President’s Message

It is March already and the first quarter of the year is nearly gone. What happened to all those New Year resolutions? At least it is not too late to focus on those about family history!

Is your Society celebrating something special this year? Perhaps new premises or a special anniversary? Or was a member of your Society recognised in the New Year’s Honours list or through another community recognition scheme? If so, let us know so we can all celebrate and add our good wishes.

The AFFHO AGM is coming up in April and, as always, all Council positions will be declared vacant. Being part of Council is a great way to ensure that the issues important to your Society and your State/Territory are considered by Council. These are not onerous positions but we think they are important. Please consider putting forward a nomination from your Society. Members of all member societies are welcome and encouraged to attend the AGM. It will be a tele-conference and details of how to ring in will be sent to Society Secretaries in early April.

Our next Congress will be held in Canberra in March 2015. Congress always brings together a great range of speakers and enthusiastic family historians. Check out the website <www.congress2015.org.au> and register for the newsletter to ensure that you keep up to date with latest developments.

Many past winners continue to make a wonderful contribution. Please consider if there is someone your Society would like to nominate.

With ANZAC Day approaching it is interesting to consider a slightly different approach being taken by the Lithgow and District Family History Society. They have instituted an ANZAC Cemetery Walk which has become an annual event. For more information see the article on page 6, or go to their website at <http://www.lisp.com.au/~ldfhs/> and read the story about the 2013 Walk – plenty of photographs are included.

After the ANZAC Cemetery Walk of 2013 the group undertook the restoration of the grave of Joseph Peter King, born in 1891 in Omaru, New Zealand. It is quite a sad story – as so many of that time were – and he died in Lithgow on 2 October 1917 aged 26.

How wonderful that, so many years later, a group of family historians are willing to give their time and effort to restore the grave and to seek possible living relatives.

I hope you are all looking forward to a busy and successful year.

Cheers

Kerrie Gray
President

Association Liability Insurance

Last year in the article Association Liability Insurance in Newsflash 47 AFFHO announced that they were taking out ‘association liability insurance’ and asked if members would be interested in having this type of insurance. There were only a few enquiries.

There was some confusion about exactly what was meant by the term Association Liability Insurance. This type of insurance provides cover for non profit organisations and their committee members in the performance of their organisational duties. A Society seeking to acquire this type of policy themselves would probably find the large premium prohibitive. AFFHO is able through their policy to offer members Association Liability Insurance, however we need interest from a significant number of our members to pursue this further. At this stage, that interest does not seem to be there. AFFHO will keep the issue under review.

Please be aware that this is NOT the Public Liability and Personal Accident/Voluntary Workers insurance that all groups need.

New member:
West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc.

The West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc was formed in 1983 at Warragul. Their library is situated in the Old Shire Office building in the centre of Warragul.

The society has a large repository of local information plus Australian and International resources.

Members are very active in collecting and indexing local information such as cemetery and school records. The society has recently published two new pioneer family books recording some of the rich history of the families who settled in the area covered by the Baw Baw Shire.

Many of the local cemetery records have been lost to bushfires and records have been reconstructed from memories and other sources as best as possible.

Members have transcribed the local cemeteries which include Bunyip, Childers, Naaracan, Neerim, Riplebrook, Warragul and Yarragon, these inscriptions were recorded then typed up and checked again for accuracy and indexed. More recently they have been working on the Drouin Cemetery, using photographs then recording transcripts and correlating burial records with Death Notices and Obituaries from local papers.

See their website for a full list of cemeteries where records have been transcribed and the society’s publications are listed: <www.westgippslandgenealogy.com>.

Copy deadline for June
Newsflash: 15 May 2014
Nick Vine Hall Award 2014

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 2014 Award close on 30 April. Go to www.affho.org for full details.

Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) competition

There are some great prizes in a competition being run by FFHS and sponsored by <findmypast.com.au>, <ancestry.com.au> and MyHeritage. The aim of this competition is to encourage the research and writing of a short story about an ancestor who served with the armed forces during the First World War. A maximum of 1,000 has been set.

If you have someone special in your family tree who served with the armed forces during the First World War then you may wish to enter.

Full details including Terms and Conditions and the Entry Form are available at www.affho.org.au and www.sag.org.au

Entries close 30 June 2014

Award for Meritorious Service to Family History

Member societies are invited to submit nominations for the Award for Meritorious Service to Family History.

At each triennial Congress we award the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History. Nominations are invited from member societies and winner/s will be chosen by Council and presented at Congress 2015. Nominations should include a clear indication of services given with special emphasis placed on voluntary contributions. Nominations need to be received by the AFFHO Secretary no later than 26 September 2013.

National Family History Month

National Family History Month will be celebrated in Australia and New Zealand in August. So many societies say that they have declining membership and would like to attract more interest in their society. This is a great opportunity to do just that! There will be plenty of media attention on NFHM 2014 and your local group can benefit by being part of the bigger picture. Whether you are a large society or a small one there is plenty you can do – have a special guest speaker, invite local people to visit your premises, offer to spend some time in the local library helping people interested in doing family history research, lead a guided walk through your local cemetery. The possibilities are almost endless. And by participating in NFHM and putting your event on the NFHM website, not only will you encourage greater participation and raise the profile of your society but you will also have the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Go to www.familyhistorymonth.org.au for more detail and to enter your event.

Dudley Borough new archives

Dudley Borough Archives have opened a new archives and local history centre yesterday, more information can be found on the website: http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/libraries-archives/local-history--heritage/archive-and-local-history/ and in the Dudley news: http://www.dudleynews.co.uk/news/local/10935039.New_borough_archive_opens_to_to_give_people_futuristic_facilities_to_peer_into_the_past/?ref=var_0

Copy deadline for June

Newsflash:

15 May 2014
Caloundra Family History Research Inc new premises

After 10 years at the Guide Hut, the Caloundra Family History group was forced to seek new premises by mid January 2014. After media articles and interviews, so many months spent looking at possibilities by the Committee, local Council members and staff, and even our Patron the Hon. Mark McArdle, it all came down to ‘word of mouth’ and a new facility was secured. Once the ‘ball started rolling’, January was devoted to setting up the new premises and the big job of moving all the fixtures and fittings, plus resources.

Caloundra Family History Research Inc opened for business’ from Saturday 1 February 2014. The group held a Grand Opening on the Saturday, which was attended by local dignitaries, visitors and over 70 members. Patron Hon. Mark McArdle and Patroness Judy McArdle cut the ribbon to the new Library and Mick Sullivan, CEO of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club cut the ribbon to the new Meeting Room. The research facility has wheelchair access and plenty of parking, and all details of the group’s activities are on our website.

On Thursday 10 April, an all day Seminar on “Deciphering Old Handwriting/Getting Started/Working for Queensland: Professions, Trades & Jobs” will be held. Commencing at 10 am and concluding at 4 pm, morning and afternoon teas, as well as a light lunch will be included in the fee of $15. Saadia Thomson-Dwyer and Niles Elvery from Queensland State Archives will be the speakers.

Contact June on 5493 2679 or Roz on 5493 1197 if you have enquiries. The group can also be reached by email at caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com

Enter at Gate 2 to access the new rooms, which are located at The Sunshine Coast Turf Club, at Corbould Park in Pierce Avenue, Caloundra. Further directional details, and a map, are on our website at www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

The research facility and library, with freshly painted bookshelves and furniture, will be open every Saturday from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and the third Thursday of the month from 9.30 am to 12 noon, when the monthly general meeting follows, commencing at 1.30 pm. The rooms are open for the full day, from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm every other Thursday of the month.

There is plenty of parking right beside the facility, which has wheelchair access.

Enquiries are welcomed by contacting June on 5493 2679, Roz on 5493 1197 or Dawn on 5492 2208. The group can also be reached by e-mail at caloundrafamilyres@y7mail.com

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News Flash

March 2014

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Caloundra Family History

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Lithgow & District winner announced

Marjorie Allan from Thirroul, was declared the winner of the inaugural Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award at a function held during Family History week 2013.

Yvonne Jenkins of Rydal, was a well known family and local historian and author of several books on family history in the Bowenfels, Rydal and surrounding areas. Yvonne was the convenor of the Lithgow & District Family History Society in 1986 and over the years encouraged members to write stories about their ancestors.

The Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc has chosen to commemorate Yvonne’s memory each year by conducting the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award.

Submissions for the Award were to be in the form of an essay titled ‘My Ancestors Voyage to Australia’ and Marjorie chose to write about the eventful voyage of Stephen George Fowler and Mary Ann McManus to Sydney on board the ship Zeminder.


In accepting her certificate, Marjorie mentioned that on the first occasion that she visited the Society’s Resource Centre in Donald Street, the first person she spoke to was Yvonne and Marjorie paid tribute to Yvonne’s expertise in assisting her to research the Fowler family in the Society’s records.

Middlesex Appeal Tribunal records

The National Archives is making the digitised records the Middlesex Appeal Tribunal, which heard the cases of men seeking exemption from conscription into the army during the First World War, available online.

The records of the Middlesex Appeal Tribunal, in series MH 47 include case papers of over 8,000 individuals, as well as administrative papers reflecting the changing policy towards conscription as the war progressed. The records reveal men seeking exemption on medical, family or economic grounds, as well as the relatively small proportion wishing not to fight on moral grounds as conscientious objectors.

The Middlesex Appeal Tribunal was one of the county-level appeal tribunals, part of a national system of military service tribunals that were established across the UK to hear applications from men seeking exemption from military service. The collection is one of two sets of appeal tribunal records officially retained as a benchmark following the end of hostilities, and provides a unique insight into the impact of the First World War on families, businesses and communities far from the battlefields.

Local and county appeal tribunal records also survive in many local archives, within personal and local government collections, and with the Federation of Family History Societies, The National Archives has begun a survey of surviving material in local collections to supplement A2A and NRA data. Today's online launch has attracted a great deal of media interest, and although the focus is likely to be on the scarcity of surviving material, we anticipate that it may lead to an increased interest in locally held tribunal records.

The digitisation of this collection has been generously supported by The Friends of The National Archives and Federation of Family History Societies and forms part of The National Archives' program of events to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

Search the case papers through our First World War 100 web portal at http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/ or search the series in Discovery, our catalogue: http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/

Contact The National Archives with any enquiries relating to the project or the records at http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/

Don’t forget!

National Family History Month will be celebrated in Australia and New Zealand in August
Software Review:

BDM DataViewer and BDM Revival

Robyn Williams

Do you have some old DOS based CD-ROM indexes and have upgraded your computer and are now running a Windows 7 or 8 64 bit computer?

Don’t throw the CDs out as there is now some software available (or coming very soon) which will allow you to view the data on a newer computer.

The BDM Data Viewer, written by Australian Jason Ingram, works by reading the data from your existing CD-ROM indexes and placing it into a custom data file which you can view in a number of ways. It works slightly differently from the original program but the data is exactly the same. The screen view is much larger and in my opinion has a better look and once you have been through the learning phase is more easily searchable.

Currently the following KAWare indexes are supported:

• NSW Pioneers Index, 1788-1888
• NSW Federation Index, 1889-1918
• NSW Between the Wars, 1919-1945
• VIC Pioneers Index, 1837-1888
• TAS Pioneers Index, 1803-1899
• WA Pioneers Index, 1841-1905

The BDM Data Viewer will run on any Windows XP, Vista, 7 or 8 (32 or 64 bit) PC. It is available as a 14 day trial, a download for AUD19.99 or a CD for USD34.30.

Coming soon is BDM Revival which will enable you to run other KAware, Digger, Windows 3.1 genealogy software programs in computers from Windows XP through all the variations to Windows 8 machines.

To take advantage of this software visit Jason Ingram’s website at http://peppermintfence.com

Screenshots published with kind permission from Jason Ingram.

Contributors/Authors please note

When submitting items for inclusion, please do NOT format using a word processor, eg Microsoft Word or similar. All I need is a plain text file. I use a professional page-layout program to produce Newsflash. It makes my life so much easier if you leave the formatting to me. This applies to the inclusion of any photographs or other images. Provide these, preferably as .jpeg or .tiff images, as separate files and indicate where they should be included by a notation in the text in red. I will then attempt to fit them as close to that part of the article as is possible. If you are just providing photographs for inclusion please provide a separate text file for the captions.

Don Mountain
Editor

Copy deadline for June
Newsflash: 15 May 2014
Lithgow Anzac Cemetery Walk

The Anzac Cemetery Walk was held on 28 April 2013 for the second year and was a great success with sixteen people turning up. Morning tea was enjoyed followed by a welcome and playing of the national anthem, The Ode and the Last Post. We then visited the graves of 12 returned servicemen and placed a poppy, some rosemary and a card on each one. Visitors included John and Anne Farrimond from Orange and John placed a poppy on his father's and uncle's grave. Stuart Charlton placed a poppy on his father's grave.

The twelve returned servicemen chosen for the 2013 walk were: Stanley Hibbert Farrimond, Harold Leslie Farrimond, Kevin Russell Redish, Ronald Burns, Kenneth Russell Rose, Andrew McNicol Graham, Albert Charlton, John (Jack) Thomas Muldoon, George Mathers, Frederick James Coon, James Finlay and Rowland Plevey.

If anyone has a relative who was a returned serviceman or woman and is buried in Lithgow cemetery and would like to participate in the 2014 event we would love to hear from you.

After the Walk we started on the planned restoration of Joseph King's grave and fortunately were able to complete the task. Flowers were placed on the grave with a card by Margaret Buckley. We are hoping to send some information about this to New Zealand to try and trace some family members of Joseph and to let them know he is being remembered over here.
WWW.BDA-ONLINE.ORG.AU

This not-for-profit Database is now on-line. The result of many years of work by volunteer genealogists and historians.

This initial release contains over 500,000 entries transcribed from:

- convict, muster, census, baptism, marriage and burial records for most of the population of New South Wales 1788-1831 + Tasmania 1803-1811 + many immigrant/convict records 1829-37.
- 11,000+ biographies of Australians published 1881-1907.

The Database

- allows free name search which generates index entries with brief details of all the individuals of that name.
- allows free search of all the source information pages and news.
- contains tens of thousands of linked entries. Where an individual has been mentioned in more than one record, the links form a Biographical Report for that person in timeline format.
- allows subscribers to view the full Biographical Report and to then hyperlink to any other person mentioned in that Report and to do this from one Report to another. All data is fully referenced.
- visit the shop which offers over 1000 secondhand books for sale.

BDA is a work in progress and needs your help.

To view Biographical Reports, users are asked to become a subscriber for just $25 per year for private individuals or $100 for Societies per terminal used. Later in 2014, subscribers will be able to contribute to the Database, help solve brain-teasing linking puzzles, advise of any errors, submit new biographies and support its expansion, as contributors, volunteers, financial donors.

The Database will be regularly updated with new data, new links and corrections. The 73rd Regiment will be added shortly. Also coming soon advanced & keyword functions.

Quality not quantity

Our aim is to produce a Database extracted from original source records or from trusted sources with editorial comments where data may be incorrect if extracted from a published work. We aim to provide data that can be trusted. We take great care in deciphering old handwriting and cross index every person mentioned in a document. The linking is a difficult process and subscribers will be asked to assist where errors occur. The Database will vet any data contributed before it goes on-line.

Society Subscription

Societies may join by going to the web-site, go to Subscribe and choose the Society subscription. The $100 subscription covers a licence to use one terminal at any one time. If two or more are to be used, repeat the subscription using a different password. Payment may be activated via the website using the PayPal facility (You do not need to have a PayPal account).

OR

Pay by cheque made out to Biographical Database of Australia and post to PO Box 795, North Sydney 2059. We will then e-mail you an activation code.