

New Technology Interest Group



From Jennie Fairs

- The plan is to cover a wide range of topics to help BBFHS members use technology to enhance their genealogy research, streamline their work and connect with other family historians. Topics will benefit newbies to experienced researchers.
- The broader topics will include: genealogical software and tools (genealogy software comparisons, digital note taking, research logs, mind mapping, interview recording etc); digital archiving and preservation (scanning and digitizing, digital storage solutions, photo restoration); using social media and online collaboration (Facebook, X, Instagram, WikiTree); mapping tools for genealogy (Google maps, historic map overlays, geocoding); webinars and online learning for genealogy; using artificial intelligence; data privacy, security and ethics (privacy concerns in online family trees, cybersecurity, ethical research); and emerging technologies in genealogy.
- I envisage the interest group to be a collaborative group (not just me). Among our membership, those of you with skills or experience in any of the above topics can assist with a presentation or talk at these meetings. It doesn't need to be a lengthy talk and if you think you could assist, please contact me at president@botanybayfhs.org.au. There are at least two meetings of the interest group planned for 2025, but this might change to three or four depending on popularity.

For Mid-Month Meetings: Tasks – To Do

- For the mid-month meetings, I have set up a plan of **Monthly Projects** for the year. Each month, I will introduce a new task for members to complete. At the following meeting,

we'll share and discuss our progress. Some examples of the tasks might be: log your family history research, cite your sources, transcribe family history records, write about two ancestors, make a family history research plan.

- This plan is inspired by a 12-Step Family History Plan from UK Family Tree magazine, with a few unique twists to suit our group. The variety of Tasks will be suitable for anyone, of any level of experience, to become more organised and improve their family history research success.
- But because there is no mid-month meeting in January, and to get the ball rolling, you will be able to start on the first two tasks during our Christmas break. In February, I will give a short presentation on why the two tasks are necessary and we can then discuss what achievements were made (or not). Of course, if you already use Research Log we'd love to hear about it.

The January Tasks are:

(1) **Back up your family history research in two places**, e.g., the Cloud and an external Hard Disk Drive.

(2) **Log your family history research.**

If, like me, you have never kept a Research Log it would be a mammoth task to go back and log all of your past research. I suggest instead, to start keeping a research log for current and future research projects.

One of the best Research Logs to use was produced by Thomas MacEntee and he willingly allows people to download and use it. I have placed a copy [here](#) and you can download and save it to your computer. Included in Thomas's Research Log are several other spreadsheets you might find useful and instructions on how to use the Research Log.

If you prefer to start your own simplified Research Log, you could make a table in Word and include date of research, full source citation, what you are looking for, where searched, URL if online, result whether positive or negative, and any additional notes such as, look again in 6 months.