

# Spreading Branches

*Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.*

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*Issue 133 – August 2022*

## Life Member presentation to Jane Rivett-Carnac

It had been a long time coming. We planned to present this life membership at the AGM in 2020, but alas, Covid lockdowns and no in person meeting. It was left on the backburner for so long – but today was the day. The citation was read by our life member Fay McCoubrie and Jane was none the wiser. I thought that she must have been thinking ‘hang on a minute what’s going on?’ or ‘why don’t I know anything about this?’ But no! She just sat there listening and thinking, well, if we organised this in 2020, I must have forgotten about it. Jane’s family had been brought in secretly and were standing behind her very quietly. I believe it was more than half way through the citation before Jane clicked that Fay was talking about her. Jane received her life member badge from Lorraine Taylor, a lovely plant from Rex McFarlane, the citation from Lynne Bradley and the award from Fay. Jane was so surprised at the awarding of life membership to her, that she had to be told that her family were standing there watching. Jane’s reaction was priceless.

Congratulations on a very well deserved award, Jane.



### Shirley Award Presentation

The Shirley Award is usually presented at our Volunteers’ Morning Tea, but the 2020 recipient could not attend so we held it over until the time when they would be at a meeting.

The Shirley Award for 2020 was ‘Well Connected’ and presented to Pat Sherwell for her fantastic achievement on completing an amazing amount of time on the ‘Be Connected’ program.

Pat was very surprised to be the recipient and received the award and a framed poem. Pat’s name is now on the Shirley Award board for 2020. Congratulations on this achievement, Pat.

The awards were presented with the help of Jane’s grandsons.

*Kerryn Maxwell*



# Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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## Committee Members

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## Lorraine Taylor 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.

### **NW&DFHG is a member of:**

Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group	The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of Casey Cardinia Libraries and the City of Casey.
Genealogical Society of Victoria	
South Eastern Historical Association Inc.	
Royal Historical Society of Victoria	

## Opening Hours for Research

Tuesday and Saturday 11 am to 2 pm

Casual visitors \$5 per day

Research room phone number: (03) 5995 3032

## Meetings

October - April: 7.30 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month (except January).

May - September: 2.00 pm

3rd Saturday of the month.

## Membership

Single \$35, Joint \$50. Payable 1 July each year.

## 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 \$20 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)

## **NW&DFHG Coffee Catch-ups**

Meet with other members and friends for a social chat over coffee and cake on the last Sunday of the month at 10 am.  
*Venues to be advised*



*Sunday, 28 Aug, 25 Sep, 30 Oct*

**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

After two years of Covid restrictions, 2022 has seen a slow return to 'normality' with the reopening of the Lorraine Taylor Research Room, although with limited numbers and pre-booked appointments.

The monthly general meetings have been hybrid meetings with some of our members attending in person, others by Zoom. This has also allowed us to invite guest speakers from further afield if they were not able to come to Cranbourne. We welcomed Sydney based John Graham from the Ryerson Index, who gave a very informative talk and demonstration of this fabulous resource. Rob Hamilton joined us from regional Victoria with a presentation about the Freemasons and where to find their records. We have seen members returning with renewed interest. Thanks to Eileen and her organisational skills, she not only facilitated the meetings, she also encouraged us to gather for lunch at Café L'Arte prior to the meetings. Eileen also coordinated the monthly Sunday morning catch-ups, held at a different venue each month. This gives us all the chance to socialise – so important for our well-being after the past two years.



*At Robby's Café in Beaconsfield for a Sunday catch-up*

Our relationship with Casey Cardinia Libraries continued with co-presented monthly history talks via Zoom with Heather Arnold. Although Heather retired at the end of 2021 after nineteen years as the Local History Librarian, we continue to enjoy her company and knowledge, and our talks are supported by Michelle McLean from the Casey Cardinia Library. The talks have been recorded and are available on the library website. During Heritage Week in May 2022 we presented a virtual seminar day with the Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group. 'Curiosity' was the theme and we presented interesting and curious stories from our local community that our Cemetery Tours team and the Casey Cardinia Remembers team have uncovered over the past twenty-two years.

Another small step back towards normality was our Cranbourne Cemetery walk 'No time to say

goodbye'. Originally scheduled for October 2020, then rescheduled to October 2021, it was finally held on Sunday 1 May 2022. We had good luck with the weather, and close to forty people joined our tour in the cemetery. Split into three groups, we took our visitors on a ninety-minute walk, telling them the tragic stories of the people buried in the graves. Many visitors shared memories and asked questions. They were keen to find out when the next walk would be and where. We are fortunate to have seven cemeteries in the Casey Cardinia region and an enthusiastic team of researchers keen to uncover stories from the past. We get great support from our local newspapers and radio station. A bright point of the past year was the continued sales of the books of our previous cemetery walks.

Our Casey Cardinia Remembers team keeps adding to our webpage and we get regular feedback, comments and publicity from this great project.

Each Monday we post a different photograph from the Max Thomson collection on our Facebook page. This generates many comments – a great resource for us and valuable publicity for the group.

We held our Volunteers' Morning Tea in May 2022 at the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre in Cockatoo. We had the opportunity to see the exhibition, listen to an informative talk, and thank our wonderful volunteers. This year we presented the 'Rae of Sunshine' award to our volunteer of the year, John Elliott, who has diligently scanned and indexed a number of scrapbooks and collections relating to the Rae and other families of Narre Warren North.



*Viewing the display at Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre*

In 2022 we became an affiliated library with FamilySearch. This is another avenue to search for that elusive document or image to enhance our research. We also have a dedicated laptop with all things Casey Cardinia – the local newspapers are a wonderful collection.

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The City of Casey supported us while we navigated Covid, and have renewed our lease. We also continued working with our fellow heritage groups, the Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group and the South Eastern Historical Association.

When you consider all the disruption of Covid, our volunteers and the committee have done a lot of work to keep us a viable group. A thousand things were done to keep us going – committee and general meetings held, mail collected and distributed, bills paid, technology maintained, web and Facebook updated, Spreading Branches produced and

distributed, membership records kept up to date, room rosters organised, duty in the research room attended to, books and magazines catalogued, guest speakers invited, stories researched and written for cemetery walk and Spreading Branches, a book produced, and much more. More importantly, the committee have supported each other with laughter, friendship and kindness. I'm so lucky they are a joy and pleasure to work with. On behalf of all the members thank you to the 2021-2022 committee, Lynne, Eileen, Fay, Lyne, Kerry, Moreyn, Barbara and Marianne.

*Jane Rivett-Carnac*

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## Member of the Year – Eileen Durdin

At our AGM Eileen Durdin was announced as Member of the Year 2022 for all the hard work and energy she puts in for NWFHG. With her IT expertise, Eileen keeps us all in touch, both at committee and general meetings, even more so now that we have speakers joining via zoom. She is always on hand to answer questions. Her work on the Max Thomson Collection, the Casey Cardinia Combined Index, Casey Cardinia Remembers, the processing group, and the many other tasks she puts her hand up for, is invaluable.

Eileen is a most deserving Member of the Year.



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## Restoring Family Links – Presentation by Australian Red Cross

We were delighted to welcome Nizar Dakroub and Ivana De Masi from the Australian Red Cross to our AGM. It was a very interesting talk and what a wonderful and important job they perform to help connect families from all over the world.

Nizar is a humanitarian advocate with over eight years of experience working with international organisations such as the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (ICRC). Nizar has worked in Amman (Jordan) during the Syrian conflict supporting people in need. Nizar has reconnected over 60 families during his work with ICRC and the Australian Red Cross, and is a field officer with the

Australian Red Cross Restoring Family Links (RFL) Program.

Ivana has been a field officer for 17 years with the Australian Red Cross Restoring Family Links (RFL) Program. She is passionate about the Program's mandate to assist people to restore contact or determine the fate of family members overseas separated due to war, conflict, disaster, or migration. She has worked with people impacted by different contexts including World War II, the Balkans War (former Yugoslavia), the 2004 tsunami, the 2022 Tonga earthquake and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa, and currently the Ukraine crisis. She has lost count of the number of families she has assisted to reconnect over the years.

# Vision and Realisation

## A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria

I hated English when I was at school. To think that in my retirement, I would be doing a book review on the three thickest books that you can find in any library would be unimaginable. Truth be told, once I found out all the information that the three volumes of Vision and Realisation contain, I just couldn't put them away.

For its centenary, the Education Department of Victoria decided to take on the massive project recording the history of government schools in Victoria, and in 1973 Vision and Realisation Volumes 1, 2, and 3 were published. Mr LJ Blake and his team of hundreds of historians, writers, and fact-checkers, had researched and compiled a comprehensive history of the development of Victoria's education system for us all to read.

### Volume 1

Volume 1 contains the history of the Victorian Education Department, its divisions, branches, services, organisations, and personnel. It gives us a great insight into the various schemes and systems that have been part of the Victorian state education system for its first one hundred years. The extensive index at the back of the book references anything you want to know about Victoria's state education system.

Teachers are the core of any education system and the National Board in 1853 described their ideal teachers:

*A teacher should be a person of Christian sentiment, of calm temper and discretion; he should be imbued with a spirit of peace, of obedience to the law, and of loyalty to his sovereign. He should not only possess the art of communicating knowledge but be capable of moulding the mind of youth and of giving to the power which education confers a useful direction.*

It was interesting to learn the varied pay scales throughout the years. Their yearly salary varied depending on where they lived, how many pupils were at the school, and of course, if they were male or female. Below is an example of an 1853-54 pay

scale and it shows the importance of the developing gold towns (see table below).

There were a lot of half-time schools, and you do wonder how teachers travelled between

these schools and how long it took. The Education Department, in 1887, amongst other regulations, established how these teachers should spend their time:

*In the case of half-time schools, the teacher will be expected to divide his time between the schools under his charge with the view of effecting the greatest amount of good. It is recommended that he devote two and a half hours each day to the teaching of each school; but should any other arrangement be found more suitable such may be adopted, the sanction of the board having previously been obtained.*

For some pupils travelling to school must have been challenging. The Education Department did assist some pupils to get to school if their school had been closed due to consolidation. Even though the consolidation of schools started in 1902, it wasn't until 1918 that they started looking at a concept for conveyancing pupils. When George Woodhouse returned from a teacher exchange visit to Canada in 1923, he recommended:

*To a consolidated school, the children are brought from the surrounding districts in large vans provided by the school. Tenders are called for conveyance, the successful applicant having to supply his own horses. In winter the wheeled vans give place to vans on runners, the vehicles being stove warmed ... the conveyance system is costly; it would probably be cheaper in Victoria.*

You may be lucky to find your person of interest in the education personnel section. It has short

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### National Board Salaries 1853-54

	Town	Country		Goldfields		Melbourne
Classification	1853	1853	1854	1853	1854	1854
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Male Teacher	100	100	100	120	120	120
Female Teacher	70	70	80	80	90	90
Male Assistant	90	90	90	100	100	100
Female Assistant	60	60	60	70	70	70
Mistress (Needlework)	40	40	-	45	-	-
Workmistress	-	-	30		45	45

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biographies of the teacher's time in the education system and their involvement with the community, and some have photos. I was impressed with Maurice Kelvin Anderson who not only taught so many, served his country at war, and became a councillor, he also found time to captain-coach his local footy team:

ANDERSON, Maurice Kelvin, B.A., B.Ed., TPTC, District Inspector of Schools since 1955; b. 17 April 1912 at Bunyip; educ. Warragul HS, Melb. Univ., Melb. TC 1934; t. Bunyip, Bayles, Morass Creek/The Brothers (Pt time), Jeeralang Nth, Garfield Nth, Moreland, Bolton, Drouin, Terang; Lectr Geelong TC Dec. 1949–Sept 1955; DI Bairnsdale 1955–60, Pakenham 1961–; memb. Inspectorial Districts Revis. Cte since 1963; Councillor Berwick Shire since 1965, & President 1970–71; Pres. Garfield ANA (15 years); Capt. Coach Bunyip Football team & President Bunyip RSL; enlisted with RAAF Dec. 1941, & served in New Guinea with No. 7 Beaufort Squadron; he visited Q'land Educ. Dept 1969 to study Revised Science Course.



## Volumes 2 and 3

Short stories of all the government schools in Victoria are contained in Volumes 2 and 3 of Vision and Realisation. Volume 2 covers the western half and metropolitan area, containing the regions of Glenelg, Wimmera, Mallee, Loddon, Central Highlands, Corangamite, Barwon. Volume 3 contains the eastern half regions of Port Phillip Western, Port Phillip Eastern, Upper Goulburn, Goulburn, Upper Murray, East Gippsland, and West Gippsland. Casey and Cardinia schools were in the Port Phillip and West Gippsland regions which is what I focused on. Stories vary in length incorporating what information was supplied. You must remember that this was a huge project, not all information was easily found, and some details came from newspaper clippings and personal diaries.

Each school's beginnings and endings give us an idea of what was happening in the area at that time. Understanding the school number system gives us a timeframe for when each school was established. Schools 1-700 were already in operation when taken over by the Board of Education in 1863. All the rest were established as

per the table below:

School number	Approximate date of establishment
701 to 799	1863-1865
800 to 899	1865-1867
900 to 999	1867-1870
1000 to 1299	1870-1874
1300 to 1599	1874-1875
1600 to 1799	1875-1876
1800 to 1999	1876-1878
2000 to 2199	1878-1879
2200 to 2399	1879-1881
2400 to 2599	1881-1884
2600 to 2799	1884-1887
2800 to 2999	1887-1890
3000 to 3299	1890-1897
3300 to 3499	1897-1905
3500 to 3699	1905-1911
3700 to 3899	1911-1915
3900 to 4099	1915-1922
4100 to 4299	1922-1927
4300 to 4499	1927-1932
4500 to 4699	1932-1954
4700 onwards	1954 onwards

There is at least a small story on all the state schools that operated in Victoria, even those which have vanished. So you should be able to find the school you are after in either Volume 2 or Volume 3. These stories show schools with humble beginnings and a lot of community generosity and perseverance. Here are just a few of the stories that caught my interest.

Berwick was only a tiny village on 'Gardiners Run' consisting of four or five rough buildings in the late 1850s. An old shepherd's hut on Gardiner's cattle and sheep station became the Berwick SS No 40. It was a wattle and daub building with a mud floor. This first building was situated at the rear of the land on which the former hospital stood.

The new Cranbourne SS No 2068 opened on 1 May 1878, and the old Cranbourne SS No 144, was officially struck off the rolls that same month.



The old building at Cranbourne State School

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Menzies Creek SS No 2457 was officially opened on 15 April 1882. It was a single classroom with two attached rooms for living quarters. The school was built on 1 acre of land donated by G Hall, 'a bullocky' and district pioneer.

Prior to 1890, children from Beaconsfield attended classes in a private house. Then the Beaconsfield SS No 3033 opened on the present site on 5 June 1890.

Longwarry Saw Mills SS No 3002 opened on 3 March 1890 in an unlined weatherboard building with an iron roof and leased from the saw mill proprietors for 3s weekly. The mill closed in 1894, the children left, and the school closed on 31 July 1894.

A tragedy occurred in 1921 at the Ripplebrook SS No 2129, when a pupil, Lily McKay, was killed by a falling tree as she was on her way home after school.

In 1966 the children of Longwarry SS No 2505 gained first, second, third and fourth places in the Temperance Physiology Examination set for statewide competition. The school held the Harry Evans Perpetual Trophy for that year.

At the Emerald SS No 3381 the assembly area was asphalted in 1937 and doubled as a basketball court. The Young Farmers Club was particularly active in the early 1940s, they erected a detached storeroom, wherein girls were taught cooking and jam making and the boys learned woodwork. As a darkroom, it made possible the use of an epidiascope. The school developed a splendid vegetable garden at the back of the school while attractive flower gardens made a delightful approach to the front of the building. Thirty fowls were housed in two pens. Boys learned to cut hair and head teachers Mr Skelton and Mr Stafford taught many children to swim in the lake.

Parents were most enthusiastic in their efforts to provide the best possible conditions and amenities for the Belgrave South SS No 3551. A tennis court, erected in the mid-1920s provided a great avenue of social contact.

Island Road SS No 3952 opened on 23 June 1919, under head teacher Estella Forbes with 18 children enrolled. Four of these, members of the Pepper family, were full-blooded Aborigines, and experts at throwing boomerangs.

It was a small one-teacher school, in south west Gippsland, 43 miles from Melbourne, and 3 miles north of Koo Wee Rup. Before the Koo Wee Rup swamp was drained this area flooded during winter. The small patch of slightly higher land above water level became known as 'The Island'. Hence the name of the road that led to the island, and the

name of the school. The most eventful year was the great flood of November 1934, when even the big drains could not cope with rain on successive days of 239 points, 100 points, 154 points, and still more rain. Yet the school and most of the schoolground remained dry, but the roads were covered with water and neither teacher nor pupils could get through to the school.

### **Fondly remembered teachers**

As in many other schools, staffing at Hallam Road SS No 244 was very much a family affair in the early days. For example, Daniel J Ahern (1870-90) had for many years the assistance of his wife, Catherine Ahern (1872-86) as work mistress, and his daughter, Mary Agnes Ahern (1883-86) as pupil teacher.

At Pakenham SS No 1359, Miss Frederika Maria Hagens or Freddie Hagens (1896-1926) was an outstanding and beloved teacher, who impressed wherever she went.

The new teacher Alex G Gough of Gembrook South SS No 2155 had to ride 12 miles to Gembrook on alternate days.

Mrs Grace S Mackenzie was a teacher for 23 years at Koo Wee Rup SS No 2629. Locally the school was known as Mrs Mackenzies School.

Beaconsfield Railway Station SS No 3033 head teacher Joe Morgan is well remembered as a man of great energy and enthusiasm who developed many aspects of school life to the utmost. He formed a Cadet Corps at the school and organised many school outings, picnics, excursions, and field days.

Mrs Giles retired after sixteen years of devoted work at the Belgrave South SS No 3551 with more than eighty of the district's early youth having been taught by her.

Christopher Hansen was a teacher at Cardinia SS No 3689 (1879-80), he was also the local postmaster.



*Pakenham State School about 1910*

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## Pakenham Consolidated School

Pakenham SS No 1359 opened in January 1875, in a building on a site of 2 acres adjoining Toomuc Creek, and at first worked as a half-time school in conjunction with Pakenham South (now Cardinia). In 1891, the school moved to a new site – 1 mile away, facing Main Street, in the new township which had grown up around the railway station.

In May 1951, with the Pakenham School as the centre, the Pakenham Consolidated School was established absorbing the pupils of the following schools, which were accordingly closed: Pakenham Upper SS No 2155, Tynong SS No 2854, Nar Nar Goon North SS No 2914, Toomuc Valley SS No 3034, Cora Lynn SS No 3502, Pakenham South SS No 3755, Army Road SS No 3847, Rythdale SS No 4231, Tynong North SS No 4464, Mt Burnett SS No 4506, and Nar Nar Goon South SS No 4554.



*Pakenham Consolidated School*

Even though these schools closed, most buildings were moved to other schools and the land was used for various other reasons. In February 1953 the Toomuc Valley SS No 3034 site became

the Pakenham Consolidated School endowment plantation. The Cora Lynn SS No 3502 site also became a Pakenham Consolidated School endowment plantation where experimental work in growing potatoes began. The CFA used the Pakenham Upper SS No 2155 site for a fire station, and in 1965, the Shire of Berwick bought part of the land for road purposes. The Koo Wee Rup North SS No 3198 site became the Pakenham Consolidated School Young Farmers Club. The Pakenham South and District Progress Association purchased the Pakenham South SS No 3755 and outbuildings for use as a public hall. The Tynong North Progress Association purchased the Tynong North SS No 4464 for a recreation reserve.

## A great resource

Vision and Realisation Volumes 1, 2, and 3 are one of the best tools if you are looking for any information about the first 100 years of Victoria's State Education System. I hope that I have shared some good examples and stories – there are so many. No doubt you too have a better understanding of the Victorian Education System and you can see what a valuable research tool these books are.

All three books can be found in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room and most local libraries. The schools in the Casey Cardinia area in Volume 3 have been indexed and can be found on the Casey Cardinia Combined Index. There is a website <https://victorianschoolhistories.weebly.com> where you can obtain the full stories of any Victorian State School entries as written in Volumes 2 and 3.

Thanks to Mr LJ Blake and his team, teachers, pupils, parents, school committees, district inspectors, and the Education Department of Victoria, as this resource is a trove of information for us all.

*Eileen Durdin*

## Treasure saved from the fire

It was a late Friday afternoon, there was a chill in the air, but we were looking forward to a fire in the firepit. A couple of warming drinks with dinner to just relax and chat and enjoy the warmth of the fire sounded like a great start to the weekend.

Michael's mum had been cleaning out their home office – and did this office need a clean out! It was the kind of space where, if there was a flat surface, paperwork of all description would manage to accumulate in stacks. The owner of the space loved to print everything, and was not so great in getting rid of un-needed paperwork. It was time to empty the room and repurpose the space, so it all had to be gone through and sorted. Being retired, they

were members of many groups and organisations. As caring conscientious members, they always put up their hands to do committee jobs – so you can sort of imagine the amount of papers involved.

So, after many months of slow progress to sort



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out personal papers that shouldn't go in the recycle bin, it was decided that we would take the many boxes and burn them.

Now back to our lovely warm fire. Michael had made a start on the fire while I got dinner organised. When it was ready, we ate outside enjoying the warm glow. I started on a box of papers slowly feeding them into the flames and occasionally having a cheeky look at what they all were.

Being a family historian, when you flick through pages and see a recognisable name and maybe some history, you stop and look, so every now and then some pieces didn't make it into the fire. One person's trash is another one's treasure, and by the end of the evening I had a nice little stash put aside on the table. Soon enough the boxes were empty and our job was done. I carefully picked up my little pile of keep papers and took them inside to wait for the morning to have a closer look at my treasure.

The first collection I wanted to take a look at were pages that looked like they had been ripped out of a book. The previous night I had noticed that they were from the Masonic Caravan Club and were lists of members who had attended the rally weekends and they were dated in the 1970s. I recognised the names of Bob and Dot Weir. That's what piqued my interest and made me save the pages. I knew Bob and Dot from my childhood, and I knew they were members of the Masonic Caravan Club, and also the RACV Caravan Club, which my parents were also members of, so you can see my reasoning. It brought back some wonderful memories of Auntie Dot as we children called her, as she was like a grandmother to the kids in the club. I have lots of memories of her sitting around at the caravan rallies and talking to us. These people had passed away about 30 years ago. After a lot of shuffling of the papers to put them in date order I found I had 10 years and 6 months of records.

Flicking through the pages of members' names, I saw that some had addresses recorded next to their names. Juniper Ave, Glen Waverley, jumped out of the page at me. This was a surprise and I wondered if my parents knew them, as this was the next street to our street. A couple of pages over I recognised Owens Ave. Now this was my childhood street, and where my parents still live, and I wondered who that would be. Imagine my surprise reading the name 'Peter Whitehurst', my father, written there and in his hand writing too! I was so excited. It was fascinating to see quite a few other names I recognised from childhood and the rally.

The rally was held at Dromana at the Pandarosa Caravan Park in October 1973 and I was 5 1/2 year old. It was a joint RACV and Masonic Caravan Club rally. Mum and Dad had talked a lot about this rally, as there was a raffle and they won the 1st prize, which was a small electric heater suitable for use in the caravan. This heater gave our family many years of warmth.

The clinch for me was the realisation that when my parents met Michael's parents for the first time about 6 years ago, the

discussion got around to them both being in Caravan Clubs and which ones. My mum said "Oh, we went to a Masonic Caravan Club rally at Dromana and we won the raffle."

Well now I have the document to show this. It was found at my in-laws' house. They don't get a mention in it, but my parents do! Goes to show, you can find treasures in strange places. It's quite a worry that it almost got destroyed in a firepit and maybe some records did, but for me unknowingly going through that box and saving it. This would have been a different story if Michael had started on this box....

*Kerryn Maxwell*



## Mothercraft nurses and the Beaconsfield Babies Home

On most Mondays since 15 February 2021, the Narre Warren & District Family History Group Facebook page has highlighted one of the many photographs from the Max Thomson Collection. The photo on 4 April 2022 caught my attention.

This photo is captioned “Eight young un-identified women dressed in white with dolls.” and was taken c1908. Two people left a comment. One thought it reminded them of a relative and mothercraft training, the other thought they could be a church group. I thought it might be a school choir or eisteddfod performance of a lullaby.

Curiosity got the better of me and I set out to see if I could find the answer. Was it mothercraft training or were they singers?

My search began with the Victorian Infant Asylum at Kew, established in 1877 by a group of women led by Lady Bowen, the wife of the Governor of Victoria. The aim and purpose was to raise money for the unfortunates, the dying babies and fallen women of Melbourne. Premises were rented at Fitzroy to accommodate infants and their mothers. In 1906 it was known as the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home and they had moved to the old police hospital at Berry Street, East Melbourne. In 1964 it was known as the Berry Street Babies' Home and Hospital. Berry Street is still in existence today with a wider emphasis than just caring for babies.<sup>1</sup>

The late 1800s was a time when families were large, and it was generally accepted that some children would die young. However, in the poorer classes this was often the result of ignorance or neglect.

In 1882 there were 65 babies in care at the asylum; infant mortality rates were still high as fourteen of these babies died that year. Different medical professionals advocated breast feeding rather than artificial feeding as it would improve survival rates. It was preferable for the mothers to feed their babies, rather than make use of a ‘wet nurse’.

At the start of the twentieth century nursing was



only just being recognised as important for society, and as a role for women. The Sunday Times newspaper in Sydney reported on a lecture given in Melbourne by Dr Anderson and Dr Springthorpe. While nursing was the subject, the headline in the paper was ‘The Trained Nurse as a Wife’. The lecture included the importance of saving the lives of babies and children and the work being done by the Victorian Foundling Hospital. While it was noted that ‘the status and social position of nurses was improving, they would marry and their work would enhance her value as a life companion’. The first nurse training school in Australia was established by the Alfred Hospital in 1880, and by 1908 the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association had been formed with a thousand members and one hundred medical members. Dr Springthorpe also noted that a nurse was not ‘another domestic servant switched into the house’.<sup>2</sup>

In 1907 the Victorian Foundling Hospital and Infant Asylum committee proposed to commence training educated girls as domestic nurses. This was apparently the pioneer scheme for mothercraft training. There was growing concern that the infant mortality rate in Victoria was at 9.58 percent while in New Zealand it was 7.48 percent. More needed to be done. One hundred applications were received for five places. The trainees would pay three guineas and work without pay for six months. Then they would be paid one pound a month for the next six months before completing the training. During

1 Looking back Looking forward: The story of ‘Berry Street’ Child and Family Centre 1877-1977 by Beryl Penwill

2 The Sunday Times (Sydney) 13 December 1908



*The scene of the accident, where Nurse Florence Moloney lost her life  
PROV inquest deposition file 1934/447*

the training they would learn the management of children up to the age of four, have lectures on children's diseases, and learn dressmaking and hairdressing. It was believed that once trained, these girls would find well paid work looking after the children of the wealthy.<sup>3</sup>

The classes to train as a mothercraft probationer nurse began in 1907. At this time the group rented properties in summer to send children out of inner Melbourne to the seaside and to country areas to benefit from fresh air. The benefit to the children was noticed, and in 1913 they purchased Kenilworth, a 38-acre farm and orchard with a large brick villa and associated buildings, established by Charles Nott at Beaconsfield, near the railway station and next to a running creek.

The home was officially opened on 6 May 1914; later that evening the residents of Beaconsfield and Upper Beaconsfield held a grand ball to raise funds for the home.<sup>4</sup>

The farm and orchard supplied food for those at Beaconsfield and also for the Berry Street property. During World War 2 all the staff and children were evacuated from Melbourne to Beaconsfield for the duration of the war.<sup>5</sup>

During the time at Beaconsfield a local women's auxiliary was formed to support and raise funds for the home and Dr Percy Langmore gave his service

to the home in a voluntary capacity from 1914 to 1946, as did his son Dr Leonard Langmore from 1940 to 1952.<sup>6</sup> The local women befriended the nurses and invited them into their homes and they sewed and knitted for the babies. Even though Beaconsfield had poultry and a number of cows, the organisation also received supplies of 'clean' milk from Lady Talbot's Milk Institute dairy at Cranbourne.

At times Beaconsfield struggled to keep staff, as many young women did not want to work out in the



*Matron and staff at Foundling Home, Beaconsfield – Leader 16 May 1914*

country. They could earn more in the city working shorter hours. By the 1930s the home was affiliated with the National Council of Women Baby Health Centres Association, and the Children's Welfare

3 *The Sydney Morning Herald* 13 February 1907

4 *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* 9 April 1914

5 Berry Street: Restoring Trust and Hope by Alicia Cerreto

6 *The Pakenham Gazette* 19 October 1917, Looking back, Looking forward, appendix

continued from page 11

Association. They also had an agreement with the Kindergarten Union of Victoria.

In 1934 *The Australian* newspaper reported the death of Nurse Florence Moloney of the Beaconsfield Foundling Home. Florence had attended church in Berwick, and was walking back to the home at Beaconsfield with a group of nurses, when she was struck and killed by a passing car driven by Mr W a'Beckett of Harkaway.<sup>7</sup> The circumstances of her death were a topic of discussion at the council meeting of the Berwick Shire on 20 April 1934 when Cr Boyd raised the issue that there was no footpath for people walking between Berwick and Beaconsfield, and the danger it posed at night.<sup>8</sup> I wonder how long it was before a path was built?

Interestingly the inquest deposition file for Florence contained a photograph of the roadway. It detailed that William a'Beckett was accompanied by nurse Ann Williamson and that one of his backseat passengers was David Boyd.<sup>9</sup>

For many years the home had been training probationers in infant care. They were taught to look after a healthy baby in a private home or institution. Other organisations such as the Tweedle Baby Hospital at Footscray and the Truby King Infant Welfare Centre founded in New Zealand and advocating the Plunkett Society system in Australia, had also been training young women in baby and child care. In 1931 it was proposed to give them the status of Mothercraft Nurse.<sup>10</sup> In 1935, the local newspaper reported that Sister William was in charge of the Truby King Infant Welfare Centre in Dandenong.<sup>11</sup>

In 1946, after thirty-three years, the Beaconsfield property was closed and everyone moved back into the East Melbourne property. The property was leased out and had fallen into a state of disrepair. Thus in 1963 the Beaconsfield property was sold reluctantly. The training of Mothercraft Nurses continued at Berry Street until 1975 when the final graduation took place that year on 19 March.

Looking for early photographs of Berry Street I could not find any girls or women dressed as in the Max Thomson photo. They all showed women in nurse uniforms of the time so I'm thinking the photo on facebook is more likely to be a school or church choir.

*Jane Rivett-Carnac*

7 *The Australian* 7 April 1934

8 *The Dandenong Journal* 26 April 1934

9 PROV inquest deposition file 1934/447 Florence Moloney

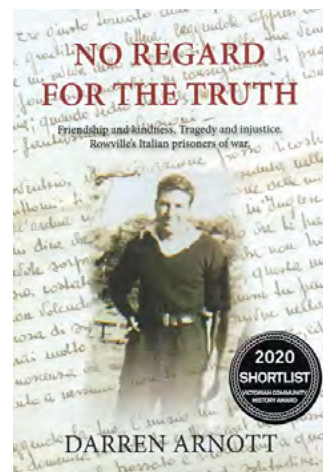
10 [www.tweddlecentenary.org.au](http://www.tweddlecentenary.org.au)

11 *Dandenong Journal* 4 April 1935, 16 January 1936

## New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

### Casey Cardinia books

- \* Carl Samuel Aumann: the family history, 1853-1993 by Eric Uebergang
- \* Student Voices  
Memories of Hampton Park Primary School 1922-2021 by Crispian Deacon
- \* No time to say goodbye: a walk in Cranbourne Cemetery by Narre Warren & District Family History Group
- \* No regard for the truth: friendship and kindness, tragedy and injustice, Rowville's Italian prisoners of war by Darren Arnott

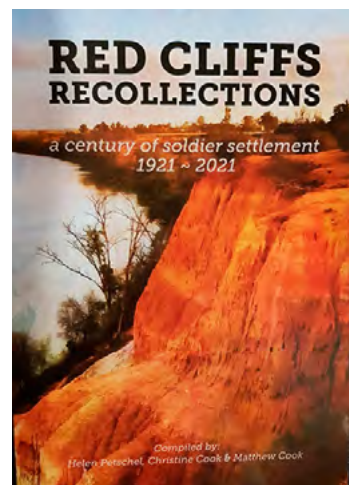


### Australian books

- \* The Perilous voyages to the new land by Michael Cannon

### Victorian books

- \* We remember: a souvenir catalogue: Exhibition of historical photographs and memorabilia relating to the First World War
- \* German pioneer families
- \* Red Cliffs  
Recollections: A Century of Soldier Settlement 1921-2021 by Helen Petschel



## Magazines

- \* Ancestor Jun 2022
- \* The Genealogist Autumn 2022
- \* Traces: Uncovering the Past No 19 2022
- \* The South Australian Genealogist May 2022
- \* Irish Roots Issues 121 & 122
- \* Family Tree Jun 2022

Happy Reading

*Moreyn Dimsey*  
Librarian

# Berwick Cemetery Walk – 30 October 2022

Join us on Sunday 30 October 2022 at 10 am as we revisit graves at Berwick Cemetery to tell stories about our local pioneers. There are stories of murder, misfortune, and the horror and heartbreak of the Great War. The easy ninety minute walk includes light refreshments at the conclusion of the walk.

Berwick Cemetery is at the corner of Inglis and Buchanan Roads.

Cost is \$5 per adult paid on the day, children under 16 free.

Bookings: Jane 0412 084 671 or email [cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:cemetery.tours@nwfhg.org.au)

*Image Berwick Cemetery Trust*



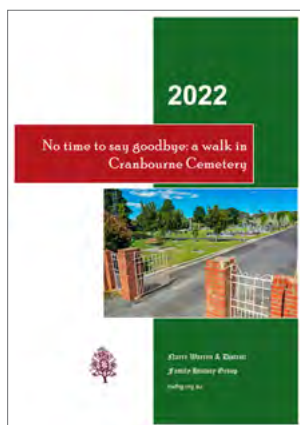
## ‘No Time to Say Goodbye’ cemetery walk at Cranbourne

It was a cold and overcast Sunday morning as we went about setting up the tour at the Cranbourne Cemetery. However, our enthusiasm kept our hands warm as we placed pots of lavender on the graves to create a calm environment amongst the often bleak and dark headstones.

A quick rehearsal of the planned tour and a check of the scripts were done and soon the visitors started to arrive, they were greeted and allocated into three groups to make the tour more personal and allow for questions and comments.

The tour was all about the theme *No time to say goodbye*, and consisted of people whose death was sudden and unexpected.

It included the story of a councillor who became a shire president, who attended a function the night before his sudden death. There were vehicle accident victims, including the death of children.



Other tour highlights included three convicts who were pioneers of the district, and one murder victim – the man accused of his murder went on to hold the record of being the longest serving prisoner at Aradale in western Victoria, which was formerly known as the Ararat Lunatic Asylum.

As the tour progressed the sun shone through the coldness of the day and cast a glittering light on many headstones highlighting names and dates of times past but not forgotten.

The tour finally came to an end, and we received some great feedback from the people who had come on our tour. A family from the Mornington Peninsula, whose family is buried at Cranbourne, explained that they had also purchased graves at Cranbourne for when their time comes.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in setting up and running the tour and thank you to the visitors, we look forward to seeing you at the next cemetery tour soon.

*Lyne McGregor*

## General Meeting – Saturday 17 September 2022

The meeting will be held at L'Arté Central Social Enterprise Café Training Room and on Zoom at 2 pm

All welcome to join us for lunch at 12.30 pm. Bookings are essential, contact Eileen Durdin at [secretary@nwfhg.org.au](mailto:secretary@nwfhg.org.au)



# History events at Casey Cardina Libraries

For bookings: <https://events.ccl.vic.gov.au/>

## Getting started with Ancestry/Find My Past

Discover the resources available on these on-line family history databases during this session.

Mon 5 September 2022 (2 pm) – online event

## Women at work

Many women were employed outside the home in the 19th and early 20th century. This talk looks at some of these women and resources for finding out more about their lives. Presented by Heather Arnold: President Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society.

15 September 2022 (11 am) – online event

## Researching your multicultural family history

Have you tried to research your family history on Ancestry or Find My Past and found nothing?

## Ballarat Briefings

### Eureka Remembrance Pathway at the Eureka Centre

A pathway of remembrance for the 35 lives lost at the Battle of Eureka in 1854 was unveiled recently by the Irish Ambassador His Excellency Mr Tim Mawe.

His Excellency said that the values of Eureka were long term in pursuing equality fairness and democracy.

Thirty five eucalyptus trees are planted along the pathway with plaques indicating the country of origin of the person who died.

There were 14 Irishmen, eight from England, three from Germany, one Russian, one Australian and one Scot. Five were of unknown origin.

The path begins at the Eureka Circle (pictured) where the story of Eureka is depicted across 20 individual panels, and then cuts across the lawn to reach the memorial to the



Pikeman's dog – an Irish terrier who stayed with his master when he was shot at Eureka.

Source: Ballarat Courier

### Three thousand eight hundred and one trees

The history of the Arch of Victory and the Avenue of Honour comes alive in a new book aimed at teaching children about their development.

Do you have ancestors who are not from Europe? Come along to this session for tips and tricks about researching multicultural family histories.

Tuesday 4 October 2022 (1-2 pm) – online event

## World War 1 touched them all

The impact of World War 1 was more than the death and wounding of thousands of Australian men in battle. It also had a profound effect on their family and on them when they returned home. This talk will look at the war in relation to the local communities in our region.

Thursday 17 November 2022 (11 am) at Cranbourne Library meeting room

To listen to earlier talks, go to <https://www.ccl.vic.gov.au/browse/local-history/>

Written by Naomi Irvin, illustrated by Liv Lorkin it is titled 'Three thousand eight hundred and one trees (and each one has a name)'. It is ideal for grade four students onwards. The book is available at several bookstores and cafes.



## Chinese Library

A new library recently opened in Ballarat. The Xin Jin Shan Chinese Library will house the largest collection of Chinese books within Australia.

Housed in a former bank on the corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets, it will serve as an education and history research centre for China's links to Ballarat, Victoria, and Australia. In 1859 10,000 Chinese



Chinese Joss House

were living in Ballarat, one quarter of the population. Many young people in Ballarat today would be of fifth or sixth generations of goldrush Chinese immigrants. I can remember Chinese people and their buildings on the flat parts of Main Road in Ballarat East in the 1940s and 1950s. The name Xin Jin Shan translates to New Gold Mountain, the name for Victoria in the gold rush.

Di Christensen

# Lorraine Taylor Research Room Roster

## Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am–2 pm

Please find a replacement yourself if you cannot do duty.

September 2022			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
		3	Lyne McGregor Hellen Kemp
6	Lorraine Taylor Jane Rivett-Carnac	10	Lynne Bradley Robyn Jones
13	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin	17 *	Barbara Sharp <i>Room closes at 1.45 pm</i>
20	Moreyn Dimsey Barbara Sharp	24	Barbara Sharp Jane Rivett-Carnac
27	John Williams Eileen Durdin		

October 2022			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
		1	Barbara Sharp Robyn Jones
4	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin	8	Barbara Sharp Lyne McGregor
11	Lorraine Taylor Jane Rivett-Carnac	15	Barbara Sharp
18	John Williams Barbara Sharp	22	Lynne Bradley Eileen Durdin
25	Maureen Abbott Moreyn Dimsey	29	Lorraine Taylor Jane Rivett-Carnac

November 2022			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
1	Melbourne Cup CLOSED	5	Eileen Durdin Robyn Jones
8	Barbara Sharp	12	Lynne Bradley Jane Rivett-Carnac
15	Moreyn Dimsey Eileen Durdin	19	Hellen Kemp Robyn Jones
22	John Williams Eileen Durdin	26	Barbara Sharp Lynne Bradley
29	Jane Rivett-Carnac Lorraine Taylor		

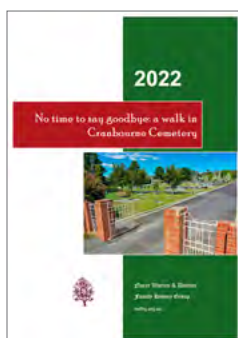
**Spreading Branches November 2022** We would like to read your articles or stories.  
Please submit your contributions by 15 October 2022

## Publications for sale

### ***No time to say goodbye: a walk in Cranbourne Cemetery (2022)***

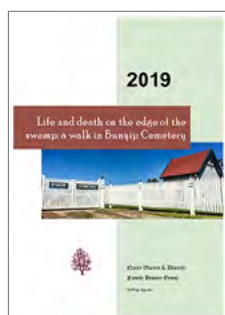
Our latest book tells the stories of twenty-six people who died suddenly, without giving them or their families a chance to say goodbye. Some died in accidents at work or on the road. Others' deaths were caused by unexpected illness, murder or by their own hands.

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling



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

The official burial register of Bunyip Cemetery 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.

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.

\$20 + \$9.55 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.

\$20 + \$9.55 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 \$25 + \$12.95 postage + handling

## **Cemetery Tour booklets**

Pakenham (2011), Cranbourne (2012), Lang Lang (2013) \$15 each

Berwick (2014), Pakenham (2015) \$20 each  
Add \$9.55 for postage + handling.

## **Other books**

### ***Kindred Spirits. NW&DFHG 1989 – 2009***

\$25 + \$12.95 postage + handling

**Please note: Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District (2010) is now out of print**

More details, order forms and indexes are available on our website at [nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/](http://nwfhg.org.au/publications-2/)