



Coladajins

Colac & District Family History Group Inc

e-newsletter Issue 1 2021

Welcome to our first e-newsletter, bringing you the latest news and activities of the family history group straight to your email Inbox regularly throughout the year.

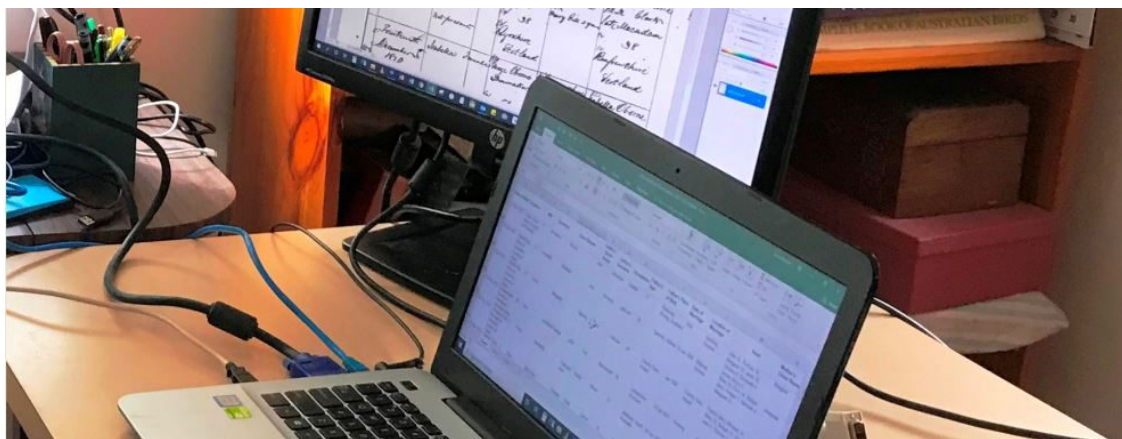
2020

The year two thousand and twenty, “twenty-twenty”, has been seared in our collective memory and will be spoken and written about for decades to come. It began with horrific bush-fires which we witnessed with empathy, horror and trepidation. Just as that emergency eased, a new disaster, Covid 19, emerged, threatening to cause illness, death and economic havoc throughout the world.

We were instructed to wash our hands like nurses and doctors prepping for the operating theatre, to touch elbows for a greeting instead of shaking

hands or giving a hug, and to “social distance” - one of the several phrases and words that would pepper our conversations throughout the year. Lock down, “iso” or home isolation, hotel quarantine, community transmission, testing regime, Zoom and of course, COVID19 all made their way into our everyday conversations. And who could forget “double doughnuts”.

In early March we were confined to our homes, only able to leave for necessities and emergencies. Spaces in homes were reconfigured to accommodate working and schooling, with desks and work stations set up in bedrooms, hallways, kitchens and any other available space. Even though there was nervousness, there was also a strong sense of community and camaraderie. We were all in this together.



The management team at the family history group, with the help of our tech volunteers, Bernie and Phil, sprang into action and developed a plan to keep volunteers and members engaged and active. That plan has resulted in literally thousands of volunteer hours of work being done during that time.

The major work was the development of a virtual Honour Roll for Colac and district men and women involved in the Second World War effort. More than 4000 names were researched and recorded. Other activities included transcribing, researching and data entry. All of these activities kept our volunteers active and engaged and continued the valuable work of the family history group.

Even though each of our experiences has been unique, letters, stories and manuscripts from previous pandemics have shown the parallels that occur, even though there are sometimes hundreds of years in between these events. It is a timely reminder that our experiences will be just as interesting to our descendants in the years to come. If you haven't already done so, consider jotting down your story - it can be in the form of a letter if that is easier. You are also welcome to share your story through the newsletter - send it to: media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au



WORLD WAR II HONOUR ROLL

Click on the button below to see the extensive list of local men and women who participated in World War II. Names highlighted in blue have details and stories attached.

[World War II Honour Roll](#)

Federal Coffee Palace - Gellibrand Street



Colac's Federal Coffee Palace was described by Lyn Heppner as standing "like a grand old lady in Gellibrand Street". Lyn is a grand-daughter of long-term proprietors, Hugh and Bridget McKenzie and her delightful essay describes the day to day activities at the Coffee Palace and the people who lived, worked and stayed there.

[Read more about the Federal Coffee Palace in Colac](#)

Local First World War Servicemen Remembered



Built in the early 1920s, a majestic War Memorial sits proudly in the centre of Memorial Square in the heart of Colac. Inside the building, the marble-lined walls are etched with the names of thousands of local men and women who served our country in the First World War. Those who “paid the ultimate price” are in gold and those who served and returned in black.

Extensive research by two of our members revealed that there were many more local servicemen who had not returned and were not among those listed. With the help of the Colac RSL and the Colac Otway Shire, seventy new names have now been added to the memorial. Anzac Day 2021 was the first time in more than a century that the names of these young men were officially remembered along with their fallen colleagues.

DREEITE SOLDIER SETTLERS

Lynette Genua is researching all of the men and their families who took up soldier settler allotments on Dreeite Estates in the 1920s and 1930s. Almost 150 returned soldiers have been identified so far, who were allocated and/or took up allotments, plus a further 50 people who acquired settlement blocks at a later date. This project would be greatly enhanced with photos of the settlers and their families, including an army photo. If you are able to help, or would like more information, please email Lynette on: treasurer@colacfamilyhistory.org.au

Also if anyone has information about Tom Kelly, who may have owned an allotment in the southern part of the settlement. His name appears on a couple of lists of settlers, however to date no other information has been found.



Copyright (C) 2021 Colac & District Family History Group Inc. All rights reserved.

[Update Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  mailchimp

