



Together we can achieve much more!

Newsflash

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
Rosemary McKenzie	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

From the President

As the year draws to a close we look forward to spending some time over the festive season with our families and perhaps catch up with some of our older relatives. We may also use the time to do some reading and maybe find some time to check out some of the new databases which have become available this year.

A major advance this year has been the digitisation of the films by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We no longer have to order in films and wait for them to arrive. More and more Parish Registers are digitised and they are either available via FamilySearch, or via a commercial site, or at an Affiliated Library.

National Family History Month was again celebrated during August. This is an opportunity for your Society to gain some publicity and may be attract some new members. AFFHO provides a website where your event can be advertised for free. There were some good prizes offered for participating. Did your Society take advantage of this facility?

Now that the year has nearly ended it is time to look back on the achievements we have made during the year. Not least of these were the journals produced. Was your family history journal a winner? To find out enter the Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history journal produced during 2017. There are two levels for this award – for societies with fewer than 500 members and those with more than 500 members. There is a worthwhile cash prize for the winning society along with a very attractive plaque along with a certificate for the editor. See elsewhere in this newsletter for further information.

I'm looking forward to 2018 especially the Congress which is to be held in Sydney. I have registered, booked my airfare and accommodation and am looking forward to the many great lectures. I am especially looking forward to meeting up with genealogical friends I have made at previous Congresses.

May I wish family historians everywhere a very pleasant and restful festive season.

Robyn Williams
President

Don't miss out! Register now!



There has been a great response to the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry which is being held in Darling Harbour, Sydney, in March next year. Early Bird registrations have now closed, but you can still register. Don't leave it too long, as spaces are filling up fast!

Congress registration costs \$575. This gives you access to all sessions, exhibition areas and downloadable handouts for the sessions, morning teas (Saturday – Monday) and the Congress bag. Tickets to the Welcome Function and Congress Dinner are extra.

Not able to attend Congress 2018 from 9-12 March 2018 but wishing you could? On Friday 9 March there's a Family Finder Day being held alongside Congress, giving you the chance to explore the Congress exhibition area and attend special talks from the major sponsors. It's the next best thing to being a full Congress delegate and will give you a little taste of what it's all about. Tickets for Family Finder Day will go on sale in January.

FamilySearch Free Sign-in Offers Greater Subscriber Experiences and Benefits

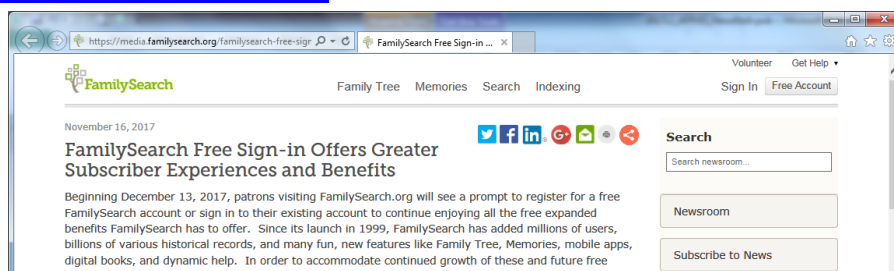
Beginning December 13, 2017, patrons visiting FamilySearch.org will see a prompt to register for a free FamilySearch account or sign in to their existing account to continue enjoying all the free expanded benefits FamilySearch has to offer. Since its launch in 1999, FamilySearch has added millions of users, billions of various historical records, and many fun, new features like Family Tree, Memories, mobile apps, digital books, and dynamic help. In order to accommodate continued growth of these and future free services, FamilySearch must assure all its partners that its content is offered in a safe and secure online environment. Patrons creating a free account and signing in fulfils that need.

Patron sign in will also enable FamilySearch to satisfy the ongoing need for user authentication. This authentication can deliver rich, personalized discovery, collaboration, and help experiences. Simply put, signed-in visitors can access more searchable content and enjoy more personalized services.

"A large percentage of our current site visitors are not benefiting from much of what FamilySearch has to offer because they don't realize the need to simply sign in with their free account to do so," said Steve Rockwood, FamilySearch CEO. "They are basically arriving in the parking lot but not coming inside for the main event," he said about website visitors who do not sign in.

FamilySearch is committed to patron privacy and does not share personal account information with any third party without a patron's consent.

More information and FAQs can be found at <https://media.familysearch.org/familysearch-free-sign-in-offers-greater-subscriber-experiences-and-benefits>.



Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition 2018 New Cash Prize

“My ancestor was a”

The 2018 Joan Reese Writing Competition will for the first time have a cash prize to the value of \$100. The Joan Reese Memorial Short Story Competition recognizes the contribution of Joan Reese in the significant provision of access to NSW Colonial records and her support to GSQ and its members over many years. The winning stories appear in subsequent issues of the Society's quarterly journal, *Generation*, and are published on the Society's website at www.gsq.org.au.

The topic for 2018 is **“My ancestor was a ...”** and provides a wide scope for stories about ancestors that may shed light on, for example, their occupation or calling; religion; nationality or origin. Your ancestor may have been a pioneer or explorer, a sporting hero or a decorated member of the armed forces. You may choose to write about a female ancestor or a male member of your family.

In 2018, stories will be judged on the following criteria:

Content:

- addresses the topic set for the year
- provides the reason/s for your choice of topic
- includes evidence of your research

Presentation:

- uses standard English sentence construction and variety of expression
- is readable
- uses consistent form of references or citation of sources
- contains appropriate illustrations, with captions if used

Overall impression:

- is an interesting story
- is a well presented.

Judging panel:

- President of GSQ, or nominee
- Convenor of the GSQ Writing Group
- Independent judge.

Eligibility

- Members of GSQ are eligible to enter for no cost
- Non-GSQ members can enter upon payment of an entry fee of \$10
- Editor of *Generation*, Convenor of the GSQ Writing Group and members of the Judging Panel are not eligible.

Length

- Maximum length to be 2500 words.

Conditions of entry

- The story must not have been previously published
- Multiple stories can be entered (with non-members paying an entry fee for each entry)
- Endnotes/references will not be included in the total word count
- Entrants are encouraged to include a photo of relevance to the story. Approval must be sought, where appropriate, for permission to use any photographic or other material which is subject to copyright
- Entries must be in Word or Word Compatible format, font to be Times New Roman 12 or Arial 12 with double line spacing.

Deadline for submissions

- Entries must be received no later than 10 May 2018 (no entries will be accepted after that date).
- Entries to be emailed to info@gsq.org.au with “Joan Reese Writing Competition” in the subject line.

Further information

Anyone requiring further information should address enquiries to Pauline Williams at info@gsq.org.au



GSQ Annual Seminar Brisbane - Joan Reese Short Story Award Winner Geraldine Lee with President M Doherty and Patron Dr J Harrison

WAGS Snippets

Public Relations

The PR team have been extremely busy promoting WAGS at a variety of events. From Government House, Have A Go Day, Fremantle Maritime Day and Midland Centrepont. We have spoken to hundreds of people and introduced them to the joys of family history research.

There was a hive of activity at the Getting Started research morning at the State Library in November. Our thanks go to Leonie Hayes for her superb Getting Started presentation. Afterwards most of the attendees moved to the Genealogy Centre and were helped by the WAGS volunteers who gave ideas on how to get started and even broke down a few brick walls.

WAGS Affiliates Symposium

There was a buzz of excitement at the recent inaugural WAGS Affiliates Symposium. Delegates from Affiliated Societies came together to learn new research techniques and discuss ideas on how we can all grow and develop our societies. Facebook was a hot topic as Collie FHS had just set up a Facebook group (thanks to Nicole from Geraldton FHS). The feedback was fantastic with everyone looking forward to the next one. Thanks to WAGS Liaison Officer, Gwyn Williams, for organising the 2 day event.



AFF Symposium group photo



Ian Simon - presenting



Saturday – Gwyn Lorraine, Angela and Ian



Deep in thought

NEW

One month Visitor Pass

The new \$25 one month Visitor Pass replaces the daily visitor fee. For \$25 someone visiting WA or a prospective member can access the WAGS family history research centre facilities for one calendar month. This doesn't include borrowing books or attending SIG meetings.

Research

Full WAGS Members living more than 500 kms from Perth can now access 2 hours **free** research per year. Email research@wags.org.au

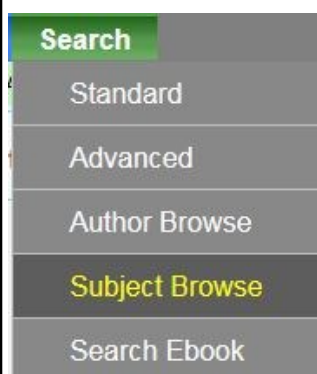
New Library System for HAGSOC

Like many family history organisations, the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra is facing declining membership and increasing costs. This time last year HAGSOC decided to review the provision of library catalogue services. There were costing thousands of dollars a year.

After a rigorous evaluation process HAGSOC has changed from the previous quite expensive library catalogue system to one that has more modest costs but still delivers good services. An image of the new landing page for the system is below.



The result of the evaluation process was that HAGSOC has contracted with Canadian company Bibliofiche for the provision of library software services. HAGSOC's new catalogue runs on open source software called OPALS. Bibliofiche hosts the database and web catalogue, and will provide support services and regular software upgrades and database backups.



In replacing its library system, HAGSOC was seeking a lower cost solution for its library catalogue. OPALS was selected following a lengthy evaluation of several systems. The new library catalogue was implemented in the latter part of October 2017.

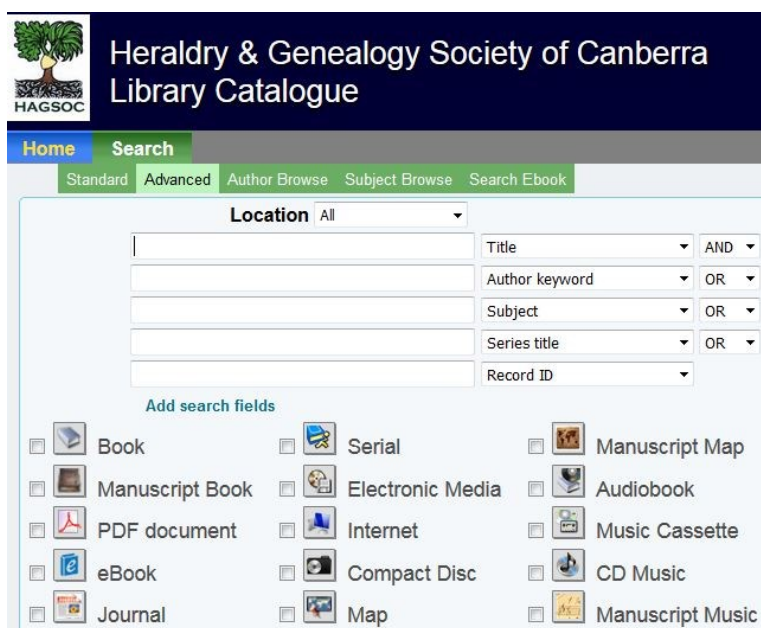
The search options are shown at the left. The picture below is some of the choices for advanced searching of the catalogue.

When beginning this project, HAGSOC consulted AFFHO Secretary Marg Doherty for

information on software used by other family history libraries. HAGSOC appreciates the assistance it received, and is willing to be consulted by AFFHO members who are seeking new library management software.

While individual societies need to understand their individual needs HAGSOC believes the move to the new system has provided significant financial benefits and a flexible way to make our catalogue available to our members and the broader public.

<http://hagsoc.phoebe.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>



Century Farms

I would like to draw the attention of your members to our fledgling organisation dedicated to protecting the stories of our pioneering agricultural families.

While we do get given lots of information purely about agriculture, it is the generational stories of the families working their land for 100 or 150 years that we really seek to preserve.

All applications are archived with the Noel Butlin Archives, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra ACT and are available to the public under conditions specified by the Menzies Library.

Nanette Aitken-McDonald

National Co-ordinator

Australian Century Farm & Station Awards



Australian Century Farm and Station Awards

The ACFSA celebrates our national agricultural heritage by capturing and preserving rural history which might otherwise be lost.

Families who have owned and operated their properties for more than 100 years understandably have great pride in what they have accomplished. It is a heritage forged of courage and determination, and often a pinch of luck!

In "a land of droughts and flooding rains", keeping the farm or station from generation to generation is an impressive achievement.

The ACFSA through an annual awards program aims to keep these stories alive and celebrate this heritage.

Agriculturalists are faced with the ever growing challenge of feeding, clothing and sheltering a nation that has become increasingly distant from the source.

As the distance from producer to consumer increases, so lessens the understanding of all that we do and that our forebears have done to shape this nation.



The Awards

An invitation is extended to all Australian families farming their land for 100 years or more to apply for a Century Farm or Station award, or the Sesquicentennial award. (150 years)

All types of primary production including viticulture, horticulture and forestry are eligible.

The awards are not tied to a specific amount of land although some of the original selection must remain in family ownership.

Applicant families must submit verification of this, generally copies of deeds etc. They are also required to write a narrative of family history and if possible enclose photographs both historic and modern to illustrate that story.

An agreement to archive the collected material has recently been forged with the prestigious Noel Butlin Archives, Australian National University , Canberra, A.C.T

Copies of the archived material will also be housed at the national ACFSA centre in Collector, when a suitable building is acquired.

The awards are ongoing and open each year on January 1st, closing on December 31st.

The 2014 awards will be presented in Canberra at a gala celebration in early 2015.

Each applicant family will receive a handsome bronze plaque commemorating this milestone. The plaque can be placed at the property gate or hung on a building.

Wherever you may choose to display it, the plaque will symbolize your family's perseverance and their ability to keep farming or grazing in the face of constant change.

Above all else, it will represent the hard work and desire to continue what was 100 years ago a dream, then a reality, and now a family tradition.

If your family meets the eligibility requirements, please apply!

<http://centuryfarms.org.au/how-to-apply>



AFFHO Vacancies

Webmaster: Our webmaster has given notice that he will finish on 31 December 2017 – therefore AFFHO requires a new webmaster. Kerry Kilpatrick has filled this position for nearly three years and we thank him for his dedication to the role. Kerry needs to free up some of his time as he has a number of other commitments in his community.

There are two websites to maintain – one in WordPress and the other in HTML. A Position Statement setting out the duties and the skills required is available from the secretary@affho.org.

National Family History Month Co-ordinator: After five years our NFHM co-ordinator has decided to relinquish this position. Shauna Hicks has worked hard to raise the profile of AFFHO and its member organisations using social media to raise awareness and to encourage and keep family historians involved. Part of the role requires the co-ordinator to raise funds from the commercial family history operations for prizes and to cover the expenses in running this national programme. As relationships have already been established this is not so daunting.

We thank Shauna for her consistent approach to National Family History Month.

Nick Vine Hall Award



Nick Vine-Hall AM

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.

The late Nick Vine Hall fervently supported and represented AFFHO at a National level in a *Save the Census Campaign* in the mid 1980's. Nick utilised his personable skills as a researcher, author, radio presenter and speaking engagements towards the final achievement that was announced by the Federal Government of their acceptance of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report *Saving our Census and Preserving Our History*.

This permitted citizens across Australia to "opt in" and allow retention of their 2001 and future Census information, under closed access for 99 years, by the National Archives of Australia, and in so doing, made a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations.

Categories

The Nick Vine Hall Award is made annually in two categories:

- Category A – for societies with less than 500 members
- Category B – for societies with 500 or more members

Prizes

- First prize - Wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
- Second prize - Certificate and \$100 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor

Download the Conditions of Entry and Entry Form from http://www.affho.org/affho/nick_vine_hall_award.php.



The combined Canterbury Branches are hosting the annual conference and AGM of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists from 1st to 4th June 2018 at Christchurch Boys' High School, 71 Straven Road, Christchurch.

The Keynote speaker is Janet Braund Few, (The History interpreter)

Janet is a published author who has also worked with BBC television's *Who Do You Think You Are?* programme.

More information from https://www.genealogy.org.nz/2018-conference_1604.