

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 142 – November 2024



Emerald Cemetery Walk

On Sunday, 27 October, we held our first walk in Emerald Cemetery. It was a very enjoyable and successful day. We were a little bit worried when we realised that the postponed run against Puffing Billy was held on the same day, and considered changing the day or the time. In the end we decided to advise everyone of the traffic issues. Only a few people decided to cancel because of the traffic. We had forty-four adults, one child and a very well-behaved dog who listened to our stories of 'life and death in the hills'.

We had perfect weather for our cemetery walk. The always picturesque cemetery was very neat and tidy thanks to the *Friends and Carers of the Emerald Section (F.A.C.E.S.)*. The friends group meet in the cemetery every Monday from 10 to 11.30 am during school terms for a spot of weeding and pruning. Like many other volunteer groups, they welcome new members.

Thank you to Philip Snow, General Manager Eastern Region, and Ebony Addinsall, Community Engagement and Events Advisor, from the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust for their help and permission to hold the walk. Philip leapt to our aid when we had power issues to get the urns boiling. After a couple of phone calls and lateral thinking the water was on the boil by the time the first group started the walk. Philip acknowledged the traditional owners and spoke of the expansion plans for the Emerald Cemetery, before joining one of the groups listening to our stories.

We also thank long time councillor Brett Owen for joining us on the day and for his continued support of local history in the Casey-Cardinia region. Once again we thank Southern Advanced Plants Dromana for the colourful plants that marked the graves we visited. The Star Newspaper Group

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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.

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesday and Saturday 11 am to 2 pm

Casual visitors \$5 per day

Research room phone number: (03) 9768 9973

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 Connected Libraries and the City of Casey. |
| Genealogical Society of Victoria | |
| South Eastern Historical Association Inc. | |
| Royal Historical Society of Victoria | |

Meetings

October - April: 7.30 pm

3rd Wednesday of the month

(no meeting in 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-up

Meet with other members and friends for a social chat and a bite on the last Sunday of the month at 10 am

next catch-up

24 November 2024

*Squatting Frog Nursery, 376-382 Heatherton Road,
Narre Warren North*



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

There are only a few weeks left in this year. We have had interesting guest speakers, welcomed new members and new volunteers on the room roster and to the cemetery tours group. In my perfect world I hope that we will soon have a full committee – as soon as someone puts their hand up to be our correspondence secretary. Apart from filling an important role, another person brings new ideas and perspectives to the management of our group.

The real value of being a member of our group is not just access to our resources, it is the sharing of ideas between our members. I was on duty in October and witnessed the way Robyn, Maureen, Barbara and Trevor gathered around a DNA question. They shared information and skills; I was doing the happy dance. One of our new members, Jan, is already sharing her knowledge of using FamilySearch with others.

There is the laughter and friendship built in the projects team while they put new skills to work, digitising and cataloguing. The cemetery tours team are gaining skills in researching and writing that will help them with their own projects.

It might be that moving to Berwick has literally bought fresh air to the group. We have windows for the first time – so we can enjoy sunshine and rain, watch the mother duck and her ducklings. We even discovered rhubarb growing in the garden. Also, for the first time, we're not sharing premises with anyone. We look forward to expanding the opportunities to share our resources and knowledge more broadly in the New Year.

If you have been to one of our Christmas meetings you would have enjoyed the fun that Santa's Elf Kerry brings to the event. We will never forget her Cinderella play, this year she has another surprise planned, don't miss it.

Thank you to the committee for all they have done and continue to do willingly for the benefit of all the members. Also to the volunteers who have put their name down to help with our sausage sizzle on Sunday 15 December. We appreciate this is a busy time for all of us and thank you for your time.

We wish you a restful break and a safe and happy festive season. We look forward to success as a group and that you all find satisfaction with your research in 2025.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

Upcoming Events

at Lorraine Taylor Research Room, 110 High Street, Berwick. Entry fee is \$5 to cover expenses for tea and coffee, speakers, and other meeting operating costs.

November General Meeting Wednesday, 20 November 2024, 7.30 pm

*London needlewomen on the Culloden
GSV Webcast. Presenter: Lynda Collier*

Unfortunately, our Plan A for a speaker at our November General Meeting didn't work out, but we think our Plan B will be a very interesting replacement. Join us as we enjoy watching one of the many Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) Webcasts.

This presentation explores the lives of a group of London needlewomen who migrated to Melbourne in 1850 under the auspices of the Fund for promoting Female Emigration. Lynda Collier describes the fund, life on board the Culloden, and their lives in Melbourne.

Christmas Meeting

Wednesday, 18 December 2024, 7.30 pm

Remember when you were a kid and maybe listened to a fairy tale on the record player. We will have a little fun and play with some of these fairy tales.



Come along for some Christmas fun. Dress in Christmas colours and bring a little plate of Christmas yummys to share for supper.

February General Meeting Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 7.30 pm

*Finding Family: Getting started with DNA
Matches – Maureen Abbott*

Once you have found out your ethnicity and traits from your DNA test, what next? An autosomal DNA test on a site like Ancestry or MyHeritage, used in conjunction with traditional family history research using records and other sources, provides a powerful approach to identifying unknown family or to break down a brick wall. Using colour codes to group matches etc.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Clyde North

Sunday, 15 December, 8 am to 4 pm

at Bunnings Clyde North, 46S Hamersley Drive, Clyde North (near the corner of Berwick-Cranbourne Road and Thompsons Road)

We require 4 volunteers for each time slot on the roster: 8 am to 11 am; 11 am to 2 pm; and 2 pm to 4 pm. The roster is on the Lorraine Taylor Research Room noticeboard, just put your name in

the timeslots you are available to help.

All offers of assistance will be very welcomed and appreciated!!!!

For further details or to volunteer your time, please contact Eileen Durdin on 0439 720 557 or secretary@nwfhg.org.au



Emerald Cemetery *continued from page 1*



again supported our walks with an article in the local papers. We also thank Tina from local radio 3MDR for promoting us in their community service announcements.

Thank you to the production team for the research, writing, fact checking, editing and production of the book 'Life and Death in the Hills: a walk in Emerald Cemetery': Val Barnett, Anne Blair, Lynne Bradley, Moreyn Dimsey, Wendy Goodwin, Fay McCoubrie, Lyne McGregor, Kerry Maxwell, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Tracey Roberts, Marianne and Cameron Rocke, and Barbara Sharp.

We dedicated our book for this walk to Lyne McGregor and Rex McFarlane, foundation members of the Cemetery Tours Team. Their deaths this year left a big hole in our team. Barbara, who had been Rex's offside for other walks, took on being the gate/welcome person, and Val volunteered to help her. We would love someone to step into Lyne's role as a speaker or guide for our next walk.

Thank you to all the team that helped on the day: Eileen Durdin, Moreyn Dimsey, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Kerry Maxwell, Lynne Bradley and Fay McCoubrie for guiding the groups and reading the stories; David Allen and Marianne Rocke for photographs; Wendy Goodwin, Grace de Visser and Lori Barker for selling books; and Tracey Roberts, Robyn Jones and Mary McGrath for the refreshments.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



Treasures from the Oscar Wanke Collection

Oscar Wanke was the grandson of Ernst Wanke, who came to the Harkaway area in the 1850s and purchased over 950 acres in the area. Over the years Ernst subdivided this land and sold it to various German families, leaving himself with 400 acres which he named Zions Hill. It later became Hillcroft.

Ernst Wanke came to Australia on the *Dockenhuden* as the ship's doctor with his wife Anna Maria Hahn, who was pregnant in 1849. Anna gave birth to their son Andreas. She died six days later, and their baby died when he was thirteen days old. In May 1850 Ernst married a second time to Pauline Wilhelmina Krumbiegel. She was a widow; her maiden name was Schumann. They had only one child that grew to adulthood, his name was Immanuel.

Immanuel married Bertha Aurisch and they had fifteen children. Oscar Wanke was their seventh child. In 1913 he married Minnie Ida Weist, and they had four children, only two growing up into adulthood. Ronald Leslie Wanke was their first born child in 1915 and Evelyn Adelaide was born in 1919. Ronald's second marriage was to Muriel Naughton in 1948, and they had Barbara and Lori, who are members of our group.

The Oscar Wanke Collection was donated to the group by Oscar's granddaughter, Barbara Sharp. The collection consists of photos, documents and diaries, giving us a great insight into the development of the Harkaway area. Our Project Team intends to digitise and catalogue the collection for all of us to access.

Oscar started writing diaries in 1909, when he was 22 years old, and continued for the next 19 years. These diaries give you a good idea of what Oscar and Min were doing and how their families changed over the years. Over the next few editions of *Spreading Branches*, we will bring you an interpretation of



Min, Ronnie and Oscar

what Oscar was doing over one hundred years ago. In the Oscar Wanke Collection some of the diaries are missing. We will start with the year 1917. Oscar and Min had been married for four years and Ron their first child had turned one in December. They lived in Gladstone Road, Dandenong.

Oscar, Min & Ronnie

Oscar was a builder working with Walter Brown. He started the year working at their house at Hemming Street, Dandenong. And on 1 February he wrote:

We let our new house to Mrs Branston on a 12 months lease @ 14/6 per week. There were various times Oscar went back to this house for minor repairs.

Most of Oscar's entries for his work referred to *Wal & I* and then the family name of the owners where they worked. These family names included: Exner, Bailey, Wanke, Hilbrick, Webb, Sweeney, Asling, Bell, Coles, Rodger, Hayman, Robinson, and Weist. Oscar and Wal worked on houses, cow sheds, shelter sheds, engine sheds, cribs, villas, door frames, fences, roofs, barn doors, water tanks, and chimneys.

On their slow workdays, Oscar spent time at home working on the sideboard. They finished the year working at the Weist's property in Robinson Street, Dandenong.



There were days when Oscar did the books and issued accounts. They quoted on a few jobs they didn't get. In October they worked for a couple of days at Mrs Buchanan place. He noted, *finished work at Mrs Buchanan's place in Old Narre (£10 was never paid us).*

You do wonder what the health and safety regulations were like on the work sites as he reported on 8 January *white-washing the house & got my eyes full of lime.*

Oscar would ride his motor bike to most jobs, there are a lot of entries when the bike needed repairs. He cleaned the cylinders, replaced tyres, got a new body for the carburetor, fixed the springs on the bike, and one day he even took his motor bike to pieces, crankcase and everything, and gave it an overhaul. Even with all these repairs it seemed to get him to wherever he needed to go.

Oscar's birthday was on 18 July, and Min gave him a new brief bag.

Min would have done all the domestic duties while raising a young boy.

Oscar recorded when Min made jams, jelly and tomato sauce, and preserved fruits. In January alone Oscar records that on: 3rd – *Min made 5 pots red currant jelly (good stuff);* 9th – *Min went to Dandenong & got 13½ lbs raspberries;* 11th – *Min preserved 18 pots of apricots;* 16th – *Min made apricot jam today;* 22nd – *Got a tin full of plums at Armstrongs;* 27th – *Min made plum jam;* 28th – *Picked 1½ tins blackberries this morning 42 lbs first of season. Dan and Albert also went with me;* 29th – *I picked 58 lbs of blackberries. Min made some jelly today. Min made yellow & blue plum jam;* 30th – *Got a case of peaches from Browns 3/6. Min made blackberry jelly;* 31st – *Preserved 12 pots of peaches.*

Min continued cooking fruit and vegetables throughout the year. It was seasonal, the blackberry picking stopped in March. On 24 February: *we got a nice lot of mushrooms today – first of season,* and on 29 April *Min made 11 bottles of sauce, last of season.* Not all of this food was for their own consumption as on 3 December *Min picked 3 cases cherry plums & H Exner took them to market & got 5/- a case for them.*

Min would go to the Dandenong Market on Tuesdays, missing only six weeks (Oscar noted when Min did not go to Dandenong). Some days

she would take Ron, and often she went with one of the Armstrong girls. Min travelled there in a jinker pulled by Dolly, their pony. Dolly often got shod while they were in Dandenong. Min did their annual cleaning of the jinker in August.

Min's birthday was on 13 February. They celebrated the next day when *Minnie & I went to the A N A Exhibition & left baby at Armstrongs, and I bought a clam crumb tray & brush for Minnie's birthday.*

Twice Oscar referred to Ronald as baby, all other references he was affectionally known as Ron or Ronnie. The year started well as on 3 January: *Ron started to walk today – great excitement.* Min and Oscar brought various items for Ronnie including shoes, a tunic, and a baby chair. On 14 August Oscar made a wheelbarrow for Ronnie (left) and he was pleased when a few days later Ronnie had gone down to the creek with his barrow.

Ronnie's birthday 2 years old – Gran gave him 10/- & Dorie gave him 2/6 & we gave him 5/- was on 4 December. And of course, *Father Xmas brought Ronnie a lot of Xmas presents.*

Oscar kept bees; it sounds like he was an amateur apiarist. There were plenty of days when *he robbed*

the bees and boxed swarms of bees. In November he made some bee boxes and then painted them, 3 coats. Both Oscar and Min worked in the garden. On 30 November Oscar *stayed home – made a gate for the garden by the clothes line & fixed fence across the verandah to keep Ron out of the garden.*

Their health

Min went to the dentist in Dandenong. She went on 17 April, then on 11 May to get a tooth stud in, and she was back there on 12 July.

Oscar went to a dentist in town. On 1 May he went to *order a set of false teeth at Forsters & the cost £13 – Gold plate I will get them next Monday.* And on that Monday, he *went to town about my teeth & got wet through & caught a dam cold* and then on the Wednesday *I biked to town & got my teeth.* Oscar's cold must have lasted awhile, he stayed home from work on 14 and 16 May. And on 25 May *The doctor came here to examine me.* Oscar had one more appointment with the dentist on 18 December: *I biked to City to get my teeth fitted.*

Oscar didn't sound too happy on 28 July when he recorded: *We all got a dam rotten cold, stayed at home & done a little work on the sideboard.*



There is only one mention of Ronnie getting sick on 7 September, which spoiled their social life the following day: *Hansens had a party & we did not go because Ronnie was not well.*

Oscar also had concerns about his large family. On 15 April: *Harry looked bad & Teddy took him to the Alfred Hospital* and then three days later *Mother brought Harry home from Hospital.*

Socially

Oscar and Min seemed to have visitors at their house more often than they went to visit others. It is hard to identify their visitors, as some were referred to by their first name, surname, or were Mrs [husband's name] – eg. on 16 February: *Mrs Joe Armstrong, Mrs & Alice Blackman were here today.* The Wankes were Oscar's parents, and we recognise the names of Oscar's and Min's siblings.

I wonder what their socialising with friends would have been like in 1917 compared to 2024. They probably had electricity, as Dandenong got electricity in March 1914, but there was no television then. Oscar didn't give too many details of their social events, but here are some that stood out to me:

1 January – *Min, Ron & I drove along White Horse road to Kew & then home. We met Alf on the road.*

21 January – *Min, Ron & I drove down to Blackmores at Noble Park & then spent the evening at Geo Hansen's.*

7 March – *Min & I & Ron drove up to Wankes & went to Emily's wedding – Emily & Willie got married today at Wankes.* – This is Oscar's sister Emily's wedding to William Reynolds.

31 March – *Min & I went to the Danish camp & got home 1/2 past 1 o'clock dam late wasn't it.*

6 May – *Stayed at home & went out for a little walk with Ron & Min in Police Paddocks.*

11 May – *Mother Fred was here in afternoon & dam me if Min didn't go home with her* – Oscar was referring to his sister Min.

14 May – *Shot a rabbit in Police Paddocks.*

2 June – *Alice Aurisch & Alf Armstrong got married today (but not to each other)* – These are the weddings of Alice Aurisch and Frederick Raymant, and Alf Armstrong and Hilda Rea. I wonder if they attended either of these weddings.

5 August – *Beatie Exner was here today – We got some kindling wood up the paddocks.*

30 September – *Victor, Bertha & family & Bandy & another bloke came here today also Sport & we went fox hunting & only got one rabbit & saw 3 hares.*

11 October – *We went to the pictures – first that Ronnie saw & he liked them*

Weekend of 13–14 October – *Bandy & Wife & kids came up to spend the weekend here & Min drove in for them and Bandy, Dorie & Family went home today thank God. – It was a wet weekend.*

16 December – *Herman & wife were here today – Min, Ron & I drove them to the station they gave Ron a Xmas stocking & some oranges.*

World War 1

Oscar wouldn't have known that 1917 was the last full year of the war. We may never know why Oscar didn't go to war, but in 1917 his contribution to the war effort was making crutches for the Red Cross. On 12 March he stayed home to make eight crutches for the Red Cross and another nine on 30 March, he recorded he finished them on 11 April.

There were a lot of letters, post cards and parcels sent to the boys in France. The majority of Oscar's and Min's mail was written and received from Artie, Fred, and Dick. Artie was Arthur Robert Wanke, and Fred was Frederick William Wanke, they were two of Oscar's younger brothers. Dick was Frederick William Weist who was Min's brother.

The Wankes had received a cable to say that Artie was wounded on 28 June. Then Oscar *got a cablegram from Artie to send £10 to London Com Bank*, which he sent on 2 July. Notification from Artie came through that he had received the £10 on 26 July. On 11 October Oscar received a letter from Artie from England, and Artie seemed quite well. The next day they heard that Artie had been wounded for a second time. On 14 December: *I got 2 letters from Artie he is quite well & has just done very hard fighting.*

In August they received a call from Dick requesting they send £10, which they forwarded to him the following day. On 29 November *Ron & Min went to Dandenong & got Dick's photos (6) which he had taken when in England.* Wouldn't it be good to see those six photos?

The only other mention of the fighting was on 12 December: *I got letter from Fred, he was quite well he had just done some heavy fighting, when he wrote he got a parcel we sent him.* They didn't forget those fighting in the war as on 31 December there is an entry that it was *Fred's birthday today.*

In August they sent all three boys Xmas hampers with the cost of 3/- each for postage. And then in October: 4th – *I got some lollies from McLaren for 3 hampers they got wet*; 5th – *Min & I packed 3 parcels – 1 to Dick (one to Artie & Fred for mother)*; and 6th – *I drove to D'nong & took Ronnie with me we sent a parcel to Dick (& 1 to Artie & Fred from Mother) weighted about 9½ lbs.*

Weather

Each diary date has a weather comment with the majority being a *Fine Day*, sometimes it was *Hot as Hell*. There were records of *Frost in the morning* and *Rain in the evening*, and there were a few times that Oscar got wet to the bone as he came home from work.

They did have concerns about the flooding of the creek. The creek was flooded in June/July and on 8 July: *Very cold day – the creek was over the log,*

stayed at home. On 21 August: *We had snow today.* They also had a lot of rain in October, and it got bad on 21 October: *The creek was all of a flood & my bees got drowned.*

The biggest weather event that Oscar recorded was on 14 October: *We had a hail storm today & hail as large as magpie eggs. They had a cyclone at Narre Warren & it started at Coles & tore the roof of his house & broke down a strip of trees in Wanke's paddocks & went as far as Berrymans. Oscar did go to Fred Coles house to fix the roof.*

Other events

It was interesting to read the historical events that Oscar recorded – they must have meant a lot for him to record them. Some were local events, and others were relevant to all of Australia. These events were:

24 February – *Win the dam war day*

23 April – *We saw the comet this morning*

5 May – *Election day for Parliament*

27 May – *Another car got burnt along the Gladstone Road*

4 June – *Kings birthday held today – Min, Ron, Emily & I went to D'ngong sports & saw the procession*

13 August – *The great railway strike in Sydney is in full swing*

27 September – *Public holiday for Melb show – We did not go to the show this year*

5 November – *Guy Fawkes day*

6 November – *Cup Day*

13 November – *A man by the name of Anderson got crushed by cow in the D'ngong market & died Sat 17th*

27 November – *Flower day in Dandenong*

6 December – *Dandenong show today – Record attendance to £104 at gate – Min, Ron & I drove to Dandenong to see Wirths circus & it was good*

20 December – *Referendum day against conscription – Min went to D'ngong to vote – Why was it only Min that voted?*

24 December – *Christmas Eve*

25 December – *Had a duck for Xmas dinner – Mother shouted a cake for us – We stayed home*

Year in review

In most of the diaries Oscar lists items that were significant to him for that year, giving us a good snapshot of what was significant to him for that year. Some of the items were mentioned in the diary and others weren't. Unfortunately, 1917 was a year

when the most significant items were when people were killed in war or had died. We probably will never know how Oscar knew these people but we have done a little research to give you some idea of who these people were.

Len Anderson died killed in France Nov 28 1916

Private Leonard Gerald Anderson was killed in action on 29 November 1916. He was a farm labourer. Len was the youngest son of George and Harriett Anderson, Heatherton Road, Dandenong.

Rita Wanke died of snake bite Jan 15 1917

Oscar wrote in the diary *Rita Wanke (Carl Wanke's) little girl died of snake bite at Mirboo North (today) – Boy also got bit but recovered*, this newspaper article was stuck beside in the diary.



Mrs Krull died Mar 26 1917

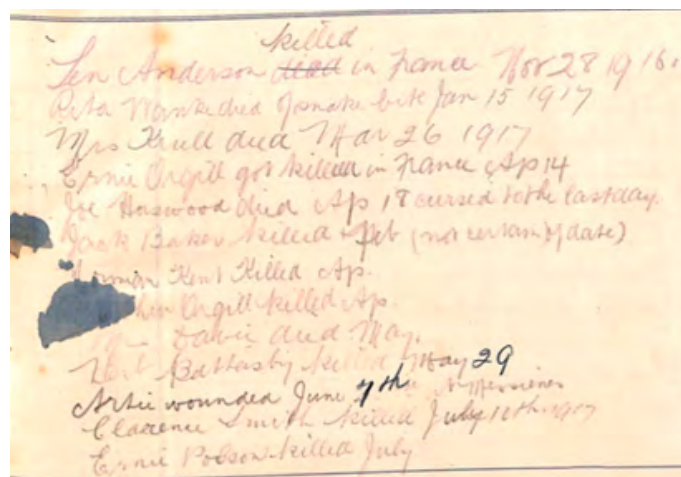
Oscar wrote in his diary that *Mrs Krull died today.* Emilie Krull died at 65 Hotham Street, East St Kilda, aged 65. Emilie was married to David Samuel Krull. Emilie's parents Johann Traugott and Wilhelmina Vorwerg came to Australia on the ship "Dockenhuden," just as Ernst Wanke. According to a family tree on Ancestry, Emilie was either born on the ship coming over or not long afterwards in Melbourne.

Ernie Orgill got killed in France Ap 14

Sergeant Ernest Alfred Orgill was killed in action on 23 March 1917. He was a bricklayer working for Orgill Bricklayers for seven years. Prior to enlisting he was a member of the local branches of the Masonic and Foresters' lodges.

Joe Horswood died April 18 cursed to the last day

Joseph died at his residence on 19 April of consumption, aged 39 years. He was the 3rd eldest son of Elizabeth and William Horswood. Joe was



married to Ruby. Their children, Noela and Freddie, were committed as wards of the state, because of Ruby's poverty. They appear to have been living with their mother, but were only discharged in October 1919. It is possible that Oscar referred to TB as Joe's curse.

Jack Baker killed (not certain of date)

No information about Jack Baker has been found.

Norman Kent killed Ap

2nd Lieutenant Norman Archibald Kent had died of wounds on 24 April 1917, he was a farmer. In early April Anthony Kent must have been excited to hear from his son that he had received the Military Service Medal. And then by the end of the month his parents heard the sad news of losing him. They had already lost one son in the war and another son was still serving at the front.

Arthur Orgill killed Ap

Sergeant Arthur Garfield Orgill was killed in action on 11 April 1917, he was a carpenter. He was the second son of the late Henry and Sarah Orgill of Rutland, Scott Street, Dandenong who had been killed in action.

This must have been a very sad time for Sarah Orgill and her daughter Clara. They had lost their husband and father Henry Orgill the previous year on 6 September, and now both their sons and Clara's brothers were killed in action within three weeks of each other.

Mrs Davie died May

No information about Mrs Davie has been found.

Herb Battersby killed May 29

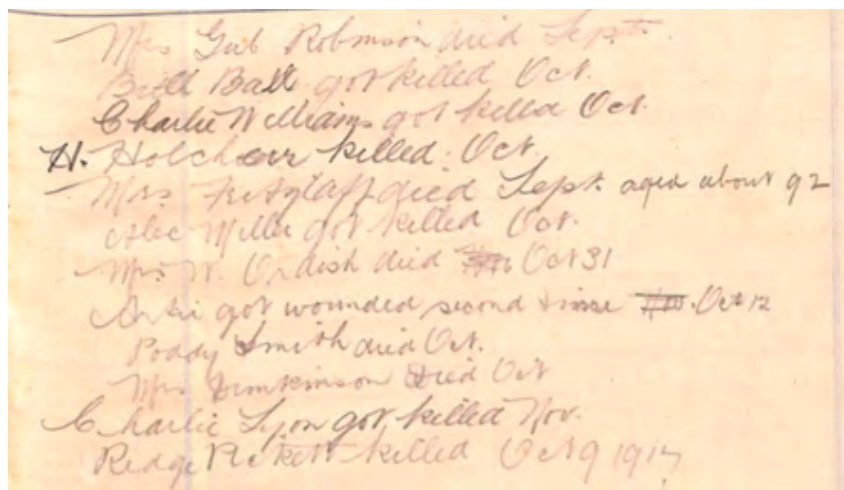
Lance Corporal Herbert David Battersby died of wounds on 29 May 1917, he was a labourer. Rev Cole had the sad task of telling Edward and Jane Battersby of the death of their only son. Herb was educated at Narre Warren North State School, he had gone into camp at Ballarat with several others from Narre Warren North, including Privates Alf Brown, W Young, Cunningham (2) and Wanke.

Artie wounded June 7 at Messines

Artie was Oscar's brother, and he had written in his diary on 28 June *Wankes got a cable to say Artie was wounded*. Private Arthur Robert Wanke was suffering a gunshot wound around the left thigh when he was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital on 20 June, he was discharged on 5 July.

Clarence Smith killed July 10th 1917

Private Clarence John Smith was killed in action on 14 June 1917. His occupation was listed as Driver (horse) – Wool Classer. Clarence was the youngest son of Alfred and Hannah Smith, High Street, Berwick. He was a member of the local football and cricket clubs.



Ernie Polson killed July

Private Arthur Ernest Polson had died of wounds on 10 July 1917. His wife Edith Polson (nee Pratt) had heard the sad news. Prior to enlisting, for some considerable time, he was employed by the late Mr JG Hudson, Cranbourne as a storekeeper, and was honorary secretary of the local Patriotic Society.

Mrs Gub Robinson died Sept

Margery Lang Robinson (nee Williams) wife of Arthur George Robinson died on 14 September aged 26. Oscar built a chimney for Gub Robinson on 9–10 November.

Bill Ball got killed Oct

Private William Weeks Ball was killed in action on 25 September 1917, he was a Carpenter. Bill's parents, Mr and Mrs Robert Ball thanked many for their kind condolences including members of the Loyal Constant Lodge and Mr and Mrs Keast MLA.

Charlie Williams got killed Oct

Private Charles Wilfred Williams was killed in action on 25 September 1917, he was a labourer. Prior to enlisting he was employed on the Victorian Railways and a leading member of the Dandenong cricket and football clubs.

H Holschier killed Oct

Private Herman Michael Holschier had died of wounds on 30 September 1917, he was a farmer. Herman was the youngest son of Margaret and the late Herman Holschier of Dandenong.

Mrs Fritzlaff died Sep aged about 92

Johanna Eleanor Fritzlaff (nee Reiger) died 16 September 1917. Johanna is buried at the Harkaway Cemetery with her husband John Martin Frederick Fritzlaff.

Alex Miller got killed Oct

Lieutenant Alexander Henderson Miller was killed in action on 25 September 1917. Prior to Alex enlisting he was a schoolteacher at Yackandandah, he spent his boyhood in Berwick. He took much interest in sport and was a prominent footballer.

Mrs W Ordish died Oct 31

There were two entries in Oscar's diary of deaths of Ordishes. The first on 31 October: *Mrs W Ordish*

died today. She was Sarah Ordish (nee Blackmore), and was the wife of William Pearsall Ordish of Stud Road, Dandenong. The second was on 5 December: *Mrs Ordish died today aged 88 years*. She was Mary Elizabeth Ordish (nee Ward), wife to the late Thomas Ordish. Mary was the mother-in-law of Sarah.

Artie got wounded second time October 12

This was recorded in Oscar's diary on 12 October. In his service record it stated: 12/10/17 wounded in action (2nd occ).

Poddy Smith died Oct

Alfred Smith, died on 22 October aged 63. It was extra sad news for his wife Hannah Smith, as her son Clarence Smith had been killed in action early in the year. Mr Smith was a bootmaker in Berwick.

Mrs Dunkinson died Oct

On 20 October Mary Ann (Pollie) Dunkinson died at Narre Warren, aged 84 years and 2 months. She was the wife of John Valentine Dunkinson.

Charlie Lyon got killed Nov

Lieutenant Charles Hugh Lyon was killed in action on 7 November 1917, he was a farmer.

For more information about Charlie Lyon there is a story about him in our book *100 Men, 100 Years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery*. In the Max

Thomson Photo Collection is a photo of Charles and Very Lyon on Sugarloaf Hill, Narre Warren North taken c1919.

Ridge Pickett killed Oct 19 1917

Lieutenant Reginald James Pickett was killed in action on 9 October 1917, he was a farmer. Earlier in the year, on 20 July, he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though wounded in the forearm he led a repeated bombing attack against the enemy for five hours doing most valuable work at a critical time. Ridge was the son of Mr and Mrs James Pickett, Pickett Street, Dandenong, they would have first heard of their son receiving the Military Cross, and then being killed in action.

I have transcribed Oscar's 1917 diary to the best of my ability. I hope that I haven't missed any important items.

Thank you Barbara Sharp and Marianne Rocke for assisting me in finding those people that I couldn't find. If anyone can shed any light on who Jack Barker or Mrs Davie were, please let me know. Thanks again to Barbara for unearthing lots of details to support the information under "Year in Review".

Eileen Durdin

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The Lorraine Taylor Research Room is at 110 High Street, Berwick

Roster Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am-2 pm

Please find a replacement yourself if you cannot do duty.

| December 2024 | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>11 am-2 pm</i> | <i>Saturday</i> | <i>11 am-2 pm</i> |
| 3 (<i>closing 1.30 pm</i>) | Jan Whitaker Jane Rivett-Carnac | 7 | Lynne Bradley Robyn Jones |
| 10 | Barbara Sharp Maureen Abbott | 14 | closed until 1 February 2025 |

| February 2025 | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>11 am-2 pm</i> | <i>Saturday</i> | <i>11 am-2 pm</i> |
| | | 1 | Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp |
| 4 | Barbara Sharp Moreyn Dimsey | 8 | Barbara Sharp Jane Rivett-Carnac |
| 11 | Maureen Abbott Tracey Roberts | 15 | Eileen Durdin Lynne Bradley |
| 18 | Jan Whitaker Fay McCoubrie | 22 | Robyn Jones Barbara Sharp |
| 25 | Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin | | |

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

Casey Cardinia Books

- * Haabai, my quest: From London, Dunolly, Tonga to Dandenong by Leigh Oldmeadow
- * Vitamin C (Nature's Miraculous Healing Missile) by Dr Archie Kalokerinos, Dr Ian Dettman and Dr Glenn Dettman
- * Sheila Scotter: snaps, secrets and stories from my life
- * Beyond their wildest dreams: the family behind Fleming's nurseries by Jenny Mountstephen

Victorian Books

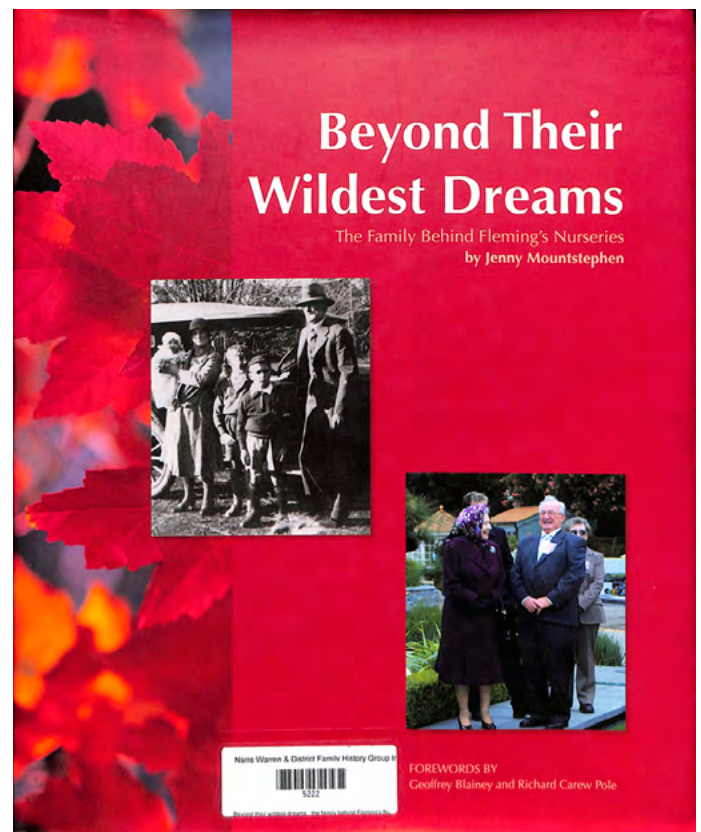
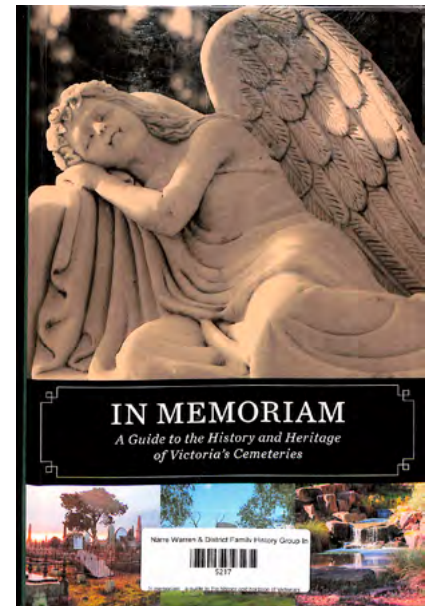
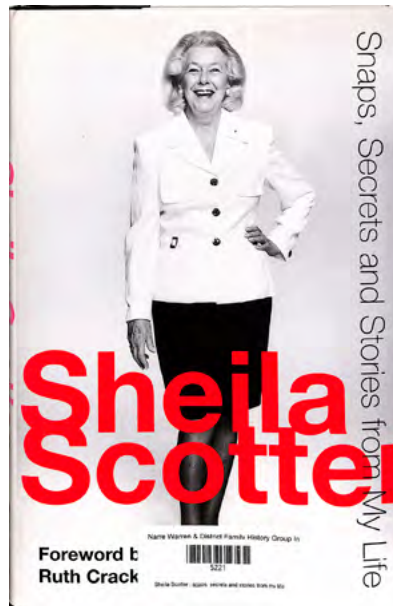
- * Wednesdays closest to the moon: a history of South Gippsland by Barry Collett
- * The history of the Shire of Korumburra by Joseph White
- * On the ridge: the Shire of Mirboo, 1894 – 1994 by John Murphy
- * Loch & district: 2001 from then until now by Barbara Lee
- * In memoriam: a guide to the history and heritage of Victoria's cemeteries by Garrie Hutchinson
- * Our side of the country: the story of Victoria by Geoffrey Blainey

Magazines

- * Family Tree Sep 2024
- * Irish Roots No 131 Issue 3 2024
- * The South Australian Genealogist No 51 Issue 3 Aug 2024
- * Traces: Uncovering the Past No 28 2024
- * Western Ancestor Issue 15 No 11 2024

Happy Reading

Moreyn Dimsey
Librarian



We need more volunteers. We need more volunteers to help out in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room. The times would be once a month on a Tuesday or a Saturday from 11 am – 2 pm.

There are always two volunteers on duty, so you would never be alone. Please give it a thought. Contact Barbara Sharp research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au

Spreading Branches February 2025 We would like to read your articles or stories. Please submit your contributions by 15 January 2025

Member Profile: Jan Whitaker

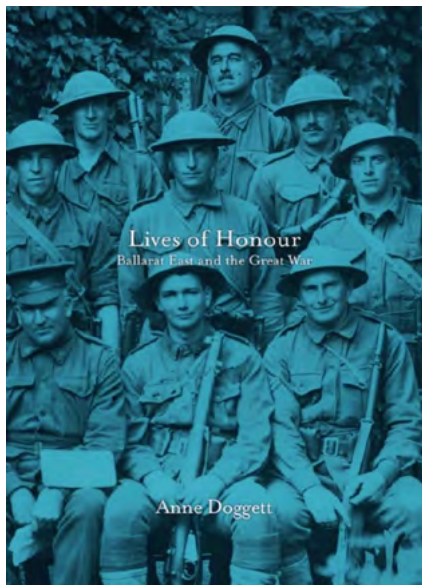
| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Place of birth | Terre Haute, Vigo, Indiana, USA |
| Education/Profession | Educator info tech, college administration |
| Family | a sister |
| Time in district | 26 years |
| Interests | Genealogy, reading, tech all areas |
| Names researching | Too many! Whitaker, Berfanger, Heleine, Varga/Vargo, Stuck, Smock, Crist, Taylor |
| Researching for | about 10 years |
| Reason for starting | Friends. Dad left a small paper with some grandfather names (they were wrong) |
| Most interesting find: | First Whitaker arrival in colonial America – Maryland – in 1677 9x great grandmother born in what is now the New York City bowery in 1641. She has an amazing story. In 1636 her father arrived in New Netherlands from Guelders/Gelderland in the Netherlands. |

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Ballarat Briefings

There are quite a few celebrations happening in Ballarat in November and December.

On 11 November the book “Lives of Honour –



Ballarat East and the Great War” by Anne Doggett was launched. This book examines the lives of 177 World War One soldiers who were closely associated with St Paul’s Church, Bakery Hill.

In the evening there was a talk at St Paul’s, Bakery Hill, on the 170th Anniversary of 1854 Monster Meeting and the

formation of the Ballarat Reform League.

On Saturday 16 November there will be a church open day 10 am-4 pm-with historical displays, short talks, artwork and other displays. Look at the amazing stained-glass windows and enjoy a free cup of tea and a chat.

Sunday 17 November, 10 am Eucharist and service of Thanksgiving. The first service was held on this site in 1854 and will acknowledge all past, present and former parishioners, and also honour those members of St Paul’s listed on our WW One Honour Board.



Eureka Stockade Memorial Park – Walking Tours with Peter Freund

Peter (pictured above) will tell us of the development of the park since 1869.

From the early 1900s, my great grandmother Helen McKay and her family had a small shop outside her home opposite the park, where they sold lollies, cakes and other items to help beautifying the park.

The walking tour will commence at the Eureka Stockade Monument, corner of Eureka and Stawell streets at 10.30 am on the following dates: Tuesday 26 November, Thursday 28 November, and Saturday 30 November.

After the tour, morning tea will be served in the Eureka Memorial Hall.

This event is free, but bookings via Eventbrite are required:

<https://WalkingTour2024.eventbrite.com.au>

Di Christensen

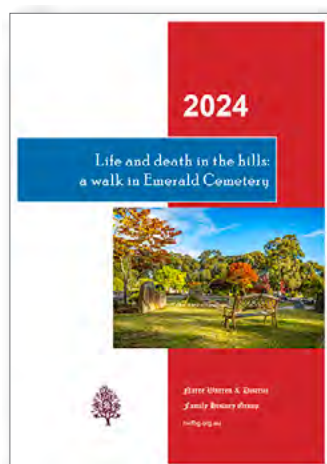
Publications for sale

NEW!

Life and death in the hills: a walk in Emerald Cemetery (2024)

On our first visit to Emerald Cemetery we explored the lives of an Indigenous artist, a socialite, a co-founder of Amnesty International Australia, a writer and poet, and many ordinary people.

\$20 + \$5.50 postage + handling

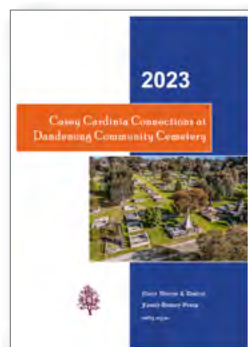


Casey Cardinia Connections at Dandenong Community Cemetery (2023)

We explore a cemetery a bit further afield at

Dandenong. Many people with Casey Cardinia connections are buried at Dandenong. The cemetery has a fascinating early history. We researched the lives of residents, who after living in Narre Warren, Lyndhurst, Hallam, Lang Lang and other places, were buried at Dandenong.

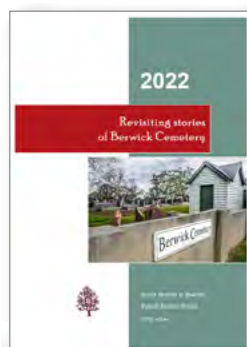
\$20 + \$5.50 postage + handling



Revisiting stories of Berwick Cemetery (2022)

We re-visit 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 + \$5.50 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 + \$5.50 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.

\$20 + \$5.50 postage + handling

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

This book 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 + \$5.50 postage + handling

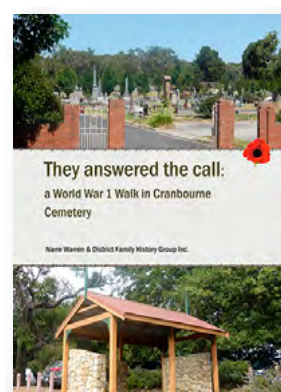
World War 1 walk cemetery books

- ***100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery (2015)***
- ***Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery (2016)***
- ***For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Harkaway Avenue of Honour) (2017)***
- ***Peace at last: a World War 1 walk in Lang Lang Cemetery (2018)***

Each book \$25 + \$8.50 postage + handling

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

This book \$25 + \$15.30 postage + handling



Cemetery Tour booklets

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

Berwick (2014), Pakenham (2015) \$20 each

Add \$5.50 for postage + handling

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