online access to material previously only available through Libraries and Archives. Most, but not all, of the films are now available online.



(Pictured above) Lorraine Hamilton and Angela Prosser Green enjoying a cuppa at the break.

Robyn and John outlined some of the resources within AJCP and, after participants enjoyed a welcome cuppa and chat, demonstrated some of the idiosyncrasies and traps for the unwary in searching the available collections.

At the end of the session, we were much more aware of how useful this resource could be in our family research. Handouts were provided and further assistance offered, if required, by contacting Robyn or John via our Branch Library.

Exciting New Launceston History Venture!

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch is an integral part of the Launceston History Centre, which was formed at a public meeting held on 23 May 2022. Three Launceston history groups - the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (Launceston Branch), the Launceston Historical Society Inc. and Friends of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute Inc. – have been working together for some time to bring their activities and collections into one location, as each separately has issues around existing space limitations. While each society will maintain its independence, there will be mutual benefits in sharing common space where the history of Launceston can be collected and made available to the public. The newly elected management committee, on which Launceston Branch has representation, has become incorporated and is looking for suitable premises so that all three societies can be co-located. We will keep you posted on more details as they emerge.

Date Saver!!

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

When: Sunday 4th December 2022, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Where: Franklin House, 413/419 Hobart Road, Franklin Village

Cost: \$20.00 per person. RSVP and payment by Tuesday 22nd November 2022



New on the Library Shelves



- The Advocate – *People, Photos, Events & News Items 1 July 1960 to 30 Sep 1960* – TFHS Inc. Burnie Branch
- The Gatenby Saga: *The Story of Andrew Gatenby from Barton and His Descendants Life Along The Pennyroyal Creek, Tasmania* – Carol Bacon & David Gatenby. **Winner of the Lillian Watson Award 2021**
- *Such is Life on Toe Rag Lane, Westbury: 1828 – Onwards* – Judy Uehlein Nelson
- *Ethel May Whittle: A Limited History* – Helen Tyzack
- *Clerk of the House: The Reminiscences of Hugh Munro Hull 1818 – 1882* – Lucille Andel
- *ENT: A Corporate History* – Brian Clark
- *History of the Church of England in Tasmania* – W.R. Barrett



British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG continues to be an enthusiastic sub-group within the branch and many members have been assisted with their British family history research. The group usually meets on the 2nd 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

Upcoming Meetings: 2pm Wed. 10 August 2022 - Topic: UK Rate Books

2pm Wed. 14 Sept 2022 – Topic: Bishops’ Transcripts

2pm Wed 12 Oct 2022 – Topic: Irish Census Records

2pm Wed 9 Nov 2022 – Topic: UK Telephone Registers

Did you Know?.....

That the Tasmanian Names Index (TNI) now includes data, without images, from the Tasmanian Federation Index compiled by TFHS Inc. The Federation Index includes births 1900-1919, deaths 1900-1930 and marriages 1900-1930. The TNI also has data and images for records from 1920 - 1921 that will be ongoing as records fall outside of the 100year BDM access policy.

Have you discovered interactions between settlers and Aboriginal peoples in your own family history?

Ashley Barnwell, a Lecturer in Sociology from the University of Melbourne, is currently doing a national study that investigates how inherited family secrets, stories, and memories inform Australian’s understandings of colonial history. Ashley is looking to interview family historians who have found interactions between settlers and Indigenous Australians in their ancestry and who are doing some research into that aspect of the family story.

If you are interested in participating please contact Ashley via email: abarnwell@unimelb.edu.au; or phone: 03 83444559



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 21 September 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 – **Bookings essential**



Registrations and fee of \$10.00 are payable by Tuesday 20 September. Bookings can be made at our library in Tamar St; by mail to PO Box 1290, GPO, Launceston, 7250; Ph. 0490 826 863 or Email ltntasfh@bigpond.com

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.

Upcoming Events of Interest

➤ **Convicts at Woolmers: Convict Research Symposium**

Sat. 3 September 2022, 9.30am – 4.30pm. Cost: \$80 (no concessions), including entry to Woolmers & site tour notes; convict-oriented guided tour (optional); morning and afternoon tea, and light lunch.

Co-hosts: Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Dr Anne Neale.

This symposium will include presentations on convict life, and lives, at Woolmers; on outstanding recent developments in Tasmanian convict history; and on how to make best use of the multiple resources now available online for research in this field. The symposium will take place amidst an amazing exhibition on a little-known aspect of convict life: "Dancing in Fetters". More information <https://www.woolmers.com.au/events/> or email symposiums@woolmers.com.au

➤ **Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges**

Thurs 13 - Sun 16 October 2022, Tramsheds Function Centre, Invermay Rd, Launceston.

One hundred speakers from around Australia and overseas will converge on Launceston for the biennial national **Oral History Australia conference**, postponed from last year. The conference will include a keynote address by New Orleans oral historian Mark Cave: 'Why did this happen? Making meaningful answers in the aftermath of crisis'. Conference topics include family history, community history, creative writing, working lives, protest and activism, queer oral history and the AIDS epidemic. Well-known writer Kim Mahood will speak about her mapping work fostering understanding between traditional custodians and non-Indigenous stakeholders of the same country in Australia's north.

Full details including the draft program and how to register can be found at: <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/biennial-conference-2022/> Note that Early Bird registrations close on 15 August 2022.

➤ **Launceston Historical Society: Monthly meetings**

Sun 21 August 2022 – Dr Jai Paterson, *Researching Launceston's 19th-century hotels: Some patterns that emerge*

Sun 18 Sept 2022 – Louise Zarmati, *The history of the Oatlands walking cane*

Sun 16 Oct 2022 – Duncan Grant, *Lesser-known Launceston churches and missions*

Sun 20 Nov 2022 – Nick Clements, *Tongerlongeter: First Nations Leader and Tasmanian War Hero*

Bookings are not required for monthly meetings. Non-members welcome (\$4). Bring some cash for the raffle.

More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>