



# 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
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor
No nomination	SA	Councillor
No nomination	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

Its great news for genealogists – Congress 2021 is planned for 1st to 5th August 2021 on Norfolk Island. A range of speakers will deliver talks on history, genealogy, DNA and more and the speaker's programme will be published soon. Check the website

<https://affhocongress2021.com> for more details. Be sure to register for Congress on the website, and you need to register soon as Norfolk Island do not have the facilities for more than 200 attendees. Travel and accommodation packages have been tailored especially for our Congress which is being hosted by Norfolk Island Museum. We can confidently visit Norfolk Island as have been no cases of COVID there. Hopefully by the time of Congress borders in the Pacific region, and maybe further afield will be more relaxed. More information follows in *Newsflash*.

Where will Congress 2024 be held? Your AFFHO Council is looking for one of our member societies to host the 18th Congress. Will your society step up and take the challenge? The Congress held in Sydney in 2018 attracted over 700 genealogists – it was a most enjoyable and a very successful event and made a profit. Guidelines for running a congress will be forwarded on application to the Secretary.

The *AFFHO award for Meritorious Service to Family History* is only presented at a Congress. This is a prestigious award and is only given to those special people whose contribution to genealogy, family history and/or heraldry on a voluntary basis stands out from their peers. If you have someone in your society you would like to nominate, see the extract from the By-laws elsewhere in *Newsflash*.

Applications for Nick Vine Hall Award for the best journal or newsletter produced in 2020 are being accepted now and will close on 31 March 2021. The award application form and conditions of entry can be downloaded from our website <https://affho.org> > About > Nick Vine Hall Award.

As the year comes to an end we look forward to the celebrations at Christmas and New Year. Wishing all genealogists everywhere the very best wishes over this time.

*Robyn Williams, President AFFHO*

*From the By-laws:*

#### AFFHO AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO FAMILY HISTORY

- 9.1 An award may be made at each triennial Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry for meritorious service to family history in Australasia, at the discretion of the Council of the Federation.
- 9.2 Nominations for the Award may be made by any Full Member or Associate Member organisation of the Federation and shall include a clear indication of the service given, with special emphasis being placed on voluntary contribution.
- 9.3 Nominations shall be submitted in writing, in 500 words or less and shall be received by the Secretary of the Federation three (3) months prior to each Congress.
- 9.4 The Council of the Federation shall act as the judging panel.
- 9.5 Presentation of the Award by the President of AFFHO will take place at the Congress.



## Changes to Registry opening hours at Chippendale and Parramatta

Dear Family Historian,

From 6 October 2020 the Registry opening hours will be reduced to 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. This will be in line with the reduction of clients visiting our office due to COVID-19 restrictions.

If you have any questions, please contact us on:

General enquiries: [bdm-familyhistory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bdm-familyhistory@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

Technical enquiries: [eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eregistry-support@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

Sincerely,

*The Stakeholder Support Team.*

## The Genealogical Society of Victoria Writing Prize, 2020

This year is the eighth year that the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) has conducted its Writing Prize, which is open to members of the GSV and its member societies. The entries were judged by a panel consisting of three members of the *Ancestor* Editorial Team, a President's nominee, Joy Roy FGSV, and a guest judge, well-known historian and author, Dr Gary Presland, FRHSV. The GSV is very appreciative of the ongoing support of Ancestry, which has sponsored the prize since its inception.

In awarding the prizes, President Jenny Redman stressed the importance of writing up your family stories as well as researching them. She thanked all the judges for their work in reading and assessing the entries, and thanked Leonie Ellis for her work in co-ordinating the competition.

From a strong field of contestants, the winner was Brian Reid, with his story 'Tom were the naughty lad', which is published in the December issue of *Ancestor*, the GSV's quarterly magazine. This piece takes us back to rural Cumbria in the nineteenth century, and tells us of his great grandfather Tom's 'naughty' exploits, against a background of ancient customs and class prejudice. Brian wins a year's subscription to Ancestry's worldwide membership and a DNA test. In accepting the prize, Brian spoke of how daunting it had been, but also helpful, to have his work discussed in the GSV Writers Circle, and told us how surprised his high school English teachers would be to see him win a writing prize.



*Brian Reid*

Susan Wight was the runner-up with her story 'Webster Soda Water', which will be published in the March issue of *Ancestor*. It tells of the ups and downs of her ancestors as they established a soda water business, initially on the goldfields and later in other parts of Victoria and New South Wales. Susan wins a six-month subscription to Ancestry's worldwide membership. Susan expressed appreciation of the opportunity and encouragement the prize affords to people to write up their family history.



*Susan Wight*

## Queensland Family History Society News

A new Fellow for the Society Sue Reid has been admitted as a Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society (QFHS). This is the highest honour the Society can bestow.

Sue's implementation of a clear vision of QFHS as a provider of quality educational programs for both members and non-members has significantly raised the profile of the Society.

Her dependable leadership, knowledge, supportive engagement and hard work have delivered key benefits for the Society. We are delighted to recognise this by awarding her a Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society.

Online Access a winner

QFHS members now have access to an increasing suite of online information including subscription websites, QFHS searchable datasets (42 of them and growing), searchable collections, members interests, Special Interest Group presentations and information, and educational presentations.

Some are available without member login and all are generating a lot of interest.

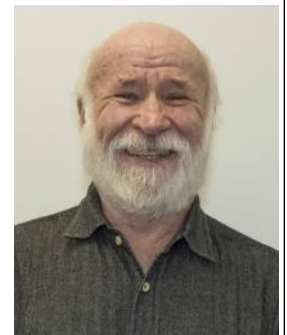
Find them at our website <https://www.qfhs.org.au/online-access/>



*Sue Reid*

## Bill Kitson

History Queensland is sad to announce that our wonderful Patron, Bill KITSON has decided to resign from the Patron's role due to COVID 19 and for personal reasons. Bill was a fantastic patron, and we are sad to lose him. He always answered our requests for assistance. He regularly attended our AGMs and more often than not, would speak of his historical research around surveyors and their families. We wish Bill and his family a wonderful future and hope he keeps in touch.



*Bill Kitson*

## Our New Patron



*Shauna Hicks*

While History Queensland is sad to lose Bill Kitson as Patron, we understand that he has other commitments. We are delighted to announce that archivist and family historian Shauna HICKS has accepted our invitation to take on the role of Patron.

Shauna is well known in Queensland and interstate historical and family history circles with academic credentials to support her reputation. Shauna has worked at the State Library of Queensland, the Queensland State Archives, National Archives Australia in Canberra and at Public Record Office Victoria in Melbourne and operates her own business Shauna Hicks History Enterprises. She is a well-known speaker at conferences including Unlock the Past cruises and locally since returning to Queensland. Shauna blogs at *Diary of an Australian Genealogist*.

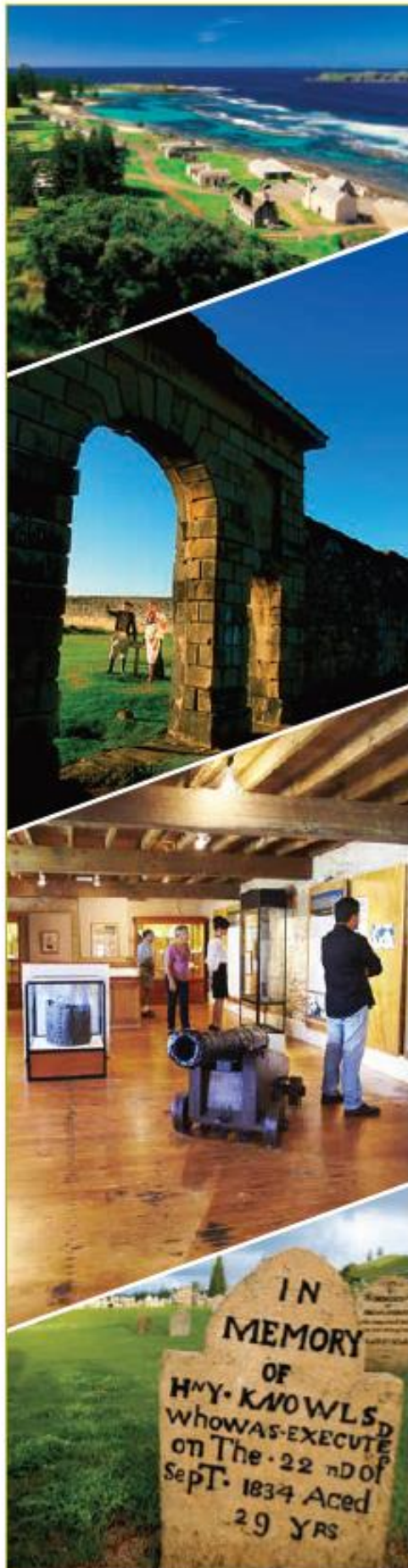
We welcome Shauna to her new role as Patron

## Family History research project – Invitation to participate

Good morning,

Our research team at the University of Newcastle in Australia (Drs Shaw, Donnelly, Burke and Parkes from the School of Education) are conducting research into family history and DNA testing and its impacts on people's understanding of themselves and their place in history as well as some general demographic information. To this end, we are conducting an online survey which is expected to take about 20 minutes. This study is an Australian first and provides your group members with an exciting opportunity to be involved in a new worldwide project about exploring the past. If you would like your views on DNA testing and family history included please go to : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2DDTC2L>

Thank you for considering this invitation,  
Dr Emma Shaw (for the research team)



01 - 05 Aug 2021 • Norfolk Island

16<sup>th</sup> AFFHO Congress

## History in Paradise

Hosted by Norfolk  
Island Museum

*Hosts of the 2021 AFFHO Congress, the Norfolk Island Museum are pleased to advise that both Congress Registration and Travel Packages are ready to take your bookings.*

A range of interesting speakers, covering topics such as stories from Norfolk Island's Second British Settlement, Female Immigration to Australia in the 1830s, and the use of DNA in genealogical research have been organised for concurrent sessions.

Our two Key Note Speakers are media personality and history enthusiast Ray Martin and professional historian and author Babette Smith. The program for the week includes special museum and cemetery tours within World Heritage listed Kingston and a great Island-style Congress dinner Fish Fry. Details about concurrent sessions and Trade Show will be available soon.

### Registration

Make sure to take advantage of the early bird registration at **\$400** by booking prior to **28 February 2021**. From **01 March 2021** registration cost will be **\$600**.

*Please note that the Congress Registration already includes the Congress Dinner. This means that the separate Social Registration is not required when taking out Congress Registration.*

Social Registration is available to travelling partners not attending the Congress who would like to attend the Dinner and Trade Show. Social Registration is also available at early bird rate of **\$100**.

*The 16th AFFHO Congress will be a unique event for both genealogists and local historians alike on beautiful and historic Norfolk Island. We hope you can join us.*



Congress Registrations can be made online at: [affhocongress2021.com](http://affhocongress2021.com)

## About Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island's story is really quite incredible with Polynesian migration 'book-ending' four distinct settlements of people. As the most westerly point of Polynesian migration, human habitation began 750 years ago with Polynesian contact.

Following two British penal settlements (1788-1814 and 1825-1855), the descendants of the Polynesian women and Mutiny on the Bounty men arrived in 1856 from Pitcairn Island, and their rich cultural legacy shapes the Island today.

The Island's history, heritage and culture are equally matched with a stunning pristine environment and unique bio-diversity. These can be seen within the rainforests in the National Parks; an unspoilt marine reserve of reef that fringes the World Heritage Site in Kingston; and at the Island's beaches.

## Travel Packages

Travel packages have been arranged in conjunction with **Norfolk Island Travel Centre**.

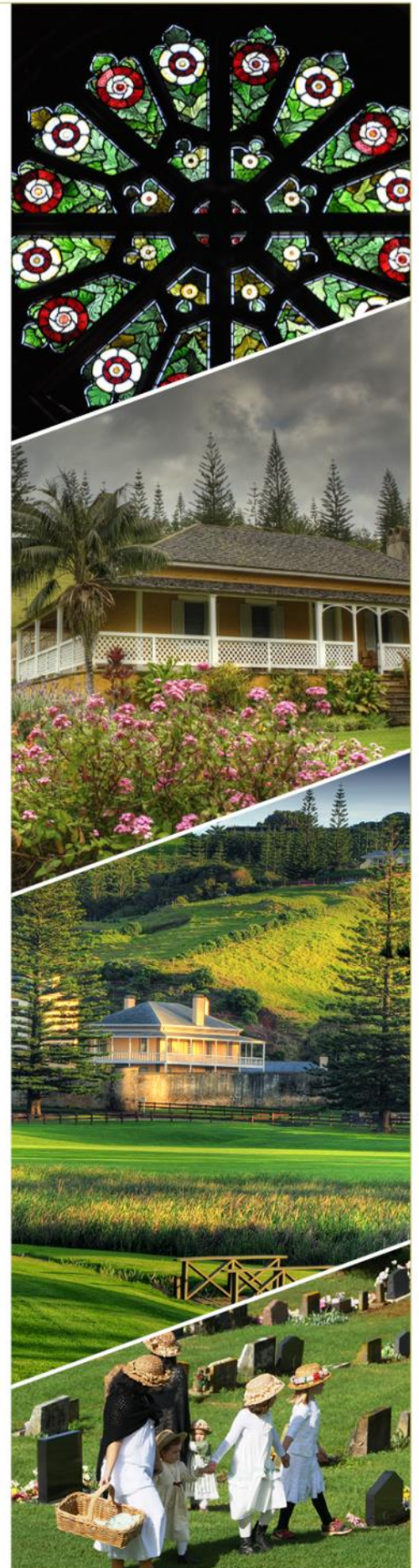
Travel dates from Sydney are **30 July to 6 August 2021**, and from Brisbane **31 July to 7 August 2021**.

Auckland packages will be confirmed once flights have resumed.

Please contact Christan Davies at [christan@travelcentre.nf](mailto:christan@travelcentre.nf) or phone **1800 1400 66** to receive an Information Pack offering a range of accommodation choices including the conference venue, Paradise Hotel and Resort.

## AFFHO Congress Program

<b>Fri 30 July</b>	<b>Sydney arrivals   Auckland arrivals</b>
<b>Sat 31 July</b>	<b>Brisbane arrivals</b> Half Day Island Tours available (Sydney/Auckland) Trade Show – Bump-in
<b>Sun 01 Aug</b>	Trade Show – Rawson Hall
<b>Mon 02 Aug</b>	Half Day Island Tours available (Brisbane)
<b>Tues 03 Aug</b>	<b>Congress Day 1</b> Welcome from hosts and AFFHO opening speaker – Ray Martin
<b>Wed 04 Aug</b>	<b>Congress Day 2</b>
<b>Thurs 05 Aug</b>	<b>Congress Day 3</b> Closing of Congress Congress Dinner A (Sydney/Auckland travellers)
<b>Fri 06 Aug</b>	<b>Sydney departures   Auckland departures</b> Congress Dinner B (Brisbane travellers)
<b>Sat 07 Aug</b>	<b>Brisbane departures</b>



Details: [www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/event/history-in-paradise-2021-affho-congress/](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/event/history-in-paradise-2021-affho-congress/)

## 2020 EM Fletcher Award – Winner Announced!

The winners of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra E.M. Fletcher Award were announced on Saturday 3rd October.

Sixty guests gathered for a socially distanced event in anticipation of the announcement of the award winner.

Special guest John Fletcher, son of Eunice Fletcher – for whom our competition is named, spoke about his mother’s passion for family history and writing. He also reminisced about the many family history excursions he’d had as a young lad, recalling the cemetery visits with Eunice and Neville. John also presented the winner’s award.



*Some of our socially distanced attendees.*

Judges Kerrie Gray, Barbara Moore and Professor Peter Stanley paid tribute to the entrants, saying the quality of the writing and storytelling was high. Speaking at the event, Kerrie said ‘Excellent stories are very hard to separate, but I think the four things that really lifted the shortlisted entries were a strong beginning that immediately captured interest, questions left unanswered, the way the characters were brought to life and inspiring or challenging me to take my own research further’.

Fifty four entries were received across a vast range of topics and styles. Thank you to all the entrants from across Australia – we appreciate your support of this competition. Selecting the winner was clearly a difficult decision.

### And the Winner is.....

Congratulations to the winner, David Wintrip, for his story A Lamb’s Tale. In commending the winning entry, the judges commented that ‘writing of this quality in a creative (and even risky) form deserves recognition’. Following the presentations, the audience enjoyed a reading of David’s emotionally moving historical story about a shepherd who took his own life – read by Kerrie Gray.

All short-listed entries will be published in the Society’s December 2020 edition of The Ancestral Searcher. Copies of the journal can be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 (plus postage) by emailing [editor@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:editor@familyhistoryact.org.au).

Congratulations to all the short listed authors and to our winner David Wintrip.



*Judges L-R: Kerrie Gray, Professor Peter Stanley and Barbara Moore.*



*Gina Tooke accepting the winners award from John Fletcher on David’s behalf - elbow tipping!*



A big thank you to volunteers on the day, Danny O’Neill, Robyn Heggen, Jeanette Hahn and committee members Barbara Broad, Judy Loy, and Gina Tooke for their efforts in organising the event. A special thank you to committee member Rosemary McKenzie who was our outstanding emcee for the day.

*Competition committee L-R: Rosemary McKenzie, Gina Tooke, Barbara Broad and Judy Loy.*

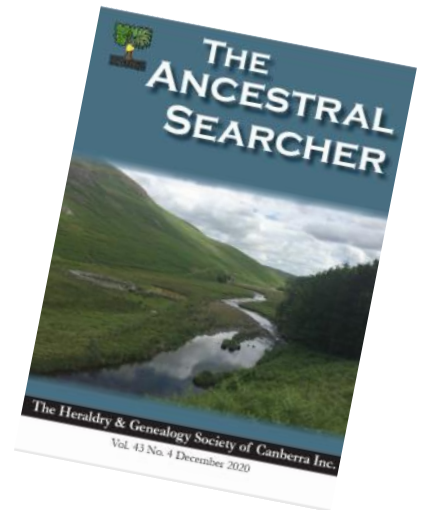
Some of our winners who were in attendance on the day.

L-R: Robyn Hipkiss, Clare McGuinness, Penny Graham and Gail Reekie



The 2020 winning and shortlisted entries were published in The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra's December 2020 edition of *The Ancestral Searcher*.

Currents and Tides	Beverley Richardson	
A View to Die For	Penny Graham	Encouragement Certificate
The Shocking Story of One Man and his family	Jane Robinson	
Waterloo Bridge 1827	Gail Reekie	First Highly Commended
One Day in April	David Wintrip	Highly Commended
A Lamb's Tale	David Wintrip	<b>WINNER</b>
How DNA Solved a Family Mystery	Denise Page	
A Courageous Woman	Robyn Hipkiss	Highly Commended
Frank, 1941	Ross Cleary	
Donny	Ross Cleary	
Unexpectedly Touching the Past	Clare McGuinness	Highly Commended
The Bookcase	Julia Ryan	Encouragement Certificate
Survival	Kathryn Coughran	Encouragement Certificate



Copies of the journal can be purchased for \$5.00 each (plus postage) but be quick as stocks are limited. To order please email [bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au).

The stories are creative and evocative across diverse topics and genres. It is also interesting to see the many ways in which we can share our family history research. Well worth a read!

## Heather Garnsey – HAGSOC Honorary Fellow

At The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. AGM on 3 November 2020, Heather Garnsey was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Society. Heather is most well known for her role as EO of SAG, from which she recently retired. Her work supporting family history nationally and internationally has been beneficial both directly and indirectly to HAGSOC. She has supported the HAGSOC Education and Events program and has been a speaker at many of the weekend conferences and monthly meetings. Part of the citation read:

*“Heather has contributed to a number of publications - and a search of the NLA catalogue will provide an interesting reading list for you to check. Included in her work was a contribution under the umbrella of AFFHO and the publication of several editions of a popular book Cemeteries in Australia co-authored with her colleague Martyn Killion. Copies of this publication was purchased and sold for profit in the HAGSOC book shop.”*



Congress Dinner  
2018

Heather attended the meeting via Zoom and was pleased to accept the award.