

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Incorporated 1992 - Inc. No. A0023666M - ISSN Print 1445 - 2162 - ISSN Digital 2207 - 7855

Issue 126 - November 2020

Digital Annual General Meeting



Wednesday, 9 December 2020



2020 has not been what anybody expected, but it has been a year of the “first”.

We invite you to join us for the “first” Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc. Digital Annual General Meeting. There will be the formalities of any other AGM (see page 13) but this will be the “first” AGM done via zoom. It may be the “first” time you are using zoom – don’t worry we plan to have the “first” Zoom Training AGM. We will not have a guest speaker at this year’s AGM, so we plan to have the “first” digital group family history Q&A session afterwards. It will be the “first” time that we can have our interstate and regional Victoria members

join in the meeting. Let us know if this is the “first” time you would like to become a committee member? The disappointing “first” will be that we won’t be able to see each other in person or share each others’ cakes and biscuits for supper.

Be the “first” to contact Eileen Durdin our Secretary at secretary@nwfhg.org.au if you want to attend either meeting. Eileen will forward you our “first” Digital Annual Report and links to our “first” Digital Annual General Meeting and/or our “first” Zoom Training Annual General Meeting.

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Zoom Training Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 2 December 2020

7.30 pm

Learn what you need to know about zoom meetings

Find out how you can ask questions via the chat room and how to change your background

Understand the do’s and do not’s of digital meetings

Laugh with others as we establish the setup of each other’s computers

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Digital Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

7.30 pm

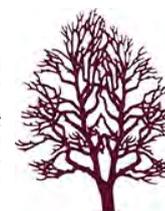
AGM Formalities

Receive the Digital Annual Report

See members from the comforts of home

Find out what your friends have been doing for the last 9 months

Ask that question that you haven’t been able to work out by yourself in Lockdown





Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

1/65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne VIC 3977

Web: www.nwfhg.org.au Email: president@nwfhg.org.au Phone: 0413 182 551

ABN 15 397 153 919



Committee Members

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

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.

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am to 3 pm

Research Room phone number: (03) 5941 0032

Meetings

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

Entry Cost \$3

October - April 7.30 pm

and the 1st Friday of the month (except January).

May - September 4.00 pm

3rd 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

NW&DFHG 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.

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group
gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support
of Casey Cardinia Libraries and the City of Casey.

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

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, we have decided to hold our 2020 Annual General Meeting on 9 December via Zoom. While this is obviously not our preferred choice, we see no other option as we must have an AGM soon to conduct the business of the group that must be conducted, before we run out of time.

As we're still closed with no real hope of reopening this side of Christmas, there is no real news to report to you. We have new computers, new desktop publishing software and a new document scanner that we hope to see used by members in the Research Room in 2021. It is hard to believe that we have these fabulous toys but can't use them!

As this will be my last president's report, I would

like to thank all members and friends of NW&DFHG for their support and encouragement. I know you will offer the same help and understanding to our new president while she or he steps into what can be at times, quite a challenging role.

I hope we will all emerge from our lockdown cocoons a little wiser having had time to think about what's important to us and the things we would like to achieve in our time on earth. I hope the family history group has a role to play in your plans.

All that's left really is to wish you a safe and very happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year on behalf of the committee and myself. We can't wait to see you in person in the New Year.

Lynne Bradley

Thursday history talks on Zoom

The Casey-Cardinia Library has scheduled a number of one hour free history talks on Zoom. Each event lasts one hour from 11 am to 12 noon.

Ancestry

Thursday 3 December

Local History Librarian, Heather Arnold, will take you through the huge range of records on Ancestry to help you find your ancestors.

Merry Christmas

Thursday 10 December

Heather Arnold, takes an eclectic look at some themes from the history of the Casey Cardinia region – and the first letter of each theme spells a seasonal greetings – Merry Christmas

FAMILY HISTORY HOUR



Join us for an informal chat about your latest family history research. Bring along any exciting finds you may have, or any dilemmas you'd like to share.

Runs Tuesdays, starting Tuesday 1 September, last session is Tuesday 30 November.

11am-12pm
Zoom

BOOK NOW



Happy New Year

Thursday 17 December

Heather Arnold, takes an eclectic look at some themes from the history of the Casey Cardinia region – and the first letter of each theme spells a seasonal greetings – Happy New Year

Convicts, exiles and criminals

Thursday 14 January

Jane will explain what you can find out about convicts, exiles and criminals, and where to look.

Organising your Family History information

Thursday 21 January 10 am to 12.30 pm

Jane Rivett-Carnac and Heather Arnold will look at on-line family tree programs such as Legacy and Ancestry. Not on-line? Jane will give hints on storing your paper files and photographs. There will also be a Q & A session.

Videos of previous talks

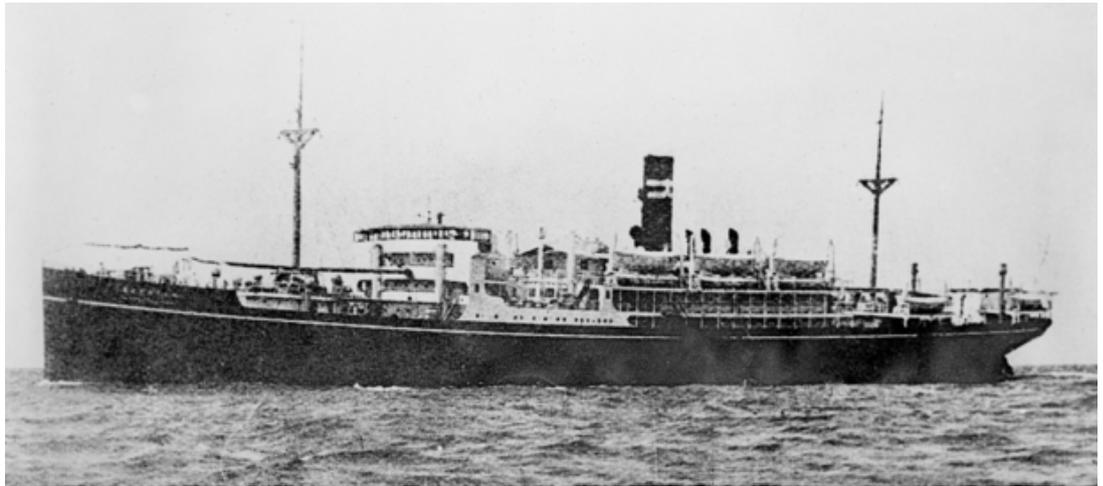
The following Casey-Cardinia Library's Thursday history talks presented by Heather Arnold and Jane Rivett-Carnac are now available to watch at www.cclc.vic.gov.au/local-history-videos/

- Find your Irish Roots
- Tasmanian Archives
- Lost Victoria
- They didn't swim here
- Find My Past
- Engineering and Development of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp
- Cranbourne – A Virtual History
- Berwick – A Virtual History
- Pakenham – A Virtual History

Jane Rivett-Carnac

The fall of Rabaul and Australia's greatest maritime disaster.

A fleeting post on Facebook from the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia alerted me to the fact that it was the 75th anniversary of the signing of the instrument of surrender on *HMS Glory* near Rabaul, (Papua New Guinea). It caught my attention because while researching for a Cranbourne Cemetery tour I discovered the



Motor Ship 'Montevideo Maru' AWM Image 042334

story of the *Montevideo Maru*. For one reason or another, sometimes people and events uncovered in your research stay with you for a long time. For me, the story of the *Montevideo Maru* is one of those events. The story of Australia's worst maritime disaster is such a poignant but little-known piece of our history.

With the 78th anniversary of the *Montevideo Maru's* sinking, the 75th anniversary of the signing of the instrument of surrender and Remembrance Day approaching, I thought it would be a good opportunity to tell the story of the two men with connections to Cranbourne that we uncovered in our research.

Just a little north east of New Guinea is the island of New Britain, the largest island in the Islands Region of Papua New Guinea. New Britain's capital was the city of Rabaul. It was administered by Germany until the outbreak of the First World War, when in 1914 Australian military forces overwhelmed the German forces and occupied the island for the duration of the war. Australia was given a mandate to govern and protect the former German colony, to be known as the Territory of New Guinea by the League of Nations in 1920. In May 1921, the military handed over the administration to civilian administrators.

Rabaul prospered as the largest town in the Territory of New Guinea. Many Australian ex-servicemen made use of a soldier settlement program settling on plantations or working in administration positions in the Territory.¹

Louis William Carson was one of those Australian ex-servicemen who made a life for himself and his family after the war. Louis' parents Joseph and Elizabeth Carson and his maternal grandparents,

Joseph and Sarah Smethurst are buried at Cranbourne Cemetery.

Louis grew up on Myrtlewood, the Carson family property at Yannathan and was educated at Yannathan Primary School, as were his four brothers and four sisters. He was a twenty-one year old unmarried medical student when he enlisted for service in the Great War.

He arrived in England in November 1916 and was sent to the 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott in Wiltshire. Classified as not for active service without special training in March 1917, he was sent to the 2nd Aust Australian Convalescent Depot at Weymouth before being transferred to the Australian Army Medical Corps in May 1917. But synovitis in his left knee prevented Louis from ever leaving England. He attended a wool classing course at Halifax before being sent home early as a member of the medical staff aboard the *Medic*. He arrived back in Melbourne in August 1918. He was unfit for service; he'd always had headaches and had been 'very nervy' for years, but it had gotten much worse in the six months before he was sent home. He was very shaky, had a marked stutter and did not sleep well. He was unable to work.

Somehow, he got a job as a patrol officer in New Guinea before buying the Fead Islands, a series of 55 islands, some with plantations, totalling about 800 hectares and containing 99,500 coconut palms.^{2,3}

He married Ruby Eileen Stainer, better known as Eileen, at the Church of England in Rabaul, on 12 January 1925.⁴

1 Papua New Guinea Association *Australia and Rabaul*: www.memorial.org.au/History/AustRabaul.htm

2 Farmer, Audrey: *The Smethurst Family Reunion 1986* (CC192R)

3 List of New Guinea properties sold by the Custodian of Expropriated Property as at 1st January, 1928: www.nla.gov.au/nla.obj-52799117

4 *The Argus*, 7 Feb 1925

Louis found paradise on the Fead Islands, two hundred miles north east of Rabaul. His plantations had a population of about three hundred natives and the Carson family. Louis and Eileen had a daughter Diana and a son Graeme. Here, Louis was master of his own domain – a pastor, magistrate, coroner, premier, leader of the opposition, minister of health, doctor, dentist and a hundred and one other important positions, so *The Sun* (Sydney) told us on 14 October 1931. Ships called at the islands every few months bringing stores and taking away copra (dried coconut kernel) and trochus shell (sea snail shells) from which jewellery and mother of pearl buttons were made.

The Carson family built a home and airstrip on Tekani Island. Eileen could go twelve months at a time without seeing another white woman, but she didn't feel very lonely as there was always a lot to do in the house. She sewed and looked after the children, and she had five staff to help, a cook, two house boys, a laundry boy, and a native woman. She accompanied Louis on his trips to the other islands every week and they made picnic-days of the journey.⁵

Louis and Eileen returned to Australia often, and both Diana and Graeme went to boarding school in Melbourne.

James Thornell

Gunner James Thornell arrived in Rabaul in April 1941. He was just twenty-four years old and the only son of Frederick and Alice Thornell of North Carlton. He was living at home with his parents and working as a painter for Lux Motor Park Pty Ltd in Carlton when he enlisted on 29 March 1939 in Melbourne. Another set of enlistment papers indicate that on 20 May 1940 at Queenscliff he enlisted for service as a gunner and was assigned to Lark Force.⁶



James Thornell
(Photo: rburnett66 on Ancestry)

Lark Force was the name of the small army garrison of about 1,400 personnel. Most of them came from the 2/22nd Battalion supported by the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, an Air Force Squadron and a small shore-based naval detachment.

5 *The Sun* (Sydney, NSW), 28 Aug 1935

6 National Archives of Australia: B883, VX129344 Thornell, James Frederick

As the situation in the Pacific intensified, plans were made for the evacuation of the women and children in Rabaul in December 1941. Eileen and the children returned to Australia. But there were no plans to evacuate the military or civilian men.

While a force of 1,500 Australians took the island of New Britain from Germany in 1914, a force of 1,400 could not hold back the advancing Japanese, and despite the heroic efforts of Lark Force, Rabaul was quickly overrun on 23 January 1942. After the call of 'every man for himself' from the commanding officer, soldiers tried to escape into the jungle.

Louis was captured by the Japanese at Kokopo along with many other plantation owners and interned at Rabaul. James Thornell was captured by the Japanese at Keravat, some thirty kilometres from Rabaul.

The Japanese decided to transport the Rabaul prisoners to labour camps and on 22 June 1942 it is thought that 1,053 (no one's really sure) men, many of them sick and malnourished, were marched to the dock to board an unmarked transport ship, the *Montevideo Maru* for Hainan Island. It is thought that there were 850 military prisoners and almost 200 civilians on board. Louis Carson was one of those civilians, James Thornell, was one of the soldiers.

The *USS Sturgeon* had no way of knowing the ship was carrying Australian prisoners of war when it fired its torpedoes at it near the island of Luzon in the Philippines on 1 July 1942. The ship is said to have sunk quickly with no survivors except a handful of Japanese crew. And the men on board the *Montevideo Maru* were written into Australia's history as unwilling participants in Australia's worst maritime disaster.⁷

It took a long time for the truth to be told. Families continued to write to their loved ones, but the suspicion that all was not well, increased as time went on. Their suspicions were confirmed only after the war ended, but not without a fight for information about the fall of Rabaul and the sinking of the ship. To this day, the number of men killed that night differs between almost every printed or internet resource you consult.

You might think that our worst maritime disaster would be entrenched in the national narrative, but it doesn't seem to be the case. We all know the Kokoda story but how many of us know the story of the fall of Rabaul and the *Montevideo Maru*? As the capital of an Australian mandated territory, Rabaul was an Australian city. War came to Australia at Rabaul before it came to Darwin, but we don't seem to think of it that way – or at least many of us don't.

7 *Montevideo Maru*: www.montevideomaru.naa.gov.au/

James Thornell's great grandparents, John and Elizabeth Murphy are buried in the Roman Catholic section at Cranbourne with James' uncle, also named James Thornell, and his great aunt, Hannah Murphy.

Interestingly (well, to me anyway), was that while researching the Thornell family I discovered that James Thornell's first cousin once removed (a son of his father Frederick's cousin Albert), Edgar Thornell

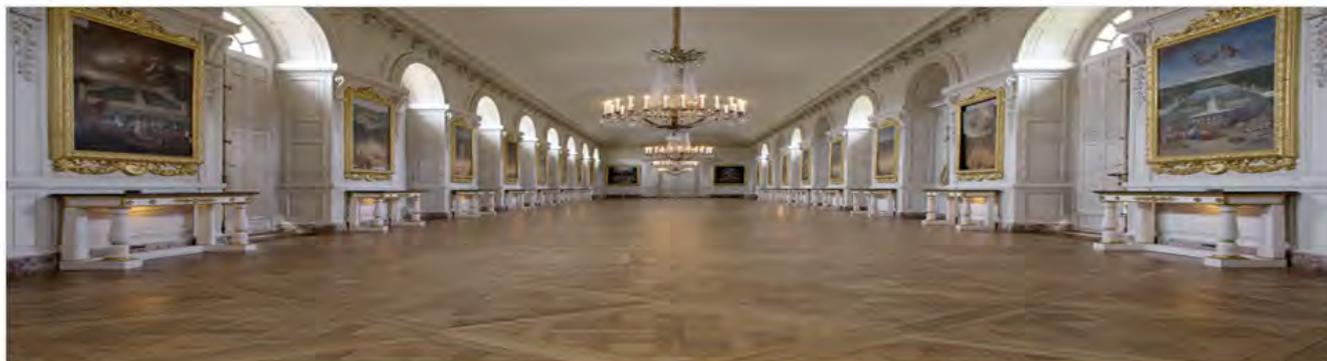
served with the 22nd Battalion in the Great War. Edgar Thornell did not return either, he died in the Monte Video Camp Hospital in Weymouth, England on 9 August 1918.⁸

Lynne Bradley

8 National Archives Australia: B2455, Thornell, Edgar Allan

I just love history - Local and Family History

Search...



◆ FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

Click to the button to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Follow

◆ RECENT POSTS

◆ More VIC Wills and Probates online! September 18, 2020

◆ Beyond 2022 - Irish research July 5, 2020

◆ Catch up with Else Churchill and Alec Tritton at Beyond BMDs March 4, 2020

◆ Guess what we'll all be doing in March 2020? February 28, 2020

◆ Why is February 14

18
Friday
SEP 2020

More VIC Wills and Probates online!

POSTED BY SUSIE ZADA IN DATABASE AND INDEXES, FAMILY HISTORY, IMPORTANT NEWS

✎ 4 COMMENTS

If you're anything like me - when you're doing research in Victoria and someone dies, you mentally think ... what year? Oh bum - it's after 1925.



Why do we say that? Because Victorian Wills and Probate files are free and online from 1841 to 1925. Understand? They're not online after 1925 - that WAS the limit of the files you could access online. The indexes continue but not the digitised files.

I checked and I've got permission from PROV to post this Blog and information!

Do you want to view more VIC wills and probate?

In September, Susie Zada, in her blog "I just love history" explained how to access more recent wills and probates while we wait for PROV's Covid-delayed catalogue upgrade to be launched. Susie gives a step-by-step guide of how to find the images on FamilySearch.

FamilySearch partnered with PROV to digitise a vast array of records that will eventually be available on the PROV website. They include wills to 1951, probates to 1950, and inquests to the end of 1937.

These records are not indexed, so you will have to scroll through the images to find the relevant

record. Unfortunately the download function has been disabled, but you can still take screen shots.

Besides the above mentioned records there are some indices to land selection registers, but many other records, although digitised by FamilySearch are not yet viewable, or only viewable at an LDS Family History Centre, or affiliated library. These include rate books, petty sessions and applications for sustenance during the 1930s depression.

<https://justlovehistory.com/2020/09/18/more-vic-wills-and-probates-online/>



Casey Cardinia Remembers

Bregazzi Reserve: Chisholm Court, Cranbourne

<http://www.caseycardinia remembers.org.au/bregazzi-reserve/>

Thomas Henry Bregazzi was born in Cranbourne in 1877. He married Florence May (May) Ford in Cranbourne on 17 October 1903.¹

Thomas and May farmed on the land where the reserve now stands. It is surrounded by fifty-four acres of land bought for the housing development after Thomas' death.

Both Thomas and May supported their community in many ways. May was a member of the Mothers' Club, CWA, Red Cross and the School Committee as well as being actively involved with St Agatha's Church.²

Thomas was well known for his skill as a jockey and for his knowledge of horses. He rode in hurdle and flat races at Cranbourne, Pakenham, Aspendale and Baxter for James Leckie of Cardinia and JB Wilson of Lyndurst. In 1906 he drove a team of bullocks with a load of machinery from Tooradin to St Arnaud via Wedderburn. Once the goods were delivered, he reloaded and drove the bullocks to Morton Plains near Donald, before coming back to Tooradin. He also worked for Charlie Manks at Clyde on a travelling chaff cutter plant in the Lang Lang, Yannathan, Koo Wee Rup and Pakenham areas. Then for GH Hope, owner of the Lady Talbot Milk Factory in Cranbourne. He operated a retail and wholesale dairying business in Cranbourne with May, which he relinquished after her death in 1954.³

Thomas Henry Bregazzi lived his whole life in Cranbourne, working hard to provide for his family and community. He died in 1975 at the age of ninety-eight. The reserve is quite fittingly named in his honour. The couple are buried at Cranbourne Cemetery.

Cranbourne almost boasted a Bregazzi Court too after roads were altered around Circle Court and a portion of Averne Street was blocked turning it into a court about six years after Thomas' death. The Cranbourne Shire Council wanted to name it Bregazzi Court. But the residents banded together and successfully lobbied against the name in favour of Leanne Court.



Council capitulated after a somewhat heated debate that played out on television and newspapers, and the court was named Leanne Court, after newly born Leanne Lumber, the court's newest resident.⁴

Lynne Bradley

1 Popular Cranbourne Residents' Golden Wedding. *The Dandenong Journal*, 21 Oct 1953, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article215823238>

2 Sudden Death of Popular Cranbourne Lady. *The Dandenong Journal*, 28 Apr 1954, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article218508946>

3 Cranbourne Pioneer dies at 97. *Koo Wee Rup Sun*, 26 Feb 1975

4 By the Way. *The Canberra Times* 3 May 1981, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article125631339>

CCCI – Tales from the Berwick School registers

The first lockdown came upon us without much warning, so our two main indexers, Barbara Sharp and Bev Lambie only had one book each to finish. Barbara then indexed the last four years of Spreading Branches. We were better prepared before the second lockdown and Eileen supplied each of them with two extra books.

Around the same time, Heather Arnold, our local history historian at Casey Cardinia Library, let me access the school registers of Berwick and Cranbourne Primary Schools. These I photographed, and together with the Upper Beaconsfield registers prepared them for indexing. The earliest years will be fully viewable on the local history computers in the Research Room, when we finally re-open. Some later years are partially restricted, as they contain names of pupils born after 1920. As by then Bev had run out of books to index, she took on the challenge of indexing the school registers. And what a great job she has done. Hundreds of names will be added to the CCCI (Casey Cardinia Combined Index) soon.

With the loosening of the restrictions, Eileen was able to supply more books to Barbara, by meeting her for a handover halfway, in Brechin Garden at Fountain Gate. Moreyn Dimsey, our librarian, had a few books with her, and boredom drove her to index a book on the Snell family.

Thank you to all of you for your indexing work.

Primary School and inspector registers

The school registers give a valuable insight into the early history of Berwick, Cranbourne and Upper Beaconsfield. Unfortunately, the earliest school register of Berwick Primary School has not survived, but we have some inspector registers from Berwick covering the early period. These show which children took exams, sometimes shows if they passed, and gives a general condition report of the school.

Railway children

The Berwick register 1875-1879 shows that from mid-1875 the school saw an influx of children whose fathers worked as railway labourers. Many of these children attended school only for relatively short periods, as the railway labourers followed the available work.

Newspaper articles say that they lived at the Railway Camp. Little is known about the living conditions there, but they would have been rather basic. The school register shows some of these 'railway children' attending school at the age of three years old, which suggests that the parents would have been glad to have the children out of their way for some hours every day.

BERWICK POLICE COURT.

Friday, 14th September.

Before Messrs. Officer (Chairman), Barr,
and Elmes, J.P.

A NICE LOT.—J. O'Hare v. Anastasia Herrightly. In this case and several others the plaintiffs and defendants were residents of what is known as the Railway Camp, which must be a very pretty place, judging from the language used—especially by the women—but which is not fit for publication. Plaintiff, a quiet-looking man, detailed to the Bench the particulars of the case and the language used, and called Susan McLaughlan, who stated that she heard defendant use the language complained of.—In her defence, Mrs Herrightly stated that plaintiff had gambled with her son, and won part of his wages from him.—The Bench, however, said that was no reason for such language, and fined her 5s. and 4s. costs.

Margaret Dwyer v. Mary O'Hare; a charge of having used offensive language on the 1st instant. The charge was denied.—Sarah Ann Lockwood deposed that she heard the language used, and Mrs. Harty corroborated her evidence.—For the defence, Mrs. McLaughlan stated that she heard plaintiff use very bad language to defendant, who did not reply, although called the very worst names.—Defendant made a statement, in which she denied having used the language stated, and accused plaintiff and her witnesses of having sworn falsely.—The Bench considered the charge proved, and fined defendant 5s. and 4s. costs.

Mary O'Hare v. Jane Dwyer; insulting and abusive language. Plaintiff repeated the language, which was simply horrible. A witness named Mrs. Harty said she was present, but did not hear the language used. Case dismissed.—Same v. Ellen Lockwood; a similar charge. The defendant in this case was a little girl about thirteen, and the language said to be used by her was worse than in any of the previous cases. A witness named McLaughlan swore she heard the language used, whilst another named Margaret Dwyer swore she was present, but did not hear it.—The Bench decided to dismiss the charge; the Chairman, in giving the decision, said it was only given on account of the girl's youth.—Same v. Ellen Lockwood; a similar charge. George McLaughlan and his wife deposed to hearing the filthy language used on the occasion, and defendant was fined 5s. and 2s. 6d. costs.

An appearance at the Berwick Police Court on 14 September 1877 sheds some light on their circumstances, when several women and one child were prosecuted for having used offensive language. *The South Bourke and Mornington Journal* felt that what they said was not fit for publication. It is likely considered mild swearing by today's standards, but we will never know. See article on page 8 published on 19 September 1877.

The Crole family

William Crole and his family came from Healesville to Berwick in November 1875, when the three elder daughters, Ellen, Emily and Julia transferred to Berwick Primary School. Their two younger siblings, Eva and Fred, started school in January and August 1876 respectively. The two older sons, George and William, were already of working age, and may have worked alongside their father as railway labourers. These early registers are quite sparse with information, but we can see the number of days the children attended school, which gives us the best indication of the movements of the family. I asked one of the countless Crole descendants if they knew anything about their ancestors' time in Berwick? I received a short biography of William Crole and his family written by another descendant, June. She wrote about the family's time at Healesville, where William and the two older sons cut staves on the Black Spur. William was described as an expert axeman and splitter. She did not mention any time spent in Berwick, so may not have known about their time as railway labourers.

FIRST SECTION GIPPS LAND RAILWAY.—
WANTED, good FENCERS, 1s. 9d. per rod.
Apply Haworth and Sons, Batman's-hill, or at Railway Camp, Berwick.

Given their skills, they may have been engaged in the fencing work that was advertised in *The Argus*. Leaving Berwick in mid-1877, the family travelled to Warragul by coach, where, in the 1880s, William Crole selected 150 acres of land.

Orphans/Industrial School children

Another group of children who spent only a short time at the Berwick Primary School were "orphans", who had been sent into the care of hopefully kindly people. These children were usually committed to an industrial school because of neglect. Often their term was seven years. In turn, the government then stationed them with people in the country. Amelia Blount was such a child who was committed after her father died, and her mother was admitted to the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum. She was admitted when she was five years old in July 1873. Initially Amelia was stationed at Sandhurst, later Melbourne and Geelong before she was boarded out. In April 1877 it is noted that she was living with Elizabeth Brock in Berwick, and that after about two years she was adopted by her. We don't know much about Elizabeth Brock, other than that a Miss Brock was a tenant of a house, probably in Edwardes Street. It is also mentioned in a newspaper that a Miss Brock had a nice singing voice.

Then, curiously, in January 1881, Amelia was transferred. Something must have changed in Elizabeth Brock's circumstances that the girl had to move. Her new guardian was Ann Gilks (or Jilks as she is called in the school register). Over time Mrs Gilks was caring for five children from the industrial schools, not all at the same time. She was described as a widow. She is an enigma like Elizabeth Brock—there is nothing in the rate books and nothing in public records or newspapers. I believe that Mrs Gilks may have taken in these children to earn some money, as, when Amelia is transferred to Mrs Elmes three months later, it is noted that the transfer happened "without pay". She may have been staying with the Elmes' for a little over a year, when she was moved back to Melbourne to live with her sister and brother-in-law.

Marianne Rocke

Berwick State School 1872. Casey Cardinia Libraries photo



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?*

The Débutante Ball

Traditionally a débutante ball was a formal introduction of young ladies into society. It was a chance for wealthy and influential families to introduce their daughters to a rich suitor. Nowadays, they are called presentation balls and are part of some high school's curriculum including both males and females, with the similar aim of introducing young students to the adult world.

In 1981, I, with my partner Mark Hurley, were presented to Sr Margaret Hill CSB, Principal of St Peter's School, Clayton at the Springvale Town Hall. Do you remember making your deb? Were the rehearsals fun? Did you make or purchase your dress? Did you worry about falling or forgetting the steps of the dances? Did you have fun?

A PRETTY PRESENTATION of 12 attractive Debutantes to Mrs. Carr, a representative of Red Cross Headquarters was the highlight of the spectacular Debs. Ball arranged by the Narre Warren Nth. P. o. W. Committee last Wednesday night

The hall was crowded and a wonderful time was had by all.

Individually frocked in dainty fashion, the Debs made a charming picture as they made their curtsy to Mrs. Carr. With their partners they then provided a pretty spectacle as they danced the Parma Waltz.

Mrs. Edwards, president of the P.O.W. Committee presented Mrs. Carr with a lovely posy, and also handed beautiful floral tributes to Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Andrade who were responsible for training the Debs so well.

The Dandenong Journal (Vic.), Wed 22 Nov 1944, p11

In 1946 the débutantes of Narre Warren North were presented at the Mechanics Institute Hall.



*Back Row: June Martin, Valda Lowry, Betty Raymond, Dorothy Asling, Kath Edwards, Joyce Anderson and Thelma Rae
Front Row: Edith Hall, Betty Hampton, Mrs T Edwards, Marjorie Asling, Annie Stephenson and Sheila Hampton*

Without an organising committee there would not be any débutante balls. A big thank you to every volunteer who has ever been on an organising

committee, for their time and effort in making each débutante ball memorable for all.



At Rear: Mrs A Robinson, Mr G Krookoos and Mrs C Bailey Seated: Mrs G Krookoos, Mrs T Edwards, Mrs G Rae and Mrs Newton

There was a large crowd who attended the ball.



An article in the *Cranbourne News* on 4 September 2014 by Bridget Cook recognises that anyone can become a débutante.

Deb ball makes presentation perfect

The Rotary Club of Casey made dreams come true on the weekend by giving people with a disability the chance to take part in a presentation ball.

It was their time to shine as 31 participants, aged from 21 to 88 years old, were presented at their first ball in front of a crowd of 280 people at a packed Cardinia Cultural Centre.

The Rotary Club, with the assistance of City of Casey, organised the inaugural ball for people with a disability who have never had the opportunity to

be involved in such an event before.

Participants from disability service providers across Casey, Cardinia and Greater Dandenong were presented on Saturday night to City of Casey Mayor Geoff Ablett, Rotary District Governor Charlie Speirs and Rotary Club of Berwick president Trevor Westland.

The participants then showcased their ballroom dances to the crowd, before boogying the night away with family and friends.

Businesses and organisations threw their support behind the event by donating their goods and services including dance lessons, hair and make-up, formal wear and raffle prizes.

Lynne Westland, chairwoman of the organising committee and member of Casey Rotary, said the event was nothing short of amazing.

"I just loved the look on the participants' faces," she said.

"I'm sure the night has been locked in as an important life achievement for them all.

"The involvement and pure joy of their friends and family was irreplaceable and it took community connection to a new height."

Ms Westland said the men and women all presented well and felt like the stars of the show.

"They were all dolled up in formal wear, had their hair and make-up done and arrived in a limo or Hummer," she said.

"It was humbling watching these beautiful people be the stars of the show and shine for the night.

"It will be something they never forget, nor for those who watched on.

"A lot of the girls said they felt like princesses and their dreams had come true."

Ms Westland thanked all those who contributed to the night in any way and said the event would not have been possible without so much support.¹

Débutante balls may have changed from their original format but young adults are still enjoying them. In 2017, Zonya Mackinlay from Berwick College recalls their recent débutante ball.

Flash Back Friday – Presentation Balls

Our Year 11 débutantes and partners were resplendent on Tuesday and Thursday's Presentation Balls.

Despite some shaky rehearsals, they danced beautifully to proud parents, families, staff and friends. Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Berwick for providing such a wonderful opportunity.

The earliest photos we have of this lovely tradition are from 1986. Countless débutantes and partners have accepted the challenge of learning new skills and created wonderful memories for the rest of their lives.

Photos reflect over 30 years of involvement by the Rotary Club of Berwick who organise this special event for our students and our association with the City of Casey. Débutantes have been presented to dignitaries such as past and present Mayors, Council Members, President of Rotary Clubs and Rotarians. Interestingly, Mr Sjaak Kusters, Rotarian was Master of Ceremonies for this year's Presentation Ball and is acknowledged in our 2008 Presentation Ball.²

Whether you were a débutante recently or one many years ago, I hope that you have good memories of being presented as an adult to the world, with lots of dancing and fun.

Eileen Durdin

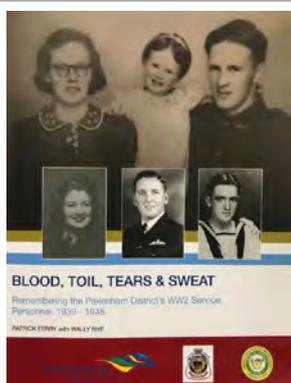
- 1 <https://cranbournenews.starcommunity.com.au/news/2014-09-04/deb-ball-makes-presentation-perfect/>
- 2 <http://www.berwickcollege.vic.edu.au/>

Congratulations!

Local History Project Award

Congratulations to Patrick Ferry and Wally Nye on winning the local history project award in PROV's 2020 Victorian Community History Awards.

Blood, Toil, Tears & Sweat: Remembering the Pakenham District's WW2 Service Personnel, 1939-1945 by Patrick Ferry with Wally Nye, published by Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society & Pakenham RSL



Spreading Branches February 2021

We would like to read your articles or stories. Please submit your contributions by 15 January 2021

While we can't visit the Research Room, members of NWDFHG may get in touch with us and request the latest or a particular edition of any of the exchange newsletters for their own personal and private use only. Email our Research Officer (research.officer@nwfhg.org.au) to see if we've got the newsletter you're looking for on hand.

<https://nwfhg.org.au/newsletter-exchange-program/>

Ballarat Briefings

We are a little better in regard to restrictions now than our friends in the Melbourne Metro area.

I have been attending meetings and gatherings on ZOOM which have been quite interesting.

The Ballarat Cornish group has held some informal gatherings and we've been able to see and chat to people in far off places—Brisbane, and also Diana Wheeler in Warragul. So lovely to see her again.

On Saturday 3 October I gave a Power Point presentation on a Ballarat family that I am remotely connected with. Very interesting to research indeed. The Cornish Association of Victoria held our AGM on ZOOM on Saturday 10 October 2020, and it was great to see and hear friends. The President stated that next year all general meetings in Melbourne will also be held on ZOOM, which will be wonderful for those who cannot attend in person due to distance or illness.

Several weeks ago we had a heavy fall of snow, which stayed on the ground for over an hour and was lovely watching it fall.

One sad effect of COVID-19 is having friends die, and their funerals not being the send off that they and their families deserve and need. However, being able to attend online is one positive which I hope continues into the future.

Eureka Stockade Centre is holding talks on a Tuesday on a monthly basis. These are available on the Eureka Centre Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/eurekacentreballarat/videos), called "Talking

History". The October talk was about early Ballarat women photographers, the next is on 3 November at 5.30 pm, titled "Words that Burn" by Robyn Annear, author of *Bearbrass*.

Di Christensen



Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Digital Annual General Meeting Wednesday 9 December 2020, 7.30 pm

Agenda

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
2. The reading and acceptance of the Committee Reports
3. Election of Office Bearers for 2020-2021.
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
4. Election of Committee Members for 2020-2021.
 - Correspondence Secretary
 - Librarian
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Research Room Manager
 - Membership Officer

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

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.

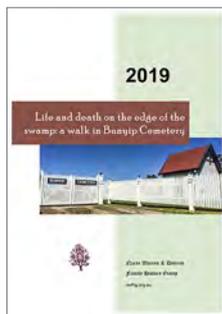
Nomination forms are available with this edition of Spreading Branches or from the Secretary secretary@nwfhg.org.au

Completed nomination forms need to be lodged with the Secretary by **1 December 2020**. Please email them to Eileen Durdin, secretary@nwfhg.org.au as mailed forms may not arrive in time.

** Please note that only financial members may vote at the AGM.*

Publications for sale

Life and death on the edge of the swamp: a walk in Bunyip Cemetery (2019)



It is one hundred and thirty-three years since ten acres were set aside for a cemetery at Bunyip, however, the official burial register didn't begin until 1894 when six year old William Henry Barnes was buried. Nineteen of the first twenty recorded burials were of children. We believe the first actual burial to take place here was of Henry Manley in

August 1886 – his story is featured in this book.

Thirty-one more stories of life and death on the swamp are also told in the book. Elisha Grose, winner of the second Stawell Gift is buried here in an unmarked grave, as is Mary Clifford, a poor deserted child of fourteen years of age who met a cruel and untimely death. As did Catherine O'Donohue while out collecting for charity and Elizabeth Gallaher who died while pregnant with her eighth child. Maria Little's life was cut short while on a bus tour, and Joseph Henderson lost his life at Garfield railway station in 1915.

We also have stories of triumph over tragedy and adversity like returned soldier Edwin Hobson, or the incredible story of how John Mannix overcame a horrific childhood and ultimate desertion by his mother to make a better life for himself and his family at Iona. William Rogers also had a rough start in life, sent to Canada as a Home Child at ten years of age with his seven year old brother Augustus. William eventually came to Australia as an adult and made a wonderful life for himself and his family.

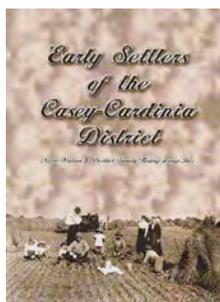
There is an eclectic mix of stories about well-known identities who appear in published histories and are fortunate to have headstones marking their final resting place and stories of people long forgotten, whose only trace is an entry in the register.

\$15 + \$8 postage + handling

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District (2010)

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. Detailed biographies give an insight into the early days of many Casey Cardinia families and individuals.

\$30 + \$13.80 postage + handling



World War 1 walk cemetery books

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

Stories of 98 soldiers from the Lang Lang district and the 48 families who waved goodbye to them and prayed for their safe return. 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.

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

We tell the stories of courage and sacrifice of 111 men and one woman with Cranbourne area connections.

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

This book contains 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.

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

Includes stories of sets of brothers, a father and his son, a nurse and a sailor along with two Indigenous soldiers. Soldiers who received awards, 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.

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

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.

each book \$20 + \$13.80 postage + handling

Ordinary people, interesting lives: A walk in the historic Harkaway Cemetery (2016)

Abounds with 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

Kindred Spirits. NW&DFHG 1989 – 2009

\$25 + \$13.80 postage + handling

Cemetery Tour booklets

Pakenham (2011), Cranbourne (2012), Lang Lang (2013) \$10 each

Berwick (2014), Pakenham (2015) \$15 each

Add \$8 for postage + handling.

More details, order forms and indexes are available on our website at nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/



Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

**Form of Appointment of Proxy
for Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 9 December 2020**

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 9th day of December 2020 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 Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 9 December 2020**

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 1/65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne Vic 3977
or emailed to secretary@nwfhg.org.au by 2 December 2020.