



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2018-2019

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Vice Pres
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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator (Aus)
Jan Squire	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

Welcome to the first *Newsflash* for 2019. It's the beginning of a new year and the beginning of new opportunities to get the most from family history. This is a good time of the year to begin planning for events which you might like to hold in August which is National Family History Month in each year. AFFHO Council have appointed Susie Zada as National Family History Month Co-ordinator. Susie will be making herself known to Societies and encouraging members to enter our competitions – there will be some great prizes to be won this year.

I am sad to say that as yet we have not had a Society come forward with a firm proposal to host the 16th AFFHO Congress which should be held in 2021, and Council are at a point where they may have to abandon it. See elsewhere in this *Newsflash* for further details.

I attended a book launch last week and I was inspired by the work that members of a smallish community had put into researching every woman in the district on the 1893 Electoral Roll. They extracted 1046 names and were able to positively identify all but eight of these women and produce a one page biography in a subsequent publication. What I did want to emphasise was that the group reached out to others and used 150 people in the community to assist in the compilation of these biographies – many of whom it would be their first introduction to family history. As a result, there will be many more people researching their family histories and the winners are family history societies, libraries, archives and repositories, and commercial operators as well as the individuals themselves.

In your community is there a nineteenth century petition or publication which you could use as a community project to get more people interested in family history? This may be a way to grow your family history group.

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is information on the Nick Vine Hall Award. This award is for Societies to enter one of their journals or newsletters published in 2018. There are two levels – one for larger societies and one for small societies and entries close on 31 March 2019.

The Annual General Meeting of AFFHO is to be held on Tuesday, 14th May 2019 by telecommunication at 6.00 pm AEDST. Member societies are welcome to attend the meeting by telephone and a notice will be sent advising the details.

Lets make 2019 a wonderful year for researching and growing family history.

Robyn Williams, President

Reading Room Closure—Western Sydney Records Centre

The Reading Room at the Western Sydney Records Centre will be closing on Mondays effective from Monday 4 February 2019.

There is an increasing expectation for more online content from the State Archives Collection and closing the Reading Room to public research on Mondays provides an opportunity to dedicate more resources to making more of the Collection available online for everyone to discover, use and share.

Closing the Reading Room on Mondays will not affect other services such as telephone, email and online enquiries.

The Reading Room will also continue to be open on Saturdays.

From Monday 4 February 2019 the Reading Room open hours will be

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday-Friday	9:00-5:00
Saturdays	10:00-4:00

Please contact State Archives at info@records.nsw.gov.au or 9673 1788 if you have any questions.

Childhood Play Memories

Dear Friends in Family History:

For the past quarter century I have been collecting stories about Childhood Play from people around the world. I now have what may be the largest such collection in the world. My intent is to share these stories with the public by means of books and a website as one way of preserving the cultural history of childhood in many countries.

I invite your members to contribute their stories to our collection and also recommend that they keep a copy for their own family histories. The questionnaire that we are using for

the purpose of gathering stories may be found on the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/childhoodmemories

Information concerning my qualifications, background, and related projects can be found at

www.Playfullearningcenter.net

It would be very helpful if you would pass on this invitation to your members to participate in our exciting project. Please know that I am a member of the Sunshine Coast Family History Society in Gibsons, BC, Canada. Thank you for your assistance and very best wishes for the season and the coming year.

Dr Garfield Pennington

Contact: gazpen@gmail.com

FamilySearch 2018 Genealogy Highlights

In 2018, FamilySearch published hundreds of millions of new, free historical records online, provided personal, interactive learning opportunities, opened new facilities, and created more effective search experiences at FamilySearch.org. FamilySearch published its two billionth digital image of historical records online and continues adding records at a rate of over 300 million new records and images yearly.

FamilySearch published significant new collections from the War of 1812 and World War I. Military records are a treasure trove of largely underutilized record collections. The popular, free FamilySearch Family Tree had 1.6 million contributors for the year, who added 28 million new people to the global tree. The total number of searchable people is now 1.21 billion.

See the full list of highlights at: <https://media.familysearch.org/familysearch-2018-genealogy-highlights>

Ruby Anniversary for WAGS!

The Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. (WAGS) is celebrating its ruby anniversary in 2019. People



Brian Croker and Ruth Reid at the 2016 celebration of 30 years in WAGS premises in Bayswater, suburban Perth.

interested in genealogy first gathered in Perth in early 1975 and a year later became a branch of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies. Brian Croker was the first chairman of the branch. WAGS became registered on 1 January 1979 and the "official" inaugural meeting was held on February 26, 1979, where the 45 members were declared to be Foundation Members; and five are still members of the society forty years later. Brian Croker was elected president and continued in that role until 1990. The society has continued to grow and adapt to the challenges we all face as a volunteer organisation and in the world of genealogy.

In 1986 Mrs Ruth Reid became associated with WAGS when her husband Professor Gordon Reid, Governor of Western Australia, was appointed Patron of the society. Following his death in 1989 Mrs Reid became Vice Patron until becoming patron in 1996.

Sadly Mrs Reid has recently tendered her resignation. Mrs Reid has actively supported the society at many events and promoted genealogical studies during her extensive involvement in WA society and organisations.

WANTED!

A society or group of societies to support the organisation of the next AFFHO Congress

To be held during the year 2021

Requirements:

- A chairperson enthusiastic about family history
- A number of enthusiastic (about family history) committee members
- A venue capable of holding 400 to 600 family historians in the same room – it could be a school or a community hall and not too far from an airport
- A number of break out rooms for smaller lectures

Also required but could be outsourced:

- Accommodation for visitors nearby
- A catering service or restaurants nearby

Expressions of interest are required by 30th June 2019.

If AFFHO Council does not receive at least one serious offer by the end of June then the 16th triennial congress will be abandoned. Will you allow this to happen?

Contact secretary@affho.org

Proposed visit by Dr David Wright

Dr David Wright, is a UK based specialist in palaeography and general aspects of genealogy and he is planning a trip to Australia later this year to visit relatives and he has arranged some talks, but is able to accommodate more.

You can find out more about him and the topics on which he can speak on his web site at:

www.drdavidwright.co.uk

David is looking to visit Australia during the month of October (at this time) and will do at least two palaeography/other workshops for GSQ with the possibility of one being offered jointly with QFHS. David is very happy to speak to other groups/societies who may be interested in one of his talks.

David and I spoke on the phone recently and this is what came out of the discussion:

1. He does not require airfares to be paid as he will fund those.
2. Accommodation would be appreciated - gratis where possible but if not he will pay.
3. Someone to drive him to various locations – perhaps some time to show him around.
4. A speaking fee of between \$100-\$500 per engagement depending on the time etc – probably around \$150-\$200 mark for medium ones but these are all very negotiable - even a bottle of wine! David is very aware that small societies do not have the funds to pay him his usual speaking fees and is very willing to discuss other possibilities.
5. Presentations could be on a number of topics – see his web site for details.

Societies can contact David directly on: davideastkent@gmail.com

SAG has already contacted David directly.

What's Coming from FamilySearch in 2019

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (7 January 2019), The popular, free genealogy website, FamilySearch.org, announced its 2019 plans to enhance its record search and Family Tree search capabilities and introduce new interactive discovery experiences. FamilySearch is a global leader in the growing Family History market segment, serving 12 million users worldwide.

In addition to over 300 million additional historical records and images for family history discoveries, look for the following new offerings in 2019.

1. Online Interactive Discovery Experiences

For the first time, fun discovery experiences that have been available only at life-sized, interactive kiosks in select FamilySearch venues will also be available on FamilySearch.org in 2019. Making these three discovery experiences available online will expand the reach of the activities to more patrons globally.

- All about Me

Have you ever wondered about the origin and meaning of your name or what events happened in the year you were born? The *All about Me* experience will allow you to discover these fun things about yourself and also about your ancestors.

- Picture My Heritage

This simple and fun experience lets you insert yourself digitally into traditional clothing related to your heritage. On *Picture My Heritage*, you can save your custom photos or share them with friends and family.

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Writing Competition – NOW OPEN!

The champagne corks popped as Jenny Higgins, Society Vice President, launched the 2019 HAGSOC Writing Competition on Saturday 16th February.

Society members and keen writers were on hand to hear about the competition, an award for the best short story on a family history/genealogy theme.

Jenny urged Society members to enter *'We want to encourage family historians to turn their research into engaging stories. Our message to everyone is every family has a story – write yours now.'*



Far left: Jenny Higgins introducing the judges with a message from Cora Num (absent).

Centre: Mary-Lynn Mather.

Left: David Coombe.

Entrants will be competing for the 2019 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award, named in honour of Eunice Fletcher, a long-time member who had significant input into the formation of the Society over many years.

Competition judge David Coombe shared his insights with the audience.

'If you're doing family history, you're likely putting more energy into research than writing. If I could simplify the process of family history in three words, it could be search, discover and tell. We can spend an alarming amount of time in the search. Discovery is that occasional fleeting buzz that keeps us going. But apart from that occasional buzz, I think we are driven by a search for story. Don't be put off by the idea that this is a writing award, as if it is all about that last step. I see this competition as an incentive to share your stories - your searching, your discovery and your telling. I hope that all those who participate in the E.M. Fletcher Writing Award are encouraged in their story-telling'.

Prizes to be won include \$1,000 for the best story and an additional HAGSOC member prize of a 12-month Society membership and \$75.00 bookshop voucher.

Our judges for the 2019 competition are:

- **Cora Num** - HAGSOC Fellow, researcher, author and lecturer. Cora is well known throughout the family history community and her website www.coraweb.com.au is internationally recognised;
- **David Coombe** - is a HAGSOC member and won the Society's award for best journal article of 2012. He self-published two e-books with family history themes and is currently writing a biography of an Australian artist.
- **Mary Lynn Mather** – graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2015 with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Creative Writing and wrote a novel as research for her PhD. She has worked as a writer, journalist and editor and is presently a lecturer in Creative Writing at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Information about the competition and how to enter is available on the Society's website

<https://familyhistoryact.org.au>.

HAGSOC Writing Competition – ENTER NOW!

Please direct any questions or feedback to writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



24 – 26 May 2019

VENUE 114 on Lake Kawana, Bokarina on the beautiful Sunshine Coast

3rd Queensland State Conference

hosted by

Caloundra Family History Research Inc.

with the support of History Queensland

Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

Free family history fair all weekend plus 5 *free* talks and 3 paid sessions on Friday (\$15)

For registered delegates, there will be an interesting and diverse range of excellent speakers in streams of family and local history on Saturday & Sunday.

www.wavesintime2019.org.au

Follow us on Facebook - for further information: info@wavesintime2019.org.au



Caloundra Family History Research Inc.



Registrations have now opened and can be booked on line with various payment options - <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/registration>

Exhibitors has also opened - <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/exhibitors>

Accommodation – various options from hotel, apartment etc are available – see: <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/waves-in-time-accommodation-options>

Program - see <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/program> for details.

Speakers – an interesting and varied program is planned Details of speakers will be added as they are received and the program updated to reflect topics.

<https://wavesintime2019.org.au/speakers>

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa

Family history - Preserving our past for the future



New to Genealogy?

Or want to refresh your research skills?

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists has produced a new series of video resources:

Getting It Right

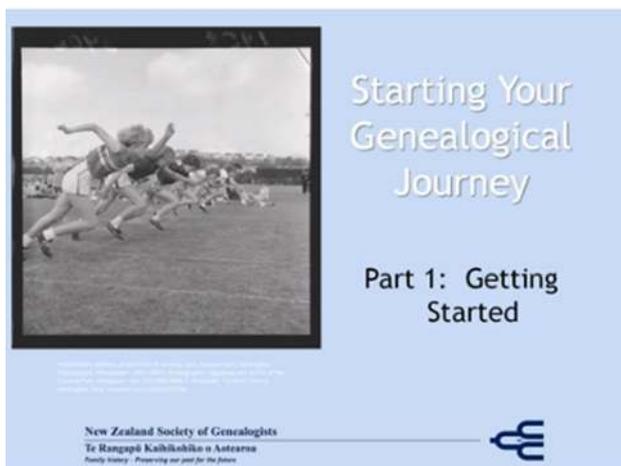
In these presentations you can discover practical steps you can take to start on the fascinating story of your family! Each resource consists of a video and a set of notes. The notes can be downloaded and saved to your own computer.

They are divided into three sections:

- Starting your Genealogical Journey
 - * Where to Start
 - * Keeping Organised
 - * Searching
 - * New Zealand Sources
- Effective Research
 - * Genealogical Proof Standard
 - * Recording Conventions
 - * Getting Help
 - * DNA Basics
- Sharing your Research
 - * Sharing - Collaborators and Reunions
 - * Sharing with the Uninterested
 - * Travelling with Your Family History



These presentations are free to view at www.genealogy.org.nz



(Continued from page 4) **What's Coming from FamilySearch in 2019**

- **Record My Story**

Priceless stories and memories from you or family members can be recorded on *Record My Story* and added—by text or audio—to FamilySearch.org or downloaded to another source.

2. Family Tree and Friends, Associates, and Neighbor (FAN) Relationships

The free FamilySearch Family Tree will give users the ability to record other relationships to an ancestor beyond immediate family members, when applicable, such as friends, associates, and neighbors (FAN). This function will aid research by allowing users to record information about other people living in an ancestor's household as noted in a historical record, such as boarders or staff.

FamilySearch will continue to develop site experiences that enable families to connect with their ancestral homelands near and far. FamilySearch.org will also provide more help throughout the site to make it easier for visitors to accomplish key tasks in a few simple steps.

3. Updated Find Capability

The FamilySearch Family Tree search capacity will be significantly updated to provide faster and better results. Another innovation will allow search engines such as Google to present names and limited facts from the Family Tree to online search queries without the searcher being signed into FamilySearch.org. This feature will enable millions of people searching for their ancestors online to discover the vast, free services FamilySearch offers them.

4. Memories

Millions of people use FamilySearch Memories to record, preserve, and share their family photos, historical documents, and stories. In 2019, users will be able to record audio remembrances related to a photo they have uploaded. Memories will also give users the capability to organize items in an album according to their interests or needs.

5. RootsTech London 2019

The first international version of the highly successful RootsTech family history conference will be held in London on October 24–26, 2019, at the ExCel London Convention Center.

The RootsTech London 2019 convention will not replace the annual conference in Salt Lake City (held on February 27–March 2, 2019) but will be an additional RootsTech event. Registration for RootsTech London opens in February 2019.



<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-2019-whats-coming/>