

Sunday 24th May 2026 @ 10.00 am

Pierre Clouthier - Charting Companion



*A Beginner's Tour of
Charting Companion
and*

*Breaking Down Brick Walls
with DNA*

Pierre Clouthier became addicted to genealogy after his grandfather shared his manuscript of his family history in 1976. This led to Pierre starting “Progeny Genealogy” in 1995, which is the leading developer of family tree software that works directly with most popular genealogy database programs.

Amongst other products, Progeny Genealogy produces Charting Companion, a Charting Package for most of the common genealogy applications, like Family Tree Maker, Legacy, Ancestral Quest, Family Historian, RootsMagic, as well as PAF and GEDCOM. The company has released Charting Companion plugin for Family Tree Maker Windows and Family Tree Maker Mac.

The company is currently focused on marketing three family tree software products that allow users to create various types of genealogy charts: Charting Companion & Progeny 3D Family Tree, Genelines, and Map My Family Tree.

Charting Companion creates what is considered the more standard genealogy charts and reports, but it creates more and better charts, and allows more formatting and color control than is available from genealogy database programs. Genelines timeline software and Map My Family Tree are unique in their presentation of family tree data – providing visual storytelling and powerful research tools not available in most genealogy programs.

Zoom Meeting

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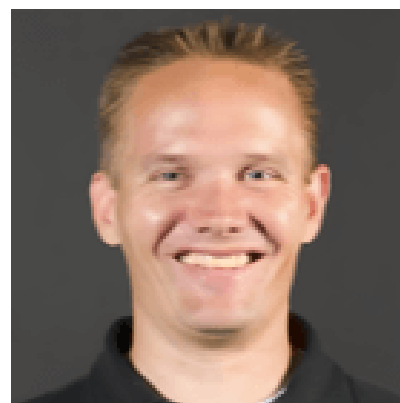
Next Event - Sunday 28th June 2026

Mark Olsen - Family Tree Maker

New features of Family Tree Maker 2024

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker.

Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007 and has been the Family Tree Maker Ambassador since 2016. See page 31 for more details.





President's Report

Hi Everyone,

It has been another busy month for GUM as your committee continues with its activities.

In order to help streamline and reduce the work in our administration area, we have been testing a new Management System called TidyHQ. As some of you experienced during the testing process, an email was accidentally sent to some of our members advising that their subscription fee was due for renewal. This was an error, and we apologise for the inconvenience. In some instances, the member did pay us, so we have added that amount to their current subscription. On a brighter note, the new system provides us with quite a few additional features which we will utilise as we settle into the product.

The workshops we are currently co-hosting with SAG in Sydney are progressing well. Three workshops have now been completed. Working with SAG has been an excellent experience for GUM, so hopefully we will see more of these joint activities in the future.

The Anzac Sunday presentation by Robyn Van Dyk was received really well. Robyn has since provided some helpful assistance to some of our members. Our May presenter will be Pierre Clouthier from Progeny Genealogy, the developers of Charting Companion, which is a plug-in for Family Tree Maker. More details on this can be read on the front page.

Again, this month, it is with great pleasure that I announce yet another discounted software offer. Stefan Harms from Family Book Creator has agreed to provide our members with a 30% discount on his product. To access this offer please read the details on page 25 of this newsletter.

Our FTM User Groups continue to be very well attended and form an integral part of our membership offering.

Over the past month GUM has exhibited at three Retirement Living and Senior Lifestyle Expos at Pakenham, Geelong and Bendigo. We are doing this for the purposes of raising community awareness of GUM and hopefully getting more members. I want to thank Dennis O'Brien, Phil Igoe and Faye Dunn for representing GUM during these events.

Finally, there is a scam email circulating offering a Family Tree Maker book. **THIS EMAIL IS A SCAM - PLEASE DELETE IF IT LANDS ON YOUR COMPUTER.** See more details on Page 19.

Until next time enjoy your research.

Cheers, Peter

Peter Reading, President

president@vicgum.asn.au

Family Tree Maker

2025/2026 Index for Back to Basics & Advanced

Index of Beginners' Section - see below:

- Options Dialogue Box - Names, Dates & Places Tab (Jan 2025 Newsletter)
- Options Dialogue Box - Spell Check Options (Jan 2025 Newsletter)
- Options Dialogue Box - Warnings & Reference Tabs (Feb 2025 Newsletter)
- Media Workspace - Adding New Media (Mar 2025 Newsletter)
- Media Workspace - Righthand Media Panel (Mar 2025 Newsletter)
- Media Workspace - Renaming Media File (Mar 2025 Newsletter)
- Media Workspace - Adding Categories (Apr 2025 Newsletter)
- Media Workspace - Linking Media (May 2025 Newsletter)
- Help Menu (Jun 2025 Newsletter)
- Installing FTM 2024 (Jul 2025 Newsletter)
- Installing FBC 2024 (Jul 2025 Newsletter)
- Installing Charting Companion (Jul 2025 Newsletter)
- Connecting to TreeVault (Jul 2025 Newsletter)
- Exporting a Branch (Aug 2025 Newsletter)
- Change Log Feature (Sep 2025 Newsletter)
- Data Errors Report (Sep 2025 Newsletter)
- Where to Add Your Notes (Oct 2025 Newsletter)
- Adding a New Source Citation for a Birth Certificate (Nov 2025 Newsletter)
- Adding a New Source Citation for a Census Record (Dec 2025/Jan 2026 Newsletter)
- Cleaning Up Duplicated Sources (Feb 2026 Newsletter)
- Using Source Templates (Mar 2026 Newsletter)
- Creating an "Occupation" Fact (Apr 2026 Newsletter)
- Entering Cite-Builder Citations into FTM (May 2026 Newsletter)

Index of Advanced Section - see below:

- Create Report - Spouse Ongoing (Sep 2024 Newsletter)
- Update Relationship Status (Sep 2024 Newsletter)
- FBC - Fact Types to Include (Oct 2024 Newsletter)
- Adding Categories for Use in FBC (Nov 2024 Newsletter)
- Adding Relationship / Wedding Image to Chart (FBC) (Nov 2024 Newsletter)
- FTM Tips on Data Entry (Dec 2024 Newsletter)
- FTM (Mac) Options Dialogue Box (Jan 2025 Newsletter)
- Double Dates (Jan 2025 Newsletter)
- Transferring FTM to Another Computer (Apr 2025 Newsletter)
- FTM 2024 New Features (Part 1) - Easy on the Eyes (Aug 2025 Newsletter)
- Dialogue Box Options - Spouse Deceased (Sep 2025 Newsletter)
- Spouse Deceased - In Retrospect (Sep 2025 Newsletter)



This month we will look at an advanced FTM topic "Template Tree for Facts and Media Categories", submitted by Karen McCormack.

NB: Back to Basics index for 2024 has been removed from the above index. You can find all back issue indexes on the GUM webpage.

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

If you're anything like me, you don't just have one tree in Family Tree Maker... you have several. (And if you're helping at a Family History Society, multiply that number by "however many people walk through the door on a Wednesday!")

Over time, I realised I kept setting up the same things again and again - custom facts, media categories, and my carefully arranged Quick Edit Panel. After the third (or maybe tenth!) time doing this, I had a quiet word with myself and decided there had to be a better way.

Now, I prefer to call it being efficient... others might say lazy. I'll let you decide.

So, I created what I call a Template Tree - a ready-made setup containing all my preferred custom facts and media categories. Instead of rebuilding everything from scratch, I simply merge this template into any new tree I'm working on. It keeps everything consistent, saves time, and keeps tools like the Family Book Creator plugin happy as well.

Here's how I put it together:

- Create a new tree containing a single person
- Add new facts via the Manage Facts process
- Add a single media item
- Create and assign media categories
- Merge the Template Tree into the tree to be updated
- Delete any unwanted placeholder details (PERSON AND MEDIA)

The beauty of this approach is that your Template Tree becomes a living resource - you can tweak it, improve it, and expand it over time. Then, whenever a new tree comes along, you're ready to go in just a few clicks.

Create a New Tree (Just One Person – Nice and Simple!)

Time to build the tiniest tree you'll probably ever create in Family Tree Maker - just one person, no relatives, no complications... bliss!

Head over to the Plan workspace and click on the New Tree tab. In the "Enter what you know" section, pop in a name for your single individual. This is one time where the name doesn't need to reflect a real person - in fact, it shouldn't. You want something that will stand out like a sore thumb later when you merge it into another tree.

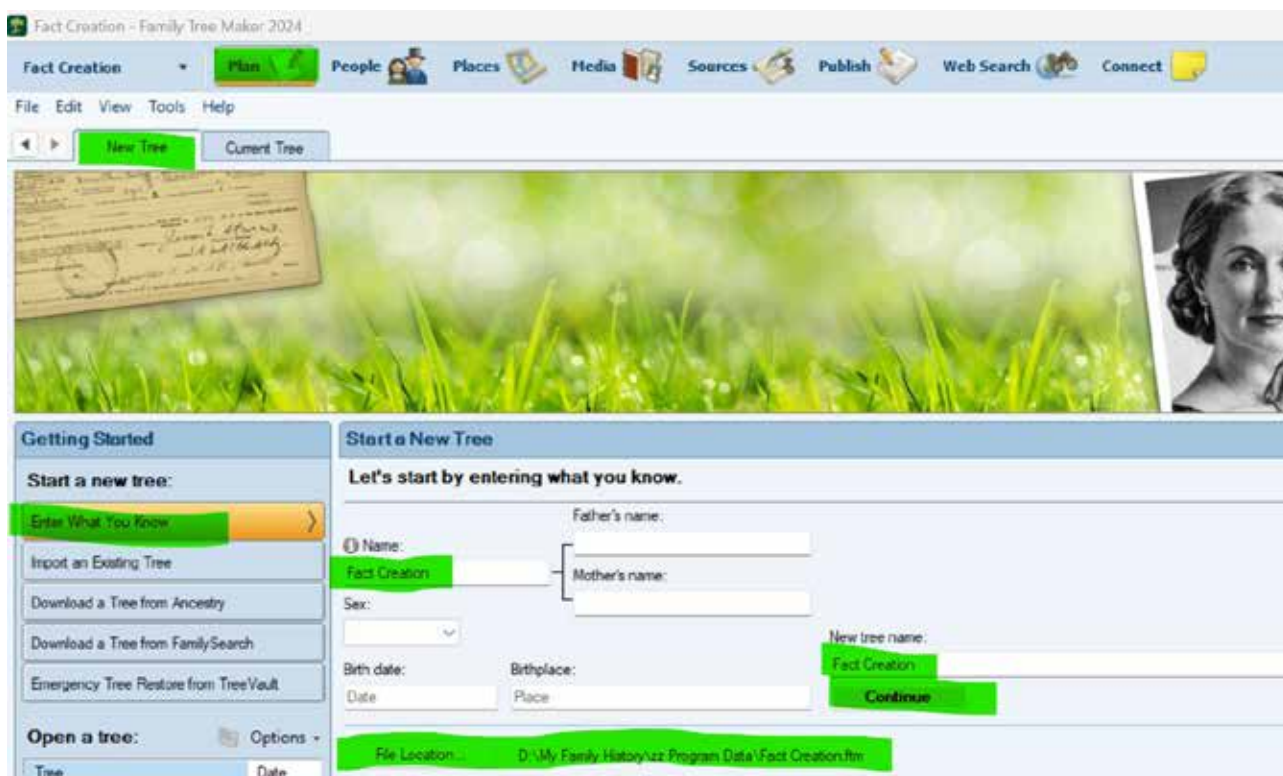
I've used "Fact Creation" as my go-to name, but anything obvious will do (think along the lines of "Template Person" rather than "John Smith"... unless you enjoy confusion later!).

Next, check that the File Location is pointing to your usual FTM folder. This saves you from that "where on earth did that tree go?" moment later on.

Now give your tree a name that clearly describes its purpose. Again, I've kept things simple and called mine "Fact Creation", but you might prefer something like "FTM Template Tree" if you're feeling fancy.

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

Once everything looks right, click **Continue** - and just like that, your template tree is born.



Add New Facts (a.k.a. Where the Magic Happens).



Now we get to the good part - customising Family Tree Maker so it actually works the way *you* like to research.

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

FTM already comes with a pretty solid list of predefined facts. They're like the furniture that came with the house - you can't throw them out, but you can definitely bring in your own pieces to make the place feel right.

To add your own, head up to the Edit menu and select Manage Facts. This opens a handy little popup window where you can create all your new custom facts.

Now, a small word of warning (learned the hard way!): think carefully about how you name your facts. What seems like a good idea at the time will eventually show up in reports - and possibly in very public ones.

For example, if you're using the Family Book Creator plugin, you'll notice its facts are named with FBC_ at the front. That's not just for decoration - it's how the plugin recognises them. The good news is that this prefix doesn't appear in the final output, so no need to worry about it cluttering your reports.

However, things like underscores, asterisks, or "creative punctuation choices" in your fact names might show up when you print reports or export via FBC. What looks neat in the setup phase can end up looking... a bit odd on the page.

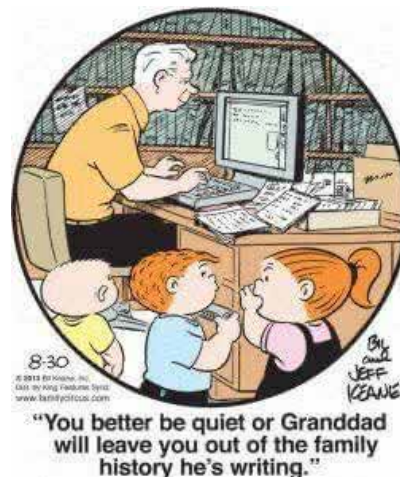
So, a simple rule of thumb: Name your facts clearly, consistently, and with future-you in mind. Your reports (and your sanity) will thank you later.

Attach Your New Facts (Yes, All of Them!)

Creating your custom facts is only half the job - now you need to attach them to your "Fact Creation" person.

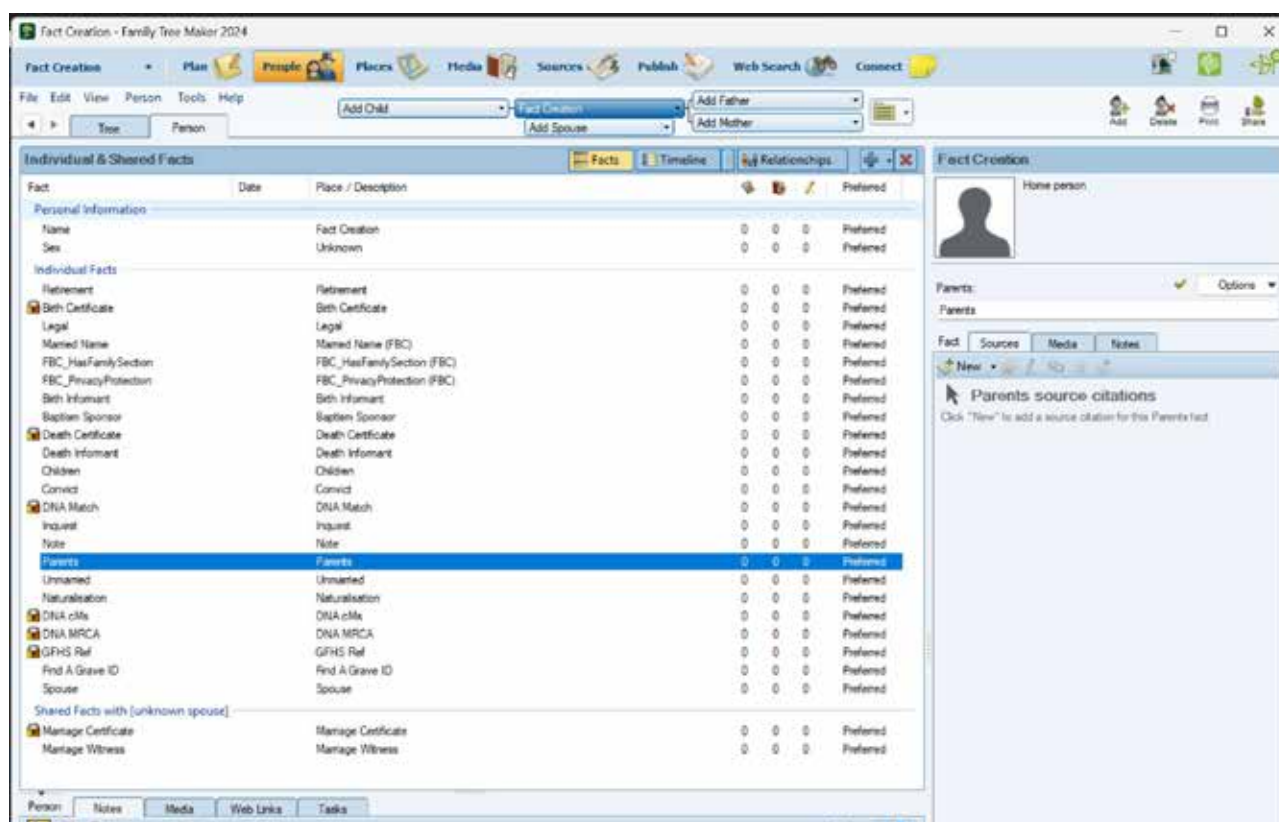
Why? Because this is the trick that makes the whole template idea work. When you merge this person into another tree in Family Tree Maker, any facts attached to them come along for the ride. No attachment = no transfer!

So, go through and add each of your custom facts to your template person and to keep things neat (and a little self-documenting), I enter the name of the fact into the Description field. It's a simple way to double-check what's been added without scratching your head later.



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

You can also decide at this point if any facts should default to Private - handy for sensitive information. These will show with the little padlock icon.



Add a Single Media Item (Trust Me, This Matters)

Now for a slightly odd step that makes perfect sense once you've done it...

To create and manage **media categories**, Family Tree Maker insists that you already have at least one media item in your tree. No media = no categories. (Yes, really.)

So, add a single media item - any image will do. This isn't about content; it's just unlocking the feature.

That said, do yourself a favour and make it **very obvious** that this item is temporary. I named mine "**DELETE MEDIA**" - subtle, but effective! That way, when you merge your template into another tree later, it jumps out at you as something that needs to go.

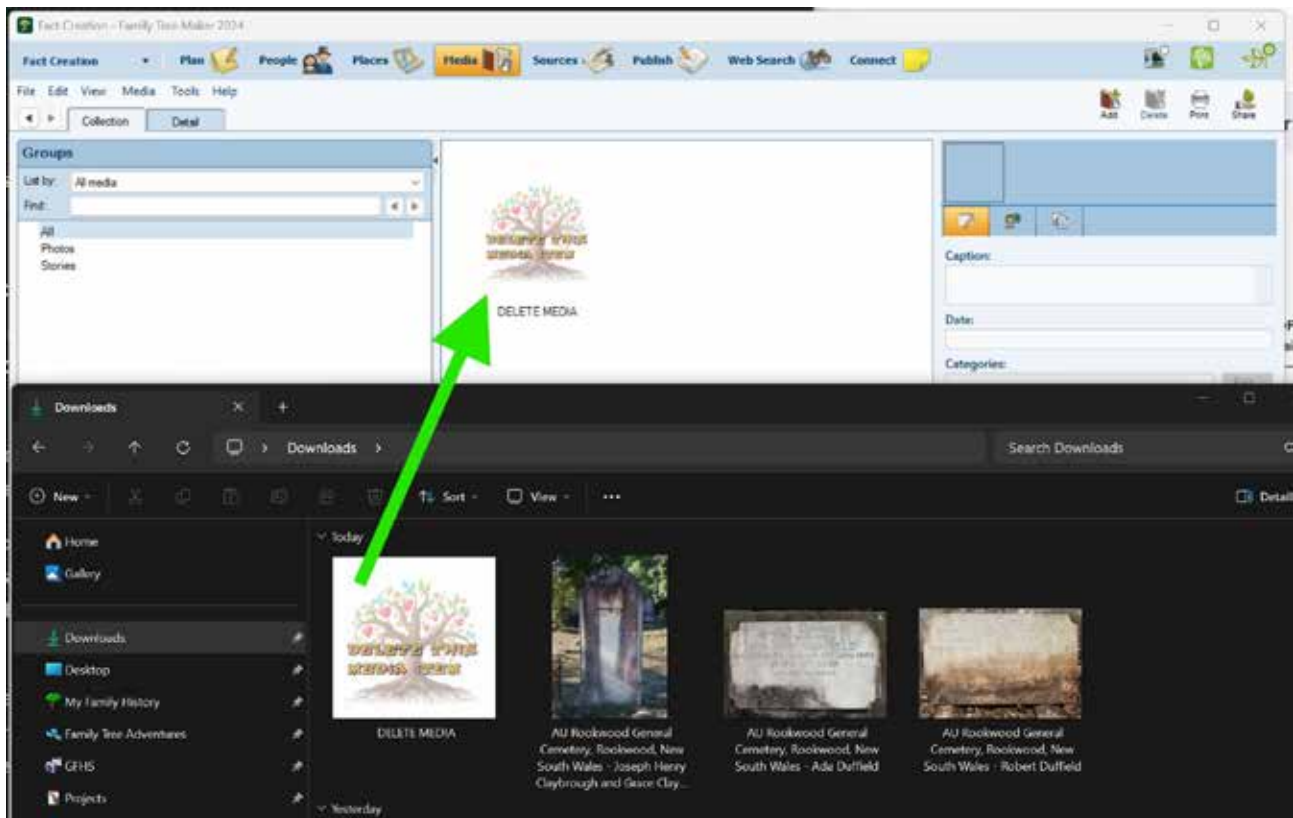
Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

To add it:

- Open the Media workspace
- Go to the Collection tab
- Drag your picture into the media area

And that's it - you now have everything in place to start setting up your media categories.

You could even just take a snip of this picture and save it as your 'DELETE MEDIA' picture.



Add New Media Categories (and put them to work).

Now that you've got your "placeholder" media item sitting there, it's time to make it earn its keep.

In Family Tree Maker, media categories are a great way to organise your images - think of them as labels or folders that help you group things logically. The good news? They don't appear in reports, so you can organise to your heart's content without worrying about cluttering your output.

Even better, you can assign multiple categories to a single item - because let's face it, some records just refuse to fit neatly into one box.

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

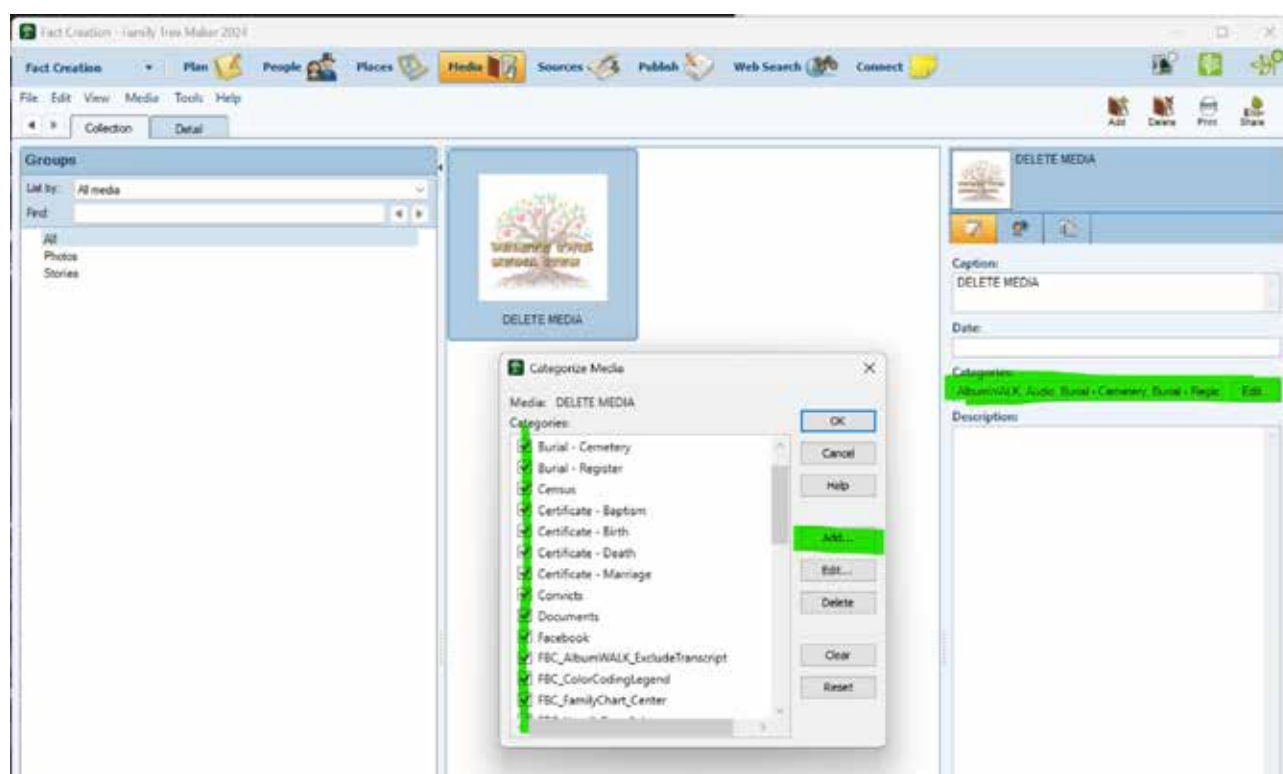
If you're using the Family Book Creator plugin, media categories become even more useful. FBC uses them to help control how images are displayed in your book, things like size and placement. That's why you'll see categories in the FBC manual that start with FBC_. These need to be created exactly as specified, no creative flair here, unfortunately! (easiest is to copy and paste).

Alongside those, you can create your own categories based on how you think about your media. Mine tend to be nice and practical - things like: Newspapers, Census, Immigration, Military, Wills (I then have a specific naming convention for each media category, that also flows through to my captions and eventually to any reports and books I create; the whole naming convention is a whole big discussion by itself, but feel free to name yours in a way that makes sense to you - future-you will appreciate it.)

To set them up:

- Click on your media item in the Media workspace
- On the righthand side, find the Categories field and click "Edit"
- Add all your new categories
- Make sure you select the categories, so they are actually applied to the media item (easy to miss!)
- Click OK to save

Once you are done, you can close the tree - your template is now fully loaded and ready for action.



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

Merge the Template Tree (The Payoff!)

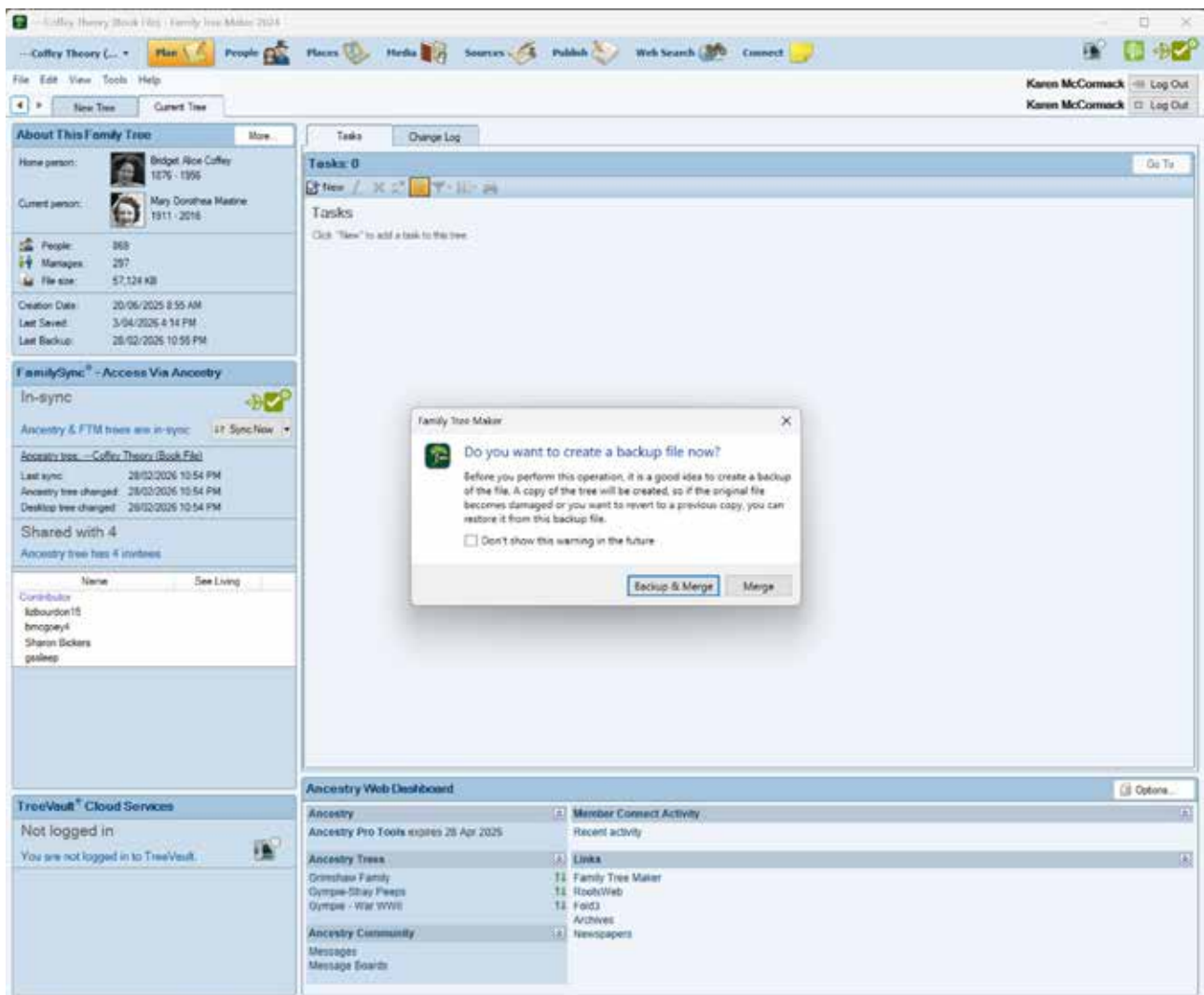
Now for the satisfying part - bringing all your hard work into your actual tree.

Open the tree you want to update in Family Tree Maker. Before you do anything else... yes, this is the responsible bit... make a backup and compact the file.

I know, I know - this is the step everyone *knows* they should do and sometimes quietly skips. But this is merging we're talking about, so it's worth taking the extra minute. You will be very grateful if anything goes sideways!

Once you're ready:

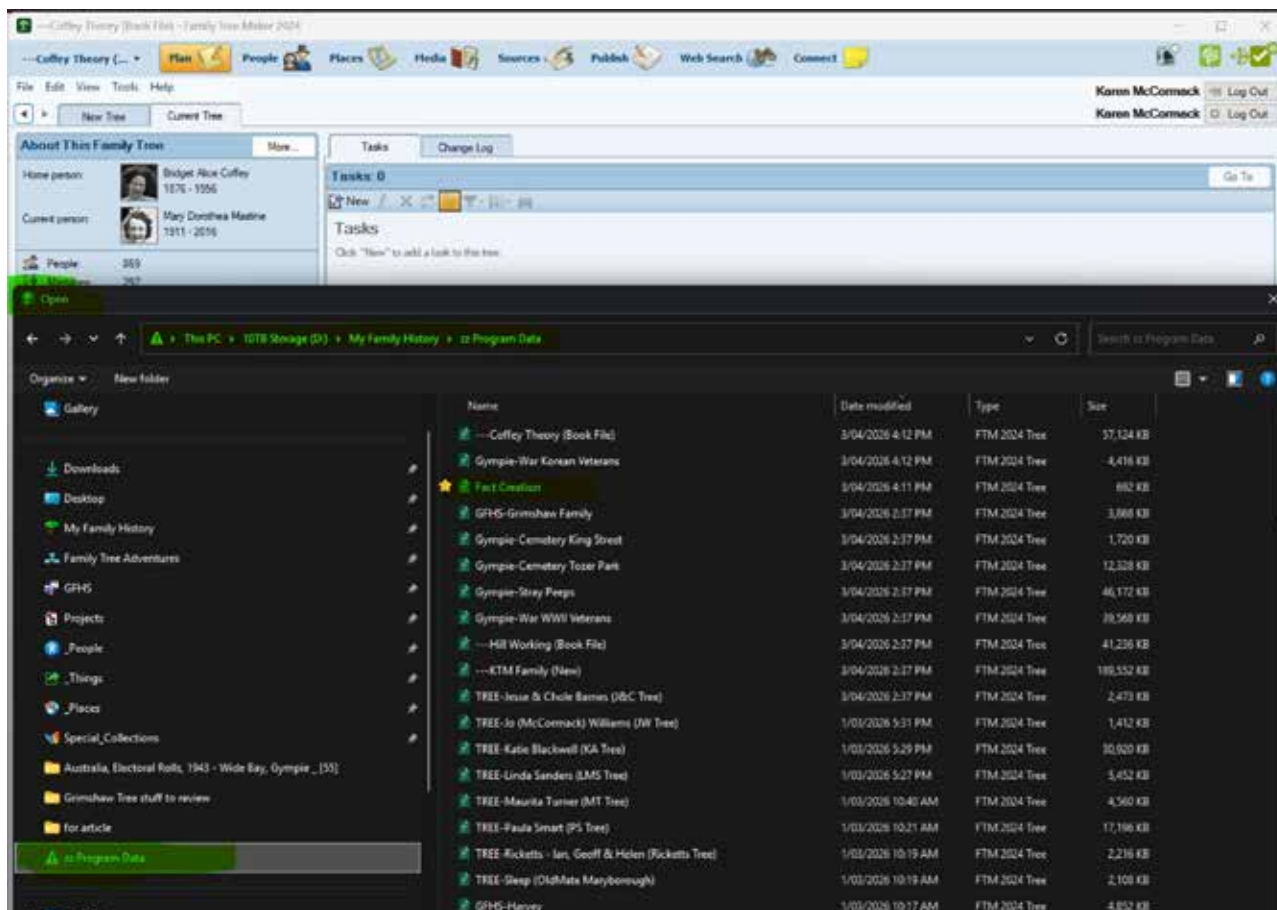
- Go to File → Merge from the menu
- If you've already completed your backup, go ahead and click Merge



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

This will open a Windows Explorer window. From here, navigate to wherever your FTM database files are stored and locate your Template Tree file (in my case, Fact Creation.ftm).

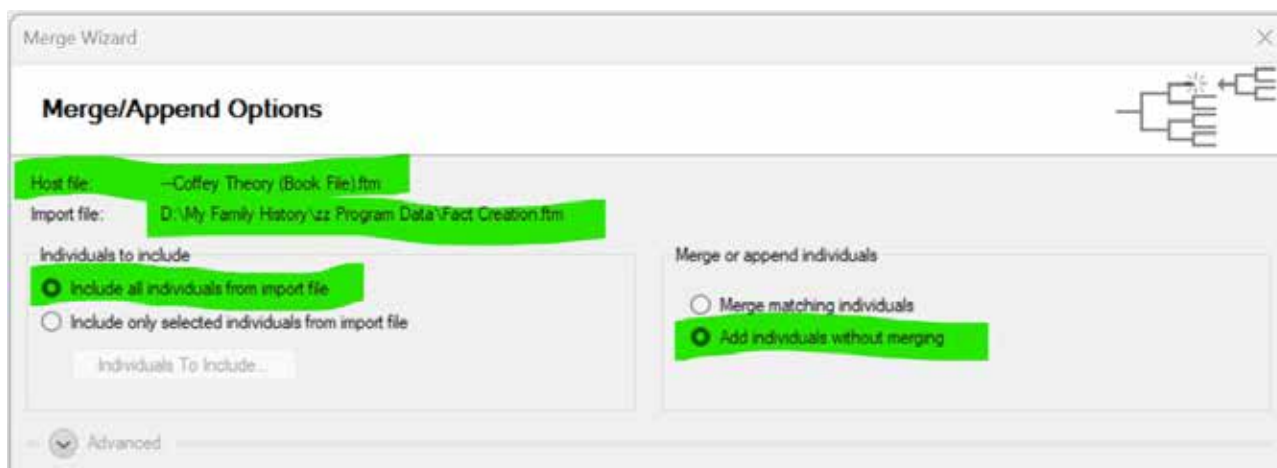
Select the file and click Open - and you are on your way.



Complete the Merge (Nearly There!)

You will now be prompted to make a few selections for the merge - nothing too tricky here. Once you're happy, click **Finish** and let Family Tree Maker do its thing.

And just like that, your **custom facts** and **media categories** are now available in your tree - no rebuilding required!



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

Clean Up (Don't Skip This Bit!)

All that's left now is a quick tidy-up to remove anything that came across with the template that you don't actually need.

Head into the Media workspace and change the List By option to Person. Scroll down to the bottom and you'll see a section called Unlinked - this is your friend right now.

Sitting there should be your very obvious placeholder media item (remember "DELETE MEDIA" doing its job?)

- Select the item
- Click Delete

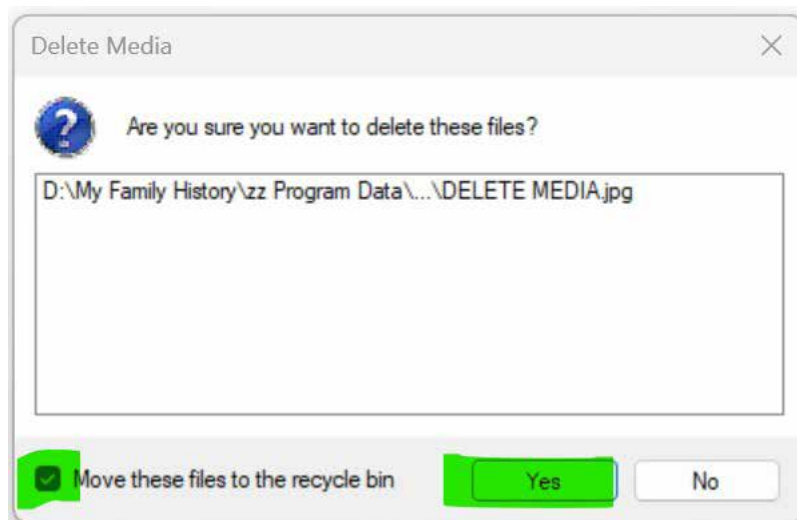


You'll get a popup asking what to do with the file. Make sure you choose:

- Move these files to the recycle bin

This step is important, otherwise the file will hang around in your Media folder on your computer, quietly refusing to go away.

Click Yes, and that's it - your media is now clean, consistent, and ready to go.



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

And there you have it - a reusable Template Tree that saves time, keeps everything consistent, and avoids that “didn’t I already set this up?” feeling.

Final Tidy-Up (One Last Thing!)

At this point, you’ll notice that your hard work has paid off - select any media item in Family Tree Maker and your full list of Media Categories is now available and ready to use.

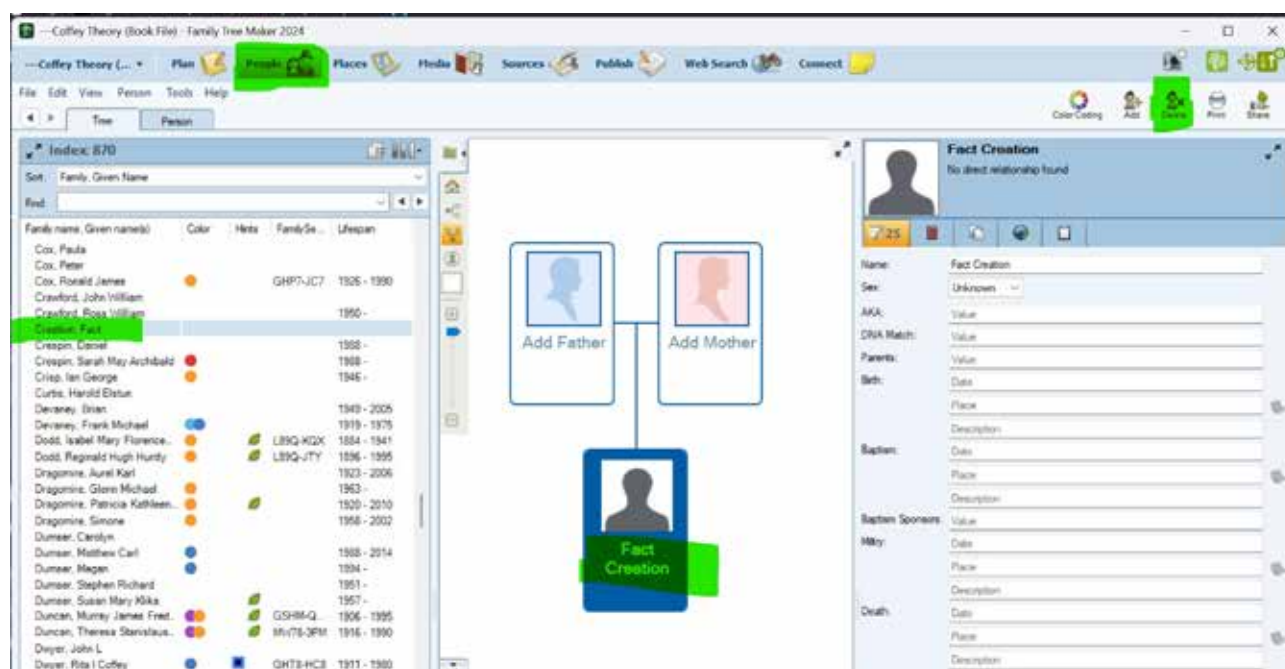
But before you celebrate, there’s one last little bit of housekeeping...

Your **Template Person** (the one we created right at the start) will still be sitting in your tree. Time to gently show them the door.

Head over to the **People workspace** and look at the **Tree Index** on the left-hand side. Because you cleverly gave them an obvious name (like “Fact Creation”), they should be easy to spot.

- Select the person
- Click Delete on the right-hand side
- Confirm the deletion

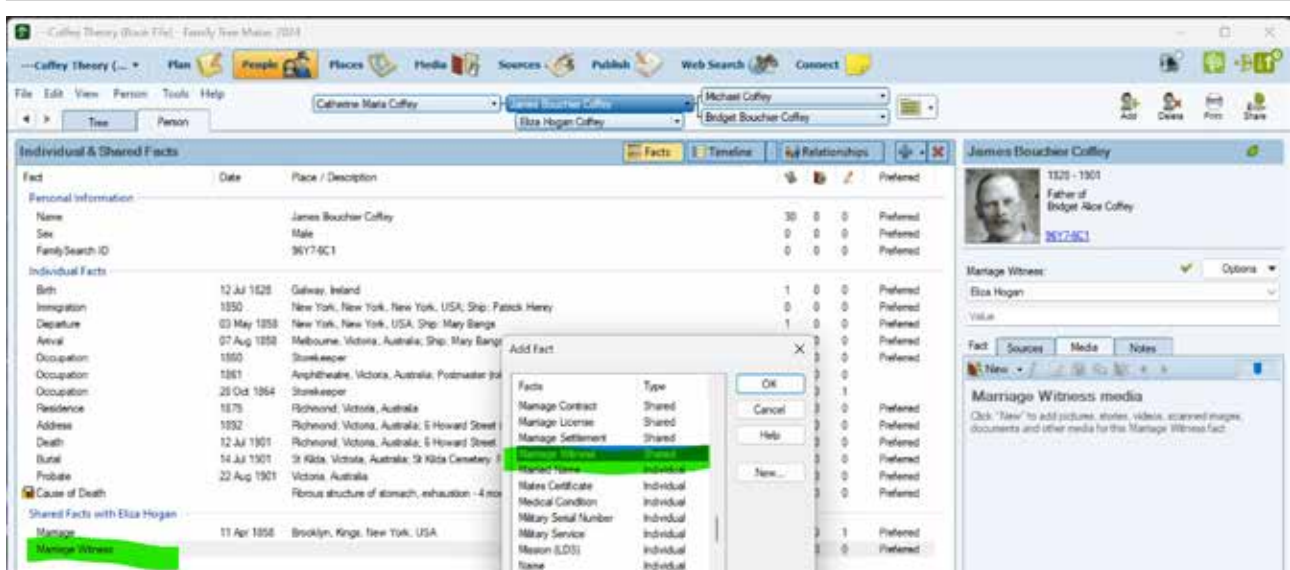
And just like that, they’ve done their job and can retire gracefully!



You're Good to Go

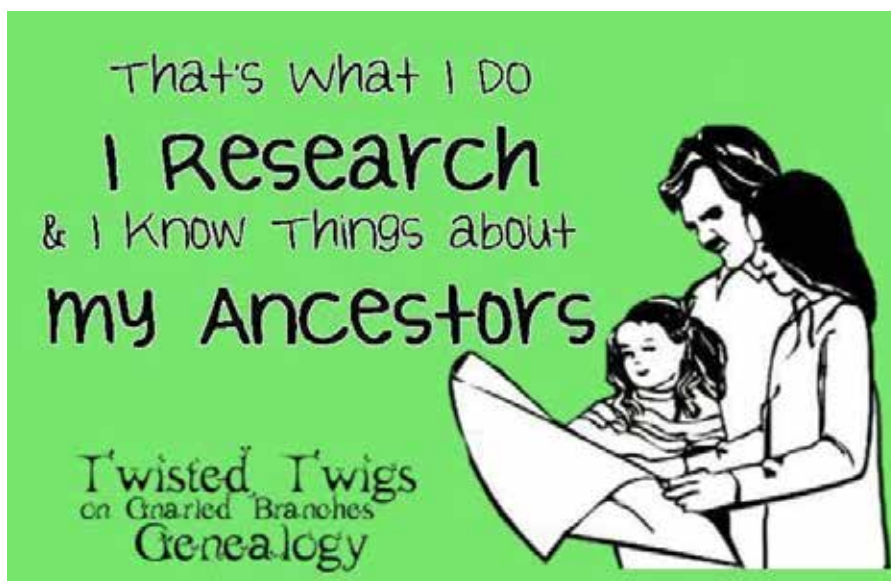
You can now start using any of your custom facts across your entire tree - no more recreating them, no more inconsistency, and no more wondering “what did I call that fact last time?”

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories



One of the great strengths of Family Tree Maker is just how flexible it is - you can truly make it work the way you think and research. This Template Tree approach is just one example of how a small bit of setup can save a lot of time (and a fair bit of repetition!) down the track. If you haven't tried creating your own standard set of facts and media categories before, I'd encourage you to give it a go. Start simple, refine it as you work, and before long you'll have a system that feels like it was designed just for you - because, in a way, it was.

And the real beauty of this approach? It's not a one-off. As your research evolves, you can keep your Template Tree updated with new facts or media categories, then simply merge it again into multiple trees to keep everything consistent. It works brilliantly with existing trees - whether it's one you created years ago, a GEDCOM someone has sent you, or a tree downloaded from an online platform. Once it's opened as a file in Family Tree Maker, you can merge in your Template Tree and instantly bring it into line with your way of working, including capturing the facts that matter most to your research. Efficient? Absolutely. Lazy? Well... I prefer to think of it as *strategically avoiding unnecessary work!*



Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

Family Book Creator (FBC) Fact types and Media Categories trigger specialised formatting or control how content is displayed in your final document.

I think these are all of them, but if you know of more, please let the team know so we can add it to our list. I have extracted these from the latest FBC 2024 Manual, to consider adding to your template tree. You can find out more about how each one can be used by searching for it within the FBC Manual.

Custom Fact Types & Elements

Category-Name	Function-/Effect
FBCExclude	<i>(This isn't a fact, it's an element to use within FTM Facts)</i> If you have a specific fact or citation that you want to keep in your database but never want to show up in a book, type FBCExclude into the Description field of that fact or the Justification field of the citation. FBC is programmed to see that keyword and skip that item entirely.
FBC_HasFamilySection	Allow family sections for individuals who would not get their own family section by default. (individuals with no children and no spouse but might have media you want to include) Mark private so it doesn't appear in reports
FBC_PrivacyProtection	Specify privacy protection options for selected individuals. (Suppress, Anonymous, Reduce, Private, None as well as controlling media attached to the person using additional values)
Married-Name	(shared fact) Specifies what surname the couple uses after marriage, or if they continue to use two different names.

Family Book Creator Media Categories

These are categories you manually create in FTM and assign to specific media items to control their behavior in the book.

Category-Name	Function-/Effect
FBC_AlbumWALK_ExcludeTranscript	Omits text from AlbumWALK Soundspot Transcript's
FBC_ColorCodingLegend	Uses document as custom Color Coding Legend
FBC_Exclude	Adding this to the Justification field of a source citation (or as a category for media) tells FBC to skip it.
FBC_FamilyChart_Center	If there are multiple photos attached to the marriage fact, or if you wish to embed a photo that is not attached to the marriage fact, it is necessary to mark the photo that should be used by adding the photo to the custom media category
FBC_FamilyChart_Center	Marks photo that should be used in the center of a family chart.
FBC_HandleStoryAsImage	Forces FBC to treat a PDF or text document as an image (useful for certificates or newspaper clips).

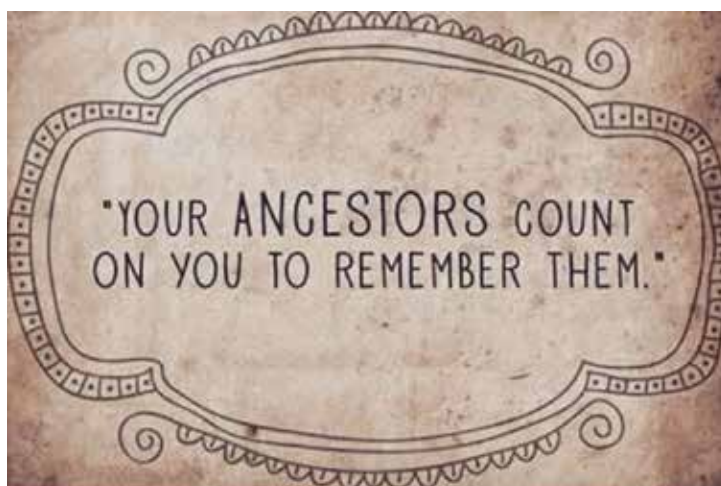
Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

FBC_HandleStoryAsImage	To include pages from a PDF document as images in the media section of a family, PDF files must be assigned this media category. Additional categories specify additional details relating to the PDF.
<u>FBC_IncludeOnlyFirstPage</u>	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsImage Only the first page of a PDF document will be included in the media section.
FBC_IncludeAllPages	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsImage All pages of a PDF document will be included in the media section.
<u>FBC_UseOnlyLargestImage</u>	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsImage The largest image found in a PDF document will be used. This will avoid large white page borders around a birth certificate, newspaper clipping, etc.
<u>FBC_UseOnlyImages</u>	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsImage All images found in a PDF document are going to be included in the media section.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText	Include content from word processor documents as document.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText_AfterFamilyChart	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Allows placing the content of a document after the family chart of the respective family.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText_BeforeFamilyChart	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Allows placing the content of a document before the family chart of the respective family.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText_Continuous	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Starts the section on the same page as the previous section.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText_EvenPage	Starts the section on the next even-numbered page.
FBC_HandleStoryAsText_KeepSections	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Starts the section as per the default, on the following page.
<u>FBC_HandleStoryAsText_NewPage</u>	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Starts the section on the following page.
<u>FBC_HandleStoryAsText_OddPage</u>	In-Addition-to-FBC_HandleStoryAsText Starts the section on the next odd-numbered page.
FBC_IncludeAllPages	Ensures every page of a PDF document is included in the Photo Album.
FBC_IncludeAllPages	All pages of a PDF document will be included in the media section.
FBC_IncludeOnlyFirstPage	When used with a multi-page PDF, only the first page is rendered in the Photo Album.
<u>FBC_IncludeOnlyFirstPage</u>	Only the first page of a PDF document will be included in the media section.
<u>FBC_PhotoAlbum_FullWidth</u>	Forces the specific media item to span the full width of the page in the Photo Album.
FBC_PhotoAlbum_100%OfFullWidth	It is possible to specify any numeric value between 10 and 100 for the percentage P within

Template Tree - for Facts & Media Categories

	<p>the-media-categories- <u>FBC PhotoAlbum P%OfFullWidth</u>, which can be used to increase or decrease the size of images listed inside media sections. ← 100% of text width -- If you are using a media category with 50% or higher only one image is shown in a single row. ▢</p>
FBC PhotoAlbum_95%OfFullWidth ▢	95% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_90%OfFullWidth ▢	90% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_85%OfFullWidth ▢	85% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_80%OfFullWidth ▢	80% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_75%OfFullWidth ▢	75% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_70%OfFullWidth ▢	70% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_65%OfFullWidth ▢	65% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_60%OfFullWidth ▢	60% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_55%OfFullWidth ▢	55% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_50%OfFullWidth ▢	50% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_45%OfFullWidth ▢	45% of text width -- If you are using a media category with 49% or lower, two images are shown in a single row. ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_40%OfFullWidth ▢	40% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_35%OfFullWidth ▢	35% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_30%OfFullWidth ▢	30% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_25%OfFullWidth ▢	25% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_20%OfFullWidth ▢	20% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_15%OfFullWidth ▢	15% of text width ▢
FBC PhotoAlbum_10%OfFullWidth ▢	10% of text width ▢
FBC_UseOnlyLargestImage ▢	FBC scans a PDF for the largest image and crops out white margins/text (great for digital archives). ▢
<u>FBC_UseOnlyLargestImage</u> ▢	Only the largest image found in a PDF document will be used. ▢

Karen McCormack
 VicGUM Member





Don't be Scammed



During May, GUM was made aware of an email circulating in Australia, and possibly the world, which appeared to come from Software MacKiev, but this is incorrect. The email was produced by scammers.

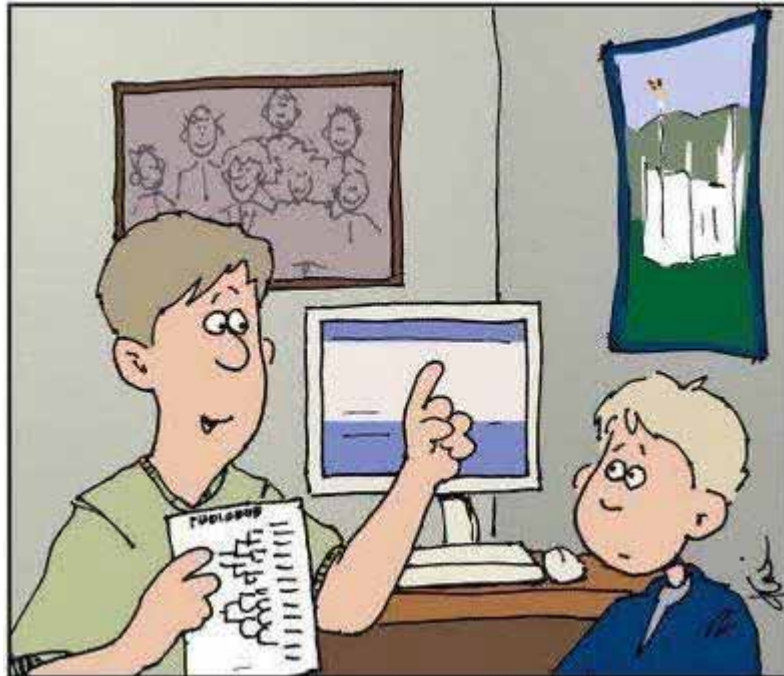
The email address used by the scammers was support@familytreemakersafe.com and offered a book called "Family Tree Maker Safety Guidebook".

If you receive an email like this, please delete it immediately!

I have been liaising with Family Tree Maker (Software MacKiev) and provided them with a copy of the email. Their technical people are investigating this and will keep me updated as things progress.

In the meantime, do not click on any of the links offered in this email, as we do not want you to compromise the security in your own computer or be scammed of your money.

Peter Reading
VicGUM President



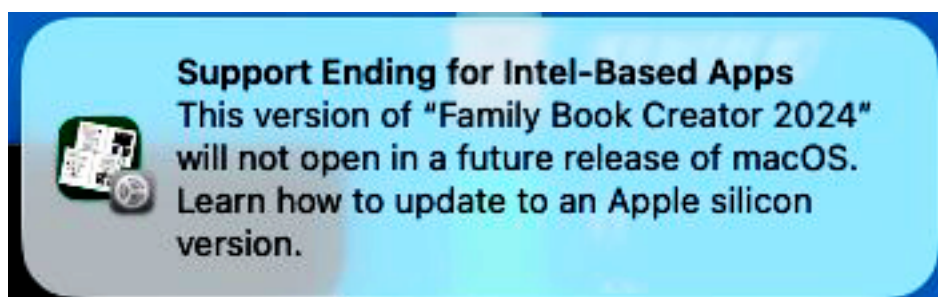
“Doing genealogy is like playing hide and seek with your ancestors - except they want to be found”

Important Changes with Apple Mac Operating Systems

IMPORTANT NOTICE - This article only applies to Mac users. Those GUM members from the “Dark Side” (Windows) may safely avoid ever having to read this article.

There is an old truism: “There is nothing more Constant than Change”. It surely applies to computers.

You have just updated your Apple Mac computer to the latest Mac Operating System (MacOS) 26.4 or .5 and you get this message when you opened Family Book Creator (or it could be another application (program)).



Now already there are a few changes going on. *Apple* has changed its numbering system for MacOS. It has jumped from 15.x *Sequoia* to 26.x *Tahoe*. The reason is that its iOS (the operating system used on iPhones), is also 26.x.

This follows the major iOS 26 and MacOS release, which features “Liquid Glass” design, updated Photos, and *Apple Intelligence* enhancements. *Apple* is bringing the features of its computers and phones together, including the operating system numbering.

Apple Computer Chips

OK some nomenclature. All computers and smart phones have a central processor or “chip”. Perhaps the best known is the range of chips manufactured by *Intel*: <https://www.intel.com> and known as i5, i7, i9 etc. Most *Windows* computers and up to about five years ago all Mac computers ran on *Intel* chips. And, as you can imagine, the operating system or OS whether it be a Mac or a *Windows* version e.g. *Windows 10* or *Windows 11* supported the *Intel* chips.

Apple M Chip AKA “Apple silicon”.

It has all changed! The *Apple M1* chip was announced on November 10, 2020, during *Apple*’s “One More Thing” event, and released shortly after on November 17, 2020. It was launched to power the first ARM-based MacBook Air, 13-inch MacBook Pro, and Mac mini models, marking the beginning of *Apple*’s transition from *Intel* processors to its own silicon. <https://support.apple.com/en-au/116943>

Important Changes with Apple Mac - Cont'd



And since then, *Apple* has released better and better M silicon chips (currently M5). Mac users: to see what chip your computer has, click on the *Apple* icon on the top left of your screen and select “About This Mac”. You can see that I have an old *Intel* i5 chip, But it also has a beautiful 27 inch Retina 5k resolution screen and 32 GB of RAM and a new 2 TB SSD. And that is fine for me. It runs on macOS 15.7.5 (not 26.x) for reasons that I will get to shortly.

Now the macOS has had to cope with both the *Intel* chips and also for the last 6 years its own M chips more commonly referred to as “M silicon”.

So what the notice above means is that Apple is going to stop supporting Intel Chips and only support its own M silicon.

And the consequences of this is the next bit. To do this properly, and as I am no expert, I am going to turn to my AI friend, “Mr Claude”.

Apple has been systematically phasing out *Intel* Mac support:

- macOS 26 Tahoe (released September 2025) — macOS Tahoe is the final version of macOS that supports (some) Intel-based Macs. The only remaining Intel-based Macs supported by Tahoe are the Mac Pro (2019), the MacBook Pro (16-inch, 2019), the MacBook Pro (13-inch, 2020, four Thunderbolt 3 ports), and the iMac (2020).
- macOS 27 (expected September 2026) — You will need a Mac with an M-series chip in order to install macOS 27. Intel processors are not expected to be supported at all.
- macOS 28 (expected 2027) — Starting with macOS 28, Rosetta 2 will be largely discontinued. Apple says that after that point, it “will keep a subset of Rosetta functionality aimed at supporting older unmaintained gaming titles, that rely on Intel-based frameworks.”

What is Rosetta 2 and Why Does It Matter?

Rosetta 2 is Apple’s translation layer that allows Apple Silicon Macs to run apps built for *Intel*. The key facts:

- Rosetta is currently available for any Mac with Apple silicon, and it will remain available through the forthcoming macOS 27.

Important Changes with Apple Mac - Cont'd

- Rosetta will still be included in MacOS 27 for all Intel-based apps, but in MacOS 28 and beyond it will be restricted to just older games that are basically abandoned. MacOS 26.4 is already warning you! (see the first image in this article)

Starting with MacOS 26.4, users will now be notified when launching an app that requires Rosetta 2 that it will soon be discontinued. So if you're seeing these warnings now, they're intentional nudges from Apple.

What Should Users Do? If you're on an *Intel* Mac

Users who own *Intel*-based Macs should rest easy knowing their computer will still be plenty useful even after the release of MacOS 27. Apple typically provides three years of support from the initial release, so MacOS 15.x, which was released in 2025, will likely still get updates until 2028.

That said, you won't get new features, and the clock is ticking. Upgrading to an Apple Silicon Mac will be necessary to stay current with future MacOS updates and features.

If you're on an Apple Silicon Mac running *Intel* apps via Rosetta

You can check an app's compatibility by selecting the app's icon and pressing Command+I. In the General section, look at the listing for "Kind." If an app is "Apple silicon" or "Universal," it will continue to work when MacOS 28 arrives. However, if an app is "*Intel*," it will stop working.

Your action steps:

1. **Audit your apps now** - use Activity Monitor (Applications>Utilities) and check the "Kind" column. Apps showing "Intel" are the ones at risk.
2. **Check for updates** - if you got the app from the App Store, use the App Store to find and install updates. Some apps offer a built-in "Check for Updates" option. You can also check the developers' website for a "Universal" or "Apple silicon" version. Apple Support.
3. **Contact your developers** - if an app hasn't been updated, contact the developer and ask for a native Apple Silicon version. They have until roughly late 2027.
4. **Plan for alternatives** - if no update becomes available, your options include looking for a new app altogether, or using an older secondary Mac to run any Intel apps when you need them.
5. **Consider a virtual machine VM¹ as a bridge** - if you can run your Intel-only app in Sonoma or later using Rosetta translation, it should run very well in a VM of the same version of MacOS on a host running MacOS 28 after full Rosetta support has been removed.

¹ A virtual machine (VM) is a software-based emulation of a physical computer that runs an operating system and applications. It acts as an isolated, independent computer within your main computer (the "host"). Essentially, a VM is a computer file—often referred to as an "image" or "instance"—that behaves like a separate physical computer, with its own allocated CPU, memory, storage, and network interface. Using Parallels in a Mac to run Windows, something I have done for 13 years, is an example of VM.

Important Changes with Apple Mac - Cont'd

The Bottom Line

The transition follows a clear two-stage sunset: *Intel* Macs lose OS support with MacOS 27 (September 2026), and then Rosetta 2 begins to disappear with MacOS 28 (September 2027). Users of current apps on Intel hardware should start planning hardware upgrades, and all users — even on Apple Silicon — should audit their apps now to identify any Intel-only software that may need to be replaced or updated before 2027.

Claude is AI and can make mistakes.

My Conclusions

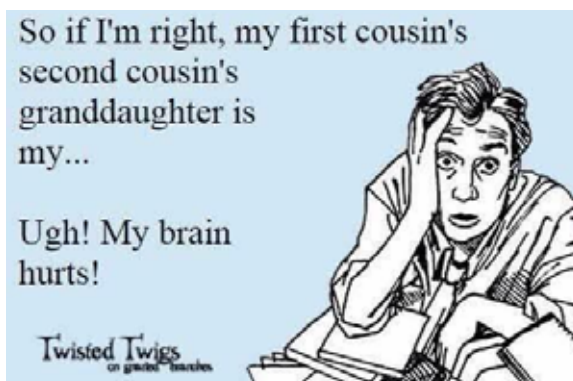
I don't particularly want to pay out \$2,000 plus for a new 24 inch iMac with an M5 processor (be nice, but at my stage of life, I don't need it), so for the moment, as my Intel iMac will not run MacOS 26.x, I have updated to MacOS 15.x which is still being supported and probably will be for two more years.

My concern is developers of software like *FTM*, *FBC*, *Charting Companion*, plus the big ones like *Microsoft Office for Mac*, and *Adobe Creative Cloud* (*Photoshop*, *Illustrator*, *InDesign* [ID is being used to write this article] etc. will only support non Rosetta applications by 2027/28. I don't see them supporting BOTH *Intel* and M chips.

However, saying that, the support ending message was posted to the Facebook *Charting Companion* group, with a "what does this all mean?" plea and Pierre Clouthier, the President of *Progeny Software* posted that he is going to support both. Good on you Pierre! Pierre is the next Sunday event speaker on GUM (24th May) and I have asked him to expand. He has agreed to do so. After Pierre's talk, download his video from the GUM website Members>Resources>Streams.

I foresee a wave of what does this all mean? queries on software Facebook sites including GUMnet etc., as MacOS 26.4 and beyond and its warning message becomes more common and hopefully this article will help to explain what is going on. I will be very interested to see what my favourite software (as noted above) developers do, and no doubt GUM will keep its members up to date, as it has always done for the last 45 years.

John Donaldson
VicGUM Life Member



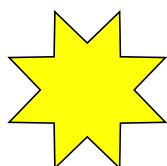
Special Offers

Special Offers for GUM Members

GUM has secured special pricing for members to purchase various software as listed below:

- Family Tree Maker - discount of 45% from the standard price
- Family Book Creator - discount of 33% from the standard price
- Charting Companion - discount of 30% from the standard price
- Cite Builder - discount of 20% from the standard price

See below for more details regarding each individual special offer.

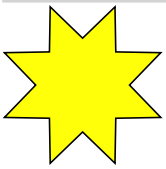


Family Tree Maker Special Offer for GUM Members

GUM has secured special pricing for members to purchase Family Tree Maker, at a discount of 45%. To take up this offer, log in to the VicGUM website, click on “Shop>Software” and then on the “FTM logo”. Click on the link to order and it will lead you to the more detailed webpage from which you can access the special offer on the mackiev.com website. The software can be purchased as a download, a DVD plus download, or a USB plus download.



Special offer of 45% discount from the standard price of Family Tree Maker for all VicGUM members.



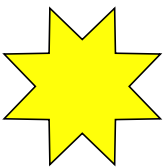
Family Book Creator Special Offer for GUM Members

GUM has secured special pricing for members to purchase Family Book Creator, at a discount of 33%. To take up this offer, log in to the VicGUM website, click on “Shop>Software” and then on the “FBC logo”. Follow the instructions on the webpage and click on the link to order to take advantage of the discount.

Family Book Creator

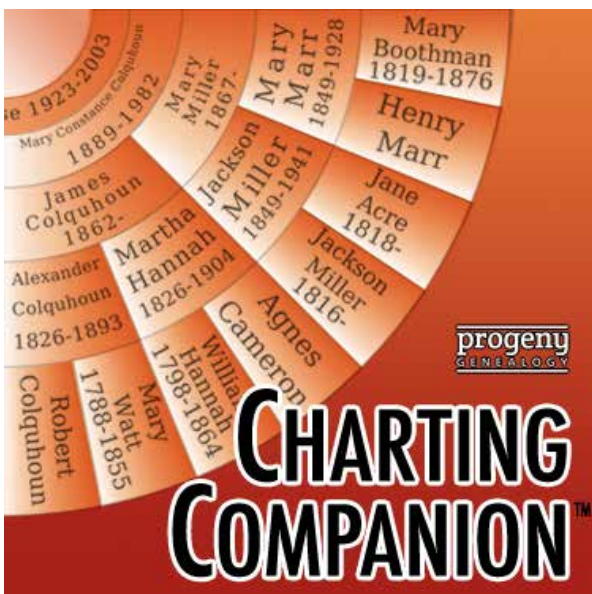
A plugin for Family Tree Maker®

Special offer of 33% discount from the standard price of Family Book Creator for all VicGUM members.



Charting Companion Special Offer for GUM Members

GUM has secured special pricing for members to purchase Charting Companion, at a discount of 30%. To take up this offer, log in to the VicGUM website, click on “Shop>Software” and then on the “Charting Companion Image”. This will lead you to the more detailed webpage from which you can access the special offer on the Progeny Genealogy website. Click on the link provided in “the member’s section” and select your choice of download. Special GUM Discount Code is VICGUMNOEX.



Special offer of 30% discount from the standard price of Charting Companion for all VicGUM members. See next page for instructions.



Charting Companion Special Offer for GUM Members

STEP 1

After clicking on the Charting Companion Image in the VICGUM website (members section), the screen below will appear. Select your option of operating system, ie “Buy Windows Download” or “Buy macOS Download”.



STEP 2


A new screen will appear (see below). The following needs to be entered into the new screen:

- Email Address
- Country
- Postcode
- Discount Coupon Code “VICGUMNOEX”
- Tick or leave Unticked the option to receive product updates and offers via email

Charting Companion Special Offer - Continued

Order summary

A\$82.93 inc. GST




Charting Companion 8 (Windows)
Charting Companion 8 for Windows by Progeny


1


Subtotal	A\$75.39
Add discount	A\$7.54
GST	A\$7.54
Total	A\$82.93


Your details > Payment ✕


We collect this information to help combat fraud, and to keep your payment secure.

Email address * 

Country *  Australia

ZIP/Postcode * 

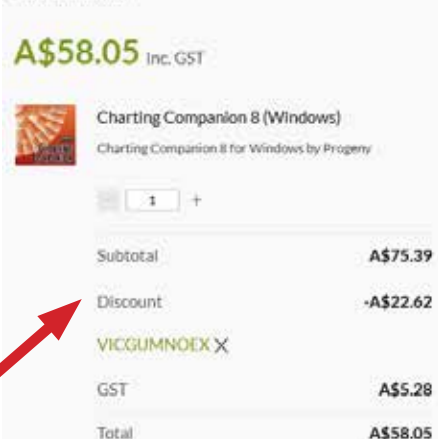
Progeny Genealogy Inc. may send me product updates and offers via email. It is possible to opt-out at any time. 

Continue 


STEP 3

Once you click on “Continue”, you will see a summary of your entry including the cost of the software download including the discount offer. Click on “Continue” to go to the payment section.

As you can see by the example shown, you will save \$22.62 on the download with the discount.



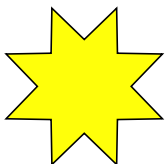
A\$58.05 Inc. GST



Charting Companion 8 (Windows)
Charting Companion 8 for Windows by Progeny

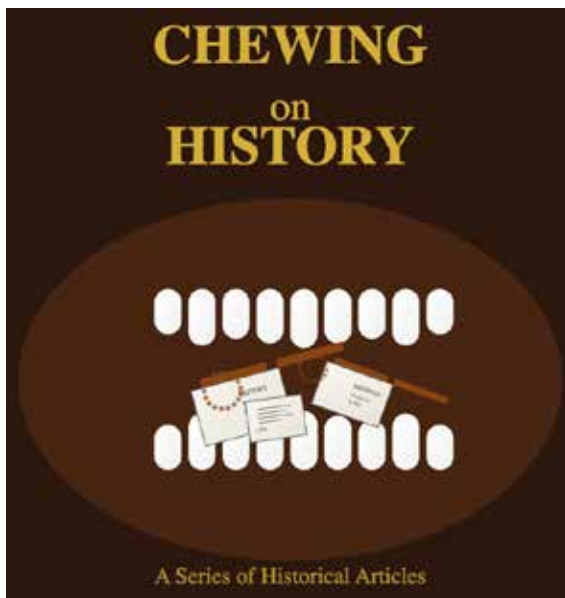
1

Subtotal	A\$75.39
Discount	-A\$22.62
VICGUMNOEX	
GST	A\$5.28
Total	A\$58.05



Cite-Builder Special Offer for GUM Members

GUM has secured special pricing for members to purchase Cite-Builder, at a discount of 20%. To take up this offer, log in to the VicGUM website, click on “Shop>Software” and then on the “Cite-Builder Logo”. This will lead you to the more detailed webpage from which you can access the special offer. Click on the link provided in “the member’s section” and select your choice of download. Special GUM Discount Code is “vicgum”.



How would an IBM 370 mainframe computer compare against a current day home computer?

The comparison is pretty dramatic - a modern home computer would absolutely demolish an IBM System/370 mainframe from the 1970s.

Processing Power: The System/370 series ran at maybe 1-5 MIPS (millions of instructions per second) for typical models. A current mid-range home computer CPU runs at roughly 100,000-300,000 MIPS. So, you're looking at something like 50,000 times faster or more.

Memory: A well-equipped System/370 might have had 1-16 MB of RAM, and that was considered substantial for the era. Today's home computers typically have 16-32 GB of RAM - that's literally 1,000 to 32,000 times more memory.

Storage: The System/370 used disk drives that might store 100-300 MB total, and they were the size of washing machines. A modern home computer has 500 GB to 2 TB of SSD storage - 5,000 to 20,000 times the capacity, and vastly faster access times.

Physical Size: The System/370 filled an entire room, required raised floors for cabling, needed industrial air conditioning, and drew tens of kilowatts of power. Your home computer fits on a desk and uses maybe 100-300 watts.

Cost: A System/370 installation cost millions of dollars (equivalent to tens of millions today). A decent home computer costs \$800-1,500.

The only area where the mainframe might have an edge is in I/O throughput and handling massive numbers of simultaneous transactions - mainframes were designed for that workload. But in raw computing power, storage, and efficiency, it's not even close. A smartphone today has more computing power than the mainframes that put humans on the moon.

Submitted by John Donaldson
VicGUM Life Member

DID YOU KNOW?

Are you aware that GUM hosts two Family Tree Maker (FTM) User Groups, one Reunion User Group each month and also a Family Book Creator User Group every 2 months?

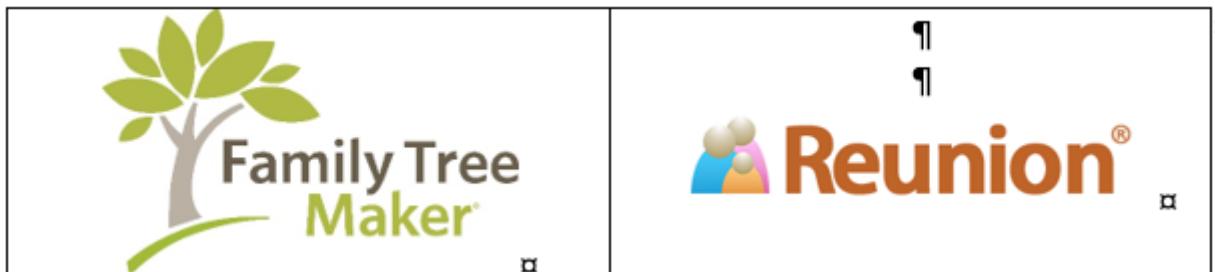
These are held on Zoom and are FREE for GUM members. Sessions usually run for 2 hours.

- The Family Tree Maker sessions are usually held on the first Friday of each month at 1pm to 3pm, and the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm.
- The Reunion User Group is usually held on the first Friday of each month at 2pm.
- The Family Book Creator User Group is held on the fourth Monday every two months at 7.30pm.

These sessions give all members the opportunity to learn more about using these programs. Each session includes a short presentation on the functionality of the software and then allows time for questions & answers to assist with specific queries.

All members are invited to attend at no cost. Check the VicGUM webpage for dates of future sessions. Select Events > Upcoming Events.

GUM Members will receive advance notice via GUMnet where they register to attend and, upon doing so, will receive a link to join the session. If you are unsure how to join a Zoom meeting, visit GUM's website for instructions.



Family Book Creator

Peter Reading
President

NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES INC.

CONFERENCE

2026



**Port Macquarie & Districts
Family History Society Inc.**

SAVE THE DATE

18, 19 & 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

THE PAPER TRAIL AND BEYOND



www.portmacconference2026.com



conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com



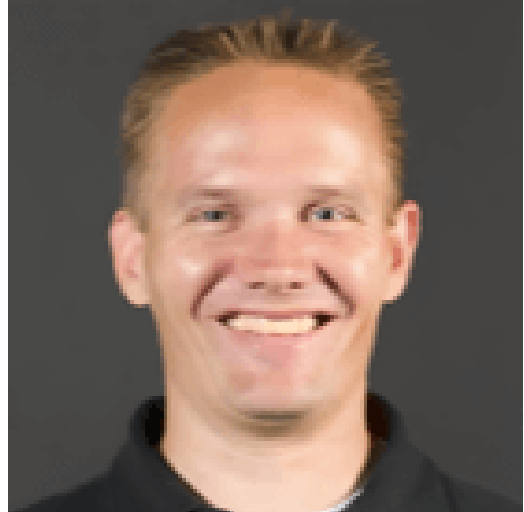
What's Happening in VicGUM?

Sunday 28th June 2026 @ 2.00 - 4.00pm

Mark Olsen - Family Tree Maker

Learn about the most recent additions to Family Tree Maker 2024!

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world, working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker.



Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007, and has been the Family Tree Maker Ambassador since 2016.

As an Ambassador, Mark is involved in teaching others about Family Tree Maker software through classes and virtual presentations, and by participating in genealogy conferences, where he shares insights and knowledge about genealogy and software.

He specialises in helping researchers effectively use Family Tree Maker, offering clear instruction and practical guidance that benefits beginners and experienced users alike.

These responsibilities leverage his extensive experience in genealogy, and aim to enhance user engagement and education in the field.

Zoom Meeting

What's Happening in VicGUM?

Family Tree Maker Workshop - NSW

VicGUM in association with SAG are holding a series of Workshops for Beginners and Intermediate Users of Family Tree Maker.



The intention of these workshops is to prepare and set up FTM for the purpose of writing a book.

Workshop #1 consisted of getting FTM set up with the new features in FTM 2024.
Workshop #2 focused on tidying up the entered data in FTM.
Workshop #3 focused on resolving place names.



FTM Workshop in Liaison with SAG - Peter Reading Presenting

**They said 40 is the
new 30 and 50 is the new
40. All I know is the older
I get, the more 9PM is the
new midnight.**

What's Happening in VicGUM?

Seniors Expo - Geelong

The Geelong Retirement Living & Senior Lifestyle Expo was held on Friday 1st May at the Geelong West Town Hall.

The event was represented by GUM committee members: Faye Dunn and Dennis O'Brien.

There was a good turn up of around 180 people over the 3 hours. While we did not gain any new members, there was interest.

It was noted that while many were into family history, a lot had other family members doing the work, or they only had manual records and were not keen to change to computer software.



Geelong Seniors Expo - 1st May 2026

Seniors Expo - Bendigo

The Bendigo Retirement Living & Senior Lifestyle Expo was held on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at the Strathdale Community Centre, 155 Crook Street, Strathdale.

The event was represented by GUM committee members, Peter Reading and Dennis O'Brien. There were similar numbers to Geelong, however the interest was a lot higher. 19 names of people were collected who wanted to attend an information session that Peter Reading is planning for mid May.

Based on the experience at Shepparton last year and Bendigo, there seems to be more direct interest in VicGUM at the country Expos. The committee will take that into consideration for future planning.



Seniors Expo Bendigo - Peter & Dennis

What's Happening in VicGUM?

Change is in the Air VicGUM is adopting a new Members Management System

In our future planning for 2025 and beyond, the VicGUM Committee gave special attention to our administration and member registration systems, which are cumbersome, labour-intensive and not giving us what we need for VicGUM's future.

So, Dennis O'Brien, the Vice President, and Phil Igoe, from the Committee, were asked to explore ways to better meet the Association's future needs.

Dennis and Phil investigated several management software providers and finally shared their findings with the Committee in early 2026. They suggested using TidyHQ, which offers an integrated administration, communication, membership, meetings and event management software program that they think would work well for VicGUM and help us grow and adapt to changes.

Since mid-April, Dennis and Phil, with advice from the Executive, have been working on rolling out this new system, using the membership information VicGUM already has, and they're aiming to go live on 1st July 2026 (though this date might change if we encounter any issues).

As you will know, there are sometimes small errors that occur when taking on something like this. We did have an incident where emails were incorrectly sent to 300 plus members. While we apologise for this nuisance, we are endeavouring to avoid a repeat.

For our members, this means that applications, renewals and updating member information will be automated, and all information will be in one program, which will help the Association manage keeping in touch with members more effectively.

In the future, the program will help us organise member events, user groups and better track what members are interested in, allowing us to provide more services.

Messages will be a bit different from how we do them now, and the automated renewal requests will give you similar payment options and more control over what membership levels you're interested in. The good news is that all current levels and fees will remain the same.

We might invite a few of you to be "beta" users, to ensure everything works smoothly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dennis at dennis@obrien.org.au or call 0408844553.

Submitted by:
Dennis O'Brien / Phil Igoe
VicGUM Committee

GUM - Help Wanted

Sunday Speaker Program Coordinator

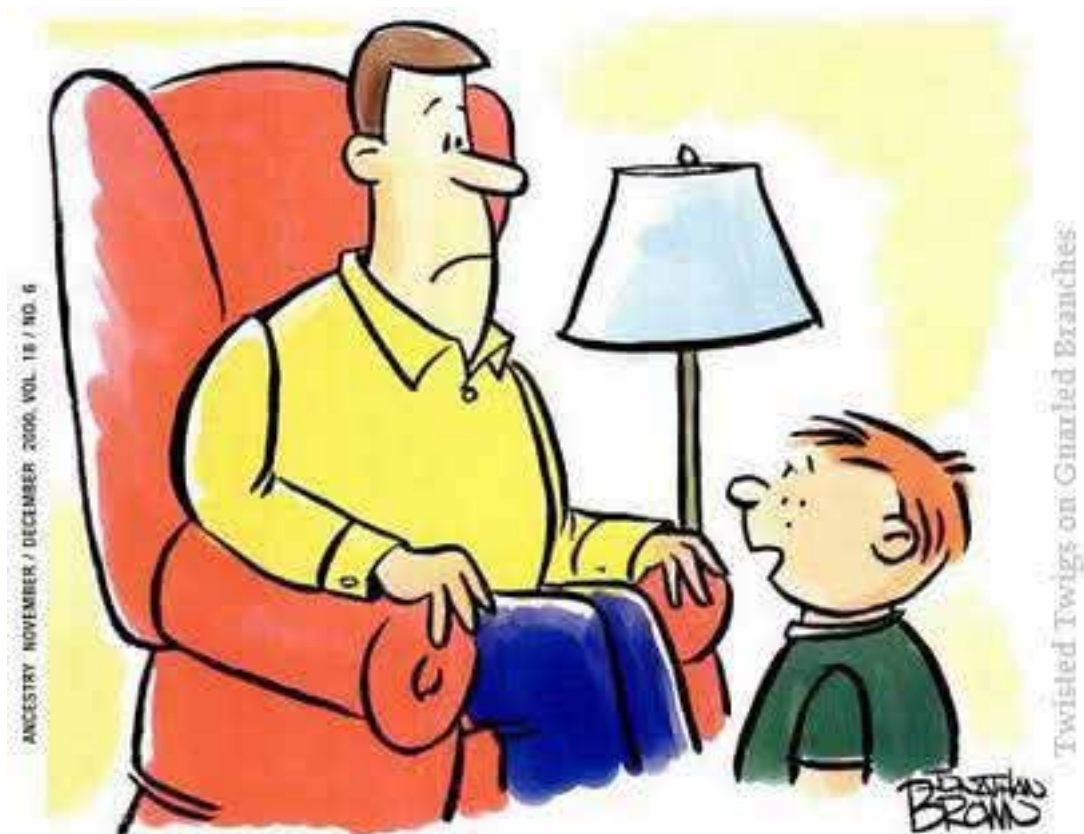
VicGUM conducts a monthly event, where we invite a guest speaker to provide a presentation to our members. Although most monthly events are conducted on Zoom, we hope to include more face-to-face events. This role would consist of securing speakers for Zoom and Hybrid meetings.

Membership Acquisition Coordinator

VicGUM's continued existence heavily depends on an inflow of new members. This role involves considering and presenting new member acquisition opportunities to the Committee. This includes securing tangible advertising opportunities and budgets.

Legacy User Group Leader

As part of our services, VicGUM would like to provide a Legacy User Group. This would be conducted on Zoom. The frequency of this User Group could be monthly or bi-monthly, and would depend on the interest and number of participants. This person would require a sound understanding of Legacy and be willing to share their knowledge to both beginner and advanced Legacy users.



“Dad, do you know we have the most boring family tree on the block?”

Zoom User Groups



June

- FTM Day:** The FTM day User Group for June will be on Friday 5th June 2026 at 1.00 to 3.00 pm AEST
(FTM Day User Group is held on the first Friday of each month)
- FTM Evening:** The FTM evening User Group for June will be on Monday 15th June 2026 at 7.30 to 9.30 pm AEST
(FTM Evening User Group is held on the third Monday of each month)
- Reunion:** The Reunion day User Group in June will be on Friday 5th June 2026 at 2.00 pm AEST
(FTM Day User Group is held on the first Friday of each month)
- FBC Evening:** There will not be an FBC evening User Group in June
(FBC Evening User Group is held on the fourth Monday every second month)

Note: All meetings run for approximately 2 hours.

Zoom User Group booking details are advised on GUMnet about one week before each event. User Group details are also advertised in the Calendar on the VicGUM website.

Registering your email on Zoom (Important!!)

Some folk have reported issues where Zoom has requested a registered email. This link, courtesy of Alyson Kosina, explains what you have to do.

https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0063624

Virtual Support Centre

The Virtual Support Centre arrangements are now more convenient for members.



To use the Virtual Support Centre, members should contact the Committee by email at:

info@vicgum.asn.au to make an appointment.

Appointments are now unrestricted, and members can arrange for personalised, one-on-one assistance, preferably on a weekday. In your email, advise your name, and indicate your issue or problem.

A committee member will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient day and time to assist you.

Your virtual meeting will take place using either Zoom or TeamViewer. For members who have not yet downloaded Zoom, there is a helpful fact sheet called Using Zoom which you can access on the VicGUM website. Go to the website: (www.vicgum.asn.au) and select Resources, then Public to download a copy.

Your query could be an equipment question, a membership or subscription question, a software or database issue, etc. Should the person conducting your virtual support meeting not adequately answer your question, they will arrange for someone else to contact you.

VicGUM MANAGEMENT TEAM

President Peter Reading 0429 044 099
 Vice President Dennis O'Brien 0408 844 553
 Secretary Don Clark 0409 334 551
 Treasurer Alyson Kosina 0410 611 259

Committee:

June Johnson (Editor) 0408 382 577
 Carolyn Lawrence 0415 508 138
 Faye Dunn (Assistant Secretary) 0419 022 884
 Phillip Igoe 0427 101 001
 Janette Lansdowne (Minutes Sec) 0409 146 718

Membership Officer:

Peter Reading 0429 044 099

Office Support Centre:

The Virtual Support Centre is available on Zoom. See Page 36.

Email: info@vicgum.asn.au

Website Manager:

websitemanager@vicgum.asn.au

General Enquiries:

info@vicgum.asn.au

GUMnet MAILING LIST

To post to GUMnet

gumnet@lists.vicgum.asn.au

Reunion: reunionusers@vicgum.asn.au

FTM UserGroup ftmusergroup@vicgum.asn.au

FBC UserGroup fbcusergroup@vicgum.asn.au

CURRENT GUM LIFE MEMBERS

Bruce Fullarton	John Wolff
Robyn Fisher	John Donaldson
Doug Elms	David Stephen
Bob Mullner	Alyson Kosina
Ken McInnes	Robyn Pidcock
Merilyn Grey	

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 MICROCOMPUTERS)
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 Yvonne Toomey
 Phil Igoe

Newsletter DEADLINES

Final copy for each issue of Victorian GUM Inc. News is due with the Editor by the first day of the preceding month.

Newsletter CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy is preferred in electronic form and may be sent to the Editor via email to:

editor@vicgum.asn.au

Most file formats can be handled. Preferred options for graphics are PNG, Tiff, Jpg. **Please send graphics separately** and indicate their placement in the text.

Need ASSISTANCE?

Editorial assistance is also available at:

editor@vicgum.asn.au

Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct, but no responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors.

VicGUM Payment Options. Subscriptions and Merchandise

There are three payment options, in order of preference

1. Online

Payment of memberships is available online through the VicGUM website, or by using one of the other options detailed on the VicGUM Membership page.

The website will enable you to pay with your credit card or debit card using the Fat Zebra (formerly the Australia Post SecurePay) payment gateway. If you prefer to use the PayPal option, you can sign into your PayPal account to make your payment.



2. By Direct Bank Deposit

Bank Account: via the VicGUM Website, or through your bank by using your internet banking facilities. The details you require are:

ANZ Bank BSB No: 013-030 Account No: 0079 87792

If using direct bank deposit, please, please, **PLEASE** also email details of your order/subscription renewal, etc., including your bank name and/or transaction number etc., to: info@vicgum.asn.au so we can match the payment.

VicGUM Subscriptions

One Year

Yearly Subscription

\$55.00 (Includes 11 emailed newsletters)

Joint Members

(2 members at the same address)

Yearly Subscription

\$70.00 (Includes 11 emailed newsletters)

Two Years

Biennial Subscription

\$100.00 (Includes 22 emailed newsletters)

Joint Members

(2 members at the same address)

Biennial Subscription

\$130.00 (Includes 22 emailed newsletters)

**Your subscription status is shown in the Subject line of your newsletter email.
Either due or Current. Please check it each month**

**You can also check your membership status anytime on the VicGUM website
Membership>Profile**

The Forty Year History of Victorian GUM Inc

The Forty Year History of Victorian GUM Inc written by John Donaldson is available for purchase for only \$19.00. To purchase please visit the VicGUM webpage.