



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
Fay Carbis	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)
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator (Aus)
Jan Squire	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

National Family History Month has just concluded and we are really pleased with the numbers of societies holding events for the month, although we would welcome more. It is an opportunity for societies to show their communities what is on offer and because it is an event held only once in the year a well written article will often be published by local newspapers. AFFHO has been able to attract a number of sponsors and they have been very generous with their prizes both for societies and for individuals. If you or your society didn't participate this year then make a plan to participate in August 2019.

Our website has had a refresh and there is a lot of information for member societies to use – you don't need to "reinvent the wheel"! Note that some of the information has been put on by previous Councils and while most of it is current and is there to be helpful it may be dated and societies will need to consider the current laws of their particular state, territory or country when using the information.

On the home page there is a link to the report from the very successful Congress which was held in Sydney in March 2018. If your society is considering holding a conference soon then this should be required reading as there is some very useful information contained in the report which your society could consider. Note that the home page changes and you might have to wait a couple of minutes for the page to repost the report.

We are delighted to be able to announce elsewhere in this *Newsflash* the winners of the Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history Journals or Newsletters. On the AFFHO website you will find guides to making a journal or newsletter award winning. For the Nick Vine Hall Award there are two categories – one for large societies and one for small societies – so that your society could have the opportunity of winning this prestigious award or be "runners up". How good would it be if your society was a winner to be able to make an announcement to your members and the community? Consider now your journals or newsletters published in 2018 and be ready to submit them when the call comes later this year.

Once again in conjunction with the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) a 2018 edition of The Really Useful Leaflet has been prepared and is a downloadable

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **From the President**

publication from our website at www.affho.org under the heading "Publications". This publication is a great starting point for new members of your society as it gives some hints on how to do your family history as well as many essential websites for assisting with research in Australia and New Zealand.

Newsflash is published once a quarter and this is an opportunity for member societies to advertise their special events and services that are unique. We are always looking for good articles. Please send them to editor@affho.org who will evaluate for publication. The *Newsflash* is only as good as its contributions, so let's make it the best newsletter in Australasia.

Robyn Williams, President

Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland

You might think that living on this side of the world it is difficult to contribute to the general genealogical knowledge. With images of manuscripts becoming more available through the internet it is becoming easier for people living in Australia and New Zealand to contribute to finding aids for manuscript collections.



The Registry of Deeds in Dublin is of immense genealogical value. It contains memorials of registered deeds that provide details of land transactions. It is particularly useful in the period from its commencement in 1708 to the mid-1800s.

The legislation setting up the Registry of Deeds in 1708 mandated that an index of grantors (people who were granting property in the deed) and an index of land denominations (usually townlands or street addresses). These indexes while useful are limited. People do not necessarily know which townlands are of interest for their families. Moreover, much of the time a researcher is interested in the tenant (or grantee) who received the land rather than the grantor.

The memorials include marriage settlements that often give great details about families. A common form of lease was a lease for lives and the ages of the people (usually related to the grantor or grantee families) used as lives.

Thus, you can obtain approximate birth dates and marriage dates. Sometimes actual death dates are mentioned.

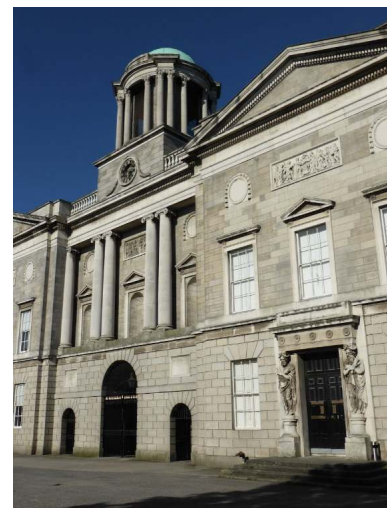
While the Registry was set up as part of the system to enforce the suppression of Catholics by the late 1700s these rules were removed and Catholics started registering deeds. Early memorials record land transactions of the middle level land owning class and as time goes on there are more transaction of merchants and traders. People of all classes are mentioned as occupants of the land or adjacent land. Most of the poorer Catholic tenant farmers leased land from year to year, and these transactions were not registered. The land reforms at end of 1800 included the conversion of short term leaseholds into freeholds and these were registered.

In 2007, AFFHO treasurer, Nick Reddan, initiated a project to improve the finding aids for an important repository, the Registry of Deeds in Ireland. Nick is a fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society and President of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra. Nick in consultation with Rosalind McCutcheon, another fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society developed a plan to create a full name index of the memorial volumes in the Registry of Deeds.

The original contributions of Nick and Roz were from their research collections and after a few months of converting them to a database they had a modest start of a few thousand names. In the ensuing eleven and a bit years the collection has grown and now has over 180,000 names index entries.

Visit the Registry of Deeds Index Project website for more details about the project and how to contribute: <http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.html>.

Images of the memorial books and the indexes are available through FamilySearch. The Index Project website has a number of short-cuts to help you navigate the FamilySearch images.



Nick Vine Hall Awards 2018



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.

Judging Criteria

The judges look for a Society that submits a well presented journal/newsletter in 2017 with the best content, both in quality and range of articles, and for the quality and diversity of news items and information appropriate to that society's aims and objectives.

Winners

Category A for societies with less than 500 members

Winner: Plaque + \$300

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. - *The Cedar Log* No. 134, December 2017

Editor: Carol Donaghey

Runner Up: Certificate + \$100

Colac and District Family History Group Inc. - *Coladjins* No. 103, Summer 2017

Editor: Merrill O'Donnell

Category B for societies with more than 500 members

Winner: Plaque + \$300

The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc. - *Ancestor* Volume 33 No. 7, September 2017

Editor: Margaret Vines and team

Runner Up: Certificate + \$100

The Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc. - *Western Ancestor* Volume 13 No. 11, September 2017

Editors: Mike and Lesley Silvester



125 Years since women obtained the vote in New Zealand

2018 marks the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand. On 19 September 1893 the Electoral Act 1893 was passed, giving all women in New Zealand the right to vote. As a result of this landmark legislation, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world in which all women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections.



The Suffrage petition has been digitised so you can see the signature of your family member. It has been indexed and the National Library have provided a link to a page where you can add biographical information. There is a set of guidelines to follow before contributing your biography. In time this index and the biographies will become an important source for future family historians.

The database is a digitised version of the main suffrage petition submitted to the New Zealand Parliament on 28 July 1893. It contains the names and addresses of about 24,000 women aged 21 years or older. The original petition comprised more than 500 individual sheets, which were signed in various parts of the country. These were glued together to form a single roll that stretched more than 270 m.

The information is based on a transcript of the original petition produced by volunteers from the Society of Genealogists in 1993 as part of the suffrage centenary commemorations. The Suburb/Town and City/Region fields have been added to provide consistent information about the signatories' location. Every effort has been made to make these location fields accurate, but some gaps and errors inevitably remain.



Women and the vote Page 6 – Women's suffrage petition

Sheet No	Surname	Suburb/Town	City/Region	GO		
1	Carpenter	Mary J.	Yaldhurst	Yaldhurst	Christchurch	more...
1	Carlton	J.	Riccarton	Riccarton	Christchurch	more...
1	Carte	Ester	Templeton	Templeton	Christchurch	more...
1	Chaplin	Isabella	Templeton	Templeton	Christchurch	more...
1	Clarkson	Suzann	Hornby	Hornby	Christchurch	more...

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/womens-suffrage/petition>

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Launch of NFHM Wednesday 1 August, Hobart, Tasmania

At the Launch of National Family History Month 2018 there were short addresses from the representatives of the launch sponsors:

Celia Blake, who has worked at the National Archives of Australia, Victoria Office for many years and has been the Director of the Victoria and Tasmania offices for the last two years, and **Caroline Homer**, Manager of the State Library and Archive Service at Libraries Tasmania, which is responsible for providing research assistance and access to the State archive, heritage and reference collections. She has worked for the Department of Education since 2002 in various library and archives roles. Caroline is currently President of the Tasmanian Historical Research

Association (THRA)

The inspiring Keynote Address was presented by **Dr. Dianne Snowden AM**, an historian, genealogist and heritage consultant. She formerly lectured in family history at the University of Tasmania and is a former Chair of the Tasmanian Heritage Council. Dianne was the first Tasmanian to receive the Diploma in Historical Studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists (1988).

Her interests include female convicts and their children. She is a founder Member of the Female Convicts Research Centre (Tasmania) and is currently President. She is also founder and convenor of the Friends of the Orphan Schools. In August 2017, she presented a paper at the 1st Global Congress on the Irish Diaspora at University College Dublin on free Irish children who sailed with their convict parents to Van Diemen's Land. In March 2018, she presented two papers at the 15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Sydney.

Dianne's most recent publication (with Joan Kavanagh) is *Van Diemen's Women: A History of Transportation to Tasmania* (The History Press, Ireland, 2015). It was awarded the 2018 Australian Historical Association's Kay Daniels Award. Dianne has two publications currently being printed:

White Rag Burning. Irish Women Committing Arson to be Transported, and *Voices from the Orphan Schools. The Children's Stories*. In 2017 Dianne was inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women and was awarded Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service as an historian and genealogical researcher. She currently chairs the Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents.



Celia Blake (NAA) presenting the Nick Vine Hall Awards
Above: Winner Barbara Beaumont (GSV)
Below: runner up, Merrill O'Donnell (Colac).



Dr. Dianne Snowden AM



NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Closing Event Thursday 30 August, Geelong, Victoria

The closing ceremony for this year's National Family History month was at the Geelong Family History Group's event on 30 August held at the magnificent Geelong Library & Heritage Centre. After an address by host Mark Beasley from Geelong Regional Libraries, the keynote address was presented by Col Hutchinson, AFL Statistician and History Consultant and Archivist for the Geelong Football Club.

Col gave a fascinating presentation on families in Australian Rules Football and the amazing connections among current first class players. He detailed families of brothers (as many as 4 players at the same time in one family), fathers and sons, who very nearly played together, as well as grandfathers and great grandfathers of current players who were stars of the game in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Several audience members were relations of some of the illustrated players. Entries in the National Family History Month prize draw, generously provided by the various NFHM sponsors, were drawn by Col and Geelong Family History Group President David Wilson. One of the winners (Susie Zada) was in the audience. After the formal close of National Family History Month for another year, those present enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea provided by the hosts.



Col Hutchinson, Statistician and History Consultant for the AFL, keynote speaker for the closing event.



Right: Mark Beasley, Manager, Geelong Heritage Centre Collection & Services. Geelong Regional Libraries and the Geelong Family History Group were the sponsors of the Closing Event.



Announcing the Prize Winners for National Family History Month

NFHM is only possible because of the generous support of our major sponsors and prize sponsors. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Prizes for Societies



One \$200 voucher towards an ADBA special collection.

Winner: Chinese Australian Family Historians

Two prizes of \$1,000 towards a research project searching historical images and supplying copies. This is more likely to be suitable for organisations with research interests in Queensland.

Winners: Genealogical Society of Victoria and Oral History Queensland



Free attendance at one of our workshops in Sydney worth \$350. Choices are: *Care of Collections*, *Handling or Basic Textile Conservation* (see: preservationaustralia.com.au).

Winner: Geelong Family History Group



Prizes for Individuals



Two 12 month World Subscriptions, two DNA kits.

Winners (subscriptions): Faye Vandyk and Dr Jeffrey Robinson

Winners (DNA kits): Donna Outtrim and Edwina Shooter



One 12 month World membership, two DNA kits

Winner (subscription): Robyn Ansell

Winners (DNA kits): Elwyn Rigby and Maureen Trotter



Two \$50 E-Book vouchers.

Winners: Libby Lambert and Marion Starr



One \$50 voucher Unlock the Past guide books

Winner : Janine Wood

Two \$100 Unlock the Past cruise vouchers.

Winners : Marie Anderson and Barbara Kernos



One \$100 voucher towards an Archive Digital Books Australia special collection.

Winner: Christopher Donaldson



5 prizes of 10 images each from their Family History Research service.

Winners: Judy Webster, Fran Kitto, Jan Grant, Jennifer Wittman and Philip Mackey



Presentation box with 10 archival trays and polyester sleeves.

Winner: Bronwyn Bain



Five \$100 vouchers for a photobook.

Winners: Jan Bayley, Beth Wright, Susie Zada, Ellen Sedgman and Janet Walmsley



One Nikon B500 digital camera.

Winner: Margaret Quinsee



On Friday, 31 August 2018 to celebrate the end of National Family History Month a “Late Late Night Research” evening was held for 25 members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists who gathered from 4 pm to 12 midnight (for those who could last the distance) to research and hopefully break through that family history ‘brick wall’. We had three longstanding members attend who had not been to the library for quite a long time – one of them not since 2007! They all expressed their thanks for the way the society’s library had grown and how much more there was to help them with their own family history research. There were experienced family historians on hand to assist those who needed help and to point others in the direction of resources. Some members took advantage of the time to read books and magazines – and more than once the phrase “I didn’t know the society had this!” was heard when a member discovered a resource valuable to their research. At 6.30 pm a dinner with a mains choice of lasagne, tuna bake, or salmon along with a variety of salads was served. There was a variety of desserts including chocolate, apple and fruit puddings, served with cream and ice cream. Tea and coffee was served at the conclusion. There was much chatter over dinner which was cooked and served by our valued volunteers. There was a ‘Who am I’ quiz compared by Keith Vautier with some tricky questions which had the audience grasping for the answers. Small prizes were awarded to the winners.



Vivienne Parker is explaining the research material available and introducing the volunteers, who are available to help with research, and their areas of expertise. (photo Robyn Williams)



Research at the New Zealand Society of Genealogists library at Panmure, Auckland. (photo Robyn Williams)

Other National Family History Month Activities



*Above and top right: WAGS Open Day
Right: Finding Families class at East Gippsland*

