



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:**

**Tuesday
10am – 3pm**

**Monday - Thursday:
By appointment
(Fees may apply)**



**Christmas
High Tea**

**Sunday 4 December
2-4pm
at Franklin House**

Details on page 3



**Christmas/
New Year
Closure**

**City Park Stables
Library will be
closed from 3pm**

Tues

**6 December 2022
and reopen 10am**

Tues

17 January 2023



Working Bee

Helpers welcome at
the annual library
clean-up to get ready
for the new year.

10am – 12pm

**Monday 16 January
2023**

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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**No. 71
November 2022**

President: John Dent OAM
Editor: Fran Keegan

Introducing.....

Fran Keegan

Although Fran undertakes many roles on the Launceston Branch committee, it is through her excellent quarterly newsletter that most members will know her best. She has been a member of the TFHS for eleven years and a committee member for the past six. Fran also fills the roles of Correspondence Secretary, Duty Officer, Membership Registrar and is a member of the Northern Branch's Publications Committee.

Fran's progression towards the TFHS came via a career in nursing and health service management. After her retirement she tutored adult community offenders in literacy and when this program finished, she answered an advert in the newsletter for duty officers and has been part of the team ever since.

Fran has been researching her own family history for at least forty years. She remembers beginning by interviewing a spinster aunt who knew all the family stories. While her father arrived here via Victoria, the rest of Fran's family are all Tasmanians. One 1912 wedding photograph included a wizened old lady



seated in the corner, and she was Fran's first mystery. Through this photograph Fran found her convict ancestor (Margaret Ryan) who arrived from Limerick in 1852, married a maltster (Joseph Holbrook) and passed away in 1915. In 2019, Fran also completed the UTAS Family History Diploma. This was her opportunity to give her great-uncles a voice, Jim and Bert Whiting, both of whom were soldiers and both died unmarried with no-one left to tell their stories.

Fran especially enjoys her time with TFHS because of the opportunity it provides to interact with people and help them gain the skills they need. She is also looking forward to a positive outcome to the current planning for a Launceston History Centre - and to enjoy its new spaces and facilities and provide an even more efficient and cohesive service for researchers.

Thanks to Jai Paterson for this article

Using DNA to Solve Family History Mysteries

Branch Workshop 21 September 2022

On 21 September, Jai Paterson was our roving reporter when 32 members and visitors met at the Elderly Citizens Hall in Invermay for an interesting DNA workshop with Ros Escott (R) of the Hobart TFHS Branch. Jai reports that “thankfully for many of us, Ros began with a useful beginners’ overview. We learnt that there are at least six suppliers of DNA services, and that the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) provides comparisons of these suppliers on its website. There are Ancestry DNA, My Heritage DNA, Family Tree DNA, Living DNA, 23 and Me, and GED Match. Ancestry currently has the largest database from which to obtain matches.



Next there were three types of DNA testing to explore: Y-DNA (for males only), Mitochondrial DNA (females pass this on to their daughters; worth doing if you wish to look further back in time), and Autosomal DNA (for both sexes; will extend back for only about six generations before the results become diluted). Ros advised us to have a family tree / chart already prepared to help us understand the results once they are sent back to us. For decoding our matches, Ros also advised that a useful free tool is the ‘Shared cM Project - Version 4.00’ available on the ISOGG website. Noting also that the matches in our results will only include other people booked into the same DNA provider as we have chosen.

From this point the workshop broadened out into ‘The Leeds Method’ for coding our matched ancestors, then an exposé of ways in which connections can be made, various anomalies, and finally an eclectic plethora of case studies illustrating how such anomalies may be solved using DNA. The workshop was an extremely useful introduction for this participant who is now keen to begin the process”. *Thanks, Jai, for your report.*



Enjoying a cuppa in the break are (L-R) Max Keegan, Stephen & Ruth Simmons and Russell Watson

DNA Discussion Circle Recommencing Soon

The DNA Discussion Circle has been in recess since COVID but will recommence on Thursday 16 February, 2pm – 4pm at the branch library. This group is open to members only, so if you are thinking about testing, want some help with your DNA results or just want to join in the discussion, contact Helen to book in on Ph 0427 847 000 or call into our library. Numbers will be limited, so get in early.

Seniors Week

Once again, Launceston Branch participated in a Seniors Week activity, *Tracing your Family History*, held on 19 October at City Park Stables library. Six people responded to the advertisement in the Seniors Week booklet and received a free one-on-one session to assist them with their family history research. Feedback was very positive on the day and interest shown in joining TFHS.





Christmas High Tea

Join us for our annual end-of-year function 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 Tues 22nd November 2022

Bookings essential.

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 Phone: 0490 826 863
Mail: PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250

New on the Library Shelves



- *A History of Woodsdale* by Denise Dare
- *A New History of the Irish in Australia* by Elizabeth Malcolm & Dianne Hall
- *Cornwall to the Australian Colonies: Pearce Family History* by Max Hipkins
- *Lachlan Macquarie* by M.H.Ellis
- *Brown's River: A History of Kingston and Blackmans Bay* by Julie Gardam
- *Life in Old Van Diemens Land* by Joan Goodrick

Index Card Database Up and Running

Russell Duck recently installed the partially completed index card database on to one of our library computers. Data entry from the cards to the database has been a long-running project, spearheaded by Sandra Duck, with help from other members from time to time. These cards were initiated in the early days of the Branch and contain details from a variety of Tasmanian sources, including church records. Russell created the database about 10 years ago and has continued to maintain it, but it was only recently that it was made available at the library for people to use. No-one knows exactly how many cards there are but the database indicates 26,429 entries so far and transcribers are only up to the letter M! Launceston Branch is extremely grateful to Sandra and Russell for their work to date on this project. Thank you.

If you would like to assist with data entry for this project, please contact us via details on page 1.



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 us by email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863.

Final Meeting for this year: 2pm Wed 9 Nov 2022 – Topic: General Discussion

Upcoming Events of Interest

Launceston Historical Society: Monthly Meetings

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>

Family History Downunder 2022

In-person conference 8-11 November 2022 - Castle Hill RSL, NSW

Virtual conference November 2022 – February 2023 – Attend online

Connect with other passionate family historians and learn how to become a master family history detective.

- Over 30 expert presenters
- 4 exciting themes
 - DNA,
 - Australia & New Zealand
 - Researching Abroad
 - Methodology & General

Information and bookings – www.fhdu22.com



William Wyatt (3rd)
1813 - 1897

William & Margaret Jane Wyatt Family Reunion - 10 Dec 2022



Margaret Jane Wyatt (nee Inall)
1830 - 1916

I wish to advise that a **WYATT Family Reunion** will occur at Sheffield, Tasmania on **Saturday, 10 Dec 2022**, and will include the rededication of William & Margaret Wyatt's grave and new headstone followed by lunch and a Wyatt Family history presentation at the Sheffield RSL & Citizens Club.

If your family name is Wyatt, Oliver, Bramich, Rockliff, Robertson, Jacobs, Rouse or Lamb and you are a descendant of William and Margaret Wyatt (Nee Inall) of Dunorlan and Sheffield, you are warmly invited to a WYATT family reunion. If you wish to register and receive additional information, please email your NAME, MOBILE and family connection to me at dmwyatt@bigpond.net.au

In loving memory of

William Wyatt

died 28 Sept, 1897, aged 85

and his wife

Margaret Jane Wyatt

died 26 April, 1916, aged 84

1. Ernest, b Launceston , 11 Apr, 1846, m Henrietta Gertrude Teston ,14 Nov, 1877, d 16 Mar, 1907.
2. Eliza Jane, b. Launceston, 22 Oct, 1847, m Alexander Oliver, 5 July 1871, d 10 May 1945
3. William Newton, b. Oaks, 29 Mar, 1849, m Sarah Oliver, 28 June, 1872, d 28 Oct, 1931
4. Emily Ann, b. Westbury, 14 Apr, 1851, m Joseph Bramich, 7 June 1871, d 23 Jul 1941
5. Henry James (Jimmy), b. Westbury, 19 Feb, 1853, m Amelia Rookley, 10 Aug 1885, d 23 July, 1941
6. Matilda Amy (Tilly), b. Westbury, 5 May, 1855, m William Rockliff, 4 May, 1887, d 17 Nov, 1937.
7. Albert Edward, b. Westbury, 7 Apr, 1857, m Adeline Eliza Spicer, 7 Jul 1883, d 27 Aug, 1923
8. Clara Isabella, b. Westbury, 17 Feb, 1859, d 31 Mar, 1860
9. Martha Clara, b. 29 Dec, 1860, m Robert Robertson, 9 Mar 1880, d 24 Aug 1899
10. Terence Arthur (Kirk), b. 5 Dec, 1861, m Clara Jane Coleman, 8 Nov, 1897, d 12 April, 1947
11. Ada Isabelle, b. Deloraine, 5 Dec, 1863, m William Jacobs, 27 Jul, 1889, d 18 Jun, 1971
12. Cecelia Eva, b. Deloraine, 24 Nov, 1864, m Robert Burton Rouse, 12 Oct, 1881, d 11 Jul, 1948
13. Alfred Newton, b. Deloraine, 7 Nov, 1867 d 19 Sept 1875
14. Lilly Mildred, b. Deloraine, 23 Sep, 1874, m Edward Hutcheson Lamb, 30 Apr 1897, d 16 Jul, 1966

Thank you to our members and friends for your continued support during 2022.

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

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 2023.

John Dent OAM (President) and Committee TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch

