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Cairns Family History



Newsletter December 2024



Those of us who have spent many decades following and building our family's story no doubt will have found it fulfilling and all-encompassing. It is to collect and recall the discoveries that help to explain our personality. Catalysts that enhance that recall can be many, one such being a visit to our family's 'country' at home. Researching newly available records, online or at a family history centre can trigger a memory of a childhood picnic with those unknown people who came from interstate or overseas to visit Grandma many moons ago. Reading a well-written, anecdote-rich family history book or watching one of the excellent documentaries is inspirational but also very moving, even bringing us to tears on occasion. Such programmes do vary in style, ranging from the general, such as *Who do you Think you Are?* or *Finding your Roots* to the newer ones focusing on DNA findings. Examples of the latter include *Every Family has a Secret*, *DNA Family Secrets*, and the beautiful *Lost Family*. Our own pleasure at solving a family mystery comes rushing back as we see on screen or read of the joy of someone to whom we can relate. Their story is just like ours.

This past month Karys and I have been 'on the road' spending time with relatives and exploring new and amazing countryside such as the Lord's masterpiece, Carnarvon Gorge, introduced and recommended by friends we haven't seen for many years. Recalling past times together remind us that we have been so enriched by our friends who have brightened our lives wherever we have lived and worked or played and prayed together as a family.

It was a pleasure, while we were away, to attend the annual general meeting of the *Fellowship of First Fleet* at Sydney Harbour. There were many friends to catch up with and I was honoured to be given a life membership after my many years as Director, Magazine Editor and National President of the Fellowship. I have enjoyed seeing that special family, all descended from those on the eleven ships that sailed into Sydney Cove in 1788. During our time away and when not at the wheel we two were completely captivated reading *Flesh and*

This is the story of the McGann family as told through seven diseases, wounds or ailments that he relatives over the past century and a half, from poverty-stricken potato-starved Ireland via the slums of international entertainment world of today. Stephen McGann is an erudite and compelling writer whose genealogy combines with an academic interest in the social dimensions of medicine to present a lifelong drama as a way of understanding what motivates human beings to do the things they do. A 'must-read' in copy – Simon and Schuster UK 1917.

As we see out 2024 with our final newsletter from Editor Debbie I encourage you to read it through & support our society in all its endeavours. I pay tribute to our hard-working committee and especially Secret whose story about a recent visitor to the Cairns war cemetery shows just how far-reaching are the excellent website.

May the blessings of Christmas be meaningful to you and yours. I hope I will be seeing you at our events 2025.

Jon.



Ancestry British Ceylon

Story provided by Larry Andreson

My wife of 50+ years, Coreen, is from an Anderson Family in British Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. Her Family Australia, by ship, in 1962.

After searching for over forty years I now have had confirmation that Captain James Thomas Great Great Grandfather, was a Scottish seafarer, with his own ship called the "Mary Ann".

The confirmation came through the newspaper section of the FindMyPast website, which has Bombay and Madras Gazettes from the early 1800s.

These publications show long voyages for the "Mary Ann" to The Philippines, South Africa and East coastal voyages to the East and West coast of India and Ceylon are also recorded. The search there as we are still looking for his Scottish roots, well hidden in the depths of DNA, or just maybe at sea!



SHIPPING ARRIVALS.] January 5, Brig Adventure, Captain H. Brohier, from Chittagong 23d December,—6, H. M. Ship Termagant,—do. H. M. Ship Salsette, Captain Bowen,—7, H. M. Sloop Acorn, Captain Joseph Prior, from China 9th, and Penang 29th December,—9, Bark Admiral Moore, Captain Robert Douglas, from Cocanada 1st January,—10, Ship Mary Ann, Captain J. T. Anderson, from the Cape of Good Hope 20th October.



First Lt Herman Daanen Remembered

Story provided by Rosemary Holroyd

You may wonder why this person is at the Cairns War Cemetery?

He was paying his respects to First Lt Herman Daanen who was on board an aircraft flying to (when it crashed into mountains NW of Mossman. By the way, the aircraft wasn't discovered until

Retired Royal Netherlands Airforce (RNLAf) Lt-Col Philip Whittle (in the photograph) had president, Jon Fearon, wanting to visit the grave of First Lt Daanen on behalf of an old friend, pe and lay some flowers on his grave.

I arranged to meet Philip Whittle and his wife Janine at the nearest florist who also happened Coincidence or what – I don't know?

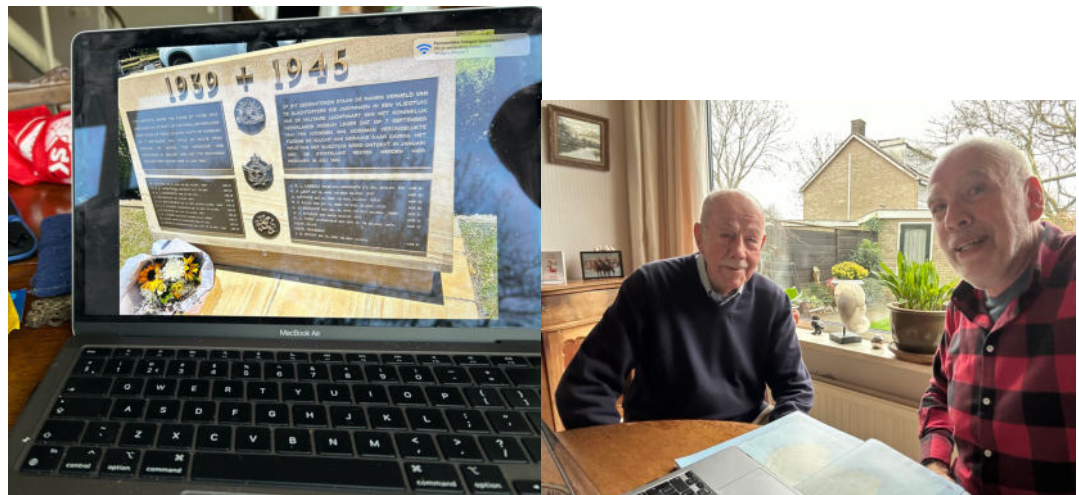
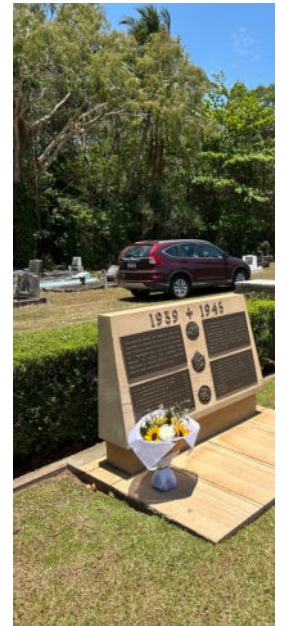
From there we drove to the Cairns War Cemetery where Philip laid the flowers and paid his resp Herman Daanen, fellow passengers and crew.

Guess where Philip found out about this grave and First Lt Daanen? The Cairns Family Hi

that aircraft. <https://cdfhs.org/indexes/cairns-war-cemetery/daanen-hermanus-jan-hendrik/>

This is also an occasion where we have been kept up to date of what happened next. When Phillip Whittle and his wife Janine returned to the Netherlands after their 5 and half week travels in Australia. They visited their former colleague and friend Jan Jaap van Rossum du Chattel and shared their experiences of their visit. Phillip showed him the photos and told him how we were very pleasantly received by Rosemary in Cairns before going to the (Dutch) flower shop and the Cairns War Cemetery.

It meant a lot to Jan Jaap that Phillip was able to pay respects to the grave. Thank you very much to the CDFHS board for your support on this visit. Please pass on my thanks also to Jon and I wish you all the best on the work done by the CDFHS.



The CHRISTMAS MUMMERS

Story provided by Pat Clark

Christmas Memories of Renee

from

St John's Newfoundland.



The snow is down and the roads are ice. Much preparation has gone into the holiday planning on 24th December and it's the beginning of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

kids were tucked up in bed. We hung out stockings (any old sock we used) behind the combi in the newly painted kitchen (everything smells of paint as kitchens are painted for the Christmas celebra

In the morning we woke to see a fully decorated tree with lights, ornaments and tinsel. What joy always one unwrapped present for each of my sisters and brothers left by Santa and in the toe of sock would be our own apple or orange. Mother would have already put the huge turkey in the treat Christmas was for everyone and a change from the cod fish and brewis for lunch.

During the 12 days of Christmas there was always much visiting of friends and neighbours sharing whiskey. Syrup drinks were on tap for us young'ns. But in Newfoundland and Labrador a div visiting also took place. Irish sailors as early as 1819 introduced the age-old tradition of 'N "Janneying".

Mumming continues today as a Christmastime house visit around the outports and the bay several homes throughout the evening while masked and dressed in disguise. With a knock or mummers come in and perform a song or dance and their identity has to be revealed before ; Cookies such as Chocolate snowballs, Date squares (matrimonial bars) or drinks were offered.

Come January 6th. It's all over, the tree was taken down and all that remained was the snow another Christmas full of happy memories.

For more happy memories go to youtube.com to see the The Mummers Samani <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E86bcRtW8>



Fire & Evacuation Plan Test

We were fortunate to have the ability to test our fire and evacuation plan in November. Initially there was an unpleasant smell that we couldn't identify or locate and then we saw some smoke from one of the light fixtures. Kesley sprung into action and contacted the Fire Brigade who advised us that they were on their way - luckily they were only down the road!!



They did their inspection and provided the all clear and informed us of the follow up action required. They advised us that we got a "Gold Star" for following our fire and evacuation plan!!

All in all a bit of adventure for the afternoon.



THANK YOU so much to everyone for your wonderful contributions to this year's Christmas Raffle. We were able to have 3 prizes plus the DNA Raffle was also drawn.

President Jon did the honours of drawing the winners

Prize 1 - Mary Hooper

Prize 2 - Heather Selke

Prize 3 - John Clark

DNA Kit - Heather Cox - do you believe it!!!

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who made the day a lovely celebration.

To the secret elves that came in and decorated to the wonderful cooks and food elves.

A great time was had by all !!!



Containers for Change - Cairns Family

We have registered with Containers for Change as "Cairns Family" so that as well as recycling our environment with our recycling we can be doing some fundraising at the same time.

Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard drink containers between 150ml and 3L.

You'll receive 10 cents for every eligible container you return which you can keep or donate. Use the details to select "Cairns Family" for your contribution.

For more information on locations and much more click on the link: <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/qld/>



Team Member number

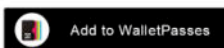
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Download to your phone's digital wallet

iPhone users



Android users



If you don't have WalletPasses installed, you will need to download it from the Play Store.

Research Support Required

SHADOWS FROM THE PAST

The planning and preparation of the next Shadows From the Past has commenced.

If you would like to assist with the research for the "residents" then please contact Rosemary Holroyd in the N

Rosemary Holroyd: secretary@cdfhs.org

"Have Your Say"

THANK YOU to everyone that completed the "Have Your Say Survey". The CDFHS Committee : the feedback that you provided.

The following is an overview of the feedback in response to the questions asked:

- We store our family history in many ways and use various software.
- Most commonly used software programs were Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker and Legacy.
- Websites identified were My Heritage
- Topics for 2025 will look to include Family History basics, Family History Clean up, Organisational folders, How to interview your family and how to write your family history.
- User Groups - We are hoping to commence a Family Tree Maker User Group in 2025. We touch with FTM and they are keen to support us in this venture.
- Overall everyone was happy with the days and hours of operation
- More projects to engage more members - preliminary work is being done to support this request to assist with the Shadows from the Past preparation

Any feedback and questions can be sent to Debbie Jolley at vicepresident@cdfhs.org

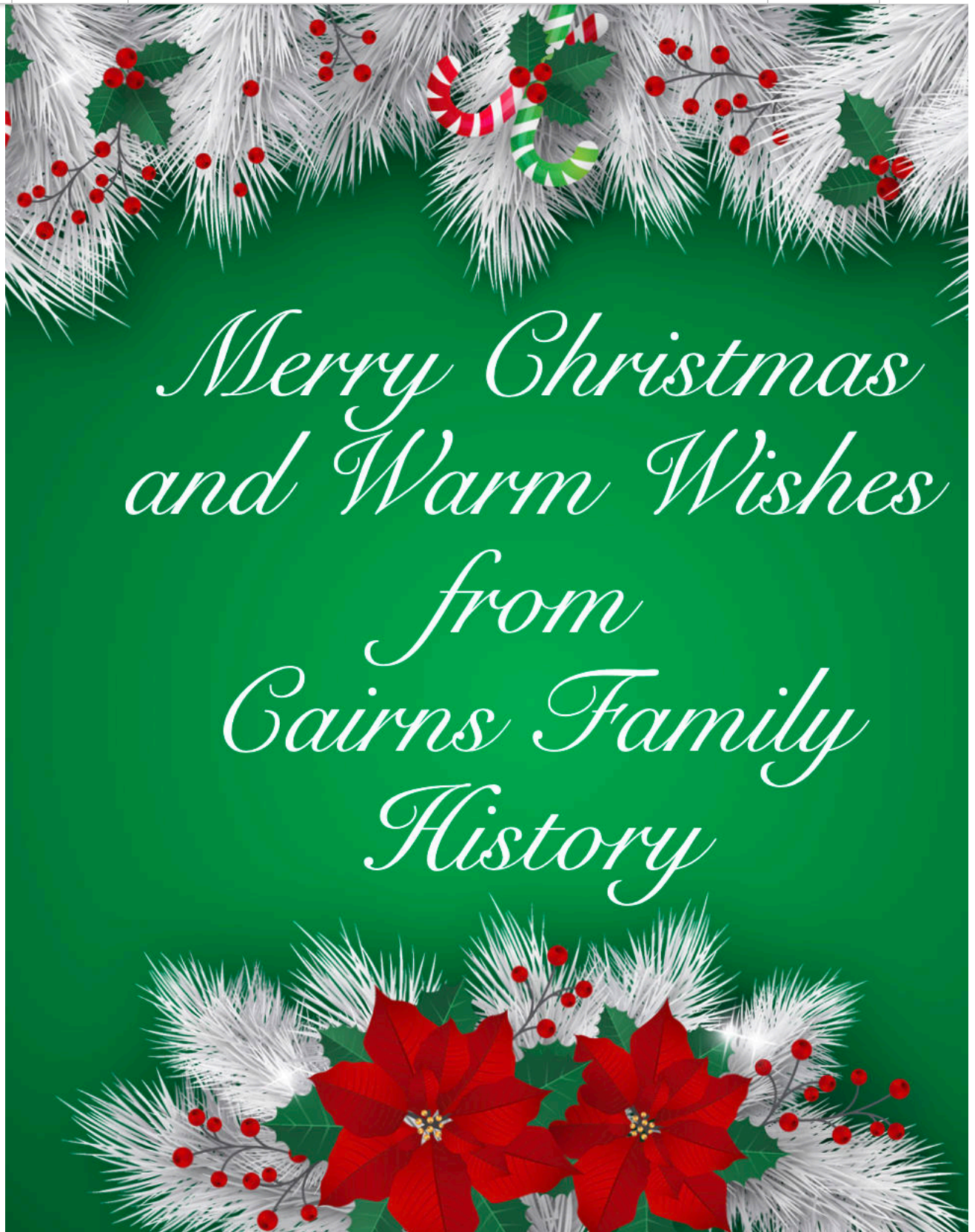
Christmas Closure

Our Research Centre will close:
Thursday 12 December 2024 at 3pm
Reopening:
Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 10am

To support working members we will open for two Saturdays during this period:
Saturday 14 December 2024 10am to 2pm
Saturday 11 January 2025 10am to 2pm

DNA bookings will recommence Wednesday 5 February 2025





Volunteers

If you enjoy being with people being organised, doing odd jobs, supporting research or even have IT skills, we would love to hear from you.

If you would even like to be on the Committee then the Cairns & District Family History Society is keen to hear from you.

If you have some time or skill to offer please contact either:

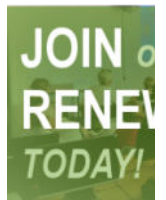
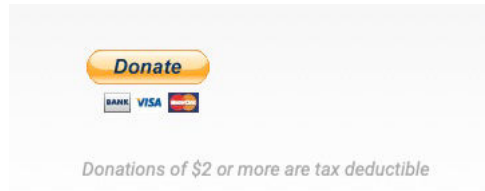
Rosemary Holroyd, Secretary at secretary@cdfhs.org

DONATIONS

Cairns & District Family History Research Centre welcomes any donations that can assist us with a hel
support your family history journey.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To donate please go to www.cdfhs.org scroll all the way to the bottom of the first page where you will se
button (as below) or call into the centre.



Cairns & District Family History Inc
271 Gatton Street, Westcourt 4870

cdfhs.org

P.O. Box 502

Manunda, Cairns 4870

Opening Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10am-3pm

Second Saturday 10am-2pm

Closed Public Holidays

Cairns Family History Society Committee

President: Jon Fearon - president@cdfhs.org

Vice-President: Deborah Jolley - vicepresident@cdfhs.org

Secretary: Rosemary Holroyd - secretary@cdfhs.org

Treasurer: Pam Leeming - treasurer@cdfhs.org

Committee Members: Shirley Arrowsmith, Joan Taylor, Shannon Burns

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Cairns Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional C



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