

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 37 – July-August 2018

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 (during opening hours)

Management Committee

Linda Barnes	68878284	martinandlinda@gmail.com	President/Librarian
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	Vice President
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
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Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	kathyfurney47@gmail.com	
Lesley Abrahams	68822242	ljabrahams@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.

Newsletter Information 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 kathyfurney47@gmail.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.

Website and Facebook Check out the website and Facebook regularly as there is often useful information on them. Regular updates, with information for our members, are being made to both, and don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page where Karlyn has lots of interesting snippets. There is a great series on early Dubbo on Facebook every week, check it out.

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Society News

Our New Vice President Congratulations are extended to Lyn Smith, the new Vice President of Dubbo & District Family History Society. This position has been vacant for some time and the committee is delighted and pleased that Lyn has filled the vacancy. Lyn will also continue with us in her position as publicity officer and committee member.



Share Your Story for June will be held on **Friday 17th August at 2pm** at the WPCC Community Arts Centre in Wingewarra Street. This month we will have **Simone Taylor** from Macquarie Regional Library as our guest speaker. Remember you must RSVP by 14th August to Lyn Smith by for catering. Contact her at baretsmiths@bigpond.com or 'phone her on 68850107. There is a \$4 cost towards afternoon tea.

Conference The NSW ACT Assoc. of Family History societies will hold its annual conference at Batemans Bay from the **14th to 16th September 2018**. Go to www.sailingintohistory.org.au for full information on the conference. You have until the 10th August to register for the conference, so get in quick.

Military Hints Findmypast now generates hints from more than 89million military records on their website. These hints will provide researchers with detailed accounts of their ancestors' military service. They cover more than 430 years of military history in Britain, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

They includes Findmypast's unrivalled collection of military service records covering all three branches of the British Armed Forces, US draft and enlistment records spanning both World Wars, Findmypast's exclusive Prisoner of War collection, documents from the US Civil and Revolutionary Wars, military pensions, medal indexes, casualty lists, muster rolls, and much more.

Creating and uploading a family tree is quick, easy and secure. As information is added, Findmypast does the hard work by automatically sifting through millions of records to identify potential matches, which appear as hints<<https://www.findmypast.com.au/hints>>.

New Suffragette Records have now been published on Findmypast for the first time. In association with the National Archives, British family history website Findmypast has over 22,000 newly digitised records available to search, with thousands of 1911 Suffragette Census Returns also added to the collection.

Findmypast's Suffragette Collection now contains more than 78,000 records taken from Metropolitan Police and Home Office files. It reveals the struggles endured by the movement's most ardent supporters and highlights the state's response as it attempted to contain them.

Victoria Iglkowski, Principal Records Specialist - Diverse Histories, at The National Archives said: "These files illustrate the huge impact suffrage campaigns had across government and show the state's response through policing, surveillance and monitoring. The wealth of evidence collected in raids on suffragette

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premises and criminal trials gives us a unique perspective coming from directly inside the headquarters and organisation of the movement. Documents include secret codes used to evade police detection and transcripts of speeches covertly recorded, giving us a powerful perspective on the records the suffragettes potentially didn't want to survive."

The collection spans from 1902 to 1919 and includes photographs of suffragettes, cabinet letters, calendars of prisoners, Home Office papers of suffragette disturbances, an index of women arrested between 1906 and 1914 (the official watch list of over 1,300 suffragettes), reports of force-feeding, and more.

These rich documents bring together the stories of women from all walks of life who actively supported women's suffrage, either by attending demonstrations and meetings or opting for militant "direct" action.

South Dubbo Weir those of us who grew up in Dubbo will remember the old South Dubbo Weir which I am sure was completely off bounds to you as it was to me. Since the construction of the weir in 1942, nine people have drowned at this site, which prompted council to improve the public safety of this area, particularly as the Tracker Riley Cycle way now runs past the weir. To this end a rock ramp has been installed from the foot of the original weir, to make the depth at this point shallower and reduce the turbulence of the water as it comes over the spillway. Also included is a fishway which will allow native fish to move upstream and downstream through the South Dubbo Weir, providing great benefits for native fish stocks between Dubbo and Burrendong Dam. The new weir and fishway were officially opened on Friday 29th June, 2018 with some very informative interpretative signs having been installed by Council.



South Dubbo Weir with new fishway and rock ramp

Bicentenary of John Oxley In June 2018 we celebrated the bicentenary of John Oxley's 1818 exploration into the Macquarie Valley and the area known today as Dubbo. Known in the colony simply as John Oxley, John Joseph William Molesworth Oxley was born at Kirkham, near Westow, Yorkshire in 1784, the son of John Oxley and Isabella Molesworth.

At age 15 he joined the Navy as a midshipman on the 'Venerable' and by 1801 he transferred to the 'Buffalo' where he was promoted to Master's Mate, arriving in 1802. He took employment doing coastal survey work and in 1805 Governor Philip Gidley King appointed Oxley as Acting Lieutenant in charge of the 'Buffalo'. Oxley returned to England in 1807 where he was commissioned Lieutenant. He returned to Sydney in November 1808 and took up an appointment as first lieutenant of HMS 'Porpoise'. In 1810 Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted John Oxley 600 acres near Camden. He called this land Kirkham after his hometown in England and over the years increased his holdings to 1000 acres.

In May 1810 Oxley sailed for England in the 'Porpoise' where he applied for the post of Naval Officer in Sydney and he also applied, twice, to become Surveyor General. His second application was successful and he retired from the Navy in 1811. In May 1812 he returned to the colony on the 'Minstrel' to take up his

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new duties. Not only was he now the Surveyor General for the colony, he had become engaged to marry Elizabeth Macarthur, daughter of John and Elizabeth Macarthur of Camden. This arrangement did not last long as John Macarthur soon discovered the extent to which John Oxley was in debt, and felt that Oxley was not the right man for his daughter. The engagement was called off and the friendship between John Macarthur and John Oxley was severed. It is possible that in addition to Oxley's mounting debts, the following may have had some bearing on the dissolution of Oxley's engagement to Elizabeth Macarthur by her father John Macarthur.

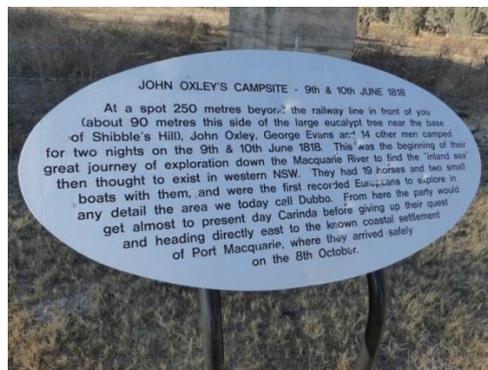
The *'Minstrel'* was a convict transport, carrying 127 female convicts to the colony and a small number of free passengers. Sailing via Rio the *'Minstrel'* arrived in Port Jackson on 25 October 1812. Among the female convicts on board was Charlotte Jane Thorpe. Upon arrival at Port Jackson an order was given that the few women who were permitted to be assigned to people in Sydney were to be landed that afternoon and the remainder of the women were taken to the Parramatta Female Factory. Charlotte Jane Thorpe was assigned to John Oxley. Charlotte and John entered into a common law relationship and on 8 July 1813 a daughter, Jeanette Oxley Thorpe, was born to the couple. Jeanette never married and died in Paddington in 1875 and is buried at South Head Cemetery. A second daughter, Frances Oxley Thorpe was born on 19 January 1815. Frances married William Waugh in 1837, Maitland, and died in Tenterfield in 1891.

The union between John Oxley and Charlotte Thorpe did not last and shortly after she received her free pardon on 15 May 1818, Charlotte married John Anderson on 25 May. John Oxley cared very much for his daughters, sending them to England for part of their schooling under the guardianship of his sister, Isabella Dixon. They returned to New South Wales in December 1828 on the Cape Packet, captained by Oxley's brother-in-law Francis Dixon.

John Oxley and his team were the first recorded Europeans to explore the Macquarie River and the area we know today as Dubbo. At a spot near the base of Shibble Hill, John Oxley, George Evans and fourteen other men camped on the 9th and 10th June 1818 beside the Macquarie River. With them they had 19 horses and two boats. This camping spot is visible from the Tracker Riley Cycle way, which runs from Macquarie Street, along the railway line down across the Macquarie River. Dubbo Regional Council has installed an interpretative sign on the Tracker Riley Cycleway near the camping spot. In later years the Dubbo to Molong Railway Line went very close to the camping spot, with a significant rail bridge being erected across the Macquarie River at this point.



View from Tracker Riley Cycleway



Interpretative sign

Sources: 1. Australian Dictionary of Biography – John Joseph Oxley by E W Dunlop
2. Evidence of the Bigge Reports – NSW under Governor Macquarie – John Ritchie 1971 page 63
Photos John O'Brien.

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The German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance is an informal network of German-Australian history and genealogy organisations that have an interest in ensuring that research and knowledge about German Australian history is disseminated widely and, where possible, freely. Members commit to the following:

share research and research strategies as freely as possible

help develop working relationships between organisations and individuals

contribute to a central catalogue of research and resources

actively promote the field of German-Australian Genealogy & History research & the work of the Alliance

Currently our members include:

The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory

Lutheran Archives

The Genealogical Society of Queensland (German Interest Group)

The Queensland Family History Society (Central European Group)

The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society (German Group)

The South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society (Germanic & Continental European Group)

Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände (DAGV)

The Genealogical Society of Victoria (International Settlers Group)

Maryborough Family Heritage Institute

German Australian Community Centre Queensland (GACCQ)

If you are interested in being a part of the network, please visit our website at germanheritage.org.au. There is currently no charge for membership as it is a collegial and collaborative communication network. We would also like to make you all aware of two events that may be of interest to your members (thanks to those of you who are already promoting this!).

From 17-19 August at the University of Adelaide, we will be holding a Conference of German-Australian History and Heritage. Details and registration process can be found at conference2018.germanheritage.org.au

We are also live streaming and recording the presentations and registration for this can be found at germanheritage.streaming.net.au

Finally, following the conference, two of the international speakers, Dirk Weissleder and Andrea Bentschneider, will be touring Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart and Perth, presenting lectures and intensive workshops. Details of these can be found at events.historyhelper.com.au

Lunchbox Talk at the Western Plains Cultural Centre – *‘Kerosene and Calico – The Hidden Story of Dubbo’s Tin Town’*. This presentation will be given by Simone Taylor, Local Studies Officer at Macquarie Regional Library, who will attempt to investigate the hidden story of ‘Tin Town’ from the 1920s to the 1950s. It will be held at the Western Plains Cultural Centre on Thursday, 16 August 2018 at 1pm. Tickets are \$10 or \$8 for Friends of the WPCC and includes a light lunch. Tickets are available at Cultural Centre reception 02 6801 4444.