

In Loving Memory Of

ILMO

Investigating Local Member Origins



1950s vintage Christmas card with Santa Claus and happy children

December 2023

NEWSLETTER

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc

Mersey Branch

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for spending with family. It is also an excellent time for re-examining your genealogy research using knowledge of the Christmas traditions of your ancestors. Christmas has been celebrated in one form or another for the past 2,000 years. In that time, many cultures around the world have developed their own Christmas traditions, and they brought these traditions with them when they came. The ways your ancestors celebrated Christmas, and the way they may still do so today, can tell you a lot about your ancestral origins.

We hope the magic of Christmas fills every corner of your heart and home with joy
“Now and always”



Merry Christmas everyone



Programme 2023/24 Year

NOVEMBER

6th (Monday)
25th (Saturday)

Committee Meeting
Afternoon Tea & Trade Table

DECEMBER

8th (Friday)

10th (Sunday)

Close for Christmas Break
No Committee Meeting
Xmas Luncheon

JANUARY

15th (Monday)
17th (Wednesday)

Committee Meeting
Resume Library Opening

FEBRUARY

10th Saturday

BBQ + Herbert Head
presentation
Committee Meeting

TBA

MARCH

TBA

Committee Meeting

APRIL

TBA

Committee Meeting

Who Am I?

Over the next few issues, we will be posting baby and grown-up images of our TFHS Inc Mersey Branch members.

Can you guess who they are?

Answers and pics on last page.



POSTCARDS

1875

The first Australian postcard was issued by New South Wales (1875), followed by Victoria (1876), South Australia (1877), Western Australia (1879), Queensland (1880) and Tasmania (1882). Originally postcards were exclusively sold by Post Offices as they proved to be a good source of revenue.

Early days

The first postcard in American was copyrighted in 1861, and from here popularity soared. They made their way to Australia in 1875, according to the Powerhouse Museum, when the New South Wales Government introduced the nation's very first postcards. They weren't exactly pictorial postcards, however - these more decorative cards popped up in the late 1800s. Government issue pictorial cards had pre-printed stamps on the address side, and in 1895 the Victorian Government allowed for privately printed postcards to be introduced.

In 1905 the Australian Postal Service ushered in the modern picture postcard format most of us are familiar with, with cards divided down the back to allow both the address and message to be written on this side, with the front consisting entirely of an image. This triggered a wave of postcard collection in Australia.

As postal prices rose and it became cheaper to telephone people, the use of postcards declined somewhat, however they have remained popular among collectors and as an easy and effective way of communicating key messages. Technological advancements saw plenty of variety added to postcards through the ages, from high-quality printing to linen paper stock and more intricate artwork. Many people began to collect postcards as souvenirs when they travelled to new places, as holiday destinations began to advertise their local attractions and beauty through this medium.

Why we love them

Despite offering little space to compose messages and more often than arriving at your intended destination long after your holiday has come to an end, society has developed an obsession with postcards that has flourished over time. What's the big deal? These small decorative mail items were particularly popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, becoming a quick and easy way for people to send messages on to each other. Less formal and time consuming than a letter, they're the ideal way to drop someone a line - does "Having a great time, wish you were here!!!!" ring any bells? Consider them to be a slightly less in-your-face boast than, say, an Instagram photo of you lazing on a beach in Thailand. Personalise your bragging by sending a detailed description of said relaxation on postcards to your nearest and dearest and you'll get away with showing off!

Consider postcards as the old school text message. Before mobile phones made it exceptionally easy to send someone a brief greeting or piece of social commentary, postcards were the go-to solution, particularly when the sender was on the holiday of a lifetime and wanted everyone to know about it. These days you don't have to be abroad in order to maximise the potential of postcards. We recommend using them as a call to action for clients and customers, advertising a new service or special deal. With the ability to print pretty much any image or text you want on these bad boys; the postcard world is your oyster.

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc – Mersey Branch minutes

UPDATE

The committee has reviewed emailing the Monthly Minutes to members. From 2024 our President, Ros Coss, will write a quarterly review to be included in each issue of ILMO to bring you up to date with the workings of the Mersey Branch.

Any questions or queries at all please don't hesitate to contact us on secretary.tfhsdev@gmail.com

TFHS Inc-Mersey Branch now have the ability to take credit cards (\$5 minimum).

We have (5) newer and updated computers in place and plenty of room for you to come and join us Wednesday or Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm.

MILLION YEAR MILESTONE: TRAVERSE SETS COURSE TOWARDS THE OLDEST ICE



Ten expeditioners travelling in a mobile station are on their way into the Antarctic interior as part of the hunt for a million-year ice core.



On 23 December 2022, a convoy of 5 tractor traverse trains carrying the station on sleds, left Casey research station in East Antarctica.

The departure is a major step in one of the most ambitious Australian Antarctic exploration projects in 20 years

The traverse is designed to support a camp 1,200 kilometres away at Little Dome C, where scientists plan to drill for a million-year ice core in the years ahead.

This year the primary task will be to test traverse equipment and prove a path over unknown terrain far as possible towards Little Dome C. Multiple traverses over future years will establish and support an inland station at Little Dome C to support the million-year ice core project.

COLD BUT FROZEN GOLD WHY WE NEED MILLION-YEAR ICE

Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) Leading Project Scientist Dr Joel Pedro said the Million Year Ice Core project will provide new information to test climate models and resolve long-standing questions about the timing of ice ages.

“In particular, it will help answer why there was a major change in the ice ages cycles around a million years ago, with a shift from smaller ice sheets and regular 41,000-year cycles to larger ice sheets with ice ages every 100,000 years,” Dr Pedro said.

Resolving the cause of this climate transition has implications that extend to the future. The project seeks to identify the physical processes involved in the transition, the feedbacks between greenhouse gasses, ice volume, sea level, atmospheric dynamics and ocean circulation. “These are the same physical processes that will determine the response of Earth’s climate to rising greenhouse gases.

“The ice core will offer new opportunities for research into these climate feedbacks across the entire 1 million year plus record and their implications for projecting Australian climate variability.

Australia is part of an international effort to recover multiple replicated ice cores extending back at least 1.2 million years. Multiple cores are required to verify that the climate and greenhouse gas records are complete and uncompromised by flow disturbance or contamination. The Australian team is collaborating with a European project, Beyond EPICA Oldest Ice, on the recovery of independent ice core records from the Little Dome C region for joint replication and verification.

The current oldest continuous ice core is 8000,000 years.

Article submitted by Peter Marlow

IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE TOP IF YOU WANT TO DRILL AND CORE

Little Dome C sits at an elevation of 3,000 metres, making it a tough climb up the Antarctic plateau.

The surface snow and ice conditions and extreme weather will ultimately determine how far the traverse team can travel this year.

The 10-person team, including a Field Leader, glaciologist, doctor, mechanics, electricians and engineers will spend the next month in specially built living quarters to keep them safe in temperatures of minus 50 degrees.

AAD Traverse Capability Senior Project Leader Tim Lyons said preparing the life-supporting infrastructure had been a 5-year effort.

"We need people to be safe but also comfortable living in these 40-foot vans for weeks at a time," Mr Lyons said.

The living van includes a kitchen, shower, toilet and laundry facilities.

We also have sleeping van for up to 26 people as well as facilities for polar medicine and science.

"Think of them like caravans designed to endure the most hostile environmental conditions on earth."

The traverse team is expected to return in February, depending on weather and surface conditions.



Crossing into the cold frontier

Australia's last major traverse was to the Prince Charles Mountains in 2002 and 2003 with German and United States researchers. AAD Chief Scientist Professor Nicole Webster said a modernised traverse fleet would extend our scientific reach.

"Australia conducts world class science from our three continental stations, but we need to look further afield," Prof Webster said.

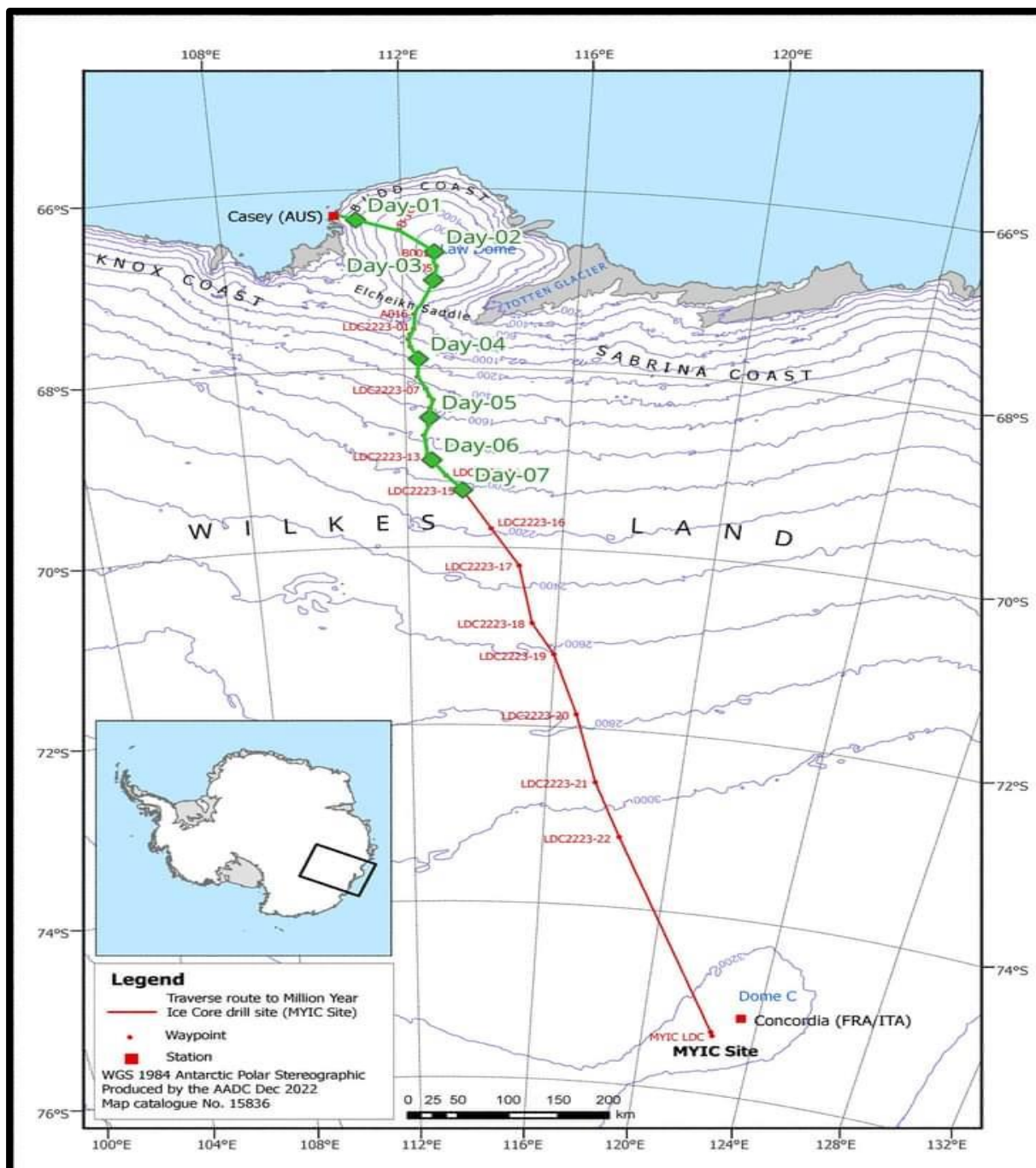
"Developing inland traverse will help us expand our knowledge in key areas, including how ice sheets are responding to climate change.

The departure of the traverse team this year is a huge step towards meeting those future research challenges.

I'm excited to see what Australia science can accomplish in the years ahead."

Photos by **Glaciologist**, Dr Lenneke Jong

Article from Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)



LOST AND FOUND - by Lyn Chambers

Many years ago, I spent my birthday with my daughter who was living in NSW at the time. For a present she brought me a knock off pandora bracelet, which I loved. A couple of weeks later I arrived home in Tasmania. We picked up the baggage and put in the boot for our trip home. About half way home I remembered to show my husband my new bracelet. It was not on my wrist.

I rang the airline several times to see if it had fallen off in the plane. No luck. It was gone forever and I was upset about it.

After telling my mum about it she said to pray to St Anthony, who is the patron saint of lost things. What a lot of rot, I thought. A week later I was at the washing machine and I decided to give it a go. I couldn't remember the saints name but I thought that he would know who he was and be listening.

Very quietly in a very loving prayer I prayed to St whoever, to please help me get my bracelet back as it was very sentimental to me. About half an hour later my phone rang and it was a lady from Launceston who had found a bracelet on the tarmac. She asked me to clarify which flight I was on and could I describe the beads that were on it as many people had tried to claim it. She advertised it in the paper and then rang the airline, who gave her my number.

Bracelet returned and I thanked the lady for her honesty. The Saint had won the day.

Who Am I - Answers

The men look the same but the women changed their hair colour a bit!



Ross Warren
(Treasurer)



Gaylene Hays
(Secretary)

My last day of work
before retirement and
no I didn't get to keep
the bar of gold.



Gary Bryant
(Vice President)



Roslyn Coss
(President)

ANCESTRAL MATHEMATICS

IN ORDER TO BE BORN, YOU NEEDED:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment...

How many struggles? How many battles?
How many difficulties?
How much sadness?
How much happiness?
How many love stories?

How many expressions of hope for the future?
-did your ancestors have to undergo
for you to exist in this present moment...