



Newsletter

DATE: October 2025

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Tanya Kirk

Hello once again from my desk at home in the Blue Mountains. Having spent the past couple of months travelling through very hot and dry rural areas, its been a real pleasure to come back to the lush greenness and floral displays of the mountains in Spring.

With my family history in Australia spanning 6 previous generations who lived throughout western New South Wales and into Queensland, I find it fascinating to visit the small towns that still have much the same character as they would have done when my ancestors lived there. I constantly find myself wondering how on earth they survived without the modern conveniences that I take for granted. Clearly they were much tougher than I am.

This month's meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **Friday 10th October 2025 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, Ian Kendall will be speaking about "DNA for Family History".

Thank you to Adrian for sharing his family history last month. I'm told it was excellent.

Our **Street Stall** is coming up this **Saturday 11th October**. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year so please consider helping out. We need people to set up from 8.30am and pack up around 1pm on the day, people to stay for the morning to make sales, and of course donations of goods for us to sell. To cater for health concerns, it's a good idea to label any baked goods or food items with the ingredients. If you can't make it to the day but have items to donate, then please bring them to Friday's meeting and we will store them overnight.

Vicki Edmunds announced the **Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards** last month. Congratulations to the following winners:-

The Bob Howard Award

Winner: Starting in Stone; how a couple of bankrupt Scottish stonemasons did OK in their new country by *Adrian Howie*.

Runner Up: Serendipity in Family History or Finding the Johnston Brothers, Carters in Bombo (Kiama) NSW ca1883-1892 by *Helen Allan*.

The Coolgardie Safe Award

Winner: Chimney Sweep to Land Owner by *Chris Wenman*.

Runner Up: And a Box of Chocolates by *Lynne Tocher*.

The smaller back room at the Ori Café has been booked for **Christmas lunch** at 12 midday on the 12th December but we are looking into alternatives as the café is not functioning again yet.

Membership Fees Next year's annual fees can be prepaid if that suits you better. \$50 for an individual or \$60 for a joint or family membership. Remember that you will also need to complete your annual membership form which is available 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 not be operating as we are collecting items for the street stall.

Library News

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

Explorer's Tree Magazine

The October edition of Explorers' Tree will be available for pick up at Friday's meeting. If you have arranged to have your copy mailed to you, then please keep an eye out for its arrival. Of course, more articles are always needed so why not take the plunge and write about your family. Then share your work with us by sending 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 November 2025 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. It will be time to find out if our Society can continue for another year at our AGM. All Office Bearer and Committee positions will become vacant and await volunteers to fill them. Please speak to a committee member to get your nomination in.

Research Tips

Researching German ancestors... German Church books are online at the following sites and are full of useful details. AND... there is an English option.

Archion (Lutheran church books): <https://www.archion.de/en/>

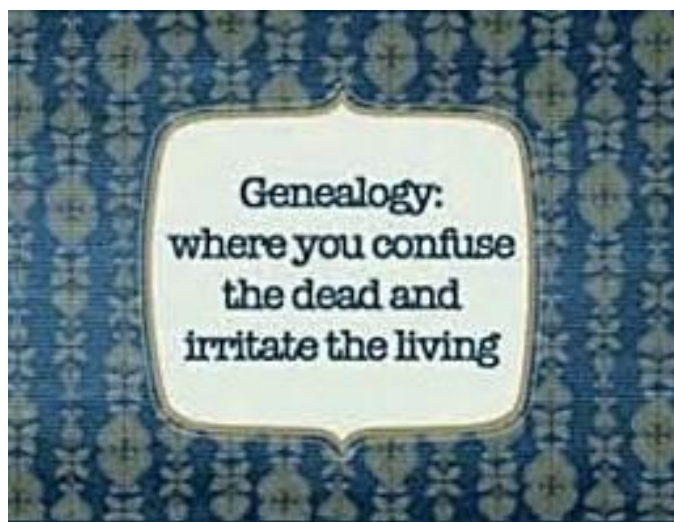
Matricula.eu (Roman Catholic church books): Matricula.eu <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/>

Another useful site is **Society for Computer Genealogy (CompGen)**. This is the largest non-profit genealogy group in Germany with its own wiki, databases and participatory projects:

<https://www.compgen.de/recherchieren/#datenbanken>

Just for Fun

Thanks to Alison and her sister for this month's humour.



See you Friday
Tanya