

ROSES AND THORNS



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NEWS FROM OUR GROUP

'COO—EE: SALUTING OUR WORLD WAR 1 HEROES'

On ANZAC Day it was evident all across Australia the work and effort hundreds of people put into bringing to the fore the history of the thousands of men and women who fought in WW1 – it was very evident in Benalla.

For several months the Benalla Commemorative ANZAC Committee had been collecting memorabilia which featured in an outstanding display at the Benalla Town Hall from Friday 17th April – Saturday 24th April. Several members of our Group were represented on this committee: Convener Bronwyn Pitty, Bill Willett, Marj Campbell and John Barry. John also wrote a weekly article in the Benalla Ensign with photographs of soldiers from our Howship Collection featuring alongside. We also supplied photographs for a window display in the AEU Building in Nunn Street. Dawn Williams and Pam Herbert contributed towards research of WW1 Nurses. Our resources were available free of charge to anyone researching for these events.

ANZAC Day began with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in the Memorial Precinct of the Benalla Botanic Gardens commencing at 6.00 am. The Anzac Day March began at 10.00 am in Bridge Street East and proceeded to the Cenotaph for the wreath laying service.

In the afternoon at 3.00 pm and later at 7.00 pm a new Australian play "The Drums of Time" featured at the BPACC venue. The play was based on letters, diaries, of stories of Benalla's WW1 Nurses and Soldiers.

On Sunday afternoon a musical sing-along was held at the Town Hall led by the Benalla Rose City Bank and Benalla Theatre Company.

On the previous Sunday 19th April, The Lighthorsemen film was shown at the Swanpool Cinema.



AROUND THE TRAPS

BENALLA DISTRICT CEMETERIES

DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTORS, FIND YOUR RELATIVES.

**Browse The Moorngag and Winton
Cemetery records online.**

The cemetery records have been painstakingly transcribed to provide a rich resource for family historians and genealogists alike.

Many of the records are accompanied by photographs of headstones and we are adding more all the time.

**The above is what you read when you log
on to**

<http://www.benalladistrictcemeteries.org>

Wendy Maxwell and Wendy Webster under the guidance and expertise of Karl Phillipson of Code Garden Web Design, have launched their web site of transcriptions and headstone photographs of both the Moorngag and Winton Cemeteries.

This work is a labour of love for these two efficient ladies and they are to be heartily congratulated on the high degree of professionalism of their work.

Whether or not you have a relative interred at either of these cemeteries have a look at their work.

VERY IMPRESSIVE!!!

SATURDAY RESEARCH DAYS

Please note we are not open on Saturday's during May, June, July, August or in January. For all other months we are open on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 3 pm in addition to our usual open days on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm. We are open by appointment during other times if necessary, please contact us via the [contact form](#) on our Website or secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org

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2015 – 2016 ANNUAL FEES

You will by now have received your Invoice for this year's fees. Annual fees are now due and payable by 30th June 2015. Payment can be made in person on Tuesday or Wednesday at 9 Church Street, Benalla.

Via post to P.O. Box 268, Benalla 3673

Online Bank Transfer to BSB 633000
Account No. 112977194

When making payment through any method, particularly online, please include your name as a reference.

Do not send cash through the mail.

Any queries please contact Tom Sloan –
treasurer@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BENALLA
FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP INC.
TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2015**

12 members attended this year's meeting. After the reading of various reports the following were elected:

President: Mary C Millar 57622814
Vice President: Chick Walker
Secretary: Bill Willett
Treasurer: Tom Sloan
Minute Secretary: Wendy Webster

Research Officer: Pam Herbert
IT Officer: Neil White
Librarian: Judi Ryan
Editor: Meredith Tolliday
Publicity: Meredith Tolliday

Research Committee: Doreen Hillier
Wendy Maxwell
Chick Walker

Library Committee: Rosemary Archer
Dorothy Kerr
Carole Gray

Recommendation motion from the Executive Committee that fees not be increased was passed.

Our thanks once again to Councillor Suzy Martin, who not only handled the Election of Office Bearers, but took an active interest and commented on all matters relating to the group mentioned in the reports.

We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber as our Council Representative.

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A GRAVE STORY

Family historians are often found walking round in cemeteries, but many folk are fearful of them and avoid them if possible. One such fellow by the name of Jack decided he'd risk a short cut through the local cemetery late one night. Hearing a tapping sound he felt a little scared but continued on his way.

As the tapping became louder and louder he became more and more

frightened until suddenly he came across a man chiseling at a tombstone.

"Thank goodness," said Jack to the man with great relief.

"You gave me quite a fright. What are you doing?"

The man looked up, scowled and replied, "They spelt my name wrong."

RESEARCH NOTES

RATES REQUESTS

Researchers worldwide now have access to some basic information about the Benalla rates and for a fee of \$5 they can be emailed a scanned copy of the whole rate page and if available a scanned copy of the relevant map. We have had many enquiries.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

In the last financial year we have dealt with approx. 50 online requests and near 40 in-house requests and we have earned over \$2500 for the group. These requests range from simple searches to complex ongoing research such as the **Euroa Hotel** research.

RECENT SURNAME REQUESTS

**Janet Hair & Frank Leak:
Daniel Page**

WANTED

Information on Chinese Immigration, Culture, Families, Photographs, Residence,, Industry and Stories in Benalla.

Anything related to the surname VIPOND OR VIPONT in Victoria, c1850 onwards.

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times**

Below are two brief edited accounts of events at the Siege of Glenrowan. They are written by one of our members, Joy Cole whose great grandparents and their children were held hostage by the Kelly Gang. William is buried with his parents at Benalla Cemetery. Bridget is also interred at Benalla Cemetery with her husband John George Griffiths.....Ed.

WILLIAM THOMAS REARDON 1877 - 1956

William was born on 11th June 1877 in Benalla. He was the 8th child of James and Margaret Reardon, James a Plate Layer on the Railway.

It was early on the Sunday morning 27th June 1880 when James and his wife Margaret and their 8 children were taken by the Kelly Gang first to the Gate House and then after the men were taken away to pull up the railway track, the women and other children were taken to Annie Jones' Hotel at about 4 p.m. on the Sunday afternoon.

When Margaret escaped with her baby Bridget at about 7 a.m. the following morning, her son Michael holding the three year old William by the hand was afraid and turned back into the hotel. Sergeant Steele shot him in the back and he fell into his father's arms. He along with William were pulled back into the hotel. The Reardons still in the hotel at this stage were James, sons the badly wounded 17 year old Michael, 16 year old Thomas, 7 year old Kate, 5 year old Nell and 3 year old William.

It was just after ten in the morning when the hostages came out of the hotel: there still must have been about 30 of them!

It is my understanding that Thomas, helping the badly wounded Michael and holding Nell's hand was followed by James holding William by one hand and Kate in the other, were the last of the hostages to come out of the building.

The Reardon's played a significant part in the siege of Glenrowan. The only one who received compensation of any kind was Michael who received a pension for life.

BRIDGET MARGARET REARDON 1880 - 1966

Bridget was born on 20th January 1880 in Glenrowan, the 8th child of James and Margaret Reardon. James was a Plate Layer on the Railway. Bridget was one of the 8 children of James and Margaret taken hostage by the Kelly Gang at the siege of Glenrowan on Sunday 27th June 1880.

All the other women managed to escape including three of the Reardon children, but Margaret, baby Bridget, daughter Helena (Nell) aged 5 and little William (Billy) aged 3 were still in the Hotel with her husband James, sons Michael and Thomas, all the other male hostages and the Kelly Gang. Each time Margaret and James and their children attempted to escape they were driven back into the hotel by Police gunfire. The third time they came out of the hotel, Sergeant Steele fired at them and two bullets went through the shawl wrapped around baby Bridget. Constable Arthur called out to Sergeant Steele, "Do not shoot her; you can see it is a woman with a child in her arms." ¹

Margaret carrying baby Bridget was eventually able to escape at about 7.00 am in the morning. She was helped by Guard Dowsett who took her and the baby to the railway station.

In an ironic twist of fate, when Bridget married John George Griffiths in 1909 she became the sister-in-law of Grace, one of Ned Kelly's sisters who had married Edward Albert Griffiths in 1889.

¹ Papers of Houses of Parliament Session 1881, Legislative Assembly, Vol 111

...But perhaps the most fascinating thing at Glenrowan is the official recognition by the Victorian Railways. On 29th November 1894, a special train pulled up 1000 metres north of Glenrowan, just where the line goes into a curve around an embankment, convenient for sending trains down the side. There the chairman of the Railways Board, Mr. A.G. Gibbs, unveiled a bronze plaque set in a cairn of stones. It read: "This plaque marks the place where Victorian Railways repairers REARDON and SULLIVAN were forced by Ned Kelly to remove tracks in an unsuccessful attempt to wreck the police train, June 27 1880."

It was probably the first time anywhere that a railways organisation had put down a bronze plaque to remind the citizens of an attempted train wrecking.

*Saint Ned, The Story Of The Near Sanctification Of An Australian Outlaw, Keith Dunstan, Page 104
Methuen of Australia Pty. Ltd. 1980*



"Ned Kelly attempts to derail train" by State Library of Victoria. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ned_Kelly_attempts_to_derail_train.jpg#/media/File:Ned_Kelly_



A **breaker boy** was a coal-mining worker in the United States and United Kingdom. They separated impurities from the coal by hand.

http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/09/labor-day-10-jobs-that-are-obsolete/?utm_source=email_newsletter&utm_campaign=september2014&lang=EN

BACK TO BENALLA 1960 EXCERPTS FROM THE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR (sic) PROGRAM

A settlement was formed on the Broken River at the "Crossing Place" near the railway bridge and here, about 1844, Richard Clark built the Black Swan Hotel, now known as "Black Swan Mansions."

In 1847 mounted troopers came to the Broken River Station, which name had taken the place of "The Crossing Place," and the first Police Station was a slab building not far from "The Black Swan." There was no gaol and prisoners were chained to a log while waiting for trial. The same year a Court of Petty Sessions was established.

In 1854 we find the gazetting and fencing in of the site of the Benalla Cemetery. Previous to this records say the burial ground was on a site near the present Benalla Butter Factory.

In 1861 the Royal Hotel was built by Mr. R. Hoskin and in the same year came the right of free selection and Benalla commenced to grow and was gazetted a town.

In 1869 Benalla was proclaimed a Shire, and in 1873 the railway line reached Benalla and on 18th August of that year the station was officially opened.

Other interesting dates in Benalla's history are:-
1844 First Methodist service held and first church built.

1855 Parish of Holy Trinity constituted. Present church built in 1860.

1858 First R.C. school opened.

1861 Presbyterian Church built. Present Church erected in 1905. Pipe organ installed 1941.

1876 First football club formed

1881 Foundation stone of Benalla Post Office laid.

From 1824 to 1960 is a long time, and since those far-off days Benalla – or Benalta as the place was called then – has grown and developed until it is now not only a thriving centre, but of the most important provincial towns in Victoria.

And so we find ourselves passing into 1960 and what comes after. We leave the future to you all, hoping you have gained some pleasure in reading something of what went on in "those good old days" and that the reader spares a little time to ponder and extend grateful thanks to the memory of those wonderful old pioneers who did so much in the establishment of the town of which we are all so proud. Of them let us write and close our narration with these words:-

"Gone they are and forgotten their graves, but their work remains – present and future shall be their monument and their epitaph will be written in the deeds of a nation."

If undelivered please return to:
P.O. Box 268, Benalla. 3671. Victoria

WEB SITES WORTH A LOOK

<http://www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk/>

Scottish Strays Marriage Certificates

<http://www.navy.gov.au/history>

A page with many links that is very helpful with Naval Research

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/bdm.htm>

A very informative page on Shipping to and from New Zealand with some references to Victoria. Lots of miscellaneous pieces of information.

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