



*Theme for this issue "On being a member"*

Our society has a membership that remains healthy despite the threat of online genealogical "communities" such as Ancestry.com and the increasing availability of information across the Internet.

Our membership figures for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, shows 1364 financial members, which is around 10% less than it was 10 years ago.

Our branch membership numbers remain relatively steady and in fact during the last year we have gained 19 new members in our Devonport branch.

We have a comparatively small number of unfinancial members, who for reasons unknown to us, have decided to not renew their membership or some just may not be able to afford our membership fees.

If we'd like to see our branch remain strong and viable and continue to flourish then we need to engender an environment that encourages and invites participation by all our membership.

Our branch only exists by the contributions and efforts of it's members, however, there is much room for improvement.

A society by definition is a group of people who share common interests and aims, derived from the Latin *societas*, meaning a "friendly association with others." Recently we've reached the hard decision that it was no longer viable to open our branch library on Saturdays, it just isn't fair for two or more of our volunteers to give up much of their valuable time to sit in the library in the off-chance of members needing to use the facilities and resources we have in our library.

A quick look at our library reports going back over the last year shows that our wider membership just isn't using our library as much as we'd like. To be quite blunt, if we were a business, we'd be closing shop, as it's just not viable to have 3 or 4 or more volunteers in the library giving several hours of their time to service one or two passers-by or the odd member or two who occasionally visit.



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**NB.**  
*Pages 5 & 6 only with pdf version of newsletter, or from our website~*



*Continued overleaf.....*



***On being a member... continued***

...However, we are not a business, and if we reflect on our definition of what a society is, you'll recall that part about it being a "friendly association with others"

Your committee is endeavouring to encourage more member participation by proposing themes for each month and inviting guest speakers to address our members at our monthly meetings on the topic/theme for that month.

We've also tried to accommodate members responses to our survey last year in that we're having a couple of meetings out of Devonport and away from the regular meeting place. We've also scheduled a couple of extra social events where members can come along and air their views on what their expectations are for our branch, and what their personal needs are.

Being a member of our society, has many benefits, collectively we have an inestimably valuable asset in the knowledge we all have on a vast range of subjects, knowledge which can be shared with other members. We also have a number of genealogy focused libraries with much more information than you'll ever find on the Internet. And last, but not least, we have many friends and associates, people who share common interests. We won't have any unfinancial members if we can make members aware of these benefits and provide others to increase the value they get for their subscription. Here in Devonport we're considering providing free access for our members to a number of resources that have been contributed by other members who have compiled valuable personal research projects.

But being a member of our branch and society also brings some responsibility, we are ALL responsible for the on-going existence of our branches, if we don't participate in social events, or volunteer, or use our resources, we won't continue to exist. Do we wish to continue? And if so, how can YOU help?

The 24<sup>th</sup> of April is our Annual General Meeting and all positions within our branch committee are open for nominations. The nominations form will be attached to this newsletter or available from our website or from our library.

Please consider what skills or knowledge you have and could contribute to our branch by being part of our committee, or by volunteering for one or other of the appointed positions and roles within our branch.

If you can't do any of these, then please endeavour to help by giving us the most important contribution you can make, and that is by participating in our meetings and social events, and by using our facilities and resources.

*Jim Rouse*



***Next TFHS Inc. State AGM  
June 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 at Ross***

10 am start with guest speakers and presentations. Annual meeting to start at 1.45pm

Registration is \$16 per person ( includes morning & afternoon tea and lunch)

Program and registration information in the latest March Tas Ancestry journal.

***Other State News***

The Short Story competition which was conducted last year has received 6 entries statewide.

The appointed judges are currently reviewing them and the winner will be announced at the State AGM on June 21<sup>st</sup>. All stories will be published in Tas Ancestry over a period of time.

## Events & Reports

Our Christmas Dinner was once again very well attended and a good evening was had by all. The Hamper Raffle winner was Devonport member Eve Hinds. We received a lovely letter from Eve saying how pleased she was to win the hamper. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who very kindly donated to the hamper and a special "thank-you" to Gloria for her magnificent Christmas cake!

Our BBQ held in January was another great success, 35 people attended including National Trust members and Latrobe Mayor Mike Gaffney who received his family tree researched by our Branch Secretary Helen Anderson in our very own version of "Who Do You Think You Are?". Helen undertook the task of researching Mike Gaffney's family history and presented him with an impressive chart and folder of information relating to his Irish, Scots, English, Welsh and German ancestry, and gave a short talk on what had been discovered. Politics and education were recurring themes throughout the various generations. Mike was very impressed with the efforts especially as he provided only the minimum amount of information and we had only three weeks to complete the task.

## Coming Events

### **Saturday March 15th**

BBQ at Branch Library 117 Gilbert St. Latrobe (11 am – 2.00 pm)

Come along and gather for a BYO BBQ lunch in the park behind our library and have an opportunity to voice your opinions or share ideas about how our branch can progress into 2008 and beyond. Members and non-members all welcome.

### **Thursday March 27th**

at our Branch Library, 117 Gilbert St. Latrobe and Latrobe Museum (next door)

Gathering commences at 7.00pm with our theme being "Show & Tell". Bring along any antiques or family treasures for antique collector Mike McLaren to value for you. Take this opportunity to look at the amazing collections held by the Latrobe Museum. Cost \$5 per head includes supper. All welcome.

### **Thursday April 24th**

at Meeting Room 2, State Library, Fenton Way Devonport

Gathering commences at 7.00pm with our theme being "Children", covering topics such as orphanages, illnesses, working lives and more. Guest speaker to be advised.

We will also hold our Annual General Meeting on this night.

### **Thursday May 29th**

at Devonport Online Access Centre 7pm start with volunteers on hand to provide help with research on all things "ILMO" - Cemeteries, undertakers, obituaries etc. Entry \$5 – bookings essential

### **Thursday June 26th**

at Devonport Online Access Centre 7pm start with volunteers on hand to provide help with Internet research, including the use of communication tools such as forums and mailing lists. Entry \$5 – bookings essential

**For further information or bookings for any of these events please contact our Secretary at:**  
[secretary@tfhsdev.com](mailto:secretary@tfhsdev.com) or phone 64278997



Open on Tuesday and Friday 11.00am to 3.00pm  
Come in and visit YOUR Library!

**LIBRARY BOOKS FOR LOAN**

The lending collection is slowly growing. If you have any family history related books or magazines that you might like to donate please just drop them in to the library

**STATE MICROFICHE ROSTER**

18/02/2008—16/05/2008 GRO BDM index 1868-1897

**DEVONPORT & LAUNCESTON MICROFICHE ROSTER**

GRO BDM 1942—1950

Every three months the branches of TFHS Inc rotate their microfiche holdings around the state. The resources are always listed in Tas Ancestry so you are able to find out what resources there are and when they will reach our branch.



**Latest Acquisitions**

An equipment grant from State funds recently enabled us to buy a new PC, an external hard drive and a digital voice recorder. You can view these and get assistance in using them from our library volunteers.

**Anderson, H & Brauman, G** *History of the Devonport Bowls Club 1907-2007*

**Grenham, John** *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

**Montague, RH** *How to trace your Military Ancestors in Australia & New Zealand*

**Morris, John** *Domesday Book, Kent*

**Bissett, Muriel and Betty** *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Births, Deaths and Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to family historians Vol 1 July 1901-1903*



**News Snippets**

This year we've been lucky in being able to run our very successful "Sausage Sizzles" once again. Thanks to Elaine for her efforts in reserving our "spot".

These fund raising ventures are our single biggest earner in dollar terms. We urgently need some more volunteers to come spend a few hours on a Saturday morning. It's a great way of helping our branch & meeting people.

Our first Sizzle is scheduled for the 8th of March at Devonport Kmart, if you can't physically help out, then please try and support us by dropping by and saying hello or perhaps tasting our wares!  
Also appearing at Kmart on April 5th.

**Necropolis: London and its dead, by Catherine Arnold.**

*Published Simon & Shuster UK Ltd 2006*

*ISBN 0 7432 68334*

*Call No. 942.1 ARN*

**B**eginning with Roman cemeteries and ending with the decline of mourning from the time of WWI this is a gripping read for people who are enthralled by cemeteries. It is possible that you may lose your passion after reading of the grim realities of the Black Death and the revolting cholera epidemics that plagued London in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was a time when churchyards became 'scenes of the most appalling horror, where bones would be heaped on bones, and partially rotted bodies would be disinterred to make way for a multitude of corpses.'

Sir Edwin Chadwick's Sanitary Report of 1842 confirmed that, every year, 20,000 adults and 30,000 youths and children were 'imperfectly interred' in less than 218 acres of burial ground, 'closely surrounded by the abodes of the living.'

If life outside in the churchyard was noisome, inside the church wasn't much better: a vault beneath St Clement Danes church on the Strand when opened, brought the smell of decomposing flesh to the congregation. So intense was it that 'lighted candles passed through the opening into the vault were instantly extinguished.' One of the duties of the sexton consisted of 'tapping coffins' to facilitate the escape of gases! On occasion the build up of corpse gas was so intense that coffins actually exploded.

From this and other equally horrid stories I suspect that the last resting place of your London ancestor is not necessarily where the body was interred and the lack of a headstone is more easily understood.

There are chapters about the great private cemeteries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: Kensal Green, Highgate, Norwood, Abney Park and more. These are the places we bring to mind with their parklike landscaping, catacombs, and mausoleums, chapels and carriage ways.

The evolution of the undertaker and the pressure of seeing-off the dead in a manner likely to see their heirs bankrupted is very insightful. Saturday was traditionally the 'aristocratic' day for funerals. To be buried on a Sunday was regarded as vulgar by those who could afford to be 'aristocratic.'

The cost of the coffin, the hearse and horses, gloves, scarves, hatbands: mourning clothes: the cost of the interment in a vault or the catacombs, and the refreshments required for horses, drivers, attendants, and undertakers, as well as the mourners, which took place at the first pub on the homeward journey was also enough to put you in Queer street.

The year 1869 marked a step forward in the acceptance of cremation, and the Cremation Society of Great Britain was formed in 1874. The members of this society expended a lot of energy in making cremation an alternative to in-ground burial and something very commonplace today.

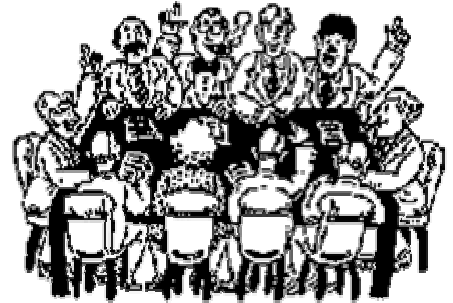
There is an extensive bibliography and a page of Web Resources.

Despite the grim subject matter this is an extremely interesting book on a subject that will involve us all at some stage in our lives. Highly recommended.

**Helen Anderson**

**EXECUTIVE (2007-2008)**

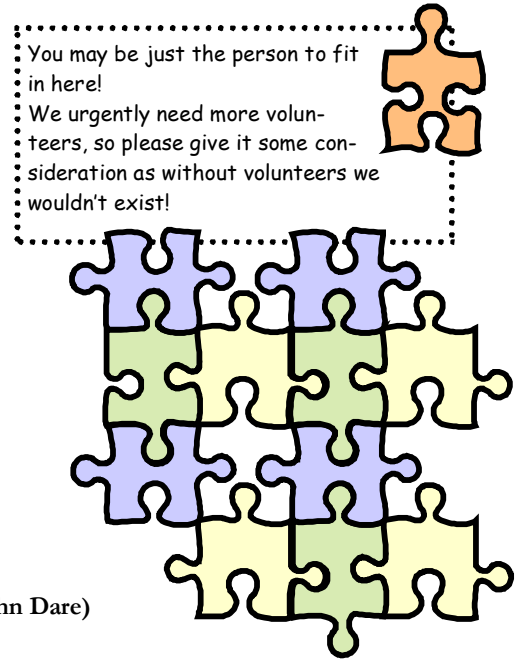
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Kerrie Blyth</b>	6424 5148
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Jim Rouse</b>	6491 1607
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>Helen Anderson</b>	6427 8997
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Sue-Ellen McCreghan</b>	6428 2288



**COMMITTEE**

<b>Rosie Marshall</b>	64267334	<b>Glenice Brauman</b>	64247577
<b>Roslyn Coss</b>	64911141	<b>Marilyn Oakley</b>	
<b>Barbara Pendrey</b>	64278666	<b>Elaine Garwood</b>	64244005

<b>LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>Glenice Brauman</b>
<b>PUBLICITY &amp; PROMOTIONS</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>Kerrie Blyth</b>
<b>E-HERITAGE CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>Elaine Garwood</b>
<b>RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR</b>	<b>Roslyn Coss</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER &amp; JOURNAL LIAISON</b>	<b>Kerrie Blyth</b>
<b>STATE DELEGATES</b>	<b>Jim Rouse, Kerrie Blyth (alternate John Dare)</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP OFFICER</b>	<b>John Dare</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS PROJECT OFFICER</b>	<b>Richard Gould</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS AND SALES OFFICER</b>	<b>vacant</b>



You may be just the person to fit in here!  
 We urgently need more volunteers, so please give it some consideration as without volunteers we wouldn't exist!



*Would you like to receive this newsletter electronically??  
 Our email subscription list continues to grow.  
 Remember this saves the branch money and time in printing and distributing the newsletters. It also makes your newsletter come alive with colour images and direct links to places of interest and soon will have additional content, not available in the printed hard-copy version.*

**Email [news@tfhsdev.com](mailto:news@tfhsdev.com) to register.**