

## CHERYL MONGAN

### About Cheryl



Cheryl Mongan has been involved in heritage organisations, advisory committees and as a frequent speaker at seminars, conferences and workshops for many years. She has been involved in the writing and editing of number of historical publications, including *'a decent set of girls': the Irish Famine Orphans of the Thomas Arbuthnot 1849-1850* and *'We have not forgotten': Yass and District's War 1914-1918* with co-organiser Dr Richard Reid, and contributed to and co-edited the major publication *Echoes of Irish Australia: Rebellion to Republic*.

Cheryl has curated several historical exhibitions including *Galong: Paradise of the Ryans and Yass & WWI* for the Canberra Museum and Gallery. She is one of the four St Clement's Historians, and project managed the development of the new museum and exhibition *An abiding presence: Galong's land and people*.

She has been the co-organiser of *Beyond the limits of location* for the past decade and *Shamrock in the Bush* for the past nineteen years. Her long involvement with St Clement's Retreat & Conference

Centre led to her appointment as the manager of the historic complex in September 2009. Formerly with the History Unit of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Cheryl was responsible for research and writing for publications, websites and other mediums. She was a presenter at numerous conferences, seminars and workshops.

A former member of HAGSOC Council and committee member for Congress in 1986, Cheryl is currently a Vice President of the Yass and District Historical Society of which she was made a Life Member in 2011.

### Her topic

[A general and indiscriminate stigma - the Irish Famine Orphans, 1848–1850.](#)

Intermediate

Between 1848 and 1850, 4,114 females from the workhouses of famine stricken Ireland volunteered to emigrate to the Australian colonies. Preconceived notions of them as impoverished, untrained non-Protestant orphans, condemned many of these young women to considerable prejudice upon their arrival. Most overcome these difficulties to establish successful families. Today researchers are working to unite descendants with their Irish relatives.