



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:**

**Tuesday
10am – 3pm**

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

~~~~~  
**Next Seminar**

**The Orphan  
Schools 1828-1879  
with  
Dr Dianne Snowden AM**

**Wed. 20 Sept 2023**

See page 4 for details

~~~~~  
**Library Jottings
and
Special Interest
Groups**

See pages 2 & 3 for more
information

~~~~~  
**Did You Know?**

Page 3

~~~~~  
**Upcoming
Events**

See page 4 for details

~~~~~  
**August is  
Family History  
Month!**

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch**

45 Tamar St, Launceston  
PO Box 1290, Launceston 7250  
Telephone: 0490 826 863  
President: John Dent OAM  
Editor: Fran Keegan

Website: [www.launceston.tasfhs.org](http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org)  
Email: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)  
Research/President: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com)

No. 74  
Aug 2023

## Congratulations Helen!

Congratulations to Helen Stuart, well known to the TFHS membership, who was presented with the TFHS Inc. Award at the State Conference and Annual General Meeting held at Campbell Town on 17 June 2023. This Society Award is presented to members and others who have given meritorious service to the Society and Helen is a very worthy recipient.



*Retiring State President, Maurice Appleyard, presenting Helen Stuart with the TFHS Inc. Award.*

A member since 1991, Helen has held positions of President, Vice-president and membership secretary for 26 of those 32 years and been Sales Officer for the past 17 years. Helen is also the Library Coordinator and responsible for the day-to-day management of our City Park Stables library in Tamar Street.

In nominating Helen for this award, current Launceston Branch President John Dent summarised the view of Launceston Branch Committee and membership as follows: *'The list of Helen's positions above does not fully indicate the pivotal role she has played in ensuring the Launceston Branch functions well, and provides an effective library and research service to our members and visitors. Without Helen's efforts we would not be in the strong position we are now in. Helen has devoted an enormous amount of time to the efforts of the branch and the society over the past 30 years. Helen is the stalwart of the Launceston branch and she volunteers her time selflessly and with good grace in any number of family history matters on behalf of the Society.'* Thank you and well deserved, Helen.

**Congratulations also to Launceston Branch Committee Member and Research Office, Robyn Gibson, who was elected State President of TFHS Inc. at the AGM in June. We acknowledge the enormous contribution of retiring President, Maurice Appleyard, but know that the Society will be in good hands under Robyn's leadership.**



## Library Jottings

- ❖ **Thank you** to Mary Landers who has joined Sophie and Sandra in transcribing the many thousands of index cards in our collection. We are 'over the hump' with these but, if anyone can assist with this project, please make contact via the details on page 1. Training is provided and it can be done at home.
- ❖ **The LIST** (Land Information System Tasmania) is a great online resource for family historians wanting information about property their ancestors may have owned. It is not the easiest of websites to navigate but we have an expert in our midst, John Dent, who can help identify the location, chain of ownership, transfer documents, title deeds, etc. of your family's historic properties in Tasmania. This service is free for members, apart from a small charge for computer time and photocopies.
- ❖ **Free offer!** As members would know, we are chock-a-block at the library, shelves are full and we have stacks of books on and under tables so no room for some recently acquired items. Therefore, we are offering (first in, best dressed) the scrapbooks and magazines pictured right.
  - ❖ The scrapbooks, from which *On the Tide: stories of the Tamar Vols 1-3*, edited by Peter Richardson and published by the Launceston Library, were derived. There are five scrapbooks and if you don't have the books, and live on the Tamar, you might be interested in one or more of these.
  - ❖ About 20 copies of *Birmingham Historian* and a few Birmingham and Local District Association newsletters - various dates from mid-80s to early 2000s. There is lots of information about the Birmingham area and history in these so if you have Brummie ancestors a few of these might interest you.



Come into the library, email or phone to claim your items.

### Did You Know?

- ➔ **August is National Family History Month (NFHM).** With life often being a bit quieter in Winter, it might be a good time to resurrect and continue researching those family trees or deal with those 'brick walls'. Libraries Tasmania is offering a varied program of free events, talks and workshops with face-to-face options only available in Hobart. However, there are some webinars that might be of interest. Visit <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023-NFHM-A5-Program-July-2023-v2.pdf> for more information.

The website AU/NZ Family History Month offers some online options and a calendar of events that may be accessed online. The Opening Ceremony at 5pm on 1 August 2023 is available via Zoom. Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart will talk on the topic of 'AI (Artificial Intelligence)'. This will be followed by a panel discussion with Andrew Redfern and others still being finalised. Attendees will be able to ask questions and participate in the discussion. Visit <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/index.php>
- ➔ **The General Register Office for England and Wales (GRO) now offers instant access to historic birth and death entries.** If you have previously requested a birth or death record, paid your money for a PDF then waited for weeks for them to email it to find the person wasn't your ancestor then this is for you! Those PDFs are now fully automatic and considerably cheaper (£2.50/about AUD\$4.80 depending on the exchange rate) so you get them immediately and don't have to wait weeks or spend a fortune barking up the wrong (family) tree. The GRO web address is <https://www.gov.uk/general-register-office> and click on 'order certificates online.' It is easy to use, but if you need assistance contact Launceston Branch via our contact methods and we will walk you through the process.



## DNA Discussion Circle

The DNA Discussion Circle is active again with the next meeting planned for 2pm on the 24 August as our event for Family History Month. 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.

**Guest speaker: Andrew Cocker, DNA expert from TFHS Hobart Branch. Cost \$5 p.p.**  
**Numbers will be limited, so get in early if you are interested.**



## British Interest Group (BIG)

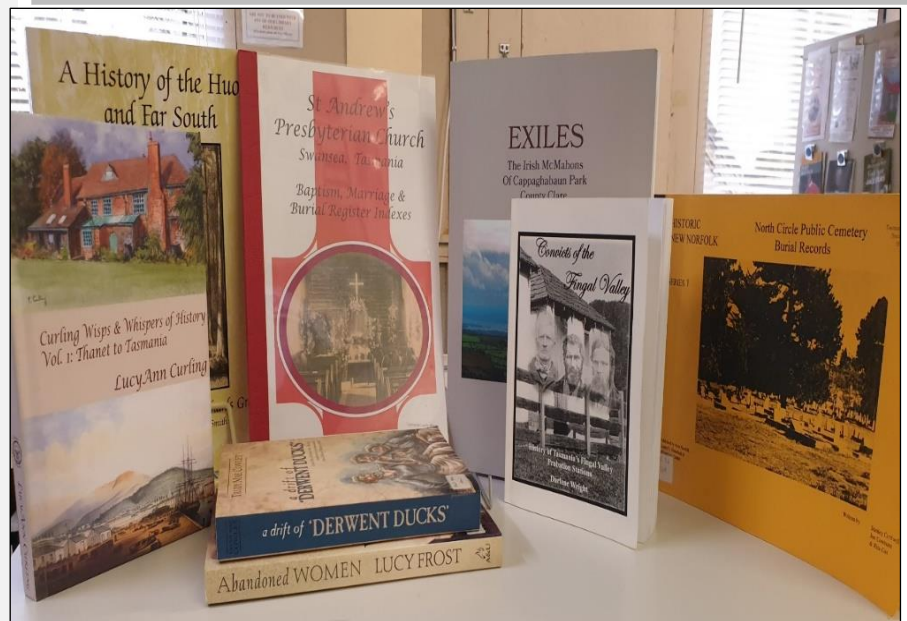
BIG meets every month and new members are always welcome (\$10 to join). The group usually meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly, between February and November, at the City Park Stables library in Tamar Street. Meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of 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](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

### Meeting dates and topics for the remainder of 2023:

- 2pm Wed 9 August: Militia Records, UK
- 2pm Wed 13 Sept: Locate Ancestors' Old and Forgotten Streets
- 2pm Wed 11 Oct: Irish Research
- 2pm Wed 8 Nov: Directories

- ❖ *Curling Wisps and Whispers of History: Vol 1 Thanet to Tasmania* by Lucy Ann Curling
- ❖ *A Drift of Derwent Ducks* by Trudy Cowley
- ❖ *Abandoned Women* by Lucy Frost
- ❖ *Convicts of the Fingal Valley* by Darlene Wright
- ❖ *North Circle Public Cemetery Burial Records* by Stanley Cordwell
- ❖ *Exiles: The Irish McMahons of Cappaghbaun Park, Co. Clare* by Anne McMahon
- ❖ *A History of the Huon and Far South Vol 1* by Richie Woolley & Wayne Smith
- ❖ *St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Swansea: Baptism, Marriage and Burial Register Indexes* by Maureen Martin & Meryl Yost

## New on the Library Shelves



## Welcome to New Members

*New members in Launceston Branch over the last few months include Rob Ebdon, Cathy Minchin, Marguerite and Jeremy Ranicar and Greg Shea.*

*We hope your family history journey is enriched by your membership of TFHS Launceston Branch.*

## Upcoming Events of Interest

### Seminar: *The Orphan Schools 1828-1879* with Dr Dianne Snowden AM

Almost 13,000

convict women and more than 2,000 of their free children arrived in Van Diemen's Land from 1803 to 1853. The women were sent to the Cascades Female Factory or a similar institution, while their children were sent to the bleak and miserable Orphan Schools at New Town. In all, nearly 6,000 children were admitted to the Orphan Schools from 1828 to 1879. Most were not orphans, as we use the term today, but were destitute children or the children of convicts taken from their parents.

Dr Dianne Snowden AM, well known historian, genealogist and author, will outline the history of these Orphan Schools and explain how the lives of the Orphan School children can be reconstructed using records held in the Tasmanian Archives.

**When:** Wednesday 20 September 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 are essential**

Registrations and fee of \$10.00 are payable by Tuesday 19 September. Bookings can be made at our library in Tamar St; by mail to PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250; Email [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto: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: *ORPHAN* and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place.

### Launceston Historical Society

Monthly meetings are held from February to November, usually on the third Sunday of the month at 2pm in the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk.

The current schedule is:

✚ **Sunday, 20 Aug 2023, 2pm** – Tabatha Badger, *Florence Perrin (1884-1952): Botanist, bushwalker, philanthropist, philosopher*

✚ **Sunday, 17 Sept 2023, 2pm, Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Lecture**  
– Marion Sargent, *JM Haenke's architectural legacy*

✚ **Sunday, 15 Oct 2023, 2pm** – Dr Kate Bagnall, *Tasmanian Chinese history and heritage*

✚ **Sunday, 19 Nov 2023, 2pm** – Michelle Blake, *Virtual tour of local heritage in Launceston: Why we live the way we do.*

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>

### George Town & District Historical Society Inc.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference: *Convicts & Convictism in Northern Van Diemens Land/Tasmania*

**Sunday 12 November 2023, 8.45am – 4.15pm** at the Performing Arts Centre, Port Dalrymple School,  
147-185 Agnes St, George Town.

Cost: \$40 (includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

#### Speakers & Topics (order could vary slightly):

|                        |                                                                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| John Dent              | <i>Earliest Convicts in northern VDL 1804-1808</i>                                 |
| Diane Phillips         | <i>Who built Governor Macquarie's vision?</i>                                      |
| Alison Alexander       | <i>Convicts &amp; Masters: assigned servants in northern VDL</i>                   |
| Darren Watton          | <i>Convict Road and Probation Stations of northern VDL (archaeological focus)</i>  |
| Maureen Martin-Ferris  | <i>Convicts and Probation Stations in Glamorgan Spring Bay</i>                     |
| Anne Green             | <i>Building their own prisons: convict infrastructure in and around Launceston</i> |
| Thomas Gunn            | <i>Deserving of recognition - the Low Head Pilot Station as a convict site</i>     |
| John Watts             | <i>Robert Lyall - a convict who developed Westbury</i>                             |
| Hamish Maxwell-Stewart | <i>75,000 Lives in Motion: Building a Digital Convict Memorial</i>                 |

Registration closes Friday 3 November 2023.

For further information and registration forms contact the Secretary [info@gtlhs.com](mailto:info@gtlhs.com) Ph 0447 359 662.

### TFHS Launceston Branch - Christmas High Tea!

**When:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 2:00 – 4:00pm

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

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person (TBC).

**RSVP and payment by Tues 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Bookings essential.**

Date  
Saver