

Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Incorporated 1992

ABN 15 397 153 919

Inc. No. A0023666M

ISSN 1445 - 2162

A Member of:

Genealogical Society of Vic - South Eastern Historical Assoc Inc - Vic Assoc of Family History Organisations

AFFHO - Royal Historical Society of Victoria - CCLHRG

War comes to Australia, 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin 19 Feb 2012

Issue 92 May 2012

For many years I had discussed taking my Mum to Darwin so we could see where my Dad had been stationed during the Second World War. Sadly this trip was never taken. Last year I saw an article about a tour to Darwin that would coincide with the 70th Anniversary of the bombing. Maybe I was feeling a little guilt that I had not done the trip with Mum but I showed the itinerary to my sister and she said "what's stopping us? Let's go".

The tour was organised by Unlock the Past, Matt McLachlan Battlefield Tours and Clean Cruising. Six days including seminars and visits to most of the World War II sites in Darwin and Adelaide River. The tour finished with the Commemorative Service on Sunday the 19 February.

We were kept up to date via a website that was also linked to the Frontline Australia site, so we had time to find out about all the events that had been organised by the City of Darwin and the Northern Territory Government. This included the welcome announcement that after many years of lobbying the 19 February has finally been acknowledged as a National Day of Observance, and about time.

We arrived in Darwin at 4am on the Friday morning booked into our hotel and after a couple of hours sleep, with map in hand went to the City of Darwin Library Theatre. We spent a couple of hours watching wonderful archival movies of early Darwin, interviews with Diggers and survivors of the air raids plus footage of the raids and rebuilding. Next door in the Civic Centre was a fascinating photographic exhibition "The Community Lens" - a collection of images from personal collections of those in Darwin and the region during WWII. Walking back to our hotel we found a book shop that had a number of books covering the war years and both of us promptly got a copy of each book.

The tour officially started Friday night with a welcome dinner, then Brad Manera gave his first presentation "An overview of Australia's role in Europe and the Pacific". Brad from Battlefield Tours was on hand all the time, as our travelling historian. Be it a chat at breakfast, on the bus, or at a site, he could answer a question or talk on a myriad of military topics and points of history not just the bombing of Darwin. He is a veritable encyclopaedia, charming and easy on the eye. Gould Genealogy had also set up a table with books for sale relating to family history and military history but more importantly it was time to meet our travelling companions.

What a fantastic group; Arthur and his wife Audrey from Queensland, Arthur was 92 and had been in Darwin during the air raids; 'the golden girls' a group of war widows from Oakleigh all in their 80s full of fun and nothing was going to stop them being in everything, not the weather, or steps on a four wheel drive bus, the 'girls' didn't miss a thing. Peter from Adelaide and his two daughters, he was a child at school in 1941 evacuated with his family he returned after the war before moving to Adelaide and he had wonderful memories that he shared with us. Ray from Portland, Estelle and Charlie from Brisbane, Laurie from Sydney, and an archivist, a teacher or two, military buffs, and people eager to understand and trace a father's or grandfather's time in Darwin during the war years. 60 of us with two bus drivers, Max and Neville (known as Dave for the duration because none of us thought he looked like a Neville), Karen our tour manager, Shauna Hicks and Rosemary Kopittke travelled with us and gave talks on researching family and military history. We shared stories we laughed, cried and explored the many sites of the 64 air raids on Darwin.

General Meetings:

May 9th @ 8 pm
Guest Speaker - Ruth Crofts (Pages from the Past)

June 9th @ 2 pm
In-house meeting demonstrating our Website + our popular resources.

July 14th @ 2 pm
Guest Speaker Professor Janet McCalman (Founders & Survivors Project) AGM

Contents:

Committee Members	2
War comes to Australia continued	3
Nomination & Election	4
Research Room News	5
Member Profile	6
Sausage Sizzle Report	6
Research Room roster	7
Headstone Thief a Grave Mistake	8
News from the web	10
Rookwood Cemetery	10
Members Interests	11
Customised Heritage Tours	11



Above Adelaide River Ceme-

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc

P.O. Box 149, Narre Warren Vic 3805

<http://www.nwfhg.org.au/> Email: president@nwfhg.org.au Phone: (03) 5995 5957

Committee Members

President	Wendy Goodwin	president@nwfhg.org.au
Vice President	Rex McFarlane	vice.president@nwfhg.org.au
Treasurer	Jenny Hayes	treasurer@nwfhg.org.au
Minute Secretary	Eileen Durdin	minutes.secretary@nwfhg.org.au
Correspondence Secretary	Fay McCoubrie	correspondence@nwfhg.org.au
IT Officer	Paul Stevenson	it.officer@nwfhg.org.au
Librarian	Jane Rivett-Carnac	librarian@nwfhg.org.au
Membership Officer	Wendy Brock	membership.officer@nwfhg.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Lynne McGregor	newsletter.editor@nwfhg.org.au
Publicity Officer	Lynne Bradley	publicity.officer@nwfhg.org.au
Research Room Manager	Wendy Eldridge	research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au

Family History Research Room

Location:

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

Meetings: Narre Warren Library Meeting Room. Entry Cost \$3.00

November - May: 8 pm 2nd Wednesday of the month (except January). June - October: 2 pm 2nd Saturday of the month.

Membership: Single \$30 + \$5 joining fee, Joint \$ 45 + \$5 joining fee. Payable 1st July each year. Casual visitors \$5.00 per day. We have a large collection of books, maps and microfiche available to our members and visitors.

Opening Hours for Research: Tuesday 11am to 3pm, Thursday 7pm to 9pm (From November to May), Saturday 11 am to 3pm, Sunday 2pm to 4pm (From June to October).

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 \$15.00 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above 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.

There was so much to see and do. A talk was arranged for our tour group by Dr Tom Lewis. There were many free events provided by the people of Darwin and the Northern Territory it was impossible to fit it all in just six days. One event we missed was a talk by Peter Gross and a screening of the documentary of his book "An Awkward Truth".

Some of the highlights were Christ Church Cathedral which was hit by a bomb in the first raid repaired then destroyed again by Cyclone Tracy; the sandstone facade of the original building has been retained at the entrance to the new Cathedral and has a number of plaques and memorials to pioneers, fishermen, military and civilians. Stokes Hill, Fort Hill Wharf area and the underground oil storage tunnels; inside one of the tunnels is an excellent permanent photographic exhibition covering Army, Navy and Air force life in Darwin during WWII.

The Charles Darwin Reserve has many storage bunkers, with more photographs, displays and doors with bullet holes, plus a wonderful view of Darwin and the harbour. Time at the Darwin Museum was well spent and here we could experience the sounds of Cyclone Tracy, well worth the visit for this frightening sound show. After supper a sunset cruise of the harbour with excellent commentary on the naval aspects of 1942 and glimpses of our modern naval defence.

Government House free open day, East Point Military Museum and the new Defence of Darwin exhibit. Not giving anything away but if you don't go and see this wonderful new exhibit you're missing a truly amazing sound and visual experience. The exhibit is a wonderful collection of army artillery equipment, photographs and personal stories in original 1942 buildings. I have a photo of my Dad standing in front of one of the guns that he was in charge of installing. The Aviation Museum is a place that needs a few hours to see all the many displays. The B52 Bomber that dwarfs all the other planes around it and hundreds more photographs. The Northern Territory Library had a wonderful display, and a roll of honour with biographies. This can be viewed on line at www.ntfl.nt.gov.au with links to more information and photographs on Darwin and the war years, talks and film presentations.

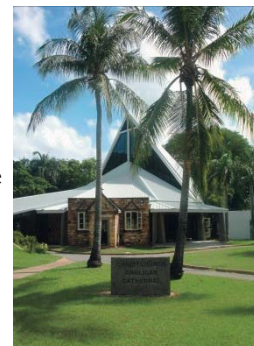
I have been to the library before and it has an excellent newspaper collection and extensive resources on all aspects of Darwin and the Territory history. The Darwin RSL has an excellent military library that you can research in with prior arrangement, further along the street is the Genealogical Society of Northern Territory rooms located in the Northern Territory archives building which is very handy. On our day to Adelaide River with its beautifully maintained war cemetery, Brad conducted a short service and our group laid a wreath in remembrance. We all had a poppy to place on a grave of our choice. We paid a visit to the railway museum with its important connections to the war effort moving men and equipment to defend the north. More photographs and displays in this permanent exhibition. Snake Creek munitions laboratory and explosives dump was an eye-opener, there were many airstrips along the highway including Coomalie airfield and Straus airstrip. All these experiences added to our appreciation of why we were in Darwin.

All those involved in the 70th Commemorative Service should be proud of the respectful way they commemorated the men and women who defended Darwin and Australia 70 years ago. As we sat under the shade of huge marquees, with fans, water and ear plugs, quietly waiting for the sound of an air raid siren and the approaching planes, who could complain of heat and humidity, when you looked at the proud stance of more than 400 servicemen and women. Straight backed, proudly wearing medals and so excited to be sharing memories with old mates or younger curious generations.

The noise of the air-raid siren, planes, with guns firing, coupled with smoke and heat it was but a small replication of the experience that assailed my Dad and the boys of the 14th Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery on the oval that morning in 1942. There was no time to be scared just do your job. That the service was televised live around Australia was a bonus for the many unable to make the trip north. Could there have been anything better then being here 70 years later in **the** place at that time? Yes. After the service, I wanted to show my sister the marker where the number one gun was. I had trouble finding it so we went around the side of a tent and there was a man standing next to the marker having his photo taken. My sister is not shy "Excuse me, why are you standing here?" she asked. Next thing five adults are embracing and brushing away tears. Peter had travelled from Perth to remember his father Tom Hill and we just had to show him a photo with his Dad and our Dad standing together on the oval. The odds of us finding Peter and having that photo with us are a million to one. I'm not buying a ticket in tatts because that experience was the winner. So I would just like to say, when you get the chance to walk in the footsteps of an ancestor grab it with both hands. Take along a small photo album with anything connected to the person or place as you just never know what or who will turn up around the corner of a tent.



Above Dad directing the boys



Above Christ Church



Above Our Poppies



Above Ron Baker and Tom Hill



Above Robyn and Peter Hill

Nomination and Election procedures at the AGM

Every organisation takes a step back now and then and reviews the way it does things. Our Group is no exception; over the past 12 months the committee have taken a second look at a few things in the Constitution and decided to conduct our election of office bearers at the AGM more in accordance with Clause 23, Points 1 to 6 which state: **23. Election of officers and ordinary committee members.**

(1) Nominations of candidates for election of officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the committee must be-

(a) made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and

(b) delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.

(2) A candidate may only be nominated for one office, or as an ordinary member of the committee, prior to the annual general meeting.

(3) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations may be received at the annual general meeting.

(4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.

(5) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held.

(6) The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary members of the committee must be conducted at the annual general meeting in such manner as the committee may direct.

As our Annual General Meeting is coming up soon we thought we would run members through the process of nominations and elections of office bearers.

If you are a financial member you can nominate for any position by lodging a nomination form with our Secretary, Eileen Durdin before **7 July 2012**. There is a nomination form in this newsletter and additional forms are available in the Research Room.

If only one nomination is received for a position then that person will be deemed to be elected at the AGM without nominations being called for from the floor. The only time nominations will be called for from the floor is in the event that **no** nomination has been received prior to the AGM for that position. If more than one nomination is received for any position then an election will take place and no nominations will be called for from the floor. The Chairperson will ask all financial members to vote in a secret ballot and the nominee with the most votes will be declared elected to the position.

We do have positions vacant; at the time of writing we know we are looking for a President, Membership Officer and Publicity Officer and we would like to encourage members to join us and become a part of a very active and friendly committee. Please think about it, if you have any questions, any member of the current committee would welcome the opportunity to answer them.

Your 2011-2012 Committee

Publications for Sale Microfiche

Berwick Cemetery Register and Headstones 1867—1999.
\$22.00 + Postage & Packaging

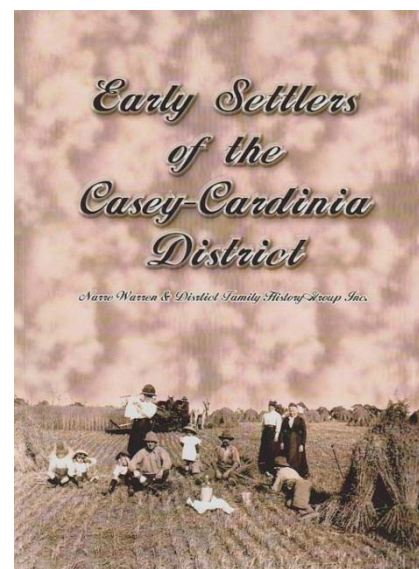
Harkaway Cemetery Register and Headstones 1863—1999.
\$6.00 + Postage & Packaging

Pakenham Cemetery Register and Headstones 1850—1999
\$22.00 + 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. \$25.00 + \$6.00 (Postage + Packaging)

Early Settlers of the Casey-Cardinia District \$30.00 + \$11.50 (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.

Research Room News

Hello fellow Genies,

What a busy couple of months since my last report, the purchasing committee have been hard at work and the new English resources have started to arrive. There is a list beside the computers of what has recently been added. I find it is exciting reading and updating our InMagic program as I had forgotten the details of what we had ordered in the last few months. Hopefully there will be something new for everyone.

A little housekeeping, as the winter months approach please when you are borrowing or returning items to the room put them in a plastic bag if it's raining. When you're reading our books at home please remember to have them on a clean dry surface and remember the rule - no drinks or food. Accidents do happen so please tell a volunteer when you return something if it has been damaged so we can take steps to repair or replace the item.

A big thank you to Paul for his three hours of frustration while he fixed my computer at home, I must admit I was heading for a melt down and major headache, I was 7 weeks without a computer then when I got it back InMagic wouldn't work. Paul saved my sanity as I was getting behind with the cataloguing. I'm visiting 'the Old Dart' in May and I was getting desperate to get everything up to date and on the shelves in our room.

While I'm travelling through Normandy, England, Ireland and Scotland I will be making notes to share with everyone when I return.

Happy Reading,

Jane Rivett-Carnac

New to the Research Room

Books

From Lone Pine to Murray Pine

Donated G Bain

Life in Old Van Diemen's Land

Exiles and Emigrants

Donated D Gething

Report into Colony of New South Wales

Old Parish Churches of North Wales

Old Parish Churches of Mid Wales

Old Parish Churches of South West Wales

Old Parish Churches of Herefordshire

Casey Cardinia Books

Snow View. Christ Church Berwick. St James Dandenong 1864-1989 **Purchased for the group**

CDs

Bullockies, Draymen & Horsemen of Early Geelong Vol 1 1837-1859 **Donated L Bradley**

Berwick Township 1851-1955 (DVD)

Victoria Early Church records BDMs 1836-1853

Bendigo Voters Roll 1896-1914

NSW Monumental Inscriptions Goulburn

Picturesque Atlas of Australia

England Somerset Phillimore Parish Register Marriages Vol 1-15

England Cumberland Phillimore Parish Register Marriages Vol 1-2

England St Mary Whitechapel Baptism Register 1758-1774 Vol 57

England Sussex Cemetery Transcriptions & Monumental Inscriptions Bexhill etc.

England Sussex Poor Qtr Sessions 1661-1800. England Sussex Poor 2 Qtr Sessions 1801-1850

England East Sussex Settlement Certificates & Bonds 1681-1834 & Parish Apprentices 1575-1837

England West Sussex Settlement Certificates & Bonds 1658-1853

England Sussex Monumental Inscriptions 27 Mid Sussex graveyards & War Memorials

England Criminal Register Index TNA PRO H027 1805-1816 (set of 11)

Member Profile

Name	Wendy May Goodwin
Place of Birth	Hobart, Tasmania
Siblings	7 Brothers, 3 Sisters
Education	Warrane High School
Profession	Cleaner
Married	Single
Length of time in district	13 years
Hobbies	Family History Research, Reading
Names researching	Goodwin, McCormick, Erwin, Pinner, Paul, Henderson, McLean (Father's side), O'Connor, Barker (Mother's side)
Reason for starting	To find my Mother's Father
How long research-	Since 2000
Most interesting find	William Goodwin: Convict in Tasmania 1842 (Great, Great Grandfather)

Spreading Branches Deadline

The deadline for the August 2012 edition of Spreading Branches is July 15.

News from VAFHO

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST

Monday 30 July at State Library of Victoria

SLV-Picture Collection and how to use in your family history.

PROV, NAA, BDM registry and Don Grant lecture- will be given by Prof. Janet McCalman

Topic "Family Secrets: Vandemonians in Victoria"

The Founders and Survivors project is reconstructing the life courses of the convicts and their families.

Bookings open in June on the PROV website.

Most notes will be given to all attendees on a USB stick.

VAFHO CONFERENCE-BALLARAT

In conjunction with the Ballarat Organisation Victorian Interpretive Projects Inc.

This will be a fantastic weekend.

Dates: Friday 3rd, Sat. 4th and Sun 5th May, 2013

Venue -Aquinas Catholic University, Mair Street, Ballarat. Topics and speakers are being finalised.

Theme -Under the Southern Cross-A Goldfields Experience. This leads into the Ballarat Heritage Festival the following weekend.

It is hoped that many research and other facilities will be open during the week, and some on Friday.

Evening tours of Ballarat cemeteries are being organised. Email-ballaratstar@gmail.com More information coming soon, a website is being set up.

NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY WEEK

Dates are 27 July to 5 August 2012.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE REPORT

Our Sizzle on Saturday the 18 February was a fantastic effort, once again. After expenses, we raised **\$1,424.60** profit. WELL DONE!!

The weather was kind to us on the day, although we did have a couple of little problems. We had to close down for the fire brigade who turned up twice to Bunnings "false alarms" and they didn't even stop to buy any of our yummy snags!

But it was a good day over all, and I hope you all went home feeling happy with yourselves and with your involvement within the Group. And what involvement!

We had at least 24 people who volunteered to help. That includes the helpers who cut onions and bagged sausages on the Friday.

I usually name all of our volunteers in the Newsletter, but this time there were just too many and as the Sausage Sizzle Co-Coordinator that is a very good feeling. Also to the people who all pulled together to make sure there was enough people to do duty in the research room on that day. Thank-you so much from me, and the Group, it says a lot about you and our Group.

Before I finish I would like to say a special thank-you to Anne and John, Wendy B and Jenny our delightful spruiker.

There will not be another sizzle till next year so keep happy and healthy.

Shirley Peterson, Sausage Sizzle Co-Coordinator

Research Room Roster

Tuesday June 2012		Saturday		Sunday	
		2	Wendy Brock Judy Mehegan Leone Hambly-Clarke	3	Valma Newson Claire Stephenson
5	Fay McCoubrie Gwen Leighton	9	Shirley Peterson Wendy Goodwin	10	Donald Connop Lyne McGregor
12	Lynne Bradley Lina Butler Rona Gibson	16	Val Holland Robyn Jones	17	Eileen Durdin Val Bennett
19	Val Bennett Greta Bain	23	Steven Smith Wendy Eldridge	24	Di Christensen Jane Rivett-Carnac
26	Bev Lambie Brenda Wheeler	30	Wendy Goodwin Robyn Jones		
Tuesday July 2012		Saturday		Sunday	
				1	Lyne McGregor Eileen Durdin
3	Fay McCoubrie Joyce Masters	7	Wendy Brock Judy Mehegan	8	Jane Rivett-Carnac Valma Newson
10	Mary McGrath Greta Bain	14	Robyn Jones Steven Smith	15	Di Christensen Lynne Bradley
17	Val Bennett Maureen Stagg	21	Shirley Peterson Val Holland	22	Donald Connop Claire Stephenson
24	Bev Lambie Rona Gibson	28	Wendy Eldridge Leone Hambly-Clarke	29	Lyne McGregor Wendy Eldridge
31	Lynne Bradley Anne Blair				
Tuesday Aug 2012		Saturday		Sunday	
		4	Val Holland Judy Mehegan	5	Valma Newson Claire Stephenson
7	Fay McCoubrie Gwen Leighton	11	Wendy Brock Anne Blair	12	Jane Rivett-Carnac Donald Connop
14	Lynne Bradley Bev Lambie	18	Robyn Jones Leone Hambly-Clarke	19	Di Christensen Eileen Durdin
21	Mary McGrath Brenda Wheeler	25	Shirley Peterson Steven Smith	26	Lyne McGregor Wendy Eldridge
28	Val Bennett Greta Bain Maureen Stagg				

Headstone Theft a Grave Mistake!

My husband, Mark, and I have lived in Garfield for seven years, but my family have lived in Gippsland for generations. I know this because my father, Rex Motton, is an avid genealogist and takes great pleasure in tracing the twisting branches of our extended family tree.

One of those branches ended up in the Whroo cemetery where a headstone was set in place on the grave of my great-great-granduncle in 1870.

One would hope that once a headstone was erected you could reasonably expect it to stay put. Henry Motton's headstone managed to stay in situ at the Whroo cemetery, near Rushworth, for 138 years, but then in 2008 it vanished.

The Whroo Cemetery Trust reported the theft to the local police and hoped that, despite the lack of evidence or leads, the headstone would some day be returned.

Whroo was one of Victoria's old gold mining towns and is now an historic reserve located in the Rushworth State Forest. The old town has long gone, but the cemetery remains as a link to Victoria's gold history and the hopes and dreams of thousands of miners who came to find fortune on the goldfields.

One of those hopefuls was my great-great-granduncle, Henry Motton. He was a young man of 33 with a young wife when he and his partner, Charles Bland, met with a tragic mining accident. On the 21st of May, 1870, Henry and Charles were sinking a shaft at Coy's Diggings when the staging over their shaft broke away and plunged the pair 150 feet to their untimely deaths.

It seems that the pair was well liked because the Waranga Chronicle wrote at the time that they 'were well known and esteemed by all'. A subscription was raised for the widows by the community and a lovely marble headstone was installed on Henry's grave with the inscription, 'Sacred to the memory of Henry Motton who was killed at Coy's Diggings, May 21st 1870, aged 33 years.' And there it stayed for 138 years.

Fast forward to July 2011 when I received an email from my mother with an attachment showing an item for sale on eBay..... Henry's headstone, with only two hours to go before the close of sale.

Feeling appalled, angry and frantic my husband, Mark, and I decided to phone triple zero and report the business to police. The ensuing conversation was a little bizarre and went something like this.

Police: 'What is the nature of the crime you wish to report?'

Me: 'It's a theft. Theft of a headstone.'

Police: 'A headstone?'

Me: 'Yes. From the Whroo Cemetery.'

Police: 'Where's that?'

Me: 'Near Rushworth'.

Police: 'So, you're at Rushworth?'

Me; 'No, I'm at Garfield.'

Police: 'So, who owns the headstone?'

Me: 'I don't know. The cemetery trust I suppose.'

Police: 'No, I mean whose headstone is it?'

Me: 'Oh, it's my great-great-granduncle's, Henry Motton.'

Police: 'When did he die?'

Me: 'About 140 years ago.'

There was a loud silence from the other end.

Fortunately, the police didn't hang up on me but suggested I contact the seller and ask for the headstone to be withdrawn from sale on the grounds that it was a stolen item.

Unfortunately, our request was ignored and we were fobbed off with a story about no-one being able to prove any sort of relation to the deceased and so the sale continued to count down. The time was rapidly ticking away. We only had an hour to go before the sale closed.

Now we were feeling, not only unbridled panic, but stinging insult as well and so we called the Rushworth police, seeing that they were the local police force for the Whroo area.

Happily, Leading Senior Constable Colin McEwan took our call at Rushworth and was eager to hear that the missing headstone, which had been on his wanted list since 2008, had finally surfaced.

'Excellent', he said. 'Find someone to bid for it.'

It's a wonderful thing to have an extended family tree and know that you can phone one of those long-lost cousins and ask a huge favour without them thinking that you could be a hoaxter.

With half an hour to go we rang cousin Garth and asked him if he wouldn't mind putting a thousand dollars down on a tombstone on eBay. It sounded like a reasonable request at the time and I have to say that, thinking back, it was a great leap of faith on Garth's behalf and hugely trusting of him to say, 'Yeah. No worries.'

Now we had less than half an hour to go. We were watching the bids on eBay. Narre Warren police were watching. Rushworth police were watching. Mum and Dad were watching, but who would win? The tension was excruciating.

The bidding went from \$130 to \$200 then shot up to \$999, then \$1000, then \$1001. The sale ended, but Garth had won!

We were so relieved, but we didn't know if the headstone was even still in existence, or whether the sellers had put a sledgehammer through it, or tossed it in a river. For all we knew it could have been destroyed and gone forever.

And so began the cat and mouse art of negotiating the collection. We needed to know where the headstone was and if we could pay cash on delivery. Our sellers would have preferred to have payment on line. We preferred cash. Could we pick it up on Sunday?

Who were these people? Where were they? Why had they stolen Uncle Henry's headstone? What were they going to do with it?

That's where the capable hands of the Rushworth and Echuca police came in, joining forces to locate our family relic. With a dash of bravado and cloak-and-dagger the police located the headstone in someone's back shed in Echuca. It was slightly damaged, but, nonetheless, Henry's tombstone.

Why was it stolen? Apparently it was going to be used as a garden ornament.

So where is the headstone now? I believe it's in the Rushworth police lock-up where it will remain as 'Exhibit A' until such time as the two accused are brought to justice. Hopefully, reparation will be made and Henry Motton's headstone will soon be back where it belongs, on his grave in the Whroo cemetery.

Lesley Motton (As published in the Garfield Spectator Issue 18, September, 2011)

Stay Tuned for the next issue of Spreading Branches. This story has an interesting update! Ed



Left: Rex and Topsy Motton, Nicola Thompson and Leading Senior Constable Colin McEwan

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

Annual General Meeting

2 pm, Saturday 14 July 2012

The Meeting Room, Narre Warren
Library

Overland Drive, Narre Warren

Agenda

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 2011 AGM

2. The reading and acceptance of the Committee Reports

3. Election of Office Bearers for 2012-2013.

- President
- Vice President
- Minute Secretary
- Correspondence Secretary
- Treasurer

4. Election of Committee Members for 2012-2013.

- Librarian
- Newsletter Editor
- Publicity Officer
- Research Room Manager
- Membership Officer
- IT Officer

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

Membership Renewal Forms and Proxy Forms are available in this edition of Spreading Branches.

Nominations in writing to the Correspondence Secretary (see *contact details page 2*) or may be left in the specially designated box in the Research Room. Nomination forms are available in this edition of Spreading Branches.

**Please note that only financial members may vote at the AGM. Membership fees are due 1st July. Please arrive by 1.30 p.m. if you wish to pay your membership fees on the day.*

News from the Web

1. This brief is to announce the launch of GenoCharts, a home based business in Sydney that specialises in the drafting of customised family trees. GenoCharts operates as an obligation free service so there are no financial risks for our clients. We use a number of software applications to draft, embellish and maintain Family Trees that require more customisation than can be achieved by the basic drafting features of contemporary genealogical software applications. We also build GEDCOM files from data supplied by our clients. Please visit www.genocharts.com for more information.
2. Have a look at www.howffcemetry.info/index1.htm - This is the main cemetery for Dundee Scotland and it's free.

**Mention the
Narre Warren & District
Family History Group
and Cartridge World will
donate **5% of your printer
cartridge refill purchase
back to your group****



Cartridge World

Cartridge World Narre Warren
Shop 11/3 Webb Street (Next to Valley Fair Bakery)
Phone: 03 9704 5955

Rookwood Cemetery

My great, great, great grandmother Ann Lomas, formerly Coleman nee Collins died February 26 1880 in Ultimo, New South Wales and was buried the following day in grave 266, Row 9, Section AA in the Church of England area at Rookwood Cemetery. I had been told many years ago, by a now deceased, distant relative that Ann had a headstone on her grave.

While I was in Sydney in February last year I visited Rookwood and came away very disappointed.



The lady in the office had told me it wouldn't be too hard to find the grave as there are only 430 graves in that section. Well, it was absolutely impossible to find, due to the fact that most of that area was covered in 2 metre high thick bamboo. The office lady also told me that the records show the deceased is named Ruth Lomas and she is buried with 6 week old William Bowen who died in 1888, so I need to do some further research now.

Fast forward 12 months and I was going to Sydney again. One month before I went I phoned Rookwood Cemetery to find out if they could tell me if the area I needed to go to had been cleaned up since I was last there, and if not, could it please be attended to by my arrival date. The answer was no it hadn't, and yes it will be. I was ecstatic, but decided not to hold my breath just in case I was disappointed once again. As you can see in my photo, the bamboo was removed, but only from my grave and one either side of it and the pathway leading in, but nowhere else. But I didn't care; I got to see the final resting place and headstone of my great, great, great granny.

Jenny Hayes

NW&DFHG Members' Interests

Many members of the family history group had good results from the Members' Interest List on the old website, including me. A Members' Interest list is where members list their research interests and we post them on our website for others to see. We've got a new Members' Interests list blossoming on the new website and we're encouraging every member to have a go at filling out a form and getting some people that you're researching up there for all to see. This time we're offering you the option of having your own email address listed so that people can contact you directly or they can come through us if you'd prefer to remain anonymous. If you're feeling really adventurous we're also offering you the opportunity to submit 200 words or less on individuals or families, we've got one example so far, William Craig on the Cs page. So please, have a look, download a form and join in. If you download the form as a Word doc. you can type your entries in the form, save a copy for your records and email a copy to me to post on the website. If you run into problems please let me know.

<http://nwfhg.org.au/membership/members-interests/>

There's another side to the Members' Interest Lists that's extremely useful to the little band of committee members that meet on a regular basis to come up with cunning plans to spend your money and get the most useful resources for the Research Room for the most people that we can. At the moment we're flying blind but if we knew where members were researching and in what time frames we might just be able to tailor shopping lists to those interests – so there's another reason to fill in a form and keep your details and interests current – you'd be helping us to help you! While we're on the subject of purchases I'd like to mention the purchasing group – Paul, Jane, Eileen, Fay, Wendy G, Lyne and myself. It takes time to research what's available, compile lists and then get together to debate the merits of each item on the lists, compile orders, check that we've got everything and then process the goodies. We were extremely lucky with the Archive CD UK & Ireland St. Patrick's Day book sale where we secured 65 new CDs for the Research Room at half price!

Because My Connected Community at Vicnet is winding down in June we have transferred our newsletters to our website. So, if you're looking for an issue – look there first. We've got issues 59 to 91 (the latest) up at the moment. <http://nwfhg.org.au/publications/spreading-branches/>

Lynne Bradley

Customised Heritage Tours Latest News!

Customised Heritage Tours is planning a trip to the "Who Do You Think You Are?" Live Event in London next February. This is now the biggest family history event in the world and you have the chance to attend! "Whether you're new to tracing your family tree or a seasoned researcher, it's packed with industry-leading genealogy experts, informative workshops and celebrities from the TV show to help with your own family history quest." *For more information on the event, have a look at their website. Caitlin from the event tells me that they are planning on putting up the 2012 video of the show very soon, so keep an eye out for that, too. *Who Do You Think You Are? Live

Combined with research at some of London's top research facilities such as The National Archives, London Metropolitan Archives and The Guildhall, it will be a great opportunity for you to further your research amongst many experts that we normally can't get access to, especially in Australia.

Proposed dates are: leaving from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane on Tuesday 19th February and returning home on Thursday 28th February 2013. The price is approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 per person depending on numbers and includes the following:

Return Economy class airfares Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane to London. All transfers. Accommodation (shared) for 8 nights in London and including breakfast. Single accommodation is also available at an extra cost. Entry for full 3 days of "WDYTYA?" Live event, Welcome dinner, West End show and dinner, Fully Escorted by experienced and friendly tour manager, Oyster card for easy travel around London, Sightseeing tour of London much much more.

At the moment I am calling for registrations of interest to gauge the potential level of interest. So if the idea of safely travelling in a small group with like-minded people with everything organised for you appeals, please fill in the registration form on my website or contact me by email or phone. To register your interest, please click here:

<http://www.customisedheritagetours.com/Registration-of-Interest.html>

There is absolutely no obligation by letting me know you are interested, it just means that I will keep you informed of any updates and you will get first priority when bookings are open, remember that all Customised Heritage Tours trips are limited in numbers.

Liz Doyle

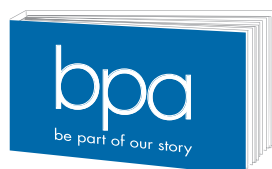
DISCLAIMER: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.



Daunted by the prospect of publishing your family history? Don't be, talk to BPA.

For over 100 years we have been working with publishers of all sizes producing award winning books. In fact in 2011, BPA was awarded the "Australian Printed Book of the Year" by the Galley Club of Sydney.

Full self publishing service.
Contact Stuart Anderson now on
0409 612 610 or sanderson@bpaprintgroup.com.au



BPA PRINT GROUP PTY LTD

Tel: +61 3 9808 6622

Email: bpa@bpaprintgroup.com.au

Web: www.bpaprintgroup.com.au