

# DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



## Newsletter 20 – September-October 2015

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)

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### Management Committee

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Robyn Allan	68844572	<a href="mailto:rpallan@bigpond.net.au">rpallan@bigpond.net.au</a>	Minute Secretary
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Kathy Furney	68825533	<a href="mailto:johnnkathy7@bigpond.com">johnnkathy7@bigpond.com</a>	

**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 mid-October. 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](mailto: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 member's research. I hope you all enjoyed the stories and information which I received from our members in the last issue of our newsletter.

Feedback on the Newsletter is always welcome, or if you have an idea on how it can be improved, contact Kathy so that the suggestions can be taken to the monthly meeting.

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.

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## **Society News**

**New format** for our Newsletter is still an ongoing project.

**Think Tank Group** is going well. Why not become involved, it is an opportunity to discuss your research with likeminded people, find out about how to use the various websites for family research, where to look if you hit a brick wall, and utilise the resources available in our rooms. The group meets on the **first Wednesday** of each month at 10.00am. Future meetings will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. For more information contact June Wilson on 68825366 or email her at [juniwil@clearmail.com.au](mailto:juniwil@clearmail.com.au)

**The afternoon tea with Helen Thompson** held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September was very successful. Helen and her husband Stephen have a passion for military history. In particular, Helen is interested in the history and stories of the original 263 men who took part in the first Coo-ee march in 1915. Not only did we learn about those who took part in the original March, but also stories about the first re- enactment in 1987. Over twenty five people attended the afternoon, and were enthralled with the stories and information that Helen shared with us. Helen is also involved in the one hundred year re-enactment which will start from Gilgandra next month on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, and finish in Sydney on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The re-enactment march will be passing through the Dubbo area from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October, and will include a street parade through the CBD.



Cynthia Foley, June Wilson, Helen Thompson (presenter) and Kathy Furney

**Old Dubbo Cemetery** When it was dedicated on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1863 the cemetery was on the town limits at the cross roads of Cobbora Road and the Racecourse Road. It is now described as being on the corner of the Golden Highway (Cobbora Road) and Barden Avenue, and is still bounded by Myall Street on the southern side. An additional area was *dedicated* on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1871 which gave shape to the layout we know today. By 1895 the cemetery was divided into the old portion and the new portion separated by a road, each separately enclosed with its own paling fences. Each religious section of the cemetery was to be maintained by the various churches but by 1901, the cemetery was overgrown and in disrepair and many of the trustees of the various churches had died. A new committee was

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formed, with one of its objectives to employ a general caretaker to maintain the whole cemetery. However by 1921 the cemetery was again dilapidated in appearance and vandalism was a concern (sound familiar). On 9<sup>th</sup> November 1962 all religious denominations, except the Roman Catholics, transferred trusteeship to the Dubbo Municipal Council. With the passing of the 1966 Local Government (Control of Cemeteries) the Roman Catholic portion was also transferred to council. In 1967 the Council successfully negotiated with the Crown Lands Department to sell the surplus land of the cemetery, located on the southern side. This was developed as a residential area. The Council ceased issuing burial permits and reservations in 1967, and only people with prior reservations and those wishing to be buried in a family grave (reopening) have been buried in the cemetery since then. Even today many burials are held in the Old Dubbo Cemetery, indicating the significance of the cemetery in many people's lives. Since the 1980's the Dubbo Council's maintenance policy has included the use of herbicide which may have contributed to soil erosion that caused the destruction of many of the old headstones, especially in the Roman Catholic section. However vandalism has also been major issue, with the council eventually enclosing the cemetery with a high fence and locking it every night.

Many years ago, the then members of Dubbo Family History group (including our current president Cynthia Foley) took on the huge job of photographing all the headstones in the Old Dubbo Cemetery. At the same time they compiled an index of these headstones, all of which are available to members in the rooms.

This band of tireless workers also visited many of the surrounding cemeteries, taking photographs of headstones and indexing the results. All of this wonderful information is available in book form in our rooms.

**Researching the death of ancestors who died in Dubbo** – Following is a list of records available in our Family History rooms which may assist anyone searching for death information. Thank you to Jennifer Bruce for compiling this list of records for publication.

a) Index to Dubbo City Council Internment Records, which include date of burial, grave number and which funeral director conducted the burial

b) Church of England records ranging from February 1893 to December 1986

c) Methodist and Salvation Army records from 1893 to May 1980

d) Presbyterian records 1893- 1919 then from August 1921 to October 1986 (there are no entries for 1920)

e) Roman Catholic records from 1899 to December 1963 and then from March 1967 to May 1996.

f) Computer printout of records of the New Dubbo Cemetery, courtesy of Dubbo City Council from around 1967 up to 1997.

g) Shakespeare Burial Records (local funeral parlour) from 1932 until June 1992, these contain Record of Death and Order for Interment. Details which are included and if known were name of deceased, age, cause of death, usual residence, where born, mother's maiden name, religion, time and date of funeral, grave number, if married, children of marriage and if deceased was in receipt of any pension. Also included are some random death notices from local papers (some in 1937 were noticed).

h) Volume 5 publication Dubbo Cemetery Records by Dubbo Family History Society published in 1987, which is a record of all headstones in the Old Dubbo Cemetery at that

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time. Please note this is headstones only, and does not include burials for which there is no headstone

i) Card Index, a very large amount of cards which mainly include death notices from the local newspapers, but also include probate notices and birth notices, these are from around the mid 1980s up to date

j) There are also limited records for Dubbo General, Rawsonville, Dubbo Baptist, Chinese and Lutheran burials

**Can you help?** An email has been received from a lady who advised that her late father was a lover of everything old and had a thing for second hand shops and old book shops. He passed away over 10 years ago but, in his little box of treasures that he picked up from all over the place there was a little black book with handwritten poetry in it. The name in the book is **Elsie Louise Matthews**. Elsie married **Oswald Sidney Ferguson** in 1937 and they had a son, **Trevor Ferguson**. Unfortunately, Oswald Sidney Ferguson died suddenly at an early age. The email contact would like to return the book to a family member who would treasure the book. Please contact the Society if anyone can assist in this matter.

**My DNA Quest or Who do I think I am?** Thank you very much to Karlyn Robinson for sharing the following story with us. I am sure everyone will be as eager as me to see what the results are.

**12 August 2015**

I have been researching my family history for about 15 years. It's a long time but there are many others who have been on a quest of discovery for much longer than me. While I have enjoyed my research I am not yet finished and have often wondered what more there is to discover about my ancestors and me.

The results of my research tell me that I have Irish ancestry on my mother's side and British and German from my father's family. I know I am a fourth generation Australian and am proud of my convict heritage. That is what I know from delving into my past but is this all there is? I am curious about earlier areas of my ancestry. As well, rumors have surfaced over the years in one particular part, suggesting that all may not be quite what it seems and I am hoping that a DNA test may lay it all to rest or perhaps confirm the stories.

In the last 10 years or so, DNA testing has been quite expensive and out of the reach of most people. Perhaps a DNA test was only conducted when absolutely necessary, for the purpose of determining paternity for example. Today, these same tests are relatively inexpensive, simple for anyone to do and easily available.

This year there has been considerable interest in DNA testing that promises to reveal a person's true ethnic mix and go way back before recorded history. I have often thought about taking a DNA test but have always placed it on the back burner as something to follow up on at a later date!

So today, over my morning coffee, I opened up my e-mail and there was an advertisement from Ancestry offering a sale on their DNA kits. The sale finished on this very day! It was now or never. Grabbing the trusty credit card I ordered a DNA kit. It promises to be easy to

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do, requiring only a saliva sample and after mailing the package off and waiting about 6 - 8 weeks, I would then receive the results that would tell me my true ethnic mix and perhaps solve all those rumors. I am now waiting for the kit to arrive.

### **17 August 2015**

I have just received notification from Ancestry that my DNA kit has been shipped! Ancestry has a tracking site for the package and with a simple click of the mouse I can see the status of my kit. It tells me that it is being shipped by Australia post and presently is 'in transit'. All I can do is wait.

### **19 August 2015**

Checking my mailbox today, as I hurried out to run some errands, I got the surprise of my life! My DNA kit had arrived! However, it would have to wait until later in the day to be opened, at least until I got the errands done.

### **20 August 2015**

Today I opened up my DNA package, checked the instructions and activated my ID number first. This ensures that the results, when they are ready, will come only to me.

The test was simple – filling a small test tube with saliva up to a wavy line marked on the tube. That done I added the stabilizing fluid, tightened up the screw top lid and popped the tube into a plastic collection bag. This in turn was placed into a small, solid cardboard mailing box and then finally enclosed into an Australia Post e-Parcel bag.

Shortly I will be depositing the package in the mailbox. Then all I can do is wait for the results. What will I find out? Will it tell me that my ancestry is Irish, British and German or will there be a few surprises? *To be continued*.....

**Are you a good ancestor?** A good ancestor keeps certificates including birth and death certificates; records including health, military, naturalization and school; passports; newspaper and church notices; awards; photos; art and craft work; journals; diaries; baby, school and wedding books; heirlooms.

He or she cares for tombstones; keeps research organized, writes or tapes the family stories, and supports family organizations. A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included; records where material may be found and always sees that at least one other copy of important data is somewhere else.

A hundred years, or even fifty or thirty years from now, will they think you were a good ancestor? (Well, it's something to aim for; I know I wish my ancestors had been good ancestors!!)

**Can you help?** Our tireless research officer, Nancye Fletcher is regularly receiving requests for help in relation to early families in our area. If you have any information or connection with the following family, please help out. We all know how exciting it is when our research brings up results.

**Markey** James, born Co Meath Irl; convict to NSW 1824 on "Prince Regent"; married Catherine Neal. Once worked for Nathaniel Norton and may have lived at Mendooran.

*Contact:* Jan Wilson, 8 Ellerstone Court, Kelleyville NSW 2815. Ph. 02 9629 6550

Email – jan.jimwilson@yahoo.com.au

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**Members Family History** Many of us joined the Dubbo and District Family History Society when we became interested in our own family history. One of those people is *Shirley Trethowan* whose ancestors were early settlers in the Dubbo area. Shirley has a more exciting and sad family history than the majority of us, as she is a descendant of the Mawbey family, who were involved in the brutal Breelong massacre near Gilgandra in July 1900. Shirley is the daughter of Garnet Mawbey the youngest of the nine Mawbey children, whose parents were John Thomas and Sarah Mawbey. John employed Jimmy Governor for fencing and general bush work. There were on-going disputes and minor complaints between the parties culminating on Friday evening July 19, 1900 when Jimmy Governor decided to do something about his grievances. The exact details will never be known but the sad fact is that Sarah and her children Grace, Hilda and Percy were killed, as well as their governess, Helena Kerz. In April 2000, more than 235 descendants of those who survived the tragedy and their spouses attended the fourth Mawbey reunion, firstly at Wongarbron just outside Dubbo, then at Breelong. The majority of those attending were Mawbeys, but there were two members of the family of the murdered governess, Helena Kerz. As part of the celebrations a morning tea was held near the site of the old Breelong Inn on the Old Mendooran Road, where a commemorative plaque in memory of the Mawbey family, was unveiled. (Thank you to Shirley Trethowan for allowing us to print this story).

**“Digger” a publication of the Family & Friends of the First AIF Inc.** With the focus fully on the Anzac anniversary, 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 a digital magazine as well as the Digger. As a member of FFFAIF, we will be receiving this digital issue whenever it is published.

As an additional benefit of FFFAIF membership, the Committee has approved the production of a digital magazine, which we have decided to call “COBBeR”. (The small e stands for ‘electronic’)

COBBeR is intended to supplement *DIGGER*, not replace it – think of COBBeR as *DIGGER*’s mate! As COBBeR is a digital magazine to be e-mailed to members, there will be no costs involved in its publication or circulation.

COBBeR will mostly contain stories that are too long to use in *DIGGER*, yet deserve a wider audience. Some articles in COBBeR may have been produced as research by a member for a non-member, or written for publication in your local newspaper. It could be an extract from a book you have written. If you, as the author, have permission to circulate your article to FFFAIF members in digital format, then you are encouraged to send it in to the Editor for possible inclusion in COBBeR.

As COBBeR will be an electronic/digital magazine [pdf file], it will also feature maps and photographs in colour. COBBeR will thus suit photo essays – perhaps you have some great travel photographs of WWI sites or you could do a pictorial on war memorials, honour boards and war trophies from your local area.

COBBeR will, at this stage, *not* be sent out on a regular basis. How often it appears in your in-box will depend on the frequency, length and volume of contributions.