

E-MUSTER

Central Coast Family History Society Inc.

August 2025 Issue 42



Looking towards Wamberal from Terrigal c.1920's

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

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.



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, Royal Australian Historical Society of NSW.

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Jacqueline Smith, Heather Yates.

RESEARCH CENTRE

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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 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 2025 – No: 42

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All articles to:
admin@centralcoastfhs.org.au

E- MUSTER deadlines are
March 25th
July 25th
November 25th

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EDITORIAL

I hope you will enjoy reading the stories in this edition of the Central Coast Family History Society's **e-Muster**. August 2025; I thank the contributors who have provided articles for our enjoyment. It is through this Journal that I hope we can inspire others to share their discoveries and stories.

The e-Muster is published three times per year. It is your Journal so please share your research and resulting family stories.

I have recently visited Bribie Island in Queensland and was very interested to learn about the history of the island and its inhabitants. The beautiful flora and fauna was also a highlight. I have included some photos.

Heather YATES Member 675

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the August edition of the E-Muster. With winter now entering its final month, the brisk weather will soon give way to spring, bringing with it the fresh sounds and scents of the new season.

As we reflect on the world's current challenges—ongoing conflict in Ukraine, unrest in Gaza, Syria, and across the Middle East—we are reminded how fortunate we are to live in a peaceful country. It's thanks to our ancestors, who undertook long and perilous journeys to provide a better future for their families. Their sacrifices are the foundation on which we continue to build and benefit today.

The Family History Society continues to thrive, with new training courses available and excellent guest speakers at our monthly meetings. These events have been well-attended, and I would like to extend sincere thanks to our dedicated helpers, committee members, and everyone involved in running the Society. Your invaluable assistance enables us to preserve the records and stories of our past.

We are also very pleased that we have secured a State Government Grant for replacing the floor coverings in the building and a network and electrical up-grade. Both items are in need of attention so it will be great to have a safer environment for our members and visitors.

Once again, Heather has compiled a wonderful E-Muster for your enjoyment. So, settle down with a cuppa and take pleasure in the stories shared by our members. If this edition inspires you, consider submitting your own story for the December issue!

Rod Horton Member No. 1280J
President CCFHS

LATEST NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

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

We are also required to comply with any directives applied by our landlord, Central Coast Council/Properties. We have to consider the general age and health of our members.

E-JOURNALS

Societies and Groups send their journals and newsletters to us via email. They are downloaded on to Pelicanet and are available for you to read on Computers 1-4 and 7-10 at the Research Centre. How? From the desktop select the Pelican logo, and then select E- Journals.

If you haven't been in to the centre recently we now have - My Heritage and South Australia Genealogy on our computers. Don't forget we also have Ancestry, Find My Past and Family search (with which we are an affiliate library).

SPEAKERS 2025

SEPTEMBER 6th Janelle COLLINS State Library Archivist

I've been doing this research for around 40 years and it's still far from finished. I've made some awesome friends with fellow addicts along the journey. I'm an Archivist & Specialist Family History Librarian and I love my job. My favourite phrase from customers is: Can you help me find...?



OCTOBER 4th

TBA

NOVEMBER 1st Mark BUNDY. Rookwood Cemetery Trust

Mark Bundy thinks of the cemetery as a “sewing spool”, connecting Sydney’s threads through history. He’s worked at Rookwood for 29 years and has made it his mission to record and research each gravestone. “There are things we’re learning every day, and stories that probably haven’t been told for decades about different people — a million different people,” he said.

Ancestry has added new Records recently which include the following:-

UK and Ireland, Find a Grave® Index, 1300s-Current

This database contains an index to cemetery and burial details posted on Find a Grave® from the United Kingdom and Ireland. The records are date...

TOTAL RECORDS: 22,155,584

Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave® Index, 1800s-Current

This database contains an index to cemetery and burial details posted on Find a Grave® from Australia and New Zealand.

TOTAL RECORDS: 12,290,187

NEW

Registration of Liberated Former Persecutees, 1945-1950

This collection contains registers of persecutees displaced by the Nazi Regime regarding their status after the war.

TOTAL RECORDS: 1,572,230

UK, British Army World War II Medal Cards, 1939-1945

This collection contains index cards with information about medals awarded by the British Army for service during the Second World War.

TOTAL RECORDS: 1,054,796

CENTRAL COAST MARITIME HISTORY



Central Coast Maritime History with Lance Godwin is featured each week on CoastFM96.3 and then Podcasted on the 'Coastfm963' Podcast.

Episodes are on each Tuesday morning around 10:40 am and repeated on Sunday at 8:15am.

Tune in and listen to learn about the history of shipping on the Central Coast.

Very informative and entertaining with a cast of characters depicting maritime events from the early days when shipping was the main link to Sydney.

MHNSW

Join one of our knowledgeable and expert guides for a tour of Convict Sydney.

From the site of the first Government House, a place of important early contact between Aboriginal people and the colonists, to the Rum Hospital (now The Mint) and the Hyde Park Barracks, this housed male convicts and was the epicentre of the colony's convict system. Follow in the footsteps of the thousands of convicts who were marched from Sydney Cove up to the Hyde Park Barracks through the Governor's Domain for processing. Hear stories of convicts' successes and failures, punishments and rewards, as you immerse yourself in the landscape of early Sydney. The tour includes access to sites we manage: the Museum of Sydney, The Mint and the Hyde Park Barracks.

Convict Reference Sites

This is a short list of various sites which are of assistance when researching convict ancestors. Hopefully it will be of use to those just getting started on this journey. There are also many helpful Facebook groups which are worth searching for.

Free Claim a Convict

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

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

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

Provides a free searchable database thanks to Peter Mayberry Digital Panopticon

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

This website allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. Use our site to search individual convict life archives, explore and visualise data, and learn more about crime and criminal justice in the past.

Convict Records

<https://convictrecords.com.au/> This website allows you to search the British Convict transportation register for convicts transported to Australia between 1787-1867.

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 Brian Davies for inclusion on the Website.

2275	Rosemary Lee	2281J	Vicki Soloti
2276	Wendy Feeney	2281J	Ray Soloti
2277	Lynette Dwyer	2282	Helen McKillop
2278	Peter Cornish	2283	Gabrielle O'Kane
2279	Elizabeth Donovan	2284	Sharon Wheelock
2280	Helen Monks	2285	Susan Richards

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



**The Research Centre is open Tuesday-Friday
9.30am until 2.00pm
A Day Research fee for Non-Members is \$10.**

All workshops will incur a fee of \$25 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

Please read the additional question on your membership form regarding a once per year donation of \$10.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Fund.

You can choose to donate to this fund to assist us in the regular Maintenance of our computer network and other equipment.

Next Issue

No. 43 December 2025 E-MUSTER

Deadline for articles for the next edition of the e-Muster
26th November, 2025.

ARTICLES

The Floating Forest of Australia: A Unique Natural Wonder

In Homebush Bay, Sydney, Australia 🇦🇺, lies one of the most stunning and photogenic landscapes in the world, the SS Ayrfield, an old steamship transformed by nature into a "floating forest".

Built in the United Kingdom 🇬🇧 in 1911, this ship arrived in Australia in 1912. For decades, it served as a cargo vessel and during World War II (1939-1945), it was used to transport supplies for Allied troops in the Pacific. After the war, it continued operating in the coal industry until it was decommissioned in 1972 and moved to Homebush Bay for dismantling.

However, over the years, the structure remained in place, and nature took over. Trees and lush vegetation grew over the ship's hull, turning it into an awe-inspiring floating forest. Today, this phenomenon is a symbol of nature's resilience and an unmissable attraction for travellers and photographers.



Alongside the SS Ayrfield, other ships, like the SS Mortlake Bank, were also abandoned in the bay, though they are less known due to their difficult access. These shipwrecks are part of the region's industrial and maritime heritage, serving as a reminder of its history and transformation over time.

The floating forest is a striking example of how nature can reclaim and breathe new life into abandoned structures, turning them into breathtaking sights that captivate visitors.

 Source: Atlas Obscura

Pangaea

Over 200 million years ago, all the continents we know today were once joined together in a massive supercontinent called Pangaea. Surrounded by a vast ocean known as Panthalassa, Pangaea existed during the Permian to Triassic periods. Its gradual breakup—starting around 230 million years ago—led to the formation of the continents as we recognize them today.

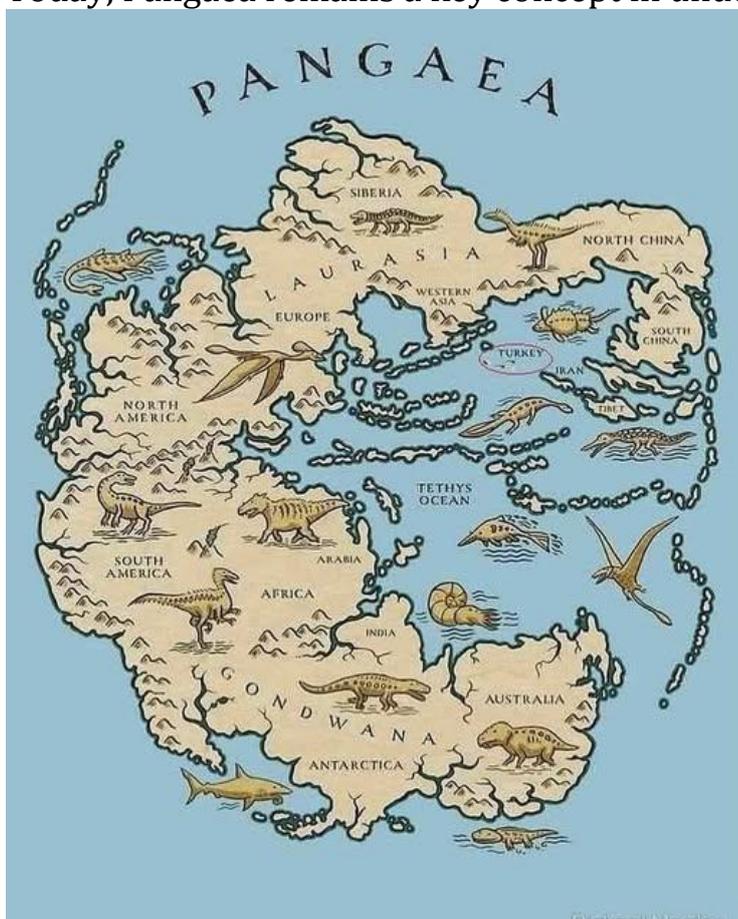
Pangaea first began to be torn apart when a three-pronged fissure grew between Africa, South America and North America. Rifting began as magma welled up through the weakness in the crust, creating a volcanic rift zone.

The idea of Pangaea was first introduced in the early 20th century by scientist Alfred Wegener, through his theory of continental drift. Although initially met with skepticism, his ideas gained strong support in the 1960s with the development of the plate tectonics theory.

This theory explains how Earth's outer shell is made up of moving plates that shift over time, causing continents to drift apart.

Strong evidence supports the existence of Pangaea: identical fossils found on different continents, similar rock layers across great distances, and patterns in ancient species distribution.

Today, Pangaea remains a key concept in understanding Earth's geological past.



© Richard Morden

Richard Morden illustration

A freelance illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia.

DID YOU KNOW THESE THINGS HAD NAMES?

1. The space between your eyebrows is called a glabella
2. The way it smells after the rain is called petrichor.
3. The plastic or metallic coating at the end of your shoe laces is called an aglet.
4. The rumbling of stomach is actually called a wamble.
5. The cry of a new born baby is called a vagitus.
6. The prongs on a fork are called tines.
7. The sheen or light that you see when you close your eyes and press your hands on them is called phosphenes.
8. The tiny plastic table placed in the middle of a pizza box is called a box tent.
9. The day after tomorrow is called overmorrow.
10. Your tiny toe or finger is called minimus.
11. The wired cage that holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is called an agraffe.
12. The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
13. When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!), it is referred to as an interrobang.
14. The space between your nostrils is called columella nasi.
15. The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armhole.
16. The condition of finding it difficult to get out of the bed in the morning is called dysania.
17. legible hand-writing is called griffonage
18. The dot over an "i" or a "j" is called tittle
19. That utterly sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
20. The metallic device used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called Bannock device.

HOW MANY OF THE ABOVE DID YOU ALREADY KNOW?

THE VOSS FAMILY FROM FAABORG.

Ditlev Voss

Ditlev Voss is first noted when to be living in Faaborg, Svendborg in Denmark. On the 2nd May 1769 Ditlev married Ellen Dideriksdatter. Ditlev came from Hanover in Germany, and was born about 1740. He was a shoemaker by trade.

Ellen Dideriksdatter was born about 1743. Ellen and Ditlev married in Faaborg on 2 May 1769. They had six children, and the one that is relevant here is Diderik Ditlevsen Voss, born 1780. The 1801 census shows the family living in Faaborg, at Grønnegade 140 in Faaborg.

Diderik Ditlevsen Voss

Diderik Ditlevsen Voss was born on the 16 May 1780 in Faaborg Denmark. He grew up, learning the shoemaking trade from his father. He died 1864.

Anna Bonde was born about 1789, in Fasled, not far from Faaborg. She was the daughter of Hans Rasmussen Bonde and Karen Josefsdatter. She died 1871.

Diderik and Anna married 30 October 1813. They went on to have five children, three of their own and two foster children. The son we are looking at is Johannes Woller Voss, born 1829.



*Anna Bonde
and Diderik
Voss. Photos
from about
1860*



Johannes Woller Voss.

The third born child of Diderik and Anna was **Johannes Woller Voss**. He was born on Christmas Day, 25th December 1829. When he was fifteen, he was living away from home, learning at trade. He was only next door to his parents, living with Adolph Heine at Grønnegade 139

Nielsine Rasmine Faaborg was also born in Faaborg. Her father was Niels Christian Faaborg, and she was born 22 September 1830

Johannes and Nielsine married on 30 October 1854 in Faaborg. They soon had a family of their own.

Anne Marie Vilhelmine Ditmann Voss was born 1856, Anne Marie Vilhelmine Ditmann Voss born 1859, Alma Emilie Christine Voss born 1862, Godtfred Martin Johannes Voss born 1866 and the final child was Otto Johannes Voss, born 1872.



*Here is Nielsine with one of her children, and again with a daughter.
Photo 1860s*



Pictures of Johannes Woller Voss.





**Johannes and
his wife
Nielsine.**



Godtfred Martin Johannes Voss.

Godtfred was born 16 April 1866 and died 11 March 1940 Faaborg, son of Johannes Woller Voss and Nielsine Rasmine Faaborg



Godtfred





Godtfred was trained as a plumber, but he was interested in magic.

Alma Emilie Christine Voss

Alma Emilie Christine Voss was the third born child of Johannes Woller Voss and Nielsine Rasmine Faaborg, being born on 29 May 1862 in Faaborg. She was christened in Faaborg on 20 July 1862.



Alma Emilie Christine Voss

Carl Peter Friis-Holm was born in Copenhagen on 5 July 1855 and christened on Bremerholm Holmens Kirke, Copenhagen. His parents were Poul Andreas Falk Holm and Maren Kirstine Kjeldsen.

They married 20 May 1881 in Nyborg Svendborg Denmark.

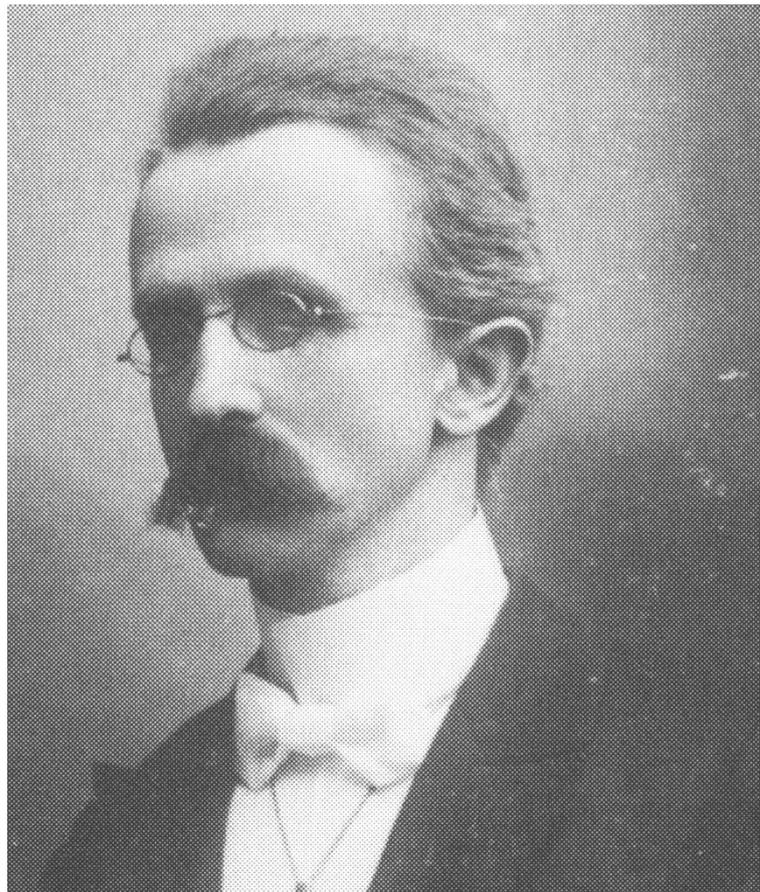
Carl Peter Friis Holm.

Carl Peter Friis Holm was a blind organist in the Church in Nyborg - became blind from scarlet fever.

He was given the Cross of the Order of Knighthood by King Christian X.

Carl and Alma lived at Oester Voldgade 60 in Nyborg. They had only one child. Carl Ahlmann Holger Friis-Holm was born on the 12 March 1892 in Nyborg.

Carl Peter Friis-Holm died on the 8 March 1938 in Nyborg. He was buried on the 13 March in the Nyborg Assistants Kirkegård (Nyborg Church assistants churchyard)



Editor- Many Thanks to the Contributor of these beautiful photos and details of the Voss family that were emailed to us.

MacThomas Vs Farquarson

In the year 1600 Robert MacThomas of Clan MacThomas was murdered by a group of highland outlaws. A few short years later Robert's widow married Alexander Farquharson of Allanquoich. John Farquarson of Tullcairn, Alexander's brother, also married Robert's only daughter, Elspeth.

Through these marriages the Farquharson Clan laid claim to the MacThomas lands in Glenshee. Obviously this land grab infuriated members of the MacThomas Clan who saw these marriages as a way to steal their property. This was the first act of many encroachments by the Farquharson clan against the MacThomas's of Glenshee.



In the mid sixteenth century this feud began to heat up during the reign of the 7th chief of Clan MacThomas, known as McComie Mor. He was known to be a very courageous and ferocious leader and was said to have killed a bull with his bare hands. During McComie's early life he was able to extend the MacThomas Clan properties in Scotland by purchasing the Barony of Forter in Glenisla from Lord Airlie.

He also extended their influence into Glen Prosen and Strathardle. During this time the MacThomas's enjoyed a favourable relationship with the crown which helped them keep rival clans such as the Farquharson's at bay. However, in 1660 upon the restoration of Charles II, they found themselves at odds with the government when Lord Airlie claimed that the MacThomas's were pasturing cattle on land he had granted to the Farquharson's.

The bad blood between the two clans got worse when Robert Farquharson, who had promised to marry McComie's daughter, broke his word and instead married Helen Ogilvy, daughter of Colonel Ogilvy of Shannalie, infuriating the MacThomas Clan.

In the early hours of New year's day 1669, Robert Farquharson with around 50 of his men, launched a surprise attack on the MacThomas's and was able to capture MacComie Mor, surprising him in his house at daybreak.

The MacThomas Clan sent five of MacComie's sons to attempt to rescue him but they were ambushed and killed by the Farquharson's. The MacThomas's eventually had to pay a 600 pound ransom for the release of their chief. Then, that spring, the Farquharsons attempted to unsuccessfully take possession of the MacThomas's farm lands in Killulock. In response the MacThomas's attacked Brough Dearg and the Farquharson chief was barely able to escape capture.

The feud came to its climax in the winter of 1673 when Robert Farquharson decided to take his dispute to the Sheriff of Forfar looking for his assistance in obtaining the grazing rights to Glen Isla. McComie became aware of this meeting and ordered his men to intercept the Farquharson chief and kidnap him. During the battle that took place at Drumgley, named the Battle of Padanarm, both of McComie's remaining sons, John and Robert, were killed.

After McComie Mor MacThomas's death in 1676, without strong leadership and lawsuits hampering the MacThomas's, MacComie's remaining family sold their holdings and abandoned the disputed lands. The clan spread out, many leaving for other lands, with a number of them going to Tay valley and changing their name to Thomson, while others went to Angus and Fife where they changed their surnames to Thomas, Thom or Thoms.

Rod HORTON Member 1280J

Surprising Traits You Didn't Know Were Passed Down From Your Ancestors

Ever wonder why you've got your dad's knack for storytelling or your mom's green eyes? It's not just random chance. These traits, and many others you possess, stem from a carefully shuffled deck of genetic cards handed down through generations.

Thanks to the magic of genetics, you are a unique blend of your ancestors, featuring everything from your grandpa's freckles to your grandma's love for spicy food. But what might really surprise you are some of the less obvious traits you've inherited. Curious to find out which characteristics come from which side of the family tree? Keep reading as we explore 21+ unexpected traits that you didn't know were passed down from your ancestors. Who knows? You might discover you share more with your great-grandma than just her name.

Sense of Humour

Ever shared a laugh with your grandma and felt that instant connection? Your sense of humour, that unique blend of timing, wit, and laughter, **carries the genetic fingerprints of your family, especially your paternal grandmother.**

While the jokes you enjoy and the comedic timing you possess are shaped by many factors, including your environment and personal tastes, the foundation of your humour is inherited. **Your grandma's contribution to your dad's genes plays a significant role in shaping the hilarity that binds you to her, making those shared laughs a genetic legacy.**

Dental Issues

Surprisingly, dental problems aren't just a matter of luck or how well you brush your teeth—they can also be a matter of inheritance, particularly from your mom. **The propensity for certain dental issues, including the way your teeth are aligned and their overall strength, is influenced by maternal genetics.**

While good oral hygiene and a healthy diet play crucial roles in dental health, the genetic blueprint laid down by your mother's side of the family sets the stage for potential dental challenges. Understanding this can help in pre-emptively addressing and managing such issues.

Heart Health

Heart health isn't just about diet and exercise; it's deeply woven into your DNA, particularly through your dad's lineage. While everyone should prioritize a healthy heart, those with a family history of heart conditions need to pay extra attention. Your predisposition to heart health—or the lack thereof—traces back to your father's genes. **If your dad has a robust heart, that's great news for you. But if heart problems run in his side of the family,** being proactive and vigilant about your heart health becomes crucial. Regular check-ups, a healthy lifestyle, and dietary adjustments are key preventive measures if heart issues are part of your genetic inheritance.

Cleft Chins

The distinctive feature of a cleft chin, often celebrated as a mark of distinction or, affectionately, the "Superman Chin," is a gift from your father. **This genetic trait, creating an indent in the middle of the chin, is passed down through the paternal line.** While opinions on cleft chins vary, with some people feeling less enthusiastic about theirs, it's a unique physical characteristic that contributes to the diversity of human appearances. **Embracing it is embracing a part of your genetic heritage, a direct link to your father and his lineage.**

Hair Colour

In a world where hair color is frequently changed, your natural shade is a nod to your genetic history, particularly to your grandmother. **The inheritance of hair color, especially dominant shades like red and brown, is traced through the maternal line.**

Blonde might be a recessive gene, but the predominant hues in your family tree are gifts from your grandma. **If she sported red or brown locks, chances are, you inherited this trait too.** Understanding your natural hair color provides a glimpse into your genetic makeup and the familial ties that color your world.

Male Baldness

Wondering why men in your family seem to share a similar hair loss pattern? **Male baldness, or androgenetic alopecia, is primarily inherited through the maternal side of the family.** This means if your mother's father experienced significant hair loss, there's a good chance you might as well.

This trait is linked to the X chromosome, which men inherit from their mothers. The gene responsible for male pattern baldness is carried on this chromosome, explaining the strong hereditary influence. Understanding this can help in anticipating and managing hair loss, with early interventions and treatments tailored to your genetic predisposition.

The Recollections of Stephen Augustine Donnelly- Representative of Miners in the Australian Parliament and Public Works Dept. of NSW.

Stephen Augustine Donnelly was an Irish-born Australian politician. He was born in Cork on 01/01/1835 to Cornelius Donnelly and Mary O'Leary, and grew up in Oxford in England. In 1850 he and his family migrated to Western Australia, following the gold rush to Victoria in 1852. He later mined at Lucknow in New South Wales. In 1864 he was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Goldfields West, but he resigned in 1866. On 2 May 1868 he married Catherine Agnes Cummings, with whom he had seven children. He worked for the Public Works Department, eventually becoming roads superintendent at Armidale. He retired in 1896 and around 1898 moved to Waratah, where he died in 1910.

My first impressions of Sydney and New South Wales (cont...)

Denis was full of faith in and enthusiasm with regard to his new venture, feeling quite confident that our efforts, which, in the past, had met with only a very moderate share of success, would now be crowned with a reward that any reasonable man would be satisfied with, which good tidings I rejoiced at, and must confess to an elation of feeling, such as I had, perhaps, never before experienced.

Denis confirmed the statement made by Provan regarding the cleaning up of the old workings and the making of arrangements prior to the beginning of the regular task of gold winning; but he made light of them, as also he did of the stories of the thefts of gold, the dishonesty of the Orange business men, etc. which I had heard just before. In the afternoon he took me into Orange for a look round, as well as to introduce me to some of his friends. The roadway was fenced off on both sides for the greater part of the distance (5 miles). It led over a gently undulating basaltic country.



Ophir Bluff near Orange where gold was first found in NSW, Aust. Powerhouse Museum Collection

The soil thereof being of a rich chocolate colour, which indicated its then promise of great fertility, in which respect it has long since proved itself to be second to scarcely any other soil, as yet known to man. From some cause or other, Orange did not seem to be hemmed in by old crown grants of land to such an extent as was Bathurst and as were also other centre of population in N.S.W. at that time.

Consequently, many snug looking farms – none perhaps of great extent, were to be seen, as we passed over the road towards town. Orange occupies the site known, in the earlier days, as Blackman's Swamp, and is elevated nearly 3000 feet above sea level. The surface is slightly undulating, while the design is of the usual checker board pattern – so common to Australian and American towns. The climate, bracing in winter and not unpleasantly hot in summer, may claim with that of New England, to about the most enjoyable in N.S.W. In the year 1863 the town presented a somewhat straggling appearance, yet it supported two banks, there were also three or four good sized stores as well as several smaller ones, three or four large commodious inns, and two fair sized flour mills.



Panorama of Orange, NSW, circa 1870-1875, State Library of New South Wales

Whatever churches there may have been there, were not so conspicuously situated as to attract my notice.

I visited what I took to be one, but found it to be the Catholic denominational school, in which however, that body then held its religious services – for, contrary to the groundless imputation so often hurled at that body by its opponents of its alleged desire to keep the people in ignorance on the one hand, while it exalted clericalism and superstition on the other.

The Catholics of Orange had built a school wherein their children could be taught, educated and instructed in all manner of useful knowledge years before they erected a suitable church in which to celebrate the Divine Mysteries of their faith. There were, I was informed, several ministers of religion in and about the town, but I remember but two of them, viz. the Church of England incumbent, Rev. Mr Mayne, and the Catholic priest Rev. Father Athy, both of them liberal mind, zealous, philanthropic and highly respected gentlemen. I had a look around for a couple of hours and as a consequence was ultimately impressed with the belief that Orange and its environs possessed all the essentials necessary both agricultural, mineral and otherwise to enable it to become in future years one of the most important and populous country centres in Australia. Thus having satisfied ourselves for the time being, we returned by coach to the Wentworth mines, where we arrived about 8 p.m. – and although “hon Sec” of our company – I found myself allotted to the “Night Shift”, so at once donning my working clothes I commenced my duties as one of the working Party.

Lucknow Experiences

As the name “Wentworth” was then (1863) the official designation of only one place in the colony viz. that of a township near the confluence of the Murray and Darling rivers, letters address to “The Wentworth”, or even to The “Wentworth Mines” often went astray, and often for weeks or more, arriving, perchance, at the intended destination at length, with perhaps 25 or 30 different stamps of the several post offices through which the missives passed imprinted thereon.

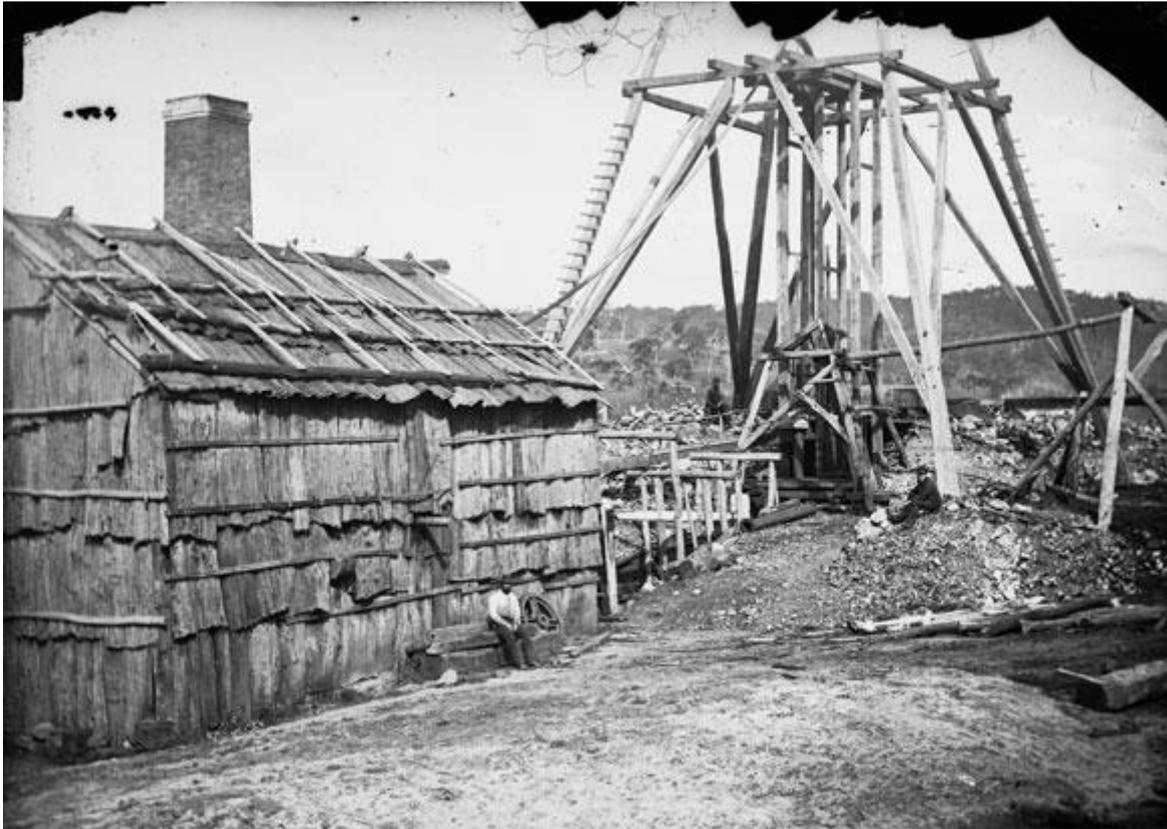
Our nearest post office was at Frederick’s valley about two miles away, rather too far to be convenient, consequently a movement was made by the residents to have a proper post office at the mines in which they were successful and the name therefore suggested “Lucknow” being adopted. The gold field thenceforth became known by that name, and by such shall I refer to in my future pages.

Our work of cleaning up as well as further prospecting the ground in other parts continued for some weeks without any striking incident or startling development. We found an old battered-in iron bucket choked in or covered up with a deluge of sludge, wherein it was thought some of the surreptitiously concealed treasure – which has been referred to – would be found therein. Payable gold was found in fairly abundant quantities, but in a rocky matrix so hard and dense, that by nothing but powerful machinery could it be extracted.

The auriferous deposits at Lucknow then were not found in alluvial surroundings, neither were they found in quartz reefs so to speak, but in a “vein” or “lode”, otherwise a fissure lying between two masses of rock – that known as serpentine for the most part.

In some places the vein was several feet wide, while at other parts it would be squeezed so close to be inserted between the adjacent beds of rock, almost vertical in the direction of its depth, but how far it extended downwards had not then been discovered. The fissure was filled with fragments of other kinds of rock some of which had the hardness of cast iron and were a terror to the worker, especially such of them as were termed by the local miners, as, “old man rock”.

The gold bearing material was a sort of ferruginous cement very hard, and difficult to work. Occasionally soft patches varying in richness were obtained; by means of which the expenses incidental to the working of the mine were paid, as also provided to maintain the workers in a frugal way. But it soon became obvious that by nothing less than powerful machinery and the heaviest of quartz stampers could the chief part of the gold be extracted and the mine be made to pay, in the manner it had been expected to do, while the cost of suitable machinery would, then, amount of a thousand pounds or more, and before such an outlay could be incurred some important problems on the situation had to be considered and satisfactorily solved, viz. Would it pay?



An early mine-shaft and winding-house made of bark with a brick chimney beyond, photographed by Beaufoy Merlin in April 1873. Image courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, Holtermann Collection

We held but a small area in our lease, which in itself only extended for a period of five (5) years, some months of which had already gone by, and there was the money to provide – at a time too when the banks would not lend any upon gold mining security. A meeting of the (21) twenty one shareholders was held, and it soon appeared that a large portion of the needed money could be subscribed among the party, if the makers or the people in Sydney who could furnish the machinery would accept pro notes for the balance, and then Denis proposed that the proprietors of the Wentworth estate be approached, with the view of their granting us the right of crushing gold bearing material for the whole of the field, with the power of our charging for doing so, and if such concession be granted for a reasonable consideration, we might accept the rest of the risk, and order the machinery without delay.

Accordingly the proprietors, Messes Carroll and Frost with their local manager Mr J.F. Rae, were interviewed; but owing to the strong yet very foolish prejudice (of which more anon) then entertained by the people of N.S.W. towards those of Victoria, and the fear arising therefrom that we (the Victorians) had in view some deep laid scheme wherewith we could gain some undue advantage over them; the proprietors without at once absolutely refusing our request, raised so many difficulties and objections, that for some time we feared we should fail in our object.

At length they were clearly convinced that the granting of our request would benefit themselves more than it would benefit us. The concession, as mentioned, was therefore granted to us for a certain sum, the amount of which I have forgotten. We lost no time in initiating our plan for getting the proposed crushing plant, but the first step was to obtain the services of a competent engineer. We sent for one who had some previous experience at our mine, but who now dwelt about 50 miles away, whom we engaged at £5.0.0 per week wages, and with his assistance a design for the twelve head of stampers was prepared.

The engineer was dispatched to Sydney and arrangements were made with a firm for the supply of the machinery without much delay; but it was several weeks before it was erected and in proper working order, for, amongst other causes of delay, much time had to be expended in cleaning and refitting the old boiler and engine, the clumsy old machine with its ponderous beam and flywheel – ill erected in the first place and now out of plumb, corroded with dirt and rust took a lot of time to get it into any sort of working order, and, then, to raise the steam up to 45 lbs to the inch the furnace had a most gargantuan appetite for fuel, which could only be satisfied at the contract cost of £7.0.0 per week.

However everything being in readiness we started our batteries with considerable éclat, Mrs Rae, wife of the manager of the goldfields, turned on the steam, while Miss Favelle, the fair and estimable daughter of local, and long established, medico of the district, threw the first shovel full of the gold bearing cement into the stamper boxes.

It was a gold day at Lucknow, with a banquet for all, and liquors and sporting ad lib, not only were the greater part of the Lucknow residents present, but visitors to the extent of some hundreds came from not only Orange, but from other places many miles further away.

I had now been three or four months in N.S.W., and therefore had ample time to learn something of its people not only from my perusal of the Sydney newspapers, as well as of those of Bathurst and Orange. The people did not seem to me so bright in conversation, nor did their spoken thoughts reveal to me so broad a mental horizon as I had noticed elsewhere, yet they did not suggest to me any indication of being the possessors of undue simplicity.

Quite the contrary – indeed, and as an indication of such subjective wisdom, I may state, that since I had left West Australia – 9 years before – I had never heard so many grave and solemn allusions to things and actions designated “cross and square” as I had within the previous three or four months.

Their conversation contained hints and innuendoes, all of which bespoke the existence of a mental condition that did not care to pat its more potent powers in its front window, nor carry its heart on its sleeve, for the daws to peck at. They had a great aversion to the

Victorians, whom they contended were for the greater part, sharpers and ready to take any and every advantage of them, and their dislike of their neighbours would display itself, and not infrequently too, in a silly and waspish manner, one instance of which I shall show – a friend of mine coming over from Ballarat had prior to leaving exchanged all his cash into Bank of New South Wales notes, but he took, as it would seem unwittingly, the Victorian notes of that bank in the full belief that such notes would be current in N.S.W.

But when arriving at Penrith to take the coach to Lucknow, he found he had, besides some of the notes, only two or three shillings in his pocket. Consequently at an inn he offered one of the notes, in payment for his entertainment, to the landlady, who, upon looking at it, snorted and pitched it across the counter back to my friend and in tones of withering contempt snarled – “we don’t want any of your Victorian rubbish here!” He tried afterwards all through Penrith to get the note cashed, but without success, and had actually to walk the greater part of the way back to Sydney -34 miles (not having enough coin to pay his train fare) before he could get his notes changed into others negotiable in N.S.W.

Such actions, as the foregoing, were spiteful and silly in the extreme, and, by this showing the great pleasure which people derived from such paltry and insane actions plainly indicated the low grade of intellect they possessed. On the whole it then seemed to me that the N.S.W. people regarded the Victorians as very undesirable people, ready for any sort of sharp practices, great “blowers” or boasters, in short, itinerating magazines of rascality and gasconade.

And, I regret to have to record it, many of the Victorians laid themselves open to the charge of being great boasters, and if all the talk such of them gave expression to, from time to time, could be taken as wholly true, it would go far to confirm the bad opinion of them, held by the people, amongst whom they had to reside.

Amongst a great many Victorians, the views held by them respecting the people on the northern side of the Murray river, were largely formed from the accounts furnished by the Victorian newspapers, which, as has been already mentioned, would fain make out N.S.W., to be a veritable hell upon earth, which fact, coupled with the belief inherent in almost every Britisher, that he, and his immediate environment, are vastly superior to other men and other environments – even if they are his own countrymen; added to which, their almost American quickness of action compared to the slow going, if more sure, movements of those of the older colony, may have contributed in no small degree to bring about, in them, the somewhat swaggering air many of them displayed, and as the New South Welshmen did not, or, perhaps, could not discriminate at first, such manner was by the latter, deemed to be characteristic of them all.

By this time I was getting fairly conversant with the N.S.W. newspapers, and soon found the conviction forming in my mind – from the reading of them that it would be a huge mistake to continue longer in the belief – formed by the Victorian papers –

that that colony, erstwhile known as Australia Felix = Australia the Happy – was the one and only terrestrial paradise to be found on the one; or to regard N.S.W. , terrorised though it was by bushrangers – coupled with an admittedly inefficient police at the same time , as the Pandemonium and cesspool of all kinds of wickedness which the Melbourne papers had depicted.

No indeed the Sydney papers, with as equal a clearness as the Southern contemporaries had disproved the formers imputations, by showing the boot was on the other foot - it was Victoria especially Melbourne that was the Pandemonium, the hell upon earth – while N.S.W. especially Sydney was the terrestrial Paradise. Alas! And again alas! for the boasted truthfulness of that great Prometheus of our civilisation, the great teacher of Mankind, the exposé of abuses, the powerful protector of the oppressed and the weak, or the thousand and one other noble, patriotic and altruistic qualities which the mighty press arrogates to itself. I have long since learned that newspapers in the main are merely business concerns, which pursue that line of policy and supply that kind of information which pays them best. I could see there was much that was good, as well as much that was bad – the former quality predominating in the people of both colonies, so I attached my belief to the newspapers of neither colony and never became, as I fear too many people are – a pressolater.

The bushrangers led by J. Gilbert, Ben Hall and others were constantly committing bold robberies throughout the surrounding country but chiefly to the west and south west of Lucknow. Their more noted chief – Gardner – had disappeared from among them, but his lieutenants still carried on their nefarious profession with their usual dash and audacity. It was during this time that they made their outrageous attack on McKeightley's residence near Rockley, when they held that gentleman captive until a ransom of £500 was paid for his freedom while his wife rode into Bathurst (35 miles each Way) and obtained from her father, and paid the miscreants – one of them at the outset having been shot by the gentleman named.

They also made a raid into Bathurst, in response, it was stated, to a taunt made to them that they were not game enough to attack a place where there were many people about, but it seemed more likely that it was to steal a valuable race horse owned by a Bathurst publican named De Clouett, in which however they were unsuccessful owing to the coolness and self-possession displayed by Mrs De Clouett; but they got clear away before the police came to the scene, although the inn was in the centre of the) town, and not more than five minutes' walk from the police station.

Another attack was made upon a squatters station "Goimbla", owned by a Mr Campbell, situated between Orange and Forbes, in which another member of the party was shot, and the others beaten off. Another of the party named Vane, was induced to surrender himself to Father Tim McCarthy, a well-known and deservedly popular priest (although Vane was not a Catholic), who, as the misguided young man deserved, handed him over to the police.

Father Tim used to go fearlessly amongst the bushrangers, pointing out to them the wickedness and folly of the lives they were living, and exhorting them to abandon such ere they had gone too far (for as yet no murders had been committed by them) and he had so far prevailed on them, that Ben Hall, who after Gilbert, was their leading spirit, so far yielded to the reverend gentleman's urgent entreaties, as to promise to deliver himself up as Vane had done.

But first he would go to see Gilbert who was then pursuing his lawless avocation with part of the gang, near Goulburn whom, he in turn, would try to persuade to surrender himself also. Hall went his way and meeting Gilbert, the latter persuaded him to join in an attack on the Gundagai Mail coach, in which attack police sergeant Parry was shot dead and then, murder having been committed, Hall being with the party, if not a participator in the awful crime, was a murderer, and thus every reason that might have induced an ordinary highway robber to give himself up to justice, was in a moment swept away.

Hall remained a bushranger, and the good priest's very laudable intensions were frustrated. Thus, all around us were those miscreants carrying on their terrible crimes.

Orange was alarmed to the utmost, but no attack was on that town, nor was Lucknow with its rich mines of gold interfered with. The police for a long time were unable to cope with the outlaws who therefore continued their outrages for nearly two years longer, when more drastic measures to effect their suppression, having been passed by parliament,

Hall, Gilbert and others of the gang were shot down and killed in their lairs, like so many wild beasts, Gardner, the originator of the band of desperadoes, as has been stated, withdrew from them, and assuming another name in the meantime, was following a respectable life in Queensland, when he was discovered and arrested by a N.S.W. detective named McGlour, brought to Sydney and sentenced to imprisonment for life. Gardner in his youth, a butcher's boy, had become a hero in the eyes of many people as he was of a kindly disposition in his way, and had shown a sort of chivalric spirit in some of his actions.

Hence many people looked upon him with the same kind of admiration, as the ancestors perhaps looked upon many popular heroes in the past and:

If England had her Robin Hood;
And Scotland had her bold Rob Roy:
Australia had a thief as good
In dashing Frank, the butcher's boy,
Etc., etc., etc.

Another, and perhaps the last of the gang, gave himself up to a Catholic priest, Revd. Father McGuinn, who brought him into Bathurst, and handed him over to Sergeant Garvin, (our present – 1910 – Inspector General of Police) and after trial before Mr Justice Wise, was sentenced to a lengthy term of penal servitude – no capital offence having been proved against him.

The most remarkable thing about the trial, perhaps, was the unmeasured rating and torrent of invective which the judge bestowed upon the reverend gentleman who had induced the prisoner to surrender himself to the law. Such an unreasonable and wholly unwarranted exhibition of inherent venom and bigotry, surprised the people in court and even the garbled reports of it which the newspapers were pleased to give, proclaimed the fact, that the judge's words were more the doddering of a dotard than the remarks of a sane administrator of justice, for what offence had the priest committed?

None whatsoever! He had done that, and that only, which instead of censure, entitled him to praise, viz. the bringing of justice, and the removing from the opportunity of doing further harm to the community of a notorious highwayman and robber, whom the police were unable to capture.

Denis and I desired to obtain a quiet suburban residence, with a small area of from three to four acres, as a home for our parents where they could pass the remainder of their lives in quiet repose and contentment – my father was now 70 years of age, and my mother 67 years – we accordingly advertised in the papers for such and preferring the more settled district of Bathurst to those of Orange, or Lucknow, fixed our choice on that locality; but unfortunately, such a plan had to be quickly abandoned.

About the month of October (1863) my father with my sister, Catherine, her husband (William Wright) and their children arrived in Sydney – from Victoria. Wright came on at once to us, leaving the others in furnished lodgings in Sydney, until further arrangements were made for them. Wright had not been at Lucknow for many days, when a short letter from my father announced to us that he was very ill.

Denis at once started for Sydney, and on arrival found our good honest father very ill indeed. Of course, everything that was possible, was done to remove his illness and prolong his life, but without avail; and in a week or so, he gave up to Creator, that life, that soul, which, I firmly believe, through its seventy years on earth had never injured, or even entertained the thought of injuring any human being or other thing in any conceivable way.

I knew he had ruptured himself before I had left Gordon, his health was impaired thereby but not it was thought to any serious extent. He told Denis and Catherine that he had felt very lonely and depressed after coming to Sydney, especially after Wright had left.

He did not know a soul there, besides the recollections from his boyhood brought to his mind the terrible accounts which used to be heard by the people in Ireland of the then (earliest decade of the 19th century) condition of Sydney and Broken Bay, which was that – as its condition really was – if such were possible on this Earth – a veritable Hell. His loneliness, his previously impaired health, and the gloomy memories of other times, all contributing, brought about the illness which so quickly carried him to his grave.

He was buried in the Devonshire Cemetery. I could never find his grave. Once, when Denis and I were in Sydney together, we made a search for it but we could not find it. About five or six years ago all the bodies which had been interred in the Devonshire Street Cemetery were removed to another resting place in order that the ground be utilised for the Central Railway Station in 1910. But wherever my father's mortal remains may be may his soul rest in peace.

To be continued... **Rosalie DONNELLY Member 2224**

Robyn Gregg – Bonegilla Migrant Camp

Bonegilla



The Beginning of a Migrant Camp From Army to migrant camp

In 1940 an army camp was built on the shores of Lake Hume near Albury Wodonga.

In 1947, block 19 opposite the Army barracks was converted into a migrant camp and subsequently was home to 320,00 migrants displaced by WW2.

It was mainly intended for migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds to assimilate them into Australian life.

Migrants initially came by ship to the ports in Victoria and were taken by train (the old red rattlers) to Bonegilla railway siding where they were then taken by bus to the camp. Migrants, some of whom had experience with the Nazi camps were terrified of the train trip; not knowing what their end destination was to be.

On arrival they were processed and given an allocated accommodation hut. These were at first single sex dormitories with many beds to a hut.



The huts were made of corrugated iron often without lining. They were cold in winter and hot in summer with snakes, boxing roos and flies aplenty.

The bathroom facilities were communal but single sex. Showers were a problem for some as they had memories of the showers in Nazi Europe. Many refused to shower or remove clothing.

A problem in summer.



The Kitchen was an industrial size facility. Migrants were employed there to feed the population of the Camp.

Recommended menu list for migrant hostel

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Sunday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Lentils for vegetarian gravy	Roast beef and gravy Vegetables and potatoes Dessert (fruit or custard) Tea	Roast beef Roast potatoes Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Monday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Lentils for vegetarian gravy Baked beans in sauce	Roast beef and gravy Vegetables Mashed potatoes and custard Tea	Roast beef Roast potatoes and gravy Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Tuesday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Cheese	Roast beef Mashed potatoes New Lamb Tea	Roast beef Roast potatoes Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Wednesday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Lentils for vegetarian gravy	Roast beef and gravy Vegetables Mashed potatoes	Roast beef Roast potatoes and gravy Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Thursday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Roast lamb and egg Roast fruit	Roast beef and gravy Vegetables Mashed potatoes and lamb chops Roast fruit Steak and butter Apple sponge Tea	Roast beef Roast potatoes and gravy Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Friday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Fruit sausage and onion gravy	Fruit or roast meat and gravy Vegetables Mashed potatoes and onion sauce Tea	Roast beef Roast potatoes and gravy Mashed potatoes Vegetables Tea
Saturday	Roast beef and gravy Steak with butter and jam Coffee or tea Cheese	Roast beef and gravy Vegetables Mashed potatoes Tea	Mashed potatoes Roast potatoes and white sauce Mashed potatoes and peas Vegetables Dessert Tea

Portions depending on availability may be used for two meals daily. Roast beef may be substituted for two meals weekly at the discretion of the supply officer.



CHANGING FOR FAMILIES

When whole families began migrating to Australia it became obvious that rooms were required so the huts were divided into several rooms.



A School was present on the site and English was taught to the children and adults. As some migrants had come from rural areas of Europe economics and money handling had to be taught. They needed to know how to buy goods, how to recognise flour, sugar, butter etc and how to pay for the goods with the new currency.



There was also an employment agency to find these newcomers jobs in their new country. Plenty of work was to be had. These migrants had the skills for farming and labouring and were prepared to work hard. Many were employed to build the Hume Dam.



There was a cinema and dance hall and the migrants became adept at entertaining each other. Board games were played, table tennis and football. Swimming in nearby Lake Hume in summer. There was a church for religious needs.

Many of these migrants went on to become community leaders and contributors to the Australian lifestyle and economic wealth.

I visited Bonegilla to discover the history of my English parents but was told that it was rare for English to be sent there as it was mainly for the re-education and placement of non-English speaking migrants. My family were left on the dock with no place to go as the person tasked with meeting them at Melbourne and taking them to their new home didn't turn up. They were sent to Bonegilla with a 2 year old boy and remained there for around 3 weeks in what my mother described as hell on earth.

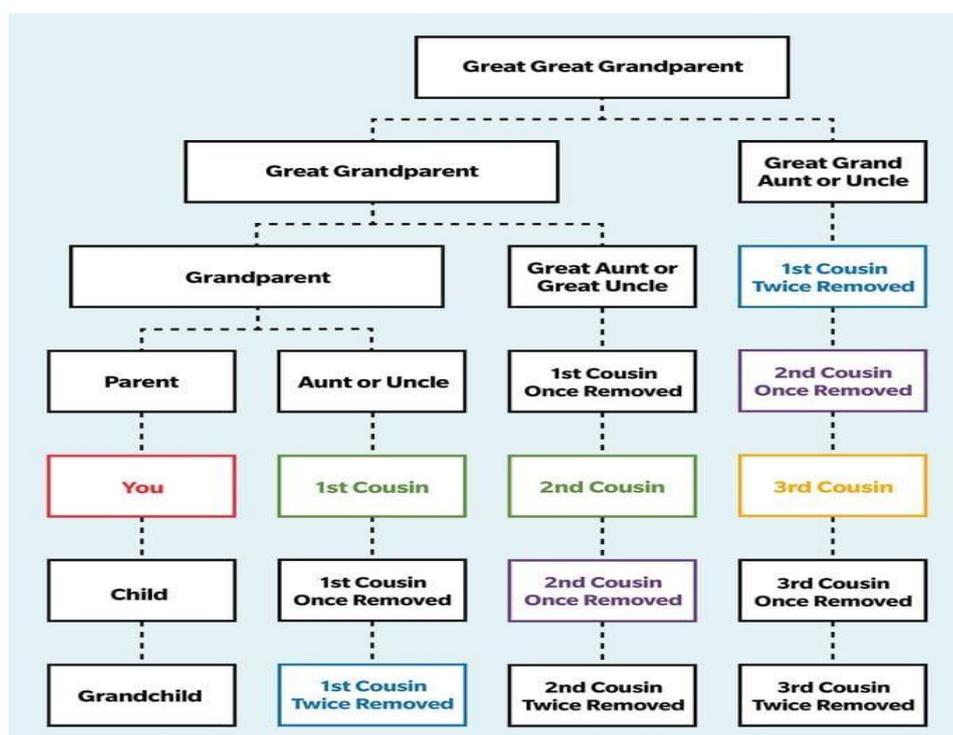
Bonegilla closed as a migrant camp in 1971.

The records for Bonegilla migrant camp can be found online at either the Bonegilla website (www.bonegilla.org.au) or The National Archives Australia. A novel *The Last of the Bonegilla Girls* written by Victoria Purman tells of the lives of the migrants.

We have purchased some reading material for the CCFHS library for those who believe they may have association with the migrant centre. There is a memorial wall at the museum where many families have added their ancestors' names.

I highly recommend a visit if you are travelling near Albury Wodonga.

Robyn GREGG Member 2077



A Different Type of Tree.

I am a tree lover, both my genealogical family tree and also the horticultural variety. I often gaze upon particularly beautiful specimens around the Central Coast.

This e-Muster I have included:- *Melaleuca ericifolia*, also known as Swamp Paperbark, It is a suitable tree for street planting, particularly in areas with moist or poorly drained soils. It is a fast-growing, medium-sized tree reaching up to 8 meters tall, with a dense, narrow, dark green foliage and papery bark. This specimen is situated in Bellara on Bribie Island, Queensland.



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

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

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

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Event Coordinator

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Grant Applications

Grant Application Proofreader

Guest Speakers

IT and Computer Network

Librarian/Unrelated Certificates

Membership Secretary

DNA Special Interest

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Don't forget transcriptions of birth, death and marriage records are available in NSW and only NSW. Cost - \$20 each



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