

The First Settlement City Gazette



The Journal of the
Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc.
Established 5th March 1987



Empire Day, 1905. In front of the Moreton Bay Hotel which was built in 1900. There are certain streets of Redcliffe Peninsula which have been named after the following men seated in this photo.

Front Row:

3rd from right. (**Margate**) Robert McGregor **Kirkwood**, holding a young child from the **Pikett** family. Robert's wife was **Sarah Pikett**. 4th from right. (**Clontarf**) William **Pikett** (fruit shop). 5th from right. (**Margate**) Ernest **Cutts**. 6th from right (**Scarborough**) George **Turner** (last one with straw hat).

2nd row: (**Margate**) William **Haskins** (with no hat). **Back Row:** (With Pith Helmet).

Ebenezer Underhill, Publican. His wife, Eleanor Underhill was the licensee of the Moreton Bay Hotel from 1901 to 1907. Photo supplied by RDFHGp member Robert Kirkwood who is the grandson of Robert McGregor Kirkwood seen in the above photo.

Redcliffe and District Family History Group Inc.

Library Address: Clontarf Beach Scout Den, Cnr Maine Road and Isobel Street, Clontarf, Qld. 4019
The Scout Den, which has wheelchair access, also has a dedicated all-weather car park.

Postal Address: 18 Collins Street, Woody Point, Qld. 4019.

Email: rdfhg2012@gmail.com

Website: www.redcliffefamilyhistory.org

PATRONS: **The Hon Luke Howarth MP, Member for Petrie,**
 Shadow Minister for **Defence Industry**, and
 Shadow Minister for **Defence Personnel**
Councillor Sandra Ruck, Division 5, Moreton Bay Regional Council
Councillor Karl Winchester, Division 6, Moreton Bay Regional Council

President	Cheryl Salisbury	0408 452 265
Vice President	Sam Gill	0468 354 776
Secretary	Joan Flack	3885 8678
Treasurer	Ted Flack	3885 8678
IT / Librarian	Graham Prothero	
Newsletter Editor	Leonne Willis	3885 3533
Committee Member	Dianne Hendey	
Photographer	Robert Kirkwood	3204 0656

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Financial Year 1st July to 30th June

LIBRARY HOURS. Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9.30 am 12.30 pm.

Closed: Mid December to late January.

GENERAL MEETINGS of Members are held at the Group's Library on the second Thursday of every second month from 11.00 am. Members are encouraged to attend.

NEWSLETTER. Members receive a copy of the Group's newsletter, "*The First Settlement City Gazette*" by e-mail during the months of March, July and November. Hard copies are also available. The newsletters are also available on the Group's website shown above.

R&DFHG has reciprocal visiting rights with Redlands Genealogical Society and Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society. We look forward to a long association with both societies.

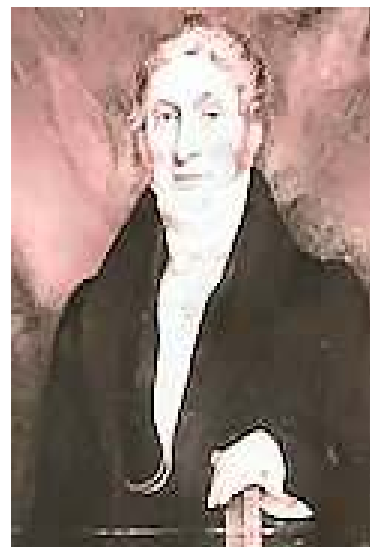
Disclaimer. The Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc. does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed or statements made by the contributors of articles published in this newsletter. Unless an article is marked copyright, Family History organisations have permission to reprint items from this Newsletter, providing that the source is acknowledged.

**R&DFHG extends thanks to
the Hon. Luke Howarth MP, Member for Petrie and
his office staff who kindly print and collate this Newsletter.**

The Sydney suburb of **Redfern** is named after **William Redfern (1774 - 1833)**. It is part of land which Redfern once owned in colonial Sydney. His story now follows.

Early Life. William Redfern, was born in Country Antrim, in what is now called Northern Ireland and was raised in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England. A review of his writings shows a command of English and with the classics which suggests that he was well educated.

Working Life in England. Redfern became a surgeon's apprentice to his older brother, Thomas, and then, in **1797**, he passed the examination of the London Company of Surgeons. This was a predecessor to the Royal College of Surgeons. He immediately was commissioned surgeon's mate in the Royal Navy aboard the 64-gun *HMS Standard* which was laying at anchor at **Nore** in the Thames Estuary.

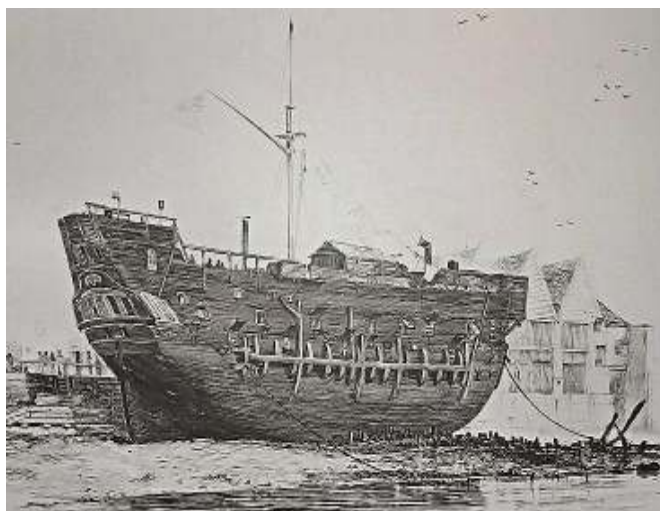


Mutiny. The Spithead and Nore mutinies were two major mutinies by sailors of the Royal Navy in 1797. These acts were extremely concerning for England, because, at this time, the country was at war with Revolutionary France and the Navy was the main component of the war effort. There were also concerns among the government that the mutinies might be part of wider attempts at revolutionary sedition which had just taken place in France.

It could be said that it was just bad luck for Redfern being on board *HMS Standard* when its crew mutinied and seized control of the ship. Although other ships chose not to and slipped away, several ships at Nore followed the example of the earlier **Spithead** mutiny.

After the successful resolution of the Spithead mutiny, the government and the admiralty were not inclined to make further concessions, particularly as they felt some of the **Nore** leaders had political aims beyond improving pay and living conditions. In the reprisals that followed, 29 were hanged, 28 were imprisoned and nine were flogged while others were sentenced to transportation to Australia.

In regards to Redfern, he was then 23 years old and an onlooker to the events going on around him. However, Redfern unwisely advised the mutineers in a letter that *"they should be more united amongst themselves"*.



When the mutiny was finally broken, his letter was used as evidence that he was part of the mutiny. Thus, Redfern was included amongst the leaders and was tried by court martial. In August **1797**, he was sentenced to death but, because of his youth and his professional situation, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Sketch of a Hulk (Prison) ship in England.

Whilst in his four years of incarceration Redfern had appealed to Sir Jeremiah Fitzpatrick, Inspector of Transports, for transportation to New South Wales. Evidently, after **1800**, a payment system was in place to reward ship contractors for every **live** convict who arrived in the colony. This system was helping reduce the then high mortality rates on convict ships. So, Redfern appealed for transportation to Australia rather than remain a prisoner in England.

Redfern's appeal was successful and he was transported to Sydney on the *Minorca* which departed in June 1801. Paperwork shows that his name is bracketed with thirteen others as "Mutineers".

Sketch of the sailing ship, *Minorca*.



On board, was a mixture of free settlers, guards and convicts. Redfern assisted the ship's surgeon and, by the end of the voyage, he had won back the position of surgeon's mate which he had lost four years earlier. The *Minorca* arrived in Sydney in December 1801; the voyage had been of **176** days duration.



Governor Philip Gidley King (third governor of the colony) happily wrote back to England that "the passengers are all in good health and the 99 convicts the healthiest and best conditioned that ever arrived here, being fit for immediate labour." Five had died on the voyage.

Governor Philip Gidley King

Norfolk Island. In 1800, having established a reputation as an able and efficient administrator in Sydney, **Joseph Foveaux**, a major in the NSW Corps offered to go to **Norfolk Island** as Lieutenant-Governor. Finding the island run down, he built it up with special attention to public works, for which he earned the praise of Governor King.

During the years (1788 to 1814), Norfolk Island was basically a free settlement with convicts making up no more than 10 percent. The island was then not the dark place of secondary punishment which it became in the second settlement (1825 to 1855) when it was infamous for the harsh treatment of its convicts.

Norfolk Island historic convict era buildings.

In May **1802**, Redfern was transferred to Norfolk Island as assistance surgeon. Because of his medical skills which Norfolk Island lacked and his strong work ethic, he soon attracted the attention of Lieutenant-Governor Foveaux.



Shortly after Redfern's arrival, Foveaux granted him a **conditional** pardon. Then, in June **1803**, Redfern received a **free** pardon from Governor King. He would remain on Norfolk Island for five more years as assistant surgeon. During his time there, Redfern continued to work hard and gained a good medical reputation. In **1808**, he decided to return to Sydney.

26th of January 1808. On this day, twenty years after the founding of New South Wales, 400 officers and men of the NSW Corps marched to **Government House** in Sydney, led by Commanding Officer **George Johnston**.



It was an act of rebellion against the then Governor, William Bligh, who was arrested and the colony placed under military rule.

Government House. Unknown artist.

This was the only time in Australian history that a government was overthrown by a military coup. It became known as the "**Rum Rebellion**".

Aftermath of the "Rum Rebellion". In **July 1808**, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Foveaux arrived back in New South Wales after an absence of four years. He had been appointed by the authorities in London to serve as **Lieutenant-Governor** to Governor Bligh; only to find Governor Bligh under house arrest and Major George Johnston running the colony.

Although Lieutenant-Colonel Foveaux outranked Major Johnston in the NSW Corps, he still faced the unexpected and unwelcome problem of deciding whether to reinstate Bligh or take command himself pending the receipt of orders from London.



Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Foveaux.

Being a man of decision and firmness, in a matter of hours, Foveaux decided that restoring the deposed governor would only invite further trouble. Therefore, he took an immediate and secure hold over the reins of government.

The deposed Governor Bligh now made for Hobart, Tasmania aboard HMS *Porpoise*. However, Bligh failed to gain support from the authorities in Hobart to retake control of NSW. He remained virtually “imprisoned” on the *Porpoise* from 1808 to January 1810 until the arrival of the next governor of the colony, Major-General Lachlan Macquarie.

Moving forward, one of Foveaux’s first actions was to dispense with the services of **John Macarthur** who, as colonial secretary, had been the power behind Johnston.

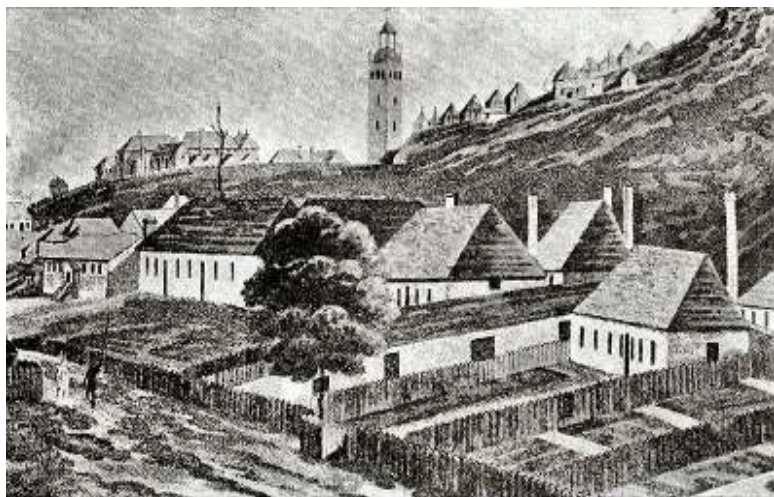
John Macarthur.(1767- 1834).
Unknown date and artist.



Throughout the following year, Foveaux’s administration would be identical to that of his time on Norfolk Island; a desire for cheap and efficient administration, improvement of public works, and encouragement of small-holders. In addition, he attacked the liquor trade, endeavoured to reduce expenditure and dealt with other matters which had led to the “Rum Rebellion”.

William Redfern and Life in Sydney. As noted above, Redfern had also returned to Sydney in 1808 but had no documentary evidence of his professional qualifications. After being examined by three surgeons, they all found him ‘qualified to exercise the Profession of a Surgeon etc.’ This examination set a precedent and was followed for many years for testing anyone who wished to practise medicine in the colony.

Also, during his time as governor, Foveaux appointed Redfern as assistant surgeon to the old and dilapidated hospital at **Dawes Point** in Sydney. From those shared years on Norfolk Island, Foveaux knew very well Redfern’s excellent medical skills and his strong work ethic.



First General Hospital at
Dawes Point. 1796 - 1816.

FIRST GENERAL HOSPITAL AT DAWES POINT, 1796-1816.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie. On 1st January 1810, Scottish-born **Macquarie** became the fifth Governor of NSW. In making this appointment, the government changed its practice of appointing a naval officer as governor and instead chose an army commander in the hope that he could secure the co-operation of the corrupt and insubordinate NSW Corps.

The 73rd Regiment of Foot had accompanied Macquarie on two ships. Aided by the fact Macquarie arrived in Sydney at the head of his own unit of regular troops, he was unchallenged by the New South Wales Corps.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1810 -1821).



Governor Macquarie is considered by historians to have had a crucial influence on the transition of New South Wales from a penal colony to a free settlement and to have played a major role in the shaping of Australian society in those early years of the 19th century.

Part of his undertaking of bringing order was to refashion the convict settlement into an urban environment of organised towns with street and parks. The street layout of modern central Sydney is based upon a plan established by Macquarie. The colony's most prestigious buildings were built on Macquarie Street. Some of these still stand today.

In late 1810, Macquarie toured the regions around Sydney; marking out the sites and streets of future towns. In Hobart, appalled at the ramshackle town arrangement, he ordered a regular street layout.

Another initiated town-planning reform made by Macquarie was that **all traffic on NSW roads was to keep to the left.**

Health Situation. Macquarie also gave attention to the old Sydney General Hospital at Dawes Point, run by **D'Arcy Wentworth**, the principal surgeon, and where **Redfern** was working as an assistant surgeon. A new building was urgently needed and was one of the first items of business that Macquarie put in hand. When it was completed in 1816, Redfern took charge of it; although D'Arcy Wentworth still visited the wards as a consultant.

Occupation of the new hospital did not end the appalling conditions. There were still inadequacies of diet and sanitation and the nursing care provided by the unreliable. Often the convict attendants were disorderly and the nurses very rough. Stealing was so rife that Redfern himself had to issue all supplies and supervise the making of medicines to stop the theft of drugs.

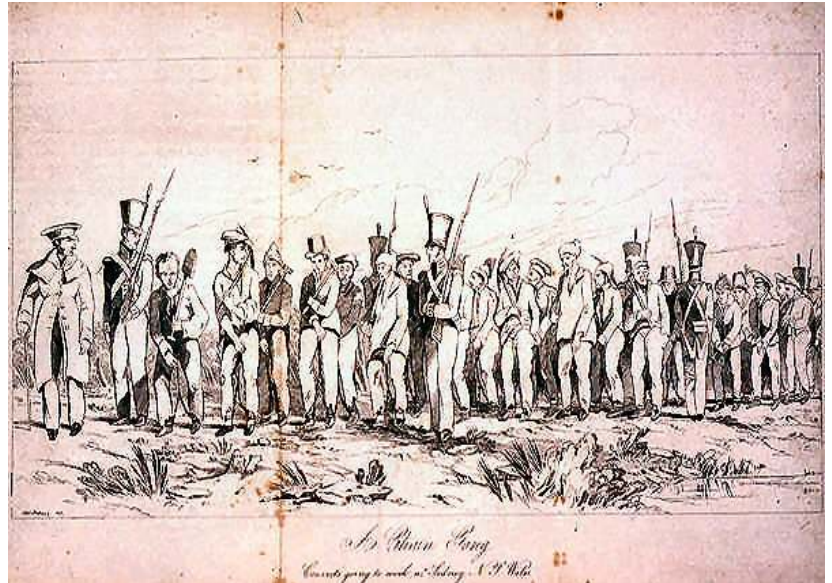
In the following years, Redfern dedicated himself to improving the health of people and so saved the lives of many people.

Not only did Redfern work at the hospital, he ran a daily outpatients clinic for convicts and the poor and also conducted a private practice.

The physical work for convicts was brutal.

1840. Sydney convict chain gang.

Work-related injuries, accidents, harsh punishments, some working in leg irons, wounds from floggings, injuries from violence, chronic ailments, malnutrition and many other maladies afflicted the convict population.



One early example of his efforts to help people was that since **1804** Redfern had been advocating the use of a new **smallpox** vaccine which had been developed by the English doctor, Edward Jenner, in 1796. When Redfern returned to Sydney from Norfolk Island, he promoted this vaccination at his outpatients clinic.

In his private practice, Redfern became the family doctor to the family of **John Macarthur** and, in **1809**, Redfern had attended to his daughter and earned her father's deep gratitude for saving his daughter's life. Redfern also attended the birth of the son of **Governor Lachlan Macquarie**.

His professional skill was highly regarded by his colleagues and he had the reputation of being the best obstetrician in the colony. In fact, Redfern became the most popular doctor in the colony and his services were widely sought.

With the arrival of Governor Macquarie, Redfern's status had been further enhanced. Macquarie was keen to rehabilitate emancipated convicts who had displayed good morals and long-term good conduct. He observed that these attributes should lead a man back to that rank in society which he had forfeited. Macquarie considered Redfern to be one of those people and "had admitted him to his table". Evidently, both men held a great respect for each other.

Convict Health and William Redfern's Contributions. Redfern had always been concerned with convict health which, in general, was poor. Prior their transportation, convicts often had a physical or mental impairment. Now ahead of them lay a long sea travel of many months, cramped conditions, inadequate provisions, and lack of hygiene.

In **1814**, three convict ships arrived in Sydney after voyages where excessive numbers of both convicts and ship's crews succumbed to preventable diseases.

Redfern's experiences as a Navy surgeon's mate starting with the deplorable conditions of English prisons and hulks, convict transportation, and harshness of convict life made him the ideal person to perform a review of the calamitous voyages of those three ships as ordered by **Governor Macquarie**.



Sydney, NSW. A harbour scene during Governor Macquarie's time in office.

The three ships reviewed were as follows:

General Hewitt. 300 males. Mostly Typhus and Dysentery. Dead 34. 266 weak and sickly.
Three Bees. 219 males. Scurvy. Dead 9. 55 hospitalised on arrival with scurvy and other debilitations.

Surry. 200 males. Typhus. Dead 36. 50 deaths overall; including ship's Captain and Surgeon.

In Redfern's report, dated 30 September 1814, his recommendations for improvement included **four** key areas.

Clothing and Cleanliness. The type of clothing should suit the climatic conditions and must be clean. Convicts suffered in the cold because of the wrong clothing and, if their bedding got wet, it was thrown overboard. On all three ships, convicts were dirty and unwashed. Redfern saw the role of personal cleanliness in the prevention of disease. He recommended that convicts were to regularly wash themselves and their clothes.

Diet. The food allowance was sufficient provided it was duly served out. This had not been the case. Wine allowance should be increased and better served in cold and bad weather rather than weekly. The wine had not been duly served on the *Surry* and *General Hewitt*.

Air and Ventilation. Redfern felt this was the area of greatest importance in preventing ill health and mortality on convict ships. He believed, as did other doctors of this era, that illness came from inhaling bad smells or tainted air. **All three ships** did not provide adequate fresh air and time on deck. Apparently, the bedding on *Surry* was **never** aired. He urged the exercise of daily cleaning, fumigation, regular rotation of convicts on deck and that bedding be aired on deck.

Incompetency and lack of authority of Ship Surgeons. Redfern noted that the surgeons were either young and inexperienced or incompetent. The workload was heavy and the surgeons did not have authority and were treated brutally by the ship captains.

However, the most noteworthy of Redfern's recommendations was his insistence on the need for 'approved and skilful' surgeons in each ship and for defining clearly their powers in relation to the ships' captains. To provide men for this service, Redfern recommended an Assistant Surgeon be appointed and the Ship Surgeon be a qualified Navy surgeon who would combine the role of Surgeon and Transport Agent to ensure the rations were delivered to the convicts and not appropriated by the ship's crew.

Redfern's advice was followed. This mix of both authority and proficiency was successful in maintaining lower mortality rates on convict transport ships. Ultimately, this put an end to most of the abuses of the past.

Disappointments. In 1818, when D'Arcy Wentworth finally resigned from Sydney General Hospital, Redfern expected to succeed him. Despite a very strong recommendation from Governor Macquarie to appoint William Redfern as principal surgeon, **Lord Bathurst**, Secretary of State for the Colonies, appointed a naval surgeon, James Bowman. It has been suggested that Bathurst disliked the practice of appointing former convicts. Consequently, a disappointed Redfern resigned as Assistant Surgeon.

As a solace, Macquarie appointed Redfern a magistrate. However, **Lord Bathurst** then ordered Redfern's removal from the bench. Unfortunately, Redfern had become a provocative symbol of the governor's emancipist policy. So, Redfern's life took another path.

Later Life. For the benefit of his health, Redfern spent some time on the island of Madeira. He eventually returned to NSW bringing stud sheep, grapevines and fruit trees for his estate at Campbell Fields which was his farm in Minto.

Redfern now devoted more time to his farming activities, which included cultivating vineyards as well as fine wool and cattle.



Lord Bathurst. Secretary of State for the Colonies.



Personal Life. In 1811, William Redfern married Sarah Spencer Wills in Sydney. They would have two sons - William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern (b.1819) and Joseph Foveaux Redfern (b. 1823).

The Redfern home at Campbell Fields, NSW (partially restored).

Redfern gradually withdrew from his medical practice which he gave up entirely in 1826. He died on 17 July 1833 in Edinburgh, Scotland where he had taken his son, William, to complete his education. Redfern would leave 23,000 acres of good farmland in New South Wales, including the area now named after him.

Other Contributions. William Redfern always took an active part in the life of New South Wales. He was a member of the *Benevolent Society* and the *Aborigines' Institution*. He was also one of the first directors of the *Bank of New South Wales*. As such, he was co-director with Governor Macquarie, Elizabeth Macquarie and **Mary Reibey**, also an ex-convict, who was featured in our November 2023 newsletter.

Epilogue. William Redfern was a great early medical practitioner in NSW, the first to receive an Australian qualification, the first teacher of Australian medical students, and author of important health reforms. Nonetheless, as a result of his youthful action during the Nore Mutiny, which, however, justified, was resented by the authorities in England. His later important service to the people of NSW did not receive its proper due.

Sources: Documents: RDFHG member Kerry Graves; Wikipedia; visitssydneyaustralia.com.au; Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Thank you The Hon Luke Howarth MP

The Members of the Redcliffe & District Family History Group extend thanks to **The Hon Luke Howarth MP** for his continuing support of the Group and recently, through the Australian Government, for the grant which has enabled the Group to purchase a new computer and laser printer.

Thank you Moreton Bay Regional Council

The Members of the Redcliffe & District Family History Group Inc extend thanks to **The Moreton Bay Regional Council** for its continuing support of the Group through its Community Grants Scheme. Our thanks are extended for their recent grant to renovate and upgrade the Group's Website.

"The First Settlement City Gazette" is kindly printed with the compliments of The Hon. Luke Howarth MP, Federal Member for Petrie

.... And Sponsored by:

Terry Rogers
FCA, FGIA, FCIS
羅涵琛
CA資深會計師

Phone: (+61 7) 3284 4582
Email: terry@twrgroup.com.au

Suite 1/20 Baynes Street, Margate Qld 4019
Suite 2/80 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba Qld 4102
PO Box 242, Margate Beach Qld 4019 Australia

cooke & hutchinson
LAWYERS

Gary Hutchinson
Legal Practice Director
QLS Senior Counsellor

Mob: 0414 650 951
gary@cookehutchinson.com.au

North Lakes Central
Level 1, Suite 205
53 Endeavour Boulevard
North Lakes QLD 4509
Tel: (07) 3284 9433
www.cookehutchinson.com.au

LICENSED SURVEYORS & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

WD Surveys

Errol Deller

15 Anzac Avenue
PO Box 548
Redcliffe Qld 4020
mail@wdsurveys.com.au
www.wdsurveys.com.au

T 3284 1466
M 0408 723 150



Great Northern
Garden of Remembrance

*The perfect place
for memories*

Tony Sargent
Manager

PHONE: 07 3888 6622 FAX: 07 3888 6503

EMAIL: a.sargent@gngor.com.au

WEB: www.gngor.com.au

Tallowwood Drive, Deception Bay, Qld 4508

100% Australian and Family Owned