

From the President

Wow! What a wonderful month of family history! I hope you all were able to participate in many of the activities organised by your society and other societies as part of National Family History Month. I was down the coast for a week during the month and visiting the local Batemans Bay Library found they had a display for National Family History Month and some related activities throughout the month.

Our month got off to a cracking start with **Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart** and **Andrew Redfern** looking at the pros and cons of using artificial intelligence. This topic inspired many of the events throughout the month and a great deal of discussion.

Unfortunately, there was not enough numbers to conduct our closing event, and it had to be cancelled. It was an in person event for lunchtime Thursday. It would seem that Zoom has become embedded in our event culture and people want the convenience of attending virtually from the convenience of their own home or watching a recording. There were of course many people outside Sydney who were disappointed not to be able to participate. I think we can agree that in future NFHM Opening and Closing Ceremonies should be at a Zoom event and if technically feasible, a hybrid event. AFFHO council has taken this on board and it has been one of our lessons learned.

Our sponsors really came through for us and there were many prizes on offer throughout the month. A big thank you to Alex Daw, our National Family History Month Coordinator, and to Jan Squire our webmaster who had the primary responsibilities for organising the month and making sure all the technology related to it ran smoothly.

Unfortunately for us, Jan has decided to retire as webmaster after 5 years and we are looking for a new volunteer to fill the role. If you have interest and capacity please read the description on the next page, and contact us on the email provided.

The next *Newsflash* is scheduled for 1 December 2023, so if you have any contributions or events or reminders for over Christmas and early 2024 please send the items to editor@affho.org.



Rosemary McKenzie, President AFFHO

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

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.

AFFHO Council 2023-2024

Rosemary McKenzie	ACT	President	Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Association Rep.
Greta Gordon	NZ	Vice President	Jenny Harkness	VAFHO	Association Rep.
<i>Vacant</i>		Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	QLD	Association Rep.
Fay Carbis	QLD	Treasurer	AFFHO Officers		
Sonya Russell	NSW	Councillor	June Penny	Public Officer and Archivist	
<i>Vacant</i>	NT		Alex Daw	National Family History Month Coordinator	
<i>Vacant</i>	SA		Shauna Hicks	Nick Vine Hall Award Coordinator	
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor	Jan Squire	Webmaster	
Jacqueline van Bergen	VIC	Councillor	Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Compiler	
Peter Forrestal	WA	Councillor	contributions to editor@affho.org		

Winner! Winner!

The winners of the National Family History month prizes have been drawn and they are listed below. A huge thank you to our prize sponsors. Your support continues to provide incentive and ability to continue with the family history research that we love.

Prizes for Individuals

- Jane H - Unlock the Past publications (print and ebooks) - value \$50
- Gina T - 1 x 12 month World subscription MyHeritage
- Jan G - 1 x \$150 Memento voucher
- Diana - 1 x DNA Conference ticket for November 2023 and printed copy of *The Good Genealogist* book
- Kerry T - \$100 Genealogy ebooks
- Cheryl B - Unlock the Past publications (print and ebooks) value \$100
- Edwina S - copy of *Family History for Beginners and Beyond* HAGSOC
- Chris W - copy of *Every Family Has a Story 2022* HAGSOC
- Jane W - GSQ membership
- Judy W - education credits up to the value of \$150 GSQ
- Lyn J - 2 hrs research GSV
- Elizabeth K - QFHS Membership
- Paul T - three free QFHS Learn@ seminars
- Lyn R - Ancestry DNA kit
- B N - Ancestry DNA kit
- Darralyn C - 1 x 12 month UK Heritage Plus sub Ancestry
- Geraldine B - 1 x 12 month UK Heritage Plus sub Ancestry



Prizes for Event organisers

- Caloundra FHS - SAG membership
- Hornsby FHG - MyHeritage 12 month World subscription
- Gold Coast FHS - \$300 digital Memento voucher

Thank you to all our Sponsors



Webmaster Role – Volunteer Please!

After 5 years of managing our websites Jan Squire is stepping down from the role at the end of this year. I would like to thank Jan, on behalf of our committee, for her time, dedication and perseverance with at times some difficult issues. We are now looking for a volunteer to take over the webmaster role.

The role will suit someone living in Australia or New Zealand but is not a pre-requisite. The role is available now, with the incumbent available for a hand-over between now and December 2023. Following is a short description of the key information.

- Advise Council on issues relating to technology, AFFHO websites, and NFHM
- Maintain the AFFHO and NFHM websites in good order
- Manage social media as agreed

Skills portfolio:

- Good computer skills including an understanding of websites, hosting, Domain Names and social media.
- Being able to use Cpanel to manage mailing lists, Emails, and identifying possible security issues.
- Familiarity with Joomla, or similar Content systems. Manage website content as directed by Council. Programming skills are not required but are beneficial.
- Management of our Facebook page, having around 3,000 followers.

(Continued on page 3)

(From page 2) - **Webmaster Role – Volunteer Please!**

- Involvement in the National Family History Month, requiring sponsorship and competition website page updates, including image management, and probable posting of news and motivational messages to our Facebook page.
- Attending Council meetings (by Zoom) every second month.

It is not a requirement to be a nominated society representative. If you are able to assist or have any questions please email Jan at webmaster@affho.org.

Discover Captivating Family Stories in a new Short Story Book

Family History ACT is pleased to announce the publication of *Every Family has a Story: Stories from the 2022 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition*.

The book is dedicated to all family historians who share their stories for the benefit and enjoyment of others. Brace yourself for a collection of captivating family history stories that invite you to immerse yourself in the lives of those that came before us. It is a treasure trove of narratives with traditional family history stories grounded in meticulous research to more contemporary family stories.

The 87 stories in this volume canvas themes familiar to family historians, and the many genres in which the stories are told will stimulate you to think in different ways about your own family history, and to find a new voice for telling your stories.

Dr Craig Cormick OAM, a member of the 2022 competition judging panel said, *'The best of the stories submitted were as good as any pieces of writing I have judged in various competitions and showed great talent and skill'*.

Don't wait any longer – order your copy online today through the Family History ACT online bookshop – www.familyhistoryact.org.au.

Collect the entire set and add the 2020 and 2021 editions of *Every Family has a Story*, to your collection. These are also available through the FFACT online bookshop. <https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/online-store>



Roberta enjoying the new 2022 edition with the 2020 and 2021 copies ready to read.

National Family History Month at Wagga Wagga & District Family History Society Inc.

During the month of August (National Family History month) our Society has a display at the entrance to Wagga Wagga City Library, which advertises our group to the wider community. We also have free research for members and visitors during August.

The first meeting of our Society was actually in September 1983, but we decided to celebrate our 40th Anniversary during National Family History month with a morning tea on Monday 7th August at our rooms. It was very well attended, with the Mayor of Wagga Wagga, Dallas Tout, 5 original members, and an apology from our first President (who no longer lives in our area).

The Mayor complimented us on our longevity and our luscious spread of food. The speaker for our August meeting was member Peter Gissing, who spoke of his ancestors, the Brunskill family who were early settlers in the Wagga area. The attendance of members and visitors was outstanding.



Left: Some of the people attending the WWDFHS Family History Month Morning Tea.



Right: Display at the Wagga Wagga City Library celebrating 40 years for the Society.

National Family History Month at Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Wyong Family History Group Inc. is hosting a free Open Day at our Cottage on August 23 from 10.30am. Visitors will be given a tour of our facilities and will join us for a tasty morning tea. Our members will be on hand to answer any questions people may have about family history as a pastime [or obsession!]. From 1pm we will be hosting a Zoom session for members and anyone who wishes to stay on after the morning tea. The topic for discussion is "What you can find, or have found, at the Cottage." We have a vast array of resources which are free for members to use.

The opening topic of AI for Family History has generated a great deal of conversation around the lunch table at the cottage. A number of members have experimented with some of the available programs. The topic has also been mentioned in the latest edition of our quarterly journal, *The Tree of Life*. We hope to cover this topic in more depth at a future seminar or Information session.



Our next major event is the hosting of the NSW/ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference on Sept 8-10 at Toukley. This is a hybrid conference, with in person attendance, individual Zoom attendance and Group Zoom attendance. We have an array of very interesting speakers and a large number of exhibitors taking part in our trade fair. Friday is a free day open to the public. We have a number of raffles running over the weekend, with many excellent prizes on offer. We also hope to launch our latest publication entitled "Servicewomen of the Central Coast- their lives and service". Please see our website for more details on the Conference.

We will also be running another bus trip to Museums of History at Kingswood (previously called State Archives) and a four-week Intermediate level Family History course. We will be recognising Melbourne Cup Day with an afternoon tea, Armistice Day and our last social event for 2023 will be our Christmas luncheon.

2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of our group. To mark this occasion, we held a very successful birthday luncheon on June 3rd this year. A number of members were recognised for lengthy membership terms or specific contributions and those in attendance were informed of the work done by some of our members who are no longer with us. Displays featured scrapbooks made over the years, along with some of our publications.

Lynda Smith, Publicity Officer.



40th anniversary cake for Wyong Family History Group. Some of the group attending the celebrations.



38th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES



THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY
8th – 10th September 2023



National Family History Month at Caloundra Family History Research Inc.

In celebration of National Family History Month, Caloundra Family History recently held a one-day seminar on how to Research Your Convict Ancestor. The event was open to the general public and we had a fabulous turn out. We welcomed three local guest speakers: Helen V. Smith, Shauna Hicks, and Trisha Hyde; and broadened the seminar with presenter Vicki Osborn from the Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc of NSW. Convict Connections and the Fellowship of First Fleeters - Moreton Chapter were represented as seminar exhibitors.

The presenters and exhibitors helped us to better understand what our convict ancestors experienced from their arrest, imprisonment, transportation and their new lives in Australia.

We learnt how to better research the amazing amount of information available in Australian and UK records and were reminded to think laterally and take a look at whether our ancestors were on the other side of the law as police offices, witnesses to crime or members of the jury. A short film produced by the Maitland family history group showed a unique way of telling the stories and experiences of several of their own female convict ancestors and of their Convict Bonnet Project as a touching way to commemorate the founding mothers of the Hunter Valley region.

AI for family history is an interesting concept for family historians, however, we have found our members are in need of assistance with basic computer literacy as well as enhanced research techniques. To that end, CFHRI now has a dedicated Training Officer who runs courses throughout the year for both members and non-members to learn new research skills. Our next course will be open to non-members and held on October 27 and 28, 2023 "Beginners Family History Research Course for Seniors". This is a repeat of our highly successful course that was run in 2022 as part of Seniors Month. The training sessions break down the daunting task of where to begin and how to manage your information. We explore where to find the information you need looking at both digital and hard copy records and how to successfully navigate them.

CFHRI training continues with our War Histories of Our Soldiers Project. Our Training Officer guides members through the complex maze of information available on Australians who have fought for their country to enable members to complete a comprehensive war story on their ancestor. We aim to publish these stories in the future.

During the remainder of this year, CFHRI will be supporting the 2023 IAgeWell Festival on Tuesday 10 October, 2023. This is a great event to showcase – not only to the general public, but to other exhibitors - what our group of family history enthusiasts is all about. We will also be supporting our local council on October 21 and 22 by conducting our popular historic walking tours of Bulcock Street and Bulcock Beach as part of the Sunshine Coast Open House Festival 2023.

We have three general meetings yet to run before dusting off the tinsel for Christmas and we have an excellent line up of guest speakers. Held the third Thursday of each month, we are welcoming Moya Sharp, OAM to talk about the Goldfields of Western Australia, Pauline Cass will be talking about copyright, privacy and ethics; and John Blow (and yes that is his real name) will present on a Sandakan death march survivor.

In May 2023 Caloundra Family History Research Inc celebrated its 30th Birthday! We had a glorious sunny day for the event which was held under marquees at our headquarters at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. President, June Blackburn, welcomed our long-standing patrons, Mark and Judy McArdle, representatives from other local history societies, Committee Members and members past and present including a few founding members. CFHRI launched an anniversary book detailing our groups' 30-year history. Founding members shared the trials of researching in pre-internet days when all they had to rely on were print books, microfiche and BDM certificates and how CFHRI grew from this group of friends researching at the local Caloundra library to the group it is today with 115 members.

For any more information or questions contact Jan Swift, Publicity Officer, publicity@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au.



*CFHRI members Cathy Meyer and Colleen Jones
Convict Seminar 2023*



Purple-shirted CFHRI walk. Leaders Patricia Wilson and Julia Richardson. May 2023

History Queensland Inc. Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group Inc.

Happy 155 years birthday in 2023

We acknowledge the First Nations Turrbal People – past, present, and emerging, and the pioneer settlers' families who settled and established "Christ Church Tingalpa" in 1868, and parishioners of the Bisham Church, UK who helped fund the Church. The Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group are also celebrating 21 years, so thank you to our members, patrons, and community who have protected and preserve our "bush cathedral" for future generations.



- (1) The first Christ Church 1868, designed by Brisbane architect RG Suter, was later demolished due to damages caused by a cyclone on 5 December 1885.
- (2) "Christ Church" 1906: Materials were salvaged from the previous church, to construct the second smaller church.
- (3) Tingalpa Pioneers Chapel and Cemetery 2023 stands proudly thanks to the support of the Anglican Church, the Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group and our community.

The "Circle of Life" meeting events space provides important extra seating overlooking the Chapel, Bell Tower and Cemetery. Thanks Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Visit Tingalpa Pioneers Chapel & Cemetery on Pioneer Decoration Day 2023, a fun fete event Sat 7 October 9am-12pm. Everyone is welcome.

Pioneer

Decoration Day 2023

Tingalpa Chapel

Fun Fete Event

SAT 07

OCT

9AM - 12PM

midday

1341 Wynnum Rd

Tingalpa

For more information

0490 386 396

Historical Traditional Service 10am

Free Entry

- Live Music From The Qld Choir And Local Performers.
- History Displays
- Pioneer Dressing Photo Booth
- Austin 7 Club & Historical Motorcycle Club Of Qld. Will Be Showcasing

Cash & Effpos Available

- Lions Sausage Sizzle
- Coffee Cart
- Ice Cream Van
- Popcorn Stall
- Market Stall Vendors
- Rotary \$1 Book Sale

Parking at Smiths Dips

- Free Native Plants For First 50x Attendees
- Self Guided Tours
- Local History Talks
- Great Raffles Available
- Lucky Door Prizes

National Family History Month at Genealogy Sunshine Coast Inc.

Genealogy Sunshine Coast held a very successful stall at the Queensland Garden Expo in Nambour in July. We had a constant stream of people calling in to our stand with many questions about their research or just for a general chat. It was a very pleasant event.

We also had a very successful Open Day in May and we are holding another one on the 26th August. This gives the local residents an opportunity to visit our premises and find out what resources we have available.

We are holding Beginners classes for three consecutive Wednesdays commencing on Wednesday 30th August. These will cover topics such as *How and Where to start*, *What records to access* and *Understanding Basic DNA*. The classes start at 9:30am with instruction in the morning and hands on practice in the afternoon.

A workshop is also being held on Saturday 23rd September on *Writing Up Your Family History Journal* using letters and diaries.

All workshops and events are open to not just our members, but also to the public and are held at our premises in Petrie Park Road (opposite the swimming pool) in Nambour.

<https://sites.google.com/site/genealogysunshinecoastinc> .



The display created for the Qld Garden Expo 7-9 July.

Unravelling the Tapestry of Time

There are some captivating stories in contention to win the 2023 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award.

The short story writing competition closed on 15 July and 109 stories were submitted from entrants in all States and Territories across Australia. This is an amazing response and confirms that the E.M. Fletcher writing competition is truly a national competition.

This year's competition reflects the enduring support of family historians to write and share their stories. It's pleasing to see the variety in topics and writing styles, which range from traditional family history stories grounded in historic context, to more contemporary family stories and personal narratives.

Entries are in contention to win the first prize of \$1,000 sponsored by Family History ACT, a runner-up prize of \$500 sponsored by the University of Tasmania, and a special FHACT member prize.

Our 2023 judging panel Heather Garnsey, Jenny Higgins and Bernadette Thakur now have the task of reading and assessing the entries and the difficult decision to select a short list.

The winners will be announced at a special online and in-person event in early October. Keep an eye on the Family History ACT website in the coming weeks for more information about this event and how to reserve your place.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a story in the 2023 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition.



FAMILY
HISTORY
ACT

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA



A full and exciting year Newcastle Family History Society

Newcastle Family History Society has had a full and exciting year in 2023. We have enjoyed numerous interesting and varied guest speakers at our monthly meetings. Coming up shortly we look forward to hearing from Assoc Prof Jo May speaking on Newcastle Girls' and Newcastle Boys' High Schools; and Louise Evans' presentation From Hippocrates to Modern Day, a medical terminology presentation. These presentations can be viewed on our recently launched YouTube channel.

The Society has a number of active Special Interest Groups (SIGs) where interested members can join together to further their research or interests. For National Family History month our Scottish Family Research SIG held a very successful Open Day showcasing the Library's resources as well as many members' memorabilia. We had over 100 people visit the rooms to enjoy entertainment by a piper, Robert Burns' poetry readings and a piping in of the haggis.

This year the Newcastle Family History Society celebrates 40 years since the Society was formed and our December Journal with the theme of Memories will highlight some interesting stories about the Society. One of our members was also successful in obtaining a grant for the Society to have solar panels installed.



Scottish Open Day – 12 August 2023 Left to Right: Piper, Ian Innes. Sheila Farrell being piped in with the haggis. Mick Farrell cutting and delivering the "Address to the Haggis". Part of a book and poster display.

Do your research justice in a premium photo book

Momento is one of our sponsors for National Family History Month.

Everyone has a story to tell, and every child deserves to learn about the family who came before them. Give relatives, now and in the future, the joy of connecting with their heritage by presenting your research in a premium photo book keepsake.

Momento Photo Books free software makes it easy to layout your historical photos, graphics and text in a professional-looking design, care of its automated templates and manual tools. They also promise to produce your publication with world class printing and binding, that will stand the test of time.

They're offering members of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation, and their members, an exclusive 25% off all photo books until 31 August 2024* and invite you to join their How to create a Momento Family History photo book session via zoom on 31 October from 7.00pm.

To register with Momento or the zoom session, to redeem the offer, and view excellent family history book designs, head to momento.com.au/partner/AFFHO.





50th Anniversary South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society

The South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner on Saturday 19th August with 80 members and staff or family of members in attendance. Members from throughout the Society's lifetime attended and it was noted that 13 of the 93 members of the Society who had kept their membership continuously since joining in the first decade of the Society were present.

A special presentation was made to Andrew Peake to commemorate his involvement with the Society over more than 50 years. Andrew was a co-founder of the Society and in December 1971 wrote to the then Bishop of Adelaide, the late Dr

T T Reed, who was interested in heraldry, about starting a genealogy society in South Australia. That led to the formation of the Society in 1973 and Andrew has been involved continuously ever since in many ways on Committees and as a volunteer. He has served on the Society Council for about thirty eight years including holding the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary. He is a current Vice President. He has also written several books on family history sources in South Australia. Andrew has received numerous awards for his contribution to genealogy - the Fellow and Life Member awards from the Society and the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History, the Premier's Certificate for Recognition of Outstanding Volunteer Service and an OAM for service to family history.

As with all the Society's previous anniversary celebrations there was a cake. The cutting of the cake was performed by two members, the member with the longest continuous membership in the Society, Andrew Peake and the most recent new member present, which was Airlie Black. By coincidence Airlie is a daughter of the Society's late patron Dr T T Reed, also a co-founder of the Society.

Society member, editor of the Society journal and social historian, Dr Heidi Ing was the guest speaker at the dinner. Heidi's talk had the title "Collaboration, Contribution, Community" and was largely based upon her experiences with the Society and her perception of its achievements. The ability of the Society to purchase its own premises as a result of the work of the volunteers was noted. The enormous contribution of the Society's volunteers was recognised with the online databases which have supported the Society's success in recent years having a special mention. Some challenges were made for the Society to further develop the capabilities of the online databases and for hybrid meetings for the Special Interest Groups.



Andrew Peake receiving his commemorative award from President Robert Blair

Redcliffe Historical Society Inc Watch this Space 2024!

Redcliffe Historical Society Inc. is in the early stages of planning a series of events to acknowledge the Bicentennial of the first European settlement and penal colony in Redcliffe, Queensland, for September 2024.

RHSQ, Bribie Island Historical Society and HR are organising a Conference "The Moreton Bay Bicentennial Commemoration" to be held on 7 September 2024 at The Komo Conference Centre.

The series of smaller event will be held during the following week culminating in our Main Event in Corsscadden Park, adjacent to the Redcliffe Museum on Saturday 14th September 2024.

Watch This Space by logging into our website <https://historyredcliffe.com.au/2024-200>.



**HISTORY
REDCLIFFE**
REDCLIFFE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.





38th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY 8th – 10th September 2023



At **Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre**, 1 Hargraves Street TOUKLEY
Hosted by

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Speakers include: **Keynote Speaker David Harris MP**
Jill Ball
Michael Bell
Mark Bundy
Kerry Farmer
Gay Hendrikson
Martyn Killion
Jeff Madsen
Michelle Patient
Geoff Potter
Jason Reeve
Richard Reid
[Transcription trio forum:
Joy Murrin, Marilyn Rowan,
Laurence Turtle]

Register and pay online

Registrations for physical attendance will close at 200.

Cost:
Early Bird rate \$175.00
Friday night Meet and Greet \$155.00 if paid by 31st July
Saturday night Conference Dinner \$25.00
Virtual attendance \$65.00
Group Virtual Attendance \$50.00
Group Virtual Attendance \$150.00

Email: wfhgconference@westnet.com.au
Website: The Running Waters of History – Home (weebly.com)



23 Sept
12:30pm - 6:30pm
AEST
via ZOOM

Scotland – here we come! Seminar

Program

- Chris Paton - Discover your Scottish Ancestors. (Recorded)
- Brian Donovan - Scottish Records on Findmypast. (Recorded)
- Lorna Steele-McGinn - Jacobites, the Clearances & emigration from the Highlands. (Recorded)
- Emma Maxwell - Locating Scottish Burial Records. (Recorded)
- Alislaire Henderson - The inexhaustible Source - Scottish Deeds, the forgotten source for family history. (Recorded)
- Laragh Quinney - Discover Historic Maps of Scotland (Live + Recorded)
- Live Q&A with all speakers
- Drawing of raffle & door prizes.

All sessions will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.

Bookings & payment

Early Bird Price if booked by 10 September 2023
GSO/QFHS Members \$50
Non-members \$60
Price from 11 September 2023
GSO/QFHS Members \$60
Non-members \$70

Book online at www.gsq.org.au/events/

Payment may be made by

Credit card (online, by phoning GSO 07 3349 6072 or at GSO)

Cash (at GSO)

Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) OR

Cheque by post GSO, PO Box 9667, Carindale, QLD 4152

Genealogical Society
of Queensland



education.gsq.org.au
www.gsq.org.au/events/