

## 2013 Conference Progress Report from HAGSOC 20-22 September 2013

*Kerrie Gray, Conference 2013 Convenor*

The program for the Conference in September 2013 is included on the next page of the newsletter. While it is now final there can always be a last minute variation due to an unexpected issue.

Early bird registrations are open and, as at 17 May, there were 114 registrations received (110 full registrations and four for Saturday only). Our expectation is that June will be a busy month for registrations as the Early Bird offer closes at end June.

Marketing remains strongly focused on digital material and social media. Our Bluebell Press now has 418 subscribers (up from 332 at Feb report). The next edition of Bluebell Press will be sent in early June and will include a reminder about close of Early Bird registrations.

We have set up a blog on our website and this is updated weekly and includes information about the Conference and about Canberra generally.

### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Interest in the activities associated with the Family History fair is growing and many registered delegates have also booked for the

[www.conference2013.org.au](http://www.conference2013.org.au)

HAGSOC is pleased to host  
29th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of  
Family History Societies

Family History Fair 20<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Conference 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

optional presentations. The meet and greet is also proving popular.

**Early Bird Registrations  
Finish 30 June 2013**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS CLOSE END OF JUNE



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*Management Committee*

***NSW & ACT Association of  
Family History Societies Inc.***

Website: [www.nswactfhs.org](http://www.nswactfhs.org)

Email address: [nswact@gmail.com](mailto:nswact@gmail.com)

All correspondence to

The Secretary, NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc

P.O. Box 4328, WINMALEE NSW 2777

## 2013 Conference Program Canberra

### SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

**John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address**  
David Headon

**The Future with Family Search**  
Chris Boyack

**Research Tools for the Digital Age**  
Cora Num

**Where were they when?**  
Dr Martin Woods, NLA

OR

**Cobb & Co: reflections on a by-gone era**  
Heather Nicholls

**Land of Tomorrow- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Migration  
Records held at NAA**  
Kerri Ward NAA

OR

**An education in itself: education records in SRO**  
Gail Davis

### SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

**Royal Commissions and Legislative Council Select  
Committees – Boring or Brilliant for Family History?**  
Angela Phippen

**Australian War Memorial's ANZAC Collections Online**  
Robyn Van-Dyk (AWM)

**Women in Records**  
Panel: Cora Num, Angela Phippen, Megan Gibson

**Working with Findmypast.com.au**  
Rosemary Koppitke

Hear the latest news and techniques for making the most  
of your research with Findmypast.com.au



### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

There will be a family history fair on Friday 20 September including the following:

- The fair will be free and open to the public and will operate from 10am until 4pm. Access for setting up tables and displays will be from 8am.
- In the morning there will be two presentations of one hour each. One will be a TROVE Masterclass by the NLA and the other on the topic of NSW Land Records by Carol Riley. Each will cost \$10 a head.
- In the afternoon there will be a three hour workshop on 'Writing your Family History'. This will be presented by Hazel Edwards and will cost \$30 a head.
- There will be a room available for use by the NSW&ACT Association. It accommodates 50 people in theatre style. It is suggested that the Executive meeting be held at 10am and the Association Forum at 2pm.

### MEET AND GREET

A 'meet and greet' will be held on Friday evening and will include a light meal or nibbles. There will be no cost for this although delegates will be asked to indicate on their registration whether they wish to attend.

The website is [www.conference2013.org.au](http://www.conference2013.org.au) register for Conference and, if you have not already, sign up for the newsletter, *Bluebell Press*.



**EXCITING NEWS In 2013 National Family History Week will be trialled as a month long initiative! So it's now National Family History Month (NFHM)!**

Family history and genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies around the world. Family history is the second biggest subject on the web with sites receiving billions of hits per year. There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history related organisations so the month has broad appeal across Australia.

National Family History Month is an initiative of AFFHO (Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations). This popular initiative has received broad support from some of Australia's leading government and non government organisations. Current sponsors and supporters include:

- Ancestry.com.au
- Australian Family Tree Connections
- FamilySearch.org
- FindMyPast.com.au
- GenEBooks
- Inside History Magazine
- Gould Genealogy & History
- National Archives of Australia
- Shauna Hicks History Enterprises
- Unlock the Past

During the month events will be conducted across the country that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects including family reunions, seminars, talks, open days, history walks, book launches, film evening and expos. Check your state for details of local events.

Dates for 2013 will be 1 to 31 August <http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au/>

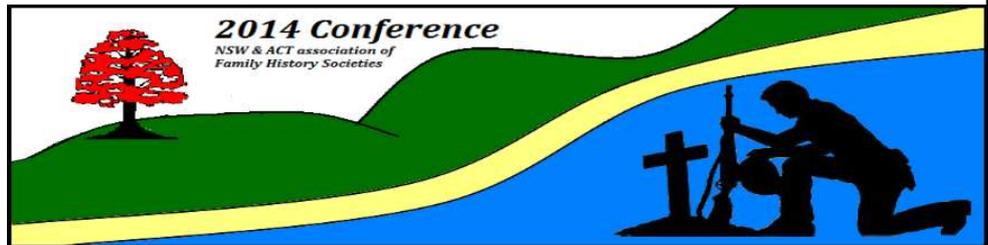
Add your event to the calendar. Any event that raises awareness of history, family or local, can be added to the event list. Family reunions, seminars, talks, open days, history walks, book launches.

## 2014 Conference Progress Report from Illawarra 19-21 September 2014

*Judy Bull, Conference 2014 Convenor*

Conference planning meetings continue to be held. The focus has been on preparing the design for the conference logo. We plan to have this settled and Expressions of Interest forms prepared to take to the Shoalhaven History Fair and to the 2013 conference in Canberra.

The theme is **Illawarra Remembers 1914-2014** which links the centenary of World War 1 with the **Illawarra Remembers 1914-1918** project. This



is a joint project of the Illawarra Family History Group and Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama libraries to compile a data base of World War I resources such as letters, photographs and diaries. The theme also allows for a range of topics wider than war related ones.

A list of possible speakers has been identified and we have started work on compiling the program. The program for the Friday is still under discussion – the importance of the fair as opposed to the number of likely helpers from our group.

After a few hiccups with paperwork, our account with Credit Union Australia has been established. I have also made contact with Kerrie Gray (HAGSOC) who has been very helpful. IFHG will have a table at both the Shoalhaven History Fair and the Canberra conference to further promote the conference.

[www.conference2014.org.au](http://www.conference2014.org.au) and email [info@conference2014.org.au](mailto:info@conference2014.org.au)

## Queensland BDMS are Online

Searches are free and images of the certificates can be downloaded for \$20, or certified historical certificates can be ordered for \$28.

The department is digitising all BDM entries and they are working backwards. The latest are available now.

You will need to check the dates when ordering. I received an image of one certificate – brilliant. The other two I wanted came as certified certificates.



You can search for births from 1829 and 1914. Enter a last name and either a date of birth or a date of birth range.

You can search for deaths from 1829 and 1983 and marriages between 1829 and 1938

[www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch](http://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch)

## New Wills and Probate Records Added to Genes Reunited

This month leading family history website Genes Reunited published new records including the Bank of England Wills Extracts from 1717-1845 and the London Probate Index from 1750-1858.

The Bank of England Wills Extracts is a fantastic resource for family historians containing over 60,000 entries giving an insight into the period 1717 – 1845. This latest record set contains extracts from the wills of those who held money in public funds as well as orders made for stockholders who went bankrupt.

From today people interested in uncovering more about the lives of their ancestors can visit <http://www.genesreunited.co.uk> and search the latest records listed below:

- Bank of England Wills Extracts 1717-1845
- London Probate Index 1750-1858
- Divorce Index 1858-1873
- Great Western Railway Shareholders 1832-1932
- Suffolk Testator Index 1847-1857

The Great Western Railway Shareholders Index details the records of the shareholders in the railway and holds approximately 440,000 individuals, with a total number of 570,464 records. A record entry includes executors, beneficiaries and others who were involved in transferring shareholdings.

Now that the records are available online, Genes Reunited has discovered Isambard Kingdom Brunel who was the engineer on the Great Western Railway project. As a shareholder Isambard appears in the Index following his death in 1859.

The newly added records are available online at [www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk) and can be viewed by Platinum members or on a pay per view basis.

Rhoda Breakell, Head of Genes Reunited comments: "The Wills and Probate records, some of which date from 1717 up to 1932, are important resources for family historians, but also for those looking for relatives who have lived more recently. The easily-searchable database allows members to uncover important details about their own history at the click of a button. We are thrilled to be adding more records to our continually growing database."

## New NSW Newspapers on Trove

The NLA is pleased to announce there are over 40 new NSW newspaper issues that have been added to Digitised newspapers and more on Trove. Digitisation of over 30 of these titles has been supported by the State Library of NSW as part of the Digital Excellence Program, funded by the NSW Government.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/showthread.php?1501-Newspaper-titles-recently-added-to-Trove>



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### *Dorothy Fellowes Website Award*

This is the one and only call for nominations for the Dorothy Fellowes Website Award. Please send all nominations to the Secretary by the 15 July 2013.

The criteria for the website entry are:

- Best website managed by a professional
- Best website managed by an amateur
- There must be changes to the website before it can be entered again
- After winning the Award no entry for two years.

### *Cynthia Foley Encouragement Award*

The Cynthia Foley Encouragement Award is chosen from a list of new members of the association for the current year. Cynthia Foley chooses the society from the list for whom she would like to pay the first 12 months membership.

**The winners of both awards will be presented at the 2013 Conference.**

## RAHS GRANTS UPDATE

At the 2013 Heritage Awards the Minister of the Environment and Minister for Heritage Hon. Robyn Mary Parker announced funding for the Royal Australian Historical Society Small Grants program for Local History and Archives 2013-2015. The program is one of the Community, Youth and senior heritage projects funded by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage - [Read More](#).

The Minister approved the allocation to the Royal Australian Historical Society of \$75,000 per annum for the next two years. This is a very considerable increase from the \$45,000 the Society was allocated in 2012 and is very much appreciated. It is a vote of confidence in the importance and the calibre of the work funded by the small grants program.

The 2013 - 2015 grants program will be launched on June 21. Details and applications will be available in the grants section of the RAHS website - [click here](#). The aim of the 2013-2015 program is to both stimulate interest and increase the understanding of NSW history and heritage by providing funding to community organisations and individuals who will deliver projects on different themes for a wide variety of audiences.

The Society would like to again acknowledge the ongoing support of Miriam Stacey and Victoria Throp from the NSW Heritage Grants, Heritage Branch Regional Operations Group, Office of Environment and Heritage.

### *OTHER GRANTS*

The **ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program** applications are now open and every Federal electorate has been allocated \$100,000 in funding. Affiliated societies are urged to contact their Federal MP as soon as possible to find out more, and check on closing dates.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### *Conference September 2015*

It seems such a long time away, but there is planning to do and speakers to organise. Two years out there is a call for submissions and the winning host society is decided in September and will be announced at the 2013 Conference.

While there is a heavy commitment for the host society there are significant benefits for the host society not limited to the following:

- Raise the profile of the society in their local community
- Opportunity to increase memberships
- With a successful Conference the opportunity to raise funds for the host society.

If you would like to submit a proposal to host the 2015 Conference please contact the Secretary for the Conference Requirements and Guidelines. Submissions must reach the Secretary by the end of July 2013.

### BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

*(monthly meetings) 7:30 pm at the Tradies Club, The Kingsway, Gymea NSW*

**Thu 11 July 2013 Wendy Cornish**

*Edward VIII*

**Thu 8 August 2013 Peter Plowman**

*Migrant Liners of the Post-War Years*

### HERALDRY & GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

*(monthly meetings) 8:00 pm at the Neighbourhood Hall, Cook Community Hub, Cook, ACT*

**Tue 2 July 2013 Cheryl Mongan**

*An Abiding Presence: Galong and its People*

**Tue 6 Aug 2013 Shauna Hicks**

*Are you making the most of Google – Google Tools for Genealogists*

### CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

*2 November 2013 - FAMILY HISTORY FAIR*

Still in the planning stages - but please make a note in your diary for this event.

For further information contact Kay Radford on 02 4324 5164 or email

[kay1@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:kay1@centralcoastfhs.org.au)

**For full details of the Societies' coming events refer to <http://www.nswactfhs.org/whatson>**

If you have any articles for the newsletter which you feel may be of interest please send them in. These include things like grants received, publications being released and events for all societies, etc.

*Rosemary McKenzie (editor) [mckero@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mckero@netspeed.com.au)*



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2012-2013

### Metropolitan Region

Botany Bay Family History Society Inc. and  
Picton & District Historical & Family History Society Inc.

### Central Region

Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. and  
Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

### Northern Region

Armidale Family History Society Inc. and  
Port Macquarie & District Family History Society Inc.

### Southern Region

Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra and  
Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc.

## EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

### PRESIDENT:

Joy Vost representing Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc.

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Gail Hanger representing  
Picton & District Historical & Family History Society Inc.

### SECRETARY:

Rosemary McKenzie representing  
Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra

### TREASURER:

Clive Smith representing  
Port Macquarie & District Family History Society Inc.

### PUBLIC OFFICER:

Suzanne Voytas representing Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

## NEXT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

This will take place on the 20th September 2013.

Items for the Agenda to reach the Secretary two weeks before the meeting.

Email [nswact@gmail.com](mailto:nswact@gmail.com) or [mckero@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mckero@netspeed.com.au)

**NSW-ACTion 30 placed on the website by:  
The Webmaster — Rosemary McKenzie**