



Victorian Association of Family
History Organisations Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JULY 2008

Enclosed are the renewal notices for VAFHO membership. We encourage all our member groups to complete these & return them to our secretary ASAP. Your membership in VAFHO is important. Currently VAFHO is represented at the PROV Stakeholders Meetings, State Library of Victoria Genealogy Centre Users Group and on the State Library of Victoria User Groups Council (SLUOC). We are continually looking for opportunities to raise awareness on family history issues within Victoria. We need your support to make our voice heard.

Another of the important roles of VAFHO is to plan & organise family history conferences & events. The first half of 2008 has been very busy with the organization of the Sixth Victorian Family History State Conference held in May. This was done in conjunction with the South Gippsland Genealogical Society. My sincere thanks to Pat Eade & Alison Marshall the convenors & to all the volunteers for the tremendous job they did, and to everyone who attended the conference & helped make it such a successful event. The South Gippsland Genies were a delight to work with & we hope to use this formula in the planning of future conferences. For those who missed out, there are still some copies of the conference papers for sale at the GSV bookshop.

At the conference we also launched our new website www.vafho.org. Your contact details should be listed on our members page. Please check to see that these are correct & current and advise us of any changes.

The details of the AGM are yet to be confirmed, but will be sent out as soon as possible.

Jenny Harkness

SIXTH VICTORIAN FAMILY HISTORY STATE CONFERENCE

The Sixth Victorian Family History State Conference "Preserving the Past & Present for the Future" was held 3-5th May 2008 at Inverloch with over 250 persons attending during the weekend. It was jointly organised by members of the VAFHO committee & the South Gippsland Genealogical Society.

There were 4 workshops held on Friday afternoon, 14 speakers over the next two days & a large trade area providing the opportunity to discover many family history related products & services. The winner of the Frances Brown Award for Excellence in Family History was announced at the Conference dinner on Saturday night as well as the Victorian launch of Perry McIntyre and Liz Rushen's latest book "The Merchant's Women" the story of the women who emigrated on the Bussorah Merchant. All who attended were warmly welcomed by the locals at Inverloch. It was a most successful event with very positive feedback from those who attended.

FRANCES BROWN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE TO FAMILY HISTORY

At the Conference Dinner on Saturday night the Frances Brown Award for Excellence to Family History was awarded to Sue McBeth for her many important contributions to the world of Family History including the development of Digger™ and Flicker™ software. Fortunately Sue was in attendance & able to accept the award in person.

ANNUAL DON GRANT FAMILY HISTORY LECTURE

The 13th Annual Don Grant Family History Lecture will take place on Monday 4th August at the State Library of Victoria. The lecture entitled "Moving stories: British migrant women & family life in postwar Australia" will be presented by Professor Alistair Thomson, Monash University School of Historical Studies and President of the International History Association. Al Thomson was a keynote speaker at the VAFHO State Conference in May. After hearing his inspiring presentation, this is an event not to be missed.

The first ten years of Don Grant Lectures have now been compiled & printed & will be available for sale at this years Don Grant Family History lecture at the special price of \$10.

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST

The Don Grant Lecture is part of Family History Feast an annual event to celebrate National Family History Week organised jointly by Public Record Office Victoria (PROV), National Archives of Australia (NAA) – Victorian Branch, State Library of Victoria (SLV) and Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages. Further information on the speakers & topics can be found on the SLV website. Bookings are essential.

For those unable to attend the Don Grant Lecture, it will again be available as a podcast on the State Library of Victoria website.

VICTORIAN WILLS & PROBATES INDEXING PROJECT

Volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) have been busy digitising Wills & Probates at PROV up to 1925. The wills (VPRS 7591) are now complete & available online. However they can only be currently accessed using the unit reference numbers available on the Victorian Probate Indexes, which are not always readily available. VAFHO member groups are currently indexing these records on FamilySearch Indexing.

Lesle Berry, the Indexing Co-ordinator and her team of dedicated volunteers are doing a fantastic job, but more help is needed to complete this project. Do any of your members have a few hours to spare each week, to help with this important project? Indexing is done in the comfort of your own home. All you need is a broadband internet connection. For more information contact Lesle Berry lindexing@optusnet.com.au