

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.



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Library Hours:
Thurs: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Sat: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Newsletter

Number 224

WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL—see page 3

Our June Journal is always a popular theme
Free choice

Deadline for articles: **6 May 2023**

May 2023

May Meeting

Tuesday 2 May—7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

**Meeting will be held in the Rooms
and via Zoom**

The Annual General Meeting of the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. has been called for Tuesday 2 May 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Society rooms at 68 Elder Street, Lambton as well as by Zoom.

All positions on the Management Committee will be declared vacant and nominations are now sought for the following elected positions:

President
Vice-president
Treasurer
Secretary
General Member 1
General Member 2
General Member 3

Nomination forms for the above elected positions have been sent to members, are available at the Society's rooms and on our website. Forms must include the signature of the nominee, proposer and seconder as well as the date. Reminder that nominations close on 24 April 2023 and forms should be emailed to the Secretary or placed in the provided envelope and left in the Secretary's pigeon hole at the Society.

Our Society depends on people volunteering for roles not only such

as those mentioned above, but also for the many non-elected positions which keep the Society running. You are encouraged to self-nominate for any of the following:

Assistant Secretary	Assistant Treasurer
Librarian	Assistant Librarian
Publications Officer	Journal Editor
Research Coordinator	Maintenance Officer
IT Officer	Membership Registrar
Facebook Administrator	Courses Coordinator
Sandgate Group Coordinator	Website Coordinator
Guest Speaker Coordinator	Snippers Coordinator
Cleaning Coordinator	Newsletter Editor
Events Coordinator	Publicity Officer

Forms for the non-elected positions are available with the elected position forms with the self-nominee required to sign, date the form and return to the Secretary by 24 April 2023.

Email to Newcastle Family History Society Secretary on:

<mailto:nfhsinc@gmail.com>

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the 2 May AGM meeting.

If you would like to join by Zoom but feel you need some assistance, please contact our Secretary (email address above).

The Zoom meeting connection is below. Please note the link to join the Zoom meeting changes each month.

Agenda and draft 2022 AGM minutes are attached to the newsletter.

Mel Woodford (Vice-President)

Topic: **2023 NFHS AGM**

Time: **May 2, 2023 07:30 PM** Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87614093703?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87614093703?pwd=bzVHMWdiOGh5U0V6NEp0RU50SDNhcz09)

[pwd=bzVHMWdiOGh5U0V6NEp0RU50SDNhcz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87614093703?pwd=bzVHMWdiOGh5U0V6NEp0RU50SDNhcz09)

Meeting ID: 876 1409 3703

Passcode: 486448

Congratulations

to our Easter raffle winners

1st prize—Marilyn Brown

2nd prize—Maree Shilling



Overview of April Monthly Meeting

Our April meeting proved to be very interesting. Lesley Gent OAM presented a brief history on the RAAF 77 Squadron (brief because she said it is very difficult to cram 80 years of history into 45 minutes). As Jane commented “I didn’t know how much I didn’t know” and I think this was agreed to by most people in the meeting. We had 12 in the rooms and six on Zoom to enjoy the presentation.



77 Squadron was formed in March 1942 at the RAAF Station at Pearce in Western Australia when it was realised the threat that was coming through the Pacific to Australia by the Japanese. Following contact with America, they provided Australia with some Kittyhawk planes. At this time, Dick Cresswell was the Commanding Officer. The Squadron’s motto is “Swift to Destroy” with their crest featuring an oriental temple lion, being a legacy of the Squadron’s role in the Korean War. The lion represents “a defender of peace, which when disturbed, is swift to destroy”. It is affectionately nicknamed the “grumpy monkey”.

From Perth, in August 1942, the Squadron was relocated to Batchelor Airfield near Darwin. The troops were transferred via an ex-cattle train to Alice Springs and then by road to Darwin. When Cresswell was questioned by the CAS as to why it took so long to get there, he replied “Have you ever looked at a map of Australia, Sir?” A Kittyhawk is pictured to the right at Batchelor Airfield.



Over the next 13 months, the Squadron transferred to six islands. Each time the troops went ahead to mend airstrips and perform other tasks so the aircraft could land. They firstly transferred to Gurney Airstrip, Milne Bay in New Guinea. The troops went by sea from Townsville in an ex-cattle boat. Malaria was rampant. To their distress, as well as taking tablets, in the heat they had to wear long trousers and long sleeves. Whilst in Milne Bay the Japanese attacked and 77 lost one Kittyhawk and pilot. The Kittyhawk had a roundel on it (a circular shape which looked like a target) which was very obvious for the Japanese to aim at. The ground at Milne Bay was covered with Marsden matting (pictured).

The next move was to Goodenough Island, Vivigani Airstrip, NG. During a raid here, Cresswell’s successor Flight Lieutenant Daryl Sproule, after having to crash land on a beach, was captured and executed by the Japanese. A number of concerts were held by the troops and it was amazing how much incredible talent there was. Next move was to Los Negros Island, Momote Airstrip, part of the Admiralty Islands, NG. Here they found the conditions appalling. For the first few weeks Japanese bodies littered the area, as a result over 20% of ground crews suffered malaria or dysentery. Their primary duty was providing air cover for Allied shipping, though no Japanese aircraft were encountered; they also flew ground-attack missions in support of US troops on Manus Island.

Then on to Noemfoor Island, Kamiri Airstrip, in western NG to support the American landings along the north coast of NG. Due to a lack of water, petrol was used for everything including washing of clothes. Tragically one man died due to his overalls catching fire after being washed in the fuel. Cresswell returned for a second time as Commanding Officer. From Noemfoor, the Squadron moved on to Morotai, Wama Airstrip, Indonesia where they conducted ground attacks. By this time the war had ended in Europe. The men were issued with two longnecks each, hence there was no flying that day. 77 Squadron then moved on to Labuan in Borneo to support the 9th Australian Division. There were a lot of performances held in the Kookaburra Amphitheatre (pictured) including by Gracie Fields and Smokey Dawson. In Labuan the Squadron received its first Mustangs (pictured). These planes had a huge torque and required a lot of training. The beautiful Kittyhawks became a victim of the scrapheap.



During World War II, 77 lost 18 pilots.

In 1946, the Squadron were transferred to Bofu in Japan and were given a final issue of eight longnecks per man; these were meant to last them the long sea voyage. At Bofu their main operational task was surveillance patrols as well as intensive training and exercises with other Allied forces as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. On their way to Bofu, they had to pass through Hiroshima and reported on the complete devastation of this area.



In 1950, the Squadron was preparing to return to Australia when the Chinese invaded Korea. The RAAF attempted to replace the Mustangs with Sabres however there was no availability for a number of years. Therefore, Meteors, which had great manoeuvrability at higher speeds, were bought from Britain and used for five years. On arrival of the Meteors, 77 transferred to Kimpo in South Korea where they focussed on fighter duties rather than ground attacks. The Squadron had to operate in extremely cold conditions as this photo of a Meteor shows. They were also sent with no winter clothing and had to scrounge to find warm clothes. 77 Squadron returned to Australia in 1954 following the end of hostilities in Korea in 1953.



In 1958, 77 deployed to Butterworth, Malaya equipped with Sabres (pictured on page 3) which were used from 1956-1969. The Malayan Emergency involved Australian troops for 13 years, the longest military commitment up to that time. From 1962 to 1968 the Squadron saw service in Ubon, Thailand. Between November 2001 and February 2002, during the early phase of the war in Afghanistan, four Hornets from 77 were deployed to protect the US base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. In March 2006, the Squadron sent a detachment of air-

Overview of April Monthly Meeting cont

(Continued from page 2)

craft to RAAF Base East Sale, Victoria, to assist with security for the Commonwealth Games being held in Melbourne. 77 deployed to the Middle East in October 2015 as part of Operation Okra, Australia's contribution to the war against the Islamic State.



Mirages (pictured left) were introduced in 1969 and used until 1987. Five pilots were lost in Mirage incidents. These were replaced by Hornets until 2020 before switching to the F A35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters in 2021.



The Squadron was moved around a lot which upset family life. Most detachments are from three to six weeks, three times a year. The 70th anniversary of the signing of the armistice with Korea will occur in July 2023.

Thank you so much to Lesley for taking the time to enlighten us on the activities of the RAAF 77 Squadron. We certainly learnt a lot.

Photos are from Lesley's presentation.

Lea Harris with assistance from Lesley Gent

Journal and Newsletter

June Journal

Our June Journal (No 242) is always a popular choice for members' articles. It is a free choice so you can spread your wings and use your imagination. The eTeam invites you to send in some interesting information or discoveries about your family history with any focus you like. Send your article by **6 May 2023** to nfhseditor@gmail.com.

September Journal

Our September Journal (No 243) has the theme of "My Ancestor Was ..." Let your imagination run wild. Maybe you could share your ancestor's occupation, character, hobby. Send your article by **5 August 2023** to nfhseditor@gmail.com.

Receipt of your Journal

Reminder that our Journal is sent to many members as a PDF. If you would like to change your preference so you receive your Journal as a PDF, please send a message to our Membership Registrar on nfhsmembership@gmail.com.

Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

	Newsletter	Journal
June	13 May	6 May
July	10 June	
August	15 July	
September	12 August	5 August
October	16 September	
November	14 October	
December	11 November	5 November

About the eTeam

The eTeam is a collegiate group who plan and work well together. We have attached our revised Style Sheet to this newsletter so members and contributors can see the decisions that the team makes for every article sent to us.

The eTeam welcomes new members. Do you have time to join this group to help put together and occasionally write for our award-winning Journal? We already have one team member who does the layout and formats each Journal but we need someone to join us to learn how we edit, who may be able to take over from Jane who has now done the editing for over six years. It is a really rewarding position. This is what Jane does and we will soon need someone to take these jobs on. It's not really as bad as it looks!

1. maintain the editor email and the eTeam Gdrive
2. ensure there is enough paper to print the Journal
3. accept contributions
4. do an initial proofread
5. email articles to the two other initial proof readers
6. communicate to contributors any queries or additions that might be added to their article
7. consider and make any corrections suggested by the proof readers
8. send that corrected article and any provided images to the formatter who will add them to the Journal
9. in consultation with the eTeam make editorial decisions regarding content to fill gaps in the Journal
10. coordinate print day

If you are a distance member and feel that you would like to join the team or assist as editor by editing and responding to initial Journal contributions in the Journal email, please contact Jane.

Jane Ison (eTeam)

Events and Outings

Future dates

- 2 May**—Annual General meeting
6 May—Articles due for Journal 242
6 May—Library Orientation—Print (see page 9)
21 May—Whitebridge Cemetery Tour
27 May—Library Orientation —Digital (see page 9)
6 June—Monthly meeting—note 2.00pm—Julie Keating speaking on the Australian Agricultural Company
1 July—Irish SIG Open Day
4 July—Monthly meeting—note 2.00pm—Christmas in July with Trivia and Festive Afternoon Tea
1 August—Monthly meeting—note 2.00pm
5 August—Articles due for Journal 243
12 August—Scottish Open Day (for National Family History Month—see page 5)

- 19 August**—Course 9-11am—details to be advised
5 September—Monthly meeting
3 October—Monthly meeting—Prof Jo May speaking on Newcastle Girls' and Newcastle Boys' High Schools
4 November—Articles due for Journal 244
5 November—English Ancestors SIG Day—note this is a Sunday
7 November—Monthly meeting

Every Monday (except public holidays) from 10.30am—Picnic in the Park—Regent Park, New Lambton. Anyone is welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to have an informal catch-up with other members. Some great discussions occur about any number of family history topics.

Bring your own coffee, morning tea, chair, hat and sunscreen.

Pat Healion (Events Organiser)

Don't forget to make your booking



WHITEBRIDGE CEMETERY TOUR

Sunday, May 21st 2023

Tour Leader: Ed Tonks OAM, local historian

Tours will start at 9.30, 11.30 and 1.30
and last approximately 1½ hours

Whitebridge Cemetery represents the history of the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie area with tales of mining disasters, war service, well-known and not so well-known local people and has some unusual features.

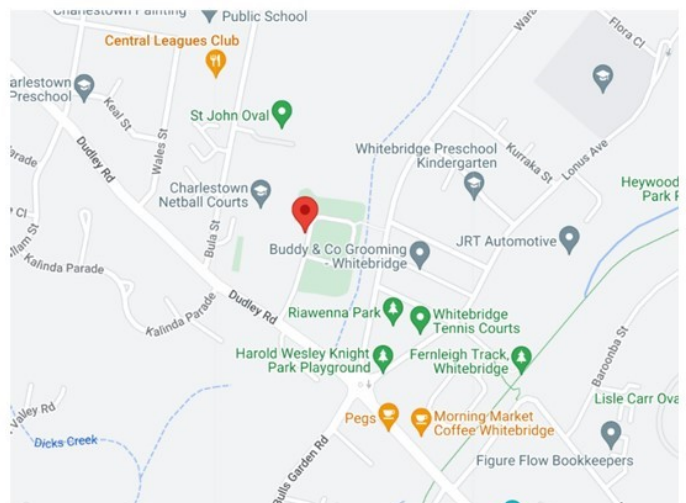


Getting there: 132A Dudley Road, Whitebridge. (Map source: Australian Cemeteries Index)

From Charlestown, take Dudley Road till you see the Netball Courts on the left. The cemetery entrance is just beyond the courts.

Extra information for participants:

- Not wheelchair-friendly or walker-friendly – mainly grassed and sometimes uneven
- Some 'tree litter' on some of the walking areas
- Wear enclosed shoes
- Bring a water bottle (can be refilled from taps in the cemetery)
- There are no toilets in the cemetery – but volunteers can direct you to the nearest facilities



NUMBERS ARE LIMITED TO 15 PER TOUR AND REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

To register please email nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com

Please include: names of all participants, contact phone number, email address

Scottish Open Day



Do you have Scottish ancestry?
Are you interested in Scottish
customs, traditions, superstitions,
scenery, food and more?

Pop this date in your diary to visit the
Society rooms where the Scottish
Special Interest Group will be
presenting all things Scottish

Saturday 12 August 2023
10.00am – 3.00pm

Do you have anything Scottish in your
collection which you would be willing to
include in the display? If so, please send
an email to Mel on

nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com

Covid and Duty of Care

Covid update

From time to time, we need to update our Covid rules so that they reflect the current information provided by the NSW Government. For the most recent information you can visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe>.

Upon arrival at the NFHS you will need to sign in with your membership number, name, time of arrival and phone number. You can also check your temperature. When leaving you will need to sign out.

It is no longer compulsory to wear a mask, but the NSW Government highly recommends it if you are in a public area where you cannot socially distance. Masks will still be available for purchase at the front desk.

As the Delta and Omicron forms of the virus are aerosols, doors will need to remain open to allow through ventilation and the up-

right fans will be used to ventilate the computer area. If the temperature in the rooms warrants it, close the doors and turn on the AC. Please turn off when you leave the room.

Please clean the area where you have been working with the wipes provided as an added protection for yourself and others.

Remember you can always borrow books via 'click and collect' as well as in person. Contact the Librarian at nfhslibrarian@gmail.com to organise click and collect.

We aim to maintain as healthy an environment as possible at the NFHS rooms and all are welcome to attend. Remember to socially distance. If you are still hesitant, wear a mask to safeguard yourself from any aerosol droplets.

If you are unwell, please stay at home.

Management Committee (20 October 2022)

Publications

Publications Group meets: 3rd Friday of even months (except December) from 10.00am to 12.00noon—may be held by email or Zoom depending on the need

General

Our next **Publications meeting** will be held at 10.00am on Friday 16 June 2023 in the Society rooms. Anyone who has any ideas for updates, future publications or suggestions, please contact Jane at nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com. You are all welcome to attend.

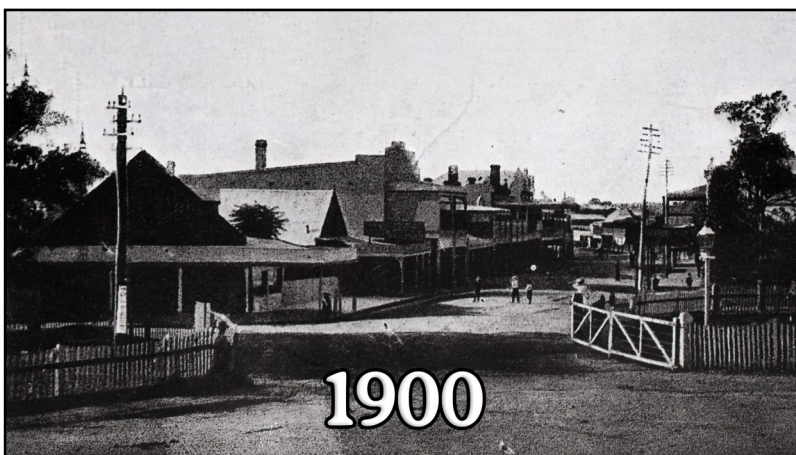
Remember to **continue checking the website as more publications** are added for download.

Vol III of *People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley: Their Stories, Our Heritage* has now been launched (see article on page 7) and many have already received their copy. You can still order your copy by using the form attached to this newsletter email. There are also printed forms on the reception desk that may be used or an email can be sent to the Publications Officer (nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com) outlining the required order. Payment needs to accompany the order.

These publications will not be available for download from our online shop this year.

Because **Wallsend is celebrating it's 150th anniversary** next year, could anyone coordinate the wealth of information already compiled to begin to produce a Wallsend book. If anyone is interested in this, please contact the Publications Officer on nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com.

Jane Ison (Publications Group Co-ordinator)



Nelson Street, Wallsend

<https://www.heritagenow.com.au/wallsendwalk>

Wallsend
150 years old
in 2024

Launch of *People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley: Their Stories, Our Heritage* Vol III—Friday 21 April 2023 at Jesmond Bowling Club

A very enthusiastic crowd gathered at Jesmond Bowling Club for the launch of the Society's latest publication, *People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley: Their Stories, Our Heritage* Vol III on Friday 21 April, at Jesmond Bowling Club.

Co-editor Ken Shilling opened proceedings by acknowledging the traditional owners, welcoming the group and presenting the apologies. Co-editor Maree Shilling thanked the club for being such generous and friendly hosts, and welcomed Society Patron Sonia Honery, who told the group that her history with Ken and Maree extended back to her childhood, as they had both taught at West Wallsend Public School where she had been a student and her mother Roma was the school cleaner. She went on to discuss the importance of preserving records, instancing her own unsuccessful search for information about Monte Pio when writing her Honours thesis and where her mother and aunty had spent part of their childhoods. The only information available was the dates of their entry and departure from that institution.

Maree then gave a background to the publication, including its genesis partly from the Society's tours of Sandgate Cemetery because of all the information 'lying underground', revealed in part from the stories researched and written for the tours. She gave examples of Mary Wilson, the first person buried at Sandgate, an American Civil War veteran and young Bennie Williams, noting the importance of such stories, which 'make us who we are'.

In thanking all the contributors to the three-volume set, Ken made special mention of the late Ann Hudson who had contributed a story about her grandfather William Fraser and noting that some members of Ann's family were in attendance.

Guest speaker Carol Duncan was then introduced. Carol entertained and delighted the audience with her tales of searching for her own family information. Believing that she had no links to Newcastle when she moved here, she discovered links in areas such as Morpeth, Largs, Phoenix Park through an ancestor named John McLean. He came under the Dunmore Lang scheme to introduce skilled and educated Scots to the area. McLean had worked at the port, witnessing the transition from sail to steam; and on the railways, including Newcastle Station. Carol noted that while many claim that one is not a Novocastrian unless at least two grandparents are buried at Sandgate, she believes that one is not Novocastrian unless an ancestor is in a Snowball photograph! She can now claim that because John McLean is one of the men included in a photo of the first steam train to Boolaroo. She also commented on how moving what we find about our ancestors can be, even over 100 years later: John McLean had a son, Lancelot, who became a junior porter at Hamilton. After two weeks on the job, he was killed by a train, which Carol has deduced was a fairly regular occurrence in that area. She believes that it is vital that we find meaning in our own lives and share it with others.

Carol considers it a privilege to have held positions where she was able to help people tell their stories and is extremely proud of the



Carol Duncan, Ken Shilling, Sonia Honery, Mel Woodford, Maree Shilling

Lost Newcastle Facebook group which she initiated and now has 70,000 members. She mentioned being able to help preserve the stories of people like Moya Tolty, who in 1952 became the first female broadcaster; Dr Peter Hendry who brought great changes to the lives of many in Newcastle; and Ruth Cotton who has done so much to preserve the history of Hamilton.

Commenting on one particularly moving story in Volume III, Carol invited the contributing author, Beverley Richardson, to join her at the lectern and outline to the group how she was motivated to write *The Floating World of Elizabeth Rose 1847-1888*. Beverley related how she was inspired by works such as *The Floating World* by John Romeril and *The Lady of Shalott* to tell the story of Elizabeth, her life in Onebygamba (Carrington), the prevalence of TB amongst the female members of the family and the fate of many coffins at Sandgate cemetery in periods of sustained heavy rain.

This in turn prompted Carol to relate a story about a monument restoration worker who had sent her photos of the discovered damage to a coffin in a crypt at Sandgate. While it looked as though it had been damaged by grave intruders, an anthropologist who was expert in studying mass graves, identified the damage as being caused by the volume of water coming through the grave. Carol expressed her hope that dignity had been restored to the corpse as well as to the monument.

Concluding by emphasising how the Society shows such respect by preserving and sharing our local stories in our publications, Carol then launched the book.

In thanking the guest speaker, Mel Woodford commented on the huge amount of history in the room, and that in the amazing collection of stories their subjects live on. She also commented that the Society is fortunate to have Carol Duncan as a member.

Afterwards a large group stayed for lunch at the Bowling Club – a delightful way to end the event with very nice meals and wonderful hospitality provided by everyone from the club. We owe a very large thank you to the Club for their generous support of our Society and to our own Sharyn Boyce for suggesting the venue.

Margaret Ashford

Courses and Learning

Special Interest Groups

Members of the Society are welcome to join one or more groups and share their knowledge as well as learn something new. All the groups meet in the NFHS rooms, monthly at 10.00am unless otherwise stated. Groups and contact details are as follows:

Group	Meeting date	Facilitator	Contact email
Convicts in Australia	1 st Tuesday—will be meeting at West Leagues Club at New Lambton	Laraine Cross	nfhsresearch78@gmail.com
Scottish Family Research	2 nd Tuesday – 1.00pm	Mel Woodford	nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com
English Ancestors	3 rd Tuesday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au
DNA	3 rd Tuesday – 1.00pm	Sandra Jones	sjones11@bigpond.net.au
Irish Ancestors	4 th Tuesday—will be meeting at West Leagues Club at New Lambton	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Cemetery Research	1 st Thursday every 2 nd month—June, August, October, December, February, April	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Ancestry Users	2 nd Thursday	Mel Woodford	nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com
Scrapbooking	4 th Thursday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com

Please email the facilitator to join a group. Any questions, please contact Pat at pat.healion1@gmail.com or text 0427 577598.

Please note **Military Family History SIG** is in recess until further notice.

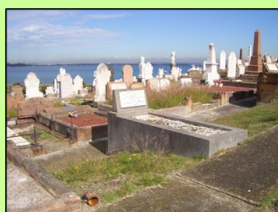
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Cemetery Research SIG

Are you interested in doing some cemetery research? Do you embarrass your family by always visiting cemeteries? Could you combine this interest while contributing to the Society's research items? If you answered yes to any of the above, you might be interested in the

Cemetery Research SIG

What is the group about? It is simply those interested in recording their own family's grave information and of other graves that interest you. It is particularly important if you have family members in unmarked graves. You can start with your family members and then maybe with another interested member or friend, record grave details from nearby graves, record a section of the cemetery, record the whole cemetery, or isolated graves you know the location of.



Our aim is simply to record family and friends' grave information, then branch out. It is an excellent way to browse through a cemetery, get plenty of fresh air and some gentle exercise. We can provide a sheet to record details on and scan them for the Society's files.



We can meet to discuss aims, possibilities and other details at 10am on Thursday 6 April at the NFHS rooms, over the phone or via email.

If you are interested, please contact Pat Healion on 0427577598 or email me at pat.healion1@gmail.com

Library Roster

Date	Librarian 1 (get key)	Librarian 2
Saturday Library Roster		
Morning 9.45am-12.30pm		
Afternoon 12.30pm-3.00pm		
6 May am	Lea H	Karen S
6 May pm	Lea H	Karen S
13 May am	Sharyn B	Sandra J
13 May pm	Sharyn B	
20 May am		
20 May pm		Jude C
27 May am	Marie H	Noelene L
27 May pm	Marie H	
Thursday Library Roster		
1.00-3.00pm		
4 May	Alison M	Clelia P
11 May	Jane I	Rosalie B
18 May	Marilyn M	Jane I
25 May	Karen S	

Library duty—urgent please

We do have a number of gaps in the Library roster for May. If you could spare a few hours, please complete and submit your interest on the form at <https://nfhs.org.au/calendar/>

Attending the Orientation Sessions is not a prerequisite for volunteering on the library roster - you will always be rostered with an experienced volunteer. All our members have valuable experience which they can share with others. Please volunteer if you have the time - the NFHS needs you!!

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Library Orientation 2023

May Orientation will be 6 May for Print and 27 May for Digital. Invitations have already gone out for those sessions to new members or 'rejoiners' who ticked the box on the Membership form to say that they want to do Orientation.

We're gradually working our way through our ever-growing list so if you haven't been invited for May you'll still be on the list for whenever we can plan another set of sessions.

If you are interested or you're unsure whether you've already told us you're interested, please email Marg (nfhsorientation@gmail.com).

Margaret Ashford (Group Leader)

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Tickets for our Mothers' Day Raffle are now available at the rooms or by direct debit to the NFHS.

Our very special thanks to Dennis and Chris Baker for the beautifully handcrafted necklace.

Mothers' Day Raffle

Hand crafted with love
especially for you!



Tickets \$1 each.

Available at the rooms or by d/d

BSB: 650 000 Account No: 501 652 808

Ref: Your Name + MDR

Drawn May 11th at 2pm

A natural lemon quartz stone in a silver setting designed, handmade & donated by Dennis Baker.

Members' Interest Directory

Our Members' Interest Directory is due to be updated this year. Please see the form attached (both Word and pdf formats) to the newsletter email for all members to complete so the database can be revised.

Please email completed forms to [Membership](#) by 30 June 2023. Thank you.

We are still deciding on how we are going to produce the MID this year - whether it will be digital, hardcopy, or just available on our website. What are your thoughts? Please contact Sharyn by email at [Membership](#) or by phone on 0408 629 768.

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

Membership Renewals

We still have members who haven't renewed their membership to date. Time is running out as our AGM is on 2 May and if you are not a financial member it means you are unable to vote.

For the members who have renewed, your new membership card and receipt are waiting for you in our AIR-CONDITIONED rooms during opening hours.

To renew your membership, please see renewal form attached (both Word and pdf formats) to this newsletter email. **Renewals can be paid by direct debit - please ensure you quote your Name and Member Number in the reference.**

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)



New Members

We welcome the following new members to our Society and we encourage you to enjoy your research in our Library. You are welcome to join any of our Special Interest Groups (SIG) to help with your research.

#1174 Aidan Young
#1286 Kerrie Dash

#1287 Neil and Carolyn Griffiths
#1288 Wendy Mantle

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

Condolences

We are saddened to advise of the recent passing of two of our members.

Daphna Allington was member number 1 of the Society and maintained her membership till 2016. After this long involvement in the Society she donated much of her large collection of family history-related materials to the Society library.

Margaret Engel was a member from 2002 to 2022 and was active as a Management member and Society Librarian. She maintained the collection, organised the volunteer library roster and ran the Library group.

Our thoughts are with the families of Daphna and Margaret.

Solar Panels

Installation has begun on our solar panel installation. If you're at the rooms, you'll notice a trench being dug across the back yard. Please be careful in this area.

Thanks again to the great work by Sharyn Boyce in obtaining the grant for this work to be done.



Miscellaneous

Email Addresses

President	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	nfhinc@gmail.com
Treasurer	nfhstreasurer@gmail.com
Courses	nfhscourses@gmail.com
Events	nfhsevents@gmail.com
Journal	nfheditor@gmail.com
Librarian	nfhslibarian@gmail.com
Maintenance	nfhsmaintenance@gmail.com
Membership	nfhsmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	nfhnewsletter@gmail.com
Orientation sessions	nfhorientation@gmail.com
Publications	nfhpublicationsoficer@gmail.com
Research	nfhresearcher@gmail.com
Sandgate group	nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com
Used book sales	nfhslibarian@gmail.com
Webmaster	nfhwebmaster@gmail.com

Snippers Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10.00am to 2.00pm

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Attachments from other Societies

Wyong FHG May Meeting—13 May 2023—speaker Trish Skehan—*Frontline of the Pandemic: Australia 1919*

Wyong FHG—*What's Happening Autumn 2023 Guide*

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Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

Copyright Licencing Agreement

Previous newsletters have given an explanation about our new Newcastle Family History Society Inc. Copyright Licencing Agreement and a copy of the actual Agreement.

Thanks to all those who have already signed and submitted the Agreement. A reminder to those who have not as yet done this, you still can.

Mel Woodford (Vice-President)

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Change of password for member area of website

As of **Wednesday 3 May**, the password for the Member area of our website will be **68Elder**.

Note: 68Elder is all one word.

Disclaimer

Although all reasonable care is taken, the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of information, which is printed in good faith from other sources, or for any opinions expressed in this newsletter.

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Family History ACT (FHA)CT 2023 E.M. Fletcher Short Story Writing Competition

Our very talented NFHS member, Beverley Richardson, won the coveted prize last year.

<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetitioninformation>

<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetition>

Use these links above. As the image to the right is only an image, those links don't work.

2023 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award Family History ACT (FHA)CT

The E.M. Fletcher writing competition is open now until 15 July 2023. All information about how to enter is available [here](https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetitioninformation).

This exciting short story writing competition is back for 2023, with cash prizes - 1st prize of \$1,000 sponsored by Family History ACT, 2nd prize \$500 sponsored by the University of Tasmania and a special Family History ACT member only prize of a \$100 society voucher. The competition will be judged to select the best short story of 1,500 – 2,000 words on a family history / genealogy theme.

We also welcome **three new judges** to the 2023 competition – Heather Garnsey, Bernadette Thakur and Jenny Higgins.

Heather is best known for her 35 years working with the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). She retired from this very full-time position in February 2020 hoping to finally spend more time on her own family history. Heather is an Honorary Fellow of FHA)CT.

Bernadette was awarded the T.T. Reed Family History Book Award in 2021 for her book *Irish Settlers in South Australia: the Hayes and O'Toole Families*. This Award is made annually by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society to the person producing the best family history in a given calendar year.

Jenny is a long term FHA)CT member and has been researching family history for over forty years, working as a private researcher and a family history librarian at the National Library of Australia. She is currently employed as a family history researcher at the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the Australian National University.

Every family has a story - write yours now!

<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetitioninformation>



UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

May

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Red —SIG Groups Blue —Volunteer Groups Green —Courses Purple —Meetings Black —Library Open Brown —Events	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Convicts in Australia 6-7.25pm—Library open 7.30pm—Annual General Meeting	10am-2pm—Snippers	1-3pm—Library open		9-11am—Library Orientation (Print) 10am-3pm—Library open Articles due for Journal 242
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	1pm—Scottish Fam Research		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Editing meeting—Journal 242 12.00-4.00pm—Publications printing	10am-3pm—Library open Submissions due for June newsletter
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	12.00-12.30—Cover printing—Journal 242	10am-3pm—Library open
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Whitebridge Cemetery Tour	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am—Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Journal printing—Journal 242	9-11am—Library Orientation (Digital) 10am-3pm—Library open
28	29	30	31			
	10.30am—Picnic in the park					

June

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Red —SIG Groups Blue —Volunteer Groups Green —Courses Purple —Meetings Black —Library Open Brown —Events				10am—Cemetery Research 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm—Library open 2.00pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Feedback/Planning Journals 242/243 12.00-4.00pm—Publications printing	Library closed due to King's birthday long weekend Submissions due for July newsletter
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	King's Birthday 	1pm—Scottish Fam Research		10am—Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	10am-12.00 Publications meeting	10am-3pm—Library open
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Irish Ancestors		1-3pm—Library open		

July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm—Library open 10am-3pm—Irish Open Day Articles due for Journal 243
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm—Library open 2.00pm—General Meeting—Xmas in July and Trivia	10am-2pm—Snippers	1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open Submissions due for August newsletter
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	1pm—Scottish Fam Research		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	10.00-4.00pm—Publications printing	10am-3pm—Library open
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am—Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open
30	31					
	10.30am—Picnic in the park					

August

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events		10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm—Library open 2.00pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Cemetery Research 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm—Library open Articles due for Journal 243
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	1pm—Scottish Fam Research		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Editing meeting—Journal 243 12.00-4.00pm—Publications printing	10am-3pm—Library open 10am-3pm—Scottish Open Day Submissions due for September newsletter
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm—Snippers	10am—Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	10am-12.00 Publications meeting 12.00-12.30—Cover printing—Journal 243	10am-3pm—Library open
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	10.30am—Picnic in the park	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am—Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00—Journal printing—Journal 243	10am-3pm—Library open
27	28	29	30	31		
	9.30-11.30am—Library Group 10.30am—Picnic in the park			1-3pm—Library open		