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Hello everyone,

It's time for our September 2023 newsletter, a bit late this month. It's been delightful to have had some sunny weather for a change, especially after the cold, wet, winter that we have just experienced. Personally, I am looking forward to spring, and planting some summer vegetables. At the Family Research Group, 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, the rooms are open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm, or contact us on the Website, or email our Secretary – secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org or our President Bill Willett – president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

All exceptionally busy at present with the selling, organizing and delivery of this year's calendar.

We have had a pretty tough time lately with a number of members and ex members passing away. As for all community volunteer groups, I suppose we are all heading in that direction but it doesn't help the cause when you lose good friends and volunteers. (See later in newsletter)

One of our members had just returned from holidays up north, when her husband went down and was admitted to hospital. We have just heard today that the operation was successful, and is home again, so that will take the pressure off the family and allow some free time again.

Library staff are still working through the library cataloguing and placing books and resources in order. Research is slowing down a little through the website, but a few enquires through the front door are keeping them going along nicely.

A couple of the group are starting on a district history in Lurg and that is proving to be an interesting project. Another couple are waiting on a local organization to arrange the organizing of their history and activities in Benalla.

The group is also preparing for the next "Day in the Gardens" activity, a part of the Benalla Festival held in November. We usually highlight a number of "Howship Photographs" at the same time as talking about genealogy, and we still have the obligatory counting the "Jelly beans" in that Jar space.

Our last activity of trying to identify some of the portraiture in the "Howship Collection" on our new Wide Format TV in the shopfront of Northeast Podiatry in the main

street was somewhat successful. Four of the photographs in the presentation were recognized and identified, which was very satisfying.

Getting round to warmer weather now so expect a few more members to come in and have a cuppa and conversation.

Cheers. Bill.

RESEARCH REPORT

Since the last report in March, the Research Team, when not carrying out research requests, have kept ourselves busy with some research projects.

Wendy W and I have begun documenting the pioneer settlers of the Lurg area based on the names on early parish maps, with the aim of publishing a booklet in the future. Wendy is also researching the history of the district so that she can produce a new information board for the Winton Cemetery. In order to obtain documents and other information, an "Early Lurg" Tree has been created on Ancestry, which has been made private. So far, the following families have been entered and researched:

• BROOKER. • CHALLIS. • COLEMAN. • LLOYD. • PETTERSSON. • SANDERS.
• TOAKLEY. • WAGNER

Another private Ancestry Tree, "Benalla and district Research" has also been created to aid in research of local people and their families. At present, the names include:

• DOHERTY. • PAYNE. • McKELLAR. • ROE

Wendy M and Wendy W have completed their research on "Lone Graves of Benalla and District" and are preparing the material for publication.

Research requests since April have come in spurts, with nothing arriving for weeks at a time, then several in the same week. Research has been undertaken on the following names: • DOYLE / BEVAN / FRANKLIN; Greta and Myrree area, • ELLIS. • NORTH / McCONNELL; Broken River, • QUINN / O'FARRELL, • PRICE; Bishop Green, • DOHERTY; Benalla area, • BAMFORD / DUNLOP / HYLAND: Benalla area, • DARCY / CRAY, • SAUNDERS; Tungamah, • WESTON; Winton, • ZAJAK; Poland and Germany, • PAYNE / TAYLOR; Benalla area, • McKELLAR / STEWART; Scotland, Lima, Benalla, and NSW, • and COOKE: Winton.

We have also had a number of people from out of town calling into our rooms wanting help with finding out about their relatives who lived in Benalla and district, or wanting to do their own research from our library and other resources.

A good quality photo scanner is now available, and we are able to scan family photographs and touch them up, or repair them if possible.

Kaye, Research Officer

CALENDARS

The BFRG has once again produced calendars for the year 2024, the theme of which is the Community Halls of Benalla and District. The calendar was produced with the cooperation and support of all our local communities and the Benalla council. Each district provided the photographs and information relating to their hall, past and present. The cost of the calendars has been kept to \$10, the same as last year. As this is an important fundraiser for our Group, we would appreciate your support. Our calendars can be purchased from the following outlets: - Mitre 10, Millers, West End store/Post office, Stuck on Stationary, Terry White Chemmart

and our rooms on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The calendars will be available from the 7th of October.

CHRISTMAS BREAK UP

The Group will be holding their Christmas break up lunch for 2023 at the Benalla Golf Club on 12th December at 12.30pm. Please let Janine Crawford, or anyone from the Committee know, if you would like to attend.

BOOK COLLECTION

A new collection of books, some 200 or so, named the “Thorburn Collection” have been delivered to the group. The Thorburn family of Kiama, NSW kindly donated their late father’s collection of genealogical books to the Benalla Family Research Group Inc for use as required. It is a vast collection of books covering all sorts of genealogical information from Birth, death, and marriage data, to how to write your family history, and most of the information on how to do just that. It is a wonderful variety of books that should help a lot of family history buffs solve their brick walls. I advise you to come in (Wait, hold on a minute, AFTER they a catalogued into our library) and take a look. England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales feature in volume.

HAMPER

We are also arranging a hamper, as we did last year as a fund raiser. We are asking people to donate grocery items, to be raffled at the Day in the Gardens on 12th November. If you are able to donate some items, please call into the rooms, where there is a basket which we hope will be filled to the brim.

CONVICT SETTLERS OF BENALLA

Our research team has carried out over a period of time, research into the lives of convicts to Australia, who settled in Benalla, and are buried in Benalla or Winton cemeteries. In past newsletters I have related the stories of John Ackers, and Benjamin Gould. This is the story of Barbara Kerr/Vincent.

Born in Luswade (Lasswade) near Edinburgh, Scotland, about 1811, Barbara’s father was John Kerr. Her death certificate, which was filled in by her son, George, states her mother’s name as “unknown”. Her mother’s maiden name may have been Fraser, but as yet, this is unproven.

Barbara was charged in the Edinburgh Court of Judiciary on the 12th March 1828, for stealing a gold watch from a gentleman, and sentenced to 7 years transportation. At the time she was living with her uncle Glanville Fraser who was a tailor. She left London on the 11th May 1828, on board the “Borneo”, and arrived in Hobart Tasmania on the 8th October 1828. She was aged 17 years. On her convict records she is described as 5’61/2” tall, brown hair, grey eyes, small nose, medium mouth, chin large full pointed, and various other markings, scars etc. She could not read or write, and her occupation was listed as farm servant on her arrival in Tasmania.

She was an inmate of the Cascades Female Factory in Hobart, which was built between 1826 and 1828, in the shadow of Mt. Wellington, on the land of an old distillery plant owned by Thomas Yardley Lowe. It was said to be a very cold and dark place, next to a rivulet, and less than idyllic for the inmates. If a female convict fell pregnant, she was sent to the Factory to give birth. Once the child was born, the mother had to serve six months of hard labour, for getting pregnant. The man got off scot-free.

Barbara married James Bly (or Bligh) on the 5th November 1832 in Norfolk Plains, Launceston. She was charged and confined again in 1832 for assaulting and wounding her husband, and also for not living with him. John Bly (Bligh) died in 1835 in New Norfolk, Tasmania.

It is unknown how Barbara met George Vincent, but they had a child born to them on 22nd June 1839, in new Norfolk, who they called Jane Hill Vincent. On their Permission to Marry Certificate, George is described as a "Writer", who came to Tasmania as a free man. According to the records they were married in Launceston on the 6th October 1841. Their second child named George Vincent, was born in Launceston, Tasmania, on the 18th December 1843. They are the only children listed on both George and Barbara's death certificates.

George and Barbara were living in Benalla by 1857, though no shipping records of their trip to the mainland have been found as yet.

Their daughter Jane married Charles Adams on the 24th November in that year, in the Old Court House in Benalla. They went on to produce 10 children, all born in Benalla, with many of them marrying and dying in Benalla also.

Jane died in Benalla on 2nd January 1889.

Her son George Vincent married Mary Ann Kelly, probably in Benalla, and their 5 children were all born in Benalla. At least 4 of these children went on to live, marry, have children, and die in Benalla.

George and Barbara are both buried in Benalla Cemetery, but in unknown graves.

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE BOOKS?

Our librarians have discovered that some books are missing from the library, and would like some assistance in finding them. If you know the whereabouts of any of these books, could you please inform Judi or Cheryl Ann.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>
Newspaper Article (Russia)	Moustfine
Kelly and Stringybark History	
Kelly Newspaper cuttings	
Photos of Kelly	
Historical Stories of Benalla Identities	
Benalla Legal Matters Inc.	
Oxford Companion to ships and the Sea	Peter Kemp
Tatong just off the track	L.Dronseika
Directory of Victoria	
He must of swum	J. Reakes
One Hundred Years of St. John Euroa-Evangelist	
Milawa Miscellaneous	
Tarnagulla & District BDM's	
Liverpool Map	Family tree
Benalla Land Records Misc.	Newspaper Articles
Valentine Newton Baker	
Pioneer Brothers Henry and John Muller	
Port Arthur	Ian Brand
Benalla and District Business Directory	

OUR SPONSORS.

We are absolutely thrilled that two new sponsors in Terry White Chemmart and Benalla Mitre 10 have come on board for the 2024 year, and we thank them for their trust and support.

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DISCLAIMER

The group do not hold themselves responsible for statements or opinions expressed by authors of newspapers or articles published in this newsletter. We realize that the attitudes of people who lived in the past, are not consistent with the attitudes of people today.

Well, that's it for this edition. Spring is here, and we are counting down to Christmas. The next edition of the newsletter will hopefully contain more of the same information and humor, which I hope will maintain reader's interest. Bye for now,

John Crawford, Editor.