



## **COMMITTEE**

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Hello everyone,

It's time for another newsletter. Once again, our newsletter is being issued while Victoria is under lockdown, even if restrictions in Benalla are not as severe as in Melbourne. Hopefully this is the last one, but who knows what will happen. In any case, it's full steam ahead at the rooms, with lots of things happening. If you glance at the list of committee members listed above, you may notice that there are a couple of changes, details of which can be found in the President's report. Thanks to Wendy and Carol for their efforts, and welcome to Jane and Meredith. The Group is continuing with family research, while observing any conditions prescribed by the Government.

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 Jane Rushworth – [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org) or our President Bill Willett – [president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

Firstly, I'd like to thank those members that put up their hands to continue on with the position they held from the year before. It was much appreciated, especially by me as it saved hours of work trying to find someone to take over. Thanks dearly.

Also, thanks to those new members that have indicated and been elected to fill the two vacant spots on the executive in the Treasury and the important Secretaries position. Both the new Officers have had great experience with their respective positions so things will really get buzzing when they get their teeth into the job.

We had a phenomenally successful History Expo thanks to the hard and thorough work of Neil, Jane and Meredith. Some of the comments that we received back were most

inspiring, and a good reason to do the same or similar thing a couple of times a year. It is up to everyone to start thinking about what we could do next and when.

Judi and Cheryl Ann have been buying cheap books suitable for resources here from a big bookseller in Beechworth and have made a couple of trips to Beechworth to buy them. The seller has not organised all the books yet so there will be at least another trip to finish them off. Thanks Guys, as the more resources we have at our disposal, the better service we can provide.

Also, the research team are compiling a few new folders for our use as well such as a Lone Graves folder, a new Pubs folder. I'll let them elaborate on those, so keep your ears to the ground. You may be able to help them out. Wendy has set a time to hibernate somewhere north for the winter, so the research team will be one short for a couple of months.

There is still need to keep our thoughts about us when it comes to all the electronics around the room now. Some of the computers that have been donated to us are now out of date and therefore out of support. We will be, over the next couple of months, going around the room to get an idea as to what you need and what we are able to supply to update the system. We have downsized the network to make space for laptop computers to be used against the wall so that no electrical cords are laying a trap to trip over.

Look forward to seeing some of you that are not frequent visitors in the rooms for a cuppa and a chat, and even to help out with some of your research.

Note that the annual membership fees are due from the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Current financial members will receive an invoice, so please update your contact details on that if needed.

Bill.

## **ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORT 2021**

Despite being shut down for 19 weeks due to Covid 19 restrictions, from the end of March to the start of June, we managed to complete 35 paid requests originating from both email and in house. This brought in over \$3000 to the group.

Amongst these requests were four family trees, one requiring a complete family history research to be undertaken, the other two had the family history supplied by the client. One of the family trees was for a local family which had to be researched from beginning to end, and required many weeks of work. The other three trees had the family details supplied.

Major projects have included:

- Researching farm properties within the Benalla district, one of which was a complete history of "Murrungong" Upotipotpon, donated to us by Marie Harris, who is a member of the group. Other properties include Pleasant Banks on the corner of Samamria and Tatong roads, "Taminick Station" owned by Benjamin Warby and "Emu Plains" homestead, Stewarton.
- Researching the 11 known convicts who are buried at the Benalla, (10) and Winton, (1) cemeteries. Some of the surnames are Ackers, Edwards, Gould, Harris, and Kerr. Research has involved transcribing Tasmanian Libraries conduct records, which has

been quite difficult at times understanding the hand written script. Thanks to Jane for undertaking this arduous task.

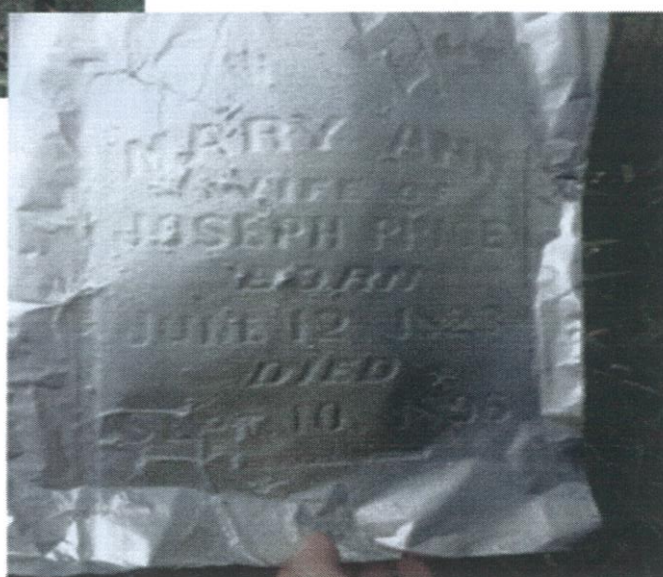
- Compiling a list of lone graves, which are early burials on private property. The research involved applying for death certificates of people we knew to be buried on properties in the Samaria district. Others have been found through a search of our death certificates we have in the library, and others from the Digger death indexes and newspapers.
- Indexing images of the Benalla Anglican church marriage certificates for the years 1856, 1859, and 1867-1951. This has now been completed. A copy of the index and certificates will be stored on the research computer.

Thanks to all who have helped with research and projects.

Wendy Maxwell  
Research Officer

If you are a person who investigates information on headstones, (and who hasn't done this in the interest of family research), here is a tip on reading them from Wendy.

**Put kitchen type aluminium foil over the face of the headstone and rub it using a brush or damp sponge.**

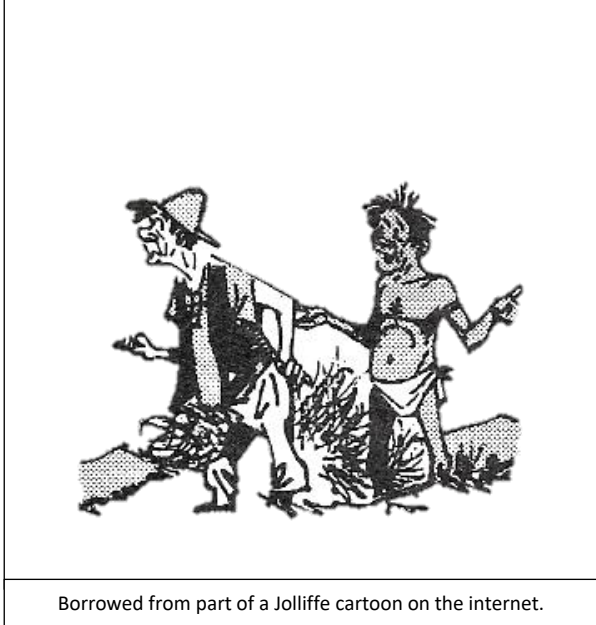


In the last newsletter, there was a poem about computer terminology, from group member Beryl Ilsley. Here is another item courtesy of Beryl.

Dear white fella –A couple of things you ought to know.

When I am born, I'm black  
When I grow up, I'm black  
When I get sick, I'm black  
When I go out in the sun, I'm black  
When I'm cold, I'm black  
When I get scared, I'm black  
And when I die, I'm still black

But you my white fellah  
When you were born you were pink  
When you grew up, you were white  
When you get sick, you go green  
When you go out in the sun, you go red  
When you get cold, you go blue  
When you get scared, you go yellow  
And when you die, you go purple



Borrowed from part of a Jolliffe cartoon on the internet.

**And you got the cheek to call me coloured!**

And from our President

**Subject: Aging Great one!**

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

Reporters interviewing a 104 year old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts. I have bouts of dementia, poor circulation, and can barely feel my hands and feet anymore. I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92, and have lost all my friends. But thank God, I still have my driver's license.

Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.

Chick Walker from our research team has provided me with an article from the Melbourne Australasian of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1906. It is letter from a lady to her friend in Melbourne, extolling the attractions of the Township of Benalla.

**BENALLA.** By Trixie Gascoigne.

Benalla, the centre of a good agricultural district, is about 121 and a half miles from Melbourne. Being situated on the main line from Melbourne to Sydney it is well populated. The land in and about the town is fairly profitable, therefore it generally brings a good price. The town is about as large as most of the country towns, and is at present making great headway. The buildings, both public and private, are very nice, the newest private residences being mostly built in the Queen Anne style.

The principal street, Bridge Street, contains some very nice buildings, and most of the important ones. Three of the banks, namely Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank, and the Colonial Bank, are situated in different quarters of it. They are all nice two storied buildings, the Savings Bank being just lately erected. It is the finest building in the town. Our other bank, the National, is in Nunn street. There in the same street, is the shire hall, a large public building, used for amusements of all kinds. In Nunn street reside all the doctors (three), dentists (two), and chemists (two). The other business street is Carrier Street, which runs right down to the station. It is more of a private street than a business one, but having the railway station for a terminus, it is greatly used for traffic. At one end of Bridge street, the post office, a large building, is situated. Benalla has four halls, namely, the shire, Masonic (in Benalla street), a newly erected building, Rechabite and Protestant halls. The terminus of Nunn street is completed by the large fire brigade station. The four principal streets are now being asphalted, which greatly improves the town.

On crossing the river, after a good long walk, we come to some more buildings, which are the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, together with a large Catholic school and a convent. The latter is a very large and pretty building. It is built in the Gothic style, and has a large garden. Further along Arundle street is a large college, one of the best in the North Eastern district. Both of these latter schools have a number of boarders. At the other end of the street are the Law Courts. Benalla East has two other churches, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church being in Church street, and the Wesleyan in Carrier Street.

Now, from the business portion of town, I will take you round and across the Broken River. The river can be crossed in three different parts by bridges. The town bridge, which crosses the river in Bridge street, the Railway bridge, across which the trains run, and the Rustic bridge, which crosses the river in the reserve, which is set apart for pasturing cows. From the town bridge you are able to go either to the gardens or to the show grounds. The gardens, though artificial, are very nice, and very pretty, and are used for all kinds of sport. The flower beds are all well laid out, and as well as the gravel paths, there are parts of the grass that are also used by pedestrians. Seats are distributed round the oval, which is used for cricket and football principally. One of the many gravel paths takes you to the croquet lawn and tennis court, and another leads to the bowling green. All these amusements are greatly taken up by the public. Overlooking the oval is a large grandstand. From the gardens you can go to the River reserve, through which the river runs, which is planted on both sides with weeping willows. There are many fishing holes in that part of the river. Further along

the river, on the other side of the railway bridge, is another reserve. It is the Friendly Society's Ground. On account of being rather small, it is not used for much sport now, but it is used greatly by pedestrians. Distributed among the trees, round the oval and along the river, are seats. Horses and cows are allowed to pasture in a certain part of it.

Many of the country roads surrounding the town make pleasant walks.

Dear "Patience", although this is only a brief account of Benalla you will be able to judge for yourself that it is a very nice country town. Don't you think so

#### WATCH THIS SPACE

The success of the recent Heritage Festival week (April 2021) generated a wealth of great ideas from family research enthusiasts. We are working on three projects with the aim to have them underway very soon. Stay tuned at the BFRG website <http://benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/> , Facebook and newsletters.

Currently underway:

1. Family history Workshop Series:
  - Using Spreadsheet for Family Historians – Beginners and Advanced
  - Using Word for Family Historians – Beginners and Advanced
  - Family Tree making
  - Digger as a research resource
  - Internet Researching
  - Scrapbooking and Family History

These are working titles as we prepare a high quality and interesting series of workshops that will guarantee many "light-globe" moments.

2. Guest Speaker series – beginning with an expert on DNA and how to interpret results. If you have any ideas, please contact [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)
3. Benalla Network of Researchers, Historians and Archivists – a network of community organisations committed to sharing information, skills, ideas, and festivals. This project is in its early days. The aim of the Network will be to make it easier for the researching individual and community to find information. Stay tuned !!

**And thanks to our sponsors for their continued support.**

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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 newsletter, in the next edition we will have more on what is happening in the rooms. And hopefully interruptions due to Covid will be kept to a minimum. Bye for now,

John Crawford, Editor.