

Society Monthly News for March 2020

Welcome to the month of March – traditionally Irish family history month, though the topic of women has come more to the fore in the past couple of years. Have you thoroughly searched your female ancestors? They can be a bit more elusive, as traditionally women were “hidden” in the domestic situation and were part of their husband’s identity – the ubiquitous “Mrs”.

Our Summer BBQ was a pleasing success and Margaret’s organisation was brilliant – plenty to eat, good company and even the few brief showers we had didn’t dampen the camaraderie on the day. Congratulations Margaret! Another great event!

Monthly Meeting: Our usual venue of CC Mac Adams Centre will host our next monthly meeting on March 14. We will open the doors from 12.30 for a 1.30pm commencement. Member Julie Eccles will be speaking on ‘Nursing in Beirut’. Julie was the first speaker I heard when I joined PMDFHS and I am pleased she has offered to speak again. If you have heard or know of any good speakers please let us know so we may approach them to speak at our meeting

The **Sensational Seniors Expo**, held at Panthers last month, was well supported by members. I’d like to thank all those members who gave an hour or so of their time to chat with members of the public about family history. Thank you to Jennifer for compiling the roster for this event.



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

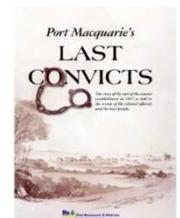
This year, we are requesting \$1 per session from all participants to cover afternoon tea – cost of milk and biscuits/cake that were mostly provided by organisers last year.

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** Note new time	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	6 April	1:00pm – 3:00pm	PM-H Library Meeting Room	“Women in Work”



Beginners’ DNA Congratulations and many thanks to Pauline Every & Ken Hunt for organising and presenting a very informative DNA Beginners’ Session. We anticipated a few takers but were pleasantly surprised when 28 people attended. Participants were both family historians and members of the public. They were certainly involved in the session with many interesting and thought-provoking questions were posed.

Port Macquarie’s Last Convicts – Our latest publication, compiled by Clive Smith, will be launched within the next couple of weeks. We are in discussions to have it officially launched before the end of March. The book is available at the pre-publication price of \$15, but this offer will expire on 31st March. If you would like to be present when the book is officially launched we will announce the time and place of the event on our website as soon as discussions have been finalised.



Website: I would like to thank Betty Booth who has been trialling the operation of the Website. Betty has some very good ideas in regard to design but she felt that she was baffled a little by the technical side. Good on you Betty for having a go! Sue Brindley is currently managing the website, volunteering to extend her knowledge to another platform. Many thanks Sue!



Bushfire Appeal: We raised \$250 for Blaze Aid at the February General Meeting. Many thanks to all who contributed. The money was converted to a gift card and presented to them so they can purchase suitable rural supplies to help our Hastings farmers recover from the recent fires on their properties.

The PMDFHS Committee

Members email contact: secretary@pmdfhs.org.au

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Check our website: www.pmdfhs.org.au

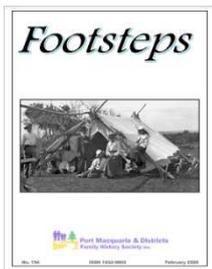


Heritage Week events will be held in the Hastings, commencing on Saturday 18th April with an Open Day at Douglas Vale Winery. Once again it is an opportunity to 'fly the flag' and let members of the public know about our active and welcoming Society. If you can assist by 'manning' the table for an hour or so, it would be appreciated.

PMDFHS' Heritage event will be an introduction to Family History as the first session of a Beginners' Course commencing on Wednesday 22 April in the Meeting Room of the PM-H Library. If you are a beginner or know someone who has expressed an interest please advise our Secretary, Jennifer on 0475 132 804 to secure a place. The four-week course will continue on Wednesday 29th April; 6th May; and culminate on 13th May which will double as a research support day. The only cost will be \$1 per session for afternoon tea.

Our second **Ancestry Raffle Prize** (12-month World Subscription) will be drawn during Heritage Week. Tickets will be on sale at our March Meeting; in the Library; at Support Groups; and to members of the public from this week.

Library Roster: The Roster for 2020 is up and running. Thank you to those wonderful members who attended an Information Session in February – I hope you learnt a bit more about our resources. Sue Brindley also maintains this roster and keeps up-to-date on changes or alterations. If you are unable to attend on your nominated day please advise the library staff and it may be appreciated if you could inform the person with whom you are working on the day. Given enough notice a swap or a fill-in can be arranged. A special mention must be extended to Pauline Hincksman who assumed the role of tidying and sorting our resources, paying particular attention to the journals section. I must also thank Wendy Anson for processing and cataloguing our new resources so they be borrowed by financial members.



Footsteps: Margaret is still seeking articles for the May issue of Footsteps. 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? Margaret may be contacted by emailing your article to editor@pmdfhs.org.au by 17th April.

Christmas in July: Margaret, our Events organiser has been in touch with the Comboyne committee and has organised for us to attend this event on the last Sunday in July – 26th. This day is particularly popular and we need to pay for our seats ahead of time. We are requesting that all seats be paid for by **March 31** as that is when payment has been requested by Comboyne. If you would like to attend please make your payment by this date. If you find you are unable to attend in July – hopefully not through illness, we will endeavour to on-sell your ticket to members who are on our waiting list.

Conference 2021: Some very interesting ideas are taking seed for this major event. We are thinking of 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.

Events organised by others

Chat and Coffee will be continuing in 2020. Meetings will commence at 9.30am on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Jeff Stonehouse will coordinate on behalf of the library but he welcomes participation from other people who are interested in Family History.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Library has been at its current venue for 20 years and are having a birthday party next Saturday 14th March from 9am – noon (before our General Meeting). Everyone is most welcome to drop in and celebrate.

Speaking of birthdays – **Port Macquarie Museum** will be celebrating their 60th birthday in April. Stay tuned for celebration details.

Cyndi's List is now 24 years old! It is your FREE genealogy starting point online. It has more than 336,000 categorised links for family history! Cyndi's List is definitely the starting point for your genealogical research online. <http://www.CyndisList.com> To quote Cyndi: "I started it when I was 8 years old!"

The PMDFHS Committee

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