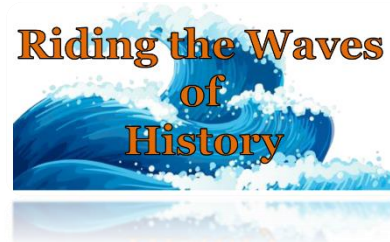


**Conference Report – To Be Presented to the  
NSW/ACT Association of FHS on 25 September  
2022 at 3pm.**



**By the time of our NSW & ACT Association AGM on Sunday, 25 September, the 2022 State Conference will be over. It is hoped that the two virtual days together with the one-day local trade fair will have been a great success.**

**The Conference Committee has worked hard to present this year's conference. Most of the team are the same people who worked laboriously on the 2020 Conference which, sadly, did not come to fruition due to the impact of Covid 19.**

**Initially, we had hoped to present a hybrid conference in 2022 where we met face-to-face as is our usual custom, but also included a virtual component which proved so popular last year.**

**Our initial approaches to the larger venues in Newcastle however, soon dashed any hopes we had of securing a reasonably priced venue which would accommodate our usual requirements. In the wake of Covid, these venues had either ceased to hold events such as ours or had trebled their prices. We needed to look further afield or once again consider holding a virtual conference. The continuing presence of Covid in the community and the unstable nature of face-to-face events help us to make the decision. Unsurprisingly, quite a number of potential conference attendees indicated that they were relieved not to have to decide whether or not to attend a face-to-face event.**

**Emails were sent out to potential sponsors and exhibitors. Requests were forwarded to family history societies & others inviting their participation in the conference. Speakers were contacted once again and provided with information regarding their presentations & an easy step-by-step set of instructions for those requiring assistance recording their talks. All speakers have worked hard to present interesting & engaging presentations. Some have chosen not to record a video of themselves speaking along with their voice over – we respect their choice.**

**Although initially slow, we received a large number of prizes for the virtual raffle & offers of sponsorship. As these arrived the details were entered onto the website & the Facebook Page to keep everyone abreast of our progress. We also received details from potential virtual exhibitors.**

**It has been pleasing to see the number of family history societies which have opted to hold a Mini-Conference Event in their rooms as many had hoped to do last year. It is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the two virtual days with like-minded others.**

**Our NFHS IT Manager has taken a keen interest in learning how put together a YouTube Presentation similar to that which was presented by PMDFHS last year.**

**The same presentation will be available via Zoom thus allowing those who wish to ask questions of the presenters via the chat function to do so. All presentations, the Goody Bag, & the Virtual Exhibitors will remain available to conference registrants for one week following the conference.**

**The Local Trade Fair scheduled for Sunday, 18 September, has attracted over twenty five stall holders. This gathering of Family History Societies and Historical Societies shows the very genuine interest groups have in coming together to assist the public, to exhibit, and to meet together as promoters of family & local history. It is hoped that this local day will continue as an annual event at Maitland & Beyond Family History rooms.**

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2021 State Conference Team from PMDFHS for their generous support. They have made themselves available on so many occasions to assist us with our planning. Their guidance has been invaluable & we acknowledge their support with gratitude.**

**A full Conference Report will be made available after all aspects of the conference have been finalised & our books have been audited.**

**Mel Woodford**

**2020/2022 Conference Convenor**