

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Specialising in the Casey Cardinia Area

Incorporated 1992 – Inc. No. A0023666M – ISSN 1445 - 2162

Issue 112 – May 2017

Narre Warren North Community

General Meeting—Saturday 13 May 2017—2 pm



History of the Rae family and the Narre Warren North community

Bert Rae and his sister Thelma Witham will tell us about some history of the community and will show us early photos. Their family have been at Narre Warren North for over 170 years.

The photograph shows the Rae family outside the old General Store at Narre Warren North, taken c1888. The store was built by Mr George Rae c1860.

L to R: Robert Rae, Fred Rae, Agnes Rae, George Rae, Mary Rae and Edwin Rae.

Photograph: Max Thomson Collection

Max Thomson has sent us this newspaper article, published on 10 Feb 1943 in the Dandenong Journal. He has provided some additional information about the people who attended the ball. Some of his notes are in italics throughout the article. Mr and Mrs George Smith farmed at "Kingston" on the Narre Warren - Narre Warren North Road. They had no family. Miss Edna Smith was one of three

Fun & Frolic At Narre Warren North Successful Plain & Fancy Dress Ball In Aid Of P.O.W.

THE NARRE WARREN NORTH hall has been the scene of many jolly functions but none more enjoyable than last Thursday night's plain and fancy dress ball in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund. The hall was packed and as many of the dancers entered into the spirit of the night by appearing in fancy dress, the floor presented a carnival scene. Jesters rubbed shoulders with Indians, a fearsome lion fraternised (most appropriately) with a skeleton. Early Victorian ladies conversed with Captain Cook and top-hatted gentlemen, and the highlight of the night was the arrival of the Waybacks from Snake Gully. There was a roar of laughter as they trooped in, swags, bibles, etc., and sat themselves down in the middle of the hall. Folding by their plumage the roasters of Snake Gully must have been left without a feather to fly with! Later on, genial Tom Hibs, assisted Miss Edna Smith, presented the address.

daughters of Mr and Mrs Sid Smith of Harkaway. The Edwards family lived on a soldier settlement block on Fox Road. Tom, the father, served in both World Wars. The eldest son, Ted, served in WWII, and was a POW in Germany from 1941-1945. In 1947 he was awarded an MBE for services in Greece and Crete.

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Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Family History Research Room

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesday 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, (Room closes at 1 pm on Saturdays of our General Meeting)

Thursday 7 pm to 9 pm (From October to April),
Sunday 2 pm to 4 pm (From May to September).

We have a large collection of books, maps, microfiche, CDs and journals from all over the world available to our members and visitors.

NWDFHG is a member of:

Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group
Genealogical Society of Victoria
South Eastern Historical Association Inc.
Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Victorian Association of Family History Organisations
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

Location

At time of publication:

Narre Warren Branch Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Relocation imminent:

Cranbourne Library, 65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne.

Please check website for latest news.

Meetings

Entry Cost \$3

October - April: 7.30 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month (except January).

May - September: 2.00 pm

2nd Saturday of the month.

Until June 2017: Narre Warren Library Meeting Room. From July 2017: To be announced.

Membership

Single \$35, Joint \$50. Payable 1 July each year.
Casual visitors \$5 per day.

Membership Renewal

You are welcome to renew your membership by Direct Deposit into our bank account. Details:

Bank: National Australia Bank **BSB:** 083 802

Branch: Fountain Gate **Account No:** 539450013

Please don't forget to use your name as a reference.

Please email a copy of your renewal form to the Membership Officer.

Research Queries

We offer a research service for those unable to visit our Research Room personally, but please note that we can only research our own holdings and those of the local municipal libraries. The cost for this service is \$15 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above postal address or email: research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

Disclaimer: Contributions made to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.

President's Report

Lots of clichés about ups and downs and challenges run through my head as I look at the two messages in front of me today. One is from a very excited cemetery tourer who is asking me to guess what's on the back seat of her car. I'm thinking that the answer probably isn't Brad Pitt or George Clooney and that she doesn't care because she's got the new cemetery tour books hot off the press. The other is from our Research Room Manager who is asking me for clues on what we're going to do about our volunteers getting to general meetings in the next few months. We're not exactly sure where the Research Room and the meetings will be, but we've got a feeling they won't always be in the same place on the same day. There's no denying the next few months are going to be challenging for us all. But, we can only address the issues as they come up and again remind members to check the locations of meetings and workshops (and indeed the Research Room) before you set out! The best idea we could come up with for the Research Room Manager is to close the Research Room on meeting days at 1 pm until further notice to enable the volunteers to attend the general meeting if they wish.

A couple of other changes are coming into effect from 1 May. We have abolished the once only joining fee of \$5 in an effort to simplify joining, and sometimes, re-joining the Group. We believe the cost of this will be offset by the fact that from this date also, we will no longer be offering new members the option of hard copy newsletters. But, we fully intend to honour agreements with current members receiving hard copies of Spreading Branches. However, we urge members currently receiving hard copies to think about changing your preference and saving the planet's trees and the Group's dollars.

Those members who attended the April general meeting were asked if they were in favour of having our accounts audited each year. The response was an overwhelming yes, so we're in the process of finding someone to do the job for us.

I wish the cemetery tour team good luck and fine weather for Sunday. They have worked hard to put together a great morning and a great book. And, I hope to see many of you at the Volunteers' Morning Tea in May. The response to the writing competition has been good regarding the number of entries we've received. However, the response from members as far as voting for those entries has been extremely disappointing. It takes no longer than 10 seconds to cast your vote, the link takes you straight to the survey and you just pick one. We can't tell who you are – only who you've voted for.

This is our last newsletter before the AGM. Many committee members are now considering whether to put their hands up for another twelve months. I would like to remind members that everyone is entitled to nominate for a position at the AGM whether it's vacant or not. If you think you'd like to give it a go, please speak to any member of the committee. Fay and I especially, would welcome such a chat!

Lynne Bradley



**Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute Hall
59 Webb Street, Narre Warren**

Voices from the Past Narre Warren

7 May 2017 1 pm–4 pm

Join us in exploring a snapshot of Narre Warren and the surrounding "district" from the 1840s to the present day.

Guests are invited to bring along photographs and family keepsakes, and to share their stories.

Displays, Photographs and talks will be given on

- What is a Mechanics Institute
- Who were our early forefathers settling in Narre Warren
- How do we trace our Family Heritage

Free entry and enjoy a Devonshire Tea: Any Enquiries Call Judy on 9704-8376 or Lynne on 8787 5558

Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival

21 May 2017 10 am–3 pm

Discover the rich history of the Casey Cardinia Region through displays from local Heritage Groups. Local historians will be on hand to answer your questions about local towns and early settlers and to provide information.

**Welcome to our
new members**

**Jan & Graeme Ord, Brenda Hodgson,
Pauline Delaney, Lorraine Clothier,
Linda Reid, Nichelle Davis**

The grieving mother

*I had no skill to offer,
I had no wealth to spend:
Mine was a greater glory,
I had a son to send.
Silently the shades of evening,
gather round my lonely door,
Silently they bring before me,
the face I shall see no more.¹*

The new statue, by Peter Corlett, was unveiled on Wednesday 15 February 2017 by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd) assisted by Mrs Kaye Baird. Mrs Baird is the mother of the late Cameron Baird, VC, MG, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2013 and received the Victoria Cross posthumously for his bravery in an attack on an enemy position.

The statue is situated in the Garden of the Grieving Mother in the Arch of Victory precinct in Remembrance Drive, Ballarat.

The statue recognises the collective grief of many mothers who lost sons and daughters to war.

“In 1920 Julia Goulding, of Brisbane, Queensland wrote to the Australian Army about her only son:

‘I am writing to inquire after my only son John Joseph Goulding, No.555, B Company, 31st Battalion AIF who was reported missing since July 19th 1916 ... I have waited patiently with an aching heart for news of him ... I know he was not the only one by thousands but he was my son just lent to me for 35 years’.

Julia Goulding died on 19 July 1922, six years after the death of her son. In March 2012, her son’s remains were identified as lying under an unknown Australian’s headstone in Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. On 19 July 2012, a new headstone with his name was placed there.

Moved by this story, Melbourne sculptor Peter Corlett produced a small sculpture called ‘the grieving mother’ as a gift for Lambis Englezos, whose sustained advocacy and commitment, as well as that of others, led to the exhumation from Pheasant Wood.²

The Garden is designed to balance the adjacent Ballarat Avenue of Honour, the longest avenue of commemoration in Australia.

The unveiling took place on the 75th anniversary of the fall of Singapore and was attended by many returned soldiers, their families and interested citizens.

Later the same morning, eighteen former prisoners of war attended a ceremony at the nearby Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial with the Governor General and thousands of others.

In the Ballarat Avenue of Honour many siblings are commemorated.

The Grieving Mother statue is a permanent memorial to the mothers, fathers and families

at home who waited anxiously for good news of their sons. They lived in fear of the knock at the door by a small telegram boy or a church minister or friend.

Mothers were heard crying over the washing or quietly cooking for their families after their 18 year old sons were sent overseas when the Government promised those who were only 18 years old would not be sent overseas.

Two mothers – sisters – lost their sons on the same day.

Mothers were denied receiving their sons’ effects and medals as the military system was such that they had to be sent to a widow,

son, daughter, father, brother or another male relative.

One mother wrote six or seven letters to the military begging to have her son’s effects sent to her, rather than to his estranged father who had had nothing to do with him for nine years.

One Ballarat widowed mother wrote many letters to Defence headquarters requesting news of her son.

She had heard that he had been injured and sent to hospital in England; other information that he had died.

His aunt wrote to the Red Cross Missing Persons and also to Chaplain Best, of Ballarat, who was also serving in France. It was not until February 1918 she received confirmation that he had died in the



“The Grieving Mother”

Thanks to Robyn Coates for allowing me to use her photo.

1 Written on the base of this sculpture

2 From the Museum at Fromelles (Musee de la Bataille de Fromelles)

Battle of Messines on 6 June 1917.

Many chaplains had the sad task of writing a letter to the grieving families telling of the loss of their beloved son.

Chaplain Captain Fred Williams, my great uncle, who was at the Battle of Fromelles, wrote to the father of Private George Naylor who was killed at Bapaume.

"It is with deep regret I have to inform you of the death of your son, No 2733 who was killed in action on 4th February 1917. He, with others who fell that night, did most gallant work, and his death is deeply regretted. The CO joins me in expressing our deep sympathy with you in your loss, for we know the career of a gallant Australian is ended in a grave in the firing line. It will be your proud consolation to know he died facing the enemy, and that your son laid down his life for his country and his friends. May God help you and lead you to lift your eyes to that distant land sparkling in the Eastern sun, where

*Father and his child and mother meet once more'...*³

He also wrote,

"Personally, I am proud to be an Australian and to be associated with men of the stamp we have here. They are heroes, all of them."

The Governor General said,

"There is perhaps no greater love than the love between a mother and child.

And amongst the tragedy of war, there is perhaps no greater pain than the pain of a grieving mother.

We cannot bring the fallen back ... touch them, feel them or hug them.

*But we can remember and pay tribute ... to the sons and daughters, to the mothers and fathers, to love, loss and regret and this garden is a big part of that."*⁴

Di Christensen

3 "Dinkum Oil"- Amanda Taylor - Letters written by soldiers and published in the Ballarat Courier.

4 Speech by Governor General.
www.gg.gov.au/speech/opening-garden-grieving-mother

Casey Cardinia Remembers – Greg Clydesdale Square

On Anzac Day each year locals gather in a small square in High Street Cranbourne to remember the sacrifices of our brave men and women who have served our country. Locals stand next to and may even sit on the sign in this square. The sign is the "Greg Clydesdale Square" but who remembers or knows of Greg Clydesdale?

Well, the Shire of Cranbourne remembers him and in 1989 named this square in his honour.

But who is Greg Clydesdale and why was he honoured?

When Lynne surveyed the site in 2011 the internet search found nothing about Greg Clydesdale and so our initial posting on our website was just a photo of the "Greg Clydesdale Square" sign.

From that posting we received a comment from Elizabeth Clydesdale and Ian Clydesdale who gave the story (plus a photo) of their husband and dad Greg William Clydesdale.

We now know from that contact that Greg Clydesdale was the Shire Engineer for the Shire of Cranbourne from 1957 to 1987. Greg worked tirelessly to make Cranbourne the thriving city it is today and for his dedication to the Shire of Cranbourne for 30 years he was honoured by the naming of the square after him. Read more about

Greg Clydesdale at www.caseycardinia remembers.org.au/greg-clydesdale-square

As the internet is the major source of all our information nowadays, you can unusually find information by using Google. We pass "naming



signs" all the time and every now and then do you wonder who that person was. Today if you google "Greg Clydesdale Square" you will find the Cranbourne War Memorial and other places that are around Cranbourne. The only website where you'll find the story of Greg Clydesdale is CaseyCardiniaRemembers, thanks to comments from Elizabeth and Ian Clydesdale and the Casey Cardinia Remembers project.

Eileen Durdin

A successful sausage sizzle

A successful sausage sizzle was held at Bunnings on Monday 13 March (Labour Day), and a good profit was made (approx. \$1,750). There was some concern when we were allocated a day at the end of a long weekend, however, our concerns turned out to be unfounded.

Preparation day (Sunday) was easier this year because there were only onions that needed attention. Sausages were purchased in packs of 22, and were collected on the morning of the sizzle. Three people managed to cut, and bag, the onions in just under one hour - so it turned out to be a relatively easy task.

While the task on preparation day was easy, the job on Monday was at the opposite end of the scale. There was a steady stream of customers throughout the day, except around lunch time, whereupon we were nearly overwhelmed with customers. Maybe we lost a few sales because the queue waiting to be served became very long. Cooking the volume of onions required was one problem, and we learned that as long as the onions were warm, people seemed to accept them. Cooking them well then became a secondary matter.

Getting through the day, and particularly the 'rush' times, was achieved through the hard work of many members, and in three cases, the partners of members. In my role as coordinator of the day I



thank you all for your hard work, and in numerous cases, long work in having to do double shifts.

I do not know enough about the group to say whether the number of volunteers on the day was a 'good' turn out or not. In being essentially an 'outsider', it seems a shame to me that some members are required to do double shifts, and that we need to use partners to make up the numbers. Of course holding the event on a long weekend day did not help, and I am aware that a number of members were committed to other events.

The day was hot and humid, and we did a good trade in the sale of soft drinks and water. Coca Cola was the favourite drink with 90 being sold.

Other drink sales included 22 bottles of water - purchased at 20 cents each and sold for \$1.50. Wish we could sell more water.

So it is all over for another year. Perhaps we will break the \$2,000 barrier next year. Once again many thanks to all that contributed to success of the event.

John Uren

Thanks John for your work in organising this sizzle.



Fun & Frolics at Narre Warren North

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and top-hatted gentlemen, and the highlight of the night was the arrival of the Waybacks from Snake Gully. There was a roar of laughter as they trooped in, swags, billies, etc., and sat themselves down in the middle of the hall. Judging by their plumage the roosters of Snake Gully must have been left without a feather to fly with! Later on, genial Tom Blain accorded them the deference due to Snake Gully personages by putting on a special Alberts (*a dance involving four couples*) for them. It was a wild and woolly set, and had the crowd in roars. Fun was the keynote of the whole night, with Tom's unrehearsed,

"form" on the "saucer" track in the supper room lending an unexpected touch of hilarity. Tom showed unsuspected "go through" tactics and was pretty badly "let down," believe us!

The fancy dress parades were the spectacle of the night and the judges, Mesdames W. Titcher (*wife of Mr Warren Titcher, chemist, Lonsdale Street*), H. Taylor, and G. Dickson (*wife of Mr Greg Dickson, publisher of the Dandenong Journal*) from Dandenong, had no easy task in selecting the winners. They were delighted with the range and variety and their choice finally fell on the following:

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Children's Section

Most Original: Madge Bailey (Miss America).
Best Sustained: Tom Edwards (Jester) (*youngest son of Tom Edwards*), and Bruce Carrott (Indian).
Best Dressed: Patsy Fritzlauff (Early Victorian).
Best Pair: Barbara and Lex (*Lexie*) Edwards (Hawaiians). Special Prizes: Lois Daniel (Flower-girl). Doug. Edwards (Cowboy), and Merle Ackland (Early Victorian).

Open Section

Most Original Lady: Miss Shirley Gatter (Hulu Girl). Most Original Gentleman: Spencer Ivens (Skeleton). Best Sustained Lady: Miss Edith Hall (Bride) (*now Mrs Edith Smith, who married Jack, son of Mr and Mrs Sid Smith*). Best Sustained Gentleman: Bobby Street (Lion). Best Dressed Lady: Kath Edwards (Usherette). Best Dressed Gentleman: Don Bandle (Burlington Bertie). Best Pair: Mrs G. (*George*) Smith (Brittainia), and Ivo Street (Admiral). Special Prize: The Waybacks—H. (*Harry*) Turner, Mrs Humphreys, Miss Billie Brown, Miss A. (*Alice*) Humphrey, Mr and Mrs A. (*Archie*) Brown, and Mr and Mrs J. (*Jim*) Richardson—all of Berwick).

Among other attractive costumes seen on the floor were: Mr G. (*George*) Smith (Rajah), Mrs Mick Randle and Miss Edna Smith (Sailor and girlfriend). Thelma Rae (Soldier Bridegroom), Jessie Edwards (Ballet Dancer), Mrs. Edwards (Hunting -Girl), Graham Krokoos (Cossack).

Attractive prizes were presented to each of the winners and Mrs Titcher, president of the Dandenong ACF (*Australian Comfort Fund*), made a special donation so that all the children would receive a prize. Her action was greatly appreciated by the local Prisoners of War committee which organised the ball so successfully.

A Fox Trot competition was held during the evening and provided Miss Lily Vines and Mr Brian Hall with a popular success. The Narre Warren North ladies catered with their customary generosity for supper and then on with the dance to the delightful music of Tom Blain's ever popular musical combination.

A competition for a £1 note was won by N. C. Wadsley, of Kooweerup. A donation of £1 from Cr A. G. Robinson helped to swell the takings, and the POW committee anticipates a profit of over £20. This fine result is a tribute to the energetic workers on the committee, headed by Mr George Smith (president), and Mr Graham Krokoos (secretary), and the loyalty of the local and district people to the boys who are Prisoners of War.

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Annual General Meeting

2 pm, Saturday 12 August 2017

Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute
59 Webb Street, Narre Warren

Agenda

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 2016 AGM
2. The reading and acceptance of the Committee Reports
3. Election of Office Bearers for 2017-2018.
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
4. Election of Committee Members for 2017-2018.
 - Correspondence Secretary
 - Librarian
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Research Room Manager
 - Membership Officer
 - IT Officer

All positions will be declared vacant and a ballot will be held if two or more persons nominate for the same position.

Membership Renewal Forms and Proxy Forms are available in this edition of Spreading Branches. As detailed in Clauses 34.6 and 34.7 of our Constitution, Proxy Forms sent by mail or email must be received by the President at least 24 hours prior to the AGM and members holding Proxy Forms must lodge them with the President prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Completed nomination forms need to be lodged with the Secretary by **4 August 2017**. Forms may be left in the "nomination box" in the Research Room or posted to PO Box 149, Narre Warren Vic 3805.

Nomination forms are also available in this edition of Spreading Branches or from the Secretary secretary@nwfhg.org.au

** Please note that only financial members may vote at the AGM. Membership fees are due **1 July**. Please arrive by 1.30 pm if you wish to pay your membership fees on the day.*

For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 walk in Harkaway Cemetery

On Sunday 23 April we gathered at Harkaway Cemetery for our third military walk commemorating 100 years since the Great War. The weather was overcast, no wind and the sun came out as we started our walk around 16 graves with 30 interested visitors. Some visitors have



Our cemetery team and helpers who made the day such a success

joined us before and some came for the first time to remember their relatives. We know we have been successful when people don't want to go home; they enjoy a cup of tea and chat about their connections to a family in Harkaway. My highlight for the day is the couple who came to remember Henry Charles Weist and his brother Private Frederick William Weist. They told us that the reason Henry has no headstone is because of a family misunderstanding. Henry lies in Harkaway while his headstone is at Wonthaggi cemetery. They are investigating what is required to have a plaque installed for Henry.

Thanks to our research team, the speakers, spotters and the helpers who make the day run like clockwork. Thanks to the husbands who pitch

in, David with his camera and Robin who came with his mobile home so we could 'spend a penny', as there is no toilet at Harkaway. Thanks to the Berwick and Harkaway Cemeteries Trust for their support and for bringing the generator so we could boil the 'billy'. Kerryn worked her magic with the poppies that Phyllis Bould made and donated to us to mark each soldier and create a wreath. Southern Plants Dromana once again provided pots of rosemary for each grave. Grant's Real Estate provided three street signs to promote our walk, the Star Newspaper continues to support us and we had Andair provide us with a drone photograph of the cemetery and bell tower for the cover of our new book.

Thank you to our President for her guidance and support and to the committee and the cemetery team for all the extra work done in the background over the last six months. We have already started working on the next walk at Cranbourne Cemetery on 22 April 2018 and look forward to the stories that we will discover.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



The grave of Elizabeth and Francis Barr, where we commemorated 11 soldiers

Narre Warren & District Family History Group

2017 Writing Competition Terms & Conditions



- The Competition is open to financial members of NW&DFHG only.
- The Competition will start with February edition of the newsletter and finish with the November edition.
- Topic to be family history related and be fresh unpublished work.
- Article or story should be between 300 to 600 words (+ or - 10%) and clearly identified as a writing competition entry.
- Entries should be appropriately referenced.
- Articles or stories should be submitted by email to the newsletter editor or left on usb at the Research Room. Please advise the newsletter editor by email of entries left at the Research Room.
- Entries may be accompanied by no more than two photos of suitable size and quality for publication (high resolution, .jpg files, separate to text).
- No proof reading or editing will be done by the newsletter editor, articles and stories will be published as submitted.
- All entries will be published in Spreading Branches during 2017.
- Members may submit no more than one entry per edition.
- Members will be asked to vote online for the best story or article in each edition.
- At the end of the year, the author of the story or article receiving the most votes will be declared the winner. Prizes: 1 year Ancestry UK+ subscription; 1 year Prahran Mechanics' Institute membership
- In the event of a tie – Heather Arnold (Local History Librarian for Casey Cardinia Libraries) will be asked to declare a winner.
- Voting instructions will be emailed to all financial members.

Writing Competition—Entry One

All it took was a photo



Recently I received an email through Ancestry.com (as I have a tree there), from a lady named Pam who said she was from Yorkshire England, Pam wanted to thank me whole heartily for

posting a photo of her Great Great Grandfather,

Joseph Winson. She was very pleased and excited to see Josephs photo. Pam went on to explain her connection to Joseph. On reading this email I went through a number of reactions. Firstly, hang-on Joseph is my G.G. Grandfather, wow Joseph was someone else's G.G. Grandfather, hey, isn't it nice that Pam bothered to acknowledged me for adding the photo and not just copying the picture to her tree, woo there, that means we are related, Oh my gosh, does this mean I might have a new holiday destination to add to my list (to name a few.) After calming my excitement I found my

relationship chart and worked out that Pam was my 3rd cousin. I was so pleased and I felt the thrill of excitement run over my arms. This is a strange feeling to have about a total stranger but I felt a connection and couldn't get my fingers working fast enough over the keypad to write back to her.

Our great grandmothers were sisters, Pam is a descendant of Ada Susan who was the first born, and I'm a descendant of Constance May who was the seventh, and last born. These two sisters were born 1869 and 1885 respectively, 16 years apart. Ada married and left Derbyshire for Leeds Yorkshire when Constance was just 5yo. By the

time Constance was seven she became an aunty to her namesake, Ada had named her daughter after her sister Constance. Ada stayed in England and in 1910 Constance immigrated to Australia with her husband and my 2 year old grandfather. Presumably the two sisters never saw each other again.



Joseph Winson. The photo that started the friendship. I think my grandfather drew on the hair.

Over the last week Pam and I have been emailing back and forth telling each other of our here and now families and I look forward to reading her funny and lengthy letters. This gives me a good, warm and fuzzy feeling of friendship and family.

DNA testing that was done months ago has confirmed we have a direct ancestor match, funnily through her daughter and my dad. Maybe that means that I have more of my mum in my DNA than my dad but, either way I have a new cousin and a renewed enthusiasm to research and connect this branch that faded off my tree many years ago. Pam said that after looking at Joseph's

photo, Ada looked like her father. Hopefully she has a photo of Adas' mum Susannah and maybe Constance has her likeness.

The photo that started the friendship. I think my grandfather drew on the hair.

Ps. we're now friends on Facebook and Pam said both her sister, brother, and she herself said they could see a resemblance of their grandmother in my photo. What an interesting thought. It's all still in the DNA!

Kerry Maxwell

Writing Competition—Entry Two

Lakes Creek State School



On impulse and motivated by not much more than idle curiosity, I recently accessed NLA's Trove to see if my Great Grandfather, Joseph Swadling,¹ was mentioned in any newspaper reports. To my surprise, I found that he had worked in the 1870s at Lakes Creek, which is now an outlying suburb of Rockhampton, in Queensland.² I then wondered if his eldest child, my grandfather, Maxie, had gone to school there. With the help of the Queensland Family History Society's resources,³ I found that Maxie, who was born in 1873,⁴ had enrolled in the local school in 1878. Three of his siblings also attended in later years.



Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 at Lakes Creek State School in 1898. The names of the children haven't been recorded, but one of those Grade 6 pupils is my Great Aunt, Doris Swadling.

The original school (the Provisional School) had been established in 1872 on the corner of Rowan Street and Lakes Creek Road. Some 20 years later it was moved 150 metres to its present location, where the original weatherboard building still stands in good condition.⁵ The original site was later subdivided and that block is now 449 Lakes Creek Road. Maxie and his school mates would

have played on the adjoining land, 451 Lakes Creek Road.

I lived for the first 18 years of my life at 451, and I and my siblings all attended Lakes Creek State School in the 1940s and '50s. My sister's three children also attended, her youngest child having left in 1976 at the end of his primary schooling.

My family therefore has an association with the school stretching over 98 years and covering three out of four generations in direct lineage. The missing link is my father,⁶ who never went to the school. However, he was president of the school's parents and citizens committee during my tenure there.

I and all of my siblings have long since moved from the area, and none of us were aware of the extent of our family's connection to the school. To say that we were amazed is a colossal understatement.

This is what I love about genealogy – the amazing coincidences that leap out of history and smite you between the eyes.

But wait...there's more! According to their marriage certificate, Maxie and my grandmother, Hannah,⁷ were married in 1896 "at the home of Mrs Miller" in Koongal, a suburb adjoining Lakes Creek.⁸ Hannah's mother's maiden name was Miller, but she died in 1891,⁹ so it wasn't her house. Mrs Miller could have been married to an uncle of Hannah's, but who was he? This is a brick wall that has long resisted demolition. However,

the tattered, handwritten, hard-to-read record of Maxie's 1878 enrolment also contains the names of two Miller children, with different fathers, living in Koongal. A new avenue of investigation has opened.

My impulsive prospecting expedition through Trove has unearthed a rich vein of genealogical gold and the irresistible lure of new discoveries beckons.

Ken Swadling

1 Joseph Swadling. Birth Indexes of England and Wales, September 1850, Sup Registrar's District 320 Wycombe, Vol 6 p420, d 19/8/1893 Qld death certificate #3920/145.

2 Newspaper report: Morning Bulletin, 17/11/1884.

3 All information on family attendance at Lakes Creek Provisional and State Schools was obtained from The Queensland School Pupils Index Part 6, from research very kindly provided by the Queensland Family History Society, February 2016.

4 Henry Maxwell Swadling, b 17/5/1873, Qld birth certificate #2861/261, d 11/12/1948, Qld death certificate #5042/475.

5 Lakes Creek State School Centenary Souvenir Booklet, p49.

6 Clifton Kenneth Swadling b 24/12/1902, Qld birth certificate #8868/51, d 8/6/1957 Qld death certificate #240/2543.

7 Hannah Tausina Yappa, b 3/3/1872 Qld birth certificate #415/121, d 12/6/1962 Qld death certificate #295/2614.

8 Henry Maxwell Swadling m Hannah Tausina Yappa, 29/6/1896, Qld marriage certificate #2141/39.

9 Hellen Miller, née Hawthorn, d 27/6/1891, Qld death certificate #1891/4195 19.

Writing Competition—Entry Three

An interesting military connection found while researching my New Zealand family.



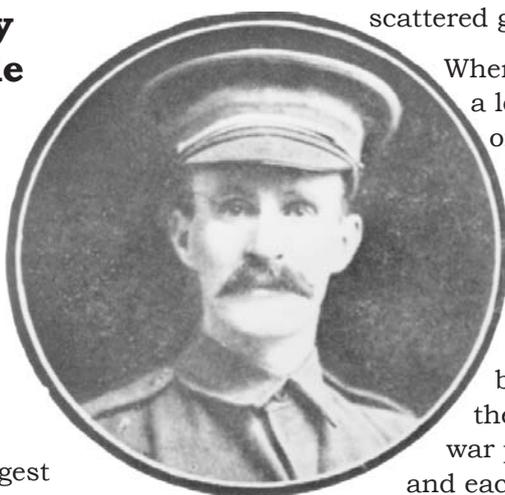
My great grandfather had a number of sisters and three of them migrated to the Wanganui district of New Zealand.

Annie the eldest in 1855, Agnes followed later that year and youngest sister Rose arrived a few years later.

Rose married Marcus Furlong South on the 20 April 1878 at the All Saints Church Hokitika¹. In 1874 Marcus was appointed as clerk to the Magistrates Court. Rose, Marcus and their daughters migrated to Victoria sometime in the 1890s. Marcus died in 1909 aged fifty-nine and was buried in St Kilda Cemetery. In 1916 their third daughter, Laura Evelyn Churchill South married Philip Gidley Leslie King on 28 February at Holy Trinity Church Williamstown².

Philip known to his family and friends as Les was born 21 June 1882 at Maffra. He was a thirty-three year old farmer at Cobram when he enlisted on 17 December 1915. He advised the military that he had been a member of the Buln Buln Rifle Club for three years and the Metung Rifle Club for three years. Following basic training at Broadmeadows Camp he then trained with the Field Artillery at Maribyrnong. He embarked as a Private in C Company of the 20th Reinforcements 14th Battalion from Melbourne on 7 September 1916 onboard HMAT Port Sydney bound for the battlefields of the Western Front³.

He left his wife who was pregnant living with her family in South Yarra. As was the practice when the troops arrived in England they undertook further training before crossing the channel to France, on 4 January 1917 Les joined his unit in France, a month later he was reported killed in action at Combles and buried in one of the



Philip Gidley Leslie King.
Photograph AWM

scattered graves near Gueudecourt France⁴.

When possible the military contacted a local clergyman to notify the next of kin, in this case the clergyman wrote to the army asking could he delay notifying Rose of her husband's death as she was 'delicate' (about to give birth). Laura gave birth to twins, son Philip and daughter Gidley were born 9 March 1917, a month after their father died. Laura received a war pension of two pounds a fortnight and each of the children were granted seventeen shillings and sixpence a fortnight in April 1917.

Laura wrote a number of letters to the military enquiring about her husband's personal effects she

particularly wanted the final letter he had written to her but not posted, sadly it would appear that she never received any of his possessions.

Laura also asked the Australian Red Cross to find out about how he died and where he was buried. From this correspondence we find that he was 'caught by a shell that blew his head off'. Captain Albert Jacka VC was the Lieutenant of C Company at the time and wrote to the Red Cross with details and reference to where Les was buried⁵. Later Laura received the information that Les was reburied at Bancourt British Cemetery in Plot 5 Row M Grave 2. His name is inscribed on Panel 73 at the Australian War Memorial.



Photo of original grave. Photograph
State Library of Victoria

Laura wrote to the military again this time asking for two more copies of her husband's headstone for her children. The reply was that they would cost her three pennies each, I wonder if she got the photos.

Laura died in May 1946 and is buried with her parents at St Kilda Cemetery not far from the grave of Albert Jacka VC. If you're wondering about the name Philip Gidley Leslie King the answer is yes he is a great, great grandson of Philip Gidley King the third Governor of New South Wales and his wife Anna Josepha Coombe.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

1 *The Argus* 10 May 1878

2 *The Argus* 1 April 1916

3 NAA B2455 Item 1972617

4 www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1640854

5 www.awm.gov.au/people/rolls/R1494543

A teacher in your family

In my research into residents of Upper Beaconsfield, I endeavoured to find the teachers who worked here. I had a list of head teachers from the school history, published by the late John Milligan. However, these were just names and years and didn't give me any information about their lives. It was interesting that the teachers often stayed here for a short duration.

Initially I spent some time at PROV to consult the microfilm of the teacher record books—a tedious undertaking. So I was pleased to find that these records are now available online on Ancestry. Unfortunately as they are not yet indexed, the teacher you are looking for is a bit tricky to locate. The Teacher Record Books are in a collection labelled “Victoria, Australia, Selected Trial Brief and Correspondence Registers and Other Images, 1837-1993”. The records themselves are mistakenly labelled “Eildon Teacher Record Books”, because the previous record are the school rolls of Eildon. Further they are sorted into a 1914-1934 range, which is an arbitrary numbering rather than the years these records refer to.



Each teacher was given a number when they registered. These numbers can be found on PROV's website on www.prov.vic.gov.au/node/876

Luckily there is a link that takes you to the correct page on Ancestry. You'll need to browse through the records, but this little guide below should make it a bit easier: For example if you are looking for teacher number 22222, she will be found in range 1924. Then you have to take a guess how far into the

Range—no	Range—no	Range—no
1914 – 2251	1921 – 17500	1928 – 32656
1915 – 4514	1922 – 19600	1929 – 35099
1916 – 6875	1923 – 21699	1930 – 37533
1917 – 9100	1924 – 23699	1931 – 39899
1918 – 11174	1925 – 25718	1932 – 44650
1919 – 13300	1926 – 27783	1933 – 49024
1920 – 15350	1927 – 30201	1934 – 53799

volume she may be located, and enter a number until you get close to the record you need.



A teacher's record will list their name and date and place of birth, qualification and employment history. It also contains notes from inspectors as to the quality of their teaching. It may list the date of retirement, and sometimes the date of death.

While I gained some interesting information about these teachers through their records, a look into

their correspondence to the Education Department was even more exciting. Such letters can be found among the inward correspondence of a particular school. In VPRS 640/P1/309 I found a job application for the position of head teacher at North Beaconsfield. The position was not available at the time, but that did not deter Miss Frances Ford to apply anyway. She may have had a friend in this locality as she was well informed about the head teacher stationed here at the time. Miss Ford had been employed at the Tuerong State School near Mornington since 18 Feb 1886. On 18 Nov 1886 she penned this application:

Sir, I have the honour to request that I may be appointed to the position of Head Teacher in State School, No 2560, Beaconsfield North whenever a vacancy may occur therein.

I would here draw attention to the fact that the Tuerong School is not one in which it is fit for a female to reside, alone, as I am obliged to do. It is three quarters of a mile distant from any habitation, therefore, I might be murdered and no one know anything about the matter till the children came to School. There is nothing, whatever, to prevent any ruffian from taking advantage of the lonely position of the school and breaking in. What, then, would my strength be compared with that of some powerful villain? I might cry out but who would hear? I might struggle but all in vain.

There is not a house wherein I can obtain accommodation, therefore I am obliged to live at the school. The previous teacher, Miss Brooker, was fortunate enough to have relatives who could stay with her. I may point out to the Dept. that it was walking to Mornington a good 7 miles – to the Post and to obtain the necessaries of life that undermined her health as it certainly will that of any other sent to this school. It is most inconvenient if not altogether impossible to keep a horse here. I have tried, but I cannot manage it.

Again, the bleak winters at Tuerong are too severe for me.

I would, also, urge that after sixteen years of hard and faithful work, as Pupil Teacher and Assistant, (the latter part of which was of a most exceptional and trying nature), I am entitled to a better position than the one I now hold.

The present teacher, at Beaconsfield, Miss Russell, has not been so long in the service as I have, by five years, and her literary qualifications are lower than mine.

Trusting the Department will shortly remove me to a more suitable locality.

*I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant, Frances Ford*

Her other correspondence would no doubt be as interesting to read. The Department noted that only seven months previously she requested a position near the seaside, and that she would be ineligible for a transfer until she had worked in her present position for twelve months. On 16 August 1887 she was transferred to Violet Town.

Marianne Rocke



**Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.
Form of Appointment of Proxy AGM 12 Aug 2017**

I, _____ (please print)
of _____
being a member of the Narre Warren & District Family History
Group Inc. hereby
appoint _____
of _____
also being a member of that Incorporated Association as my
proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting
of the Association to be held on the 12th day of August, 2017 and at
any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of / against (delete as
appropriate), the resolution _____
_____ (insert details)

Signed: _____
Date: _____



**Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.
Nomination Form for AGM Saturday 12 Aug 2017**

Nominee: _____

(please print)

Position: _____

(please print)

Nominated By: _____

(please print)

Signature: _____

Seconded By: _____

(please print)

Signature: _____

I agree to accept this nomination:

This form, duly completed and signed should be returned to
either PO Box 149, Narre Warren, 3805 or placed in the box in
our Research Room by 4th August, 2017.

Narre Warren & District Family History Group 2017 Workshops

Date	Time	Topic	Tutor
Monday 22 May	7 pm–8.30 pm	<i>Family Search</i>	Lynne
Monday 19 Jun	7 pm–8.30 pm	<i>CCLC libraries & family history – Ancestry, inter library loans, z portal searches, e-resources</i>	Heather
Monday 17 Jul	7 pm–8.30 pm	<i>British Colonies – India, Burma and South Africa</i>	Wendy E
Monday 14 Aug (at Cranbourne)	10.30 am–2.45 pm 10.30 am–11.30 am 11.45 am–12.45 pm 1.45 pm–2.45 pm	<i>Family History Month: Getting your family history into print*</i> <i>Blogs, ebooks & websites for family history publishing (Lynne)</i> <i>Family Power (using PowerPoint for publishing family history) (Jane)</i> <i>Paper books for publishing family history (Wendy E)</i>	Lynne, Jane & Wendy E
Monday 18 Sep	7 pm–8.30 pm	<i>Exploring North American Connections</i>	Jane
Monday 16 Oct (at Cranbourne)	10.30 am–2.45 pm 10.30 am–11.30 am 11.45 am–12.45 pm 1.45 pm–2.45 pm	<i>Seniors & Ageing Positively Festivals*</i> <i>You can learn a lot in a cemetery (Jane)</i> <i>Finding records at PROV (Lynne)</i> <i>Historical societies can help you with your family history (Heather)</i>	Jane, Lynne & Heather
Monday 20 Nov	7 pm–8.30 pm	<i>Remembering military ancestors</i>	Jane

Venues: Evening workshops May and June will be at the Meeting Room Narre Warren Library
Evening workshops July, September and November, venue to be confirmed
Daytime workshops: Meeting Room, Cranbourne Library, 65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road.

* On seminar days there will be a 15-minute break between class 1 and class 2, and a lunch break and time for a visit to our research room or a general chat between class 2 and class 3. All workshops are free to members and \$5 for visitors. Visitors may	participate in one, two or three sessions in daytime workshops for just \$5. Our workshops have been very successful again this year. We've received good feedback from those attending and enjoyed the company of quite a few visitors. We realise we	can't please everyone with dates, times and topics, but we think we've got something for everyone. Contact the Research Officer for bookings or more information: Lynne 8787 5558 or research.officer@nwfhg.org.au
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New in the Research Room

- All care & responsibility: a history of nursing in Victoria 1850-1934
- Freemasons on the goldfields: Ballarat and district 1853-2013
- Curries from Cumberland (Currie family history)
- Gallipoli Diaries (donated by Lyne McGregor)
- When war came to Fremantle 1899 to 1945 (donated by Lyne McGregor)
- Where the dead men lie: tales of graves, pioneers and old bush pubs (donated by Steven Smith)
- The diaries of Sarah Midgley and Richard Skillbeck: a story of Australian settlers 1851-1864 (donated by Steven Smith)
- Mayors of Bendigo 1856-2001
- Years of adventure: fifty years of service by the Country Women's Association of Victoria 1928-1978
- Golden Square Primary School No 1189 Centenary 1873-1973
- Bell Topper, the school on the hill: a chronicle of education and the community of California Gully
- Moving forward, looking back: the history of the Marong Shire
- Bendigo District Cricket 1853-1990
- Cohuna and District Pioneers pre 1900

Research Room Roster: You are responsible to find a replacement if you cannot do duty.

June 2017					
Tuesday	11 am-3 pm	Saturday	11 am-3 pm	Sunday	2 pm-4 pm
		3	Di Brodbeck Judy Mehegan	4	Kerryn Maxwell Lyne McGregor
6	Mary McGrath Joyce Masters	10 (<i>Meeting. Open to 1</i>)	Lynne Bradley Lorraine Taylor	11	Lynne Bradley Eileen Durdin
13	Moreyn Dimsey Kaye Smith	17	Shirley Peterson Robyn Jones	18	Jane Rivett-Carnac Steven Smith
20	Fay McCoubrie Bev Lambie	24	Wendy Eldridge John Elliott	25	Wendy Goodwin Lyne McGregor
27	Maureen Abbott Maureen Stagg				

July 2017					
Tuesday	11 am-3 pm	Saturday	11 am-3 pm	Sunday	2 pm-4 pm
		1	Brenda Wheeler Robyn Jones	2	Wendy Goodwin Steven Smith
4	Bev Lambie Moreyn Dimsey	8 (<i>Meeting. Open to 1</i>)	Shirley Peterson Wendy Eldridge	9	Eileen Durdin Kerryn Maxwell
11	Joyce Masters Kaye Smith	15	Kerryn Maxwell Lorraine Taylor	16	Jane Rivett-Carnac Lynne Bradley
18	Mary McGrath Anne Blair	22	Di Brodbeck Judy Mehegan	23	Lyne McGregor Wendy Goodwin
25	Fay McCoubrie Maureen Abbott	29	John Elliott Brenda Wheeler	30	Eileen Durdin Jane Rivett-Carnac

August 2017					
Tuesday	11 am-3 pm	Saturday	11 am-3 pm	Sunday	2 pm-4 pm
1	Joyce Masters Maureen Stagg	5	Wendy Eldridge Kerryn Maxwell	6	Steven Smith Lynne Bradley
8	Moreyn Dimsey Anne Blair	12 (<i>AGM. Open to 1</i>)	Shirley Peterson Robyn Jones	13	Kerryn Maxwell Lyne McGregor
15	Fay McCoubrie Kaye Smith	19	Lorraine Taylor Brenda Wheeler	20	Eileen Durdin Jane Rivett-Carnac
22	Bev Lambie Joyce Masters	26	Di Brodbeck Judy Mehegan	27	Kerryn Maxwell Lynne Bradley
29	Mary McGrath Maureen Abbott				

New in the Research Room

- Eaglehawk Citizens Brass Band 1884-1984
- A tour of our town-Eaglehawk
- Rates, Roads & Rubbish: 150 years of local government in Eaglehawk
- Tithe Defaulters – Ireland 1831 (Limerick, Laois, Meath, Carlow, Offaly, Kerry, Kilkenny, Cork, Louth, Tipperary, Waterford & Wexford (fiche)) (Donated by Wendy Eldridge)
- Representative Men of South Australia (CD Rom)
- Men of the time in Australia – Victorian series (CD Rom)
- Biographical Index of South Australians 1836-1885 (CD Rom)
- Victoria and its Metropolis (CD Rom)
- Australian men of mark (CD Rom)
- Queensland Founding Families (CD Rom)

Spreading Branches August 2017 edition

We would like
to read your stories.
Please submit your articles
and entries to the writing
competition
by 15 July 2017

Publications for Sale

For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Avenue of Honour)

This book tells the stories of 36 families of Harkaway who watched, waited and pined for the 66 men and 2 women who enlisted and tried to make it safely back to home. Ten did not return.

Most of the men served in the infantry across 18 battalions predominately in the 14th, 21st, 24th and the 59th. Four local lads served in the Light Horse, 3 in the Pioneers, 3 in the 4th Field Ambulance, 6 in the Machine Gun or artillery units. 1 soldier served with the Tropical Force in New Guinea until 1920.

Two were awarded the MM (Military Medal) and 1 was awarded the MSM (Meritorious Service Medal) and 1 the DSO (Distinguished Service Order). Others were mentioned in dispatches.

For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Avenue of Honour)
\$20 + \$6 postage + handling

Ordinary people, interesting lives: A walk in the historic Harkaway Cemetery

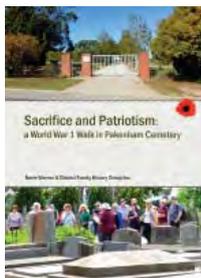
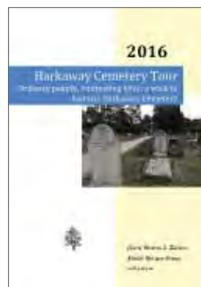
(published 2016) abounds with people who, once arrived, had to create a roof over their heads, people who needed to grow crops or nurture their livestock to be able to eat, neighbours who no longer remained strangers, faces who became familiar at church or school or the general store or railway station.

Our volunteers researched and wrote the stories of families that travelled thousands of miles to a country on the other side of the world. A country with people who didn't necessarily speak the same language or held the same beliefs.

Ordinary people, interesting lives: A walk in the historic Harkaway Cemetery
\$15 + \$4 postage + handling

Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery

(published 2016) tells the stories of 64 families who watched and supported 120 men and one woman as they enlisted.



This book tells the stories of sets of brothers, a father and his son, a nurse and a sailor along with two Indigenous soldiers. Soldiers who received awards, soldiers who served as troopers, gunners, sappers, drivers, and signallers; in the Light Horse, Pioneers, Railway Unit, Anzac Police and Provost Corps and in the Cyclist Battalion.

Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery \$20 + \$6 postage + handling

100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery

(published 2015) examines the cemetery's connections with the Great War. Our stories embrace 100 men from over 70 families – all linked to Berwick Cemetery and the community it served.

Twenty-eight men did not return; they are still in France, Gallipoli, Belgium, Malta, Palestine, at sea and 6 have no known grave.

100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery \$20 + \$6 postage + handling

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District

(published 2010 by the Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.) is a 274 page book complete with index to people, properties and ships; plus a bibliography. There are over 300 entries containing birth, death and marriage information for individuals and families, many of which were submitted by descendants of those people and include photographs not published elsewhere. In many cases detailed biographies have been written by descendants or compiled by the family history group, giving an insight into the early days of many Casey Cardinia families and individuals.

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District
\$30 + \$16 postage + handling

Kindred Spirits. 20 years of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group 1989 – 2009

\$25 + \$11 postage + handling

Cemetery Tour booklets

Pakenham Cemetery Tour (2011)	\$10
Cranbourne Cemetery Tour (2012)	\$10
Lang Lang Cemetery Tour (2013)	\$10
Berwick Cemetery Tour (2014)	
“Murder & Mystery”	\$15
Pakenham Cemetery Tour (2015)	
“Indomitable Women”	\$15

Add \$4 for postage + handling.

Order forms are available from the Research room or download from nwfhg.org.au/publications/