

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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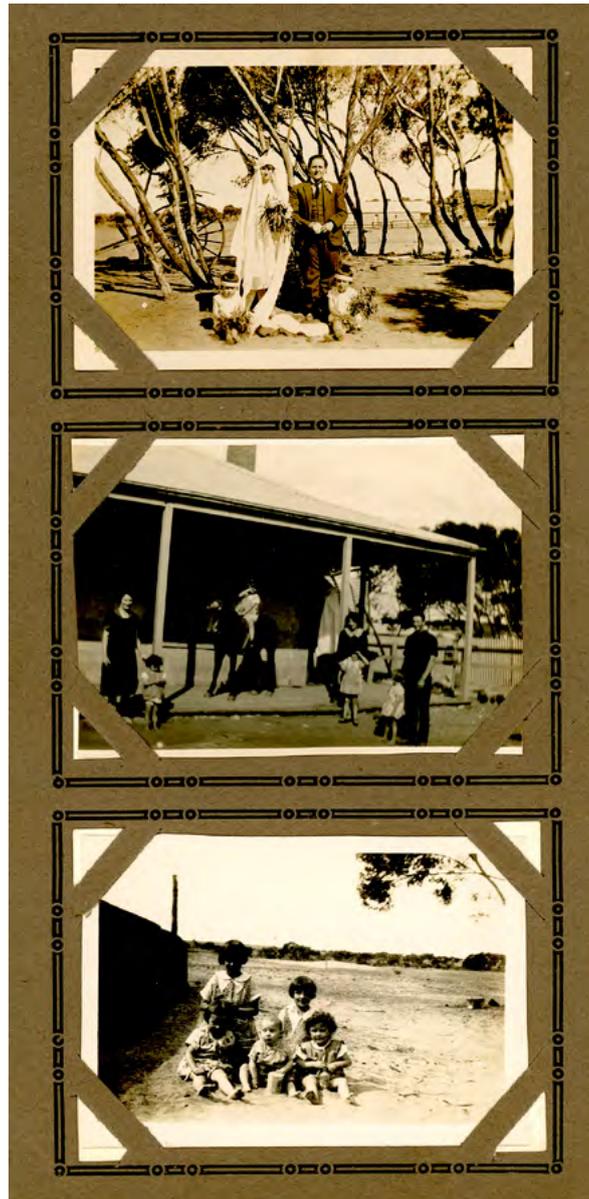
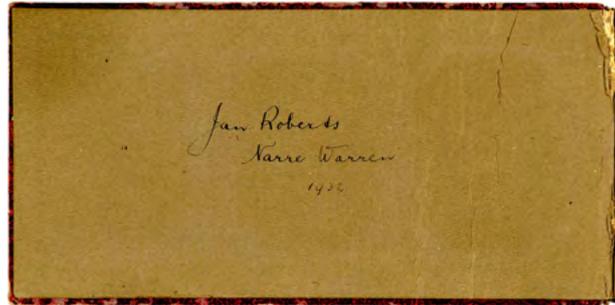
Issue 144 – May 2025

Detectives at work

In early 2024 our research officer Lynne Bradley had contact with Mary Elgar from the Bridgetown Historical Society in West Australia. They had a photo album in their possession and they were trying to find a relevant home for it. Inside its cover the name Jan Roberts, Narre Warren 1932 was written. Hence this is why they contacted us.

It was posted to us on 30 April 2024 and we were very excited to receive the album with 57 small photos in it. Next thing was to try and trace who Jan Roberts was. Some work was done then trying to trace who she was but no success.

Having to shift our rooms from Cranbourne to Berwick then became our priority and all things were put on the backburner until we had our new rooms up and organised. The project team consisting of seven people played a big part in getting us shifted and settled into our new rooms. After a lot of changing the room around, we as a group got back into archiving, scanning, and recording our numerous collections. Sometimes it became very overwhelming to see how much work we still had to do. On Wednesday 7 May 2025 our team decided to record and scan this photo album



ready to put it on the Victorian Collections catalogue. Four of us were determined to find out who this Jan Roberts was.

We looked in all the usual places and eventually found a Janet Muir Roberts c/- Farman, Hallam Valley, teacher, in the 1931 electoral roll. Could this be her? Next we looked in PROV's collection of teachers' records. Janet had gone to teacher's college at Ballarat and was sent to various locations. In 1931 she was sent to state school number 4407 where she taught for the next four years.

School 4407 was a bit difficult to find as it was not listed in the Vision and Realisation books that we had, but Google told us that Fleetwood Primary School in Narre Warren South was school 4407, which previously was known as Hallam Valley. Bingo!

We started compiling Janet's family tree. She married Neville Reid Westwood in 1937 and they moved to Western Australia. They had two boys, Ronald and Anthony.

Only a few photos had inscriptions. One of them had 'Gwen in the strawberry patch' written on it. We

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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) 8905 4239

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

Coffee Catch-ups

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

Our next few Coffee Catch Ups will be:

Sunday, 29 June
Squatting Frog Nursery, 376-382 Heatherton Road, Narre Warren North

Sunday, 27 July
Bodega on High, 88/90 High Street, Berwick

Sunday, 31 August
Groove Train, Cranbourne West, Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Shop 120/125 High Street, Cranbourne



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

We have been in our new home almost a year and after a bit of fine tuning we have a very friendly workable space. The project team have become entrenched on Wednesdays and if you need to work on or learn new skills, such as digitising or organising, they're the go to people.

The cemetery tour team decided on two walks this year. In May we revisited our women's stories walk at Pakenham Cemetery. On the last Sunday in October we'll go for another new cemetery walk at Lang Lang. Again it is another way to learn and improve research skills. If you would like to help, please talk to anyone on the committee.

With winter only weeks away we have changed our general meeting to the third Saturday of the month and have some excellent speakers confirmed. The third Thursday in the month is an opportunity to share problems and learn about various aspects of family and local history. Upcoming topics are listed in this issue of Spreading Branches. We are also having an open day in August with talks and a chance for hands on learning.

Winter is always a good time to revisit your family history and to see if you can solve any brick wall questions, finish any projects or maybe start a new one. If you need help on any aspect of your family history research just ask one of the volunteers on duty and we will do our best to guide you to a solution.

Our AGM will be held in August and we would love to fill a couple of positions that have been vacant this past year. Those on the committee work for all the members in a friendly environment, but we would appreciate help to lessen the workload for those who have doubled and tripled up, to cover all the needs of our group this past year. You don't need to come to every meeting, but if you do you will always find your input is respected and invariably have a laugh along the way. Remember this is your group – we welcome ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to learn, see or do.

Enjoy the research and share your discoveries with us, it will help keep you and your memories young.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

Getting to Know Your Family History Series of Talks

Thursday, 19 June

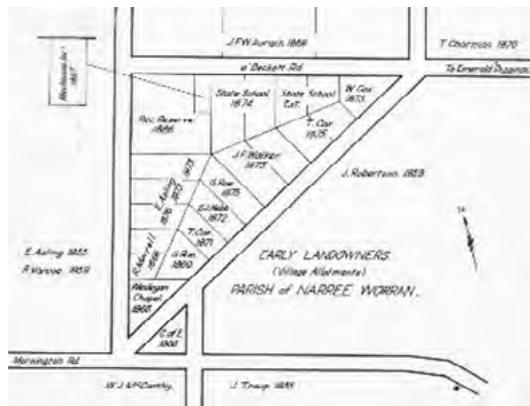
Heather presents:-
Trace the history of your property

Are you wondering how to find out more information on properties where your ancestors lived. Come along to learn how to find out details on the properties by using Rate Books, Parish Plans, and Land Selection Files at the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV).

Thursday, 17 July

Jane presents:-
Our ancestors didn't swim here

Passenger arrival records can be a treasure trove



of family history. Find out what resources to use for locating the ship and date of arrival for immigrants.

Special deal:

Sign up as a member of our group on the day and membership fees will be discounted by \$5.

Where:

Lorraine Taylor Research Room,
110 High Street, Berwick

When:

Third Thursday of the month at
11 am.

Further sessions: 18 September, 16 October, and 20 November.

Cost:

Visitors: Gold coin donation. Members free.

Bookings:

Jane Rivett-Carnac – president@nwfhg.org.au

All talks and workshops will start with a presentation, followed by a short break (BYO lunch; tea and coffee provided), and then there will be time to put into practice what you have learnt.



Upcoming General Meetings

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.

June General Meeting

Saturday, 21 June 2025 – 2 pm

Neil Lucas tells us the history of Berwick street names and who they were named after

Neil has been interested in local history since he came to work in Berwick in 1967. He has produced a book on the 150 years history of Berwick Anglican Church, another on the history of Akoonah Park, and until recently wrote a fortnightly column in the *Berwick-Pakenham Gazette* on the background to the names of streets and parks in Berwick and the surrounding district.

Join us as Neil will give us some background to the names designated for streets and parks in the Berwick township, and he will be very happy to answer questions on some of the streets not included in his talk.

July General Meeting

Saturday, 19 July 2025 – 2 pm

Life means a lot and don't waste a minute – Patricia Dennis

At the age of 7, Patricia was interred in a prisoner of war camp at the Santo Tomas University in Manila for 3½ years. She was one of the lucky ones to survive the horrors of the camp and adopted a philosophy that 'life meant a lot and she couldn't waste a minute'. Patricia lived a double life as she went on to become an international model, working in film and television, all while farming at a cattle and dairy farm in Beaconsfield. Patricia is now in her nineties enjoying life with her grandchildren and will be telling us the story of her very eventful life.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 16 August 2025 – 2 pm

'True Crime' The Pakenham outrage – Patrick Ferry



Narre Warren & District
Family History Group Inc.

Annual General Meeting Saturday, 16 August 2025 at 2 pm

Lorraine Taylor Research Room,
110 High Street, Berwick

Agenda

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting
2. The reading and acceptance of the Committee Reports
3. Election of Office Bearers for 2025-26
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
4. Election of Committee Members for 2025-26
 - Correspondence Secretary
 - IT Officer
 - Librarian
 - Lorraine Taylor Research Room Manager
 - Membership Officer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer

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

As detailed in Clauses 34.6 and 34.7 of our Constitution, Proxy Forms sent by mail or email must be received by the President at least 24 hours prior to the AGM and members holding Proxy Forms must lodge them with the President prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Completed nomination forms need to be lodged with the Secretary by 9 August 2025. Forms may be left in the 'nomination box' in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room or posted to 110 High Street, Berwick, 3806. Nomination forms are also available from the Secretary at secretary@nwfhg.org.au

* Please note that only financial members may vote at the AGM. Membership fees are due 1 July.

Pakenham Cemetery Walk Sunday 18 May 2025



A week after Mother's Day and ten years since we last held a walk in Pakenham Cemetery we celebrated and remembered the many women and mothers who contributed to the local community. The Indomitable Women walk from 2015 was rechecked, tweaked and reprinted. A new map was made by Kerry and walk instructions checked and altered in line with changes around some of the graves. The weather forecast turned out to be wrong, we had a blue sky, sunshine and crisp air and our fabulous team of helpers that almost outnumbered the visitors made for a good morning. Stacey and Adrian from the Pakenham Cemetery Trust ensured the cemetery looked spick and span and that we had access to power to boil the kettle. It may be a coincidence, but I think it may be like a quote from a movie 'if you build it they will come' but in our case 'if you bring the gazebo you won't

need it and the sun will shine'.

We may have been a little disappointed by the numbers, but it was made up for by their enthusiasm and thoughtful comments. Congratulations to Grace who embraced the challenge of being a speaker for the first time. Our other first timer, Jenny, joined the team and looked after book sales. Each member of the team has a role they're comfortable with and they do it so well that it makes everyone else's role easier.

Thank you to Southern Advanced Plants Dromana for the lavender plants to mark the graves; we always get comments from visitors that they find it a thoughtful touch.

Our cemetery tour team are working towards our next walk at Lang Lang Cemetery on Sunday 26 October and we welcome new members to join in. It's a good way to work on your research skills and learn new skills in a friendly team.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



Volunteers' morning tea 21 May 2025

Each May we thank our fabulous volunteers with morning tea and a certificate of recognition. Without volunteers we would not exist, they are the people who ensure the room is open, visitors are welcomed, a cup of tea is made. Funds are raised at a sausage sizzle or a cemetery walk. Meetings are held, that we comply with rules and regulations, that equipment is maintained and upgraded, information is shared, books and our newsletter are published.

As a volunteer you might think you don't do much. Each of our volunteers offers a different perspective of the work we do, even if they think they are only making a cup of tea or selling a book. They are the welcoming faces of our group. Our volunteers help visitors solve their research questions. They help us be a successful group.

So we celebrated those volunteers this year at Aveo Edrington Park in Berwick on Wednesday 21 May. Bob Flavell is the resident historian of the heritage-listed home. He gave a talk about the history of the property, including the owners and the interesting guests they entertained. Aveo staff told us about



the heritage of the trees and garden while we had morning tea. Some of the group then explored the gardens, while others went and looked at the accommodation offered to those who might consider retirement options at Edrington Park.

Thank you Barbara, our Lorraine Taylor Research Room Manager, for organising the day. Not all of our volunteers could attend, but the nineteen who did, had an enjoyable morning.

So thank you to our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle team, the Wednesday Project team, the Cemetery Tours team, the Spreading Branches team, the Lorraine Taylor Research Room duty team, the Casey Cardinia Combined Index team and our Very Important People who represent us at various other groups and ensure our meetings run efficiently. Last but not least our committee who go over and beyond the job title to ensure we stay financial, open for business, compliant with Casey Council and that we cross t's and dot i's to keep the group viable while sharing a laugh along the way.

Jane Rivett-Carnac



Detectives at work continued from page 1

found that Janet had a sister called Gwendolyn. Bingo!

The six of us all felt pretty proud of ourselves as we had cracked the case. Lynne, Moreyn, Barbara, Eileen, Marianne and myself, all had huge smiles on our faces as we had solved this mystery. There are a number of photographs showing the school house and pupils of Hallam Valley State School.

We then scanned the album and recorded it on our Victorian Collections catalogue. It was then put into our archive paper and box, ready

to be stored.

We photographed Lynne, our research officer, and Moreyn, our librarian, putting the photo album into the archive box.

This just shows what we can do when we work together. I am proud of what the project team are doing in recording and archiving our past.

New team members are welcome to come and join us in the rooms on any given Wednesday from 1 pm.

*Fay McCoubrie,
team member*



DISCOVERY DAY

Sharing the knowledge

FREE



Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Lorraine Taylor Research Room
110 High Street, Berwick

Crime & punishment: 10 am

Discover how police and court records, victim and witness statements, descriptions and photographs can expand a story.

Occupations & work: 11 am

What can you find out about people's careers using occupational registers? How do you find those obsolete occupations? Answers to these questions, and more on occupations.

Lunch: BYO (tea & coffee available)

Old magazines & newsletters: 1 pm

The ads may be out of date but the information is still relevant, yet few people take the time to look.

Project team: 2 pm

A hands on session with the Project Team covering scanning, photo manipulation and file types. Here's your chance to discover their secrets.



**Thursday
21 August 2025**

Come to any or all sessions on the day. Bookings appreciated but not essential.

For more information or bookings: Lynne 0413 182 551 or research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

The Oscar Wanke Diaries – 1918

If you think about events in 1918, you would probably think about the end of the Great War or the Spanish flu pandemic. What about living through that time? In the November 2024 edition of Spreading Branches, I introduced you to Oscar, Min, and Ronnie Wanke. Here is how I have interpreted how they lived through 1918. Ronnie had turned two in December 1917, the war was continuing, and a lot was happening in Gladstone Road, Dandenong.

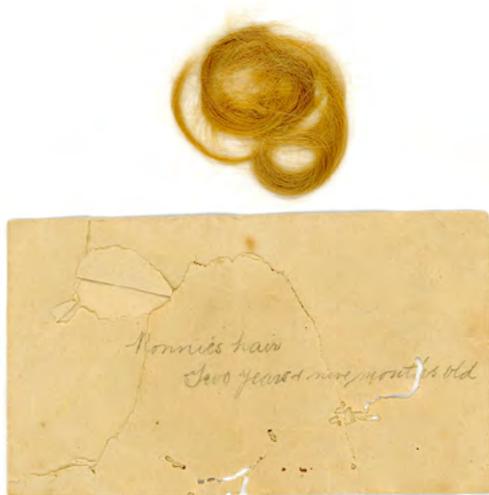
Oscar started keeping a diary in 1907 (we have found an earlier diary than we previously reported). One of his main reasons for keeping a diary would have been about keeping records about his work, but also about their social lives. He kept writing a diary for another 20 years.

From 9 September to 13 December 1918, it was Minnie who wrote in the diaries, so it seems that it was important to both of them that the events in their lives were recorded. On 9 May they were quite upset as: *It was tonight that we found out that Ella read this diary because we found the 1917 diary on top of the 1918 diary.*

Ronnie's family adventures

Oscar always referred to his mum as Mother, so we never found out if she was a Nanna or Grandma to Ronnie, but you could tell that he was loved. On New Year's Day *Mother cut Ronnie's hair for the first time*; in February, *Mother bought Ronnie a little wagon*; and in June *Mother gave Ronnie a Teddy Bear & he thinks the world of it.*

Ronnie got his hair cut by his mum in August that year. Min was so proud that she placed a lock of his hair in an envelope and labelled it: *Ronnie's hair Two years & nine months old.*



Ronnie would go everywhere with his mum; they went to the market in Dandenong most Tuesdays. During the year they visited G Hansen, Bertha Exner, Mrs E Exner, and Emma. Ronnie would

have been excited when they *Drove to Bertha Nash's, and she gave him two ducks.* In July they *went to Erdmanns for a holiday.* The Dandenong Show was on 5 December, and they both *went & had a good day.*

There were times when Ronnie was left with friends and family for babysitting, like Mrs Cadd's or at Armstrongs (Billy) when Min went to town. When they went to Walter Tulau's funeral they left *Ronnie with Ella.* Min would often leave Ronnie at work with Oscar.

There were things they did as a family on 31 January *Stayed home from work & went to Mulgrave School Picnic. We had a lovely day & got home ¼ to 9. We took Ella Armstrong down with us. We went to Mordialloc for the picnic.*

On the weekends they did various trips and did fun activities: *Went to Browns for the day. We had a heavy thunderstorm while we were there; Found peacock feathers in the Police Paddocks; drove up Wankes & we brought 2 cases of peaches home from Baileys & went home Mornington Road; went to Blackmores in afternoon; Took Ronnie down to the creek & showed him the ring tail possums; Went for a walk around Ordish's market garden & met Beattie Hilda Laura Marton in the road.*

They did a lot of entertaining with lots of friends and family visiting, especially over the weekends, some brought kids for Ronnie to play with. To name everyone's full name is too complex because of the way the diary was written, but you may recognise some of the surnames of their visitors: Albers, Anderson, Armstrong, Aurisch, Baines, Blackmore, Brown, Cadd, Dixon, Dowlton, Exner, Hansen, Hasett, Harbrow, Herman, Kemp, Masters, Munday, Mussett, Miller, Orgill, Ruby, Sutton, Talbot, Tulau, Watt, Weist, Walters, Wanke.

They had a lot to do with Alf and Dorrie Weist, and their children Lily and Billy (right). Alf

was Min's brother. On 6 January *they drove over to see Alf & Dorrie at Mitcham & bought Lily home with us.* Lil stayed for a few weeks, she went to Dandenong with Min and Ronnie, they *Drove to Bertha Nash's for the afternoon, and when they went to Erdmanns & came home very late.* On 25



January *Min brought Dorrie & Billy from Dandenong.*

It would have been a big Easter adventure for Ronnie when *they went to town & missed our train & went down with the milk train. We went to the pictures & then to the zoo & then to the play The Rosary in the*

In July Oscar started building Jack Hurrey's house and we get an idea of the process and work that was required: *18 July – I went to Geo Hansen's & fixed up his chaffcutter & then went to J Hurrey to see him about his house & I got the job for £180; 19 July – I ordered timer etc for J Hurrey's house; 20 July – Carted 2 loads of sand up to J Hurrey's place for the chimney & carted a load down for the gutter; 26 July – Started J Hurrey's job & Walter Brown came up in afternoon to see what was doing & helped me a little; 12 August – I went to Dandenong & got a bag of lime for Hurrey's job, I took Ronnie with me; 15 August – Finished the chimney on Jack Hurrey's job; 17 August – Working on Jack Hurrey's job, Jack Hurrey's paid me £50 in cash today; 23 September – Oscar finished Jack Hurrey's house today.*

The Prescott's house was another job we got an understanding of the work involved: *18 August – Min & I & Ron went to Wankes & I went over to see Prescott about building a house in Hawthorn Avenue; 19 August – I biked to Dandenong to see Walt Brown about drawing out a plan for Prescott's brick home & he was not home; 5 September – I got the plan for Prescott's house from Walt Brown; 9 September – Called tenders for Prescott's brick house; 18 September – Oscar working up at Jack Hurrey's & came home early to make up a price for Mr Prescott; 29 September – Oscar went up to Rob Kent's to see Mr Prescott; 4 October – Oscar working at Alf Armstrong's job today & tonight he is drawing a plan for Mr Prescott; 6 October – Oscar finished drawing Prescott's plan; 9 December – Oscar working at Prescott's job; 23 December – Prescotts went into their new house today & shifted their furniture in the house before we were ready; 24 December – Working at Prescott's.*

Oscar worked at Caulfield for two weeks in November, which seemed a fair distance to go. The only reference of what he did was back on 26 October *Oscar went to Caulfield & stacked the timber & finished the gutters for the old chap.*

Other places Oscar worked at during the year were: *Weist's house repairing steps & the gutter; building of Stan Kassell's house; built a shed for Roy Baines; worked at Old Narre Warren State School; worked at Mrs Branstons, Hemming Street; fixed up a pump for Roy Baines & put a new washer in G Hansen's pump; cementing Roy Baines tank; helped Walter Brown start a four-roomed house for Armstrongs opposite Geo Hansen's; worked at Alf Armstrong's; bricking Jack Hurrey's tank (extra); worked at Nicoll's & Sulley's; when he worked at the Sulleys they would give him a good dinner; worked at Mr Kassell's.*

Ron would have loved going to work with his dad but on 19 March *Min left Ron with me at the job & he shit himself poor little buggar.* There were lots of other days when he went to Oscar's work without any incidents.

Oscar didn't always have good days at work, on 9 July *Miserable damn cold damn wet & damn windy. Working for Roy Baines like a damn fool.*

There were only a couple of days that Oscar stayed home because he wasn't feeling well. The public holidays were the Eight Hour Day held on 22 April and the King's birthday on 3 June. He did stay home if the weather was inclement, but usually did something at their home on those days.

Other forms of income

Min and Ron went to Dandenong most Tuesdays, so we can presume it was to the market so Min could purchase supplies and sell what she could.

Min didn't have much luck selling roosters in March *Min went to Dandenong and took a pair of roosters to market but never again* and the next week *Min took in 3 roosters & got a hell of a big price & for the pair she took in the week before she got 6/10 for the darn lot (they rooked us properly).* At the end of October she *Took five pair of Ducklings & got seven & six pence for them.*

Min made heaps of jams and pickles with the seasonal fruit and vegetables they grew or got from others. Oscar helped where he could, while staying home for the King's Birthday he helped Min *cut 1 3/4 tins of cabbage.* In January *Sam Masters, Harry Orgill, Blackfellow, Bill Cadd, Albert were here today picking blackberries. Bandy & I picked 2 billy full of blackberries.* In March *Min preserved 36 pots of peaches they got from Baileys and then preserved the rest of peaches & made 4 lbs of peach jam.* On 21 May, *Min sold 1/2 case of mushrooms at Dandenong market.*

The variety of the food she prepared varied greatly, some of the things she made were blue plum jam, yellow plum jam, ginger beer, pickles, tomato sauce, cucumber pickles, Kentish berry preserve, Logan berry jam, loquat jam, melon jam.

Oscar did a bit of rabbiting, was it to eat them or sell them? *Herman & Annie Wanke came down on the motor bike & we went for a walk in the Tobacco Station & shot 2 rabbits & a squirrel with the pea rifle.* Oscar had been working at Wankes on 3 August he brought home two hare and seven rabbit skins, and on the 15th, *We cut up all the rabbit skins for Ronnie's rug.* It had been raining a lot at the start of September and the creek was still in flood, Oscar had taken the day off work, so *Gran & I went in Police Paddock for rabbits in the flood but only got two.*

I expected there would have been many nights of music especially after Oscar *bought a new accordion from Maloneys & paid 50/- for it on 16 March,* but then on 22 April he sold it to George Dickson for £3.

Other purchases were *Min bought a pair of shoes for herself & a pair of boots for Ronnie and Got three pairs of boots for Oscar. Oscar Bought a pair of sandals for Ronnie 5/11 and Min bought 2 pair of boots for Ronnie. Oscar for himself: Got 2 pair of pants form Sleith the tailor in Dandenong cost 2/7/- each, and eventually on 14 March he bought a suit case for Min (leather) for 23/6 for her birthday which was on Feby 13.*

Bees

I will admit that I am no expert on bees, and what you can find on google today about being a beekeeper doesn't make sense with the information that Oscar and Min recorded in 1918. They may have had enough bees to call their property an apiary; they did have enough bees to make some money from the honey they produced.

Over January and February, Oscar robbed hives of bees, made bee frames, strained some wax, and strained honey. Robbing the hives, was removing the honey from the hives. Oscar also robbed hives from other properties, I am not sure how legal or safe this was: *Albert & Sam Masters came here tonight & he robbed his hive of bees; Albert & I robbed 2 hives of bees in Police Paddocks & got tin of honey out of each; Robbed a hive of bees in Tom Armstrongs 23 feet 2 high; Albert & I drove to Cardinia Creek for honey robbed it hives & got almost wet through; Albert & I went bee hunting & found a hive in trees & robbed 3. I got a good bit of honey.*

The distribution of the honey is recorded as *Jim Edwards got 3 lbs of honey, Ernie Searle bought a tin of honey for £1 – paid, Harry Taylor bought a tin of honey for £1 – paid, and Min took a tin of honey to Kriegels & got paid £1.*

Honeybees also produce beeswax. Oscar on *29 January – Stayed home & made bee frames & strained some wax; 4 March – Melted 3 tins of wax in evening; 9 March – Melted out some wax.*

Oscar made Yellow Box Honey, which comes from a species of eucalypts. He checked out the areas where they were flowering and transported his hives to the best location. There was a lot of work involved: *7 February – Biked to Keysborough to have a look at the box blossom; 8 February – went to Cranbourne to arrange about leaving my bees for blossoms; 16 February – Ordish & I took my bees 21 hives up to Cranbourne at Faceys to the box blossoms. We left at 9 o'clock & got home at 5.30 & I was damn tired; 21 February – I went to see how the bees were at Cranbourne; and 8 April – I went up to Cranbourne left home 3 o'clock to bring home my bees 18 hives & got home 10.30 & had a good trip with old Duke in the spring cart.*

Transport

Oscar used his motorbike to get to work and back, he often referred to it as his motor. It wasn't always reliable, as he *was going to Narre & my back wheel collapsed (broke 22 spokes out of one side).* There were days when he worked on his motor nearly all day, one day he *Put a new mud guard on my bike and screwed it up a bit.* There was an accident *I got a buster from my motorbike going down Carl Fritzlaff Hill & flew over, rolled 27 yards, I got a big bruise on my arse & hurt my left knee a bit.*

So, when the motor wasn't working, he had to use the bike. And that didn't work well all the time

either, *the chain came off my push bike & ripped 10 spokes out of the side of the back wheel & I rode it like that for over a week.* It was *Showery today and then this happens broke the chain of the bike and had to walk to work.*

Oscar was not always by himself when he had mechanical problems *Min, Ron & I drove up to a concert at Berwick and I done that cylinder trick got home ¼ past one.*

Their other mode of transport was by pony and jinker. Mainly used by Min and Ron to go to Dandenong on Tuesdays, Oscar would use it when he needed equipment to be picked up for work.



Their pony's name was Dolly, Oscar mainly referred to her as 'pony'. They did buy a rug for Dolly, and in October *Bought a breaking strap for Dolly today & not before it was needed.* They had to get the pony shod every few months. I don't think Oscar was happy with some of the expenses, on 13 February *Got Dolly's shoes removed 2/6 by Tom Green, on 7 March Min got the pony shod today 7/- (damnable).* Oscar did have some good outings with Dolly when he *drove to work with pony and jinker to get the pony's shoes tightened & brought home a load of boards, and then I got up at 2.30 & drove to Tooradin with Gran the pony in the jinker to fish for whiting & they had no bait so we went back home & got home at 2.30.* But then, after being in Dandenong on 3 December *Dolly bolted today & took the corner off the parliament house the only damage done was one splash board broken.* The cost of the repair: on 7 December *Oscar got up early & took our Jinker up to Mr Grant to get done up & it will cost about four pounds took Ron with him and on 21 December Got up at Half past 4 & went to Grants for the jinker we were home at half past 1. He charged me £3-16-0 for the jinker.*

They did use the train to go into a town a few times, also.

Thank you to Oscar for keeping a diary for many years, he would not have known we would be sharing his life, family, and friends over 100 years later. Our Oscar Wanke Collection has more of these diaries, lots of photos and other documents, and many more stories to tell. Thank you to Barbara Sharp for her research and filling in a lot of the blanks and adding her personal touch to some of Oscar, Min and Ronnie's story.

Eileen Durdin

To be continued in Spreading Branches August 2025

New library systems in the Research Room

The nature of our resources has changed dramatically in the past couple of years. Our vast collection of published material (books, CDs, magazines) is now being enhanced by a growing collection of archival material. These photographs, letters, family histories and other documents are usually original or unique one of a kind items and require a more specialised cataloguing system than the one we've been using. We initially looked for one system to manage everything, it had to be easy to use and cost effective. But we couldn't find one. So, we're trialling two new systems that we think might work for us.

- TinyCat: for books, newsletters, and magazines available to borrow.



Everyone can browse these from home or in the Research Room. Members can then borrow the resources using TinyCat in the Research Room. This is a very cost effective upgrade to LibraryThing where we already catalogue our publications.

librarycat.org/lib/NarreWarrenFHG



At Bts Beaconsfield on 27 April 2025 - Can you eat muesli with knife and fork? Definitely for a photo dare! Thank you Barbara.

- Victorian Collections: for books, CDs, magazines, newsletters and archival documents and photos that are not available to borrow.

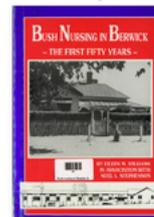


Everyone can browse our collection from home or in the Research Room. While Victorian Collections can assist us in managing our publications, it's especially suited to managing our archival collections and helping us publicise them. As of 31 May 2025, we have 603 items listed, but there's over 250,000 records from more than 600 organisations in Victoria here just waiting for you.

From the collection of
Narre Warren and District Family History Group

603
Items featured online

Book, Eileen M Williams et al, Bush Nursing in Berwick - The First Fifty Years, 1991



<p>Physical description 152 p.; 23 cm</p> <p>Publication type non-fiction</p> <p>Summary A history of the hospital from 1939; the text is presented in chapters dealing with the five decades to 1980-89. Includes illustrations. Mentioning Matrons Wattle, White, Morris, Easton, Rees, Jones, Goulden, Plumridge, Taylor, and Tooney</p> <p>Keywords berwick (vic), bush nursing</p>	<p>Copy the URL for this item</p> <p>Identifier C/C 054 ISBN/ISSN 1875475028 Author Eileen M Williams Author Noel L Stephenson Publisher Berwick Hospital Inc Medium paperback Languages English</p> <p>Cite this page Victorian Collections https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/57eb3aed13ee52ccff75df Accessed 3 June 2025</p>
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Victorian Collections is very cost effective, in fact it's free to organisations like us.

victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/narre-warren-and-district-family-history-group

Links to both sites will remain on the front of our website (nwfhg.org.au) while we're trialling these systems – we hope you will have a look at both and let us know what you think. We'll be scheduling a more in depth introduction at one of our meetings very soon.

Lynne Bradley

A family connection to a Jewish Mayor of Ballarat

In mid 2023, I received an email from Keira Lockyer regarding a member of my family. Keira was researching Jewish families in Ballarat, and whilst researching Henry Josephs JP, had found a reference to my great aunt, Florence Eddy. She was referred to as the 'adopted daughter of Henry Josephs and his wife', who had no children of their own. Many emails to my Eddy cousins followed, but we were unable to shed any light on this situation. When Florence married John Langford in 1895 in Sydney, she was referred to as the adopted daughter of Henry Josephs, although her mother was still alive. After discussion and thought, we concluded that when Florence was quite young, born in 1865, her parents, James and Mary Eddy travelled with her three siblings, Louisa (b 1867), Nell (b 1870) and Charlotte (b 1872 – my grandmother) to Dalmorton, near Glen Innes for James to find success in mining. We decided that Florence was left behind with the Josephs family to continue her schooling. Sadly there is no one able to shed light on this situation. It is possible that Annie Josephs and Mary Eddy were good friends as they lived near each other.

After emails to and from Keira Lockyer, I was very interested to read her book *'The pioneering Jews of the Ballarat goldfields'*.

Keira has brought to life the stories of Jewish families in Ballarat. She has several ancestors of Jewish background and when she moved to Ballarat in 2018, she researched her ancestors and other Jewish families.

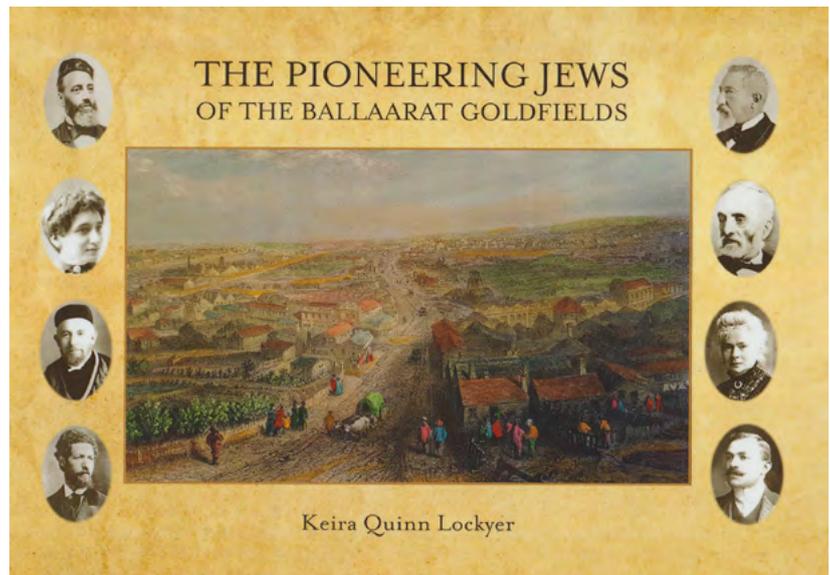
Their contribution to Ballarat was enormous. Some of their names – Abraham, Benjamin, Bernstein, Cohen, Charles, Dyte, Dreyfus, Lederman, Nathan Spielvogel, and Stone.

(Nathan Spielvogel edited *The Spielvogel Papers*, Nos 1 and 2, which are very interesting snippets of day to day life in Ballarat.)

Most of these families established businesses along Main Road, in Ballarat East – jewellers, clockmakers, tobacconists, storekeepers, booksellers, pawnbrokers, china and glass dealers, furniture warehouses, hotels and circulating libraries.

Keira also mentions the Chinese settlers who had market gardens and restaurants and other businesses further along Main Road. I remember walking past the Chinese Joss House in the nineteen fifties.

Interspersed between stories of particular families, Keira talks of entertainment available, what the



women endured, newspapers and photographers, hoteliers, tragedies and disasters, and family connections.

One of the early buildings built by the Hebrew people was the Jewish synagogue on the corner of Barkly Street, near the corner of Victoria Street.

It was opened in 1861 and is still in use today; there are many pages devoted to the synagogue.

I mentioned earlier that I was particularly interested in one person; Henry Josephs JP, a former Mayor of Ballarat East.

Henry Josephs was a great philanthropist and left money to many local charities – The Ballarat Orphanage, Benevolent Asylum, the Old Colonists Homes and the Jewish Philanthropic Society.

Henry Josephs died in March 1906, leaving a widow, Annie. In his will he left his own gold watch to John Robert Langford (husband of Florence) and his father's gold watch to John Henry Josephs Langford.

After her death in 1920 Annie Josephs left money to Florence Langford's (Eddy) siblings; her sister Nell and brother John and her mother Mary Eddy, my great grandmother.

This book also showcases Ballarat buildings, institutions, community associations, as well as little snippets about life in Ballarat in the early years.

There are many illustrations of buildings and people; these add so much interest to this book, published in May 2024.

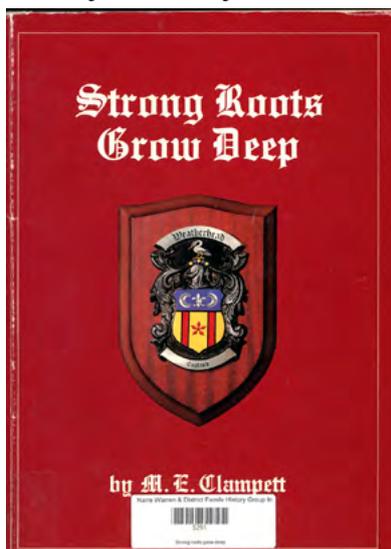
Hope you find this as fascinating and as interesting as I did.

Di Christensen

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room

Casey Cardinia Books

- * A journey in faith: a history of Catholic education in Gippsland by James Synan
- * Strong roots grow deep by Muriel Evelyn Clampett
- * Lest we forget: The Holt Centenary of the Armistice
- * Shoemakers' children by Hilde Knorr
- * Centenary of the Upper Beaconsfield School and Hall



Australian Books

- * Social sketches of Australia by Humphrey McQueen
- * Under the Southern Cross by Geoff Hocking

Victorian Books

- * Shire of Numurkah by Bruce Tunnock
- * The streets of Melbourne from early photographs by Joe Murray
- * Dingley: journey to the village by Anne Schaeche
- * Bendigo: the golden heart of Victoria by Lloyd C Junor
- * Victorian icon: the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne by David Dunstan
- * Footscray: a pictorial record of the municipality from 1859-1988
- * Cattlemen of the high country: mountain cattlemen of the Bogongs by Tor Holth
- * Our first 50 years 1835-1885: souvenir edition
- * Making history: the SDA Victorian Branch 1908-2008 by James Henry Tennison
- * Making their mark by Susan Priestley

New South Wales Books

- * A history of the Treasury
- * Whalemens of Twofold Bay: historical photographs by Rene Davidson

Tasmanian Books

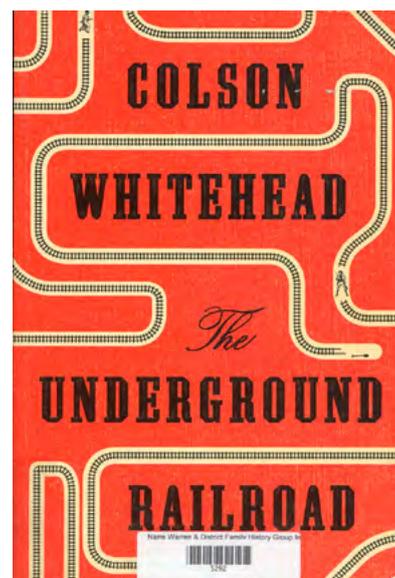
- * The peaks of Lyell by Geoffrey Blainey
- * Sarah Island: the penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour 1831 by Round Earth Company

England Books

- * The ward of Cripplegate in the City of London by Caroline Gordon & Wilfrid Dewhurst

American Books

- * The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
- * The birth of Black America by Tim Henshaw
- * Black Slaves, Indian Masters by Barbara Krauthamer
- * Akee Tree: A Descendant's quest for his slave ancestors by Stephen Hanks
- * African American lives in St Louis by Dale Edwina Smith
- * Black Indians: A hidden heritage by William Loren Katz
- * The Other Madisons by Bettye Kears



Magazines

- * Ancestor Dec 2024 & Mar 2025
- * Family Tree Feb, Mar, Apr & May 2025
- * The South Australian Genealogist Feb 2025
- * Traces: Uncovering the Past Edition 30
- * Western Ancestor Vol 16 No 1



Happy reading.

*Moreyn Dimsey
Librarian*

Spreading Branches August 2025

We would like to read your articles or stories.
Please submit your contributions
by 15 July 2025

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.

June 2025			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
3	Moreyn Dimsey Lynne Bradley	7	Tracey Roberts Robyn Jones
10	Jenny Bramich Barbara Sharp	14	Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp
17	Jane Rivett-Carnac Maureen Abbott	21 closing at 1.30 pm	Barbara Sharp Lynne Bradley
24	Fay McCoubrie Barbara Sharp	28	Jane Rivett-Carnac Jan Whitaker

July 2025			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
1	Lynne Bradley Jane Rivett-Carnac	5	Tracey Roberts Eileen Durdin
8	Moreyn Dimsey Barbara Sharp	12	Robyn Jones Jan Whitaker
15	Barbara Sharp Fay McCoubrie	19 closing at 1.30 pm	Barbara Sharp Jane Rivett-Carnac
22	Eileen Durdin Jenny Bramich	26	Barbara Sharp Tracey Roberts
29	Barbara Sharp Maureen Abbott		

August 2025			
Tuesday	11 am–2 pm	Saturday	11 am–2 pm
		2	Jan Whitaker Barbara Sharp
5	Moreyn Dimsey Fay McCoubrie	9	Robyn Jones Lynne Bradley
12	Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp	16 closing at 1.30 pm	Jane Rivett-Carnac Tracey Roberts
19	Jane Rivett-Carnac Barbara Sharp	23	Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp
26	Maureen Abbott Jenny Bramich	30	Eileen Durdin Lynne Bradley

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.

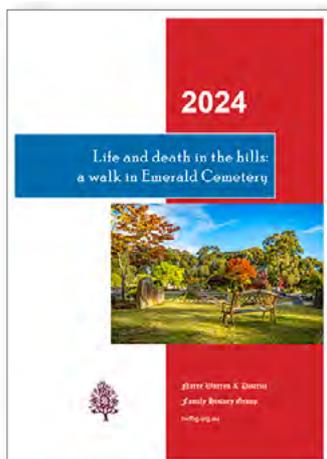
There are always two volunteers on duty, so you would never be alone. Please give it a thought. Contact Barbara Sharp research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au

Publications for sale

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

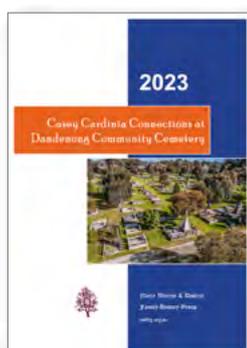


Casey Cardinia Connections at Dandenong Community Cemetery (2023)

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

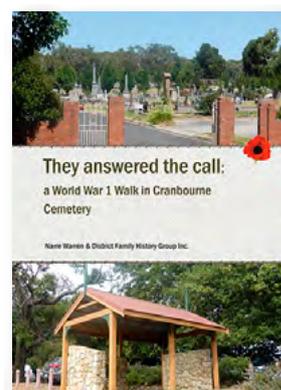
World War 1 walk cemetery books

- ***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 (2025) \$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/