

Society Monthly News for April 2017

The year 2017 may well and truly end up being the busiest for the Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society! Our next meeting of the year will take place on **Saturday, 8th April** at the usual venue of **CC Mac Adams Music Centre**. The venue will be open from 12:30pm to allow members and visitors to **arrive early and socialise**. At this meeting our Treasurer, **Clive Smith**, who is also the President of the Port Macquarie Historical Society, will be talking about the enormous number of **photographs held at the museum**. This is an amazing assemblage of images of our town and district and Clive is sure to provide some interesting surprises from this unique collection.

Visit to State Archives & Records NSW (SARNSW). If you didn't go to State Records with us in March, you missed a marvellous and rewarding time with a very interesting group of people. See full details of the visit in the May edition of **Footsteps**. The good news is that it is hoped to organise **another trip** to State Records and Archives NSW **next year**. There will be a maximum of eighteen persons and travel will likely be by car pool again and based on the current success, it will be first in 'best dressed'.



Port Macquarie-Hastings Heritage Festival 16th to 30th April 2017.

This wonderful local heritage festival is coming up in the second half of this month. There are lots of interesting activities planned and members wanting to partake should make their bookings early. This is because the popular ones sell out very fast! Our own Society is hosting an '**Introduction to Trove**' at the PM-H Library meeting rooms with the presenter being Vice-President Rex Toomey. This is on Wednesday **26th April** between **10am and 12:30pm**. This is a free learner's session and is open to the public, therefore numbers are limited to 50 due to the size of the venue. Please let the Secretary know if you intend coming along.



PMDFHS Family History Fair. Planning is well under way for this one day seminar to be held at Port Panthers on **Saturday 5th August 2017**. This is an all-day event and expressions of interest are being sought for anyone wishing to have a table. Please keep this date free and come along to the best FH Fair of 2017.

Borrowing of PMDFHS Books from PM-H Library. For some time now, the committee has been investigating a way for members to borrow books purchased by the Society and held in the Local Studies Room. Many of these books run to hundreds of pages and often it is not possible to spend the time in the library reading them. **Coming soon**, members will be able to borrow PMDFHS Books using their **current** PMDFHS Society and PM-H Library membership cards. Please note this does **NOT** apply to PM-H Library Local Study books. Our PMDFHS Society books are housed in the central bookcase of the Local Studies Room.

Saturday Research Assistance is now being offered! Library volunteers are available on the second **Saturday** of the month, prior to the monthly meeting. This is for **members only** who are unable to come to the Library during the week due to family commitments etc. To use this facility, please contact the **Secretary**.

'Members only' Support Groups: Are all held in PM-H Library **Meeting Room** or **Technology Room**. \$3 pp. cost applies for each session to cover room hire. Writing group cost by arrangement. See also website.

Research Support Group: Wed **12th April 2017** 1:00pm-3:00pm; focus: Sue Brindley will be talking about Microsoft OneNote and how it can be used effectively to manage your family history especially when away from home.

DNA support group: Mon **24th April 2017**, 2-3.30pm

Roots Magic Support Group: Wed **26th April 2017**, 1:15pm-3:15pm

Writing Support Group: Wed **5th May 2017**, 1-3pm. Vacancies: contact Noeline Kyle by email: noelinekyle@gmail.com

Mastering Ancestry (formerly Family Tree Maker Support Group): Wed **24th May 2017**, 1-3pm. Please come & support this group. It is NOT just about FTM but help using Ancestry.com.

Family Search Support Group: The next meeting of this new group will be Thursday **18th May 2017** at the PM-H Library, 1-3pm (note there is no meeting in April) with facilitator Robyn Denley. Come along and find out how to use FamilySearch.org to create an online tree on the Family Search (that is, LDS Genealogy) website. Please advise the secretary if you will be attending.

The Society is always looking for assistance with the **Library Roster**. Please contact **Sue Brindley** if you can help. Besides helping others, Library Duty is a great way to learn about new FH resources. Also, if you can help with the **General Meeting Afternoon Tea**, please contact **Gwen Grimmond**.

Footsteps – The May 2017 edition of Footsteps is now being prepared. The cut-off date for submissions to the August 2017 edition is **30th June** and the focus of that edition will be **DNA in Family History Research**, but the editor, Shirley Aitchison, is always seeking articles from members. Submitters' names are included in a prize draw to receive a one year PMDFHS membership subscription.

Other local Family History and Heritage Activities.

The **Wauchope Historical Society** is conducting a full day coach tour to **Mt Seaview** on Friday 28th April as part of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Heritage Festival. This will include a visit to the **old convict road site**. Cost is \$80.00 and numbers limited however there is a Port Macquarie pickup for those interested in joining the Coach here rather than at Wauchope. Please contact Jeanette Rainbow on 0424 226 258.

The **General Records Office for England and Wales** (GRO) is conducting another pilot service from 16th March 2017 to provide PDF copies of non-digitised records. Records will not be immediately viewable, but emailed as a PDF. Applications for each PDF cost £8, **must be made online and include a GRO index reference**. England and Wales records which are available as PDF's in pilot 3 include: Births: 1935-2006; Deaths: 1958-2006; Marriages: 1837-2010. Pilot phase 3 closes at 4pm on 12 April or when 40,000 PDF's have been ordered, whichever is sooner. This facility was still open for orders on Saturday 1st April 2017.

Coffs Harbour FHS is conducting a Workshop with **Nola Mackey** on **22nd April 2017**, from 1:30pm. The title is 'New Evidence for Convicts to NSW 1788-1840'. Cost is \$5 for visitors with members free. Afternoon tea will be provided. Venue: Uniting Church Hall, Vernon Street, Coffs Harbour & bookings are essential. Contact their Secretary on 02 6651 6126 or email coffsgenie@gmail.com.

Coffs Harbour FHS is conducting a Seminar on **27th May 2017**, from 10am to 4pm. Cost is \$30 which includes morning tea & a light lunch. Cavanbah Hall, Harbour Drive. 10am to 4pm. **Shauna Hicks** is the guest speaker discussing "Asylum Records: A Place to look for missing Ancestors" and "Victorian Records for Family History Research". Contact the Secretary of Coffs Harbour FHS as shown above.