



**FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF  
ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS INC.**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

**Management Committee**

Peter Godfrey	President
Peter Heptinstall	Secretary
Chris Dodson	Membership Secretary
Leon Daly	Treasurer
Rae Matthews	Program Planner
Terry Craig	Fundraising Coordinator
Esther Grogan	Publicity Officer
Verna Nazzari	Library Coordinator

**Appointed Positions**

Pamela Lydford, Editor of *Between the Lines*

Ronald Hassall, Auditor

Betty Vanderlande Website Administrator

# Family History Society of Rockingham & Districts Inc. Annual Report 2016/17

## HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- Year-end membership was at 109 which was unfortunately down on the previous year.
- Record meeting day attendances with excellent speakers.
- Attended the WAGS Affiliates' Conference at Collie.
- We have a healthy cash balance at year end of \$28,952.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our year-end membership at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was 109 however to date only 97 have renewed their membership. I am hopeful that this will increase in the coming months.

## TREASURY

The Annual Accounts have again been prepared by Treasurer Leon Daly and audited by Ron Hassall. Here is a brief statement of our financial activities for the year:

Income:

Suscriptions	4,105
Meeting days	1,900
Fund Raising	826
Library	2,060
Other income	519

Expenses:

Rental	7,026
Other cash expenditure	2,895

Full statements are available in the library.

In April 2017 we held a sausage sizzle at Bunning's that earned us close to \$1,050.

During the year, our free ancestry subscription ceased. This has been a real benefit for us over the past 7 years or so. We have now purchased a subscription and it is readily available on some of our computers.

The annual Affiliates Conference was hosted by the Collie Family History Society and was attended by Peter Godfrey, Leon Daly, Verna Nazzari and Diane Oldman. Attendees were subsidised by the Society. The conference report is on file in the Library. In future these conferences will be held biennially.

The end of cash balance of accounts held by the society amounted to \$28,952 at the 31st March 2017.

## LEGAL

Our Society, like all other non-for profit associations, is governed by rules laid down by the Government of Western Australia, Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection Division. This is where our Constitution derives from. These rules are currently in the process of changing. We have until July 2019 to review, and if necessary update our Constitution in line with these new rules.

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Leon Daly and myself are currently working through this process and all members will be kept apprised of our progress. One of the new requirements is that all members should receive a copy of our Constitution and that is why I provided all members with the current document in April.

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## **Annual Report 2016/17**

### **PROGRAMME**

During the year Rae Matthews took over the responsibility for Programme Planning. Thank you Rae. Once more we have had a wonderful selection of speakers and all talks have been well attended by our members and others from the community. Here is a list of the speakers we had during the year.

#### **2016**

Dying, Death & Funeral Arrangements, Janice Jensen  
Finding Your Scottish Ancestors, Karen Tregenza  
Finding Your Jewish Ancestors in Australia, Michelle Urban OAM  
Timeline for Genealogy in Britain, 1500's to Present, Peter Godfrey  
May the Force Be With You, Diane Oldman & Marjorie Burton  
Military Cap Badges, Gordon Parke  
What's New in Irish Family History, Jenni Ibrahim  
DNA, Cate Pearce  
Christmas Trivia Quiz, Leon Daly & Terry Craig

#### **2017**

Family Tree Maker and GEDCOM files, Leon Daly & Peter Godfrey  
Nelson's Navy, the Myths & Legends, John MacDonald  
Preserving Your Family Heritage (part 1), Diane Foster  
Preserving Your Family Heritage (part 2), Diane Foster (held on 1 April)

We have more interesting talks coming up in 2017; please watch the website or my weekly updates.

### **LIBRARY**

Thanks to our wonderful team of helpers who volunteer their time for library duty and cleaning, for without them the library would not function as well as it does. Unfortunately, there has been a decline in the number of people using our library. Considering our very reasonable rates for the usage of our equipment this is disappointing. I urge all members to publicise our library among their friends and advise them about what a great satisfying hobby Family History Research is.

Our computers have been upgraded to windows 10, and beside Ancestry and Find My Past we also have subscriptions to: The Genealogist, Families in British India, Forces War Records for you to access at a very reasonable rate. We also have subscription magazines to:

WhoDoYouThinkYouAre,  
Family Tree Magazine,  
Family History Monthly,  
Australian Family Tree Connections,  
Ancestor, (Victoria Australia).

We also have a well stocked library of books and other periodicals to assist with your research.

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### PUBLICITY

During the year Esther Grogan took over the responsibility for Publicity. Thank you Esther. Our monthly speaker profile and details have been sent to the following:

- Can you Help section of the West Australia.
- Various newspapers: Sound Telegraph, Cockburn Gazette, Comment News – Coast 2 Coast, Mandurah Mail, Mandurah Coastal, Fremantle Gazette, Examiner Newspapers – Armadale/Gosnells/Serpentine, Senior Newspaper
- Libraries: Baldivis, Safety Bay, Warnbro and the Rockingham Central Library.
- Members of Parliament: Local – Roger Cook MLA, Paul Papalia MLA, Hon. Mark McGowan MLA. and Federal Member Hon. Madeleine King
- Retirement Villages: Tuart Lakes National Lifestyle Villages, Springfield Retirement Village, Bethany Waters Lifestyle Village
- Judith and Frankie WAGS, Gwyn Williams WAGS, Lyn Watt Publications, WAGS, National Archives, Nedlands Local Studies, State Library: Leonie Hayes and Tricia Fairweather, Webmaster: Chris Loudon, and Western Ancestor Mike Murray/Lesley Silvester, PR Liam Fitzpatrick WAGS
- Various other organizations: Active Aging Rebekka Jarvis, Donna Cochrane City of Rockingham, University of the Third Age (U3A), Rockingham District Historical Society, Rockingham Woodworkers Club, Warnbro Shopping Centre, WASSARIANS.
- The Society brochure is in the process of being updated, and is ready to be published. We are applying for a grant from the City of Rockingham for this purpose.
- The Active Aging group run by Rebekka Jarvis from City of Rockingham continues to distribute by email and ordinary mail to citizens on the Seniors Distribution List.
- A new information flyer for the local Libraries is being designed and will be printed and distributed.

We attended the Seniors Expo again at the Mike Barnett sports centre. This is always a great way to meet people and spread the word to the wider community.

The number of non-members attending our meetings suggests that this publicity continues to be successful.

### NEWSLETTER - *Between the Lines*

Once again the editor, Pamela Lydford, has produced a pleasing and informative publication every quarter. This has been achieved through the contributions of many of our members, and outsiders, some of whom were from overseas. Thanks you Pamela for your hard work on the BTL over the past few years. We should also acknowledge our local politicians for assisting with the printing of this.

Members have been provided with a copy and it is posted on our website every quarter.

I am please to announce that John Wiseman has offered to take over the editorship of the BTL from Pamela from June this year. Thank you John.

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### SUMMARY

The 2016/17 your committee has worked hard to maintain the momentum of the past years with respect to reaching out to the community. We attempt to attend the activities organised by the City of Rockingham, however this always depends on the number of volunteers we have from within our membership.

I would like to thank the Committee for its support in the management of our Society in the past year. Without the help of our many volunteers we rely on in the Library, meeting days, and all those happenings that occur behind the scenes, on behalf of the Society a big thank you. We are always on the lookout for not only new members but for existing members to become more active in the running of our Society. We have a small committee and if the positions are not filled it means that some members need to take on extra duties to keep your Society operating smoothly. If you can help in any way at all please contact one of the committee and/or nominate for a position at our AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

It is always difficult to measure how well we are doing in serving the needs of our community with their Family Research. With member numbers declining, (as is the case with all organisations as our population ages), we can but continue to put the word out about the benefits and the joys in finding that ancestor, cousin etc to prove where we came from.

For example I find it very rewarding and fascinating to know that some of my people lived through the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, many wars and conflicts, and all that that entailed with poverty, disease, persecution and Religious upheaval.

Notwithstanding the above, each year we prepare a list of statistics regarding our activities, I have attached this to this report for your information.

I wish you well in your research, and don't forget the magic words, NEVER GIVE UP LOOKING.

Peter Godfrey,  
President.  
April 2017

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## FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS INC. MEASUREMENT REPORTING SHEET 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

ACTIVITY FINANCIAL YEAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
<b>LIBRARY USAGE</b>													
LIBRARY RESEARCH # Members	43	35	28	27	27	19	28	26	11	39	40	44	367
LIBRARY RESEARCH # Non-members	0	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	15
BOOKS BORROWED (#)	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	9
MAGAZINES/JOURNALS BORROWED (#)	9	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	0	6	4	1	32
<b>LIBRARY SALES</b>													
GRO CERTIFICATES ORDERED (#)	5	1	1	2	3	0	0	5	0	5	6	0	28
GRO CERTIFICATES (# persons)	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	14
NPI DOCUMENTS ORDERED (#)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NPI DOCUMENTS (# persons)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE VOUCHERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARTS													
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>													
TOTAL NUMBER (progressive total)	93	101	101	101	101	102	103	107	107	108	109		109
NEW MEMBERS (by month)	8	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	*	*	16
MEMBERS Attending Meeting Day	22	29	25	21	29	28	20	39	30	34	24	35	336
VISITORS Attending Meeting Day	4	8	4	4	9	3	2	11	1	1	7	4	58
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>													
FIELD TRIPS including by SIGs													
EDUCATIONAL COURSES/WORKSHOPS													
SPECIAL EVENTS/DISPLAYS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
EXTERNAL TALKS & PRESENTATIONS	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

\* Not included in year-end total (free period). Added to total number 1<sup>st</sup> April in following year.

Special Events/Displays refer to Open Days, Family History Week Displays, Seniors Expos, Community Stalls etc.

External Talks & Presentations refer to engagements at external organisations e.g. U3A, SLWA, other FH Societies and community organisations.

Measurement Sheet Proforma  
Strategic Plan Initiative (revised April 2012)