



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library

## Hours:

**Tuesday**

10am–3pm

Monday - Thursday:  
By appointment



### Next Workshop

Wednesday

**21 June**

2pm

### DNA Discussion

At the Stables 45  
Tamar St

*(Note: fully booked,  
please see page 3 for  
further details)*



### Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch Library

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President: Helen Stuart

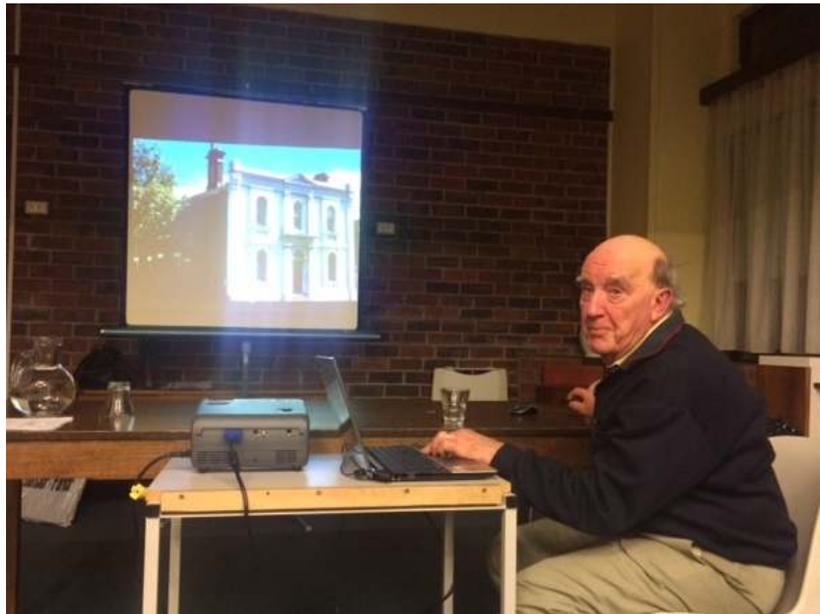
Editor: Leanne Bishop

**No. 53**

**May 2017**

### From the Library:

**The Launceston Branch** Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 27 April at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall, St George's Square. Along with appointing our 2017/2018 Committee Members, attendees thoroughly enjoyed guest speaker, Gus Green's trip down Cameron Street (and memory lane).



With photographs from various collections (some dating back to the mid-1800s) our members were treated to a visual 'trip' along Cameron Street.

Highlights included images of Albert Hall, Macquarie House, Bank of Australasia (circa 1866) and the Mechanics Institute.

*Gus Green takes us for a 'walk' along Cameron Street, Launceston*

### The following members were elected to the Launceston Branch Committee for 2017/2018:

**President:** Helen Stuart

**Vice-President:** Lucille Gee

**Correspondence Secretary:** Murette Lawson

**Minute Secretary:** Robyn Gibson

**Treasurer:** Barrie Robinson

**Assistant Treasurer:** John Reimers

**Committee:** Leanne Bishop, Fran Keegan, Dorothy Rodgers, Russell Watson

**Society Delegates:** Robyn Gibson & Helen Stuart

**Alternate:** Lucille Gee

**Volunteers** are always welcome to do duty at our Branch Library. Come along any Tuesday (10am-3pm) to see how the library works, you may like to be trained to work on the desk as a "Duty Officer".



### **New Resource Material and Acquisitions**

When you are in the Library, ask one of our friendly Duty Officers to show you the latest research resources and acquisitions.



### **Volunteers' Afternoon Tea**

As part of National Volunteer's Week in May, The Branch Committee hosted an afternoon tea for our volunteers at the City Park Stables.

Along with acknowledging our volunteers for their valued contributions, the afternoon tea provided the opportunity to farewell Muriel and Betty Bissett from the Committee, where they were each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Thank you, Betty and Muriel for your long and dedicated service to the Launceston Branch.



*Barrie Robinson and Betty Bissett*



*Helen Stuart and Muriel Bissett*

### **March DNA Workshop**

Due to a considerable amount of interest in DNA in recent times, our March Workshop was led by Ros Escott from Hobart, presenting a PowerPoint on 'Using DNA for Family History'. Her expertise on this subject was very enlightening and well received by the 13 members in attendance.

### DNA Discussion Circle

While registrations for the DNA Discussion Circle to be held on 21 June 2017 at the Launceston Branch are **fully booked**, with enough interest there is a possibility of this becoming a regular group.

If any members are interested in attending an ongoing DNA Discussion Circle would they please register their interest by coming into the Branch Library or contacting us by email at [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) to enable us to consider options and make arrangements.

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**A reminder that the Society Annual General Meeting and Conference** will be held **Saturday 17 June**, hosted by Burnie Branch. See the March edition of the *Tasmanian Ancestry* for a registration form.

**Conference programme Saturday** – registration from 9.45am followed by morning tea.

**Cost:** \$20.00 each – morning tea and lunch.

- 10.30 Welcome and presentation of 'Early Bird' Prize
- 10.45 **Dennis Turner** – Early Mining on the West Coast of Tasmania
- 11.30 **Doug Elms** – Genealogy Software – How can it assist you.
- 12.15 Lunch
- 1.15 **Craig Broadfield** – For Love or Money, Family Antique appraisals
- 2.00 **Society AGM**, inc. Lilian Watson Family History Award, and Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Awards.
  
- 6.30 **Dinner at the Penguin Surf Club** – after dinner speaker – 'Burnie as a Manufacturing Town'. **Cost:** \$30.00.

**Sunday:** 10am -3pm. **Workshop by Doug Elms** (lunch included) – getting the best out of *Family Tree Maker*. Venue: Burnie Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway Cooe. **Cost:** \$20.00.

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**Family Reunions:** Members wishing to advertise a Family Reunion in the *Tasmanian Ancestry* can advertise free – quarter of a page. Non Members – usual advertising rate.

**Certificate Service:** If you wish to order Birth, Death & Marriage records for England & Wales (from 1 July 1837), through GRO (General Register Office), come into the Branch Library to ask about the record(s) you are interested in. The cost is \$25 per certificate which includes postage. You will need to have some information about the record (names, year, quarter, district etc). Bring what information you have, and we will check to see if it is correct, before ordering.

Please allow up to 5 weeks for delivery from UK.

### Newsletter articles – always welcome!

Have you made any interesting family history discoveries recently?

An article (about 500 words) on your discovery, or any other family history topic, would be a welcome addition to the Newsletter.

Come to the Library and tell us about your ideas.



## **British Interest Group**



**Meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
Meeting Room 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the LINC building, Civic Square  
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 British research. 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 and guests are always welcome, so if you are researching British ancestors and their families, why not come along and join us?

The topic for May was **Births & Baptisms**. Although there was a lot of 'informal' chat on other unrelated subjects, the main point of interest for the topic was the new GRO birth indexes, as detailed below.

### **The General Register Office for England and Wales (GRO) has revamped its online services.**

The organisation now offers two searchable indexes via its website: [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/](http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/) providing details of births and deaths registered in the years 1837-1915 and 1837-1957 respectively.

In the past, family historians have had to access the GRO indexes via third party services such as [FreeBMD](#), [Ancestry](#), and [Findmypast](#). This has meant noting down the volume and page numbers before visiting the GRO website to order hard copy certificates at a cost of £9.25 each. The new indexes enable researchers to click through from their findings and make purchases from the same site.

So what does this GRO online index add to the indexes already out there via *FreeBMD* and subscription sites like *FindMyPast*? For a start this is a brand new index and not a copy of an existing third party. Anyone doing family history will be familiar with the scenario – a search on two websites will not necessarily yield exactly the same results. So, this provides an extra check with which to by-pass errors and find that elusive record.

Crucially, as the GRO points out, this new index contains “*additional data fields to those which are already available and this will assist family historians to identify the correct record.*” Other indexes, because they are taken from the microfiche indexes, only include age at death from the March quarter of 1866 onwards; and for births the mother's maiden name only features from the September quarter of 1911. This index is different. Because it is a new compilation, where possible the GRO have provided the mother's maiden name right back to 1837; similarly an age for deaths is also included if it is on, or is legible on the original entry. The convention for recording the age as 0 for infants under 12 months is continued.

As a result, the resource could help people break down brick walls and quickly find the births of 'missing' children who died in between census years and for whom no other documentary evidence survives.

*Thanks to the following websites for supplying most of the above information.*

<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/home>

<https://pasttopresentgenealogy.wordpress.com/>

*Irene Taylor*