



# Newsletter

DATE: April, 2021

## 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**

Colin Brest

### **Treasurer, Research & Members' Interests, & Public Officer**

Ian Kendall

## Committee

Lorraine Austin

Colin Brest

Anne Devrell

Ian Kendall

Tanya Kirk

Ann Krasny

Caroline Spratt

Alison Tissington

## Coordinators

### Explorers' Tree

Editor: Rhonda Flowers

Layout/publishing: John Arnold

Proofreader: Ian Kendall

## Membership Secretary

Caroline Spratt

### Web Master

Ian Kendall

### Librarians

Ann Krasny

Alison Tissington

### Library Roster

Helen Allen

### Editor Newsletter

Tanya Kirk

Happy Easter everyone. I hope you have had the opportunity to spend time with family and loved ones over the long weekend.

Our next meeting fast approaches (Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 10am) and I'm hoping that we will see a few more familiar faces begin to trickle in.

### **What's On At Our April Meeting?**

At the March meeting people discussed buying a gift for Yvonne Wright which everyone agreed to. So, at this Friday's meeting we will be taking a collection in order to purchase the gift.

Guest Speaker: Carol Baxter. Carol presented at the recent Roots Tech Conference and we will be viewing one of her excellent presentations. The talk lasts for 30minutes and the theme is Spelling. Those of you who have strained your eyes a time or ten over old church records will know how often spelling can be both a source of frustration and entertainment.

In the time pre-COVID, we used to do fun things like hold fund-raising street stalls, High Teas and Conferences. Remember that? As life begins to settle back down into a relatively normal pattern it seems that we can consider restarting some of these old activities. We used to time these to take advantage of Calendar Events in order to be as successful as possible in our fund-raising. With Mother's Day just around the corner we may have left our street stall run a little late. What do you think? Can we do it? Please share your suggestions at our meeting.

**Trade table** – What is this? Another fund raiser of course☺ The trade Table is set up at each General Meeting. You are welcome to bring any 'too good to throw away' items that you no longer have a use for and add them to the table. Morning Tea time is often great for spending a few minutes browsing over the selection on offer. If you want an item, add a donation to the box and its yours. If your contribution has not 'sold' by the end of the meeting take it back home with you. All donations contribute to the society's coffers.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church in Springwood. Guest speaker to be advised.

### **Explorer's Tree Magazine**

I hope you all enjoyed reading the March edition of Explorer's Tree. Personally, I found it fascinating to gain an insight into the value of shopping catalogues for small rural communities. Thanks Yvonne. Remember to send something along to Rhonda for upcoming editions at [rwflowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rwflowers@optusnet.com.au). Without your input we wouldn't have a magazine.

While on the topic of writing, have you considered entering the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition, an initiative of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC). Entries close on 15 July 2021, and there is a chance to win \$1,000 and special HAGSOC member prizes. For details refer to Colin's email of 12th March and/or <https://familyhistoryact.org.au/index.php/activities/writing-competition>

## Library News

Springwood Library has now closed until further notice. This means we no longer have a fully functional resource centre as the Hub Loft Space is too small. However, a few of our resources have been relocated temporarily to Blaxland, or to Committee members, so that we can still access them.

Hopefully we will also hear from Helen regarding a possible volunteer roster although our services will, of necessity, be limited.

## Who Are We?

Please remember that you are all welcome to send me a brief piece to include here. ([tanya2fbr@gmail.com](mailto:tanya2fbr@gmail.com)).

## Online Research Hints

1. Searching for a street rather than a person on Census records is possible on Ancestry.
  - Go to the specific Census -eg 1881 England
  - On the Search Window ignore the names but add the town or village in 'Lived In' section
  - Add the street name in the Keywords section
2. Have you ever been reading a UK Census record and come across an abbreviation that makes no sense? Census abbreviations were approved to reduce the workload of the enumerators. Enumerators were issued with a list of standard abbreviations at each census. You can see the list here: <https://www.familyhistory.co.uk/census-abbreviations/?fbclid=IwAR0Ds7oDEnW23U8nYeW51aHKvzee4s5-cdxJrMprCBJ9WfXYaPxMRllBtM8>
3. [www.elephind.com](http://www.elephind.com) is a free search site similar to Google but it is specific to historical newspapers from around the world. Unlike Google, it is relatively easy to search using keywords. However, its collection is limited to the dates available from its sources which are other free collections eg Trove. And the 'world' apparently is made up of Australia, New Zealand, USA and Mexico.

Stay safe and healthy everyone. Tanya

## Just for Fun

Some one-liners from Lorraine©...

The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

Bakers trade recipes on a knead to know basis.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

