AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO FAMILY HISTORY

At the 12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Family History in Auckland in January, this year's winners of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisation (AFFHO) Awards for Services to Family History were announced. The awards went to Shauna Hicks and Paul Mackett, both long-standing members of QFHS Inc..



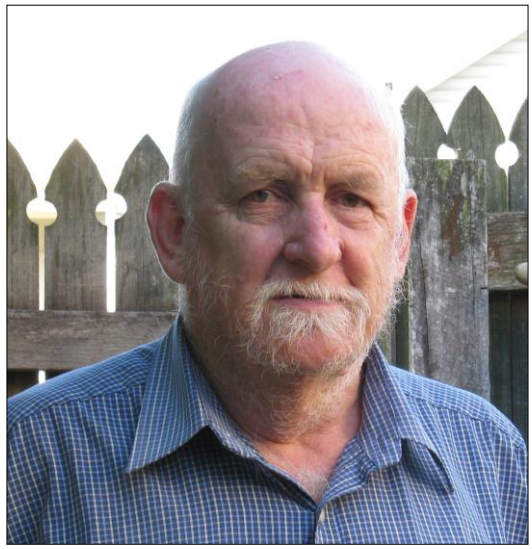
The triennial awards are given for extensive and outstanding voluntary services to family history in Australasia and announced at each congress. Initially only one award was made, but the award rules were changed in 2006 to allow more than one and this year Shauna and Paul were the two recipients.

QFHS Inc. members have been well represented in the awards. In 1991 Marianne Eastgate won the award, particularly for her part in the unique Early Pioneers Index (Pre-separation index) 1824-1859. At that stage no other state had an index to records to help people research their early ancestors. In 2006 Rosemary and Eric Kopittke received their award, particularly for their Emigrants from Hamburg to Australasia publications – again a unique research resource.

QFHS Inc. congratulates this year's recipients, Shauna (Member no. 7) and Paul (Member no.1288) on this recognition of their achievements. The following citations give the best indications of just how worthy they are to be the recipients of this year's awards.

Ann Swain, President QFHS Inc. & Secretary, AFFHO.

CITATION: PAUL MACKETT



Paul Mackett

Paul Mackett has given outstanding service to family history in Australia through his work on Australian Aboriginal Genealogical Records since 1989. Very few genealogical records for Australia's indigenous people are readily available. His collection represents a unique and extremely valuable resource for family and other research on aboriginals. His index has been a marvellous, unique research tool for those with Aboriginal heritage seeking to trace their family tree.

Whilst those with European ancestry have ready access to birth, death and marriage records, such events were often not registered for aboriginals until the mid twentieth century. They do not appear in many of the usual sources such as electoral rolls and post office directories that others would search for

information. Early cemetery records, another useful source for genealogists, often just note a burial as "aboriginal". With many families having been moved to reserves and children separated from their families, knowledge of even close family is often not readily available.

Paul discovered for himself how scarce the records were when assisting a friend in the research of an aboriginal family. Since then he has sought to extract material from publicly available records in various state and federal archives throughout Australia (material available for Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales). He has searched and recorded any entries relating to aboriginal families in documents from a diverse range of records including police, hospital, education, cemetery, Colonial Secretary, Protector of Aboriginals, and Auditor General's files, Police Letterbooks, Watch house charge books, wages registers, employment registers, permits for employment, child endowment ledgers, registers for blanket distribution, pocket money record books, removals, and many other sources. He has literally "been through hundreds of registers and hundreds of thousand pages of correspondence looking for references to Aboriginal people", all this in his spare time and lunch hours! For Queensland alone his transcripts and index extend to a staggering 6,900 pages - a truly remarkable achievement.

He has made the results of his research freely available on the internet and through a variety of libraries. A copy is held at the Queensland State Archives and the Community and Personal Histories Section of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Qld) where it is used by government staff to assist aborigines trace the faint paper trail of their ancestry. Paul also personally does research for those seeking answers to their history – again, all in his "spare" time.

A geologist by profession and a quiet achiever in family history circles, Paul has been recognised for his work both locally and nationally – receiving the Queensland Family History Society Award for Services to Family History in 1993 and the Order of Australia medal for his work in 1996. We now recognise the invaluable work Paul Mackett has done on the wider family history stage.

CITATION: SHAUNA HICKS



Shauna Hicks

Shauna Hicks has made an outstanding contribution to family history in Victoria, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory, firstly in her career as a professional archivist in the various archives offices and secondly through her hands-on approach and personal interest as a family historian, seizing opportunities through her profession and personal interests to support family history.

During her career she has enjoyed a public face in her various positions. In these roles she has represented the various state archives and in particular the Public Record Office of Victoria, where she has involved herself in improving access and promoting the wealth of sources at the archives through family history presentations at meetings, seminars, conferences and congresses. She regularly visits and promotes family history throughout the state and at times around the country. Although some of these are in relation to her employment there is no doubt her personal enthusiasm and

support go well beyond her work responsibilities.

In Queensland Shauna worked in the John Oxley Library and the State Archives. She is a founding member of the Queensland Family History Society, established in 1979, and was awarded a Fellowship of QFHS Inc. for her extensive services to family history in 2000. Amongst other things, she was a committee member, established the Monumental Inscriptions collection, organised the indexing of Boer War Service Records, and was the original Education Officer.

Since then Shauna has served on the councils of the Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra and the Genealogical Society of Victoria, involving herself in a voluntary capacity to assist these societies in their operations. She has also worked in tandem with her associated work colleagues in other States, to promote access to archives for family historians.

For 30 years Shauna has continuously devoted herself to ensuring the best possible relationship between researchers and the custodians of public records and the appreciation of her contributions by family historians throughout Australasia is now expressed through this award.

Shauna was presented with her award at the Congress and Paul at the QFHS Inc. Members' Meeting held on 18 February.

Congratulations

PAUL AND SHAUNA

QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION GROUP APPROVALS

The following people have been approved to become members of the QFHS Inc. Pre-Separation Group:

#287 Mary Geiger (QFHS Member 1432) descended from **George** and **Esther Evans** (née **Priddle**) who arrived at Moreton Bay 19 June 1858 on the "Ascendant."

#288 Deborah Love (QFHS Member 4770) descended from **Emma Webber** who arrived at Moreton Bay 19 June 1858 on the "Ascendant."

#289 Phyllis Massey (QFHS Member 1032) descended from **Emma Webber** who arrived at Moreton Bay 19 June 1858 on the "Ascendant."



QUEENSLAND PRE-SEPARATION GROUP

Did any of your ancestors arrive in Queensland prior to separation from New South Wales in 1859?

Are you a member of QFHS Inc.?

If you can answer **yes** to both questions, then you can become a member of this Group.

Please contact the Hon. Secretary, QFHS Inc. for further information.

Certificates are presented to members who qualify to be part of this special group.