

# Newsflash



## AFFHO

### Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

PO Box 3012, Weston Creek,  
ACT, 2611  
[www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org)

#### AFFHO Council

Kerrie Gray	NSW/ACT	President
Robyn Williams	NZ	Vice-President
Heather Clarey*	BBFHS	Treasurer
Stan Gordon	NSW	Councillor
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor
Alan Fincher	VIC	Councillor
Margaret Hickey	WA	Councillor
Sue Reid	QLD	Councillor
Andrew Peake	SA	Councillor
vacant	NT	Councillor
Margaret Doherty	History Queensland Rep	
Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Assoc Rep
Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Helen Turner	QLD	Assoc Rep

\*seconded

#### AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer; Archivist
Peter Applebee	Website: webmaster @ affho.org
Kerrie Gray	2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Shauna Hicks	Coord Nat. Family History Week
Don Mountain	Newsflash Editor: <a href="mailto:canberradon@gmail.com">canberradon@gmail.com</a>
Barry Weeden	Auditor

#### Current Projects

Save the Census 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.

Current members are listed at [www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org)

### President's Message

There seems to be quite a lot happening at the moment. Plans are afoot across Australia and New Zealand to celebrate National Family History Month, the Friends of the Parramatta Female Factory are seeking support in their endeavours to achieve World Heritage Listing for the site, new books are being published and new museums being opened.

Where we know about these events, activities or publications, we are happy to help spread the word. Newsflash goes to our member societies throughout Australia and New Zealand and, through them, is distributed much more broadly. If you have something happening in your area which may interest family historians, please send in a short paragraph or two. This issue includes short articles on a new book on some Goulburn cemeteries, a recently opened museum at Galong NSW and a project to find information about the teachers and students at early bush schools in the ACT. Items such as these may not attract much mainstream media attention but could well be of interest to the family history community – so please share information about your local events and projects.

National Family History Month is a major initiative for AFFHO and we are all delighted that Shauna Hicks, who is so well known and respected, is coordinating it for us this year. This year we will have the opportunity to celebrate throughout August. For some societies and associations, this will provide a much greater opportunity to participate than was available when it was restricted to a week. For others, the preference will be to hold their celebrations within one week. Either option is fine – the important thing is to celebrate family history and to encourage more Australians to learn their family stories and to share these with a wider family and/or community. The New Zealand societies have been celebrating National Family History Month for some years now and have been very successful. We are also pleased to support them.

The weather is cooler and it is a lovely time to settle in with some serious family history research. I will you all great success.

Cheers

*Kerrie Gray*

*President*

***Together we can achieve much more!***

## **August is National Family History Month**

Family history and genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies around the world. Family history is the second biggest subject on the web with sites receiving billions of hits per year. There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history related organisations so the month has broad appeal across Australia.

Be sure that your Society benefits from the publicity and interest – and the prizes – that this special month will generate.

This popular initiative has received broad support from some of Australia's leading government and non government organisations. Current sponsors and supporters include:

- Ancestry.com.au
- Australian Family Tree Connections
- FamilySearch.org
- FindMyPast.com.au
- GenEBooks
- *Inside History* Magazine
- Gould Genealogy & History
- National Archives of Australia
- Shauna Hicks History Enterprises
- Unlock the Past

How do you get involved and be eligible for great

prizes? Simply go to the website: <<http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au/>> and add your event.

### **Ireland reaching out to you**

A new Irish Government-sponsored programme called *Ireland Reaching Out* <[www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com)> has been launched. It seeks to connect people of Irish heritage abroad with their place of origin in Ireland.

By joining any of the 2,500+ parish communities online, direct genealogical assistance is available from local people in the area who also volunteer to meet any who make a return visit. This is a free service run by local parish volunteers and Ireland XO is a not-for-profit charity.

Above all, Ireland XO builds on the paper trail of the records that may only get people so far, by providing that final link of local knowledge. Ireland XO link directly to people from the communities of their ancestors and use their knowledge to perhaps finally discover that elusive headstone, or the spot where the ancestral home once stood, or even seek out some long-lost cousins.

Interested?

Then register with Ireland XO online, <[www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com)> and search for your people and

parish(es) of origin. The steps are to register, login, find your parish/county, join and post a message.

You can search for your parish using this link <<http://www.irelandxo.com/group>> or if you don't know it, then your county and post a message with what information you have – this is very important to speed up the process of finding your Irish ancestry.

If you don't know either parish or county, you can still post a message here: <<http://www.irelandxo.com/group/ireland>>.

Ireland XO are also on Facebook and Twitter and they would really appreciate it if anyone would “like” or “follow” them.

For any questions, there is a Contact Form on their website.

### **Parramatta Female Factory**

The Friends of the Parramatta Female Factory is seeking support in its drive for world heritage status for the Parramatta Female Factory - a place where so many of our family histories start in Australia. Through their research they have found that over 5,000 women went through Parramatta (only one of 13 female factories) and they believe that approx-

imately one in five to one in seven Australians are related to the women who went through the factory system.

Parramatta Female Factory was a Governor Macquarie initiative, a Francis Greenway design and is the earliest surviving convict women's site in Australia and a model for the others. For more information have a look at the links below.

Convict Female Factory History Link: <https://sites.google.com/site/convictfemalefactories/>.

Parramatta Female Factory Friends links: <https://sites.google.com/site/parramattafemalefactory/>.  
<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/savethefemalefactory/0/2>.

It is through communities standing up to be counted that we can ensure its survival. The family history community is such an important one in maintaining our history and the associated stories. Please consider how your society could support this important initiative – lobby your local member, send the Friends a letter of support or contact your local media.

**Copy deadline  
for  
September  
Newsflash:  
15 August 2013**

### **Early Capital Territory Government Schools**

Hall is a small village within the Australian Capital Territory and is very active in seeking to preserve the heritage of this community.

The Hall School Museum collection contains approximately 2200 individual items. In addition to the century old school building, its furniture and school artefacts, the museum has three very distinctive and historically significant collections:

- A large collection of manuscript and documentary material dating back to the early decades of the twentieth century.
- The collection of audio-visual teaching aids and technological equipment contains a variety of 1930s and 1940s items of machinery including early model duplicators, projectors and record players.
- The Museum's very extensive collection of school textbooks and primary school library books, over 1000 books, dating from late nineteenth century through early twentieth century is most impressive, together with an historic collection of 62 sheet music items.

The Museum is now undertaking a project of identifying, documenting, and celebrating the early bush schools of the Canberra region. It has established a database and is looking for information about student and teachers.

To learn more about this project, and how you might be able to contribute to it, see their website: <http://museum.hall.act.au/schools.html>.

### **Museum at St Clement's Monastery, Galong**

Ambassador of Ireland Mr Noel White opened a very special museum at Galong in April 2013. Galong is a small rural community in southern NSW about 50 km north-west of Yass.

The museum is in the oratory of St Clement's Monastery and tells the story of this heritage site and the people who have occupied it.

The museum is home to the exhibition *An Abiding Presence: Galong's Land and its People*. Included amongst the exhibits are many historic artefacts significant to the early development of country NSW as well as many of a very personal nature. These include the certificate of freedom of Irish convict Ned Ryan, a wood and mother-of-pearl crucifix and an engraved walking stick belonging to the Ryans, indigenous stone

tools, Fr John Kennedy's field Mass kit he used as a World War II chaplain, and other items, including rare books from the Redemptorist period.

The museum will be open one Sunday a month and by appointment. For more information about St Clement's visit their website <<http://www.stclement.com.au/>>.

### **Preserving our heritage**

So much of our history and heritage is lost, often inadvertently, and once gone it cannot usually be recovered. There is much work being done by groups, often volunteers, throughout Australia and New Zealand to preserve interesting, unique and important parts of this history and heritage.

### **The History Detective**

Carol Baxter, well known within the family history community, has just launched a newsletter – The History Detective. If you would like to have a look go

to her website <<http://www.carolbaxter.com/>> and click on the link to her newsletter. There are research tips, books to read and lots of other information.

### **Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies**

This year's conference, *Limestone Plains to Marble Halls*, will be held in Canberra 20-22 September. This will be an exciting weekend of activity for family historians including:

- a great programme of speakers
- plenty of trade and information tables
- research opportunities with expert advice
- a family history fair with short talks open to all

Visit their website for latest information: <[www.conference2013.org.au](http://www.conference2013.org.au)>.

Early Bird registration is open until the end of June.

### **Wyalong District Family History Group**

Rhonda Williams, the librarian of the Wyalong District Family History Group Inc sent this short piece to let us know more of one of new members.

The Wyalong District Family History Group located in Gilbert Street, Wyalong. It was formed in 1994 as The Bland District Family History Group. The formation was as the result of interest in family history sparked by the centenary celebrations of the founding of Wyalong and West Wyalong in 1894 following the discovery of gold in the area. We later changed our name to Wyalong District Family History Group as it is more indicative of the area we are located in.

Our Group is small, but dedicated and enthusiastic. We have held several workshops so that our members and other interested people can learn more. We very much appreciate the dedication of our presenters in travelling to us. We have a wide range of resources, local and overseas. There is of course a particular emphasis on local history and family histories. Our Group has also transcribed local death and marriage registers and rate rolls, and these are available for research.



We find that many many people from all over Australia, and further, have ancestors who have lived in Wyalong and West Wyalong. At one time it was the most productive gold mine in New South Wales, and drew some thousands of people to try their luck over the life of the field. If your ancestor was a gold miner it is always worth checking with us.

### **Genealogy Sunshine Coast**

. . . has a full calendar of events focusing on learning how to research your family history. The Resource Centre is open on Monday 9 am - 2 pm, Wednesday 9 am - 2.30 pm, Thursday 1 - 5 pm and Saturday 12 noon - 4 pm of each week. Details of the times for each day are listed on the calendar. Volunteer librarians will help members and visitors to research their families using books, microfiche, and internet resources.

Regular workshops and classes are held throughout the year to provide more detailed help with genealogy software to record your family research, scanning of photographs and documents to add to your family history and ideas for creating books and family trees to share with your family.

The group has indexed many books of local

significance such as school centenary publications, family histories, business history and local history. The indexing is not restricted to the town of Nambour but includes the coastal towns such as Mooloolaba and Noosa and to the west Gympie and Montville but also many in between.

As from Monday 13 May 2013, the long awaited building extension works are in progress. There will be limited access to the site at various times.

Telephone: 07 5441 4266 attended during library hours and after library hours a recorded 101 message service is available when the Resource Centre is closed. Please speak clearly and leave your name and a contact phone number, preferably a land line number to enable us to contact you.

### **The Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia**

The founding of The Women's Pioneer Society was June 1929 when Miss Carlotta Doyle, got together with four of her friends in the Royal Botanical gardens, each one from a Pioneer family. Their intent was to form an organisation, and encourage Women Descendants of early colonial pioneers, government officials,

military personnel, free settlers and convicts to come together to promote and record women in Australian history. How very intuitive, as we have benefited greatly from their foresight.

The aims of the society are to keep alive the best traditions of our heritage through example of the courage vision and endurance of our pioneer families. To remember the past, whilst promoting the future and encouraging this by way of awards in early Australian history at Universities and in school where possible. It is important in these turbulent times, irrespective of what period one came to Australia and New Zealand to focus on our history our heritage and in particular the role of women and their contribution to society.

We meet in the Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Level 5, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney once a month on the third Wednesday for a light lunch. Each month we have interesting guest speaker sometimes two or three of our newer members will tell the story of their ancestor. We have three larger meetings a year: Australia Day, which we celebrate on the third Wednesday in January; the commemoration of our founding day (again the third Wednesday) in June

and in October we commemorate Admiral Arthur Phillip's Birthday. During the life of the society two books have been published.

Booking must be made for these lunches as we are located in a registered club, and they must have a list of people attending. At present the best contact is the secretary/treasurer, Marlene Reid on 9969 2186.

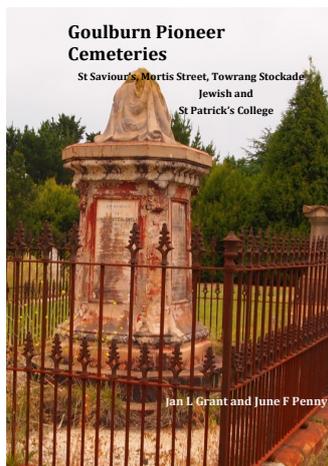
We have an application form and details of eligibility must be completed with documentation which goes to our researcher. Descendants' in NSW need to have arrived before 1840, different times in other states, and we have a category for Pre-Federation members.

We are like-minded people who love and enjoy history. We are members of the National Council of Women, The History Council, other associated groups, and many members are members of their local Historical Society. We have given talks on the WPS, have a wonderful collection of miniatures and a small library. We give assistance to people who seek information if we are able.

Women's Pioneer Society's yearly subscription is \$55 for metropolitan and \$30 for country.

*Marlene Reid*  
Secretary/treasurer

## **Goulburn Cemetery Book**



AFFHO congratulations are extended to Jan Grant and June Penny on the successful launch of *Goulburn Pioneer Cemeteries: St Saviour's, Mortis Street, Towrang Stockade, Jewish and St Patrick's College* by the Mayor of Goulburn, Cr Geoff Kettle. This book was self-published especially for the 150th Birthday Celebrations of Goulburn becoming Australia's first inland city and contains complete headstone transcriptions from Goulburn's five pioneer cemeteries, the earliest of which operated from 1831. Also included are verses, monumental masons, condition of headstone and surround, historical notes, selected photographs, locations grids, surname index, biblio-graphic references and information on a small number of unmarked burials.

For further information, or to purchase this excellent publication, contact <[June.penny@netspeed.com.au](mailto:June.penny@netspeed.com.au)>.

## **Association Liability Insurance**

Does your society or association have Association Liability Insurance – or is it considering this? If so, you may be interested to know that AFFHO has recently taken out an association liability insurance policy to provide cover for AFFHO, and for its Councillors and Officers in the performance of their AFFHO duties. AFFHO Council believes that it makes sense for us to take out this particular cover.

AFFHO members which do not already have such a policy providing cover for their non profit society and for their directors and officers will have the opportunity of obtaining cover under the AFFHO policy. We are working out the details at the moment and if you would like to be kept informed as this progresses and to be provided with further information on cover and premiums please contact <[secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org)>.

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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](http://www.tasfhs.org)>

or

**The Secretary**

**PO Box 326, Rosny Park,  
Tasmania 7018**

**E-mail: <[secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)>**