



# *Casino and District Family History Group Inc*

MAY 2023 - No. 141 - IBSN 0808 19-8535



Heathwoods Staff c1900 Casino NSW  
Image Courtesy of the Casino & District Historical Society

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 586, Casino, NSW 2470

**PHONE:** 02 66641118

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [casinofhg@gmail.com](mailto:casinofhg@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~auscdfhg/index.htm>

**Meetings:** Second Wednesday of each month at 10.00am

**Room 5, Upstairs School of Arts Building, Walker Street, Casino.**

## Opening Times:

Monday and Friday                      **CLOSED**  
Monday nights only when advertised  
Tuesday and Thursday                10am-2pm  
Wednesdays                              12pm-4pm  
Saturdays open 3rd only    9am-11.30am  
Closed mid Dec-late Jan  
Open by appointment mid Dec- late Jan

## Memberships:

Single        \$40  
Family        \$50 (2 people same address)  
Pensioner \$35 Pensioner Couple \$45  
Student    \$30 (needs to show card)  
Joining Fee \$5 All prices include GST  
(Membership year Jan to Dec)

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## CASINO & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. COMMITTEE 2023

President	Barbara Hollis	bjhollis@aapt.net.au	66625051
Vice President /Roster Co-ordinator	Cherryl Mison	m.c.mison@bigpond.com	66673215
Correspondence Secretary/ Treasurer	Joanne Griffiths	therealm@activ8.net.au	0408709393
Minutes Secretary	Robyn Nesbitt	rknesbitt@bigpond.com.au	66622460
Membership secretary/Research Officer	Kaylene Morris	ralph.kay1@gmail.com	0490550647
Publicity Officer	Jo-Anne Wilton	joanneruth64@gmail.com	
Resource Officer	Jann Rowe	jfrlatham55@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor	Shirlee McPherson	shirleemcpherson@gmail.com	
Librarian	Mavis Goodlad	edendales1@bigpond.com	0428564897
Committee member	Gary McAteer		66626614
Committee member	Chris Houlihan	christopher.houlihan@outlook.com	0455860355
Committee Member	Pat McDonald	gfpa12@bigpond.com	66631372
Committee Member	Rick Lawrence		

### **Presidents Report March - April - May 2023**

Where does the time go here? May is half gone already. I hope you have been able to get into some family history research and perhaps have broken down a brick wall or two.

At our AGM in March, it was nice to see two new faces accept positions on committee. Welcome to Jann Rowe 'Resource Officer' and Jo-Anne Wilton 'Publicity Officer.' I thought it was time for me to resign but as you can see, I am still here. Thanks to all members who were elected to positions.

#### **- MARCH -**

\*It was with reluctance that we made the decision to close our Friday opening hours as of 1<sup>st</sup> March. This occurred because of lack of attendance on Fridays and lack of people wanting to do a roster day.

\*Joanne Griffiths and Cherryl Mison attended the Naughtons Gap book launch – a great day and we have purchased a copy of this book.

#### **- APRIL -**

\*Open House Afternoon was well attended by the public gaining us memberships.

\*Our excursion to 'Mara Seeds' at Mallanganee was a great day with so much to be learnt from Katina and Stuart Larsson about the various products they manufacture. We went through the Sandilands homestead and visited the Bruxner and Robinson grave sites on the property. This was followed by a lovely lunch provided for us by the committee of the Mallanganee Hall.

\*April Speaker was Ivor Thompson a Driving Instructor. He spoke on when the time comes for those of us creeping up in age to retake our driving licenses (Age 80).

#### **- MAY -**

\*Vale – We extend our deepest sympathy to our Secretary/Treasurer Joanne Griffiths on the passing of her mum Audrey.

\*Our Mother's Day Raffle was won by Kim Nicholls from South Casino. Thanks to Jann Rowe for making and donating the raffle prize of a beautiful quilt and cushion covers. A big thanks to all members who gave their time to sell tickets in the Plaza and to those who sold or purchased their \$5.00 book of tickets.

\*Great news that the National Library of Australia's 'Trove' will be continuing its amazing digitization of old newspapers.

\*Our Workshop held on 'Google Maps' was a very enjoyable fun day hope you all learnt something new.

\*May guest speaker was Hendrika Johnson who gave a most interesting talk on Sir Joseph Banks and his collecting of samples of plants, insects, etc on his voyage on the Endeavor.

#### **- COMING UP -**

\*Street Stall in Barker Street on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Please, if you can donate saleable goods, or can spare some time to help set up, work on the stall, or help pack up it would be greatly appreciated.

Cheers to you all. Keep up the searching for those interesting ancestors.

*Barbara Hollis*



## Visit to Mara Seeds, Sandilands Homestead, Mallanganee Memorial Hall

### and to the graves of Robertson and Bruxner. – Submitted by Mavis Goodlad

It was a cloudy day, with a possibility of rain. We assembled at a gate leading into a paddock on the Sandilands homestead property. Stuart and Katina Larsson were there to meet us. Stuart led us to the graves of the Robertson family. From there we went to the office of Mara Seeds for morning tea.



Stuart gave us a bit of history of his family involvement in making Mara Seeds. He also told us of the further events for Mara Seeds. One of our group remarked that she could listen to Stuart all day. He has a good voice and knows a lot about the seed industry.

After morning tea Stuart gave us a tour around the Mara Seeds factory, we were lucky in a way because the big machines were not working, Stuart said a load of seed was due in on Wednesday after it was harvested. He explained about what each of the machines did in the process of cleaning the seed. One member stood next to a bag to show how big the bags were. We went down the hill on the homestead property to where the graves of the



Bruxner family lay. Some of the graves were hard to read. We know that Sarah Bruxner is buried next to her husband Charles Augustus Bruxner. We also could see a couple of children's graves as well. One was Emily Grace Bruxner, who was a year old, and a couple of graves with just a year and initials on the head stone.

We went back up the hill to Sandilands Homestead and were told it has been burnt down a few times over the years. The four main rooms, in the centre of the house, are the original rooms. You can see where some of the rooms from way back were. The floor in some places is cement, in others places it is polished wood.

Katina and Stuart have been bringing the homestead back to a better condition after years of neglect. Katina told us that the homestead is used when they have technicians come to work on things within the Mara Seeds factory.

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When we left the homestead, our next stop was the Mallanganee Memorial Hall for lunch. The hall was built in 1919 and has a great history of involvement in the area. It was a picture theatre on Saturday nights, a place for kitchen teas, weddings, and many good time dances, shows of artists who have come and given much entertainment for the locals. The hall has a Soldiers Room of men and women who left to fight for King and Country over the years. Another room is a museum with items from when the local school closed. It also has at the front door, pavers of student's names who attended the schools over years, from 1904 to when it closed in 2006. The stage backdrop is of a bullock team and takes pride of place. The hall committee are looking out for things to bring to the village over the coming years. – Mavis Goodlad



The following information and links were extracted from the

NSW WAR MEMORIALS REGISTER

MALLAGANEE MEMORIAL HALL

<https://warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/memorials/mallanganee-memorial-hall>

The Mallanganee Memorial Hall is a single storey, timber building. Inside, the hall features a large function space and a Soldiers Room, which is filled with military memorabilia. The history of the hall dates back to the 1920s. The original hall was a public hall, which was extended and renovated for the purposes of being used as a Soldiers Memorial Hall. It was dedicated to those who fell in the First World War on 2 July 1920 (*Northern Star*, 7 July 1920). Around 1935, the hall needed significant repair. A committee was formed to look into the building works and fundraise for the project (*Northern Star*, 3 June 1935). At a later stage, it was decided to erect a new hall, which was dedicated as the Mallanganee Memorial Hall. The official opening was performed by Mr M F Bruxner, on 19 May 1939. He also opened the original hall in 1920 (*Northern Star*, 2 November 1938; 20 May 1939). The hall remains a key meeting place in the town and is used for community activities and music events. Also on site are the [Mallanganee Memorial Hall Great War Roll of Honour](#) and the [Mallanganee Memorial Hall 1939-1945 Honour Roll](#).

## ***INVITATION – Christmas in July***

*From Mallanganee Memorial Hall Committee*

The Mallanganee Hall intends having a Christmas in July event on Saturday 22 July from 12 midday onwards. Our idea is to have a table of six people (two tables can be pushed together if you have more than 6) with a nominated hostess. The hostess and her/his guests arrange between themselves what they are going to bring food and drink wise.

The hall will be providing two different types of alcohol or juice or soft drink (depending on the tables choice). There will be two different types of music (provided by local musicians) and different games played. Each person attending will be required to pay \$20 per head before the event to guarantee our numbers.

If the guests, at each individual table wishes, we will also be conducting a secret Santa. There will be lucky door prizes and raffles on the day. If you would like to join us and have concerns about heating food or keeping it cool, we do have some facilities available. Also, crockery, cutlery and glasses are available but please let me know if any of these will be required. We will do our very best to accommodate your needs.

Many thanks, Judithe

You can contact me – Judithe Lovick-andrews on: 0408 643 737 [judithe7@bigpond.com](mailto:judithe7@bigpond.com)



## **“To know the past helps to understand the present.”**

**By Hendrika Johnson**

Having been the history teacher’s pet at high school for a short while, being a registered nurse devoted to guru Nurse Florence Nightingale and finding in the family tree someone who took part in the Crimean war were all reasons to share the following history with fellow historians and families.

With watching and reading about the current Russian-Ukrainian-Crimean war one can see that the associated players, allies, locations and sufferings are not new.

For centuries Russia attacked, possessed, influenced and defended the Crimean Peninsula.

The Crimea is crucial for Russia’s industries and trade as their navy and merchant ships can find warm water seas and harbours which would never freeze, so they could sail anytime in and out into the world.

One of the Crimea military conflicts was the Crimean War from 1853 until 1856 when the Russians faced a group of hostile countries, including England.

Warfare had been changing and the Crimean War was the first war to use modern weaponry and tactics, such as steamships, telegraphy and trench warfare and the first war to have rapid and detailed media coverage.



Crimean Peninsula north of “Black Sea”.

It is always a special moment when you can match your ancestors with a major event in history, or a person of special interest and indeed that is also the case in this story:

My husband Phillip Johnson’s maternal great-grandfather was Thomas Willam Hewetson. His life and that of his wife and children have been written about extensively in 3 books by the same author.

In short, Thomas and his only sibling John Hewetson did everything together: same schools, both competitively rowing on the Scottish river Nith, arriving as late teenagers in Melbourne in 1879, buying land together, living and working together, moving to Glen Innes together, being Tenterfield’s towns clerk and town’s engineer at the same time, owning sawmills together, building bridges together and meeting their future wives around the same time. It was the perfect pioneering extended family, especially as John had not only taken his wife Agnes and children to NSW but also the in-laws Peter and Mary Campbell and families..

In the Glen Innes area they joined the same groups, especially Scottish related ones, like playing the bagpipes, wearing kilts, swapping their children in business ventures, having side by side land, one of them being a 320 acres block in the name of Peter’s wife. What they didn’t have in common was that Peter Campbell had fought in the Crimean War and after his death in May 1915 at the age of 85 the newspaper published the following information which links our family with the Crimean war and the modernisation of battlefield nursing practices by Florence Nightingale: “The late Mr Peter Campbell, of Glen Innes, was born at Inverary, Scotland, and his personality was richly endowed with all those qualities that we most admire in the Scottish. He was of an adventurous disposition, and during the Crimean War was engaged in the transporting of troops. He entered Balaclava-harbour with the first transport, was wounded there and was sent to the hospital, where he came under the care of nurse Florence Nightingale, of whom he has a distinct personal recollection.” — *Armistice Express & New England General Advertiser*, 4 May 1915, p6



Florence  
Nightingale

After 2 ½ years of war, on the day peace was proclaimed in 1856, 26 year old Peter sailed to Australia. landing in Melbourne he became employed in pastoral pursuits moving eventually to New England.

What had added to Peter Campbell's suffering was the 'Great Storm of 1854' which occurred in and around the Black Sea on 14 November 1854. It caused severe damage and major disruption to armed forces, naval forces especially, in the region engaged in the Crimean War.

At the time of the storm, the British and allied supply fleet was in the Black Sea with all of the supplies for the winter campaign. A strong gale blew up and began battering the fleet. Eyewitness accounts record the flattening of tents and uprooting of trees and at least 37 ships were either severely damaged or wrecked. Most of the winter supplies were lost, including food, fuel and winter uniforms. As a result, many men died from hypothermia and disease.

Possibly Peter Campbell was discharged from service due to injuries from battle or nature's devastation.

Some of the readers, like Phillip Johnson, remember the Crimean War through the poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade" a narrative poem by Lord Tennyson which was written after a suicidal charge of elite British cavalymen to capture Russian guns at the Battle of Balaclava which was one of the greatest calamities in British military history:

On October 25, 1854, the British Light Cavalry Brigade, comprising some 600 men had charged disastrously against some 25,000 Russian soldiers.

40 percent of the Light Brigade's soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or rendered unfit for service,

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote the below poem about "The British soldier who will do his duty, even to certain death, and is not paralysed by the feeling that he is the victim of some hideous blunder."

### ***The Charge of the Light Brigade***

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
"Forward, the Light Brigade!  
Charge for the guns!" he said:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"  
Was there a man dismay'd?  
Not tho' the soldier knew  
Some one had blunder'd:  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of Hell  
Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air  
Sabring the gunners there,

Charging an army, while  
All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right thro' the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke  
Shatter'd and sunder'd.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,

While horse and hero fell,  
They that had fought so well  
Came thro' the jaws of Death,  
Back from the mouth of Hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wonder'd.  
Honor the charge they made!  
Honor the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred!

Dear historian /family  
member/reader,

Next time you explore ancestors' lives, check and enjoy if there is any world event he or she is connected with, and then use it as the background of the picture you create about the subject.

- Hendrika Johnson -



## - THE ORIGIN OF THE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND CLEARANCES -



Standing in Couper Park above the south side of the river Helmsdale and overlooking the village of Helmsdale and its harbour is the Emigrants Statue. The Emigrants Statue was unveiled by the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, then First Minister of Scotland, on 23 July 2007. It was commissioned by Dennis MacLeod, who was born and brought up in Helmsdale before making his fortune in gold mining in South Africa.

The Duke of Atholl was one of the pioneers of mass clearances when he removed the thriving population of Glen Tilt in 1784 to improve his deer stalking. In the following century the duke cleared Glen Garry and much of the land between Dunkeld and Dalguise. Other lairds cleared north Tummelside and parts of Rannoch.

### Highland Clearances - The Duke of Atholl and Glen Tilt

The Duke of Atholl with propriety can claim the origin of the highland clearances. Whatever merit the family of Sutherland may take to themselves for the fire and faggot expulsion of the people from the glens of Sutherland, they cannot claim the merit of originality.

The 6th Duke of Athol's grandfather cleared Glen Tilt, so far as I can learn in 1784. This beautiful Highland valley was occupied in the same way as other Highland valleys, each family processing a piece of arable land, whilst the pasture was held in common. The people held a right and full liberty to fish in the Tilt, an excellent salmon river, and [shared] the pleasure and profits of the chase with the chief but the then duke acquired a great taste for deer.

The people were from time immemorial a custom to take their cattle summer season to a higher glen which is watered by the river Tarf, but the duke appointed Glen Tarf for a deer forest and build a high dyke at the head of Glen Tilt. The people submitted to this encroachment on their ancient rights. The deer increased and did not pay much regard to the march; they would jump over the dyke and destroy the people's crops; the people complained, and his grace rejoiced and to gratify the roving propensities of them light-footed animals he added another slice of some thousand acres the people's land to the grazing ground of his favourite deer.

Gradually the forest extended, and the marks of civilisation were effaced, till the last of the brave Glen Tilt men, who fought and often confronted and defeated the enemies of Scotland and her Kings upon many a bloody battlefield, were routed off and bade a final farewell to the beautiful Glen Tilt, which they and their fathers had considered their own healthy sweet home. An event occurred at this period according to history, which afforded a pretext to the duke for this heartless extirpation of the aborigines of Glen Tilt.

Highlands Chieftains elsewhere were exhibiting their patriotism by raising regiments to serve in the American war, and the Duke of Atholl could not be indifferent in such a cause. Great efforts were made to enlist the Glen Tilt people, who were still remembered in the district as a strong and athletic race. Perpetual possession of their lands at their existing

rents, was promised to them, if they would raise a contingent force equal to a man from each family. Some consented, but the majority, with a praiseworthy resolution not to be dragged at the tail of a chief into a war of which they knew neither the beginning nor the end, refused.

The duke flew into a rage, and press gangs were sent up the Glen to carry off the young man by force. One of these companies seized a cripple tailor who lived at the foot of Beneygloe, and afraid lest he might carry intelligence of their approach up the glen, they bound him hand and foot and left him lying on the cold hillside, where he contracted a disease from which he never recovered. By impressment and violence, the regiment was at length raised and when peace was proclaimed, instead of restoring the soldiers to their friends and their homes, the duke, as if he had been a trafficker in slaves, was only prevented from selling them to the East India Company by the mutiny of the regiment.

He afterwards pretended great offence at The Glen Tilt people for their obstinacy in refusing to enlist, and - it may now be added - to be sold. Their conduct in this affair was given out as a reason why he cleared them out from the glen - an excuse which, in the present day, may increase our admiration of the people, but can never palliate the heartlessness of his conduct. His ireful policy, however, has taken full effect.

Romantic Glen Tilt, with its fertile holms and verdant steepes, is little better than a desert. The very deer rarely visit it, and the wasted grass is burned like heather at the beginning of the year to make room for the new verdure. On the spot where I found the grass most luxuriant, I traced the seats of 30 cottages and have no hesitation in saying that under skill the industrious habits and agricultural facilities of the present day the land once occupied by the tenants of Glen Tilt is capable of maintaining 1000 people and have a large proportion of sheep and cattle for exportation besides. In the meantime, it serves no better purpose than the occasional playground of a Duke.

"History of Highland Clearances." - *Brisbane Courier*, Friday 29 June 1883 page 2

*Please note after further research I discovered this article was not written by the author of the 1883 publication "The History of Highland Clearances", Alexander McKenzie but by Donald McLeod who wrote "Gloomy Memories" published originally in 1841 as a series of letters to the Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle. A second edition was published in 1856 and a third and enlarged edition in 1857 which is where Alexander McKenzie may have copied it from. He did give reference to Donald McLeod. "Gloomy Memories" was again published in 1892 in which the above article can be found on pp 161-163. The 1914 revised edition of Alexander McKenzie's book "History of the Highland Clearances" does not include "Gloomy Memories" but is a lengthy and informative read just the same. It can be downloaded free or read online here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/51271>*

### **DONALD MCLEOD**

Donald was born in the village of Rosal at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. 20 years later he witnessed the brutal eviction of himself and his neighbours. "This is the story of a humble stonemason single-handedly taking on the establishment. McLeod brought the Highland Clearances to the attention of the world when his book was published in Canada. It has been said that 'he faced the entire armament of the Sutherland estate with what weapons he possessed: his knowledge of English, his intelligence and courage that never yielded.' The book collects the 21 letters he published in Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle in 1840. Donald's family were moved to Strathlyon, where he continued his campaigning which led them being evicted twice. - Copied from the Strathnaver Museum website.

For those who are interested, a reprint of Donald McLeod's account of the Highland Clearances is available from the Strathnaver Museum:

<https://www.strathnaver-museum.org.uk/gloomy-memories-by-donald-macleod/>

A full free PDF version of the 1892 publication of "Gloomy Memories" can be downloaded here:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/donaldmcleodsglo00mcleuoft.pdf>

For more interesting articles and other transcribed old books on Scottish history see these very good websites: [randomscottishhistory.com](http://randomscottishhistory.com) & <https://electricscotland.com>



## Casino & District Family History Group Beef Week Street Stall



**Saturday 27th May (Parade Day)**  
**Location: Barker Street near the Mafeking Lamp**  
**Set up time is 8am**

Donations of saleable (new) items are required – cooking, preserves, potted plants etc (remember to label your baked goods). Your assistance on the day to set up the stall and/or sell goods would be greatly appreciated. If you cannot deliver your goods on the Saturday morning your contributions may be left at the research rooms prior to the day. If you are unable to assist by providing saleable items perhaps you would like to make donation to the fundraiser.



### A BIG HAPPY 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

to our  
Membership Secretary & Research Officer

**Kaylene Morris.**

**We spared no expense to help her celebrate.  
Here she is with her special cake decked out  
with an alternative candle.**

**OH&S approved due to fire risks!**

**It does take the enjoyment away from  
blowing out the candles though!!**

## “MOTHER’S DAY - CASINO 1915 – Plus a little humour 1919 style”

Tomorrow (Sunday), May 9<sup>th</sup>, is regarded as “Mother’s Day” throughout the world. It will be celebrated in the Baptist Church, Casino, by special services. Each male worshiper is requested to wear a white flower out of respect for and in honour of his mother. The Rev. W. H. Wingfield will be the preacher, and there will be appropriate singing. Flowers will be provided for those unable to procure them.

*Casino and Kyogle Courier & North Coast Advertiser, Saturday 8 May 1915, page 2*

On Sunday last special services were held in the Casino Baptist Church in honour of Mother’s Day. At both morning and evening services the congregations were large. The preacher at both services was the Rev. W. H. Wingfield, and he preached appropriate sermons. A noticeable feature was the number of men who wore white flowers in honour of their mother. The church was prettily decorated with white flowers. In the morning Mr. N. G. Clarkson sang “My Mother’s Prayer,” and at the evening service the choir rendered three sacred anthems.

*Richmond River Express & Kyogle Courier, Tuesday 11 May 1915, page 2*

## WHY NOT FATHER’S DAY?

May 11 was Mother’s Day, and every woman writer exhorted the multitude to wear a white flower – preferably a carnation – in honour of its female parent. But no one seems ever to barrack for Father’s Day. Let the date be fixed, and then, ho for a red flower – preferably a geranium – to match the colour of father’s nose!

*Smith’s Weekly, Saturday 24 May 1919, page 9*

## **“THE DIGGER’S MOTHER” – PART 1**

**Mrs. Frances De Burge Campbell** – by Shirlee McPherson

*While searching for local items relating to Mother’s Day, I came across several articles about this most interesting and generous lady. Although not from our district I think her story should be featured and in doing so honoured again in some small way. - Ed*

### **THE DIGGERS MOTHER**

“Gunnedah” writes to the Tamworth “Daily Observer”:- “There is an old lady, worthy of mention, who lives at Narrabri and who has displayed wonderful affection and benevolence towards returned soldiers. Never a digger returns but she looks him up and greets ‘her boy,’ with a kiss and some little memento, or perhaps, cash. The diggers of Narrabri just worship her and call her ‘Mother,’ and she is known as the Diggers’ Mother. Her whole time seems to be devoted to looking up her soldier boys. On Thursday afternoon last she was at the station to say goodbye to one of her darlings who was recently maimed and had received short notice to leave for Lismore. With her good wishes and fond embrace, she gave this digger a beautiful piece of plate. I don’t know this lady’s name. Can anyone tell me?”

*Northern Star, 24 June 1920, page 2*

### **NEWS AND NOTES**

When the foundation stone of the Soldier’s Memorial Hall at Moree was laid recently, Mrs. Campbell, who is known throughout the northern west as “The Diggers’ Mother” and is close upon 80 years of age, sent her bracelet and diamond ring to be placed upon the stone. Upon the invitation of Mr. Wearne M. L. A., 105 persons subscribed £1 each in a draw for the jewels. Amid cheering, at the Picture Theatre, Mrs. Campbell herself officiated in the drawing. The winner, Miss Vera Thompson, generously gave the jewels back to the old lady, who could only be prevailed upon to accept the offer when assured that the amount raised would be regarded by the boys as her donation towards the memorial.

*Southern Record & Advertiser, 17 Dec 1921, page 2*

### **THE DIGGERS MOTHER**

There lives in Narrabri an old lady named Mrs. Campbell, who, through her kindly generous nets towards soldiers during the great war, has earned the revered title of the “Diggers’ Mother” says the “Moree Champion.” This lady did not differentiate in her kindly actions – all soldiers with whom she came in contact, no matter what district they came from, experienced tangible evidence of her practical sympathy, and not one amongst those lads will ever forget her. Several of our Moree boys came within the scope of her benign influence, and her name will long live in their memories. At the meeting of the Memorial Hall committee on Thursday evening, it was unanimously decided to issue a special invitation to Mrs. Campbell, to attend the carnival; and as shown in the manner in which her kind and motherly actions are viewed by our returned men, the R. S. and S. I. L. (Moree) branch have promised to look after the old lady during her stay and endeavour to return in a small way some little portion of the great kindness she had extended to them. It was stated that Mrs. Campbell had spent an entire fortune on the soldiers, looking for no reward, and considering not the cost – until, at long last, she found herself unable to continue to do all she would like to have done, because the limit of her funds had been reached. We doff our hat to the grand old lady, and congratulate the local returned men on their action in extending her a most deserved invitation to be present at the big day, which means so much to the achievement of a tangible evidence that the names of those who have fallen will continue to be held in reverence, and commemorated by the erection of the hall in their memory

*North Western Courier, 9 May 1921, Page 1*

## THE "DIGGERS MOTHER"

Speaking at the official luncheon on Carnival Day in connection with the toast of The Ladies, coupled with the name of Mrs. Campbell – the "Diggers' Mother" – Mr. W. E. Wearne, M. L. A., said that no one present was in a better position than he to speak of the good work done by Mrs. Campbell for the soldiers. She had sacrificed almost the whole of her money for them. "You will all be surprised to know." Mr. Wearne continued, "that this dear old lady kept up a correspondence with no less than 500 soldiers at the front, and they are proud to call her "Mother!" He knew, and his own boys knew it, because Mrs. Campbell had corresponded with his sons regularly amongst the number. No lady who had conferred on her the distinction of O. B. E. was ever more entitled to it than the grand old lady present with them that day. (Loud applause.) She used to walk over a mile to the railway station, before daybreak, for many and many a day to meet a soldier who might be going to or returning from the war. Nobody deserved distinction more from the King in this respect than did Mrs. Campbell. The Prince learned of the splendid work she had done, and wrote her a letter heartily thanking her for it. In drinking the toast they were doing honour to one of the grandest women God ever put breath into. (Applause.)

*Moree Gwydir Examiner & General Advertiser, 9 May 1921, page 3*

Following Mrs. Campbell's death in 1925 the Narrabri Council attempted to raise money and erect a monument in her honour. However, there was little support from the community which angered those returned soldiers involved and the plan seemed not to eventuate. In 1930 the council did erect a memorial clock with plaques on the council chambers in honour of local soldiers killed in WW1. It was rebuilt in 1969 and stands as a clock tower in the town. The Moree Services Club repeatedly brought up the idea of a memorial to Mrs. Campbell right through to December 1930. A committee was formed and again a clock was suggested as a suitable memorial. After that date the trail goes cold and it seems that idea was either forgotten or not considered newsworthy - ED

## PERSONAL PARS

During the late war, there were many individual workers for the good of the Digger, who never sought fee or reward, and some of whom were overlooked when honours were given out. There were men and women who sought not the C. B. E. nor any other "tag", but just did the work for pure love of the men who were giving their best at the Front. One of these modest ladies has just had recognition of her service, not at the hands of the governors or dames, but from the Diggers who know her worth: Mrs. Campbell, of Narrabri, known all over the Nor.-West as the Diggers Mother, because of her zeal as a war worker, received a Diggers' Certificate of merit at the instance of the Garah branch of the Returned Services League. The Mayor of Narrabri made the presentation, pointing out the self-sacrifice made by Mrs. Campbell, and how she spent all her means for the care and comfort of the men who went to the Front, ministered to them in camp, cheered them off by train and warmly welcomed them on their triumphant return. The certificate was regarded as the highest honour that the Diggers could confer.

*Truth, 23 July 1922, page 6*



Boomi Memorial Hall erected to commemorate those who served in World War One. The Hall was opened by Mrs. Campbell who was known as the "Diggers' Mother." She was originally in affluent circumstances but spent her money assisting the soldiers during World War One. She met every train that passed through Narrabri during the war year. Mrs. Campbell was 81 at the time of the hall's opening and died in 1925 at the age of 85. It was dedicated on 15 November 1921.

<https://monumentsaustralia.org.au>



## BOOK LAUNCH - “*Memories of Life at Naughtons Gap*”

**Written by:** Dino Polese.

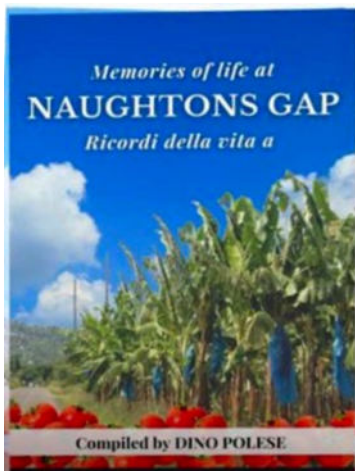
**Held:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Location:** Windara Nursery.

Photo: Left to right Robert Mustow, Dino Polese, Barbara Roberts, Ellen Thacker and Regina Henson at the launch.



*Memories of Life at Naughtons Gap* is a collection of post-World War 2 stories from 27 Italians and 3 Australians who settled in Naughtons Gap between 1945 and the late 1970s. Two of our FHG committee members Cheryl Mison and Joanne Griffiths attended the book-launch. A lunch of spaghetti bolognese was prepared by the organising committee and enjoyed by all. At the launch the introduction was given by Tony Hennessey and a blessing by Father Peter Slack, St Mary’s Church Casino.

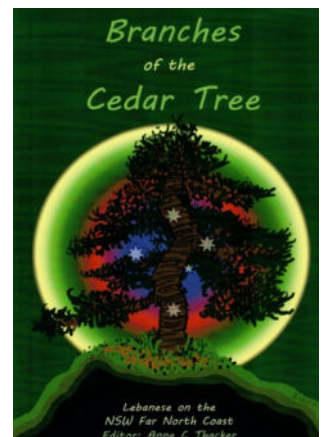


Tony Hennessey wrote the introduction in the book and Father Slack was instrumental in encouraging Caterina Gunther (Dino’s sister), Rosie and Gracie Ramaldini to record the Italian families of Naughtons Gap before it was lost. Cost of the book is \$30. Orders to Dino by email [dinopolese@westnet.com.au](mailto:dinopolese@westnet.com.au)

The other book, featured in the photograph, is titled *Branches of the Cedar Tree: Lebanese on the NSW Far North Coast* by Anne C. Thacker 2021. This book reveals the previously untold stories of the Lebanese immigrants and their descendants who from the late nineteenth century made the far north coast of NSW their home.

Cost of this book is \$45 and can be ordered online through the Australian Lebanese Historical Society’s website.

<https://alhs.org.au/product/branches-of-the-cedar-tree-lebanese-on-the-nsw-far-north-coast/>



### POPULATION ALL THERE

**CASINO**, Tuesday.- The entire 68 strong population of Naughton’s Gap were present at the home of Mr.Paul Rambalini at a New Year party. The 18 families of New Australians living in the “Gap” were accompanied by only two “outsiders.” They were Casino National Bank manager, Mr. J. Kumnick, and Mr. J. Tomkinson, Casino auctioneer. Two New Australians, relatives of residents at Naughton’s Gap, were also present. In Naughton’s Gap, where the whole population dwells within the bounds of a square mile, and all new Australians, the practice is to have such a united celebration twice a year.

*Northern Star*, Wednesday 2 January 1952, Page 2

### ITALIAN SONGS AT CASINO APEX GOOD WILL DINNER

**CASINO**, Wednesday – Casino Apex Club’s International Goodwill Week dinner in the Royal Hotel tonight was attended by a number of New Australians. A contingent of 11, all banana growers, arrived from Naughton’s Gap. They contributed to the general spirit of gaiety and sang in Italian for the benefit of “Old” Australians present.

*Northern Star*, 8 November 1951, Page4

## - WATCHING THE WEB -

**\*NORTH YORKSHIRE PARISH RECORDS:** Ancestry has added parish records from Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558–1812' (2,678,402 records); 'North Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1921' (1,432,220 records); 'North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1937' (791,373 records); and 'North Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813–1995' (411,099 records)

**\*REGISTRY OF DEEDS INDEX PROJECT IRELAND:** Learn all about the 'Registry of Deeds' on the 'Ireland Reaching Out' website. <https://www.irelandxo.com/> The importance of the Registry of Deeds is built on the fact that it is a repository holding memorials of deeds and wills that mention the names, ages, life events, places and family relationships of people involved in land and financial transactions from the mid-1600s to the present day. The number of names mentioned is huge. Some deeds can have many parties and many other names mentioned. Marriage settlements typically have four or five parties who might be two or more people. Many deeds are the result of finalising estates after the death of a person. These will often mention widows and other people related to the deceased.

The roles people have in deeds include being:

- a party to the deed or their agent;
- a life in the deed;
- a witness to the deed or memorial;
- a beneficiary of the deed;
- a previous or current occupant of premises mentioned in the deed or an earlier deed
- the owner or occupant of land adjacent to the premises mentioned in the deed
- a relation or associate of a party to or a person mentioned in the deed; and
- any of the above for a previous deed or will be mentioned in the current deed.

**\*JUDY WEBSTER – GENEALOGY:** Make use of Judy's great website there are lots of indexes. [judy.webster.qld@gmail.com](mailto:judy.webster.qld@gmail.com)

**\*WESTERN AUSTRALIA BIRTHS DEATH & MARRIAGES** Updated online search page, the dates have been changed to births to 1921, deaths to 1991 and marriages to 1946.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-justice/online-index-search-tool>

**\*AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE GAOL PRISONER REGISTER**

An index of records of individuals brought to Adelaide Gaol South Australia, between the years 1848 and 1912 with images. <https://www.myheritage.com/>

**\*GREATER LONDON GREATER BURIAL INDEX** Another 52,883 records have been added to the Greater London Burial Index, which has over two million names from 300+ Anglican and non-conformist parishes. The additions are for years 1540-1949. <https://search.findmypast.com.au/>

**\*NEW NEWSPAPERS DIGITISED ON TROVE:**

**NSW**

- [Border Morning Mail](#) (1950-1951) [Albury City Libraries]
- [Coolamon Echo](#) (1898-1905) [Coolamon and District History Group]
- [Pastoral Times and Echuca and Moama Chronicle](#) (1863-1866) [Deniliquin Genealogy Society]
- [Queanbeyan Age](#) (1952-1953) [Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council]
- [Sawtell Guardian](#) (14 May 1970) [Coffs Harbour City Council]
- [The Seagull](#) (1959-1993) [Tweed River High School]
- [The Pastoral Times](#) (1866-1888) [Deniliquin Genealogy Society]

**VIC**

- [Camperdown Chronicle](#) (1875-1876) [Camperdown and District Historical Society]
- [Gippsland Farmers' Journal](#) (1919-1922) [Latrobe City Libraries]
- [Live Wire](#) (1938-1954) [Latrobe City Libraries]
- [Lilydale Express](#) (1927-1956) [Lilydale and District Historical Society]
- [Richmond Guardian](#) (1925-1928) [State Library of Victoria]
- [The Ararat Advertiser and Chronicle for the Stawell and Wimmera Districts](#) (1899-1913) [Ararat Genealogical Society Inc]
- [The Tarrangower Times and Maldon Advertiser](#) (1901-1910) [Maldon Museum]

## **MEMBER'S NOTICE BOARD - May 2023 - Aug 2023**

**Mother's Day Raffle – won by Kim Nicolle, Casino**

**Saturday 27 May – Beef Week Stall - Please help this fundraiser. Cooking, preserves and clean saleable items welcome. Assistants most welcome too**

**Wednesday 14 June – General Meeting. Speaker: Maureen Lynch – Red Cross Volunteer - Topic: "Be Prepared"**

**Wednesday 12 July – General Meeting "Question & Answer Session"**

**Wednesday 9 August – Speaker or Webinar (TBA)**

### **RESEARCH ENQUIRIES – General Information**

(per family name e.g.: Mr and Mrs Smith and children)

\$25 for initial enquiry using resources available at rooms with 10 photocopies included in initial fee.

You will be advised of any additional information available over the fee with extra photocopies charged at 20 cents per page. Please supply basic information i.e., BDM dates and parents if known. Inform research officer **exactly** what you are looking for and what you already know so time is not wasted doubling up on research.

Research will not be undertaken until research fee is received. Research may take 4-6 weeks depending on number of enquiries received and availability of the research team.

**Research where reference given from book or newsletter:** \$5.00 includes 2 photocopies – 20 cents each for any additional pages.

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

**We welcome new members  
Dianne McLennan and Meg Bishop and  
returning members Jeff Townsend, Gail Hillery and Louise Lane.**

**REMINDER:** Members who have not yet renewed this year can forward membership payments by post, email or deliver to the rooms. If paying by electronic transfer, (EFT) use your surname as a reference and/or your membership number.

Please return your membership form either by email, post or drop it into the rooms. Be sure you mark which age group you are in, for insurance purposes and consider being on roster. It's good way to learn more about the resources we have in the rooms.

All new members are invited to come to the rooms and find out how we can help you with your research. Workshops and meetings, often followed by interesting talks. Hope to see you there.

*– Kaylene Morris – Membership Secretary*



## ROSTER

*It is the Roster person's responsibility to find a replacement if they cannot do their roster. If you cannot get a replacement for your roster, please ring the rooms or ring Cheryl on 0490149905 and leave a message as soon as you know you cannot do it.*

**WE URGENTLY NEED ROSTER PEOPLE. We will place you with an experienced person.**

### JUNE

Thurs 1: C Mison, Y Downes, L Reynolds	Fri 2: CLOSED
Sat 3: CLOSED	Tues 6: R Nesbitt, P McDonald
Wed 7: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	Thurs 8: N Cowen, C Houlihan
Fri 9: CLOSED	Sat 10: CLOSED
Tues 13: Y Stevenson, N Cowen, M Goodlad	Wed 14: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer
Thurs 15: K Francis, H Elford, J Rowe	Fri 16: CLOSED
Sat 17: L Yates, G Rooney	Tues 20: K Morris, J Gorry
Wed 21: R Nesbitt, C Mison	Thurs 22: B Hollis, J Wilton,
Fri 23: CLOSED	Sat 24: CLOSED
Tues 27: K Morris, R Birmingham L Lill	Wed 28: B Hollis, C Mison
Thurs 29: N Cowen, C Houlihan	Fri 30: CLOSED

### JULY

Tues 4: R Nesbitt, P McDonald	Wed 5: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer
Thurs 6: C Mison, Y Downes, L Reynolds	Fri 7: CLOSED
Sat 8: CLOSED	Tues 11: Y Stevenson, N Cowen, M Goodlad
Wed 12: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	Thurs 13: N Cowen, C Houlihan, J Rowe
Fri 14: CLOSED	Sat 15: CLOSED
Tues 18: J Gorry, K Morris	Wed 19: R Nesbitt, J Griffiths
Thurs 20: K Francis, H Elford, J Rowe	FRI 21 CLOSED
Sat 22: : L Yates, G Rooney	Tues 25: K Morris, R Birmingham L Lill
Wed 26: R Nesbitt, C Mison	Thurs 27: B Hollis, J Wilton
Fri 28: CLOSED	Sat 29: CLOSED

### AUGUST

Tues 1: R Nesbitt, P McDonald	Wed 2: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer
Thurs 3: C Mison, Y Downes, L Reynolds	Fri 4: CLOSED
Sat 5: CLOSED	Tues 8: Y Stevenson, N Cowen, M Goodlad
Wed 9: M Goodlad, C Houlihan, G McAteer	Thurs 10: N Cowen, C Houlihan, J Rowe
Fri 11: CLOSED	Sat 12: CLOSED
Tues 15: K Morris, J Gorry	Wed 16: R Nesbitt, J Griffiths
Thurs 17: H Elford, K Francis, J Rowe	Fri 18: CLOSED
Sat 19: L Yates, G Rooney	Tues 22: K Morris, R Birmingham L Lill
Wed 23: C Mison, R Nesbitt	Thurs 24: B Hollis, J Wilton
Fri 25: CLOSED	Sat 26: CLOSED
Tues 29: Y Stevenson, N Cowen, M Goodlad	Wed 30: B Hollis, C Mison
Thurs 31: N Cowen, C Houlihan, J Rowe	

#### The Housewife's Saying

I'm just a little housewife  
With dishes three times a day  
With laundry and cleaning  
And toys to put away.  
Now it's not that I mind the housework  
Or the screaming kids at play  
It's that husband that burns me up  
when he say's  
"Did you do anything today?"

**Thanks to member Mavis for sending in these items.**

#### To Make Us Happy & Agreeable to Other People

500grams of Good Temper  
1kg of Forbearance  
500grams of Patience  
750grams of Contentment  
1 1/2 kts of Unselfishness  
500grams of Fun  
1kg of Cheerfulness  
Mix well with 2 quarts of Human Kindness

Dose: A glassful first thing in the morning,  
to be repeated as soon as the effect wears off.

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

### Postage

Under 500 gms = \$9.00 p&h per book  
Over 500gms & under 3kg - \$15.00 p&h for up to 2 books (If ordering more than 2 books contact group for postage costs)

All prices include GST

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

### Books – Weight under 500gms

Coraki Deaths & Burials - \$25.00

West of the Range Cemeteries - \$20.00

Woodburn Cemetery - \$15.00

Recipe Book – 98 pages 400 recipes - \$15.00

Yorklea Public School 1894-1994 - \$5.00

### Books – Weight over 500gms & under 3kg

Casino West St Cemetery - \$37.50

Casino Lawn Cemetery - \$37.00

Casino & District Pioneer Register Pre-1900 - \$37.50

Casino & District Pre 1925 Pioneer Register - \$37.50

## Casino & District Family History Group CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Gill Engineering
- Casino Medical Centre
- F. Kwong Sing & Co Pty Ltd
- Pinkerton's Hourglass Jewellers
- Casino Pest Control **NEW MEMBER**

*Please support our Corporate Members*

## SECOND-HAND BOOKS FOR SALE

Bridges of Fairymount	\$5.00
Casino - The Rocky Crossing Meeting Place 1855 -2012	\$50.00
Casino School Magazine – Onward 1998	\$2.00
Casino Show – 100 Years	\$10.00
Cheshire's Modern Real Property	\$2.00
Directory of Art & Archaeology	\$3.00
Family History Research Manager	\$3.00

## "Little Pieces"

**Little pieces coming together to make a brand-new whole.**

**List of ingredients some sweet some not.**

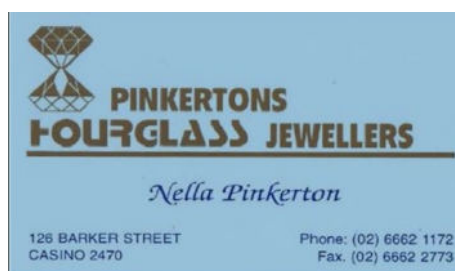
**Stirred with love from heart and soul.**



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