



Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Specialising in the Casey Cardinia Area.

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A Member of: Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group

Genealogical Society of Victoria – South Eastern Historical Association Inc. – Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Victorian Association of Family History Organisations – Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

Berwick Cemetery Tour



On Sunday the 26th October, a sunny morning greeted visitors to the Berwick Cemetery for a planned tour. The theme was Murder and Misfortune. Approximately 50 visitors enjoyed hearing the stories of some of those buried at Berwick Cemetery.

In the early 1850s 8 acres were set aside for a future cemetery. We know that the first trustees were not

appointed until July 1860. The names of the first trustees read like a roll call of the pioneers of the district: Charles Rossiter, James Feehan, John Brisbane and Abraham Gardiner. Berwick Cemetery is a not for profit community cemetery managed by a trust who ensure the cemetery is self sufficient and complies with regulations set by the Victorian Department of Health.

Trevor Thompson, current Secretary of the Berwick Cemetery Trust, attended and enlightened the visitors on some of the history and future planned works of the Trust.

To determine who was researched a selection of names found on the Victorian Inquest Index (1840-1985) were referenced back to the Berwick Cemetery Register. Many of our members helped with the research of these graves, which provided the background for the stories that were told. A sub committee then had the task of writing about the misfortune that occurred.

The 93 year old unsolved murder of Frederick and Annie Sheard was revisited. The tragedy of lives lost on Ash Wednesday, 16th February 1983 and a couple of vehicular accidents in the early 1900s were told. Fatal injuries suffered by child and adult alike brought them to be buried in the Berwick Cemetery.

Lyne McGregor



Tour guides and assistants L to R; Jamie Baron, Lyne McGregor, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Wendy Goodwin, Fay McCoubrie, Kerryn Maxwell, Rachelle & Steven Smith

Issue 102 November 2014

General Meetings:

January Closed

Happy New Year 2015

Wed February 11th 2015

@ 7.30 pm - In House -
Knocking down brick walls

Wed March 11th 2015

@ 7.30 pm - Jenny Baker -
Women in the Australian
Military

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Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc

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Committee Members

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Family History Research Room

Location:

Narre Warren Branch Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate Vic 3805.

Meetings:

Narre Warren Library Meeting Room. Entry Cost \$3

October - April: 7.30 pm 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January).

May - September: 2.00 pm 2nd Saturday of the month.

Membership:

Single \$30 + \$5 joining fee, Joint \$45 + \$5 joining fee. Payable 1st July each year. Casual visitors \$5 per day.

Membership Renewal

You are welcome to renew your Membership by Direct Deposit into our bank account. Details are - **Bank:** National Australia Bank **BSB:** 083 802 **Branch:** Fountain Gate **Account No:** 539450013, but **please** don't forget to use your name as a reference. **Please email a copy** of your renewal form to the Membership Officer. 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 11am to 3pm, Saturday 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, (Room closes at 1.45pm on Saturdays of our General Meeting)

Thursday 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm (From October to April), Sunday 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (From May to September).

Research Queries:

We offer a research service for those unable to visit our Research Room personally, but please note that we can only research our own holdings and those of the local municipal libraries. The cost for this service is \$15 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above postal address or email: research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Casey – Cardinia Library Corporation and City of Casey in allowing us the use of facilities at the Narre Warren Library.

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.

Presidents Report

This is my first President's report, so here goes. I would like to thank everybody for allowing me to be your President for 2014-15; it is both a privilege and a challenge. I hope that I can do the position justice.

For those that do not know me I have been doing Family History for nearly twenty years and I hold a diploma as a researcher in Genealogy. I am also a teacher of Adult Education and I work full time as Sales Manager for an Educational Book Company. With the experiences I have gained I hope I can contribute to our group in a positive and fun way.

We have just recently achieved some wonderful outcomes for projects that started prior to my taking on the presidency. Credit must go to our great members for the classes they have continued to organise. The number of people attending has been a lovely reward for the effort that goes into presenting these lessons. We are looking forward to continuing these classes over the next twelve months.

Also a pat on the back to our Sausage Sizzle Team who rewarded us with a marvellous deposit to our bank account and thank you to those who participated. It is a nice chance to work with fellow members and enjoy a laugh; we didn't drop any sausages this time!

We gained an invitation from Bunnings to promote our Group and do a workshop at Bunnings Narre Warren store. We are waiting confirmation of a date for this to happen. Building our profile is so important.

Our 1940s-1950s themed Open Day, started with the generosity of our members loaning items to showcase the theme which also created some interesting conversations. My appreciation also goes to the many volunteers, for their assistance. We grew our membership and on the day we were honoured with a visit from Cr Louise Berkelmans. Cr Berkelmans supported our group by inviting us to give a presentation to Casey Council in November – this will be of great benefit for our Casey/Cardinia collection as we will be asking permission to be able to transcribe any of the honour boards at council venues and to enquire on Casey Council place names.

The enthusiasm that members showed at our September General meeting in providing so many suggestions to consider implementing in the future, was so encouraging and that already some of the members have put their hands up to take on various lead roles. This validates the thought put forward on the day that "a little bit by each of us is a big bit for all of us".

Due to the closing date for sending articles for Spreading Branches, I am unable to tell you how good our Garage Sale, Ageing Positively Day and Berwick Cemetery Walk will be, but I can relay to you that a magnificent amount of effort and team work went into these projects. If effort equals rewards then they all deserve to be very successful days.

So thank you to so many of our members for giving me such a positive start to my new role and to be able to report about the wonderful achievements of our Group.

Wendy Eldridge

President

A big hello and welcome to our new members Norma Trevor, Chris Holland and Sharane Lyons.



New to the Research Room

Books

Our Legends: Australia's Greatest
St Catherine's 1896-1996
Tarnagulla Yesterday and Today

Donated C Stevenson
Donated S & R Smith
Donated K Arnold

CD's

Australian Family History
Bibliography and Index 5th Edition

Donated R Reid

Casey Cardinia Books

School on the small Plateau Garfield North
The Miles Family in Australia 1st Generation

Purchased by the Group
Donated L Miles

Magazines

Who Do You Think You Are x 6

Donated L Taylor

Microfiche

Melbourne Benevolent Asylum 1851-1858

Purchased for Group

Spreading Branches Deadline:

The deadline for the February 2015 edition of Spreading Branches is 15th January 2015. Please submit your articles in word format or as a hard copy.

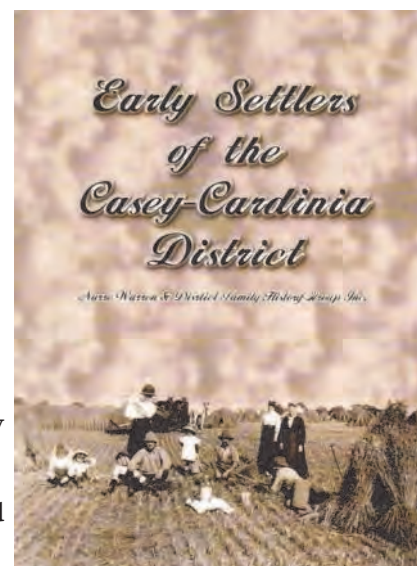
Publications for Sale

Microfiche

Berwick Cemetery Register and Headstones 1867-1999.
\$22 + Postage & Packaging
Harkaway Cemetery Register and Headstones 1863-1999.
\$6 + Postage & Packaging
Pakenham Cemetery Register and Headstones 1850-1999
\$22 + Postage & Packaging
Postage + Packaging add \$2.50 for up to 3 sets of fiche.

Books

Kindred Spirits -20 years of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group 1989 – 2009. \$25 + \$8.25 (Postage + Packaging)
Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District \$30 + \$13.40 (Postage + Packaging) -Order forms available from the Research room or download from our web site.



The **Early Settlers of the Casey Cardinia District** (published 2010 by the Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.) is a 274 page book complete with index to people, properties and ships; plus a bibliography. There are over 300 entries containing birth, death and marriage information for individuals and families, many of which were submitted by descendants of those people and include photographs not published elsewhere. In many cases detailed biographies have been written by descendants or compiled by the family history group, giving an insight into the early days of many Casey Cardinia families and individuals.

Noticed in the Age newspaper

Continuing the Cemetery theme there have been several interesting snippets from the Age recently;

Odd Spot (From the Age-Tuesday 21 October 2014)

Springdale Cemetery, Illinois, is trying to get more customers with a 10-event marketing campaign that includes a five kilometre race through it. "We know if we get people back into the cemetery, they're going to be amazed at its beauty," Springdale's chief Bob Manning said. Then, hopefully, they'll think of us when time comes."

"Plot hatched to match and dispatch at single venue" (From the Age-Wednesday 22 October 2014)

Victorian Health Minister David Davis will on Wednesday announce an 8,500 grave expansion to Bunurong Memorial Park, south of Dandenong.

The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust wants funerals to be just one part of their "new concept" public cemetery which will include waterways a café and children's playground.

Chief Executive Jonathan Tribe said he hoped the mega -cemetery would be used by families for casual recreation, such as dog walking. He said the new facilities including an outdoor chapel would be open to any type of function, such as weddings and business breakfasts; "We're trying to demystify cemeteries- so they're not just places to come when people die", Mr Tribe said.

'Cemetery targets tourism' (From the Age-Monday 10 November 2014)

The Melbourne general cemetery is set to become an attraction for the living as well as the dead under plans to make it a tourism hub. The management is looking at proposals including jazz sessions, family picnics, and weddings to liven up the place.

Celestina Sagazio, historian and cultural heritage manager at the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, which runs the Melbourne graveyard, said tourism would fund restoration work at the cemetery.

She said an \$80,000 Naphthine government grant towards restoring the historic gatehouse would help make the facility more tourist friendly. The 1852 cemetery was originally designed as a public park over 43 hectares where people used to parade around the grounds and have picnics, she said.

Di Christensen

Photos from Ageing Positively and Berwick Cemetery Tour



What's on the internet?

For those with Tasmanian convicts	http://wwwFOUNDERS-storylines.com/mugsheets/welcome
For those looking for the Royal Womens Hospital midwifery records from 1856-1879.	http://www.thewomenshistory.org.au/history/guides/patients/RWHS405.htm (Unfortunately the book is not indexed but at least it is scanned).
NSW genealogy research resources	www.teapotgenealogy.com
Origins - Immigrant communities in Victoria	http://museumvictoria.com.au/origins/history.aspx?pid=22
Photographs of a selection of Vic + NSW headstones	http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausvsac/Index.htm
Local & Family History in Geelong	http://geelonganddistrict.com/
Photographs of a selection of War Memorials in Vic & NSW	http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausvsac/Index_War_Memorial.htm
Tasmanian names index	http://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/
History and names of those on Ballarat's Avenue of Honour	https://bih.federation.edu.au/index.php/Ballarat_Avenue_of_Honour
Another site for Ballarat's Avenue of Honour	http://www.swvic.org/ballarat_avenue_of_honour.htm
Perth Cemeteries	http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au/Index.aspx
Gravestone photographic resource	http://www.gravestonephotos.com/ (Photos from: Aus, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Malta, NZ, Scotland and others)

Robyn Jones



The Ladies and Men were 'Sizzling Hot' at Bunnings



Preparation at Lynne Bradley's home. Jenny Hayes, Eileen Durdin, Lynne Bradley, Brenda Wheeler, Jan Clarke, Mary McGrath



Eileen Durdin, Jenny Hayes, Kerry Maxwell, Lynne McGregor, Rex McFarlane

My first experience as Sausage Sizzle Coordinator was interesting, to say the least, but I survived the two very busy days.

Thank you to Lynne Bradley for offering your home for the preparation of 68 kilos of sausages and 30 kilos of onions which had to be cut and bagged.

And a big thank you to all the members, and Bob Eldridge and Bill Hayes, who so willingly gave up some of their Saturday and Sunday to raise funds for our group.



Judy Mehegan, Brenda Wheeler, Jenny Hayes, Bob & Wendy Eldridge, Di Brodbeck, Moreyn Dimsey

After a slow start on the Sizzle day we finished off quite nicely after using about 840 sausages, 42 loaves of bread, about 24 kilos of onions and selling over 120 cans of drink. Our profit was \$1455.

No rain fell from the sky, but it was quite cool early in the morning.

Jenny Hayes



Jenny Hayes, Val Holland, Wendy Goodwin (rear), Steve & Rachelle Smith



Wendy Eldridge, Paul Stevenson, Jenny Hayes, Claire Stevenson, Moreyn Dimsey



Have you shopped at Ritchies lately?

You can also sign up at any Ritchies store. Every little bit counts!

Benjamin Muffett 1861-1903

Benjamin Muffett was born in March 1861 in Pengwedna Downs, Breage, Cornwall and was baptised 5 May 1861 Sithney, Cornwall.

He was born to William Muffett, a tin miner and Phillipa Rutter (1820-1883). He appeared in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 English census with his parents living in Sithney, Cornwall. By the 1881 census he was recorded as an agricultural labourer.

After immigrating to Australia he married Mary Jane Elizabeth Gray in Victoria in 1892 and they had four children.

First and only son born was John Henry Muffett born in 1893 at Richmond. The family then moved to Moe where Elizabeth Mary (Lizzie) was born in 1897 and Phillipa in 1900. Moving again, this time to Berwick, the youngest daughter Beatrice who was known as Annie came along in 1902.

Benjamin was a railway worker who was sadly killed by accident at Narre Warren on 4th April 1903. Benjamin had left his home in Narre Warren at quarter to 12 pm on Saturday to catch the train to Dandenong and would return by 8pm.

A witness saw him board a train at Dandenong, the 6.30pm from Princes Bridge. He believed Benjamin was slightly under the influence of drink. Benjamin had also been seen by the assistant station master at Narre Warren and had a brief conversation before Benjamin continued on his journey home, walking along the railway lines. Benjamin and his family lived a quarter mile from the railway station on the Berwick side of the line, inside the railway fence.

His body was found the next morning with a large cut above the right ear extending across the side of his head. The inquest into his death recorded that Benjamin was addicted to drink and in the words of Police Constable A.E Steele *"from my own personal knowledge of the man, I have expected something of this kind would occur sooner or later"*.

The Melbourne Argus newspaper of 8th April recorded his death, and on 19th May reported that he died without leaving a will but leaving an amount of £239 to his widow. He was buried in the Anglican section of the Berwick cemetery 7th April 1903.

His wife Mary Jane was left with a young family to support and was soon to move to Port Melbourne nearer to their friends the Cann family. Mary Jane was recorded in Narre Warren in the 1903 electoral roll, but in Port Melbourne in 1914 and 1919. Their son John Henry enlisted in WW1 in 37th Australian Infantry Battalion as Pte 3104 and was to be the second loss for the family. His name appears on the Narre Warren Memorial gates, recorded as Muffit. J H Muffett was killed in action in France and is buried in Suzanne Military cemetery No 3 in Picardie, France.

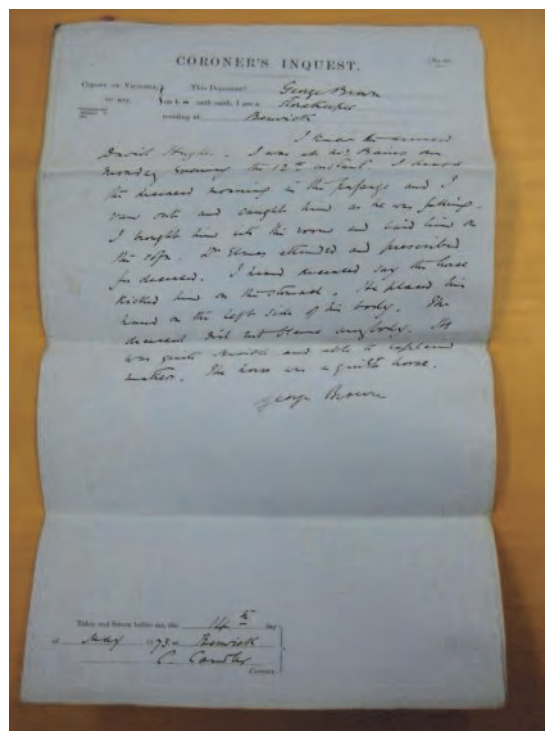
John Henry's death in action in 1918 was reported in the Port Melbourne Standard newspaper and there appeared a related article in the same paper on 5th October. It was as follows: 'Mrs Muffett and daughter (Annie) wishes to thank all for sympathy on the very sad loss of Jack.' They were at that time living at 104 Princes St, Port Melbourne the same address where Mary Jane was recorded on her death in 1921.



After Mary Jane Muffett's death all correspondence from the war office about her son John Henry was forwarded to Mrs E C Mason of Pine Ridge, Chillingollah in Victoria. This was eldest daughter Lizzie who had married Edward Charles Mason in 1920.

There is no further trace of daughter Phillipa who perhaps died as a baby and third daughter Annie married Robert Cecil Ward in 1925.

Researched by Jeanette Angee



Copy of a document from David Hughes' Inquest

David Hughes

Little is known of David Hughes, a groom at the Border Hotel Berwick. On Monday 12th May 1873 David was kicked by a horse and died some hours later. The informant for his death certificate was Constable Michael Gleeson and Robert Bain was a witness at the burial.

Susan Bain, who saw David after the incident stated "The deceased David Hughes aged about 35 or 36 years was a person in my husband's employ. On Monday about half past four...the deceased came into the house and said he had been kicked by a horse in the stomach and that he felt sick. I told him to lie down...he said he did not want the doctor... he came in again and said he felt better and he would go to the paddock. While I was speaking to him he seemed to stagger. I gave him a little brandy and water and he seemed to revive. He walked away quite right and said it was a spasm. Between 7 and 8 o'clock he asked for a candle from my daughter. Mr. Brown ran and caught him as he was falling. He was moaning... Mr. Brown laid him on the sofa and we sent for the doctor. Dr Elmes... attended and prescribed for him. He was got to bed and was better. Mr. Holland sat with him during the night and he died yesterday morning about 1 o'clock. Deceased did not blame anybody in this matter. He was accustomed to the horse which was not a vicious one. There was no one present when the horse kicked the deceased."

Another witness George Brown, a storekeeper, had been at the hotel that night. In his statement for the inquest he corroborated Susan Bain's statement that David could be heard moaning and George caught David as he was falling. David was seen to by Dr Elmes and was overheard to say the horse kicked him in the stomach.

Both witnesses stated the horse was a quiet, gentle horse.

David is buried in an old section of the cemetery but doesn't appear on any of the current maps.

Researched by Wendy Eldridge

A Wedding Comparison

Recently Kerry Maxwell and I have each seen one of our children marry. (No, not to each other). Both weddings went through the same formalities of a service in the local park followed by the wedding breakfast or reception. Family were attendants and the ritual of flowers, dress, suits, car.....the list goes on ...to make the day special was never going to be cheap but consider this price from 1937 for a wedding with 4 bridesmaids and groomsmen, 100 guests and honeymoon £177. 6s.0d (A\$326.48) compared to my daughters wedding in August with 3 bridesmaids and groomsmen, 60 guests and no honeymoon yet! A\$6000.00 - Photographers included in 2014 wedding and not the 1937 wedding.

As a change to the cemetery photos and articles I thought you might like to see some beautiful wedding dresses and veils and then compare the styles over the decades.

{Photos submitted by W. Eldridge + L McGregor}



1901 Wedding



1907 Wedding in Burma



1921 Wedding - Groom with gloves



1932 Wedding - Bride with gloves



1935 Wedding - Groom with gloves



1940 War wedding



1951 Wedding - hand painted photo



1955 Wedding - Groom with gloves



1961 Wedding

Research Room Roster

December 2014					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
2	Bev Lambie Brenda Wheeler	4	Claire Stevenson Kerryn Maxwell	6	Lorraine Taylor Jo Saville
9	Maureen Stagg Gwen Leighton				
Closed for holidays					
January 2015					
Closed for holidays					
February 2015					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
3	Anne Blair Brenda Wheeler	5	Jane Rivett-Carnac Claire Stevenson	7	Wendy Goodwin Lyne McGregor
10	Val Bennett Jeanette Angee	12	Kerryn Maxwell Di Christensen	14	Lorraine Taylor Win Preston
17	Maureen Abbott Rona Gibson	19	Nowella Ahlgren Wendy Eldridge	21	Steven Smith Shirley Peterson
24	Fay McCoubrie Mary McGrath	26	Lynne Bradley Eileen Durdin	28	Judy Mehegan Di Brodbeck

If for any reason you are unable to do your rostered duty it is your responsibility to make arrangements for a replacement volunteer for your particular day.

Reminder that all borrowed items need to be returned to the room by Tuesday 9th December so we can prepare the room for the annual Stock take in January 2015.

Stock take will be done over two days on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January 2015 between 10am and 3pm with lunch break. If you can spare an hour or two that would be wonderful, it's a friendly day, always a laugh or two and a great way to learn about all the resources we have in our room.



Narre Warren & District Family History Group

P.O. Box 149

Narre Warren, Vic 3805

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librarian@nwfhg.org.au

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treasurer@nwfhg.org.au