



AFFHO Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

PO Box 3012, Weston Creek,
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www.affho.org

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*seconded

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June Penny	Public Officer; Archivist
Peter Applebee	Website: webmaster @ affho.org
Kerrie Gray	2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Shauna Hicks	Coord Nat. Family History Month
Don Mountain	Newsflash Editor: 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.

ISSN 1445-243X

A word from the President

This is a big year for AFFHO – and for family history researchers generally – with the 14th Australasian Congress being held in Canberra at the end of March. Congress is always such an exciting time – catching up with other researchers, picking up new ideas, learning about new products and services and just having a great time. Congress dinner is always special with the announcement of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History. Of course, these are never guaranteed and depend on societies putting their nominees forward. Will there be any this Congress? You will have to attend to find out.

I do know that the dinner will include the Australasian launch of the Irish Anzac Database. What a great project this is. It aims to identify all Irish-born enlistments as soldiers and nurses in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War, or as close to all as is practicable, and to compile a publicly accessible database containing information on each of them. The database will provide families with information on their Irish-born family members

who served in the war as well as providing statistical information to assist researchers understand the contribution of the Irish to the Australian war effort.

The next big AFFHO event will be National Family History Month in August. Wouldn't it be great – and so very easy – if every family history society designated their August meeting as 'Celebrating National Family History Month'. Simply do that, add your meeting to the NFHM2015 website events list and you are in the running for some great prizes.

A quick reminder – the entries for the 2015 Nick Vine Hall Awards need to be in by end March. This change in closing date was announced last year so don't miss having your entry considered.

Finally, as this is my last President's Message (I will hand over to someone new at the AGM at end March) I want to thank everyone who has supported me over the past few years – in particular members of AFFHO Council, and the supporting office bearers. I wish you all great success in your research.

*Kerrie Gray
President*

Together we can achieve much more!

New Zealand Cemeteries Heritage Week

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists has licensed to *Ancestry.com.au* an extensive New Zealand cemetery collection of over 1,600,000 records, which is now available online.

To launch this event Ancestry and the NZSG participated in a week to promote the collection “New Zealand Cemeteries Heritage week”.

The Launch took place on Monday 2 February 2015 at the NZSG Family Research Centre in Auckland with speakers from the NZSG (Gay Williams: President and Diane Wilson: Vice President) and Ancestry (Ben Mercer: Content Manager).

The history of the NZSG collection was outlined describing the work of over 2000 volunteers since 1967; which led to records from 1800 – 2007 being transcribed, recorded and preserved.

“We have made great progress since those early days of pen and paper on site to photographing headstones and putting the results online” said Gay Williams.

Ben Mercer introduced the Ancestry site and thanked the volunteers for their contribution over 40 years that has culminated in making this information available to researchers worldwide.

Presentations were made during the rest of the week providing background stories and examples of where cemetery records can be found. Topics covered during the week included:

- SS *Tararua* - our worst civilian shipwreck, 29 April 1981
- HMS *Orpheus* our worst shipwreck, 7 February 1963
- The Hawkes Bay earthquake, 3 February 1931



Ben Mercer (Ancestry) and Gay Williams (President NZSG)

- The Tangiwai Railway Disaster, 24 December 1953
- The Air NZ Erebus disaster, 28 November 1979
- The ‘Great Flu’ pandemic, 1918
- Locating your ancestors through NZSG burial records and Ancestry online (NZ cemetery records 1800 – 2007)

These presentations will be available as a PDF on the NZSG website <www.genealogy.org.nz> and some may be available on YouTube and as a PowerPoint presentation (enquiries to the NZSG office <nzsgmanager@genealogy.org.nz>).

Waitangi day on 6 February saw some ‘cemetery rambles’ arranged to enable people to have an informed tour of a number of cemeteries.



Ben Mercer introducing the Ancestry site

**Copy deadline
for June
Newsflash:
15 May**

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc **Family History Conference**

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference and associated Family History Fair is always eagerly anticipated.

Conference 2015, hosted by Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society, will be held in the Auditorium of Panthers Port Macquarie at 1 Bay Street from 11 – 13 September 2015. Family History Fair: Friday 11 Sept 2015, FREE entry, open to the public, five speaker sessions for beginners (subject to confirmation), FindMyPast, State Records of NSW, FamilySearch, Trove and Ancestry.

This is a great opportunity for Exhibitors and Societies to showcase the broad range of services and products available, to demonstrate the technological progress made and the increased availability of resources. The Table Booking Form and Information for Exhibitors sheet can be downloaded from the Conference website.

Friday Master Classes:

Conference Delegates have the chance to attend three one hour long professional Master Classes: Palaeography with Brian Panisset, Public Records of Victoria with Shauna Hicks and Graphology with Meryl Bolin. Each Master Class will cost \$5 and have a maximum of 50 attendees and will be

located in a room separate from the activities of the Fair.

Conference for Delegates:

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2015: Dr David Roberts will present the John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address. There will be no concurrent sessions and the draft program includes the following speakers who will present talks on the conference theme of *Journey of Discovery*:

Carol Baxter: Musters;
Dr Tracy Bradford: Manuscript Collections of the State Library;
Heather Garnsey and Martyn Killion: From Banbury to Barraba and Broodseinde Ridge – 20 years on;
Amanda Ianna: The Journey of BDMs in NSW;
Dr Carol Liston: NSW Land Records – a follow up;
Fiona Burn: A Ticket to Paradise – NAA Records relating to Immigrants;
Clive Smith: Leaving a Trail, and ninth speaker being negotiated!

Early Bird Registration:

From 1 March to 3 July 2015.

Keeping you informed - Our monthly Journey of Discovery Newsletter currently has 147 individual subscribers, as well as 45 Societies. If you would like a copy e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail to <conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com>.

The Conference Website is updated weekly with information on the program, speakers, exhibitors and registration as they come to hand, as well as links to accommodation and activities in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area. And “like” us on *Facebook* too!

Contact Information:

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc
PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie, 2444
E-mail: <conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com>.
Phone/text: Jennifer Mullin, 2015 Conference Convenor on 0447 445 355.

You can access the website and Facebook from the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society home page <www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs> and then click on the Facebook or webpage links.



Caloundra Family History Research Inc.

The Caloundra Family History Research Seminar has been and gone, and what a wonderful “Afternoon with Lady Mary Teviot” we had on Saturday, 6 December 2014. Everyone with an interest in English Research found something in her three talks which covered *Wills & Administrations, I Never Thought of That - A Second Look at Problems and Workhouses*. The lovely home-made array of savoury and sweet food supplied by members for afternoon tea was enjoyed by all, and Lady Teviot very graciously spent that half hour helping many of the attendees with their queries.

The busy Caloundra group had a “Getting Started” course at the end of January, plus regular activities such as an Old Time Movie Afternoon, and bus trip for members to State Library Queensland in February.

Besides eminent Guest Speakers such as Shauna Hicks in January, the group will have a one hour on-screen demonstration on the basics of using Trove on 26 March.

Members and visitors are welcome at the Resource Facility at Gate 2, Sunshine Coast Turf Club on Pierce Avenue, Little Mountain, Caloundra. Further information on the group, contact details, plus a map to locate our Library is on our website at <www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au>

Roz Kuss



Former CFHRI President June Blackburn with Lady Mary Teviot (RHS) after giving the official thanks.



Current CFHRI President Valerie Thornton with Lady Mary Teviot

2015 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award

The commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac has prompted the title of the 2015 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award essay.

‘What my ancestor did during World War I’ (not necessarily a serviceman or woman) will allow scope to write the story of a soldier, or perhaps a parent, sibling or sweet-heart, or even a ‘best mate’.

There were many young men who were in protected industries or who were deemed medically unfit for service. In Lithgow e.g. young men employed in the coal mines, at the Small Arms Factory and as school teachers were not eligible for enlistment until the latter years of the war. Many young miners enlisted in Sydney as ‘labourers’ rather than attend the local enlistment centre.

Following the 2014 publication of the book *A Long March from Lithgow* to honour the men and women from Lithgow and district who served in the First World War, the Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc is confident that many researchers and writers will take up this new challenge.

The award honours the Society’s founder and local and family historian, Yvonne Jenkins from Rydal, NSW. Entries are not to exceed

1,000 words and must be submitted by 30 April 2015. Full details and the entry form are available on the Society's website <www.lisp.com.au/~ldfhs>, Facebook page or by e-mail <ldfhs@lisp.com.au> or by post by writing to: The Secretary, PO Box 516, Lithgow NSW 2790.

Copy deadline

for June

Newsflash:

15 May

*Make a note in your Diary
NOW*



**2015
YVONNE JENKINS
MEMORIAL AWARD**

Essay title:

"What my Ancestor did in World War 1"
(not necessarily about a serviceman or woman)

Entries close 30 April 2015

Full details and entry form are available from
Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc
Ewen Smith Memorial Hall
Cnr Tank & Donald Streets
Lithgow NSW 2790

or
Write to The Secretary, PO Box 516, Lithgow NSW 2790

email : ldfhs@lisp.com.au

or

www.lisp.com.au/~ldfhs



Winner to be announced during
National Family History Month -
August 2015

PRIZE:

One year's free membership to the
Lithgow & District Family History
Society Inc which includes 3 hours
free research by the Society's Re-
search Officer.

Certificate

The winning entry will be published
in the Society's journal
Pioneer Press.

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
for full details and registration.

ancestry.com.au

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