

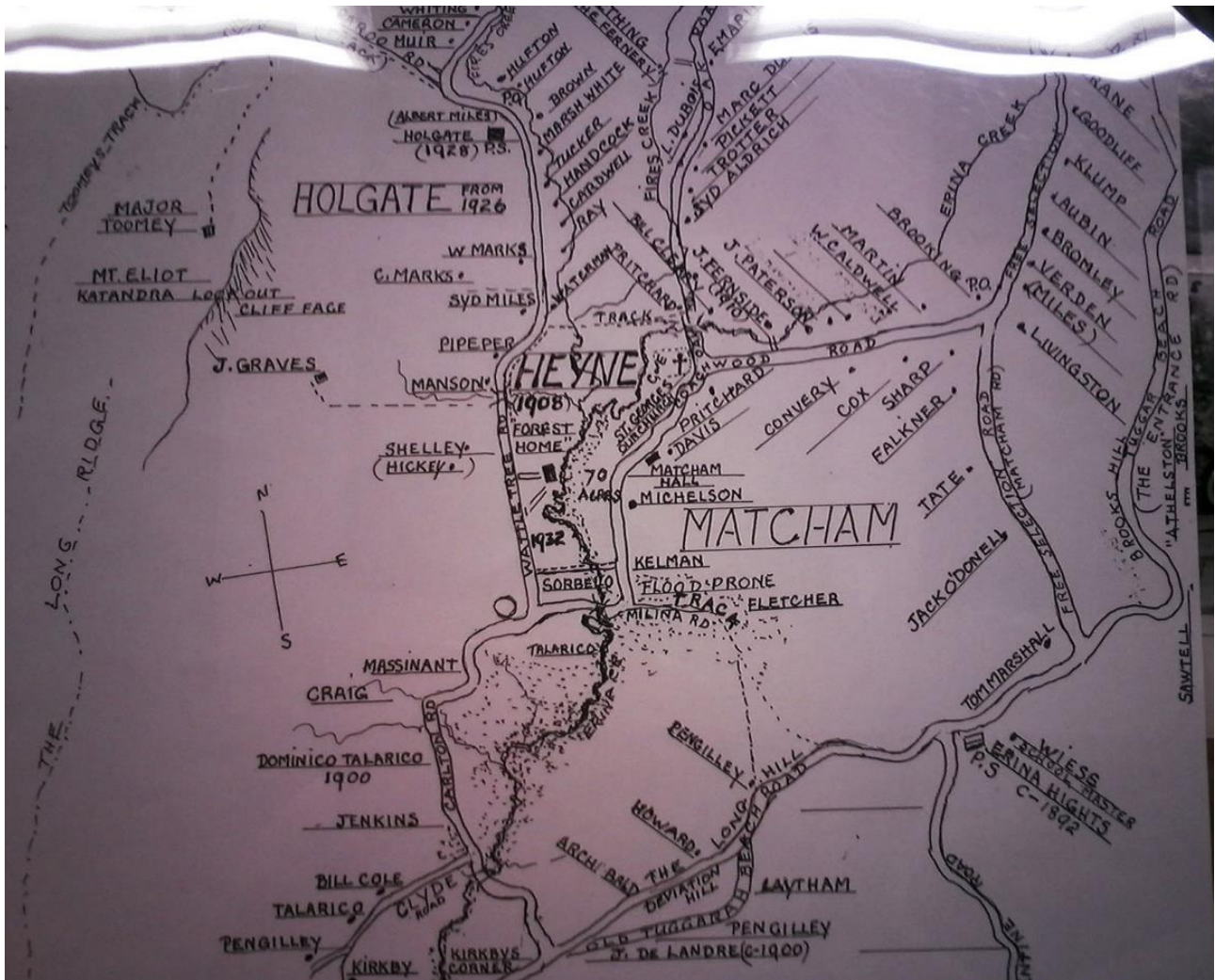
# E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.



August 2019

Issue 24



*Landholders of Holgate- Matcham area of Central Coast early 1900s*

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

# CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Phone: 4324 5164 - Email [admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au)  
Open: Tues to Fri 9.30am-2.00pm;  
Thursday evening 6.00pm-9.30pm  
First and Fourth 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

August 2019 – No: 24

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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## JOURNAL EDITOR Heather YATES

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

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

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## **EDITORIAL**

This issue of the *e-Muster* holds an eclectic mix of articles. Many thanks go to those Members who have donated their items for inclusion. Please consider putting pen to paper or conversely fingers to keyboard and sending in stories from your research or snippets that you would like to share with us.

It has become very clear to me over the past few years how important it is to ensure memories from your family are recorded either on voice recordings or written down- sooner than later. After Guest Speaking at various local groups monthly meetings, I have been privileged to have had many local people share their family reminiscences with me. These memories are very important in each family's story.

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

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT – PAUL SCHIPP**

Welcome avid readers to another edition of e-Muster. With our winter firmly upon us, grab your laptop, iPad or other and snuggle up for a warmth of diverse topics from Little Hartley to Frenchs Forest and many places in between. Can you identify that almost lost photo or why your street has that name, or do you claim a Clan and its enviable Tartan? Read on get inspired by fellow researchers and what they have discovered. Perhaps your story will inspire others, so write, and put fingers to the keyboard and type up ready for the next edition of the Muster.

Happy Reading!

Regards,

Paul Schipp

CCFHS President.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

2096J	Christina & Paul SQUIRES	2101	Deidre BOND
2097	Susan PEARCE	2102	Jennifer SMITH
2098J	Joy & Louis D'ADAM	2103	Feona HENNESS
2099	Sharee HELLYER-SMITH	2104	Margot TAYLOR
2100	Andrew Mc GURK	2105	Pamela GRAY

## SPEAKERS FOR 2019

**September 7<sup>th</sup>. C.C. Council Local History Librarian, Geoff Potter.**

Geoff will be sharing his knowledge of the Milligan Family of Woy Woy.



**October 5<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Appleton**



Author and historian **Barbara Appleton** will present an historical account of Rev. Thomas Sharpe including his time at Wisemans Ferry, and her publication "Tracking Mr Sharpe."

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jeff Madsen.**

Obscure Place Names and Parish Maps.

This session will discuss how to locate that obscure place name that you have been searching for and how to search for and download Parish maps.



# 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. 25**

**December 2019**

**E-MUSTER**

Deadline for articles for the December edition of the Muster  
23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019.

# SEMINAR



Hosted by

**Central Coast Family History Society Inc.**

**WHEN: 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019**

**WHERE: Lions Club Community Hall  
8 Russell Drysdale Street  
East Gosford NSW**

**COST: \$35 includes Tea/Coffee & Lunch**  
**BOOKINGS essential / PAYMENT at time of booking**

Payments may be made at CCFHS Centre: Tues/Fri 9.30-2.00  
4/8 Russell Drysdale Street - East Gosford  
By phone: 4324 5164 Tues/Fri 9.30-2.00

**REGISTRATION: 9.00 a.m.**

**SEMINAR START: 9.30 a.m.**

**WHAT'S NEW and HOW DO WE ACCESS IT ?**

**SPEAKERS:**



**HEATHER GARNSEY - SAG**



**MARTYN KILLION- NSW STATE ARCHIVES**



**JUDITH DUNN- PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY**

## BOOK REVIEW

Kate Grenville's *Lilian's Story* is one of the great Australian novels of the last thirty years. When it was first published in 1985, it was immediately hailed as a masterpiece.

The Australian myth that underlies *Lilian's Story* is the life story of Bea Miles (1902–73), the famous Sydney eccentric and 'madwoman' who was a familiar figure in the city streets, quoting Shakespeare and hopping into other people's taxis. For decades – into the 1960s – she was a legend. She was also 'a character'.

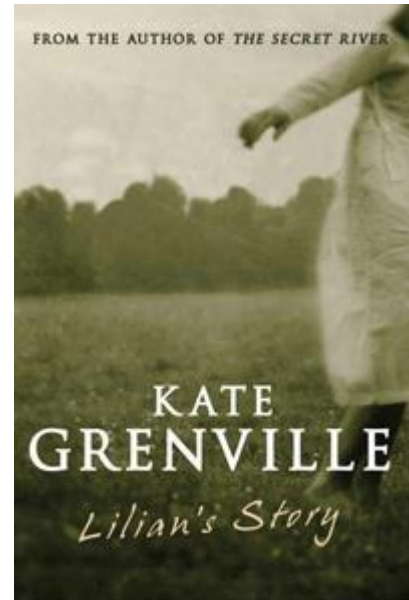
In the book that made her famous (*Lilian's Story*, her first book, had already won the 1984 Vogel Literary Award), Kate Grenville created what is still the greatest character in her fiction by giving dramatic form to this extraordinary woman, Lilian Singer, and she did so in a book that is full of colour and energy and feeling.

The style of the novel and the richness of the first-person narrative that declares itself as Lilian's voice, as this super bright, superior, weird character telling her own story – is rich and poetical.

In the last section of the book, 'A Woman', we see Lilian mad, on the skids, with all the hells and heavens, all the angels and devils, romping through her mind. It is a remarkable vision, sweet with wisdom as well as lunacy and loneliness and dereliction. Lilian wanders as a 'character' with people who might or might not be figures from her former life. Her soul, we feel, we in fact know, is intact through it all. And when her no-good father dies, she cries with great racking sobs from somewhere she perceives as deeper than her heart. Her brother John, who knows things she doesn't know but not what she does, tells her that her father didn't hate her: he just didn't think she mattered.

Another contemporary notion that *Lilian's Story* reflects is one that was fashionable in the 1960s and early 1970s and made famous through the work of anti-psychiatrists like R. D. Laing that madness can be a deeper truth. To face the reality of that and turn it into art as Kate Grenville does in *Lilian's Story* is a triumph.

*Review by Peter Craven for Reading Australia 2015.*





## ARTICLES from our MEMBERS

### Pierce COLLITS and the "COLLITS INN."

This is a surprising part of the story of my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather and his family. Gloria MORLEY.

**Pierce COLLITS was born in 1765 in Thomastown, KILKENNY, IRELAND.**

He was charged with accepting stolen goods in London, found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation to Sydney, Australia. His wife and children came with him as free settlers.

The family prospered after a lot of hard work and Pierce built many Inns, his first Inn was named "The Golden Fleece" better known as COLLITS INN at Hartley Vale.

Through research I discovered this amazing story from another descendant of Pierce as well as a connection to **Baz LUHRMANN**, Director of the "Great Gatsby love story."

Baz's 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather was none other than Pierce COLLITS, who owned a famous Inn in the Vale of Clwydd (near Lithgow) in the early 1800s. Originally a convict, he came to be involved in the community as a Constable, pound-keeper and Inspector of cattle and he eventually built his Inn which for 10 years was the most famous landmark on the arduous trek from Sydney to the expanding town of Bathurst.

In time the main road bypassed the Inn and this caused COLLITS to move his business to Little Hartley where he built the "Golden Fleece" which still stands today!

PIERCE COLLITS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—I was keenly interested in the article by H. J. Rumsey relative to the Lachlan pioneer, Pierce Collitts, and his sons, also the corrections by W. L. Havard. Pioneer Collitts arrived by the *Minorca* on December 14, 1801, accompanied by his wife, Mary, and daughters, one of whom is ancestress of all the Bundaburra Stricklands (Forbes, N.S.W.), and through a later marriage, to Edward Field, is the maternal foundress of that branch of Fields, of Castlereagh. In the "Sydney Gazette" of April, 1824, Pierce Collitts obtained a licence for what had been originally the guard house (under Mount York). It was named the Golden Fleece, but Pierce Collitts changed the name to the King's Garter Inn.

I am, etc.,

Sefton, Aug. 9.      GEORGE REEVE.



There was a Musical performed in the 1930's called "Collits Inn"  
An Account of the Play below:-

*'Described as the "First All-Australian Musical romance", the Play is a combination of comedy, romance and spectacular corroboree dance scenes.*

*As a child, I had always known of this Play, but it wasn't until I started researching the Collits that I actually realised the importance of a play written about my own Ancestors.*

*I started researching my family in 1980, and have devoted many hours to researching the Play also. I found the Theatrical Industry most helpful and I would like to thank the living descendants of Varney Monk and T.S. Gurr, who have helped me discover the history and background of the Play. Without these two people, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Thompson, I would have very little firsthand knowledge.*

*Varney Monk became interested in the story of Pierce and his daughter before the First World War, which was intensified by a visit to the Inn in 1917. She was to spend many holidays at the Inn, which I understand she enjoyed immensely.*

*Some 13 years later an announcement was made of a competition to find a new Operetta. Varney Monk approached her friend T.S. Gurr and told him the tale of Collits Inn. Gurr constructed a book on this idea and Varney added the words and music.*

*The Operetta however, was only given 2nd place. Despite this fact the Operetta was*



*performed at the Savoy Theatre on December 5th, 1932 for one week, with Rene Maxwell and Ambrose Bourke playing the leading roles of Mary and Ensign Lake. Howard Carr edited and orchestrated the music and conducted the performances.*

*Due to the success of the play, Mr. Frank Thring Snr, Entrepreneur, was contacted, hoping to interest Mr. Thring in their show.*

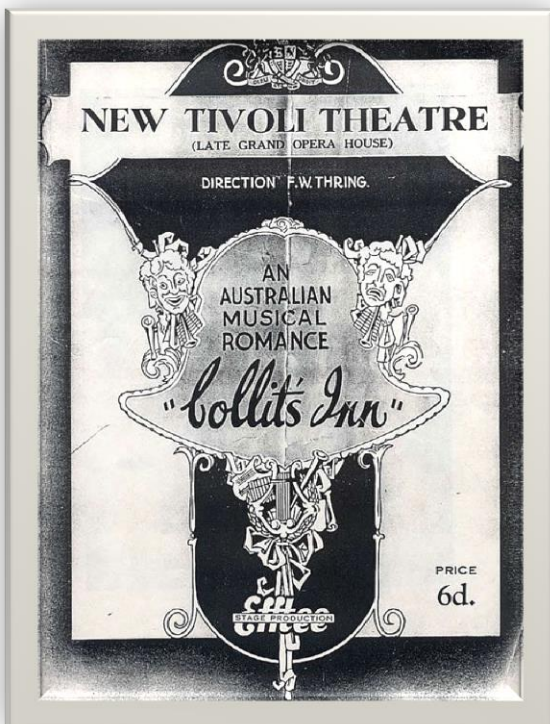
*Mr. Thring was indeed interested and called for auditions. Varney Monk travelled to Melbourne for these auditions and the choosing of the Cast. It was in this production by Mr. Thring that a revolving stage was used, the first time ever in Australia.*

*One of the more spectacular scenes appearing in Collits Inn was the Corroboree. Whilst Varney was holidaying in Kiama in 1925, she first met Queen Rosie, the last full blooded Aboriginal of the Illawarra Tribe. It was Queen Rosie's chant, a chant "in praise of the moon and stars", that inspired the corroboree appearing in the play.*



*Queen Rosie passed away in 1934 said to be 100 years of age. She was well loved in her district, and was the medical adviser and maternity nurse for the scattered members of her tribe, from Wollongong to Ulladulla.*

*Her husband was King Micky, and on State occasions wore a brass crescent on his chest proclaiming his title.*



*With the chant and corroboree written into the play and other adjustments made to suit certain characters, Thring engaged Gladys Moncrieff on a year's contract to play the lead role of Mary Collits.*

*It is here that I would like to point out that the play was actually based on Amelia's life story, but Varney adopted the name "Mary" as it was a more "romantic name".*

*It is said that Pierce's daughter, Amelia, fell in love with a redcoat, and her father, enraged at the thought of her marrying one of the much hated soldiers, forbade her from ever seeing him again. Amelia, upset at this, is said to have stated that she would marry the first man who walked through the door.*



*In real life Amelia married Robert Skeen and even though reports have stated that she died of a broken heart, she lived until the age of 84, having born many children to Skeen. Apparently Amelia's "redcoat" is said to have returned to Australia when she was quite old, asked for her hand in marriage, but she declined.*

*Robert Chisholm was to play the lead role of Ensign Lake, George Wallace to play the comic Dandy Dick and Claude Flemming to play the role of Robert Keane, the Outlaw.*

*The Opening Night for Collits Inn at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne, was December 23rd, 1933.*

*The reviews were very encouraging and overall Collits Inn was a great success.*

*After 4 months in Melbourne Collits Inn had a Gala Opening at the Tivoli Theatre in Sydney on June 22nd, 1934.*

*On Tuesday 10th July 1934 at David Jones, a "Collits Inn Ball" was given in aid of the Women's Hospital, Crown Street, Sydney.*

*Mr. Frank Thring had ideas of filming Collits Inn; however, this was not to be, as he sadly passed away and with him went the last chance to see Collits Inn on film.*

*However, the Play was not forgotten entirely, as many amateur Theatrical Societies have produced the Play since the days of Frank Thring and Gladys Moncrieff.*

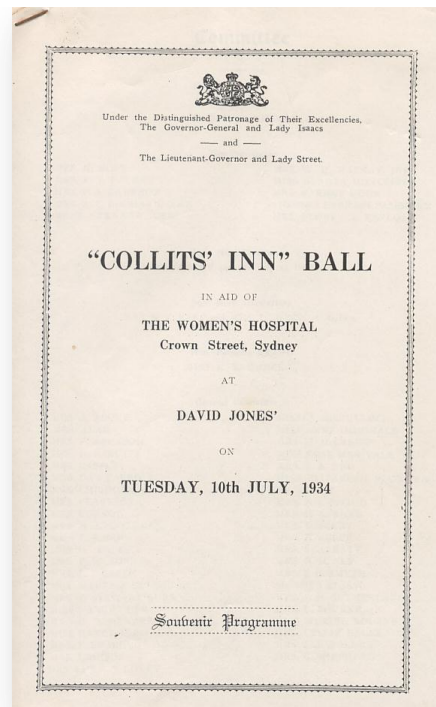
*The Nepean Musical Society re-enacted the Play in 1963, Canowindra and District Historical Society in 1970, Campbelltown Theatre Group also in 1970, Sydney Boys High School in 1951, Mosman Musical Society in 1951.*

*The Play has also been broadcast on Radio by the A.B.C. in 1933, 1943 and 1951 with great success.*

*Perhaps one day our current and hopefully future generations will be given a chance to see the Play performed, a Play about "our" ancestors.*

**Gloria MORLEY Member 2037**

Editor's Note: The information about "The Play" was compiled by Gai Muchamore. If you are interested in the COLLITS family you will find a wealth of information at <http://www.muchamore.id.au/collits.html>



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



### **HORDERN Street Newtown**

Named after John and Henry Hordern of Hordern Brothers. The Horderns (members of the Anthony Hordern family) started their drapery business in Newtown and owned considerable property in the district. The street is on the Camperdown Estate Subdivision of 1844.

### **JAMISON Street Sydney**

Sir John Jamison (1776-1844) banker, landholder, subdivided land here in 1831, with Jamison Street being named in 1841.

His father, Thomas Jamison, was surgeon on the 'Sirius' of the First Fleet. Spelt 'Jamieson' for some years, probably through confusion with Ellen Jamieson, a shopkeeper in adjoining Margaret St, who achieved notoriety when she was murdered by John Knatchbull in 1844.

### **LACROZIA Lane Darlinghurst**

Barcom Lane until 1905. The Valley of La Crozia and La Crozia Creek ran down to Rushcutters Bay.

Thomas West built a flour mill on the creek and a house called Barcom Glen.

### **LYNDHURST Street Glebe**

Named after 'Lyndhurst', built by John Verge for Dr. James Bowman whose wife Mary was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Macarthur. Later became 'Lyndhurst College' among many other incarnations, including that of a soap factory.

Earlier extended from (Wentworth) Park Rd to Glebe Point Rd.

Later the section from Brougham St to Glebe Point Rd was renamed and became part of Pyrmont Bridge Rd.

### **LOUISE LOVELY Lane Moore Park**

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

Fox Studios Australia opened on the site in 1999.

*Nellie Louise Carbasse*

*28 February 1895*

*Paddington, New South Wales, Australia*





## MORE STREET NAMES FROM OUR MEMBERS' FAMILIES

The Main Street of Capetown, South Africa bears the Adderley name and there still exists a statue of Charles Adderley.



Exactly 100 years before my father, Ernest Edward (1914 - 1992) there was a Charles Bowyer Adderley (1814 - 1905) (1st Baron Norton) who was a British Conservative politician.

Charles gained notoriety in 1850 when he heard that South Africa was to become a penal colony.

As soon as the convict ship, The Neptune, arrived in the Port of Capetown the residents, both British and Dutch, were infuriated and boycotted any shops or businesses who would have anything to do with the new arrivals.

The technique worked and the Neptune weighed anchor and set sail for Perth, Australia.

**Adderley Street** is a famous street in Cape Town, South Africa, considered the main street of the central business district. In 1850, the Mayor of Cape Town, Hercules Jarvis, named it to honour Adderley who had fought successfully against a proposal to make Cape Town into a penal colony.

As a gesture of thanks, the Lord Mayor renamed the main street of Capetown, Adderley Street, and erected a statue of Charles Adderley, where it still remains today.

Adderley must be one of the few people to have two streets named after him in a single town: Adderley Street and Norton Street, both in Uppingham, Rutland where he owned property.

In Birmingham, Adderley donated 8 acres of land to create Adderley Park, which he managed privately from 1855 to 1864.

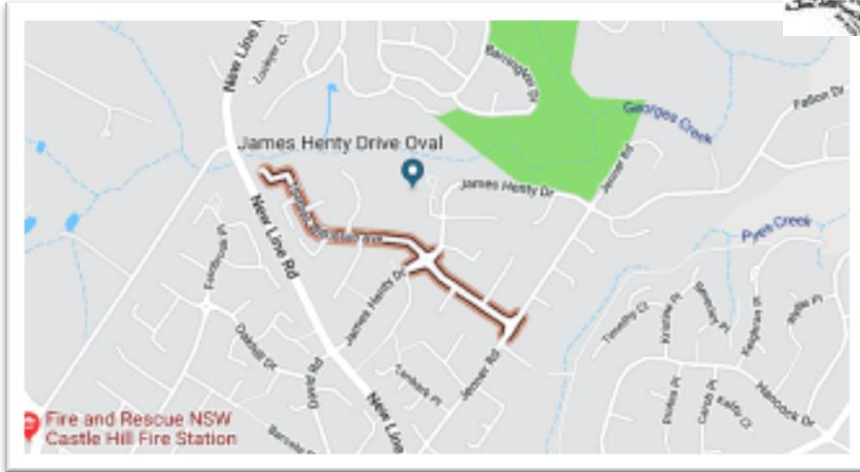


*Adderley Street, Capetown, South Africa today.*

**Peter ADDERLEY Member 2023**

## THOMAS WILKINSON AVENUE, DURAL. NSW

In the 1830's Thomas WILKINSON received a land grant of 40 acres in the parish of South Colah, in the district of Castle Hill known as "Sawyers Grove."  
He cleared the land for an orchard and was a member of the Fruit growers of



Parramatta.

**Thomas WILKINSON is the 2<sup>nd</sup> great Grandfather of Sue HORTON Member 1280**

## UNKNOWN WORLD WAR ONE PORTRAIT



This photograph was forwarded to CCFHS by Central Coast Local History Studies Librarian Geoff Potter, in the hope that someone may recognise the couple portrayed. Their surname starts with P – this photo is held in the Central Coast Library Collection. Can anyone help? Please contact us if you know this couple.

## The History and Progress of Frenchs Forest

I spent my childhood and young adult life in the suburb of Frenchs Forest, NSW. My Father still lives there today; in the home he built in 1950 with the help of his family, for his intended wife and himself. Both he and I find the immense changes that have occurred there a constant source of interest.

Prior to the arrival of the First Fleet in Port Jackson in 1788, the area of land we now know as Frenchs Forest, and surrounding Warringah areas, was the home of the Garigal Aboriginal clan.



Evidence of their habitation remains today in the form of rock engravings, rock art, open campsites, rock shelters, scarred trees and middens. The word *Warringah* has many interpretations including "sign of rain", "across the waves" and "sea".

Historical records tell how Governor Phillip and his staff explored this region and were favourably impressed by it. The first white man to think of settling here was Mr. Simeon H. Pearce, who in the early fifties was appointed Commissioner for Crown Lands for the District of Sydney. In 1853 Simeon Henry Pearce and his brother James acquired 200 acres in this area, but his wife would not entertain the idea of living in so wild a place.

The property was later known as Rodborough when it was acquired by James French, a police constable, who also developed the land that became neighbouring Forestville. After purchasing the Pearce's' land, French set about developing a timber industry and felled the tall trees for which the area was noted.

There he had the command of thousands of pounds' worth of timber, stringybark and red gum mostly. The trees were about one hundred feet high and two feet thick, and were needed to supply the settlers on the harbour front with posts and rails for fencing.

He established two sawmills, and when split the timber was carted on an old stone track by bullocks to a wharf at Bantry Bay then shipped by cutters to other parts of the harbour. Parts of the track can still be seen leading down to Bantry Bay.

James French built a house on stone foundations near the corner of Hilmer St and Primrose Ave, which was later destroyed by fire.

The first permanent residents of Frenchs Forest were William and Hannah Hews and their three children. He was born in England in 1844 and arrived in Sydney with his parents in 1852.

Hews and his family arrived at Frenchs Forest in 1885, the proud owners of 4ha bought from James French for £200. Hews later bought another 8ha from French. Their first home was a timber dwelling at the corner of present-day Bantry Bay Rd and Warringah Rd.

Hews established a brickworks at Frenchs Forest, from where the bricks were carted to Manly, Narrabeen or to a punt at The Spit.



*William Hews*

*Brickworks -French's Forest in early 1900's*



It is thought that many of the brick houses in Manly from this time on were built using Hews' bricks.

Naturally the firing of kilns required large quantities of timber from the bush nearby, further reducing a resource already depleted by French's sawmilling operations.

The brickworks employed upward of 40 people, who were housed in small cottages for the married men and a dormitory for the single men. My Father's Uncle Ernest worked at the brickworks just before WW1.

The Forest was now a community of at least 50 people and several houses and cottages, centred around Hews and his brickworks.





About 1900, Hews built himself a new house near the corner of Hilmer St and Primrose Ave, building directly on the stone foundations of the gutted house that French had built using his own bricks. William Hews died in 1917 and Hannah Hews died in 1928. Both are buried in Manly Cemetery. The brickworks ceased operating during World War I when the clay for the bricks ran out and, although the land remained in private hands for many years, it is now a public reserve.

It wasn't until the area was selected as part of the Soldiers Settlement Scheme that suburbanisation began. This scheme was a combined state and federal government effort after realising the importance of providing a source of income for returning soldiers' sacrifices.

As soldiers' returned from war in 1916, they were given access to land on affordable terms in combination with advances of money to purchase equipment, plants, stock and seeds to make improvements to the land. This scheme was intended to populate the inland of Australia, and saw a number of new settlements pop up – but it was not easy for the soldiers.

As the Roseville Bridge was not opened until 1924, the area was largely isolated from the rest of Sydney – except for Charlie and Joe Smith's four-people boat service across Middle Harbour. Despite the difficulties in getting there, the wider Sydney community rallied around these returning heroes, with a group of 300 volunteers from all walks of life donating their New Year's holiday period in 1916 to clearing land. The Frenchs Forest



One of the lorries that provided land transport to French's Forest. The Governor of New South Wales, Sir Gerald Strickland, is standing on the right.

*Taken from S & G Champion's book, French's Forest Settlement: Success or Failure?*

Settlement was comprised of 38 farms for wounded and disabled returning soldiers, with the first cottage not completed until April 1916. Although the scheme was full of good intentions, the soldiers that settled in Frenchs Forest were greatly frustrated at the infertile land they had been given to farm. This frustration culminated in a public enquiry into the scheme.



In 1924 the Minister for Lands, Mr Wearne, visited the settlement to hear the many stories of failure. Many soldiers were unable to grow anything on their lots, asking for government relief. The Minister authorised special reports for each block of land, despite the soldiers' stressing that the land was only suitable as a residential area.

Most original settlers left their land, with only 8 settlers and a few farms surviving until after WWII. It was at this time that population pressures in central Sydney were forcing suburbs to spread outwards. The old Soldier's Settlement ultimately became subdivisions for residential homes in the 1950s, with the remaining settlers making sizeable profits.

I can vividly remember the intersection of Warringah Road and Wakehurst Parkway with the "Blinking Light" suspended above the roadway to warn motorists of the dangerous intersection.

*1950's Wakehurst Parkway Intersection with Blinking light above the centre of the road.*



There is now a huge intersection with many lanes and traffic lights and immense construction with overhead footbridges and underground tunnels under construction due to the hugely increased population and new Northern Beaches Hospital.

In recent years the Frenchs Forest Lions Club rejuvenated the reserve in conjunction with Warringah Council and a plaque honouring the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area and bearing the names of the pioneers at Frenchs Forest was unveiled at Brick Pit Reserve.

I wonder what Governor Phillip would think now- if he could see how the area has changed due to the forest being felled for the sawmills and to feed the brick kilns as well as the growth and suburbanisation of the area? Not to mention the traffic, roadworks and new multi-storey Hospital.

**Heather YATES Member 675**

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

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

#### **What is a Tartan?**

Tartan is a woven material, generally of wool, having stripes of different colours and varying in breadth. The arrangement of colours is alike in warp and weft - that is, in length and width - and when woven, has the appearance of being a number of squares intersected by stripes which cross each other; this is called a 'sett'.

By changing the colours; varying the width; depth; number of stripes, differencing is evolved. Tartan patterns are called "setts"; the sett being the complete pattern and a length of tartan is made by repeating the pattern or sett over and over again.

#### **Origins of the Tartan**

The Celts for many thousands of years are known to have woven chequered or striped cloth and a few of these ancient samples have been found across Europe and Scandinavia. It is believed that the introduction of this form of weaving came to the West of Northern Britain with the Iron age Celtic *Scoti* (Scots) from Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC.

Early Romans talked of the Celtic tribes wearing bright striped clothing - there was no word at that time for chequered. Colours were determined by local plants that could be used for dyes.

The word Tartan we use today has also caused speculation and confusion as one camp says it comes from the Irish word - *tarsna* - crosswise and/or the Scottish Gaelic *tarsuinn* - across. The Gaelic word for Tartan has always been - *breachdan* - the most accepted probability for the name comes from the French *tiretaine* which was a wool/linen mixture. In the 1600s it referred to a kind of cloth rather than the pattern in which the cloth was woven.

#### **History**

One of the first recorded mentions of Tartan was in 1538 when King James V purchased "three ells of Heland Tartans" for his wife to wear. And in 1587, Hector Maclean (heir of Duart) paid feu duty with sixty ells of cloth "white, black and green"- the tradition colours of the Maclean hunting tartan. An eyewitness account of the Battle of Killecrankie in 1689 describes "McDonells



men in their triple stripe" but the first positive proof of the existence of what we now call 'Tartan', was in a German woodcut of about 1631 which is thought to show Highland soldiers - no doubt mercenaries - in the army of *Gustavus Adolphus* and wearing a clearly identified tartan *philamhor* - the great kilt.

## This issue we will present Clan Davidson & MacPherson

The Davidson clan were affiliated with Clan Chattan a Highland Scottish clan.

**Crest:** A stag's head erased, proper - a stag on a silver field, one foot lifted, with an argent, silver arrow through the neck. The stag usually is natural coloured with gold horns.

**Motto:** Sapienter si sincere", translated as "Wisely if sincerely"



The clan is unique in highland clan history in that it was acknowledged to be a community or confederation, of twelve separate Scottish clans, who each had their own clan chief recognized under Scottish law, but who were united and bound to a superior chief for mutual solidarity, sustenance and protection in the Middle Ages and early modern period in the Scottish Highlands.

The Davidsons are said to be descended from one of the sons of Gilliecatan Mhor, chief of Clan Chattan in the 11th to 12th century.

According to Sir Aeneas Macpherson, John Burk, and William Anderson, the Davidsons are descended from the younger son of Muriach (or Murdoch) who was parson of Kingussie and became Captain of Clan Chattan on his brother's death.

He obtained a dispensation from the Pope in 1173 and married a daughter of the Thane of Cawdor. From this union five sons were born one of the youngest being David Dow (the black) From here the Davidsons of Invernahavon are said to be descended.

Tulloch Castle became the seat of the chiefs of Clan Davidson in the 18th century and it was extensively restored by Robert Lorimer in 1922. The castle was later sold by the Davidsons but remains a focal point for Davidson traditions.



**Clan Macpherson** is a Highland Scottish clan and also a member of the Chattan Confederation.

Of ecclesiastic origin, this is a name derived from the Gaelic Macaphersein, meaning "Son of the Parson".

**Crest:** A sitting wildcat.

**Motto:** "**Touch not the cat bot a glove.** 'Bot' means **without**. The '**glove**' of a wildcat is the pad. If the **cat** is 'ungloved', its claws are unsheathed. The motto serves as a warning that one should beware when the wildcat's claws are '**without a glove**'.



This motto is a reference to the historically violent nature of the clan and serves as a metaphorical warning to other clans that they should think twice before interfering with Macpherson business.

Macpherson clan tradition is that in 1309 Robert the Bruce offered the lands of Badenoch to the chief of Clan Macpherson if they destroyed the Bruce's enemies, the Clan Comyn, and the Macphersons carried out the king's wishes. The Clan Macpherson is sometimes known as the *Clan of the Three Brothers* owing to the fact that chief Ewan Ban Macpherson had three sons: Kenneth Macpherson of Clunie, Iain Macpherson of Pitman and Gillies Macpherson of Invereshie.

Cluny Castle, in Strathspey was a stronghold of the clan. The original castle dated from the fourteenth century but was razed by the Duke of Cumberland after the Jacobite rising of 1745 which the Macphersons had supported. The present Cluny Castle is in fact a nineteenth century mansion that was built on the site of the original stronghold.



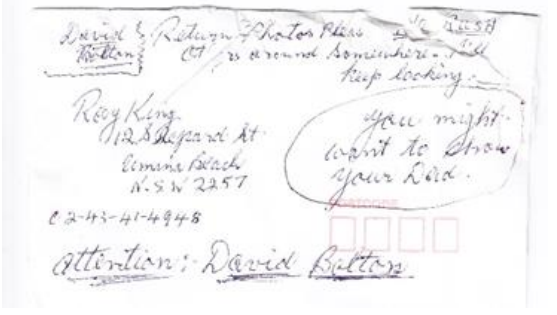

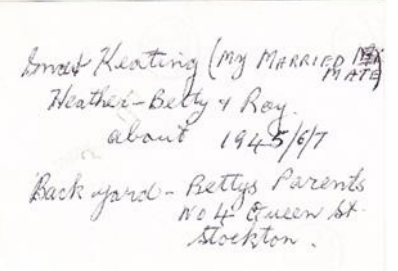

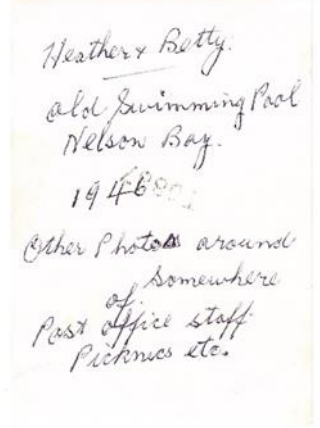
*Cluny Castle was the seat of the Chief of Clan Macpherson until the 1930s.*

**Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L**


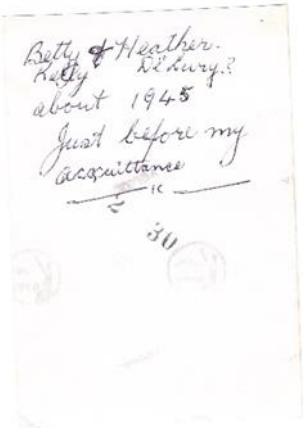

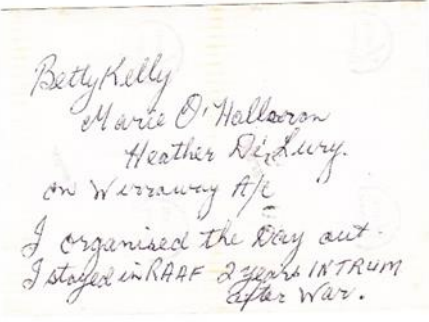



## CAN YOU HELP US FIND WHERE THESE BELONG?

One of Central Coast FHS Members has sent this information in to us:-  
 Her partner volunteers at a charity shop and while checking a lounge that had been donated, some old photos in an envelope were found.  
 The details on the envelope and on the backs of the photos seemed to indicate they could belong to a family on the Central Coast and/or Hunter/Lake Macquarie regions.

Front	Reverse	Transcript
	<p><b>BLANK</b></p>	<p>David Bolton.                  Return photos please. No rush.                  Others around somewhere. Will keep looking. You might want to show your dad.                  Roy King                  128 Shepard St                  Umina Beach                  2257                  02-43-41-4948</p>
		<p>Bart Keating (my married mate)                  Heather-Betty &amp; Roy                  About 1945/6/7                  Back yard –                  Betty’s parents                  No 4 Queen S                  Stockton</p>
		<p>Heather &amp; Betty                  Old swimming pool                  Nelson Bay                  1946                  Other photos around somewhere of Post Office staff Picknics etc</p>



Front	Reverse	Transcript
		<p>Betty Kelly &amp; Heather De Livery? About 1945 Just before my acquittance</p>
		<p>Betty Kelly Marie O'Halloran Heather Di Livery On Werraway A/C I organised the day out I stayed in RAAF 2 years INTRUM after War</p>
		<p>Stockton P.O. Staff Heather extreme Right Right front row Betty next to Heather About 1946/7</p>

Please contact us at the Research Centre on (02) 43245164 or by email at [admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au](mailto:admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au) if you can identify any of those in these photographs.

## MORLEY FAMILY- Nicolas RIDLEY

Something I didn't expect to find when researching Family History!!

I have been researching my MORLEY family who arrived in Australia in 1911 from England. After tracing back through all the "John MORLEYS" I came to a point where I couldn't proceed any further so I decided to trace the wife of the last John MORLEY.

Her maiden name was RIDLEY. I travelled along her line until I came across a few SIR's and LADY's and then to an ancestor named Nicolas RIDLEY- b.1500-d.1555 "Bishop of London" the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Christopher RIDLEY of "UTHANK HALL" the family home near Willimoteswick, a descendant of an ancient border family.

Nicholas graduated from Cambridge in 1521. His abilities were recognised by Henry VIII and he became one of the Kings Chaplains then Canon of Westminster in 1543, but he was having differences of opinion with the church. In 1547 Ridley was presented by his college to the Cambridgeshire living of Soham, and in September of the same year he was nominated Bishop of Rochester.



In 1548 he helped to compile the English prayer book. Many at court tried to persuade him to sign allegiance to Lady Jane GREY to enable her to wear the crown and then having signed the letters settling the English crown on Lady Jane GREY, in a sermon preached at St. Paul's cross on the 9th of July 1553, RIDLEY, affirmed that the princesses Mary and Elizabeth were illegitimate and that the succession of Mary would be disastrous to the religious interests of England.

When he realised this cause was lost, he went to the Catholic Queen Mary TUDOR who had succeeded to the throne and threw himself upon her mercy.

She ordered him to be taken to the Tower of London for heresy and to be burned at the stake along with Hugh LATIMER and Thomas CRANMER. The sentence was carried out on 16 October 1555 in Oxford. CRANMER was taken to a tower to watch the proceedings.

RIDLEY burned extremely slowly and suffered a great deal: his brother-in-law had put more tinder on the pyre, tied a bag of gun powder around his neck to hasten his death, but to no avail, it just made it worse, and only caused his lower parts to burn.

LATIMER is supposed to have said to RIDLEY, "Be of good comfort, and play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

*Ridley being burned at the stake, together with Hugh Latimer.  
From John Foxe's Book of Martyrs.*



He is buried in Westminster Cathedral and remembered in stained glass windows at Trinity College, Cambridge. When Queen Elisabeth TUDOR became the Regent she reinstated Nicholas RIDLEY as a Martyr.

Legislation was passed in Elizabethan Parliament in 1559 reinstating RIDLEY as "that famous and notable member of the Church of God"



*Key figures in the story of the Anglican Reformation depicted in a window in Trinity College, Cambridge, from left (top row): Hugh Latimer, Edward VI, Nicholas Ridley, Elizabeth I; (second row): John Wycliffe, Erasmus, William Tyndale and Thomas Cranmer (Photograph: Patrick Comerford)*

**Gloria MORLEY. Member 2037**



## An interesting article in THE SENIOR newspaper.....

16 THE SENIOR Monday June 24, 2013 [www.thesenior.com.au](http://www.thesenior.com.au)

# NEWS

# Family trees bloomed here

ARE you a Catt, Wooster, Sonter, Rhodes or Pratley? Do your forebears hail from Epping and Carlingford in north-west Sydney?

If so, Chris Staples would love a chat with you.

The retiree Ray Park Heritage Group member is researching a book tracing the early land grants and the pioneer orchardists who came to the district, once considered the fruit bowl of Sydney.

The work is a prequel to a two-volume earlier book by group members titled *From Fruit Bowl Farms to Housing Boom*.

Unfortunately for Chris, some of these pioneer families are proving difficult to trace, so he is looking for people with memories of the district in days gone by.

While it's hard to imagine today, with housing having largely taken over, Epping/Carlingford was once one of the most productive food-producing areas in the country.

With fresh air and open space, the area proved a magnet for agriculturalists, initially timber-getters, followed by graziers, orchardists, poultry farmers and nurserymen.

The names of the pioneers live on in the name of streets and parks: people like Midson, Mobbs and Devlin.

But the same qualities that drew them later brought increasing numbers of harried city dwellers looking for fresh air and open spaces.

As the earlier book notes, the coming of the railway in 1886 changed everything.

By the early part of the 20th century the housing boom had started.

At first it was a boon for the farmers to have the railway to transport their goods, but by the 1960s the last of the farms had given way to houses.

■ If you can help, call Chris on 9873-1726 or email [rpheritage@netspace.net.au](mailto:rpheritage@netspace.net.au) or look for Ray Park Heritage group on Facebook.



CHRIS STAPLES

Thanks **David MACDONALD Member 1145** for bringing this to our attention.



"AFTER HE LEFT, I LOOKED UP HIS FAMILY TREE. IT WAS FULL OF NUTS."

## AUSTRALIAN STANDING STONES - a Tourist Attraction in Glen Innes, NSW.



This monument commemorates all Celtic people who helped to pioneer Australia. The memorial of 24 stones, 3 meters high, is arranged as a calendar and is based on Ring Brodgar in the Orkney Islands, Scotland.

It was in Australia's 1988 Bicentenary Year that the Celtic Council of Australia developed the idea of erecting a national monument to honour all Celtic peoples who helped pioneer Australia. Glen Innes responded with a 46-page submission for Australian Standing Stones, inspired by the Ring of Brodgar in Scotland's Orkneys.

When viewed from above the arrangement of the Australian Standing Stones also incorporates a Celtic Cross and the Southern Cross. The former indicates that the monument was erected in Christian times, the latter symbolises the heritage link between the old Celtic civilisation and the new.

The first Stone was raised on September 7, 1991 by the local Tug o' War team. At the ceremony, emblems from the Celtic nations were placed into the excavation – thistle (Scotland), shamrock (Ireland), leek and daffodil (Wales), primrose (Cornwall), a piece of broom (Brittany), ragwort (Isle of Man), wattle (Australia) and a sprig of rowan – an ancient Celtic symbol. A bottle of whisky was also poured in to the excavation by the local Catholic priest, who remarked "For shame, for shame to be so wasteful. It should have been filtered through the kidneys first!" **Marlene DAVIDSON Member 327L**



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Hundreds of free podcasts on Irish History from the story of the Norman Invasion to the Great Famine. Download / listen online, or on iTunes or Spotify or become a patron to unlock free content.

<https://irishhistorypodcast.ie>

Thanks to Robyn GREGG Member 2077, for sharing this fabulous site.



## SOCIETIES MAILING LIST

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

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## ASSIGNED DUTIES

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

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Bookstall meeting helper	Lynna Clark
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Event Coordinator	Committee
Facebook Administrator	Belinda Mabbott
Grant Applications	Marlene Davidson
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Research Officers	Margaret Morters
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	Bennie Campbell
	Trish Michael
Workshops	

## 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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