



Dear Hill Enders & Tambaroorians

Well, we are now into a new year and lots happening as we start to work on the combined collections now housed in our new location at Holtermann's Corner. Each time we open another box of material we come across some great family history gems. This will be an ongoing activity, so we hope to bring you updates as we go along. If you have any spare days and are willing to travel and stay for a few days in Hill End to help us out in the initial sorting etc, or even just assisting in our bookshop section then we would love to hear from you. No experience necessary, just a love of talking to people about Hill End!

We will be bringing some great examples of our finds to the Annual Gathering at Rhodes in Saturday 1 March. Our Annual General Meeting of the Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group will also be held at 12 noon. See page 5 for more details. Gather your family members and encourage them to come along to welcome our new members and share some of your family stories with them.

Because this newsletter comes close to the last one in November, due to rising costs, we won't be sending out a hard copy to those who normally receive one by ordinary mail. If you have family who usually receive a copy please remind them of our upcoming activities and the Annual Gathering, and bring them along! Better still, print them out a copy for them to read at their leisure.

Many thanks to Debbie, our hard-working Membership Secretary who has once again stepped up to edit and prepare this newsletter as Dennis and I pack our bags to head off on a long-planned holiday to Spain, Morocco and Portugal. We'll be back by 1 March!

Lorraine Purcell,
Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group Convenor

Holtermann's Corner Opening Hours...

While we advertise that our Family History Centre is open on weekends 11 am–2 pm we are running very thin on volunteers at the moment. Before you head out to Hill End especially to see us, please just make sure that there will be someone on duty to help you. Some of our regular volunteers have other commitments in February but we should be more available mid-March onwards. A quick phone call to Michelle on 0412 285 590 or an email to Lorraine at heatgg@yahoo.com.au will make sure your trip is not wasted.



The Hill End Art Gallery

5 Beyers Avenue, Hill End NSW 2850

Open Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Hill End Arts Council is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation that supports arts and the community through events and exhibitions in the historic village of Hill End. Featuring a wide variety of artists and mediums, inspiration can always be found.

Their first exhibition for the year is 'From the Studio', showcasing the work from artists that live at Hill End. The exhibition opened on Saturday, 18 January, but there is plenty of time to savour this exhibition that runs through until the 13 of April, 2025.



The artists of Hill End buttress the artistic energy of this village and this exhibition gives an insight to their individual practices.

Something not to be missed.

Keep up to date

- The latest exhibitions can be found on their Facebook page – facebook.com/hillendartscouncil
- Email them on hillendartscouncil@gmail.com



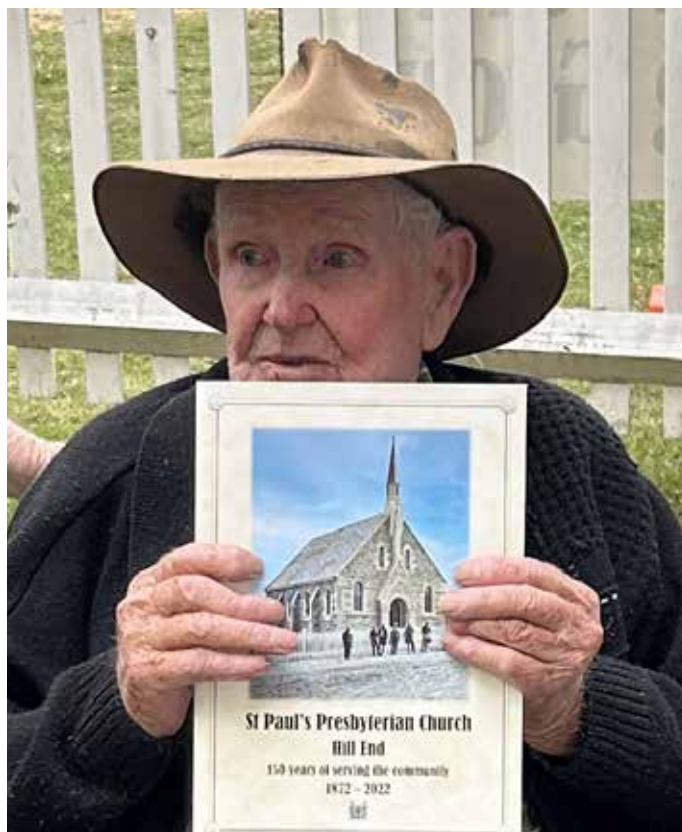
Vale Ted Abbott (April 1934 – November 2024)

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of a much-loved Hill End & Tambaroora identity, Ted Abbott. He passed away, aged 90, at his home, ‘The Willows’, at Tambaroora on Friday 22 November to the sounds of Slim Dusty surrounded by the love of his family and in the care of his partner, Jennifer.

Many visitors to Hill End have met Ted with his gold pans at Tambaroora Creek, Golden Gully, or even at cemeteries bidding farewell to loved ones. He was well known to countless schoolchildren who learned gold panning techniques from him and developed an interest in goldfields’ history during their field trips.

Ted had been part of the Hill End & Tambaroora community for more than 30 years. He always had a love of the bush including fossicking, panning and looking for gold. At Tambaroora he found the right place to indulge in this passion. He was renowned for his veggie patches and would liberally share his excess bounty. I don’t think there was ever a visit to his home at Tambaroora where you didn’t come home with a few squash, cucumbers (remember the old-fashioned varieties?) zucchini or a jar of homemade jam.

We recently collaborated with Ted on the history of St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Hill End. We drew on his memories of his time as the caretaker, treasurer and keeper of the church key for almost 30 years. He was also the caretaker and gravedigger for both the Tambaroora General Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery. We are so grateful that we were able to take advantage of his knowledge of these cemeteries to compile a record of the many burials therein.



Ted at the March 2024 launch of our most recent publication, a history of St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, in Hill End.

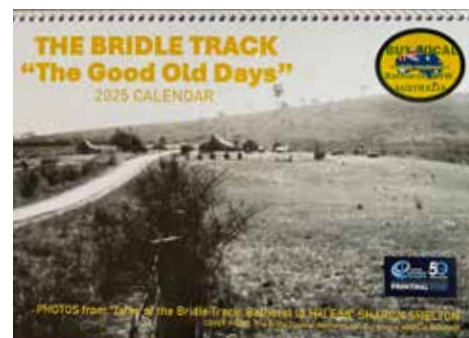
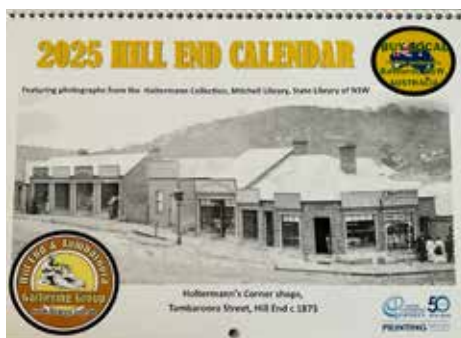
Let’s go shopping. Our publications

Due to the popularity of our bookshop outlet in Hill End stocks of some of our publications are running low. Many of these items will not be reprinted so if you have been thinking about these ‘essential’ items to add to your family history library, now is the time check out our Shop page and take advantage of some of our ‘special deals’. Once they’re gone, they’re gone!

You can purchase items online from our shop bit.ly/HEATGGSHOP

Still available – 2025 Hill End Calendar and The Bridle Track ‘The Good Old Days’. Both filled with beautiful images for each month. A great keep-sake.

*Calendars are \$20 each.
Postage is \$6 per calendar
or \$15 for 2.*



Times were different then ...



"Today, more than any other Christmas Day, I yearn for a white Christmas."

Today, the Rural Fire Service is one of the most important resources of any country town – and Hill End is no exception.

Way back in the early goldrush period, fire was an ever-present danger, whether it be the kitchen fireplace as a separate building next to a wattle and daub hut, or a simple campfire outside a tent, it was still an essential element of the home. However, kitchens burned down a lot and it was easier to rebuild a kitchen than the whole house.

Accidents happened and it was not uncommon to see reports of young children falling into the fire with disastrous results.

As we know from current reports, bush and grass fires caused by natural means, lightning strikes being one of them, and unattended campfires left along the Turon River are not a rare phenomenon. It was ever so back in the early days and so we know from a selection of photographs in the Holtermann Collection that a town Fire Brigade was formed, complete with some very military-type uniforms (the origin of which is yet to be determined despite extensive research). The jackets looked like a batch from an army disposal store, and sizes and fitting seemed to be a case of whatever was available.



Hill End Fire Brigade – Holtermann Collection 1872–75 SLNSW

There is no doubt that some of this crew was called out to a disastrous fire in Hill End which occurred on the evening of 30 March 1874.

The Bathurst Times reported that the residents of Hill End were aroused by the sound of the fire-bell. The fire was found to be raging on the corner of Short and Clarke streets. In a very short time, it spread from Taylor's millinery shop to Frede's barber's shop, Howard's butcher's shop, Austin's restaurant, Morgoshi's jeweller's shop, and then seized hold of John Meagher and Co's establishment, and in 20 minutes from the ringing of the bell, the whole of the stores were in flames. Then in 30 minutes, the roof

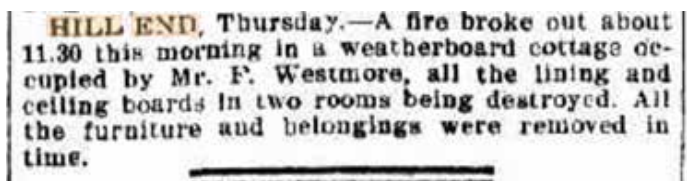
of Meagher and Co's store fell in with a great crash, the people assisting having just left the store. Sturt's Hotel was only saved by the iron wall of Meagher's store being next to him, and the constant stream of water poured on it. The Hill End Fire Brigade members were soon at their posts, some being employed in pouring on streams of water, the others assisting to remove the goods. The fire originated in the shop occupied by Miss Taylor, and in a very short space of time it burst into the adjoining buildings.



Burnt ruins of Meagher's Store, The Temple of Fashion, Margoschi's (formerly the Auckland Cafe), Hall's barber shop, Nonpareil dining room and the All Nations Hotel, Hill End.
Holtermann Collection SLNSW

By this fire and one that occurred 2 months previously, Mr. Robert Hickson, well known in connection with Hickson, Creighton, and Beard Mine, lost all the rents with the exception of Sturt's Hotel, which he was in receipt of from the parties who built on his property.

Numerous examples of house fires in the village have been recorded in the newspapers of the time, the following being one of them in 1901.



The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883–1930), p. 7.

In December 1918, a destructive bushfire occurred at Ullamalla Station due to prolonged dry and hot conditions. Only the efforts of many men likely prevented the entire station from burning.

Formation of a 'modern' Bush Fire Brigade.

In communications to the February 1940 meeting of the Turon Shire Council the councillors were informed of the formation of Bush Fire Brigades at Sunny Corner, O'Connell and Hill End. The Hill End Brigade officers appointed were W. Whittaker (captain), E. Whittaker, (vice-captain) and J. W. Stuart, (secretary).

In April 1943 Mr J W Stuart, the secretary of the brigade (then consisting of 30 members), applied to

Turon Shire Council for 3 knapsack sprays, 12 beaters and a first aid kit. The request was forwarded to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee who informed the council that similar equipment had been made available for Wattle Flat, Yetholme and Sunny Corner units.

In September 1948, Turon Shire Council was informed that at the Annual Meeting of the Bush Fire Brigade, Mr. W. Wray was appointed captain and Mr. W. Lyle, deputy captain. The Brigade also requested further equipment which was approved and ordered through Council. This included 4 axes, 2 knapsack sprays, 2 small portable fire extinguishers, and a 100 gallon tank suitable for ½" taps.

In November and December 1957, fires once again raged in the region. Despite requests for aid, none arrived, and local volunteers were left to fight the fires themselves. A year later, the community held the Hill End Bushfire Festival to raise funds for desperately needed fire-fighting equipment. The Hill End Fire Brigade purchased a fire engine, known as the Blitz, with the profits. It was the first time the brigade had owned any motorised firefighting equipment. Prior to this, fires were fought on foot using dry firefighting methods. Some volunteers used horseback or privately owned 4-wheel drive vehicles. The Blitz really revolutionised all aspects of firefighting for Hill End. It enabled the brigade to have a large volume of water at hand and make its plans of attack accordingly. Additionally, volunteers could easily refill their knapsacks directly from the truck's water tank. It also brought a new focus to the building of fire trails which would give the Blitz access to the seat of fires in the bush. The Blitz remained with the Hill End Brigade for almost 20 years. However, with newer model vehicles becoming available, the days of the Blitz came to an end.



The Blitz in its restored state.
Photo courtesy of Kel O'Shea

Once again Hill End faced a significant risk in January 1965 due to a drought that caused a severe water shortage in the district, increasing the likelihood of bushfires. To address the lack of drinking water,

even old underground storage wells that had not been used for many years were reopened.

In 2004, the brigade and local police retrieved the disused Blitz fire engine from a paddock north of Hill End. In 2013, it was relocated to the Rural Fire Service shed and restored to its former glory by community volunteers where it now enjoys a prominent place in the exhibition in the Village Heritage Centre.

In March 2023 the village and surrounding district of Tambaroora was once again threatened by bushfire that appears to have started as the result of a lightning strike. The Alpha Road/Tambaroora fire started and continued for many days, running along the gullies and creeks towards Pyramul. At one stage there were 57 fire trucks from all parts of New South Wales making the Brigade Headquarters at Hill End their central meeting point.



On duty.

Photo courtesy of Hill End Rural Fire Brigade Facebook page

As recently as 23 December 2024 a campfire on the Turon River got out of control. It only takes one spark to start a bushfire. The surrounding grass on the banks of the Turon River to the east of the village caught alight and due to the difficult steep and rugged terrain and gullies the area was partially inaccessible to the brigades.

Farmlands burnt out, lives and livelihoods were put at risk and a huge ask was made to volunteers who gave up their Christmas festivities to attend and ensure that all was safe.

While no residences came under threat, it was a worrying time for our family historian colleague Daphne Shead, whose home was nearby. Thankfully, the wind was heading in another direction and there was no imminent danger. After being evacuated for a few hours, she was allowed home again.

Additional resources, such as heavy machinery (dozers) and air support including Helitak helicopters, and both large Air Tankers and Very Large Air Tankers were deployed for water bombing and dropping fire retardant on difficult-to-reach areas. The situation was not brought under control until a few days later, affecting approximately 450 hectares. The local brigade teams were able to observe a

belated Christmas afterwards, having spent most of Christmas Day in the field.

Once again, the Hill End community has reason to be very grateful to the work of the local Rural Fire Service units from the surrounding districts.



Photo courtesy of Hill End Rural Fire Brigade Facebook page facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083039635190



Turon fire – 24 Dec 2024.

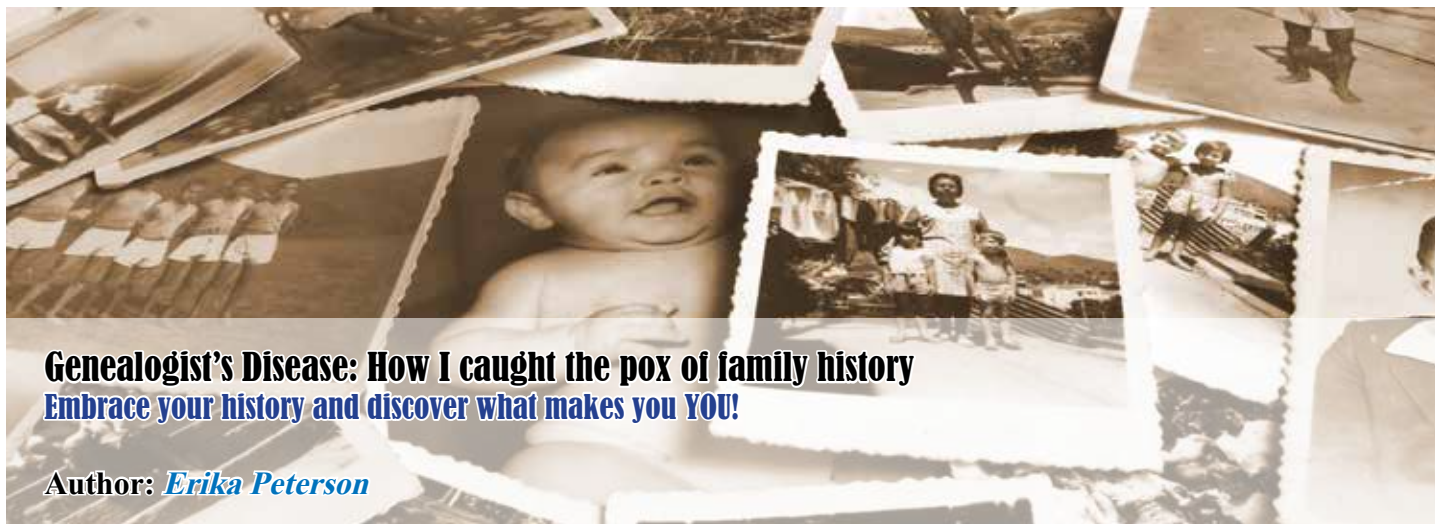
Photo courtesy of Hill End Rural Fire Brigade Facebook page.



Mopping up.

Photo courtesy of Hill End Rural Fire Brigade Facebook page.

Compiled by Lorraine Purcell from original research and from information written by Jim Shanahan in *The Bush Fire Bulletin* Vol 38 No 3/2017



Genealogist's Disease: How I caught the pox of family history **Embrace your history and discover what makes you YOU!**

Author: *Erika Peterson*

The dictionary defines family history or genealogy as: an account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms. Many people who know me know I LOVE doing family history work and I love helping others as well. Because of this, I've been diagnosed with a very serious and real disease. It's called ... Genealogist's Disease.

There is no cure for this disease; so here are four ways to embrace it:

1. You feel a connection with those that have gone before.

Every time I do family history work, I feel connected with my ancestors. I feel like I know them in some small way. I also like reading biographies that some of them have written, they provide me a glimpse into their lives.

2. You can help others with their family histories.

One of the most satisfying about doing family history work is serving others in the same capacity. It's so thrilling to help my friends and neighbours discover their pasts.

3. Pictures really are worth a thousand words.

I remember when I first found a picture of one of my ancestors. I was so excited! Previously, I just built up a brief picture in my mind of what that ancestor might have looked like, when here was proof of what they actually looked like! It was a very rewarding and special moment for me.

4. You can catch the 'pox' of family history.

Whether you do a little or a lot, researching family history needs to be done. Call up your parents and grandparents, ask them questions about their lives and record or write them down.

Congratulations, you one step closer to catching Genealogy Pox!

theodysseyonline.com/user/@erikapeterson

Genealogist's Disease:

WARNING: Genealogy Pox
(very contagious to adults).

SYMPTOMS:

- Continual complaint as to need for names, dates, and places.
- Patient has a blank expression.
- Sometimes deaf to spouse and children.
- Has no taste for work of any kind, feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses.
- Has compulsion to write letters.
- Yells at mailman when he doesn't leave mail.
- Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate areas.
- Makes secret night phone calls, hides phone bills from family and mumbles to self.
- Has strange faraway look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE!

TREATMENT:

- Medication is useless.
- Disease isn't fatal, but gets progressively worse.
- Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner of the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is: the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

Joshua Allott Burgess

By Sue Maxwell

Trooper Burgess came to town
To quell the trouble going down
Mine disputes, squatters, leases
Cattle rustling, stolen fleeces.

Drunken fighting at the “Royal”
Thirsty workers tortured toil
Guarding gold on Cobb Co
Off to Bathurst they would go.

Dodging bullets in the bush
Whistling past them with whoosh
Finally one shot in the arm
Convinced the Trooper of the harm.

That one could come to in the Force
Then he lost his treasured horse ...
So Trooper Burgess chucked it in
And went back to his blacksmithing.

With business partner Mr Moller
Fixing carts to earn a “dollar”
Right on Tambaroora Street
Where the school and churches meet.

They traded well for many years
The boom bought wealth ... the bust bought tears
His family grown and in despair
He shut up shop and moved from there.

While he lived in times long gone
His legacy will still live on
In civic duties he performed
In Temp-er-ance Regalia dorned.

An IOOF Master Grand
Resplendent marching with the band
Foundation stones and funding schools
Hill End’s people are the jewels.

So Trooper Burgess made his home
With wife and children “on the roam”
Blacksmith, farrier, business mergers
Joshua Allott (Trooper) Burgess.

Sue is the great-great-granddaughter of Joshua Allott Burgess. Burgess was sent to Hill End as a police trooper (1867–1871). Burgess left the police force in 1871 to establish, with partner Moller, the business Burgess and Moller’s Blacksmithing, Wheelwrighting, Coachbuilding, Farriering, and Auctioneers.



A snippet about Trooper Burgess was recorded on page 10 in the 6 August 1870 *Australian Town and Country Journal* when the roving journalist reported that the local sergeant and Trooper Burgess were armed and riding down to the Turon to compel a mob of 15 Chinese to cut a dam which impeded the crossing of the river. This mob had threatened to murder the interpreter if he came again to them on this errand! They must have been on good gold!

The journalist also learned, amongst other things, that £25 per annum was the allowance to a trooper in New South Wales for horses, harness, forage and shoes. With this munificent sum he had to buy his horses, and if a horse died he had to buy another. Apparently, Trooper Burgess has lost both his horses, one being crippled on escort duty and the other dead from a cold caught on night duty. Trooper Burgess’s balance from the £25 would therefore have been remarkably small at the end of the year.

No wonder he left the force and partnered with Moller in his blacksmithing business.

As part of my Diploma in Family History, I needed to write some short stories. Of course I don't know how they really felt, but I can imagine what it must have been like. I wrote two related to my Hill End roots.

Story 1 – Striking it rich

Hot ... dusty ... dry. When was the last time it rained? You can smell the dryness. You can feel the dryness in your throat. You can taste the dust. And you can certainly feel the heat. The grass was brown and crunches under your feet. The kangaroos are just lying around in the paddocks from heat exhaustion.

Why did my great-great-great-grandparents John and Rebecca Maris move to such a place, with their eight children? Why would you travel 180 miles (290 kilometres) to where some would consider a God-forsaken place?

The answer — GOLD!! They, like many others, wanted to try their luck at mining for gold. Lots of people were striking it rich. Why not them.

Only 5 years into the gold rush John and Rebecca found a new life in the thriving town of Hill End. I find it hard to believe that once upon a time this was one of NSW's largest inland towns. With 28 public houses and their own brewery I'm sure the men of the town weren't thirsty.

As the afternoon sun sets, a cool breeze starts blowing through the trees in the main street, I can see what it is that keeps the small number of residents living here. The town is certainly peaceful and it is lovely and quiet.

Story 2 – The first of the Hill End boys to fall

It was really hard living in a small town. Everyone knew your business. It was difficult to avoid meeting someone you knew.

'Good morning Mrs Trevena. And how is your boy Charles? Have you heard from him?', enquired Mrs Sampson*.

My mind would go into a spin every time someone would ask about Charlie.

'Good morning Mrs Sampson*. No, we haven't heard from Charlie in a while, but I am sure he is well.'

How could I know that? It had been weeks now since we had heard. I wasn't happy his father had given his permission for Charlie to enlist. But then again, I was so proud of him. It was with incredible pride that I watched as his regiment marched off to join the war effort. He looked so grown up in his uniform. All the boys looked so grown up, but I am sure every mother just saw their little boy. With tears in my eyes I waved goodbye to my eldest born child. I was sure it wouldn't be long before we met again.

The letters came with stories of how he missed us all. He didn't write much of the horrors that I was sure he would be seeing. But now it had been a few weeks since we had received one of those precious letters.

There was an eerie silence on that day. The day the telegram arrived. The day my world ended.

'Good morning Mrs Trevena. I am so sorry to hear about your Charles. We were all very proud of him you know.'

'Thank you Mrs Sampson*.'

* Sampson is a fictional name.

Author: Debbie Court

Great-great-great granddaughter of John and Rebecca Maris and great-granddaughter of Samuel and Rebecca Trevena (nee Maris).

Hill End Easter Community market

Our popular markets will again be held on Easter Saturday 19 April 2025. All enquiries for stalls (\$15 a table) can be made to Ian and Julie Hodge on markets@heatgg.org.au by 5 April. More information can be found here bit.ly/HEMarkets New stallholders are always welcome.





The Emotional Benefits of Understanding Our Family History

By Helen Parker

Did you know understanding our family history can positively impact our mental health and emotional wellbeing? By giving us:

1. An Enhanced Sense of Identity and Belonging

- **Complex Identities:** For individuals with mixed heritage or families that have migrated, understanding family history can help reconcile various cultural identities, creating a more integrated sense of self.
- **Personal Narrative:** Building our personal narrative with knowledge of your ancestors' lives adds depth to our identity, allowing us to see our life as part of a larger story.

2. Self-Understanding and Development

- **Behavioural Insights:** Understanding the historical factors that shaped the behaviours and decisions of our ancestors can give us insight into our personal behavioural patterns and psychological predispositions based on the effects of genetic and environmental factors.
- **Continuity and Change:** Identifying traits or behaviours that have persisted or changed across generations can motivate personal growth and development, encouraging us to perpetuate beneficial traits or change negative patterns.

3. Building Resilience

- **Coping Mechanisms:** After we consider how our ancestors coped with adversity, we can investigate the best coping mechanisms and resilience strategies we can use to improve our own mental health and well-being.
- **Contextualising Personal Struggles:** Knowing our family history can help put our personal struggles in context, potentially reducing feelings of isolation, and encouraging us to overcome our obstacles.

4. Enhanced Family Relationships

- **Empathy Development:** Understanding the circumstances and challenges faced by our ancestors can foster empathy and tolerance towards older family members by our recognising the historical influences on their behaviours and choices.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Insights into our family dynamics and historical conflicts can help us resolve ongoing family difficulties by understanding their origins and contexts.

5. Therapeutic Insights

- **Transgenerational Therapy:** Counsellors and psychologists can use knowledge of our family history in therapy to address transgenerational trauma, helping us to break cycles of negative behaviour and heal emotional wounds that span generations.
- **Identity Consolidation:** For adoptees or individuals with unknown ancestry, reconstructing family history can be particularly therapeutic, helping them to build or rebuild their identity narratives.

6. Connection Across Generations

- **Educational Role:** Older generations can use family history as a tool to teach values, ethics, and resilience, embedding these lessons within their experiences.
- **Preservation of Intangible Heritage:** Family stories, traditions, languages, our psychological inheritance, family recipes and family memorabilia form a legacy that, when passed down, enrich our lives. Sharing these can help us connect with living family and create a bond with people who have similar interests.

Conclusion

Understanding our family history can be more than a hobby; it can be a profound exploration of our cultural identity what has shaped our existence and personality. It can serve as a bridge between the past and present, offering us valuable lessons and giving us a deep sense of connection and continuity that can help build our resilience, ground us psychologically and be deeply fulfilling. This exploration can be especially powerful in times of personal or societal upheaval, helping us to have a strong sense of who we are and giving us a strength we can draw on in the future.

Further reading

unesco.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Mental-Health-and-Wellbeing-Report.pdf

frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.927795/full

familysearch.org/en/blog/why-we-need-family-history-now-more-than-ever

psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-stories-of-our-lives/202403/learning-family-history-helps-you-understand-yourself

Read more articles at: www.helenparkerdrabble.com

Rural Cemeteries closure petition

If you haven't had a chance to sign a hard copy petition regarding this matter then you can still register your concern via an online petition to the Legislative Assembly, as long as you are a resident of NSW. We are not sure of the closing date but if the link works then it is still active.

Bathurst Regional Council plan to close 6 local cemeteries

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, the undersigned petitioners, are asking for the 6 local sacred cemeteries Georges Plains, Trunkey, Rockley, Hill End Tambaroora, Peel and Sofala to remain open. Within these cemeteries are First Settler, War Veterans and community members past and present. We ask the Legislative Assembly to call on the government to assist the many community members who have family and friends within the above 6 local cemeteries to remove the Bathurst Regional Council's current pause on Burials.

Here is the link to the ePetition: bit.ly/4hmUcfH

To sign the ePetition, confirm you are a resident of New South Wales and enter your title, first name and last name. Once you click 'submit' you will have signed the ePetition and will be re-directed to the Legislative Assembly's 'ePetition "signed" page'.

And here is another ePetition you might like to sign.

Urge Bathurst Council to Keep Smaller Local Community Cemeteries Open

Here is the link bit.ly/3C8MTc8



Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group 2025 Gathering and Annual General Meeting Information

Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola Street, Concord
(Adjacent to the Kokoda Memorial Walkway and Brays Bay)

Saturday, 1 March 2025 from 10 am until 4 pm
2025 Annual General Meeting commencing 12 noon



You are invited to the HEATGG Annual Gathering

Saturday, 1 March 2025 from 10 am until 4 pm, Rhodes Rotary Park, Killoola Street, Concord West

About the day

The day is a very free-form gathering with some arriving for morning tea (or earlier - just note the banner may not be up when you get there before 10 am). It is an excellent opportunity for those with ancestors from the region to meet with others who have a similar interest.

The day initially started as a reunion for those who lived/had lived in the Hill End and Tambaroora area to get together, the Gathering is gradually evolving into a meeting place for those with links to the district to join in as well and share their experiences and family history research.

Our meeting place for the past 17 years (minus the covid years), Rhodes Park, caters well to our requirements. Our venue provides public transport access, plenty of parking, and toilets and a large shelter shed which we have booked solely for our use all day.

There will be a small selection of reference materials on display on the day and a selection of Hill End related books and memorabilia available for sale. We will have credit card facilities available and we will accept cash too.

This may be an opportunity to meet the faces that match many of the names we have been corresponding with in the past 12 months. It is also an opportunity to renew the friendships made at previous reunions. As it is a very informal get together there is no need to 'book' to come to the gathering. We're sure to all fit in! Our venue should also provide enough shelter if the weather is inclement.

As this newsletter goes to press there is still no news about the opening of the Kokoda Café. Hence it will be wise to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy. As usual, we will provide tea, coffee etc and boiling water for your convenience.

The bonus of attending the Gathering is you will also be ready to attend the annual general meeting. The AGM starts at 12 noon.

Further enquiries or details on parking and public transport can be made to Lorraine Purcell: 0408 117 784. Please leave a message if no answer or via email to heatgg@yahoo.com.au





We are also always keen to encourage new volunteers who feel that they have skills or an interest in the work of the group to nominate to join the committee, or just help out when they can. Now is a good opportunity to consider whether you have time to join us on some of our very interesting ventures.

We are especially looking for members who can help at our Family History Centre in Hill End, on weekends or during the week. If you have an interest in the family or local history of the area and enjoy learning more and sharing your knowledge, then we would love to hear from you.

If you live 'locally' – within an hour's drive from Hill End and can spare a day or so once a month this is a great opportunity to help us out.

If you live not so 'local', you might like to take a few days and stay locally. Or in Hill End basic caravan accommodation can be provided at a very nominal cost too. And we have accommodation available at the centre. The accommodation is a very modest for a token \$15 (1 or 2 people) per day. This just covers basic expenses. Both options are BYO linen, provide or buy your own food.

Contact Lorraine for more details (0408 117 784 or email heatgg@yahoo.com.au)

Family history research

In the Footsteps of Merlin

Our volunteer, Chris Dingle, has been working with the Holtermann Museum in Gulgong to produce a series of videos about the Merlin photos in the *Holtermann Collection*. Here is episode 1. We hope you enjoy it, like it, share it and subscribe to his channel. The channel is a historical view of then and now transitions and black and white to colour images, primarily focusing on the *Holtermann Collection* of photographs taken in Australia during the 1870s.

Episode 1: [youtube.com/watch?v=NOcTj32xh-I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOcTj32xh-I)

Chris' YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@chrisdingle1815](https://www.youtube.com/@chrisdingle1815)

More information can be found about Chris' exhibition held during Hill End Analogue – November 2023 in the February 24 Newsletter: heatgg.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Newsletter-Issue-31-February-2024.pdf

Diaries, letters and archives

A collection of diaries and papers written by migrants to Australia have recently been added to Trove.

These records provide insight into the voyage from the United Kingdom to Australia and life in the early years of the Australian colonies.

See what's recently been added to Trove: <https://brnw.ch/21wOsCI>

RAHS YouTube Channel

Are you looking for some lightweight entertainment over the holiday break? The Royal Australian Historical Society has a wonderful selection of YouTube presentations (free) on their channel. Go on, indulge! Check out their YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@royalaustrianhistsociety1901](https://www.youtube.com/@royalaustrianhistsociety1901)

