Welcome to the first edition of Newsflash for 2013. Now that the holiday period is over and we are settling back into normal routines, it is time to plan the year ahead. I am not talking about New Year resolutions or even about making sure that 2013 is the year to get all our personal research organised. But it is time for each Society and family history group to think about how it will make an impact this year. We all have our existing members and the services we provide them as a major priority – and that is how it should be. But we also need to think about how we can attract new members and ensure that our societies grow. Think about putting your magazine or journal in for the Nick Vine-Hall Award – if you are successful this would certainly get you some very good publicity. Also start thinking now about how you will celebrate National Family History Week this year. There is always plenty of media attention on this week and if you aren’t participating, you will miss out on sharing in this publicity.

There are also plenty of events on during the year, such as the VAFFHO and NSW&ACT Annual Conferences – they are a great excuse to do a little travelling and catch up with other enthusiastic family historians. AFFHO is very happy to publicise the activities of member societies.

I wish you all well for 2013 and hope that you make lots of exciting discoveries throughout the year.

Kerrie Gray

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**Nick Vine-Hall Award**

This award was introduced to promote family history journals/newsletters. It also honours the memory of Nick Vine Hall AM, who made such a contribution to family history research.

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

Entries close on 30 April. Member society journals and magazines published during 2012 are eligible.

For full details, including conditions of entry and the entry form, go to <www.affho.org/affho/awards>.
National Family History Week 2013

This year we want National Family History Week to be bigger and better than ever. Start planning now to ensure that what you do in your local area attracts plenty of interest and enthusiasm. It doesn’t have to be a big event to have a big impact. If you are looking for ideas, go to the website <http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au> to see some of the events that have been held in previous years. Once you have decided what you are going to do, then to the website again to list your event. To add your event simply click on ‘Add an event’.

Seventh Victorian State Family History Conference

Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfields Experience will be held on the first weekend in May 2013 at the Australian Catholic University (Aquinas Campus), 1200 Mair Street, Ballarat, Victoria.

News from Belfast’s General Register Office

Following the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisation’s years of lobbying and successful submission delivered before the Northern Ireland Executive’s Finance & Personnel Scrutiny Committee in February 2009, GRONI has now implemented new regulations which allow for all future death registrations to note each deceased person’s parents’ names. Up to now, only the deceased’s date and place of birth was recorded, and even this practice only dated from the end of 1973. The new regulations came into force on Monday, 17 December 2012.

You can read the full story here: <www.cigo.ie>.

Escape to Port Macquarie

The Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society, Inc is holding a one day Family History Fair, Escape to Port Macquarie, on Saturday 18 May, 2013. Venue is the ground floor auditorium of Port Macquarie Panthers which has plenty of parking and wheelchair access. Four guest speakers and over 20 trading tables covering genealogy, family and local history will be available for the one entry fee of $10 per person. Doors open 9 am to 3.30 pm. Visit the society website for the latest information <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs/>, e-mail <events.pmdfhss@yahoo.com.au>.

AFFHO Webmaster

Would you like to help us communicate with our members and the wider community? Do you have a little bit of spare time and skills as a web master? If so, your help would be much appreciated. Our long time web master would like to take a break and so we are looking for someone – anywhere in Australia or New Zealand – who would be willing to take on the role. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact <webmaster@affho.org.au>.
OBITUARY

Nicholas John Vine-Hall
17 August 1944 – 31 October 2006

His many friends, acquaintances, listeners, readers and fellow genealogists, nationally and internationally were shocked to learn that their beloved voice of family history research in Australia affectionately known as Nick Vine-Hall, had passed away on Tuesday 31 October 2006 after a long battle with cancer.

The name of Nick Vine-Hall is a recognised household name in Australia and he will be long remembered for his contribution to the fields of family history, heraldry and genealogy.

Genealogists throughout Australia have reaped the benefits of his classic guide for family history research, *Tracing your Family History in Australia: A National Guide to Sources*. First published in 1985, it brought together the most complete authoritative publication of genealogical sources in Australia and is used extensively to assist those who wish to undertake research at local, state and national levels in this country.

Nick produced a number of resource indexes and publications as part of his personal family history research interests which are of value to family historians. He became a recognised voice on radio and for many years communicated advice to thousands of genealogists across Australian via ABC radio. To compliment his work on radio he also contributed regular columns to newspapers such as *The Land*, in his endeavours to reach ordinary Australians located in isolated areas.

Nick was an invited guest speaker at many international and national conferences, while at the same time he willingly gave his time to speak to members of small local societies promoting his love of family history research in Australia.

It is not surprising that Nick became a Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists and during this time, with his flamboyant manner, he also enjoyed a period on board P&O cruises doing what he did best - encouraging others to enjoy the pleasures of family history research.

While no monetary value can be placed on the historical value of the information contained in the Australian censuses when they are released in 95 years time, Nick is deserving of the highest recognition for his continuous efforts, unsurpassed by any of his peers, to ensure that these records are now to be retained permanently.

He campaigned relentlessly in his role as Chairman of the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Census Working Party resulting in a “snapshot” retention of the 2001 census. The campaign continued to its finality in February 2006 when the Australian Government legislation was changed to ensure that the 2006 and all future Australian censuses
are to be retained. This was one of his proudest achievements and a legacy he leaves with us forever.

Nick received recognition by his peers at a national level when AFFHO bestowed upon him the N.T. Hansen Honour Award for 1987. In 2006 he was made a Life Member of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Nick was welcomed as a member of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra in July 1988 and was an occasional member over the ensuing years. Many members of HAGSOG enjoyed fun times with Nick and recall with humour some of his exploits shared over the years.

The funeral service for Nick was held in the historic, family-connected St Thomas’ Anglican Church, North Sydney on Thursday 9 November 2006.

On behalf of the members of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, I extend my sincere sympathy to family members with special thoughts for John and Katy and partner Patricia in their loss.

A dear friend, you will be sadly missed by many, rest in peace Nick.

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**View early Colonial Office photos in Australasia through a lens**

The National Archives has released online thousands of early photographs and drawings of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and other Pacific Islands. You can now view images of Australian towns, buildings, landmarks and people dating back as far as the mid 19th century. The photographs have been uploaded to the photo-sharing website Flickr. You can tag and contribute comments and suggestions to help improve the descriptions. The images are taken from the Colonial Office's photographic collection (CO 1069) and highlights include:

- rarely-seen panorama of Sydney harbour taken in 1870
- the Garden Palace in Sydney, photographed in 1880 before its destruction by fire
- views of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and St Paul's Cathedral in 1912
- street scenes of Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth at the turn of the century
- photographic views of Tasmania in 1870
- album depicting the arrival of the first Governor General in Australia
- coloured paintings of New Zealand by naturalist George French Angas
- early 20th century photographs of Wellington, Auckland and Dunedin

Find out more about the project and images on our blog.

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**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.**

**2013 Lilian Watson Family History Award for a Book**

however produced or published on paper, dealing with family, individual or biographical history and having significant Tasmanian content.

Entries Close 1 December, 2013

Further information and entry forms available from

TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries

<www.tasfhs.org>

or

The Secretary

PO Box 326, Rosny Park, Tasmania 7018

E-mail: <secretary@tasfhs.org>