



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2017-2018

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AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist <i>vacant</i>
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

As we are approaching the end of another year It is time to reflect on the year nearly completed. I have been very busy this year which commenced with the 50th celebration of Canterbury Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, then the Conference held in Christchurch and very recently the 40th anniversary of South Waikato Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

It was a pleasure to attend all these functions as I was able to meet with many members and acquaint them of the benefits of belonging to genealogical and family history organisations. The sharing of resources and the collaboration of members completing projects for the general good was very reassuring.

We have been advised by the major Queensland societies that they have not been able to make a commitment to run the **AFFHO Congress 2021**. This is very unfortunate as it now leaves AFFHO without a group planning this event in Queensland. Maybe your society would like to offer their services to run Congress 2021 in your locality? If so please contact

secretary@affho.org and make your offer. AFFHO Council will seriously consider all offers. Attendees at AFFHO Congress 2018 were asked if they wanted another Congress and it was a resounding 'yes' from the audience of 500!

Recently there was a consultation on **Notice of intended marriage (NOIM)** and AFFHO has made a submission on behalf of its members. The notice advised that it was considering the removal of some of the questions from the registration of marriages and the following is part of our submission.

Family historians request the retention of the following items:

- Usual occupation
- Residence of parties ie bride and groom
- Father's name and country of birth
- Mother's maiden name
- Mother's name and country of birth
- Number of previous marriages and the year of each previous marriage
- Children of previous marriages and the year of birth of each of those children

(Continued on page 2)

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

We have had acknowledgement of our submission but It may be some time before we hear the results of this consultation and we will keep you informed.

AFFHO functions for its members and this is one example of the advocacy that the organisation does on behalf of member societies.

November has been a very busy month with the observations of the 100th anniversary of the influenza epidemic and Armistice Day. These are significant events and family historians have been called upon to add the stories of their family members who were directly involved.

Membership renewals for societies are due on 1 January and invoices will be sent in the next few weeks. Please look out for your invoice and pay it promptly as this saves much administration time.

Robyn Williams, President

PapersPast <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers> is the government sponsored website and contains Newspapers, Magazines and Journals, Letters and Diaries and Parliamentary Papers. As of 9 November, there are nearly six million pages and 812,000 documents.

Latest additions to Newspapers (November 2018):

- [Ashburton Herald](#) (Mar 1878-Oct 1880)
- [Evening Star](#) (1943-1947)
- [Gisborne Herald](#) (Jul 1939-1950)
- [Northern Advocate](#) (1940-1945)
- [Otago Daily Times](#) (1943-1950)
- [Te Aroha News](#) (misc.1890-1912, 1914-1925)
- [Thames Guardian and Mining Record](#) (Oct 1871-Aug 1872)



Tauranga Heritage Award

Congratulations to Heather McLean who was presented with a Tauranga Heritage Award at a celebratory function held at the Tauranga Library, New Zealand on Wednesday, 24 October 2018.

The citation reads:

Heather Yvonne McLean

Tauranga Heritage Award

In recognition of Heather's exceptional contribution to the discovery and communication of genealogical and historical information for Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty region, and in particular her knowledge of local cemeteries and her meticulous transcriptions of headstones completed over more than forty years –

For her tireless volunteer work, including twenty-seven years of collecting and indexing death notices and obituaries, weekly attendance at the Tauranga Family History Centre since 1993, championing conservation and recognition of the historical significance of Tauranga cemeteries, weekly attendance at the Pyes Pa Cemetery since 2012, Tauranga WW1 Centenary Committee member since 2013 and many years of support to the library community –

In acknowledgment of Heather's investigative skills, her extensive memory and her willingness to assist researchers with both her time and financial resources.

Signed by: **Julie Green, President Tauranga Historical Society**

Mayor Greg Brownless Tauranga City Council

This award recognises the very many skills which Heather has generously shared with members of the public who were interested in family history. Heather has donated many of the indexes described above to the New Zealand Society of Genealogists and a number of these are being added to the Kiwi Collection. The Kiwi Collection is a 'members only' product produced by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

News Release



New WWI Records for Armistice 100th Anniversary

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (7 November 2018)--

On Veterans Day 2018, the world will look back a century to the victory of Allied forces and the signing of the Armistice that marked the end of World War I. With that signing, on the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” 1918, the world rejoiced.

In memory of those who served, FamilySearch has added millions of new, free historical records to help families discover more about their WWI veteran ancestors. Search the WWI collections at FamilySearch.org. (Find and share this announcement in the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#)).



Allied soldiers celebrating Armistice Day or the End of World War I.

In many allied nations, Armistice Day is a national holiday coinciding with Veterans Day and Remembrance Day to celebrate the endings of both World War I and World War II. In the warring nations of World War I, millions registered for war and millions served. Twenty-one million were wounded and 20 million died.

As countries pause to remember, families seek to document their ancestors’ war-time stories. The stories from WWI are no longer first-person memories, but they do exist on documents, in pictures, and as memorabilia. The era’s records supply rich ancestral details including physical characteristics, vital information, service details and more.

FamilySearch a large, constantly expanding, free collection of [World War I records](#) help [remember World War I](#). Governments on both sides of the conflict, Allied nations (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, and Italy) and the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) created a treasure trove of documents useful to genealogists.

Some records are unexpected today. For example, American women married to non-American men lost citizenship. Many created [citizenship papers](#) be re-naturalized. Nearly everyone who had a male ancestor aged 21-30 that lived in the U.S. during WWI can find a record of that ancestor.

Jennifer Davis, a family historian, found all four of her great-grandfathers in the WWI Draft Records online—even though none of them active duty. “The only picture I have of my great-grandpa Figgins is in black and white from a copy of a newspaper clipping,” said Davis. “In his draft record, it gives a physical description of him and says his eyes are brown. That’s a cool discovery, because I never would have known his eye color.”

The draft records can be the perfect springboard to searching other records, because they often give hints about the registered individual, such as clues to family members listed in the “closest living relative” section or employment clues.

Among World War I records are [draft cards](#), [cemetery records](#), and [statement of service cards](#). The armed services kept [military records](#) name the names and describe the work of those who served in any capacity.



Self-Service Digitisation Trial

The Queensland Office of the National Archives is testing the feasibility of allowing self-service digitisation of selected records by the public in a controlled reading room environment.

Note that this is a service being trialled in the Queensland Reading Room only, from 8 November 2018 to 30 April 2019.

If you wish to participate in this trial and digitise a record for your own use:

1. Ask the Archives Officer on duty if the file you wish to digitise is suitable for this service. The Archives Officer will allow digitisation of files that are robust enough to handle the process with minimal risk of damage.
2. The Archives Officer on duty will ensure the scanner is ready to operate. If in doubt, ask.
3. Do not change any scanner settings. The scanner is set to the Archives digitisation standards.
4. Digitise each page
 - a. Start at the front file cover.
 - b. Press the green button on the scanner, or click the 'Scan' button on the screen.
 - c. Scan every page, starting from the top page and continuing to the bottom.
 - d. Place the page in the centre of the glass – the scanner will align the image automatically
 - e. Include the back of any page that has information regardless of its significance
 - f. If you make a mistake, just repeat the scan and inform the attendant.
 - g. Once you have finished, return all pages to the file pin.
 - h. It is important that the pages are returned in their original order.
5. If you have any questions, ask the Archives Officer.
6. If you wish to digitise more than one file, inform the Archives Officer. After each file is complete, the Archives Officer will collate the images into a file folder.
7. Once completed, the Archives Officer will download the images to a usb for you to take with you.

Please be aware that the images you create may be processed and loaded to the Archives' RecordSearch database where they can be viewed by the public. The images will be subject to quality assurance before they are loaded. Some files may be rejected.

"Lost in DNA" SAG—3-4 Nov 2018

On the weekend of 3-4 November the Society of Australian Genealogists held its annual 'Lost In' seminar – and this year the theme was Lost in DNA. 150 family historians gathered in Sydney to spend two days learning about –and talking – DNA.

The Society's drew on its own team of members with DNA expertise to give sessions as well as welcoming Louisa Coakley from Queensland.

The program included two presentations by international experts – Maurice Gleeson from the UK and Diahn Southard from the USA – both of which were broadcast on the day.



This 'Lost In' was by far our most successful, with participants travelling from New Zealand, interstate and regional areas to attend. Judging by the amount of talking during breaks, and the reports of 'cousin matches' made over the weekend, it provided everyone with some great new DNA research tools and ideas. Our Lost In weekends are open to both members and the public and more details about our other DNA activities can be found on our website at www.sag.org.au .

Jenny Redman, PhD. - New President for Genealogical Society of Victoria



Jenny Redman, PhD

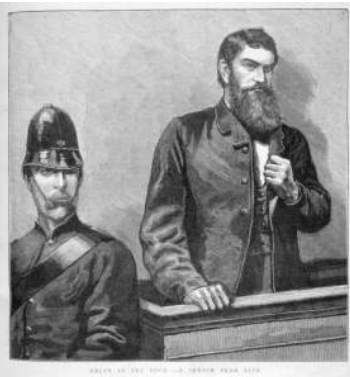
The GSV is pleased to announce that at the AGM in October, Jenny Redman was elected President of the Society. Jenny brings to the position her valuable experience from a career in academic research and a lifelong interest in history. She joined the GSV Council in 2013 and has played a major role in the planning of the Society's series of DNA events. As President she intends to develop further the GSV's digital holdings and to reach out to the diverse ethnic communities of Victoria. Jenny follows in the capable footsteps of David Down who stepped down after a successful term but will continue as an active Council member.



David Down

A World-First Survey on Crime History and the Public

One of the things I love about my job as a criminal justice historian is talking to people about my research. It does not matter who they are – or even if history in general is not a particular passion for them – most people are interested in hearing the stories I've uncovered about nineteenth and twentieth-century crimes and criminals.



Some people like to chat about the celebrity criminals whose lives have been immortalised in fiction and film, like bushranger Ned Kelly or Sydney crime queen Tilly Devine. Others like hearing about the quirkiest or more unexpected tales I have come across, such as the fact that book theft was made a special offence in Victoria in 1891 after a spate of book stealing from public libraries. Or that until relatively recently fortune-telling was a criminal offence across Australia, with police intermittently cracking down on fortune-tellers throughout the twentieth century, in particular during the World Wars when people were desperate for reassurance about their loved ones.

These are not one-way conversations either. Family historians have often encountered at least one ancestor who had an entanglement with the law. It is fascinating to hear how sometimes those actions or events ended up changing the course of the lives of the entire family. Other people have developed an interest in local cold cases, such as the unsolved murders of three adult siblings that occurred in Gatton, Queensland in 1898, but still generate frequent speculation today.



The sense that I am left with from these encounters is that crime history is a subject in which the public is highly engaged. Anecdotally I know that other crime historians – both in Australia and overseas – have similar experiences. However, to date there has been no empirical research into public attitudes and interest towards crime history.

I am trying to change that by running an anonymous online survey about community perceptions of crime history. The survey only takes 5-10 minutes to complete, but will generate data that provides insights into the sources of information that inform public understandings of crime history, and how public attitudes about crime history vary across different national contexts.

Any participation in or promotion of the survey is much appreciated. It can be found via the following link - <https://criminalcharacters.com/survey> - along with more details about my research project.

Alana Piper, University of Technology Sydney

Pictures:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NedKelly_dock.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tilly_Devine_1925.jpg



24 – 26 May 2019

VENUE 114 on Lake Kawana, Bokarina on the beautiful Sunshine Coast

3rd Queensland State Conference

hosted by

Caloundra Family History Research Inc.

with the support of History Queensland

Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

Free family history fair all weekend plus 5 *free* talks and 3 paid sessions on Friday (\$15)

For registered delegates, there will be an interesting and diverse range of excellent speakers in streams of family and local history on Saturday & Sunday.

www.wavesintime2019.org.au

Follow us on Facebook - for further information: info@wavesintime2019.org.au



Caloundra Family History Research Inc.



Registrations have now opened and can be booked on line with various payment options - <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/registration>

Exhibitors has also opened - <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/exhibitors>

Accommodation – various options from hotel, apartment etc are available – see: <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/waves-in-time-accommodation-options>

Program - see <https://wavesintime2019.org.au/program> for details.

Speakers – an interesting and varied program is planned Details of speakers will be added as they are received and the program updated to reflect topics.

<https://wavesintime2019.org.au/speakers>

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Australia, New Zealand and many of the Pacific Islands were devastated by the Influenza pandemic when those who were in charge failed to isolate ships who carried passengers with flu aboard and allowed them to sail to vulnerable ports and infect local people with no resistance to this disease.

In 1918 it is believed that a third of the world's population were infected with the disease and it killed 50 million people. It is said to have commenced in January, but most of the deaths occurred in October and November. Countries which carried out quarantine provisions and severely restricted sea travel escaped the horrors of the flu virus.



Emergency ambulances alongside the Wellington Town Hall during the 1918 flu pandemic.

In October 1918 the steamship Talume took flu-ridden passengers from New Zealand to Samoa, Fiji and Tonga. Historians tell us that in Samoa six major chiefs boarded the Talume to welcome and greet passengers and relatives and four of them were dead within weeks as was nearly a quarter of Samoa's population. This was the highest death rate of any one country.

Despite the sickness of many in Samoa the ship was allowed to go on to Fiji where about 5 per cent of the population died and then to Tonga where the estimates are between 4 and 8 per cent of the population.

The flu hit Auckland in late October and it was thought to have originated in Vancouver and spread to Wellington and Christchurch a week or so later. Nearly 9000 people died in New Zealand and this is estimated to be just under one per cent of the population at the time.

In Australia although quarantine procedures were in place in October 1918, the flu appeared in early 1919 in Melbourne. The first cases were mild so there was confusion if they were the normal annual flu or the expected virus. This allowed the virus to spread to New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia in January. NSW was the first state to officially proclaim an outbreak of pneumonic influenza on 27 January 1919.

While it is estimated that forty percent of the population had flu about 15 000 died from the disease in Australia. To put this in context the death toll was less than twenty-five percent of the First World War death toll of 62 000. The virus was spread from soldiers coming home from war. The outbreak was worse in the Indigenous population with a mortality rate of around fifty percent.



Women wearing surgical masks during influenza epidemic, Brisbane 1919. John Oxley Library,

Many families will have had members who died of the flu or of flu induced pneumonia and many children were left orphans as a result. However, family historians should not jump to conclusions and need to obtain death certificates to check that that influenza was the underlying cause of death. Historians in New Zealand are still gathering evidence to list the names of all those who died in this pandemic and the Projects Co-ordinator of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists would like to hear of your family member, especially if they died in New Zealand. Carole can be contacted at projects@genealogy.org.nz

Sources and photos:

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/influenza-pandemic-1918>

<http://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/influenza-pandemic>



Writing Competition

The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra is launching a writing competition in February 2019. Entrants will compete for the E.M. Fletcher Writing Award, named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher, a long-time member who had significant input into the formation of HAGSOC over many years.

Entries for the best short story of 1500 – 2000 words on a family history / genealogy theme will be judged and in contention to win prizes including a monetary award and a special HAGSOC member prize. A small entry fee of \$20.00 for HAGSOC members and \$30.00 for non-members will apply.

Our judges for the 2019 competition are:

- **Cora Num** - HAGSOC Fellow, researcher, author and lecturer. Cora is well known throughout the family history community and her website [Coraweb](#) is internationally recognised;
- **David Coombe** - is a HAGSOC member and won the Society's award for best journal article of 2012. He self-published two e-books with family history themes and is currently writing a biography of an Australian artist.
- **Mary Lynn Mather** – graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2015 with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Creative Writing and wrote a novel as research for her PhD. She has worked as a writer, journalist and editor and is presently a lecturer in Creative Writing at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

Look out for more information about how to enter the competition on the [HAGSOC website](#) in the new year. In the meantime, please direct any questions or feedback to writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au
Happy writing and we look forward to receiving your entries for the 2019 competition.

Queensland family History Society – Annual Book Award

Each year the Queensland Family History Society presents an Award for the best history of a Queensland family published in book form within the last five years. Please check the Society website (<http://www.qfhs.org.au/about-us/awards>) for full details of guidelines and conditions of entry.

Briefly, this must be the story of a family, not an individual, it must have significant Queensland content and some reference to the origins of the family prior to arrival in Australia. An index is of prime importance; maps, charts and tables, illustrations, references and source materials are also desirable.

Entries close on 30 November and prizes are presented at the Society's Annual General Meeting in June. Entries are now being sought for the Award closing 30 November 2019, for presentation in June 2020. First prize in 2020 will be \$250 and a year's membership of the Society. The winning entry/entries will be reviewed in our journal *The Queensland Family Historian*.

South Africa Research

The Genealogy Institute of South Africa (GISA) that is based in Stellenbosch is closing down on the 31 December 2018 as it is no longer financially viable. Arrangements have been made for the disposal of their collections and of most interest to us is the *Genealogical Collection*.

The Library of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, in Wellington South Africa (Kaapse Skiereiland-Universiteit vir Tegnologie (KSUT)) will receive:

- The complete collection of genealogies in the library (Paper and CD / DVD)
- A complete electronic set of the SA Family Series as of 30 November 2018

All Genealogical Library Books It will be housed as a special closed collection and must be used in the reading room during library hours. Accessibility and conservation are of importance here and can be guaranteed. Short inquiries from books and available resources can be answered by library staff at no cost.