

### Welcome to our May 2015 Conference Newsletter



Our Australian Coat of Arms has the Red Kangaroo and the Emu supporting the shield. It is often claimed that those animals were chosen

because neither animal can move backward, only forward, symbolising progress.

Here at Conference 2015 HQ, keeping us on a forward trajectory are team members Clive with his budget and spreadsheet and Brian with his critical path plan. These are updated after each lively fortnightly meeting! So we are moving towards bringing together a balanced complement of speakers, exhibitors and fun over the three days of the Fair and Conference.

#### A Snapshot of two more Presentations:

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September.** So many of us now regard having a convict in our ancestry as very desirable. If you have ancestors who *"came upon the prison ship, bowed down by iron chains?"* you will enjoy Carol Baxter's talk **"Discovering the New South Wales Musters"**. These musters are an extremely important primary source of information about individuals who arrived in the colony (or who were born here) prior to 1828, as Carol says *"some researchers end up tracing the wrong ancestral line"* because the information in them is sometimes not fully understood.

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September.** Almost one in four Australian residents were born outside of Australia which has helped create a uniquely Australian identity. Fiona Burn will present **"A Ticket to Paradise - Records relating to Immigrants in the National Archives of Australia"** i.e. assisted immigrants, displaced persons, "aliens" (any person who was not a natural-born or naturalised British subject), as well as describing the records that relate to naturalisation.

#### Respect for the First Australians:

To acknowledge the unique position of Aboriginal people in Australian culture and history, Uncle Bill O'Brien, elder from our local region, will deliver the **Welcome to Country**.

At the Fair on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, a representative from State Records will outline the journey into the **types of records documenting the lives of Aborigines**, our interactions with them, and how best to access the records.

#### Raffles:

FindMyPast is unable to come to the Fair due to other commitments, but have generously donated two World Subscriptions for prizes. We will provide details of the many other bighearted raffle prize donors in a later newsletter.

There will be three separate raffles – one drawn at the Fair, one at the Conference Dinner and drawn on Sunday (but sold on both Sat and Sun). So start saving your dollar coins for tickets which will be \$2 each/3 for \$5.



#### Family History Fair:

We are very pleased that MyHeritage has agreed to send a speaker to the Fair and will also be an Exhibitor. So now the five Fair speakers are from *Ancestry; FamilySearch; MyHeritage; State Records of NSW; and Trove Digitised Newspapers*.

#### Don't keep it a secret:



If you belong to a society, is there a notice up about the conference for your members to see? If not, you can download one from our webpage, or if you receive our journal *Footsteps*, a copy of the program and a table booking form were included in the May edition.

We look forward to welcoming you in Port Macquarie.

Jennifer Mullin (Conference Convener)  
On behalf of the 2015 Conference Committee