



Wangaratta Threads

Quarterly newsletter of the
Wangaratta Family History Society Inc

Edition No. 110, May 2017

Open days:

Tuesday & Thursday each week
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3rd Saturday of each month
11.00am to 3.00pm.

Location:

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Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.
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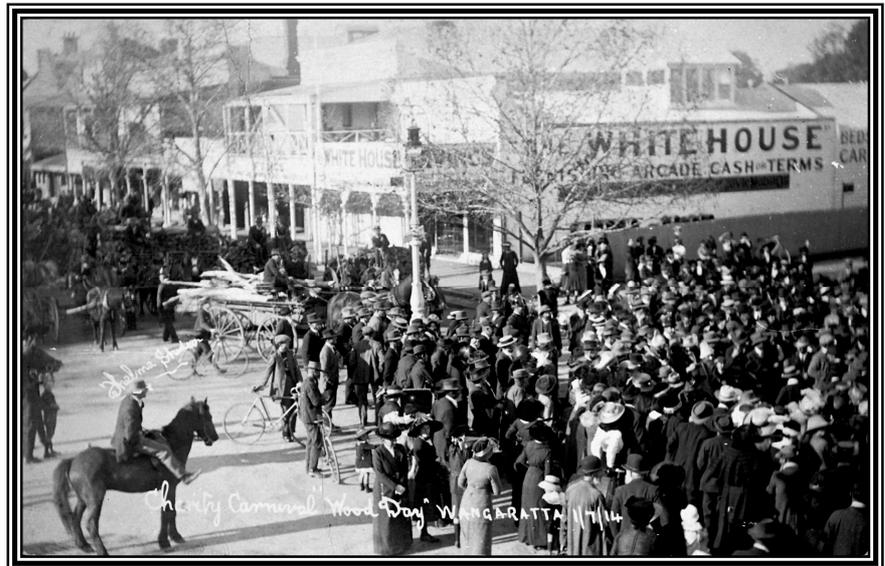
<http://www.wfhs.org.au/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wangaratta-Family-History-Society-Inc-678865085537215/>

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ABN No. 72 673 863 599



Charity Carnival Wood Day - Wangaratta 1/7/14
Creator: Courtney's Thelma Studio, Museums Victoria
<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/765679>

The Wangaratta Chronicle, Saturday 4 July 1914 Page 3

CARNIVAL WOOD DAY

A Huge Success

Total Sales £205

"Wood Day" in aid of the Charity Carnival funds was held on Wednesday, and the successful result achieved exceeded the expectations of even the most sanguine workers in the cause. From 10a.m. until 5p.m. wood-drays were continuously moving through the streets of the town. Never before was such a sight witnessed in Wangaratta, and few if any towns in the State have experienced the like.....the credit of organising this money-making method goes to Cr. J.R. Brien and Mr. Geo. Brien, of "Grand View", Wangandary. They not only launched the project, but they sent in seven loads, threw their paddocks open to anyone desirous of going in for wood...and entertained close on one hundred wood-carters at dinner at their own expense..."

The list of names of those buying loads and reselling them is a Who's Who of Wangaratta of that time. They include Vallender, Mason, Sloan, Wohlers, Docker, Canny, Slater, Peard, Fraser, Rowe, McLean, Handley, Vincent, O'Callaghan, Dinning, Nolan, Moroney, Colson, Stone, Lindner, Murdoch and the list goes on.

A mere 3 weeks afterwards, on 28th July, 1914, war was declared.

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MEMBERSHIP

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single full membership	\$30
Joint full membership	\$50

NEW MEMBERS:

- Maureen Adcock
- Glenys Armstrong
- Rose Overberg

A warm welcome from all at WFHS!

COMMITTEE

President	Still looking for a president.....	
Vice President:	Val Brennan	03 5727 6229
Treasurer:	Dianne Cavedon	03 5722 2607
Secretary:	Still looking for a secretary.....	
Editor:	Christine Heard	03 5727 6370
Committee Members:	Val McPherson Peg Templeton Faye Schusser	

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WFHS:

- The next members meeting will be Saturday 17th June, 2017 at 2pm. Members are encouraged to have input into ideas for guest speakers or activities for these meetings. All suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

- Putting the call out there to members once again to consider helping out on Committee. The Committee is running at skeleton level at present, something that is not sustainable for the long haul. We are short a president (I know Ray McKenzie is a hard act to follow), a Secretary and 2 ordinary committee positions. Please have a think about how you can help us keep the Society moving forward.

THE "LOST DIGGERS" OF VIGNACOURT

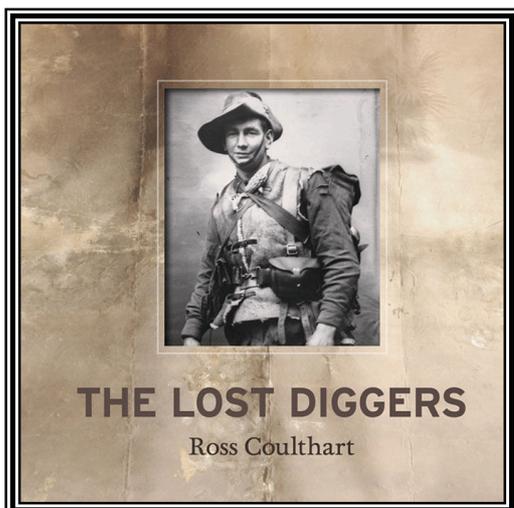
In 1916, Louis Thuillier returned to his Vignacourt farmhouse after two years of French military service. Australian soldiers began arriving in the town from the disastrous Dardanelles campaign. Thuillier and his wife Antoinette took souvenir photographs of Australian, French, British, Canadian, Indian and South African soldiers who visited the village to rest and recuperate from fighting at the front. Soldiers were often billeted with local families, so the photographs sometimes showed local children and young women posing with the soldiers.

According to Military Historian Peter Burness, "Nearly two-thirds of the young men who came through Vignacourt would have gone on to be killed or wounded. The losses were appalling..."

British censorship and Australia's lack of an official war photographer until 1917 meant that there were few such informal photographs outside the official record.

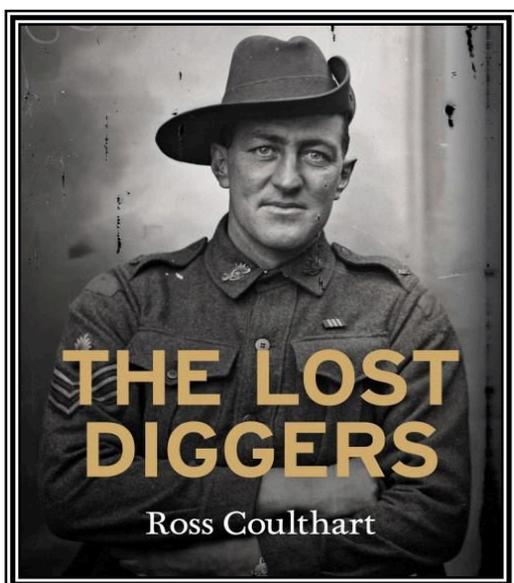
In 2011, investigative journalist Ross Coulthart was part of the team who unearthed over 4,000 fragile photographic glass plate negatives in the attic of a dilapidated farmhouse in Vignacourt. Initially, nearly 500 of the plates, which had been donated by a relative of the photographers - had been brought back to Australia and processed.

Unbelievably, a French amateur historian who had seen part of the collection over 20 years prior, had tried to interest both Australia's Embassy in Paris and British historians in the collection. Unfortunately, his attempts to see the plates preserved and protected at the time were ignored by the authorities.



After a significant amount of sleuthing and negotiation, the descendants of Louis and Antoinette Thuillier were tracked down, and took Coulthart and his team to an attic in one of the family farmhouses where the plates had been left in dusty old trunks and forgotten about. This discovery was fortuitous, as the family were about to sell the farm, with every chance that the glass plate images would be thrown away.

Coulthart recalled "We could hardly believe what we were seeing. The battered boxes were filled with glass negative photographic plates, and for hours we held them up to the attic window light, revealing often perfectly preserved ghostly negative images...of Australian diggers, British Tommies, Indian Sikhs with massive turbans, and French, Canadian and American soldiers."



Channel 7 and "Sunday Night" produced and aired a pair of documentaries in 2011. In addition to the documentaries, social media was used to great effect. A Facebook page on which the images were posted was set up, inviting assistance from the public to identify the men in the photographs. To say that the response was overwhelming would be an understatement!

In addition to the information from the Facebook page comments, Coulthart used Australian War Memorial unit diaries, and the National Archives individual soldier service records to assist with identification of the soldiers and their individual story in some cases. In 2012, he published his first edition of "The Lost

Diggers", and in 2016 followed up with a second fully revised and expanded edition.

The Australian War Memorial also curated a travelling exhibition titled *"Remember me: the lost diggers of Vignacourt"*. The exhibition commenced in 2014 and concludes in 2018, and "...showcases 74 photographs specially hand-printed in the Memorial's darkrooms from the original glass-plate negatives. It draws on the Memorial's own collection to tell the story of these men in their own voices." The 800 images in the Memorial's collection can all be viewed on the Australian War Memorial website. The remaining tour dates for the exhibition can also be found on the website. Unfortunately, the only Victorian date remaining is at the Hamilton Art Gallery, 22nd July - 3 September, 2017.

The discovery of these photographic plates has been one of major significance for the Great War centenary. The task of identification will continue as long as there is fresh information coming to hand, and be ongoing well into the future.

If you have a family member who served in World War 1, take the time to look at the photos on the website. Acquaint yourself with the young men who volunteered for "The War to end all Wars", many of whom never returned to their native country. Silently thank them for their sacrifice, and hope that we will never see the like of that conflict again. More importantly though, YOU may be able to make a valuable contribution to the future identification of another "Lost Digger."

Resources:

- Inside History Magazine - "Discovering the Lost Diggers of Vignacourt" Issue 13 Nov-Dec 2012 <http://www.insidehistory.com.au/2014/05/discovering-the-lost-diggers-of-vignacourt/2/>
- Australian War Memorial website - <https://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/remember-me/>
- Inside Story - Captured by the Thuilliers by Richard Johnstone - 8 November 2014 - <http://insidestory.org.au/captured-by-the-thuilliers>
- The Lost Diggers - Ross Coulthart - 2016

The screenshot shows the Australian War Memorial website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Home, About, Blog, Centenary, Visit, Commemoration, War history, People, Collection, Education, and Shop. The main content area displays the item ID P10550.003 and a large black and white photograph of a military band. To the right of the photo, there is a 'Collection' section with the title 'Remember Me' and a description: 'THE LOST DIGGERS OF VIGNACOURT. This photograph appears in the exhibition Remember me: the lost diggers of Vignacourt.' Below this is a 'Related information' section with links for Conflicts/Operations (First World War, 1914-1918), Units (2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion), Bands, and Events (Western Front). A metadata table is located below the photo, providing details such as ID number (P10550.003), Collection type (Photograph), Object type (Black & white - Glass original postcard negative), Maker (Thuillier, Louis), Place made (France: Picardie, Somme, Vignacourt), Date made (c 1916-1918), and Description (Group portrait of members of the 2nd Pioneer Battalion band...). At the bottom of the page, there are three columns of links: Museum (Visitor information, Research Centre, etc.), Research (Family history, Information sheets, etc.), and Participate (Friends of the Memorial, Facebook, etc.).

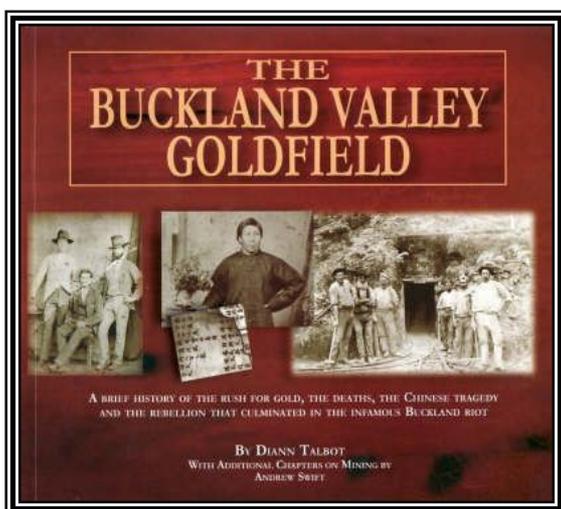
ID number	P10550.003
Collection type	Photograph
Object type	Black & white - Glass original postcard negative
Maker	Thuillier, Louis
Place made	France: Picardie, Somme, Vignacourt
Date made	c 1916-1918
Description	Group portrait of members of the 2nd Pioneer Battalion band. Identified in the middle row, third from the right, is 2201 Private (Pte) Stanley Walter George Thorpe, a grocer from Norwood, South Australia. From the Thuillier collection of glass plate negatives. Taken by Louis and Antoinette Thuillier in Vignacourt, France during the period 1916 to 1918.

“WHO IS SHE” BY DIANN TALBOT

Diann was guest speaker at our recent AGM in March, and enthralled us with a presentation looking at not only the research behind her book, but a snapshot of the lives of the women portrayed in it. The book concentrates on the Buckland Valley area, where there was known to have been a large Chinese community.



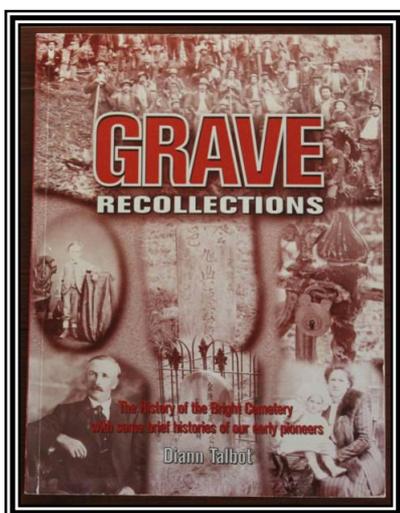
It was fascinating to hear how many of these pioneering women were "sold" to Chinese men as wives. Payment of a dowry to the family of a bride was common practice in China, so European families with many mouths to feed on very little income viewed the marriage of an older daughter to a well off Chinese storekeeper or market gardener as a viable solution to their problems. These women and girls, some of whom were only teenagers, faced a very different life to most of their peers, and the insights provided by Diann in the book really did highlight how little we know about the women who helped build this country.



The search started 10 years ago, when the author realised that local historical records had very little information about the Chinese, and even less about their wives or women folk. She started her research with two sisters who lived in Harrietteville, who were both married to Chinese storekeepers. What she thought was going to be a little booklet became a 300 page book when she was able to locate 33 such women and delve into their history.

Of her latest book, Diann says "Who is She?" has been a labour of love, borne out of a determination to give those forgotten pioneering women a voice."

Diann is the author of five local history books, and a member of both Harrietteville and Bright Historical Societies.



Other books by this author are "The Buckland Valley Goldfield", "Tobacco in the Ovens Valley", "The Buckland Riot", and "Grave Recollections—The History of the Bright Cemetery with Some Brief Histories of Our Early Pioneers".

Thank you Diann for an extremely entertaining and interesting insight into our pioneer women.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT HARRIETVILLE

Something new for this district and of interest to all local historians is an archaeological dig at the Harrietville Chinese Mining Camp.

The Uncovered Past Institute revealed at a public information session held at Harrietville in March of this year, their plans, which are well advanced, for the dig to take place over a period of three weeks from October 9th to 28th, 2017.

Each week of the dig, two experienced archaeologists and The Uncovered Past Institute team will direct and supervise sixteen paying volunteers from Australia and overseas.

This will be the first archaeological dig of a Chinese mining settlement in Australia. The largely undisturbed site includes mine workings water races, building foundations and gardens. Ceramics, utensils and coins are some of the items likely to be discovered.

Half day tours of the dig while it is in progress will be available to the public and it is expected that the artefacts found will be on display at the Community Hall.

Expressions of Interest in this dig have been received from around the world.

For more information, go to the website www.uncoveredpastinstitute.org.au and click on *Harrietville Chinese Mining Village*.

Here is a rare opportunity for local historians and others to see at first hand, an archaeological dig of world standard, in progress.

The BUCKLAND RIOT

2400 CHINESE CHASED OFF THE MINING FIELD



Next to the Eureka Stockade and the Kelly Gang the most sensational happening on early Australian mining fields occurred at Buckland (Vic.) in 1857, when the miners there became so incensed at the success of the Chinese miners that they rose in a body and in a single day drove 2400 of them off the field.

Constable Duffy on the 4th July received information that a meeting of miners was to be held that day for the expulsion of the Chinese.

Leaving Constable Gilroy in charge of the camp he proceeded up the creek, and at Tanswell's pub found about 90 or 100 miners assembled. John Thomas Bell was addressing the meeting, and resolutions were passed, indicating the hatred of the Buckland miners for the Chinese. Bell spoke for about five minutes after the constable's arrival, and concluded by calling on the meeting to separate and accomplish its object.

About 40 of the mob immediately armed themselves with pick and axe

handles and pieces of wood, and proceeded up the right branch of the Buckland, shouting and disorderly.

When the mob was about half a mile up the creek they crossed to the other side and came direct on the Chinese camp on Londen's Flat, which was the highest up the river, and immediately commenced tearing down and burning tents and stores and attacking the bewildered Celestials with sticks. The constable was treated with contempt by the incensed rioters.

Next the mob returned down creek to the Junction, where they divided into two, and took each side of the creek. As they continued down several others joined them, and by the time they passed the Police Camp there were about 120 persons.

Several Chinese were dangerously assaulted, and some were even robbed of large sums of money and gold, but, as nothing could induce them to remain on the Buckland, the perpetrators could not be proceeded against.

The first attack on Londen's Flat commenced about 11 a.m., and all the Chinese were driven across the Buckland River, a distance of about eight miles, by about 4 p.m.

There were 500 tents and stores destroyed. As the Chinese population was estimated at 2400 they outnumbered the attackers by 20 to 1.

BUCKLAND MINING DIVISION.—
We are indebted to Mr. R. H. Stone,
Mining Surveyor for the Buckland
Division, for the accompanying return
of the population and machinery of his
district. The population is as under :—

	Europeans.	Chinese.
Alluvial miners . . .	700	560
Quartz miners . . .	480	
Quartz crushing . .	28	
Totals	1208	560

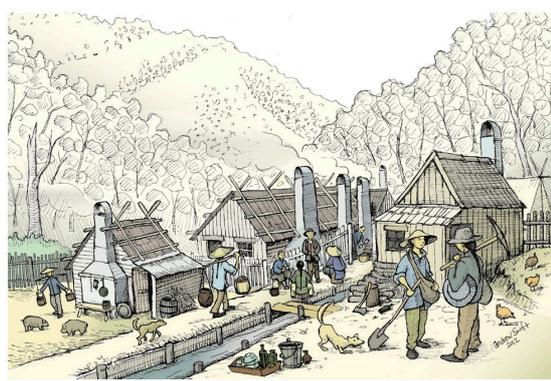
THE UNCOVERED PAST INSTITUTE

archaeology + history

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DIG WITH US

OCTOBER 2017
HARRIETVILLE CHINESE MINING VILLAGE



Speculative reconstruction of part of the Harrietville Chinese Village (illustration by Andrew Swift)

Join us to discover more about the Chinese miners who once lived and worked in the 19th century Harrietville Chinese Mining Village. For around thirty years from the late 1850s Harrietville was home to many of the thousands of Victoria's Chinese gold miners. This will be the first archaeological dig in Victoria of a Chinese mining settlement. The largely undisturbed site includes mine workings, water races, building foundations, and gardens: a rare survivor of the heyday of Chinese gold mining in Victoria. Huge quantities of food, liquor, medicines, utensils, ceramics and even coins were imported from China. Examples of these are likely to be discovered during the excavation, which will centre on the main building - a kitchen with five hearths. Is this building evidence of the famous *kongsi* - the Chinese traditional co-operative working structure often reported in historical records, but rarely found archaeologically before?

LOCATION
In the Alpine National Park, in the Upper Ovens Valley, in northeast Victoria, near the town of Harrietville.

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1917

June 2017 is the centenary of the greatest flood ever experienced in the history of Wangaratta, and described at the time by Mayor Fred Purbrick as its greatest disaster.

The following account of this catastrophic event in which six people lost their lives, has been taken from the book "O'Cal's Corner" written by Bill O'Callaghan, and issues of the Wangaratta Chronicle dated June 9th and June 13th, 1917.



Following very heavy and continuous rainfall on Monday night, 4th June in the upper catchments of both the Ovens and King Rivers, Wangaratta Police were advised on Wednesday 6th June from Myrtleford and Whitfield that a big flood could be expected. The police wasted no time taking appropriate action and advised residents in low-lying areas to leave their homes immediately. Many did so, taking what belongings they could, but some decided to wait until the next morning.

TOO LATE!

On Wednesday night, the floodwaters reached Wangaratta. Within a few hours, the gauge on the Ovens Bridge showed that the river rose from 9'4" to 15'9" and later on Thursday it reached an all-time high of 18' (5.486mtrs).

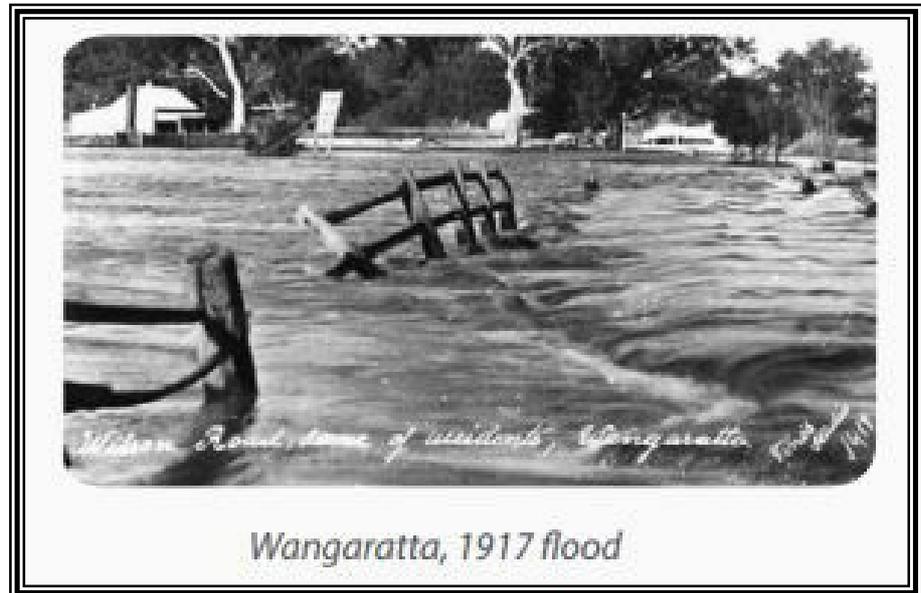
The One Mile Creek and Three Mile Creek were in flood, several streets were impassable, the narrow gauge line was swamped and some telephone lines had been levelled. But the flood was at its most violent in the north and the east of the town. The whole of the flats were feet deep in water, and those who had not heeded the warning were in dire need of rescue.

The four local policemen, **Sgt. Rohan, Constables Mallon, Gray and Hennessy**, along with many volunteers, worked all through Thursday and Friday, bringing eighty families and fifty individuals to safety. The rescuers found people seated on windowsills, standing on tables, and in one instance, waiting in a loft. Two of the volunteers, **Norm Marshall** and **John Glassenbury**, rescued a family that had taken refuge on top of a haystack inside a shed with six to eight feet of water swirling about. **Duncan Martell** in his car ploughed through the water in Parfitt Road and brought several car loads to higher ground, and **Jack Carey** and **William Morley** in a dray and spring cart, rescued several families from Pinkerton Crescent, Clements and Wills Streets.

Not all were so fortunate! Tragically, six people were drowned.

During that terrible Thursday, **Cr. John Nicol**, one of the volunteers, had assisted several Wilson Road residents to leave their homes, but late in the day, the horse pulling his dray, either from fatigue or from the heavy load, slipped. The dray overturned and its eight occupants were thrown into the water. Three were able to save themselves but the other five, including 50 year old **Cr. John Nicol**, perished. The others who drowned were **Mrs. Lavinia Richards**, her two daughters **Gladys** aged 16 and **Lillian**, aged 13, and **James Lee**. In a separate fatality, **Thomas Rhodes**, a 25 year old resident, drowned when his dray loaded with furniture, overturned.

Apart from the tragic loss of life, the flood caused massive damage to property, fencing, roads, bridges, railways, house furnishings, cultivated land and loss of stock. The Chinese gardeners suffered extensive losses, having four thousand cauliflowers ready to pick and two tons of swede turnips dug and ready for market, all of which were washed away. Some



people with boats managed to get to farmhouses which had been inundated. Here they found resilience and resourcefulness amongst the country people. Most had water in their homes, but had raised their beds up so that they had a dry place to sleep and were able to keep the wood fired stove going to provide some warmth. Some families with very young children were up on tables, but most of them refused to leave.

Outlying districts were also affected by the floodwaters. At Whorouly, those attending a Ball at the Library Hall on the Wednesday night found that when it came time to go home, they could not cross the flooded Whorouly Creek and had to stay the night and most of the next day at the hall until the waters receded. Never within the memory of the oldest inhabitants of Whorouly had such a tremendous amount of water rushed through the valley. The water rose to two feet deep in the bar of Mrs. Connor's hotel, and a sea of water extended from the main road to the Bowman Forest Ranges.

The narrow gauge railway line which runs from Whitfield to Wangaratta was seriously damaged at Edi Cutting, and the Thursday morning's train from Whitfield was halted there. A motorised tricycle was procured, the mail bags loaded onto it and **Mr. James Kennedy** and **Mr. Healy**, the travelling stationmaster, made the perilous journey into Wangaratta with the mail, and then did the return journey later the same day.

Five travellers from Yarrawonga had a terrifying experience at Peechelba on Thursday night. Travelling in a cab drawn by two horses, they were on their way to Wangaratta to catch the Melbourne train on Friday morning. A large tree brought down by floodwaters blocked their way. When trying to turn the cab, the horses got into a deep cutting, the cab overturned and the horses drowned. The travellers managed to free themselves, climbed on top of the upturned cab and remained there until being rescued by a boat.

These and other tales of narrow escapes, bravery and resourcefulness can be found on Page 3 of the Wangaratta Chronicle, Saturday June 9th 1917.

The next issue of the Wangaratta Chronicle dated Wednesday 13th June, on Page 3, gives a detailed description of the recovery of the bodies. Five boats, including three sent from Melbourne at the request of Sgt. Rohan, were manned by the four Wangaratta policemen and several volunteers. Grappling hooks were used to locate and recover the bodies, five of which were found on Saturday and the remaining one on Sunday.



Inquests into the deaths of the six deceased were immediately carried out, the verdict in all six cases being "Accident - Drowned".

The burials of Cr. **John Martin Nicol**, a building contractor aged 53 years, **James Lee**, an agent aged 77 years and **Thomas Lewis Rhodes**, a labourer aged 25 years, were held on Sunday 10th June. Three hearses and three mourning coaches were followed by 90 buggies and 14 motor cars. The cortege travelled from Faithfull Street along Murphy and Ryley Streets to the Wangaratta Cemetery where the deceased were laid to rest, **John Nicol** and **James Lee** in the Presbyterian section and **Thomas Rhodes** in the Church of England section.



The Richards Grave in Wangaratta Cemetery.

The funeral service for **Mrs. Lavinia Jane Richards**, aged 53 years, the wife of a bootmaker and mother of nine, and that of her daughters **Gladys Marion**, aged 16 years and **Lillian Rose**, aged 13 years, was held on Monday 11th June at the Methodist Church. As a mark of respect the shops closed for an hour and the streets were lined with people as the hearses and a cortege of 32 vehicles and 2 motor cars passed. The town band played "The Dead March". Mrs. Richards and her two daughters were buried together in the Presbyterian section of the Wangaratta Cemetery.

The Wangaratta Cemetery waived the fees for all of these burials.

Memorial stones have since been erected on the respective burial plots. It is poignant to note that less than two years after the tragic drownings, the husband of Mrs. Lavinia Richards and father of the girls Gladys and Lillian, passed away.

On Friday 8th June, Mayor Purbrick called a meeting of townspeople to consider relief measures required by some who were homeless until the water subsided. A Committee was appointed to raise funds through a public appeal and to administer the fund. A Ladies Relief Committee headed by the Mayoress was also appointed at the same public meeting. A liberal response to its appeal for clothing etc. was received, and the ladies issued them to those in need the next day.

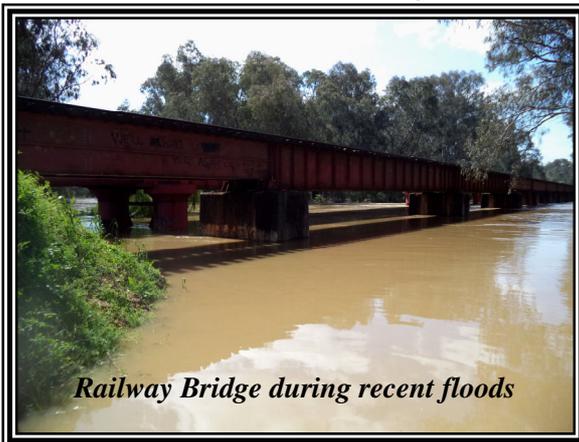
The District Coroner expressed appreciation of the fine work done by the police under Sgt. Rohan, who had worked night and day rescuing life and saving property. Their work was heroic as they were frequently in great danger. The Coroner intended to forward a report to the Chief Commissioner with a request that appreciation be shown by a favourable entry in the record sheets of Sgt. Rohan and the three Constables involved.

Mayor Purbrick of the Borough of Wangaratta, expressed in a letter to Sgt. Rohan and his Constables, the great appreciation of the citizens of Wangaratta for their heroic and untiring work during the rescue and recovery operations. The Mayor also wrote to the Superintendent of Police Benalla, recommending departmental recognition. In turn, Sgt. Rohan expressed appreciation of the valuable assistance from volunteers. Whether it be in rescuing marooned people, dragging for bodies, delivering provisions for stranded families and feed for livestock, all was done willingly and without accident.

The Wangaratta Family History Society became aware of this tragic and catastrophic event when a member of our Projects Team was checking the original Application for Burial books of the Wangaratta Cemetery in the archives of the Rural City of Wangaratta, and noticed that on 10th and 11th June 1917, six persons, all with the notation "drowned", were buried in the Wangaratta Cemetery. A check of the Victorian Inquests Index confirmed that these six people had accidentally died from drowning. Such newsworthy events would have been reported in the newspapers of the day, and so it was that we found the detailed report of the tragic events that happened on Thursday 7th June 1917 in the Wangaratta Chronicles dated Saturday 9th June and Wednesday 13th June, as well as a graphic description of what is said to be, the greatest flood Wangaratta has ever experienced.

It is fitting that this article is being published in the Centenary year of that historic event.

One hundred years on and Wangaratta still experiences periodic flooding. Since then, a levee bank



Railway Bridge during recent floods

has been built to protect low-lying areas and divert floodwaters away from the town, so even in another major flood event, the water flow would be different to what it was in 1917.

A recent States Emergency Services Flood Guide for Wangaratta estimates that the 1870, the 1917 and the 1993 floods at Wangaratta were of approximately the same height. In 1917, the gauge was situated on the Ovens River Bridge and measured the height above Normal Summer Level, whereas now the gauge is attached to the Railway Bridge further downstream. The reading of 12.97m at the Railway Bridge in 1993 is,

according to the SES Flood Guide, comparable with a reading of 18ft above normal summer level, recorded on the gauge at the Ovens River Bridge in 1917.

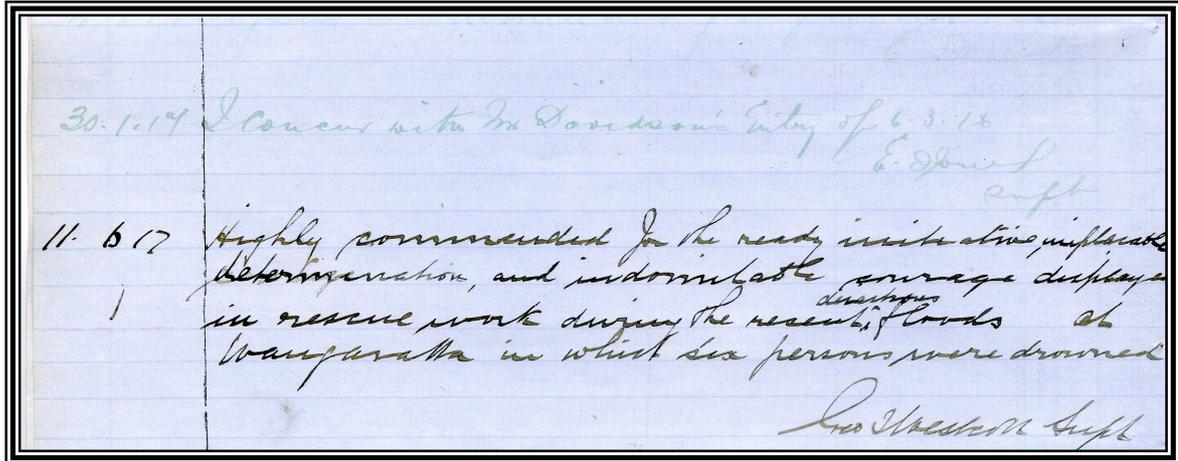
Evacuation of any citizens at risk would now be done by orange or yellow clothed volunteers from the Emergency Services, all of whom would have had the appropriate training and be accredited for floodboat or heavy vehicle rescue.

Today, recovery of bodies would not be carried out by volunteers as it was one hundred years ago. Instead, divers from the police rescue and recovery team would be sent from Melbourne.

No de-briefing or counselling was available for the volunteers who performed rescues at risk of their own lives, or for those who witnessed the tragic accident. They were seen to be brave men and expected to get over it and get on with their lives.

And what of those four heroic policemen who seemed to have worked without relief for the duration of the entire operation? Today they would only be permitted to work their shift hours and then be relieved by police from other towns who would be unfamiliar with local conditions.

A member of our Society made enquiries with the Victoria Police Museum and was able to obtain the Conduct and Record files of the four Wangaratta policemen involved in the 1917 flood. It was gratifying to find that all four received a commendation at District level for their work and bravery. The entries in each record are identical and read:



Above - The actual entry in the police members personal file
(Courtesy Victoria Police Museum)

"11/6/1917 Highly commended for the ready initiative, implacable determination and indomitable courage displayed in rescue work during the recent disastrous floods at Wangaratta in which six persons were drowned."

Personal details of each policeman and his career are also included in the files. A short summary is as follows:

Name	Rohan, Martin	Register No.	3614
Date of Birth	11-11-1859		
Place of Birth	Limerick, Ireland.		
Appointed	6-10-1885.		
Date of Leaving Force	11-11-1919		
Reason	Superannuated		
Rank on Leaving Force	Senior Honorable Sgt. ^{1ST} CLASS (NE-DISTRICT)		

Sergeant Martin Rohan, reg. no. 3614, was born in Limerick, Ireland in 1859. He joined Victoria Police in 1885 and took up postings in Melbourne, Beaufort and Benalla before being transferred to Wangaratta on 29th December 1914 where he was in charge of the station.

Sgt Rohan was a married man having married Johanna Murray in 1886. They had three children, Mary 1887, Edward 1888 and John 1889.

On 11th November 1919 Sgt Martin Rohan reached the retiring age of 60 years and was superannuated as a 1st Class Sergeant.

He died on 14th June 1945 at Moonee Ponds, aged 86 years.

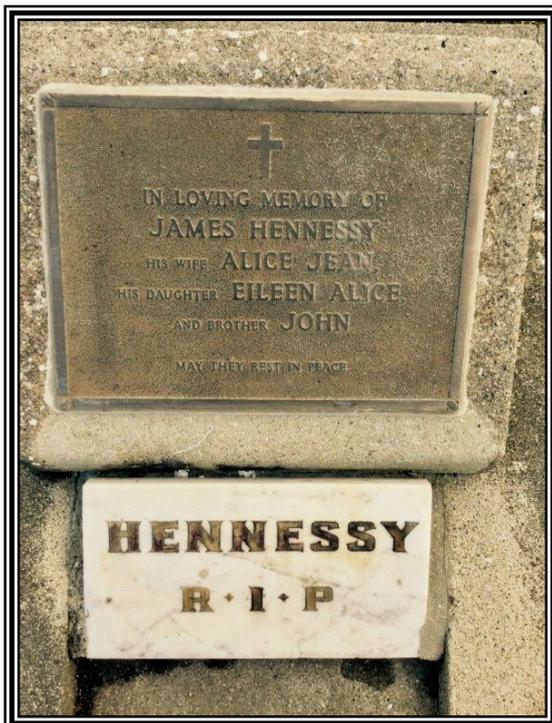
Name	M A L L O N, Nicholas.	Register No.	4638
Date of Birth	25.12.73	Appointed Constable (on probation)	13.10.96
Place of Birth	Nelson, Sth Aust.	Probation Extended	
Height	5 ft. 10½ in.	Appointment Confirmed	
Eyes	blue		
Hair	fair	Promoted Senior Constable	1.4.18
Complexion	fair	.. Sergeant, 2nd Class	13.5.24
Trade	labourer	.. Sergeant, 1st Class	1.9.25
Religion	R.C.	.. Sub-Inspector	25.2.26
General Appearance	respectable	.. Inspector	1.2.28
Married or Single	M Widower 19.11.1932	.. Superintendent	1.10.28
Mounted or Foot	F		

Constable Nicholas Mallon, reg. no. 4638, was born in 1873 at Nelson, South Australia. He joined Victoria Police in 1896. After a short time in Melbourne and seven years at Ballarat East he was transferred to Wangaratta on 9th January 1905. Constable Mallon married Bridget Landrigan in 1897 and had a daughter Winifred born 1900. He remained at Wangaratta until 12th April 1919 when he transferred to Russell Street. Nicholas Mallon rose through the ranks and became

Superintendent of Benalla District on 1st October 1928 and 12 months later transferred to Melbourne District as Superintendent in Charge. On 28th December 1933 Superintendent Nicholas Mallon was superannuated out of the force having attained the retiring age of 60 years. He died 29th December 1942 aged 69 years

Name	H E N N E S S Y James	Register No.	4924
Date of Birth	2.10.74	Appointed Constable (on probation)	8.1.01
Place of Birth	North Wangaratta Vic	Probation Extended	
Height	5 ft. 9½ in.	Appointment Confirmed	
Eyes	light grey		
Hair	light brown	Promoted Senior Constable	1.6.22
Complexion	dark	.. Sergeant, 2nd Class	1.2.28
Trade	laborer	.. Sergeant, 1st Class	28.11.29
Religion	R.C.	.. Sub-Inspector	
General Appearance	Ordinary	.. Inspector	
Married or Single	M	.. Superintendent	
Mounted or Foot	F		

Constable James Hennessy, reg. no. 4924, was born at North Wangaratta on 2nd October 1874 the son of John Hennessy and Margaret Byrne. He joined Victoria Police on 8th January 1901. After postings at several Melbourne stations he was transferred to Chiltern on 17th February 1908 and from there to Wangaratta on 5th March 1914. Constable James Hennessy married Alice Jane Dowler in 1904. They had four children, Edmund 1905, Eileen 1907, James 1910, and Gerte 1912.



He remained at Wangaratta until 26th August 1918 when he was transferred to Tallarook to be in charge of the station. After further postings at Bendigo and Kyabram, Sergeant James Hennessy was, on 6th August 1927 transferred back to his home town of Wangaratta to be in charge of the station. Sgt Hennessy was superannuated from the force at Wangaratta on 2nd October 1934 having attained retirement age of 60 years.

He died on 4th January 1943 in Melbourne aged 68 years and is buried in the Roman Catholic section of the Wangaratta Cemetery with his wife Alice, daughter Eileen and brother John.

Left - The Hennessy grave in Wangaratta Cemetery.

Name	G R A Y	Register No.	4912
	Julius		
Date of Birth	18.9.75	Appointed Constable (on probation)	11.12.00
Place of Birth	Myamyn Vic	Probation Extended	
Height	5 ft. 10½ in.	Appointment Confirmed	
Eyes	blue	Promoted to 1st. Constable	1.7.29.
Hair	lt. sandy	Promoted Senior Constable	
Complexion	sandy	.. Sergeant, 2nd Class	
Trade	laborer	.. Sergeant, 1st Class	
Religion	R.C.	.. Sub-Inspector	
General Appearance	Ordinary	.. Inspector	
Married or Single	S	.. Superintendent	
Mounted or Foot	F		

Constable Julius Gray, reg. no. 4912, was born on 18th September 1875 at Myamyn in Western Victoria. He joined Victoria Police on 11th December 1900. Soon afterwards he was appointed to the North East District and served at Numurkah and Beechworth before being transferred to Wangaratta on 10th January 1907. While at Wangaratta he filled a 6 month temporary vacancy at Glenrowan as policeman in charge of the station. On 1st

September 1919 he was transferred to Russell Street for plain clothes duty there and at Hawthorn. On 28th March 1927 he returned to uniform duty at Russell Street where his job was Parks and Gardens duty and later special duty at the Old Gaol.

Constable Julius Gray may not have married nor had children. Noted on his Index Card is the name of his brother C.J. Gray, most likely his Next of Kin. 1st Constable Julius Gray was superannuated on 18th September 1935 having reached retiring age of 60 years. He died at Portland on 2nd November 1942 aged 67 years.

Compiled by:

Valerie McPherson, Wangaratta Family History Society.

Acknowledgements:

- *The Wangaratta Chronicle*
- *"O'Cal's Corner" by Bill O'Callaghan*
- *The Victoria Police Museum*
- *1917 Flood photos from various sources*

Library News:

What's New in the Library:-

- **"Started with Sawdust" My Story** by Ray Dunstan - A collection of the history and memories of the Dunstan family.
- **"From Wales to Whitefield" - A History of the Evans Family 1815-1850** by David Evans.
- **"Whitfield to Wangaratta Railway 1899-1953 - A Historical Record"** - Compiled by Lindsay McD. Simpson.
- **"Whitfield Ramblings incorporating 125 Years of Schooling - Whitfield District Primary School 1875 - 2000"**.
- **"Walata Tyamateetj - A guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria"** - Public Record office Victoria and National Archives of Australia.

- "Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Britain" - New Revised Edition
- "Co-Operative Housing in Wangaratta 1945 - 1982" - R.C. Mackenzie
- "Death certificates and archaic medical terms" by Helen V. Smith
- "Remembrance - 100 years, 100 memorials, 100 Australian Stories" by Atkins, Hocking & Millowick.
- "Treasures of Gapsted" by Arthur L. Clarke

DVD's

- "Convict Women & Children in Australia" - 4 part documentary about emigration of women and children to Australia.

Changing of the Guard

After many years of editing this newsletter and performing duties as Secretary, Cheryl Price has stepped down from both due to personal commitments. On behalf of all the members at WFHS, I would like to thank Cheryl so much for all her hard work, and wish both Cheryl and Al the best of luck with their future endeavours.

The society is still looking for a secretary, and if anybody feels they can contribute and take on the position, you will be most welcome. I have put my hand up, albeit hesitantly, to edit and produce Wangaratta Threads. I only hope I can do justice to the newsletter, as Cheryl will be a hard act to follow!

Wangaratta Threads

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