Conference Program 21-23 March 2025

*Keynote Speaker | Speaker Schedule is 45-minute per session



Friday 21 st Atrium - Registration Opens at 7:30 am		Saturday 22 nd			Sunday 23 rd			
West Room	Central Room	East Room	West Room	Central Room	East Room	West Room	Central Room	East Room
9:00 am Welcome to Country / Opening Ceremony		Masterclass 8:00 am	Masterclass 8:00 am	Masterclass 8:00 am	Masterclass 8:00 am	Masterclass 8:00 am	Masterclass 8:00 am	
		Judy Russell	Helen Smith	Nick Barratt	Hamish Maxwell- Stewart	Nick Barratt	Judy Russell	
Judy Russell* 9:30 am			Hamish Maxwell-Stewart* 9:30 am		Janis Hanley 9:30 am	Michelle Patient Ancestry 9:30 am	Fiona Brooker 9:30 am	
Mc	orning Tea 10:30 - 11:00	am	Morning Tea 10:30 - 11:00 am			Morning Tea 10:30 - 11:00 am		
Belinda Daly 11:00 am	Alex & Charlotte QFHS 11:00 am	Cathie Sherwood 11:00 am	Megan Crook 11:00 am	Simon Bligh Worthington Clark 11:00 am	Jan Richardson 11:00 am	Stephanie Ryan 11:00 am	Max Petts Imaging ANZ 11:00 am	Kerry Farmer 11:00 am
Elizabeth Walsh 12:00 pm	Nick Barratt* 12:00 pm	Liesl Harrold 12:00 pm	Linda Coonan 12:00 pm	Carol McCulloch 12:00 pm	Judy Russell* 12:00 pm	Charlotte Sale 12:00 pm	Hamish Maxwell-Stewart* 12:00 pm	Maggie Gaffney 12:00 pm
Lunch Break 1:00 – 2:00 pm		Lunch Break 1:00 – 2:00 pm		Lunch Break 1:00 – 2:00 pm				
Jennifer Harrison 2:00 pm	Cara Downes NAA 2:00 pm	Neil Renaud 2:00 pm	Shauna Hicks 2:00 pm	Jenny Joyce 2:00 pm	Eve Terry 2:00 pm	Helen Smith 2:00 pm	Sally Romano 2:00 pm	Darryl Low Choy 2:00 pm
Perry McIntyre 3:00 pm	Jacqueline Stockdale QSA 3:00 pm	Pauline Cass 3:00 pm	Jane Harding 3:00 pm	Greg Carlill 3:00 pm	Kay Ryan 3:00 pm	Jill Ball 3:00 pm	Andrew Redfern 3:00 pm	David Ryan 3:00 pm
Afternoon Tea 4:00 – 4:30 pm			Afternoon Tea 4:00 – 4:30 pm			Afternoon Tea 4:00 – 4:30 pm		
Sharyn Merkley 4:30 pm	Rosemary Kopittke Gould 4:30 pm	John Boeren 4:30 pm	Dorothy Wickham & Anne Stewart 4:30 pm	Family Search Ian James 4:30 pm	Dianne Snowden 4:30 pm	Nick Barratt 4:30 pm		
Atrium- Welcome Event & Book Launch - 5:30 pm		Conference Dinner- 7:30 pm			Closing Ceremony- 5:30 pm			

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Registration in Atrium from 7:30 am

West Room	Central Room	East Room			
9:00 am Welcome to Country & Opening Ceremony					
9:30 am - Keynote Speaker - Sentence of Transportation - JUDY RUSSELL					
Morning Tea 10:30 to 11:00 am					
11:00 am Connecting Social History, local history and family history on St Helena Island BELINDA DALY	11:00 am Unlocking Family Mysteries: A Case Study using the Search Party Method ALEX DAW & CHARLOTTE SALE [QFHS]	11:00 am Scattered Leaves, Indelible Bonds: The Diaspora of Six Irish Sisters CATHIE SHERWOOD			
12:00 noon Revisiting Local History: Using digital mapping to write a new local history ELIZABETH WALSH	12:00 noon When Harry Met Dotty NICK BARRATT	12:00 noon Proclaimed as a rebel to the government: Researching Irish Rebels in Australia LIESL HARROLD			
	Lunch Break 1:00 to 2:00 pm				
2:00 pm Unravelling the travelling: far- flung forebears JENNIFER HARRISON	2:00 pm National Archives of Australia Topic: Uncovering family history through the national archival collection CARA DOWNES [NAA]	2:00 pm Revealing the Huguenots: Their Diaspora, Their Descendants, and My Own Personal Discoveries NEIL RENAUD			
3:00 pm "All they wanted was good treatment": understanding the Irish Workhouse orphan girls PERRY MCINTYRE	3:00 pm The New Settlers League: helping immigrants "live happily ever after" JACQUELINE STOCKDALE [QSA]	3:00 pm Leaving home, Finding home: Bavaria to New South Wales and Queensland PAULEEN CASS			
Afternoon Tea 4:00 to 4:30 pm					
4:30 pm Uncovering Forgotten Women SHARYN MERKLEY	4:30 pm Police Gazettes: The victims, the perpetrators and more ROSEMARY KOPITTKE [GOULDS]	4:30 pm From the Netherlands to unknown places JOHN BOEREN			

Welcome Event: 5:30 pm in the Atrium

Meet & Greet and Book Launch Social Event

Refreshments & Canapes (Cash Bar)

Book Launch, One Free Woman – The True Story of Convict Hannah Rigby by Jane Smith

West Room	Central Room	East Room
8:00 am Masterclass	8:00 am Masterclass	8:00 am Masterclass
You be the judge –	Genealogical evidence	Researching and writing
Ethics in Action	from DNA research	your family history
JUDY RUSSELL	HELEN SMITH	NICK BARRATT

9:30 am - Keynote Speaker - How is Technology Changing Family History? - HAMISH MAXWELL-STEWART

Morning Tea 10:30 to 11:00 am				
11:00 am The Holland Park Camp: A Community History MEGAN CROOK	11:00 am Data and Analytics in Genealogy SIMON BLIGH [Worthington Clark Genealogy Research]	11:00 am Amoy or Canton? Shepherd or goldminer? Researching Chinese ancestors in Queensland JAN RICHARDSON		
12:00 noon Revealing a Chinese Enigma – Who, What, Where, When, Why, How & Serendipity LINDA COONAN	12:00 noon Beyond the Pen: AI-Assisted Ancestral Storytelling CAROLE MCCULLOCH	12:00 noon The Robot Genealogist: Separating Fact from Fiction in AI-Assisted Research JUDY RUSSELL		
Lunch Break 1:00 to 2:00 pm				
2:00 pm Mining the archives for local history SHAUNA HICKS OAM 3:00 pm Soldier Settlement: success or	 2:00 pm Why Did They Leave? Motivations for leaving Britain JENNY JOYCE 3:00 pm Al Insights - A Case Study 	 2:00 pm Documents of control: The long arm of the White Australia Policy EVE TERRY 3:00 pm A Journey of Necessity - Why 		
failure? And how to discover your ancestor's experience JANE HARDING	of Sam Hope and the 4th Pioneers on the Somme GREG CARLILL	did they come? Kay Ryan		
Afternoon Tea 4:00 to 4:30 pm				
4:30 pm Women of the <i>Artemesia</i> : The First Government Assisted Free Settlers to Moreton Bay 1848 DOROTHY WICKHAM & ANNE STEWART	4:30 pm Come and learn how FamilySearch is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make more records findable than ever before and learn what changes to expect as genealogy moves into the AI-augmented future IAN JAMES [FAMILYSEARCH]	4:30 pm Children on Board Dianne Snowden AM		

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Conference Dinner: 7:30 pm in the Central Room

West Room	Central Room	East Room		
8:00 am Masterclass A Guide to Digitising the Past HAMISH MAXWELL-STEWART	8:00 am Masterclass Researching English ancestors prior to 1700 NICK BARRATT	8:00 am Masterclass Digging Deeper – Extracting every clue JUDY RUSSELL		
9:30 am The Faces of Croydon: Chinese-Aboriginal genealogy on a sign JANIS HANLEY	9:30 am Ancestry's latest news and tips MICHELLE PATIENT [ANCESTRY]	9:30 am They Came As Crew FIONA BROOKER		
	Morning Tea 10:30 to 11:00 am			
11:00 am Theodore, Queensland: "the design to lift land settlement to a higher plane" and to build "the first model garden city of Australia" STEPHANIE RYAN	11:00 am Preserving History: holistic solutions for modernising businesses and organisations with a focus on innovative digitisation services. MAX PETTS [IMAGING ANZ]	11:00 am The Tapestry of Migration Records KERRY FARMER		
12:00 noon It wasn't what you knew, it's who you knew CHARLOTTE SALE	12:00 noon Non-European Convicts HAMISH MAXWELL-STEWART	12:00 noon "Far away to a strange land" - the 1863 voyage of the <i>Mermaid</i> to New Zealand MAGGIE GAFFNEY		
Lunch Break 1:00 to 2:00 pm				
2:00 pm Delving into place: Local History enhances genealogy HELEN SMITH	2:00 pm Paper to Pixels: Digitising Your Genealogical Records SALLY ROMANO	2:00 pm They were There: Situating your family history within its broader historical context DARRYL LOW CHOY AM		
3:00 pm The Thoughtful Ancestor: leaving a large footprint for future generations JILL BALL	3:00 pm Artificial Intelligence in Family History: Friend or Foe? ANDREW REDFERN	3:00 pm "Land for the people": Researching Irish Agrarian Ancestors in 19th Century Ireland DAVID RYAN		
	Afternoon Tea 4:00 to 4:30 pm			

4:30 pm - Keynote Speaker - The Future of Family History - NICK BARRATT

Closing Ceremony: 5:30 pm in the Central Room