

Newsflash

No 32

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July 2009

National Family History Week

1-9 August 2009

www.familyhistoryweek.org.au



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent Annual General Meeting has seen significant changes in the AFFHO Council. Lesle Berry from Victoria, after nearly six years at the helm, has stood down from the Presidency. During this period she has made a significant contribution to the Organisation. The establishment of a National Family History Week in Australia and the Nick Vine Hall Award are perhaps her most significant contributions to family history. She has attracted sponsorship and wide acceptance in the family history and library community with events planned during the week in August. She has agreed to coordinate the NFHW in August this year.

Other changes include the Secretary and Treasurer role. Lyn Walker as Treasurer and Ann Swain have both, over many years, made a significant contribution to the Organisation in filling these roles. I am

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AFFHO Council

Andrew Peake	SA	President
Jeanette Hahn	ACT	Vice President
Allan Murrin	NSW	Secretary/Treasurer
David Bryant	NZ	Councillor
vacant	NT	Councillor
Rosemary Kopittke	QLD	Councillor
Alan Fincher	VIC	Councillor
vacant	TAS	Councillor
vacant	WA	Councillor
Pam Valentine	NSW	Assoc Rep
Di Christensen	VIC	Assoc Rep
vacant	QLD	Assoc Rep

AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer
Peter Applebee	Web site: webmaster@affho.org
vacant	2012 Congress (SAGHS)
Lesle Berry	Coord Nat Family History Week
Graham Jaunay	Editor: graham@jaunay.com
Barry Weeden	Auditor

Current Projects

Save the Census
Australasian Strays Index
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

Together we can achieve much more!

grateful for Allan Murrin representing NSW and from Botany Bay FHS in taking responsibility for both roles.

I am now the President, or should I say President again, as I filled the role between 1984 and 1987. The Organisation was very different then, with little contact between the constituent members and its main role was the allocation of the triennial Congress. Now the Council meets quarterly by teleconferences, there are state based representative, who are better able to keep up with events in their local area. AFFHO has had a major influence in the partial preservation of the Australian Census, the National Family History Week in Australia and the creation of the Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history journal.

However, the AFFHO Council still lacks representatives from Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, so we are looking for somebody from those areas to fill the casual vacancy. It only requires about an hour each quarter to join us in a teleconference and a report back to member organisations.

AFFHO members need to quickly think about how they are going to contribute to the National Family History Week, and ensure that the event/s they organise are registered on the website and promote the events in their local community. Member societies need to be continually attracting new members to ensure that they survive into the future. You do not need to look further than the RSL, formerly an influential organisation with an enormous membership, which is slowly dying as World War II ex-servicemen and women pass away.

I would also ask members to check the AFFHO website to see if their member details remain correct. Pete Applebee of the Adelaide Northern Districts FH Group has taken over as webmaster and is currently updating the website.

This *Newsflash* is a month later than usual, as Lesle has also relinquished the role as Editor (did you realise that she also edited the *Newsflash*, as well as everything else she did!) Graham Jaunay, has taken over the role, but is dependent on you in supplying material for future editions, as his role is editing and not creating the *Newsflash*. So if you have a local event, a publication that you believe others should know about, or any other news, let him

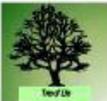
know.

Andrew Peake

FROM THE EDITOR

When Andrew approached me to edit *Newsflash*, I accepted on the condition that I am the editor and not the author. I am very much reliant on contributions from councillors and member societies to provide the content.

Apart from articles and general news of interest to the Australasian family history community, I consider a diary of up and coming events to be a worthwhile project. When I previously edited this publication six plus years ago, getting this information was like *drawing teeth*! Perhaps member societies could appoint a person whose task it is to pass on information. I am also very keen to receive reports on functions together with photographs. You can reach me at: graham@jaunay.com or fax me at 08 8371 4479 although I would much rather receive news within an email to save retyping!



Wyong Family History Group Inc

Will be hosting the
2009 NSW & ACT State Conference
From Home to the Hinterland
We invite you to join us on our journey
Friday 18 September
Saturday 19 September
Sunday 20 September 2009
To be held at
Wyong Racecourse Function Centre
Howarth Street
WYONG NSW 2259

For More Information Please Contact
Conference Secretary:
PO Box 247
Wyong NSW 2259 or
Telephone: The Cottage on 4351 7373 Tuesday - Thursday
between 10am-3pm
Conference Convener Mr. Owen POWELL 4390 8962
Co. Convener & President Ms Kerrie METCALFE 4351 5430

CONGRESS 2012

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, between 28–31 March 2012, hosted by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc.



Theme: Your Ancestors in their Social Context

If you have not registered your interest in attending you can do so, through the website. The first *Congress Twenty Twelve Chronicle* can be downloaded from the website: www.congress2012.org.au

If you are also interested in speaking you can also find details about doing so on the website.

CONGRESS 2015

Congress 2015 will be held in Canberra and hosted by the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The Congress will be in March, so if you plan this far ahead put it into your calendar.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK 2009

1–9 AUGUST 2009

Add your event to the list from www.familyhistoryweek.org.au.

Any event that supports family history can be added to the site. Be sure to mention this website and our sponsors in any advertising undertaken by your society. It is important to add to what is available in every state and territory in Australia, even if it is low key event such as an ‘open day’ for your library. If you are looking for ideas, check out what is happening elsewhere from the Events already listed on the website.

We are very keen to see events listed. We seek financial support from sponsors to help fund publicity and they check the website regularly to see what is happening. Continuing financial support is very much dependent on the success of the Week, which is measured by the number of events that take place during the Week. List your event now.



2009 NSW & ACT STATE CONFERENCE

See the notice on page 2.

25TH ANNIVERSARY VICGUM CONFERENCE

24–26 JULY 2009

The conference will be held at the Continental Hotel, 5 The Esplanade, Cowes, Phillip Island. See: www.vicgum.asn.au/conference2009.html

NEWS AND NOTICES

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE VICTORIA

The latest and last edition of *PROactive* has announced the cessation of their periodical, which has been produced since 1994. It will be replaced by two free online publications. *Research* will appear bi-monthly which will include PROV news and keep the reader informed about their public programs and *Provenance* for readers in current historical scholarship with extended articles on research conducted in PROV.

There will be disruption to activities at PROV between June 2009 and February 2010 due to building works. The reading room at North Melbourne will be closed on Monday and Saturday, and the Ballarat Archives Centre will be closed on Mondays until February 2010.

Victorian probate records, 1841–1925 are available through the PROV website at www.prov.vic.gov.au/access/probate.asp They can be viewed online or downloaded. This is a significant record source for family historians whose family had property in Victoria. The National Archives in London has similar material for the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which can also be downloaded but at some cost. This is the first state to provide this facility for probate records. The indexing of probate records by PROV volunteers continues and it is likely that the 1925 cut off date will be extended.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

Their *qsa-bulletin*, issue 17 for June 2009, announces the release of a further index online. The records

of the *Assistant Immigration Agent at Maryborough 1884-1907* now appear on their website.

STATE RECORDS AUTHORITY OF NSW

Now&Then, No. 38 for June 2009 announces a number of new initiatives including:

Introduction of a trial copy service for the *Index to Deceased Estates* files which currently cover the period 1880–ca1907, which will eventually extend to 1923. The index is available on their website and it is possible to order copies for a service fee of \$30.00, which includes administration, postage/handling and the first entry.

The *Assisted Immigrants Indexes* have now been merged into the one large database that includes over 200,000 arrivals to Sydney, Newcastle, Moreton Bay and Port Phillip for the period 1839–1896.

AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SURVEY

Leon Alekna is undertaking a Master's thesis at the University of New England (Armidale, NSW) with the working title of the Nature and Growth of Family History in Australia and this involves conducting a survey of as many Australian genealogists as possible. The survey is designed to learn about the motivation of genealogists, how they conduct their research, their research interests and who they are. This research will provide the first comprehensive overview of genealogical research in Australia and will assist in promoting and supporting the work of genealogists.

This research and survey has been approved by the UNE Ethics Committee and has the support of Ancestry.com and RootsWeb, who has provided resources to conduct the survey.

The survey is being conducted as a web-based survey and will run for a period of four months from 1 August 2009. The critical issue is to bring the survey to the notice of as many Australian genealogists as possible between now and the end of November 2009. The survey will go live from 1st August to 30th November 2009 and can be found at: freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ausgensurvey

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Shoalhaven Pre 1900 Pioneer Register, 2 volumes, A4, pp.685, limited edition, \$60.00 plus \$10.00 p&h and *Nowra General Cemetery*, 3 volumes plus Vol. 1 Book2 and CDs 1–3, \$120 including postage available from Shoalhaven FHS, PO Box 591 Nowra NSW 2541.

Footscray Cemetery Register and Memorial Inscriptions (DVD) \$45.00 available from Genealogical Society of Victoria, Level B1, 257 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000.

Born in the English Colony of New South Wales 1788–1800, by Dr Craig James Smee, Sydney, A4, pp. 460, 2009, \$88.00 plus \$11.00 p&h. available from CJ & AK Enterprises P/L, PO Box 1011 Dickson ACT 2602.

Insolvency Records in South Australia 1842–1928 by Elaine and Frank Hall, Victor Harbor SA, 2009, A4, 2 volumes, \$75.00 plus p&h available from Elaine & Frank Hall: fwemhall@bigpond.com

South Australian Land Owners 1835–1841 (CD) \$29.50 and *South Australian Newspaper Obituaries 1836–1900* (CD) \$29.50 plus p&h, both compiled by Graham Jaunay are available from Gould Genealogy.

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