

# The Bridge



## A guide to Congress 2018

Edition 3, February 2018

15th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry,  
International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour

Friday 9 March – Monday 12 March 2018

## 1 month to Congress!

*Welcome to the final issue of The Bridge, your guide to preparing for Congress 2018*

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**Yes, unbelievably we'll all be gathering in Sydney for Congress one month today. Now the countdown really is on!**

### **Beat the Rush on Friday Morning!**

If you would like to collect your Congress bag and name tag before Congress officially starts, you can do so at the SAG headquarters (Richmond Villa) on Wednesday 7 or Thursday 8 March between 10am and 5pm. You can see the location of Richmond Villa [here](#).

We'll actually be using Glover Cottages which is next door to the Villa (officially 124 Kent Street) for pre-registrations on these two days. Volunteer Jill Ball and some of the Genimates Facebook group plan to be there some of the time to welcome newbies and have an informal chat. There'll be some chairs out in the courtyard and the urn will be on the boil too. So if you are in Sydney on either of those days you can come along and pick up your Congress goodies and have a pre Congress chat and cuppa.

Alternatively you can go straight to ICC on the Friday morning and collect your bag and name tag from the registration desk from 9am.

In your Congress bag you'll find a booklet which will include a venue map, the final Program and other useful information, along with lots of goodies from our sponsors and exhibitors.

### **Research at SAG**

Our two buildings are open extended hours around Congress.

Library: 2/379 Kent Street: Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 from 10am – 5pm.

Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street (Manuscript & Image collection): Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 March, 10am – 5pm.

This handy [Guide](#) will help you make the most of a visit to the SAG and explains how to pre-order items through our MIDAS catalogue. Congress delegates have free access to the SAG collections as detailed in this guide.

### **Congress Dinner speaker announced**

For those attending the Congress dinner we are delighted to announce Mark Tedeschi, AM, QC as our dinner speaker. Mark is a true crime author and award winning photographer, and until recently Senior Crown Prosecutor.

He is the author of *Eugenia: A True Story of Adversity, Tragedy, Crime and Courage*; *Murder at Myall Creek: the Trial that defined a nation* and *Kidnapped: The crime that shocked the nation*, and his books will be available for purchase at the dinner. If you're coming to this sold out event you are in for a real treat!

## Congress Survival Guide Webinar Recording

Last week we hosted a free Congress Survival Guide webinar where Jill Ball gave lots of useful and practical advice on attending Congress. While we have already sent the link to this recording out to all delegates, we are including it [here](#) again and strongly recommend you take the time to watch it before Congress, as it will answer many of your questions. (Be patient at the start – due to a little technical hitch there is no sound or image for the first 48 seconds!)

## The Congress Venue

**Getting There:** As you know, Congress is being held in the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour. Be careful not to confuse this with the new Exhibition Hall which is alongside ICC. If you are travelling by light rail don't get off at Exhibition. Convention is the one to use.

Access the Convention Centre using the main entrance closest to the water. Venue staff will direct you to level 3.

**Nametags:** During Congress anyone who is not wearing an official Congress nametag while on Level 3 will be asked to leave, so make sure you have this with you at all times. There is no public access to Congress or the exhibition areas at any time. On the Friday there will be some Family Finder Day attendees and they are separately identified – they can access exhibition areas and their own stream of short lectures, but not Congress sessions.

**WiFi:** Free public WiFi is available throughout the venue.

**Mobility assistance:** Delegates who require mobility assistance will be helped to find seating within the lecture rooms.

**Hearing assistance:** The venue has a hearing loop available. If you need to use this service, visit the ICC desk on the ground floor and speak to venue staff.

**Bags & Suitcases:** To help everyone move safely around the venue and maximise space in the lecture rooms please do not bring along large bags or cases which may cause a trip hazard to other delegates.

On the final day of Congress many visitors will be checking out of hotels and going straight home from the last sessions. If possible please leave your bag at the hotel rather than bring it to the venue. The ICC does have some cloakroom facilities on the ground floor and it may be possible to store some cases at the back of lecture rooms, but this will be at your own risk.

## Food and drink at Congress

Remember that the catering included in your registration is only morning tea on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, all other food and drink is at your own expense. ICC has filtered water stations in the lecture rooms and there is a coffee shop with seating on the ground floor operating on the Friday and Monday (not at weekends).

You can choose to bring your own lunch or purchase it from one of the many nearby food outlets in the adjacent Harbourside Shopping Centre, but this cannot be taken into the venue to be consumed. There are numerous places to sit around the foreshore and seating areas just outside, so it's a good opportunity to enjoy the sunshine, get some fresh air and stretch your legs.

## Volunteers are there to help you

Our wonderful Congress volunteers will be very visible thanks to the hard work of Jennie Fairs and a friend. Please talk to our volunteers if you need any assistance, or visit the Congress Info desk located near the SAG in the main foyer on Level 3.

We are grateful to NSW Family History Transcriptions (Marilyn Rowan) for recognising and supporting our volunteers.

## Congress Handouts

Remember there are no published proceedings for Congress. Speakers have been asked to provide handouts and these will be available for download from Wednesday 7 March by following this link <https://tinyurl.com/2018Extra>

## Pre-Congress tours - update

We have opened bookings for our special pre-Congress tours of Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street on Thursday 8 March through Eventbrite. Tours last 1 hour and you can book the 10.30am tour [here](#) or the 2.30pm tour [here](#). Places are limited and are only open to Congress delegates by using the code CONGRESSHPB when booking. Hyde Park Barracks has a long association with the convict system and as an immigration depot, so is well worth exploring if you are a visitor to Sydney. As this is an historic three storey building it does not have a lift and the tour does involve climbing stairs.

We had hoped to also offer a tour of Millers Point after Congress, but unfortunately this can no longer go ahead.

## Changes to your Registration

If you need to make a change to your registration you'll find details of how to do this through our secretariat ASHM [here](#). This

page provides details of the cut-off dates after which no changes can be made.

**The Congress Secretariat (ASHM) will send all delegates a final confirmation email which will have details of your registration and any social events you have booked. It might be a good idea to save a copy to your phone or tablet or print it out before you get to Congress.**

## Keep up to date

In addition to this Bulletin, you can keep up to date by checking the Congress website at [www.congress2018.org.au](http://www.congress2018.org.au) or by following the Congress Facebook page.



During Congress we'll make any necessary housekeeping announcements before sessions begin each morning.

***See you in a month!***