

# VAFHO VOICE

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

[www.vafho.org.au](http://www.vafho.org.au)

SEPTEMBER 2012

## President's Message from Jan Parker



Welcome to my first report as president of VAFHO. Firstly I would like to say a big thank you Jenny Harkness for her years as President; she leaves big shoes to fill.

Jenny is still staying on the committee as Vice President.

I would also like to acknowledge the years of work Di Christensen has put into VAFHO as Secretary, Di was a foundation member, I wish her well for the future and hope she now has time to spend doing the other things she enjoys.

Lastly and by no means least, I would like to thank Shauna Hicks for her contribution to VAFHO and the genealogy world in general, her presence in Victoria will be sadly missed. I am sure Shauna will bring new ideas to her new role as co-ordinator of National Family History Week.

On a brighter note I would like to welcome on to the committee two new faces Faye Vandyk from West Gippsland Genealogical Society and Gina Annand from Yarrowonga Family History Group. Faye has kindly taken on the challenging role of VAFHO Voice editor and Gina the role of Secretary/ Treasurer.

One of the major tasks for the ensuing year will be co-convening the May 2013.

**"Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfield's Experience"** conference, this will be a conference not to be missed with a jam packed program of excellent speakers.

I am sure my year will have its challenges and I look forward to meeting them head on. I hope any family history group with any problems, suggestions or comments that they think would benefit other groups will bring them to our attention. VAFHO is here to represent you all and to this end I value all your contributions no matter how small.

## VAFHO COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2012-2013

	<b>Role</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Jan Parker	President	Goulburn & Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups
Jenny Harkness	Vice President	Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Gina Annand	Secretary/Treasurer	Yarrowonga Family History Group Inc
Ann Dixon	Committee	Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies
Anne Burrows	Committee	State Library of Victoria
Charlie Farrugia	Committee	Public Records Office Victoria
Alan Fincher	Committee	Genealogical Society of Victoria
Dot Wickham	Committee	Central Highlands Historical Society
June Whiffin	Committee	Cornish Association
Faye Vandyk	Committee	West Gippsland Genealogical Society Inc.

## Annual General Meeting



### VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS INC ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Jenny Harkness) - JULY 2012

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) is an umbrella organization of family history and genealogical societies together with State Government instrumentalities.

Committee meetings were held bi-monthly on the following dates – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Meetings were held alternately at the SLV and GSV. Thank you to Anne Burrows and Alan Fincher for providing a venue for us.

The office bearers for 2010-2011 were Jenny Harkness (President), Dorothy Wickham (Vice-President), Di Christensen (Secretary) and Jan Parker (Treasurer). Both Di and I have held these offices for the past 10 years and have been on the VAFHO committee continuously since its formation in 1996. Prior to taking on the role of Secretary, Di was the second President of VAFHO. Sadly Di is retiring from the committee after many years of service and she will be greatly missed. It has been a pleasure to work with her and her legacy will be long remembered. Due to a new church assignment and family and work commitments I will not be seeking re-election as President, but will continue as a committee member. I am especially grateful to Di for her guidance and encouragement over the years.

Shauna Hicks who has also been a long time committee member, representing firstly PROV and more recently Cobram, is also retiring from the committee. Shauna has made a great contribution to family history during her time in Victoria. Without Shauna's determination and foresight the Victorian Wills & Probate Digitisation Project would never have been accomplished. We look forward to hearing of Shauna's family history adventures through her very informative blog.

The Annual General Meeting was held 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at PROV. A seminar followed with guest speakers Charlie Farrugia (PROV) who spoke on 'Wards of the State' & Ada Ackerley who spoke on 'Finding Treasures at PROV'.

Planning is under way for the Eighth Victorian Family History State Conference *Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfield's Experience* to be held at Ballarat 3-5<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The conference is being organised jointly by VAFHO committee members and Victorian Interpretive Projects Inc one of our member groups.

One of the benefits of VAFHO membership is the opportunity to network among family history organisations. VAFHO is a member of the PROV Public Stakeholders Group, the State Library of Victoria Genealogy Centre Users Group, the State Library User Organisations' Council (SLUOC) and is represented on the AFFHO Council. For several years now VAFHO has also sponsored the Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards which are held in May.

Over the past twelve months the VAFHO Committee has looked at ways we can increase our membership and better represent the interests of family historians. Some of these initiatives will be undertaken in the coming year. We have achieved much over the years but there is a great deal more that we can do to raise awareness of family history within the wider community.

I wish to thank the committee members and all our member organisations for their support over the past ten years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as President.

Jenny Harkness  
VAFHO President

**Brief Report on the Annual General Meeting of VAFHO Seminar held at PROV 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**Guest Speaker Celestina Sagazio**

the Historian and Manager of Cultural Heritage of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

**Topic: Melbourne General Cemetery.**

Celestine entertained the audience with a lively description of the history of the cemetery, some of the highlights and some of the notorious happenings that make up the history of this very interesting cemetery that opened in 1853. Celestine talked about some of the famous people whose mortal remains are in the cemetery and not necessarily restfully, also about the different religious denomination areas and their significance over the years. Celestine told us about the Halloween Cemetery Walks for 31/10/2012 and to get a booking form online to be well entertained and scared. It is great to hear speakers of this calibre and to enjoy their enthusiasm for their subject, I am sure all those present thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Celestine gives talks on a number of subjects – see the website for her topics: <http://smct.org.au/cemetery-talks/> and she can be contacted by email: [celestina.sagazio@smct.org.au](mailto:celestina.sagazio@smct.org.au) .

**Guest Speaker Leslie Berry**

– Author and editor of Various publications

**Topic: The importance of Copyright to Family Historians**

Leslie explained the meaning of some of the copyright terms with the disclaimer that her talk was general advice and for specific questions you should seek legal advice. Leslie went on to explain the copyright ownership for various types of material and the time and dates applicable for copyright ending. Leslie talked about some of the copyright materials distributed by The Copyright Council of Australia and explained that she couldn't give out copies as the downloaded material was under copyright, so you need to access this for yourself at <http://www.copyright.org.au/> .

The topic of copyright is very complex and certainly needs to be considered very carefully for all family historians and Leslie's very informative and interesting presentation highlighted the pitfalls of ignoring the basics of using other peoples work without due consideration of copyright issues.



Leslie Berry & Jenny Harkness



Di Christensen retiring Secretary & Jenny Harkness



Shauna Hicks & Jenny Harkness



2011 committee: Charlie Farrugia, Shauna Hicks, June Whiffen, Di Christensen, Jan Parker, Jenny Harkness, Anne Burrows, Alan Fincher & Ann Dixon (missing: Dot Wickham)

## A feast of family history at the State Library of Victoria



Photo: Susan Long, Pictures Collection,  
State Library of Victoria

The ninth *Family History Feast*, a collaborative event organised by Public Record Office Victoria, National Archives of Australia (Victorian Office), Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Immigration Museum and State Library of Victoria was held in the Library Theatre on Monday 30 July 2012 during *National Family History Week*. For the sixth time the event featured the *Don Grant Lecture* organised by the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) and given in 2012 by Professor Janet McCalman of the Founders and Survivors Project on "Family secrets : Vandemonians in Victoria".

Overall, it was the most successful *Feast* yet attracting the largest attendance ever of 210 people over the day. Feedback on the event was excellent, for example:

*It was an enjoyable day full of new information - topped by great lecture by Prof. McCalman.*

*All very good/actually excellent presentations.  
Thoroughly enjoyed the day & warmth & clarity of the talks & speakers.  
Fascinating/much information new to me. Many many thanks!! look forward to next year...*

and

*I find this day to be a "must do" on every Victorian genealogists' calendar...*

If you weren't able to make the 2012 event the *Don Grant Lecture* by Professor McCalman has already been published on the Library website (slv.vic.gov.au Explore Audio & video Family history)

The 2013 *Family History Feast* scheduled for **Monday 5 August 2013** during *National Family History Week* 2013 will be the tenth organised and hosted by the Library. Watch the Library's website closer to the date for further information.

Anne Burrows;  
Genealogy Librarian,  
State Library of Victoria  
[aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au](mailto:aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au)

*Photo taken at Family Feast  
Anne Burrows,  
Genealogy Librarian SLV &  
Mark Brennan,  
Assistant Director,  
Access and Communication,  
National Archives of Australia*





## Trove Updates

**Shauna Hicks** has released a booklet with the Unlock the Past series called 'Trove' - discover genealogy treasure in the National Library of Australia. This is an excellent and must have for all those Trove enthusiasts who want to get the most from this amazing and growing Australian collection resource.

The Trove booklet is available from <http://unlockthepast.com.au/unlock-past-publications>

**With Shauna's kind permission we have reproduced the introduction to her booklet.**

This research guide is based on a talk I give at genealogy expos and seminars because I am constantly surprised by the number of people who don't know, or are not aware of, all of the genealogy resources available on the National Library of Australia (NLA) website. Trove is the catchy name of the Library's discovery service into its many collections but it is only one of a number of resources available for research.

While people may be aware of Trove, they are not aware of how to effectively use the various filters to narrow down their searches to maximum advantage. Features such as tagging or correcting text are other areas that many have not yet explored and there are always a few who put up their hand and say they haven't got an eResources card.

There are other features like *Ask a librarian* and *Cite This* that I am fond of but many in the audience haven't discovered them yet or realised how these features can assist their research.

So this Trove guide outlines why I'm such a big fan. It lists and explains the various features so that other family historians and genealogists can make maximum use of this fantastic free resource.

Don't forget to tell others of your success with the NLA's resources because in sharing our success stories, we are all learning from each other. Good hunting in Trove!

### National library

Newspapers available on Trove

The National Library of Australia is pleased to announce the following new titles which have been added to Digitised newspapers and more on Trove. Many of these newspapers are currently being added to Trove and further issues will become available shortly.

#### New South Wales

**The Castlereagh** (Gilgandra, NSW : 1905 - 1907)  
Digitisation generously supported by Gilgandra Shire Council, the Library Council of NSW, the NSW Government and the State Library of NSW

**The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate** (Parramatta, NSW : 1888 - 1919)  
Digitisation generously supported by Auburn City Council, Blacktown City Council, Campbelltown City Council, Fairfield City Council, Holroyd City Council Library Service, Hornsby Shire Council, Liverpool City Council Library, Parramatta City Council, City of Ryde, The Hills Shire Council and University of Western Sydney Library.

**Nepean Times** (Penrith, NSW : 1914 - 1920)  
Digitisation generously supported by Penrith City Council

#### Queensland

**The Charleville Courier** (Qld. : 1896 - 1898)

#### South Australia

**Chronicle** (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954)

#### Tasmania

**Launceston Advertiser** (Tas. : 1829 - 1846)

Digitisation generously supported by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

**Launceston Courier** (Tas. : 1840 - 1843)

**Tasmanian and Port Dalrymple Advertiser**

(Launceston, Tas. : 1825) Digitisation generously supported by the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

#### Victoria

**Brunswick & Coburg leader** (Vic. : 1914 1918)

Digitisation generously supported by the State Library of Victoria

**Geelong Advertiser** (Vic. : 1847 - 1851)

**Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer** (Vic. : 1851 - 1856)

**Kerang New Times** (Vic. : 1914 - 1918)

Digitisation generously supported by the State Library of Victoria

**Ouyen Mail** (Vic. : 1915 - 1918) Digitisation generously supported by the State Library of Victoria

**Swan Hill Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate**

(Vic. : 1914 - 1918)

Digitisation generously supported by the State Library of Victoria

**Williamstown Advertiser** (Vic. : 1914 - 1918)

Digitisation generously supported by the State Library of Victoria

#### Western Australia

**Bunbury Herald** (WA : 1892 - 1919)

**The Bunbury Herald and Blackwood Express**

(WA : 1919 - 1929)

**Coolgardie Miner** (WA : 1913 - 1917) Digitisation generously supported by the Friends of the Batty Library

**Kalgoorlie Miner** (WA : 1895 - 1950)

**Southern Advertiser** (Bunbury, WA : 1888)

Digitisation generously supported by the Friends of the Batty Library

To find out the latest titles which have been added to Trove, subscribe to one of our Web feeds.

For those organisations wishing to digitise a newspaper title, please see our Contributor

Guidelines. If you would like any additional information please email us at [andp@nla.gov.au](mailto:andp@nla.gov.au)

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/showthread.php?1066-Newspaper-titles-recently-added-to-Trove>



Shirley Foley  
Photo taken at Don Grant lecture  
4/09/2004

### VALE - SHIRLEY FOLEY

Shirley Foley, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012, was very involved in the early days of VAFHO.

Shirley was a volunteer at the State Library in the 'genie' centre; she was also a volunteer at GSV Shirley assisted for several years with secretarial duties to Frances Brown, Genealogy and Local History Librarian, State Library of Victoria, and the first Chairman of VAFHO.

Shirley was a tremendous help to me when I became President of VAFHO and she also wrote the early editions of our newsletter.

Shirley's memorial service was lovely with tributes from her husband Jack and their son Tom.

Music was played by the Mordialloc Brass Band of which Shirley was a supporter for over thirty years.

We shall all miss her.

Our thoughts are with her family

**Di Christensen**

### South East Victoria Family & Regional History Expo 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 Organised by the Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.



Exhibitors and visitors enjoying the expo at Cranbourne



Dot Wickham manning the VAFHO table

About thirty-five exhibitors enjoyed a well organised and advertised event that appeared to be very worthwhile for all; judging by the noise level and the number of people surrounding each exhibit. The cups of tea/coffee and regard to the comfort of the exhibitors was to be commended, the draws for the lucky door prizes were well received and much appreciated another well worthwhile day.

### VAFHO Conference

*Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfields Experience*

**4-5 May 2013 Ballarat –Victoria**

Arrangements are in hand for another spectacular conference see attached brochure for details

## What's On

### VAFHO Conference

*Under the Southern Cross: A Goldfields Experience*

**ADVANCE NOTICE ONLY**

**BOOKINGS OPEN 1ST OCTOBER 2012**

Register early to avoid disappointment

**Early Bird discounts end 1st March 2013**

Conference Mailing Address  
PO Box 171N  
Ballarat North  
VICTORIA 3350, AUSTRALIA

Contact Details  
Phone: 61+03+4308 0454  
Mobile: 61+ 0424 963 294  
E-mail: ballaratstar@gmail.com

---

Genie Muster

*Deniliquin Genealogy Muster*

**Friday 12th & Saturday 13th October 2012**

**For full details see their website:**

<http://members.bordernet.com.au/~denifhg/genie%20muster.html>

---

Seminar from GSV



The  
Genealogical  
Society of  
Victoria Inc

**Special Event**  
**Michael Gandy**  
**England's Premier Genealogist**

Saturday 10 November 2012

Melbourne City Conference Centre

333 Swanston Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 (opposite the State Library)

Full details [www.gsv.org.au](http://www.gsv.org.au)

---

## Public Records Office of Victoria

**A new Special Section has recently been added to the PROV website**

[www.prov.vic.gov.au/research](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/research)

Titled 'Start your research' copied from website PROV 27/09/2012

There is a Link to a new researchers kit; guides to PROV records and helpful information on areas of the collection that are now available from your computer.

This has been designed to assist new researchers with using the PROV archives and getting the most value from the records for their research.

---

## State Library of Victoria News

### Publication of Aboriginal people and family history online Research Guide

Article by Grant Hamston

Librarian, Genealogy Team, State Library of Victoria

The Library's Genealogy Team has recently published the 'Aboriginal people and family history' online Research Guide. The Guide complements the suite of online Research Guides available on a variety of topics through the Eresources component of the Library's website, including eleven relating to family history topics.

The 'Aboriginal people and family history' Guide presents a selection of resources to assist with family history research for Aboriginal people, particularly in the early stages. It is intended as a starting point for understanding the types of records, resources, record repositories around Australia and basic research strategies associated with this area of research.

Resources include published guides, websites for relevant government agencies such as libraries and archives. The websites provide in-depth information about available records, facilities and

services provided. There is also a section for Australia-wide resources relating to Stolen Generations.

To view the guide, go to the Library's website ([www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au)) and click on the prominent Eresources button. Scroll the next page up until the Research Guides link appears and click on it. You will be presented with a select list of our online guides. Click on the Family history link to the left of the screen to access to the 'Aboriginal people and family history' Guide.

The Guide was published to coincide with NAIDOC Week 2012. NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields.

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/explore/family-history-resources> and choose research guides