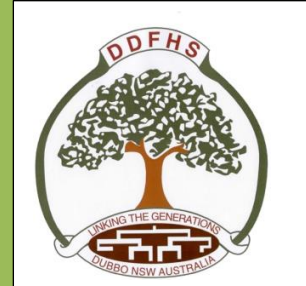


DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 46 – January-February 2020

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	
Karlyn Robinson	68855773	karlynrobinson@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, and always 'like' and 'share' our Facebook page where Karlyn has lots of interesting snippets.

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Society News

Welcome to 2020 with our society. The society finished off 2019 with a Christmas Party attended by many of the members. As you can see from the photos below everyone had an enjoyable time. A big thank you to those committee members who made this a good night. Below are some of the members who enjoyed the night. Sharon Scherr was the winner of our main prize which was membership for 2020. (Photos by Kathy Furney)



Robyn Allan



Paul and Sharon Scherrer



Pat Nethery



Lyn Smith and Karlyn Robinson



Linda and Martin Barnes



Sandy and Keith Logue, Colleen Braithwaite

Hint for Research In our Family History Rooms there are a large number of resources available to users. One of these is what is called the **“Great Card Index”**. This index comprises various local notices, such as baby births, engagements, obituaries, memorial notices and others, which have been obtained from our local newspapers over many years, and continue to be updated. The system has recently been revamped by one of our wonderful volunteers, so make sure you check it out when looking for local information on your ancestors. The drawers containing the index can be found on your right after you sign in.

Departure We are sad to announce that member **Sally Forsstrom** has left Dubbo for greener pastures. Sally was involved in many groups and causes in Dubbo, with the Family History Society being one of those. In her time with us Sally has been part of our Wednesday group who volunteer in the Family History Rooms, completing a variety of projects with the society. Sally was also a regular librarian with the society. Her talents and happy nature will be missed by everyone.

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Book Launch was held in Wellington in December for one of our members **Marie Hoffman**. Marie and several other members have been taking part in a writing course over the year, run by Jo Murphy who herself has published many books. The title of the book written by Marie is '**Wellington Treasures**'. Congratulations to all those members who have taken part in this course and are now writing and publishing their own stories. Members who attended the launch in Wellington were Sharon Scherrer, Jo Murphy, Marie Hoffman and Sally Forsstrom. (Photo from Sally Forsstrom)



Collateral relative Have you heard of a collateral relative? Neither had I until watching a TV quiz show recently, marvellous what you learn sometimes. A 'collateral relative' is any blood relative who is not your direct ancestor. So, your ancestors are your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., and your collateral relatives are cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc.

Family Search Website Did you know that 70% of the documents on FamilySearch.org **cannot be found using name search**? A search by locality will yield much better results. Steve Rockwood, Family Search CEO said "A large percentage of current site visitors are not benefiting from much of what FamilySearch has to offer because they don't realize the need to simply sign in with their free account to do so. They are basically arriving in the parking lot but not coming inside for the main event," he said about website visitors who do not sign in. FamilySearch is committed to patron privacy and does not share personal account information with any third party without a patron's consent. See Registering to Use FamilySearch.org for information about creating a free account.

Trove Newspapers If you are not very experienced in searching Trove Newspapers, open the website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> and click on **Help**, then open the Using Trove link where you should find some helpful tips. Basically, you have to think about how things would have been written in the paper at the time, which can be quite different from today. Use of forenames was less common than today, so a man who might be called Bill Smith today, would possibly be referred to in an old newspaper as Mr W (or Wm Smith) and his wife Mary, would probably have been called Mrs Wm Smith. You can often narrow down your Trove search by combining a place name (or occupation) with a surname and if you get too many hits, it is simple to refine the results, perhaps to a state, single paper or date range. Keep in mind that the articles are indexed from the old newspapers using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) which can result in errors occurring in the text due to the poor quality of the newspapers.

GOW Family Gathering On the weekend of 3-4 October 2020, St John's Church at Wilberforce will be celebrating the bicentenary of the establishment of the Wilberforce Macquarie Schoolhouse. Part of the

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celebrations will be a Gow Family Gathering, William P T Gow having been the first schoolmaster there between 1820 and 1842. He arrived in NSW in 1817 as a convict and in 1821 he married Maria Dunstan, the daughter of 3rd Fleeter David Dunstan and 2nd Fleeter Mary Mullenden. One of their 10 children was David William Gow who married Sarah John - they moved to the Dubbo area (Belarbigill) sometime after 1864.

One of their sons, David Dunstan Gow, married Mary Jane Ashby (from Wellington) and remained in the general area of Dubbo (Baradine, Yeoval, Obley), raising a family of 13.

All descendants of William P T Gow are invited to attend the Gow Family Gathering and to share information about the "Dubbo Gows". Contact the organisers by emailing wptgowdescendants@gmail.com

Family History Award The Tasmanian Family History society is once again running the **Lilian Watson Family History Award** for a book having Tasmanian content. The book can be produced or published on paper, but must deal with a family or biographical history. Historical fiction is not eligible. Entries do not close until the 1st December 2020, so you have lots of time to put pen to paper (or fingers to the keyboard!) and enter this competition. Maybe some of our members who took part in the book writing seminars may have Tasmanian heritage and could enter this competition. Check out information at www.tasfhs.org or email secretary@tasfhs.org

Cheap Transcripts of Certificates When researching your family history you often have to purchase a birth, death or marriage certificate. From the **11th January to the 29th February 2020**, you can purchase a transcript certificate through Joy Murrin Family History Service for the reduced price of \$18 per certificate. In addition, they will be donating \$1 from every Full Transcript to help those suffering from drought. Check out the website www.joymurrin.com.au for full particulars.

UK Family Tree magazine for December 2019 has a fascinating story on a Ukrainian refugee family after WW1. The article is by Stephen Komarnyckj who himself was a refugee to England with his family.

Trove Research All family history researchers know the value of Trove in their research. One of our members has great results when using this tool. But as we also know it can be interesting, exciting, distracting and time consuming! Geoff Attwell was researching the life of a woman who started the 'Niola' Private Hospital in Parkes. The research led him to an obituary for Louise Eccles who died on the 29th May 1911. The intriguing part of the obituary was 'Louisa beloved wife of J S Eccles (Madam Webb), Aged 53 years.' What sort of person was a 'Madam Webb' and what was her occupation? Unable to resist 'Madam Webb' he went searching again on Trove and turned up an item in the Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate on Saturday, 4th July 1908. The item covered the appearance of Jack Mackay's Workingman's Hippodrome or entertainment group. One of the acts was '**Madam Webb and her world famed marionettes, who apparently were very popular in a novel and amusing act**'. Yes, Trove is always interesting, exciting, distracting and time consuming!! But so worth looking at.

A Welcome Back morning tea for all our Library Assistants and Project Assistants will be held on **Tuesday 18th February, 11am** in the family history rooms. Anyone interested in becoming involved with our Wednesday morning working group or becoming a Library Assistant is more than welcome. Make sure you come along and find out what is happening in 2020.

Membership fees for 2020 are now due, \$40 for single renewal, \$45 joint membership, \$48 for families. You can pay by EFT online, or by cash or cheque if you come into the research rooms.