



# NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter for June 2022

## Message from the President

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Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter. I hope everyone is surviving winter.

Time is moving fast and it is not long until this year's Conference. I am sure we are all looking forward to the endeavours of the Newcastle and Maitland and Beyond Societies.

Our Annual General Meeting will not be held at the Conference, but the week after - 25th September 2022 at 3pm via Zoom. Delegate Packs and Zoom links will be emailed out prior to this meeting.

Association Membership renewals have been sent to your Secretary. Please do nominate your delegate. You might also think about nominating for the committee, or entering your website in the Dorothy Fellowes Website competition.

Best Wishes to all our members, Gail Hanger.

## May 2022 Management Committee Meeting

This was held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 via Zoom. All committee members were present.

Some important points from that meeting were:

1. **The 37<sup>th</sup> State Conference "Riding the Waves of History"** being organized by the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. with Maitland and Beyond Family History Inc. is progressing well. The decision is to host Friday, 16 September and Saturday, 17 September as a totally virtual event. Sunday, 18 September will take the form of a one-day local trade fair in the extensive grounds of "The Barracks," Lindesay St, East Maitland. We expect that predominantly Hunter Valley FHS/HS's will attend, however, all are welcome. The day will also include the availability of a BBQ lunch and morning and afternoon teas.

The virtual Conference presentations are via Zoom or YouTube and may also be watched via YouTube for a week after the Conference.

An official Twitter account has been developed and a blog on our website to keep everyone in touch with recent developments.

Registrations and Raffle Tickets can be purchased via the website (mentioned below) via trybooking. All registration prices are for both days of the Conference. Individual - \$40.

Group prices are also available for Societies who organize and host the Conference in their own rooms. These prices are from \$50 - \$150 depending on the number of your members.

All information can be located on the Conference website :

<https://ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au/>

- 2. Congress 2022** : the Congress on Norfolk Island will be held from 1 – 4 August. The latest news can be found here:

Congress website - <https://affhocongress2022.com/Congress>

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/AFFHO2022/>

- 3. The Association Website** : The NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. website has a "What's On" page which publicizes upcoming educational events. Member Societies can also advertise their meetings, presenters and events on this site. Please check it out at <https://www.nswactfhs.org>

## General Family History News

Member Societies are invited to submit entries for the 2022 Dorothy Fellowes Website Award to the NSW & ACT Association Secretary **by Friday 22 July 2022.**

This Award has been initially developed, and continues to be supported, by Dorothy Fellowes to highlight the vital importance of Societies having an effective website. A Society's provision of an attractive, accurate and informative website is considered a key element in the health and success of any Society. The Website Award is provided to acknowledge the best of the websites submitted for assessment and to encourage other Association Members to look to the winning websites in building and maintaining this important aspect of their Society.

There are two categories for this Award -

- A. Best website designed and administered by a society member.
- B. Best website designed by a professional designer and administered by a society member.

Note: For Societies that have previously entered there must be changes to the website before it is entered again. In addition, after winning an Award a further entry can be made after two years.

The Criteria -

The Judges for this Award in recent years have used several assessment criteria including:

- General appearance (Page Design and Colouring)
- Ease of Navigation through the site (and links that all work correctly)
- Quantity and Quality (particularly their Local Content, it may be Local Data and/or History)
- What sets them apart from the other contenders?

Please note that if the submitted Society website has a 'member's only section' the judges will require access to this section to enable a more detailed assessment of the website.

The Judges discuss their evaluations and the merits of each nomination and forward their recommendations to the Association for the Award which is presented at the Annual Conference.

Please look at the following Societies websites for inspiration, as they received this Award in recent years:

2021 Category A – Botany Bay Family History Society Inc.

Category B – Bathurst Family History Group Inc.

2019 Category A – Botany Bay Family History Society Inc.

2018 Category A - Cape Banks Family History Society Inc.

Category B - Bathurst Family History Group Inc.

2017 Category A - Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc.

## General Family History News Cont'd

Expressions of Interest are warmly invited for a Society or a group of Societies to host the 38th Annual NSW & ACT Conference in 2023. Assistance will be given with organizing this event. Please feel free to discuss this with our Secretary Mel Woodford firstly via email [secretary@nswactfhs.org](mailto:secretary@nswactfhs.org)



### Zoom Social Evenings

Our Zoom Social Evenings continue each month. This is a great opportunity for all members to catch up with each other over a wine, tea or coffee, discussing family history topics. 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](mailto:secretary@nswactfhs.org) and you will be emailed the Zoom log in details.

### Zoom Technical Evenings

Our monthly Zoom Technical Meetings continue. Members have asked questions and others who have the technical knowledge have been able to assist with answers and suggestions.

In March – a presentation was given by Clive Smith from Port Macquarie FHS Inc. on how to run a Hybrid Meeting. Clive discussed that requirements included: 2 Laptops. HDMI cable, data projector, external speakers (for Zoom) and a modem/router via Ethernet cable. Turning off the second laptop speakers was advised as well as the microphone on that laptop muted. The use of a You Tube Channel was also explained with set up, uploading, restrictions, times and members access discussed.

In April – a presentation was given by Ian Tait from Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc. on Digitally Categorising your Family History Library Resources. His Society has newly developed a centralised Management System for their records and photos. Ian utilised Excel Spreadsheets. A discussion ensued and other members advised that they used Access Databases. Allan Murphy from Maitland and Beyond Family History Society Inc. discussed how he uses Access and gave illustrations on what that Society has digitalised.

Mark Wonson – also from Picton District Historical and Family History Society Inc. undertook a "Web Page" presentation for the group. Mark explained how their "Members Only" section was accessed, how the "Search Index" worked and how general searches could be made.

In May – Mel Woodford from Newcastle Family History Society discussed the challenges of organising a Virtual Conference

If you are interested in joining, please email the NSW & ACT AFHS Secretary at [secretary@nswactfhs.org](mailto:secretary@nswactfhs.org) and you will be emailed the Zoom log in details.



## Upcoming Family History Events in 2022

**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](mailto:admin@affhocongress2022.com)

**Congress website :** <https://affhocongress2022.com/Congress>

**Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/AFFHO2022/>



**Conference :** 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies – **Riding the Waves of History**

**Hosted by :** The Newcastle FHS Inc. and Maitland and Beyond FH Inc.

**Date :** 16 – 18 September 2022

**Venue :** Virtual via Zoom or YouTube with a local trade fair held for the public on 18<sup>th</sup> September at “The Barracks”, Lindesay St, East Maitland

**Contact :** [ridingthewavesofhistory@gmail.com](mailto:ridingthewavesofhistory@gmail.com)

**Website :** [www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au](http://www.ridingthewavesofhistory.com.au)

**Facebook :** Riding the Waves of History

Please don't forget to visit our new website [www.nswactfhs.org](http://www.nswactfhs.org) for all news and current events.

Further information can be found on our two FB Groups - [NSW & ACT AFHS Inc Members Group Private](#) (you must answer the questions to join) and [NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc \(Public\)](#).

**Social Group Dates (Zoom):** **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7.30pm :** 8<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Technical Group Dates (Zoom);** **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm :** 20<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

