

Newsflash

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September 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The period from July to September is the busiest period for AFFHO. Firstly there is the judging for the Nick Vine Hall Family History Journal Award, which has to be completed in time for the launch of National Family History Week. Then of course there is the Week, with all the preparation that goes into making it a success. Seeking financial support from stake holders and then promoting the Week to family history societies, libraries, archives and anybody else who is interested in having an event. These events appear on the web site, and then publicity has to be sent out to nearly a thousand societies and agencies to be distributed well before Week commences. Other advertising may also be involved such as radio and television. Lesle Berry has coordinated the Week since its inception. This year the Week was launched at National Archives, Melbourne, by Jenny Harkness, President of VAFHO.

At the launch the winners of the two categories of the Nick Vine Hall Family History Journal Award were announced and by good fortune either the editor of the winning journal or a representative of the Society was there to receive the trophy.

The winning journals were:

Category A

(societies with less than 500 members)

1st – *The Endeavour*, Editor, John Levy and Assistant Editor, Maree McKinley, Botany Bay FHS

2nd – *Newcastle Journal*, Newcastle FHS

Category B

(societies with more than 500 members)

1st – *Ancestor*, Editor Lesle Berry, Sub Editor, Margaret Rowe-Keys, Genealogical Society of

**Australasian Federation of
Family History Organisations**
PO Box 3012, Weston Creek ACT 2611
Ph: (Secretary) 0400 913 866
www.affho.org

AFFHO Council

Andrew Peake	SA	President
Jeanette Hahn	ACT	Vice President
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June Penny	Public Officer
Peter Applebee	Web site: webmaster@affho.org
Peter Applebee	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!

Victoria

2nd – *The Ancestral Searcher*, The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra

As well as receiving a trophy the society receives a cheque for \$150.00 and the editor an annual subscription to a family history journal of their choice. Further details of the Award appear elsewhere.

At the Launch, Lesle Berry was recognised for her contribution to AFFHO during the period that she has been President. Significant achievements include the establishment of National Family History Week on the history calendar and attracting significant funding to make the Week a success. The Nick Vine Hall Award was also established during her presidency.

This *Newsflash* is primarily sent to member societies electronically. Many societies have an electronic messaging system and we encouraged societies to forward on this *Newsflash* to their members.

Andrew Peake

NICK VINE HALL AWARD FOR THE BEST JUDGED FAMILY HISTORY JOURNAL

The Nick Vine Hall Award was established by AFFHO in 2007 to memorialise the contribution that Nick Vine Hall made to family history in Australia, over many decades. The Award was divided into two categories, those societies with less than 500 members and those with more than 500 members.

This year the judging panel consisted of;

Patricia Barth, Chair, The Family Scriptorium
Michele Stephens, Publisher and Editor, Australian Family Tree Connections
Andrew Peake, family historian and President, AFFHO.

AFFHO prepared some judging criteria, to which all societies had access to prior to submitting their journal for the Award. This included a number of areas under three headings, Presentation, Articles and Information.

One of the objectives of the Award is to improve the quality of family history journals and these notes are prepared to assist editors of journals who may consider submitting their journal in future years for

judging.

Presentation

The Cover should include such information as the Title, name of the organisation, number or date of journal and ISSN. (Bibliographically the Australia Post reference number is not important and may be better placed on the address label and the same applies to the Australian Business Number, which could appear elsewhere.) There needs to be a Contents page which is clear and could separate articles from regular features. Each page of the journal should ideally have a header or footer containing the journal name, number or date of journal and page number. Article titles should be in large, readable font size. Surnames in bold font is also an advantage. The content should be easy to read, and factors such as number of columns (depending on the paper size) and not too many changes in font and style all make for a pleasant presentation.

Journals submitted have been in both A4 and A5 style. There are advantages and disadvantages with both paper sizes. Smaller societies, which have a smaller readership and less material, may be better served using A5.

Articles

There needs to be a mixture of articles covering such areas as sources, record keeping, local and state based material, Internet information and book reviews. The inclusion of photographs, maps, documents and so on, all help to enhance articles and the overall presentation of the journal. Editors should try to solicit longer articles which will be of interest to the members and also serve as a model for historical research, which should include sources used in preparing articles. Articles should also be appropriately referenced with endnotes and bibliography.

Information

A combination of society news, project information, notices, 'help wanted', members' interest, meeting reports, general news, library news and society contact details are all important. However, while all this information is valuable for society members there also needs to be a balance between this information, which is of a short term nature, and articles which will potentially still be of value years into the future. Therefore a journal which has a preponderance of information to articles was less favour-



ably reviewed than a journal where the balance is more orientated to articles.

Details of the Award winners for 2009 appear elsewhere in the *NewsFlash* and these, together with the 2008 winners, could be used as a model for journal editors. Further information regarding the Award can be found on the AFFHO web site.

7TH VICTORIAN FAMILY HISTORY STATE CONFERENCE

**THE BORDER AND BEYOND
28-30 MAY 2010
CLUBMULWALA YARAWONGA VIC**

Presented by the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations in conjunction with the Yarrawonga Family History Group.

Contact the convenor for more information and

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President Andrew Peake presents flowers to Jenny Harkness, President of VAFHO who opened National Family History Week.

expressions of interest:
PO Box 10 Glen Waverley VIC 3150
mullum36@bigpond.com

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

Register your interest at www.congress2012.org.au

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



SERIES 2 STARTS SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm on SBS
Featuring Ron Barassi | **Sigrid Thornton** | Ben Mendelsohn
Christine Anu | Maggie Beer | **John Butler**

"...explores the family histories of its subjects with class and humour.
Verdict: A Hit." - Michael Idato, SMH 31/12/07
"... surprising, extraordinary and often moving" Sunday Telegraph

Produced by Artemis International and Serendipity Productions.
Based on a series created by Wall to Wall Media and licensed by Wall to Wall Television.

www.sbs.com.au/whodoyouthinkyouare

NEWS AND NOTICES

INAUGURAL NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2008

In conjunction with National Family History Week in August last year AFFHO introduced an award to promote family history journals and also to honour the memory of Nick Vine Hall who did so much to ensure the retention of the census and to promote genealogy in Australia.

There were two categories:

- societies with less than 199 members which was awarded to Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc.
- societies with over 199 members which was awarded to WA Genealogy Society Inc.

The Liverpool Genealogy Society's journal, *Links n Chains* was first published in 1988 and has been produced by the current editor Margot Crestani since November 2001.

HISTORY QUEENSLAND

The 2010 Local and Family History Fair organised by History Queensland will be held at a new venue, the Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland on Sunday 23 May 2010. This is the first time organisers are able to accommodate seminars and displays under the one roof. Please mark the date in your diary. Further details will be available in the New Year.

Affordable public liability insurance—History Queensland has for a number of years provided affordable public liability for its members. They are now in the process of negotiating to provide contents and building insurance as well.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE

Australian Heritage maintains a web site www.heritageaustralia.com.au which includes a register of historically related organisations within Australia. Under Links and Resources you can click on indi-

vidual organisations and it will descriptive information under the following headings: Information, Phone, Address, Email and Web site.

While many family history societies are listed there are many that are not, some of which are the larger societies in Australia. Check to see whether your society is included and if not, send them an email to be included.

There is also a listing of Upcoming Events.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Six more prominent Australians trace their family trees in a new series of the TV genealogy program *Who Do You Think You Are?* starting 27 Sep.

SBS Director of Television and Online Content, Matt Campbell, said he expected Australians to be moved, amazed and entertained by the stories that unfold in the series. Our six celebrities let us in on their lives as they research their ancestors. Quite simply, it's fascinating, extremely personal and engaging TV. It's bound to make people interested in their own histories because of the compelling tales that emerge from our personalities' family trees.

2009 NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES' CONFERENCE

Wyong Racecourse Function Centre was the gathering place for the 2009 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies' Conference hosted by the Wyong Family History Group. A display in the auditorium was a reminder of the theme *From home to the hinterland* to the 226 registered. The research rooms were open early Friday morning for an inspection of their facilities. In the afternoon registration commenced with opportunity to visit 55 society and trade tables. Kerrie Metcalf welcomed everyone to a meet and mingle on Friday night followed by two days of a wide variety

Left: Margot Crestani with the 2008 Nick Vine Hall Award in the Liverpool Genealogy Society's workroom. (see article on p4)

Below: 2009 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies' Conference display.



of expert speakers. Remarkably a race call bugle sounded the time to gather for the next conference event. Pam Valentine, the Association President concluded the conference with a call to Shoalhaven for the 2010 conference to be hosted by the Shoalhaven Family History Society.

FAMILYSEARCH

There has been a lot of publicity regarding new material coming available, particularly on the pay to view web sites. By now most of us know that the 1911 Census is available and more recently English material on the www.Ancestry.com site.

However, did you know that by the end of 2009 *FamilySearch* volunteers expect to have transcribed more than 325 million names. This was a number that many would have thought impossible in such a short time period. In 2006 a few thousand volunteers indexed only 11 million names. But thanks to advances in technology and a growing number of volunteers – more than 100,000 across five continents – an estimated half a million individual names are indexed each day.

It is estimated that by the end of 2010, 500 million names will be transcribed.

A major indexing project in Australia that is part of the *FamilySearch* program is the indexing project of the Public Record Office of Victoria. The material being indexed comes from all over the world

and can be found on the FamilySearch pilot site: <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/#start>

CEMETERIES AND PRIVACY

Andrew Peake

A recent issue arose on a South Australian family history newsgroup relating to the photographing of gravestones in cemeteries.

For many decades family historians have been transcribing headstone information in cemeteries. Some of these transcriptions have been published in society journals or as stand alone publications either as hard copy, microform or DVD. More recently with advances in photography and the introduction of digital cameras, cemetery headstones have been increasingly photographed and in many cases the images made available on the Internet. Increasingly digital photographs are replacing hand written transcription.

A recent issue arose in Adelaide. A family historian photographed the headstones in a large Adelaide suburban cemetery, which involved in excess of twenty nine thousand images. She had previously photographed many country cemeteries. She makes these images available for a small fee. However, when she contacted the Adelaide Cemetery Authority seeking to promote the service she was informed:

*I advise that any future photography you wish to undertake at any of the Authority's cemetery must comply with our **Filming and Photography Policy** - in particular **filming and photography must be restricted to general scenes only and not directed on individual memorials so as to identify the inscription.***

We adopt this approach as previous experience with photography and or filming depicting family names has drawn criticism from family members of the deceased. However, we will not restrict the listing of names of individuals on your web site.

I am unable to approve publication to your web site and sale of photographs to any person or organisation of individual headstones. The monuments are owned by the families of the deceased and the Authority has no right to provide such approval.

This is a disturbing trend and appears to be an extension of privacy issues, even though those named on headstones are deceased, details of the death have generally been published in the newspaper, together with the names of immediate family.

The issue is reminiscent of a similar issue that arose some years ago regarding the indexing and possible publishing of death notices in an Adelaide newspaper. Perhaps foolishly the views of the newspaper were sought, who forbade the publishing of this information on the grounds of privacy and copyright. Ironically the same newspaper information is being captured by the Ryerson Index and is freely available on the Internet. They got around any such difficulty by using a US based web site.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

HAGSOC; *Family history for beginners & beyond* (revised and updated). Cost – \$25.00
Orders may be placed by contacting Bookshop Manager Susan Peat at hagsoc@hagsoc.org.au

QFHS; *Queensland founding families: Biographies of families living in Queensland prior to separation from New South Wales* (CD) produced as a Q150 project. Cost – \$49.50 incl. GST, P&P



President Andrew Peake hands to Ancestor, Editor Lesle Berry and Sub Editor, Margaret Rowe-Keys of Genealogical Society of Victoria the Nick Vine Hall Award.



*Allan Murrin receives the Nick Vine Hall Award from President Andrew Peake on behalf of Editor, John Levy and Assistant Editor, Maree McKinley of the Botany Bay FHS journal, *The Endeavour*.*

\$2.00; Overseas \$45.00, P&P \$5.00; QFHS members \$42.00 incl. GST, P&P \$2.00. Available from: The Secretary, QFHS, PO Box 171, Indooroopilly QLD 4068 or via the QFHS web site: qfhs.org.au

GUM; *GUM 25th Anniversary Conference Papers 2009*, (Bk or CD) \$25.00 available from: Genealogists Using Microcomputers, Melbourne: www.vicgum.asn.au