

DUBBO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



Newsletter 56– Sept.Oct 2021 (Covid-19 lockdown 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 1.00-4.00, Saturday 10.00-1.00pm

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

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Management Committee Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11am 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 Lyn has lots of interesting snippets.

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Society News

Just when we were nearly back in the swing of things, Covid has struck us again, with our **rooms closed until further notice**. Please watch our website and face book page to keep up to date with the current situation with our society.

To record the impact Covid has had on all of us, Dubbo Regional Council wants to set up a **Covid-19 Archive**. They are looking for our impressions and how we have been affected in these unusual times. Check out the following website and give them your story.

<https://www.westernplainsculturalcentre.org/testing-times-a-covid-archive>

Book launch Karlyn Robinsons second book called *“Remarkable Women of the Central West”* has been very popular with many copies already purchased. Unfortunately, we are unable to send out several orders as our rooms are closed, but be assured copies will be forwarded once we have access to our rooms. A copy can be purchased for \$45 in our family history rooms or by sending an email to our society. Postage for this book will be \$5.50.

UK Family Tree magazine for August contains an excellent article by Chris Paton called *“Key 20th Century Scottish Resources”*. Anyone researching Scottish family history should read this article (of course when you can come back into the family history rooms). The 1921 Scottish census records are also about to be released. This issue also has an article by Dr. Simon Wills explaining how to use Trade directories, to research your ancestors’ occupations.

Online Genealogical Index is a free-to-use database containing records for places in England, Wales and Isle of Man. Research is built around **place** names, rather than family names, so check out the website at <https://ogindex.org>

Finding Family in England & Wales Records The Genealogical Society of Qld will be holding a Virtual Event by Zoom on this subject on **Saturday 23rd October 2021**. It will be held from 12.30pm-6.30pm. and will include a Q/A session. Check out their website for more information at www.gsq.org.au or email them at events@gsq.org.au

Sir (Arthur) Roden Cutler, VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE (1916 – 2002) (Part 2)

A military and family history review by Steve Clayton

In 1877 Walter Pope got a position as a drill instructor with the Sydney Grammar School a position he held for 3 years before joining the Prisons Department. He was working at Young before he relocated to **Dubbo** and had a strong volunteerism ethic in an era when voluntary military training was regarded as an honourable pursuit. In **Dubbo** he established the **Dubbo Volunteer Corps** which in 1885 had 50 members and their parades would occasionally be inspected by officers of the regiment who were very impressed with the drill supervision rendered by Captain Pope. Interestingly Pope was ably assisted by **Dubbo** born Lieutenant Earnest William **Soane** from the famous pioneering family, his father **Daniel Soane** who managed Old Dubbo Station and married into the **Dulhunty** family. Lieutenant Soane had an excellent relationship with Captain Pope and became a very accomplished horseman and military officer who excelled as a commanding officer after enlisting with the Imperial Bushmen’s Contingent in the 2nd Boer War, South Africa. 1899 -1902.

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Walter Pope left the Prison system in 1896 and like William Soane also went to the 2nd Boer War at age 48 but rather than fight with NSW Units he joined the famous Black Watch Regiment, a Scottish Regiment, and became Captain of the commissariat department. Pope's son Walter William Edwin Pope also enlisted and served as a Private with the 1st NSW Mounted Rifles. Walter Pope returned to Australia and it is not well documented what he did over the next 14 years before he retired to his home in Manly in 1916. He was not able to directly inspire **his grandson Roden** with his military passion, who was only 5 weeks old at the time of his grandfather's death in 1916.

Roden was born in Manly whilst his parents were living in his grandparent's house. The Cutlers later moved to the house, 'Kyeema' in Manly overlooking Little Manly Cove. Roden was the eldest child with two brothers Geoff and Robert, and sister Doone (named after the book Lorna Doone). A brother Harold died as an infant. Roden's childhood was one of mucking around on the harbour and at the beach, and with the 0.22 rifle firing pot shots at tin cans floating in the cove. Arthur, his father, a firearms expert, made him a working model field gun which could be charged with gun powder. Roden's earlier displays of bravery were evidenced by the boys venturing out in their handmade tin canoes across the heads. One time at the beach aged 18, Roden was involved in rescuing a person being circled by a shark making contact twice with the creature whilst doing so. He amazed onlookers with his trademark quality of maintaining a calm demeanour under great pressure.

His schooling occurred during the Depression of the 1930s when his parents had to skimp and save to make ends meet. They would've liked to have sent him to Sydney Grammar School but couldn't afford it. However, Roden's studious nature won him eligibility to attend Sydney Boys High School. He coasted easily through school and therefore wasn't inclined to stretch himself academically as much as he could have, preferring to engage in sports. He was a keen cricketer and he attained a sporting "Blue" in swimming, water polo and rifle shooting. He had to repeat Year 4 due to his laxness toward study.

Experiencing his parents' struggles to make ends meet in Depression times, he decided upon a secure career with the Public Service with an eye on the Department of Justice. Unable to gain entry on first attempt, in 1935 he managed to get a job with the Texas Company (later to become Texaco) as office boy on one pound a week as a starting point to getting into university. He managed to win his employer's approval to attend university in the evenings. Sydney University was the only university at that time. Working 65 hours of job plus night lectures and travelling to and from Manly he had no time for a social life.

His father, having grown up in the rural area of Bathurst, related to pastoralists and was knowledgeable about guns and got a job as a travelling salesman with Remington Arms Company (American). He travelled away a lot and was a very successful and valued employee. He was given an American vehicle to travel around in which with its Left-Hand Drive controls unfortunately caused him to have a fatal car accident on his initial journey. **Roden's life at age 19** changed thereafter as the senior male in the family and became the responsible family breadwinner, and the one to care for his mother's welfare, now a widow.

In 1936 he joined the **Sydney University Regiment (SUR)**, motivated not so much by military training but by the opportunity of maximising his income to pay family and university expenses through combining his day job and doing paid military camp training whilst on paid annual leave from his employer. He was due to graduate in 1939 but war was brewing in Europe.

The SUR had an artillery unit comprising one 18 pounder field gun retained from the Boer War and Roden was appointed sergeant of the gun detachment. At this point he gained entry to the Public Service.

However, the SUR was called for home front defence duties where they were assigned to protect the Vacuum Oil Company at Duck Creek, Auburn. Whilst on this duty he hears Prime Minister Menzies make that famous announcement of Australia's entry into the war. He wanted to enlist with the 6th Division but his Public Servant status caused his enlistment application to be initially rejected.

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He had to get the approval of the Public Service Board for leave to enlist which took time and by then they were up to recruiting for the 7th Division. However, doing so meant he wasn't permitted to retain his commission (as Lieutenant) and would be demoted to Sergeant. Not happy about this he considered joining the air force by preference instead, but the Commanding Officer of the 18th Field Artillery Brigade Lt. Colonel Clyde Ingate liked what he saw in Cutler as with his other recruits and pulled some strings to get him enlisted into the 2/5th Field Regiment while retaining his rank. This regiment was a good mixture of recruits made up of university graduates and working men many of whom had joined with their mates. Ingate saw the value in this of producing a "familial sense of identity, and amazing classless combination", good for morale, and where splendid teamwork became its hallmark.

Training commenced at the **Ingleburn Army Camp** with 18-pounder Field Guns although the 25 pounders were the field gun of choice among all British forces in WWII but these were at that stage in short supply from British weapons factories. They had to take the 18 pounder guns with them overseas and wait for supply at a later stage. October 1940 the Seventh Division (7000 soldiers) boarded the troop ships *Queen Mary* and *Aquatania* in Sydney and sailed for Port Philip Bay where the *Mauritania* joined them and under escort from the Australian cruiser *HMAS Perth* sailed for Egypt via Fremantle to Bombay (13 days). They transferred to the troopship *Lancashire* and proceeded to Suez. It took 6 weeks to transport the regiment from Australia to Gaza arriving at a place called Deir Suneid, their de facto home base.

(To be continued in the next newsletter)

Bathurst Remembers World War 2 Exhibition 2021 This exhibition marking VJ Day and 75th Anniversary of the end of WW2 will (hopefully, depending on Covid) run for four days from Friday 3rd December to Monday 6th December 2021 - Open: 9am to 5pm. The event will be held in four pavilions at the Bathurst Showground, Sydney Road.

This WW2 Exhibition will consist of "Snapshots of World War 2" - 600 enlarged photos of soldiers in action, battlefields, training, the home front, Bathurst Army Camp, etc. There will also be the "Wall of Valour" - Over 130 enlarged photos of World War 2 Service Men and Women with an association with Bathurst who enlisted and served" over 2000 photos in all. Guest Exhibitors will display over 3,000 military items and WW2 memorabilia, uniforms, large display by Military Vehicle Group of NSW and other vehicle groups, medals, RAAF & POW items, Damien Parer St Stanislaus College photo display, a rustic military picture theatre, Military Guest Speakers and lots more.

Biographical Database of Australia has advised they have loaded over 100,000 new records to their database which is available to members in our family history rooms. The latest updates cover records such as Coroners Inquests in NSW 1834-1839, Qld and Vic., Colonists and aboriginal people mentioned in the Sydney Gazettes 1803-1807, Notices re escaped convicts & Sydney City burials 1832-1856, as well as a multitude of other records now available.

Index Search There is a new index search created by Associate Professor of Digital Heritage Tim Sherratt at the University of Canberra that allows you to name search over 195 indexes harvested by him from different collecting institutions.

A couple of us have had a look at it, and found it very exciting, so check it out. It is amazing the abilities some people have, and what they can do with them. Read all about it at the following link.

<https://updates.timsherratt.org/2021/08/23/a-family-history.html>

Keep safe everyone and keep up your family research – even though we cannot go into our rooms, there are lots of resources available on line.

