

# Newcastle Family History Society Inc.



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

## Newsletter

Number 241

**WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL—see page 7**

The theme for our March Journal 249 is:  
**Writer's Choice**

Deadline for articles: **Saturday 25 January 2025**

November 2024

### November General Meeting

**Tuesday 5 November—7.30 pm**

#### General Meeting

**Speaker—Assoc. Prof Nancy Cushing**

**'The Australian Horse at War'**

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

A very interesting meeting will be held in November. Make sure you either come along or join via Zoom.

Assoc Prof Nancy Cushing will present on the horses that arrived in Australia on the First Fleet and played key roles in the social world of settler colonists and the wider economy. As its 110th anniversary approaches, this talk will focus on Australian horses in the First World War and beyond, shifting the focus from the human to equine perspective and exploring what war meant for horses.

Coincidentally this talk is scheduled for Melbourne Cup Day.

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

Mel Woodford (President)

### Zoom link for November meeting

Topic: November Monthly Meeting

Time: Nov 5, 2024 07:30 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074428566?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074428566?pwd=SxPbdKNZ65tLAamiv3K4I5YQdBWqBz.1)

[pwd=SxPbdKNZ65tLAamiv3K4I5YQdBWqBz.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074428566?pwd=SxPbdKNZ65tLAamiv3K4I5YQdBWqBz.1)

Meeting ID: 870 7442 8566

Passcode: 094404

### Overview of October meeting

Our member Dr Rosalie Bunn gave us a wonderful and very detailed presentation on 50 Years of UONs Open Foundation. Rosalie has very kindly briefed her notes for me to publish here.

Rosalie's talk began with an explanation that the University of Newcastle's Open Foundation (OF) is a tertiary entry program that has become one of the largest and longest running such programs in Australia, beginning with a pilot program in 1974. She also explained how she became involved with the program as a mature age student who was keen to further her education after completing her HSC and going to work in the Commonwealth Public Service. She returned to study when the youngest of her four children attended pre-school 2 days per week. She enrolled in the part time course over 2 semesters, studying English Literature with **Dr Jean Talbot**; and Social Enquiry with **John Collins**. This provided experience of what it felt like to be a student in the program, the academic rigor, the adjustments that had to be made to fit into university life and the adjustments and accommodations that had to be made in one's family life. It also allowed her to interact with and observe some of the people relevant to developing OF, which she later wrote about in her PhD entitled *The History and Impacts of the University of Newcastle's Open Foundation Program* (available as a free download on UON's website.)

In 1996, while studying for a Masters in Education, Rosalie became a Casual Lecturer in OF and later secured a tenured position as Course Coordinator in Social Enquiry. In that capacity she was hearing inspirational stories about where her own students were ending up after completing OF and felt they needed to be told. She was also aware that no comprehensive histories of OF had been undertaken, apart from **A/P Jo May's** 'A child of change: the establishment of the Open Foundation Programme in 1974.' *History of Education review* 34(1) (2005): 51-62 which provided a documentary history of the early years of OF based on archival material. What Rosalie was hoping to add to that knowledge base was oral histories with key players who she had seen walking the corridors of the McMullin building where the program was located, not an institutional history as such. Her PhD on OF included 38 oral histories with a chancellor, VC, DVCs, Directors, lecturers, administrators, learning support staff, counsellors; as well as 350 surveys of students including qualitative and quantitative responses.

In order to explain the significance of OF Rosalie took us back to the Higher Education context prior to the establishment of OF in 1974. Previously, entry into the Higher Education (HE) sector was mainly through matriculation. In New South Wales this generally occurred at the end of secondary schooling after successful completion of what is now called the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

(Continued on page 2)

Other more rarely used means had been available such as completion of the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), and some initiative entry schemes that allowed people, by interview, to put their work experience forward to bypass the HSC. By the mid-1960s, there were concerns within federal governments that university education was not being made as widely available as it should be. For example, in 1964, the Martin Committee reported to the Menzies government on the low participation of women in HE, particularly in the sciences.

In 1965 UON became autonomous from UNSW. By 1970 there was local commitment to the idea of promoting intellectual capital and a desire on the part of UON to initiate stronger ties with community. These aims were explored by a UON committee chaired by Professor Laurie Short, who was given the task of advancing adult education within UON with a view to collaborating with existing adult education providers. Professor Short was previously Director of the Educational Research Unit at UNSW. In the late 60s he wrote an article in *The Australian University* in which he stressed the importance of higher levels of education in the form of skilled resources to meet the needs of a developing country like Australia. He positioned his argument within the context of Australia as a former colonial nation and argued that a measure of independence, economic, technological and cultural advancement would be achieved through adequate education provision. This was to be provided, not on the basis of the class into which one was born, but as an 'instrument of social mobility' by which people could advance according to their own merits. Short's argument was very much concerned with future directions for Australian education in which the power of education played a pivotal role and was a continuing process throughout one's life. He stated: 'I believe that the strong demand for higher education should be regarded as a major national asset, and an opportunity to contribute both to national development and individual fulfilment.' Other members of Short's committee were Dr W. Doniela (Philosophy); Mr E. Flowers (Librarian); Professor J. Keats (Psychology); Professor Brin Newton-John (Languages); and Associate Professor A Ritchie (Economics). They presented two reports, the first in 1970, the second in 1972, which recommended that a new department be established to provide refresher courses, present public lectures, undertake research and development projects, promote theatre, music and the arts and offer other courses similar to those offered by Workers Education Australia (WEA).

Following its terms of reference, the 1972 report recommended UON's participation in adult education as an 'opportunity for members of the community to receive instruction at or near the level of university undergraduate courses.' The emphasis on UON providing a 'community service' was highlighted in its name Community Programmes, but this undertaking was also aimed at community development. Collaborative courses, precursors to OF, were also run at locations other than the university, in the surrounding towns of Toronto, Muswellbrook, Gosford and later at Singleton and Cessnock.

Special mention was made of a program to meet the needs of executive staff of the BHP steelworks, funded by the company, with the aim of advancing the academic knowledge of graduate officers of BHP. This connection was to prove useful in the late 1990s when BHP made the decision to close down and staff were encouraged to enrol in OF as a means of retraining and seeking alternative employment. Another initiative advocated by the Short report was collaboration with ABC radio and television as well as the local television station NBN Channel 3 to develop adult education material. This was put in place in 1978 when an attempt to run Open University-like distance courses taught by Dr John Turner (History) and Dr Jean Talbot (English Literature) was made through 2NURFM, when the university's radio station was established. The Short Report envisaged making lectures available throughout the Hunter Valley region from Taree to Woy Woy and inland to Murrumbidgee, Gloucester, Nambucca and Forster.

The new **Community Programmes Department** was not to be

organised in the usual pattern of academic departments. Instead, the Short Report recommended more broadly defined educational activities which would be headed by a Director who was to be an ex-officio member of Academic Senate and executive officer of a Board of Community Programmes which would be under the control of Senate. The framework of the Department was to be endorsed by Senate and University Council and the Director was to work with Heads of Departments and university staff. The report acknowledged commitment to current staff attached to the University of Sydney's Department of Adult Education who were currently working in Newcastle. It was therefore recommended that these staff be offered appointment in the new department. On that basis, **Dr John Turner** who occupied one of the University of Sydney positions, was offered acting Directorship until a permanent appointment could be made. Three other academic staff were also to be appointed, along with an administrative assistant.

These events coincided with the national context: 1972 to 1975, the term of the Whitlam Labor Government, an era of massive expansion of the Higher Education sector with the intention of making HE more responsive to national economic objectives. The theme of equality of opportunity became a political policy when Labor abolished university fees in 1974, opening university access to a wider range of people who otherwise would not have contemplated a university career. This coincided with the University of Newcastle's initiative to include a larger component of 'non-traditional students' among its ranks and the establishment of the OF.

In his history of UON, **Don Wright** expressed some surprise that the committee's recommendations were so readily accepted:

A little miraculously this imaginative set of recommendations which came largely from the pen of Laurie Short survived Senate and Council almost unscathed and the machinery was set in place... By adopting this approach to adult education the University was emphasising its regional role. The University appointed **Dr Brian Smith** an able, imaginative and occasionally provocative man as the Director of Community Programmes.

Rosalie recounted that Dr Smith was a charismatic character who often wore a rust-coloured suit and made his own bowties in a range of colourful patterns which he sewed up on his wife Sybil's sewing machine. Rosalie was fortunate enough to interview Sybil and confirmed that Dr Smith had himself been a mature age student and had worked in the University of Western Australia's Extension Program. He also spent a year on sabbatical from UWA undertaking research on adult education provision in Britain, Denmark, Holland and Belgium. In addition, he had been an organiser of the Festival of Perth, so came to UON with an array of relevant skills. John Collins was appointed as senior tutor and later became Director of Community Programmes, recalled that Dr Smith had been impressed by alternative universities and he 'was of a mind to do something similar in Australia'.

It was not all clear sailing for OF in the early days, however. Dr Terry Ryan who lectured in OF and Classical Studies in those early years, commented on the different approaches of the two earliest Vice Chancellors whose job it was to oversee OF. Professor James Auchmuty was the foundation Vice Chancellor, an historian, and believed that the Humanities were first and foremost in his University. His successor Professor Don George was from an engineering background. Dr Ryan commented that after Whitlam, Universities were a low priority of the Coalition. And therefore, the problem for Vice Chancellors and what they could do to support this program was somewhat limited. Especially since the University kept growing and the funding didn't always match that. Dr Smith's aspirations to open access was at odds with Professor Auchmuty's desire to protect the privileged place of the university. Whereas Don George was more supportive of Brian's project.

In recollecting Dr Smith's difficulties Greg Preston, a lecturer in OF during the 1980s, also recalled that Smith, once he became the Director, undertook some intense lobbying of fellow academics to convince them of the merits of OF and to gain their assistance in

implementing it. Despite the clash of ideologies between Dr Smith and his comrades and those who wished to maintain an elitist line, OF persisted. The idea that universities should be open to a wider cross section of the population was bearing fruit. Brian Smith's vision and the steps he took to put his convictions into practice were commented upon by Associate Professor Ralph Robinson, who later became a Director:

And I think it's a tribute to Brian that he could see the potential in people for someone to do a course like this and still succeed despite their disadvantages. And seeing this whole region as educationally deprived and that it needed a new impetus, not just a proposal, it needed someone to do something about it, not just social support.

While Dr Smith was responsible for conceptualising OF, he had an array of allies who helped put it into practice. According to Dr Terry Ryan:

Brian came here and he created the whole structure. But he did consult with us about what would make a good centre piece and he wanted it to be the Arts rather than the Sciences or Economics and so on... he was the driving force behind it, but he had some good allies. I mean, it was never a one-man band.

As OF expanded over the years so too did needs for learning and disability support. Dr Ruth Lunney commented that in addition to the 'enthusiastic' commitment of staff to the program, enculturating students within the university environment as well as providing additional writing skills support for students was vital. This became a whole team approach where learning support, counselling and lecturing staff collaborated to ensure the best possible experience for students, a truly student-centred learning approach.

In terms of curriculum, when the program began there were just a few subjects on offer due to limited resources and availability of teaching staff. Brian Smith persuaded some of his academic colleagues in the faculties to give guest lectures or take portions of the course to give students exposure to a high-quality academic experience. Brian Smith's desire to design a curriculum that would appeal to mature age students included an interdisciplinary subject which aimed to provide foundations in Western knowledge which would stimulate critical thinking in a range of disciplinary areas. After the early demise of this core subject, Political Man, students could choose any two subjects.

The flexibility and experimental nature of course offerings was put to good effect in the 1980s by one of the lecturers in Australian History, Margaret Henry, who had students tape record interviews with local identities, transcribe and analyse the interviews, then write them up in essay form. Students were challenged, encouraged to deal with real world issues, developed interview and essay writing skills as well as oral presentation skills when presenting their project to the class. This collection of tapes and transcriptions have since been placed in UON's Cultural Collections and has become a useful resource for local history research. As needs dictated, the subject offerings changed and became more vocationally oriented, or were oriented to the needs of the faculties into which students transitioned. These changes meant that Brian Smith's original objective of providing a liberal education including compulsory study of history and politics also changed. Dr Greg Preston recalled that there was also a change of attitude toward the OF in the 1980s when it came to be seen as an academic endeavour, part of the fabric of the University, not as an experiment or philanthropic pursuit. Instead, OF was seen as something that was working, that led to UON having additional good students.

Staff were specifically chosen for their capacity to model an enabling ethos. Academics enjoyed the freedom to be creative in the curriculum they delivered providing a stimulating and exciting experience for students. The 1990s was a decade of considerable change. Primarily the rationale for the Department of Community Programmes, within which the OF was embedded, moved away from community engagement and toward a more academic focus.

Economic, structural and institutional changes such as secure funding and recognition as a Centre within UON led to further modifications. John Collins had observed that: 'The more successful OF became, the more it disrupted what was perceived as the traditional role of a university.' He said 'there was always the feeling that people who got a good pass in the HSC would be superior students than people who managed to get in through the Open Foundation Course.' However, this was not borne out in the statistics as OF students continued to do as well or better than HSC students in undergraduate programs.

Gradually OF was absorbed within the enrolment and administrative structures of the wider university. At this time, as newly appointed foundation Professor of Social Work, a member of Academic Senate and later a Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Brian English was keen to understand the role of OF. His philosophy that education was central to overcoming disadvantage meant that he valued the work being done in OF. Having advocates on crucial university bodies such as Senate and Council was important for advancing knowledge about the aims and achievements of the program. It was particularly helpful when oppositional voices attempted to diminish or criticise OF's contribution to UON. Professor English also noted that when students did drop out, it filtered them out in a non-hostile way. People just stopped coming if they couldn't handle the work or if they didn't like the environment and decided they couldn't go to University or got a better job. So it was a filter as well as a preparation.

During the late 1990s, after John Collins' departure from UON, Pamela Finberg was appointed as Director of Community Programmes, and it became the Department of Continuing and Professional Education, a time Rosalie refers to as an economic rationalist experiment. Professor English recalled that a new emphasis emerged based on fee-paying:

And we tried desperately, a couple of us, to convince [VC] that it wasn't going to work in the Hunter. It was an environment where there was a huge educational need, where a lot of people saw the value of trying University. But they either didn't have the money or they weren't prepared to pay the kind of money you would have to pay to make it profitable. \$8,000 is probably what Macquarie [University] has to charge to actually make money out of it.

By the 2000s conditions changed again as academic study of the field of enabling education developed. In 2004 and 2007 UON took the initiative of organising the first and second enabling conferences in Australia. With the support of Director Professor Seamus Fagan, conference attendance was encouraged and the National Association of Enabling Educators Australia (NAEEA) was formed. OF staff became involved in conducting research on enabling education and sharing it both nationally and internationally. OF continued to go from strength to strength and, as survey data revealed, word of mouth tended to be the major source of recruitment.

Over the ensuing years OF has continued to expand. The most recent data accessed for Rosalie's PhD suggested that each year 20 percent of UON's undergraduate commencing students come to university via an enabling pathway. This proportion is even higher at regional locations such as the Central Coast in NSW, where around 25 percent of students at UON in 2016 were supported to enter university through an enabling program. In 2016 13 percent of Australia's total Commonwealth-funded enabling students studied at UON and 85 percent of those enrolled in higher education upon completion. This provides some indication of the extent of the work of enabling programs, of which Open Foundation is the largest in Australia. In 2007 OF staff received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. This award was conferred for their dedication and commitment to teaching. In addition, the Chancellor was aware that in some years there has been quite a high proportion of University medal holders who have come out of Open Foundation.

(Continued from page 3)

The impacts of OF on people's lives is immeasurable. Rosalie attempted to capture this when examining the 350 student survey responses. Rosalie's PhD also considered the impact OF has had on Newcastle and its regions. For example, Dr Barry Hodges speculated on the effect OF might have had on the city of Newcastle, a working-class city, an industrial town which is now becoming more and more a sophisticated service and tourist centre. He said it is a very nice place to live, becoming less the hoon town of the Newcastle song. He felt OF has had a significant role in that. He commented OF is a unique institution, and its effects on the area have been immense. 'You come [to OF] because you're told there's a change of life on offer and it's terrific. It changes lives and it's changed an awful lot of lives.' While OF has gone from strength to strength, it

has been lucky to have had the support of a wonderful administrative team. People such as Di Rigney, Jan Watkins, Maureen Jones and many others has underpinned its success. Rosalie's talk concluded with reference to her many publications which covered a variety of aspects of the program.

Thanks Rosalie for a wonderful presentation. You can view Rosalie's full presentation by clicking on this [link](#).

Full text written by Dr Rosalie Bunn.

Lea Harris (Newsletter Editor)

*Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire.* WB Yeats

## Events and Outings

### Future dates

**5 November**—Monthly meeting—Assoc. Prof Nancy Cushing—'The Australian Horse at War' (see page 1)

**28 November**—Martinmas *Caledonian* newsletter emailed

**1 December**—Christmas Fair—Christmas Once Upon a Time (see page 5)

**6 December**—Christmas lunch at Poppy's Verandah Café, Gateshead (see below)

**19 December**—Library closes for Christmas/New Year break

**16 January**—Library reopens for the 2025 year

**25 January**—Articles due for Journal 249 (see page 7)

**4 February**—Monthly meeting

**4 March**—Monthly meeting

**1 April**—Monthly meeting

**Every Monday (except public holidays) from 10.30 am**—Coffee and Chat, Wests, Hobart Road, 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.

## Christmas Lunch

Our secretary, Karen, is now taking names for our 2024 Christmas Lunch at [Poppy's](#) on Friday 6 December - 11.30am for 12.00.

If you would like to book your place for this wonderful gathering, please email Karen at [nfhsinc@gmail.com](mailto:nfhsinc@gmail.com) with the subject heading **Christmas Lunch**. Bookings are filling up fast, so get your name in now.

Dietary needs can be catered for if advised in advance.

**We would love to have your company!**



# Christmas Fair

Planning has begun for our **Christmas - Once Upon a Time** Fair to be held on Sunday 1 December 2024. There will be lots going on at the Mechanics' Institute!

**Can you help by:**

- Providing an item for our Christmas Raffle Hamper full of festive goodies? (tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5)
- Providing a plate of festive food for our morning/afternoon tea stall?
- Volunteering to help out on the day?
- Helping to decorate the rooms?
- Helping to give the rooms a clean before the fair?
- Taking a **Members' Stall** to sell your own Christmas themed (and other) items? (\$20 donation per stall) BYO table and shade
- Help advertise the day by sharing information by word of mouth, on your own social media or by pinning up flyers?
- Suggest other good ideas for the day?

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Mel at [nfh-spresident@gmail.com](mailto:nfh-spresident@gmail.com) with the subject heading **Christmas Fair**.





# Sandgate Cemetery

What do we have to do to get good weather for a Society cemetery tour? War Cemetery – high winds and smoke from a nearby fire; Whitebridge – higher winds; Sandgate May 2024 – postponed for storms; Sandgate October 2024 – went ahead despite rain and wind, aided by umbrellas and heavy clothing for all concerned.

Never daunted, the volunteers and most registrants braved the weather for a wonderful day of part of the Primitive Methodist section.

Many great compliments were received – on the quality of the tour information, the organisation, the professionalism of our souvenir booklet.

Despite the weather, it was a wonderfully rewarding day.

.Marg Ashford (Sandgate Tours Coordinator)

An unexpected but very attentive listener!

Photo: Paul Kiem



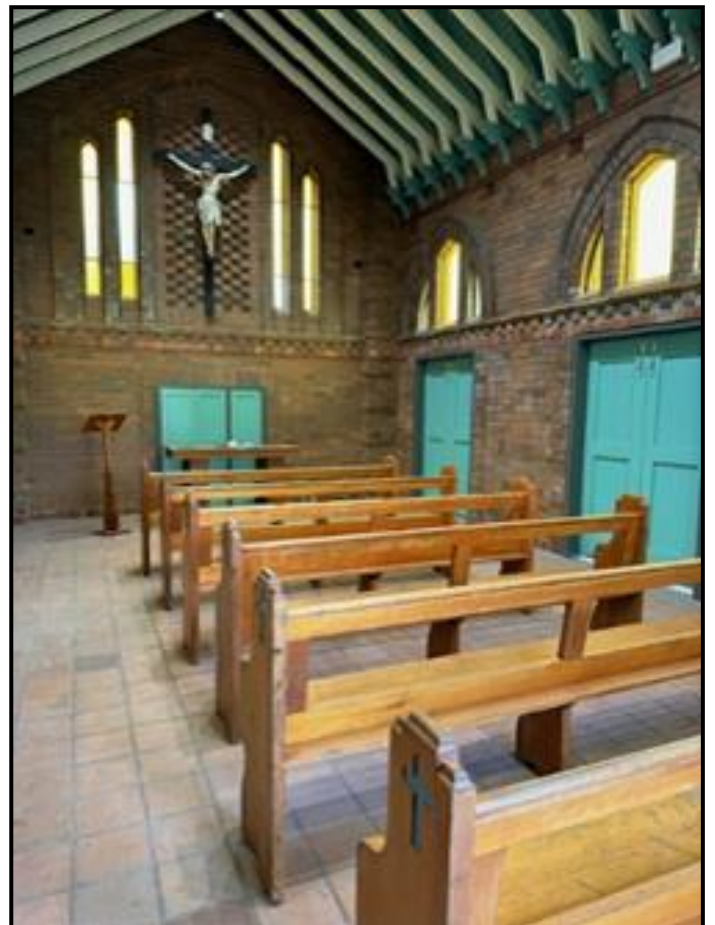
Smiling, happy, but cold and damp volunteers await the early birds.

Photo: Mel Woodford



Umbrellas added some much-needed colour!

Photo: Marg Ashford



The restored chapel was open for inspection.

Photo: Laraine Cross

Our first Publications meeting for 2025 will be held at 10 am on Friday 21 March. Any member with any ideas for publications or who is interested in being more involved with our Society is welcome to attend. It will be good if everyone who is working on a publication for our Society could attend but if this is not possible, please send a report. Contact Jane, the Publications Officer, on [nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com).

Downloads of our publications are proving popular. *They Served Their Country* Parts I and II are now available from our online shop on the one download. The download will cost \$45. *They Served Their Country* Part I or Part II - as with almost every one of our publications - are always available for purchase as books from the reception desk or by mail (plus postage). The colour books cost \$50 each or purchase the pair for \$90. A member discount of 10% is available for the first purchase of every hard copy.

We continue to work on modifying our older publications so they can be downloaded as they remain useful and relevant to family history. In almost every case the hard copy of the publication remains available for purchase from the Society - and may be posted if necessary. If anyone is interested in purchasing a downloadable version of any publication not yet available, please email the Publications Officer on [nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com) who will prioritise that title.

These publications are now available to view and download from our online shop:

- *Behind the Sandstone*
- *Early Newcastle*
- *Geographic Encyclopedia of NSW*
- *Old Wallsend Cemetery*
- *St Andrew's Church of England Burial Ground (Mayfield)*
- *St Luke's Anglican Church, Wallsend*
- *They Sent Me North (Revised Edition)*
- *They Served Their Country* Parts I and II

There is a display copy of every publication that may be viewed as well as an information sheet on each publication in the folder in the display shelves in front of the reception desk. I am still updating these information sheets.

**For Volunteer Librarians:** To save time and ease having to store the unused bags, a roll of kitchen tidy bags has been left in the bottom of each bin - one in the kitchen; one near the reception desk and one in the toilet - please leave the roll underneath the bag currently in use and try to remember to replace the bag - especially the bag in the kitchen - frequently.

**WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE PAPER CARRY BAGS AT PRESENT. PLEASE RECYCLE THEM AT HOME FOR THE MOMENT.**

Jane Ison (Publications Coordinator)

## Journal and Newsletter

### March Journal (249)

The theme of this journal is **Writer's Choice**. Always popular, this theme gives you the chance to share your writing on any topic related to family history – your research, family stories, houses – the list is endless. Please start thinking about what you might write – articles would need to be submitted by **Saturday 25 January 2025**.

### December Journal (248)

Journal 248, featuring our carried-over **Medical Matters** theme, is well underway. There is new material as well as the items that we couldn't fit into issue 246. We are thrilled with the response to this theme.

### September Journal (247)

**Down 't Pit**, Journal 247, was an amazingly popular theme. We have had wonderful feedback from guest and new writers who were thrilled to see their work in print as well as compliments on content and appearance from another society; and even a request from Durham Mining Museum for a copy (they were very helpful with providing photos of local mines). You can read all about these in Journal 248.

### Have you picked up your Journals?

It's sad to see that at least a dozen members haven't picked up their print copies of this year's journals. You're missing out on some fabulous reading!

Perhaps you no longer visit the library – if so, why not contact us at [nfhseeditor@gmail.com](mailto:nfhseeditor@gmail.com) and ask us to post your copies to you instead? We can then let you know the cost and make sure that you don't miss out on those back issues or future ones.

Or, if you'd like to switch to email versions, let us know that!

Unclaimed copies represent substantial costs for the society, so please let us know how we can help you to get yours.

### Submission of Articles

For all issues, you can send your typed item to [nfhseeditor@gmail.com](mailto:nfhseeditor@gmail.com) or deliver it to the Society library addressed to the Editor. We can also accept handwritten items if that's your preference.

### Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

To see the dates for Journal and Newsletter Deadlines, please see page 11.

Margaret Ashford (Editor, eTeam)



# 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, 68 Elder Street, Lambton, monthly at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated. Groups and contact details are below. Please email the facilitator to join a group.

| Group                    | Meeting date  | Facilitator   | Contact email  |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| Convicts in Australia    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday   | Laraine Cross | <a href="mailto:nfhsresearch78@gmail.com">nfhsresearch78@gmail.com</a> |
| Scottish Family Research | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – 1.00 pm—February to November                | Mel Woodford  | <a href="mailto:nfhspresident@gmail.com">nfhspresident@gmail.com</a>   |
| English Ancestors        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday   | Karen Smith   | <a href="mailto:abc26715@bigpond.net.au">abc26715@bigpond.net.au</a>   |
| DNA                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – 1.00 pm                                     | Sandra Jones  | <a href="mailto:sjones11@bigpond.net.au">sjones11@bigpond.net.au</a>   |
| Irish Ancestors          | 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday   | Pat Healion   | <a href="mailto:pat.healion1@gmail.com">pat.healion1@gmail.com</a>     |
| Cemetery Research        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday  | Pat Healion   | <a href="mailto:pat.healion1@gmail.com">pat.healion1@gmail.com</a>     |
| Ancestry Users           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday—February to November—no meeting in September | Mel Woodford  | <a href="mailto:nfhspresident@gmail.com">nfhspresident@gmail.com</a>   |
| Scrapbooking             | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday  | Karen Smith   | <a href="mailto:abc26715@bigpond.net.au">abc26715@bigpond.net.au</a>   |

## All things Scottish

Scottish SIG meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1.00 pm  
from February to November

### Scottish newsletter



The next issue of the *Caledonian* Scottish Newsletter will be emailed on 28 November 2024, being the Scottish quarter day of Martinmas.

Reminder that if you would like to be included on the email list for this newsletter, please send an email to Lea on [nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com).

Scottish SIG group

## YouTube

A reminder that at our monthly meetings, guest speakers are now recorded and the presentations can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel. This is a fabulous way for those who are either distance members or just can't make it to the meeting, to be able to still enjoy our speakers. Or even if you were at the meeting, you may wish to listen to the presentation again.

To view these, either go to our Society webpage and click on the YouTube tab on the Home page, or type 'YouTube Newcastle Family History Society' into your search engine, or simply click [here](#).

Mel Woodford (President)



# Podcasts

## General

Is any member who has an ancestor at ANY industrial school in NSW before 1900 interested in working with Jane Ison on a Q&A podcast about their ancestor? Please let her know on [nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com) or contact the IT Officer at [nfhstit@gmail.com](mailto:nfhstit@gmail.com).

We have had some more podcasts recorded since last newsletter. These are available for you to enjoy on the NFHS website by clicking the links below or visiting our webpage and selecting the Podcasts tab from the home page. You can also find these podcasts on services such as Spotify, Podbean, Google, Apple and Amazon.

## Notable Novocastrians

The 4th episode of this series—If you wander through the streets of Newcastle and indeed further afield to the suburbs and into the Hunter Valley, you will pass by historic and notable buildings – many are the work of Frederick Menkens. Society member Julie Keating takes us on a virtual journey and gives some insights into the man, his life and his creative prowess. To listen, click [here](#).

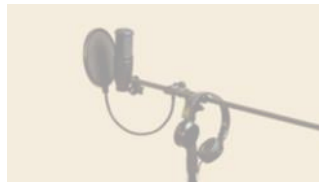
## What are you looking at?

In the 6th episode of this series, Jane Ison speaks about the letter book of Joseph Hines Clarke providing insights into the man, the Newcastle Industrial School and the town of Newcastle, NSW. To listen, click [here](#).

## Felonious Females

In this episode in the Felonious Females series, Mel Woodford explores the voyage of the *Roslin Castle* (2), which, carrying 128 women, arrived in Port Jackson on 29 June, 1830, after a treacherous four-month journey. To listen, click [here](#).

Mel Woodford (President)



## Can you help?

Our NFHS Podcasting Team works very hard under the guidance of our IT Manager, Clive.

### Why do we make our NFHS podcasts?

- To aid our members and the community in their family history work
- To record our local history for the future
- To educate

### Can you help us by:

- Suggesting future podcasts which might be of benefit or interest?
- Would you be able to write (or help write) a podcast script about something which interests you?
- Perhaps something to do with your family in the area, a person, house or property of interest to others?

NB: you may wish to record a podcast yourself, or you may prefer a member of the Podcasting Team to record it for you.

Let us know your thoughts by emailing Mel at [nfhspresident@gmail.com](mailto:nfhspresident@gmail.com)



# New Members

We welcome the following new members to our Society and 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 (see page 7).

# 1347 Carolyn and Robert Howard  
# 1350 Wayne Roddom  
# 1353 Kim Jones

# 1348 Gillian McManus Oxley  
# 1351 Murray Lundberg  
# 0090 David Elliott (rejoined)

# 1349 Isabel Hendriksen  
# 1352 Sandra Masterson

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

## Membership Registrar

I would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to our members for someone to takeover the Membership Registrar's role within our Society. I have been doing the job for a number of years now and I feel it's time for someone else to do this position. I truly believe there should be more than one person to know how to do a job, the more the better. It's not hard you just need basic Excel experience to navigate the database and a little spare time for processing. We won't leave you in the deep end. I will be in the background to help.

A laptop is also provided for you to carry out this role.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me at [Membership Registrar](#).

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

## Library News

Library Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays from 9.30 am to 11.30 am

### Library Roster

| Date                                 | Librarian 1<br>(get key) | Librarian 2       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Saturday Library Roster</b>       |                          |                   |
| <b>Morning 9.45 am to 12.30 pm</b>   |                          |                   |
| <b>Afternoon 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm</b> |                          |                   |
| 2 Nov am                             | Lea H                    | Volunteer         |
| 2 Nov pm                             | Lea H                    | Sandra J          |
| 9 Nov am                             | Sharyn B                 | Nouvelle T        |
| 9 Nov pm                             | Sharyn B                 | Nouvelle T        |
| 16 Nov am                            | Bert G                   | Volunteer         |
| 16 Nov pm                            | Volunteer                | Volunteer         |
| 23 Nov am                            | Marie H                  | Volunteer         |
| 23 Nov pm                            | Marie H                  | Jude C            |
| 30 Nov am                            | Volunteer                | Volunteer         |
| 30 Nov pm                            | Volunteer                | Volunteer         |
| <b>Thursday Library Roster</b>       |                          |                   |
| <b>1.00 to 3.00 pm</b>               |                          |                   |
| 7 Nov                                | Alison M                 | Clelia P          |
| 14 Nov                               | Jane I                   | Rosalie B, Bert G |
| 21 Nov                               | Marilyn M                | Jane I            |
| 28 Nov                               | Karen S                  | Rosalie B         |

### Library Volunteers—Urgent

Once again, we are looking for Library volunteers to fill the gaps in between our regular volunteers. We currently still have a few vacancies for our November roster.

Can you help please?

Without volunteers, we are unable to keep the rooms open for our members and visitors to continue with their family history research.

If you could spare three hours to assist to fill these gaps, please complete the volunteer form at this [link](#).

Once again, thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Mel Woodford (President)

### Library Orientation

We've successfully provided Orientation sessions (both print and digital) to another group of about 10 new members. As usual, they were astonished at just how much we have on offer for family history research, backed up by local history information and external resources.

If you'd like to participate, [nfhsorientation@gmail.com](mailto:nfhsorientation@gmail.com). Next sessions will probably be in March-April.

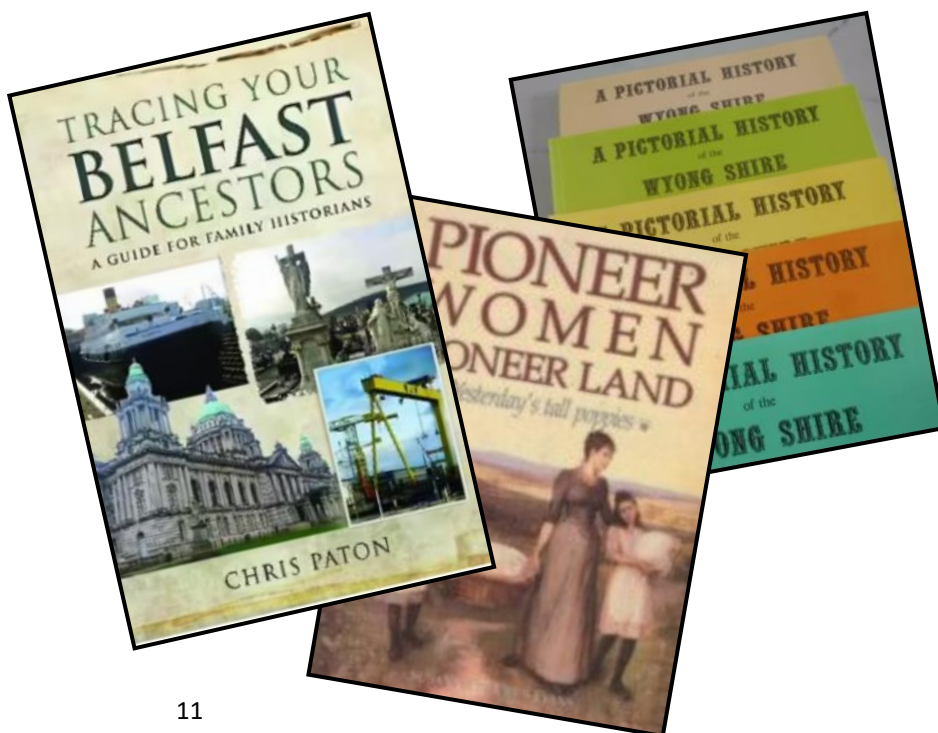
Marg Ashford (Library Orientation Leader)

## Library Acquisitions

| Creator                                | Title  | Call No        | Source                  |
|--|--|----------------|-------------------------|
|  | Electoral Role 1981 subdivisions of Maitland, Maitland East, Tenambit, Raymond Terrace | AH5/25/31      |                         |
| Snippers                               | NMH 1936 Jan-Mar: Sport reports & results [2023]                                       | NLP/08/1936a   | NFHS                    |
| De Vries-Evans, Susanna                | Pioneer women pioneer land [1987]  | A3/60/12       | Virginia Willis         |
| Ulster Genealogical & Historical Guild | Familla: Ulster Genealogical Review Number 33, 2017                                    | R9/60/01d      | Sandra & Dorian Griffin |
| Ulster Genealogical & Historical Guild | Familla: Ulster Genealogical Review Number 35, 2019                                    | R9/60/01e      | Sandra & Dorian Griffin |
| Paton, Chris                           | Tracing your Belfast ancestors [2023]  | RUI2/10/03     | NFHS                    |
| Hobden, Jim                            | History of Tamworth [2005]   | AN8.340/01/15  | Ken Drew                |
| Roulston, William                      | The plantation of Ulster: heritage map & pocket history [nd]                           | RUI7/01/07     | Sandra & Dorian Griffin |
| Easton, Jan                            | Rothbury Riot clippings [nd]   | AH7/59/01      | John Easton             |
| Easton, Jan                            | Coal mining clippings [nd]   | AH7/65/33      | John Easton             |
| Williamson, Jane                       | A New England story 1856 on [nd]   | A4/MAR/08      | Jane Williamson         |
| Stinson, Edward                        | A pictorial history of Wyong Shire Vol 1, 4th ed [1994]                                | AN8.259/01/01a | Helene Shephard         |
| Stinson, Edward                        | A pictorial history of Wyong Shire Vol 2, 2nd ed [1986]                                | AN8.259/01/01b | Helene Shephard         |
| Stinson, Edward                        | A pictorial history of Wyong Shire Vol 3, 2nd ed [1994]                                | AN8.259/01/01c | Helene Shephard         |
| Stinson, Edward                        | A pictorial history of Wyong Shire Vol 4, 1st ed [1983]                                | AN8.259/01/01d | Helene Shephard         |
|  | Smith Collection: Desmond Smith maternal family [2023]                                 | A4/SMI/4       | Dawn Weldon             |
|  | Smith Collection: Desmond Smith paternal family [2023]                                 | A4/SMI/4a      | Dawn Weldon             |
|  | Smith Collection: Doreen Smith (nee Tomlinson) [2023]                                  | A4/SMI/4b      | Dawn Weldon             |
| O'Neill, Jenny Rudd                    | Jabez Canvin comes to Australia [2024]   | A4/CAN/01      | Beverley Woodman        |
| Henning, Rachel                        | The letters of Rachel Henning [1954]   | A4/HEN/02      | Beverley Woodman        |
| Shilling, Maree & Shilling, Ken        | People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley : their stories - our heritage Vol 1 [2020]  | AH3/60/06a     | NFHS                    |
| Shilling, Maree & Shilling, Ken        | People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley : their stories - our heritage Vol 2 [2021]  | AH3/60/06b     | NFHS                    |
| Shilling, Maree & Shilling, Ken        | People of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley : their stories - our heritage Vol 3 [2022]  | AH3/60/06c     | NFHS                    |

## Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

|          | Newsletter    | Journal    |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| December | 16 November   | 26 October |
| January  | No newsletter |            |
| February | 18 January    |            |
| March    | 17 February   | 25 January |
| April    | 17 March      |            |
| May      | 14 April      |            |
| June     | 12 May        | 26 April   |
| July     | 16 June       |            |
| August   | 14 July       |            |





# Miscellaneous

## Email Addresses

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| President            | <a href="mailto:nfhspresident@gmail.com">nfhspresident@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Vice-President       | <a href="mailto:nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com">nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com</a>               |
| Secretary            | <a href="mailto:nfhstinc@gmail.com">nfhstinc@gmail.com</a>                                 |
| Treasurer            | <a href="mailto:nfhstreasurer@gmail.com">nfhstreasurer@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Courses              | <a href="mailto:nfhscourses@gmail.com">nfhscourses@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Events               | <a href="mailto:nfhsevents@gmail.com">nfhsevents@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Journal              | <a href="mailto:nfhseeditor@gmail.com">nfhseeditor@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Librarian            | <a href="mailto:nfhslibrarian@gmail.com">nfhslibrarian@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Membership           | <a href="mailto:nfhsmembership@gmail.com">nfhsmembership@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Newsletter           | <a href="mailto:nfhnewsletter@gmail.com">nfhnewsletter@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Orientation sessions | <a href="mailto:nfhsorientation@gmail.com">nfhsorientation@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Publications         | <a href="mailto:nfhspublicationsof-ficer@gmail.com">nfhspublicationsof-ficer@gmail.com</a> |
| Research             | <a href="mailto:nfhresearcher@gmail.com">nfhresearcher@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Sandgate group       | <a href="mailto:nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com">nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com</a>               |
| Used book sales      | <a href="mailto:nfhslibrarian@gmail.com">nfhslibrarian@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Webmaster            | <a href="mailto:nfhswebmaster@gmail.com">nfhswebmaster@gmail.com</a>                       |

## First Aid Kit

Our new NFHS member, Lynn, also a member of St John's Ambulance, has donated a wonderful First Aid Kit for our Society.

Many thanks, Lyn!!

Mel Woodford (President)



\* \* \* \* \*

## Snippers Group

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Attachment to the newsletter

The following attachments are in the newsletter email

- Invitation to Joseph Lycett workshop
- Information about First Fleeter Descendants' Recipe Book

\* \* \* \* \*

## Password for member area of website

The password for the Member area of our website is Podcasts

Note: Podcasts has a capital P.

## 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.

# November

# 2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday             | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|--|---|--|
|   |  |  |                       |  | 1   | 2  |
| <b>Red—SIG Groups</b><br><b>Blue—Volunteer Groups</b><br><b>Green—Courses</b><br><b>Purple—Meetings</b><br><b>Black—Library Open</b><br><b>Brown—Events</b> |  |  |                       |  |   | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open  |
| 3   | 4  | 5  | 6                     | 7  | 8   | 9  |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—Convicts in Australia<br>6.00-7.25pm—Library open<br>7.30pm—General Meeting | 10am-2pm—<br>Snippers | 10am—Cemetery SIG<br>1-3pm—Library open  | 9.30-12.00—<br>Editing meeting—<br>Journal 248                            | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open  |
| 10  | 11   | 12   | 13                    | 14   | 15  | 16   |
|   | 9.30-11.30am—<br>Library Group<br>10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests | 1pm—Scottish SIG   |                       | 10am—Ancestry Users<br>1-3pm—Library open  | 9.30am-3.30pm—<br>Publications printing<br>Cover printing—<br>Journal 248 | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open<br>Submissions due for December newsletter |
| 17  | 18   | 19   | 20                    | 21   | 22  | 23   |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—English Ancestors<br>1pm—DNA  | 10am-2pm—<br>Snippers | 10am—<br>Management Committee<br>1-3pm—Library open                                | 9.30-12.00—<br>Journal printing—<br>Journal 248                           | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open  |
| 24  | 25   | 26   | 27                    | 28   | 29  | 30   |
|   | 9.30-11.30am—<br>Library Group<br>10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests | 10am—Irish Ancestors   |                       | 10am—<br>Scrapbooking<br>1-3pm—Library open<br>Caledonian newsletter to be emailed |   | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open  |

# December

# 2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                           | Wednesday             | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday                  |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 1   | 2  | 3                                 | 4                     | 5   | 6  | 7                         |
| 10am-3pm—<br>Christmas Fair—<br>Christmas Once Upon a Time<br>            | 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—Convicts in Australia        | 10am-2pm—<br>Snippers | 10am—Cemetery SIG<br>1-3pm—Library open             | 9.00-11.00—<br>Feedback meeting<br>Journal 248/<br>planning meeting<br>Journal 249<br>11.30am—<br>Christmas Lunch—<br>Poppy's Verandah Café, Gateshead | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open |
| 8   | 9  | 10                                | 11                    | 12  | 13   | 14                        |
| <b>Red—SIG Groups</b><br><b>Blue—Volunteer Groups</b><br><b>Green—Courses</b><br><b>Purple—Meetings</b><br><b>Black—Library Open</b><br><b>Brown—Events</b> | 9.30-11.30am—<br>Library Group<br>10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests |                                   |                       | 1-3pm—Library open                                  |  | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open |
| 15  | 16   | 17                                | 18                    | 19  | 20   | 21                        |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—English Ancestors<br>1pm—DNA |                       | 10am—<br>Management Committee<br>1-3pm—Library open | Library closed for Christmas/<br>New Year break  |                           |
| 22  | 23   | 24                                | 25                    | 26  | 27   | 28                        |
| Library closed for Christmas/New Year break<br>                          |  |                                   |                       |   |  |                           |
| 29  | 30   | 31                                |                       |   |  |                           |
| Library closed for Christmas/New Year break   |  |                                   |                       |   |  |                           |

# January

# 2025

| Sunday  | Monday                                      | Tuesday                              | Wednesday                                       | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday   |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------|--|
|   |   |                                      | 1   | 2   | 3      | 4  |
| Red—SIG Groups<br>Blue—Volunteer Groups<br>Green—Courses<br>Purple—Meetings<br>Black—Library Open<br>Brown—Events |   |                                      | Library closed for Christmas/<br>New Year break |   |        |  |
| 5   | 6   | 7                                    | 8   | 9   | 10     | 11   |
|   | Library closed for Christmas/New Year break |                                      |   |   |        |  |
| 12  | 13  | 14                                   | 15  | 16  | 17     | 18   |
| Library closed for Christmas/<br>New Year break   |   |                                      |   | 10am—<br>Management Com-<br>mittee<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open |        | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open<br>Submissions due<br>for February news-<br>letter |
| 19  | 20  | 21                                   | 22  | 23  | 24     | 25   |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests           | 10am—English<br>Ancestors<br>1pm—DNA |   | 10am—<br>Scrapbooking<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open              |        | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open<br>Submissions due<br>for Journal 249              |
| 26  | 27  | 28                                   | 29  | 30  | 31     |  |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests           | 10am—Irish Ance-<br>stors            |   | 1-3pm—Library<br>open                                       |        |  |

# February

# 2025

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday             | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|
|   |   |  |                       |  |  | 1   |
| Red—SIG Groups<br>Blue—Volunteer Groups<br>Green—Courses<br>Purple—Meetings<br>Black—Library Open<br>Brown—Events |   |  |                       |  |  | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open   |
| 2   | 3   | 4  | 5                     | 6  | 7  | 8   |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—Convicts in<br>Australia<br>6.00-7.25pm—<br>Library open<br>7.30pm—General<br>Meeting | 10am-2pm—<br>Snippers | 10am—Cemetery<br>SIG<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open  | 9.30-12.00—<br>Editing meeting—<br>Journal 249                                 | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open   |
| 9   | 10  | 11   | 12                    | 13   | 14   | 15  |
|   | 9.30-11.30am—<br>Library Group<br>10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests | 1pm—Scottish SIG   |                       | 10am—Ancestry<br>Users<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open  | 9.30am-3.30pm—<br>Publications print-<br>ing<br>Cover printing—<br>Journal 249 | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open<br>Submissions due<br>for March newslet-<br>ter |
| 16  | 17  | 18   | 19                    | 20   | 21   | 22  |
|   | 10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests                                   | 10am—English<br>Ancestors<br>1pm—DNA   | 10am-2pm—<br>Snippers | 10am—<br>Management Com-<br>mittee<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open                                | 9.30-12.00—<br>Journal printing—<br>Journal 249                                | 10am-3pm—<br>Library open   |
| 23  | 24  | 25   | 26                    | 27   | 28   |   |
|   | 9.30-11.30am—<br>Library Group<br>10.30am—Coffee<br>and Chat, Wests | 10am—Irish Ance-<br>stors  |                       | 10am—<br>Scrapbooking<br>1-3pm—Library<br>open<br>Caledonian news-<br>letter to be emailed |  |   |