



CALOUNDRA CLIPPER

***December 2023
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***QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF
CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY
RESEARCH INC.***

CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH INC.

Patrons: Mark McArdle & Judy McArdle

COMMITTEE 2023-2024

President	June Blackburn	president@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Vice-President	Roz Kuss	vicepresident@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Secretary	Patricia Wilson	secretary@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Assistant Secretary	VACANT	
Treasurer	Sue Schott	treasurer@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Assistant Treasurer	Tim Hill	
Librarian	Kate Bowman	librarian@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Publicity Officer	Jan Swift	publicity@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Training Officer	Trisha Hyde	training@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Planning &		
Compliance Officer	Bob Brummell	
Webmaster	Fran Kitto	webmaster@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

SUPPORT TEAM

Correspondence	Robyn Delaney	hello@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Editor	Terry O'Connor	editor@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Membership	June Blackburn	membership@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au
Assistant Librarian	Loris Gray	Auditor Ralph Gray
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The objects of **CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH INC.** are to establish, encourage and assist members in their research of Genealogy and Family History.

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

PO Box 968 Caloundra Qld 4551

Email: hello@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Web Address: www.caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au

Find us at: Enter Gate 2, 208 Pierce Avenue, Meridan Plains 4551

MEMBERSHIP for 2023/2024

Fees (Incl GST) due and payable 1 July 2023: Single \$79 Family \$115

Joining Fee \$10 Single, \$15 Family.

LIBRARY & RESEARCH HOURS

Thurs 9.30am to 4pm (3rd Thurs 9.30am to noon)

Sat 9.30am to 12.30pm (3rd Sat 9.30am to 4pm)

Mobile Phone Number 0492 128 499 —Library hours only. No text messages.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Member Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except December) at 1.30pm

At PREMISES and via Zoom: Corbould Park Racecourse, enter Gate 2,

Guest Speakers are as advised in the Clipper. Visitors are welcome to attend.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

We are able to carry out research, within the resources we hold, for members and non-members.

The cost will be calculated by the Research Team. Post or email your enquiry to the above address.

CALOUNDRA CLIPPER

The Journal is produced quarterly. Printed copies are available for collection by members at Library Open Days and it is emailed as a PDF file to other members.

ADVERTISING COSTS incl. GST: (4 issues) full page \$66, half page \$33, 1/4 page \$16.50

DEADLINE for CLIPPER is the General Meeting before each quarterly publication.

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CFHRI ABN 9025938516

NEWS ITEMS

2024 GENERAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

January:

Tim Hill

February:

Shauna Hicks

ZOOM....

INTO

ZOOM....

GENERAL MEETINGS AND GROUP MEETINGS

Details on pages 12 and 13

Thursday 18 January: Norwegian
Family History Research

Friday 2 February: Landsborough
Museum Presentation

Thursday 15 February: Finding
Family in Ireland Online

CFHRI BANK DETAILS DIRECT DEBIT:

Bank: Bendigo Bank, Caloundra

BSB No: 633-000

Account No: 146865399

Hello members,

Welcome to my first full Clipper—the 2023 Christmas edition. The journal has been magnificently edited over years by Sue Brownjohn and I just hope I can approach her expertise (after I've done a few issues, anyway). This issue we feature more Barzdo award entries, and fine entries they are too. Because of long-arranged overseas holidays I have been unable to nag members about submitting their brick walls and queries but they have not been forgotten. Stand by for some serious nagging down the track.

Terry O'Connor, Editor



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WELCOME to my last report for 2023. It has been such a full-on year. Hard to believe that Christmas is less than four weeks away at the time of writing.

Since my last report in June, we have had a number of guest speakers including Judi Waller who published her first book at age 87, an anthology entitled *The Tales End*. There is still hope for me yet. At our September members' meeting we invited Moya Sharp who spoke on *Ripping Yards and Tragic Tales of the Western Australian Goldfields*. It was extremely interesting. Our very own Pauleen Cass presented *Copyright, Privacy and Ethics* at our October meeting. This was a must for all prospective family history writers wanting to tell their stories. We are very fortunate to have members such as Pauleen who have so much knowledge and are very willing to share with the rest of us.



Our final speaker of the year was John (Joe) Blow. His topic was *Sandakan Death March Survivor*. His father was taken as a PoW when Singapore fell to the Japanese during World War II. He escaped whilst on route to Sandakan and became involved in jungle warfare for the rest of the war.

What a character and a very brave man.

(Pictured: Paul Carty and John Blow)

Our visits since June included a trip on a Sunshine Coast Council heritage tour, to the State Library of Queensland and the Qld Air Museum. All very

good, fun and informative. Trisha Hyde commenced her *Writing War Histories of our Soldiers project* on 10 July and we have some very keen members involved in this project, myself included. I can't wait to see the finished book which will be produced for Remembrance Day 2024.

Trisha also presented her *Breaking Down Brick Walls* seminar on 15 September. We learnt of the many ways we can overcome these brick walls.

A training survey has been sent to all members and we look forward to seeing your suggestions. Being able to meet your needs through training is a great way of being able to help you.

The Beginners' Course for non-members was a huge success. Participants got so much out of these two days.

As a result of this course, we now welcome six new members to our group. We were very lucky this year in being able to hold a number of Bunnings Sausage Sizzles which were all great successes.

What was even better is we were allowed to bring back our cake stalls.

Our bank account thanks Bunnings very much.



(Pictured L to R: Cathy Meyer, Pattie Wilson & Lyn Wallis)

We held our annual morning tea for new members on 5 July. Ten new members attended, and it was lovely to meet them and introduce them to our resources.

At our Annual General Meeting, we farewelled some committee members and welcomed Bob Brummell in a new role called "Compliance & Planning Officer".

Don't forget, this will be my last year as president, so anyone who thinks they would like to take over this role, I would love to sit down with them to

discuss.

We held a convict seminar as part of National Family History Month in August. Our guest speakers included Helen Smith who spoke on *My Genealogical Treasures in Quarter Session Records*; Shauna Hicks whose topic was entitled *Discover your Family behind bars: Were they Convicts, Criminals, Victims or Witnesses?* Vicki Osborn zoomed in



(Pictured L to R: Shauna Hicks, Member for Caloundra Jason Hunt and Helen Smith)

from Maitland, NSW to talk about *Transportation of Maitland & the Hunter Valley Female Convicts & 'Roses from the Heart'.*

Convict Bonnet Project. Our final speaker was Trisha Hyde who presented her University of Tasmania Assignment called *Ann Elliott's Journey* via Zoom.

All speakers and topics were exciting and interesting and we certainly appreciated their time and effort.

The volunteer lunch, held in September, was not a great success with very few volunteer members attending. So next year we will replace this with a "Christmas in July" for all members and hopefully this will encourage higher participation.

We now have a new camera which shows the whole room during Zoom meetings. Thank you to Bob Brummell for donating this piece of equipment.

Fran Kitto also donated a large screen for the front desk in the library, which has been a huge help for library volunteers to look things up.



Four walks were conducted as part of the Sunshine Coast Council Open House event in October. Two of the walks were conducted along Bulcock Street by Bob Brummell and Pattie Wilson, and Pattie and I also did two Bulcock Street walks. All participants were excited about

the walks and we even encouraged a few new memberships from them. New appliances in our rooms include two new air conditioners, three keyboards and mice.

You can now see the letters on the keyboards. And not having to deal with noise pollution from the old air conditioners is so good.

At our November members' meeting we presented a new format, doing away with the officialness of such meetings to encourage our members to participate in the afternoon.

As we said at the meeting, we want to hear from our members – their stories, research discoveries, interesting tidbits, etc.

The only two general meetings we will have in future will be held in February and August, and the August meeting will also be our AGM.

At our members' meetings, we have introduced a new segment called "Getting to Know You", in which someone will tell their life story in about five minutes.

We are starting off with the committee, but also want to hear about our members.

- **June Blackburn, President**



How to archive documents

By Daniel Klein

LET'S face it genealogists: We're hoarders. We hoard ancestors, documents, charts, photos, handouts, books and a host of other things that we keep in the interest of doing our research.

And then we put them away. We enter names into our genealogical software or our family trees or group sheets. We put documents into folders and put them in a drawer, safe forever. Or are they?

It's very important that we store our documents the proper way, after all, what are we storing them for, if not to preserve them for posterity?

And one should never rely on solely digital storage. Digitizing documents saves space, but comes with a host of other issues like obsolescence and technical failure.

What is the most durable paper in everyday use you can think of? Money, right? Sure, it will tear or lose its crispness, but on the whole it's much more durable than say, notebook paper or newsprint. The paper that [most, but not Aussie] money is printed on is called cotton paper because it's made, at least partially, from cotton, with a little bit of linen thrown in for good measure.

Paper used to be made that way. Have you ever seen an old book from before, say 1850? It was probably in pretty good shape, right? Before 1850-1860, paper was made mostly of rag.

On the other hand, have you ever seen a book or newspaper from after that time? It was discovered that paper could be made more cheaply from wood pulp, but there are acids contained in wood pulp that affect the paper, making it brittle and discoloured over time, especially if it's had significant exposure to light. Wood pulp also contains lignin, a substance that makes up the cell walls of trees and plants and contains other acids that contribute to the deterioration of paper.

The best way to store your records is to keep them in a cool, dry (humidity is another enemy of paper), dark place. Keep them separated according to whatever filing scheme you're following by keeping the documents in acid-free, lignin-free folders. By storing them in these folders, you are counter-balancing whatever acids are in the documents. It's also important to store your documents in a place where temperatures don't fluctuate to extremes of cold and hot, even if those happen over the course of a year. And make sure you remove all staples and paper clips.

Photographs should be kept in similar conditions, in plastic sleeves. The sleeves should be made of something "poly," like polyethylene, polystyrene or polypropylene. They should NOT be made from polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. PVC emits gases which can damage photos.

Photo negatives or slides ideally should be kept in a freezer. This is difficult and expensive for archival repositories, even more so for individuals and their own photograph collections. Would you keep a box of photos next to the chicken? In the absence of purchasing your own freezer, just keeping your photos or negatives from extremes in temperature is a good idea.

These items may be found in local office supply stores, but you might be better off googling "archival supplies" to find dealers specializing in acid-free materials.

*Danny Klein is a member of the Hudson County
Genealogical and Historical Society.*

Article reproduced courtesy of The Jersey Journal

**THE LIBRARY VOLUNTEER ROSTER LIST CAN NOW BE FOUND
ON THE CFHRI WEBSITE**

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9.30am — 12.30pm
except 3rd THURSDAY 9.30am—noon & 3rd SATURDAY 9.30am—
4pm
PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 20 MINUTES BEFORE STARTING
YOUR SHIFT**

Cherchez la femme

By Ian Edwardson

IT DOESN'T take long in researching family history to realise that following the female instead of the traditional male line can often provide the best stories.

Like the New England Puritan daughter taken by Indians in 1703 and who died a prisoner of the French two years later. Or the Italian noblewoman, Marguerite Beatrice of Savoy, betrothed to a king but abducted on her way to her wedding.

And many have close connections with historical people, places and events. Marguerite married her abductor and bore him at least 14 (some list 19) children. Her daughter, named for her, bore four queens, including Eleanor, queen consort to Henry III.

Tracking back through six generations of mothers and just four of fathers revealed a key figure in the establishment of a historical city.

Major Simon Willard was born in Kent in 1605 and was one of thousands of English Puritans who made the voyage to the New World in the "Great Migration" of the 1600s. He settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts Bay Colony with his wife and two children and he and his brother-in-law built up a thriving business exporting furs they bought from the Indians.

In 1635 he and Rev Peter Bulkeley struck off inland, braving tangled forest, swamps, rain and snow to establish Concord, the first inland town of the Colony. In 1775 it was to be the scene of "the shot heard around the world" at the start of the American War of Independence.

Edward Johnson's 17th century book *Wonder Working Providence* says the town probably owed more to Willard than to any other single person. In public, legal and military service he was "possibly the most influential man in the county for 22 years", even settling the boundaries between Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

He left for nearby Lancaster in 1658 and then to Groton. At the age of 70 he took command of the local troops fighting the Indians in the so-called King Phillip's War. He died in 1676 and one of his successors, Joseph Willard, reported in his memoirs that his funeral included a military escort of "several hundred soldiers, consisting of three companies of foot and three companies of horse".

From the foundation not only of an American city but of a country, there's a connecting line of women down the generations to Major Willard's 6-times great-grand-daughter, Ida Augusta Maynard, one of Kin Kin's earliest pioneers.

It's a story discovered only by leaving the highway and exploring the byways.



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CFHR members receive 10% discount off your meal.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Caloundra Family History Research Inc. is very grateful to the Sunshine Coast Council for the grant under the Community Partnership Funding Program to provide funding of \$4,000 for three years to go towards our rent costs.

This funding will allow us to use more of our own money to provide training programs and resources for members and the Sunshine Coast community in a range of family history research areas.



Proudly supported by
Sunshine Coast Council's grants program

DATES FOR THE DIARY **DEC 2023 to FEB 2024**



DECEMBER

- Thur 7 Research 9.30am-4pm
ROOMS CLOSE AT 4PM FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK
 + Germany Group **Year End Brunch** 11am-3pm at residence of Sue Schott.
No Research after 7th, committee meeting, members meeting, Scotland, Ireland, Familysearch, DNA, resources, England & Wales groups in December
- Wed 13 **Zoom Family Treemaker Group 2-4pm Moved from 6 Dec**

JANUARY

No research, Family Treemaker or Germany groups in January

- Thur 11 **ROOMS OPEN**
 Research 9.30am-4pm + **Hybrid Groups**
 Scotland noon-2pm & Ireland 2pm-4pm + **Zoom**
 Committee meeting
- Sat 13 Research 9.30am-12.30pm
- Mon 15 **Hybrid** Familysearch Group 10am-noon
- Thur 18 Research 9.30am to noon + In Rooms Writers Group
 9.30-11.30am + **Hybrid members' meeting 1.30pm-4pm**
Guest Speaker: Tim Hill CFHRI member
Profile: Accountant, counsellor, business owner, family historian who began researching his family 35 years ago.
Topic: "Norwegian Family History Research"
- Fri 19 **Hybrid** DNA Group 10am-noon
- Sat 20 Research 9.30am-4pm

CHECK CFH'S WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO DATES

- Mon 22 **Zoom** Resources Group 7pm-8pm **New time (Fran away)**
 Thur 25 Research 9.30am-4pm + **Hybrid** England-Wales Gp 1pm-3pm
 Sat 27 **NO RESEARCH: SCTC Race Meeting Sunshine Coast Cup**

FEBRUARY

- Thur 1 Research 9.30am-4pm + **Zoom** Committee meeting +
Hybrid Germany Group
- Fri 2 **Free presentation at Landsborough Museum by Roz & Ralph on William Landsborough 10am including Morn/Tea**
- Sat 3 Research 9.30am-12.30pm
- Mon 5 **Visit Qld Family History Society in Chermside for research Depart 8.30am; arrive back 4.30pm. Book on our website**
- Wed 7 **Zoom Family Treemaker Group 2pm-4pm**
- Thur 8 Research 9.30am-4pm + Hybrid Groups Scotland noon-2pm & Ireland 2pm-4pm
- Sat 10 Research 9.30am-12.30pm
- Mon 12 **In Rooms War Histories of Our Soldiers Project 9am-11am**
- Thur 15 Research 9.30am-noon + In Rooms Writers Group 9.30am-11.30am + **Hybrid members meeting 1.30pm-4pm**
Guest Speaker Shauna Hicks
Profile: Professional Archivist, Genealogist & Historian
Topic: "Finding Family in Ireland Online"
- Fri 16 **Hybrid DNA Group 10am-noon**
- Sat 17 Research 9.30am-4pm
- Mon 19 **Hybrid FamilySearch Group 10am-noon**
- Thur 22 Research 9.30am-4pm + Hybrid England-Wales Gp 1pm-3pm
- Sat 24 Research 9.30am-12.30pm
- Mon 26 **Zoom** Resources Group 7pm-8pm
- Thur 29 Research 9.30am-4pm; **Cutoff date for 5 Feb QFHS carpool**

SEE PAGE 35 FOR INTEREST GROUP TIMES AND CONTACTS

Toddy and the Royal Irish Lancers

By Terry O'Connor

YOU DON'T have to be an Internet expert, a "nerd" or a lover of new technology to find things of interest or useful techniques that spring up from time to time. One is artificial intelligence (AI) which is being touted both as the saviour of everything and/or the beginning of the end for human intelligence.

It's almost certainly neither, and many of the celebrated successes of AI – in terms of writing, at any rate – shouldn't be celebrated at all because they're easily exposed as what they really are, which is a machine's way of picking up bits of data from various sources and assembling them into something approaching a coherent narrative. Often, a promising piece of AI writing crumbles because it spouts nonsense it gleaned from somewhere unreliable, or repeats itself and wanders in circles.

But AI, which in effect mimics human brain activity, should not be dismissed as useless. It can easily deliver for genealogists. You just have to be careful.

I had been trying to dig out some information about my great-uncle's service in the Royal Irish Lancers, some time before World War I. Thomas Joseph "Toddy" O'Connor in fact served in the Middle East with the 12th Light Horse, although he seems to have missed out on the charge at Beersheba.

One of my aunts had told me about Toddy's Light Horse service, and said he had been killed in France, but Australian archives had no record of Thomas O'Connor, born 1884, in the Australian forces.

What a pity, I thought, Aunt Maureen must have been mistaken, so I dropped my search and confined myself to my grandfather's WWI service in the 8th Royal Dublin Fusiliers instead of building a narrative about the two O'Connor brothers (maybe linking it to my own military service half a century later).

A couple of years later I talked to Maureen again and she was adamant that Toddy had served with the Light Horse. She had no interest in things military and I wondered how she had even heard of the Light Horse if there had been no family involvement. I started digging again and discovered that the archives did indeed have information about Toddy's service, but the index had misspelled his surname as O'Coonor instead of O'Connor. It was no wonder I couldn't find anything, and the discovery showed me exactly why one should use alternative spellings of people's names.

So, Toddy enlisted in Sydney on 4 June 1915 and sailed for Egypt on 30 September 1915 with the 12th Light Horse on the ship *Argylleshire*.

At some stage he moved from the mounted unit to an engineers unit, was discharged because of illness and returned to Sydney in 1918. In 1919 he re-enlisted and served as a guard on a ship that took prisoners (probably Germans from New Guinea) to Europe. He left the army again and died in Newtown, Sydney, in June 1920. He was buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

Toddy's Australian Imperial Force enlistment papers state that he had previously served in the British Army unit the Royal Irish Lancers, although, confusingly, one military document lists his length of service as four years and another as 18 months.

I wanted to find out more about Toddy's service. I had the full military record about his brother, Peter John O'Connor, my grandfather, who enlisted in the Fusiliers on 15 April 1915. He was promoted to corporal on 14 May 1915 and to sergeant on 13 July 1915, and went with the regiment to the hellhole of the Somme.

There he distinguished himself and was commissioned as a second-lieutenant on 8 February 1916. After some leave at home where he was issued with his posh new officer's uniform he returned

to France and earned himself a Military Cross when he bravely and successfully led his section against a German patrol that had breached the lines.

Sadly, a few weeks later he was shot in the thigh, his leg had to be amputated and he was discharged.

I wanted to complete Toddy's record to match Peter's so I started searching online for Royal Irish Lancers material. There's a swag of it, but nearly all looks at the history of the regiment as opposed to the men who served in it and I got nowhere fast, despite searching with Google, Bing, Duck Duck Go and several other search engines. Then I discovered the AI tool Andi Search, at <https://andisearch.com> and things opened up again. The brick wall had crumbled a bit, thanks to AI.

I asked this question: "Where can I find details of my great-uncle's service in the Royal Irish Lancers about the year 1910?" I was ready to adjust the date as needed. But the first answer I got from Andi Search linked to a blog called **Army Service Numbers 1881-1918**.

Bingo! The blog introduction said: "This post will look at numbering in the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers between 1882 (when my data starts), and 1906," so I was getting close.

Buried in the page was yet another link entitled "British Army Service Records 1760-1913". Clicking this took me to a page on FindMyPast also called "British Army Service Records" which had never popped up during my earlier searches. And there I found Toddy.

In 1902 Thomas J. O'Connor enlisted for three years in the "Corps of Lancers of the Line". He left in 1904 after an uneventful career with the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers by buying himself out for £18. Clearly he was not a fan of military service but he answered the call in 1915 and with his previous service the Light Horse was the obvious choice.



I tested Andi Search with some other

hunts for information and discovered that although, like a conventional search engine, it threw up some unreliable information, it also elicited some accurate nuggets that were quite valuable.

For instance when I searched on the Jesuit school I attended in Dublin, Belvedere College, Andi Search got the date it was started, 1832, correct.

But it also said: "The school was founded in 1836 by Dr. William Wilde, father of Oscar Wilde," which is completely wrong.

So, as with conventional search engines, all results need to be checked and verified. Search engines are indexes, and indexes can be wrong (remember O'Coonor instead of O'Connor). Andi Search is flawed but still valuable and its use in genealogical research can be extremely productive.

My use of Andi Search saved me weeks, perhaps months, of conventional searching, although if my searching had been more focused and professional I would probably have found Toddy all by myself. And Andi Search is by no means the only such AI-based search engine – with Google, Bing and others augmenting their systems with AI, it might in fact be one of the least useful ones.

Some of the AI tools that can be used for genealogical research include [ChatGPT](#), which can write and produce data but can also insert nonsense; [Google Translate](#) which can successfully translate historical documents, and [Bard](#) which can analyse family trees, find inconsistencies or errors and suggest possible research sources.

They have the potential to do far more than Andi Search, but they still just are tools, not really artificial intelligence (not yet, anyway) so any data they produce needs to be checked very carefully before it can be relied on. With care, they can do no harm, so don't be scared. Winkle out an AI method that seems useful and give it a go.

Australian Federal Police receive genealogy training

THE AFP has established a fund in an attempt to harness the potential, skills and experience of its members through delivery of projects including the use of genealogical software for use in tracing DNA.

A statement from the AFP this week said it was using funding to train some of its members in genealogy, allowing the use of a specialised DNA testing capability, called Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG).

“The capability allows AFP members to submit DNA information to select genealogy platforms, which hold collections of records that can allow people to trace their family history,” the statement said.

“The genealogy platforms return lists of potential relatives, allowing the use of traditional genealogy to assess possible relationships against the unknown individual.

“In some cases, the FGG capability will be the last resort to reunite the remains of unknown Australians with families who are left without answers.”

The AFP’s Policing Development and Innovation Manager, Tony Alderman, said the AFP Commissioner’s Innovation Fund promoted creative thinking to help maximise the force’s ability to target the criminal environment.

“The Innovation Fund promotes inventive and pioneering thinking across the entire agency. The AFP wants to be recognised as an innovative world leading police service,” Mr Alderman said

“We know our members are experts in their field, and the innovation fund helps us capture their ideas on how to do things better, and turn those ideas into actions that make our community safer.”

Police forces and justice departments around the world have grasped the idea of identifying criminals with DNA, using the databases created by family history organisations such as My Heritage and Ancestry.

Despite the successes police have had in clearing up serious cold cases with the use of DNA records held in genealogy databases, some academics have warned that overuse of the technique by police could lead to significant inroads into citizens’ personal privacy.



Chris Dick Air

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Lorrie Barzdo Writers Award entries

Turning of the Tides

By Kay Middlemiss

AS TIME rolls by, recollections of people we have known to be closely related to us can be triggered by visiting a place or coming across an object in our possession. I never expected the South Pacific Islands would be the focus for uncovering family history and a strong female role model.

As a young girl, I can remember a relative of my mothers, Jean Davies, coming to our house to visit and she would talk about her experiences of traveling to many regions of the World. At the time, I didn't realize just how

amazing she was. Her life story could have quite easily been directed in a movie, with scenes filmed of adventure, escaping war zones while administering medicine to many souls injured or suffering illnesses. Sadly, Cousin Jean died aged 92 in 1981. Fortunately I have great memories of her visits and some Cowrie shells and postcards to remember her by.

Doctor Ellice Jean Davies was one of only a few women to graduate in a class dominated by male students, from the University of Melbourne in 1913. Dr Jean as she became known to us, was born in Buninyong Victoria in 1889, to a Presbyterian Church Minister, the Reverend John George Davies, and her mother, Barbara Hastie. It was no surprise her life would eventually involve missionary service. I can remember her being a short and sprightly lady with an incredible

knowledge and recollection of her travels and medical work. Dr Jean had an endearing laugh, smile and quick wit. She enjoyed her visits, especially



the time when she was being chauffeur driven around, collected and taken back to her aged care home in an old restored Mercedes Benz. My brother in law had painstakingly worked on this car and brought it back to near new condition. Little did we know Dr Jean was so deserving of all this attention, our very own celebrity, so humble in her achievements.

Her medical knowledge had taken her to many world destinations. She spent twenty-three years in South Korea. Fled both the first and second world wars, while rendering her medical assistance. Her medicine and surgical abilities were greatly received on Aboriginal missions near Maralinga in South Australia and Broome in Western Australia. Her work involved the Flying Doctor Service for the inland missions. Dr Jean never lost sight of the need to help mostly the women and children in these often isolated areas. She had to contend with the climate, language difficulties, superstitions and fears of the people she treated, all while applying her medical care.

Dr Jean was employed by the Lepers Trust Board based in Christchurch, New Zealand, and she conducted a significant survey from 1948 to 1950 of the prevalence of leprosy in the Pacific Islands. Detailed reports were published in the Trust's magazines and newspapers highlighting her capabilities especially with the island of Tanna having the most leprosy cases per head of population.

Back in the 1860s the island of Tanna had proven to be a difficult place for the Presbyterian missionaries trying to establish a base there. The cultural beliefs of the people prohibited interference in their lives and they were ready to deal out harm to anyone who got in their way.

Cannibalism and brutal savagery had been witnessed with the clubbing to death of their tribal members within their own island communities. These actions had deterred many missionaries from visiting there.

The most documented experiences of missionaries in the Pacific Islands involved the Reverend Paton. An autobiography was written about **The John G Paton Missionary to the New Hebrides**. Details reveal the difficulties encountered and describe many hair-raising events, where he was told to leave the island with just the clothes he was wearing, his Bible and translation notes, or be killed. His book became the best seller for the times and it was written in conjunction with his brother Reverend James

Paton of Glasgow and his friend Albert Kent Langridge who became a Government informant to try and stop the “blackbirding” of islanders taken mostly against their will to work on Queensland sugar plantations, known as the Kanaka labourers.

In complete contrast was the book written by Margaret Whitecross, entitled *Letters and Sketches From The New Hebrides as Mrs J G Paton*. Her account of events focused on the positive results of their mission work, tending to gloss over the dangers faced, probably to allay fears of loved ones who she was sending letters to back home in Scotland.

With a great deal of faith and persistence Reverend John Gibson Paton with the support of his wife Margaret Whitecross would devote

over thirty years, to help not only the people of Tanna, but they managed to bring Christianity to these Pacific Islands, build wells for fresh water and build stronger structures for shelter and places to worship in.

The Reverend Paton died in 1907 aged 82 and his wife Margaret in 1905. Both are buried near many of my ancestors at Boroondara Cemetery in Kew, Victoria.

In 1911, a large base hospital was built on the island of Iririki, near Port Vila. This hospital was supported by the British and French and was named the J G Paton Memorial Hospital in memory of the contribution of



this trailblazing missionary couple.

Dr Jean received a great deal of publicity in many newspapers and the Australian Women's Weekly featured her accomplishments in 1937.

She returned to the islands intermittently, to replace many doctors who went on furlough at the J G Paton Memorial Hospital in Port Vila. In 1933, she worked at the Margaret Whitecross Paton Memorial Hospital in Chinju, South Korea.

She was regarded as one of the first women missionary doctors to render assistance overseas and on home soil in Australia. Her sister, Margaret, became a missionary teacher and wrote about her experiences in Korea published in a book *A Great Light In A Little Land*.

The Pacific islands are located along the ring of fire. Earthquakes constantly rock this area and active volcanoes often spew ash up into the atmosphere and rivers of lava flow out into the sea.

Cyclones form in these warm waters and intensify to batter communities. Dr Jean as a single lady was brave and resilient to live and work in this region.

The island of Iririki eventually became a tourist resort and now cruise ships anchor nearby bringing visitors to the friendly islands of Vanuatu.

This region obtained independence in 1950 and to this day, 83 percent of the people identify as Christian. The tides have definitely turned and people can enjoy visiting these shores.

I am forever grateful to have met Dr Jean and I can now fully appreciate just how dedicated she was, helping these communities as a medical doctor.

Sources:

Trove newspaper articles, photos and map

Papers Past NZ

Ancestry, Find My Past, Family Search

Reference Books -Letters & Sketches From The New Hebrides Mrs J G Paton

John G Paton Autobiography Missionary To The New Hebrides by Rev James Paton and A K Langridge.

Wikipedia for statistics

January 2024 – 50th Anniversary of Floods in The Gulf

By Joy Sandham

IT WILL be 50 years in January 2024 since the disastrous floods in Brisbane, but it will also be the 50th anniversary of the disastrous flooding suffered by the towns of Normanton, Karumba and the surrounding countryside.

My husband and I married in February 1967 and came to Australia the next month. We intended spending two years travelling around Australia and after working in Sydney for a year, we set off in early May 1968 in our car and 15 ft. caravan.

On 20 June 1968 we arrived in Karumba, a small fishing town 800 km west of Cairns. We originally only intended to stay for a day, however, we were both able to get work in the prawning industry and stayed until the end of the season in September.

We continued on our trip around Australia and then went back to Karumba for the 1969 prawning season. We loved the free and easy lifestyle, the weather and my husband loved going out shooting feral pigs and crocodiles on the neighbouring cattle property – Delta Downs.

By 1972, we were still living in Karumba and I was pregnant with our first child. We decided to go down to Sydney, however, before we left, we paid \$40 deposit on a block of land, with five years to pay off the balance of \$200. Sonya was born in Sydney in the November.

In early 1973 we made arrangements to purchase a two bedroom Kitset house and have it trucked up to Karumba. We also purchased an old International truck for \$300, loaded it up with all our furniture and appliances we had bought, plus two diesel generators for our electricity. In the March we travelled back to Karumba.

As my husband was an auto-electrician, we decided to start our own business doing the electrical work on the prawn trawlers and fishing boats. The next few months were very busy as we had to have the concrete slab completed before the house arrived. By the end of August we had moved into the house.

In the early part of the 1973/74 wet season we had fairly good rain – 6

inches in November and almost 10 inches in December. Then on Christmas Day there was a big storm in the afternoon. From that day on, it rained practically every day as the monsoon trough had settled over the whole of the Gulf country,



stretching from Georgetown. In the first three weeks of January we had 29 inches in Karumba! Sonya was 14 months old and had been sick with gastro for over a week. She wasn't getting better so the Karumba nurse advised that we needed to get her into Normanton Hospital (70 km away). The road was completely underwater, so we were flown over to Normanton by a guy who had his own plane.

Normanton Hospital was up on a bit of a hill and was cut off from the main part of the town by a low-lying area which was flooded. There was a chap with a small dingy with a Seagull outboard and that was used to ferry people across to the hospital. A policeman was at the airport to meet us and he drove us as far as he could, then it was into the small dinghy and finally a walk up to the hospital.

After a few days on the right medicine, Sonya's condition improved,

however I was told that we wouldn't be going back to Karumba as all women and children in Karumba and Normanton were being evacuated.

On Friday 25th January, the patients at the Hospital were taken by helicopter to the airport, and along with other Normanton residents, we were put on Air Force Caribou planes. I think there were two planes because some people were evacuated to Cairns and others went to Mt. Isa. There were no proper seats on these planes. We sat sideways on benches. Elderly Aboriginal people who had never been on a plane before were absolutely terrified.

Sonya and I were evacuated on the plane going to Cairns. Flying over the countryside you could see the extent of the flooding – it was like flying over an enormous inland sea, as all the rivers had burst their banks and joined up.

When we arrived in Cairns we were taken to the Showgrounds to be processed and a friend came and picked us up and took us back to her place. We stayed there for about three weeks.

Afterwards, I considered myself very lucky to be flown out as the women and children in Karumba were evacuated on a small coastal vessel, the *Brewarrina*. About 150 people, mostly women (some pregnant) and children, but also pets were all crowded onto a vessel with **facilities for a crew of 12 people**.

Most of them were just sleeping on the deck, where tarpaulins were erected, providing some protection from the wind and rain. They were on that boat for three nights and two days before arriving in Weipa. Once they got there the people of Weipa did a wonderful job of looking after them.



Meanwhile, my husband had stayed in Karumba and he was able to save a lot of our possessions. He had strung our furniture up in an

unfinished shed next door. He put our outdoor table inside the house with the chooks on that and our big coffin freezer up on the kitchen bench. We had knee-high water through our house which we had only moved into a few months before.

He put our 21ft. caravan, our car and our old International truck up on the road, above the floodwaters and had our generator on the back of the truck and going.

Some weeks later, when the women and children were allowed to fly back, all the passengers and luggage had to be transported into town by a small boat – as the road to the airport wasn't useable. All the roads around the town had disappeared with the receding floodwaters, so we had to walk out to our house.

My husband had done a good job of cleaning our house, but all the kitchen cupboards were made of chipboard so they were ruined and had to be replaced. The vinyl floor tiles which were glued to the concrete slab had survived. It was estimated that 3 million cubic yards of filling would be needed to repair the damaged streets. A few months later, in July 1974, after a friend in Sydney wrote to me and told me about playgroups, we started one of the very first playgroups in Queensland.



I often think about those early days in Karumba and what we went through. Yes, hard times, but I think we look back on them with fondness. No TV, No computers, No mobile phones. Life was so much simpler!

In fact, in 1968, when we first arrived in Karumba, there were no phones at all! Craig Mostyn's ran a multi-million dollar prawn export business with a radio telephone and a telex machine! The public phone box sat in a crate outside the Post Office/General Store for six months before it was connected.

Then, when you think of the early pioneers up in the Gulf – we had it easy! We had motor vehicles, electricity and refrigeration. People could fly in and out with Bush Pilots on the good old DC3's and if you needed urgent medical treatment – there was the Flying Doctor Service.

No Longer The Youngest Cousin?

By Peter Hovey

AREN'T family stories wonderful? I was always classed as the youngest first cousin on both sides of my family. Born in 1950, I was definitely a baby boomer with parents who had grown up through wars and depressions. My paternal family were long term residents of Gordon Park, the inner circle of Brisbane, and the maternal side were from Kelvin Grove.

As the family grew, there were always wonderful times as a child having fun with many cousins. But...I was always the smallest and the youngest. This was both a blessing and a problem.

As the youngest on the maternal side, my grandmother doted on me and always brought a jam cream donut, especially for me, when she came to visit most Thursdays. I looked forward to the taste each week and enjoyed the experience.

As a child you think everyone is older than you, and so it was with me. At the Christmas parties I received all the toys and playthings when other cousins received clothes and more mundane gifts. I also received hand-me-down clothes which was not so well appreciated. Who does not like new clothes?

As we grew older, people moved and grandparents died. It didn't matter anymore that I was the youngest. We were all adults and the differences lessened. We, my cousins and I, soon became the oldest generation, as

more parents, aunts and uncles passed away. Which is where we are now. Being the youngest still makes me feel a little younger than everyone else. But this was about to change.

Becoming the Family Historian, I researched the families and individuals on both sides including a DNA test for myself, my sister and a maternal cousin in the hope I might find some long-lost family member before it was too late. Do I have one?

The first to die of my parents' generation in 1976 was a maternal uncle, William Stanley Pope, whom I only ever knew as Uncle Stan. I never saw him on a regular or consistent basis.

He was an interesting character and a bit of a black sheep in what was otherwise a very stable family. He was the one who went through a divorce, became estranged from the family and dumped a son on his mother to raise.

He met his sudden end in an accident on Newmarket Road, Brisbane, when he was hit by a car as he exited his vehicle. I did not know much about him other than he was married twice, was involved in a messy divorce and had two children.

A DNA contact then showed up on Ancestry in the last 12 months saying she was a first cousin. This, of course, intrigued me as I thought I knew all my first cousins. Or did I? The DNA must be wrong! Who is this interloper masquerading as a first cousin?

I soon made contact with her via ancestry to check out who she really was. At first, Moyra Czulowski (nee Pope), was a bit reluctant to talk. The timing was not right as she was recovering from an illness and it was very close to Christmas celebrations.

I waited a few months and decided I needed to make contact again. This time I had success as she was happy to talk, initially over email followed by a number of phone conversations. I discovered she was the daughter of Uncle Stan from a third marriage in 1958 which did not last very long. She had never met her father or half-brother, Doug Pope.

She knew her father had died in a car accident but knew nothing about him.

As Moyra lived close to the Sunshine Coast we met for coffee and I told her as much as I could about her father and her half-brother, Doug, whom I

had not seen for many years. She wanted to contact him and find out more about her father, so I agreed to try to track him down.

I also found out she was born in 1961 – a good 11 years after me – so I was no longer the baby of the family, just the second youngest after all these years. I had been usurped from my prized role as the baby cousin.

The last I had heard of her half-brother Doug, was that he was retired and living in Hervey Bay. As he was one of the older first cousins, he was well into his eighties at this stage, but I had not heard of, or from him, in years.

Where do I start? What do I say to him? Will he want to talk to her or me? These were all the questions going through my mind as I pondered contacting him. After procrastinating for a few weeks, I drafted an email, the contents of which I could use as verbal cues when I spoke to him.

My brother, Ivan, had also lived in Hervey Bay and had been in contact with Doug. Unfortunately, Ivan passed away 10 years ago and could not help me. I searched my phone and email addresses for any records I may have had from that time and came up with a number, but alas, no response to text or calls.

We all know that being a genealogist means that you also need to be a detective, usually looking for the dead rather than the living. So where do I start?

Always start with yourself and what or whom you know is the rule. After exhausting my knowledge, I phoned my sister and another cousin - neither could not help with any further information. I also found a street address but I did not know if it was current. Another round of texts, emails and letters were sent without response.

Surprisingly, some weeks after I almost gave up hope of any contact with Doug, I received a text message from his wife Ann, in response to my previous messages. Unfortunately, Doug was not well and they did not want to have contact with Moyra as *“now is not the time to sort out distant family, I hope you understand?”*

Moyra and I were disappointed with this result but resigned ourselves to the fact that memories would have to wait. I was also pleased to pass on the title of the youngest first cousin in our family to Moyra.



(Pictured: First cousins Peter Hovey & Moyra Czislowski nee Pope in June 2022. Is there a resemblance?)

PS. In March 2023 I had a phone call from Ann Pope to tell me that Doug had passed away in February. A sad story that he never got to meet his half-sister and get to know her or she him.

Timeless hits – updated

Some pop songs of the '60s and '70s have been updated for those of us who vaguely remember those days:

Paul Simon – *Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver*

Herman's Hermits – *Mrs Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker*

The BeeGees – *How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?*

Roberta Flack – *The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face*

The Temptations – *Papa's Got A Kidney Stone*

Helen Reddy – *I Am Woman, Hear Me Snore*

Willie Nelson – *On the Commode Again*

Rolling Stones – *I Can't Get No Circulation*

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LIBRARY FROM THE PRINTED JOURNALS



*Thanks to **Sue Schott** for reading the incoming printed journals for this report and thanks also to **Assistant Secretary Robyn Delaney** who forwards the e-journals to CFHRI members by email.*

So much great information and tips can be found in journals.

Irish Roots 127: County Sligo; 3.2 million name indexes relating to Valuation Records 1864 – 1933 on Ancestry; Visiting the Representative Church Body Library; DNA – a “Not Parent Expected” result; four helpful tips for your tree.

The Explorers’ Tree Oct: My ancestral mothers; The Kirk, Quirk, Quick debate; John Ross, Convict labourer on the 1st road over the Blue Mountains in 1814.

Family Tree Sept: Unofficial Guide to Ancestry; Top search tips; How to get started with DNA; Easy ways to work with DNA matches; Selected digital British B & D records for £2.50; Slow down & plan your research – how to get & keep organised; Understanding Genealogical sources & why it matters; Fam Hist – more than just a hobby; Getting the best from Ancestry for your Family History.

Family Tree Oct: Supercharge your search skills; Your unofficial My Heritage guide – 26 tips you can use; 1.8 million Canadian headstones to explore; Defining evidence; Witnesses & Contacts; DNA Workshop; Wills; Preserving Oral history; Photo corner.

Tamworth Fam Historian Nov: Many newspaper reports, mostly wartime.

Tasmanian Ancestry Sept: Convicts & Blind Mendicants Pt 1; Henry Shirkey; Servitude – the path to freedom; The Presumption of Innocence – women & marital coercion in 19c Tasmania

Timespan Sept: How to get kids interested in FH; Nepean Times; Pioneers of Liverpool & District; A good read!

The Genealogist Spring: Finding family in Trove; The tale of two Irishmen; 50 years of AIGS – 1974 reprint; Sources – Analyzing, recording, storing.

Ancestor Sept: Researching Huguenot ancestors; TM Girdlestone,

surgeon, coroner & politician to the goldfields & Melbourne; A small quantity of lace; Guide to researching records of French ancestors; Getting it write – citing your sources, concise & accurate; Blogging with Meg

Traces Ed 24: Sideshow barkers; Acts of bravery – lives saved at sea; Finding skeletons in the closet; Researching Chinese-Australian FH; When truth is a healer; What's new online.

Family Tree Nov: What is proof?; Wikitree; The Grandad I never knew; Unravelling Epigenetic Tapestry; Preserving Oral history; DNA Workshop.

Links 'n' Chains Oct: Liverpool weir; Frederick Garling; Why should everyone know some Family History; A solution to an Erroneous Entry; The importance to Australia of the Scottish influence; A D G D

**THESE JOURNALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM
THE LIBRARY.**

**PLEASE USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
BORROW A NEW ONE EACH MONTH.**



NEW MEMBERS

The Committee would like to welcome the following

New Members:

Narelle McKeown, Anna & Chris Klar, Terrie Hansen, Kate Mcgeehan and Robyn Stiller.



100 Club Winners

The November winners were:

1st Pattie Wilson; **2nd** Ian Edwardson; **3rd** Maree Sutton

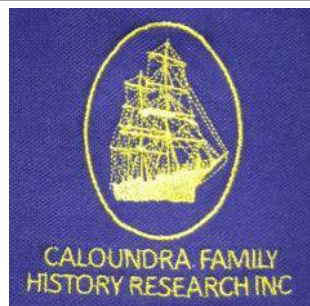
ITEMS FOR SALE Including GST

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Replacement Lanyards	\$ 2.00
Replacement Plastic Name Pocket	\$ 2.00

Various Genealogy Forms are available

— please see the Librarian Assistant or one of the Volunteers on roster.



CFHRI INTEREST GROUPS

FAMILY TREE MAKER

2PM TO 4PM

1st Wednesday of month

Contact - Chris Richardson
cj_richardson1@bigpond.com



WRITING GROUP

9.30AM to 11.30AM

3rd Thursday of month

Contact - Trisha Hyde

traiing@caloundrafamilyhistory.org.au



GERMANY

1PM TO 3PM

1st Thursday of month

Contact - Sue Schott
gands.schott@gmail.com



DNA

10AM TO 12 NOON

Friday after 3rd Thursday of month

Contact - Sue Brownjohn
brownjohn@bigpond.com



SCOTLAND

12 NOON TO 2PM

2nd Thursday of month

Contact - Sue Brownjohn
brownjohn@bigpond.com



CFH RESOURCES

12 NOON TO 2 PM

Saturday after 3rd Thursday of month

Contact - Fran Kitto
fran@travelgenee.com



IRELAND

2PM TO 4PM

2nd Thursday of month

Contact - Geoff Kelly
gandikelly@bigpond.com



FAMILY SEARCH

10AM TO 12 NOON

3rd Monday of month

Contact - Ralph Gray
ralphgray@hotmail.com



ENGLAND & WALES

1PM TO 3PM

4th Thursday of month

Contact - Geoff Kelly
gandikelly@bigpond.com



MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members are encouraged to **submit their interests** to be included on our website. If you have not filled in your interests, forms are available on the Website under Resources-Surname Interests. OR Additions/Deletions to the Members' Interest list, email the details to our Librarian. **INFORMATION NEEDED:** Surname, Year you are searching, Parish/Town, County/State and Country.

PEDIGREE CHARTS

Members are encouraged to submit their Pedigree Charts to the Library. The Blank Charts are included under RESOURCES:KNOWLEDGE BASE on our Website. Please give your completed Chart to the Librarian. It is a good way to discover if other Members are researching the same lines. These appear on our Website in RESOURCES:SURNAME INTEREST LIST.

QUEENSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

In accordance with our Country Membership of this Society, two members at a time may conduct research in their **QFHS** Research Rooms at 46 Delaware Street, Chermside. The Membership Card is held by the Secretary. Please see the QFHS website for opening times.

Website: <https://www.qfhs.org.au>

GENEALOGY SUNSHINE COAST

We have reciprocal membership with **GSC** at Petrie Park, Nambour. Our members can visit their rooms and are entitled to full use of their facilities for \$2 per session—your current CFHRI membership card is needed. Please see their website for opening times.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/genealogysunshinecoastinc>

HISTORY QUEENSLAND Inc.

We are proud to be a member of **HQ Inc.** Look for their Newsletters held in our Library.

Website: www.historyqueensland.org.au

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We are a member of **AFFHO**, the umbrella organisation for family history societies in the region, established in 1978 to co-ordinate & assist the work of Aust. & NZ groups with interests in family history, genealogy, heraldry & related subjects. **Website:** <http://www.affho.org/index.php>

SHIPPING RECORDS

Our index to Shipping Information Records is growing. If any members would like to make copies of their research available, this would help other members. Such information may include passenger Lists, Newspaper Articles and Photographs, etc. Please give them to the Librarian.

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