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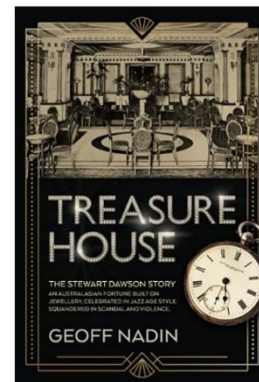
Welcome to Autumn and the excuse of bad weather to keep you at your family history research. As Aussies knuckle down to coping with another severe weather event courtesy of ex-tropical cyclone Alfred, I find my thoughts turning to the lives of early settlers who did not have the luxury of forewarning. International Women's Day deepened that reflection and caused me to focus on the women in my family and how tough life must have been for them. Of course, there were notable standouts, and they are the ones that my thoughts turn to more often in total admiration of who they were and what they achieved. I assume every family has them and I hope you also had an opportunity to remember and be grateful. I am glad too, that the strengths and adaptability that were hallmarks of so many immigrants have also been handed down through the generations.

On a different note, our next fundraiser is approaching. Our Mother's Day Stall will be held on **3rd May, 2025**. Please put the date in your calendar. As always we need helpers to set up, man the stall and clear up after. Of course, we also need donations so that we have saleable items. Some suggestions are pot plants, hand made items, baked goods (with a list of ingredients attached would be great).

Thank you to those who shared their stories at last month's meeting. It is always interesting to hear from our members.

This month's meeting of the Family History Society for 2025 will be held on **Friday 14th March 2025 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, right in the centre of town. Visitors are warmly welcome! Morning Tea will be served costing \$2 for tea/coffee and a biscuit.

This month's presentation will be given by Geoff Nadin on his book, "Treasure House" about the house he lives in near the Springwood Golf Course. Researching a property can often shed fascinating light on the lives of the people who lived there.



Membership Fees Annual fees are now overdue for 2025. \$50 for an individual or \$60 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. Our mailing fee is \$15.

NB: if you are discontinuing your membership would you please let us know so we can adjust the numbers on "The Explorer's Tree". Thank you.

Trade table - Our trade table is operating. This means that you can donate any unwanted good quality items to the table display. If something from the table catches your fancy, please drop some cash in the Society's moneybox for the item, then take it. Remember that if your donated items don't sell, you will need to take them home again.

Library News

Thank you to for organising the volunteer roster. New faces are always welcome though so if you can be a Family History research assistant, even if it is only once, please give your name to Helen or Ian. Volunteering involves spending 2-3 hours of a Thursday morning at the Springwood Library and helping anyone who needs help with Family History research.

Alison has begun installing the black dividers on the shelves making it easier to find things. Thank you. Also remember, that free access to Ancestry, Find My Past and Newspapers is available through the Library computers.

There is a wealth of information in the magazines and journals sent to us from other societies. Thanks to Ian. these are all available in our Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/mramn10t2jfyrt56it2q8/h?rlkey=5daunfu36vnf9equ8obp33w95&e=1&st=oommnqjn&dl=0>

Explorer's Tree Magazine

2025's first issue will be at the March meeting for pick-up, but more items are always welcome. Please keep those written pieces coming to Jan for the following issues of "The Explorer's Tree". Send your stories, in a Word Document, with photos or images as attachments to Jan Koperberg. j.koperberg@bigpond.com
Remember to include references and sources if they come with the article.

Next month's meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **11th April 2025 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Our guest speaker will be Stephen Ford - Australian Military Research

Upcoming Events:

The Fellowship of Australian Writers is holding "Workshops for Seniors Card Short Story Competition 2025". The workshops are during March and April. They are free but there are limited numbers and venues. Entries for the competition open 9.00am Sunday 20th April and close at 6.00pm Sunday 1st June 2025. The theme for this year is 'Then and Now' and there is a max. 1,000 words (about 4 pages) length. <https://fawns.org.au/seniors-card-short-story-workshops-2025/>

Research Tips

Ancestry.com are running a free 1 month trial of Pro-Tools. The code is valid till the 22nd of March. You will need to enter the code at the purchase page. This will give you an automated renewal every month so remember to cancel just prior to the rollover date. I have been curious about whether it would be useful and am happy to say that it has been – even just for tidying up my tree! However, I'm still getting my head around how to make the best use of it with my DNA results. Code: PROTOOLS-RT25

Just for Fun

Thanks to Alison for sharing this one from Twisted Twigs. See you soon.

