



Newsletter

DATE: February 2026

Patrons

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

Office Bearers

President
Ann Krasny
Vice President
Anne Devrell
Secretary
Helen Allan
Treasurer, Research & Members' Interests,
Public Officer
Ian Kendall

Committee

Helen Allan
Marilyn Deitiker
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

Kate Santleben

Hello everyone,

A welcome back will be our first meeting of the Family History Society on Friday, 13 February, 2026 at 10am in the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

A warm welcome also to new members and visitors. As an introductory session for the year, members are asked to participate in a show and tell themed "**First Jobs and Interesting Occupations**". Help us to learn more about you (or a family member you've researched) in less than 10 minutes.

Morning tea is available costing \$2 for tea/coffee and a biscuit.

December 2025 Christmas lunch

Our lunch last year at the Alexandra Hotel in Leura was much enjoyed by members and partners.

Trade table

Our trade table will be operating again this month, so please 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'll need to take them home.

Library news

Our volunteers are resuming on 5 February at Springwood Library to assist with your family history research. They'll be there each Thursday morning from 10am to 12 noon. Alternatively, if Katoomba Library is easier for you, Ian will be volunteering there on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month between 10am to 12 noon resuming on 10 February.

The *Explorers' Tree* magazine

Our Society's magazine is excellent! And it's all thanks to you. The first issue for 2026 will be available for collection at the March meeting (13/3). Those who have paid for postage will receive their magazine through the post around the same time.

Please keep those articles and stories coming in. Send your work, in Word format with attached images in jpg format, to Jan Koperberg j.koperberg@bigpond.com AND please include your references and sources.

Membership fees

The 2026 annual fees are now due. \$50 for an individual or \$60 for a joint or family membership. Please 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. The mailing fee is \$15 for the year.

And ... to reset our genealogy practice, thank you to Ian Kendall for the following:

Coming Back After a Break (Without Overwhelm)

So you stepped away from genealogy for a while. Maybe life got loud, maybe the ancestors stopped whispering, maybe the laundry won. It happens to everyone. Here's the part nobody tells you:

Returning to genealogy doesn't require a big research session or a dramatic comeback. It just needs one tiny bridge.



Let's build that bridge this week.

Start with "Where Was I?"

Before opening a database or frantically clicking through hints, pause.

Choose one project or one ancestor you were working on last.

Then answer these three questions in writing:

1. What did I already know?
2. What was I trying to find out?
3. What was the next step?

That's it. This resets your brain and prevents the dreaded "Wait, who are these people?" spiral.

Why This Works



gives you direction



saves time you'd waste re-researching old findings



stops the "open every record set in a panic" cycle



Now Add One Tiny Action

Genealogy after a break thrives on momentum, not intensity. Choose ONE of these:

- Review your old notes for 10 minutes
- Confirm one fact (date, place, name spelling)
- Organise one folder
- Read one article for skill-building
- Watch one [YouTube Video](#)
- Make a single research question for the week

Small actions build confidence. Confidence builds consistency.

That's how you return to genealogy after a break: one simple step that reminds you why you started in the first place.