

2019 NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference:

Theme: EXPLORING THE PAST

At the 2018 Conference in Batemans Bay it was announced that **Ku-ring-gai Historical Society** is hosting the **2019 Conference** for the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies (**Association**). The Conference will take place at Knox Grammar School on the **11th to 13th of October 2019**.

Friday 11th October will be a **free day** for anyone to attend. There will be a number of **free informative lectures** on various aspects of genealogy; also there will be more **advanced master classes** (at a \$10 cost) and a family history fair, with exhibition tables including booksellers, businesses and family history societies. Master classes are the only events held on the Friday that need to be booked in advance.

The **Association Forum** in recent years has proved to be a valuable exchange and sharing of the challenges and experiences being encountered by many Association Member Groups. This will commence on **Friday 3pm**. Further details will be circulated prior to the Conference.

The Conference proper kicks off on Friday night with a "**Meet and Greet**" event for **registered participants**. The main lectures start on Saturday 12th October. Trade tables will be open during the lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea breaks, giving participants many opportunities to browse the goods and services on offer.

On the Saturday the **Association Annual General Meeting** (AGM) is scheduled to commence at 4pm, the decisions to be considered at the AGM include voting on the Association Member Societies to represent the four Association Regions of the State; the determination of the composition of the Association Management Committee for 2019 – 2020 and discussion on other issues of interest to Member Groups.

The **Conference Dinner** will be held on Saturday night. It is an elaborate sit-down dinner, and like the Meet and Greet, will be held in a building overlooking the Knox oval. At night the gothic-style buildings are floodlit, so it will be a spectacular venue. There will also be a great guest speaker at the dinner, the identity of whom is a secret for now.

The main conference will feature some fantastic talks and speakers. The full details are on the conference web site (<http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au>) but among others it is a privilege to have Dr David Wright, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., F.S.G., from Kent, England giving three sessions. David is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He has over four decades of experience in genealogical and historical research, and has written numerous books on Kent Genealogy. He will be leading a master class on Friday about **Reading Old Handwriting**, as well as presentations on the **Workhouses** and **Genealogical History and Geography**. This is a unique opportunity to hear this leading English genealogist.

Lectures will continue on Sunday 13th October until 1pm, when it will be time to hear about the **2020 Conference** being hosted by the Newcastle Family History Society with support of the Maitland and Beyond Family History group and for everyone to say their goodbyes before heading home.

Newsletters circulated by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Conference Committee can be found using the following link: <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/news.html>

The **registration fee** includes all the sessions on the Saturday and Sunday; morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Saturday; morning tea on Sunday; and the Meet and Greet on Friday night.

Your attendance to this fantastic conference is encouraged. **Bookings** must be made online, and can be made from <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/register.html> Early bird rates are available until 31 July and are \$150 for the whole conference, \$90 for Saturday only or \$60 for Sunday only.

It will be a great event and, for many Society members from the **Metropolitan Region**, a good opportunity to attend a local conference without needing to secure accommodation and travel costs. For those interested in the **School accommodation** please see below.

Bookings for the accommodation at Knox Grammar School opened on Monday 20th May, use the link: <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au/Knox-Accommodation-Booking-Form.pdf>. Many people have been waiting for this to be available.