

AGM Forum Topics 20 September 2013

As you are aware the planning for the Conference in September 2013 is well under way. Previously there has been a time set aside for the NSW ACT Association to meet with interested organisations and discuss topics of interest to the Association and its member societies. This year it is planned the forum will be held on Friday 21st September from 2pm.

Following are some topics proposed at the last Association council meeting which may be of interest for discussion:

- Benefits of NSW & ACT Association Membership
- Society Library issues – getting members to attend and non-members to join
- Attitude of Societies to guest speakers (not just limited to Societies) including the expectations, and issues around gifts, payment and expenses.
- Copyright and ownership issues around donations of certificates and transcriptions to libraries.
- Exchange of journals in PDF and their electronic distribution to members.

If you would like to propose some topics, have some issues which you would like some input from fellow societies, or just a topic for discussion, please email the Association with an outline.



Blue Mountains Family History Society inc

"FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS" SEMINAR
For more details see later in the newsletter.

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

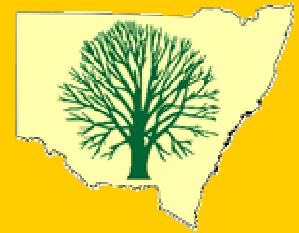
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2013 Conference Progress Report from HAGSOC 20-22 September 2013

Kerrie Gray, Conference 2013 Convenor

Arrangements are well in hand for Conference in September 2013; the venue is arranged, most speakers have been confirmed, some sponsorship is in place; a marketing plan has been implemented. A family history fair is being organised for Friday 20 September.

VENUE

The venue, as previously advised, is the Hellenic Club in Philip, ACT. This is quite a central venue a few kilometres south of Canberra City. The venue itself is a modern club with good facilities, a nice restaurant, lounge areas etc. The family history fair, conference and conference dinner will be held in this venue. There is a large parking area immediately adjacent and additional parking within close proximity. There is a public transport hub and a shopping mall within easy walking distance.

CONFERENCE

A draft program is available on the website, and the final speaker is the only one yet to be confirmed. Early bird registrations opened on 1st March and will remain open until the end of June. The cost of conference is marginally higher than Conference 2012. Full registration will be \$165 (\$140 early bird registration). Optional presentations at family history fair: two presentations at \$10 each and a three hour workshop for \$30.



SPONSORSHIP

Our principal sponsor is Findmypast with additional sponsorship from National Library of Australia and Inside History Magazine. Marketing support is also being provided by Unlock the Past. Organisations providing fully funded speakers are: FamilySearch, NSW State Records Office, National Library of Australia, Australian War Memorial and National Archives of Australia. Further sponsorship is being sought.

MARKETING

Marketing will be strongly focussed on use of digital material and social media. The next edition of *Bluebell Press* will be sent in week commencing 25 February (currently 332 subscribers) and a Conference blog will also be started about that time. Further information will be distributed in the coming weeks, via email, to member associations.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

There will be a family history fair on Friday and although much is yet to be organised, the following are confirmed:

- 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.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) **REPORT FROM CONFERENCE 2013 ORGANISING GROUP**

- 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 register for Conference and, if you have not already, sign up for the newsletter, *Bluebell Press*.

2014 Conference Progress Report from Illawarra 19-21 September 2014

Judy Bull, Conference 2014 Convenor

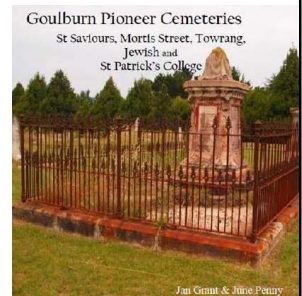
A summary of our activities so far follows:

- Conference committee has been appointed:
 Convenor – Judy Bull
 Treasurer – Elizabeth Claydon
 Secretary – Pat Dunham
 Committee members – Beverley Booth, Bill Bevan
- Other members of the group have indicated their support as the need arises further on.
- Conference dates confirmed with Fraternity Club venue
- Arrangements under way to establish a conference bank account
- Website www.conference2014.org.au and email info@conference2014.org.au have been registered
- Meeting held with local tourism body Destination Wollongong to arrange supply of promotional materials
- Initial contact with Wollongong Council Library made. Further meetings will be held to establish level of Council support
- Invitation to have a table at Shoalhaven History Fair on June 14-15 2013 has been accepted

GOULBURN PIONEER CEMETERIES

St Saviours, Mortis Street, Towrang, Jewish and St Patrick's College

On Friday 8 March the Mayor of Goulburn, Cr Geoff Kettle, launched the book *Goulburn Pioneer Cemeteries* at the Goulburn Mulwaree Library in Goulburn. The book covers the pioneer cemeteries active in the 1800s which (except for St Patrick's College) are now closed to public burials. The book records not just specific details about the names and dates from the headstones, but the full transcriptions including verses and other text. The book also includes information on a small number of unmarked burials.



June and Jan are both long-time members of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra. June is also a fellow of HAGSOC. The book is a culmination of over 10 years work and the launch coincides with the 150th anniversary of Goulburn being declared a city.

The book is available for purchase at the HAGSOC bookshop. For more information contact bookshop@hagsoc.org.au or june.penny@netspeed.com.au.

HELP TO FIND FAMILIES WHO MARRIED IN TASMANIA IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute - ANU

Helen Moyle, is a PhD candidate in the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) in the Australian National University. She is studying historical demography, specifically the fall in fertility among couples who married in Tasmania in the 2nd half of the 19th century.

Helen is looking at the birth histories of couples who married in Tasmania in four different years— 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1890 – by reconstructing their families. She has used the



Tasmanian digitised birth, marriage and death records as the major data source, but because couples moved outside Tasmania, she has also used other sources, such as the births, deaths and marriage indexes of other Colonies/States. Several families in every marriage cohort moved to other colonies and had children there.

Helen has a number of couples in each marriage cohort (1860, 1870, 1880 and 1890) for whom she does not have sufficient information. These couples are listed on the website <http://adsri.anu.edu.au/research/19thCTasmania>.

She would be most grateful for any information about these families: helen.moyle@anu.edu.au.

(Helen is also a member of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra.)

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.



Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

(Source: Australian Financial Review 7 December 2012 p.10, updated 10 December 2012)

The Commissioner, Susan Pascoe, has spoken about the key policy reforms proposed which are likely to affect historical societies and heritage bodies. These changes are likely to include financial reporting, fund raising and governance. Treasury Department is chairing a COAG working group to identify methods of harmonisation of laws on the subject amongst the States and Territories. Currently only South Australia has referred the necessary powers. However there is no definition in Australia of a charity and it is likely to be defined by statute. A further issue is whether the directors' liabilities as volunteers should be at the same level as under the Corporations law. Details are available on the Commission's website: www.acnc.gov.au.

If your society is interested in keeping up to date with the changes and any information distributed by the ACNC go to the website and register your details.

FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Blue Mountains Family History Society Seminar

13th April 2013, Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood

The theme *Following in their Footsteps* is in relation to the celebration of the crossing of the Blue Mountains 2013-2015.



*The Explorers' Tree,
Katoomba, 1886*

Speakers: **Graham Hunt**, a retired surveyor to speak about *Footsteps in Time* and the markers put down by Evans in various parts of the mountains and the 1814 Survey;

John McCann from State Records to discuss Public Access and Archivists and regarding the heavily used records i.e. Convicts, shipping and digital records;

Joy Murrin to speak about being a member of a Family History Society and open the floor for questions;

Entertainment: **Greg North**, award winning bush poet and balladeer.

Final speaker **Allan Murrin** will speak about new resources for family search particularly in United States and changes that took place in 2012.

More details regarding the seminar <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs> or email xploretree@yahoo.com.au

HERALDRY & GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

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

Tue 2 Apr 2013 Nigel Webster

“Anglo-Boer War: Not a Gentleman’s War”

Tue 7 May 2013 James Ferguson

“John Alexander Ferguson: Preserving Our Past, Inspiring Our Future”

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

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, NEWCASTLE, NSW

Newcastle Family History Society

Newcastle Family History Society will launch its latest publication on 24 March 2013, titled *St John's Anglican Church, Newcastle, NSW Australia* (554 pp.). It contains a description of this historic church and transcriptions and indexes of its BDM registers dating from 1860 up to current privacy limits.

Now the oldest Anglican Church building in Newcastle, it was financed with donations by several proprietors of the Australian Agricultural Company and was built on land provided by the Company at the corner of Darby and Parry Sts, Cooks Hill. The Church was designed to serve the social and educational needs of the immigrant mining families brought to Australia from UK and Ireland to work in the Company's coal mines in Newcastle, NSW.

From its inception, it was the church of the families of miners, labourers and a variety of other tradesmen and it maintained that blue-collar distinction for many decades.

This book, when combined with our earlier volume on Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, provides an unequalled record of the Anglican inhabitants of Newcastle in the 19th Century.

For information email: nfhsinc@gmail.com



Management Committee 2012-2013



Committee Members at 26th February 2013 - Botany Bay Family History Society.

L-R standing: Joy Vost - Shoalhaven (President), Gail Hanger - Picton (Vice President), Suzanne Voytas - Blue Mountains (Public Officer), John Hely - Botany Bay, Brian Engel - Newcastle.

L-R seated: Rosemary McKenzie - HAGSOC (Secretary), Clive Smith - Port Macquarie (Treasurer), Margaret Woods - Armidale (shared role with Roslyn Townsend)

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2012-2013

The Association would like to welcome new member societies to the management committee and thank the continuing member societies.

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 26th May 2013.

Items for the Agenda should reach the Secretary
at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Email nswact@gmail.com or mckero@netspeed.com.au

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (Monthly Meeting)***Thursday 14th March 2013, 7.30pm***

Tradies Club, 57 Manchester Road, Gymea * please note new location *
Visitors welcome Free admission

Guest speaker is Dr Naomi Parry who will speak about *Such a Longing: Black & White Welfare in NSW & Tasmania 1880-1940*. Naomi is the NSW State-Based Historian on the Find & Connect web resource which assists forgotten Australians and child migrants to connect with their past.

BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY***Thursday 21st March 2013, 10am-2pm***

Seniors Week Open House

Research Centre, 184 Gannons Road (South), Caringbah.

All welcome to view the Centre and see the worldwide resources we have to offer including free Databases and a comprehensive collection of family history indexes, books, CDs, journals, microfiche and pamphlets. Assistants will be only too happy to show you through and help with any questions you may have.

Refreshments available Wheelchair access Visitors welcome Free admission

Website: <http://www.bbfhs.org.au> or email botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au or

Contact: Noele Watkins 02 9525 2776

PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC***Saturday 18th May 2013, 9am to 3.30pm***

Port Macquarie Panthers, 1 Bay Street, Port Macquarie

The Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society, Inc is holding a one day Family History Fair - *Escape to Port Macquarie* on Saturday 18th May, 2013. Venue is the ground floor auditorium of Port Macquarie Panthers which has plenty of parking and wheelchair access. Four guest speakers and over 20 trading tables covering genealogy, family and local history will be available for the one entry fee of \$10 per person. Doors open 9am to 3.30pm. Visit the society website for the latest information.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmpfhs/> or email events.pmdfhs@yahoo.com.au

SHOALHAVEN FAMILY LOCAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY FAIR***Friday and Saturday 14th & 15th June 2013***

Nowra School of Arts. Lots of trade tables, interesting speakers and the opportunity to mingle with fellow family historians and historians. Entry is FREE. A Friday evening dinner has been arranged at \$37 per person for a 3 course meal with two choices for each course. Drinks are provided.

NSW-ACTION 29 placed on the website by:

The Webmaster — Rosemary McKenzie