

WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 98 May, 2014



OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

LOCATION:

1st Floor
100-104 Murphy Street
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.
(above Visitor Information
Centre).

POSTAL ADDRESS:

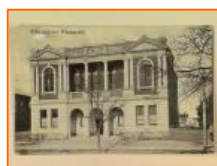
P.O. Box 683
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676
Australia.

email:

info@wfhs.org.au

Web Address:

www.wfhs.org.au



STOP THE PRESS!

Just announced. The Wangaratta Family History Society has received a \$10,678 grant from the Minister for the Arts to digitise and index the rate books.

COMING EVENTS:

At our Society:

Saturday 21 June 2014 at 2.00pm **Members Meeting**

To be held in our library so come along and catch up with all the news at WFHS.

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

29 June 2014, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Benalla Migrants Exhibition being held at Hut 11 at the Benalla Airport in Samaria Rd, Benalla. The exhibition gives the history of the Benalla Migrant Camp where between 1949 and 1967, 60,000 European post war migrants made their temporary home.

August 2014—National Family History Month

23 August 2014

GSV library open afternoon, 1-00 pm- 4.00 pm. Free to non-members, bookings essential.

Venue: GSV Library, Level B1, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne. Group: Genealogical Society of Victoria Inc. Contact: GSV Bookshop, phone or email.

Web: www.gsv.org.au

25 August 2014

State Library of Victoria, Village Roadshow Theatre.

Family History Feast—A day of free information sessions, including the Don Grant Lecture showcasing how the major Victorian government agencies for family history research can help genealogists.

Contact: Anne Burrows aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au

Web: slv.vic.gov.au

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- * Lawrence O'Connor
- * Monica Cooper
- * David Cooper
- * Victoria Watts.

HAVE A QUERY OR WISH TO MAKE A SUGGESTION?

Contact:

- * Ray McKenzie, President, on 03 5721 7553; or
- * Val Brennan, Vice President, on 03 5727 6229.

MEMBERSHIP:

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$25
Joint Full Membership	\$35
Single Pensioner	\$20
Joint Pensioner	\$30
Newsletter only	\$12

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & OTHERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary: position vacant

Other committee members:

- Val McPherson
- Elaine Jones
- Paddy Milne

Auditor: Norm Kenny of Kerr Andison and Kenny Pty Ltd.

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.



PROJECTS UPDATE:

Eldorado Cemetery project being finalised in preparation for meeting with Cemetery Trust.

Tarrawingee Cemetery Database & Images. Ready for initial view and comment by Cemetery Trust.

Whitefield Cemetery project – preparing to image headstones and link images to excel database.

Springhurst Cemetery – currently linking images to records.

Chiltern & Rutherglen Cemeteries – current records held by our society being assessed.

Wangaratta Cemetery Update project – all records being assessed and plan being developed to commence imaging of headstones in the future.



100th EDITION OF 'THREADS' TO BE A BUMPER EDITON:



In six months time the 100th edition of this newsletter will be published as a 'bumper' edition and will include lots of articles and items of interest as well as a celebration of 30 years of our Society.

If you have an article you would like to have published in *Threads*, please contact the editor, Cheryl Price, at info@wfhs.org.au or phone 03 5721 5906.

FOR SALE \$—WANGARATTA CEMETERY CD:

Our Society is reducing stocks and selling Wangaratta Cemetery CDs which contain burial and headstone transcriptions at a reduced price of \$50 ea (Including packaging and postage). Original price was \$77.

Download the order form from our website <http://www.wfhs.org.au/> or contact info@wfhs.org.au.

CORRECTION:

The article titled 'My Grandfather Soren (John) Christesen' in the Wangaratta *Threads* August 2013 edition should read 'My Great Grandfather Soren (John) Christesen'. The correction in the November 2013 edition of *Threads* showed the name should read 'Christensen'. This is incorrect, the name is 'Christesen'.

IN MEMORIAM:

Daphne Sandford, long term Member and former President & Microfiche co-ordinator, passed away on 2nd January 2014.

EXCITING TIME AT THE 1946 WANGARATTA CARNIVAL:

The following is an extract from a letter written by Clarice May Richardson¹ to her friend Mae on 30 January 1946. The letter is contained in the collection titled *William Betts Richardson – Diary Extracts & Recollections* held in our library. Clarice was 20 years old when she wrote the newsy letter.

'Last Saturday night I went to the Wangaratta Carnival and went Monday too and stayed for the night program. The carnival was a great affair with several bits of excitement, there were half a dozen smashes in the bike races, a couple of free fights, one of the bookies tried to clear off when the favourite won the Wangaratta Gift, one of the rockets in the fireworks display started a fire on the river flats about a quarter of a mile away and Dad² and some others put it out. They tore down to it on the fire cart which has just been equipped with a siren and it screamed all the way. I also saw a car knock down a gent on a bike but there wasn't much blood. A lady sprained her ankle and Dad drove her home, when we were coming home ourselves there was a terrific traffic jam and a car banged into us but didn't do any damage. I forgot to mention that the last event on the program were 2 motor bikes and 4 midget cars which raced around the arena and skidded nearly into the fence and showered the crowd with dust and stones. Then one of the midget cars caught on fire so we certainly had lots of thrills.'

1. Clarice May Richardson married Jim Tobias in 1947. Clarice died in March 2007.
2. 'Dad' is William Betts Richardson.



ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

A History Of Greta by S E Ellis. Publisher Lowden Kilmore 1972.

As the Spirit Leads: St. Patrick's Parish Wangaratta 150 Years by Peter R Murray. Pub-Wangaratta, Vic. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, 2013.

Australia And The Australians by R Younger. Pub-Rigby Ltd.

Australian Place Names by Broan & Barbara Kennedy. Pub—Hodder & Stoughton.

Beechworth—An Australian Country Town and its Past by Tom Griffiths. Pub—Greenhouse Publications 1987.

Beechworth's Little Canton—The History Of The Spring Creek Chinese Camp And Its Residents by Vivienne McWaters, 2002.

City Of Wangaratta—Proclaimed 1959 by D M Whittacker. Pub—City of Wangaratta Council, 1963.

Cornishtown Centenary 1873-1973 by Cornishtown Centenary Committee, 1973.

Dargo Crooked River—A Pictorial History by Robert Christie. Pub—High Country Publishing, 1997.

Heroic Australian Women in War by Susabba De Vries. Pub—Harper Collins, 2004.

History Of The Shire Of Chiltern by Robert W P Ashley. Pub—Shire of Chiltern.

How To Trace Your Irish Ancestors by Janet Reakes. Pub-Hale & Ironmonger.

How To Trace Your Missing Ancestors—Whether Living Or Dead by Janet Reakes. Pub—Hale & Ironmonger.

How to Trace Your Scottish Ancestors by Janet Reakes. Pub—Hale & Ironmonger.

List Of Counties, Parishes & Townships, River Creek & Lakes In Victoria 1985 by Dept of Property & Services, Victorian Government Printer.

London & Middlesex—A Genealogical Bibliography Vol 2—Family History & Pedigrees.

Macquarie by Susan Drury & others. Pub—Bay Books, 1982.

Merriang—An Early Victorian Homestead by Hilde Knorr. Pub—Spectrum, 1981.

More Than an 8 Hour Day—Wangaratta BPW by Business & Professional Women of Wangaratta, 2007.

Notes Of A Tour In The Wimmera District 1861 By An Old Bushman by William Lockhart Morton. Pub—National Parks Authority, 1966.

Once In Broome by Sally Bin Demin, 2007.

Ordeal By Fire—The Week The State Burned Up by W S Noble. Pub—Hawthorn Press, 1977.

People. Places And Things Of The Northeast by Graham Jones.

Planting & Reaping—A History Of The Sacred Heart Parish Of Yarrawonga.

Red Cross in Wangaratta. Pub—Red Cross, 2013.

Register of Place Names In Victoria 1983 by Surveyor-General's Office, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, 1983.

The Celtic Book of Names From Ireland, Scotland & Wales by D J Conway. Pub—Carol Publishing Group, 1999.

The Days Of Gold.

The First Twenty Years.

The Gap—School Magazine Bairnsdale Inspectorate 1965 and 1969.

The Goldfields And Mineral Districts Of Victoria by R Brough Smyth. Pub—Queensberry Hill Press, 1978.

The History Of Wonnongatta Station by Wallace Malcolm Mortimer. Pub—Spectrum, 1981.

The Kiewa Valley—The Story of The Kiewa Valley And Its Pioneers.

The Story Of The Century 1851-1951 100 Years Of Victorian Government

Through Their Eyes: a Glimpse of the Lives of Women from Benalla & District. Editors Maree Hanlon and Pam Herbert, 2013.

Victories In Camberwell—A History Of Catholics In Camberwell by Mary Sheehan, 1989.

Walhalla Heyday by G. F. James & C. G. Lee. Pub—Robertson & Mullens, 1970.

Who Killed Jim Barclay? by Wallace M Mortimer, 2009.

Wilson's Promontory In Victoria—Its Commercial Utilisation In The 19th Century.

'Wonnongatta Station—The Next Twenty Years' by Wallace M Mortimer, 1995.

MURRAY BROTHERS MEMORIAL AT TARRAWINGEE CEMETERY—PART OF A FAMILY'S COMMEMORATION TO THEIR LOSS IN WWI:

This article is about the impact on the relatives of two young brothers who died on the battlefields of France, and how the family commemorated them firstly in stone in the form of a memorial at Tarrawingee Cemetery where it stands embraced amongst other family members memorials, and secondly by ensuring that the letters the young men wrote home are cared for by the Australian War Memorial and accessible for all to read.

The two young men were George Alexander Hugh Murray and his young brother William James Gunn Murray, both born in Warracknabeal, Vic. Their older brother Leslie Harold Murray was recalled from the battlefields of France by the order of the Secretary of Defence following the deaths of George and William.

George Alexander Hugh Murray

Sergeant of the 14 Battalion, AIF. George was wounded at Anzac and killed in action at Hebuterne, France on 30 March 1918, aged 23. He was the son William and Elizabeth Murray of Warracknabeal, Victoria. George was educated at Warracknabeal State School and became a bank clerk and later studied electrical engineering. He served on the Citizen Forces and joined the AIF on 8 October 1914 when he was 20 years old. George is buried at Gommecourt Wood New Cemetery, Foncquevillers, France.

The following eye witness account of George's death is in the Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Files:

'I saw him wounded on the outskirts of Hebuterne by a shell, he lived only for about a quarter of an hour. I had to put a party on to bury him and saw his grave in the trench where he fell.'

French, T.H.Sgt 6022. 3/7/18

William James Gunn Murray

Private of the 6th Battalion, AIF. William was a mechanic and teacher in Warracknabeal prior to enlisting in January 1916 when he embarked with the 16th Reinforcements from Melbourne on board HMAT A23 *Suffolk* on 1 April 1916. After further training in Egypt, his unit arrived in France for service on the Western Front on 30 June 1916. On 6 October 1916 Pte Murray was transferred to the 58th Battalion. Twice mentioned in despatches for bravery as a runner, Pte Murray was first listed as missing and then determined by a Court of Enquiry as Killed in Action on 27 March 1917 at Lagnicourt, France. He was 20 years of age. A memorial statement to William is included on the headstone of his brother George at Gommecourt Wood New Cemetery, Foncquevillers, France.

Leslie Harold Murray

Sergeant of the 22nd Corps Light Horse. Leslie was a farmer in Everton, Victoria and enlisted on 22 Nov 1914 when he embarked from Melbourne on HMAT A43 *Barunga* on 22 December 1914. He returned to Australia following the order of the Secretary of Defence to the Commandant AIF London on 17 June 1918: 'Please return for discharge for family reasons 627 Trooper L. H. Murray 2nd Anzac Light Horse Regiment'.

After serving four years on the battlefields of Alexandria and France he was returned to Australia on 13 August 1918 where he made his way to Warracknabeal and, after discharge, made his way back to Everton where he had lived with his uncle W W Gunn since he was a child. He married and raised a family in Everton and Beechworth where he worked as an engine driver and mining engineer. Leslie (sometimes referred to as Harold Leslie Murray) moved to Ferntree Gully on the outskirts of Melbourne where he died in 1954.

MURRAY BROTHERS MEMORIAL cont:

Tarrawingee Cemetery

Tarrawingee Cemetery, which is located 12 kms from Wangaratta, holds memorials which embrace the descendants of James Gunn (d.1872) and his wife Dolina MacKay (d.1917). A large memorial to James and Dolina Gunn stands alongside memorials to their following children and their families:

- William Gunn (d.1933) and his wife Gertrude Elizabeth Gunn (nee McCabe) (d.1971) and their son William Walter Gunn (d.1991).
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Murray (d.1950) and her sons **George Alexander Hugh Murray and William James Gunn Murray**.
- Isabella Kelty (nee Gunn) (d.1942) and her children James Gunn Kelty (d.1964), Eric Angus Kelty (d.1964), William Daniel Kelty (d.1967) and Dolina Isabella Boyd (nee Kelty) (d.2008).
- Henrietta Gunn (d.1943).
- A memorial to Angus Eric MacKay (d.1914), brother of Dolina Gunn, is also present.

It appears that only seven of the above fifteen people are buried at Tarrawingee Cemetery but it's been important to the family over many years to bring them together within the symbolism of engraved stone and bronze. The old memorial to the two Murray boys who died in France may have been brought to Tarrawingee Cemetery from Warracknabeal Cemetery following the memorial to their mother after 1950. The boys' memorial reads:

In Loving Memory of: Pte William James Gunn Murray, M.I.D Killed in Action 27 March 1917 at Lagnicourt France Aged 20 years; Sgt George Alex Hugh Murray, ANZAC Killed in Action 30 March 1918 at Hebuterne France Aged 23 years.

Letters written to the family

The Australian War Memorial holds a collection of the many letters George and William wrote to family members.

Sergeant George Alexander Hugh Murray wrote from Australia, at sea, Egypt, Gallipoli, England, France, Belgium, 1914-1918 and the collection consists of 159 letters. The Australian War memorial describes the letters:

'... He writes of his brother 5147 Private William James Gunn Murray (58 Battalion) who died delivering a message at Lagnicourt on 27 March 1917. Murray's attitude to conscription is evident as he attempts to dissuade his sister from enlisting as a nurse, stating that "any one over here who has been through it never wishes to bring another if he can help it to put up with the hardships of this life."

Private William James Gunn Murray wrote from Australia, at sea, and Egypt between 1916 and 1917 and the collection consists of 26 letters.

Some of these very articulate descriptive letters received by Mr & Mrs Murray from their three sons were published in the *Warracknabeal Herald* newspaper during WWI and the newspapers can be read online at TROVE at the National Library of Australia. They give a frank and heartfelt account of the reality of war, particularly those written by Leslie Murray. The letters William and George wrote to their family are safely held by the Australian War Memorial, and it's hoped that the letters Leslie wrote are still held within the family or are yet to be catalogued at a significant library or archive.

The descendants of the extended family of William and George Murray will always be reminded of the loss of these young men to war by the memorials at Tarrawingee Cemetery and other memorials, the many letters they wrote, and online access to WWI records including those of their brother Leslie.

Sources: Tarrawingee Cemetery records, WWI records at National Archives of Australia, Australian War Memorial, Australian National Library TROVE, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Victorian DIGGER BDM.

WWI SLANG:

We are all being presented with WWI information at the moment but you might find the below examples of WWI slang amusing, sardonic or heart-warming. The source is the Australian National Dictionary Centre, Research School of Humanities & the Arts, Australian National University College of Arts & Social Sciences—

'Glossary of Slang and Peculiar Terms in Use in the A.I.F'. Original Manuscript 1921-1924
(This is a transcribed version of the second typescript of the Glossary, dated 1924.
It retains all typographical errors and grammatical and other idiosyncrasies':

ANNIE. "Gentle Annie," - a big German Howitzer, which fired on Bailluel, during March & April, 1918. "Up in Annies Room," - facetious answer to questions as to the whereabouts of someone who cannot be found.

ANZAC SOUP. Shell-hole water polluted by a corpse.

ANZAC STEW. The ordinary Army stew diluted with water to a greater extent than usual.

ANZAC WAFER. Name given to the Army Biscuit issued as portion of the Iron Ration, or when bread was not fully available. "Anzac" because of their constant use on Gallipoli, and "wafer" sarcastically because of their size and extreme hardness.

BERTHA. A German long range gun, esp. one of those used by the Germans to bombard Paris. Named perhaps after Mme. Bertha Krupp, friend of the Ex Kaiser.

BRANDING-PADDOCK. The Parade Ground.

BUCKSHEE. A prize, a catch, a windfall, something for nothing. From Hindi, bakhshi: giver or bucksheesh gift, tip.

BUMBRUSHER. An Officers Servant.

CAB RANK. Transport lines.

CAMEL-DUNG. Egyptian Cigarettes.

CAMOUFLAGED AUSSIE. An Englishman serving with the A.I.F.

CANNED. Intoxicated.

CELLULOID. Money. The inference being its rapid burning propensities.

CHOCs. The 8th Brigade, A.I.F. ("Tivey's chocolate soldiers.")

CHRISTEN THE SQUIRT. To bayonet a man for the first time with that particular bayonet.

CIRCUS. A Flying Squadron.

COBBER. Mate, friend. Used in the second or third person. Was largely superseded as a mode of address by "Digger."

DOG'S-LEG. A lance corporal's stripe so called on account of its shape.

DREADNOUGHT. V.D. Prophylactic outfit issued to troops before departing on leave.

DUGOUT. One who avoids danger by trying to remain out of the danger zone or, if in the forward area, by rarely leaving his shelter. Also applied to elderly returned Officers called up for service at the outbreak of war. "Dug-out King" - an officer who remains at the bottom of a dug-out while his men are exposed to danger.

FLEA BAG. An officers [sic] valise.

FLYING INCINERATOR. An incendiary shell.

FLYING-PIG. A heavy trench-mortar shell.

FRESH FACES IN HELL. Phrase used after a successful attack to indicate that many Germans had been killed.

FURPHY. This term originated in some of the camps of Australia, where the vehicles used for scavenging and water supply purposes were made by Mr. Furphy of Shepparton, Victoria, whose name was prominently painted thereon. This and the fact of the unfounded rumours seemed as a rule, to originate among the sanitary squad, or from conversation among men visiting latrines, caused the word to be used in this way.

FURPHY-MONGER or King. One who eagerly circulates "Furphys."

IODINE LANCERS. Nursing section of the A.A.M.C.

MEAT TICKET. Identity discs worn by all troops to enable identification by burial parties in the event of their death.

MENIN ROAD MEAT EXTRACT. Bully Beef, beef tea, beef extract. So called from the number of dead horses and mules on the Menin Road (Ypres Sector).

MERCY BLOW THROUGH. Thank You. (From the French Merci Beaucoup).

MOVIES. Searchlights.

NAIL-SCISSORS. The crossed sword and baton worn by a General.

OFFSIDER. Assistant. The term applies to a bullock drivers assistant who when his services are required works on the off or right hand side of the team.

PENGUIN. A member of the Women's Royal Air Force. Nickname, because they cannot fly.

HEROIC AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN WAR:

The heroism of the following two women (and others) is more fully told in the book *Heroic Australian Women in War* by Susanna De Vries, 2004. The book is available in our library.



Olive May Kelso King

Born Sydney 1885. Died Sydney 1958.

Ambulance Driver in France and the Balkan Front for a number of voluntary organisations. Long distressed at the plight of Serbian soldiers, she appealed to her wealthy father for money to set up canteens. The committee he formed quickly raised £10,000 and she administered the first Australian-Serbian canteen in devastated Belgrade late in 1918 and opened seventeen canteens to sell food, blankets, clothing and other necessities at cost price or below.

Awarded: Serbian Order of St Sava
Serbian Good Samaritan Cross
Royal Serbian Memorial Medal
Serbian Silver Bravery Medal
Serbian Gold Zealous Conduct Medal
George V Silver Jubilee Medal
George VI Coronation Medal.



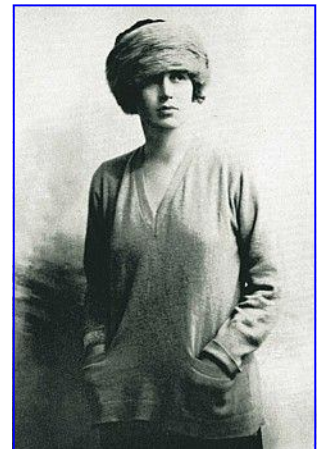
Joice NanKivell Loch

Joice Loch was born in Ingham, Queensland in 1887. As a child she endured a life of poverty in Gippsland, Victoria after her grandfather's fortunes disappeared with the removal of Kanaka labour on Queensland farms. She died in Greece in 1982.

During WWII Joice worked for the Quakers in Rumania. She nearly died there on several occasions, but still managed to save or at least improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of Poles caught in Rumania at the outbreak of the war. Joice became an invaluable part of the Rumanian underground and was an inspiration in the successful evacuation of thousands of Polish civilians to British-controlled Cyprus. She was also the mastermind behind Operation Pied Piper, spiriting fifty Jewish orphans to the new land of Israel, via Cyprus, on the pretext of visiting the coast for a seaside holiday.

Awarded:

The Polish Red Cross of Merit
Order of St Sava
Greek Order of the Phoenix
Greek Order of the Redeemer (twice)
Gold Medal of the National Academy of Arts
Member of an Order of the British Empire
Rumanian Order Of Elizabeth
Polish Gold Cross of Virtue
Greek Order of Beneficence (twice)
Several awards from the International Red Cross.



INTERNET RESEARCH SITES:

A better website design to take you to the UK National Archives. Also has some helpful podcasts & videos. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/>

This site offers links to large portals and the obvious genealogy guides on the Web but focuses on posting links to those little genealogy gems that don't always pop up on the search engines or never make their way to the commercial directories. <http://www.cyberpursuits.com/gen/>

Historic Death Index | Office of Regulatory Services. An index of limited information relating to deaths registered in the A.C.T. prior to 1981. http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/births_deaths_and_marriages/historic_death_index

Historic Marriage Index | Office of Regulatory Services. An index of limited information relating to marriages registered in the A.C.T. prior to 1936. http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/births_deaths_and_marriages/historic_marriage_index

Colonial South Australian Pioneers - FamilyHistorySA. Searchable database of early arrivals, births, marriages and deaths in South Australia - 1836 to 1850s. <http://www.familyhistorysa.info/colonists.html>

FamilySearch Learning Center - New South Wales Early Church Records 1788-1886. A free online class with a video and handout. Be sure that your browser allows pop-up windows in order to view the lesson. <https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/new-south-wales-early-church-records-1788-1886/6>

FamilySearch Learning Center - Using the New South Wales Birth, Death, Marriage Index. A free online class with a video and handout. Be sure that your browser allows pop-up windows in order to view the lesson. <https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/using-the-new-south-wales-birth-death-marriage-index/7>

Index to the Bench of Magistrates, 1788-1820. Online searchable index from State Records New South Wales. <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/court-records/index-to-the-bench-of-magistrates>

'Lost Wangaratta' Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/lostwangaratta?hc_location=timeline

walata tyamateetj: A guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria – free download <http://prov.vic.gov.au/products-page/books/walata-tyamateetj>.

Explore a different view of the NSW State archives. Glance through the history of NSW and the State archives day by day, month by month. <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/today-in-history/today-in-history>

Railway employee records held at the NSW Archives <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/research-topics/railway-employee-records/railway-employee-records>



WANGARATTA THREADS

Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No.:</u>	<u>for publication</u>
19 August 2014	99	24 August 2014
19 November 2014	100	24 November 2104

Disclaimer: All information contained in this edition is published in good faith with every effort made to validate fact, circumstance and source. *Ed.*

Return Address:

WANGARATTA THREADS

P.O. Box 683

Wangaratta, Vic, 3676

Australia

What is happening at WFHS

Check it out..... www.wfhs.org.au