

Newsflash



AFFHO

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

AFFHO Council

Kerrie Gray	NSW/ACT	President
Robyn Williams	NZ	Vice-President
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Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Helen Turner	QLD	Assoc Rep

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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer; Archivist
Peter Applebee	Website: webmaster@affho.org
Kerrie Gray	2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Shauna Hicks	Coord Nat. Family History Month
Don Mountain	Newsflash Editor: canberradon@gmail.com
Barry Weeden	Auditor

Current Projects

Save the Census Index of Indexes
National Family History Month (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

President's Message

National Family History Month 2013 is over – and what a month it has been.

The month began with the launch at the Brisbane Office of the National Archives of Australia. Shauna Hicks, the national co-ordinator of NFHM who spoke about the changes that she has introduced this year and David Swift of NAA who shared some of the work of the NAA and tools they are developing which are of tremendous benefit to family historians. The keynote speaker was Associate Professor Cliff Pollard talking about Brisbane Hospital's Doctors and Nurses at War. This was a fascinating presentation and, through the use of images and excerpts from diaries really brought home the personal impact and well as the impact on the profession.

At the launch I was pleased to present the Nick Vine-Hall Award to Val Djenidi who accepted it on behalf of the Newcastle Family History Society, the

Category A winners for 2013.

A detailed evaluation of the Month is underway but already it is clear that the changes have had a very positive impact with many more societies involved this year. Shauna's approach has been to have a very strong focus on communication through social media. This has meant that the wonderful support provided by sponsors has been directed to rewards for participating societies.

AFFHO Council has invited Shauna to continue as national co-ordinator for Australia and has confirmed that we will continue to celebrate National Family History Month in August of each year, at the same time as our New Zealand members.

I kept an eye on the NFHM website and there were certainly plenty of events throughout the month. If your society wasn't involved much this year then think

Together we can achieve much more!

about it now for 2014. August 2014 will be National Family History Month and I am sure that Shauna will create even more opportunity for media coverage and interest.

The Really Useful Leaflet which has been developed by the UK Federation of Family History Organisations, AFFHO and the Society of Australian Genealogists contains a wealth of information and will be particularly useful for new researchers or for those wishing to extend their knowledge of local societies

Shipping passenger arrivals to the Port of Fremantle between 1898 and 1926 and Index of Ship Names

The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) has published on the web a new searchable database which could be of great help if your family was amongst the influx of people into Western Australia following the discovery of gold on the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie goldfields.

Liana Fitzpatrick, president of WAGS, said the database is the culmination of years of passenger manifest trans-

criptions by a group of society members and volunteers. The database covers 711 ships that made 5344 voyages into WA bringing nearly 600,000 people to the state, she said.

both here in Australia and New Zealand and in the UK. We are arranging wide distribution of the hard copies or you can download it from the AFFHO website. In the leaflet is information about an interesting competition – 1,000 word story ‘My First World War Ancestor (who served with the armed forces)’. There are some great prizes associated with this.

Happy researching

Cheers

Kerrie Gray
President

The database ‘*WA Passenger Arrivals Index 1898-1926*’ is available on the WAGS website <wags.org.au> in the Member’s Section. People who are not members of the society can access the database by visiting the WAGS library at 48 May Street, Bayswater, and paying the nominal daily visitor fee. Library hours are displayed on the website.

NAA – SODA and the ARCHIVE

When you go to the NAA site, do you just search the records? If so, you may be missing out on some really useful tools and/or the opportunity to contribute to their digitisation work.

Have a look at <www.naa.gov.au> and then go to the drop down menu ‘visit-us’ and to ‘connect with us’ and you will find much more. Two examples are SODA and ARCHIVE.

SODA provides access to newly scanned records from the Archive. There are plenty of handy tools that go along with this – such as time limiting your search; a key word alert facility; and the ability to share a link through social media.

ARCHIVE is where you can work with NAA to make more records more readily available. You can transcribe records and, as a reward, earn points towards Archives publications and copies of Archives files for your own research.

**Copy deadline
for
December
Newsflash:
15 November 2013**

National Family History Month

This is the first time that we in Australia have had a full month to focus on family history and it has proven very successful. It is worth quoting the volunteer National Coordinator, Shauna Hicks, about why the change from a week to a month was made. At the launch of NFHM, Shauna said:

Perhaps the biggest change was to trial a month long initiative rather than just a week. The extra time has allowed smaller organisations to incorporate their usual August meeting into a NFHM event and even some of their library days into NFHM open days. It has

also avoided competition in the larger capital cities as the events can be spread out over the month allowing attendees to attend more events rather than having to choose which one to go to. I'm happy to say at this stage that there are more events in 2013 than in previous years.

Another major change has been with sponsorship. The last few years has seen tightened economic times and businesses are no longer in a position to contribute cash sponsorships which previously assisted with the administration of NFHM. In light of this, I turned

sponsorship around and asked sponsors to contribute prizes to go into a prize draw at the end of NFHM. All genealogy and family history societies who put an event up on the NFHM web calendar and marketed their event as an NFHM event are eligible to be in the draw. This new approach means that sponsorship continues to benefit the winning societies for the whole year and is not simply spent on administration, printing and postage.

Shauna is already planning next year and welcomes ideas about what might be done.

Nick Vine-Hall Award 2013

This is an important Award within the family history environment and was introduced to encourage and promote family history journals and newsletters, and also to honour the memory of Nick Vine Hall.

The Award is divided into two categories. **Category A** for societies with up to 500 financial members and **Category B** for those with more than 500 financial members.

Winners and runners up for the 2013 Award for a magazine/journal produced in 2012 are:

Category A

Winner: Newcastle Family History Society for *Journal No. 200 December 2012*

Runner up: Nepean Family History Society for *Timespan No. 126 March 2012*

Category B

Winner: New Zealand Society of Genealogists for *Genealogist Vol. 43 No. 336*

Runner up: Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra for *The Ancestral Searcher Vol. 35 No. 3 September 2012*

Caloundra Family History Research Inc., Queensland

Our group held a very successful Open Day on Saturday, 10 August 2013 at our research library in the Guide Hut at Arthur Street, Caloundra. We welcomed current members, prospective members, as well as students and their families. Quite a few seniors attended and were shown our resources, and the benefits in joining a family history research organisation were explained. With over 40 in attendance, the following events were celebrated . . .

National Family History Month

Sunshine Coast Seniors Week

Thanking Our Volunteers.

To encourage a family history interest in school students, our group conducted an essay competition and Year 6 pupils at the ten schools in the 4551 postcode area were invited to enter. With entries of such a high standard, our judging panel was faced with a difficult task in choosing a winner.

Our Patroness, Judy McArdle (wife of The Hon. Mark McArdle, Qld Minister for Energy & Water Supply), presented awards to the winners in the **Year 6 “My Grandparents” Schools Essay Competition.**

First place: Emily Fletcher from Talara Primary College; *Second Place:* Tabitha Whitehead from Caloundra Christian College; *Highly Commended:*

Taylor Grigore from Meridan State College; *Encouragement Awards:* Ella Woods from Caloundra Christian College and Jacinda Webb from Talara Primary College.

*Roz Kuss
VP & Publicity Officer
CFHRI*

40th Anniversary – South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society

On 10 August the SAGHS celebrated its 40th birthday with a dinner for about 80 guests at the Stamford Plaza Hotel in Adelaide. A small booklet, *From Cartons to Computers: A brief history celebrating 40 years – 1973 to 2013*, was prepared which documented the Society formation and events over the period. Changes in premises and libraries up to the time the Society was able to purchase the former Unley Institute Library building in 1995; publications with the Society Journal and the four volume magnum opus, *Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885*, which generated the funds to purchase the Unley Institute; Special projects including the creation of indexes to South Australia’s BDMs and cemetery field days. At the dinner one of the Society Founders, Andrew Peake, was presented with his Life Member certificate.



Patroness Judy McArdle – Encouragement Jacinda Webb – CFHRI Secretary June Blackburn – 1st place Emily Fletcher – 2nd place Tabitha Whitehead

Writing Competition

Do you have someone special in your family tree who served with the armed forces during the First World War?

Maybe they served with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and landed at Gallipoli together with troops from New Zealand, Britain, and France, maybe they were a citizen from another country and fought for that country.

Perhaps they were decorated and their medal/s are still in your family today or maybe they were an unsung hero. Did their letters home survive and are now a special part of your family archive? Did they pay the ultimate sacrifice or did they return home to their loved ones?

In honour of the Centenary of the First World War in 2014 a competition is being run – simply write an account of the special ancestor in your family tree in no more than 1,000 words.

The competition is sponsored by findmypast.com.au, ancestry.com.au and MyHeritage.com.

For further details see our Australasian really useful information leaflet or go to www.affho.org.

What's happening at RootsChat.com

RootsChat.com have announced that they have improved their “Family History Events section” so any Family History Society events posted will be now advertised for a month. Quite a few of the societies such as OxfordFHS, BucksFHS etc. are now using this to promote their events to member and non-members alike. They are keen to know what projects your society is doing and how anyone can attend. Recently they held a RootsChat mini meet in Melbourne.

They have an Australian board for the posts on Australian ancestry but also other boards to those who travelled. They have over four million postings which are all fully searchable. The Family History forum allows the posting of images which is helpful for trying to decipher difficult handwriting. <http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=654529.0>.

Heritage in NSW

A letter from June Bullivant OAM

Dear President and members, would your organisation support these groups to fight to retain our heritage in NSW, we need support by signing the petitions on the site and sharing it with your members, particularly for Thompson Square at Windsor (1795) and the Lennox Bridge at Parramatta (1836) You will find information on the site <http://www.heritagewatchnsw.org.au/> that is pertinent to the campaigns that we are running. If your organisation knows of any heritage issue please put them in touch with us. We are non-political, we are a group of volunteers fighting to keep our history.



New Zealand Family History Fair

New Zealand's Family History Fair was held over three days from 2 to 4 August 2013 at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau City, Auckland, a well-appointed modern facility. It was a full scale event commencing with a school's morning on the Friday which nearly 450 pupils attended with their teachers and parent help. They were given some short lectures to encourage them to think about their ancestors and historical events. Many of the children had prepared posters about various aspects of their families for a competition and display. Many experienced family historians commented on the quality of the posters and hoped that these youngsters would continue their family history journey in the future.

The Fair opened for the public on Friday afternoon and as well as the exhibitors there were nearly 100 seminars offered, some of which were repeats so that nobody missed out on the seminar of their choice. The seminars which were the most talked about (raved about!) were given by Dr Jo Appleby from the University of Leicester. *Finding Richard*

III and *Identifying a King* were extremely popular and gave an account of finding a skeleton in a car park excavation through to making the identification and the various testing methods used. Dr Appleby explained how they had examined the skeleton for injuries and related these to the various accounts of the battle in which Richard III was killed and his burial in Grey Friars Church in Leicester. DNA was taken from the teeth and the mtDNA extracted was compared with two separate descendants of Richard's sister Anne proving the match through the maternal line.

Seminars were given by the six overseas speakers – Dr Jo Appleby, Brad Argent from Ancestry.com.au, D Joshua Taylor from findmypast.com, Diane Loosle from *FamilySearch*, Cassie Mercer and Helen Smith. Other topics included Facebook for Genealogists; Research Methodology; DNA, Digitising Family History and many more.

Stalls included Interest Groups of NZSG offering specific research assistance – Greater London, Huguenot, Continental European, Australian, Welsh, Cornwall, Midlands and Northern

England, Southern England and East Anglia, Channel Islands, Scottish, Irish, Pacific Islands, Maori and Genealogical Computing. There were many commercial stands and others included FIBIS (Families in British India); National Army Museum, Auckland Libraries, NZ Births, Deaths, Marriages, Archives New Zealand as well as the NZSG library, membership, and sales departments.

In the centre of the hall there was a large area where people could fill out an ancestor chart or family group sheet and volunteers from NZSG were available to talk with people on a one to one basis to help them on their genealogical journey. This was well patronised and people were lining up waiting for their turn during the busy periods.

There was so much to see and do – one long time genealogist told me that she was only going to attend on Friday, but came back on Saturday and Sunday and she said she wished it had gone on for longer as she had such a great time!

On Friday evening August at the Family History Fair Robyn Williams, Vice President of AFFHO, presented the Nick Vine

Hall Award to Michelle Patient, President of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (see photo right). The guest editor of the Journal, Fiona Brooker, was also acknowledged and presented with a gift (photo below).



The award was given for the best family history journal in Category B for larger societies published in 2012. This was for Vol 43 Issue 336 of July/August 2012 which featured Family History Month on the cover.



Royal Free Hospital records transferring to London Metropolitan Archives

The Royal Free hospital is transferring its archive collections to London Metropolitan Archives. The reading room at the Royal Free Archive Centre will close on 13 September. The collections are due to

become available at the LMA in early 2014. During the move, they will continue to answer as many remote enquiries as possible, subject to staff and document availability.

NFHM prize draw

Sponsors Prize Draw and Competition Winners

Winner of the *Memento Photo Book* competition - Melissa Haddon, Victoria.

Winner of a *Findmypast* one year world subscription - Newcastle Family History Society, NSW.

Winner of an *Ancestry.com.au* one year subscription - Botany Bay Family History Society, NSW.

Winner of an *Ancestry.com.au* one year subscription - Yarrowonga Family History Group, Victoria.

Winner of a Gould Genealogy & History voucher - Port Macquarie & District Family History Society, NSW.

Winner of a two-year subscription to *Inside History Magazine* - Holroyd Family History Group, NSW.

Winner of a two-year subscription to *Inside History Magazine* - Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, ACT.

Winner of a one-year subscription to *Australian Family Tree Connections* - Genealogy Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

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>

or

The Secretary

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

E-mail: <secretary@tasfhs.org>
