

2022 Conference Progress Report
To the NFHS Management Committee
19 May 2022 10am – noon

The 2022 Conference Committee continues to work hard.

We have met three times (on 11 March, 8 April, and 13 May) since our decision to host Friday, 16 September and Saturday, 17 September as a totally virtual event after the style of Port Macquarie's most successful 2021 Conference. Sunday, 18 September will take the form of a one-day local trade fair in the extensive grounds of the Barracks. We expect that predominantly Hunter Valley FHS/HSs will attend, however, all are welcome.

The vast majority of the feedback we have received has been very positive. Most people are still cautious of attending large gatherings due to the continuing presence of Covid in the community and welcomed our decision.

The Port Macquarie 2021 Conference Committee remains an invaluable source of support for us, generously providing their time and guidance whenever called upon. Because of this, our NFHS IT Manager now feels relatively comfortable guiding us through the process of piecing together two days of a virtual program which will be presented via Zoom and YouTube.

Emails have been sent out to potential sponsors and exhibitors. Requests have been forwarded to family history societies and others inviting their participation in the Conference. Speakers have been contacted once again and provided with information regarding their presentations and an easy step-by-step set of instructions for those requiring assistance videoing their talks.

Although initially slow, we have recently begun receiving an influx of prizes for the virtual raffle and offers of sponsorship. As these arrive the details are entered onto the website and the Facebook Page to keep everyone abreast of our progress. We are also receiving details from potential virtual exhibitors.

Maitland and Beyond FH are organising the Local Trade Fair on the Sunday as they have done many times before. Invitations are going out to Hunter Valley FHS/HSs as well as other groups inviting them to

participate. The day will also include a BBQ lunch along with morning and afternoon teas available. A Convict Bonnet Display will be set up in the meeting room of the Barracks.

We have recently begun an official Twitter account following requests from conference goers last year. A blog has also recommenced on our website to keep everyone in touch with recent developments.

We are currently looking into the use of *Try Booking* for the virtual raffle ticket sales and possibly also for the virtual registrations.

We have recently heard back from our major sponsor, Ancestry Australia, to confirm their 2022 participation in the Conference. We have also had confirmation from MyHeritage and Find My Past who are very keen to participate and have a greater presence at our Conferences. As always, Marilyn and Chris Rowan have been extremely generous with their contributions.

Our next meeting is on Friday, 10 June. The Committee will continue working towards our mid-September Conference with diligence and enthusiasm.

Mel Woodford
2022 Conference Convenor.