



Together we can achieve much more!

# Newsflash

## Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

[www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org)

Contact: [secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org)

### AFFHO Council 2019-2020

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Vice Pres
Margaret Doherty	History QLD	Secretary
Nick Reddan	ACT	Treasurer
Kerry Farmer	NSW	Councillor
Fay Carbis	QLD	Councillor
Julie Martin	WA	Councillor
<i>No nomination</i>	TAS	Councillor
Dale Johns	SA	Councillor
Jenny Harkness	VIC	Assoc Rep
Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Assoc Rep

### AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator
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.

Newsflash contributions to [editor@affho.org](mailto:editor@affho.org)

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### From the President

I am very pleased to announce that the next Congress will be held from 30th July to 1st August 2021 on Norfolk Island. AFFHO Congress 2021 is to be hosted by Norfolk Island Museums and Research Centre. Norfolk Island is rich in history and has associations with both Australia and New Zealand and the plans for holding Congress are exciting. There are more details in Newsflash.

This year has been most successful for many family history organisations as they come to grips with how to survive in this ever-changing world. Unfortunately, some societies have decided to close and we hope that the remaining members join another family history group nearby.

Susie Zada was National Family History Month Co-ordinator for 2019 and she organised the opening event on 2nd August at North Melbourne in conjunction with the National Archives of Australia, Victoria Branch, and the Public Record Office Victoria. The closing event was hosted by the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) in Sydney on 3rd September.

Susie also contacted many societies during the early part of 2019 and used social media almost every day during July and August to spread the information about upcoming events throughout Australia. We sincerely thank Susie for her considerable efforts during her time as National Family History Month Co-ordinator.

At our recent Council meeting we have set the date for the Annual General Meeting. It is to be held by teleconference on 12th May 2020. All member societies are entitled to participate and we encourage them to nominate a representative to attend. More information on the AGM will be sent out by the Secretary in early 2020.

Its that time of the year again and I wish all our readers a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year and hope that you have some time to catch up on your family history during this short break. If you are travelling during this time, I wish you safe travels.

*Robyn Williams, President*

## AFFHO Congress 2021

The AFFHO Council at its recent meeting are delighted to announce that *Norfolk Island Museums and Research Centre* has been invited to host the

**AFFHO Congress 2021 from 30 July – 6 August 2021**  
with the actual  
**Congress dates being 3 – 5 August 2021.**



A comprehensive speakers programme will be developed for the Congress and another programme for visits to historic sites and other interesting features of Norfolk Island. There will also be time built in for research at the Norfolk Island Museum Research Centre.

Congress will include:

- A welcome function
- Lecture Programme
- Morning and Afternoon Teas
- Lunches
- A Banquet Dinner

Historic Sites include:

- Cemetery
- Melanesian Mission
- KAVHA (Kingston and Arthurs Vale Heritage Area) which incorporates the Penal Gaol, and other noteworthy buildings and sites
- ... just to name a few



Travel and Accommodation packages will be developed from

- Sydney
- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Auckland

There will be an online Registration process and costs will be advised in due course.

**Mark the dates on your 2021 calendar!**

## Nick Vine Hall Award Presentation



The Nick Vine Hall Award for the best family history journal produced in 2018 for large societies was won by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. The issue judged was *Volume 49 No. 374, December 2018* and this issue featured Heirlooms. Members wrote about clocks, a tea set and brooch, a silver jug and much more. The stories were really interesting and this was a great way to reveal the life of an ancestor. The editor, Bruce Ralston, is to be congratulated on putting together such an interesting journal.

The Nick Vine Hall Plaque and Certificate was presented by Robyn Williams, President of AFFHO to Mary Shadbolt, Chair of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Board recently.



## Heather Garnsey to Retire



Heather Garnsey, Executive Officer of the Society of Australian Genealogists, has announced that she will be retiring in February, 2020. Heather has been on the staff for 35 years and has been Executive Officer since 1988.

Heather was awarded the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History at Congress 2015 held in Canberra. This is a prestigious Award and recognises individuals who have made significant contributions to the wider family history community, particularly in a voluntary capacity.

We wish Heather a happy and enjoyable retirement and hope she finds more time to research her family history.

## Family History WA Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are the lifeblood of FamilyHistoryWA. They bring together members with common interests and form small communities within our wider organisation. Last month, the latest group to emerge, the Family Tree Maker SIG had its first meeting and brought the total number of groups within FHWA to eighteen. At the inaugural meeting, IT Manager, Christine Harris, was elected Convenor by the large, enthusiastic audience.

The Writers Group, led by Liana Fitzpatrick, is celebrating the first anniversary of its formation by publishing an anthology of members' stories in December, a great achievement by everyone involved.

By far the most popular group is the DNA Group which attracts a full house to every meeting. The group has now started a DNA Pop-up Shop. These one-on-one consultations with in-house DNA specialists who provide help with technical problems or issues with access, interpretation or use of DNA results have proved to be very popular. The group also organises special events such as the recent DNA Painter Workshop.

Support for the nine SIGs focusing on areas within Australia, South East Asia and Europe remains strong as does the interest in the Military, Convict and Enrolled Pensioner Guard groups.

Since 2017, the Military Group has been assisting the Army Museum of WA to digitise and transcribe its extensive and unpublished collection of historical records. Thousands of digital images have been created and uploaded to the FHWA Projects website (<http://projects.wags.org.au>) making them available for transcription and ultimately searching and viewing, sometimes for the very first time since they were created.

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard SIG concentrates on the soldiers who came to the colony of Western Australia between 1850 and 1874, most arriving during the convict years as guards. The 'Ships Project' which got underway in 2011 now has its own website <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au> and volunteer 'ships captains' have the task of establishing a list of the guards arriving on each convict ship. If identified, the parents, siblings, wives and children of the Guards are also included.



*Chris Harris, newly elected convenor of the Family Tree Maker SIG at the group's inaugural meeting*

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3) **Family History WA Special Interest Groups**

The former Computer SIG went through a name change earlier this year to reflect its widening focus and is now the Technology SIG. The group’s popularity is a reflection of the constant changes in the digital world and is one of only two groups to meet monthly. Over the past fifteen months, Technology SIG members have been involved in testing *Clanview*, an innovative program conceived by Australian software developer, Shane Clementson.

*Clanview* enables users of any research program or online service to instantly publish family history as an interactive 3D family tree and share it with others, while at the same time maintaining control over the data. *Clanview* was an exhibitor at the recent RootsTech London conference and trade show where the software attracted a very positive response from visitors.



Clanview Presentation—WAGS Nov 2019

The engaging website <https://www.clanview.com> explains and demonstrates the capabilities of the software which now also offers a free version [www.clanview.com/free](http://www.clanview.com/free).

The sharing of knowledge within Special Interest Groups will ensure they continue to grow and be a strong draw card for membership to Family History WA.

## News Release



### 90,000 Articles Published on the Free FamilySearch Wiki

**SALT LAKE CITY (23 September 2019),**

The FamilySearch Research Wiki has published its 90,000th help article, with more added weekly. The free service launched 12 years ago to help patrons quickly with their personal family history research questions. Explore it for free at the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

The FamilySearch wiki is like discovering an unexpected treasure along your family history discovery journey. In a day when online consumers want what they are seeking within a few keystrokes and seconds, the FamilySearch wiki delivers. Go to the main page, and suddenly a world of databases, maps, countries and tutorials are at your fingertips.

#### FamilySearch Research Wiki



### Recently released records on FamilySearch

Australia, Convict Tickets of Leave, 1824-1874: 60,093 Indexed Records

England and Wales, National Index of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1957: 49,830 Indexed Records.

## HAGSOC E.M. Fletcher Writing Award

The winners of the 2019 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award were announced on Sunday 20th October 2019 at a special event at the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra. This was the culmination of a successful short story writing competition, which was launched in February 2019 with the theme *Every family has a story – write yours now.*

The judging panel of David Coombe, Cora Num and Mary Lynn Mather had a huge task in selecting the winners from 56 entries. Each judge brought a different expertise and perspective to the judging process, David as an author, Mary Lynn as a creative writing lecturer and Cora Num as the genealogist.

Cora Num paid tribute to all the entrants, saying the passion for family history story telling was evident. In naming the short-listed entries, Cora said “choosing the short list was very difficult given the calibre of entries. The creative and evocative stories covered a wide range of emotions and topics including pathos, generosity, humour, heartbreak, suffering including abandonment, war, post-traumatic stress disorder, domestic violence, and suicide to topics such as forestry, auto immune disease, time travel, DNA sequencing and eccentricity.”

It was a privilege to welcome Robin Fletcher, daughter of Eunice Fletcher, to present the certificates to our winners – the inaugural E.M. Fletcher award to Kathryn Coughran and the HAGSOC member award to Clare McGuiness. Local MLA Tara Cheyne was also present to congratulate the highly commended entries submitted by Denise Burton, Vanessa Evangelista and Naomi Barnbaum.

Sincerest thanks to our judges David, Cora and Mary Lynn. The competition would not have come to its fruition without your dedication to the task.

Thanks must also go to all entrants for supporting this competition. The entries are wonderful examples of how research can be transformed into an engaging story and the diversity makes for great reading.



Winner of the competition  
Kathryn Coughran

We are pleased to publish the winning and short listed entries in the HAGSOC December quarterly journal, *The Ancestral Searcher*. The journal is available in Family History libraries who exchange journals with HAGSOC, libraries in the ACT, including the National Library, or direct from HAGSOC by emailing [secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au)

Be on the look out for information  
about how to enter the

**2020 E.M. Fletcher Award** on the HAGSOC  
website in the new year.

In the meantime, please direct any  
questions or feedback to

[writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au)



Eunice M. Fletcher



Naomi Barnbaum, Cora Num,  
Ginninderra MLA Tara Cheyne  
presentation for highly commended.



Clare McGuiness, HAGSOC member winner,  
with Kathryn Coughran



## A Day of Celebrations for HAGSOC – 20 October 2019

### Joint Exhibition

Our 55th anniversary celebrations on October 20 were attended by more than 75 people. Our Vice President, Jenny Higgins was MC for the day, while Ginninderra MLA Tara Cheyne launched our new joint exhibition with Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, "Selected Spaces: the settling of Ginninderra". The Minister's speech was followed by a short address from two pioneer descendants – Kingsley Southwell from 'Brooklands', and Helen Warman, a grand-daughter to William Hatch Junior, who was the last owner of 'Rosewood'. Their well informed and strong engagement with the stories kept the attention of a large audience.



Above: Tara Cheyne launching the hallway exhibition.  
Right: Helen Warman and Marion Warman.



### Writing Competition Awards (see also previous page)



Robyn Fletcher

The much-anticipated announcement of the winners of the E.M. Fletcher Writing Award also formed part of our celebrations. Judge Cora Num spoke about the variety of different topics and the high standard of entries before announcing the short list of entrants. Tara Cheyne presented the highly commended awards to Denise Burton, Vanessa Evangelista and Naomi Barnbaum. Robin Fletcher, one of the daughters of Eunice Fletcher announced the two winning entries. Congratulations to Clare McGuinness for being awarded the HAGSOC Member's Prize and to the winner of the inaugural E.M. Fletcher award – Kathryn Coughran. We look forward to reading the winning and short-listed entries in the HAGSOC journal, December edition of *The Ancestral Searcher*.

### Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday HAGSOC!

The afternoon concluded with a look at some of the highlights of HAGSOCs 55 years with a short video and a lively panel discussion by some of our longest-term members Pam Ray, Barbara Moore and Geoffrey Burkhart, facilitated by Kerrie Gray.

Our guests enjoyed an afternoon tea including our birthday cake cut by Niel Gunson.



(Continued from page 6) **Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday HAGSOC!**

*Right: L-R, Geoffrey Burkhart, Barbara Moore and Pam Ray with 'Mintie Moments' reminisces.*

*Far Right: Kerrie Gray (host)*

*Below: Attendance at the awards and celebrating with afternoon tea.*

*Below right: Niel Gunson cutting the cake.*



## **Changes to email addresses NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages**

Dear Family Historian,

Following the NSW State Election in March the Registry is now a part of the newly formed Department of Customer Service. As a result of this there have been changes to the email addresses that you would usually contact us on. Please see the updated email addresses below.

For general family history enquiries:

New email address: [bdm-familyhistory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bdm-familyhistory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

(replaces previous email address: [bdm-familyhistory@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bdm-familyhistory@justice.nsw.gov.au))

For technical support:

New email address: [eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

(replaces previous email address: [eregistry-support@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eregistry-support@justice.nsw.gov.au))

You can begin using the new email addresses as of now, and these will be updated on the BDM website over the coming weeks.

Sincerely, The Stakeholder Support Team



## Vacancy for National Family History Month Co-ordinator

AFFHO Council is searching for a person to co-ordinate National Family History Month in August 2020. This will interest a person who is used to using social media and would like to expand their contacts in the family history community of Australia and New Zealand.

Many systems are already set up and there is a dedicated Family History Month website. However, there is considerable flexibility in how a successful campaign can be achieved and many relationships for funding and prizes have already been established.

If you are interested contact [secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org) for more information.

## External Conduct Standards

Charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), which operate outside Australia, are now required to comply with the External Conduct Standards set by the ACNC. A charity is generally considered to operate outside Australia even if its overseas activities are just a minor part of its work or if it only sends a small amount of money overseas, even when such activities are conducted through a third party.

The External Conduct Standards require charities to take reasonable steps to ensure appropriate standards of behaviour, governance and oversight when undertaking activities or providing funding overseas. They are intended to promote transparency and provide confidence that resources sent, or services provided overseas, reach legitimate beneficiaries and are used for legitimate charitable purposes. The Standards also seek to protect vulnerable people overseas.

The **External Conduct Standards** are a set of four standards that govern how registered charities must manage their activities and resources outside Australia:

1. Activities and control of resources (including funds): the way a charity manages its activities and controls the resources used overseas.
2. Annual review of overseas activities and record-keeping: requirements to obtain and keep proper records for overseas activities.
3. Anti-fraud and anti-corruption: processes and procedures aimed at combatting fraud and corruption in overseas activities.
4. Protection of vulnerable individuals: protecting the vulnerable people with which the charity works overseas.

Activities that may be considered operating outside Australia include:

- sending money, staff, volunteers, or members overseas
- buying goods and services from overseas suppliers (including online purchases)
- providing online courses available overseas
- sending donations overseas
- working with individuals or organisations located overseas
- managing an overseas project from Australia

However, if those activities are just an incidental part of the charity's operations in Australia, (which is very likely the case for most family history groups) the Standards may not apply.

Organisations that are not charities and those that don't operate outside Australia are not subject to the External Conduct Standards. However, charities must still comply with the ACNC's Governance Standards. You can see the detailed guides on the ACNC website ([www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)) which explain in more detail when the External Conduct Standards apply and when they do not apply.