



Newsletter

DATE: February, 2024

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Tanya Kirk

Welcome back to another year of Family History challenges. I hope the holiday season has brought you time with family and friends and you have picked up a few more pieces to embellish your tree. Welcome also to any new members and visitors to our first meeting of the year.

Our Christmas Party at Wentworth Falls last December was well attended and we all enjoyed Ian's Trivia game. However, changes of venue seem to be the flavour of this month and if anyone has some suggestions for an alternative venue for December 2024, please let us know.

Another change, that of our monthly meetings venue, is up for discussion. If anyone knows of a possible alternative, please mention it. It has also been suggested that we consider changing the day or time of the monthly meeting in order to attract more new members. What do you think?

First meeting: The first meeting of the Family History Society for 2024 will be held on **Friday 9th February 2024 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Visitors warmly welcome! Morning Tea will be served costing \$2 for tea/coffee and a biscuit.

The "Life In a Shoebox" theme for this month is an activity that allows all of us to get to know a little more about each other and why family history is so important to us. You are asked to bring along up to 4 small items that represent key events or people in your life. (Remember that we are each a part of our own family history. Making choices such as these helps us to decide what, and how, to record our own lives.) Sharing your memories with us should take no longer than 5 minutes per person and will help us get to know each other better. It also gives *us* ideas on what we might include, as well as how to organise those ideas, about ourselves when recording personal histories.

Membership Fees Annual fees are now due for 2024. \$50 for an individual or \$60 for a joint or family membership. If you are new to the Society, then get your membership form online from our website or Facebook page, or pick one up from Ian at the meeting. Also, there is an additional postage fee if you prefer to have your 'Explorer' magazine posted rather than picking it up at our meetings. Our mailing fee is \$15.

Trade table - Our trade table will be operating again this year, so you can donate any unwanted good quality items to the table display. If something from the table catches your fancy, please drop some cash in the Society's moneybox for the item, then take it. Remember that if your donated items don't sell, you will need to take them home again.

Library News

We still have quite a few boxes of books in storage from the time of the Springwood Library closure. On Monday the **12th February 2024 from 9.30 am** we are having a working bee in the Library to unpack, organise and shelve the books. All volunteers will be warmly welcomed! And perhaps coffee at the Ori afterwards would be nice ☺.

Also, the volunteer Family History research assistants calendar is once again needing to be filled. If you are able to assist, even if it is only once, please

give your name to Helen. Volunteering involves spending 2-3 hours of a Thursday morning at the Library and helping anyone who needs help with Family History research.

Also remember, that free access to Ancestry and Find My Past is available through the Library computers.

Explorer's Tree Magazine

2024's first issue will be at the March meeting for pick-up, but more items are always welcome. Please keep those written pieces coming in to Jan for the following issues of "The Explorer's Tree". Send your stories, in a Word Document, with photos or images as attachments to Jan Koperberg. j.koperberg@bigpond.com
Remember to include references and sources if they come with the article.

Next month's meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **8th March 2024 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Guest speaker to be advised.

Upcoming Events:

Speakers at our meetings...

Feb - "My life in a Shoebox." Members show and tell.

Mar - "How to research aboriginal history" TBC

Apr - Meryl Foster. "Nurses In the War".

May - Bob Howard - "Halverson Yacht family"

June - Steve Ford: "Colonial Musicians"

RootsTech is coming! 29 Feb -2 March 2024 (USA time, 1-3 March in Oz). 200+ NEW on-demand class sessions and classes; All-year learning from the comfort of your own space; Connect via digital chat with friends and industry experts; Free virtual registration; Catering for beginners through to experts. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/>

SAG: The 2024 Preliminary Program of events for the Society of Australian Genealogists is now available. <https://sag.org.au/>

National Archives of Australia: "Preserving Family Records" Date & time Wednesday 28 February 2024 11:30 am to 12:30 pm AEDT. Online. Free. <https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions/preserving-family-records-0>

Affiliated GHS journals

From December (now available at Springwood Library)

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|---|---|
| 1. Campbelltown District Family History Society | Ghostbuster, vol 32, Nov '23 |
| 2. Casino & District Family History Group | The Crossing Place, no 143, Nov '23 |
| 3. Port Macquarie & District Family History Society | Footsteps, no 169, Nov '23 |
| 4. Moruya & District Historical Society | Journal, vol 25, no 4, Dec '23 |
| 5. Newcastle Family History Society | Journal, 244, Dec '23 |
| 6. Northern Territory Genealogical Society | Progenitor x 2, vols 42 & 43, Jun & Sep '23 |
| 7. Tasmanian Family History Society | Tasmanian Ancestry, Dec '23 |
| 8. Uncovering Australia's Past | Traces Magazine, Ed 25, '23. |

From January and February

1. The Crossing Place (Casino & District Family History Group) – at Springwood Library
2. Footsteps (Port Macquarie & District Family History Society) – at Springwood Library
3. Ghostbuster (Campbelltown & District Family History Society) – at Springwood Library
4. Journal 244 (Newcastle Family History Society) – at Springwood Library
5. The South Australian Genealogist – at February meeting and then Springwood Library
6. History, The Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society – at February meeting and then Springwood Library
7. Descent, Society of the Australian Genealogical Society – at February meeting and then Springwood Library
8. Timespan, Journal of the Nepean History Society – at February meeting and then Springwood Library

Research Tips

Five Photos You Should take at Cemeteries: <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/5-photos-you-should-take-at-the-cemetery>

"It's sad - and rather frustrating - to go to a cemetery, take some photos, and realize when you get home that those photos don't really help you. (It's especially frustrating when you're not able to get back to take more photos.) To help ease the frustration, here are 5 cemetery photos that you should get in the habit of taking every time."

Just for Fun Quotable Quotes:

If you can't get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well make it dance – George Bernard Shaw.

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living. – Unknown

Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing – Wernher von Braun