



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library Hours:

Tuesday  
10am–3pm

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## Volunteer Appreciation

### Afternoon Tea

At the library, 45  
Tamar Street

**Tuesday**  
**29th April**

From 2.30pm



**Launceston Family History Library:** 45-55 Tamar St, Launceston  
P.O. Box 1290, Launceston 7250  
Telephone: (03) 6344 4034  
Email: Library: ltntasfh@bigpond.com  
Secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com  
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**President:** Russell Watson  
**Editor:** Betty Bissett

**No. 40**  
**February 2014**

## From the Library:

### Membership 2014/15

The Membership renewal form was at the base of the December *Tasmanian Ancestry* address label. To ensure continuity of your *Tasmanian Ancestry*, please renew by the 31st March.

Note that cheques should be made payable to *Tasmanian Family History Society* or *TFHS Inc Launceston Branch* (not to *Tasmanian Ancestry*).

This renewal form placed **the section asking for volunteers to register their interest in helping at the library at the top of the 2nd page, don't cut the form in half** – your help is *urgently needed* so if you are able to assist, even for an hour or two once a month, please fill in the section, or contact a committee member and register your interest.

If you have mislaid the green address label and haven't renewed, download a renewal form from the website [www.launceston.tasfhs.org](http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org), or pick up a form from the Tamar Street Library.



**The Society relies/runs on volunteers.** We have many volunteers who have worked for *years without a break*, undertaking multiple tasks, such as indexing, tutoring, cataloguing, research, library duty, secretarial, finance, attending committee meetings, etc. They are too numerous to name individually, **we thank these people – without them we wouldn't have a Branch Library.**

Please come in and talk about how you can help. Duty Officers are urgently required – no experience is necessary, training will be given.

## Launceston Branch AGM

Tuesday 15 April, 7 pm, at the Harry Abbot Scout Hall, George's Square.

Guest Speaker will be member John Dent

**Topic: The interactive 1826 Sharland map of Launceston** (see below).

Supper will be served after the meeting. Do plan to attend!!!

### Branch Committee for 2014

All positions will be declared vacant. Nomination forms are now available at the Library.

### For Your Diary

Branch Workshops planned for 2014, to be held at the Adult Education Centre, 51 High Street. Booking forms will be available in the next Newsletter.

**Wednesday 18th June:** Church Records and Transcripts.

**Wednesday 17th September:** Military

### New Publications

***The Weekly Courier*** Vol 15: 1927-1929. \$30.00 – released this month

***The Tasmanian Mail*** Vol 15: 1935 (six months). Price \$15.00. This volume is the last in the series, 1894-1935. Congratulations to Sandra on such a fine effort.

### Branch Newsletter

If you do not wish to receive a copy of the Branch Newsletter via Australia Post, but would prefer to download a copy from the website, would you let the Secretary know via email: [mandbbissett@gmail.com](mailto:mandbbissett@gmail.com), and we will delete your name from the mailing list.

### The interactive 1826 Sharland map of Launceston

I expect that most of you would have either seen the news item on the ABC or read the article in *The Examiner* newspaper, but for those who may have missed both, the following has been copied from *The Examiner* web page .....

"A MAP almost 200 years old and naming some of Launceston's earliest residents has been extensively researched and digitised.

Launceston historians Jenny Gill and John Dent were long fascinated with the Sharland Map, a map created in 1826 by surveyor William Stanley Sharland. The map shows the town at just 20 years old, names more than 163 of its residents and depicts a number of its buildings. Ms Gill and Mr Dent last year tried to create profiles for each of the people listed. Mr Dent and Ms Gill said there were still several names without profile and urged people with information to get in contact.

University of Tasmania surveying and spatial sciences students Ryan Anthony and Steven Harvey spent about five weeks bringing the map to life. The students were some of the first to use online technology, which makes the map fully interactive."

The Sharland Map can be found at <http://www.launceston.maps.arcgis.com/>

## **'Tree of Hazel Wood' –Revised and expanded**

By Ruth Hodges and Miriam Heazlewood-Peck

A food parcel sent, in the closing months of second World War to ration restricted Britain, by the CWA of the northern Tasmanian township of Whitemore led, after a gap of at least 70 years, to the re-establishment of contact between Australian Heazlewood's and their relatives in the Leicestershire village Asfordby.

In mid 1823 two young Heazlewood brothers left Asfordby, travelled to London and joined the ambitious outfit which Richard Willis was preparing for a pioneering venture in VDL. Their only assets were the skills of their hands in carpentry and blacksmithing which their ancestors had practiced for centuries previous.

Richard Willis settled his family and staff at 'Wanstead Park' north of Campbell Town and with favours and free land grants was soon presiding over an 8,000 acre farming enterprise.

By 1828 James and Joseph Heazlewood had fulfilled their contract with Willis, married two Diprose sisters and were beginning to establish their own business and acquire allotments in Launceston and Longford.

Eventually five more siblings would arrive, four of them in 1834, two single ladies who would soon find husbands, a younger brother Robert who would later move to Portland Victoria and would eventually distinguish himself by living twice as long as the two eldest brothers and easily having the greatest number of descendants in the new world by fathering 19 children. Henry who arrived with wife and two children would, in the next 20 years, after graduating from carpenter to tenant farmer became a farmland owner at Whitemore.

It was Henry's great granddaughter, Winifred Heazlewood whose role in the Whitemore CWA led to the re-establishment of contact with long lost relations in Britain. By chance the unplanned recipients of the food parcel, was a family in the vicinity of Asfordby and its arrival was reported in the local newspaper with the surname of the sender mentioned. Noticed by our distant cousins, correspondence was soon begun which eventually led to the many pilgrimages to Asfordby which has since been enjoyed by southern hemisphere Heazlewoods.

That episode of the food parcel stimulated the Rev Vere Heazlewood's interest in his family's past and eventually, in 1973, to his self publication of the 'Tree of Hazel Wood'. It records, prolonged and tedious research which included the family's static background for previous centuries in Britain and the increasing prosperity and the rapid spread of the colonial venturers. The early version reflects Vere's natural sensitivity and skilful management of words. Limited to 500 copies his original 150 page production has become appreciated, widely quoted, and increasingly rare and valuable.

The new version by his daughters, Ruth and Miriam, embodies much of the original text but is expanded to 350 pages by the flow of additional information which came to Vere and which he meticulously noted right up to his death in 2003, plus numerous intriguing and unexpected facets recently revealed by modern technology.

It includes additional detailed and interesting accounts of the improvement in prosperity and social status of the migrant generation in and around Launceston. For example, the oldest brother James, having lived only eleven years in the colony was the buyer of a large allotment in Brisbane Street and two acres on High Street Windmill Hill, brother Joseph conducted a blacksmith business in Launceston CBD and like James, who was a carpenter and joiner, owned properties in Brisbane and High Streets and rural grazing blocks.

Mentioned also is the fortitude displayed by widows who reared young families and astutely managed assets and city properties for decades after the early deaths of their husbands.

The doors of some 'skeleton closets' are opened wide while other family mysteries remain unsolved.

An updated and comprehensive (as supplied) genealogy chart, that demonstrates the spread of descendants to all parts of Australasia and beyond is incorporated into the book. It has the usual necessary index, is approximately 350 pages and is generously enhanced by coloured and black and white photographs throughout. *Tree of Hazel Wood* \$69 plus \$15 postage

**Book Launch: Sunday 9th March 2014**

Riverland Centre, 159 Wellington Street, Longford (available only after 12.30 pm)

Prior to the book launch a service at the Longford Uniting Church, 3 High Street will be held. The service will commence at 9.30am and the role of family members in early Methodism will be celebrated. Fellowship after the church service will be shared over a cup of tea.

Prior to the book launch at the Riverlands Centre, lunch (finger food) will be available. Booking for lunch is essential, cost \$12 per person.

Alternatively Longford offers several food outlets and picnic areas.

Ivan Heazlewood

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## **British Interest Group**



Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
at Phil Leonard Room, Launceston State Library, from 2:00 to 4:00.

We are a small group of enthusiastic members of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch, with an interest in anything associated with researching in Britain. The meetings are generally of an informal nature, designed to enable the discussion of either a specific subject, current problems being encountered, or more usually, both.

New members are always welcome, so if you are researching British ancestors and their families, why not come along and join us?

### **Zamzar**

Have you ever wanted to convert files without the need to download software – for instance, Adobe .pdf format to Word .doc format? Then this site will help you - [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com) It's very fast and efficient and it's a **free** service! Having already tried it out with a some files of only a couple of pages, I recently decided to be ambitious and used the site to convert a massive 23 Mgb .pdf file to a .doc file—it was returned to me in just 30 mins! I was so impressed! Try it out for yourself next time you want one of your files converted.

### **Latest news from Family Search and Ancestry**

Apparently there has been an agreement between these two companies to co-operate in the putting over 1 billion records on line during the next 5 years. The material will be retrieved from the LDS archives, indexed, digitised and published with help of thousands of volunteers. For more details, see [bit.ly/15KTOSW](http://bit.ly/15KTOSW)

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### **Release of the New Year BMD images on ScotlandPeople and some highlights from these new records from [news@scotlandspeople.gov.uk](mailto:news@scotlandspeople.gov.uk)**

Happy New Year! After 'seeing in the bells' at Hogmanay and New Year, we have added the New Year BMD images to the ScotlandPeople website. So you can now view the images of records for births in 1913, marriages in 1938 and deaths in 1963.

## **B.I.G. Members – Launceston Trip to Hobart**

On Wednesday, 4th of December, 2013 we boarded our bus, driven by Mr. Greg Baker, and commenced our journey at 8.35 am.

Our first stop was at Campbell Town for a few refreshments then after about 20 minutes we embarked on our journey to Salamanca, Hobart. Here we all wandered throughout the shops looking at the many crafts etc. Some even bought Christmas gifts. We all had lunch at this venue and after met up with our bus driver Greg for our drive to the Cascades factory.

**The Cascades Female Factory** site is situated at 16 Degraeves Street, South Hobart. On arrival we met our tour guides and split up into two smaller groups. A few of our members had previously visited the site and made a note that there had been considerable improvements made since their last visit.

My Great (x2) Grandmother, Jane Manley, was one of the female convicts in this institution so this affected me to hear of the harsh situations they endured. I stood in the centre of the boundary foundation of one of the cells, spread my arms out sideways and found that they would have touched each opposite wall, such a tiny dark room for anyone to be incarcerated in for 23 hours per day, especially in winter. The Cascades site is nestled under Mount Wellington so the prisoners would have endured snow, cold wind, wetting rains and now we hear that the complex flooded when the Hobart Rivulet broke its banks. The inmates would have been standing and working in water all day and night.

I also learnt that if an unmarried female convict, on assignment, became pregnant she was sent back to the Factory for her confinement to await the birth of her baby. Upon the birth the mother cared for the baby only a short time and she was then re-assigned as a servant while the baby was placed in the Convict Nursery. If the child lived it would have most likely ended up at the St. John's Park Precinct where it would have entered the orphanage.

We also walked through the last remaining building which had been the home of the Matron and her husband. Here we viewed rooms still in period furniture and paintings and maps of the time. We also saw a display on Bonnets. (see footnote)

The next site we visited was the **St John's Precinct at New Town**. This site was amazing. On arrival we went to the Church Hall and was given a talk on the facilities and then taken on a guided tour throughout the complex. We stood in St. John's Church and marvelled at the history of the building. We were shown the cemetery site where St John's Church burial records indicate that there were 360 burials between 1834 and 1853 alone. Some were families from the district but many were from the orphanage. We were then guided around and shown the other buildings and the guides explained their use in days gone by and their current use now.

Our guided tour ended back at the Church Hall. Here we were provided with afternoon tea and like the Cascades Female Factory, I again collected brochures for me to ponder over at a later date.

In conclusion I would sincerely like to thank the following:

- Irene Taylor - as our co-ordinator extraordinaire who organised all facets of our trip
- Tanya Wouters and Staff of Cascades Female Factory Historic Site who gave us the facts and guided us through the complex
- Andrew Cocker and Staff of St. John's Park Precinct for also telling us the stories and showing us the heritage buildings.
- Lastly, my fellow members of the B.I.G group - thank you for your company and like me, we all had a wonderful time.

Zoe McLartv, Member 6526

### **Footnote:**

With reference to "The Examiner Newspaper", 25th. January, 2014

Dr. Christine Henri, of Kingston, Tasmania is the instigator of the "Bonnet Project". She stated that there were 25,566 female convicts sent to Australia. After a visit to Cascade Female factory in 2013, she wanted to raise awareness of the extent of transportation of female convicts to Australia. Dr. Henri is now just 1800 bonnets short of the total 25,566 and she aims to display them as an art show when they reach the total.