

## Welcome to our April 2015 Conference Newsletter

Let us imagine that you are the captain of a great ship. There you are on the bridge, charting your course and turning the wheel. You feel too small to be in charge of something so vast - it's a lot of responsibility. Sometimes charting our family history can also seem a mammoth task - confusing, slightly daunting, having to negotiate false starts and overwhelming amounts of data to find the nugget of information you need. Yes, challenging but so rewarding! So... chart your course to Port Macquarie to learn new skills and information in the company of others on their own *Journey of Discovery*.



Talking of things nautical, there are many cruises from the Port Macquarie Marina, including whale-watching when Humpbacks pass close to Port Macquarie on their annual migration; dolphin river cruises, eco-adventure tours, fishing charters. There is also the Chinese Junk which is a relaxing way to spend a couple of hours cruising the Hastings River with live local commentary. For the more adventurous, there are the sports boat rides on rigid inflatable boats to "blast you out to sea in absolute comfort and safety". Visit <http://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/north-coast/port-macquarie-area/tours-nature-based>

### Table Bookings:

We are delighted at the number of family history societies who have booked tables as we all like to see, and be inspired by, the creativity and breadth of publications and projects available.

We also welcome on board an exhibitor that you might not have seen before - **Finders Cafe**. Their goal is to assist societies to preserve and validate our social history throughout the world. Check them out at [FindersCafe.com](http://FindersCafe.com).

If you too would like to book a table, please go to our website for more information.

**Thank you NSW BDM Registry** for your sponsorship noted on your website for all to see at [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

### Journey of discovery

The Registry is a proud sponsor of the genealogist conference in Port Macquarie 11-13 Sep 2015



### A snapshot of two Conference Talks:

**Saturday Presentation** - Were you at the Conference last hosted by our Society - in 1995? Whatever your answer - we think you will be amazed by the session **Heather Garnsey** and **Martyn Killion** will deliver at the Conference. They will examine the talk they gave at the 1995

Conference and update it. They will relate how the Journey of Discovery has changed in 20 years - research methods, new resources and results. That should interest all researchers - experienced or just starting. Make sure you come to the Conference to hear them and many other great speakers.

### Friday Master Class - DNA and Family History

- The role of DNA in genealogy has grown over the past decade and will become more important to genealogists as tests become faster and cheaper and interpretations are improved. In this Master Class **Ken Hunt** will look at some definitions before delving into the types of tests available and the reasons for taking them. He will identify some tools to manage and organise the data that our testing delivers before, finally, discussing some real-life examples and narratives. DNA genealogy can, and often does, challenge family myths by opening avenues of investigation not previously suspected but, at the same time, it is an exciting and often revealing addition to our paper-based family tree research.



**Only 23 spaces left for this Master Class!**

Jennifer Mullin (Conference Convener)

On behalf of the 2015 Conference Committee