

## From the President

Welcome to the **AFFHO June Newsflash**. The AFFHO AGM was held on the 9 May with 17 member Societies represented. Following Robyn William's notification to step down as president I have taken on the role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn for her leadership, management and organisation over the last five years, which included two AFFHO Congresses. Also stepping down from Council are Kerry Farmer (NSW) and Marg Doherty (QLD) and also Secretary. Thank you for your time on Council and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

For those re-standing for Council and our new members (listed below) I also thank you, welcome you and look forward to working with you in the coming year. Unfortunately, we do not have a **secretary** or a **vice-president**, but hopefully someone will come forward in the near future.

Being an umbrella organisation for member societies can be rather challenging. The aims and objectives are different to those for societies working directly with individual members. However, the objects of our organisation are still to assist, encourage, coordinate, promote and foster activities and related to family history and genealogy and allied matters throughout Australasia. But at the organisation level rather than the personal. But most of all we need to provide a means of communication between member societies on matters of Australasian relevance.

Which brings me to the **Newsflash**. Material has been rather short for a little while now. What do you want to see in your newsletters? What would you like promoted? Please let me know your thoughts and suggestions [president@affho.org](mailto:president@affho.org).

To boost our newsletter, I would like to see more of our member societies sharing their events and achievements from their previous three months. Also hints and tips on what you have found works well with your society and with your membership. What issues you feel you are mitigating and how you are resolving these.

Before our next newsletter we will have **National Family History Month (NFHM)**. Alex is well on the way with plans for the month and there will be the opportunity again for member societies to promote their activities and events which are occurring throughout the month.

In this newsletter, have a look at the **Nick Vine Hall Award for 2022**. We have extended the close date to 30 June 2023. The journals and newsletters are not restricted to print publications. Please enter your society communications for a chance to win!



## 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)

### 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.

### AFFHO Council 2023-2024

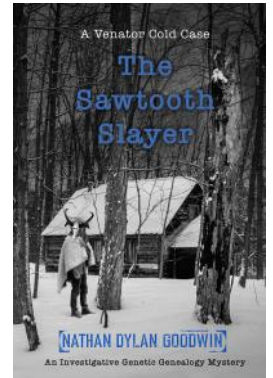
Rosemary McKenzie	ACT	President	Gail Hanger	NSW/ACT	Association Rep.
Vacant		Vice President	Jenny Harkness	VAFHO	Association Rep.
Vacant		Secretary	Vacant	QLD	Association Rep.
Fay Carbis	QLD	Treasurer	<b>AFFHO Officers</b>		
Sonya Russell	NSW	Councillor	June Penny	Public Officer and Archivist	
Vacant	NT		Alex Daw	National Family History Month Coordinator	
Greta Gordon	NZ	Councillor	Jan Squire	Webmaster	
Vacant	SA		Vacant	Nick Vine Hall Award	
Maurice Appleyard	TAS	Councillor	Rosemary McKenzie	Newsflash Compiler	
Jacqueline van Bergen	VIC	Councillor	contributions to <a href="mailto:editor@affho.org">editor@affho.org</a>		
Peter Forrestal	WA	Councillor			

In the broader AFFHO context, if you have any questions or suggestions on how we might assist your organisation please email me at [president@affho.org](mailto:president@affho.org) .

Rosemary McKenzie, President AFFHO

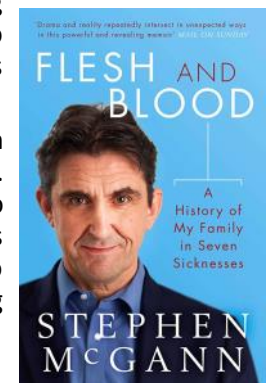
## SAG's Online Book Club

On 21 February, The Society of Australian Genealogists had its first online Book Club meeting of the year. SAG members and guests were lucky enough to be joined by author Nathan Dylan Goodwin to discuss his genealogical mystery *The Sawtooth Slayer*, published in late 2022. Some readers may be familiar with Goodwin's 'forensic genealogist' series of books, and his work has been very well received, particularly by the family history community. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the ways in which books, whether fiction or not, can inspire readers in their own family history investigations. For example, *The Sawtooth Slayer* takes the reader step-by-step through a case and unmasks a killer using traditional DNA methods, with the advent of new technologies providing Goodwin with inspiration for his fiction. For genealogists, fiction can indeed have a lot to offer.



The SAG Book Club is a free event for all members of the SAG and is open to non-members for a fee. It is an occasion to share thoughts and moments from a book that have stuck with readers and discover things they hadn't noticed at first read. For those interested in the craft of writing itself, a discussion with an author about their writing process is enormously valuable. Authors who write about genealogy practice the delicate skill of balancing general enjoyment with the interests of a target audience of family history researchers.

The second session of SAG's Book Club for 2023 featured Stephen McGann, well-known as an actor, discussing his 2017 book *Flesh and Blood: A History of My Family in Seven Sicknesses*. McGann's book recounts a family history of immigration, illness, and survival. The book also demonstrates how to tie one's personal family history research in with the broader social histories in which their ancestors inhabited. This session provided another opportunity for SAG members to share their reactions and insights, as well as de-mystify the process of writing truly engaging family history.



The (online) Book Club is just one more reason to consider joining the SAG. Consider registering as a member of the SAG today: <https://www.sag.org.au/join-us> .

## FHACT Heritage Month Wrap Up

April 2023 marked the 40th Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Family History ACT helped celebrate with five events during the month of April. It made for an incredibly busy month for our volunteers but also a very enjoyable one.

Our last event was a very successful **Library Open Day** attended by over 35 visitors. This included 25 who took advantage of our sessions for members of the public to talk with an experienced Society member to start to *Shake their Family Tree*. Some fascinating and helpful conversations were had.



*Gina Tooke demonstrating Family Tree Maker.  
Barbara Toohey helping a guest with their research.*

The month started for us on 4 April with our **Father Brian Maher Lecture** which was delivered this year by Cheryl Bollard, our Treasurer and Project Leader for the Canberra Pioneers Project. The lecture was attended by over 50 people including ACT Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, who has discovered that she has connections to families in the Maher Collection, and by members of Fr Maher's family who were thrilled to learn of our efforts to preserve and make available Fr Maher's legacy.



*Cheryl Bollard presenting. L-R: Cheryl Bollard,  
Minister Rebecca Vassarotti and Rosemary McKenzie.*

A number of families joined our **Childrens Scavenger Hunt** on April 15th.

And while Barb Toohey and Cheryl were managing that activity at Riverside Cemetery in Queanbeyan, another group led by Mel McNamara was representing us at the **National Trust Open Day at Duntroon Dairy** where Canberra's beautiful autumn

weather brought out good crowds.

After a Covid-induced hiatus June Penny (assisted by Pennie Pemberton) conducted her **Torchlight Tours at St Johns Churchyard** over three nights. The tours were fully booked on every evening. Attendees on the Monday night received an added bonus when the Rector, Rev. David McLennan, accompanied the tour and invited participants to view the inside of the church where he provided a brief commentary on the memorials that line the walls. As is our practice, the proceeds of these tours have been shared with the St Johns Schoolhouse Museum.



*Participants in the Cemetery Scavenger Hunt.  
Photos: Barbara Toohey.*

Organising this many events required a lot of work from many of our members and we thank them all for their contributions.



*The well in the Duntroon Dairy.  
Family History ACT information at the Open Day.*

*June Penny introducing the departed.  
June Penny welcoming the visitors to St Johns tour.*

## Nick Vine Hall Award for 2022

**Entries close 30 June 2023**



The Nick Vine Hall Award is awarded annually to AFFHO member societies for the best family history journal or newsletter. AFFHO provides this award to encourage its member societies to produce quality communications for their membership in the form of journals or newsletters. The award also honours the work of Nick Vine Hall AM.

**The competition** is open to member societies of AFFHO in two categories:

- ◆ Category A – less than 500 members
- ◆ Category B – more than 500 members

Your journal or newsletter can be published digitally or in print format, and dated for 2022. The conditions of entry and the entry form are on the [AFFHO website](https://www.affho.org).

**Nick Vine Hall AM** was a recognised Australian authority in the fields of family history, genealogy and heraldry, and an enthusiastic champion of family history research in Australia. He had a considerable flair for public relations and marketing skills, which he used to popularise family history research, and make social history a matter of serious pursuit in Australia.

Vine Hall was the chairman of the Australian Federation of Family History Organisations Census Working Party, which persuaded the Australian government to trial the voluntary retention of the 2001 national census. In February 2006, legislative changes made this trial a permanent feature of all future Australian censuses.

Among many other achievements, Nick Vine Hall joined the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) in 1988, he was a founding member of the Huguenot Society of Australia established in 2003, and in 2006 was made a Life Member of the Society of Australian Genealogists. After a long battle with cancer, he passed away in 2006 at the age of 62 in Melbourne, Victoria.

**Past winners** (no awards made in 2021)

### Nick Vine Hall Award for 2020

Category A – less than 500 members

- ◆ Winner: *Links 'N' Chains* No. 126, October 2020, Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc.
- ◆ Runner Up: *The Endeavour* No.145, December 2020, Botany Bay Family History Society Inc.

Category B – more than 500 members

- ◆ Winner: *Ancestor* Volume 35 No.4, December 2020, The Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc.
- ◆ Runner Up: *Descent* Vol. 50 Part 3, Spring 2020, Society of Australian Genealogists Inc.

# JUDY RUSSELL

**VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM**



**WHEN**

Saturday 17 June 2023  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM AEST

**PAYMENT**

GSQ/QFHS members \$25  
Non-members \$35  
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)

## Staying Out of Trouble – The Rights and Responsibilities of Today’s Genealogists

As genealogists and researchers, we must understand today’s laws as much as yesterday’s.

Modern law impacts our rights as researchers –rights of access to vital records, to information, and to places where information can be found. And it impacts our responsibilities, as well, particularly the need to respect another’s copyright

### About Judy Russell

My name is Judy Russell. I’m a genealogist with a law degree, and my purpose here at The Legal Genealogist is, in part, to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history.

Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened.



## Have you discovered the Kiwi Collection?

Currently containing over 12 million records (with more coming soon!), the Kiwi Collection a powerful online research tool for NZSG members.

Whether you’re starting out on your family research journey or you’ve made some progress in piecing things together, the Kiwi Collection will introduce you to resources every New Zealand family historian should be using. It’s your go-to for those missing links that can move you through roadblocks and open new avenues of investigation.

You can find:

- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Cemeteries
- Electoral Rolls
- Families from our First Families and Pedigree Collections
- Immigration
- Nurses
- Memorials
- Military
- Sheep owners
- Obituaries
- Probate Indexes
- Publicans
- Schools
- Shipping Records
- Undertaker Records.....

and so much more!

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa

Family history - Preserving our past for the future



## Every family has a story – write yours now!

### 2023 E.M. Fletcher Writing Competition

*The Award is named in honour of Society Fellow Eunice Fletcher*

- 1500 to 2000 words on a family history theme
- Prizes of \$1,000 for best short story, \$500 for runner up (UTAS), and a prize for FHA CT members.
- Open to individuals over 18 years.
- Entry fee of \$20.00 for FHA CT members and \$30.00 for non-members. No limit on the number of entries.
- **Terms & Conditions and Entry Form** available at [familyhistoryact.org.au](http://familyhistoryact.org.au) or by email from [writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au)



**Competition closes 15th July 2023**

<p><b>Judges for the 2023 competition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Garnsey has been known for her 35 years working with the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). She is an Honorary Member and Fellow of the SAG, an Honorary Fellow of the Family History ACT and an Associate Fellow of the Society of Genealogists in London.</li> <li>• Jenny Higgins Jenny has been researching family history for over forty years, is a long time FHA CT member and is currently employed as a family history researcher at the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the Australian National University.</li> <li>• Bernadette Thakur Bernadette's interest in her family history goes back many years. In 2021, Bernadette was awarded the T.T. Reed Family History Book Award for her book <i>Irish Settlers in South Australia: the Hayes and O'Toole Families</i>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact Information</b></p> <p>Family History ACT 41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT PO Box 152, Jamison Centre ACT 2614</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://familyhistoryact.org.au">familyhistoryact.org.au</a></p> <p>Telephone: 02 6251 7004 secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au</p> <p>Writing Competition Committee <a href="mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au">writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au</a></p>
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# SHAUNA HICKS

**VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM**



**WHEN**

Saturday 9 September 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.**



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[education@gsq.org.au](mailto:education@gsq.org.au)

## Online sources for Midlands Genealogy

This presentation looks at online resources which are available for the Midlands area of England. The focus will be on how to make the most of archival catalogues with examples for Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

### About Shauna Hicks

Shauna Hicks has been tracing her own family history since 1977 and worked in government for over 35 years in Australian libraries and archives in Brisbane, Canberra, and Melbourne.

She has tertiary qualifications from Queensland universities including a Master of Arts in Australian Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Library Science, and a Diploma in Family Historical Studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists. She is a Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society, Patron of the Queensland Family History Society, and a recipient of the Australian Society of Archivists Distinguished Achievement Award and the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations' Services to Family History Award.