

BORDERLINE NEWS



August 2019
newsletter no. 171

What's Happening Next for our Society:

20th August – *Did you know* subject: www.genuki.org.uk will be presented by Wendy Cooksey.
Our guest speaker will be Charles Fransen who's subject will be "Searching Government Gazettes".

17th September – Annual General Meeting

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 sent to the WFHS secretary by COB, **Monday 9th September 2019**.



This will be followed by a Brick Wall discussion – "Let's help Carole find some elusive Scottish kin".

15th October – *Did you know* subject: www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz will be presented by Barbara Baxter.
Our guest speaker will be Rob Hamilton who's subject will be "Freemason records for Genealogists".

Disclaimer: *The WFHS Inc. does not accept any responsibility for opinions or accuracy of information contained in this newsletter.
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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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/>

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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.

The AGM is held in September each year.

Committee members

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

Barbara Baxter Mary Fraser Janette Griggs Pat Hopkins
Lyn Larkin Alice Lindsay 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.

Members are always welcome to attend the committee meetings. The committee meetings are held at 5 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Rainbow Room at the Felltimber Community Centre in West Wodonga [Cnr of Melrose Drive and Felltimber Creek Road]. This is the same room and evening as our general meetings. Come along and find out more about how your society runs.

President's Report

I hope you are all keeping warm on these cold, wintry days. This time of year is a great opportunity to get some research done and write your stories.

Despite the weather we are pleased to see so many of you attending meetings. Great work Janette for putting together such a diverse and interesting programme. Janette would be interested to hear from you if you have any special subjects you would like covered in 2020.

Library – We do not have any further news, at this time, as to when we will be moving to High Street. However Lyn, with the help of Christine, has been sorting through our resources so our move will be as smooth as possible. We will not be able to take the entire contents of our library to the temporary premises but they will be stored close by, where they will be accessible. We will, of course, be offering the same service to our members in the new premises. We will let you know as soon as further details come to hand.

Did you enter a story in our Bedella or Townsend Award competition? Winners will be announced at our August meeting.

Our September meeting will be our AGM and attached is a nomination form. New committee members are needed so the club can be invigorated with new voices and ideas. We welcomed Alice Lindsay as a new committee member in June.

As I was in Queensland for part of April and May I would like to thank all who took part in the Felltimber Expo, Leneva plant sale and Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Help at these events is so vital to the continued success of our club.

Sadly Lynda Cuper, one of our very dedicated members, passed away in May after a short illness. We will miss her enthusiasm and friendship.

I look forward to seeing you soon – at the library or at our meetings.

Norma Burrows, President

VALE LYNDA CUPER

It is with much regret we advise the passing of our esteemed and long serving member Lynda Cuper. Lynda passed away in May after a short illness.

She was very involved with the club from the time she joined. She was a member of our committee for many years and served as Publicity Officer.

She promoted the club wherever she went – even on her winter trips to warmer places each year. Lynda was also part of the group of members who transcribe records each Monday at the library. She was a very hardworking and willing member and we will miss her commitment, enthusiasm and friendship.

We have extended our deepest sympathy to her husband Jerry and family.

The Mitta Mitta Primary School is celebrating 150 years of existence on Saturday 12th October this year. The school is situated at 27 Giltrap Road Mitta Mitta Vic 3701. Contact number is 02 6072 3570.

If you have any photos or memorabilia for the celebrations you can send them to mitta.mitta.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Meeting Notes

21st May – Norma expressed the sadness we all feel at the passing after a very short illness of our hard working member, Lynda Cuper.

Christine presented the five minute 'Did You Know' session on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. She gave everyone a handout and walked us through various aspects of the site including details of cemeteries with graves connected to war dead. Wodonga Cemetery has one grave relating to WW1 and one relating to WW2. Christine also mentioned a new aspect of the CWGC site, a sound project at <https://liberation.cwgc.org>. You can listen to podcasts of historic events relating to the war. More podcasts are in the process of being added.

This was followed by Diana Johnson from the Bonegilla Migrant Experience.

She gave us a very informative talk about the history of the Bonegilla Migrant Centre including how the White Australia Policy influenced the selection of migrants. For example, people from the north of Italy were acceptable but those from the south were not as their skin was too dark.

She described the conditions in which the migrants found themselves. For example when they arrived by train, the 'railway station' was a paddock in the middle of nowhere and it was usually pretty dark by the time they got there.

Men could be sent to Queensland to work whilst their wives and children stayed behind. Most migrants made a good life for themselves in their new country.

After the talk, members chatted over a cuppa.

18th Jun – The meeting started at 7.30pm with Norma advising some housekeeping information. This was followed by a presentation from Mary on genealogy courses online. She told of some courses that are up to \$800 per unit which generally include a certificate on completion whilst others, such as the ones run by Future Learn, run by Strathclyde in Glasgow are free and very well constructed. The one at Strathclyde provides a certificate for a small fee.

Mary also mentioned social media as a tool in researching and gave examples of how useful it can be. She handed out a page of useful Genealogy Facebook sites.

Mary's presentation was followed by a webinar on DNA.

Louise Coakley was the presenter. She dealt in depth with the different types of DNA kits available and the type of information you would get from each. Some sites offering DNS testing include, Living DNA, Family Tree DNA, Findmypast, Ancestry and My Heritage. The best site to deal with is Ancestry as you can upload the results to certain other sites, whereas you cannot upload other sites' results to Ancestry. Some include return postage; others may require \$3 return postage.

If you wanted to upgrade from one type of testing there may be a fee of around \$29. There are a couple of different types of kits. Some require you to spit into a tube whilst others need you to swab the inside of your mouth.

Louise advised she will send a copy of her talk to Janette for distribution to members.

Members chatted whilst having supper.

16th Jul - Norma went through the housekeeping and was followed by Alice with a 'Did You Know' session stressing the importance of oral history. As this was the 50th anniversary of the moon landing she spoke about where people were at that momentous time. Some members spoke about their memories of that time.

Alice also showed two books, one to read to children and one for adults to read. Alice told members they should talk about their own history and memories to their families as these events are important to future generations.

This was followed by a presentation from Sarah Ryan from the State Library of Victoria on geo referencing maps for family history. Historical data can be overlaid with current maps to identify the current locations of a building, street, etc. For example around 1870, Stephens St in Melbourne was renamed Exhibition Street.

Much of the work is being undertaken by the PROV and the National Library of Australia who are looking to the public to assist.

When overlaying the maps the user creates control points with at least four points recommended to ensure an accurate result. Features such as mills, farmland, bridges, homes etc. can be identified.

Geo referencing is useful when consulting WW1 trench maps on the Western front. There are also maps relating to maritime expeditions from the 14th century. Many of these historic maps can be accessed at the State Library of Victoria in the Heritage Collections Room. It is a secure facility and you need to make arrangements prior to your visit.

A useful handout prepared by Sarah was handed out.

Supper was served and members and chatted before going home.

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PROJECTS

We are having a very busy time on Mondays as we try to complete transcribing the Wodonga shire record books and get our computer records in order prior to the move to temporary accommodation. It is not possible to take our computers so it has given us an opportunity to look at what we have and what we need for the future. A time consuming activity.

A project you might like to try at home.

Many of us are reluctant to write our stories. We know what stories we have discovered in our research but just keep putting off recording them, either orally or in writing. Family Tree has a challenge for their readers to write their story (well a part of it) in 1000 words. Perhaps that could be an incentive for us to get started – not necessarily for their publication but for our own records. Have a look at <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/>. One of the best sites available and you can receive their latest information free of charge.

Many of us attended Vince Black's Workshops. This is another project that needs to be shared. Even if you didn't attend your story is important and should be shared. Perhaps a short account of what was found could be shared at the November meeting!

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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].

The following article is submitted by Alice Lindsay:

Do you recall the books that were read to you as a young person or you read as a young person? Have these books influenced you in your life? Thoughts, knowledge, passion about an issue, created an interest or hobby?

The power of words can assist us to recall smell, colour, feelings, touch and experiences that sometimes can be forgotten.

My family was read to every night by our mother. She read books to us about Brer Fox, Water Babies, The Gum Nuts books by May Gibbs. The list was endless. At school I was enthralled by The Victorian Readers. These were filled with history stories, poetry and intriguing facts about the world.

I still have my books about "The Kittens that Lost their Mittens" and Lucie Attwell's Annual.

The drawings in these books took me to another land and encouraged me to draw.

As an older reader, I read Mary Grants Bruce's books and Black Beauty, which always brought tears to my eyes. I recall reading the diary of Florence Nightingale in the school library, being told by the librarian it was too old for me. I loved that book; the photos were amazing, perhaps that is what influenced my career path.

The role of Historical Novels:

These books give an amazing insight to how, when, what, how and why, to a period in history. This can assist in helping to picture what our amazing ancestors went through, setting the scene, how they prepared their food, what they wore, how they carried out their work, how the family was organized, what was happening at the period of time they were living, towns, countries and events. The research in these novels has been done by archaeologists, museums, historical researchers and found in historical documents. Often in the Introduction, Acknowledgements, Bibliography and Indexes, further information is found. Then, we can add dates and names to the scene and these amazing ancestors become real and are part of our family story, not just a date and name.

Some books of interest:

- Auel, Jean: Children of Earth series
- Courtney, Bryce: Matthew Flinders Cat
- Follet, Ken: Edge of Eternity; Pillars of the Earth, (movie also); World without End; Winter of the World
- Gabaldon, Diana: Outlander series, (TV series also)
- Gordon, Noah: The Physician, (11th Century London – early medical history)
- Graham, Winston: Poldark, (TV series also)
- Iturbe, Antonio: The Librarian of Auschwitz (based in the life of Dita Kraus)
- Keneally, Tom: American Scoundrel; The Great Shame; The People’s Train
- Michener, James: Centennial; Poland (there are many more covering different parts of the world)
- Nunn, Judy: Beneath the Southern Cross
- Robertson, Craig: Buckley’s Chance (1803, a convict living with aboriginal people)
- Rutherford, Edward: London; Sarum; The Forest
- Swiss, Deborah: The Tin Ticket (Australian Convict Women, Tasmania)
- For Young Readers:
- Sandhu, Jo: Cave Bear Mountains (these books give information about early man); Clan of the Mammoth; Clan of the Wolves; Tarin of the Mammoths

What books have you gained knowledge from about the life of your families? We would love to hear about them.

Wodonga is going to have a new library on the current site. The current library is due to be demolished in October this year. As a result of this, WFHS will be moving, probably during September, for the period of the demolition and rebuild of the new library [approx. 2 years].

Our temporary home will be with the Wodonga Library at the old Sports Store [near the Post Office] at 194 High Street Wodonga.

As a result of this move we will have to downsize, so some of our books will be for sale. A list of these will be provided, in the near future, on our website.

Lyn, our librarian, has been working feverishly to determine which books are to be kept that will be of most benefit to members’ research. I have been assisting her and have found a number of books that have helped me and I don’t have any ancestors from the local area.

I will be including a series of articles in the next few newsletters to highlight as many books as possible to demonstrate the wealth of knowledge that is contained

in our book collection. They are displayed in the Research Room in the following categories, and can be borrowed: AUS [Australia which does include some books relating to Aborigines and Military]; BRT [British Isles which does include some books relating to Irish, Military and Scotland]; CEM [Cemeteries]; CNV [Convicts]; FAM [Family Histories]; GEN [General]; SHP [Shipping & Immigration].

There are also a series of books under the category REF [Reference which includes some maps and posters] that cannot be borrowed but can be used in the Research Room.

Postcode: Our postcode range is 2444 001 to 2899 for NSW and 3000 to 3898 for VIC. A sample of the books in the 3690 postcode is below.

This encompasses many books regarding Wodonga and its people [Ref: 3690 001-018, 020 and 031-035]; plus Bonegilla [Ref: 3690 019, 021-029 and 033] and Bethanga [Ref: 3690 033].

- Wodonga: the subjects include extracts from the Wodonga and Towong Sentinel newspaper between 1887 and 1888; the Mercy Sisters who founded the St Joseph's convent in High Street; history of the Wodonga State School; Wodonga West Primary School; a pictorial history of Wodonga from 1865-1965; Wodonga Urban Fire Brigade; Wodonga Saleyards; the Rotary Club of Wodonga; early hotels of Wodonga.
- Bonegilla: the subjects include a story about 28 lads from the Bonegilla district who fought in WW1; the Dutch experience at Bonegilla; the Baltic people at Bonegilla; the young people at Bonegilla; migrants in North East Victoria; the army at Bonegilla; the beginning of Bonegilla; the Bonegilla Hall; the Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre; a pictorial history of Bonegilla; early hotels of Bonegilla.
- Bethanga: early hotels of Bethanga.

The books in the 3690 category have pictures and lots and lots of names.

Christine Young

Members are reminded that subs were due by the end of *July*. They remain at \$25 per year.

If you haven't had time to pay yet then you can pay them: at our Research Room when we are open [see page 2]; by mail to PO Box 289, Wodonga 3689; at our next meeting; or transfer the money into the society's account:

Wodonga Family History Soc Inc
Hume Bank
BSB: 640000
Account: 11115547 (that is five 1s, then 5547)

If you choose transferring into our account, please do two things:

Put your name as the reference/description and email the secretary [see page 2] to let her know you have paid electronically.

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Wendy Cooksey has provided the following information:

“The Australian Joint Copying Project” (AJCP)

The AJCP is a project spanning 10,400 microfilm reels containing over four million pages of documentation. It is the result of an undertaking in the UK to film all records relating to Australia New Zealand and the Pacific region. However, there are records included from Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore and Antarctica.

The period covered is from 1580 to 1975, with most records relating to the period from 1765 to 1945.

In 1945 an agreement was signed by the National Library of Australia and the State Library of New South Wales to copy relevant material that was held in repositories in the UK. For ten

years from 1948 the filming was focussed on London's Public Record Office. Other places filming took place include Northern Ireland's PRO, Genealogical Officer (of Arms) Dublin, The India Office library, English County Record Offices, various societies, museums, business firms, legal firms, The India Office as well as private collections.

Some records could not be filmed due to copyright restrictions or repositories refusing permission to film. The types of records include diaries, speeches, reports, logbooks, military pay lists, military muster rolls, photographs, Home Office and Treasury records, lists of soldiers and settlers, petitions, letters from individuals, convicts, prison records, Foreign Office records, War Office records and more.

The contents of the reels are listed in ten volumes of the handbook. In spite of the wealth of information contained on these microfilms, they have been largely unused, as this collection is difficult to navigate and locate the records required. However, the National Library of Australia has begun a project to digitise the 10,400 reels of microfilm. It is expected to be completed by 30th June 2020, and will be available online free of charge. Content will be released monthly and is summarised on the Project News page of this site.

For more information about the project, and to search the content currently digitised go to: <https://www.nla.gov.au/content/australian-joint-copying-project>

Wodonga Council issued certificates to servicemen and women who enlisted, from Wodonga, during WW2. They were to be presented in February and August 1946. However, ten remained unclaimed. Several years ago the Council gave the Wodonga Family History Society the unclaimed certificates in the hope members could locate the intended recipients or their families.

Despite all of our efforts none of the recipients were located and it was thought that perhaps the families had moved from the area. A list with some additional information located by our members was put up on our website in the hope that someone from the servicemen and women's families would claim them.

On 16th July this year Jane, the niece of one of the men, called into our library to enquire whether we could help locate her Uncle Gerald Nelder's certificate. Yes, we could! It has now been sent to his son in Queensland and Jane has written an article for us about Gerald.

E.S. BUTT

Walter CRAIG

Elvin R. DOW *{Elvin died in Yarrawonga in 1977 age 61 years.*

Registration number 3544.

Father: David Henry DOW. Mother: Margaret McGUIRE}

James G HUNT *{James is buried in Wodonga and may not have married}*

Ethel JOYCE

Gerald D. NELDER ***(claimed by his niece on 16th July 2019)***

Maurice PARKER

A.F. SEDGWICK

H.J. THOMAS

Edward WOODS

If any of these people are related to you, please contact the Wodonga Family History Society.

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## Gerald (Gerry) Dyson NELDER

Gerald was born in Shepparton in March 1926. He was the eighth of ten children and fifth son of Les and May Nelder. His formative years were spent on the family farm 'Nallem Bert' on the banks of the Goulburn River at Shepparton Park, where they grew tobacco. Les was a PMG Linesman, so the children were expected to help with the farm work. Education was taken at the two room Shepparton Park State School close by.

After the tragic loss of two children within months, Les and May decided on a fresh start in Wodonga. The family moved to 13 South Street in late 1935. Gerald attended the Wodonga State School and then Wodonga Higher Elementary School with two of his siblings, Edna and Evol.

After finishing school, he undertook a motor mechanic apprenticeship at Tooles Garage on the corner of High and Stanley Streets. Being well built for his age a, 'well-wisher' sent him a white feather when he was 15. Gerald enlisted in the Army, only to be removed after much effort by his mother May. However, as soon as he was of age he re-enlisted, this time in the RAAF and worked as a mechanic. During the war he served in the Pacific. Returning to Wodonga after discharge, he ran a carrying business for a while from his parents address.

Gerald then realised his ambition to follow in his maternal grandfather's footsteps by becoming a policeman with the Victorian Police Force. During his service, he worked in: Shepparton, Bendigo and Russell Street Headquarters Melbourne. After assisting to break up an SP bookie ring in Shepparton, he decided to leave the force.

He moved north where he married and raised his family. Always a keen fisherman, he had a prawn trawler in Queensland for some years after leaving a position at Vale's Point Power Station.

Currently Gerald is with his family in Far North Queensland where he is in nursing care. Sadly not in the best of health.

By Jane Runciman – niece of Gerald D Nelder.

*Notes*

*Les Nelder sold 13 South Street the Mann family who demolished it for a carpark. It was located where K-Mart Tyre Store is now.*

*Gerald may also have attended Albury High School.*

*Siblings who also served during WWII:*

*Linton (Lin) Leslie Nelder RAAF (not killed in action)*

*Jane Evol (Ev) Nelder RAN*



**RECORDS FOR SALE**

If you wish to view/purchase the records that the WFHS hold on CD or DVD you can navigate to our website: <http://wodongafamilyhistory.org/> and click the Sales hyperlink.

All CD's cost \$20 each and all DVD's cost \$25 each.

There is a packaging and posting [p&p] charge:

- \$5 for 1 or 2 CD's and/or DVD's;
- \$10 for 3 or 4 CD's and/or DVD's, unless otherwise stated.

**Please note:** all CD's and DVD's are Word and Excel compatible.

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