



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2019-2020

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June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator
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.

Newsflash contributions to editor@affho.org

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From the President

A new year – a new challenge and a new family history challenge! The challenge for me is to try to put aside more time to work on my own family history. DNA has brought a number of challenges – I need some time to work out where DNA matches fit in. I am really fortunate to have some close family members who collaborate with me working on our shared family history, but I need to do my bit too. I know that I am not alone with this issue, but this year I must do better!

In this issue of Newsflash we are featuring the Archives of Australia and New Zealand and more particularly the hours their offices are open for family historians to visit. Archives have embarked on journeys to digitise more of their records and to do this they require dedicated time for the task. However, with reins on staffing they often have to use staff who service the research rooms, and they are therefore cutting back on the days and times their research rooms are open.

I am pleased to report that the historic Archives of the recently collapsed Thomas Cook Travel Company have been sold to the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. The entire Thomas Cook archive, which encompasses records from the earliest days of package travel right up to the modern day, is now being transferred to the record office in Wigston, Leicester.

The Nick Vine Hall Award for Family History Journals closing date is 31 March 2020. It is open to societies who are members of AFFHO to submit one journal from the 2019 calendar year to our judges who will choose a winner and a runner up in each of two categories – there is a category for large societies and another for smaller societies. Are you proud of your Journal? What about asking your journal editor to submit an entry? See elsewhere in Newsflash and also AFFHO website for more information.

Best wishes for a successful family history year.

Robyn Williams, President

The Genealogical Society of Victoria awards its 2019 Writing Prize

The GSV conducted its seventh Writing Prize in 2019 and the winner was Louise Wilson for her remarkable article 'Masters of the Road'. Louise told the story of the role of her ancestors in the development of coaching services which became the Royal Mail Service in Great Britain. Her article cleverly integrated a family history with an interesting social and occupational account of this important service. Runner-up was Victoria Spicer for her article 'Finding Johanna', a poignant and bravely candid account of the adult life of her step-great-great grandmother.

The GSV Writing Prize of 2019 was open for the first time to GSV member societies as well as GSV members. The judging panel also for the first time included a guest judge - Dr Val Noone, OAM, who kindly accepted our invitation. Ms Joy Roy, FGSV, former editor of Ancestor, also joined the panel as the President's nominee. Together with three members of the GSV Editorial Team, both worked enthusiastically to consider a record number of entries. The winner received a 12-month subscription from Ancestry™ to their worldwide database and an Ancestry DNA test kit. Ancestry™ also generously gave a 6-month subscription to their worldwide database for the runner-up.



Martin Playne with GSV Writing Prize winner Louise Wilson® and runner-up Victoria Spicer (L).

The GSV Editorial Team is working toward an even more successful 2020 Writing Prize. Entry is open to members of the GSV and its member societies.

Closing date for entries will be 4 p.m. on Friday 28 August 2020.

More information on the competition is available on the GSV website at www.gsv.org.au/gsv-writing-prize.

AFFHO Congress 2021

The AFFHO Council at its recent meeting are delighted to announce that *Norfolk Island Museums and Research Centre* has been invited to host the

AFFHO Congress 2021 from 30 July – 6 August 2021
with the actual
Congress dates being 3 – 5 August 2021.



A comprehensive speakers programme will be developed for the Congress and another programme for visits to historic sites and other interesting features of Norfolk Island. There will also be time built in for research at the Norfolk Island Museum Research Centre.

Congress will include: A welcome function, Lecture Programme, Morning and Afternoon Teas, Lunches, A Banquet Dinner

Historic Sites include: Cemetery, Melanesian Mission, KAVHA (Kingston and Arthurs Vale Heritage Area) which incorporates the Penal Gaol, and other noteworthy buildings and sites, ... just to name a few

Travel and Accommodation packages will be developed from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Auckland

There will be an online Registration process and costs will be advised in due course.

Mark the dates on your 2021 calendar!

HAGSOC E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition Enter NOW

Following the success of last year's competition, the E.M. Fletcher Award is back! Named in honour of Eunice Fletcher, a long-time member who had significant input into the formation of the Society, the award is for the best short story of 1,500 – 2,000 words on a family history / genealogy theme.

Whether you are telling a story about one of your ancestors or sharing a personal memoir, the broad theme allows plenty of scope to be creative. The genre of writing is not limited, so try your hand at non-fiction, biography, creative nonfiction or fiction.

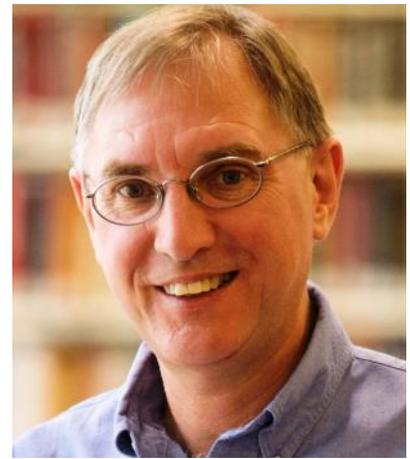
Judges for the 2020 competition are Professor Peter Stanley, Barbara Moore and Kerrie Gray. Peter is one of Australia's most active military historians and has written over 30 books. Barbara is a Fellow of the Society, convenes the Irish Special Interest Group and has published five books. Kerrie is a HAGSOC member and former President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. Kerrie has also been a judge of the Nick Vine Hall Award, for the best family history journal.



Barbara Moore, FHGS



Kerrie Gray



Prof. Peter Stanley, FAHA

We are pleased to announce that Robin, Anne and John Fletcher are generously co-sponsoring the 2020 competition prizes. Prizes to be won include \$1,000 for the best story and an additional HAGSOC member prize of a 12-month Society membership and a \$75.00 voucher. We sincerely thank the Fletcher family for their kindness in supporting this award.

Every family has a story – write yours now.

The competition is open for entries and closes on 15th July 2020.

All the information about how to enter the 2020 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition and a promotional poster is on the HAGSOC website.

Please direct any enquiries to writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au.

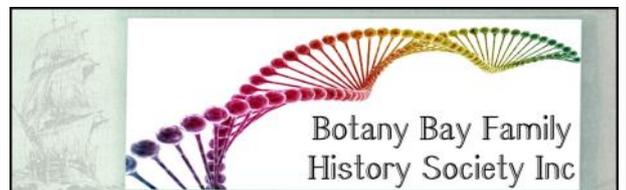
Botany Bay Family History Society - Heritage Fair

Our Heritage for the Future

Saturday 2nd May 10am - 4pm, FREE at Gynea Tradies

Informative Talks, Transcription Agencies, How to Get Help with Research, Store, Save and Display your Research and lots more.

More info: www.botanybayfhs.org.au or Phone: 9523 8948.



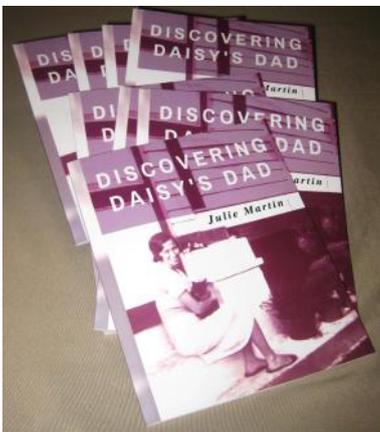
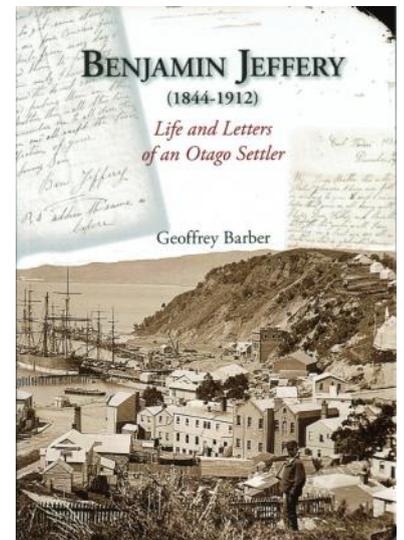
Publishing stories and family trees at FHWA the conventional and the new

FHWA members are united by a passion for family history research and re-creating the lives of their ancestors. Nevertheless, sharing those stories with family is often a stumbling block. In the past twelve months, some of our members have chosen to publish their stories in the conventional way, others are using Clanview, a new and innovative online service.

The Conventional

Geoffrey Barber recently self-published the results of his research into his New Zealand connection - an uncle who emigrated alone to Otago, New Zealand in 1872 from Sussex, England. Prompted by letters he inherited, Geoff spent many years researching the life and times of this uncle, Ben Jeffery. Six of his letters to his mother and father survive describing his voyage and first three years in the colony. The letters came to Geoff in a handkerchief box that had been passed down through the family, a treasured reminder of an uncle who had had the courage to search for a better life but, after a few years of correspondence, was never heard from again.

The book *Benjamin Jeffery (1844-1912) – Life and Letters of an Otago Settler* has been printed mainly for archives and libraries in England and New Zealand, and for family and friends. Instead of making copies available for sale, Geoff has elected to upload a digital copy to the Internet Archive and make it available for free download. His motivation has been the preservation of the letters and their history and making them widely available. The original letters have been donated to the Hocken Library in Dunedin which also has copies of the book.

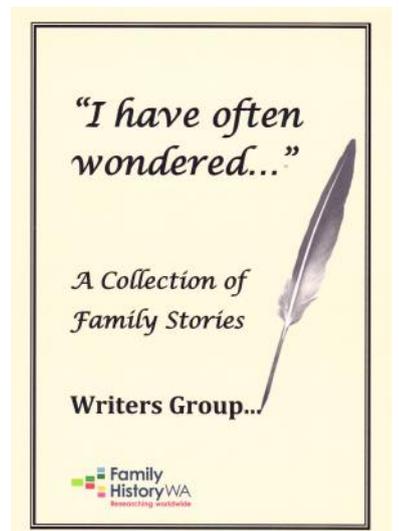


Julie Martin also self-published *Discovering Daisy's Dad*, the story of her nineteen years search for the identity of her husband's maternal grandfather. Set in Colonial Malaya and Ireland, her journey had many twists and turns along the way and her story initially was submitted in parts to the FHWA journal *Western Ancestor*. The publication of these parts led to further revelations and she decided to bring the entire story together in book form and include additional postscripts and photographs. Like Geoffrey, Julie also uploaded a digital copy of her story to the Internet Archive.

The publication of short stories by the FHWA Writers Group, was a collaborative effort.

With 2019 being FHWA's 40th anniversary year and the first anniversary of the Writers Group, it was suggested that an appropriate way to celebrate was the production of a printed volume of thirty stories, the work of 18 group members.

A sub-committee was formed and decisions were made about the type of book (electronic or hard copy), size (A4 or A5), title, fonts, margins, endnotes, table of contents, indexes (authors, names and places), photos (how many and size) and everything to do with publishing a book - a steep learning curve.

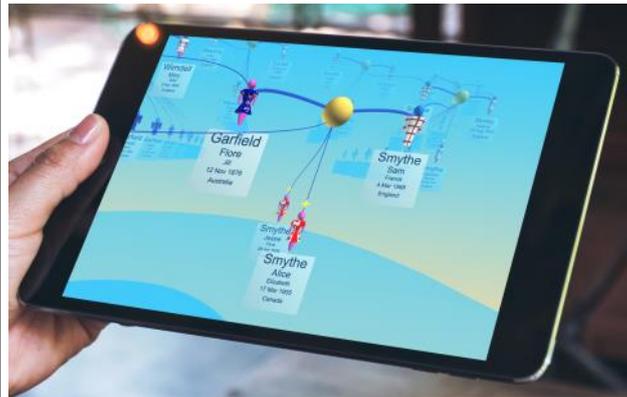


The process was more complex than first imagined but within four months the collection I have often wondered ... was launched. A great achievement in a very short time.

The New

Writing and printing a family story can be daunting and expensive and some FHWA members are using Clanview, a simple online method to share their research.

Instead of printing large family charts or engaging a book publisher, researchers sign up for a Clanview Account that allows them to convert a “snapshot” of their family history research into an engaging 3D family tree that’s easy to share with trusted people. Recipients can immediately open and interact with the family tree on their phone, tablet or computer. Clanview trees are not in book form – they’re viewed from an individual perspective, explored by touch to find ancestors of interest with additional detailed information available.



Although an online service, Clanview family trees are not public. Privacy is protected and recipients are not able to edit the data - if family members have feedback, it’s submitted to the researcher for verification.

Clanview is compatible with the majority of research programs and services and is available to try for free at <https://www.clanview.com/free>. Further information can be found at <https://www.clanview.com>.

New Zealand Archives <https://archives.govt.nz>



In late 2019 Archives New Zealand announced it was changing opening hours to all sites to 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday, so that the staff could spend uninterrupted time preparing records for online research.

Digitising records is supported by family historians; however, it is often necessary to visit Archives rooms to research family records and many need to travel a distance to do so. Following the announcement, they let Archives know that they felt that the new hours were too restrictive.

Archives New Zealand listened and have altered their hours in the Auckland and Wellington offices and it is hoped that this will extend to Christchurch and Dunedin in the future.

The following information is taken from Archives New Zealand website:

“We have reading rooms in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. These rooms are a quiet space with dedicated staff to assist you in finding and ordering archives. Due to an increase in demand for online records, and a decrease in demand for physical records we announced late last year that reading room hours would be changing.

Thank you to those who provided feedback and suggestions on our announced changes to reading room hours. We have taken on board some of those and as a result the pilot hours for our Auckland and Wellington reading rooms will change, while announced hours for Christchurch and Dunedin will remain the same.

Changes will still take place from Monday 2 March 2020. The new hours will be:

Auckland: Monday and Tuesday – closed; Wednesday to Friday – open 9.00am – 5.00pm

Wellington: Monday and Tuesday – closed; Wednesday to Friday – open 9.00am – 5.00pm

Christchurch: Monday to Friday – 9.00am – 1.00pm

Dunedin: Monday to Friday – 9.00am – 1.00pm

These hours will enable customers to enjoy three full days of research in our Auckland and Wellington reading rooms.

This change does not impact on our remote research services.

This will help us grow our digital collection so that more people across NZ and the world can view our nation’s taonga.”

Western Australia

<https://www.sro.wa.gov.au>



State Records Office Search Room

The State Records Office Search Room is open to provide access to State archives for the general public, as well as a telephone reference query service, at the following times: Tues - Fri : 10am - 4.30pm except public holidays.

State Information Management Services

State Information Management Services Team members are available to provide free ad-hoc telephone advice on matters concerning recordkeeping and records management. Telephone (08) 9427 3661: Mon - Fri: 9am - 4.30pm

Intermediate Records Repository

The Intermediate Records Repository is not open to the general public. All requests for material must be made through the State Records Office Search Room or by email to sro@sro.wa.gov.au. Retrievals are undertaken the next working morning.

State Records Office

- Alexander Library Building, James Street West Entrance, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000
- Email: sro@sro.wa.gov.au Phone: (08) 9427 3600

Archives Office of Tasmania

<https://librariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au>



The Archives Office of Tasmania (AOT) is the principal custodian of the documented heritage of the state of Tasmania. Tasmania set up Australia's first library in 1825 and was the first state in Australia to deliver an integrated library and archive network.

Through Archives Tasmania, we preserve Tasmania's documentary heritage for future generations, and serve as the continuing memory of Tasmania's government and people. We are committed to making copies of our heritage items available online, to anyone around the world.

South Australia

<https://archives.sa.gov.au>

Location

The State Records Research Centre is located at: 115 Cavan Rd, Gepps Cross, 5094. Telephone 08 8343 6800. The voicemail at this number is regularly monitored. Our Research Centre offers some assistance for people with a disability.

Opening hours

Opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 9:30am to 4:30pm. The Research Centre is closed on Monday, Friday and public holidays.

Delivery times

Records are delivered to the Research Centre four times per day at: 9.30am 11.30am 1.30pm and 3.30pm

Records ordered before:

- 8.30am can be viewed after 9.30am
- 10.30am can be viewed after 11.30am
- 12.30pm can be viewed after 1.30pm
- 2.30pm can be viewed after 3.30pm

Records ordered after 2.30pm can be viewed after 9.30am the next day the Research Centre is open. We offer help with pre-ordering records, for those not using Internet Explorer.

STATE RECORDS



Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

NSW State Archives & Records www.records.nsw.gov.au



- Open to public Tuesdays to Fridays 9 – 5, Saturdays 10 – 4
- No pre-ordering required, except for groups
- Continuous collections through the day
- Anybody can apply online for a Reader's Ticket, see <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/visit/readers-ticket>
- Many digitised records are online while some others can be ordered directly from the catalogue
- State Records staff offer a copy service for many documents, see <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/copyservices>
- Transcription agents
 - Laurie Turtle <http://home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle>
 - Marilyn Rowan <http://www.marilynrowan.com.au>
- <http://nswtranscriptions.com.au> will also obtain copies of records for those unable to visit State Records in person.

Victoria National Archives of Australia (NAA) and Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)

Both **NAA** and **PROV** share the Victorian Archives Centre at 99 Shiel Street in North Melbourne.

NAA hours are: Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm ph. 03 9348 5600
website: <https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/victoria>

PROV's hours are: 10am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday and the second and last Saturday of every month. Users can order up to 8 records per delivery and can accumulate up to 24 orders in total.

From 1 January 2020 there is only delivery of records per day to the reading room with no deliveries on Saturdays. Records are delivered to the Reading Room Monday through to Friday at 10.30am.

Records must be ordered before 8am to make the 10:30am delivery. Users wishing to view records on open Saturdays will need to order their records by 8am Friday at the latest.

Phone: 03 9348 5600 website: <https://prov.vic.gov.au>

Ballarat Archives Centre is at the Eureka Centre, 102 Stawell St. South, Ballarat Central. Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 4:30pm.

<https://cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/public-record-office-victoria-ballarat-archives-centre>



Victorian Archives Centre - reading room changes

The Victorian Archives Centre is now providing one delivery of records to the reading room each day. What does this mean for researchers?

- Orders must be in by 8am in order for you to view those records at 10.30am in the reading room. There will no longer be an afternoon delivery.
- There will be no delivery on Saturdays, so users wishing to view records on a Saturday will need to pre order their records by 8am Friday at the latest.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns (scroll to general enquiries, complaints or feedback on the contact us page). <https://prov.vic.gov.au/index.php/about-us/our-blog/important-reading-room-changes-victorianarchives-centre>

Northern Territory
<https://dtsc.nt.gov.au>



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT**

Department of
Tourism, Sport and Culture

In July 2013 the Northern Territory Archives Service co-located with the National Archives of Australia, Darwin office, in the Northern Territory Archives Centre in Millner. This brought together the archival collections of both agencies, offering you a shared search room and reading room.

Location – Darwin

Northern Territory Archives Centre, Kelsey Crescent, Millner NT 0810

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm. The reading room is open from Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm, closed Mondays and public holidays.

Disability access

All public areas of the Northern Territory Archives Centre are wheelchair accessible. A toilet with disabled facilities is near the reading room. You can bring a recognised assistance animal, including guide and hearing dogs.

Location – Alice Springs

Northern Territory Archives Service, Minerals House, 58 Hartley Street, Alice Springs NT 0870

Opening hours

Office hours Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm. The reading room is open Monday to Friday 9.00am to noon and 1.00pm to 4.30pm, closed Mondays and public holidays.

NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2020



The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand.

AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

- ◆ First prize – Wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
- ◆ Second prize – Certificate and \$100 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor

For a journal/newsletter produced in 2019
Entries close 31 March 2020

Refer to the AFFHO website for conditions of entry: www.affho.org