

## WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

## WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A002724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 97 February, 2014



### OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week  
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
11.00am to 3.00pm.

### LOCATION:

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)

### Web Address:

[www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)



### COMING EVENTS:

#### At our Society:

**Saturday 1st March 2014** - Membership renewals due.

**Friday 7 March 2014**— Nominations for committee members due. Please consider becoming a committee member. You will be most welcome.

#### **Saturday 22 March 2014 - AGM**

2.00pm in our Research Centre, 1st floor 100-104 Murphy St, Wangaratta (above the Visitors Information Centre).

Guest speaker will be Cheryl Sergent who has spent many years compiling the history of the Red Cross in Wangaratta, resulting in the book *Red Cross Wangaratta*, in 2013.

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

#### **Saturday 22 March 2014:**

Yarrowonga Family History Group Inc is holding a one day Seminar at their rooms on Saturday 22nd March 9.30am (registration) to 4.00pm. Guests speakers include Susie Zada & Meg Bates. Topics being covered are Geelong & district databases, NSW resources plus Subscription and other databases in Australia. Cost \$35. Morning and afternoon tea provided plus a light lunch. Venue—Yarrowonga Fire Station, Dunlop St, Yarrowonga, VIC 3730.

Contact: Jan Parker: 03 5744 1460, 0427 883 264.

#### **Friday 23 May 2014:**

The Genealogy Society of Victoria is holding a Research Workshop for GSV Member Societies to assist members in their research.

Bookings open 3 March 2014. Contact GSV  
Ph: 03 9662 4455 or email David Down  
[dpd1949@gmail.com](mailto:dpd1949@gmail.com).

GSV members \$64; Non-members \$128.

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

- \* Alice Wyllie
- \* Damian Watson
- \* Elva Cox
- \* Denise Mason
- \* Faye Schusser.

## 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:

Wangaratta Cemetery / Burial Records update & upgrade to searchable database.  
*Completion ~ Mar 2014.*

Wangaratta Cemetery – photography of Memorials to commence 2014 and link to the above database.

Eldorado Burial Records, searchable database update & new map link.  
*Completion Dec 2013.*

Tarrawingee Burial Records, imaged, indexed and Memorials photographed and indexed.

Whitefield Burial Records ( *Including Rural and Lone Graves*) imaged, indexed. Headstones yet to be photographed, in progress.

Greta Burial Records, imaged and currently being indexed for progression to database.

Springhurst Burial Register & Headstone images being linked to index for database development.

Chiltern Burial Register and Records images to be linked to Index. Photography of Memorials yet to commence.



## MEMBERS MEETING IN THE PARK:

After our Christmas get-together we held our Members Meeting under the trees in Apex Park.



Back row from left: Elaine Jones, Cheryl Price, Joan Ellis, Ray McKenzie, Dianne Cavedon, Christine Heard and Val Brennan.

Middle two from left: Elaine Mudge and Joan McKenzie.

Front four from left: Georgina Cusack, Val McPherson, Paddy Milne and Denise McIntosh.

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

'Born in the English Colony of NSW' 1788-1800 as well as 1801-1810. Compiled, edited and published by Dr Craig James Spree. We now hold the full set of 3 volumes covering the period 1788 to 1820. The information in these volumes attempts to identify, trace and flesh out the lives of all children born in the English Colony of NSW during the founding years, and includes children arriving in the Colony on board ship during the same period.

'Devenish—A History of the Agricultural Shows and the Sports Club' by Joan Hooper, 1988.

'Pat on the Back—St Patricks School' extracts from school newsletters.

## 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](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

## HANDY HINT:

**How to cite material found in TROVE.** The National Library of Australia's discovery service TROVE has an easy mechanism to cite material that has been found online with a click of a button and then copy and paste the citation of your choice.

On every work record and every newspaper article in TROVE there is a 'Cite this' or 'Cite' button at the top of the article. For example:



Step1: Simply click the button to bring up a box with various citation options.

Step2: Choose the citation of your choice and then simply copy and past into your document.

These citations are permanent, can be reliability reused and also prove a link back to the item in TROVE which may be of interest to readers of your family research. TROVE <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

## MARRIAGE EXTRAORDINARY:

This article was found in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* newspaper Wed 11 July 1860 page 3.

**MARRAIGE EXTRAORDINARY.**

In these days of rapid advancement no discovery is looked on with the wonder or admiration which it would have elicited a century back, but so novel a method of getting a wife has just been bit on here that, for the benefit of disconsolate and despairing bachelors, it should be made as public as possible. Not many miles from Wangaratta, a person who officiates as *Chef de Cuisine* to a well-known sportsman here, came to the conclusion that it was not good for man to be alone, so he cast his amorous glances on the fair daughters of Eve for a helomate. Unfortunately, however, none of the Wangaratta ladies could reciprocate the conjugal aspirations of the ardent and impatient wife-seeker; nothing daunted, he resorted to the novel method of sending an order to a labor-office in Melbourne (accompanied by his photograph) for a wife, giving a *carte blanche* to the proprietores to do the best she could for him. Several anti-malthusian ladies, tired of a cheerless life of celibacy, made application for the hand and heart (?) of the would-be Benedict; one was selected, booked by the mail, and a telegraphic message sent to the expectant swain, who flew on the wings of love to meet his inamorato. She arrived safe and sound, and, after a little billing and cooing, the delighted couple hurried off to church and became man and wife. Verily this is a go-a-head country!

## HELP WANTED:

Recently our Society was approached by a lady who was seeking information about the early days of greyhound racing at North Wangaratta. For historical interest she wants to try to compile something of the beginnings and the activities of the club.

We suggested that she search back through the early *Wangaratta Chronicle* newspapers at the Wangaratta Library, however as she has little knowledge of this type of research and has limited computer skills, she is reluctant to follow our suggestion.

If any of our members has any knowledge about the early days of greyhound racing at North Wangaratta, or knows of someone who might, please ring Mary Caruso on 03 5721 8573.

If you can help Mary search old copies of the *Wangaratta Chronicle* at the Wangaratta library, please give her a ring.



## 'THE HELLO GIRLS' - TELEPHONISTS OF THE WANGARATTA TELEPHONE EXCHANGE:

The book, 'Hello Girls ... Number Please, Commemorating 50 years Service at the Wangaratta Telephone Exchange' written by Maureen Bedford in 2009, looks back on the many people who worked in the Wangaratta telephone exchanges over the years and gives a brief history of the exchange from 1843 to 2009. The book contains many happy pictures of staff, poems, cartoons and stories of dealing with customers and the vagaries of equipment.

In 1982 the following farewell was held for telephonists to say 'good-bye' to their old switchboards which were replaced by new boards. It was also a farewell to 011 and 0176 switches.



L to R standing: B Beatty, F Firth, M Wellman, B Doig, K Blades, J Mulgrew, M Thomas, J Byron, S Chamberlain, B Griffiths, J Osborne, B Stone, P Butler, M Lynch, T Byron, J O'Brien F Phillips, V Blake.  
Sitting: C Tivendale, H Fletcher, P Montgomery.

Sitting Front: E Gow, K North, M Bedford, J Tripp, B Grainger, A Busst, V Cole, P Dickson.

(Copyright of photo owned by Maureen Bedford. Reproduced here with Maureen's permission).

A telephonist stood at the pearly gate  
Her head hung very low,  
She meekly asked in the name of fate  
What way she had to go.  
'What have you done', St. Peter asked,  
'To gain admittance here?'  
'I worked below at the G.P.O.  
For many a long, long year'.  
St Peter then the gates threw wide  
And loudly rang the bell,  
'Come in my dear, and choose your harp,  
You have had your share of Hell'.

The book contains names of over 200 people who worked at the Wangaratta exchange since 1970 and is a great resource describing the way they worked, socialised together and the personalised service provided to customers. Today, much of that service is done by computerised voices or voices of foreign lands.



## THOMAS HAROLD MUMMERY

### Fifth child of Walter Mummery and Elizabeth Marks

*By Bev Smith*

Thomas Harold, known as Tom, grew up on the family farm at Buffalo Creek. After leaving school Tom found employment with the Victorian Railways as an operating porter. At the time of enlisting in the A.I.F he was working as a clerk in the ticket office at the Wangaratta Railway Station.

Tom was twenty-one years and two months old when he enlisted on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. Tom was described as five foot eight inches tall, weighing eleven stone seven pounds. His chest measurement was 34/35 ½ inches. His complexion was 'fresh', with grey eyes and brown hair. Tom's distinctive marks were one vaccination scar on his left arm and two small ones on his right arm, as well as a mole under the upper right arm. His initial training took place at the Broadmeadows camp.

*'The Myrtleford Mail'* of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1915 recorded Tom's last visit home to Myrtleford. *"Privates T Mummery, 'Alby' Lowerson and W. Wetherman, who have been in camp for some time, arrived back in Myrtleford on Sunday for a short stay prior to embarking towards the end of this month. In consequence of the train alterations, they had to drive from Wangaratta. Priv. Mummery left again for Ballarat on Monday and Privates Lowerson and Wetherman returned to Broadmeadows on Monday."*

Tom's unit embarked at Melbourne per the H.M.A.T. *Hororato* on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1915, bound for Egypt. During the short time in Egypt Tom was able to meet his father Walter before Walter returned to Australia. At Tel el Kebir their training continued until 20<sup>th</sup> March 1916 when the Battalion proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force going to France. Six days later they were disembarking at Marseilles. From Marseilles to the Western Front involved a very long, arduous train journey of many hours if not days. The Battalion took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August 1916.

Mouquet Farm was used by the Germans as a brigade headquarters and had accommodation for two companies. Practically a fortress, very fierce fighting took place for its possession and it changed hands several times between 23<sup>rd</sup> July and early September 1916. As part of the Somme Offensive, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions between them launched 19 attacks on German positions in and around the ruins of Pozieres.

Tom did not survive the battle on 26<sup>th</sup> August; he was buried at Mouquet Farm quarry between Thiepval and Pozieres, four miles north east of Albert. His body was later recovered and on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1925 Tom's father was advised that *"the site of his final resting place in the Pozieres British Cemetery is officially registered as – Plot 1. Row J. Grave 3."*

After Tom's death two of his comrades wrote letters to his parents. Walter and Elizabeth were obviously touched by the letters and had them published in the Myrtleford Mail.

Private C. Wild wrote from France on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1916:-

*"Dear Mr. and Mrs Mummery, I write you these few lines with deep regret for the loss of your son Tom. I have been Tom's companion since we left Australia. Mr. Mummery may remember me – I met him three or four times in Egypt. Tom and I were together through all our engagements. He was a fine comrade and I miss him very much. The company called for volunteers for stretcher bearers and Tom responded. He was mortally wounded and his last words were 'Tell mother I died getting our wounded men in.' Our other mate, Tom Ashley, was wounded a fortnight previously. Tom was killed on the 25<sup>th</sup> August and I promised him if I got through and back to Australia I would come up and see you. My wife and my home are in Melbourne. Our battalion has sent Tom's private effects and money through to you. Photos enclosed were found in Tom's writing pad, so I thought you would like them and am sending them to you. It is a dreadful war and we won't be sorry when it is all over and we are on our way back to our loved ones. I am pleased to hear from Tom that Mr. Mummery arrived home safe. I will now conclude by expressing for our platoon the deepest sympathy with you in your loss. I remain an affectionate friend of Tom's."*

Cont next page

## THOMAS HAROLD MUMMERY cont

Lieutenant E Pittard wrote: -

*"Dear Mrs Mummery, Allow one of the Company officers to add a tribute to your son. If ever there was a hero it was Priv Mummery. He was continually risking his life in the humane work of carrying the wounded and he met his death while searching, amidst a hail of enemy artillery, for a wounded man lying out in No Man's Land. He was idolised by the Company and while he has been taken from us, we still have his magnificent self sacrifice as an incentive to us in the future. I trust this tribute may help you to bear with more fortitude your great loss."*

Lieutenant Edward James Pittard was awarded the Military Cross at Bullicourt on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917

Sources <http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/index.asp> - Bean's Official History - Vol. 111 – The Australian Imperial Force in France: 1916 (13<sup>th</sup> edition, 1941).  
Information also came from Tom's Record of Service.



## GEORGE THOMAS TIPPETT

**Fifth child of Isabella (nee Kibell) and John Henry Tippett**

*By Bev Smith*

George Thomas was always known as Tom and was 24 years old at the outbreak of WWI. Tom, like thousands of other Australians answered the call to join the Armed Forces and go off to war. Tom's occupation was labourer when he joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry, C Company, A.I.F. on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1914. His Service number was 390. He was a Private..

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1914 the 14th Battalion left Broadmeadows camp, Victoria at 11am and proceeded by train to Melbourne. The Battalion boarded the HMAT Ulysses (15,000 tons) at 4.30pm and sailed at 8pm on the same day. The ship arrived in Albany on 27<sup>th</sup> December and waited for the other ships that would make up the Second Anzac Fleet.

The convoy carrying the 14th Battalion arrived at Colombo at 8am on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1915. Ten days later they arrived at Aden and no shore leave was allowed for the Battalion. The convoy reached Port Suez on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1915 and Port Said two days later. The Battalion was disembarked at Alexandria the following day and the men were marched into a training camp known as Aerodrome Camp.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, the Battalion packed up their tents at "the Aerodrome", then marched from Heliopolis to Helmia railway station for a short trip to Alexandria. There they boarded the SS Seang Chong, a Rangoon trader of 5,000 tons. The Battalions reached Mudros Harbour on Lemnos Island on 15<sup>th</sup> April. They left Mudros Harbour at 10am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April and at 4pm the transport anchored near the ships that had landed the first wave earlier in the day.

Apart from a small group of 30 men, including Albert Jacka (the first VC winner of World War 1) who landed at 7pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the Battalion went ashore at Gallipoli at 10.30am on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Sergeant Murphy, landing with Jacka on the 25<sup>th</sup>, was shot dead on the way over from the troopship, becoming the Battalion's first loss due to combat. Many more were to follow before the war was to end. Not long after landing they were ordered to Courtney's Post.

Tom died on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 1915. Was he wounded when he landed on the beaches of Gallipoli in that second wave of soldiers on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and die of his wounds five days later, or was he killed in a later battle? Tom is remembered in Courtney's and Steel's Post Cemetery, Turkey, Reference number Sp. Mem 42. This cemetery lies west of the road along the former front line on MacLaurin's Ridge. Tom's name also appears on the Australian War Memorial's Roll of Honour, Panel Number 74.

Sources; [www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/](http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-conflicts-periods/)

*Ed: Both Thomas Harold Mummery and George Thomas Tippett are related to members Bev Smith and Ray McKenzie.*



## INTERNET RESEARCH SITES:

### **BDMs**

New Year's day can bring another year of indexes available online:

**Vic** Births to 1914, Deaths to 1985, Marriages to 1954 <http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/search+your+family+history/>

**NSW** Births to 1913, Deaths to 1983 and Marriages to 1963 [http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm\\_fh.html](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm_fh.html)

**Queensland** Births to 1914, Deaths to 1984 and Marriages to 1939 <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/>.

**SA** Births to 1928, Deaths to 1972, Marriages to 1937 <http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

**WA** Births to 1932, Deaths to 1971, Marriages to 1936 <http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx>

For **NT**, see Ancestry.com

**Tas** The Tasmanian Registry does not have an online search facility to access birth, death and marriage records but these records are available at our Society.

### **Obituaries**

The Ryerson Index <http://www.ryersonindex.org/> is an index to death notices appearing in current Australian newspapers. Also includes some funeral notices, probate notices and obituaries. This ongoing project currently contains over 4 million entries from 229 newspapers.

"Full" obituaries from 2003 on the **Herald Sun archive** for free at <http://tributes.heraldsun.com.au/obituaries/heraldsun-au/>.

### **New at Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV)**

The Children's Hospital records have been transferred into the PROV collection and are now available for ordering and viewing in the North Melbourne reading room.

See more at: <http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-news/new-records-transfers-10#sthash.yqdjOwdk.dpuf>

### **Commemorating the events of WWI**

**World** – The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. There will be many websites launched in 2014 to commemorate this event. A good place to follow the action is the *First World War Centenary* website. It provides useful information on upcoming events and website launches. It also has a very useful guide for genealogists wanting to research soldiers from WWI. Access is free. <http://www.1914.org/about/family-history/>.

**New Zealand** – New Zealand has launched their commemorative website devoted to remembering the events of World War I. It is full of excellent information concerning New Zealand's involvement in the war, including the incredible fact that 10% of the country's population at the time was serving overseas. Access is free. <http://ww100.govt.nz/>.

### **Ireland**

**1851 Census Index Liverpool—Irish born.** This index is a listing of those people who gave Ireland, an Irish County or Irish town as their place of birth. It does not include other family members in the census who were not born in Ireland <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jeanmccarthy36/>

**National Archives of Ireland.** The <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/genealogy-records/introduction/> featuring the 1901 and 1911 census for all 32 counties, the Tithe Applotment Books, the Soldiers' Wills and Will calendars for 1858-1920 and 1923-1982, the Ireland-Australia transportation records 1791-1853 etc.

## INTERNET RESEARCH SITES cont:

### *England/UK*

**UK—Free BMD** <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/> is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales, and to provide free Internet access to the transcribed records. It is a part of the FreeUKGEN family, which also includes <http://www.freecen.org.uk/> (Census data) and <http://www.freereg.org.uk/> (Parish Registers). It is exactly that - FREE. They do not make any charge whatsoever for use of the site. FreeBMD is a registered charity.

**UK –FamilySearch** <https://familysearch.org/> is a non-profit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations. It has created a massive new collection of indexes for births, marriages and deaths that cover England and Wales from 1837 to 1920. In total, there are 65.6 million births listed, 35.1 million marriages, and 40.6 million deaths. Note these are indexes and not complete records. These indexes will, however, point you to the exact location of the record. Access is free.

**UK – FindMyPast** has published a unique collection of 19 million **British rate book records**. The records come from Manchester (1706 to 1900), Plymouth & West Devon (1598 to 1933), Southwark, and Westminster (1634 to 1900). If you are not familiar with rate books, they require some description. As mentioned in the article A Date Guide to English Genealogy [http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/a\\_date\\_guide\\_to\\_English\\_genealogy\\_part1\\_page01.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/a_date_guide_to_English_genealogy_part1_page01.html), the passing of the *Poor Law Act* in 1601 compelled households to pay rates to help maintain the poor in their area. The rate paid was calculated based on the value of the property. This information was recorded in a rate book. Over time, the rates system evolved and the funds collected were used to pay for things other than welfare, such as local improvements to roads and canals. Early rate books usually just list the householder's name and the amount paid for their property. Beginning in the 1830s, however, rate books started to contain more detailed information. Rate books became more organized and were generally laid out in a logical geographic fashion. Houses were listed on a street by street basis. Each house listed the householder's name, the value of the property and the rate paid. Rate books in this collection can be searched by both address and householder's name. They can serve as a useful proxy in the absence of census records. The easiest way to trace someone is usually to start with the most recent rate book and work backwards. Access to this collection is by subscription. <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/search-menu/census-land-and-surveys>

**UK -** More than a million images from books held at the **British Library** have been uploaded to the web. Available to view on photo-sharing website Flickr, the pictures – which include photographs, illustrations, charts and diagrams – have been scanned from the pages of more than 65,000 historic volumes <http://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary>. One of the most important aspects of the collection for family and local historians is the significant number of maps included in the tranche. By typing in the name of a town or village, researchers can be presented with a selection of maps of the area that may be difficult to obtain elsewhere. The collection is particularly unique in that every single item is completely free of copyright restrictions.

### *Scotland*

**Scotlands People** <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, is of the largest online sources of original genealogical information. If you are researching UK genealogy, your Scottish ancestry or building your Scottish family tree, there is almost 90 million records to look through. Almost 222,000 images of birth, marriage and death records will be made available to family history researchers, including those of well-known people and unusual stories. Access pay per view.

**ScotlandsPlaces** <http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/> uses the very latest search technology to offer people access to maps and historical archives dating from the 16th century through to the 21st century. It provides online access to over 2 million records and over half a million images relating to people and places, increasing knowledge and understanding of Scotland's history.

**General site—Cyndi's List** <http://www.cyndislist.com/> has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 17 years. *Cyndi's List* is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

## WANGARATTA THREADS

### Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

| <u>Copy deadline</u> | <u>Edition No.:</u> | <u>for publication</u> |
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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**

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### What is happening at WFHS

Check it out..... [www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)