

# NEWSLETTER



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The Benalla Family 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.

We will open at other times if necessary, by appointment.  
Please contact us via the contact form on our Website ...  
or email our Secretary or President  
**Wendy Webster** - [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)  
**Bill Willett** – [president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:president@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

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Hello Everyone,

- We have loyal sponsors who support us financially which assists us greatly.
- A dedicated team of friendly, regular members who spend their time researching and assisting other people in their family tree journey.
- Members who come in regularly to enter the data for rate indexes. Or those who assist with the extensive Library and varied tasks that keep the group running smoothly
- A wonderful committee who meet monthly to discuss items of importance and make plans for future direction of the group.

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.

So, if you have a family history story you would like to share or some photos that would be of interest please let me know.

I would like to thank our members-  
Beryl, Sheila, Neil, Bill and Wendy for their input this month.  
I do hope you enjoy reading everything that is included.

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.

*Meredith*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello All,

The Group is trundling along nicely at the moment. All the vacationers that headed North for the winter have returned South but have promised that if the weather doesn't warm up soon, they are off North again.

Has been a bit quiet of late, with only the main core of the group coming in but we expect it to brighten up a bit in the next couple of weeks as the days warm up. Soon we will be going crook about the heat rather than the cold.

This year we are again back in the Botanical Gardens on a Day in the Gardens, the first Sunday after the Melbourne Cup. The research girls will have their family tree charts ready for inspection. They have been quite a sensation with those that have been following their progress. Several different styles of framing have emerged between clients, but the final charts are a great genealogical asset to display on your wall and would be a wonderful gift for that special person interested in their family history.

Neil and Ray are well into the design and printing of this year's calendar. This year's theme is Benalla and District, and a few of the old photos highlight the way things were done in the past. It is a handy pad to write all your appointments on, so they are easily displayed in the big squares right in front of your eyes and would also be another good stocking filler from Benalla for all your out of town buddies.

Rates are still being indexed, mainly by Kelvin at the moment while I try and catch up with all the other indexing being done for our Consolidated Name Index. This will list all the books in our library where a certain person can be found. Something like 120,000 entries already with another big block to be added soon.

Pam and Ian have produced a new pamphlet for the group that advertises the help and assistance we can provide in your genealogical research, and these will be seen around the town and in the motels soon.

The Librarian and her assistants are busily relabelling the books and cataloguing them into a spreadsheet to enable easy finding within the growing library. Thank you so much to all the people that have donated books and resources over the past three months. Some of them will be invaluable in clients' research, and all will add to the vast array of knowledge we have gathered over the years.

We were lucky enough to get a \$500.00 grant from the council, that has allowed us to purchase much needed folders and supplies for the additional resources being made.

Look forward to seeing a few more of you as the weather warms.

Cheers,

Bill.

## TREASURER REPORT

We have received a grant from Benalla Rural City Council for the sum of \$500. This will help with the payment for setting up 'A day in the Gardens' and the remainder of funds will be put toward general expenses relating to the storage and preservation of resource material.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Family History Research Group now has over 3,400 books, over 400 CDs and 219 microfiche catalogued in the library. A large amount of these resources will not be found on the Internet, so please as members, utilize these resources whenever you are in the vicinity of our Group. Below is a huge list of resources added to our library since the last Newsletter of 2018.

If any member has any books or family histories they would like to donate, please advise a committee member.

Judi Ryan  
Librarian

<http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/publications>  
<http://www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org/libraryrecords>

## RESEARCH NEWS

It has been very quiet, research-wise in the past few months. Requests via email have been few and far between, although there has been a steady trickle of people calling into the hall.

Names the team have been researching are CHRISTIAN, McINERNEY and SUMNER.

Continuing work on researching the people and businesses associated with the "View of Benalla" lithograph which hangs on the wall above the research desks.

A folder containing relevant web site addresses for family history research has been created by Wendy Maxwell and substantially added to by Judi Ryan.

Wendy Maxwell has re-joined the team after her three-month trip to central Queensland and she is now busy researching the "Boughyards" section of the old Killawarra Run.

Three members of the Research Team attended the launch of Betty Nicol's book "My Memories of Thoona and its People" held at Thoona on September 7th.

A copy of the book has been donated to our library by Bill Sykes.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

The group members are always busy on their days in the rooms.

They are-

Indexing rate books

Cataloguing new resources

Researching people's family history

Designing Family History Charts

And we are always looking for people to help out in the rooms with library duties and general indexing of books. We have the gear and the know-how, all we want is you.

Can you spare a day occasionally to help out?

No task would be difficult to do, and you would be most welcome.

We can promise a cuppa, a friendly chat and something nice for morning or afternoon tea in our little kitchen.

## **MEETING DATES**

For your information the committee usually meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 11.00am.

### **2019 Dates**

September 18th

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>

December -meeting To Be advised

If you wish to attend one of the monthly meetings please advise the President Bill Willett.

We are pleased that Cr Danny Claridge attends our meeting representing Benalla Rural City Council.

## **WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE ROOMS**

Thank you to Kelvin Freemantle, Bill Willett, Ros Hunt and Jo Wise. The Rates have been completed up to 1917 and currently working on 1918-19 years

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The dates of the English Censuses are as follows:

1841 – 6 June,

1851 – 30 March,

1861 – 7 April

1871 – 2 April,

1881 – 3 April,

1891 – 5 April,

1901 – 31 March,

1911 – 2 April

## **Reflections on a workshop - My Ancestral Workshop – Bendigo September 2019**

We met in the grand rooms of Bendigo's Trades Hall – a space full of architectural and people history – an ideal place to spend a day exploring and sharing family stories and appreciating the impact of these stories on us and our families.

Conveners Jen and Carolyn creatively and sensitively guided a day of practical exercises around listening, writing, reflecting and sharing. The workshop built on the deep curiosity of participants, like mindedness, and ambitions to capture family stories and emerging themes through a range of storytelling methods.

Individual, couples and group activities guided participants through reflection, writing, sharing and listening in a safe setting.

The activities were varied and progressive beginning with individual tasks, then working with one and then many partners, and finally standing on our own to honor and tell a snippet of our own story - and to own that story in the manner of the telling.

I enjoyed pondering on what type of storyteller I am, writing about a family character for ten minutes without stopping and pushing through to an amazing result, and I feel increased confidence about owning my story.

This workshop expands thoughts and feelings, highlights unique and common family themes, sheds new light on "old" family stories and invites a review of history. The progressive activity format and guided group discussions were invaluable for this family researcher.

It was wonderful to spend time with other ancestry nerds!

Find out more at <http://barrkman.com/ancestral-story-workshop/>

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## WRITING OUR FAMILY HISTORIES

Many of us have difficulty with the recording of our family histories. Where do I start and with whom, what and how much detail will I include and how will I organise the contents of my book?

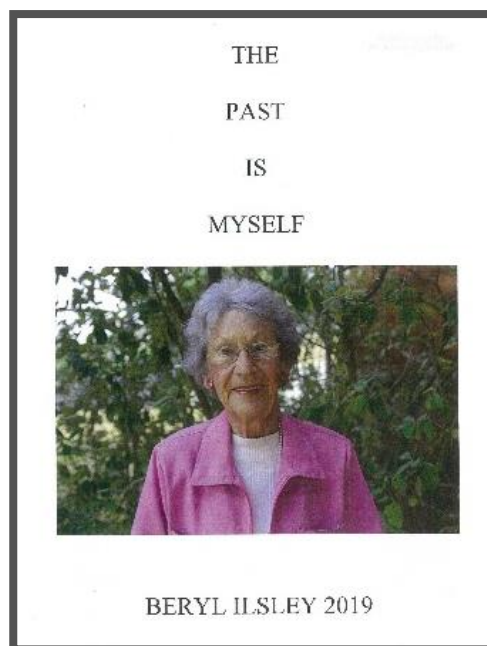
These are some of the questions with which we grapple during the process of deciding how to put together interesting family histories for generations to come. During the past few months several of our members have been busy writing and publishing their life stories.

### Beryl's Book 'The Past is Myself'

One of the main reasons I believe for writing my life story is to understand myself, my personality, and to describe life to our four grandchildren of the way it used to be in the early 1930's through to the next century.

I have commenced my story "The Past is Myself" with the following quote:

*"These tales that I have written, none fiction always true,  
Stories of my life, and other peoples too.  
For no matter where we wander, our lives identify  
From the day that we were born until the day we die.  
I've written it down for history,  
so future generations will know,  
The type of lives we lived so many years ago."*



Because I had previously compiled both my parents' family histories and that of my husband's paternal family, I had the majority of certificates as well as school records, the 1936 polio epidemic, the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbour, the 1942 bombing of Darwin and war records.

Armed with all this information I divided my life story into sections from early childhood, school days, employment, married life, a city to country change and lastly, widowhood.

Scattered throughout my story I included several short poems relevant to each particular section and a wonderful poem "Morning" written by our son Mark when aged fifteen years. I hope one day that our adult grandchildren will read and appreciate my story, and in years to come, may add to it.

I will always be indebted to the members of the Benalla Family Research Group Inc. who, without their advice, expertise, knowledge and friendship, my life story and several other publications that I have been involved with would never have seen the light of day.

The following publications housed in our library are:

- Beerswater 2008 update;
- The Daw/Kelly Narrative;
- The Ilsley Chronicles;
- St. James 1988

### SHEILA'S BOOK

In the nineties sudden ill health prevented me for a time from pursuing my usual activities.

So, when I heard of a writing course being held in Violet Town, I expressed an interest.

At last I had found something that really 'grabbed' me. This led to a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing, part of which was to write an autobiography.

What seemed a daunting task was made easier with certain guidelines which were to draw a winding road (my life) then dividing it into decades with plenty of room to expand. Within each decade there may have been rocks which indicated hard times. However, it was important to keep the mood positive.

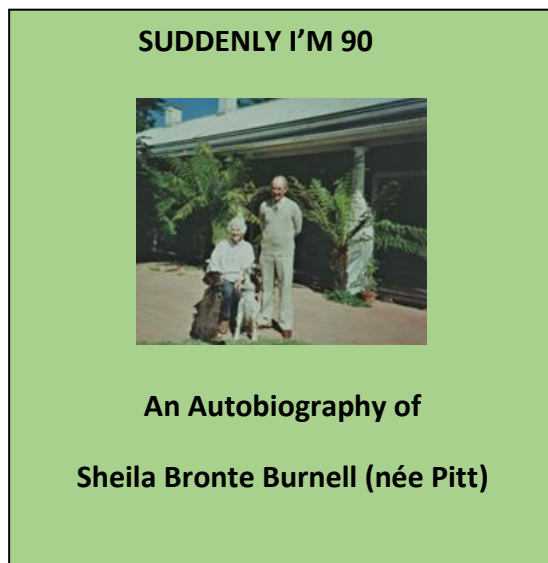
Part of this course also involved the writing of poetry- from rhyming and rhythm to blank verse. That too led me to putting my life in verse form. In my autobiography I have used some of the poetry to introduce each of the three sections.

How did I decide how to organise my memories? I wrote about them as they occurred during three significant stages in my life, which included Pre-War Years, War Years and Post-War Years.

I started writing individual memories about twenty years ago when I first joined a community writing group. I didn't intentionally set out to write my autobiography. It was simply the beginning of many recounts of episodes, written from time to time over the years or when significant events occurred. The diploma not only fostered in me a love of writing but an eagerness to put my thoughts on paper.

My book of memoirs was put on hold for the past ten years with a few more stories added in recent times. Sequencing the recounts in each of the three sections has been made easier by imagining where they occurred along the winding road in my life. Photos have been added for further interest.

My intended audience is family and close friends who I hope will gain as much enjoyment reading it as I have had writing it.



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## THE BENALLA FESTIVAL 2019

The 2019 Festival theme is **Fiesta of Festivities**...a celebration of events and festivals that bring the community together to interact, feel good, learn, celebrate and grow.

### **A Day in the Gardens Market- Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

The Benalla Family Research Group will have a stall at this year's 'A Day in the Gardens' market from 9am-3pm. It will feature some of the current projects carried out by members of the group together with displays of framed family trees, useful resources and a variety of books for sale.

Please come and visit us on the day.

## Save the dates: 2nd to 10th November 2019

**ROWE & ASSOCIATES  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

**Geoff Rowe B.Bus C.A.**

**155 Bridge Street East,  
Benalla. 3672**

**Phone: (03) 5762 8000**

**Fax: (03) 5762 8030**

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



# 2020 CALENDAR OLD BENALLA & DISTRICT



Front Cover



January



February



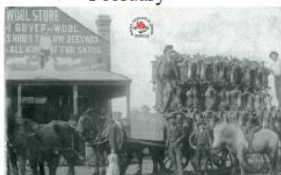
March



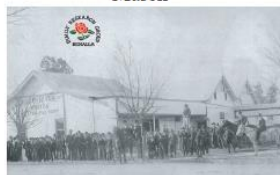
April



May



June



July



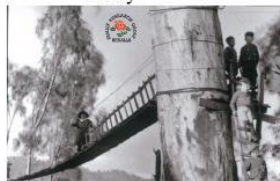
August



September



October



November



December

This calendar is a fundraising project of the Benalla Family Research Group Inc. and can be purchased at the Benalla West Post Office, Millers Department Store, Stuck On Stationery, the Pink Shop & the Benalla Visitor Information Centre.

**Cost \$10.**

Each year our Group produces a quality calendar for the following year.

The calendars are very reasonably priced at just \$10.00.

They are available for purchase at the following places.

Millers Department Store- 85 Bridge Street East. 5762 2311

Benalla Library- 2 Fawkner Drive, Benalla. 5762 2069

Stuck On Stationery- 57 Carrier Street, Benalla. 5762 4185

Benalla Visitor Information Centre-14 Mair Street, Benalla. 5762 1749

Pink Shop- 167 Bridge Street East, Benalla. 5762 2135

Benalla West Post Office- 24a Bridge Street West. 5762 1243

We are very grateful to them for supporting the Group.

## Hints for the Genealogist

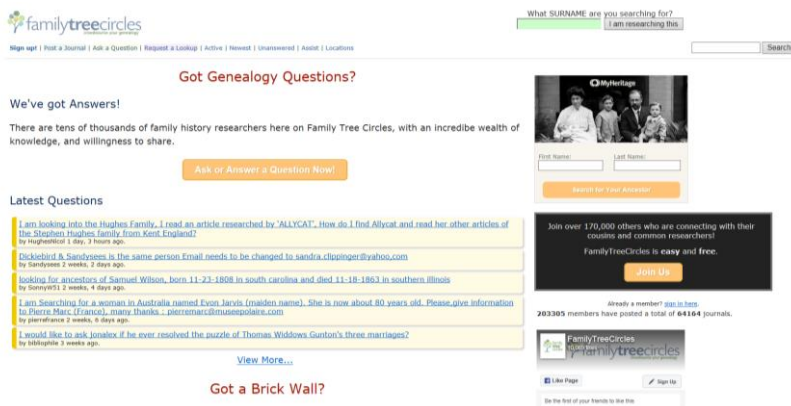
- Write letters, letters and even more letters.
- Read member's interest lists, stray certificates - or other things that may resemble the name you are researching.
- When you visit another town, visit the Cemetery
- Visit the family history section of the library
- Do not despair when you are stuck - just keep trying
- When emailing include your postal address
- When requesting information, include a business size self-addressed envelope as well
- Use lists on the Internet and email as well, to find contacts with your family tree branch
- Do not forget to use 'favourites'
- Always offer to pay on return mail to cover expenses.
- Use the Internet, it's one of the best ways to gather information

## How to get started on your search.

- Start with yourself and family records such as birth, christenings, marriage, or death certificate. Use family stories as a base for verification of events.
- Family school records, photos, awards, and service records, deeds, family bibles. Obituary notices, diaries, letter and cards, etc.
- You can obtain information from the Records Office, census returns, military / navy records, probate records, land and property (titles), Church records, naturalisation records, court and inquest records, shipping records (overseas and inwards), newspapers (state or local library), history groups.
- Visit family history groups and museums to get an understanding of their daily lives and the hardships your family endured. Visiting cemeteries and the reading the headstones can give you lots of information.
- Our group exchanges newsletters with other groups and can share the pitfalls of sending for information and that feeling of hitting the brick wall.
- **Information that may be found on Certificates.**
- Birth Certificates: name of person; name of father, his age, birthplace, and previous issue; name of mother her age, maiden name birthplace; place and date; married, place and date; occupation.
- Marriage Certificates: date and place of marriage; ages and birthplace; parents of the bride; parents of the groom.
- Death Certificates: name and date of death; place of death; occupation; sex and age; place of birth, time in Australia; father's name, his occupation; mother's name, place of marriage; ages at marriage; name of spouse; children of marriage, informants name, ages of children; cause of death; length of illness, medical attendant, minister and religion, undertaker; witnesses; where registered.
- Compare this information against other records you may have.

Other places to search are web sites where people have shared their ancestor stories. These can be quite helpful and very interesting. It can lead to linking with other people searching for the same family names that you are looking for. I have joined both these genealogical websites written journals at FTC and uploaded my Family Trees at Tribal Pages.

<https://www.familytreecircles.com/>



<https://www.tribalpages.com/>

Christiana, her brothers William and John and sister Elizabeth and her mother Jane (nee Curtis) immigrated to Australia. They departed Southampton Oct 17th 1854 on the ship British Empire and arrived in Geelong, Victoria on Jan 15th 1855. Eighteen months later, Christiana married Agnon Charles Louis Numa in Ballarat on August 9th 1856.

Agnon and Christiana had one son called him Charles Louis Numa. He was born in 1857.

Charles married his first cousin Jane Martha Clark. Jane was the daughter of his mother's sister Elizabeth Clark (nee Tolliday).

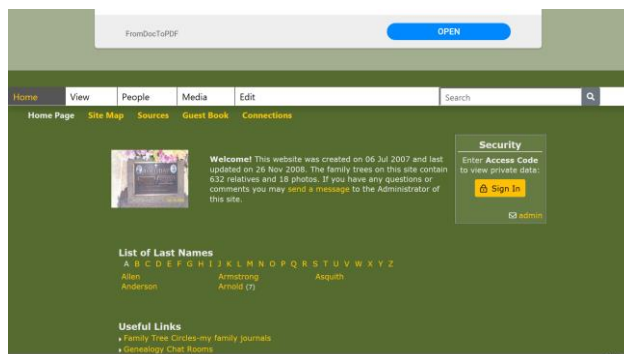
Charles and Jane had two sons. Herbert born in 1884 and Charles (we shall refer to his as Charles 2nd) born in 1888.

Herbert married Edith Evelina Drew in 1916. MRN 11007. Edith was the daughter of Herbert A and Annie Victoria Drew. They had two daughters- Edith Nancy born Carlton North in 1917. BRN 27477. Died 1918 at Carlton North. DRN 8014 Dorothy Edna who was born at Carlton North in 1918. BRN 26045. She married John Holroyd in 1941. MRN 14789.

A son Herbert Leslie. He must have been born around 1922. as he passed away in 1984 aged 58. DRN 08961.

The parents Herbert died 1958 aged 74. DRN 7358. Edith Evelina passed away aged 95 in 1982. DRN 08467.

An excerpt from one of my journals at FTC. Meredith Tolliday



## DISCLAIMER

The Group and Editor do not hold themselves responsible for statements or opinions expressed by authors of papers published in this newsletter.

The accuracy of offers, services or goods appearing here cannot be vouched for by the Group. The Editor reserves the right to condense and edit articles to meet the approved size limit of our newsletter.

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Wendy Webster - [secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org](mailto:secretary@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org)

