

Society News for 23 March 2020

Welcome to a special edition of infoemail. I hope you are all safe and well. We live in strange and somewhat unprecedented times, where the pleasure of socialising carries inherent dangers for the senior members of our community. So it is with much reluctance that PMDFHS is suspending face-to-face encounters for the foreseeable future.

The closure of the Port Macquarie-Hastings libraries has pre-empted the decision to go into 'self-isolation.'

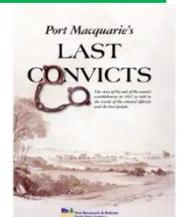
On Monday the 2021 Conference Committee held a video conference to discuss the feasibility of using technology to stay in touch with our membership. I would like to thank Brian Panisset for organising and sharing his knowledge, allowing us to experience 'Zoom' Video Conferencing. It is certainly something we, as a committee, will be exploring as I think it could be readily adapted for both support groups and our Committee and General Meetings.

Member Support Groups: These groups are for **financial members of PMDFHS.**

This year, we are requesting \$1 per session from all participants to cover afternoon tea – cost of milk and biscuits/cake that were mostly provided by organisers last year.

Group Name	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Venue	Topics & Notes
		2020		
FamilySearch	Mon 9 Mar	1:00pm – 3:00pm	PM-H Library Tech. Room	
Convict Studies	Mon 16 Mar	1:00pm – 3:00pm** <i>Afternoon time</i>	PM-H Library Tech. Room	
Research Support	Wed 18 Mar	1:00pm – 3:00pm	PM-H Library Tech. Room	BDMs
DNA	Mon 23 Mar	1:00pm – 3:00pm	PM-H Library Meeting Room	
Writers' Group	5 Apr	1:00pm – 3:00pm	PM-H Library Meeting Room	"Women in Work"

Port Macquarie's Last Convicts – Our latest publication, compiled by Clive Smith, was launched by Mayor Peta Pinson last Monday. The book is still available at the pre-publication price of \$15, but this offer will expire on 31st March.



Website: Our website will become more important over the next few months as we endeavour to keep our members up-to-date with closures but also virtual events and possible genealogical activities that you may care to enjoy while we remain in isolation. Please be sure to check in regularly for new updates. For those who use our **Facebook page** - this facility will also be updated regularly.



Heritage Week events are being cancelled or postponed due to the Government-imposed restrictions relating to crowds or gatherings of more than a couple of people. The Douglas Vale Open Day has been moved to October. Further details as they become available

PMDFHS' Heritage event – A series of Beginners' Sessions have also been cancelled.

Library Roster: As the Port Macquarie Library is currently closed our library roster is also in hiatus but be assured that we will be in contact when it is deemed safe to resume.

Chat and Coffee has been suspended as well, as we try to limit our exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

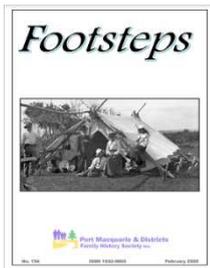
The PMDFHS Committee

Members email contact: secretary@pmdfhs.org.au

'like' us on Facebook!

Check our website: www.pmdfhs.org.au

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



Footsteps: We are still working behind the scenes and will publish an issue in May so Margaret is still seeking articles. A few members have submitted stories but there is always room for more. If your article isn't published this month it will be kept for a future issue. New or original articles or stories on any subject, however long or short are always being sought.

Margaret has suggested an article about your school days, or those of your ancestor, could be the theme. Did your ancestor (or you) 'wag' school, for example, or how did you get to school? Bus, horse or on foot? Or, considering the present conditions of isolation maybe something about this pandemic or the Spanish Flu which occurred 100 years ago. Did someone in your family succumb to the Spanish flu? Margaret may be contacted by emailing your article to editor@pmdfhs.org.au by

17th April.

Our second **Ancestry Raffle Prize** (12-month World Subscription) will be now be drawn when it is safe to do so. Rest assured the sold tickets are in a safe place but if you would still like to obtain tickets please get in touch with me (Diane) or our Secretary (Jennifer) Tickets will be on sale for the next couple of months. I have activated my prize and am enjoying the access to a world-wide subscription. Thank you Ancestry! And PMDFHS!

Christmas in July: Margaret, our Events organiser has been in touch with the Comboyne committee and like everyone else their plans are up in the air at this stage. We have been informed they will make a decision in April about the Christmas in July events. We have maintained our bookings and will keep you informed as soon as we know what the Comboyne plans are.

Conference 2021: Some very interesting ideas are taking seed for this major event. We will be publishing a special edition of Footsteps, especially for the Conference. So, if you have an article you would like to be considered keep an eye on this space for details.

Some **'freebies' and interesting genealogical things** to explore while we are all in self-isolation. The links may only be viable for a short time and if you hear or see any others please advise us so we may spread the news.

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars: FREE ACCESS to 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon Classes!
"Some called us crazy for attempting it. In the wee hours of the night we began to believe them. But it was so worth it! The 24-hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon was a huge success. The recordings of the classes are now available at https://familytreewebinars.com/intermediate_page.php?diplpy_nm=24. Normally, they'd be free for the first week, but we've extended this so all marathon classes are available for free for two full weeks (through to April 6). If you enjoy the classes and are hungry for more genealogy education, consider joining as a webinar member where you will have access to all 1,200+ classes and all 4,900+ pages of instructor handouts (including all 85 pages from the marathon). It's just \$49.95 a year (which is a crazy 4 cents per class).
- MyHeritage: Enjoy Free and Unlimited Access to MyHeritage In Color™! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MyHeritage is providing FREE and unlimited access to <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>™ from March 23 to April 23, so that people everywhere can join in the fun of colorizing their black and white photos. Ordinarily only 10 photos can be colorized by users who do not have a Complete plan, but now, you can colorize as many photos as you'd like for free. Colorizing photos is the perfect activity for anyone who is isolated at home. To use this amazing feature, click on any black and white photo you already have, then click Colorize. Your original photos will not be changed. You can also upload black and white photos and colorize them. We've made it easy to share colorized photos with your family and friends. We invite everyone to pull out their family photo albums, colorize their photos, and start reminiscing. Over the coming month, anyone who shares their colorized photos on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram with the hashtag #ColorBeatsCoronavirusBlues and tags @MyHeritage will enter a weekly draw. Each week we'll select one lucky winner who will receive a free MyHeritage Complete subscription!
- **Family Tree Magazine** (84 pages) – although this is USA based it is still interesting – and is free this month! Check the article about Irish research or Ancestry Thru Lines.
The link is: https://www.familytreemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FTM_MarApr20_giveaway.pdf?fbclid=IwAR28nFp5aMC5Xzlw8gXHvg9P5-8dXGwo7O236Evs2IjMQFDAeJJoA9hnEuA
- **Ancestry** has collaborated with the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration to offer temporary free access to millions of historical records and images from the federal government. And they will continue providing free online tutorials and video courses to help people get started with family tree building. For more information, [click here](#).

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