

ROSES AND THORNS



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NEWS FROM OUR GROUP

Charmaie Therese MORLEY (nee Glendinning, Wentworth)

4.10.1928 - 28.8.2014

Dear Charmaie would have been humbled and proud to know so many family and friends attended her Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's Benalla on Tuesday 9th September 2014. She touched many people during her life because she gave of herself and was truly a community person. Her Requiem Mass was stirring in the Eulogies that were given and the hymnal choices. In particular the Wendy Matthews song *The Day You Went Away*, and most especially her son Matthew singing *How Great Thou Art*. However, for me and many who attended were touched by the final song - a recording of Charmaie singing *I know that my Redeemer liveth* from Handel's Messiah.

May she rest in peace.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Unfortunately there has been no response to the plea for a Newsletter Editor or an Apprentice Secretary, and now there is the extra position to fill - Program Officer. The ripple effect has started to show and if things stay the same it will mean those presently on the Committee are stretching themselves to cover extra areas to the detriment of quality and quantity. I would urge everyone again to consider putting their hand up to help.

Thank you, Mary (5762 2814)

~~~~~

Good to know that June is recovering well from her recent operation and husband Kevin is on the mend after his health scare.

And we are happy to have Dorothy back in the room after her carpal tunnel operation.

~~~~~

We will be closed from Wednesday 17th January 2014, reopening Tuesday 12th January 2014.

Stay safe on the roads if you are travelling over the festive season and enjoy your Christmas and New Year Celebrations. I look forward to seeing everyone next year which I hope will be as prosperous and rewarding as 2014.

Mary C Millar - President

NEWSLETTER OF THE BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP INC.

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Around the traps

The last six months have shown a distinct increase in the number of members using the room and resources, as well as the beginning and completion of new projects. As per usual the Research Desk is extremely productive and forever busy however we are yet to find a reasonable explanation for the number of giggles emanating from that area.

Tom has settled in well as Treasurer and in spite of the fact his computer is near extinction is up to date with the accounting program and confidently using the Internet for payment of accounts. Bill is going from strength to strength on his new computer with Internet access and to prove it has erected this sign over his desk.

"I'm not perfect but I'm so close it scares me".

Soldier Howship Collection Photographs are now regularly appearing in the local paper thanks to Bronwyn and we have fingers crossed someone will recognize them.

This year the calendar has been produced in conjunction with the Tatong Heritage Group and copies are fast running out. \$10.00 a copy.

Our display at the Benalla Festival "Day in the Gardens" was an exceptional exhibition based on the Howship Collection highlighting houses and buildings of the district and how we can expertly assist with Research using our precious resources. A hearty vote of thanks to Pam and Doreen and all those who assisted in making the day such a success.

We are still dealing with documents and photographs with no provenance and with Chick's perception of all that is Benalla, we are in the process of considerable sorting and indexing.

Chick, Carole and Wendy W. are at present working on the known and unknown photo collection, and Joy is sorting Cemetery Walk material. Rosemary is methodically working through the entire library covering books and Cheryl-anne is diligently affixing labels.

Judi and I worked on the final shelving locations of the Library material. It is worth noting the large six bay, six shelf compactus is home to Benalla and District resources. There is more material which has to be sorted and identified so please come and help!!

Congratulations to Wendy Maxwell on the completion of the photographing, transcribing and indexing of the Moorngag Cemetery and Headstone Records. Over the last 18 months she has been assisted by Chick, Carole and the Moorngag Trust, and has given a copy of the record to the Group. Plans are being made to have the resource put online sometime in the future. Thank you Wendy.

There is a great atmosphere in the room. Come and join us.

Wendy Webster is well on the way to finishing her research of those interred at Winton Cemetery. Already on our shelves is an index Wendy completed earlier in the year, and she is now focusing on the lives, events and families of those buried at Winton. This can well be called a labour of love with the time and effort Wendy is putting into this research, and I am sure it is going to be an excellent read when published. Keep on going Wendy!!

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING LOCAL
RECORDS**

At the request of Jeff Knight, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Benalla Cemetery we held a cemetery walk after their AGM in November. The theme for the Walk was "Religion" and four graves were researched. Before the walk began I spoke of the importance of our two Groups having such a close association.

Some months ago we rediscovered the **Cemetery's Treasurers' Book 1903 - 1948** at the Historical Society and were told it was likely to be sent to Melbourne. Through the efforts of the Benalla Family Research Group and the Benalla Cemetery Trust we were not only instrumental in suggesting and having the ledger scanned but were given a guarantee this precious piece of Benalla's history would be retained here.

I used the information in this book to speak to the grave site of **The Venerable Archdeacon Owen 'Dean' DAVY**. We assembled at what is known as the 'Nun's Grave' where the Archdeacon was buried on 22nd January 1908. Newspaper reports indicated his solicitors had applied to have him exhumed and re-interred at St. Joseph's Church in Arundel Street, which the Archdeacon had built. It was recorded there was opposition from a few local councillors, and the matter would be addressed at the next meeting; however nothing more could be found in the papers, but I did go to the church and see a marble memorial stone in the wall of the Church dedicated to 'Dean Davy.'

It was the Treasurers' book that revealed the answer!! A one line entry dated 17th June 1909 recorded his exhumation for the cost of £1.0.0d. The church has since used the plot and adjoining ones for the burial of nuns from the church Convent.

Archdeacon Davy was a very motivated and energetic man who was instrumental in the building of the £9000.0.0 church and the establishment of others at Devenish, Bungeet, Violet Town, moving the old Violet Town church to Rothesay as well as raising funds for churches at Euroa and Gowangardie. 1900 saw replacement of the Presbytery and the building of the Convent. He had a considerable effect not only on his parishioners but many in the district and this was evident in his funeral cortege which was said to be "a mile long - buggies, cars, wagons, the clergy of all denominations, nuns, and many societies were represented; bells of all the churches and the fire station rang out over Benalla". Archdeacon Davy was reported as being born c 1840 in Ireland and studied for the priesthood at Maynooth College. After he was ordained in 1869 he became Parish Priest of his native parish until he came to Australia in 1876.

Further research located a booklet produced by St. Joseph's Church celebrating its centenary as a parish in 1976 which states he was re-interred beneath the Sacred Heart altar.

(Information for this report was sourced from Benalla Cemetery Treasurers Book 1903-1948, North East Ensign 1908, St. Joseph's Centenary Celebrations and the Internet) (Full account of Archdeacon DAVY in Cemetery Walk is located in Library of Benalla Family Research Group Inc.)

Mary C Millar - November 2014.

FATHER J. L. SCANLON 1847 – 1878

John Lawrence Scanlon born in January 1847 at Ballylongford, Lesselton which is situated in the north of County Kerry on the west coast of Ireland. He was educated at All Hallows College in Dublin which is now part of the City University. It was first founded in 1842 by John Hand as a college to train priests for the foreign missions. However, the famine and emigration saw many priests follow the Irish Diaspora to Australia, Canada and other countries.

In 1876 Benalla became a parish in the Diocese of Sandhurst and Father Scanlon was appointed the first Parish Priest. Other priests had already served and established buildings and the school, and it was recorded that the first Mass was celebrated in Benalla on the site of what was later to become "The Liverpool Arms" Hotel.

There is very little documented evidence of Father Scanlon however the following reports were found in local papers:

In October 1878 many newspapers of the day recorded that Father Scanlan conducted the funeral service for Sgt. Kennedy who was murdered by Ned Kelly. It was also reported after the murders Father Scanlan, *'called upon all right-minded people to help the police and maintain the authority of the law. He said that numerous friends had consoled with him on account of the death of Constable Scanlan, whom they had heard was his cousin. There was no relationship between them, but the manner in which the deceased trooper had conducted himself in the district would have made him proud to call him a kinsman. The reverend gentleman is bestirring himself about the erection of a monument in the Mansfield Cemetery.'*

In January 1880 *"The hard years of toil sapped the strength of this valiant young Priest and by his death the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Colony of Victoria have lost a hard working, pious and upright young priest"*.

Father John Lawrence Scanlon passed away on 8th January 1880. Our Lady's altar in St. Joseph's Church was erected to his memory and a memorial stone dedicated to him is located in the Church.

(Information for this report was sourced from Benalla Cemetery Treasurers Book 1903-1948, Benalla Ensign 1878 & 1880, St. Joseph's Church History and the Internet)
Mary C Millar – November 2014.

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INDUSTRIAL – COMMERCIAL
AND DOMESTIC SERVICE
INSTALLATION

The Benalla Cemetery is situated on Cemetery Road off the Benalla to Baddaginnie Road approximately 4 kilometres from Benalla.

Benalla Cemetery in Victorian Gov. Gazette No 68, Tuesday 1 August 1854, Page 1700, "to be Trustees of the Public Cemetery at Benalla, established under the provisions of the Act of Council, 17 Victoria, No. 12". This is the first VGG notice re Benalla Cemetery.

<http://www.benallacemetery.com/cemetery>

IN THE 'NIP' OF TIME

How often do we bemoan the fact documents, photographs, books, artifacts and even furniture have no provenance. Photos are a particular misery – the mostly stern portraits of people who dressed in their 'Sunday' best to be photographed – with no evidence of their identity. Records of this kind are located in every repository in the world. From large and ornate private and public museums, state, federal and local libraries, schools, churches and record collections, even down to the humble local family history centre. We all have them.

Over time they have been stored in filing cabinets, drawers, boxes and sheds not only accumulating more dust but more obscurity. There is reluctance by some to dispose of these items in the hope, one day, they will be recognized. And we at the Benalla Family Research Group are no different having so many items where nothing has been recorded about how, why or by whom we came by the records or photographs.

Over many years since its conception there has been little change in our group. We have been true to our aim and we have accumulated, sorted, indexed fundraised, researched and embraced changes in technology. We embarked on exciting adventures like early train trips to the unfamiliarity of bustling Melbourne (and those trams), the austerity of the Public Library to the quaintness and availability of the Public Record Office in Laverton, later Casseldon Place and then North Melbourne. Other research was precious time spent at the Genealogical Society of Victoria, the Australian Institute of Genealogy and the Migrant Centre.

Back in Benalla we poured over the results of the exhausting days spent in Melbourne, but would

have not have missed it for the world. With activity and enthusiasm our early research produced many indexes (regrettably many unsigned) notable books and happy times. So it is not surprising during that time records and books and photographs would have been left with us for future projects, but sadly with no provenance. One particular box of papers comes to mind.

No one can actually recall how we came about a box of papers and photographs of "Nip" Ernest Alfred SIMMONDS. The box was discovered when we began the task of removing old shelving and replaced them with compactus. Chick Walker sleeved the records and put them in a folder to protect them but they were once again deposited on a shelf. During the relocation I came across the folder and knowing Wendy Maxwell was looking for a project suggested to her she should look at the folder, do some research on his family with the intent of locating a living relative; because what we wanted to do was share the precious memories and treasures that had come our way.

The records and photographs dealt with his life during World War 1, including his time in the Army in Australia and Overseas and many photographs of "Nip" and his digger mates. Through the knowledge of local historian Chick Walker we knew some of his Benalla history; where he lived, his happy character, and most especially that he never married and had no children.

So the question posed was who gave us these documents and was there any family we could contact?

Quietly Wendy went about her business detailing what she could of Nip's life through local papers, tracing his family using the resources of Digger©, Trove, the National Library of Australia, Ancestry and general Internet resources. Her extensive research produced a very detailed history

of "Nip" in Benalla and including his war record and his ancestors. Wendy and Carole duly indexed the contents of his folder and the folder was catalogued in our Library.

After being indexed and catalogued "Nip" was relegated to a shelf in the newly acquired compactus. He was on the 'to do' list of advertising in the local paper, but as the winter months brought their chill and fewer came into the rooms poor "Nip" was forgotten again. Wendy and her husband in search of a better climate headed off for a camping holiday.

Then, whilst hundreds of miles from Benalla, Wendy received an email enquiring after "Nip". When Wendy completed her research she uploaded his tree to her private Ancestry site and the query she received was from a man in Western Australia who said Ernest SIMMONDS was a distant relative. A flurry of emails went from Wendy to Chick in Benalla and back to Perth resulting in the contents of the "Nip" folder being copied and sent to Western Australia.

Jeff in Perth had very little information on "Nip", and was overjoyed to find such a treasure-trove.

From our perspective we were also overjoyed to have made such an important connection as being 'genealogical detectives' results like this are our ultimate aim. Well done Wendy!!

At this stage we are still no closer to finding out how we came to have these records, but now have a very large and prominent Acquisition Book to record the provenance of what is to given or obtained by our Group.

**"Nip" Ernest Alfred Simmonds
1894 – 1987
Buried Benalla Lawn Cemetery**

Come and be part of exciting times in our Group:

- *A recent printing grant from the Local Council*
- *A donation via the Council of 4 second hand computers*
- *More internet computers*
- *Seven networked computers*
- *Up to date printing and scanning facilities*
- *Many new resources in the Library*
- *The new Library catalogue not far away*
- *Awaiting grants for extra storage facilities*
- *Awaiting grants for IT and Library resources*
- *Excellent heating and cooling*
- *Lovely happy people to work with*
- *A productive and forward thinking Committee*
- *Lots of interesting projects*
- *Large well appointed kitchen*
- *Open and user friendly research area*
- *Could it get any better - What are you waiting for ????*

A SIGNIFICANT DONATION

The aim of all Family History Groups and Societies is to build on their resources which in turn enable them to help more people. We were very recently overawed with a donation of books, pamphlets and newspapers from a local/district resident. Notable local historian Chick Walker and experienced Research Officer Pam Herbert were invited to Ed Willmott's a few miles out of Benalla to see what he had and have a cup of tea and a bit of a chin wag. Both ladies had a very pleasant afternoon, including afternoon tea listening to Ed's stories, and they were amazed at the quantity and quality of memorabilia he was donating to our Group. The boxes filled the back of the hatchback with over 100 items!!

Chick and Pam were so anxious to get back to the rooms so they could leaf through all the paperwork, knowing what was written would be a wonderful resource. To date 37 books have been sorted and catalogued and are on the shelves. The remainder require further examination and sorting and some which do not have a direct association with our area may be sent to other Family History Groups.

Some of the entries in the Acquisition Book covered areas of Devenish, Yundool, Cosgrove, Shepparton, Stewarton, Nalinga, Dookie, Cashel, Wanggarandell West, St. James, Youanmite, Patho, Echuca, Conway, Quinane, Missen, Eildon, Moama, Nathalia, Kialla, Dunolly, Fort Queenscliff, Dookie East, Coburg and Rochester.

Needless to say we are so grateful to Ed and people like him who generously donate their collections, and we in turn are proud to have these treasures accessible to all researchers and others who are interesting in reading history. The people, events, houses, businesses and farming stories in these publications may have long gone, but their stamp on Australia's history has been made, and we are testament to preserving it.

WEB SITES WORTH A LOOK

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1393345>

This is a link to Victorian Probate Registers which comes in a very user friendly format and provides excellent information i.e. date of death, occupation, where from, etc. as well as the relevant Public Record Office VPRS numbers. If you are lucky the Will and Probate has been digitized and you can download from the PRO Website.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/cdview/?pi=nla.pic-an11590418&chunk=1>

Convict portraits, Port Arthur, 1874 [picture] Date 1874.

Extent 82 photographs on carte-de-visite mounts : albumen, some col. ; 9.3 x 5.7 cm.

82 identification photographs of 73 Port Arthur convicts taken at about the time the settlement was closed. All are annotated on reverse with the subject's name and 'Taken at Port Arthur 1874'. Some are inscribed with the ship's name on which they were transported or the word "Native".

This site is another excellent convict reference. Although only 82 photographs you might be lucky!!

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

If you have not yet logged into this site prepared to be wowed, and prepare to spend hours, well lots of time anyway. Nearly every month a new publication from the past is uploaded. It is also advisable to **Sign Up** to the site – spend a bit of time reading the **Getting to Know Us** site via the Help page.

Our Group has donated \$2000.00 towards digitization of the Benalla Standard. Although it is a free site many Genealogical and Heritage Groups around Australia and Government Agencies contribute towards digitization.

<http://www.benallaservices.com.au>

The Who What Where Benalla website will soon be replacing the old Benalla directory on the Benalla Rural City Council website. It provides information about Services and Organisations which support the Benalla Community. We are located under [Historical Information & Events](#)

On **Facebook** search for **"Lost Benalla"** a new site devoted to sharing stories and pictures of Benalla's past. A site well worth joining.

NEW MEMBERS FOR 2014

Lyn Barclay
Leonie Coghill
Bronwyn Pitty
Barbara and Don Urquhart

Margaret Black
Terry Evans
Margaret Richards

Bruce Burton
Alex Kerekes
Lenore Stock

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MINUTE SECRETARY: Wendy Webster
PROGRAM OFFICER: Vacant
IT OFFICER: Neil White
EDITOR: Vacant

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

If undelivered please return to
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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR HO HO HO

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