

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.



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Library Hours:
Thurs: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Sat: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Newsletter

Number 242

WANTED FOR YOUR JOURNAL—see page 7

The theme for our March Journal 249 is:
Writer's Choice

Deadline for articles: **Saturday 25 January 2025**

December 2024



General Meetings

There are no meetings in December or January

Our next meeting will be held in February

Our guest speaker will be Dr Jude Conway

More information will follow in your February newsletter

Mel Woodford (President)

Overview of November meeting

Our guest speaker, Associate Professor Nancy Cushing, gave us a wonderful insight into the Australian Horse at War at our November meeting where we had 18 in the rooms and six on Zoom.

This is a brief overview of Nancy's presentation, however to listen to the full talk, you can click [here](#).

Nancy is an Environmental Historian at the University of Newcastle and is currently the Coral Thomas Fellow at the State Library of NSW where she is working on a project on animals in Sydney. At the same time, she is writing a book named A New History of Australia in 15 Animals. One of the animals is the horse, and although Nancy's presentation occurred on Melbourne Cup Day, she no way endorses that event or the racing industry. Nancy's relationship with horses is actually rather distant personally, but is through the written word, images and artifacts.

Nancy is trying to shift the perspective of horses where they're

(Continued from page 1)

usually just the backdrop or a tool to achieve something that humans want to happen, to them being subjects at the centre of their own lives. She particularly tries to gain a sense of how they experience the worlds they inhabit and how they exercise agency, so how they are able to take actions that shape what are now called more than human histories. That means histories that acknowledge that humans are just one set of actors who affect and are affected by other living and non-living things that make up our shared world. It's all about decentring the human and giving other animals a chance to be recognised in history.

Nancy's focus today is Australian horses of the First World War. The horse in Australia is a First Fleeter introduced by the British from South Africa as they began their hostile occupation of Australia. Like convicts they were unwilling immigrants that were forced onto ships for voyages of four to six months with restricted water and dry fodder, buffeted by high winds and rough seas. Many died from stress, poor feed, disease and injury. For the horses who survived the journey, living in Australia meant a return to familiar types of work: carrying riders, pulling carriages or wagons and later trams; operating winding gears here in the Newcastle coal mines; powering agricultural equipment on farms; pulling ploughs; helping to move other animals; and providing entertainment in the form of horse racing. Horses didn't do this willingly.

Nancy went on to describe how horses live in the wild and the various ways that humans have 'de-horsed' the horse through use of bridles, saddles and many other things. Humans came to rely on needing their horses, as being without their horses limited their opportunities: because of the energy the horses could supply for work tasks; because of their quality of speed and strength; and that their beauty and size enhanced the status of humans.

Another role of horses in Australia was they assisted with conflicts. In Australia this first began with the displacement of Aboriginal people. When Aboriginal people first encountered horses, they were intimidated by what would have been the largest land animal they had ever seen. Many of these encounters were with horses carrying intruders on their exploratory missions, many carrying firearms and supplies. Horses helped to open access to Aboriginal country making it available for the sheep and cattle which would compete with the humans and other locals for food and water and, of course, Aboriginal people did not allow this to happen without resistance. The qualities of horses contributed to giving the colonists the upper hand. Nancy gave numerous instances of the first examples of war in Australia that involved horses.

Moving on to foreign wars, Australian horses were shipped overseas for use by British troops in other colonies. As Australian horses adapted to Australian conditions, they gained a reputation for hardiness, sure-footedness, stamina and a calm demeanour. These qualities, paired with their relative cheapness, made horses from Australia attractive for military use overseas. In India they were given the generic name of 'walers' which indicated they came from NSW and distinguished them from horses from Britain, South Africa or elsewhere. Horses were being imported from lots of places into India. Because horses didn't live very long there, the term 'walers' was used for all Australian horses no matter which colony they came from. The voyages they undertook to get to India were arduous beginning by being hoisted onto ships and ending with precarious arrangements of landing them in small boats (see photo in next column). 'Walers' were not considered to be prestigious

horses for parades for commanders but were well-suited for use in combat as well as being readily replaced: more could always be shipped in. Their short lives led to ongoing demand with some 330,000 being dispatched to India between the 1860s and the 1930s. When Australian colonists volunteered for overseas, service horses were conscripted to join them. But the horses didn't volunteer, they were just told they were going. Nancy gave numerous examples of Australian horses being involved in war prior to the First World War.



The First World War, from the perspective of the Australian horse, was the largest single war they participated in. More than 130,000 Australian horses served. Despite having provided horses for the British military for almost a century, when Australia's 2.5 million horses were surveyed in 1913, it is estimated that only about 6% met Army standards. This proportion was then purchased during the war by travelling horse buying boards on behalf of the Australian Army with the largest number coming from NSW. By May of 1917, 43,000 draft and riding horses had been supplied, purchased for about £20/head. Although only a small percentage of Australian horses were suitable for use in the First World War, Australians had excellent horse management. They were extremely good at looking after their horses.

In November 1914, 12,000 horses travelled on the first convoy of 48 Australian and New Zealand troop ships that departed from Albany in WA. After a voyage of some two months via the Suez Canal to the Mena Camp outside Cairo. The horses were put on and off ships via slings which was very traumatic for them. This was a very different environment.



Once unloaded at the Mena Camp, the horses were allowed to slowly recover from the voyage, starting with fresh food and water and gentle walks working up to short rides before being introduced

(Continued on page 3)

to functioning as a unit in a brigade. While the horses acclimatised, the men were being trained in how to look after them well with properly adjusted saddlery and regular opportunities for rest. Another 18,000 horses made the journey to Egypt prior to 1916 when a lack of shipping capacity brought their arrivals to a halt. The 330,000 mentioned earlier includes the horses sent to the First World War.

The first major campaign of the war for Australians was at the Gallipoli Peninsula. Imagine how difficult it would be to get horses up the steep slopes there! It was soon realised horses would not be of assistance in the hilly terrain and they were returned to Egypt. The Light Horsemen who served there, served on foot and it was mules under the direction of Indian troops and donkeys who lived there, who were pressed into providing the transport services. John Simpson Kirkpatrick with a donkey aided the troops.

When Australians were deployed to Northern Europe in 1916, 11,000 equines were sent with them. There they encountered all manner of new and frightening things in the villages of northern France. Many Australian horses had their first exposure to walking on cobblestones. They had to pull vehicles laden with artillery supplies and water on the Western Front. They also drew ambulances and carried the wounded to dressing stations. Horses slogged their way through the mud and snow of the Somme. These conditions made their tasks of moving people and equipment difficult, often sinking up to their stomachs in clinging mud so thick it had to be scraped off them. Putting into place an idea suggested by an Australian warrant officer, in some instances wheeled vehicles were exchanged for heavy wooden sledges that enabled the wounded and equipment to be drawn over the surface of the mud, although the horses' hooves still sunk into it. Thousands of horses were killed or wounded by shells and bombs dropped from airplanes requiring a continuous flow of remounts. The Australian Veterinary Corps, started in 1909, did its best to look after sick and injured horses that could be saved, as well as training others in veterinary first aid and animal care. Just as shell shock amongst humans was increasingly recognised during this war, it was recognised that horses suffered from shock and overstrain. For those with physical injuries there was an Australian veterinary hospital in Calais.

Other horses served with Australian troops in the Middle Eastern theatre. In the very dry conditions there, the feeding and watering of the horses was challenging and Nancy gave an overview of how this happened. Water was drawn from underground and then pumped into wells however this water was often brackish. The food was rationed to them in chaff bags. Horses usually require watering twice a day however they were limited to once a day, sometimes however going for up to 52 hours without water. Some died from exhaustion and more became so ill they had to be evacuated and nursed back to health. So, while troops might have taken on such conditions out of patriotism or personal values and an understanding that success could shorten the period during which they had to serve, horses had no conception as to why they were made to live in this way.

By the end of the war in November 1918, some 136,000 Australian horses had joined the war effort. About two-thirds of those sent to Europe and the Middle East were killed in action or died of injuries,

disease or overwork. In 1919 the Army faced the challenge of what to do with the remaining horses and mules. Despite the service provided by the horses, they were viewed as war materiel rather than personnel and while human veterans were returned home, horses were not. Issues cited were: costs (which were acceptable on the outward journey but not for return); lack of shipping capacity; and quarantine restrictions. However other horses and livestock were still being admitted to Australia so it was clearly a choice not to repatriate the horses who had made such a contribution to the war effort. Instead, the policy was to sell them at auction. Those who survived the war in reasonable condition were shipped to Britain to be sold and others were auctioned locally in Belgium and France. Australian soldiers were banned from buying them as were former enemies. Officers who asked to buy their horses were reminded that they would not be permitted to land them in Australia so they could buy them but they wouldn't be able to take them home. Those in too poor a state to continue to labour went to horse butchers. Those deemed too old or unfit were euthanised. There's no evidence to support the belief that servicemen shot their horses rather than leave them behind.

One horse was repatriated to Australia and that was Sandy, a bay gelding with a star on his forehead. Sandy had become the favourite horse of AIF Commander Major General Sir William Bridges who was then killed at Gallipoli. Bridges was buried in Alexandria, however within a few months was the only person to be returned to Australia (until the unknown soldier was exhumed and returned in 1993). Sandy went to other areas during the war and in November 1918 it was decided to return Sandy to Australia. To learn more about Sandy's life before and after the war and how he has been immortalised, be sure to listen to the full recording by clicking on the link at the beginning of this overview.



Nancy also told us of a book that has some wonderful photos of horses in the war - Charles Bean's *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918* Volume 12.

This was an enthralling presentation and I would highly recommend you listen to it. Thank you so much Nancy for bringing the Australian war horse to life for us and explaining many things that I'm sure most of us had no idea about.

Lea Harris (with assistance from Assoc Prof Nancy Cushing)

Photos are from Nancy's presentation.

Events and Outings

Future dates

1 December—Christmas Fair—Christmas Once Upon a Time (see page 5)

6 December—Christmas lunch at Poppy's Verandah Café, Gateshead (see below)

19 December—Library closes for Christmas/New Year break

12 January—10.00 am—Spring cleaning (see below)

16 January—Library reopens for the 2025 year

25 January—Articles due for Journal 249 (see page 7)

4 February—Monthly meeting—Dr Jude Conway

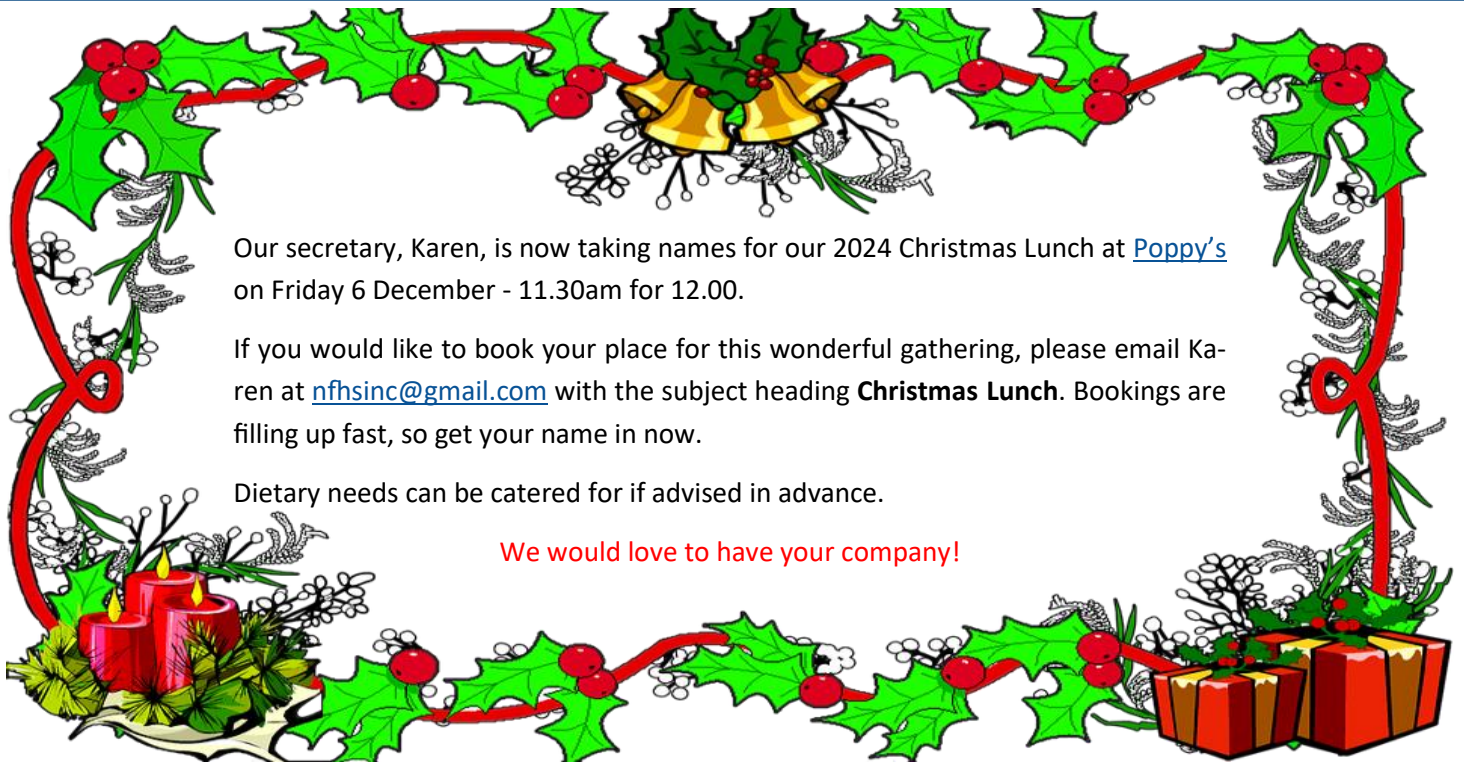
2 March—Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley Seminar

4 March—Monthly meeting

1 April—Monthly meeting

Every Monday (except public holidays) from 10.30 am—Coffee and Chat, Wests, Hobart Road, New Lambton. Anyone is welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to have an informal catch-up with other members. Some great discussions occur about any number of family history topics.

Christmas Lunch



Our secretary, Karen, is now taking names for our 2024 Christmas Lunch at [Poppy's](#) on Friday 6 December - 11.30am for 12.00.

If you would like to book your place for this wonderful gathering, please email Karen at nfhsinc@gmail.com with the subject heading **Christmas Lunch**. Bookings are filling up fast, so get your name in now.

Dietary needs can be catered for if advised in advance.

We would love to have your company!

See the Poppy's Christmas lunch menu attached to the newsletter email

Many hands make light work!!!

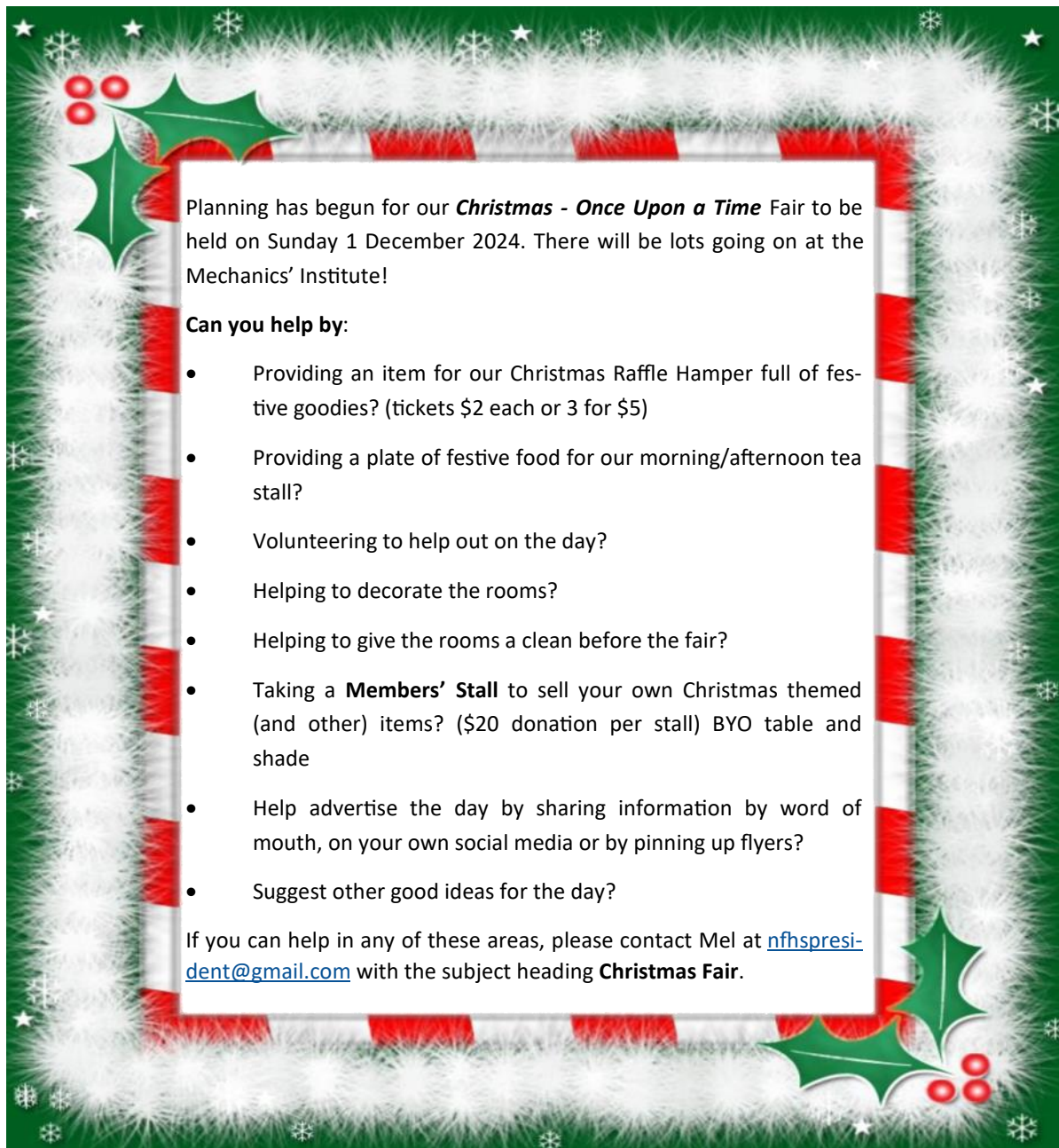
SPRING CLEAN

Sunday 12 January 2025—from 10.00 am

Before we reopen the Society rooms, we want to complete a spring clean. If you can spare an hour or two, please come along and help

If you can assist, please send an email to the Secretary on nfhsinc@gmail.com with "Spring Cleaning Day" in the subject line

Christmas Fair



Planning has begun for our **Christmas - Once Upon a Time** Fair to be held on Sunday 1 December 2024. There will be lots going on at the Mechanics' Institute!

Can you help by:

- Providing an item for our Christmas Raffle Hamper full of festive goodies? (tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5)
- Providing a plate of festive food for our morning/afternoon tea stall?
- Volunteering to help out on the day?
- Helping to decorate the rooms?
- Helping to give the rooms a clean before the fair?
- Taking a **Members' Stall** to sell your own Christmas themed (and other) items? (\$20 donation per stall) BYO table and shade
- Help advertise the day by sharing information by word of mouth, on your own social media or by pinning up flyers?
- Suggest other good ideas for the day?

If you can help in any of these areas, please contact Mel at nfhspresident@gmail.com with the subject heading **Christmas Fair**.

Constitutional Matters

Some areas of our current NFHS Constitution have been identified as needing to be updated prior to our 2025 AGM in order for the Society to continue functioning at its best.

You will shortly receive an email detailing proposed amendments to our 2021 Constitution with clear explanations as to why these amendments are being proposed. You will also receive a draft copy of the Constitution with proposed amendments clearly marked for your perusal and comment.

A date will be set for a Special General Meeting early in 2025.

Our Constitution is our governing document, so it is most important that as many members as possible attend the Special General Meeting, in person or via Zoom, in order to vote on the proposed changes.

Mel Woodford (President)

Sandgate Update—New Resource

Jane and Marg are delighted to let you know that the searchable Sandgate spreadsheet that they've been working on since 2017 is being loaded onto the computer in the reception area by the Librarian, very soon. Why should you look here instead of or as well as the cemetery's deceased search? Because in most cases we've added references you can go to for more information. Jane started it by scouring the Australian Dictionary of Biography looking for Sandgate burials and since then we have added every person on the Sandgate Tours and in any other sources we found that mentioned Sandgate burials. There are over 500 there, which is small compared to the number in the Cemetery, but who knows, your person might be there. Here's a sample.

Marg Ashford (Sandgate Tours Coordinator)

Name		Birth	Death	Area	Section	Lot	Category 1	Category 2	Reference/s
Allan	David Tait	1817	1891	Presbyterian	25 SE	65	Sailors and the sea	Harbour master; dredge named for him	Tour 2016 booklet
Armstrong	John William	c 1887	1928		SW 23	43	WWI		Gary Mitchell Project
Arnott	Isabella		1888	Wesleyan Methodist	ANE	11	Commerce	mother of William Arnott	ADB - entry of her son William Arnott
Ash	Alma						Wife of William Faulds Jr		Tour 2018 booklet (Faulds)
Ash	Alma Ann	1855		Congregational	1ANW	3	wife of John Ash, dtr of Lewis Wood and Elizabeth nee Jones		Tour 2019 booklet
Ash	John Samuel Ley	1850		Congregational	1ANW	3	Painter and plumber, King Street Newcastle		Tour 2019 booklet
Ayerst	Sydney						CWG headstone		Source: Jane Ison
Baker	Mary Ann ('Milce')			Congregational	2CN	31	nee Davies		Tour 2019 booklet
Balks	Dorothy		1939	Anglican 2	148	59	Outlived three husbands		People of Newcastle & the Hunter Vol I
Barkel	William		1920	Anglican 1	13	138	Arts	music	Journal 216 (p.20)

Publications

Publications Group meets twice a year—
dates advised as they are decided

At our last Publications meeting for 2024 we received encouraging reports from those members involved in a publication for the Society. If you did not send in a report, please send it ready for our next meeting that will be held at the rooms at 10.00 am on 21 March 2025. If you have any ideas for a publication or would like to learn more about becoming involved, please come along. Contact Jane on nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com for further information.

We publish all our publications as books and/or USBs or as USB only when it is impossible to publish them in a hard copy version due to the size of the publication. We have a selection of old stock of our publications published on CD for \$10 each. Ask at our reception desk or contact Jane on the Publications email. Publications can be posted if necessary and information about postage rates is on our website. There is a display copy of every publication that may be viewed as well as an information sheet on each publication in the folder in the display shelves in front of the reception desk. These sheets are updated when there is a change in the availability of the publications.

The NFHS IT and Publications Officers are slowly preparing downloads of our publications to be put on the website by our Webmaster. These are very popular. We continue to work on modifying our older publications with links so they are able to be downloaded and used most effectively as they remain useful and relevant to family history.

These publications are now available to view and download from our online shop:

- *Behind the Sandstone*
- *Early Newcastle*
- *Geographic Encyclopedia of NSW*
- *Old Wallsend Cemetery*
- *St Andrew's Church of England Burial Ground (Mayfield)*
- *St Luke's Anglican Church, Wallsend*
- *They Sent Me North (Revised Edition)*
- *They Served Their Country Parts I and II*

These publications will be available soon:

- *People of Newcastle Volumes 1, 2 and 3 (combined)*
- *Remembrance*
- *19th Century Coal Mining Deaths*

If anyone is interested in purchasing a downloadable version of any publication not yet available, please email Jane on nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com who will prioritise that title.

For Volunteer Librarians: Remember that it is OK to contact Jane if you are at all doubtful about selling publications at the reception desk or if you cannot find a particular publication. Her number is in the Publications sales book that is on the reception desk together with a heap of useful information.

Thank you to everyone for your work.

Jane Ison (Publications Coordinator)

Journal and Newsletter

Update from the Editor

Journal 248 is ready! It's the second episode in what turned into a **Medical Matters** series. Again, we have a great variety of articles – about people known only to their families and friends (like the young woman pictured on the front cover) right through to the well-known, like the redoubtable Dr Ethel Byrne, who was also the topic of one of our Society meetings earlier on and the subject of one of our Society podcasts.

There are intriguing titles like 'Newcastle – Dirty Town or Health Resort' and 'Faddy Homeopaths and Others'; a wonderful reminiscence on the developments in medicine in her own lifetime and her role in it by Dr Pamela Harrison OAM; plus our useful hints and information on online resources, and a new feature called Members' Corner; a lovely array of pictures of old Newcastle hospitals with a little history on each – all designed to keep you interested and informed as you relax in breaks between Christmas preparations.

March Journal (249)

The theme of this journal is **Writer's Choice**. Always popular, this theme gives you the chance to share your writing on any topic related to family history – your research, family stories, houses – the list is endless. Please start thinking about what you might write – articles would need to be submitted by **Saturday 25 January 2025**.

June Journal (250)

The theme will be **Heroism** – national heroes, local heroes, everyday heroes; what about unsung heroes, personal heroes and people who just went beyond the norm for their families or communities? Let your imagination range and send us those articles by **Saturday 26 April 2025**.

Have you picked up your Journals?

There are still some people who haven't picked up their last few Journals – please let us know if you'd like them to get to you via Australia Post and we'll let you know how to do that.

Or, if you'd like to switch to email versions, let us know that!

Unclaimed copies represent substantial costs for the society, so please let us know how we can help you to get yours.

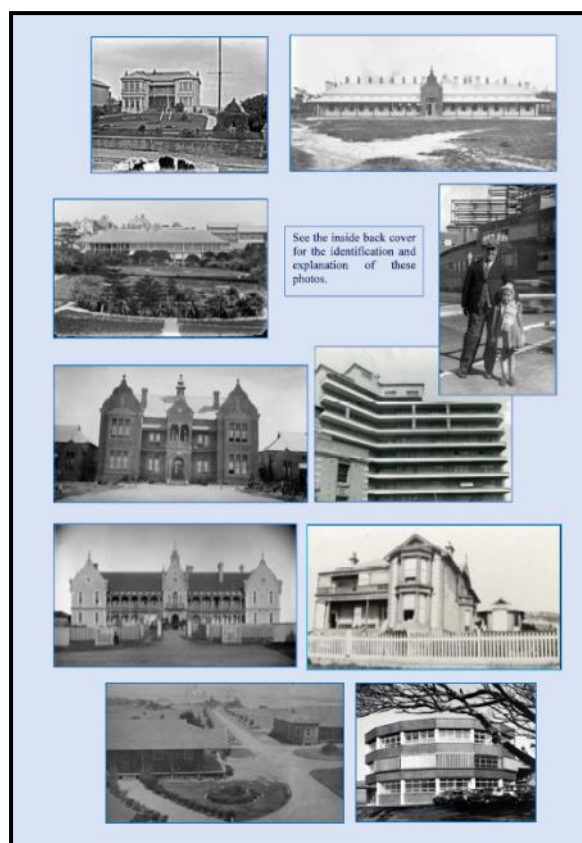
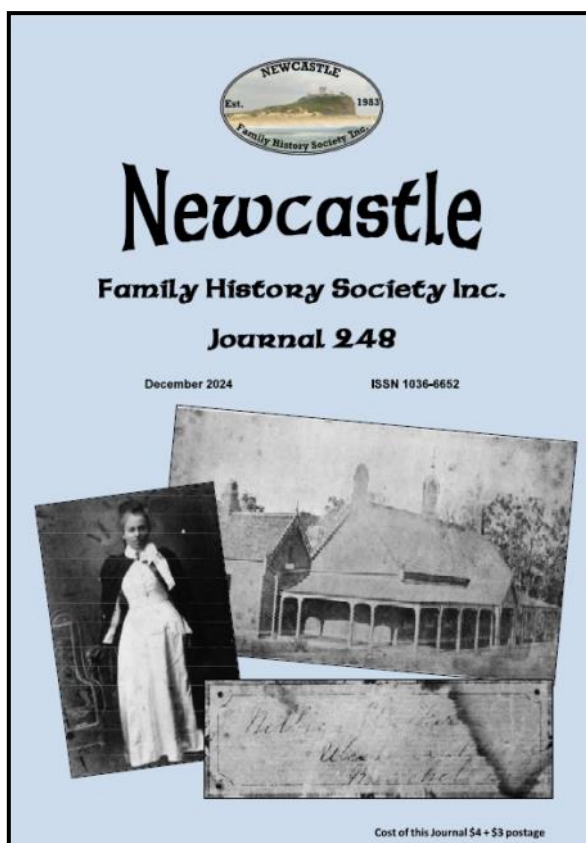
Submission of Articles

For all issues, you can send your typed item to nfhseeditor@gmail.com or deliver it to the Society library addressed to the Editor. We can also accept handwritten items if that's your preference.

Journal and Newsletter Deadlines

	Newsletter	Journal
January	No newsletter	
February	11 January	
March	15 February	25 January
April	15 March	
May	12 April	
June	10 May	26 April
July	14 June	
August	12 July	
September	16 August	26 July

Margaret Ashford (Editor, eTeam)



Courses and Learning

Special Interest Groups

Members of the Society are welcome to join one or more groups and share their knowledge as well as learn something new. All the groups meet in the NFHS rooms, 68 Elder Street, Lambton, monthly at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated. Groups and contact details are below. Please email the facilitator to join a group.

Group	Meeting date	Facilitator	Contact email
Convicts in Australia	1 st Tuesday	Laraine Cross	nfhsresearch78@gmail.com
Scottish Family Research	2 nd Tuesday – 1.00 pm—February to November	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
English Ancestors	3 rd Tuesday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au
DNA	3 rd Tuesday – 1.00 pm	Sandra Jones	sjones11@bigpond.net.au
Irish Ancestors	4 th Tuesday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Cemetery Research	1 st Thursday	Pat Healion	pat.healion1@gmail.com
Ancestry Users	2 nd Thursday—February to November—no meeting in September	Mel Woodford	nfhspresident@gmail.com
Scrapbooking	4 th Thursday	Karen Smith	abc26715@bigpond.net.au

All things Scottish

Scottish SIG meets 2nd Tuesday at 1.00 pm
from February to November

Scottish newsletter

The Scottish quarter day of Martinmas issue of the *Caledonian* Scottish newsletter was emailed out to our subscribers on 28 November. We hope you enjoyed this bumper issue.

The next issue will be emailed on 28 February 2025, being the Scottish quarter day of Candlemas.

Reminder that if you would like to be included on the email list for this newsletter, please send an email to Lea on nfhsnewsletter@gmail.com.



Scottish SIG group

YouTube

A reminder that at our monthly meetings, guest speakers are now recorded and the presentations can be viewed on the Society's YouTube channel. This is a fabulous way for those who are either distance members or just can't make it to the meeting, to be able to still enjoy our speakers. Or even if you were at the meeting, you may wish to listen to the presentation again.

To view these, either go to our Society webpage and click on the YouTube tab on the Home page, or type 'YouTube Newcastle Family History Society' into your search engine, or simply click [here](#).

Mel Woodford (President)

NFHS 2025 Calendar

Again this year, we have a wonderful 2025 calendar for purchase. It showcases some of the great memories from Society events. They are \$20 each. All details are in the flyer attached to this newsletter email.

Mel Woodford (President)



Podcasts

General

Is any member who has an ancestor at ANY industrial school in NSW before 1900 interested in working with Jane Ison on a Q&A podcast about their ancestor? Please let her know on nfhspublicationsofficer@gmail.com or contact the IT Officer at nfhstit@gmail.com.

We have had some more podcasts recorded since last newsletter. These are available for you to enjoy on the NFHS website by clicking the links below or visiting our webpage and selecting the Podcasts tab from the home page. You can also find these podcasts on services such as Spotify, Podbean, Google, Apple and Amazon.

Notable Novocastrians

Jane Ison shares a short biography about her ancestors Elijah Abell and his wife Margaret Brown who both contributed to the civic and social fabric of Wallsend, NSW. She also talks about the hidden aspects of lives that can be uncovered by using DNA and how ancestral lines can be confirmed ... or not! To listen, click [here](#).

What are you looking at?

In this the final episode of the series, Jane Ison outlines what is contained in the Royal Commission into Public Charities which commenced in Sydney in May 1873, focusing on Biloela, the girls industrial school on Cockatoo Island. To listen, click [here](#).

Recordings of Our Guest Speakers

A presentation Associate Professor Nancy Cushing on the horses that arrived in Australia on the First Fleet and the role they played in the social world of settler colonists and the wider economy, and as its 110th anniversary approaches, a focus on Australian horses in the First World War and beyond, shifting the focus from the human to equine perspective and exploring what war meant for horses. To listen, click [here](#).

Mel Woodford (President)

Can you help?

Our NFHS Podcasting Team works very hard under the guidance of our IT Manager, Clive.

Why do we make our NFHS podcasts?

- To aid our members and the community in their family history work
- To record our local history for the future
- To educate

Can you help us by:

- Suggesting future podcasts which might be of benefit or interest?
- Would you be able to write (or help write) a podcast script about something which interests you?
- Perhaps something to do with your family in the area, a person, house or property of interest to others?

NB: you may wish to record a podcast yourself, or you may prefer a member of the Podcasting Team to record it for you.

Let us know your thoughts by emailing Mel at nfhspresident@gmail.com

Library Roster

Date	Librarian 1 (get key)	Librarian 2
Saturday Library Roster		
Morning 9.45 am to 12.30 pm		
Afternoon 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm		
7 Dec am	Lea H	Sandra B
7 Dec pm	Lea H	Sandra J
14 Dec am	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T
14 Dec pm	Sharyn B	Nouvelle T
19 Dec	Closed till	16 January
Thursday Library Roster		
1.00 to 3.00 pm		
5 Dec	Alison M	Clelia P
12 Dec	Jane I	Volunteer
19 Dec	Marilyn M	Jane I



Library Volunteers

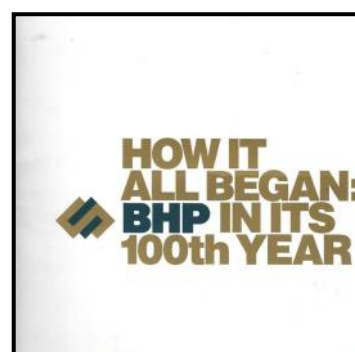
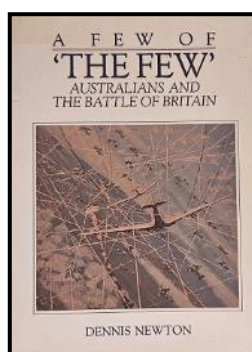
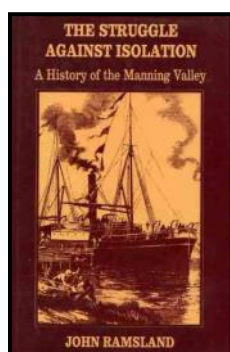
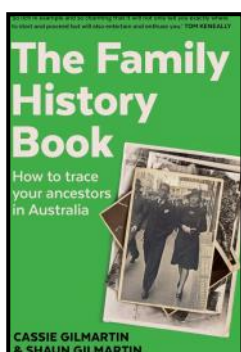
I would like to give a HUGE thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have kept the Library open during 2024. We have not had to close at all due to lack of a volunteer.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mel Woodford (President)

Library Acquisitions

Creator	Title	Call No	Source
Johnson, Keith A. & Sainty, Malcolm R	Gravestone inscriptions N.S.W. Volume 1 : Sydney Burial Ground - Elizabeth and Devonshire Streets, "The Sandhills" (Monuments relocated at Bunnerong) [1973]	AN5/15/241	
York, Margaret & O'Brien, James	The confessional : the story of Dinny O'Brien 'Life of pawnbroking' [nd]	A4/OBR/01	
BHP	How it all began : BHP in its 100th year [1985]	A7/61/04	
Webb, Ian	Road's end : building the Great North Road from Mt. Manning to the Hunter River 1824-1836 [2000]	AH7/50/23	
Ramsland, John	The struggle against isolation : a history of the Manning Valley [1987]	AN7/01/22	
Bettington, Helen Mary	Colly Creek Estate Liverpool Plains New South Wales [2002]	AN8.343/10/01	
Beazley, Stephen & Beazley Lyndal	Making their mark : a history of the Chalker/Charker families in Australia [1988]	A4/CHA/03	
Chalker, Mary	Trooper John Chalker [nd]	A4/CHA/04	
Donaldson, Robert	Henry Endersby : the Lambton Collection [2024]	A4/END/01	Bob Donaldson
Gilmartin, Cassie & Gilmar-tin, Shaun	The family history book : how to trace your ancestors in Australia [2024]	A2/10/39	
Newton, Dennis	A few of 'the few' : Australians and the Battle of Britain [1990]	A7/84/04	Margaret Ashford





New Members

We welcome the following new members to our Society and encourage you to enjoy your research in our Library. You are welcome to join any of our Special Interest Groups (SIG) to help with your research (see page 8).

1354 Dan Holmes
1355 Kim Gray

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

Membership Registrar

I would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to our members for someone to takeover the Membership Registrar's role within our Society. I have been doing the job for a number of years now and I feel it's time for someone else to do this position. I truly believe there should be more than one person to know how to do a job, the more the better. It's not hard you just need basic Excel experience to navigate the database and a little spare time for processing. We won't leave you in the deep end. I will be in the background to help.

A laptop is also provided for you to carry out this role.

I do thank the members who have shown an interest, however this role needs someone who lives locally and has access to our Library. The position is open to male or female, no discrimination.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me at [Membership Registrar](#).

Sharyn Boyce (Membership Registrar)

Miscellaneous

Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Hang Out Events

This is for SAG members with a personal subscription. *The following information is from the website of SAG.*

Join us for the free virtual Hang Out with SAG, most Fridays at 4pm AEDT/AEST, where we would like to hear from you alongside a range of speakers tell stories of their family history research and much more. We set up these events to hear from our community, how members are doing with their research through sharing their stories. Sometimes we arrange dedicated presentations though mostly we look to members each week to provide short form talks which can be 1-5 minutes, 5-10 minutes, or less, of their research findings. You can show PowerPoint slides, a website, hold up a photo or object, or just talk - your choice! Email us at admin@sag.org.au with any queries and we can always do a quick Zoom tutorial if you need. If you would like to suggest topics or host a session just let us know!

Use this link to join the FREE community chat on the Zoom platform at 4pm AEDT: <http://tinyurl.com/SAGHangOut2024>

And a reminder that our back catalogue of Friday Hang Out recordings can be found at: www.sag.org.au/HangOut

* * * * *

Settlers' Muster Book, 1800, digitised

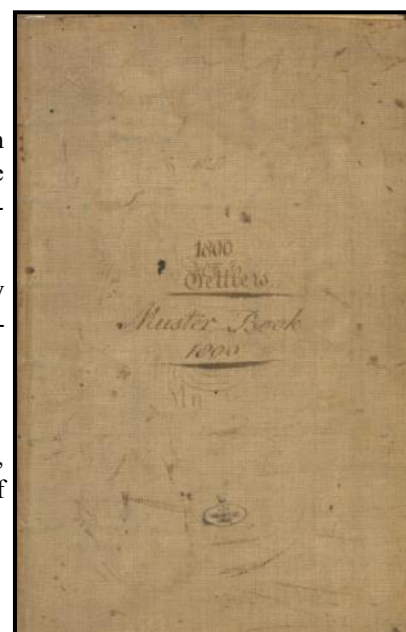
The following information is from the website of Museums of History NSW collections.

The Settlers' Muster Book of 1800, a record of early European settlers in Australia in two handwritten volumes, has been digitised and is now accessible to the public for the first time. Honoured on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register in 2021, the Muster Book held by the NSW Parliamentary Library is the most comprehensive surviving record of the early colony.

The significant digitisation project is the result of a collaboration between the NSW Parliamentary Library and MHNSW. The Muster Book is now available on [our](#) website and also through NSW Parliament's new online [database](#), Parlimento.

You can virtually leaf through the pages listing information about early settlers and convicts.

This record offers the opportunity for people to uncover information about their own family members, while historians may discover new details that provide valuable insights into this formative period of the colony.



Miscellaneous continued

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SAG Courses Code

As NFHS has taken out an Affiliate Membership with the [Society of Australian Genealogists Inc.](#), our members will now receive a discount when registering for SAG courses using a special code.

For the remainder of 2024, the code is:

SAGAFFMEM2024

Mel Woodford (President)



Snippers Group

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Password for member area of website

The password for the Member area of our website is **Podcasts**

Note: Podcasts has a capital P.

Newcastle in the 1800s ... from penal settlement to coalopolis

Our NFHS member, Julie Keating, has a new book out. You can purchase it at McLeans, Hamilton, and the newsagents at Marketown.

It would make a fabulous Christmas gift!

Congratulations to Julie.

Mel Woodford (President)

* * * * *

What have you lost?

There are a few pieces of lost property that have been left at the Society. An umbrella, a research book, a button, a cardigan.

Are they yours? Please collect them as if they are still there in 2025, we will have to dispose of them.



* * * * *

Attachments to the newsletter

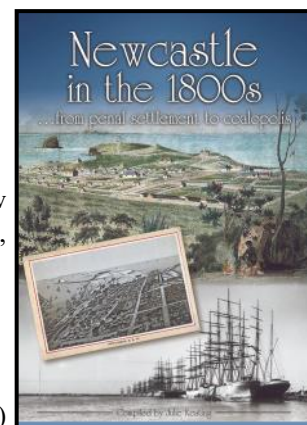
The following attachments are in the newsletter email

- Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley Seminar—Save the Date—Sunday 2 March 2025
- NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. Newsletter
- Fort Scratchley Historical Society Inc. November update
- Australasian Conference 2025—Connections—Online raffle
- Poppy's Christmas lunch menu
- NFHS 2025 Calendar details

* * * * *

Disclaimer

Although all reasonable care is taken, the Newcastle Family History Society Inc. accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of information, which is printed in good faith from other sources, or for any opinions expressed in this newsletter.



December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10am-3pm— Christmas Fair— Christmas Once Upon a Time 	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.00-11.00— Feedback meeting Journal 248/ planning meeting Journal 249 11.30am— Christmas Lunch— Poppy's Verandah Café, Gateshead	10am-3pm— Library open
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests			1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA		10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open	Library closed for Christmas/ New Year break	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Library closed for Christmas/New Year break 						
29	30	31				
Library closed for Christmas/New Year break						

January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events			Library closed for Christmas/ New Year break			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Library closed for Christmas/New Year break						Submissions due for February news- letter
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10.00am—Spring cleaning 	Library closed for Christmas/ New Year break			10am— Management Com- mittee 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for Journal 249
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ances- tors		1-3pm—Library open		

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm— Library open
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia 6.00-7.25pm—Library open 7.30pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Editing meeting— Journal 249	10am-3pm— Library open
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications printing Cover printing— Journal 249	10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for March newsletter
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Journal printing— Journal 249	10am-3pm— Library open
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open	Caledonian newsletter to be emailed	

March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Red—SIG Groups Blue—Volunteer Groups Green—Courses Purple—Meetings Black—Library Open Brown—Events						10am-3pm— Library open
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Female Convicts of the Hunter Valley Seminar	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Convicts in Australia 6.00-7.25pm—Library open 7.30pm—General Meeting	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am—Cemetery SIG 1-3pm—Library open	9.30-12.00— Feedback/Planning meeting— Journals 249/250	10am-3pm— Library open
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	1pm—Scottish SIG		10am—Ancestry Users 1-3pm—Library open	9.30am-3.30pm— Publications printing	10am-3pm— Library open Submissions due for April newsletter
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—English Ancestors 1pm—DNA	10am-2pm— Snippers	10am— Management Committee 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	9.30-11.30am— Library Group 10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests	10am—Irish Ancestors		10am— Scrapbooking 1-3pm—Library open		10am-3pm— Library open
30	31					
	10.30am—Coffee and Chat, Wests					