



TRACKS

Journal of the
**Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage
Association Inc**



COMMITTEE 2024/2025

PRESIDENT	Wendy Marshall	0401860818 cruiserwendy52@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Marion Gardner	6674 3229 mngcudgen@hotmail.com
SECRETARY	Lloyd Nixon	0414600055 ljn48@outlook.com
TREASURER	Marion Kelso	5524 8531 marionkelso@hotmail.com
COMMITTEE		
Peter Johnston		5524 3227 petesue@outlook.com.au
Lesley Spalding		5513 0266 lesleypalding@gmail.com
Jan Peters		0422253794 janlpeters@hotmail.com
Therese Mooney		6693 2046 moonson245@gmail.com
Bob Harrison		0407366631 robbo363@msn.com

HON SOLICITOR: RICHARD ATTWOOD

PATRON: JUSTINE ELLIOT

SUB COMMITTEES 2024/2025

Fundraising	The Committee
Grants	
Journal Committee	Marion Kelso
Librarian	Marion Kelso
Membership	Lesley Spalding, Jan Peters
Roster	Peter Johnston
Equipment Maintenance	Lloyd Nixon, Peter Johnston
Website	
Publicity Officer	
Correspondence	The Secretary
	Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage Association Inc
	PO Box 6729
	Tweed Heads South NSW 2486
Email:	tweedfhs@hotmail.com
Website:	www.tweedgoldcoastfamilyhistory.org.au

Contents

From The President's Desk & NSW Seniors Festival 2025	Page 4
Editorial & Reunion of First Fleet Convicts	Page 5
Get-together Dates & Easter Raffle	Page 6
Websites of Interest	Page 7
Letters to Home from SS Mataroa	Pages 8-16
One Hundred Years Ago	Page 16
Macarthur Girls High School—50 Year Reunion	Pages 17-19
A Grandfather's Legacy	Pages 20-21
Christmas Lunch 2024	Page 22
Inverell Times	Page 23
Acquisitions to January 2025	Pages 24 & 25
Featured Articles from Magazines & Exchange Journals	Pages 25-28
Members Interests	Pages 28 & 29
New Members	Page 30

Front Cover

Jenny Merrell receiving her Bruce Graham Memorial Award 2024 from President, Wendy Marshall, at our Christmas lunch on 3 December 2024.

From The President's Desk

A happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

This year we would like to continue our aim to increase our membership and also support and encourage everyone to use the Club room for investigation and research. We must acknowledge the dedication and hours given selflessly by volunteer members who "man" the Room every week. Most members would not realise the wealth of information contained in the material in the Room. Information not available online or in the better known formats available at home has been located by members within the material kept in the Room. The volunteers manning the Room also have vast experience in how to research and find elusive material you may be looking for. They are always very happy to help.

We have some very interesting speakers and videos planned for this year's meetings, so I look forward to seeing you all.

Please spread the news about our club and how exciting and rewarding it is to research family history and heritage.

Remember, our Research Room is open from Tuesday to Saturday every week. You will find the daily hours on the back inside cover of Tracks.

Wendy Marshall
President

New South Wales Seniors Festival 3 to 16 March 2025

Please encourage any of your friends and family members, who may be toying with the idea of taking up family history, to pay us a visit during the Seniors Festival.

On Monday, 3 March, and Wednesday, 12 March, we will have people on duty in the Research Room, to have a chat and answer any questions. We have also invited the public to come to our get-together on Tuesday, 4 March, which we hope all our members will attend.

As is our custom, we will have a 'special' available for any visitors wishing to join during the Seniors Festival.

Editorial

A good time was had by all at our Christmas lunch last December. We have included a couple of photos on Page 22.

Members would be forgiven for thinking that the theme this issue is mid to late 20th century. I can assure you it is completely coincidental that our main articles are based around this era. I suspect some of our members, born in the UK, may relate to the letters written by Sylvia Turner's father to family back 'home'.

I would love to have experienced a school reunion, such as that attended by Linda Threlfo. The closest I have got is catching up with old school friends on a couple of Facebook pages. If you are curious about your old school/s, do a search on Facebook. You never know what—or who—you may find.

Brad Beadel's grandfather's overseas travels brought back memories of my own. Though, of course, mine were a little bit later (1974) - I'm not quite of Claude's vintage—yet!

Hope you all enjoy the articles.

June 2025 Tracks

The cut-off date for ordering hard copies is 15 May 2025. Each hard copy will be supplied at a cost of \$5.

Reunion of First Fleet Convicts—October 2025

We have recently heard from Linda Waters who is organising a reunion of descendants of First Fleet convicts, James Bellett, Edward Garth & Susannah Gough. The reunion is to be held in Hobart from 8 to 14 October 2025. All descendants of these convicts are welcome to attend.

Details of the reunion can be found on The Garth Bellett Family blog,
<https://garthbellett.wordpress.com/the-event/>

Get-Together Dates

Place: South Tweed Sports Club, 4 Minjungbal Drive,
Tweed Heads South

Time: 1.15 pm for a 1.30 pm start

Future get-togethers

Tuesday, 1 April 2025 (Daylight Saving Time)

Tuesday, 6 May 2025

Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Details of the agenda of each get-together will be advised in the monthly Trails newsletters, closer to the date/s.

Easter Raffle

Tickets in our Easter raffle will be available for purchase at the March get-together (4 March 2025) and the April get-together (1 April 2025), plus the Research Room from 5 March onwards.

Tickets are \$1 each, with the winner drawn on 1 April 2025.

We're also requesting donations of Easter goodies for the raffle prize, an Easter hamper. Donations can be brought to the March get-together (4 March 2025) or to the Research Room up until Saturday, 22 March 2025. Thanks in advance for your support.



Websites of Interest

Really Useful Podcast

<https://www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk/podcast>

The Family History Federation (UK) has a series of family history podcasts, covering a range of topics and expert guests. As at time of writing, there were 4 series, each with 6 episodes. Topics cover subjects such as Talking to Relatives, Occupations, Online resources, Getting started with DNA, and more.

Museums of History NSW—Handwriting—tips for reading handwritten documents

<https://mhns.w.au/guides/handwritten-documents/>

A very useful guide for reading those difficult handwritten documents. This is one of the excellent guides prepared by the NSW State Archives, which now falls under the umbrella of Museums of History NSW.

FIBIS—Families in British India Society

<https://www.fibis.org/>

It is 7 years since this website was written up in Tracks. It bears repeating as this organisation has added many records since then. FIBIS is the leading family history organisation focussing on assisting genealogists to research ancestors who lived in India. The site allows free searching of its database, with good detail provided in the results. There is also a FIBIwiki, with a great deal of useful information.

GENUKI—UK & Ireland Genealogy

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>

This is another site which needs mentioning every few years. The site is a “virtual reference library of genealogical information of particular relevance to the UK and Ireland.” Many subjects are covered and should not be overlooked by those researching back in the “old country”.

Letters to Home From SS Mataroa

On 2nd June 1950, my parents Eric and Ruby Starks, both 37, and my brother Douglas, 15, left Broadstone, Dorset UK to board the SS Mataroa¹ of the Shaw Saville Line at Southampton, Hampshire to immigrate to Sydney, Australia. They paid their own way, not waiting to become 10 pound 'poms'. They paid 1400 pounds for a home in Punchbowl, Sydney. The second letter below was given to me only recently having been discovered amongst my Grandfather's things and stored away for many years. The letters give an insight into how thorough my father was in his letter writing and brings back memories of his particular interests. He was a prolific letter writer having made a promise to his family to send letters back home weekly! Unfortunately, I have not come across the final part of the journey, but from my Mother's recollection they spent 6 days in Auckland, then 3 days later arrived in Sydney, so it seems they didn't have to go to Wellington to board a ship. These letters give an insight into travel to Australia in the 50's.

SS Mataroa

3rd June 1950

Dear Mum, Dad & Alec,

I am starting this on our second day at sea & will add to it as the days go by and I shan't be able to post it for some time as the first post of call is apparently Curacao on the Panama Canal.

We are keeping very well & very happy & really enjoying the good food. We have breakfast about 8am, lunch at 1pm, tea 4pm & dinner 7pm & are having as much as we want. It seems that we shall probably dock at Auckland & have to make our own way to Wellington, but we shall have several days to spare, so it will give us a chance to see something of New Zealand.

Things are just beginning to get organised on board & there is a dance at the verandah café tonight & a whist drive² in one of the dining saloons.

Yesterday was a bit of a scramble for meals, but we have now got a table allotted to us & things are running very smoothly.

We heard over the wireless that you have had it hot today. We have run into dull & rather cold weather but I don't expect it will last very long & we shall soon be sunning ourselves on deck.

Did you get the radio letter from O.S.? By the way Alec, I hope you don't think I deliberately missed paying you yesterday. I could have kicked myself when I realised I had forgotten it, because we all think it was darn good of you to help make things easy for us. However, I promise you I won't forget it, Al, & will make it up to you in some way or other.

Hope you have got over the parting by now, Mum, & don't forget you've got to carry on & keep smiling for us. We shall be home again for a holiday³ before you hardly realise we have gone, so keep your chin up. We have spent most of the time so far, just lounging around sometimes on deck & sometimes in the lounge which is very luxuriously furnished & very, very comfortable.

Cigarettes are three bob for fifty & I'm smoking my blooming head off. Sweets & chocolate are plentiful at shore prices.

Practically anything is obtainable at the barber's shop, clothing, footwear, chemist sundries, toys for the kiddies & hosts of other things.

By the way, this is a one class ship, so there are no restrictions on us & we just wander wherever we fancy.

I had a bath in sea-water, this morning, but couldn't get the soap to lather.

I have now bought some sea-water soap & will try it tomorrow.

Real luxury, eh, Dad, late dinner & a bath every day.

Sunday 3rd Day

Have just had lunch & are now having coffee in the lounge.

The weather is brighter today but it is still a bit chilly on deck. Up to noon yesterday we had covered 286 miles at an average speed of 13 – 12 knots had to reduce speed Friday night owing to fog. The ship is rolling a bit more now, but nothing to worry about yet.

Have fixed up for the Bath Steward to prepare baths for us at 6-10pm each day, so we should be nice & clean by the time we reach NZ.

Ruby is sharing a cabin with a French girl & Douglas & I are with two other fellows. One is either a Czech or a Pole & is quite a decent fellow & he is also going to Sydney & is travelling on the Monowai⁴ with us from Wellington. We have a mixed crowd on board from the very young to the very old.

The youngsters really enjoy themselves running around the decks, & one girl of about ten seemed very proud of herself when she told us she had been sick five times this morning.

Monday 4th Day

Had a meeting in the lounge this morning to form a sports & entertainment committee. We are going to have all kinds of sports & film showing & concerts to help pass the time.

Except for a couple of ships passing we have seen nothing but sea, miles & miles of it, since Friday & we need something to do to ease the monotony. When one has been accustomed to regular work an idle life comes very hard.

Have just been informed that we reach Port Willemstad, Curacao on the 14th & mail will go ashore there.

Ruby has gone off her food a little since yesterday afternoon, although there is only a gentle swell on the sea & the ship is just gently rocking up & down.

We get terribly tired, & think it must be a combination of sea air, inactivity & the rocking of the boat. Still, we are all sleeping well & can always go to bed during the day if we like. What a life!

It is now getting warmer & port-holes are being opened up for maximum air.

Tuesday 5th Day

Not very much to write about today. The weather is bright & sunny & we are still laying around.

We are now 2½ hours behind your time & hope to listen to the big fight tonight if they can pick it up OK.

Ruby is much better now & is eating well again.

The food is very good & we are not missing very much, usually go right through the menu.

Ran into a school of porpoises this afternoon & it was a thrilling sight to see dozens of them diving in & out of the water.

Had the fight broadcast about 6.30pm but the reception was very poor, although we did manage to get the result through quite clearly.

Wednesday 6th Day

Very much warmer now & a wonderfully calm, blue sea. Saw an aeroplane pass over this morning, but otherwise there is nothing but sea for miles & miles. We are now about 1600 miles from Southampton & looking forward to our first sight of land since leaving the English Channel. However, that won't be for several more days.

It is dark now about 8pm.

Thursday 7th Day

Large cargo ship on the horizon this morning, going the same way as us, but we are moving faster & are passing it.

Just had a good breakfast, started with peaches, then fish, ham & chutney on toast, bacon, egg & fried potato & finished up with toast & marmalade. There is plenty of variety at every meal & the food is really good.

We are calling at Port Willemstad for refuelling & have just heard we shall be calling at the Pitcairn Islands. We usually come into the lounge after breakfast, write a few lines & then settled down with a book for a couple of hours, so you can see we are getting plenty of rest.

We are maintaining a steady 14 knots & the sea is very calm.

The ship turned off this morning to investigate a floating object which turned out to be a tree trunk.

Saw some more porpoises today.

Have now got a small swimming pool rigged up on deck & it helps to pass the time watching the bathers.

Friday 8th Day

We are getting to know several people on board & find that quite a lot of them are going out on chance, hoping to be able to get themselves fixed up when they arrive. Quite a lot of New Zealanders on board too, returning home after a visit to the old country.

We have learned that it is a twelve hour journey from Auckland to Wellington by rail & that it is advisable to book first class then it is possible to have a sleep on the journey, which is overnight.

We shall probably stay in Auckland for couple of days before going on to Wellington, but of course it depends on how much time we have to spare.

Bought some tickets on the Tote on the ships daily run yesterday & had a share of the winnings. Nineteen people shared & we had 3/9 each giving us personally a profit of 1/3.

Saturday 9th Day

Had a film show on deck last evening. Quite a lot of flying fish about this morning & it is steadily getting warmer.

Stayed out on deck last night till well after 11 o'clock & enjoyed the cool evening air before going to bed.

We are now four hours ahead of your time & are always awake very early in the morning & usually go up on deck about five, have look around & then go back to bed until the steward brings a cup of tea between six & half past.

Ruby is catching up on her knitting & has almost finished a pair of socks she started before Christmas.

Although there is not much to do, we find that time passes quite quickly & we can hardly realise that we have been away over a week now.

Sunday 10th Day

Not much to write about today.

It is much warmer now, as we are getting near the tropics. Plenty of flying fish.

Monday 11th Day

Getting warmer 80° in the shade at 7'clock this morning.

May see some land today, that'll be a change! Ruby is looking very much better & has got quite a bit of colour now evidently the rest and change are doing her good.

Tuesday 12th Day

We are now in the Caribbean Sea & it's very warm & sticky.

Passed Sombrero Island⁵ yesterday evening, our first sight of land since leaving.

Not much to look at just a flat piece of land with a lighthouse.

We shall be in Port Willemstad tomorrow morning & arrive at Panama on Friday.

Nothing else to write about now but will start another letter tomorrow.

You had better reply to our Sydney address then we shall be sure of getting your letters.

*Love always,
Eric, Ruby & Douglas.*



Eric & Ruby with the Mataroa's Bosun

*SS Mataroa In the Pacific
Sunday June 18th 1950*

Dear Mum, Dad & Alec,

Here I am again, hope you have got the other letters O.K. This one will have to wait until we reach Auckland in three weeks' time. We came through the Panama Canal yesterday & was it hot! The ship moved very slowly all day & there was no air going at all, but it was certainly a wonderful experience.

We docked at Cristobel on the Atlantic side at about 8.30 pm on Friday & were able to go ashore provided we got back by 3.45am.

We had a walk through the town & wouldn't have missed it for anything. The streets are broad & straight & lined with coconut palms. One street seemed to be almost entirely devoted to night-clubs, & all had flashing electric signs & a variety of strange names such as, Copacabana, Malta's & Doghouse. The latter had a dog's head in coloured electric lights hung outside & the mouth keeps opening & shutting. Most of the shops were open & a blaze of lights. The shopkeepers stood outside asking people to walk in & offering nylons for sale. The Dollar is the local currency & we could have changed our money but the rate, 2 Dollars 30 cents for a pound was too low for our

liking, so we didn't bother. Tiny native boys were begging & some were selling chewing gum.

We spent about an hour & a half ashore & then got back aboard looking forward to our trip through the canal. Half a dozen natives came aboard the next morning & stayed till we got through. Their job was to attend to the fixing of the necessary cables for towing the ship through the locks. We got underway at about 7.30 & reached the first lock an hour later. Saw a lot of Pelicans perched on the buoys & piles in the Harbour. At the lock, cables attached to the electric mules, which pull the ship along, were taken aboard & once in the first section the gates closed behind us & water came in to lift the ship for the next section.

The ships are lifted a total of 85ft in three stages at this first lock & 60,000,000 gallons of water are used for each lift. The amazing thing is the very short time it takes to get all this water in.

Ten minutes after the gates are closed the ship has been lifted nearly 30 feet & is ready to proceed to the next section. There are four electric mules on each side & when the gates open a bell is rung & they tow the ship forward. At the side of the locks the ground is beautifully laid out with lovely green lawns & palm trees & the buildings are white with red tiled roofs & very modern looking. After passing through the first lock, we found ourselves in a great artificial lake dotted with lovely little islands & wonderfully calm & still. We had to anchor her for a couple of hours, as we learnt a ship had engine trouble further up the Canal & was being towed all the way down.

She came in sight about 12 o'clock & shortly after, we got going again. The lake was about 20 miles across & then we came to a narrow cut through the hills. Half-way through we saw a plaque let into the rock, commemorating those who lost their lives during the construction of the Canal & also marking the spot where the gangs working from each end met. The scenery is really lovely, everything a beautiful green & small waterfalls here and there dashing down the hill-side. So on to the last stage, a single lock, a small lake, two more locks & so we were down again & after dropping the Canal crew & pilot out into the Pacific Ocean. The last three locks dropped us 27ft at a time & the procedure was the same as before except that water was let out of the locks instead of being let in. We took a few snaps on the way through will send some on with this letter if they are O.K.



Panama Canal—leaving the locks

Wednesday.

Not much to write about till now. We crossed the equator yesterday morning & had the usual ceremony on board. King Neptune held his court & various people, who mostly volunteered were plastered with butter, applied with a distemper brush⁶, had smelly fish rubbed into their hair & then were ducked into the swimming pool. All good clean fun.



Crossing the equator

Had another film show on deck last night. They showed "Glass Mountain" & it was quite a good film⁷.

The weather has been very much cooler for a couple of days, with the temperature in the 70's. It is much more comfortable for us & we are able to sleep much better at night.

Douglas has begun to join in with the other boys playing deck games & we don't see very much of him all day, except of course, at meal times.

We passed the Galapagos Island yesterday & will not see any more land until we reach Pitcairn next Tuesday.

Saturday 24th

Have not had anything to write about the last few days. We had a Gala Dinner last night & finished up with a fancy dress parade & dance on deck.

The dinner was lovely, Turkey & Ham, Fish & two different kinds of sweet & ice cream. We all had a souvenir menu & we'll send one on to you, maybe with this letter. There were many wonderful costumes at the fancy dress parade, both beautiful & humorous. The sea was a bit rough for a couple of days & a good many people were ill. We, I am glad to say, were not, & I personally rather enjoyed it. It was quite a change & helped to break the monotony. I think everyone will be glad when we reach Auckland.

Still, it's only another fortnight & then we have the train journey down to Wellington & about four days on the sea across to Sydney.

We are seeing hundreds of flying fish now & don't take very much notice of them. They come up out of the water in dozens & skim over the waves. We got some very good snaps of the Panama Canal & will send some on.

Wednesday 28th

We had a disappointment yesterday. We were to have called at Pitcairn this morning, but it was announced that owing to a suspected case of diphtheria on the ship this would not be possible.

Everyone was looking forward to it as the natives come aboard with fruit & we were hoping to get some. We can only hope that it is not diphtheria as, if it is, we shall probably be detained in quarantine when we reach Auckland. The weather is getting colder now & the sea rougher & we shall soon have to put on warmer clothes. There was a fancy dress parade & party for the kiddies yesterday & there is to be a concert in the lounge tonight.

Saturday 1st July

I spent an interesting hour down in the engine room Thursday afternoon. Six of us were taken round & thoroughly enjoyed it although we found it rather hot. This ship was built about 27 years ago and has 27 oil fired boilers. She is a turn screw vessel & we followed the shafts right through to the stern. The sea is quite rough now & there is a strong head wind making the old ship rock up & down like a see-saw. It's almost like riding on the switch-back at the fair & a lot of people have been ill.

Some of the waves break right up over the bow & a shower of spray sweeps across the forward deck & splatters up against the windows of the lounge. We are enjoying it at first but find it is a little difficult to get to sleep at night. We have six more days, including today, on the ship & arrive at Auckland next Friday. We go to bed next Wednesday night & get up Friday morning as we have to lose a day to make the time right.

We have heard that we may possibly get a ship from Auckland to Sydney on Monday July 10th & if we can it will save us a lot of expense & trouble. If not it will cost us about 12 pound for rail fares down to Wellington & hotel expenses for a week will probably be another 20pound, so we are hoping we shall be able to save it.

Monday 3rd July

Well, we are nearly there now & expect to get in around midnight on Friday. We had rather rough night last night & the sea is very round with a strong cross wind. Several seas came up over the side during the night & the steward's quarters were flooded. Our cabin door is always open at night & I was awakened about 2 o'clock by the door swinging back violently against the bunk. I didn't get to sleep again owing to the rolling of the ship. Still we must expect rough weather now as it is winter out here although it is quite warm today.

I will close this letter now as there is very little to write about, I will post it from Auckland. Will write again from Sydney if we can get away from N.Z. on Monday. If we have to stay the week I will write from Wellington.

Good-bye for now & lots of love

Eric, Ruby & Douglas

1. SS Mataroa was scrapped on her return to UK
2. A whist drive is a social event where players compete in progressive games of whist at multiple tables. The winners of each hand move to a new table to play the losers of the previous hand.
3. Sadly, my parents didn't travel back to 'home' for a holiday until 29 years later, long after both their parents had passed.
4. The Monowai was originally built by the famed Harland & Wolff Shipyards at Greenock as a P&O liner.
5. Sombrero, also known as Hat Island, is part of the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla and is the northernmost island of the Lesser Antilles.
6. Brush for white washing the ship decks
7. The Glass Mountain is a 1949 black and white British romantic film directed by Henry Cass. The film was a popular success of its day, and was re-released in the UK in 1950 and 1953. The Guardian wrote, "most reference books now deride the film, but at a time when Britain was emerging from the war into a period of grey austerity, The Glass Mountain and movies like it were a popular tonic. Set in the beautiful Dolomite mountains, with graceful performers and a nostalgically slow pace, it was one of the most successful British films to that date" (Source: Wikipedia).

Submitted by Sylvia Turner (Member number 927)

One Hundred Years Ago

The Tweed Daily, Friday, 27 February 1925, Page 5

Morley's Big Summer Sale
ENDS TUESDAY, MARCH 31.
WHEN WE HAVE A SALE WE HAVE A SALE.
Smashing Prices for the Last Days of Our BIG SALE.

30in. Jap Crepes, big variety of colors. Smashing Price, dozen	8/11	100 Pairs Ladies' Shoes. Worth 21/- pair. Smashing Price, pair	7/6
1000 Pairs Marshall's Famous High- Class Gent's Footwear. Smashing Price, pair	21/-	Gent's Fujii Silk Tennis Shirts, best make, collar and pocket— Smashing Price	12/6

MORLEY'S LIMITED - - - - - **Tweed Heads**
"WHERE THE BARGAINS ARE"

Macarthur Girls High School—50 Year Reunion

The big day finally rolled around on Saturday 14 September 2024 when Linda Threlfo was in Sydney to celebrate her Macarthur Girls High School 50-year school reunion with her “schoolie friends” from the graduating classes of 1974 for 4th form and 1976 for 6th form. The plans for the big day had been discussed on Facebook for quite some time with everyone excited to attend or disappointed that they couldn’t make it. Le-onie took the reins and organised the evening venue and meal and accommodation for those needing it, as well as lunch at the Albion Hotel. A group of approximately 30 ladies attended in the evening and a great time was had by all. Joanne had taken the initiative to organise a tour of the school with about 20 of the school group attending and the current Principal, Mrs Fiona Clifton, was more than happy to accommodate this request as she was keen to hear more about the history of the school and was hoping that some of the ladies may visit again and talk to the students. This was a very busy day for Fiona as it was voting day, her son’s 21st birthday party that night and during the tour she had phone calls to say that the dog had gone missing. The dog was found but there was going to be no rest for her on Sunday as she had Year 12 reports to work on before the upcoming HSC. A teacher’s work is never done. The principal had 3 of the current students (Captains and Vice Captains) also come along to assist during the tour and these students wore their full school uniforms even though it was a Saturday, and they were all extremely welcoming, friendly, pleasant and interested in what the former students had to say. I think Fiona’s new “old” students for the morning must have been the most talkative ones she’d had for a while because sometimes it was hard to get all their attention.



Linda outside Macarthur Girls High School

The tour started off in the administration buildings (the former sports fields) with the principal giving an overview of their current school culture and the positivity and PRIDE (Participation, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence) that they instil in the students. She explained how the Parramatta area is growing and is becoming like a new CBD for Sydney and how they are working on future focused learning to provide the skills and capabilities required for employment.

A brief history note - Macarthur Girls High School is in the Parramatta District on the banks of the Parramatta River. The school site is of historical significance as a part of the early settlement of the Parramatta district. The school is located on the land that was first granted to William Reid, a convict seaman who was aboard the Sirius, the first ship to enter Sydney Harbour in 1788. It is also the site of Samuel Marsden's home Newlands. The school came into existence in 1927 as the Parramatta Commercial and Household Arts School, in 1933 it opened at its current location as the Parramatta Domestic Science School and then in 1959 it was named Macarthur Girls High School. The school has about 1200 students and alumni include the likes of Betty Cuthbert.

After the Principal's opening talk the former students were given a tour of the ground level of the school and lots of lively discussions of past events were held whilst Fiona was telling them about all the new innovations, air-conditioning, solar panels, technology etc that had happened since their time there. The one thing they were all pleased to hear was that the buildings have been heritage listed so the facade would not change. This however has posed problems eg trying to relocate a beehive that is behind a wall.

As this is an all-girls school, local artists had been commissioned to paint outdoor murals and indoor art that depicted "strong" and inspiring women related to the subjects for each building area.

They were shown the dance studio, school hall, canteen area, gym, swimming pool, kitchen and pantry, English, Maths, Science, quadrangle, drama and music areas. Amazement was shown at the Canteen menu and the healthy options and there were queries where the cream buns and pineapple donuts were, also the facilities now available in the gym and the automated chairs that fold out into the hall. The "chef's kitchen" with shiny stainless steel was impressive compared to the old tables that the visiting ex-students used during their high school years, as the old tables needed to be rubbed with a block of wax to stop the vinyl tops from cracking and washing up was done in a bowl and not a proper sink. There was talk of hanging out the windows in the classrooms before the teacher came because it was too "bloody hot" as this was pre-aircon days. The swimming pool had changed as well as the diving boards and starting blocks had been removed (WHS requirements) but it is now heated,

thanks to Parramatta Council. The ladies were also amazed that a high rise across the road now towers over the pool. A common comment was that there was so much more shade these days with trees, shade sails etc and gone were the days of sitting in the sun with baby oil on getting skin cancers. They were all pleased to see that the rose garden was still there.

Halfway through the tour a photo of the group was taken in front of the school's main entrance. Joanne who had arranged the tour had also made a sign to commemorate the event.



To finish the tour, we returned to the administration block and the principal and students presented the former students with a 182-page glossy publication called Macarthur Girls High School ...A living history, written and compiled by Remo La Cava published in 2004. The contents cover each decade from the 1930's to the 2000's, the school honour boards, sport, Principals, Sport etc. They also received a specially made laminated Macarthur Girls High School bookmark.

Linda was hoping as part of the tour to see the Sportsgirl of the Year board with her name on it, but it must have been archived under the school stage as it was not on display. Despite being disappointed not to have seen the board she was happy when I told her I had found her name on the list on page 178 of the publication.

Linda and her school friends are still talking about the great time they had doing the tour of their old school, and it turned what could have been just another evening out into a special day to be remembered by them all for years to come.

Submitted by Sue Thompson & Linda Threlfo (Member numbers 1063 & 1062)

A Grandfather's Legacy

Recently my grandfather, Claude Williams, passed away at 94, in New Zealand. I had the opportunity to go through his photos and other documentation as I would not have the opportunity to do so again. What I did come across was unexpected as there were little bits of history from my grandfather's past I had only heard about. On two separate plane journeys home, I had 20 kilograms each time, which I brought back to Australia with me.

On a previous trip over, I had brought home to Australia from New Zealand his slides, 8mm film reels and photos. There was a diary he had written of a journey he had made from England to Singapore via Iran by Land Rover with some friends in the 1960s. I had managed to digitise the 8mm film and one of the film reels was about that journey, which was exciting. Another video I digitised was of his time at the North Kirra Surf Club, where he became a life member for his services in building the surf club building, as the only qualified carpenter at the time.

On the last journey to New Zealand upon his passing, I ended up with much more information than I had bargained for. Some of the articles I came across were letters that were written between 1949 to the 1970s, a postcard written to his mother from her brother on a troopship bound for Europe via Albany during World War 1, a boarding pass from 1962 for the vessel that would take my grandfather from Singapore to Fremantle, talking letter tapes that I would later get digitised. I never knew many of these records existed let alone in excellent condition for their age, especially the older postcards. My grandfather was really good at documenting parts of his journey to Europe in the 1960s, as there were fuel usage guides and how many miles they had travelled per day to get to the destination with his friends before separating in India, where he ended up in Nepal. The passport for that particular journey was also found, containing the many stamps for the countries he passed through. The items I ended up with, I will treasure and there are still many more that I still have to go through.

Submitted by Brad Beadel
(Member number 320)

*Claude in Morocco on his way
to England in 1960*





Claude's Land Rover being loaded in England for a short flight to France

P & O - ORIENT LINES No. 02110

PASSENGER AND GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION CARD - PASSAGE TICKET

DATE OF ISSUE		TRIP		THROUGH-TICKET		CARRY		SEASON		REMARKS	
Day	Month	Year	From	To	Class	Rate	Category	Amount	Period	Remarks	Remarks
CHURCH	1st	Jan.	63	SYDNEY	1	1000	E				
YOUNG				FRANKFURT							
YOUNG											

PASSENGER: MR. C. F. WILLIAMS

Age: 1-1-1 **Sex:** M **Occupation:** Merchant

Address: Singapore

Remarks: Fare as per order.

Issued at: Singapore, **DATE:** 29th December, 62. **PAID BY:** [Signature]

Remarks: This ticket is valid for travel in the Orient and is subject to the conditions of the P & O - Orient Lines. It is not valid for travel in the West.

One of Claude's tickets on his travels

Christmas Lunch 2024

A couple of photos of our members enjoying the Christmas festivities



A CRICKET REFERENCE.

(By "Lover of the Game").

Still the world moves on! Farewell, dear old Denny McMahon! "Old soldiers never die—they simply fade away," has been written. The same might be said of old cricketers. No cricket match has been played on the showground for many years, except under the critical eyes of that fine old Australian, Denis McMahon, notwithstanding the eighty odd cricket seasons that have passed since Australia became enriched by his fine, honorable life. But he has gone to rest; he has made his last kindly criticisms. He played the game, and has retired.

My paternal great-grandfather, perhaps this is where my love of traditional cricket comes from.

Submitted by Kerry Golds (Member number 835)

Acquisitions to January 2025

BOOKS (all compiled & donated by John Selwood, Wyong FHS)

Primary Schools of the Tweed, Richmond & Brunswick River Districts of NSW
Closed Primary Schools of the Tweed, Richmond & Brunswick River Districts of NSW
Primary Schools of the Ballina, Coraki & Evans Head Districts
Schools of the Upper Clarence
Primary Schools of the Casino District
Primary Schools of the Big Scrub & Surrounds

EXCHANGE JOURNALS (Hard Copy)

Timespan (Nepean FHS) September & December 2024
The Explorers' Tree (Blue Mountains FHS) October 2024
Links 'n' Chains (Liverpool GS) October 2024
Tamworth Family Historian (Tamworth & District FHG) November 2024

EXCHANGE JOURNALS (Electronic PDFs – Computers 1-8)

The Mail (Descendants of Convicts) August-September & October 2024
The Cedar Log (Richmond-Tweed FHS) September & December 2024
Spreading Branches (Narre Warren & District FHG) August & November 2024
The Argyle Bulletin (Goulburn District H&GS) August & November 2024
Lancashire (Lancashire FH&HS) August 2024
Journal of the Newcastle FHS September & December 2024
Caloundra Clipper (Caloundra FH Research) September 2024
The Log Book (Tweed Heads Historical Society) September & December 2024
Golden Links (Bendigo Regional GS) July-September & October-December 2024
Bendigo Genealogist (Bendigo FHG) September & December 2024
The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS) September & December 2024
Relative Thoughts (Fleurieu Peninsula FHG) October 2024
Lithgow Pioneer Press (Lithgow & District FHS) October 2024
The Gazette (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS) November 2024
Missing Link (Cooroy-Noosa G&HRG) November 2024
GhostBuster (Campbelltown District FHS) November 2024
Spreading Branches (Narre Warren & District FHG) November 2024
The Crossing Place (Casino & District FHG) November 2024
The Parramatta Packet (Parramatta & District HS) July-October 2023 & November 2023-February 2024
The Hambledon Herald (Parramatta & District HS) November 2024
Time Traveller (Shoalhaven FHS) December 2024
Ancestral Lines (Maitland & Beyond FH) December 2024
The Hawkesbury Crier (Hawkesbury FHG) December 2024

MAGAZINES

Family Tree September, October, November & December 2024

Irish Roots 4th Quarter 2024 (PDF – Computers 1-8)

Family Tree (4 issues) (donated by Trish Oldham)

Irish Roots (1 issue) (donated by Trish Oldham)

Scotland July-August 2024 (donated by Trish Oldham)

Best of British June 2024 (donated by Trish Oldham)

Who Do You Think You Are (3 issues) (donated by Trish Oldham)

OTHER (all PDF – Computers 1-8)

RIP – Rookwood in Profile (Friends of Rookwood) September 2024

Newsletter of the NSW & ACT Association of FHS August & November 2004

Newsletter of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends September-October & November 2024

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) September, October, November & December 2024

Newsletter of the Fromelles Association of Australia November 2024

Featured Articles from Magazines and Journals

Following is a sample of articles found in journals received from other societies on an exchange basis and other magazines and journals:

Family Tree September 2024

- How to trace a house history
- Victorian education
- The ever advancing world of Y & MtDNA
- Pauper burial grounds
- Testing out the new Ancestry match page

Spreading Branches (Narre Warren & District FHG) August 2024 (PDF)

- From poverty to a successful orchardist

The Argyle Bulletin (Goulburn District H&GS) August 2024 (PDF)

- The Hume and Hovell bicentenary

Lancashire (Lancashire FH&HS) August 2024 (PDF)

- List of patients in Billington Asylum

Journal of the Newcastle FHS September 2024 (PDF)

- Many articles with theme of coalmining

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) September 2024 (PDF)

- The importance of researching women in family history

The Log Book (Tweed Heads Historical Society) September 2024 (PDF)

- Husk Farm Distillery

- The Back Channel (part B)

Golden Links (Bendigo Regional GS) July-September 2024 (PDF)

- A library for Bendigo

The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS) September 2024 (PDF)

- Sister Winnie May Davis – Australian Army Nursing Service

- John Warner – the draper

Timespan (Nepean FHS) September 2024

- DNA Snips Chronicles: tracing heritage through genetic genealogy

Family Tree October 2024

- The Big Oxfordshire Names Database

- Lives on the ocean waves – tracing your mariner ancestors before 1914

- Lives of service – researching 19th century soldiers

- Your 6 step plan to thorough (brick wall-smashing) family history

- How Ancestry enhanced Shared Matches can help you

- Which (DNA) test is right for you?

Relative Thoughts (Fleurieu Peninsula FHG) October 2024 (PDF)

- The 1894 Women's Suffrage Petition

Links 'n' Chains (Liverpool GS) October 2024

- Maltese research help

Family Tree November 2024

- Artificial intelligence & genealogy

- Finding you way around FindMyPast

- Free, frugal & fun – time & money saving tips, tools & tactics

- Digging deeper & decoding the National Register records

- Witch-hunts during the Little Ice Age

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) October 2024 (PDF)

- An introduction to Jewish genealogy – part 1
- Really Useful podcasts – Series 4

Lithgow Pioneer Press (Lithgow & District FHS) October 2024 (PDF)

- School days

The Gazette (Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS) November 2024 (PDF)

- Willie's story
- Government & Police Gazettes

Irish Roots 4th Quarter 2024 (PDF)

- Visiting the Military Archives
- What's been happening at AncestryDNA?
- Local resources for family history research – County Armagh
- Surnames of County Armagh
- Using Irish naming convention to discover the family of Thomas Delaney in mid-19th century Ireland

The Parramatta Packet (Parramatta & District HS) July-October 2023 (PDF)

- St Mark's Granville

The Cedar Log (Richmond-Tweed FHS) December 2024 (PDF)

- Researching an American family and the possibilities with AI

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) November 2024 (PDF)

- An introduction to Jewish genealogy – part 2

The Endeavour (Botany Bay FHS) December 2024 (PDF)

- The tribulations of John Deslandes

The Log Book (Tweed Heads HS) December 2024 (PDF)

- The back channel Part C
- The life and times of Audrey Haigh & on the buses

Timespan (Nepean FHS) December 2024

- DNA Snips Chronicles: the mystery of removed relationships in genealogy

Really Useful Bulletin (Family History Federation UK) December 2024 (PDF)

- The story of pantomime

- Are we related? Modelling ancestry & kinship
- Discover: free online family history books
- How to keep your DNA findings organised
- Making the most of Court of Chancery records

Members' Interests

NAME	TIME PERIOD	TOWN/CITY	STATE/COUNTY	COUNTRY
READ	1750+	Woodlands	DOR	ENG
SASSE	1750+			PRE
SASSE	1750+	London		ENG

Steve Read (Member number 740)

NAME	TIME PERIOD	TOWN/CITY	STATE/COUNTY	COUNTRY
BRIMS	1860s	Toowoomba & Tenterfield	QLD & NSW	AUS
DAVIS	1865+	Tenterfield	NSW	AUS
McDERMOTT	1860s	Toowoomba & Tenterfield	QLD & NSW	AUS
McDERMOTT	1851+	Sydney	NSW	AUS

Gail Brims (Member number 379)

NAME	TIME PERIOD	TOWN/CITY	STATE/COUNTY	COUNTRY
SPRIGGS	1850-1920	Plymouth	DEV	ENG

Ray Niland (Member number 903)

NAME	TIME PERIOD	TOWN/CITY	STATE/COUNTY	COUNTRY
BELL	1894+	Newcastle upon Tyne		ENG
BELL	1866+	Hebburn	DUR	ENG
BRAKE	1822+		SOM	ENG
BRETT	1790	Stratton	DOR	ENG
DAWSON/ DOWSON	1914			NZ
DOWNEY	1854+		ESS	ENG
FRANKPITT	1900s			NZ
JORGENSEN	1880+			DEN/NZ
KELLERMAN	1920s			NZ
LAMBARTH/ LAMBORTH	1887+			NZ
MILVERTON	1791+	Corscombe/ Beaminster	DOR	ENG
MILVERTON	1885+	Palmerston North		NZ
RITCHINGS	1860+		DUR	ENG
RUMSEY	1870s			JSY
RUMSEY	1920s	Palmerston North		NZ
ST(R)ICKLAND	1847+	Beaminster	DOR	ENG
TZAVELLAS	1953+	Palmerston North		NZ
TYNEMOUTH	1848+	Tynemouth	NBL	ENG
WAREHAM	1756+		DOR	ENG
WATSON	1880s		YKS	ENG
WATSON	1900s	Chester Le Street	DUR	ENG
WATT	1870s	Wanganui		NZ
WESCHE	1910s			NZ

Brad Beadel (Member number 320)

These members may be contacted by sending an email to tweedfhs@hotmail.com or writing to PO Box 6729, Tweed Heads South NSW 2486.

There are many more entries on our website (see the inside the front cover and the back cover of Tracks for the website address).

Note: We use the Chapman codes to abbreviate the State/County and Country fields of our members' interests. If you are unfamiliar with the codes, google "Chapman Codes Genealogy". There are a number of sites with details.

New Members

1136 Kim Bartlett
1137 Pat Bartlett
1138 Robyn O'Connor
1139 Lynne O'Rourke
1140 John O'Rourke
1141 Lyn Davies

Rejoined Member

Nil

*A warm welcome to our new members & welcome back to our re-joined member.
Happy ancestor hunting!*

*Members should note that we hold **free** classes in several subjects (beginner's, internet resources, Family Tree Maker, etc.) Please ask a Room Assistant in the Research Room or send an email to tweedfhs@hotmail.com if you are interested in a class.*



RESEARCH ROOM
SOUTH TWEED SPORTS CLUB
4 MINJUNGBAL DRIVE, TWEED HEADS SOUTH
TELEPHONE: 07 5524 3655 Ext 238 (Room Hours only)

RESEARCH ROOM HOURS
TUESDAY — 10AM TO CLUB BADGE DRAW (APPROX 7PM)
*(CLOSED FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH BETWEEN 1PM & 4PM FOR
GET-TOGETHER)*
WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY — 10AM TO 4PM
SATURDAY — 10AM TO 3PM

ROOM ASSISTANTS

The Research Room is voluntarily staffed by members of the Association. We are always in need of assistance. Your assistance would be appreciated whether morning, afternoon or whole day, even in the event of an emergency. Please contact the Roster Secretary, Peter Johnston, or place your name in the Roster Book located in the Room.

JOURNAL

The Editorial Committee is appreciative of all articles provided for our Journal and we hope for continued support during the year. Material for inclusion may either be left at the Research Room, posted or emailed to the Editor.

DISCLAIMER

The Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage Association Inc. does not hold itself responsible for any statements made, or opinions expressed by the authors of papers or articles published in Tracks.

COPYRIGHT

Individuals who contribute to Tracks retain copyright of their articles/items. Family history societies may reprint information and articles from Tracks provided that full acknowledgement of Tracks, as the source, is given.

If undeliverable return to
Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage
Association Inc.
P O Box 6729
TWEED HEADS SOUTH NSW 2486

Visit our Website at

<https://www.tweedgoldcoastfamilyhistory.org.au>
tweedfhs@hotmail.com