



# AFFHO Newsflash

## Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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ACT, 2611

[www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org)

### AFFHO Council

|                   |             |                |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Kerrie Gray       | NSW/ACT     | President      |
| Margaret Doherty  | History QLD | Secretary      |
| Robyn Williams    | NZ          | Vice-President |
| Heather Clarey*   | BBFHS       | Treasurer      |
| Maurice Appleyard | TAS         | Councillor     |
| Alan Fincher      | VIC         | Councillor     |
| Jenny Harkness    | VIC         | Councillor     |
| Margaret Hickey   | WA          | Councillor     |
| Gail Hanger       | NSW         | Councillor     |
| Martyn Killion    | NSW         | Councillor     |
| Andrew Peake      | SA          | Councillor     |
| Sue Reid          | QLD         | Councillor     |
| June Tomlinson    | NT          | Councillor     |
| Helen Turner      | QLD         | Assoc Rep      |

\*seconded

### AFFHO Officers

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| June Penny     | Public Officer; Archivist                       |
| Peter Applebee | Website:<br>webmaster @ affho.org               |
| Kerrie Gray    | 2015 Congress (HAGSOC)                          |
| Shauna Hicks   | Coord Nat. Family History<br>Month              |
| Don Mountain   | Newsflash Editor:<br>dmountain@grapevine.com.au |
| Barry Weeden   | Auditor   |

### Current Projects

Save the Census      Index of Indexes  
National Family History Month (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.

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## *A word from the President*

AFFHO has had quite a busy year, particularly leading up to National Family History Month in August. It was during those months that the judges of the Nick Vine Hall Award were busy making their decisions so that the announcements of the winners could be made at the launch of NFHM. Our NFHM co-ordinator, Shauna Hicks was extraordinarily busy seeking sponsorships, encouraging societies and promoting events. But – and there is often a ‘but’ – so many societies did not take advantage of the wonderful work being done.

As a society – wouldn't you like to increase your membership and to let people in your community know about your library and the services and support you can offer? Being part of NFHM helps you do just that. You tap into a national campaign to highlight activities in your local area. Make your society's New Year resolution be to be part of NFHM2015!

Next year we have Congress2015 in March in Canberra. There is a great line-up of speakers and plenty of other activities available. Congress is an opportunity to learn, to network, to meet other researchers, to recognise the contribution of others and to just have a great time. Check out the website <[www.congress2015.org.au](http://www.congress2015.org.au)>.

The Christmas holiday period tends to be a time for reflection and for friends and family. It is also a great time for family historians to catch up with some of the older generation and to share their stories and memories and to pass on those stories to the younger generation. I wish you all a wonderful, sharing time over the holiday period. Travel safely.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all AFFHO Board members

*Kerrie Gray*  
President



*Together we can achieve much more!*



## The indexing of Queensland Women's Suffrage Petitions 1894 and 1897

In Queensland in the late 1800s, only men with property received a vote, and in some cases they received multiple votes. Women were not recognised in the political process and had no vote. Much lurid nonsense was expressed at the time of the dangers of allowing women the right to vote.

In 1894 the Women's Equal Franchise Association (WEFA) sponsored two petitions – one for women to sign and one for men to sign resulting in 7896 and 3586 signatories. Later in 1897 3960 women signed the petition organised by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Although these petitions were not immediately successful, in 1905 women were able to vote in state elections.

QFHS was honoured to be associated with the indexing of these petitions, although it was a great challenge for the society's indexers. While QFHS has indexed from handwritten originals in the past, each of these signatures is unique, and so there was no opportunity to develop a feel for handwriting idiosyncrasies. The QFHS team indexed 378 images covering the three

petitions; in total there were 15,442 names which exceeds the official total figure of 15,225; seven people worked on various aspects of the project for well over 500 hours. A range of resources - electoral rolls, BDM indexes and post office directories - was used to solve problem entries.

The index was launched at Queensland Parliament on Tuesday 9 Sep 2014 by The Honourable Fiona Simpson MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The database can be searched on the Parliament website <[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/explore/history/suffrage/Signatories](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/explore/history/suffrage/Signatories)> and it is also available on the computers at QFHS Library & Resource Centre.

*Article written by Bev Bonning  
Photograph 2014 Kevin Haley*

### **Changes To Subscription Site -**

**<[www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)>**

The rootsireland.ie website has become a Subscription based service, giving users access to search an index of over 20 million Irish records and to view the details of the records. (Subject to their terms and conditions). They do not have all Irish records on their site but add new records at regular intervals. Check their online sources lists to see what is currently available.

If you have a Pay Per View account with existing credits remaining that you purchased in the last 12 months under the previous service of Pay Per View credits (and previous terms and conditions) you should make sure you use them to search and view records on the site until they are used up.

**Copy deadline  
for March Newsflash:  
15 February**

***Make a note in your Diary NOW***

## **Congress 2015 Appoints Official Bloggers**

Jill Ball, Pauleen Cass and Shauna Hicks have been appointed as official bloggers to Congress 2015 in Canberra next March. All three are well known Australian bloggers but for those new to blogs, here are the links to their blogs:

Cassmob - Family History Across the Seas (Pauleen) <<http://cassmob.wordpress.com/>>

Geniaus (Jill) <<http://geniaus.blogspot.com.au/>>

SHHE Genie Rambles (Shauna) <<http://www.shaunahicks.com.au/shhe-genie-rambles/>>.

Shauna is also the author of *Diary of an Australian Genealogist* <<http://diaryofanaustralian-genealogist.blogspot.com.au/>>.

Jill, Pauleen and Shauna are also on Twitter, Facebook and Google+ and will be raising awareness of Congress 2015 between now and next March. Everyone can assist in letting others know about Congress 2015 by retweeting and sharing their posts on your own social media networks.

Let's make this the biggest and best Congress ever.



## **AFFHO Annual General Meeting and election of office-bearers**

The AFFHO AGM will be held during Congress 2015 in Canberra in March. It is only once in each three years that AFFHO member societies are easily able to attend the AGM – in the other years the AGMs are held by telephone. This is a good opportunity to put your views and concerns directly to the AFFHO Board.

Notice of the meeting, an agenda and nomination forms for the Board will be sent out well in advance so that member societies can consider any issues and have their delegates well prepared.

The election of office bearers is, of course, one of the main items to be considered. All existing AFFHO Board members will stand down and some are unlikely to renominate. Nominations for all representative positions will be called for early in 2015.

Our webmaster, Pete Applebee, has done a great job for quite a few years but he has decided that it is time for him to concentrate on other things. We would be very pleased to hear from someone with the requisite skills who would be prepared to look after the AFFHO and NFHM websites and help us further development them. As an Australasian body we recognise how important our web sites are in communicating with our members and the wider community. If you have any questions about what might be involved, please don't hesitate to contact Pete direct at <[webmaster@affho.org.au](mailto:webmaster@affho.org.au)>.



## **Nick Vine Hall Award 2015**

The NVH award for the best journals/newsletters will close a month earlier in 2015 with the new closing date of 31 March 2015.

There are two categories: One for AFFHO members with fewer than 500 members and the other for societies with 500 or more members. E-journals are eligible for the award if submitted as pdf for judging. For more details go to the AFFHO website.

## **"Red Book of Scotland" project**

This is an initiative to catalogue on a region-by-region basis, the genealogy of Scotland's families via information derived exclusively from extant primary source records and will be combined into a series of twelve separate publications. Already published and available:

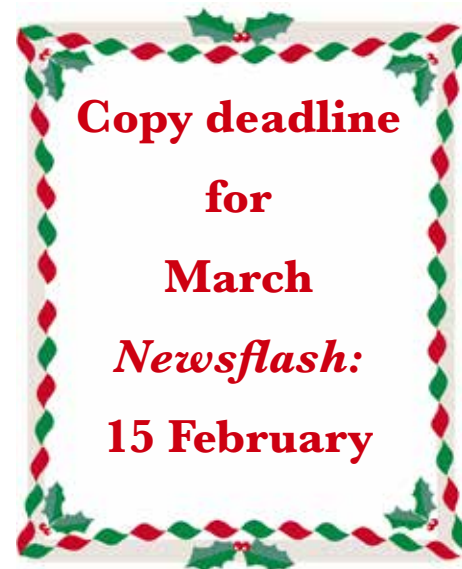
*The Red Book of Perthshire*, first published in 2005 with a second updated edition released in 2014.

*The Red Book of Fife*, published in 2014.

In preparation are *The Red Book of Clackmannan* and *The Red Book of Angus*.

Hardbound and digital copies of each publication are available. Prices are £80 for hardbound copies and £35 for digital copies.

Further information and sample pages are available at <[www.redbookofscotland.com](http://www.redbookofscotland.com)> and in addition, a free online database containing a cross-section of information can be accessed at <<http://www.redbookofscotland.com/TNG/index.php>>.



## Why attend Congress 2015?

Gould Genealogy & History, based in Adelaide, is one of Australia's leading Genealogy and History stores. They organise many family history events, including Genealogy Cruises, and attend national and international events. In October their blog <[www.gouldgenealogy.com](http://www.gouldgenealogy.com)> featured Congress2015 and, with their kind permission, some of the blog is reprinted here:

Congress: Why You Should Go! If you are only going to attend one genealogy event in Australia during 2015, be sure to make it this one:

### **The 14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry Thursday 26 – Monday 30 March 2015 Canberra, ACT**

The "14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry" otherwise known simply as "Congress" is Australia's largest genealogy conference. Organised by AFFHO (the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations) this event is only held every three years, at a city in either Australia or New Zealand. It's not BIG in the same sense as RootsTech in the US, or Who Do You Think You Are? Live in the UK, that attract the likes of 10,000-15,000 people, but it is big for Australia. And for anyone that wants to learn everything they can about genealogy, take this opportunity to learn from so many experts.

So WHY should you attend Congress? Let me give you some reasons . . .

1. It's in Canberra, which is Australia's mecca for archives! The

National Library of Australia, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the National Film & Sound Archives, the National Museum of Australia, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre . . . need I say more?

2. And for your non-genealogy family who come along to Canberra with you, there's oodles of things for them to do while you're busy at the conference <<http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/>>.

3. It is a four day conference, so you're not travelling all the way to Canberra for just a day or so of talks. Four days makes it worthwhile.

4. Four days also means that you get to meet, hear and learn from so many wonderful, not to mention world-renowned guest presenters. While many of these are Australian and New Zealand speakers, there's also a heap of expert presenters from the northern hemisphere who're making their way to Australia's capital.

5. There is a wide variety of topics, so there really is something for everyone.

6. Talks are rated for experience for beginner through to advanced.

7. You get to meet, mix and mingle with so many other genealogists, throughout the day, or at the various other social functions that Congress has organised.

8. If you're attending be sure to register your research interests. You may as well maximise your chances of making a connection with someone.

9. The weather. Although Canberra is notorious for its cold weather, in March you would expect great weather.

10. The \$550 price is very reasonable for a four day conference. But if it is beyond your means, or can't attend for the full length of time, you can choose to just go for a single day for \$140.

11. And don't forget the exhibitors, we'll be there exhibiting, as will a heap of others.

For more information about Congress head to their website <[www.congress2015.org.au/](http://www.congress2015.org.au/)>.



*May you have  
a wonderful  
Christmas . . .  
and find many  
of your missing  
links as a special  
Christmas treat.*

*See you in  
Canberra in  
March!*



## National Family History Month 2015

As usual the month of August will be totally dedicated to all things family history so make sure it is in your planning for next year. It is easy for societies to participate and there is no need to hold additional events or activities. Simply call your August meeting a NFHM monthly meeting and enter it into the NFHM website calendar [www.familyhistorymonth.org.au](http://www.familyhistorymonth.org.au). Please remember to use this URL and not the previous 'week' one.

You can also simply call one of your library open days your NFHM library open day and again enter it into the web calendar. Perhaps make the session free to the public and maybe attract some new members. Of course if you do want to do something special or new that is fine too. Have a look at the 2014 events for inspiration!

Remember to also let your members know about NFHM and the web calendar so that they can attend any other events in your area or perhaps some of the on-line events which are usually free. Some of your members may not live locally, are travelling in August or are just keen to attend any event which may be within their travel resources.

Our sponsors generously provide prizes for both societies and individuals so please also acknowledge their sponsorship throughout the month and also encourage your members to enter into the prize giveaways. Without the support of our sponsors there would be no NFHM.

All societies who put their events into the NFHM web calendar are automatically entered into the societies prize draw. In 2015

the deadline for inclusion in the societies prize draw will be 30 June 2015 so make sure you meet that deadline as last year there were some great prizes to be won.

NFHM is an AFFHO event and every AFFHO society member should be participating in NFHM as it is a fantastic opportunity to tell everyone how much we love our family history. Many societies reported increased memberships throughout August 2014 which is fantastic and a welcome change

from news of declining memberships.

In December I will be making changes to the NFHM website in preparation for 2015 and from 1 January 2015 the website will be ready for you to start adding your events. Details of sponsors and prizes will also hopefully be finalised by then. More information will be in the next *Newsflash*.

The most exciting news has been left for last. The 2015 launch will be in Adelaide with launch details still to be finalised.

*Shauna Hicks*  
NFHM voluntary coordinator



Your family history starts *here...*



# CONGRESS 2015

CANBERRA

26 - 30 March 2015

*Join us* in Canberra  
for Australasia's premier  
family history event

Enjoy:

- Four packed days of talks, workshops and displays.
- Over 30 quality national and international speakers.
- More than 80 presentations.
- Dozens of trade and society tables.
- Networking opportunities.
- A speaker's corner for talks and demonstrations.
- Exclusive access to national institutions for research.

All included in your full registration.

See: [www.congress2015.org.au](http://www.congress2015.org.au)  
for full details and registration.

Sponsors: **findmypast**.com.au  
search with the experts

ancestry.com.au

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

inside history magazine

FamilySearch

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

HAGSOC  
HERALDRY & GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF CANBERRA