



Newsletter # 24
August 2008

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group
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Guest Speaker nights are held on the third Thursday
of each month at 7pm at
The Old Police Station, Ann Street, Salisbury.

\$2 entry fee for non-members

YOUR COMMITTEE

President:	Peter Applebee
Vice President:	Colin Withall
Secretary:	Margaret Flaiban
Treasurer / Membership:	Helen Stein
Newsletter Editor:	Colin Withall
Librarian & Fundraising Officer:	Tammy Martin
Publicity Officer:	Barb Such
General Committee:	Bev Burke Ivan Randall John Clift

RAFFLE

Congratulations to John Clift who won our last raffle.
Thank you to all who supported us.

MEETINGS

At tonight's meeting

Enid Woodley from the National Archives will present a talk on the Archives and how they may help in your research.

OPEN DAYS

We will be continuing our twice monthly Saturday afternoon open days.
The next dates will be 30th August 2008 from 1-4pm.
Volunteers and Committee members will be on hand to assist you.

*The group will not be held responsible for any statements or opinions expressed in this Newsletter.
All submitted articles and advertised offers of services are printed in good faith of accuracy.
The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for grammatical purposes if necessary.*

Editorial

We have now entered into our third year of operation as a family history group, since our formation we have strived to achieve the goals of our original objectives, we are confident that those goals have been achieved.

The group now possesses 4 computers, and several microfiche readers, several printers including an A4 colour printer. We have the internet connected, and this is available for use by all members in their research. Should a member not be able to use a computer, committee members are always available to assist you in your research.

We now have at our disposal a large library of CD resources, including the IGI, South Australian Birth, Death and marriage records, including some Interstate records, just to name a few. The English Census returns from 1841 to 1881, later years are available on line and assistance in locating these is also available from our committee members.

Now housing a large collection of hard copy references on various subjects relating to Family History, we are proud of an ever expanding Library of magazines consisting of such publications as the "*Family History Magazine*," "*Ancestors Magazine*," and other family history magazines, including many CDs from those publications all of which form "***The Anne Mellon Library***", so named for recognition of her kind donations. These are available for loan to members, the Library is administered by Tammy Martin, and it is she that should be contacted regarding these resources.

A computer course initiated by Committee member Ivan Randall has proven to be well attended, and if you have ever considered learning how to use a computer, this course is highly recommended. To those that do use a computer at home, revision is always worth pursuing, because new technology is coming into use every day, and Ivan is well versed in the subject. Contact the Committee for attendance.

Our Treasurer Helen Stein and Librarian Tammy Martin, are the experts to contact regarding cemeteries within the state, they also have CD's containing Indexes and photographs of headstones within a particular cemetery. Photo and Burial Register lookups can be requested by email to cemeteryphoto@hotmail.com

After much deliberation it was decided to open our Meeting Rooms in Ann Street on Thursdays, allowing members and others who care to undertake family research to attend. The opening hours will be from 10am to 4pm. The first opening was held on Thursday August 7th, and was manned by our Secretary Margaret Flaiban and Ivan Randall, and from all accounts was well patronised.

Also under consideration is a revamp of the Newsletter, it has been decided to replace the monthly newsletter with a quarterly *Journal* called "*The Compass*" commencing March 2009. The publication will be available initially to all financial members, but will be placed on our website 3 months after publication. The present Newsletter will be reduced to an information sheet only and will still be available on line.

"*The Compass*" will be a more informative publication, containing subjects relevant to family history research and applicable to all corners of the globe, as well as historical subjects, a member's query post box, and much, much more. The editors will be seeking contributions of member's stories suitable for publication; details will be advised in later Newsletters.

This coming year, the whole committee is determined that our group will become second to none, in assisting our members in their pursuits in Family History, and your participation is welcomed, we are seeking volunteers to assist the Committee.

CAN YOU HELP?

This column a free service to all members. Send your "Brick Walls" to genealogy99@iprimus.com.au with the subject title "Can You Help" to have them published. Remember that this newsletter is also posted on the Internet, therefore reaches a much wider audience than just members of our Group!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Group:

Andrew RICHARDS,

Researching: RICHARDS, WHITEHEAD, CANNON, SEARLE, WHITFIELD,
KING, OATES, PINNINTON and JACOBS.

Christine COAD

Researching: RUSSELL, SLATER, McNAMARA, JONES, and CORCORAN.
Ireland and Sth. Australia

A special Mention

It is noted that the Newsletter has had a change of Editor, Helen Stein who has served as Editor for the past 2 years has taken over the reins of the Treasurer and continues as our membership co-ordinator. However her talents will not be lost as she will continue as co-Editor along with Colin Withall, in production of the new quarterly journal "*The Compass*."

Tammy Martin who has served as Treasurer since the Groups inception, has taken over the tasks of Librarian and Fund Raiser, both of these positions are well suited to her organisational skills.

Bev Burke, who had been our Vice President since the inaugural committee was, set up 2 years ago. Bev, who has always been a supporter of the Group and reliable member of the Committee, Bev is our Gawler area Representative; contact her for anything to do with the History of Gawler.

It is to these very resourceful ladies that the Committee passes on behalf of the membership, our very grateful thanks for the job they had performed over the years. We wish them well in their new positions.

The Committee wishes to advise all members that it has appointed Mrs Thea Borgers as our Official Auditor. We would like to thank her for her past services, which she has provided voluntarily over the past 2 years, and her invaluable advice which has assisted and guided the Group's finances.

“Cemeteries and Graves of the Northern Rural areas of South Australia.”

A talk presented by
Dennis and Pam Parker of Yongala.

The presentation talk given on Thursday the 17th of July, proved to be very intriguing, and enthralling to those members present. Dennis commenced his talk by saying that they had researched 8 country cemeteries surrounding their home town of Yongala. These included the cemeteries of Whyteyarcowie, Hallett and Terowie, and in addition had located all the records held by the cemetery authorities.

Not only had they been content to record each grave located, but they also attempted to research the history and genealogy of each person buried in the cemetery. This has proven to be a major undertaking for them. This arduous endeavour began some years ago, when Pam wanted to find the burial sites of her ancestors, and undertake her family history, easier said than done, because over the years this has now extended to cover the rural history of the area, and record the people that lived, and died within the area.

To exemplify the amount of research, and time that this couple has invested over the years, can be quantified by the 4 books that they have produced. The first book containing the research of Terowie and its cemeteries, their research contained so much information that a second volume had to be produced. These two publications took 6 years to produce, and on completion they have listed over 3,000 burials alone. Two other books followed containing 4 cemeteries including Hallett and Whyteyarcowie but these only took 2 years to produce. They have now researched and recorded 8 individual cemeteries.

The whole idea of recording the personal history of a person, does not stop with the headstone and the date of birth and death, but extends far beyond that, the persons whole life is researched, where they lived, what sort of house that they occupied, did it have for example dirt floors, what was it made of, who built it, some of the pastoral people in the 1800's often built out of wattle and daub, and each man was his own builder and carpenter. How many children did the family have, their sex, ages etc, and Pam likes to have included a selection of weddings over the years. In fact they have attempted to give each person's history, and where possible photographs of that person. If the buildings can be located and still standing, a photographic record is made and included in the history.

Their research of course has not been easy to say the least, it has been fraught with set back after set back, in the main caused by poor records keeping, by the cemetery itself or by the local Council, records have proven to be inadequate, incomplete and in many cases downright neglected. For example in one case a person is recorded as being buried at one end of a cemetery row, but in fact was actually buried at the opposite end of the row. Graves marked in the register, but with no name of the person buried there. It has been found that headstones have been placed on the wrong graves on several occasions.

Dennis said that for all the cemeteries they have researched over the years, not one has a full list of records. The Parkers' had found that on more than one occasion burial registers have been poorly kept even as recently as 2006. In one particular case the cemetery recorder was so obstinate in his attitude, that if he didn't like a person then he would not record their grave site in the records, or leave them out of the burial register altogether.

Vandalism occurs in a lot of cemeteries, and the recording of all headstones are invaluable references for families, history and the cemeteries themselves. There is nothing more upsetting for a family to find upon visiting a cemetery, that the headstone of their loved one has been broken or vandalised, should the original headstone be damaged beyond repair, then photographs of headstones, allows for a duplicate to be made and remounted on the grave.

Their research has revealed that some of the headstones go back to the Colonial days many have faded over time, and where it was possible to read, often record some tragic circumstance leading to the death of the person. One gravesite in particular revealed that a woman in the early settlement days, who had apparently suffered some distressful experience, cut the throats of her children and then killed her self. Another dated from the time of the very early settlement days, when a family travelling to the northern rural selections, had camped for the night, their 3 year old girl wandered off with her doll, she was found dead 3 days later, and 130 years later the site has been marked with a plaque, erected by the Parkers' so that little child can be remembered.

One very interesting and touching tale, concerned a man called Mr. Dunn, who after a drinking bout fell asleep in a drunken stupor, another man urinated in Dunn's pocket, and this of course did not go well with Mr. Dunn when he sobered, needless to say they were not friends. Years later Mr. Dunn requested that when he died he wanted to be buried next to his wife, but something went wrong, because the man that had some time before disgraced Mr. Dunn, ended up being buried next to Mrs. Dunn, and poor Mr. Dunn was interred at the other end of the Cemetery.

A vote of gratitude should be recorded, because without their effort, the gravesites, the history and the people would soon be forgotten. It goes without saying that they have done their job well.

JUST QUICKLY....

For members searching the Liverpool area go to <http://www.old-merseytimes.co.uk/index.html> a great site for Liverpool and Merseyside life and times transcribed from old newspapers.

Like the Old West and its history? Then go to <http://www.ghostcowboy.com> contains a lot of old photos and real life stories. Another site <http://www.theoutlaws.com/index.html> a fun site to satisfy that love of the Wild West.

And the best for last, this site contains so much Historical research that it will take a lifetime to cover it all, it contains an Index of subjects, and is highly recommended, a must for research material on any subject. <http://home.insightbb.com/~d.lawson/>

