



# Newsletter

DATE: February, 2022

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## Coordinators

### Explorers' Tree

Editor: Rhonda Flowers

Layout/publishing: John Arnold

Proofreader: Ian Kendall

## Web Master

Ian Kendall

## Librarians

Ann Krasny

Alison Tissington

## Library Roster

Helen Allen

## Editor Newsletter

Tanya Kirk

A **WARM WELCOME** back to all our returning or new members and any visitors we might have at this, the Society's first meeting for the year.

Hopefully this year will bring positives such as regular meetings and more frequent family get togethers. You might even discover a new fact that leads to a major breakthrough or puts a chink in a brick wall. There is so much information becoming more readily available that it's exciting to think that anything is possible.

Colin reported that a huge number of three people attended the 2021 Christmas Picnic gathering. They parked their two vehicles beside each other, and between intermittent showers, were able to hold court - talk, eat and drink their thermoses of coffee. Colin said, "The day was a washout, so we would not have been able to sit out at the tables without being drenched. It was nice to catch up with Bill Beck and his wife, Susan."

**First meeting:** The first meeting of the Family History Society for 2021 will be held on **11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Although COVID restrictions have recently eased, for our own safety, we encourage the wearing of masks and signing in.

As it has been such a long time since we have seen each other, it would be lovely to briefly hear about or see something you have achieved with your family history during the past year. We'd love for you to share your success. Our postponed 2021 AGM will be conducted at the end of the General meeting.

As you know from Colin's email last week, our February meeting will include our postponed AGM from last year. All Committee Positions will be declared vacant but most have people who are willing to be returning officers. However, there is one important exception... the position of magazine editor will become vacant as Rhonda has relocated to Bathurst. Most of the March magazine is already complete so it is an excellent time to learn the ropes on a new project - especially since Rhonda is very willing to act as coach. Thank you in advance to those of you who are prepared to step up and volunteer to help our society.

**Membership Fees** Annual fees are now due for 2022. \$30 for an individual or \$40 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. While our mailing fee has remained constant for many years, the cost of mailing has unfortunately increased quite considerably. Consequently, our mailing fee is now \$15.

**Trade table** - Once again our trade will be operational, so any unwanted items can be brought to our meetings, starting with our first meeting of the year.

## **Library News**

Springwood Library is still operating under limited conditions and Blaxland Library is also quite limited in terms of space for us. However, free access to Ancestry and Find My Past is still available through the computers at Blaxland

and Katoomba. Also, as some of you are aware, many Library memberships are up for renewal. Check your emails or membership details to see if this applies to you.

### Explorer's Tree Magazine

With so much time spent at home recently, many of you will have taken the opportunity to write about your family history. Why not share it with us all? Rhonda will continue to collect items this month and will forward them to our new editor once we know who that is [rwflowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rwflowers@optusnet.com.au). Remember that submitted articles need be in a word document and photos and illustrations should be in separate attachments for ease of formatting. Always include references and sources if they come with the article.

### Who Are We?

Please remember that you are all welcome to send me a brief piece about yourself to include here. Alternatively Think about a success, however small, which gave you a “wow” moment. Send it to me to “copy and paste” into the newsletter and share it with us. Maybe we could collect them and pop them into a booklet for sale? Similar to Weddings etc. ([tanya2fbr@gmail.com](mailto:tanya2fbr@gmail.com))

**Next month's meeting** of the Family History Society will be held on **11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Guest speaker to be advised.

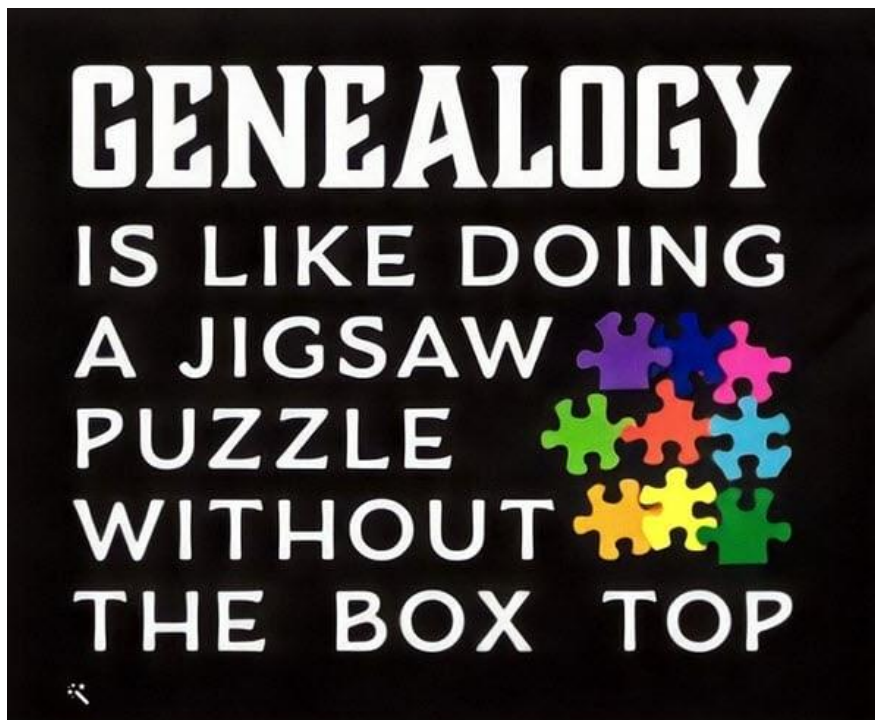
### Upcoming Events:

- SAG – Irish Research Group - Get together with others who have ancestors from any part of Ireland, or just have a research interest in those areas. Discuss research strategies and resources, and swap ideas and knowledge. 15 Feb 2022 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM; Cost: \$17; Online; Registration: <https://www.sag.org.au/event-4633262/Registration>
- RootsTech is free and will be held March 3rd - 5th, 2022. RootsTech is the world's largest family history conference with thousands of classes, inspiring speakers, meaningful activities and joyful connections. Sign up here: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>
- The National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival will be running again this year from 1 April to 31 May.

### Research Tips

'Ireland Reaching Out' have been issuing some fascinating historical background pieces along with family histories and an ambitious worldwide project. They are slowly working their way through the counties. <https://irelandxo.com>

### Just for Fun



Looking forward to seeing you all soon.  
Tanya