

# Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 118 - November 2018

## Peace at last: a World War 1 walk at Lang Lang Cemetery

I'm feeling mixed emotions as we have just concluded our fifth and last military walk in our local cemeteries. It feels like some of us have been living the war by proxy as we have researched the lives of the men and women for the past four years.

We started our journey of remembrance at Berwick in April 2015 with thunder, rain and hail, *100 men, 100 years* opened our eyes to the story that can be found in a soldier's service record.

At Pakenham it was an overcast cool day and in *Sacrifice and Patriotism* we learnt of the experience of indigenous men during the war, the stoic women left behind raising children, keeping the farm going, while supporting the Red Cross and the many charities that supported the men overseas.

Harkaway was windy and threatening to rain, in *For some the bell tolled* we came across the young men born in Australia of German heritage; they marched to war with mates while their parents had their loyalty questioned.

Cranbourne in April 2018 was a sunny day where *They answered the call* introduced us to the records of the soldier settlers and the difficult times that some men faced when they returned home. Six months later our final walk was at Lang Lang Cemetery, Peace at last was under a blue sky and warm in the sun, with the laughter of a kookaburra as we concluded our walk.

You could say the weather each year mirrored the war years. The thunder of guns at Gallipoli, the transition to the Western Front and for those waiting at home the joy of sunshine when their



men returned home, tempered by the peace left behind in the cemetery as we shut the gate and drove to the Lang Lang RSL for a cup of tea and a chat.

Symbolic moments happened for us as we uncovered stories of our local men and women. Brigadier Cecil Henry Foott is no longer in an unmarked grave, the

many times we cried as we uncovered the sadness and loss in letters written to the military from wives and parents grieving for lost men. The unexpected laughter when the Australian humour was revealed in letters home. The way the community rallied around a widow when the news arrived of another man lost, the stories in the local newspapers telling of men being awarded for their courage and devotion to duty, farewell and welcome home functions and the seemingly never ending lists of killed, wounded and missing.

Photos of soldiers that looked so young before they embarked, later photos showed these same young men aged and wearied by war. Service records painted a picture; we had their height, eye and hair colour, scars and blemishes. These men came back from the past as we wrote our few words to try and capture their life and service.

It has been wonderful to have the contact with descendants of some of the soldiers at our walks and they have been happy to share family stories and photos with us. At Lang Lang we again had the company of soldier's descendants, the Leeson, Cardell, Ridgway, Wiltshire and Dale men. It has been an honour to record the story of 500 men and women from 281 families as we remember the 110

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# Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

1/65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne VIC 3977

Web: [www.nwfhg.org.au](http://www.nwfhg.org.au) Email: [president@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:president@nwfhg.org.au) Phone: (03) 8787 5558

ABN 15 397 153 919



## Committee Members

President <a href="mailto:president@nwfhg.org.au">president@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Lynne Bradley
Vice President <a href="mailto:vice.president@nwfhg.org.au">vice.president@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Fay McCoubrie
Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@nwfhg.org.au">treasurer@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Jane Rivett-Carnac
Secretary <a href="mailto:secretary@nwfhg.org.au">secretary@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Eileen Durdin
Correspondence Secretary <a href="mailto:correspondence@nwfhg.org.au">correspondence@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Lyne McGregor
Librarian <a href="mailto:librarian@nwfhg.org.au">librarian@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Moreyn Dimsey
Membership Officer <a href="mailto:membership.officer@nwfhg.org.au">membership.officer@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Kerryn Maxwell
Newsletter Editor <a href="mailto:newsletter.editor@nwfhg.org.au">newsletter.editor@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Marianne Roche
Publicity Officer <a href="mailto:publicity.officer@nwfhg.org.au">publicity.officer@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Wendy Goodwin
Research Room Manager <a href="mailto:research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au">research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au</a>	Pam Tumath
Cemetery Tours <a href="mailto:cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au">cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au</a>	

## Family History Research Room

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

### Location

Cranbourne Library,  
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne.  
Phone (03) 5995 30 32

### **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.

## Opening Hours for Research

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am to 3 pm

Research room phone number: (03) 5995 3032

## Meetings

Cranbourne Complex Meeting Room,  
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne

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 \$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.

**Bank:** National Australia Bank

**Branch:** Fountain Gate

**BSB:** 083 802

**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](mailto: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

I can hardly believe it's the last newsletter for 2018. We've just completed a few activities for the Ageing Positively Festival which have gone pretty well. Congratulations to the cemetery tours team on a fabulous morning at Lang Lang. Thank you to the members who came to help and support them. I've just got an email from Heather Arnold who did a talk at Endeavour Hills Library today. She wanted to tell us that two people told her of the great walk they went to at Lang Lang on Sunday. Word gets around, and everyone did such a great job of ensuring that they were good words.

We celebrated our 1st anniversary at Cranbourne with a beautiful morning tea and cake with the library and local history archive. We're now looking to our 30th birthday in May and doing something memorable for that.

If you missed the October general meeting, you missed a fun night that had a tinge of sadness as we farewelled Di Christensen. Di is moving soon and will be too far away to attend meetings; however, she'll always be a valued member of the group and we wish her and Robert well.

We're on the downhill run to Christmas and a rest. We hope to see many members at our Christmas Lunch and



the Christmas Meeting in December. On behalf of the committee and myself I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

*Lynne Bradley*



*Casey Cardinia Libraries CEO Chris Buckingham, Lynne Bradley, Lorraine Taylor, Local History Librarian Heather Arnold, and City of Casey Cr Wayne Smith*

## Christmas lunch • Saturday 1 December 2018 • 12 noon



This year's Christmas lunch is being held at Trios Sports Club at Cranbourne Racing Complex, 30 Grant Street, Cranbourne.

**All members are welcome.**

Bookings: Eileen Durdin – [secretary@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:secretary@nwfhg.org.au) by Friday 16 Nov 2018.

Note: Research Room will be closed on this day.



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that rest in foreign lands.

We have been supported along this journey by many people; at Lang Lang we had support and help from Karen Brown and the Lang Lang Cemetery Trust, the Lang Lang RSL and Lang Lang Historical Society. The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society and Heather Arnold, Casey Cardinia Local History Librarian assisted with information and photographs.

Our amazing team that have been with us all the way. Southern Advanced Plants of Dromana have provided pots of rosemary to mark each grave, Phyllis Bould and her husband have attended each walk and she made all the poppies that were on each grave. Garry Howe from the Star Newspaper Group has supported each walk.

The cemetery tour team have been led, nurtured, encouraged, and guided by Lynne Bradley, while she produced our books, wrote stories, photographed graves and proofed and edited, she also was a speaker when needed, a welcoming person, and this walk she was also our marshal. Kerryn Maxwell has organised the plants and presentation of the graves, she made maps for each walk, has gone from being a guide to a speaker, and researched and wrote stories for each walk. Lyne McGregor walked for hours in the cemeteries identifying graves, created many lists and databases, organised the printing and delivery of our books on time, and has been the contact with our local RSLs, was a speaker and researched and wrote for each walk.

Anne Blair fact checked all the stories as they

came in. She was in charge of refreshments, was a speaker, researched and wrote for each walk. Fay McCoubrie has been our liaison with local councillors and families, was a speaker, researcher, and writer for each walk. Wendy Goodwin wrote for each walk, was a guide and looked after our book sales on the day. As always, Rex McFarlane was



our friendly welcoming face at the gate each walk, while Eileen Durdin has jumped in where ever she was needed and as a guide or speaker. Steven Smith was part of the team for four walks, writing and researching, marshalling us into groups at the walk, David Allan—an ever patient husband—has walked countless hours in our cemeteries while graves were found and photographs were taken

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and then jumped in to help setup and pack up and has taken photographs on the day.

Moreyn Dimsey started writing and researching for Pakenham, she has looked after the refreshments and then became a guide and speaker. We have also had help with research and writing of stories at different times by Maureen Abbott, Di Christensen, Wendy Eldridge, John Elliott, Marianne Rocke, Barbara Sharp, Laurie Stephenson, Lorraine Taylor and John Uren. When needed Mary McGrath, Jan Clarke and Pat Sherwell have helped with the refreshments, book sales and at the gate.

Just like the men who marched to war, those with experience encouraged the new recruits into a unit of mates that worked as a team to get the job done. So it was for our cemetery team. We have become a well drilled team, where everyone knows their role and can be relied upon to get on and do it, or jump in and help out as needed. I can't think of a better bunch of people to be in a cemetery with.

I have enjoyed this experience, my bookshelf has increased by many books, my very patient in-house military man has answered all of the military

questions, not once did he grumble, even when I woke him one night to answer a question that was annoying me at 1 am. I have laughed and cried in cemeteries and alone at the kitchen table while reading, and reading, and reading again the World War 1 service records of strangers, men and women who have become my link to the past. A past that shaped my family and gave me a better understanding of why we say ..... Lest we Forget.

*Jane Rivett-Carnac*

## **General meeting on Wednesday 14 Nov 2018. 7.30 pm**



Clay Kruger from the Wendish Heritage Society will present history of the Wends in Eastern Germany from the fifth century. He will focus on the Wends' Australian settlement, talk about their ancestry, and their migration from Hamburg Germany to Australia from the 1830s.

## **Writing your life story with Lisa Habermann - Sunday 3, 10, 17 and 24 February at 9.30 am in the Research Room**

Lisa Habermann was the guest speaker at our July general meeting. Lisa is a professional and creative writing specialist. She is a freelance screenwriter, writer, co-director and producer. Lisa shares her knowledge and expertise with people like us, who might like to write their life story, at a couple of neighbourhood houses where she runs classes. Now, she's coming to Cranbourne in February 2019 to run a series of classes for us.

Life Writing is about getting your life story, or the story of your family, down on paper. It's a fun 4 week course filled with interesting exercises to see where your research and family's stories will lead you. Groups are fun and interactive. Bring laptops and research if you wish to share.

Some people work better getting their prompts and ideas from photos or postcards and letters - so bring albums or copies of them along as well. Other people have a clear idea in their own heads of the way their story will play out. Bring printed out notes or plans for those. And other people are searching for inspiration!

Bring pen and paper, laptop or iPad and any photocopied writing or printouts from the previous week. Post It notes could also be good. A plastic sleeve folder is also good for keeping the 'chapters' together.

For feedback, Lisa prefers to track comments in

word documents, sent via email or USB, so it may be worth brushing up on those skills. There are some good links on YouTube showing you how. Lisa can also go old school and handwrite her notes - but she can't guarantee her handwriting is the easiest to read! She does good smiley faces though!



This will be the first time we've scheduled a set of classes for members. Please note that there are four one hour classes in total. All will be held at 9.30 am in the Research Room each Sunday morning in February 2019. The \$40 fee (4 x \$10) is payable to the family history group in advance, at or before the first class and will not be refunded in part, if you don't attend all four classes. We have a strict limit of ten participants - so if you want to come, don't wait too long to let us know.

Could you please let Lynne know ([president@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:president@nwfhg.org.au) / 8787 5558) if you'd like to attend.

## Casey Cardinia Remembers - the good, the bad and the ugly

We looked at some of our favourite monuments and memorials in the City of Casey in the last newsletter. We even hinted that we might look at some we like in the Shire of Cardinia in this issue. But, the truth of it is that we're having a bit of trouble finding good ones that tell a story. So, while we continue to look, it occurs to us that the Cranbourne Cup was run on 14 October and we started wondering if Cranbourne had any Monuments & Memorials connected with its long history of racing besides those at the racecourse. And we found Laurie Cleary Lane and Cyril Beechey Lane right next to each other, and the track.

The southern end of Cemetery Road was renamed Laurie Cleary Lane and the southern section of Stevensons Road was renamed Cyril Beechey Lane in 2011.

### Laurie Cleary

Laurie Cleary was born in 1916 at Sale, he came to Melbourne when he left school. He lived in Footscray and was a tally clerk on the wharves.



He often watched the horses at Flemington. He moved to Cranbourne in the 1970s. Laurie won the Oakleigh Plate in 1983 with *Sans Rival* in circumstances that would rival any movie script in which the battler wins against all odds.

Laurie had forgotten to pay the final acceptance fee for *Sans Rival* to run in the Oakleigh Plate, his daughter Lyn reminded him of it while out shopping and the fee was paid in the nick of time. Only a few days before the race *Sans Rival* caught his hoof in a door. Then, Laurie's car broke down on his way home from work at the wharves. A young couple stopped to help, Laurie gave them a tip as a way of thanks - his horse was going to win. *Sans Rival* won by a short half head in a photo finish at odds of 50 to 1. But, Laurie couldn't hang around celebrating at Caulfield Racecourse for long, he had to dash to

a church in Essendon. His daughter Marilyn was getting married and he had to give the bride away. What a party the Cleary family must have had that night.

Laurie was said to have been a popular local identity, kind hearted and loyal. He died on Christmas Day 2009, aged ninety-three.

### Cyril Beechey

Cyril Lewis Beechey was born in 1911. He loved animals and worked for Ashton's Circus for a time. Cyril moved to Cranbourne in the mid-1960s and started training racehorses. He won two Caulfield



Cups with *Gay Icarus* in 1971 and *Analight* in 1975, and the Cranbourne Cup with *Latin Rule* in 1987.



Cyril died in 1989 at the age of seventy-eight and is buried at Cranbourne Cemetery.

Not gone unnoticed is the cluster of Melbourne Cup winners between the Cranbourne Cemetery and the racecourse. Rivette Court (1939), Rimfire Crescent (1948), Delta Court (1951), Dalray Court (1952) and Baystone Drive (1958) all probably have something more in common than just winning the Melbourne Cup. But, we haven't figured it out yet, do you know?

Lynne Bradley

*A tribute to Laurie Cleary:* <https://form.virtualformguide.com/racing-news/victoria/40752-a-tribute-to-laurie-cleary.html>

*Great trainers make the grade:* <https://cranbournenews.starcommunity.com.au/news/2011-08-25/great-trainers-make-the-grade/>

*When dreams come true by Jack Styring, Inside Racing March 2002:* <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/15103/20031111-0000/www.racingvictoria.com.au/publicity/insrac/features/previous/2002-03/2002-03-08.htm>

# Then And Now

## The Max Thomson Collection

We all enjoy looking at old photos and try to put stories to them.  
Have you ever wondered what their story would be in today's world?

### When you prepare your Christmas dinner will it include a serve of rabbit or duck?

Five rabbits and 35 ducks were listed as livestock that came out on the first fleet.



Unidentified young men with their shotguns and their rewards of 12 rabbits.

Initially rabbits were bred as food animals. Soon after their introduction rabbits bred to plague proportions in most areas of Australia and are regarded as pests.

During the depression the rabbit was referred to as “underground mutton” or “the poor man’s mutton” replacing various meats in our ancestors’ diets. When things got better many refused to eat rabbit as it brought back memories of hard times.

You may want a cook book for cooking your rabbit dish. In January 1884 the *The Paramatta Chronicle and General Advertiser* had an advertisement for *Art of Cookery* at a price of one shilling. The ad was directed “to the ladies” claiming that it was “the only work of the kind published in the colony”. Today on

Amazon you can purchase *1001 Ways to Cook Rabbit: The Complete Domestic Rabbit Cook Book* for \$5,249.37. This book was written by Bob D Whitman and published by American Rabbit Breeders Association. If you want to do some more searching on the internet the book can be purchased for a lot less.

Ducks weren't a culinary favourite of our ancestors as other meats were. This could be because of ducks' requirement for water meant that they were harder to farm than chicken and other poultry.

Duck hunting stories, that were newsworthy, were about the disputes between duck hunters and environmentalists at the beginning and during duck seasons.

An anecdote from my family was about the beginning of the duck shooting season 1960. Barbara Walkom and Rex McFarlane, my Mum and Dad, were getting married on 20 February 1960 at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick. It just



Duck Shooters c1908. Sam Aurisch (left), William Warby (centre), man at right unknown

happened to be the same date as ‘duck opening’ for the season. Barbara’s family were from Shepparton and invitations went out to her uncles and aunts. Barbara’s aunts were disgusted in their husbands as they chose to go to duck opening rather than to their niece’s wedding. Barb’s aunts went to the wedding without their partners and had a great time.

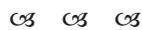
Cooking duck or rabbit for your Christmas dinner is easy, especially if you believe everything that is on the internet. You may be lucky and have a recipe that has been handed down through the generations for a tasty rabbit dish. Or you may just want to have some ham, chicken, prawns, etc.

Eileen Durdin

Sources: <https://firstfleetfellowship.org.au/list-of-livestock-provisions-plants-and-seeds> ; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> ; <https://www.amazon.com>

## Interesting headstone stories

At the October meeting our members contributed by telling us about interesting stories they had come across when researching headstones. Eileen showed us a headstone in Tasmania on which a sculpture was placed, that showed various aspects of the family's farming history. Jane told us about a builder, who, on finding his great grandmother's grave neglected, and the stone in need of some TLC, asked administration if he could restore the stone. Little did they know that for him this meant a meticulous restoration. He loaded the stone in the passenger seat of his truck, and over eighteen months, it rested in his living room, where it was treated like a member of the family. When he returned it to the cemetery, they had not even realised that the gravestone had been gone for so many months.



In my native country's tradition, Switzerland, graves only remain for a maximum of 25 years, before the remains are exhumed, and the graves reused. One of the reasons is that in such a small country, there is usually not enough land available to extend a cemetery.



*A Swiss graveyard*

Luckily, someone took photographs of my great-grandparents' graves, who died in 1902 and 1923 respectively.

I assume that they were not buried together, as my great-grandmother's grave was already near the expiry of its tenure, when my great-grandfather died.



It is well known that some graves in the Old Melbourne Cemetery were exhumed and re-located to the Old Pioneer Section of Fawkner Cemetery in 1920. I did not know, until recently, how the graves to be relocated were chosen. At a chance visit to PROV "VPRS 9591—Record of Significant Graves—Old Melbourne Cemetery" was exhibited in a showcase. One of my research subjects, John McDonald and his family had their grave moved, so I asked if I could have a look at the record to see if a photograph existed of their original grave. I was in



*McDonald family grave*

luck. But I had to smile when I discovered why this grave was considered significant. The notation said: "The oldest man buried in the protestant grounds".

Well—by the time John McDonald died in 1869 he or his family may indeed have believed that he was 98 years old, however, court records from Scotland and convict records from Tasmania suggest that he was born sometime between 1778 and 1781, which would have made him about 10 years younger.



While the grave in the Old Melbourne Cemetery with its iron work looks more elaborate than the grave at Fawkner (above), at least the stone has been preserved.



Not long ago I read an article about the Old Melbourne Cemetery in the *British Australasian*, a London newspaper catering for Australian ex-pats. It was written by "Winifred" in Melbourne on 17 October 1905, and published on 30 November the same year. Little would she have known then that the cemetery would only exist for another fifteen years.

### FORGOTTEN GRAVES.

Some Memorials of Early Australian Settlers in an Old Melbourne Cemetery.

They lie, these forgotten graves, in such a busy quarter of Melbourne, just next to that hum of life, the Victoria-street Market. All the gates are kept locked except one. Through this I sauntered one sunshiny day lately. The grass is long and damp and grows at its will; so,

indeed does every plant and shrub there. The blue periwinkles and the scarlet geranium defy neglect and bring out their old-fashioned blossoms; almost no other flowers are to be seen. Children gaze through the railings looking longingly at the abundant growth of “soldiers” and “sowersobs,” and wished they flourished so elsewhere.

I noticed the quaint old-time first names. There were Susans and Carolines and Elizas in plenty. Not a few Bridgets and Hannahs and Kates. Never a Thelma, a Trilby, or a Doris to be seen. There is evidently less fashion in men’s names, for they were much as one knows them now—John, and James, and Robert.

How young in years people seemed to die in the early fifties. Whole nurseries of babies, often from one family, came soon to the limit of their sojourn here, and they are recorded as dying within a few days, months, or years of each other. The want of skilled medical aid and the virulence of diphtheria, I suppose, account for this. There were young wives, too, leaving sorrowing husbands, often leaving babies. One feels sorry for poor little John, son of Angus and Janet M’Leod, aged 11 months. He is described as born in Picton, Nova Scotia, N.A., and died in Australia. What a lot of travelling he had in his little life. Travelling was a slow and serious thing in 1853, and what a long way he came, only to die. The death-place of one “Edward Sewell, Esquire,” is described on his headstone as “Melbourne, at Port Phillip, in the colony of New South Wales.” He was born in 1815, and died in October, 1846. This sounds strange, though is, of course, quite correct, as the separation of the States of Victoria and

New South Wales did not take place until July 1, 1851. The stone tells us he “practised as a solicitor in the town of Melbourne.”

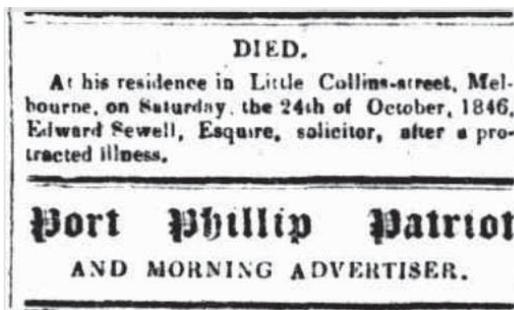
Many deaths seemed to have occurred between the ages of 20 and 30 in those days. One name that occurs is “The Hon. Horatio Nelson Cassell, born 1814.” Had he been born a year later, one wonders whether his names might not have included Arthur Wellesley. He was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and he is credited with rendering “to this colony eminent public services,” &c., yet he was but 39 years of age when he died.

Then there is Edward Hobson, M.D., aged 34, who died in 1848. His gravestone was erected by public subscription. “He was possessed of rare medical and other attainments, dispositions, and virtues, which endeared him,” &c. He is credited with being “always ready to listen to pity’s call.” On several stones one notes that death was due to drowning while crossing the

Yarra Yarra. Some memorials (slabs of iron) came out from home to be placed on the graves of relations who had died far away from kith and kin. Two I found evidently inscribed all in Gaelic. I don’t know what the inscriptions mean, but the names of the people in them were so very Highland that I guessed at the language. The earliest date I could find on a headstone was 1838, but there may be earlier ones.

Many inscriptions are obliterated, and many graves have nothing on them to tell where some of Melbourne’s first inhabitants lie sleeping after life’s fitful fever.

Marianne Rocke



Port Phillip Patriot and Morning Advertiser, 26 Oct 1846

## The Melbourne Cookery Book

When Frances Fitzgerald Elmes wrote as ‘Lino’ in the Argus, she regularly gave advice to housewives complaining that they could not afford certain groceries. In “The Butcher’s Bill”, (18 Apr 1901), she writes about rising meat prices.

“There is consternation among house-keepers. Meat is going up in price—has already gone up. Butter, milk, and eggs are dearer, yet the same allowances must cover the week’s bills. What is to be done? Economise! “I have economised all I can,” exclaims the harassed house wife “I can’t feed the family on beans and macaroni.” Without having vegetarian meals, there still remains something to be done. And the first step is to learn to cook. With that knowledge every thing is possible—without it nothing.” Full article see <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article10546051>

With these complaints in mind, Frances set about writing “*The Melbourne cookery book : compiled especially with the view of assisting the housewife in the cottage and villa home who must carefully study ways and means*”, which was published in 1906 by the British-Australasian newspaper in London. It is interesting that she published it for the Melbourne market, even though she had left Australia by then.



Marianne Rocke

To follow on from the rabbit theme in Eileen’s article on page 7, here is one of Frances’ recipes from her cookbook.

### Rabbit Cream

10 oz. best portion of cooked rabbit  
 2 ozs. lean ham  
 2 grated tongues  
 1 egg  
 2 tablespoons butter  
 ½ flour  
 1 gill stock from boiling of rabbit  
 Cayenne, salt  
 Tarragon vinegar



Cut rabbit and ham in fine pieces then pound in a mortar. Heat butter in stew pan; gradually add flour, and mix smooth; add stock slowly. Mix the egg beaten with salt, cayenne, and meat; add the vinegar; mix with the sauce. Grease small moulds. Fill with the mixture, and stand in boiling water for half an hour. Serve hot with green peas and gravy, or cold with lettuce and radishes.

# Pirates

## Writing Competition entry No 1

Have you ever thought, when searching for your family, that you might end up with a connection to someone or something famous?



When I first started looking or verifying “old wives tales” with my paternal grandfather I got told about the Pirates along the Cornish coast and the play “Pirates of Penzance” that was written from old folklore. When Pa started talking about pirates I thought my fascination with them and sailing ships had a family connection; little did I know.

After Pa had searched through some old paperwork I was given a copy of some papers that had been left behind in the family bible.

*The Logan Rock - Quaint Bill of Costs*<sup>1</sup> for replacing it had been printed off and left with a copy of the verse *The Logan Rock* that lyrically told the story of Lieutenant Goldsmith and a band of men who pushed Logan Rock off its pivot.

At Lands End the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel meet and hit the granite cliffs. A castle Treryn laid fort there and Logan Rock was to prevent pirates entering the coastline. Lieut. Goldsmith was employed to keep them away but was known to join them if things were quiet.

The verse indicates crow bars and rope were used to overthrow with a thund'rous tone ..... the rock went crashing down the slope<sup>2</sup>. The Geographical Society found out Lieut. Goldsmith orchestrated the tip over so he alone must pay but he didn't have funds so a collection by the Society began.

The stone weighed over 60 tonnes and took from early September 1824 to 2nd November 1824 to be replaced.

A series of skilled tradesmen and labourers were used. There were carts and horses, there was the crew of the H.M.S Nimble, timber and lodging for the men, all were part of the costs to replace Logan Rock.

Fortunately on the Quaint Bill of Costs some of

1 Summary of the accounts for replacing Logan Rock preserved by the Goldsmith family held in the Penzance (Morrab Gardens) Library dated 2 Nov 1824

2 The Logan Rock

the men are listed and I have my great, great, great grandfather Methuselah Matthews and great, great, great grandfather Henry Harvey names appear there. Methuselah would have been 25 or 26 at the time so in the prime of his life and hopefully health. As the name suggests he did live for a long time; he was 87 when he died in 1885.



Methuselah married Grace and they were to have 5 children. Son Joseph and his elder sister Mary left Cornwall and came to Australia long after the gold rush in 1889.



*A view of the celebrated Logan Rock*

Joseph's daughter Mary Anne had married and she, with her new husband George Williams came to Sebastopol to start a new life. Joseph with his wife and 4 children came out as the farming on their farm named Roskestal wasn't bringing in enough to live on. The property was part of the Duchy of Cornwall and was on a 99 year lease. When Joseph left Cornwall his “in-laws” the Williams took over the lease.

A visit to the property by my Mum and Dad in 1989 discovered the Williams family were still on the farm.

So, we weren't pirates or smugglers but we did get our name recorded which helps with knowing where the family was and what they had done before coming out to Australia. Now I go back to looking for a pirate connection.

*Lyne McGregor*

# Harkaway lad new clerk of Parliament

## Writing Competition entry No 2



Frederick Edward Wanke was born in Harkaway on 26 April 1886, the tenth child of Gottlieb (Charles) and Marie

Henriette Wanke nee Hessel.

Another two children were born after Frederick. Marie died of epilepsy in October of 1892 when Frederick was only six years old.

Frederick attended Harkaway Primary School from January 1891 until July 1902.<sup>1</sup>

At the age of twenty one Frederick was living at 64 Lee street Carlton<sup>2</sup> and in the same year he was put on a six month probation for the position as Officer of the Fifth Class in the Law Department.<sup>3</sup>

Frederick married Grace Honora Bell in 1921. He had already started his career as an assistant clerk in The Victorian Parliament and on 6 April 1922 he was nominated as Clerk of the Papers.<sup>4</sup> By 1934 he was given the position of Sergeant at Arms (or Serjeant-at-arms) and clerk of Committees.

As the secretary of the Victorian Parliamentary Select Committee, Frederick worked on an inquiry into a shorter working week in July 1935.<sup>5</sup>

There had been some controversy over his selection as Mr Arthur Calwell who was a Treasury official and a member of the Australian Labor party wanted the position. The opposition party objected and it was discovered that under the act relating to the appointment of select committees there was no option but to appoint an officer of the House as secretary.<sup>6</sup> One of the main arguments for a shorter working week was the effect of the increasing use of machinery in all the parts of production and distribution.



Mr F. E. Wanke (carrying the mace) leading the new speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr W. H. Everard to his car to proceed to Government House to call on the Governor. *The Age*, 3 Aug 1934

“After nearly two years of taking of evidence and many meetings the Committee recommended the adoption of a shorter week without the reduction in pay and that a maximum working week of 40 hours should be established by law in Victoria.”<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately, the 40 hour week was not introduced in Australia until 1948.

Some of the duties of Frederick’s office as Sergeant-at-Arms would have been advising the Members of Parliament of policies, attending ceremonial functions

and attending to travel arrangements and accommodation for Members. Frederick as the Sergeant-in-Arms was also the custodian of the ceremonial mace, leading the Speaker into the chamber when the House was in session and leading him out at the end of the day and on ceremonial occasions opening each session of parliament.

Frederick was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in 1937.<sup>8</sup> His position was to manage the Legislative Assembly, record decisions and proceedings of the Assembly, making sure that legislation was

passed in accordance to guidelines.<sup>9</sup>

In 1951 at the age of sixty five, Frederick Wanke retired. He was presented with a pair of binoculars for his thirty nine years on the Parliamentary staff.<sup>10</sup> He had served under fourteen Speakers and on his retirement his advice was “that a permanent Speaker would be an asset to Parliament.”<sup>11</sup>

Frederick Wanke died in Armadale, Victoria on 16 April 1968. His wife, Grace died in 1977.

Barbara Sharp

## Harkaway Lad New Clerk Of Parliament

MR. F. E. WANKE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who has been appointed Clerk of the Victorian Parliament, is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wanke, and was born at Harkaway.

He has been a member of the Parliamentary staff for more than 30 years —10 years of this time Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

*Dandenong Journal*, 17 September 1947

1 Harkaway Primary School : Origins to 1975 by Jennifer Boyer. Pg. 103

2 Oscar Wanke’s diary 1907

3 Victorian Government Gazette. No.125 Pg. 4352

4 *The Herald*. 6 April 1922. Pg. 7

5 *The Argus*. 4 July 1935. Pg. 7

6 *The Age*. 31 May 1935. Pg 14

7 *Labor Call*. 29 October 1936. Pg. 6

8 *The Age*. 27 July 1937. Pg. 12

9 <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/assembly/members-a-staff/staff>

10 *The Argus*. 27 April 1951. Pg. 7

11 *The Age*. 11 April 1951. Pg. 2

## Generous genealogists

### Writing Competition entry No 3



When I began researching my family history I had a very small base of information to start from. Apart from being an only child, and my dad the same, mum only had a half brother. Dad had never met his father and mum had no idea who her father was and in fact, neither did my maternal grandmother.

I read up on all the information I could acquire and it seemed the first job was to talk to older living relatives. I did. Most said a straight no when I asked for information. Others told me the past should remain where it belonged. Mum gave me all she could recall but much was a bit vague to say the least.

Financially I was not in a position to use expensive subscriptions. Once I started searching though I found all sorts of free or inexpensive sites to use. I joined the Scottish Border Family History Society as it was only 10 pounds per year. I discovered Free Cen and Free BMD. That got me started.

I put a post on the Border site saying I had a date and place for my Great great grandparents' marriage but could not find them. A few days later I received an email from an unknown member of the society with a copy of the marriage certificate and a few days later a death certificate was also sent. Now I know this generous person had purchased these from ScotlandsPeople. I offered to pay but he just laughed and said he had realised right away where I was going wrong. The church had long since been demolished!

Maxwell Ancestry and Scottish Indexes were also very helpful and provided prison records and Poorhouse records for free.



My father in uniform age 21 years

I found Curious Fox another site which did not require membership and from there a kind person helped me out searching for Northern Irish relatives with success. Lost Cousins site was discovered and I have had many tips from Peter who runs the site as well as people contacting me with possible matches.

I did a google search one day for my fraternal grandfather and up popped a 4 year old Ancestry post. I found not only my cousin who had posted but my Dad's

sister whom he never knew existed and I had now connection to a large carefully researched tree.

Now knowing I belonged to gypsy lines I found a site for Scottish border gypsies which was full of information and another site called *All the fun of the Fair*. I applied to join this closed site and after I was able to prove I was descended from Travelling people I got to join and a wealth of knowledge of Proctors Circus was shared with me.

Dad had been SAS in WW2. I got very little information from the war records and was told much of his history was still not available and possibly never would be made public. Then I found Para Data. I contacted them. They took my information and told me they had to check out that my Dad had been a Paratrooper first and that they were slow as they were all voluntary. Six months later back came the invite to join and I was also given a lot of information on my Dad's campaigns. The icing on the cake there was that I was able to post my Dad's photo on a memorial page with his war history and I am grateful there is now some public recognition of his efforts.

So now I use other paid sites such as ScotlandsPeople but I am so grateful to all the genealogical information that other kind enthusiasts provided me with.

Margaret Hunter

#### Links to websites mentioned in Margaret's story:

<http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/>  
<https://www.freecen.org.uk/>  
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/search>  
<https://www.scotlandspople.gov.uk/>  
[https://www.parishchest.com/Maxwell\\_Ancestry\\_\\_LID13464](https://www.parishchest.com/Maxwell_Ancestry__LID13464)  
<https://www.scottishindexes.com/>  
<https://www.curiousfox.com/>  
<https://www.lostcousins.com/>  
<https://www.paradata.org.uk/>

*These three are good - I really liked the story about Frederick Wanke because it was relatively recent history and sometimes we get so fixated on trying to get back as far as we can that we ignore or put aside researching the lives of our closer (in time) relatives. I also liked the story of the Pirates - because who wouldn't want to be related to a pirate?! And though it turned out that the person wasn't related to a pirate I can understand how exciting it is to see your ancestor's name on a list, especially the quaintly named 'Quaint Bill of Costs'.*

*However, my winner is Generous Genealogists as so many genealogists are generous and are happy to share their information and research. It is also a tale of perseverance - in spite of the fact that the writer had very little information to go on and older relatives who didn't want to help, they just kept going, tried other sources and eventually found some great information about their family.*

Heather Arnold.

## Some interesting websites

### \* **Society of Genealogists UK—The National Family History Centre**

[www.sog.org.uk/about/newsletter](http://www.sog.org.uk/about/newsletter)

You can subscribe to their monthly newsletter without becoming a member. Their newsletter lists forthcoming events and also talks you can attend. If you are travelling to the UK check out the dates as you may be there when an interesting talk or event is on.

The newsletters are archived for some years and I find there is always something you can learn from a newsletter. New books are mentioned including the series “My ancestor was a .....

### \* **Cornish Association of Victoria**

[www.cornishvic.org.au](http://www.cornishvic.org.au)

This website has many items of interest, including presentations by past speakers and details of the CAV library with a detailed catalogue of 163 pages.

Check through this for a book or paper or CD pertaining to your research.

This library has been described as one of the best Cornish libraries outside Cornwall. The librarians are very helpful and extremely knowledgeable, and will go out of their way to assist you in your research.

Library hours are: The third Saturday of the month, 10.30 am-1pm before the monthly meeting; the fourth Monday of the month, 10.30 am-2pm

### \* **State Library of Victoria—SLV**

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au>

There are many sections to the library that genes use. However, I do like the access to newspapers, especially overseas newspapers.

To access free journals, newspapers and e-books you need a free library membership. Search the website as to how to do this. Then so many gems are at your fingertips.

\* Gale News Vault

\* Pro Quest Historical Newspapers

\* British Library Newspapers

The British Library Newspapers are my personal favourite as I have found many references to my 3rd great grandfather.

*Di Christensen*

## Spreading Branches February 2019 edition

We would like to read  
your articles or stories.

Please submit your  
contributions  
by 15 January 2019

### Welcome to our new members:

Robert & Mary Neal  
Dawn Bakker

### Lanyards available

We have now lanyards and  
plastic pockets available to



keep your  
name badges in.

They have our group  
name on them and are  
available at \$3 each.



HOME FORUM HELP SEARCH CALENDAR

RootsChat is the UK's largest free family history forum. It has numerous sub-boards, covering different counties, countries, migration, handwriting interpretation, photograph dating and restoration, lookups, and many more. <http://www.rootschat.com/>

## Research Room Roster:

Please find a replacement yourself if you cannot do duty.

December 2018			
Tuesday	11 am-3 pm	Saturday	11 am-3 pm
		1	Christmas Lunch Room Closed
4	Barbara Sharp & Maureen Stagg	8	Robyn Jones & Eileen Durdin
11	Mary McGrath & Bev Lambie	15	Room Closed Re-opening 5 February 2019

February 2019					
Tuesday	11 am-3 pm	Thursday	7 pm-9 pm	Saturday	11 am-3 pm
5	Brenda Wheeler & Moreyn Dimsey	7	Pam Tumath & Eileen Durdin	9	Pat Sherwell & Kerryn Maxwell
12	Fay McCoubrie & Pam Tumath	14	Hellen Kemp & Lyne McGregor	16	Lynne Bradley & Wendy Goodwin
19	Maureen Abbott & Mary McGrath	21	Jane Rivett-Carnac & Eileen Durdin	23	Judy Mehegan & Di Brodbeck
26	Wendy Goodwin & Jane Rivett-Carnac	28	Lynne Bradley & Barbara Sharp		

We still need volunteers to do duty on Thursday nights in March and April.

Please contact Pam if you can help: [research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au)

## New in the Research Room

A History of the Dandenong High School 1919 - 1968 (Mitchell, K B) *Donated by Lynne Bradley*  
C/C 300 R

A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians (Morris, Janet)  
HOW2 143

A tour brochure of Kyneton and district with historical background (Bremner, G. A.)  
VIC 519

Ancestor Volume 33, No 8 ; Ancestor Volume 34, No 1 ; Ancestor Volume 34, No 2 (Genealogical Society of Victoria)  
M/N VIC 003

Anthology 1926-2016 : celebrating 90 years of support and service for members, their families, dependants and the veteran community (TPI Victoria Inc) *Donated by TPI Victoria Inc.*  
AUS 115

Blessings galore : St. Michael's Parish Traralgon 1916 to 1991 *Donated by Di Christensen*  
VIC 517

Churches of Geelong (Wynd, Ian)  
*Donated by Di Christensen*  
VIC 515

Conserving our cemeteries : an illustrated and annotated guide based on the ACNT National Guidelines for the conservation of cemeteries

(Sagazio, Celestina) *Donated by The National Trust*  
AUS 113

Convict families that made Australia : containing genealogical details of two hundred and fifty convicts, their wives, children & grandchildren (Smee, C. J.)  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
AUS 114

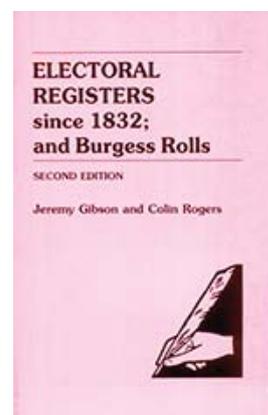
Electoral Registers since 1832; and Burgess Rolls (Gibson, Jeremy) *Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 146

England & Wales : birth, death, marriage from 1837 (Carter, Jenny) *Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 141

English Nonconformity for Family Historians (Gandy, Michael) *Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 148

Family History Research in Lancashire (Hirst, Rita)  
HOW2 142

Family story, concerning a Scottish border family which migrated to the Port Phillip District of Australia in 1839 and the countryside which became their home (Jackson, Vera)  
*Donated by Di Christensen*  
FHB 118



Genealogists' Magazine Volume 32, No 10 / June 2018 (Society of Genealogists)  
M/N ENG 002

Gipps-Land Gate Volume 44, No 1 / April 2017 ;  
Gipps-Land Gate Volume 45, No 1 / April 2018  
(Dandenong & District Historical Society)  
C/C M/N 002

Hutton Henry The Story of a Village (Etherington,  
John E) *Donated by Barbara Sharp*  
ENG 057

Irish Roots #105 / Issue 2 2018  
M/N IRE 001

Lang Lang and District Historical Society Inc  
Calendar 2017 (Lang Lang Historical Society)  
*Donated by Lang Lang and District Historical Society*  
C/C 293 R

Militia Lists and Musters 1757 - 1876 (Gibson,  
Jeremy) *Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 144

My Ancestors Were Methodists (Leary, William)  
HOW2 149

Our boys from the bush: Koo Wee Rup & District  
(includes Tooradin, Yallock and Yannathan)  
(O'Donohue, Annette)  
C/C 230 R

Pioneers of Nor'-West Australia, pastoral and  
pearling (Burgess, Lockier Clere)  
*Donated by Fay McCoubrie*  
WA 003

Searching for Mary Ann : researching women  
ancestors in Australia (Frost, Lenore)  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 150

Take The Walk (Lang Lang and District Historical  
Society) *Donated by Lynne Bradley*  
C/C 299 R

Tasmanian Ancestry : newsletter / Tasmanian  
Family History Society Volume 39, No 1  
(Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.)  
M/N TAS 001

The Collier (Griffin, A R)  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
ENG 058

The Gap, the pioneer  
elementary school  
magazine (Treasure,  
Lynette)  
*Donated by Di Christensen*  
VIC 516

The Genealogist Vol 15 No  
10 ; The Genealogist Volume 15, No 9 / March

2018 (Family History  
Connections) (AIGS)  
M/N VIC 002

The Old Melbourne  
Cemetery, 1837-1922  
(Morgan, Marjorie Jean)  
VIC 514

The Pivot Tree #137 ; The  
Pivot Tree #138 (Geelong  
Family History Group)  
M/N VIC 004

The Rise and Fall of Ewanrigg Hall (Riley, Doris)  
*Donated by Barbara Sharp*  
FHB 117

The South Australian Genealogist Volume 45,  
No 2 / May 2018 (South Australian Genealogy  
& Heraldry Society Inc.)  
M/N SA 001

The Spirit of Lang Lang (Lang Lang and District  
Historical Society) *Donated by Lynne Bradley*  
C/C 298 R

They answered the call : a World War 1 walk in  
Cranbourne cemetery  
C/C 294 R

Traces : uncovering the past #1 ; Traces:  
uncovering the past #2 ; Traces : Uncovering The  
Past #3 (Executive Media (Firm) (issuing body)  
M/N VIC 055

Tudor and Stuart Muster Rolls (Gibson, Jeremy)  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 145

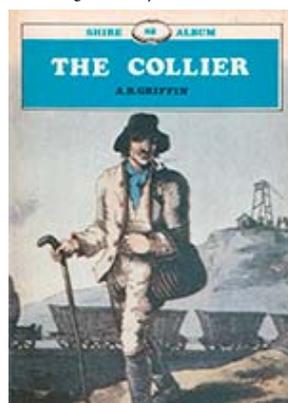
Victorian Historical Journal 289 Volume 89, No 1  
(Royal Historical Society of Victoria)  
M/N VIC 001

Victorian war heritage : the rich war history  
of Springvale War Cemetery and Springvale  
Botanical Cemetery (Sagazio, Celestina)  
VIC 513

Western Ancestor Volume 14, No 3 (Western  
Australian Genealogical  
Society Inc)  
M/N WA 001

Who Do You Think You Are  
(Magazine) January 2018 ;  
February 2018 ; March 2018 ;  
April 2018 ; May 2018  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
M/N ENG 005

Wills, Probate & Death Duty  
Records (Cox, Janet)  
*Donated by Lorraine Taylor*  
HOW2 147

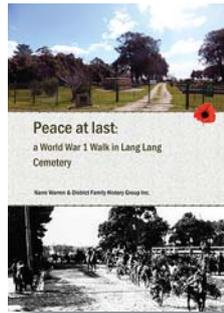


## Publications for sale

### ***Peace at last: a World War 1 walk in Lang Lang Cemetery (2018)***

We uncover the stories of 98 soldiers from the Lang Lang district and the 48 families who waved goodbye to them and prayed for their safe return. Just over half of these families sent two sons or more. Not everyone's prayers were answered in the way they'd hoped for, prayers for the return of 24 fathers, sons, husbands and brothers were not answered at all.

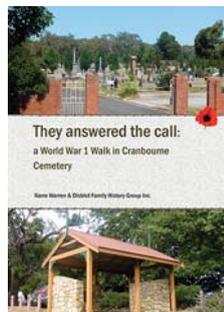
\$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling



### ***They answered the call: a World War 1 walk in Cranbourne Cemetery (2018)***

Stories of the courage and sacrifice of 111 men and 1 woman with connections to Cranbourne Cemetery or the Cranbourne area through their families, are told in this book. Sixty-five families waited for their return, also with courage and sacrifice and for some there was a happy ending. But, for others, there was not. Seventeen men did not return, 9 died on French battlefields, 6 died in Belgium, 1 at Gallipoli and 1 at Mudros. Two unfortunate soldiers died in training camp, never leaving Australian shores.

\$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling



### ***For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Avenue of Honour) (2017)***

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 Military Medal, one was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, and one a Distinguished Service Order. Others were mentioned in dispatches.

\$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling



### ***Ordinary people, interesting lives: A walk in the historic Harkaway Cemetery (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.

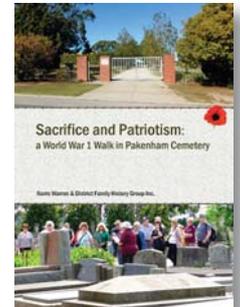
Our volunteers researched and wrote the stories of families that travelled thousands of miles to a country on the other side of the world. A country with people who didn't necessarily speak the same language or held the same beliefs.

\$15 + \$8 postage + handling

### ***Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery (2016)***

This book tells the stories of 64 families who watched and supported 120 men and one woman as they enlisted. They include 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.

\$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling



### ***100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery (2015)***

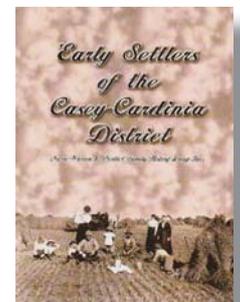
examines the cemetery's connections with the Great War. Our stories embrace 100 men from over 70 families – all linked to Berwick Cemetery and the community it served. Twenty-eight men did not return; they are still in France, Gallipoli, Belgium, Malta, Palestine, at sea and 6 have no known grave.

\$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling

### ***Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District (2010)***

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.

\$30 + \$13.80 postage + handling



### ***Kindred Spirits.***

### ***20 years of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group 1989 – 2009***

\$25 + \$13.80 postage + handling

### **Cemetery Tour booklets**

Pakenham Cemetery (2011)	\$10
Cranbourne Cemetery (2012)	\$10
Lang Lang Cemetery (2013)	\$10
Berwick Cemetery (2014)	\$15
Pakenham Cemetery (2015)	\$15

Add \$8 for postage + handling.

Order forms are available from the Research room or download from [nwfhg.org.au/publications/](http://nwfhg.org.au/publications/)