

NewsFlash

No 31

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March 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year seems to have raced away and already we are contemplating March.

I was among the many who attended the AFFHO Congress in Auckland and I would like to extend my congratulations to the organising committee and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists for a job well done. The range and depth of the speakers was entertaining and enlightening.

There is a lot of work in getting these events organized with many frustrations and anxious moments along the way.

We took the time to holiday in New Zealand as well and even as we travelled we were reacquainted with new friends made at Congress.

With this NewsFlash comes the official notice of our Annual General Meeting. This will be a tele-conference as in the past. Please contact us if you would like to 'attend'.

I trust that your Society is ready to advertise themselves on the National Family History Week website. Remember that you do not have to plan great seminars and events, simply let everyone know where you are.

If any of the council can assist your society please contact us.

Lesle Berry

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

We have been contacted by many groups who wish to help any societies that have suffered loss as a result of the fires. We are liaising with the Victorian Association of Family History Organizations and will call for help as needed.

The generosity of so many is heart warming.

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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Ph: (Secretary) 0400 913 866

www.affho.org

AFFHO Council

Lesle Berry	VIC	President
Andrew Peake	SA	Vice President
Ann Swain	QLD	Secretary
Lyn Walker	NSW	Treasurer
Julie Hesse	ACT	Councillor
David Bryant	NZ	Councillor
Vacant	NT	Councillor
Ian Scott	WA	Councillor

Pam Valentine	NSW Assoc Rep
Di Christensen	VIC Assoc Rep
Mary Sinclair	QLD Assoc Rep

AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer
Andrew Eliason	Web manager webmaster@affho.org

Current Projects

Save the Census	Australasian Strays Index
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.

A list of current members can be found on our website, with links to their websites where available.

Together we can achieve much more!

AFFHO AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO FAMILY HISTORY

At each triennial Congress we award the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History. Nominations are received from member societies and winners are chosen by council. This time, as in 2006, two awards were made.

The winners were Paul Mackett (Queensland) and Shauna Hicks (Victoria).

Shauna was presented her award at the Congress dinner. Paul was presented his at a meeting of the Queensland Family History Society on 18 February.



Above: Paul accepting his award from Ann Swain, Shauna accepting her award from Lesle Berry at the Congress dinner

Congratulations are extended to both Paul and Shauna.

CITATION - PAUL MACKETT

Paul Mackett has given outstanding service to family history in Australia through his work on Australian Aboriginal Genealogical Records since 1989. With very few genealogical records for Australia's indigenous people readily available, his collection represents a unique and extremely valuable resource for family and other research on aboriginals. His index has been a marvellous, unique research tool for those with Aboriginal heritage seeking to trace their family tree.

Whilst those with European ancestry have ready access to birth, death and marriage records, such events were often not registered for aboriginals until the mid twentieth century. They do not appear in many of the usual sources such as electoral rolls and post office directories that others would search for information. Early cemetery records, another useful source for genealogists, often just note a burial as "aboriginal". With many families having been moved to reserves and children separated from their families, knowledge of even close family is often not readily available.

Paul discovered for himself how scarce the records were when assisting a friend in the research of an aboriginal family. Since then he has sought to extract material from publicly available records in various state and federal archives throughout Australia (material available for Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales). He has searched and recorded any entries relating to aboriginal families in documents from a diverse range of records including police, hospital, education, cemetery, Colonial Secretary, Protector of Aboriginals, and Auditor General's files, Police Letterbooks, Watch house charge books, wages registers, employment registers, permits for employment, child endowment ledgers, registers for blanket distribution, pocket money record books, removals, and many other sources. He has literally "been through hundreds of registers and hundreds of thousand pages of correspondence looking for references to Aboriginal people", all this in his spare time and lunch hours! For Queensland alone his transcripts and index extend to a staggering 6,900 pages - a truly remarkable achievement.

He has made the results of his research freely available on the internet and through a variety of libraries. A copy is held at the Queensland State Archives and the Community and Personal Histories Section of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Qld) where it is used by government staff to assist aboriginals trace the faint paper trail of their ancestry. Paul also

personally does research for those seeking answers to their history – again, all in his “spare” time.

A geologist by profession and a quiet achiever in family history circles, Paul has been recognised for his work both locally and nationally – receiving the Queensland Family History Society Award for Services to Family History in 1993 and the Order of Australia medal for his work in 1996. We now recognise the invaluable work Paul Mackett has done on the wider family history stage.

CITATION – SHAUNA HICKS

Shauna Hicks has made an outstanding contribution to family history in Victoria, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory, firstly in her career as a professional archivist in the various archives offices and secondly through her hands-on approach and personal interest as a family historian, seizing opportunities through her profession and personal interests to support family history.

During her career she has enjoyed a public face in her various positions. In these roles she has represented the various state archives and in particular the Public Record Office of Victoria, where she has involved herself in improving access and promoting the wealth of sources at the archives through family history presentations at meetings, seminars, conferences and congresses. She regularly visits and promotes family history throughout the state and at times around the country. Although some of these are in relation to her employment there is no doubt her personal enthusiasm and support go well beyond her work responsibilities.

In Queensland Shauna worked in the John Oxley Library and the State Archives. She is a founding member of the Queensland Family History Society, established in 1979, and was awarded a Fellowship of QFHS for her extensive services to family history in 2000. Amongst other things, she was a committee member, established the Monumental Inscriptions collection, organised the indexing of Boer War Service Records, and was the original Education Officer.

Since then Shauna has served on the councils of the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra and the Genealogical Society of Victoria, involving herself in a voluntary capacity to assist these societies in their operations. She has also worked in tandem with her associated work colleagues in other States, to promote access to archives for family historians.

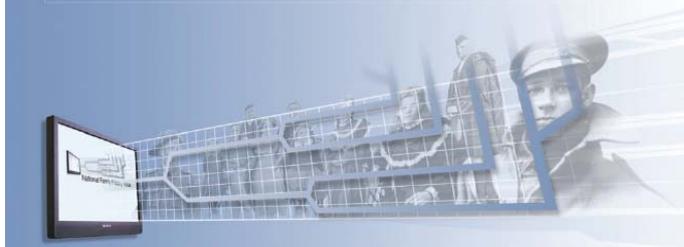
For 30 years Shauna has continuously devoted herself to ensuring the best possible relationship between researchers and the custodians of public records and the appreciation of her contributions

National Family History Week



1–9 August 2009

www.familyhistoryweek.org.au



by family historians throughout Australasia is now expressed through this award.

CONGRESS 2012

If you could not get to New Zealand now is the time to start planning for our next Congress.

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry will be held in Adelaide, South Australia, 28–31 March 2012, hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

Your Ancestors in their Social Context

See the website for more details
www.congress2012.org.au

CONGRESS 2015

Congress 2015 will be held in Canberra and hosted by the Genealogical and Heraldry Society of Canberra Inc. Further details will be announced as they are available.

NICK VINE HALL AWARD

AFFHO introduced this award to promote family history journals / newsletters, and to honour the memory of Nick Vine Hall, AM, who did so much to retain the census in Australia and to bring genealogy to the forefront through his radio broadcasts.

Following the first year we have decided to make a slight adjustment to the categories

There are two categories:

- A-For societies with less than 499 members
- B- With more than 500 members

The winning societies will be presented with a trophy and a cheque for \$150, the winning editor a 12 months subscription to a journal of their choice. Runners up receive a certificate.

Entries close 30 April 2009. Please download the entry form from our website www.affho.org.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Official notices of our AGM will shortly be sent to member societies. As usual this will be a teleconference. Due to the early date of the Congress in New Zealand we were unable to have our AGM, we did however, hold a well attended General Meeting.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK 2009

1-9 August 2009

Add your event to the list from www.familyhistoryweek.org.au. Any event that supports family history can be added to the site. Be sure to mention this website and our sponsors in any advertising undertaken by your society.

We are very keen to see events listed. We seek financial support from sponsors to help fund publicity and they check the website regularly to see what is happening. List your event now!

To minimize our membership fees we distribute *Newsflash*, wherever possible, by email. To make this an effective communication method we need you, the person who this comes to, to make sure it is distributed to your society's council/governing body.

REMINDER

Membership fees for AFFHO were due on 31 December. Membership forms were sent with the last issue or are available to download from our website www.affho.org.



National Family History Week
1-9 August 2009
www.familyhistoryweek.org.au

The banner features a stylized white graphic of a family tree branch on a blue background. Below the text is a photograph of a man in a hat and a woman in a uniform, possibly historical figures, with a computer monitor in the foreground.



 Wyong Family History Group Inc

Will be hosting the
2009 NSW & ACT State Conference
From Home to the Hinterland
We invite you to join us on our journey
Friday 18 September
Saturday 19 September
Sunday 20 September 2009
To be held at
Wyong Racecourse Function Centre
Howarth Street
WYONG NSW 2259

For More Information Please Contact
Conference Secretary:
PO Box 247
Wyong NSW 2259 or
Telephone: The Cottage on 4351 7373 Tuesday - Thursday
between 10am-3pm
Conference Convener Mr. Owen POWELL 4390 8962
Co. Convener & President Ms Kerrie METCALFE 4351 5430

The announcement is framed by a decorative border of small green leaves.

Closing date for items for the
next issue of *Newsflash* is
15 May 2009