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Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.  
Mersey Branch  
P.O. Box 267 Latrobe Tas  
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January 2012

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I wish all of our members a very happy new year and good health and successful family researching during 2012.

Our Christmas luncheon at Blue Wren, Ulverstone, was a very happy function, the company was good and the food was excellent. The weather was perfect and the gardens looked at their best.

Our host at Blue Wren drew out the winning tickets in our raffle and the lucky winners were:

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st prize             | Marilyn Oakley, Devonport     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize | Mrs Mackey, Latrobe           |
| 3rd prize             | Ross Buckley, Ulverstone      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> prize | Mr Yates, Gawler              |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> prize | Mr and Mrs Holwill, Devonport |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> prize | Miss Sarah Curtis, Forth      |

Congratulations to all winners—the rest of us can look forward to better luck next year!!!

With this newsletter you will find a nomination form. Our AGM will be held on the last Wednesday in April, 2012, and, like all committees, there is always room for new people with new ideas. As an incorporated society we need to be mindful of the responsibility which attaches to committee membership, and to, at all times, make decisions which comply with state and branch rules.

After the AGM we will decide which day and what time suits the majority of the committee members for meetings—it may be mornings, afternoons or early evenings. Please send completed forms to the President, PO Box 266, Shearwater, 7307 by April 07, 2012.

Some of the members' meetings during 2011 were not well attended, which makes me think that the topics did not appeal. Please drop me a line to let me know of topics or speakers – and if you would prefer afternoon or early evening meetings. Early evening meetings could be a good idea, particularly during summer months.

Our barbecue this year will be held on Friday January 27, 2012 at  
9 Fairway Links  
25 Fairway Crescent  
Shearwater

Our library will be open until around 4.30 pm and Dale Smith and Sue-Ellen McCreghan (Shearwater residents) will lead the way to the B.B.Q. at Shearwater!!!

The meal will be around 6 pm, but feel free to come any time after 5 pm to socialise. Barbecued meat and chicken will be supplied, and a salad or dessert to share would be appreciated. BYO any drinks you prefer. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Limited juice and soft drinks will also be available. Cost per person is \$15. Please let the secretary know on 6428 6328 a few days beforehand if you will be able to be present.

*Pam Bartlett*

# LIBRARY

## OPENING HOURS

Tuesday and Friday 11.00.am – 3.00 pm

There are two library assistants on duty to assist with research.

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## RECENT ACCESSIONS

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2004*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol. 10 1929-1930*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Tasmanian Almanacs: - Medical 1863-1979/80*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Tasmanian Almanacs: - Road Trusts 1863-1907 and Surveyors 1863-1979/80*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Walch's Tasmanian Almanacs: - Country Women's Association (CWA) of Tasmania 1937-1980*

Bissett, Muriel & Betty, [Comp], *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians Vol. 8 1916*

Rackham, Sally [Comp.], *Tasmanian Ancestry Index to Volumes 26-30 Journal of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

Dyer, Alan F., *Grains, Groceries & Gourmet Meals - The History of Sheffield's Oldest Shop*

This book tells the life stories of all the owners and occupiers of Sheffield's oldest shop starting with pioneer Robert Manley. Next is Andrew Ballantyre followed by Thomas Clerke. Local sportsmen like Phil Cohen and Mont Banham and ex serviceman Roy Jackson were all owners. It relates how Lord Peter and Lady Beverley Murray along with Sir Joh and Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen generated so much media attention. Many other owners and staff are mentioned and it concludes with the present owner Phil Dickinson.

Lade, Anton Hudson, *Three Indians and the Caterpillar - Destination Cradle Mountain 1828-1935*

This book relates the experiences of some of the men and women who ventured to Cradle Mountain in the years prior to WW11. As access and methods of transport were developed, the adventurers progressed from travelling by foot, horseback and horsedrawn appliances to motor vehicles. The early motorcars, despite their rugged simplicity, were able to negotiate atrocious conditions with their slow revving engines lightweight and high ground clearance. Their main advantage though, was the grim determination of the independent motorists of the day who saw the rough road as a challenge to be conquered and deep muddy bogs or a string of punctures as mere inconveniences. In this book we share the highlights and the difficulties experienced by hikers and motorists on the tracks to and beyond Cradle Mountain up to 1935.

Hardstaff, Gwen, *Cider Gums and Currawongs - A History of Lifestyle, People and Places - The Lake Country of Tasmania to the 1950s*

This book tells of the numerous small communities developed in central Tasmania and the people and families who lived in those isolated places.

Sims OAM, Peter C., *The Butler Sisters - The life & times of Maclaine, Lapham & Radcliff families - Vol. 3 Radcliff*

Rosie Marshall

## MESSAGE FROM LINC

The Devonport Library will be undergoing refurbishment during January and February. The library will close at 7 pm on Friday 27 January until Wednesday 1 February. From 2 February the library will re-open but with only limited services available. This means that there will be no access to the genealogy section of the library and our Thursday morning sessions will cease until the library resumes full services on Thursday 16 February. Meanwhile **OUR** library will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays as usual.

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### NEW EDITION OF —*A CEMETERY THAT WAS : DEVONPORT MERSEY BLUFF PIONEER CEMETERY.*

The publications committee is considering producing a new updated edition of the Mersey Bluff Pioneer Cemetery book. Additional material is being gathered with this in mind. If any member has a photograph of any person buried in the cemetery could they consider giving a copy to the committee for inclusion in this new edition. Where possible we will replace some of the headstone photographs with better images, although this is not going to be possible for all the headstones as many are in very poor condition.

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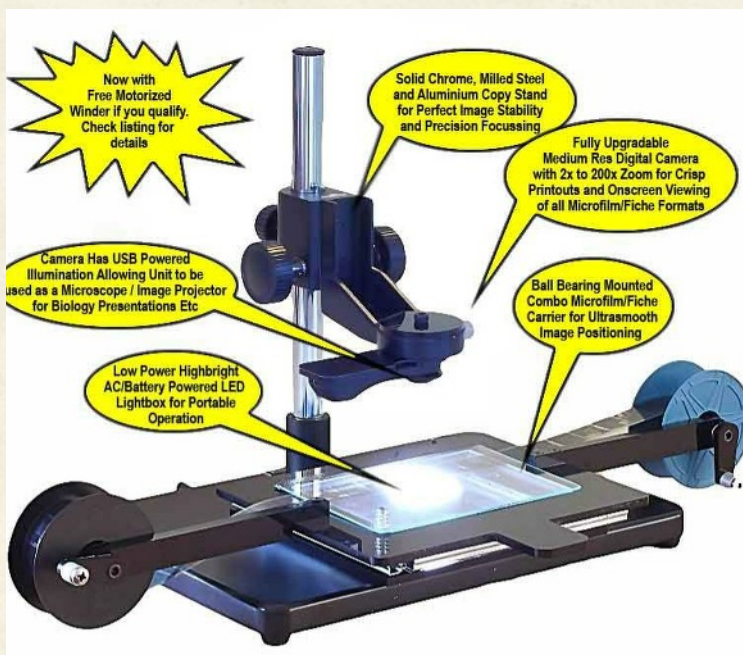
### HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPHS

We are currently updating our cemetery records and photographing headstones. Many of these photos are on disc and are already available at our library. Visit our library and check out these records. Remember, members have free access to all records and internet subscriptions, paying only for the cost of photocopying and computer printouts. A small fee will apply to obtaining scans of cemetery photos.

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### SCANLAB

**Digital Microfilm Reader / Viewer / Scanner / Printer or Reader / Printer with the ability to read, view, scan & print from microfilm, microfiche, aperture cards & micro opaques e.g. microcards or microprints.**



*Our branch has been fortunate enough to submit a successful grant application for this nifty little machine, and it should be winging its way over the Strait as you read this. Several Society branches already have this machine. It will enable us to produce printouts from our Parish Register and newspaper microfilms and from our microfiche collection. Don't rush us just yet as we will have to learn how to use it before we can make it available for general use. Many thanks to Ros Coss and Sue-Ellen McCreghan for making the grant application!*

*If everything goes to plan the Scanlab should be operational within the next 2 weeks.*

*Helen Anderson*

## DECEMBER SEMINAR AT BURNIE

There was a very interesting seminar in Burnie on 2<sup>nd</sup> December when Chris Paton, who holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies visited the town on board a cruise ship. He gave us a run down on why Scottish records can be difficult to find in the period prior to Civil Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriage in 1855.

Between 1560 and 1855 there was much upheaval in the Scottish Church and many changes, splits, unions, re-naming and so on. It seems that each new monarch had different ideas on what should happen. Before 1560 the Catholic Church was the official church of the country and by 1851 when a Religious Worship Census was taken alongside the main census there were at least 40 different denominations that sent in a return. The largest denomination by 1851 was the Established Church which had 904 places of worship but there were quite a few such as the Free Christian Brethren, Christian Chartists and Wesleyan Reformers who only boasted one Centre of worship. Each church kept its own registers which made things very fragmented so the advent of civil registration in Scotland was something of 'a saving grace' in the keeping of vital records. However, not all the Church of Scotland records after 1854 were handed over to the state.

Some websites that may be of help to Scottish Ancestry researchers are:

[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) The official government site for BMDs

[www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk](http://www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk)

[www.scottishancestry.blogspot.com](http://www.scottishancestry.blogspot.com)

<http://website.lineone.net/~davghalgh/churchhistory.html> You will find a useful flow chart showing the splits and mergers of the denominations here.

[www.oldroadsofscotland.com/statistic](http://www.oldroadsofscotland.com/statistic)  
[alaccountsmain.htm](http://alaccountsmain.htm)

[www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

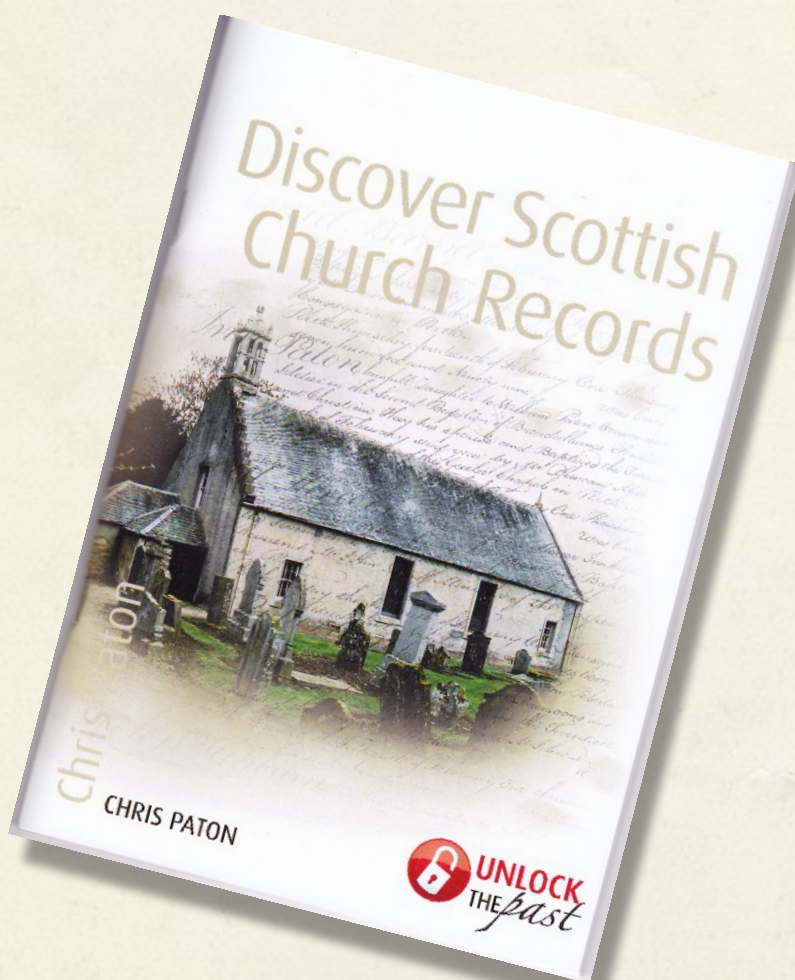
[www.safhs.org.uk](http://www.safhs.org.uk)

The three sites above have parish maps of Scotland

If you are having trouble with reading old Scottish records [www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk) has a dictionary of the Scots Language.

(All this and much more is available from *Discover Scottish Church Records* by Chris Paton one of the **Unlock the Past** Series of Books available from Gould Genealogy.)

Ann Kiely



# *Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

## **Mersey Branch Annual General Meeting**

To be held at 1 pm on Wednesday 25 April 2012, at our Branch Library, 117 Gilbert Street, Latrobe

### **NOMINATION FOR BRANCH EXECUTIVE, 2012/13**

#### **Positions Vacant:**

\_\_\_\_\_

President  
Vice-president  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Members — 6 to be elected  
State Delegates — 2 to be elected  
Alternate Delegate

Nominations to be in the hands of the Secretary 7th April 2012

.....(PRINT) agree to  
my nomination as .....

and agree that my contact details may be published by the Society. I agree to abide by the rules of the Society at all times.

Signed: .....

Proposer: ..... Signed: .....

Secunder: ..... Signed: .....

**Nominee, Proposer, and Secunder must be financial members of the Society for the 2012/13 year.**

*Please note that a separate form is required for each nomination.*