

# GENIE ALLERGY



## Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



Paul Parton leads an interested group of Family Historians at the October Seminar.

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COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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**Seminar Co-ordinator:** Sharon INGERSOLE

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**Research Co-ordinator:** Vacant

## RESEARCH:

### Library Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday: 10am – 4pm  
Saturday: 10am – 4pm (except 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month)

### Library Fees:

Members: Free on production of current membership card.  
Visitors: \$14.00 per day or \$7.00 per half day or part thereof.

Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance.

**Workshops:** Fourth Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES:

### Annual Membership:

#### Single:

Annual Fee: .....\$40.00

#### Joint: (Two persons same address)

Annual Fee: .....\$60.00

### Correspondence Inquiries

Research will be undertaken for an initial fee of \$30.00. More information on Contacts page on our website.

### Library Rules

- Current membership cards to be worn in rooms.
- 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 to be charged according to price schedule.
- One microfiche only to be removed from drawer. Do not remove plastic sleeve from microfiche.

### Contact Persons:

President - Rosie Doherty: (02) 6652 4469  
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## ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME

**RECIPROCAL RIGHTS:** Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our room to do research (proof of current membership is required).

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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Stan Gordon, the outgoing President, resigned his position. As all members know Stan has been a dedicated and very busy President over the past five years. On behalf of all the Family History Society members I would like to thank Stan very much for his enthusiasm, humour and his great skill particularly in all computer matters which the members have benefitted from. Stan was elected as Vice President and will continue as the Society's competent Equipment Officer.

Three of our Committee members, Maggie Heffernan, Helen Hull and Diane Smith, resigned at the AGM and the Society is very grateful for their work over the years. Six Committee members were re-elected at the AGM but no other members stood for election to the Committee. It is really important that, if, the Coffs Harbour and District Family History Society Inc. is to endure, new people are needed to come forward to offer their services as Committee members, Monitors or helpers on sub-committees for Workshops and other activities.

Our Seminar held on 28<sup>th</sup> October "From Search to Research with FamilySearch" was very well presented, enjoyable and of great assistance to us all. The excellent Guest Speaker Paul Parton from FamilySearch Outreach showed how we can get the best results from FamilySearch. Thank you to Stan, Mary and Dot for preparing and providing us all with a delicious lunch. A special thank you to all the Society members who came early and assisted with the setting up of Cavanbah Hall, those who helped with the packing up and those who helped with the morning tea. It was a great team effort and good to see members being so willing to help.

I am looking forward to my year as President of the Society and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and good researching in 2018.

Rosie Doherty, President, #396



The tree of life for some has cast its shade. We must make sure their memories never fade.

## 25 AND 30 YEAR MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Two more members have received Certificates to recognise that they have been continuous members of our Society for 30 years. They are Margaret O'CONNELL who joined on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1986 and Jane IRELAND, who joined on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1987.

Recipients of Certificates for 25 years continuous membership were Bev SALTER who joined on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1992, and Marnie JUNGE who joined on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1992.  
Congratulations ladies.

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK 2017/2018

This year our research room will be closed from 4pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will open again on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 10am.



## WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, MEETINGS and SOCIAL EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2018 WORKSHOP

Our first Workshop for 2018 will be held on Saturday **24<sup>th</sup> February at the Community Village, Earl Street, Coffs Harbour**. This will be a 'Brain Storming' session about the future of our Society and how often we should hold our Workshops and Seminars. Do we continue holding monthly Workshops or reduce them to say, two-monthly? Maybe it would be better to hold one Seminar during a calendar year rather than the two that we have been doing.

We'll also be looking for suggestions on how we can encourage our members to be willing participants in the planning and smooth running of our Society. Do you have a skill or talent that could enhance the running of the Society? We encourage members to attend the Workshop on **24<sup>th</sup> February** and make your suggestions. Where possible please volunteer your help whether it be helping to set up for Workshops; helping members and visitors in our room as a Duty Monitor; contributing an article occasionally to *Genie Allergy* or to help out in any way to ensure the Society's future. You probably have already noticed that there are three vacant positions on our committee.

### TROVE NEWSPAPERS

There are over 200 million articles already on the National Library's Trove Newspapers website and more are added every month. If you are not very experienced in searching Trove Newspapers, open the website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> and click on **Help**, then open the **Using Trove** link where you should find some helpful tips.

Basically, you have to think about how things would have been written in the paper at the time, which can be quite different from today. Use of forenames was less common than today, so a man who might be called Bill Smith today, would possibly be referred to in an old newspaper as Mr W (or Wm Smith and his wife Mary, would probably have been called Mrs Wm Smith. You can often narrow down your Trove search by combining a place name (or occupation) with a surname and if you get too many hits, it is simple to refine the results, perhaps to a state, single paper or date range.

Keep in mind that the articles are indexed from the old newspapers using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) which can result in errors occurring in the text due to the poor quality of the newspapers.

Remember also that you can search NSW Government Gazettes from 1832 to 1900. From the NLA home page, open the **Government Gazettes** link.

### **OBTAINING NSW ADOPTION INFORMATION**

A Society member, Cheryl Lynch recently made enquiries about obtaining adoption information. She thought the process may be of interest to other members and may be worth mentioning in *Genie Allergy*.

The first step in gaining adoption information is to apply for an *Adoption Information Certificate* (previously known as a Supply Authority) which identifies information about all parties to the adoption. The only people who have an automatic right to this information under the Adoption Act 2000 are adopted people and their birth parents whose names are recorded on the adopted person's original birth certificate. If one of these parties is deceased, a close relative or other significant person can apply to inherit the deceased person's rights under the Act. *An Application to Inherit a Deceased Person's Rights* is available as well as an *Adoption Search Guide*. Any fees charged are listed. Currently these applications are taking more than three months to be processed.



The Adoption Information Unit prefers to speak to clients – they feel that answering an email without the full facts may lead to incomplete advice. Telephone the *Adoption Information Unit, Department of Family and Community Services* on 1300 799 023 if you have any questions.

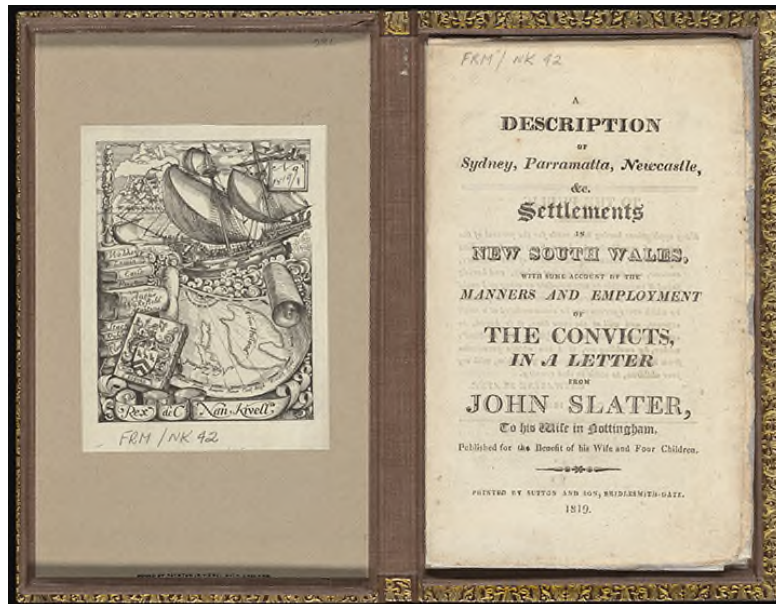
T 02 9716 3005 or 1300 799 023

E [adoption.information@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:adoption.information@facs.nsw.gov.au)

A Locked Bag 4028 Ashfield NSW 2131 Australia

W [www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au)

## AN INTERESTING LETTER from the PAST



*JOHN SLATER - A Description of Sydney, Parramatta, Newcastle, &c., Settlements in New South Wales, with Some Account of the Manners and Employment of the Convicts, in a Letter from John Slater to His Wife in Nottingham, Published for the Benefit of His Wife and Four Children 1819 nla.cat-vn826324*

On 27 April 1818, Sydney convict **JOHN SLATER** (who had a life sentence) wrote to his wife on the other side of the world. Seven months later in Nottingham, his wife **CATHARINE** arranged to print his letter. She confided in the publication that she hoped its sales would ‘assist me in fulfilling my husband's wishes, by enabling me ... to go to him, with my four children, to settle in that country’ ... such was the interest in John's account of the colony. Perhaps this the earliest known example of crowdsourced funding relating to colonial history?

*Sydney NSW,  
April 27<sup>th</sup> 1818*

*My Dear Wife*

*No distance, no length of absence, nor yet any pleasures or amusements can so far attract my attention as to cause me to neglect writing according to my promise to endeavour so far as in my power lies, to ameliorate the sufferings of my unhappy family, and to satisfy the curiosity of my friends. On the 11th day of July 1817, we were aroused by break of day to enter upon a fresh scene to the one we had lately been used to; myself and many others of my hulk mates were ordered to prepare immediately for our departure from the Captivity Hulk, to proceed on board the ship LARKENS, for our destination at New South Wales, where we found ourselves guarded safely by*

*soldiers who were placed at the hatchways of the vessel, and, two hundred and fifty in number of us, confined to the main deck, couped up as close as sheep in a fair, but I must acknowledge however unpleasant it was, Captain Wilkinson allowed us every comfort we could reasonably expect, and indulged a certain number of us with the liberty of the deck, as far as seemed to him consistent with his safety, and when he got better acquainted with the men, took off their irons and shewed favour to the deserving - shortly after we got on board the Larkins, we weighed anchor, and set sail, and again cast anchor at Torbay, from which place we finally bade adieu to Old England, on the 1st August 1817, and with a flying top sail sighted our last farewell to our sweethearts, wives, families, friends and relations; but so hardened in infamy are most men in a similar capacity to that in which I am unhappily placed, and so abandoned to all sense of fine feeling or affection, that instead of a serious gloom prevailing, nothing but curses and blasphemy was apparent in every eye and countenance.*

*Our ship was very healthy, for we lost but three men from our number. We had a very pleasant passage of exactly sixteen weeks, excepting two nights and one day, which were something alarming to a landsman, but seamen fear no danger, and only view such matters with indifference. We arrived here on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1817, and in the midst of anxiety, every heart was elated with the news, anxious once more to set foot on shore, and to learn what manner the prisoners were likely to be disposed of, each man sedulous for his own welfare. Our Captain had in the course of the voyage kept well up to the southward, so that I never in my life experienced more cold, but now we were arrived in a climate, where we had been led to believe we should find ourselves annoyed by too much heat. But this is a very mistaken notion; the climate is very healthy, and the air is truly salubrious, and as far as the seasons vary of course gradually according to nature, the difference of summer is only affecting to persons who are compelled to take more exercise than ordinary.*

*Before I proceed too far, I shall think proper to inform you of a robbery which took place; on my coming aboard the ship I consigned my box and property into the hand of the chief mate, who likewise received property of other persons on board, and put the whole down in the hold, which from some inattention of the said chief mate, was gotten at by the prisoners, and plundered in toto, and not found out till we arrived at Sydney, when it was too late to discover the offenders, and I have not been able to recover the same, which has been a very great loss to me. I mention this circumstance, to act as a caution to you, that whoever you give the charge of your property to, you may be sure and look at it about once a month, observing the most leisure time, not to be too troublesome, as I know of no better way of securing yourself than this, from the desperate robberies which are committed constantly on board such ships bringing convicts to this country; for instead of conviction softening their conduct, and leading them to reformation, as might be supposed, they are hardened thereby, and will thief from a piece of biscuit to the main mast if it were possible they could secret it - honour they have none, they would as soon rob their messmates as a stranger, and mind what I caution you against. Make no friendship with the best of them, observe this injunction strictly.*

*The first countryman I met after landing was WILLIAM KIRBY, a tailor, whom the people of Nottingham suppose to be dead, he is healthy and doing well.*

*Now, my dear wife, I shall endeavour to explain for your perusal the manners and customs of this colony, although it is inhabited by Britons, vary much from those of England. Sydney is the capital and the seat of government, and is pleasantly situated on the south side of the cove, named from the town Sydney Cove; the government house commanding a full view of the harbour, stands on the summit of a regular hill about half a mile from the water's edge, although the house is not to be compared to any grand building at home, it is nevertheless very prepossessing in its appearance to strangers, and is truly grateful to the view of a person just came to anchor, after a tedious voyage. Government house lies on the east side of a ship at anchor, the town S., S.E. and W., and on the*

*summit of a rock. To a view westerly, is Dawe's Point, on which is a battery, mounting only a few guns, but sufficient for what is intended. The new general hospital is to be observed on an eminence beyond the government house, and is indeed a most excellent building exceeding all possible expectation for so infant a colony as this. And is also as amiable a charity. It is enclosed by a large stone wall, is itself a stone edifice, and round it is a lofty and spacious veranda, with stone pillars, and a veranda also upstairs with wooden pillars to imitate those underneath. There are three surgeons appointed to this hospital, viz. the principal surgeon of the colony, and two assistant surgeons, and some assistants to them. On the left of the government house is a guard house, where mount the governor's guard; and on the left of that is the habitation and office of his Excellency's Secretary; adjoining to which is next the house of his honour the Judge Advocate; and next the residence of JOHN OXLEY, Esquire, Land Surveyor General; the house opposite to which is occupied by the REV. MR. COOPER, the resident Chaplain, near this spot is the Bank of New South Wales; and his quarter of the town is most respectably inhabited. Many of the inhabitants have got good houses of stone and brick, very neatly executed, their private property; but Sydney in general commands the attention of a stranger for its neatness even in the poorer orders of society, every house having a garden attached, and most gardens being stocked with the peach tree, which thrives abundantly and gives a most delightful countenance to nature in her cultivation and improvement by art. A new house is about to be erected for the Supreme Judge; and among the buildings of the colony, I must enumerate the barracks at head-quarters as a principal; the soldier's hospital, at Sydney; the government house at Parramatta; the light house at the entrance of Port Jackson, on the south head of the harbour's mouth etc. There is at Sydney a space of ground unenclosed, called Hyde Park, named after Hyde Park at London, but is at present merely a spot of land intended to be improved upon as time may best suit. A penitentiary is erecting, but upon what principle I cannot say, it is expected to be finished in a few months.*

*Since the present Governor took the command, the roads from town to town have been much improved, for the convenience of the settlers bringing their produce to market, and many prisoners have gained their pardon, by working upon these roads, and assisting in the construction of new ones. There is a good road for upwards of one hundred and forty miles in the interior of the country, which branches off to the several towns, viz. Parramatta, sixteen miles from Sydney to Castle Hill, to Richmond, to Windsor, to Hawkesbury, to Liverpool, to Banbury Curran, Cow Pastures etc. and to Bathurst Plains, beyond the Blue Mountains, in a part of the country newly discovered - considered, at one time, almost unsurmountable, being so inexpressibly difficult to ascend - steep and variable; but Captain Cox, with a chosen party at private expense, succeeded in accomplishing the desired object for which the prisoners received their pardons.*

*Settlements are formed and forming on the other side of these mountains, and such fertile grazing land I never heard speak of. The land on the nearer side is not so fruitful in many places as wished, and in cases of a flood, or other accidents, Sydney and this part depend on another settlement called Van Dieman's Land, about nine hundred miles by water to the southward of Port Jackson, which, freed from any such impediment, produce the most astonishing crops, and succours this part from starvation. These floods I speak of, and which we have reason to dread every March, or about that time, are caused by the very heavy falls of rain upon the Blue Mountains, which for want of a speedy vent in a proper channel, produce an influx of the River Hawkesbury, so high as twenty feet, at times above the banks, and sweep away consequently, grain, pigs, poultry, sheep and cattle and everything, both crops growing and bars with their contents, to the great injury of the settlers in general, and total ruin for many. You would scarce credit, that several gentlemen on these occasions lose four or five hundred sheep, and consider themselves lucky if they have time to save their cattle, which they preserve by driving them on the highlands. A corn stack with poultry and pigs has been seen seven miles at sea, driven down this river so rapidly; in short, these floods sweep barns and houses not well secured, as well as property, and are the terror of the country - but what impoverishes one*

*establishes another, as the settlers uninjured by these rains make a fine market of the grain, inasmuch as wheat has been so high, as the load weighing 2lbs, sold for a dollar; but those days are gone by, the Van Dieman's Land suppling this place so abundantly.*

*The produce of this country is simply stock of every kind; wheat and Indian corn, and vegetables of all kinds; but Van Dieman's Land coming nearer to the climate of England is most productive of vegetable food and of good kinds. The growth of hops has been encouraged, and also that of flax, but the latter is not so much noticed as might be expected. The tobacco plant has been, and is attempted at by many, but does not attain that perfection expected. The manufacture of the country is but very little - some coarse cloth, and some hats are the chief commodities attended to, and which have attained any degree of perfection; also earthenware of an inferior quality. Some small brigs have been built and launched, but the colony is too young to be expected to produce any matters of importance. At Parramatta there is a factory for females, who are employed in spinning etc. in the manufacture of blankets etc. this is a government establishment, and the place where women who do not conduct themselves with propriety are sent for punishment, and confined for limited sentences when, if no amendment takes place, they are punished in a more exemplary manner.*

*The colony at large is governed by LACHLAN MACQUARIE, Esq. There is also a Lieutenant Governor at headquarters (Parramatta) and another at Van Dieman's Land, but all things require the sanction and signature of GOVERNOR MACQUARIE to establish their legality. The laws are executed by the authority of the Supreme Judge, who superintends civil causes; by his Honour the Judge Advocate, in criminal causes by the Superintendent of Police, and the several Magistrates of the colony, in petty and frivolous offences. A prisoner is very closely looked after, and the Superintendent of Police has the power of sending a prisoner, having committed an offence, to Newcastle, the harbour where the convicts of this county are banished to; he can send them for one, two, three years or more, as the character of the person, or the nature of the offence may require, to which order the Governor gives his sanction, and that is sufficient. All Magistrates have this power, nevertheless depredations are committed daily. All heavy causes are sent to Sydney to be tried, and in cases of murder at any out settlements, the parties are returned thither, if found guilty, to be executed. Trifling matters are arranged without troubling the Judge, if the parties are prisoners; but if free, the regular forms of justice must be gone through.*

*On the arrival of a ship of prisoners, the Governor's Secretary goes on board, accompanied by the Principal Superintendents of convicts, and the tradesmen in the service of government, for instance, carpenters, bricklayers, etc. are selected for the several branches they pretend to; servants also, of certain descriptions, are appropriated to such gentlemen as may want them and what remain unengaged are then sent to the different outposts to supply the settlers who may seek their aid. It is no uncommon matter to see a jeweller, a clerk, or a tailor, with a reaping hook in his hand cutting grain; or with an axe falling a tree. Hard work and hard fare is generally the lot of a settler's man, but I am fortunate and remain in Sydney headquarters. No prisoner can travel from one town to another, without a pass signed by a Magistrate, on pain of being sent to Newcastle, or punished at the discretion of a Magistrate. The Superintendent of convicts assigns the men to their different gangs, when each man receives orders what he is to do from another prisoner appointed overseer over him – thus prisoners becoming overseers obtain their pardons in course of time. Each gang musters and attends church on a Sunday morning. A prisoner for his labour receives 2lbs of beef, and 7 lbs of flour from the King's stores, and an overseer half as much more as a common man. Government men work from day light until three o'clock, excepting an hour for breakfast, and the rest of the day the prisoner to employ himself as he may think proper, but on Saturdays from day-break until 10 o'clock without a breakfast hour. A man offending those in authority over him, is marked, and as men are constantly sent to the out-stations, he may expect to be sent the first opportunity - thus men are punished. Some offences, such as stowing away in a ship to desert from*



*the colony, and insolence, etc. are punishable with the Gaol Gang, which gang is employed emptying necessaries, and at all dirty and hard work, and sleep in the jail, and are compelled to wear a dress half brown and half white, exposed to public view.*

*Industrious attentive people, steady in their duty, will gain a living before idle and disorderly persons, but truth I must tell, that a man must be well known before he is entrusted, or can do so comfortably as he might wish, as so many fall short of their promises, and so much artifice and dishonesty prevails. As I have spoken of Newcastle, the place for sending convicts and prisoners to, from our Courts and Criminal Jurisdiction, I shall endeavour to explain in what manner the misery, which is intended they should bear, is extended to them; on their landing at Newcastle both legs are put in irons, they are set to work in the coal mines and about the lime kilns, and are looked after with the strictest scrutiny. A man at this place cannot earn anything by labour, as all the work is on account of Government, and thus solely depending on his meat and flour, out of which he has to defray his lodging, washing etc., he is reduced to the lowest state of indigence and poverty which man can possible bear, and which I should fall short in the explanation of. Newcastle derives its name from the two Newcastle's in England, both being famous for their adjacent collieries, and this Newcastle being the only spot at this part of New South Wales in which that article comes at. Van Dieman's Land has a place somewhere in the interior likewise, in which they dig this article for their own purposes. Coals are frequently sent from this port to India, but not in such large quantities as might be expected, mostly instead of other ballast should a ship be wanting. All persons on the settlement of Newcastle are prisoners, with the exception of the Commandant, the Surgeon, the Storekeeper, and the Soldiery, which makes the misery still further; a constable obtains half a ration more than a common man, so does an overseer and all petty officers, therefore in the midst of poverty, such an indulgence and an exemption from the labour of the place, makes them vigilant and dutiful, even sometimes to more than strict propriety, for they are very often found in malicious lies and enmity against their fellow prisoners with the view of favour, and when such case is exposed, the punishment they intended to administer to another is very deservedly extended to themselves. The Commandant is a humane good man, but the people are such a set of rascals, punishment is actually necessary to be frequent for example sake. The punishment generally inflicted at this place is corporal, and that over the breech, by the beat of the drum, two floggers alternately administering twenty five lashes until the quantum sufficient be given. In this unhappy spot of source it happens that some of good family, as well as others, have to meet the punishment of the place, for errors they may have committed in the country, and it is no uncommon matter to see a clerk, a doctor, a clergyman, or at least persons intended for such employments in the days of their youth, carrying a basket of lime or coals, in company with a man who has been bred a thief from his cradle. Thus the misery of a self-convicting conscience of each fellow sufferer adds poverty and makes the punishment more irksome. Men at this settlement reduced to the last state of despair, frequently run into the woods and live upon what nature in her uncultivated state affords among the wild productions of the forest. But soon the delusion vanishes, starvation threatens them close, and afraid to return to their duty, they make the best route they can, crossing rivers and lakes and sleeping in the open air, enduring every privation of comfort, until, if they should survive the fatigue, they arrive at some of the settlements where hope of the fostering hand of Christianity may lead them; pity induces some of the poor settlers to relieve them, but fear which ever haunts the guilty mind, makes them afraid to stay long in a place, till at length they are apprehended, when they receive a severe punishment for their misconduct, and provided they do not stand charged with any additional robbery, they are then returned to where they ran from, where they again are punished. A man of the name of CREIG, actually asserts, that when he made a similar effort to extricate himself from this state of bondage, he came to a spot where he beheld, leaning against a tree, the skeleton of a man, with a musket by his side, and which he supposes to be a bush ranger, like himself, (as they are called who run away to the woods). Many are compelled from hunger to give themselves up, and very frequently so starved that they can scarce crawl upon their hands and knees to the happy spot of a dungeon.*

*Tobacco, tea, and sugar are so very expensive at Newcastle, that no poor man can purchase; and should a prisoner there find a friend to send him a little of those articles, he gets pork, beef, and flour in return for what he may indulge his neighbour with who have to rob their allowance of beef and flour to purchase such luxuries. There is at this Newcastle a government house, a gaol, a storehouse, a church, and an hospital, which are but indifferent buildings compared with those of Sydney; the poor prisoners' houses are for the most part built of timber and mortar plastered against them. The town is situated upon the river Hunter, named after GOVERNOR HUNTER, and is but small. About eighty miles up the river on the second branch there are a few settlers farmers, but these men are prisoners also, who have got a grant for particular services performed to government, These men are settled at Patterson's Plains, and the grain etc., they grow does not leave Newcastle neither is any traffic allowed to this port, saving in coals; the lime being all wanted for government.*

*I shall say but little of Van Dieman's Land, as the manners and customs there are exactly the same with the rest of the colony. The settlers from this part of the territory send potatoes and onions, wool, skins etc. in great quantities to Sydney. The seat of the Lieutenant-Governor is at Hobart Town, on the Derwent River. The other towns are George's Town, Port Dalrymple etc.*

*The head clergyman of the colony is MR. MARSDEN, and there are several assistant divines; there are also a good many Methodists, who meet with poor encouragement from the lower orders – they are missionaries sent from England to convert the natives of New Zealand, Otaheite etc. which islands are within six or seven week's sail, and to which we have several small vessels trade. The several jailers of the colony have more followers than the clergy have, yet I must acknowledge religion gains ground fast in the colony. Formerly marriage was not known, but latterly under the influence of GOVERNOR MACQUARIE, to his credit be it known, that ceremony is very frequently solemnised, and people do not depend on each other's word, quite so much as usual. However such matters are too common, and scores of women I know who have cohabited regularly with different men and lived as man and wife, happy with each, and with unconcern about it. Happy! I say wrong! For very little happiness such a man or woman has, but I mean without killing each other, a few blows, and when that can't do, why part and not more about it. Women are generally of a very drunken cast, and a glass of rum will purchase favours even from married people, so very ill habits have they contracted either on board a ship or at home. It is no uncommon matter for women following their husbands to this colony to lose their characters on board the ship coming out – by drunkenness, whoredom and the like, and the consequence is, they have to provide for themselves on landing, as their husbands are not compelled to take them under such circumstances. On the arrival of a ship from England, a list of the letters is immediately exposed for view, and I have often already looked this over very anxiously, but never yet obtained one for me. As I am speaking of letters, I think proper to mention, that all letters put in the post office at home, must be postage paid to the Land's End, which is done by enquiring of the postmaster at the office who will receive the charge, and be sure you observe that he writes postage free on the direction, or it stops in London office, and goes no further.*

*I had nearly forgotten to inform you of the most material matter to me, of any I had to write concerning – we have in this colony a stocking frame, brought out here by a man of the name of BATES, but who since sold it to a Jew. This Jew hires it to a man of the name of HITCHCOCK, a Nottingham man who pays the rent for it, and makes out a comfortable living for himself and family besides. Now, my dear wife, it seems to strike me very forcibly, that my friends will readily endeavour to assist me, which can be easily enough done by all lending their aid as a number may assist one, when one may not have the power to help a many. If they would collect a trifle it would all help, and then you or my brother Sam or Joe, might purchase me a small frame, it would be a fortune for you to bring out to me. One about 24 or 26 gauge, and about 18 or 20 inches wise, so that I could either make hose or pieces, I could get plenty of work, and support my family in credit. If you can raise this, bring with you also an engine to make needles, and also a few needles and sinkers to begin with,*

*likewise some cotton to make a start. Should you have any money over and above, keep it close, and do not let your shipmates know of it, or you will be robbed of it; and as the Captain will not, in all probability, be on board when you first go on board, keep it snug until you are certain, but do not allow any person to know you have got money, or to see it, or you will lose it by force; but when the Captain comes on board then give it up to him, and ask him to take charge of it for you.*

*We have a printing office here, and publish a Gazette weekly, also there is a paper published weekly at Van Dieman's Land; but I cannot send them because I cannot afford to buy them; they contain little more than the news of the colony, copies out of the English prints, and the Government General Orders.*

*When you get the frame, I think you had better make interest among some of the gentlemen at home, to get permission for it, to come out, and then you will be safe; but some good friend at home will certainly direct you on my account, and in pity to my family. Remember me most sincerely and affectionately to my brothers Sam and Joe, and my father and mother. Tell the children I have not forgot them and tell Jane I hope she is a good girl. Hoping to see you and my dear children, I conclude in goodwill and sincerely to all inquiring friends, and in love to you and my family, believe me,*

*Your very affectionate, though unfortunate husband.*

*JOHN SLATER*

*Direct to me*

*John Slater, Silk-weaver*

*Sydney, New South Wales.*

*P.S. With a thought that you probably continue in the same mind as when we parted, with respect to following me to this country, I have made application to the Principal Superintendent for you to be sent out by Government at home; he tells me that you will receive an order for that purpose from the Secretary of State, directed to the REV. MR. SITWELL, of Morley; but should this not be the case, and I should not be allowed this indulgence so soon on account of my being but a young member of the colony, use every exertion in your own power; get the overseers of the poor and the clergymen of your parish, and some magistrates to sign a petition to that effect and if you can get one of the Nottingham Members of Parliament to present it you are sure of coming. I write this because I think it possible that you are still anxious to come after me.*

JOHN SLATER's wife, CATHARINE, and family did not arrive until January 1822 on the *PROVIDENCE*. SAMUEL 21, SARAH 19, and ELIZABETH 16 were all reunited with their father after five years of separation. Sadly, Jane, who he specially mentions in his letter, appears not to have survived. The Colonial Secretary's Index tells a little of his life up until 1825 and it appears, from the NSW BDMs, that they had another child, HENRY who was born in Sydney in March 1824. In the 1822 General Muster he was working as a Constable so I don't know if Catherine managed to bring that frame. I think that the 1823/4/5 Muster have mixed the family up a little or perhaps John was also known as James. In the 1823/4/5 General Muster, JOHN SLATER is listed as a Landholder at Concord and it appears as though the highest level of indulgence he received was a Ticket of Leave (he is listed in the 1837 General Return of Convicts).

Sharon Ingersole Member #1548

## GENEALOGY EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

\* **9-12 March 2018:** 15th Australasian Congress Genealogy & Heraldry 2018 ‘Bridging the Past & Future’, International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney. Registrations close 15 February 2018. More information at <http://www.congress2018.org.au/>

\* **16-18 March 2018:** “Many Cultures – Our History” Conference in Glen Innes: Glen Innes & District Historical Society and speakers and topics include Harry White (Aboriginal language); Janis Wilson OAM (local Chinese history and other migration), Williams and Graham Wilson OAM (Historic Gardens of New England; John Graham (Linking History with Genealogy Research); and Graeme Hosken (World War I in 1918). For more information, phone 02 6732 1035.

Our Workshops and Seminars are listed under the Workshops Heading in this journal as well as on our Website. For a listing of more events, go to <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/all>

If there are any other events you would like included in the next Journal please give the details to Narelle Hoy, our Journal Editor.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



We welcome the following new members to our Society since our last issue of Genie Allergy and wish you well with your research.

Darryl Howard #1909	Tim May #1910
Carol Harris #1911	Brenda Mayed #1912
Jean Jarrett #1913	Judy Adams #1914

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS, ETC

If a Membership Application/Renewal Form is included with this Journal, your membership is due for renewal before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Cash and cheque payments may be made at the Society’s rooms; cheque payments mailed to PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour, 2450; or electronic funds transfer (EFT) to our bank account will be accepted (**see procedure on form**).

**IT IS ESSENTIAL that a form is completed for ALL membership renewals at the time you are paying your renewal.**

If you choose to pay by **direct deposit** into the Society’s bank account as shown on the form **PLEASE EMAIL** a copy of the completed form to [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com) so that both the Treasurer and Membership Secretary are aware of the deposit and your details can be updated. You can also use the form for changes to your contact details.

When you have renewed your membership, your new card will be placed in the Card Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection, unless you attach a stamped addressed envelope when it will be mailed to you.

Marlene Gordon – Membership Secretary #1307

## ITEMS of INTEREST from EXCHANGE JOURNALS

### UK FAMILY TREE:

- **Aug 2017:** Page 10 The Census and Why We Love It! Page 30, 25 Web Tips & Tricks for Successful Research; Page 36 Teach Yourself to Read Old Handwriting; and Page 60 Tracing Your Ancestors' Occupations in Wales.
- **Sep 2017:** Page 10 30-day Genealogy Bootcamp; and Page 44 Family History for Kids.
- **Oct 2017:** Page 10 Get Started & Keep Going (tactics for five-star research); Page 36 The Mormon Mission; Page 42 Did Your Ancestor Leave a Will?; and Page 47 Putting Family History on the Map (explore the value of maps in genealogy).
- **Nov 2017:** Page 22 Know Your Way around Wills (Expert Guide); Page 40 Your Getting Started Toolkit (incl. several useful websites); Page 47 What Can You Learn from the Parish Records? (Covers some of the records Paul Parton mentioned at the October Seminar); and Page 56 Using Books, eBooks & Newspapers.

**INSIDE HISTORY:** Autumn 2017 Page 54 The Future of Genealogy in Australia; and Page 60 Around Australia in 11 Convict Sites.

**NOTE:** This is the final print edition of this journal. Inside History's website will continue to thrive and you can follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest, and sign up to their e-newsletter for regular features and tips. See <http://www.insidehistory.com.au/>

### **FAMILY HISTORY GROUPS, ETC.:**

**The Hawkesbury Crier Sep 2017 (Hawkesbury Family History Group):** Includes interesting articles relating to the Hawkesbury area, includes Memorials from the interior of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor on including on Pages 19-26.

**Camden Calling Jun 2017 Vol 21 No 1 (Camden Area Family History Society Inc.):** Page 23 The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat, Victoria.

**E-Muster Aug 2017 No 18 (Central Coast Family History Society Inc.):** Page 24 Family History Secrets – Insanity (as shown in UK Census).

**Links 'N' Chains Oct 2017 No 117 (Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc.):** Page 8 11 Tips for Reading Old Handwriting.  
**Time Traveller Aug 2017 Issue 114 (Shoalhaven Family History Society Inc.):** Page 10 A Simple Life: A Story About Growing Up Before Electronics.

**Queensland Family Historian Aug 2017 Vol 38 No 3 (Qld Family History Soc. Inc.):** Page 96 Searching for Descendants and Relatives of Australians Honoured with Serbian Decorations for Services in WWI (includes names) – see also **The South Australian Genealogist, Tasmanian Ancestry and Western Ancestor** below.

**Family Ties Sep 2017 Vol 21 No 1 (Bundaberg Genealogical Assoc. Inc.):** Page 18 Tips for Search the Register of Swiss Surnames.

**Kin Tracer Sep 2017 Issue 5 Year 24 (Genealogy Sunshine Coast):** Page 16 Dreadnought Scheme Part 1; Page 22: The Australian Flying Corps 1917-18; and Page 25 Useful Dates in Family History.

**Peninsula Past Times Aug 2017 No 147 (Mornington Peninsula Family History Soc. Inc.):** Page 16 Migrant Settlement Act 1922 continued (surnames starting with Cre-Den).

**The South Australian Genealogist Aug 2017 Vol 44 No 3 (South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc.):** Page 20 Australians Who Served in Serbia; Page 33 Records for Early SA Immigrants; and Page 42 Marrying Cousins in Scotland.

**Tasmanian Ancestry Sep 2017 Vol 38 No 2 (Tasmanian Family History Soc. Inc.):** Features articles relating to Australians who fought in Serbia in WWI – Page 95 Nurse Lucy Ryan; Page 97 Seeking Descendants of Australians Who Served in Serbia and the Salonika Front 1914-1919; and Page 98 Australians Decorated by Serbia in WWI.

**Western Ancestor Sep 2017 Vol 13 No 11 (WA Genealogical Soc. Inc.):** Page 336, The Balkan Front in WWI (incl. list of Australians who were awarded Serbian Decorations)

### **Dunedin NZ Family History Group Newsletter:**

- **Aug 2017:** Page 7 Otago Daily Times Death Notices Jan-Dec 1864 A-L.
- **Sep 2017:** Page 5 Otago Daily Times Death Notices Jan-Dec 1864 M-Z.
- **Oct 2017:** Page 2 Potpourri of Genealogical Sources (suggested sources worldwide); and Page 7 Otago Daily Times Death Notices Jan-Dec 1865 A-F.

Our Society subscribes to some journals and exchanges journals/newsletters with a large number of other societies and groups (family history and historical societies, etc.). Members are able to borrow 'exchange journals' from our research room. If you see an article listed below that you would like to read, feel free to borrow it on your next visit to our room. Also check the districts these journals are from and if there is an area not covered, let me know and we will do our best to track it down for you.

Leonie Baker, Exchange Journals Officer #769



## USEFUL WEBSITES, ETC. FOR GENEALOGY

- \* The Sydney Morning Herald 1955-1995 Images: These are available to access FREE through the NSW State Library website and logging in. If you do not have a State Library login, you can use your Coffs Harbour Library card (or registered NSW public library card. Go to <http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/> then select Newspapers on the left hand side, scroll further down and under Access Type make sure only “In the Library, or anywhere with a Library card” is selected, and on the last page of the Titles listed, you will find Sydney Morning Herald (and Sun-Herald) Archive 1955-Feb 1995) and Sydney Morning Herald Library Edition (2006-current). Click on the title and login if you haven’t already and start searching.
- \* Member, Maggie Heffernan has let us know about a ‘staggeringly huge’ number of convict records available on a new free history website called The Digital Panopticon which allows researchers to access thousands of records relating to convicted criminals in Britain and Australia 1780-1925 who were tried at The Old Bailey in London. Go to: <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>
- \* The staff of South Australian State Records has been busy. They have scanned copies of *some* of the official assisted Passenger Lists. These are downloadable as a PDF at <https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/official-passenger-lists>
- \* Ryerson Index New Zealand: Online Cemetery Indexes and other free indexing Sites for New Zealand Newspapers are available at <http://www.ryersonindex.org/nz.htm>
- \* South Australian Government Gazettes are available at [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa\\_gazette/](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa_gazette/)
- \* Inside History: If you enjoyed reading this magazine in print form which is no longer available, you can subscribe to their Newsletter by email. “Google” Inside History Newsletter or open the link <http://www.insidehistory.com.au/2017/06/call-out-for-new-history-and-family-history-records/http://www.insidehistory.com.au/2017/06/call-out-for-new-history-and-family-history-records/> and scroll down to where it shows a red box with SUBSCRIBE, fill in your details and click on subscribe or use this link: <http://insidehistory.us2.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=ce00f5da58c23d3ab47e1a632&id=26872ea777>
- \* South Australian Almanacs and Directories: If you have ancestors who lived in South Australia, make sure you take a look at the State Library of South Australia’s collection of Post Office Directories and Almanacs. The Directories are searchable online for 1864-1899. Often they are the only way to track individuals and families, simply because electoral rolls are incomplete and the 1841 South Australian census is the only one which has preserved names. The Library has also compiled some helpful tips and tricks to using the directories. Link is <http://ht.ly/dkb730fe8Ya>
- \* FamilySearch: are continually adding more worldwide datasets since they ceased microfilm circulations in September so it is especially worth checking regularly. You can subscribe to their Blog at <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/>.

### SUBSCRIPTION SITES:

- \* **Ancestry** has added many records including: NSW Colonial Secretary’s Letters 1826-1856; and in October updated Australia and New Zealand Obituary Index 2004-2017; Australian World War II Military Service Records 1939-1945; and NSW Miscellaneous Records 1787-1976.
- \* **FindMyPast** additions include: **Warwickshire** Bastardy Indexes 1844-1914.
- \* **The Genealogist** additions include: more than four and a half million sea passenger records from UK ports to destinations including America, Canada, India, New Zealand and Australia; and over 1.1 million Parish Records from the County of Sussex.

**NOTE:** Our Society has subscriptions to Ancestry, Findmypast and The Genealogist **and** remember to keep re-checking sites you have searched before as most are constantly adding new records, especially Trove Newspapers, Findmypast, Ancestry, The Genealogist, etc.

*All links were checked and valid on 30 Oct 2017.*

Marlene Gordon Member # 1307

## RECORDS BROKEN at COFFS HARBOUR

DAILY EXAMINER (Grafton) Sat 24 Dec, 1949, Page 2

A long period of sustained Christmas spending had not concluded when crowded shops at **COFFS HARBOUR** closed their doors this afternoon. Although the volume of business transacted already exceeds that of previous years, the majority of business houses expect a last-minute buying rush tomorrow morning. Shops will close at noon tomorrow and not reopen until Wednesday morning. At every business house contacted today, proprietors and employees spoke of a sustained busy period, which commenced three weeks ago, and increased in volume until this week, when it reached its peak. Turnover figures have already reached record proportions. At Coffs Harbour the increase is considerable, but it is much more pronounced at **COFFS HARBOUR JETTY**, where some establishments report an increase of almost 100 per cent on last year’s Christmas buying. Eight new shops have been opened during the year in the main shopping section. This has resulted in Jetty residents doing most of their Christmas shopping at that end of the town.

Continuous activity in the port has also contributed to the increased turnover. A feature of the purchaser's attitude to shopping this year - noted in all gift and toy establishments - is that buyers have deliberated longer over their purchases. The reason advanced is that all gifts and toys have been in better supply, and buyers have appreciated the opportunity, unknown since before the war, of making a real selection of their gifts. Anticipation that tomorrow will bring a rush of last-minute buying is based on the fact that in many shops numerous items placed on lay-by have not yet been collected. At **GLENREAGH** the shopping was described as hectic. For weeks past a record trade has been carried on with farmers particularly, spending freely. The increased trade compared with previous years was stated to be due to the bigger butter cheques which had been paid. At Glenreagh this year, fewer families had left for Christmas holidays. One reason was because timber mills were working up to Christmas Eve. Trucks had been released by the Railway Department, and railway workers also were not taking their holidays until after Christmas. The dairying season had been excellent, and it appeared that Glenreagh families were spending for a real "home" Christmas, with plenty of gifts and plenty to eat and drink on the Christmas table. Crowds are flocking to **NAMBUCCA HEADS** for a holiday at the beach. The vacationers are expected to spend freely judging from the excellent sales made to local residents over Christmas. Shopping yesterday was heavy as the final purchasing for the Christmas menu and the children's stockings were completed. Shopkeepers expect that their figures will show this season to be the best for some years. A constant demand from dwellers of **WOOLGOOLGA** and district gave the township a busy Christmas comparing well with previous years. However, storekeepers at this popular beach resort do not expect to reach heavy figures until the holiday population is installed. The tent town on the reserve is expected to be one of the largest seen at Woolgoolga. The first families are already arriving, and by Boxing Day, Woolgoolga will have its holidaymakers established in their canvas homes. The best Christmas for many years was being experienced at **DORRIGO**. Sales were remarkably good, and there was every prospect of a record trade. Dorrigo farmers had enjoyed a marvelous season throughout the dairying and pig industries in particular. Residents commenced their shopping early in the month and a busy time had been maintained. The last fortnight has been particularly busy. Yesterday and the previous days were the busiest experienced at **BELLINGEN** for many years! The people of the town were spending freely and the purchasing by the surrounding rural district had been extremely high. Most of the Christmas trade had been received from farmers who had enjoyed a splendid season. It was expected that there would be a large influx of relatives to the district who would spend their Christmas holidays at their home town. Many families were completing their buying before going to **URUNGA, SAWTELL, BONVILLE** and **NORTH BEACH** for holidays. Business was better than usual at **NANA GLEN**. An indication of the increased purchasing was apparent from the increased price of butter. More money was available for spending on luxuries. It was stated that the festive tables would include many luxuries. Cordials, sweets and fruit were receiving a high demand. Such purchasing was indicative of the desire for most Nana Glen folk to enjoy an old-fashioned family Christmas at home. Many of the farmers had requested that Christmas orders be fulfilled and sent to the homes much earlier than in previous years. Nana Glen Rail Shopping Centre was particularly attractive, the majority of shops being bedecked with Christmas and New Year motifs. It was expected that the final figures would show a record trade had been enjoyed.

## NEW RESOURCES

### BOOKS

*Under Full Sale* - donated by Ruth Dorward.

*Titanic Lives* - donated by Ruth Dorward.

*God Stamp of a Man* - Andrew Boney, Indigenous Soldier - Donated by Alison Carter.

*Cambewarra: A History.*

*DNA for Genealogists, 4th edition.*

*Discover your Sporting Ancestors.*

*Compendium of Pioneers of Coffs Harbour Government area 1880 – 1903.* Print & CD

*A Guide to Glasgow Addresses Part 11 1826-1950*

The following three books were donated by Edna Cairns:

*Lighthouse Tales: Intrigue, Drama & Tragedy at the Lighthouse of Jervis Bay;*

*A Guide to Glasgow Addresses Part 11 1826-1950;*

*Beyond The Seas: History of Say & McCudden Families.*

### USB

*Australasia: Australian & NSW Historic Record Collection*

*QLD Customs House Shipping 1886-1899 Passengers & Crew*

### MAPS

Forestry Maps County of Fitzroy Eastern Division NSW

Forestry Maps County of Raleigh Eastern Division NSW

Gloria Small – Resources Officer #435

## MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

- Use of Society's resources including books, microfilms, microfiche, computer system etc
- Receive quarterly Journal Genie-Allergy
- Attend meetings and monthly workshops
- Guidance with research in our library
- Resource borrowing scheme
- Free entries in Member's Interests Directory
- 2 hours free research per year for members who are resident 50km or more from Coffs Harbour.

### JOURNAL DEADLINES

# 1 <sup>st</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	March Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	June Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> August	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	September Issue
# 1 <sup>st</sup> November	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	December Issue

Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries re their research, or questions about research for inclusion in our Journal. Material needs to be received by the deadline as above to be included in the next available issue.

### ITEMS FOR SALE

Pedigree Charts	20c ea.
Family Group Sheets, etc.	20c ea.
Printouts from Computer	20c ea.
Photocopies A4	20c ea.
Brothers Keeper Family Tree CD	\$3.00 ea.
Legacy Family Tree Standard CD	\$3.00 ea.
Convict Research Booklet	\$2.00 ea.
Beginning Your Family History Booklet	\$2.00 ea.
Replacement Card Holders	50c ea
Seven Generation Charts A3	\$5.00 ea.

**MIDWIVES: Coffs Harbour District, Bellingen & Dorrigo, Nambucca Valley**

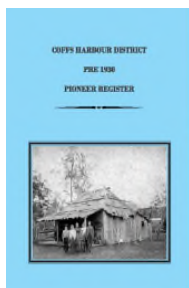
MIDWIVES



COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT  
BELLINGEN AND DORRIGO  
NAMBUCCA VALLEY

**\$20.00 each**  
Plus \$7.50 P&H

**COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT PRE 1930 PIONEER REGISTER**



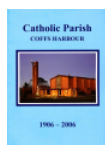
**\$20.00 each**  
Plus \$15.00 P&H

**COFFS HARBOUR AND DISTRICT WORLD WAR I VOLUNTEERS' LETTERS HOME** (as published in 'Coffs Harbour and Dorrigo Advocate')

**COFFS HARBOUR AND DISTRICT WORLD WAR I HONOUR BOARDS**

**\$6.00 each**

**CATHOLIC PARISH, COFFS HARBOUR**  
1906-2006



**\$10 each**



**ST AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL COFFS HARBOUR**  
1913-2013

**CORA NUM BOOK**

How Did They Get Here? Arrivals after 1924  
**\$10.00**

**CLARENCE VALLEY WORLD WAR I VOLUNTEERS**  
By Tony Morley



**\$30.00 each plus P&H**

A most informative record of those who served in WWI from the Clarence Valley area which encompasses quite a large part of NSW (includes Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga, Dorrigo, Ebor, Gleniffer, etc).

It gives details of where units were sent, lists Gallipoli casualties, deaths and awards, chronological battle information and an alphabetical list of volunteers with a brief description of each.

*Writing Family History Templates and Guide*  
Dr Noeline Kyle 2009



**PRICE: \$10.00**  
(Book & CD)

**If you would like to purchase any of these items, please ask the Duty Monitor when in our Research Room or phone or email the Society**