

Title: Australian Family History Course: Research Strategies & Resources

Aim: To provide a comprehensive guide to researching families in Australia and placing them in a framework of place and time

Outcomes: On completion of the course, participants will have:

- an increased understanding of research skills and techniques
- a broad understanding of Australian history
- developed a knowledge of the types of records available
- an understanding of where, and how, to access records

Syllabus:

Session	Mode	Topics	Time Frame	Presenter(s)	Remarks
1 Seminar Saturday 21 March 2026	Hybrid at Docklands 9.00 – 4.30	Pre-history Australia First Nation People & traditions European exploration Establishment of the Colonies Broad overview of resources GSV resources Research skills & techniques	1 day Four sessions	Clare Claydon , GSV member and author Emeritus Prof. Richard Broome , <i>La Trobe University</i> Meg Bate , GSV Library & Meg Bate Digital Resources Manager Fiona Tellessen , Founder <i>Experts in Genealogy</i>	
2 Thursday 26 March	Zoom 1.30 – 3.00	Convict resources	1 ½ Hrs	Bronwyn Quint , Convenor, GSV Convicts & Transportation Discussion Circle	

3 Thursday 30 April	Zoom 1.30 – 3.00	Early pioneers	1 ½ Hrs	Bronwyn Quint, Port Phillip Pioneers Group	
4 Thursday 28 May	Zoom 1.30 -3.00	Immigration: schemes, shipping, records of arrivals and dispersement Internal migrations (coastal shipping)	1 ½ Hrs	Fiona Tellesson	
5 Thursday 25 June	Zoom 1.30 – 5.00	Vital records: BDMs, adoptions, wills & probate, inquests, divorces, naturalisation, cemeteries, letters, diaries, interviews.	Half day seminar	Dr. Elizabeth Hartnell-Young, Honorary Fellow, Faculty of Education, University of Melbourne Trena Ronnfeldt , Manager GSV Library	
6 Thursday 30 July	Zoom 1.30 – 4.30	Early land distribution and records Land settlement records Land settlement & squatters	3 Hrs	Margaret Fleming , GSV member and writer – plus another presenter	
7 Thursday 27 August	Zoom 1.30 – 4.30	Gold rush related records Occupation, education, health & police records (Parliamentary Paper, Gazettes) Electoral Rolls	3 Hrs	Meg Bate & Fiona Tellesson	
8 Thursday 24 September	Zoom 1.30 – 3.00	Military records – AWM; NAA	1 ½ Hrs	Trena Ronnfeldt	

<p>9 Saturday 24 October</p>	<p>Hybrid at Docklands 9.30 – 4.30</p>	<p>Techniques for placing your families in time and place and embellishing their stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI apps • WeAre.xyz • Google Earth • Social Media • Local & Family Societies • TROVE • Timelines 	<p>1 day Four sessions</p>	<p>Trena Ronnfeldt, Meg Bate, Louise Millar-Hoffmann, GSV member writer & Co-convenor of the Convict Discussion Circle, Fiona Tellessen, Jill Tretthewey, GSV member & presenter & Stuart Minetti, GSV Events Admin. & IT</p>	
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