



NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter

Newsletter for November 2023

Message from the President

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President.
- 2 Results of Management Committee Meeting.
- 3 Upcoming Family History Events
- 4 Getting the most out of the Association's website.
- 5 Conference 2024
- 6 Vale Rosemary McKenzie.



Welcome to our last Newsletter for 2023, it is hard to believe it is nearly Christmas.

A wonderful time was had at the 2023 State Conference held at Toukley. The Wyong Family History Society are to be congratulated.

The Annual General Meeting was held the week after the conference, I am delighted to say that I have been returned as the President for the coming year. The rest of the committee is unchanged apart from Wyong Family History Society having a new delegate. I want to thank all the committee for their help and work over the last year.

We don't have a Society to run the 2024 conference, at our recent committee meeting, we held a discussion as to what we can do about this. We think that something needs to be held, if only to remind everyone we are still actively assisting member societies share insights and experiences. One of the best parts of the recent conference for me, was being able to talk with like-minded researchers.

I am sure there are many who remember my parents who attended many conferences, sadly I have lost both of them in the last few months. My Dad died on 5th of June with my mother following him on the 7th of October. I would like to thank everyone for their sympathy.

The Association was very sad to hear of the sudden death of Rosemay McKenzie, President of Family History ACT and AFFHO, her expertise and presence will be missed.

Best Wishes to all our members,

Gail.

November Management Committee Meeting

This was held on Sunday 12 November via Zoom. Seven committee members were present. Some important points from that meeting were:

8. Treasurer's Report:

8.1 Financial Report – Funding is still available for Association grants.

8.4 New Members – A special welcome to Moruya & District Historical Society Inc. the recipients of the Cynthia Foley Encouragement Award for 2023.

9. Conference Report:

9.2 Conference – Wyong – The committee is currently finalising all components of the 2023 Conference. Overall, a most successful event.

10. Other Reports:

10.3 Website Report – A major update of the speakers' register is in progress. If your society would like us to include a speaker or speakers you have had recently, please send details to our Webmaster at webmaster@nswactfhs.org

11. General Business:

11.2 – Conference Guidelines (2015) – Currently in the process of being updated to include information for online and hybrid events.

11.3 – NSW & ACT Association Evening Zoom Groups – All three Zoom Groups are running well. We would like to say a **Special Thank You** to all the presenters and to our committee members who hosted our groups.

11.4 – The National Library of Australia wishes to direct our attention to their updated Legal Deposit **information** at <https://www.nla.gov.au/using-library/services-publishers/legal-deposit>

11.5 – Clarification of Tax Liability for Member Groups is currently being sought.

11.6 – Dorothy Fellowes Website Award recipients for 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be sent a certificate plus \$300 prize money from the Association in recognition of their achievement.

Upcoming Family History Events in 2024

Tech Support Group Meetings: held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm – 9pm on Zoom. Future Topics will be advertised on our private FB Page, and on the Association website. First meeting of 2024 will be held on 14 February.

Social Group Meetings: held on the fourth Wednesday of odd numbered months. Topics to be advised on our private FB Page and on the Association website. The first meeting of 2024 will be held on 27 March.

Office Bearers Networking Group: held on the fourth Wednesday of even numbered months from 7.30pm – 9pm on Zoom. This group is aimed at members with specific positions within FHS's. Group to be advertised on our private FB Page and on the Association website. The first meeting of 2024 will be held on 28 February and will be for Newsletter Editors.

Getting the most out the Association's website

The Association's website is a great way to bring your society to a wider audience. The URL is <https://www.nswactffhs.org/>. The key parts that you can use to get your message across are:

- [News](#). Here book launches and other marketing of publications can be added. You can also publicise awards and celebratory events after their occurrence.
- [What's on](#). Here you can advertise upcoming events and courses. To add an event simply fill in the [form](#).
- Page hosting for [micro-societies](#). Small societies can get a page on the association website. They can add and modify content. Contact the webmaster through the website if you want to use this service.

Annual Conference 2024

Currently, we have no one to host the Annual Conference in 2024, and we, the committee, feel saddened by this outcome. This situation was discussed at our recent management meeting.

So, I am writing to you as the President of the Association to see what we can do about this. The committee feel that a conference of some form needs to be held, this will help all members with their research and connect with like-minded people and the public.

Wyong is still going through the feedback forms on this year conference, and we will see what the outcome from them will be. We would like to know Societies thoughts; do we change the framework of the weekend; we do make it less time or less talks.

I look forward to hearing from Societies or even individual members. As a last resort, the committee could run a 1-day event that will be combined with the annual general meeting.

Vale Rosemary McKenzie



It is with great sadness that we note the sudden death of Rosemary McKenzie on 28 October 2023. A few knew of her recent health challenges, however, they seemed to be under control. Thus, her passing came as a huge surprise to all who knew her. At the time of her demise, she was President of Family History ACT (FHA CT or HAGSOC) and President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO).

Rosemary was a member of our Management Committee for a few years up to 2014. She also managed our website during that time.

Her contribution to FHA CT was tremendous. In addition to the role of President she was, at the time of her passing, editor of *the Ancestral Searcher* (from 2016), and volunteers coordinator. Previously, she was also Councillor, Treasurer (for a couple of years concurrently with being President) and Vice-President. She also did the preparation for publishing of a number of FHA CT publications including the series *Every Family has a Story*, the collections of short-listed entries from the E M Fletcher writing competition.

Rosemary was elected President of AFFHO earlier this year after being on the committee for a couple of years. She was making a great contribution to the running of AFFHO.

In the broader genealogical community, she was a member of the committee of the Clan McKenzie Society in Australia and edited their journal.

Rosemary will be sorely missed by the genealogy community in Australia and more broadly.

Annual Conference 2023 photos

