



AFFHO Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

AFFHO Council

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer; Archivist
Martyn Killion	2018 Congress (SAG)
Shauna Hicks	Coord Nat. Family History Month
Kerry Kilpatrick	Webmaster
Margaret Hickey	NVH Awards
Don Mountain	<i>Newsflash</i> Editor: dmountain@grapevine.com.au

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

The 14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry was held in Canberra in March. This is an opportunity for genealogists and family historians to gather, listen to great speakers, make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Canberra made us very welcome at the Convention Centre which was spacious with excellent lecture theatres and display space where exhibitors were able to explain their goods and services. The talks were varied and there were many opportunities to learn new skills and relearn about repositories or places where we could find valuable information for family history. There were talks on DNA, websites, searching techniques, repositories, libraries and much more.

Many enjoyed the daily raffles and socialising over morning or afternoon tea in the display hall.

The opening function was held at the absolutely fabulous Australian War Memorial and the gala

dinner in the stunning Great Hall at Parliament House.

The dinner was the opportunity to present the newly designed Meritorious Service insignia to previous winners who were present at the Congress.

National Family History Month is held in August and this year is being launched in Adelaide on 31 July 2015 and this is a great opportunity for us to advertise our societies. The month is dedicated to spreading the word about genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects.

There are some competitions being run for societies who enter their events on the National Family History Month calendar before 30 June 2015 – so ask your society to enter now! During Family History Month there is a competition for individuals too.

For these competitions with great prizes go to <http://www.familyhistorymonth.org.au/>.

*Robyn Williams
President*

Together we can achieve much more!

The Western Australian Genealogical Society 11th Battalion AIF – Cheops Pyramid Project

Background

The 11th Battalion, raised in Western Australia within weeks of Great Britain's declaration of war in August, arrived in Egypt in December 1914 to prepare for the Gallipoli campaign.

On Sunday, 10 January 1915, Captain Barnes recorded in his diary: "After Church this morning the whole Battalion was marched up to the Pyramid (Old Cheops) and we had a photo took or at least several of them." Most of the 703 men who

posed for this iconic image have never been identified and it is likely that this is the last photograph of many of them, Captain Barnes included. He was killed in the Dardanelles on 28 April 1915.

The Project

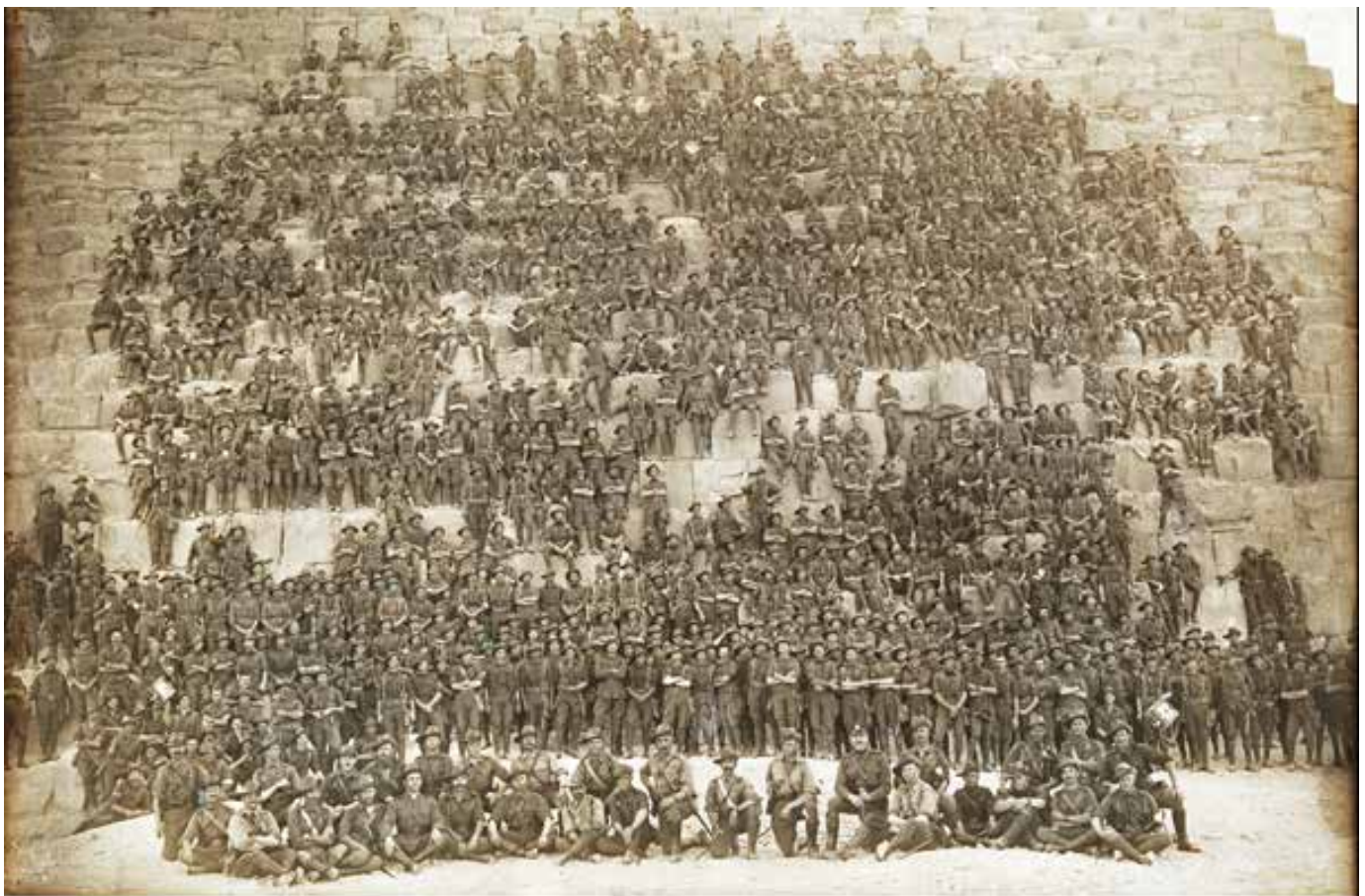
The idea for the project came as a result of the donation of a print of the Cheops image which is now framed and hanging in the WAGS Library, coupled with a desire to expand the work of the late Allan Ellam who,

in the 1980s, commenced a similar project. The WAGS Webmaster, Chris Loudon divided a digital copy of the photograph into grids and numbered each man, thereby enabling their features to be enlarged and their position in the image to be easily identified. As a result, it is hoped to identify as many of the men in the photo as possible by 10 January 2015, the centenary of the day on which the photograph was taken.

In addition, the site will record the stories and honour the sacrifices made by the men of the 11th Battalion. If you have a soldier that was in the 11th Battalion A.I.F., please contact WAGS at <vigilans@wags.org.au> or visit <11btn.wags.org.au>.

*When the guns have ceased to thunder and the cruel war is done,
And the story told of nations and what each has lost and won,
Will those who write the record ever pause to note the loss
Of the many thousand heroes who did not get the cross?*

– J. H. Barnes "My Brother's Son", Globe Theatre, 9 September, 1915.



The 11th Battalion A.I.F. on the Great Pyramid of Giza, 10 January 1915

Award for Meritorious Service to Family History

Congratulations to **Heather Garnsey** and **Niel Gunson** who were presented with the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History at Congress2015. This is a prestigious Award and recognises individuals who have made significant contributions to the wider family history community, particularly in a voluntary capacity.

Niel Gunson has been a tireless volunteer in the wider family history community for many, many years. He has authored a large number of entries to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Australia's pre-eminent dictionary of national biography which provides concise, informative descriptions of the lives of significant and representative persons in Australian history, excellent background material for many family historians.

In 1962 Niel was made a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) in recognition of his contributions, particularly in the areas of librarianship

and editing. He was editor of the GSV journal *Ancestor* for about 20 years.

In 1964 was instrumental in the establishment of the The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra. The early HAGSOC minutes record his many contributions to promote and encourage family history and heraldry. Niel served on the HAGSOC Council in a number of positions including Chairman, Treasurer and Council member. In 1992 Niel was made a Fellow of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Society and family history.



The new medallion presented to recipients of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History

Niel has a deep and long-standing interest in Heraldry. At a national level, in 1970 he contributed to arrangements for the visit to Australia of Conrad Swan, York Herald of Arms, and the first Herald to visit Australia.

Niel contributed to the first Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry held in Melbourne in 1977 – his topic was Genealogy in a Changing Society, and was as thought provoking and topical subject then as it is now. Niel also provided support and contributed to the success of the 1986 AFFHO Congress held in Canberra.



Niel Gunson receiving his award from President Kerrie Gray



Heather Garnsey with President-elect Robyn Williams

Niel's support to family history over the past 64 years has not waned and he continues to attend HAGSOC meetings and purchase, with passion, family history publications, other published works and journals.

Heather Garnsey has been the Executive Officer of the Society of Australian Genealogists since 1988 and has worked for the Society since 1984 but her service to family history through her employment is eclipsed by her achievements in a voluntary capacity. She has been an avid family historian herself since the early 1970s and has made an extraordinary contribution to the field over the last 30 years.

Heather was Vice President of the Australasian

Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) from 1991 to 1995, a period of significant revitalisation for AFFHO. During those years, Heather co-edited: *Cemeteries in Australia - A Register of Transcripts* (3rd edition), AFFHO Directory of Genealogical Organisations in Australasia and AFFHO Directory of Member Organisations.

Heather was President of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies from 1989 to 1994 and has also served as Treasurer of the Association.

Arguably, Heather is best known for her public speaking engagements and lectures of which there are many, and as a recognisable face of family history in

Australia and overseas. As well as a very popular after dinner speaker for community and charity groups, Heather regularly conducts radio and television interviews and, at times, has been a regular guest on ABC Radio and has appeared a number of times on the highly successful, *Who Do You Think You Are* television program. Heather has made a countless number of presentations in the form of weekend seminars and conferences to family history societies throughout Australia.

Between 1997 and 2010, Heather co-compiled an index to inmates of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum, 1857-1900 (some 78,000 entries). This index is now available as a free online database. This has made access to these vital records of the Benevolent Society of NSW, Australia's oldest continuous social welfare organisation, far more accessible than ever before.

Heather's contribution to family history has been previously recognised. She holds the Society's Diploma in Family Historical Studies. She is a Fellow of the Society of Australian Genealogists and an Associate Fellow of the Society of Genealogists (London). Heather is also Patron of the Dubbo and District Family History Society.



Former recipients of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History were presented with the new medallion by President Kerrie Gray (left) at the Congress Dinner in the Great Hall at Parliament House. Proudly displaying their medallions are (left to right) June Penny, Jan Gow, Shauna Hicks, Andrew Peake with Robyn Williams.

2015 Family History Fair and Conference

11–13 September 2015
at Panthers-Port Macquarie

Hosted by Port Macquarie & Districts
Family History Society

There's always more to learn when it comes to family history – which makes it so much fun . . . and so addictive! Come and join us in Port Macquarie for a time to learn . . . a time to laugh . . . a time to catch up with like-minded people . . . a time to continue your own Journey of Discovery. Registration is now open – *early bird benefits* apply to all registrations received before 3 July 2015. The Free Family History Fair on Friday 11 September 2015 is open to the public from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Five free presentations: Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, State Records of NSW and Trove Digitised Newspapers – and a fantastic range of family history services and products will be available from exhibitors.

Also on Friday, there are the three hour-long Master Classes (\$5 each) Palaeography with Brian Panisset; Public Records of Victoria with Shauna Hicks; DNA and Family History – Explaining the Gene in Genealogy with Ken Hunt. There are now less than 20 places remaining for each Master Class. At this stage, bookings are only

Journey of Discovery

available to conference registrants, so if you would like to attend any we recommend that you register soon and tick the box/es on your Conference Registration form.

At the Conference on Saturday and Sunday there will be no concurrent sessions so you can listen to and engage with ten interesting and recognised speakers addressing the theme of Journey of Discovery. For more information, please go to the home page of Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society at <www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs> and click on the Conference links to the web page or Facebook. There you will find comprehensive details of the program and speakers and you can download a Conference Registration form, Exhibitor Information sheet, Table Booking form and our monthly Newsletters.

E-mail: <conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com>.

Post: PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie, 2444

Phone/text: 0447 445 355 (Jennifer Mullin, 2015 Conference Convenor)

Come and join us in Port Macquarie for the NSW & ACT AFHS Annual Family History Fair and Conference.

Caloundra Family History Research Inc.



*Caloundra Family History Research
premises*



*Volunteer Jocelyn Morgan
in the Resource Library*



Committee members

**Copy deadline
for September
Newsflash:**

15 August

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



Four earlier recipients of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History proudly display their new medallions, which were presented at the Congress Dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House: (left to right) Andrew Peake, Jan Gow, June Penny, Shauna Hicks.

CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH INC.

is celebrating



NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

and

SUNSHINE COAST SENIORS WEEK

on

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2015

ENTRY IS FREE



Enabling Sunshine Coasters of all ages to come together to celebrate the valuable contributions older people make to our communities.

The theme ***It's on for young and old*** will further develop intergenerational connections through family history research

at our

CALOUNDRA RESOURCE CENTRE

THE SUNSHINE COAST TURF CLUB, CORBOULD PARK, PIERCE AVENUE, LITTLE MOUNTAIN

*****ENTER AT GATE 2*****

BE THERE FROM 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Morning Tea sponsored by



is at 10 am

DIRECTIONS AND A MAP ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au