



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:**

**Tuesday
10am – 3pm**

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

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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President: John Dent OAM
Editor: Fran Keegan

Introducing.....

Jai Paterson

Jai joined the Launceston Branch committee a couple of years ago. She has been assisting Fran with the newsletter and has been working with John Dent to transcribe and record some early Launceston Court Records ready for publication. Jai was born in Wellington, New Zealand and still has family in NZ whom she regularly visits when COVID permits. As a young person, Jai spent a lot of time with her grandmother who instilled in her an interest in family history, museums and bought her a book about Pharaoh Tut Ankh Amon. These things set Jai on a desire to work in museums.



After studying languages, then Ancient History at university Jai achieved her BA at Auckland University. Jai then went across the “ditch” to Sydney to do her Masters and ended up in England. She volunteered at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery which confirmed her love of museums and led to her returning to Sydney to do a Post Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies.

Jai became the inaugural loans registrar for the new Powerhouse Museum and was then collections manager for the NSW Historic Houses Trust and then completed her Masters in Australian History.

In 1997 Jai moved to Perth (Tasmania) with her husband Nick and after working at Myer and casual work at QVMAG and freelance museum work this led Jai to writing her first book on the Commercial Traveller’s Club in 2006. Research for Boags led to books on 19th century breweries and William Street. Jai was two years as a roving curator which enabled her to visit and help many organisations with their collections all around the state. Whilst still doing freelance work Jai completed her PhD which looked at historical family connections between Tasmania and New Zealand. This work re-kindled Jai’s interest in her own family history. Her ancestors were a soldier/saddler in the NZ Land Wars, an English/Sydney convict who went to NZ, Scottish free immigrants to Dunedin and Fencibles from Ireland. A veritable ‘united kingdom’ of families.

Thanks to John Dent for this article

Exciting New Workshop!

**Tasmanian Archives
– Accessing the
Records**
Wed 15 March 2023
2:00 - 4:00pm
at
Elderly Citizens Club
Invermay

*See page 4 for an overview
and booking details*

My Stories

**Opportunity for
Family History
Writers**

*See page 2 for more
information*

Special Interest Groups and Library Info.

*See page 3 for more
information*

Christmas High Tea at Franklin House



After some very unseasonable weather in November, we were very fortunate to bask in warm sunshine at our end-of-year High Tea in the beautiful grounds of Franklin House.

About 20 members enjoyed the usual, excellent delicacies prepared by Franklin House volunteers in the shade of the historic oak trees – the best place to be on a hot day.



Joining us for the occasion while holidaying in Tassie was Judy Whish-Wilson, well known to long term members as a previous President and active member of the branch. Judy now lives in Queensland but has retained her membership of TFHS Launceston Branch. Great to see you again, Judy!

My Stories – New Opportunity to Ensure Your Research Survives

Alison Alexander, Patron of the Tasmanian Family History Society, recently announced an exciting new initiative designed to allow us all to share some of our research in the form of a short story about our ancestors. These stories, welcomed from members and non-members and at no charge, should be less than about 1500 words and may be about a single ancestor or a couple. The ancestors should be Tasmanian or at least have a Tasmanian connection. There is no limit on the number of separate stories which may be submitted for publication. One or two photos may also be supplied. Submission of stories is via uploading them on the TFHS website where you can browse or search other stories. You will also find writing guidelines to help you produce a story that readers will want to read.

Later this year there will be a lucky draw of the first 100 people to submit a story and the winner will receive a prize of an Ancestry DNA kit.

So, check out the guidelines at https://www.tasfhs.org/writing_guidelines.php and submit your story at https://www.tasfhs.org/my_stories Start writing!

What's Online?

Some website information that might interest the cyber-surfers amongst us include:

- ✓ *Scotland's People* for the recently released 1921 Scottish census. <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/> Fees apply.
- ✓ *Lost Cousins*, a very informative newsletter for family historians circulated (free) every few weeks by Peter Calver. <https://www.lostcousins.com/>
- ✓ *Ireland Reaching Out*, connects people of Irish heritage with their place of origin in Ireland through chronicles, message board, webinars and information about Irish culture. <https://www.irelandxo.com/>



DNA Discussion Circle Recommencing Soon

The DNA Discussion Circle 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, book in by phone, email or call into our library. **Numbers will be limited, so get in early if you are interested.**



British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG meetings are recommencing in February and new members are welcome (\$10 to join). 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. So, if you have an interest in, or need help with, your British family history research this group might be for you. Please contact us by email tntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

Upcoming Meeting dates and topics:

- 2pm Wed 8 Feb: *UK Workhouses and Hospitals*
- 2pm Wed 8 March: *Northern Ireland*
- 2pm Wed 12 April: *Free Online Sites*

Library Jottings

- ✚ Welcome to new duty officer Daryl Byrne who has joined the team who assist on Tuesdays with the running of our City Park Stables library. A big thank-you to Dorothy Rodgers, who has volunteered in that capacity for many years, but has recently stepped down. New volunteers are always welcome to assist as duty officers or our various transcription projects – phone or email if you can help.
- ✚ We have acquired some old tourist brochures that have rekindled fond memories of many of our Tasmanian localities. Come in and check them out!
- ✚ Don't forget that we have lots of varied resources in the library, not the least being our volunteers who are there to assist family historians with their research. A brick-wall shared is sometimes a brick-wall demolished or we may be able to help you expand your knowledge of who your ancestors were or where they lived. If you are not familiar with finding property records on the LIST (Land Information Systems Tasmania) we can help. Phone, email or call in to the library any Tuesday between 10am and 3pm

New on the Library Shelves

- *The Great War Handbook* by Geoff Bridger
- *Tracing Your Naval Ancestors* by Simon Fowler
- *Tracing Your Royal Marine Ancestors* by Richard Brooks & Matthew Little
- *Baxter's Guide – Biographical Sources in the India Office Records* by Ian Baxter
- *The Territorial Battalions – a Pictorial History 1859-1985* by Ray Westlake
- *The Territorials 1908-1914* by Ray Westlake
- *Tallis London Street Views 1838 - 1840*
- *SS Ceramic: The Untold Story* by Clare Hardy
- *Essex Hearth Tax* by Catherine Ferguson, Christopher Thornton & Andrew Wareham eds.
- *Hadleigh Past* by Ian Yearsley
- *Mercat Cross and Tolbooth: Exploring Scotland's Old Burghs* by Craig Mair
- *Master Index to the Proceedings I-XXVI comp. by Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland*
- *The National Army Museum of the Turkish Front 1914–1918* by Field Marshall Lord Carver



Upcoming Events of Interest

Workshop: Tasmanian Archives – Accessing the Records

with Anthony Black, State Library and Archive Service

We are very fortunate in having so many of our Tasmanian Archives easily accessible online via the Libraries Tasmania website, but do you know which records are online or which ones necessitate a visit to Hobart? Do you know how to go about accessing non-online archival material? Anthony Black, from the State Library and Archive Service, Hobart will be leading this workshop to fill in our knowledge gaps regarding online archival material and walk us through the required steps when requesting access to stored archives in Hobart.

When: Wednesday 15th March 2023, 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 14 March.

Bookings can be made at our library in Tamar St; by mail to PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250;

Email ltntasfh@bigpond.com or Ph. 0490 826 863.

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: ARC and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

Date Saver:

**TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting for 2022/23 will be held on
Wed 19 April 2023, 2pm – 4pm at the Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay.**

Guest speaker: Dr Jillian Koshin will speak on *World War II – The Home Front*, a topic that will be of interest to many family historians. AGM proceedings usually take less than 30 minutes and following the guest speaker afternoon tea will be available. All welcome.

Nominations for Committee positions are always welcome – forms will be available closer to the AGM date.

Launceston Historical Society: Monthly Meetings

- **Sun 19 Feb 2023, 2pm – AGM** - guest speaker Geoff McLean, *The significance of the Tamar Valley / Launceston region for the Tasmanian Aboriginal people*
- **Sun 19 March 2023, 2pm – John West Memorial Lecture** – Dr Nick Brodie, *The long Shadow of John West's War*
- **Sun 16 April, 2pm – Anzac Theme** – Stephen Cornish, *The accidental historian*

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 Down Under (FHDU) 2022** – the in-person conference is past but the virtual (online access) continues until 28 Feb 2023 with 35 speakers and 78 presentations available. Prices vary. More information at <https://www.fhdu22.com/>

❖ **Roots Tech 2023, hosted by FamilySearch, Fri 3 – Sun 5 March 2023 (Australian time).**
This is in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah but also virtually (online and free) in real time or on demand so you can watch later. Over 100 worldwide experts and many topics that might interest family historians. More information at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>