

BORDERLINE NEWS



May 2020
newsletter no. 174

What's Happening Next for our Society:

17th March – No general meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions.

17th March – *Did you know subject:* www.bda-online.org.au [Biographical Database Australia] was to be presented by Janette Griggs. Presentation included in this newsletter.

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March – Unlock the Past Seminar and Free tours of the PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE VICTORIA and STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA – **visit cancelled for the time being**

Sunday 12th April [Easter Sunday] – Stall at the Leneva Steam Rally – **cancelled this year due to Covid 19 restrictions**

21st April – The Family Tree Maker Workshop - **cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.**

19th May - *Did you know subject:* What can you find using a State Library of Victoria Library Card was to be presented by Wendy Cooksey. Presentation included in this newsletter. No general meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions.

16th June - *Did you know subject:* <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/> Family History – Getting Started in Qld was to be presented by Pat Hopkins. Presentation included in this newsletter. No general meeting due to Covid 19 restrictions.

21st July – Hopefully this meeting will go ahead.

Did you know subject: Perhaps this will be a Book Review – to be advised.

Tonight's guest speaker is Gail Holstock and her subject is: Past Adoption Practices – Formal and Informal.



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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Postal address: PO Box 289 Wodonga Vic 3689

Web site: www.wodongafamilyhistory.org

Email address: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

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 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.

The Wodonga Library closed on 23rd March until further notice due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

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 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	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.

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.

The Committee meeting for April was cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

There may be a Committee meeting in May - to be advised.

President's Report

I hope you are all staying safe and well during this most unusual time. The lockdown and shortages of some items in the shops certainly came on us very quickly. It seems we have been able to slow the virus down but must continue to be vigilant until it is safe to resume our normal lives again. For those of you writing your family story it will make an interesting episode in your life for future generations to read about.

Have you taken advantage of the Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages reduced rates for April and May? The cost of historical certificates for these two months is now \$20.00 each. It is a great saving if you want more than one certificate.

Another option which is available to members of Wodonga Library (via their website) is access to the Ancestry website. This is temporarily available while the library is closed. You will need your member number and PIN.

State Library of Victoria also offers access to Ancestry for members. You can join online but you have to be a Victorian resident. Make the most of these opportunities!

We may not be able to attend the library or meetings but we thank Wendy who continues to keep us up to date with what is going on in the genealogical world.

If you have been to Wodonga lately you may have noticed that work has begun on the new library. I understand the timeline is about two years but it is good to see something happening.

If we all continue to obey the rules some orders may be slowly relaxed so I hope we will soon have more information about when meetings might be starting again. Janette had such a great programme arranged for us and I trust we will be able to get back on track before too long.

Winter is approaching so stay warm, safe and well.

Norma Burrows, President

As the Wodonga Library is closed until further notice and we cannot utilise any of our in-house research resources a Brick Wall service has been set up.

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.

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

Did you Know sessions notes

17th March: Biographical Database Australia www.bda-online.org.au

Click the presentation below to open it. Scroll through the 9 pages to read the information. On page 9 you can right click and choose **End Show** or scroll to blank page 10 and choose **click to exit**.



19th May: What can you find using a State Library of Victoria Library Card <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/> Wendy emailed the information to members on 11th April.

16th June: Family History – Getting Started in Qld <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/>
The Queensland State Library

This website is not just for Queenslanders as it contains marvellous resources relevant to the rest of Australia. Sitting in front of your computer, log onto the State library website slq.qld.gov.au and select family history.

Towards the bottom of the page there is a link to “tracing your family tree” with all the hints and suggestions for beginners and a useful refresher course for the more experienced. On the same page are links to eresources, research guides and useful websites for your family history research. You just need to open a link and discover really useful and interesting material.

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait islanders family history and the Colonial Secretary’s Letters re Moreton Bay and Queensland 1822-1860 are two of the featured sections. Pat was particularly taken by the Webcasts which cover shipping, immigration and convicts and you may be interested in their World War I Collection.

Pat is absolutely positive that you will find wonderful and useful material on this site so take the time and investigate it.

Di Boyd purchased a copy of The Walhalla Chronicle, dated Friday September 17th 1897. She purchased it to give to a friend who grew up in Walhalla. Sadly he has passed away and Di has lost contact with his family.

She would like to know if anyone would like this paper which is in very good condition. Di is happy to post it on to someone. If you want the paper please send an email to secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

The information will be passed on to Di.

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].

Some of the committee members have provided activities that they have/are occupying themselves with during this time of being home for a while. You may find some ideas here.

- Carolyn Renfrey participated in a National Library of Australia Learning webinar. It lasted an hour and was titled "Finding and Dating Photographs".

She found it most interesting and it provided information also on how to find photos for towns and times relevant to one's family history. Carolyn advises that there will be other similar free sessions and you can sign up to be notified of them in advance via National Library eNews. The website is www.nla.gov.au, then search "eNews"

Carolyn has also found that this period is an unexpected blessing to have plenty of time to go through all the information she has collected on her family. She is trying to put the information into a form that will be interesting for her grandchildren - she advises that that may be wishful thinking!!!

- Pam Nulty advises that she has been working on photo albums for her grandchildren. She gives them albums with prints as a childhood record. Pam has also been making fabric gift bags. She advises that they can be reused to save buying wrapping paper, make gift wrapping very easy and are a good way to use up material which has been sitting in her cupboard for ages (she also buys material to make them).

They can be made in a variety of sizes: rectangular with a turned over hem at the top and a ribbon sewn into one of the side seams below this for tying. She is making some at the moment to give to her my mother for Mother's Day.

- Alice Lindsay advises that she is naming and dating photos; rereading certificates because they may have information that she missed before; sorting documents into an easy to find system.

She is also writing a letter to keep as an historical reference for future family historians to read about the experience of living in the time of COVID-19; the price of food; social distancing, lock downs that have changed the way we live daily; govt incentives; etc.

Alice also recommends the book called The Darkest Shore by Karen Brooks. It is set in 1703 and is about the traditions of the fishwife in Pittenweem, Scotland. Great glossary and a very informative and easy to read book.

- Janette Griggs has been trying to do some research about her grandmother to put something together about her. Along the lines of "what kind of crisis, either world, domestic or even private" my grandmother witnessed, endured and lived through. Janette is in the process of having the NSW State Archives check records for her.

- Wendy Cooksey [nee Beresford] BERESFORD EASTER EGGS

For many many years I have made up a chocolate mixture from a recipe my Mum created. It has become a family tradition, firstly with my children, then my grandchildren and now my great grandchildren. I might point out that the older members of the family make sure they are included!!!

Each Good Friday around 10am everyone who wants to do so comes to my home and we sit outside around a large table. Each person gets a lump of mixture and some coconut. They proceed to mould their mixture into egg shapes—some quite interesting. The shapes are then rolled in coconut and arranged in a basket or whatever container we have decided on. Plenty of tasting happens along the way. This year we could not do this with isolation in place, but that did not stop us. I made up the mixture and created a kit for each person young and old who wanted to join in. Each contained a red plastic cup of the mixture, a zip lock bag

of coconut and a red plastic plate. A representative from each household collected their kits whilst observing social distancing rules. We then all 'met' on FaceTime and rolled our eggs. One granddaughter joined in from Brisbane after making up her own batch of the mixture. Although we enjoyed this, we are all looking forward to meeting in person next year, with distant family members joining in on FaceTime. Mum created this recipe when my father was headmaster at Groote Eylandt. Provisions were brought from Darwin once a month by barge. The only shops were a small shop at Angurugu, and a small supermarket at the mining town of Alyangula about 20 minutes' drive away. One year when my youngest sister, Janet, was nine, the Easter eggs Mum and Dad had ordered did not arrive in time. Rather than disappoint Janet, our ever-resourceful Mum created her now iconic recipe, which is kept in the Beresford family.

- Pat Hopkins has been taking the opportunity to do all those jobs around the house that she has conveniently put off for some time. She has been organising her family history records, which is very time consuming.

Pat wants to recommend three resources that she has enjoyed. First, Lisa Louise Cooke and her "Elevenses" programme on UTube. She is quite chatty but she is a highly respected teacher (Genealogy Gems website). Her videos are used at the GSV and GUM. This series is free and she addresses the need to keep focused with your research, but if you can't, she gives tips on how to save your distractions for another time, including how to use Evernote. Excellent- just what Pat needs.

She recommends the English Family Tree magazine and suggests you sign up for the online free newsletter at <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/>

For anyone interested in Australian and family history "Traces Uncovering Australia's Past" (a magazine published in Sydney) is definitely worth a look. Pat found it at the Lavington library.

- Ann Kerin has recently joined the board of the Wodonga Cemetery Trust and is interested in writing up the history of the site. She is interested in any stories about the cemetery itself and particularly about the people buried there.

Ned Kelly's half-sister, Alice King is buried there and Ann has found it interesting to find more about her story. Alice was born two weeks before her mother Ellen Kelly King was imprisoned in Pentridge and stayed there with her mother for a year.

Ann is sure there are many other unknown stories of the people who are in the cemetery. She wants you to tell her the stories. You can contact her by email: kerinann007@gmail.com or on 0414520982.

PROJECTS - Pat Hopkins

When the Library closed our Monday work stopped rather abruptly but Doreen has continued to transcribe the Yackandandah Rates, for the mid-1950s, at home and I have undertaken the task to tidy up the files I have access to at home.

I do have access to the WFHS records on one of the computers we were unable to take to the temporary library so if anyone is looking for Digger records, NSW BDMs or those relating to the Wodonga area feel free to send me an email with your request and I will do my best to look it up for you. Put "Look Up" in the Subject area so I can find it easily.

Before the shut-down I had visited the Archives in Wagga and copied information from the Wahgunyah and Rutherglen Anglican Baptisms records from 1867. Prior to that, there hadn't been regular services or an incumbent minister.

We had started transcribing these records for our library and will continue to do so when we resume our work. Another project we are looking at relates to the early court records for Wodonga.

Pat's email address is hopkinsp3@bigpond.com

WW1 records

The service records of approx. 420,000 WW1 personnel that served with the Australian Forces were transferred from the Soldier Career Management Agency [SCMA] in Melbourne to the Australian Archives in Canberra in Nov 1993. There were over 11,000 boxes of records that were moved and once moved took up 2.1kms of shelf space in the regional office of the Australian Archives. When the service records were in the custody of the Dept of Defence access was restricted to surviving veterans or persons who could establish next of kin relationships. Under the provisions of the Archives Act 1983 this is not the case anymore. Any member of the public can now access the records.

I hope you were able to celebrate ANZAC Day in some way. Lest we forget.



WW1 records

I have spoken to members, in a meeting, and written articles in the newsletter about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission [CWGC] and the wonderful information that you can find about your relatives who died in WW1 and WW2 - <https://www.cwgc.org/>

I have 4 great uncles who served in WW1 – 1 was wounded, recuperated, and then sent back to the war and came home. The other 3 were also wounded, recuperated, and then sent back to the war but unfortunately they were all killed.

I thought I had found as much information as I could about them – I was wrong. I have discovered an amazing website [National Archives of Australia] that potentially has tons of information about your relative: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch.aspx>

There are personal dossiers of servicemen and servicewomen relating to WW1. The dossiers primarily relate to members of the 1st AIF. However there are also records relating to the Aust Flying Corps; Aust Naval and Military Expedition Force; Royal Aust Naval Bridging Train; Aust Army Nursing Service and Depot/Home records for personnel who served in Aust during the war.

The records are divided into sections:

The Attestation Paper [usually 4 to 6 pages]. This document was completed by the person on enlistment and provides the following information – full name; next of kin details; employment/trade details; marital status; age; place of birth; physical description; previous military service.

The Service and Casualty Form – this was known as a Form B103. The form provides the following information – when and how the serviceman was injured; where treatment was rec'd; movements and transfers between units [it only provides general locations, e.g. France].

Military Correspondence – this correspondence is between the Dept of Defence and the serviceman's next of kin in regard to: notifications of wounds; notification of death; questions concerning whereabouts; notification of parcel consignments; medals & awards and burial details.

Miscellaneous – this is everything else not covered by the above sections, e.g., correspondence about service details; medals rec'd, not rec'd or lost; pension information; wills; bequests.

I have found all 4 of my soldiers. One has 25 pages of records, another has 44 pages, another has 49 pages and the other one has 50 pages.

Be warned: some of the records are duplicated; some may be hard to read; the records have not been scanned in chronological order and some of the time frames in the records overlap.

Christine Young

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. Listed below are some postcodes that are further afield than the Albury and Wodonga area. Whilst we cannot access the books at the moment they will be available once the library reopens. A sample of the books is shown below.

Book references:

- **2444001 to 2444 003 Port Macquarie:** the subjects include the history of Port Macquarie; a book about the trials and tribulations of the early convict settlement of Port Macquarie which included the mismanagement of the prison camp which allowed many prisoners to escape [1818-1832] and the Church of St Thomas in Port Macquarie that has early parish registers; baptisms 1824-1864; marriages 1824-1856 and burials 1824-1876
- **2533 001** – the history of the **Kiama municipality** [a coastal area south of Sydney] from 1770 to 1976
- **2550 001** – the history of **Bega NSW**
- **2582 002** – a book about the **Yass Mission** - St Augustine's Parish [NSW] 1838-1988. It has a clergy and people section providing some information on many of the priests and early parishioners of the area
- **2590 002** – **Cootamundra [NSW]** and beyond 1868-1991

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 if you think you would like to purchase one.

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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Membership fees

Membership fees will be due in July – fees to be announced at a later date. As we have moved into the temporary library we do not have the facilities to accept cash as we do not have the capacity to ensure security of that cash. Therefore you are requested to pay your subscription via bank transfer; at our meetings or by going into a branch of the Hume Bank to pay over the counter.

- If you pay via bank transfer 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 Centrepoint, 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
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