

Welcome to our First 2015 Conference Newsletter

The Annual Conference is always eagerly anticipated and the 2014 Conference hosted by Illawarra Family History Group was a collection of interesting speakers, delicious meals, great company and outstanding camaraderie. Thank you Illawarra - you have set the standard high for us and we appreciate your help and advice as we get on with our planning for 2015.

Thank you to everyone who filled out an *Expression of Interest* form at our Society's table at Illawarra. We are pleased to announce that Val Charlton from Corrimal won the draw and will receive FREE registration for the 2015 Conference. Well done Val.

Theme:

The theme of the Conference is "*Journey of Discovery*". Our beautiful area of Port Macquarie-Hastings was discovered by John Oxley on his journey northwards. We passionate family historians are also on a journey of discovery - detecting, unearthing, encountering - the records of our ancestors and also discovering the joy of using modern and innovative technology to access records previously hidden away.

Our logo features an early sailing ship with the Three Brothers Mountains (North Brother-Dooragan, Middle Brother - Yoorigan and South Brother) in the background. The names of this geographic feature reflect a local Aboriginal legend; and Captain Cook also named the mountains the Three Brothers.

Our 2015 Conference Committee is meeting fortnightly to work through the guidelines from the Association. The preliminary information is:

Website: The website is nearly up and running and will be updated regularly. You can access it from our Society's home page: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs/ Click on the link on the right hand side. There are links to accommodation and things of interest in the area.

Venues: The Family History Fair and the Conference will be held in the Auditorium at Panthers Port Macquarie. Meet and Greet and the Conference Dinner will be held at Rydges overlooking the Hastings River in the CBD.

Speakers: We have a number of presenters lined up to speak on a variety of interesting topics related to the theme.

Table Booking Form: We are currently reviewing our Exhibitor's Booking form and fees (yes, we listened to your comments!) and this will soon be ready to download from our website.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference.

Jennifer Mullin (Conference Convener)

On behalf of the Committee



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