

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc

****Dispatches from Downunder****

Mayflower Musings - September 2025

Governor's Message - Bill Elliott

Greetings Australian Mayflower members!

With the AGM weekend behind us, we're starting an exciting year working on new projects. It was wonderful that so many of our BOA members decided to re-nominate and we are supplemented by two new members on the BOA.

Through 2025-26 we are continuing the immensely successful **Pilgrim 101** series of informative historical narrations dealing with the elements of our Ancestors - their history in England, in Leiden and then in the New World at Plymouth. With the opening of our new **Members Only** section on our website (see page 2), members will be able to view past presentations, at times convenient to you. We are continuing our **Cousin's Coffee** sessions, which allow a friendly and enthusiastic discussion on the things that concern us in our ancestry.

In the mid-19th century, a much higher percentage of Americans were descended from our Mayflower ancestors. Thus, if we can track Americans coming to the Goldfields in that period, we may be able to contact many Australians with possible Mayflower descendency. Once we build a link, we would encourage and assist them to trace their forebears and become members of our society. Greg Geoghegan has offered to lead this **Goldfields Project**, and we would encourage other interested people to volunteer.

There was a similar, though often earlier, influx into Australia of Americans who were whalers, many of them coming directly from Massachusetts or nearby states. We are hoping that before the end of the year we can make a start on this parallel project.

If you have any ideas that you would like to discuss or share, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Bill Elliott

governor@mayflowersociety.org.au



September 2025 Edition

The **Mayflower**
Society
MEMBER SOCIETY

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Recognising Andrew Cooper Wells - Historian

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc. (AUSMD) seeks to nominate our Historian, Andrew Wells, for a GSMD Member Society Commendation Award to recognise his work as Historian since the Australian Society was Chartered in 2020.

Andrew's nature is well-suited to the detail and rigour essential for a good Historian. He gently, but firmly, reminds the AUSMD Executive and Members of the BOA of their responsibilities of ensuring that new members, supplemental applicants, transferring and dual applicants have the required completed documentation and that procedures are followed correctly. Over the last 12 months, Andrew has also successfully mentored Lisa Apfel in the role of Assistant Historian to

extend the historical and research skills of our society.

Andrew is exceedingly generous with his time, assisting new applicants with his perceptive research skills in finding hard-to-locate documents and authenticating steps in their lineage. During this past year, he has been responsible for establishing a new Brewster lineage, which was recognised in Plymouth.

He is frequently the first person in the society with whom applicants build a rapport, and new members speak glowingly of the assistance provided by Andrew in his role as AUSMD Historian. Andrew Wells is a worthy and very effective ambassador for The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc.

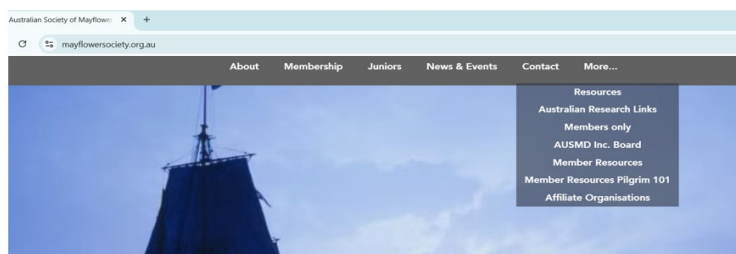
Andrew was recognised at the GBOA meetings held in San Antonio, Tx on the weekend of 4-7 September 20205

Hot Off the Press - *Members Only* page goes Live

This weekend will see the *Members Only* page on our website go LIVE.

All financial members of AUSMD, Inc. will receive an email inviting each of you to log onto the website and access the pages located under *Members Only*.

To learn how to access this area of the website, follow the instructions in the [attached document](#).



AUSMD, Inc. 2025 Annual AGM weekend

AUSMD, Inc. 2025 Annual AGM Weekend

1-3 - Friday, at lunchtime, saw a number of members enjoy a sumptuous meal in the *Strangers Restaurant* at Parliament House.

4 - Friday, some of our BOA members and their spouses enjoyed, an evening meal at Sea Fuel Café, West End.

5-6 - After our AGM and Social meeting we enjoyed a sumptuous banquet on the rooftop of the Parliament building overlooking the Brisbane River. During our lunch we were entertained by Caylie Jeffrey and Kerry Forsythe from *Paddington Then and Now* on the topic "Memory Keeping in the Digital Age".

7 - Connie Riley overlooking the courtyard of Parliament House.



AUSMD, Inc. 2025 Annual AGM Meeting

This year's AGM was held at the Queensland Parliament house complex, courtesy of The Speaker, Hon. Pat Weir MP. Many enjoyed the comradery of attending in person or online.

Governor General, Lisa Pennington gave her presentation — *"Lighting the Candle: Why we must tell the Mayflower Story"*

Lisa also conducted the installation of the Board Members for 2025-2026 year.

The new Board members are:

Governor: Bill Elliott

Deputy Governor: Lisa Apfel

Secretary: Connie Lynn Riley

Treasurer: David Magee

Board of Assistants: James Bottlinger; Greg Geoghegan; Patrick Morgan and Kenneth Whitemore.

1. AGM Flyer

2. & 3. Speaker BIOS

4. Game Changer Awards

5. Donation from AUSMD to GSMD for the Silent Auction

6. Our Charter

2025 AUSMD, Inc. AGM Meeting

1 The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENT
22, 23, 24 August 2025



AGM - Saturday 23 August 2025
QLD Parliament House
Undumbi Room
Corner of George and Alice Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000



General Meeting
Guest Speaker
Beth Lambright
Member at Large 2



AGM Guest Speaker
Lisa Pennington
Governor General



Luncheon Guest Speakers
Caylie Jeffrey (L)
/ Kerry Forsythe (R)
"Memory Keeping in the Digital Age"

AUSTRALIAN TIME: SAT 23 AUG 9:30 AM
Perth, 7:30 am Brisbane/Sydney/Melbourne 9:30 am
USA FRI 22 AUG 2025
Los Angeles/Phoenix (PDT) 4:30 pm; Denver (MDT) 5:30 pm;
Chicago/Houston (CDT) 6:30 pm, New York (EDT) 7:30 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 23 August 2025
If you are interested in attending the AGM and/or joining in on the meeting online or alternately attending the in-person event at Parliament House - Please contact:
Secretary, Connie Riley: secretary@mayflowersociety.org.au
or
Governor Bill Elliott: mobile: +61 417 713 200 or governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

2 AGM 2025 - SPEAKERS
23 August 2025

AGM Feature Speaker

Lisa Pennington is the Mayflower Society's Governor General for 2023-2026. She previously served as Councilor General and Member-at-Large on GSMD's Executive Committee. She joined the Mayflower Society in 2000 and has held officer positions in both the Texas and Massachusetts member societies over the years.



Lisa Pennington,
Governor General - General Society Mayflower Descendants

Lisa earned her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. She practiced business litigation for thirty-four years and was elected Managing Partner of her firm's Houston office for eighteen years until she retired in 2018. She and husband, David Furlow, have three children and five grandchildren and enjoy travel and speaking and writing on historical topics.

Social Meeting Feature Speaker

Member at Large Beth Lambright represents 18 Societies and also on the Executive Committee of GSMD. For the past 16 years she has been a member of the Oregon Society serving as the Past Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary, Juniors and Scholars Ship Chairman.

Beth is a graduate of the UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA where she earned her first degree in Education. She went on to earn a second degree in Exercise Sports Science in Oregon. She is "currently" retired but still speaks to Historical, Genealogical, and Education groups about the Mayflower. She is a member of seven Mayflower Family Societies and serves on the Boards of two.

Beth and husband Terry live in Corvallis, Or., they are the parents of two children and two college aged grandsons.



Beth Lambright,
Member at Large 2

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AGM Luncheon Speakers
Caylie Jeffrey (L.) and Kerry Forsythe (R)

"Paddington Then and Now is the creative collaboration of heritage storytellers Kerry Forsythe and Caylie Jeffrey. Together they bring Brisbane's past to life through photography, digital storytelling and community engagement.

Passionate about preserving local stories, Kerry & Caylie are well known for their work across Brisbane's heritage scene and they currently serve as the admins for popular Facebook Group *Paddington Then & Now*.

They explore the transformation of one of Brisbane's most iconic suburbs, combining historical images with contemporary perspectives. Their work not only documents change but invites audiences to reflect on the enduring charm and character of Brisbane's urban landscape."

4 Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc.
Game Changers
2024-2025
Choosing to be Extraordinary!!

PILGRIM 101 and BEYOND 1620

Pilgrim 101 has taken AUSMD Members beyond myth and nostalgia, teaching us the Pilgrim story from Primary Sources. It has become the most popular tool we have found to bring our members together and learn about our shared past.




ANDREW WELLS
"Andrew is exceedingly generous with his time assisting new applicants with his perceptive research skills in finding hard-to-locate documents and authenticating steps in their lineage. He is being awarded a GSMD Commendation and Appreciation Award at the Congress in San Antonio Texas in September 2025"



JAMES BOTTLINGER
"For his work investigating options of advancement in her development as an AUSMD Historian, and her enthusiastic participation and contribution to the IOA since the last AGM"



LISA APFEL
"For her growth and advancement in her development as an AUSMD Historian, and her enthusiastic participation and contribution to the IOA since the last AGM"



STEVE ISHAM
"For his generous donation of Children's Books to comprise our offering to the Silent Auction for GSMD and his continuing support and loyalty to the Society since its formation in 2020"

5 The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc.

General Society of Mayflower Descendants SILENT AUCTION DONATION



A basket of children's books, mostly on Australian animals, that have been written and illustrated by Charter member and his wife, Steve and Marion Isham.

For parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, this may be a great opportunity to own unique books for the children in your life that are unlikely to be readily duplicated, particularly in the USA.



These books are well regarded in Tasmania, and a few years ago the selection of these books were provided as an official gift from the Tasmanian State government to the now King and Queen of Denmark, then Prince Frederick and Princess Mary to be enjoyed by their children. Queen Mary originally came from Tasmania, and she and Frederick met when both were competing in the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000. So a gift suitable for royalty!

<https://thmayflowersociety.org/donate/the-mayflower-society-silent-auction>



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The General Society of Mayflower Descendants

By these presents do hereby authorize the formation of a Society of Mayflower Descendants, with all the powers and privileges therein appearing in the "Old Charter" of the

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants

The following members having signed and filed a request for a Charter with the Secretary General

GSMD members residing in Australia: Stephen E. Isham, Kirk C. Quinbach, Andrew C. Wells, Joan Elizabeth Hall Jones, Derek C. Hall, James B. Ryder, Diane Ellen Wright, Heidi Williams, Thomas H. Jones, Jr., William B. Elliott, Orl Lee, Robert Granger, Connie Lynn Riley, Cernyana Elliott, Fiona Rae Lynton, E. Luke Isham, Shelia N. Longbottom, Kyle Ellen Moore, Scott Granger, Dr. Martin W. Lawrence, Joanne E. Hartman, Susan E. Hall, Kirk O. Price

GSMD and members: Steven B. Arnold, Judith B. Arnold, Lou Jordan Wilson, Gregory E. Thompson, Kenneth R. Whitemore, Susan B. Hauer, Virginia Ginny Macvicar, Margaret Doreta Averett, Margaret Marie Roberts, Maryanne Midge K. Harrell, Kimberly Florkum, Naomi E. S. Mann, MD, Jane E. Greer Baldell Hart, Lisa M. Pennington, Esq.

In Witness Whereof, the seal of this Society has been affixed by order of the General Council of Descendants on this 25th day of January Two thousand and twenty.

Joan E. Hart
Secretary General

Joan E. Hart
Secretary General

2025 AGM (continued)



1 & 2 - Table of Memorabilia; 3 & 4 - New Board being voted into their positions
L-R Greg Geoghegan (BOA); David Magee (Treasurer); Bill Elliott (Governor); Connie Riley (Secretary); Patrick Morgan (BOA); Lisa Apfel (Assistant Governor) online; Ken Whittemore (BOA in Absentia)

Upcoming Events for Sep—Nov 2025




The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants, Inc.

COUSIN'S COFFEE ONLINE!!!

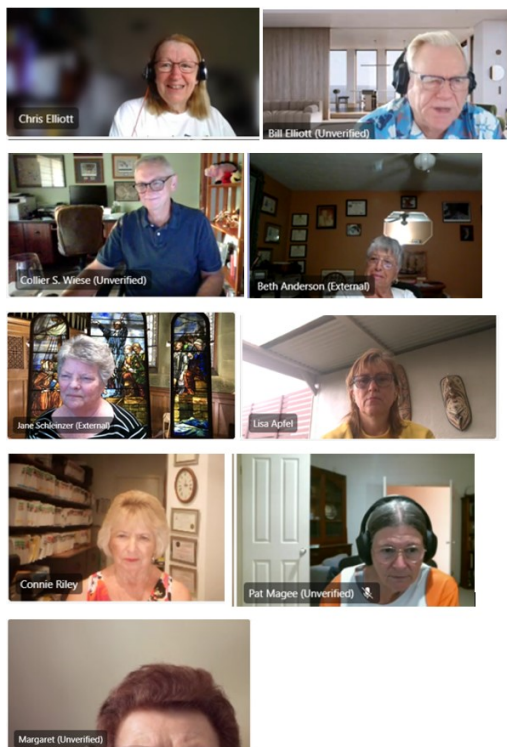
WHEN: Saturday, 13 September 2025
 TIME: 10:00 AM (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Australia)
 8:00 AM (Perth, Australia)
FRIDAY 12 September 2025
 5:00 PM (Los Angeles/Phoenix)
 6:00 PM (Denver)
 7:00 PM (Houston/Chicago)
 8:00 PM (New York)

Coffee Cousins Conversation for September 2025:
 "How can Australians become more aware of Thanksgiving celebrations?
 How can we explain the relevance and importance of Thanksgiving to Australians?
 What can we as Mayflower members do to build awareness?"

The celebration of Thanksgiving is the most obvious display of the role of Mayflower in American Culture, even if Many Americans are only vaguely aware of the significance. How can we try to make it more relevant in Australia and how can we work on publicising the event among our friends and neighbours and within our communities?

This is an opportunity for both AUSMD members and our American cousins to share their ideas and experiences of Thanksgiving, at the next Cousin's Coffee on 13 September 2025.

Meeting Online via TEAMS (find log in details in the email)



Social Event

After the completion of the formal component of our meeting we then moved onto the social gathering. Here we heard from the Historian, Andrew Wells who gave a report on progress with new members.

Next we were joined by Bruce Harrington from [Beyond 1620](#) who spoke on "Beyond 1620 - Pilgrim 101" presentation which also enhanced our prior learning from throughout the year on the Pilgrims.

Family group photos were taken for all those in attendance.

September 13th - Cousins Coffee where the topic for this month is "How can Australians become more aware of Thanksgiving celebrations?".

October 11th—the topic is "The May Floure: The Ship History Nearly Forgot" presented by Bruce Harrington - Beyond 1620.

November 15th - Cousins Coffee, topic yet to be advised.

Watch out for your email or Facebook containing further information on each event.

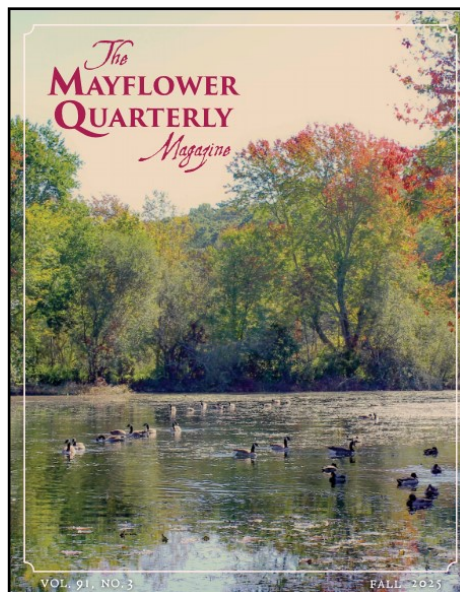
The General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Please remember to keep a regular check in the [GSMD website](#) to stay up to date with all the latest news, Virtual Lecture Series, important information and links to Member Societies and Family Groups to name just a few of what is available. You can also view the online version of the latest *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* and also previous editions.

Check out the General Society of Mayflower Descendants [YouTube](#) Channel. Subscribe to keep up to date with videos.

Log into the [Mayflower Society](#) website. Lisa's latest article is about Summer of 1621 in Plymouth, Ma.

GSMD latest



MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Uncovering the Stories of North American Migrants to Sydney - A New Resource Now Live and Free!

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants has been exploring migration pathways from North America to Australia in the hope of finding descendants of Mayflower passengers. We have identified various periods when many ships sailed between the two continents, the most notable period being the early whaling years and then the gold rush years, as discussed by Governor Bill Elliott in *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 issues. As part of the brainstorming, I was prompted to share the story of how my Mayflower ancestor came to Australia in 1877. He arrived as part of a little-known scheme, where the colonial New South Wales Government was trying to recruit skilled workers to Sydney. They were offering a subsidised passage to encourage the immigrants, and almost 1,000 people took up the offer. The American newspapers called it "The Sydney Scheme".

All the ships departed from New York, with most of the passengers travelling from towns and cities in the northeastern states of the United States as well as from Canada. My ancestor and his two brothers travelled down from Norwood, Massachusetts. The majority of the immigrants from North America were from the states of New York and Pennsylvania.

Inspired to document the scheme, I set about transcribing the passenger lists. It was during this process that I decided to research and document any sources I could find pertaining to the immigrants who were born in North America, all in the hope of identifying more possible links back to the Mayflower passengers.

A new website has been created and named

The Sydney Scheme (sites.google.com/view/the-sydneyscheme/home).



Illustration of the N. Blyden, in Port Jackson, with the first immigrants from America, 1877. From the State Library of Victoria Collection.

What's Inside The Sydney Scheme?

Transcribed Passenger Details: The transcribed records detailing all the individuals who participated in the 1877 migration.

Comprehensive Database of the passengers born in North America includes: census records, vital records, prison records, coroners' records, and newspaper articles.

Sources regarding the scheme: newspaper articles and government correspondence, that offer context and insight into the migration program.

Please have a look and let us know if you find a relative!

Submitted by Lisa Apfel, Assistant Historian

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine - Fall edition, including article by Lisa Apfel p12

YouTube channel

You can locate it via— <https://www.youtube.com/@mayflowersociety>

You will find many interesting videos including recipes where you can recreate the food of the Pilgrims.



"Notes from the Boat"

Check out the latest items presented by our Governor General, Lisa Pennington.



Birthday's for September through November

September	October	November
Christina Cannes - 2nd	Ann Wilkinson - 5th	Martin Lawrence - 3rd
Bill Tooley - 5th	Steve Isham - 10th	Colin Stone - 9th
Richard Shaw - 11th	Masa Bottlinger 18th	Collier Wiese - 21st
Andrew Wells - 13th	Fiona Lynton - 22nd	James Ryder - 25th
Vicki Newman - 19th	Lisa Pennington - 28th	Jeanne Harrison - 26th
Philip Keeslar - 21st	Derek Hall - 31st	



On your special day, we wish you many happy returns of the day, hip, hip, hooray!

Wedding Anniversaries– September through November

September	October	November
James & Yoko Bottlinger -	Marti Bobertz & Bill Tooley -	
	Bob & Bev Granger - 19th	



Junior membership resources

Don't forget to check out all our resources on our [AUSMD website for juniors](#), or through the [General Society of Mayflower Descendants](#).

In 1620, for the sake of religious freedom, 102 brave souls crossed treacherous seas to found a colony in America. Half died during the first winter, yet today their descendants number around 35 million worldwide and their impact has been immense.

In 2020, the *Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants* was formed by charter from the *General Society of Mayflower Descendants* in Plymouth USA. Our mission includes helping to tell the story of the Pilgrims to honor their strength, courage, faith and commitment to the principles of liberty. Our members are descendants of the original Mayflower passengers who seek to preserve their heritage in Australia.

Quarterly Membership Overview

Joining the Mayflower Society helps to keep the stories and ideals of the Mayflower pilgrims strong and alive for future generations. It's also a great way to establish connections with others whose roots also hark back to the Mayflower.

View the requirements on our [web-site](#).





Quarterly Membership Overview
as at
September 2025

Total Membership			
Regular Members:	52	Australian Residents	32
Associate Members:	13	USA Residents:	18
Junior Members:	8	Overseas Residents:	2

Members by Family Groups			
John Alden	1	John Howland	8
John Billington	1	William White	3
William Bradford	3	Priscilla Mullins	1
William Brewster	4	Richard Warren	8
Stephen Hopkins	3	Thomas Rogers	1
James Chilton	3	Myles Standish	3
Edward Fuller	3	George Soule	9
Isaac Allerton	1		

Welcome to New Members for 3rd quarter 2025			
AU079	Deborah Bottlinger	July 2025	
AU080	Jeffrey Bottlinger	July 2025	
J010	Grace Fuller	July 2025	
J011	Louis Fuller	July 2025	

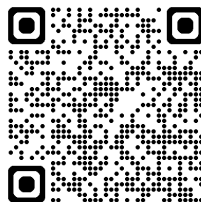
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