

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 32 – September-October 2017

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	Vice Pres/Librarian
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil1943@gmail.com	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	kathyfurney47@gmail.com	
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	
Lesley Abrahams	68822242	labrahams@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 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.

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Society News

Share Your Story on Friday, 20th October will feature **Sally Forsstrom** who is one of our very busy members, and well known around the Dubbo area. Remember you **must book** to attend, so RSVP by the 17th October to June Wilson at juniwil1943@gmail.com or 'phone 6882 5366. The presentation will be followed by a light afternoon tea for which there is a cost of \$3.

Wellington Historic Gardens open day will be held on Sunday 22nd October 2017. For full information on the gardens that will be open for inspection visit the following website www.visitwellington.com.au The Wellington Family History group will also have their rooms open to the public on this date, where a gold coin donation will give you entry to some wonderful memorabilia of the area.

Royal Australian Historical Society will be holding a conference in Cowra on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th October 2017. The subject will be *Finding lost Places, Lost People*, with full particulars and costs available on the following website www.rahs.org.au/2017-rahs-conference

Dixon Family Reunion Don't forget the family reunion for the descendants of **Frederick Horatio and Jane (nee Eckford) Dixon**. The reunion will be held on the 25th November 2017 at Maitland, NSW to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Fred arriving in Australia. Some associated families are: Baker, Black, Capp, Clift, Coward, Eckford, Gallen, Hills, Mitchel, Muirhead, Paterson, Suters, Tait, Volmer and Walters. If you would like further information go to: fhdixonreunion.weebly.com or www.facebook.com/groups/FHDIXON you may also contact Allan Shephard on 0419 601 226 or email alshep724@gmail.com

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ceased microfilm distribution as from the 1st September 2017. This is the result of significant progress made by FamilySearch's microfilm digitization and thus the obsolescence of microfilm technology. They have now digitally reproduced the bulk of its microfilm collection with over 1.5 billion images available online. The digitization of remaining microfilms is expected to be completed by 2020.

Dubbo Family History is one of only two centres in Dubbo where you can now actually log into this website and check the millions of records already online. Access to this website is only on Computer 1 in the rooms. You must be a member of the society or else pay the \$10 casual user fee to access this and the myriad of on line family history sites available in our rooms.

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Digital images of historical records can be accessed in three places on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) under Search. [Records](#) include historical records indexed by name or organized with an image browse. [Books](#) include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries. The [Catalogue](#) includes a description of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, etc.) in the FamilySearch collection, including millions of online images not yet available in Records or Books. For navigation help, see [Finding Digital Images on FamilySearch.org](#)

Nancye Fletcher was the research officer with our society for over thirty years!! Here is a summary of her work with the society, which shows how much every group owes to its many volunteers, thank you Nancye for taking the time to compile this and for sharing it with us. I am sure it will bring back memories for many members.

"When I first joined the Society I was introduced to the records held on fiche and film by Jill Fagg, which opened up a magical world of research to me.

In early 1978 the need arose for a research officer to answer letters for help in tracing ancestors. A friend Vi Smith and I took on the job as well as doing Library Duty. When we began there were no computers available so we used cards, fiche and film. A great help were the Church of England records, as well as convict and shipping records. Letters were written by hand using carbon paper for copies. I started out with a 'clackety clack' old typewriter, and then progressed to a word processor and finally a computer. Over the years I was helped with my mail research by many others, including Alf West, Judy Attenborough, Jennifer Rodis, Nola Walters and Jennifer Bruce.

I realised that indexes to records were a great help in answering enquiries so I set about compiling them for books published without one. Some of the bigger jobs that come to mind were A History of Bourke (12 volumes), as well as Shakespeare Funeral Parlour burials, and Dubbo Public School.

Another task undertaken in conjunction with Pam Harvey and I think Colleen Elliott was taking photos of graves and headstones in the Old Dubbo Cemetery. Ken Fuller subsequently completed an index for these. As if this wasn't enough I searched through old Dubbo newspapers for death entries and obituaries, being helped by Shirley Trethowan with the printing of these.

One of my memorable research enquiries was from a person on the north island of New Zealand. When replying to her request I asked if she could help me to track down information about a great uncle of mine. He went to an area near where she lived on the north island as part of a timber cutting team. He was subsequently killed there when a tree fell on him. Not only did she send me a copy of his obituary but also a photograph of his grave.

Another one that comes to mind was an enquiry from a woman researching Dusty Bob Smith who was an early Dubbo pioneer. I was able to successfully research her connection to Dusty Bob and his wife Maria.

In the Dubbo Bicentenary Year the society invited people to send details of their ancestors for inclusion in the society's publication of books entitled Dubbo Pioneers and Dubbo Settlers, Books one and two. This was a very big undertaking particularly as many of the facts supplied had to be verified.

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To raise money to pay room rental, electricity costs, plus purchase books and computers the society charged membership fees, research and visitor's fees as well as holding street stalls and selling raffle tickets. Some members even held garage sales to raise money.

In the early days our members' journal had to be stapled, put into envelopes and addresses stuck on. This was undertaken at various members' homes, I always remember the lovely sponge cake supplied when we were at Lyn Harrison's place.

I have seen the society grow from its beginnings in a small room above what was the Old Museum in Macquarie Street (now the Old Bank Restaurant) to the two rooms we now occupy in the Western Plains Cultural Centre. Cynthia Foley was a founding member and President of our society for many years, having to give up her role recently due to family illness. The society is currently led by Linda Barnes who is supported by a capable committee

Over the years I have been the proud recipient of Certificates of Appreciation for my contributions to the society, as well as being granted life membership.

Since retiring from the research officer's job I now have time to rest, relax, read and "smell the roses" although I sometimes miss the challenge of finding answers for people researching their family history".

15th Australian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry A reminder that this congress will be held for the first time in Sydney next year. Early Bird registrations are already open for this event which will be held from **Friday 9-Monday 12th March 2018**. More information available on the website at www.congress2018.org.au

Glen Innes & District Historical Society invites you to their conference which will be held hot on the heels of the Australian Congress, over the weekend of **16th-18th March 2018**. Their theme will be "Many Cultures - Our History". They are planning an excellent line up of presenters and topics to expand the theme. Presenters already booked are:

Harry White - Aboriginal language

Janis Wilson OAM - Local Chinese history and other migration.

William Oates and Graham Wilson OAM - Historic Gardens of New England

John Graham - Linking History with Genealogy Research

Graeme Hosking - World War 1 in 1918

Greg Alder - on getting the message out there, promotion, advertising, inspiration.

Friday night there will be a welcome at "The Land of the Beardies History House Museum and Research Centre" in Ferguson Street, while Saturday and Sunday will be at the Services Club in Grey Street Glen Innes.

Bookings for trade tables/displays etc. are available.

Wellington Family History Group were very pleased with the large number of people who went through their rooms at Wellington during the Bicentenary Celebrations held over the 18th, 19th and 20th August 2017. They have a huge display of photographs, personal and local history on display. It was well worth the drive down to have a look at all the items they have available.

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Census records for United Kingdom are covered in a comprehensive story in the August 2017 issue of the UK Family Tree magazine. These records cover England, Scotland and Ireland. Despite being full of useful information, particularly to people researching family history, for some reason the Irish census records for the period 1861-1891 were destroyed, as well as the majority of records from 1821-1851. The 1901 and 1911 census still survive and can be found at www.census.nationalarchives.ie together with what is left of the 1821-51 records. Genealogists in the Republic of Ireland are currently campaigning for the early release of the 1926 Census. This was the first census to be recorded following the Partition of Ireland – the equivalent census in Northern Ireland, carried out on the same day by the Stormont regime, has sadly not survived. Although some records for Britain have also failed to survive, the records available are still a very valuable research source. Take the time to read the article in the magazine for full particulars.

Web Tips and Tricks is an excellent article written by genealogist Emma Jolly that is worth reading. The article is in the August 2017 edition of the UK Family Tree magazine.

The Federation of Family History Societies Newsletter for July 2017 contains a great article on DNA testing for family tree research. Our society no longer receives this newsletter as a hard copy, however you can find the entire newsletter on the Newsletter thumb drive in our rooms. If you want to know anything about DNA this is the article to read.

2017 NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference was held in Orange over the weekend of 22-24th September. The group of Dubbo family history members who attended not only had a great time but came back brimming with information. One of the many guest presenters was actor turned publisher William McInnes, who gave a fabulous presentation on Sunday morning. It was pleasing also to see our former president Cynthia Foley was well enough to attend the conference.



June Wilson, Linda Barnes, Cynthia Foley & Karlyn Robinson



Robyn Allan chatting with William McInnes

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Catholic Church Registers in Ireland were digitised by the National Library of Ireland a couple of years ago. Find My Past has now indexed this collection and have made it available on line at no charge. There are over ten millions records with over forty million names from 1,000 parishes that cover 97% of the entire island of Ireland now on line at this site to search and view for free. A wonderful source if you are searching Irish ancestors.

Share Your Story at Eastonville on Friday 15th September 2017 was hosted by owners Paul and Robyn Allan. Robyn and Paul have lovingly maintained their home and generously made it available for members to attend and hear their story. The house was originally erected by Thomas Heaydon in 1878, and is named after his second wife Elizabeth Easton.



Front entry to Eastonville in Bourke Street Dubbo

Entry hallway to Eastonville

Yass & District Historical Society will be holding a commemorative event on Saturday 14th October at St Clements Anglican Church, Yass. It is called 'Belgium 1917 – Battle of Passchendaele'. There will be three sessions covering different men and women in the Yass area. Members \$15 Non-members \$17. For more information and bookings 'ph. 6226 1435, 6226 1334 or 6226 1504.

Stocktake at Dubbo & District Family rooms took place on Monday 11th September. A big, big thank you to all those members who were able to come along and help out on the day. Not only did we stocktake, some of us discovered items we never knew were available on our shelves. To top it all off we enjoyed a lovely lunch together and generally enjoyed our days' work.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 26th November, more information to follow.

Rooms will be closed for Christmas break from Saturday 9th December 2017, re-opening on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

