



ROSES & THORNS

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BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP

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OPEN

Tuesday and Wednesday - 10am - 4pm. 1st Saturday of the month - 10am to 3pm

WHAT AREA DO WE COVER:

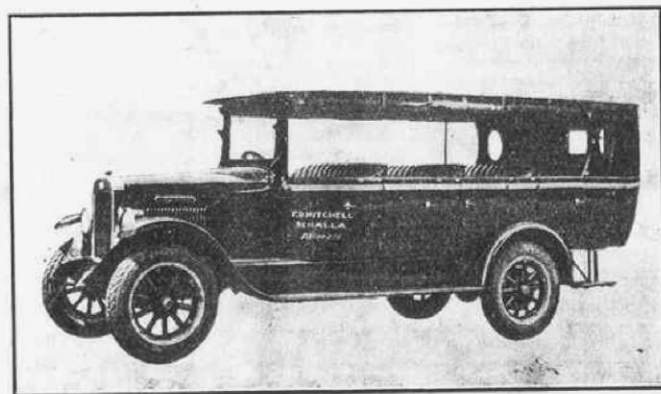
Almonds, *Baddaginnie* Benalla
Boho Boweya, Boxwood,
Broken Creek, Bungeet,
Burkes Hill, Caniambo,
Chesney Vale, *Devenish*,
Emu Bridge, Glenrowan West,
Goomalibee, Goorambat,
Gowangardie, Greta
Greta South,
Greta West, Hansonville *Kilfeera*,
Koonda Lake Mokoan, Lake
Rowan, Lima *Lima East*,
Lima South, Lurg, Major Plains,
Moglomemby, *Molyullah*,
Moorngag, Moyhu, Myrree,
Nooramunga,
Ryans Creek, Samaria, St James,
Swanpool, Taminick, *Tamleugh*,
Tarnook, Tatong, Thoona,
Tungamah, *Upotipotpon*,
Violet Town, Waggarandall,
Warrenbayne,
White Gate, *Winton*, Wrightly,
Yin Barun, Yundool

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RESEARCH

Unassisted research at our rooms - \$10.00 per hour.

Research with full assistance - in our rooms- \$20.00 per hour.

Request by mail or email—\$20.00 per hour, plus \$5.00 mail-out fee for photocopying, postage and handling.

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MEETINGS AND COMING EVENTS

General Meetings – 4.30pm - 4th Wednesday in the month.

Committee Meetings – 1.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Lunch Time Meetings – 12.00 noon

JUNE 12TH Thursday 10.30

SCRAPBOOKING

10.30 to lunch (BYO lunch)

Theme: Wedding or Family Home

Cost \$10.00

Bookings essential by **MAY 30TH** two weeks prior,

When booking state preference for theme

JULY 5TH Saturday 1.00pm

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

General knowledge of history, etc.

JULY 23RD Wednesday 6.00 for 6.30 start

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER

Meal – Casserole and sweets

Bookings essential

Charmaie Morley - Program Officer

ALL MEMBERS

A reminder that Annual fees for the

Group are due on the 1st July each year.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following New Members.

You may be able to assist with their special research interests.

DAVID STOLZ - researching Heinrich Stolz

and

CAROL GIBB - researching Ramage, Croxford, Hill, White, Aldridge.

Any new members who have not received their New Members Pack - Please contact us. DT

LIBRARY BOOKS CURRENTLY EVADING CATALOGUING.

1. People Places and things of the North-East by Graham Jones.
2. Caroline Chisholm – The Emigrants Friend by Jeanette Lacey.
3. Clunes: Hub of the Central Goldfields.
4. Unlock the Land – A history of Loddon Shire.
5. Reminiscences of Fryerstown by G. Brown.
6. A Dictionary of English Folk Customs by Christine Hole.
7. Early Prominent Benalla Citizens by Colin Boyd.
8. The Path to Benalla Hospital by Morrie Evans.
9. Newspaper Articles of the North-East by Kaye Patterson.

Members - *Please* check your books - you may have mixed any of the above books with yours at home.

No fine applies on the above items.

Library Report Acquisitions

The Group's library has been fortunate in having been donated twenty five books, by the Benalla Secondary College. These were compiled by students studying German Heritage.

Arendt	Barnes	Bauer	Berger	Currie	Feltmann	Flentje
Gebauer	Hein	Hutchens	Kaitler	Kolodziej	Marquand	Dede
Rosicka	Schafer	Schultz	Stolz	Vildarks	McFarlane/Voigt	
McCarthy	Schwarymann					

Another new book

THE BENALLA RACING CLUB STORY

ISBN 978-0-992-3050-2-4

This new book has been compiled by Allitt Robinson and Garry Baker. From March 1860 – the first registered meeting of the Benalla Racing Club was held at “Four Posts” - a property on Roe Park Estate, opposite Mokoan Park. In the following year a two day meeting was held on the site of the existing racecourse. The story covers many notable firsts for the club – Ann Taylor gaining her trainer's licence, Makabe Diva's first win, 1st race call on radio. The book also covers local trainers, jockeys, bookmakers, owners and committee members. In a very individual and idiosyncratic move, the book has “Hoofnotes” instead of footnotes. *Judi Ryan - Librarian.*

Research Ramblings

Have you come to a stand still with your research? Try thinking outside the square and looking at other members of your family. Over the past year, I've been surprised at how many people have emailed us or visited our rooms stating – **that after obtaining a certificate** – they have discovered out of the blue that a family member was born in the Benalla district. This often takes them in an entirely new direction with their research. So, using our unique library holdings which include many precious original books, the family stories can be added to. One such book is the account book of a bootmaker in Benalla dating from the 1850's onwards. It includes the name of the customer, what type of boot or shoe they wanted and how much they cost. If you have a connection with Benalla check our archived material, it's being added to constantly by our volunteers

Pam Herbert

BENALLA MIGRANT HOLDING CENTRE

Benalla resident, Sabine Smyth, has personally undertaken to collect a variety of information – mementos (can be in photographic or copy form), stories, documents, recollections to form a permanent record and acknowledgment of the lives of the many people who lived in the Benalla Holding Centre – even for a short while.

Sabine has assembled a book "The Stories Behind the Exhibition" to compliment the display she has formulated in one of the original huts where the families stayed, as well as many family stories.

*The funds from the sales of this book go toward extending the display
Sabine can be contacted by writing to 7 Mitchell Street, Benalla, 3672 or
sabine.smyth@gmail.com.*

FRANCIS McDONNELL

1842 - 1883

SOLICITOR, SHIRE SECRETARY, COUNCILLOR, SHIRE PRESIDENT

Francis McDonnell was born near Melbourne in 1842. At an early age he was sent to Sydney for his schooling and returned to become an articled clerk for the firm of Anderson and Sandland solicitors.

1868 In December Mr. McDonnell first came to Benalla.

The Road Board had been then formed and from a large number of applicants, the secretaryship was given to Mr. McDonnell with the privilege of also remain in his profession as a solicitor.

In the following year the Road Board was formed into a Shire Council and of this Mr. McDonnell continued to act as Secretary until January 1873, when, from pressure of professional business, he found it incumbent on himself to resign.

In August of the same year, he was elected a member of the Shire Council, and continued, with the exception of one or two terms, to be a member of this body until his death.

In August 1876, he was appointed Shire President and at the expiration of his term, he refused to be nominated for re-election in opposition to Mr. Willis Little

The North Eastern Ensign, 6/4/1883, continues "As a public man in Benalla, we never had better. Every movement having in it, the good of the town, not only received his sanction, but his support. For years he had been the Honorary Secretary of the Benalla Racing Club, in which capacity his services were invaluable; and after his resignation, the club elected him as Honorary Life Member. He was also a lover of field sports and until lately, was an active member of the local cricket club. Two seasons ago, Mr. Hopkins introduced the subject of giving a picnic annually to the school children and the success of such picnics may be mainly attributable to Mr. McDonnell's exertions. Mr. McDonnell's death has cast a loom over the town. Yesterday his remains were interred in the Benalla Cemetery, a large cortege of townspeople and friends following to pay the last tribute to a good man. *Requiescat in Pace!*

From the Ratepayers of the South- West Riding of the Shire of Benalla

To F. McDONNELL Esq

The Ratepayers of this Riding, having hitherto been subjected to gross injustices through the unscrupulous proceedings of the ruling members of the Benalla Shire Council, feel the necessity there for a strenuous effort being made to remedy the evil. They therefore appeal to you, Sir, and request that you will be a Candidate at the coming Shire Election, to represent them in the Benalla Shire Council. They pay you no compliment, Sir, in asking you to join that body, but they trust that you will look on it as a duty to your fellow ratepayers, who would avail themselves of your ability to assert their rights and redress their grievances. John Gall J.P., and others

Sir

The receipt of your request to me to represent you at the forthcoming election affords me much pleasure and I shall be most happy to comply with your request. I have long been aware that your riding has been much elected – not so much through the want of exertion on the part of your former representatives as through the combined action of the members for the other riding, which has had the effect of causing your money to be spent in the other riding instead of your own. The other riding at the present time must be largely indebted to yours and I can assure you that if I am returned I shall use my every endeavour to have you treated more fairly and equitably than you have hitherto been. I shall take an early opportunity of holding meetings in the several towns within the riding when I will explain my views on local legislation more fully. Thanking you for the honour you have conferred upon me,

I am, gentlemen, Yours Obediently, F. MCDONNELL

JOHN BURGE -SOLDIER

John Burge, the eldest of four children was baptised in the Parish Church of Brompton Ralph, Somerset, on 21st May 1826... He was the son of William Burge and Sarah nee Short. Of Leigh, Brompton Ralph.

At the age of 21 and 9/12 years, he enlisted in the 40th Somerset Regiment on Foot, being attested at Taunton on 12th November 1845. The regiment embarked for Australia on HMS Vulcan on 13th July 1852, arrive at Melbourne early in the following November.

He married Caroline Mary Wells, a daughter of a blacksmith in 1853 and their daughter Sarah was born in 1856, but Caroline died in childbirth at Prince's Bridge Barracks on the 4th April in 1858.

In need of a mother for Sarah, now two years old, he married again, this time to Amy Clarke, a very young girl recently arrived from Somerset with her parents from Somerset with her parents. Amy was baptised at Weston near Bath on 16th June 1844 and she married John in August 1858.

John Burge went to Hobartown, Tasmania with the Regiment and for over four years was Mounted orderly to the Governor of Tasmania (Col. Sir Thomas Robert Gore-Brown, a position he left in April 1866, with a reference from the governor's Private Secretary.

Over the years a total of nine children were born, some in Melbourne and others in Hobart. John applied for and was discharged from the Regiment on 6th February 1867, receiving a pension on completion of twenty one years and one hundred and one days service. His discharge papers state that "He is in possession of four good Conduct Badges" but later also states "His name appears in the Regiment Defaulters Book six times and he was tried by Court Martial"

Further investigation reveals that John Burge deserted his Regiment on the 4th June 1849, but his freedom was short lived as he was brought back by Escort on 23rd June, 1849, tried and convicted by Court Martial, then imprisoned on the 16th July 1849, his former service being forfeited by conviction of Desertation.

His imprisonment was very brief as he was released on 25th August 1849 and on April 1857, his former service was reinstated.

John Burge died at Emerald Hill, Victoria on 22nd January 1874, aged 48 years, leaving his wife with seven children including my grandmother, Amy Ellen Burge and a baby girl born just one week before his death.

John Burge was my grandfather. **From Dorothy Kerr**

Mr .W. Crilly, aged 66, of Balmattum, died. He selected land where Hogg's Hotel stood on the old Sydney Road that passed through Seven Creeks and Shean's Creek.1903

Mr. Adam Wakenshaw, aged 67, of Balmattum, an ex councillor, died. He arrived in Victoria in 1848, worked on the diggings and was one of the early settlers at Faithful's Creek.1904

His "Thick End" Caught In The Points

A boy was sitting on the rails at a point section at Euroa Railway Station, when the S M pulled the lever operating the points. The boy filled the air with excruciating howls. The guard and porter who took instant steps to effect a rescue found the slack of his pants and the thick end of him squeezed between the rails. Had the men not been on hand he would have been run over by the trucks kicked back by the engineer. 1903. *Doreen Hillier*

OUCH AGAIN!

There would be nothing spookier in Hobsons Bay, than a lamplight visit to Williamstown's historic morgue in the dead of night. The morgue was built with bluestone blocks near gem Pier in 1861 and was moved to the Ann Street site in 1870. It is believed to be the first and oldest surviving morgue in Victoria. Local lore has it that the sounds of frantic banin could often be heard from inside, fuel-in host stories. Two men were incorrectly pronounced dead at the morgue, when they were only deeply unconscious. They awoke to find themselves hanging upside down from the rafters encased in hessian bas. Bodies were hung up to prevent rats from nibbling at them. The men managed to free themselves, then had to attract attention by banin on the door and it was said for many years afterwards that people could hear the banin on the door. There are two walks - a Lantern Ghost Tour and a Williamstown History Walk (during the day) leaving from the Williamstown Visitors' Centre.

Charmaine Morley

`BRICKWALL'

Information required about the Devenish Hotels and the Publicans and Licensees in particular - Gordon **Duncan** and **Morrell Carlton Brown/e** of the Devenish Railway Hotel.

Of very great interest would be Photographs of either or both of the above gentlemen. The other hotels of Devenish have been

The Commercial, The Farmers' Arms, the old Devenish Hotel. *Joan Hooper*

DEVENISH HOTEL, DEVENISH

B. **Sheridan** Begs to announcement to the public that he has become the proprietor of the above named hotel, in the occupation of Mrs. Ann **Rowan**. None but the best brands of Wines and Spirits kept. First class accommodation. Charges reasonable. North Eastern Ensign 3/7/1888

CARRIER ARMS HOTEL

Mary Ann **Brew** begs to inform the public of Benalla and the surrounding district that she has taken lease of the above well known hostelry, and hope, by providing the best possible accommodation and also the best brands of drinks, to merit a fair share of patronage. The hotel has already undergone considerable repair and is now fitted up with every convenience, so that travellers and others who give the place a call may be assured of being pleasantly accommodated First class stabling. North Eastern Ensign 3/7/1888

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BOOKS FOR SALE

Devenish - A History of the Agricultural Shows & the Sports Club. \$3.00
Benalla Urban Fire Brigade, 125 Years 1882—2007. \$30.00
Heritage and History on my Doorstep \$25.00
Benalla Primary School No 31 \$30.00
150 Years Reflections 1851—2001 \$20.00
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