

19 Kinds of Death Records and Their Uses

Death Certificates

The official record in modern times is a **death certificate**. Depending on the time and place, it may be issued by a doctor or other medical practitioner who attended the deceased, or by an official registrar of vital records. Besides providing the name of the deceased and the time and place of death, it may include various details. In fact, death certificates can be interesting reading. (Sorry, is that too grim?) You may find:

cause of death (sometimes in grisly detail), last place of residence, age at death, birth information, marriage data, including marital status and spouse's name, burial information, parents of the deceased and their birthplaces.



Right: Example of Obituary

As with birth certificates, every jurisdiction has its own rules about when death certificates become publicly available, who can obtain them in the meantime, and the processes for obtaining them. The Internet is your best friend, when you need to find where and how to obtain an official copy of a death certificate. For example, if I were searching for my brother's death certificate, I'd start with this search term: "Colorado death certificate."

For genealogical purposes, FamilyLink itself could prove to be your best friend. We have indexed hundreds of millions of death records from around the world, and many of our one billion family tree records also contain death information.

Most US states began recording deaths in the early decades of the 20th century. Many US counties started decades earlier. In New England, towns began recording deaths as soon as they began to be towns. There is similar variation from nation to nation, and often within nations.

In the United States, for most deaths since the 1930s, the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is useful and could be considered an official source. It is available at FamilyLink.

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Issue 99 February 2014

General Meetings:

Wed April 9th 2014
@ 7.30 pm - In-house
Easter Escapades

Sat May 10th 2014
@ 2.00 pm
25th Anniversary
Celebration

Sat June 14th 2014
@ 2.00 pm Guest
Speaker -
Allen Evans
Agricultural Labourers

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Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc

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Family History Research Room

Location:

Narre Warren Branch Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate Vic 3805.

Meetings:

Narre Warren Library Meeting Room. 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.

Membership:

Single \$30 + \$5 joining fee, Joint \$45 + \$5 joining fee. Payable 1st 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 are - **Bank:** National Australia Bank **BSB:** 083 802 **Branch:** Fountain Gate **Account No:** 539450013, but **please** don't forget to use your name as a reference. We have a large collection of books, maps, microfiche, CDs and journals from all over the world available to our members and visitors.

Opening Hours for Research:

Tuesday 11am to 3pm, Saturday 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, (Room closes at 1.45pm on Saturdays of our General Meeting)

Thursday 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm (From October to April), Sunday 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (From May to September).

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 address or email: research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Casey – Cardinia Library Corporation and City of Casey in allowing us the use of facilities at the Narre Warren Library.

President's Report

Happy New Year!

I'm writing this in the dark even though it's 8.48 am. The shutters are closed to keep out the heat, and the air conditioner is on. It's day two of the heat wave and my mind wanders from what I'm going to say in this report to how our ancestors coped with extreme weather conditions like these.

The Research Room is closed but there's still a few things happening in the background. We're going to be at Pioneer Park, Berwick on Australia Day – I'm hoping for a more comfortable outdoors type of day than today is going to be. Jane is again leading the annual stock take of our resources, I'm compiling an order of *Unlock the Past* books, (we've found a 20% discount coupon) and a small group of M&Ms people will be visiting the Pakenham Racing Club next week.

Looking forward to 2014, Eileen already has some terrific Away Days planned, there's lots of new Australian resources that went on the computers late last year to be explored and who knows what the M&Ms team will uncover. No doubt family history will be highlighted in connection with The Great War Centenary. We have a large number of war memorials on Casey Cardinia Remembers. It would be fabulous to be able to post a short piece on every WW1 soldier on the anniversary of their death. But that means research to be done by someone – is anyone interested?

Lynne Bradley

President

Research Room News

Hello fellow Genies,

Happy New Genie Year. Last year seems a year ago already. We had a good cemetery trip in November where I found most of the family on my list and as usual a few weeks after, found I had missed other family members at St Kilda. So I will go back but having just been with the Group the hunt will be much easier. I can recommend doing a cemetery trip with the Group you learn all the tricks for maximising time and map reading and finding that elusive clue. The cemetery walk in October was a bright sunny morning and apart from the very noisy birds good fun was had by everyone on the day.

I started my new year with new faces to names when three generations of cousins on my Dad's tree visited Melbourne. We had a funny moment with Darryl demonstrating 1st and 2nd cousins once removed etc. We dragged out the old family album and named a few more faces, shared stories and laughter and gained contact with cousins in Western Australia. This meeting happened by a chance phone call to my brother at his work, he then rang me and said "you do the family stuff ring this number they say they are cousins".

January we do the annual stock-take over two days and it's always a fun time with laughter and surprises as people find all the treasures we have in our collection. I'm looking forward to another year of friendship and generosity, donations and purchasing that are some of the hallmarks of our wonderful Group.

Happy Reading,

Jane Rivett-Carnac

A big hello and welcome to our new members: Suzanne and Stanley Ashley.

New to the Research Room

Books

Victoria Barracks Melbourne	Donated J Rivett-Carnac
Australia in Wartime	
Who's Who of Cricket	Donated Stephenson Family
Memories of Ickleton	Donated L Taylor
A Twist in every Tale	Donated J Angee
Not Enough Grass to Feed a Single Bullock	Donated S Smith
From Palings to Pavement	
It's on at The Union	

Casey Cardinia Books

The Goon Celebration of 100 years of Footy	
Gembrook 1909	Donated L Bradley
Lang Lang Cemetery Tour 2013	Compiled L Bradley for Group
Chelsea a Beachside Community	Donated S Smith
Berwick War Memorial	Donated N Sealey

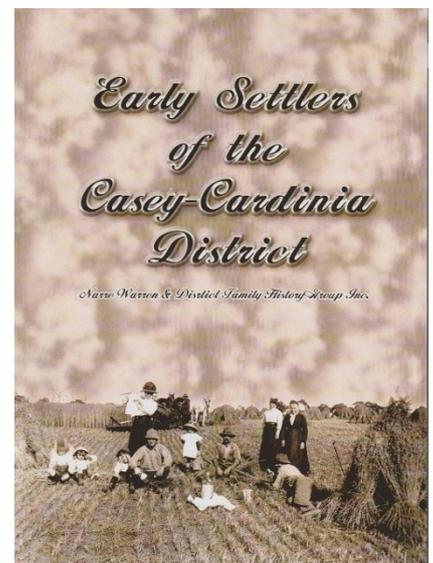
Publications for Sale

Microfiche

- Berwick Cemetery Register and Headstones 1867-1999.
\$22 + Postage & Packaging
- Harkaway Cemetery Register and Headstones 1863-1999.
\$6 + Postage & Packaging
- Pakenham Cemetery Register and Headstones 1850-1999
\$22 + Postage & Packaging
- Postage + Packaging add \$2.50 for up to 3 sets of fiche.

Books

- Kindred Spirits -20 years of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group 1989 – 2009. \$25 + \$8.25 (Postage + Packaging)
- Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District \$30 + \$13.40 (Postage + Packaging) -Order forms available from the Research room or download from our web site.



The **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.

Genealogy books in Casey Cardinia Libraries.

Over the past few weeks I have been dipping into these three books, I recently found in the Narre Warren library.

Ancestors in the Attic: Making Family memorabilia into history

Author-Karen Foy

929.1 FOY

Many of the topics suggested in each chapter we may know of and have used.

Chapters are titled "A lasting reminder" (about newspaper articles) to "Habits and Hobbies" (about smoking and sewing collectables).

Karen goes into these in detail and provides useful websites at the end of each chapter.

At the end of the book she lists a checklist and action tips.

Digitizing Your Family History

Author-Rhonda R McClure

929.10285 MAC

This book is from the Family Tree Book catalogue, published in the USA, some of which are also in our library system.

Rhonda goes into detail with easy methods for preserving your heirloom documents, photos, home movies and more in a digital format.

The use of scanners, digital cameras and printing and sharing your digitised images are discussed.

We may have all read of these topics but all together in the one book is very helpful, as is the glossary at the back of the book.

Advances Genealogy: Research techniques

Authors-George G. Morgan and Drew Smith

929.1072 MOR. Published 2014

George and Drew are the producers of the genealogy guys podcasts. The URL is genealogyguys.com

This book is very new and there is a [waiting list](#) at Narre Warren library

George and Drew talk about ideas as to how to knock down that 'brick wall'.

Re-examine evidence you have looked at before and then see which details you may have overlooked.

Some chapter headings- Use brute force; Go around the brick wall; Talk to a friend; Use crowd sourcing; Apply technological solutions; Hire a demolition expert; Rest and attack the brick wall at another time and Put the techniques to work.

The dissection of an Obituary' and 'Making a detailed time line' are excellent points. However, a word of caution-most references are to US sources.

All good ideas. Now I hope to use them to 'knock down my brick walls'.

Di Christensen

Spreading Branches Deadline

The deadline for the May 2014 edition of Spreading Branches is April 15th 2014.

Cornish Festival at Eaglehawk 14-16 March 2014

For those with Cornish Ancestors this is a very interesting weekend.

Organised by the Cornish Association of Victoria and to be held in conjunction with the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival.

There will be displays, a tour of Bendigo, a meet the Cornish, a Bardic ceremony in the Park, a Festival dinner, Ecumenical church service, a march through the streets of Eaglehawk and many other activities.

Contact the secretary on 03 9877 2968 for further details or www.cornishvic.org.au

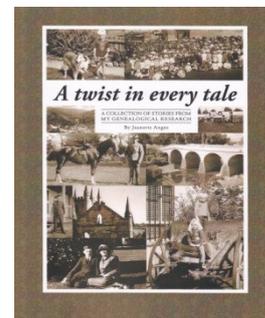
Di Christensen

25th anniversary celebrations: May 10 2014 @ 2.00 pm

Watch this space, or I should be more exact and ask you to refer our website for updates on our celebration as this will be the last newsletter before the day. Also just to let you know the issue of Spreading Branches for May will be late due to these celebrations.

Lyne McGregor

A Twist in every tale written by Jeanette Angee



A family history book containing seven different researched stories each with an interesting connection or twist. A5 paperback, 176 pages. The seven stories are:-

1. The MacNamara and Troy families from Germanton/Holbrook, NSW who were written about in the poems of Banjo Patterson
2. George Ramsdale Witton, a comrade of Breaker Morant and connected to the Watson family. Both families' movements from Port Fairy to Warragul and Morwell in Vic and Coalstoun Lakes in Qld
3. A child immigrant to Western Australia who arrived in 1938 as part of the British child Migrant scheme
4. Penney and Brown families descendants of George and Mary Kearley some of the first settlers of Hobart Town and connected to the Newett family of Vic
5. The hunting down in Neerim, Victoria in 1922 of a young 'bushranger' belonging to the Maple family
6. The Cathie family history from Scotland to Sunbury and Melbourne, including their role in the printing company of Wilke in Vic
7. The Noy family who came from a Suffolk workhouse to prominence in the towns of Sunbury and Morwell in Vic.

The cost is \$18.00 plus \$5 postage

Please order by phoning Jeanette on 0359965267 or by emailing djangl@dodo.com.au

AWAY DAYS

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (GSV)

Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne

- Date:** Thursday, 20 February 2014
- Time:** 8.15 am - meet at Narre Warren Station
We will travel by train to Flinders Street Station (travelling in the last carriage of the train) and then walk to the GSV
10.00am arrive at GSV
- Event:** We will be given an "Introductory Talk" and then we can use the GSV library
We are welcome to attend the 12.30 pm Thursday Talk
- Costs:** \$10 GSV members are free
- Bookings:** Place your name on the Booking Sheet on notice board in the Research Room
or email minutes.secretary@nwfhg.org.au

STATE LIBRARY VICTORIA

328 Swanston Street, Melbourne

- Date:** Wednesday, 5 March 2014
- Time:** 9.00 am - meet at Narre Warren Station (Time may change depending on the train timetable)
We will travel by train to Melbourne Central Station (travelling in the last carriage of the train) and then walk to the State Library
- Event:** Research at the Genealogy Centre
- Costs:** Free
- Bookings:** Place your name on the Booking Sheet on notice board in the Research Room
or email minutes.secretary@nwfhg.org.au

BENDIGO FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY EXPO

YMCA Leisure Centre, Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo

- Date:** Sunday, 16 March 2014
- Time:** 8.00 am - meet at car park near Narre Warren Library
- Event:** Attend the Bendigo Family & Local History Expo
We can visit other sites within the Bendigo area if members would like and time permits
- Costs:** \$10.00 Entry Fee
Payment to driver of an appropriate fee for travel costs
- Duration:** Full day - return to Narre Warren approx 6.00 pm
- Bookings:** Place your name on the Booking Sheet on notice board in the Research Room
We will travel by car convoy
- Extra:** For more information about the Expo visit their website
<http://www.bendigofamilyhistory.org/familyhistoryexpo2014.htm>

AWAY DAYS

Cemeteries - 9 November 2013

Eight of us were to enjoy a hire bus ride for our Away Day on 9 November, but unfortunately, when I went to collect our bus from the council depot, it wasn't there, others were, but not the one I had keys for, so we travelled to Cheltenham Pioneer, Cheltenham New, St Kilda, Burwood and Box Hill cemeteries in two cars.

The weather started off terrible and we all thought umbrellas were going to be used all day, but, how lucky we were, not one drop of rain fell on us while we were out of the cars. We had morning tea at McDonalds, Elsternwick and lunch at a very nice Asian Bakery at Ashwood.

As is the usual case success was had by some and not others where some graves had headstones and others didn't, and, some graves could not even be located, so more homework is needed for those ones to be located on another visit.

After departing at 9.00 am we arrived back very safely at 4.00 pm.

Report by Jenny Hayes

Shrine of Remembrance - 23 November 2013

We travelled in the mini bus to the Shrine of Remembrance. Jenny Hayes did a great job of driving in the pouring rain and fortunately for us the rain had cleared by the time we arrived at the Shrine of Remembrance.

We viewed a short film and then were given a tour of the Shrine of Remembrance by Geoff. Geoff was a war veteran and with his vast knowledge was able to answer the questions that we put to him. After the tour we were left to browse around the Shrine of Remembrance at our leisure.

We had a light lunch at the café opposite the Shrine of Remembrance. On the way home had a quick stop at the St Kilda Cemetery.

Thanks to Jenny for being our bus driver as we all had a good day.



MORE AWAY DAYS

We need more suggestions for Away Days. Let me know where you would like to be able to do some research or feel it is worthwhile the Group visiting. It is always better to go to family history places/ events with someone rather than by yourself. I will try to arrange for an Away Day to that destination.

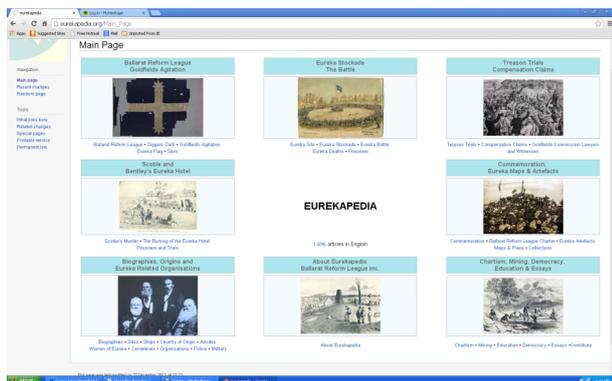
If you want further information, have any ideas or suggestions for Away Days contact Eileen Durdin, Away Days Coordinator on 9705 0599 or minutes.secretary@nwfhg.org.au.

What's on the internet?

<http://eurekapedia.org>

A new wiki site was launched late 2013.

The home page lists the following;



- About Eurekapedia
- Ballarat Reform League Goldfields Agitation
- Eureka Stockade-The Battle
- Treason Trials
- Scobie and Bentley's Hotel
- Commemoration-Eureka maps and Artefacts
- Biographies, Origins and Eureka Related Organisations and this includes biographies, ships, sites, country of origin and more.

I found it fascinating and you have the ability to send changes to eurekapedia@yahoo.com.au. It is an initiative of the Ballarat Reform League and developed and maintained by Dorothy Wickham and Clare Gervasoni of Ballarat Heritage Services.

Di Christensen

Another source of information for births in Melbourne I came across recently is the Index to the Royal Womens Hospital Midwifery Book 1 formerly the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital.

Index to the records can be found here:

http://www.ozgenonline.com/vic_data/royal_womens_hospital/

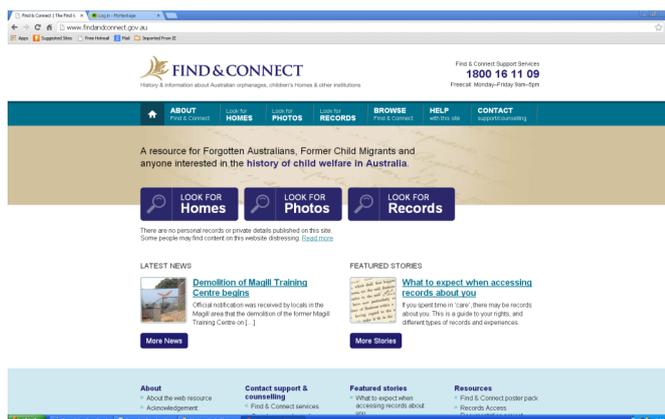
Records and info on what can be found and the image of a record can be viewed here:

<http://www.thewomens.org.au/PatientRecords>



Another source of information for those seeking information about Australian Orphanages, Children's Homes and other institutions.

<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>



Robyn Jones

19 Kinds of Death Records and Their Uses cont'd

Other Sources

Church records often include deaths and burials.

Obituaries are fairly reliable sources of death information, because they tend to be written within a few days of a death. They are rich, but less reliable, sources of other information, which is less proximate. They may contain birth and marriage data, as well as the names of family members who preceded the deceased in death, and surviving family members and their spouses. It's common to find information about education, military service, and professional activities, among other biographical information. However, bear in mind that obituaries tend to be written on short notice, with short deadlines, and at a time of emotional stress. Writers usually are relying mostly on memory, with a minimum of documentation and little time to remember, research, and write. Moreover, the emotion of the moment and a reasonable desire not to offend family members may colour both the selection and wording of biographical detail. If you can't find an obituary at FamilyLink (often you can) or elsewhere on the Internet, check the library for local newspapers. The funeral home involved, if you can identify it, may keep a file of obituaries, too.

Funeral programs tucked away in drawers, boxes, and files can be good sources of death information.

News articles and **death notices** in newspapers are reasonably reliable, contemporaneous sources. (Of course, obituaries often run in newspapers, too.)

Family histories, family Bibles, and family member journals can be good sources of information as to the timing and circumstances of someone's death.

Siblings, children, other close relatives, neighbours, and close friends may be good sources of clues, at least, and a general sense of when and how someone died, even if they don't remember precise dates.

Cemetery records may even include obituaries. And by all means don't forget **tombstones** whose death information is literally carved in stone. (You can search millions of tombs

No.	Name	Rank	Regiment	Co.	Date of Death
870	Crowe, D. J.	Private	10th Regt.	I	Mar 2, 1862
871	Crowder, S.	Private	10th Regt.	B	Aug 11, 1862
872	Crowley, D. M.	Private	10th Regt.	C	Aug 6, 1862
873	Crowley, Samuel H.	Private	10th Regt.	D	Aug 2, 1862
874	Crowley, Harvey	Private	10th Regt.	E	Aug 2, 1862
875	Crowley, Patrick H.	Private	10th Regt.	F	Aug 2, 1862
876	Crowley, M.	Private	10th Regt.	G	May 26, 1862
877	Crowley, John	Private	10th Regt.	H	May 26, 1862
878	Crowley, Joseph	Private	10th Regt.	I	May 26, 1862
879	Crowley, James	Private	10th Regt.	J	May 26, 1862
880	Crowley, William	Private	10th Regt.	K	May 26, 1862
881	Crowley, Andrew	Private	10th Regt.	L	May 26, 1862
882	Crowley, Robert	Private	10th Regt.	M	May 26, 1862
883	Crowley, Charles	Private	10th Regt.	N	May 26, 1862
884	Crowley, Thomas	Private	10th Regt.	O	May 26, 1862
885	Crowley, James	Private	10th Regt.	P	May 26, 1862
886	Crowley, John	Private	10th Regt.	Q	May 26, 1862
887	Crowley, William	Private	10th Regt.	R	May 26, 1862
888	Crowley, Andrew	Private	10th Regt.	S	May 26, 1862
889	Crowley, Robert	Private	10th Regt.	T	May 26, 1862
890	Crowley, Charles	Private	10th Regt.	U	May 26, 1862
891	Crowley, Thomas	Private	10th Regt.	V	May 26, 1862
892	Crowley, James	Private	10th Regt.	W	May 26, 1862
893	Crowley, John	Private	10th Regt.	X	May 26, 1862
894	Crowley, William	Private	10th Regt.	Y	May 26, 1862
895	Crowley, Andrew	Private	10th Regt.	Z	May 26, 1862

Right; Death dates listed in Roll of Honor, Nos. VII-X. U.S. Quartermaster's Dept. (1866).

Military records may have death information, if the individual died in military services. **Military pension records** generally include death information, regardless of the time and circumstances of death. In fact, a spouse's military pension records may include an individual's death information, too.

Probate records often have death information.

That box in the attic probably won't be as fruitful a source of death information as it is of birth information, but it may still be useful. Letters, bills, and other documents may have actual data or at least offer clues.

Census records can offer circumstantial evidence of the year — perhaps I should say the decade — of someone's death. If the 1930 census lists great-grandpa but the 1940 census doesn't, this may suggest that he passed away between those two censuses. **Tax records, city and phone directories, and land records** can narrow the time down further.

Duplicate!

As always, when your search leads you to a record, don't just record the information in your tree. Record the source, too. And if you find an actual document, upload it to your tree, share it with family members, and put it in a file folder — all of which will help others to find it.

Source: <http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/10/23/nineteen-kinds-of-death-records-and-their-uses/>

Research Room Roster

March 2014					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
				1	Wendy Goodwin Lorraine Taylor
4	Fay McCoubrie Lina Butler	6	Claire Stevenson Di Christensen	8	Rona Gibson Maureen Abbott
11	Rona Gibson Bev Lambie	13	Kerryn Maxwell Nowella Ahlgren	15	Dianne Brodbeck Judy Mehegan
18	Maureen Abbott Mary McGrath	20	Eileen Durdin Jane Rivett-Carnac	22	Robyn Jones Shirley Peterson
25	Val Bennett Maureen Stagg	27	Wendy Eldridge Kerryn Maxwell	29	Lorraine Taylor Wendy Goodwin
April 2014					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
1	Fay McCoubrie Anne Blair	3	Claire Stevenson Eileen Durdin	5	Val Holland Robyn Jones
8	Brenda Wheeler Maureen Abbott	10	Jane Rivett-Carnac Kerryn Maxwell	12	Rona Gibson Shirley Peterson
15	Gwen Leighton Rona Gibson	17	Wendy Eldridge Eileen Durdin	19	Easter Saturday Room Closed
22	Val Bennett Jeanette Angee	24	Nowella Ahlgren Di Christensen	26	Wendy Goodwin Dianne Brodbeck
29	Joyce Masters Bev Lambie				
May 2014					
Tuesday		Saturday		Sunday	
		3	Val Holland Robyn Jones	4	Kerryn Maxwell Jane Rivett-Carnac
6	Fay McCoubrie Val Bennett	10	Rona Gibson Maureen Abbott	11	Steven Smith Eileen Durdin
13	Joyce Masters Rona Gibson	17	Wendy Goodwin Lorraine Taylor	18	Claire Stevenson Lyne McGregor
20	Bev Lambie Maureen Stagg	24	Dianne Brodbeck Judy Mehegan	25	Wendy Goodwin Jane Rivett-Carnac
27	Lina Butler Brenda Wheeler	31	Shirley Peterson Robyn Jones		

Don't forget we change from Thursday nights to Sunday afternoons in May.

If for any reason you are unable to do your rostered duty, it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a replacement volunteer for your particular day.

Newspaper sources

Most family history researchers know and enjoy Trove which enables users to search for free, through years of digitised Australian newspapers, but did you know there are other newspaper sources available.

Papers Past is a site from the National Library of New Zealand which provides access to at least 83 newspapers for the years between 1839 - 1945. <http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

The London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes are available online. The first London Gazette from November 7 1665 starts the database. <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk>

Narre Warren & District Family History Group

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**Postage
Paid**

There are other websites that offer free and pay per view access. Wikipedia has a listing of archived newspaper sites. The listing starts in order by country. By selecting the country another listing appears of the newspapers on hand and if they are free or pay per view.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

Lyne McGregor