PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This is a special edition of Newsflash, largely due to the approaching National Family History Week in Australia, held from Friday 29 July to Sunday 7 August.

This is a special year for National Family History Week, due to the timing of the Australian National Census which will be held on the night of Tuesday 9 August.

For many years AFFHO lobbied the Australian Government that the Census returns should be retained for future research, as is the case in Britain, Canada, the United States and many other countries. Prior to that, every Census had been destroyed after the data analysis. Following a Parliamentary Enquiry a decision was made that the Census return would be retained, if the individual filling in the return, ticked the box. The last two censuses have had this provision, and the provision will be there this year. In the medium to long term we hope that the Government will decide that the Census returns will be retained for posterity, and there will be no requirement for the box to be ticked.

This Newsflash is to encourage all member societies to include material regarding the Census in their journal and newsletters and encourage their members to tick the box.

National Family History Week promises to be bigger and better than previous years. We are hoping to increase our sponsorship profile and as a consequence increase the publicity regarding family history in the media. AFFHO will be promoting the Week in the press and

- Be part of history
- Say yes to question 60
- Census night 9 August 2011

Together we can achieve much more!
other forms of media, but we hope that member societies will organise events that will attract not only those already interested in family history, but others for whom family history is barely an idea or thought at the back of their mind. It is those individuals who we hope will join your society and make your organisation richer and stronger.

So how can your society help?

♦ Include material in your next journal regarding the Census
♦ remind everybody to tick the box,
♦ organise an event for National Family History Week,
♦ register the event on the website, and
♦ promote the event in your local community.

Publicity about the Week will be distributed to all family and local history societies, libraries etc shortly.

Further material appears in this Special Newsflash. Feel free to use it in your journal.

Andrew Peake

NICK VINE HALL AWARD

THE NICK VINE HALL AWARD FOR THE BEST JUDGED JOURNAL

AFFHO introduced this award to promote family history journals / newsletters, and also to honour the memory of Nick Vine Hall, AM, who did so much to retain the census in Australia and to bring genealogy to the forefront through his radio broadcasts.

The Nick Vine Hall Award will be judged and the award announced in National Family History Week.

There are two categories:

A-For societies with less than 499 members
B- With more than 500 financial members

First Prize - $300 to Society with a wall plaque.
Second Prize - $100 and certificate
Editors - Certificate

Runners up will receive a certificate

This award is sponsored by The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations and is open to all member organisations.

Closing date for entries 30 April

JUDGING CRITERIA

The judges will be looking for a Society that submits a well presented journal / newsletter with the best content, both in quality and range of articles, and for the quality and diversity of news items and information appropriate to that society's aims and objectives.

When considering the entries, judges will assess each journal's contribution in the presentation, articles and information.

A winner is not eligible to send an entry for the two years immediately following their win. A society is not eligible to send an entry in any year when one of the judges is a member of that Society's Executive committee.

Your journal / newsletter must have been published in the last 12 months.

Societies should submit three identical copies of their entry, together with three copies of the completed entry form, including email address by 30 April.

To be posted and properly marked: Nick Vine Hall Award, C/-Margaret Hickey, C/- WAGS , U6/48 May Street, Bayswater 6053 Western Australia

FAMILY HISTORY WEEK EVENTS

The website lists events that have been submitted, they are divided by state and listed in postcode order. To add your event simply click on 'Add an event'.

Past years have shown that you do not need to plan big events and simply publicising your hours is often enough to let people know where you are, when you are open and how you can help.

Add your details now, we get over 570,000 hits on the website leading up to and during the week. We also get lots of emails asking what is on in various areas. National Family History Week is part of the schools calendar – now is the time to tell the world where you are and what you do!

CENSUS NIGHT 2011

The Australian census will be taken on Tuesday 9 August. Australians will again have the choice to have their personal information stored for 99 years. To have your information saved you must say yes to question 60. Please promote this on your website, email, in your journal and noticeboards – family historians can make a difference!

Be part of history
Say yes to question 60
Census night 9 August 2011