

ROSES AND THORNS



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NEWS FROM OUR GROUP

NEWSLETTER EDITOR VACANCY

As many of you are aware especially those who attended the AGM we are without a **Newsletter Editor**. For many years, after penning a wonderful history of people and places in and around Benalla, Marj Campbell has decided to retire. The Roses and Thorns file is testament to her research and the Group was very fortunate to have had Marj at the desk publishing so many gems. Thank you Marj....

The Roses and Thorns is a quarterly publication so you would have plenty of time to accrue newsworthy items. Office holders give reports, members provide some stories so it is not an arduous task but one that can be very fulfilling. Maybe you would be able to share this office with another member, or a couple would like to take it on? It is very important that we have this position filled as soon as possible so if you would like to know more please give me a call.

Thank you, Mary (57 62 2814)

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Twenty plus members dropped in our room throughout Friday 25th for the **Member's Expo** and certainly benefited from the experience. Some found out they were related, others who had contact on an Internet forum under nom de plumes met for the first time; even Joan Hooper leafing through the Benalla Standard saw items on Devenish of which she was unaware. Next time I hope more can take advantage of the opportunity.

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Bill Willett has sold his property at Molyullah, is moving closer to town and is intending to travel around Australia. After being Secretary for longer than he cares to remember he does not think he will be able to explore and hold the position of Secretary at the same time so is looking for an apprentice who can take on the role next year. The job has many advantages – big desk with deep drawers, new big screen internet connected computer and new printer, key to the post office box, very comfortable chair and a bird's eye view of the room. Please consider this role and come and have a chat to either Bill or myself for more details.

The Group cannot function without a Secretary!!

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VALE – Janet Oliver 1927 - 2104

Many of us were saddened at the loss of our friend and colleague Janet Oliver. The eulogy given by her sister showed us a picture of a remarkably talented and diverse woman. "...she became a passionate and active member of the Benalla genealogy group...off to TAFE to learn how to use a computer 20 years ago. She completed family research for the pleasure it gave her and the satisfaction of discovery. Many acknowledged her prowess and sought input from Janet in their search. But, heaven help anyone who had a few incorrect facts either through incomplete research, folklore or families perhaps trying to shield some "unclean"/hidden history".

She will be sadly missed.

# NEWSLETTER OF THE BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP INC.

ISSN 1449 - 2920

P.O. BOX 268, BENALLA 3671 – CHURCH STREET BENALLA 3672

website - <http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org>

email – [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

Independence for WA- In April 1933, 68 per cent of West Australians voted in favour of seceding from the Commonwealth of Australia. However, they needed permission from the British Parliament before they could officially become a new country. Meanwhile, Australia's Federal Parliament was arguing that Britain should not interfere in Australian politics. The end result was that Britain never made a decision. Consequently, Western Australian remained part of the Commonwealth. <sup>1</sup>

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In 1932, Francis De Groot, a retired cavalry officer, managed to get himself selected as part of the honour guard at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. When the ribbon was about to be cut, he galloped forward on his horse and slashed the ribbon with his sword, declaring the bridge open in the name of 'the decent citizens of New South Wales'. The ribbon was then tied back together and the ceremony continued. De Groot was carried off to a mental hospital, declared insane and later fined for the replacement cost of one ribbon. ¹

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## **DESPERATELY SEEKING**

**Can you spare a couple of hours per week to help with archiving, indexing, creating new folders, or with one of the many projects that need to get off the ground?**

**Call Mary or Chick**

## **THE GOULBURN & MURRAY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY GROUPS known as GMAGS**

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~gmags/>

Formed for Family History and Historical Societies in the Victorian North East and Goulburn areas and Riverina areas of New South Wales to have a forum to assist one another.

### **Reciprocal rights are held with**

Cobram Genealogy Group Inc.  
Deniliquin Family History Group Inc.  
Mansfield Historical Society  
Shepparton Family History Group Inc.  
Wagga Wagga Family History Group  
Wangaratta Family History Society Inc  
Wodonga Family History Society Inc.  
Yarrawonga Family History Group Inc.

If you wish to research at any of these venues a card must be produced. Please see Bill Willett for the card and note it must be signed for in the Library Sign out Folder.

a bird's-eye view.....

Murray from Ozbot Computers is in the process of connecting and upgrading 7 computers to the Network. The Digger data base has increased and hopefully other CD's will be uploaded in the future.

The Network Printer has been upgraded. The Scanner is available on all network computers.

Bill has a new computer and printer and a printer is now connected to Tom's computer.

The Research computer now connects to the network and is connected to a Canon Colour Printer, capable of viewing, scanning and printing slides.

The administration area has been opened up significantly and Bill is no longer cooped up in a corner. He commands a wide angle view of the room!

A desk has been placed at the front door for greeting members and visitors.

Filing cabinets have been moved from the Kitchen to the shed and miraculously Judi's desk has remained in the same place for several months.

## The Beginning of the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages.

In November 1852 an English gentleman and statistician, William Archer arrived in Melbourne. It was not long before Gov. LaTrobe appointed Mr. Archer to read the new *Registration (Births, Deaths and Marriages) Act*, which was proclaimed on 18 January 1853, and to formulate the guidelines for the position of Registrar General. The 31st March 1853 saw the commencement of the new Registration Act in Victoria.

William Archer was appointed as Acting Registrar-General and from 1 July 1853 the public were required to register births and deaths in person with the local District Registrar. Deaths were to be registered before the funeral took place and the undertaker was required to obtain a certificate of registration from the local District registrar and after the burial they had to 'attest to the place and date of the interment'. Births and deaths on incoming British vessels also had to be registered.

William Archer's reign was short-lived when he was passed over for the first Registrar-General position with the appointment of Major Norman Campbell in January 1854. Archer was retained as deputy, but there was quite a reaction to the Campbell appointment, as reported in the *Argus* newspaper on 7 January 1854. The editorial stated, with regard to Archer's displacement that this was a move **'to make way for a mere private favourite and hanger-on of Mr. LaTrobe, appears an outrageous sacrifice of merit to favouritism, and a wanton destruction of the efficiency of a department for the purpose of securing a snug berth for a friend'**.

## The Father of Civil Registration in Victoria- William Archer (1825-1909) Gentleman, Statistician and Registrar-General of Victoria

Shortly after his arrival in Melbourne in 1850 he was appointed acting Registrar-General, sadly his first entry was that of his brother, Alfred, who had died of typhoid on 4 April at the age of 18. Over the next six months, William drew up detailed procedures for the accurate statistical recording of data of births, death and marriages in the State of Victoria. Archer travelled around Victoria with the aim of recruiting literate and agreeable Deputy Registrars capable of accurately recording the statistical data required by the State, a practice which continued until 1960. During the next few years his love of statistics and considerable knowledge on a wide range of topics together with his desire to introduce the public to the world of statistics, lead him to edit the privately produced periodical *Facts and Figures* in 1857-1858, as a follow-up to the *Statistical Register of 1854*.

His high standing in the community was noted when he was elected as one of the founding committee of the Victorian Club. Between 1861-1863 he served on the Council of the Royal Society of Victoria. In 1862 he was appointed to administer the Land Transfer Act—the introduction of the Torrens Title system of land registration. Those who believed his lack of legal training made him unqualified for the position challenged his role. These views forced him to resign in 1863, but not to be beaten he subsequently studied law at Melb. Uni., was called to the bar in 1867 and was invited to become Registrar of Titles in 1868. The May of 1874 brought forth another promotion to the Secretary of the Lands and

Finally in 1862 Archer realised his goal when he was appointed Registrar-General by the O'Shannassy Gov. following the death of Major Norman Campbell.

Survey, following an enquiry into the Lands Department.

"Black Wednesday" 8 January 1878 was when Graham Berry sacked 200 public servants including William Archer who was never to be regularly employed again. He made two attempts to enter politics but was rejected on both occasions. Firstly because he was at that stage, still a public servant; and secondly because the strong public stand he had taken on the issue of Catholic education was considered to be a potential embarrassment to the James Service Government. On 10 October 1855, Archer married Mary Charnley Nind, daughter of Captain Phillip Nind (of the Royal Navy) and Mary Charnley Nind (nee White) at St. Francis Church, Melb. They had five children but three died as infants, and William born in 1858 died aged 14. Only Grace Mary survived and in 1892 married Phillip Gavan Duffy, son of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, ex Premier of Victoria. Despite his reputation for accuracy and statistical correctness, and despite attempts to prove otherwise, it would seem that Archer did not register the birth of his first-born child, Mary Margaret Nind Archer, who was born 16 July 1857 and died 16 January 1858 according to the Archer family bible.

On 29 April 1909 William Henry Archer passed away aged 84. He is buried at Boroondara Cemetery Kew.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Abridged Version - Ancestor Vol.26 No. 4 Page 9 & 10

## DID YOUR RELATIVES SERVE IN WW1? - HERE ARE SOME HINTS TO FIND THEM

Go to the National Archives of Australia website <http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/> and click on 'other search options', then put in the surname, and work through the first names.

The file will mention if he was killed in action or came back home safely and you can download all the documents free.

If killed overseas, look at his/her file to find out more details about where he/she was buried.

If he was Victorian, try <http://ww1vic.gravesecrets.net/a.html> this is a Pictorial Honor Roll.

Do a search of war grave sites at <http://www.australianwargraves.org/>

If he/she came home safely, check the Electoral rolls for the years after he/she arrived home to see where he/she was living, what he/she did for a living, and if he/she married.

Check the newspapers online for any mention of him/her during or after the war years. Go to Trove at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> Put in his/her first name and surname, or try initials and surname and finally if it's an unusual one, just the surname.

Of course there are many more websites for you to explore not mentioned here, contact our research team if you need more information and good luck. **PAM HERBERT – RESEARCH OFFICER**

The coming of the finer weather is wonderful for all those who feel the cold and it stirs the juices to get back on the track of those elusive relatives. If you are stumped come in and have a chat and see if someone can help you or else what about giving a couple of hours to one of the many projects that are constantly coming to the fore. Over the last year we have been able to obtain copies of many as yet unseen certificates, books and newspapers that desperately need printing out, indexing, and putting in folders prior to cataloguing. Please come and help.....Contact Mary or Chick.

June is currently recuperating after a recent operation and has been ordered to take 6 – 8 weeks rest. Here's hoping she can stay still that long. Charmaie is also recovering from a knee operation and a recent house move, and we hope Jenny is back on the road to recovery after recent serious abdominal problems. After being diagnosed with acute plantar fasciitis and my foot being used as a pin cushion for a couple of procedures I am hoping to be back in training very soon for the next marathon and rock climbing competitions with my recuperating friends.....well.....

Nothing better than browsing through Helen Doxford Harris' web pages on a wet afternoon particularly the criminal case files.... <http://helendoxfordharris.com.au/>

If you have a convict amongst your ancestors you might be fortunate to have a photo here... <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/cdview/?pi=nla.pic-an11590418>

More photos – The online catalogue of near 13,000 photographs taken by A. Verey & Co. 1883 – 1954  
A wonderful collection – hope you find someone here <http://verey.com.au/>

Mary C Millar – 5762 2814 – [president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

**POSTMISTRESS RETIRING AFTER  
20 YEAR'S SERVICE  
NEW HOME TO BE AT BENALLA<sup>3</sup>**

**Mrs. Gawley** who has been postmistress at Lima South for about 29 years will leave her old haunts next week and will make a new home in Benalla with her three boys.

During those many years she has acted as postmistress, **Mrs. Gawley** has been most obliging and the residents regret very much her departure.

Her duties will be taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Warnock, who expect to occupy her home within the next week.

\*National Library of Australia  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65556667>

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**SECOND ROBBERY IN A FORTNIGHT**

It was the second robbery in a fortnight, the tailoring business of Mr. H. C. Bird having been broken into in broad daylight and £1000 worth of suitings removed.

**DARING EARLY MORNING  
ROBBERY<sup>4</sup>**

In the early hours of Monday morning, thieves broke into F. Phillips' Royal Hotel, Benalla, and removed a safe containing about £490 in notes and jewellery valued at about £80. Later in the day the empty safe, which had been blown open, was found near Balmattium.

The robbery was a most remarkable one as the thieves forced a window and entered the bar, and then forced two doors from the bar down a passageway to the cupboard where they forced the cupboard and discovered the heavy safe which they removed while everybody in the hotel was asleep.

**MILK VENDOR GIVES ALARM**

The thieves apparently using a trolley took the safe through the back premises to the roadway and dumped it temporarily on the road close to the gutter adjacent to the hotel. Mr. Les Knight who was working in his dairy on the opposite side of the road, noticed the safe, but when he did not notice anyone about his suspicions were not aroused.

He continued with his work, but shortly afterwards went to the hotel where he found one of the doors had been forced. Mr. Knight immediately notified Mr. Frank Phillips who notified the Benalla Police.

Returning to the roadway, Mr. Knight found the safe had been removed. Although some considerable time had elapsed before the police had been notified they soon had four members of the Force combing the area.

The police continued their search during Monday and the safe was discovered at Balmattium after it had been forced open and the contents removed, all except a few shillings in silver and some private papers.

**HEAVY LOSER**

Mr. Phillips has undoubtedly sustained a great loss and regret has been expressed in many quarters at his misfortune. Apart from his own money the safe contained £110 of money belonging to guests at the hotel

and Mrs. Phillips' jewellery which included a string of pearls valued at £35 and a wristlet watch.

Mr. Phillips has only been in the hotel business since the war when he returned from the dreaded Chiang (sic) prison camp where he had been a "guest" of the Japs for several years. During that time Frank was a Warrant Officer and on his return to Australia was granted a commission and Mentioned in Despatches for the fine work he performed whilst a prisoner of war.

*The*

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**AU REVIOR<sup>5</sup>**

Upwards of 30 friends of Mrs. Frank Phillips attended her surprise Au Revoir party at the Royal Hotel on Monday evening. On behalf of all present Mrs. I. Westwood wished all the best of luck and good fortune and presented her with a pig skin overnight bag and a box of chocolates. Mr. D. Webster presented her with a lovely shoulder spray. Mr. Phillips thanked everyone for their good wishes and gift. Mr. & Mrs. Phillips were entertained by the staff earlier in the day and presented with a chiming clock as a reminder of happy times spent at the hotel. \*

\*National Library of Australia  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65499638>

<sup>3</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.:1938-1954),  
Friday 15 January 1943, page 1

<sup>4</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.:1938 - 1954)  
Thursday 12 April 1951, page 1

<sup>5</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.:1938-1954),  
Thursday 26 August 1954, page 5



### **BENALLA LADIES BOWLING CLUB<sup>6</sup>**

On Monday evening last 14th November, a meeting was held at Walker's Sports Store for the purpose of forming a Ladies' Bowling Club in Benalla.

There was quite a large attendance of enthusiastic supporters.

Mrs. Arnott ably supported by Mrs. Grubb and Mrs. Besley gave an outline of the initial steps taken prior to this meeting.

The following officers were elected:

President, **Mrs. Arnott;**

Vice-Presidents, **Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. Grubb;**

Secretary, **Mrs. Cooper;**

Assistant Secretary, **Mrs. Besley;**

Committee, **Mesdames Williams, Henry, Kennedy, Fraser.**

This club, the first of its kind in Benalla, promised to be a great success and anyone interested should contact any of the abovementioned ladies.

\*National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70389048>

### **LURG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE<sup>7</sup>**

Regional Officer J. Brock attended the annual meeting of the Lurg Rural Fire Brigade and was very helpful with his advice. This region is very fortunate to have such a capable man at the head of affairs.

The financial statement showed a reasonable credit balance.

As several landholders have still to meet obligations the brigade would appreciate an early settlement. Levy for the ensuing year will be the same as last year.

Brigade Captain H. Gardiner reported on the work of the year, and of the assistance rendered by the brigade at fires at Violet Town and Greta South.

H. Mundy radio operator, told of the continued satisfaction given by the radio hook-up throughout the shire. \*

\*National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65500320>

<sup>6</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.1938-1954), Friday 18 November 1949, page 6

<sup>7</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.1938-1954), Thursday 28 October 1954, page 5

### **BENALLA BOWLS CLUB INC. 25 Arundel Street, Benalla**

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**BRANCHES THROUGHOUT  
THE NORTH-EASTERN  
DISTRICT**

MR. N. TODD has just  
resigned the managership of  
Geo. Diggle, Funeral  
Directors, after 18 years'  
experience.

**CIVILITY AND ATTENTION <sup>7</sup>**

\*National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article65968803>

### **Rowe & Associates**

### **Chartered Accountants**

**Geoff Rowe B.Bus. C.A.**

155 Bridge Street East,  
Benalla. Vic. 3672

T: 03 5762 8000

F: 03 5762 8030

E: growe@roweassociates.com.au

<sup>8</sup> Benalla Ensign (Vic.:1938-1954, Friday 10 November 1939, page 5

Research in the Group's Rooms in Church Street, Benalla is each Tuesday and Wednesday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

And the first Saturday of the month from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Researchers please note that you cannot gain access to the Research Room until you have signed the attendance book at the front desk. Visitors your name and address are required. Please remember to indicate the time you leave.

**Membership of our Group includes access to its ever growing resources and facilities, receiving a quarterly newsletter, participation in events and projects and reciprocal GMAGS rights.**

Once only joining fee: \$15.00

Single membership \$40.00

Joint membership \$55.00 (two people at the same address)

Junior membership \$15.00

**Membership fees are due and payable by 31st May of each year.**

In House Research – Our experienced Research Staff can assist you at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, however if you undertake your own research the charge is \$10.00 per hour.

**Photocopying costs vary – we can copy A4 single and double sided as well as A3 single and double sided. We can also do good quality colour photographs – prices on application.**

**All payments can be made with cash (in person only), by cheque, bank transfer or online transfer. Do not send cash through the mail. When using online transfers please quote your surname & 'm.ship', or 'research', etc.**

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Research and Support Team – Rosemary Archer, Joy Cole, Carole Gray, Lesley Hedderman, Michael Hedderman, Doreen Hillier, Wendy Maxwell, Cheryl-Anne Menere.

### **BOOKS FOR SALE**

|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Benalla Saleyards 1869 – 1980                           | <b>\$25.00</b>         |
| Benalla Memories Numbers 0 – 5                          | <b>\$6.00 - \$8.00</b> |
| Dr. John Nicholson                                      | <b>\$10.00</b>         |
| Through Their Eyes                                      | <b>\$35.00</b>         |
| 184 Samaritians                                         | <b>\$30.00</b>         |
| The Saunders Family                                     | <b>\$ 3.00</b>         |
| (Please contact us for a price on postage to your area) |                        |

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