



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Management Committee

Peter Godfrey	President
Betty Vanderlande	Secretary
Chris Dodson	Membership Secretary
Leon Daly	Treasurer
Rae Matthews	Program Planner
Terry Craig	Fundraising Coordinator
Vacant	Publicity Officer
Verna Nazzari	Library Coordinator

Appointed Positions

John Wiseman, Editor of *Between the Lines*

Ronald Hassall, Auditor

Betty Vanderlande Website Administrator

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HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- Year-end membership was at 114 which, in my opinion is a good result considering that many Societies like ours struggle for membership..
- Record meeting day attendances with excellent speakers.
- We are in a strong financial position at year end.

MEMBERSHIP

Our year-end membership at 31st March 2018 was 114 which was an increase of 20 from the start of the year. Renewals for the 2018/19 year currently standing at 98 but we expect that to improve.

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:

	\$
Subscriptions	4,070
Meeting days	1,416
Fund Raising	2,230
Library	1,334
Other income	955

Expenses:

Rental	5,044
Other cash expenditure	5,535

Full statements are available in the library.

During the year we took single subscriptions to Ancestry and Find My Past, and these data bases are now available on all computers in the library.

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. According to the new rules we are required to advise all members by way of the notice for the AGM, that we have changed the rules and to this end you will have all received a copy of them earlier in this Financial Year. A copy is available in the Library if you wish to peruse them again.

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PROGRAMME

Rae Matthews has done a sterling job organising our Monthly speakers as our Programme Planner. 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.

2017

MONTH	GUEST SPEAKER	ATTENDANCE NO
April	Preserving Your Family Heritage (part 2); Diane Foster	29
May	Gedmatch; Cate Pearce	38
June	Kill Your Darlings : Writing For Family History; Julie Martin	30
July	Dead Man's Penny; Derek Prosser	26
Aug	The Scottish Highlander: Misunderstood; Misrepresented; and Misjudged; John MacDonald	29
Sept	Perth's Criminal Women; Dr. Leigh Straw	23
Oct	My Dad Was A Fairbridge Kid; Cheryl Mellor	34
Nov	Manorial Records, Geoffrey Barber	32
Dec	Quiz	
2018		36
Jan	Burrowing Into Website Familysearch.org, Ian Simon	45
Feb	DNA, The Test & Then What, Leon Daly	64
March	Sources and Citations, Peter Godfrey	36

We have more interesting talks coming up in 2018; 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. I have noticed over the last few weeks that our library is well patronised during the opening times. 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,

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

PUBLICITY

Unfortunately we have not been able to fill the role Publicity Officer caused by the resignation of Esther Grogan during the year. We are in the process of registering with the Rockingham Volunteer Centre. I am hopeful that this will result in us obtaining the services of a person to fill this role. In the meantime we have continued to publicise our monthly speakers and have sent the posters to the following by e-mail.

- Can you Help section of the West Australian.
- Various newspapers: Sound Telegraph, Cockburn Gazette, Comment News – Coast 2 Coast, Mandurah Mail, Mandurah Coastal Times, Fremantle Gazette, Examiner Newspapers – Armadale/Gosnells/Serpentine, Senior Newspaper, Weekend Courier, Have a Go News, (CofR).
- 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 MP.
- Retirement Villages: Tuart Lakes National Lifestyle Villages, Springfield Retirement Village, Bethany Waters Lifestyle Village
- Gwyn Williams WAGS Liaison, Lyn Watt WAGS Publications, National Archives, Nedlands Local Studies, Webmaster: Chris Loudon, and Western Ancestor Mike Murray/Lesley Silvester, WAGS PR Liam Fitzpatrick.
- Various other organisations: Mandurah Family History Society, Rockingham Woodworkers Club, Warnbro Shopping Centre, WASSARIANS.
- 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.

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. On the day following we held an open day in the library which was a great success. We obtained some new members from this event and intend to repeat it this year. We are finding that a lot of people in the community are becoming interested in Family History.

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

NEWSLETTER - *Between the Lines*

John Wiseman took over as editor of the BTL after Pamela Lydford stepped down. The quarterly issues of the BTL continue to include some very interesting and informative items. These have been from contributions by many of our members, and outsiders. Thank you John for your hard work on the BTL, and also acknowledge our local politicians for assisting with the printing of it.

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

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SUMMARY

The 2017/18 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 5th May. You will have received nomination forms by now.

It is always difficult to measure how well we are doing in serving the needs of our community with their Family Research, so all we can do is continue to put the word out about the benefits and the joys in finding out your genealogical and family history information to prove where we came from.

For example I find it very rewarding and fascinating, as I am sure you do, to know that some of my ancestors lived through the reigns of many Kings and Queens in England over the past 500 years or so. In particular this past year I found out that some from Sussex lived at the time of Henry VIII! They also lived through many wars and conflicts, poverty, disease, persecution and Religious upheaval. As I write this, today is William Shakespeare's birthday, so they lived through his life also. They didn't know it then but for some of them they were exciting times. (Did you know he died on his birthday in 1616)?

At the end of this report I attach a brief statistical chart to give you some idea of how we went throughout the year.

I attend our library on a regular basis to do research and I am always heartened to hear people say that they have found a record for an Aunt Bess or Grandfather Joe that they have been looking for for many years. I, like those of you on genealogical website mailing lists, will know that there are millions of new records being added every week. **SO DON'T FORGET WHAT I HAVE ALWAYS SAID, NEVER GIVE UP LOOKING.**

I wish you well with your research.

Peter Godfrey,
President.
23rd April 2018.

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FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF ROCKINGHAM & DISTRICTS INC. MEASUREMENT REPORTING SHEET 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

ACTIVITY FINANCIAL YEAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
LIBRARY USAGE													
LIBRARY RESEARCH # Members	26	31	37	30	26	32	38	34	10	26	43	46	379
LIBRARY RESEARCH # Non-members	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
LIBRARY SALES													
GRD CERTIFICATES ORDERED (#)	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	6	0	2	3	3	24
GRD CERTIFICATES (of persons)	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	3	0	2	2	2	14
MEMBERSHIP													
TOTAL NUMBER (progressive total)	88	97	102	102	103	104	106	111	111	111			111
NEW MEMBERS (by month)	9	5	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	*	*	*	23
MEETING DAY													
TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE	30	48	31	27	30	24	35	33	36	45	64	36	439