



Family History connections

...tracing ancestors in Australia and beyond

Family History Connections is a registered business name of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.

NEWS & EVENTS

FHC Resource Centre Closed: Monday 11 March - Labour Day Holiday and Friday 29 March until Monday 1 April - Easter

FHC Wednesday Webinars

Zoom talk on Wednesday 20th March 2024

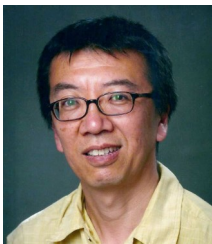
Time: 7.30pm.

Researching Chinese Australian family history in Victoria

Researching family history can be an incredibly satisfying pursuit but Chinese Australian family history research is fraught with unique challenges. Without an understanding of relevant Australian history and Chinese naming conventions it can be difficult and problematic.

This webinar will cover:

- understanding Chinese name conventions
- a short historical perspective of Chinese migration to Australia
- identifying relevant NAA archives
- Chinese graves in the Melbourne General Cemetery
- searching for ancestors in China
- an introduction to the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria group
- demonstration of the CAFHOV Chinese Family History Research Guide.



Presented by **Terry Young**, Vice President of Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria (CAFHOV)

Terry Young spent the first year of his life in a Coburg market garden. His Chinese father and grandfather were both market gardeners. To better understand the life of his forebears, he has spent recent years researching family history. His research has fostered a deep interest in local history especially the history of Chinese Australians in Victoria.

Non-members welcome. Cost \$10.00

Log into: <https://www.familyhistory.asn.au/layout.php?mod=aigswwebinars&zw=1>

Link will be sent when payment is received

The link for FHC members will be emailed prior to the webinar



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

A two-day Irish research seminar was held recently, presented by two research officers from the **Ulster Historical Foundation**, which is based in Belfast. What informative and knowledgeable presenters **Gillian Hunt** and **Fintan Mullan** are. What they don't know about Irish records is not worth knowing.

There was a planning committee formed, with representatives from the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) and Family History Connections. Our representatives on the committee were **Russell Cooper, Lyn Thorne, Darralyn Cusack and Stephen Lockrey**. They did a wonderful job and we thank them very much for their hard work. The committee was very efficiently chaired by David Down, a past president of the GSV.

The seminars were held on Sunday and Monday, 18th and 19th February at two different venues with two different programmes. Participants were offered a discount for booking both sessions. The Sunday session was hosted by the GSV and held in the Dockland Library in the city; the Monday session was held in the Blackburn RSL hall and hosted by FHC. Many attendees came by train and all were asked to bring their own lunch, because of the short morning and afternoon tea and lunch breaks. The programme was packed with information!

Due to their careful planning and hard work, everything ran very smoothly on both days at the different venues. Fintan and Gillian were very pleased with all the arrangements. The participants came away with many new ideas to help with their Irish research. Their presentations could be summed up with this expression – they both have “the gift of the gab”!



Fintan is standing behind Gillian, third from the left. Stephen is in the back row, second from the left; Darralyn is in the front row, next to Gillian. Next to her are Lyn and Russell.

Bronwen Bennett, our Interest Group co-ordinator, and I attended the Bendigo Family History Group's Annual General Meeting held on 17th February in the Bendigo Library. It's always a friendly day (with good food!) and it's great to meet their enthusiastic members.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an **Honorary Life Membership** to **David Cotton**. He had been nominated by the Bendigo Group, approved by Council and approved by members at a General Meeting held via Zoom on 13th February. David is only the 31st person to be an Honorary Life Member in the fifty years of the organisation.

The citation for David's award will be published in the Autumn edition of The Genealogist magazine. In summary, he was recognised for his many years of work with the Bendigo Group, serving as Area Co-ordinator, Treasurer for twenty-seven years, and most importantly, Researcher Extraordinaire!



*David Cotton
&
Gail White*

Mention of the General Meeting reminds me to thank those who could attend. Of course, it was the night of the Big Storm, and many, like me, had no power and no connectivity with the outside world, so were unable to attend. Luckily, we had a quorum and the Motion was passed unanimously. An old transistor at my place came in handy that night!

The office bearers of the **Bendigo Family History Group** for 2024:

Area Administrator: Pam Keown

Secretary: Kath Martin

Treasurer: Kristen Grosvenor

Publicity, Web page, Facebook, DNA: Annette Delaney

Newsletter Editor: Eileen Gorman

Research: Kath Martin and Pam Keown

Filing Clerk: Daryl Read

A morning tea for new members was held on Thursday 22nd February, attended by ten enthusiastic new researchers. It was so interesting to hear all their amazing stories of family members they are trying to track down. The four members of Council who were there (**Darralyn, Wendy, Gregor and me**) were able to give them a few clues. And everyone enjoyed Darralyn's home-made carrot cake, which she managed to make while using a crutch!

(cont. on page 3)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(cont. from page 2)

Our building has recently been repainted and is looking very smart in its new grey colour. The walkway outside our entrance was also repainted in non-slip paint.

Gail White



BARBARA ALDERTON OAM

Congratulations to Barbara Alderton, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to the community in a range of roles.

Barbara has volunteered in a variety of categories and contributed to the community in many ways. Some include volunteering at Elsie Salter House Aged Services; Girl Guides - both in Victoria and Tasmania; Maroondah Brits and Maroondah Community for Adult Aged Care.

Barbara was a member of FHC for many years and members will remember her as Convenor for Eastern Counties Interest Group.

From all at FHC, we send our heartiest congratulations to her.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2024/2025 - COME AND JOIN THE COUNCIL!

Councillors work together co-operatively and harmoniously to ensure that the organisation works for the benefit of its members. We are always looking for ways to gain new members, promote the benefits of membership, and improve services to our members. Areas of responsibilities are allocated at the first Council meeting after the AGM. These responsibilities cover technology, members, volunteers, education, publicity, interest groups, property, projects, resources, etc.

Nominations are now open for all elected positions.

Executive positions:

President

Two Vice-Presidents

Treasurer

plus

Ordinary Councillors (up to 10 persons)

Note: The role of Secretary is an Office Bearer but is appointed by the Council as per Association Rule 50.3.

Nomination forms are available in the Resource Centre, at the front desk or from the office. They are also available in the Members Area website: familyhistory.asn.au under Publications – Documents/Reports.

Nomination forms must reach the Returning Officer by 3.30pm on 18th March 2024, either emailed to info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au, or hand-delivered to the Resource Centre, 1/41 Railway Road, Blackburn

FRIDAY ZOOM CLASSES

Our popular Zoom talks presented by **Lesle Berry** are back again for 2024.

Friday 15th March at 10:00am

**"Searching for the records of parish of your family"*

** Topic held over from February class which was cancelled due to illness.*

FHC Zoom Administrator is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86764441594?pwd=bGZtYU1aalZWZBvQkU4RnVrSFBBQTog>

Meeting ID: 867 6444 1594

Passcode: 881927

STARTING OUT CLASSES

Classes are conducted in the Resource Centre. The classes provide a comprehensive introduction to family history, resources, organizing material and where to find information.

These classes are free and open to members and non-members. Two classes are run on consecutive weeks and are of about two-hours duration.

Our next classes will be held on:

Sunday 24 March - 1.00pm - 3.00pm
and

Sunday 7 April - 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Bookings are essential

Please contact the FHC Office on 9877 3789

or email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

TOUR OF FHC RESOURCE CENTRE

Tours of Family History Connections Resource Centre are conducted on the **2nd Saturday of each month.**

These tours are free and are for new members so they become familiar with what's available and where to locate books, fiches & films, etc

The next tour will be held on: **Saturday 9 March at 9.00am.**

Bookings are essential.

Phone the Office: 9877 3789

Email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

IRELAND INTEREST GROUP

This month we are planning to do a hybrid meeting on **Wednesday 14 March at 2pm** in the meeting room and on Zoom. The main topic will be a **review of the very successful Irish Family History Seminar** which was held on the 18th and 19th of February.

The two-day Seminar was a joint venture with the GSV which meant that, instead of each organisation hosting essentially the same event, we got two full days of different content.

The sessions were well-presented by experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast and covered the whole island of Ireland. They set a cracking pace and have provided the attendees with a mountain of supplementary information.

Cheers
Russell

RESEARCH AND LOOK UP SERVICE

There are four services available:

1. **Research** (minimum of two hours);
2. **Look Ups** (see form via Website for details);
3. **One on One Assistance in the Resource Centre** (maximum two hours) and
4. **Data Entry** (Applicants must provide Editor's rights to Researcher)

Full details and rates are available on the FHC Website or on the forms in the Resource Centre

Special Offer for Regional, Interstate & International Members.

As many members are unable to visit FHC Resource Centre to access the records, a special research offer is available.

Each financial regional member is entitled to two hours of free research each calendar year.

Any other research above this would be chargeable.

Please note your request must be submitted prior to 31st October each year.

(A Regional Member is defined as one who lives more than 100km from the Resource Centre).

Enquiries: E-mail:
research@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

or by mail to:

**Research Coordinator, Family History Connections,
P.O. Box 2010, Forest Hill Victoria. 3131**

SPECIAL OFFER FOR REGIONAL, INTERSTATE & INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

As many members are unable to visit FHC Resource Centre to access the records, a special research offer is available.

Each financial regional member is entitled to two hours of free research each calendar year.

Any other research above this would be chargeable.

Our experienced Research Team members are waiting to help you!

Please provide as much information as possible about the person to be researched.

The more information you can provide the better results will be.

The form to submit can be found on the FHC website under Services:

<http://familyhistoryconnections.org.au>

INTEREST GROUP MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2024

Are you an Interest Group Member already? Would you like to investigate another area covered by our Interest Groups?

Remember that if you have joined two groups for \$50, **you are welcome to select a third for FREE!**

If you are in one already, another \$25 will give you membership to TWO more!

All meetings are on Zoom and some are hybrid (run at the Resource Centre and on Zoom).

For the DNA group you must have undertaken a DNA test, be computer literate and be able to join a Zoom meeting.

If you are interested please send a response to membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

**Darralyn Cusack
Membership Secretary**

Become an Australian War Memorial Transcription Volunteer

Help preserve Australia's history by transcribing records from the National Collection.

Enhance accessibility and discoverability for all Australians.

transcribe.awm.gov.au

to see how it works and to sign up.



Finding Marriage Licences in Findmypast

A Library Assistant recently told me (Gail White) about the Marriage Licences available on Findmypast. This led me to investigate exactly what they had in the collection. I thought it was worth sharing with other members who may not know about them.

In FMP, you need to select the **Search** tab at the top of the home page, then select **Search All Databases**. Type the word '**licences**' into the search box and you will see quite a few databases that may be of interest to you. You could be more specific if you like and use the search term '**marriage licences**', but I like to see what comes up because you never know what may be of interest.

For instance, *Ireland Dog License Registration!* Or this one –*Britain, Register of soldiers taking the oath of allegiance and register of licences of persons to pass beyond the seas, 1573-1677.*

Marriage licences are important because they may contain more information than the parish register entry, or replace a missing entry. Licences were purchased by people intending to marry who wanted to avoid the inconvenience of banns being called on three Sundays in their parish church. Most people who could afford the fee married by licence, which was obtained from the diocese in which one of the parties lived. FMP has the following databases, some with images, some only an index. Examples are shown below.

***Britain, Marriage Licences** comprises licences obtained in Bedfordshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Surrey, Worcestershire, and Yorkshire. Most of the records were created from a mixture of handwritten and typed record books from 1115 until 1906. It is possible to view all the volumes covered by clicking on a link at the bottom of the first search page.*

**Paynter, Francis, of St. Earth, Cornwall, gent.,
bachelor, about 27, and Mrs. Margaret
Powlett, of St. Clement Danes, spinster,
about 19, consent of her friends—at Clapham,
Surrey, or Fulham, Middlesex. 19 July, 1670.**

This example includes the ages of the two parties, information not provided in the parish register.

Vicar General Marriage Licences and Faculty Office Marriage Licences

These two indexes comprise transcripts of marriage licences which were applied for to the Vicar General or the Faculty Office, covering the Diocese of Canterbury between 1694 and 1850. This Diocese covered a large part of south-eastern England.

You can order copies of the original documents from the Society of Genealogists for £15 including postage. Upon receipt of your payment, the Society of Genealogists will locate, copy and send you a copy of the record.

(cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6)

This marriage (below) took place in 1845, so there is a civil marriage certificate available to purchase much more cheaply from the General Register office, so it is hard to know whether the original marriage licence would provide more information.

First name(s)	Julia Elizabeth	Groom's last name	RUSHER
Last name	Paynter	Place	Dioceses of England & Wales
Licence year	1845	Country	England & Wales
Licence date	14 Jul 1845	Record set	Faculty Office Marriage Licences
New calender date	14 Jul 1845	Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Bride's first name(s)	Julia Elizabeth	Subcategory	Parish Marriages
Bride's last name	PAYNTER	Collections from	England, Great Britain, Wales
Groom's first name(s)	William Eaton		

Other

places covered include parts of Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire and London and some for Ireland. The dates vary for each database, and also whether they contain images or are indexes only.

Findmypast is available free on computers for Members in the FHC Resource Centre

ADVANCE NOTICE

Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc

Save the Date: 21st - 24th March 2025.

Brisbane's Bicentennial Year.

Join us for Connections 2025 - Australasia's premier event for local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future.

To learn more visit: <https://connections2025.org.au>





WANDERING THE WEB

With Marianne Redfern

Email: mazpaz72@hotmail.com

<https://www.perthtas.com/perth-history> - by the 1830s there were 200 convicts at Perth Probation Station (Tasmania) engaged in building the main road and the first Perth Bridge. There were houses, hotels, flour mills, a general store, brewery, churches, school/post office and police station. **From 'Discover Australia'.**

<https://familytreemagazine.com/general-genealogy> - tracing your family medical history through genealogy can not only put you in touch with your past – it might save your life. **From 'Family Tree Magazine'.**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media> - the General Register Office (GRO) in Southport is a Guide to Birth Certificates and holds comprehensive records of all births recorded in England and Wales. A time of birth, in addition to the date of birth, is only put down to indicate that this is a multiple birth, whether twin, triplet or more. **Mentioned in a Crime novel, and checked on 'Google'.**

https://www.familysearch.org/img_aut.php - some records of the East India Company (1709-1871) of the Poplar Fund are held in the Bancroft Library Borough of Tower Hamlets, London. There is lots of reading here. **Found in the Journal of the Families in British India Society. (FIBIS).**

<https://www.ffhs.org.uk> – the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) is the international umbrella organisation for such bodies, encompassing 219 societies representing 300,000 members. It was founded in 1974, is world-wide in scope, and aims to co-ordinate and assist the work of societies or other bodies interested in Family History, Genealogy and Heraldry. There is an alphabetical list which includes Australian sites. **From the 2019 Booklet, and updated.**

<https://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk> – the intention of these pages is to bring together a wide range of online resources for the early modern period, which covers the period roughly from 1500-1800 (sometimes earlier, sometimes a little later). There is a table of contents plus a site index. **From an old copy of 'Practical Family History'.**

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-libraries/scar> - Scarborough Library, North Yorkshire gives access to many things, including family history, subscription sites, internet and computer access, newspapers and much more. **From a copy of 'Family Tree' magazine.**

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/Wales_Parish_in_1538 Thomas Cromwell ordered that every parish should keep a record of every baptism, marriage and burial. The details that are included within the registers vary from parish to parish, and from clerk to clerk, and many registers from the early period have not survived. Some parishes did not start keeping registers until as late as 1598. **From an old copy of 'Glamorgan Family History Society'.**

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk> – it tells the story of the East End and its connection with the Thames throughout history. The Museum of London Docklands explains the history of the Thames River, the growth of the Port of London and the Dock's historical link to the Atlantic slave trade. Scroll down to click on Collections. **From a copy of 'Britain's Great Journeys'.**

<https://www.wrexham-history/Chirk> - Black Park Colliery was believed to be one of the oldest Collieries in North Wales, thought to date back to at least 1653. Go to 'Search Records'. This will take you to Gravestones.info, just enter a surname. **From a copy of 'Hel Achau'.**

FAMILY HISTORY & INTEREST GROUPS

Bendigo F.H.G: Meets 3rd Saturday of the month.

Venue: Bendigo Goldfields Library, Ground Floor, 255 Hargreaves St., Bendigo.

"New Direction, Future Planning & what's been happening at Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV). Speaker: Lauretta Stace. CEO

Next meeting: **16th March at 2pm**

Contact: bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

DNA Interest Group: Meets 4th Tuesday of the month (**ZOOM MEETINGS ONLY**)

Next meeting: **26th March at 7.30pm**

Early Victoria & Tasmania: Meets on 1st Saturday of each month

Next Meeting: **2nd March at 10.00am**

Venue: Blackburn RSL, 2 Diggers Way, Blackburn and **Zoom**

Contact: Bronwen Bennett: bronwen@usec.com.au

Ireland: Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday

Next Meeting: **13th March at 2.00pm**

Editor: Vicki Box: victoriabox39@gmail.com or victoriabox@icloud.com

London & Home Counties: Meets on 2nd Tuesday of each month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre & **Zoom**.

Next Meeting: **12th March at 1.30pm**

Scotland: Meets on **2nd Thursday**

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre & **Zoom**

Next meeting: **14th March at 7.30pm**

Contacts: Merrin: questeve@optusnet.com.au

Kristee Grosvenor: kmgrosvenor@gmail.com

South West England: Meets on 2nd Friday of each Month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre & **Zoom**.

Next meeting: **8th March at 1.30pm**

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Northern Counties

Meets on 3rd Friday of each month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre.

Next Meeting: **15th March at 12.00pm. (Bring Lunch)**

Write Now

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre

Next meeting: **5th March at 10.30am**

Contact for Interest Groups (unless stated):

info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar 2	10.00am	Early Victoria and Tasmania Interest Group - Meeting - Blackburn RSL, 2 Diggers Way, Blackburn & Zoom
Mar 5	10.30am	Write Now Discussion Group
Mar 8	1.30pm	South West England Interest Group - Meeting, FHC Resource Centre
Mar 9	9.00am	Tour of FHC Resource Centre. (see p.4)
Mar 11		F.H.C. Resource Centre Closed - Labour Day Holiday (see p.1)
Mar 14	7.30pm	Scotland Interest Group - Meeting via Zoom
Mar 12	1.30pm	London & Home Counties - Meeting - FHC Resource Centre
Mar 13	2.00pm	Ireland Interest Group - Meeting
Mar 15	10.00am	Friday Zoom Class presented by Lesle Berry “Searching for the records of the Parish of your family” (see p.4)
Mar 15	12.00pm	Northern Counties - Meeting - FHC Resource Centre. <i>(Bring Lunch)</i>
Mar 16	2.00pm	Bendigo FHG - Meeting - Bendigo Goldfields Library, Ground Floor, 255 Hargreaves St., Bendigo. “New Direction, Future Planning & what’s been happening at Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV). Speaker: Laurette Stace - CEO
Mar 18	3.30pm	NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2024/2025 CLOSE (see p. 3)
Mar 20	7.30pm	ZOOM Talk “Researching Chinese Australian family history in Victoria” (see p. 1)
Mar 24	1.00pm	Starting Out Class - Session 1 , FHC Resource Centre. <i>(see p.4)</i>
Mar 26	7.30pm	DNA Interest Group - Meeting via Zoom
Mar 29 - Apr 1		F.H.C. Resource Centre Closed - Easter (see p.1)
Apr 7	1.00pm	Starting Out Class - Session 2 , FHC Resource Centre. <i>(see p. 4)</i>

Articles for the next Newsletter may be emailed to:

cherylaigs@y7mail.com by 23rd March, 2024

PLEASE NOTE: To provide advance notice of events so people can plan their time, the Newsletter is distributed before the month commences. To make sure your article is included, please submit it in the month prior to the event.

Regards
Cheryl - Editor.



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Address: 1/41 Railway Ave., Blackburn Vic. 3130
Address: PO Box 2010, Forest Hill, 3131
Email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au
Telephone: 9877 3789
Website: www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au

President: Gail White

Vice Presidents: Carolann Thomson and Gregor Mason

Treasurer: Ron Grimes

Resource Centre Hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat. : 10am–4pm.
May to October: 3rd Sunday, 12pm - 4pm
Closed Public Holidays & Christmas to New Year.

Councillors:

Pauline Turville: Secretary
Gary Fitzgerald: Network Administrator
Darralyn Cusack: Membership Secretary
Bronwen Bennett: Interest Groups Coordinator
Wendy Eldridge: Volunteers Coordinator
Carolann Thompson - Magazine Editor
Gail White - Records Manager
Mary Cleary

**MyAncestry
Family Tree Online**

Durham Records Online

ancestry.com.au

findmypast.com
Family history in the making

TheGenealogist.co.uk

ROOTSIRELAND

The British
NEWSPAPER
Archive

EMERALD ANCESTORS

Biographical
Database of Australia (BDA)

MyHeritage
LIBRARY EDITION

deceasedonline

Non-Council Positions:

Cheryl Heazlewood - News & Events Editor
John Wishart - Property & Maintenance Manager
Linda Farrell - Website

Subscription Databases available free for Members in the Library

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