

**Australasian Federation of
Family History Organisations**

PO Box 3012, Weston Creek ACT 2611
www.affho.org

AFFHO Council

Kerrie Gray	ACT	President
Robyn Williams	NZ	Vice-President
Alfred James	NSW/ACT	Secretary
Heather Clarey*	NSW/ACT	Treasurer
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Andrew Peake	SA	Councilor
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Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Helen Turner	QLD	Assoc Rep

*seconded

AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer; Archivist
Peter Applebee	Website: webmaster@affho.org
Kerrie Gray	2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Lesle Berry	Coord Nat Family History Week
Don Mountain	<i>Newsflash</i> Editor: dmountain@netspeed.com.au
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

President's Message

Welcome to the first AFFHO *Newsflash* since the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide in March. We hope that you like the new-look *Newsflash* and that you find it a valuable mechanism for learning about what is happening within AFFHO and within the wider family history community.

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry held in Adelaide is now behind us and I am sure that those who attended had a great time, learnt from the many excellent speakers, met new friends and renewed old acquaintances. Family history is such an interesting activity where we use modern technology to search into the past to uncover the people and the society in which they lived. At Congress we learnt about subjects as varied as DNA, social media, tax and probate records and illegitimacy and so much more. Thank you to those who worked so hard to bring us Congress 2012 and to all those who attended and helped make it the success that it was. I hope that you enjoy the brief articles on some of the presentations that we have included in this newsletter.

The 14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry is in its early stage of planning. This Congress will be held in Canberra from 26-30 March 2015. Visit the website at congress2015.org.au to keep up to date with all that is happening and to register for the Congress newsletter *Canberra Calling*.

National Family History Week will be celebrated throughout Australia from 27 July to 5 August this year. This is a great opportunity for us all to spread the word about the challenges, the delights and the sheer fun involved in researching our family histories and in adding to the wealth of knowledge about our forebears and the lives they lived. I encourage all societies to add their events to the National Family History Week website, www.familyhistoryweek.org.au, and to take this opportunity to involve members of the wider community by, for example, inviting guests to an open day or a meeting with a special guest speaker or whatever suits your community. There is plenty of national media attention being given to family history through commercial advertising and shows such as *Who do you think you are?* Let's take the opportunity to build on this and encourage membership by demonstrating that it is through societies such as ours that people can learn to do the research, use the available technologies and access a much broader range of resources.

Finally, thank you to outgoing AFFHO Council members who have supported our member societies and worked hard to grow

Together we can achieve much more!

our membership over the past few years. The incoming Council plans to build on this work and to find more ways to assist and represent member societies.

Kerrie Gray
President

*The Federation of Family History Society awards**

The UK Federation of Family History Societies announced the winners of two very significant awards at their Annual General Meeting on 24 March 2012. To the delight of the Australian and New Zealand delegates at Congress 2012, David Holman, President of FFHS presented awards to the Genealogical Society of Victoria and to the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The Elizabeth Simpson Award for the Journal making the Best Contribution to Family History

The Elizabeth Simpson Award was first introduced in 1979 and is awarded annually to the society whose journal has, in the opinion of the judges, made the best contribution to family history during the preceding twelve months.

The **Overall Winner** of the Elizabeth Simpson Award 2011 was the **Genealogical Society of Victoria**. Congratulations to GSV.

Award winners in their categories were:

Large Societies: Somerset & Dorset FHS (Winner); Oxfordshire FHS (High Commendation); Guild of One Name Studies (Commendation)

One-Name Societies: Witheridge Family History Society (Winner); The Dalton Genealogical Society (High Commendation); Stonehewer-Stanier Society (Commendation).

Small Societies: Rotherham (High Commendation); Wakefield and District (Commendation)

Overseas: Genealogical Society of Victoria (High Commendation and Overall Winner)

The Best Website Award

The Federation organises an annual award to the member society with the best web site in recognition of the growing importance of this media. The first award was made in June 2001.

In this Award the **Overall Winner** was the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists**.

Award winners in their categories were:

Large Societies: Families in British India Societies (1st); Guild of One Name Studies (2nd); North of Ireland FHS (3rd).

Small Societies: Nuneaton & North Warwickshire (1st); Rugby FHG (2nd); Isle of Wight (3rd)

One Name Societies: The Alabaster Society (1st); Clan Davidson Association (2nd); The Filby Association (3rd).

Overseas Societies: New Zealand Society of Genealogists (1st and Overall Winner); Genealogical Society of Queensland (2nd); Genealogical Society of Victoria (3rd)

Our congratulations to all the winners, but particularly to those from Australia and New Zealand.

*FFHS Awards

The Elizabeth Simpson Award for the Journal making the Best contribution to Family History: The Elizabeth Simpson Award was first introduced in 1979 and is awarded annually to the society whose journal has, in the opinion of the judges, made the best contribution to family history during the preceding twelve months. The 2011 winning society received £250 in prize money, a trophy and a certificate.

The Best Website Award: The Federation organises an annual award to the member society with the best website, in recognition of the growing importance of this media. The first award was made in June 2001 and sponsorship for this event is kindly provided each year by ABM Publishing who presented a £100 cheque to the winning society.

Vale

John Button OAM

Members of AFFHO will be saddened to learn of the passing of John Desmond Button OAM.

John, a former member of the The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, voluntarily contributed his professional, specialised expertise to the compilation of the Constitution and Rules for The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, Inc. (HAGSOC) under the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991*.

We can also thank John for the overseeing the implementation of the AFFHO Constitution and By-Laws that we use today which take in the vagaries of an International body that includes all Australian States, Territories and New Zealand, thereby setting the standard and resulting in the original incorporation of AFFHO under the *Australian Capital Territory Associations Incorporation Act 1991*. The precise legal wording and avoidance of conflicting overlap throughout the Constitution is testimony to the standard of excellence that John achieved in his work for AFFHO.

John and his wife Pauline joined HAGSOC in 1991 and had continuous membership for more than 15 years.

Dr Lesley Muir

Historian and former RAHS Councillor Dr Lesley Muir, died on Monday, 21 May, 2012. Her funeral was held at Rookwood Cemetery.

Maps of London 1820s-1890s digitised

Dr Martin Woods, Curator of Maps at the NLA, has advised that The National Library of Australia has recently digitized several detailed maps of London and environs, now added to its catalogue. The maps provide street names and fine details of localities during a period of considerable change towards urbanization. All maps may be viewed to street level using the Library's Zoom tool. Maps digitized include Pigot's "New Plan of London" (1823), Cruchley's Improved Environs of London (1826), Mogg's New Plan of London (1834), Collins' Standard Map of London (1870), Stanford's Library Map of London and its Suburbs (1877), Letts' Map of London (1882) and several others. Find maps of London by searching the NLA catalogue, <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/> for any of these titles, or get the lot by entering this string into the search box: *subject: "Roads - England - London - Maps."*

The Library has also digitized all plates to several useful county atlases. For direct links to the atlas plates paste these addresses into your browser: The Large English Atlas / Emmanuel Bowen (1785) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-ra40>; Improved edition of the new British atlas / Teesdale (1832) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-ra110>; Baker's Australian county atlas (1843-46) <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-raa8>.

National Archives' new catalogue

Discovery is The National Archives' (UK) new catalogue, providing a new way to explore their collections. *Discovery* is much more than a replacement for the current Catalogue, as it has been designed to host, search and display the many different databases and datasets held at The National Archives. By doing so it provides a more robust and integrated system to manage current and future data and storage needs, along with a consistent and seamless user experience. For more information visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/692.htm>.

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15 AUGUST 2012**

Christine Yeats announces her retirement

Well-known to many family historians, Christine Yeats, Manager, Public Access from the State Records Authority of New South Wales has recently announced her retirement.

Christine graduated with a Diploma in Librarianship in 1973 and later completed a Diploma of Archives Administration in 1976. Working as an archivist with the Commercial Bank of Australia between 1974 and 1977, she has been with SRA since 1977.

During her time at State Records she made a massive contribution. Chris played a large part in making the archives understandable and more accessible to users. State Records has gone from strength to strength under her leadership. She negotiated a number of third party agreements with commercial providers such as Ancestry.com. Recent statistics show that since the implementation of these agreements in 2009 there have been more than 35 million hits on State Records sourced materials on Ancestry. Chris can be justly proud of her contribution in getting these projects off the ground.

A great advocate for archives in general and for State Records in particular, she has often given up her evenings and weekends over many years, attending and giving lectures, going to functions, book launches and exhibitions. Always been willing to travel she gave talks all over NSW, wherever historical and family history societies are. The vast distances of the State have never deterred her from spreading the good word.

Chris was a founding member of the History Council of NSW. She has also been involved with many other groups such as the Australian Women's Archive Project, Australian Memory of the World Project and the Soldier Settlement Project to name just a few. She is also a past President of the Randwick and District Historical Society.

Recently elected to the Council of the Royal Australian Historical Society, we can expect to see her as a Councillor working for the benefit of all with an interest in historical and genealogical matters.

We wish her well in her future endeavours.



National Family History Week
27 July to 5 August 2012
www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

Past • Present • Future

The banner features a blue background with a faint image of a person in a military-style uniform. A computer monitor is shown on the left, displaying a website interface. The text is in white and light blue.

Congress 2012

A brief review of some of the presentations

Congress Overview

The theme of the congress was Your Ancestors in their social context and to begin in that theme the members of the Victoriana Society of SA added an extra ambience to the opening night's meet and greet.

The next morning Dr John Bannon AO, Chair of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council and past Premier of South Australia performed the official opening of the congress. The renowned consultant to the United States Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, Colleen Fitzpatrick was the first of the thirty-three speakers. They presented seventy-one papers which covered many aspects of life and research.

With so much on offer it was difficult to choose from the family historians' favourites such as BDM, wills, probate, family history programs, subscription sites, FamilySearch, The National Archives UK, digitised newspapers, photographs from Daguerreotypes to digital and face recognition or the social context subjects of apprentices, merchant seamen, mental health, illegitimacy, child migration and marriage contracts. Presentations on stories and records from other countries were also given on New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, Wales and of course England.

It was a very busy time, beside the conference itself there were committee meetings for the council as well as the AGM. A civic reception was given and delegates were welcomed to the Adelaide Town Hall by the Deputy Mayor and at the congress dinner June Penny, long time member of HAGSOC was presented with the AFFHO 2012 Meritorious Award for Family History. This award was given in recognition of June's outstanding service to family history at local, regional and national level for over thirty years.

The exhibitors hall where the yummy refreshments were served each day was a hub of activity during the breaks with delegates either catching up with friends, making new contacts or visiting the exhibitors such as Find My Past, FamilySearch or One Name Studies who had queues waiting to use their online searching or get a printout.

HAGSOC will host the next congress in Canberra in 2015. Their announcement of the venues for the Welcome Cocktail Party in the ANZAC Hall which houses the Lancaster *G for George* in the Australian War Memorial and the dinner to be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House has created the expectancy of an outstanding congress to be held in the National Convention Centre in 2015.

— Heather Clarey

Juvenile migration: Elspeth Grant

This presentation gave an overview of the many schemes undertaken by the British Government to resettle youngsters in Australia. Australia required rural labour to develop the land and increase the white settlement whereas Britain wanted to 'rescue' underprivileged children.

Needless to say these schemes resulted in much hardship for the rescued children. Boys were trained as agricultural labourers and girls as domestic help. By way of illustration Elspeth invited two people she had worked with to tell their stories.

John Gladwell spoke about his father Bill Gladwell who had emigrated to South Australia as a fifteen year old in 1923. Bill had had a good education and already had some skills gained from working as a gardener in England. He was apprenticed to a farmer but unfortunately soon fell out with his master. He tried to make a go of farming on his own, but the great depression intervened and this venture failed.

When John was an adult he realised that some of the problems his father had were founded in the way he had been sent to the backblocks. Bill could not abide injustice and in his later years he worked in organisations to try to avert such injustices happening to others.

Pat Carlson told us her story. She had been placed in an orphanage in Devon at the age of 2 weeks and lived there until she was 15 years. She was then sent with 48 other girls to Australia under a British child migrant scheme. Her placement in Australia was most unhappy and she was made to work and often humiliated for very little reason. She felt that her caregivers were trying to break her spirit.

Pat met and married her husband who has been a great support to her over the years. She tried many times to find her mother and was thwarted so many times. She was not given the correct information so had problems in finding her original birth certificate. However, a few years ago with help and support from her husband and friends she has located her birth family and met up with her half siblings. Unfortunately her mother had passed away but Pat is now content with the family she has found.

This was a tear jerking presentation which made me understand more the problems of separation of children from their families and which led eventually to the apologies by the Australian and British Governments.

— Robyn Williams

Using English Probate Records: Todd Knowles

Probate Records are an important source and, according to Todd, should be one of the basic records used by family historians – the other basic records being census, church and civil registration records.

The benefits of Probate records are that they can be found as early as the fourteenth century and can contain a wealth of genealogical information. One of the key challenges of using these records is locating them. Probate records can generally be classified as pre 1858 and post 1858.

Before 1858 wills were probated by the Church of England in one of over 300 different courts. The courts were not equal in importance and they covered different jurisdictions. Wills were usually probated in the jurisdiction in which the testator owned land; if land was owned in more than one jurisdiction, the will would have been probated in the court which had the highest jurisdiction. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was the court with the highest jurisdiction and, as such, handled special cases including where the testator owned land overseas or died overseas, regardless of where he owned land or.

Todd suggests sources on *familysearch.org* which will help a researcher find pre 1858 probate records. The first is FamilySearch wiki which can be found at *www.wiki.familysearch.org*. Type in the county name followed by probate records, for example Hampshire Probate Records. There are very clear guidelines that then take you through the process of identifying possible courts. The second option is to look at the 1851 Parish Maps project at *maps.familysearch.org*. From here you will be able to identify the jurisdictions and therefore the courts where your ancestor's will was most probably probated. The next step would be to look at the Family History Catalogue to identify what records may be available through the Family History Library.

In 1858 the Principal Probate Registry was created and responsibility for administering probate proceedings was moved from the church to the civil government. The indexes to the Principal Probate Registry 1858-1957 are available on film at the Family History Library. The indexes from 1861 to 1941 can also be found at *ancestry.com*. Remember to check for a number of years after the person died as the Will may not have been probated at the time of death.

Todd Knowles is an Accredited Genealogist specialising in English and Jewish research and a member of the Reference Staff in the British Unit of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

— Kerrie Gray

Light Literature and Strawberry Fetes: Institutes in Australia: Heidi Ing

A catchy title for a subject that has received little attention. Unfortunately as a result, this session at the Congress was poorly attended. A lesson for future Congresses, the presentation title needs to reflect the topic, as potential attendees fail to read what the topic is all about.

As a result only about 20 attended this most interesting presentation, presented by an enthusiastic speaker who knew her topic well and presented it in a most interesting manner. Few Australians who lived in both the country or the metropolitan area in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century, would have remained untouched by the influence of the Institute, Mechanic's Institute or School of Arts. They were known by all these titles, depending on the state or colony in which they were. Most towns and manner suburbs had their own institute. They provided a lecture theatre, library, social meeting place and in the twentieth century the local cinema. Eventually they were taken over by the Memorial Hall and municipal library and now many of the buildings have been sold off (the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society purchased the Unley Institute for its headquarters and library). But they can still be seen in many country towns, often still serving a purpose as the local community meeting place.

The presentation highlighted the background for their formation, management, role and most importantly for the family historian the records that have survived and their potential value to put some meat on the bare family history skeleton. Records that have survived include the committee meeting minutes, though these tend to focus on the local bourgeois, rather than the local labourer who used the library for self education purposes. The subscription lists and rolls are more likely to include the local trades person. However, even here the presentation noted that often women didn't become a member, they depended upon their men folk to select books for them to read. Many of the records have survived, are in local and state archival repositories.

This presentation highlighted an important social institution often overlooked when looking for background to the family history. With the National Library of Australia digitisation program and Trove, searching newspapers, which often include casual mention of individuals connection with institutes, brings these institutions back into focus.

— Andrew Peake

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Dr Christopher Watts

Dr Christopher Watts made four presentations at the Congress

- English apprenticeship records
- Tracing a British merchant seaman
- Every journey has two ends – Getting the most out of departure and arrival records
- British Army deaths, marriages and births

Pitched at those researching in England, the degree of detail in each presentation reflected his extensive experience as a genealogist and his intimate knowledge of the National Archives, where he was a part-time reader advisor for twelve years. As a co-author (with his brother Michael) of two books, *My ancestor was a Merchant Seaman* and *My Ancestor was in the British Army*, his expertise on these topics was well known before the Congress. In addition to providing most informative and enjoyable presentations, the extracts he provided for the Congress Proceedings will be useful for anyone researching in these areas, and will assist in greater understanding of the records that have become available on the major commercial websites and the National archives website on these subjects.

Those who were fortunate to be able to attend his presentations would have been very pleased that Chris made the long trip out from the UK to deliver them.

— Alan Fincher

Dubbo newsletter

The latest newsletter from the Dubbo FHS is now available at: <http://familyhistory.dubbo-nsw.info/media/Newsletter%20Apr%202012.pdf>. You can also view the previous newsletter at <http://familyhistory.dubbo-nsw.info/Newsletters.php>.

New website for Caloundra

Caloundra Family History Research advise that they have revamped their website. The new website is user friendly, has done away with a lot of duplication and most important of all now includes Members' Interests. So please have a look at the new website, especially the Members' Interests, as you never know who is researching your ancestors, it could be one of our members! The web address is www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au.



AFFHO Award winner June Penny (Canberra) and former AFFHO President Andrew Peake at the Congress Dinner in Adelaide.

NZ Society of Genealogists AGM

The 2012 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists was held at Bayview Wairakei Resort, Taupo from 1st to 3rd June. The Annual General Meeting elected a new President, Michelle Patient and seven councillors. The only nominee for Treasurer, Robyn Williams was declared elected unopposed.

The keynote speaker was Dr Nick Barrett who gave three inspiring lectures and a very humorous look at Who do you think you are during the conference dinner on Saturday evening. The opening lecture was sponsored by the Ted Gilbert Literary Trust entitled Family History and the Media in the 21st Century. His second lecture concentrated on the rise of ancestral tourism and he illustrated some thoughts he had on how family history societies could benefit from this. His final lecture was about inspiring the next generation and how we could assist in getting family history in to schools.

Other lecturers included Rosemary Kopittke who demonstrated the extensive datasets available from Findmypast over four current websites. She advised us that in the very near future these websites would all be combined into one. Erick Kopittke gave a very informative lecture on German family history research. Afterwards a person was heard to remark that German research was not as difficult as she had thought. Emerson Vandy discussed the New Zealand digital newspaper archive Paperspast and explained how to use the Boolean operators to filter search results and hopefully produce the information relevant to your query. He also advised that in the near future readers would be able to offer corrections to newspaper articles to make the searching better.

Dr Graham Langton gave a lecture showing the development of recreation in the Tongariro National Park highlighting the theme of the conference: "Volcanic Taupo, steaming ahead". Taupo is situated on the edge of Lake Taupo in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand and located on a volcanic plateau surrounded by the three of the four highest peaks in the North Island. It was very interesting seeing photographs of the ski-ing equipment from the early 19th century where they had skis over two metres long and made of kauri. Conferences are an opportunity for members throughout New Zealand and overseas to meet together to discuss their particular areas of interest. Meetings were held by the Midlands & Northern England, Scottish, Greater London, and Maori Interest Groups as well as a Branch and Interest Group meeting with the President and members of Council.

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June Penny presented with AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History

Well-known genealogist and Fellow, Life Member and former President of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra June Penny was presented with the prestigious *AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History* at the recent Adelaide Congress.

The following is the citation put forward by her nominating Society in support of her award:

The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. nominates June Penny for the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History.

June has been a member of our Society since 1973 and her voluntary contributions to family history at national, State and local levels have been outstanding. At each level she has worked tirelessly towards the growth and development of family history; has established links with kindred organisations and national institutions; has encouraged the establishment and growth of family history societies; and has shared her extensive knowledge and expertise with other family history researchers.

At the national level, June has been an active contributor to the development of family history through her contribution to AFFHO, advocating and promoting cooperation between societies and between states. June was HAGSOC's representative on AFFHO and was a major contributor to revising the AFFHO constitution in 1992. June was co-author of an early edition of the *Requirements and Guidelines for AFFHO Congress*; has been Public Officer for AFFHO since its incorporation; and was officially appointed AFFHO Archivist in 2010. June has attended most of the AFFHO Congresses and uses that opportunity to encourage and foster new researchers and societies.

June was HAGSOC's representative on the state council of family history societies and was the driving force behind having the Australian Capital Territory formally recognised by including ACT in the State Association title.

For many years, June led, or co-led, Road Shows throughout NSW from Tumbarumba to Taree, Bega Valley to Gundagai and many towns in between. These Road Shows introduced and extended the study of genealogy and family history to many and showed the way in the formation of societies which are flourishing today.

June has been significantly responsible for the preparation of a series of Monumental Inscriptions, published by HAGSOC, incorporating burials and extra information when available to benefit all who are searching for family in the south east of NSW. She has also been involved with the production and publication of several editions of *Family History for Beginners and Beyond* and the *Family History Research Manager*. All of these publications are sold widely throughout Australia and are of significant benefit to family historians.

At the local level, June has had a key role in education activities within HAGSOC and within the wider Canberra



*President of AFFHO Kerrie Gray presents June
with her award*

community. She joined HAGSOC in 1973 and served as a member of HAGSOC Council from 1976 to November 2001 in various capacities. She has been HAGSOC Archivist since 2002 and Public Officer since incorporation in 1979, being involved with all Constitutional changes that have been required over the years. She continues to have a key role in managing a group of HAGSOC volunteers who assist with maintaining the HAGSOC Library and, since 1999, she has been the convenor of one of the Special Interest Groups. In recognition of her contribution to HAGSOC she has been recognised as a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of HAGSOC.

She has fostered and promoted family history at the National Library of Australia and at Canberra events including the National Archives of Australia's *Shake Your Family Tree Day*. June continues to encourage the love of family history and heritage by guiding Torchlight Tours of St John's Churchyard – Canberra's oldest Cemetery – during Heritage Week each year. Since 2009 she has been a member of the ACT Territory Records Advisory Council.

June Penny is well known throughout the Australasian family history community as one who contributes at the highest level, is generous with her knowledge and supportive to individuals and to Societies.

Family Reunions

A reunion to celebrate 160 years since the arrival of the *Zes Gezusters* aka 'Six Sisters' emigrant ship will be held on Sunday 13 January 2013 at Geelong, Victoria. For more information, please contact reunion organizer, Rob Newland robjnewland@yahoo.com.au.

Jesse and Jane (née Dunkley) Prestidge Family reunion is planned for 18 to 20 October 2013 in Christchurch, NZ, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of Jesse and Jane and their family of Thomas, Walter, Henry, Jesse Jnr, Edward, Mary Jane, Samuel, Charles and Joseph, from Rugby, England to Canterbury, NZ in 1863, on the *Lancashire Witch* along with Sarah (née Prestidge) Glennie, Jesse's sister. The organisers look forward to seeing as many of the descendants as possible; should you be a family member, or know of someone who is, contact Sandra Marris (née Prestidge) Nelson, (03) 546 7888 for further details.

AIGS 2012 Awards

In conjunction with the existing and well established Alexander Henderson Award, AIGS has announced the launching of the inaugural Don Grant Award.

Alexander Henderson Award: Established in 1974 by the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies the Alexander Henderson Award is presented to the person(s) producing, in the opinion of the judges, the best Australian family history submitted for the award. Strong emphasis is placed on a pre-Australian component.

Don Grant Award: The inaugural Don Grant Award is in memory of Don Grant (1932-2011), a highly respected genealogist in Australia and co-founder of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. This award will be presented to the person(s) producing, in the opinion of the judges, the best Australian historical biography with a family history focus submitted for the award.

The closing date for submissions is 30 November and the criteria and entry forms for both awards can be downloaded from <http://www.aigs.org.au>.

Queensland Expo

History Queensland Inc is partnering Unlock the Past, Queensland Family History Society Inc. and Genealogical Society of Qld Inc. in an Expo to be held over three days in June at the Centenary State High School, Jindalee, a Brisbane suburb, from 25-27 June.

For more information, go to www.historyqueensland.org.au.

NSW & ACT Conference

The 28th Annual Conference of the NSW/ACT Association of Family History Societies will be hosted by the Botany Bay Family History Society. Held from 14-16 September 2012 it will provide three days of family history activity. Interest in the conference has been received from throughout the ACT, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia as well as New Zealand.

The venue is the newly renovated Tradies Club at Gymea. An Expo will be staged on Friday from 10 am to 4 pm providing a variety of workshops and displays and a great opportunity for sales.

The Association will hold a Forum on Friday afternoon from 1.30 pm to 3 pm for society committees to learn and will focus on various technologies that would benefit their operation.

The Conference will officially commence with a social gathering at 6.30 pm on Friday and continue through to Sunday.

There is a list of remarkable speakers on the conference website. Some alternate sessions are available on Saturday afternoon allowing a choice of speakers.

The inspiration for the theme of the conference is taken from four of Captain James Cook's ships – *Endeavour*, *Resolution*, *Adventure* and *Discovery*.

Registrations are available online and if paid before 15 July the cost will be \$130 instead of \$155. A dinner will be held on Saturday evening and is an additional charge to the conference registration.

Plan now to be among the gathering that will be 'Bound for Botany Bay'.



If you attended the 2012 Congress in Adelaide, you couldn't help but notice the bright green tee shirts worn by members of the HAGSOC organising team for Congress 2015 in Canberra. Go to <http://www.congress2015.org.au/congress-2015/newsletters/> and register to receive your free newsletters to keep you up-to-date. It promises to be another great event.