



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

EXPLORING YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY

A reminder that the seminar "Exploring Your Irish Family History" will be presented by Irish experts, **Gillian Hunt** and **Fintan Mullan** from the Ulster Historical Foundation, on the **18th and 19th of February.**

As it is a joint venture with the GSV, it will be held at two different venues; the first day at the Docklands Library and the second day at the Blackburn RSL.

The content will be different on each day. Some places are still available. You can book for either day or both days.

FHC members must book through the Member Area of the FHC website where there are details of the two days and links to the GSV booking pages.

Bookings are now open to the general public.

The Ireland Interest Group will have its first 2024 meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 14 February, at 2 pm.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a productive break, as in productive family history research and writing! And I hope it was restful at the same time.

February brings the starting up again of the monthly Interest Group meetings, with members eager to share their holiday discoveries. The STARTING OUT classes are starting again on January 28th/ February 4th. These are extremely popular, so although it may be too late for this one, they are being held every month throughout the year by our expert teacher Jane Davies. They are not only useful for beginners, but great for returning researchers or those who need to brush up their skills. Please also tell your friends and family about them. They are free! **(see the notice on page 4 for the full list of dates)**.

The IRISH RESEARCH seminars to be held on February 18th and 19th are being eagerly anticipated by those who have booked already. I don't know how many members say to me that they have traced an ancestor back to Ireland, often not even knowing which County, and there the trail ends. Fintan and Gillian from the Ulster Historical Foundation are experts, and if they can't give you any new clues then no-one can. **(see page 1)**. However bookings have been extremely good, so you may have missed out by the time you read this.

LOST PROPERTY

Amazingly, this year there was only one item still in lost property. It is a GREY, KATHMANDU HOODIE, large size. Please ask at the front desk if it is yours. It may be summer, but you never know when you need a hoodie in Melbourne!

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP this will be the last News & events that you will receive.



VALE - JACK IDE

A long-term member, **Jack Ide**, died on 27th December at a nursing home where he had been for some time. The family did not hold a funeral. He was born in 1930 in Ballarat so reached his 93rd year.

Jack and his wife **Norma** would be remembered by many as the far-sighted couple to introduce the **Donate-a-Fiche** scheme. Their tenacity and hard-work resulted in the AIGS (as it was in those days) building up a unique collection in Australia of records, particularly from the UK, published on microfilm and microfiche. Many of these records are still only available in this format today.

This program was simple – members purchased fiche or film through the scheme for their exclusive use in the library for one month, after which the fiche or film was placed in the library for all to access. By 1998, over \$55,000 worth of records had been donated.

Jack and Norma chased records from repositories and publishers all over the world. The purchased records were listed in the paper catalogues, which can still be consulted in the Resource Centre (although at present there are volunteers in the arduous process of updating and expanding the catalogues).

Jack also served on Council as secretary and was a member of the library committee for many years. We recognise him for his dedication to our organisation over many many years. Jack and Norma were both made Honorary Life Members of the AIGS.

Gail White

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year and welcome to News and Events for 2024.

If you would like to contribute articles that you feel would be of interest and useful to other members, please submit them in the month prior to the event.

The Newsletter goes out before the end of the previous month, e.g. this edition will have been published in the last week of January.

The deadline for articles is the **23rd of each month**. This allows time for organising, editing and seeking Presidential approval before distribution.

Looking forward to working with you all this year.

Regards

**Cheryl
Editor**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Your 2023 membership expired on 31 December 2023. Memberships for 2024 are now overdue. Please ensure that your membership fees are paid by February 29 if you wish to receive News & Events newsletter from each month from March onwards and The Genealogist magazine each quarter.

It is really easy to pay online through our website where you can also make any changes to your details.

If you would like an invoice or have changed your membership category (for example - to Concession), please contact me - membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Happy Family History researching in 2024.

Darralyn Cusack
Membership Secretary

FRIDAY ZOOM CLASSES

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

Friday 16th February at 10:00am

"Searching for the records of parish of your family"

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86764441594?pwd=bGZtYU1aalRWLzBvQkU4RnVrSFBBQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 6444 1594

Passcode: 881927

NOTICE TO MEMBERS WHO JOINED 2023/2024

You are invited to a

Meet, Greet and Get to Know You Morning Tea

to be held at the Resource Centre

10.00am to noon on

Thursday 22 February 2024.

Take the opportunity to meet Family History Connections Councillors and other new researchers

Stay on for some research in the Resource Centre

and get your family history research off to a great start.

Please RSVP to membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

by Monday 19 February 2024

STARTING OUT CLASSES

Classes are conducted in the library. 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.

Calendar for 2024

Jan	Sunday 28th and Feb 4th	1.00pm	June	Sunday 30th and July 7th	1.00pm
Feb	Sunday 25th and Mar 3rd	1.00pm	July	Sunday 28th and Aug 4th	1.00pm
Mar	Sunday 24th and Apr 7th	1.00pm	Aug	Sunday 25th and Sep 1st	1.00pm
Apr	Sunday 28th and May 5th	1.00pm	Sep	Sunday 29th and Oct 6th	1.00pm
May	Sunday 26th and Jun 2nd	1.00pm	Oct	Sunday 27th and Nov 3rd	1.00pm

Bookings are essential

Please contact the FHC Office on 9877 3789
or email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

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**

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 10 February at 9.00am.**

Bookings are essential.

Phone the Office: 9877 3789

Email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au



WANDERING THE WEB

With Marianne Redfern

Email: mazpaz72@hotmail.com

Happy New Year everybody!

Have a look at Shipping Resources from page 31 in the latest Genealogist. Each example tells you if it is a book, CD, Microfiche, or Microfilm and where in the Resource Centre it can be found.

<https://www.family-tree.co.uk> – this site allows access to a number of free websites, including online Family Tree Magazine. **From the 2019 Website Wandering Booklet.**

<https://www.pmi.net.au> – the Prahran Mechanics Institute (PMI) was established in 1854. It is a community owned and run Library, specialising in the history of Victoria, Australia. It is a central resource for research in the history of Victoria. **From an old copy of 'Ancestor' in our Resource Centre.**

<https://www.anesfhs.org.uk> – the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society was founded in 1978, and exists to assist and promote the study of genealogy and Family History based on the North east corner of Scotland. This area covers the old counties of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire and Morayshire. The Society also holds records for the whole of Scotland and a considerable amount of data on the rest of the U.K. as well as many places around the world where Scots can be found. **From an old copy of the Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society in our Resource Centre.**

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter> - this site gives a guide to the buying power of the pound between 1270 and 2005, and has short articles on living standards and currency through the centuries. Try the online currency converter and find out how many animals, stones of wool and quarters of wheat you can buy, and how much you could earn. Click on the 3 centuries mentioned, and then check each drop-down box for all the other centuries. You will find interesting reading here. **From an old copy of the Bedford Family History Society.**

<https://www.glenwoodhistory.com> – Glenwood Springs is a resort city in Colorado (US) known for its hot springs. The Historical Society is housed in a small house museum with art, furnishings and other items, and for tracing local history. **Seen on a TV show.**

<https://www.findmypast.com.au/articles/berkshire> - Berkshire Family History Society was formed in 1975 with the aims to meet the needs of those researching ancestors across the UK and overseas, as well as in Berkshire. For original records (including Parish Registers) of the pre-1974 county of Berkshire search www.berkshirerecordoffice.org.uk. **From an old copy of Berkshire Family Historian.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domesday_Book - the Domesday Book is a manuscript record of the Great Survey of much of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 at the behest of King William I known as “William the Conqueror”. It records over 13,000 towns and villages across 40 of the old counties of England, but while many medieval towns and villages, such as Rye in East Sussex, still retain much of their character, as well as relics, the once roaring trades that helped them prosper, many have all but disappeared. The Manuscript was originally known by the Latin name ‘Liber de Wintonia’, meaning “Book of Winchester”, where it was originally kept. **From the 2015 guide to Britain and Wikipedia.**

<https://search.fibis.org> – the Families in British India Society (FIBIS) is a genealogical organisation – founded in 1998 – which assists people in researching their family history and the background against which their ancestors led their lives in British India. **From a copy of the Journal of the Families in British India Society**

FAMILY HISTORY & INTEREST GROUPS

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

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

Next meeting: **17th February at 2pm**

Contact: bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

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

Next meeting: **27th February at 7.30pm**

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

Next Meeting: **3rd February at 10.00am**

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

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

Ireland: Meeting on the 3rd Friday this month via Zoom

Next Meeting: **14th February 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: **13th February at 1.30pm**

Scotland: Meets on **2nd Thursday**

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

Next meeting: **8th February 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: **9th February at 1.30pm**

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Northern Counties

Meets on 3rd Friday of each month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre.

Next Meeting: **16th February at 12.00pm.** (*Bring Lunch*)

Write Now

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre

Next meeting: **6th February at 10.30am**

Contact for Interest Groups (unless stated):

info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Jan 28 1.00pm** **Starting Out Class - Session 1**, FHC Resource Centre. *(see p. 4)*
- Feb 3 10.00am Early Victoria and Tasmania Interest Group - Meeting - Blackburn RSL, 2 Diggers Way, Blackburn & **Zoom**
- Feb 4 1.00pm** **Starting Out Class - Session 2**, FHC Resource Centre. *(see p.4)*
- Feb 6 10.30am Write Now Discussion Group - Meeting - FHC Resource Centre
Feb 8 7.30pm Scotland Interest Group - Meeting via **Zoom**
Feb 9 1.30pm South West England Interest Group - Meeting, FHC Resource Centre
- Feb 10 9.00am** **Tour of FHC Resource Centre.**
- Feb 13 1.30pm London & Home Counties - Meeting - FHC Resource Centre
Feb 14 2.00pm Ireland Interest Group - Meeting via **Zoom**
- Feb 16 10.00am** **Friday Zoom Class presented by Lesle Berry**
“Searching for the records of the Parish of your family” *(see p.3)*
- Feb 16 12.00pm Northern Counties - Meeting - FHC Resource Centre. *(Bring Lunch)*
Feb 17 2.00pm Bendigo FHG - Meeting - Bendigo Goldfields Library, Ground Floor, 255 Hargreaves St., Bendigo.
- Feb 18 & 19** **Exploring Your Irish Family History.** *(see p. 1)*
- Feb 22 10.00am** **Members’ Morning Tea** - For Members who joined in 2023/2024.
Please book by Monday 19 February, 2024 *(see p. 3)*
- Feb 27 7.30pm DNA Interest Group - Meeting via **Zoom**

Articles for the next Newsletter may be emailed to:

cherylaigs@y7mail.com by 23rd February, 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 is the making of

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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