



Wangaratta Threads

Quarterly newsletter of the
Wangaratta Family History Society Inc

Edition No. 113, February 2018

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).

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P.O. Box 683
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Phone:

(03) 5721 6830 - if no answer
please leave a message.

Email:

info@wfhs.org.au

Web address:

<http://www.wfhs.org.au/>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/WFHS
Inc/](https://www.facebook.com/WFHSInc/)

Registered No. A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, 24th March 2018:

Annual General Meeting, 1.30pm at WFHS library.
All welcome and please bring a plate for afternoon
tea.

Future Members Meeting Dates:

- Saturday 16th June, 2018
- Saturday 15th September, 2018
- Saturday 8th December, 2018 (Christmas
break up activity).

Project Group:

- Monday 9th April, 2018 10.30am

Committee:

- Thursday 8th March, 2018 1pm

What's New in the Library?

- "Of Squatters & Graziers, the Seven Creeks,
Euroa, the Property & it's people. 1838 -
2017."
- "Over the Years" by Margaret Baldry.
- A collection of early Convict, Shipping and
other books have been donated by the North
East Library. These are still to be
catalogued and shelved.

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MEMBERSHIP

Initial 1st year	
Admin Fee	\$10
Single full membership	\$30
Joint full membership	\$50

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members **Kym Ortenburg and Shirley Sullivan.**

COMMITTEE

President	Still looking for a president...	
Vice President	Val Brennan	03 5727 6229
Treasurer	Dianne Cavedon	03 5722 2607
Secretary	Still looking for a secretary...	
Editor "Threads"	Christine Heard (lurgissy58@bigpond.com)	03 5727 6370
Committee Members	Val McPherson, Peg Templeton, Faye Schusser	

For Your Information:

WFHS AGM Saturday 24th March 1.30pm:

Nominations for all Committee positions are being sought at the AGM. We have 9 positions in all - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five ordinary committee member positions.

The outgoing committee asks all members to seriously consider nominating for a position on committee, to bringing your specific skills, new ideas, perspective etc. to ensure the Society remains strong, while continuing to support the membership and wider community through family research.

It will also be an opportunity to get together socially and to update, assist and involve members with what is happening with the Library, online resources, the new Website, Facebook and current and ongoing projects.

You should have received an AGM Notice, Membership Renewal Form, Nomination Form and Agenda for the AGM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Memberships:

Memberships are due on 1st March 2018 for the ensuing year. Fee schedule is as above. Membership Renewal Forms have been forwarded to members with the AGM Notices and Nomination Forms.

Christmas Break Up 2017

Saturday, 9th December our WFHS Christmas get together commenced at 10am at the Eldorado Cemetery in Cemetery Road. On a very pleasant sunny day, a group of about 18 WFHS members were treated to an informative and interesting tour of the Cemetery, guided by Cemetery Trustee Anthony Carey.

The opportunity to wander around amongst very tidy and well kept memorials and hear the stories of some of the people interred there was of immense interest to all who attended. The questions came thick and fast throughout the tour, and certainly kept our guide on his toes.



The day ended with a delicious lunch and a few cool drinks at the local watering hole, The McEvoy Tavern, "the smallest pub in Victoria". The beer garden was inviting, and sitting under the shade of a market umbrella sipping on a cold one rounded off the day perfectly.



Thanks to Val Brennan who organised the day, Anthony Carey our tour guide, and the team at the McEvoy Tavern for a great day out!

Can You Help?

We have two articles in the Can You Help segment.

1. McMahon/Clohessy/Hiskins.....

Margaret Cousins, who is a descendant of the McMahon family has contacted WFHS for assistance with identifying the people in these photographs. Margaret believes they may be of members of the McMahon family from Springhurst, the Clohessy family who were at Norong and Rutherglen, or the Hiskins family from Rutherglen & Corowa. Married names of daughters were Bennett & Flynn. These photos were inherited through the McMahon family, and Margaret would very much appreciate any help in identification.

Any information regarding the photos can be sent through to the Research Officer at info@wfhs.org.au.



Photo #1.

The two older women in dark clothing are believed to be the great grandmother and great aunt of the owner of the photos, Margaret Cousins (nee McMahon).



Photo #2



Photo #3

2. In Search of a WW1 Digger: Can You Help?



Via Facebook - The photograph above is believed to be a group of AIF Soldiers of the 26th Battalion billeted at Marchienne-au-Pont, Belgium. Jean Van Campenhout is the great grandson of the soldier second from the right in the rear row. Subsequent research has led him to believe that these men might be from the 26th Battalion AIF.

It's a long shot, but if anyone can identify the young soldier in this unit, and find any Australian descendants, could they please contact either of the following:

Claire Dujardin via diable.detasmanie@skynet.be or
Alison McCallum on 0400 063 718

A Secret from the Grave

It is often said that many secrets go with someone to the grave. In this instance, however, the grave gave up its secret!

On 4th August, 1926 my uncle married a woman named Vera Edwards by license at the Presbyterian Manse, Chiltern.

The marriage certificate shows Vera Edwards was a waitress, a spinster and was living at the time in Faithfull Street, Wangaratta. Her place of birth was shown to be Harrismith, South Africa. I had been told that she had been born in Bloemfontaine, but researching her under this name in either place yielded no information at all.

After her death, it was discovered that her real maiden name was Violet Maud Gibb, born in Bloemfontaine, South Africa. Searching under this new name

revealed that she had been married to a man by the name of Tuckett, and had a family of 3, a girl and two boys.

It appears Violet (or Vera as she was here) left the Tuckett family, taking her daughter with her. The daughter was about 5 years of age when Violet (Vera) remarried, and had a further 2 daughters to her new husband.

Tantalisingly, I have recently been given a newspaper cutting dated November, 1946 relating to a solicitor in Leongatha, Victoria who was looking for a Violet Maud Tuckett!

The mystery deepens.....

Jean Rankin
WFHS

Dunlop v Dunlop

While on the subject of bigamy, a second and more widely reported case occurred in Wangaratta itself.

MARRIED.
On the 18th inst., by special license, by the
Rev. Dr. Cairns, Mr. Robert Dunlop, grocer, to
Miss Mary Henderson, both of Ayrshire, Scotland.
DIED

On 18 April, 1855 this marriage took place in Wangaratta. Robert Dunlop, a native of Stewarton, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland arrived in the colony in 1853. He commenced in business in Melbourne, but when gold fever came to Beechworth, he headed to the Woolshed. He worked as a barman at the Sunbury Hotel, then leased the hotel from his employers. When mining declined at the Woolshed, Dunlop opened a store at Chiltern, before rejoining his former employer in a store called Dunlop and Learmonth in Wangaratta (on the site of the Harp and Erin Hotel).



*Above - The Oxley Hotel, Oxley circa 1885.
(Courtesy Museum Victoria).*

In about 1874, this enterprising man opened his own hotel and store at Oxley, where he remained until his death in 1889. By that time, the hotel had been leased to a man named Elias Martin.

The bride, Mary Henderson, had declared herself a spinster at the time of her marriage to Dunlop. Life went smoothly until Mary met up with a former acquaintance, James Kyle, who was surprised to see her in Australia. The last time he had spoken to her was in Scotland,

where he knew her as Mrs. Henderson, the wife of a William Henderson, who she had married in Kilmarnock in 1844.

According to the evidence obtained from Scotland, William Henderson was a drunken good for nothing who had enlisted in the army, was bought off, then went to New York taking his wife with him, before returning without her. He enlisted in the East India Company, deserted, gave himself up and was sent to India. He was invalided from India and sent back to Scotland about 1853. His wife returned to Scotland too, but lived with her mother until she left for Australia. Henderson lived with his mother until his death in 1863.

It seems that Mary was fleeing a life of hardship and abuse, saddled with a useless, work shy, hard drinking husband, and hoped that by travelling to the other side of the world she could start a new life. She was fortunate to marry a canny, hardworking man with a flair for business, and she knew that should her secret be found out, her world would come crashing down around her. In fact, she had asked James Kyle "not to try and do her any harm."

Robert Dunlop had several times been concerned about the rumours surrounding his wife, but she had reassured him that it was not so. When Dunlop obtained evidence confirming the rumours, he left his wife but gave her £700 and £200 worth of furniture.

Before federation, Australian laws governing divorce were derived from British law. After the 1857 Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, each state or colony had its own divorce laws, which were uniform with the mother country. Victoria introduced its first divorce legislation in 1861, based on the British Act. Inequity in grounds for divorce was the same as the British model, where a man only needed to prove one single act of adultery, while a woman would have to prove repeated adultery, or adultery coupled with incest or cruelty. The divorce case was heard in the Victorian Supreme Court with the divorce granted by His Honour, Mr. Justice Williams on 19th March, 1874.

MARRIAGE.
DUNLOP—DONALD.—On the 17th August, by the Rev.
Dr Cairns, at the Chalmers Church Manse, Mr
Robert Dunlop, of Wangaratta, to Agnes Donald,
relict of the late David Donald, formerly of
Oxley.

On 17th August, 1874 Robert Dunlop married Agnes Donald, widow of David Donald of Oxley. Suffice to say, he was making sure there were no husbands lurking in the background with his second marriage. As for Mary, further research will be required to follow her story post divorce.

Christine Heard
WFHS

References:

1. History of legal aid and family law - Victoria Legal Aid - <https://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/.../vla-research-brief-history-of-family-law-and-legal-...>
2. National Library of Australia - Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

New WFHS Web Page

The new WFHS web page is in the final stage of development, and should be operational by mid March (hopefully by the time of the AGM).

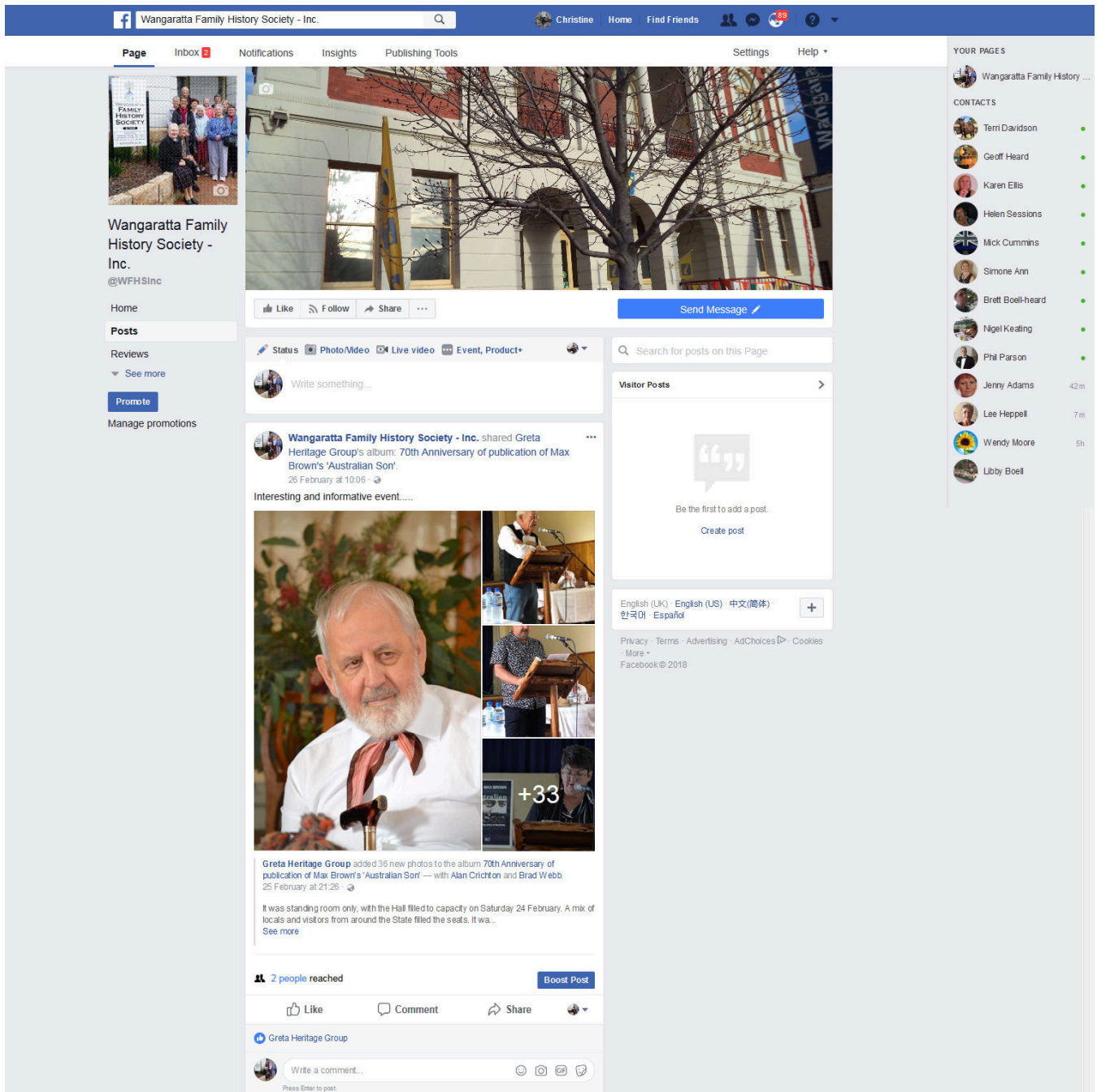
As seen from the screenshot below, the new web page is clean, fresh and easy to navigate, with a host of information and links, all in a user friendly format. Val Brennan has spent many hours with the web designer putting this site together, and I'm sure all members will congratulate Val on the great work she has put in on this.



Above: Screenshot of the Home page for the new WFHS Inc. website.

In conjunction with the new website, a new Facebook page has also been created and is accessible at <https://www.facebook.com/WFHSInc/>. If you are on Facebook, please like and follow our page, and we hope to keep you up-to-date with what is happening at not only WFHS, but around our local area.

For those members who are still not quite sure about whether they want to venture onto Facebook, if there is enough interest, we may run an "in house" course in the near future.



Above: Screenshot of the new WFHS Inc. Facebook page.

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Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No:</u>	<u>For Publication:</u>
19 May 2018	114	24 May 2017
19 August 2018	115	24 August 2018
19 November 2018	116	24 November 2018

Disclaimer:

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