

BORDERLINE NEWS



August 2020
newsletter no. 175

What's Happening Next for our Society:

18th August – Due to the Covid 19 restrictions there won't be a members meeting in August.

15th September – This is supposed to be our AGM but due to the Covid 19 restrictions it will be moved to 15th December. There won't be a members meeting in September. We will combine our annual Christmas party with the AGM. Further details will be provided in the November newsletter. The Nomination form for a position on the Committee for the 2020-2021 season will be attached to the November newsletter.

20th October - Due to the Covid 19 restrictions we are unsure if there will be a members meeting. We will keep you informed.



Keep smiling everyone and stay healthy.

Disclaimer: *The WFHS Inc. does not accept any responsibility for opinions or accuracy of information contained in this newsletter. Information is reproduced in this publication for educational purposes.*

Newsletter of the Wodonga Family History Society Inc.

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Web site: www.wodongafamilyhistory.org

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

The Research Area is situated in the premises of the temporary Wodonga Library in High Street, Wodonga VIC. The opening hours for research are Tuesday & Wednesday from 11am to 3pm and Thursday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm however the area is currently closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month [except December] at 7.30pm at the Felltimber Community Centre, cnr Felltimber Creek Road and Melrose Drive, Wodonga. Entry is via Ritter Road. Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic the meetings are temporarily postponed.

The Wodonga Library reopened on Monday 1st June with strict rules applying. Due to the restricted space in the Research area the WFHS Committee decided not to reopen that space yet.

If you are the holder of a Wodonga Library card you can access the Ancestry database using the Library's' computers.

Any research enquiries can be directed either via email to

secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

or send your request via post to PO Box 289 Wodonga Vic 3689 and follow the following directions:

Research enquiries: *If you wish our Research Officer to do research for you, via post, please include a business sized, stamped, self addressed envelope with your enquiry details. Whether your request is via email or post 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.*

The initial research cost is \$25.00 unless you only have a single straight forward look-up from our records then the cost will be \$5.

Payment of email and postal requests must be received prior to commencement of research or lookup. Payment via EFT/transfer is preferred.

Bank details: Hume Bank

BSB: 640 000

Account: 111115547

If depositing money in the Society's account, please advise the secretary, by email, what the payment is for at: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

The requests will be passed on to the Research officer.

Members, if you have a brick wall, send an email to secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org detailing your problem. The information will then be forwarded to the email list of members to see what ideas they can offer you.

The secretary [Wendy] will then circulate any suggestions as the suggestions may help others in their research.

This service is not intended for other members to do your research for you - it is to offer guidance on areas of research you can explore to break down your brick walls.

Once the Research area is reopened researchers please note that you cannot access the WFHS Research records until you have signed the attendance book in the Research area. ***Items cannot be returned through the Library after hour's chute or to the Regional Library staff.*** They must be returned to the Research Area during the designated opening hours mentioned above.

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 1st April & 30th June] \$10.00 + joining fee

Membership fees are due and payable in July of each year.
The AGM is held in September each year.

Membership fees

Membership fees, as shown above, were due in July. If you have not already paid then please do so asap.

You are requested to pay your subscription via bank transfer or by going into a branch of the Hume Bank to pay over the counter.

- If you pay via bank transfer [640 000] the account number is 111115547. Please put a note on the payment to indicate it is for subs and add your name (sometimes information is not provided therefore we do not know who has paid).
- If you wish to pay at a branch of the Hume Bank the account number is 111115547.

Branches are located at:

492 Olive St, Albury
Myer Centrepont, Albury (near the car park)
Lavington Square Shopping Centre
Thurgoona Plaza Shopping Centre
Whitebox Rise Shopping Centre, Wodonga
Wodonga Place, cnr Elgin Boulevard and High Street
Rutherglen Newsagency
Yackandandah High Street

Please be advised that this will be the last newsletter that you receive if you decide not to remain a member of the WFHS.

Committee members

President	Norma Burrows	phone: 02 6024 1591	
Vice President	Janette Griggs		
Treasurer	Sue Jarvis		
Secretary & Public Officer	Wendy Cooksey	phone: 02 6056 3220	
Pat Hopkins	Ann Kerin	Lyn Larkin	Alice Lindsay
Pam Nulty	Carolyn Renfrey	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.

The committee meetings are usually 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.

Members were always welcome to attend the committee meetings before the Covid 19 pandemic. However this is not viable at the moment.

Since the March Committee meeting there has not been one until July which was conducted following the Covid 19 protocols. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for September.

The seminar that was being arranged for August/September to reinforce the three R's for recording family history information: **Research, Record and Relate** your family history information has now been postponed until August 2021.

President's Report

Our lives continue to be lived around the virus which just will not go away. The experts say we are not going to see the back of it until we get a vaccine – that still seems to be a long time in the future. We will just have to abide by the rules until life returns to “normal”.

Ancestry and Trove are continuing to be available on the Wodonga library's website.

Work continues on the new Wodonga library site.

If you are looking for somewhere different to research I found the following website information in the July issue of Family Tree. I hope it may be helpful to you.

Discovery - This lists not only what the National Archives (TNA) has at Kew, but also the holdings of more than 2500 repositories around the UK.

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Scan - The Scottish Archive Network's catalogue covers thousands of collections throughout Scotland in both private and public hands. www.scan.org.uk/aboutus/indexonline.htm

Catholic Heritage – A joint catalogue for several major UK and European Catholic archives, with a tremendous range of record types. <https://archive.catholic-heritage.net/default.aspx>

We held a committee meeting on 21st July. Our AGM will not be held in September and we have applied to the relevant authority for an extension. We will let you know the new date as soon as we can – this of course depends on what is happening with the virus. In the meantime, thanks to Wendy, we are keeping up to date with what is happening in the genealogical world.

I am looking forward to being able to welcome you to a meeting in the not too distant future.

Stay safe and well.

Norma Burrows, President

PROJECTS - Pat Hopkins

Our Monday project group has been forced into lock down because of the virus but it has given me the opportunity to organise some of our projects. The Wodonga council books are all finished and the information available for researchers. The Wodonga Anglican marriage certificates – the ones the bride and groom sign at the ceremony – have been organised for easy access. It was one of those things put off for another day and now it is possible for anyone who had a family member married at St Luke's between 1898 and 1950 to obtain a copy of the originals.

In February I photographed baptism records for the Church of England at Wahgunyah and Rutherglen at the Regional archives centre at Wagga as some of our members expressed dismay that they had to travel to see the books. Apparently the area had been without an incumbent Minister until 1863 but before the Wodonga library closed we had transcribed the records for Wahgunyah 1864-1869 and started on St Stephen's 1867 to 1897. The records for 1897 to 1904 are now transcribed. These records show the date of birth of the child, the date of baptism, the names of parents and usually the maiden name of the mother and the father's occupation. For family historians these church records are another source of vital information.

The records show that on some occasion's parents brought along a number of children to be baptised and at other times, families – brothers and sisters and their families - would have babies baptised on the same day and obviously the event was cause for great celebration. Things I noticed were that some babies were given three or four names such as Catherine Harriet Lucy or William Charles Baden Powell; that spelling could differ from the norm, such as Hendryetta; or future family historians might get extra clues from names like Dionysius Isaac or William Edward Daw.

The other project completed was the Out of Sessions Wodonga Court of Petty Sessions books for 1956-1960 and 1961-1963. You may recall that we have transcribed a number of Court books previously including Walwa and Tallangatta. These Wodonga books have been waiting for some time to be transcribed and they relate to cases in the Wodonga area.

The main crimes at the time were being drunk and disorderly, using indecent language, having insufficient means of support and vagrancy. All offenders usually pleaded guilty, were convicted and discharged but some received a jail sentence which would be most unlikely today. Back then there was little support for these offenders and a bed and food in the lock up or at Beechworth would have seemed humane. One offender was sent to Pentridge for six months – possibly a repeat offender.

Riotous behaviour on 17th July 1961 at Bonegilla with six men charged made me want to know more (actually eleven in total). Apparently a peaceful demonstration about work and living conditions at Bonegilla Migrant camp got out of hand and a police officer was hurt. The case was later heard at Rutherglen court and the charges dismissed. The men from Germany and Italy were remorseful but had managed to let Australia know that their lives were not as the government had promised.

The interesting thing was that the six Germans were represented by Mr C. Holding and the five Italians were represented by Mr Galbally, a leading Melbourne solicitor. The dissatisfaction among migrants had been going on for some time so it is amazing what you can find by searching Trove.ⁱ And if you do you will notice that the website has undergone changes. Take the time to work out how to use the site effectively as it is a wonderful resource for social and family history.

The Trove reference refers to Canberra Times 21 Sep 1961

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. The story 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 Spanish Flu of 1919 in Australia

The Spanish flu did not originate in Spain but it was called that because Spain was the 1st country to report cases of it. Wartime censorship in other countries meant Spain was the first place it received widespread press attention.

The 'Spanish flu' pandemic emerged at the end of the First World War, with about 500 million people infected. Many believe it probably started in army training camps on the Western Front. The virus spread rapidly around the world as soldiers returning from the war brought it back to their home countries. It killed more than 50 million people worldwide.

Despite a swift quarantine response in October 1918, cases of Spanish flu began to appear in Australia in early 1919 which had a population of 5million at that time. About 40 per cent of the population fell ill and around 15,000 died as the virus spread through Australia.

Unusually, the Spanish flu affected healthy young adults [around 25-40] much more than its usual targets: children, the elderly or those with weakened immune systems.

In Australia, the virus became known as 'pneumonic influenza'.

Because of its remoteness from Europe, Australia had months to make necessary preparations.

The first line of defence was to try to prevent the virus reaching the Australian mainland. The Australian Quarantine Service monitored the spread of the pandemic and implemented maritime quarantine on 17 October 1918 after learning of outbreaks in New Zealand and South Africa.

Over the next six months the service intercepted 323 vessels, 174 of which carried the infection. Of the 81,510 people who were checked, 1,102 were infected.

The federal government's second line of defence was to establish a consistent response in handling and containing any pneumonic influenza outbreaks that might occur in Australia.

It held a national influenza planning conference in Melbourne on 26–27 November 1918, at which state health ministers, the directors-general of their health departments and British Medical Association representatives met with Commonwealth personnel.

The conference agreed to the federal government taking responsibility for proclaiming which states were infected along with organising maritime and land quarantine. The states would arrange emergency hospitals, vaccination depots, ambulance services, medical staff and public awareness measures.

Australia closed its international borders to non-residents.

The first case of pneumonic influenza appeared in Melbourne on 9 or 10 January 1919.

Early cases were so mild, however, that there was initially confusion about whether the virus was the Spanish flu, or simply a continuation of the seasonal flu virus from the previous winter.

This uncertainty delayed the confirmation of an outbreak from Victorian health authorities, which allowed the infection to spread to New South Wales and South Australia by the end of January 1919. New South Wales was the first state to officially proclaim an outbreak of pneumonic influenza on 27 January 1919, with Victoria following suit the next day.

The other states viewed Victoria's delay in confirming the outbreak as a breach of the November agreement made with the Commonwealth. Soon each state made their own arrangements for handling and containing outbreaks, including organising their own border controls.

Governments introduced travel bans, quarantine rules and social distancing measures. Cinemas and festivals were closed down. Schools, theatres, dance halls, churches, pubs and other places of public congregation were shut, streets were sprayed, special isolation depots were established and people were compelled to wear masks in public.

Movement by public transport was restricted to reduce crowding and state borders were closed; quarantine camps were established.

People were asked to not congregate in shops and places like that and they were urged to practice personal preventive measures such as cough etiquette, hand washing, ventilation and disinfection.

By March of 1919, Victorians thought the Spanish flu was beaten.

Schools reopened on 18th March following an extended summer break and border restrictions were modified.

The Age proclaimed on 10th March that the weekend's reopening of Melbourne theatres marked an end to the "ridiculous state of affairs" imposed by a "panic stricken government" that had unfairly forced citizens to "mope at home and get influenza of the brain".

But within weeks of restrictions easing, the Pneumonic Influenza A (H1N1) returned with even more ferocity and infections soared.

As with confirmed COVID-19 cases today, people with Spanish flu, and their close contacts, were ordered to self-isolate at home. However, without any government assistance there were no options but to continue to work. Many households even kept their illness secret.

The fine in 1919, should you get caught defying stay-at-home orders, was £20. In today's money that is about \$1600, which is remarkably close to the current penalty of \$1652.

In a short time, hospitals were overwhelmed and health care workers pushed to breaking point.

In Brisbane and Adelaide tent cities were established as quarantine camps.

In Perth, the combination of the city's relative isolation and effective state border quarantine control ensured that pneumonic influenza didn't appear there until June 1919.

Perth experienced a spike in infections after crowds gathered to celebrate Peace Day on 19 July 1919.

Tasmania imposed a strict quarantine and had the lowest mortality rate in Australia.

The Combined Aboriginal Organisations of Alice Springs called for severe restrictions on entry to the Northern Territory.

Sydney implemented strict measures in an attempt to limit the spread of the disease. This included closing schools and places of entertainment and mandating the use of masks.

Such measures didn't prevent the spread of the disease, but did manage to slow its movement. Even so, Sydney experienced three waves of outbreaks, with many deaths and many more infections.

At the onset of the pandemic, NSW had only 2000 hospital beds. Between January 1919 and September 1919 more than 25,000 people in NSW were admitted to hospital with influenza, requiring the establishment of hundreds of temporary influenza hospitals in private homes, schools, showground buildings, churches, gaols, bowling clubs, tearooms, drill halls and courthouses.

The pandemic also took its toll on medical and healthcare workers. In Sydney more than 800 were incapacitated with influenza and many temporary hospitals had to be staffed by lay volunteers.

With so many people off work due to illness, normal services and activities were severely disrupted.

Australians were eager to follow the mask guidelines and newspapers published guides on to how to make your own.

Such was the run on mask-making cloth that the Commonwealth had to fix a price to stop rampant profiteering.

Many people rebelled by circumventing the quarantine blockade at state borders or refusing to wear masks. Waterside workers refused to unload ships for fear of infection and some public workers demanded 'epidemic pay'. People shunned outsiders and interstate visitors, fearing they were a potential source of infection.

In 1919, Arnott's spruiked its biscuits, Shredded Wheatmeal biscuits, as a sure way to keep the family safe. Some people resorted to eating raw, minced liver; while one salesman promoted a dose of turpentine [didn't someone in the USA suggest something like that?].

The pandemic caused disputes between all the states and between the states and the Commonwealth over border closures, differing policies of border controls and quarantine, interstate transport links, and the quarantine of returning servicemen.

In Australia, while the estimated death toll of 15,000 people was still high, it was less than a quarter of the country's 62,000 deaths from WW1.

Australia's death rate of 2.7 per 1,000 of population was one of the lowest recorded of any country during the pandemic.

Nevertheless, up to 40 per cent of the population were infected, and some Aboriginal communities recorded a mortality rate of 50 per cent.

One adornment not seen today, other than on football fields, is a black armband worn by those grieving a death. The pandemic eventually died out by about October 1919 without a vaccine being found.

Books to read

Alice Lindsay has provided the titles and notes of some books that you might like to read.

If you check the Internet you can find them on many book websites. Some are available as eBooks.

- The Heart of the Bubble by Trace Balla

A touching tale of a family's awakening to what really matters, set during the current coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.blurb.com/b/10216399-the-heart-of-the-bubble>

Hell Ship by Michael Veitch ISBN 9781760877460

His family sailed on the plague ship [typhus] the Ticonderoga in 1852. This book explores the conditions and experiences of the emigrants that sailed on her, mostly from Scotland. The book also looks at other ships that sailed to Australia around this time.

This book is available for loan from the Wodonga Library.

- The Bell in the Lake by Lars Mytting ISBN 9780857059383

This is the 1st book in a historical fiction trilogy. It is set in Norway in 1880. It tells the story of a 700 year old stave church [a medieval wooden Christian church] and the villagers whose lives have been influenced by the church and the traditions of the village and surrounding districts.

The Year Without Summer by Guinevere Glasfurd ISBN 9781473672307

- The historical novel covers the lives of Mary Shelley, John Constable and four other people that are affected by the Mount Tambora volcanic eruption of 1815 on Sumbawa Island in Indonesia. It resulted in heat and darkness as the ash cloud covered the sun and spread across the world. This novel tells about the peoples struggles in their work and their private lives.

- The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi ISBN 9781867209812

Set in the 1950's in a village near the pink city of Jaipur India it is a story about a henna artist and the meaning of the tattoos that she creates. The book also explores the traditions of a country that, at times, has suppressed the wellbeing of young girls and women within its culture.

This book is available for loan from the Wodonga Library.

This Barren Rock by Sylvie Haisman ISBN 9780733325557

This book is written by the great great great granddaughter of Fanny Wordsworth who spent 7 months on the remote rocks of Crozet Islands [a subantarctic archipelago of small islands in the southern Indian Ocean] after the Scottish Clipper Strathmore was wrecked at night in a storm in 1875. Fanny along with 47 men and one 3year old boy survived. This is a true tale of shipwreck and survival in the Southern Seas.

- Josephine and Harriet by Betty Burton ISBN9790007905850

The author has based her story on a true life event - "The Great Corman Street Murder" of Harriet Buswell in Dec 1872 in London, England.

The author's note states: "Now of course, I itch to know what happened to Harriet Buswell's killer. Did he continue his journey to Bahai in Brazil? Did he kill again?"

The Convict Valley by Mark Dunn

The book explores the relationships between white settlers and the local Worimi people starting from 1790.

It explains the friendships, alliances, struggles, violence, triumphs and failures of the following decades in the Hunter Valley of NSW.



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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A list of books for sale [59 in all], at \$5 per book, has now been added to the website. You can view them by navigating to the home screen of the website <http://wodongafamilyhistory.org/> and hovering your mouse over the **Sales** hyperlink then click the sub heading for **WFHS Books for Sale**.

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• If not delivered please return to:
• WODONGA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.
• PO Box 289, WODONGA 3689
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