



Newsletter

DATE: November 2025

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains
Federal Member for Macquarie
State Member for The Blue Mountains

Office Bearers

President

Ann Krasny

V-President

Anne Devrell

Secretary

Helen Allan

Treasurer, Research & Members' Interests, & Public Officer

Ian Kendall

Committee

Helen Allan
Anne Devrell
Ian Kendall
Tanya Kirk
Ann Krasny
Alison Tissington
Chris Wenman

Coordinators

Explorers' Tree

Editor: Jan Koperberg
Layout/publishing: John Arnold
Proofreader: Ian Kendall

Web Master

Ian Kendall

Librarians

Ann Krasny
Alison Tissington

Library Roster

Helen Allen

Editor Newsletter

Tanya Kirk

Warm greetings to you all.

As I write this, the ABC is devoting a day to reflections about the Dismissal back in 1975. On top of that, it is Remembrance Day. Together, these events have caused me to once again reflect on how important tumultuous events are when dealing with family history. Our ancestors did not live insulated lives within the walls of their homes. No indeed. They were strongly impacted by the political, social and religious decisions of the day. And again, I find myself wishing I could have been 'a fly on the wall' and observed some of their reactions. I frequently find myself travelling the twists and turns of historical events via the wonderful Trove, in an effort to understand and empathise. I guess that is just one of the many fascinating aspects of researching a personal history.

Thank you to all the helpers who attended the Street Stall last month. Springwood was noticeably quiet on the day with very little passing traffic. Despite this we raised \$268.40.

Thank you also to Ian for his informative presentation on the topic of DNA last month. Using DNA as a research tool has certainly been a game-changer for many.

While I am thanking people, I must mention Helen, who has spent many hours over many months attempting to organise a venue for our Christmas Lunch. Our first two venues fell through, but she has finally had some success. So, our **Christmas lunch** will be held at:

Alexandra Hotel

**62 Great Western Highway, Leura
Friday 12th December at 12 midday.**

The room holds up to 50, so partners will be welcome but we have to let the Hotel know final numbers. Would you please indicate to Helen ASAP whether you will be attending and how many. Thank you.

The Hotel is located within walking distance of Leura railway station which makes it accessible via public transport if that is your preference.

There are 2 options for menus: a-la-carte (price varies depending on what you order) or 2 course set menu (\$55pp). We need to let them know if our group is going with the set menu option. No matter which option we go with, we pay on the day. Each of our members will need to come to the bar upon arrival and pay. This is the link to view the a-la-carte menu:

<https://alexandrahotel.com.au/dining>

This Month's Meeting will be held on **Friday 14th November, 2025 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.

This will be the final meeting for the year... although we do have the Christmas lunch in December 😊

Our November meeting combines with our Annual General Meeting. That means Committee Member elections. On top of that there are three issues requiring decisions for 2026. (see below) Please bring your ideas and suggestions along to be considered.

Issue 1.

Our auditor has suggested that we stop creating paper copies of 'The Explorers' Tree' in order to remove the most expensive cost in our annual budget. He has recommended that we send a digital copy to our members.

We currently purchase the smallest bulk order of 125 copies, which gives us too many, but there would be no saving if we purchased the exact number of copies required.

This year we paid \$1155 for printing + \$488 for postage. The local postage is covered by the postage fee charged to members, but international postage is not covered and totals approximately \$130 a year. This will possibly increase next year. One solution to this might be to bulk post once a year to international destinations.

Another consideration is that the international and local libraries need paper copies. It would be possible to print off a few copies at Office Works to cater for this which would dramatically reduce our costs. However, the Society is required to send digital copies of the magazine to the State and Australian repositories. This is an extra workload for Ian.

A decision regarding this issue will need to be made at the AGM.

Issue 2

Several members have suggested that we have a few training sessions at our meetings. The ideas seem to be about "How do I" topics or perhaps sharing research skills. If you have some ideas about this please share them at our AGM so the Committee can begin planning for them.

Issue 3

Should we increase our fees to cover the ever-increasing costs of hall hire, insurance and compulsory memberships?

Trade table - Our trade table will be operating again this month, 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

Most of the paper copies of 2023 journals have been removed as there was not enough shelf room. However, the magazines and journals are still available online via our Dropbox (see the footer on the front page).

Ted Burkett willed a box of books to the Society. Thank you to his family for getting them to us. These are being accessioned and added to the shelves.

Remember that our volunteers are at Springwood on Thursday mornings to assist. Alternatively, if Katoomba is easier for you, Ian will be volunteering there on the first and third Thursdays of each month between 10am and 12 midday.

The Explorer's Tree Magazine

Our Society's magazine is excellent! And it's all thanks to you. Please keep those articles and stories coming in.

Remember to send your work, in a Word Document, with photos or images as attachments to Jan

Koperberg. j.koperberg@bigpond.com AND... include your references and sources.

Next month's meeting

Our December meeting is traditionally a social Christmas get-together. Please come along and join us for a meal.

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 may be an additional postage fee to have your 'Explorers' Tree' magazine posted rather than picking it up at our meetings or from the Library. Our mailing fee is \$15.

Next year's first meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **13th February, 2026 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. As an introductory session for the year, member's are asked to participate in a show and tell themed "My First Job or Old/Interesting/Unusual Occupations". Help us get to know you in less than 10 mins.

On a Personal Note I'd like to thank Kate Santleben who has volunteered to take on the role of Newsletter Editor next year.

See you soon, Tanya