



NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter for February 2024

Message from the President

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Welcome to 2024.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year. I also hope you found some time over the holiday period to make some new discoveries in your family history research.

I spent the time sorting out my mother's research papers to see what to keep and what to discard. She wrote on envelopes, in exercise books or on note pads! Her research might have been specifically on our families or the result of local research for our society. She loved collecting death notices!

The Australia Tax Office has changed the rules for not-for-profit organisations, which will directly affect many of our member societies. Many groups have contacted the committee for more information. So as a result of this, we will hold an Extraordinary Zoom Meeting for Treasurers, Presidents, Vice Presidents, and anyone else interested on 20th March 2024 at 7.30pm. All society Secretaries have already been sent emails regarding this event. Further information is in the Upcoming Events Section of this newsletter.

Unfortunately, no society expressed an interest at the Annual General Meeting to hold the 39th NSW State Conference this year. Since then, we have also not had any applicants. At last week's Committee Meeting, the Executive decided to hold a one-day virtual Zoom conference, which hopefully will keep the annual conference in your family history minds. So, we will "Dig Deeper in 24" on 14th September 2024. There will be four presentations, followed by the AGM and Forum. Of course, there will also be a raffle - more information to follow.

Best Wishes to all our members,

Gail.

February Management Committee Meeting

This was held on Sunday 11th February 2024 via Zoom. All eight committee members were present. Some important points from that meeting were:

5. - 2023 Forum Notes Discussions:

Use of Funds generated from Conferences: Funds are still available for family history and historical related requirements for member societies. This is limited to \$250.00 per annum and is not recurrent. If your society is interested, please write to us with your request mentioning the purpose, justification, and usage. Please forward your submission to our secretary: (secretary@nswactfhs.org). See 10.1 below.

Ideas and ways for member societies to utilize the Association Website and Facebook Page (Closed group) to promote their activities and events:

There is very little advertisement of Societies' upcoming events, book launches or seminars on both of these groups. This is a free service which could increase your attendance at events. Webpage: <https://www.nswactfhs.org/> What's On. FB Closed Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/270683911161995/> You must answer the questions to be able to join.

Could member societies who reported difficulties in using the website at the 2023 Forum, please contact the Secretary to advise of your specific issues? These will then be forwarded to our Webmaster for assistance.

Our Webmaster, Nick advised that:

- Members with no website of their own may have a free webpage on the Association website.
- Links to all member societies' webpages are available under the "Members" section of the Association website.
<https://www.nswactfhs.org/index.php/members>

Revision of the frequency of the NSW State Conference considering the difficulties in finding host societies:

As no member society was forthcoming for a 2024 State Conference, a virtual, mini conference will be undertaken by the Association Management Committee. This will be held on Saturday 14th September 2024.

8. - Conference Report:

8. 1 - Conference Final Report - Wyong FHG - "Overall, the Conference Committee was very pleased with how the weekend went, particularly feeling the excitement that was being generated. We did have some concerns after the event. Did we have too many speakers? Maybe the time between speakers was not long enough, but who would we have left off? Size of the hall was a concern particularly for a place to eat on the Friday, when the weather was not pleasant and could the speaker's room have been bigger. At the end of the day, it worked well with what was available to us (Lyn Hagstrom). "

8. 2 - State Conference for 2024 – A discussion was held between all Committee Members and we decided to proceed ourselves with a mini virtual conference. This will involve four guest speakers and is to be held on Saturday 14th September 2024. The theme of the conference is: "**Dig deeper in 24**". Registrations will be via the *TryBooking* site with the choice of individual or society/institutional participants. The cost will be: \$10 – individual and \$50 – per society/institution. An online raffle will also be available. The AGM and Forum are planned for the afternoon at 3.30pm.

9. - Other Reports:

9. 1 - Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) –

The next Congress will be held on 21st – 23rd March 2025 in Brisbane, Queensland. Early bird Registration closes in November 2024. Please refer to Upcoming Family History Events below for more details.

COUNCIL OFFICERS for 2024 are: President: Sonya Russell; Vice President: Vacant; Secretary: Greta Gordon; Treasurer: Fay Carbis

The Nick Vine Hall Award - All member societies of AFFHO are encouraged to select one of their journals/newsletters published in 2023 and enter it before the **closing date of 30 April 2024**. Further information in the Upcoming Family History Events for 2024 below.

9. 3 - Website Report – Please encourage your society to add their events, as this is a free service and has a wide reach. Our Speakers' Register is currently being updated.

10. - General Business:

10. 1 - Grant Applications – Review and Finalise Framework – Once again we invite member groups to apply for a grant up to \$250.00 for use within your society's framework.

Some suggestions may be to:

- Support a group of members to travel to another regional town without a family history society or a relatively inactive one to run a beginners' workshop?
- Reach out to other societies for help?
- Support for an inactive society?
- Assistance from a local library to support your society?
- Providing workshops to remote areas?

10. 2 - Conference Guidelines – Will be updated to reflect Hybrid Conferences after information is finalised by the Wyong Conference Committee.

10. 3 - NSW & ACT Association Evening Zoom Groups – All three Zoom Groups are running well. See Upcoming Events below.

10. 4 - Dorothy Fellowes Website Awards – Due to issues beyond the Committee's control, the \$300.00 prize money and Certificates will finally be awarded to the Winners: 2021 (Botany Bay FHS and Bathurst FHG), 2022 (Newcastle FHS and City of Liverpool and District HS) and 2023 Cape Banks FHS. We humbly apologise for the delay. In the future, winners will receive their prizes directly from the Association.

10. 6 – Family History Federation of England – there are general issues in England with people not volunteering for Office Bearer Positions just like here. Many overseas people have taken up these roles due to Zoom. This has made face to face meetings unnecessary and enabled virtual access and interaction between members. Ruth has also noted more collaboration between different societies in various locations. They are looking at Virtual Fairs which is an event where different societies can be placed in different rooms which can be then located into regional clusters (Ruth Graham).

Upcoming Family History Events in 2024 and 2025

Applications for the following Awards:

The Nick Vine Hall Award - All member societies of AFFHO are encouraged to select one of their journals/newsletters published in 2023 and enter it before the **closing date of 30 April 2024**. This is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand. AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.



The late Nick Vine Hall fervently supported and represented AFFHO at a National level in a Save the Census Campaign in the mid 1980's. Nick utilised his personable skills as a researcher, author, radio presenter, and speaking engagements towards the final achievement that was announced by the Federal Government of their acceptance of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs report Saving our Census and Preserving Our History. This permitted citizens across Australia to "opt in" and allow retention of their 2001 and future Census information, under closed access for 99 years, by the National Archives of Australia, and in so doing, made a valuable contribution to preserving Australia's history for future generations.

First prize – Wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
Second prize – Certificate and \$100 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
Prize winners will be announced during National Family History Month in August 2024.
Entry - You can download the NVHA Entry Form [here](https://www.affho.org/images/affho/NVHA_OfficialEntryForm.pdf).
https://www.affho.org/images/affho/NVHA_OfficialEntryForm.pdf

Dorothy Fellowes Award – entries close 12th July 2024. Information will be sent out to the Secretary of your society.

Cynthia Foley Award – will be selected by Cynthia from a list of potential new members.

Conferences:

39th Annual Conference of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. "Dig Deeper in 24".

Conference Organisers: Management Committee NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

Date: 14th September 2024.

Venue: on Zoom at home or in your society.

Details: To follow on Closed FB Group, Association website and this Newsletter.

Forum and AGM will be held that afternoon too.

Individual Registration: \$10

Society/Institution: \$50





Conference Organisers: Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

Date : 21 – 23 March 2025 (Conference); Tours 24th March 2025

Venue: Brisbane Technology Park, 1 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains, Qld

Details: <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>

Registration : Early Bird \$395 – 3 days - Available until 30 Nov 2024. After this date: Three Day Conference \$515; One Day Conference \$260.

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- ❖ **Tech Support Group Meetings:** held on the **second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm – 9 pm on Zoom**. Future Topics will be advertised on our private FB Page and on the Association website.

13th March 2024 – **Podcast Update** – Clive Maddox (Newcastle FHS)

10th April 2024 – **Using MS OneNote for Family Research** – Ian Tait (Picton)

8th May 2024 – TBA

12th June 2024 - TBA



- ❖ **Office Bearers Networking Group:** held on the **fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 9pm on Zoom**. This group is aimed at members with specific positions within FHSs. Group to be advertised on our private FB Page and on the Association website. Emails sent to your secretaries, too. Extraordinary Meeting takes the place of our February OBN.



Extraordinary Meeting:

20th March 2024 – 7.30pm – 9pm on Zoom - Treasurers, Presidents and Vice Presidents - **Tax implications for non-profit organizations.**

Discussion Leaders: Clive Smith, Ruth Graham.

Even though a family history society is a not-for-profit organization, it is not exempt from income tax unless it is registered with the Australian

Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

From (and including) the 2023-24 financial year, family history societies that are not registered with the ACNC will be required to submit to the Australian Tax Office (ATO) an NFP-Self-Review-Return, unless they are submitting an Income Tax Return. They will be required to submit an Income Tax Return (and pay income tax) if their assessable income exceeds a defined amount.

24th April 2024 – TBA

26th June 2024 – TBA

- ❖ **Social Group** – held on the **fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 9 pm on Zoom**, alternating months with the Officer Bearers Networking Group. After an introductory social chat, participants will be requested to share some information for a few minutes on the specific topic. Future Topics will be advertised on our private FB Page and on the Association website.



27th March 2024 – **Share something you found out about an ancestor on their Military Records.**

22nd May 2024 – **Share a way you have recorded an ancestor.**

24th July 2024 – **Share a mysterious ancestor.**

If you haven't attended any of our evening Zoom Group meetings, to attend, please email Mel, our Secretary, at (secretary@nswactfhs.org) to have your name added to the email list. Please specify which group you wish to participate in.

To have your family history event advertised in this newsletter, please forward details to our secretary at secretary@nswactfhs.org Please request that it is added to our next Newsletter.

Could secretaries of all member societies please ensure that our email address, secretary@nswactfhs.org is in their email address book, as some mail has been bouncing back with the message "unauthorized mail is prohibited!"

