



LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

**Library
Hours:
Tuesday
10am–3pm**

**Monday - Thursday:
By appointment**

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**Exciting New  
Workshop**

**Wednesday  
16 June 2021  
2:30 - 4:30pm**

**Searching  
Tasmanian  
Land Records  
– Using the  
LIST**

with  
**John Dent OAM  
at  
Elderly Citizens  
Club  
Invermay**

See page 4 for an  
overview and booking  
details

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**TFHS
Conference &
AGM
Sat. 19 June '21
Town Hall, Ross
10.30 – 3pm
See your copy of
Ancestry for full
details. Brochure &
booking form at
https://tasfhs.org/downloads/AGM_Brochure_A5_2021.pdf**

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Launceston Branch

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Editor: Fran Keegan

**No. 65
June 2021**

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

Our recent AGM guest speaker was **Pip Nielsen** who runs a family history business called On the Record. Pip is originally from Scottsdale and a fifth-generation member of the French sawmilling family.

The service provided by On the Record fills a hitherto vacant niche in the market. Families can now commission and own recordings and transcriptions of the memories of their elderly relatives or capture their own recent first-hand experiences while they are still fresh in the mind. Pip provides professional assistance for those who feel they cannot undertake such projects for themselves.

Pip uses oral history recording techniques to interview her clients and tease out their individual stories. She began her business after attending one of Jill Cassidy's Oral History Tasmania training sessions and provided her TFHS audience with an overview of oral history processes. Pip herself uses 'Audacity' (free from the Internet) for recording, and the 'Express Scribe' app for transcribing from her mobile phone.

Pip regaled the meeting with interesting anecdotes and examples from her experiences and exhorted us to remember that we all have a story to tell.

For those who wish to explore further, Pip Nielsen has a comprehensive website, <https://on-the-record.com.au/> which outlines who she is and details the service she provides.

Pip can be contacted direct at pip@on-the-record.com.au or on 0409 524 266.

Also, of possible use to TFHS members is the website address for Oral History Tasmania at www.oralhistorytas.org.au.

Tasmanian Family History Society members will not need convincing of the importance of personal stories to their research. Pip's paper was a timely reminder that each of us should be enriching our family histories with our own stories – even if we begin with something seemingly banal, like our childhood impressions of City Park or shopping in Brisbane Street!!



At the recent AGM, from left, Carmel Jones, Janet Taylor and Pip Nielsen

TFHS Inc., (Launceston Branch) Annual General Meeting

On 21 April 2021 twenty-five members and friends met at the Elderly Citizens Hall in Invermay for the annual AGM, followed by the Guest Speaker and afternoon tea.

Helen Stuart noted in her President's Report that the previous 12 months have been a challenging time due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. However, after the lockdown the Society did manage to keep functioning almost as-per-normal.

The Launceston City Council also assisted by providing 6 months rental relief for the City Park Stables. Helen went on to thank retiring committee members Leanne Bishop and Lucille Gee for their many years' service to the Branch. Both Leanne and Lucille have held at least four portfolios each, and Lucille continues to work on the Branch scrapbooks.

A highlight of 2020 was the gathering at Franklin House to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Launceston Branch (reported in a previous *Newsletter*).



Also of note is that the Branch membership, book sales and research enquiries have not suffered as much as expected considering the Library was closed for several months.

Pictured at the AGM are (left) Sue Reimers, Pat Lansdell and Dorothy Rodgers and (below) Russell Watson, Ian Routley and Robyn Gibson.



It remains for the Branch to thank Helen for agreeing to stand for President for another term. It may not be realised the number of other areas that Helen also manages: including the Library, Sales, Publications, and the Comprehensive Subject Index.

You are much appreciated, Helen.

Launceston Branch Office Bearers for 2021-22

President: Helen Stuart

Secretary: Fran Keegan

Treasurer: Barrie Robinson

Committee: Dr Jai Paterson

Society Delegates: Robyn Gibson, Helen Stuart (Alternate: Fran Keegan)

Vice-President: John Dent OAM

Minute Secretary: Robyn Gibson

Assistant Treasurer: John Reimers

(one Committee position remains vacant)

TFHS State Conference & AGM, Saturday 19 June 2021, 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Full details and registration form are available in the centre of the latest issue of *Ancestry* or at https://tasfhs.org/downloads/AGM_Brochure_A5_2021.pdf but it is still worth reminding members of this important and informative event to be held in the Ross Town Hall.

Morning Tea & Lunch are available - \$25 per person

Guest Speakers: Jon Sumby – The Journals of Captain Andrew Haig, 1816-1852

Claire Doran – Transcribing the Diaries of Frederick Mace 1857-1931

Ros Escott – Using DNA to solve several mysteries.

Bookings are essential and should be made by 5 June 2021.

British Interest Group (BIG)

BIG has been an enthusiastic sub-group within the branch since 1995 and over that time many members have been assisted with their British family history research. The group usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday monthly at the City Park Stables library in Tamar St. 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.

Over the next few months, BIG will be discussing use of the major online resources - Find My Past, Ancestry, Family Search - so this might be a good time to get involved. New members are always welcome (\$10 to join) so if you need help with your British research or would just like to participate, please contact Sandra Duck Ph. 63 443263 or email sfrd@iprimus.com.au.



Pat Lansdell, Sue & John Reimers, Sandra Duck, Helen Stuart & Daphne Mitchell at a recent BIG meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 June, 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Topic: Researching with Find My Past

Upcoming meetings: 14th July - Family Search; 11th August – Ancestry; 8th September - The Genealogist

Did You Know?

- Duty Officers are available to assist members and visitors in the Society's Library every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. This service is free to TFHS members and \$10.00 for non-members.
- Robyn Gibson and other committee members speak monthly on City Park Radio about the TFHS and our latest events. This takes place during the *Long Lunch* program, which is fortnightly on Tuesdays.
- Barrie Robinson has completed indexes of the Society's three Westbury registers, c.1850-1864 and Launceston's St Josephs (Church of the Apostles) records from 1845-1883. These are now available electronically at the Branch Library for a small fee. If you plan to come into the Library to access this new information, please make an appointment so that assistance can be provided.
- The Beaconsfield Museum and Heritage Centre has made their digital indexes of old ledgers available to the Branch Library, and the index of Armitage & Armitage's (Funeral Directors) ledger c.1947-1953 is also available to view.

New Titles on the Library shelves:

- *A Far Microcosm: Building and Architecture in VDL and Tasmania 1803-1914* (volumes 1-4)
- *Bruny Island's German and Scandinavian Heritage*
- *Not Just an Anaesthetist: The Remarkable Life of Dr William Russ Pugh, MD*
- *The Story of Stanley Victor Rushbrook*
- *The Ancestor Trail in Ireland*
- *From Shamrock to Wattle: Digging Up Your Irish Ancestors*
- *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors (4th edition)*



St Patrick's Day Workshop

There was a good attendance at our Irish-themed workshop, *Curious about your Irish Ancestors?* held at the Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay on St Patrick's Day, 17 March. Our panel of speakers, John Dent OAM, Helen Stuart, Fran Keegan and Robyn Gibson gave presentations on the Irish involved in the early settlement at York Town, Griffith's Primary Valuation and Valuation Revision Books, Church and Civil Registration records. Not surprisingly, afternoon tea featured some 'green' delicacies.



Workshop: Searching Tasmanian Land Records – Using the LIST

If your ancestor was granted land or owned land in Tasmania, it is possible to identify where the land was located and when they owned it. **John Dent OAM**, well known Launceston historian, will be leading this workshop and sharing his considerable knowledge and expertise in this area. John is a registered land surveyor in private practice and he has used his surveying skills to uncover many aspects of our earliest history. The workshop will be in two parts:

1. Many early Tasmanian land records are now digitally available online through the LIST (Land Information System of Tasmania) or TAHO (Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office) and through TROVE. You will learn the difference between a *Deed*, a *Title* and a *Grant* and how to search and find copies of them. Accessing survey plans, grant charts and other historic maps relating to land will be demonstrated including examples of some of the detail that can be found on them and how to use them to trace the history of land ownership.
2. The second part will be a work-through, tracing a specific piece of land from the original grant through to the present day.

Handouts will be provided to participants, as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

When: Wednesday 16 June, 2.30 pm – 4.30pm. 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 15 June. 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: *LIST* and your surname and send an email with the names of attendees to reserve your place. Email: ltntasfh@bigpond.com Phone: 0490 826 863

Workshop Booking Form

I/We wish to attend the above workshop on 16 June 2021

Name/s:

Address:

Phone/Mobile: Membership No. (if applicable):

Please return the completed form as soon as possible to the: Library Co-ordinator, TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250, or register by phone, email or in person at the Branch Library.

Date Saver: Our next workshop, on *Scottish Heritage* will be held on Wed. 15 September 2021.

We would love to hear your ideas for future workshops or your suggestions about someone you know who might lead a workshop of interest to TFHS Members.

Contact details are on the front page.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Launceston Historical Society

Monthly meetings: Sunday, 20 June 2021 –Pugh Day Lecture: Professor Alicia Dennis, *The Role of Anaesthetists in Safe Childbirth in Australia – from pioneers to present day.*

Sunday, 18 July 2021: Alan Townsend, *If these walls could talk.* (Alan is an expert in wallpapers.)

Sunday, 15 August 2021: Robert Smith, *William Henry Clayton: the architect in Tasmania and New Zealand.*

Sunday, 19 September 2021 – Mead, Smith, von Stieglitz Memorial Lecture: Dr Nic Haygarth, *Who killed the Tigers? A preliminary analysis of applications for the Tasmanian thylacine bounty 1888-1909.*

Bookings essential as seating is limited. Non-members welcome (\$4). More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

Oral History Tasmania

2021 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference October 14–16 2021 is to be held in Launceston - *Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges* invites you to reflect on the challenges and issues of undertaking oral history in troubling times, and to consider how oral history can illuminate the lived experience of troubling times both in the past and in our contemporary world. For details: <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au>

Two interesting conference workshops scheduled for Thursday 14 Oct: Professor Alistair Thomson will give a workshop on 'Interpreting Memories'. Michael Green will present a podcasting workshop, again a popular topic.