



Newsflash

From the President:

First of all, I apologise for AFFHO not publishing Newsflash in March or June 2017. This is a Newsletter for members and contributions from both Australia and New Zealand are required. We are also seeking an editor – if you are able to help please send an email to president@affho.org

The National Family History Month held in August was a resounding success and this is the opportunity for family history organisations to show communities what is on offer and how interesting researching our family can be.

A 2017 edition of the Australasian edition of the *Really Useful Leaflet* has been prepared by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) in conjunction with AFFHO and I commend this downloadable publication as a starting point for new members of your societies. Scroll down the home page of our website and click on the link.

Meritorious Service Award

AFFHO are seeking nominations from member societies for members who have made a significant contribution to family history. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

Robyn Williams

President

Nick Vine Hall Award

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
Winner - **Botany Bay Family History Society** – *The Endeavour* No 129, December 2016
Runner up - **Australian Society of Lacemakers of Calais Inc.** – *Tulle* Volume 34 No 4 November 2016
- Category B** for societies with more than 500 members
Winner - **Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies** – *The Genealogist* Volume 15 No 4 December 2016
Runner up - **Queensland Family History Society Inc.** – *Queensland Family Historian* Vol 37 No 4 November 2016



The Nick Vine Hall Award certificate being presented to Kevin Haley, Queensland Family History Society by AFFHO Secretary Marg Doherty.

Congratulations to the Editors of the above Society Journals.

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2017-2018

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Vice Pres
Margaret Doherty	History QLD	Secretary
Nick Reddan	ACT	Treasurer
Martyn Killion	NSW	Councillor
Geoff Doherty	QLD	Councillor
Tricia Fairweather	WA	Councillor
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor
Gilbert Materne	SA	Councillor
Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Assoc Rep

AFFHO Officers

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

ISSN 1445-243X

AFFHO Newsflash : September 2017

National Family History Month August 2017

At the end of August, I am pleased to report that NFHM 2017 was a success.

In addition to AFFHO we had three major sponsors:

- Ancestry
- Momento
- MyHeritage

There was almost \$18,000 in sponsorship prizes so there were some very happy societies and individuals this year.

The number of events in the web calendar was down on previous years, only 216 events, but it was noted that many societies participating in NFHM are not entering the events into the web calendar.

Those members who do participate and promote NFHM to their members all report that they gain new members or others rejoin, members are inspired and there is a renewed interest in activities. Those that take advantage of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies early bird offer and use it as a raffle prize, make money for their society. If it is not used as a raffle prize, it can be used to reward a long standing volunteer.

In my absence overseas Martyn Killion hosted the launch and everything went smoothly. The launch was on 1 August and was again sponsored by the National Archives of Australia who organised the venue and afternoon tea at the Sydney Office.

The sponsorship prize draw was held at a closing event in Townsville together with the Family History Association of North Queensland. It was a great event and I managed to get prize sponsorship from Ancestry, Momento, National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Living DNA and SHHE.

Shauna Hicks
Voluntary National Family History Month
Coordinator
September 2017



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

Helping to discover your family history 

SCOTLAND'S PLACE IN FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

Don your ancestral kilt and dust-off the bag pipes because the Genealogical Society of Queensland is hosting its annual "Scotland's Place in Family History" seminar.

Featuring a range of expert speakers, including Dr Jennifer Harrison and Ken Nisbet, the Secretary of Scottish Association of Family History Organisations who will be beamed-in live from Scotland, you will learn the intricacies of Scottish family history research as well as have direct access to the speakers who can offer you practical research options and solutions.

The seminar's program is:

"Scotland's People & Places: What's in a Name?"

"Preparing for Your Family Research Trip in Scotland"

"Ulster Scots Research"

"Scotland's People – Optimising Your Results"

"The Inexhaustible Source: The Register of Deeds"

"Scottish Military History"

This is the day to explore, and expand, your Scottish ancestry.

Bookings are essential for this popular event – so don't miss out.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday 28 October 2017

Time: 9am to 3.15pm

Venue: Queen Alexandra Conference Centre, 347 Old Cleveland Rd, Coorparoo

Cost: GSQ members: \$50 and non-members \$60

Bookings: <https://www.gsq.org.au/gsqevents>

Queries/RSVP: 07 3349 6072

HURRY early bird registrations close soon!

The logo for the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, Sydney 2018. It features a dark blue background with the text 'Bridging the Past & Future' in white, arched font, and 'SYDNEY 2018' in red below it. To the right, on a red background, it says 'Congress 2018' and '15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry'. At the bottom, a grey bar contains the dates 'Friday 9 - Monday 12 March 2018', the location 'International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia', and the website 'congress2018.org.au'.

Congress 2018
15th Australasian
Congress on
Genealogy and
Heraldry

Friday 9 - Monday 12 March 2018 • International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia • congress2018.org.au

Early Bird registration for the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry **will close on 30 September 2017**. Registrations received before this date cost \$475.00 – a saving of \$100.00. Registration covers access to all sessions, exhibition areas and downloadable handouts for the sessions; morning teas (Saturday – Monday) and Congress bag. Tickets to the Welcome Function and/or Congress Dinner are not included in the registration fee. Register at www.congress2018.com.au.

The Society of Australian Genealogists is the host of Congress which will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Darling Harbour, Sydney from 9 – 12 March 2018. Confirmed speakers from Australia and abroad include Carol Baxter, Paul Blake, Lisa Louise Cooke, Gail Davis, Christine Fernon, Ruth Graham, Shauna Hicks, Kim Katon, Paul Milner, Thom Reed, Liz Rushen, Dr Dianne Snowden and many more. Our sponsors include FamilySearch and NSW State Archives and Records with more to be announced.



AFFHO AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO FAMILY HISTORY

The AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History is awarded every three years at a Congress, so this is an opportunity for member societies to put forward a member of their society who has made a significant voluntary contribution to family history. Nominations may be submitted in writing in 500 words or less and shall be received by the Secretary up to 15 December 2017.

Is there a member of your Society deserving of this Award? Don't delay – write up the nomination and send to secretary@affho.org

Genealogical Society of Victoria



The past twelve months have been challenging and eventful for the Genealogical Society of Victoria. The GSV, along with many societies, faces difficulties with a steady and sustained decline in membership which severely impacts on our ability to operate in a financially viable manner. Our Society has suffered a considerable decline in membership over the last decade and fewer and fewer members visit our library to access our collection of resources.

The sizable rental payments for the large premises at 257 Collins Street, Melbourne, have been a cause for great concern. We were very fortunate to be offered the opportunity to exit our lease prematurely and with the dedication and hard work of our staff and volunteers we made the move to smaller premises on Level 6 of 85 Queen Street Melbourne, in March 2017.

The shift has enabled us to consolidate our financial position and provides us with added time to address the problem of falling membership. The reduction in the dimensions of our premises has required us to reduce the size of our physical library holdings to those items that directly relate to family history.

Our collection is now located in two places. The GSV Research Collection of family history resources is housed in the GSV Centre for Research and Education at Queen Street.



The remainder of our book and journal collection is in the process of being integrated with the library of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in their premises at the corner of William and A'Beckett Streets, Melbourne. An agreement between our two societies ensures access to the combined collection for GSV members.

Many of our members have visited our new premises in the last six months. They have found that while the space occupied is more compact than we had in the Collins Street basement it is efficiently laid out and has a more pleasant ambience. Our research and education services and facilities are as good as ever and better in some important respects. The Centre is well lit with natural light and has a very bright and cheery atmosphere.

Members of other family history societies have reciprocal rights with the GSV and we encourage you to visit us if your travels bring you to Melbourne.

David Down, President, September 2017

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE



The New Zealand Society of Genealogists celebrated 50 years as a membership organisation at a luncheon held on 15 August 2017 – exactly 50 years to the day since the first meeting forming the Society. This event was held in Auckland and livestreamed with video and audio to many luncheons held throughout New Zealand. Vivienne Parker welcomed members in Bay of Islands, Northern Wairoa, Hibiscus Coast (including Wellsford and Warkworth), Greater Auckland, Franklin, Cambridge, Waihi, Matamata (including Morrinsville and South Waikato), Rotorua, Lake Taupo, New Plymouth, Hawera, Feilding, Palmerston North, Pahiatua/Woodville Horowhenua, Otaki/Kapiti, Wellington, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Waimate, Dunedin and Southland (including Gore). Vivienne read an excerpt of an article which appeared in the *New Zealand Herald* of 19 March 1968. This has been used as a souvenir bookmark for members attending the Auckland luncheon.

The Anniversary Cake was cut by the founder Lucy Marshall. Five members who have had their membership for fifty years were acknowledged. These were Lucy Marshall #1, Colleen Main #23, Beth Colwell #41, Rosemary Lewis #82 and Russell Marshall #94.

During the interval for lunch there was a slide show of past events and members photographs accompanied by a pianist. Vivienne then introduced the speaker Brigid Gallagher who is a strong advocate for local archaeology and heritage preservation and host of local TV production *Heritage Rescue*. Her talk was entitled *Putting the "I" back in Identity* which was a really interesting interpretation of some of the projects in which she has been involved.



Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, Co Galway, Ireland

From: A Roving Reporter (AKA, Geoff Doherty) on holiday in Ireland, September 2017.

My wife Marg and I were recently engaged in a driving holiday around Ireland. At one point we were on our way to Ennis, in Clare, to do some family research on my Doherty side of the family. As we were barrelling down a regional road in the middle of Ireland, dodging the multitude of slow moving, trailer towing tractors which also use the roads here, we noticed a large old building off to our left, and said something like "Look at that", and "I wonder what it is?". Then we saw the sign: The Irish Workhouse Centre. We did not have time to stop that day, but determined to come back and have a look at it, which we did a few days later. It was a very sobering experience.



The workhouse at Portumna apparently is the last of its kind still standing in Ireland. This is because it was built in the 1860s at the end of the workhouse building phase, and was not used to its maximum potential, only ever housing about 270 inmates at the most, rather than the 600-700 it was designed for.

Most of us, somewhere in our family, have ancestors who at one time or another in their lives, spent time in a workhouse, or poorhouse. We can all read about how terrible the conditions were on the inside – but actually seeing one and inspecting it really sheets home just how terrible these places were.

Families entering a workhouse were split up – husbands from wives, children from parents and were housed in different compounds and buildings. The interior windows of the buildings were deliberately set high in the walls – so that inmates could not see out and perhaps catch a glimpse of their loved ones.



The walls were of stone, as well as the ground floor and all stairs. As we wandered through the various rooms we could feel the cold radiating from the walls and up through our feet. The workhouse was designed to provide shelter for the poor, but they had to work for it – breaking stones, treadmill, doing laundry for local grandees. But the conditions were designed to be as unpalatable as possible, with the idea of making the inmates leave again so that the workhouse did not have to support them – because they were free to go at any time. Only they had nowhere else to go – it was a real Catch-22 situation.

This was a very sobering visit, and is recommended to everyone who can make it.

If your Society wishes to be featured in *Newsflash* please send contributions to editor@affho.org

Copy for next edition due by 15 November 2017

WAGS AGM

At the Western Australian Genealogical Society AGM in June a full committee (photo below) was elected to Management including Ian Simon being re-elected as President. The Management Committee is looking to progress programs, improve member services and adapt and change as needed for genealogists of today and the future.



A variety of WAGS awards were presented at the AGM to 9 long-standing WAGS members. This included 3 life member awards - Margaret Pike, Mary Rogers and Graham Bown. These three members have been involved in a range of areas and had an enormous involvement in the running of our society over many years.

National Family History Month – report from WAGS

August was a busy and successful month with many events. The 2 days of presentations titled 'Grow your Family Tree' were held at the State Library of WA on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 August. These were very successful with maximum registrations. Topics included DNA, Getting Started, Australian Research, Overseas Research, Manorial Records, Success Stories, Using the Internet for your Research AND What's not on the Web plus a lively Q&A forum.

The Unlock the Past seminar on Saturday 26 August was followed by our Open Day at our Research Centre on 27 August. A special membership promotion resulted in 59 new members. Planning has already started for 2018 and Grow Your Family Tree will be held at the State Library of WA on 7 & 8 August 2018 and our Open Day on 26 August 2018.



WAGS – Three new Life Members awarded at 2017 AGM:

Above: Mary Rogers, with President Ian Simon, and Graham Bown.

Right: Margaret Pike

