

progenitor



Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

The Family History Place



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FRONT COVER: The Honourable Austin Asche AC, KC

1925 – 2024
Patron of The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

Members of the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc. mourn the passing of the Honourable Austin Asche AC, KC at the remarkable age of 99 years on 14 December 2024.

For more than 36 years the late Austin Asche has been the patron of the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory. During that time he was a stalwart supporter of the Society and maintained a keen interest in our work right up to the time of his demise.

Keith John **Austin Asche** AC KStJ KC was an Australian judge. He was Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia and was the third Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

Austin Asche was born on 28 November 1925 in Melbourne, the son of Eric Thomas Asche and Beryl Victoria Asche (née Woinarski). Austin's father Eric, was the nephew of the actor Oscar Asche.

In 1926, Eric Asche (father of Austin Asche) was appointed Legal Assistant in the Crown Law Office, Department of the Government Secretary for the Territory of New Guinea. They departed from Sydney on 25 August, and the family spent a year in Rabaul. Eric then successfully applied for a job in Darwin, and the family sailed on the SS Marella, arriving on 18 February 1928.

The family relocated from Rabaul, after a 1-year appointment of Austin's father, to Darwin, and lived at Knight's Folly also known as the Mud Hut on the waterfront below Government House which was (and still is) perched on the hill above. The building was burnt down on 31 December 1933 whilst the Asche family was in Victoria on holiday. Eric Thomas Asche was one of a small number of lawyers in Darwin at that time and held the position of Crown Law Officer.

Austin Asche attended Darwin Primary School before returning to Melbourne in 1938 and attending Melbourne Grammar School, and was proud of the fact that his Latin was far more advanced than his classmates at Grammar. He attributed this to the excellent teachers he had at Darwin

Primary School. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1944 and served until 1946. Upon discharge he attended the University of Melbourne where he attained a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Laws degree. He was admitted to practice on 1 February 1950.

On 11 April 1958, Austin married Leila **Valerie** James of Murtoa in the Victorian Wimmera and they had one son and one daughter. Valerie was the daughter of Peter John James and Mary Ann James (nee McDonald.) Val died in Darwin on 29 August 2019.

Early judicial office

Austin relocated from Melbourne to Brisbane and was admitted to practice there in February 1951. Upon returning to Melbourne in 1954 he practised at the Bar until 1975, eventually being appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1972. He was a part-time lecturer at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology from 1968 to 1975.

In 1976 he was appointed the first Victorian Judge of the newly formed Family Court of Australia. He was a member of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Council from 1974 to 1976, its vice president from 1977 to 1981 and President from 1981 - 1983. He was Chancellor of Deakin University from 1983 – 1987, and was Acting Chief Judge of the Family Court from 1985 - 1986. He was also a member of the Family Law Council from 1976 to 1979, Chairman of the Inquiry into Teacher Education in Victoria in 1979 and 1980 and a Councillor and later Chairman of the Frankston State College from 1973 - 1979.

During his time in Victoria, Austin was an active Freemason and served as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria from 1984 to 1986.

Northern Territory

Austin Asche was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory on 14 April 1986 and was appointed Chief Justice August 1987 following the retirement of Kevin O'Leary. While Chief Justice he was Chair of the Northern Territory Parole Board and was President of the Northern Territory Division of the Red Cross Society and President of the Northern Territory Branch of the Scout Association. He was also Chancellor of Northern Territory University from 1989 - 1993.

He resigned as Chief Justice on 26 February 1993 to take up appointment as Administrator of the Northern Territory on 1 March. He was patron of more than 80 organisations including being the Northern Territory Chief Scout, an Honorary Colonel in NORFORCE and a Deputy Prior of the Order of St John.

Austin retired in 1997 and was later chair of the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee. He was also an adjunct professor in Law and Emeritus Chancellor at the Charles Darwin University.

Honours and awards

Austin was appointed a Knight of the Order of St. John in 1993 and made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1994. He was also awarded Honorary Doctorates from both Deakin University and Charles Darwin University. He was also made Honorary Freeman of the City of Darwin in 2007.

A lover of all histories, both classical and contemporary, Austin was an erudite speaker who both entertained and informed. Austin's wit ensured his talks were never boring. He, together with Val made many visits to the Society's library, with Val gifting us copies of the various books she had written detailing all branches of both her and Austin's families.

True Territorians, Austin and Val are sadly missed.

Recently noted on Facebook

Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to Son of our Church.

Word was recently received by the parents, Mr and Mrs H.F. Kleimeyer of Margaret Street, Toowoomba, that their eldest son, Flight Lieutenant R. G. Kleimeyer, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. "Bob" is a fighter pilot in the RNZAF and was trained in Canada, where he gained his wings and commission as Pilot Officer. He arrived in England in 1941. In 1942 he served for six months in Malta and described that time as "hectic". He was last serving in England in command of a "flight".

'Bob' was educated at the Toowoomba Grammar School and was appointed to the Toowoomba City Council as cadet engineer. We extend congratulations and hope for a safe return of this young airman.

New Zealand Service Record

Robert Gordon Kleimeyer

ALSO KNOWN AS Dutch

SERVICE NUMBER WWII 411985

GENDER Male

BIRTH 27 September 1917

DATE OF BIRTH September 27th, 1917

PLACE OF BIRTH Toowoomba Queensland Australia

Military Training

Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 6 Service Flying Training School,
Dunnville, Ontario

Course 1: Class 36. Graduation Date: 7/11/1941.

Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 31 Bombing and Gunnery School,
Picton, Ontario

Robert flew in Squadrons RAF 41, RAF 129, RAF 611, RNZAF 485

DATE OF DEATH April 6th 2002

PLACE OF DEATH Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Toronto Canada

Robert was in the RNZAF from March 23rd 1941 until May 3rd 1947. He was a pilot with the Rank of Flight Lieutenant. He won the DFC and his citation on May 8th 1945 said " 129 Squadron RAF (Mustang). This officer is a highly efficient flight commander. He has taken part in a very large number of sorties including many armed reconnaissances and escorts to bomber formations. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and has set a fine example of devotion to duty" Robert was credited with the destruction of 7.5 V-1s. He also flew with 41 Squadron (Spitfire) ,485 Squadron RNZAF (Spitfire) and 611 Squadron RAF (Spitfire/Mustang).

This record is a work in progress and was partially compiled
from the "Database of New Zealand Airmen who took part in

Advanced Air Training in Canada during WW2". Researched by

Ivan and Lorna Lindsey of Tauranga. N.Z. 2003 – 2012.

Reproduced with permission. AWMM

List of RNZAF [Royal New Zealand Air Force] Personnel -

Embarkation Lists, November 1940 - July 1942. Archives New

Zealand, Wellington (R17845762). AWMM

Public - Ian Banks - Researcher - 23 May 2020 - Research

Flight Lieutenant R G Kleimeyer's Australian born father H.G. Kleimeyer was a furniture maker in Toowoomba, Queensland and came under scrutiny by the Director of Security for Queensland. Flight Lieutenant R G Kleimeyer's mother was English and had a sister living in Melbourne, Victoria.



The Australian service records for Flight Lieutenant R G Kleimeyer, who resigned from his Commission with the Australian Airforce during WW2, are available for research or study purposes.

[https://www.naa.gov.au/record search](https://www.naa.gov.au/record%20search)

It is believed that this photo was taken at the No. 3 Elementary Flying Training School at RNZAF station Harewood New Zealand in 1941. The seven from left are, Robert Gordon Kleimeyer, Douglas Haig Rishworth, Eric James Shaw, Vincent John Mildon, James Evans Jenkins, Archibald William Jackson, William Gray Thorp.

HILL 60 REMEMBERED

From a brochure obtained at the Visitors Centre Blackbutt Queensland

ANZAC diggers who returned from the largest campaign at Gallipoli, the Battle of Hill 60, established valuable hoop pine plantations in the Blackbutt/Benarkin area.

Benarkin State Forest has its own Hill 60, named by the diggers who planted it with hoop pine because its steepness made it the toughest area to plant in the forest.

In terms of numbers, the Battle for Hill 60 was the largest in the Gallipoli campaign with over 1302 soldiers killed, wounded or missing.

Hill 60 was a low knoll rising up from the Sulva Plains on the Gallipoli Peninsular, north east of Anzac Cove.

It provided a strategic observation point over the coastal plains to the west and the valleys to the east.

On August 21, 1915, a combined allied force, including 3000 Anzac diggers, mounted an attack under the command of General Cox to seize Hill 60.

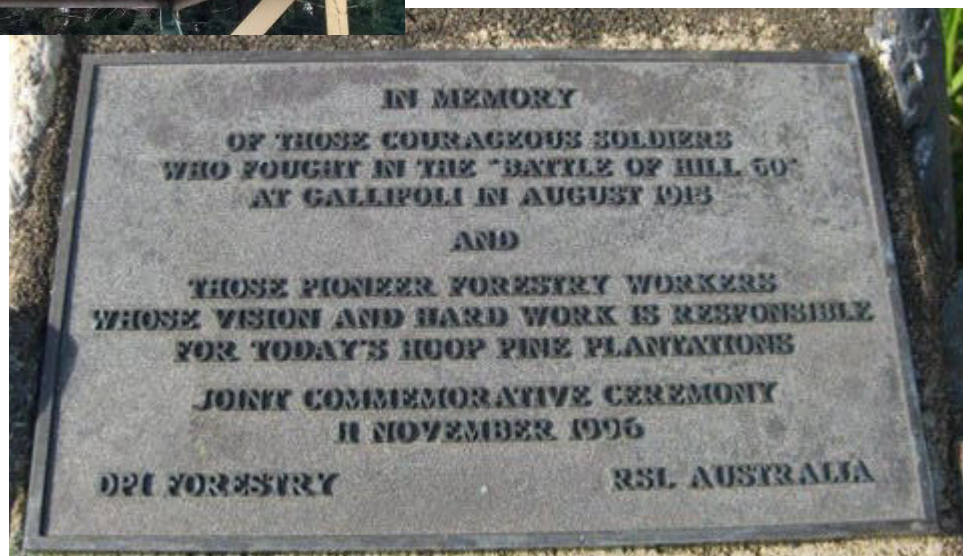
However, the hill was surrounded by a complex maze of trenches which when combined with a lack of ammunitions, inaccurate maps and many inexperienced soldiers made the assault of the summit extremely difficult.

Over the ensuing week, several attempts to secure the summit were met with strong resistance and heavy losses and the Battle of Hill 60 was finally abandoned.

Among those soldiers who survived the Battle of Hill 60 were a group of diggers who returned to Benarkin, west of Brisbane, to establish and nurture the infant hoop pine plantations.

In 1936, the ANZAC diggers establishing plantations for the then Department of Forestry, camped on the summit for three nights and named it "Hill 60" in memory of their comrades who fought at Gallipoli 21 years earlier.

A small observation tower has been erected on the summit of Hill 60 to provide commanding views over the now expansive estate around Benarkin to assist with early detection of forest fires. A commemorative plaque on the tower is in recognition of the World War 1 Anzac diggers who fought in the Battle of Hill 60.



Shipwreck - I-124

Facebook Robert Porter

On 20 January 1942, US Destroyers "Edsall" and "Alden" located Japanese submarine I-124 about 60 miles west of Darwin. They attacked I-124 with an intensive depth charge pattern but had no conclusive proof of any damage. The 3 Australian corvettes "Deloraine", "Katoomba" and "Lithgow" were ordered to assist with destroying the Japanese submarine.

"Deloraine" arrived in the area on 20 January 1942 and at 1.35pm her starboard lookout reported "Torpedo approaching green 100". Commander Desmond Menlove immediately ordered the helm to starboard and full speed on the engines. The tactic worked and the torpedo missed its mark.

Three minutes later, using asdic, "Deloraine" located I-124 about 2,500 yards ahead. Another 5 minutes later she laid down a diamond pattern of 6 depth charges.

Bubbles of air and some oil bubbled to the surface. At 1.48pm following 2 more depth charge attacks, Japanese submarine I-124 blew to the surface but almost immediately dived below the surface, never to be seen again on the surface.



A FAMILY SAGA. *Julian R Schüller*



A tragic report in the newspaper, 25 year old Thomas Edward Bowyer Bower died in Palmerston Hospital on 22 December 1886. A young life cut off in its prime. The report in the Northern Territory Times and Gazette elaborated that he was a gentleman engaged in collecting Natural History specimens for the British Museum and had arrived in Palmerston some weeks before staying at the Palmerston Club Hotel, located at the corner of Mitchell and Herbert Streets. **(Photo left)**

He was reportedly the son of W. Bower Esq. JP of Dorsetshire, England. The family requested his body be consigned to a leaden coffin and forwarded to Sydney for internment.

In his short life, Mr Bower had made at least two trips to Australia. He was an Ornithologist and collected rare and unusual birds. His first documented trip was in 1884-85 to North Queensland. A report in the Queenslander by Archibald Meston (1851 – 1924) a journalist, showman and later the Southern Protector of Aborigines describes a visit to The Barron River Falls where he was accompanied by T. H. Bowyer Bower and his valet George Small.



One of the birds he described and collected was named for him, Bower's Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla boweri*. Unique to Queensland it was named in 1885 by Edward Pierson Ramsay (1842-1916), ornithologist and zoologist of the Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW. Mr Bower was known to have travelled widely in Northern Australia from Derby in the West to Thursday Island in the East.

Photo by David Ongley

In 1886, working for the Museum of Western Australia, Mr Bower had travelled to the North of the State collecting specimens accompanied by the Taxidermist and Naturalist Walter Burton FZS. He left his collection and horses in Derby when he became unwell with fever and travelled to Darwin. The fever he succumbed to was Typhoid. Among the specimens collected was the red backed Fairy Wren a sub-species which E. P Ramsay named for him in 1886 *Malurus cruentatus boweri*.

There are anomalies in the reports for instance Thomas Edward and T.H. describing Mr Bower. Further investigation found the Birth and Death Records and it is clear that he was Thomas Henry Bowyer Bower and the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction record for his estate filed in the Supreme Court of New South Wales list his father and next of kin as Thomas Bowyer Bower not W. Bower. It was reported that Walter Burton accompanied the body to Sydney but Burial records for the West of London and Westminster Cemetery Earls Court, Old Brompton show that Thomas Henry Bowyer Bower who died in Palmerston Port Darwin Australia was buried 19 March 1887 thus his body must have been sent back to England. The Memorial erected on the site advises his father Capt. Thomas Bowyer Bower also buried in September 1909 and gives his London street address.

So what of the mention of Dorsetshire? Research showed the hamlet of Iwerne Minster in Dorset had property owned by the Bowyer Bower Family over hundreds of years until it was sold in the 1870s. In a section in Bernard Burke's book "The Landed Gentry" they were Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace.



Drawing by Allison Johnson reprinted by kind permission of the Fairy Wren Project.

Constructing a pedigree for this branch of the family another tragic story emerged Eldred Wolf-erstan Bowyer Bower (1894 – 1917) died aged 22 in the First World War. Were these two young men related? On first glance this seemed unlikely Eldred was born in South Africa, his father had been born in Madras, India but in 1911 the family were living in Ealing U.K. His father was a Mining Engineer. After sitting examinations at Sandhurst, he Joined the East Surrey Regiment, serving in the trenches at the front. He was a Captain in November 1916 at the Ruffy-Baumann School Hendon when he gained his pilot's licence.

On 18 March 1917, Lt. Werner Voss, German Flying Ace shot down in flames a B.E.2e of No. 8 Squadron, R.F.C., flown by 2nd Lieutenant Charles R. Dougal and 2nd Lieutenant Sydney Harryman, over Neuville, France. Ten minutes later on the same sortie, he followed this victory with another, shooting down Captain Guy Stafford Thorne and 2nd Lieutenant Philip Edward Hislop van Baerle over Boyelles.

For Voss, these accounted for his 18th and 19th 'kills' and therefore the next, hoped for, victory - the 20th - suddenly assumed a disproportionate importance; for twenty victories was the 'yardstick,' or quantitative criteria for the award of the Order Pour le Merite - otherwise known as the Blue Max!



The next morning 59 Squadron sent two R.E.8's on a morning patrol in the vicinity of St Leger. The first machine, A4165, crewed by Captain E. W. Bowyer-Bower and 2nd Lieutenant E. Elgey, was delegated to reconnaissance work, whilst the other, A4168, manned by Captain C. P. Bartie and Lieutenant F. H. Wilson, was to act as escort.

R.E.8s of No 3 Sqn AFC

A vintage R.E.8 performing over the Duxford Jubilee Airshow 2012

The Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 is a British two-seat biplane reconnaissance and bomber aircraft of the First World War that was designed and produced at the Royal Aircraft Factory. It was also built under contract by Austin Motors, Daimler, Standard Motors, Siddeley-Deasy and the Coventry Ordnance Works.

At 9.30 am. Werner Voss, in the company of another Jasta 2 pilot, Otto Bernert, dropped onto the two R.F.C. machines and both were sent down in quick time. Bernert shooting down the escort - his eighth victory - while Voss disposed of the reconnaissance machine; three of the R.F.C. men were killed, including Bowyer-Bower.'

Bowyer-Bower's machine fell some six miles behind the German lines near Croisilles. He was just 22 years old and was buried in an unmarked grave with his Observer.

Left: Captain Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower.



From this point the story is even more bizarre, Eldred's father Thomas now aged 55 is also in France. He served as a Captain in the Royal Engineers on the Western Front from 1915. By sheer coincidence he was serving under the very skies that his son had been shot down from during 1917. News reached him of the death of his son, shortly before the British advance. Again Under the Guns of the German Aces.



Captain Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower with his father Captain Thomas Bowyer Bower.

'One day, his men came across a grave marked by a cross made from pieces of a wrecked aeroplane. Someone had carefully marked the cross in pencil, "Two unknown captains (sic) of the Royal Flying Corps".

It is impossible to imagine his emotions as Thomas Bowyer Bower coolly sought the appropriate permission to exhume the bodies.

When the grave was opened, the father was able to identify the son.'

The story took an even stranger turn when it was reported that Eldred's step-sister Dorothy Catherine Spearman (née Bowyer Bower) daughter of Thomas' first marriage to Fanny Maud Smith who was in a hotel room in India with her baby claimed that on 19th March 1917, she was shocked to see her brother but greeted him and putting the baby down, turned to hug him to find he had vanished.

At the same time his other sister Cicily Vaughan Chater's (née Bowyer Bower) three year old daughter Elizabeth Frances Cicely Chater told her mother she had seen her Uncle Alley Boy her name for Captain Bowyer Bower downstairs despite her mother telling her he was in France. Little Elizabeth had been born at sea in transit to Burma.

Two tragic stories occurring 30 years apart and in different hemispheres, but was there a connection? It is thought that the surname may have derived from the occupation of Bowman, especially those using long bows in times past.

Back to the hamlet of Iwerne Minster, Dorset and the progenitor Thomas Bowyer Bower srn. Born Feb. 20, 1744 (the descendant of an old Shaftesbury family) who married Oct. 19, 1767 to Anne Catherina the daughter of the Rev. Edward Napier, Rector of More Critchill, Dorset. Among their children were 2 sons Thomas Bowyer Bower Junior 1771 – 1840 the direct ancestor of Thomas Henry Bowyer Bower (1862 – 1886) and Henry Bower Srn. The ancestor of Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower (see pedigree). The manor of Iwerne Minster was in the family from the 1600s and there are many descendants but the stories of these two "cousins" shows the adventurous spirit of the family and the tragedy that can ensue.

Julian R Schüller

SOURCES.

1. Northern Territory Times and Gazette Saturday 25 December 1886 page 2
2. Queenslander Saturday 10 January 1885 page 53
3. Bower's shrikethrush photo eBird. Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri* David Ongley 23 Jun 2017 Curtain Fig Tree, Tablelands, Queensland, Australia
4. Red backed Fairy Wren photo Fairywren Project
5. COADB Website. Quoting Bernard Burke's book "The Landed Gentry" Bower of Iwerne House
6. The biography behind the bird (no. 15 in the series.)Bower's Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla Boweri* Ramsay, 1885 By Tess Kloot
7. Libraries & Archives NT **Title: Palmerston Club Hotel Photo number: PH0110/0092 Collection: Christa Roderick Collection ;**
8. Wikitree; Military Wiki, Wikiwand
9. A vintage R.E.8 performing over the Duxford Jubilee Airshow 2012 This image, which was originally posted to **Flickr**, was uploaded to Commons using **Flickr upload bot** on 12 September 2012, 19:28 by **Dura-Ace**. On that date, it was confirmed to be licensed under the terms of the license indicated.
10. R.E.8s of No 3 Sqn AFC *All or a portion of this article consists of text from Wikipedia, and is therefore Creative Commons Licensed under GFDL. The original article can be found at No. 3 Squadron RAAF and the edit history here.*
11. Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower **Uploaded:** 6 Aug 2018 by William (Arbuthnot) Arbuthnot of Kittybrewster 2nd Bt. **Comments:** 1, **WikiTree Popularity:** 1. **Original digital image:** 891 x 1253 pixels. Image dated 2018:08:06 20:54:10
12. Thomas Arthur Bowyer Bower Sr & Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower **Uploaded:** 6 Aug 2018 by William (Arbuthnot) Arbuthnot of Kittybrewster 2nd Bt. **Comments:** 1, **WikiTree Popularity:** 1. **Original digital image:** 795 x 1036 pixels. Image dated 2018:08:06 20:52:42.

Thomas Bowyer Bower + (1) Anne Catherina Napier

(2) Dorothy Elizabeth Elliot

Thomas Bowyer Bower Jrm + Harriet Whitaker
1771-1840 1774 – 1841

Henry Bower Srm + Lucy
1773 - 1840

Thomas Bowyer Bower + Eliza Creed
1803 -

Henry Bower Jrm + Johanna Catherine Proctor
1803 – 1873

Thomas Bowyer Bower + Bessie Alice Russell
1829 – 1909
(Walter) Sayer

Thomas Arthur Bowyer Bower + (1) Fanny Maud Smith
1861 – 1926 (2) Florence Maragaret

Thomas Henry Bowyer Bower
1862 – 1886

Eldred Wolferstan Bowyer Bower
1895 - 1917

Book Review 1

Great Australian Outback Teaching Stories by Bill 'Swampy' Marsh is a ripper of a read for anyone with interest or experience of teaching or learning in an outback school. If you have ancestors who attended one-teacher schools or taught in them, this book gives a clear description of the conditions they lived and worked in. You might even find one of your ancestors here!

I was intrigued by the description of teaching at Gascoyne Junction in WA. It echoed my memories of the place, some years after events described. The Northern Territory gets a mention too. There are stories from Ngukurr, Maryvale and Stirling Stations out of Alice Springs, Ti Tree and more.

Chapter titles such as Case of Mistaken Identity, Dead as a Maggot, Snakes Galore and Willy Went Out the Window, entice the reader to read further. You can dip in, reading stories here and there or read it from cover to cover as this reviewer did.

This book is another in Bill Marsh's series, which includes titles such as *Great Australian Stories: Outback Pubs*, *Great Australian Flying Doctor Stories* and *Great Australian Railway Stories* amongst others. It includes a list of contributors and a dedication to Jack 'Goldie' Goldsmith – a true friend and a great storyteller 1933 – 2015. A copy of the book is located in the GSNT Library.

Book Review 2

Author Gwenda Baker writes of three brothers who were clan leaders of the Yolgnu at the beginning of the 20th Century in *The Peacemakers Three Wangurri brothers: Warriors, Mediators & Peacemakers in Yolgnu Land (Arnhem Land)* published by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory.

Her account outlines how the Yolgnu people had their own peacemaking systems and peacemakers.

Part of her conclusion reads:

"Makarrwala negotiated, mediated and worked with the Macassans who entered Yolgnu Land much earlier than others. Makarrwala and Batanga negotiated, mediated and worked with the missionaries who entered their lives and their land. They both adopted the white man's religion and combined with their Yolgnu beliefs and skills, took peacemaking to a different level. Makarrwala negotiated, mediated and worked with the white legal world, white scientists and the art world. Batanga took up new leadership responsibilities on a new mission. Bindjarrpuma negotiated, mediated and worked with the white disciplinary systems of the police and army. Eventually he joined his brother Batanga and became a leader in the Yolgnu Christian movement."

The book is available for reading at the GSNT Library.

REVIEW 3

In the NT then Cyclone Tracy by Cameron and Jean Archer, is a recent donation from Stephen Bone to the GSNT Library. It is a well-presented memoir supported by numerous photographs. There is an index and useful bibliography.

This reviewer found the sections on the economic development of the Northern Territory pre Cyclone Tracy, particularly in the agricultural and pastoral sectors of most interest, as this is a topic poorly recorded. Gilbert Herrada's photographs of Tortilla brought back fond memories.

Jean described their experience of the cyclone. The danger faced, the near misses, recovery of personal items from the wreckage of their house and the evacuation. These are all supported by graphic photos.

Cameron describes the aftermath when he set about providing first aid to survivors and later at Wanguri Primary where a doctor was treating the severely injured. One of his jobs whilst working for St John's Ambulance was helping set up pit toilets, as there was no operating sewage system. He repurposed a wrecked caravan to house what they could salvage. The Epilogue outlines what happened to the people mentioned in the text after the cyclone.

Appendix 1 outlines Linda Parker's story – her brother George, agronomist at Tortilla Flats Research Station was killed during the cyclone. Appendix 2 includes some stories related to the response.

I recommend this book for readers who want to know more about the NT before, during and after Cyclone Tracy.

CAN YOU HELP? No. 1

At Deepwater Lagoon, Mt Bundy (Bundey) Station, there is a lonely grave inscribed Mark 12/09/1961 6 months. In 1961, a buffalo abattoir was being developed there by Alben Perrett according to an NT Archives record.

Peter Dostine, in his communication with GSNT, gave the co-ordinates of the grave as 13.020, 131.379.

Photos: Peter Dostine

To date, we have not found any record of the child's death. Circumstances at the time and distance may have prevented the parents from informing authorities. We believe that Mark's existence should be acknowledged and remembered.

We hope readers may have more information to share.



According to a letter from Max Knight, published in an edition of R M Williams *Outback Magazine*, as a 20-year-old he was offered a job in the NT to start up a buffalo meat works. In April of 1961, he travelled with his neighbour Alben Perrett and two families, taking 5 days to arrive at Adelaide River. With the assistance of tradesmen, it took roughly two months to build the abattoir. Indigenous men were employed as drivers and skinners. He mentions shooter Jim McGhee (aka McGhie) and an indigenous driver. Basic accommodation was in huts and quarters on the Deep-water Lagoon.

The Australian Abattoirs website <https://australianabattoirs.com/tag/buffalo-abattoir/> (accessed 16 December 2024) gives this information about people associated with the abattoir:

Owner: Alben Perrett (Father-in-law of Bill Ross), Jim McGhie, Jim Richards (brother in law of Bill Ross), Bill Ross

1961 Plant in operation, processes 20 head per day.(Pg 141)

- lots of operational problems
- Jim McGhie – controlled shooting and catching of Buffalo/Bulls
- Johnny Richards drove refrigeration truck
- Roy Angrove (Angove) managed abattoir and did the marketing
- Bill Ross managed Mt Bunday and cattle

Sources: 'The Privileged few' Jeff Hill. 2008

CAN YOU HELP? No. 2



Do any readers know the story of 'Smithy' who lived on the banks of the Adelaide River near Tortilla Flats? In 2014 I took this photo when my husband and I were going down memory lane looking around near Wandinya Farm where we once lived. When we lived on the farm in the 1990s, we had visited Smithy at his place, but I have no clear memories of the visit.

RESEARCH

<https://www.guildfordanzacs.org.au/>

Guildford Western Australia

Guildford ANZACS is an online database that allows you to search for specific serviceman and discover more about their lives and war records.

Browse the lists of names, addresses, honour roles and more and follow the links to find out about the Guildford Anzacs.

Also on this web site is Military abbreviations used in WW1 and reference sources

SERENDIPITY

Today a member and two volunteers casually spoke of ancestors who had lived in Bendigo Victoria (earlier called Sandhurst). One ancestor was a draper; another a publican and the third an assistant whose boss was the draper. The first member showed an early photograph of his ancestor's drapery shop next to a hotel. Yes, it was the publican's hotel in a different time. The other volunteer's great grandfather was given a reference signed by S F Bastard.

Further investigation found that Samuel Frederick Bastard did indeed have a drapery shop at View Point, Bendigo, having opened it in 1860. The Andrew family was associated with the adjoining hotel from 1949 to 1963, the volunteer's grandfather William Andrew and father Harry Andrew, being the publicans at that time. Structural changes to the View Point Hotel had been made since the 1860s but the building was recognisable to Julie Andrew as the place where she grew up. George Henry Harrison went to work at an early age at Sandhurst. His descendants have the original reference written for him, signed by S. F. Bastard in 1863.

Bastard later left Sandhurst, working as a travelling agent before moving to Dunedin New Zealand. There he was a commercial traveller for several years. He died there in 1882. George Harrison moved to Hay NSW where he worked as a sign writer and undertaker and bought a hardware store later known as GH Harrison & Sons that is still in the family although it is now an IGA. George Harrison died in 1931, having fathered four sons, one of whom was my grandfather.

Ruth Sheridan (nee Harrison)

Source

'WANTED everyone to know that S. F. Bastard's now Drapery Warehouse, opposite the Baths, will be opened on Saturday next, 17th inst.' *Bendigo Advertiser*, Tuesday 13 March 1860, page 3.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION?

In my research, I've been amazed at the connections between my husband's family (WA) and my own (SA & Victoria). John Reid Muir was a pioneer of Eucla, WA who married Asenath Gillam in Albany in 1863. Their daughter Asenath Amelia (Milly) Muir married my great grandmother's brother, Arthur Ernest Smith at Port Augusta in 1887. The Muir family farmed in the south-west of WA. Later in the twentieth century, my husband's father, Methwin Stephen Sheridan, began his working life on the Muir's Deeside farm.

My Smith ancestors including my great grandmother's sister Emma Penelope Stacy (nee Smith) lived in Clare SA. One of my husband's indirect Wells ancestors, Edward William Newman Wells, lived in Clare as well. Thanks to Trove, I can say that they knew each other because an article records them at the Clare Flower Society's Spring Show ... 'The president (Mr. E. W. Wells) introduced Mrs. E. P. Stacy, who declared the show open.' *Chronicle*, Thursday 17 November 1932, page 13

W B T PRUEN - NEW QUAY AT SHOAL BAY

From the papers of Vern O'Brien

Early ventures into agriculture in pre-war years have been remembered in some of the street names at Berrimah as that area began to become part of the urban pattern 1972. Two names which recall those engaged in agriculture are Makagon and Pruen. There are some interesting facts about Mr William Barrington Tristram Pruen but, until recently, the only comment in the official record about him was that he was "a farmer who had a small cotton plantation at Lee Point in the early 1900s".

Pruen Road, not far from the Berrimah traffic lights, perpetuates the name of an Englishman, born at Bridgewater, Somerset, in 1850. At the age of 18, when Darwin was first established he went to South Africa with his uncle and joined the service of the Cape Province as a lad. He was present at Pretoria when Sir Theo Shepstone annexed the Transvaal in 1877, which he later administered, and transformed it from an African Republic to a British Colony. He was greatly respected by the native people. Later the Boer War was to break out and the British troops were defeated at Majuba Hill in February 1881. William Pruen went north to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and joined the Police Force as an officer. He retired at the age of 50 (the then age limit) and visited Fiji, New Zealand and North Queensland. Between 1900 and 1906 he spent some time ranching in Western Canada.

Pruen came to Darwin in 1906 and visited the back country - Pine Creek etc - and eventually, in the 1920s, took up the freehold of 95 acres of land at Lee Point. Pruen's Agricultural Lease No. 25 was originally granted in September 1907 when Justice Herbert administered the Territory as Government Resident in the remaining South Australian years until 1911. The new Federal Administrator Dr J A Gilruth adopted sweeping new land tenure policies, but successive Labor Governments were keen to retaining some of the restrictive leasehold covenants which were first introduced in the *NT Crown Lands Act* of 1890.

William Pruen, then aged 57, is reported in the *NT Times & Gazette* as having secured land at Lee Point, Shoal Bay in November 1907. His correspondence with "Crown Lands Darwin" from 1912 regarding a freehold grant finally secured in 1923, accounts for his distrust of the leasehold system by the agriculturalist. Surveyor John Power surveyed the title to enable fencing, but the covenant was never observed due to the isolated area of the lease. His references to leasehold "belonging to the Feudal system" reflects his view then of the Federal Government's approach to encouragement towards land settlement in the north.

Finally, In February 1924, Administrator Urquhart granted the area in freehold. Pruen's plantation was a primitive one and experimental growing coconuts and had a small cotton gin and press. Whilst he had some close friends in Darwin, who used to visit him then miles from town, he was unfriendly to most people and lived a hermit like existence there. He spent large amounts experimenting at Lee Point with tropical agriculture.

Pruen lived at Lee Point where after an illness and in a rundown condition, he died in the old Palmerston Hospital on 17 June 1934.

So, an Englishman with a varied career came to live at the then remote Lee Point for nearly 30 years with little success with copra and cotton in one of the vain attempts in agriculture in the northern tropics.

References

Limited reference to Pruen Road, Berrimah

Obituary Notice, *Northern Standard*, June 1934. W B T Pruen

Agricultural Lease No 25 1907, Lee Point/Shoal Bay W B T Pruen and freeholding 1923

Extracts from articles on Pruen in NT Times & Gazette 1907-1914

THE ANNUAL HISTORY COLLOQUIUM 2024

Each year Charles Darwin University in partnership with, the Professional Historians' Association (NT), and Library & Archives NT presents a History Colloquium, which consists of talks about Northern Territory History. Often the content is part of the presenter's research for a PhD and thus of a high academic standard, but the talks are very accessible to the lay person.

This year I learnt from Dr Fiona Early of the Aviation Historical Society of the NT, in her talk entitled *Dusting off the wings, ways to choose, conserve and manage items in their museum*.

Weida Chen, a CDU PhD candidate, spoke of Japanese internees in the NT during WWII. One of our members was able to furnish some more details for him of a Japanese and Indigenous family.

Maisie Austin, a further CDU PhD candidate, spoke of Parap Camp 118, the history of indigenous people who lived there from the 1940s to 1960s. She spoke from experience of the conditions under which they lived and how they rose above this to make significant contributions to NT society, particularly in the sporting arena.

Paige Taylor from MAGNT spoke on *Tattered toys: Childhood memories of Cyclone Tracy*, sharing some of the displays and stories in the new Cyclone Tracy Exhibit. Jared Archibald, also of MAGNT, outlined the extent of losses in Darwin Harbour. Of interest, was the inability to pronounce death when a body was missing. Dr Steve Farram shared some of the music created following Tracy.

Dr Wendy Beresford-Manning spoke about the difficulties in finding details of the work of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters. This was also a problem for our researchers when the GSNT wanted to acknowledge them as teachers.

Dr Silvano Jung's talk was most interesting, covering the archeology of the site where the NT Art Gallery is currently being built. Items discovered included much that was rubbish, having been used as fill in further building. Rubbish to some, but treasures to an archeologist.

Dr Emily Miller spoke on the ethnoarcheology of fibre objects in Western Arnhemland. Although woven baskets were not preserved, evidence of their use was found in rock art.

The last talk was called *Licence to Kill: Massacre men of Northern Australia* by Dr Robyn Smith. She covered the perpetrators of frontier violence across northern Australia and how they have been commemorated in place names in the NT.

Please consider attending future colloquia, you never know what you might learn that is relevant to your own family history research.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

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WORKSHOPS AND INFO SESSIONS

April – May 2025

2 Apr 10.00 – 11.30	Asian Immigration to Australia	Casuarina Village
9 Apr 10.00 – 11.30	DNA Basics for Ancestry Users	Casuarina Village
16 Apr 10.00 – 11.30	What's in the Library	Family History Place
23 Apr 10.00 – 11.30	Starting your tree basics	Casuarina Village
30 Apr 10.00 – 11.30	Chinese Family History	Casuarina Village
7 May 10.00 – 11.30	Going down Research Rabbit Holes	Casuarina Village
14 May 6.30 – 8.00	Using Archives for Family History	Family History Place
21 May 10.00 – 11.30	Starting your tree basics	Casuarina Village
28 May 10.00 – 11.30	Going down Research Rabbit Holes	Casuarina Village

RSVP by email or phone the day before each workshop to receive further instructions.

Guests: \$10 Members: Free

'Family History Place' workshops are held at Unit 1 Harry Giese Bldg 1 Willeroo Street Tiwi
'Casuarina Village' workshops are held in Khoda Patel's Community Room Casuarina Village
Workshops are held on Wednesdays mornings unless highlighted to note Wednesday evening.



FAMILY HISTORY PLACE

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