



# LAUNCESTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## Library Hours:

**Tuesday**  
**10am – 3pm**

**Monday - Thursday:**

By appointment  
(Fees may apply)

## **Please Note: Xmas/New Year Closure**

City Park Stables Library  
will be closed from  
3pm Tues 5 Dec 2023  
until  
10am Tues 16 Jan 2024

## **Christmas High Tea**

**Join us**  
**at Franklin House**  
**2pm,**  
**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> November**

See page 4 for details

## **Library Jottings and Special Interest Groups**

See pages 2 & 3 for more  
information

## **Did You Know?**

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## **Upcoming Events Including our next Seminar**

See page 4 for details

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

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## **Introducing.....**

## **Jayne Shapter**

If you are a regular visitor to our Launceston Family History Library you will probably know Jayne (*pictured*), member for about nine years and a Library Assistant for seven. Originally from Hobart, Jayne has lived in Northern Tasmania since 1974 where she worked as an audiologist with her husband across the north and north-west. Travel occupied their time from retirement until his death in 1999 after which Jayne started her own gardening business.



Following her second retirement, Jayne still applies her gardening interests in her own large garden and assisting a friend in a horticultural business. In a busy life, among her other interests, she lists needle work (cross-stitch and petit point), tai-chi and attending the gym. On a broader scale, Jayne has been a member of Landcare Tasmania for 30 years, currently undertaking the roles of Secretary and Coordinator of West Tamar Landcare.

Jayne's interest in family history started about 10 years ago when she attended an information session held at the Exeter Community Centre followed later by a bus trip to Oatlands conducted by TFHS, Launceston Branch. Jayne's Tasmanian connections go back to the early 1830s and the first of her four convict ancestors, Elizabeth Brown. With the help of other members Jayne started to chip away at her own mystery ancestor – her maternal grand-father. As a new member, her interests were listed in Tasmanian Ancestry where members again helped her with family information even connecting her with a previously unknown cousin in England who subsequently has visited Tasmania. By this stage Jayne was well and truly hooked on family history so enthusiastically joined the initial intake of The Diploma of Family History offered by the University of Tasmania, graduating in 2018. Jayne enjoyed the course and thoroughly recommends it for anyone thinking about that challenge. Jayne puts that knowledge and skills to good use assisting in the library and helping the research team when required.

The highlight for Jayne this year has been her overseas trip where she spent time with her English cousin, meeting his family and travelling around to various family landmarks. Unexpectedly finding a group of ancestral graves was the cherry on the cake.

**Thank you for your contribution to Launceston Branch, Jayne.**

## Successful Seminar

A well-attended and informative seminar was conducted in September by Dr Dianne Snowden AM with the topic *The Orphan Schools: 1828 – 1879*. Dianne provided some fascinating insights for the audience about the history of The Orphan Schools as well as how to research their own Orphan School ancestors.


Following afternoon tea, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the resources available for Orphan School research.

We are grateful to Dianne for giving us her time and sharing her vast knowledge on the topic, and providing such an interesting talk on a subject in which many attendees have a personal connection.

*Pictured (L to R) Dr Dianne Snowden AM  
with Kim Polley*



## Library Jottings

- ❖ Thanks to new member Sophie Appleby, we now have a presence on Facebook. Search for *Launceston Branch, Tasmanian Family History Society Inc*, or <http://www.facebook.com/TFHSLaunceston> Already this has been useful in promoting our activities and communicating with the wider community. We encourage members who have a Facebook account to follow our page and 'like' us! 
- ❖ Our lack of on-site EFTPOS facilities has often been an issue, as more and more library visitors do not carry cash. This has now been rectified and we are now able to process EFTPOS payments over the counter at our City Park Stables library. Cash or cheque is still welcome.
- ❖ During Seniors Week in October, we again offered an opportunity for non-members to begin exploring their family history in our *Tracing Your Family History* activity. Once again, family history 'newbies' were given a one-on-one free consultation to begin their research or, in some cases, to help them look at ways to knock down a brick wall.
- ❖ ***Note the Christmas/New Year closure dates on page 1. Our annual clean-up morning will be on Monday 15 January 2024, 10am – 12midday. If you can help, please come along.***

## Did you Know?

Online digital libraries can be a useful resource in tracking down ancestors as more and more printed material, previously only available on library shelves, is scanned and indexed. People may be familiar with general online digital libraries e.g. Hathitrust (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>) and the Internet archive (<https://archive.org/>) but the free site, FamilySearch's international genealogy library collection is being digitised and made accessible to family historians (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>).

There seems to be a concentration on older, often rare, out-of-print books available, which are often the ones you can no longer find in conventional libraries. The FamilySearch search tools are user-friendly and display well on a laptop or desktop.

After signing in on FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org/en/australia/> choose 'Search', 'Books' and then enter a name, place or keyword to get started. Source: *Whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com*, Issue 197, November 2022

## DNA Discussion Circle

The DNA Discussion Circle had a very useful meeting in August with guest speaker Andrew Cocker travelling from Hobart to facilitate. Andrew's presentation was enlightening and prompted helpful discussion amongst the group. We appreciate Andrew making the time to provide his expertise to our Launceston membership.

The next meeting will be held early in 2024. Numbers are limited because of space limitations, but any member interested in joining the group should contact Helen via the Branch email or phone number.



Pictured above are (L to R) Jeremy Ranicar, Andrew Cocker and Robert Smith

## British Interest Group (BIG)



BIG meets every month (February to November) 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.

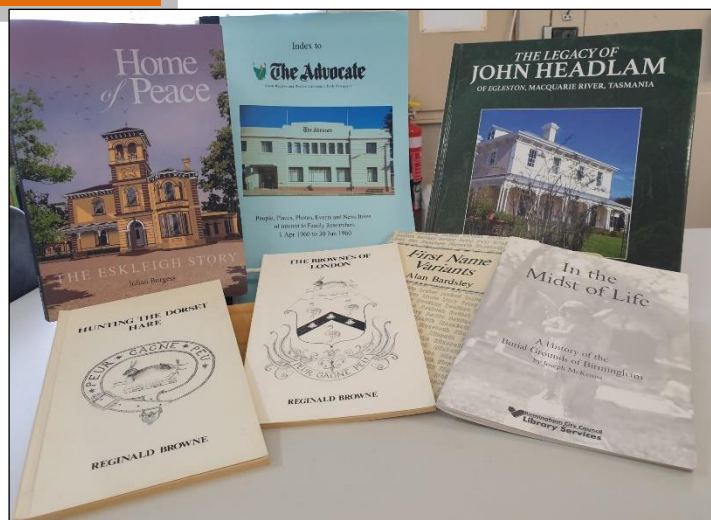
Please contact us by email [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) or phone 0490 826 863 for further information.

### Meeting dates and topics for the remainder of 2023 and early 2024:

- 2pm Wed 8 Nov: Directories
- 2pm Wed 14 Feb: 1939 Register
- 2pm Wed 13 Mar: Scottish Valuation Rolls
- 2pm Wed 10 April: Merchant Navy

## New on the Library Shelves

- ❖ *Home of Peace: The Eskleigh Story* by Julian Burgess
- ❖ *Index to The Advocate: 1 April 1960 to 30 June 1960* ed. by TFHS Inc. Burnie Branch
- ❖ *The Legacy of John Headlam* by Carol Bacon
- ❖ *Hunting the Dorset Hare* by Reginald Browne
- ❖ *The Brownes of London* by Reginald Browne
- ❖ *First Name Variants* by Alan Bradsley
- ❖ *In the Midst of Life: A History of the Burial Grounds of Birmingham* by Joseph McKenna



## Welcome to New Members

New members in Launceston Branch over the last few months include Robert Smith, Kathy Beck and Geraldine Couninis.

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



## Upcoming Events of Interest

### **TFHS Launceston Branch - Christmas High Tea!**

**Join us for our annual end-of-year social function.**

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

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

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person.

**RSVP and payment by Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Bookings essential.**



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: *CHRISTMAS* and your surname and send an email or note with the names of attendees to reserve your place. Email: [ltntasfh@bigpond.com](mailto:ltntasfh@bigpond.com) Phone: 0490 826 863 Mail: PO Box 1290, Launceston, 7250

### **Seminar: Dating Old Family Portraits**

***Do you have portraits of ancestors in that album or shoebox but you are not sure whether it is a great grandparent or from another, earlier generation? Identifying when the image was drawn or photographed will help you solve that mystery.***

Helen Stuart, well-known in Launceston family history circles, will share her knowledge and expertise in how to date old portraits, provide some examples and answer your questions on how you can do this yourself.



**When:** Wednesday 20 March 2024, 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 March. 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: *OLD PORTRAITS* 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 last meeting for the year is on:

**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 and non-members are welcome (\$5). Bring some cash for the raffle. More information at <https://launcestonhistory.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

***Thank you to our members and friends for your continued support during 2023.***

***A special thankyou to our volunteers who help in so many ways throughout the year.***

***We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our library or one of our events in 2024.***

***John Dent OAM (President) and Committee TFHS Inc., Launceston Branch***

