

Annual Huguenot Lunch a Great success

A very good attendance of 21 people was present at our annual Edict of Nantes lunch on Friday 10 April, at La Bouitte French Bistro, North Willoughby. Great French food and wonderful service. As usual, our Secretary Robert Nash reminded us of what we were actually celebrating, talking about the personality and accomplishments of Henry (Henri) IV, King of France and Navarre, who issued the Edict in 1598. Judith and Sarah Staveley are to be congratulated on their fine organisation of the event.



Changes to 2026 Presentations/Meetings Program

A number of changes to the order of our 2026 presentations/meetings program have been made. Please see the notice below for details. While our May meeting will be at the Gordon Baptist Church Garden Square annex, the venue for the second half of the year is to be confirmed.

NSW CHAPTER PROGRAM FOR 2026



The Huguenot
Society of
Australia

Meetings take place at Gordon Baptist Church – Garden Square annex, Garden Square/Park Avenue, Gordon, commencing at 2.00pm (*venue to be confirmed for the second half of 2026*). All welcome. Free for members (visitors \$10).

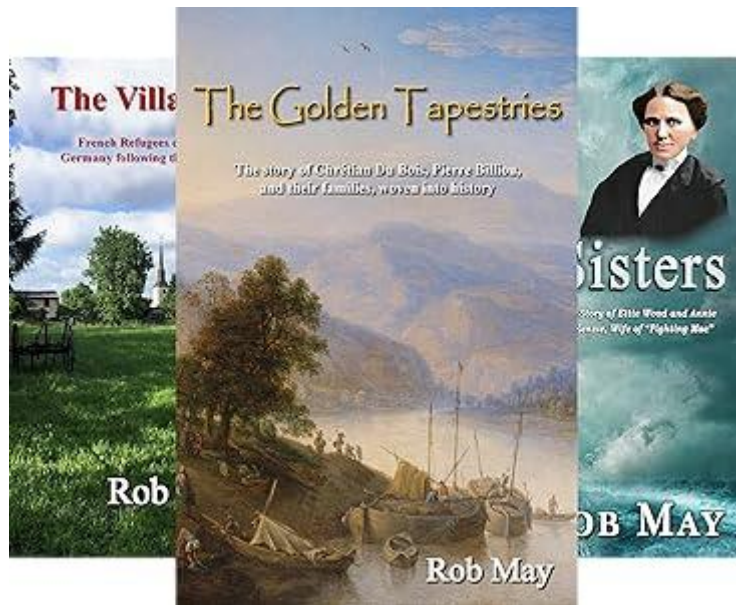
Note: Members are able to attend any Chapter meeting in any state. For 2026 meetings of the Victorian and Queensland Chapters, see “Activities 2026” <https://huguenotsaustralia.org.au/our-society/activities/>

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| Saturday 14 February 2026 | ‘REVEALING THE HUGUENOTS’
Speaker: Neil Renaud Held |
| Friday 10 April 2026 | EDICT OF NANTES LUNCH (12.00 noon) La Bouitte French Bistro, 197 High Street, North Willoughby Held |
| Saturday 16 May 2026 | AGM and ‘THE GALLEY SLAVES: MARTYRS FOR THEIR FAITH’
Speaker: Robert Nash |
| Sunday 28 June 2026 | HUGUENOT HERITAGE CHURCH SERVICE, St Swithun’s Anglican Church, Pymble, at 2.00pm |
| Saturday 15 August 2026 | ‘HUGUENOTS OF THE DRÔME’
Speaker: Judith Staveley |
| Thursday 10 September 2026 | SPRING PICNIC
Venue to be confirmed |
| Saturday 14 November 2026 | ‘LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE’
Speaker: Dr Matthew Glozier |

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New Book – The Golden Tapestries



Our HSA member Rob May has written a new book about his Huguenot family. It is a prequel to his previous two books and is called ***The Golden Tapestries***. It becomes book 1 of his *The Golden Thread* series [the other two being *The Village Light* (book 2) and *The Two Sisters* (book 3)].

The new book has much Huguenot content and is a biographical historical novel following the remarkable lives of several of Rob's ancestors – stories of imprisonment, migration, faith and endurance, from France to Germany and Holland, and ultimately the New World (America).

It (and the previous two books) is available in paperback or as an e-book (Kindle) from the following two websites:

<https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B0GHXQ2J57>

<https://books2read.com/u/mZyRky>

- information from Neil Renaud (16/2/2026)

Meeting/Presentation Held at New Venue



Our first meeting/presentation for 2026 was held at the Garden Square annex of Gordon Baptist Church (Sydney), and the new venue seemed to work well. Venues for the second half of 2026 are to be confirmed. Neil's presentation ***Revealing the Huguenots*** was very well received. 34 people were present, as well as a couple on Zoom. The videorecording of the presentation is now on the "members only" section of this website. Below the recording is a copy of the handout ***Some Resources for Researching Huguenot Ancestry***, and the text of Richard Bedard's short talk on his Huguenot ancestors.

Next Meeting/Presentation

This will be on Saturday 16 May 2026 at the Gordon Baptist Church Garden Square annex. The presenter will be Robert Nash, speaking on ***The Galley Slaves: Martyrs for Their Faith***. This will be presentation number 2 of our "back to basics" year. The Society's Annual General Meeting will also be held on that day.

Huguenot Society of Australia

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

(as of 11 November 2025)

- Free entry to all meetings/presentations (including those of state chapters), including afternoon tea
- Receipt via email of a link to view any live online access provided for meetings/presentations
- Receipt of the Society's biannual newsletter *Huguenot Times* via email or post
- Access, via password, to the "members only" area of the website, containing research resources and recordings of past presentations
- Free research assistance and access to the Society's library (by arrangement), for historical/genealogical research relating to Huguenots
- Receipt via email of the Royal Australian Historical Society's *eNewsletter*
- Receipt via email of notifications (e.g. flyers) of upcoming events
- Invitations to social occasions such as lunches and picnics
- Entitlement to vote at general meetings, including the annual general meeting

- Entitlement to stand for election to, and be a member of, the Society's committee
- Opportunity to contribute to the Society's annual fundraising, supporting the SSI refugee educational scholarship program.