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Hello everyone,

This is our last newsletter for 2024. As we usually say at this time of year, where did the year go. Oh well, we can now look forward to 2025. The last day of business will be the 18<sup>th</sup> of December and we will re-open on 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. Meanwhile it's business as usual, researching family trees, and undertaking associated projects. There is also the ongoing issue of looking for a new home, which will affect the Group until the situation is resolved.

Regarding any inquiries for family research, or inquiries in general over the holidays, contact us on our Website, or email our Secretary – [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org) or our President Bill Willett – [president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

#### *President's Report.*

Time for another report to the masses.

Firstly, thank you for all the good wishes and comments I received when going in for a knee replacement operation recently. They were all comforting and most appreciated and all worked out well. Not quite back on the squash court yet but walking around without any supporting crutches or any of the previous grating and pain, most satisfied with the result of the surgery and physiotherapy. The worst feature of the whole operation was not being able to drive and the annoyance of being isolated at times when it was frustratingly needed, so thanks Wendy.

Group is running along smoothly as it did in my absence so I can take no recognition for that fact. In fact it reminds me of my favourite poem, "The Indispensable Man" by Saxon White Kessinger.

**Sometime when you're feeling important; sometime when your ego 's in bloom;  
Sometime when you take it for granted, you're the best qualified in the room:  
Sometime when you feel that you're going, would leave an unfillable hole,  
Just follow these simple instructions, and see how they humble your soul.  
Take a bucket and fill it with water, put your hand in it up to the wrist,  
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining, is a measure of how much you'll be missed.  
You can splash all you wish when you enter, you may stir up the water galore,  
But stop, and you'll find that in no time, it looks quite the same as before.  
The moral of this quaint example, is to do just the best that you can,  
Be proud of yourself but remember, there's no indispensable man.**

Have had a few new members sign up lately which is just what we need. A few more willing hands in the rooms on Tuesday and Wednesdays would be a real shot in the arm. Our very computer skilled, poor old Research Officer is looking forward to the Christmas break fondly as she has been run off her feet teaching

the rest of us how to do this and that on our computers, while in the middle of a research request or her own work. Thanks Kaye. You are a gem and most appreciated.

Library has been kept running by Cheryl Anne while Judi is away sick. Hope you get ahead of things quickly Judi, as you are another we rely on a lot.

The two Wendys are continuing to trace new "Lone Graves" around the districts. Benalla book had 50 entries and they have now traced another 15 so looks like another Lone Graves book for Benalla is not far away. The Euroa book has been published and is selling well.

Calendars are going out the door like hot cakes making it nearly a full-time job lately of keeping up with the demand. Christmas can't come soon enough.

Still looking for new digs and have surveyed a couple of places that would be suitable for us to shift into, but delays and indecisions are still piling up in front of us. However, I suppose it will solve itself, but horribly frustrating while the saga continues.

Group breaks for Christmas soon so may I wish all the members and supporters the very best of the festive season. Drive and arrive safely wherever you may be heading and return in the New Year refreshed and ready to hit the ground running.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill.

### **A Day in the Gardens Report.** Meredith Tolliday.

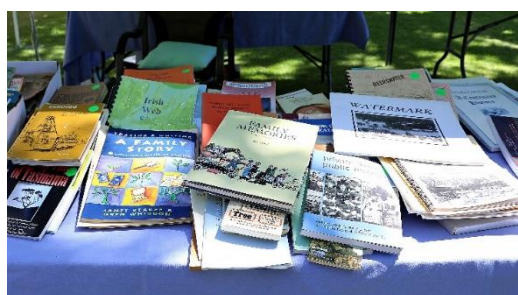


The Day in The Gardens was a very enjoyable and successful one for the Benalla Family Research Group.

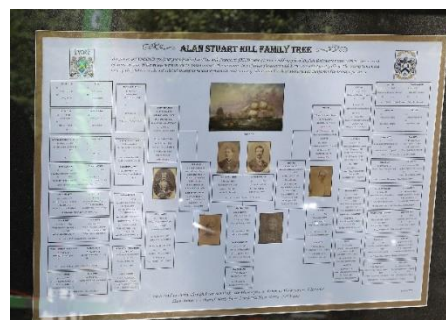
This year we chose to have two sites because we had so much to show to the community.

We had a number of tables set up for visitors to wander through and about our site. Our Researcher was willing to assist with family tree enquiries.

Each year our group produces a terrific themed calendar so these were available along with two new fabulous books produced in-house. Lone Graves- Benalla and Lone Graves- Euroa, were both researched and put together by local members.



There was a table full of great books for sale, along with the raffle with three great prizes and the very popular guess the number of jelly beans in the jar. Pictured are Janine, Mary and Wendy W.



There was a display of framed Howship photos, as well as a framed Family Tree Chart to show how special our history is to families.

The raffle was won by Meredith who chose the patchwork quilt from the Greta Craft group, Bill's ticket was drawn second, he chose the hamper, Liam's ticket won him the succulent garden and Bev won the fourth prize, one year membership.

Finn guessed 352 jelly beans, so was the closest, the actual number was 353.

A big thank goes out to the members of the group and to the public for helping to make the day a wonderful success.

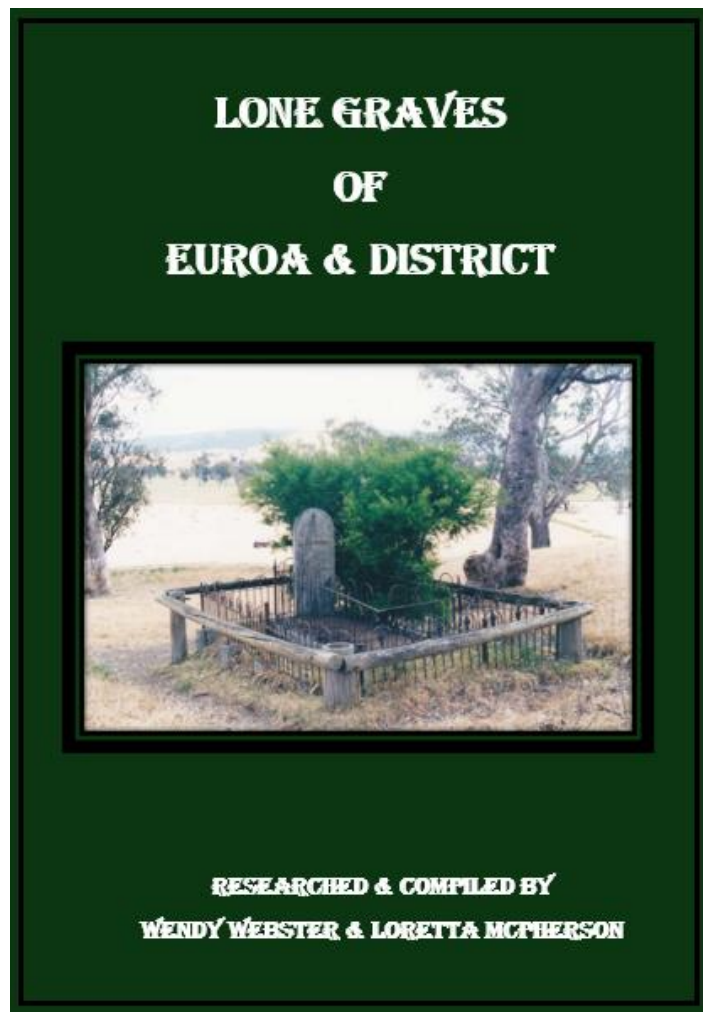
### **William J Howship 1875-1932**

The extensive Howship collection, includes over 1250 high-quality glass plate negatives. The collection includes many formal studio portraits, along with photographs of Benalla and surrounds.

These images have been digitised in partnership with the Benalla Family Research Group, and can be browsed on the University of Melbourne Archives Image Catalogue (UMAIC).

IMPORTANT FOR BENALLA & DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE DIGITAL COPIES OF THE HOWSHIP COLLECTION IN OUR ROOMS.

### **New Book Published.**



A second book on the topic of Lone Graves has just been completed covering those graves in the Euroa districts including Violet Town, Balmattum, Boho, Strathbogie, Miepoll, Longwood, Avenel, Gooram, Merton, Yea, Dry Creek, and Tarcombe, Wanghambehm and Wappan Stations.

This collection, again, is not limited to confirmed graves as it also contains believed grave sites in the following categories: -

Lone grave/s—isolated single or groups

Station/Pastoral cemeteries— (Tarcombe and Wanghambeham Stations)

Private cemeteries—family cemeteries (e.g., Wappan Station, Doogalook)

Unsubstantiated—rumoured grave/s only (Shean’s Creek Road, Violet Town)

Once again copies of all death certificates, Inquests and Wills are held by the Benalla Family Research Group together with maps of locations referred to throughout the book.

This project has followed the completion of “Lone Graves of Benalla & District” and was only achievable through the generous donation of material from Loretta McPherson, who has also assisted with the associated research.

The book is now for sale at the Benalla Family Research Group, (St Andrew’s Church Hall), 9 Church Street, Benalla at a cost of \$30. Phone orders will also be taken by phone on 0427664271.

### **CHRISTMAS BREAK UP**

The BFRG will hold our Christmas break up on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Benalla Golf Club at 12.30pm. Please contact the Group if you would like to attend, because we need to provide the number of people attending to the Golf Club before the date.

New and renewed memberships are a bit slow this year so if you haven’t paid your subscription yet, this is a reminder to do so, so we can continue to provide the conditions and friendliness we are known for, and the services we provide. To keep an accurate data base of members, a membership form has been included that we wish you to complete and return to the rooms.

### **FUN WITH WORDS**

Some words are bundles of two or more words, like can-did or super-in-ten-dent, and are called charades. Sometimes the components can suggest a definition very different from the whole words real meaning, in which case the charade is called a bundle word. There are hundreds of charades in English but few good bundle words. Here are some interesting ones.

**Adamant** – the first insect

**Carping** – engine noise

Castrate – auditions

**Childhood** – a young gangster

**Converse** – prison verse

**Dogma** – bitch

**Eggplant** – laying hen

**Falsehood** – undercover cop

**Foreground** – golfcourse

**Headlines** – face wrinkles

**Safecracker** – no fat biscuit

**Tadpole** – small stick

**Tangent** – beach bum

**Thinking** – skinny king

Well, that’s all for this edition. Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bye for now,

John Crawford,

Editor

## OUR SPONSORS.

We are absolutely thrilled that two new sponsors in Terry White Chemmart and Benalla Mitre 10 have come on board for the year, and we thank them for their trust and support.

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# BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP INC.

## Membership Database Update.

WELCOME

Name:.....(Nee).....

Address:.....

Phone: ..... Email:.(Important).....

Date of Birth: ..... (Optional)

Primary Names Being Researched. ....

Please indicate your skills. (eg Computer literate, accountant, good net worker, electronic wiz, etc,  
.....

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Subscription Fee:		Single	\$45	Pro Rata (1st Jan – 30 <sup>th</sup> June).
	Dual	\$65	Single \$20 & Dual \$30	
		Junior Member.	\$20	

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### Responsibility Agreement

I..... hereby accept full responsibility for any borrowed article whilst in my possession. In the event of fire, theft, and/or misadventure, I agree to cover all costs of the replacement of same, within a reasonable period of time.

Signed: .....Dated: .....

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### Contact Permission

I.....do/do not agree to having my contact details forwarded outside of the Group. **(Refer Privacy/Ethics Policies)**

Signed.....Dated.....

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