



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY ORGANISATIONS

www.vafho.org.au

NOVEMBER 2011



President's Message

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

The office bearers for 2010-2011 were Jenny Harkness (President), Dorothy Wickham (Vice-President), Di Christensen (Secretary) and Jan Parker (Treasurer).

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

A number of changes occurred on the committee this year. Judy Seymour, who has been Treasurer since VAFHO was organised, resigned, leaving a vacancy on the committee. Judy has helped to organise a number of conferences and has travelled long distances to attend meetings over the years. We welcome Charlie Farrugia who has replaced James McKinnon (PROV). James was another long-serving committee member. Anne Dixon (AIGS) and Shauna Hicks (Cobram Genealogical Group) have both returned to the committee. Shauna previously represented PROV. We farewell Clive Luckman (GSV) who will be replaced by Alan Fincher. Clive's knowledge & experience has been very helpful as we have reviewed our constitution and the structure & aims and purposes of VAFHO.

The Annual Don Grant Family History Lecture was held on 3rd August 2010 at the SLV Theatre as part of Family History Feast, an annual event organised by NAA, PROV, Registry of B, D & M's & SLV. This lecture was presented by Prof Geoffrey Blainey and was titled "Victoria in the 19th Century: Everyday life and family history". We were very pleased to have Don Grant in the audience on this occasion as health problems had prevented his attendance for several years. Sadly Don passed away this year in July, which is a great loss to the family history community. Don was a committee member for many years and has always been a great supporter of VAFHO. I attended his funeral along with many others who had been associated with him over the years.

This year's Don Grant Lecture was held 1st August & was presented by Andrew Lemon, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and was titled "Storming the Barricades: the Family History Revolution". It was decided to also include a tribute to Don Grant. Shane Carmody, Pat Eade & I spoke about Don's achievements. His wife Lorraine and daughter Alison were invited to attend and were very touched by the high regard in which Don is held. Recent Don Grant Lectures can be viewed on the SLV website as a podcast or videocast.

The Annual General Meeting was held 9th October 2010 at SLV. A seminar on Digitising Records followed with guest speakers Tim Hogan (SLV), Daniel Wilksch (PROV) & Clive Luckman (GSV). This was well attended & provided valuable information on digitising for our member groups.

In the past year, I have represented VAFHO on the PROV Public Stakeholders Group and the State Library of Victoria Genealogy Centre Users Group which both meet twice a year. I have attended the State Library User Organisations' Council (SLUOC) meetings which are held bi-monthly and am the VAFHO representative on the AFFHO Council. Fortunately, AFFHO meetings are held by teleconference and do not involve additional travel. Although it is very time-consuming I believe that our involvement with these groups and organisations provides many benefits to VAFHO and raises awareness of family history within the wider community..

I wish to thank the committee members and all our member organisations for their continuing support over the past year. In the coming year we will continue to review our constitution and seek for ways to increase our representation amongst the family history community.

Jenny Harkness
VAFHO President

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST

The Don Grant lecture at the State Library of Victoria featured Andrew Lemon. His topic "Storming the Barricades: the Family History Revolution" proved a popular choice with many voicing the opinion it was one of the best lectures they had heard. The Family History Feast was booked out, a great sign for family history enthusiasts, showing the popularity of the event. Shane Carmody, Pat Eade and Jenny Harkness delivered a fitting tribute to Don Grant after whom the lecture is named.



Andrew Lemon: The Don Grant Lecture



Pat Eade: Tribute to Don Grant



Shane Carmody: Tribute to Don Grant

Photographs: Kind permission Anna Koh, National Archives of Australia

V A F H O A N N U A L G E N E R A L M E E T I N G

The AGM commenced at PROV at 1pm on 27 August 2011. The excellent speakers were Charlie Farrugia and Ada Ackerly who entertained the interested crowd in attendance in the meeting room at PROV.

Charlie Farrugia, Senior Collections Advisor, PROV

"Convicted and neglected, researching Victorian Wards of the state, 1864-c1960 at the Public Record Office Victoria. Wardship and how to find information using the Children's Registers (Ward Books)

Ada Ackerly-Researcher-Finding Treasures at PROV

For 30 years Ada has made indexes and has found very interesting and exciting backgrounds to do with estates, family arguments, Naval embarrassments, unregistered births, missing wills, railway employees misdemeanours. Ada never loses her enthusiasm for research and and sharing her finds.

V A L E

BRONWEN MERRITT

Bronwen who worked for the Public Record Office Victoria some years ago passed away after a long illness.

LILLIAN DELL

Lillian was a staunch member of the Ballarat Cornish Association and Ballarat & District Genealogical Society for many years. An excellent researcher, she co authored Cornish Pioneers of Ballarat Volumes 1 & 2 with Joy Menhennet. We are sorry to hear of Lillian's death. She had been failing for some years.

DONALD WILLIAM MORRISON GRANT

Don passed away June 30, 2011 peacefully at Tonimbuk with his family. His significant contribution to family history in Victoria has been invaluable. He enjoyed a full and happy life filled with worthy achievements and many contributions to family history and genealogy. Don will be remembered for his kind heart, gentle soul, and brilliant mind.

Don started with The Genealogical Society of Victoria in 1953 as Honorary Secretary and was heavily involved until 1971.

- Don initiated the first Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry held in 1977 and which is still held every 3 years, the next one being in Adelaide in 2012.
- Don was a co-founder of the Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents in 1977.
- Don helped establish the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations in 1978.
- The Public Record Office of Victoria where Don worked for many years and then was a volunteer indexer.
- Don was also involved in the American Society of Heraldry, the Heraldry Council of Australia, Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Vicheritage and the State Library of Victoria User Organisations Council.

Don Grant with Peter Foard was one of the co-founders of the AIGS nearly 38 years ago. They worked together at General Motors Holden (Don as chief librarian). The first convening meeting was held at Peter's home on Monday 6th August 1973. Don was President of the AIGS from 1973 - 1981 whilst also editing The Genealogist magazine in his spare time! He was also President again between 1999 and 2002.

The Council of the AIGS resolved at their last meeting to initiate an annual Don Grant Award beginning in 2012. This award will be as prestigious as the Alexander Henderson Award and it will be presented to the best book submitted in that year that is an "historical biography with a family history focus". The AIGS is very pleased to be able to commemorate Don's lifetime of devotion to genealogy in this way.

THE GEOFFREY BLAINY RESEARCH CENTRE



The Geoffrey Blainey Research Centre (GBRC) is located on the top floor of the E.J. Barker Library (Mt Helen Campus), University of Ballarat, and includes a supervised reading room where collections can be accessed and read. The GBRC includes the Geoffrey Blainey Mining Collection and the University of Ballarat Special Collection. Titles from both collections can be searched online at <http://innopac.ballarat.edu.au/>. The University of Ballarat Historical Collection is also located at the GBRC. This

extensive collection of historical material dates from the opening of the Ballarat School of Mines in 1870. The collection covers material from the University of Ballarat's predecessors including the Ballarat School of Mines, Ballarat Teachers' College, State College of Victoria, Ballarat; the Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education, Ballarat College of Advanced Education, Ballarat University College and Wimmera Institute of TAFE.

Photograph Above: Di Christensen and Dorothy Wickham researching at the Centre

Geoffrey Blainey Research Centre Hours:

Tues 9.30am - 1.00pm

Wed 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Thurs 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Fri 9.30am - 1.00pm

or by appointment

Website <http://www.guerin.ballarat.edu.au/curator>

C H H A H i s t o r y F e s t i v a l



Left: Elaine Stephens (Carisbrook), Dot Wickham & Wayne Phillipson



Right: Ted Lynes talking to school children, Monday 24 October

The annual CHHA history festival was held on Sunday and Monday 23 and 24 October at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute. Sunday was a day for displays, research and talks while Monday was "Schools" Day. Budding young historians presented their findings in an enthusiastic atmosphere. The two days were most successful.

NEWSPAPERS

Patrick Gregory, Acting Manager, Public Libraries has said that some information from the National Library about digitised newspaper titles is to be made available via Trove over the next year. As this list does not include a whole batch of Victorian papers that have been digitised but are still in process, these have been included below as well.

Victoria is clearly a long way ahead of other states in making the newspaper records of local communities available online, which is due to the great work done through the "Digitising Victorian Newspapers" Statewide Public Library Development Project. The follow up 2011-2014 project, Digitising World War 1 Victorian Newspapers, will put an even more extensive range of titles online over the next three years.

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Extra Victorian titles currently in process:
The Queenscliff Sentinel: 2 Dec 1882-29 Sept 1894
Independent: 31 Mar 1883-23 Dec 1922
Mildura Cultivator: 19 May 1888-29 Sept 1920
Horsham Times: 17 Jan 1882-1954
Frankston Standard: 7 Jan 1921-21 Dec 1949
Sunshine Advocate: 1 Mar 1924-1954
Brighton Southern Cross: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Bairnsdale Advertiser: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Ararat Advertiser: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Casterton News: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Bacchus Marsh Express: 1 Jan 1914 to 31

Dec 1918
Werribee Shire Banner: 17 Oct 1902-25 Dec 1952
Colac Herald: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Box Hill Reporter: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Essendon Gazette: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Record: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Prahran Telegraph: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
McIvor Times (& Rodney Advertiser): 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Lilydale Express: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Ballarat Courier: 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918
Warrnambool Standard : 1 Jan 1914 to 31 Dec 1918

The National Library of Australia is pleased to announce that the following newspaper titles have been added to Digitised newspapers and more on [Trove](#):

Victoria

[Oakleigh Leader](#) (North Brighton, Vic. : 1888 - 1902)

[Oakleigh Leader and District Record](#) (Brighton, Vic. : 1887 - 1888)

[Sunbury News and Bulla and Melton Advertiser](#)(Vic. : 1892 - 1900)

[The Benalla Ensign and Farmer's and Squatter's Journal](#)(Vic. : 1869 - 1872)

[The Coburg Leader](#) (Vic. : 1890 - 1913)

[The Elsternwick Leader](#) (Brighton, Vic. : 1888)

[The Elsternwick Leader and Caulfield and Balaclava Guardian](#)(Brighton, Vic. : 1887)

[The Elsternwick Leader and District Record](#)(Brighton, Vic. : 1887 - 1888)

[Elsternwick Leader and East Brighton, South Brighton, Cheltenham, Mentone, Mordialloc,](#)

[Oakleigh, Sandringham, Balaclava & Caulfield Record](#)(Vic. : 1887)

[The Kerang Times](#) (Vic. : 1889 - 1890)

[The Kyabram Union and Rodney Shire Advocate](#)(Vic. : 1894)

[Healesville Guardian and Yarra Glen Advocate](#)(Vic. : 1898)

These titles have been funded by the State Library of Victoria

Tasmania

[The Observer](#) (Hobart, Tas : 1845-1846)

New South Wales

[The Leader](#) (Liverpool, NSW : 1946-1949)

This title has been funded by the Liverpool City Library

Melanie McCarten

Senior Program Manager, Public Libraries

State Library of Victoria

WHAT'S ON? 2012

BALLARAT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The heritage festival is to be held in May 2012 and encompasses Mothers' Day. The theme for 2012 is to do with memories, childhood days and past times. There's a lot to see and do! Displays, collections, stalls, open houses and tours! Ballarat, a heritage city, opens its doors with some interesting results. Get in early and book your accommodation at one of the local B&B's or motels and savour the weekend!! It's well worth it!

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****

AFFHO CONGRESS 2012

The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry "Your Ancestors in their Social Context" will be held in Adelaide, South Australia 28-31 March 2012. It will be hosted by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.

info@congress2012.org.au

www.congress2012.org.au



CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Friday 16 March 2012

To Sunday 18 March 2012

Displays

Tours

Meet the Cornish

Bardic Ceremony

Festival Dinner

Cornish Church Service

PLUS

Dahlia & Arts Festival
Events



Centre for Cornish Activities:

Mechanics Institute
Town Hall Square
Eaglehawk, Victoria 3556

Festival Enquiries: (03) 9877 2968
Booking Details: www.cornishvic.org.au



VAFHO COMMITTEE 2011-2012

OFFICE	NAME	REPRESENTING
President	Jenny Harkness	Latter Day Saints
Vice President	Dr Dorothy (Dot) Wickham	Central Highlands Historical Association
Secretary	Di Christensen	Narre Warren & District Family History Group
Treasurer	Jan Parker	Yarrowonga
	Ann Dixon	Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies
	Shauna Hicks	Cobram
	Alan Fincham	Genealogical Society of Victoria
	Charlie Farrugia	Public Record Office Victoria
	Anne Burrows	State Library of Victoria
		Wodonga
	June Whiffin	Cornish Association of Victoria

Tell us about your events and what is happening within your groups. We welcome your input and would especially like to see the "What's On" section become a valuable resource to all our family history groups.

The Secretary
 Di Christensen, fauna6@gmail.com
 Ph: (03) 9703 2985

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 2209, Bakery Hill Mail Centre, Victoria, 3353.