



Newsletter

DATE: May, 2024

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Welcome to May and a time to reflect on all the mothers down through the ages. As I learn more about the living conditions that some of my ancestors endured, I find I regularly give thanks that I was born in this day and age. I suspect that I would have fared rather badly in earlier times. My heart goes out to those women who died in childbirth in the cold and dirt of the gold diggings. Or to the multitude of mothers who lost babies. The birth and death statistics show clearly that it wasn't until the mid-20th Century that the majority of mothers could expect *all* their children to survive and even outlive them! So this Mother's Day I'll take the time to be grateful – for all the generations of my mothers.

Our Mother's Day Street Stall fundraiser will take place on Saturday 11th May from 8am-1pm. Donations to sell at the stall can be brought directly to the stall or left at the meeting on Friday. Some suggestions are pot plants, handmade items, baked goods (with a list of ingredients attached would be great). It would be helpful if items were already labeled and priced. If you are assisting at the Street Stall our insurance specifies that you need to sign on and off.

Please put the date in your calendars and share the news with friends, family and social media.

Thank you to Ann and Helen for the long hours they have put in to empty out our storage unit. Their efforts mean we should be able to relinquish the space by the end of this month. Great work ladies! This also means that Friday's meeting will be the last opportunity to collect any of the Society's books that you might like to own.

This month's meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **Friday 10th May 2024 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, right in the centre of town. Visitors are warmly welcome! Morning Tea will be served costing \$2 for tea/coffee and a biscuit.

This month's presentation will be given by Bob Allan. During his life, Bob has owned 4 Halvorsen boats and was the Commodore of the Halvorsen Club for four years. He is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Australian National Maritime Museum. Bob will be speaking about his research into the Halvorsen family.

Membership Fees Annual fees are now overdue 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.

Even if you are a returning Society Member it is necessary for you to complete an annual membership form. If you have not already done so this year, would you please get your form to Ian as soon as possible. Thanks

Trade table - Our trade table will not be operating this month as we will be collecting items for the stall.

Library News

Thank you to those of you who have already added your names to the volunteer roster. New faces are always welcome though so if you can be a Family History research assistant, 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, Find My Past and Newspapers is available through the Library computers.

Explorer's Tree Magazine

We sent off the March 2023 edition of our magazine to the Nick Vine Hall Award. Hopefully it will be received favourably. One of the criteria of the award was that new writers were represented alongside established authors. Perhaps you are a new writer considering sending something in. Written pieces are always needed. Send your work in a Word Document, with photos or images as attachments to Jan Koperberg. j.koperberg@bigpond.com for upcoming issues of "The Explorer's Tree". 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 **14th June 2024 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church The guest speaker will be Steve Ford: "Colonial Musicians".

Upcoming Events:

May 11 2024 - BMFHS Mother's Day Stall in the Church driveway.

Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) – Scottish Research Group. is an opportunity to meet with others who have ancestors from any of Scotland's counties from the highlands and Islands all the way down to the border areas, or just have a research interest in Scotland. Discuss research strategies and resources, and swap ideas and knowledge.

This group is suitable for beginners through to those with many years researching experience. The research group meets about 3-4 times a year. You can become a member of the group just by attending our meetings. Newcomers are always welcome! Date: 28 May 2024 7-9pm via Zoom <https://www.sag.org.au/event-5481447?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5/8/2024>

Research Tips

Family Search – While Family Search holds millions of copies of original documents, often the originals are not available online and must be accessed via a Family Search Centre. There is a Family Search Centre at Richmond. Hours of opening Tuesday 7.30-8pm.

Address: 139 Castlereagh Road, Richmond, NSW 2753. Email: AU_Richmond@familyhistorymail.org

Have you completed your research about a female convict in your family? Did you know that you can share your research with the Parramatta Female Factory so they can add it to their database? Interested? Use the link for the pdf at the bottom of the Research centre page. <https://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/research-centre/>

Just for Fun

