



Together we can achieve much more!

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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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

We live in a different world right now. Since March our members have been in lockdown owing to the World Covid-19 pandemic which has devastated many communities with millions contracting the disease and thousands dying as a result.

However, we in Australia and New Zealand have been fortunate that we are islands and our borders have been able to be secured restricting visitors and returning citizens from transmitting the disease by our governing leaders imposing isolation, social distancing and strict hygiene measures from allowing the pandemic from ravaging our communities.

Whilst our family history members may not have had their health affected it has affected our regular meetings, our volunteering for our societies and many of the other face to face interactions we have taken for granted. Some societies have evolved on line methods of delivering services, but many of our societies do not have the technical ability or the resources to enable online delivery of meetings and events.

Well you can now! AFFHO have purchased a subscription to Zoom which will enable member societies to run their meetings and listen to their speakers via Audio Visual Link, also called AVL and delivered via software to members' home computers. Please contact treasurer@affho.org if you wish to take advantage of this offer for your society.

National Family History Month (NFHM) to be held in August 2020 will be held as usual. Maybe what will not be usual may be our face to face meetings – at this stage we don't know when we will be allowed to hold these. AFFHO will open NFHM with an Opening event on Saturday, 1 August with a programme including a speaker – the timing and programme is yet to be finalised. The NFHM website is now available for posting your events and there will be prizes available as we have done in previous years. See elsewhere for more information.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **From the President**

During this time of lockdown I have been able to revise some of my family history which I completed over 20 years ago. Many other resources are now available which have enabled me to add more members to the family and see where those DNA matches now fit. It has been very satisfying.

Let's make the best of this historic situation we now find ourselves in. Please organise family history events and encourage those people with time on their hands to engage with our pastime.

Robyn Williams, President AFFHO

Free Downloads!

The National Archives in London

(<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>) are making digital records available on their website free of charge for as long as the Kew site is closed to visitors.

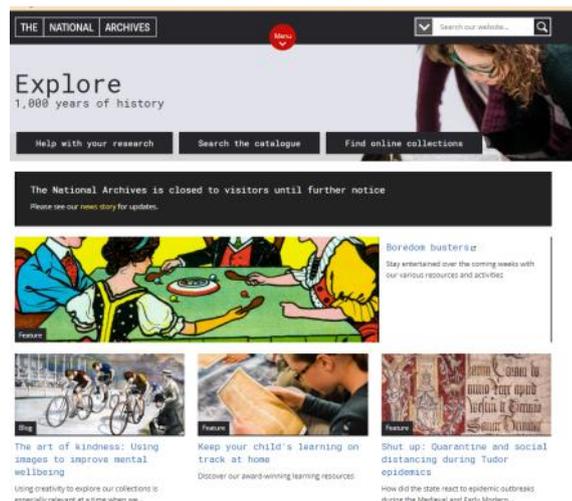
Registered users are able to order and download up to ten items at a time, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of digital services for everyone. Digital copies can be downloaded for non-commercial private use and educational purposes only, and bulk downloads and web crawlers are not permitted. You will be able to download records digitised by The National Archives and published through *Discovery*, their online catalogue. These include:

- First and Second World War records, including medal index cards
- Military records, including unit war diaries
- Royal and Merchant Navy records, including Royal Marine service records
- Wills from the jurisdiction of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC Wills)
- Migration records, including aliens' registration cards and naturalisation case papers
- 20th century Cabinet Papers and Security Service files
- Domesday Book

A full list of digitised collections can be seen here, although please note that it includes collections available on other sites that may charge for access, and are not included in this offer. To find records that are available to download for free, filter your search results in *Discovery* to include records that are 'available for download only'.

To access the service and download for free, users will be required to:

- register for a free account on our website and be logged in to be able to download documents.
- Sign in to your *Discovery* account before adding items to your basket (maximum ten items per basket)
- Abide by the terms of the fair use policy
- Complete the order process to receive a download link, which will remain active for 30 days. (The link will also be saved in 'Your orders' in your account for 30 days)



National Family History Month

August is National Family History Month (NFHM) in Australia and New Zealand, and with Covid19 around us for the foreseeable future, what better time to explore your family history. Whether a newbie or an old hand, NFHM aims to provide information and events for family historians to meet and to help their research. It may not be the usual NFHM, but there will be events.



The Executive of the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) met recently to consider what NFHM for 2020 might look like. They noted that it is the Australian and New Zealand local administrations and health officials who are responsible for deciding when and how restrictions are to be relaxed, and that most events are organised and managed by libraries, societies and other organisations. The Executive have decided it will encourage organisers to make their own decisions about the type of events and venues that are appropriate to local circumstances.

National Family History month will be promoted and supported. The NFHM website is active and ready for events to be listed. Organising groups are able to enter their events now, and a new/updated version of the website has been created for this year. Organisations should find it easier to create events, although none of the previous login details were able to be kept. See <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/> to get started. To register and login, look near the bottom right of the home page. Our webmaster will provide support if you need it (use the contact form).

This year, we will have a virtual opening event, and a virtual closing event, with details to be announced soon. There will also be some prizes available for organising groups, and for individuals. The website will be updated as soon as the details are finalised. We hope organisations and Societies will get creative and present new ways to hold Family History Month events this year. Go . . . *Jan Squire PLCGS JP*

Celebrate National Family History Month (NFHM) August 2020

The website is available for adding society events at <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au>

Want a Worldwide Subscription to Ancestry ?

Go into the draw to win a Worldwide Subscription to Ancestry or another prize, by adding your society's events to our website. Read the short Guide first: *Add a New Event Guidance*



National Family History Month Australasia

Family History Events in August 2020

QFHS Online Events

Fridays@QFHS

The Education Sub-Committee organises a number of workshops and training courses on Fridays at the Library and Resource Centre, 58 Bellevue Avenue, Gaythorne. These sessions focus mainly on the different aspects of the Resources collections, but can include other related topics. Limited places available for each session, so bookings are essential.



<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/fridays-qfhs>

New online services Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

The NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages is introducing new online services to make it easier for the community to access a wider range of transactions more conveniently.



What is changing for you?

We recently launched a new BDM website as part of the nsw.gov.au site to provide easier online access and a more consistent approach to government services for citizens.

Our new address is www.nsw.gov.au/bdm and the shortcut to our family history page is <https://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/family-history-search>

Our Online Family History Search functionality remains unchanged, and you can continue to search public records from

<https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search>

You can continue to order Family History Certificates directly from this site and choose to have them sent to you by email or by post.

If you wish to submit an application for a Family History Certificate outside of the online search you can complete and submit your application form (available to download from our website) at any Service NSW Service Centre, or post the form to the Registry.

Should you have any technical enquiries relating to searching online please email us at: eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au .

If you have any general enquiries relating to our Family History records, please email us at: bdm-familyhistory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au

Amanda Ianna

Registrar, NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

Indigenous Australians and settler interactions

Have you discovered interactions between settlers and Aboriginal peoples in your own family history?

Ashley Barnwell, a Lecturer in Sociology from the University of Melbourne, is currently doing a national study that investigates how inherited family secrets, stories, and memories inform Australian's understandings of colonial history.

Ashley is looking to interview family historians who have found interactions between settlers and Indigenous Australians in their ancestry and who are doing some research into that aspect of the family story.

If you are interested in participating please contact Ashley via email: abarnwell@unimelb.edu.au;

phone: 03 83444559; or

mailing address: Dr Ashley Barnwell, School of Social and Political Sciences, John Medley Building, Level 4, University of Melbourne, VIC, 3010



Australian Genealogist Keith Johnson Elected a Fellow of The IGRS

The following announcement was written by the Irish Genealogical Research Society:

It is with pleasure that we announce that high profile Australian genealogist Keith A. Johnson, AM, FSG, FSAG, FRAHS, has been elected a Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society. The formal, public announcement of his election would have occurred at the IGRS Annual General Meeting in London on Saturday, 9th May, but due to the Covid-19 health crisis that event has been postponed.

In announcing this award IGRS Chairman Steven Smyrl said *“Keith has had a long and distinguished career in genealogy and he has been to the forefront of developments in the field in Australia for decades. He is the 92nd person to have been honoured with the Fellowship of the IGRS in its 84-year history. He is the sixth Australasian (and fifth Australian) to be so elected, following Andrew Clifford (New Zealand, 1995), Rosemary Coleby (2005), Nick Reddan (2006), Lindsay Bellhouse (2009) and Terry Eakin (2012).”*



Keith A. Johnson

Keith Johnson became active in history and genealogy circles in the early 1960s, joining the Royal Australian Historical Society [RAHS] and the Society of Australian Genealogists [SAG].

Since 1980 he has been involved in publishing, originally in print but more recently online. His first significant publication was the *Census of New South Wales, November 1828*, which he edited with Malcolm Sainty. In partnership with Malcolm, he founded the Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record [ABGR] in 1982, an ambitious project to build a biographical database of everyone born or arriving in Australia from 1788 to 1900 (including Aboriginal people). Through the ABGR they published various muster lists for the early colonies in Australia. In 2006 they set up the Biographical Database of Australia [BDA] – <http://www.bda-online.org.au> – a non-profit project, now online, which continues the work of the ABGR. Keith is Vice-President of the BDA Board.

Chairman of the IGRS Awards sub-committee, Paul Gorry, said *“Over a period of a quarter century, the work for which Keith Johnson (working with Malcolm Sainty) has been most widely known internationally is the editing of the annual Genealogical Research Directory. Published from 1981 to 2007, the GRD provided an opportunity for family historians to connect with others throughout the world with shared research interests. Before the internet made such contact possible in different ways, the GRD was unrivalled in genealogy.”*

Keith Johnson’s long and distinguished career in genealogy has been acknowledged by various prestigious honours. He is a Fellow of both the RAHS and the SAG, as well as the Society of Genealogists (London). In 2003 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). In 2006 he and Malcolm Sainty were awarded the Annual History Citation from the History Council of New South Wales *“for outstanding achievement and contribution to history and genealogy in Australia for over forty years”*.

QFHS Online Events

Finding your family: a beginners course in research

Monday 13 July 2020 to Monday 17 August 2020

This six week course will be very comprehensive for someone wanting to start researching their family history, but unsure of the process. Content will include home sources, organisation, BDM certificates, archives, libraries, newspapers, overseas research, and much more. Registrations will be limited to 8 people.

<https://www.qfhs.org.au/events/beginners-course-july-2020>



REMINDER

HAGSOC E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition closing 15 July 2020

Have you sent in your short story for the 2020 Writing Competition? The competition closes on 15th July, so there is still time to submit your entry. Don't miss out on the chance to win \$1,000.

If you are wondering what makes an appealing story, **Barbara Moore**, one of our competition judges, says a 'good beginning will hold the reader's interest for the rest of the story. One tried and true way is to follow the 5Ws guide - the who, what, where, when, and why of the story.'

Kerrie Gray another of our judges says that she will be looking for inspiration. 'A good story will inspire the reader to search further, be it about their own family history, an event that is referenced in the story or a social issue of the time. The story will be part of the journey not the end.'

This is a great opportunity to transform your research gems into a short story. Don't wait – do it now!

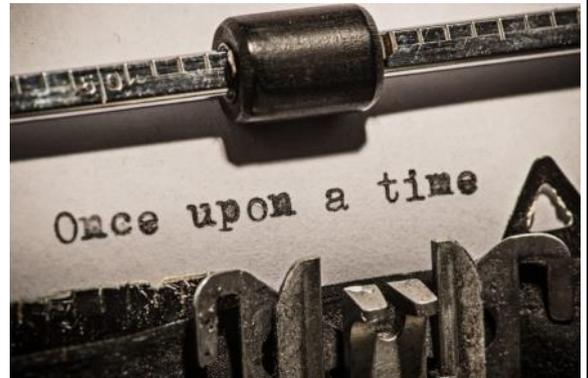
Enquiries should be directed to: writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au.

Every family has a story – write yours NOW!

The competition 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 .



Free Webinars!

Another site with free offerings at the moment is **Legacy Family Tree**:

... passing on details about free webinars posted every day on the Legacy Family History Facebook page.

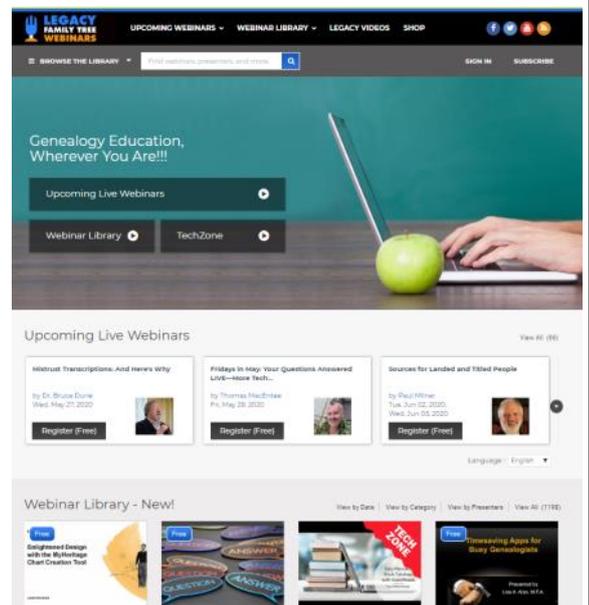
Normally, you must pay a subscription to see their regular online webinars on a range of topics, but during lockdown they are posting a free webinar every day and at times a few extra every week.

For example in the last few week I have viewed webinars on *German Archives*, *Advanced Googling* (by Cyndi Ingle of *Cyndi's List*), *UK Ancestry*, *MyHeritage German records*, *Online Parish Clerks*, *DNA*, etc.

The URL below is a list of all the programs by date. Just be aware that the dates are for the USA, so add a day for Australia. In May they had a webinar on *Emigration from Hamburg*.

I use this link to view the daily webinars and then look at the Facebook page to see which additional webinars are posted.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars> .



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!

QSA Talks: Picturing the North Starts Jun 18th at 10:30 AM AEST

Have you ever wondered about how Queensland's landscape has inspired artists?

Join us online as guest speaker, Timothy Roberts, Visiting Fellow Griffith University Harry Gentle Resource Centre illustrates some artistic highlights of pre-separation Queensland, emphasising the themes of exploration, establishment, and edification.

Tim's visual journey through Queensland's history will begin with artists who were inspired to create work during successive waves of exploration along the Queensland coast; followed by visual representations of the communities that emerged throughout the early decades of settlement. The presentation will conclude with a selection of works of art which evidence individual achievement in the young colony.



Please follow the link: <https://livestream.com/qldstatearchives/picturingthenorth>

British History Online

From Monday 30 March to 30 September 2020, British History Online are making the transcribed texts of an additional 200 volumes available in full to individual users who visit the BHO site: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

"We're very aware of the current challenges faced by students and researchers with the closure of universities, libraries and archives. We hope that by releasing these additional volumes BHO can provide access to a wider selection of valuable research materials. To 30 September 2020 we're making all



transcribed BHO content freely available for individual users. This adds 200 volumes of primary materials. As a result, BHO's full complement of 1280 volumes is now available for research."

[British History Online](#) (BHO) is a digital collection of key printed primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland, with a special focus on the period 1300 to 1800.

The extra 200 volumes now available are predominantly made up of two important series:

- the [Calendar of Close Rolls](#), covering the reigns of Henry III to Henry VII (1244 to 1509),
- the [Calendar of State Papers Domestic](#), covering the reigns of Edward VI to Anne, 1547 to 1704)

Close Rolls record 'Letters close' which were issued by the Chancery in the name of the Crown. These letters were 'usually of an executive nature conveying orders and instructions, and, therefore of a private and personal nature' (The National Archives, 2020). Because of their nature, letters were 'issued folded and "closed" by the application of the great seal' (TNA).

The Close Rolls are records of these letters, initiated by Chancery to create a master version of the letters sent. BHO's collection covers closed letters issued between 1244 and 1509 in a total of 61 volumes.

The State Papers Domestic are the accumulated papers of the secretaries of state relating to national home (domestic) affairs. They contain information on every facet of early modern government. State Papers took many formats: 'including private and official letters, musters, reports, commissions and instructions, council orders and correspondence, proclamations, memoranda and draft parliamentary bills' (TNA, 2020).

BHO's collection covers State Papers Domestic for the period 1547 to 1704 in a total of 92 volumes.

In both cases, British History Online offers the Calendar of the original records, not the original records. These Calendars were created in the late Victorian period. They provide researchers with a full summary of the contents of the original document. For nearly all purposes these summaries are wholly sufficient for research.

The remainder of the now free BHO content comprises the following eight series:

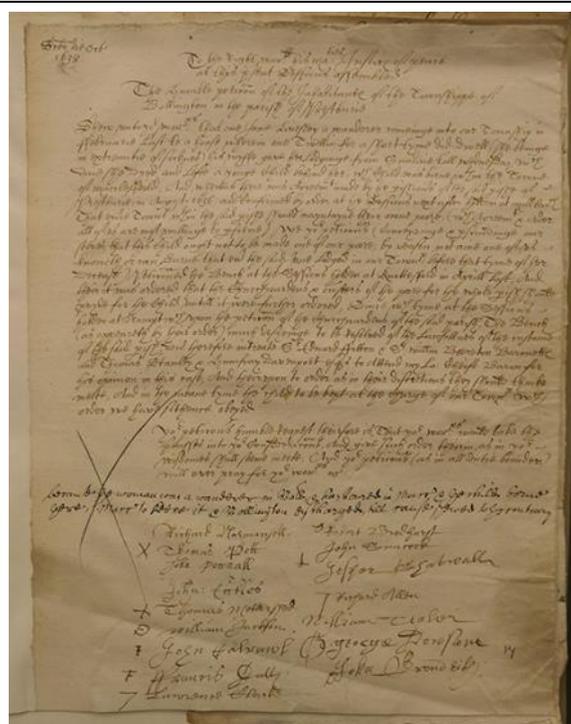
- [Calendar of State Papers, Ireland](#), covering the period 1586-1606, in 13 volumes
- [Calendar of State Papers, Scotland](#), covering the period 1547-1588, in 11 volumes
- [Parliament Rolls of Medieval England](#), in 1 volume
- [Calendar of Home Office Papers, George III](#), covering the period 1760-1775, in 4 volumes
- [Calendar of Border Papers](#), covering the period 1560-1603, in 2 volumes
- [Calendar of the Committee for the Advance of Money](#), covering the period 1642-55, in 4 volumes
- [Calendar of the Committee for Compounding](#), covering the period 1643-60, in 5 volumes

A final series is the [Calendar of Patent Rolls](#), covering the reigns of Henry III, Edward I and Edward II (1216 to 1307), which appear in 10 volumes. The Patent Rolls are closely linked to the Close Rolls, being the records of Letters patent (or 'open').

Letters patent were unsealed letters expressing the sovereign's will on a variety of matters of public interest. BHO's 10 volumes are the first output in a new project to digitise and publish the Calendar of Patent Rolls up to and including the reign of Henry VII (1509); this project is ongoing.

For more on the Patent (and Close) Rolls, and their usefulness for medieval historians, [see this earlier IHR blog post](#) from Dr Adam Chapman of the IHR.

The petition of sixteen inhabitants of the township of Bollington in the parish of Prestbury. From the English Petitions series in BHO. Image courtesy of Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, QJF 67/3/17.



Notable collections—of private and secondary sources—remain permanently free include:

[Primary sources](#) collection ...

- House of Commons Journals, 1527-1699, in 13 volumes
- House of Lords journals, 1509-1793, in 42 volumes
- 41 volumes of primary works edited and published by the London Record Society – a particularly rich collection (including diaries and correspondence) on London history from the 15th to the 19th century
- [Petitions from English Quarter Sessions](#), covering the period 1577-1799, in 6 volumes: an ongoing series in association with The Power of Petitioning research project at Birkbeck and University College London
- Privy Council Acts, 1552-1631, in 46 volumes

[Secondary sources](#) collection ...

- 175 volumes of the [Victoria County History](#), covering selected English counties from Bedfordshire to Yorkshire
- 60 volumes of the [Survey of London](#) which, at parish level, provides detailed architectural and topographical studies of the capital’s built environment.
- 32 volumes of the Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae: the standard authority for identifying the higher clergy of the Church of England from 1066 to 1857

[Datasets](#) collection ...

and [Maps](#) collection ...

and [Guides and Calendars](#) collection ...

... and more see: [British History Online makes all research content free to individual users.](#)

Stories from the 2019 E.M. Fletcher Competition

The 2019 winning and shortlisted entries were published in The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra’s December 2019 edition of *The Ancestral Searcher*.

Copies of the journal can be purchased for \$5.00 each (plus postage) but be quick as stocks are limited. To order please email bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au.

The stories are creative and evocative across diverse topics and genres. It is also interesting to see the many ways in which we can share our family history research. Well worth a read!

