Cape Banks Family History Society Inc.

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Founded 1985
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NEWSLETTER

Edited by Linda Heavener

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Congratulations to Shirley Harper who is celebrating a significant birthday on 21st August. We extend our best wishes.

August is **National Family History Month**. While we do not have a conference this year you might be interested in checking out the on-line events submitted to the "Family Historian Update" produced by the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages: https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/events/

15 August 2020, **Victory in the Pacific Day**, commemorates Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender, made on 14 August 1945 (75 years ago). For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

Next issues of Kith and Kin: Lindsay is looking for some articles about educational experiences. This may include *education of life*. If you have anything which you might think is relevant please email Lindsay: linzofcoogee@gmail.com

Display Cabinet in Bowen Library

A display has been mounted by Cape Banks FHS in the glass cabinet in the foyer of The Lionel Bowen Library for August - Family History Month, thanks to Lindsay Harden and Rhonda Horne.

Unable to access our rooms, relevant books from the library, brightened up by doilies and objects from a friendly china cabinet, were used and the results were rather pleasing. Library manager Barbara Todes was, once again, supportive and seemed particularly pleased as it was the first mini-display they had had since February last. Thanks also to librarians Christine and Roger for their assistance.

The **Discussion Group** has been operating over the Internet with some fantastic responses. The August Discussion Group topic is *Hard Times*.

As we are all experiencing some 'hard times' at the moment, we can reflect on the 'hard times' our ancestors experienced. Tell the story! Closing date is Sunday 13th September 2020.

The **Writing Group** has also been doing very well. This month's homework's title is *And then the penny dropped*. This can be very satisfying when this is experienced.

Cape Banks is not required to have an **AGM this year** as per the NSW Fair Trading temporary changes to regulations due to Covid-19. Therefore, our AGM will be postponed for twelve months from October 2020 to October 2021. A copy of the Financial Statement to end of August 2020 will be attached to the October Newsletter for members information. A copy of the Financial Balance at the end of August 2020 will be presented at the 2021 AGM in accordance with NSW Fair Trading regulation changes.

The members of the committee who were present at the last committee meeting have agreed to rollover for another year. This is also in accordance with NSW Fair Trading regulation changes.

Opening of our Family History Rooms

Some of our generous librarians have completed an online **Infection Control Training Course.** These include L. Bevan, L. Harden, R. Horne, D. Walker, E. McLaughlin, C. Humphreys, M. Phillips and H. Fatouris. Thank you for helping us. This will assist with the process we need to go through before we can reopen.

The committee has also been working on a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** which needed to be submitted to and accepted by the management of "the rooms" (Scouts NSW), before we could reopen. However Government regulations may still change at any time, necessitating a change to our plans.

Cape Banks Family History Society will **re-open** our Research Room in Paine Street Maroubra on **Wednesday 2 September 2020**.

The Research Room will be open to members (no visitors) on:

- **Wednesdays**, **12:00pm to 3:00pm**
- **Saturdays**, **12:00pm to 3:00pm**

A maximum of **six members** (including the two duty librarians) can attend on any one day.

Members wishing to attend the Research Room must make a prior booking through our website https://capebanks.org.au/research-rooms-booking-form/

To keep everyone safe and comply with current regulations, the following procedures apply from 2 September 2020:

1. Follow the directions of the librarians on duty.
2. On arrival, please wait at the front door to be admitted by duty librarians, who will sign you in.
3. Pre-booking is not required when a member attends for the sole purpose of renewing their membership. Renewals can be paid at the entry desk and will be receipted by the duty librarian.
4. Always maintain social distance of 1.5 meters in all areas, including those waiting outside for admittance. This does not apply to two members of the same household.
5. It is recommended that you bring and wear a face mask.
6. Hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes and disposable gloves are available for use in the library.
7. Afternoon tea is not available. You may bring your own food or a drink if you wish.
8. Access to the kitchen is restricted to washing hands.
9. Disposable gloves are to be worn while using CDs, Fiche, books or journals. Disposable gloves are available, but you may prefer to bring your own.
10. Bring your own pens and notebook etc
11. Duty librarians will provide verbal assistance, but social distance must be maintained.
12. Members may borrow books and journals. These will be 'quarantined' on return, before being available to another user.
13. Please vacate the library by 3pm to allow librarians to undertake cleaning.

Government regulations may change at any time, necessitating a change to our plans.

The committee are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our members and look forward to welcoming you back.

State Records October visit is still booked and will depend on the State Records library and if the RCC bus will be running.

The lovely trip that was organised to **Ebenezer Church** in May this year that unfortunately had to be cancelled has been booked for May next year.

Websites:

Resources to research serious crimes

From the magazines:

Prison and Court records

Ancestry has added two major collections of Irish court and prison records.

The first dataset is of petty-session court registers from 1818 to 1926 and contains 23,437,916 records. The second dataset holds 3,127,594 prison-register records, which date from 1790 to 1924. Both sets are digitised from original record sets that are held in the National Archives of Ireland and are also available on **findmypast**. The records can be searched by name to identify defendants, complainants and witnesses in each case, as well as the date and place of the trial. The prison records provide a wealth of information about the prisoners, potentially including their age; height; hair and eye colour; complexion; any marks; weight; where born; last residence; next of kin; job; marital status; religion; level of education; date of committal; crime; and sentence.

Church of England aims to map all of its burial grounds

All Church of England burial ground records will be available to search within five years under an ambitious new laser-scanning survey scheme. Records of the burial grounds for two churches located in West Yorkshire – All Hallows Church in Kirkburton and Emmanuel Church in Shelley – are now available online on http://kirkburton.burialgrounds.co.uk and http://shelley.burialgrounds.co.uk.

The Church plans to survey all 15,000 burial grounds by 2025.

The Church of England is now in the process of securing funding to carry out in-depth surveys of all its burial grounds and make the databases available via the online Church Heritage Record available at https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/churches.

Source: Who Do You Think You Are? – May 2020

Newspapers:

FindMyPast and the British Newspaper Archive will be adding over the coming months new additions to their collections from Canada, India, Pakistan, Jamaica and Barbados.

Over 5.9 million pages have been added to the collection in the past 12 months.

Military:

Ancestry has completed a multiyear project to digitise all 36 million of the USA's available World War II young men's draft cards, in partnership with the US National Archives and Records Administration. These cards include unique details that could be difficult to find elsewhere – including eye colour, next of kin, employer and, if applicable, why the person was exempt from the draft. Continuing the US theme, Ancestry also announced it will be releasing more than 14 million New York City certificate indexes for birth, marriage and death records from 1862 to 1949.

Source: Family Tree UK – May 2020

Italian Research:

For those who have Italian ancestors, researching them is not very difficult. Much of the civil records for Italian birth, death and marriages are available for free online. Today, Italy is divided into 20 regions which can be broken down further into 107 provinces and further still into 7926 cities /towns.

Civil records are recorded and kept at the local municipality level, with a copy deposited annually at the state archive in each provincial capital. You will find birth, marriage and death records beginning in 1809, with a few exceptions dating to 1806, and they are organised by province and town at the time of the event. This means that you'll need to know the town where your ancestors lived to pinpoint which archive will have the records. Some town names and provinces have changed over time, so you may need to research this separately.

Italian Research Websites:

FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org/en/

Antenati: http://www.antenati.san.beniculturali.it/?lang=en

TOP TIP!

It is common in Italian families to name the first-born son after his paternal grandfather, and the second-born son after his maternal grandfather. The same occurs with daughters and their grandmothers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women in Italy do not change their surname upon marriage. Children are given their father's surname, while a woman's records are listed under her own birth surname.

Source: Who Do You Think You Are? – May 2020

QUICK TIP:

Try different databases If you can't find someone on the census, it is worth trying a different genealogy website as they all have different search algorithms and sometimes different transcriptions that may reveal your hidden ancestor.