



# Newsflash

## Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

GPO Box 1394, Canberra, ACT, 2601

[www.affho.org](http://www.affho.org)

Contact: [secretary@affho.org](mailto:secretary@affho.org)

### AFFHO Council 2022-2023

Robyn Williams	NZ	President
Vicki Montgomery	VIC	Vice Pres
Margaret Doherty	QLD	Secretary
Fay Carbis	QLD	Treasurer
Rosemary McKenzie	ACT	Councillor
Kerry Farmer	NSW	Councillor
Greta Gordon	NZ	Councillor
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Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor
Peter Forrestal	WA	Councillor
Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Assoc Rep
Jenny Harkness	VAFHO	Assoc Rep

### AFFHO Officers

June Penny	Public Officer, Archivist
Alex Daw	National Family History Month Co-ordinator
Jan Squire	Webmaster
Vicki Montgomery	Nick Vine Hall Awards
Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Compiler

### Membership

Full membership is open to any organisation based in Australasia, which satisfies the Council it is primarily concerned with family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Associate membership is open to any organisation which satisfies the Council that it is interested in family history, genealogy, heraldry or allied subjects.

Newsflash contributions to [editor@affho.org](mailto:editor@affho.org)

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## From the President

Welcome to the first Newsflash for 2023. It's the beginning of a new year and the beginning of new opportunities to get the most from family history.

This is a good time of the year to begin planning for events which you might like to hold in August which is National Family History Month in each year. Alex Daw is our National Family History Month Co-ordinator and she will be commencing the lead up to National Family History Month by making contact with Societies, Libraries, Museums and other repositories holding family information.

You will have heard the news about the funding for TROVE – the wonderful website where we can often find otherwise elusive information about our family members way back to the 1800s. It is a wonderful resource and used daily by many family historians. Please do your part – see the article in this issue – and visit your local Member of Parliament and also write to as many others as you can.

The Annual General Meeting of AFFHO is to be held on Tuesday, 9th May 2023. Member societies are welcome to attend the meeting by zoom and a notice will be sent advising the details.

Are you actively researching family history in Australasia? If so, have you thought to consult the AFFHO website and download **Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet**? You will find this under the tab *Publications*.

This has much information for our part of the world and on pages 4 and 5 there are lists of websites which could prove useful for your research. Each State or Territory has subtle differences in their website addresses for their Archives, Births, Deaths and Marriages, Libraries etc.

Did you know that member societies can advertise their upcoming events and any news in this newsletter for free! Have you any news about your society which you would like to share with others? Email [editor@affho.org](mailto:editor@affho.org) with your news and if space allows and it fits the criteria it will be published.

Lets make 2023 a wonderful year for researching and growing family history.

*Robyn Williams, President AFFHO*

## Trove Under Threat of Closing Down

Trove is a massive digital archive of newspapers, books, maps and other records created by the National Library of Australia and its partner organisations. It is supported by thousands of volunteers who edit the electronically translated text to correct the errors made by the optical character recognition software used in scanning the newspapers.

Trove is used by family historians and other researchers with over 22 million visits a year (60,000 a day). Family historians will use it for its newspaper collection which includes hundreds of titles dating back to the 1800s. Without Trove access to these records would be difficult if not impossible.

### Do you use TROVE?

If you do then you need to be concerned with the recent announcement that government funding will not cover the current and future costs of keeping this important website. See the announcement from National Library of Australia (NLA) here:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/about-us/corporate-documents/corporate-strategies/trove-strategy>

This outlines clearly that there is sufficient funding up to June 2023, but after this the funding is uncertain.

### What can you do about it?

If you are a taxpayer you can write to Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Minister for the Arts, and your local member to express your concern. If one of these is in your local area consider making an appointment and go and see them, as a personal approach will have a greater impact.

If you are an Office Holder of your organisation please encourage your members to also write their concerns. When writing it is much better for this to be in your own words. Tell them how you use the website and why it is important for it continue and to expand in the future.

Correspondence which is well argued, concise and respectful is usually well received and may tip the balance for the reader.

AFFHO will make a formal submission to the Government and the Prime Minister in due course.

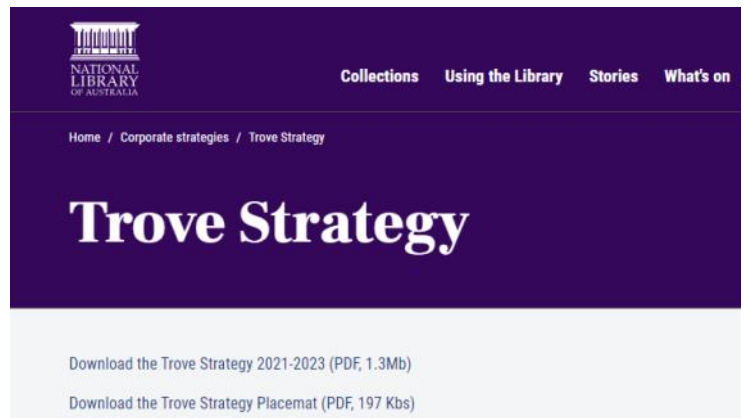
For the Minister for the Arts (Tony Burke) -

<https://www.tonyburke.com.au/contact>

For the Prime Minister (Anthony Albanese) -

<https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

If you do not know your local member's contact details try googling the electorate and find your local member that way.



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## Vale Michael Pedler 27 September 1957 – 21 January 2023

Michael Pedler was Honorary Auditor for AFFHO for some years up to 2016 and we were saddened to learn of his recent passing. Michael was also auditor for Family History ACT and he may have been involved in other family history organisations.

Michael was a Certified Practising Accountant and qualified auditor. He spent more than 40 years working in finance, taxation and auditing and enjoyed using this experience to assist community groups like ours to ensure that they were well managed and their records in order. He was a dedicated Rotarian who devoted his life to the service of others. He was previously Governor for the Rotary District that includes Canberra and surrounds.

Rosemary McKenzie, ACT Representative on AFFHO Council attended his funeral and thank you to Michele Rainger for providing details of Michael Pedler and who also attended his funeral as a representative of FHACT.

## New Library and Resources Manager at the Genealogical Society of Victoria

A big welcome to the newly appointed Library and Resources Manager, Rebecca Landy at the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV). Rebecca started on 7 February and she is sharing the management role at GSV's Library and Research Centre (Level 1, 10 Queen St, Melbourne) with the Library and Digital Resources Manager, Meg Bate.

Rebecca comes very well qualified for this position. Her formal qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (with Majors in History and Jewish Studies) and a Master of Education and she has over 20 years of experience at a Secondary College as a librarian and teacher of History, Geography, English and Literature. Rebecca's depth of experience in engaging and enthusing students through remote learning during the Covid pandemic will bring new approaches, and be a great aid, to online education and discussion circle activities. Rebecca also has a depth of experience with preparing and using websites, blogs and vlogs, wikis, apps, social media and knowledge management, all of which will help GSV creatively promote resources and facilitate their use by GSV members and the family history community.

Rebecca has been actively engaged in family history research for 15 years and clearly remembers the thrill of her first big discovery bent over a microfiche machine in the GSV's basement library in Collins St. She finds genealogical research an enchanting puzzle, while exploring family, history and place through an array of information sources. Her curiosity about her family's history has taken her to numerous places around Victoria and to the UK. Rebecca has enjoyed working with students to help them learn how to critically examine sources to make informed decisions about their ancestors and she now looks forward to helping our members discover their own world of family history.



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## Mary McKee presentation at SAG

On Friday 24 February, The Society of Australian Genealogists was pleased to have Mary McKee, Head of Content Publishing Operations at Findmypast, presented a special webinar on **tracing LGBT ancestors** alongside the WorldPride festival running in Sydney 17 February to 5 March 2023.


Mary took us through a series of record types and explore the ways we can uncover our LGBT ancestors from history. She explored historical terminology and laws which were a fascinating look into the challenges of the past.

The talk was very well received by those present and also captured discussion about some of the failings of our online platforms to be able to record the diversity of our family members - Mary was able to outline how Findmypast have been addressing these issues from the presentation of spouses to how avatars are displayed. In her day job with Findmypast Mary oversees teams that digitise and publish millions of historic records and newspapers every year and has been key to the recent 1921 Census of England and Wales release.



## CYNDI INGLE


VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



**WHEN**  
Saturday 25 March 2023  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM AEST

**PAYMENT**  
GSQ/QFHS members \$20  
Non-members \$30  
Book & pay online:  
[www.gsq.org.au/events](http://www.gsq.org.au/events)

**This session will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.**



Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc  
+61 7 3349 6072  
[education@gsq.org.au](mailto:education@gsq.org.au)

**The Hidden Web: Digging Deeper**

When Google and traditional search engines don't return useful information, don't stop there. We will explore resources that are invisible to Google and hidden deep within web sites and proprietary databases. The "hidden web" lies buried within the collections for commercial web sites, libraries, archives, and museums.

We will also talk about the importance of indexes that deep-link into web sites online, thus uncovering hidden gems of information that may not be found easily through a search engine query.

There will be a Q & A opportunity at the end of the presentation.

**About Cyndi Ingle**

Cyndi Ingle is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognised [CyndisList.com](http://CyndisList.com), a free categorised list of more than 337,000 links for genealogical research.

## MINI SEMINAR

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM



**WHEN**  
Saturday 13 May 2023  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM AEST

**PAYMENT**  
GSQ/QFHS members \$30  
Non-members \$40  
Book & pay online:  
[www.gsq.org.au/events](http://www.gsq.org.au/events)

**This session will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.**



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**Energising Your Research: Methodologies**

Interpreting the Thousand Words Find digital images such as maps and paintings in museums and libraries and interrogate the image to uncover the additional contribution it can make to the narrative. *Dr Imogen Wegman, Lecturer in the Family History program at the University of Tasmania.*

Exciting Discoveries – Organise your Research Step by step guide to creating a good organisation system for both physical and digital records. *Fiona Brooker, professional genealogist.*

Ancestry Card Catalogue Handy tips for using the Ancestry Card Catalogue. *Jason Reeve, Ancestry.com Head of Content & Community for Australia and New Zealand.*

Wild Cards Using Wild Cards in commands and searches to solve family history problems caused by spelling variations. *Sue Reid, Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society.*

Privacy & Copyright Handling ethical and privacy issues, ensuring we meet obligations to family and the records we source. *Pauleen Cass, author, [Cassmobfamilyhistory Blog](http://Cassmobfamilyhistory Blog).*

## 2023 E.M. Fletcher Writing Award *Family History ACT (FHACT)*

The E.M. Fletcher writing competition is open now until 15 July 2023. All information about how to enter is available [here](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetitioninformation).

**This exciting short story writing competition is back for 2023**, with cash prizes - 1st prize of \$1,000 sponsored by Family History ACT, 2nd prize \$500 sponsored by the University of Tasmania and a special Family History ACT member only prize of a \$100 society voucher. The competition will be judged to select the best short story of 1,500 – 2,000 words on a family history / genealogy theme.

We also welcome **three new judges** to the 2023 competition – Heather Garnsey, Bernadette Thakur and Jenny Higgins.

**Heather** is best known for her 35 years working with the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). She retired from this very full-time position in February 2020 hoping to finally spend more time on her own family history. Heather is an Honorary Fellow of FHACT.

**Bernadette** was awarded the T.T. Reed Family History Book Award in 2021 for her book *Irish Settlers in South Australia: the Hayes and O'Toole Families*. This Award is made annually by the South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society to the person producing the best family history in a given calendar year.

**Jenny** is a long term FHACT member and has been researching family history for over forty years, working as a private researcher and a family history librarian at the National Library of Australia. She is currently employed as a family history researcher at the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the Australian National University.

*Every family has a story - write yours now!*

<https://www.familyhistoryact.org.au/writingcompetitioninformation>

