



Coladjins

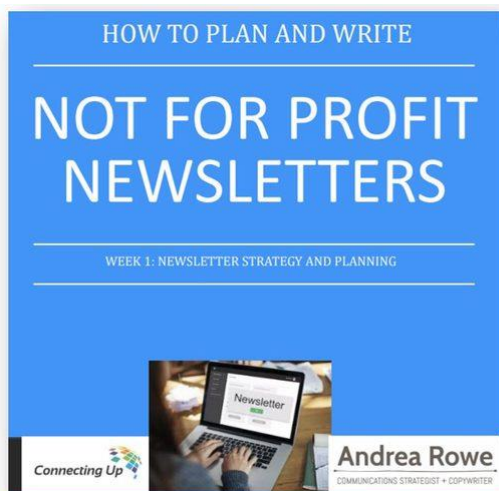
Colac & District Family History Group Inc

e-newsletter Issue 2 2022 part 1

We've been to Newsletter Bootcamp!

It won't come as a surprise to anyone that there have been a few hitches trying to master the new newsletter program... So we have been to Newsletter Bootcamp.

Over four weeks and six hours of training sessions, we learned how to plan, write and produce newsletters in this new format. It has been a long time since our last newsletter and this one will serve as almost an almanac for 2022, helping you to catch up on the group's activities this year.



From November, we are looking forward to producing a newsletter each month (except January), which will land in your Inbox around the 15th. Make sure you include our email address in your contacts so the newsletter doesn't go to the Junk folder.

Also we want some input from you, our members. What do you want to know, learn, read about, share?

Please contact media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au with your suggestions or contributions.

February

After almost two years, we were finally able to re-open the History Centre to the public from 10 to 2 Mondays and Tuesdays and 1:30 to 4:30 Thursdays and Fridays.

The AGM was held and **Diana McGarvie** was re-elected as President, **Robyn Currie**, Vice President and **Lynette Genua**, Treasurer.

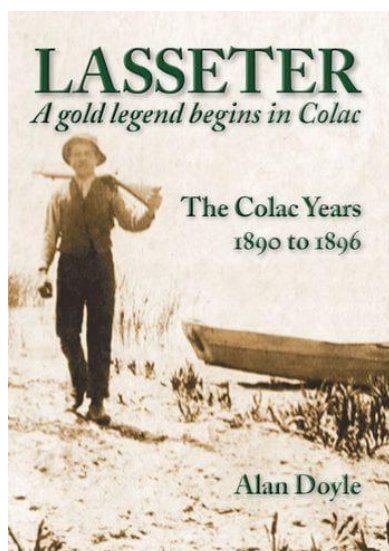
Norma Bakker, who has been our secretary for fourteen years, stood down from that role and the position has not yet been filled. We thanked Norma for her service and are keen to hear from anyone willing to take on secretarial job.



Photograph: President Diana McGarvie

March

LASSETER BOOK RELEASE - AUTHOR ALAN DOYLE



Alan Doyle discovered a little known fact - that Harold Lasseter, (real name Lewis Harold Bell Lasseter) of “Lasseter’s Reef” fame, spent a good part of his formative years in Colac.

The timing of Alan’s discovery coincided with Covid19 and Alan decided to make this his “lock-down” project.

Lasseter - *A gold legend begins in Colac* was released in March. Copies are available on-line through our website or at the History Centre in COPACC and would make an excellent present.

FAMILY REUNIONS

This year has also seen the return of family reunions and the family history group is always keen to be involved and assist where possible.

HOLIAN-ARMSTRONG

Around sixty descendants of the **Holian-Armstrong** families were finally able to hold their reunion this year.

The event, which was held at St Mary's school, was originally planned in 2020, but had to be postponed due to Covid.

A banner featuring the family crest and logo, made by descendants, is displayed at these reunions.

The family history group prepared a window display and video of the family tree with maps and photographs of the time when the families lived in Colac.



Organisers Betty(right) and Jean with the Holian banner.

LYONS-BRUMM

Descendants of the **Lyons** and **Brumm** families travelled from Queensland to meet in Colac and retrace the footsteps of their ancestors, Michael and Elizabeth Lyons, early Colac and Rokewood publicans, and Philip and Elizabeth Brumm (nee Lyons). Other names associated with the Lyons family in Colac are **Scott, Anthony, Treacy & Hills**.



From left: Judy Newman, Dot Healy, Michael Lyons, Bob & Chris Brumm, John Lyons, Tony Lyons.

Judy has written about the history of the Lyons and Brumm families in Colac in the 1800s and the reunion of some of the descendants in Colac this year - [Click here to read Judy's story.](#)

Lyons & Brumm family

April

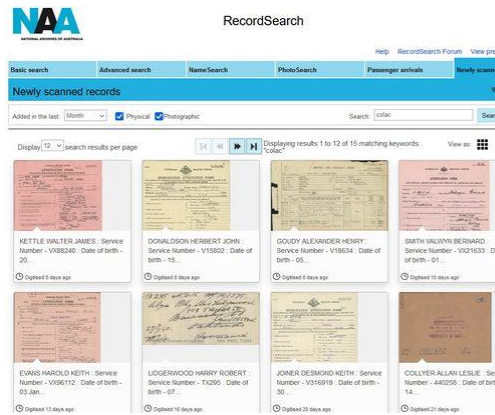
ANZAC DAY and DUTY CALLED

Anzac Day is a time of reflection and also a time to commend the work of our volunteers who have spent years collecting photographs and records of local servicemen, servicewomen and nurses for our "Duty Called" collection.

Good news! The National Archives are now scanning the records of all WWII service personnel, which often contain photographs as well as other vital information.



Some photographs of Colac men and women from their service files.

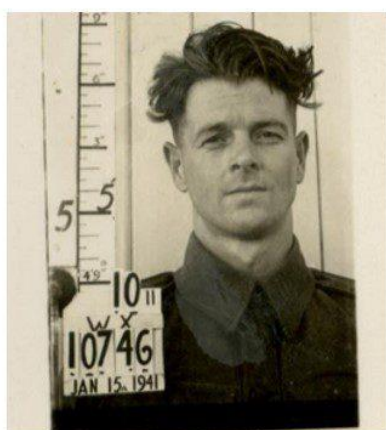


You can do a simple name search on the National Archives website to see if your family member's records have been scanned.

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/NameSearch.aspx>

There is also a section where you find “Newly Scanned Files” - which is well worth checking regularly.

In October, “Newly Scanned Files” include service records and photographs for George Ernest Harrison, born 1910 Colac; William James Duffy, born 1913 Colac; and George James Leak born 1911 Colac:



George Ernest Harrison WX 10746



William James Duffy 428431



George James Leak VX 31592

VALE LILA ROSS

Life Member and Friend

April 8, 1930 - May 10, 2022

We miss Lila's visits and lovely sparkly cards and are grateful for her friendship and service of almost forty years.

Lila's Super 66 competition added a bit of fun and regularly contributed hundreds of dollars to the group.

Lila is sadly missed



NEW COMPUTER FOR OUR LIBRARIAN AND RESEARCH OFFICER



Thanks to the Bendigo Bank Connected Communities Grants Program, we were able to replace one of the old, second-hand computers with a fast, reliable new computer for our Librarian & Research Officer

Robyn maintains the library and also co-ordinates all research requests. Robyn also looks after our IT system and frequently troubleshoots problems.



**Colac Connected
Communities**

Community grants program

FIRST EVER ON-LINE RAFFLE



June saw our first ever on-line raffle. Prizes were donated by MyHeritage and Legacy Family Tree. The draw was filmed and loaded onto our facebook page. Liz Spence presented Peter Mahoney with his first prize valued at more than \$400, which included a one year, all world membership of My Heritage, a set of Colac Pioneer Registers and a one year membership of the family history group. Paul Brennan was the second prize winner. A huge thank you to everyone for your support.

JUNE MEETING - KEN RICHES GUEST SPEAKER

Due to popular demand, Ken is re-releasing his book "Let There Be Flight", a history of flight in the Western District. It seemed an excellent opportunity to ask Ken to talk about the book and some of the stories he discovered during his research.

Ken's knowledge and passion for the subject were evident in his entertaining and informative presentation.

Ken's book is now available and would make an excellent present for anyone interested in history or aviation.

VISIT TO CASTLEMAINE WEDDING DRESS EXHIBITION

A small group of members travelled to Castlemaine to view a privately owned Wedding Dress exhibition on the first floor above the Run Rabbit Run cafe.

If you are travelling to Castlemaine, we can recommend a visit to this exhibition which displays wedding dresses and accessories spanning more than 100 years.



July

A TRIP FROM GEELONG FOR A DAY OF RESEARCH



Member Judith Oke and her sister Robyn visited from Geelong to continue their research into their Franz family. We were able to help with some information and Judith kindly shared her family research which cleared up some mysteries we had not solved. Louis Franz, who died in 1886 is part of the Almost Forgotten Project.

We always recommend (some would say “insist on”) a visit to the look-out at Red Rock - and Judith kindly sent us this photograph. Although it looks like it was a bit chilly there after a full day at the History Centre.

If you are coming to Colac to further your family history research, please let us know in advance and also try to give an indication of the information your are hoping to find.

August, September, October & November

There is a Part 2 of this newsletter - due out on November 15 and it will cover the group's activities from August to November.

ON ANOTHER NOTE...

This year the family history group experienced several months of major computer issues. We are grateful for all the work of Robyn, Norma and Aaron along with our IT volunteers Bernie and Phil and local company South West IT for the many hours they have all dedicated to fixing the problems.

We are also grateful to all of the volunteers who continued to give their time, week after week, even though it was frustrating not being able to access all of the resources. We are fortunate to have such a committed group of people.



We have almost reached 1000 people researched through the Almost Forgotten Pre-1900 burials project. Our researchers have discovered an enormous amount of new information - whole families who lived and died in Colac yet left little trace, previously unknown family connections, the prevalence of various diseases, the number and types of accidental deaths and suicides, and much more.

If you are interested to learn more, we have a facebook page that features some of these stories: <https://www.facebook.com/almostforgotten1900>