

31 Genealogy Activities for Societies During National Family History Month August 2015

The activities are designed to increase awareness of your society and to perhaps even gain some new members. In no particular order, societies can choose to do as many or as few as they want. The activities also feature NFHM sponsors whose support is deeply appreciated as without our sponsors' assistance, AFFHO would not be able to host NFHM each year.

I will be blogging each activity throughout August and you can follow my blog SHHE Genie Rambles at www.shaunahicks.com.au/shhe-genie-rambles for further suggestions on each activity.

Shauna Hicks Voluntary Coordinator of NFHM on behalf of AFFHO www.affho.org
www.shaunahicks.com.au and Diary of an Australian Genealogist
<http://diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com.au/> for updates throughout NFHM August 2015

1	Hold a NFHM event (this could be your regular August meeting renamed or even a library open day). It does not have to be an additional event.	
2	Check out the society prizes on offer from NFHM sponsors www.familyhistorymonth.org.au/sponsors	
3	Visit the AFFHO website www.affho.org and check out the benefits of membership and consider joining. All genealogy/family history societies, who are non members of AFFHO, with an event in the 2015 web calendar are eligible to go into the NFHM prize draw for a 12 months subscription to AFFHO, one for each state/territory	
4	Visit the NFHM Facebook page for updates throughout NFHM https://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-History-Month/208048719235109	
5	Plan a membership drive - have members bring a friend to the next meeting	
6	Have a display table at your local newsagent and help promote the genealogy magazines on sale	
7	Start a Facebook page for your society www.facebook.com	
8	Start a Twitter account for your society https://twitter.com	
9	Put your NFHM events in the NFHM web calendar so that they are seen by more people www.familyhistorymonth.org.au (remember all genealogy/family history societies go into the prize draw)	
10	Investigate funding to bring professional speakers to your area (often available through local councils)	
11	Start a society blog to publicise your events and publications - try Google Blogger it's free www.blogger.com	
12	Transcribe tombstones in local cemeteries if not already done - or perhaps do an update	

13	Check out Preservation Australia www.preservationaustralia.com.au - prize sponsor for societies	
14	Reward the society volunteers who keep the library open and help members and visitors with their research	
15	Consider a collaborative project with your local historical society	
16	Convert your card indexes (if any) to a computer database for easier access (not to mention a back up copy)	
17	Does your society newsletter or journal need a new look or does your library need a new layout (or tidy up)	
18	Talk to your local council library about potential collaborative events - check out ideas from this year's NFHM web calendar	
19	Contact your local newspaper for publicity on society meetings and any special events - what local events you could have a display at	
20	Hold a new members session at the society library or an open day for prospective new members	
21	Explore the Biographical Database of Australia www.bda-online.org.au - prize sponsor for societies	
22	Have you looked at all the new genealogy publications available from Gould Genealogy & History - prize sponsor for societies	
23	Focus on attracting younger members - this could be done via a Facebook or Twitter account	
24	Have someone greet visitors or new members at each society meeting	
25	Learn more about the Global Social History Project with FindersCafe www.finderscafe.com - prize sponsor for societies	
26	Are the war memorials in your area transcribed? If not think about doing it and perhaps even adding information on those listed especially for WW1	
27	If you have a website, how user friendly is it?	
28	Does your society subscribe to <i>Australian Family Tree Connections</i> www.aftc.com.au and <i>Inside History Magazine</i> www.insidehistory.com.au - both prize sponsors for societies	
29	Encourage members to write their stories for your journal, perhaps even a prize for the best story each year	
30	Look at what other genealogy and family history societies are doing for more ideas	
31	Plan to participate in NFHM 2016	
<p>Congratulations - we hope that you have gained some publicity and new members! Remember to enter any events you have in August on the NFHM web calendar www.familyhistorymonth.org.au and look at the prizes on offer for societies who host events in August 2015 www.familyhistorymonth.org.au/sponsors</p>		