EZITREE Plus

Family History Software

Port Macquarie Users Group
October 2014 - Newsletter #45

This is the fifth newsletter for the Port Macquarie Ezitree Users Group Meeting in 2014 and is being done late on Friday night after Yvonne and I had to rush away for a family funeral at Tamworth. It seems that matters of life and death still happen amidst all of our family history related activities. In any event, we hope that everybody enjoys today's User Group session and we appreciate you giving up your Saturday afternoon to be here as friends wanting to know more and share experiences.

Recent News:

NSWBDM Website.
Despite my request to the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at the State Conference for better communication regarding emails sent to them, they are falling down badly in this respect. I have now sent four emails to the registry over the past month, none of which elicited a response. One of these included a note to fix the Groom's name on a marriage record incorrectly shown as 'Anne' when it should have been 'Amos'. It has now all become quite frustrating and pointless.

Ancestry.com
Since the last Ezitree User Group meeting, Ancestry has added another 450,000+ new Australia-specific entries. These are Land Grants 1788-1963 and Registers of Seamen 1859-1936. These are both very worthwhile additions and include a number of references to Port Macquarie.

Find My Past (FMP)
Recent additions include Somerset & Dorset Notes and Queries, Somerset Electoral Registers 1832-1914, 62,000 records from Witton Cemetery added to Warwickshire burial records 1833-2010 and 389,000 records added to the Greater London Burials 1399-1902 making its total in excess of 1 million records from 226 Anglican and non-conformist parishes. Interestingly, whilst searching for recent news from FMP, I noticed the following entry in the 'List of Australian and New Zealand Records' under 'Life Events (BDMs)' – 'New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952'. Twelve months ago there was a major announcement by FMP and SRNSW in which the contact to digitise these wills was announced. Whilst the wills are still unavailable (the link is broken), it maybe that the wills are shortly due to come online. This would definitely be a useful addition to FMP.

FamilySearch.org
Sadly, FamilySearch has added no records from our region. Their main emphasis appears to be records from USA (understandably) and a scattering of out–of-the-way places such as Belgium, India and Slovakia. If you have any American family history, the new USA areas covered include Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.
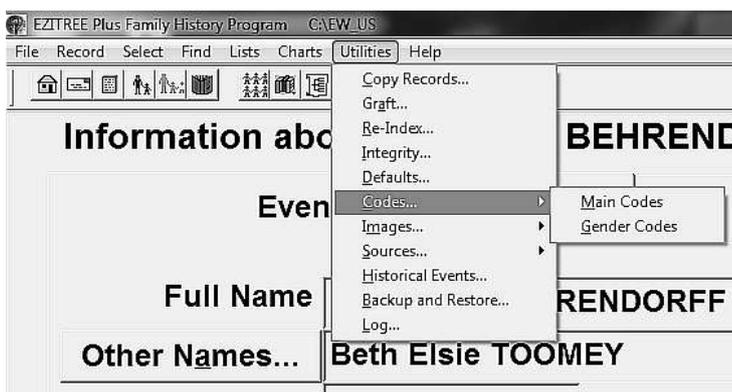
National Library News
The National Library of Australia (NLA) and the State Library of New South Wales are working on a project to digitise the New South Wales Government Gazette 1832-2001 and include them in Trove. Whilst it is still early days yet, this will be another MAJOR data source of family history. Think about it like this – there are five years of NSW Government Gazette on Ancestry at present covering 1895 to 1899 and there are 600,000 plus names in just that period. How many names do you think would be over 170 years? 20 million? What a wonderful time to be undertaking family history research!

Quick Tutorial – Gender Codes

Ezitree keeps an internal list of the gender codes that are normally associated with a person's Given Names. This list may be seen by clicking the 'Utilities' pad on the main menu, then clicking the 'Codes' option, followed by the 'Gender Codes' option.

This will open the Ezitree Gender Code Lookup Table that has a list of single word Given Names together with the currently assigned gender code, the date that code was assigned and the number of Given Names to which the selected gender code has been applied.

The main thing to remember here is that Ezitree only uses this to suggest Gender Codes. The main reason for this is the ambiguity of many names; especially in the present day society in which such a diversity of names occur. For example, names such as 'Bobbie', 'Lee', 'Marion', Francis/Frances', 'Lesley/Leslie', etc.

For example, when a new person is added to the file, Ezitree takes the first Given Name and goes to this list and tries to find a Gender Code assigned to that name. If none is found, it attempts to do the same with the second Given Name, if one has been entered.

The Gender Code is then displayed, however it must be remembered that it is only a **suggested Gender Code**. This means that the user may override any Gender Code suggested by Ezitree.

The Gender Lookup Table also displays the occurrence of Given Names through Ezitree although the 'Times Used' may progressively fall out of date. Therefore, a [Refresh] button has been provided that can be used to have Ezitree read through the complete file and re-count the names that have been used. Once this button is clicked, it only takes a few moments for Ezitree to re-read the data in the files and update the 'Times Used' value to provide the current figure.

Finally, Gender Lookup Table could be used for a 'rough check' of name misspellings. This would entail browsing through the list of names looking for obvious errors. A recent check of our data revealed a person named 'John' whose name was entered as 'Jojn' and this was used to locate the incorrect name and make the appropriate correction to the person's Given Name.

Saturday 22nd of November 2014, will be the next and final meeting of the year. As in the past, we ask that if you are coming to that meeting to bring a small plate of Christmas fare that can be shared amongst all of your friends so that we may celebrate the end of another successful year.

Kind Regards...Rex & Yvonne Toomey