



# Newsflash

## Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

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### AFFHO Council 2020-2021

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### AFFHO Officers

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](mailto:editor@affho.org)

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### From the President

What a different year we have all had with the continuation of the Covid-19 Pandemic! We had high hopes that 2021 couldn't be any worse than 2020 with vaccines being developed by a number of companies which would free us all to lead a normal life.

Unfortunately, that is not what happened, especially when the Delta variation being more infectious than the original. However, many of our member societies have adapted to a more on line presence, and some societies have run a hybrid of some in the room and some on line for talks, tutorials and meetings.

Our AFFHO National Family History Month has for the second year conducted the Opening and Closing events online. This has had the added benefit of the talks not being restricted to a particular location and we had family historians logging in from many of our member societies in Australia and New Zealand.

While I am on the subject of National Family History Month, I am delighted to be able to introduce Alex Daw who has taken up the role of National Family History Month Co-ordinator. See the article supplied by Alex in this issue of *Newsflash*.

The other good news I have to share with you is that planning is well underway for Congress which was postponed earlier this year owing to an outbreak of the delta Covid-19 in July which meant that international travel was put on hold. Congress is to be held on Norfolk Island commencing with the Trade Show on Monday, 1st August 2022 with *History in Paradise 2022* from Tuesday, 2nd August through to Thursday, 4th August 2022.

On a family history note, my mother was born on 21st December 1921, so this year it is the 100th year since her birth and I love the order of the numerals 21/12/21. When we were adults with our own children, she told us that she never celebrated her birthday as it was always shared with Christmas Day. When we learned this my brother and sisters and I always made 21st December a special day for Mum until she passed away.

My very best wishes to all for the festive season and I hope that everyone keeps safe.

*Robyn Williams, President AFFHO*

## Where did I come from?

One of the great joys of researching your family history is finding answers to the question, 'where did I come from?' Indeed, it can be such a fulfilling activity that once you start to delve into the lives of distant ancestors and immerse yourself in the world that they lived in, rather like doing a jigsaw puzzle, you may never want it to end.

However, there will come a point when you bring your research to a satisfactory point. The question then is, how do you turn all your hard work into an engaging story for others to read and enjoy?

As you ponder this, remind yourself why you wanted to find out more about your ancestors in the first place. Was it to see what traits were handed down; what struggles and joys were endured? Or was it simply to provide a legacy for your family or a point of reference for future historians? These are pivotal questions, as how you answer determines who you will be writing for.

If your audience is going to be your immediate family then you can present your research in a simple, easy to follow format, writing stories in a conversational style that they will find interesting. As you write about your ancestor's lives and the world that they lived in, a whole new generation of family members are going to learn where they came from.

One of the hardest jobs you'll face as you survey your family history research is selecting what material to use. What do you include and what do you leave out? If you're staring at a blank screen on your laptop and wondering where to begin, choose a few interesting facts about an ancestor and see if you can work these into a story. Don't worry about getting everything right with your first attempt, you can revisit your work and edit it later. Try to avoid dumping large amounts of information into your stories, tempting though this may be if you've spent a long-time doing research. All this does is slow down the narrative pace and make people less inclined to carry on reading.

And as you map out the structure of your family history story don't forget to include a very important person – you! Your life story is a valuable part of your family's history.

If, on the other hand, you intend your family history to be read by a wider audience, you may need to adopt a more formal writing style, depending on the arc of the story or focus of the period, and include more specific things like footnotes and referencing, rather than just a bibliography. In either instance, it's important to note your resources to verify your research.

At Life Stories Australia, we can help you write your story. For more information on what we do, see our website: [lifestoriesaustralia.com.au](http://lifestoriesaustralia.com.au).



## Introducing Alex Daw – NFHM coordinator

Our coordinator for *National Family History Month* is Alexandra (Alex) Daw.



Alex has been researching her own (and her husband's) family history for over 30 years. She has been blogging her family history for ten years, and has enjoyed participating in blogging challenges including ones for the National Family History Month.

Alex is a librarian by profession, but also had a former life working for the ABC in production and the Australian Film Television and Radio School, facilitating professional development for industry practitioners. Alex has been a member of the Queensland Family History Society for longer than she can remember and currently coordinates its Social Media and looks after Acquisitions for the Library. She has researched family history in Canada and Barbados as well as Australia and the UK. She recently became a grandmother adding new meaning to the words ancestor and retirement.

## Queensland School Pupils Index



The Queensland Family History Society is pleased to present the latest and final edition of its Queensland School Pupils Index project, indexing admission and other records of school enrolments in Queensland.

The index includes almost 1,152,000 names drawn from 407 schools and 401 sources created between 2002 and 2021. Dates covered range from 1866 to 2016. Where the pupil names have been extracted directly from admission registers, a 21 year closure has been observed as recommended by the Queensland State Archives. Schools range from large city ones, with admissions in the thousands, to country one-teacher schools with a total enrolment of hundreds. Some schools have long ceased to exist; others are still functioning.

The index contains the following fields:

- Surname: Pupil's name. The spelling may differ from known ones. We advise checking all variants. A 'dash' or '?' indicates the surname was not given or cannot be deciphered.
- Given names: As taken from the source, usually full given name, sometimes first name followed by initial, sometimes initials only. A dash (-) or question mark (?) means not given or cannot be deciphered.
- School: The school name
- Date/Year: Date of enrolment is sometimes supplied. The year of enrolment, depending on the source, is usually given; sometimes when a register is missing, only a time period (e.g. 1900-1927) is given.
- Source: The name of the source from which the information was obtained.
- Reference: Reference gives an identifying number to allow location of the entry in the source. The page number (or admission number if given) in the source for a book, an admission number, or left blank (the year is often enough to locate the item) if the source is an admission register.

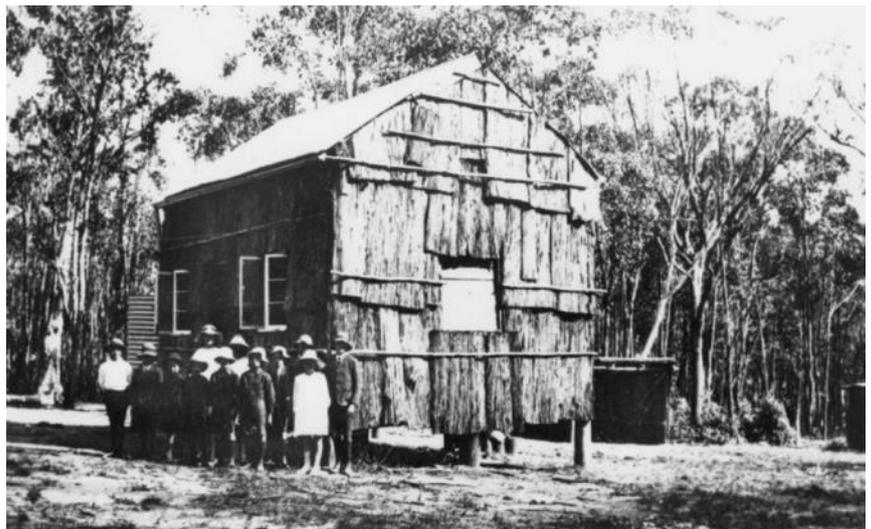
Occasionally a name will appear in the index twice at the same school, with the same date of admission and either the same or different admission number. This can occur when the register is rewritten during the time a pupil is at a school.

Both entries should be examined, though the second entry may be difficult to locate, since additional information was often added when the register was rewritten.

Enquiries for purchase of this invaluable resource for your society may be directed to:  
[secretary@qfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@qfhs.org.au)



*Large group of students and teachers at an unidentified school around 1910-1920. (State Library of Queensland)*



*Turners Creek School, 1922 (State Library of Queensland)*

## E.M. Fletcher Writing Award

The winner of the Family History ACT 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award was announced at a special online event on Saturday 9th October. Eighty-eight participants were online to hear the announcement including special guests Anne, John and Robin Fletcher, children of Eunice Fletcher, for whom the competition is named. John spoke about Eunice’s passion for family history and his memory of visits with his mum to the many aunts to record oral histories about the family, pestering all the vicars in the Hunter Valley to scour the church records and numerous visits to Kent Street in Sydney to trawl the archives.

Our Judges Dr Erica Cervini, Kathryn Coughran and Pennie Pemberton had a difficult decision in selecting a winner from the 124 entries received across a variety of topics and styles. During the assessment, the judges read over 235,000 words, many times over, and enjoyed over 80 images.

As a previous winner of the E.M. Fletcher award, Kathryn Coughran spoke about the competition’s uniqueness in the way it draws together two distinct disciplines, writing and family history, each with its own conventions. Former archivist, Pennie Pemberton spoke about the world of libraries, archives and records that help us piece together our family trees.

Twelve stories were short-listed for the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Award, but there could only be one winner.

### AND THE WINNER IS .....

Congratulations to Denise Newton, the winner of the E.M. Fletcher Writing Award. Denise takes home the winner’s prize of \$1,000 for her story *The Bitterness of their Woe*, a compelling story of a family lost in the Windsor Flood of 1867. In announcing the award, judge Kathryn Coughran said the story has universal appeal and is an excellent example of the fusion of facts and human experience.

Speaking on her blog about the award Denise said *I am beyond thrilled to share the news that I have been awarded the 2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award for a short story based on a tragic event from my family tree.... My thanks to FHACT, the Fletcher family and the judges for organising this unique writing competition, which encourages people interested in family history to dig out and write about the stories they uncover. I am so excited and honoured that my story was chosen and I can't wait to read the other shortlisted entries.*



*Denise Newton reading her winning entry for the Awards.*

Congratulations Denise.

The judges also presented two equal highly commended awards and three equal commended awards, a testament to the high standard of entries.

In addition, a Family History ACT member prize was awarded to Margaret Clough for her story *Tell me Again, Dad*, a poignant story about a daughter reconnecting with her ailing father. Congratulations Margaret.

Congratulations to our winner and placegetters.



*Some of our 88 attendees, winners, judges and committee at the event.*

**2021 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition**

**Winner**

Denise Newton, NSW *The Bitterness of their Woe*

**Equal Highly Commended**

Georgia Morris, ACT *An Ordinary Life*

Kathy Sharpe, SA *E for Eternity*

**Equal Commended**

Jeannine Lee, ACT *Ellen*

Narelle McCoy, NSW *Hillcrest*

Julie Webb, Qld *The Canada Girls*

**Short Listed**

Stephen Castley, Qld *My Mum - My Genealogist*

Noeline Gentle, ACT *And I thought I was an only Child*

Margaret Grover, WA *The Woman in the Photograph*

Mersija Illic, NSW *The Shotgun*

Marcia Moon, NSW *Ellen's Scheming*

Colleen Russell, NSW *Yours Faithfully*



**THANK YOU .....**

Our thanks to all the entrants for sharing their stories and supporting the E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition. To our judges Dr Erica Cervini, Kathryn Coughran and Pennie Pemberton – our heartfelt thanks – we couldn't have run the competition without you.

Thank you to the Family History ACT Writing Committee members Rosemary McKenzie, Judy Loy, Barbara Broad and Gina Tooke and to Cheryl Bollard for her assistance with the zoom presentation.

**History Queensland**



History Queensland held its second six-monthly meeting on Saturday, 20 November. Thanks to the Peachester History Committee for hosting the event.

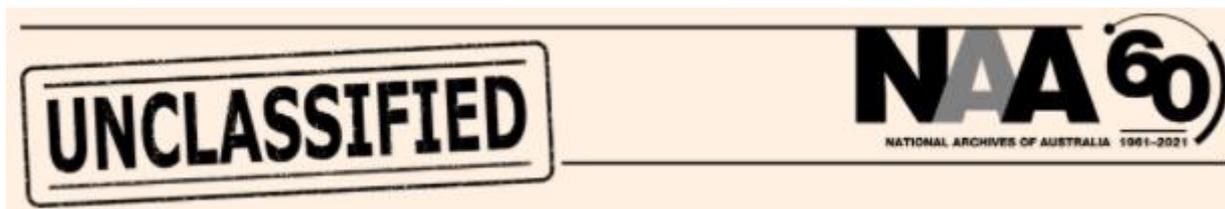
Over forty people attended and listened to an excellent presentation from Niles Elvery. He used Peachester school records in Queensland State Archives as a case study to link the school and the community. Helen Paige from Peachester presented on the district's history and the development of Peachester Heritage Centre.

A tour of this excellent centre followed. The History Committee volunteers at Peachester provided a delicious lunch for attendees, and there was time for networking. The Peachester Heritage Centre is worthy of a visit and is about 100 minutes north of Brisbane.



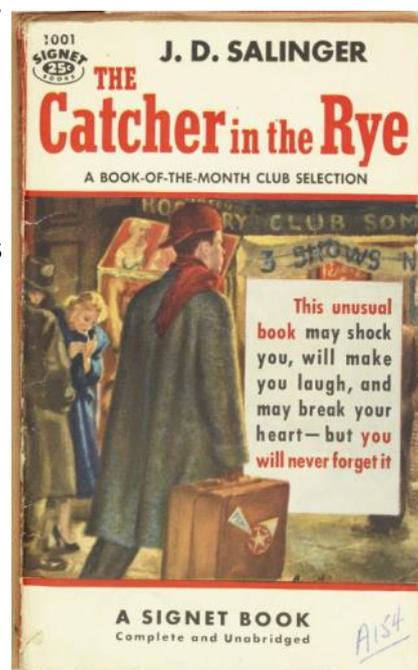
*In closing, History Queensland wish every reader a merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2022. Stay well*

## From the National Archives of Australia (NAA)



### BANNED: The Secret History of Australian Censorship

What do the books *Brave New World*, *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Spy Who Loved Me* have in common? They were all banned in Australia. Explore the history of Australian literary censorship in our fascinating online exhibition. Plus, new 'Banned' merchandise for literature lovers is coming to the Archives Store this November!



#### Introduction

During most of the 20th century Australia was one of the strictest censors in the western world. Most imported publications were closely inspected before being released, and Australia would frequently ban what was considered suitable reading in England, Europe and America.

#### The censor's library

The Commonwealth Customs Department, which had the authority to prohibit imports under the Customs Act 1901, kept a reference library of around 15,000 books, magazines and comics banned in Australia between the 1920s and the 1970s. Some of the titles are rare editions, and many are no longer in print. This valuable collection, held by the National Archives of Australia, reflects the social attitudes and morals of the period and also provides a fascinating insight into how these have changed.

#### Legislation

During most of the 20th century, three pieces of legislation were used by Customs to ban publications coming into Australia: Section 52(c) of the Customs Act 1901 (blasphemous, indecent or obscene works or articles); Item 14A of the Second Schedule of Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations introduced in 1938 (literature unduly emphasising matters of sex or crime, or calculated to encourage depravity); and Item 14 of the Second Schedule of Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations introduced in 1921 (seditious publications).

#### For the full story go to ...

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/banned/FwLSe6KPfhBeJQ>

### For other stories go to ...

[Unclassified: National Archives news and events | October 2021](#)



#### Girls on film

These young women have just embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. The wait is over. The papers are signed. They've taken the plunge and done it. These women have enlisted for service in the Second World War.



#### I married an alien

London, September 1913. A young society lady falls in love with a handsome diplomat from the Turkish embassy. Her marriage to an 'alien' (non-British subject) had far-reaching consequences.



#### World War II sites in Queensland | Brisbane | 19 Oct



#### Women in wartime | Perth | 11 Nov