

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 22 – January-February 2016

Location: Ground floor – Two storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery, Cnr. Gipps and Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo.

Opening hours: Tuesday 1.00-4pm, Thursday 2.00-6.00pm, Friday 10.00-1.00pm, Saturday 10.00-4.00pm

Society webpage: www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Society email: info@dubbofamilyhistory.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 868, Dubbo. 2830 NSW

Society phone no: 02 6881 8635

Management Committee

Cynthia Foley	68840500	cafoley@bigpond.com	President
Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil@clearmail.com.au	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	johnnkathy7@bigpond.com	
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	

Management Committee Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10am in DDFHS Library. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, or simply contact any of the committee listed above if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting. Our next meeting will be the 11th February 2016. As advised in our last newsletter, committee member Carol Korn and her husband have moved from Dubbo. We were fortunate however to have member Lyn Smith agree to join the committee, so as one door closes another one opens. Welcome to the management committee Lyn, we look forward to working with you in the future.

Newsletter Information The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in early April 2016. **Please share** any interesting information, news of an interesting website, or maybe a breakthrough with your family history, with other members. Contact Kathy Ph.68825533 or email johnnkathy7@bigpond.com if you have anything that can be shared. We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our members' research.

Membership fees for **2016 are now due**. The Annual fee for current single membership remains at \$40.00, while joint membership fee is \$45.00 and family membership \$48.00. You can post your renewal to PO Box 868, Dubbo or you can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire. For those who prefer to pay online, banking particulars for paying are as follow:

Bank – Westpac, BSB 032 646, account no 581832

Please ensure you enter YOUR **NAME or Membership Number** (if known) in the appropriate box. If required, receipts and membership cards can be picked up in the DDFHS Library.

Society News for 2016

Annual General Meeting for our society will be held on **Sunday 20th March 2016**. The meeting will commence at **2.00pm** in the Bindyite room near the family history rooms. It would be lovely to see a good roll-up for the last meeting with our current president Cynthia Foley.

President of Dubbo and District Family History Please keep in mind that Cynthia Foley will not be seeking re-election this year. We are fortunate however that Cynthia will still be involved in the society as a volunteer librarian. *This then creates the need for a member to step up and take on the position of President this year.* Anyone willing to take up the position will have the full support and experience of the committee and members behind them. Would you be interested in becoming president? Do you have someone in mind who you think would fill the bill? Have a think about it; discuss it with a committee member, or your family and friends.

Events in 2016 Starting this year we will run the first of a bi-monthly regular forum called **“Share your Story”**. We are hoping to have two people each give a 10minute story on their family history research and how they dealt with problems in their research. The first one will be held on **Friday, 19th February** commencing at **11am** in the family history rooms. This will be followed by refreshments, and the chance to talk to the presenters. For catering we need your **rsvp** by **Tuesday, 16th February**. There is a \$2 donation required towards refreshments. Please advise June Wilson on 6882 5366 – 0417 690 495 or juniwil@clearmail.com.au if you would like to attend.

All are welcome it will not be restricted to members. *And don't worry, we already have two volunteers for the first “Share your Story!!* But we hope other members will come forward and share their family history with us. It only needs to be a 10minute summary of your family history research, or maybe a story on some family memorabilia you may be fortunate enough to have. This could be something like medals held in your family, wedding stories, or anything that you have discovered while undertaking your family research.

Think Tank Group – Lost Someone? Can't find them anywhere? Maybe we can help!

The Think Tank Group will be running again in 2016. Our core group of June Wilson, Jenny Bruce, Jo Murphy and Robyn Allan would love to have other people join them in this morning gathering. It is an opportunity to discuss your research with like-minded people,

find out about how to use the various websites for family research, where to look if you hit a brick wall, and how to utilise the fantastic resources available in our rooms. The group meets in the family history rooms on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10.00am. The meeting dates for 2016 are 9th March, 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December. For more information contact Jo Murphy on 6882 9426 or June Wilson on 68825366, email juniwil@clearmail.com.au

THE HISTORY OF 'GRANDMA'S APRON I came across this while reading through Cairns & District Family History Society November 2015 magazine which we receive by email. There is apparently a website called "apron history" can you believe it! This story certainly reminded me of my grandma when I was growing up!!

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. From the chicken coup, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in the apples that had fallen from the trees. The pocket was for keeping her rings in while she cooked. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron. And the menfolk knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. To-day her granddaughters set their pies on the window sill to thaw. I think parents today would go crazy trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron, but I am pretty sure none of us caught anything from "that apron". *Don't forget there is a thumb drive in our rooms which holds a large number of magazines we receive by email. We give a big thank you to our member Pam Harvey who is responsible for keeping these email magazines up to date for us.*

"Digger" a publication of the Family & Friends of the First AIF Inc. With the focus fully on the Anzac anniversary last year, members are reminded of the journal held in our rooms called "Digger". This is published by a group called the Families and Friends of the First AIF Inc. which has now decided to publish an additional "digital" magazine which they have called COBBER as well as the hard copy Digger. As a member of FFAIF, we receive the

digital issue whenever it is published. We have the November 2015 issue of COBBeR on the thumb drive held in our rooms. The December copy of Digger is also filed on the shelves with the journals.

Irish Ancestry - If you have Irish Ancestry, you are behind the eight ball before you start your research. Apart from some fragments, there are literally no Irish census records prior to the census taken on Sunday 31 March 1901. In addition, the registration of births, marriages and deaths only commenced from 1 January 1864 with non-Roman Catholic marriages starting from 1 April 1845. Finally, there was the destruction of a great deal of Irish heritage and records during the Irish Civil war 1921–1922 starting with the burning of the Customs House on 25 May 1921, followed by the destruction of the Public Records Office on 30 June 1922. If your ancestors arrived in Australia prior to 1864 as many did, either as convicts or immigrants escaping poverty and famine back home, what records can you use to try and find them? Fortunately, the National Library of Ireland (NLI) has recently made freely available a collection of Irish Roman Catholic Church records that go some way toward filling the gap and replacing some of the information that was destroyed. This is in the form of digital images taken from microfilm copies of Irish Roman Catholic Church parish records up to 1880 that were filmed by the NLI between about 1950 and 1990. These records may be found at <http://registers.nli.ie> or by typing 'NLI Registers' into Google. *This is just part of an interesting article published in the November 2015 issue of the Port Macquarie and District Family History Society. There are many other articles in the same newsletter relating to Irish research which will be helpful to anyone trying to trace Irish ancestors.*

TROVE — THE REASON TO CORRECT ENTRIES - *With thanks to Jennifer Mullin from the Port Macquarie and District Family History Society.*

I recently tried to find a 1917 death in Melbourne in Trove. It had to be there! So, after trying every trick I knew – I resorted to date specific searching.

Now, I could see why I was not getting any hits. For some reason the OCR (optical character recognition) had a lot of trouble with these papers.

The following were the results for EMERY: BMJ-Jty BMKKY BMJ-Jty BMIBIIY

So, I went through and corrected only the surname of every entry. I just had time to do a couple of days – but now I know many families who will be able to find the death notice of their family in World War One.

Could you take up this challenge – correct the surnames of death notices while in TROVE and help some other family historian find a loved one.

World War 1 Anzac heroes – Thank you to member Carol Korn who has kindly donated her copies of the family history magazine published by *The Somerset & Dorset Family History Society*, called *The Greenwood Tree*. In the November 2015 edition, there is a wonderful story relating to World War 1 when between 1915 and 1919, approximately 120,000 Anzac personnel passed through the town of Weymouth in Dorset, England. They were sent here to recover from their physical and mental wounds sustained at Gallipoli or in other theatres of war. Sadly 90 Anzacs, mostly from Australia died in Weymouth and lie

buried there. No doubt many of those who were returned to active service, died in other battles of World War 1. Read the full story in the magazine held in our family history rooms. Weymouth also featured in World War 11 when it was bombed by German planes.

Family Tree Maker – Ancestry is retiring Family Tree Maker software. Due to the declining desktop software market and the impact this has on being able to continue to provide product enhancements and support that its users need, Ancestry has recently made the decision to stop selling Family Tree Maker as of 31 December 2015.

Ancestry will continue to support current owners of Family Tree Maker at least through to 31 December 2016. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync, will continue to work, and Member Services will be available to assist with user questions. Ancestry will also address major software bugs that may occur, as well as compatibility updates. These changes are never easy, but Ancestry believes that by focusing its efforts, it can concentrate on continuing to build great products for its loyal Ancestry community. If you have any inquiries regarding Family Tree Maker, please contact Ancestry's member services team at www.ancestry.com/cs/contact-us

Ancestry will also provide updates on its blog

Taken from Australian Family Tree Connections, January 2016, a hard copy of which is held in the family history rooms.

Common Problems Using Search Engines for Genealogy Have you tried to find your ancestry on any search engine? If so, you might have had thousands of results, most of which did not apply to your genealogy. There is an informative article relating to this problem in the December 2015 issue of the Casino & District Family History Group magazine which is called The Crossing. Again it is held on the thumb drive held in our rooms, come in and have a look at the article.

Wyalong District Family History Group Inc. advise they will be holding a Workshop on Saturday the 19th March 2016. It will be held at the Anglican Parish Centre, Court Street, Wyalong, with registrations at 9.00am. For only \$30 (which includes morning tea and lunch) you can hear the guest speakers Megan Gibson, a freelance researcher and author from Young, and Lt. Col. David Deasey RDF (rtd). Megan has researched for Who Do you Think you Are, written for Inside History and is the author of How to Get More Family Tree Time. David is the chairman of the National Boer War Memorial Assoc. (NSW) and will give an outline of the Boer War and Australia's contribution, as well as a detailed look at the family history resources available. You must book with genealogy@wyalongfamilyhistory.com or phone Pam Butcher on 02 69723113 or Rhonda Williams 02 69723066.

Lilian Watson Annual Family History Award The Tasmania Family History Society has advised that this yearly family history award will again be made this year. The award honours the memory and contributions to genealogy and family history by Mrs Lilian Watson who died in 1996. The award is for a **book**, however produced or published on paper, dealing with family or biographical history and having a **significant Tasmanian content**.

A definition of 'significant' is contained in the Conditions of Entry. The competition is open to the general public as well as to AFFHO members. The 2014 Award was won by Lorraine Dooley for *Building on firm foundations: the Cooper family in Tasmania: stonemasons, builders and architects*. The winner of the 2015 Award will be announced and presented at the society's Annual General Meeting at Ross on Saturday 18 June 2016.

Female Factory Women in NSW Gay Hendriksen, a founding partner of the Tree Heritage and Cultural Services has contacted us with the following information. *I am contacting you in relation to the wonderful and nationally significant history of female factory women in the Colony of NSW and particularly Parramatta. For a number of years I have been researching and writing about Colonial Australian history including the female factories. I thought you may be interested in sharing the following with your group and your networks.*

Conviction

I have recently published the book Conviction - the 1827 fight for rights at the Parramatta Female Factory. This explores what is called either the first Australian workers action or simply a riot. If you are interested in a copy please feel free to email me and write 'Conviction' in the subject line.

Female Factory History

I am now writing a history of the Female Factories of NSW with a particular focus on the Parramatta Female Factories and the stories of the women and their life in the factories. This will include the stories of women from transportation to the factory, staff, management and others associated with the Female Factory and its history. I am looking for descendants and individuals who would like to share their stories of a female factory convict, a staff member, or someone who was connected with the Factory. If you are interested please contact me at rowantree.hc@gmail.com, and write 'Factory Book' in the subject line. Any information you are willing to share for research and publication will be acknowledged and images made available will only be used with copyright permission and acknowledgement.

Descendants List

As part of the history and information I am compiling a descendants list. If you would like to be included on the list please send me your contact details and any of the information listed above that you may have. In relation to this your information will be kept confidential. For this write 'Descendants' in the subject line.

I also do custom Colonial Tours Touching History for individuals and groups (Special rates for 15 and over). These explore Sydney Cove and the Rocks or Parramatta and of course the Parramatta Female Factory. For more information email me with 'Tours' in the subject line.

For more information about any of the above you can either email me on rowantree.hc@gmail.com or phone 0447189137. For more insights into the factories you can visit <https://parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com/>