

Eagle Eye



December 2023

Merton School



Cowra Family History Group Inc

Journal

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Meetings: First Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm
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Cover Photograph: Merton School about 1909

This is a photo from Cowra Family History Group's Donated Photograph Collection. It was donated by Mrs Shirley Muir of Cowra earlier this year and belonged to her late husband, Harley Muir. The photo is of Merton School, located not far from Cowra, in about 1909. This school was opened in October 1877 as Morongla Creek Provisional School (a school with at least 5 pupils but less than the 25 required for a Public School). From June 1878 to February 1879, it was a Half-Time School with Neila Creek School. The name was changed to Merton Provisional School from June 1879. It became Merton Public School in April 1900 and was known as that until August 1911. After that it was called Noonbinna East School and with reduced numbers it became a Provisional School again from July 1933 to December 1951. If anyone can assist with naming the staff and pupils in the photo, please email us at: cowra_fhg@hotmail.com, mentioning row and position in row.

For those interested in researching school history a good website is: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/history-of-nsw-government-schools/school-database-search>, plus there is a good reference book in our library (not for loan) titled 'Government Schools of New South Wales 1848 – 1998: 150 Years', labelled as EDU 10.

COWRA FAMILY HISTORY GROUP - OFFICE BEARERS

2023 – 2024 (from 4/11/2023)

President – John Poole

Vice President – Linda Willding

Secretary/ Minutes & Public Officer – Cheryl McAlister

Treasurer – Judie Eddington

Membership Secretary – Barbara Kerr

Library Committee – Benedetta (Bernie) Parasmo (head), John Poole, Jarrod Johnson-Smith, Terri Mooney

Photographic Collections Committee – John Poole, Linda Willding, Bernie Parasmo, Judie Eddington

Journal (Eagle Eye) Editor – Linda Woods

Newspaper Archivists – Terri Mooney, Paula Franklin

Web/ IT Co-ordinator – Vacant

Publications Committee – John Poole, Cheryl McAlister, Marina Bennett

Cemetery Co-ordinator – Cheryl McAlister

Sales Co-ordinator – Jarrod Johnson-Smith

Eagle Tales / Publicity – Cheryl McAlister

Newspaper Column – Cheryl McAlister

Research – Jarrod Johnson-Smith

Graphic Designer – Barbara Fisher

Management Committee – John Poole, Linda Willding, Judie Eddington, Cheryl McAlister, Jarrod Johnson-Smith, Terri Mooney, Benedetta (Bernie) Parasmo

Auditor – Balance Accountants & Advisers, Cowra

From the Editor

Welcome to our December Edition of the Eagle Eye Journal!

Inside this Volume are many men and women who have contributed years of time, experience, hard work and dedication in order to keep running these significant community groups that enable us to connect to our township, research our history, improve our skills and aid in the effort to connect people in a safe and friendly environment. Your recognition is wonderful to see and I applaud you all!

Thank you to all of these people and the rest of our Cowra Family History Group Family for helping to keep the flames alive for 40 years, ongoing. May there continue to be stellar volunteers for the next 40 years to continue the journey for CFHG so that it may be just as strong in 2063.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to our newly elected Committee for 2024 as well as farewelling those who have opted to step down from their volunteer roles. I hope that they remain in contact with us at CFHG and wish them well in their future ventures.

With Christmas time approaching, I wish everyone all the very best throughout the festive season and new year. Everyone celebrates Christmas differently, some in a positive way and others find it quite hard to experience. Even in our forefathers' times, Christmas had its challenges, some divine food and significant Celebrations, but it wasn't all chocolates and roses. Being there for others is so important as is having the ability to ask for assistance when you need it.

May the upcoming year bring great connections, good health and wonderful friendships!

I look forward to hearing about the next chapter of discoveries during 2024 and thank everyone who has sent us through some information to publish throughout the year. I encourage any of our member readers to consider adding your history stories to the future editions of the Eagle Eye Journal to help expand our understanding of how life was, who was living it and how they survived.

Time to grab a cuppa (or maybe an iced tea due to our warmer weather) and sit back and enjoy the pages ahead.

Until next time, record those memories as an untold story becomes a forgotten one.

Kind Regards, Linda Woods

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The Cowra Family History Group Inc thanks the Cowra Eisteddfod Committee for their assistance with the printing of this journal

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President's Report 2023 (John Poole)

Our 40th year has been an eventful one. Early in the year I was asked to give a talk to the Cowra Men's Probus Club on the activities undertaken by the Cowra Family History Group. My presentation was well received, and several questions were asked about our role in the community. This was followed up by a request to be part of their Mystery Bus Tour. We mounted a large display of Pardey Studio photographs which generated an enthusiastic response and Probus presented us with a donation cheque for \$100.

In July I was invited to attend the Cowra Lions Club changeover dinner. Here I also gave a talk about the work done by our Group that was also well received, plus I was presented with a cheque of \$500 for our Group.

Marina Bennett put together a magnificent display in August to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. This display was mounted in the Cowra Library for four weeks. Thank you, Marina, for your efforts in bringing it all together.

Our 40th year celebration luncheon held at the end of September was well attended by past and present members. Special guests, Father Allen Crowe and Doug Beer (our first President) gave excellent talks and past Cowra Mayor, Bill West was thanked for his support over many years. Special thanks must go to Marina Bennett for organising the event.

Our Treasurer, Barb Fisher, has decided not to stand for re-election. Thank you, Barb for doing an excellent job keeping track of our finances over many years. Thank you to the Management Committee members for their input over the last 2 months. Cheryl and Jarrod, thank you for the huge effort you both provide. To the members who come in each week and keep the doors of our library open, thank you.

As our active members know, our room is currently closed due to renovations needed to the Cowra Library building. This is almost finished so we are hoping to be open and back active again very soon.

Thank you all for making my job pleasant and enjoyable.



Cowra Family History Group members at our AGM held on 4th Nov. 2023

Membership Report 2023 (Barbara Kerr)

We currently have 56 financial members, made up as:

8 Life members

48 Single members

0 Family members

This is a decrease on the same time last year when we had 68 financial members. During this financial year we have been pleased to welcome 6 new members, but there remains 9 previous members who have not renewed their membership which was due on 1st July. The increase in price of family membership from 1st July 2022 has now resulted in us having no family memberships, with the remaining ones either not renewing at all or only one person renewing as a single member. Sadly, one member, Carol Eisenhower who had paid to renew, passed away suddenly in August.

Library Report 2023 (Marina Bennett)

The past year has been extremely quiet with 22 items being added to the Group's research resources – some of these books have been generously donated by local authors and members. A big thank you to those people for your donations. The Group has also purchased a small number of books that hopefully will be beneficial to members in their family research. Referring to the Library Borrowing Book, there has been a drop in the number of books being borrowed by members which is disappointing to see.

A full stocktake of our Group's library books has taken some time to complete owing to missing and displaced books. Each box of books on the shelves has now been checked with the Accessions Book list and the books listed in the "What's on the Shelf" (white folder) - disappointingly it has been found that the Group is missing numerous valuable research books. Members have been asked to check to see if they may have accidentally taken them home amongst their research papers, but unfortunately there have been no books returned.

Owing to the closure of the Cowra Library and lack of access to the building over the past month while renovations were being done, the updating after stocktaking has not been fully completed. The white folder, "What's on the Shelf" (catalogue of books) requires further updating, some book boxes require new labels and numbering, books for loan (2nd copies) on the For Loan shelf and missing books are to be deaccessioned. Once deaccessioned, the For Loan books (2nd copies) are to be offered to members for a small fee.

In the Local Section on the stand-alone shelf there are local books in blue box labelled "For Loan" – these books will remain for members to borrow.

A reminder to all members that "Not for Loan" books have a red dot and a red sticker. As a number of books have been misplaced because they are not returned to their correct box, for the benefit of all members it would be greatly appreciated when seeking a book to please remove the whole box and only one box at a time so that the book can be returned to the correct box and the box returned to its correct spot on the shelf when you have finished.

A big thank you to the Library Committee and to all other members who have assisted by volunteering their time in keeping the library open as much as possible throughout the year.

Cemetery Committee Report 2023 (Cheryl McAlister)

This time last year I said that I had hoped to report that the Updated Boorowa Cemetery book was finally finished. Alas, that was not the case then and it still isn't quite ready to go to the printer. With my mother's advancing age, I need to spend the majority of my time with her in Blayney and have found it difficult to find the time to finish this project. I have recently been to Boorowa and photographed burial markers in the Lawn Cemetery since my last visit around a year ago but have yet to add these names and details to the database. I have contacted the Royal Australian Historical Society as we received a grant towards the publication of this updated book and assured them that the project is still ongoing and that they will receive a copy as soon as it is published, which I now hope will be early next year.

While Paula has been out of action, I have printed all the Philpott's online funeral notices and supplied copies of the weekly Cowra Guardian Newspapers so the Committee members responsible for adding the death & funeral notices to our family files can continue to perform this important task.

Research Report 2023 (Jarrod Johnson-Smith)

Paid Research Inquiries

1. Bernadette Kelly

Benjamin Cannon (1847-1930) & Martha Jane Murphy (1859-1948).
Properties at Spring Creek & Morongla. House in Lachlan St, Cowra.

2. Kath Phillips

Herbert Harold Phillips (1890/1892-1939) & Mary Elizabeth Burns (1894-), married 1925. Children (1) Marie Lucy Phillips (1925-) married 1942 Joseph Henry Wakeling & ? (2) Stella.

3. Andrew Currey

William Flannery (1880-1939) & Ettie Elizabeth Thompson (1884-1966). Children Ernest, William, Hilton, Harry, Alice & Henry.

4. Leonie Simmons

James Brennan (1837-1916) & Rachel Cooley (1854-). Known children Ann (1869-1877) & Sarah Jane (1871-1933).

5. Frances Cairns

James Keys (1811-1861) & Mary Ann Hillyard (1826-1904). 7 children.

Research Report 2023 (Jarrod Johnson-Smith) Continued:

Paid Research Inquiries

Year	Number
2015-2016	13
2016-2017	11
2017-2018	9
2018-2019	11
2019-2020	7
2020-2021	13
2021-2022	10
2022-2023	5

Research Email Inquiries

Year	Number
2015-2016	30
2016-2017	29
2017-2018	42
2018-2019	45
2019-2020	18
2020-2021	36
2021-2022	23
2022-2023	24



Management Committee members for 2023- 2024 - Jarrod Johnson-Smith, Bernie Parasmo, Cheryl McAlister, John Poole, Terri Mooney, Linda Willding & Judie Eddington (4th November 2023)

History of Cowra Family History Group.

Compiled by Marina Bennett



The Cowra Family History Group was established in early 1983, after three friends Kerry Smith, Vicki Williamson and Marina Bennett were discussing their interest in family history over a cup of tea at Vicki's home in Vaux Street, Cowra. From this discussion two other ladies, Lorna Spackman and the late Joan Lynch were approached to see if they were interested in starting a Group. An advertisement, "Are You Interested in Tracing your Family Tree?" was published in The Cowra Guardian on the 21st April, 1983.

The response from the advertisement was favourable with many interested people attending the informal meeting on Wednesday 27th April at Kerry Smith's home at 68 Liverpool Street. With lots of discussions taking place a meeting was set for Wednesday 8th June 1983 for 8 pm to be held at Kerry's home. The following people attended this meeting - Kerry Smith, Vicki Williamson, Marina Bennett, Joan Lynch, Es Davis, Doug Beer, David McAllister, John Brien, Jean Brien, Beth Phillips, Irene Dwight, Joyce Wall, Roslyn Ryan and Robert Dyer, apologies were received from Lorna Spackman, Win Beer, Elaine Dykes, Cedric Russell and Marie Brien.

Vicki Williamson chaired the meeting, and an Election of Office Bearers took place with Doug Beer being elected as President, Kerry Smith as Secretary and Joan Lynch as Assistant Secretary /Treasurer. It was carried that all future meetings would be held in the Council Meeting Room, known as the Chapel Room in Waugoola House, in Darling Street. A motion was carried that a membership fee of \$2.00 and a \$0.50 cents fee per person attending meetings.

In order to become a Society, the Group required a Constitution; letters were sent to numerous other established Family History Groups seeking a copy of their constitution as a guide for our group, ensuring the information required in the Constitution was favourable for our group. This did take some time with a draft being put together and made available at the 1988 Annual General Meeting. In December 1988 the Cowra Family History Group was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission and became the Cowra Family History Group Incorporated.

Also being looked at was an emblem and a name for the newsletter that was going to be printed monthly. Jean Brien suggested the name "The Eagle Eye" and the emblem would be a tree and eagle sitting on a rock. Jean's suggestion was unanimously accepted. The Eagle on a Rock, situated in one of Cowra's parks was chosen as the Group's emblem. Permission was sought from the Council to use this seal on our newsletter head.

A Seminar was the Group's first fund raiser. This was held on Saturday 20th August 1983 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Cowra Primary School, costing \$5 to attend. Guest speaker Mr. Neil Gow was a lecturer for Adult Education at Young. This first Seminar was very well attended by locals and out of town visitors. Other guest speakers the group has had over the years for Seminars and workshops have been Father Allen Crowe from Young, members from the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, Alan Phillips from Gould Books, South Australia, Janet Reakes, Nick Vine Hall, Christine Yeates from NSW State Archives, Heather Garnsey, Martin Killion from the Society of Australian Genealogists, Transcription Agents, Marilyn Rowan, Laurie Turtle, and Joy Murrin. These are only a few of the guest speakers that we have had to share their knowledge of where to look, helping to break through a brick wall. Besides these visiting guest speakers, the group has had many local speakers, Jim Kelton the author of "Wood's Flat Gold", Lawrence Ryan author of "Lines of The Lachlan", Lorna Spackman on her Convicts Ancestors and many others.

The Gem Club and the Historical Society were using old classrooms that were no longer in use opposite the Cowra Public School for their meeting rooms. It was in October 1983 when the Historical Society allowed the Cowra Family History Group temporary use of one of the rooms that they weren't using. This room was not big enough to hold meetings, but it was big enough to use as a research room and for the Group to have a cupboard which was installed by Doug Beer to accommodate research books for our growing library. The setting up of the library was done by Roslyn Spackman who is the daughter of past president Lorna Spackman. Roslyn was studying through Wagga Wagga College (now part of Charles Stuart University) to be a Librarian.

Moving on, the Group's Library moved from the temporary premises of the Historical Society, into the Gem Club Room, which also became the meeting room from the 13th June 1984 - the last meeting that was held in the Chapel Room (Meeting Room) in the Waugoola Shire building was on the 7th May 1984. Moving the library into the Gem Club room allowed the Group more room for extra cupboards and storage for our growing resources. This also allowed the group to be able to open their library to the public on certain days and times, with members being rostered to do Library Duty.

August 1987 saw the Family History Group move upstairs into the Town Library in the old Cowra Civic Centre. This new room provided more space as the Group had now acquired a substantial research collection including books, microfiche, microfiche readers and microfilms was voted very satisfactory and still operated by Family History member a roster system. The next library move took place when the Civic Centre building was refurbished in 1999 to house all the Cowra Shire administration in one building and to renovate Waugoola House (formally used by the Waugoola Shire Council) to house the Regional Library and a new Regional Art Gallery.

During this renovation process the Family History Group along with the Town Library moved into the back of Target (now occupied by Silly Solly's) and the Family History meetings were again being held in the Chapel Room in the Waugoola Shire building. When renovations were being done to Waugoola House the Group used Room No 8 at the Railway Station as a meeting and storage room whilst the refurbishments were taking place. The renovations to Waugoola House provided the Cowra Family History Group a room of their own with access to the Town Library. This was officially opened November 8th 2000 by the Hon. Sandra Nori MP, Minister for Small Business and Minister for Tourism.

On Friday 6th March 1987 saw the first Cowra Family History Group's newspaper article "The Eagle Eye on Family History" published in The Cowra Guardian. "The Eagle Eye on Family History" article continued to be published on a monthly basis until December 1990.

2006 saw the recommencement of a monthly newsletter "The Eagle Tales" to all financial members and a column also printed in the Cowra Guardian on a monthly basis, sponsored by Philpotts Funeral Directors of Cowra.

In February 1988, the Cowra Family History Group were able to procure the latest aid to research with the purchase of a microfilm reader from their Bicentennial Community grant. A presentation took place at the February meeting with Chairman Martin Morris and Secretary Beth Bryant of the Cowra Bicentennial Committee. In 1988 the Cowra Family History Group became the Cowra Family History Group Inc. under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984, having submitted their own Constitution.

Fund raising over time has included various activities, being seminars, lamington, donut and pie drives, various stalls at the Festivals, Australia Day, the Cowra Show, Quiz nights, raffles, 100 clubs, most importantly in the latter years from the sale of the Group's own publications. In May 1988 the Cowra Family History Group received a Grant which enabled the printing of their first publication being the Cowra Monumental Inscriptions, first edition which was launched October 1988.

November 1988 saw Cowra Family History members Lorna Spackman and Helen Stendell attend the First International Congress on Family History which was held in Sydney. The Congress was attended by many of the world's top Genealogists.

A major project for the Group was the Pardey Collection No. 2. The beginning of The Pardey Collection was reported in the Group's newspaper column "Eagle Eye on Family History" on Friday, August 4th 1989 which read as follows: "We would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to Don Collins for permitting us to copy the Index Books of Photographs taken by George Pardey, covering the years approximately 1940 – 1970. The majority of these negatives have been well preserved and prints can be obtained from Don at Pardey's Studio".

The Pardey Photographic Collection No. 2 is very extensive and a most important part of the Cowra Family History Group. In the 1990s Don Collin's made available some negatives to the Cowra Family History Group to develop. With the aid of a three- year grant the Group was able to develop 27,000 images. The images have been identified back to the Index Books. Pardey Collection No.1 is a series of negatives that George Pardey presented to the Cowra Shire Council in perpetuity for the people of Cowra.

With the connection of the internet to our library the group has access to many genealogical research sites, along with being able to access many public records worldwide. In 2007 the group attained access to World Deluxe subscription with Ancestry.com and later came Find My Past.

In 2006 the Cowra Family History Group won a ballot to host the NSW and ACT State Conference which was a great success. Another successful Conference was in 2017 when the Cowra Family History Group in conjunction with the Cowra & District Historical Society hosted the Royal Australian Historical Society Conference which took place over two days.

Since the first publication in 1988 the Group has published numerous other publications covering the Cowra, Blayney, Carcoar and Boorowa districts. These publications cover Cemetery Transcriptions, Birth, Death and Marriage records, tragedies that occurred in the Cowra area and much more.

2020 saw another publication by the group this being St John's Church of England Cowra Baptism. Burial and Marriage records held by the Church including outlying areas. Unfortunately, the book launch that was planned had to be cancelled owing to the Covid Pandemic. All the Group's publications have been good sellers.

Over the forty years since the Group was established our research resources has grown to over 5000 items including numerous microfiches, microfilm, CD's and thousands of books that have been well used by all members over this period of time. We have eight Life Members, with now only three of these residing locally.

The Cowra Family History Group's library has been manned on a voluntary basis by a small number of local members since the Group's establishment and it is with thanks that we acknowledge those members for their time and commitment. We would welcome more local members to help with the volunteering in our Library. Unfortunately, over time some of our members have passed on and are no longer with us to share this special occasion.

Past Presidents

Doug Beer	1983 - 1984
Jeannine Bryant	1984 - 1986
Lorna Spackman	1986 - 1988
Laurel Williams	1988 - 1990
Madeline Forgie	1990 - 1992
Olwyn Barnes	1992 - 1993
Madeline Forgie	1993 - 1995
Helen Stendell	1995 - 1997
Jarrold Johnson- Smith	1997 - 1998
Olwyn Barnes	1998 - 2000
Marie Singho	2000 - 2002
Ruth Green	2002 - 2003
Cheryl Ianson	2003 - 2006
Margaret Stent	2006 - 2009
Lindsay Swadling	2009 - 2012
Brian Wright	2012 - 2013
Laurel Williams	2013 - Feb 2014
Marina Bennett (Acting)	Feb - Nov 2014
Lindsay Swadling	2014 - 2016
John Poole	2016 – Current

Life Members

Olwyn Barnes	Terri Mooney
Marina Bennett	Pauline Ramage
Joan Ford (deceased)	Kerry Smith
Phillip Fryer	Laurel Williams
Cheryl Ianson	

40th Anniversary Function

A delightful celebration of our 40 years of operation was held at Cowra Bowling & Recreation Club on Saturday 30th September. It was pleasing to have in attendance some of the founding members from 1983, being Marina Bennett, Lorna Spackman and 1st President, Doug Beer, with these 3 having the honour of cutting the anniversary cake, as well as previous members who have moved away from Cowra, including Cheryl Ianson, Robyn Churchland, Jeannine Bryant and Joy Richens. They were joined by more recent and present members. Councillor Bill West offered his congratulations on reaching this milestone and mentioned the great work done by the Cowra Family History Group over the years and continuing today. Guest speaker, Father Allen Crowe of Young, gave an interesting account of his many years of research into his recently published book *"Fairview", Murringo (Marengo) Flats NSW: The History of the Ancestral Land of the Crowe Family*. Father Allen had sage advice for family historians, such as 'patience is essential'; "don't leave it too late to speak to your older relatives"; "use Trove to find interesting stories about ancestors" and "purchase full birth, marriage and death certificates to verify details, instead of relying on Ancestry.com or BDM online records, as these sources can be incorrect or lack sufficient detail to prove relationships". A big thank you to Marina Bennett for her excellent organisation of our 40th anniversary event.



Our 40th Anniversary Cake

**Photos from our 40th Anniversary Celebration
held on 30th September 2023**

Photos by Marina Bennett & Cheryl McAlister



Linda Willding & Guest Speaker, Father Allen Crowe



Cutting the Anniversary cake – Doug Beer, Marina Bennett & Lorna Spackman



Ann Vicary & Judie Eddington



Lorna & Arnold Spackman



Madeleine Rankin, Cheryl Ianson and Kirrarne Ianson



2 life members, Cheryl Ianson & Marina Bennett



Shirley Moody & Shirley Flint



Glenn & Linda Woods



Mary Gee, Trish Simpson, Linda Wildding, Cheryl McAlister & Bill Ticehurst



Stan Richens, Robyn Churchland & Joy Richens

NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards 2023

(Photos by Cheryl McAlister)

Cowra Family History Group was honoured to be nominated for a Volunteer Team award in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards this year. Eight individual members were also recognised for their many years of voluntary service to the Cowra Family History Group. All received a well-deserved nominee certificate from The Centre for Volunteering. They were Marina Bennett, Barbara Fisher, Phillip Fryer, Jarrod Johnson-Smith, Cheryl McAlister, Terri Mooney, John Poole and Linda Willding. Congratulations to all these worthy people. Marina, Phillip and Terri are life members of our Group. The Central West Regional Awards Ceremony was held at the Orange Ex-Services Club on 21st September and attended by Cheryl and Linda. Former Cowra Mayor, Councillor Bill West presented certificates to those attending our 40th Anniversary function held the following week. Thank you to these members who have played a vital role in the running of our Group on a voluntary basis over many years and for many more to come, we hope!



The Volunteer Team award was presented by Robert Taylor, Mayor of Bathurst and accepted by Cheryl McAlister & Linda Willding at the Orange Award Ceremony



Jarrold Johnson-Smith & Terri Mooney received their award certificates from Vice President Linda Willding.



John Poole presented Barbara Fisher with her award certificate



Phillip Fryer, a valued Volunteer for Cowra Family History Group over many years with his 2023 Volunteer of the Year nominee certificate



Linda Willding, Marina Bennett, John Poole, Cr Bill West & Cheryl McAlister with Volunteer of the Year certificates at the 40th Anniversary function

CFHG August 2023 Library Display



The August display in Cowra Library put together by Marina Bennett to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War

Our ANZAC Display 2023 in Cowra Library



CWA COWRA BRANCH

CWA Cowra Branch History 1923 – 2023

by Linda Willding

On 7th November 1923 Mrs Stephen (Florence) Laver, a foundation member of the CWA of NSW and State Vice President, who started the very first Branch at Crookwell, chaired a meeting in Cowra which resulted in the formation of the Cowra Branch with Mrs J.H. Fagan as President. It first belonged to the Central Western Group, transferring to South West Group in 1931.

The Branch commenced with a membership of 26, increasing to 120 in the first year. Meetings were held in various places, above Collins Show Store, in Reid Smiths, The Cowra Hospital and the School of Arts. After much local fund-raising, land was purchased at 45 Macquarie Street in 1929 for about 335 pounds for the building of Rest Rooms and a Baby Health clinic. The building cost about 1600 pounds and was opened on 2nd September 1930 by Lady Gowrie, State patron of CWA of NSW.

During the 1938-45 War members visited the Cowra Military Camp on a regular basis doing sewing repairs and teaching handicrafts. Members made the repaired camouflage nets and made sheepskin vests. In 1959 handicraft classes were started at the hospital, later being extended to Erambie mission.

Cowra branch had an active Younger Set and in the 1930's Junior Farmers grew vegetables in the back garden of the block. The Girl Guides had the use of the Rooms and assisted the CWA at many functions. In about 1946 the Cowra branch members, Head office and the Girl Guides Association worked out a scheme enabling the Guides to build their hall at the rear of the CWA Building. In 1964 Cowra Apex built a new Baby Health Centre in Vaux Street with some assistance from CWA. Support for the foundation in Cowra of an evening Branch was given for those unable to attend daytime meetings with special assistance from Mrs Rowena Casey.

When the cost of upkeep of the Rooms became too difficult an auction was held by State Office in 2006 and the Branch negotiated for interest on \$80,000 to be available for a Cowra CWA Branch Medical Education Grant for students in the South West Group area, giving back something to the community who had helped with raising the money for the building. Assistance has now been given to students of medicine, nursing, midwifery, paramedicine, speech, pathology, dentistry, nutrition and others.

Catering has often been the means of raising money and has included visiting groups and local Department of Primary industry. Grants have been made available to local schools most years and Branch members have taken part in Group activities including Agriculture and Environment, Culture, Handicraft, Land Cooking, International and many have held office in Group and State. The Branch now mostly meets in the Cowra Council Ngulaway Room next to the Library

COWRA CWA 100 Year Birthday Celebration

(held 4th November 2023)



Mrs Norma Power - Cowra CWA Branch President

Mrs Joy Beames - State President CWA of NSW

Miss Florence Laver - Granddaughter of Mrs Florence Laver and Cowra CWA branch member.

Photo supplied by Linda Willding

Cowra Probus Mystery Bus Tour Visit

30th March 2023



Cowra Family History Group members with the display about our Pardey Photographic Collection ready to greet the Probus Club members – Linda Willding, John Poole, Jarrod Johnson-Smith, Barbara Fisher, Cheryl McAlister & Gwen Bush



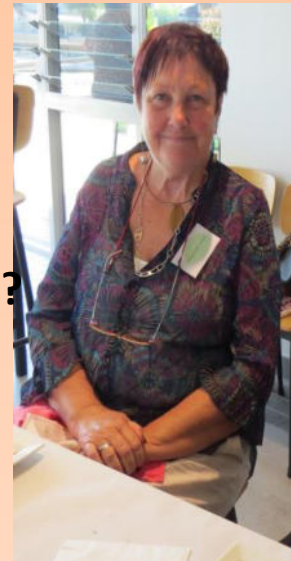
Cowra Probus members studying items in our Pardey display

“The Corner Store”

**Do you have memories of your
local store?**

Is it still there, or in another guise?

My name is Judie Eddington
judieeddington@gmail.com



I am compiling anecdotes of memories of corner stores and butchers in Cowra. I will photograph these locations as they now look, and hope to find photographs of, as they were.

If you or family members can help, would you kindly send to the email above.

many thanks Jude

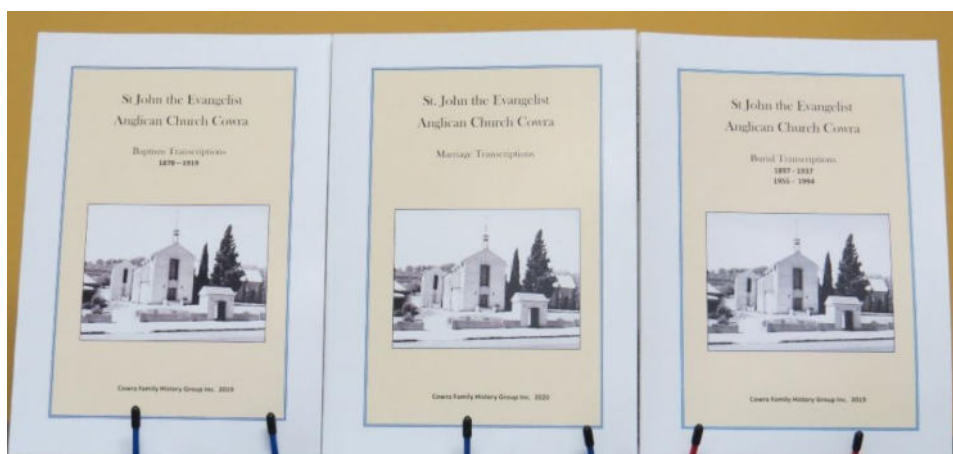
Cowra Family History Group Publications – Price List 2023

Books

Title

Cowra Lawn Cemetery, Columbarium, Memorial Trees	\$30.00
Cowra Military Training Camp	\$25.00
Cowra Unmarked Burials to 1940	\$35.00
Index to the Lachlan Leader Newspaper 1937 – 1943	\$15.00
Lives and Times of Morongla	\$35.00
Monumental Inscriptions of Cowra Cemetery 2018	\$45.00
St John's Baptism Transcriptions	\$40.00
St John's Marriage Transcriptions	\$50.00
St John's Burial Transcriptions	\$40.00
St John's Set of all 3 Books	\$120.00
They Shaped a Town Called Cowra Volume 1	\$35.00
They Shaped a Town Called Cowra Volume 2	\$35.00
Through the Lens	\$20.00
Tragedies in the Cowra Shire	\$30.00
Woodstock Cemetery	\$25.00

Note – Postage is extra for books (\$15 for most). Email CFHG before payment for postage price of an order for 2 or more books, as often 2 books fit in the one post pack.



The 3 St John's Anglican Church Cowra Transcription books

Cowra Family History Group Publications – Price List 2023 (continued)

CD's (Postage is included in CD price)

Carcoar Burials	\$20.00
Cowra Shire Miscellaneous Births Registered at Carcoar 1845-1879	\$20.00
Roll Call at Morongla Cemetery	\$20.00
Frogmore & Hovell's Creek Burials	\$20.00

NON-CFHG Publications (all are Books)

Waugoola to Woodstock, Our Town Our People	\$50.00
by Amanda Jane Mackevicius	
Focus on Survival: A Young Family's Struggle to Survive WW2	\$35.00
by Julie Bayl	
Nyrang Creek Revisited: A Glimpse at the Past	\$20.00
by Miriam Loomes	
Midwives and Rabbit Snatchers	\$15.00
by Mavis Gaff-Smith	

Don't forget \$15 extra if postage is required for books!

Below - John with our new Tear Drop Banner



