



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2019-2020

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Vice Pres
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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

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From the President

National Family History Month (NFHM) in 2020 has been quite different owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and many of our Societies including AFFHO not being able to conduct their events and meetings in person. However, we are fortunate that we live in the current era with many of us being able to use computers to interact with each other and many societies are offering webinars. See the list of events coming up – there are more events to attend virtually.

For the opening event of NFHM AFFHO used an Audio Visual Link to deliver a talk by Dr Rory Sweetman on his recently published book *Defending Trinity College*. This was well received by the audience who were able to link in from many different places in Australia and New Zealand.

Rory told us how he had researched five ANZACs who were staying at Trinity College during the Easter Week of 1916 whilst on leave from WW1. Their letters home revealed information not previously known and this gave a very different view of events. The college was near the rebel headquarters in the GPO in Dublin and the ANZACs provided a shield to protect Trinity College from capture. Rory speculates that had it not been for the ANZACs Trinity College could have been destroyed. The letters reveal details which are different to Trinity College's own record and the various accounts by rebels. If you would like to know more contact Dr Rory Sweetman for a copy of his book <https://www.rorysweetman.com>

We are looking forward to the Closing event sponsored by AFFHO on Monday, 31 August 2020. Kerry Farmer is the speaker and her topic is *The Search for Samuel*. Kerry says "How using a wide range of records helped solve the mystery of an ancestor who appears to have tried to cover his tracks."

Bookings must be made for this event, and log-in details will be sent in an Email 2-3 hours before the start. The event starts at 7:30pm in New Zealand, 5:30pm in Sydney, and 3:30pm in Perth, on Monday 31 August 2020. All details at <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au>

Robyn Williams, President AFFHO



National Family History Month

*Have you entered our competitions?
It's free to enter
just follow the instructions.*

<https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/competitions-in-august/>

(For all prizes please read the Terms and Conditions on the NFHM website.)

National Family History Month is only possible because of the generous support of our major sponsors and prize sponsors. Please support them too, so that they can again support us!

PRIZES for individuals

Ancestry -2 x 12 month World subscription for Australian residents.

Ancestry -1 x 12 month World subscription for New Zealand residents.



FamilySearch – Samsung Portable SSD T7 (1TB) – cost \$300

FamilySearch – Canon IXUS Camera (Black) – cost \$179



MyHeritage – 2 x 12 month World subscriptions.



AFFHO – 2 x DNA kits.



NFHM Closing Event

Special Prizes for those joining this event:



\$100 Genealogy ebooks (UTP and Archive Digital Books) voucher

\$20 Gould Genealogy Gift Card



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All details at <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/events/nfhm-closing-event/>



Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) National Family History Month

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) offered two free webinars during this year's National Family History Month. On 4 August Jill Ball spoke about blogging for family history and on 15 August, Ruth Graham introduced the Society and the variety of its offerings and then Kerry Farmer gave short talks about 'how to start your family history research' and 'using DNA for family history', followed by a Q&A about DNA in general and especially related to the support SAG provides for this sort of research.

Jill Ball reported about her session:

As someone who is passionate about geneablogging I was thrilled to see that there were over 100 registrations for the free "Geneablogging for you" session I presented for the SAG during National Family History Month. There was a diverse audience from several States online for this event. As a presenter I was delighted with the lively and lengthy online discussion following the talk, I thank Vicki Hails who joined me online during the session to give a new blogger's perspective on the activity. What was most pleasing were the messages from those who planned to resurrect forgotten blogs and those newbies who were going to heed my call to "Just do it"! and start blogging.

Kerry Farmer reported about her session:

We had over 200 registrations for the free 'Introduction to using DNA within family history' webinar that I presented for the SAG for National Family History Month. On its own DNA cannot 'prove' any relationship but when combined with more traditional family history research, DNA can provide additional evidence to confirm research and suggest possible new connections. I was grateful for the attendance of several experienced DNA users who could answer questions within the chat box, while there were also questions and discussions about a range of DNA issues 'from the floor', from people attending from many areas around Australia and New Zealand. With our Society's DNA Research Groups (Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced) now meeting online, we hope to welcome people from far and wide to our future meetings.

Reopening of Queensland State Archives

[Book a time](#) from 9am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Our monthly Saturday openings will start from Saturday 8 August. To meet contact tracing requirements for COVID-19, you will need to provide your contact details when booking a time.

Here is some info re the new ArchivesSearch:

The new catalogue will offer new functions and a more modern interface. You will be able to:

- create an account to save your searches and see you the history of your record requests
- add keyword tags to help make records easier to find
- filter searches and search results
- pay for digital copies online
- see the access status of records, including Restricted Access Period expiry dates
- easily request access to restricted records.

[Sign up for a new account](#) so you can get access to all the new features.

[Watch our videos](#) to get an overview of the new system and how to do some of the most common searches.

There is a whole lot of information about the reopening on the booking page if you want to summarise:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/reading-room-bookings-tickets-109083028274>.

Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives

We are all facing huge interruption to our research as a result of COVID 19, and in order to promote the work of our membership and to encourage family history enthusiasts everywhere, we have developed a series of podcasts featuring a panel of professional genealogists focusing on topics related to research in England and Wales. It also includes a lot of discussion about online resources. The series is free to download, and will launch on 1 September 2020 with House Histories.

Gill Thomas, Who What Where Research and member of AGRA

From the press release August 2020

An AGRA first – ASK AGRA: Family History Question Time podcast project

The Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives, the association representing professional genealogists in England and Wales, has announced their latest development a series of podcasts to be streamed via the www.agra.org.uk website - Ask AGRA – Family History Question Time.



This initiative has been developed in response to the COVID pandemic. Many consumers took the opportunity to begin researching their family history during the lockdown, but the closure of archives and cancellation of family history fairs and events has presented challenges which normally our members would help to resolve. Now, the free AGRA podcasts will be available to all, the first series of six to be made available monthly from 1st September 2020. AGRA members will form panels of experts in discussions led by Moderators such as Sarah Williams of Who Do You Think You Are? and Helen Tovey of Family Tree magazine. Some well-known authors and experts in their field will be adding their voices to the discussions including Gill Blanchard, Dr. Geoff Swinfield, Les Mitchinson and Simon Fowler, to name but a few. The six themes will be as follows, broadcast on the 1st of each month:

1. *House Histories* - September 2020
2. *Ancestral research – getting started including understanding BMD and Census records* - October
3. *Research before 1837* - November 2020
4. *Military research including British service in India* - December 2020
5. *DNA testing and use in conjunction with genealogical research* - January 2021
6. *Using land records such as maps and tithe maps to further research* - February 2021

Sharon Grant, Chair of AGRA commented “AGRA is excited to announce this new initiative which demonstrates our commitment to finding new ways of working in these times of crisis. Our members have always been available at the various family history events to give advice to members of the public. We miss that, and we know you do too. This is an opportunity for you to access the extensive expertise and knowledge of our members from the safety of your own home. Get your questions in now!”. The first in the series will go live on September 1st 2020 at <https://www.agra.org.uk/podcasts>. Members of the public are invited to submit general questions about the subjects to ask the panel on the above themes at askagra@agra.org.uk.



QFHS Online Events for September

Building on the success of our August National Family History Month online events, QFHS has an exciting schedule lined up in September.

- 29 Aug *The Online Repository Assistant* (almost sold out)
- 4 Sep *Inquests: Lets dig into the records at Queensland State Archives*
- 11 Sep *Remembering those who served: WWII records at the National Archives*
- 16 Sep FREE Members' meeting – guests welcome.
Talk "Back to the sleuthing, Watson – Prove your..."
- 25 Sep *Persons called before government committees 1860-1920*

For more details and to register to attend any of these: <https://www.qfhs.org.au/>



HAGSOC presents Dr Penny Walters, UK based genealogist

Monday 12th October 2020

7pm via Zoom

(approximately 90 minutes)

Mixing DNA results with your paper trail

This session will take people past receiving their DNA results, and just looking at their ethnicity estimates. How to merge DNA results with an established paper trail will be explained, and how these two methods can interact with each other, to devise a better-informed tree will be explored. Collaborating with matches and successfully merging DNA results with an evidence-based tree can lead to a more informed family history narrative.

Dr. Penny Walters from UK lectures internationally about a variety of genealogy topics, is a regular contributor to Family Tree magazine, and is the author of 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy,' and 'The Psychology of Searching' (Amazon).



Penny has been a university lecturer for 30 years in Psychology and Business Studies. Her interest in genealogy started after having her first child and then wondering about her biological parents, as she was adopted. DNA testing initially revealed 71% Irish heritage, refined now to 94% which supports her paper trail, and collaboration with 3rd cousin DNA matches. Penny has lectured at RootsTech London and USA, APG PMC, Brigham Young University, to name some. Penny was recently a consultant for the television series 'My Family Secrets Revealed'.

Cost: Members \$15, Non-members \$20

Location: Your place, via a Zoom meeting

How to register: Go to the Courses Tab on the HAGSOC [website](#)

A link to the Zoom meeting will be forwarded to you, and a handout is available.

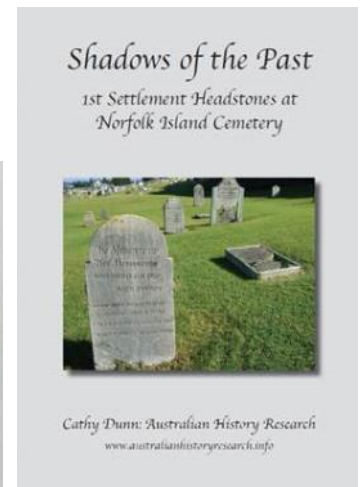
Any queries – Please contact registration@familyhistoryact.org.au

AFFHO Congress 2021 – Norfolk Island *highlights from the* Australian History Research Newsletter June 2020

<https://mailchi.mp/0d02cf22d1e1/australia-history-research-newsletter-april-12472794?e=d270dd3dc0>

Shadows of the Past: 1st Settlement Headstones at Norfolk Island Cemetery.

This new A5 24 page booklet provides details on the known First Settlement headstones located at the Norfolk Island Cemetery. Cost: \$14.50 includes postage. [More Details](#)



HMS Sirius Booklet and Medallion

The 230th Shipwreck Anniversary of HMS Sirius booklet and medallion set. Each medallion comes with a numbered tag and gift bag. [More Details](#)



Norfolk Island – History Lovers Tour

March 2021 includes new workshops and activities - email us for the information flyer and booking form.

Sydney Monday 1 March - 8 March

Brisbane Tuesday 2 March - 9 March

[Online booking now available](#)

All activities and tours have
COVID Safe policies in place



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!

Exploring Irish Ancestry



Saturday October 24th 2020

9:30am - 4:30pm AEST

Q & A live with John Grenham & Chris Paton 5:30pm

Virtual Event via Zoom

Program

- Past and furious: Ireland and its shaping of family history — *Jennifer Harrison*
- Accessing Republic of Ireland archives & online collections — *Pauleen Cass*
- Irish land records, valuations and online collections — *John Grenham pre-recorded*
- Northern Ireland archives: PRONI and online collections — *Chris Paton pre-recorded*
- Workhouses and poor law in Ireland — *Cathie Sherwood*
- Irish Migration to Australia — *Helen Smith*

Drawing of raffles, lucky door prizes
Live Q&A with John Grenham & Chris Paton



Pauleen Cass



Dr Jennifer Harrison



Cathie Sherwood



John Grenham



Chris Paton



Helen Smith

Booking & Payment

Early Bird Price if booked by 30th September:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$50 / Non-Members \$65

Price from 1st October:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$60 / Non-Members \$75

Payment may be made by:

- Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ or at GSQ)
- Cash (at GSQ)
- Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) OR
- Cheque by post: GSQ, PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152

Book online at: www.gsq.org.au/event/annual-seminar-irish-ancestry



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