

# E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.



April 2020

Issue 26



*The original stone building opened in 1877 and now in the grounds of Gosford T.A.F.E.*

Original Primary School Georgiana Terrace Gosford.

***THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL COAST  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.***

# CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Phone: 4324 5164 - Email [admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au)  
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm;  
Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.30pm  
First Saturday of the month 9.30am-12noon  
Research Centre Closed on Mondays for Administration

## **MEETINGS**

First Saturday of each month from February to November  
Commencing at 1.00pm – doors open 12.00 noon  
Research Centre opens from 9.30am  
Venue: Gosford Lions Community Hall  
Rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW

# THE E-MUSTER

April 2020 – No: 26

The **E- MUSTER** is the Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. **THE MUSTER** it was first published in April 1983.

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The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by advertisers or authors of articles appearing in **E- MUSTER**.

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## JOURNAL EDITOR Heather YATES

All articles to:  
[admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au)

**E- MUSTER** deadlines are  
March 20  
July 20  
October 23

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## EDITORIAL

I was very pleased to be invited to attend an International Womens Day event at Gosford TAFE in early March. The culmination of a project researched by students from Ourimbah University was presented on the day, acknowledging the role Honoria COULTER nee McGRATH played as first headmistress of Gosford Public School. It took place in the original “*little school on the Hill*” in Georgiana Terrace, Gosford.

These students had attended our Research Centre for assistance and became thoroughly immersed in their project. It was a real thrill to have a guided tour of these beautiful buildings on the day.

I have included information about podcasts and online exhibitions in this issue as we now spend more time at home researching during our changed lifestyle.

As the Editor of your magazine, I thank the contributors who have provided such interesting stories in this latest issue of the *e-Muster*.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT – PAUL SCHIPP

Welcome readers to another enlightening edition of the e-Muster. It is always surprising how contributors constantly find articles worthy of publishing for the enjoyment of our readers and the research that has gone into them. This edition has inspiring stories which go well with the recent International Women’s Day, others that will stimulate your desire to pursue that missing piece of the family tree. Unfortunately with the current circumstances of dealing with COVID-19, many are in isolation and perhaps these articles are a welcome distraction, you may also like to visit previous e-Muster issues for an unread article, all found on our Website. If you still have time on your hands put pen to paper or fingers to the keypad and start your story for the next issue. Remember to keep in contact with your family and friends, send them an article to read and keep connected.

Happy Reading,

Paul Schipp

CCFHS President

## NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new and returned members. We hope they have many happy researching and social hours with us. Please remember to lodge your Members' Interest form with Bennie Campbell for inclusion on the Website.

2120	Marie GAVEN
2121	Linda BROWN
2122	Anthony LEHNER
2123	Colin COTTOME
2124	Judith DALTON
700	Colin MINCHEW
873	Steven MOLLOY

## LATEST NEWS



Behind the scenes, staff are making sure our popular digital services are available. Explore the Library from home via [Trove](#), our [website](#), the [National Library catalogue](#) and [eResources](#);

- Discover our free learning resources for primary and secondary students in our [Digital Classroom](#);
- Participate in our online events by attending [webinars](#), listening to [podcasts](#) and reading our [blogs](#);
- Continue to [Ask a Librarian](#) for help with research questions or navigating our collections;
- Visit our online [Bookshop](#) for a wonderful selection of Australian books.



The State Library is temporarily closed until further notice.

**YOUR LIBRARY AT HOME**

Your Library at Home

*The Library is here for you!*

Whether you're looking for a new book to read, a binge-worthy podcast, inspiring stories, or a fun activity to do at home – you can get all of this and more online at your Library.

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## **Free Videos Now Available: DNA, Roots Tech Keynotes, and More!**

As you spend more time at home working on your family history, we've collected a lot of new resources and tips to extend your family tree from the recent Roots Tech conference. Discover the latest from industry leaders surrounding DNA, plus outstanding keynote speeches and more.

You Might Also Like:

- Adding Branches to Your Family Tree Using DNA
- Healing and Family History: The Emotional Side of DNA

Discover Your Family with Interviews and Sources

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



**A Gold coin donation is gratefully received when attending the Research Centre to assist in offsetting the cost of online subscription sites. A Day Research fee for Non-Members is \$10.**

All Saturday workshops will incur a fee of \$10 for members unless otherwise stipulated and must be paid for prior to the day.

**OUR MEMBERSHIP FORM** is available to download from the website. From the front page click on the ...read more information Tab under Membership on the banner and all will be revealed. Remember the website is [www.centralcoastfhs.org.au](http://www.centralcoastfhs.org.au)

Please read the two additional questions on your membership form regarding the Rotary Raffle to the value of \$10.00 and/or a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund. You can choose to collect the Tickets from the Centre or send in a stamped addressed envelope and we will post them to you.

## Next Issue

### **No. 27 August 2020 E-MUSTER**

Deadline for articles for the August edition of the Muster  
20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020.

## RESEARCH TIPS

### **A Genealogical To-Do List While You Keep Your Distance: - from Legacy News**

Now is a great time to focus on genealogy. Here are 20 ideas for you to consider as you fill your days with indoor activities.

**1. Establish Your Personal Learning Plan.** I know you love Legacy webinars so why not think about a personal learning plan for the next 2 weeks or month. Choose webinars based on a theme such as:

- The country/countries you are researching
- DNA
- Researching female ancestors
- Technology
- Every webinar in the Webinar Library by a specific category or presenter

Identify your webinars of preference, watch them, and then study the handouts. Really study the handouts by exploring the suggested websites, seeking out the books in the bibliographies, and jot down notes for future reference.

**2. Scan!** It's a good time to pull out some of those photos you have been meaning to scan and start. You could even watch webinars while you do it!

**3. Upload photos to the Cloud.** Use this time to share and store your photos (especially those that you just scanned). Upload them to whatever makes the most sense to you, an online tree attached to specific ancestors, Facebook album tagged with descendants, FamilySearch Memories collection, or a cloud storage website like [Dropbox](#) or [Sugar Sync](#).

**4. Download your photos from your phone.** Are you guilty of this? I go to a library or archive and take a bunch of photos and then think I'll download them later. But really later never comes. So now's a good time to download them to your computer or a cloud storage website. You could even attach them to your online trees. Some cloud storage website feature a way to automatically download them to your cloud storage (such as [Dropbox](#)).



**5. Take a 2<sup>nd</sup> look at the census.** I know, I know, you've already looked at the census. But what about exploring the pages before and after your ancestor's listing. Or really looking at the columns and making sure you've recorded/analysed everything. Or if you are using the U.S. Census, learning more about the enumerator instructions.

**6. Search [WorldCat](#).** Have you used [WorldCat](#), the world's library catalogue? Take some time to enter a keyword that is meaningful for your family history such as Quakers or Coal Mining. Take some time to search by your ancestor's place to find local history books. To learn more about using WorldCat, see the Legacy [Tech Zone](#).

**7. Search [ArchiveGrid](#)** to become familiar with manuscript collections in the place your ancestor lived.

**8. Search the [FamilySearch Catalog](#)** for the place your ancestor lived. Go through each listing to see what resources you haven't used and then make a list of what you need to check.

**9. Update your family tree.** Take some time to update your family tree whether it's on your computer or online. Have you made any new discoveries? Have new documents to add?

**10. Take a new look at your DNA results.** New matches? New ethnicity estimates? Take some time to watch a [webinar](#) and learn something new you can do as you review those results.

**11. Timelines.** Create a timeline for an ancestor you are researching now or an ancestor you want to research.

**12. Revisit your grandparents.** Have you researched your grandparents? What records are you missing? What social history can you add to their lives? Work on writing some short narratives/stories about their lives.

**13. Create a timeline for your life.** For many of us, someday we will be an ancestor. Do your future family genealogist a favour and create a timeline for your own life. Add vital record events, milestones, and historical events that had meaning for you.

**14. Start a journal.** We are living in a unique historical period; document it now by starting a journal. Then look at how you can add to your journal with newspapers, photos, and emails from family.

**15. Digitize!** Have old photocopies from library visits when you first started your family history? Digitize those, organize them on your computer and then throw them away. You should never throw away original or hard to replace records but digitized copies from records like the census, which is found only could be saved to your computer.

**16. Take your genealogy to Facebook.** Have you identified Facebook genealogy groups to join? Now is the time to do that. Start with lists curated by [Gail Devers](#), [Katherine R Willson](#), and [Alona Tester](#).

**17. Identify blog articles to read.** Bloggers do such a great job of reporting on methodology, new record sets, and case studies. You can learn more about blog posts to read by using Randy Seaver's "Best of..." weekly list or other similar lists. Randy has links to other blogger lists at the end of each weekly "Best of" blog post.

**18. Work on a Research Plan.** Now's a good time to consult library and archival catalogues and your family tree and come up with a research plan. One of my favourite explanations on creating a genealogical research plan is the online article, "Creating a Genealogy Research Plan Like a Detective" by Kimberly Powell.

**19. Document an heirloom.** Have a family heirloom or something you hope will become an heirloom? How about taking some time to photograph it and explain its provenance? Explain what it is, what its importance is to your family, its history and where it should end up when you are no longer around. Consider long term solutions including family members willing to inherit it or a possible donation plan.

**20. Take a virtual trip to your ancestral home.** Sure, you might not be able to travel right now but we are so lucky to be able to access places virtually. How about using [Google Maps](#) or [Google Earth](#), [History Pin](#) or even [What Was There](#) to access historical maps and images.

Stuck at home? That's ok, there's plenty to do! Look at your family history and decide what you'd like to accomplish.

**Gena Philibert-Ortega** is an author, instructor, and researcher. She blogs at Gena's Genealogy. You can find her presentations on the Legacy Family Tree Webinars website.

## EARLY CLIMATE CHANGES IN EUROPE.

With our widespread drought, bushfires and floods, our Continent is having a hard time. Our birds and animals are being starved by drought or burnt in bush fires, our fish are dying in our rivers as our climate is changing. Long before our Continent's weather was recorded, the Northern Hemisphere suffered horrific climate changes.

I have come across articles relating to severe weather patterns in Europe in our past. Between 1309 and 1814, the Thames River froze over 23 times, five of which were 1683-4, 1716, 1739-40, 1789 & 1814. As there was no work for the Watermen who transported people on the Thames and watermen who moved goods, they were without work so "Frost Fairs" were organized and were held on the river between Blackfriars and London Bridges. A new London Bridge was built in 1831 with fewer arches allowing for more water from the sea to flow up as salted water means a lower freezing point. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Embankment was built narrowing the Thames making water flow faster and making freezing less likely.

From the early 14<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the world had cooler temperatures, the weather was unstable and food production was down which made living conditions very harsh. This period was known as "The Little Ice Age". Previously for several centuries there had been a period of good weather which grew bountiful harvests. When the weather became more variable with droughts or inconsistent rain causing crop failure, not enough food was produced which caused famine.



*The Great Flood and Great Famine of 1314*

In the years 1739-1741 Ireland was hugely affected which caused a famine known as “The year of the slaughter”. The Irish Potato Famine of 1845-1849 has received much more attention over the years but was not dissimilar to the earlier famine.

It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of people died during the 1739-1740 period as the intense frost led to the destruction of the potato crop in Ireland. The cold winter was followed by a dry cold spring preventing or delaying planting of crops and forage was also in short supply which led to the decimation of sheep and cattle herds.

Weather was erratic during the following summer and autumn and led to widespread crop failure. The following cold winter of 1740-1741 caused further disease epidemics, and riots over the lack of food were common across Ireland. Many people were jailed or executed for theft of food. Ireland was discriminated against by the English Government’s reluctance to deal with the situation, something that had not changed 100 years later. History repeated itself in the Irish Famine of 1845-1849.

*Famine Memorial, Dublin.*



*A potato infected with late blight, showing typical rot symptoms*

Great Britain suffered severe cold between December 1739 and February 1740. The Thames was frozen over for 8 weeks and Frost Fairs were held, Merchants and Entertainers settling up on the ice for the Londoner's enjoyment. There were also major storms around Britain in November, December 1739 and January in 1740.



Snow was recorded to have fallen on 39 days between November 1739 and May 1740. Melting of snow in the spring of 1740 produced floods. Increased numbers of burials during these periods were recorded and decreases in marriages and births in Britain and across Europe. Deaths were caused by famine, cold and disease.

When looking at church registers for the period 1739-1742, look to see if the numbers of deaths were higher than other years and marriages and births lower. Your ancestors may well have succumbed to the "Great Frost". Not only did people die in large numbers, birds froze or starved to death and fish in rivers and shallow seas died, their carcasses washing up on shorelines.

### **Heather SUSHAMES Member 651L**

References:

Shepherd, Wayne: Surviving Mother Nature's Tests: Pen & Sword Books

Rowley, Martin: Climate History in the British Isles website

Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7994298>

By User AlanMc on en.wikipedia - taken by me (AlanMc) in 2006, Public Domain,

### **DID YOU KNOW????**

**Horsfield Bay near Woy Woy was named after James and Emma Horsfield, from Neutral Bay, Sydney, who bought 12 lots of land in 1905 in a subdivision. They had several small houses built to let to holidaymakers and had a boatshed. In 1909 they sold some of the land, which became the base for Charles Andrews' ferry service on the Bays (Horsfield, Phegan's and Woy Woy Bay) With thanks to Gwen Dundon, Marg MORTERS. Member 406**

**St. Huberts Island was first offered for sale in 1834. The grant was taken up by Father Cornelius Coghlan in 1855. The selling price was 154 pounds and 10 shillings. Father Cornelius Dominic Coghlan was a member of the Dominican Order, born in Galway in Ireland, and arrived in Sydney when in his early fifties.**

**The Brisbane Water District was his first mission in 1843. On the Island he found time to grow bananas until the plantation was wiped out by a gale in 1898 - the same gale which sank the SS Maitland (this wreck residing at Maitland Bay just north of Kilcare).**

**Although he referred to the Island as "my island", it is believed he gave it its current name - St Huberts Island. Father Coghlan willed the island to his friend Bishop Polding, who sold it to Francis Fahey.**



## GLIMPSES OF NORMA.

International Womens' Day 2020 and I am feeling so nostalgic. Mum is so strongly in my mind. Much has been written about significant women of the Central Coast. Who are the significant women in our family? Norma Mary Boyce is my mother, with 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 3 great, great grandchildren. What does the younger generation know of her history? Here she is, the baby on the left hand side, sitting on her mother's knee surrounded by her extended family with parents Mary and Richard Boyce and her grandmother Annie Green. These folk all lived in at Walcha. A quick snip of Norma's 3 generations. Grannie Green nee Blake, her son Richard from her first marriage to James Boyce and baby Norma.



Gentlemen L-R Richard Boyce, William Green, John Walker, James Stier, young Charles Boyce

Ladies middle row Marjorie Boyce, Mary Boyce, Annie Green, daughters Marjorie Walker and Hannah Stier

Baby Norma was born at home 3 April 1914; the fifth child of Mary and Richard Boyce: on the Nivison property, *The Glen*, at Walcha where her father was a labourer/ boundary rider.

Five years later she and the family moved to their own property *Manildra*, about 50 kilometres south east of Tamworth. Richard and son Charles left first, he on horseback in charge of his stock. Charles drove the sulky from Walcha to Duncans Creek. The ladies were driven in 2 family cars a few days later.



*Above: Richard on the front step*



*Left: Merle, Norma, Marjorie and Vera.*

*Nov 1919*

Sister Marjorie wrote....May 1919...it was a cloudy morn as we drove through the paddock to our new home...

*“What desolate feelings when the cars and family returned to Walcha. We were alone, 2 miles along a country track from the main road with just one tank for water. A little formerly miners cottage for home and for transport a sulky and 2 horses.”*



In later years Mary was grieving. After six months of unknown anxiety it had been confirmed that her only brother, Frederick Stier had indeed been killed in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1918, Norma's birthday. Life went on. Richard's chequebook shows the first farm purchase was a water tank.

Children went to school at Duncans Creek. Norma at first rode behind her sister Merle on a farm horse. Too late now to ask more about kids school days on the 1920's.



Neighbour Stan Woodley took these school photos of their fancy dress day Norma as *Night and Day* and Merle as *Miss Petunia*.



School and fancy dress day (Stan Woodley)

Their costumes had come from their Aunt Hannah in Armidale from her daughter's collection... (*Hannah is the lady on the right hand side in the first photo, in this article*)

*Fancy Dress at Duncans Creek Provisional School*



Norma only ever spoke about the day in 6<sup>th</sup> class when the school inspector visited the school. He asked her about going to high school in Tamworth next year. Could he urge her to think about it? She was so excited. But...Distance, no transport and no funds to make it possible. So **disappointed**... She continued at school doing set lessons until old enough to leave.

After school, traditionally children worked on the farm. In the 1930s dairy farming had developed with cream collected on the roadside for the Tamworth butter factory. Each had their job in this process. Cows were hand milked by Norma and Merle seated on little home-made 3 legged wooden stools. The buckets of milk then taken to the dairy. Sister Vera separated the milk with cream going into the cream can. The pigs were fed with the separated milk. Marjorie transported the cream cans by horse and slide to the roadside for pick up.



*Pig sty with shearing shed in the background*

After milking Norma and Merle herded the cows to graze for part of the morning on the specially cultivated green crop in the paddock. Norma did mention that when she was as a youngster, what a trial 'stone picking' had been to young hands removing all the stones for easy ploughing by horse drawn plough. Brother Charles was the plough man.

Cattle minding was easy sitting on their horses. Norma and Merle were even able to crochet for their glory boxes while they kept the stock on the allotted site.

Until one day! Unexpectedly, the stock started to fall over. Quick!! Shut the gate. Don't let anymore in. Half the herd of 30 died that day.

Unbeknown to them, poisonous Johnsons grass was growing on the crop with the other bought seed of Sudan grass. Prussic acid in the Johnsons grass was the potent, rapidly acting **poison**.<sup>1</sup>

These days NSW Dept. of Agriculture says this poisoning in livestock is increased during periods of drought,<sup>2</sup>

Marjorie. Richard and Charles made several bonfires. With heavy hearts Marjorie recalled, *The sweet cows we loved them all*. Norma's eldest sister Marjorie told me that sad story about growing supposedly pure Sudan grass seed that became infested with Johnsons grass.

In lighter vein, Norma and family made the most of any social occasion. They helped decorate/disguise Roser's shearing shed with greenery, usually saplings, for dances or the more formal Church of England Ball. It was convenient that Roser's too were dairying and didn't use the shearing shed. Dance night, outside Charles boiled the billy (a 4 gallon kerosene drum remodelled for the occasion) and the ladies 'brought a plate'.

Locals provided the music and late in the night youngsters slept wherever they found a floor space. In the early days Marjorie said they danced till dawn. Safer for horses and rider to see the way home.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid

<sup>2</sup> NSW DPI PrimeFacts Feb 2007



*Hay cutting Richard and Chas Boyce with Marjorie atop the sulky.*

*Vehicle possibly the Ford truck, their first vehicle.*

Marjorie said the best day of the year was when

*“We all went to the Tamworth show one day every year in the Chev 1 ton lorry. We always took the Partlin family of 10 with us.*

*We took a picnic lunch and tea too, to have before dark. We all went to a play at night and had supper at a café then left for home and arrived about 1 am.*

Marjorie remembered instantly that Merle, Vera & Norma seen here, were dressed ready to go to the show.





*Mary, Vera, Marjorie and Richard Boyce*

This is the Chev lorry, their second vehicle, much easier to crank than the Ford, no kick back when you turned the crank handle. It was transport for seventeen Boyce and Partlin passengers, with some at the back sitting on hay bales.

Boyce's built their most substantial tennis court collecting ant bed soil as the key surface ingredient. They hosted many competition matches.

Wireless was a blessing. Week days lunch was served in time for the ladies to tune into *Blue Hills*. In later Millfield days, Norma ironed at night listening to *When a Girl Marries*, the evening radio serial and a 1940s dance band.

In 1941 separation by distance, history repeated itself. After Norma's marriage at St John's Church of England, Tamworth to Gordon Davidson, they went to live on their just purchased poultry farm. It had cost £555. Millfield was a day's journey away from Duncans Creek.

This distance from relatives meant very few visits home were possible by car, to see his and her families in Tamworth and Duncans Creek. Poultry needed daily attention. Just twice Norma took daughters Marlene, Cae and Robyn, on the train from Maitland to Tamworth. Dad left at home.

Between times letters with a pen dipped ink, were the basic means of communication. If only we had saved those regularly written letters between Mother and daughters.

Details of the decades of poultry farming days need another chapter.

As one reflects Norma experienced many stages. From candle power, horse power, tank water, Coolgardie cool safe, wood burning stove, groceries by flour bag, sugar bag, washing boiled in the copper or done by hand.

Millfield days where many adjustments were made as she grew with the times. When funds allowed (no hire purchase) electric stove, hot water over sink and bath tub, washing machine and a black and white TV were purchased. It always amazed Norma that those screen pictures could appear seemingly by magic in your own home each time you turned on the power.

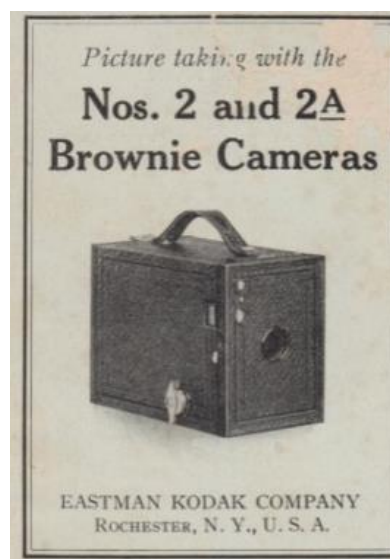
When Norma's 3 daughters were making job decisions she urged something professional with nursing and teaching high on the list. Daughters chose nursing, teaching and the Public Service.

Did this overshadow some of her disappointment at not being able to have a high school education? I now wonder what job she may have dreamed of.

Home and family called so they retired in Tamworth. Each enjoyed the personal contact again with siblings and the Boyce & Davidson clans. It took many years of separation by distance before they experienced the joy of coming home.

What amazing historic photos that little box brownie camera captured. And what memories they have stirred.

I didn't know where my nostalgia would take me. Today it has really wandered away into distant times. I remember historian Noeline Kyle's advice... just write. Yes Noeline I did.





Yes that really is Norma in the garden at home at *Manildra* in the late 1930s, before Millfield days.

I realise too how much oral history is associated with each glimpse. Marjorie was our family historian and thankfully I was fortunate to be able to chat to her.

Tomorrow or next week I must sit and write again about more of those precious little family photos taken by the box brownie and developed in Tamworth from a film roll of no more than 12 photos at a time.

I'm prompted to wonder.

What do you remember about your grandmother, your mother and your aunts? How many stories can you record before International Women's Day 2021? Your memories are priceless.

Photographs from Boyce collection, digitised by cousin Ian Hobbs, Tamworth.

**Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L**

## Streets of Sydney and the origin of their names.



### JOHN HARGRAVES AVE

Moore Park

Earlier called Presidents Avenue.

One of a number of streets commemorating famous Australian actors following the closure of the Sydney Showground in 1998.

Fox Studios Australia opened on the site in 1999.

### KELLETT ST

Potts Point

Kellett House, facing Goderich across Bayswater Rd was

The house of Sir Stuart Donaldson, first premier of NSW.



### KENT RD

Chippendale

Also possibly known as Brewery Rd. This road ran off Broadway (Parramatta Rd) west of Kensington St. It was subsumed within the brewery precinct c.1877.

John Tooth, who established the Kent Brewery (now Carlton), came from County Kent.

### LIME ST

Sydney

Originally La off Erskine St, southerly, between Day St and Darling Harbour Section of Erskine St, Lime and Day St partly obliterated by Western Distributor.

Possibly Lime is a reference to the nautical nature of the St, as limes, rich in vitamin C, were used by sailors to ward off scurvy.

### MORLEY AVE

Rosebery

Named after John Morley. Viscount Morley of Blackburn (1838-1923). Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1885. Secretary for India from 1905 to 1910. Journalist, author and statesman.



# NEWS FROM CLAN FARQUHARSON

Featuring CCFHS Member Robert Findley



## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

**ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019** Pauline and Bruce drove up on Friday through intermittent rain showers. There was a huge traffic pile-up on the Freeway caused by a truck smash at one of the exits. So they were running behind their usual schedule by the time they arrived at Jefferson Park, where they found the Clan Tent already erected. So back to new digs in Muswellbrook. That evening the whole team went to the Workers' Club in Muswellbrook for dinner, and enjoyed a pleasant meal with friends.



**Robert Findley - Banner-Bearer at Aberdeen NSW.**

In the morning it had fined up. Bruce and Syd went early to set up the Tent. Brenda and Pauline followed shortly after. Robert Findley was on hand to help and took the Banner in the Parade of Clans. Chieftain-of-the-Day was Nicole O'Driscoll Mayor of the local Shire Council, a daughter of the first Chieftain of Aberdeen in 2000, David MacIntyre (now deceased). Also in attendance, accompanying a contingent of the Australian Federation Guard, was Vice Admiral David Johnston AO, Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Australian Defence Force.

Following the Parade and Inspection of the Bands, the Games was declared open. During the morning we saw quite a few people with Farquharson connections, but none joining - ? They're doing it tough in the bush enduring a severe drought, so we weren't surprised.

The crowds built up after lunch – they love to watch the Heavy Events which generally come on after lunch. George Finlay suggested to his friend, a local press interviewer, that Bruce would be happy to do a live interview - so he obliged. He didn't realise at first, but following was an interview with young contestants in Highland Dance including Mackenzie Keeler who we later met at the Tent with mother Sally. Mackenzie is doing well in local competition. Although it (un?)fortunately didn't happen, the afternoon was under threat of rain.

So all of the scheduled events took place without interruption. As the final Massed Bands parade took place we completed packing-up. This year there were fifteen Pipe Bands in attendance – it is interesting to see the resurgence of one of the country Bands, Moree and District which was also prominent at Glen Innes.

Dinner that night was as usual at Eaton's in Muswellbrook where we were also joined by members of the Scottish Heritage Council.

**Sue HORTON Member 1280.**

## **MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE CELTIC HERITAGE.**

### **A Theme for you to follow and contribute to.....**

In many countries today, the pattern of interlocking stripes called a tartan is often mistakenly known as “plaid.”

Plaide actually comes from the Gaelic word for a blanket, and is specifically used in the context of Highland dress to refer to a large length of material. The original kilt was known as the “belted plaid” and consisted of a length of cloth (basically a large blanket) that was gathered and belted at the waist. The plaids were most often made from a tartan cloth, and so the confusion between the two terms is understandable.

Tartan refers to the pattern of interlocking stripes, running in both the warp and weft in the cloth (horizontal and vertical), or any representation of such a woven design in other media (printed, painted, or otherwise rendered). Typically today one thinks of “clan tartans” — that is, tartan designs that represent certain Scottish clans and families. While this is typical, it was not always so.

### **This issue we will present Clan Fraser.**

## **CLAN FRASER**

**Proud, loyal and reliable in battle:** Clan Fraser originated in the Scottish Lowlands, but soon grew to become one of the most formidable forces in the Scottish Highlands.

There are two theories on where the name Fraser comes from. The first theory is that the Frasers came from France and the name is derived from the French names Fresel, Freseau or Fredarius.

The second theory is that the name Fraser comes from a Roman Gaul tribe whose badge was a strawberry plant – fraisier in French. Either way, the history books show the first Fraser in Scotland lived in Keith in East Lothian around 1160. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Fraser fought alongside Robert the Bruce, and Alexander Fraser of Cowie even married Bruce’s sister. It was during the 14th century when Clan Fraser split into two separate clans – the Lowland Frasers of Philorth, and the Frasers of Lovat.



### **Clan Fraser: Feuds and Fighting**

The Fraser clans are known for their fighting spirit, and unsurprisingly the Frasers fought in many wars and even continue to serve today.

Throughout history, Clan Fraser clashed with the **Macdonalds** and the **Mackenzies**. However, they found allies in **Clan Munro** and often fought side by side.

One of the most notorious battles involving Clan Fraser occurred in 1544 in the Great Glen at the northern end of Loch Lochy. In a dispute over chiefship of the Macdonald clan, Hugh Fraser 3rd Lord Lovat brought four hundred of his best men and had planned to team up with **Clan Gordon**. But the head of Clan Gordon decided to return his men to their own territory when no battle materialised, however, the Macdonalds had been stalking Clan Fraser waiting for the opportunity to attack. Without Clan Gordon's support, Clan Fraser was outnumbered and, despite their determination, hundreds of men were slaughtered.

It is reported only five Frasers and eight Macdonalds survived the bloody fight. The battle is often referred to as the **Battle of the Shirts**, since it is believed to have been such a warm day that the warriors had to remove their heavy plaids in the heat and fight only in their shirts.

One of the more infamous Frasers was the 11th Lord Lovat, a man called **Simon Fraser. The Jacobite**, known as **The Fox**, was notorious for his feuding and switching his allegiances. He caused widespread outrage, when he kidnapped the sister-in-law of his enemy John Murray, Earl of Tullibardine, and forced her to marry him, then raped her. Facing prosecution, The Fox fled to France where he lived as a Jacobite spy, until he was eventually caught.

Simon Fraser's execution was as violent as his life. A timber erection collapsed under the weight of the crowd that had gathered to witness the beheading, instantly killing nine people. This caused great amusement to Fraser, who could barely contain his laughter... giving life to the idiom to 'laugh your head off'.

There are four main incarnations of the Fraser tartan, including the mostly red Fraser Dress tartan,



The dark hues of the Lovat tartan,



The colourful Green Fraser Gathering tartan,



and the Hunting tartan.

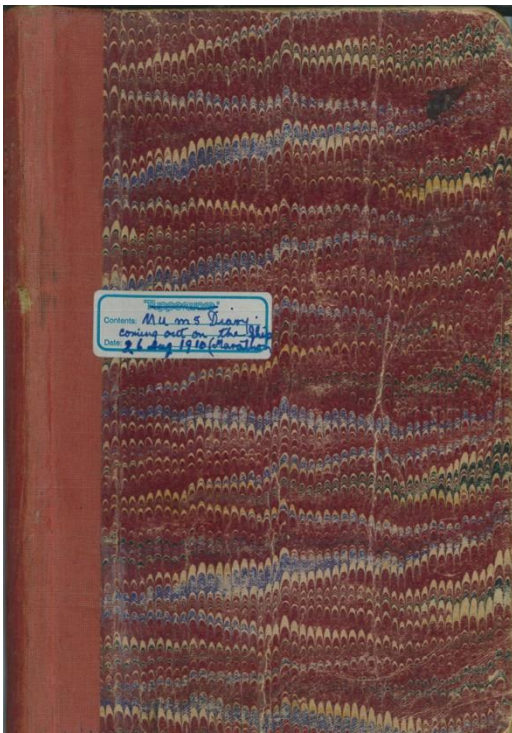


## STARTING A NEW LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

In 1910, my grandmother, Helen age 7, her sister Mary age 5, and their parents, left their home in Crossmyloof, Glasgow, Scotland to travel across the seas to start a new life in Australia.

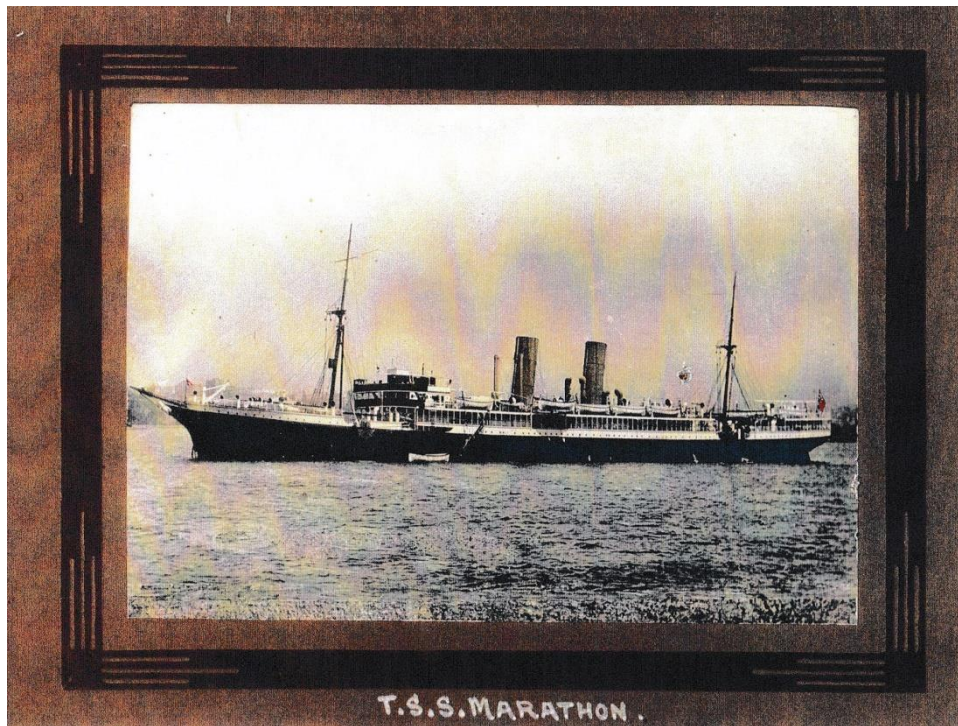
I found a journal amongst Helens belongings after her death and read the story of their journey written by her mother Jeannie White Campbell Winning. It was written in a booklet with a carbon paper sheet, allowing a copy to be sent back home to her mother and family. 1<sup>st</sup> entry below:-

*“Glasgow 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 1910. Left Queens Street at 9.35 pm for London and had a very pleasant journey to Kings Cross arriving at about*



*7.30am. Then we took the bus to Fenchurch Street and left the baggage with a lady that we had travelled with from Glasgow, she was very nice. We went and had breakfast in the ABC shop and then went back so she could go for her breakfast. We then went for a walk around, saw the Bank of England, The Mansion House, drove down Cheapside and Holbourn Viaduct and also saw the Bow Church Bell. At 11am we went back to the station and caught the train for Tilbury, the train was very crowded. We arrived at*

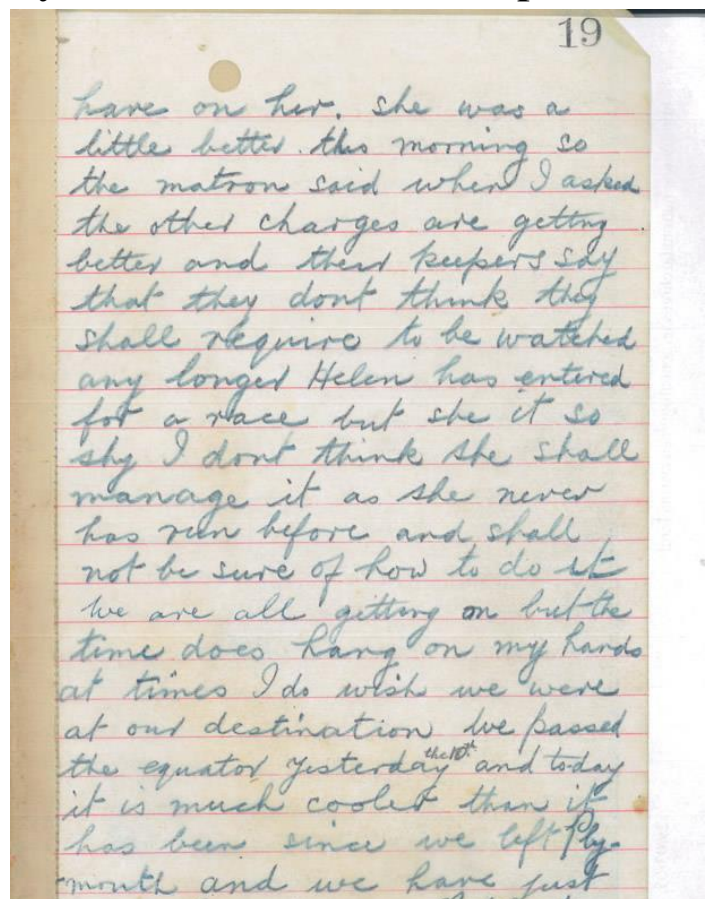
*10'clock, all had to pass the Doctor before they would allow us on board the ship, S.S. Marathon. We sailed shortly after the Tender left us and the water was rather rough, but we did not feel it much on account of the boat being so large. We have a nice little cabin all to ourselves, but it does seem small after having our own rooms at home.”*



The journal outlines the day to day events on board the ship, breakfast at 7am on the first morning Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, but then sea sickness struck as they left Plymouth, with them not getting their sea legs for several days. They joined in activities on board such as dancing and games evenings and sports events for the 20 children on board.

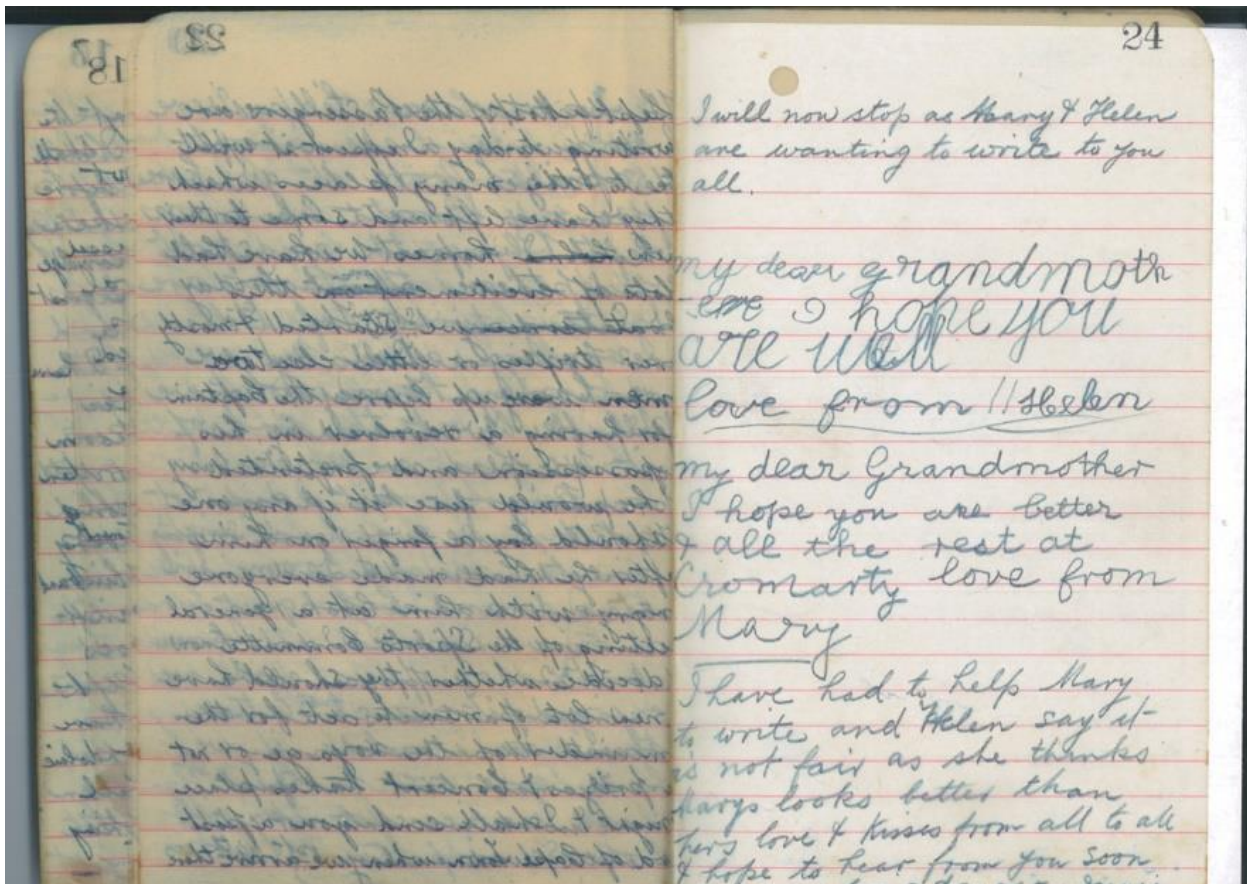
Some passengers were affected by sunstroke and heatstroke as they approached the Equator and many people fainted, others were bitten by an insect which left a great red bump!

The Doctor administered Calamine lotion and in some cases Laudanum. Several passengers were so affected that they tried to jump overboard.



On arrival at Capetown on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1910 the first letters and postcards were sent back to Glasgow.

Jeannie relates the sights of Capetown and their excursion into the streets while the Ship was restocked with coal and food for the remaining voyage. She tells of friendships made, scandals, stealing of personal items, concerts and dances as well as her family's adventures and her sadness as no letters from home.



The next port of call was Melbourne “our course from Cape Town was marked on the Chart, almost straight down to 45 degrees south and straight on until we come to a distance of 600 miles from Melbourne Heads after which we shall have about 40 miles left that will take about 5 hours as we have to slow down owing to the sandbanks and other dangerous things- but as the weather has been so bad and as there are so many women and children on board the Captain received orders not to go below 40 degrees and it is just as well as we are almost frozen already.....”

After a 2 day shore leave in Melbourne where they visited with friends from Scotland who had settled in Australia earlier they again boarded the *SS Marathon* bound for Sydney and then Brisbane. Unfortunately Helen fell ill with Chicken Pox just before arrival at Sydney on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1910 and they were unable to leave their cabin.

The ship finally reached their destination Brisbane on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1910.

The family moved further to Toowoomba where Harry gained employment as a Bridge Carpenter and the girls started at school. They made friends in the community and settled in to their new life in Australia.

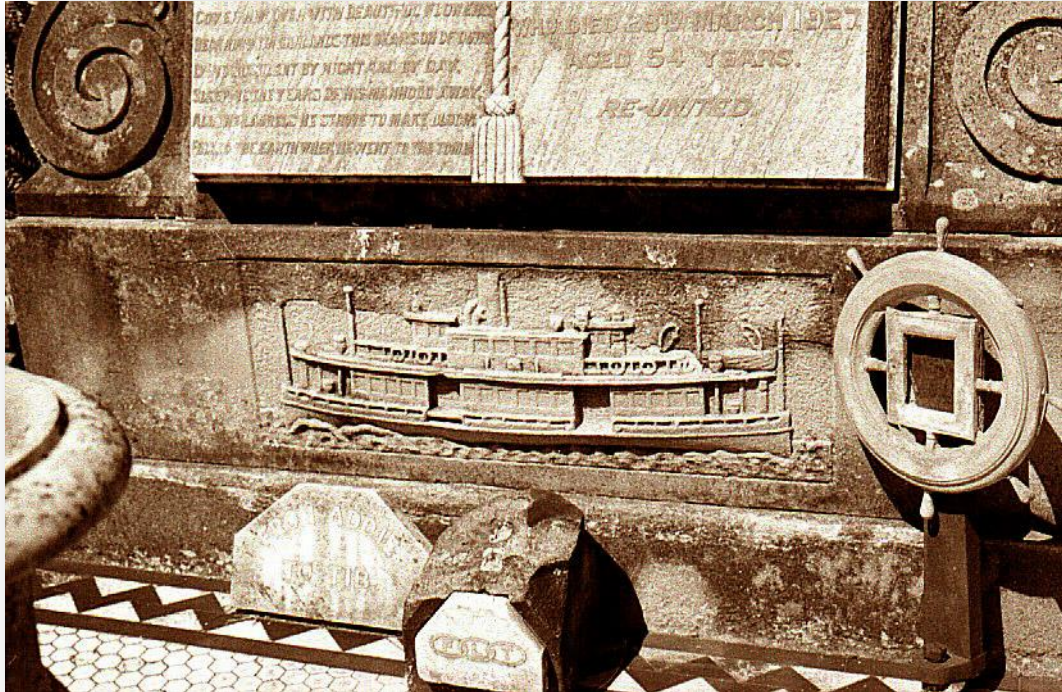
They were presented with a coin commemorating the Jubilee in the City of Toowoomba which I keep in my treasured heirlooms.



Heather YATES Member 675

## AN UNUSUAL HEADSTONE

As you would expect, most very large burial grounds have a certain number of notable headstones which attract attention, and Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney is no exception.



George William Robertson of Alexandria, Sydney, died on 30 October 1918 in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year and the headstone on his grave is unusual because on it is a bas-relief of the Sydney Harbour ferry *Lady Ferguson* from which he drowned.





George was employed as a fireman on board the steam ferry which had been launched at the David Drake Ltd shipyard at Balmain in July 1914. Surprisingly, a search of the major Sydney newspapers on the NLA's Trove website did not turn up any explanatory mention of the accident four years later.

George (known as "Tib") possibly fell overboard and drowned before anyone realised what had happened. Like many crewmen, Tib Robertson probably felt a deep affinity for a favourite ferry, and so its image with its tall funnel was carved on the family headstone along with a small steering wheel and anchors (it was converted to a motor vessel in 1937).

Tib's parents, George A. Robertson and Frances Amelia, daughter of Michael and Mary A. Sullivan, were married in Sydney in 1895. Their son George Jr was born in 1896, and there was a daughter Florence in 1898 who died the same year. The death of their only child in 1918 must have been devastating, and he was mourned too by his girlfriend Miss A. Preston.

The headstone also commemorates George's parents who did not live for many years after the tragedy.



George A. Robertson died in 1925, followed by his widow Frances in 1927, both in their fifties. The family home was in Brandling Street, Alexandria, Sydney. Various Sullivan relatives were involved in the funerals.

The family headstone is in the Anglican section at Rookwood: Plot AAAA, Zone B, #2046 & 2047.

Refs: *SMH* family notices 9.11.1918; 30.11.1918; 4.10.1925; 30.3.1927

Headstone photos courtesy of Graeme Andrews

**Gwen DUNDON, Member 134**

## Identifying our brave lads. 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion.

You may remember in our last issue I posted a photograph of an Australian Battalion asking if anyone may be able to identify them.

I then handed the photograph over to volunteers at our Research Centre for their input and am pleased to say that after some super sleuthing, most particularly by Lorraine Greve, we have some answers.

A few men from this battalion ended up in the Gosford area after their service and are buried locally, which may account for how the photograph ended up at the Central Coast Family History Society.

After the First World War the defence of the Australian Mainland lay with the part-time soldiers of the Citizens Military Force (CMF), also known as the Militia. The Militia was organised to maintain the structure of the First AIF and kept the same numerical designations.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was designated the "Australian Rifles" a regiment that had existed in various forms since 1908, with the 4<sup>th</sup> being raised in the 1920's. In 1930 the 4<sup>th</sup> merged with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion. They were separated again in 1933 and stood independently.

With Japans sudden entry into the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and its military success in south-east Asia and the Pacific the 4<sup>th</sup> was mobilised for full time service in early 1942. In June it moved to Greta, NSW for further training. The stay at Greta was brief and at the start of July they were moved to Western Australia.



In 1942 both the 4th Battalion and the 3rd Battalion sailed out through Sydney Heads not knowing where they would end up.

The 4th Battalion sailed on the HMAS WESTRALIA, and turned South, travelling below Tasmania then across to Western Australia where they stayed until September 1943.

The 3rd Battalion sailed on the S.S. VAN HEUTSZ and turned North to Port Moresby where they joined the 30th Brigade and went on to fight on the Kokoda Track.

Could just as easily have been the 4th Battalion that went left at the Heads and on to fight on the Kokoda Track.

*Item is held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland., Public Domain,*

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12344963>

Over the next two years the brigade trained, laboured, and manned defensive positions along the coast from Bunbury to Geraldton. It was part of the 2nd Division, which made up III Corps with the 1st Armoured Division.

At the end of 1943 the brigade moved to North Queensland, via Sydney. In January 1944 the brigade, now part of the 5th Division, moved to New Guinea. Its role was to support the 9th Division's Huon Peninsula campaign by clearing the Rio Coast between Sio and Saido. The 4th Battalion was the first unit to arrive in New Guinea, relieving the 2/17th Battalion at Sio and moving forward. By the second week of February it had reached Saidor, having been relieved by the 30th at Crossingtown.

The next objective was Madang; the 4th was responsible for the area between Maclay River and Bostrem Bay.

In May the brigade was ordered to maintain pressure on the Japanese situated north of Alexishafen, in support of the 6th Division's Aitape to Wewak campaign. The 4th took over the advance and by mid-June occupied Bogia, Potsdam, and Hansa Bay. At Potsdam they located a group of 90 Chinese civilians who were captured at Madang and forced to work in vegetable gardens for the Japanese. By the end of the year most of the brigade had returned to Australia. The last group left New Guinea on 24 January 1946 on board the transport ship Ormiston. The 4th was disbanded upon returning to Australia.

The original photograph, with signatures on the reverse was compared with Army records from the Nominal Rolls for World War 2 and the soldiers were identified along with their enlistment date, place and next of kin and Service Number. An excel spreadsheet with information shown below:-

Number	Surname	Given names	Rank	Birth	regiment	Number	Age in 1942
NX120903	McMASTER	James Crompton	Private	6 Setember 1913	4 Battalion	N210177	29
NX120922	FAIRBAIRN	John Henry Edward	Lance Corp	16 October 1905	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N37620	37
N210576	BAXTER	Leonard Burnell	Private	6 Mar. 1908	4 Australian infantry Battalion		34
NX120900	COHEN	Ronald Bruce	Private	13 April 1919	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N38226	23
NX90919	DORRINGTON	Thomas George	Private	5 June 1918	4 Battalion		24
NX120925	LENNOX	Frank Glenholme	Sergeant	6 January 1921	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N37332	21
NX120899	PECK	Robert Gardner	Private	5 June 1919	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N38265	23
NX86716	PETTIT	John Colin	Corporal	31 May 1915	4 Australian infantry Battalion		27
NX121022	QUINN	Pearce Hugh	Corporal	4 August 1916	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N130695	26
NX127912	RICHARDS	Reginald Henry	Private	29 February 1916	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N37932	26
NX157077	STEWART	Arthur James	Lance Corp	16 April 1912	4 Battalion	N187063	30
NX194973	THOMAS	William James	Gunner	18 July 1921	4 Field regiment	N442492	21
NX120909	WEST	George Edward	Private	15 October 1916	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N38005	26
NX120887	WYNN	Maxwell Roland	Corporal	12 August 1918	4 Battalion	N38025	24
NX120889	YOUNG	David Pelham	Sergeant	22 August 1918	4 Australian infantry Battalion	N38026	24
NX120888	WOODWARD	Walter Arthur	Corporal	13 March 1921	2/1 Australian Guard reg.	different regiment on disc	21
NX87802	WINDEYER	Gordon Wilson	Private	29 September 1918	4 Australian infantry Battalion		24
NX 91795	McCormack	Oscar Colin	Sergeant	13 September 1921	4 Australian Infantry Battalion		21
NX120896	ANDERSEN	Norman	Lieutenant	2 December 1916	4 Australian infantry Battalion	signature on NAA agrees	26
NX120960	DAVIDSON	James Charles	Corporal	25 November 1919	4 Australian infantry Battalion		23
			Lance Corporal				
			Corporal				
			Sergeant				

Number	Surname	Notes
NX120903	McMASTER	Died 30 July 1988 in Fairfield
NX120922	FAIRBAIRN	Died 3 Feb 1984 at Dundas
N210576	BAXTER	died 4 March 1983 in Sans Souci
NX120900	COHEN	died 26 July 2007 Port Macquarie
NX90919	DORRINGTON	discharged 26 August 1943, died Coffs Harbour 26 June 1998
NX120925	LENNOX	5ft 11in, fair hair, blue eyes Died 30 May 1987 in Turrumurra NSW
NX120899	PECK	died 5th November 2016 Gosford New South Wales
NX86716	PETTIT	died 2 August 1982 Brisbane Qld.
NX121022	QUINN	embarked "W" 9 July 42 to Fremantle, hairdresser, 5ft 7in grey eyes, fair comp & hair signature agrees Died 29 January 1992 at Budgewoi
NX127912	RICHARDS	Married in Gosford and died Pt. Clare 28 Dec 1979 buried Rookwood
NX157077	STEWART	died 25 December 1991 Greenwich NSW
NX194973	THOMAS	signature agrees with war records - there is a death notice in Advocate 19 June 2002 died 17 June 2002- for a William James Thomas, aged 81, late of Eastwood formerly of Berkeley Vale.
NX120909	WEST	trnsfd to 4th from 2/15 field amb. On 4/3/.44 Embarked "W" 9 Jul 1942, 5ft 6in Fair comp, auburn hair - signature agrees. Died in Gosford Hospital in 13 Feb 1999
NX120887	WYNN	died 18 February 2003, Formerly of Bermagui
NX120889	YOUNG	app. Lance L.Corp.8/1/1942, A/Corp 13/2/1942. Died 27 November 1998
NX120888	WOODWARD	His wife died in Gosford 1986, he died Taree 2006 but both gone to Palmdale.
NX87802	WINDEYER	died 20 February 1982 at Maroubra
NX 91795	McCormack	Centre back row. Died 13 December 2015 at Hawksbay formerley of Mayfield
NX120896	ANDERSEN	Sergeant 14/10/42 promoted A/Lieutenant/Lieutenant 21 May 1943 trans. To 4th div 24 Sep 1943 Embarked "W" 9 July 1942 Possibly died in Wollongong on 6 February 1979 aged 62
NX120960	DAVIDSON	embarked "W" 9 July 42 Seems to have died East Ballina, late of Cronulla on October 1982

Luckily some photographs of individuals were also discovered and so the excitement increased as more information was found. Some of this Battalion also made up the 4th Battalion Rugby team. They were known as the D company Rugby team in 1942.



D. Company Rugby Team 1942

Back Row:  
 NX112673 Capt. John W. Westcott,  
 NX120888 Cpl. Walter Woodward,  
 \*\*Pte. 'Cocko' James,  
 NX120890 Pte. Thomas Hitchins,  
 NX91795 Cpl. Oscar McCormack,  
 NX148258 Pte. James Fines,

Front Row:  
 \*\*Pte. 'Hawkshaw' Rogers,  
 NX112684 Lt. Cleveland Nichols,  
 NX149265 Pte. Thomas Moss,  
 \*\*Pte. K. Tiplady,  
 NX120887 Cpl. Maxwell Wynn,  
 NX133355 Pte. Jack Braiding,  
 N205582 Pte. Albert 'Shorty' Player.



The colour patch for this Battalion



**Sgt Frank Glenholme Lennox**



**David Pelham Young (on right)**



**George Edward West**



**James Davidson**



**Lieut. Norman Anderson**



**Walter Arthur Woodward**



**Robert Peck's wedding day**



**Henry Edward Fairbairn**

rchive, Monday, February 06, 1984  
51 2777. 51 5584.

**FAIRBAIRN.** — The relatives and friends of the late JOHN HENRY EDWARD FAIRBAIRN are invited to attend his graveside funeral service, to be held tomorrow (Tuesday), commencing at 2 p.m., in the Liverpool Anglican Cemetery. Please assemble at cemetery.

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**With many thanks to Lorraine GREVE Member 556 for her super sleuthing.**

**Edited by Heather YATES.**

## A Different Type of Tree.

I am a tree lover, both my genealogical family tree and also the horticultural variety. I often gaze upon particularly beautiful specimens around the Central Coast and also on my visits to the North Shore along the drive to see my Dad.

I have specific favourites and wait with anticipation to see them at various times of the year...some in bloom especially those in East Gosford along the Central Coast Highway- the Jacarandas, Bauhinias, and Flame trees as well as the Lemon Scented Gum at Erina Heights P.S. and the outstanding Eucalypts, especially the mammoth tree that is right beside the Catholic Public School at East Gosford that I am so pleased to view every time I visit our Research Centre.

Many of you will have seen the very large and strikingly beautiful *Eucalyptus Costata* that grew on the Scenic Road at Macmasters Beach. Sadly after the dry conditions/fires and then heavy rainfall it succumbed and fell earlier this year. I know that many people mourn the fall of this graceful giant.



Pam GRIFFITHS Member 850 shared this photograph.

I am inviting you to share a tree with us in each issue of the E-muster, one that has enraptured you or one that is your favourite. Please email details and a photograph to our email address and we will feature them in our Journal.

## **We Are the Chosen**

We are the chosen.

In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors.  
To put flesh on their bones and make them live again,  
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and  
approve.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts  
But instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.  
We are the storytellers of the tribe, all tribes have one.  
We have been called, as it were, by our genes.

Those who have gone before cry out to us, 'Tell our story', so we do.  
In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost  
count. How many times have I told the ancestors, 'You have a  
wonderful family; you would be proud of us.'  
How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there  
was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts.  
It goes to who I am and why do I do the things I do.

It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and  
indifference and saying, 'I can't let this happen.'  
The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh.

It goes to doing something about it.  
It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish,

How they contributed to what we are today.  
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses,  
Their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and  
build a life for their family.  
It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make  
and keep us a Nation.  
It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it  
for us.

It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth.

Without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach.

That we might be born who we are, that we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence,

Because we are they and they are the sum of who we are.

So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family.

It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

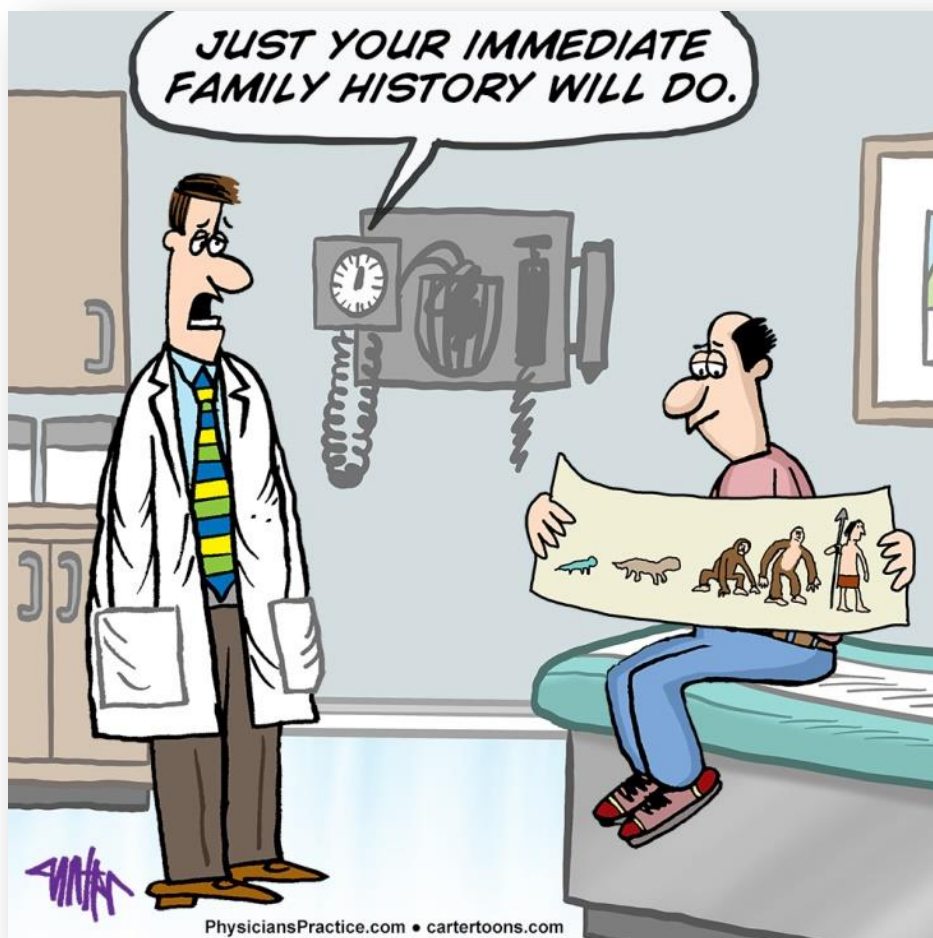
That is why I do my family genealogy,

That is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before.

-Author Unknown

Sourced by

**Gloria MORLEY Member 2037**





## SOCIETIES MAILING LIST

The email address for our Society is [admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au)

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## ASSIGNED DUTIES

The following is a list of who does what to keep the society running as smoothly as it does.

Bookstall Coordinator	Paul Schipp
Bookstall meeting helper	Lynna Clark
Bus Trips and Tours	Rosemary Wiltshire
Event Coordinator	Committee
Facebook Administrator	Belinda Mabbott
Grant Applications	Marlene Davidson
Grant Application Proofreader	Committee
Guest Speakers	Paul Schipp
Housekeeping	Rosemary Wiltshire
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	Trish Michael
Workshops	

## TRANSCRIPTION AGENTS

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