

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 45 – November-December 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
Robyn Allan	68844572	rpallan@bigpond.net.au	Minute Secretary
June Wilson	68825366	juniwil1943@gmail.com	
Karlynn Robinson	68855773	karlynnrobinson@tpg.com.au	
Kathy Furney	68825533	kathyfurney47@gmail.com	Newsletter
Lesley Abrahams	68822242	ljabrahams@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 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. Please check out our Facebook page where Karlyn has lots of interesting snippets. *Show your appreciation by "liking" articles that appeal to you and sharing the item so as to spread the information further.* The Windows on Women series has finished, however a list of everyone covered in this series is shown on the Face Book page.



2.....

Society News

Last issue of the newsletter for 2019!! It only seems like yesterday I was doing the first edition for the year. The Family History rooms will be **closing** for the Christmas break from 4pm on Saturday the **7th December 2019** and will re-open 1pm on Tuesday, **7th January 2020**. Membership renewal will become due on the 1st January 2020 so make sure you get in and renew your membership. To assist our members we have left the membership fee the same as last year, which is \$40 single person, \$45 joint membership and \$48 for a family. Membership can easily be completed on-line, or come into the rooms when they re-open after the 7th January.

President's Report from **Linda Barnes** - A huge thank you, as always, to all the wonderful people in our Society that have made the past year the busy and successful one it has been.

We have been able to assist both members and visitors in their quest to discover their ancestors because our Research Assistants give so generously of their time, skills and knowledge.

Our Information sessions have been well attended and our Share Your Stories have been extremely popular. Jo Murphy's Writers group has produced some great efforts. These could only happen because of the hard work of Robyn Allan, June Wilson and the generous people who volunteered to give a presentation at these events. The yummy treats after our Share Your Story are certainly an attraction and we are grateful to all those who contribute to these.

Wednesday afternoons in the Library are extremely busy times as a hard-working group help to improve our resources and add to our ongoing projects. Consider joining us for a valuable contribution to our Society and maybe even a few laughs!

Of course, our dedicated Committee makes all this happen. Ken, Robyn, Lyn, Lesley, June, Kathy and Karlyn all have their roles but frequently go above and beyond. Thank you all. Next year June is stepping down from the Committee. Please consider nominating at the AGM in March to fill this position.

Best wishes for the Christmas Season and the New Year. Spend time with family not just the skeletons in the cupboard and join us again next year for more fun, researching and friendship.

Share Your Story the last of this series for 2019 was presented by **Dr. Joe Canalese** who is well known to many of us. He gave an inspiring talk on his early life and then his family coming to Australia and the life they have created for themselves. This popular presentation will be starting again in February 2020, so watch our Face book and website for full information on our first presenter for next year. If you know someone who would be an interesting presenter please let one of our committee know.



Merv Bishop, Joe Canalese, Richie McKay, Doug Butcherine



Robyn Allan, Vicki Canalese, Lesley Abrahams



Some of the audience



3.....

Window of Women on our face book is proving extremely popular. A recent article by Karlyn Robinson was about **Barbara Millgate** who contracted polio and lived at Peak Hill. So many people responded with comments about Barbara, with two of our members letting me know that they actually had the honour of looking after Barbara in hospital in Sydney, so it is a small world. After discussing Barbara's story with others, I have had another two women tell me they also nursed her at different times in Sydney

Aviation Disasters in Australia are few and far between. An article in the **September 2019** issue of the **Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS)** magazine "**History**" tells of one horrific event at Sydney Mascot airport on the 19th July 1945 when a British Royal Air Force crashed. This interesting article has been compiled by Dr. Peter Hobbins who is a RAHS councillor and a senior communications officer at the National Archives of Australia. Again you read it in this magazine in our rooms.

Kitchener Camp near Sandwich in Kent, England was a camp for 4000 Jewish Refugees who were rescued in 1939 from Nazi Europe. Their rescue was brought about by the founding members of the charity World Jewish Relief. Read the full story about this in the **November 2019 UK Family Tree** magazine.

Tracing Graves, memorials and records of death by Chris Paton, is another worthwhile article in the same issue.

Clearing the battlefields in France Have you ever thought how the horrific damage to the countryside after WW1 was cleared? In the **September 2019** copy of '**Digger**' magazine, an item found on Trove and contributed by Bill Durrant, gives a short history of how it was carried out. The work was undertaken both officially and unofficially, that is to say the State provided bodies of troops, mainly engineers, and German prisoners to clear the massive amount of debris. This was in addition to country folk freeing their land of flotsam and jetsam. The full account can be found in the '**Digger**' magazine held in our rooms. Another article in the same magazine found on Trove and contributed again by Bill Durrant, tells of the re-establishment of farming in the area.

Pte 2467 Edward Dowling and L/Sgt 1348 Vivian Dowling are also discussed in this issue of '**Digger**'. Both these soldiers were born and worked in **Dubbo** prior to joining up. While reading this article I was excited to see mention of my grandfather **Stan Cross**, who along with Edward Dowling was awarded the Military Medal. It is always worthwhile reading through all our regular subscription magazines, as you never know what you will turn up. Don't forget we also receive many '**e**' copies of newsletters and magazines, which can be found on the USB hanging up near the journals in our rooms.

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Conference was recently held at Wahroonga in Sydney with two of our committee attending. Many topics were included covering a range of topics such as what is available at the new NSW State Archives website, to reading old handwriting and an informative session on **DNA by Kerry Farmer**. Check out her website for more information on this and many other topics that Kerry covers.

The presentation named 'Opening up the Doors: NSW State Archives' by Martyn Killion was very informative. When looking at this website make sure you check all the sections as each section has different material recorded. The whole site is regularly updated, including catalogues.



4.....

One of the ongoing projects at **NSW State Archives** is the digitisation of **NSW railway records**. Up to date 5900 images of railway cards are available which cover All Railway Employee Surnames beginning with A B and C. They are also digitising State Rail pre 1900 Personal History Cards, and so far have completed A to C and are half way through D.

At one time the railway was a huge employer of men, and it would be unusual if everyone did not have a family member, or a school friend who had a father, uncle, brother or some other relation working on the railway. The railway kept very extensive Personal History Cards, so this might be a good source of information for family research.

Several books were purchased at the conference which will be of great assistance to members in their family history research. Books such as **Finding Elusive Surnames**, by Carol Baxter, and **Help, Why can't I find my ancestors surname?** by the same author. Other purchases were Unlock the Past handy guides covering 'Welsh given names', 'Scottish given names', 'English given names' and 'Irish given names'. All full of examples and clues to working out how the names might originally have been pronounced, and some alternative spellings that have developed, and even led to the changes in names. Another purchase related to the Parramatta Female Factory. Once entered into our system all of these publications will be available to members to assist them.

Norfolk Island A reminder that there will be a **230th anniversary of the wrecking of HMS Sirius on Norfolk Island** on the 19th March next year. The island will be hosting special events to mark the occasion with the author of "**Great Convict Stories**" **Graham Seal** presenting workshops on various matters, as well as other presenters. There is a special 7 day package deal being offered, so google Norfolk Island Travel Centre for more information.

Window on Women the latest features on our local women on Face Book page have been **Joyce Schneider** who established the first ballet school in Dubbo, which was in fact the first ballet school established outside of Sydney. I am sure many of us were not aware of her early life and the wonderful talents Joyce possessed.

The final woman in this series is well known to any family historian in our region. The story of **Cynthia Foley** and the amazing work she has done to promote family history and family history research is featured. Check out our Face Book page for these two interesting stories.

Heather Garnsey is the Patron of Dubbo and District Family History Society and a Life Member. She has been on the staff of the Society of Australian Genealogists since 1984 but has decided it is time to retire from her role as Executive Officer in February 2020. Heather will clock up 35 years of service in December so it will be the end of an era. However she is not giving up family history and will continue to attend the Genealogist library and participate in events. Dubbo and District Family History Society wish her well in her retirement.

All the best to our members and families for Christmas, we hope to see you in 2020 in your quest for your family history.

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

