

Newsflash

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I visited South Africa for two weeks. A too short a period, given the size of the country and the distances that had to be travelled, from Johannesburg to Cape Town and back again for the flight home. South Africa has had white settlement for twice as long as Australia and has as a consequence a rich European history including Dutch, French (Huguenot), British and German heritage. There is an active Genealogical Society of South Africa www.ggsa.info which has ten branches plus an electronic branch. They publish a quarterly journal *Familia* which is available for purchase, together with other publications on their web site. The Society does not have libraries or formal offices, so I was not able to make formal contact with the Society.

I was, however, able to visit the Bureau of Heraldry based in the national capital, Pretoria. The Deputy Director of the Bureau gave me a tour of the Bureau at short notice. The Bureau was established under South African statute, The Heraldry Act, 1962, and provides for the registration and legal protection of coats of arms, badges, emblems, names, special names and uniforms. While its historical models derive from the College of Arms, London, the Court of the Lord Lyon, Scotland, and European tradition, it is a much more dynamic organization than these organizations and has been able to adapt to local customs and needs. For example the shield is not necessarily shaped as traditionally known, but can also be shown as an African shield. Coats of Arms can be granted to family associations, with individuals arranging for their own distinctive motif at the top of the shield. Individuals can of course have their own personal coat of arms, as in England, which is then

Australasian Federation of
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AFFHO Council

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Peter Applebee	2012 Congress (SAGHS)
Lesle Berry	Coord Nat Family History Week
Graham Jaunay	Editor: graham@jaunay.com
Barry Weeden	Auditor

Current Projects

Save the Census
Australasian Strays Index
Index of Indexes
National Family History Week (AUS)
National Family History Month (NZ)

Membership

Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council that it is primarily concerned with family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects. Associate membership is open to any organisation which satisfies the Council that it is interested in family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Current members are listed at: www.affho.org

Together we can achieve much more!

inherited by the next generation. More about this dynamic institution can be found on their web site at www.national.archives.gov.za

While I was travelling around South Africa, I learnt via emails and the internet that the National Archives of Australia had lost track of the federated nature of Australia, and decided for economic reasons to close the smaller state and territory branches. Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart are scheduled to have their local National Archives branch closed within the next two years. This is to save \$1.4 million dollars per annum and has to be viewed in the context of the recent decision by our Federal Government to give back to non-resident Australian taxpayers and Centrelink beneficiaries over \$20 million dollars to stimulate the economies of the countries that these people live.

A petition has been circulated for presentation to Parliament protesting at this decision. A copy is attached to this *Newsflash* and is also available on the AFFHO web site. I urge all member societies to solicit as many signatures as possible and return them by the end of January, 2010, in order that they can be presented to Parliament in early February.

The Leader of the Australian Greens (Senator Bob Brown) and Senator Hanson-Young: to move – that the Senate -

- (a) Does not support the non-consultative process which had led to the closures of the Tasmanian, South Australian and Northern Territory offices of the National Archives of Australia;
- (c) Recognises
 - a. The disadvantages that will be faced by researchers, organisations and the general public as a result of the office closures, and
 - b. That the number of reading room visits has remained steady over the past 5 years despite an increase in online requests and viewing; and

Calls on the government to reverse the decision to close the three offices to ensure all Australians have access to the archives collection in their state or territory.

On 5 April 2001 Kevin Rudd in the House of Representatives raised the issue of the sale of National Archives of Australia repository at Cannon Hill, Brisbane and stated inter alia,

I am seeking from him [The Minister] an unequivocal clear-cut undertaking that not a single document will be destroyed once the sale

of this property occurs and the relocation of the collection to the other facility in the CBD, to other participating government departments or to any other facility belonging to National Archives elsewhere in Australia occurs'

The situation is the same as in 2001, only the Government has changed. It is of little use to local researchers to find that local material is only available at a repository interstate. This already occurs in South Australia with bankruptcy material relocated to Perth and military records to Melbourne.

AFFHO itself has already written to the Minister seeking his intervention in this departmental decision. I urge all member societies to also write to the Minister or their local member (particularly South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory). Individuals should also write to their local members. It is only by this collective action that this decision will be reversed. ***Please act now.***

Member societies are reminded that entries for the Nick Vine Hall Award need to be lodged in April,

I also urge member societies who have an electronic messaging system to forward on this *Newsflash* on to their members.

Andrew Peake

NICK VINE HALL AWARD

The Award Package has been changed for the Nick Vine Hall Award from 2010. Prizes will now be:

First Prize- \$300.00 and plaque
Second Prize-\$100 and certificate
Editors-Certificate

Please check the AFFHO web site for the criteria at: www.affho.org/affho/NVHAward.pdf Application forms are also on the web site: www.affho.org/affho/NVHEntry.pdf

Remember that three copies of the journal and three entry forms are required by 30 April 2010.

Postal address:

AFFHO
Nick Vine Hall Award
c/-Di Christensen
PO Box 149
Narre Warren VIC 3805

Advise entry posted: fauna6@gmail.com

CEMETERIES, PRIVACY AND THE DEAD

In *Newsflash* 33 I raised an issue that had arisen with the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority, which has responsibility for three large metropolitan cemeteries, West Terrace Cemetery, Cheltenham Cemetery and Enfield Cemetery. They had forbidden the taking of photographs of individual memorials so as to identify the inscription. This Filming and Photography Policy was on the basis that the monuments are owned by the families of the deceased and the Authority has no right to provide such approval (ie to photograph the headstone).

A recent Report by the Australian Law Reform Commission clarifies the matter regarding privacy and confidentiality as it relates to the deceased.

From the *Australian Government First Stage Response to ALRC Privacy Report*, page 28:

8. Privacy of Deceased Individuals Recommendation 8-1 The Privacy Act should be amended to include provisions dealing with the personal information of individuals who have been dead for 30 years or less where the information is held by an organisation. The Act should provide as follows:

(a) Use and Disclosure

Organisations should be required to comply with the 'Use and Disclosure' principle in relation to the personal information of deceased individuals. Where the principle would have required consent, the organisation should be required to consider whether the proposed use or disclosure would involve an unreasonable use or disclosure of personal information about any person, including the deceased person. The organisation must not use or disclose the information if the use or disclosure would involve an unreasonable use or disclosure of personal information about any person, including the deceased person.

(b) Access

Organisations should be required to provide third parties with access to the personal information of deceased individuals in accordance

with the access elements of the 'Access and Correction' principle, except to the extent that providing access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals, including the deceased individual.

(c) Data Quality

Organisations should be required to comply with the use and disclosure elements of the 'Data Quality' principle in relation to the personal information of deceased individuals.

(d) Data Security

Organisations should be required to comply with the 'Data Security' principle in relation to the personal information of deceased individuals.

Response: Not accept

The Government acknowledges that there are arguments both for and against extending privacy protections to personal information about deceased persons where held by organisations. Having taken further advice on this issue, the Government is aware of the significant constitutional limitations on the Commonwealth's power to legislate in this area. The Government therefore does not accept the ALRC's recommendations 8-1 to 8-3.

The Privacy Act will continue to apply to living persons only (with the exception of Part VIA on declared emergencies). Existing sectoral laws and professional duties will continue to apply to personal information about deceased persons. This includes obligations of confidentiality, testamentary and estates law, records retention regulations and other relevant Commonwealth, state and territory laws.

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Archives Act 1983 will continue to apply to information about deceased persons that is held by Australian Government agencies.

The Government encourages the Office of the Privacy Commissioner to provide ongoing education regarding the fact that the Privacy Act does not apply to information about deceased persons, and any other guidance on this issue that the Privacy Commissioner deems appro-

priate.

Recommendation 8–2 The Privacy Act should be amended to provide that the content of National Privacy Principle 2.1(ea) on the use and disclosure of genetic information to genetic relatives—to be moved to the new Privacy (Health Information) Regulations in accordance with Recommendation 63–5—should apply to the use and disclosure of genetic information of deceased individuals.

Response: Not accept

As outlined in response to recommendation 8-1, the Privacy Act will continue to apply to personal information about living persons only.

Recommendation 8–3 Breach of the provisions relating to the personal information of a deceased individual should be considered an interference with privacy under the Privacy Act. The following individuals should have standing to lodge a complaint with the Privacy Commissioner:

(a) in relation to an alleged breach of the use and disclosure, access, data quality or data security provisions—the deceased individual’s parent, child or sibling who is aged 18 or over, spouse, de facto partner or legal personal representative; and

(b) in relation to an alleged breach of the access provision—the parties in paragraph (a) and any person who has made a request for access to the personal information of a deceased individual where that request has been denied.

Response: Not accept

As outlined in response to recommendation 8-1, the Privacy Act will continue to apply to personal information about living persons only.

Andrew Peake

NEWS FROM MEMBER SOCIETIES

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC

30th Anniversary

WAGS are celebrating their 30th Anniversary in 2009 and to celebrate this significant milestone several events were undertaken:

- Saturday, 3 January – a get together of members of the Society and members of other associated organizations
- Sunday, 15 March – an afternoon at East Perth Cemeteries
- Sunday, 24 May – an afternoon tea for early members of the Society
- Saturday, 29 August – a one day seminar sponsored by the State Library of WA that included overseas guest speaker, Michael Gandy
- Sunday, 18 October – a walking tour of historical Fremantle
- Sunday, 8 November – a walking tour of Karra-katta Cemetery

Family History week

For *National Family History Week* WAGS conducted an Open Day on Sunday, 9 August. They joined forces with the State Library of WA and supplied volunteers and speakers for their programme of events. They also manned a display at the Melville Latter Day Saints centre.

WAGS web site

The WAGS web site at www.wags.org.au won a Highly Commended Award from the *Federation of Family History Societies*. The FFHS Award give recognition to Genealogy and Family History web sites under a number of criteria. This was a great accomplishment for WAGS in our first year of entry.

WA Week

WAGS conducted an Open Day on Tuesday, 20 October for *WA Week* when members of our WA Special Interest Groups (Convict, Enrolled Pensioner Guards, Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838, SW European plus the Computer Group and the Bookshop) were available to offer assistance with WA research. *WA Week* was originally held in June (between 1972 and 1994) and was re-launched by

Celebrate WA in October 2007 to provide people with an opportunity to celebrate Western Australia's unique history, heritage and development and applaud individual and collective achievement and contribution. October was selected as Proclamation Day was on 21 October 1890. This marked the transition of Western Australia from a colony under British rule to self-government.

Have A Go Day

Have A Go Day was held at Burswood Park on Wednesday, 28 October and WAGS had a display table to promote our organization to the general public. There were three speakers giving talks on genealogy at the State Library of WA. The event was organised by the Seniors Recreation Council of WA and the event at the State Library was organized by the Department of Communities.

NEWS AND NOTICES

7TH VICTORIAN FAMILY HISTORY STATE CONFERENCE

The border and beyond 28-30 May 2010
Clubmulwala Yarawonga VIC

Presented by the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations in conjunction with the Yarawonga Family History Group.

The application form and information booklet is available at: www.vafho.org.au

Contact the convenor for more information and expressions of interest: PO Box 10 Glen Waverley VIC 3150 mullum36@bigpond.com

29TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC SCIENCE

This Congress, with the theme *Identity in Genealogy and Heraldry*, will be held in Stuttgart, Germany from the 12th to 17th September, 2010. The Congress is supported by *Pro Heraldica*, Stuttgart and *Wappen-HEROLD*, of Nürtingen under the general auspice of the *Confederation Internationale Genealogie et Heraldique*. The Lecture site will be the Le Meridien Hotel and the opening reception at the Neues Schloss. There is an extensive supporting program and a number of excursions to several neighbouring castles. Further details on their web

site at www.congress2010.info

1851 CENSUS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FindMyPast has recently announced that they have finished digitising the 1851 Census and the total Census for England and Wales is now on their web site. This completes the full set from 1841 to 1911, although to access the 1911 Census you have to purchase an additional bolt-on subscription.

A HISTORY AND GENEALOGY CRUISE DOWN UNDER?

Unlock the Past is considering a history-genealogy cruise and would like to know what interest there may be in history-genealogy cruise in late 2010/early 2011. Early indications are that there is sufficient interest in the concept for a cruise possibly in January 2011.

More information on www.unlockthepast.com.au

An *Unlock The Past* computer poll recently came up with the following results for the following questions.

- What age bracket are you in?
- What year did you start researching?

What age bracket are you in? – 460 responses

- less than 20: 5 people – 1.1%
- 21–30: 7 people – 1.5%
- 31–40: 26 people – 5.7%
- 41–50: 69 people – 15.0%
- 51–60: 142 people – 30.9%
- 61–70: 163 people – 35.4%
- 71–80: 42 people – 9.1%
- over 80: 6 people – 1.3%

What year did you start researching? – 371 responses. We have restructured the results to show how long people have been researching

- 1 year: 2 people – 0.5%
- 2 years: 8 people – 2.2%
- 3 years: 9 people – 2.4%
- 4 years: 2 people – 0.5%
- 5 years: 12 people – 3.2%
- 6-10 years: 54 people – 14.6%
- 11-15 years: 55 people – 14.8%
- 16-20 years: 52 people – 14.0%
- 21-25 years: 58 people – 15.6%
- 26-30 years: 50 people – 13.5%
- 31-35 years: 33 people – 8.9%
- 36-40 years: 19 people – 5.1%
- 41-50 years: 13 people – 3.5%
- 51-60 years: 3 people – 0.8%
- 60-70 years: 1 person – 0.3%

Where the voters came from:

- Australia – 434
- New Zealand – 10
- Canada – 2
- United States – 2
- China – 1
- Ireland 1
- Spain – 1
- Unknown – 6

POLICE GAZETTES

Police Gazettes differ from government gazettes in that they are not available to the public for some time after publication. This varies markedly, from Victoria with a 30 year restriction to New Zealand with a century, with all other states in Australia somewhere within this range. Information includes not only the perpetrator of the crime, but also the victim. As a result they are a gold mine of information for all those in the community. *Archives CD Books* has now produced digitally searchable copies on CD for New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria for varying periods, with a complete set for all states other than Victoria.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA SEMINAR

The GSV is holding a seminar with the subject, *Following Women in the 19th Century*, on Saturday 13th March 2010 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The presenters are:

- Liz Prideaux – The struggle for the vote
 - Brian Rhule – Women of virtue and vice
 - Dot Wickham – Who rocked the cradle? The role of women in the development of a Victorian gold mining town
 - Dr Margaret Dillon – Breaking their chains: feisty female convicts in the new colonial working class
- Further details from the GSV web site, www.gsv.org.au

ANOTHER CRUISE - LEGACY GENEALOGY CRUISE 2010 - AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND - NOV 8-21

The 7th annual *Legacy Genealogy Cruise*, held 8–21 November 2010, starts and ends in Sydney and visits the following New Zealand ports: Fjordland National Park, Dunedin (Port Chalmers), Christchurch (Lyttelton), Wellington, Napier, Tauranga, Auckland, and Bay of Islands.

Genealogy Classes At Sea

On the days we are at sea attend the *Legacy Family Tree* genealogy classes and learn the real secrets to becoming an expert with Legacy and improving the way you do your research. Go home with the knowledge and tools you need to be more successful than you ever thought possible. You will be learning directly from the experts. Last year's classes were recorded for each of the students so they could replay them at home.

The Ship

The *Sun Princess* has more than 400 balcony state-rooms. Take a dip in one of three spacious pools or spend your evening at one of the show lounges with unique performances each night. Dining options are also plentiful, including two formal dining rooms, the Sterling Steakhouse and the 24-hour Horizon Court.

Reservations or Questions

Prices begin at US \$1595 per person, double occupancy. The price includes:

- genealogy classes
- shipboard accommodations
- ocean transportation
- meals
- some beverages
- most on board entertainment

Port charges, taxes, gratuities, airfare and optional tours are extra.

To reserve a cabin, or ask questions, contact, AA Travel Time at 888-505-6997 or send an email to book@aatravelttime.com.

YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT!

Award-winning author and fellow family historian Cherry Gilchrist is writing a new book, *Growing Your Family Tree*. This will be about the personal experience of researching family history, and she would like to include your stories and thoughts on your own family research. The survey contains questions as guidelines, but you can write as little or as much as you wish. Your personal details will be kept confidential. The deadline is 31 March 2010. To see and respond to the survey, please either download it from her web site www.cherrygilchrist.co.uk or write, enclosing an sae, via her

literary agents: Cherry Gilchrist, c/o Rupert Crew Ltd, 1a King's Mews, London WC1N 2JA. She would love to hear from you!

WILL THE DEAD DUCK BECOME A PHOENIX?

Remember the GRO's projects, DOVE (Digitisation of Vital Events), MAGPIE (MultiAccess to GRO Public Index of Events), and EAGLE (Electronic Access to GRO Legacy Events)? Well, the Identity & Passport Services, the new *owner* of the GRO, has resuscitated the projects, now called the Digitisation & Indexing (D&I) Project. Hopefully these birds will fly after all.

In the meantime *FreeBDM* has been steadily retranscribing the England and Wales indexes to birth, marriage and death and is now into the 1930s, all for free. If you haven't seen the web site before check it out at www.freebmd.rootsweb.com

ANCESTRY.COM IS NOW A PUBLIC COMPANY

Ancestry.com opened on the 5 November on the NASDAQ Exchange. Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of *Ancestry.com Inc.* (ACOM), presided over the Opening Bell for the morning's session. Shares opened at \$16.10, peaked at \$16.32, then shares closed the day at \$14.20, up from its initial public offering price of \$13.50. A total of 7.4 million shares were sold.

WELSH WILLS

The National Library of Wales has now placed its ecclesiastical wills, numbering 193,000 and dating from before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858 online free to view, from its web site at: cat.llgc.org.uk/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon?skin=profef&lmg=en

AUSTRALIAN CEMETERY INDEX 1808-2007

Ancestry.com.au has recently released cemetery transcriptions from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. This collection includes information copied from headstones, including the individual's age and death date. You'll also find the name of the cemetery where your ancestor was buried.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL ROLLS, 1903-1954—UPDATED

Ancestry.com.au has also added to its online collection of Australian Electoral Rolls. Sadly South Australia still misses out due to access and copyright issues. Since censuses records were not preserved in Australia, electoral rolls, or lists of voters, are an important *census substitute*—especially since voting was compulsory after 1924. Eighteen years of records have been added to the existing collection, so it now includes the years 1936 to 1954. You will find any adults over 21 who voted, along with their address and occupation. Remember of course that not everybody registered to vote.

2011 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS

The Australian Statistician, Brian Pink, welcomed the announcement made by the Prime Minister and the Assistant Treasurer Sen. Nick Sherry that the next Australian Census of Population and Housing will be held on Tuesday, 9 August 2011.

This will mark 100 years of national Censuses in Australia, said Mr Pink, the first national Census was taken at midnight between 2 and 3 April, 1911.

"The Australian Bureau of Statistics has always relied on the participation of the Australian public to make the Census a success. We want to continue that great tradition with the sixteenth national Census in 2011," said Mr Pink.

To coincide with the announcement, the ABS has released an Information Paper 2008.0 - *Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2011*. It describes the procedures for the 2011 Census and the topics that will be included. The 2011 Census will be undertaken on a comparable basis to the 2006 Census and will not include any new topics. Minor changes have been made where necessary to ensure continuing relevance such as updating income ranges and revising some response categories. In addition, a new geographic classification will be progressively implemented from 2011.

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and one of the most important. The aims of the Census are to accurately measure the number and certain key characteristics of people in Aus-

tralia on Census Night and the dwellings in which they live; and to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups, to complement the rich but broad level data provided by ABS surveys.

For more information, please refer to the ABS web site: www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2008.02011?OpenDocument

2010 SA STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 19th State History Conference, *Cross-Currents: History, People and the Environment*, will be held from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 August, 2010 in Murray Bridge.

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE NORTHERN IRELAND

PRONI will be moving to a prominent position close to the Odyssey Arena at the entrance to the Titanic Quarter, Belfast. It is scheduled to open to the public in May/June 2011.

In preparation for this, customers of PRONI are being given twelve months notice that there will be a temporary change to service delivery between September 2010 and May 2011.

To alleviate the inconvenience to customers during the closure the range of material available on-line will be extended. This will include the Belfast Street Directories (pre-1901) going on-line in September 2009. Additional databases scheduled for completion in 2009/10 financial year include 1766 Religious Census Returns, 1775 Dissenters Petitions and the pre-1910 Coroners' Inquests.

More information can be found on the PRONI web site at www.proni.gov.uk.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dr William Bell's, *The Settlers' Guide or Modern Domestic Medicine and Surgery*, Windsor NSW 1849, is to be published after a delay of 160 years. This is a unique, never before published, comprehensive Australian medical guide for families, settlers, bushmen and invalids, for use in the absence of a medical man in the 1840s and 1850s. Using many examples from his own practice, Dr Bell is never boring, and clearly relishes the informa-

tion he imparts. For example, dislocating your jaw while praying—insert a fork handle on either side of the mouth.

Available from Lois Sabine, 14 Moore Road, Springwood NSW 2777, at a cost of \$29.95 plus \$8 postage.

Commonwealth Electoral Roll (Queensland) 1959: One Hundred Years On with *QFHSdatasearch* Version 1.11 published by the Queensland Family History Society, expected release date 10 December 2009. This CD, produced as a Q150 project supported by the Queensland Government details from the Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for electors registered in Queensland in 1959. The entries for the approximately 783,000 electors cover name, title, sex, place of living, occupation, roll number, subdivision and division. The index allows direct searching on name, place of living and the other details with *QFHSdatasearch*. The CD includes maps showing the division boundaries and detailed maps of the electorates.

The material on this CD is a unique source of public information on individuals. It covers all electors recorded in the rolls held in the National Archives of Australia and lists all the information recorded in the rolls. Enrolment and voting were compulsory, so Queenslanders from all walks of life are included. The 1959 roll covers the voters 100 years after separation of Queensland from NSW and the maps are an invaluable aid for placing them. Combining the range of information with the search specifications and sorting facilities in *QFHSdatasearch* (a generic interface designed and developed by QFHS for searching genealogy databases) can be especially useful for finding family groups, for example by specifying a surname and sorting on place of living within subdivision, then using the links between search results and the maps to locate them. The CD is the sixth in the series being produced by QFHS. The earlier ones for 1903, 1913, 1922, 1934 and 1949, have been extremely popular with family and other historical researchers, illustrating just how valuable these sources are.

Available from: The Secretary, QFHS, PO Box 171, Indooroopilly QLD 4068, at a cost of \$49.50 incl. GST, P&P \$2.00; Overseas \$45.00, P&P \$5.00. QFHS personal members \$42.00 incl. GST, P&P \$2.00 or, at standard cost only, via the QFHS web site www.qfhs.org.au