

VAFHO VOICE

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

www.vafho.org.au

JUNE 2012



President's Message

The cold weather has arrived providing an ideal opportunity to keep warm indoors pursuing family history activities. There are so many resources now available online that much can be accomplished at home without venturing out into the cold.

FamilySearch is a world leader in providing free access to family history information. For those who haven't checked out their website www.familysearch.org recently a major update was unveiled in February which includes a growing collection of digitised databases. The content is updated regularly. A guide to the changes and how to access old favourites is available online or can be downloaded as a PDF file. The older version of the website will continue to be available also for the next few months. Databases are now accessed according to their source. 'Records' contain information taken from historic records such as civil registration or parish registers etc and 'Trees' have information submitted by the community which should be verified before accepting as completely accurate.

If you have Irish Ancestry the Irish Civil Registration Indexes 1845-1958 (excluding Northern Ireland after 1922) are also available on the FamilySearch website. Use the Browse by Location option to find them. The popular Research Outlines have now been replaced by a Wiki www.wiki.familysearch.org with lots of helpful advice. Check out the online tutorials if you are interested in improving your research skills or need some help with a specialised area of research. The 1851 Parish maps project www.maps.familysearch.org shows the various jurisdictions for each area.

National Family History Week will be held this year from 27 July to 5 August. All family history groups and societies are encouraged to host an event or have an open day to invite the public along so they can see the unique resources and assistance available from our groups. If you are planning an event don't forget to add it to the website www.familyhistoryweek.org.au VAFHO hosts the Don Grant Lecture as their contribution to NFHW.

VAFHO AGM and Seminar will be held on **Friday 20 July 2012** at the Victorian Archives Centre, Shiel Street, North Melbourne, commencing at 1pm.

Speakers Celestina Sagazio - The Melbourne General Cemetery
 Lesle Berry - The Importance of Copyright for Family Historians

There is no cost and all are welcome to attend. To register go to <http://prov.vic.gov.au/whats-on/events-calendar?month=jul&yr=2012>

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA CHAT SERVICE

The State Library is happy to assist when you need some help finding information, whether genealogical or on any other topic. One of the services we offer is “chat”, where you can exchange text messages with a librarian online in real-time. Recently we have also added a “chat box” to many of our web pages, so that you can get immediate help from a librarian right on the page you’re looking at – just start typing in the box! You can see this in action in many places on our website, for example <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/services/ask-librarian>: you’ll see the box down towards the bottom on the right hand side of the page.

A proposal

The chat boxes are just bits of computer code, and can theoretically sit just as easily on another website as on the State Library site. We are currently looking to test this out in practice, to see if it would be possible to offer our chat service via other websites where people might find assistance from the Library useful. In the first instance we are looking for a couple of organisations who would like to trial this with us, and have the chat box on their own website for a couple of months. During this time we would evaluate how useful you found having access to the service, as well as how well it worked from a technical perspective.

If you would be interested in exploring this possibility, or just getting some more information, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact Patrick Gregory, Information Services Manager, on pgregory@slv.vic.gov.au or (03) 8664 7175.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES - BALLARAT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The heritage festival was held 12 and 13 May 2012. Childhood Memories was the theme for 2012. This was a great opportunity for Ballarat Historical Society to record the memories of Ballarat people. Each person was given one minute to recall some childhood memories. The results will be made available at a later date. Clare Gervasoni and Dorothy Wickham (Vice-President VAFHO) took the opportunity to talk about Childhood Memories during the usual heritage spot on ABC Regional. It was amazing how different the memories were. They ranged from washing clothes in the old copper and making them whiter with a Reckitt’s blue bag, to remembering the milk bottles being

delivered to the doorstep with the clip clop of horses hooves as the “milky” slowly went to the next house. The younger presenter remembered video shops and the floppy disks you had to insert into the computer. The older ones remembered when TVs and computers were introduced and how a crowd used to stand around the shop window watching the Olympics.

AFFHO CONGRESS 2012

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry “Your Ancestors in their Social Context” held in Adelaide, South Australia 28-31 March 2012 was a huge success. It was hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL - CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

The weekend in March was once again a great success. Coinciding with the Dahlia and Arts Festival in Bendigo there were many events and much to see.

Keep the following dates in your diary!!!

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST 2012

On Monday 30 July 2012, the State Library of Victoria will host the ninth annual Family History Feast. Family History Feast is a day of free information sessions for family history researchers at the State Library. It includes the annual VAFHO Don Grant Lecture. The event showcases how the major Victorian government agencies for genealogical research can assist those researching family history.

The event is truly collaborative and presented by the following organisations/institutions: the Immigration Museum, the State Library of Victoria, the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the Public Record Office Victoria, the National Archives of Australia (Victorian Office) and the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations.

In 2012 the annual Don Grant Lecture will be given by **Professor Janet McCalman** of the Founders and Survivors Project on the topic “*Family Secrets : Vandemonians in Victoria*”.

Bookings are essential and will open on Monday 18 June 2012 through Public Record Office Victoria

(<https://familyhistoryfeast.eventarc.com/event/view/2879/family-history-feast>

or email: enquiries@prov.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9348 5370 Monday to Friday 10am - 4:30pm)

Podcasts of previous events are available through the Library website

www.slv.vic.gov.au We look forward to seeing you on 30 July.

Anne Burrows

Genealogy Librarian - State Library of Victoria

NARRE WARREN & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Narre Warren & District Family History Group will be holding the South East Victoria Family & regional History Expo on **1st September 2012** at Cranbourne on the South Gippsland Highway. We hope to have most of the Exhibitors we had last time as well as a few new ones. Further information will go out in February. If anybody wishes to find out more they can contact Wendy Eldridge on 0411539183 or weldridge5@bigpond.com.au or check the website www.nwfhg.org.au see the list of excellent exhibitors and prizes to be won

VICTORIAN FAMILY HISTORY STATE CONFERENCE UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS: A GOLDFIELDS EXPERIENCE



VAFHO and Victorian Interpretive Projects are combining to present the 8th Victorian Family History State Conference in Ballarat on the weekend of 4 and 5 May 2013. This is a week before the Ballarat Heritage Festival. Please keep the dates in mind as more information will be posted when available. For further enquiries contact – ballaratstar@gmail.com

Deniliquin Genealogy Society Inc Muster

Friday 12th 2012 9am-5pm and Saturday 13th October 9am-4pm
Venue – Deniliquin RSL Club, End Street, Deniliquin
\$10 entry fee per day allows access to all speakers and the Main Hall.
Exhibitors include, SLV, SLNSW, Gould Genealogy, Unlock the Past, FindMyPast, Shauna Hicks Enterprises & Inside History Magazine.

Reunion of Six Sisters - Zes Gezusters Descendants

A reunion to celebrate 160 years since the arrival of the 'Zes Gezusters' aka Six Sisters emigrant ship will be held in Geelong on Sunday 13 January 2013. For more information please contact reunion organizer Rob Newland at robnewland@yahoo.com.au

For those who have no access to computers and wish to contribute to VAFHO VOICE please send copies of articles, photos and information to PO Box 10 Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150 or contact The Secretary Di Christensen, fauna6@gmail.com
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