

BORDERLINE NEWS



August 2018
newsletter no. 167

What's Happening Next for our Society:

21st August – *Did you know* subject: “Genological magazines currentl available” will be conducted by our librarian Lyn Larkin.

Guest speaker talk: Jenny Higgins from the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra [HAGSOC] will talk about digging into TROVE.

Saturday 1st September – this is our seminar day at the Felltimber Community Centre. The theme is “Finding and Preserving Memories”

The topics are: Dating Photographs; The Life of Emigration-19th Century migration; Finding shipping records; Restoring and Preserving photos and documents.



www.WorldTurndUpsideDown.blogspot.com

Go to the WFHS website for more details <http://wodongafamilyhistory.org/> and to find out how to register for the seminar or contact Wendy on 0447 03 5725 or 02 6056 3220 or Norma on 0448 35 6125.

Cost \$40, \$35 early bird if booked and paid for by 3rd August, **WFHS** members \$35.

Note: *For those travelling, the WFHS has secured a discount of \$10 per room at the Murray Valley Motel for people attending our seminar. People wishing to take advantage of this offer should speak to either Christine or Dean and mention that they will be in Wodonga to attend the Wodonga Family History's seminar.*

18th September – *Did you Know* subject: “Find a grave website” will be conducted by Pat Hopkins

This will be a Brick Wall night.

16th October – *Did you Know* subject: *Legacy Free Webinars*. The session will be conducted by Jenny Manguy.

Guest speaker talk: Ann Copeland will talk about the State Library Victoria Family History Collection.

Disclaimer:

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Newsletter of the Wodonga Family History Society Inc.

PO Box 289 Wodonga Vic 3689

www.wodongafamilyhistory.org

Email: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

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The Research Room is situated in the premises of the Wodonga Library in Hovell Street, Wodonga VIC. The opening hours for research are Tuesday & Wednesday from 11am to 3pm and Thursday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month [except December] at 7.30pm at the Felلتimber Community Centre, cnr Felلتimber Creek Road and Melrose Drive, Wodonga. Entry is via Ritter Road.

Researchers please note that you cannot access the Research Room records until you have signed the attendance book in the Research Room.

Items cannot be returned through the Library after hour's chute or to the Regional Library staff. They must be returned to the Research Rooms during the designated opening hours mentioned above.

Research enquiries: *If you wish our Research Officer to do research for you, please include a business sized, stamped, self addressed envelope with your enquiry details. The initial research cost is \$25.00.*

Please include all the details you can: names, areas, dates, any births, deaths and marriage details you may have and what you want the Research Officer to find out. There is no point in paying for what you already know.

Membership Details

Membership of the Wodonga Family History Society Inc. includes the benefits of receiving a quarterly newsletter and allows access to all the resources of the Society's library which is growing all the time. Your attendance at our monthly meetings will ensure that you have contact with our researchers who share your interest in family history.

Subscriptions:	New Members Joining Fee	\$ 10.00
	Annual Membership	\$25.00
	Part Year Membership	
	[join between 1 st April & 30 th June]	\$10.00 + joining fee

Membership fees are due and payable in July of each year.

Committee members

President	Norma Burrows	phone: 02 6024 1591
Vice President	vacant	
Treasurer	Sue Jarvis	
Secretary	Wendy Cooksey	phone: 02 6056 3220

Barbara Baxter	Bob Cousins	Lynda Cuper	Janette Griggs	Pat Hopkins
Lyn Larkin	Heather Lauritzen	Dawn Newman	Christine Young	

We are updating our members' information and would like to include details of a person to contact in case of emergency. The information required is "Person to contact and contact number". Please forward these details to: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org, call Wendy on 02 6056 3220 or post to PO Box 289, Wodonga, 3689.

President's Report

Though we haven't had very much rain we are certainly feeling the cold of winter. Meetings have been well attended in spite of this.

This year we have trialled winter morning meetings to cater for members who could not attend on a Tuesday night. Attendance was small and we will discuss this to see if we try again in 2019.

We have been busy during the past few months with events including a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Volunteers' day in Wodonga and Necana celebrations. We raised over \$770.00 from the Sausage Sizzle – many thanks to Barbara for her great work in organising the supplies and all the members who helped on the day and at the other events.

If you read The Border Mail you will have seen the story of the Chanter family which has been covered over the past few months. Congratulations to Janette and Lyn for their work in helping to put this all together.

Coming up we have our Seminar on 1st September. The cost is \$35 for members. Bookings can be made through our website or at the library. Topics to be presented are "Dating photographs", "The life of emigration", "Finding shipping records" and "Restoring and preserving photos and documents". We will also be involved in Wodonga's Senior Celebrations in October. Details to be announced at a later stage.

The Bedella Awards entries are now with the judges and I will have the results soon. Winners will be announced at our August meeting. It was disappointing to note we did not have any entries in the Novice Section this year. If you are thinking of entering, there are copies of past entries in the library. These may help with ideas.

Sadly we noted the passing of a foundation member of our club – Graeme Oke. We extend our condolences to Noelle and family.

The library edition of Ancestry on one of our computers has been well received. However, there are many books, etc. in the library which have information not available online. Come and use the resources available to you as a member.

Keep warm and well. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings or at the library.

Norma Burrows,
President

Meeting Notes

15th May – Pat Hopkins delivered a presentation on behalf of Lyn Larkin. She explained the recording system Lyn created to make it easy for members to locate a specific book. Books relating to a specific area are recorded under the relevant postcode. A prefix relevant to the subject matter of books is used for such categories as REF for reference material, BRIT for British related material etc.

Mandy Vaccaro gave an interesting presentation of what the Albury Library Museum holds that can help genealogists in their research. She also outlined what the Albury Library card gives access to. This was followed by her colleague Natalie Bittner telling us about the museum and how they decide what to display and how they decide what to do with donations. At times they need to apply for funding to preserve certain collections. Questions followed which the ladies answered.

19th June – The meeting started with Pat Hopkins presenting an overview of Google that she titled "There's more to Google—Google Google!!"

She mentioned a suggestion from Family search to use Google like a Librarian. The tabs at the top of your search page will help narrow your field. She also outlined using the plus and minus signs and quotation marks to make your search request more specific. The use of the asterisk is a useful wildcard. She also mentioned Google Alerts at <https://www.google.co.uk/alerts> where you can enter anything and create an alert that will email you when Google finds something relevant. Pat handed out a handy sheet of information to assist in getting the most out of Google. Pat's talk was followed by Denise Osborne speaking on the 150th celebrations to take place in Jindera on the weekend of 28th to 30th September this year. Events include a parade, a ball, a re-enactment of the arrival of the first settlers, and a wide variety of stalls. People will be in period costume. Denise also gave us some interesting historical facts and many of the names she mentioned are still in this area.

Denise invited us to have a stall to publicise our society.

17th July - The meeting began at 7.30pm with a short presentation from Wendy about Rootsweb Mailing Lists and their use in family history. The site had a problem some time ago and was shut down whilst a robust rebuild took place. Material is slowly being released and currently archives are mostly unavailable. Previously there was an option to have messages sent singly or in digest form. This option is not yet available.

Susie Zada followed with a most interesting and informative presentation on Wills and Probate. Many Victorian wills are available as digitised copies on the Public Records of Victoria [PROV] online.

Susie explained the process of ordering wills that are not yet online. There are now generic agreements with large databases such as Ancestry, Findmypast and Family Search that in return for digitising various records those digitised records are available through the 3rd party database for a set period of time (generally 3 years, but not always) - after that time PROV will put those images on their own web site for free access. In the meantime all the digitised images are available in PROV reading rooms at no charge.

Family Search will be digitising the wills and probates.

Susie illustrated her talk with some interesting case histories including one lady who was not actually married to the man with whom she was living and had children. When he died she sold off most of his property. No one questioned this as everyone thought they were married. Meantime his wife came forward, but the properties had already been sold.

Susie answered several questions then supper was served and people stayed around to discuss genealogy.

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September

Tuesday 18th September

This will be our AGM. The Nomination form is attached. Please consider joining the committee as new ideas and innovations are always welcome and help to make WFHS a progressive family history group.

Nominations must be received by the secretary by COB, **Monday 10th September 2018.**



Members' stories

The WFHS committee are always trying to encourage you, the members, to write short pieces for the newsletter.

The aim is to give you the confidence to keep writing short or longer pieces for yourself and your family to preserve and pass on your family's history.

It would be great if you wanted to share those stories with fellow members via this newsletter.

They can be as short as 300 words [half a page, depending on the font you use] up to a page and a half [approx. 900 words].

This article is submitted by Dr. Peter G. Habersberger via Wendy Cooksey

A Doctor Remembers

Dr Ian Paterson a regular visitor to Benambra for more than 60 years is a friend of Peter Habersberger and provided this remarkable story

**** A Doctor Remembers ****

As the sun was setting, I drove past the sign "Corryong, please slow down". It had been a long drive and a long day; in fact, it had been a long six years, although in retrospect the time had passed very quickly. I drove down the main street, turned right and up the hill to the hospital. Over the road from the hospital was a recently built cream brick house, rather different from most of those found elsewhere in Corryong. I stepped out of my car, knocked on the door, invited in and was shown to my room. This was to be my home for the next four weeks, as I was embarking on a career which continues to this day. My hosts were Dr Rob Harbison and his wife, Chubby, and their four children.

Over dinner, we briefly discussed what I was to do for the next four weeks, and who the patients were in the hospital over the road. I was also told that if I needed to do any surgery, Dr John Gooden, "is semi-retired, but still living in town, and would be available to give an anaesthetic if required." Early the following morning, the Harbison family left on vacation. Only forty-eight hours earlier, I had graduated MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery) from the University of Melbourne after a six-year comprehensive training program at the University of Melbourne and The Alfred Hospital. As part of my training, I had to spend two weeks with a rural general practitioner. I chose Dr Rob Harbison at Corryong, as it was the furthest place from Melbourne that was available for a student placement.

In those days, on graduating MBBS, one was immediately able to commence general practice wherever. Having graduated on Saturday afternoon, I presented myself to the Treasury Building at the top of Collins Street the following Monday, paid my 10 pounds registration fee, and immediately jumped in my car and drove to Corryong. This was what I wanted to do; be a rural general practitioner, having been encouraged and enthused by Dr Rob Harbison almost two years earlier.

On that occasion, I met a patient who had had a major operation in the Corryong District Hospital the previous week. He was working on the Snowy Mountain Scheme, and his car had run off the road into a creek and he fractured his leg. He was admitted to hospital, and his leg was placed in a plaster cast, but several days later, he suddenly collapsed, and Dr Harbison realised that he had suffered a pulmonary embolus or clot in the lung. Only a short time before, the first successful pulmonary embolectomy (clot removal from the pulmonary artery) had been performed in Australia, and knowing that this patient would be unlikely to survive unless he had prompt surgery, Dr Harbison knew that a thoracic surgeon, Mr Douglas Berryman was visiting Albury/Wodonga that day, so contacted him and asked if he had his instruments in the boot of his car, which he did. He asked if the surgeon could come urgently to Corryong, and so several hours later the surgeon opened the man's chest, and with Dr Harbison assisting and Dr John Gooden giving the anaesthetic, a large clot was removed from the man's pulmonary artery, and he survived.

I arrived there several days later whilst the man was recovering, and was absolutely amazed that this complex procedure could have been performed so well in a small, rural hospital. That man survived, and it was only a few years ago that he succumbed to old age.

Corryong in those days was the centre of a much larger community than it is today, and in addition to a larger township, there was Khancoban with approximately 2000 people and Bellavista and Geehi road camps with approximately 1000 workers, with Corryong as their main medical centre and only hospital.

The pipe factory, based in Corryong, produced the large pipes for Murray 1 and Murray 2 power stations, which were transported on huge semi-trailers from Corryong. The pipe factory was a constant source of patients, mainly with metallic foreign bodies in the eye, which needed to be carefully removed under local anaesthetic.

It was Dr Harbison that pioneered the use of aircraft in transporting patients from Corryong to either Wangaratta, to Mr Hal Stanistreet, or occasionally to Melbourne with spinal injuries. Patients were not allowed to be transferred over the border to Albury, as that was a different state with a different medical system to Victoria. On several occasions I travelled with patients in the Beaver aircraft, generously loaned as an ambulance by the Snowy Mountains Authority.

On one occasion I acted as a locum for Dr Bill Adey at Walwa. His was an unusual practice, in that it was the last practice in Victoria where the doctor also acted as the pharmacist, and after prescribing medication, one would go into the back room and prepare the mixture or carefully count out the tablets. As a young doctor, it was rather frightening to be let loose on the community, but on the other hand, it was a great challenge, and in those days, we were extremely well trained, and I was able to cope with the medical problems that presented at the surgery and at the hospital.

Although Rob Harbison left Corryong at the end of 1967, I continued to return to Corryong and act as a locum for the new doctors thereafter, until I went overseas in 1972. I was very sad to learn that some fifteen years ago, the Corryong District Hospital was downgraded and its theatre was closed, as I often think back to that patient with the pulmonary embolus, who lived because of a successful embolectomy in that operating theatre, under the care of two local general practitioners and one visiting surgeon. It just shows what can be done if the facilities are available.

The Upper Murray had made a profound impression on me, and although I never lived the dream of a rural general practice, I have gone out of my way to try and help rural general practitioners at every opportunity, as many of my colleagues have never experienced what it is like to be working by oneself in an isolated area.

It also spurred my love of the rural environment, so much so, that I now own a beautiful property at Ournie, and although far from Melbourne I try to get there at every opportunity.

Dr. Peter G. Habersberger AM. RFD. ** MBBS FRACP FCANZ AFAC As M
18 April 2018.

WRITING YOUR STORY

One of the aims of our society is to encourage members to write a story about what they have found from their research. This story shows what can be done and, I think, is a far more interesting read than looking at dates and events. Be inspired to write your own family stories and perhaps share them with our members by entering the Wayne Bedella or Townsend competitions or putting them in our Newsletter.

The story is from the Wayne Bedella Award Entry 2003 – Novice Section which is held in the Research Room of the Wodonga Library along with other stories from members.

The Life of Catherine my G/G/Grandmother

As written by Bob Curtain and submitted with his permission.

Tracing my family back from my father I found the comings and goings of his father's parents up to when I found my g/g/grandmother Catherine but unable to find when she arrived in Australia.

I found that on the 13th February 1866 she married and the certificate stated that she was widowed in 1857. When her husband died in 1897 at Tarrawingee she was left alone.

After finding her death the certificate stated that she had died of heart failure that was found from an inquest that was held into her death, she was eighty years of age.

This meant that a trip to the Public Records Office was the next step in finding the causes and thought that while I was there a look at her will would be of some help.

After going thru all the paper work to see the copies of them the first one that I was given to read was her will, and among other points of interest her solicitor stated in the probate how Catherine was almost blind and for the past eighteen months or so he had handled all of her affairs in paying her bills and looking after her money matters.

Then came the copy of the inquest and on the front it stated how the inquisition took place with the coroner and five members of the jury to view the body and how they said upon oath that Catherine had died, at this point I turn the page and it continues, as an inmate of

Her Majesty's Goal at Beechworth.

Now at this point of time all sorts of thoughts were racing thru my mind, what was poor old Grannie doing in goal, after all she was a near blind old lady of 80 years of age.

Reading further in the inquest report a Thomas Cahill who was a Mounted Constable from Everton was the arresting officer who went to her place of residence at Tarrawingee on the 11th September 1901 at 3 am, a strange time to be there thinking that the communication system would not be the same as what it is today.

The charge that he arrested her for was of insulting behaviour and she didn't appear to be in her right mind. She had lived at the house at Tarrawingee all alone. It also seemed that the way the Constable said there was no bed in the house and that there was a box that poor old Grannie was using for a table which had a bottle of whisky on it with two nobblers left in it, maybe old grannie had had a few too many. The Constable found one pound seven shillings on the box and a further four one pound notes were lying on the floor, which I thought was a tidy sum for back in them days.

When in the lock-up at Everton grannie complained of being hungry and the Constable gave her some breakfast.

Later that morning she appeared in the Beechworth Court and was charged with insulting behaviour and was remanded to appear in Beechworth court on the 18th September. She was admitted into the goal at 11-30am the same day.

A Dr Haynes saw her soon after she was there and he also saw her around 6pm that same day as she had complained of not feeling well.

The warders thru out the night looked in at her thru the trap door of her cell door and said that in the early part of the night she was moaning a little but then seemed to have settled down and gone to sleep.

The next morning according to Dr Haynes, the duty warder found her dead, and his verdict was that she died of heart failure during the night.

So ended the life of Catherine Curtain on the 12th September 1901, but it makes me wonder how the last years of her life was spent being alone and going blind was it heart failure the real cause of death or maybe a broken heart.

The November issue of the newsletter will coincide with 100yrs since WW1 ended. It would be great if members were to share a family story connected with the war. A sample is below.

Send your story to our Editor Christine, with WFHS Newsletter in the Subject, at chrisyou@bigpond.net.au

THE WAR AND MY FAMILY [This article is submitted by Pat Hopkins]

The First World War touched every family in Australia as close to 417,000 enlisted from a population of less than 4 million with over 60,000 killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. I found this item in the Rutherglen Sun (9 Feb 1917 p.2) when I was searching Trove for a land sale. Mrs Annie Briggs was my mother's aunt.

What is your family story? Perhaps you could submit it for the next Newsletter.

RED CROSS WORK

ACKNOWLEDGING THE RECEIPT OF RED CROSS GOODS

Mrs Annie Briggs, Lake Moodemere, has received the following letter from a Scotch soldier in Egypt who received a shirt from the Australian Red Cross parcels, and in the pocket of the shirt, was a slip of paper with her name on. The letter reads as follows:- My dear Australian Friend,- the other day some gifts arrived from the Australian Red Cross society and in the pocket of a shirt which was presented to me I found your little slip of paper containing your address, so I am taking this opportunity of dropping you a little note. You might be surprised to learn that I am not an Australian, but the next best thing, a Scotchman, from the Old Country. I left home for active service on 5th June, 1914, and spent six months on Gallipoli Peninsula, and was then sent to Egypt, and have been on the Canal defences ever since. Here I have been in two small scraps, the first being Ducidar, where a few Scotchmen held up a force of Turks two or three times their own number.

The second engagement was at Romani, where the Australian Light Horse did so well, backed up by the Scotchmen once more. There are hopes of us all going into another scrap together, just to give old Johnny another rattling up. We have (I mean Scotchmen) come into contact with Australians quite a lot out here, and seem to get on well together and make really good friends. I must tell you what happened the last time gifts arrived from the Red Cross. They came just a day before the battle of Romani, August 3rd, so we had to lay everything aside, then pack up and follow on with the Advance, expecting to return in two or three days, but we never went back, so lost the gifts. It looks as if it were going to be a repetition this time, but we will get a little more time to think. One thing I must remark about this country, and that is its beautiful climate. We have been here about 11 months, and I could count on one hand the number of showers we have had. The sun is always bright, and there are very few clouds to be seen. The summer was extremely warm, but now the days are pleasant and the nights are chilly. At present we only have one blanket, but this is more for convenience, as we are a Mobile Section, and are constantly on the move. Some weeks we shift camp as many as five times. Our equipment is all of the very lightest, and is carried per camel. The camel is rather a peculiar animal to work with, as it never makes friends with you like a horse, but will bite when your back is turned; its mouth is always filthy, which makes the bite always turn septic. I will enclose my address, so if you would like to send a note I would be very pleased to receive it. - Pte. George A. Ritchie.

A request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission:

"Can you help us?

We're looking to contact relatives of the following First and Second World War casualties listed here: <http://ow.ly/mPi130kLPC>

Surnames mentioned:

CURNOW; DAVIES; EVANS; FORD; FRANCIS;
GIBBONS; GOBLE; HARDS; RUSSELL; WAKEFORD

If you are related to one of the above casualties and can provide the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with documentation, contact the UKNA Technical Team at enquiries@cwgc.org "

Graham Oke 6th January 1935 - 3rd June 2018

Graham Oke was one of the very early members of our society. He was an enthusiastic researcher and was always willing to guide new members, getting them started on the right track with their hobby. He was the Minutes Secretary for a few years and his perfectly hand written minutes were a pleasure to read. Graham never embraced the technological age, preferring to use paper and pen, and read newspapers and books in paper format.

Graeme was on the sub-committee tasked with negotiating with the Wodonga Library and Council to secure a suitable section in the Wodonga Library for us to house our genealogical collection, microfiche readers and computers to enable our members and the public to access everything in one convenient location.

He used his skills as one of a six-person sub-committee responsible for creating and coordinating the VAFHO conference held in Albury in 2001. He and his wife, Noelle virtually put their lives on hold for a year whilst working to ensure a professional event. This resulted in our society being very much in the black.

Apart from family history, Graham was a talented musician and vocalist. Always ready to do things for the community, he played a leading role in running the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod and sang with Sing Australia.

Graeme will be sadly missed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Society:-

Wayne Sewell; Gail Brown; Geoff Langsworth; Cate Taylor;

Karen Viney; Kim Prenter; Carolyn Renfrey

Please use the resources which are available at the library. There are many books, etc. which cover items which are not online. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

PROJECTS

Work is still underway transcribing the Wodonga Waterworks Trust Registers and the Shire records for nightsoil removal. Christine has joined us and is busy transcribing the Wodonga dog Fees Cashbook which actually is a register of dogs and their owners from 1945 – 1956. Of course you would want to know that R. Richardson paid 10/- to register his tan and blue kelpies and that R.E.R Nichols paid 5/- for his yellow sheep dog in June 1945. Apparently, law in Victoria required all dogs to be registered and set the fee to be paid. Another book of interest is the Sheep Dip Register from 1927 - 1945. Law was passed in Victoria in 1910 requiring all sheep owners to protect their animals against ticks and lice immediately after shearing. Council provided a dip at the saleyards as well as the liquid and assisted with the process. It was an essential service especially for small sheep owners. The names of the farmers and the date they paid their dipping fee are recorded. Occasionally the number of sheep the farmer dipped was also listed. First entry is for R.W. Rapsey on 28th October 1927. As you can see we do have a number of local projects to complete.

RECORDS FOR SALE

