



NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter for February 2025

Message from the President

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Welcome to 2025.

Hopefully, everyone had a lovely Christmas and a great New Year. I am sure it is but a distant memory now!

Planning is well under way for the 40th State Conference, which will be held from 12th-14th September 2025 in Fairy Meadow. A Family History Fair will open the event on the 12th September followed by the Conference on the 13th and 14th September. Sincere Thanks to the Illawarra Family History Group Inc for hosting this Conference titled "They came from Where?" The Conference should prove to have interesting sessions, as we have a very diverse community compared to 100 years ago. More information can be found below, with Early bird Registration planned for March.

Congratulations to Pam Valentine on her Order of Australia, received in this year's Australia Day Honours. Pam was a past President of our Association and a volunteer with the Liverpool Genealogy Society.

Work by various FHS's on the Small Debts Collection for the State Archives is progressing well. Nearly 18,000 tasks have been completed. Several towns are now available to search on their website. Check to see if your ancestor was taken to court?

Finally on a sad note, Joy Vost died on 1st January 2025 in Nowra. Joy was a Past President and member of Shoalhaven Family History Society. Her contribution to both the Association and her own society will be missed.

Best Wishes to all our members for some research breakthroughs in 2025.

Gail.

February Management Committee Meeting

This was held on Sunday 16th February 2025 via Zoom. Seven Committee Members and one Conference Representative were present. Important points from that meeting were:

7. Conference Report

7.1- The 40th State Conference will be held as an in-person and virtual conference.

Dates: 12th–14th September 2025 (12th Family History Fair; 13th–14th Conference with an AGM and Forum held when the Conference closes at 4pm on Saturday.

Theme: "They Came from Where?"

Venue: The Fraternity Club, 11 Bourke Street, Fairy Meadow.

A Facebook Page and Conference Website has been developed. (See Upcoming Events).

There is one free table for member societies of the NSW ACT Association of FHS - Please email – conference0925@gmail.com for further details and information.

7.2 - No society has yet indicated an interest in hosting the 2026 Conference. Emails were sent out to all Society Secretaries in November 2024 inviting member groups to consider nominating. Could members please discuss this at your next Management Meeting? The Association will provide assistance.

8. Other Reports:

8.1 - Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO)

The next Congress will be held on 21st – 23rd March 2025 in Brisbane, Queensland. Over 300 in person registrants. Please refer to Upcoming Family History Events below for more details.

8.2 - National Archives Report – Family Search is supporting the digitisation of Post War Displaced Persons (worldwide).

8.3 - Website Report – Please encourage your society to add their events, book launches or presentations to:

https://www.nswactfhs.org/whatson/add_event.php

9. General Business:

9.1 - Grant Applications - An updated draft framework was discussed at the meeting. Further discussion points will be added to the document. A name change was suggested and a streamlined yearly application process will occur. An email will be sent to Society Secretaries requesting various suggestions from our member societies.

9.2 - Conference Guidelines (2025) Update – these will be finalised after the May Meeting. These will then be available for members.

9.3 - NSW & ACT Zoom Groups:

Tech Support Group - Always well attended – a very enthusiastic group keen to share knowledge & assist one another.

Social Group - Minimal attendance as people now have other social outlets and more events are on Zoom. They will continue for the next few months and then revised.

Office Bearers Network - Well attended.

9.4 - Business Without Notice:

It was decided to name our Grant after Joy Vost in recognition of her long association as our Past President.

Upcoming Family History Events in 2025



Conference Organisers: Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

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

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

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

Registration : Three Day Conference \$515; One Day Conference \$260.

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- ❖ **Tech Support Group Meetings:** held on the **second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm – 9 pm on Zoom.** Future Topics will be advertised in our private FB group and information forwarded to group members via email.

12th March – Present Your Favourite App, or Website to the Group.

9th April – TBA

14th May – Using eHive

11th June – TBA

Presentations recorded.

- ❖ **Office Bearers Networking Group:** held on the **fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 9pm on Zoom.** This group is aimed at members with specific positions within FHSs. The group selected will be advertised on our private FB Page and email sent to the Secretary of your Society/Group.



26th February – **Journal Editors**

23rd April – **Interest Group Coordinators**

25th June - **TBA**

- ❖ **Social Group** – held on the **fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 9 pm on Zoom.** After an introductory social chat, participants will be requested to share some information for a few minutes on the specific topic.

26th March - **Topic: Members to discuss their ancestor's military record. If you would like to attend this group, please email Elizabeth our vice president: vice-president@nswactffhs.org**



2025 Annual Conference
 NSW & ACT
 Association of Family History Societies



Hosted By: Illawarra Family History Group Inc

Save the Dates!

12, 13 & 14th September 2025

Friday 12th
 Family History Fair

13th & 14th
 Conference

Presentations:
 Irish Emigration,
 AI & Genealogy,
 DNA & much more

Trade Tables Available
 Contact: conference0925@gmail.com

Conference website: www.familyhistoryconference2025.org.au

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



Every family has a story – write yours now!

2025 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher

- 1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme.
- Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story, \$500 for runner up, and a bonus \$100 prize for FHACT members.
- Open to individuals over 18 years.
- Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHACT members and \$30.00 for non-members.
- No limit on the number of entries.
- Terms & Conditions and Entry Form available at familyhistoryact.org.au or by email from writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au



Competition closes 15th July 2025

2025 Judges

- **Dr Rachael Weaver:** Rachael is an ARC Future Fellow in the School of Humanities, University of Tasmania, and a 2024-25 Visiting Scholar at the State Library of New South Wales. Rachael has edited and authored several books, most recently *Colonial Adventure* (Miegunyah/MUP, 2024).
- **Susan O'Leary:** Following a career in research, Susan has developed her passion for family history research in retirement. She has been inspired to publish family stories through her blog: www.historysnop.com
- **Chris Oyston:** After joining the Navy at 15, Chris spent 25 years as a Naval engineer, culminating in roles researching and arguing the government case on environmental issues related to the development of ADF facilities projects. This gave Chris a taste for turning his family history research into interesting stories that captivate and entertain readers.

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