

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 44 – September-October 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

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	President/Librarian
Lyn Smith	68850107	baretsmiths@bigpond.com	Vice President
Ken Fuller	68818128	kfuller8@bigpond.com	Treasurer
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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.

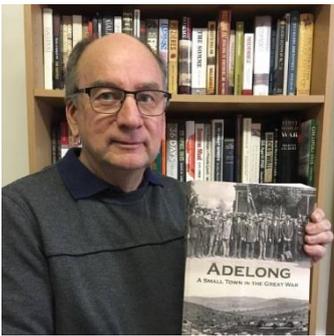
Website and Facebook Check out the website and Facebook regularly as there is often useful information on them. Regular updates, with information for our members, are being made to both, and always 'like' our Facebook page where Karlyn has lots of interesting snippets. *Don't forget to check out "Window on Women" series currently featured on Face book.*

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Society News

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference is on from **11-13 October 2019** at Wahroonga in Sydney. Last chance to get in and attend Conference, so go to <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au> for information.

Share Your Story for October will be held on **Friday 18th October at 2pm** at our usual venue. For this month we will have **Graeme Hosken** who recently launched a book called "*Adelong, a Small Town in a Big War*". Adelong is his home town and researching World War 1 soldiers is his passion, so this is a well written and well researched story. Graeme has published several other books, one of which is called 'Wellingtons Finest'. Graeme is also the secretary of FFAIFF (Friends and Family of First AIF) and the Editor of its magazine "Digger". Our society receives a copy of this magazine regularly, so have a look it this publication when you are next in our rooms. Come along for an interesting presentation on the **18th**.



Graeme with his latest publication.

Training Sessions The next session will be held on **Monday 28th October** at 11am. The topic for this session will be "*The factory above the gaol at Parramatta*". The course is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. You **must book** in with K Robinson on 6885 5773 before Friday 25th October.

Training Session Dorothy Blake who ran the training session in **July**, titled "*Accessing historic mental health records from asylums in New South Wales*" has asked me to pass on the following information relating to this topic.

"I told the participants that I had applied for permission to access the records of my mother-in-law. I received notice that I had to supply a copy of her death certificate and, as I was not a direct descendant, a copy of the birth certificate of my husband as well as a letter from him stating it was OK for me to access her records. I sent those in and two weeks later finally had a letter saying I have permission to access the records. The good thing is - the letter is valid for five years so no rush to do research!! I will apply to State Records and keep people informed as to how long the process takes. I did explain at the workshop that State Records will do research for country people so will also let people know how that goes. The research (as ever) continues.

Society Christmas Party Yes, Christmas is approaching quickly, so the society has claimed **Sunday 24th November** as the date for our Christmas Party. Full details will be coming out soon. It would be wonderful to have as many members as possible come along and celebrate the year with us.

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DNA News from the **August** issue of **UK Family Tree** where they report that the free *DNA database GEDmatch.com* has now restricted access to law enforcement. This follows high profile cases in which the site was used to provide investigative leads in historic violent crimes. The website hosts the DNA profile of over a million people and now requires each user to give permission for police to access their genetic information. If the member does not give approval they can still use GEDmatch for genealogical research.

DNA is a hot topic at the moment, especially after our training presentation by **Lyn Smith in September**. Many researchers have had DNA tests taken, with surprising and interesting results in some cases. Several members of our society have had their DNA put on a website and been contacted by others who have also had DNA testing with that site. They have found connections with family that they knew nothing about, which has been exciting.

Help Wanted We have had a request from one of our members for help as set out below. If you have some spare time and would like to help out please **email Chris Lloyd at pezoporus@bigpond.com**
WANTED: PEER REVIEWERS,

I have written a lengthy piece on the history of the Australian Carbonising and Textile Company which went into production in Depot Road, West Dubbo in 1936 and continued on until 1951. The plant was an attempt at adding value to 'burry' wool by removing all the grass and other organic material before going to manufacture. It had a contentious and quite political history but ultimately was the effort of a number of the district's prominent graziers and local townspeople.

What I am looking for is any members, or their friends and family, who could read through this draft and pick up an error of historical fact about Dubbo, the various characters involved and the wool industry. There is a large cast in the story and this first chapter spans the period from the early part of last century to the plants first closure in 1944. Even little things such as place names addresses and spelling of people's names is important.

I warn you it can be a bit dry as the subject is fairly economic and political but there is a large swathe of Dubbo history and characters as well. I want also to be clear that I am **not looking for proof readers of grammar and syntax but rather the facts**. If you would like a draft copy please email me at the address shown above. *If you are interested in helping out, please contact Chris Lloyd direct.*

Window on Women One of the recent stories on Face Book by Karlyn Robinson is both sad and inspiring. Again thank you Karlyn for the wonderful research and inspiring stories you are finding for us. Make sure you check our Face Book page regularly for the latest stories by Karlyn.

Barbara Millgate, formerly Hindle was born on the 20 January 1940, in Guilford, NSW. Moving to Peak Hill, Barbara became a Nurse's Aide and worked at the hospital. It was in Peak Hill that she met and married Allan Charles Millgate in 1959. Their first child, daughter Ellen, was born in 1960. Poliomyelitis had reached epidemic proportions post WW2 but after 1954 the disease appeared to subside. In 1961 it once again became widespread and what was thought to be the odd case here and there soon became a flood. **Barbara was one of the many unfortunate people who contracted this highly contagious disease.** She was taken to Sydney to the Prince Henry Hospital where a respiratory unit had recently been established to deal with the sudden influx of patients requiring artificial respiration to maintain life. Here Barbara lived for

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four years in a respirator or Iron Lung as they were then called. Polio can cause loss of control of the breathing muscles and the mechanical respirator allowed a person to breathe in a near normal manner. Allied Health personnel taught Barbara how to type using a mouth stick and also how to paint by holding the brush in her mouth. Allan moved to Sydney with Ellen and they were able to visit Barbara regularly, keeping the family unit together. Barbara was totally dependent on doctors, nursing staff, allied health, family and friends to see to her every need, both physically and mentally. Eventually Barbara was able to return to Peak Hill thanks to the generosity of the Peak Hill Apex Club who raised money for the purchase of an Iron Lung. In November 1972 Barbara gave birth to the couple's second child, a daughter they named Jan Maree. Allan, a very supportive husband, stayed at home to care for Barbara and the baby. Young Ellen too was a great help to her father and mother. Later, Barbara was able to leave the Iron Lung for brief periods with the aid of a portable respirator. This allowed her to get out and about a little to visit friends or watch a football match. In all, she lived for twenty four years in an Iron Lung, not complaining or bemoaning her lot in life. Barbara was a quietly spoken woman and definitely in charge of her household. She strived to make her home and family life as normal as possible. Her life was one of great hardship and difficulty but she faced it with bravery and courage.

Barbara died at her home on Derribong Street in Peak Hill in February 1985 aged 45.



Photo: The Respiratory Unit at Prince Henry Hospital, Barbara's 'home' for some years. From A Coast Chronicle by C R Boughton 1963. Barbara's face reflected in the mirror attached to her Iron Lung. Photo, Daily Telegraph

Vincent's Studio negative collection is proving very popular with members and the public alike. You can now access the index to these 14000 negatives on our website as well as on the computers in the family history rooms. Remember though they are indexed in the name of the person who ordered the photos. Read through the item on the front page of the website for full information on how to order photos.

Stocktake of Assets A big thank you to all those members who came and helped with the stocktake of all the items held in our rooms on Wednesday, 18th September. As well as doing a fantastic job, everyone had a lot of fun, plus enjoying a nice lunch together. Well done everyone.