



NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter for February 2023

Message from the President

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Hello and welcome to 2023. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

Many of us have used TROVE for research and as you are aware, it is not just utilised by those of us in the genealogy field, but by all types of researchers. I am sure many of you have heard that from June 2023, the National Library will no longer receive funding to maintain or expand this service. The Association, as an interested organisation, as well as your committee members as individuals, have written letters to our local members of parliament to encourage the government to continue funding this valuable service, as well as signing online petitions. We would encourage all member societies to also write to your local members and to sign the online parliamentary petition (details below). The more attention we bring to this matter the better for TROVE.

It was exciting news at the end of last year to hear that Wyong Family History Group will be hosting the 2023 NSW Annual State Conference. They have now revealed that the Conference will be a hybrid one. This means that up to 200 people will be able to travel to Toukley for the conference. If you are unable to travel, you can still participate via Zoom. Early bird registrations will open in March.

Best Wishes to All our Members,

Gail.

February 2023 Management Committee Meeting

This was held on Sunday 12th February via Zoom. All nine committee members were present. Some important points from that meeting were:

7.1 The 38th NSW State Conference - will be held from 8th-10th September 2023 under the theme of "The Running Waters of History" by the Wyong Family History Group Inc. The venue is the Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre, 1 Hargraves Street, TOUKLEY. NSW.

The history behind the title is that the Darkinjung people were the first inhabitants of the area, and 'wyong' is thought to possibly be a term for a 'place of running water', or possibly a reference to an edible yam found locally. With rivers, lakes, and ocean just a few minutes away, it's clear this part of the Coast has always thrived on its healthy waterways.

The Try Booking site will go live on 3rd March 2023, with only 200 face to face registrations available due to space at the venue. These bookings will be on a first come first in basis. A waiting list will be available in case of cancellations.

Like last year, Zoom will be utilised for online viewing and FHS's will be able to hold their own virtual conferences on their premises.

Speakers have been finalised, although topics are yet to be confirmed. These will be up on the website in March. <https://unpublishedwater.weebly.com/>

Sponsors and raffle prizes are currently being organised and tickets will be able to be purchased online.

8.2 National Archives Report – All World War Two military dossiers will be digitalised by the end of June 2023. They will then be placed online after this date.

8.3 NSW and ACT Association Website - <https://www.nswactfhs.org> Please don't forget that current member societies can advertise any of their upcoming events free on this site.

9.3 NSW & ACT Association Groups – All groups have been revised with a new group added.

- * **Tech Support Group** – to be held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. A speaker will discuss a topic suggested by the group with participants able to ask other questions.

- * **Office Bearers Networking Group** – This is a new group to be held on the fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. This group will encompass specific groups of FHS committee members for each meeting.

- * **Social Group** – fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Zoom, alternating months with the Officer Bearers Networking Group. Members suggested that a topic be introduced at each meeting to stimulate discussion.

9.4 Trove Funding – as most of you are aware, Trove funding is again under serious threat, as it is only guaranteed until June 2023. Can you imagine doing any research in Australia without TROVE?

We are requesting all our members take a few minutes to sign the online petition **before 22nd February**, so our voices may be heard, endeavouring to save this invaluable resource for future generations. Link to [online petition](#)

You may also consider writing to your [federal members of parliament](#) outlining the benefits of Trove to your family research.

9.5 NSW BDM reCAPTCHA – email sent to NSW BDM re the issue of having to repeatedly sign back in if one is undertaking multiple searches.

9.6 NSW State Archives and Sydney Living Museums are now becoming the Museums of History NSW. <https://mhnsw.au>

Upcoming Family History Events in 2023

38th Annual Conference of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. “The Running Waters of History”.

Conference Organisers: Wyong Family History Group

Dates: 8th, 9th and 10th September 2023

Venue: Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre, 1 Hargraves Street, TOUKLEY, NSW.

More details to follow in upcoming Newsletters and on their website

<https://unpublishedwater.weebly.com/>

Tech Support Group Meetings: to be held on the the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. Future Topics will be advertised on our FB Pages and on the Association website.

8 March (Ian Tait Picton District Historical & FHS. Introducing us to OpenAI's new application called **ChatGPT**).

12th April (**Cyber Security – Speaker TBA**)

10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 Aug, 13 Sept, 11 Oct, 8 Nov. All topics TBA.

Office Bearers Networking Group (New Group): to be held on the fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. This group is aimed at members with specific positions with FHS's. Group to be advertised on FB Pages and on the Association website.

26 April Presidents and Vice Presidents FHS Group

28 June Secretaries FHS Group

23 Aug Treasurers FHS Group

25 Oct TBA

Social Group – fourth Wednesday of every second month 7.30pm – 8.30pm on Zoom, alternating months with the Officer Bearers Networking Group. After an introductory social chat, participants will be requested to share some information for a few minutes on the specific topic. Future Topics will be advertised on our FB Pages and on the Association website.

2 March Tell us about an interesting ancestor

24 May How you used a resource to find information

26 July, 27 Sep, 22 Nov TBA.

To attend any of the above Group Meetings, please email Mel, our Secretary, at (secretary@nswactfhs.org) for the Zoom details. Please specify which group you wish to participate in.

To have your event advertised here, please forward details to our Secretary - (secretary@nswactfhs.org)

Please don't forget to visit our website 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).