Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

Telephone: (02) 4957 8296

Secretary Email: nfhsinc@gmail.com Website: http://www.nfhs.org.au/ Editor: nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com

ABN: 43 533 036 199



Newsletter

Library Hours: Thurs: 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Sat: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Meeting Times:

First Tuesday each month (Feb to Nov) Feb, Mar, Oct, Nov at 7.30 pm Apr to Sep at 2.00 pm

Number 247

WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL—see page 7

The theme for our September Journal 251 is: Heroism

Deadline for articles: Saturday 26 July 2025

June 2025

June General Meeting

Tuesday 3 June-2.00 pm

Member—Julie Keating

Newcastle in the 1800s ... from penal settlement to coalopolis

Meeting will be held in the rooms and via Zoom

Our member Julie Keating will present to us about her latest book Newcastle in the 1800s ... from penal settlement to coalopolis.

Coalopolis was a term applied to Newcastle in the late 1800s due to its importance as a coal producer and exporter. Three main factors led to the town becoming the largest coal exporter in the world the high-quality Borehole coal seam underneath several suburbs, government decisions about the penal settlement and coal mining, and world events, especially the demand for coal due to the industrial revolution and gold rushes.

This will definitely be an interesting presentation. Julie is always fascinating to listen to.

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 June meeting

Topic: June Monthly Meeting

Time: Jun 3, 2025 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88339092188?

pwd=M6Ko3ZDzOKaFiw6wwIhDRYtFDbawpN.1

Meeting ID: 883 3909 2188

Passcode: 632713

Annual General Meeting results

Our Annual General Meeting held on 6 May was very successful. Reports were given by Mel Woodford (President) and Marie Hughes (Treasurer). These reports are attached to the newsletter email and can also be viewed in full in the Members' section of the website.

The results of the voting were as follows:

Elected Positions

Mel Woodford President: Vice President: Rosalie Bunn Secretary: Karen Smith Treasurer: Marie Hughes Sharyn Boyce Committee Members: Laraine Cross Kirstie Carrick Lea Harris Bert Groen

Voluntary Positions

Assistant Secretary Vacant Assistant Treasurer Vacant Librarian Vacant Publications Officer: Jane Ison

Journal Editor Margaret Ashford Research Coordinator: Laraine Cross

Maintenance Officer Vacant

Clive Maddocks IT Officer: Membership Registrar: Ruth Sewell Sandgate Group Coordinator: Margaret Ashford Website Coordinator: Glenn Matthews Guest Speaker Coordinator: Mel Woodford **Snippers Coordinator:** Karilyn Pawley

Cleaning Coordinator: Vacant Newsletter Editor Lea Harris Facebook Administrators: Mel Woodford Ros Cheetham Jane Ison

NFHS Public Officer is Sharyn Boyce.

Mel Woodford (President)

Volunteer Librarian's Handbook

Computers

The computer in the Reception Room is not connected to the internet and contains the NFHS Catalogue.

The NFHS computers are set up in the 'blue' room and are numbered 1 to 6 from the doorway to the back wall. The Management computer is for the use of group coordinators but should be turned on FIRST when opening the rooms.

Personal laptops may be used throughout the NFHS rooms using the Wifi.

If there is a non-urgent issue with any computer or if you have a specific request or concern, please email our IT Officer Clive on nfhsit@gmail.com noting the computer number.

Donations

If NFHS members or members of the public bring family history books or research material that they feel we could use, then a donation form (found in the 'Forms' folder) should be completed by the donor. It is very important that donors understand that if NFHS cannot use the material within our Library then it will be sold and the money used to purchase new material. If a donor is not happy with this consideration, then the donation should not be accepted. Once accepted, the donated materials and donation form should be taken to the Library work area under the screen in the meeting room where they will be processed.

Any corrections or additions should be emailed to Jane on the nfspublicationsofficer@gmail.com email.

Jane Ison

Library News

Library Group meets 2nd and 4th Mondays from 9.30 am to11.30 am

Date Librarian 1 (get key)		Librarian 2					
Saturday Library Roster							
Morning 9.45 am to 12.30 pm							
Afternoon	12.30 pm	to 3.00 pm					
7 June am	Closed—June	long weekend					
7 June pm	Closed—June	long weekend					
14 June am	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T					
14 June pm	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T					
21 June am	Bert G	Paul K					
21 June pm	Bert G	Paul K					
28 June am	Marie H	Marilyn B					
28 June pm	Marie H	Jude C					
Thursday	Library Ro	oster					
1.00 to 3.0	0 pm						
5 June	Alison M	Clelia P					
12 June	Jane I	Rosalie B					
19 June	Marilyn M	Jane I					
26 June	Karen S	Rosalie B					

Reminder to Library Volunteers

Just a reminder that the wifi extender powerpoint should be turned ON when the library is open and the powerpoint should be TURNED OFF as part of the packing up at the end of every Library session. This is a new extender and we will prolong its life if it is turned off when not in use. Remember that the modem in the Blue room is always left on.

Library Volunteers—Thanks

It is lovely to see the June roster already filled. Thanks so much to our volunteers. Without volunteers, we are unable to keep the rooms open for our members and visitors to continue with their family history research.

For future reference, when there are gaps, if you could spare three hours to assist to fill these gaps, please complete the volunteer form at this <u>link</u>.

Once again, thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Mel Woodford (President)

Take action and visit your NFHS Library

'The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.'
Herbert Spencer

Events and Outings

Future dates

3 June—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting—Julie Keating

20 June—11.00 am—Merewether Beaches Hotel (see page 4)

1 July—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting—Xmas in July—Trivia afternoon with John and Judy Mulhearn (see page 5)

15 July—entries close for the 2025 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

5 August—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting—Benita Parker—History of West Wallsend

2 September—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting

12 to 14 September—State Conference—Wollongong (see below)

7 October—2.00 pm—Monthly meeting

11 October—Library Orientation (Print)

17 October—Publications Meeting

18 October—Sandgate Cemetery Tour (see page 6)

25 October—Library Orientation (Digital)

4 November—7.30 pm—Monthly meeting

5 December—Christmas luncheon

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.

State Conference 2025



Would you be interested in attending the

State Conference 2025

via Zoom at the NFHS rooms on

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September?

This year our conference is being held in Wollongong. Some NFHS members will be attending in person, but others may find Zoom more convenient.

There are some fabulous speakers.

NFHS is once again offering to hold a mini-Conference in our rooms for \$20 per person if enough people are interested.

Details to attend in person or individually via Zoom can be found here.

Please email Mel on nfhspresident@gmail.com if you are interested in attending in the NFHS rooms.

If Bricks Could Talk

What stories they could tell ...



Come and learn about the bricks that line the bars at

The Beaches Hotel, Merewether

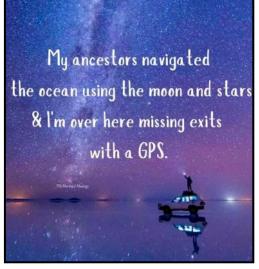
11.00am, 20 June 2025

Marie Hughes will share some stories about these bricks and stay for lunch overlooking Merewether Beach

Contact Marie nfhstreasurer@gmail.com to reserve your seat



Have a laugh







Membership Registrar Position

I am thrilled to announce that we have a new Membership Registrar, Ruth Sewell. Thanks so much to Ruth for taking on this very important role in the Society. Please join me in welcoming Ruth to the position.

Sharyn Boyce

All things Scottish

Scottish SIG meets 2nd Tuesday at 1.00 pm from February to November

Scottish newsletter

The next issue will be emailed on 28 May 2025, being the Scottish quarter day of Whitsunday.

NFHS members are always welcome to send us an article to be included in the *Caledonian* by emailing it to the newsletter email below.

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.



Scottish SIG group

Condolences

NFHS members were extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Jim MacDougall. Jim was a true gentleman who was always willing to assist anyone at the Society. He joined the Society in 2015 and over that time has been very involved. For many years, Jim was our Librarian and instigated many databases to assist our members. He was a member of the Library group, the eTeam and the Sandgate group.

Jim will be truly missed at the rooms. Our sincerest thoughts go to his wife Margaret Ashford and their family.

Mel Woodford (President)

Sandgate Cemetery Tour

Date: Saturday 18 October

Location: Honeysuckle (Cottage Creek) reinterment area, Presbyterian area

Do you have any connections with this section?

Please let us know - nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com

Marg Ashford (Sandgate Tours Coordinator)

Journal and Newsletter

September Journal (251)

We will welcome items for Journal 251 to be published in September, with the theme of **Heroism**. Heroism can be dramatic and obvious, or private behind the scenes. It can involve a choice to make some form of sacrifice, or the overcoming of fear. What springs to mind when we hear the word? Military action or saving someone in distress are obvious responses, but there are so many others – the suffragists taking public action to gain universal suffrage; those setting aside personal ambitions to ensure success for their families. Do you know of people who fit your idea of heroism? Please write about them and share their stories.

Send us those articles by Saturday 26 July 2025.

December Journal (252)

Journal 252 (December) is focussing on **20th Century Migration**. In 2021, almost half of Australian residents had a parent born overseas. While Australia has been a place of immigration from time immemorial, the 20th century saw a phenomenal increase, in both numbers and countries of origin, spurred on by reasons ranging from humanitarianism to deliberate government policies to enhance the work force. 'New Australians' (a phrase coined by Australia's first Minister for Immigration, Arthur Caldwell), brought new foods, drinks, culture, ideas. What stories are told in your family about this immigration and the immigrants?

Please share them with us by sending your articles by **Saturday 25 October 2025**.

Submission of Articles and Feedback

For all issues, and for any feedback to us, you can send your typed item to nfhseditor@gmail.com or deliver it to the Society library addressed to the Editor. We can also accept handwritten items if that's your preference.



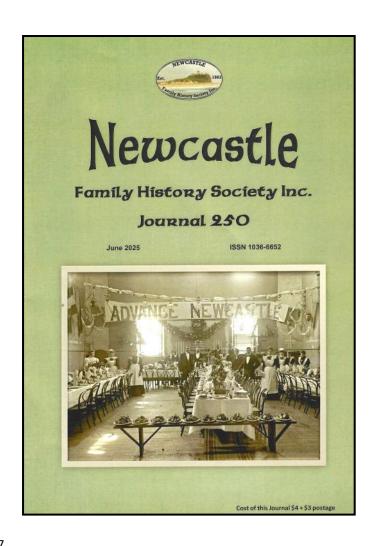
Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

	Newsletter	Journal
July	14 June	
August	12 July	
September	16 August	26 July
October	13 September	
November	11 October	
December	20 November	25 October
January	No newsletter	
February	10 January	
March	14 February	24 January
April	14 March	

May Journal (250)

Your May Journal 250 is now printed and ready to collect from the rooms. It is a fabulous issue titled Celebration and includes some very interesting articles. Be sure to collect it so you can sit back and enjoy reading it.

Margaret Ashford (Editor, eTeam)



Publications

We have two face-to-face meetings each year - one in March and one in October. Our next meeting will be held on Friday 17 October. Until then we will 'meet' using email.

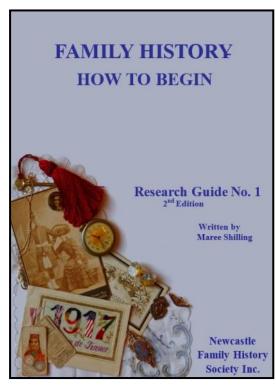
This is just a reminder to members that we have a series of Research Guides to help you in your family history exploration. Currently these books are unavailable as downloads.

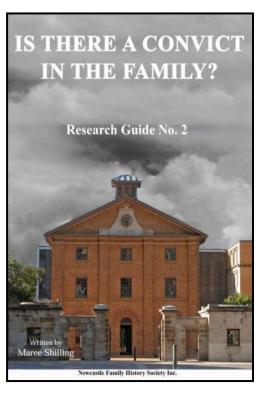
Research Guide 1: Family History - How to Begin Research Guide 2: Is there a Convict in the Family Research Guide 3: Family History through Photographs

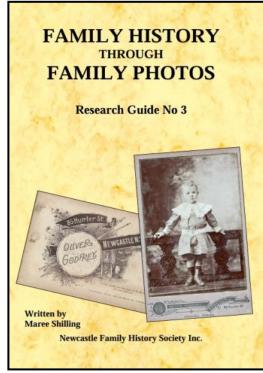
Research Guide 4: Is there a Serviceman or Woman in the Family?

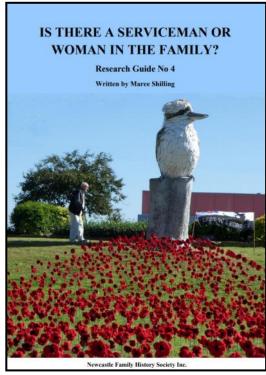
Each guide costs \$12 but there is a member's discount on your first purchase making the cost \$10.80. Ask for these guides at the Reception Desk.

Jane Ison (Publications Coordinator)









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 st Tuesday	Laraine Cross	nfhsresearch78@gmail.com
Scottish Family Research	2 nd Tuesday – 1.00 pm—February to November	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
English Ancestors	3 rd Tuesday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au
DNA	3 rd Tuesday – 1.00 pm	Sandra Jones	sjones11@bigpond.net.au
Irish Ancestors	4 th Tuesday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Cemetery Research	1 st Thursday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Ancestry Users	2 nd Thursday—February to November—no meeting in September	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Scrapbooking	4 th Thursday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au

YouTube

Don't forget our guest speakers at our monthly meetings are 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

Some more podcasts have been recorded since our last newsletter. I'm sure you will find them very interesting so click on the links below and enjoy listening.

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 nfspublicationsofficer@gmail.com or contact the IT Officer at nfspublicationsofficer@gmail.com.

In the Shadow of Mount Sugarloaf by Benita Parker, West Wallsend District Heritage Group

In the fourth episode of this series, Benita tells of the life and times of Joseph Holmes and his family, after whom the township of Holmesville is named. To listen, click <u>here</u>.

Birds of a Feather by Member Narelle Austen

In episode 4 of this series, Narelle explores the relationships between the European settlers of Coal River and First Nations peoples and uncovers the stories of Commandant James Wallis, Awabakal leader Burigon and Joseph Lycett—an unlikely trio whose interactions preserved Aboriginal knowledge and captured glimpses of a culture under immense change. To listen, click here.

The Creation of the Calvary Mater Newcastle Palliative Care Service by Member Dr Pamela Harrison OAM

Join Dr. Pamela Harrison OAM as she describes the journey that transformed palliative care in Newcastle and beyond. To listen, click here.

Miscellaneous

Email Addresses

President	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	nfhsvicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	nfhsinc@gmail.com
Treasurer	nfhstreasurer@gmail.com
Courses	nfhscourses@gmail.com
Events	nfhsevents@gmail.com
Journal	nfhseditor@gmail.com
Librarian	nfhslibrarian@gmail.com
Membership	nfhsmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com
Orientation sessions	nfhsorientation@gmail.com
Publications	nfhspublicationsof- ficer@gmail.com
Research	nfhsresearcher@gmail.com
Sandgate group	nfhssandgategroup@gmail.com
Used book sales	nfhslibrarian@gmail.com
Webmaster	nfhswebmaster@gmail.com

Snippers Group

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

Password for member area of website

The password for the Member area of our website:

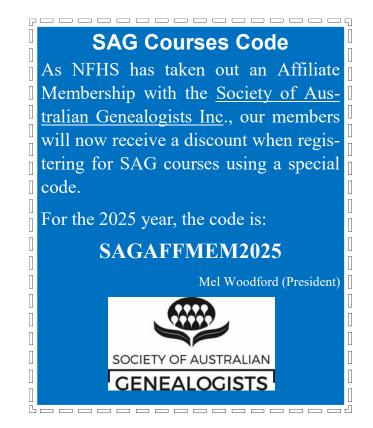
Ancestors - Note: Ancestors has a capital A

Reminder this is a new password since the AGM

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.





Attachments to the newsletter

The following attachments are in the newsletter email

- 2025 AGM—President's Report
- 2025 AGM—Treasurer's Report
- 2025 AGM—NFHSInc Annual Income and Expenditure 2024
- NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc—May 2025 Newsletter
- NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc—2025 Annual Conference Flyer—bookings are NOW open

Members who receive the newsletter by post—if you would like a copy of the AGM attachments, please contact Mel on nfhspresident@gmail.com or by phoning the rooms on (02) 4957 8296 to request.

June

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events		10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Feedback/Planning meeting—Journals 250/251	Library closed Kings Birthday long weekend
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Kings Birthday long weekend	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for July newsletter
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	11am—Beaches Hotel, Mereweth- er—Talk on the brick wall and lunch	10am-3pm— Library open
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
29	30					
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests					

July

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events			10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
6	7 10.30am—Coffee	8 10am—Convicts in	9	10	11	100m 2nm
	and Chat, Wests	Australia 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting—Xmas in July and Trivia		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for August newslet- ter
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications print- ing	10am-3pm— Library open
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
27	28	29	30	31		
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		1-3pm—Library open		

August

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm— Library open
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Editing meeting— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open
10	11	12	12	14	15	16
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications printing Cover printing— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for September newsletter
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Journal printing— Journal 251	10am-3pm— Library open
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open Caledonian news- letter to be emailed		10am-3pm— Library open
31						

September

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia 12.30-1.55pm— Library open 2pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Feedback/Planning meeting—Journals 251/252	10am-3pm— Library open	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for October news- letter	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications print- ing	10am-3pm— Library open	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
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28	29	30					
12							