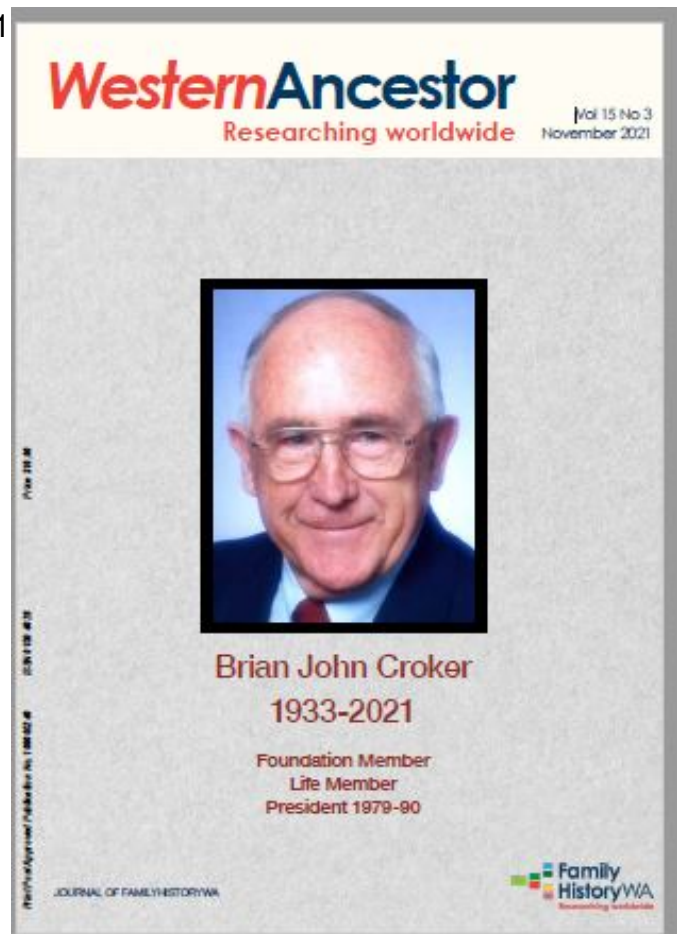


This final edition of Western Ancestor for 2021



is a tribute to FamilyHistoryWA foundation member, life member, long serving President and dedicated genealogist Brian Crocker. Brian's extraordinary contribution to FHWA is detailed in Liana Fitzpatrick's moving obituary.

You will also see some new layouts and features in this *Western Ancestor*, marking the last edition of Mike Murray and Dr Lesley Sylvester as they hand over to new editor Peter Forrestal after six years of hard work.

FHWA Members can read the 2021 November [Western Ancestor here](#) .

Feature Articles

Brian Croker (1933-2021) – Vale Liana Fitzpatrick 69

Sadly FHWA's first President and the driving force behind the Society's early days died in August.

His legacy will live on and he will be sorely missed.

'A Lady from Hell' – Pipe Major David Manson Jennie Carter 71

Jennie writes about the history of her grandfather and his role as a renowned pipe major. David Manson led the Canadian troops ashore in France in February 1915.

James Puckle – Inventor Lesley Silvester 76

Lesley reveals that she has the dubious honour of being related to the inventor of the very first machine gun.

HMAS Sydney II – Eighty Years Ago Bill Edgar 79

In this personal opinion piece, Bill Edgar wonders if the 2009 Cole Inquiry into the incident sufficiently considered human factors in its findings.

The Bermuda Convicts – a 'Black' Episode Bill Edgar 80

Bill Edgar exposes the Hell that was the Bermuda hulks and also tells the story of one convict who endured nearly a decade there, before ending up in WA.

Who'd Go to Day Dawn? Eric and Margaret Smith 84

Many of Margaret and Eric's forebears and relatives passed through the small, short-lived town of Day Dawn, without knowing that their descendants would one day trace them back.

DNA – Keeping up with New Tools – a User's Personal Perspective Mike Murray 89

Keeping up with all the changes that the testing companies introduce from time to time is difficult.

Mike gives an overview of recent changes that he has personally found most useful.

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