



Victorian Association of Family
History Organisations Inc.

VAFHO VOICE -JULY 2006

President's message-

As most of you are aware the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) has been digitising wills and probates at the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV) since November 2004. So far they have digitised over one million images and have now completed the wills to 1920 and the probate files to 1892. Some of these records (VPRS 7591) are already accessible on the PROV website through Access the Collection.

To make these records available online using a name search, VAFHO in collaboration with PROV and the GSU are now ready to begin a joint indexing project. The original probate register indexes have been digitised and uploaded to the FamilySearch Indexing website. The GSU has developed exciting new software, so that indexers can download an image at home on their own PC via the internet and when they have completed typing the entries they can send it back to be automatically checked and verified. The software is simple and fun to use. At the initial information evening held in 2005 about 60 people expressed a desire to participate.

Two training sessions will be held in the next week, so that indexers can get started. They will be held on Wednesday 19th July 2-3pm at the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV), Level B1 257 Collins Street, Melbourne and Saturday 22nd July, 10am-11am at the Wantirna LDS Stake centre, 76 Cathies Lane, Wantirna. Training sessions for indexers living outside the Melbourne metropolitan area will be held in the coming weeks. Lesle Berry has agreed to be the Indexing Team Leader and the project will be officially launched during National Family History Week.

Lesle Berry can be contacted on (03) 9802 2949 or email-lesleberry@optusnet.com.au if you are interested. It is not too late to be involved.

I hope that many of our VAFHO member groups will become involved in this exciting project.

Jenny Harkness

VAFHO President

VAFHO FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY TREASURE CHEST

Saturday 19 August in Dallas Brooks Centre, East Melbourne

This has been advertised widely but if you can continue to advertise amongst your members and other interested people that would be wonderful

Included are some posters and flyers.

You have permission to copy these for your members

It will be a wonderful day to follow your family history interests. Consultants will be available for you to talk with, and a variety of other attractions

Please come along and make this a wonderful event

Country groups-how about organising an AWAY DAY for your group to attend?

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK

Those of our organisations who are also members of AFFHO will know that this week has been organised to publicise the 2006 Australian census to be held on Tuesday 8 August. Many groups and societies are organising events to tie in with this week.

We hope that you will do this also. There is no need to be a member organisation of AFFHO to do so

Check the website to see the events in Victoria- www.affho.org

AUSTRALIAN CENSUS-

This is to be held on Tuesday night 8th August. The Census Time Capsule is being conducted as part of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing

People can elect to have their personally-identified 2006 Census information kept on microfilm and securely held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for 99 years

Question 60 on the household census form (question 54 on the personal Census form) has been designed as an optional question to ensure that personally-identified Census information will only be kept for individuals who elect to participate in the Census Time Capsule.

This means that if you answer “Yes, agrees”, and the form is signed , then your personally - identified Census information will be preserved by the NAA until 2105

If you leave Question 60 (Questions 54 on the personal Census form) blank, answer “No, does not agree”, or there is no signature on the form, then all forms and computer records capable of personally identifying you will be destroyed after the census statistical processing has been completed

For more information

www.abs.gov.au/census

or www.naa.gov.au/about_us/census

NEXT VICTORIAN STATE CONFERENCE-

We are looking for one or two member organisations to organise the next VAFHO State Conference. Is your society or group willing to do this?

If you have organised a seminar day/days you will have much of the expertise required.

There are many people asking us when the next conference will be held

Please give this some thought in the forthcoming months

For more details contact the Secretary – robert.cl@optusnet.com.au

VICTORIAN REGISTRY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

You may have read or heard of changes to certificate costs

Fees for certificates for historical purposes-genealogy-have not changed but all other charges have. For further details look at the Registry website-

[http:// online.justice.vic.gov.au/servlet/bdm_home](http://online.justice.vic.gov.au/servlet/bdm_home)

VAFHO AGM and TENTH DON GRANT FAMILY HISTORY LECTURE

These will be held on Saturday 9 September, 2006 at the Public Record Office Victoria, Shiel Street, North Melbourne

(The PROV will be open for research on this day from 9am-4.30 pm) so come along and enjoy a very interesting day.

The AGM will commence at 1pm , and the lecture at 2pm

The lecture will be given by Helen Harris, OAM, inaugural winner of the Frances Brown Award for Excellence and Meritorious Service to Genealogy in Victoria

Helen's topic is "Great Expectations and Hard Times" An analysis of some emigrants who arrived with letters of introduction.

Ryerson Indexing Project- for those who love indexing newspapers

A lass, Emma-Jane , who has been living in Melbourne for some months, commenced indexing newspapers for this project, starting with the "Naracoorte Herald"

The Ryerson Index is an index to current death, funeral and probate notices and some obituaries, in 119 newspapers currently covered. It is hosted by Rootsweb, and was started by the DPS in Sydney(Dead Persons Society)

Emma-Jane now spends most of her spare time in the State Library getting images of the "Herald Sun" notices. She uses the new microfilm machines that allow her to save the files on PDF format on her memory stick. She sorts them out at home into days and months for each year. She emails a whole day's images in one email to an indexer, who creates the index entries and emails them back to the central co-ordinator. As the indexer is able to zoom in on the images, indexing can be simply carried out with a screen split between the image and the data entry program. It is a fast way to index, as indexers are able to index 2 columns of notices at once.

If you are interested in learning more about this project or wish to be involved, you can contact Emma-Jane on emmas-hear@bigpond.com.au

If you wish to be involved in indexing other newspapers, please email John Graham – johngra@ozemail.com.au or phone (07 4638 2289)

Enclosures- AGM Agenda, Renewal forms, Organisation Info forms and Nominations for the committee, as well as a flyer for the Tenth Don Grant Lecture on 9 September

Di Christensen

Secretary

New email address- robert.c1@optusnet.com.au