

"Spanning the Years"



Tea Gardens Family Research & Local History Inc

'The Cottage'

Cnr Myall and Yalinbah Streets

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ABN 95 947 789 163

AUGUST 2024 - NO: 49

OPEN DAYS

Except Public and School holidays

Mondays—Cottage

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th—9.30am – Noon

3rd—1pm– 3pm

SATURDAYS—Tea Gardens Library

9.30—11.30am

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To assist those researching their family history in a happy friendly manner.

To preserve, share and promote our community's local history.

PATRONS: Janis Winn & Owen Holbert

PRESIDENT: Judith Glover

VICE PRESIDENT: Lesley Turner

SECRETARY: Anne Shannon

TREASURER: Ros Bridger

HISTORICAL EVENTS: Linda McIntosh

LOCAL HISTORY: Garry Worth

LIBRARIAN; Shirley Cox

NOTA NEWS: Anne Johnson

COMMITTEE:

Margaret Munright

Jenny Little

Diane Kiss

Frances Mitchell

PUBLIC OFFICER—Shirley Cox

We acknowledge the Worimi people, the traditional owners of the land on which we meet.



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MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership 1st July—30th June

\$15—New member joining fee

\$30—Annual Renewal

\$10— Extra Family member.

Regional Australia Bank

BSB: 932000

Account: 500044432

At the cottage, we have access to

Ancestry.com

FamilySearch.org

Library research books

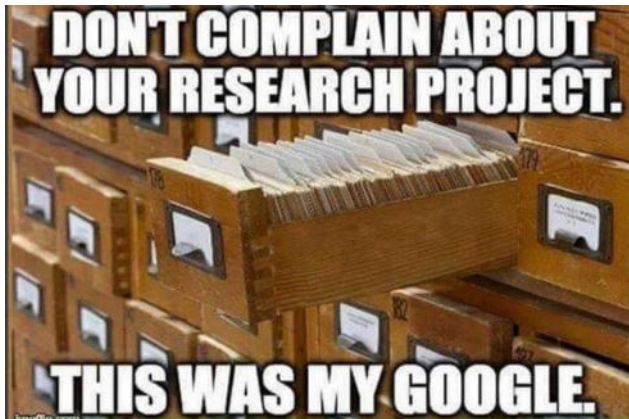
Folders containing just about everything

At the Library, we have access and help

Ancestry Library Edition

Family Search Library Edition

Find My Past



Copied from internet—digitization has come a long way, but often the fiche held a lot more information.

While every effort is made to verify the contents in this newsletter, our group does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of the articles submitted by our members.

Submitted articles remain the property of our members and must not be copied or reproduced without permission of the contributor by email—teagardensfrg@gmail.com

We appreciate the Tea Gardens Country Club's generosity for allowing us the use of the cottage.



A little insight into some of our small groups activities for the past 12 months. Due to a change in our name, our uniform logo was updated with our new name and purchase of new shirts and name badges.

Through the year our group enjoyed a very informative visit to Sketchley Cottage at Raymond Terrace, which is a rare timber slab farm house circa 1840's which houses the Society's museum and collections.

We also visited Sugar Valley Museum at Cameron Park, a very modern museum attached to their library.

We have participated in some informative webinars at the cottage on the 3rd Monday.

Anne & I are continuing to meet with Alex Mills MCC Manager of Libraries, Community & Cultural Services re our eventual move to the local library. This also involves the re-recording our library so it can be incorporated into the MCC library system. A big job.

Anne, Linda and myself represent our group on the MCC Heritage Committee.

Thank you to all who were able to attend our AGM on the 27th. It was unfortunate we had to change the day just a week before due to a power outage from Origin which would have left us in the dark at the cottage. Unfortunately this meant a few members weren't able to attend due to other commitments. Anne introduced Janine Roberts, our guest speaker.

Last year Janine did a historical walking tour along Marine Drive here in Tea Gardens as part of MidCoast Stories self-guided heritage walking tours. The QR reader on the post at the 'Wally' ferry wharf is where people are able tap into the app on their mobile devices and listen to the history of each station along the Marine Drive. There are 10 historical tours and over 150 stories to listen to from around the MidCoast Council region. Well worth a listen.

Janine explained the different resources, and the very often overlooked resources, she used to research the walking tour which included documented records, newspapers, trove, oral and local history resources and other resources from the Worimi and Biripi & Aboriginal Land Councils, AA Co., Maps and Migration settlement patterns.

Our Patron Owen was able to add lots of information as his family have been oyster farmers and fishermen in our area since the 1860's.

A delightful afternoon tea followed.

Judith Glover

President (new)



Our theme is grandparents/great grandparents/grandparent obituaries/surrogate grandparents – we encourage members to write a short memory or something they remember about their older generation.

From the 'net' some interesting thoughts of ways to connect with your grandchildren.

- *Take time to listen to their thoughts & feelings without judgement (sometimes very hard to accomplish.)
- *Be interested in their hobbies & activities.
- *Share stories and memories (they often don't really want to listen, but later in life they might just remember something you told them.)
- *Try to be part of your grandchild's events (not always possible to attend sport on Saturday or school plays and concerts.)
- *Plan activities together (school holiday times are good for this- cooking, fishing.)
- *Establish a tradition (special meals, holidays, birthday times, share your skills.)
- *Embrace their friends (be interested in what they do.)
- *Try and do some things together.
- *Take photos as a memory (they grow up too quickly these days, my favourite.)

It's unlikely that your grandchildren will receive this gift from anyone else. This is what makes you special to them and hopefully they will have fond memories as they progress to the age when they are grandparents themselves.

Most genealogists will have seen this chart. It is a solemn thought as to how we populate the world.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 second great-grandparents
32 third great-grandparents
64 fourth great-grandparents
128 fifth great-grandparents
256 sixth great-grandparents
512 seventh great-grandparents
1,024 eighth great-grandparents
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

MICHAEL CLOGHER

Michael Clogher was born in County Clare Ireland in 1818, and in 1835, he was convicted of sheep stealing, or to use his own term "trying the weight of a sheep". He was transported to Australia aboard the *Surry* in 1836.

Initially serving time in Sydney he joined the Border Police. While in Sydney he met and married a widow, Elizabeth SINCLAIR. By 1843 he had moved to the Macleay district and in March 1844 was issued his ticket of leave.

The Macleay, at this time was practically in a virgin scrub, and whilst camped in the midst of such a forest, a desperado, who had escaped from the penal settlement, came to his hut and asked permission to remain for the night. The request was granted, notwithstanding that Clogher was perfectly aware of his guest's identity and also his blood-thirsty reputation. During the night, as it may be imagined, the entertainer slept very little, but watched the convict closely. About daybreak, perceiving an opportunity, he rushed upon his man, overpowered him and after securing him, handed him over to the authorities.

Whilst in the border police, he followed a bushranger named Wilson from New England through the bush towards the Clarence. Assisting him was a black-tracker. Wilson had a pack horse and included in his swag were red blankets. When going through the timber, the pack-horse at times brushed past limbs of trees and protruding sticks, and such like. When any of these objects came in contact with the blankets, a few threads of red wool would mostly remain on them. By finding these signs, the pursuers knew they were following the right man. Gradually gaining on the quarry they reached a recent camp fire, and sensed that the end was near. It was much nearer than expected. A body of police from Grafton were also scouring the countryside, and came upon the bushranger and shot him, just before Clogher came up.

On another occasion, when assisting in the establishment of a new police station on the Murray River a murder escaped. Clogher followed him across country and caught him over the Queensland border. On the return journey, he handcuffed the absconder to himself each night, and they slept side by side in this manner. On handing him over to the police to be taken to Sydney, his job was completed. After many such exploits, he became lock-up keeper in Armidale. In 1853 he purchased land between the creek and Kirkwood Street from Jessie to Dangar Streets.

Tiring of the arduous work entailed by police duties in the good old days, he severed his connection with the force and took up the lucrative occupation of carrying, his teams trading between Maitland and Armidale. He acquired a bullock team and hauled cedar to Armidale for a period.

In 1854 he was appointed manager of Mr James Rigney's station property at Guy Fawkes. He retained his position for three years, but having purchased Bostobrick Station, he took charge of that property, and combined carrying with grazing. He disposed of his station in the early sixties and settled at Nymboida.

Michael and Elizabeth lived here for many years. Grannie Clogher kept a boarding house for travelers wending their way from Armidale to Grafton or vice versa. No Post Office had yet been established at Nymboida so all the loose mail was left at Clogher's, and the neighbours used to call there for their mail.

On the death of his wife, Michael lived with his stepson, W. J. Sinclair until near his death, when he was taken to a nursing home at Grafton.

He died in 1912 at the age of 102 years and is buried beside his wife at Nymboida.

Michael and Elizabeth Clogher were Helen's great grandparents.

Helen P.



Michael and Elizabeth Clogher

Grandfathers

Both my grandfathers were true Cockneys, born within the sound of Bow Bells, but both had died well before I was born, so I have chosen to write about others I didn't know either.

We are all blessed with 512 eight times grandfathers, and at least three of mine, and one seven times great grandfather, shared the same fate – all captured after the Battles of Dunbar fought on 3rd September, 1650, between the Scots and the English New Model Army led by Oliver Cromwell and Worcester in September 1641. About 10000 Scottish prisoners had to be dealt with and many were marched to Durham Cathedral where two mass graves were uncovered in 2013.

Captured soldiers traditionally would be ransomed or exchanged, but military leaders feared that healthy men would return to the Scottish army and fight again. The English also did not want to deport Scots to Europe or Ireland, for fear that they would join the armies of the Commonwealth's enemies. The Council finally decided to send most prisoners to English colonies in the Americas – in particular, Barbados, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

In November 1650 it was decided to send 150 prisoners to the Saugus Ironworks in Massachusetts Bay. These men were sailed to London, where they boarded the ship "Unity" at Gravesend, and arrived in Boston in mid-December after a remarkably quick trip for that time of year. Thirty six of these men were sent to Saugus, among them my ancestors John Taylor and James Warren where they were joined by Daniel Black and John Bean who arrived on the "John and Sarah" in February 1652 after being sold at auction. They were "indentured servants" who were to serve a seven year term of hard labour and could then be freed and take up land in the colonies.

John Taylor died about 1689, leaving a substantial estate to his wife Martha (Redding) and five daughters. The inventory of his estate in Berwick, Maine was reckoned at £156 4s 8d. My six times great grandmother share: "4thly: I Bequeath unto my daughter Deliverance Taylor thirtie acres of land to be taken out of my land at the rockie hills & to run the whole length of it to be to her and her heires for ever also I give her a Cow and a calfe and an Ewe and a lambe,"

In 1654, the Middlesex County Court in Charlestown ordered that: "Daniel Blacke *Scotchman* servant to Mr. Wilton Simes, being lawfully convicted for assaulting & beating his master, is by this Court committed to prison, until further order of Court. Simes was probably the son of Charlestown's minister, Zechariah Symmes, one of the town's most prominent citizens." He married Faith Bridges in 1660 and owned land in Topsfield, Massachusetts, where he had a rather checkered career and raised eight children.

John Bean's indenture was shortened when he married Hannah Lissen, the daughter of the works owner, although I am descended from his second marriage to a Scottish orphan, Margaret (surname unknown)

John Bean would never have imagined was that in 1973 his most famous descendent, Alan Bean, would walk on the moon, carrying a piece of the Bean tartan, or even that he would have a large number of family members living on a continent of which he and his fellow prisoners had no knowledge.

This fascinating research is a work in progress and there may be more Scottish DNA in me, but lists of prisoners are rare and as most of the Highlanders were illiterate and spoke only Gaelic, names are likely to be inaccurate, with a variety of spellings!

I have used the lists from "lost Lives, New Voices", Christopher Gerrard et al. 2020 and the Scottish Prisoners of War website as well as vital records from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Shirley Cox

JOHN WILLIAM MINKLEY

My maternal grandfather and his working life by Lesley Turner

John William Minkley b: 1890 in Sydney joined the merchant navy when he was fifteen. Seventeen months after leaving Australia the ship docked in England where he visited relatives in Derbyshire. He chose to stay in England and started work as a blacksmith.

John returned to Sydney in 1913 with a wife and two small daughters. He took on blacksmithing once again but years later became manager of the Bankstown Ice Works. I was fascinated as a child to see the ice cans lowered into a huge tank of brine and the frosty pipes around the inside of the building. When the Ice Works closed in 1950 motor parts were bought by a timber mill in Bulahdelah.



John in the centre - 1910



Back row John second from the left - 1910

SIDNEY FRANCIS CHRISTIE

My paternal grandfather and his working life

by Lesley Turner

Sidney Francis Christie b: 1890 Wagga NSW was a wicker worker. He took orders and made cane and seagrass prams and furniture. He taught my father who made a lounge room suite when he married mum which I still have in my home today.

The little cane basket on the table was the first piece made by my father when he was a young boy.



OBITUARY

There passed away on the 16th inst., at his late home "Ulinbawn," Mulgoa, Eli James Turnbull, a native of the Hawkesbury River, a man of fine character, whom to know was to honor and respect. The late Mr. Turnbull died of chronic nephritis, and during the last six months of his life had been a great sufferer, but he bore it with a fortitude that is begotten of Christian resignation. He was a man of deeply implanted religious convictions, and was one of the wholesome, robust and devout Christians that all the world admired. He detested cant and sham, and his true character was written large on his honest open countenance. A man of varied experience, and of fine intuition, he understood his fellow men, and bore with their weaknesses, perhaps more than most men, and never spared himself to uplift a wayward brother and put him on the right track. He was blessed with a grand help-meet, and a family that are a credit to their parents, in whose lives the influence of good example and splendid home-training left their indelible mark.



Mrs. Turnbull was to her husband all that a true fond wife should be, and the knowledge of that will assuage her grief in her irreparable loss.

The late E. J. Turnbull was the third son of the late James and Mary Turnbull, of Sackville, and was born at historic Portland Head in July, 1862, and was in his 57th year. His early education was obtained at a small provisional school at Sackville, under the tuition of the late Edward Chatterton. Later he studied under his brother, Cyrus, who for many years taught at a school near Mulgoa. He returned to the home at Sackville and followed farming pursuits for a few years, and then bought a general store at Mulgoa, where he resided until his death.

In 1886 he was married, by the Rev. Wm. Hughes, at "Ulinbawn," Sackville Reach, to Adeline Ann, second daughter of the late Thomas Green, one of the grand old pioneers of the Hawkesbury River, who passed away only a few weeks ago at a ripe old age, honored by all who knew him. To them were born five daughters, viz., Hilda (Mrs. W. J. Booth, of the police station, Cessnock); Ida (Mrs. Ernest Eaton, of Penrith); Ivy (Mrs. Cecil Roots, of Penrith), Nina and Linda, residing at home.

The late Mr. Turnbull was one of a large family of eleven sons and daughters, one sister and two brothers having predeceased him. They were: Alice (Mrs. E. Kemp, of Narara); Archibald, of Sackville, and Ralph, of West Maitland. His remaining brothers and sisters are: Cyrus, headmaster of Broadmeadow Public School, Berry; Mrs. Chas. Green, Lower Portland; Arthur, of Lisarow, near Gosford; Mrs. I. N. Woods, Granville; Mrs. W. Harrison, Port Macquarie; Stanley, of Newtown, and Marshall, on active service abroad. Canon E. N. Wilton, an intimate friend of the deceased and his family came from Bathurst to assist at the burial service, travelling all night to get to Mulgoa in time. He conducted a short but touching service at the home, and then the cortege wended its way to the historic church about a mile distance.

Referring to the subject of this notice, our contemporary, "Nepean Times," says:— Mr. E. J. Turnbull was ever a leading personality in all affairs of the municipal life of Mulgoa, and for 25 years was officially associated with the municipal council. He was an alderman, and Mayor of the municipality on several occasions. He was also town clerk for a very long period, and it is perhaps correct to say that no man now living has a fuller, clearer knowledge of the municipality than that he possessed. No man assuredly could be more trusted or more universally liked. He was always approachable, and the information he gave—gladly imparted—was reliable and invaluable.

Cont'd

By careful, conscientious, and consistent attention to the business in hand—the cultivation of some ten acres of orchard, he won a good living, in hard, exacting, and unfavorable conditions and dry seasons as well as those conditions when all farmers are happy. Here again, as a farmer Mr. Turnbull set the highest example, and proved himself to be of those who constitute one of the Empire's greatest assets, viz., the company of honest toilers. He had a fund of humor, and a strong religious sense that he assiduously cultivated. Mr. Turnbull was foremost in all church efforts—in all works that were promoted for the welfare of the community.

The last sacred rites were conducted at St. Thomas' Church, Mulgoa, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. Canon Wilton (of All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst), who was, in 1905-6, in charge of the care of souls at Mulgoa for 18 months; he was assisted in the burial office by Mr. J. R. Le Huray, curate of St. Stephen's Parish, Penrith.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. E. J. Turnbull (widow), Misses Nina and Linda Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. Will. Booth (Cessnock), Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Roots and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Eaton (Penrith), Mr. C. J. Turnbull (Berry), Mr. A. Turnbull (Lisarow), Mr. and Mrs. and the Misses Green (Lower Portland), Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Woods (Granville), Mr. J. Turnbull (Sackville Reach). Floral tributes of sympathy and appreciation were sent by Mrs. Fancourt, Mr. and Mrs. Walton and family, Misses Riley (Glenmore), Mrs. Rose (Sydney), Mr. F. Mills and family (Mulgoa).



My great grandfather—Judith Glover

We don't see so many obituaries these days. A shame as there are names of family which can help our brick walls.

RIVER FUNERALS

When the pioneers moved to their 100-acre grants of land at Portland Head in 1803, they settled along both banks of the Hawkesbury River. The river soon became the community's life line, providing the pioneers with water for daily living and fish for eating.

There being few roads through the area the river also provided a usually reliable and safe means of transport. No doubt the site for the building of Ebenezer Church and school was chosen because it might serve equally well the settlers on both sides.

A funeral procession of boats to the old cemetery at Ebenezer Church was by no means an uncommon event and was a most impressive and unusual ceremony. The leading boat, manned by four stalwart rowers with muffled oars, towed the boat containing the coffin. Mourning craft of all description followed in order. A small sandy beach close to the church made a safe landing place, and strong men waded waist-deep to carry the remains of the silent sleeper to the church for a memorial service.

There was a strange solemnity about these proceedings, and the hushed gentleness of these strong men of the bush left abiding memories in the minds of all spectators. The last river funeral conducted in this manner occurred in 1937 for William Grono.

With the recent birth of a great grandson, I started to wonder when were birth weight cards commenced. Off to ask "Mr Google" for the information.

'In the early twentieth century there was an increase in the awareness of the wellbeing, of babies.

1905 The Benevolent Society opened the Royal Hospital for Women part of the outpatient services

Included a Consultation for infants' program.

1908 a clinic was operating at Bourke St Darlinghurst

1914 July The Baby Clinics, Pre-maternity and nursing Home was established

Other clinics quickly opened Newton, Bourke St, Woolloomooloo and Balmain. With plans to open new clinics in North Sydney, Glebe, and Newcastle.

'From 1915 to 1916 six baby clinics operated in Sydney at Balmain, Alexandria, Chippen-dale, North Sydney, Glebe and Miller's Forest

1917 April Country baby clinics in Broken Hill, Lithgow and Maitland were proposed

1918 Baby Clinic opened in Broken Hill

By September 1919 the number of baby clinics had increased from 9 to 28.

My interest is with my father Lesley and my Uncle Willie (cards below) Pop had saved the cards over the decades.

I started to wonder who else may have kept their ancestor's 'Weight Card' between 1914 and 1920.

If you have saved a card/s please let me know via email teagardensfrg@gmail.com

Anne Shannon

Baby Clinic Waverley Weight Card.
 Name Willie Davis
 Date of Birth 29 Jan 1917 Weight when Born 9 lbs 5 ozs

Week	Lbs.	Ozs.	Week	Lbs.	Ozs.	Week	Lbs.	Ozs.
1			19			37	23	0
2			20	23	0	38		
3			21	22	0	39	23	0
4			22			40		
5			23			41	23	8
6			24			42		
7			25	21	8	43		
8	14	8	26			44		
9			27	21	12	45		
10	16	12	28			46	24	
11			29	23	cent	47		
12	17	10	30			48		
13			31			49		
14			32	23		50		
15	15	4	33			51		
16	19	4	34			1 Year	24	8
17	19	8	35	22	8			
18	20	0	36					

RE 2543

Baby Clinic Leamrock Weight Card.
 Name Jessie Davies
 Date of Birth 17 Feb 1919 Weight when Born 10 lbs 10 ozs

Week	Lbs.	Ozs.	Week	Lbs.	Ozs.	Week	Lbs.	Ozs.
1			19	21	12	37	L	
2			20			38		
3			21	22	8	39	23	14
4	13	4	22			40		
5			23			41		
6			24	22	8	42	23	14
7	15	4	25			43		
8			26			44		
9			27			45	23	8
10			28			46		
11			29			47		
12			30			48		
13			31			49		
14			32	23	0	50		
15	20	10	33			51		
16			34			1 Year		
17	21	14	35	23	14			
18			36					

RE 2543

'GRANDMA AND THE FAMILY TREE'

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed her of late,
She's always reading history or jotting down some date.
She's tracking back the family, we'll all have pedigrees.
Oh, Grandma's got a hobby, she's climbing Family Trees.

Poor Grandad does the cooking and now, or so he states,
That worst of all, he has to wash the cups and dinner plates.
Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee
Compiling genealogy - for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright,
No buttons left on Grandad's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,
The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.

She goes down to the courthouse and studies ancient lore,
We know more about our forebears than we ever knew before.
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze,
A minor irritation when you're climbing Family Trees.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far,
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.
A worthwhile avocation, to that we all agree,
A monumental project, to climb the Family Tree.

Now some folks came from Scotland and some from Galway Bay,
Some were French as pastry, some German, all the way.
Some went on west to stake their claim, some stayed near by the sea,
Grandma hopes to find them all as she climbs the Family Tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date or name,
The rich, the poor, the in-between, all sleeping there the same.
She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze
That blows above the Fathers of all our Family Trees.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed in our kith and kin
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

Their skills were wide and varied, from carpenter to cook
And one (Alas!) the record shows was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, weaver, farmer, judge, some tutored for a fee,
Long lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more,
She knows the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept, and now for you and me
They live again in spirit, around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we all supposed!
Grandma will cook and sew, serve cookies with our tea.
We'll all be fat, just as before that wretched Family Tree.

Cont'd

Sad to relate, the Preacher called and visited for a spell,
We talked about the Gospel, and other things as well,
The heathen folk, the poor and then - 'twas fate, it had to be,
Somehow the conversation turned to Grandma and the Family Tree.

We tried to change the subject, we talked of everything
But then in Grandma's voice we heard that old familiar ring.
She told him all about the past and soon was plain to see
The preacher, too, was nearly snared by Grandma and the Family Tree.

He never knew his Grandpa, his mother's name was ... Clark?
He and Grandma talked and talked, outside it grew quite dark.
We'd hoped our fears were groundless, but just like some disease,
Grandma's become an addict - she's hooked on Family Trees!

Our souls were filled with sorrow, our hearts sank with dismay,
Our ears could scarce believe the words we heard our Grandma say,
"It sure is a lucky thing that you have come to me,
I know exactly how it's done, I'll climb your Family Tree!"

Acknowledgements: Poem by Virginia Day McDonald 2010



On 20th August our local branch of the Regional Australia Bank shared \$29,414.63 with various groups in our local region.

Donations were received by the Rural Fire Service, Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club, Myall River View Club, Free Clinic bus, HN TG Progress Assoc, Myall Koala Group, Myall U3A, Wednesday Craft, Bulahdelah Preschool and our group to name a few. This year our President and Treasurer happily received \$110.97 towards our funds.

Fund recipients were chosen by the members of the Regional Australia Bank, receiving a 1% percentage donation based on each account's calculated average balance as part of the RAB's Partnership program.

Members of our group have nominated us to receive this money and we thank each and every one for participating. We also thank RAB for this program.

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH—TEA GARDENS

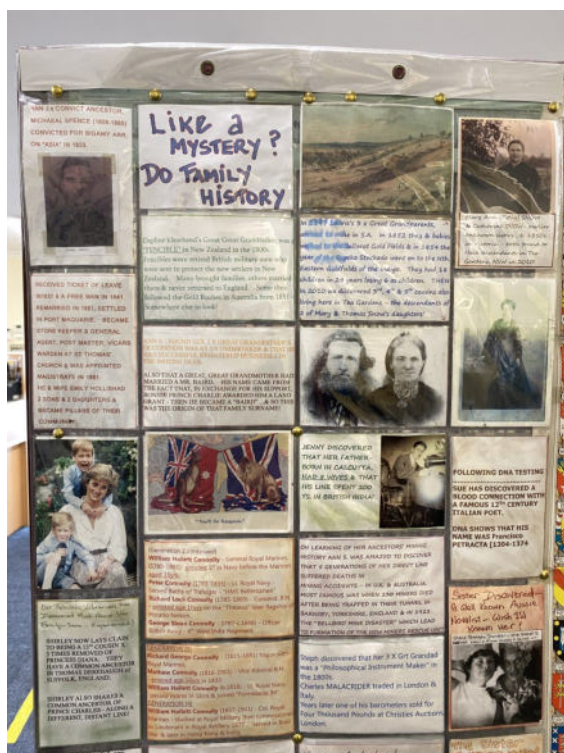


Our members made the front page of our local Nota paper!



Here at Tea Gardens our group set up a large display in our local library. Our theme was "*Where Have You Come From*". The idea is to show interested people that our ancestors came from all parts of the world, and some not so directly, some via other destinations and countries. People were invited to put a dot on the map if they knew where their family is from, this is to encourage them to do some research of their own families.

Lots of early shipping records, family diaries, World War records and other history books have been searched to find those pioneering relatives whether they were 'free settlers' or arrived because of some misdemeanors, example the convict line. All have an interesting story.



Our group was given a box of Tea Gardens & North Port Stephens historical papers which belonged to the late Dr Pacy. This display was augmented by a Power-Point presentation by Garry Worth at our local library on the 17th August. Photo show part of the interested public who came along to learn about the early days of Tea Gardens and North Port Stephens.

Some interesting snippets

Thursday April 18, 1963



Wanted: Widower with school age children requires person to assume general housekeeping duties. Must be capable of contributing to growth of family.

The Ancestral Searcher Vol 25 No 2

Interesting entry from a 1631 marriage record, first time I have seen this rather than Spinster

Spouse's first name(s)

Marie

Spouse's last name

Beale

Spouse's marital status

Virgin

As we are a family research and local history group, the following pages are snippets about events and the history of our twin towns.

Medical Aid in Tea Gardens—Nurse Avery

The early medical scene in our area was a far cry from what we have today.

So much is now taken for granted, but over the last few years I have been reminded of the wonderful service provided locally – a visiting surgeon seen at our medical Centre, surgery at the Mater and visiting nurses to take care of the wound over many months until it healed! (And mostly covered by Medicare).

Back a century ago Tea Gardens was very isolated. The bush track to Karuah was made suitable for vehicular traffic in the early 1920s – a rough gravel road to the Twelve Mile, a car ferry to Karuah and another at Hexham was slow going.

In Stuart Ripley's book where he recorded his grandfather Bill's memories, he tells this story of early transport:

Dr. Robinson had a patient requiring urgent surgery. An ambulance from Newcastle had such a difficult time travelling over our road it was considered too dangerous for the patient. It was decided to engage Mr. Korsman's ferry to convey the patient to Karuah at 11p.m. in rough weather, where the ambulance met them.



Fortunately in 1920 a midwife Nurse Avery settled in our area and converted her house into a cottage hospital. One three months premature baby she delivered for the surprised parents who were visiting Tea Gardens in 1941 weighed only 2lbs 2ozs. and fitted into the palm of a hand. She was wrapped in cotton wool and fed with an eye dropper.

To encourage doctors to country practices the Government later guaranteed an annual income and the townspeople were required to provide a residence. The Memorial Hospital Trust Fund was established in hopes of providing a cottage hospital in Tea Gardens but the request was denied because of the proximity of Bulahdelah.

Dr. Hans Pacy arrived in 1954 and set up his practice in the cottage on the corner of Myall and Ogden Streets which had been bought for £1,100 by the Trust Fund. He liked the area and moved into his own residence in 1960. The bridge at Karuah had been built in 1957 and the road was sealed in 1960, but had consequently become busier, with more accidents. Dr. Pacy initiated the "Coweambah Clinic" in an extension to his house to provide a casualty department equipped to handle emergencies. In 1961 he formed a roadside accident rescue unit which included roadside telephones for emergency use in the days before mobile phones. Funds from the sale of the original residence were used to purchase equipment for the emergency clinic and for the later ambulance station.

Ambulances had to be requested from Stroud or Raymond Terrace up until 1968 when we had the first permanently manned Ambulance Station in rented premises. In 1970 the local Citizens Ambulance Auxiliary raised funds for a permanent facility and the present station was opened in 1972. However in 1983 the local ambulance, due to restraints, could no longer take patients

Until the seventies there was no pharmacy and Dr. Pacy dispensed medication from his surgery.

Some things don't change. Rural doctors are still being sought and inducements are being offered!

Ann Johnson—Tea Gardens Family Research & Local History Inc..

Celebrating the Singing Bridge

Happy 50th Birthday to our precious Singing Bridge – a Golden Anniversary to be sure!

When gazing at the bridge it is rare not to see traffic passing, but let's reflect on its history.

The Hawks Nest settlement started about 150 years ago with the timber mills, hotel and first school: at that time the children from Tea Gardens had to be rowed across the river each day by the teacher. This did not last! Although the government eventually provided a boat, the Hawks Nest School eventually closed in 1888 and a provisional school with 18 pupils was opened in Tea Gardens. The teacher, Peter Krackow, was transferred across the river, but the rowing was still considered part of his duties.

Due to a major economic depression, the timber industry in Hawks Nest failed in the 1890s, but in Tea Gardens the fishing industry was thriving and the township was growing. The only transport at this time was by water.

When the timber industry steadied, Allen Taylor's mill at Winda Woppa kept men local men busy from 1916. They travelled to work by ferry and in 1928 Henry Melvin Engel tested the water by using an oyster punt to transport two vehicles between the twin towns. As the need increased, so did the size and capacity of the ferries until in the 1970s a 16-car ferry was operating, but it still was sadly inadequate for the volume of traffic, especially in the holiday season.

I still feel a sense of nostalgia when remembering crossing on the ferry, then walking to the beach in the late 1940s and 50s. There were only a few houses scattered along the Hawks Nest riverfront. A bush track led through to the main beach where there was The Pavilion built by the Stroud Shire Council in 1936, the camping ground and one small cottage almost on the beach.

That bush track is now known as Booner Street!

There were only two families with children living at Winda Woppa in the 40s. When I was attending the Tea Gardens School the McRae and Asquith children would bring a boat from Winda Woppa to Green Point then walk across the moor to school, where they put on their shoes. This was shorter than walking up the rough track to the ferry and then waiting to cross.

Motor traffic only started in the area in the 1920s and was slow to increase due to the condition of the roads, then the Great Depression of the 30s and war in the 40s. Reliance was on the local daily bus service to Newcastle or the ferry to Nelson Bay, which like today was subject to the vagaries of the weather.

In 1960 the Shire Clerk recorded 27 families, including 16 pensioners and 11 cars for Hawks Nest, while there were 102 families and 70 cars in Tea Gardens,

The Hawks Nest beaches were a big attraction, however, and miners from the Hunter Valley flooded into the area in holiday times, patiently waiting to cross on the ferry, then to pitch their canvas tents and unload the supplies they had to bring with them, as there was no general store in Hawks Nest.

By 1963 a Golf Course was planned, with 54 acres of Crown Land secured, followed by a further 55 acres.

In 1965 Mineral Deposits planned to move one of their separation plants to Hawks Nest. Extraction was to start in 1966 and the pressure was on!

With 40,000 tons each of rutile and zircon to be extracted each year, transporting the minerals became a big problem. The ferry could not cope so the road past Mungo Brush was extended to Seal Rocks to connect it to the Lakes Way, thence by the main road to the Port of Newcastle.

This was a costly diversion and Mineral Deposits were happy to contribute \$31,000 towards the construction of the bridge which was estimated to cost \$1,200,000 – back then a substantial amount. Subdivision and sale of Crown Land in Hawks Nest were scheduled to help defray the cost.

Cont'd

The building of the bridge commenced in March, 1972, and as we know, it opened with a great sense of relief and expectation for the ongoing development of our area on 6th April, 1974.

In Tea Gardens, Myall Street was extended to meet the bridge and thus become the main road, which in turn left Marine Drive and the riverside a much quieter and more pleasant area.

On the Hawks Nest side direct access to Moira Parade was cut off and the main road to Tea Gardens became Kingfisher Avenue, with the land in Swan Bay being opened up for development.

To mark the anniversary, Tea Gardens Family Research & Local History Inc. mounted a display in the Tea Gardens Library for the whole month of April, and will also be supported activities at the Tea Gardens Hotel on 6th April. .

Anne Johnson - TG Family Research & Local History Inc..

Photos and souvenirs of the opening and read about the changes the bridge brought to our twin towns



Hawks Nest side from the air.



Tea Gardens



Souvenir Badge



Displays at the Library & Pub



THE BOOK LAUNCH



Kate Washington—Member Port Stephens
Launching Jan's Book



Part of the large crowd at the Baptist Church Tea Gardens for the launch of Jan Winn's latest book. 9th April 2024



Kate Washington, Shirley Cox Jan Winn ,
Lesley Turner—

Photos by Christian Paterson

Janis Winn (nee Motum)

Life Member & Patron of our Family Research & Local History Group Inc here in Tea Gardens.

Jan was born in Gulgong NSW and arrived in Tea Gardens at the age of 1 month.

She attended school at Tea Gardens Primary and high school at "San Clemente" Boarding School in Mayfield. After 3 years at boarding school, Jan came home to Tea Gardens to work in the Post Office sorting mail for delivery, telegrams and general office work before once again leaving to find employment in Newcastle

Fascinated by family history, she has published books of her paternal grandparents, the Motums and Bramble families and has helped to organise reunions for both groups.

Jan has also researched and published a book on her maternal grandparents, the Tomlinson & Hasenhan families for which she was able to reproduce a photographic record spanning eight generations.

Jan co-ordinated with Brian Engle & John Walk to produce

*Tea Gardens—Hawks Nest and Northern Port Stephens

Her other publications are:-

- * Tea Gardens the Early Days
- * History Of Tea Gardens Public School
- * The Pioneers & History from Windy Woppa to Tahlee
- * Pioneers & History of the Myall River & Lakes
- * Tea Gardens & Hawks Nest history of buildings & residences 1866-2016
- * Hawks Nest a Birds Eye View

And her last

* The Chronicles of Carrington, Tahlee & the Legacy of AACo. 200 Years

Help given to Jan by Shirley Cox and Lesley Turner together with others to have all these books ready for publishing.

Jan hopes these publications inspire people to read and have a better understanding of our beautiful river and locality.

FOR THOSE RESEARCHING EITHER CONVICT OR FREE IMMIGRANTS PRE 1859

You need to be aware of what "Arrived NSW" actually meant!

1786-1824:

Australia was divided in half: New South Wales included Van Dieman's Land, New Zealand and all lands east of what is now the Gulf of Carpentaria.

1825:

The border to West Australia had been moved further West, Van Dieman's Land known as a separate island but still governed by those in 'Sydney'. New Zealand no longer mentioned but there was much whaling, trading & some missionary settlers bases in New South Wales.

1829:

Unchanged—All places East of the West Australian border were classified as New South Wales.

1836:

South Australia separate—NOT accepting Convicts, German wine workers, British shepherds & Cornish miners were early settlers. Some followed gold—most reverted to rural ventures.

New South Wales still included what we know now as Queensland, Northern Territory, Victoria & Van Dieman's Land plus the corridor from Northern Territory to Southern Ocean between West Australia & South Australia.

Come 1851 South Australians left their mining caves in droves & tramped to Victoria once the news of gold fields spread. This includes the crews of many ships arriving at that time. Ships could not make return journeys for over 2 years because of lack of crew.

1851:

Nothing much changed but (Victoria to be) is starting to be recognised. NOTE: 1851 marked the start of the Australian gold rush! Thousands of folk flocked here. Many disappeared—either died from accidental death, or disease or perhaps by foul means; went mental; or staved; or in many cases moved overland on to new gold fields elsewhere in Australia. Families walked thousands of **miles** with babes & pregnant wives to new areas of New South Wales including to what we now know as Queensland. Many skipped to New Zealand because of offers of land/jobs & because relatives had migrated there and/or became involved in the trading or whaling or fishing or sealing/timber industries. Also believe it or not many gold-seekers from Australia then followed the Canadian & American gold rushes & returned (or not) & there were rushes in South Africa & Diamond seekers who left here for South Africa ...and many still think poor folk didn't travel!

1859:

Actually Tasmania came into being but in this period Victoria & Queensland became separate states. HOWEVER—Note that BDM's etc. slow to fall in line. NSW born/married/died folk may have records on both sides of the 'new' borders [mine did in this era—both on southern & northern borders of current New South Wales]

Northern Territory, as we know it was still New South Wales as was that 'corridor' between West and South.

Keep and Open Mind and Think 'Outside the Box' - research the Era your ancestors lived in... Wonder about their priorities back then.

Many 'old researchers' will ignore my missive BUT hopefully there are still some young fold with brains who will know what to do next & use modern internet sources...Just be aware there is much in printed resources with will never be online!

Submitted by Jenny Little

ABN 95 947 789 163

PO Box 250 Tea Gardens

teagardensfrg@gmail.com

First Member (Please Print) Member's number <input type="text"/>	Second Member (Please Print) Family membership only Member's number <input type="text"/>
Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other NAME:	Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other NAME:
Residential / Postal Address	Residential / Postal Address:
Mobile number: Home phone number:	Mobile number: Home phone number:
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\$15.00 Joining Fee- for new membership +

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\$10.00 Extra family member

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