

IDFHG Inc is a member of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

history on the macintyre

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*Voices from the Past* is the official journal of the Inverell District Family History Group Inc and is published in February, June and October each year.

Opinions expressed and statements in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the group, which accepts no responsibility for them.

Other Societies or Groups may copy original material published in this newsletter, provided the source is acknowledged.

Otherwise, production of articles in *Voices from the Past* may be made only with the written permission from the Group.

#### From the President

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year—it looks like being a busy year. This year in May we celebrate 30 years of assisting members and the general public with their research. To celebrate this achievement we are hosting a seminar and celebration dinner in April.

Refurbishment of the Town Hall has been completed and it will be re-opened on Saturday 15th March with a concert and exhibition of photos and memorabilia at the Art Gallery—the exhibition will run for 6 weeks until the end of April so try to drop in to have a look. Several of our members have been involved with sourcing photos and information for the exhibition.

The Seminar we are hosting will be held on 26th April and is themed 'World War 1—One Hundred Years On'. We would love to see you come along to the seminar and the dinner at night to celebrate our birthday. Registration forms will be included with this newsletter, picked up from the Rooms or downloaded from our website.

During December 2013 a well attended public meeting was held and a committee formed to organise an re-enactment of the Kurrajong farewell from Inverell for the war effort. Further information will be forthcoming later this year.

We now have an excellent sign out the front of our Research Rooms ably installed by Geoff and John—great work, thanks—people should have no trouble finding us now.



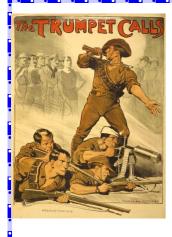
Enjoy the read and don't forget to check out our website for upcoming events and interesting information.

Ann Plumb

#### 2014 Challenge

As it is the 30th birthday of our Group this year, perhaps members might like to share a special 'find' made during their research. Did it lead to further discoveries or confirm a long held family story? Tell us what you have found, how you found it, what resources you used and why it was so special. We could publish these stories in future newsletters.

# **NOTICE BOARD**



*Come and help us celebrate 30 years this May of serving the Inverell District and wider community.* 

We will be holding a Seminar on 26th April at Inverell East Bowling Club themed 'World War 1—One Hundred Years On'. Registration form and program attached.

The Speakers will be Jennifer Milward on the Australian War Memorial Resources, Warren Skewes on Transcribing the Fischer Diaries, Shauna Hicks on the Australian Women's Register.

RAHS New England & North West Affiliated Societies 2014 Regional Conference Bowling Club Auditorium, Maitland Street, Narrabri 11th,12th & 13th April 2014 at Narrabri



Inverell District Family History Group Inc

### **Suspension Bridge**

Plans were drawn up in 1911 for a suspension bridge to be built, to connect the east and west banks of the Macintyre River, running from Lawrence Street. The first sod was turned by the Mayor, Ald. C Harris on March 17, 1913. Mr. J. Brissett was given the contract to erect the bridge.



Photo taken from dish owned by M Resta

It would be a wooden structure and the longest suspension bridge in New South Wales. The distance would be 243 feet long, with nearly 6,000 feet of steel cable. It would be 18 inches higher than the 1872 flood.

During the 1955 flood, a huge log smashed into the side of the bridge and tore away a large section of timber decking. Repairs were going to be very costly. The bridge was reopened at the end of March,

with the Council advising users to be very careful while crossing and for bike riders to push their bikes across, instead of riding. Pedestrians continued with the habit of making the bridge" rock" from side to side.

Normality existed until the big flood of 1991, when all hell broke loose. The Macintyre river flooded the main streets of Inverell on the morning of February 7th. Damage was unbelievable. The Suspension Bridge broke up with the force of the water with huge logs smashing into the side of it. Many Inverell residents watched the demise of the old bridge.



It would be twelve months before the "new suspension bridge" was back in business. This bridge was concrete and steel and built much higher than the flood which took the old bridge.

The only downside with the new bridge, pedestrians are unable to make the bridge "rock" like they did with the old one.



'What a difference in one hundred years'



Contributed by Judy Pischke Photos: J Pischke (private collection)

# Inverell's connection to the ill-fated crew of Lancaster III JB-607, AR-N, Leader in WW2.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 a monument was dedicated to the crew of the Lancaster III JB 607, AR-N Leader in Kerkrade, south-eastern Netherlands. This warplane crash-landed on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 1943, all but one of the crew members was killed.

Peter Heckmanns in Holland began the story as far back as 2003 when he saw an article in a Dutch local newspaper about a Lancaster bomber that crashed in the gardens of the monastery of the Franciscan Friars in the Second World War A Franciscan Friar named Ignatius had been interviewed by the newspaper and he was telling them about the six crew members who were killed and one survived. He also told of that survivor coming back to the Monastery to pay his respects to his comrades....with a small note stating "To Billy Squires and his mates".....Peter then remembered as a boy he and a friend used to say that a plane was buried under their football ground.....of course it wasn't. The newspaper article went on to say that no one knew where the airmen were buried. Initially they were temporarily buried in the small monastery cemetery. After the war the remains were collected by the British forces.

This is when Peter began his own research; he wanted to know who these six brave men were and where they were buried. He had very little information to go on until he had an Australian connection. He was also told there was someone else searching for the same information. This connection was with Peter Blight, nephew of Ambrose Blight the navigator of the ill fated Lancaster, this leads to another connection with Steve Ireland, another Aussie who was the nephew of the pilot Stanley James Ireland.

It was during this time that Inverell's connection began to surface. Peter Heckmanns had a cousin Leo Wings living in Melbourne, and he had asked Leo to make contact with the family of a Flight Sergeant Maxwell Hope Squires who lived in Inverell NSW.

Members of the crew of the Lancaster were Pilot Officer Stanley James Ireland aged 30 – killed in action ; Pilot Officer Ambrose Edward Blight aged 29 killed in action , Navigator, Flight Sergeant Frank Seery aged 22 Bomb Aimer – he became

a prisoner of war: Flight Sergeant Maxwell Hope Squires age 19 Gunner, killed in action: Sergeant William Albert Squire age 19 Flight Engineer, killed in action: Sergeant Cyril Seddon age 22, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner killed in action: and Sergeant Reginald Poulter age 21 Air Gunner killed in action.

A visit to Inverell by both Leo Wings and Steve Ireland and their wives in April this year to make contact with me as well as members of the RSM Club confirmed that all members of the crew had been found and that there was a monument in the grounds of the monastery in Kerkrade near the Dutch German border. Both Leo and Steve attended Inverell's ANZAC Service.

At the time of the visit Steve had shown me the leather log book from the plane his uncle had written up before they flew on the ill-fated journey. By a



Crew of Lancaster III JB-607—Max Squires is pictured front left

strange coincidence when trying to find any living relatives of Maxwell Hope Squires, led us to placing ads in the Sydney Telegraph and luck was on our side when someone by the name of Maxwell Squires answered the ad.....and he was a nephew and his sister lived in the next suburb from Steve Ireland and his wife in Sydney. They have since spoken to Peter Heckmanns who began all this wonderful journey of researching the crew member's of the Lancaster 111 JB-607, AR-N Leader. These crew members are resting in Reichswald Cemetery, Cleve Germany. The only surviving member of the crew, Frank Seery passed away 8<sup>th</sup> November 2004 in Australia.

The plaque in the monastery grounds has the members listed and ends with *May their sacrifice for our freedom never be forgotten......* 

Contributed by Ann Hodgens



Sydney John Davey abt 1868-1940

# People From the Past

**Sydney George Davey** came to Inverell from Nyngan with his wife and family as a council employee in 1904. He would have worked in the very old Council Chambers that was situated next to where the Town Hall stands today.

When he left the Inverell Council in October 1906 it was the Mayor (James Kelly) who said 'they would not be having this function in the Town Hall if Mr Davey had not entered the service of the Council in 1904 as he was a dedicated Town Clerk who had a big say in the erection of the building and had saved the Council hundreds of pounds through his practical knowledge '– not only did he have a say in the Town Hall structure but the erection of the School of Arts building in Evans Street.

During this ceremony attended by 100 citizens and dignitaries Mr Davey was presented with an illuminated address signed by the Mayor James Kelly ,Aldermen -WT Armstrong, J Brissett, R G Howard, W Kautz, J Ditzell,

James McIlveen, John Ferguson and Edward Rowland and also given a purse of sovereigns.

Sydney and his wife Mary and family left the next day for Bunbury in Western Australia. He served his three years in the Bunbury district before returning to Inverell in 1909 as Town Clerk and Clerk of works and stayed till September 1916. It was in 1909 he was on the lighting committee working for the installation of electricity and gas in the town and district.

In 1916 he moved to Grafton and then to Suva Fiji where he retired and moved back to the to the Sydney area. Mary and Sydney had two sons and one daughter.

Sydney George Davey died at his Crow's Nest home in February 1940.

Contributed by Julie Regan

Inverell can boast of at least one brave man! A giddy old spark of over sixty summers, and an equal number of winters, yesterday morning took unto himself a wife, who, we believe, will be the fifth guardian of his household—that is, in succession. What would be his feelings should he by some strange force of circumstance encounter a collection of mothers-in-law, we would not care to imagine. Such a man should be an excellent soldier, and without even participating in active service be deemed worthy of a V.C.

Snippet from The Inverell Times 15th November 1907

# From the Library

At long last the sorting and indexing of over 220 Parish Maps is now complete. Each map has an accession number and is bagged and labelled by County and then alphabetically by Parish. The Topographic maps have also been completed and are stored in the hanging cabinet.

Recent Library accessions are as follows:-

Newspaper News Vol II – Folder of transcribed newspaper items for Graman, Wallangra, Coolatai,

Yetman, Ashford and Rocky Dam from 1913.

Insights into the NSW BDM Index by Allan and Joy Murrin 2013

Inverell High School 2012 Pinnacle

*Onward and Upward – A History of the Ashford Anglican Church – A bush church in the Diocese of Armidale* by Rev. David Wiedemann Centennial Edition 1914-2013 with CD

Have You Finished – The history of the County Telephonists by Keith Munro 1989

Edward Holder and Lavinia King – Pioneers of the Inverell District by Sharon Froome 2013



# New Listings on Ancestry.com

#### England and Wales: Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858

These records list wills proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury before 1858.

Further details about this Index are on Ancestry.com

#### Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561-1910

Whilst this index is not complete for any particular place or region, it might help locate original documents.

Further details about this index can be found on FamilySearch.org

# Jack Gaukroger's Legacy

One of Jack Gaukroger's great passions was the welfare of the aged population of Inverell. It was his desire to see that these residents had somewhere to live in their own community and be settled in their own familiar environment.

It was in 1953 with this desire in mind, that Jack and some like-minded community members founded the Inverell Homes for the Aged Committee. The committee's aim was to oversee the establishment and construction of a low-rental accommodation service to provide low-cost housing for the aged population of the town.

The committee was elected by members of the community. Jack Gaukroger was elected President and held this position from 1953 until his death on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1978, aged 82.

Jack's enthusiasm and passion for the project saw the money raised for the first cottage and in 1954, with materials donated by local merchants and with voluntary labour, the construction of the first cottage located in Macintyre Street Inverell was built. Jack's vision saw Inverell become the first town in the state of New South Wales to provide this kind of accommodation for its older residents. Jack's zeal for the project saw a further two cottages built before the government of the day took an interest in the project and granted a subsidy for the construction of further buildings of this kind.

For many years, Jack's Sunday morning routine involved visiting all the residents at the homes, checking on their health and well-being, having a chat to them and taking note of any maintenance jobs that may have been needed to be done. If a resident was in hospital, Jack never failed to visit them, this personal interest earning him the unending love and respect of all residents.

The Homes for the Aged complex on Macintyre and Raglan Streets Inverell now has 50 houses and duplexes. Jack Gaukroger's personal contribution to the project has never been forgotten. In 1980, two years after his death, the "Jack Gaukroger Memorial Cottage" was named in his honour.



Photos A Plumb





Contributed by Megan Gaukroger

# Inverell Exhibit at Royal Easter Show in Sydney

Inverell first entered this competition in 1912, coming "absolutely last". The local Pastoral Association again entered in 1913 and the exhibit came second. With the exception of tobacco, grown at Ashford, the whole of the exhibit contained produce within 25 miles of Inverell.

In 1914, the hard working committee members decided again to enter the competition. Their efforts paid off, Inverell bought the trophy home.



The "court" contained butter, cheeses, honey and 55 varieties of grains and seeds. Fresh produce was also used. All these products were grown in the Inverell district. The name of the district –Inverell— with the initials "RAS" on one side and the figures 1914 on the other were effectively picked out in purple dyed wools on the front of the super-structure, which was supported by pillars of scoured wool resting on pedestals designed to serve as show cases. The pedestals were filled with different kinds of grain.

Mr. E A Thomas, was in charge of the exhibit and was ably assisted by Messrs: G T Butler, Gordon Thomas, Frank Brown, Jas Brown, W H Fox, WM Reece, A Sweaney, A E Sweeney, W Lowry, T Mille, P Currie, John Swan, G Thomas and J Anderson.

*Contributed by Judy Pischke Photos: J Pischke (private collection)* 

# **Turtle Consolidated Services**

Offers four main services:

NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages Transcription Service Tasmanian Births, Deaths & Marriages Transcription Service (to 1899) State Records Retrieval Service English Certificate Service

If you have a very brief research problem they can offer suggestions free of charge but where the requests are more detailed (more than half a page) there is a \$25 fee to prepare a research report Check out website http/home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle for fees and further information.

#### <u>The Inverell Town Hall— A Journey</u>

As most local people know, major renovations have just been completed on our Town Hall. To celebrate, a special concert and exhibition of photos and memorabilia will be held to mark the re-opening on 15 March 2014. Several of our members have contributed to the exhibition which will be staged at the Inverell Art Gallery until the end of April. Here is a brief overview of the life of our Town Hall.



Image: IDFHG

The long awaited and imposing Inverell Town Hall opened in 1905 with much fanfare. For decades

residents had waited for such a public hall and they celebrated in style with an official dinner, concert and ball. This grand building, with elaborate Victorian architectural features, was designed by Sydney architect Gordon McKinnon and built by local brick maker, George Nott.

The original design was for a two story building with tower, however the cost was too high and McKinnon drew a new design for which he was paid £178. Construction became possible when local grazier Duncan Anderson made a loan of five thousand pounds to the Council. Stage scenery was painted, a new piano and 415 Austrian chairs were purchased.

The area now known as the annex became the headquarters of Inverell Municipal Council and there was space for a tiny public library. Visiting public entertainment took place nearly every week in the Town Hall's early years. Several Governors, Prime Ministers and other prominent people have attended meetings or functions here. Nationally renowned performers and hundreds of local people of all ages have participated in concerts, eisteddfods, and plays.

The Hall has also been used as a cinema, polling place, boxing venue, for school speech nights, flower shows, balls and opera. Thousands of dollars have been raised by service clubs through functions held in the hall – all for the benefit of our community.

Many changes were made to the original building in the 1930s and 1970s as its use evolved over time. Recent renovations include new roof, air conditioning and seating, cleaning and painting. The exhibition of images and memorabilia dating from 1904 will take you on a journey down memory



The Exhibition opens to the public on Monday 17th March 2014 and runs until the end of April.

During this time the Art Gallery will be hosting a special morning tea on Thursday 3 April at 10.30 am to mark the National Trust Heritage Festival.

*Town Hall 2014 photo: A.* Hodgens

Contrtibuted by A Hodgens

Inverell District Family History Group Inc

# <u>The "Kurrajongs"</u> The sad story of one Inverell soldier

The Inverell Recruiting Association was formed in July 1915 and by Christmas more than 600 young men from the Inverell district had enlisted. These men had to travel to Liverpool, NSW to enlist and the local committee decided to hold recruiting meetings to "motivate" others to enlist.

Recruiting marches were first formed at Gilgandra to encourage further enlistment and when officials realised they were successful, the local committee went with the idea as well. Three large groups of volunteers from Inverell, Warialda, Gravesend and Moree joined the "Kurrajong" march during the first few months of 1916. *(information from "A fine body of men", printed by Inverell District Family History Group 2010)* 

Tragically, forty five of these soldiers never returned to their homeland and are buried in dedicated overseas war cemeteries. The Inverell Cemetery has seventeen "Kurrajong" soldiers buried there, Elsmore has one and Little Plain has two.



One of the "Kurrajongs" buried in the Inverell Cemetery is Samuel Earl Rolfe buried next to his brother Clarence Rolber, another "Kurrajong". Both young men were the sons of Josiah and Lydia Rolfe of Cherry Tree Hill, via Inverell. Samuel and Clarence were from a large family of fourteen.

Samuel Rolfe had been gassed while overseas and was "medically" discharged 19.4.1919 and returned to Australia, where he spent four years in a warm olive oil bath at Randwick Hospital, where he passed away 8.12.1924 aged 36 years. His remains were conveyed to Inverell by the mail train from Sydney, where a large gathering of family, friends and Council dignities had gathered at the railway station. The hearse drove straight to the Methodist section of the Inverell Cemetery, where a service was held. Pallbearers were four of his closest soldier friends. As the coffin was being lowered, a number of returned soldiers fired a volley in respect of their fallen comrade. Another fitting conclusion was the action of one

of the returned men, who sprinkled a handful of earth in the grave with the words "Sam Rolfe---one of the best".

Submitted by Judy Pischke Photos: J Pischke (private collection)

# <u>Tiny URĽs</u>

The free service of Tiny URL makes it easier to locate the websites that are used frequently

State Records of NSW—Online Indexes
Search Probate Notices—Supreme Court of NSW
NSW Births Death & Marriages - Historical Births & Deaths Index
NSW Births Deaths & Marriages – Historical Marriages Index
National Library of Australia - Trove Advanced Search

http://tinyurl.com/sridx http://www.tinyurl.com/scnsw-probates/ http:tinyurl.com/nswbdm-bd http:/tinyurl.com/nswbdm-m http://tinyurl.com/nla-trove

Inverell District Family History Group Inc

# **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

CD Titles	Quantity	Price incl GST	Subtotal
Inverell Cemetery – New General Section			
Transcriptions and Burial Register 1968-2000 (Published by IDFHG)		\$30.00	
Includes Cemetery Columbarium, Cemetery Plan, & Thorley's Cremations			
Inverell Cemetery – Roman Catholic Section		\$30.00	
Transcriptions and Burial Register (Published by IDFHG 1998)		\$30.00	
Includes Cemetery Plan			
Inverell Cemetery – Church of England Section		\$30.00	
Transcriptions and Burial Register (Published by IDFHG 1999) Includes Cemetery Plan		φ30.00	
Inverell Cemetery – Non-Conformist & Independent			
Transcriptions and Burial Register (Published by IDFHG 2002)		\$30.00	
Includes Cemetery Plan			
Tingha Cemetery Transcripts - (Published by IDFHG)			
Tingha Cemetery & District Burials – No Headstones			
Researched by R.M. Wallis – (Published by IDFHG 1999)		\$30.00	
Includes Cemetery Plan, some images and obituaries			
Miscellaneous Newspaper Index (Published IDFHG 2010)			
Over 5500 items indexed from local newspapers		\$10.00	
Early Elsmore by Pat Farrand (CD version 2010)		<b>*•••</b>	
History of Elsmore, includes maps and images		\$25.00	
Inverell District Boer War Servicemen		\$25.00	
Names and details (Published by IDFHG 2010)		\$25.00	
Inverell District World War I Recruits Names and details from newspaper items (Published by IDFHG 2010)		\$30.00	
		<b>\$00.00</b>	
Byron Plains and Beyond: Inverell District Pre 1910 Biographical			
Register CD only		\$55.00	
Contains almost 1000 pages of information & photos of early residents	Quantity		Subtatal
Printed Publications	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
Inverell Sacred Heart Convent School 1914-1963 Compiled by B. Farrell		\$15.00	
A Fine Body of Men: Inverell Remembers the Kurrajongs 1916		\$30.00	
Compiled and published by IDFHG Inc 2010			
Interred at Inverell: 150 Years of Inverell Cemetery		\$10.00	
Compiled by IDFHG 2013			
The History of the Graman School District 100 years of Public		\$30.00	
Education 1880-1890 The Settlement of Graman, Bukkulla, Cherry Tree			
Hill, Wallangra. Graman School Centenary Committee;			
With Index compiled by M. Williamson and published IDFHG			
Please add Postage of \$2.50 per CD;			
Other items \$5 (within Australia)			
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Inverell District Family History Group Inc

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# INVERELL DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

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# **CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

Presents a SEMINAR

**'WORLD WAR I - 100 YEARS ON'** 

Date

Saturday 26th April 2014

Venue

# Inverell East Bowling Club Auditorium Glen Innes Road, Inverell

#### PROGRAM

8.30 am	Registrations Open			
9.00 am	Morning tea			
9.45 am	Welcome			
10.00 am	Jennifer Milward - Australian			
	War Memorial Resources			
11.15 am	Warren Skewes - Transcribing			
	the Fischer Diaries			
12.30 pm	Lunch			
1.45 pm	Shauna Hicks - Australian			
	Women's Register			
3.00 pm	Speaker to be advised			
4.00 pm	Afternoon tea			
6.30 pm for 7.00pm	30th Celebration Dinner			
IDFHG reserves the right to alter the programme if necessary				

# **REGISTRATION FORM**

SurnameName		 
Name for tag		
Postal Address		
Email	Phone No	 
Member of	(Society)	
SignedDate		
Please tick if you are attending: Seminar—\$50.00 per person incl morning tea, lunch & afternoo 30th Celebration Dinner- \$40.00 per person Dinner Partner - \$40.00 per person Name of Dinner Partner		\$ \$ \$

Total payable \$..... Chq / MO / DD

.....

For catering purposes please advise of any special dietary needs.

#### Please return your completed registration to:

IDFHG Inc WWI Seminar 2014 PO Box 367, Inverell NSW 2360

Receipts will be available at Registration on the day.

#### Payment options:-

• Cheque or Money Order made payable to: IDFHG Inc

 Direct Debit to BSB 932 000 A/c No 695486 IDFHG Inc Please use your name as reference & post registration form with details of DD.

#### Registrations close Wednesday 16th April 2014

**REGISTRATION FEE** will include all speakers, morning & afternoon tea and lunch. The Celebration Dinner is a separate fee. Registrations open forthwith and close Wednesday 16th April 2014.

ACCOMMODATION: Inverell Tourism www.inverell.com.au Phone: 0267 288 161

Sapphire City Motor Inn—1800 202 555 Terrace Motor Lodge—02 6722 5200 Inverell Motel—02 6722 2077 Twin Swan Motel—02 6722 2622 Club Motel—02 6721 0800 Cousins Motor Inn—02 6722 3566 Top of the Town—02 6722 4044

#### Book early as it is a long weekend and there are other events on in town

**CONFERENCE VENUE:** Inverell East Bowling Club, Glen Innes Road, Inverell NSW 2360

CONTACTS: Muriel Resta 0428 221 893, Ann Plumb 0431 052 825

Email: info@inverellfamilyhistory.org.au Please use "WWI Seminar 2014" as subject

Mail: IDFHG Inc WWI Seminar 2014, PO Box 367, Inverell NSW 2360