



Together we can achieve much more!

# Newsflash

## From the President

As we head into the last month of 2016 we wonder where the year went. Hopefully you have added some more detail to your family tree and perhaps have solved one of your 'brick wall' mysteries.

A highlight of Family History Month was the presentation of the Nick Vine Hall Award to my Society. It is an honour to receive such a prestigious Award and I urge societies to consider participating next year. Its easy – go to the website [www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org) > Nick Vine Hall Award > scroll to the bottom of the page > read the conditions of entry > select your best journal or magazine from 2016 > then download the entry form.

May I wish you and your family *Seasons Greetings* and a little time to spend on your family history.

*Robyn Williams*  
President

## Mandurah Family History Society: 30 Years of Achievement

The idea of a WAGS Mandurah Group was first mooted in the mid eighties, and following a successful membership drive, an inaugural meeting was held in the town library in August 1986. Membership for the new group grew strongly throughout the nineties and with it came the introduction of computers and then connection to the internet. The new millennium saw major changes; in 2000 the Mandurah branch of WAGS became an autonomous self governing unit and the name changed to the Mandurah Family History Society; in 2002 the society moved into new, larger dedicated premises at Library Precinct.

Whilst keeping pace with technology has been important in retaining and growing numbers so too has been the regular programme of member engagement. This has been achieved through events such as skill seminars, open days and the monthly guest speakers. A mentoring programme is in place to give help and support new members.

In her speech, as outgoing president, Barbara Mitting said:

“Mandurah Family History Society has been part of the community for thirty years and I am proud of our accomplishments in bringing family history to local people. It’s hard to believe that only fifteen or so years ago research was largely conducted through microfiche records together with printed materials. The world is now at our fingertips and we look forward to the next thirty years; Whilst family history is our *raison d'être* we believe this should be undertaken in an atmosphere of support and inclusiveness. We are a society but we also consider ourselves a family where friendship and mutual support are paramount”.



*Patron, Paddi Creevey cuts the cake*

## Call for Speakers

AFFHO is compiling a Speakers list for Affiliated Societies to freely access.

If you’ve heard a wonderful speaker or if you are prepared to give a presentation or participate in a webinar within Australia and/or New Zealand please let us know [secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org). Please give contact details and topics that are willing to be presented.

Please note the list will only have areas of interest and contact emails. Costs and details will be independently arranged by the Speaker and Societies.

## Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

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

Contact: [secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org)

### AFFHO Council

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Margaret Doherty	History QLD	Secretary
Nick Reddan	ACT	Treasurer
Martyn Killion	NSW	Councillor
Geoff Doherty	QLD	Councillor
Lorraine Clarke	WA	Councillor
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Councillor
Gilbert Materne	SA	Councillor
Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Assoc Rep

### AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
Martyn Killion	2018 Congress (SAG)
Shauna Hicks	National Family History Month Co-ordinator (Aus)
Kerry Kilpatrick	Webmaster
Lorraine Clarke	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Fiona Brooker	Newsflash Editor

### Membership

Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council 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

## Nick Vine Hall Award 2017

The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand dated in the previous calendar year.

AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/ newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

Entries for the 2017 Award close on 31 March 2017.

Go to [www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org) for full details.

## Family History Calendar

### 2017

#### 19-21 May

Queensland State Conference

#### *Footsteps in Time*

Gold Coast, Australia

#### 3-5 June

New Zealand Society of Genealogists  
Conference

#### *Looking forward to the past*

Auckland, New Zealand

### 2018

#### 9-12 March

AFFHO Congress

#### *Bridging the Past & Future*

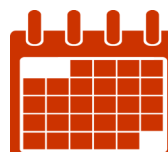
Sydney, Australia

#### 1-4 June

New Zealand Society of Genealogists  
Conference

#### *Echoes of Our Past*

Christchurch, New Zealand



**Do you have an upcoming event?**

Send details to  
[fiona@memoriesintime.co.nz](mailto:fiona@memoriesintime.co.nz)  
for inclusion in this calendar.

# FOOTSTEPS IN TIME

Queensland's second State conference is to be held on the Gold Coast next May.

The months of planning are slowly coming to fruition. With over 20 speakers presenting a wide range of interesting papers, and an exhibitor's area of over 30 different stands it should prove a great weekend.

Helen Smith is presenting two Master Classes on the Friday afternoon: Introduction to DNA, and Advanced DNA. These are not part of the conference and can be purchased separately.

Already over half of the stands have been allocated, so if your group wishes to display and sell at the conference, please email for further details: [footstepsintime2017@gmail.com](mailto:footstepsintime2017@gmail.com) You can share a stand, and there are reduced rates for stands for History Queensland members: \$30 for the 3 days Friday lunchtime to Sunday lunchtime. Details on the website.

By signing up to our e-newsletter from the home page of the conference website ([www.footstepsintime2017.com.au](http://www.footstepsintime2017.com.au)), you will be kept informed of new details as they emerge.

Early Bird registration \$120 closes on 1st March 2017. All Early Bird registrants will go into a draw to win a 12 months World subscription generously donated by Findmypast.

*Ann Metcher  
Conference Convener  
Gold Coast Family History Society Inc.*

---

## Family Secrets, National Silences: A Sociological Study of Intergenerational Storytelling



**Have you discovered secrets kept by past generations in your family history research?**

A researcher from the University of Melbourne, sociologist [Dr Ashley Barnwell](#), is seeking volunteers for an online survey. The project aims to better understand the social role of family secrets and the impact of social mores and policies on families over time. The survey consists of 7 questions and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

To participate please fill out the survey at: <http://www.familysecretsstudy.com>

# Bridging the Past & Future

## SYDNEY 2018

Hosted by the Society of Australian Genealogists

**9-12 March 2018**

**International Convention Centre,  
Darling Harbour, Sydney**

**Early bird registrations open May 2017**

**[www.congress2018.org.au](http://www.congress2018.org.au)**



### **AFFHO Newsflash**

This is your chance to share what your group is doing with your fellow AFFHO societies and reach an international audience.

We encourage you to forward on this Newsflash to your members. Copies of all issues can be downloaded from the newsletter link on the AFFHO website.

Newsflash is issued four times a year:

Issue: March	Copy deadline: 15 February
June	15 May
September	15 August
December	15 November

Copy and photos should be forwarded to the Editor: [fiona@memoriesintime.co.nz](mailto:fiona@memoriesintime.co.nz)

**March  
Newsflash  
Copy  
Deadline**

**15  
Feb**