# REPORT ON THE SIXTH AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS ON GENEALOGY AND HERALDRY - "OUR HERITAGE IN HISTORY"

The Congress, held in Launceston, Tasmania from 8 - 12 May 1991, and hosted by the Launceston Branch of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania, was a fabulous experience for all those family historians who made the trek "down South." It even made our taking leave without pay worthwhile!

This Congress excelled in the many little personal touches that made life easier for the participants. The reception committee at the airport was very helpful and so, too, were the registration workers. The warm reception was in total contrast to the cold weather which came as a shock to the system, as it had been 26C in Brisbane.

On registration, each of us received a calico 'dilly bag' displaying the outstanding motif which had been commissioned for the Congress. The motif and its colour actively invited you to search through all the reading material and souvenirs provided in the dilly bag. (These were far superior to plastic satchels, with a shoulder strap to leave hands free, and name tags so you could easily check if you had picked up the right bag any time you put it down.)

The venue was the historic Albert Hall which celebrates its centenary this year, while some sessions were also held in the Launceston International Hotel, just around the corner from the main venue. The Albert Hall is a major historical site and it speaks volumes for Launceston that it is still standing and functioning. The International Hotel 'established 1989' has been built with an old time facade to blend in most successfully with the streetscape of other well preserved buildings from last century. Obviously, Tasmanians fully appreciate their historic buildings, unlike some other States where historic architecture regularly bites the dust.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the Albert Hall, a most appropriate setting. Both the Mayor of Launceston, Alderman Graeme Beams, and the Keynote Speaker, Colonel Iain Swinnerton, President of the British Federation of Family History Organisations, gave informative speeches.

Organisation of the speakers was done by Anne Bartlett and John Grunnell. They both worked very hard and we had some interesting talks. On average, the speakers did an excellent job but there was a very small minority who will not be invited to Queensland, following advice from a number of participants! It was very interesting meeting Col.Swinnerton and Colin Chapman who is the Vice President of the British Federation of Family History Organisations. They are highly skilled in family history and well able to educate the Congress members. One of the most outstanding talks was given by Fay Johnson who made full use of audio-visual equipment to enhance her presentation on the Eureka Stockade.

The Congress Dinner was superb entertainment. The food was delicious and the music hall singers were a joy to behold on the Albert Hall stage.

Members who attended the other social functions and tours reported them well worthwhile, too.

The highlight of the Dinner was the announcement by Mrs Fay Young, Vice President of AFFHO (Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations) of the Annual AFFHO Award. This was presented to Miss Marianne Eastgate of QFHS for Services to Family History with particular reference to the QFHS Queensland Pre-Separation Population Index. Congratulations Marianne - you deserved it!

Several societies, booksellers and organisations with links to family history and genealogy had stands with information about their activities and publications for sale. Marianne Eastgate, Annie Thomas, Pearl Mahony and Alex Daw performed an excellent job at selling QFHS publications, taking over $1000 in sales.

Vol.1 of papers from the Congress has been published, as listed on the following pages, representing about half the available sessions. GST hope to publish a Vol.2 when all the speakers have provided their transcripts. These will be available in QFHS Library in due course.

Full credit must go to Pat Harris of GST for the overall organisation of the Congress. She did a wonderful job and should be very proud of the results. We all had a marvellous time and it is a shame that more Queenslanders were not able to learn more of "OUR HERITAGE IN HISTORY." We only hope that the next Congress in Brisbane in July 1994 will be equally successful - this one will be a hard act to follow!

*Ann Swain and Dawn Montgomery*





### *SPECIAL AWARDS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE - Contd.*

has kept a check on our finances for a number of years and these days she is our Treasurer. Dawn's Curriculum Vitae for the Society includes: Treasurer; Editor; Library Cataloguer; Indexer; Library Assistant; in charge of ordering overseas Census Indexes; Acting Library Co-ordinator (temporary); Minutes checker; occasional guest speaker; fount of knowledge for Constitutions; typing the journal; has worked on displays and display material. It is under Dawn's guidance that the library books are finally being made more accessible to the members. Other duties include being chief cook for George, her 94 year old Dad, and working as a medical typist. There is only one job that Dawn has not seen fit to do as yet and that is to be the President of the Society, which position she has refused.

As you can see, QFHS would be lost without all the services performed by Dawn, with the utmost efficiency. It is with great pleasure that I am able to present this Award.

*Each of the awardees thanked the members for their distinction and showed their delight in this recognition. Tony Swain noted that work for the Society is often a 'family affair' and he was pleased to be given honorary membership in the Society with its firm foundation and so many pleasant people in the membership.*

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### BOOKSHELF FINDS

When recataloguing and relocating books in the Library, we come across many books we would love to stop and read. But no time! Then, one day, something drew me to an uninteresting looking book I had often seen and wondered 'Why on earth have we got that?' When I opened it and flipped through a few sections, my excitement mounted.

**GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS OF ENGLAND, Vol.1 (Southern England)** answers all those questions of what county was a location in, prior to 1974, and since. It lists parishes, local government areas, and Parliamentary constituencies (electorates). Now I can confirm that Huntingdonshire was abolished and incorporated into Cambridgeshire in 1974, and that Bristol was previously part of Gloucestershire, which problems have puzzled some of us for a long time.

We will have to make enquiries to see if Vol.2 (Northern England) is available yet as this is one book which should get a lot of use, now that we all know what it's about. It's shelved at N2/22/2 and has 830 pages of vital information.

D.M.

## AFFHO AWARD 1991

Earlier this year we brought you the news that QFHS member Marianne Eastgate was the receipient of this year's AFFHO Award for Services to Family History, with particular reference to the Pre-Separation Population Index.



The accompanying photo shows Marianne proudly displaying her Award, having received her well-deserved congratulations.

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## ONE NAME STUDIES

**ATTRILL** and variations ATRILL, ATRIL, ATTERILL, ATRAL. Mrs Christine Mackay of P.O.Box 114, Coolum Beach, Q,4573 is seeking information on all extractions of the above names, worldwide, for a One Name Study. Please write to Mrs Mackay direct if you can help and, if you are only making an enquiry please don't forget that s.s.a.e.

**MERRY** is another study, this time by Jill Bhar of 8 Hobbs Avenue, Nepean, Ontario, Canada, K2H 6W9. Jill is Editor of "Merry Times" in which she publishes all sorts of interesting snippets on the Merry clan. Please contact her direct for or with information and to discover cost of subscription to her newsletter.