

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 135 – February 2023

TROVE needs your help

You will by now have heard that funding for Trove is going to run out in July, if there is not a major investment to fund our cultural institutions adequately. The National Library of Australia may have to discontinue access to Trove if they don't receive a budget increase in the next Federal Budget.

Without Trove we would struggle to research the history of our families or local history. Just imagine having to return to searching microfilms at the State Library. Where would you start if you didn't know where and when something had been written about your person or topic of interest? Without a computerised search function, every reference would have to be discovered by chance.

Today we were researching a person for our future Dandenong Cemetery Tour. With a few keystrokes we found articles about his work and his involvement in local shows. We learnt about groundless accusations in relation to flowers grown in his wife's garden. And we found out why he died at a young age.

Having online access to our newspapers and other Trove content has made research convenient, and it has saved a lot of travel time. We have found information that would likely have been lost forever without Trove.

Consider helping to save Trove for everyone's benefit.

How you can help

- * Write an email to Tony Burke MP, Federal Arts Minister (tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au) and your

local MPs explaining why Trove has value and why you wish for it to have a long-term well-funded future for decades to come.

- * Sign one or all of the three e-petitions to save Trove on the Parliament of Australia's website <https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions>
- * Spread the word on social media to encourage others interested in Trove to do the same. If you use Facebook or Twitter use the hashtag #fundTrove. You can also join the Trove User Group on Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening.
- * Sign up for a NLA Library Card. The more active members the NLA has the more funding it will receive and the better resourced a Trove future will be. NLA membership also offers perks of access to countless e-Resources (including newspaper databases that help get beyond paywalls) that can be accessed no matter where in Australia you are.

<https://www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard/registration>



Upcoming general meetings

Where: Admin Building Conference Room, Cranbourne Complex (enter via the Casey Radio Entrance), 1/65 Berwick Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne, and via Zoom

Wednesday **8 February, 7.30 pm – BACK TO SCHOOL** bring along your old school photograph and join in the identification line up as we try to identify the young you. It's a show and tell night of school memories and information on school records for expanding a family story.

Wednesday **8 March, 7.30 – PROV Map Warper** The PROV Map Warper is a tool for digitally aligning ('rectifying') historical maps and plans from Public Record Office Victoria's collections to match today's precise maps. Learn how to browse already rectified maps or assist us by aligning a map.



Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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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

NW&DFHG Catch-ups



Meet with other members and friends for a social chat and a bite on the last Sunday of the month

*26 February, 26 March, 30 April
venues to be announced in Falling Leaves*

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 all the confusion and problems of the past few years it is nice to be going into a new year with positivity.

We are in the research and and planning stages for our first walk in the old Dandenong cemetery. Lyne McGregor is the co-ordinator this year and we're working towards Sunday 29 October when we will present stories of our local families remembered at Dandenong.

Last year we welcomed Bob Neal to the position of sausage sizzle coordinator and we have our first date confirmed as Saturday 25 March at the Clyde North Bunnings. Please consider helping for an hour or two as this event is our major fundraiser each year. It goes a long way to providing new resources for the group.

Eileen has a great team indexing books for the Casey Cardinia Collection, adding to our extensive database. She is also involved with Moreyn, Barbara and Lynne, the Wednesday Warriors, who are sorting, cataloguing, filing and digitising the extensive personal donations from the Wanke and Poole families. They welcome new members to their team. It's a great way to learn new skills or refine old ones in a fun friendly group.

Fay has an interesting group of speakers lined up for this year and we look forward to the normality of meeting in person and the resumption of the Saturday lunch during winter.

Barbara has a dedicated team who volunteer in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room but we would love a few more people to put their hand up. We only ask you to do one Tuesday or Saturday a month; you are always on duty with another volunteer. The bonus to being a volunteer is you get a great understanding of the resources we have and you meet lovely people along the way.

I hope you are all enjoying the new look for our Falling Leaves, thanks to Lyne for her enthusiasm.

Look out for the date and venue for the resumption of our Sunday morning catch ups along with other events this year.

We will be attending the Heritage Festival at Pakenham in May and look forward to sharing stories and information with visitors.

As a group we continue to be involved with the South Eastern Historical Association and the Casey Cardinia Local History Group. While we are the only family history group in these two organisations, the historical groups and museums are enthusiastic preservers of local history and we all aim to do the same thing, record, preserve and pass on the history of our people and our community.

Whether it's a local library, a museum, historical society or family history group, they all compliment and support each other. So while we work to uncover stories of our families, remember when you have a brick wall, sometimes the answer can be found in a local museum or library. It may be that the person you speak to there has the clue to your problem. Local knowledge is vital to knock down a wall. Such knowledge can also be gained from members of our group. Each of us may hold clues. Perhaps we have visited a website that can help you, or we solved a similar problem and we may be able to point you to a resource that will help. Team work is as important in research as it is in a sports contest.

One of the vital resources for our research is TROVE and at the moment this fabulous resource is under threat with funding issues. Please consider signing a petition or writing to your local federal politician and express your concern and support for the continuation of funding our National Library and in particular funding the digitisation programs and maintenance of TROVE.

I look forward to seeing more of you back in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room this year.

Happy researching.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle — this year at Clyde North

Special request for members to assist.....please!!!!

In the past, the NWFHG has successfully conducted sausage sizzles at Bunnings stores. These events have been excellent fund raisers for the group so we are having a Sausage Sizzle again this year, at a new venue!

When: Saturday, 25 March 2023, 8 am to 4 pm

Where: Bunnings Clyde North, 46S Hamersley Drive, Clyde North (near the corner of Berwick-Cranbourne Rd and Thompsons Rd)

Bunnings require a minimum of 3 people (and a

preference for 4) at any one time during the day so we will be encouraging members to volunteer to work on the day for a 2 or 3 hour shift.

All offers will be very welcomed and appreciated!!!! For further details or to volunteer your time, please contact Bob Neal on phone 0419 103 889, email bobneal746@gmail.com, or phone Eileen Durdin on 0439 720 557.

Further information will be available at our next group meetings in February and March

*Bob Neal,
Coordinator of the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle*

Kel Anderson - more than just a name

I first introduced you to Maurice Kelvin Anderson in the August 2022 edition of Spreading Branches. The article advises what a great resource the Vision and Realisation books are for information on our Victorian education system. Maurice Kelvin Anderson B A , B Ed, TPTC was one of the names in this resource. After receiving positive feedback from this article, I wanted to find out more about this man.

It all started at our September General meeting when one of our members, Mary Neal, said that she recalled Kel Anderson as an inspector when she taught at Iona Primary School. That was when Kel became more than just a name to me. So, I checked the usual BDM records, cemetery records, etc., and found that Maurice Kelvin (Kel) Anderson was born on 17 April 1912 to John Cunningham Anderson and Mary Ethel Hannan. Kel was the eldest son, he had two brothers Colin Campbell (Col), and John Cunningham (Jack), and a sister Isabel Mary. Kel married Liliias Lorna (Lorna) Bolding in 1939. He died on 1 April 1985 and is buried at the Bunyip Cemetery.

Personal recollections

I asked Mary to write down her recollections of Kel Anderson.

- He was a district inspector in the Pakenham area
- He had 30 schools in his inspectorate with an active involvement in the schools of his area
- He wanted to promote the physical health of students – so he instructed the schools to install monkey bars to develop the students' upper body strength. He required the new equipment to be a foot higher than normal so that the students had to do "extra stretching"!!!
- He made sure that a physical education class was held every day
- He would often call in to the schools just before 9 am and requested the teachers make a cup of tea as he chatted. This made a busy time in schools ever busier!!!
- He owned 4 dairy/cattle farms in the area
- He was Mayor of Pakenham for a period – with active involvement in community events etc., and lived in Bunyip
- He was known for the big black Mercedes car that he drove throughout the swamp – a formidable presence
- He was a skilled sportsman – he played football for Carlton

Local Resources

As Kel and Lorna lived locally, I checked the Casey Cardinia Combined Index (CCCI). I had 18 books from our Casey Cardinia Collection to check, luckily the CCCI gives me what pages to refer to.

The resource that told me the most about Kel Anderson was *The school on the small plateau: The history of the Garfield North State School No 3849*. The book cites where they sourced their information, and I was pleased to learn the following details about Kel:

- Kel went to Bunyip Primary School and is pictured in a 1922 school photo, he was by far the tallest student.
- Kel Anderson was a teacher at Garfield North from 1938-1941.
- Rene Wright (a student) praised him for his encouragement to all pupils to work to their highest level of achievement and she credited him for her achieving her Merit Certificate.
- Kel married Lorna Bolding on 14 January 1939 and the book includes their wedding photo.
- Kel struggled at finding suitable accommodation as a married teacher.
- Kel passed the British History A and Philosophy I at the University of Melbourne in May 1939.
- At the end of 1941, Kel retired from teaching at Garfield North and enlisted with the RAAF. He was active with the No 7 Squadron in Australia and New Guinea. A photo of Kel in RAAF uniform was included. Kel returned to teaching in May 1945.
- Inspector Curtis wrote some excellent reports on Kel's teaching and organisational ability while at Garfield North.
- His teaching career took him to West and East Gippsland, the La Trobe Valley, the Mallee, the Corangamite region, and metropolitan Melbourne. This movement to all areas of the state was typical of many teachers, especially those who sought rapid promotion. He was then the librarian at Geelong Teachers' College from December 1949 through to September 1955.



- Kel Anderson was a district inspector.
- Records show that Kel visited Garfield North as an inspector twelve times.
- Kel stood in the extraordinary election for the Pakenham Riding in May 1965.
- In 1970-71 Kel was elected President of the Berwick Shire, a time when severance took place to form the Shire of Pakenham. For 1975-76 Kel was President of the Shire of Pakenham and includes a photo.
- There is an acknowledgment of Kel's niece Lindy Fitzpatrick who was interviewed and credited for photos in the book.

War Service

Kel enlisted in the RAAF on 31 December 1941. His rank was Leading Aircraftman when he was discharged on 30 April 1945 from the 7 Squadron.

Both of Kel's brothers enlisted in the RAAF and served their country during WW2.

Kel became president of the Bunyip RSL.¹

District Inspectors (DI)

The role of a DI within the Victorian Education System did change over the years. Regional DIs often became valued members of the community. Their assessments would influence the development of school buildings, teaching staff at schools, resource requirements, and our school curricula. You may have seen our Facebook post in December last year, where we shared a post from PROV - Shaping our past: school inspectors in Victoria (www.vic.gov.au). It gives a short video of how for 132 years DIs contributed to the Victorian Education System.

Kel was a DI for the Bairnsdale area from 1955-

1 Vision and Realisation: a centenary history of state education in Victoria Volume 1

60, before becoming a DI for Pakenham in 1961 until his retirement in 1977. Our Casey Cardinia resources contain some interesting accounts of when Kel visited schools as a DI. The below anecdotes taken from some of these resources highlight the differences he made to these schools and their students.

Max Adlam, a teacher at Garfield North Primary School, recalled Kel Anderson as their DI and his importance of the students' physical education. Max remembers Kel's first visit. The day started with the scheduled lessons on the timetable until morning recess was reached. Kel then asked for a physical education lesson. There was not one planned for the day. Was Kel testing out if Max was adaptable or whether he had the skills to run with an appropriate unplanned physical education experience? One of Kel's major interests was in physical education and he could probably tell from what the students could do whether it was a regular part of the teaching program. Maybe he was putting it in Max's mind that this should not be an overlooked aspect of the curriculum. From then on Max claimed that he always had a physical education lesson prepared.²

Ron Smith was another teacher at Garfield North Primary School with recollections of Kel. Sometimes you would know in advance if Kel was coming and sometimes not. On most occasions, the times for recess and lunch were adhered to but sometimes if the children were really engaged in what they were doing and wanted to continue with it Ron would let them go on with the activity perhaps going into the lunch hour by say ten minutes. He would then ring the bell to come in ten minutes late so that he and the children got the hour break. On one of these occasions, Kel arrived in his black car and

2 The school on the small plateau: the history of the Garfield North State School No 3849



Vision and Realisation (3 Volumes) Free to a good home

A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria

This a fantastic resource for anyone's collection. Bob Neal has an extra copy of all three volumes to give to anyone who would like them.

Please contact Eileen Durdin if you are interested
secretary@nwfhg.org.au or 0439 720 557

the children rushed in to warn Ron. Ron was taking piano lessons with Mrs Fry and it was lesson night so he had fitted in a quick practice at the end of the lunch hour on the very out-of-tune school piano. The children quickly busied themselves and when Kel walked in he asked about the piano playing. At the time Ron didn't own up to any piano playing and Kel didn't pursue the topic. In hindsight, Ron wished that he had explained the situation.³

There is an inspector's report in April 1971 from the Harkaway Primary School, and Kel commented on the very attractive site. In spite of the age of the original schoolroom, Graham Davey had "made the interior extremely attractive and this must have a beneficial effect on all pupils". Davey was described as very competent and he praised the children's level of knowledge, particularly in regard to literature. Environmental studies, art, and music were advanced in the junior room. Kel recommended that the school recorder band be re-established and noted that "parents are keenly interested in the school and give full support to school celebrations."⁴

The renovations to buildings at Modella Primary School were in poor condition and requests were made for renovation or repairs. Further support was given in 1964 by the new District Inspector, Mr M K Anderson, who wrote that "accommodation was fully taxed" and that the school needed re-blocking, repainting and repairs. Thirty children were in attendance in 1964 with Mr Robert and Miss Fisher. Practical evidence of changes in the Mathematics Course occurred with the introduction of Cuisenaire Rods to the Infant Department.⁵

Kel also had some input into the new shelter shed completed in June 1968 at Modella Primary School: Our thanks are extended to Mr M K Anderson, District Inspector of Schools, and Mr. Lionel Owens, Public Works Inspector, whose recommendations made possible the construction of the recent buildings.⁶

Kel's report was referred to in the 1975 Annual School Report of St Michael's, Berwick: "We began the school year under difficulties, having two classes and teachers with no classrooms to go to. The Presbyterian Minister, Mr Walters, allowed us the use of their hall to which Mrs Johnson migrated with her class. Corridors were also occupied. These circumstances did not deter Mr Kel Anderson (District Inspector) from making a thorough examination of the school after which he wrote a

3 The school on the small plateau: the history of the Garfield North State School No 3849

4 Harkaway Primary School: origins to 1975

5 From three to ninety-three: ninety years of education at Modella

6 Modella: A brief History

favorable report, an extract of which reads ...

"It is pleasing to note that there is an awareness that changing social and intellectual needs require changes in the social system. All school records are in order and work is well planned. It is evident that the teaching is thorough and effective ..."⁷

Sports

Kel was a skilled sportsman and he played football.⁸ Kel was the Captain Coach of the Bunyip Football Team and he coached the Rythdale-Cardinia Football Team.⁹

Community life

In 1963 Kel and Laura moved into 'Langston' on the corner of High and Princess Streets, Bunyip. Kel was an Education Department Inspector and Shire Councillor, and Lorna was a long-time President of Red Cross, and their house was often open to the residents of Bunyip.¹⁰



Kel and Lorna were both involved in the Shelley Memorial Hospital, Bunyip. Kel was on the Committee of Management from 1965 to 1985 and Lorna was a member of the Shelly Hospital Auxillary.¹¹

Kel followed in his father's footsteps and became a councillor. He was elected to the Pakenham Riding in May 1965. In 1970-71 Kel was elected President of the Berwick Shire, a time when severance took place to form the Shire of Pakenham. For 1975-76 Kel was President of the Shire of Pakenham.¹² One day I would like to research Kel's full political career and how he helped shape what we now know as the Shire of Cardinia, that would be another interesting story for Spreading Branches.

Eileen Durdin

7 The Church on the Hill - A History of St. Michael's Parish Berwick

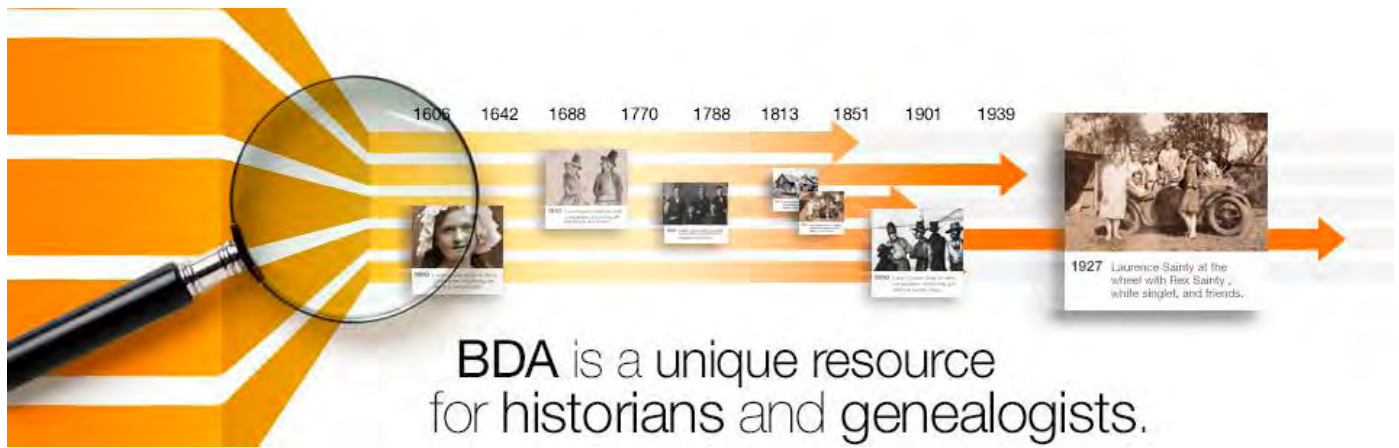
8 Personal recollections from Mary Neal

9 Vision and Realisation: a centenary history of state education in Victoria Volume 1, Look to the rising sun, back to Cardinia 1984: a history of Cardinia and district, including Rythdale and Pakenham South

10 The Cardinian embroidery

11 History of Shelley Memorial Hospital 1930-1991

12 The school on the small plateau: the history of the Garfield North State School No 3849



The Biographical Database of Australia 2023

What is BDA?

A legacy of Australia's penal colonies and immigration schemes is a genealogical and historical treasure trove of archival and biographical records. They are being transcribed, indexed and linked to create the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) a website online since 2013 made up of profiles of deceased persons born in Australia, including Aboriginal people, and people who arrived as convicts or immigrants. BDA is a not-for-profit project without government funding, supported by volunteers, donors, individual and institutional subscriptions. BDA's origins lie in the publication of the 1828 census of NSW in 1980 by the project's founders, Malcolm Sainty and Keith Johnson.

How to use BDA

Casual users can view a summary index entry from home for free, but only individual and institutional subscribers can view the full Biographical Reports and record content. Personal subscribers (\$38pa) can search from home on www.bda-online.org.au. Members of a subscribing institution can search in their organisation's library or office. Click on a search button or Tab to go to the Basic Search page. Search by surname or given name. You will receive a list of index entries with a one-line summary of content. Click on this to view a Biographical Report or single record. If index results are too numerous, you have the option of clicking on Advanced Search to narrow your search by year, place, ship of arrival, arrival status (convict, military, immigrant etc) and many other categories. You can also use soundex and a wildcard search using *. See About Us, Help and Sources Tabs on front page for more information.

What does BDA contain?

BDA contains nearly 2.5m records, the product of decades of work by volunteer genealogists, historians and contractors. Each record identifies a person or group (family members or employers and employees) at a place and point in time. BDA:

- contains a transcript of the content of a document (an advantage over other websites which contain numerous scanned manuscripts in scrawled handwriting that many find difficult or impossible to read).
- provides source references which students, historians and genealogists can all use to find and check sources for footnotes,
- helps users weigh the dangers of confusing persons of the same name,
- does not allow wiki style links or correction to be made directly by amateur users – they must be submitted for vetting,
- has a system of regular updates to correct technical or clerical errors made in transcripts or links spotted by BDA or its subscribers.

An individual's BDA timeline will often be linked to others in a complex web of relationships: to a legal or de facto spouse, a parent or child, an employer or employee, a marriage witness or godparent at a baptism who might be a friend or relative. Problematic spelling variants of names are linked and marriage transcripts indicate whether a person was able to write their name or not. Users can hyperlink from one linked individual to another.

BDA aims to gather biographical data from original manuscripts, beginning with the meticulous government and church records of the early NSW and Norfolk Island penal colonies designed to track and identify free and convict residents. As well as transcribing and indexing colonial archives, BDA encompasses broader government and private sources in the post-convict era in all Australian colonies, ranging from early published biographical dictionaries, newspapers, diaries and letters to the work of modern genealogical and historical researchers. BDA already contains records from all early Australia colonies, although the most records currently online relate to early NSW, Norfolk Island, Tasmania, Moreton Bay and Melbourne/Port Phillip 1788-1850s. The database is designed to help researchers find one individual among thousands,

continued on page 8

to avoid confusing persons of the same name and to track individuals and extended families through time, as well as diverse local communities, occupations, genders and ethnicities.

Datasets and sources

BDA includes:

- full text of parish register entries, including marriage witnesses. Many early Catholic and Protestant records are online for the first time.
- NSW Court and probate indexes 1788-1850s, assisted/bounty immigrants to NSW/Vic 1832-1851, most convicts to NSW/Qld/Vic 1788-1840s, most Tasmanian colonists 1803-c1825, NSW 1828 census, muster records 1788-1830s+, most soldiers stationed in Australia 1788-c1840, Norfolk Island records 1788-1855, 160,000 NSW Colonial Secretary records.
- 15,000+ mini-biographies published 1879-1907 of professionals, farmers and small businessmen in all states (nearly 10,000 of them in Victoria) + persons mentioned within the biographies and profiles of well-known historical figures. BDA now contains 26,000 of these profiles of middle class Australians of the Victorian era.
- 7,000 colonial biographies from all states contributed by modern descendants to the Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record in the 1980s (checked & edited),

Congratulations Audrey Dodson! Cardinia Senior Citizen of the Year 2023

Audrey Dodson is a founding member of the Berwick Pakenham Historical Society and is known among her peers to be the 'glue' of the society. She became secretary in 1988 and is also the group's archivist.

Audrey has been integral in ensuring local heritage is preserved by opening the society's doors to local schools, as well as hosting walking tours along Pakenham Main Street to educate students about local history.

She ensures that members of the society receive the newsletters of other societies, including the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and other local groups.

Fellow society members say that Audrey is a dependable attendee at meetings and is generous with her time. She attends cleaning days, assists with special occasions such as the launch of the 'Pakenham: Then and Now' book, keeps up with the donations of archival material, and provides research advice to the public.

Audrey is a well-known member of her community not only through her role as a society member, but as a teacher in both Pakenham and Beaconsfield, and in her 1957 position as secretary of the Young Farmers Club.

- 2,000+ brief biographies of Australian and NZ clergy published in 1878
- biographical summaries for 1,440+ people embarked on the First Fleet in 1787 compiled by Michael Flynn from Mollie Gillen's book *The Founders of Australia* (1989).
- free passengers arriving and departing NSW 1788-1825, unassisted NSW immigrants 1826-1837, 1842-1857 (1838-1841 coming soon), convict pardons, certificates of freedom and tickets of leave 1810-1848, more than 5,000 transcribed Christian and Jewish epitaphs and licences to bury for the former Sydney Burial Ground in Elizabeth and Devonshire Streets, Sydney 1819-1888 as well as details of burials and family members who paid for removal of remains and memorials when the cemetery was dismantled in 1901.

How the numbering system works

The core of BDA is a unique 11 digit identifying number starting with B# signifying a record of birth or arrival in Australia. Subsequent records of this same individual are progressively being linked to this number to create a Biographical Report in a timeline format. On the right hand side you can click to view the source of the original document and information page for more detail. Page images are not included, only index entries and document transcripts or abstracts. Variant spellings and women's names before and after marriage are linked, making these easier to locate because a search for one spelling will lead to the others. Where a birth or arrival record is not available, linked records still create a biographical report under an identifying number starting with L# or T# until a birth or arrival record is located. A single unlinked record begins with U#. Many of these unlinked records are being progressively linked. This is being done gradually to avoid wrongly linking individuals of the same name.

The Database strives for quality, not quantity and can be used by to trace ancestors and solve genealogical brick walls, or by local historians and by school, university and library communities, or anyone interested in the past. It contains a myriad of brainteasing problems yet to be solved, many as challenging as any jigsaw or crossword puzzle.

Michael Flynn

Great news

Our group now subscribes to BDA

Visitors and members are welcome to see all the records in BDA on your person of interest when coming into the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

Open - Tuesdays & Saturdays - 11 am to 2 pm

Ballarat Briefings

Firstly I wish all the members of our group a very happy and healthy year in 2023, and good luck researching.

TROVE

We have all been disturbed about the fact that funding for TROVE will cease in July and that possibly we will not be able to access it after that time.

Much has been written on Facebook posts and there are petitions to sign

I have emailed Tony Burke and also my local Ballarat MP Catherine King and updated my National Library card.

On The National Library website I found several articles, including one from the Director General of the library.

TROVE really is a TREASURE TROVE

I have found so much about my families, and places of interest to me, and I'm certain most members of the NWFHG have also. But for TROVE I would never have found some information at all.

Who would have known that a great grandmother, then aged 22, in Gippsland was taken to court for selling liquor without a licence—she and her father were fined 25 pounds in 1889. This was a large amount of money.

My great grandfather was a councillor of the Ballarat East Council in the 1860s, a member of the Ballarat Mining Board and other community groups. The Mining Board minutes indicate that he was one of those who proposed the setting up of the Ballarat School of Mines. He later moved to northern NSW and some years afterwards died in Silverton, near Broken Hill.

I also love browsing the reports of family doings, the social pages, and other happenings in the places my ancestors lived.

Hopefully we will still be able to access the reports we have found after July 2023. Meanwhile we need to use TROVE as much as possible, just in case.

Ballarat Cemeteries website

This website has changed over the past few months (and in my mind, not for the better). Website now to use is <http://www.ballaratcemeteries.com.au>

This may take you straight to a search page. However also look at the top of the site for other items.

Prime Ministers Avenue in Ballarat Botanical Gardens

On Friday 4 November Malcolm Turnbull visited Ballarat to unveil his bust.

It had been sculpted by Sydney based sculptor Linda Klarfield, who had also sculpted the bust of Tony Abbott in 2017. A crowd of Councillors and residents attended the unveiling.

Two photos here attribute to Helen Metcalf

Facebook sites

I have found much of interest on Facebook sites.

On "Gippsland History" someone had posted scanned pages from the Gippsland Times, Sale. On this page in July 1974 there was a photo of my two eldest daughters with the Sale librarian in an article where primary school aged children had been to a story telling session. We had the photo but not the article.

"Ballarat Bluestone" is another interesting site with photos of buildings, creeks etc. It's fun to try to identify some of these places.

"Loving Ballarat & Districts" and "Ballarat Bluestones" sometimes have wonderful photos of churches, with often a long history of the church. This may be where your ancestor was married or buried.

Then of course NWDFHG Facebook page is bringing us up to date with the latest news and also #MaxThomsonMonday photos.



photos Helen Metcalf

Di Christensen

A visit from the good fairy of family research

When I come across a family name in an unexpected place, eg in a cemetery or a museum, I have made it a habit to make a note or take a photograph, even if I am not actively researching the name at the time. During our research of World War 1 soldiers I sometimes came across such family names.

After our cemetery walk at Lang Lang Cemetery in October 2018, we were invited to the local RSL. It was here that the name WH Onley RSL President 1926-28 leapt out at me from one of the honour boards. I knew the Onley family was primarily from Donald in Victoria, and I had recorded the family with World War 1 soldiers at Flynn in Gippsland. I wondered if there may be a connection? I took a photograph and filed it in my 'investigate this further' folder, and got on with other research.

A year later I wrote a short story for Spreading Branches about finding the family connection to a French convict, Amiable Deperouzel, in Western Australia, whose daughter married William James Pittard, an ancestor of mine. Shortly after I was contacted by Helen, a researcher from Maryborough in Victoria, who was related to William as well. Helen asked me some questions regarding John Warr Pittard of Gembrook and Nar Nar Goon and his store.

Then I received a Facebook message from a gentleman called Andrew, asking if I was related to the Pittard family in Ballarat? He was just starting his family research. On an old Rootsweb page Andrew had found my name as a contributor. We confirmed that we were related, and planned to meet, along with one of his cousins, who turned out to be Helen! It was not until last week that we found a date convenient to all of us.

Andrew had been in touch with Helen and we arranged to meet her in Maryborough. On the Sunday morning Andrew drove us there. We chatted nonstop, mostly me wearing his ears out. When we arrived there was quite a funny moment – Helen had not realised that I was the 'Jane' Andrew was bringing along, she thought Andrew was talking about his wife. It took a while for Helen to get over the surprise of me being on her doorstep.

Helen and I had 'met' before on Zoom. We are both representatives of our member groups at the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Because



of our shared ancestry we would wave to each other at the end of the meeting and send a cheerful 'hello cousin'.

Our common ancestor, James Pittard, died at Donald in Victoria in 1898. Helen is a descendant of his third surviving child, Jane Onley (nee Pittard), I descend from James' fifth surviving child, James A Pittard. Andrew descends from George P Pittard, the eighth and youngest surviving child of James.

After Helen got over her shock of meeting me in person, we started comparing our research. Helen and I had bulging folders and photos. Andrew, being younger, kept his documents on his phone and laptop. The hours flew as we went through names and photos, sorting out relationships, and verifying information, until late in the afternoon. I can't tell who had the most fun. We had briefly stopped for a delicious salad roll with beetroot – very Australian.

Helen's husband Michael who is also a keen history buff, mentioned that Helen was once a Koo Wee Rup girl. That was a surprise.

It turned out that Helen is related to WH Onley, whose name I spotted on the Lang Lang honour board. Walter Herbert Onley was one of four brothers from Flynn who served in World War I. After the war he took up a soldier settlement block at Lang Lang and joined his local RSL. His son, Walter Roy Onley, born at Lang Lang, served in World War II, and he married Beryl Ann Patullo in 1946.

I remembered that we were visiting a Patullo grave at the Lang Lang Cemetery walk in October 2018, and I read his story to our visitors on the day.

So the point of this story is, that sometimes a good fairy appears while we are searching family history. Writing a story in Spreading Branches about Amiable Deperouzel has connected me to three passionate history cousins. There is a potential to break down further brick walls and connect with other living descendants of our family.

The question we would all like to be answered is why did James Pittard set out for Australia and what ship did he sail on?

So if you have a brick wall in your family, write a story for Spreading Branches and hope that a good fairy visits your research as well.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



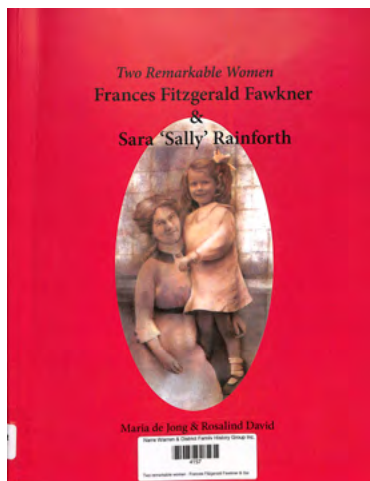
Fred, Roy and Wal Onley.

Image Australian War Memorial AWM2016.682.1

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

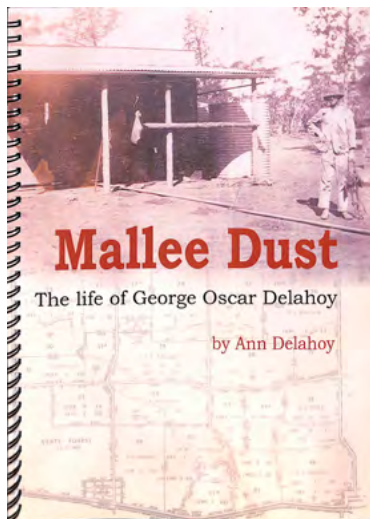
Casey Cardinia Books

- * Two remarkable women: Frances Fitzgerald Fawcner & Sara 'Sally' Rainforth by Maria De Jong & Rosalind David
- * Emerald in focus: a photographic history by Chris Britton
- * A village in the forest: the story of Kallista by Alec Reid
- * Revisiting stories of Berwick Cemetery by NWDFHG



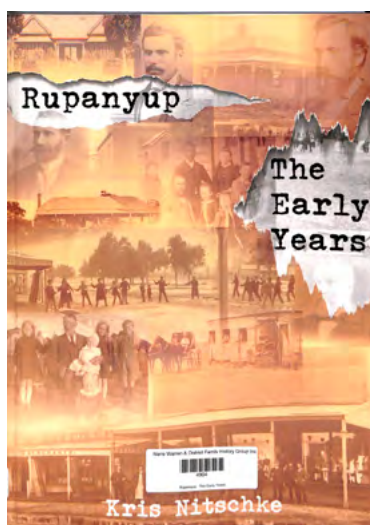
Victorian books

- * Against the odds: Maryborough 1905-1961 by John McLaren
- * Rupanyup : the early years by Kris Nitschke
- * Victoria's Dandenong Ranges
- * Victorian Municipal Directory 1958, 1966, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978 & 1982



New South Wales books

- * General return of convicts in New South Wales 1837 by NG Butlin
- * Sydney burial ground 1819-1901: Elizabeth and Devonshire streets and history of Sydney's early cemeteries from 1788 by Keith A Johnson



Scotland books

- * Atholl Estates: A brief history by Jane Anderson
- * A short history of Crofting in Skye by Jonathan Mac Donald

Ireland books

- * A short history of Ireland by Roger Chauvire

How to books

- * 20 simple steps to start your family tree
- * Trace your First World War Ancestors

Magazines

- * Family Tree October 2022
- * The Genealogist Spring 2022
- * Who do you think you are? October 2019 & April 2020
- * Who do you think you are? Getting started guide 2013 & 2014

Family histories and biographies

- * Bride of an ANZAC: my life story, as written in her 100th year by Queenie Sunderland
- * The singing line by Alice Thomson
- * Mallee Dust the life of George Oscar Delahoy by Ann Delahoy

Do you have Scottish ancestry?

Maybe we can assist you in your research.

Last year a group of volunteers scanned The Scots Link: The Scottish Family History Magazines dating from 1987 to 2004, however there are some issues missing. The main aim of this magazine was to link up people of Scottish ancestry in Australia and New Zealand, therefore due to the age of the magazines the contact information is most likely out of date. However, the magazine is much more than just a contact list, with interesting articles and family histories. You can find this now on the Newsletter hard drive in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the newsletters or any other queries regarding our library.



Keep an eye out in future editions of Spreading Branches for many more scanned magazines and newsletters being added to our newsletter hard drive in 2023.

Happy reading

*Moreyn Dimsey
Librarian*

Lorraine Taylor Research Room Roster Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am–2 pm

Please find a replacement yourself if you cannot do duty.

March 2023			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
		4	Jane Rivett-Carnac
7	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin	11	Lynne Bradley Robyn Jones
14	Barbara Sharp	18	Lyne McGregor Eileen Durdin
21	Moreyn Dimsey Jane Rivett-Carnac	25	Barbara Sharp
28	Jane Rivett-Carnac Moreyn Dimsey		

April 2023			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
		1	Barbara Sharp Robyn Jones
4	Barbara Sharp John Williams	8	EASTER
11	Jane Rivett-Carnac Maureen Abbott	15	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin
18	John Williams Eileen Durdin	22	Eileen Durdin Lynne Bradley
25	Moreyn Dimsey Barbara Sharp	29	Jane Rivett-Carnac

May 2023			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
2	Jane Rivett-Carnac Eileen Durdin	6	Lynne Bradley Lyne McGregor
9	Barbara Sharp John Williams	13	Robyn Jones Jane Rivett-Carnac
16	Maureen Abbott Barbara Sharp	20	Barbara Sharp
23	John Williams Jane Rivett-Carnac	27	Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp
30	Barbara Sharp		

Volunteers needed

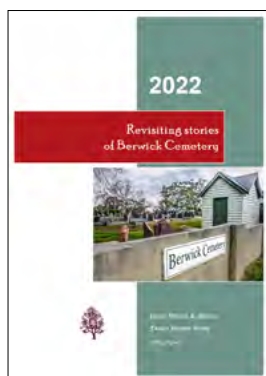
I am looking for volunteers in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room. The times would be once a month on a Tuesday or a Saturday from 11 am – 2 pm.

The volunteers do a great job helping others with their research and at the same time learn where everything is in the room. It is also a good place to meet the other members.

There are always two volunteers on so you would never be alone. Please give it a thought. Contact Barbara Sharp 0423 858 049

Spreading Branches May 2023 We would like to read your articles or stories.
Please submit your contributions by 15 April 2023

Publications for sale



Revisiting stories of Berwick Cemetery (2022)

Our latest book re-visits fifteen graves at Berwick Cemetery to find out more about the people buried here. They include the families of a publican, a doctor, a policeman and many other pioneers. Some died in tragic circumstances, others after long and fulfilled lives.

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling

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

This 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

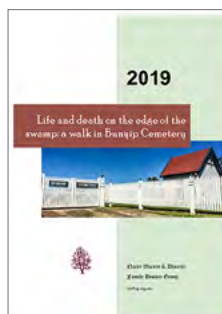


Life and death on the edge of the swamp: a walk in Bunyip Cemetery (2019)

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.

\$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.

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.

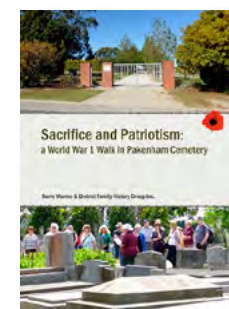
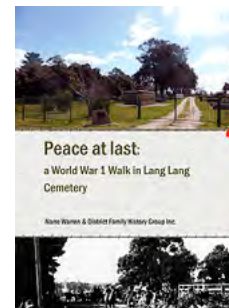
Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery (2016)

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

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.

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/