


AFFHO

Together we can achieve much more!



Newsflash

From the President

National Family History Month was a busy month for me. I gave six presentations in libraries and family history societies on subjects as varied as Beginning your family history journey to Newspapers for family history.

Our National Family History Month co-ordinator has done a fantastic job once again in attracting a number of sponsors as well as a record number of prizes to give away during the month. We intend to repeat this again in 2017 – only better and we need your society, library or repository to participate to achieve this. May I suggest that at this stage you think about what you could do, then commence planning in the New Year, as time just disappears and August 2017 will be upon us too soon.

Have you looked at Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet? The 2016 version is on our website www.affho.org and is available for downloading. This has a section on how to begin your family history research and useful websites for family history in Australia and New Zealand. Societies should consider including the instructions of how to download this leaflet in their new member's packs.

Robyn Williams
President

Nick Vine Hall Award 2016

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.

Category A - for societies with less than 500 members

- 1st *Journal Issue 209*
Newcastle Family History Society Inc.
- 2nd *Genie Allergy*
Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.

Category B - for societies with more than 500 members

- 1st *The New Zealand Genealogist*
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.
- 2nd *Queensland Family Historian*
Queensland Family History Society Inc.



Above: Presentation of the Nick Vine Hall Award to the Category B Winner, The New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Pictured are Bruce Ralston, with the certificate for the editor, Robyn Williams, President with the plaque for the society and Shauna Hicks, NFHM Coordinator.



Right: Marg Doherty making the presentation to Geoff Doherty, President of Queensland FHS.

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Margaret Doherty	History QLD	Secretary
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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
Martyn Killion	2018 Congress (SAG)
Shauna Hicks	National Family History Month Co-ordinator (Aus)
Kerry Kilpatrick	Webmaster
Lorraine Clarke	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Fiona Brooker	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.

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NFHM

National Family History Month

I am pleased to report that NFHM held in August 2016 was a success for a number of reasons.

In addition to AFFHO we had five major sponsors:

- Ancestry
- FindersCafe
- Findmypast
- Momento
- MyHeritage

There was almost \$14,000 in sponsorship prizes so there were some very happy societies and individuals this year. In summary, 37 prizes went to societies and 44 prizes went to individuals and winners are listed on the NFHM website Sponsors page.

Overall there were 312 events hosted by 178 organisations. In general we had about the same number of events as 2014 and 2015, but less participation from genealogy/family history societies. Public libraries host the most events and this year AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) participated which gave us an Indigenous family history presence for the first time. Overall feedback was extremely positive and sponsors also seem pleased and most have already said they would like to be involved again next year.

Those societies that do add their events to the NFHM web calendar all report gaining new members during August. In addition, they also usually raise money from events, raffles or sales of publications. So it is not just their own members attending NFHM events but perhaps those who saw the event via the NFHM webcalendar.

Below are some comments from societies. I have not identified the societies but all the feedback I have received personally has been extremely positive.

- The Open Day at our Research Centre was very successful, attracting about twenty visitors, a number of whom have subsequently joined. The Mayor was invited and he was very impressed with our Research Centre and all the activity happening there as he had previously not been aware of our existence.
- Thank you for arranging this award [early bird prize] to our society. It is greatly appreciated.
- We have had a great National Family History Month this year with several new members and a very successful and well attended workshop on Saturday.
- The Society had what I consider to be a very successful National Family History month. We organised a week long manned display in a local Shopping Centre - had an amazing response to this with a lot of interest being shown in what the Society does. As a consequence, we already have some new members and have been busier than usual in our Library.

I received a lot of personal feedback thanking me for organising NFHM and arranging the sponsors prizes and giveaway. I also did 18 presentations during August and many of the giveaway entries were a direct result of that as I always told attendees about the prizes and encouraged them to enter.

Throughout NFHM, I used Facebook to try and keep people up to date with what was happening. There are currently 2,412 Likes on the page, up from 2,175 Likes at the end of NFHM2015. Thanks to those societies and individuals who retweeted, shared Facebook posts and links to my blog posts etc as the more it bounces around in cyberspace, the more NFHM becomes known.

The launch of NFHM 2017 will be in Sydney as a prelude to the 2018 Congress.

Shauna Hicks

National Family History Month Coordinator (Australia)



The launch event held in Perth with Shauna Hicks left, Shannon Lovelady the keynote speaker in the middle and Lorraine Swan on the right.

www.familyhistorymonth.org.au

WAGS and National Family History Month

The Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) had a fantastic National Family History Month (NFHM).

The Australian NFHM launch was held at the Perth office of the National Archives of Australia on Friday 29 July and was organised by Shauna Hicks, the AFFHO NFHM co-ordinator.

This was followed by a Making History seminar at the new City of Perth Library on Saturday 30 July with Shauna as guest speaker. The library only opened earlier this year and is a good venue for 60 people.



WAGS organised Grow Your Family Tree at the State Library of WA on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 August. Over the 2 days there were 14 sessions which were very well attended with many of the sessions booked to the capacity of 70. On the first day at lunchtime we had three people present their 'Success stories' and on the Wednesday one of the sessions had three presenters talking about three different areas of overseas research. These proved very successful and we will hold them again next year. Other topics included Dutch journeys, What's new at WAGS, Family Tree Software, Convicts, The Soldiers of Barrack Street, DNA, Sharing our Secrets, our Military Immigrants, Making Australia Home, Social Media, Migration to WA and a Forum. The WAGS Genealogy volunteers helped many people with their research in the Genealogy Centre on the 3rd floor of the library.

WAGS Family History Open Day was held on Sunday 28 August and we had a steady number of people throughout the day. Our 17 Special Interest Groups had displays and we fielded a number of curly questions and brickwalls.

During the month we also held a Getting Started with your Family History, WAGS Orientation session plus there were eight Special interest Group meetings. All up it was a very busy and successful month and we are pleased to report that we were 66 new members in August.

Liana Fitzpatrick
WAGS PR Officer

AFFHO Newsflash

This is your chance to share what your group is doing with your fellow AFFHO societies and reach an international audience.

We encourage you to forward on this Newsflash to your members. Copies of all issues can be downloaded from the newsletter link on the AFFHO website.

Newsflash is issued four times a year:

Issue: March	Copy deadline: 15 February
June	15 May
September	15 August
December	15 November

Copy and photos should be forwarded to the Editor: fiona@memoriesintime.co.nz

December
Newsflash
Copy
Deadline

15
Nov

Family History Month - New Zealand

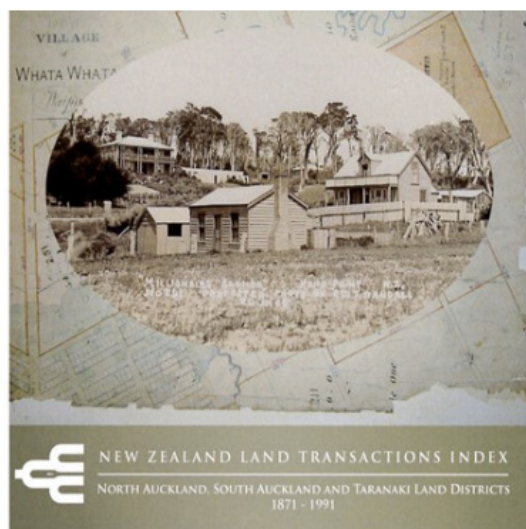


The Family History Expo in Auckland, co-ordinated by Auckland City Libraries and the NZSG Genealogical Computing Group, kicked off Family History Month and this was followed with events throughout the country.

Also launched during the month was the *New Zealand Land Transactions Index - North Auckland, South Auckland and Taranaki Land Districts 1871-1991*.

The DVD contains almost 210,000 name searchable records extracted from 150,000 land documents. These include people that were living both in New Zealand and overseas who owned land in these areas.

The DVD is available to purchase from:
www.genealogy.org.nz. Price \$45.00 (NZD).



Ireland: Church, Famine and Immigration – a day to assist researching your Irish Ancestors

Genealogical Society of Queensland

Saturday, 15 October 2016, 8.30am - 3.15pm



Presentations on:

- Dr Perry McIntyre – Chair, Great Commemoration Committee, Sydney - Irish Immigration
- Dr Jennifer Harrison – researcher, author and family historian, Patron, GSQ - Great Irish Famine
- Helen Smith – author, researcher, family historian - Online Sites for Irish Genealogy
- Bobbie Edes – family historian - Land
- Rev Dr Chris Hanlon – President, Catholic Historical Society of Qld - Catholic Church in Queensland
- Helen Smith - Social Media Sites for Irish Family History
- Q & A session so bring your Irish Family History questions along.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Cost \$50 members \$60 non-member. Morning tea & lunch will be provided.

Venue: Queen Alexandra Community Centre 340 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo 4151

Use the Calendar of Events on the home page of www.gsq.org.au

Alternatively send a cheque to GSQ at PO Box 1467, Carindale, Q 4152 or call in at Stackpole Street.

Email info@gsq.org.au or phone 3349 6072 for further information.



Planning for the 2018 Congress in Sydney is well underway. We've reserved a great location in the new International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour where the Congress will be held from 9-12 March 2018. Registration will open next year, but in the meantime you can register your interest in attending at our website: www.congress2018.org.au

At present the SAG's priority is to plan a dynamic and interesting program, and we're looking forward to getting lots of proposals before our Call for Speakers closes on 31 October. We plan to offer a mix of some of the 'old favourites' as well as giving new and lesser known speakers the opportunity to be involved in Congress. Proposals don't have to be for lecture formats, we will also consider workshops of smaller groups, classroom environments and panel sessions.

We also recognise that Congress is a great opportunity for those involved in administering family history societies to get together to share ideas and problems, so we are keen to include topics which will help societies address the many challenges we all face in this internet age.

So help spread the word and encourage potential speakers to submit their proposals before our 31 October deadline: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Congress2018callforspeakers

If you'd like more information or have questions please contact us by email at info@congress2018.org.au