



VOICES from the PAST

Newsletter of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc

ISSN 0815/1903 July 2023 Issue No. 137

This man underwent a major career change at the age of 14. Details page 7



**MEETINGS ARE HELD 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
1:00 PM AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE— INVERELL SHIRE PUBLIC
LIBRARY 55-59 CAMPBELL ST INVERELL**

The Inverell District Family History Group Inc may be contacted at:

Address: Inverell Shire Public Library
55-59 Campbell St,
Inverell NSW 2360

Postal: PO Box 367
Inverell NSW 2360

Email: info@inverellfamilyhistory.org.au

Web: www.inverellfamilyhistory.org.au

Membership:

Fees for the present financial year are:

Single membership	\$35
Family membership	\$45

Resources:

The resources of the History Group are available for use at:
Inverell Shire Public Library, 55-59 Campbell St, Inverell
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10am - 3pm
CLOSED TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Research:

**Research fees are \$35.00 per surname
including p & h**

A charge of 30c per copy applies for photocopying.

Our volunteers will deal with enquiries in their order of receipt. Replies may take up to four weeks, so please wait patiently.

Enquiries should be made to:

The Secretary
IDFHG Inc
PO Box 367 INVERELL NSW 2360

Please enclose your email address with research enquiry.

2022/2023

President: Kathy McLeod
Secretary: Di Atkinson
Treasurer: Lorraine Watson
Newsletter Editor: Ken McLeod

IDFHG Inc is a member of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

history on the macintyre

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Voices from the Past is the official journal of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc and is published in February, June and October each year.

Opinions expressed and statements in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the group, which accepts no responsibility for them.

Other Societies or Groups may copy original material published in this newsletter, provided the source is acknowledged.

Otherwise, production of articles in *Voices from the Past* may be made only with the written permission from the Group.

Annual General Meeting Followed by General Meeting Saturday, 5th August 2023

Meeting starts at 1pm
Cuppa & chat afterwards

Inverell Shire Public Library
55-59 Campbell St, Inverell

All Welcome



Inverell District Family History Group Are hosting a talk on Turning a Jigsaw into a Picture- How to write up History.



Elizabeth Wiedemann

**Saturday, 29TH July 2023
At the Inverell Shire Library
Time 1 pm
Cuppa and Chat afterwards**



Our yearly subscription is due;
Renewal form on page 13

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY



8th – 10th September 2023

**38th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT
Association of Family History Societies**



What's New in the Library

Series of 8 booklets on Sir James Dowling and descendants with a focus on the Whalley and Spencer families of Bundarra.



INVERELL RAILWAY STATION The most attractive timber station building in NSW.

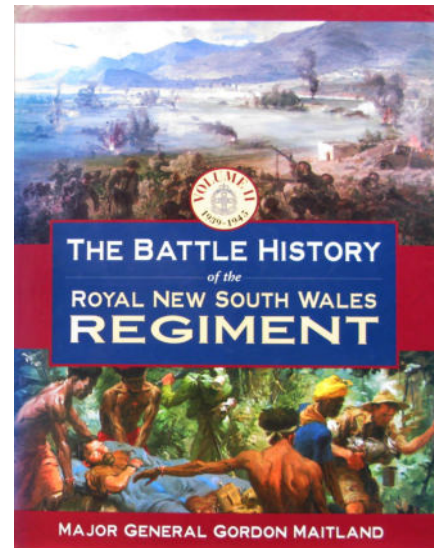
This report by Stuart Sharp is well researched and highlights the little known architectural details of this building.

INVERELL RAILWAY STATION
THE MOST ATTRACTIVE TIMBER STATION BUILDING IN NEW SOUTH WALES
(ALONG WITH GRENFELL AND BREWARRINA)



The Battle History of the Royal New South Wales Regiment Vol II 1939-1945 by Gordon Maitland

This well researched book describes the battles in which the Royal NSW Regiment took part. Inverell men Brigadier Arthur Varley & Sgt Fred Staggs are mentioned.



Photographic archival recording Pre-demolition : Inverell and District Memorial Olympic Pool

Conducted by;
Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage

A Photographic record of Inverell and District Memorial Olympic Pool recorded before its demolition in May 2023.



Freemason's Inverell Display

The library currently have an interesting display of Freemason books, information & memorabilia.



This quaint scrapbook contains clippings from the Inverell Argus newspaper. The clippings are all titles "Argus War Special" and sponsored by E.J. McBean of Byron St, Agent for Ford Cars. They cover the years 1915-1916.



Research Update

The Warbrooke Family

Samuel George Warbrooke was born in Armidale to James Henry & Eliza Jane Warbrook (nee Bryant) in 1883. The family moved to Inverell in the 1890s. Samuel married Lola Beatrice Mason in 1912. They lived in Urabatta St and Samuel's occupation was an engine driver. He was also a member of the Austral Brass Band. The couple had two sons Herbert & Cecil. Samuel died in Queensland in 1940.



Paradise Creek Station

First taken up as a run in 1839 by Henry Dangar.

The property was divided into Paradise Creek & Paradise East in 1880s.

Subsequent owners of Paradise Creek were HWR Hughes, George Cruickshank, the Nicholas brothers and the Swan family.



David Fraser who married Agnes McKenzie in 1864. They lived at "Rose Valley" on the Ashford Rd.

George James Woodbury who first settled in Brodies Plains c1872.

Interwar buildings in Byron & Otho Streets.

42 Brae St owned for many years by the WH Meppam

History of the Inverell Memorial Pool

Len Kee storekeeper in Torrington in 1930s, later came to Inverell and worked at Hong Yuens.

Arkinstall /Johnson Families

The Arkinstalls were early pioneers of Inverell moving to the town in the early 1880s. They were grocers, beekeepers & farmers. The family were very community minded involved in many activities.

George Arkinstall in 1945 was instrumental in increasing the beer quota for the town.

The Johnsons also came to the region in the 1880s and settled in Tingha.

The two families came together when Stella Arkinstall married Herbert Johnson in 1938.

BEER QUOTA Increase for Inverell

The secretary of the Inverell Labor League (Mr. W. Hailam) has been advised by Senator Ashley, Minister for Supply and Shipping, that the supplies of beer to all the hotels in Inverell have been increased by seven per cent. The increase was granted following representations made to the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Forde) at the latter end of November by Mr. George Arkinstall, of Railway Street, Inverell. Mr. Arkinstall's facts and figures of the shortage of beer in Inverell so impressed the Minister that he had special inquiries made with the above mentioned happy result.

Inverell Times 14/2/1945

Oban—27 Brae St

Built in 1902 by Alfred Morton Cansdell.



Current Research Can you Help?

Isaac Steel—Born in England in 1839. Isaac was a brickmaker who died at Goonoowigall in 1902.

Martin Whitton— A miner at The Ponds near Gilgai. He died in 1903

Patrick O'Loughlin—A labourer who was tragically found dead in a ditch at Rob Roy.

Walter Underwood— A postal employee who lived in Tingha. The son of William & Margaret.

13 Albert St— House once owned by the Rogers family.

Clifton John Wilson—Died Inverell 1981.

William Edward Chandler—Notorious bankrobber captured in Inverell in 1866.

Ernest Arthur Dennis 1912-1943

Ernest Dennis, known better as Arthur, was an experienced bomber pilot in WWII who died on a bombing mission in July 1943. He was the uncle of Jal Hixon, wife of IDFHG member Merv.

Arthur was born 28th March 1912 in Emerald Queensland. He had two brothers (Gordon and George) and a sister Dorothy who is Jal's mother. Arthur's father was a businessman who dabbled in various ventures in Emerald, Yeppoon and eventually Rockhampton where Ernest (Arthur's father) bought horse stables at which Arthur and his brothers and sister helped out. Later Arthur left school and became a bank teller and was engaged to a girl called Brenda.

In 1941 he enlisted into the RAAF eventually becoming a pilot of a Lancaster bomber. As such he was based in Britain with the RAF, squadron 50 at a facility near Skellingthorpe around Lincoln north of London. From the Skellingthorpe base Arthur and his crew flew bombing raids over Germany, having to cross the Netherlands first. Nothing in a war is safe, but these raids were notoriously dangerous.

The raids over Germany were targeting the Ruhr industrial area, particularly the Krupp steel works in Essen. Arthur was involved in the Battle of the Ruhr which lasted from March 5th to July 26th 1943.



Ernest Arthur Dennis

(Courtesy Daily Mercury Mackay)



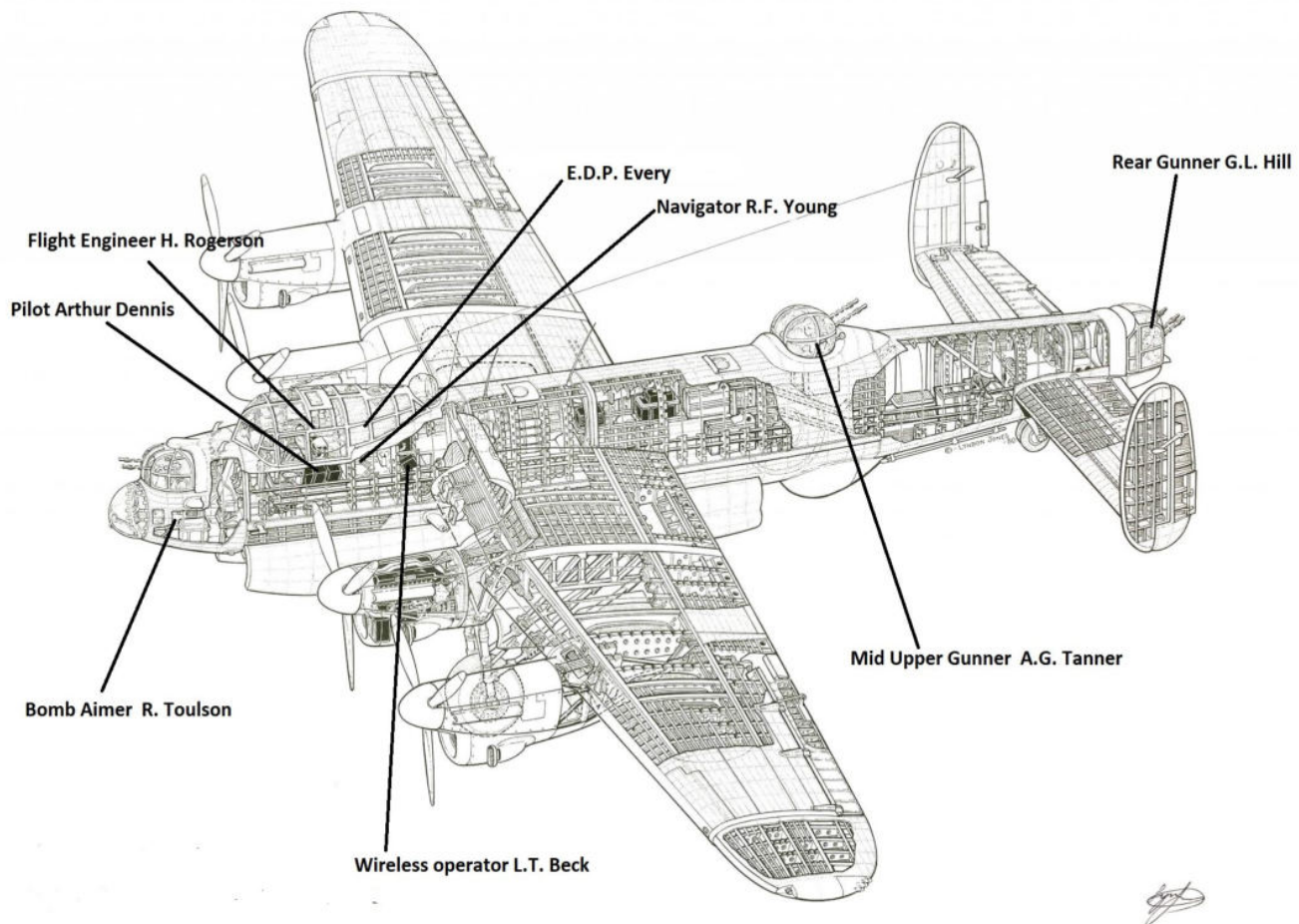
Left—Map showing the RAF base at Skellingthorpe in England and a direct flight path towards Essen in Germany. We can see where the plane was shot down at Wijchen, just over the border in the Netherlands. The dotted line shows the uncompleted path the bomber would have taken to reach Essen.



*Two of the medals which Arthur Dennis was awarded.
The Europe Star (I) and the Defence Medal
(courtesy Australian Government Defence.)*

Arthur managed to rack up 657 hours flying when he and his crew set off from Skellingthorpe on the night of July 25th 1943. The flight path took them over the Netherlands and as they approached the border with Germany they were met with an attack from a German fighter plane, a Messerschmitt Bf100 piloted by Hauptman Hans Dieter Frank. Arthur's plane was shot down near the Dutch town of Wijchen, only 94 km from their target of Essen, shortly before 1:00 AM on July 26th, the last day of the Battle of the Ruhr.

Of the 8 crew on board, only 3 survived. Sadly, Arthur died along with 4 other crew members. The crew members who survived became prisoners of war until 1945.



Cutaway diagram of a Lancaster bomber used in WWII including the Battle of the Ruhr. We can see the probable positions of the crew in the aircraft and appreciate the vulnerability of the various crew, especially the gunners. Source: Ben Branch Silodrome <https://silodrome.com/avro-lancaster-cutaway-wallpaper/>



Hauptman Hans Dieter Frank was a very distinguished fighter pilot. Hauptman is a rank in the German Luftwaffe equivalent to captain. Hans was in the Nachtjagdgeschwader section, or nightfighter wing of the Luftwaffe. Just as Arthur Dennis received medals for his bravery in the War, Hans Frank received the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross, the second highest honour in the German forces.

Hans Dieter Frank died September 29th 1943, less than 2 months after Arthur Dennis died. Hans died in a mid air collision with another German aeroplane after being attacked by a British plane over the town of Celle in lower Saxony.

The photo left shows Hans Dieter Frank with a medal around his neck which we assume is the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross which Hans was awarded. Image courtesy of military-history.fandom wiki.

Crest of Squadron 50
Courtesy of the RAF Lancaster archive.



Nachtjagdgeschwader crest, Note the bolt of lightning aimed directly at Britain
Courtesy Gyges Publishing Company
<https://www.gyges.dk/> .

Too Young to Hold a Gun

In April, author Peter Spencer with his wife Lynda conducted a book launch at the Inverell library, presenting a semi biographical story "Too Young to Hold a Gun: Thunderbolt's Apprentice Bushranger".

This story is based on the life of William Monckton (1854-1942), who as a youth of 13 left home to join the notorious bushranger Thunderbolt. His career as an accomplice to the legend was short, less than a year, but set the stage for an interesting life.

Peter is the great-grandson of William Monckton, so he has a passionate interest in this character, as well as a long-time interest in the bush ranging era of Australian history. Peter emphasizes that the romantic notion of a bushranger's life is probably mythical, as the reality of such a life was brutal and desperate, often ending in tragedy.

William Monckton was caught at Wellingrove and then convicted and sentenced, all at the age of 14. He was sentenced to one year's hard labour, and was then released. Having tasted the harsh life of being continually on the run, William was in a position to lead a more conventional and respectable life.

William married Elisabeth Mallise and settled at Howell. They went on to have 11 children and over 60 grandchildren. Williams long life ended in 1942 at the age of 88. He is buried in the Inverell cemetery.

Peter Spencer and the extensive Monckton family recently erected a gravestone at William's burial site. Prior to this, William's grave was unmarked.

Too Young to Hold a Gun is available for purchase. Details can be found at;

<https://pjspencer.com/book-sales>



William Monckton at the age of 13, 21 and much later in life. William was about 13 when he began on a career in bushranging. He had considerable trouble living with his intolerant and violent step father, contributing to his decision to embark on this unusual career. Photos courtesy of Peter Spencer.



Author Peter Spencer at the grave of William Monckton, his great grand father.

William's grave has the inscription:

In memory of
WILLIAM MONCKTON
 16.12.1854-24.8.1942
 who as a youth rode with the
 bushranger Captain Thunderbolt
ELIZABETH MONCKTON
 26.2.1859-8.3.1938
 Loving wife of William

Meet a Member— Beryl Shepherd

Beryl was born in Inverell in 1937, as the country was still slowly emerging from the depression. Her mother was Mona Gardner and father was Cecil Sweeney. Not to be confused with the Sweeneys who were another unrelated family. Beryl calls her family the Irish Sweeneys.

Beryl's earliest memories involved Christmas where the Christmas tree was anchored in a 5-gallon drum, surrounded by wrapped presents. As a youngster she remembers raiding cupboards looking for presents.

The War broke out when Beryl was 2, and as it progressed, she remembers that something was going on. Her father enlisted and was stationed at Mataranka and Katherine in the N.T. This was during the time that Darwin was notoriously bombed. Like many children Beryl did not see much of her father in these years, but remembers a stranger in a uniform coming home, not realising it was her own father. Beryl was celebrating her 8th birthday when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and as a young girl she felt very sad about it.

Beryl's Dad Cecil was a cordial maker by trade and her Mum Mona was a home maker. Beryl has a younger sister Helen, better known as Bub.

When Beryl went to the Belgravia school (Inverell Public) she remembers Mrs McCarthy as the head mistress. For at least some of the war years Mrs McCarthy and her two daughters lived with Beryl and her family.

When Beryl got to year 2, she went to the Sacred Heart School. Being a catholic, she went to the old church regularly, where she remembers Dean O'Neil, Monsignor Condon and Father Shenahan. Dean O'Neil died when Beryl was at school and he was given a particularly big funeral. Dean O'Neil's grave was located near the presbytery at the side of the church. He was later reinterred in the Inverell cemetery.

When Beryl got to 3rd class, she remembers an elderly Sister Catherine who she was particularly fond of. There were also Sisters Ignatius, Theresa, Berchmans, Michael and Alphonsus. Beryl got on so well with Sr Berchmans that they kept in touch right up until Sr Berchmans died.

Beryl went to 3rd year high school, whereupon she left to work in Coles in 1952. She was there for two years before going to a trucking company for 18 months.

In 1955 Beryl met a horse strapper by the name of Wal Shepherd. Wal worked for the trainer Bill Adams. Later in 1957 Wal and Beryl were married in Inverell in the Anglican Church. Because lent finished late that year, the Catholic Church did not permit flowers inside or carpet on the aisle, so Beryl decided on a marriage in the Church of England, to which Wal belonged.

After their wedding, Wal and Beryl went to Sydney for 6 months then Wal worked on a property at Wee Waa for 3 years.

During this time Wal and Beryl had two children, Colin and Patricia. They came back to Inverell in 1960 to live and in 1963 their son Roderic was born. Wal worked on the railway for 10 years and then at the abattoirs for another 20 years before retiring.

Beryl worked in Coles again in the early 60s for a couple of years. From 1978 to 1991 she worked as a cleaner at Inverell High School, where she got to know several of the staff. In 1991 Beryl became ill from cleaning up after the flood and was in hospital for 14 weeks.

In about 1986 Beryl became one of the early members of the IDFHG, because of her interest in, and extensive knowledge of many of the local families. Consequently, she is one of our oldest serving members and a valued "brains trust".



In Beryl's own ancestry there are lots of Irish families and one Prussian family: the Stumpeys, who arrived in Victoria and changed their name to Hallman.

Besides Shepherd, Sweeney, Gardner and McMahon, there are Lowrey, Campbell, O'Brien, Bensley, Lewis and Watkins in Beryl's family tree.

Beryl's great grandmother & great great grand-mother (on her mothers side). The lady on the left is a Hallman, the older lady on the right was a Harvey who married a Stumpey (Hallman).

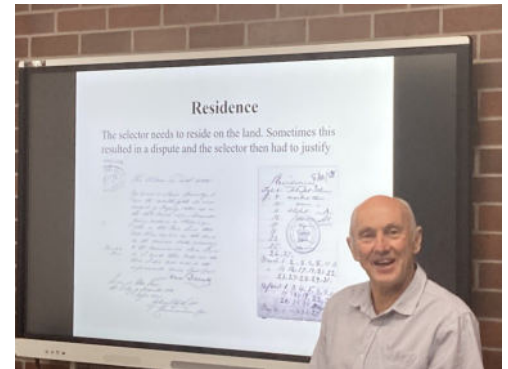
Visiting Expert : Wayne Hoppe on Conditional Purchases

In March we had the pleasure of hosting a talk from Wayne Hoppe, from the Armidale Family History Group. Wayne is the President of the group, and was happy to enlighten us on the details of and how to access conditional purchases.

Following the establishment of the Lands Department in 1859, the NSW government appointed John Robertson as the first Secretary for Lands. From this there were two Acts in 1861 which reformed Crown land management. These acts were colloquially referred to as the Robertson Land Acts.

Previous to these acts, land could still be purchased by auction, but the new legislation made all leasehold land in the colony available for selection and sale. Under this legislation, a conditional purchase could be made whereby a Crown Grant could be obtained before the land was surveyed. The grants were conditional on certain requirements being met such as area (40 to 320 acres) paying a deposit, adding improvements and actually residing on the land. With the introduction of conditional purchases land became available and more affordable.

Finding your ancestors conditional purchase details however is not straight forward and the documents themselves can only be accessed at the State Archives in Sydney. When beginning to search Wayne suggested consulting parish maps, wills, obituaries, newspapers and electoral rolls as good sources. A great website to use is that of the Historical Land Records Viewer, HLRV. ([Historical Land Records Viewer](#)).



Vale Julie Regan 1941-2023

Julie, one of our longest serving members, passed away recently. Julie had a great passion for history, particularly local and family history. This passion lead to her being very committed and energetic in her various research projects.

Born in Inverell in 1941, Julie went to the Ross Hill Public School and later to Inverell High School. In her younger days she was a keen swimmer and enjoyed playing Hockey and was also involved in the Girl Guides.

Julie worked at the local 2NZ radio station as a copyright secretary for its library. She then moved to Tamworth to work at 2TM before returning to Inverell.

Julie was regarded as a quiet achiever and was admired for her diligence. Many of the resources we use can be attributed to Julie's efforts.



Julie receiving her life membership from former president Anne Plumb in 2014.

Vale

Toni Culey 1936–2023



Born Antonia Swan, Toni was the sister of Bill Swan late of Byron Station.

Prior to her marriage to John Culey, a local veterinarian in 1964, Toni trained as a nurse.

Toni offered great support to our group for many years and in the past she held the positions of Treasurer and Public Officer.

She will be sadly missed.



Warialda Outing

On Saturday June 17th, members of the Inverell District Family History Group met up with the Warialda Historical Society at their Museum in Plunkett St, Warialda. The building which houses the museum was once the temple of the Warialda Masons, built in 1917.

Our group was met by Fay Caine and Georgina Smith of the Warialda Historical Society. Fay introduced Georgina who spoke about the history of the Warialda Court Houses. The first court house was built in 1848, and incorporated a 9 cell jail. At the time, Warialda was the main administrative centre for the North West. A newer courthouse was built in 1869 at a cost of £953 and in 1881 this was replaced by an even newer one designed by the Government Architect James Barnett. The newer design incorporated a functional surrounding veranda. The dock and witness stand from this court house are now in the Warialda Museum.

The museum houses artifacts from Warialda's farming past as well as its important military history. As the building was originally a Mason's Temple, there are quite a few pieces of masonic paraphernalia as well as pieces from the MUOOF (Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows) organisation.



Was it something I wrote? Perhaps it was something I said? Newsletter editor in the dock as woman gives evidence from the witness stand.

After our visit to the museum a delicious lunch was held for the group at Carinda House in Warialda. The house is one of the oldest existing timber buildings in Warialda and was first built in 1880 by W H Crane as the family home. Mr Crane was the proprietor of the Royal Hotel. Since then it has been a maternity hospital, a boarding house and a stock & station agency. In the 1970s Warialda residents purchased the building for use as a Community Cultural Centre. Carinda House is now a local arts & crafts centre and venue for private functions, meeting & exhibitions.



Carinda House, 15 Stephen St, Warialda

Devine Photos

Beryl and Merv are up to 11,511 photos. Many of the 10000+ photos seem quite old, 1950s or even earlier. Some of the photos like DC10063 and DC10139 were clearly somewhat over exposed, but one of our members, Steve Day, was able to bring back contrast and detail into the pictures. Any extra information on these photos would be appreciated.



DC10063 Brothers in school uniform ? Gott

DC9954 Mother and daughter perhaps? Labelled Gorgson on the negative



DC10139 An older couple labelled as Morris



DC10052 Lady & gent are labelled as Coorey



DC11528 The Presbyterian Church, labelled Manse



ALL INVITED TO

Gilgai Heritage War Memorial



100th Anniversary Commemorative Event

Sunday, 17th September 2023



Bundarra Rd Gilgai NSW

FREE ENTRY TO



9.30 - 4pm Gilgai Hall

- . Historical exhibition & displays**
- . Entertainment**
- . Refreshments by the Red Cross**

**11am - Rededication Service of the
memorial conducted by the
RSL Inverell Sub Branch**

The Gilgai Public Hall and Recreational Reserves Land Manager has planned this Commemorative Event in partnership with Inverell District Family History Group .

Enquiries please contact

Kathy—0400455871 or Di—0428214272

Inverell District Family History Group Inc.

ABN 28 543 660 460

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

I/we wish to apply for membership of IDFHG Inc. and agree to abide by the Constitution of the Group.

Please fill in this form to retain membership.

DATE:

TITLE: **Mr Mrs Miss Ms** (Please circle)

FAMILY NAME: **FIRST NAME:**

ADDRESS: **P/CODE:**

PHONE: **EMAIL:**

AGE GROUP: Please tick appropriate box

19-50 [] 51-70 [] 71-85 [] 86-95 []

Note: This information is required for insurance purposes only

NEWSLETTER: *Would you like it* **Posted () or Emailed ()**

Membership fee for the current financial year is paid by cheque/direct debit. (please circle)

Single \$35

Family \$45

Please make cheque payable to

Inverell District Family History Group Inc

and post to

IDFHG Inc. PO Box 367, Inverell 2360

or

Direct debit to **IDFHG BSB 932-000 A/c 695486 – use your name as reference**

Email: inverellfamilyhistorygroup@gmail.com

Each membership address receives three newsletters per year.

If you would like to notify the Group the family names you are researching please list these names below

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.....

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Books	Price	Qty	Subtotal
District Schools – Where are they? <i>Researched & printed by IDFHG</i>	\$5		
District Churches – Where are they? <i>Researched & printed by IDFHG</i>	\$5		
Bundarra – Stepping Stone of the Gwydir. <i>By Claire Scholfield</i>	\$15		
A Fine Body of Men – The Kurrajongs – WWI. <i>Researched & printed by IDFHG</i>	\$30		
Interred at Inverell – 150 years of Inverell Cemetery. <i>Researched & printed by IDFHG.</i>	\$10		
History of the Graman School – 100 years of public Education 1880-1980	\$30		
Tingha Cemetery Transcriptions 1990 & Tingha Cemetery & District Burials (no headstones) 1873-1999. <i>Researched by R Wallis. Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Early Elsmore. <i>Researched by Pat Farrand. Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
CDs <i>CDs may also be purchased in book form. Please contact the group for details</i>			
Inverell & District WW1 recruits. <i>Researched & Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Inverell & District Boer War Servicemen. <i>Researched by J Pischke. Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Byron Plains & Beyond – Inverell District pre 1910 Biographical Register. <i>Researched & Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Inverell Cemetery- Church of England Burials & Transcriptions 1869-1998. <i>Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Inverell Cemetery – Catholic Burials & Transcriptions. 1867-1998. <i>Printed by ID-FHG</i>	\$10		
Inverell Cemetery – Non-Conformist & Independent Burials & Transcriptions. 1867 -2002. CD. <i>Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Inverell Cemetery – New General Section Burials & Transcriptions. 1968-2000. Includes Inverell Cemetery Columbarium & Thorley & Sons Crematorium. <i>Printed by IDFHG</i>	\$10		
Please add \$9.00 for postage (within Australia) for up to 2 items For additional items please contact IDFHG BankDetails			
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