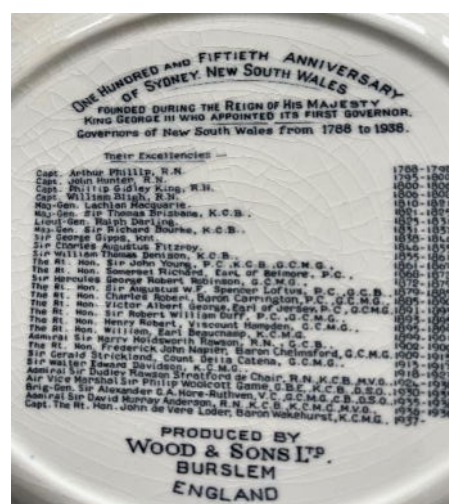


GENIE ALLERGY



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



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Annual Membership Fees: Single \$50.00
Joint (2 persons at same address)..... \$70.00

*As from 1st July, a fee of \$15 will be charged if you would like your "Genie-Allergy" posted to you.
All members with an email address, will have their journal emailed to them.*

RESEARCH:

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm (CLOSED 2nd Thursday afternoon)
Saturday: open mornings, afternoons closed except by appointment

Library Fees: Members - free on production of current membership card. Visitors - \$10 for half day or \$20 for whole day. Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance.

Library Rules:

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- * Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.
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- * One microfiche only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

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For more information, email coffsgenie@gmail.com

Workshops: are held on 4th Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.

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The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in "Genie-Allergy". All care is taken to be accurate, however the Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space constraints.

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Please contact Fiona or Cheryl if you are interested in filling the vacant positions on the Committee

Our President's report.....



Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to a new year of research. I hope that you all had a refreshing break and are ready for an interesting year ahead. A warm welcome to our new members.

In this journal I have enclosed a calendar of events for the year, so that you can plan your time according to which forthcoming event you wish to attend. As previously advised, there will be no workshop in April, as it coincides with the Anzac weekend.

Early in February several of our members attended a presentation with Port Macquarie Family History Society. Andrew Redfern, one of top ten speakers in the country, spoke about using (A.I.) Artificial Intelligence and how it can help family historians. Those in attendance found his talk very informative. He will be our guest speaker for October.

Our Bunnings stall continues this year, on the 3rd Thursday of each month Feb-Nov. If you are donating any cooked produce, please ensure that it has all the ingredients listed. Donations of jars are welcome. If possible, no larger than 300ml capacity and with metal screw top lids. These can be dropped into our rooms during opening hours 10.00 am - 3.00 pm Tuesday - Thursday.

The first DNA Discussion group will commence on 17 Mar at 10.00 am in our rooms. Please register your interest for this first get together. It will take the format of a meet-and-greet, so that a decision can be made whether there needs to be more than one group. No computers for this first gathering.
Happy researching

Fiona

Brothers Keeper Discussion Group

The Brothers Keeper discussion group recommenced on MONDAY 10th February 2025 in our rooms at 9.30 to 11.30am.

This is a small group of like-minded members who discuss and learn from each other how to use and gain benefits from the programme called Brothers' Keeper (7.5)

There is much to learn and enjoy with this programme, such as how to construct data sheets and ancestry charts etc.

No need to bring your computer, just a note book and pencil.
Coffee/ tea/ biscuits supplied.

If you are interested in joining this group please send a message via email Jim Holmes on wallgdcity@live.com.au

FINDING EVE – A WOMAN OF INTELLIGENCE

It is always a challenge to trace your family tree back as far as possible especially when ensuring it is supported by reliable records. But can we go back 7000 years, 14,500 years or even 25,000 years in search of Eve? Who is the Mitochondrial Eve? She is the woman to whom every living person today can trace their maternal line back to. She is believed to have lived in Eastern Africa about 180,000 years ago and is definitely a “woman who influenced our family history”.

Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) is one of a group of genetic tests that can be used to determine and confirm your family origins. The most common DNA test is the autosomal DNA test which can be taken by both males and females. Over thirty million people have tested their autosomal DNA at just one testing company alone. Additionally, X-DNA is an analysed part of the autosomal DNA test, but only 23andMe and Family Tree DNA report these results. Both males and females inherit this X chromosome so either can be tested to determine their maternal group. Women hand down a recombined X chromosome to their children whilst fathers hand down a non-recombined X to daughters and a Y chromosome to sons. Y-DNA is another useful DNA test as it examines the Y chromosome that is passed down from father to son over generations and can be helpful in determining the paternal line. Only males have this Y chromosome.

MtDNA is useful in researching the matrilineal line in a family tree because it is a very stable form of DNA with very few changes or mutations occurring over time. Unlike autosomal DNA, it does not recombine and is transmitted unchanged to the next generations. The mitochondria are parts of each cell, separate from the nucleus and this circular piece of DNA acts as the power house for many cells in the human body. Only women pass it on to all their offsprings, daughters pass it on to their children but men do not pass it on.

Who inherits what

	Males	Females
Inherit an X chromosome from mother	Yes	Yes
Inherit an X chromosome from father	No	Yes
Contribute an X chromosome to male children	No	Yes
Contribute an X chromosome to female children	Yes	Yes
Inherit mtDNA from mother	Yes	Yes
Contribute mtDNA to male children	No	Yes
Contribute mtDNA to female children	No	Yes
Inherit Y chromosome from father	Yes	No
Inherit Y chromosome from mother	No	No
Contribute Y chromosome to male children	Yes	No
Contribute Y chromosome to female children	No	No

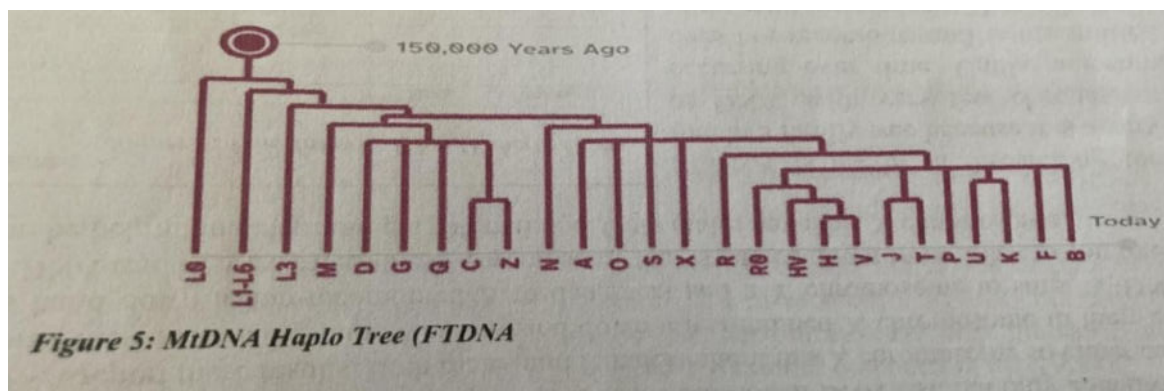
The mutations that have occurred in MtDNA are grouped into categories called Haplogroups and each Haplogroup shares a common ancestor. There are currently 26 known MtDNA Haplogroups. These maternal Haplogroups are designated by a sequence of letters and numbers that reflect the structure of the genetic tree and how the branches relate to one another. Haplogroup L which originated in Eastern Africa about 180,000 years ago, is the earliest known group. A branch of Haplogroup L, called L3, arose from a woman around 65,000 years ago and whilst many of her descendants remained in Africa, a small group ventured across the Red Sea into the tip of the Arabian Peninsula. About 15,000 years later, a new group had spread across Eurasia giving rise to new branches from Portugal to Polynesia in Haplogroup N. Around 57,000 years ago, one of these branches, Haplogroup R, emerged. The woman associated with Haplogroup R likely lived in South West Asia and her descendants lived and migrated alongside Haplogroup N. 25,000 years ago, some members of Haplogroup R remained in the Middle East area for thousands of years and from this group, the new Haplogroup T arose. The present day geographical distribution of Haplogroup T has been strongly

influenced by multiple migrations out of the Middle East into Europe, India and Eastern Africa over the last 15,000 years.

Through testing, I discovered my MtDNA Haplogroup is T1a1 at 23 and Me who do not test the full sequence and T1a5 at FTDNA. These branches of T are not recognised as a very common group.

According to 23 and Me about 1 person in 75 fall into that Haplogroup. This branch stems from Haplogroup T1 and its sub-branch. Members of T1a trace their maternal lines into the far reaches of the Middle East, North Africa (including locations like Morocco) and to the Scandinavian areas of the Baltic.

Although Haplogroup T1 is relatively rare in Europe today, accounting for only about 2% of the population, it appears to have been present in approximately 23% of the population based on data extracted from skeletons buried in the 10th century CE. However, it was completely absent in test results from skeletons buried in the British Isles in the 5th and 6th centuries. It is therefore suggested that this variant arrived in England around 793 CE brought to Britain by Viking invaders.



These Haplogroups provide a broad framework for understanding the migration and evolution of human populations across different continents. The time estimates are approximates and based on genetic and archaeological evidence which continues to be refined as new data becomes available.

Can I trace my tree back to Eve? Well not quite but it did make me look at how far I had gone on that line. MtDNA results link you to other people and geographic locations but a lot of work needs to be done first on a paper trail. This DNA test might not give you names of your ancestors but if you are listed as zero steps away from your match, then you have a chance of finding a name in common or even a place depending on your group's location areas in the last 500 years. At least you will know exactly which part of your tree to look in to find where you and your match have that common ancestor. MtDNA is also genetically a bit like a time capsule, carving a piece of history from your ancient grandmothers to you.

Written by Jan Butcher from Lake Macquarie Family History Group

References used https://www.eupedia.com/europe/Haplogroup_T_mtDNA.shtml#famous_people

https://isogg.org/wiki/Portal:Mitochondrial_DNA

FTDNA; 23 & Me: X Matching and Mitochondrial DNA is not the Same Thing – Roberta Estes

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to our new and re-joining members. We hope you will make yourself at home and find us to be a friendly and helpful group. Don't be afraid to ask the Monitors on duty for help – they will do their best to steer you in the right direction with your research.

Anthony JACKSON
Colleen CHEERS

THE OLD BLUE & WHITE PLATE



Growing up in Cowra in the Central West of NSW, my mother had an old broken plate which used to fascinate me as it had the heads of all the Governors of Australia pictured on it and she used to tell me that Sir Robert Duff was Granny's uncle. I thought it so cool that granny had an uncle of such importance, but not knowing anything about family history at the time, it never occurred to me that he could be our uncle too.

Fast forward to the present time – I had forgotten all about Mum's old plate until a couple of months ago. I use a transport service called Dorrigo Transit quite often to travel between Coffs and Armidale to visit family as I don't like the 3 hour drive any longer. Ryan the owner, always pulls into Dorrigo for a fifteen minute comfort stop so I usually walk up town to a café for a snack. On the corner of the main street opposite the Heritage Hotel, there is a run-down large store full of antiques but it never seemed to be open. Asking our driver Ryan why, he tells me he has lived in Dorrigo for several years and has never seen it open. One Sunday in November on my return trip from Armidale, we pulled into Dorrigo and hallelujah, it was open but about to close. Looking in the window, I saw Mum's old plate and decided I must have it. I told the lady that I wanted to buy it but they only take cash. Ahe senses my disappointment and said that she would stay open five minutes longer so that I could go to the ATM and get the cash. When I arrived back, the lady had the plate well wrapped in lots of newspapers and I was intending to examine the plate for flaws and cracks to negotiate a deal but the lady asked for \$50 which I willingly handed over. On asking her how often the shop opens, I am told that this is only the second time in 10 years! How lucky was I?

Once home, I examined the plate which I found to be in perfect condition. I rang my cousin Joe PROCTOR who is doing research on our family history, to tell him of my discovery and to ask if he knew anything about our connection to Sir Robert DUFF. It transpired that he had the same plate in his family but knew nothing more than I did. The old plate lists all the Governors from 1788 to 1938 and was brought out to commemorate 150 years of Colonisation.

I have a convict ancestor called Christopher LAGAN (aka James HACKETT) sentenced to death in Dublin for sacrilege at age 18, with two teenage mates. His lawyer managed to get his sentence changed to transportation for life and he arrived in Sydney on the "Waterloo" in 1836.

On 31st March 1991, approximately 300 of his descendants had a reunion at the Bundarra Showground. This was my next encounter with the DUFF family as I was asked to read out Henry Hackett's story as he was one of 9 children born to James HACKETT. Henry married a Sarah DUFF in 1872 and settled on a farm at Little Plain near Bundarra. I added to the story by mentioning we had an aristocrat in the family and told them that I knew of Sir Robert DUFF. I wondered about the connection with Sarah Duff and am still no wiser, but I am sure since joining Coffs Family History, I am sure I will be able to solve the puzzle.

I did some Internet research and discovered that Sir Robert William DUFF PC, GC, MGG has an absolute swag of initials after his name but I have no clue what they mean. He was Governor General from 29 May 1893 until his death on 15 March 1895. Born in Scotland on 8 May 1835, he joined the Navy in 1848 and became a Sub-Lieutenant in 1854 and Commander in 1865. When he retired to devote himself to Parliamentary duties as the Liberal member for Banffshire in Gladstone's ministry of 1886, he was a Junior Lord of the Admiralty. His parliamentary knowledge was useful to him in NSW in his dealings with difficult situations created by the Premier of the Day, Sir George DIBBS.

He had a very distinguished career and I am sure that when I start delving into his ancestry, I will most likely discover that we are only related by marriage and I won't be able to claim any of his blue blood. On the other side, I can't imagine him having any convict blood although maybe through his relationship to Sarah DUFF who married my convict Great, Great Grandfather's son Henry, I am yet to discover.

I am sure other members may possibly be able to claim a head on the plate but I am interested to know if any member of Coffs Family History Society attended the Hackett reunion in 1991 or has any knowledge of Sir Robert Duff's ancestry.

Submitted by Maureen Colling Member # 2065

HIDDEN WOMEN OF HISTORY: the Australian children's author who captured the bush – before May Gibbs' Australiana empire.



May Gibbs

May GIBBS was born in Sydenham, Kent, in the United Kingdom, to Herbert William GIBBS (1852 – 4 October 1940) and Cecilia GIBBS, née ROGERS (c. 1851 – 26 March 1941), who were both talented artists. She was their second child, and as she was named after her mother, had the nickname "Mamie". The family planned to move to South Australia to set up a farm in 1879 due to Herbert's failing eyesight, the result of a boyhood injury. However, as Gibbs had caught the measles, her father and uncle George Gordon GIBBS (c. 1860 – 24 August 1921) went to Australia, leaving her mother in England to care for the children.

On 1 June 1881, the GIBBS brothers arrived in South Australia and began to look for the land arranged for them by a relative of theirs. Over the next few months, the brothers became disillusioned with the land. Cecilia discovered that she was pregnant again and decided to make the voyage to Australia with her children. Despite her parents' dismay, Cecilia and the children left, and her third child, Ivan, was born at sea.

A drought in the area caused the family to move again, to Norwood In 1885, the family moved again to a farm property in Harvey, Western Australia At the age of eight, GIBBS was given a pony named *Brownie* by her father. May enjoyed exploring the bush riding her pony and began to paint and write about the bush at this time. This period of her childhood, and her imaginative interpretation of the bush, was formative in the development of the anthropomorphic bush setting found in her work When GIBBS was 10, the family moved to Perth where she was educated at Amy Best's girls' school in Perth.

GIBBS was published for the first time in the Christmas edition of the *W.A. Bulletin*, 1889. In 1894, Gibbs attended an artists' camp set up by H.C. Prinsep, who along with her father, was one of the founding members of the Wilgie Sketching Club (later the West Australian Society of Artists) at 'Undercliffe' in Greenmount, Western Australia That year she began painting in oils "*anything at all – trying to get beyond the sticky stage... painting plaques to hang on walls and earning enough to keep myself in all but chemist bills*", Gibbs stated.¹ She also painted scenery and made set designs for local amateur productions. In the mid-1890s she was attending classes at the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Between 1890 and 1913, Gibbs made several trips to England, primarily to study art. She spent a year at the South Kensington Art School run by Arthur Stockdale Cope and Erskine Nicol, and attended classes at the Chelsea Polytechnic (now Chelsea College of Arts), studying under Augustus John and Ernest Borough Johnson. She graduated in 1905 with first class passes in every category. Gibbs' art education also included 'half-hours' at the studios of Victoria and Albert Museum where students could draw the nude for free, and a term at the School for Black and White Artists run by Henry Blackburn, editor of London Society. During her time in England, Gibbs completed assignments as an illustrator for George G. Harrap and Co., published a fantasy about London chimneys, *About Us* (1912), and drew cartoons for the *Common Cause*, published by the Suffragettes.

Due to ill health, Gibbs returned to Australia from England in 1913, and settled in Sydney. She took up residence at Derry, a heritage listed semi-detached house in Neutral Bay. 1913 also marked the first public appearance of the gumnut babies, on the front cover of *The Missing Button* by Ethel Turner, which Gibbs had illustrated. She produced postcards depicting gumnut babies in uniform to support Australia's role in World War One at this time.^[1] Gibbs' first book about the gumnut babies, titled *Gumnut Babies*, was published in 1916. It was soon followed, in 1918, by her most famous work, *Snugglepots and Cuddlepies*. Gibbs wrote many books on the theme of the gumnut babies.

May Gibbs married Bertram James Ossoli KELLY, a mining agent, on 17 April 1919 whom she met during a visit to Perth. In 1925 they moved into their purpose built home Nutcote, then in Neutral Bay (now part of Kurraba Point), in Sydney. He died in 1939.

James Ossoli KELLY, according to a Sutherland Shire Historical Bulletin, was a friend of Francis de Groot, the member of the fascist paramilitary organisation, the New Guard. De Groot would most infamously disrupt the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, disgruntled at the leftist policies of the then NSW Premier Jack Lang. As of 2024, a 2019 Facebook post by May Gibbs' Nutcote shows that a watercolour portrait of Bessie de Groot, (the wife of Francis de Groot) painted by May Gibbs still hangs in the breakfast room of Nutcote.

MAY GIBBS is a household name in Australia. Her most famous book, *Tales of Snugglepots and Cuddlepies*, published in 1918, has never been out of print. Chances are you have read her work, or had it read to you. You'll almost certainly have seen her personified native flora illustrations, which these days adorn everything from tea towels to pyjamas.



But have you heard of her predecessor, **Louisa Anne MEREDITH**? Like Gibbs, who began to publish in the decades following Meredith's death in 1895, she drew her literary inspiration from the Australian landscape and crafted her own "brand" in its image. Unlike Gibbs, though, Meredith's illustrations were naturalistic. She rendered native Australian flora and fauna as characters for children's literature, arguably beginning this tradition. But she didn't "cutesify" them, or give them human features.



Louisa Anne TWAMLEY was born in Birmingham, England, the daughter of Thomas TWAMLEY and Louisa Ann *née* MEREDITH. She was educated mainly by her mother, and in 1835 published a volume, *Poems*, which was reviewed favourably. This was followed by *The Romance of Nature* (1836, third edition 1839), mostly in verse. Another volume was published in 1839, subtitled *An autumn ramble on the Wye* an account of a tour on the River Wye from Chepstow to near its source at Plynlimon.

On 18 April 1839, she married her cousin, Charles MEREDITH at Old Edgbaston Church, Birmingham. Charles had emigrated to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) in 1821 with his father George and family. They had been pioneers of grazing, whaling and other activities around Swansea on Tasmania's East Coast. Charles had become a squatter in the Canberra district of New South Wales.

Louisa MEREDITH and her husband sailed for New South Wales in June 1839, and arrived at Sydney on 27 September 1839. After travelling into the interior as far as Bathurst, Mrs Meredith returned to the coast and lived at Homebush for around a year, and where she bore a son. Towards the end of 1840 they relocated to Charles' father's property Cambria in Oyster Bay in Tasmania, where the couple's second son was born in 1844 at their newly built neighbouring property Spring Vale, in Great Swan Port. Severe economic depression in New South Wales caused their loss of 'all we owned in that colony.' Charles was appointed the Port Sorell police magistrate in 1844 by Lieutenant-Governor Eardley-Wilmot, after which the family, now with three sons, returned in 1848 to live on part of Charles' father's Cambria.

An account of her first 11 years in Australia is given in her two books, "*Notes and Sketches of New South Wales*" (1844), reprinted at least twice, and "*My Home in Tasmania*" (1852), which was soon republished in the United States under the title "*Nine Years in Australia*." For most of her life Louisa MEREDITH lived on properties around Swansea. In 1860 she published "*Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania*" which contained elaborate full-colour plates printed by the new chromolithography process. The illustrations were drawn by herself, and simple descriptions of characteristic native flowers were given. In 1861 an account of a visit to Victoria in 1856, "*Over the Straits*," was published, and in 1880 "*Tasmanian Friends and Foes, Feathered, Furred and Finned*". This went into a second edition in 1881. In 1891, Meredith went to London to supervise the publication of *Last Series, Bush Friends in Tasmania*. Published at the beginning of a severe financial depression in the Australian colonies, this project and the collapse of the bank where most of her savings were held ruined her financially. In her final years Meredith had chronic sciatica and became blind in one eye. She died in Collingwood, Victoria (a suburb of Melbourne) on 21 October 1895, and was buried at Melbourne General Cemetery in Carlton North, Victoria.

As researchers, we believe MEREDITH'S work for children should be recognised today for its innovations in genre: blending science writing, travel writing, poetry, and fairy tale. It is also anchored in a desire to shape the Australian child into the ideal young colonialist, by framing the land as unoccupied and in need of European care and management. Louisa Anne Meredith's illustrations were naturalistic, unlike May Gibbs'.



Louisa Anne MEREDITH (born Twamley in 1812) was an author and illustrator, born to a precariously middle-class family in Birmingham. Her father, Thomas TWAMLEY, was a hard-working corn miller and dealer. Louisa's mother (who shares her name) married him much to the dismay of her prominent family, the MEREDITHS who were descended from Welsh nobility.

At 22, TWAMLEY's first collection, *Poems* (1835), was positively received. English critic Leigh Hunt sang her praises in his 1837 poem, *Blue-Stocking Revels, or The Feast of the Violets*:

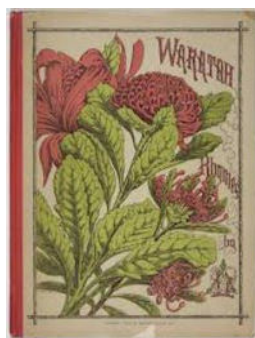
*Then came young Twamley, Nice sensitive thing,
Whose pen and whose pencil give promise like spring.*

By her mid-20s, TWAMLEY had a handful of books in print under her maiden name, as well as a series of prints, sketches, paintings, colour plates and miniatures. She was entirely dedicated to her craft. Her fresh style of publishing original poems alongside accomplished naturalistic illustrations was something new.

Twamley's accomplishments were numerous by the time she married her maternal cousin, Charles MEREDITH. The couple emigrated to Australia in 1839. Meredith's first book published from the colony, *Notes and Sketches of New South Wales* (1844), offered readers a "small fund of information on common every-day topics relating to these antipodean climes". Louisa's prose was accompanied by her original illustrations of colonial life.

By 1840, she settled in Tasmania and made the island her chief literary concern. She published a series of books depicting Tasmanian life, intended for readers there and back in England. In addition to her writing, Louisa was an active conservationist, as a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

While Meredith is largely remembered for her botanical illustrations and travel writing, she was prolific as a children's writer. She published a range of books for children set in Tasmania, created from her colonial perspective. Public knowledge of her contributions to Australian children's literary history is scarce outside Tasmania. Meredith's writing for children includes *Loved and Lost! The True Story of a Short Life* (1860), *Grandmamma's Verse Book for Young Australia* (1878), *Tasmanian Friends and Foes, Feathered, Furred, and Finned* (1880), and *Waratah Rhymes for Young Australia* (1891).



From the State Library NSW - Her work found young readers in both Australia and England. Her writing often dramatizes this connection. Waratah Rhymes, for example, features a dedication in which she signs off from London in 1891 “to the young Colonists of to-day”, inviting their “warm welcome”. Meredith’s contribution to the history of Australian children’s literature rests in her desire to write an account of “island life” for the white Australian colonial child. On the one hand, she reconfigured familiar European genres, such as the adventure novel (she was a fan of Gulliver’s Travels) and fairy tale. On the other, her aesthetic was distinctively colonial, expressed through Tasmanian fauna and flora.

In these books, the settler child is positioned as inquisitor and mini colonialist. Their discovery of the landscape through fictional encounters positions them to craft the nation in their image. They reflect the “recurring narratives of nation-building” identified by Goorie and Koori critic and poet, Evelyn Araluen, as typical of Australian children’s literature. Araluen actively dismantles those narratives in her Stella prize-winning collection,

‘Cutesifying the bush’ vs naturalism



From University of Melbourne - Meredith’s illustrations for children are naturalist. There is a striking resemblance between the works and interests of Meredith and Gibbs, who was also a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Yet there are also significant differences. Meredith was interested in science. She wanted to render scientific concepts legible for young readers by, as she explained in *Our Wild Flowers* (1839), giving “a little pleasant information, without any difficult terms, or unexplained names”.

While Gibbs had her own successful career as a botanical illustrator, in her writing for children she concocted a magic formula for cutesifying the bush. Her style exemplifies what Araluen calls “intricate forms of kitsch”. Where Meredith’s illustrations for children take inspiration from naturalists such as John Gould, Gibbs puts bums on gumnuts and reins on seahorses.

While their aesthetics are very different, the work of both Meredith and Gibbs reflects a settler-colonial view of the environment that aims to domesticate the bush and manage land.



Meredith does this by importing the British-colonial apparatus of taxonomy, scientific vocabulary and botanical illustration, to order and explain a landscape perceived as being both wild and ripe for cultivation.

Many scholars, including Araluen, have argued Gibbs' work embodies some of the worst aspects of colonisation. Her imagery and narrative, argues childhood researcher Joanne Faulkner, "reimagined the bush as a 'home' for colonizers, essentially 'indigenising' them in the image of white gumnut babies". These national emblems, embraced by many non-Indigenous Australians, were crafted on stolen land.

Exporting Australia's children's stories - In 1884, the Tasmanian government awarded Meredith a pension of £100 (the equivalent of around A\$17,000 today) for "distinguished literary and artistic services" to the island. Since Meredith, Australian children's books and media have become lucrative exports. Typically, they sell an optimistic image of the sun-drenched "lucky country" to local and international audiences. Meredith was cannily attuned to the importance of trading a desirable image of her colonial setting. She referenced Australia's "sunny clime" and "fertile hill[s] and glade" in Waratah Rhymes.

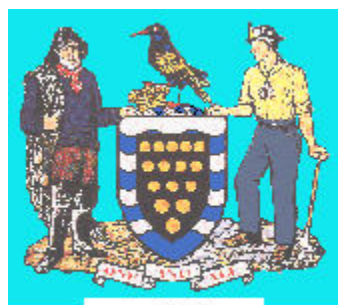
May Gibbs was successful in marketing her work, now a merchandising empire. Perth Mint/AAP



Both MEREDITH and GIBBS were successful in the business of their writing, explicitly considering their work's marketability. Meredith had her own monogram branding. She advertised the availability of Grandmama's Verse Book for international distribution. Gibbs commissioned a set of Gumnut Babies postcards, anticipating what would become a merchandising empire (the royalties support the works of The Northcott Society and Cerebral Palsy Alliance). It now includes crockery, bedspreads, plushies, pyjamas, stationery and more.

Last year, the Royal Society of Tasmania established the Louisa Anne Meredith Medal to be awarded every four years to a "person who excels in the field of arts or humanities, or both, with outstanding contributions evidenced by creative outputs".

The Australian children's literary market is just as internationally saleable as it was in Meredith's time. Today, the global phenomenon of Bluey continues her legacy of charming children (and adults) around the world through personified Australian animals.



Cornish Crest

Do you have Celtic blood in your veins? All Cornish people, by birth or descent (or other connections) are invited to join in this Australian Celtic Festival celebration which also marks 50 years of the NSW Cornish Association

The Australian Celtic Festival will be held at Glen Innes from Thursday 1st May to Sunday 4th May 2025.

If you are interested, please contact www.australiancelticfestival.com

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH (pronounced Go)

The dizzy aunt.....Verti Gogh
The brother who ate prunes.....Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked in a convenience storeStop n Gogh
The Grandfather from YugoslaviaU Gogh
The magician uncleWhere-diddy Gogh
The Mexican CousinA mee Gogh
The Maxin cousin's half brother Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach Wellls-far Gogh
The constipated uncle Can't Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle Flaming Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking Way to Gogh
The little bouncy nephew Poe Gogh
A sister who loved discoGo Gogh
The brother with low back pain Lum Bay Gogh
A niece who travels the country in an RV Winnie Bay Gogh

I saw you smiling.....there ya Gogh!!

REVEALING A FAMILY'S ADOPTION SECRET

Do you have an adopted child in your family tree? If you do, this article by Arthur Radford may be of help to you.....

"I first had a hint of my mother's possible adoption during a chance conversation with a near neighbour at his house in 1993. It came as a bit of a shock as I had been diligently researching my family tree for many years. He had been a close friend, perhaps even a boyfriend of my mother when they were in their teens and showed me photos of her as a teenager. At age 45, I had stumbled upon the family secret!

I had been led to believe that the Grandparents I grew up near, were my mother's natural parents. Subsequently I discovered that my mother was adopted and her birth mother, aged in her 90s, was living in Nowra and not that far from my mother. The upshot of this led to a reunion of mother and daughter and for me, for the first time meeting my birth Grandmother. It also meant a few surprises and a meeting of extended families on both sides. Both my mother and birth Grandmother came from an age and society where these things were not talked about and Nan, as we came to know her, died only a few short years later.

My mother was born in Marrickville in 1925 in a Salvation Army phone for unmarried mothers and at that time, it was unusual for an unmarried mother to keep her baby. The father's name was almost always left off the birth certificate, as was the case when my mother's original birth certificate was obtained. Using my skills as a family researcher, I was able to put together a family tree and trace the family of my birth Grandmother – an ancestry her family was unaware of; she had married and had three children after the birth of my mother.

However, finding out who my birth Grandfather was, was not on the cards and I resigned to never knowing this part of my family.

With the advent of DNA, it never occurred to me that it was a research tool that would be in any way helpful to me and I had accepted that there was a part of me that I would never know, and didn't give it a thought. In 2017 I received a DNA Christmas present from my wife and as I spat into the tube and posted it off, I still wasn't aware that it would make any difference to my knowledge of family. When the results came back and

I looked at my ethnicity, there were no surprises there. I had some English and Scottish which I already knew.

As I looked at the list of matches. There was a second cousin whose name I recognized but didn't know she was interested in tracing her family. We have since met up and shared our knowledge. There was also another second cousin with whom I matched, but it was unclear to me who she was. Emails were sent back and forth sharing what we know of each other's family but there was no match. As I learnt more and more of her family, I realized that her family were from the same area in Sydney and the men were nearly all Engineers as my birth mother's father had been in the 1920s. A second cousin of hers appeared in my DNA matches and from that time it became clear that there was a definite connection between me and their family. With other evidence we were able to pinpoint who by birth Grandfather would be. This time there were a number of researchers who had put together a tree that was not only extensive but traced a family back over many generations. That was a little disappointing for me, but I have been able to correct some minor mistakes as I checked through previous research.

So, I now have ancestors who lived in the convict era in Newcastle, taking me back into earlier Australian white settlement and I have six Grandparents in my tree”.

An Obituary printed in the London times – author unknown but brilliant

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

*Knowing when to come in out of the rain,
Why the early bird gets the worm
Life isn't always fair
Maybe it was my fault*

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a class mate; teens suspended from school for using mouth wash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault. Common Sense lost the will to live as the Churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot after she spilled a little on her lap and was awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sence was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, By his wife, Discretion, By his daughter, responsibility, By his son, reason. He is survived by his 5 step-brothers – I know my rights, I want it now, someone else is to blame, I'm a victim, and Pay me for doing nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

SIR REDMOND BARRY



For those of us who live in or visit Melbourne, we often see statues and grand public buildings which if we pause to ponder, activates a sense of awe and pride. Awe for the fact that such magnificent architectural achievements were built over 150 years ago and have stood the test of time and pride because we as Australian Victorians have inherited a great legacy from our ancestors. The University of Melbourne and the State library of Victoria for instance were built in 1853 and 1856 respectively. Lieutenant Governor Charles La Trobe, Sir Charles Hotham and Mr Justice Redmond Barry were all civically ambitions minded people and all played their parts in founding these great institutions.

Redmond BARRY in particular was instrumental in creating the state Library of Victoria which is precisely why Victoria has recognised his service by erecting a statue of him at the entrance of the Library itself. Redmond BARRY was born on 7 June 1813 in Ballyclough, Ireland. He studied at Trinity College in Dublin and obtained an Arts Degree. After his father's death he sailed to Sydney, capital of the British colony of New South Wales. In April 1837 he managed to secure a position with the New South Wales Bar. On 13 November 1839 he moved to Melbourne and after the creation of the colony of Victoria in 1851 he became its first Solicitor General. A year later (1852) he was appointed a judge of the Supreme court of Victoria. The song, "God bless Australia" by Jack O'Hagan, gives reference to the fathers who "pioneered our heritage". Redmond Barry was one of these "fathers". As previously mentioned, he was instrumental in establishing various institutions. He encouraged the state government at the time to invest money on public works, in particular the field of education. Apart from the University of Melbourne and the State Library of Victoria, Barry also presided over the creation of the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1848. He was Melbourne University's first chancellor and served as the President of the trustees of the State Library. He organised for the Governor at the time, Sir Charles Hotham to lay the foundation stones at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne Public Library and the Sunbury Industrial School in 1854 – all on the same day.

BARRY had a very progressive and "hands on" approach when it came to the establishment of the State Library of Victoria in particular. He advocated for extended library hours as he recognised that books and reading were crucial to his own development. Thus, he facilitated the exposure of these resources to the broader public and this was an objectively positive outcome as an educated public makes for a great country. When it came to unveiling the State Library itself,

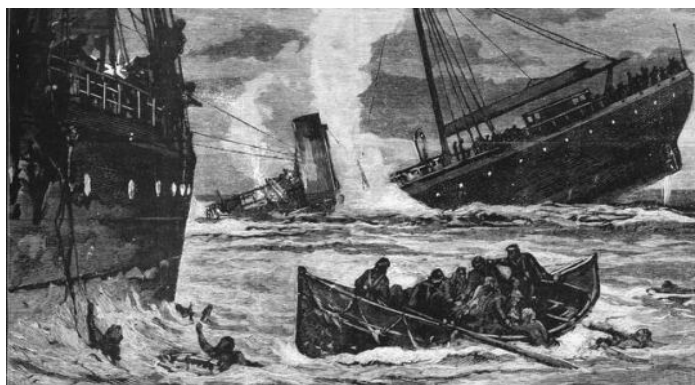
Barry planned and organised the event to the detail, even shelving books himself and writing book selection and acquisition procedures.

Redmond BARRY administered law and order in various famous Australian court cases such as the case of the 13 miners from Eureka who were all acquitted from treason charges by the Supreme Court. A little-known court case was one that related to Ned Kelly's mother in October of 1878 at Beechworth Court. Ellen Kelly was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment by Barry after she attempted to murder police constable Alexander Fitzpatrick. Constable Fitzpatrick was poised to arrest one of Ellen's sons, Dan but Ellen wielding a spade and with the help of Ned attempted to kill Fitzpatrick who subsequently pressed charges for attempted murder. In court, Barry stated, "If your son Ned were here, I would make an example of him for the whole of Australia: I would give him fifteen years". In 1880 Barry finally sentenced Ned Kelly to death by hanging after he killed three Victorian constables. At the trial Barry is quoted to have said, "May God have mercy on your soul", to which Ned replied, "I will go a little further than that, and say I will see you there when I go". Just 12 days later on 23 November 1880. Redmond Barry passed away from what doctors described as "congestion of the lungs and a carbuncle in the neck".

The State Library of Victoria not only has a statue of Redmond Barry but has also named a reading room in his honour. The University of Melbourne has named a building after Barry and a plaque marking Sir Redmond Barry's residence exists near the corner of Josephine Avenue and High Street Road in Mount Waverly, Melbourne. Redmond Barry's exploits in life have directly influenced the culture of Australia in particular in Victoria. He stressed the need to pioneer a heritage which had at its foundation the rule of law and the promulgation of knowledge.

Submitted by Cheryl dal Pozzo Member No. 1259

A MARITIME DISASTER LIKE NO OTHER



Have you been to Shelley Beach on the Dammerel Headland and seen the two graves of two unknown men and wondered about their story? They were washed ashore after drowning when two sea vessels collided off Solitary Island on 8 December 1886 around 8.20pm.

The 784 ton "*Keilawarra*", a coastal steamer, was on her usual trip from Sydney to Brisbane whilst the 384 ton steamer "*Helen Nicholl*" was on her way to Sydney from the Clarence. It is reported that around 8.00pm there was a heavy squall and heavy rain but by 8.15pm the sky had cleared although the sea was still; rough with a northerly wind. Smoke from the "*Helen Nicholl*" was seen by the "*Keilawarra*" but no lights were visible making it difficult to determine which way the "*Helen Nicholl*" was travelling.

Mr. James George, First Mate on the "*Keilawarra*" called for Captain Buttrey to come on deck. On arrival he gave the order to port to helm and then they were able to see the green lights along the mast head lights. But it was too late. The "*Helen Nicholl*" struck the "*Keilawarra*" port bow, 3 feet above the forward hatch before swinging parallel to the "*Keilawarra*" but had sustained damage to her bow above the water line.

Some passengers on the “*Helen Nicholls*” jumped across to the “*Keilawarra*” believing that they would be safer on the larger vessel. Pandemonium broke out with women and children calling out for help and men struggling to free the lifeboats. Captain Buttrey called out that the “*Keilawarra*” was sinking and that those who could swim should leave the ship. A horrible scene followed with male passengers rushing to get the lifebuoys for themselves and not concerned with the women and children. Captain Buttrey was heard to shout “shame on you men, have you no thought for the women”. It took only 7 minutes for the “*Keilawarra*” to plunge forward and sink below the waves. Captain Buttrey was one of the 36 people to perish on the “*Keilawarra*” and 6 drowned on the “*Helen Nicholl*”. Only two bodies were washed ashore and it is believed that wreckage and bodies that didn’t sink, would be carried south east by the currents.

Flares were sent up and caught the attention of “*Australia*” which arrived to take survivors on board. The “*Helen Nicholl*” jettisoned 60 tons of cargo which enabled it to limp to Sydney with the “*Australia*” close by.

Following a marine enquiry, Captain Buttrey, who went down with his ship, was blamed for recklessly navigating his vessel by not slowing when the lights had been seen and cutting across the path of the “*Helen Nicholl*”. Mr. Knowles, the first mate on the “*Helen Nicholl*” was censured for 6 months for proceeding at full speed.

New regulations were introduced for all coastal steamers to carry sufficient lifebelts stowed safely for quick release. It was also recommended that South Solitary Island lighthouse should have telegraphic communication with the mainland which would necessitate a submarine cable being laid. A compromise was reached and a signal station was built on Dammerell Headland.

A diving team located the wreck of the “*Keilawarra*” on 18 September 2000 in 74 metres of water and was made an archaeology site under the protection of the Provisions of Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act of 1976. However, in 2010 it was discovered that the safe had been broken into by professional thieves but it is unknown what was stolen.

George Dammerell was in charge of the signal station and when he died, his ashes were scattered over the sea. A memorial plaque with his name, his wife Sarah and son George, has been erected at Shelley Beach near the plaques of the unknown men.

Submitted by Cheryl dal Pozzo Member No. 1259

FIRST FLEET REUNION

Do you have any descendants of FIRST FLEETERS Jacob BELLETT, Edward GARTH and Susannah GOUGH in your family tree. If so please find attached information flyer for a reunion being held in October 2025

A First Fleet Reunion - In October this year, a gathering of descendants of three convicts of the First Fleet will happen in Hobart. The purpose is to celebrate the strength and resilience of our ancestors, their unique history, and to share stories of their lives.

When the First Fleet set sail on 13 May 1787, on board the “*Scarborough*” was Jacob BELLETT and Edward GARTH and, on the “*Friendship*”, was Susannah GOUGH. All were convicts, found guilty of theft and sentenced to transportation. After the landing in Sydney Cove in January 1788, Edward and Susannah were selected to travel to Norfolk Island to establish a colony to grow food and harvest flax. They were the first to step foot on Norfolk Island when Philip Gidley King established a settlement there on 6 March 1788. They married and had seven children on the island.

Jacob BELLETT was sent to Norfolk Island on 4 March 1790 on the “*Supply*” and married Ann HARPER who was transported on the Second Fleet.

When the decision was made to close the settlement on Norfolk Island, the families chose to re-settle in Hobart and start again. The two families were removed to Hobart by 1808. The families must have known each other well on the island as, after their arrival in Hobart, three children from the GARTH family married three from the BELLETT family – James Garth married Mary Bellett in 1815, Edward Garth married Ann Bellett in 1816, and John Bellett married Susannah Garth in 1822. These marriages created a strong bond between the two families and a unique family history. Thousands have descended from the GARTH and BELLETT families and we hope many will attend the week of activities. If you are related and would like more information about the reunion, email hobartoct2025@gmail.com for details or view the website.

Sources:

Mollie Gillen, The Founders of Australia: A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet (1989)

People Australia - <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au>

ADDICTION

**My fingers shake so badly they cannot hold a thing,
All my limbs are trembling like a puppet on a string,
The sweat is pouring off my brow, every pore is open wide,
There's a gut-wrenching feeling tearing from inside,
My scalp is prickly sensitive, I can feel each single hair,
I'm squirming and fidgeting in this little swivel chair
A red hot burning fever is scalding through each vein,
Like a liquid molten fire that's enveloping my brain
All my nerve ends are a-tingle in a kind of super tension,
And I look round quite guiltily in fear and apprehension
My breathing's loud and laboured, I'm hyperventillating,
And the agony increases every moment I am kept waiting
The torment is hard to suffer as each second slowly ticks,
For you know that I'm an addict and I need my weekly fix
So hurry with that microfilm, I'm not asking for the stars,
But I'm desperate to delve into the High Kirk OPRs
To find my great, great grandpa on the maternal side you see,
'cos he's the damned illusive figure on that branch of my family tree.**

Ayrshire Family History Society, Scotland

Dates to Mark in your Diary

22 February - Graveyard Symbolism and its meaning (General Meeting)

22 March - Heraldry and its importance

April - NO workshop

24 May - Seminar - Convicts

28 June - How to record your treasures (General Meeting)

26 July - Who's who in your family tree – members to provide a story

August - Family History Month – no workshop

27 September - AGM – Bring a treasure or photo (General Meeting after AGM)

25 October - Seminar – Andrew Redfern – using AI and other topics

22 November - What's new in our library? New resources will be on display.

DNA Discussion group dates for your diary: 17th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th September, 20 October, 17th November.

