

# DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



## Newsletter 27 – November-December 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](http://www.dubbofamilyhistory.org.au)

Society email: [info@dubbofamilyhistory.org.au](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:martinandlinda@gmail.com">martinandlinda@gmail.com</a>	Vice Pres/Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	<a href="mailto:kfuller8@bigpond.com">kfuller8@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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**Management Committee** Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** The Newsletter is sent every 8-10 weeks with the next one due out in early February 2017. **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](mailto: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. Thank you to those people who have passed on information to me for publication.

**Website and Facebook** Don't forget to check out the website and Facebook for our society. Regular updates, with information for our members, are being made to both, and don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page.

**How to improve our society** The society is always looking for ways to improve its facilities and the services available to our members. This is why there is a suggestions box in the family history rooms. We are looking for ideas and suggestions from our members. If you have something in mind why not write it down and put it in the suggestion box, or if you would prefer, contact one of the committee members and discuss your suggestion.

## Society News

**Final issue for 2016** Where has the year gone? If you are like me it seems to have passed in a blur. Our society has had a successful year, with one of the big hits being the “Share Your Story” event which has been held every month. Great work by the committee in organizing such interesting and varied speakers to entertain and enlighten us in relation to Family History. This popular event will continue in 2017 with our first guest speaker already organized for February. It is also pleasing to see people attending our Legacy Group and Think Tank Group each month.

**Opening hours** Family history rooms will close at **4pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** and will re-open to the public at **1pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

**Membership fees for 2017 will be due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017** 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 and Membership Number** (if known) in the appropriate box. If required, receipts and membership cards can be picked up in the DDFHS Library.

**Resignation of Research Officer** After 29 years as the research officer for our society, it is with regret that we advise that long time, and life member for her services, **Nancye Fletcher** is hanging up her “research sign”. With declining health, and age catching up with her, Nancye is finding it too much to continue in this role. It would be impossible to say how many people Nancye has helped with research, both in the rooms when she was a volunteer librarian, and in her role as research officer. From everyone at Family History we give Nancye a huge “*Thank You*” for her efforts over the years. We are happy to announce that Karlyn Robinson is taking over this onerous role for the society.

**Family History Christmas Party** A good crowd attended the annual Christmas Party on Sunday night, 27<sup>th</sup> November. Winner of a subscription to the society was committee member Lyn Smith, with several other members being happy recipients of lucky door prizes. Shirley Trethowan took the prize for “Christmas bling”. Thank you to Robyn Allan and June Wilson for organizing the catering for the night, as well as all the morning and afternoon teas organized by them for the Share Your Story events.

**'Legacy' users group** will continue in 2017, with the group meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm in the family history rooms. If you would like to take part contact Jennifer Bruce on 6882 9050 to register for the next gathering, but remember this group is **only open to members** of Dubbo and District Family History Society. Please note the first meeting in 2017 will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Think Tank Group** Lost Someone? Can't find them anywhere? The Think Tank Group meets to discuss research with like-minded people. They discuss how to use the various websites for family research, and how to utilise the fantastic resources available in our rooms. Our core group would love to have other people join them in the morning gathering. The group meets in the family history rooms on the **first Wednesday of each month at 10.00am**, however there will be **no meeting** on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 as the rooms will be closed. You **must be a member** of the society to take part in this group, so if you are not already a member why not join up and take part. For more information contact Jo Murphy on 6882 9426 or June Wilson on 68825366, email [juniwil@clearmail.com.au](mailto:juniwil@clearmail.com.au)

### Grave Nomads -



The phenomenon of cemetery tourism is transforming the experience of growing numbers of grey nomads.

The rise of the so-called 'grave nomads' is continuing apace, with increasing numbers of caravanners and motor homers finding that tracing their ancestors' final resting places, or just researching the lives of pioneers is adding a whole

new layer to their travels.

Academic Hilda Maclean from Griffith University says grey nomads are playing a key role to ensure another link with Australia's pioneering past isn't permanently severed.

"Scattered across the vast reaches of outback Australia are dozens of tiny burial grounds and lone graves which stand as a silent testament to the lives lost exploring and settling this wide brown land," she told the GNT. "There is an urgent need to photograph, record and geo-locate these graves and make this information discoverable to family and local historians who do not have the capacity to visit the graves themselves."

She says if nothing is done, the names of these pioneers will be lost as time and weather obliterates their grave markers.

Grey nomads have been eager to embrace projects set up to locate and hopefully identify overgrown graves. West Australians Trevor and Suzie Tough and their friend Alex Aiken have

been trying to relocate and mark graves with durable aluminium plaques engraved with any details known about the deceased. On a recent trip to the Kimberley, they found cattle stations littered with old, overgrown graves from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mr Tough said every grave carried a story at risk of being lost.

"We have installed about 150 plaques on more than 30 properties," he told the GNT. "This has resulted in enormous support from the station folk, with referrals guiding us to old graves, anecdotal and family stories and lots of knowledge from old people."

The idea of saving these windows into Australia's past has really taken off, and has led to the birth of the *Outback Graves Project*, which has earned the help of locals, Shires and historical societies.

"There are many retired folk who find our project just as captivating as we do," said Mr Tough. "Once you start looking into the stories that go with these outback graves, it opens up some wonderful history, with threads that lead to more and more stories."

As Hilda Maclean notes, with the declining rural population there are fewer people to look after cemeteries ... and grey nomads can make a difference, even by pulling a few weeds.

"There are many ways to assist with the preservation of Australia's past, commensurate with people's levels of energy and interest," she said. "Cemeteries are fascinating places to visit ... my own love of them was fostered by my father for whom no motoring holiday was complete without a visit to the destination's cemetery."

*ARE YOU A GRAVE NOMAD?*

*Thank you to Michael Murphy for contributing this interesting story which appeared in "The Grey Nomad Times"*

**Save the Date for 2017** The Orange Family History Group is delighted to announce that they have been selected to host the **2017 NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference** with the theme of: *Your family story: telling recording and preserving*. The conference will be held over three days **22-24 September** in the city's cultural precinct. They will be providing regular updates on their website or follow them on face book. What a golden opportunity for anyone from Dubbo to attend a conference relating to family history. People are already booking accommodation to attend this conference, so if you are interested in attending, make sure you get in early.

**Narromine Aviation Museum** While reading through the **September 2016** issue of "History" a magazine published by the Royal Australian Historical Society, I was interested to read a story on the Narromine Aviation Museum. This concise story written by Louise Williams gives a lot of information about the history of the Narromine airport and the reason it is still a very active airport today. Have you taken the time to visit the museum, which is "only up the road" from Dubbo, it is well worth a visit.

**Naming children in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland** A pattern had been developed for the naming of a couple's children. This was as follows, I'm not sure what happened when you got to the 9<sup>th</sup> child!

The eldest son was given the forename of his paternal grandfather  
The second son was named after his maternal grandfather

The third son took the father's name

The fourth son was given the name of his father's eldest brother (uncle)

The eldest daughter was named after her maternal grandmother

The second daughter took the name of her paternal grandmother

The third daughter was named after her mother

The fourth daughter followed her mother's eldest sister (aunt)

*(Taken from UK Family History Magazine)*

**Digger Magazine** The September 2016 issue of this magazine has an interesting article by Margo Piggott of Gilgandra, named "Memories of the 2015 Coe-ee March Re-Enactment". Members may remember Helen Thompson giving a talk on the subject prior to the march. Helen went on the re-enactment march and has put details of the daily activities of the participants on line at <https://cooemarch2015reenactment.com/news>. If you have any interest in WW1 this magazine has pages of information on actions and the soldiers taking part.

**How Healthy is Your Family Tree?** With the advent of on line research and web sites such as Ancestry and Find Your Past many people are finding information which they know from their own research is incorrect. The subject article shows you how to make sure the information you have obtained is actually correct and verified. It is worthwhile reading this article in the **September 2016** "Descent" journal which is published by The Society of Australian Genealogists. The article was written by Danielle Lautrec who is the Education Officer with that society.

**Discover the world's largest free family history website** The **November 2016** issue of the **UK Family Tree Magazine** has a fascinating article on this subject. The website in question is called 'Family Search' and is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (or Mormons). There are over 15 million Mormons in the world who believe they are all the descendant of one person, Joseph Smith, who was born in 1805. They have millions of records relating to a huge number of topics. The article is an insight into the Mormon religion as well as the fantastic free website they host. The article is written by Ed Dutton who is an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Oulu University in Finland, as well as being the author of a book on his own family history. Make sure you have a read of it when you come into the Family History rooms. The same magazine has many other interesting stories including 'how to get your records straight' and 'why you need to have a DNA test done'.

**Irish Ancestors** I am always on the lookout for hints and tips on how to trace and source Irish family records. As we know many of their early records were destroyed due to Ireland's tumultuous history. In the **December 2016** issue of the **UK Family Tree Magazine** there is an article named '10 unmissable sources for Irish ancestors'. It shows many website that would be of great assistance in any Irish research. The article is written by Chris Paton who runs the Scotland's Greatest Story research service ([www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk](http://www.scotlandsgreateststory.co.uk)) and he teaches online courses through [www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com). As well he is the author of many family history books. Another must read if you are researching Irish ancestors. Chris also has a blog site [www.britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.britishgenes.blogspot.co.uk)

**Top Free websites to take your research world wide** Websites seem to be a popular topic in recent family history magazines. The same **December 2016 UK Family Tree Magazine** has information on a selection of top websites that would be useful in your family research. The article is written by Melody Amsel-Arieli who has written several books as well as having articles appear in many historical magazines. If you are into blogging she also has a blog at [www.amselbird.com](http://www.amselbird.com)

**A history of Aboriginal Trackers in NSW** A recently launched website will not only showcase many of the Aboriginal Trackers in NSW but also give a history of the contributions by Aboriginal Trackers to policing as well as photos of police stations in NSW. The website is a joint initiative between the NSW Police Force Aboriginal Coordination Team and the Native Title Services Corporation. This excellent site features the history of 24 Aboriginal Trackers, some with photographs, and includes Dubbo's own Alexander (Tracker) Riley. Locals will know that the cycleway along the Macquarie River is called after him. Log on to <http://pathfindersnsw.org.au>



As the final issue for 2016 the committee of Dubbo & District Family History would like to thank all the hard working volunteers who help our society to function, but like all groups we are always looking for more help! We have several projects ready to go but we need your help! Speak to one of the committee if you think you could give a hand.

*See you all in the New Year and don't forget to renew your membership.....*