

## HEATHER GARNSEY

### About Heather



Heather Garnsey has worked full-time with the Society of Australian Genealogists since 1984 and became its Executive Officer in January 1988. She is a Fellow and Diplomate of the Society and an Associate Fellow of the Society of Genealogists in London. She has been actively tracing her own family history for over forty years.

She holds a B.A. and M.Litt from the University of New England (Armidale NSW) and her Masters thesis was a study of the Operation of the Old Poor Laws in West Monkton, Somerset.

Heather has contributed a quarterly column to the SAG's journal *Descent* since 1988 and has been involved in a number of SAG publications. She has edited two Australasian editions of *Tracing Your Family History Online for Dummies* and compiled a monthly genealogy column for *Australian Netguide* and later the *Australian Personal Computer User* magazine.

From 1991 to 1995 Heather was Vice President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) and she served as President of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. from 1989 to 1994. She represents the interests of family historians on the Consultative Forums of both State Records NSW and National Archives of Australia.

Heather regularly gives lectures and webinars on behalf of the Society of Australian Genealogists and is its official media spokesperson.

### Her topics

#### Finding Your Ancestors in the Genealogical Haystack

Beginner to Intermediate

How improving your search techniques will help locate ancestors who seem determined not to be found.

Knowing how to search is the key to getting good results. While search screens prompt you to put in a name and to press the enter key, it is often not that easy. This session looks at some of the reasons you may not be getting positive results with your searches – and it isn't always because the person you are looking for just isn't there.

#### The Joint Copy Project – Making NSW Parish Registers Accessible to researchers

Intermediate- Advanced

In 1974 the Society of Australian Genealogists, National Library of Australia and Mitchell Library, forged a partnership to preserve original parish registers on microfilm to not only ensure their long-term survival, but to also make them more accessible to researchers. Forty years later, the project continues to deliver great results for researchers of NSW ancestry.