

BORDERLINE NEWS



February 2021
newsletter no. 177

What's Happening Next for our Society:

16th February – A new segment commenced at the January meeting: Meet a Committee Member. It is a brief insight into the duties of the position/s held by that Committee member and their experiences tracing family history information.
February is Janette Griggs – Vice President and Programmes Officer.
This will be followed by guest speaker Kate Eastick whose topic will be “Nurses and Midwives” followed by Susie Zada’s video presentation of that topic plus Susie provides details on how to research any of your female ancestors.

16th March – The Meet a Committee Member this month is Sue Jarvis - Treasurer.
This will be followed by guest speaker Ann Copeland whose topic will be “Getting Started in Family History” relating to the migrants experiences in 19th century Victoria plus British genealogy.

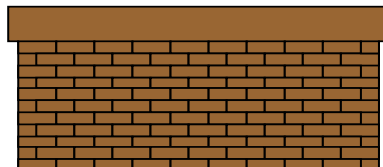
20th April – The Meet a Committee Member this month is Alice Lindsay – Research Officer and New Members Officer.
This will be followed by guest speaker Matt Bennett whose topic will be “World War 1 links to Albury Wodonga”

PLEASE NOTE: At the September meeting we will be conducting a Members Brick Wall night.

In preparation for this meeting please submit any questions/problems you are having tracing information about your ancestor/s as soon as possible so that clues/references can be provided at the meeting.

Members who attend the September meeting may also be able to help with research tips.

Please send your questions to secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org with the Subject name of BrickWall query for September meeting



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Postal address: PO Box 289 Wodonga Vic 3689

Web site: www.wodongafamilyhistory.org

Email address: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WodongaFamilyHistory/>

The Research Area is situated in the premises of the temporary Wodonga Library in High Street, Wodonga VIC. The opening hours for research are Tuesday & Wednesday from 11am to 3pm and Thursday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm however the area is currently closed due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month [except December] at 7.30pm at the Felltimber Community Centre, cnr Felltimber Creek Road and Melrose Drive, Wodonga. Entry is via Ritter Road.

Any research enquiries can be directed either via email to

secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

or send your request via post to PO Box 289 Wodonga Vic 3689 and follow the following directions:

Research enquiries: *If you wish our Research Officer to do research for you, via post, please include a business sized, stamped, self addressed envelope with your enquiry details. Whether your request is via email or post please include all the details you can: names, areas, dates, any births, deaths and marriage details you may have and what you want the Research Officer to find out. There is no point in paying for what you already know.*

The initial research cost is \$25.00 unless you only have a single straight forward look-up from our records then the cost will be \$5.

Payment of email and postal requests must be received prior to commencement of research or lookup. Payment via EFT/transfer is preferred.

Bank details: Hume Bank

BSB: 640 000

Account: 111115547

If depositing money in the Society's account, please advise the secretary, by email, what the payment is for at: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

The requests will be passed on to the Research officer.

Members, if you have a brick wall, send an email to secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org detailing your problem. The information will then be forwarded to the email list of members to see what ideas they can offer you.

The secretary [Wendy] will then circulate any suggestions as the suggestions may help others in their research.

This service is not intended for other members to do your research for you - it is to offer guidance on areas of research you can explore to break down your brick walls.

Once the Research area is reopened researchers please note that you cannot access the WFHS Research records until you have signed the attendance book in the Research area. **Items cannot be returned through the Library after hour's chute or to the Regional Library staff.** They must be returned to the Research Area during the designated opening hours mentioned above.

Membership Details

Membership of the Wodonga Family History Society Inc. includes the benefits of receiving a quarterly newsletter and allows access to all the resources of the Society's library which is growing all the time. Your attendance at our monthly meetings will ensure that you have contact with our researchers who share your interest in family history.

Subscriptions:	New Members Joining Fee	\$ 10.00
	Annual Membership	\$25.00
	Part Year Membership [join between 1 st April & 30 th June]	\$10.00 + joining fee

Membership fees are due and payable in July of each year.
The AGM is held in September each year.

Committee members for 2021

President	Pat Hopkins	phone: 0428 40 1904	
Vice President	Janette Griggs	phone: 0400 61 8562	
Treasurer	Sue Jarvis		
Secretary & Public Officer	Wendy Cooksey	phone: 02 6056 3220	
	Maureen Cuskelly	Ann Kerin	Alice Lindsay
	Pam Nulty	Carolyn Renfrey	Christine Young

We are updating our members' information and would like to include details of a person to contact in case of emergency. The information required is "Person to contact and contact number". Please forward these details to: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org, call Wendy on 02 6056 3220 or post to PO Box 289, Wodonga, 3689.

There have been changes to the committee. Norma and Lyn have retired from the committee after more than 30 years' service between them to WFHS.

Pat Hopkins has taken over as President and Maureen Cuskelly has joined the committee.

The committee meetings are held at 5 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Rainbow Room at the Felltimber Community Centre in West Wodonga [Cnr of Melrose Drive and Felltimber Creek Road]. This is the same room and evening as our general meetings.

Members were always welcome to attend the committee meetings.

NEWS FROM THE GSV (Genealogical Society of Victoria)

Noted from an email received from Jenny Redman President of the GSV (19 Jan 2021) The GSV Education and Resource Centre is moving from their current location in Queen Street to Level 1, 10 Queen Street Melbourne down the hill towards Flinders Street, with access from both Queen Street and Bond Street at the back with wheelchair access and a carpark. The lease will be for 6 years. The move will be in mid-February and they hope to resume on March 1 under CoVid restrictions. Their events, talks, seminars, discussion circles and other online activities will continue. Up to date information can be found on their webpage.

At our January meeting Jenni spoke of the positive benefits of linking into their Zoom meetings (Victoria and Tasmania Discussion Group) and Wendy has had a similar experience (Counties of Northern England Discussion Circle). They recommend you seek information on what is available from the GSV webpage and, if you are tempted, join the GSV and 'zoom in'.

President's Report

After so much time not having a general meeting it was wonderful to see so many attend the January meeting at Felltimber - almost like 'old times'.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Felltimber on Tuesday 15 December. All Committee positions were declared vacant and, as Norma didn't wish to continue as President, I was elected to the position. Norma had been in the role for eight years and I am sure we are all grateful for her leadership.

Lyn decided to retire from the Committee and her role as Librarian - a position she held for about 25 years. She inherited a small library of books and microfiche but managed over time to build a local, national and international resource centre that was the envy of many other family history groups. I think she was sad to see the need to downsize the library when we moved from the old Wodonga library to High Street where storage and access to our resources were limited. Both ladies need to be congratulated on the valuable contributions they have made to our society over time. We are not saying good bye to them as they will act as mentors to Christine, our new librarian, to me as President, and to our society as we are sure to need advice from their wealth of experience.

The other positions on the Committee were filled without the need for an election and the names and duties of each are recorded elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Maureen Cuskelly for joining the committee and offering to take on the role of Newsletter editor from Christine.

We have had a very strange year coping with Covid and not being able to meet on a regular basis. Let's hope our meetings can go ahead as Janette has a very interesting programme organised for this year and that we can go back to having sessions in the library. Of course if you have any concerns or need help with your research make sure you contact Wendy.

Congratulations are extended to our long time members, Heather and Doreen, on reaching the wonderful age of 90 in November. Both ladies have given many years of service to our Society - Heather as President and Treasurer and Doreen as our Treasurer for 15 years. Well done ladies and we wish you good health and happiness for the future.

Patricia Hopkins
President

A message from Lyn Larkin

I have been the librarian at Wodonga Family Historical Society for many years. When I started we had a collection of books and some microfiche and a reader. With advances in technology things are now very different. We have computers with local, national and online resources available.

Over the years I have met many people who have worked in different occupations - some of them surprising - and lived in many places. I enjoyed meeting people and helping with their research. I would like to thank all the people who have assisted at the library over many years.

It was a pleasure to work with you all - Lyn

REFLECTIONS: 2012 - 2020 by Norma Burrows

After 9 years as president I have decided to retire and Christine has asked me to reflect on those years.

During these years we have built on the solid foundation created by earlier members. We have enhanced our public profile by participating in events such as the annual Seniors Celebrations, displays at the library and the council windows (old Coles' building), holding seminars and attending various Expos around the area. On a few occasions we gave talks to other groups. We have always been willing to participate in local events when we can.

Since I have been a member Wodonga library has been our base and this will continue when the new library is completed. We will be involved in the planning of our area and we are looking forward to this move.

We experimented with holding daytime meetings for those members who may have found it difficult to attend at night. Unfortunately this was not successful.

Our research base was enriched with the availability of the library edition of Ancestry on our research room computers.

For those of us with computers the TROVE website has given us a wealth of information. First available to the public in 2009 the data base has grown so much that it now covers an enormous variety of newspapers from all over Australia. This gives us access to information from the early years of our ancestors' arrival and is a priceless resource.

During this time Lyn, our librarian, added many books to our list. We now have a very important range of books for our members to borrow. I have also been part of a group who continue to record information from local sources. These include church records, gold mining leases, local rates and court records. As well as being available on our library computers some have been turned into CDs which are available for the public to purchase. Over the years we have listened to some wonderful speakers on a great range of topics. Janette continues to present a great programme each year.

2020 was a year where we were unable to have face to face meetings but our secretary Wendy kept us all up to date with what was going on in the genealogical world. She has done this for all the years I have been a member and she continues to do a great job. We continue to be in a solid financial position and as a result we have not had to increase our fees in recent years.

Over the years we have welcomed new members to our committee. All of the improvements and benefits we have are due to the commitment and participation of the committee and members at fund raising and other events.

I have enjoyed my time as president and will continue to support WFHS. Our society continues to be a friendly, successful group in a sound financial position. I wish the 2021 committee every success for the future.

PROJECTS - Pat Hopkins

At the January meeting we heard what some of our members had done during the Covid lockdown. One particular effort from Heather showed the value of Trove and being able to do your research project at home. She was very pleased with her efforts. Her family living in a small town were featured in the local newspaper on a regular basis. Community events, with names, were recorded so the locals in the town and the surrounding district knew what was happening. This aspect of 19th century life disappeared during the latter part of the 20th century and now we are fighting for any local news to be recorded.

When we are able to meet on a more regular basis and even in small groups at the library I think it would be a worthwhile project for us to have "How to" sessions - an opportunity for someone with the expertise to show others how to do tasks using their computer. There is so much available using "Zoom" but it can be overwhelming if you are trying to do it on your own. In such circumstances having others with you makes the job easier. If you have a desire to learn 'how to...' then bring your idea to our February meeting.

Our Monday project work will not start for some time; probably when we move to the new site. The Wodonga Licences books are complete - showing who had the licence to hotels, liquor outlets in the Wodonga, Chiltern, Rutherglen area 1883-1923. These have been transcribed so researching is made easier although the court decisions are available in the paper.

Christmas period is always quiet but hopefully we will add more local resources over the next few months even if we have to work from home.

NEWS FROM THE WODONGA LIBRARY

There is still a limit on the number of people accessing the Library but we hope to be back in a limited capacity in the not too distant future. It may be possible to have two people there at a time in the afternoons from Tuesday to Thursday. The new library is expected to be completed July-Sept and then we hope to have a display and information sessions to showcase the benefits of belonging to a family history group, in particular, ours. More details on both will be given to you as they come to hand. The Library staff suggested you might like to read family history magazines on line rather than pay a subscription or wait for a hard copy. Family Tree UK and USA as well as Traces are available. Instructions on how to use the facility is on their webpage and the library staff are willing to help. Ancestry.com is still available on their website.

The Online website for Wodonga Library

On the Home page of the Wodonga Library website is a link to the Online library. This will give you access to eMagazines like Family Tree UK and USA as well as Traces and many other magazines and they are free to read. You will be able to browse and download digital copies of many magazines. You will be directed to register via the RBdigital app and login using your library card. There are also E BOOKS; E AUDIOBOOKS; DATABASES and FILMS.

Click the red RBdigital hyperlink. If you have not used this facility before you will need to click on Create New Account and type in your Wodonga Library card number [no spaces between the numbers]. Hit Next and complete the rest of the details. Once you have created your account then you will be able to browse the magazines. If you use the Search function then type in the magazine you wish to browse.

- **Example:** start typing Family and you will get options to choose from. If you choose Family Tree UK the function will take you to the latest magazine.

Click the magazine and back copies will appear. Click Checkout and then click Start Reading. Once you have finished don't forget to Log out. The icon is at the top of the screen



Members' stories

The WFHS committee are always trying to encourage you, the members, to write short pieces for the newsletter. The aim is to give you the confidence to keep writing short or longer pieces for yourself and your family to preserve and pass on your family's history. It would be great if you wanted to share those stories with fellow members via this newsletter. The story can be as short as 300 words [half a page, depending on the font you use] up to a page and a half [approx. 900 words].

Visiting Great Auntie Bessie by Christine Young

I remember going to visit Great Auntie Bessie a few times when I was a child [5 or 6yrs old]. The visits were usually in the cooler months and it was a long journey from home to Curdies River - SE of Warrnambool - by train [a Red Rattler - the kind where the doors opened outwards]. Curdies River was/is a farming community and I don't remember any township.

We lived in a "new area" west of Melbourne City that was built for working class and poor families – a Housing Commission development. When we moved to this area there were paddocks across the road; no railway station close to us and no made roads.

To get to Auntie Bessie's we had to walk to the nearest railway station [about 15mins away]; catch the train into Flinders Street; walk to Platform 1 and catch the train to Warrnambool [about 4½ hours]; get picked up and driven to the farm at Curdies River [about 35mins].

Auntie Bessie was born Jane Elizabeth [she was one of my paternal grandmothers' sisters]. At the time of our visits she was a widow and a dairy farmer. Every now and then we [Dad, Mum, my sister and I] would visit along with 2 or 3 of Dad's brothers. One of their jobs was to check the rabbit traps and shoot any that weren't dead or find some in the paddocks and shoot them and bring them back to the farmhouse. My sister and I weren't told what happened to the rabbits but I remember eating rabbit stew!!!

The dairy had a railway track attached to it that went out to the road. The milk churns were loaded onto the back of a railway wagon which was led out to the road by a draft horse where the milk churns were then placed onto a platform waiting for the truck from the dairy to pick them up.



My sister and I were given the "job" of steering the draft horse to the road – with a little help from Dad.



Once that was done it was time to eat. Before we could do that we had to wash our hands. There was no running water on the farm so a dish of water was left at the back door for us to use. As I was the eldest it was my job to break the ice that had formed on top of the dish and then plunge my hands into the freezing water and use the lye soap to get them clean. My sister wasn't very happy about it either. [Lye soap was usually made with leftover cooking fats and lye made from wood ashes].

Auntie Bessie said it would toughen us up!!! I'm not sure what we were toughening up for but if we wanted to eat then it had to be done. We had to show her that our hands were clean before we could sit at the table.

Sadly Auntie Bessie died in 1959 so there were no more visits.

Whilst it was a long way to go and it was basic living at the farm it is happy memories that I have of the visits.

Surnames

Have you ever wondered what your family surnames mean? All of my ancestors come from the UK. I decided to try and find out what some of mine mean. One means a lonely glade; three are occupations; one describes an area of land; one is a pointed hill and another one is a farm by a pig ford.

You could use houseofnames.com; forebears.io; surnamedb.com

Ancestry.com.au can help you find out the distribution of the name throughout the world; where the most families with the name are found; if it is the UK you can find the county. You can use Census records and voter lists to see where families of that surname lived.

Within census records, you can often find information like name of household members, ages, birthplaces, residences, and occupations.



This is my last edition of Borderline News. I have been the Newsletter Editor for about 15 years and now I am taking on a new task within WFHS.

Maureen Cuskelly will be the new editor.

I will be trying to fill Lyn Larkin's shoes as the WFHS Librarian. I will be going on this long learning curve with Lyn's invaluable help.

I ask for your patience and understanding when you come and ask me questions. You will probably be able to teach me some things about our collection!!!

I look forward to you coming and exploring all of the wonderful resources we have in our WFHS library.

Christine Young

RECORDS FOR SALE

If you wish to view/purchase the records that the WFHS hold on CD or DVD you can navigate to our website: <http://wodongafamilyhistory.org/> and click the **Sales** hyperlink.

All CD's cost \$20 each and all DVD's cost \$25 each.

There is a packaging and posting [p&p] charge:

- \$5 for 1 or 2 CD's and/or DVD's;

- \$10 for 3 or 4 CD's and/or DVD's, unless otherwise stated.
- Please note:** all CD's and DVD's are Word and Excel compatible.

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A list of books for sale, at \$5 per book, is on the WFHS website. You can view them by navigating to the home screen of the website <http://wodongafamilyhistory.org/> and hovering your mouse over the **Sales** hyperlink then click the sub heading for **WFHS Books for Sale**.