

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 51 – November-December 2020 (And yet Another Covid-19 issue)

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.0427 971 232 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 when you see something of interest.

Society News



This newsletter is the last issue for this year, and what a year it has been!! Despite the continuing Covid-19 problems, the family history rooms continue to operate on a restricted basis. It has been satisfying to see members coming in, even though we are operating under the restricted hours.

Message from our President (Linda Barnes) Well, 2020 is almost over and it was not like anything we could have imagined. However, being resilient people, I'm sure we've all seen some upsides. A huge thank you to everyone for keeping things as normal as could be. Thank you to the wonderful Committee members, also the roster people who have allowed us to re-open and last but not least our loyal members without whom we could not keep going. Hopefully 2021 will bring us a more 'normal' existence. We hope to open for additional hours and days to allow for more reasonable length sessions and quality research time. The Committee will make decisions in January about other activities depending on the circumstances re Covid and we will let you know about these.

Altogether an interesting year and one that you should consider documenting for your own family story. Consider also documenting your family's traditions at Christmas. It seems that each generation continues older customs but develops their own distinctive take on what makes Christmas special for them and these customs would make interesting reading for future generations.

Our rooms are changing for the better. We are now air-conditioned with reverse cycle air-conditioning so all the ducting for the old evaporative air-conditioning has been removed as have the gas heaters. This should make for much more comfortable and cleaner rooms. Thank you to the WPCC for looking after us. We also have a new photocopier thanks to Inland Technology with whom we have a maintenance contract. We really do appreciate the support of such businesses.

The Committee and I would like to wish our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and hope that 2021 will be a happy and healthy year.

Christmas Closures Family History rooms will close from 12noon **Saturday 12th December**. We will re-open from 1pm on **Tuesday 12th January 2021**. Membership fees will be due again from **1st January 2021**. These can be paid on line or by attending the rooms in opening hours.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission has unveiled a new website that allows you to discover and research over 1.7million names of men and women who died in the two World Wars. Visit the site at www.cwg.org

FamilySearch Announces RootsTech Connect 2021: A Free Global Virtual Event As a FamilySearch Affiliate we would like to make sure that you are aware of the above family history event scheduled for **February 25-27, 2021**.

As a free, virtual online event, **RootsTech Connect 2021** will enable attendees from around the world to participate from their homes and enjoy inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes plus the opportunity to interact with presenters, exhibitors and other attendees via live chat and question and answer sessions.

About RootsTech: RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch, is a global conference celebrating families across generations where people of all ages are inspired to discover and share their memories and connections. This annual event has become the largest of its kind in the world, attracting tens of thousands of participants worldwide.

Livestream and On-Demand: Because of the pandemic, the upcoming *RootsTech connect* is online in a combination of both livestream and on-demand content to accommodate differences in time zones for participants.

Registering for RootsTech Connect 2021: Register for free at rootstech.org

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Biographical Database of Australia (DBA) which is available to our members advise of the following updates:

Advanced Search: We are pleased to announce that this facility is available to use. Please read the updated Searching Tips page, as some ways of searching may differ from what other websites offer. Before hitting Search now, check that all the fields you entered are there. Some fields require you to click on a blue box to retain the data. Advanced Search allows you to search over 2 million entries by place, year, ship of arrival, arrival status (convict, soldier, immigrant etc) ethnicity, regiments, religion and more.

You can filter common names, research Aboriginal people, religion, occupations, early colonists in your local area or convicts from Jamaica to Gibraltar.

Your feedback and any comments about the working of Advanced Search would be appreciated. Go to About Us on the Menu then Contact Us [3] from the drop-down menu. See our Website: www.bda-online.org.au Many thanks to those subscribers who donated just over the \$30,000 which we were aiming for, to pay for programming, implementing and testing.

Update 9: Over 150,000 new entries will be added. We are aiming to add another 14 Datasets to our website by the end of 2020.

This update includes: Burials Sydney St James CE 1832-1856; Burials Sydney St Lawrence CE 1838-1856; Convicts direct to Norfolk Island 1840-1847; Ship Musters departing Sydney 1816-1825; Permissions for Convicts to marry 1826-1852; Register of Convicts in Victoria 1838-1852 (mainly convicts who landed in Sydney); Deane Index 1823-1840 (references to Australia in the Colonial Office, London); plus others.

Links: [1] <https://www.bda-online.org.au> [2] <https://www.bda-online.org.au/about-us/contact-us/>

[3] <https://bda-online.org.au/members/unsubscribe?e=info%40dubbofamilyhistory.org.au&s=AD93t5IDCI>

Did you know (a) In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts...So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them '*Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.*'

It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

(b) Many years ago, in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. '*Wet your whistle*' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

John Gilbert, Engineer Many members will recall John Gilbert who was an Engineer and Town Planner with Dubbo Regional Council from 1953 to 1983. Members may also recall that the water treatment plant in Macquarie Street was named in his honor shortly before he retired. What most people would not be aware of was his service in the RAAF during WW11, as one of 60 pilots of the B24 Liberator Bombers used during this war. The society has been fortunate to be given an article written by Stewart McLeod relating to the life of this man. Stewart worked as an engineer with John at the council prior to John retiring. The article has been written with the consent of the Gilbert family. In 2021 this story will be made available as a three-part series in our bi-monthly newsletter.

Myall Creek Massacre & Memorial Most of us would be familiar with the story of this and other massacres of Aboriginal natives in the 1800-1900's, as white pastoral industries continued to advance into Aboriginal lands. On a recent trip, which took us on the road from Delungra to Bingara, we were surprised to see a memorial to the Myall Creek Massacre. A plaque to this event was placed at the site in 2000 with a yearly memorial ceremony held on the long week end in June. After many years of planning and seeking grants, this year the site has been further developed with interpretive signs, a performing centre, a bush garden and the planting of native flora and fauna that would have been used by the Aboriginals in their daily life. This memorial site is well worth a side trip if travelling near Inverell or Tamworth. There are several websites with information about this time in our history.

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Anglican Diocese of Newcastle Archives: Public access to Parish registers: baptisms, marriages, confirmations and burials 1826 – 1995 and Parish Register Microfilms: 1826 – 1899 are available as follows. Due to the very fragile state of these volumes, microfilm copies of the parish registers have been made.

The parish microfilms are widely available to the general community in seventeen libraries, including ten libraries in the Hunter Valley. Members of the public wishing to visit these collections are advised to visit the website <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/anglican/parishregisters> or [contact us](#) for further information.

Cynthia Foley added to Hidden Treasures Honour Roll Member for Dubbo electorate Dugald Saunders has announced Dubbo's Cynthia Foley as part of the 2020 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.

This is an initiative of the NSW Government's Rural Women's Network and recognises women for their valuable volunteer roles and the outstanding contribution they provide. She joins a growing list of over 1000 volunteers who have been recognised since the first Honour Roll was launched in 2010.

Members of our society know how much Cynthia has given to our society over the years, so congratulations to Cynthia for this well-deserved accolade.

Vincent's Studio Display at Western Plains Cultural Centre Have you been to the centre to check out this display? After our last meeting the committee went over and checked out this display. We took advantage of the opportunity to take some photos as would have been done in the time of Vincent's Studio. Make sure you call in have a look.



Kathy Furney, Cathy Thompson



Linda Barnes, June Wilson



Lesley Abrahams, Lyn Smith, Cathy

Facebook I could not end the year without thanking Karlyn Robinson for the sterling job she has been doing in presenting our face book page. We were entertained with the regular Sunday Smile and enlightened by her series on women and occupations in early days. This was in addition to keeping us up to date with happenings with our Society. Karlyn is handing the job over to Lyn Smith in 2021, so that she can pursue more of her own projects. Again, thank you Karlyn, and also welcome to Lyn Smith taking over the role of face book manager.

All the best to our members for a safe and enjoyable Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the Family History Rooms in 2021.

