

AUSTRALIAN WAUGH FAMILY SOCIETY

Newsletter December 2005

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Well it's a long time since you received a Newsletter but now you've got a new editor that situation should improve considerably. Many of you already know Neville Maloney he has been a foundation member of the Society since 1996 and was the convener for the Alexander William WAUGH (C175..1850-1907) line at our first reunion at Tenterfield in 1996, ably assisted by his daughter Amber, who I think was only 12 at the time. He also put together that monumental tome "A History of the Waughs" with the considerable assistance of his other daughter Reeanna. Many members have a copy. He is your new editor and so please support him as well as you supported me in my 9 years in the job. I have sent him the balance of our Waugh account, something over \$1700 which should defray expenses for quite a while.

Thank you all for your support during my 9 years as editor. My personal life has taken a considerable turn for the better Margaret is now back living with me after 9 years in town looking after our daughter Ruth. Margaret eventually succumbed to the strain of caring for a mentally ill person, and suffered a bad attack of depression needing hospitalisation. With good medical care and medication she has now recovered from that but realises that her days as a carer are over. We are now both enjoying a common interest in gardening and starting to get Pindari's garden back to something like it was when Margaret established it over 40 years ago. Ruth has been managing OK since Margaret's move back to Pindari and we believe that she will be able to successfully manage her own life now. She owns her own home and has her own car so has a good start.

Also the sale of most of Pindari is now moving to a successful conclusion after about 18 months of worry. We are keeping the house and 38 acres so won't feel the impact too much. I'm glad to be rid of the responsibility of a herd of breeding cattle. We sold the last of them 15 months ago.

Well that's the lot from me this time but I hope to be able to contribute to the Society from time to time in the years to come, and once again, thank you all for you support and best wishes to your new editor Neville. (The changing of the guard.)

With Much Love to all Members
Your ex editor,
Ron Main

Ron's request to step into his shoes has been taken with some fears and a sense of responsibility. Ron has created and fostered a valuable society and one from which I have appreciated membership and my children have gained a much valued place in our extended family.

This newsletter's format is a change from the usual offered by Ron not by deliberate intention but rather because there been precious little correspondence between the editor and members in the last several months.

Geneographic DNA

I recently sent a DNA sample to a project run by National Geographic. The aim is to establish a detailed history of our ancient ancestors. The project is in effect very ancient genealogy tracing your history based on mutations in our DNA. Like most Europeans the results show my descendents moving through the Middle East

up into Central Asia and then turning west into Europe about 35,000 years ago. As they obtain more data the expectation is to be able to make the information more and more specific. As part of the program there is an option to link up with the people who have very similar DNA and try to discover common ancestors. If I find relatives in far flung reaches I will let you all know.

If you are interested the website address is www9.nationalgeographic.com/genographic (and yes to those familiar with Internet addresses it is www9 rather than the usual www)

Plans for the Future

As Ron mentioned I collated information into what became a book "The History of the Waughs" That to my amazement was now ten years ago. I have had requests for copies but unfortunately getting small numbers printed is still a problem. However I hope to have a solution around the corner. In the next 12 months I intend to get the book onto a CD. That will mean much better photo quality, and it also means being able to distribute it for just a few dollars.

This all sounds very daunting for those without a computer or computer skills to operate one. But let me reassure you all that I will continue the written newsletter for those who prefer this format. This is an opportune time however to get younger generations your children and grand children involved by using their computing skills to link the family together. If you have any doubts I have included an article about Alf Webb (he is not a relative) but his story is quite inspiring.

If there are members out there with computing skills and time on your hands there are a variety of tasks that need to be done, mostly scanning photos and documents. Even getting a website up and running. Give me a call or send me an email.

For all of those members getting worried about all this computing stuff I have even more. It would be great if we could get an email contact address for all members! Yes ask the grandkids, nieces or nephews it may be a good way of opening up communications and fostering an interest in them in the extended family. They can print the emails out for you and get yours sent, it will be just like having your own postal service. See if you can give it a go.

As Ron did I am more than happy to work as a central clearing house for family news, be it letters or emails and I can then disperse them via our newsletters

Who gets the newsletter? Hopefully all on Ron's list, the problem is that Ron knew who to send them to, that is who in each family he addressed the letter to. There was no hard and fast rule so for the moment bear with me, and if it is easier or better that I address to letter to someone else please let me know. I am sending it to the first person who appears on the list at each address. I can also send it to multiple addresses (if kids move from home) if required and if you let me know your email address I will send them out via that method as well. In the next newsletter I hope to provide a list of members at each address.

I will be grateful for advice, suggestions, news and correspondence for the next newsletter.
Enjoy the festive season.

Neville Maloney

An incentive to consider an Internet connection and some interesting advice on a long life.

alf webb

by Ian Thomson

Century-maker wins a round of applause from Telstra.

Alf Webb has to do something about the way he fills in forms needing his date of birth.

It's getting him into trouble. Like his recent check-up in Lismore when he filled out a medical form. NAME: Alf Webb. D.O.B. 10/9/05.

Medical staff wondered if he'd lost his marbles ... he had to be more than two months old. What Alf is going to have to do is write 10/9/1905. That's right, he's 100 not out and all his marbles are very much intact.

In fact, Alf is so switched on he's just become Telstra's oldest internet customer in Australia.

Now he's an old fish in a big pond.

Alf uses the internet mainly to email members of his extended family. And with five children, 14 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren, Alf spends a fair bit of time at his PC.

Alf's always been a communications nut. Way back in 1924 he built a two-way radio. In World War Two he served overseas as a signal operator using Morse code. You know, dit... dot...dash...and all that.

"I reckon Morse code has played a big part in me reaching 100," Alf says in the Lismore house he's lived in since 1943. "I've had my radio licence for 60 years and I still dabble in Morse code. It keeps my mind active."

Alf Webb was just a wide-eyed kid when he came out from the Old Dart with his dad. He went to school at The Channon, north of Lismore, and even remembers his teacher's name. The only high schools in those days were at Brisbane and Armidale, and mums and dads had to have a fair quid to get their kids into secondary education.

So when Alf left primary school he started work. At first, that involved helping his dad do odd jobs on dairy farms around the Lismore district. Then he became a tinsmith (they call them plumbers these days) and later



ran a quarry.

He's been through more floods that you can poke a stick at, but sadly he had to let me down when I asked him if he'd seen two of my sporting heroes in action - Phar Lap, the freakish racehorse, and Don Bradman.

"I don't know about Phar Lap because I'm not interested in racing," Alf says. "I never saw Bradman play, but I do know that he was bowled out by a 16-year-old schoolboy during a game at (Lismore's) Oakes Oval."

When Alf Webb's not tinkering with radio sets in his shed, tapping on his Morse code set, taking shots with his digital camera or surfing the net, he jumps into his Toyota Corolla ("I've had a driver's licence since I was 19")

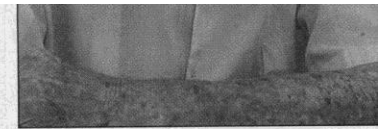
and heads for the Lismore RSL Club where he's a life member.

He has an occasional beer or a glass of wine at the club and every birthday he lashes out and downs a pint of lager. Alf quit smoking when he was 50.

When any journalist interviews someone who has been around for 100 years, the inevitable question arises - what's the secret?

"I don't know," he admits frankly. "I read about this bloke who turned 100 and he said he didn't drink. But I know for a fact that bloke'd drink grog out of an old boot."

When pressed for 10 reasons for a long life, Alf put home-grown vegetables at the top of the list. "I've



always had vegetable gardens and I've even grown a cucumber that weighed in at 48 pounds."

And he has a photo to prove it.

So what does the future hold for Alf Webb? "I really want to get more proficient with my computer," he says. "I started with an electric typewriter I bought years ago in Lismore. It broke down a couple of times so I repaired it."

Alf Webb decided to upgrade to a computer just before his 99th birthday and he loves it. One of his son's-in-law is responsible for getting him hooked up to Telstra broadband. And in doing so made his father-in-law the oldest Australian to sign up.

A Telstra rep came to Alf's house and handed him a certificate to prove the milestone, as well as giving him 12 months free use.

It's probably a good thing that Alf Webb OAM didn't have to sign a Telstra form with his birth date on it. Otherwise Telstra would have thought they'd signed up the YOUNGEST Australian.

10 Things Alf Webb says got him to 100 not out:

1. Home-grown vegies.
2. Regular exercise.
3. An active mind.
4. Regular check-ups.
5. Early rising.
6. 3 meals a day.
7. Alcohol in moderation.
8. His family.
9. Social activity.
10. Hard work when young.

Billabong jazz a hard act to follow

By Simon Chamberlain

NEXT year the Billabong jazz night will celebrate a decade of performances and it should be a great night.

However, the recent concert organised by John Muller and his friends will prove a hard act to follow, especially after the stunning performances of the two featured artists – school students Mim Gardiner and Rob MacDougall.

Mim Gardiner's performance revealed a mature performer with a fantastic voice and great stage presence. Her duet with Ben Hazell and rendition of the Ella Fitzgerald standard, *The Lady is a*

Tramp, was mesmerising. A strong support crew from Mim's home town of Barraba added to the ovation she received.

Rob MacDougall's baritone voice also shone and his homage to Anthony Warlow, with a cover of one of the signature songs from *Phantom of the Opera*, really moved the audience.

Both of these young performers will be names to remember in future years.

The other performers were thoroughly entertaining and John Muller proved his talent-spotting eye with a surprise entry to the program with another Tamworth youngster, Charmian Kingston, who accompanied herself on the piano and John's prediction of

another Diana Krall may not be too far from the truth.

Roshani Priddis continues to enthral audiences with the strength of her voice, particularly as it comes from such a small frame.

At the other end of the youth spectrum, Burt Whitehead showed that even being in the mid 80s is no barrier to showmanship and his keyboard skills were silky smooth.

So next year, make a promise to get along to the 10th birthday celebration of the Billabong Jazz night.

With the remarkable range of talent this city and its surrounds possesses, it will be a treat never to be forgotten.



Wow: Mim Gardiner shows amazing potential.

This article appeared in the Northern Daily Leader Nov 17th 2005. Mim (Miriam) Gardiner is the daughter of Ben & Robyn Gardiner a granddaughter of Ron Main's sister Kath. There is obviously talent in the family somewhere and it's great to be able to feature some good news stories of the next generation.