



Info Email 173.



### Society Monthly News for February 2025

Kong Hei Fat Choi! and welcome to a new year of pursuing ancestors, engaging social events, new discoveries and sharing them with like-minded people in PMDFHS. Some people have made some wonderful discoveries over the break while others have begun to dip their toes into the DNA pool and received some surprising results. Have you made any recent discoveries?



Andrew Redfern  
Family History Educator

😊 PMDFHS will begin this year's activities with a full-day seminar on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at CC Mac Adams Centre. The day will begin at 10am with coffee & cake/slices and Andrew's first session on AI and its benefits for family historians will commence at 10.30am. We will have lunch at noon or thereabouts. If you would like to make a slice/cake to bring please do so. If you haven't registered yet YOU NEED TO BOOK by Tuesday 4 February for catering purposes. Please call our Secretary, Jennifer on 0475 132 804 or Diane 0416 311 680 or online at <https://square.link/u/JqfhFnOu>

Our afternoon session will commence at 1.15pm (usual general meeting time) but we will have our speaker (Andrew) open the afternoon meeting with his talk on 'Discovering Family History'. Hear how he has encountered convicts and murderers to priests and travelling musicians, as every family has rogues, saints and heroes. Hear some of the stories from Andrew's own research & learn valuable tips and strategies for uncovering your own family history, including where to go for particular records.

SOOOO if you are not interested in the benefits of AI and don't want to attend in the morning you are most welcome to join us for the afternoon session from 1pm for the usual meeting, then afternoon tea and our general meeting. Please book in.

The Zoom Link will be available from 1pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86178635880?pwd=GFqkKN1G1icbvH5FXiUO3ZT4jCmbh0.1>  
Meeting ID: 861 7863 5880 Passcode: 737519

😊 Upcoming General Meetings March: Jennifer Mullin 'Over the Seas From Skye'  
April: WWI & WWII theme; May: Narelle Milligan 'In Pursuit of the Gold'

#### Members' Support Groups

Group	Venue	Date & Time	Notes
Writers	Library Meeting Room	Mon 3 Feb 1pm – 3pm	Crime and Punishment
FamilySearch	Library Meeting Room	Mon 10 Feb 1pm – 3pm	
Research Support	Library Meeting Room	WED 12 Feb 1pm – 3pm	No such thing as a silly question – can you stump us?
Convicts	Library Meeting Room	Mon 17 Feb 1pm – 3pm	
DNA	Library Meeting Room	Mon 24 Feb 1pm – 3pm	Pauline's breakthrough



😊 We will be holding a Summer BBQ to meet & greet members at McInherney Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Cost is \$10 which covers sausages, salad, tea & coffee. Bring your own plates, cutlery, chairs – this is a laid-back way to begin our 40th year in 2025. Once again, for catering purposes we request you book in and pay prior to the event. This can be done at the general meeting on Saturday or in the library with a volunteer.

The PMDFHS Committee

Members email contact: [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au)

'like' us on Facebook!

Check our website: [www.pmdfhs.org.au](http://www.pmdfhs.org.au)

Info Email prepared by Diane Gillespie & Jennifer Mullin on behalf of the PMDFHS to keep members informed of upcoming events.



We will be conducting a **Beginners' Course** in April – to tie in with Heritage Week & our popular Next Steps course is scheduled for July/August (National Family History Month NFHM). We have already had some requests to book in for this course. Further details to come.



**Casual Vacancy on Committee.** Helen Hoare who has been a committee member for the past 2 years has decided to step down from the Committee as she and Rod are planning another caravan trek. We thank Helen for her involvement in our Society and wish her the best for the future. Helen's departure means there is a casual vacancy on the committee so if you'd be interested in accepting the position till the AGM in August (when all positions are declared vacant) we'd love to hear from you.



**Change in Librarians:** Our very efficient librarian, Pauline Hincksman, has decided to take a break from library duties and I thank Bernice Darby for stepping up to assume this position. Pauline has maintained and organised our resources very efficiently for some time now and our gratitude goes to her for all her work.

Are you interested in visiting Museums of History NSW (**State Archives**) in 2025? Please let us know so we may plan.

As 2025 is going to be a mammoth year of celebrations we have decided to decline the opportunity to host the **NSWACT Conference in 2026.**



**Charity 2025** Each year PMDFHS chooses a charity to support with the money collected for afternoon tea at the March and April General Meetings. We invite members to donate if they can. This year's chosen charity is Hastings Home Hospice Inc. The charity works with the Palliative Care Unit at the Wauchope & District Hospital. Our member, Lil Andrews, is Vice-President of this charity. It offers families the option of Palliative care in their own homes and in the Port Macquarie hospital.

**A First Fleet Reunion** from an email sent to Secretary PMDFHS

Jacob **Bellett** and Edward **Garth** were on board the Scarborough and Susannah **Gough** was on the Friendship. All three were sent to Norfolk Island. Edward and Susannah married and had seven children on the island. Jacob was sent to Norfolk Island on 4 March 1790 on the Supply and married Ann **Harper**, who was transported on the Second Fleet. When the decision was made to close the settlement on Norfolk Island, the families chose to re-settle in Hobart to start again. The two families were removed to Hobart by 1808.

If you are related and would like more information about the reunion, email [hobartoct2025@gmail.com](mailto:hobartoct2025@gmail.com) for details or view the [website](#).

News from other groups: **Coffs Harbour** will be holding seminars/ workshops that are open for our members to attend

Feb 22: Headstones Symbols and Meanings 1.30pm Community Centre, Earl St Coffs Harbour Cost \$5

Mar 22: Heraldry and Crests 1.30pm Community Centre, Earl St Coffs Harbour Cost \$5

*Celebrating*  
**40 years**

### **Your Society is 40 years old in 2025.**

The Committee have planned events to celebrate our birthday.

1. A birthday lunch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June – open to current and past members **SAVE THE DATE**
2. Birthday General Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June with a CAKE!
3. Birthday gift every meeting
4. All four editions of Footsteps in 2025 feature our history
5. A Fair open to the public (planning stages at the moment)

**Remember to stay safe and keep well**

The PMDFHS Committee

Members email contact: [secretary@pmdfhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@pmdfhs.org.au)

'like' us on Facebook!

Check our website: [www.pmdfhs.org.au](http://www.pmdfhs.org.au)

Info Email prepared by Diane Gillespie & Jennifer Mullin on behalf of the PMDFHS to keep members informed of upcoming events.