



Family History connections

...tracing ancestors in Australia and beyond

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

F.H.C. RESOURCE CENTRE CLOSED WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER - OPEN ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025 - CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

NEWS & EVENTS

DNA Workshop Series: Unleash the Power of Your Ancestry DNA Results!

Already tested your DNA with Ancestry.com? Ready to dive deeper?

This workshop series is designed to help you organize and analyse your Ancestry DNA results like a pro!

Whether you're just starting to explore your genetic roots or eager to deepen your knowledge, this interactive series is your key to confidently navigating the Ancestry.com DNA website and unlocking the full potential of your results.

Join us for three engaging, in-person sessions where you'll explore the rich world of your ancestry and gain tools to elevate your family research.

Here's what's in store:

- **Three immersive, 3-hour sessions** over six weeks (February 6, 20, and March 6, 2025).
- **Hands-on, practical homework** assignments to sharpen your skills step-by-step.
- **A dynamic networking group** to stay connected, exchange insights, and keep learning alongside fellow DNA enthusiasts.
- **Investment:** Only \$50 for this empowering experience!

Don't miss this opportunity to harness the power of your DNA results and supercharge your family research journey like never before!

Book by phone: 9877 3789 or
email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2025

Along with Christmas and New Year Celebrations comes the time for renewal of your FHC Membership.

Make a New Year's resolution to knock down one of those brick walls in 2025!!! **Renewal fees are due by 1 January 2025.**

Log on to our website and renew online in the Members' Area here [Home Page. \(familyhistory.asn.au\)](http://familyhistory.asn.au).

Other renewal options

Make a Direct Debit payment from your bank account to the Family History Connections (AIGS) bank account.

Use your Membership Number and surname as the REFERENCE

Bank BSB: **063-103**, Account #: **10442529**.
Account Name: Family History Connections,

Request an invoice to be emailed to you (membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au).

Proceed with renewal by Credit Card or Direct Debit.

At the Resource Centre – by phone or in person pay by cash or credit card.

With declining membership, our finances are 'sailing very close to the wind', hence the need to include a postal levy (\$25) for mailed out hard copies of The Genealogist for 2025. A digital copy of the magazine is included for free in your 2025 membership.

Please remember that our organisation, run by volunteers, can only offer services to our community if members continue to support us and renew each year.

Thank you for remaining loyal members of Family History Connections in 2025.

Gail White
President
on behalf of the FHC Council

SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2025

Unfortunately, in April this year, Australia Post increased postage charges by 25%. This has had a huge impact on the cost of delivering printed copies of the magazine four times a year. We have absorbed this cost for 2024 however we cannot continue to do this.

Our Individual, Concession, and Family Member fees for 2025 will remain unchanged. This will include a digital copy of The Genealogist, four times a year.

The Council has reluctantly introduced a Postage Levy for 2025. If you would still like to receive a hard copy of each magazine in the mail, there will be a Levy of \$25 to assist with printing and postage.

Darralyn Cusack
Membership Secretary

NEW RECORDINGS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Videos are available in the Members Area (requires a login) under Resources familyhistory.asn.au

NOVEMBER

Friday Insites: Website Roundup 15 Nov

Wednesday Webinar: Researching South African Ancestors
20 Nov

Interest Groups:

(Please note that Interest Group meetings are only available to members of the interest Group and are recorded as they request.)

DNA Interest Group	26 Nov
Ireland Interest Group	13 Nov
London & Home Counties	12 Nov
Scotland Interest Group	14 Nov
South West Counties	8 Nov
Early Victoria & Tasmania	No video

URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!

Hello Members

My name is Wendy and my role at Family History Connections is the Volunteer Coordinator. I organise the L.A. Roster for the days when the Resource Centre is open.

Unfortunately, we are struggling to fill the following shifts, forcing Council to make the difficult decision to close the Resource Centre on these days.

We have always prided ourselves on having accessible hours for our members and we want to continue doing so, so please consider whether you can help.

Tuesday

- **3rd Tuesday morning shift 10 to 1**
- **5th Tuesday morning shift 10 to 1**
- **5th Tuesday afternoon shift 1 to 4**

Wednesday

- **1st Wednesday morning shift 10 to 1**

Saturday

- **4th Saturday Morning 10 to 1.**

Please do not think you need to be an expert in Family History. You will be working with others that will assist your learning process. Working in the Resource Centre is one of the best ways for you to achieve good family history methods for your own research.

Look forward to you putting your hand up, it will be very much appreciated.

Regards

Wendy Eldridge
Volunteer Coordinator



FHC Gift Voucher for Christmas – what a great idea!!!!



Give the gift of research to a family member or friend and spread the joy of ancestor research in 2025.

More than half of our new members come from family and friend connections, so keep up the great work.

Prepaid vouchers of \$145 (\$125 concession) will provide 12 month's membership which includes membership of one Interest Group of choice.

Joining Fee waived for your connections.

Contact the Office (9877 3789) or **Darralyn** at membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

for more information

NOTICE TO MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN 2024

You are invited to a

Meet and Greet, Get to Know You Morning Tea

to be held at the Resource Centre

10.30am, THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2025.

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

AND stay on and research in the Resource Centre.

Please RSVP to membership@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

By Monday 17 February.

WANTED: Genetic Genealogy Enthusiasts!

Are you passionate about learning and discovery? Ever dreamed of unlocking the mysteries hidden in DNA?

Whether you're an experienced genetic genealogist, a self-taught enthusiast, or simply curious to learn more, we have an exciting opportunity for you!

Join us in 2025 as we revolutionize DNA services at the FHC Resource Centre.

Immerse yourself in the fascinating world of Family History, uncover long-lost family secrets, and help others trace their genetic lineage.

No prior experience? No problem!

We provide expert training to enhance your skills and unlock your potential in this cutting-edge field.

Start your own DNA journey while guiding others on theirs!

Interested? Don't miss out! Begin your adventure today.

**Christine Collins
Convenor – DNA Special Interest Group**

Email the FHC Office Manager:
info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

to register your interest.

DNA Research Request Form – Now Live in F.H.C. Members' Area

Simply log in, head to the Research Guides drop-down menu, and select the DNA Research Form.

Fill it out online with ease, and we'll follow up with a personal phone call to schedule an in-depth discussion tailored to your research needs.

Don't miss this opportunity to dive deeper into your family history!

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

STARTING OUT CLASSES FOR 2025

Starting Out Classes are provided free for new Members to help them start their family history journey. They will be held in the Meeting Room of the F.H.C. Resource Centre from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on the dates below:

1st & last Sunday of each month

26 January	Class 1 - Australia	2 February	Class 2 - Britain
23 February	Class 1- Australia	2 March	Class 2- Britain
30 March	Class 1- Australia	6 April	Class 2- Britain
27 April	Class 1- Australia	4 May	Class 2- Britain
25 May	Class 1- Australia	1 June	Class 2- Britain
29 June	Class 1- Australia	6 July	Class 2- Britain
27 July	Class 1- Australia	3 August	Class 2- Britain
31 August	Class 1- Australia	7 September	Class 2- Britain
28 September	Class 1- Australia	5 October	Class 2- Britain
26 October	Class 1- Australia	2 November	Class 2- Britain



IRELAND INTEREST GROUP

The December break-up meeting of the Ireland Interest Group will be in the FHC Resource Centre at Blackburn at **2pm on Friday 13th December.**

It will be a 'show-and-tell' meeting. Participants are asked to bring a small plate of something for afternoon tea. There will not be a meeting in January.

Cheers
Russell

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Just a brief note to let you know that there will be no January edition of News and Events. The next Newsletter will be the **February 2025** edition.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If driving over the holidays, please drive carefully and stay safe.

I look forward to working with you all again in 2025.

regards
Cheryl

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER - A GENEALOGY INTRO

A Genealogy Intro

Anonymous 12 Nov. 2024, 5:49pm

I was asked to write an "introduction to genealogy" for another web site. I thought it might be appropriate to also post it here. While most people reading this newsletter already know the information presented here, I will invite you to print it or send it via e-mail to anyone who expresses an interest in genealogy or asks why you have such an interest. Also please feel free to reprint this article in newsletters, newspaper articles or anyplace else that you feel might be appropriate. (This is a basic form of an ancestry chart and appears to be in the public domain).

Do you have a curiosity about your family tree? Many people do. Some may have their interest piqued because of an heirloom, an old picture, or perhaps an unresolved family mystery. The reasons people get hooked on genealogy are many and varied, but each person's search is unique. After all, the search for your ancestors really is a search for yourself.

If you think that family history research requires hours of rummaging through libraries, trekking through cemeteries, and writing letters to government bureaus, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Finding your family tree is simpler than what many people imagine. To be sure, you may encounter some intriguing obstacles. However, most of them can be overcome.

As with so many hobbies today, using a computer can simplify some of the tasks of searching and recording. However, a computer is not necessary. Americans have been recording their ancestry for two centuries or more without digital tools, and you can do the same. All you need is a starting point and a direction, and maybe a few tips.

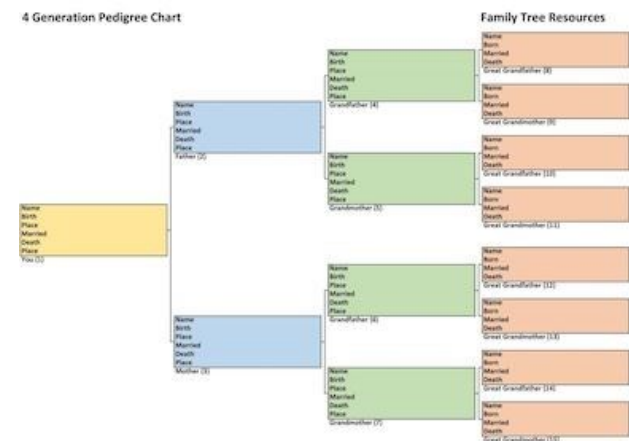
In the beginning ... there's you!

Starting a family tree search is very simple: begin with what you know about yourself, and then work backwards, one generation at a time. Linking back from yourself through the generations helps to ensure that the people you research actually belong in your family tree and don't simply have the same name as one of your ancestors. The unfortunate souls who try to skip a generation may well find themselves perched in the wrong family tree.

Write down the information that you already know. A basic pedigree chart will help. You can find these at genealogy societies and at most libraries, as well as on a number of Web sites. You can find such charts at: <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/genealogy/charts-forms/ancestral-chart.pdf> and at many other web sites. (Charts may be in color or black-and-white.)

Place yourself in the first position on the chart, and fill in the vital information: your name, the date and place of your birth, as well as the date and place of any marriages you have had.

Next, move back one generation, and fill in the same information for both of your parents: name, date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, and date and place of death, if deceased.



Continue working back even further, to grandparents and great-grandparents, if possible. Very few beginning genealogists can fill in the basic facts on even three generations, let alone four. Simply fill in what you already know, and leave the remaining facts as blank spaces. You can fill them in later as you uncover clues.

Once you exhaust your own memory, a family fact-finding expedition is a great way to gather more information. Pick the brains of your family members, especially older family members. Take along a notebook, and write down the events they remember. Ask around for photos, letters, newspaper clippings, and so on. The memorabilia you find will surprise and delight you.

So far, you've relied on people's recollections to add to your history. We all know, however, that memories are not always exact. Next, you will need to confirm the date and place of birth, date and place of marriage, name of spouse, date and place of death, names of parents and children, for as many individuals as possible. You will be surprised how easy it is to find birth certificates and marriage records, especially in the United States. Our country has a long tradition of recording and preserving these vital records.

Now you are ready to set an achievable target from the myriad facts you have accumulated. Pick an ancestor, perhaps one with a few blanks on the chart. Next, choose a question you would like to answer, such as the town where he or she was born. Then decide where you will start hunting.

A birth certificate is an obvious objective. However, you may also need to look in a wide range of places to find out more about that person's life. When the location of birth is not easily found, you can look for other records that will help identify the person's origins.

(cont. on page 7)

EASTMAN'S ONLINE GENEALOGY NEWSLETTER - A GENEALOGY INTRO

(cont. from page 7)

Some of the places you can look are census records, military records and pensions, land records, schooling, occupation, electoral rolls, sporting clubs, newspaper reports - in fact, the list of places where you may find clues is almost endless.

Generally speaking, it's easier to search through indexes and compiled records that are available on the internet at the beginning of your family tree discovery tour. Even if you don't own a computer, many libraries today provide computers with internet access for just such purposes. One of the greatest resources available is that of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, usually referred to as the Mormons. This church has microfilmed millions of records from all over the world, and indexes to these microfilms are available on their Web site, www.familysearch.org. The Mormons gather records from all faiths and all ethnic groups and make these records available to everyone, regardless of religious orientation. Best of all, you can reserve and view the microfilms at a local Mormon Family History Center near where you live. The films ship straight from Salt Lake City to your local Center, where volunteers can help you with the microfilm readers. While there, you will not be given any religious materials or lectures (unless you ask).

Wherever you turn up information about your ancestors, always check the "facts" that you find. Many times you will obtain a piece of information that later turns out to be inaccurate. Never believe anything until you can verify it!

You need to treat all verbal information -- as well as most of the genealogy information on the internet -- as "clues to what might be true." Then, armed with this newly-found information, seek out an original record of the event that corroborates what you found earlier.

Once your tree starts bearing fruit, you will probably find that a computer can be a tremendous help in keeping track of all your people, events, and dates. Today's computers and software are priced to fit most any budget, and they can save weeks and even months of work. If you decide to use a computer, it's a good idea to choose a genealogy program sooner rather than later -- even if you have collected only a few family details. These programs help to organize information about individual ancestors, as well as their relationships to others in the family tree. These programs will make it much easier for you to visualize the connections between people through their capability to automatically generate charts and even point out potential discrepancies.

A search for your family tree can be one of the most fascinating and rewarding pursuits of your life. Who knows what you will find? Nobility? Heroes? Or horse thieves? Most of us can find all three in our ancestry. Who is lurking in your family tree?

From: <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13429947>



[Search new South Africa Records on Findmypast](#)

Findmypast have updated their South African record collection, adding over 1.6 million baptism, marriage and burial records from across the country to three of their existing record sets. These new additions cover the years 1660 to 1996.

[South Africa Baptisms](#)

There are around 1.2 million new and improved records for you to discover, with both images and transcriptions available.

[South Africa Marriages](#)

There are also new images and transcriptions from Cape, Free State, Kwazulu-Natal and Transvaal. In addition to both spouse's names and ages, you may be able to glean an address, a marriage place and additional notes from within these records. Be sure to check the original image to ensure that no key information is missed.

[South Africa Burials](#)

400,546 new and improved burial records, from four provinces across the country.

Findmypast is available free for Members on computers in the F.H.C. Resource Centre



TheGenealogist has just launched a new, comprehensive collection of parish records for North West Kent. This monumental release includes over 2.5 million individuals, encompassing:

- **Baptisms:** 1538-1916
- **Marriages:** 1538-1939
- **Burials:** 1538-2000

The detailed transcripts include direct links to original images of the parish records, providing an invaluable resource for those looking to trace their ancestry or delve deeper into their family's history in Kent.

TheGenealogist.co.uk is available free for Members on computers in the F.H.C. Resource Centre



In September 2024, MyHeritage published 56 million historical records from 8 collections. The newly added records are from Canada, France, Ireland, and Poland. They include births, deaths, burials, and marriage records. Some of the collections also include images.

Canada, People of Quebec

This collection contains birth, baptism, death, and burial records of people individual, date and place of birth, date and place of baptism, date and place of death, place of burial, and the names of the parents.

[Search Canada, People of Quebec](#)

Canada, Quebec Deaths

This collection contains death records from Quebec, Canada, from the year 1926 onwards. Records typically include the deceased's name, date of birth, residence, date and place of death, and the names of their parents and spouse.

[Search Canada, Quebec Deaths](#)

France, Tables of Successions and Absences, 1890-1970

This collection contains an index of deceased or officially missing people from a variety of departments in France, between the years 1890 and 1970. Records typically include the name of the individual, the date and place of death, age at the time of death and the name of the spouse.

Some records may include the date and place of birth, the place of residence and the names of the parents.

[Search France, Tables of Successions and Absences, 1890-1970](#)

Read a more in-depth description of this collection in this [blog post](#).

Ireland Deaths, 1864-1958

This collection is a register of civil death records from all 32 counties of Ireland between the years 1864 and 1921, continuing for the Republic of Ireland until 1958. Records typically include the name of the deceased, age at the time of death, and the year and place of death.

[Search Ireland Deaths, 1864-1958](#)

Poland, Masovian, Warsaw Burials

This collection contains burial records from Masovian, Warsaw, Poland from the year 1793 onwards. Records typically include the name of the deceased, the date of death, and details about the place of burial.

[Search Poland, Masovian, Warsaw Burials](#)

Georgia Deaths, 1917-1928

This collection contains death records of individuals from Georgia, United States, between the years 1917 and 1928. Records typically include the name of the deceased, the date of birth, the date and place of death, the name of the parents, and the name of the spouse.

[Search Georgia Deaths, 1917-1928](#)

MyHeritage is available free for Members on computers in the F.H.C. Resource Centre.



WANDERING THE WEB

With Marianne Redfern

Email: mazpaz72@hotmail.com

<https://www.wikitree.com> - a community of genealogists connecting the human family on one FREE and accurate tree using traditional genealogy and DNA testing. **Found in a 2023 copy of 'Sussex Family Historian'.**

<https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections> - this ancestry site is a database to the index to the passenger list of ships arriving from foreign ports at the Port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1800-1962. The names found in the index are linked to actual images of the passenger lists, digitized from National Archives and Records of Administration. **From an old copy of 'Traces' in the Resource Centre.**

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/pleasant-hills> - Pleasant Hills Lutheran Cemetery is part of the Lockhart Shire of NSW. There are named memorials which are dated. **From 'Wendish News' the journal of the Wendish Heritage Society of Australia.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jewish_Comm - this is the list of Jewish Communities in the United Kingdom, including Synagogues, yeshivot and Hebrew Schools. Go down the page to view all of these. **From the newsletter of the Jewish g-Genealogical Society of Great Britain.**

<https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrary> - explore the range of e Library resources available free to Goldfields Libraries members. Library membership is FREE. **From a pamphlet in our resource centre.**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39434504> - this is the story about the 'Canary Girls: the workers the war turned yellow'. The sacrifice of soldiers killed during World Wars one and two is well documented. But the efforts of munitions workers, stained yellow by toxic chemicals is a story much less told. For the full story, read on. **From an old copy of 'Who Do You Think You Are'.**

<https://www.genesreunited.com.au> - originally known as Genes Connected, this genealogy website was launched in the UK in 2003 as a sister-site to Friends Reunited. Register for FREE to view results. **From 'Growing Your Family Tree' from another library.**

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/legislation/public> - the PRA (Public Records Act) 1958 established the Public Record Office, now the National Archives. It sets out the delegated responsibilities of the Keeper of Public Records to safeguard and preserve public records and maintain the utility of the archive. Read on for more information, then go to 'explore the collection'. **From the 'Genealogy Handbook' from another library.**

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: **No meeting this month.**

Contact: bendigogen@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

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

Next meeting: **No meeting this month.**

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

Next Meeting: **7th December at 12.00pm.** "Christmas Lunch".

Venue: Blackburn Hotel, 111 Whitehorse Rd., Blackburn. 3130.

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

Ireland: Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday via Zoom

Next Meeting: **13th December at 2.00pm** "Show and Tell" Please bring a small plate to share for Afternoon Tea.

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre, 1/41 Railway Ave., Blackburn.

Editor: Vicki Box: victoriabox39@gmail.com

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

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

Next Meeting: **No meeting this month.**

Scotland: Meets on 2nd Thursday via Zoom

Next meeting: **No meeting this month.**

Contacts: Merrin: questeve@optusnet.com.au

Kristee Grosvenor: kmgrosvenor1@gmail.com

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

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre and Zoom.

Next meeting: **No meeting this month.**

DISCUSSION GROUP

Northern Counties

Meets on 3rd Friday of each month

Venue: F.H.C. Resource Centre.

Next Meeting: **No meeting this month.**

Contact for Interest Groups (unless stated):

info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Dec 7 12.00pm Early Victoria and Tasmania Interest Group
“Christmas Lunch”. Blackburn Hotel, 111 Whitehorse Rd., Blackburn.
- Dec 13 2.00pm Ireland Interest Group - Meeting - F.H.C. Resource Centre
“Show and Tell”. (see pp. 3 & 10)
- Dec 18 4.00pm Family History Connections closes for 2024.**
-

- Jan 10 10.00am Family History Connections opens for 2025**
- Jan 26 1.00pm **Starting Out Class - Session 1**
- Feb 2 1.00pm **Starting Out Class - Session 2**

Articles for the next Newsletter may be emailed to:

cherylaigs@y7mail.com by 23rd January, 2025

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.



Family History connections

...tracing ancestors in Australia and beyond

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Email: info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au
Telephone: 9877 3789
Website: www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au

President: Gail White

Vice Presidents: Carolann Thomson and Gregor Mason

Treasurer: Russell Wittick

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 - Outside Events
Susan Hurley - Social Media

MyAncestry Family Tree Online

Durham Records Online

ancestry.com.au

findmypast.com
Family history is 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

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter please email info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au requesting your name be deleted from the distribution list.

If you change your email address please send an email to info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

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