

BORDERLINE NEWS



November 2020
newsletter no. 176

What's Happening Next for our Society:

17th November – Due to the Covid 19 restrictions we are unsure if there will be a members meeting. We will keep you informed.

15th December – The AGM is expected to start at 7.30pm. It may have to be a Zoom meeting. In case that comes to fruition, Zoom instructions will be provided with this newsletter for those who are not familiar with the function. Due to Covid 19, exact details of the event cannot be provided in this newsletter. The Nomination form for a position on the Committee for the 2020-2021 season will also be provided to each member with this newsletter. So, once details are known you will be advised via email, if that has been given to the Secretary, or via a letter.

The current Committee hopes that you all have a wonderful Christmas and can spend it with family and friends. See you in 2021.



19th January 2021 – We hope members will be able to attend this meeting. We will keep you informed.

Thanks to Warren Embury for supplying all the wonderful plants that were sold on behalf of WFHS on 10th and 11th October. Sales exceeded \$1,600.



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.*

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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 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 Felldimber Community Centre, cnr Felldimber Creek Road and Melrose Drive, Wodonga. Entry is via Ritter Road. Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic the meetings are temporarily postponed.

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 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 as at 31 October 2020

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.

Membership fees

Thanks to everybody who has paid their annual membership fee. For those who have not yet paid you are advised that this will be the last newsletter that you receive if you decide not to remain a member of the WFHS.

You can 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 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 ; Rutherglen Newsagency and Yackandandah High Street

President's Report

The year is almost over and sadly we have not been able to bring you the great programme of speakers Janette had organised. We are looking forward to 2021 and hope we will be able to get together again as life returns to normal.

The plant sale was a great success with takings over \$1,600.00. Many thanks to Warren for the plants, to Pam for the organising and Ann for the great publicity.

Also a big thank you to everyone who helped on the weekend. Thanks again to Wendy for keeping us all up to date.

The new Wodonga library is going ahead at a good pace. Building works are apparently on schedule and at this stage the building is planned to be opened end of winter/early spring 2021.

As advised by Wendy, access to Ancestry at the library has been extended to 31st December so make the most of the opportunity.

Congratulations to long time members Heather Lauritzen and Doreen Gibbs who both celebrated special birthdays recently.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I hope you will be able to join with your family in celebrating this special time.

Norma Burrows, President

PROJECTS - Pat Hopkins

"Owing to COVID19...." It would be wonderful if we no longer heard these words but the virus continues to impact on our Monday WFHS projects. It is not possible to resume our work at the Library due to the virus and the limit of 8 people in the Library at any one time. So we have a great opportunity to do projects for ourselves seeing we have a hobby (obsession?) that has been well provided for by various groups. Wendy keeps us up to date with what's available when she sends on newsletters and information. If you are not on her mailing list consider doing so because you may be missing out on the latest updates to help you with your research.

Technology is playing an increasing role in how we research and record our material. We all know that "everything is not on the 'net" and what is there may not be truly accurate but when 'face to face' help is not available then developing skills to use the Internet becomes essential.

Most sites, including the Vic State Library, Trove, Ancestry and Family Search, provide tips to locate information. I have learnt a great deal from my weekly (free) dose of "Lisa Louise Cooke's Elevenses" (lialouisecooke.com/elevenses). She is rather chatty but, over the past thirty weeks or so, she has covered many topics that might be of interest e.g. learning how to use the Cloud to store information or how to use Google e.g. Google maps, Google books or even how to organise your notes.

The programmes are recorded on YouTube and you do not need an account. All the topics she has covered can be viewed by just looking at the site. One topic I found interesting related to family Bibles but the short videos used to record a family story show how easy it is to put your research into a format that will interest other members of the family.

I am sure you have your own favourite web site or social media page and perhaps you would like to share it with our members. Family Tree Magazine UK (Nov2020) reports that a survey of readers on what they have been doing during the lockdown shows that 67% Growing my online tree; 58% Reading up on history and family history; 58% Spending time on a family history projects; 35% Writing my family history; 25% Learning new family history skills; 24% Making contact with DNA matches; 6% Writing my memoirs. Which group/s do you fit?

It would be wonderful if we could share our discoveries and work when we meet again. To help you, the Wodonga Library is making the Ancestry Library edition available to their members until the end of December. You might like to add www.family-tree.co.uk to your site list. A reminder that RootsTech will be virtual and free 25-27 February 2021(details at rootstech.org).

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].

Washing Day by Christine Young

When I was a child it was always washing day on Monday. We lived in a "new part" of Melbourne that had electricity and running water but no made roads, no sewerage, therefore, an outside toilet [with spiders] but we were lucky enough to have the laundry attached to the house. Mum, and my grandmothers before her, would light the copper to do the washing and then put it through the ringer that was attached to the trough. Whilst we had electricity we could not afford a washing machine.

The "washing line" was similar to the one shown below.



Tuesday was always ironing day.

I never thought about why this was so until I watched a programme on the ABC recently that explained it.

Monday was washing day because it took so long. Mum started early in the morning and finished late in the afternoon when the clothes came in. I remember Mum used "blue bags" to clean the whites. There was no time for making meals so we had left over roast from Sunday because Sunday was always Roast Day in our household.

Tuesday was ironing day. I remember my grandmothers using an iron like the one below but my Mum had an electric iron and once again it could take all day. She used the table in the kitchen as her ironing board. She had an old blanket and sheet that were used to protect the table.

So, if there was any more left over roast then that was dinner – perhaps as bubble & squeak.



As I grew up we eventually got made roads and sewerage, which meant we had an inside toilet [no spiders], and a washing machine but the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday traditions continued.

Adoption by Heather Lauritzen

Until the year 1928 legal adoption did not exist, and children in need of care were placed in a great variety of institutions run by governmental or religious organizations.

During the 1800's children could be charged with being a "Neglected Child" if their parents had deserted them, or for any reason were unable or unwilling to support them. These children would then be sent to Boys or Girls Homes run by the Government of the day, or by a variety of religious organisations. The Berry Street Foundling Home for instance was founded in 1872 and holds records from 1877 through to 1974.

Community Services of Victoria hold records in their Archives dating from the 1850's which can be accessed by the public via the Public Records Office in North Melbourne. There is a microfiche index to these books; however it is quite difficult to operate because they are indexed by year, and then alphabetically by birth name, not by their adopted name.

After 1864 there were several Reformatories/Industrial Schools where the children were put out to work in a variety of positions, domestic or manual. The main Industrial School was at Princes Bridge, but, after 1873, children, provided they were reasonably well behaved, were sent to foster homes through the receiving house at Royal Park.

The WFHS hold some Lists from these Institutions at the Wodonga Library; however they are not complete as some years have been lost. Most of these centres were closed between 1875 and 1890 after a great deal of public unrest at the conditions under which the children were kept.

It is possible to trace some children also through the Court records, which often show the chain of foster care- cum- employment that these children endured. Many girls as young as twelve were sent into domestic service, while boys of the same age were sent to places such as dairy farms in Gippsland to work in the cow yards, or into industrial jobs in factories.

If a child was sent to any of the homes operated by religious organizations, you can write to them as they still have records of many of the children who passed through their hands. There were seven orphanages founded between 1851 and 1863, most records have been retained and you can write to them.

Perhaps you have found a female school teacher in your family tree. Here are some rules that they had to observe. I hope they got well paid!!!

The Bush School Teacher

There were certain abilities that the woman Bush School Teacher had to possess in the 1880's. These are some of the tasks that she had to be able to perform:

- set a broken leg in a crisis;
- patch the shingles on the school roof;
- cook lunch on an open fire;
- wallpaper the residence with newspaper to keep the winter wind and the snakes out;
- stay fresh all day from a weekly swim in the dam;
- teach a class of children from ages five to fifteen;
- ride a horse four miles to school;
- fight off swaggies who attempted to camp in the school house;
- keep the school properly free of goats and cattle;
- study at night for her end of year examination.

Rules for Women Teachers in 1915

- They were not permitted to:
 - marry during the term of their contract;
 - keep company with men;
 - loiter down town in ice-cream parlours;
 - travel beyond the city limits without the permission of the Chairman of the Board;
 - ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he was her father or brother;
 - smoke cigarettes;
 - dress in bright colours;
 - dye their hair;
- They had to be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending a school function.
- They had to wear at least two petticoats and their dresses were not allowed to be any shorter than 2 inches [5cm] above their ankles.
- To keep the school room clean they had to:
 - sweep the floor at least once daily;
 - scrub the floor with hot soapy water at least once a week;
 - clean the blackboard once a day;
 - start the fire at 7am so that the room will be warm by 8am.

This information comes from an article in The Pivot Tree [Geelong Family History Group] in April 1993.

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, at \$5 per book, is on the WFHS 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**.

