

# WANGARATTA THREADS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

## WANGARATTA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

A0022724T

ABN No. 72 673 863 599

No. 102 May, 2015



### OPEN DAYS:

Tuesday & Thursday each week  
10.00am to 3.00pm.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
11.00am to 3.00pm.

### LOCATION:

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
100-104 Murphy Street  
Wangaratta, Vic, Australia.  
(above Visitor Information  
Centre).

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 683  
Wangaratta, Vic, 3676  
Australia.

### email:

[info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)

### Web Address:

[www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)



### COMING EVENTS:

#### At our Society:

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Saturday at 2.00pm—  
Members Meeting.**

Catch up with what's been happening and listen  
to our mystery speaker -



or



Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

**7<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am—**Suzie Zada speaking on 'Victorian  
Land Titles and Documents From Old to New' at Cobram  
Genealogical Group, Old School, Punt Rd, Cobram. \$10.00



#### LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR FOR 'THREADS':

After five years as Editor, a 'fresh face' is needed to  
put 'Threads' together. So if you would like to take  
on the newsletter, or would like to find out more  
about it, ring Cheryl on 03 5721 5906 or email  
[info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au)



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

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

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President: Ray McKenzie 03 5721 7553

Vice President: Val Brennan 03 5727 6229

Treasurer: Dianne Cavedon 03 5722 2607

Secretary: Cheryl Price 03 5721 5906

Other committee members:

- Val McPherson
- Elaine Jones
- Paddy Milne
- Christine Heard
- Peg Templeton.

Threads Newsletter: Cheryl Price.



## IN MEMORIUM:

Former member Mary Kelly passed away in March 2015.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

- \* Vicki Trimble.

## HAVE A QUERY OR WISH TO MAKE A SUGGESTION?

Contact:

- \* Ray McKenzie, President, on 03 5721 7553; or
- \* Val Brennan, Vice President, on 03 5727 6229.

You can also email us on [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

## FOR SALE \$ - WANGARATTA CEMETERY CD:

Our Society is reducing stocks and selling Wangaratta Cemetery CDs which contain burial and headstone transcriptions at a reduced price of \$50 ea (including packaging and postage). Original price was \$77.

Download the order form from our website <http://www.wfhs.org.au/> or contact [info@wfhs.org.au](mailto:info@wfhs.org.au).

## MEMBERSHIP:

Initial 1st year Admin Fee	\$10
Single Full Membership	\$25
Joint Full Membership	\$35
Single Pensioner	\$20
Joint Pensioner	\$30
Newsletter only	\$12



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT OUR SOCIETY:

### Our 30th Birthday:

March was a celebration of 30 years since our Society was formed. At our AGM, a birthday cake was cut by Doreen Archibald, a foundation member of our Society. Ray McKenzie (President) and Paddy Milne look on.



### Projects:

Eighteen enthusiastic members and volunteers are currently involved in the Project Group. 123 volumes of early Wangaratta Rate Books have now been imaged, with 10% indexed for conversion into a searchable database. Update 2 of Wangaratta Cemetery records, database, headstone transcriptions and imaging is continuing. Imaging of the Beechworth Cemetery records and database linking is well underway. Digitising and database work on the many district cemeteries is ongoing.

### Council visit:

The CEO of the Rural City of Wangaratta, Brendan McGrath, together with the council archivist Karen Chetcutti, visited us on 20<sup>th</sup> April to have a look at what we do, including the work we are doing for the council (Rate Books and Wangaratta Cemetery). They met some of our volunteers 'at work' and discussed our 'needs' eg ways to promote our Society, parking and lift access.

### Promotion of our Society:

Following Brendan McGrath's visit, council staff suggested a number of strategies to promote our Society to the community. Signage out the front of our building is being investigated and plans are being made to include our Society in events for Seniors Week in October.

## ANZAC Centenary events:

### Heritage Network:



The Wangaratta & District Heritage Festival to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary was held in April & May. One of our members, Jean Rankins, cut the cake at the launch of the festival.



Our society is a member of the Heritage Network and we provided free research for visitors on our open days as well as presenting 'Military Ancestors Online' IT information session at the Wangaratta Library.

### U3A 'Home Before Christmas: Australia's Involvement in WWI':

U3A Wangaratta presented this program over 18 weeks commencing February and finishing on 24th June. The program covered the lead up to World War 1, the preparations, expectations, battles, the human toll both in the field and at home. Our Society contributed with a series of short presentations on the impact of the War on local families and communities, prepared and delivered by members Bob & Georgina Cusack, Margaret Pullen, Joan Ellis, Cheryl Price and Val Brennan.

## BATTLE TO FARM:

Victoria sent about 90,000 men and women to serve overseas in WWI, about 70,000 of whom survived to return home. As the war continued, the issue of repatriating returning soldiers became increasingly urgent. As well as providing War pensions and other financial assistance, State governments of the time set up 'settlement' schemes to support returning soldiers with work.



These schemes involved subdividing large rural estates into smaller farming blocks and leasing them back to discharged service-people.

The Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) has now digitised the files of WWI soldiers who took up land under the Soldiers Settlement Scheme. These records are now available online. <http://soldiersettlement.prov.vic.gov.au/>

By using 'Wangaratta' in the 'search by name' box in the search site of the above, the following story emerged of Richard THOMPSON who took up land in North Wangaratta.

### Richard THOMPSON and family

Richard was born in Barrow England and enlisted in the AIF on 14 September 1915 at the age of 43. He described himself as a farmer and made arrangements for 3/5 of his pay to go to his wife and five children. His unit was the 1st Remount Unit, No. 2 Squadron, and he was sent to fight in Egypt on 22 July 1916. He spent all but two months in hospital suffering from Haemorrhoids and was returned to Australia on 29 Jan 1917 where he was discharged soon after.

He made an application for a war pension to be made to himself, his wife Roseanne, and his children Vida, Evelyn Rose, Samuel John, Richard Edward and Edith May. Initially pensions were granted for commencement on 30 October 1917 but then rejected on May 1917 before payment commenced as 'member's incapacity unproved'.

After two years Richard THOMPSON made a plea to the Chairman of the Closer Settlement Board for land in North Wangaratta after some earlier disappointments. **His letter is shown on the next page.**

Richard succeeding in acquiring 19 acres in December 1920 and a further property of 45 acres in June 1924 in North Wangaratta. But in March 1930 Richard died and his widow Roseanne, as the Executrix of his will, made an application under the *Closer Settlement Act of 1918* to transfer the two lots of land to Thomas Francis WADDELL. The transfer was approved.

This is where the PROV records 'Battle to Farm' finish on Richard THOMPSON. Thomas WADDELL subsequently moved from Wodonga to Wangaratta.

Richard THOMPSON and his wife Roseanne THOMPSON are buried in the Wangaratta Cemetery.

Cont →



North Wanganatta

4/11/18

To the Chairman of Closer Settlement Board.

Sir I have sent in the Papers applying for this place to see if the Board will purchase for me. I am renting it at present at £39 pr. annum and it was offered to me for £550. I had to leave my last address, Bobinawarah to look for work. I have work here cream carting to the Ovens and Murray Dairy Co. at \$1 pr trip and 6 trips a week in the summer. I also applied for money to buy horses through the Repatriation Committee but they don't seem to have any for me, I am working borrowed horses at present. I have been horse now nearly 2 yrs and they have done nothing for me although I have tried for 3 blocks of land none of them seem to suit and my son is somewhere on the water now coming home wounded. I would like you to

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do something about settling me soon, and surely I am not asking too much of you to buy a cheap place like this 19 acres of good land and a good house, at £550

hoping to hear from you soon  
I am yours Respectfully  
R. Thompson  
North Wanganatta  
(late) Bobinawarah

DISCHARGED  
9126  
SECRETARY'S ROOM



## YOUNG GIRL KILLED:

**Evelyn THOMPSON**, age 17, of Everton was accidentally killed with a pea rifle on 29 December 1917. The *Wangaratta Chronicle* of 6 January 1917 described what happened at the Coroner's enquiry ( *Ed: Names have been highlighted* ):

Bert Parkinson deposed. I am 15 years of age and reside with my parents at Everton. About 7.30pm on the 29th I went out with Frank Cook, we took my pea rifle with us. We had a swim and then went to the house of my uncle (William Andrew Thompson). My two cousins Lizzie (Caroline Elizabeth THOMPSON) and Evelyn were at home. We had a chat and then Evelyn brought out her mouth organ and we went to the front verandah to play it. I had the pea rifle with me. Lizzie and I sat on the steps of the verandah and Evelyn stood on the ground close by. Frank Cook sat on the verandah playing the organ. I was holding the pea rifle in my hand with the muzzle pointing upwards. Evelyn put the muzzle in her mouth and by some means I pulled the trigger. I did not know the rifle was loaded at the time. As soon as I found Evelyn was shot I ran and told her father. I did not warn her not to put the muzzle in her mouth. Lizzie said to Evelyn don't put the rifle in your mouth.

The Coroner's enquiry was held at the home of the deceased by Cr L V Diffey JP. A verdict was returned that Evelyn THOMPSON died on 29 December 1917 from gun shot wound accidentally inflicted.

At this time Evelyn's two brothers Privates Daniel Gifford and Reuben Alexander THOMPSON were at the war front in France, and Evelyn's mother had died five years earlier in 1912. Evelyn had been cared for by her father William THOMPSON and her older sister Caroline Elizabeth.

The impact of this tragedy on the lives of the young people who were present at the shooting is unknown to us today. Perhaps their descendants know of this tragedy.

Evelyn THOMPSON is buried at Tarrawingee Cemetery with her parents. As are the parents of Bert PARKINSON.



## WWI NEWSPAPERS OF THE DAY:

The National Library of Australia has made available online in TROVE all of Australia's newspapers from 1914 to 1918. Many other newspapers over a large period of time are also available here on TROVE <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

The following is from the *Wangaratta Chronicle* dated Wednesday 26 August 1914, page 3:

### VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WAR.

The following men on Saturday and Monday passed the medical test by Captain Docker, A.A.M.C., and were sworn in by Captain Scott, 58th Infantry, for the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force:—Messrs John Murphy, Docker street, for driver field artillery; R. F. Richardson, South Wangaratta, Light Horse; W. H. Wellwood, Corowa, Light Horse, W. V. Delany, Eldorado, L.H., D. H. Jude, stoker, Whitfield line, and R. O. Perritt, Wangaratta, general service transport. The following for Imperial Infantry:—Messrs F. S. Coles, Jos. Hancy (Wangaratta), J. N. O'Brien (Wangaratta), R. E. Bayliss (Boorhaman), L. A. Vincent (Wangaratta), W. E. Hedges (Wangaratta), T. W. Barry, C. W. Howell, H. H. H. Howell (Wangaratta) J. A. Crockett, L. J. Fleming (Edi), T. E. Snowden (Boralma.) Mr. W. L.H.; A. E. Jessup (Porepunkah), A. Bell (who also volunteered his own horse), A. W. Cramerl (Myrtleford), E. W. Weston (Porepunkah) L.H.

These men left for Broadmeadows on Monday and Tuesday. The number of volunteers from Wangaratta and district is 56.

Capt. W. H. Scott yesterday received a notification from Head Quarters that no more volunteers were to be sent into camp at present, as all regiments are now full. Names will be taken of those who wish to volunteer, and will be kept in case more men are wanted in the future.

The following is from the *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Saturday 20 July 1929, page 15:

### WHO WON THE WAR? MR. HUGHES'S REPLY.

At the annual reunion of the 54th Battalion last night, Mr. Hughes, M.P., settled once and for all the vexed question of "Who won the war?" and to the satisfaction of everyone.

"Some say that America won the war," he said. "Another authority declares that Montenegro won the war—but I say that we all won the war. The power was so evenly balanced that if any one party had drawn out the whole cause would have been lost. But this cannot be doubted—that Australia can claim as much credit as any other nation." (Cheers.)

At such reunions, said Mr. Hughes, one's war memories were naturally revived. One of his most vivid memories concerned Gallipoli. He received one day a cable from London telling him that evacuation of the Peninsula had been ordered, and to prepare for 40 per cent. of casualties.

"I carried this news around with me for days," he said. "I said not one word to any of my Ministers about this terrible thing. I saw women scanning casualty lists with fear in their eyes, and I could imagine the terrible scene when the next lists would be posted, compared with which the others were insignificant. On the eve of my departure for England, when speaking in the Melbourne Town Hall, I was handed a cable which said: 'Gallipoli evacuated, casualties nil.' I could not believe it, and went back to the office to decode the message myself, and you can imagine my relief when I found that no mistake had been made."

Mr. Hughes was given a vociferous reception. He was hailed as "dear old Uncle Billy," and his speech was punctuated with cheering and clapping. When he rose to speak, he was exhorted to "get upon a chair, Billy," and when he did so there was another burst of cheering.

The Minister for Justice (Mr. Lee), who represented the Acting-Premier, Mr. Connell, M.L.A., representing the State Opposition, and Mr. R. Hutchinson, president of the Returned Soldiers' League, were among the guests. Major C. Leckey presided.



## WHAT CAUSED WWI :

The following explanation is provided by Jim Cussons, a presenter at U3A 'Home Before Christmas: Australia's Involvement in WWI':

There was no single definitive factor that caused the start of the First World War. Tensions throughout Europe had been growing for many years — nationalism, an arms race, disputes over territories and spheres of influence, greed, fear, distrust and the division of Europe into two hostile alliances were all contributing factors. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by Serbian terrorists led to the Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia on 29 July 1914. Russia mobilised troops to prevent Serbia being crushed. Germany declared war on Russia and, realising that France would support Russia, declared war on France as well. When Germany invaded neutral Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany. Japan, seeing the chance to seize German territory in China, also declared war on Germany. Bulgaria and Turkey sided with the Central Powers and soon most countries in Europe had become involved in the war.



## INTERNET SITES TO HELP YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH:

**Cyndi's List:** A comprehensive index of sites world wide <http://www.cyndislist.com/categories/>

**Public Records of Victoria (PROV)** <http://prov.vic.gov.au/>

**Familysearch** website <https://familysearch.org/> . One of the largest genealogical websites in the world. Developed by the Church of the Latter-Day Saints.

**Familysearch** website: These are miscellaneous Australian genealogical records. This material is handwritten or typed on index cards and images of those cards are given. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://www.familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1538298>

Index to the admissions books of the **Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum** <http://www.fredwalter.com/infirmary/>

**List of Institutions/homes in Australia** <http://www.hotkey.net.au/~jwilliams4/homes.htm>

**Port Phillip District and Victorian Settlers indexes** <http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/PPDindex.html>

Australian Family History. **Victualling list 1821 Sydney NSW** <http://www.angelfire.com/folk/victlist/>

## Immigration

[www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com) This is by findmypast and the UK National Archives and details 24million records from the Outward Passengers Lists for voyagers departing Britain from 1890-1960. Free name search and information. Pay-per-view for images.

[www.fifthfleet.net](http://www.fifthfleet.net) This site lists the ships with links to available online passengers lists, chartered by the International Refugee Organisation to bring 164,99 displaced persons from Germany to Australia 1947-1951.

[www.warbrides.co.uk](http://www.warbrides.co.uk) Index to war bride passenger lists. Search by name gives destination country. Fees apply for other details.

[www.passengerlists.de](http://www.passengerlists.de) Bremen passenger lists 1920-1939 m- A searchable data base of 735,000 entries and transcripts are online for free.

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## INTERNET SITES TO HELP YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH cont:

### WWI sites cont

The **Australia National Archives** holds war service records of past theatres of war. Service personnel records have been digitised and made available online. This link takes you to their **Basic Search** site and from there click on **Name Search** <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>

The Australian National Archives has also developed an ANZAC site '**Discovering ANZACS**' which can be **searched by name**: <http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/>

The Australian War Memorial has a site '**ANZAC Connections**' which contains historic documents from their archives which have been digitised and made available online. Many letters and diaries written by ANZACs and letters by their family members are also available. The records can be **searched by name**. <https://www.awm.gov.au/1914-1918/anzac-connections/>

A '**Roll of Honour**' site is available on the Australian War Memorial website which gives details of each ANZAC who died in service and shows the commemoration location on the Roll of Honour walls at the Australian War Memorial. **Search by name or Service Number**. [https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/roll\\_of\\_honour/](https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/roll_of_honour/)

**Australian Department of Veteran Affairs**. This site has links to War Cemeteries overseas which clearly lists the many cemeteries where ANZACs are buried and provides further links to those cemeteries to enable a name search to be undertaken. <http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/cemeteries/first-and-second-world-war-cemeteries/cemeterie-0>

The department has a site '**Office of Australian War Graves**' which has links to war cemeteries overseas as well as in Australia (mostly WWII and after in Australia). <http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/office-australian-war-graves>

**War Cemeteries and Memorials at Gallipoli**. History, maps, pictures and specific details of the many cemeteries on the peninsular are provided. <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/2visiting/grave.html>

**Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne**. You can search online the 'Books of Remembrance' held at the Shrine. Search by name. <http://www.shrine.org.au/Remembrance/Books-of-Remembrance>

**The UK National Archives**. Explore their collection of WWI records <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/>

The **National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra** has some films of WWI which you can watch online. <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/whats-on/anzac-centenary/>



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## FAMILY HEIRLOOMS:

*By Val McPherson*

Many wonderful things are passed on from generation to generation through families. As well as material things, physical traits such as hair, eye and skin colour also come from our ancestors. But did you know that health risks can also be handed down.

As genealogists we are ideally situated to investigate the health or ill health of our ancestors and be aware of the health risks that we and our children may face.

You can start by taking an interest in and being conscious of serious or recurring illness in your family. These may be things such as high or low blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 1 or 2 diabetes, breast, ovarian, bowel, prostate cancer, melanoma, depression etc.

Compiling a family health history is like completing a puzzle, every bit counts. The more information you can find, the better it is.

Even if your family history suggests links with illness, you won't necessarily go on to develop it. Knowledge is prevention. Lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol consumption are risk factors which help to determine your likelihood of developing certain health conditions. You can't change your genetics but you can change your lifestyle to reduce the risk factors.

Being aware of your health vulnerability means you can take responsibility of your health. People who know their family health history are more vigilant in getting the appropriate regular check-ups. This can result in the early diagnosis of a condition, better management and treatment.

Parents, siblings and your grandparents are the most important people about whom to compile a family health history. These are the things to consider:

How are they related to you

What sex and age are they

What is their health condition or illness

When did they have it

At what age were they diagnosed and how long have they had the condition

Are they the only family member with the condition

Did their parents have the condition.

To download a free family health history worksheet go to [www.genomics.health.wa.gov.au/education/fhh\\_worksheet.cfm](http://www.genomics.health.wa.gov.au/education/fhh_worksheet.cfm)

To read more about family health history go to [www.bupa.com.au/familyhistory](http://www.bupa.com.au/familyhistory) and for more about health conditions go to [www.bupa.com.au/healthinfo](http://www.bupa.com.au/healthinfo)

[This article has been abridged from one written by Simon McClenaughan for "Shine" the magazine for Bupa Australia Pty. Ltd.]



## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

**On the fileserver on the V drive** – WA Indexes and Bounty Immigration NSW 1828 to 1842.

### Books

'As the Spirit Leads. St Patrick's Parish Wangaratta 150 years' 2013, Peter R Murray, Publisher: St Patrick's Parish Wangaratta.

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## **ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY cont:**

'Australian Aboriginal Words and Place Names and Their Meanings', 1955, Compiled by Sydney J Endacott, Publisher: Georgian House, Melbourne.

'Fond Memories by Mrs Gwen Dinsdale', 2014, Compiled by Colleen Davis, Publisher: St John's Life Stories Project.

'Grey Ribbon to the Border', 1973, Jean Field, Publisher: The Hawthorn Press Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

'Horse and Buggy to the Moon', 2014, June Larkin, Self published.

'How Did They Get Here? Arrivals after 1924', 2012, Cora Num, Publisher: Cora Num.

'In Memoriam. A Guide to the History and Heritage of Victoria's Cemeteries', 2014, Garrie Hutchinson, Publisher: Hardie Grant Books, Richmond.

Inspiring, Not Retiring. A Book of Stories Celebrating The Contributions of Older Australians', 2005, Editor Moya Sayer-Jones, Publisher: Office for an Ageing Australia, Department of Health and Ageing.

'March of the Veterans. The Proud Story of the City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch', 2014, Howard C Jones, Publisher: City of Albury RSL Sub-Branch.

'Memories of Glen Forbes. Back to Glen Forbes – 14<sup>th</sup> March 1999', 1999, Pam Williams.

'Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Britain', 1994, Publisher: Ordnance Survey and Hamlyn.

'Paddlesteamers and Riverboats of the River Murray', 2000, Peter Christopher, Publisher: Axiom Publishing.

'Pioneers of the Echuca and Moama Districts pre 1900', Published by Members of the Echuca Group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

'Such is Life According to Jude Dewhurst', 2013, Compiled by Josephine Gordon, Publisher: St John's Village Life Stores Project.

'The Boy From Toombullup. The Life Story of Noel Hack', 2014, Rod Davies, Publisher: St John's Life Stories Project, Wangaratta.

'The Gap. An Educational and Historical Magazine Produced in the Bairnsdale Inspectorate', 1969, Published by District School Committee of Management.

'The Illustrated Atlas of the Nineteenth Century World', Editor R Montgomery Martin, Publisher: Studio Editions Ltd, London.

'The Life of Margaret Nancy Telford', 2013, Compiled by Jenny Ryan, Publisher: St John's Life Stories Project.

'The Life Story of Helen May Slater', 2013, Compiled by Jenny Ryan, Publisher: St John's Life Stories Project.

'Things Were Different Then', 2013, Compiled by Christine Denton, St John's Village Life Stories Project.

'Wangaratta Sketch Book. Pencil Sketches in and around Wangaratta', 2003, David P McCabe, Publisher: David P McCabe, Wangaratta.

Wangaratta South School Centenary 1875-1975', 1975, F L Hall, Publisher: unknown.

'Wood, Wire and Corrugated Iron. Pen Sketches of Mountain Huts', 207, David McCabe, Self Published.

## WANGARATTA THREADS

### Contribution Deadlines & Publication dates:

<u>Copy deadline</u>	<u>Edition No.:</u>	<u>for publication</u>
19 August 2015	103	24 August 2015
19 November 2015	104	24 November 2015

Disclaimer: All information contained in this edition is published in good faith with every effort made to validate fact, circumstance and source. *Ed.*

*Return Address:*

**WANGARATTA THREADS**

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### What is happening at WFHS

Check it out..... [www.wfhs.org.au](http://www.wfhs.org.au)