

# DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



## Newsletter 40 – January-February 2019

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>	President/Librarian
Lyn Smith	68850107	<a href="mailto:baretsmiths@bigpond.com">baretsmiths@bigpond.com</a>	Vice President
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:juniwil1943@gmail.com">juniwil1943@gmail.com</a>	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	<a href="mailto:karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au">karlynrobinson@tpg.com.au</a>	
Kathy Furney	68825533	<a href="mailto:kathyfurney47@gmail.com">kathyfurney47@gmail.com</a>	
Lesley Abrahams	68822242	<a href="mailto:ljabrahams@bigpond.com">ljabrahams@bigpond.com</a>	

**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](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.

**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 are presently great items on Dubbo local history.*

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**Society News** Welcome to the first issue for 2019. It is pleasing to see so many people renewing their membership with the society for this year. **However**, on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, one of our members has made a direct deposit for \$40.00 to our account with the **only details** being: “Reg Aus Bank Year membership ‘19”, with no name or membership number. If you deposited this amount in our account, would you please contact our treasurer Ken Fuller (68818128) and give him your details.

**Share Your Story** The society is getting straight back into this popular presentation each month, with the first presenter for 2019, being long time family history researcher ***Dorothy Blake from Wellington***. The presentation on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** will be about “*Early women in the Wellington district and their role in the development of the area*”. The event will commence at 2pm at the Western Plains Cultural Centre, with a \$4 cost to cover the cost of a scrumptious afternoon tea. For catering purposes we need your RSVP by Tuesday 12th February. Contact June Wilson on [juniwil1943@gmail.com](mailto:juniwil1943@gmail.com) or phone her on 0417690495.

**Vincent Studio Photographic Images collection** has now been scanned and indexed. The index is available on all the computers. Have a look and see if any of your early family have been photographed and now scanned to our collection. If you find a photo you would like a copy of, please complete the order form available in the family history rooms. There is a cost of \$5 for each image (scan, either collected or sent by email).

**Our Christmas Party** for the society was held in December. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. A big thank you to the organising committee who put so much work into making it a great night for everyone. Below are a few photos of some of the members who attended.



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**Dubbo's First Philanthropist** William Walter Brocklehurst was born in 1829 in Macclesfield, Cheshire, came from a wealthy family who were connected with the silk and banking world. Religious differences led to an estrangement with his family and he and his brother Edward sailed for Australia. They arrived in the colony in the early 1850s. Records show William purchasing the lease on Dundullimal in 1858 where he lived for a time. He held the run in partnership with Edward Brooking Cornish but by 1863 the licence was held by the Brocklehurst Brothers, (William and Edward).

A very generous man, Brocklehurst built a small wooden church north of Dubbo that allowed locals in the area to attend church when the Talbragar River was in flood. In 1859 he contributed £480 to assist in the completion of the first Church of England in Dubbo. In 1865 Brocklehurst was appointed as one of three Sheep Directors to report on Scab and Pleuropneumonia in sheep, diseases that had caused massive stock losses. The following year he attended a meeting to establish a hospital in the town. 1866 saw the sudden death of his friend Edward Cornish from Gulf Fever (what is gulf fever???) and shortly afterwards that of his wife Margaret. This left the Cornish children without parents, however William and Edward took over the upbringing of the children, no mean feat for two young single men.

In 1871 William sold Dundullimal to Thomas Baird, left Dubbo and sailed home to England, taking the five youngest Cornish children with him. He left a sum of money with his solicitor James Samuels to be distributed to worthy causes in Dubbo. Rents from William's many properties and later, proceeds from the sale of these properties were used to great benefit around the town, financing the building of the School of the Arts and the Dubbo Public Library among others. In 1873, aged 44, he married Mary Ann Vardon in Paddington, London. They settled down in Hyde Park Square, London, where they raised two children. The village of Brocklehurst, north of Dubbo, still bears his name.

**DNA testing** has been undertaken by many family history researchers in their quest for more information. Have a look at the following link for some interesting reading on this subject.

<http://theconversation.com/dramatic-advances-in-forensics-expose-the-need-for-genetic-data-legislation-105397>

**NSW State Archives Reading Room** This is a reminder about upcoming changes to the [NSW State Archives Reading Room](#) opening hours. The Reading Room will be closing on ***Mondays, effective from Monday 4 February 2019.***

There is an increasing expectation for more online content from the State Archives Collection and closing the Reading Room to public research on Mondays provides an opportunity to dedicate more resources to making more of the Collection available online for everyone to discover, use and share. Closing the Reading Room on Mondays will not affect other services such as telephone, email and online enquiries. The Reading Room will also continue to be open on Saturdays.

**A Day at the State Library** A great day out in Sydney for Family Historians - a day at the State Library of NSW. The Library is holding a special day on **27<sup>th</sup> February 2019** that covers many aspects of research. If you would like to attend the cost for the day is \$55.

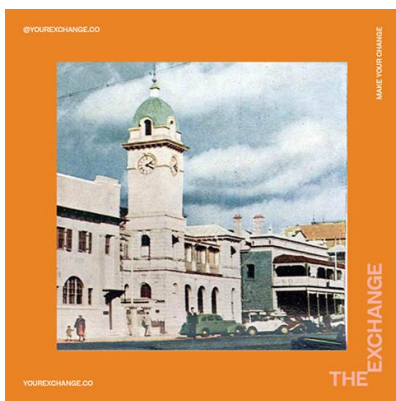
Bookings can be made by phone (02) 9273 1414 or email [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

**Old Dubbo Post Office** Jillian Kilby, the new owner and manager of The Exchange-Clock Tower, formerly the Old Dubbo Post Office, contacted our offices over the Christmas break requesting the following: Did you work there? Do you remember the original colour scheme? Did your family play a unique role at the post office or on the phone switch board?

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A full renovation will be undertaken in 2019 and Jillian would love to hear your stories or see your photos so that they can be shared on social media. She also plans to publish them in a book about the history of the building. She will be sure to recognise contributors for each post.

Jillian thanks everyone for recognising the important role our history plays in our urban environment and would like us to continue to preserve, celebrate and share it. If you can help Jillian, she can be contacted at [jillkilby@gmail.com](mailto:jillkilby@gmail.com) or at the Exchange - Clock Tower in Macquarie Street.



**Society of Australian Genealogists** Congratulations to our Patron Heather Garnsey on being elected to the Association's Forum Hall of Fame for making 'a high level contribution and long standing commitment to an association. Heather is also the Executive Officer of that society.



**Digger Magazine** for December 2018 has a contribution by hard working committee member *Lesley Abrahams*. A story written by Lesley on Private 1926 Clarence Gordon, of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalions in WW1 appears in the latest issue of this magazine which is on the shelf in our library. Interesting reading for anyone who had family in WW1.

In the same issue, the picture on the front is from a collection of another member *Jeannette O'Brien* of Narromine. Her father Sgt. JE Bruce McColl is on the left. Jeannette would love to hear from anyone who can accurately identify the other men in the photo.

**Don't forget membership for 2019 is now due.**