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*Theme for this issue "Writing your family history"*

How many of us have spent years and years meticulously researching our family history and have folders and cabinets full of charts, certificates, clippings, photos and maps?



How many of us have taken the time to write a story to connect all this research together?

It doesn't have to be a massive tome or a best seller, it doesn't have to be grandly published on the finest paper with an expensive cover. It just has to be written in the first place and taking that first step is not as hard as we imagine.

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October we held a writing workshop at our branch library to find out from experienced members what to do! Led by members Faye Gardam and Pat Coy, we were encouraged to consider how writing a short story about one particular topic followed by another, can lead to a written family history.

Pat and Faye talked about style, composition, themes and topics, organization and publishing and gave us exercises to complete to help us understand how to work with small chunks. As a group we talked about memories and some clever ideas were suggested as to how we can collect, record and preserve our own histories and those of our ancestors.

If members indicate their interest we could in the future run a series of workshops similar to this one. We determined that a beginning point would be one to cover rekindling memories and researching, another to write and edit and a further workshop covering publishing tips and tricks. Our branch is fortunate to have a number of published authors as members and they would be only too happy to share their experiences.

## NEWS

### ~Gift Voucher~

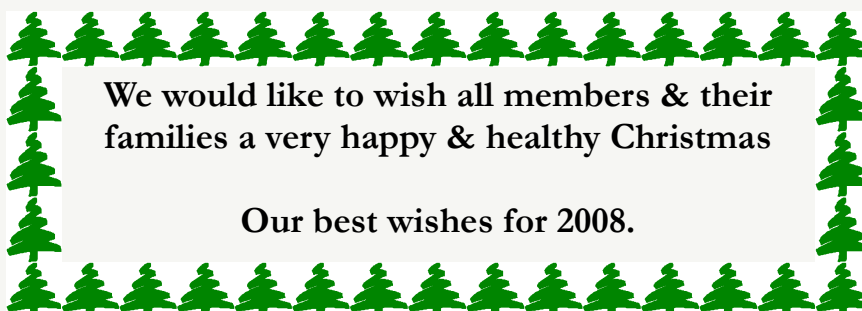
Now available at the library are which can be purchased to any amount. Great ideas for gifts now, just tell your family and friends where they can find that "special gift" for the person who has enough socks and chocolates.

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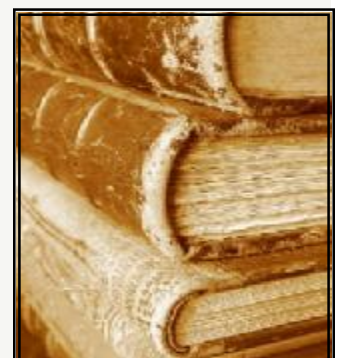
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**We would like to wish all members & their families a very happy & healthy Christmas**

**Our best wishes for 2008.**





### Death of a Story

Today I killed a story  
knocked it on the head  
smothered it with adjectives  
and now it's lying dead.  
Cluttered it with cliches  
but no one seemed to care;  
the lack of ingenuity  
was more than it could bear.

Clogged up with stilted dialogue  
and packed with passive voice  
muddled with mixed metaphor  
(as if there was no choice)

Laced with split infinitives  
its ego looked askance;  
peppered with apostrophes  
it didn't stand a chance.

I jaundiced it with jargon  
it couldn't comprehend;  
daubed with double negatives  
it couldn't not pretend.

It found itself so lonely  
sitting on a ledge  
till a group of dangling participles  
tipped it on its edge.

I overwrote the eulogy;  
had them weeping in the aisles  
with tears as salty as the sea  
and large as crocodile's.

So now its life is over  
its existence violated;  
what could have been a story  
has rightly been cremated.

### Short Story Competition

Entries close **31 Dec 2007** for this TFHS Inc. competition.  
Details appeared in March 2007 Tas Ancestry.

Contact Helen for more info!

### Books we can recommend:

*Writing family history made very easy : a beginner's guide* by Noeline Kyle.

*Memory Man's 1001 life story questions* by Bob Mitchell

*Writing your life: a journey of discovery* by Patti Miller

And essential books for your writing kit.....a thesaurus,  
dictionary and basic English grammar and sentence  
construction text.



After the workshop I went home thinking about how I would really like to kick start my family writing program. So I gathered together about 25 questions taken from the *Memory Man's 1001 question bank* that covered what I thought would provide an excellent starting point. When I was two years old our family moved from a sheep station in NSW to Tasmania. My four older siblings had experienced their early years living on this station and attending a one room schoolhouse. I sent off my questions to them and have been delighted so far with the response. The questions were easy enough to answer and formed a time line until the time we packed up and left NSW, so basically from 1950-1960. Each person has a different story to tell, but from their jottings I will be able to compile a snapshot of our family life for that decade. So.... I am up and away and full of enthusiasm for what will become Chapter 1 of my story!

**Kerrie**



Remember to check our website for all events.

[www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)



This month the committee published a quick guide to the themes being prepared for each month of next year. It is available as a printed copy from the Library or can be downloaded from the website.

### **Friday night 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Our Christmas dinner to be held at the Gateway Hotel Devonport 6.30 for 7.00 pm. Please RSVP immediately to our secretary Helen on 64278997. Bring along a gift to the value of \$5 for your own gender to contribute to Santa's goodie bag. Cost for dinner is \$27.50 per person for a three course meal plus tea/coffee.

### ***Start 2008 off by joining us for a BBQ at our Branch Library at Latrobe***

#### **Thursday January 31st.**

Library opening at 2 pm followed by a BBQ at 5.30 pm. Come along, bring a friend and enjoy the beautiful park right at our doorstep and see what the library has to offer you.  
\$10 per head, please RSVP Secretary by Jan 25th



### **Meetings & Committee Reports**

Your Branch Committee have been working hard to prepare the year ahead with activities and events that were suggested in the survey carried out earlier this year. We do need your support to make these successful . Why not bring along a friend and introduce them to our society. One of the outcomes from the survey was to commence monthly meetings at an earlier time slot. This will start in 2008 so make a mental note that starting times will now be **7.00 PM**. This will ensure we have more time to provide worthwhile activities during the evening.

#### **Publications Committee**

Publications for this year this year have been the Deloraine Public and Lawn Cemeteries. These are available from our Library.

Reports and minutes from any of the committees are available for members to see at the Library on request.



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

Due to the lack of visitors to our library on the scheduled Saturday openings, the committee have decided that these will cease in 2008. We thank Helen and Glenice for persevering during the past couple of years in keeping the Saturday openings.

**Christmas Holiday Hours: Library closing Tue Dec 18th 3.00pm Library re opening Tue 8th Jan 11.00am**

***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***

17/11/07 - 15/2/08 Set 2

Griffiths Valuation for Ireland Series, GRO Consular REcords Index, OPR and 1891 Scottish Census

***DEVONPORT & LAUNCESTON MICROFICHE ROSTER***

GRO BDM 1943-1946

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.



***News Snippets***

***Membership Renewals***

You will receive a membership renewal in your Tas Ancestry this month. These are due in March next year but our treasurer is always happy to accept renewals before then.



***Australian Electoral Rolls Online***

Some Australian electoral rolls between 1901 and 1936 are now available online at [www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au). The rolls can be used to track the whereabouts of your ancestors and find out interesting facts about their electoral histories.

Nearly 42 million names appear on the rolls. Managing director of Ancestry.com.au, Josh Hanna, said the rolls provide another useful tool for people researching their family history. "Given that no census records for this period are available due to privacy law restrictions, the rolls are an important source for family history researchers seeking to bridge the historical record gap and trace the lives of their ancestors living in the first part of the 20th century," Mr Hanna reported.

The rolls are not complete for the time period, but we can hope they will add to them in time. They can be found at <http://www.ancestry.com.au>. You need to be a subscriber of [ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au) to access the Australian Electoral Rolls.

***Oral Histories on the Internet?***

Ancestry.com is adding VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) voice services to record oral histories and to interview family members.

Communications provider LignUp Corp. said it is enabling Ancestry.com to provide two VoIP-based tools for users to capture oral family histories. The service is to be offered in two applications: "Record My Memories" and "Record Conversations."

The first lets users call a special phone number and record an oral history after a prompt.

The second can be used to establish a call between the genealogist and a family member to perform an "interview" that's recorded.

The caller uses controls on Ancestry.com to start and stop the recording. Initially this service is only available in the USA but it is expected that Ancestry will eventually roll out this service across the world to other countries.

VoIP is becoming very popular as an alternative to traditional telephony. Using your computer and broadband connection it is possible to use it as a telephone and allow international calls (and local) to be made freely or at a low cost.

## **Digital Images Will Fade, But Even Worse, They May Just Vanish!**

As genealogists we all treasure family photographs, be they of people, places or events, they help us visualise and get some idea about the type of person our ancestors were and what their life was like. If we're very lucky, we may have inherited family albums and even luckier yet find that the subjects have been identified for us. But sadly for most of us, finding the odd formal portrait here and there and from more recent times, small family snapshots is the most we can expect. But what about our children? and our grandchildren? What will we leave them? Digital Photography offers many benefits, we can take hundreds of photos and put them into our computers or burn them onto CDs or DVDs and we don't have the huge expense of having them developed and printed..

But the questions arise, how long a life does a computer have? how long does a CD or DVD last? and while there are measures & steps we take to prolong the longevity of our media, the answer is that most digital images will have an ephemeral existence. The ideal solution to this impermanence is that there should be an affordable storage medium that you can drop in a drawer for 50 years and have it still be usable when it comes back out. However, the reality is that it just doesn't exist! The digital imaging industry as a whole ignores this aspect of its technology, at great peril not only to our own memories but the shared record of our culture. This is very serious issue.

In an attempt to provide a degree of permanence to our images, many of us print our best of them on high quality ink-jet printers. However, therein is another big problem, those printed pictures may disappear within a few years.

In a series of tests by the Image Permanence Institute (USA) pictures printed on using the latest dye-based printers were expected to last ten years. When users found that the colors in prints were changing drastically in as little as two months, printer manufacturer Hewlett-Packard commissioned research into the longevity of prints. Their current Hewlett-Packard Photosmart 475, a dye printer that produces snapshot-size photos, will produce photographs that are supposed to last 82 years, however we have no way of knowing if they will in fact last this long! No ink-jet printer will create "permanent" pictures or pictures that last anywhere near as long as those produced over a century ago. Take any assurances in terms of longevity given by printer manufacturers with a pinch of salt!

The best solution by which we can hope to preserve our digital images is by archiving them on your computer, taking time to catalogue them accurately and produce an index file. Keep a backup of the images on removable media CD or DVD, but bear in mind that these will in most cases need replacing every 2-3 years. Asking how long will a Computer Hard Disk last? is like the question "How long is a piece of string?" the answer being not long! If you can get 4 to 5 years or more from a Hard Drive, you're doing very well, any longer than that and you're living on borrowed time. And like any other mechanical device hard drives can fail at any time, so the message is, back up and back up frequently! If you can afford it, buy an external USB hard drive, these are quite cheap (starting around \$80 and up to \$250) better yet, buy 2 of the smaller capacity drives and share your precious eggs between two baskets (put copies of all your images on both drives). These removable drives are still mechanical devices and have a finite life but they should, if treated responsibly, last longer than the hard-working continually stressed hard-drive within your computer.

Hopefully in time, a long-term storage medium will be developed and a printed paper process will be developed that will match the longevity of early Black & white photography, but don't hold your breath waiting!

**Jim Rouse**

**EXECUTIVE (2007-2008)**

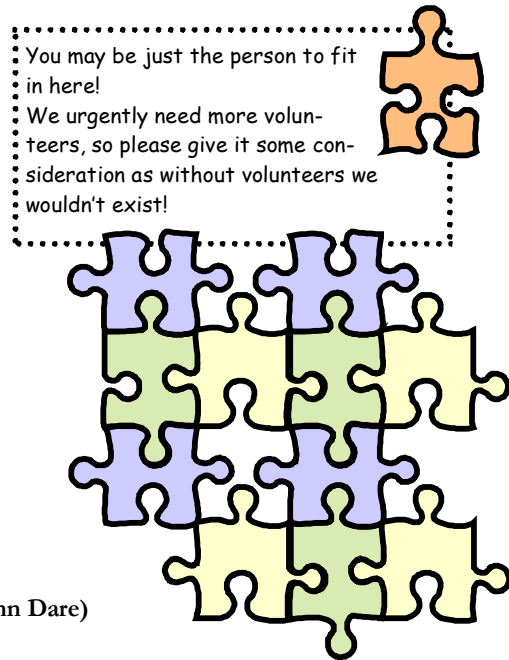
|                       |                     |           |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>      | Kerrie Blyth        | 6424 5148 |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> | Jim Rouse           | 6491 1607 |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>      | Helen Anderson      | 6427 8997 |
|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



**COMMITTEE**

|                 |          |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Rosie Marshall  | 64267334 | Glenice Brauman | 64247577 |
| Roslyn Coss     | 64911141 | Marilyn Oakley  |          |
| Barbara Pendrey | 64278666 | Elaine Garwood  | 64244005 |

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