

Newsflash

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following the AGM at which there was no nomination from NSW and Tasmania I have been actively lobbying for representatives from both New South Wales and Tasmania. I have been successful for Tasmania and Maurice Appleyard from Tasmanian FHS will be their representative. I know that the ACT/NSW Association has been soliciting a representative for NSW and I have also emailed SAG for a representative. I understand that somebody may be offering their services!

A number of faces have departed from the AFFHO Council. David Bryant from New Zealand, Allan Murrin, who has filled both secretarial and treasurer roles from New South Wales and Di Christensen from the Victorian Association. They have all contributed to the operations of AFFHO, for which we are all appreciative.

National Family History Week got off well, with over 84 events planned throughout Australia. The event was launched by Hazel Edwards in Melbourne on 30 July.

On the same day the winners of the *Nick Vine Hall Award* were announced and by good fortune Jeanette Hahn was able to receive the runner-up certificate on behalf of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra for Category B. Details of the winners and place-getters for the Award appears elsewhere. I need to pay appreciation to Di Christensen who has coordinated all the work involved in making the Award a success. Next year the NVH Award will be coordinated by Margaret Hickey.

In July I attended the *UnLock The Past History and Genealogy Expo* in Adelaide. The first such

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AFFHO Council

Andrew Peake	SA	President
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vacant	NT	Councillor
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June Penny	Public Officer
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Peter Applebee	2012 Congress (SAGHS)
Kerrie Gray	2015 Congress (HAGSOC)
Lesle Berry	Coord Nat Family History Week
Graham Jaunay	Editor: graham@jaunay.com
Barry Weeden	Auditor

Current Projects

Save the Census	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!

event, with more to follow elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand. An excellent two day event, with many interesting speakers and a good array of exhibition stands. I commend the event to you when it comes your way.

The situation as regards the National Archives branches in Adelaide, Darwin and Hobart has gone quiet over recent months. I understand that co-location has been agreed upon in Darwin and there is discussion regarding co-location in Adelaide, and the possible transfer of records back from whence they come, but no concrete decision has been made. I haven't heard what the situation is in Hobart.

A short while ago I heard of the sad passing of Marianne Eastgate from the world of Australian family history. She has been a long term stalwart of family history, particularly in her home state of Queensland. A short obituary appears elsewhere in *Newsflash*.

As with most of the content in past *Newsflashes*, I have had to write it myself. I make occasional requests for specific content, the response to which is either tardy or nonexistent, and also general requests for member societies to submit material, which also generally falls on deaf ears.

I have also requested that member societies distribute *Newsflash* electronically to their members, as most societies have the capacity to do so—but except for a few societies, this does not happen.

Rather frustrating!

Andrew Peake
President

NICK VINE HALL AWARD ENTRIES FOR 2010

This year it is pleasing to report that we received seven entries from groups around the country—sadly none from New Zealand

CATEGORY A - UNDER 499 MEMBERS - 4 ENTRIES

The winner is:
Adelaide & Northern Districts Family History Group Inc
The Compass December quarter, 2009 edition (see

photo).

Runner up:
Wagga Wagga & District Family History Society
Murrumbidgee Ancestor February 2010.

Other entries:
Central Coast Family History Society Inc *The Muster* April 2010.
Narre Warren & District Family History Group
Spreading Branches May 2009.

CATEGORY B - OVER 500 MEMBERS - 3 ENTRIES

The winner is:
Queensland Family History Society Inc
Queensland Family Historian February 2010 edition.

Runner up:
Heraldry & Genealogical Society of Canberra
The Ancestral Searcher September 2009.

Other entry:
AIGS-Australian Institute Genealogical Studies
The Genealogist March 2010.

VALE MARIANNE EASTGATE

Marianne Eastgate long standing member of Queensland FHS passed away on 5 September. She was the recipient of the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History in 1991 and this year was the editor of the *Queensland Family Historian* which was awarded first place in Category B of the Nick Vine Hall Award that she did get to see which was sent to QFHS a week or so ago.

Marianne also made a significant contribution to the *Queensland Founding Families* publication which was recently announced as the winner of the Gold Award for the Queensland National Trust Heritage Awards (Community category).

NEWS AND NOTICES

PROPOSED 2011 CENSUS

On 29 July at 11:30am the ABS released an *Information Paper* outlining the Proposed 2011 Census Output Products and Services. The primary purpose of this paper was to signal the start of a consultation process on the 2011 Census output pro-

gram and invite comments from Census data users.

This information paper outlines the proposed key products, plans to discontinue some products and an indicative release timetable. The Information paper is available on the ABS web site at: abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2011.0

The ABS welcomes comments and feedback by following the links in the Information Paper to see a sample of the products, where the viewer can either send an email or complete a short survey.

PROBATE CALENDARS FOR ENGLISH AND WELSH WILLS

Ancestry has released probate calendars for English and Welsh wills between 1861 and 1941, but with some gaps.

This collection contains summaries of the vast majority of probate cases in England and Wales between 1861 and 1941. It effectively forms an index to wills and probate records for this period.

The records were created by the Probate Registry, which took control of proving wills and administrations in 1858. Before this, four different types of ecclesiastical courts dealt with these cases. A Principal Probate Registry was established in London in January 1858, and several district probate registries were created around the country. From then on, the registries oversaw all grants of probate and letters of administration. This collection is the Calendar of these grants.

The Calendar is separated into a different volume for each year. The entries in each volume are then alphabetised by surname. Information varies across different entries, but each typically includes:

- * Probate date
- * Full name of the deceased
- * Death date
- * Death place
- * Registry where issued

Missing volumes:

The collection covers 80 years from 1861 to 1941. *Ancestry* currently do not have the books for the years 1858–1860 and there are some gaps for the years 1863, 1868, 1873, 1876, 1877, 1883, 1888, 1899–1903 and 1910–1911. However, they hope to add records for these years as soon as possible.

UNLOCK THE PAST EXPO 2010

For details see: www.unlockthepast.com.au/events

This web site also has a very comprehensive guide to family and local history events throughout Australia and New Zealand.

New South Wales

22–23 October 2010 9:30–4:30pm
Parramatta RSL
cnr Macquarie and O'Connell Streets Parramatta

NEW PUBLICATIONS

NZ COMBINED ELECTORAL ROLLS 1881, 1893, 1896

1881 Electoral Rolls contain over 120,000 records; 1893 contains over 300,000 records and 1896 contains over 330,000 records. By combining these rolls into one database researchers are able to see family connections, by electoral district with the addition of woman and children over the age of 21 from 1893; look at the geographical movement of family members, compare the choice of the women in your family as to whether the hype of the 1893 election (about the ability to vote in a general election) carried over to the 1896 election.

This also includes copies of the electoral maps of the times, published compliments of Alan McRobie, from his NZ Electoral Atlas.

This CD is available for NZ\$25 plus postage and packaging if ordering beyond NZ from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists: details on their web site www.genealogy.org.nz

A RETURN OF FREEHOLDERS OF NZ OCT 1882

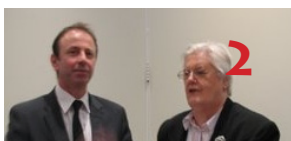
This is a searchable PDF which gives the names, addresses and occupations of owners of land throughout New Zealand at that time. It includes the area and value in counties and the value in boroughs and town districts.

Note: Maori land ownership is omitted in the original records.

Compiled by the NZ Property Tax Department from Assessment Rolls, these records were published by the Government in 1884.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK 2010

1. Hazel Edwards launching National Family History Week.
2. Ross Latham, NAA Melbourne with Di Christensen.
3. Section of the audience.
4. Jeanette Hahn, Hazel Edwards and Di Christensen.



NICK VINE HALL AWARD

Peter Applebee (web master) presents trophy to Colin Withall ANDFHG Editor.



This CD is available for NZ\$25 plus postage and packaging if ordering beyond NZ from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists: details on their web site www.genealogy.org.nz

HOTELS, INNS AND SHANTIES OF THE UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE

This book written by Monica Croke tells the history of Hotels Inns and Shanties from 1830–1920 in the Upper Lachlan Shire.

Contact the Crookwell and District Historical Society PO Box 161 Crookwell NSW 2583, Phone: 02 48320630 Email: cwlfamhist@goulburn.net.au

The cost is \$50.00 plus postage

THE JIM PEARCE INDEX OBITUARIES REPORTED IN THE EVENING POST 1929–1977

This collection was assembled between 1927 and 1977 by librarians working for the *Evening Post* in Wellington New Zealand. Following the merger of the *Evening Post* and the *Dominion* newspapers in 2002 the collection was gifted to the Wellington City Libraries by *Fairfax (NZ) Ltd*. The Kilbirnie Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc indexed this collection over a long period on a voluntary basis to produce this index. The Index is

searchable by surname, given names or year and includes other people named in the obituary.

This CD is available for NZ\$25 plus postage and packaging if ordering beyond NZ from the New Zealand Society of Genealogists: details on their web site www.genealogy.org.nz

PATIENTS IN MELBOURNE HOSPITAL 1856-1905

An index of 49,552 names from medical records, hyperlinked to a set of details extracted from the patients' medical record, these records were extracted by volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Victoria from the War Books of the (Royal) Melbourne Hospital. An estimated 2,000 Ward Books are extant but many more have disappeared. There are 451 Ward Books which have been indexed to this CD. The original records are held at the Public Records Office Victoria. Not all the extant books in the period to 1905 have been indexed yet.

These details contain the patient's name, age, and admission date together with some or all of the following: the patient's biography; birth place; the ship on which the person travelled to Australia and its arrival date; whether married, widowed or single; occupation; religion; residence and the result of treatment. Each set of details includes the full reference to the relevant Ward Book's location at PROV. A patient's disease or complaint can only be ascertained by viewing the Book at PROV, or by using the GSV's Research Service.

Cost of the CD: Members \$72.00.
Non-Members \$80.00.

BRUNY ISLAND: CEMETERIES OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA, VOL. X

This CD covers the cemeteries of Adventure Bay, St Peters—Barnes Bay, Alonnah, Lunawanna, Shetler Cove and some Miscellaneous Memorials.

Each Bruny Island Cemetery has a brief history/description, plan, details of how to get there, and a list of the individuals identified in the cemetery. Where available each individual has a photograph of the grave and/or headstone, a transcript of any wording, and a plot number. Many inscriptions were recorded up to thirty years ago so that, in some cases, a transcription is given even though it may no longer be clear on the tombstone. All iden-
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tifiable internments to the end of 2005 have been included.

Single-use Licence \$30 plus p&p of \$5.70.
Multiple-use Licence \$75 plus p&p of \$5.70.

Available from the Resource Manager, TFGS Inc Hobart Branch, PO Box 326, Rosny Park 7018.

HISTORICAL INDEXES OF THE CANBERRA/QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT

A remarkable collection of research notes and indexes comprising approximately 29,900 records relating to the Canberra/Queanbeyan District, transcribed by the archivist/historian, Errol Lea-Scarlett, with contributions by the late Bruce Moore. Date and surname indexes and fully searchable in pdf format.

Set of 4 CDs - \$110.00, plus p & p \$10.00.

Available from the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, GPO Bos 585, Canberra 2601.

KEEPING THE FAITH

A comprehensive index of all donated and inscribed objects in the churches of the parochial districts of Canberra, Karabar, Queanbeyan and Yass in the Anglican Diocese of Canberra Goulburn.

Includes profiles of all 39 sites with clergy lists, dates of establishment and photographs of each church.

CD \$27.50 p&p \$2.50.

Available from the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, GPO Bos 585, Canberra 2601.

QUEENSLAND CATHOLIC PARISH REGISTERS

Queensland Family History Society has recently announced the release of a number of Catholic Parish Registers on microfiche:

The society publishes an extensive collection of Catholic parish registers and the full listing can be seen at: gsq.org.au/services/Publications_ForSale.htm

QLD Family History Society Cemetery Sub-Committee, PO Box 8423 Wooloongagga QLD 4120

ASK GRANNY[®]

Ask Granny[®] is an innovative genealogical outreach program especially designed to be presented by local genealogical society members at assisted-living or retirement homes or other places where seniors gather, such as a Community Council on Aging. The program can also be used as a workshop event at a family reunion or at a church or synagogue senior group. Funded entirely by small local contributions, the authors provide free specially formatted materials and instructions via emailed pdf files. Genealogical society members can easily use the materials to guide the seniors as they create a simple ancestral chart for themselves and for their spouses. There are also *Ask Granny* administrative helps, such as flyers, announcements, and teaching outlines. The pdf files can be easily printed for students or made into slides, flyers, or posters.

The program is very different than a beginning genealogy course. Using only pencils and paper, the grannies and grandpas who attend the seminars record their memories of family names, dates, and places on a chart labelled, *A Genealogical Gift to my Family*. When those pages are preserved in their special gift folder, family members will never have to wonder why didn't we ask Granny about that? Whether the students can remember the details of one generation or six, they create an irreplaceable record of family history for their grandchildren and great grandchildren. At every session, even seniors who think they will remember nothing have been able to record several generations with the help of their instructors. One retiree from Poland said, *Thank you! I always wanted to create a family tree, but I never knew how.*

Since 2009 the authors of *Ask Granny*, Judy Russell and Greg Crane, have presented the program many times in retirement centres and for local senior groups, such as Community Councils on Aging. They also report that it has also been adopted by genealogical societies, family reunions, and schools in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and in thirty states in the USA.

Write to the *Ask Granny* authors with your questions or your request for a free set of materials by return email. Your email should include the name of your genealogical society or the name and date of your upcoming family reunion or church/syna-

gogue group. The only stipulation of the authors is that students are never charged for their participation in an *Ask Granny* seminar or for the materials.

Judith F Russell and Gregory L Crane
Bogart, Georgia, USA
www.askgranny.us
ask.granny.us@gmail.com

OLD HANDWRITING 1

You may be faced with a number of challenges...

- Abbreviations come in three basic forms:
 - abbreviations—words with endings left off.
 - contractions—letters within omitted.
 - ligatures—grouping of common letters to form an entirely new letter.
- Latin, or an ecclesiastical version of it, may be the written language.
- The spelling may be based on phonics and may not be consistent.
- Numbers could be written in Roman Numerals.
- Months may be partly written in numerals as in VIIIber for October and not August because it is abbreviating the Octo part of the word and October was the eighth month by the Julian calendar.
- Punctuation will not be precise and often omitted altogether. If it was there, it was often used as a decoration. A virgule [/] may be used as a full stop. A hyphen when used was like an equal sign. Quotation marks were never used. The possessive apostrophe was rarely used. A heavy version of a full stop called a punctus may be observed but this is not a punctuation mark but rather a symbol of abbreviation.
- Various marks known as line-fillers will often be seen at the end of a line to fill up blank space especially in legal documents.
- Capital letters were often used mid-sentence to emphasise a word.
- Some unfamiliar or old fashioned words and expressions may be used—consider: terriar, glebe, cromulent, faylor, meagry, individuum, noggin.

There are some issues you will face that will not help the situation. Consider all the following possibilities being added into the mix:

- ink may have faded or even dropped off the page.
- pages may be stained with mould.
- the writer may have failed to keep their quill sharp or crossed their nib resulting in a thick blotchy text.
- the filming/photocopying process used to provide you with the copy may be inferior.