

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

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AFFHO Council 2022-2023

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Jan Squire	Webmaster
Vicki Montgomery	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Compiler

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.

Newsflash contributions to editor@affho.org

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From the President

As the year comes to an end many of us who are involved in the administration of our societies will look back on the past year and evaluate what we have and haven't done with our societies and our own time spent on family history matters.

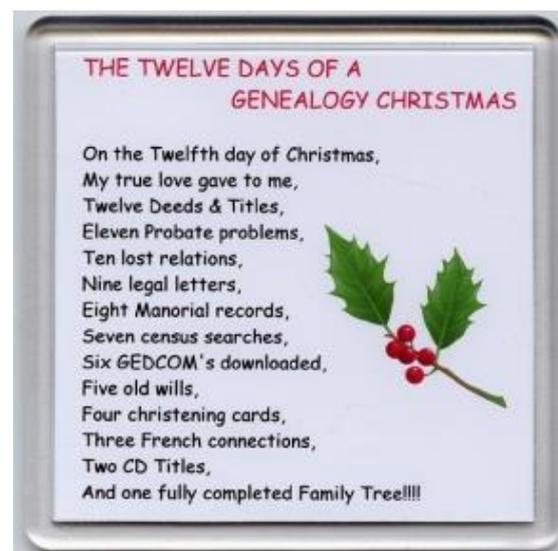
For the first part of the year many were hindered by the Covid19 and we did wonder if Congress would eventuate. However, as mid-year approached, and government abandoned many measures to contain the virus we knew that Congress would be held. Those who attended Congress reported that it was a very enjoyable and relaxed conference with interesting speakers.

Would your Society like to host the next Congress? It is due to be held in the year of 2024, but as this Congress was postponed for a year it could be held in 2025. Council is happy to look at any proposals put forward. We acknowledge that it is a large undertaking, but it also has its benefits in that more people may attend and good speakers may be keener to participate. If your Society would like to explore the possibility, please send me an email president@affho.org

Membership renewals for societies are due on 1 January and invoices will be sent in the next few weeks. Please look out for your invoice and pay it promptly as this saves much administration time.

It's that time of the year again and I wish all our readers a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year and hope that you have some time to catch up on your family history during this short break. If you are travelling during this time, I wish you safe travels.

Robyn Williams, President AFFHO



AFFHO Awards for Meritorious Service

Two **AFFHO Awards for Meritorious Service** were presented at the History in Paradise, the 16th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry held on Norfolk Island from 2nd to 4th August 2022. The Awards are in the form of a Medal engraved with the recipient's name.

Linley Hooper is a life member of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. She joined the society in 1970 and began as a volunteer Library Assistant in 1979. In 1983 she was appointed to Council and was shortly afterwards appointed as Honorary Librarian until she eventually accepted a staff position with the society, first as temporary Library receptionist, and later as part-time Library Manager. She was instrumental in computerising the GSV's library catalogue and in setting professional standards with respect to acquisition, cataloguing and maintenance, dedicating many hours beyond the scope of her required duties. As a volunteer she has rostered and trained volunteers, been guest speaker at many Country Society meetings, frequently designed and presented lectures and classes to a wide variety of audiences, and taken road shows to events around the state.

Linley represented Victoria on the Council of AFFHO between 1987 and 1990 while also serving as its Treasurer and she was also Honorary Secretary of Victorian GUM (Genealogists Using Microcomputers) in its formative years. Linley was one of the key people involved in preliminary meetings in 1995 to form a state family history association in Victoria which resulted in the establishment of VAFHO (Victorian Association of Family History Organisations) the state umbrella organisation.

As Linley was not able to attend the Congress in Norfolk Island she was presented the Award at the Genealogical Society of Victoria's AGM in October 2022.

Martyn Killion has been involved in family history in Australia for over forty years, working professionally in the archival and library fields while contributing as an active volunteer in the family history community.

A member of the Society of Australian Genealogists since 1990, he joined the SAG Board in 1999 and served two terms as President (2001-2005 and 2014-2018), as well as terms as Vice President, Convenor of Education, Honorary Archivist and Honorary Librarian. His first term as President coincided with the launch of the Society's highly successful fundraising campaign to buy its own premises. He successfully completed the Society's Diploma in Family Historical Studies in 1994 and his service to the SAG was recognised with the award of a Fellowship in 2006 and his election as a Vice-Patron in 2019.

As part of the SAG's education team he introduced a webinar program in August 2011, positioning the Society as a pioneer in providing its members with online access to world-class presentations from the comfort of their own home. With Heather Garnsey he indexed 78,000 records of inmates of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum 1857-1900 and makes these freely available at www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com

Martyn was President of AFFHO from 1991 until 1996 and its NSW representative from 2015-2019. He was co-editor of the 1994 edition of AFFHO's *Cemeteries in Australia: A register of transcripts*, as well as the



Linley was presented her Award at GSV's AGM in October 2022.



Martyn was presented his award at SAG's 90th Anniversary celebration in August 2022.

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(Continued from page 2) - **AFFHO Awards for Meritorious Service**

1992 and 1993 editions of its Directory of Member Organisations. Under the auspices of AFFHO he convened, on behalf of the SAG, the very successful 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry held in Sydney in March 2018. This brought together over 700 family historians from around the world during this four day event.

Martyn has successfully combined a solid professional career in archives with a life-long interest in genealogy and has brought to the wider family history community a great appreciation of the value of its work in the broader historical context.

Kerry Farmer (Council Representative for NSW) presented Martyn with the AFFHO Meritorious Service Award at the 90th Anniversary celebration of the Society of Australian Genealogists held on 29 August 2022.



Family History Education

November 22 – February 2023

Join GSQ for interesting and informative family history education sessions that will present opportunities for you to increase your knowledge and practical experience.

For additional details of the sessions and to make your booking, see

Events: <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/>.

Booking is essential

Saturday 3 December 9am – 11am

Separation research: Finding your ancestors in Queensland records 1824 – 1859 – Jan Richardson

\$20 Members, \$30 non-members

Tuesday 7 February 2023

My Ancestor was a Liar: Sifting through the evidence

Dave Annal - English researcher/presenter

\$20 Members, \$30 non-members

Enriching family history

Genealogical Society of Queensland, Inc.

25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, 4122; Phone: 07 3349 6072; Web: www.gsq.org.au; Email: info@gsq.org.au

2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award Family History ACT (FHACTION)

The winner of the Family History ACT 2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award was announced at a special event on Saturday 15 October. It was a pleasure to welcome in-person visitors to Cook, alongside the members and many entrants from across Australia who joined us via zoom.

The Fletcher family have supported the competition since its inception in 2019, and this year we welcomed special guest Joseph Schutte, eldest grandson of Eunice Fletcher, for whom the award is named, to announce the award winner.

We also welcomed Dr Naomi Parry from the University of Tasmania, who made the trip to Canberra to attend the award ceremony and announce the 2nd prize winner, which is sponsored by the university. Naomi's reflections on writing generally and on her own path into family history research and the magic of storytelling gave fresh inspiration to all those who attended.



Joseph Schutte



Dr. Naomi Parry

Judges Dr Wendy Paterson and David Wintrip also joined us and shared their thoughts on story writing and on judging the 2022 entries. Judge Dr Craig Cormick was unable to attend and sent his apologies and best wishes.

The 2022 competition was well supported with 103 stories entered from authors in the ACT, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland - a testament to the enthusiasm of family history researchers across the country. The award ceremony was a celebration of these diverse and engaging family history short stories. Judge Dr Wendy Paterson commended the entrants, *'I believe every person who authors a story inspired by their thoughts, feelings, imagination, and research, is being courageous. They are taking a risk, daring to hope that others will similarly be excited, inspired or intrigued by the story's subject matter'*.

In assessing entries, Wendy said she was looking at what she calls the nuts and bolts that fasten a family history story together. *'Focussing on a central idea helps authors avoid the temptation to include irrelevant detail or events.'* Having a well written, informative, and entertaining story that is logically organised and follows good writing conventions is important. Wendy noted how *'authors drew on well-known strategies to entice me into an unfamiliar world – drawing me in through convincing dialogue, depiction of place or a complex character – and using similes and metaphors to provoke my imagination'*.

David Wintrip, a previous winner of the E.M. Fletcher Award and 2022 judge, spoke about what it takes to evoke an emotional response in a story. For David, this meant working out how his initial reaction would evolve as he read each story - the what, where, when, why and how of the story. Why did the writer use particular words or phrasing, and what could he visualise from these – what did they symbolise, suggest, and how should he react to them? David said *'As a judging panel, I'm pleased to say that we agreed on far more than we disagreed. And where we did disagree it was generally because of our individual emotional responses'*. Judging is, of course, not a single reading of an entry. It requires multiple readings, and this resulted in different emotions being evoked at different times. *'How complex these emotions were and how they interconnected became the markers for whether a story evoked an emotional response.'*

Wendy, David and Craig agree that every story entered is well worth reading, and they congratulated each author on writing and entering their stories. It was a difficult decision to select a winner from the 103 entries received across a variety of topics and styles. During the assessment, the judges read over 194,000 words, many times over, and enjoyed 58 images.

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(Continued from page 3) - **2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award**

Eight stories were short-listed for the 2022 E.M. Fletcher Award, but there could only be one winner.

AND THE WINNER IS

Congratulations to Beverley Richardson, taking home the winner’s prize of \$1,000 for her entry *I am Not In-sane*, a compelling story based on official records and oral history that effectively reminds us of the complexity of mental illness and how it has been viewed over time. In conferring the award, the judges said the story is very brave and innovative, and the author cleverly uses descriptive language to evoke an authentic depiction of time and place. As a Family History ACT member, Beverley also wins the FHACT member prize of a \$100 society voucher. Congratulations Beverley. Read more about Beverley and her motivations for writing this story later in the journal.



Judge David Wintrip, winner Beverley Richardson and judge Wendy Paterson

The second prize of \$500 was awarded to Madeleine Cleary for her story *The Butterfly Women* inspired by her 3xgreat grandmother, along with an Irish family of prostitutes and petty criminals. The judges said this story, told largely through dialogue, was well developed with great characters. Congratulations Madeleine.

A highly commended award was given to Nang-Kai Lahpai for her story *Tales from our Grandfather* honouring an oral historian grandfather. The judges said this story provides a fascinating insight into an area of history that might not be well known in Australia, looking at a grandfather’s personal story of the Kachin people going back 17 generations. Congratulations Nang-Kai.

Family History ACT congratulates the winner and short-listed entries

2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition – Short-List:

<i>Beneath the Surface</i>	Charlotte Mullens
<i>Bursting Bubbles</i>	Dan Davies
<i>Da’s Wake</i>	Cheryl O’Grady
<i>I am Not In-sane</i>	Beverley Richardson <i>Winner</i>
<i>Limonka</i>	Indyana Horobin
<i>Listening in Hope</i>	Pat Shiel
<i>Tales from our Grandfather</i>	Nang-Kai Lahpai <i>Highly Commended</i>
<i>The Butterfly Women</i>	Madeleine Cleary <i>Second Prize</i>



Madeline Cleary



Namg-Kai Lahpai

THANK YOU ...

Our thanks to all the entrants for sharing their stories and supporting the E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition. To our judges Dr Craig Cormick, Dr Wendy Paterson and David Wintrip – our heartfelt thanks – we couldn’t have run the competition without you.

Our most sincere thanks to the University of Tasmania for its generous support in funding the \$500 runner-up prize in the competition.

And finally, thank you to the Family History ACT Writing Competition Committee members Barbara Broad, Rosemary McKenzie, Judy Loy and Gina Tooke.

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is New Zealand's national genealogical organisation. We can help you with your Kiwi family, wherever you are in the world!!

As a member of NZSG you get to be part of a community of amazing people with access to a wealth of information that members have researched and indexed for over 50 years.



Become a better researcher. Add to your skills and knowledge by using our online resources, attending training courses and conferences, or listening to speakers at local events. Find out about new research techniques and resources, or just enjoy reading the stories in our award-winning magazine, *The New Zealand Genealogist*.



Discover new resources. Access a huge range of genealogical resources from your home, including online databases and other collections built up by our members over the last fifty years. You can subscribe to the 12 million records on our Kiwi Collection. Visit our Family Research Centre and Library or get one-on-one email assistance from our knowledgeable and friendly volunteers.



Save money on your research Get discounts on popular user-pays genealogy websites, free access to Gale Newspapers and The National Archives (UK) digitised content as well access to records already purchased by others for example our amazing NZSG Certificates Collection.



Share your research and skills. Publish articles in *The New Zealand Genealogist* and share short stories in our *e-KIT* newsletter. Get help, or help other members through our Members Mailing List (mem-list), social media platforms or join a local branch or interest group.



Help preserve resources for future researchers. Get involved in projects that preserve the historical records of New Zealand. Help digitising old school records, transcribing information from headstones or contribute to a local area project.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa

Family history - Preserving our past for the future

