

# E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.



April 2021

Issue 29



Figure 2: The Floods on the Hawkesbury, by Habbe, Woodcuts by A.S.J., Illustrated Sydney News, 16 July 1867

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

# CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Members of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. (State Body)

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**Public Officer:** Marlene Bailey

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Bennie Campbell, Lorna Cullen,  
Carol Evans, Robyn Grant, Rachel Legge,  
Anthony Lehner, Trish Michael.

## **RESEARCH CENTRE**

Building 4, 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250

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 2021 – No: 29

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

The new **E-MUSTER** is published to our website 3 times a year - April, August, and December.

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

**E- MUSTER** deadlines are  
March 20th  
July 20th  
November 20th

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the April 2021 *e-Muster*.

Free remote access to Ancestry via Central Coast Library continues to be available. You must be a member of the Library and access via the member services section of the online catalogue.

There are currently many other online resources to assist in your research, some of which are outlined in this journal by member Marlene Davidson for your enjoyment.

Thank you so much to the contributors who have provided articles in this latest issue of the *e-Muster* for our enjoyment and interest. If you have a story you would like to share in our next *e-Muster* please put pen to paper, we would love to hear from you!

Also many thanks to CCFHS Member 134 Gwen DUNDON for her many contributions to this issue of the *e-Muster*. Gwen has worked tirelessly to prepare these articles for our enjoyment.

Heather Yates- Editor

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome readers to another edition of the e-Muster. It is always of interest 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 only a few stories which go well with the recent resurgence of researching as well as some book reviews.

Unfortunately with the current circumstances of dealing with COVID-19 these articles may come as a welcome distraction, you might 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 compliant with Covid rules, maintain contact with your family and friends and enjoy these articles.

Happy Reading,

Paul Schipp

CCFHS Inc. 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.

2134	Sharon VERHAGEN
2135	Sue EDWARDS
2136	Anne HOOK
2137	Gaye BADGER
2138	Robert HICKEL

## LATEST NEWS

**Due to COVID-19 changes at C.C.F.H.S as follows:-**

- **General Meetings;** Saturdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm. (now bi monthly)
- **The AGM,** following a GM, will still be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May

## MEMBERSHIP

To assist members, who were intending to renew their membership (2021-2022) at the April meeting, a few Committee members will be in attendance in the Research Centre, on the **10<sup>th</sup> April**, to take your renewal and also provide nomination forms for the upcoming vacancies on the Management Committee 2021-2022. The Centre will only be open from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Reminder that all types of membership renewals will only be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

The Management Committee is entrusted with the appropriate operation of the Society and this includes the health and wellbeing/safety of the members while on the premises and during activities. By law we are required to comply with the directives of the Gov. Medical Authorities during the pandemic.

We are also required to comply with any directives applied by our landlord, Central Coast Council/Properties. Irrespective of what other organisations are doing as to how they may be applying these directives to their circumstances, we have to consider the general age and health of our members and it is with these facts we will continue with our designated Covid-19 action plan until the Committee deems it fit to alter it based on further information being provided to us. Not to do so, we could be imposed with fines, not just the Society itself but also individuals who are not compliant and none of us can afford that impost. Therefore, we will continue with the appropriate social distancing and restricted use of some of our resources.



## Dictionary of Sydney

The Dictionary is a website about the history of Sydney, created in collaboration with hundreds of historians, local librarians, specialists and institutions.



<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections/researching-home>



HOME > RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS > RESEARCHING FROM HOME

The Library provides access to a large range of online resources including databases, specialist websites and research guides. We've featured a selection of resources below.

Databases contain journal articles, newspapers, company and industry data, reference material, ebooks and more. Many of the databases and ebooks are available to NSW residents from home, and you can sign up for your free [Library card](#) to get instant access.

View the full range of [resources](#), [research guides](#) and specialist websites listed in [Research and Collections](#).

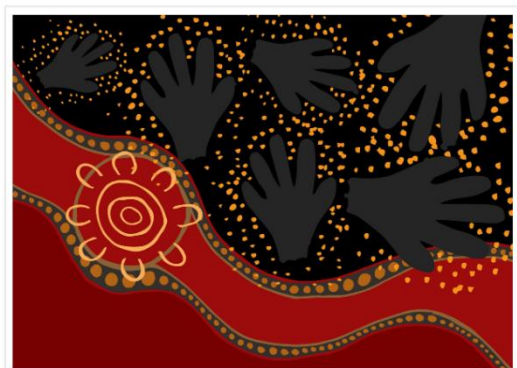


<https://www.rahs.org.au/rahs-news/>

**The RAHS website link above will enable you to have many hours of interesting reading and a huge amount of information where there will be sure to be something to grab your attention.**

**Give it a go!!**

## 📄 Launch of online resources – Finding your ancestors: Aboriginal family history NSW



Join Paul Irish and Michael Bennett, and special guests from Aboriginal communities, archives and libraries, for our monthly online series as they answer your questions about the best way to research your family.

### Details

**Date:** April 6    **Time:** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm    **Cost:** Free

#### Event Categories:

[Evening Event](#), [Finding Your Ancestors](#), [Online Event](#), [Special Event](#) Venue [Online via Zoom](#)

#### Phone:

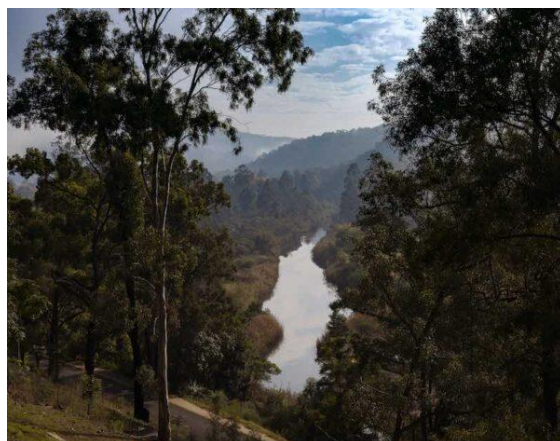
(02) 9247 8001    **Email:** [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)    **Website:** [www.rahs.org.au](http://www.rahs.org.au)

## RAHS/ISAA Lecture – The Real Sacred River: Truth-Telling and the Power of Regional Histories

**April 21 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

[Online via Zoom](#) **Free**

In this lecture, Grace Karskens will present her findings from a current collaborative project, *The Real Secret River: Dyarubbin*.



# 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. 30 August 2021 E-MUSTER**

Deadline for articles for the August edition of the Muster  
20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.



## Free .... Online

During National Women's History month of March I remembered two of my favourite Aussie genealogists, Joyce Ryerson and Cora Num. Their vision and decades of knowledge is provided free online for all.

After the 1998 meeting of the *Dead Persons Society*, Joyce Ryerson gave her 1986-1998 almost complete collection of death notices from the Sydney Morning Herald to be indexed. In 2015 after 17 years of volunteers work, all surviving SMH death notices since 1831 have been indexed.

The Ryerson Index Online Database now contains 7,758,271 death notices from 391 different Australian newspapers, publisher websites and funeral director websites. Volunteers keep it up to date.

Recently looking for family connections, I entered a formerly unknown family surname and discovered 6 persons death records associated with North Sydney 1942-63. Their ages and S.M Herald date references enabled me to quickly check on Trove and NSW BDM which certainly confirmed their definite relationships.

Ryerson is more than just a death registration for a person. Searching a location Walcha and span of years 1860-1919 showed me some of the former residents known to my grandparents.

**Primary Search Fields:** (enter at least one)

Surname   Sounds like

Any Given Name(s)

Any Location  (must match the notice exactly)

**Secondary Search Fields:** (optional)

Year Earliest:  Latest:

Newspaper

State

Updated since   (format yyyy-mm-dd unless otherwise specified)

<i>NIVISON Abraham Death notice</i>	<i>25APR Death 85 at Ohio, Walcha</i>	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>	<i>29APR1895</i>
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------

Grandfather Richard Boyce and Blake relatives, worked at Ohio Station with Abraham and his sons. They always spoke most highly of the Nivison family and the Ohio work teams. Skills learned there Grandfather certainly used in the development of his own Manildra property that he purchased 1919 at Duncans Creek, near Tamworth. Naturally I extended the search to include.. Ohio Walcha and 1860-2000. Abraham and his 3 sons James, Norman and William were listed.

The last name in my original Walcha search was

*WALSH (Old Granny) died on the 22 Nov 1898 aged 98, late of Glen Inness, formerly of Walcha and Uralla (born Ireland) Kiama Independent 22 Nov 1898.*

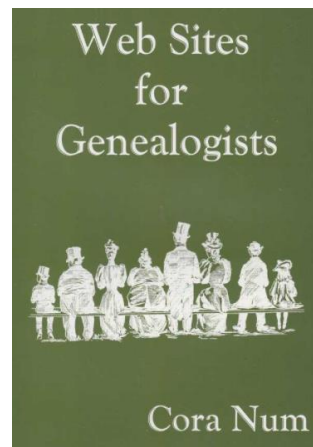
What history lies hidden in that record? NSW BDMs record her death as  
*WALSH MARY, 13858/1898 Parents William & Ellen, registered at Glen Inness*

The Ryerson search options may be used to highlight different aspects of people, location/place, family, age at death. Surnames associated with a particular newspaper may give another historic family link. The index certainly reveals more than just a death date.

## Cora Num

Cora has published many books and also continually updates her data bases free for use online. Search by surnames, occupations, places, shipping etc.. Pages and pages of indexed sites are there to explore. Just a click, gives data or even information on how best to search a topic.

Google **Cora Num**  
[CoraWeb - Welcome to CoraWeb](http://www.coraweb.com.au)  
[www.coraweb.com.au](http://www.coraweb.com.au)



Searching is as simple as ABC to Z

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Apps for genealogy on the move, Archives, Asylum and hospital records
- Begin your family history, Birth, death and marriage records, Blogs, Bookshops
- Cemeteries, Child welfare, Convicts, Criminal and court records  
To list a few samples

A direct subject search for *Cora Num land* resulted in:-

➤ [Maps, places and land records](#)

Australia (12)
Australian Capital Territory (2)
New South Wales (15)
Northern Territory (2)
Queensland (8)
South Australia (5)
Tasmania (2)
Victoria (8)
Western Australia (3)

Cora also lists the 50 latest up-dated sites. Land was one of these.



### *Historical Land Records Online*

Following a major digitisation program by NSW Land Registry Services (NSW LRS) and the NSW Government, you can access over 19 million land records and historical documents online. The program converted NSW titles into an electronically delivered [Torrens Title system](#) and digitised one of the largest holdings of archival records in the state.

Take time to revisit Cora's site.

Thank you to genealogists Cora Num, Joyce Ryerson and the many Ryerson volunteers. Many facts about our ancestors are directly available from these digitised records. Excuse me. Sunday afternoon and I'm off to get lost in the land research area.

## **Convict Reference Sites**

This document is a short list of various sites which are of assistance when researching convict ancestors. I hope it may be of use to those just getting started on this journey.

There are also many helpful Facebook groups which are worth searching for.

V 1.2: Steve Farmer August 2020.

With thanks to all the people who contributed to this document

### **Free Claim a Convict**

<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/search.php>

Established by genealogist Lesley Uebel, the Claim a Convict website originally went online on the 19th August 1998. The site offered researchers a free service that enabled those researching the same convicts ancestors to contact each other directly by email.

### **Irish Convicts to NSW**

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/cgi-bin/irish/irish.cgi>

Provides a free searchable database thanks to Peter Mayberry Digital Panopticon

<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>

This website allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey.

Use our site to search individual convict life archives, explore and visualise data, and learn more about crime and criminal justice in the past.

**Convict Records** <https://convictrecords.com.au/>

This website allows you to search the British Convict transportation register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787-1867.

**Old Bailey Online** <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts, detailing the lives of non-elite people, ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's Central Criminal court.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Gwen DUNDON, Lorraine GOWING and Cynthia DEANE** have been busily reviewing several books which we hold in our Research Centre Library. When you visit us next you may like to peruse them yourself.

### **Weevils in the Flour**

**Author:** Wendy Lowenstein

This book describes life during the depression years. Hardships were faced by many families. Readers born during this era may remember some aspects or having them related by older family members. Good reference for understanding the times and adding detail and or reasons for some family decisions. An interesting account of the period, but I found it a bit repetitive.

I would give it 3 out of 5 stars.

**Cynthia DEANE Member 1428**

### **WEEVILS IN THE FLOUR**

An oral record of the 1930s depression in Australia

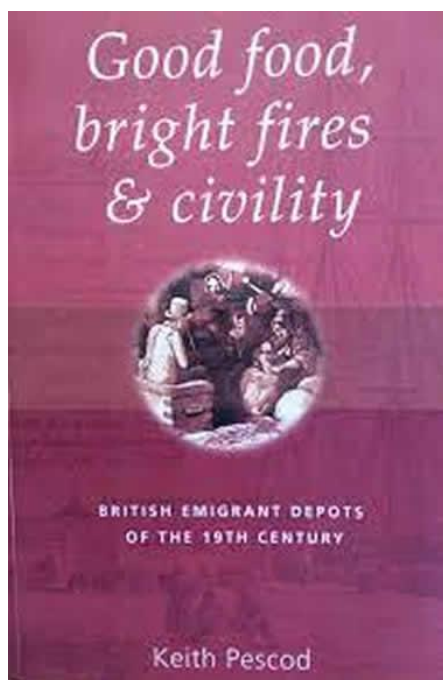


Wendy Lowenstein

### **Good Food, Bright Fires & Civility**

**Sub Title:** British Immigrant Deposit of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Author:** Keith Pescod



#### **What is the book about?**

##### **Description;**

A good insight into the times and hardships faced by the immigrants.

However I found I dipped into it in places as it was a bit heavy going.

There is an Index and I consider it a good reference book. I am giving it a score of 3 out of 5.

**Lorraine GOWING Member 1149**



## **BRING PLENTY OF PICKLES** – Letters from an Emigrant Family

**Author and publisher:** Gerry Tomlinson of Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, England 1986.

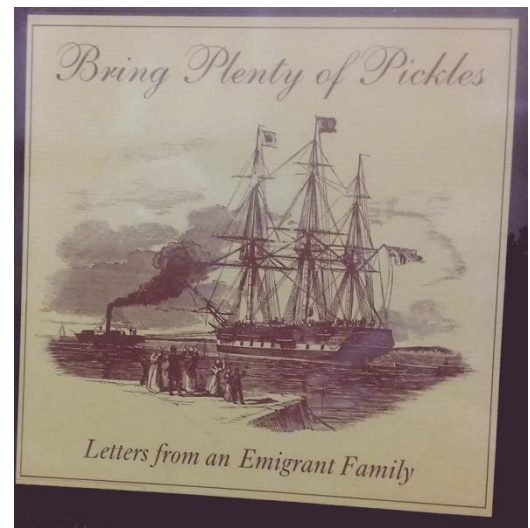
Five years of searching for unpublished diaries and documents by the author culminated in the publication of this book which has a wealth of insights to the travail and terrors of sailing ship travel for those working class folk who left Britain to take their chances in Australia, the United States and Canada.

Hopefully they would build a better life.

To read the letters as produced in this book is to gain a valuable “first hand” understanding of the problems which beset travellers battling the

effects of the lack of good food, seasickness, constriction of space over several months, and possibly births and deaths.

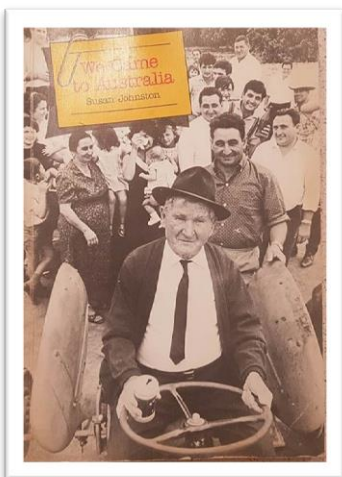
The material has been gleaned mainly from the period when Queen Victoria was on the throne. The book includes a background to the Paine and Marks families and their descendants. For anyone writing their family history including long sea voyages this book is a most useful read.



## **WE CAME TO AUSTRALIA**

**Author: Susan Johnston** (a Research Librarian with the RAHS and a Masters graduate in history) and **HOW IT WAS** in the same volume: **General Editor Judy Mackinolty**, a lecturer in the School of History at Macquarie University, and specialist in documentary and oral history in Australia.

Published by Methuen of Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney in 1980.



This book is a collection of first-hand evidence leading the reader through the hopes, difficulties and achievements of Australia's many migrant groups, from the convicts of 1788 to the boat people of 1979.

The book consists of contemporary extracts (1788-1979) from newspapers, official documents, ballads, poems letters and reminiscences, early photographs and engravings and there are directions for students interested in further studies.



## THE LONG FAREWELL

**Author: Don Charlwood** [Donald Ernest] Burgewood Books of Warrandyte, Victoria.

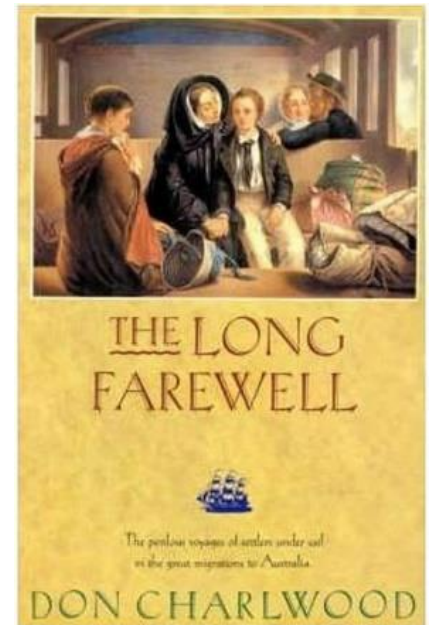
First published in Allen Lane 1981; published by Penguin Books Australia 1983; new edition by Penguin in 1993; new edition by Burgewood Books 1998 and reprinted by Burgewood Books 2000.

Here it is recorded that during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century more than a million people, many of whom had never ventured beyond their homes in Britain, sailed to the new colonies of Australia. The author has sifted through records, letters, copious illustrations and more than 100 of the immigrants' shipboard diaries to bring that experience to "vivid, salty and fascinating life" [*The Age* newspaper].

This is a volume packed with information, so much so that the reader feels as though many of the migrants are old friends, and sympathises with them, sharing their joys.

The chapters are titled in Bold for easy reading, as are the whole of the quoted excerpts from letters etc.

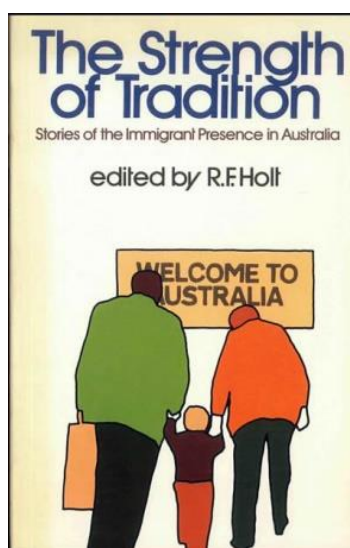
A book not to be missed.



## THE STRENGTH OF TRADITION – Stories of the Immigrant Presence in Australia, 1970-81

**Edited by R.F. Holt**

Published by University of Queensland Press [with the assistance of the Literature Board of the Australia Council] 1983.



This book is packed tight with excellent short stories by a variety of writers in Australia, and it has been noted that a number of them deal with the frustration and puzzlement experienced by the new migrant to a very different lifestyle to what they have been used to in their home countries.

There is a truth that shows through in them which indicates that these stories have been written from experience, either the author's or that of someone known to them. A check on the list of authors shows that many of them were immigrants themselves.

As the book was compiled nearly 40 years ago, it is interesting to compare the themes with modern day Australia.

Such well-known writers as Tom Hungerford, Nancy Keesing and Judah Waten, to name a few, have contributed to the largesse in this book which, besides being informative in its special way, is very good bedtime reading.

## **BEGINNING WITH ESTHER** - Jewish Women in New South Wales from 1788

**Author: Lysbeth Cohen**

First published by Ayers & James Heritage Books in association with the Australian Jewish Times, Sydney 1987.

The foreword reminds us that people of Jewish faith have been involved in the history of Australia since its colonial inception. The first Jewish women came to New South Wales in the First Fleet of 1788. This is a weighty book with a wealth of information contained in it.

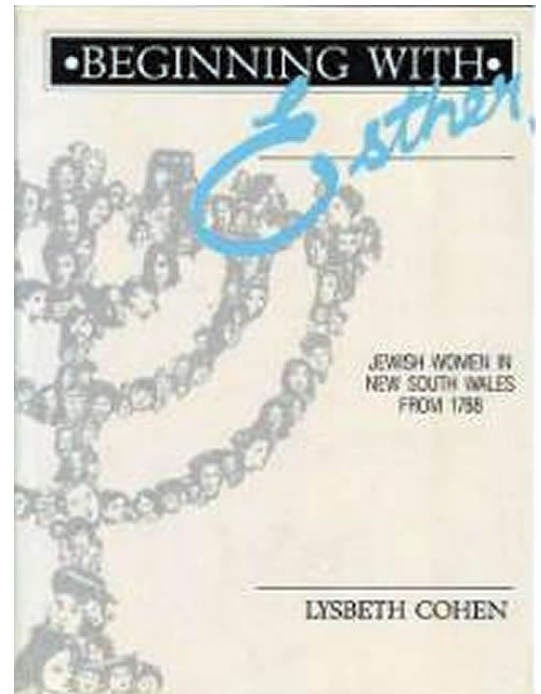
However the “Esther” of the title is Esther Abrahams, a dark-haired, dark-eyed young woman who in 1786 was sentenced to seven years’ transportation for stealing two cards of lace from a London store, worth 50 shillings, an act she disputed.

Aged about 16 and pregnant, she sailed on the *Lady Penrhyn* where she accepted the protection of Lieutenant George Johnston, second officer in charge of Marines.

When she disembarked at Sydney Cove with her baby daughter, she was the first Jewish woman in the colony, and the first to live in New South Wales.

The book is a rich social history in which author Lysbeth Cohen celebrates 200 years of Jewish women’s achievements in New South Wales (from date of publication).

More than 200 women are profiled here from many walks of life.



**Gwen DUNDON Member 134**

## **Ancestral Mathematics**

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

## ARTICLES from our MEMBERS

### THE MEMOIRS OF Jeannie Mitchell TAYLOR nee WYPER.



Jeannie Mitchell Wyper b 29 Jan 1908 at Tollcross, Glasgow, Scotland father Isaac, coal miner, mother Elizabeth Robertson a bleach field worker.

Isaac arrived in Australia in 1913 followed by Elizabeth and 3 children in 1914.

Family lived in areas on the South Coast, NSW and then Leichhardt areas of Sydney.

Jeannie was a widow and approx.90 years of age when she wrote these memories.

She died in 2008 aged 98.

### Jeannie

My name is Jeannie Mitchell Taylor nee Wyper. My father's name was Isaac Wyper and my mother's name was Elizabeth Robertson. I had two sisters: Robina Watson and Elizabeth; and one brother, Robert. This is the story of my life as I remember it.

Part 2.

At our new home in Thirroul the fire was kept burning night and day and to keep it burning all night they had what was called slack, very fine pieces of coal and you would wet it so it wouldn't burn so quickly. There was no electricity. My brother slept in the dining room.

In 1918 I was ten years old and all the schools were closed down on account of the pneumonic plague. People were dying in their hundreds. The first day I was home was a Monday and my mother was washing. There was no laundry, the washing was done in the tub on a bench in the yard and the water was boiled in a kerosene tin on an open fire.



I thought I would help her by doing some mending. I got out the needle first and pinned it onto my dress and, as I bent down to lift a box to get material for patches, I heard something snap. When I looked I had only half a needle pinned to my dress and I couldn't find the other piece.

I didn't feel anything stick into me, so I went and told Mum what had happened and while she was searching to see if she could find the broken needle I fainted. She brought me around and I fainted again. As quick as she brought me out of a faint I would go into another. She was frightened then and had to get help.

The only neighbours near us were named Fitzpatrick and they had a horse and sulky. Luckily for us, their brother was at home and he took us to the doctor, four miles away. There were no buses or taxis in the district and the trains ran more for business people. The doctor was at Scarborough and when we got there Mum told Mr Fitzpatrick we would be able to get home and not to wait.



*Scarborough Railway Station-Wollongong City Library Archives*

When we saw the doctor, Mum told him what had happened and that we were not sure whether the needle was in me or not. When he felt to see if he could find anything, I went into the fainting business again and he was sure that it was still there and that he could not do anything for me, as a needle travels very fast and it was too close to the heart.

He said I should not walk around, be kept very quiet and be taken to Sydney next morning to the Children's Hospital.

He said I hadn't to walk! I had to walk four miles to get home!!

When we got to the hospital the next day they x-rayed me and found where the needle was, but by the time I was operated on it had moved. The doctor said it had travelled somewhere else and that I would have to stay in hospital and have more x-rays.

They operated on me on the Friday and had to dig deep and that is why I have such a dreadful scar. The needle was found between two ribs and was almost about to pierce the lung. The wound turned septic and proud flesh started to grow and I had to have it burnt off with blue stone.



It was the cruellest thing ever. It was very lonely knowing no one in Sydney and on visiting days the other children had visitors and nice things brought in to them. I would get a letter from my mother and she must have sent me stamps and some writing paper as I wrote and told her I wanted to come home as it was very lonely and I didn't like being in hospital.

I had been in for six weeks and that is a long time for a child to be in hospital and never seeing a soul that you know. I remember receiving a box with some chocolates and sweets in it. My mother came up to the hospital and wanted to take me home. The doctor said, "No, she is too ill," but knowing my mother, she argued with him and demanded that she be allowed to take me home.

When we got home she put me to bed and, lucky for me, our doctor was visiting someone nearby and mother asked him to come and see me. When he looked at my wound he blew his top. He roared at my mother and me and said, "You have brought her home in this terrible mess. I don't know what they have been doing to her in hospital and you expect me to look after her and make her well. Have her in the local hospital tomorrow morning."

They started off with blue stone again. I was in that hospital for another six weeks. If it was today that would not have happened - they have more experience now.



*Coledale c.1900 photo Wikipedia*

Coledale Heights was like a huge blackberry farm. My mother would say if you would like pie tonight go and pick some blackberries and in a little while you would have a large can full.



I remember my brother Bob at about five years old eating so many berries he fell asleep at a neighbour's house and couldn't wake up.



He had been asleep for about three hours when the neighbour came to Mum and told her. My mother went and collected him. He was very sick as the berries had fermented in his stomach. Mum was very angry at the neighbour for not letting her know sooner. I don't remember what she did for him but I suppose she gave him something to make him vomit. She couldn't just rush to the doctor as that was four miles there and back again. Your mother had to be your doctor and nurse; she had to treat

the family for most of their sicknesses.

When the pneumonic plague was bad, people were dying in their hundreds and the doctors could not attend to everyone.

My sister Robina and my brother Bob caught it and were very ill. The doctor couldn't come so my mother had to nurse them herself. She put the two of them in her bed and she slept in the room with them. Dad slept in my brother's bed and we were not allowed near the room.

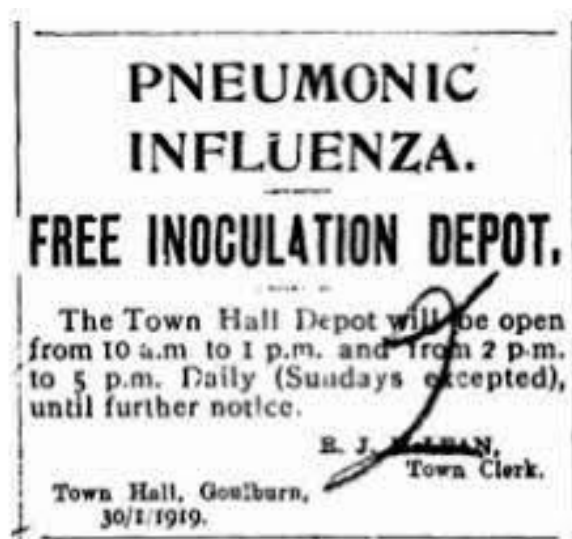
If I remember rightly she had to hang a sheet in the doorway soaked in disinfectant. If the patient had a nose bleed it meant there was hope for them.

Mum thought she was going to lose them both. When the crisis came at midnight she noticed a trickle of blood coming from their noses and they gradually improved after that. Everybody else had to wear a mask and you would be in trouble if you did not. As our neighbours were quite a distance away we did not have to wear our masks all the time but my mother had made them for us for when we had to go to the township for messages.

One of the men from the mine caught the plague and a friend of ours had to take his pay to him. He was scared stiff and did not want to go, but he went and the man's wife asked him to come in, which he did, and next thing he has caught the plague and died. They said fear gave it to him, but I think he caught the germ.

.....to be continued.....

Thanks to **Ailsa TAYLOR Member 596** for sharing this memoir with us, more to come in our next issue August 2021.





## 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. This e-Muster I have included an historical tree with its story....

### The Flogger's Tree.

People love a blood and guts story, and the one associated with this Norfolk Island pine which grew on the property "Wyoming" owned by the Chief Superintendent of Convicts in Sydney was no exception.

The owner Frederick Augustus Hely died in Sydney in 1836 quite suddenly and his remains were brought to Brisbane Water for burial in a vault on his farm.

Later generations liked to refer to "the Whipping Tree" or, as on this Broadhurst postcard, "The Flogger's Tree". Convicts were certainly employed at "Wyoming" (which gave its name to the suburb), but a scourger was stationed at the Gosford watch-house in the present Donnison St from the 1820s.

Perhaps some tree expert can tell us how tall this tree might have been in 1836? It was cut down in 1946 to make way for development. It was not far from Glencoe Avenue, and the Hely house built for the widow, which still stands.

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.



## READING OLD POSTCARDS

During the time I have been an avid collector of very old picture postcards (40 years or so), I have observed that most messages written on the reverse offered very little information.

Sometimes a message was brief, perhaps to say that a box of fruit/vegetables was on the train for the recipient.

Mail deliveries were made frequently and fast, so in the early 1900s these picture postcards seemed to take the role of the modern phone: "I'll meet your train tomorrow (or this afternoon) and please bring some bait for Dad as he's run out." Or sometimes it was an apology for not writing: "sorry I haven't written but you know what I'm like, no news, that's all for now."

I have been charmed once or twice, to find on an antique postcard bought in Sydney, a message from someone in the Gosford district who was well-known in days gone by, together with their signature.



*Postcard- The first Bayview Hotel at Woy Woy opened in 1907 on land now occupied by Deepwater Plaza.*

One card I bought amused me a lot with its newsy message tightly filling all available space on one side of the card. It was sent from someone in a NSW inland town to Sydney in January 1910, and read like this (place and some names changed to protect the innocent):

"My dear Daisy, Your postcard to hand and quite safely and very pleased to hear that you are making a name for yourself by doing a bit of work. I bet it is something easy or Miss Brown would not be doing it (that sounds like the old Army joke – it must be easy or an officer wouldn't be doing it).

It is pretty true about Alice being married I must admit at first I could not believe it, it seems hardly creditable does it not? A boy from here named Walter .... had a room with Simon .... in Sydney. Simon stole William's bank book and drew out the money from the GPO and cleared. The Police are trying to find him. Mrs. Mc..... was telling me about it. Joe .... Ethel's boy [friend], was had up for wife desertion. His wife and two children are in Maitland. Jim was taken from here down to Maitland. He reckons he is going to get a divorce. Ethel says she is going to have him when he comes back. Daisy, you would never believe he was married would you? Well dear old girl, I must ring off with heaps of love, remember me to Bob, mother and little George. Write soon, love Min."

Other postcard correspondents gave their opinions on holiday accommodation, including one at Woy Woy who complained in a message to his Mum at home that yowling cats on the roof had kept him awake all night.

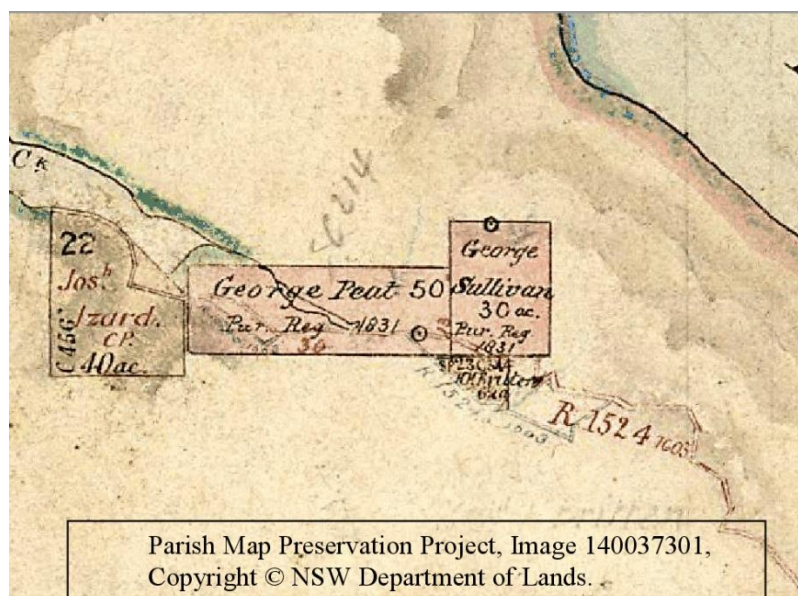
**Gwen DUNDON, Member 134**

## PEATS CRATER

George Peat has been recognised as the first official European resident in the Brooklyn area. He received a land grant of 50 acres in 1836. This land was at Peat's Bight, near the mouth of Berowra Creek. George was the son of Charles Peat, a First Fleeter, and was born in Sydney in 1792.

Peat continued to live mainly in Sydney, but he regularly visited his holdings on the Hawkesbury, which were worked by hired men and assigned servants. He located a land route from Pennant Hills Road to the Hawkesbury, which he used to make his visits.

George Peat died in 1870 and was buried at Rookwood Cemetery.



Parish Map Preservation Project, Image 140037301,  
Copyright © NSW Department of Lands.



Peats Crater (now known as Muogamarra Nature Reserve) is the remnants of a giant volcanic explosion during the Jurassic era. There was a volcanically active area about 50-80 km off Palm Beach which sent a basalt dyke to the west, crossing Pittwater. When it got to where the M1 crosses the Hawkesbury it hit something hard. The pressure grew until it exploded to show the massive crater we see now.

Sometime during the 19th century Peat found the crater and saw that it was a natural amphitheatre, just the thing for setting up a dairy farm, and so he did.

He had easy access to the Hawkesbury River and therefore to the lucrative milk markets in Sydney as Peats dairy would have been the last pickup stop, and therefore would have fetched the best prices due to the freshness of the milk.



Now under the name of Muogamarra, it has become a Nature Reserve and is run by National Parks. To preserve its natural attributes, the park is only open for six weeks during spring, but the visage of spring flowers is very impressive.

You can get there by car but the trail is definitely 2WD albeit a bit rough: Passing through the massive suburb ;- ) of Cowan, just a few km along you will see a roadside pie shop called Pie In The Sky. It's a local bikies stop but the views over the Hawkesbury are impressive. Once at PITS you need to backtrack 100m to find the Muogamarra entrance. Entry should be free if you have a National Parks pass but they still charge, as is their right but I still whinge. Once you have travelled the fire trail and parked there are usually displays but the main attraction is the circular track where Waratahs can be seen and photographed, but also panoramic views of the crater itself, the old dairy, and of the greater Hawkesbury region. Bring water, walking sticks and a cut lunch as there's nowhere to boil water. There are public toilets however. It takes a relaxed hour to walk the circular track that has views over the crater itself and panoramic views over the Lower Hawkesbury River.

Peter ADDERLEY Member 2023



## Australian Women of Mark

**Edith Dircksey Cowan** OBE (née Brown; 2 August 1861 – 9 June 1932) was an Australian social reformer who worked for the rights and welfare of women and children.

She is best known as the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament. Cowan has been featured on the reverse of Australia's 50-dollar note since 1995.

Cowan was born on 2 August 1861 at *Glengarry*, a sheep station near Geraldton, Western Australia. She was the second child of Kenneth Brown, pastoralist and son of early York settlers Thomas and Eliza Brown, and his first wife Mary Eliza Dircksey Wittenoom, a teacher and the daughter of the colonial chaplain, J. B. Wittenoom.

Edith's mother died in childbirth in 1868 when Edith was only seven. She went to a Perth boarding school run by the Misses Cowan, sisters of her future husband. Her adolescence was shattered in 1876 by the ordeal of her father's trials and hanging for the murder, that year, of his second wife.

She was a solitary person, committed nevertheless to social reforms which enhanced women's dignity and responsibility and which secured proper care for mothers and children.

After her father's death, she left her boarding school and moved to Guildford to live with her grandmother.



There, she attended tuition of Canon Sweeting, a former headmaster of Bishop Hale's School who had taught a number of prominent men including John Forrest and Septimus Burt. According to her biographer, Sweeting's tuition left Brown with "a life-long conviction of the value of education, and an interest in books and reading".

In 1894, Cowan was one of the founders of the Karrakatta Club, the first women's social club in Australia. She became prominent in the women's suffrage movement, which saw women in Western Australia granted the right to vote in 1899.

Cowan was also a leading advocate for public education and the rights of children (particularly those born to single mothers). She was one of the first women to serve on a local board of education, and in 1906 helped to found the Children's Protection Society, whose lobbying resulted in the creation of the Children's Court the following year.<sup>1</sup> Cowan was a co-founder of the Women's Service Guild in 1909, and in 1911 helped establish a state branch of the National Council of Women.<sup>2</sup>

Cowan was a key figure in the creation of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, and became a member of its advisory board when it opened in 1916.

- 
1. ["News and notes"](#). *The West Australian*. Perth, WA. 10 June 1915. p. 6. Retrieved 1 November 2020.
  2. <sup>^</sup> [Jump up to:<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "Mainly About People"](#). *Daily News*. Perth, WA. 31 July 1915. p. 5. Retrieved 1 November 2020.
  3. [It's an Honour: OBE](#). Retrieved 16 December 2015

In 1916, she became a Freemason, admitted to the Australian federation of Droit Humain.

During World War I, she collected food and clothing for soldiers at the front and coordinated efforts to care for returned soldiers. She became chairperson of the Red Cross Appeal Committee and was rewarded when, in 1920, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).<sup>1</sup>

In 1920, she became one of the first female Justices of the Peace. Her great, great nephew David Malcolm followed in her footsteps, by becoming Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1988.

In 1921, Cowan was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia as a member of the Nationalist Party, becoming Australia's first female parliamentarian.

She was defeated after just a single term, but maintained a high profile during her tenure and managed to secure the passage of several of her private member's bills.

In her final years, she was an Australian delegate to the 1925 International Conference of Women held in the United States. She helped to found the Royal Western Australian Historical Society in 1926 and assisted in the planning of Western Australia's 1929 Centenary celebrations. Though she remained involved in social issues, illness forced her to withdraw somewhat from public life in later years.

## Community positions held

Besides being a Member of Parliament, Cowan held positions on many boards in Western Australia, in 1929 during the Centenary "The West Australian" published a list of these

- Perth Hospital Board
- King Edward Maternity Hospital Advisory Board
- Chairman of the Perth Hospital Red Cross Auxiliary
- President of the Military Nurses Home committee
- President of Pageantry and sights committee -- WA Historical Society
- Vice President of WA League of Nations Union
- Red Cross division committee
- Children's Protection Society
- Town Planning Association
- Housewives Association
- Infant Health Association
- WA Historical Society
- Nationalist Party Executive
- Governor of St Mary's Church School
- General and Provisional Synods of the Church of England
- Bush Nursing Association
- Centenary Committee
- Women's Immigration Auxiliary
- Girl Guides Council
- Karrakatta Club
- Western Australia National Council of Women



## Legacy

Two years after her death, the Edith Cowan Memorial Clock was unveiled at the entrance to Perth's Kings Park. Believed to be the first civic monument to an Australian woman, it was built in the face of persistent opposition which has been characterised as "representative of a gender bias operating at the time".<sup>2</sup>

Her portrait was featured on an Australian postage stamp in 1975,<sup>3</sup> as part of a six-part "Australian Women" series. During the WAY 1979 sesquicentennial celebrations, a plaque was laid in St Georges Terrace in her honour.

---

<sup>2</sup> [Heritage Council of Western Australia](#), 2000

<sup>3</sup> Australian Women stamps series: Edith Cowan <http://www.australianstamp.com/images/large/0011310.jpg>

In 1984, the federal Division of Cowan was created and named after her, and in January 1991 the Western Australian College of Advanced Education was renamed Edith Cowan University (ECU).<sup>1</sup>

Her portrait appears on the Australian fifty dollar note, a polymer banknote that was first issued in October 1995. In 2019 the release of the latest \$50 note caused a sensation when it was discovered that the word 'responsibility' in Edith Cowan's speech was incorrectly spelt, missing the last 'i'.

In 1996, a plaque honouring her was placed in St George's Cathedral, Perth. There are references to her in the Centenary of Western Australian Women's Suffrage Memorial in Kings Park, and in a tapestry that was hung in King Edward Memorial Hospital in 2000 to honour women involved in the hospital.



In 1991, Edith Cowan University purchased the house at which Edith Cowan, her husband and family had resided at 71 Malcolm Street. They resided in the house from 1919 for approximately 20 years. The house was reconstructed on the university's Joondalup Campus with the assistance of the West Coast College of TAFE. The reconstructed house opened in 1997 and is Building 20 on the university's Joondalup Campus and currently plays host to the Peter Cowan Writer's Centre.<sup>1</sup>

Edith Cowan was added to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2001.

Reference: -  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith\\_Cowan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edith_Cowan)

"If men and women can work for the State side by side and represent all the different sections of the community, and if the male members of the house would be satisfied to allow women to help them and would accept their suggestions when they are offered, I cannot doubt that we should do very much better work in the community than was ever done before."

Edith Cowan.



<sup>1</sup> History of Edith Cowan University and its Predecessor institutions <http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/rams/history.html>

## For those who are interested in DNA

Your relatives probably can't stop talking about how much you look like your mum or your dad, but the truth is, while you might have gotten your dad's eyes, you carry more of your mother's genes than your father's.

This is the case for every single person on Earth for one simple reason: the tiny organelles that live inside your cells, called mitochondria, are only passed down by your mum, and for decades, scientists couldn't figure out why.

Now a team from the University of Colorado Boulder say they've found a clue that could explain our strange lack of dad genes. "This is a very long-standing mystery in biology - why in so many organisms, [only] the maternal mitochondria are inherited," geneticist and lead researcher Ding Xue told Laurel Hamers at *Science News*.

Mitochondria are something you can't live without, because they're the energy-producing factories of the cell, responsible for converting the food you eat into the energy your cells need to function.

And they're also incredibly weird. As ecologist Madeleine Beekman from the University of Sydney in Australia explains, some 1.5 or 2 billion years ago, they were actually free-living organisms. So those things in your cells, they used to have a life of their own.

The ancestor of all mitochondria is a type of bacterium that was swallowed by another bacterium, and this monstrous creature gave rise to the eukaryotes. A eukaryote is any organism whose cells contain a nucleus and other organelles enclosed within membranes - so all plants, animals, and fungi alive today.

"Because of their evolutionary history as free-living bacteria, mitochondria have retained their own genome, called mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA," says Beekman. "Each cell contains many copies of mtDNA, as mitochondria freely replicate within the cell."

Xue and his team observed the behaviour of mitochondria as it was transferred from the sperm of a worm species called *Caenorhabditis elegans* to a fertilised egg.

They watched as the mitochondrion from the sperm was broken apart from the inside out, rendering it useless once it's transferred to the egg. It turns out that a protein found in sperm, called CPS-6, appears to be shredding the mitochondrial DNA apart, rendering the mitochondria itself useless.



A process called autophagy, which cleans up degraded cell parts to make way for newer, healthier ones, then takes over, helping to transport the remains of the paternal mitochondria out of the embryonic cells.

The team found that when mitochondrial DNA stuck around for longer than it should in embryos, it made them more likely to die, which suggests that the CPS-6 protein and autophagy process are working together to ensure the viability of an embryo.

"[T]he researchers speculate that it's evolutionarily advantageous for roundworms - and other organisms like humans - to do away with that extra dad DNA," says Arielle Duhaime-Ross at The Verge.

Of course, this assumption can't be proven until it's observed in humans, but we do produce a protein similar to CPS-6, and it plays a similar role in the process of autophagy as seen in these worms, so there's a good chance that this is what's happening in human embryos too.

So why would the body destroy paternal mitochondria anyway? The researchers aren't entirely sure, but Xue hypothesises that it carries the potential for more mutations than maternal mitochondria, so in evolutionary terms, it's more advantageous to just do away with it altogether.

"If mutated paternal mitochondrial DNA isn't removed promptly, then mutations can accumulate through generations," he told Duhaime-Ross.

The study has been published in [Science](#).

MADELEINE BEEKMAN

24 DECEMBER 2015

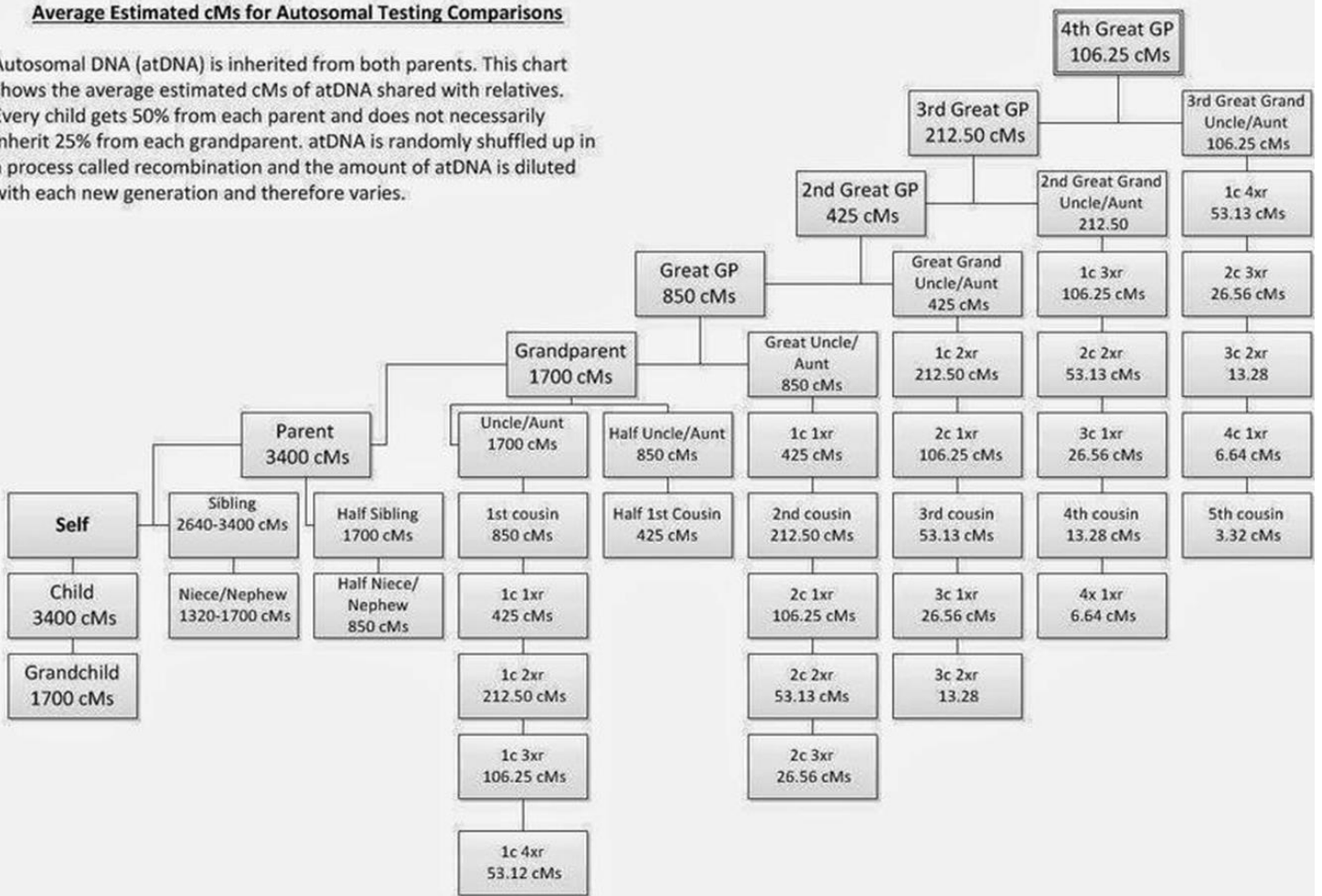
*This article was originally written by [Madeleine Beekman](#) from the [University of Sydney](#) and was originally published by [The Conversation](#).*



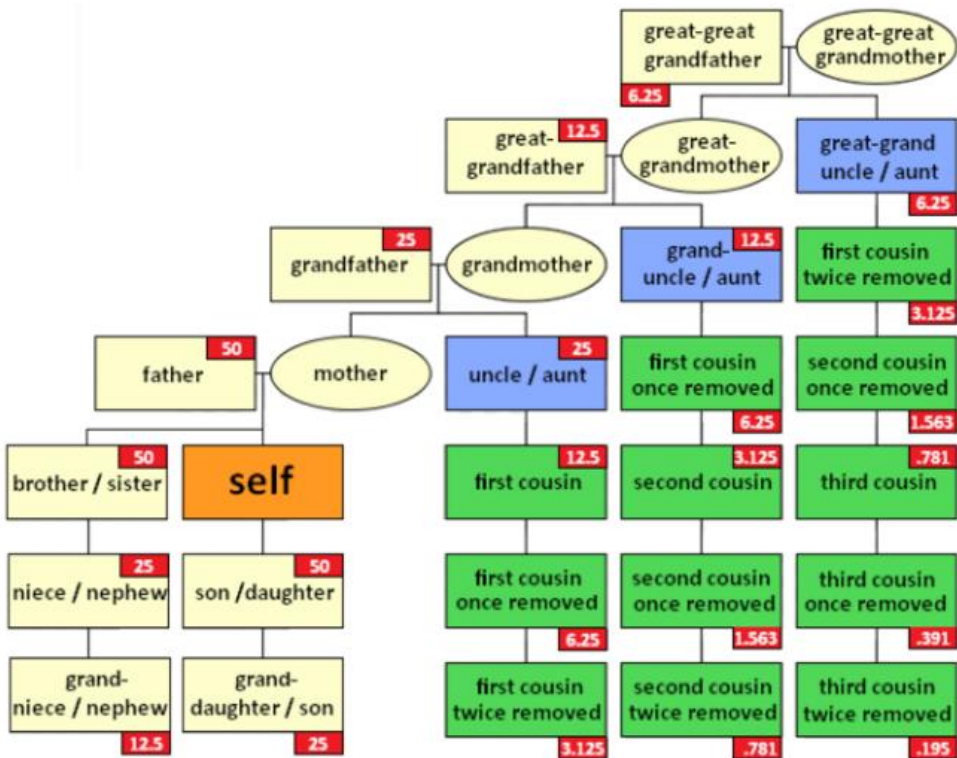


**Average Estimated cMs for Autosomal Testing Comparisons**

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) is inherited from both parents. This chart shows the average estimated cMs of atDNA shared with relatives. Every child gets 50% from each parent and does not necessarily inherit 25% from each grandparent. atDNA is randomly shuffled up in a process called recombination and the amount of atDNA is diluted with each new generation and therefore varies.



**X Chromosome -**



**Average Estimated cMs for Autosomal Testing Comparison**

**DNA Inheritance Chart**

(above): Shows the percentage inherited by each line.

## AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN ...

Last week I was very gratified when I read on the website of the Australian War Memorial that:

“Each evening between sunset and sunrise, names from the Roll of Honour are projected onto the façade of the Hall of Memory (the dome). The projections are a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“The Roll of Honour lists the 102.000 men and women from Australia’s defence forces who have died in the service of our nation. This nightly commemorative event, which was initially delivered as part of the Memorial’s program to mark the centenary of the First World War, has been extended to include the names of all Australians who have died during, or as a result of, war service or war-like operations.

“How to find the date and time of a specific name projection – search the Roll of Honour to help you find out when a particular person’s name will be projected. This site provides the estimated date and time at which the name will be displayed”.



*A name projected high on the dome of the Australian War Memorial at night (AWM current photo).*

The site cautions you to check the name and time before you go to Canberra if you wish to see a certain projection, as some times may have been changed.

Recently, I had occasion to open the AWM website to check on the details of my late husband's uncle, Bernard Phelan, who was only three years his senior. Bernard was the youngest member of a family of ten, my mother-in-law being the eldest. At the age of 22, this young single man died working on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway (Myanmar to Thailand) as a Japanese prisoner of war.

He had a tragic life. At the age of 10 or 11 he was at home with his mother, who was in the kitchen cooking. Thinking he was improving matters in the wood stove, he picked up a container of some flammable liquid and flung it out into the fire.

There was a huge flare-up, and his mother had a heart attack through the shock of it, and fell dead on the floor. She was only in her fifties. For a few years after that the boy was cared for by my husband's parents along with their three children until he moved back to his father on a small farm.

For some unknown reason – perhaps some lack of communication within the family at the end of World War Two – it was always believed that Bernard was buried in Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore as his last letter home had been written from Changi prison.



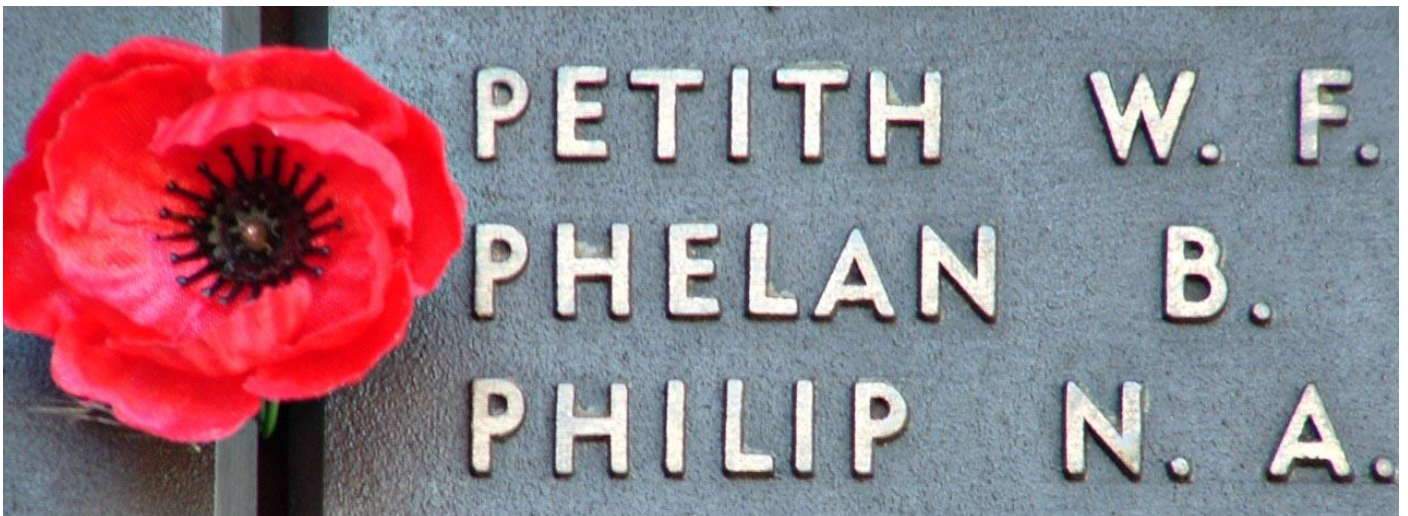
*Bernard Phelan*



In 1965 my husband and I were in Singapore and we went to Kranji to look for Bernard's plot. We wandered along the rows of carefully tended graves, each of which had the most beautiful orchids growing on it. However the records there did not include his name, and we assumed his headstone was one of those bearing the words "Unknown Soldier".

Years went by, and when it became possible to search online, I discovered that Bernard was actually buried in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, sited along the route of the death railway. He died on 26 December 1943.

What a coincidence it was that I should so recently check again on Bernard Phelan – his name is to be projected on the war memorial dome on May 4 2021.



*Name with poppy on the Roll of Honour at the AWM (photo by David Bales 2007)*

**Gwen DUNDON, Member 134**

**LEST WE FORGET**





## SOCIETIES MAILING LIST

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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: -	Robyn Grant
	Leonie Pinson
Event Coordinator	Committee
Facebook Administrator: -	Belinda Mabbott
	Anthony Lehner
Grant Applications	Marlene Davidson
Grant Application Proofreader	Committee
Guest Speakers	Paul Schipp/Marie Gaven
IT and Computer Network	CC Mobile Computers
Librarian/Unrelated Certificates	Bennie Campbell
Membership Secretary	Trish Michael
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Overseas Book Monitor	Heather Sushames
Property Officer/Public Officer	Marlene Bailey
Publicity and Advertising	Committee
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	Heather Sushames
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## TRANSCRIPTION AGENTS

Don't forget transcriptions of birth, death and marriage records are available in NSW and only NSW. New cost from 1 July 2013 - \$20 each



Email [joy@joymurrin.com.au](mailto:joy@joymurrin.com.au)



Marilyn Rowan – [marilynr@marbract.com.au](mailto:marilynr@marbract.com.au)



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