

President's Report

Although it has been a quiet time at the NFHS since our closure due to Covid-19 at the end of March a great deal of 'behind the scenes' activity has still continued. An overview of this activity was given to members in our May Newsletter. We are most fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people willing to continue working for the advancement of our Society even when our doors are closed for some considerable time.

We re-opened our doors to members of the NFHS on a restricted basis on 4 June after permission was granted by the NSW Premier's Department and the Crown Lands Office (our landlord) to re-open from 1 June. A detailed overview of the new protocols in place for those visiting our rooms was given to all members in our June Newsletter. It is important that our members have access to our facilities if they wish to use them. It is up to each person to decide whether or not they wish to attend our rooms taking into account their own individual circumstances.

Although our monthly General Meetings have not been possible due to our rooms being closed, and more latterly, restricted numbers and social distancing regulations we shortly hope to recommence our monthly meetings offering a virtual option to our members. Some of our upcoming guest speakers have already been canvassed regarding the possibility of presenting their talks using PowerPoint presentations via Zoom and they are more than happy to use this medium.

Sadly, the 2020 State Conference which we had been planning for September this year has had to be deferred until 2022 due to the restrictions placed upon our venue, Wests New Lambton. Much of the planning and organisation has already been put in place and this will carry over to 2022. Our Committee and our speakers seem keen to continue then.

It is pleasing to see our monthly excursions beginning once again and being so well patronised by our members and friends. Some members have recently suggested we begin some interest groups such as Convict Ancestors, Scottish or Welsh descendants, Brickwall Busters, Scrapbooking Family History etc. It is wonderful to see such interest amongst our members.

We all look forward to getting back to some form of 'new normal' at the NFHS and we are well on the way to accomplishing that.

Mel Woodford

1 July 2020