

# BORDERLINE NEWS



February 2020  
newsletter no. 173

What's Happening Next for our Society:

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2020** – *Did you know subject:* <https://www.myancestors.com.au/> This is a free link library for Australian genealogy and ancestry records.

Tonight's guest speaker is Mark Grealy and his subject is: How to prepare for a visit to the Public Records Office in Melbourne.

**17<sup>th</sup> March** – *Did you know subject:* [www.bda-online.org.au](http://www.bda-online.org.au) [Biographical Database Australia]

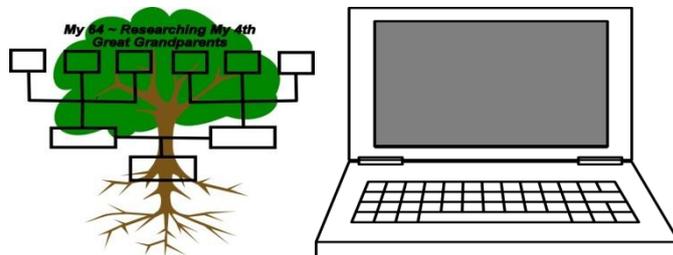
Tonight's guest speaker is Susie Zada and her subject is: Nurses and Midwives – finding records

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Unlock the Past Seminar and Free tours of the PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE VICTORIA and STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

See [Melbourne Trip](#) below for more information.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April [Easter Sunday]** – Once again we will have a stall at the Leneva Steam Rally with lots of great plants, donated by Warren Embury, for sale. Further information re the event will be advised soon.

**21<sup>st</sup> April** – This will be a Family Tree Maker Workshop and the facilitator will be Jan Parker. The workshop aims to help you get the best out of the Family Tree Maker website. Even if you use a different programme you may like to attend to compare the programmes. You are requested to bring your own laptop or you could share with someone on the night.



Disclaimer:

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**Newsletter of the Wodonga Family History Society Inc.**  
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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.**

**Our meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Area 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 <sup>st</sup> April & 30 <sup>th</sup> 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**

<b>President</b>	Norma Burrows	phone: 02 6024 1591
<b>Vice President</b>	Janette Griggs	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Jarvis	
<b>Secretary &amp; Public Officer</b>	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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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### **President's Report**

As I write this it is what I would call a perfect day – sunny (about 25°) with a slight breeze. Bush fires are under control and smoke has cleared away. We trust that all those who suffered in the fire disaster will get the help they need on their way to recovery.

We offer our condolences to the family of our long time member, Harry Leggatt. He was a long serving member and was very involved in the club, including Research Officer for a number of years. Also our sympathy goes out to Ann Kerin whose husband Bryan passed away in January.

Our Christmas meeting was a fun night with Janette providing more trivia fun and lovely chocolates for prizes (whether you won or not). Thank you to Heather Touzel for organizing the food and to all who helped set up and clean up.

We have now moved into our new place at the temporary Wodonga Library in High Street, Wodonga (near the Post Office). Our space is limited but we offer the same service to all our members and the public.

We held a special committee meeting to discuss the Bedella and Townsend award programme. As a result of this it was decided to suspend the programme until further notice. We will not be seeking entries for these awards this year.

A weekend in Melbourne is being organised around a seminar being run by Unlock the Past on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Visits to the State Library and Public Record Office are also included. Further details are in the newsletter.

Once again Janette has put together a very interesting programme for the coming year. Make sure you attend the meetings and take advantage of the effort that Janette goes to, to bring us the very latest in genealogy information.

As our main fund raising events we have requested two sausage sizzle dates from Bunnings for the coming year. We look forward to your help when the dates are set.

If you can spare a couple of hours (just once a month would help) Lyn would appreciate new volunteers in the library.

I look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Norma Burrows, President

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### **VALE HARRY LEGGATT**

Sadly we advise that one of our longest serving members, Harry Leggatt passed away in January this year. Harry was an invaluable member of our society, always willing to help and guide others. As Research Officer, he went to extra mile to fulfil a request. On one occasion, we received a request from a firm in Europe looking for someone who had last been heard of in Wodonga, very many years earlier. This was in connection with an estate—not the sort of research request we normally undertake. Harry put on his sleuthing cap and consulted his local knowledge. Within a couple of weeks he had contacted a relative of the person locally, which in turn led to the person in question, who had moved away from the area.

Harry was one of nature's gentlemen who will be sadly missed by our society and all who knew him.

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The Committee has decided to suspend the Wayne Bedella and Townsend Trophy writing events for the time being pending our move to the new library. In their place will be regular 5-minute story telling segments after the "Did you know" part of our meetings.

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**Melbourne Trip**

In November 2019 an email was sent to members re a seminar in Melbourne on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 from 9am to 5pm.

The subject is: Unlock the Past - take your *English research* further with two of the foremost, internationally recognised, English experts Else Churchill and Alec Tritton.

**The Venue is:** Scots Church – Robert White Hall on the corner of Collins & Russell Streets, Melbourne

There is still time to book for the seminar and accommodation, if required. You need to contact Pat Hopkins on 0428 40 1904 by 18<sup>th</sup> February who can advise how you book for the seminar and organise accommodation, if required.

The email also advised that a guided tour of the Repository and Reading Room at the Public Records Office of Victoria plus a guided tour of the Newspapers and Family History Rooms at the State Library of Victoria has been organised for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Both tours are free.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE VICTORIA - 10am

**WHERE** - Public Records Office Victoria, 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne Vic 3051

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA - 2pm

**WHERE** – State Library Victoria, 328 Swanston St, Melbourne VIC 3000

There is still time to book for these tours. You need to contact Alice Lindsay on 02 6059 4424 by 18<sup>th</sup> February to book for one or both of the tours.

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As Norma mentioned in her President's Report we would love some more volunteers to be available during our research hours to help anyone asking family research questions.

You would be properly trained and someone would stay with you until you are comfortable to do it on your own. Shifts are only two hours each.

We have lost a few volunteers over the last several months due to illness, aging and even passing away. Even one shift a month would be a huge help to us. Please think about it and contact [secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org](mailto:secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org) for further information.

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The 2020 Expo run by The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations Inc [VAFHO] will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the Yarrowonga Shire Hall from 10am to 4pm and will cost \$20. Visit <https://vafho.com/2019/12/12/2020-vafho-expo-yarrowonga/> for more information regarding the event.

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There may be a seminar in August/September to reinforce the three **R's** for recording family history information: **R**esearch, **R**ecord and **R**elate your family history information.

Further details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

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**Meeting Notes:**

**19<sup>th</sup> November** – Janette presented the *Did you know subject* about the <https://www.deceasedonline.com/> website which is a British website providing information on cemeteries and cremations. The evening event was a “Show and Tell” re your most precious book.

Several members displayed and talked about their books including bibles, photograph histories, an autograph book and two handwritten cookery books. Of interest was a metal contraption once used to weigh eggs.

**17<sup>th</sup> December** – The Christmas party started at 6.30 pm. Delicious food was provided. There was a Guess Who game where you had to work it out individually and then a Trivia Quiz where each table was a team.

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2020** – *Did you know subject:* [www.libraries.tas.gov.au](http://www.libraries.tas.gov.au)

The meeting was a Members Show and Tell event. We were requested to bring our most loved, funny or scandalous story to share with everyone.

There was a tale of running away, bigamy and aliases; another one about Welsh gold; another one about the importance of family history books for children to keep; plus other stories.

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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. 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].

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**Family history writing tips**

Following on from the tips in the November 2019 newsletter about writing your family history: **decide what you want to write about; you can make changes at any time; find your own style of writing and the story you wish to create; collect your resource materials and try and create a backdrop to the story** to produce a piece of writing that can be shared by anyone who is interested [family, friends, other family history groups], you could also incorporate how you went about finding a particular piece of research, what resources you used and how you solved a brick wall. This may assist others who have their own brick walls.

A good way to get started is to record some basic details in chronological order. You could concentrate on one person or one generation. For example:

- Stanley James Edwards*
- b. 1902 Mortlake, Victoria*
- m. Minnie Louisa Denmead in 1925*
- d. old age in 1982*

Then you can add some more details, using sources such as certificates, church and cemetery records, obituaries and other notices, perhaps from Trove

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

For example:

Stanley James Edwards was born on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1902 in Mortlake, Victoria and was the fourth child of six born to John Gale Edwards II and his wife, Annie Edwards [nee Tonkin].

Stanley occupation was listed as a bank clerk.

One of his brothers enlisted in WW1 and was killed in action in France in 1917 [aged 21].

He and Minnie were married in Colac in the same church that her parents were married in.  
They lived in Colac and had 4 children born in Colac.  
Lack of work due to the Great Depression forced them to move to Melbourne where Stanley found work as a jack of all trades. They had 5 more children and Minnie was 44yrs old when her last child was born.  
Stanley died in 1982 one month short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Minnie was the youngest of 12 children and was born in 1903 at home in Colac, Victoria. Her mother Susan was 49yrs old when Minnie was born.  
According to articles in the local newspaper, that are digitised on Trove, it appears that Minnie was an A grade student through all her years at school in Colac.  
One of Minnie's sisters and one of her brothers died when they were infants.  
Two of her brothers and a brother in law enlisted in WW1. Her brother in law was killed in Gallipoli in 1915 [aged22]. He had only been married for 6 months and his wife never remarried. One of Minnie's brothers was killed in France in 1916 [aged 29] and one brother returned home.  
Minnie died in 1970 two days before her 67<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The information above was sourced from birth certificates; marriage certificate; death certificates; BDM Victoria; PROV; Register of the State Elementary School; State Library of Victoria website; findmypast website; Commonwealth War Graves Commission website; TROVE digitised newspapers; family members.

Another resource you could use is the Sands & McDougall directories. I found where my grandparents first lived when they moved to Melbourne from Colac.  
<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/sands-mcdougall-directories>

I am currently writing a more detailed account of my paternal grandparents and will send the information to both the Colac Family History Society and the Mortlake & District Historical Society.

Christine Young

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Continuing on from the November newsletter here are some more tips that may assist you write your family history and create a piece of writing that can be shared by anyone who is interested:

### **Write naturally**

Depending on who you are writing this for you can write in a couple of different ways:

- If it is for friends and family you can write as you speak, as if you are telling a story.
- If you are writing for the general public, you may need to use a more formal format and match your chosen publishers preferred style.

### **Constantly edit your writing**

Whilst most computers have spell checkers to help you with spelling, reading out loud may help find errors and grammatical mistakes that spell check does not pick up.

You can also have someone else read the story to get a different perspective and view on your writing.

By doing this on a regular basis it may minimise the time you need to do it once you have completed your writing.

### **If possible add pictures**

We all have heard the saying - a picture paints a thousand words.

Try adding relevant images to your writing [BDM certificates; shipping logs; invitations; etc] that can help bring everything together.

### **Share with Family and Friends**

It does not matter what you write, or the style you write it in, the fact is you now have a written history of all or part of your family's past.

Make copies and pass it on to your parents, siblings, children and grandchildren. Even if they are not interested now, chances are they will be in the future and as it is something that was written by you, this information could become an heirloom that can be passed down through generations of your family to come.

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I asked the Committee to answer a few questions regarding recording their family history.

Question: *How do you record your info? On paper, excel spreadsheets, Word documents, family history programmes, other.*

Here are some answers:

- Alphabetical work book for researching - 2 ring folder with blank sheets. Sometimes I jot things down before I put the information into the program;
- I record alphabetical by names on my tree.
- My sister and I keep records in computer files and lots of printed pages in manila folders. I use an iMac and pages as my word processor. I don't use Word.
- I compiled a family history for my husband's family which I printed and put into folders for a number of family members;
- My sister and I are now working on our family and I have decided rather than produce one large document I will write up smaller stories. I draw up small family trees, using boxes on the computer, to indicate where everyone fits rather than one large family tree.
- I have Ancestry trees;
- My main database is Family Treemaker (FTM). The latest version has Vault, a cloud storage facility, currently free, that provides some security for all the documents I upload and I do not have it automatically synced with Ancestry;
- I am part way through writing digital stories (Microsoft Word) about each of my forebears, based on FTM information but I have not decided how to finally present them in an interesting and durable way.
- As I collect hard copy information I file it in folders by family (one for each). Any online info I save to various folders (by family).

Question: *Do you use a family history programme to record your info? Ancestry, Findmypast; Myheritage;*

Here are some answers:

- I use FTM 2017- however I need to update my skills in its usage;
- I also store documents on computer and also on an external hard drive;
- I have a subscription to Ancestry and Findmypast.
- I did have a copy of Family Tree Maker but decided it was too complicated and time consuming and have not continued with it.
- I started with Geni;
- I am reluctant to make my Ancestry trees public because some parts are not verified and I resent people being able to just copy my research and also being forced to pay Ancestry for information I have provided.

- Any relevant family names and dates I transfer to my Family Tree programme. I probably underuse this programme as I only use the basic things like entering names, dates, places and other pertinent facts.

Question: *If so, what is good about it/them?*

Here are some answers:

- Ancestry connects with FTM and also DNA contacts, Find My past sometimes is easy to search but you need to know what you are looking for;
- Ancestry seems to me to use a wider "brushstroke" when searching.
- I chose Geni because it seemed to have more free information and it automatically filled in spaces between known relatives and ancestors where the links have been made by others. When you have a few generations filled in, it allows you to determine your relationship to historical figures, which can be interesting and educational;
- I don't use Geni so much now because it is cumbersome and doesn't allow documents to be stored with each person.

Question: *Do you have favourite websites that you use?*

Here are some answers:

- Family Search; Ryerson Index; Deceased Online; Trove; Rootschat; GRO
- I use Ancestry and Findmypast for information and have a couple of family trees on Ancestry. The trees have proved useful to receive hints, mostly useless but occasionally very helpful;
- I use a lot of different websites to find things and have found Trove particularly good for Australian information and the British newspapers on Findmypast have been useful too;
- My sister and I have contacted Historical Societies in a few places for information;
- I look up Google Earth to find out whether old buildings and houses are still standing and take screen shots to include in my stories when I find them, Google Earth is also useful for printing maps.
- I started Ancestry for the same reason that I chose Geni .. the hints ... and I occasionally pay for a month to get full access to them;
- I am looking forward to the FTM speaker later in the year because i do not currently use all the features.

I hope that some of the information above is useful. Perhaps it may trigger some new searching methods or different ways to record your stories.

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## **Research**

The Ancestry program has now been uploaded onto both the computers in the Research area of the Wodonga Library for WFHS members to use on the designated Research days as advised on page 2 of the newsletter and on our website.

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The WFHS has pins or clips [brooches] for sale at \$5 each. They have a picture of our logo [as per page 1 of the newsletter]. Contact the Secretary via phone or email [secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org](mailto:secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org) if you think you would like to purchase one.

## Books for research

Listed below are more books to demonstrate the wealth of knowledge that is contained in our book collection. Some are displayed in the WFHS Research area of the temporary library 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].

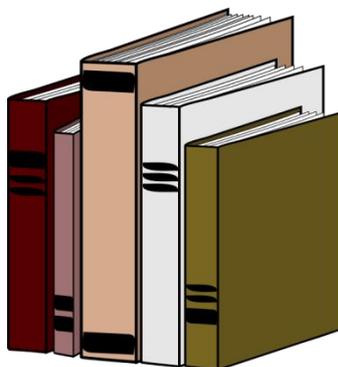
There are also a series of books under the category REF [Reference which includes some maps and posters] that cannot be borrowed but can be used in the Research area.

**Postcode:** Our postcode range is 2444 001 to 2899 for NSW and 3000 to 3898 for VIC. A sample of the books in the 3691 postcode is below.

This encompasses many books regarding Baranduda, Bethanga, Dederang, Gundowring, the Kiewa Valley, Leneva [Middle Creek], Osborne's Flat, Staghorn Flat, Talgarno and other small communities within the 3691 001- 018 postcode area.

- **Baranduda:** the subjects include the State school and Baranduda's place in the Kiewa Valley [3691 004 and 005];
- **Bethanga:** the subjects include St Francis Church; the history of the township; gold; mining [3691 002, 012 to 014];
- **Dederang:** the subjects include Dederang's place in the Kiewa Valley; St Joseph's; biographies of some families; the State school and its people and sport clubs; pioneering families [3691 005, 007, 008, 010 and 018];
- **Gundowring:** the subjects include Gundowring's place in the Kiewa Valley; Gundowring's Catholic families; the schools; pioneering families [3691 005, 007, 010 and 018]
- **The Kiewa Valley:** the subjects include a history of the towns within the Kiewa Valley; the schools; [3691 005, 010 and 011];
- **Leneva [Middle Creek]:** the subjects include the state school; the community [3691 003 and 016];
- **Osborne's Flat:** 3691 017 is about the school;
- **Staghorn Flat:** 3691 009 is about the history of Staghorn Flat;
- **Talgarno:** 3691 001 is about the history of Talgarno;
- **3691 006:** this book relates to the area encompassing the Gibbo River which is between Dartmouth and Benambra. It is a collection of tales about many of the characters involved in gold mining around the Gibbo River area plus more;
- **3691 015:** this book relates to an account of Kancoona/Running Creek between 1800 - 2010

The books in the 3691 category have pictures and lots and lots of names.



## Keeping Track of Certificates

Wendy Cooksey has provided some information about how she keeps track of her Certificates.

I have a very simple but effective way of keeping track of my certificates. They are numbered in order of when I receive them, regardless of whether they are birth, marriage, death, baptism or burial. I have even added school reports and census records.

I created a columned Word document and added the basic details of the document in numerical order—this could be an Excel document if you prefer. I named this document "00 Listing of Documents". That way it is at the top of the list. The column headings I use are:

<b>Doc. No.</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christian Name</b>	<b>Doc. Type</b>	<b>Year</b>
200	Berrisford/Parkes	George/Martha	Mar	1857
201	Berisford/James	Josiah/Mary Jane	Mar	1855
202	Berrisford	John	Death	1849
203	Berrisford	Henry	Death	1858
204	Nicklin (m=Berrisford)	Ann	Death	1852
205	Beresford/Frost	John/Maggie	Mar	1917

Then I scan the certificate onto my computer, and name it accordingly with its number first on the title eg, 204 Nicklin Ann (nee Berrisford) death 1852, as above.

In my family Tree Maker programme, I make a note of the person's certificate details, eg death cert 204.

All of these documents are filed in a folder titled "Scanned Certs" and kept on an external hard drive.

Lastly, I file the original certificates in separate folders for Birth/Baptism, Marriage, Death/Burial. There will be gaps in the numbers, as you will have acquired the certificates at different times.

When I need to locate a certificate, it is a simple matter to check the number in FTM, or do a search in my Word file to locate the number. Then scroll down to the document number. I can attach the document to an email or print it out if I need to send it to someone.

I used this system after reading a booklet "An Ordered Approach towards Publication" by Frances Brown, Dom Meadley and Marjorie Morgan page 16 "Order or Chaos". I have adapted their system to suit my needs. Should you choose to use it, I suggest you adapt it to suit your needs.

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### **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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