President’s message

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Unlike last year, we haven’t had the weather disasters that struck many states in Australia in early 2011. Unfortunately however, Christchurch suffered with further earth tremors. I spent Christmas/New Year on Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, and rather than laze on a coral beach under the palm trees (which would have bored me stupid), I travelled around the island on a scooter, transcribing cemeteries!

For those who may have wandered there was no December edition of Newsflash – time seemed to have run away from me!

This will be my last report before the AGM scheduled to be held on the 28 March at the 13th Australasian Congress in Adelaide. This is the only time every three years for people to put names and voices to faces.

In the New Years Honours in New Zealand, Jan Gow was awarded the Queen’s Service Medal for services to genealogy. Jan, is a past recipient of the AFFHO Meritorious Service Award for Family History. Further information regarding Jan and the Medal will be found elsewhere in Newsflash. Recently reading the Society of Australian Genealogist journal, Descent, I noted the retirement of Evan Best as the long term editor of the journal and past member of their council. Evan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to family history in 2010. Both are long term stalwarts of family history in their respective countries and are to be congratulated for the public recognition that they have received.

2011 has seen the inclusion of a considerable amount of Australian material on the pay-to-view Internet sites. Australian electoral rolls, cemetery

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Peter Applebee Web site: webmaster@affho.org
Peter Applebee 2012 Congress (SAGHS)
vacant 2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Leslie Berry Coord Nat Family History Week
Graham Jaunay Editor: grahams@jaunay.com
Barry Weeden Auditor

Current Projects
Save the Census Index of Indexes
National Family History Week (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.
Current members are listed at: www.affho.org

Together we can achieve much more!
transcription and considerable convict material is now much more accessible, particularly as a searchable data base. Many member societies have been able to negotiate with these pay-to-view sites for a library licence and of course state and many local libraries also have licences. This is a fantastic service but societies have to continue to promote their enhanced society services rather than allow potential members to simply accept simplified local library facilities.

Three AFFHO events are coming up soon, for which member societies need to start planning. Firstly the 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry Congress to be held in Adelaide 28 to 31 March. There is still time to register, with details elsewhere in Newsflash. The other important matter is that AFFHO has booked a stand in the Exhibition Hall for use of any member societies who may want to promote themselves, or market their publications. Secondly the Nick Vine Hall Award is seeking submissions—little is required, only three copies of the your journal published in the last years. Thirdly planning events for National Family History Week in August. Details of both can be found elsewhere in Newsflash.

I look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in March at the Congress, although I anticipate being rather busy, as I am also chairing the Coordinating Committee.

Andrew Peake President

From member societies

The SA Genealogy & Heraldry Society have recently revamped their web site at www.genealogy.sa.org.au with a new public image as Genealogy SA. With the launch and in conjunction was the Registrar of BDM, the site holds the SA BDM indexes which are available free to the general public.

SAGHS promises more developments on their web site including a section for members that will allow access to their computer records.

News and Notices

Nick Vine Hall Awards.

The Nick Vine Hall Award for 2012 is now underway and entries are starting to arrive. All societies who are members of AFFHO should be aware that they are entitled to submit entries for this prestige award. The award was named after an Australian Family Historian/Genealogist who spent many years ensuring Australians were aware of how to research their families. Nick had a long running radio program. Also as part of a small group Nick worked for many years to obtain acceptance by the Australian Federal Government to include a question on the Australian Census to retain the census information for future generations.

If your Society is producing a magazine/journal that you feel should be drawn to the attention of a wider audience then you should submit an entry in this competition. Like previous winners who are justly proud of their award you will be able to use this to advertise your Society, the area your Society covers and family history projects in which your Society is involved.

The award is divided into two classes dependent on the size of your Society.

Refer to the AFFHO website and go to the Awards page. You will find both conditions and an entry form. Entries for the 2012 Nick Vine Hall award closes 30 April 2012.

Jan Gow awarded Queen’s Service Medal

Jan Gow has been a genealogist, tutor, author and lecturer at local, national and international levels (and cruise ships) since 1985. She has served on the Association of Professional Genealogists Board and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists as treasurer and president. Owner of Beehive Books (since 1987) and Hooked on Genealogy Tours (since 1992), each year she prepares and escorts genealogists to Salt Lake City and the United Kingdom. She was awarded the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Award for Meritorious Service to Family History in 2006.

In the New Zealand New Year Honours, 2012, Jan was awarded the Queen’s Service Medal for service to genealogy. The Queen’s Service Medal was instituted in 1975 and awards are made for valuable voluntary service to the community.

AFFHO extends its congratulations to Jan for her award and the public recognition for her services to family history in New Zealand.

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Amazingly, Congress 2012 is on at the end of this month—March 2012 has arrived. It is hard to believe when the committee was formed so long ago that the sense of time would expand, but at the same time there would be a concertina effect.

With the very hard work of the Organising Committee, and with the consistent demand for meeting deadlines and standards of excellence by editor, Graham Jaunay, the Proceedings book is at the printers, the programme has entered the final proof reading stage in preparation for submission to the printers. Menus are being prepared, lecterns and satchels are being organised, and sound systems will be at the ready, in other words it is all go for the committee and support staff.

Speakers from around the world are sharing their excitement with the organisers of the Congress. Some are visiting Adelaide and Australia for the very first time and are completely united in their goals and aims of sharing with us their enthusiasm, their skills and expertise in their chosen fields of research and writing. They have all expressed a desire to be able to deliver papers of high excellence with outcomes of assisting all participants in their research and search for knowledge. They have also agreed to be available to the participants for a chat or query within the exhibition area.

The biggest dilemma registrants are having is which presentation to attend, how to fit everything in, there are only four days, and added to the presentations is of course the Exhibition.

The Exhibition will showcase the skills and resources available to all who attend the Congress as they search for their Ancestors in their Social Context. Findmypast, the Principal Sponsors, will have representatives in attendance to help you find out how to get the most out of your search and learn what new records and features will be coming in the future. They will be offering free look-ups of findmypast.co.uk, findmypast.com.au and findmypast.ie at their stand. In addition they will also be offering discounted subscriptions and packages which will only be available at the event. So stop by the exhibition and say hello.

Unlock the Past will have a large display of not only their latest resources, but also information on their newest family history cruise and other seminars. A must exhibition to visit.

Another major sponsor is the Public Trustee. They will be available to chat with you about their display of historic documents and wills, and also how the documents you leave can add to the picture for your ancestors.


The pre-Congress bus tour to the South Australian repositories is so popular, that is now fully booked out. The other tours still have a few vacancies, please look at the tour program at www.congress2012.org.au and make your selections now.

To you all, we extend a warm invitation to join us, to share in the excitement of new pathways for research, the fellowship of others with the same keen interest and the fun of being there.

Adelaide Convention Centre: 28–31 March
AFFHO Stand at Adelaide Congress

A stand will be made available for any AFFHO Society member to use at the forthcoming Congress in Adelaide in March 2012. Societies can bring along promotional material for display, publications and other services that they wish to sell. This will largely be a static stand, only staffed while Congress attendees are not at presentations. This is being made available by AFFHO at no cost to members. Just turn up and make use of it!

Nick Vine Hall Award in the Future

For some years now the Nick Vine Hall Award has been divided into two categories, societies with less than 500 members and those with more than 500 members, which largely means the state based societies. The Judging Panel has been concerned that the categories and cut off point between the categories is not appropriate as small societies, with less than 200 members cannot compete with societies with twice that number of members. A division has been suggested of 0-250, 251-500, 501+ members. What do you think?

National Family History Week

The National Family History Week in 2012 kicks off with its launch on Friday, 27 July and runs through to Sunday, 5 August. It is now time to start planning for promotional family history events for your society at this time. Register them on the National Family History Week website.

GOONS

The Guild of One-Name Studies has reached another milestone when the 6000th member joined the Guild. This milestone follows a very successful year for the Guild of One-Name Studies when the Guild achieved its highest number of new members ever.

New Publications

100 years ago 1911; extracts from the Moruya Examiner for the year 1911.

This publication (A5 soft cover 44pp index) by the Moruya and District Historical Society is available for $5.00 + $2 p&p from the Society, PO Box 259 Moruya NSW 2537 Telephone: (02) 4474 3224.


Volumes 4 & 5 are the final two CDs in the exciting, collection of indexes that will enable the family researcher to put the flesh on the bones of family history. In association with Volumes 1, 2, and 3, these final volumes complete the index to almost 121,700 ordinary Victorians going about their daily lives from the first years of the infant colony in 1852 to the turn of the century 1899.

Price $25.00 each (Packages available including earlier Volumes)

Available from the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc, PO Box 339, Blackburn VIC 3130