

From the Committee

Our activities are about to get underway again and we hope you enjoy your participation in all the groups you choose to join.

Our January enrolment meeting guest speaker Lisa Gervasoni was very informative and there was a lively question and answer session regarding My Aged Care. The turnout certainly exceeded expectations with the RSL stretched to capacity. It shows how important this subject is and we may get Lisa back at sometime.

Our Christmas break up was another outstanding success under the oak tree with good food and great company.

These occasions are an opportunity to socialise together which is important for our wellbeing.

As the weather has been extremely hot recently it is a timely reminder that on a day of catastrophic fire danger in our zone all U3A activities are cancelled. It is also important to stay hydrated on these very hot days.

The next New Residents meeting is 29 March at the Senior Citizens Hall in Water St at the rear of the Town Hall. If you are new to Creswick or know someone who is it is well worth attending. Details will be in the *Creswick District News*.



Pillow Talk

Every night, before I fall asleep, I share my 'gratitudes' with my pillow.

I tell her all of the things that I was thankful for on that day. Positive interactions with people, or events that were a reflection of love or kindness – by me or by others to me – even simple, everyday things like the food that I ate, and the roof over my head. So that I don't take them for granted.

There is a Universal Law – 'Like Begets Like' – also expressed as 'Like Attracts Like'. What you dwell on is what you attract more of into your life. Thus, I seem to have more and more things to be grateful for every day.

I am also thankful that my pillow never interrupts my sharing. She just silently listens, and offers no judgements or criticisms of what I tell her. Perhaps she is compiling my stories and will one day write a book, calling it 'Pillow Talk'.

And perhaps it is she, who, listening to the stories of my life, guides the substance of my dreams as I slumber on my bed. The themes of my dreams often reflect my waking life, about which my pillow knows a great deal.

When I travel, the pillows at the hotel have probably only rarely, if at all, heard someone sharing their gratitudes and seem disinterested in hearing mine. Which is why I am always so thankful to return home to my own bed, and to my own beautiful pillow.

Russell Bowey

Thank you Russell for this philosophical contribution and sharing it with us. Contributions from members are always welcome.



The Wesley Church



Opened in 1854, the original Wesleyan Methodist Church was a structure of canvas and slab built by Cornish miners at Red Streak. In 1859, the *Creswick Advertiser* reported that although the Wesleyan Methodists had the largest place of worship in the township, the congregation was pushing out the walls of the church, so it had been decided to build “an edifice worthy of this important district...”.

In January 1861, when the official population of Creswick was almost 5000, the foundation stone was laid and at Easter 1861, the new brick church erected in Victoria Street was opened to the congregation. The first service was conducted by Reverend D.J. Draper. From its earliest days, the Reverend Thomas Williams, grandfather of the Lindsay children, was a preacher at the church.

In 1864, Dr Robert Lindsay started his medical practice in Creswick and when he married Jane Williams in 1869 moved their home to the corner of Raglan and Cambridge Street. When this home was no-longer large enough to accommodate a growing family a new home was built. Lisnacrieve was on the corner of Victoria and Cambridge streets, next door to the new Gothic-style Methodist church. Each Sunday the children were reputedly herded into the church by their mother, and Norman, bored by the sermons, drew caricatures in his hymn book. Daryl found the church to be a refuge and wrote in his book *The Leafy Tree*, that he would take the vestry key and read in the pulpit, which he found to be so comfortable that he spent many an hour and once wagged it for almost the whole of December.

Of the five artistic siblings Ruby was the only one to marry at the Wesleyan Church.

Ruby was born in 1885, the seventh of the Lindsay children. Aged 17, Ruby left home and went to Melbourne to live with her brother Percy, ostensibly to keep house for him. At night she attended art classes at the National Gallery School. She drew illustrations for various periodicals including the *Hawklett*, the *Bulletin* and the *Gadfly*. She also designed posters, and illustrated books including Steele Rudd’s *Back at our Selection*. To make her own way without relying on the fame of her siblings, she signed her work Ruby Lind. However, it was a struggle to make ends meet.

On a visit to Creswick in 1902, Will Dyson, a friend of her brothers met Ruby. They married in 1909 at the Wesleyan Church. In his book *The Leafy Tree*, Ruby’s brother Daryl describes the day: “When the time came to go to the church only fifty yards away, Ruby looked over the gate to see half the people of Creswick waiting to see the bride arrive. One look was enough. She got stage fright, bolted through the house into the backyard and picking up her skirts, scaled the adjoining fence into the churchyard. Pink in the face, she made her entry through the vestry. And what is more, the ceremony over, she took to her heels at the church door and was chased back to the house by a hilarious bridegroom, to be greeted by cheers and laughter over the champagne in the old drawing room.”

After their wedding Ruby and Will travelled to England, accompanied by Ruby’s brother Norman. Both Ruby and Will worked at cartooning and illustration and lived in London. In 1911, they had a daughter, Elizabeth, known as Betty. Ruby continued to work illustrating books, including children’s books such as *Naughty Sophia* and the periodical *The Suffragette*. She also sent drawings back to Australia for the *Bulletin* and other publications. Ruby was also well recognised for her art work.

In Australia, Will Dyson was well known as a black and white artist and contributed to various magazines. In London, he found great success and was employed by the *Chronicle* and then the radical newspaper the *Daily Herald*. He was considered one of the best cartoonists of his day. In 1916 Will was appointed Australia’s first official war artist and served on the Somme. After the war he continued

to work as a political cartoonist. Will died suddenly in 1938.

After the war Ruby went to Ireland with her brother Daryl to visit relatives. There she contracted influenza so they returned to London. She died a few days later in March 1919, aged 33.

In 1972, the Wesleyan Church was closed and the congregation combined with the Presbyterian Church in Creswick. The church was demolished in 1986.

This Church stood on what is now the car park beside the Neighbourhood Centre Hall.

Information from Creswick Historical Society

Photo gallery of the church when it was being demolished in 1986...







Thomas Williams (1815–1891)

Niel Gunson

Thomas Williams (1815-1891), Wesleyan missionary, was born on 20 January 1815 at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, England, son of John Williams, architect and builder, and his wife Jane, née Hollinshed.

Bereft of his mother in 1817, reared by a strict father and educated at a private academy in Lincoln, Williams became clerk in his father's office, joined the Wesleyan society at 19, taught Sunday school and became a local preacher. He was third preacher in the Horncastle circuit when he volunteered as a missionary to Fiji in 1839; on 20 August he married Mary, daughter of a farmer John Cottingham of West Barking, and they sailed for the South Seas in September. From July 1840 to July 1853 Williams served successively at Lakemba, Somosomo and Bua. He was ordained on 10 October 1847.

Disillusioned by wars, cannibalism, widow-strangling and general opposition Williams broke down and left the mission, reaching Sydney with Rev. Walter Lawry in December 1853 after several months in New Zealand.

While in Fiji Williams developed an interest in ethnography, illustrating his material with detailed sketches. His manuscript *'The Islands and their Inhabitants'* was taken to London in 1856 by his colleague James Calvert and edited by G. S. Rowe as *Fiji and the Fijians*, (London, 1858), which is accepted as a classic account of Fijian society before

the conversion of Cakobau, chief of Bau, in 1854. He also published *Memoir of the Late Rev. John Hunt, Feejee*.

On 23 March 1854 Williams arrived in Adelaide as superintendent of the circuit. In 1857 he was transferred to Victoria as minister of the Brunswick Street church in Melbourne. After a year's leave in England in 1860, he returned to Victoria, serving successively at Brighton, Creswick, Colac, Ballarat, Castlemaine and South Melbourne before becoming a supernumerary in 1878.

He was chairman of the Geelong and Ballarat district in 1871, of the Castlemaine and Sandhurst district in 1872, and was president of the last Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Conference in 1873.

In his retirement at Ballarat he devoted his time to writing pious biographies: *Triumph in Suffering: Memorials of Elizabeth Ann Bennett* (Melbourne, 1879), *Memoir of Mr. James Wood* (Geelong, 1883) and *Assiduity: Being a Memoir of the Late Mr. Richard H. Hart, of Stawell* (Ballarat, 1886).

In 1881 Williams visited England again and in 1885 attended the jubilee celebrations of the mission in Fiji. His unpublished journal is a perceptive record of the changes in the mission.

On 4 July 1891 he died at his residence and was buried in the Creswick cemetery. Three sons and three daughters of his 13 children survived him; his eldest daughter Jane Elizabeth (1848-1932) married Robert Charles Alexander Lindsay, medical practitioner at Creswick—several of their children, Percy, Lionel, Norman, Daryl and Ruby related their artistic expression to their grandfather's ability and encouragement.

Regarded as a good preacher Williams was somewhat of a perfectionist. His more generous side was balanced by his quick temper, sarcasm and contempt for pretension.



He was a devoted patron of cultural institutions and an avid collector of books and drawings. His reputation as an ethnographer was further

enhanced by the publication in Sydney of his *Journal of Thomas Williams, Missionary in Fiji, 1840-1853*, edited by G. C. Henderson in 1931. The Journal has as its frontispiece a portrait etching by Lionel Lindsay. His Fijian sketchbook and diaries are in the Mitchell Library.

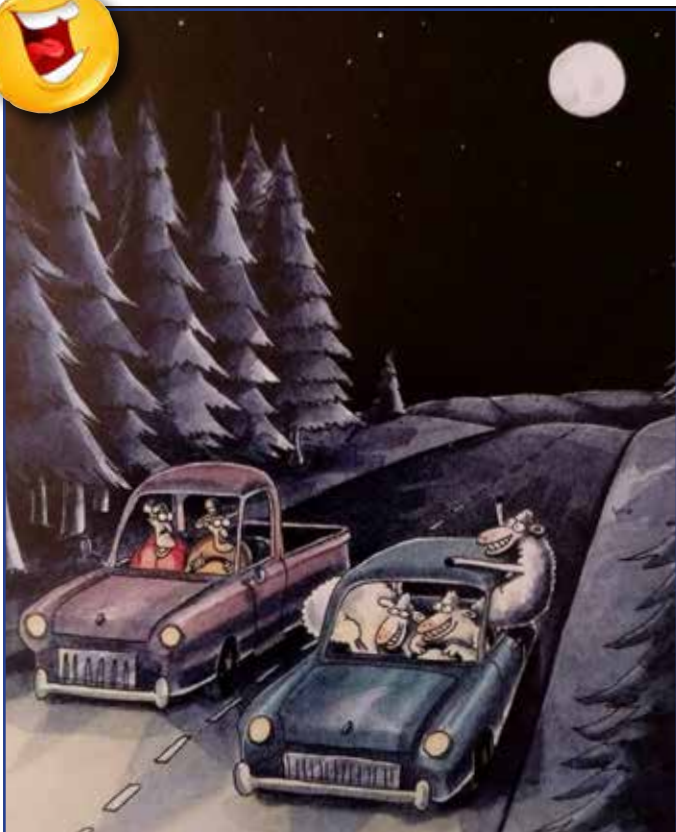
Source: *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. This article was published in hardcopy in *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 6*, (Melbourne University Press), 1976.

U3A Membership Policy

When a member pays the required membership subscriptions they become a member of Creswick & District U3A and must follow the Terms and Conditions of membership.

Listed below are some of these conditions. The complete list of Conditions and Policies is available on the [website](#).

1. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
2. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
3. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
4. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected Committee.



Sheep that pass in the night.



It's a known fact that the sheep that give us steel wool have no natural enemies.

