



NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter December 2021

Message from the President

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Results of AGM or
 Management Meeting
- 3 Zoom Social Evening
 Feedback
- 4 Zoom Technical Evening
 Feedback
- 5 General Family History News
- 6 Upcoming Family History
 Events



Welcome to the revamped Association newsletter.

The last two years have found many societies in a tough position, isolated and unable to meet or in lots of cases even unable to open their rooms. This has been very difficult for many of us, reduced income and many of our members are getting older. While the Association has not been informed of any closures, many groups are doing it tough.

The Committee has been thinking on how we can help our members, maintain their local Societies. Last year we made it a fee free year and this year we made the decision to reduce the fees for existing members.

We have started a Social Evening via Zoom, on the second Friday of the month to allow social connection. As well, we have a Zoom Technical Evening. More information further in the newsletter.

We congratulate Port Macquarie Family History Group on the success of the 2021 Annual Conference, completely virtual at the last minute. It was a wonderful experience. They are to be commended for thinking outside the box, even their raffle was a success. We hope that next year's conference goes as well. Gail

Results of the Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 12th September 2021 with 31 delegates attending.

Picton District Historical & Family History Society Inc. was moved from the Metropolitan to the Southern Region to balance the southern sector.

Membership fees will be reduced for the 2022/2023 period.

All societies who had nominated to represent each Region of the Association were confirmed by the Returning Officer and they all accepted to represent their Region. No further nominations were received and it was declared that the nominated Societies are to form the 2021-2022 NSW & ACT Association Management Committee.

The Committee Office Bearers and Delegates were elected.

President and Southern Region Rep – Gail Hanger (Picton District Historical and Family History Society); Vice President and Metropolitan Region Rep - Elizabeth Steinlein (Botany Bay FHS Inc.); Secretary, 2022 Conference and Central Region Rep - Mel Woodford (Newcastle Family History Society Inc.); Treasurer and Northern Region Rep – Clive Smith (Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc.); Webmaster and Southern Region Rep - Nick Reddan (Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra); Central Region Rep – Roger Lewis and alt. Wendy Condon (Wyong Family History Group Inc.); Metropolitan Region Rep – Ruth Graham (Society of Genealogists), Northern Region Rep – Richard Goss (Richmond Tweed Family History Society Inc.).

The meeting was advised that the convenors of the conference host group committees are automatically co-opted to be part the Management Committee.

The new President Thanked Suzanne Voytas for being the Returning Officer and also the retiring Vice President.

Zoom Social Evening Feedback

Our first Zoom Meeting in October was a success and was followed by a subsequent meeting in November. This is a great opportunity for all members to catch up with each other over a wine, tea or coffee with some family history topics to discuss: Have you found an interesting ancestor? Broken down a brick wall lately? Have you heard a good guest speaker? What are you currently researching?

If you are interested in joining, please email The NSW & ACT AFHS Secretary at secretary@nswactfhs.org who will forward you by email the Zoom log in details. Please remember that the name you register under must be the same as your Zoom name and include the name of the FHS you belong to.



Zoom Technical Evening Feedback

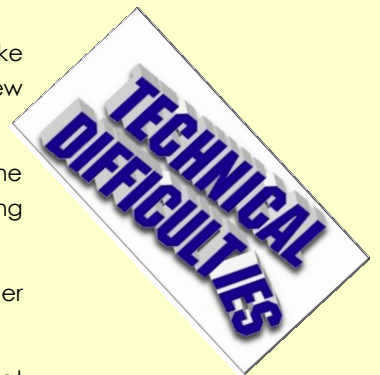
The inaugural Zoom meeting of our Tech group commenced in October 2021 with a follow up meeting in November. Those who attend felt comfortable to ask questions and others who had the knowledge were able to help with answers.

Most attendees requested assistance with: Zoom – from basic use to how to undertake hybrid Zoom Meetings. Other members mentioned they just wanted to learn new technology tips.

Questions were answered and tips given for Zoom on : adding a background, sharing the screen and then showing the presenter, how to add Chat to the side screen, the waiting room and email link access to meetings explained.

Information was requested on running hybrid meetings which will be a topic for a further meeting.

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General Family History News

Congratulations to the Association's Treasurer and member of the Port Macquarie & Districts FHS **Clive Smith**, who was awarded the Mander Jones Award for *Return to Lake Innes : Journals and Letters written by Annabella Innes*, Port Macquarie Historical Society Inc.



Return to Lake Innes - Port Macquarie Publication wins 2020 Mander Jones Award

This excellent publication is the transcription of the journals and letters of Annabella Innes, a significant archival collection inscribed on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register. The work is of a high standard, and the well-designed format enables a reader to appreciate this amusing and discerning first-hand account of life in NSW in the 19th century.

By publishing these archives, the author has made a highly significant archival record accessible to all researchers and a much wider audience. The journals and letters are enhanced by the contextual information included in the book and the detailed index.

Congratulations to **Botany Bay FHS Inc.**, winners of the Dorothy Fellows Website Award Category A and **Bathurst Family History Group Inc.**, Winners of Category B

Upcoming Family History Events in 2022

Conference: Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley
Hosted by: Newcastle FHS and Maitland a Beyond FHS
Date: 6th March 2022
Venue: Scarborough Function Centre East Maitland Bowling Club, Maitland NSW
Contact: nfhsinc@gmail.com

Congress: History in Paradise - Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc. (AFFHO).
Hosted by: Norfolk Island Museum
Date: 1-4 August 2022
Venue: Norfolk Island
Contact: admin@affhocongress2022.com



Conference: 37th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies – Riding the Waves of History
Hosted by: The Newcastle FHS and Maitland a Beyond FHS
Date: 16 – 18 September 2022
Venue: Scarborough Function Centre East Maitland Bowling Club, Maitland, NSW
Contact: ridingthewavesofhistory@gmail.com

Please don't forget to visit our new website for all news, educational opportunities and current events @:

www.nswactfhs.org

and/ or

the Associations's [private members FB Page – NSW & ACT AFHS Inc Members Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/27068391161995)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/27068391161995> (you must answer all the questions to join).

Social Group Dates (Zoom): **second Friday of the month.** 11th February, 11 March, 8th April, 13th May, 19th June, 8th July, 12th August, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December. Contact the NSW & ACT AFHS Secretary at secretary@nswactfhs.org who will forward you by email the Zoom log in details. Please remember that the name you register under must be the same as your Zoom name and include the name of the FHS you belong to.

Technical Group Dates (Zoom): **3rd Wednesday of the month:** 9th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 19th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, 14th December. Contact the NSW & ACT AFHS Secretary at secretary@nswactfhs.org who will forward you by email the Zoom log in details. Please remember that the name you register under must be the same as your Zoom name and include the name of the FHS you belong to.

To advertise meetings or events for your Family History Society, please go to the Association's web page : www.nswactfhs.org and under the 'Whats On" tab, enter the information into the 'Add Event' box and complete the form. Alternatively, add the information to the private members FB Page – NSW & ACT AFHS Inc. Members Group private FB page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/270683911161995>

Just an idea: why not invite other FHS's to your meetings and share information? Advertise them as above.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any issues or would like any advice: please email The NSW & ACT AFHS Secretary at secretary@nswactfhs.org



Wishing all our members
and their families a
Peaceful and Happy
Christmas full of Joy and
Good Health in the New
Year!