# E-Muster

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

August 2017 Number 18



# The Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc.



A section from a Quilt made by CCFHS members, which is on display in our Research Centre.

# Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

#### **PATRONS**

Lawrie McKinna, Chris Holstein Lucy Wicks, MP Federal Member for Robertson

Members of NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. (State Body) Australian Federation of Family History Organisation (National Body) Federation of Family History Societies, United Kingdom (International Body) Associate Member of the Royal Australian Historical Society of NSW.

#### **Executive:**

President: Wendy Condon Vice President: Margaret Ertner Secretary: Heather Yates Treasurer: Ken Clark

Public Officer: Marlene Bailey

#### Committee:

Marlene Bailey, Sue Breckenridge, Bennie Campbell, Marlene Davidson, Carol Evans, Belinda Mabbott, Trish Michael, Paul Schipp.

#### RESEARCH CENTRE

Building 4, 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW 2250
Phone: 4324 5164 - Email admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm;
Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.30pm
First Saturday of the month only
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 Venue: Gosford Lions Community Hall Rear of 8 Russell Drysdale Street, EAST GOSFORD NSW

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEE - GST INCLUDED**

Single Membership \$45.00 Joining Fee \$10.00 Joint Membership \$65.00 Joining Fee \$10.00

The e- Muster is the Official Journal of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. as

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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 Sue Breckenridge

All articles to: <a href="mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au">admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au</a>

e- *Muster* deadlines are March 20 July 20 October 23

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#### **EDITORIAL - SUE BRECKENRIDGE**

2017 is racing away and already we are up to the August E-Muster. It is good to know that the last edition of our Journal was very well received and enjoyed. Once again, sincere thanks are due to those who have contributed, prepared and presented the diverse range of items included for your enjoyment. As always, member contributions are greatly appreciated and encouraged. I am greatly indebted to Heather Yates whose technical skills are much appreciated in the production of the E-Muster. In this edition of the E-Muster journal, we continue to commemorate the battles of World War 1. The conflicts of 1917 touched nearly all Australian families of that time and for many of the Central Coast Family History Society members, those conflicts have been topics for research. The impact of World War 1 on families and soldiers reached across generations. In this edition we focus on local men who fought in the battles late in 1917 at places such as Bapaume, Bullecourt, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde and Passchendaele.

The books reviewed are in our Library and are recommended for your enjoyment. The Peter FitzSimons book has strong links to Peats Ridge. The Patonga Poster card will bring back memories for many. While there are some serious topics presented, there are also some light hearted items to bring a laugh.

Enjoy the read, **Sue BRECKENRIDGE -Muster Editor** 

"If you cannot get ríd of the famíly skeleton, you may as well make ít dance"

-George Bernard Shaw.

#### PRESIDENTS REPORT - WENDY CONDON

I hope you are all bearing up with the cold weather and that you are all well. There are so many people sick with the flu; if you are, I hope you are better soon.

Martyn Killion President of S.A.G was our last Guest speaker. His topic was "Breaking down the Brick Walls" and filling us in on what is available at S.A.G. Of course he was very entertaining as always.

Then, last Monday, 18 members travelled to Sydney on the train to visit the S.A.G collections. We had a lovely day; it started with Heather Garnsey, Executive Officer giving us a talk about S.A.G, with Librarian Lorraine Brothers taking us on a tour. We then started on our research - everyone will be making many more trips and visiting both S.A.G buildings in the future.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 we are hosting a seminar for the R.A.H.S. The speakers will be Christine Yeats and Carol Liston. You can book online through the R.A.H.S, the cost is \$20 and lunch is included.

The day is combined with the Precinct Open day so you will be able to view all the wares of the Spinners & Weavers, Potters and Art Centre also.

We have just had a safety check of all our Electrical Equipment completed with the Cords being tagged and everything was passed.

Barry's Spit Roast has been booked again for Christmas and this year we are donating our Christmas gifts to the **Coast Shelter** so we ask you to donate gifts suitable for 14 to 24 year olds.

St Paul's at Kincumber are celebrating their 175 year Anniversary on 28<sup>th</sup> August and CCFHS will host a stand at the church.

In September, Margaret Ertner, Marlene Davidson, Belinda Mabbott and I are attending the NSW & ACT State Conference in Orange. It will be a busy weekend with us selling our goods and me attending all the committee meetings as I represent the Central Coast Region.

As from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 films from the LDS will not be available for hire any longer. I have been in touch with Mark Kelly the Australian and New Zealand CEO to see if we could continue our access as a supporting organisation. Unfortunately, after contacting Salt Lake City on our behalf, he informed us it is not possible.

### Wendy CONDON-President

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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

2036	Clayton Patterson	2043	Karen Schmaltz
2037	Gloria Morley	2044	Kerrie Martin
416	Yvonne Cumming	2045	Margaret Reid
2038	Robyn Grant	2046	Gabriel (Gaye) Gurney
2039	Robert Lassau	2047	Jayne Harding
2040	Lois June Ashton	2048	Robyn Klein
2041	Robyn Arms	2049	Karin Scott
2042	Anthony Horwood	2050	Cliff Hobson

You've read the books. You've searched in the databases. But did you know that one of the best resources in a genealogy library is often the Librarian? Get more out of your visits to our library by asking these three things.

- 1. "Can you help me?" I've noticed that there seems to be a hesitation about asking a Librarian anything. The reasons people give are often, "She looks busy" or "He'll think this is a stupid question." Here's the scoop: *The librarian wants to help you*. Yes, she has some work with her while she's at the reference desk. But when she is at the desk, her main responsibility is to help you. As for the "stupid questions," I think most Librarians would agree with me that the only truly stupid question is the one that isn't asked.
- 2. "Do you have any collections that aren't in the catalogue?"

Just because the library has it, doesn't mean that it's in the catalogue. Things like obituary files, newspaper clipping collections, vertical files, and rare books may not be included. Be sure to ask the librarian about these hidden gems.

3. "Are there other places that could have the resources I'm looking for?"

This is an especially useful question when you have a very specific research focus. The Librarian might be able to point you to those "off the beaten path" places — the tiny historical society, the obscure museum, the church archive — that could have just what it is you're looking for.

#### **SPEAKERS FOR 2017**

2nd SEPTEMBER. Carolyn KINGSMILL. Speaker and Co-Ordinator with U3A will present", "The Resourcefulness of Molly Morgan (1762 -1835) convict and business woman in Maitland."

7th OCTOBER. Helen INGLE nee NEWMAN "The family behind Newman's Corner and Business in East Gosford."



4th NOVEMBER. Grandparents Day further information t.b.a.



# **Dixon Family Reunion**

The Descendants of:

# Frederick Horatio and Jane (nee Eckford) Dixon are holding a family reunion on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Maitland NSW

To celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fred Arriving in Australia

Some associated families: Baker, Bell, Black, Capp, Clift, Coward, Eckford, Gallen, Hills, Mitchel, Muirhead, Paterson, Suters, Tait, Volmer, Walters.

For further details: go to

fhdixonreunion.weebly.com

www.facebook.com/groups/FHDIXON

Or contact: Allan Shephard at; alshep724@gmail.com or phone 0419 601 226

# **MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017 – effective 1st April**



### **EXISTING MEMBERS - REJOINING**

Membership Fees for 2017-2018 will be: Single Membership \$45.00 Joint Membership \$65.00

A Members Day user fee of \$2.50 now applies to assist in offsetting the cost of online subscription sites.

Day Research fee for Non-Members \$10.

All Saturday workshops will incur a fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members unless otherwise stipulated.

**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

Please read the two additional questions on your membership form regarding the Rotary Raffle donations to the Equipment Maintenance and Replacement Fund. You can choose to have Tickets sent to you to the value of \$10 or if you prefer you can make a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

### **Next Issue**

No. 19 November 2017 e-Muster

Deadline for articles for the November edition of the Muster

23rd October. 2017.

### **SOCIETIES MAILING LIST**

The email address for our Society is admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

You can also Like Us on Facebook!

### **ASSIGNED DUTIES**

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

facebook.

Assistant Treasurer Margaret Ertner **Margaret Ertner Bookstall Coordinator** 

Bookstall meeting helper Paul Schipp Belinda Mabbott

**Bus Trips and Tours** Wendy Condon Christmas Party Organiser

**Event Coordinators** Marlene Davidson

Wendy Condon Marlene Davidson **Grant Applications** 

**Grant Application Proofreader** Committee **Guest Speakers** Paul Schipp

Housekeeping Rosemary Wiltshire IT and Computer Network **CC Mobile Computers** 

LDS Film Hire - Family Search **Heather Yates** 

Librarian Bennie Campbell

Librarian's Assistant Belinda Mabbott Trish Michael Membership Secretary

Membership Secretary's helper on meeting days **Kay Rawnsley** Belinda Mabbott

Members Interests/Facebook Administrator The e-Muster Editor Sue Breckenridge

Pelican Press Editor **Heather Yates** Overseas Book Monitor **Heather Sushames** 

**Property Officer** Marlene Bailey **Public Officer** Marlene Bailey

**Publicity and Advertising** Sue Breckenridge

Raffles Carol Evans

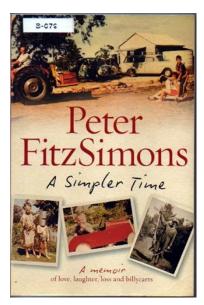
Catering Bennie Campbell Research Officer **Margaret Morters** 

Rotary Raffle Carol Evans

**Unrelated Certificates** Bennie Campbell Website Administrator Margaret Ertner

Website Designer Zac Hall - Websiteguy Welfare and Hospital Visits Marlene Davidson

# **BOOK REVIEWS from our LIBRARY**

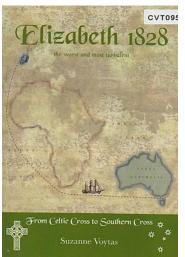


# A SIMPLER TIME. A memoir of love, laughter, loss and billycarts. Peter FitzSimons.

Peter FitzSimons is a well-known Sydney journalist and author of several biographical books. In this book, the author has chosen to tell his own story as "an attempt to capture, through my own experience and that of my family, the simplicity of a time long gone in Australia's past". For those who enjoy reflecting on their past, this is a good read with plenty of humour among the many tales told growing up in rural Peats Ridge with the freedom

so many enjoyed with minimal supervision. If you have ever considered writing your own memoir as a gift to your family, this book will be an inspiration. I read the book in its entirety and thoroughly enjoyed the insight into growing up in Peats Ridge.

# Elizabeth 1828. The worst and most turbulent. From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross. Suzanne Voytas.



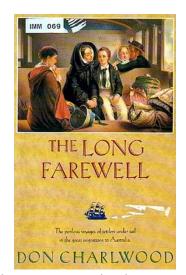
From the back cover... "On the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1828 the female convict ship Elizabeth sailed into Port Jackson with 192 Irish women and 16 of their children. The authorities had labelled them the worst and most turbulent". The book tells the stories of these women detailing the struggles and achievements of women faced with living in a foreign land. Many of the women were able to adapt to their new homeland and live long enough to know their grandchildren. Some even became

wealthy, while others endured less fortunate lives. Family history researchers will enjoy the detailed accounts of the individual women. The end notes provide a comprehensive list of sources used and will be a useful reference for researchers.

#### THE LONG FAREWELL. Don Charlwood.

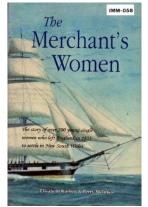
The subject of this book is the long perilous journey endured by many in the migration to Australia. More than a million people sailed to Australia during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

This book provides an insight into the perils of the trip; the route taken; the ships; the farewells and departure; the accommodation and surrounds of shipboard life; the crew; the surgeon and health matters; and the dining and messing situation.



One fortunate diarist, who had cabin accommodation recorded. "We are getting very tired of each other... We do indeed find it a tedious journey. No one could form any idea of it". However, others made the most of their situation and as Mrs. Hinshelwood, bound for Rockhampton in 1883, explained "We rise before six, get the children bathed and ready for school, and our bed folded up on hinges by half past seven. Breakfast was at eight o'clock. We wash our dishes, while the husbands sweep our floors, and we are all expected on deck by nine o'clock for the day. Tea about five then comes time for getting ready for bed our little ones, who are all very merry." The book concluded with three diaries.

# THE MERCHANT'S WOMEN. Elizabeth Rushen and Perry McIntyre.



This book traces the story of over 200 young single women who left England on the ship Bussorah Merchant in 1833 to settle in New South Wales. The British government had been promoting the positive aspects of life in the colonies and it was more than 200 courageous women from many walks of life who accepted a bounty passage to embark on the journey, very excited about beginning a new life. At the time, Australia was a male dominated colony and this

immigration of women was an attempt to redress the balance in the young colony.

The chapters of the book are headed **Women Much Wanted**; **Bettering Their Condition**; **Bidding Adieu**; **Purified Gold**; **The Emigration Experience**; **The Passengers**.

There are Notes and Appendices included.

**Books reviewed by Editor Sue BRECKENRIDGE Member 1561** 

The members of the Central Coast Family History Society Inc. honour the memory of all those who lost their lives in the service of their country.

In particular we honour local men who lost their lives as they fought for our country and its' freedom.

# **COMMEMORATION OF LOCAL SOLDIERS KILLED IN 1917 in THE** GREAT WAR.



The Australian Military forces were heavily engaged in the battles of the Western Front. Recruiting in Australia had resulted in sufficient troops needed to replace the enormous losses of Gallipoli and the Somme.

In March of 1917 there was the battle at Bapaume, Belgium. By May of that year the focus was on Bullecourt and Messines. Later in the year were the great battles of the Ypres offensive at Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodzeinde, Poelcapelle and Passchendaele.

The huge number of casualties resulted in the reorganisation and amalgamation of divisions.

The Family History researcher will be familiar with the names and events referred to. However, the focus of this article is not to analyse the many battles of war but to commemorate our local soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

VICTOR LINDSAY GOODWIN No 2907 was born in Cooma and resided at Rabbit Island, Hawkesbury River. At the time of embarkation, Victor was aged 38, a cook and a driver. Victor was Killed in Action 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917 at Messines, Belgium. Private Goodwin was not married and both his parents were deceased. A Red Cross report commented "he was a very fine fellow, liked by everyone". Victor's name is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

ROLAND JAMES EATHER No 2411 enlisted in September of 1916. At the time he was a young 6-foot tall, 21 year old labourer who lived at Colo on the Hawkesbury River. He embarked on the A.68 "Anchises" for training at Folkstone in the U.K. Between April and June of 1917 he had been hospitalised and struggled with pleurisy. Having rejoined his Battalion in Belgium, he was Killed in Action on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. His name is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.



The Menin Gate Memorial,
Ypres, Belgium.
This memorial is dedicated to
those British and
Commonwealth soldiers whose
graves are unknown.
Every night at 8.00 pm a
moving Last Post ceremony
takes place under the gate. All
traffic is stopped from driving
through the gate 7.20-8.30pm.

ARCHIE ERNEST BUSHELL No 2526 fought with the 36<sup>th</sup> battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement. Archie was 26, an engineer, and lived at Popran Park, via Gosford. Archie was K.I.A 11<sup>th</sup>June, 1917. In a newspaper article, Archie was referred to "as a gallant young son of Mangrove Mountain, having only recently gone into the fighting line after completing instructions at Salisbury Plains, England, for some time and having gained commendation for success and practice".

"He was a fine type of young Australian, a worthy son of worthy parents, and his untimely end is sincerely regretted".

ALBERT EDWARD LANDAMAN No 3260 died in September of 1917 at Ypres. He enlisted in September of 1915, was ranked as a Private, was married, aged 27, and a tram conductor. At the time of his death, Albert was a Sergeant with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion and had received a Military Medal in August of 1916 for "Bravery in the Field". A Red Cross informant statement concluded "Landaman was very well respected. He took an interest in the men and furnished them with comforts as far as he was able. He used to run the canteen for a time". Poignant "In loving memory" newspaper notices were placed by his wife Barbara, his mother and his uncle.

THOMAS FRENCH was known as "Tony" to his family and friends. His name appeared in a Roll of Honour following his death, of wounds, suffered in active service at Polygon Wood on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1917. The Gosford Times reported several family notices of this death. His sister published a "Return Thanks" in the Gosford Times following the death of her brother, aged 23. The Next of Kin was his father, Thomas French of Gosford. Thomas was buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.

CHARLES J LANDSDOWNE NO 4654 was a 29 year old, single farmer working in Kyogle at the time of his enlistment. His father resided at Kincumber. His Service record shows that he had worked for a farmer in Kyogle for about 12 years prior to enlisting. The farmer described him as "a very good lad".

Private Landsdowne died in action near Polygon Wood (Ypres front) on 26th September, 1917.



Aeroplane Cemetery, Zonnebeek Road, Ypres.

Among the many soldiers buried at this cemetery are the remains of the youngest soldier of World War 1. He was aged 14.

HAROLD HENRY BROWN No 425 was an engineer who had enlisted in 1915 with an address of Brooklyn, Hawkesbury River. Harold was 19, single and ranked as a Private on enlistment. Prior to his embarking on HMAT "Berrima" the Brooklyn community gave a farewell function, presenting him with a gold watch and a set of pipes. He served with the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A Company. Harold had served at Gallipoli where he contracted enteric fever. Harold struggled with ill health suffering both enteric fever and pneumonia in 1915. He had been transferred to Malta on a hospital ship, later being evacuated to Australia for 3 months in January of 1916.

Harold returned from Australia on the "Wiltshire" in October of 1916. Having returned to the Western Front in June, 1917 Harold was Killed in Action on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. Harold is buried at the Aeroplane Cemetery, Belgium

EDGAR JARVIS No 2601 was a single, 20 year old labourer from Wyee. He had embarked on the SS Napier on 17 November 1916. Private Edgar Jarvis was K.I.A. 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1917. He was known among the troops as "Ida". The name of Edgar Jarvis is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

FRANK HENRY GOLDSMITH N0 3334 was a milk and cream tester in civilian life, aged 19 when he enlisted at Liverpool in April of 1915. Following his death in October of 1917, several notices appeared in newspapers. Frank was obviously held in high regard by his Platoon Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion. "As a comrade No 3334 was esteemed by all who knew him, and as a soldier he was at once efficient, zealous and willing".

As a clergyman wrote "The battle in which he fell was one of great importance. He fell fighting for you, his country, and for our freedom from Prussian domination" He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.



He fought for those he loved so dear, that we might all live free. Family Notice.

RICHARD GEORGE BUCKTON No 6954. He was 24, single and worked as a labourer prior to enlisting in October of 1916. He was a Private attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Reinforcement who embarked from Sydney on the A29 Suevic, 11<sup>th</sup>November, 1916. Richard recorded his widowed mother as his next of kin. Mary Buckton lived in Tuggerah Road, Wyong. Richard was K.I.A on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 in Belgium.

BUCKTON—In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private Richard George Buckton, who was killed in France on the 4th October, 1917.

He was only a Private in battle,
A part of the great rank and file;
But we at home remember
The day he left is with a smile.

He laid down his life for his Country,
In response to his dear Country's call;
Australia is proud of our hero,
Who was only a Private, that's all.
Inserted by his loving mother, and brother, Dave.

THOMAS DWYER No 6729 listed his occupation as "teamster" with his address as Dooralong via Wyong on his enlistment papers dated 7th August, 1916. He was given the rank of Private, was 26, and single. The Gosford Times reported (13th October, 1916) on a farewell party given to Tom by his local community. "There was a good attendance, a number being present from Jilliby and elsewhere". A presentation of a set of razors was made by Mr. Whiteside, a resident. Tom's father addressed the guests and "was remarkably restrained in tone and marked by good sense". The night concluded after much dancing with a rendition of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow". Almost a year later, Tom's life came to an end when he was K.I.A on 4th October 191 7 at Broodseinde Ridge. GOSFORD TIMES 3rd January.1918 A Dooralong Hero

Mr. And Mrs. F J Dwyer, late of Dooralong, have received the following letter written by Lieut. Mant, B Company, regarding the death of their son, killed in action in France:-

France, October 17. -I am writing to ask you to accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your son, Private T. Dwyer. All one morning he had been doing excellent work as stretcher bearer- his whole soul being bent on getting as many wounded men away as possible. Then coming to another case he and three comrades hoisted the white flag and started bandaging him up. Now it was understood that the Germans would not fire on the white flag as we had been respecting their white flags when they had been getting their wounded away. But the cowardly hounds started sniping on this on this little band. Not a whit put out, they shouldered their stretcher and went out across the open. The Huns then started a machine gun on them, though our boys were holding the white flag, and eventually wounded two. However, your son and his mates got the wounded man out of sight and on the way to the dressing station. But just then a shell came and your brave son quietly said "My foot's off." Two other men were put on to the stretcher and got away, while the other stretcher bearer bandaged your son up, put him on his back, and started away with him. But he hadn't gone ten yards before another shell burst, and a piece of shrapnel entered your son's back, killing him instantly. He was buried there in ground that had been held by the same cowardly race that had caused his death, but which had been taken from them by our troops. I have told you the story, because I think it is right that you should know what a brave man your son showed himself to be. I can't say enough for his conduct, but what he did speaks for itself. He was a hero. I am most awfully sorry for you- one can only seek consolation in the fact the he died the noblest death a man can die, and that now he is at peace.—Yours sincerely, John F Mant, Lieut.

JAMES LYALL No 1704 had enlisted at Victoria Barracks in July 1915. He had joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regiment. James Lyall was married and the father of a son, Lachlan Aubrey Lyall. The next of kin named on the enlistment document was his father, Robert Lyall. Robert Lyall was also the sole beneficiary under the Will. Private James Lyall was killed 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 in Belgium. His brother, Donald Lyall, had died in 1915 at Gallipoli. At the time of his death, his widow, Evelyn had a contact address in Narara. Private James Lyall is buried in the Aeroplane Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

ALBERT GEORGE KILPATRICK had worked with the Gosford Post Office prior to enlisting for service in World War 1. He held the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup>Lieutenant and was 25 at the time.

Albert was K.I.A at Belgium. Following his death on 12<sup>th</sup> October, a family notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 recording that Albert, 27, was the eldest son of parents who lived in Walcha, N.S.W.

HENRY ROBERT DENNEY No 501 a carrier, age 23, single and living in Gosford at the time of his enlistment. He was ranked as a driver with the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers. Henry died of wounds on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was buried at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. His next of kin was his father who lived at Nambucca.



PHILLIP MATTIAS JOHNSON was born in Bathurst, enlisting at age 24 and recorded as a widower. The next of kin was William Johnson, child, of Gosford. William Johnson was a child, (presumably a son?) with an address c/o Mrs. Martin, Gosford. Following the death of Phillip, K.I.A 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1917, pensions were claimed for children, James and Kathleen Johnson. A Military record states "Johnson's children care of Green State Children's Department, Sydney. In 1924 a letter was sent on behalf of an old lady,

whose two sons were killed in the war....Phillip was one of these. "She is in very poor circumstance and wants the brooches and badges to which she claims she is entitled".

WALTER ALFRED SPICER No 17053 was born in Gosford but was living in Newtown at the time of his enlistment in March of 1916. Walter was 24, and a carpenter who underwent medical training before departure and was recommended for ward duties or as a motor car driver. His father was deceased and his mother was named his next of kin. Walter was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance. On 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 an enquiry was held into the missing Private Walter Spicer who was known to have been injured in the left arm and left leg.

He was seen to be walking to obtain medical attention but remained missing. The enquiry established that he was killed between Westhoek and Ballevarde Ridge on the way to the dressing station where his effects were found. His death is officially recorded as October 4, 1917. Walter was described as a "very jovial fellow".

HUBERT CHARLES STRATTON No 2854. Hughie, as he was known, lived in Gosford and worked as a shipwright having served his apprenticeship at Berry's Bay. He was aged 28 and named his father as his next of kin. Following enlistment Hughie was ranked as a Private and attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion. Hughie was killed on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 in Belgium. In his Will he bequeathed his effects to his sister.

HENRY ALBERT CAMPBELL was born in Gosford and was a stockman at the time of his enlistment. At that time his address was Narara. He was married and had previously served 2 years on military service in the Boer War. He was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Pioneer Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> reinforcement when he embarked from Sydney on HMAT Clan MacGillivray on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1916. Following his death

at the age of 34 on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1917, there were several notices in newspapers.

He left behind a widow and a daughter. For his parents this was the second son they had lost during this war. In 1915 another son, Captain Irving F. Campbell of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had died of wounds on May 31, 1915.

**Bennie CAMPBELL Member 901** 

# THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE ADVERTISEMENT.

Consider the following newspaper clipping.

Elm Tree Villa sounds a very charming and comfortable place to call home. Reading on further, one cannot help being amazed at the vast array of lavish furniture and accessories in this grand home. This must be a very valuable estate. The family must be very well-to-do?

# SALE AT ELM TREE VILLA, WHEELER STREET, LOZELLS,

OF EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Collection of PICTURES (principally by the Old Masters), Prints, PIANOFORTE (by Broadwood),

Ornamental Cast-iron Vases and Garden Chairs, an Amateur's PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOM, and numerous Effects.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Messrs. CHESSHIRE and GIBSON, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 9th and 10th DAYS of FEBRUARY NEXT

(by direction of the Representatives of the late Mr. William Middleton)—the whole of the valuable EFFECTS in and about his late Residence as above; comprising, in Chambers, excellent mahogany and birch four-post Bedsteads, with their hangings, Invalid's Bedstead, feather Beds, mahogany Toilet Tables and Washstands, Spanish mahogany Wardrobes, Chests of Drawers and Chamber Appendages. The DINING, DRAWING, and BREAKFAST ROOM FURNITURE includes sets of Chairs, Couches, Arm Chairs, and Recumbent Chairs, covered in satin, hair, silk tabarette, and Utrecht velvet; dining and loo Tables, excellent corner Cheffionere, Pianoforte (by Broadwood and Sons), suites of damask Window Curtains, Gaseliers, Chimney Glasses, Turkey and Persian Carpets, Hearth Rugs, &c., &c.

### A COLLECTION OF

# VALUABLE OIL PAINTINGS,

Principally by Old Masters, including works attributed to

Hughtenbergh Zuccarelli Bergham Wouverman Bega Vanderbent Turner Loutherbeurg Lancret Murillo

Ostade Rembraudt Old Francks Teniers Schalcken

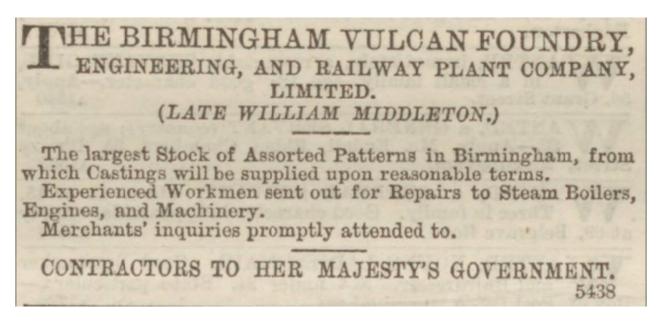
And others.

Prints, Hat and Umbrella Stand, the Contents of Kitchens and Domestic Offices, Set of Harness, excellent PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOM, 13 feet by 8 feet; handsome cast-iron VASES, on Pedestals; Garden Chairs and Seats, Garden Frame, Materials forming Cucumber House, and miscellaneous Effects, full particulars of which appear in Catalogues, to be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneers, 93, New Street, Birmingham.

#### WHO LIVED HERE?

Mr. William Middleton was the owner. He had been born in Birmingham in 1796 to William Middleton and Ann Rutter. The parents had married in April of 1795 at St. Martins, Birmingham.

William was to gain a brother, Henry, in 1796. Mother Ann did not live many years after the birth of Henry and in 1801 father William married Ann's sister, Mary Rutter. William Middleton was a very ambitious man who became the head pattern maker in the Soho Foundry. He had known the Boultons and Watt of Industrial Revolution fame. By 1835 he left the Soho Foundry in Smethwick to join the family business, the Vulcan Foundry, in Birmingham. This was a thriving business headed by very capable and competent men. William Middleton, senior, who began the Vulcan foundry in the late 1700s, had gained a Royal Letters Patent to supply steam engines and railway plant to the British Government.



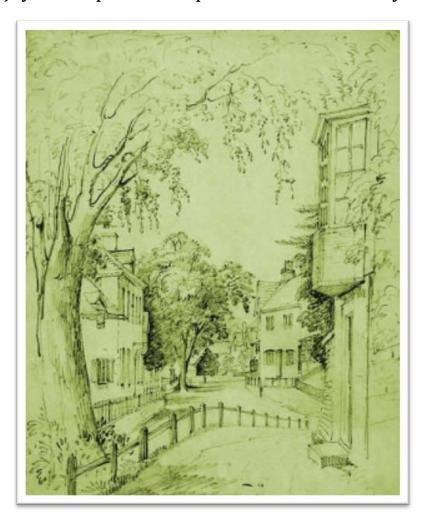
William Middleton (b 1796) married in 1817 and went on to have seven children, six boys and one girl. As can be expected, the boys followed in their father's business beginning apprenticeships at an early age. It appears that their father William was a very demanding and somewhat difficult man to work with. For reasons that are not clear, three of those sons and a cousin left England in 1854 to find a place in the engineering industries linked with the gold rush in Victoria, Australia. They were convinced that they had the knowledge and skills to design machinery and equipment which would aid the extraction of seam gold and no doubt enhance their personal wealth.

Meanwhile, back at the Vulcan Foundry and with three sons on the other side of the world, the Vulcan Foundry enjoyed the boom of the metal industry, in particular railway parts which were exported to many countries of the world. All indications are that father William who headed the Vulcan Foundry had a huge ego and enjoyed his place as a prominent community

citizen in Birmingham society. I do not know how many of the family lived at Elm Tree Villa on a full-time basis but the various Census records show an assortment of family members there over the years.

William Middleton's mother-inlaw had lived there until her death following a fall in 1840. the invalid's Maybe bed referred to in the advertisement was hers maybe it was for the use of William and Jane at the end of their lives.

William's health began to fail in 1865. Both William and Jane had died in 1868, the year before the advertisement appeared in 1869.



In 1856 the family had endured the death of a baby grandson who had died as the result of a fire which appeared to have been deliberately lit by a "house girl". This girl appeared to have been chastised on two occasions because of misconduct by her employer, Mrs. Jane Middleton. Caroline Ballard, the house girl, had wilfully set fire to the house of her mistress, Jane Middleton, causing her a "succession of frights and keeping her running up and down stairs putting out fires". The charwoman, Rose Gordon gave evidence at the court case. The baby's name was James Watt Middleton, named after James Watt the famous engineer and inventor, respected and idolised, and well known to earlier members of the family.

The 1868 death of William and Jane Middleton really was the event that allowed the true state of affairs to be dealt with. The Vulcan foundry had been floundering in difficulties for years as evidenced by the large number of assets being advertised for sale and finally culminating in a state of bankruptcy being declared in 1869 following the death of William Middleton.

The result was a very complex estate to be dealt with by the sons and probate granting "Effects" of 450 Pounds to be disbursed. This was a very different picture to that indicated by the advertisement for the sale of the family home.

The following advertisement was for a final attempt in 1865 to raise 100,000 Pounds by selling a large number of shares. William Middleton (b 1796) was defeated by economic recession conditions and his risk- taking personality. He had enjoyed the "boom" years but at the end of his life he was facing "bust".

# BIRMINGHAM VULCAN FOUNDRY ENGINEERING AND RAILWAY PLANT COMPANY (LIMITED).

LIST in this Company will CLOSE for London Subscribers on SATURDAY NEXT, the 2nd day of September, and for Country Subscribers on Monday, the 4th day of September next.

By order of the Board.

531

(Signed) ARTHUR WADE, Secretary,

**Sue BRECKENRIDGE Member 1561** 

#### TO SEW SUCCESSFULLY—PHYSICALLY

Excerpt from a Singer Sewing Book circa 1900

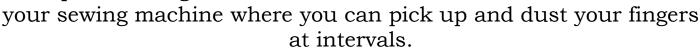
When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible.

Go through a ritual of orderliness, have a clean dress.

Be sure your hands are clean, fingernails smooth—nail file and pumice will help.

Always avoid hang nails.

Keep a little bag full of French chalk near



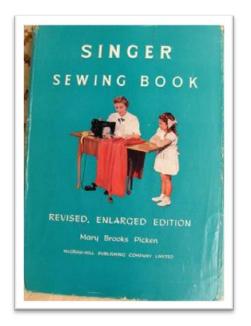
This not only absorbs the moisture on your fingers, but helps keep your work clean.

Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on with care. Looking attractive is a very important part of sewing for if you are making something for yourself, you will try it on at intervals in front of your mirror and you can hope for better results when you look your best.

Again, sewing must be approached with the idea that you are going to enjoy it and if you are consistently fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing as you should.



Therefore, "spruce up" at the beginning so that you are free to enjoy every part of the sewing that you do.



#### **FAMILY HISTORY SECRETS**

#### INSANITY.

Discovering an ancestor suffered an infirmity is concerning. This article looks into how our forebears with mental illness have been treated throughout history.

Evidence of mental illness in your family tree can only be understood in the context of history. Historically the mentally unstable were treated with superstition, condemnation and cruelty. They would often be put through torturous procedures to exorcise evil spirits, such as being dunked repeatedly in a pond of water.

Finding out that a forebear had mental health issues is one of the less thrilling revelations which the archives can throw up. For example the following anecdote about typhoid illustrates why evidence of mental instability e.g. that a relative spent time in an asylum or is marked on the census as "idiot" or "feeble minded"—should not be taken at face value. At a time when medical understanding was still rudimentary, a patient might find him or herself locked up for life for displaying symptoms of diseases such as epilepsy, senile dementia of any number of transitory illnesses or disturbances.

Or perhaps a relative or relatives were keen to get a member of the family out of the way and would fabricate a case to get them certified and locked up in an asylum.

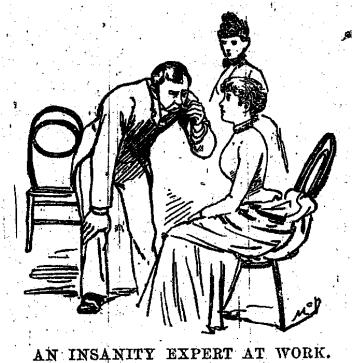
Many family history researchers will discover that an ancestor was marked out as mentally ill when looking through the census. The 1851 Census included an "infirmity" box from 1851. This specifies whether a person is deaf, dumb, blind, "lunatic", "imbecile" or "feeble minded" and the age at which they "became afflicted". "Idiots" are defined as natural fools from birth (severe learning difficulties in modern parlance); "imbeciles" were persons having fallen in later life into a state of chronic dementia, and "lunatics" as sometimes of good and sound memory and understanding and sometimes not. When "feeble minded" was substituted in the 1909 Census the number of persons recorded with mental disability rose markedly, because the former term was considered much less derogatory. However, census information may not be considered as reliable. The records held by the National Archives relate mainly to the administration of the institutions.

Having a lunatic in the family was a scandal to be hushed up if possible. A family would care for the patient in their home or, if they could afford it, in a small private madhouse.

Pauper lunatics without private family support were not provided for and ended up in workhouses, houses of correction or prisons. The State would not be involved unless there was a dispute over the property of a lunatic. Such disputes were heard in the Chancery Court. The County Asylums Act of 1808 encouraged the building of county lunatic asylums, a system which became compulsory in 1845. These early asylums were little more than prisons for the mentally ill—removing them from mainstream society. Conditions were often extremely bad as the focus was on controlling the inmate.

Enlightenment started in 1905 when the discovery of the Syphilis spirochete showed that there could be a physical cause for mental disorders. Sigmund Freud showed that mental illness can be a function of environmental causes.

To find an ancestor has been institutionalised or marked out as an idiot will be a concern. Likewise a suicide will be a worrying find and may well be viewed as a skeleton in the closet.

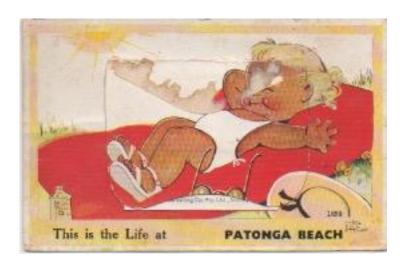


N.B. The editor apologises for the harsh terms used in this article but historically these were the terms used and in the context they were defined as such.

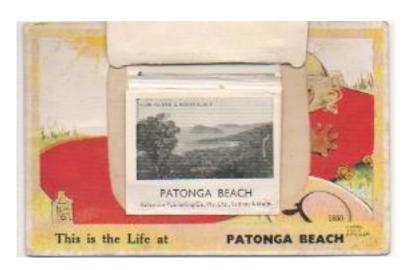
It would be comforting to think that we use far more moderated and less judgemental terms in 2017, a time when there is daily mention of mental illness in the news bulletins.

### THIS IS THE LIFE AT PATONGA BEACH.

Do you remember poster cards like these?



If you look carefully you will see a cut-out line...



Lift the flap and there is a pull-down strip of 11 photos.... Broken Bay, Railway Bridge, Black Wall Mountain (sic), The rip, Memorial Park, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Ocean Beach, Phegan's Bay, Ettalong, Lion Island and Barren Joey (sic)

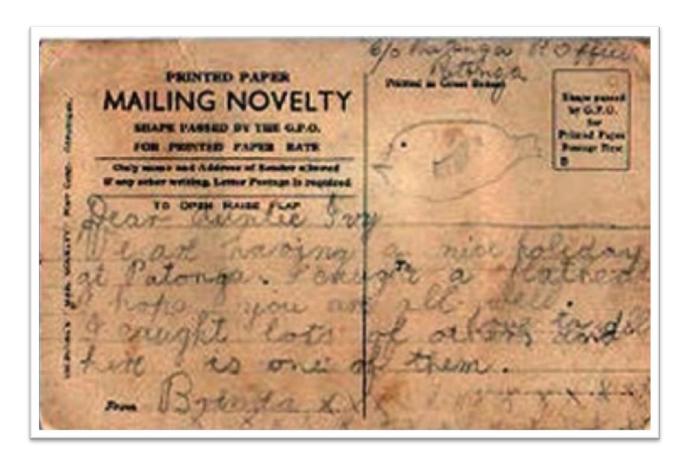
On the reverse of the card was room to write a short message complete with address and stamp.

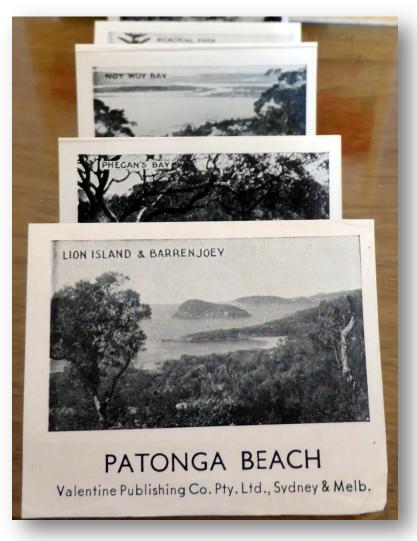
This card was addressed C/O Post Office, Patonga.

Written in pencil was:-

"Dear Aunty Ivy, We are having a nice holiday at Patonga. I caught a flathead and hope you are all well. I caught lots of others and here is one of them (see pencil drawing).

From Brenda xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

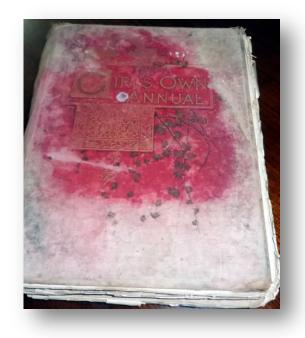




# THE GIRL'S OWN ANNUAL 1893-1894

One of our members, Bennie Campbell, has a copy of The Girl's Own Annual

of 1883-1884. Her copy looks very old and somewhat bedraggled with a faded red cloth board cover embellished with gold embossed lettering "THE GIRL'S OWN ANNUAL". There are 781 pages in varying states of deterioration. The Annual is made up of many editions of the magazine "THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER" each individually dated and Volume indexed. Some of the yellowed pages are stained and many page edges are damaged on the outer edge, corners and on the spine. I like to think all this is wear and tear is due to a much used and well-loved possession widely read by the girls of a bygone era.





Title and illustrated heading of each edition of "The Girl's Own Paper".

The lead article for the December 30, 1893 edition was 'GIRL'S ATTIRE: THE NEWEST AND THE BEST" by "The Lady Dressmaker".

The article begins with "In these days when cycling is so much favoured by women, warm discussions are the order of the day as to the best costume to be worn for the purpose.

So long as the tricycle was the fashion we were not much troubled; but now that women have followed the American example, and adopted the manly bicycle, the subject of dress becomes very predominant, and very difficult it is to deal with."

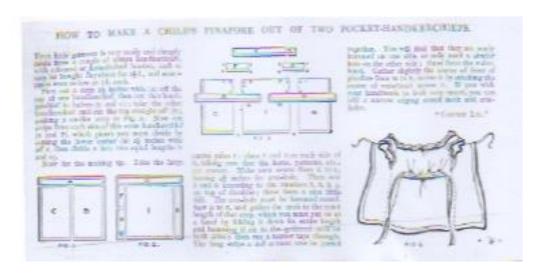
Further articles on the subject of "girl's attire" feature in each edition of the paper. The magazines had many different articles by a variety of authors who covered a vast array of topics. One example was "NOTES BY AN ARTIST NATURALIST" complete with beautiful drawings of cotoneaster, honesty and winter cherry shrubs and trees.

Another article was "THE PATTERN WIFE" which began "in our last monthly part, the qualities in the ideal daughter were discussed, the conduct of such a daughter in relation to her father, mother, and brothers and sisters was described, and the value of interval between school life and marriage was urged".

You now get the tone of the article particularly when you see the author was the Rev. C.H. Grundy, MA. Yet another article was headed "THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN'S WORK".

Young ladies of the time were encouraged to sew and make useful items. Patterns and instructions for these were included. One such item was "HOW TO MAKE A CHILD'S PINAFORE OUR OT TWO POCKET-HANDKERCHIEFS".

The instructions, complete with diagrams gave all the information necessary to complete the garment and was signed by "Cousin Lil".



"If you wish your handiwork to look very smart, you can add a narrow edging round neck and armholes" The article on the next page began "Perhaps it is as well to begin with the materials for winter-use which bear the impress of most novelty. Of course, wool is predominant and is the natural and proper material for wear when the thermometer falls below sixty degrees". The next paragraph begins "Silk appears to be returning to favour again, and we find almost are shot, the colourings being novel and brilliant….."



"Velvet for out-door garments" is the topic for the paragraph which followed the above.

In this manner the article proceeds to offer advice on new colours, plumage, braids, bias bands of satin and velvet, ruches and bands of fur. Ermine was being revived at the time according to the article. Trimming bonnets was also encouraged of the readers.

As you will see on the clipped pages, the print was very small with the articles being presented in 3 columns per page. Beautiful and intricate pen and ink drawings feature widely. Some photographs featured as well as some music.

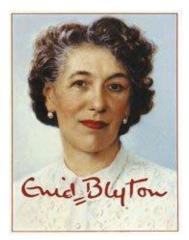


How times have changed. What would the young ladies of the 1890s have said about contemporary magazines for young women of today?



Sue BRECKENRIDGE Member 1561

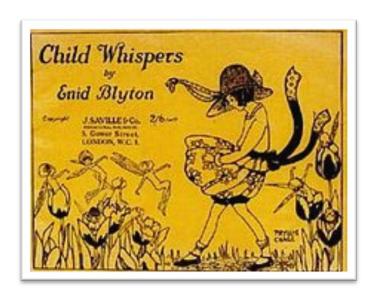
# CASSELL'S CHILDREN'S ANNUAL. A BLOTTING PAD AND HOW TO MAKE IT.



The name Enid Blyton (b 1897-d 1968) will be well known to many of our readers as she was an English writer of children's books. Her books were translated into many languages and were amongst the world's best sellers since the 1930s. Enid Blyton was a trained teacher who wrote on a range of topics and ensured that her readers gained a moral conscience by way of her story telling. 1922 was the year that Enid Blyton published her first book, **Child** 

Whispers, a collection of poems. That was also the year that she began writing in annuals for the publishers, Cassell and George Newnes.





Cassell's Children's Annual, 1923 was written by Enid Blyton but not all the later editions had Enid Blyton contributions in them. An example of an item apart from a story was the following item on how to make a blotting pad.

# A BLOTTING PAD

AND HOW TO MAKE IT

most useful things you can possess, and quite a mice one can be made from materials you will probably be able to find in the house.

piece of cardboard for the bottom of the pad; any size will do, but the larger the better, of course. The edges of this should be bound with wide black tape, stuck on pad the size of the blotting paper, so that with strong glue, such as you can buy in none of the latter is wasted by cutting it small tubes for a penny

Now ask Mother for

an old kid glove, and from it cut four oblong pieces as shown in sketch A. Fold them at the dotted lines so that they look

BLOTTING pad is one of the like sketch B; then glue them to the corners of the cardboard so that the two flaps are underneath, leaving the main piece to come over the top, as in the large sketch.

The pad is then finished, and as soon First of all you require a very thick as the glue is dry you can cut pieces of blotting paper to the correct size and fit them into the leather corners.

It is, of course, a better idea to make the

down to the size of the

When the top piece of blotting paper has been well used, it can be taken out, leaving the piece under it quite clean and ready for use.

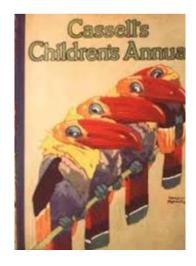
"A blotting pad in one of the most useful things you can possess and quite a nice one can be made from materials you will probably be able to find in the house. First of all you require a very thick piece of cardboard for the bottom of the pad; any size will do, but the larger the better, of course. The edge of this should be bound with wide black tape, stuck on with strong glue, such as you can buy in small tubes for a penny or so".

In typical Enid Blyton manner, the instructions go on "Now ask mother for an old kid glove, and from it cut four oblong pieces as shown in Sketch A. Fold them at the dotted lines so that they look like sketch B; then glue them to the corners of the cardboard so that the two flaps are underneath, leaving the main piece to come over the top, as in the large sketch.

The pad is then finished, and as soon as the glue is dry you can cut pieces of blotting paper to the correct size and fit them into the leather corners.

It is, of course, a better idea to make the pad the size of the blotting paper, so that none of the latter is wasted by cutting it down to the size of the pad. When the top piece of blotting paper has been well used, it can be taken out, leaving the piece under it quite clean and ready for use.

#### **EDITOR**





#### PERSONAL HYGIENE IN EARLY NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the beginning of our colony adequate water was paramount. Water was needed for drinking, livestock, bathing, washing and preparation of food. It was also needed for the disposal of waterborne waste. Polluted water was a well- known issue of sanitation. As a result both sanitation and safe water were vital factors in the development of the urban community. To be safe, water had to be boiled. In the very early years water shortages were frequent and most of the population lived, unwashed with the resultant stench and disease. It has been suggested that "living conditions in Sydney for the first forty years were not very different from those of the fourteenth century London".

Source: Cleanliness is Next to Godliness. Historic Houses Trust NSW

The original water supply from the Tank Stream had become almost an open sewer by the 1820s with the community becoming reliant on water from the Lachlan Swamps, now Centennial Park. In 1826 John Busby recommended that water from Lachlan Swamps could be delivered via a tunnel or bore to a reservoir at the Racecourse which we now know as Centennial Park. Construction of the tunnel by convicts began in 1827 and was completed ten years later in 1837. However, the tunnel was able to begin supplying drinkable water in 1830. That tunnel is known as Busby's Bore and is listed on the New South Wales Heritage Register.

The well-to-do estates with large houses of slate roofs often had a storage tank. This system depended on the large rectangular roof being surrounded with a copper box gutter which allowed rain water to flow to a series of elegant drainpipes.

Louisa Anne Meredith was living on a property in Homebush between 1839 and 1844 and expressed the difficulties as follows:-



"The want of water is a drawback of which no dweller in England can imagine...our whole and sole dependence whilst at Homebush for a supply of water on the estate consisted of two or three holes. They were like old clay pits, which were about half filled during the heavy rain, and as no shade was near them, very rapidly evaporated in warm weather. At these the cattle and horses drank and we had a cart to convey the daily supply to the house, but in the heats (sic) of Summer, these waterholes were completely dry, and then our unfortunate cattle and horses were driven three or four miles to another clay pit where we also sent by cart, with, of constant fear lest with so many claimants on its bounty (for all our neighbours were ill aplight (sic) as ourselves), even that source should fail us too".



the Busby's It was Bore which alleviated the situation. During the 1830s and 1840s substantial more houses were built with sheet iron tiles corrugated iron. Roofs were guttered which enabled the rainwater to be collected in open drains, storage underground tanks or even into barrels.

Personal hygiene and good sanitation were vital to a healthy disease free community. By the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Century, people were developing an ideology of cleanliness that ranked among Christianity and social progress. The cleanliness of the individual became associated with a person's moral and social standing.

The phrase, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" was first recorded in a sermon by John Wesley in 1778. The presentation of cleanliness was a moral duty which leads to the creation of a regular bath time for the family. Cleanliness, like good manners became an indicator of respectability while dirt and squalor were seen as threats to moral as well as physical health (Everleigh, 2002:65)

Within the home, personal bathing and washing could be facilitated by washstands, toilet tables and bath tubs. The process of washing the body could take place in the bedroom, dressing room, living room and bathroom. Private bathrooms were a rarity until the end of the 19<sup>h</sup> Century in Australia while by the 1930s only half of the houses in some suburbs had baths. Bathing was popular in flooded quarry holes, lakes, river and creek systems and swimming clubs.

# TRAVELS IN TASMANIA FOR THE FAMILY HISTORIAN. Connecting to history.

If you are so fortunate as to be visiting Tasmania in the near- future, there are so many things to consider in your planning. For people who love Australian history and family history, Tasmania offers so much. As a holiday destination, Tasmania has it all from the thrill of adventure, picturesque coastlines, beautiful regions, gourmet food and wine together with the resources to walk in the footsteps of family forebears who settled in Tasmania years ago.

Tasmanians have had the foresight to value and preserve their early man-made heritage. The many colonial buildings typify architectural styles of the Regency, Victorian and Edwardian periods. The island is rich in its' cultural heritage and for those who love their history, much is to be discovered. I have been to Tasmania several times and am ashamed to admit that it is only on my last trip that I visited the Female Factory in Hobart. We had a two-day stay in Hobart when I was determined that this time I was getting to the Female Factory and when the appointed Sunday arrived I was "on a mission". We wandered over to the Salamanca market area and had thought about walking to the Female Factory but as time was precious, thought we could maximize our time by catching a taxi. This we did only to find we were in grid-locked traffic and within 10 minutes and a phone call by the driver, it was determined that we were going nowhere. There was a "fun-run" on and the only road out of Hobart to the Female Factory was not going to be opened any time soon. As a consequence, we thought we would try again the next day. Given that the next day was wet, we certainly were not walking, so again hired a taxi.

Arriving at the site of the Female Factory in Degraves Street, we entered the reception area and determined to make the best of our day there. We bought tickets for a guided Heritage Tour (\$15 each) and "Her Story" (\$20) each. Do not stint on buying tickets for each aspect of the visit. We had the tour and then waited for "Her Story". To fill in time, we wandered the outside street and enjoyed the sound of the nearby rivulet which helped put out "headspace" in tune with this location for all those poor convict women and their children so long ago. One cannot help but be "hooked in" to the emotional connection with so many tragic and poignant stories revealed.

"Her Story" is a most professional dramatized tour enacted by a female and a male actor. The woman actor portrays the harsh story a convict woman, resident in the Female Factory. The male actor takes the part of an overseer and a doctor. The story is told in a way that is interactive with the audience. This is a "must do" experience through which you will gain a very clear understanding of the yard areas used, the Matron's quarters and the local environment.

There are appropriate books and souvenirs for sale. I bought the following three books.

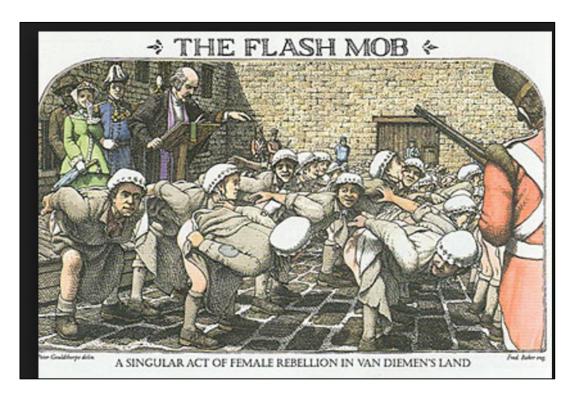
Foot Steps and Voices (1828-1904) is a small book which provides text and pictures as a memento and resource for further research.

**Pack of Thieves. 52 Female Factory Lives** is a small book packed with the life stories of 52 factory lives.

**Repression, Reform & Resilience** is a history of the Cascades Female Factory. This book was produced by the Convict Women's Press Inc. produced by a group of contributors dedicated to the recording of the history of the Cascades Female Factory in Hobart and the stories of the many women sent there.

The Cascades Female Factory Historic Site has been awarded an excellent rating of 5.5 out of 6 stars for this very worthwhile visit. In good weather, the Hobart Rivulet Walk will provide you with an insight into the source of the main water supply to Hobart Town.

If you have some extra time available or need to appease the man in your life, a lovely walk up the street and through to beautiful Cascades Gardens of the Cascades Brewery is another "must do". Again, this venue provides an excellent tour, beer tasting and a very nice café for some tempting refreshments. The Cascades Brewery and the Cascades Female Factory are at the foot of the majestic Mount Wellington. It is not hard to visualise the harshness of this cold, misty mountain amid the sounds of the Rivulet and aromas of the Brewery which began in 1824.



# HETRLOOMS AND KEEPSAKES

# Green jade pendant

My grandmother, Elsie Skiller (nee) Robinson

was given this pendant by my grandfather for her 21st birthday, about 18 months

before they were married in December

1912.

I was never aware she even owned it as she didn't wear it, probably because she always seemed to wear blue.

Then one day, about 40 years ago, when I was visiting her, out of the blue she rummaged in a drawer and said to me, 'You wear a lot of green, Judy. I will give you my green stone pendant'.

I enjoy wearing it and thinking of her and love the old

photo of her wearing it, aged 22.

The photo is actually dated, 12 May 1911. **Judy GIFFORD Member 333** 

# A MUSICAL HEIRLOOM

The object that holds resonance for me and my family history is my Piano Accordion. In fact there were 4 Piano Accordions in my household during my formative years.

The first accordion that began this influence belonged to my Mother's uncle, Jim.

He was a member of a Caledonian band in the 1930s called the "Rhythm Rascals" and he played both drums and accordion. After his death, my mother was left his accordion and decided that my sister and I would learn how to play it. I was 7 and my sister 10 when we commenced lessons.



Photo taken by self-11/8/2016

However his 120 bass instrument was too large for us to manage or carry, let alone stand to play and so began the purchase of the next 3 accordions over the following six or so years. We started by sharing a beautiful grey 36 bass model and then graduated to an 80 bass for me and a 96 bass for her.

These must have been very significant purchases in our household. My sister's was new and ordered from overseas and mine was purchased from another student at our teacher's studio. The current selling price today for the equivalent models is between \$3000- \$7000 new, or \$1000+ second-hand.

My accordion is a Baleani Altimoro, manufactured in Castelfidardo, Italy in the 1950s by the Brandoni family and has a completely different tone to my sisters Hohner which was made in Germany in the 1970s. Perhaps this is also accentuated by the fact that she is left-handed which affects the strength of her movement of the bellows. This directly changes the sound produced.

We initially played together in various Eisteddfods, in the Sydney and Parramatta areas, as a duo but as time went on we also played solo, and were successful on the circuit. One of our shared memories was at the Sydney City Eisteddfod on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1965; we had travelled across on the Manly Ferry, and given an impromptu concert on board before performing at the venue.

On this Saturday the Rugby League Grand finals were held and we both were not impressed that our Father had slipped outside to listen to the score on his pocket transistor radio.

He was so happy that not only did St George beat South Sydney, but his daughters received

Certificates of Merit for their performance.



Sydney Morning Herald c.1965 myself, Closest to camera on Manly Ferry

There are many reasons why I love to play my accordion:-

Firstly, it's different. Although the stereotype accordionist plays only simple folk polkas, in reality I can do a lot more –I can play jazz, modern or classical music. My accordion has a pleasing sound and large dynamic range compared to a piano or woodwind instrument.

I can play without having to be accompanied all the time (something that string and woodwind players cannot do). I can also sing along while playing.

In researching for this article, I have rediscovered various Adjudicators comment sheets and awards from performing at Eisteddfods in my youth. My memories of these performances come to me very strongly the minute that I begin to play a piece of music. The unique melody of the accordion, the movement of the bellows and the timbre of the bass is a very visceral experience that manages to connect these pieces of paper to a moment in my life and a part of my family's history- that

would otherwise remain one dimensional. Another of my earliest memories is the routine of finger exercises in practice every day (I had an hour of practice every afternoon after school- whilst my sister did the morning shift). I wonder how our neighbours enjoyed our serenading them every day.

My sister and I both still treasure our accordions; in fact I played mine as recently as yesterday. Playing the music from my



youth engenders such amazing feelings and the particular sounds produced by this old friend often bring tears or extreme happiness to me. I remember how to enhance and extend the effects of the sound by using staccato notes or legato and emphasising the movement of the bellows to promote happiness, pathos, nostalgia or just sheer joy from this unique instrument.

Seriously, it is an awesome instrument and although I question my mother's choice; perhaps she could have settled for a flute or something lighter.... I LOVE my accordion, its appearance, sound and the special memories I have of its part in my life. The memories of my music teacher and his talent, the songs that I played using it to produce the distinctive sound and the emotion that it still produces in me, especially when I play a tango. **Heather YATES- Member 675** 

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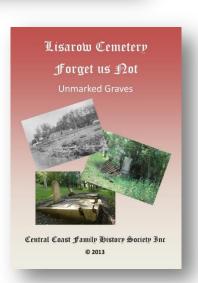
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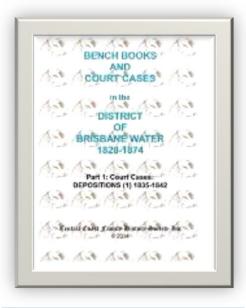


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