

AFHO VOICE

VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

www.vafho.org.au

JUNE/JULY 2009



Winter is once more upon us and what better time to enjoy research than tucked up in front of the computer with the heater on. Family History Week is fast approaching with a fine array of talks and activities on offer.

It has been reported that family history and genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the world. Family history sites on the internet receive billions of hits per year. There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history or genealogical organisations. The activities of National Family History Week should thus appeal to a wide range of people. National Family History Week 2009 is on in full swing from the first to the ninth of August. Many activities are free. An array of activities can be found at www.familyhistoryweek.org.au During the week events will be conducted across the country that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects

including family reunions, seminars, talks, open days, history walks, book launches, film evenings and expos.

VAFHO will again participate in National Family History Week by holding the Don Grant Family History Lecture at the State Library of Victoria during Family History Feast on Monday 3 August. More details are available on page six. Unfortunately Don Grant is unable to be with us this year as he has been hospitalised for medical treatment. Don, we wish you a very speedy recovery.

The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) is very keen to see events for National Family History Week listed on the internet, so this is worth keeping in mind for next year's festivities, both to keep everyone informed and to promote your event. National Family History week is a popular initiative of AFFHO, and one which has received broad support from some of Australia's leading government and non government organisations.

Dorothy Wickham

VAFHO AIMS

- To promote and encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry, family history and allied subjects throughout Victoria
- To promote and arrange easier public access to public records and record repositories throughout Victoria
- To promote and encourage the preservation of records for family history research
- To co-ordinate the conduct of regular family history conferences and events in Victoria

VAFHO OFFICE BEARERS 2008 - 2009

President	Jenny Harkness
Vice-President	Patricia Eade
Secretary	Di Christensen
Treasurer	Judy Seymour

AFFILIATIONS

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) Public Stakeholders Group
State Library of Victoria (SLV) Genealogy Centre User Group
State Library User Organisation Council
Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO)

AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS, NZ: REPORT

Anne Burrows, Genealogy Librarian, Information Services Division, State Library of Victoria attended the Australasian Congress in New Zealand. Anne's report shows that it is well worth attending Congresses such as this. Meeting and sharing experiences with like-minded people enhances both your research and its outcomes. The following is Anne's report.

My attendance at **12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry** with the theme *Preserving the past for the future* held at King's College, Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand 16 to 20 January 2009 was interesting, enjoyable and beneficial. The Congress was under the auspices of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations and organised by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The Congress attracted over 400 participants from New Zealand and Australia. Three Australian State Libraries (Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria) and the National Library of Australia were represented. There was also staff from a number of major New Zealand libraries, including the National Library of New Zealand and the City Libraries of Auckland and Christchurch. There was a strong Victorian contingent with three staff from State Trustees as well as representatives from Public Record Office Victoria, the Genealogical Society of Victoria and the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies.

The Congress was very well-organised and the speakers were of a high standard covering a range of Australian and overseas topics, including some of the newer and evolving fields of genealogy, such as use of DNA. A number of these overseas speakers, such as Dick Eastman, the technology specialist and John Grenham, the Irish expert had never before visited Australia or New Zealand so this was a bonus.



CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

The *Spirit of Mystery* arrived in Hobson's Bay after a long trip from Cornwall. Newspapers covered the eventful last stages of the voyage. The vessel traced the heroic voyage of 1854. The crew of 2008/09, Pete Goss, Eliot Goss, Andy Goss and Mark Maidment, were welcomed warmly by the Cornish community as well as many other well wishers

AFFHO NEWS

After nearly six years as president, Lesle Berry has stood down from the AFFHO Council. Congratulations on a job well done Lesle! We commend you for your significant contribution in the field of family history. Lesle established the National Family History Week in Australia. She also edited the newsletter, planned many other events and was a "hands-on" leader coordinating events and gaining wider acceptance for family history, now the second largest "hobby" in the world. **Andrew Peake** has taken over the helm at AFFHO. We wish him our support and best wishes in his new role as president. **Graham Jaunay** is the new editor of AFFHO NEWSFLASH. He would be keen to receive reports on functions, upcoming events or photographs of news of interest to the Australasian family history community. Graham can be contacted by email at graham@jaunay.com or Fax 08 83714479

NARRE WARREN & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY

GROUP Narre Warren celebrated their 20th birthday in May 2009. Best wishes and congratulations!

INDEXING PROJECT - WILLS & PROBATES

Please note that more volunteers are needed so that the Wills & Probates Project to 1925 can be completed. Contact Lesle Berry at lindexing@optusnet.com.au if you can spare even a couple of hours a week. The more helpers, the quicker the job will be done.

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE

There has been an overwhelming response of assistance for the bushfire affected areas from communities and individuals associated with the historical, genealogical and museology sections.



Glen Turnbull, President of the Association of Eastern Historical Societies, at the hand over, in Ballarat, of donations collected for Marysville by Dorothy Wickham and Clare Gervasoni. Photo: Courtesy The Courier

Glen Turnbull met up with Dorothy Wickham and Clare Gervasoni in Ballarat for a hand over of donations collected from the Central Highlands of Victoria. Glen subsequently visited Marysville and presented the items to Mary and Reg Kenealy (photographed) who were thrilled to receive them. They commented on the ongoing support of everyone. The Marysville Historical Society has been set up temporarily in a cottage next to Crossways Guest house on the Woods Point Road. It is open on weekends for the next few months.



Glen Turnbull with Mary and Reg Kenealy with items donated from the Central Highlands Region of Victoria. Photo courtesy Catherine Turnbull

Material for Marysville has come in from various donors and from all over the state. The support from the most unexpected places, including the Yass Historical Society, the Botany Bay Historical Society in Sydney and historical societies in Western Australia has been most appreciated.



Mary and Reg Kenealy at the temporary site of the Marysville Historical Society
Photo courtesy Catherine Turnbull

In the heritage spot on ABC Regional on Tuesday 14 July 2009 Dominic Brine, Dot Wickham, Clare Gervasoni and Kristina Kitchingman met up. Kristina told of her efforts in procuring photos from as far afield as Holland, facilitated by a website, www.redbubble.com/people/kkrafts.

A keen photographer, she has been busy taking photos, as well as coordinating a collection of Marysville photos. Kristina is one of the avenues through which Marysville photographs have been forthcoming. She donated a disk of her own beautiful photos of Marysville during the heritage session.



Clare Gervasoni, Dot Wickham and Kristina Kitchingman at the ABC Regional Studios

The NSW/ACT association have received several replies to their calls re assistance for those who lost records or resources during the recent bushfires. The Young & district Family History Group have offered copies of English Family Tree Magazine 1984 to June 2000 if anyone affected by the fires would like them. Please contact Di Christensen 03 9703 2985 or email fauna6@gmail.com for more details. For donation of memorabilia or photos Glen Turnbull can be contacted on email gaturnbull@yahoo.com.au

News from AIGS

The AIGS has been involved with the City of Whitehorse regarding the proposed building directly behind the AIGS of a 'partial 3 storey and partial 4 storey building with underground garage for car parking and the building to contain 19 "dwellings" of various sizes'. The grounds for the discussion were...*that the proposed project would be an over development of the site and that inadequate provision has been made for on site parking.* The building is to go ahead and further discussion or an appeal have been ruled out as the proposal complies with State Government guidelines and the cost of an appeal would be a waste of money. The main concern of the AIGS was that the street parking in the area may be 'time' reduced and so affect the library users.

The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc. has had some interesting talks and hands on workshops. On 10 June a family history workshop was held at their friendly library at 1/41 Railway Road, Blackburn. A night on Land Selection files and the treasures they contain was held at St Killian's Parish Centre, 118 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo. Ian Fraser spoke of the Fraser family of Gippsland at the Baptist Church Hall, Mordialloc on 22 June 2009. Please check www.aigs.org.au for information on future talks and events. If you are starting out on your family history the following dates run over two sessions each of two hours duration are a must for beginners.

Thursday	16th July 2009	7.00pm	Session (2)
Saturday	1st August 2009	2.00pm	Session (1)
Saturday	8th August 2009	2.00pm	Session (2)
Thursday	10th September 2009	2.30pm	Session (1)
Thursday	17th September 2009	2.30pm	Session (2)
Thursday	8th October 2009	7.00pm	Session (1)
Thursday	15th October 2009	7.00pm	Session (2)
Saturday	14th November 2009	2.00pm	Session (1)
Saturday	21st November 2009	2.00pm	Session (2)

Talks over the coming months include **Birth, Marriage & Death records for England & Wales** (26 July), **Marriage Licence or Bastardy Bond?** (23 August), **Non Boring Writing for your Grandkids** (27 September), and **The Helen Macpherson Smith Genealogy Centre at the State Library of Victoria** (25 October). Fees apply.

New Special Interest Groups have been inaugurated this year:

- Scottish/Irish
- North Midlands – Cheshire/Derbyshire/Shropshire/Sth Lancashire/Staffordshire/ Warwickshire & Worcestershire
- South East England – Hampshire/Kent/Surrey & Sussex
- London/Middlesex & Hertfordshire
- Northern Counties – Durham/Cumberland/Lancashire/Northumbria/Westmorland/& Yorkshire
- Eastern Counties – Cambridge/Huntingdonshire/Essex/Norfolk & Suffolk

PUZZLE OF THE WEEK



WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR NEXT CHALLENGE

This cute VAFHO member was our own VAFHO committee member Sue Hill trying on shoes in Melbourne.

WHAT'S ON?

CELTIC FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

Wodonga Family History Society presents the Celtic Family History Seminar on 25 July 2009 at the Felltimber Creek Community Centre, Ritter Road, Wodonga. There are three interesting speakers. Terry Eakin will speak on *The Scottish Undertakers and the Plantation of Ulster 1603-25*. Susan McLean is looking at *Vanora's Stone: Scotland's Ancient Heritage*, and Lindsay Chapman will speak on *An Introduction to Cornwall's Heritage and Its People*. The cost is a reasonable \$30 which includes lunch, morning and afternoon teas. Enquiries to Norma 0260241591 or Doreen 0260560926

VicGUM CONFERENCE

Phillip Island is the idyllic setting for the VicGUM Conference from 24 to 26 July.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (GSV)

Talks continue on Thursday afternoons from 12.30 to 1.30 at the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne. Leslie Berry will share of her wide reaching knowledge on 6 August. She will speak on the **LDS library catalogue and RecordSearch pilot**. Dot Wickham is speaking on **Gold Rush Days – Eureka** on 13 August. Eleanor Pugsley will tell you all you have to know about **researching NSW ancestors online** on 20 August, and if you are **preparing to visit the National Archives in UK** don't miss the talk by Bev Spinks on 27 August. Beginning family history seminars (Australian and English) are also available, as are computer courses for small groups. Check out www.gsv.org.au for information, costs and dates.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK 1–9 August 2009

National Family History Week is an initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO). Jenny Harkness, the President of VAFHO is launching the week on Friday 31 July at Public Record Office Victoria, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne. Many activities associated with family history have been planned throughout Australia between the first and ninth of August. For a full listing of events the website www.familyhistoryweek.org.au can be visited. The groups listed on this site include The State Library of Victoria, Genealogical Society of Victoria, Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, Blackburn History Centre, Prahran Mechanics' Institute, Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries, Braeside Family History Centre, Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc., Goldfields Library Corporation (Bendigo), Bendigo AIGS, Narre Warren & district Family History Group, Mornington Peninsula Family History Society, Victorian GUM Inc & Bass Coast Phillip Island Family History Society.

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST 3 AUGUST 2009 (FREE)

The State Library of Victoria is presenting a Family History Feast during National Family History Week. It is a day of free information sessions for researchers of family history. It is supported by Public Record Office Victoria, National Archives of Australia, Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and Victorian Association of Family History Organisations.

Time: Monday 3 August 2009, 10am-4pm

Venue: Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria (Entry 3, La Trobe Street)

Bookings essential:

03 9348 5600, toll free 1800 657

452, or email reception@prov.vic.gov.au

Cost: Entry is free

Highlights of the day include the following talks and lectures:

- Mark Beasley, Manager, Geelong Heritage Centre (10.15-11am)
Victoria's largest regional archive
- Anne Levens, Projects Manager, VicHeritage, Registry of BDMs (11-11.45am)
Overview of current projects at VicHeritage at Registry of BDMs
- Tara Hossack, Coordinator, Access Services, PROV (11.45am-12.30pm)
Online and in person
- Screening of **Who Do You Think You Are?, Season 1, Episode 2** (Film Australia production in association with Artemis International and Serendipity Productions)
- Mark Brennan, Assist Director, Access & Communications, NAA, Melb (1.30-2.15pm)
Multicultural Australia and how to find YOUR story in the National Archives
- Vicki Nelson, Redmond Barry Collections Librarian, SLV (2.15-3pm)
Your family story in history: using Redmond Barry's vision of a great library
- Jenny Harkness, VAFHO President
Introduction to Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO)
- Patricia Grimshaw, University of Melbourne. (3-4pm)
Family History and Women's History: Critical Intersections (details below)

PODCAST OF FAMILY HISTORY FEAST 2008

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/programs/genealogy/family-history-feast-08/index.html>

VAFHO DON GRANT LECTURE (FREE)

The Don Grant Lecture is held at the State Library of Victoria on Monday 3 August 2009 at the Theatre at 3pm in conjunction with National Family History Week. Guest Speaker well-known historian and author Professor Patricia Grimshaw will speak on 'Family History and Women's History: Critical Intersections' at this FREE lecture.

MARYBOROUGH FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Maryborough Family History Group Inc is holding a History Fair on Sunday 30 August 2009 at Maryborough Resource Centre, Corner Alma and Nolan Streets, Maryborough, 10.00am to 4.00pm. The image on right is from a new publication by Elaine Murphy that will be launched at the Fair. Over many years Elaine has been interested in family and local history and has compiled a timeline of Maryborough. She has produced a similar book on Carisbrook.



Maryborough Hospital: Photo Courtesy Elaine Murphy

2009 NSW & ACT STATE CONFERENCE

From Home to Hinterland is on Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 September at Wyong Racecourse Function Centre, Howarth Street, Wyong, NSW 2259. Contacts: The Cottage on 02 43517373 Tuesday to Thursday; Conference convenor Owen Powell 02 4390 8962

VAFHO AGM & SEPTEMBER SEMINAR (FREE)

A seminar is to be held in the State Library of Victoria Theatre on Saturday 19 Sep 2009 titled *Fire and Flood: Saving Your Treasures*. This seminar looks at practical ways of preparing for disasters and implementing disaster plans. Bookings not required.

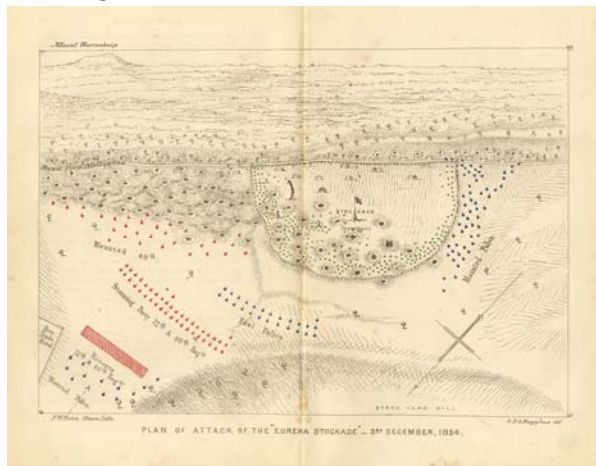
SENIORS' WEEK ACTIVITIES

Keep in mind the activities at Public Record Office Victoria on 6 October at North Melbourne, and also the Immigration Museum on 7 to 8 October.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (CHHA) ANNUAL EXPO

CHHA Annual EXPO **What's in a Name? The Origins of the names of our towns and suburbs** is on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October. The venue for this year is Ballarat Special School, Gillies Street, Wendouree. There is ample free parking and wheelchair access. Contact Joy 53340565 or David 53384361 for details.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



The word "Eureka" was said to have been shouted by Dr Timothy Doyle when he found gold on the Ballarat East Goldfields in the early 1850s. It was thought that this was how the Eureka Diggings in Ballarat East was named. "Eureka" is a Greek word meaning "I have found it!" made famous by Archimedes when he discovered that the volume of water displaced must be equal to the volume of the part of the body submerged in water. This meant that the volume of irregular objects could be calculated with precision. One anecdote tells of Archimedes so excited by the discovery that he ran naked through the streets shouting "Eureka! Eureka!"

DRAGON TAILS: RE-INTERPRETING CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE

A conference is to be held at Sovereign Hill Museums Association, Ballarat on 9 to 11 October 2009. Papers from a wide range of disciplines will be presented. One of the major aims of the conference is to bring together new historical understandings about early Chinese-Australians, and consider their place within broader histories of Australia and the Chinese diaspora. Another aim is to create a forum for how these stories might be interpreted in the classroom, and at cultural heritage sites and museums. Please see the website for details. www.sovereignhill.com.au

GMAGS MULWALA HISTORY EXPO

Goulburn & Murray Association of Local & Family History Groups are presenting their 10th Annual Local and Family EXPO at Club Mulwala on Sunday 21 November 2009, with lots of exhibitors, displays, speakers and publications. Don't miss this established EXPO. Contact details: Jan PO Box 378 Yarrawonga, VIC 3730, 03 5744 1460

WELCOME BACK COUSIN JACK! CORNISH PROGRAM

Eaglehawk Dahlia & Arts Festival, Wednesday 17 March to Sunday 28 March 2010 will showcase Cornish activities including Family History, Displays, Tours, Cornish Language Cass, Heritage Lectures, Bardic Ceremony, Cornish Dance Class, Street Procession, Festival Dinner and Cornish Church Service.

STATE CONFERENCE 2010

There was much movement of people between New South Wales and Victoria (and beyond) especially in the mid 1800s. As family historians, many will already know that birth, death and marriage certificates for Victoria (then the Port Phillip District of New South Wales) can sometimes be found in the NSW archives. Convict records can also at times hold clues of past relatives. The VAFHO State Conference 2010 is to be held 28 – 30 May 2010 on the border of Victoria and New South Wales at the Mulwala Club, Yarrawonga. Appropriately, the theme of the Conference is *The Border and Beyond*. Details on the VAFHO website.

CONGRESS 2012

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry is to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, from 28 – 31 March 2012. It will be hosted by the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc. If you wish to lodge an expression of interest to be a speaker or your interest in attending this Congress go to the website www.congress2012.org.au

CONGRESS 2015

The Congress in 2015 will be held in Canberra and hosted by the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. It will be held in March so this is another date to keep in mind and put in your calendar. A trip to Canberra could take in the National Library of Australia, National Australian Archives, the Australian War Memorial and archives, and so much more.

AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGICAL SURVEY

A survey of the nature and growth of family history in Australia is being undertaken by Leon Alekna of the University of New England (Armidale, NSW). This Masters thesis involves conducting a survey of as many Australian genealogists as possible. It is designed to learn more about the motivation of genealogists, how they conduct their research, their research interests, and who they are. It will provide the first comprehensive overview of genealogical research in Australia and will assist in promoting and supporting the work of family historians. They survey is web-based, and available from 1st August to 30th November. See freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ausgensurvey

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Vale Gordon Dawe

Gordon Dawe (30 June 1928–27 May 2009), past president of CHHA, passed away in May. Gordon was active in many community projects and was well known in Maldon. After an eventful life Gordon chose to live in Maldon, a community which he loved. He worked at the Maldon Museum and Archives, helped in the indexing of the Tarrngower Times, helped set up a library when the Council closed its library branch, did a regular shift at the Maldon Information Centre, and each week read the news on the Radio for the Print Handicapped. Gordon loved books, music, his beloved dog Rusty, and most of all, his many friends. Gordon will be sadly missed.

VAFHO Current Committee Members

Australian Association of Genealogists & Record Agents (AAGRA)
Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS)
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)
Central Highlands Historical Association (CHHA)
Cornish Association of Victoria (CAV)
Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV)
Narre Warren & District Family History Group
Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)
South Gippsland Genealogical Society
State Library of Victoria (SLV)
Wodonga Family History Society

Don Grant
Patricia Eade
Jenny Harkness
Dot Wickham
June Whiffin
Dr Peter Prideaux
Di Christensen
Shauna Hicks
Susan Hill
Anne Burrows
Judy Seymour

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