



Newsflash

Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

www.affho.org

Contact: secretary@affho.org

AFFHO Council 2020-2021

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June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
<i>vacant</i>	National Family History Month Co-ordinator
Jan Squire	Webmaster
Vicki Montgomery	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Editor

Membership

Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council it is primarily concerned with family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Associate membership is open to any organisation which satisfies the Council that it is interested in family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Newsflash contributions to editor@affho.org

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From the President

Welcome to a new year and we hope we have left last year's interruptions with covid-19 behind us now that the vaccinations are being delivered to our countries to protect citizens from this tricky, highly infectious and sometimes deadly virus.

Congress 2021 is to be held in Norfolk Island from 1st to 5th August 2021 and our organisers, the Norfolk Island Museum, have some interesting and historic treasures to show us. They have arranged a Congress Banquet which you won't want to miss, with local talent and it can be guaranteed to be a unique experience. Government House is usually only open one day a month for visitors and the organisers have been able to arrange special viewing privileges for those attending Congress. Their by-line is History in Paradise and we will certainly be able to experience history in the paradise of Norfolk Island. See elsewhere in Newsflash for travel packages and other information about Congress 2021.

The Nick Vine Hall Award is an annual award sponsored by AFFHO to promote quality newsletters amongst our member societies. If your society publishes a newsletter it could be the winner – but you need to enter to win, so do encourage your editor or secretary to go to the website and download the necessary forms and enter your own fantastic publication. The closing date is 31 March – see elsewhere in Newsflash or the website for more details.

Finally, you will shortly be advised about the Annual General Meeting of AFFHO which is to be held on 11th May 2021. The meeting will be held by AVL and usually lasts about an hour. We do hope your society representatives will attend.

Robyn Williams, President AFFHO

Audio Visual Link

Would your society like to run sessions for your members without them having to travel to meetings? AFFHO have purchased a licence for an Audio Visual Link (AVL) and this is available for member societies to try out. Like all technology it takes a little practice, and each attendee must download some software, but it is a safe way to connect with your members if for some reason they cannot travel.

One of the AFFHO Council members will assist with your presentation to ensure that it runs smoothly.

If your society is interested, please email secretary@affho.org for more details.

Congress 2021

The organising committee have decided to extend the Early Bird registrations for another month
early bird registration extended to the end of March

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS: RAY MARTIN – Media Personality & History Enthusiast / BABETTE SMITH – Professional Historian & Author



16th Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation Congress
01 - 05 Aug 2021 • Norfolk Island

History in Paradise
 Hosted by Norfolk Island Museum

Image courtesy of Ian Rolfe Photography

A variety of lectures & workshops • Genealogical Experts • Tours • World Heritage Listed Kingston • Trade Show

Full Congress Registration **\$600pp** (incl. 3-Day Congress, Trade Show & Dinner) / Social Registration **\$120pp** (entry into Trade Show & Dinner only)

For registration and program updates please visit the AFFHO Congress 2021 website: www.affhocongress2021.com

HOLIDAY PACKAGE INCLUDES: FLIGHTS • 7 NIGHTS TWIN SHARE • CAR HIRE + MORE
 Book by 16 April 2021 to take advantage of our best priced fares. Seats still available after, but will be subject to best price available at the time

DEPART BRISBANE 31 July - 07 August 2021	from \$1229 pp	DEPART SYDNEY 30 July - 06 August 2021	from \$1279 pp
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Norfolk Island Travel Centre *most the locals...*
 We are owned & operated by friendly Norfolk Island locals
www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com / E: christan@travelcentre.nf ☎ **1800 1400 66**

Conditions apply – Prices are in AUD and are current at time of printing, subject to availability & change without notice

Are you planning on going to Norfolk Island and meeting up with your Genie friends?
<https://affhocongress2021.com/>

AFFHO Congress Program

Fri 30 July	Sydney arrivals Auckland arrivals
Sat 31 July	Brisbane arrivals Half Day Island Tours available (Sydney/Auckland) Trade Show – Bump-in
Sun 01 Aug	Trade Show – Rawson Hall
Mon 02 Aug	Half Day Island Tours available (Brisbane)
Tues 03 Aug	Congress Day 1 Welcome from hosts and AFFHO opening speaker – Ray Martin
Wed 04 Aug	Congress Day 2
Thurs 05 Aug	Congress Day 3 Closing of Congress Congress Dinner A (Sydney/Auckland travellers)
Fri 06 Aug	Sydney departures Auckland departures Congress Dinner B (Brisbane travellers)
Sat 07 Aug	Brisbane departures



NICK VINE HALL AWARD 2021



The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to member societies (in two categories based on membership) for the best family history journal/newsletter in Australia and New Zealand.

AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality journals/newsletters, and to honour Nick Vine Hall AM.

- ◆ First prize – Wall plaque and \$300 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor
- ◆ Second prize – Certificate and \$100 to the Society; Certificate to the Editor

**For a journal/newsletter produced in 2020
Entries close 31 March 2021**

Refer to the AFFHO website for conditions of entry: www.affho.org

Queensland Family History Society News

The *Queensland Family Historian* published by the Queensland Family History Society Inc. in Brisbane was awarded second place in the 2020 Nick Vine Hall Award for their Vol 40 No.4 November 2019 journal.

Following on from this Award presentation, Queensland Family History Society presented Lyndal with a Certificate acknowledging her Services to Family History. This award is presented annually to a QFHS member who have made a significant contribution to family history.

With the increase of webinars this has opened many opportunities to access and afford speakers from interstate and overseas.

Queensland Family History Society has gotten off to a great start for 2021. For one of their Zoom webinars QFHS has engaged the

popular and well know Cyndi Ingle. Cyndi Ingle is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognised CyndisList.com, a free categorised list of more than 337,000 links for genealogical research.

Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 40 years, has expertise in using technology for genealogy. Additionally, her many active years in genealogy have also resulted in specialties for research in the United States and bringing together traditional methodology with organisation, computers, software, and the Internet.

Cyndi is the recipient of several awards and honours She has served in several capacities for genealogical organizations and is an internationally-known guest lecturer. Cyndi has authored many articles and three books

Cyndi will present "Crafting genealogical proof". An introduction to 'the what', 'the why', and 'the how' of writing a genealogical proof statement, summary, or argument.

This will be on Friday 30 April 2021. From 10.00am to 11.30 am. Places are available to members and non-

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Editor Lyndal Cosgrove receives the Award Certificate from the QFHS President Chris Gibbs

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members. For more details and to book your place see the following:

www.qfhs.org.au/events/fridays-qfhs/

QFHS has also engaged in a quid pro quo arrangement with other family history societies. This reciprocal arrangement sharing of knowledge and skills is working out very well with a number of Societies coming onboard. A great example of family history societies networking and sharing at its best.

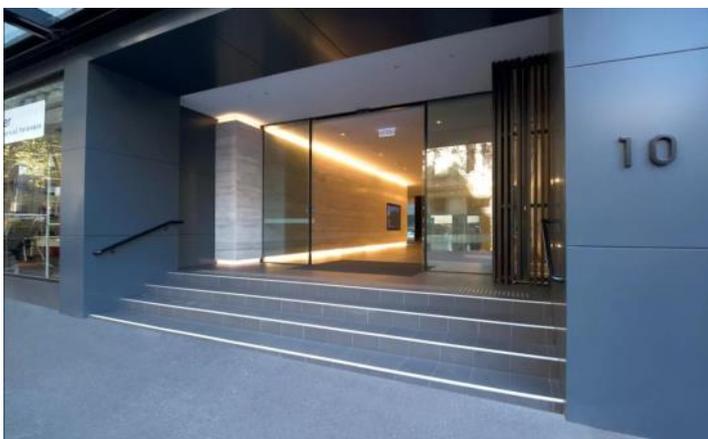
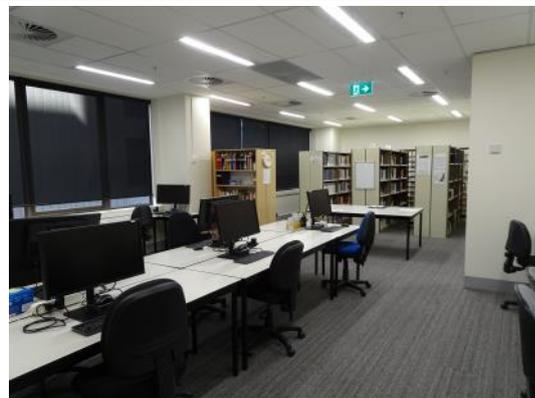
The new home of GSV

Level 1, 10 Queen Street

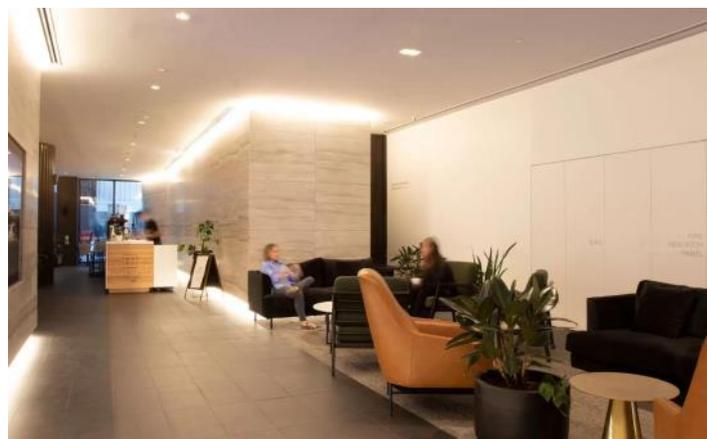
Opening on 2nd March 2021

A five minute walk from Flinders Street Station

Trams, buses, and train stops nearby



10 Queen St



Foyer 10 Queen St

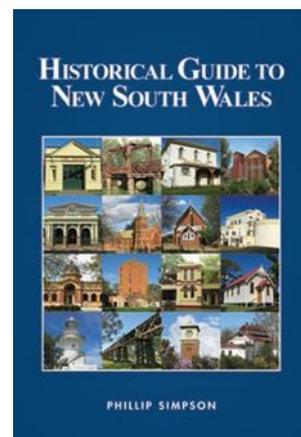
Historical Guide to NSW - Phillip Simpson

The Historical Guide to New South Wales is a unique reference work. Never before has there been an attempt to succinctly record the location, history, industries, buildings, calamities and the population of over 9,700 cities, towns, villages, hamlets and localities (outside Sydney), whether extant or defunct. Neither has a record ever been made of the numerous surveyors who laid out our towns and the architects, engineers and builders who designed and built their most important structures. The small size of most of these places has never justified their inclusion in any standard reference book and, until now, their location and history have been a mystery to most.

This book attempts to collate the significant details of each place from 1788 to 2020. More specifically, it indicates when a place was settled, surveyed, gazetted and established; the local produce of the district; the public services available and when they were provided; the natural disasters, accidents, epidemics and infestations that affected the inhabitants; the churches where they were baptised and married; the factories, mills and mines in which they worked; and the graveyards and cemeteries where they were buried. In addition, it gives details of many thousands of churches, industrial structures, public buildings, public works and utilities etc. and, in many cases, who designed them, when they were built and by whom.

The Historical Guide to New South Wales be indispensable to historians, geographers, librarians, heritage consultants, local historical societies, local councils, journalists, those tracing families, and inquisitive tourists.

<https://scholarly.info/book/historical-guide-to-new-south-wales/>



What's New in the E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition!

Now is the time to start writing your stories to be in contention for the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award. The competition will be judged to select the best short story of 1,500 – 2,000 words on a family history / genealogy theme.

We are pleased to welcome our three new judges Dr Erica Cervini, and HAGSOC members Kathryn Coughran and Pennie Pemberton.



Dr Erica Cervini



Pennie Pemberton



Kathryn Coughran

Dr Erica Cervini is an award-winning journalist, who became fascinated with the concept of how to write about a family member who left few personal documents after completing a life-writing subject at The University of Melbourne. Erica then went on to complete her PhD by creative project and exegesis at Victoria University in 2019. She is still working as a journalist for the NSW Council of Deans of Education and is also lecturing and tutoring in communication at The Australian Catholic University. In 2020, she was interviewed on ABC Radio Melbourne about her thesis and on Radio National's Life Matters program on the topic of "how your family history can enrich us all".

Pennie Pemberton spent many years working at what is now the ANU Archives where she first encountered the papers of the Australian Agricultural Company which have been a continuing obsession, besides providing thesis topic and the book *Pure Merinos and others: The Shipping Lists of the Australian Agricultural Company*. She joined HAGSOC in 1980, serving on Council for ten years, also taking part in the Society's Roadshows, speaking on the annual Family History course, contributing to early versions of *Family History for Beginners & Beyond* as well as editing (with Cora Num and June Penny) its companion *Family History Research Manager*.

Kathryn Coughran's passion for family history and the written word have intertwined for five decades. She began exploring her family's stories in the seventies, intensified her research in the nineties and continues this journey daily. She has written since childhood and studied at various colleges, most recently at Faber Writing Academy. She has taught a range of writing courses over the past twenty-six years, the most popular being *Personal and Ancestral Stories*. She has won writing awards and has judged various competitions.

For more about our judges see the HAGSOC website.

This year we would also like each entrant to include a short (25 words or less) inspiration statement at the end of their story. What was important to you in telling your story and how you chose to write it? Knowing what inspired you will give our judges an understanding of the context from which your story was written.

Start writing now and be in with a chance to win \$1,000 and special HAGSOC members only prizes. All information about the competition including an entry form and terms and conditions are on the website. Please direct all enquiries to writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au

Every family has a story - write yours now!

<https://familyhistoryact.org.au/index.php/activities/writing-competition>

From Writing to Publishing - Helen Parker-Drabble

Why Sharing Your Family History Is Vital

The story of your family has value.

- It is a powerful antidote against adverse life experiences. It shows you too can overcome disaster and survive tough times.i
- Children with a strong sense of their ancestors are more self-confident.ii
- Sharing stories promotes bonding and helps adolescents develop a sense of identity.iii
- Family histories can help determine, and challenge, the effect of inheritance on mental health.

The pitfalls and joy of saving family history for future generations – A Personal Legacy

My first attempt to share family history with my relatives was a family tree charting my ancestors up to the level of my eighth great-grandparents. Early in the process, I fell into the trap of trusting someone else's research. I discovered they had not proved the ancestral connections in their family tree.iv Even after I managed to print a reliable chart, I found that my family's response to my discoveries was (understandably) lukewarm.

I turned to growing our tree, found new living relatives, and arranged a meeting in the Tank Yard, once home to my maternal grandfather. It was great fun reuniting the different branches of the family in the Bedford Hall, Thorney, 130 years after my granddad's birth. But sharing the larger tree I had printed was not the family's highlight.

Holding previously unseen heirlooms is what made the event. Touching items that had belonged to our ancestors reinforced the emotional connection with the past. More importantly, it created special memories with newfound family.

The experience made me realise how little we know about what we each have in our own collection. Now I collate a digital record of all the heirlooms, diaries, photographs, newspaper clippings, recipes, and personal documents that had survived in our respective collections. I had planned to save these to a USB memory stick. Then I remembered how the audio and film of me as a young child had been lost.

My challenge was to select a widely accessible format, while making sure its form would be robust enough to last. Each technology I considered ran the risk it would not be understood or valued. So, I planned another printed photo album. An advantage of this format is it can easily include a description of each item, along with any associated stories. But it is the thought of a professionally produced photobook lasting for many more generations that spurred me on.

My next goal was to finish a legacy box for each young person in the immediate family, including:

- Ancestor charts
- Family trees
- Family photo albums
- Photo albums of heirlooms and birth, marriage and death records



Exploring the family tree



The 'Parker' family outside The Thorney Museum in the Tank Yard, Thorney

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Yet this did not feel enough. Although each of the above enterprises is valuable, they did not communicate all I wanted to future generations.

My leisure time soon revolved around treading in my ancestors' footsteps, particularly those of my grandfather Walter Parker. I pored over archival records and binge read social history to understand the context of my forebears. My family was now keen to know what I had uncovered, but how much I could say and what would be remembered. So, how to share?

I realised that if family historians want what they have painstakingly discovered to survive, we have to weave the distinct threads into a narrative – and print the result.

Writing a Book – Who, Me?

Writing your family history can be daunting and, at times, overwhelming. Questions raced through my mind:

- How would I find the time?
- Could I cut the project down to size so it would be possible to complete?
- What would keep me motivated?
- I had not written anything before. How could I make it good enough?
- I am not a qualified researcher or historian, so why would anyone want to read a book I had written?

The answer to my question, 'Where would I find the time?' came from tutor Gill Blanchard on her Writing Your Family History course at The Society of Genealogists in London. Gill told me, during a break, 'It is not about finding the time; it's about deciding what to give up.' I found it was easy to give up most of my television viewing for an activity that felt so rewarding.

Gill also showed me how I could cut my project down to size. She explained my progress would be quicker if I concentrated on one person. I chose my Victorian grandfather Walter Parker and drafted a writing plan.

For motivation, I started telling people I was writing a book, if only to hold myself accountable. I pressed on despite my misgivings and frequent crises of confidence. I decided to behave as if it were possible for me to bring a book into the world. When I was ill, exhausted, or despaired of finishing, I pictured someone reading my book 200 years from now.

The challenge of how to make my writing polished enough to publish, ran alongside the whole endeavour. Feeling confident my work stood up to historical scrutiny was the hardest hurdle to overcome. But the solution to both these problems turned out to be easy: I discovered that to go from writing for family to worldwide publication, I needed a team behind me.

You are not alone – Building a team

Looking back, I realise I was as methodical about putting my team together as I was in my research. I considered my doubts and questions and, over time, sought out people who could help me.

Long before I had a first draft, I started criticising everything I wrote. I stalled. Rather than give up, I found a writing coach and editor, Vrinda Pendred, whose encouragement helped me through the inevitable setbacks. When I could not see a way forward, Vrinda sensitively shone a light on my work and inspired me to take my writing to the next level. An epiphany led me to combine my counselling background and interest in mental health with my family history research. I considered what my grandfather could have inherited from his ancestors, and a psychological inheritance unravelled, revealing intergenerational anxiety, trauma, loss, alcoholism, and depression. And what family is without these? I had discovered my voice and the overarching theme of my work.

Overcoming Doubt

As I came to the end of my fifth draft, I felt the manuscript was still not finished. Doubt in my ability, never far away, returned. I questioned whether I had written a book only I could enjoy. Unfairly, I shared it with trusted friends, but I failed to ask for feedback from people interested in family history. Finally, I bounced my ideas off fellow enthusiasts and was delighted at how responsive they were to my blend of family history and psychological research. Dare I believe my book could find a wider audience than family?

I asked myself what would give me the courage to seek a publisher. Although I am an enthusiastic independent scholar, I do not have any qualifications in history or research. So, I looked for a professional. I



From one craftsman to another

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added a historical consultant to my team. Dr George Regkoukos was enormously patient and encouraging. He also:

- gave me a historical perspective
- helped me focus my research
- pointed out gaps in my thinking
- referred me to research I had overlooked

Armed with hard-earned confidence and a draft I could be proud of, I was now ready to seek a publisher.

From Writing for Family to Publishing Worldwide

When seeking a publisher, my first considerations were: would my writing find an audience? Would a traditional publisher see the value in such a niche form of writing?

I found out that conventional publishers sold, on average, about 5 million adult non-fiction print books in the United States *per week* during October and November of 2019, in the run-up to Christmas. The average traditionally published non-fiction book sells 250-300 copies in the first year and 3,000 in the book's lifetime.

Could a publisher help readers find my book? Maybe. But publishers expect authors to identify and bring their readership, and undertake a lot of marketing themselves. In the old-style publishing world, a book is usually given a press release, inserted into a brochure, and newsletter, and it then declines in sales.

The more research I did, the more I believed publishing independently would work best for me and a family history book. I came to see traditional publishing as the vanity route. At best, it could reassure me that what I had created was good enough – but isn't it the reader who decides that?

I wish I had come across the Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi) at the beginning of my journey. ALLi is an affordable professional business membership organisation for self-publishing authors (nothing to do with vanity publishing). One of the significant points ALLi makes is that as an author, you do not need to become a specialist in every field. Instead of being uncertain you can plug into essential, trusted advice, supportive

guidance, and a range of resources that would be near impossible, and time-consuming, to create for oneself. I added more people to my team – a book cover designer, proofreader, and an interior book designer.

As an independent author, you are free to seek out worldwide opportunities in print, podcast, blog, radio, audio, and eBook over my lifetime because I have kept my intellectual property rights. (Quick tip: according to copyright law, your heirs could benefit 70 years after your death – another legacy.) You also know the price each book sells at, where these sales come from, and in what format. As a bonus, when it comes to your next book, you can tailor your marketing to what you have learned from your previous publication.

Once I made my decision to stay independent, I looked at two different methods of publishing: print-on-demand, where a distributor prints a book when an order is received, and e-publishing. Here I was fortunate. The consultant historian I was working with was won over by my book and started developing a software package that would make my digital family history shine. The print version will be published in 2021.

It's been a long journey – but family history cannot survive unless it is shared. I hope this article will encourage you to bring your own painstaking research to life. Whatever form your family history takes, I do hope you will join me on the thrilling ride from writing family history to publication, leaving behind a unique legacy.

If you would like to read the first two chapters of *A Victorian's Inheritance* visit <http://helenparkerdrabble.com/>, scroll down, and click the button 'Your two FREE chapters are waiting'.

If you have any questions about Helen's journey from researching her family tree to publishing worldwide, she would be delighted if you got in touch at: helen@helenparkerdrabble.com.

The complete eBook can be purchased at Amazon. You can also request *A Victorian's Inheritance* from your local library.

You can connect with Helen via: Twitter
@HelenPDrabble Facebook @FactualTales
LinkedIn Helen Parker-Drabble

Interested in the Alliance of Independent Authors? For more information, click Helen's affiliate link [here](#)