

# NEWSLETTER



## COMMITTEE

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**LIBRARIAN:** Judi Ryan  
**MINUTE SECRETARY:** Wendy Webster  
**IT OFFICER:** Neil White  
**PROGRAM OFFICER & EDITOR:**  
Meredith Tolliday

## CONTACT DETAILS

Email – [president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
Email – [vicepresident@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:vicepresident@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
Email – [treasurer@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:treasurer@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
Email – [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
Email – [research@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:research@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
Email – [meredithtolliday@bigpond.com](mailto:meredithtolliday@bigpond.com)

## RESEARCH & LIBRARY SUPPORT TEAM

Doreen Hillier, Wendy Maxwell, Chick Walker,  
Wendy Webster, Joy Cole, Rosemary Archer,  
Dorothy Kerr, Carole Gray

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2016. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and Easter. At the AGM in 2015, I took on the dual roles of Programs Officer and Newsletter Editor. It was daunting to say the least. Would I be any good at these roles, would I be able to organise some things of interest to our members? Could I produce a decent newsletter worth reading?

I only managed to organize two events in 2015- a visit from the Mansfield and Wangaratta Groups on the same day and then our members visited the Wangaratta Group's rooms. We had three members from Yarrawonga visit us in April. I produced two newsletters, though they were quite close together. The format was changed to be fit in with how I wanted it to look.

Our second granddaughter was born December 18<sup>th</sup> so I wanted the newsletter out before Christmas. But also to make sure that I reported on all the events we had held in those previous months and to advise what would be happening early in 2016.

Earlier this year I was busy with Broken Creek Primary School's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration which were held on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. I have designed and had printed a large history/current school book, very much like a year book which we sold along with souvenir pens and glasses. The book is available in your library. I hope you will get a chance to have a look through it one day.

Your newsletter is collated from information received from a variety of sources. It will only be good reading if I have lots of information to share with you.

My thanks go to the team who have assisted with items for the newsletter. I am keen to hear from any of our members if they have a comment to make or something to contribute to the newsletter.

You can contact me via my personal email address or leave articles at the group's room for me to collect. Or you may write to me at 169 Webb Road, Goorambat 3725. If you prefer to call me my home number is 5763 3229.

Thank you

*Meredith*

Meredith Tolliday  
Newsletter Editor & Programs Officer

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has flown quickly and the Group has once again settled into a steady rhythm of productivity. Tom and Bill work away quietly on Administration matters, and I can proudly say we have never been in better hands. Judi's Library area fluctuates between surrounded by and then being swamped by books, folders and all sorts of paraphernalia. She now has a complete catalogue of our holdings and is re organising and re coding into more relevant areas. We are sooo fortunate she is sooo patient!! Joy and Carole are invaluable to Judi and are continually contributing to the correct filing and labelling of the holdings. There is always a buzz of activity given by Wendy and Wendy, Chick and Pam when they are on the hunt for a research request. Unfortunately Dot is not able to come to Benalla as she is not able to drive having a troublesome shoulder, and Doreen is coming in less when the weather is a problem. And there is always a local or a traveller calling in wanting our help.

Pam Herbert our Research Officer, will be resigning the position at the coming AGM. It would be obtuse for me to just say thank you for her time and expertise and wish her well. I cannot underestimate how beneficial Pam's quiet efficient manner has had such a positive effect not only on all those who have assisted with Research but on our entire Group. For so many years she has headed this department changing, altering and introducing different methods. Her competency in checking and re checking has presented the Group in a particularly efficient and professional light, which has had so many people coming back again and again. Her method of recording an initial request, recording findings and eventuating in a concise final report has not only streamlined the system but has continually raised our bank account. In addition, she has always contributed positively at meetings and events and has given exception feedback at all times. We cannot forget her mastery of editing as seen in "Through Their Eyes". Fortunately, she is not leaving the Group and will still be part of the Research Team. Personally Pam has been a good friend to me and always gave me an ear in good times and bad. I consider myself very fortunate. Thank you Pam.

Although the numbers were not high, the experience of hosting members from the Yarrawonga Family Research Group once again gave us insight and promoted ideas for our Group, as well as opening our eyes to Resources that can assist our personal research. There will be more of hosting and visits of Groups in the coming months, so make sure you keep the dates free. Thank you to Meredith for organising.

The response to my request for people to give time to indexing has been great. Even though we have not been flooded by offers those who have put up their hands are contributing enormously. It is not and never too late to help. Some records only require simple indexing of a few fields (columns), and it is up to you whether you do it at home or in the rooms. There are no deadlines and can be done at your own pace, however realise you are making a significant contribution. The more our resources are indexed the more we can offer as research tools to members and those seeking our expertise on Benalla's history.

This is my last report as President. I have been *in absentia* for some months now and fortunately the Group has run along steadily. I have returned a couple of times and been in constant email and phone contact with Bill so most issues have been covered. However, it is imperative for a Group to have a hands on President to take responsibility for issues and keep ahead of future outcomes.

I thoroughly enjoyed the position and thrived on being able to steer the Group, albeit for only a short time. It was a different experience to move from Melbourne and live in country Victoria and be involved in a Group whose precepts form an integral part of Benalla's history. I am continually amazed at the precious resources gathered by so many dedicated members over a short period of time, and considered it my role to ensure our Group remained productive and viable, and along the way saw the same ideals in other members. My sincere thanks go to those who assisted me in the role and gave me their friendship.

Our decision last year to close on Saturday mornings has proved to be correct. On the couple of times a committee member has had need to attend to work on a Saturday, no one has called in. However, some researchers from distant places have taken advantage of contacting us and making an appointment to have the room opened.

I am happy to report we are ending our year on a positive note both in terms of membership and finance. We are able to pay our accounts and work with those who share our passion of history and research and those who contribute both in monetary and physical terms to the continuity of the Group should be proud.

I urge all to attend the AGM, listen to the reports, volunteer for positions and be part of a membership that cares about Benalla's past and future.

Thank you,

Mary C Millar

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The group is in a sound financial position money wise. We need assistance in sorting out our resources. This includes indexing books and other items we have in the room.

Good typists are a rare and valuable resource. We have gained the assistance of a competent typist in Lynda Laphorne, who has just taken on the old Tungamah rates to sort out a few intricacies. A special thanks to Lyn, although I am sure she could do with some help.

Electricity Meter. A new meter has been installed to read the amount of electricity being used in the kindergarten. The electrician has been in to update the smart meter so it can be read remotely. Hopefully no more estimated bills of \$800+, when the cost of the real usage was \$295. After we picked ourselves up off the floor, we realised what had happened and went into repair mode, but was a bit of a shock opening the letter.

Some time ago we had a malfunction with the main computer system and were unable to access some resources because of this.

Haven't had time to continue with Jonathan Harris so will have to put him off again.

## **NEW LIBRARY BOOKS**

Judi has been labelling all the books, magazines and boxes of resource material with their compactus location, so that books can be returned to the correct place. A destination card system has also been designed to enable researchers to return books to the correct place. One card to be retained in the book used and the same coloured card to be placed on the shelf where the book was taken from.

The Moira Independent Mainly Obituaries Bk 2  
Bob Goulding's Story  
Glimpses of Chelsea  
Lady Be Good  
Window on Winton  
Carige Family History  
Just Longwood  
Beard/Baird Family History  
Rotary Club of Benalla -Club History  
50th Anniversary Celebrations Rotary Club Benalla  
Ned- Knight in Aussie Armour  
Benalla Butter Factory  
Great Moments in Australian History  
Pioneer Profiles-Port Phillip Vol 4  
Census-The Expert Guide  
Land and Window Tax Assessments  
The Huguenots of London  
Publishing History  
Mordialloc The Early Years  
Find My Past-World Record List  
Benalla Migrant Camp-A Difficult Heritage  
Victorian Tales-Extracts from Entries  
In The Performance of Duty  
The Beat  
Arresting Women  
WEIDEMANN Family History  
Celebrating 150 years of Education at Broken Creek Primary School 1866-2016

**\*\*Editor's Note I showed this new colour card system in the last newsletter. See below as a reminder\*\***



## **NEWS FROM THE RESEACH DESK**

The research year started with a bang and an influx of requests via our email contact address in early January - [research@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:research@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

The research team has continued to be busy with queries and responses going back and forth. Wendy Webster and Wendy Maxwell have joined the research team of Pam Herbert, Doreen Hillier and Chick Walker.

### **NAMES BEING RESEARCHED**

Most of these people listed here had some connection with the Benalla area or wider Benalla region. However, we can also help people who have ancestors who were never in this area. Sherwin & Whitty; William Williams; William Cranwell; Carige & Gaskin; Burke; Evan Kissack; Rev. John Ride; Webster family; Albert Prout; James Jenkins; James Hine & Eliza West; Collins family; Clutterbuck.

Please contact us if you have any connection with these families and we can arrange for you to be put in touch with these people - if both parties are willing.

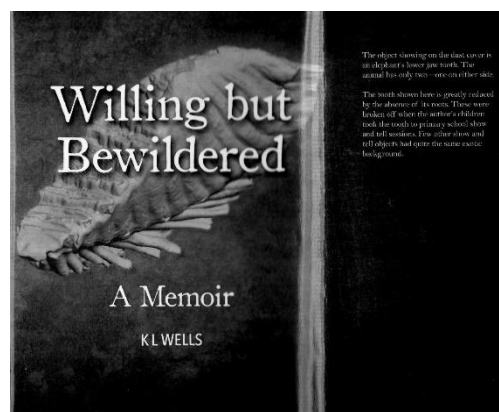
### **A FAMILY TREE TO HANG ON YOUR WALL OR A GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?**

We are presently working on our second detailed family tree chart project and it is progressing well thanks to Wendy M and Wendy W. They have had to do some sleuthing to find some of the information. The data has been entered on a Family Tree Maker program and when completed will be transferred to a family tree chart.

**Do you have someone you'd like to surprise with a gift of a family tree for their wall?**

**Or would you like a family tree chart for your wall?**

More details of the possible costs involved and what is required to achieve this will be included in the next edition of Roses and Thorns.



A beautifully bound book called "WILLING BUT BEWILDERED – A Memoir by K L WELLS" was presented to our group on Tuesday May 3rd, by the author himself. We spent a pleasant time listening to Mr Wells describe some of his childhood memories of Benalla and further afield.

Here is the information shown in the beginning of this book.

*"ABOUT THE AUTHOR.*

*K.L. Wells was born in Euroa, Victoria, in 1922. After a childhood spent in the Victorian country towns of Powelltown, Dookie and Benalla, he worked briefly in the Victorian Police Department before transferring to the Prime Ministers Department in Canberra. He then joined the RAN (Royal Australian Navy).*

*After World War 11, he worked for the government of Nauru before returning to Australia to university studies, which began his lifelong love of literature and language demonstrated by this book, Willing but Bewildered. These are his memoirs, written at the age of 91 and 92 and published at the age of 93."*

I delved eagerly into the book today and know that this is no ordinary memoir but rather a fascinating look at a life full of adventure which started here in the North East. We look forward to reading the book and sharing it with other members of our group.

I hope it inspires others to realize that it's never too late to start on your life's story.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy for yourself, please contact KL Wells c/o David Wells at [davidwells@vifm.org](mailto:davidwells@vifm.org)

**Pam Herbert**

Research Officer

### **MEMBERS WORKING HARD IN THE ROOMS**

Beryl Ilsley has finished another volume of Classified Advertisements from the Moira Independent which has now been indexed and available for research purposes. Well done and thanks to Beryl for all the hard work involved. And we sorted out the "ol' Mac" computer Beryl used, so hopefully now there is enough space in the memory to get some more resources, both in and out Beryl.

Research Officers Wendy M and Wendy W are completing another "Family Tree" file ready to print out and frame for a client. They look great and are a wonderful gift for any family member interested in their family history. Creating some wonderful experiences for the researchers and some unenviable research hours spent delving into internet sites and old newspapers to complete the tasks. They'll be able to track down anything soon, so keep in touch.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the new and not so new members, who have re-joined since the last newsletter went out.

Judith Butler

John and Janine Crawford

Edward Willmott

Tina Hall

David Hyland

Darren Fawkes

Vicki Harwood

Lynda Laphorne

Fay Myers

Annette Scott

Maureen Turner

Edward Willmott

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Yearly memberships become due as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Treasurer Tom is busy sorting out invoices to make it easier for members to pay their dues if they still want to be involved.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM is set for Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at the rooms.

We usually have a Guest who will chair the election of Office Bearers. We are still working on inviting someone to assist us that evening. Please join us for the AGM and supper to follow.

### BENALLA FAMILY RESEARCH GROUP

#### NOMINATION FORM.

WE: \_\_\_\_\_ AND: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

(NOMINATED BY) (SECONDED BY)

HEREBY NOMINATE

.....

(CANDIDATE)

FOR THE POSITION OF: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I ACCEPT THIS NOMINATION

.....

(CANDIDATES SIGNATURE)

#### **NOMINATION FORM**

If you would like to be part of the committee then please offer yourself for one of the roles.

The form must have your acceptance signature to be valid.

Nominations for any position will also be taken from the floor at the AGM.

## SPECIAL VISIT OF INTEREST

The day we hosted the visitors from Yarrawonga we had some folk arrive with information and a framed Certificate for their family member Mr Alfred Grix. The certificate has been donated to the Group. Alfred was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his service in the Great War of 1914-1918. He was in the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion 1st AIF. I went onto the Australian Archives and found his service records and downloaded them so that they could be included in the newsletter along with a copy of the certificate. A letter from his mum also shows her concern for her son.

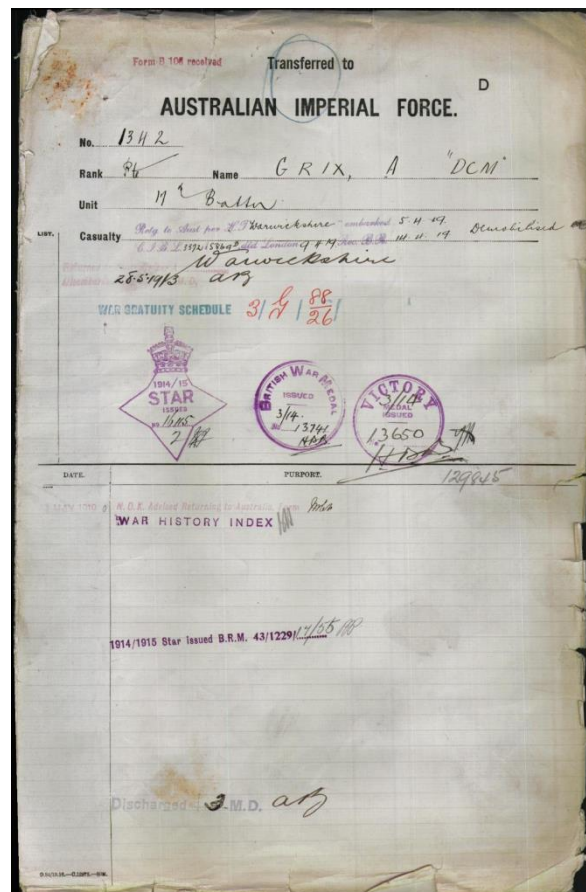
He was also awarded the Star Medal 1914-18, The British Medal and the Victory Medal both awarded in March 1914, I believe.

19 34 211 W 12092-4158 100,000 11/15 H W V P 425 Form W. 3121/2  
12092-39 295,000 1/16

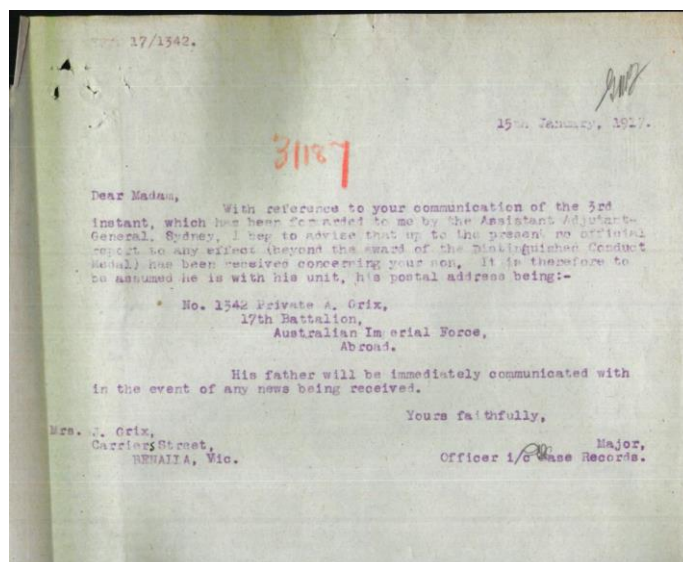
Army Form W. 3121.

5th Aust. Inf. Brigade. 2nd Aust. Division. 1st A. & N.Z.A. Corps. 10/8/16. Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	17th Bn.	1542	Pte. Grix, Alfred	For gallant devotion to duty. During period 25th July to 5th August this stretcher bearer worked continuously under incessant shell fire. After sustaining a severe injury to his abdomen he stuck to his task until the injury compelled him to relinquish stretcher bearing. However, he rendered first aid to wounded and guided other bearers. Prior to this he worked for 60 hours without rest (from night 25/26th July to midday 28th July) only stopping when completely exhausted.	G. W. A. F.	D.C.M.	Dup 437



The letter from Alfred's mum to the Base Records Officer in December 1917 and their response on 15th January 1917, seems to be a discrepancy in the dates there. Perhaps it was 1916 when she wrote that letter. Or maybe she didn't send it till January 1917.





## BROKEN CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

School building of 1866



School building and residence 1940's

School groups of 1920 and 1922



Broken Creek Primary School – outline of the school’s early history, from original correspondence.

**1. October 31 1865 Application for Aid**

On behalf of the Local Committee Richard D Davis applied for financial assistance from the Board of Education (Common Schools Board) “towards the support of a school not vested in the Board”.

**2. January 1866 Names of Local Committee**

The official Form of Application for Aid, dated January 12<sup>th</sup> 1866, was signed by the following members of the Local Committee:

Richard D Davis	Farmer	Church of England
John Wallace	Farmer	Wesleyan
James Taylor	Farmer	Wesleyan
James J Smith	Farmer	Presbyterian
James Hall	Farmer	Church of England
John Hoskin	Farmer	Wesleyan

**3. January 1866 Names of local school children- ages noted by their names.**

Susan 10, Ann 8, Elizabeth 6, James 5	HALEY
Zillah 12, James 10, William 8, Henry 7, Carlina 5	TAYLOR
Susannah 14, Mary 12, John 10, William 8, Jane 6, James 4	HOSKIN
Samuel 12, Charles 10, Eliza 8	WALLACE
Benjamin 13, Susan 10, William 6	HALL
Elizabeth 5	DAVIS
Matthew 5	SMITH**
Thomas 13, Charles 11, Henry 9, Matthew 7	WHITTY

\*\*Matthew Smith was the first white child born at Broken Creek.

**4. January 1866 Description of school by Local Committee**

Name: Broken Creek School; situated on the Broken Creek, ten miles North West of Benalla.

Teacher: Richard Smith, uncertificated.

Building: 25 feet long by 15 feet wide, weatherboard front, slab sides, shingle roof.

Land: Granted by Mr James Hall, on lease for ten years.

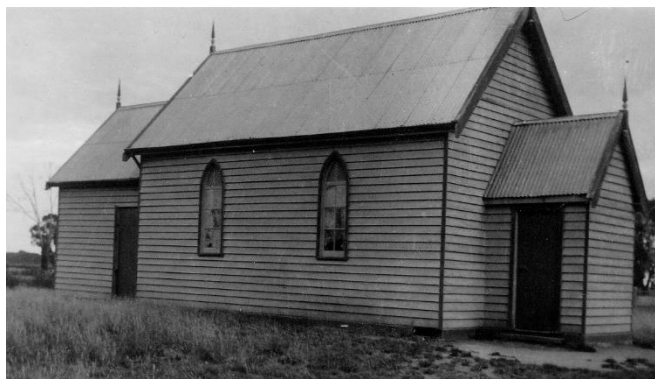
Fee: Average of 9 pence per week per scholar.

The correspondent, Richard D Davis drew attention to “the isolated situation of the about 18 families, all farmers, whose means will not allow them to support a school without some assistance”

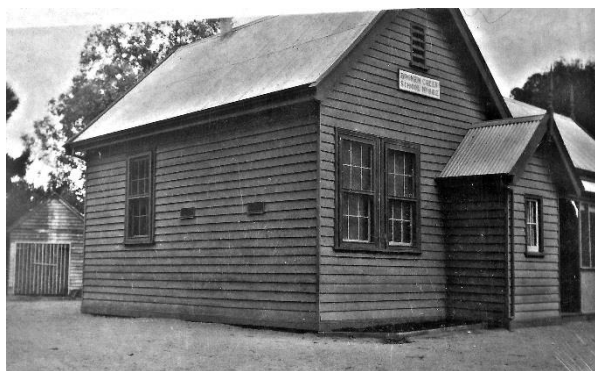
**5. January 1866 Agreement between Local Committee and teacher**

“I hereby agree with the Local Committee of the Broken Creek School to undertake the teaching of the children attending the said school at the rate of nine pence per week for each scholar. I also agree to act in strict conformity to all the rules and regulations laid down by the Board of Education anent the duties, and for the guidance, of teachers.”

The above is a copy of the agreement sign by Richard Smith.



Broken Creek Methodist Church.



School House and Residence.





BROKEN CREEK HEAD TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS 1866-2016

Richard Smith	1866-67
William Knott	1867-68
George E.W. Walter	1869-79
Selina E. Cooper	1879-84
Albert L. Lucas	1884-87
George H. Smith	1887-1903
Jane G. Murdoch	1903
Mary McGuinness	1904-06
Eleanor G. Ormond	1906-08
Ellen Maloney	1909-10
Samuel B. Wiseman	1911-12
Francis Enrick	1912
Elsie M. Taylor	1912-15
Alice M. Phillips	1916-19
Margaret Killeen	1919-20
Sadie E. White	1920-21
Charles H. Costelloe	1922-24
Andrew C. Adie	1924-25
Marion Churcher (Mrs)	1925-26
Mary A. Cousins (Mrs)	1926-28
Ernest C. Fincher	1928-30
John E. Gorwell	1931-36
Raymond J. Phelan	1936-40
Daniel G. Denehy	1940-41
Alfred O. Bird	1942-43
Dorothy E. Dicker (Mrs)	1943-47
Harold J. Angwin	1947-48
Norman G. Morris	1949-53
John W. Sjoedin	1953
Lorenzo L. Lia	1954-59
Graeme J. Lavery	1960
Alistair D. Eldridge	1961-64
Donald M. Urquhart	1965-67
Andrew J. Walker	1968
Peter V. Thomas	1969-70
Alan C. Somers	1971
Marilyn J. Humphrey (Mrs. Bourke)	1972
Ian R. Stow	1974
Anthony J. Levy	1975-79
Helen M. Lester	1980
Anthony J. Levy	1981
Stephen Madigan	1982
Ian R. Stow	1983
Brendan C. Watty	1984-1989
Helen Hurley	1990-95
Colin Robson	1996-2000
Zel Austin	2001-2002
Ruth Dohrmann	2003-2007
Wayne Anderson	2008-2013
Raye Down	2013-2016

# BACK TO BROKEN CREEK

## JUBILEE PICNIC AND SCHOOL'S 50th ANNIVERSITY

### Oldest Pioneer and First Teacher in Large Gathering

Seventy-one years ago at Broken Creek the settlers of the time built a slab school-house from timber cut from the surrounding forest. For twenty-one years it served its purpose, and another school-house, that which stands today on the opposite side of the road, was constructed by the Department of Public Instruction. The old place was demolished, and its sturdy slabs were taken away; but the memory of that more pretentious school arose, and it is a happy one.

Last Saturday afternoon, with the picnic and reunion, the jubilee of the first picnic was celebrated, and the fiftieth year of the second school was commemorated. There were several hundred people present—young and old—and no better way of marking the two occasions could have been devised. Even to those visitors who had not been to school at Broken Creek, the gathering and its associated functions was something to heartily enjoy. The hospitality of the people of the district made that certain. No one was overlooked—all were made to feel that they were welcome to share in the good things provided, and make themselves members of a very happy company.

The free and easy manner in which the proceedings were worked out, the complete friendliness of old residents and newcomers, left nothing to be desired, and the afternoon was an entire success. Prior to the official part of the function, there were sports for the boys and girls, and gifts were provided for all of them from funds which had been made available to the school committee by the residents of the district. Races and other events were also conducted for adults.

Broken Creek School, No. 882, which was built by the residents and opened early in 1865. It was the first school north of Benalla.

and if you look back on the files of the "Benalla Standard" you would see how many friends we had with us. I have met today many old scholars and have recalled many happy associations. I thank you all for your warm welcome and the kind words of your president today.

Responding for the old-timers, Mr. T. A. Cook said: "Nobody told me before that I had to respond for the cornucopia or the Marine, but I am pleased to do so. My memory goes back to the old slab school. In it there was no wooden floor, but only an earthen one. In the middle of the floor there was a hole like a sewer, into which the teacher swept all the dust. (Laughter.) I remember that I was pushed off the end of the

Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, who were amongst the first pioneers of Broken Creek, and settled there in 1861.

The School Honor Roll  
The visitors made an inspection of the school premises, and noted the honor roll of those scholars who went to the Great War. No fewer than 25 went away, and of that number six were killed or died of wounds. The names on the roll are as follows:—W. A. J. Cook, P. J. Dunlop, H. Dunlop, J. Peppery, W. Davis, W. J. Hall, G. Hall, A. J. Hobbs, P. Magee, L. Mitchell, W. Mitchell, A. Newson, Al. Payne, G. Robertson, Al. J. Ryan, Wallace, P. R. Hall, G. H. Sharp, Mr. F. A. Cook, M.L.A., attended during the afternoon, and had to leave to be present at a function in Benalla. Mr. J. Nichol, now of Shepparton, and president of the branch of the R.S.V.I.A. (there) was one of the old scholars among the gathering.

The Sports  
The results of the sports were as follows:—



Little Arthur Hill rode his horse Trixie to school. Often by the end of the day the little boy would be asleep on Trixie's back and she would bring him home safely.

2016 Students with their teachers outside the school with the banner announcing the 150 year celebrations which were held on Saturday April 30th



## WITH THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS

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Geoff Rowe B.Bus C.A.

155 Bridge Street East,  
Benalla. 3672

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Fax: (03) 5762 8030

[growe@roweassociates.com.au](mailto:growe@roweassociates.com.au)

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The Benalla Family History Research Group is a friendly, helpful and dedicated group of people who are striving to collate our local history and maintain it for future generations.

Visitors are always made very welcome and the Research team are available to assist with any enquiries on finding relatives and ancestors. The group encourages and welcomes new members as the resources available are very valuable to a person seeking to learn more about their family tree.

Our normal open days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm. Please note we are not open on Saturdays except by appointment.

## DISCLAIMER

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