



Newsletter #17
January 2008

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday
of each month at 7pm at
The Old Police Station, Ann Street, Salisbury.

\$2 entry fee for non-members

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Peter Applebee
Vice President:	Bev Burke
Secretary:	Margaret Flaiban
Treasurer:	Tammy Martin
Membership Coordinator:	Helen Stein
General Committee:	Sandie Francis Colin Withall Ivan Randall

RAFFLE

Congratulations to **Marilyn Thorsteinsen** who won our last raffle.
Thank you to all who supported us.

MEETINGS

Welcome back to another year. We hope you, all had a safe and happy
Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

The last event for 2007 was the picnic at Springton with the FPFHG. We visited the Friedensburg School and the small churchyard which was also very interesting. David Herbig gave a great talk on the Herbig Tree. We then had lunch and afterwards made our way down to Ulebury School Museum and cemetery. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

At tonight's meeting, we have Errol Chinner from the Port Adelaide Historical Society as a guest speaker. He will speak on the history of Port Adelaide.

Our next meeting will be February 21st, when we will have Bernard Boucher from the Huguenot Society of South Australia, speaking about SA's Huguenot Pioneers

*The group will not be held responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in this Newsletter.
All submitted articles and advertised offers of services are printed in good faith of accuracy.
The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammatical purposes if necessary.*

NEWS!

Our first Research and Networking afternoon for the year was held on Saturday 12th January. With the success and ever increasing number of visitors to these afternoons, we will be increasing their frequency to alternate Saturdays as from 16th February.

Opening times are from 1-4pm.

There will be a charge of \$5.00 for non-members for the afternoon which includes use of computers and individual help as needed. Any new members joining during the course of the afternoon will have half of their \$5.00 fee reimbursed.

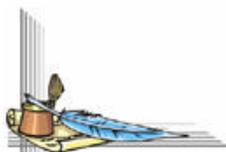
Research Kits will now be available through the group at a cost of \$2.00. Included will be Pedigree and Family History charts, and information on research sites and institutions to help you in your search.

Many thanks to Pat Lebrun who kindly donated a microfiche reader to the Group.

We would like to include a "Can You Help?" column to the newsletter where members can publish requests for information about people or places. For a small fee of \$2.00 per item, you will reach a network of geanealogists who may be able to help you with information.

ancestry.com.au have added several new links to their site. Of particular interest is the addition of the Australian Electoral Rolls for the years 1901 to 1936. Visit the site and browse to find new information!

Latest information from the Charles Sturt Council is that the Hindmarsh District BDM records were returned to the Hindmarsh Library, Port Road, Hindmarsh.
(Please note they are no longer at the Hindmarsh Historical Museum).



A TRIP OUTBACK

by Anne Beadell

LEN BEADELL OAM, BEM, FIEMS (Aust.)

Len Beadell has been named the "Last True Australian Explorer" for opening up over 2.5 million square kilometres of rugged Australian Outback. The life history of Len Beadell; Australian surveyor, explorer, and author; is a truly unique one. His story in books, CD, audio and video tapes are much loved by people of all generations.

(taken from www.beadell.com.au)

We welcomed Anne Beadell to our last group meeting of the year. Anne is the wife of Len Beadell, an intrepid "explorer" of the South Australian outback. Anne began her slide show by showing a lovely photo of Len in 1949 at Woomera when he was surveying for the Army Survey Corp. He usually found his way around the outback by the stars. A true bushman!

She began by telling us about her early life as a "£10 Pom" coming out to Australia in the early 1960's with her parents and settling in Adelaide. They rented a house in Salisbury owned by Len, which is how she met and fell in love with him and finally marrying him. Len only came to town a couple of times a year and spent most of his time in the bush, living out of his Land Rover.

In 1962 Len's work was to map certain parts of the outback, so he had to apply for permits to travel through the north-west corner of South Australia into Western Australia, as they needed to travel through aboriginal reserve land. Anne wanted to go with him on his expedition thinking it was a great adventure to see something of the outback. Anne's mother was very against them leaving, as by this time their daughter Connie had arrived, and thought a baby may not survive out in the bush and they should stay in Salisbury.

We saw from photos how Len and Anne fitted out the Land Rover with shelving and a few "home comforts" leaving only 2'6" for their bed. Anne could only take her warm coat and one change of clothing, a nappy bucket which was used as a bath for Connie, a small camp stool and 400 toilet rolls! They set off during Winter, up to the Gun Barrel Highway and arriving at Warburton Mission a few months later. Anne showed many slides of their camps, and how they improvised, using the tailgate of the Land Rover as a table used for just about everything. They needed to follow all the high points to Western Australia mapping most of inland South Australia and parts of Western Australia with markers. Anne's daughter is still in the process of actually replacing these markers. A lot of the 40 original ones have bullet holes in them or have been taken as souvenirs.

Len was very adept at bush skills, cutting his own hair and performing dentistry to the small aboriginal communities and even an operation on a toe of an aboriginal woman. Anne and Len met up with the road-making trucks and supply teams who went up and down the thousand mile stretch to the WA border. Some of the work was at Maralinga which was classified top secret and was not marked on maps until later.

When Len had completed his trips and retired, he gave a number of talks and wrote six books. There are CD's and a DVD available about Len's life. The Salisbury Library was named after him, and more information can be found at www.beadell.com.au.

Connie carries on Len's legacy with tours and expeditions into the Gibson Desert, Great Sandy and Great Victorian Deserts with her husband Mick Hutton. They can be contacted on the above website, email : beadelltours.com.au or telephone : 8250 2718.

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Why Isn't It Free?

Some web sites charge money to access genealogy information. The question is often asked: "Why can't all genealogy information be made available on the web free of charge?"

Indeed, in the U.S. and Canada, governmental records are public domain, available free of charge to those who can travel to the repositories where the original records are stored. Many private records, such as church records, may not be public domain, but they are also often available at no charge if one can travel to view them. When travel is not an option, a trip to a local library may suffice if that library has microfilms of the original records that patrons can view for free. (For this article, I will ignore the costs of sending a filming crew to a repository to make the microfilms and the expenses of reproducing and distributing microfilms. However, those expenses are not trivial.)

Given the fact that the records are already available "free of charge," one might question the need to pay \$50 or \$100 or more per year to access the same records on a subscription service, such as Footnote.com, Ancestry.com, Origins.net, NewEnglandAncestors.org, and other genealogy web sites.

First of all, the idea that the records are available "free" is only true for those who live near the repository that houses the original records or photocopies of the records. If you have to travel some distance to a library that houses the records you seek, you will incur travel expenses. Even a trip to a library a few miles away will incur costs for gasoline and perhaps for parking. Such records are not truly "free." A longer trip will incur airfare or automobile expenses, along with hotel rooms and meals. A three-day trip to a distant repository can easily cost \$500 or more. For many who do not live near major genealogy libraries, this quickly changes the concept of "free."

From the genealogist's viewpoint, accessing records published on the Internet greatly increases convenience and reduces travel expenses. However, from the publisher's viewpoint, the financial realities of publishing on the web add up rather quickly when one looks at the expenses involved with acquiring, digitizing, and electronically publishing records of interest to genealogists. Such an effort is not cheap.

To be sure, there are hundreds of web pages available today at no charge that contain transcribed records from a variety of sources. RootsWeb has many such pages, as do freebmd.org.uk, genuki.org.uk, and many others. These web sites contain records transcribed by volunteers, and someone pays for the web servers without passing those expenses on to users. In most cases, the expenses are not huge, and advertising can help pay the bills. A few of these web sites may even contain images of the original records. Most of these sites have databases that contain hundreds or even thousands of records. In contrast, commercial services typically provide millions of records, usually many millions. With larger databases come larger expenses.

Let's assume that a company or even a genealogy society decides to make state vital records available on the World Wide Web. Once an agreement has been negotiated with the state, the company or society starts work. I will make some rough estimates of the expenses involved.

In our example, let's say that the project entails 25 million records over a 50-year period. (This would be for a state with a rather small population; many states will have more records than that in a 50-year period.) Digitizing these records will require thousands of manhours. It is doubtful if anyone can find that number of unpaid volunteers to travel to the repository, run the scanners, and do data entry work. In fact, the repository may not even have room for a crew of that sort.

If you own a scanner, calculate how many pages you can scan in one hour. Then calculate how long it would take you to scan twenty-five million pages. If I can scan a page every 2 minutes for a standard work week, I will need 20,833 weeks for this project. Clearly, hobbyist-grade scanners will never get the job done. Expensive, high-speed scanners need to be purchased. Five thousand dollars is a typical price for high-volume scanners, and this project will probably require two or more of them. Next, operators need to be hired to sit at the scanners 40 hours a week and create the digitized images.

This process only makes scanned images of the records, probably the simplest and least-expensive part of the project. Somebody needs to make indexes as well. The process will vary, depending upon what is already available. In many cases, someone sitting at a computer will need to index each and every one of the millions of entries. Add in many more thousands of dollars in labour charges.

Now we have created images, plus indexes to those images. We need some skilled programmers to combine all the data into one huge database. Skilled database administrators' labour also is not cheap.

Once the records have been digitized and a database has been created, the real expenses begin. This database with twenty-five million high-quality images requires several terabytes of disk storage. (A terabyte equals one thousand gigabytes, the same as one million megabytes.) The purchase of a high-uptime, high-throughput disk array of that size, along with built-in backup capabilities, easily costs \$25,000 or more per terabyte. Add in the expense of a web server, a database, and the required software, and the cost soon exceeds \$100,000 for the required hardware and software to make these records available online to genealogists. This figure does not include the labour charges mentioned earlier.

Next, we need very high-speed connections to connect the hardware to the Internet so that we can serve 100 or more simultaneous users who wish to view these large graphics files. A single T-1 line is the minimum requirement for 20 or 30 simultaneous users, but most commercial web servers today are connected by multiple OC-3 connections. (I'll skip the

technical discussion of T-1 and OC-3 connections. Let's just say that they are very high-speed lines, capable of handling many simultaneous users. They also cost a lot of money.)

In most cases, it is cheaper to install the disk array, database server, and web server at a commercial web hosting service than to build one's own data centre. Hosting fees for a high-usage database start at \$1,000 a month and quickly go up. Commercial genealogy companies with lots of users typically pay \$10,000 or more per month in hosting fees. This may seem high, but it is still less expensive than building your own data centre.

The bottom line is simple to anyone with a calculator: more than a quarter million dollars is easily expended to make high-quality original source records available to genealogists. Following that cost are monthly fees to keep this data available.

The result is a database in which one can search for a name, find it, double-click on the entry, and then see an image of the original record. In other words, primary source records are visible to anyone in Virginia or California or anywhere else in the world with no travel expenses required.

Of course, I have ignored many other expenses. When a popular database of this sort is placed online, users will have questions. Someone needs to answer those questions; so, we must create a customer service department. In the case of a society, a few members might step forward to answer questions. In the case of Ancestry.com, it means several hundred employees and a large building with telephones, computers, and high-speed data connections. Again, you can guess at the expenses.

Where did this money come from?

Yes, it would be nice to provide genealogy information online at no cost. However, if you are the person who wishes to provide that information, a few minutes with a calculator will quickly bring you back to reality.

In fact, the only practical method of placing large amounts of genealogy information on the web is to have someone pay the expenses of acquiring, digitizing, and providing the data. In most cases, this means that the people who benefit will pay. The same free enterprise system allows those with a vision to offer desirable information, gives them the opportunity to earn their living by charging those who take advantage of their efforts, and makes it possible for us all to reap the rewards at a tiny fraction of the provider's cost.

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Free software to organize your digital pictures



If your digital photo collection looks like this, you are in need of a Digital Photo Collection makeover.

Using photo organization software, you can locate any picture by date, subject, or even by the name of the person in seconds.

Imagine trying to find a specific picture of the family's 1987 vacation to Disneyland. It'd be easy if that was the only picture you've ever taken in your entire lifetime. But this picture resides in a crammed file cabinet, along with thousands of others you've taken over the years. Once digitized, locating any picture is a breeze.

Once your pictures are on your computer, you will need to install photo organization software. Your digital camera or scanner may have bundled the software with your purchase. Some software, including [Adobe Photoshop Album Starter Edition](#) and Google's [Picasa](#) can be used for free.

I've used [PhotoShop Elements](#) for years, which combines the organizational software with powerful editing tools. Using its Tags and Collections feature, I can assign a tag to each individual picture. Once tagged, I can filter all of the pictures to just show me those that are tagged.

For example, I created a "Legoland 2007" tag, and applied it to all 357 pictures of our Legoland vacation. Whenever I want to view/locate these pictures, all I have to do is click on the Legoland 2007 tag, and immediately my 8,000 plus digital pictures are filtered to only show me these 357. Within these pictures, I could click on the tag I created for my 7-year-old, and instantly, the 357 pictures are filtered to show me only those of my 7-year-old.

I have created tags for vacations, individual family members, sporting events, and even one for pictures of Santa Claus. I have to be careful when showing these to my

kids, because when I filter all my pictures to just show Santa Claus, it becomes obvious that his appearance changes every year.

[Heritage Collector Suite](#) is organizational software for digital images designed specifically for genealogists. It can import all of the pictures linked to your Legacy family file so you don't have to manually add them to a collection. It can even add Hot Spots to pictures as shown in the image below.

If you're still contemplating your New Year's resolutions, getting digitally organized is certainly an achievable goal.



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!!Reminder!! 
Undocumented genealogy
 *is mythology*

