

# **DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC**

**PO Box 868, Dubbo 2830**

**Newsletter 18 – March-April 2015**

**Location: Ground floor - Two-storey Community Arts Building Western Plains Gallery.  
Cnr. Gipps & Wingewarra Sts Dubbo.**

**Opening hours:**

**Tuesday 1.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Thursday 2.00pm –6.00pm**

**Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm**

**Saturday 10.00am – 4.00 pm**

Management Committee: Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am in DDFHS Library. Contact any of the committee listed below if you have anything you would like discussed at the meeting.

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## **Management Committee contacts:**

Cynthia Foley	68840500	<a href="mailto:cafoley@bigpond.com">cafoley@bigpond.com</a> – President
Linda Barnes	68878284	<a href="mailto:martinandlinda@gmail.com">martinandlinda@gmail.com</a> - Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	<a href="mailto:kefuller8@bigpond.com">kefuller8@bigpond.com</a> - Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	<a href="mailto:rpallan@bigpond.net.au">rpallan@bigpond.net.au</a> – Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	<a href="mailto:juniwil@clearmail.com.au">juniwil@clearmail.com.au</a>
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Kathy Furney	68825533	<a href="mailto:johnnkathy7@bigpond.com">johnnkathy7@bigpond.com</a>

**Society Webpage:** [www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au)

**Society Email:** [ddfhs\\_2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ddfhs_2000@yahoo.com.au) (that is an underscore after the s)

**Society 'Phone no:** 6881 8635

**Newsletter Information.** The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in mid-May. Anyone with interesting information, news of an interesting website, or a breakthrough with their family history, please contact Kathy (details as above). We would love to print your item as it is exciting to hear about our member's research. Feedback on the Newsletter is always welcome, if you have an idea on how it can be improved please contact Kathy so that the suggestions can be taken to the monthly meeting.

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The Newsletter is normally on the Society's website [www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au](http://www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au) soon after publication. Those without email addresses will receive the Newsletter by post. **However our website is currently unable to be updated, hence the latest newsletters and new banking details are unable to be entered on the website. It is hoped that this will be fixed soon. Correct banking details are shown at the bottom of this newsletter in the subscription reminder.**

*Note: If changing your email address, or connecting to the Internet: Please advise Ken Fuller. (See address above).*

### **Society News**

#### **Internet Browser**

DDFHS still operates on Windows XP which is fast becoming obsolete. We have found that Mozilla Firefox web browser works best with our program. So if you are visiting our rooms please use **Mozilla Firefox** to access the internet.

**Family History Morning Tea** Members attending the morning tea on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> February, hosted by the society had an enjoyable morning. The morning tea was scrumptious while the talk given by Carol Korn was as entertaining, as it was informative. The society also awarded the **Member of the Year** award at the gathering. **Leslie Abraham** was the very worthy recipient of this year's award. Leslie is another of our volunteer library assistants, but she also works tirelessly behind the scenes with our hard working librarian Linda Barnes. Together they have been indexing, cataloguing, cutting, pasting and filing myriads of books, newspapers and magazines. Congratulations Leslie, a well-deserved award, and thank you for the interesting story you told us about some of your research.

**Annual General Meeting** The society held its' 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Although not that well attended, all positions were filled, with the committee remaining the same as last year. At the meeting Cynthia Foley gave a talk covering the contribution of Shirley Doolan to the society. Shirley was a founding member of the society along with Cynthia, so it was with much sadness that we heard of her recent death. Our condolences go to her family.

### **General News**

#### **14th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry to be held 26-30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Canberra**

These events are always exciting, informative and fun, why not think about attending. See their website for more information. [www.congress2015.org.au](http://www.congress2015.org.au)

#### **Family Tree Maker**

If you use Family Tree Maker to organise your family history research you may be interested to know there is a Family Tree Maker User Group that operates at the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). The group aims to help with the Family Tree Maker software, i.e. the

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program, its implementation and how to use it to record your family history research. The group also operates an Information Hub. To join the hub you should complete the form at [www.sag.org.au/helping-you/research-groups/family-tree-maker-forum/form/4.html](http://www.sag.org.au/helping-you/research-groups/family-tree-maker-forum/form/4.html)

Access to the Hub is by invitation, so the Group's convenor will send interested members an email inviting them to join. For more information on this matter look at the February 2015 issue of Australian Family Tree Connections on page 40. This journal is held in our rooms for you to peruse. Pages 46/47 in this issue give a summary of top websites to check out when doing your family tree research.

### **Wills**

An excellent source of information for our members is the recently released New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952 available on FindMyPast. They can be found by logging into [findmypast.com.au/new-south-wales-wills](http://findmypast.com.au/new-south-wales-wills) .

Another informative source for those seeking wills is Coraweb.com.au Just type 'wills' into the search box and sites in Australia and Overseas will appear.

### **Magazine**

An exceptional magazine for those interested in not only Family History but Australian history in general is INSIDE HISTORY. Beautifully presented, well written and very informative, Inside History is printed 6 times a year. A one year subscription costs just \$50, 2 years \$85 and 3 years \$125. Check them out online at [www.insidehistory.com.au](http://www.insidehistory.com.au)

### **Resources in our library**

#### **Family History Journals**

*Journals – yes it's true, they do hold treasures! From Jo Murphy*

Our hardworking Committee recently hosted a wonderful morning tea for the volunteers of DDFHS during which Librarian Linda spoke briefly on the treasures that could be found in the journals and magazines from other family history societies both here in Australian and overseas. The very same journals and magazines that sit languishing on our shelves often untouched. I am the first to admit that over the years I have looked at them sitting there in their neatly labelled folders and say 'no, too hard' and move on.

Well yesterday I took the bull by the horns and selected one folder of journals from the Cornwall Family History Society and another folder of *Ancestry* magazines from the Genealogical Society of Victoria, both places of interest to me. The best decision I have made in a long time! A quick flick through them and immediately I found names, information and articles that I could relate to and so borrowed both folders to take home to look through in more depth.

When you get these magazines and journals home, the trick to using them is **don't start reading**, instead just quickly **scan** through the names of people amongst the pages first, the names are usually in capital letters so make the job easy. If you find someone of interest, put a small piece of paper noting the name between the pages and move on through the remainder of the journals. Your next task is to go through and scan for relevant placenames, relevant articles, upcoming events, new books for sale, websites, questions and answers, etc. and again mark anything of interest.

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Don't spend time reading articles or information now, just mark them and go back later otherwise you will never get through all the journals.

In just eight *Ancestry* magazines alone [2011-2013] I found valuable information regarding early street numbering in Melbourne, an article on Australian War Workers at the end of the Great War, how local history plays an important role in family history, larrikins in Australian cities, Australia's response to the Boer War, *'The Last Farewell'* the letters and story of a convict, an advertisement on the release of a CD on the history and inmates of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum and so much more.

It was time to tackle the journals from Cornwall Family History Society [2006-2008]. Lo and behold there was mention of an enquiry I had sent back in 2003! I found information on the convict hulks *Euryalus* and *Bellerophon* both of which I have researched extensively, the history of Bodmin Gaol and a few of its inmates – now I know how to find my x3 great grandfather's gaol record as he was held for twelve months hard labour for shooting at a game keeper while poaching [he missed]. Gotta love 'em! There is a book for sale on the history of the tiny village of Veryan where my family lived in Cornwall and some queries on various Cornish names I am researching.

When you have finished scanning and marking, start reading what you have marked and either photograph, photocopy or take down relevant details from the information you have found. Don't forget to write down the name of the journal where you found the information, its number and date of publication.

Everything I have found so far is relevant in some small or large way to the research I undertake for the books I write on my family's histories. This morning I have sent off an email to another writer, I am about to start looking for John Moon's gaol record and will then go back to the *Early numbering of Melbourne streets* article.

It doesn't matter whether you are writing books, expanding your family tree or just enjoy reading, these journals and magazines are a treasure trove. Starting borrowing, expand your horizons and enjoy the journey. I have and tomorrow I will be back to the Library to return these journals and borrow some more.

**Archival Access Victoria** is another of the e-newsletters that our group receives. If you are interested in family research in Victoria this is a worthwhile site to look at. Note that Archival Access Victoria is in no way associated with or endorsed by the Public Record Office Victoria. [www.archivalaccessvictoria.com](http://www.archivalaccessvictoria.com)

*Following is an excerpt from the latest newsletter.* Some of you would be familiar with the **Victorian Government Gazette**, supplied online by the State Library of Victoria (SLV). This website provides a basic search function – with a keyword search providing results where the keyword forms part of a gazette notice heading, major topic or names mentioned. I have had mixed results using this search function and have recently found an alternative to the SLV Online Gazette.

I have mentioned the website previously, Austlii, which provides (100% free to the public) access to legislation, case law and rulings (both current and historical).

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The Government Gazettes are also on Austlii, and their search engine is much more powerful than the SLV's, with every page and word of the entire collection (1843-1998, including NSW 1836-1851 and Port Phillip 1843-1851) fully searchable. This allows you to find even the smallest mention of a name or place. Check out the website [http://www3.austlii.edu.au/au/other/vic\\_gazette/](http://www3.austlii.edu.au/au/other/vic_gazette/)

### **Australian Newspapers**

TROVE has recently added a further 19 newspapers to their ever increasing list. These recent additions cover New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Visit [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) to begin searching these new additions, plus the multitude of other newspapers available online.

### **Other worthwhile sites**

In our Family History Rooms you will find that internet sites like [www.ancestry.co.au](http://www.ancestry.co.au) and [www.findmypast.com.au](http://www.findmypast.com.au) are constantly adding new records to their ever burgeoning collections.

Another brilliant resource can be found in the British Newspapers 1710-1953 on [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) just log in next time you are in the Family History Rooms and start searching. You may well be surprised at what you will find!

**Can anyone help??** The society recently received an email asking for information on the **Fitzhardinge** family. June Andersson advises that her father went to school in Dubbo. Going through his papers recently she found a book which belonged to two brothers, Moreton Cedric Berkeley and Frederick Noel Berkeley **Fitzhardinge**. Her father was John Phillip **Wheaton**, who went to school in Dubbo with these boys in the mid 1920's. Do any of our members recall the Fitzhardinge family at all, or know if there are still relatives in the area? From a bit of quick local research it would seem that there was a law firm in Dubbo during that time which included the Fitzhardinge name. June would be happy to pass this book onto any descendants, so if you can help at all please contact our society on [ddfhs\\_2000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ddfhs_2000@yahoo.com.au) or contact committee member Kathy Furney, 6882 5533.

### **Family Research Stories**

#### **Military Family History** by Annette Priest

I first became interested in military history when I visited Edinburgh in 2011. My grandfather and his brother, **John Davidson**, enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry (Glasgow Territorials) in October 1914 not long after the outbreak of WW1. Whilst my grandfather survived and immigrated to Australia, his brother John died of wounds on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1917. I knew John's enlistment number as it was engraved on his parent's gravestone and I knew he was buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of St. Jan communal cemetery in Kortrijk in Belgium. A perusal of ancestry.com records confirmed this but gave no other details about his war history.

Whilst visiting Edinburgh Castle we stumbled upon The National War Memorial for Scotland. The memorial was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the

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Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. It was a very humbling experience to locate my great uncle's entry in one of the many roll of honour books.

A few days later, back in Glasgow, whilst walking from Kelvin Grove Art Gallery back to our hotel I passed the Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and stopped in for a visit. This was now the home of the Glasgow Territorials. For the payment of 20 pounds I received, some six weeks later in the post, copies of all the details applicable to my great uncle's war service. His battalion fought on the Western Front in France and Belgium. He was wounded on the front line at Polygan Wood during a ferocious battle between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 1917 and died on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

In April 2013 I travelled to France and Belgium to tour the battlefields of the Western Front. With a copy of the War Diary of the 9<sup>th</sup> Glasgow Highland Battalion Highland Light Infantry (1914-1919) that I had downloaded from the internet in hand, I visited a number of the locations mentioned. As we travelled along the Menin Road, just out of Ypres I read from the diary about a march my great uncle had undertaken along the Menin road. No long after, our driver/guide stopped the car and told us that the crossroad we were standing at was the exact spot referred to in the diary. To walk in the footsteps of my WW1 family members was a very moving experience. Whilst in Ypres I attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial to the 54896 missing WW1 allied soldiers. Every evening at 20:00, buglers from the local fire brigade close the road which passes under the memorial and sound the "Last Post". My next stop was Kortrijk cemetery to visit the grave of my great uncle. As I was the first member of his family to visit his grave I placed a cross with a poppy and the names of all of his living descendants on it. It was lovely to be able to include my name in the visitors register.

Since that visit I have read books by historians Ian Hislop and Alex Weir written about the Glasgow Highlanders and discovered so much about the significance of the Western Front to WW1 and the horrendous conditions my relatives had to endure.

**Subscriptions for 2015 are now due, as our year begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> January.**

Your annual subscription can be paid online, or you can still pay in person at the DDFH rooms if you so desire. Particulars for paying on line are as follow:

**Bank:** Westpac  
**Account:** Dubbo & District Family History Inc.  
**BSB:** 032 646  
**Account No:** 581832

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

***Scale Table for Fees as at 1st January 2015 for New Members.***

Single Current Members:	\$40	Single New Members:	\$50
Family Current Members:	\$48	Family New Members:	\$58

\*Note: There is a sliding scale on new membership, that is the cost is reduced each month. Please enquire at the Family History Rooms for the current new membership fee.