

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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Issue 136 – May 2023

Collections and Community Resilience Project

We have a small but dedicated group meeting most Wednesdays in the Research Room to process and catalogue new items for the shelves or computers. We're currently working on the Peter Watson Collection which is a large collection of photographs and documents relating to early Cranbourne and the Poole family. We're also working on the Oscar Wanke Collection which is a collection of photos and documents relating to the Wanke family at Harkaway. There are also numerous other bits and pieces that either need cataloguing and processing, or digitising and archiving.

Victorian Collections advised us early in March of a new government funded state-wide initiative from AMAGA (Australian Museums and Galleries Association) Victoria providing regional communities with the opportunity to digitally preserve their collections and receive onsite training in collections care, preventative conservation and disaster mitigation. So we applied. And, a few weeks later we got a call to say our application had been successful. Could we start on 19 April? We said yes, knowing there'd be a lot to do in a little time to be ready.



Nine organisations throughout Victoria will be participating in up to 6 days of onsite training divided into two separate three day sessions approximately three weeks apart. We've just completed our first session and have learned so much about disaster planning, caring for the collection of things we have, how to better clean, store and move them to minimise wear and tear, and cataloguing and policies. We've set up lights and a backdrop and used them to

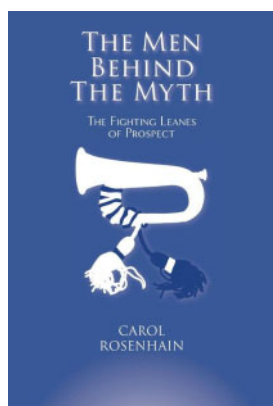
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General Meeting – Saturday 20 May 2023

**Carol Rosenhain — The Men Behind the Myth,
The Fighting Leanes of Prospect**

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

All welcome to join us for lunch at 12 noon.
Bookings are essential, contact Eileen Durdin
at secretary@nwfhg.org.au





Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

1/65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne VIC 3977

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ABN 15 397 153 919



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Lorraine Taylor Research Room

We have a large collection of books, maps, microfiche, CDs and journals from all over the world available to our members and visitors.

Location

Cranbourne Library,
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road,
Cranbourne.

NW&DFHG is a member of:

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

Opening Hours for Research

Tuesday and Saturday 11 am to 2 pm

Casual visitors \$5 per day

Research room phone number: (03) 5995 3032

Meetings

October - April: 7.30 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month (except January).

May - September: 2.00 pm

3rd Saturday of the month.

Membership

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

Membership Renewal

You are welcome to renew your membership by Direct Deposit into our bank account.

Bank: National Australia Bank

Branch: Fountain Gate

BSB: 083 802

Account No: 539450013

Please don't forget to use your name as a reference.

Please email a copy of your renewal form to the Membership Officer.

Research Queries

We offer a research service for those unable to visit our Research Room personally, but please note that we can only research our own holdings and those of the local municipal libraries. The cost for this service is \$20 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above postal address or email: research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

NW&DFHG Catch-ups



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

30 April, 28 May, 25 June, 30 July
venues to be announced in *Falling Leaves*

Disclaimer: Contributions made to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.

President's report

In early March, along with other committee members, I joined family and friends in a heartfelt celebration of John Elliott's life. John was at different times our IT officer, membership officer, and assistant to our research officer. He was always a willing participant in the group. John helped with research for our cemetery walks, his passion was military research. He had a positive attitude and will be missed by many. Vale John Elliott. (See page 8).

Wonderful news in April, that the National Library is to receive funding in this year's Federal budget to enable Trove to continue and grow. Thanks in part to all the people and groups who signed petitions and wrote to parliamentarians. Also in April two pages in the Herald-Sun newspaper highlighted the campaign led by the State Library of Victoria to have The Sun News Pictorial digitised from 1922 to 1954 and become part of the Trove collection. It is now only available on microfilm. The State Library is trying to raise \$200,000 and donations can be made online at slv.vic.gov.au/appeal. The Herald-Sun newspaper is supporting the appeal and on 13 and 14 April published articles about the history and importance of this publication. It highlighted the many pictures and stories of ordinary Victorians. Another worthy campaign for us to support.

Also in April our group received the news that we were selected to participate in the AMaGA (Australian Museums and Galleries Association) Victoria Collections Community Resilience Project. Our processing and cataloguing team is undertaking six days of training during April and May. The skills they learn will help us to preserve and digitise our records. The team can also pass on their knowledge to other members of our group. This will enable us to provide more local history to the wider community. Congratulations to this hard working group.

Congratulations also to Bob Neal and the sausage sizzling team. They had a very successful day at Bunnings Clyde North in March and have booked another date later this year. Fundraising is important for our group and I realise how lucky we are to have this opportunity on our doorstep. With the price of everything going up it is important that we continue to find ways to cover our yearly costs and not have to increase our membership fees. So, thank you Bob and our volunteers for your contribution this year.

May is when we invite all our volunteers to join us for morning tea to recognise their many hours of help. Our volunteers keep the Lorraine Taylor Research Room open, index our Casey Cardinia

Collection, research cemetery books, and present cemetery walks. They catalogue our collection, fundraise, serve on the committee, and attend meetings. They connect with other local groups, and represent us in the community at local heritage days. They also showcase us on facebook and on our website. All these things benefit all of us as individuals and as a group, so thank you to all the volunteers.

On Sunday 7 May we will participate at the Heritage Festival of Shared Stories of Casey Cardinia at the Pakenham Library Hall, along with other groups from the Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group and our local history librarians Kate from Cranbourne and Brooke from Pakenham.

The monthly family history talks at Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Museum are proving popular and enjoyable. I love that we are back face to face after the years of online presentations with Casey Cardinia Library during the Covid years. Although those online talks gained great feedback there is nothing better than an in person talk and the general chatter that follows. I find I learn something new every month because of the questions and shared information.

Our March guest speaker was Asa Letourneau from PROV and he gave a wonderful presentation on map warper. I spent hours playing with maps following his talk and I'm looking forward to the great speakers we have for the rest of the year. As our meetings change to the third Saturday in the month from May to October they're all scheduled to be in person and on zoom, preceded by lunch at L'Arté Central Cafe in the training room.

Happy researching.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

The Writing Group

After a pretty strong start, the writing group has become the Writing Trio of late. And, while we've enjoyed getting together for a chat, we can't help but wonder what went wrong.

We'd really like to know if getting together once a month is too ambitious. Would you come if you just had to come once every three months? Would you come if the sessions were a bit more structured? Would it help to know what that structure might be beforehand so you could decide which writing group sessions you need to attend and which ones you don't?

Please direct your feedback to either Jane (president@nwfhg.org.au) or Lynne (treasurer@nwfhg.org.au).

We won't schedule any more formal sessions until we hear from you.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – 25 March 2023

It had been a considerable time since the Narre Warren and District Family History Group had their last sausage sizzle, mainly due to Covid. So this year arrangements were made for a sausage sizzle at the Bunnings Clyde North store on 25 March 2023.

After discussion at the Group's meeting, we were fortunate to have about 12 members volunteer to help out on the day.

I am pleased to report that the event proved to be a success, with the group receiving \$1,549 in profit. This represents a significant income for us and will assist with the purchase of equipment.

On the day we required the following supplies:

- 43 kg of sausages
- 40 loaves of bread
- 6 kg of sauce condiments
- 12 kg of sliced onions
- 250 cans of soft drinks and water
- cookery equipment, oil etc.

These supplies cost a total of \$597.40

We made a few discoveries for future events:

- understanding the preferences for drinks – Coca-Cola vs Pepsi vs Water vs Solo, etc
- understanding the preferences for tomato, barbeque, and mustard sauce (and surprised by the popularity of a combination of American Mustard and Tomato Sauce)
- understandings about the purchase of sausages/drinks using QR codes, square devices or phone taps (about \$600 of our sales were using the QR device from Bunnings)
- fundraising strategies that are linked to Coles and Woolworths purchases could be used next



time to offset the cost of sausages, drinks, bread, etc.

Overall the event on 25 March 2023 was successful and a good beginning as a strategy for fundraising for the group.

I wish to thank the volunteers who worked so well on the day and the committee for their support for me as I took on the role of Sausage Sizzle Coordinator.

Following the event, the committee developed plans to hold another Bunnings Sausage Sizzle later this year. We have just received confirmation that we can hold another sizzle on 7 October 2023. Please put this date in your calendars as we will be looking for volunteers to lend a hand.

Bob Neal



Collections and Community Resilience Project

continued from page 1

photograph some of our items with a DSLR camera.

Our second session on 10-12 May will build on what we've already learned and give us the opportunity to photograph more items. We'll also



be holding a **Public Digitisation Day on Friday 12 May**, inviting members of the community to bring five items to be digitised by our AMAGA specialist. If you have some precious items you'd like to have digitised please let Lynne know. We only have five appointment slots available for the day.

Thank you to the cataloguing/processing team of Barbara, Eileen, Fay, Lynne and Moreyn. It takes dedication to the group and to the job at hand to sign up for six full days of training. We were joined by Anne Blair for the first day and Sue from Cranbourne Shire Historical Society for the three days.

We can't forget to thank L'Arté Central for delivering the best lunches to the conference room each day. And, thank you Erina from AMAGA Victoria for your wisdom and patience. We all really enjoyed our time with you. And most of all, thank you AMAGA Victoria for this wonderful opportunity.



If you'd like to come along and join in the fun on Wednesday afternoons, you would be most welcome. We start at about 1 pm. We have a couple of places spare for the second round of training on 10-12 May, please contact Lynne (research.officer@nwfhg.org.au) if you would like to come along for a day, or all three.

Lynne Bradley

Speakers' Spot

All meetings commence at 2 pm at L'Arté Central Social Enterprise Café Training Room
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne & via Zoom

Contact Eileen at secretary@nwfhg.org.au for a link to any of the meetings via Zoom

Social Lunches

You can join us for a delicious lunch and social gathering at 12 noon in the L'Arté Central Social Enterprise Café Training Room on any meeting day. Lunches do need to be pre-ordered (by Thursdays before each meeting) and paid for on the day.

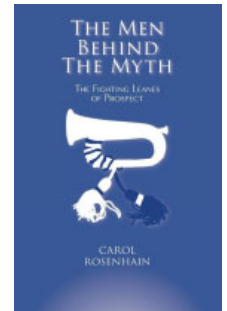
Contact Eileen at secretary@nwfhg.org.au if you would like a menu forwarded to you for pre-orders.

The Men Behind the Myth, The Fighting Leanes of Prospect Saturday, 20 May – General Meeting

With meticulous research, Carol has examined and questioned the validity of Charles Bean's assertion that the Leane family was the most famous family of soldiers in Australian history. She has evaluated the contribution of the six fathers and five sons and compared their commitment with other families who also helped shape the ANZAC legend.

Carol will tell the story as she explored the strength of familial bonds, loyalty, the impact of faith, and the realities of lives spent in service to the nation. Their story is both heartbreaking and a celebration.

Carol Rosenhain: Melbourne writer and historian; she was a passionate English and History teacher for many years and a state examiner of VCE English. She is a keen researcher and traveller with a liking for all places with a historical connection with the Australian Military.



FamilySearch

Saturday, 17 June – General Meeting

Alan's presentation is about FamilySearch.org the largest genealogical organisation in the world and the wealth of information they have. Users

have free access to over 13.15 billion searchable names in historical records from all over the world.

He will also talk about the mobile apps FamilySearch Tree and FamilySearch Memories both for iOS or Android.



Alan Fleming: Scottish born Alan emigrated to Australia in 1965. Married with three sons he had an extensive career in Marketing and Business Administration and is now retired. Alan has been researching family history since he was a teenager. These days he is an active member of the FamilySearch Centre, Fox Road, Narre Warren North, helping people get started in research, training volunteers as indexers and running classes. He has had family history articles published in both Wales and Scotland.

Pioneer Girls and Flappers: Australia's early female munitions workers Saturday, 15 July – General Meeting

During World War Two, tens of thousands of Australian women found work in the munitions industry in a period when women's industrial employment was regarded as a novelty. The stories of our mothers, aunts or grandmothers' exploits in the new-found freedom of waged work, or the danger and monotony of the factory are a part of our family histories.

Many don't realise that women's work in munitions began far earlier, all the way back to the 1880s when hundreds of young women worked at the Colonial Ammunition Company in Footscray. Their story is a rollicking tale of explosions, strikes, politics, picnics, and more. In this talk, historian and archivist Katie Wood will bring to life this fascinating history, which has touched so many families.



Katie Wood: Senior archivist at the University of Melbourne Archives and is currently researching a PhD Thesis on women in the metal trades at La Trobe University.

The Melbourne Socialite and the Turkish Diplomat
Saturday, 19 August – Annual General Meeting

London, September 1913. A young society lady from a stately country mansion falls in love with a handsome diplomat from the Turkish embassy. It sounds like a plot line from the hit British drama *Downton Abbey* ... but it's the real-life story of Victorian socialite Florence Winter-Irving.

Patrick gives a very illustrative presentation, telling the story of the whirlwind romance of Florence (a member of a very prominent Victorian squatter family) and Chefik (the Turkish diplomat) while demonstrating the various types of records held at the National Archives of Australia (NAA) which are of interest to family historians.



Patrick Ferry: National Archives of Australia (NAA), Assistant State Manager, Victoria. He is an archivist and author of various local history books including *Blood, toil, tears and sweat: remembering the Pakenham District's WW2 service personnel, 1939-1945* and *St Patrick's, Pakenham: from the wilds of the Australian bush to outer-suburban Melbourne, c1840 to 2016*.

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2.00 pm, Saturday, 19 August 2023

L'Arté Central Social Enterprise Café Training Room

65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne & via Zoom

Agenda

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
2. The reading and acceptance of the Committee Reports
3. Election of Office Bearers for 2023-24
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
4. Election of Committee Members for 2023-24
 - Correspondence Secretary
 - Librarian
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Publicity Officer
 - Lorraine Taylor Research Room Manager
 - Membership 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 12 August 2023. Forms may be left in the 'nomination box' in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room or posted to 1/65 Berwick Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne Vic 3977. 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.

Vale John Elliott

We first met John in early 2015, when he was preparing an address for the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day at Narre Warren North. He thought we might be able to help with some information about the war memorial and the soldiers on it.

He became our membership officer in September that year and by the following April he was our I.T. Officer. It was John who managed our I.T. move from Narre Warren to Cranbourne and with more room, increased the number of computers available to members in the Research Room. Sadly, a combination of health issues and the drive from Narre Warren North to Cranbourne, sometimes at night, made John reluctantly hand his I.T. badge back to us.

And although John no longer had a role on the committee he was always supportive of those who did and would often offer help and advice. He only had to ask the research officer once if there was anything he could help with. We passed on family history and cemetery tour research, along with Casey Cardinia Remembers tasks and lots of other things. Anything that involved an ex-service man or woman just made John's day, being an ex-service man himself. In January 2020 we gave him an assistant research officer's email account and made him an official VIP. I think John enjoyed this role the most. He played a key part in bringing the stories of our young Lieutenant Charles George De Beauvoir Tupper and Leslie Stewart Graham to life for the newsletter with his initial research.

John became quite adept at extricating information from the people of Narre Warren North. He was instrumental in us taking into our care the Narre Warren North Red Cross minute books. He acquired photos and information regarding the plaque commemorating the 100 year anniversary of Anzac Landings at Ackland Park and digitised and indexed two of Bert Rae's personal scrapbooks containing newspaper articles featuring Bert throughout his life at Narre Warren North. And it was from this work that we got the theme for last year's 'Rae of Sunshine' award at the Volunteers' Morning Tea.

A proud Vietnam veteran (2 Squadron RAAF Phan Rang 1967-68) John often told tales of his time in the RAAF that

John elected to the committee 2016



John at one of our Sunday morning catch-ups

amused us greatly at our Sunday Morning Catch-ups. He'd lived a full life, after his time with the RAAF he'd worked as a credit officer for AGC, a field services officer for the Dept. of Social Security, a communications and ambulance officer with St John Ambulance and a radio and first aid officer for Esso at Longford before training at RMIT as a senior technical metering specialist (measuring gas flow).

John and his wife Sue were in Darwin when Cyclone Tracy hit in December 1974. He'd seen a lot of the world, either on his own while working or globe trotting with Sue. After 31 years in the oil industry he retired in 2013. But, John was not idle, he had a lot of other interests, he loved pigeon racing, playing the guitar and volunteering with the Sale Air Base Cadets and the Point Cook Air Museum. He was also part of the ground crew for Adventure Wings Australia that operated from the Tooradin Airfield. With his amateur radio licence he was an active member of a radio club and WICEN. WICEN is a network of volunteer emergency communications service organisations whose members provide emergency and safety communications for other agencies when conventional communications networks fail or are inadequate, during natural disasters.

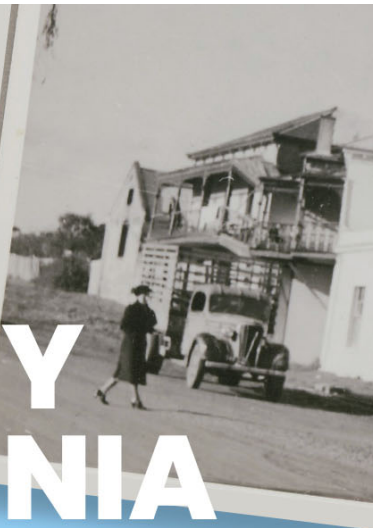
But of course, John's greatest role in life was that of husband to Sue, father to Sharyn and grandfather to Rose, Brona and Sean and our hearts go out to them.

John's help and advice, generosity of spirit and quick wit will be missed by the family history group.

Lynne Bradley



SHARED STORIES OF CASEY & CARDINIA



Join local history groups and enthusiasts in celebrating the identity of Casey and Cardinia places and people.

Pakenham Hall

Cnr John Street &
Henry St, Pakenham

Sunday 7 May

10am – 3pm

- **STALLS**
- **DISPLAYS**
- **TALKS**

This is a free event.

Visit **ccl.vic.gov.au** for more information.



Casey
Cardinia
Libraries



myli
my
community
library



AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE
FESTIVAL



**NATIONAL
TRUST**

Proposed Cranbourne Community Hub

The City of Casey will soon be inviting feedback on the proposed Cranbourne Community Hub at 1-3 Lyall Street in Cranbourne. The land is currently being used as a car park. It's thought that the new hub will cost \$40 million dollars, or thereabouts and will open in early 2027.

Identified as a priority major community infrastructure project, it's being looked on as an important part of Cranbourne's revitalisation. At this stage, it looks like having Casey's customer service centre and youth services, the Cranbourne Library, and community meeting spaces and consulting suites.

The future of the Casey Administration Building at Cranbourne (our home) is unclear at this stage. As we've been informed that we will not necessarily be going with the library when they go, our future seems unclear also.

Identified as one of the key stakeholders in this proposal we have been briefed by the City of Casey and asked to provide feedback, both positive and negative on the proposed hub and the retention of the administration building. Bear in mind that the administration building's circumstances will change with the building of the new hospital next door and

if retained, once the library leaves, new tenants will take over the space.

We now need members of the family history group, especially those local to Cranbourne to inform themselves of the details of the proposal and provide honest feedback to us so that we may in turn prepare our properly considered feedback to council by the end of May deadline. Please direct such feedback to our secretary, Eileen (secretary@nwfhg.org.au).

We would also encourage you to provide your own feedback to council through Casey Conversations where information about the project cost, funding sources, design and proposed services at the hub will be available soon (when the proposal goes live we will share the link with members).

Meanwhile, you can read more about it online either at Star News: <https://berwicknews.starcommunity.com.au/news/2023-04-21/40m-cranbourne-hub-proposed/>

or you can download the meeting agenda for the meeting on Tuesday 18 April 2023 from the City of Casey's website at: <https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/access-past-meetings-minutes-agendas>

Lynne Bradley

Ballarat Briefings

USA Soldiers in Ballarat in 2nd World War

In 1943 1200 members of the 11th US Marine Regiment were stationed in Victoria Park, Ballarat. According to Colonel Eldridge from 11th Marine Regiment, the marines were really run down, they



had malaria, dysentery, and a whole host of jungle diseases. Ballarat was a place where they could recover from their fighting in the Solomon Islands. During their nine months here in Ballarat they established very strong relationships with the local people.

Colonel Eldridge recently visited Ballarat to meet with the Mayor and other local people to celebrate this time. I know that my grandparents hosted soldiers, and I found a post card from one of the soldiers to them.

However, this was postmarked June 1942. Upon further research I discovered that several American ships were in Melbourne to unload and then reload their ships. Several hundred US troops were sent to Ballarat by train to be billeted with local families. They were here for just over two weeks.

At the time my grandparents had three sons, one daughter and one son-in-law serving in the armed forces.

Some Ballarat women married US soldiers and returned with them to the States. Sadly, not all relationships worked out and many of these women returned to Ballarat with their children.

Di Christensen



More from Ballarat area

Dr Vera Scantlebury Brown statue unveiled

Vera Scantlebury was born in Linton, Victoria in August 1889. She was educated at Toorak College and later studied medicine at Melbourne University.

After graduation in 1914 she worked at the Melbourne Hospital and later the Children's Hospital. In 1917 she relocated to England where she was attached to the Endell Street Military Hospital.

On returning to Victoria she took on several medical appointments before being appointed part time medical officer in charge of the city baby health centres in 1921. In 1926 she married Dr Edward Byam Brown.

From 1925-1946 she was Director of Infant Welfare Victoria at the Department of Health. In June 1938 she received the OBE for her work in the fields of infant and maternal welfare. She died in July 1946.

So many of us are thankful for the support and care of the infant welfare nurses who assisted us after giving birth to our children, especially after our first child.



Image: Golden Plains Shire Council Facebook page

The Linton and District Historical Society secured funding for a statue of Vera Scantlebury Brown which was unveiled in the Linton Avenue of Honour this month.

Di Christensen



*Titanic Memorial Bandstand, Sturt Street, Ballarat
Image: John T. Collins, State Library of Victoria*

The *Titanic* Memorial Bandstand, Ballarat

On 15 April 1912, the luxury liner *Titanic* hit an iceberg and eventually sank off the coast of Newfoundland. Many of the 2,224 people on board drowned. History tells us that the last song, played by the bandsmen on the *Titanic*, was 'Nearer, My God To Thee', and that people were singing this hymn as the vessel went down. Other songs were played too, including 'Abide with Me'.

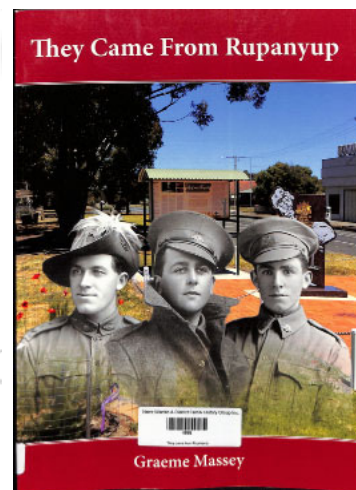
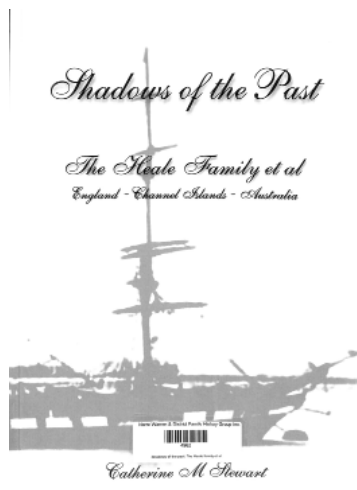
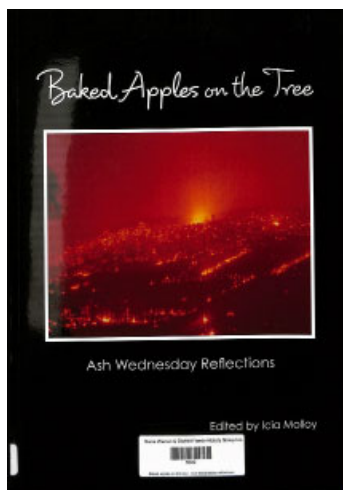
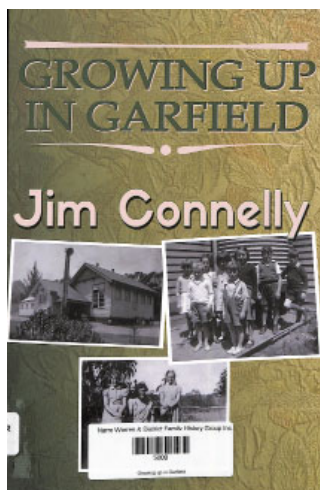
Bandsmen all over the world were shocked and horrified by this tragedy. In Ballarat, bandsmen were held in high regard and it was the home of bands at the time. It was decided to build a bandstand in memory of those who died on the *Titanic*. Bandsmen all over Australia contributed to the cost and it was opened in 1915. Thousands attended this opening.

It is in Sturt Street, directly opposite the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute Library.

On Saturday evening 15 April 2023 a ceremony took place at the bandstand, with the band playing 'Nearer, My God To Thee'. A very moving tribute in a tradition observed since the bandstand opened in 1915.

Di Christensen

New in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room



Casey Cardinia Books

- * Growing up in Garfield by Jim Connelly
- * Baked apples on the tree: Ash Wednesday reflections
- * Ash Wednesday 40th Anniversary Commemorative Event

Victorian Books

- * They came from Rupanyup by Graeme Massey
- * Inferno: The day Victoria burned by Roger Franklin

Family histories and Biographies

- * Aspro: how a family business grew up by R. Grenville Smith and Alexander Barrie
- * Shadows of the past: The Heale family et al by Catherine M Stewart

Magazines

- * Ancestor Vol 36, No 4 Dec 2022/ Vol 36, No 5 Mar 2023

- * Family Tree Issues Nov 2022, Dec 2022, Jan 2023, Feb 2023, Mar 2023
- * Genealogists' Magazine Vol 34, No 4 Dec 2022/ Vol 34, No 5 Mar 2023
- * Irish Roots No 124 Issue 4 2022/ No 125 Issue 1 2023
- * The Genealogist Summer 2022 Vol 17 No 4
- * The South Australian Genealogist Vol 50 No 1 Feb 2023
- * Tasmanian Ancestry Vol 43 No 3 2022/ Vol 43 No 4 2023
- * Traces: Uncovering the Past No 21 2023

Happy Reading

Moreyn Dimsey
Librarian

Dr W Niel Gunson (1930–2023)

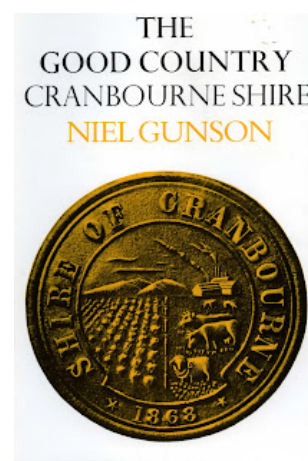
A good local history: The Good Country : Cranbourne Shire

Local historians in our area have all made use of Niel Gunson's history *The good Country: Cranbourne Shire* published in 1968, to commemorate the centenary of the Cranbourne district.

Dr W. Niel Gunson passed away in Canberra on 10 April 2023, aged 92. He was described as a "historian, eminent genealogist, bibliophile and man of letters". Niel Gunson was born at Leongatha on 12 Oct 1930, and his roots in the then Cranbourne Shire go back five generations. His grandfather was the Rev. Daniel Gunson, who, according to a review of 'The Good Country' conducted the first regular church services in the Lang Lang-Yannathan district in 1880. Niel Gunson is connected to families from Lyndhurst, Cranbourne and Eumemmering. Dr Niel Gunson was a Honorary Associate Professor of Pacific History at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. He was laid to rest in the Lang Lang Cemetery. A memorial service will be held in Canberra at a later date.

Sources:

The Canberra Times (ACT), 17 August 1968 by Marjory O'Dea, *Herald Sun MyTributes* 15 April 2023



Lorraine Taylor Research Room Roster

Tuesdays and Saturdays 11 am–2 pm

Please find a replacement yourself if you cannot do duty.

June 2023			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
		3	Jane Rivett-Carnac Barbara Sharp
6	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin	10	Lynne Bradley Robyn Jones
13	Barbara Sharp Maureen Abbott	17	Lynne Bradley Robyn Jones
20	Moreyn Dimsey Jane Rivett-Carnac	24	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin
27	Jane Rivett-Carnac Moreyn Dimsey		

July 2023			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
		1	Barbara Sharp Robyn Jones
4	Barbara Sharp Eileen Durdin	8	Barbara Sharp Lynne Bradley
11	Jane Rivett-Carnac Maureen Abbott	15	Robyn Jones TBA
18	Eileen Durdin	22	Eileen Durdin Lynne Bradley
25	Moreyn Dimsey Barbara Sharp	29	Jane Rivett-Carnac Barbara Sharp

August 2023			
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11 am–2 pm</i>
1	Jane Rivett-Carnac Eileen Durdin	5	Lynne Bradley Eileen Durdin
8	Barbara Sharp Maureen Abbott	12	Barbara Sharp Jane Rivett-Carnac
15	Maureen Abbott Barbara Sharp	19	Robyn Jones TBA
22	Jane Rivett-Carnac	26	Eileen Durdin Barbara Sharp
29	Barbara Sharp		

Volunteers needed

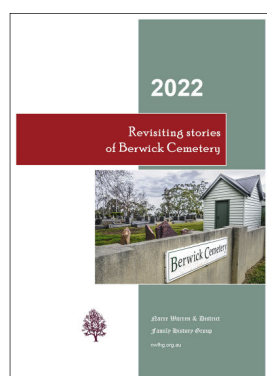
I am looking for volunteers in the Lorraine Taylor Research Room. The times would be once a month on a Tuesday or a Saturday from 11 am – 2 pm.

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

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

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

Publications for sale



Revisiting stories of Berwick Cemetery (2022)

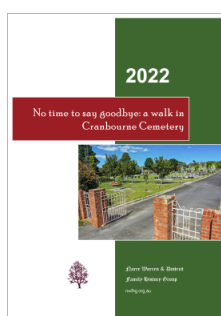
Our latest book re-visits fifteen graves at Berwick Cemetery to find out more about the people buried here. They include the families of a publican, a doctor, a policeman and many other pioneers. Some died in tragic circumstances, others after long and fulfilled lives.

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling

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

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

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling

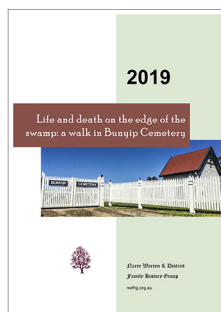


Life and death on the edge of the swamp: a walk in Bunyip Cemetery (2019)

The official burial register of Bunyip Cemetery didn't begin until 1894 when six-year-old William Henry Barnes was buried. Nineteen of the first twenty recorded burials were of children. We believe the first actual burial to take place here was of Henry Manley in August 1886 – his story is featured in this book.

Thirty-one more stories of life and death on the swamp are also told in the book. Elisha Grose, winner of the second Stawell Gift is buried here in an unmarked grave, as is Mary Clifford, a poor deserted child of fourteen years of age who met a cruel and untimely death.

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling



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

Abounds with people who needed to grow crops or nurture their livestock to be able to eat, neighbours who no longer remained strangers, faces who became familiar at church or school or the general store or railway station.

Our volunteers researched and wrote the stories of families that travelled thousands of miles to a country on the other side of the world. A country with people who didn't necessarily speak the same language or held the same beliefs.

\$20 + \$9.55 postage + handling

World War 1 walk cemetery books

Peace at last: a World War 1 walk in Lang Lang Cemetery (2018)

Stories of 98 soldiers from the Lang Lang district and the 48 families who waved goodbye to them and prayed for their safe return.

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

We tell the stories of courage and sacrifice of 111 men and one woman with Cranbourne area connections.

For some the bell tolled: a World War 1 Walk in Harkaway Cemetery (plus Harkaway Avenue of Honour) (2017)

This book contains the stories of 36 families of Harkaway who watched, waited and pined for the 66 men and 2 women who enlisted and tried to make it safely back to home. Ten did not return.

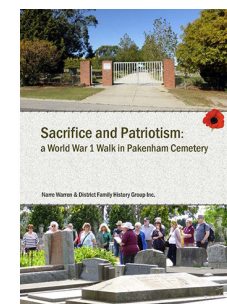
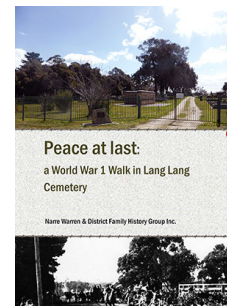
Sacrifice and Patriotism: a World War 1 Walk in Pakenham Cemetery (2016)

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

100 men, 100 years: a World War 1 Walk in Berwick Cemetery (2015)

Our stories embrace 100 men from over 70 families – all linked to Berwick Cemetery and the community it served.

Each book \$25 + \$12.95 postage + handling



Cemetery Tour booklets

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

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

Add \$9.55 for postage + handling.

Other books

Kindred Spirits. NW&DFHG 1989 – 2009

\$25 + \$12.95 postage + handling

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

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