



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:**

**Tuesday
10am – 3pm**

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

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**Reports from  
our March  
Workshop  
and AGM in  
April**

See page 2 for details

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**Special Interest
Groups and
Library Info.**

See page 3 for more
information

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**Did You Know?  
And Upcoming  
Events**

See page 4 for details

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**Membership
renewal for
2023/24 is now
due. Renewal
forms were in the
March edition of
Tasmanian
Ancestry.**

Renew by electronic
banking, cash or cheque
by post, email or in person
at City Park Library.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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Introducing.....

Lucille Gee

Lucille is a well-known face at our City Park Stables library having been a member for 18 years, former vice-president, delegate to the state executive and a regular library assistant for many years. In the library, Lucille is also responsible for keeping the scrapbooks up to date – cuttings taken from local papers on Launceston people and places.

Launceston born and bred, Lucille, like many other Tasmanians has convict ancestry on the one side of her family (paternal, Goodluck) and free settlers on the other (Scottish, Clapham/Armstrong) and has traced her ancestry on both sides as well as the ancestry of her husband, John.



While interested in history at school, Lucille's curiosity about family history did not start until much later when she became aware of family information in the front of a family bible. Around the same time, Lucille moved to Relbia and became interested in the rich history of the area, working with David Chugg in researching the history of local properties and families.

Lucille is also a story-teller, figuring that if you want to tell your story then you are most likely the one that must write it! Sensibly, she did a short writing course then put pen to paper – or fingers to keyboard. Lucille started with small stories about her Goodluck family then stories about Franklin House, where she has also volunteered for around 10 years, and its original owner, ex-convict and successful businessman, Britton Jones.

Because of her Relbia knowledge she has been called on to give talks to various groups on, most recently, Relbia property Corra Linn, and to gardening clubs, on the history of the garden at Franklin House. Currently Lucille is also working on the history of Brisbane Street in Launceston.

Thank you, Lucille, for your valuable contribution, playing a part in ensuring the history of our local people and places is available to all. We look forward to perhaps reading more of Lucille's stories in *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

Tasmanian Archives – Accessing the Records

We were very fortunate to have Anthony Black, Senior Librarian with the State Library and Archives Service, Hobart lead our 15th March seminar on *The Tasmanian Archives – Accessing the Records*. It is not common for a national or state library to manage state archives, as is the case in Tasmania, and family historians benefit from that. The Tasmanian Names Index is already a major online archival resource but other archives can be invaluable in family history research. Major points from Anthony's presentation were:

- If material is published and/or copyright it is unlikely to ever be online so viewing in Hobart is the likely only option. Most Tasmanian archives are in Hobart but some photographs and publications are stored in Launceston.
- Archival material - documents, photographs, films, maps, plans etc. - is constantly being digitised with highest volume (convict records, Colonial Secretary's Office, etc.), non-copyright, popular records being the priority for digitization.
- Selecting the right database for your search is essential for success e.g., Archives, Library Catalogue, Tasmanian Names Index. Search Everything is an option if in doubt. Also, there are a number of videos of interest on their YouTube channel.
- Archives are stored based on context - from who and where they came so the Agency, Series and Item No. are important.
- The item number is required when requesting to view archival material in Hobart and mention in the Comments section that you are travelling from Launceston. Ordering for the day before your actual visit will ensure it arrives in Murray St from the Geilston Bay storage facility.



Above: Anthony Black, Robyn Gibson & Pauline Murgatroyd
Below: Jennie Timmens & Sandra Thow



Above: John Dent and Jillian Koshin
Below: Sophie Appleby and Kay Cambourn



2022/23 Annual General Meeting

The 2022/23 AGM was held on 19 April 2023 at The Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay with 19 members and friends attending.

Annual Reports from the President, Treasurer, Sales Officer and Research Officer were presented and office bearers and the auditor for the 2023/34 year were appointed.

Following proceedings, guest speaker Dr Jillian Koshin gave a very interesting and informative talk on *WWI & II - the Home Front*. With Anzac Day coming up it was a timely reminder of the importance of the amazing contribution of those who never left their homes but supported the war effort through the comfort fund, fund raising and employment. Jillian focused on the mostly volunteer contribution of women working within organisations such as the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), Red Cross, Belgian Relief Fund, Purple Cross Fund etc. or individually. The enormous role played by women on the home front, particularly in WWI, was not recognised formally.

Following Jillian's presentation, attendees appreciated the opportunity for further questions and a general catch-up over afternoon tea.

Office Bearers for 2023/24

President: John Dent OAM
Vice President: Helen Stuart
Treasurer: Barrie Robinson
Secretary: Fran Keegan
Committee: Sophie Appleby, Robyn Gibson, John Reimers



DNA Discussion Circle

The DNA Discussion Circle met in February after a long break so there was lots of discussion. 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. **Next meeting will be on 17 August 2023 at 2pm. Numbers will be limited, so get in early if you are interested.**



British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG meetings resumed 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 ltntasfh@bigpond.com or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

Upcoming Meeting dates and topics:

2pm Wed 10 May: Scotland” 1921 Census

2pm Wed 14 June: Edinburgh, Scotland, Extent Rolls, 1580-1847

2pm Wed 12 July: General Discussion/United Kingdom

Library Jottings

- Visitors to the library will have noticed that our previously tagged ‘duty officers’ have now become ‘library assistants’ and are sporting name tags. We welcome Sophie Appleby who has recently joined the library assistant ranks. We are always looking for new recruits to the role so please contact us if you can help.
- We have a few copies in the library of a *Family History Record Book*, an 8-generation family tree workbook to record your research. Cost \$25.
- Don't forget, we have *Ancestry.com* available to search online and also an searchable database of the Launceston and Westbury Catholic Church records (baptism, marriage and some burial) from the 1840s to 1880s. Visit the library to check them out.

Welcome to New Members

Sophie Appleby, Alissia Cox-McKinnon, Mary Ebert, Mary Landers, Jill Milton, Carolyn Pollington, Jane Sotheran, Heather and Bruce White have recently joined Launceston Branch. We hope your family history journey is enriched by your membership of TFHS.

New on the Library Shelves

- *Backsight: A history of surveying in colonial Tasmania* by A Jones
- *'Gone but Not Forgotten' Jones* by Alan Parish
- *Martin of Bruny Island: Christopher and Mary Anne's descendants* by Kevin Reed
- *The Peaks of Lyell* by Geoffrey Blainey
- *Measuring America: How the United States was shaped by the Greatest Land Sale in History* by Andro Linklater
- *The National Army Museum Book of the Turkish Front 1914-18* by Field Marshall Lord Carver
- *Marriage Law for Genealogists* by Rebecca Probert
- *British Working Dress: Occupational Clothing 1750-1950* by Jayne Shrimpton
- *Elizabethan Life: Morals and the Church Courts* by F.G. Emmison



Did You Know?

- ❖ The National Library of Australia has a number of webinars relating to family history that are invaluable for exploring their collection and developing research skills. Some of these resources, available on their YouTube channel, can be found at <https://www.nla.gov.au/content/past-webinar-recordings>
- ❖ You can pause your Ancestry membership for 1-2 months at the end of your current billing cycle. This could be handy if you are unable to make the payment when due or you want a short break. Details at <https://support.ancestry.com.au/s/article/Pausing-a-Membership>
- ❖ [Library and Archives Canada](#) will be releasing the 1931 Census, which enumerated 10,376,786 people, on 1st June this year. Initially the images will be available to browse, but Ancestry will use their handwriting recognition technology to transcribe the data, with help from FamilySearch volunteers who will check the transcriptions.
- ❖ The most popular and heavily used NSW colonial records can be found in 40 community access points, mostly libraries, throughout NSW, not just in Sydney. This Archives Resources Kit (ARK) includes births, deaths, marriages, records relating to convict arrivals, assisted immigrants, electoral rolls and many more. More information at <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/guides/archives-resources-kit/>
- ❖ Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) is a new research tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts & indexes of original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived, or were born in, Australia. More than 2.2 million names are in the database so far. Check it out at <https://www.bda-online.org.au/>

Upcoming Events of Interest

Tasmanian Family History Society

2023 State Conference and AGM

Saturday 17 June 2023, The Grange, Campbell Town

Register before 23 May 2023 to be in the draw for the President's Early Bird Prize

The AGM will be preceded by three different talks from speakers:

- Ross Warren, *Stories from the Mersey Branch WWI soldiers and nurses project.*
 - Maree Ring, *The Archer and the Black Sheep.*
 - John Dent & Robyn Gibson, *Using the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJPC) for Family History*
- Brochure with details of the program and how to register [here](#).

Enquiries: secretary@tasfhs.org

Launceston Historical Society: Monthly Meetings

- **Sun, 21 May, 2pm** - Maureen Martin Ferris & Sandra Duck, *Tasmanian Pictorial Church Index*
- **Sun, 18 June, 2pm** - Moira McAlister, *The Tricky Business of Fact and Fiction*
- **Sun, 16 July, 2pm** - Jacqui Triffitt, *On the Front Foot: The Rise of Tasmanian Women's Cricket*

Bookings are not required for monthly meetings. Non-members welcome (\$5). Bring some cash for the raffle.

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

Female Convicts Research Centre

Research Seminar: Transported for Life: a lottery?

Sun 7 May 2023, 9am – 3pm, Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS, Hobart and also as a live-streamed webinar

This seminar will focus on those convicts considered some of the worst to arrive in Van Diemens Land: the 780 women who were convicted to transportation for life. Presentations will examine the sentencing process, the origins of the 'lifers', their convict experience and the lives they built post-sentence.

Program and registration details are available at <https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

Tickets available through TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/>