



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



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## COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

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

*As from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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- \* Attendance Book to be signed on arrival and departure.
- \* Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.
- \* Pencils only to be used in Library.
- \* Photocopies available through duty Monitor and will be charged according to price schedule
- \* One microfiche only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

**Correspondence Inquiries:** Research will be undertaken for a fee of \$30.00 per hour  
For more information, email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto: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,

Hopefully you all survived the big rain event unscathed.

Our seminar for May sadly had to be postponed. We hope to be able to bring it to you in August this year, so stay tuned for more information. Our speakers were unable to get through the floodwaters or down Dorrigo Mountain safely. I'm sure they appreciate everyone's understanding.

Work has been carried out in the rooms to 'tidy up' a little. City of Coffs Harbour Council was disposing of some furniture that was no longer being used by them. Offering it to tenants in the Community Village, we took advantage of their offer and obtained a larger bookshelf, a corner desk, four solid chairs and a cupboard for the administration area. Check them out when you are in the rooms next time.

Journal editor, Sharon, continues to request stories for the journal. I'm sure some of you have an interesting story or two in your family. Please consider submitting one for everyone's enjoyment. With this in mind, the committee has considered publishing the journal three times a year instead of the current four. I had intended to mention this at the seminar but as that didn't happen, I am bringing it to your attention now. This would not commence until 2026.

For those members who intend coming to the DNA discussion group, when Cheryl sends out the reminder email, could you please indicate your intention of attending, as space is limited when everyone turns up with their computers.

Happy researching  
Fiona

## Brothers Keeper Discussion Group

The Brothers Keeper discussion group recommence on MONDAY 2nd June 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 [walledcity@live.com.au](mailto:walledcity@live.com.au)

## DNA Group

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 10.00 am. Please bring your laptop and any queries you may have. This is a new group so we will learn from those more experienced with DNA. Next meeting will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

# Parents, Grandparents, Great Grandparents

She has a collection of gems that most of us would love to have. She has stories and photographs as well as the collection of old jewellery passed down through the family and found in her mother's possessions after her death. This started Judy on a hunt across the oceans to find out whatever she could about her maternal Great, Great Grandfather, Thomas BLAND Snr.

**Thomas BLAND Snr.** (born 16.7.1826 to Joseph & Elizabeth) married Jan Le Gryse BAYES on 20 December 1848 at Stiffkey, Norfolk. Unfortunately, aged only 28, Thomas Snr. died in October 1854 and the widowed Jan with one son Thomas Jnr. remarried and became Mrs George PAGE, wife of a very wealthy farmer.

**Thomas BLAND Jnr.** born 9 June 1850 at Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, was the son of Thomas BLAND Snr, a wealthy gentleman farmer at Stiffkey, Norfolk and his wife Jan. In 1871, Thomas married Annie Jane SHERRINGHAM (b.24.11.1850 Fakenham, Norfolk) and they had Annie Mildred (b.13.2.1872), Harriet May (b.1874), Thomas William (bap.29.7.1877) and Violet Margery (16.3.1879), all born in Aberdeen, Scotland, except Harriet who was born in Norfolk. Sherringtons were wealthy merchants of wool, wine, seed and drapery.

**Thomas William BLAND** (1877) became an apprentice "*before the mast sailor*" at 17, sailing on clippers carrying wool and wheat between Australia and England. From 1894–1898 he sailed on the 4 masted steel barque "*Glenora*" sailing around the Cape of Good Hope and onto Adelaide where he was honourably discharged and at 22 (in 1898) joined the South Australian Fire Brigade. His three sisters remained in the UK.



"Glenora"

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 1902, **Thomas William BLAND** married **Lily May RILEY** born on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1875 at Unley Park, South Australia and died in 1917 at Norwood, South Australia. They had 4 children – **Hazel Mildred** (1.1.1903), Thomas Alexander Leonard (26.2.1904), Walter Jack (8.12.1905), Enid Marjorie (1907). Thomas William emigrated to Australia whilst his sisters remained in England. At the time of his marriage Thomas William was Fire Station Chief in Adelaide.



Thomas William Bland in later years



**Hazel Mildred BLAND** born 1 January 1903 to Thomas Willam BLAND. She was educated at Norward at Highclere known as “the school for young ladies and gentleman”. During the school holidays she worked at the local Chemist and after her education became a Pharmacy apprentice. This was a first for females as the Arbitration Court had to give approval to determine conditions of employment for female apprentices. In 1919

she commenced a 4 year Pharmacy Course at Adelaide University and became the first female graduate in Pharmacy in South Australia. Unfortunately, Spanish Flu had reached Australia which made it difficult for her to continue with her career.

Thomas William BLAND was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1876 and died in Mitcham, SA on 7<sup>TH</sup> December 1962



Doreen, Eric & Archie  
Charlie & Thelma



Esther “Ettie” Mable LANGFORD  
Born 1861 Dover, Kent



Ettie & son Eric BOWEN

Esther Mabel LANGFORD was born to Robert Hall LANGFORD (1824-12.7.1887) of Dover, Kent, a Cinque Port Pilot, piloting merchant ships down the Thames and across the English Channel to Dutch Ports.

In 1884 at Dover, Kent, Esther “Ettie” married William Hayward ALLEN (1853-1891) a Sargeant in the Army Hospital Corp. Ettie and William had two sons, William Langford ALLEN (1886-1974) and Archibald Robert Allen (1888-1961). In 1891, William died and at 29 years of age Ettie was a widow. Her brother William Henry Langford, already in Australia, sponsored Ettie, Bill and Archie to Adelaide. They arrived in 1894 on the ss “Austral”.

On 27 March 1897 at Clare, South Australia, Ettie married **William Norton BOWEN**, a traveller and warehouse man. They had 4 children – Eric Arthur (b.15 January 1898), Charles Hamilton (b.28 March 1899), Doreen Mary (b.15 February 1901) and Thelma (b.25 October 1902). They were a lucky family as they won the Lottery enabling the children to go to private schools.

**William Norton Bowen** born on 22.10.1869, at Kensington, South Australia and was the son of Hopkin BOWEN (20.3.1840-27.8.1918 South Australia) and Hannah NORTON (1842-1900). Hopkins & Hannah married on 5 May 1864 and had 9 children – James Frederick (1865), Alfred Ernest (1867-1878), William Norton – (1869-1951), Bertram Hopkins (1871-1914), Charles Lawrence (1873-1873), Elsie Charlotte Mary (1874-1949), Ethel May (1878-1880), Percy Barnet Garfield (1882-1957) and Ruby Vera (1884-1972).

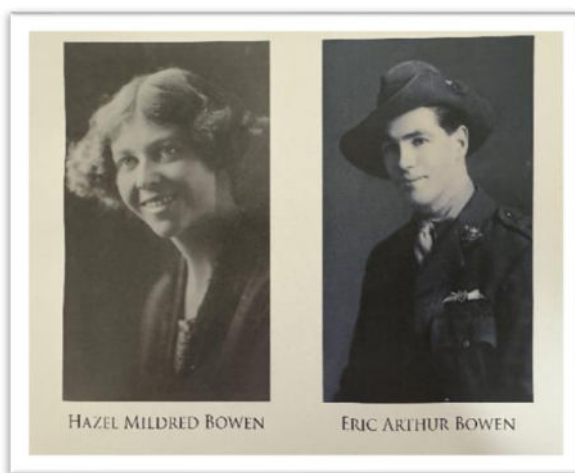
William Norton died 27<sup>th</sup> June 1951 and Ettie died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1945

**Hopkin BOWEN** born (1840-1918) SA to Morgan BOWEN (1800-1848) and Mary CONYBEAR (1806-1883). Morgan & Mary had 3 children – twins William (1831-1841) and Kanet (1831-1899) and **Hopkins** (1840-1918)

**Eric Arthur BOWEN** born 15<sup>th</sup> January 1898 at Grange near Adelaide to William Norton and Esther “Ettie” Mabel BOWEN.

Eric obtained an apprenticeship as a Brass Finisher & Toolmaker and in 1916 he enlisted for WW1 but being under-age, was sent to Point Cook Airforce Base in Victoria where he became an air mechanic in the Airforce. In 1917 he had further training at Oxford and Tilbury in England and became a Flying Officer with No. 3 Squadron which was involved in action leading to the death of the German air ace, “The Red Baron”. Eric served in France and Belgium as Flight Officer before returning to Port Adelaide on 16.6.1919. On his return from WW1 he worked on the Kidman Cattle Station at Wilcannia but left the station to help his brother run his garage business at Baclava.

It was here that he met **Hazel BLAND** and they married on 1 October 1927. They later moved to Owen where Hazel opened a business financed by Faulding and Co and Eric became a Stock & Station agent for the SA Farmers Union Co-op. Life was happy – uncluttered and simple making friends and having lots of social activities.



Hazel & Eric



Hazel as a bride

Unfortunately the Great Depression from August 1927 to March 1933 had devastating effects. It was then that the dole was introduced to provide for basic necessities.

Eric & Hazel BOWEN had 4 children to this time – Brian Ross in 1928, Erica in 1929, Peter in 1931 and David Sherringham in 1932. Hazel sold the business and the family moved to Blackwood where Eric was promoted to Shell Company Superintendent for South Australia. Another move was imminent and mid 1937 they relocated to Sydney as Eric was promoted again to Assistant Country Manager. Hazel was expecting her 5<sup>th</sup> child which they named **Judith Langford**. They had a beautiful house in the leafy suburb of Gordon, previously owned by artist Benjamin Edwin Minns. Their family was complete in 1940 when Brock was born, after which they moved to Hunters Hill. Soon after moving to Hunters Hill, the family took a caravan holiday to Coffs Harbour which was the start of their love affair with the area but unfortunately the start of WW2.



Eric, Hazel & family - Judy is in front, left of her mother holding baby Brock



Eric & sons David, Brian, Peter & Brock

The War eventually ended but problems for Eric and the Shell Company continued and he loathed being confined to an Office. Enough was enough and in July 1948 Eric, Hazel, Judy and Brock moved to Coffs Harbour where they ran a Banana plantation. In 1950 they moved to their new home "Hazeldene" on 5 acres at Korora. In 1957 Judy joined the WRANS (Women's Royal Australian Naval Service) for 4 years, after which she went overseas for 3 years. In 1965 she returned to Australia and took up flying gaining her solo licence in 8½ hours.

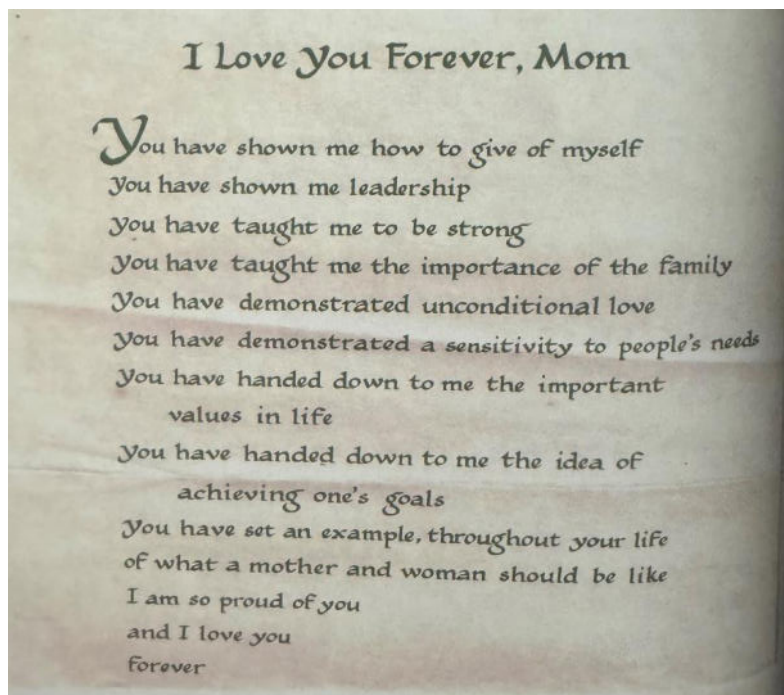
Hazel's Christian beliefs were important to her and she was active in many Anglican groups as well as Girl Guides, Meals on Wheels and the Historical Society. She was presented to the Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne at the Coffs Harbour Town Hall.

Eric became the Coffs Harbour Show President. He had a great interest in native trees and joined a Society for Growing Native Australian Plants, collecting seeds and plants to exchange with other societies and Botanic Gardens. He was involved in opening the walking tracks in Bruxner Park. In Korora Beach Reserve there is a picnic shelter dedicated to his memory and after his death on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1970, his ashes were spread under the pine tree near this shelter.

After Eric's death and unable to maintain "Hazeldene", Hazel moved to Edgecliffe in Sydney where she was very involved with the CWA and was able to attend the CWA World Conference in Denmark. Judy joined her and they travelled by ship to England and flew home – it was Hazel's first overseas trip and gave her the opportunity to do some family history research. They also had a lot of fun together.

She returned to Coffs in 1976 by which time Judy had married Roy Riddel. As the humidity and heat of Coffs Harbour affected her, in 1982 Hazel moved to Mittagong to be closer to Peter and Erica but after 5 years in the Southern Highlands, the pull for warmer climes was too strong and she moved back to Coffs Harbour. In 1993, she became the Coffs Harbour Quota Club Woman of the year and received her OAM from the NSW Governor Peter Sinclair.

Hazel died at home on 23 March 1994, aged 91 years.



A Poem reflecting of the influence Hazel had on the lives of all her family and others.

Submitted by Judy Riddel # 1492



## Coffs Harbour Butter Factory



*Butter late than never!*

The Cow and Gate Butter factory at the Jetty. At the left of the picture a cream cart is uploading. Bad roads meant slow deliveries so by the time the cream arrived, it was graded second class and sold for a lower price.

Expectations for the new Butter Factory were high especially when a good quality water source was found on-site in early June 1909. A well and other improvements were estimated to cost £415 and building construction would be around £700 with the factory being fully operational by early Spring.

The Coffs Harbour Butter Factory was first established on the corner of Edgar and Mildura Streets in 1909.

The factory's account was transferred from the NSW Bank to the City Bank for their lower interest rates and confidence in the new factory's success was boosted when the Bonville suppliers to the Raleigh Butter Factory decided 'to throw in their lot' with the new Coffs Harbour factory. The plans of the factory were amended by the board to reduce the building size and cost before tenders were called again. The tender was successful for Mr. A Lonsdale of Dorriggo and by mid-July the timber had been delivered and work commenced on 19 July.

At the July shareholders board meeting the directors authorised a £2500 mortgage. Positions were filled and in September Mr. GA Grant of Grafton was appointed Manager. Mr. AJ Reed was appointed Engineer and a tender for buttermilk was accepted from Mr. MP Griffen.

The Coffs Harbour Co-operative Dairying & Refrigeration Company's factory began production on 1<sup>st</sup> December, officially opening on 11 December 1909 with much ceremony and many speeches. It was producing 3 tons of butter a week along with the manufacture and supply of ice and butter storage for outlying factories. The first box of butter was auctioned and went to Mr. W Seccombe for £3 and the 1<sup>st</sup> single pound of butter to Mr. JF Macnamara for 6s 6d.

FROM the profits of 1910, horses and a van were purchased, small additions and alterations were made to the factory building, concreting was carried out on the well and the newly-wed manager enjoyed minor improvements to his onsite residence.

By 1911 the factory was producing over five tons of butter and ½ ton of ice per week.

When news of a planned railway reached the district, it brought the promise of improved transport of cream and butter to the factory and port, along with a new 'impetus' throughout the area.

Throughout 1912 the newly formed Coffs Harbour Bacon Company began talks to amalgamate with the Coffs Harbour Dairy and Refrigeration Company but despite each company's directors uniting to devise an amalgamation plan, the idea did not eventuate.



That year, due to a rainfall shortage, the factory suffered a loss with much butter graded second class and mid-year the factory manager left the district. Complaints were also received by the Health Department on 'unsanitary conditions' in a drain near the factory. Investigations found the drain was not unsanitary but as the factory used it to dispose of excess buttermilk into Coffs Creek, the smell was somewhat overpowering.

Despite the adverse weather, in June 1912 it was announced the company's overdraft was almost paid off and a new manager, Mr A Bennett was employed. A few months later he began promoting the improved quality of the company's butter by entering a number of competitions. Amongst a number of placings in various competitions, the butter factory won second prize in the 1913 Royal Agricultural Show's butter exhibition in two sections and fourth in another. The trophies, a large silver cup and silver tea and coffee set, both inscribed, arrived in Coffs Harbour two months later and were put on display in a High Street (Harbour Drive) shop window.

The factory also received high scores in London's Royal Dairy Show, however butter was becoming increasingly under threat by margarine, especially in warmer weather.

1922 proved to be another good year for butter manufacture and the new produce department was doing well but mid-April 1923, saw a major turning point in dairy production. Parliament introduced the Dairy Industry Act to bring about an overall improvement in quality of food production to protect consumers. The most controversial aspect was the introduction of building standardisation which meant that the district's dairy inspector served notices condemning the buildings of 5 factories in the region including Coffs Harbour, Coramba, Raleigh, Bellingen and Gleniffer. A meeting of directors was immediately held with delegates from the factories meeting at the Pier Hotel with the Chief of the Dairy Board from the Dept. of Agriculture. There was a storm of protest and defiance over the cost of rebuilding each factory. In the end the meeting resolved that it objected to the Department's arbitrary manner of administration with regard to the condemning of the factories. A copy of the resolution was sent to members, the Minister, Primary Industries Union and the Leader of the Country Party to protest against the Dairy Board's actions. It was widely believed that the best solution would be an amalgamation of factories and where the new factory should be located.

It was suggested that their operations should be extended to include a bacon factory and piggery. The then Chairman Mr. FA Berriman suggested that "a small fortune could be made out of a piggery – there is the market for your butter milk. A lot of butter milk went to waste in the good season. The success of the factory these days depends upon utilising the by-products to make a profit". This didn't happen.

Over a period of about 35 years the factory had negotiated a rough passage and on occasions went perilously close to the rocks. In the early stages, there was strong competition from the Orara Co-operative Society's factory at Coramba and was saved from closing down by local business people and others putting money as 'dry' shareholders to keep it going. As a financial investment, it did not turn out a good proposition to the investors but it did keep the factory afloat.

The factory established an electric light undertaking for the Jetty area and served that area for some years. There was a similar undertaking for "Top Town" and much controversy as to whether the franchise should be given by the Shire Council for the whole town. It was eventually granted and sold to the County Council. Another obstacle was that the factory premises became outdated and had to be renewed but competition from the Coramba Factory on the Orara River and the Raleigh Factory at Bonville continued until an amalgamation of Coffs and Coramba came about forming the Coffs Harbour-Orara Co-operative. However cream products had not been sufficient to keep the Society solvent and it developed a store at the factory and the recent Co-op store at Top Town.

Another meeting was held with the shareholders as to whether they should struggle on or sell out to Cow and Gate Ltd. a British Dairy Company. They decided on the latter.



Raleigh Butter Factory



Coramba Butter Factory



Bellinghen Butter Factory

After a devastating flood in 1950, Cow & Gate made the difficult decision to sell the Raleigh factory to The Central Dairy Society due to extensive damage. Subsequently, in 1960, the two entities amalgamated their operations, centralizing all dairy production at the Raleigh factory to enhance efficiency. Consequently, the production of butter at this site ceased in 1963.

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## WHAT IS HERALDRY?

For those of you who missed Fiona's workshop on Heraldry.....



Heraldry is a system used to design, display, and record coats of arms and family crests. These symbols were often used to differentiate knights in tournaments—picture the brightly emblazoned shields carried by medieval knights in shining armour. But heraldry was used for more than just tournaments. It allowed people to recognize opposing sides on battlefields, family lineages, alliances, and more.

Today, heraldry is still used by some individuals, companies, and cities to display their heritage and achievements. In modern uses, it can also be used to portray family values and ambitions.

Family crests and coats of arms are powerful family symbols passed down through generations. They were commonly used throughout the 11–17th centuries, and they can still be meaningful reminders for families past, present, and future. The symbolism in the design of a family crest or coat of arms can tell you about your ancestors' achievements and status in society—a real testament to a family's legacy. Here's everything you need to know to understand, find, or create your family's coat of arms.

### What Is a Coat of Arms?

A coat of arms is a symbol used to identify families or individuals. It is a detailed design that often includes a shield, crest, helmet, motto, and more. The image could be used as a whole, or the crest can be used as a simplified symbol.



Going back to the medieval knight, remember the brightly emblazoned shield? The design on the knight's shield was often the knight's coat of arms. Coats of arms can help you learn a lot about your ancestry. They were intended to recognize achievements and family heritage, so the design can provide insight into your family's legacy. They're also passed down through generations and carry the history of the family with them.

### What Is a Family Crest?

In a full coat of arms, the crest literally *crests* the design—that is to say that it is often located at the top of the image. The family crest is a smaller part of the design that can be used on its own when the entire coat of arms is too complex. Once again going back to the knight in shining armor, the crest may have been attached to the knight's helmet.

Common family crests include a lion, cross, tiger, or horse, but there are many others out there. Some even use unicorns or monsters. Sounds like a fun conversation starter if you're lucky enough to have one of them in your family tree! Alternatively, the term *family crest* can refer to the overall design. Over time, *family crest* became interchangeable with *coat of arms*, but the distinction is still important to understand, particularly if you're searching for your family crest.

### How to Find Your Coat of Arms

If you have European heritage, you may have a coat of arms or family crest. Unfortunately, they're rarer than you might think. Most commonly, only nobility or high-class families in medieval Europe had them because they were granted by kings to recognize achievements.

That rarity just makes it all the more exciting if you find one in your family tree! Search for coats of arms associated with your last name using 4 crests, House of Names, All Family Crests, or other resources. If you find one, trace your family tree to find out if you can find a link or reference to the coat of arms. While you're at it, take the opportunity to discover more about your heritage. Some families choose to adopt a coat of arms based only on a last name without an ancestral link, but this practice can hinder the significance and meaning behind the coat of arms. This guide can help you find out if a crest is associated with your family. An alternative is to create one that is unique and meaningful to your family!

### How to Design a Coat of Arms

Designing your own coat of arms can be fun and insightful. Think about your family's achievements and how you can incorporate them into your design. If you're looking for inspiration, explore the stories your relatives have shared on *FamilySearch Memories*.

### Parts of a Coat of Arms

A coat of arms can be very detailed, and it often includes many elements. Although not every coat of arms has every piece, the following parts are often incorporated in the design.



# COAT OF ARMS



## Symbols and Their Meanings

**Shield:** The shield is the centre of the design; it is the only necessary piece when designing a coat of arms.

**Crest:** This symbolic object sits atop of the coat of arms.

**Helm:** A helmet rests below the crest but above the shield. It reflects the origins of heraldry. A crown could replace or accompany the helmet.

**Wreath:** The wreath is a rope or twisted cloth, a literal representation of the silk or rope used to tie a crest to a knight's helmet.

**Mantling:** The mantling is a piece of cloth that flows out from the helmet. Originally, the cloth protected a knight's armour.

**Supporters:** A pair of people or animals stand on either side of the shield and support it. They're typically a local or hereditary figure, and they were traditionally used for nobility.

**Compartment:** The compartment is a base design (usually a landscape) on which the shield and supporters rest.

**Motto:** The motto is a saying displayed on a ribbon either below or above the rest of the design.



These resources explain meanings behind different items and colours you can use in your family crest and coat of arms. Remember that the family crest can be used on its own, so choose something significant to you!

Of course, if you're making your own, the most important thing is that it is meaningful to you and your family. Work together to include elements that speak to you personally and your heritage.



# Graveyard Symbolism

For those of you who missed Fiona's talk on Gravestones and their symbolism.....



A walk through a cemetery when researching ancestors can be a haunting, yet beautiful and reflective experience. Aside from names, birthdates and death dates, gravestones are often decorated with symbols and icons.

These majestic, weather-worn stone carvings were popularized by those cipher-loving Victorians (from 1839 to 1920) and are more than pure decoration. They mean something; a virtue the person exemplified, a value they held dear, or a nod to how they earned their living.

While headstones can be as unique as the people they're meant to memorialize, the symbolism that's been common to gravestones throughout the ages. But often, what a symbol means can be a little difficult to figure out, especially on older headstones.

Symbol "Meaning" of gravestone symbolism....

**Acorn**- Longevity and new life, prosperity, strength & fruitfulness.

**Anchor** - A symbol of hope, or the deceased was a mariner.

**Anchor with a broken chain** - Cessation of life.

**Angel** - A guide to heaven; guardian of the tomb; death of a child.

**Anvil** - Indicates forging the universe and is most often found on the gravestones of blacksmiths.

**Arch** - Symbolising a triumphant entry into Heaven, or victory over death.

**Archangels** - Gabriel and Michael, (archangels of the Christian canon). Gabriel is depicted with a horn and Michael is depicted with a sword or a shield.

**Arms outstretched** - Plea for mercy.

**Arrow** - Death of a lover; mortality or martyrdom.

**Beehive** - Symbol of abundance in the Promise Land or piety, or domestic virtue, or faith.

**Bell** - A symbol of religious faith or religion.

**Bible** - A religious lay person or cleric.

**Bird or birds** - Graves of children; the soul flying to Heaven or the winged soul; eternal life, spirituality; Messenger of God, or peace.

**Bones** - Death's earthly remainders.

**Book** - Scholar; a symbol of the Divine Word, or lifetime accomplishments.

**Book** - open Embodiment of faith.

**Bridal wreath** - Grave of a young bride or groom.

**Broken or severed flower** - Indicates a premature or sudden death.

**Bud** - Denotes a child.

**Burning flame** - A symbol of eternal life or a symbol of resurrection.

**Butterfly** - Symbolises the soul leaving the body.

**Candle being snuffed out** - Symbolises end of life.

**Catherine wheel** - Christian faith.

**Celtic Cross** - Symbol of faith and eternity.  
**Cenotaph** - Symbolic monument of mourning.  
**Cherub** – Grave of a child.  
**Chrysalis** - Butterflies represent the soul.  
**Circle** – Eternity, life everlasting.  
**Clouds** - Symbol of Divine Abode, Heaven.  
**Coffin** - Death.  
**Column** - Free-standing column symbolises the sky, God and deity in general.  
**Column** – broken Early grief.  
**Cross** - Symbol of faith and resurrection. Many military markers, in particular WW1 veterans who have a cross etched into the gravestone.  
**Crown** - A symbol of glory of life after death.  
**Crown on a heart** - Rules of one's heart.  
**Crying/shrouded woman** - Represents grief and mourning.  
**Curtains** - Closing the curtains on a life.  
**Cypress tree** - Symbolises hope.  
**Dog** - Symbol of loyalty, fidelity, watchfulness, vigilance.  
**Dolphin** - Idea of resurrection.  
**Door** - Passage to the afterlife.  
**Dove** – Symbol of love, purity, resurrection and or the Holy Spirit.  
**Dragon & St George** - Triumph over sin.  
**Eagle** - Gravestones of Civil War veterans engraved with eagles.  
**Easter lily** - Symbolises purity and chastity (Canna lily – resurrection)  
**Empty shoes** - Death of a child.  
**Eye of God** - All-seeing.  
**Fern** - Represents sorrow; a symbol of New Zealand.  
**Finger pointing down** - Symbol of calling the earth to witness.  
**Finger pointing up** – Symbol of pathway to Heaven or the deceased found Heavenly reward.  
**Fish** - Symbolises spiritual nourishment, faith, or deceased was a Christian.  
**Flame** - Light, life and eternity.  
**Flower** - Symbol of immortality.  
**Flower bud** - Death of a young person.  
**Flower Forget-me-not** - Symbol of remembrance.  
**Flying bird** - A symbol of rebirth.  
**Frog** - Sin and worldly pleasures.  
**Garland** - Symbolises victory over death.  
**Gate/keys** - Passage to the afterlife.  
**Grapes** - Symbol of Christ.  
**Grim reaper** - A symbol found on many early gravestones; the inevitability of death.  
**Hands** – clasped Meaning farewell & the hope of meeting in eternity.  
**Hands/pointing up** - Ascension to Heaven.  
**Hands /praying** - Marriage or close bond between individuals.  
**Harp** - A symbol of hope; worship in Heaven.  
**Heart** - A symbol of love, devotion, joy and or mortality.  
**Heart bleeding** - Christ's suffering for our sins.  
**Heart flaming** - Religious fervour.  
**Hourglass** - -A symbol of the swift passage of time, as in the shortness of life on earth.  
**Ivy** - A symbol of immortality and friendship.  
**Key** - Entrance to Heaven.  
**Knot** - Eternal bond, often associated with Celtic culture.  
**Lamb** - Symbolises children or innocence; grave of a child.  
**Lamp** - Knowledge and love of learning.  
**Laurel wreath** - Symbol of life's achievements.  
**Lily of the Valley** - Restored innocence of the soul at death; resurrection.

**Lion** - Symbolises the immortal soul; self-control, nobility fairness, courage & patience. A true compliment to the deceased.

**Masonic compass** - Deceased was a Freemason.

**Moon** - Death or rebirth.

**Myrtle leaves** - A symbol of undying love and or peace.

**Oak leaves** - A symbol of faith and virtue and or endurance.

**Oak tree** - A symbol of strength.

**Obelisk** - A symbol quite popular during the 1880s – 1930s, meaning rebirth and eternal life, fertility, regeneration and resurrection.

**Obelisk** – broken Symbolises a life cut short.

**Olive branch** - A symbol of peace, forgiveness, one's humanity.

**Open gates** - A symbol of afterlife and the deceased's soul entering Heaven.

**Owl** - Symbol of status, wisdom, watchfulness, intelligence, wealth.

**Ox** - Sacrificial animal in ancient times; symbol of patience, strength.

**Palm** - Indicates life after death through resurrection.

**Peacock** - Immortality.

**Pearl** - Tears.

**Phoenix** - Resurrection, transformation. It has been used in Christian cemetery art from as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.

**Pyramid** - Symbol meaning resurrection, eternal life, enlightenment, and spiritual attainment.

**Rabbit** - Humility & gentleness, self-sacrifice; cycle of life.

**Rainbow** - Symbol of union, fulfillment and the promise of resurrection.

**Rod** - Comfort.

**Rope circle** - A symbol of eternity.

**Rose** - A symbol of love, victory, triumph and or purity.

**Scallop** - Rebirth.

**Scallop shell** - One's life journey.

**Scottish thistle** - Denotes ancestry to Scotland.

**Scythe** - Life cut short; or the final harvest.

**Serpent eating its tail** - Eternity.

**Shamrock** - Denotes ancestry to Ireland.

**Sheaf of wheat** - Celebrates a long-life lived-in abundance. A common Masonic symbol.

**Ship** - Grave of a seafarer.

**Skeleton** - Death.

**Skull** - Death.

**Sleeping cherub** - Death of a young child.

**Spear** - Denotes a military career.

**Staff** - Comfort.

**Swallow** - Child or motherhood.

**Sword** - Military career.

**Swords crossed** – Death in battle.

**Thistles** - Sadness.

**Torch burning** - Life

**Torch extinguished** - Death.

**Tree** - Life, knowledge, the fall of man through sin, or human frailty.

**Tree stump** - Symbol of life interrupted.

**Trumpet** - Announcing the resurrection of deceased's soul into Heaven.

**Turquoise/Blue** - Associated with tears or forget-me-nots.

**Urn** - The body to dust and the spirit with God.

**Urn** – dropped Death of an older person.

**Vase** - Signifies death and mourning.

**Vine** - Symbolic of Christian faith.

**Weeping angel** - Symbolises grief, especially mourning an untimely death.

**Wheat sheaf** - Aged death.

**Wheel** - Symbolises cycle of life, enlightenment, spiritual power.  
**Willow tree** - Grief, sorrow & mourning, popular in Victorian times.  
**Winged time** - Time's swift flight.  
**Wreath of roses** - Symbol of Heavenly joy and bliss.

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### **THE 1%ers (The One percenters)**

**99% of those born between 1930 and 1946 (worldwide) are now dead. If you were born in this time span, you are one of the rare surviving one percenters of this special group. Their ages range is between 77 and 93 years old, a 16-year age span.**

**Are you a 1%er?**

### **INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE 1% ERS:**

**You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900s**

**You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.**

**You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.**

**You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.**

**You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.**

**Discipline was enforced by parents and teachers.**

**You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.**

**With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside"**

**There was no Little League.**

**There was no city playground for kids.**

**The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.**

**We got "black-and-white" TV in the late 40s that had 3 stations and no remote.**

**Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).**

**Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.**

**Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.**

**INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.**

**Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening (your dad would give you the comic pages when he read the news).**

**New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes (no interstates).**

**You went downtown to shop. You walked to school.**

**The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.**

**Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.**

**You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.**

**They were glad you played by yourselves.**

**They were busy discovering the post war world.**

**You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves.**

**You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.**

**Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.**

**You came of age in the 50s and 60s.**

**You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland,**



World War 2 was over, and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.

You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.

More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have lived in the best of times.

If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people in the world who were born in this special 16 years time span.

You are a “1% er”.

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## TEN PIN BOWLING IN COFFS HARBOUR – THE EARLY YEARS



The development of tenpin bowling in Coffs Harbour began in 1979 during a trip that my late mother, Marie Rooke as she was then, went on a holiday to Fiji. What's the connection, you may well wonder. Whilst holidaying at the Reef Resort on the Coral Coast of Fiji, my mother met a couple who were heavily involved in tenpin bowling at Campbelltown. One thing led to another, and after several days of discussions, followed by several more months of negotiations with company management, a crew was sent up to Coffs Harbour from Campbelltown to scope out possible locations.

Construction work began in earnest on the bowling centre soon afterwards, and it was up and running in its' current location by early 1980. Testing of the machinery was thoroughly carried out during this time by the specialist technician who also moved to Coffs Harbour. During this testing phase my mother walked the streets of the town canvassing locals to join bowling leagues for competitive games.

The first manager of Astrolanes (as it was then known), Bing Dallas, moved from Sydney to help establish the bowling centre as a going concern. Many locals joined the 'Pioneer League' in the early days. My mother was also a bowler for several years until arthritis in her wrists stopped her from playing.

League teams from Coffs Harbour travelled to compete in inter-club competitions and many special events were held in Coffs Harbour – twilight bowls, 1920s themed bowling evening, Fijian themed nights, to name only a few.



Over the last 45 years there have been name changes, and management changes but some of those early Pioneer League bowlers will, no doubt, have fond memories of those early years.



Submitted by Fiona Hulbert Member 1470

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**FOR SALE**

## Yamaha portable PA system

Headset microphone with two microphones. + 2 Speakers



If interested please contact our rooms on 6648 3605

## A Mother's Heartbreak

Mary Cross was born in Richmond, New South Wales on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1814, the eldest child of Thomas Cross and Martha Bryant-Eaton. Mary grew up in Richmond and is listed on the School Roll between 1823-1824.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1831 she married Walter Howell, the son of George Howell and Hannah Asbury. Mary and Walter had 13 children born from the years 1832-1859. Walter seemed to have itchy feet and they moved around a lot with him trying out new ventures. Their 1<sup>st</sup> child Hannah was born in Richmond, 2<sup>nd</sup> child Mary in Kurrajong Heights, 3<sup>rd</sup> child Walter back in Richmond, 4<sup>th</sup> child Susannah in Penrith, 5<sup>th</sup> child Sophia was born in Richmond, New South Wales in 1840 and 6<sup>th</sup> child George was born in Kararika, Paihia Bay of Island, New Zealand in 1843 and by the time their 7<sup>th</sup> child Martha was born in 1845 they were back in Richmond.

By 1873 the family were residing at Burra Burra Stations, north of the Lachlan, below Forbes. In early August 1873 Mary, her son Walter and a young lad named George Pulbrooke headed into town to purchase supplies. Mary was in the Buggy whilst the lads were in the Bullock Dray, the supplies were purchased and loaded onto the dray. On the return trip it was decided that they would leave the town and camp out about 7 miles away, Mary was to camp with the lads but her son persuaded her to stay in town as she would be more comfortable. At about 9am the following morning Mary left the town to overtake her son. Mary passed a dray, but seeing no one about and not being answered when she called out, she assumed it was not their dray and continued on till she reached the creek which was about a mile away. When she could find no tracks, she decided to return to the dray that she had seen, thinking that it must have been her own and why was her son sleeping so long. When Mary reached the dray, she raised the tarpaulin covering and found her son and the boy apparently sleeping, but when she called, they did not respond, at which point she pulled the blankets from the faces, disclosing that they both had gashed heads and throats and were deceased, apparently murdered as they lay quietly sleeping. One can only imagine the state that Mary would have been in and how she managed to get herself back to Forbes to give information to the authorities is unfathomable. Twelve days after her son's death her daughter Susannah died giving birth to her granddaughter Charlotte.

The strength of Mary is to be admired and she had to give evidence to authorities and endure the following autopsies and court case surrounding the murder of her son and the lad who had been adopted by them. Mary died at Grenfell on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1886 at aged 72. She and Walter had been married 55 years and had raised 12 of their children to adulthood. A truly amazing early Australian Pioneer.

Transcription from Freeman's Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1850-1932) Saturday 16 Aug 1873 Page 10 Forbes  
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/128806483?searchTerm=%22walter%2BHowell%22#>

*Micky's Plain, a locality rendered famous by the death of Ben Hall, a few years ago, has just been the scene of a terrible murder. The facts, as far as known are as follows: Mr. Howell, he whom William Wentworth celebrated in rhyme in connection with the old Parramatta mill, is now a squatter, residing about seventy miles from Forbes, in a north-westerly direction. Last week Mrs Howell came here to buy supplies, which her son, Walter Howell and a lad by the name of Pulbrook took away in a bullock dray. On last Friday another son of Mr Howells passed them seven or eight miles from here on their way to the station, and as the horse he was riding, a grey one, was fagged he exchanged it for Walter Howell's saddle horse. The next day, Saturday Mrs Howell left Forbes for home, and when she reached Micky's Plain, she saw a little distance off the road, bullock dray, with a tarpaulin thrown over it. She thought it looked like her own, and alighting from her buggy walked over to it. When she lifted a corner of the tarpaulin, she saw under the dray her son Walter and the boy Pulbrook, murdered, her son awfully cut about the head and neck, as if with an axe, one of his hands right open, evidently when raised for protection. That after such a sight Mrs Howell was able to get into her buggy and drive back to Forbes, a distance of ten miles, is a proof that she is no ordinary woman. She came in about three in the afternoon and information was at once conveyed to Mr Stephenson, our sub-inspector, who in a few minutes was in the saddle and off to the scene of the murder. We will follow him to Micky's Plain. There is the dray, with the tarpaulin over*



it, just as carriers arranged it when they have a low load and intend to sleep under the dray. The wheels are hid from view, the pole is the only visible part of the dray. A little distance off the dray, say four yards, is the fire where Howell and the boy boiled their tea last night; a little further off another fire, evidently a blackfellow's fire; Firewood has been sparingly used; and there lies the blackfellow's usual seat a square piece of bark freshly stripped. Now let us lift the tarpaulin: there lies Walter Howell, to all appearances killed in his sleep- killed in a way that makes us think of the little fire with the square bit of bark by it; tomahawk cuts about the head and neck enough to kill ten men. Let us examine the boy. His brains have been battered in with a blunt instruments, used with more violence than the limited space under the dray would allow for. He was not killed where he now lies – such a blow could not be inflicted there. Look there on the ground, there are traces of blood; we follow them for about twelve yards, where they stop, but where we find a box-stick with hair and blood on it. We can now realize last night's tragedy. When Walter Howell and the boy were asleep, one of the men who sat on that piece of bark by the little fire crept noiselessly under the dray and struck Howell with an axe or tomahawk; the boy, startled by the blows or cries, ran off; he went some twelve yards; anybody standing by the small fire would only have to make four steps to reach the spot where the boy was felled by that stick with the hair and blood on it. From there he was carried back under the dray – the blood track tell us that, plainly. The murderers must have been two or more; if the man who murdered Howell had murdered Pulbrook, he would not have dropped his axe to pick up a stick; and he could not have overtaken him twelve yards of the dray. Such are the impressions left on us by the sight of the corpses, the camp fires, the instruments with which the crime was committed. The goods on the dray do not seem to have been disturbed; a keg of grog – a tempting bait – is untouched. There is the murder: the murderers, we think, have left their mark behind; but where is the motive? We will learn directly that a blackfellow, innocent of breeches yesterday, has been seen at daylight this morning with a pair of trousers on, very much like those of Walter Howell's, own missing; and riding the grey horse left with Walter Howell by his brother; but he could have stolen the horse while its owner was asleep. The bodies arrived in Forbes late on Saturday; a coroner's inquest begun to-day, was adjourned until to-morrow. The excitement here is intense; two black-fellows were lodged in gaol yesterday; they had been seen on Friday in company with the one who was seen after the murder riding Howell's horse. [A telegram on Wednesday states that another blackfellow was brought in that evening by sub-inspector Stephenson, who, accompanied by constable Pye and a half-caste tracker, had followed the tracks from the dray under which the bodies had been found to Phillip's station, on the Bogan. When they overtook the black-fellow, who is supposed to be a Queensland aboriginal, he was riding Howells horse; he showed fight, and was only secured by a severe struggle. Stephenson and his men captured the black fellow after tracking him nearly a hundred miles within twenty-six hours after information of the murder was first received.]

The Forbes correspondent of the Empire gives the following particulars: A most diabolical murder of two persons has taken place within the last few hours, at a spot known as Mickey's Plain, a few miles from here. The victims are a man named Howell and a lad named Pulbrook. The two left Forbes on Thursday with stores on a bullock dray and were followed yesterday by Mrs Howell the mother of the murdered lad. The poor woman first passed by the team thinking it was not hers, but not finding any other tracks, returned and on making examination found that both of those who had left town a few hours previously had been brutally murdered, apparently while sleeping. The grief-stricken mother at once came back to Forbes and informed the police. Sub-Inspector Stevenson and his party were in a short time in the saddle, and off to the scene of the murder. The body of the man was beneath the dray, and the neck and face were fearfully cut and hacked so much so as to expose the root of the tongue and bones of the neck. The poor fellow must have raised his hands, for one of them was severely chopped. The boy had evidently first been struck across the face, and turning over, the back and top of the head being dreadfully cut. He crawled a short distance, and must have bled to death, living for some time after the other. His body was not stiff when found. The police are out in pursuit of the murderers. The feelings of the mother of the victims (for the boy was an adopted son) were shocked before leaving here by the receipt of intelligence that her husband and one of her sons had, through a quarrel with some neighbours, got into trouble, and were in the lock-up at Dandaloo. This she very deeply lamented before leaving Forbes, and was hurrying home to see how matters stood, when she made the discovery as stated. The murder was committed with an axe, or perhaps two, that number having been taken off the dray, and the handles shortened the better to accomplish the purpose in view.



The whole community were stunned when the news was brought here, all the parties being so well known throughout the district.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

REGISTRATION NUMBER

9885/1886

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995

### DEATH CERTIFICATE

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father. Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
6 <sup>th</sup> January 1886 Greenfield	Mary Howell	Female 72 Years	(1) Bronchitis (2) 7 days (3) Dr. Murphy (4) 5 <sup>th</sup> January 1886	(1) Thomas Cross (2) Farmer (3) Martha Eaton	G. J. Howell Son. Greenfield

Particulars of Registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) Waverley (2) 8 <sup>th</sup> January 1886 (3) Greenfield	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 1886 Greenfield Cemetery John Thomson	Rev. A. R. Raymond Church of England Minister G. J. Howell Walter Howell	Parramatta N.S.W. Since birth in N.S.W.	(1) Windsor N.S.W. (2) 17 Years (3) Walter Howell	2 males living 7 females living 1 male deceased 2 females deceased

This remarkable woman was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandmother of David Buckingham, Gail's Husband

Submitted by Gail Buckingham Member 1261



# Waves of passion: Love letters show steamy side to Flinders

**EXCLUSIVE**  
Julie Power

Matthew Flinders. Explorer. Now the long-distance mariner has also been revealed as a hot and steamy writer of love letters, and a pioneer in the use of emojis.

A collection of letters acquired by the State Library of NSW from Flinders to his bride of three months, Ann, and others he left behind before he set sail in 1801 on HMS Investigator, reveal the human cost of exploration before phones, WhatsApp and Facebook.

State Library of NSW executive director Louise Anemaat said the collection reminded the public that "history is, at its heart, about people and their resilience in the face of distance and abandonment, and the tension between love, loss, ambition and acclaim".

On his historic trip with Aboriginal navigator Bungaree from 1801 to 1803, where they circumnavigated Australia, proving it was a single continent, Flinders wrote to Ann of his love and lust.

"Feast me with love when I return, to recompense me for all my anxieties, and Oh, write to me constantly, write me pages and volumes," he wrote.

"My mind retraces with delight, our joys, our conversation, our looks, our everything of love."

Just like modern fly-in fly-out workers, or jet-setting executives, Flinders chose ambition and financial security over home.

Before he left the UK, Flinders had secretly planned to smuggle Ann aboard the Investigator, but abandoned the plan when Sir Joseph Banks, the botanist and a supporter of the trip, found out.

He wrote: "I shall give up the wife for the voyage of discovery; and I beg of you, Sir Joseph, to be assured that even this circumstance will not dampen the ardour I feel to accomplish the important purpose of the present voyage."

Flinders was as pragmatic about love as he was about work.

In a letter to a relative, he wrote: "I prize [Ann] too for perhaps what no man else would; she is of double



State Library executive director Louise Anemaat; (below) a Matthew Flinders portrait and some of his personal letters. Photos: Max Mason-Hubers



value to me from not being a beauty. It is too dangerous an experiment for a sailor to marry a beautiful woman whom he must be obliged to leave frequently."

These lines may anger the reader, but Anemaat said Flinders loved Ann.



In a jokey letter to Ann's sister, he drew a smiley face that resembles a modern emoji. Anemaat said the drawing was a bit of fun. Many letters back then were decorated with "tiny, tiny little drawings", she said.

The love letters are part of a

much larger collection purchased by the State Library from Flinders' descendants for \$4.75 million, the most paid for this sort of material.

It includes details of his funeral and invoices for the plumes of feathers used to decorate the horses that pulled his hearse when he died aged 40.

For the library, the material is like the last piece of a jigsaw.

"For the first time, we're able to bring these deeply personal letters together with his official logbooks, charts, hat and sword from the Investigator which were donated to the library by Flinders' grandson in 1922," Anemaat said.

*'My mind retraces with delight, our joys, our conversation, our looks, our everything of love.'*

**Matthew Flinders**

She said the collection showed the personal cost of exploration to those who went to sea, and those, like Ann, who stayed behind. Ann's own father had died at sea.

Such intimate accounts from a key 19th-century figure are rare, Anemaat said.

"We talk about Flinders and all those British explorers in quite heroic terms. We ignore the personal side of these endeavours, which meant long, long separations and meant great risk. It was like flying to the moon. You give up a lot personally."

The couple were separated for nearly 10 years when Flinders was detained as a spy on his return home on the French colony, Mauritius, because of the war with England.

State Librarian Caroline Butler-Bowdon said the State Library had been determined to secure this sensational addition to its world-renowned Flinders archive.

A selection of the love letters will be on public display in the library's Amaze Gallery from Thursday – the anniversary of the Flinders' marriage in 1801 – until February 22, 2026.

Submitted by Stephen Goundry, Member 1372