



Central Queensland Family History Association Inc

The CQ Genie-ologist

Journal



ISSN 0818-5689
ISSN (ONLINE) 2209-9298

June 2024

Issue No 149

Central Queensland Family History Association Inc.

Rockhampton QLD

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Library Opening Hours	Ph 0448 105 755	Library hours only
Tuesday & Saturday	1:00pm-4:00pm	
Thursday & Friday	9:00am-12:00noon	
Members Free	Non Members \$10 per session	
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The Central Queensland Family History Association Inc. was formed on the 21st May 1986, as a non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit association to accommodate the growing demand for genealogical records in the C.Q. area.

Benefits of Membership Members are invited to participate in General Meetings held in the months of March, June, September and December, commencing 10am - 12noon. Apart from normal procedures, meetings usually include an activity such as a guest speaker, presentation on the Association's resources, discussions relating to the past or matters of interest. Members may attend the library during advertised opening hours free of charge.

Publications The association publishes a journal ***The CQ Genie-ologist***, three times per year, which is issued free to members. We invite members to advertise for information on their own family histories, and to submit articles free of charge. C.Q.F.H.A. Inc. exchanges journals with other genealogical societies, both in Australia and overseas, thus giving our members first hand information on the particular area they may be researching.

Research Country members will be provided with 5 hours of research with specific information from our library holdings. Additional research for members or research for NON MEMBERS by the Association, a fee of **\$25.00** per hour will be charged. **This minimum payment is required before commencement of research. This is Non Refundable.**

Library A constantly growing library of research material, including an extensive microfiche, microfilm and CD collection is available for use by members and visitors at the club rooms. **Members** - free. **Non-members** \$10 per session.

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While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Central Queensland Family History Association Inc. does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed, statements made or material submitted by contributors to this journal.

Page by Page

We hope you enjoy our newly formatted journal. Thank you to Roseann Creagh for taking on this role. Roseann and her team still need articles from you to make these journals an enjoyable read.

Membership fees are due from 1 July and we look forward to your renewal and continued support.

Our building is to be spruced up with the assistance of Frenchville Sports Club to whom we are immensely grateful. A grant of \$2500 has been provided to us for this project. Rockhampton Regional Council's councilor Marika Taylor has also contributed to this venture.



Thank you to Jan Fenlon, Linda Marshall and Emily Searle-Hill for promoting our organisation by speaking at U3A. This is a great way to get our message out to the wider community.

A very enjoyable BBQ was held in March. It's wonderful to mix with other members socially and get to know each other in a different setting.

Our heirloom talk was again very interesting and we appreciated seeing the precious artefacts that members brought along.

Beginners' Day was again worthwhile holding and the new members were impressed with our improved facilities and the running of the event.

We have just received notification that we are in receipt of a Federal Community Volunteers grant of \$5000 which will assist in updating our photocopier. Our thanks to Michelle Landry for her assistance in this project.

It's that time of year when we appeal to all members to consider what positions they would like to consider for the coming financial year. Please have a chat to a committee member or consult the role descriptions either online or at the rooms. All positions will be declared vacant and a new committee elected at the AGM on 7 September. Thank you to the present committee for your continued support.

Kay Page

President

Journal

This issue is a time for remembering and has a military focus as does the theme for our June general meeting. Trisha Brannigan has stepped down to concentrate on other tasks within the organization and Roseann Creagh will be taking on the role moving forward.

We would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution Trisha has given over the years to ensure our publications met deadlines to provide a quality journal for our association. Roseann and the team welcome your thoughts and contributions to ensure we continue to produce a high quality, informative journal. We would love to publish your stories in our journal.

Hope you enjoy,
CQFHA Journal Team

Articles for the October 2024 journal are **due 31st August**.

Please email your articles to: journal@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

What's been happening at CQFHA.....

- **Fundraising** - Keep bringing in those 10c containers. We have already raised \$65.00 since Christmas. It all helps.
- **Grants** – The Treasurer is currently reviewing any grants that we may be able to apply for.
- **Painting** is to begin on the external walls of our building.
- **New monitors** have been placed on computers. This will be a key advantage for the Projects team.
- **Social BBQ** – Several members and their partners came along to a lovely evening under the stars, listening to some classic hits of the past and discussing everything from the weather, memories past and of course some genealogy!

A warm welcome to all new and rejoining members. Please make yourself at home and don't be afraid to ask for help. If we can't help you with a specific question, we will point you in the right direction. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming group of people with a common interest in keeping our family heritage alive.



Beverley Sykes
Dell Dennis

Jo-Anne Williams
Ann Oram

Sandra Lentell
Robyn Clark

Membership Renew Today

Don't Delay and Renew your Membership Today

Membership fees are due for renewal on the 1st July 2024. This is the last journal for your current membership. A form is enclosed with this journal, so please fill it in and pay your subscriptions to the treasurer, librarians, via our website (www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au) or post. We try to keep these fees low and you receive many benefits by being a member of this association. Prompt payment of your membership fees would be greatly appreciated. Only financial members will receive their October journal.

Financial Year	1 st July 2024 – 30 th June 2025
Membership Fees	
Single	\$50.00 +\$10 if journal posted
Family	\$60.00 +\$10 if journal posted 2 members of a family living at the same address (one Journal)
Journal Only	\$30.00

Annual General Meeting



Please give consideration to taking on a position as we need volunteers to keep our organisation operating successfully

Annual General Meeting

10 am Saturday 7 September 2024

All positions will become vacant.

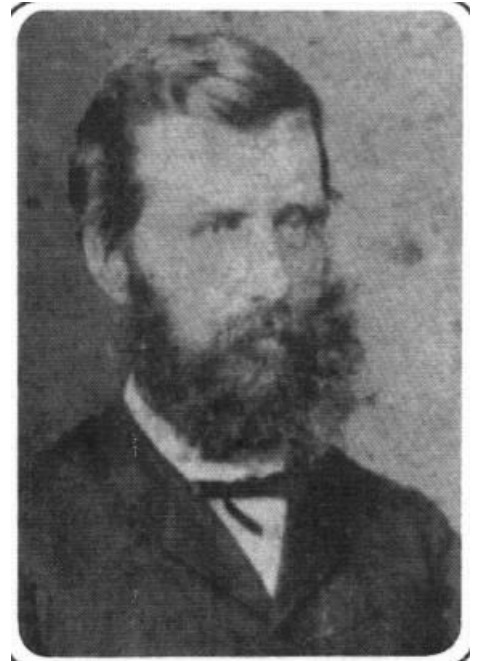
Position descriptions and nomination forms will be available from the CQFHA rooms prior to the meeting.

Callaghan Brothers - Worthy Pioneers

by Jeanette Finlayson

The Callaghan brothers, William and Joseph were born in Limavady, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland to parents, James Callaghan and Anne Fleming. They both became doctors and both ended up in Australia in the late 1850s, after being ship's doctors for a time. Fortunately for us, in Rockhampton, Dr William Callaghan decided to settle here, while his brother, Joseph settled in the Hawkesbury District of New South Wales.

As a doctor, William agreed to visit patients who lived outside of Rockhampton. His motto was, "No distance too great; no weather so bad to prevent patient attention". To keep this promise he needed strong, reliable horses which could also travel at a fast pace over long distances, so that is one of the reasons he became involved in the racing industry. In May 1863 it was deemed advisable to form a properly constituted racing club and consequently the Fitzroy Jockey Club was formed. This later became the Rockhampton Jockey Club. William Callaghan even began to breed his own horses.



Dr William Callaghan

In 1873 the Rockhampton Handicap winnings was for £100, and Dr Callaghan's colt, Kingston, won easily. The Rockhampton Jockey Club gained in strength over the years and Dr Callaghan was on the first committee and remained on it for 36 years. He was vice president for several years and then became president. It is little wonder that our Rockhampton race track was eventually named "Callaghan Park Race Track" in honour of the man who did so much for racing in our city.

William Callaghan did not appear to have much time to him-self. He was the Government Medical Officer, and District Coroner as well as a Consulting Surgeon in the Children's Hospital and for many years was a director of the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company. He was also a member of the Presbyterian Church. Amongst all these activities he actually found the time to get married.

On 26 January 1869 he married Harriet Anne Cowper who was the daughter of Dean Cowper of Sydney, and they had at least eight children.

4/2/1870 Lionel Cowper Callaghan was born. Then came:-

14/10/1871 Wilfred Macquarie

13/4/1873 Horace Melville

12/1/1875 Lancelot Arthur

24/9/1876 Evelyn Gertrude

17/3/1878 Lucille Maude Cowper

15/9/1879 Oriel Albert

7/9/1881 Unnamed child

Harriet would have been kept very busy looking after the children and doing household chores while her husband was attending to all his civic duties.

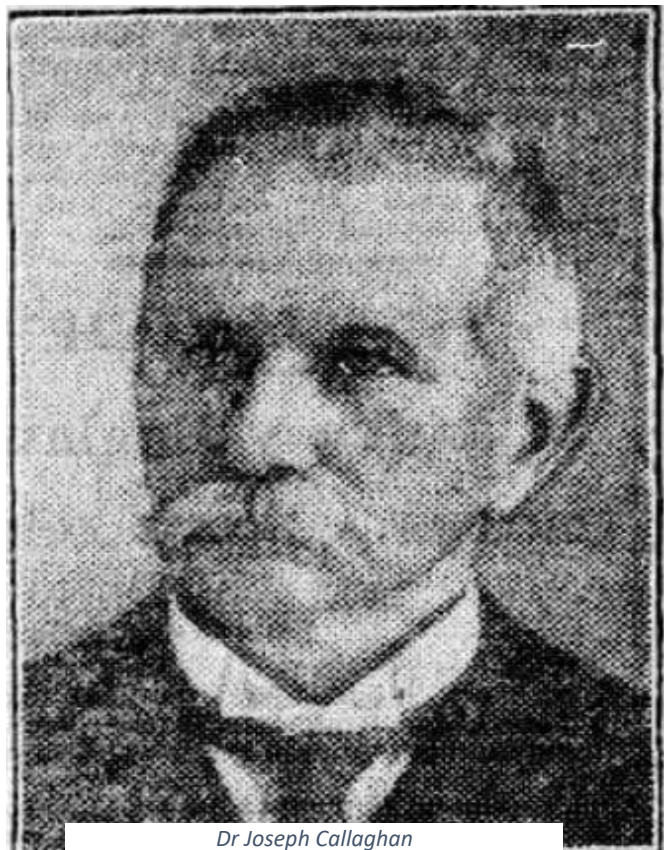
Obviously William was a great deal more than a doctor. He was a very dedicated citizen, being involved in a large number of activities which greatly benefitted our area. In September 1877 the Fitzroy Rowing Club was formed with 102 active members. The president was Captain R M Hunter and the vice president was our Dr Callaghan. He was a very keen rower and a lover of sport, in general. When the western railway line, Rockhampton to Longreach, a distance of 424 miles was finally reached in February 1892, it was marked by a very grand ceremony. The Premier, Sir Samuel Griffith, several MLA personnel, Rockhampton Mayor (Mr F A Morgan), Bishop Dawes, Bishop Cani were all part of this important celebration. Dr William Callaghan was added to this list of celebrities, illustrating how highly he was regarded in the Community.

In Dr Callaghan's later years he gave up riding spirited horses, and he could be seen riding around Rockhampton on his bicycle, doing his daily rounds. He finally passed away on 1st April 1912. Part of his Obituary in one newspaper stated that the whole history of Rockhampton is interwoven with the life of Dr Callaghan whose upright and honourable career endeared him to everyone.

Dr Callaghan's brother, Joseph in NSW appears to have left a similar impression on the people who knew him. The following article appeared in the Richmond Gazette on Friday, 27 February 1920.

DR JOSEPH CALLAGHAN, J.P. HIS GREAT WORK ACKNOWLEDGED

A more honoured citizen than Dr Joseph Callaghan has never lived in the Hawkesbury District, and no man's departure from the district has been more universally regretted. As already announced in these columns, Dr Callaghan recently retired from his profession as a medical practitioner, which he has followed with eminent success for well over half a century, the last 36 years of which he has lived in Windsor. He endeared himself to all classes, more especially, the poor among us and his removal from the district has been a great wrench to all. Dr Callaghan will live in retirement at Dee Why.



Dr Joseph Callaghan

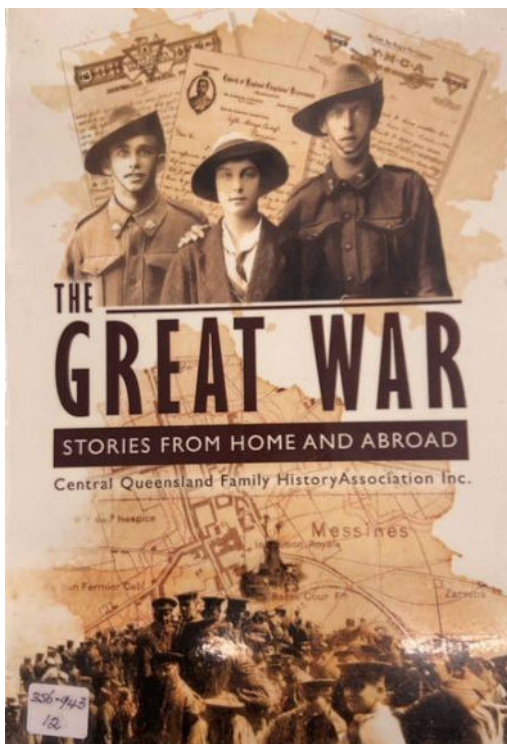
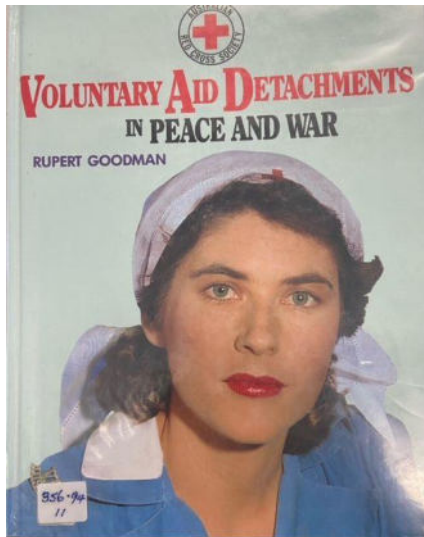
The article goes on to mention the great work he has done for the old Hawkesbury Race Club during the many years he had been associated with it. The Club's prosperity was mainly due to Dr Callaghan's able manipulation of the finances during his several years as chairman.

I think it is rather obvious how similar in character, and citizenship these two brothers were, and how well respected and appreciated they were by their communities. Australia was very fortunate to inherit these two Irish doctors who left such a legacy in their adopted country.

Information for this story came from "The Development of Rockhampton and District" by A E Hermann, and "The Early History of Rockhampton" by J.T.S Bird. Both of these books can be found in CQFHA Library. Other information was found on TROVE and Queensland, Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Military Resources

Have you ever wondered what resources are available for your military research? You may find it beneficial to visit the library to see the incredible resources we have on offer to assist with your research?



The Great War – Stories from Home and Abroad.

This book was compiled from stories written by the descendants, relatives and friends of those who served in World War 1, The Great War.

It also includes stories of those who remained behind and how they were affected. Have you checked to see if your ancestor's stories are in this book?

Edward Hennessey

By Roseann Creagh

Edward Hennessey born on 24 January 1894 at Springsure and enlisted as a private on 2 Oct 1916. The unit embarked at Sydney per HMAT A33 "Ayrshire" on 24th January 1917 on his 22nd birthday! Edward was born in Springsure on 24 Jan 1894. He was educated at Springsure State school from 1899 – 1909. He was assigned the military number of 3706.

Ted, as he was always referred to, returned to Australia on 16 June 1919 and was discharged from service on 12 September 1919.



Edward Galvin HENNESSEY	
Regimental No	3706
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Stockman
Address	Barcaldine, Queensland
Marital Status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
NEXT of Kin	Grandmother, Mrs. Bridget Hennessey, Barcaldine, Queensland
Enlistment Date	2 October 1916
Rank on Enlistment	Private
Unit Name	4th Pioneer Battalion, Reinforcement 9
AWM Embarkation Roll No.	14,16,3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked at Sydney per HMAT A33 "Ayrshire" on 24 January 1917
Rank(s) from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit(s) from Nominal Roll	3rd Army Field Artillery Brigade
Date	Returned to Australia 16 June 1919
Date of Discharge	12 September 1919

During his time abroad, whilst on leave in England with an Army colleague he met and fell in love with Alma Keziah Dumbrell of Sussex. He promised when he returned home he would save his money and send it to her for a passage to Australia where they would marry and make their life in Central Queensland. Alma departed England on 11 June 1921 on board "SS Omar". On arrival she received word that Edward was caught between two flooded creeks in the Charleville district with a mob of sheep he was droving and was unable to meet her. She had to catch a train to Barcaldine to relations and on this

journey she met and became life long friends with Miss May Smith. Ted & Alma were married at St Pauls Cathedral Rockhampton on 9 Nov 1921. They resided in Barcaldine initially until 1925 when they moved to Springsure where Ted worked and later on managed Orion Downs and Bertley Stations. They went on to build their lives in Springsure raising 5 children, John, Margaret, Bill, Bob and Keith. When WW2 was declared Ted enlisted again for service on 17 May 1942 at the age of 48 yrs and 4mths. He was placed on reserve on 26 July 1944, later to be discharged on 21/10/1945.

Ted was a keen gardener. He had a great interest in racing and was a starter for the Springsure races for many years. He was a member of the R.S.L. and always marched on Anzac Day.

After the death of his wife in 1978, Ted moved to Barcaldine to reside with his daughter Margaret (Peggy) Creagh. His health deteriorated and he was a patient of the Barcaldine Hospital for the last 5 years of his life. Ted celebrated his 90th birthday with the staff, patients, family and friends in hospital at Barcaldine.

He passed away on 15/07/1985 and is buried with his wife in the Springsure Cemetery.

William James Hennessey

William James Hennessey served in WW1 and was the uncle of Ted Hennessey.

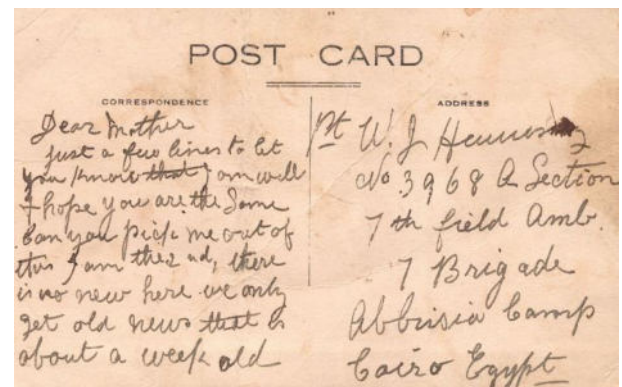
Bill was born on 05 Jun 1878 at Springsure to William Hennessey and Bridget Galvin. He was enrolled at Springsure State School on 22 Oct 1885 at the age of 5 and left school in December 1890. In his early life he worked in the Taroom and Miles area and it was in Miles that he enlisted for The Great War, serving with



the Army Medical Corps in Gallipoli. On his discharge he returned to Springsure to follow station work. In his later years he resided with Ted and Alma. He never married and had a very keen interest in horse racing. He was of a quiet and retiring nature, noted for his many acts of kindness and possessed a generous disposition.

I am fortunate to have in my possession a postcard from Egypt he sent to his loving Mother.

Sources: BDM certificates, NAA, WW1 & WW2 Military Records



Central Queenslanders in 462 Squadron, RAAF, WW2

by E. M. A. HIBBERD

Maxwell James HIBBERD, was the Rear Gunner and sole survivor of Crew 59 (Pilot A.D.J. BALL) of 462 Squadron flying from Foulsham, Norfolk. Their Halifax NA240 Z5-V was shot down on 10 April 1945, with seven KIA, and one PoW. A website was originally created as a Tribute to that crew, but expanded to include other Air Crews of 462 Sqdn at Foulsham (Jan-Sep 1945), and later to include Air Crews of 462 Sqdn at Driffield (Aug-Dec 1944). The site further expanded to include Air Crews of 462 Sqdn in the Middle East (Sep 1942 to Feb 1944). More recent additions have been WAAFs (UK), and Ground personnel.

Recently, it was noticed that several of the squadron personnel were originally from Central Queensland. Following are some of the names with basic information. Photos and more details are presented in the relevant crew pages at the website (links on the Home page at <https://www.462squadron.com> or via the **Site Map**).

Middle East Air Crew, Operational

Leonard Henry HIBBINS 414681 RAAF, Rear Gunner for Pilot GJ ATWELL at El Adem; born on 28 Jan 1923, parents Walter and Phoebe HIBBINS, of **Theodore**. He was educated at Theodore Primary and High schools, and Rockhampton Tech College; enlisted on 08 Nov 1941; trained as a gunner; advanced training in the UK; posted to 462 Sqdn, El Adem (near Tobruk) on 27 Jan 1944. In March 1944, 462 Sqdn was relocated to Celone in Italy, and re-named as 614 Sqdn. The ATWELL crew failed to return from their second Op at 614 Sqdn. Only three bodies were recovered. HIBBINS was buried at Foggia Military Cemetery, later relocated to Bari War Cemetery, Italy, Plot 6, Row B, Grave 22.

Middle East Ground Crew

Harry FREEMAN, 25093 RAAF, Fitter/II/A; born 26 Jun 1918 in **Yeppoon**, son of Harry and Emma FREEMAN; husband of Alice Elizabeth (*née* FRYER, married 1936); father of 2 sons; enlisted 14 Jun 1940; trained in Qld, NSW, and Vic, then posted to Middle East; posted to 462 Sqdn on 15 Jan 1943. FREEMAN was one of **eleven Ground Crew killed on 20 Nov 1943**, at 462 Sqdn, Terria, during the “bombing-up” of an aircraft for night Ops. Harry was buried in the Benghazi War Cemetery (Libya), Plot 6, Row E, Grave 1.

UK Air Crew, Operational

Ivan Alexander ARCHER (Sandy) 425261 RAAF, Navigator for Crew 10, Pilot JT RODGERS, 462 Sqdn, Driffield, UK. He was born on 26 Nov 1909, at **Rockhampton**. He was the husband of June (married 1939 at St Pauls' Cathedral, Rockhampton), and later, father of two children. He enlisted on 01 Feb 1942; trained in NSW and Vic; advanced training in UK, then crewed with Pilot RODGERS; posted to 462 Sqdn after it re-formed at Driffield in Aug 1944; after his first Tour, he was posted to an Operational Training Unit as Instructor. Post war, he worked and lived at Peak Downs. Sandy was a direct descendant of one of the first European settlers at Gracemere (1855), near Rockhampton. Genealogy: 1st generation William ARCHER (Sandy's great-grandfather); 2nd generation David ARCHER (Sandy's grandfather); 3rd generation John (Jack) ARCHER (Sandy's father); 4th generation Ivan Alexander (Sandy) ARCHER.

Peter Brabazon BRETT 434238 RAAF, Wireless Operator for Crew 4, Pilot JUBB, 462 Sqdn Driffield, UK; born 11 Jun 1924 (*or 11 Jul 1924*) at **Cloncurry**, parents Basil Beaufort BRETT and Dorothea Millicent BRABAZON; enlisted 06 Nov 1924, parents at Dagworth Station, **Winton**; trained in Qld and NSW; advanced training in UK; crewed with Pilot JUBB; posted to 462 Sqdn on 20 Aug 1944; Crew missing on Air Ops when their Halifax was shot down on **02 Nov 1944**; Pilot JUBB was a successful Evader, however BRETT and the other crew members were captured; BRETT was **Prisoner of War** at Stalag Luft 7 and Stalag IIIA and suffered "the long march" between those camps; released by Russians on 22 Apr 1945; repatriated as ex-PoW to Brighton, UK on 15 May 1945, via Brussels; married Gwynneth ALLAN-JONES of Blackall on 22 Sep 1948 in Brisbane.

Rex Burnett BREUSCH 426032 RAAF, Pilot for Crew 30, 462 Sqdn, Driffield, UK; born 19 Apr 1917 at **Bundaberg**; parents James Peter and Margaret Dorothea BREUSCH; enlisted 23 May 1942; trained in NSW and Vic; advanced training in UK; posted to 462 Sqdn 04 Sep 1944 until 19 Sept 1944; awarded a **Distinguished Flying Cross** (DFC) on 21 Sep 1945, for "outstanding courage on a number of operational sorties". Married Pixie MELLOR in 1947.

Lionel DITTMANN (DITTMAN) 429529 RAAF, Bomb Aimer for Crew 63, Pilot ROBINSON 462 Sqdn, Foulsham, UK; born 23 Oct 1921 at **Childers**; parents Henry August DITTMANN and Ellen (*née* IRWIN) of Cordalba; enlisted 09 Oct 1942; trained in Qld, NSW, Canada and UK; posted to 462 Sqdn Foulsham 01 Mar 1945; married Margaret Evelyn JOHNSON in 1947.

Ronald Roy HICKEY 425654 RAAF, Pilot for Crew 9, 462 Sqdn, Driffield, UK; born on 12 Oct 1922 at **Gladstone**; parents Francis William HICKEY and Pauline (*née* LIST); lived and worked in **Monto**; enlisted on 25 Apr 1942; posted to 462 Sqdn on 20 Aug 1944; awarded a **Distinguished Flying Cross** (DFC) on 16 Feb 1945 for “numerous operations against the enemy in the course of which he has invariably displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty”; married to English War Bride Eileen Mary BROOKS on 01 Jan 1945, in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England; remained in the RAAF until 27 Feb 1948.

Joseph IRWIN 429572 RAAF, Bomb Aimer for Crew 60, Pilot FLEMING 462 Sqdn, Foulsham, UK; born 16 Sep 1915 at **Cordalba**, parents Oscar Brockwell IRWIN and Rhoda Clara Violet (*née* POTHECARY); married 1940 to Muriel (*née* COAR); enlisted 09 Oct 1942 from Gladstone; trained in Qld, NSW, Canada and UK; posted to 462 Sqdn Foulsham 23 Feb 1945.

Neil Stephen SULLIVAN 434110 RAAF, Pilot of Crew 61, 462 Sqdn, Foulsham, UK; born 21 Oct 1922 at **Springsure**, youngest of 9 children, parents Timothy and Margaret Ann (*née* KAVANAGH); next-of-kin brother Owen Edward SULLIVAN Rio Station, later Mt Ryde, **Longreach**; enlisted 12 Oct 1942; trained in Qld, NSW, Canada and UK; posted to 462 Sqdn, Foulsham 07 Mar 1945; married Gwenneth Merle (*née* CHARLESWORTH) in 1946. Neil was sworn in as Justice of the Peace in Oct 1946, and received OAM in 1990 Australia Day Honours for “service to local government and to the community”.

Edward George WHELAN (Mick) 434231 RAAF, Wireless Operator for Crew 19, Pilot E McGINDLE, 462 Sqdn, Driffield, UK; born on 12 Apr 1924 at **Longreach**, parents Sydney Albert and Ivy Gertrude WHELAN; enlisted 06 Nov 1942; trained in Qld and NSW; advanced training in UK; posted to 462 Sqdn on 22 Aug 1944; received a **Distinguished Flying Medal** (DFM) for his actions on the night of 06 Oct 1944, when their Halifax was severely damaged, and some of the crew were injured during their return flight to the UK. The pilot was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), and Flight Engineer SOAMES and Bomb Aimer BALDWIN were also each awarded a DFM. Mick married English War Bride Queenie Isabel SHARP, on 12 Jun 1945, in Brighton, Sussex, England.

UK Air Crew, Non-Operational (posted to 462 Sqdn after cessation of hostilities)

Brian/Bryan James GLANCY 435090 RAAF, Air Gunner; posted to 462 Sqdn on 29 May 1945, from 171 Sqdn; born on 30 Dec 1924 at **Mount Morgan**; parents James Francis GLANCY and Eileen May (*née* MOONEY); later married Dulcie Pearl MACDONALD.

Albert George FIELD 425925 RAAF, Pilot; posted to 462 Sqdn on 28 May 1945 from 192 Sqdn; born on 03 March 1924 at **Winton**; parents Frederick John FIELD and Eileen Maud (*née* MORRIS).

James Robertson MATTHEW 420228 (later O211943) RAAF, Pilot; posted to 462 Sqdn on 28 May 1945 from 192 Sqdn; born on 09 Sep 1915 (as per Qbdm; or 09 Sep 1914 as per WW2 Roll) at **Longreach**; parents James Robertson MATTHEW and Nellie Franklin (*née* DRURY); remained in the RAAF post-war.

Reynold James Stewart SHERWIN 426924 RAAF, Navigator; posted to 462 Sqdn on 28 May 1945, from 171 Sqdn; born on 27 Aug 1921 at **Bundaberg**; parents Reynold SHERWIN and Ruth Ethel (*née* RENNIE).

Non-462 Sqdn personnel from CQ, also linked to Maxwell James HIBBERD

Charles Louis BRIMBLECOMBE (Lou) 425592 RAAF, Navigator at 218 Sqdn for Pilot Noel Victor HIBBERD 425653 RAAF, (brother of MJ HIBBERD of 462 Sqdn). Lou was born 23 Dec 1923. He studied at Gatton College, as did Noel and Max HIBBERD. After the war, Lou married, and with wife Mary, moved to “Mt Lowe”, **Capella**, a grain and cattle property. Max HIBBERD and family visited the property during Max’s employment at Clermont.

Robert Barry HETHERINGTON (Bob) 435570 RAAF, Mid-Upper Gunner at 461 Sqdn, Coastal Command, flying in Sunderland aircraft; born 20 Mar 1925 at **Maryborough**, parents Ernest James and Bertha (*née* Matzkows); later the family operated Hetherington’s Drapery Stores in William St, and East St, **Rockhampton**. Bob and Max HIBBERD had trained together as gunners in Australia, and were posted together to the UK, but soon after arrival in Apr 1944, Bob was posted elsewhere. They only met again in Feb 1946 when they were both being de-mobbed. This was to Bob’s great surprise, as he had heard that Max’s crew had all been killed in April 1945. Bob married Joyce (Joy) in 1948 and they had one daughter.

Sources: National Archives of Australia, WW2 Nominal Roll, Qld BDM, NSW BDM, Freebdm-UK, CWGC, London Gazette, National Library of Australia (Trove).

Christmas Memories WW1

The following articles come from The National Army Museum U.K.

“On Christmas Eve we have a short voluntary service and Communion in a bell tent; very strange singing “Peace on Earth”, and off to kill all we can early next morning.

We had a few comforts given out, including a piece of Christmas pudding. Our Colonel wishes us a Happy Christmas and we move away into the night, passing other bodies of troops moving off, with artillery rumbling along.

We have a cessation mid-day for our Christmas Dinner, bully and biscuits.”

Written by Private William Bowyer. 25 Dec 1915.

The British Troops in the hills around Salonica were better prepared for Christmas. They landed in Salonica in October 1915 and somehow or other had acquired some turkey chicks.

The picture below shows the soldiers rounding up the turkeys which they had reared for Christmas dinner 1916.



Our Christmas Dinner —*Photograph out of Copyright.*



Beginners Day

A very successful event was held on 18 May 2024 at Day. This was an opportunity for those interested in commencing their research and not knowing where or how to start.

The outline of the day covered:-

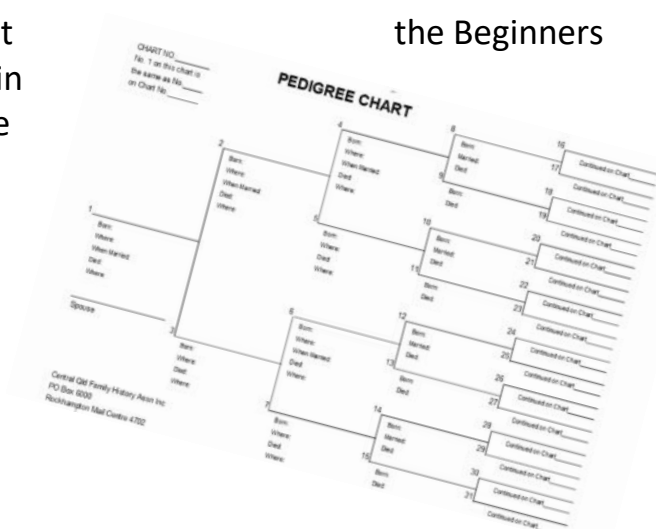
- Recording methods
- Documenting your research
- How to commence and extend your research
- A brief introduction to DNA testing

The final session covered the extensive resources held in the library rooms to assist with research whether that be local, state, national or international.



Videos of various topics were viewed during the morning and an opportunity to stay on and commence their research in the afternoon was very beneficial.

Our experienced staff provided the support required to guide everyone on this ancestor journey.



Tracking the Rockhampton Joss



Presentation by Dorothy Khoo OAM
Fitzroy Room Rockhampton Regional Council Library
Bolsover St, Rockhampton
Monday 10th June 2024 at 10am sharp.

Dorothy will be presenting an audio visual talk about the locations of the temples housing the beautiful Joss or altar around Rockhampton.

CQFHA and the local library were extremely helpful in the research for information.

A Soldier's Journey

by Linda Marshall

At the very beginning of World War 2 the Australian Infantry was under resourced and poorly trained. By February 1940 it was agreed to form the 7th Division, the 6th Division already having been sent to the Middle East. In April of that year, Major General John Lavarack took overall command of the 7th Division, made up of the 19th, 20th and 21st Brigades. At the same time Brigadier John Joseph Murray took command of the 20th Brigade. The 20th Brigade consisted of 3 battalions - the 2/13th and the 2/17th both from NSW, and the 2/15th from Queensland. The number of each battalion was prefixed by the number 2 in order to distinguish it from an existing Battalion. For instance the original 15th Battalion was formed in Queensland in 1914 and saw action at Gallipoli and France.

The 2/15 Battalion spent time training at Redbank, then moved to Darwin. In 1941 the first recruits were sent to the Middle East to participate in the war efforts there. My father joined the 2/15th, D Company on the 21st April 1942, he was assigned to Section 1, 16th Platoon. He was just 20 years and 8 months old.



Recently when having a clean up I found my father's army wallet, plus an army tape measure. In the wallet is his army Identification card which gives his army number, rank, name, battalion, company, and home address. Also in this wallet is a little notebook in which my father wrote down various things. In the middle he had very

meticulously written a log of all his moves. Therefore I would like to take you along on his journey.

He spent the first 4 months training at Boggabilla. Once trained, his battalion's first posting was to the Middle East. He and his fellow soldiers were replacements for the men who had already given their lives for their country.

On the 13th August 1942 his battalion boarded the "Aronda" in Sydney. With stops in Freemantle, Colombo, then on to Aden, arriving on the 1st October. Late August saw some very heavy fighting in the Middle East, so by the time these replacements arrived the main battles were over. From Aden they moved on to Suez, Sidi Bishr, New Sarat, El Alamein, Julius, Quassasim, then to a staging camp back at Suez.



From there, after 4 months in North Africa, they embarked on the 26th January 1943, on the “Aquatania” travelling to Massawa, Freemantle and finally disembarking in Sydney on the 28th February 1943. From Sydney the company travelled to Kalinga (Brisbane), then Kairi and Trinity Beach (Cairns), presumably for more training. On the 20th July 1943 they embarked on the “Van Heutz” in Cairns. Their destination was Milne Bay, New Guinea.

The battalion was in Milne Bay for almost a month, before moving on to Buna, Lae, and Finschhafen. They were to stay in the Finschhafen area from the 22nd September 1943 to 2nd March 1944. This is where they were heavily involved in the action. On the 22nd September at 4.34am the naval ships began their bombardment of Scarlet Beach. Unfortunately a lot of the troops were landed 500 to 1,000 metres away. The 2/15th were the third wave to land, at 5.30am, and were the first to land at the right spot on Scarlet Beach, and came under heavy enemy fire. D Company then went on to take the township of Katika. From there they moved on, coming to the Bumi River. Here the Japanese had fortified their gun positions on the south bank, taking a heavy toll on the Australians. The next big battle was at Suther’s Crossing, a ridge above the river. The crossing was a great vantage point and it was needed to allow the 2/13th to pass and attack Finschhafen. Both 2/15th B and D Companies were ordered to take the crossing. Half way up they found a very steep section and once again came under enemy fire, from both bullets and grenades. Luckily the grenades were not as powerful as our Australian ones, and bullets passed overhead so casualties were light. With sheer determination the soldiers made it up to the top of the hill and the Japanese turned and fled. There is a note, written by my father, in the front of his copy of “Let Enemies Beware” (a history of the 2/15th), stating that he carried a Bren gun into this action.

On the 2nd October 1943 D Company bypassed Kakakog and arrived at Simbang. They stayed for several days patrolling the area, then moved to New Kiasawa, then onto Kumawa. This was an important route as it lead to an airfield which contained any army needs to refresh supplies and armaments so the airfield was vital.

The 2nd March 1944 saw my father and his mates embarking on the VSAT “Klip Fontein”, (a Dutch liner) disembarking on home shores in Brisbane on the 10th of March. The next entry is VHL which I assume would be some sort of leave, which lasted for around 6 weeks. He returned to Brisbane in early May, and the company travelled to Ravenshoe. They spent time there, and over the next period of time on the Atherton Tableland at Wongabel, Ravenshoe, Cairns (Trinity Beach), then

returning to Ravenshoe. From the 13th to 27th April 1945 my father had compassionate leave - my parents marrying in Rockhampton on the 18th April.

Dad returned to "Oonoomba" (suburb of Townsville) and on the 6th May embarked on the "David C Shank" (an army transport ship) in Townsville. The Company disembarked at Morotai, Burma on the 15th May. They stayed there for a couple of weeks, then embarked on LST 667 landing at Muara Island, North Borneo on the 6th June 1945. Maura Island was completely secured by the 13th June. Between June and the next January they visited Lumbang, Ukong, Mempukul, and Labuan. On the 13th January 1946, they again embarked on a ship, the "Pachang Victory" returning to Brisbane 10 days later. From here my father had 5 days in Yeerongpilly, before "Living Out" in Rockhampton till the 5th February. On the 5th he was discharged at Redbank, and on the 7th returned home to begin life as a civilian once more, and begin his married life.

I do have a copy of my father's army records, accessed from the National Archives of Australia. If you haven't investigated this resource, there is some amazing information in them. You have a physical description of the person, their next of kin, their occupation, age, where they entered the army, photo of the person. If they are given medals you often have the signature of the next of kin who had to sign for them. In my father's file I have my mother's and my grandmother's signature, as well as my father's.

By writing this story I have become much more aware of the rigours of the army and war actions that my father, and many other men had to endure. No one will truly know the long term after effects this experience had on them. Dad like many men of his generation never talked about the sights he saw during that period. Also during this time, he would have missed celebrating his 21st birthday with his family and courtship must have proved rather difficult. My father died from cancer, a major contributing factor was smoking, a habit he developed in his army years as a way of coping with those stressful experiences.

My father's service medals, left to right:

Australian Service Medal 1945-1975

The Africa Star

The Pacific Star

The 1939-1945 Star

The Australian Service Medal 1939-1945



Description and Order of Wearing War Medals (as written by my father)

1939/45 Star - dark blue, red and light blue in 3 equivalent vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.

Africa Star - pale buff with a central vertical red stripe and 2 narrow stripes one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the Left Shoulder.

Pacific Star - dark green with red edges, a central yellow stripe and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue strip furthest from the Left Shoulder.

War Medal 1939/45 - A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side, a broad red stripe at either edge and two intervening stripes in blue.

Australian Service Medal - A kaki ribbon edged dark blue and light blue respectively with two intervening red stripes.

Ribbons - 1 1/4 inches in length with medals. When 2 or more medals worn lower edges to be in line.

Bars - Ribbons 3/8 inch in length. In rows of four - gap between rows 1/8 inch. Short row to be centrally above.

Another Find:

This time I was cleaning the garage. I came across a small port with documents my father had kept. I was going through the documents to see what was there and what was relevant for my family history when I came across an old leather/canvas type bag.

On investigating the contents of the bag, I found coins and notes from my Dad's wartime adventures. Five of the notes were issued by the Japanese Government. They are known as Japanese invasion money. The currency was issued by the Japanese Government to replace local currencies in the areas they had occupied, or had plans to defeat in WW2. They were issued in the Philippines, Burma, Malaya, North Borneo, Sarawak, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, and parts of Oceania.



Of course at the end of the war they were valueless, but made good souvenirs for the soldiers. The other three notes came from Egypt, Ceylon, and the Straits Settlement. My father may have kept the last one because of the date printed on it, 15th August (1940) which was his birthday.



Along with the notes were coins from the different regions he was stationed in - Egypt, Palestine, The Straits Settlement, Malaya and Ceylon and a couple of British coins. The coins from Ceylon and Malaya are square with rounded edges. Some colonial coins have King George VI on them. There are two coins with Queen Victoria’s head, one from 1891 (Straits Settlement) and a farthing dated 1873. The Straits Settlement was a group of British colonies including Penang, Singapore, Malacca, and Labuan, all of which were broken up and absorbed for the most part into other countries after WW2. Singapore gained independence a few years later. Now to decide how to deal with this part of our history.

Rockhampton Military Cadet Corps.

The following Rockhampton officers were successful in the examination for the promotion of officers of the Commonwealth Cadet Corps held at Southport in January. The percentage of marks they obtained is shown in the appended table:-

Name	Regimental duties	Theoretical Drill	Practical drill	Aggregate
R.G. Skelton	77	65	55	60
G.E.R. James	52	50	58	53
N. Fraser	61	73	60	65
J. Cleminson	75	51	58	61
A.G.Hodges	73	77	70	73

Mr. Skelton was examined for the rank of captain and the other four officers for the rank of lieutenant.

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Source: Trove_Morning Bulletin Sat 16 Feb 1907

Why we wear a Poppy?

"Please wear a poppy", the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped, and watched,
As she offered them there,
And her face was old, and lined with care.
But beneath the scars, the years had made,
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady" said he "may I have one?"
When she pinned it on, he turned to say
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way,
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the semblance for,
The gallant men who died in the war.
And because they did, you and I are free,
That is why we wear a poppy, you see."

I had a boy about your size
With golden hair and big brown eyes,
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would jump about.
As the years went by he learned and grew,
And became a man as you will too.

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he seemed with us such a little while.
When war broke out, he went away
I still remember his face that day
When he smiled at me, and said Goodbye
I'll be back soon Mum, so please don't cry."

But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight
"I can still see it in my dreams at night".
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed
wire,
And the mine and bullets, the bombs and fire.

Till at last, the war was won,
And that's why we wear a Poppy, son
The small boy turned, as if to go,
Then said, "thanks lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound an awful fight,
But your son, did he come home alright?"


A tear rolled down each faded cheek,
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk off in shame
If you were me, you'd do the same
For our thanks in giving is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought, and
thousands paid.

And when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne.
For those gave their very all.
When asked to answer their country's call.
That we at home in peace might live,
Then wear a poppy. Remember and give.

(Author
Unknown)



*This hand knitted poppy was purchased at
Lochnagar Crater in France by Roseann Creagh
when visiting her Great Uncles Graves.*

The poster features a background image of a tree with many branches. The text is arranged in a central column. At the top, it says 'C Q Family History Association' in a serif font. Below that is 'Open Day' in a large, bold, serif font. A dashed rectangular box contains the date and time: 'Saturday 10th August' and 'TIME: 9.00am – 4pm'. Below this is the phrase 'It's not ALL on the Internet' in a bold, italicized serif font. A list of offerings follows: 'Research Advice', 'Exclusive Local Information', 'Records from all over Australia and the World.', and 'Extensive Library of Overseas Journals, Books'. A central rectangular box contains the text 'Assorted Mini Sessions throughout the day'. To the left of this box is the text 'Lucky Door Prize' and to the right is 'Morning Tea included', both in a slanted serif font. At the bottom, it lists the organization's name, address, and contact information.

C Q Family History Association

Open Day

Saturday 10th August
TIME: 9.00am – 4pm

It's not ALL on the Internet

Research Advice
Exclusive Local Information
Records from all over Australia and the World.
Extensive Library of Overseas Journals, Books

**Assorted Mini Sessions
throughout the day**

Lucky Door Prize

Morning Tea included

Central Queensland Family History Association Inc.
Cur Renshaw & Highway Sts
(Off Main Street) Park Avenue

CONTACT
Phone 0448105755
or
E mail: secretary@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Save the date for our Open Day at the CQ Family History Rooms for a chance to see exactly what resources are available and how to research your ancestors' lives.

You will be surprised by the resources available from Australia and the World.

There are journals from various genealogical societies from overseas and interstate. There is the opportunity to discover our extensive Members Interests and Master Index to see if you

have any common ancestors with other researchers.

You will be impressed at how much local history there is available from cemetery records, births, deaths and marriages, census records and scrapbooks.

ZINGA – Ida Anna Chaos and Gilbert Edwin

This is to be my last in the series of “Neerkol Stories”. Someone else may like to continue writing them. For this last article on the ZINGA family, I have compiled it with the assistance of A.I. After the wonderful job it did in composing the anthem for CQFHA, I thought I would try something that has a bearing on writing our family stories.



The process was, to research the family, put the facts in a timeline and then feed that information into Microsoft Co-Pilot. There are other programs available which do a similar job. Although I had to do it in two sections because of the length of my original timeline, within seconds, this article was ready. I have only changed two things. I did not really want to start with, “Once upon a time” and I didn’t like the sound of a “constellation of children”!

In the vibrant city of Port Louis, Mauritius, a child named John Edwin Zinga was born on the 17th of March, 1866. His father, Belonia Despoges, raised him in the Roman Catholic faith, instilling in him values of hope and perseverance. As John grew, so did his dreams, which led him to the shores of Sydney, New South Wales, aboard the Eurimbla on the 12th of February, 1890.

In the quaint town of Bega, NSW, in 1891, John’s life intertwined with Dezeppo Marie Beaumont, a woman of the Church of England, born on the 16th of July, 1875, in Snapper Point, Mornington, Victoria. Her parents, Gilbert Beaumont and Emma Sawyer, watched as their daughter united her life with John’s in a marriage that bridged faiths and cultures. They welcomed the following children into their lives:

- **May Emmeline Zinga**, born on the 6th of June, 1894, in Bundaberg, Queensland, whose destiny would lead her to the United States, adopted by Mary Elizabeth Victoria Marizles Wirth and John Augustine Martin. She would later shine as the last of the original family of Wirth’s circus before her passing in 1948.



- **Arthur Steven Zinga**, whose first breath was on the 17th of February, 1896, in Maryborough, Queensland.
- **Ida Anna Chaos Zinga**, born on the 7th of February, 1897, in Rockhampton, Queensland, who would find love with Ambrose Connor in Bathurst in 1919, mothering six children before her departure on the 10th of July, 1951.
- **Gilbert Edwin Zinga**, who arrived on the 21st of April, 1899, in Mt Morgan, Queensland, and would later join his life with Gertrude Mary Cooper on the 8th of August, 1923, before his own end on the 25th of April, 1957.



However, life's tapestry is woven with both light and shadow. On the 20th of April, 1901, in Mount Morgan, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Mrs. Marie Dezippo Zinga, marking a tumultuous chapter in the family's history.

Mount Morgan – A warrant has been issued by the Mount Morgan Bench for the arrest of Mrs Marie Dezippo Zinga, charged with stealing five £5 notes, a gent's gold hunting keyless watch, a lady's gold nuff chain, and a lady's 18-carat gold ring, the property of her husband (John Edwin Zinga), care of Mount Morgan police, at Mount Morgan, on the 9 th instant. Offender is 26 years of age, medium height, slight build, fair complexion, sharp feature, uneven teeth, large eyes, mole left side of nose; formerly an actress; a native of Schnapper Point, Victoria. She is reported to have been seen at Gladstone or Maryborough on the 10 th instant; will probably make for Sydney.



Amidst these trials, new life continued to blossom with the birth of Katheline Emma on the 6th of February, 1902, in Isisford. Yet, the winds of fate would lead Gilbert Edwin to the doors of Meteor Park Orphanage in Rockhampton on the 12th of June, 1902, and later to Longreach as a storekeeper, where he faced the tribulations of insolvency in 1923. Ida Anna joined her brother in the orphanage on the 19th of August, 1903, as their father, a labourer, grappled with the challenges of single parenthood.

The saga of John and Dezeppo's family continued to unfurl, marked by the poignant realities of their time. The children, once cradled in the warmth of their family, found themselves in the austere halls of Meteor Park Orphanage. The reason was heartrending yet simple: their mother had deserted them, and their father, John, was unable to care for them alone. He was charged 12 shillings per week for their maintenance, a sum that weighed heavily on his labourer's wage. Dezeppo, meanwhile, had found a semblance of a new life in Windorah with Thomas Edward

Cavanough by her side. The year 1903 saw them together in the remote town, far from the life she once knew. Tragedy, however, was not far behind, as John, overwhelmed by his circumstances, faced the Central Supreme Court of Rockhampton on the 21st of August, 1904. His crime was one of despair—attempted suicide. The sentence was symbolic, one minute of imprisonment, perhaps acknowledging the depth of his suffering.

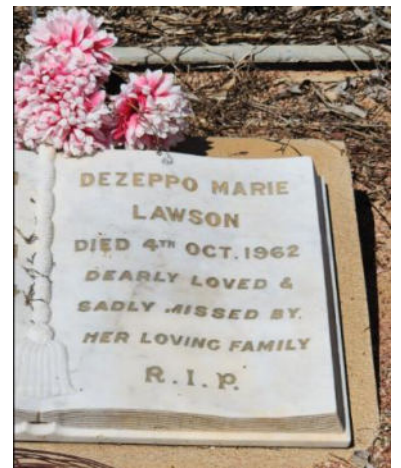
As the years rolled on, Dezeppo's journey took her to Boulia in 1908 and eventually to Longreach by 1930. Her life with Thomas flourished in its own right, blessed with seven children, though they never formalized their union with marriage.

John, in search of stability and purpose, found his way to Cairns. In October 1912, he advertised his services as a Bell Ringer and Town Crier on Abbott Street, next to Cairns Pictures Ltd. His voice, which once echoed through circus tents, now rang out through the streets, declaring news and proclamations.

The final curtain fell on John's life in Bowen on the 5th of September, 1920. His obituary painted the picture of a man who had lived a life as vibrant as the performances of his youth. He was remembered as a talented acrobat and contortionist, a man who had seen the world with the greatest shows on earth. His legacy lived on through his children, especially Miss May Wirth, whose equestrian feats earned her worldwide acclaim, and his son, who inherited his father's acrobatic prowess.

Dezeppo's story did not end with John's passing. She found love once more and married Frederick Lawson on the 22nd of February, 1928. Her final years were spent in Longreach, where she passed away on the 4th of October, 1962, from cancer of the uterus.

Their story, etched into the annals of history, speaks of resilience in the face of adversity, of finding new beginnings amidst loss, and of the enduring spirit that defines the human experience. It is a tale that transcends time, reminding us of the intricate web of life and the indomitable will to carry on.



Sources: Trove, FindAGrave, death certificate of Dezeppo LAWSON, great grand-daughter Donna Graham photos, police gazette, Sydney Anglican marriage records, Ancestry, Geneanet, Microsoft Co-Pilot.

Military History of Maurice Henry Mitchell

by Roseann Creagh



Maurice Henry Mitchell was born on 4 Jan 1891 at Emu Vale to Rosanna & Patrick Mitchell. At the time of his enlistment on 18 February 1916 he lived at Guy Street, Warwick was single, of Roman Catholic belief and he listed his Mother, Rosanna as his next of kin. He was 24 years of age at the time of embarkation. His rank was Driver and he was assigned to the Field Artillery Brigade 3, Reinforcement 19 Unit. Regimental number 26277.

His unit embarked at Sydney per HMAT A47 "Mashobra" on 14 September 1916. They landed at Plymouth on 2 November 1916. Maurice was admitted for 5 days to the Devonport Military Hospital at Plymouth on the day he arrived to be treated for mumps.

Maurice was placed in training at Perham Downs, Salisbury in the UK on 7 Nov 1916. Perham Downs was for receiving troops fit to be drafted to their units at the front. Maurice was marched out to Fort Wallington on 20 Dec 1916. On 5 April 1917. Maurice was marched out from Camp 18 Larkhill (Artillery Depot) and proceeded overseas to France arriving at the Australian General Base Depot at Etaples on 11 April 1917. He was assigned to the 6th Army Field Artillery Brigade. Maurice was granted leave to UK on 27 July 1918 and re-joined his battalion on 13 August 1918.

Sadly, he was wounded in action the very next day on 14 August 1918 and died from his injury, a shrapnel wound to the right side on 15 August 1918. He was treated by 11th Field Ambulance and placed in the 47th CCS (Casualty Clean-up Station) on 15 August 1918.

Maurice Henry was originally buried in the Dury Hospital Military Cemetery in France and his remains were exhumed and re-interred with every measure of care and reverence in Plot 6a, Row C, Grave 2 at Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery. The reason for the relocation of his remains was that visitors to the Dury Hospital Military Cemetery were compelled to pass through the grounds of a French asylum where the inmates were at work.



Notwithstanding, the local authorities sympathised with Australian representatives and the Commission decided to remove the grave to the nearest British cemetery as the only practicable way of overcoming this difficulty. The minister officiating his service was Rev. C Bullock.

Notification of items retrieved from the field in a sealed container were:

- 2 discs
- 1 damaged fountain pen
- 1 matchbox cover
- 1 locket
- 1 brooch
- 3 religious medallions
- 1 badge
- 1 coin
- 1 YMCA wallet
- photos



These items were despatched on 23 Sept 1918 to his next of kin.

Warwick Queensland where Maurice Henry Mitchell is honoured for his service in The Great War.



Every year we would attend Anzac Day to pay tribute to my mother's uncle. A strong sense of pride was instilled in us as young children and I continue to attend Anzac Day ceremonies today acknowledging the sacrifice my great uncle made.



I had the opportunity to pay my respects in 2015 to my Great-Uncle when I visited his grave at Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, France.

Sources: BDM certificates, NAA, WW1 military records

Great Uncle George Irwin Pettit

by Sharon Parkinson

“All our war vessels and 20,000 men”, reported the newspaper on 4 August 1914. This was Australia’s offer to England. The cost of despatching an army and maintaining the force would be borne by Australia. The promise had been made. It is 1914 and George Irwin Pettit marched to war.

The Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated in the Balkans in June 1914 and this led to a rapid change of events and hostility in Europe. This was the immediate cause for what was to follow. The fragile peace that had existed between the powers in Europe collapsed. Patriotism however, between various countries was very strong and those nations banded together believing in their cause - Germany with Austria and Hungary, Britain with France and Russia. The nations were jockeying for supremacy. Britain declared war on Germany and this became known as World War 1 or The Great War. It was a war of waste, a war of many lives lost, a war which was filled with horror and a war that lasted far beyond anyone’s expectations.



Tunic of the Murdered Archduke

Australia though, responded with “indescribable enthusiasm and entire unanimity”. The Australian Government said a force would be ready to sail within four to six weeks. Men came in thousands to the Victoria Barracks, NSW, because they wanted to defend the Empire. The first infantry battalion formed in New South Wales was known as the 1st Battalion and was formed on 17 August 1914.



George Pettit, the eldest surviving child of Robert and Emily Pettit’s seven children joined the Australian Imperial Force on 2 September 1914. He became Private no. 588 of the 1st Battalion. Family stories say he was a quiet child and kept to himself.

George PETTIT

After only six weeks of military training, George boarded HMAF Afric on 18 October 1914 and sailed with his Battalion to “serve King and Country”, to fight at any destination “demanded by the Home Government”.

HMAF Afric departed Sydney, having just a short stop at Albany, Western Australia before they continued to Egypt arriving on 2 December 1914. It was said that, while in Egypt,



Pettit siblings – l to r: Teresa (Tessie), George, John (Jack), Jovce, Doris and Robert (Bob) c. 1913

“They (Australian soldiers) remained incorrigibly civilian, for they were not and did not wish to become regular soldiers. They were young men answering their country’s call; they would fight willingly, but they saw no point in the rigours and inanities of parade ground discipline, and until they reached the front they considered the army a job [...]. Out of working hours their time was their own...”

The 1st Battalion however, trained further and then on 25 April 1915, was part of the second and third waves in the ANZAC landing. This Battalion was also engaged in the battle at Lone Pine. They remained at Gallipoli until December of that year at the time of the evacuations and then returned to Egypt.



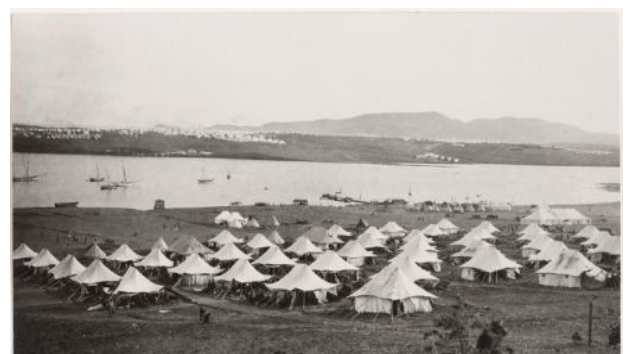
November 1914, Officers of 1st Battalion on board HMAF Afric bound for Egypt



Australians at Anzac, 17 December 1915

Private George Pettit, No. 588, participated in this warfare and according to his service

records he was sick and wounded often. The record states that following his initial wounding and then discharge from hospital, he rejoined his battalion at Gallipoli on the 22 June 1915. He was next admitted on 4 October 1915 to the Australian Sarpi and General Hospital, Mudros with pyrexia,



Sarpi rest camp & hospitals on West Mudros-Peninsula

an abnormal elevation of body temperature. He was further admitted in mid-October 1915 with pyrexia again. This time to the Lowland Casualty Clearing Station, Mudros.

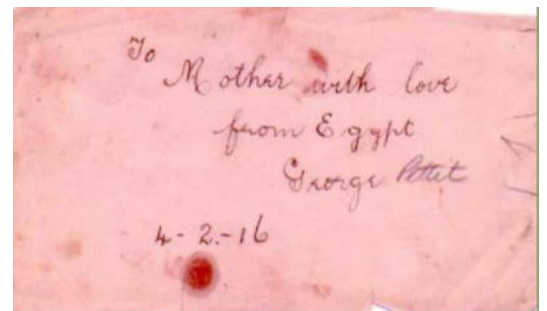
28 December 1915 saw George and his battalion disembark in Alexandria where they remained until being transferred by HMAT Ivernia to Marseilles, disembarking on 28 March 1916.

It was during this period that George was absent from camp. From 6am on 30 December 1915 until 10am on 31 December 1915. For this he forfeited two days' pay and had 21 days of "Field Punishment". This was not his first unexplained absence, nor his last.



George Pettit, Egypt 4th February 1916

28 June 1916 saw George once again wounded in action in France. He spent nearly two months recovering, was discharged from hospital and rejoined his unit on 15 August 1916



The war was harsh and George was transferred to hospital in England following further wounding in France. He stayed in England on furlough.

January 1917 saw him re-join his unit via a School of Instruction. However, it was winter in Europe and the cold and the damp, the sanitary conditions, and the lack of sleep

and good food, caused the soldiers to suffer from various medical conditions. George was no exception. In January, after having just rejoined his unit, he was admitted to hospital in Rouen with gastritis and following this, bronchitis. He left Le Havre and returned to England for hospitalisation in the 3rd Australian General Hospital. He stayed in England to recover and then on



Australian howitzers on the Somme front

furlough and reported to the Depot at Weymouth. Here he stayed until his return to Australia on HMAT Port Lyttleton. Once back in Australia, he was medically discharged with nephritis.

George's recovery in hospital in England in 1917, was mentioned in the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* newspaper. It said that his parents, Mr and Mrs G Pettit, had received news that he was in hospital in England but was recovering well.



George married Eva Edith Leigh in 1925 and had two sons. There were times he was in trouble with the law. His drinking and his gambling were a problem and it seemed that in later years he failed to keep in contact with his parents. In 1957 when his mother Emily died George was listed under "Issue Living" and aged 63.

In fact, George had died in New South Wales on 2 October 1956, 11 months before. His death certificate seems to indicate he was alone when he died – Father – particulars unknown; Mother – particulars unknown; Place of Marriage – never married; Informant – D S Holme, no relation.

George is now buried at Liverpool Cemetery, New South Wales. As the tomb stone says, *His duty nobly done – requiescat in p(e)ace.*

Liverpool-Cemetery, NSW



**Boots – boots – boots – boots, movin’
up an’ down again.**

There’s no discharge in the war!

Rudyard Kipling

Rectangular horizontally aligned colour patch, for 1 Battalion, AIF, divided black over green, was worn with a brass letter 'A' in the centre, denoting service in Gallipoli.

Summary

Worn as a distinguishing unit indication at the head of each sleeve from 1915. A brass 'A' denotes service in Gallipoli peninsula. It was approved for wear in embroidered form in 1916 and in the form of a brass letter in 1917.



Members' Interests

We have a very useful resource available to us on our website. All members are able to list their areas of research, which are in turn available for other researchers to, hopefully, find some common names.

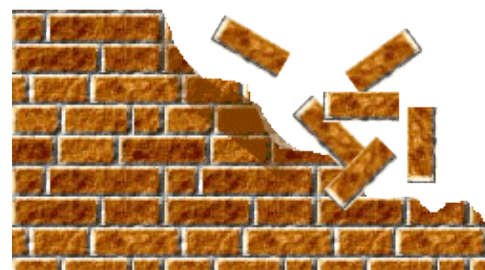
You will find this resource in the members' area of the website, www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au on the left hand side of the page under "Members' Interests".

DNA Sessions



Are you keen to breaking down that brick wall or just interested in genetic genealogy? Many of our members have had their DNA done and are interested in understanding this side of their research. We offer the following to cater for this area of interest.

*Breaking Through
The Brickwalls*



DNA One on One Sessions

- These will be held as required.
- These sessions will be run by Kay Page and bookings are necessary.
- Priority will be given to those whose DNA results have just come in.
- Assistance is also available by email.

For bookings or queries please contact: dna@cqfamilyhistory.org.au



Thank you for your support of our recycling fundraiser. Milk product containers still do not attract the 10c refund but wine bottles certainly do!

Communications

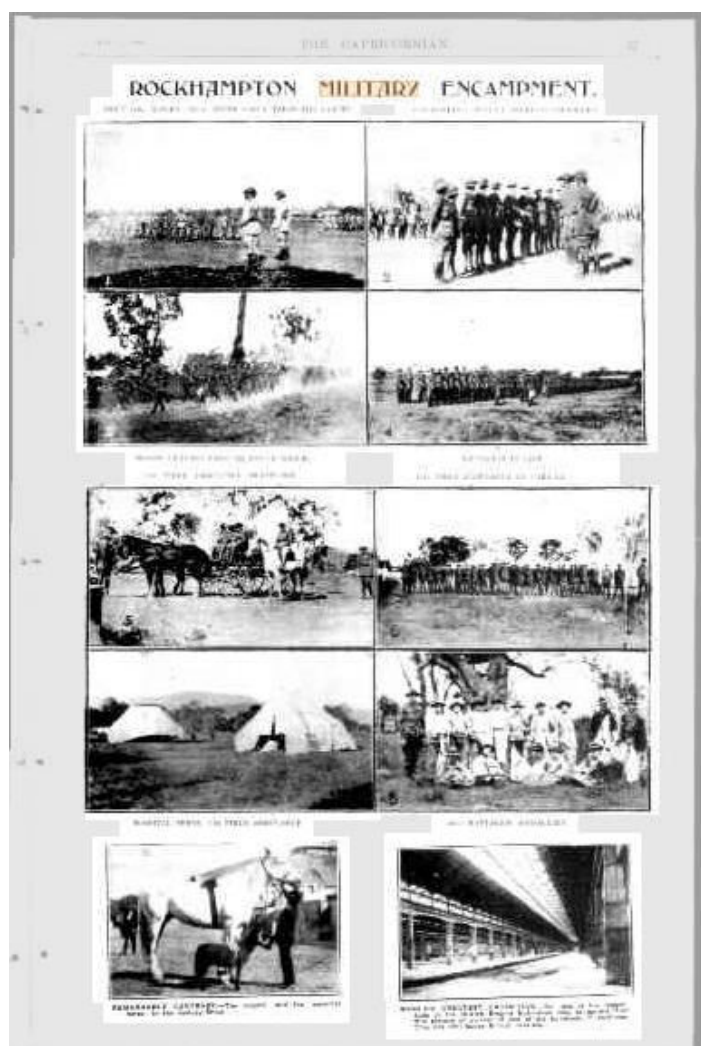
If you are a member and we don't have an email address for you, then you may not be getting all the goodies. If you aren't receiving the following emails:

"CQFHA: Alerts & Updates" every Friday at 5:30pm
and
"CQFHA: It's Backup Day" on the 1st of every month

Then you aren't getting the most from your association.

Email: web@cqfamilyhistory.org.au with your name and membership number and you will be added to the register.

Also, a reminder that there are 100s of free resources on the 'Members' Only' section of our website. For website access you will require a Google account and email as above, then you will be given access.



Rockhampton Military Encampment

Lieut. Col. Ridley, D.S.O Staff Corps, Takes the Salute

Commanding Officer addresses officers

Troops leaving camp enroute March
Battalion 1X inline

11th Field Ambulance Transport

11th Field Ambulance on parade

Hospital tents, 11th Field Ambulance
42nd Ballation Signallers

Source: Trove_The Capricornian Sat, 17 May 1924
Page 37

Through the Journals

by Narelle Fraser

Journal hard copies are available for loan at our clubroom. Electronic copies are available on our website in the 'Member's Only' section and also at our Clubroom on the computers in the program Calibre. All electronic journals received are listed weekly in the e-newsletter.

Below is a list of **hard copy journals** received since our February 2024 issue. Beneath the list are highlighted articles from some of them.

Links 'N' Chains (Liverpool GS)

No. 136, Feb 2024

Kith & Kin (Cape Banks FHS)

No.152, March 2024

- **Links 'N' Chains, No.136: *John Spinks ... Searching for a Grave*:** The author accounts the story and travels to try to find the grave of convict relative, John Spinks.
- **Kith & Kin, No.152: *Music Saved My Life*:** The writer tells the story of John Henry Garrett (known as Jack) who became a soldier and bought himself a piano accordion and how this was the start of his adventures and musical career.

Electronic Journals

Below is a selection of highlighted articles from the **electronic journals** received since the February 2024 journal.

- **Family Ties (Bundaberg Genealogical Association), March 2024, Vol.27, No. 3: *The Mystery of the Silver Chalice*:** The author is sent on a mystery to find out the history of a heavy, tarnished silver chalice that is discovered in Christ Church, and on cleaning the inscription it read presented to The Parish Church Bundaberg in 1891 by Georgiana Lady Crewe.
- **West Middlesex Family History Society Journal, March 2024, Vol 42, No. 1: *Secrets, Scandal & Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660-1830*:** A talk by Sarah Slater who is a Hampton Court Guide and she dresses in costumes made by herself from the 1800s as she relays the marriages, mistresses and scandal in the Royal Court.
- **Bremer Echoes (Ipswich Genealogical Society) Feb, 2024, Vol 42, No. 1: *Chinese Market Garden*:** The story of "George Song" and his market garden.

- **Manchester Genealogist 2024, Vol 60, Issue 1, 60th Anniversary Edition: *Premature Deaths in 19th Century Bolton: A Case Study*:** The writer tells the story of Joseph and Mary Denton, her great, great grandparents who produced 17 children, including one multiple birth. Twelve of these children died in infancy and two died before adulthood.
- **Newcastle FHS, March 2024, No. 245: *Nineteenth Century German Migration from the Rheingau to Australia's Hunter Valley*:** The story of the Hunter Valley Germans who assisted immigration for non-British migrants who had specialist skills for the wine industry.
- **The Gazette (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS), March 2024, Vol.37, No. 1: *The relevance of DNA – Where is John Jones?*** The author tells the story of her husband's great grandfather named John Jones, and their family search.
- **Bridges & Branches (Echuca – Moama FHS INC) March 2024, No. 133: *How Much is for Sale*:** This is the story of Jackie Howe – Shearer.
- **The First Settlement City Gazette (Redcliffe & District Family History Group INC) March 2024:** The story of William Redfern and his journey to have the Sydney suburb of "Redfern" named after him.
- **The Hawkesbury Crier (Hawkesbury Family History Group) March 2024: *An Unfortunate Women*:** This is the story of the writer's first cousin three times removed and how she was unlucky in love and marriage.
- **Lithgow Pioneer Press (Lithgow & District FHS), February 2024, Vol.38, No.3: *Wallerawang 200th Anniversary Part 1. James Walker*:** This is the story of James Walker arriving in Sydney 1823, then acquiring land known by the aboriginal name Wallerawang, and his growth as an early settler.
- **Time Traveller (Shoalhaven FHS), April 2024, Issue134: *Community Supports Alf Prott, A Prominent Citizen in Need*:** The writer tells a short story on how the community rallied around after Alf's wife died.
- **Pyrenees Pioneers (Avoca & District FHS), April 2024, Edition 301: *Team Spirit Saved Factory from Closing*:** A factual short story of how employees saved a country textile factory.
- **Nottinghamshire FHS, April 2024, Vol.17, No.10: *Frederick McDonough Bradbury – A Life of Crime*:** The writer tells the story of Frederick McDonough Bradbury and his life of crime in detail.
- **The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS INC) March 2024, 158: *Thomas Jennings – Safe or Sorry? My First Ancestor to Arrive in Australia*:** The story of Thomas Jennings, his wife Hannah of 20 years and his four surviving children aged 16,10,4, and 2 and their emigration from Birmingham to Australia.

Rockhampton Repositories

Other Rockhampton Repositories

In Central Queensland, we are very fortunate to have a number of other fine repositories for local history and genealogical research. For your convenience, we have included their opening hours below.

Please phone them as details may change.

Southside Library | 230 Bolsover Street, South Rockhampton

Monday – Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 3pm

Phone: 4936 8265



History Centre | 230 Bolsover Street, South Rockhampton

Monday – Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Phone: 4936 8040

The LDS Family History Centre

Talbot Street, North Rockhampton

Tuesday: 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

closed all school and public holidays

Please contact Richard
on 0459 836 105 to book.

Please notify by 8am on the day if you
then can't make it.

Capricorn Coast Historical Society

The Bunker
(behind the Town Hall)
Yeppoon

opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.30 am - 12 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am - 12 pm

or by appointment contact:

Mary O'Brien 4933 0246

Capricornia CQ Collection

CQ University Library
University Campus,
Yaamba Road,
North Rockhampton
by appointment only:
tasac@cqu.edu.au

Rockhampton and District Historical Society

Borough Chambers, Stapleton Park,
North Rockhampton
opening hours: Tuesday: 10 am - 2 pm
phone: 4927 8431 (opening hours only)

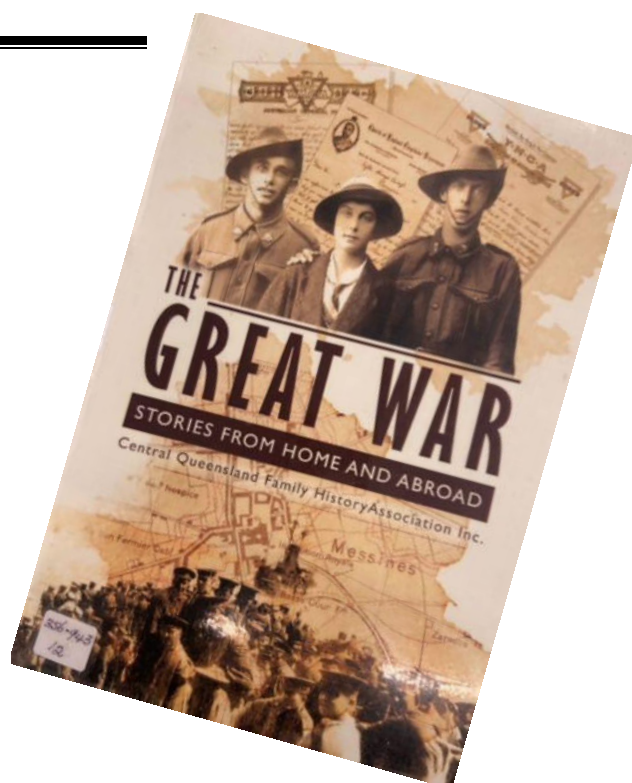
Coming Events

Please stay tuned to our various means of contact:

- Fridays enewsletter
- Webpage: <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au>
- Facebook: <https://facebook.com/cqfamilyhistory/>



Weekly	Wed 9am	Project Group all members welcome
June	Sat 1st, 10 am Thu 13th	General Meeting Library Closed Show Holiday
July	Sat, 6 th 10am	Committee Meeting
August	Sat 10th, 9.00am Sat 31st	Open Day Deadline for Journal Submissions
September	Sat 7th, 10am Sat 21st, 10am	Annual General Meeting Committee Meeting



Publications for Sale

To purchase our publications you can come and visit us during opening hours at the clubrooms. Our opening hours and address are listed on the inside front cover of this journal. We accept Cash or Cheque or you can download an order form online: Go to our website at <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au> and follow the directions. Payment is made via Direct Bank Transfer. Please mail treasurer@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Publications are current as of this journal, but are subject to change without notice. No GST charged.

USBs – CDs – DVDs Plus postage – CD/DVD/USB Mailer		
North & South Rockhampton Cemetery <i>Headstone photographs – over 11,000 photographs</i>	USB	\$100
Dunwich Benevolent Asylum Weekly Returns <i>May 1885-January 1907</i>	CD	\$50
Gogango Divisional Board – precursor to Livingstone S.C. <i>Rates & Valuation Books 1880-1903 (index only) plus postage</i>	CD	\$45
Burials Rockhampton Cemetery (Southside) <i>By N. Woodhouse</i>	CD	\$25
Headstone Photographs – 18 Cemeteries of North Qld	DVD	\$35
Miriam Vale & Bororen Cemetery	CD	\$10
South Burnett Cemetery Headstones	DVD	\$50
Bits & Pieces – Collection of mixed articles – Early CQ Newspapers <i>Set of 5 Volumes (1 to 5)</i>	DVD	\$100
Index to Historical Records of Rockhampton, Yeppoon & Mount Morgan Fire Brigades	CD	\$45
Mixed Indexes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rockhampton Fire Brigade Scrapbook</i> <i>CQ Newspaper Scrapbook</i> <i>Morning Bulletin – Births, Marriage, Deaths, Funeral Notice & In Memoriam</i> 	CD	\$15
BOOKS Plus Postage		
Rockhampton Crematorium Index 1948-1992 <i>Volume 1 A-K; Volume 2 L-Z</i>	550g	\$25
Headstone Inscriptions North Rockhampton Cemetery 2 Volumes	1.5kg	\$50
Collinsville Cemetery Burial Register Index	90g	\$15
Yeppoon and Emu Park Cemetery Index <i>Part A Yeppoon 1882-2010; Part B Emu Pak 1885-2012</i>	195g	\$20
Bowen Cemetery Burial Index 1861-2005	400g	\$20
Proserpine Burials and Cremations	200g	\$20

Battlers Tales of Early Rockhampton <i>By J Grant Pattison</i>	250g	\$15
On The Track <i>By J Grant Pattison</i>	700g	\$25
Rockhampton in the Early Days <i>By Fitroy</i>	650g	\$30
Reminiscences of Queensland 1862-1899 <i>By W.H. Corfield</i>	300g	\$25
The Rainbow Trail <i>By Charles Grover</i>	1kg	\$30
The Development of Rockhampton & District <i>By A.E. Hermann</i>	1.5kg	\$40
The Rockhampton Fire Brigade – The Fiery Past	600g	\$25
Central Qld Pioneer Register <i>Set of 2 Volumes</i>	1.5kg	\$60
Shipping Index to Assisted Immigrants arriving Moreton Bay Qld <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Period 1848-1859</i> <i>Period 1860-1869</i> <i>Period 1870-1879</i> <i>2 Volumes</i> <i>Period 1880-1899</i> <i>4 Volumes</i> <i>Period 1848-1899</i> <i>8 Volumes</i> 	300g 600g 1kg 2.5kg 5.3kg	\$23 \$30 \$40 \$80 \$170
Bits & Pieces – Collection of mixed articles in Early CQ Newspapers <i>Singles Volume (1-10)</i> <i>Set of 5 Volumes (1 to 5 or 6 to 10)</i> <i>Set of 10 Volumes (1 to 10)</i>	700g 3kg/set 5kg/set	\$30 \$100 \$200
Index to Non Europeans in Queensland	500 g	\$10
History of Rockhampton Orphanage (Birraliee) <i>1866-1895</i>	30g	\$10
The Great War – Stories from Home and Abroad	1kg	\$15
Mt Morgan & District School Admissions	390g	\$25
OTHER BOOKS Published by members, covering the Rockhampton District – available through our Association, all are plus Postage		
By Any Criterion <i>By Robert I J McFarlane</i>	2kg	\$55
The McLaughlins <i>By Tom McLaughlin</i> <i>Hard cover, A4, 353 pages</i> <i>(Only one copy of this book is remaining, then out of stock)</i>	2.7kg	\$65
The 1862 Voyage of the Ship, Utopia to Queensland <i>By Sylvia A. Conaghan & Nola Tom</i>	650g	\$30

Interest Groups & Fee Structure

Interest Groups Project Group – Wednesday 09:00am CQFHA rooms
Technology Session – as required

Financial Year **1st July 2024 – 30th June 2025**

Membership Fees

Single	\$50.00 +\$10 if journal posted
Family	\$60.00 +\$20 if journal is posted 2 members of a family
Membership	living at the same address (one Journal)
Journal Only	\$30.00

Management Committee

Patron	Donna Kirkland
President	Kay Page 0414 551 237 Email: president@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Vice President	Linda Marshall 4926 3371
Secretary	Linda Marshall Email: secretary@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Assistant Secretary	Roseann Creagh 0419 640 713
Treasurer	Enid Bunt 0437 636 641 email: treasurer@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Assistant Treasurer	Sharon Parkinson
Library Co-ordinator	Trisha Brannigan email: library@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Technology Co-ordinator	Kay Page Email: web@cqfamilyhistory.org.au
Events Co-ordinator	Nola Harvey Email: secretary@cqfamilyhistory.org.au

Volunteers 2023-2024

Library Assistants

Tuesday	Sharon Wright & Jamie Hibberd
Thursday	Carmel Hayman and Enid Bunt
Friday	Nola Harvey, Denise Haynes Trisha Brannigan (Resources)
Saturday	Linda Marshall and Jeanette Finlayson (alternate weeks) John Humphries and Jamie Hibberd
On Call	Narelle Fraser and Kay Page

Research Officer

Carmel Hayman

**Assistant Research
Officer**

Denise Haynes

Membership Secretary

Enid Bunt

Projects Officer

Kay Page

Education Officer

Vacant

Grants Officer

Enid Bunt

Publicity Officer

Vacant

Technology Assistant

Vacant

Facilities Team

Sharon Wright, Enid Bunt

Resources Team

Nola Harvey, Ken McDonald, Sharon Parkinson

Journal Team

Linda Marshall, Jeanette Finlayson & Narelle
Fraser

Web Team

Kay Page, Chris Wright, Roseann Creagh &
Trisha Brannigan

Life Members

Toni Philipoom
Karl Makela

Margaret Larner
Margaret Mason

Michael Warry
John Humphries

Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help. Heather French Henry