



Newsletter

DATE: June, 2021

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Tanya Kirk

Hi again everyone. I hope this finds you well and ready to attend our meeting on Friday. I look forward to seeing you there.

Last week, I spent a bit of time roaming around the shale mining ruins at Newnes. It got me thinking once again about how hard it must have been for people on the mine fields. Newnes was relatively civilized compared to the early gold strike days, or the English coal pits and yet they still had to deal with remoteness, climate and poor working conditions. It must have been incredibly hard and dangerous.

Then today, I heard that people working in mining have the poorest health record of any industry in Australia. My grandfather was involved in the Lithgow coal mining strikes of the mid-20th century. His family, along with so many others, suffered because of their lack of income over such a long time.

However, he was proud of the resulting improvements in working conditions and safety. I'm sad that apparently there is still room for improvement.

So many of the faceless people that appear on my family tree spent years of their lives surviving on minefields of one variety or another. Their wives and children also had to deal with often appalling conditions. I am proud of the fact that each generation succeeded in leaving something better for their children. For them, Australia really was the 'lucky' country.

However, I am really glad that I live in *this* era with so many opportunities. ☺

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **9th July 2021 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church in Springwood.

Out and About

Colin has been busy again and sent this short piece of news along to share with you all.

During the past month, Julia and I have spent some time in Sydney. We got to view the Luna Eclipse, sitting on a bench near Archibald Fountain, opposite St Mary's Cathedral, at 9.15pm, on the night - quite spectacular. Visited Campbell's Cove, at Circular Quay to view the Sculptures by the Cove. There were 18 sculptures. Continuing under the Harbour Bridge, around to the Barangaroo Gardens. Mainly Australian native plants - but, all looking good, and have grown well.

Visited the Australia Museum, on College and Williams Streets. The exhibition there is call "Unsettled" and uncovers the untold histories behind Australia's foundation story. Quite an insight and should not be missed. The curator has gone to a lot of trouble, getting stories together, as well as displaying various artifacts from various sources. Also took a trip to La Perouse. Had a lovely lunch at Boat Shed Restaurant, then up to the Museum and saw another excellent exhibition, relating to La Perouse, the explorer and navigator.

On Sunday, got to go to Government House, and was able to view the various state rooms, with their various collections of artifacts, portraits of past Monarchs and past Governors. At 12 noon, got to listen to Jazz music, in the Government House Gardens - played by a Military Band, attached to Sydney. Also met the Governor and conveyed our Society's best wishes. Such a lovely lady. She makes it a point of wondering the gardens, meeting the people, and groups of artists who were painting various scenes of

the property.



Cheers from Colin Brest.

Explorer's Tree Magazine

There is a new edition in the making. Is your contribution in it? If not, then you can still send something to Rhonda for upcoming editions at rwflowers@optusnet.com.au.

Who Are We?

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

Online Hints

2021 **Australasian Genealogy Congress**, only around 2 months away. There are still spaces available.

Contact points for more information are:

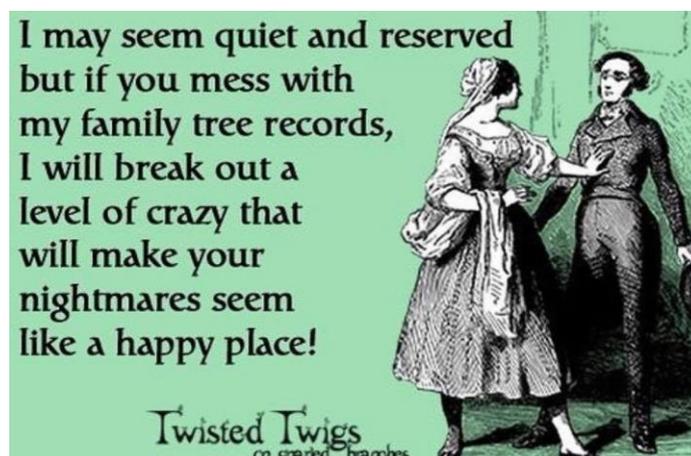
Congress website and registration - <https://affhocongress2021.com/>

Congress Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/AFFHO2021/>

Ever wondered what you are going to do with all the research that you have done. Yes, family members might appreciate it, but could it be possible that your research could benefit others? The Society of Australian Genealogists might have a solution for you.

Thinking of **donating your family history** materials to the SAG collection? To help with the future viability of the archive we are encouraging potential donors to deposit their family history with us digitally. To help digitise and order your donation to our standards we've produced a helpful Digital Standards Information Form [Society of Australian Genealogists - Deposit Your family History With Us \(sag.org.au\)](http://Society of Australian Genealogists - Deposit Your family History With Us (sag.org.au))

Just For Fun



Take care everyone. Tanya