



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

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AFFHO Council 2017-2018

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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
Martyn Killion	2018 Congress (SAG)
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator (Aus)
<i>vacant</i>	Webmaster
Vicki Montgomery	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Editor

Membership

Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council 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.

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From the President

From the President:

I do hope that 2018 is off to a good start with your family history and that you have been able to make more progress as more and more records, both indexes and images, become available for research. We live in exciting times for researching our family history.

It is only a couple of weeks to the Congress to be held in Sydney. This is an opportunity to meet other family historians and learn what is new and be reminded of what we have had available for a long time but of which we may have overlooked in our constant search for evidence of family connections.

The AFFHO Annual General Meeting is to be held at the Congress on Sunday, 11 March 2018 during the lunch break. All member societies are entitled to have a representative attend and it would be fantastic if we had a room full of interested members. Do support your Society by representing your members.

We currently have vacancies for a **Webmaster** to administer our web pages and keep the content current. This is not an onerous position and would suit someone with an interest in family history and who is reasonably proficient in website administration or willing to learn.

There is also a vacancy for a Co-ordinator for **National Family History Month**. August is National Family History Month and while there is a little work involved during August most of the work needs to be done prior to this. The objective of National Family History Month is to raise the profile of family history so that this will benefit our family history societies throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Have you looked at the AFFHO website lately? I am pleased to announce that the website has had a refresh and is looking really great. The content you have previously enjoyed is still there, but may have been rearranged. Sometimes we can't find content because we are using a different word. If this is the case then scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the "Site Map" and read down the list to find what you have been looking for.

Robyn Williams, President

CONGRESS IS A SELL OUT!



We are delighted to report that the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, *Bridging The Past and Future* is a sell out and bookings have now closed. Over 600 people have registered to attend Congress which will be held at Darling Harbour between 9-12 March 2018. AFFHO and the host society, the Society of Australian Genealogists are thrilled with the response to Congress – a sign of a wonderfully healthy and enthusiastic family history community.

The SAG looks forward to welcoming registrants to Sydney and to Congress!

Western Australian Genealogical Society

Thursday 9th January 1868 saw the three masted full rigged ship *Hougoumont* anchoring off Rottnest Island after a voyage of 89 days from Portsmouth and London. On board were 280 convicts and 108 passengers, mainly pensioner guards and their families brought to guard the convicts.

The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS) have joined forces to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this important event marking the ending of official convict transportation throughout the world.

Commemorations commenced with an official launch on January 9th followed by several events focussing on convicts and enrolled pensioner guards. Stories were told about the lives of several convicts and guards plus we heard about the social effects of the convicts and the times of hardship of the guards and their collective influence on the economic development and psyche of Western Australia.

The commemorations culminated in a research day at the Genealogy Centre of the State Library where short talks were presented to assist attendees research their convict, and/or pensioner guards and their UK ancestry. All events have been very well attended which reflects a growing interest in family history research in WA.



L-R: Joanne Hyland, Ian Simon, Bevan Carter, Eva Smith, Lorraine Clarke

As part of the celebrations, the Enrolled Pensioner Guards Special Interest Group of WAGS launched its new website to begin publishing research that has been carried out over the last seven years enumerating and documenting the guards and their families – a total of about 2500 people.

The project was based on the 37 ships that brought guards with a Captain for each ship to supervise research and an Admiral to supervise the whole project. Loading of data to the website has commenced; this is a project that will be on going for many years as records are found, ancestors provide information and additional old records become available. The website is at: www.enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au

WAGS sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the arrival of the *Hougoumont*. Special thanks must go to Lorraine Clarke, WAGS member and RWAHS councillor for initiating and coordinating the events. Her vision and planning produced, in a very short time, events we can all be proud of.

WAGS have also begun changing its marketing methodology by adopting the business name *FamilyHistoryWA* and new logo.

The acronym WAGS has some image issues (think sports and dogs for a start!) and did not convey to the public we supported family history research everywhere in the world, hence the tagline **Researching worldwide**.

The logo is crisp and clean with references to pedigree charts and family history with the different colours reflecting our diverse origins. A Facebook page has been in operation for some time and the new logo appears on our March 2018 journal *Western Ancestor*.

Come and see the March edition at our table at Congress 2018. Further changes to society materials will be introduced as opportunity arises.

Ian Simon, President, WA Genealogical Society



NZSG Canterbury Branch 50th Anniversary Celebrations 10th February 2018

The first public meeting of the NZSG Canterbury was held at the home of Betty Peters (now Betty Riley) on the 12th February 1968 and so, 50 years on, 90 plus past and present members of the branch gathered to celebrate this milestone.

The programme for the day began with Robyn Williams, NZSG Chair, speaking about the society and the benefits to be had by belonging to the organisation. This was followed by Fiona Brooker, Chair of the Conference 2018 organising committee, speaking about the up-coming conference being held in Christchurch 1-4 June 2018. She pointed out that the speakers programme and registration is now available on the NZSG website. The conference is being held in Christchurch in to mark the 50 years of the NZSG in the Canterbury region. Alan Tunnicliffe then spoke about compiling the Canterbury Branch 50 year History he had been working on for the past 5-6 months and presented the finished book which was later available to view and order copies of.

Alan was one of the very early members and so had the personal knowledge necessary to write this record of the branches activities over the years. The book covers aspects of the branch, first by decade from its formation, lists the various meeting venues, the establishment of a permanent library and its venues, the newsletter with its evolvment through the hands of various editors, projects undertaken, seminars and conferences held in Christchurch plus social events and awards to members. Also included are several reminiscences from early members. Alan has also indexed the book and includes a list of all current members of the branch.



Alan Tunnicliffe and Betty Riley

Margaret Copland

Branch Appreciation awards were then presented to Cathy Henderson; Dorothy Turner; Evelyn Robertson; Alan Tunnicliffe; Rae Wilson and Prue Purser in recognition of their contributions to the branch and Branch Life Membership was awarded to Kathy Bisman and Lorraine Wilmshurst for their work in photographing and recording the Banks Peninsula Cemeteries and Honour Boards.

Margaret Copland then gave a presentation, in character, of a story drawn from her own family history entitled "A Wife for Johnny -1899". This was very well performed and much enjoyed by everyone.

Betty Riley was asked to cut the cake, accompanied by several early members who were present at the event. Lunch followed with lots of chatter as everyone enjoying catching up with old friends, and watching a comprehensive slide show created by Fiona and David Lees which attracted many who enjoyed seeing photos of events over the past 50 years. The day was a very successful one with many positive comments being made as people left.

Sandra Serra, Canterbury Branch Convenor



Christmas Tree Decoration for Government House

Recently Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, extended an invitation to organisations of which she is Patron to provide an ornament to be hung on the Government House Christmas tree this year. We were invited to prepare a decorative ornament that best represents our organisation, up to 10cm by 10cm in size.

Ros Thompson, a talented artist, has taken up the challenge and her decoration, a traditional English Christmas wreath incorporating symbolism of our ancestors' old and new countries, was unveiled at the AGM. The decoration took Ros about 100 hours and the Society thanks her for her hard work and dedication.



David Down, President of GSV presenting Ros Thompson with a Certificate of Appreciation for creating an Christmas ornament to represent the Genealogical Society of Victoria

Seminars to be held at GSQ

SATURDAY 7 APRIL 2018

Referencing your stories - Hands on Workshop. There will be several short presentations followed by participants practicing to reference of their work.

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2018

Writing your family history - Speakers include Janet Few, the History Interpreter (Winner of gold award for England, Scotland and Wales as Genealogist Rock Star Award 2017) by electronic link; Pauleen Cass (researcher, blogger and author) and Sharyn Merkley, researcher and author. The final session will include a Q & A session.



SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2018

Introduction to Family History - Janice Wellard has over 30 years' experience using records from Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and the United States. This course will cover using all the main genealogy records such as BDMs, Census, immigration, Parish registers, and others and is suitable for both new and experienced researchers.

If you are interested in attending any of these seminars please contact the Genealogical Society of Queensland via their webpage www.gsq.org.au

NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2018



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.

AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

The Nick Vine Hall Award is made annually in two categories:

- ◆ Category A – for societies with less than 500 members
- ◆ Category B – for societies with 500 or more members

- ◆ First prize – Wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
- ◆ Second prize – Certificate and \$100 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor

For a journal/newsletter produced in 2017
Entries close 31 March 2018

Refer to the AFFHO website for conditions of entry: www.affho.org

AFFHO Vacancies

Webmaster: Our webmaster finished on 31 December 2017 – therefore AFFHO requires a new webmaster. Kerry Kilpatrick has filled this position for nearly three years and we thank him for his dedication to the role. Kerry needs to free up some of his time as he has a number of other commitments in his community. There are two websites to maintain – one in WordPress the other in HTML. A Position Statement setting out the duties and the skills required is available from the secretary@affho.org.

National Family History Month Co-ordinator: After five years our NFHM co-ordinator has decided to relinquish this position. Shauna Hicks has worked hard to raise the profile of AFFHO and its member organisations using social media to raise awareness and to encourage and keep family historians involved. Part of the role requires the co-ordinator to raise funds from the commercial family history operations for prizes and to cover the expenses in running this national programme. As relationships have already been established this is not so daunting.

We thank Shauna for her consistent approach to National Family History Month.