



Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas full of
love, peace, happiness & joy.*

CONTENTS

Inside Front Cover	Society Information	Page 9	Sinking of the SS “Wimmera” <i>Esme Langridge</i>
Page 1	President’s Report Welcome New Members	Page 10-11	From Then to Now – My Maddalenas <i>Sharon Ingersole</i>
Page 2	Membership Renewals Special Interest Groups	Page 12-13	The Squalid Streets of London’s Larder <i>Angela Buckley</i> You were Born in 1900
Page 3	DNA Group Scanning Service Do you need Help?	Page 13-14	You Were Born in 1900 Contd. Brilliant Book Titles
Page 4 - 7	Share Your Story Overwhelmed by my DNA Results <i>Annette Morrow</i>	Page 15	Free On-line Genealogy Course
Page 7 - 8	Early Days in the Orara <i>Rosie Doherty</i>	Page 16	Exchange Journals
Back Cover	Members’ Entitlements Items for Sale		



Journal Published Quarterly by
COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Mail: PO Box 2057, COFFS HARBOUR, 2450

Location: Rear OF 169 ROSE AVE, COFFS HARBOUR

(Limited parking available in bays marked S4)

Phone: (02) 6651 6126 Email: coffsgenie@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.coffsharbourfamilyhistory.com>

Hon. Solicitor: Adam Todd

ABN NO: 22 081 981 363



OFFICE BEARERS:

President:	Stan GORDON	Vice President:	Jim HOLMES
Secretary:	Annette MORROW	Minutes Secretary:	Ted MITCHELL
Treasurer:	Jane GOW	Deputy Treasurer:	Lyn BROTHERTON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Equipment Officer:	Stan GORDON	Exchange Journals Officer:	Lyn BROTHERTON
Journal Editor:	Sharon INGERSOLE	Membership Secretary:	Bev SALTER
Monitors' Co-ordinator:	Vacant	Resources Officer:	Gloria SMALL
Acting Webmaster:	Leonie BAKER	Seminar/W'shop Co-ordinator:	Annette MORROW
DNA Group Co-ordinator:	Diane SMITH	Workshop/Seminar IT & Sound:	Jim HOLMES
Special Projects Co-ordinator:	Sharon INGERSOLE	Workshop/Seminar Supervisor:	Ted MITCHELL

EX-OFFICIO POSITIONS:

Acting Research Co-ordinator::	Bill BUCKLER	Acting Publicity Officer:	Jim HOLMES
---------------------------------------	--------------	----------------------------------	------------

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Annual Membership Fees:	Single	\$45.00
	Joint (2 persons at same address).....	\$60.00

RESEARCH:

Library Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Saturday: 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm (except 4th Saturday of the month)

Library Fees: Members - free on production of current membership card
Visitors - \$7 for 2 hours
Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance

Library Rules:

- * Current membership cards are to be worn in the 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 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 an initial fee of \$30.00.

For more information, email coffsgenie@gmail.com

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

RECIPROCAL RIGHTS – Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our rooms 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.

Contact Persons: President - Stan Gordon 0419 280 563
Vice President – Jim Holmes 6690 2541

Secretary – Annette Morrow 0412 074 643
Treasurer – Jane Gow..... 0419 993 932
Deputy Treasurer – Lyn Brotherton0428 878 424

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year 2020 will be a year forever remembered as the year of the Covid-19 Pandemic with its repercussions. So many nations have been affected and continue to be. There has been so much suffering and death and its hardships continue.

The CHDFHS Inc. Annual General Meeting was not held in September as usual due to restrictions on numbers able to be present at venues. The Society applied to Fair Trading to have it deferred for a year as was recommended for many such organisations.

We have been unable to have any Workshops or Seminars for Members and Visitors since February. There is hope and 'wishful thinking' that this will change in 2021 with perhaps a variation of restrictions on numbers permitted at local venues.

Several of our Committee Members have resigned in the last two months. They are Maureen Joyce, Secretary; Maggie Heffernan, Vice President and Monitors' Co-ordinator; Diane Smith, Research Co-ordinator and Special Interests Co-ordinator. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank them for their involvement in the past 12 months and for all they have done for our Society. Diane is continuing with her DNA group.

At our 8th October Committee meeting, Stan Gordon was elected as President and Jim Holmes as Vice President, Annette Morrow was elected as Secretary; Ted Mitchell was elected as Minute Secretary, Sharon Ingersole, Journal Editor, offered to look after Research and continue with Special Projects. In August Lyn Brotherton and Jane Gow became Joint Treasurers.

It is pleasing to see members avail themselves of the opportunity to do research in our Rooms. As you know there are only four people in the Research Room. They are the two Monitors on duty and two members or visitors booked in for a two hour session. The Monitors are doing an excellent job following cleaning requirements between morning and afternoon sessions. It is very safe and it is good to see some of our newer members using this opportunity for their research.

Christmas is fast approaching and although it will be possibly different for some this year, I wish you all the compliments of the season.

Retiring President Rosie Doherty #396

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



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

Jane KELLY	No. 1992	Noelene WILKES	No. 1994
Anita LUGINBUHL	No. 1993	Barry WILKES	No. 1995

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st JULY each year

Renewal forms were sent out with the June Newsletter and from now on you will be issued with a **membership badge** replacing the current membership cards. Badges will display your name and membership number and if required prior to the renewal of your membership, they will be available for \$6.50 with a pin or \$7.50 with a magnet. If you are interested, please let Stan Gordon know. When renewing your Membership:

1. A completed membership form **MUST** be completed for all payments made. Be sure to complete Section 2 with your Membership type, how you would like to receive your quarterly journal, sign the form and show the method of payment. Note: The completed form is used to ensure our records are kept up to date and therefore it is vital we receive a form to cover all membership payments.
2. Membership will now be \$45 a single and \$60 a double.
3. Payment methods:
 - (a) Cash is payable only in person at our Research Room.
 - (b) Cheque is payable in person at our Research Room or by mail to
PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour 2450.
 - (c) EFT/Direct Deposit: BSB, Account No., etc. as details on our membership form and you must quote your member number and/or name at the time of payment.
 - (i) Online through your financial institution; OR
 - (ii) In Person at a BCU branch (Bananacoast Credit Union).

Following payment by EFT/Direct Deposit, **IT IS ESSENTIAL** that a copy of the completed membership form be **emailed, mailed or delivered to our Research Room. Renewed membership badges will be placed in the Badge Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection if you haven't included a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.**



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MEMBERS' INTEREST GROUP?

If you are interested in the formation of a Group relating to another area of research (other than DNA), the Committee will be pleased to hear from you - email **coffsgenie@gmail.com**. Possible Groups could be of a country (e.g. Irish), a particular family history software program (e.g. Legacy or Brother's Keeper), Convicts, FamilySearch, etc. When the Society forms an Interest Group, a convenor or joint convenors will be appointed to the Group and each Group formed by popular demand would be for members only, meeting on a regular basis, time and place (possibly once a month), with the aim to help participants in that specific area of interest.

- If you are interested in an **Irish Research Group**, please contact Maggie on mheff.1940@gmail.com or Rosie on rdoherty1@bigpond.com
- If you are interested in a **My Brother's Keeper** please contact Jim on walledcity@live.com.au
- If you are interested in getting involved in the **Cemetery Transcription Project**, please contact Sharon on shaz@ingersole.com

Please contact Stan if there is any other area that may be of interest

DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

from Diane Smith - DNA Special Interest Group Convenor



With DNA or Genetic Genealogy fast becoming the latest addition to helping with Family History research, our Society commenced a DNA support group in February 2019. We have had 20 plus members attending each month where they have learned to understand and interpret their DNA results in a more comprehensive way. We have also heard many success stories from people connecting with previously unknown cousins who have helped them not only with their research but also sharing photos and family stories. Any Society member who has had their DNA tested or if you are interested in learning more about DNA, you are welcome to attend. There is a small charge of \$3 per person to cover costs of room hire. Morning tea is no longer available (until further notice) so if you would like a cuppa, then please bring your own everything. Bring your laptop, iPad or tablet so that you can access your results during the session. Our group provides a friendly and informal forum for learning about your DNA results. We meet at the Curran Centre in Gordon St Coffs Harbour from 10am–12 noon on the first Monday of each month. If you would like to know more, please contact Diane Smith Member (#1815) on dilin.smith@gmail.com **Meetings resumed on 2 November but as numbers are limited due to social distancing, you must contact Diane to register.**

SCANNING SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

The Society is offering this service to members who would like their old photos, slides or negatives digitised. **Stan Gordon** has offered to assist members by doing the scanning. He would prefer that members go to his home at Toormina and take their photos, negatives and slides as well as a USB drive so the scanned images can be saved to the USB. The cost of this service is 50 cents per image which will be added to our Society's funds. If you would like to take up Stan's offer, please phone him on **02 6658 7955** or email him at stngordon@gmail.com to arrange a suitable time. If you have large documents, such as foolscap BDM certificates or newspaper pages up to A3 size, etc., you are able to scan them using the A3 Book Edge Scanner we have in our room. This Scanner is now installed on the WIN7 computer and the scanner unit is on a trolley under the bench ready to wheel out and use. The scanned images will be saved to the computer and then can be copied to your USB drive or you will be able to print them. As our Society's printer is an A4 one, the scanned images are reduced in size to fit but if you would like to have them printed as A3, you will be able to do this at a print shop. Please ask the monitors on duty for assistance.



Do you need help with your research? Do you need guidance on where to look other than the Internet? Have you a brick wall that you can't knock down? Please ask one of our monitors when next you are in the rooms. All are very familiar with the contents of what we have in the rooms and are only too willing to share it with you.

In 1809 on a page of a Parish Register in Sussex.....Memorandum 17.8.1810

"As this leaf is useless, I have used it to notice a very remarkable season. The above day was so particularly cold as to require a fire – thermometer standing at 49 degrees F (15 degrees C) and the Wheat harvest in this Parish has not yet commenced" RC Rider, Curate.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Do you have an interesting story or an article to share? Include photos if you have them as they always add interest. You may want to share humble origins, or a grand adventure, wars, marriages or even why you became interested in Family History in the first place, If you do, I would love to hear from you. please contact me on shaz@ingersole.com

OVERWHELMED BY MY DNA RESULTS

When we talk about having our DNA tested, we do not expect to be overly surprised by the results unless there is a scandal, or an unexpected result with whom one matches. I've seen plenty of those surprises over the past few years but recently I've been not only surprised, I have been overwhelmed with what has turned up for me four years down the track. Plainly I've just wanted to know who my paternal great grandfather was. I would have been happy just to have a name and a few more details personal details to push along that line a little further. But what I have gained is a lot more than the average "pleb" wants to hear.

So where do I begin to tell this story? In 2016 I had my DNA tested through Ancestry DNA and a year later, lots of my friends and rellies suggested to upload those Ancestry DNA results for further matching (and freely) onto Gedmatch, to My Heritage and FTDNA. The following year that is in 2017, I received via a My Heritage, a private message from a fellow called Enrico PFEIL which I largely ignored and forgot all about it as this message was totally written in German, and I do not speak or read German. Then back in May of this year, I was given two weeks free access to the My Heritage (MH) site. Again this Enrico fellow had left another message but this time he'd attempted to translate this into English. The message was a somewhat disjointed paragraph in English, with limited punctuation saying:

"we have a triangulation with Alan Cambridge, this is the cousin the queen, i have sent my DNA results to Wiliem on acutely, that can also be seen on tv i am the grandson of Franz PFEIL and the grandson of Harry Erich Rudi ARROW am further I did not come because all evidence of the war are destroyed my great-grandmother was Hedwig MINNA nee SCHMIDT, of my mother her father I unfortunately do not know if he was a Ludwig or a singer but ire mother is a born rich (reek)".

Initially I thought to myself "what is this guy on about" and left at that, or so I had thought. During that night my mind must have been working in overdrive as the next day something said to me that

this may be a clue about my Scottish grandfather, the line that has missing details. So, at 5.30am I hopped out of my warm bed and I jumped online to check out again what Enrico had actually written. I looked for our match on the MH site and Gedmatch, at his MH homepage and searched for details on his tree, which was full of images of Royals, past and present. Then I checked out by “google” searches who could be a possible male royal in the CAMBRIDGE line, old enough to have fathered my grandfather, William FRASER. And “Voila” up popped that playboy Prince Albert who was old enough and he was in Scotland often enough around the time of my grandfather’s conception...the **Prince Albert who became King Edward VII**. I quickly read up on him as I do not follow the royals at all. I must admit that earlier this year I’d watched the movie, “Victoria” so I knew a little bit about the rollicking antics of this royal prince and how he upset his mother, Queen Victoria. My mind was going haywire so then I sent a couple of messages off – to:

- Enrico himself asking about this triangulation with Alan CAMBRIDGE, his line, where we connected and if there was a clearer tree of his anywhere else on the internet; and
- Dr Maurice GLEESON a genetic expert in the UK who I’ve had dealings with for my uncle’s YDNA test on the O’Malley name project. I trusted that Maurice would put to bed if this was rubbish. So, I sent all of these details including those matches with Enrico, my IDs for all of the sites that I’ve mentioned; and Maurice got back to me quickly saying we should have a chat via Skype asap. Maurice took my message seriously it seems and when I linked up with him on Skype that night, he asked me *“Do I bow or courtesy to you Annette?”*

So why do I believe this royal connection could be that for my illegitimate grandfather, **William FRASER** who was born in Scotland in 1870? What I do know and knew before all of this triangulation business was that **his** mother was my great grandmother, Jean Watson FRASER b1851. She would have been a pretty young “house maid” working possibly in a household or hotel near Edinburgh about 1870. She became suddenly rich enough to own a lolly shop in Scotland and she travelled the world it seems, to places like the USA and China after this. Someone was paying for these things and it was not her father who is also my great grandfather, Alexander FRASER b1823 according to 3 Censuses. It was also interesting to note that in two of the Scottish Census following his birth, young William my grandfather, was listed in both the 1871 and the 1881 Census as “William Gentleman” attached to his grandfather’s household.

Now there have been more matches since Enrico’s initial match and contact with me, a couple of Germans, an American and a Canadian who all have claimed that we have triangulated and that they are linked to other European Royals. This royal business is something that I have not ever pursued before, I have not thought about it at all before this either. Really this has chased me; it’s been thrust upon me with a jolt. I’d not even thought about a royal connection until Enrico made contact with me. And I have been reluctant to tell this story particularly without the confirmation that Maurice suggested, and that is to have my male first cousins, Bruce and Stephen FRASER to do the YDNA test asap.

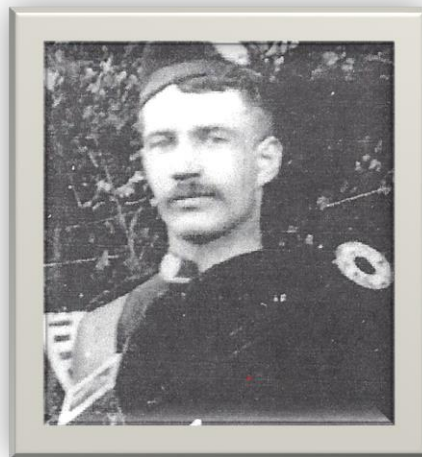
So far, this outcome looks fairly reasonable and answers many of the questions I’ve had over the last forty years of researching the Fraser lines and trying to chip away at that brick wall for the paternal line of my illegitimate grandfather, which has bothered me. Like I have written previously, this missing link was the main reason why I’ve had my DNA done in the first place so that hopefully, this DNA of mine would lead to finding out who was my great grandfather. So, am I on the right track or is this all rubbish? These coincidences are truly remarkable when I started to pull out some of what was known into this “frame” with this playboy prince. The prince who became King Edward VII in 1902 after his mother Queen Victoria died in 1901. He fits almost perfectly alongside as the answer for the many questions we have had for such a long time about my grandfather and his mother, Jane/Jean Watson Fraser who we in the family called “Gran”:

- Why did his mother (Gran) at 19 years become wealthy enough to travel to America and China;

- Why was grandfather at age ten dressed and photographed as a royal (this photo shows some facial resemblance to the bonnie prince himself, Albert as a child comparing with some of the photos I've seen online);
- Why did Gran burn all of the photos excepting for the one we have (and it's the one I've attached) as well as other papers in her room (a story told to my cousin, Pauline by her mother, my Aunty Jean)?
- Why did Gran tell her granddaughter, my Aunty Jean (named the same as hers, Jean Watson Fraser) that one day this name, her name would be important and could result in a huge inheritance?
 - Where did all of this money come from when our Gran was just the eldest child of 12 born to a poor Scottish labourer?
 - This was enough money to buy and own a shop in Scotland; travel to the USA and to China, which Gran did according to shipping records I've found; and
 - purchased beautiful expensive clothes and furniture.

And why was this such a secret? Was it "hush" money about a scandal? Why and when did it stop? The birth of my grandfather would have been a terrible scandal for Gran as an unmarried mother in Scotland. Women in this position were usually hauled up in front of the elders of the Presbyterian Church (the kirk) and these women were accused of fornication; BUT for Prince Albert it would have been just another scandal, and probably covered up.

My research so far has shown that Prince Albert, who was married by this time, in early 1870 he was in Scotland attending the court proceeding for the divorce of Sir Charles MORDAUNT and his wife



Lady MORDAUNT, Harriet Sarah nee MONCRIEFFE. The Prince himself had been embroiled in this and was named as one of three co- respondents. Although nothing was proven and Prince Albert denied he had committed adultery, the suggestion of impropriety was very damaging to the Crown. This court case was held in Edinburgh February 1870 at about the same time that my grandfather would have been conceived, in that same region of Scotland. It has been written that this prince's various scandals (as was this courtroom drama with Lady MORDAUNT) were covered up and generous payments were made by the Queen and PM William GLADSTONE around this time. This could explain the money that my Gran received and why it stopped in 1910 when King Edward VII suddenly died ("after a lifetime of king-sized appetites for eating, drinking smoking," and I have added women). My Gran and grandfather, William emigrated to Australia in 1911 and lived a fairly normal life in Ipswich Qld. I am blown away by all of this as are my cousins.

It is widely known that Prince Albert had many mistresses throughout his married life and his wife, Alexandra of Denmark, was well aware of his affairs. It's been written that he strove to be discreet but it did not prevent society gossip or press speculations. At least 55 liaisons are conjectured to have taken place and he never acknowledged any of his illegitimate children. Being the heir to the 900-year-old monarchy had its charms back then, and Bertie as he was called, indulged his sensual taste for women's company especially in his bed. Many books have been written about him and his exploits; Catharine Arnold, "*Edward VII: The Prince of and the Women He Loved*," and Jane Ridley, "*Bertie: A Life of Edward VII*" are just two that I have used to describe some of his antics. Arnold wrote that, "...prostitutes, good-time girls, actresses, aristocrats, socialites and social-climbers all took a turn in Bertie's bed, becoming famous at least among the royal titled and rich set, for being the Prince of Wales' mistress." I am wondering into which of these categories of these women did my Gran fall? I would like to think that she was just the young pretty house maid who was caught and overpowered by this prince in his bedroom while she had been making up his bed and she could not say no to this royal.

Annette Morrow Dip.Fam.Hist. UTAS Member No. 1940

EARLY DAYS IN THE ORARA

A Reader's Story: Australian Women's Weekly – March 5, 1980

Reuben Matten tells what it was like to grow up in the days of castor oil & flour bag clothes.

In 1887, my father, Samuel MATTEN, was on his way by horse to Richmond in NSW when he heard that land along the north coast of NSW was reduced from three pounds ten shillings (\$7) to two pounds (\$4) an acre. He headed straight off for the Land Office in Bellingen and selected two blocks, 140 acres in all. He was a strong, hard-working young man anxious to get started on his wilderness so he packed the necessary tools and cooking gear, loaded them on to his horse and followed a bridle track to the land next door. From there he cut a bridle track half a mile into his own property, unloaded his gear and gazed about him. He was in the middle of dense scrub so dense he could barely see the sunlight. The only water and grass for his horse were 12 miles away at McCauley's Headland. Evening was drawing near so he stacked his gear and returned to the headland to a neighbour's hut for the night. Next day he loaded bags with flour, potatoes and bully beef and returned on foot to his land. Laboriously he felled trees to make room for his tent and built himself a galley out of bark and poles, then began the back-breaking task of clearing 20 acres of scrub.

He soon discovered it was unsafe to leave his boots, axe or other belongings outside the tent. A dingo carried off one of his boots and his axe handle was chewed to shreds. Once a week he walked the 12 miles to McCauley's Headland to get his horse, loaded it with grub, rode back to his block, unloaded, rode back to the headland to pasture the horse then walked back to the block – a total of 48 miles!

He cleared some of the land and planted crops. He built sheds and post and rail fences, and a home of slabs and shingles from timber off the land. When he was 22 he married Clara DELAFORCE, from Rordan Island in the Hastings River. He had known her from childhood. She proved a good wife and wonderful mother and we all loved her dearly. Farmers' wives faced many hardships. There were no doctors handy and when a baby was due, neighbours lent a hand until the woman could look after things again. Most families had from six to nine children; in ours there were six, five boys and one girl. A growing family needed more beds, so these were made from corn husks. The husks were stripped into threads with a table fork and filled into a hessian cover after the hard ends were cut off with scissors. One night a young fellow sleeping on a husk bed felt something move about in the hessian.

After the second night he assumed it was mice and took his bed outside to empty it. His consternation was great when out slithered a big, black snake.

Four years after I was born, my father built a new house about 100 yards from the old. It was the first house in Upper Orara with an iron roof. My brother Oswald, now 80, still lives in it.

In my first three years at school we used a slate and pencil, then the health Department decided slates were unhygienic because we used spit to clean them. We walked two and a half miles to school – half a mile along a bush track to the river, across a log with its top trimmed flat for safety and another two miles on the other side. An agonising embarrassment for most school children was their clothing. Times were hard and we got used to seeing shirts, trousers and frocks made from calico flour bags with brand names all over them in big letters. Most of us wore undergarments in the inevitable red turkey twill. Our medicine was castor oil every morning and a good old-fashioned cup of senna tea once a week. I was nine before I tasted baker's bread. There's nothing like the good old home-made loaf, not to mention the dampers. As boys we loved a slice of damper spread with dripping but there's no taste in the dripping today.

One of the big events in my life was my first visit to the Coramba Show when I was seven. At least 200 people must have been there, the most I'd seen at any one time in my life. Another great thrill was a trip to Byron Bay with my father. We travelled to Grafton by motor lorry instead of sulky, caught a train to Lismore where we had a meal costing a shilling and walked the 20 odd miles to Byron Bay, still one of the prettiest areas on the coast.

Like all small boys I got into mischief and often came close to having my bottom tanned. One morning on my usual job of hunting the cows from the paddock into the cow yard I was so tired I could hardly keep my eyes open. It was before daylight and we'd been husking corn until 10 o'clock the night before. I hunted one of the cows out of her nice warm sleeping patch, lay down in her place and went to sleep. It was broad daylight when I awoke to find everyone had been searching for hours for a missing boy. I ate my tea from the mantelpiece that night.

My brothers and I continued to help with the farm work but Dad's crippled hand made things difficult, so he decided to move to six and a half acres at Coffs Harbour and put a share farmer in. We had a lot of scrub and rushes on the block. Dad said "Clear that bush and I'll buy you a shot gun." It was a mighty big task for a three-pound shotgun, but it was every boy's dream to own a gun. I worked at it every chance I got, until after six months back-breaking effort dad came to inspect the work. He examined every square yard, gave me a smile and two weeks later I had my gun.

In 1920 I was tired of being a bachelor and found that the one girl who interested me, Jessica TABOR, had an eye for me too. We courted for three years and were wed in 1923. We've had a happy lifetime together and she's still my best girl.

There's been a lot of water under the bridge since those days. Gone forever are the kerosene lamps, the flour bags and red turkey twill, and the meals for a shilling but an old man's sweet memories live on and I hope you've enjoyed re-living them with me.

This printed treasure from the Women's Weekly was found recently in the Vertical File in our Society Rooms.

It is signed: R. R. Matten. Brae Side. 1980. Upper Orara

Rosie Doherty Member No. 396



The SS "Wimmera"

THE SINKING OF THE SS "WIMMERA" ON 26 JUNE 1918

In mid-1917 the German Raider "Wolf" laid mines to the north of Cape Maria van Diemen on the northern tip of the north island of New Zealand. The Captain of the SS "Wimmera", Captain Kell, had been given confidential Admiralty instructions of June 17th when the ship left Sydney for Auckland New Zealand, to keep well north of Cape Maria van Diemen. Unfortunately on June 16th Captain Kell ignored those instructions and the steamer SS "Wimmera" hit one of the mines laid by the "Wolf". Within 20 minutes of the ship hitting the mine, it sank.

The following newspaper article provides details of the role that **Jessie Kenman (my Grandmother)** played in saving some of the passengers. Zeehan & Dundas Herald 11 July 1918...Page 4

Stories of the Tragedy. "A New Zealand steamer which arrived in Sydney on Monday evening brought a number of passengers and crew off the steamer "Wimmera" which was lost by mine explosion. Several of the passengers told vivid stories of the disaster which overtook the steamer"

A vivid accountJessie Kenman, one of the passengers on No. 3 lifeboat gave a vivid story. Her lifeboat was the last boat to leave the ship. "After the first crash everything went quiet, so quiet indeed that I did not realise the danger. I jumped out of bed and ran up on deck and then I imagined that there was no particular hurry. I went back and dressed and then helped Mrs Gould, an old lady who was sharing my cabin. As it happened, we might easily have been left on the sinking ship but for the fact that the tackle for the 1st boat had been jammed. As it was, we were the last to enter boat. Just as we were pushing away from the ship, we picked up the Chief Engineer and another crew member. After the excitement of seeing the "Wimmera" go down, we began to think of our own plight. One of the men in our boat had his collar bone broken and his face cut and nearly everyone had bare feet and hardly any clothing. There were a number of women and children with us and as there apparently weren't enough men to row, I took an oar with one of the stewards. Throughout the day until 5.00pm, Mrs Kenman stuck to her post. "I have never handled an oar before but these things come easily enough when one must do them". When the passengers were being taken off, Mrs Gould, the old lady of nearly 70 years, offered to stay on board so that some of the younger women might be saved "I have lived my life" she said and also remarked that the lives of the younger women were of more value than hers. Her offer was not accepted. She was taken on No. 3 boat and landed. On the rough journey along the track to Wachuanua, without boots and with very little clothing, she bore up wonderfully and her spirits helped to keep those of the party up".

Mrs Giblin's story....."One of the crew had some tobacco and shared it with the men. All day long we kept a look-out and it rained and blew until we were almost frozen. Biscuits were passed around but none of us seemed to have the heart to eat although the men tried to cheer us up. There was plenty of water but we did not drink much. At last in the middle of the afternoon when we were almost in despair with the thought of having to spend the night on the boat, we came to land. The men brought the boat in safely. They built a big fire on the beach and we stood around it trying to dry our clothes. Four others climbed up the hill and found their way to a Maori settlement. In the evening the Maoris came back to us – we were so thankful that when someone began "praise God from whom all blessing flow" we all joined in and sang as we had never sung before. We got to the Maori settlement about ten o'clock at night. The Maori women took their clothes off their back and gave them to those of our party who had so little. We got to bed about midnight sleeping in one of the native houses".

There were 76 passengers and 75 crew members on the 3000 tonne steamer “Wimmera” when she hit the mine at about 5.00am on the morning of 26th June 1918. Twenty six civilians lost their lives in the tragedy.

Esme Langridge Member # 1951

FROM THEN TO NOW – MY MADDALENAS

When I started researching why the Italian blood ran so strongly in my veins 25 years ago, I had no idea it would end up where it has.

Carlo Antonio MADDALENA was my Great, Great Grandfather who was laid to rest in Scott’s Creek Cemetery on Mitchell Island alongside his wife Mary Ann. His daughter Matilda [my G. Grandmother] lies peacefully with her husband James HOLDEN in Coffs Pioneer Cemetery. From his marriage and death certificates, I was able to ascertain that Carlo was born in Gordevio, Canton Ticino in Switzerland and at that stage I had no idea where the village was. Ticino is an Italian speaking Canton of Switzerland which borders Italy. Never having heard of either place, I contacted a Swiss researcher who advised me that there were only two villages who had residents with the name **MADDALENA** and one was Gordevio. So, I set about writing to everyone with that surname and bingo I hit the jackpot when I contacted my 4th cousin Livio MADDALENA. Another plus for me, Livio was the Community Secretary, (the equivalent of our Town Clerk), so had access to all the registers, censuses and old books. He spoke no English but his two daughters Sabrina and Loidana did and so started what has become a wonderful friendship.

A little of the history.....The land now occupied by the canton was annexed from Italy in the 15th century by various Swiss forces in the last [trans-alpine campaigns of the Old Swiss Confederacy](#). In the [Helvetic \(Swiss\) Republic](#), established 1798, it was divided between the two new Cantons of [Bellinzona](#) and [Lugano](#). The [creation of the Swiss Confederation in 1803](#) saw these two Cantons combine to form the modern Canton of Ticino with Bellinzona now its capital. Named after the river [Ticino](#), it is the only canton where [Italian](#) is the sole official language and represents the bulk of the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland along with the [southern parts of Graubünden](#). Formally the Republic and Canton of Ticino, it is the southern-most [canton of Switzerland](#), bordering [Italy's](#) regions of [Piedmont](#) and [Lombardy](#) to the south and surrounding the small Italian [enclave](#) of [Campione d'Italia](#). Times were really hard for earlier generations of folk here, with the harsh winters, poverty of soil, scarceness of resources, the isolation and the necessity of obtaining food which drove them to exploit even the most inaccessible corners of land. They were able to grow turnips, potatoes, barley and in some areas, grapes but their livestock couldn’t be stabled during the long harsh winters because of the lack of food and so had to be driven to the warmer lakes areas. In the summer however the animals were kept in the Alpine pastures.

Not many written documents have survived but the network of letters back to and from Ticino (Cheda) gives us an idea of what the conditions were that they left behind and needless to say, the gold being found in Victoria and California was a huge drawcard and many young men from the Ticinesi villages succumbed in order to find their wealth and send money home to improve the lot of their families left behind.

In 2001 my husband Kevin and I visited Gordevio, an ancient but beautiful stone village and stayed with Sabrina and her family. Her father Livio MADDALENA brought the old books and records home for me and I was able to pore through them at my leisure and with much excitement. We were guided around the village, to the little Church, the old cemetery, the crumbling old stone houses, the cobbled streets and the remains of one of the family’s old homes. This area is now famous for its Merlot grapes and every house has a small vineyard and makes its own Grappa. Livio’s brother Sergio and wife Teresa who had emigrated to San Diego in California and their younger brother Enrico all came to meet us and we had a wonderful reunion. Since that time, we have visited and

stayed with the family three more times, each time it feels like coming home for me as we are engulfed by that Italian warmth.

Back to my Carlo. In 1852 Carlo and his brother Giovanni MADDALENA and two of their cousins emigrated to Australia to try their luck in the Victorian goldfields. There were many of these



The old house on the left is typical of the lovely old stone houses in Gordevio and the old house on the right was the home of Pietro & Celestino Maddalena, one of my ancestors.

Ticinesi men who emigrated out here with the help of a grant from the Swiss Government and although some made it, many didn't, others moved onto California and some returned home. Giovanni returned to Gordevio to get his wife Maria and brought her back to Australia; their first daughter had died in Gordevio before Giovanni returned but they went on to have 3 more children here in Australia making their home in beautiful Hepburn Springs near Daylesford in Victoria. Carlo, for some reason made his way to the Manning Valley, although I cannot find out how or when, but it seems it was in the late 1850s and he became a timber cutter. He first married an Irish woman Ann QUIGLEY in 1859 who seemingly died in childbirth only 18 months after their marriage. In 1864 he then married Mary Ann WOOTTON and together had a family of 9 children. Tragically, at only fifty three years of age, Carlo was killed in a logging accident when crushed by rolling logs. Mary at this stage was pregnant with her last child, Matilda Harriet, my G. Grandmother. Her older daughters helped with the younger children and baby Matilda and eleven years later Mary married Charles OWEN to whom one child was born. Tragically this son was killed in WW1 and is buried in Bernafay Wood North Cemetery east of Longueville in France. Both Mary and Carlo are buried in Scotts Creek Cemetery on Mitchell Island and although there is a headstone for Mary, Carlo was in an unmarked grave thought to be next to her, so I had a plaque made and put on her grave.

From all of the old records Livio provided me with, it seemed that there were two families of MADDALENA in Gordevio and through a chain of marriages, the two connected. Or this is what we thought! However, with the help of an LDS Church film and my cousin Enrico in Ticino, who is fluent in Latin as well as German, French, Italian and English, we have since discovered that they was only one family right back to Antonio MADDALENA in 1520! Antonio's son Martino (1550), his son Antonio (1578) and his son Martino 1611. This is where the two families evolve. I then come down from Martino's son Silvestro Filippo (1649), his son Giovanni (1686), whose daughter Giovaninna (1736) had a baby by the Priest of Gordevio (happened a lot apparently!) whom she named Giovanni (1755) whose son Silvestro Carlo (1786) was the father of my Carlo Antonio. On the other side, Martino (1611) had another son Giacomo Antonio (1646), who had Antonio (1680), then Giacomo Pietro (1710), Pietro (1760), Giacomo Pietro (1781), Antonio Maria (1827), Luigi Celeste (1855), Celestino Elvizio (1900) the father of Sergio, Livio, Carla and Enrico MADDALENA.

Perhaps our next task is to find where in Italy they originated and why they came to Switzerland although this could be like looking for a needle in a haystack as there are many MADDALENAS in Italy! How I love this branch in my huge family tree!

Sharon Ingersole #1548



The Squalid Streets of London's Larder

19th century Bermondsey, a suburb of London, was a thriving hub of industry but so over-populated that poverty and disease was rife. Known as “London's Larder” Bermondsey was one of the one of the major industrial areas of Victorian England with ships arriving at the ports and bringing exotic food from all over the Empire. Warehouses and wharves along the river Thames stored the merchandise prior to being sold into the City of London. Despite the success of trade and industry, the life of those living along the banks of the Thames was a life of abject poverty and hardship. Charles Dicken's Jacob's Island was where the destitute took refuge – it was in the filthy mud of this island that Bill Sykes met his violent death in “Oliver Twist”. Unfortunately, many ordinary people moved to this rat-infested area to find employment.

St. Saviour's Dock (recreated by Dickens as Jacobs Island), named after the Patron Saint of the monks from the Cluniac Abbey of Bermondsey which lay near the point where the underground River Neckinger joined with the Thames, close to Tower Bridge. “Crazy wooden galleries common to the backs of half a dozen houses, with holes to look upon the slime beneath; windows broken and patched, poles thrust out on which to dry the linen that is never there; rooms so small, so filthy and so confined that air would seem too tainted even for the dirt and squalor which they shelter....every repulsive lineament of poverty, every loathsome indication of filth rot and garbage.....” Is it any wonder that crime was committed – to be transported as a convict would have to have been better than this for some people surely.

In the 1700s Bermondsey had been a spa town but the spa closed in 1804, the ancient river stairs and waterways of Shad Thames began their transformation into one of the busiest cargo ports in England. The food industry was established in the area during the early 19th century and the first canned food was processed in 1811. With the arrival of the London and Greenwich Railway in 1835, Bermondsey soon became home to many household names including Jacobs Cream Crackers, Cross & Blackwell, Hartley's Jam and Courage Beer. London's larder came into its own.

As the food and leather industries flourished, thousands of workers poured into area which lead to a population explosion of unprecedented proportions – in 1801 there were 27,500 but 50 years later that figure had more than doubled. All wasn't good however as the thriving businesses were accompanied by poverty and squalor. Poor quality housing led to severe outbreaks of Cholera and by the mid 19th century with people crammed into tiny houses with poor ventilation and no amenities, disease was rife. Open sewers were a common feature of everyday life and local people were drinking water straight from the putrid River Thames. James Greenwood in 1867 wrote “As we passed along the reeking banks of the river....we saw drains and sewers emptying their filthy contents into it; we saw a whole tier of doorless privies in the open road, common to men and women and we heard bucket after bucket of filth splash into it; and vagrant boys bathing in it....”

In 1849 London experienced the worst outbreak of Cholera in the city's history and when journalist and Social Reformer Henry Mayhew visited the area to research the devastating effects of the disease for a series of newspaper articles and a subsequent book, he found that there had been 6500 deaths on the Southern Banks of the Thames and in Bermondsey, hundreds of people each week fell victim to the disease ...”anyone who has ventured a visit...will not wonder at the ravages of the pestilence in this malarious quarter for it is the very capital of Cholera”.

The disease spread effortlessly through the narrow, dirty streets and dead bodies were everywhere.

One of the chief trades contributing to the squalor was the leather industry. The leather trade had been established in the area since medieval times because of the fresh water and its proximity to London City. In the 1800s processing and trading leather was a key industry and employed hundreds of people in the mills and warehouses. Skins from London butchers were processed using local water and oak bark before being returned to the city for sale. In 1805 there were about 15,000 tanners in Bermondsey where hides were de-fleshed and de-haired before being stirred in a pit of chemicals. The tanned hide was then rolled by hand and hung out to dry after which the leather dressers oiled and treated the hides to retain its pliability. The hides were then dyed and the surface of the leather treated. Tanning pits were everywhere on the banks of the river emitting noxious fumes into the neighbourhood. Chronic poisoning occurred amongst the workers and “the inhabitants themselves show it in their faces the poisonous influence of the mephitic air they breathe. Skins are white like parchment telling of impaired digestion, languid circulation and coldness of the skin or else their cheeks are flushed and their eyes are glassy, showing the wasting fever and general decline of bodily functions. “The place was so charged with deadly gases that the air has the smell of a graveyard” wrote Henry Mayhew.

Established in 1801 Bevingtons was the largest firm of leather manufacturers in Bermondsey. It was a family run business employing over 500 workers, producing light leathers, Moroccan leather, sheep skins and seal skins for shoes and fancy goods. Nearby Hatters used the wool from the sheep skins and Christy’s Hat Manufactory was one of the largest in Europe. Paper mills, lead mills, chemical works, boat and ship builders, coopers and turpentine plants and food industry warehouses were also along the river. Markets were established and in 1878 at the height of the leather trade the old market was replaced by the grander London Leather Exchange Building. Charles Dickens wrote “the neighbourhood in which it stands is devoted entirely to thinners and tanners and the air reeks with evil smells...”.

By the end of the 19th century the leather industry was in decline as competition increased in other parts of the country and at the turn of the 20th century the population of Bermondsey which had reached 135,000 began to decrease as people left the area. The living conditions around Shad Thames remained poor with 9 or more people living in one room and one tap for as many as 25. In 1980 the leather and food industries on the banks of the Thames at Bermondsey had all but gone and today amidst the redeveloped warehouses and trendy bars, some buildings from the Victorian leather trade still remain, surviving as a poignant reminder of the unique and chequered history of the industrial legacy of **London’s Larder** and of the ordinary families who lived there.

Angela Buckley (with her permission)

You were born in 1900.....

This article was written by Ted Bauer but this is a shorter version since published in “News of the Area” which perhaps gives some sort of perspective at the moment!

1914 - The year of your 14th birthday, World War 1 starts.

1918 - The year of your 18th birthday the War ends but 22 million people have perished in that War. Also, on your 18th birthday a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet.

1920 - The year of your 20th birthday this pandemic is over but not before 50 million people die from it in those two years

1929 - The year of your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins, unemployment hits 25% and the World GDP drops 27%

1933 - The year of your 33rd birthday things start to improve but not before the country almost collapses along with the world economy.

1939 - The year of your 39th birthday World War 2 begins.

1939 – 1945 - Between the year of your 39th birthday and your 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in this war.

There was an epidemic of Smallpox during your life time which killed 300 million people.

From your birth until you were 55 years old, you dealt with the fear of Polio epidemics each Summer. You experience friends and family contacting this terrible disease and being paralysed and/or dying.

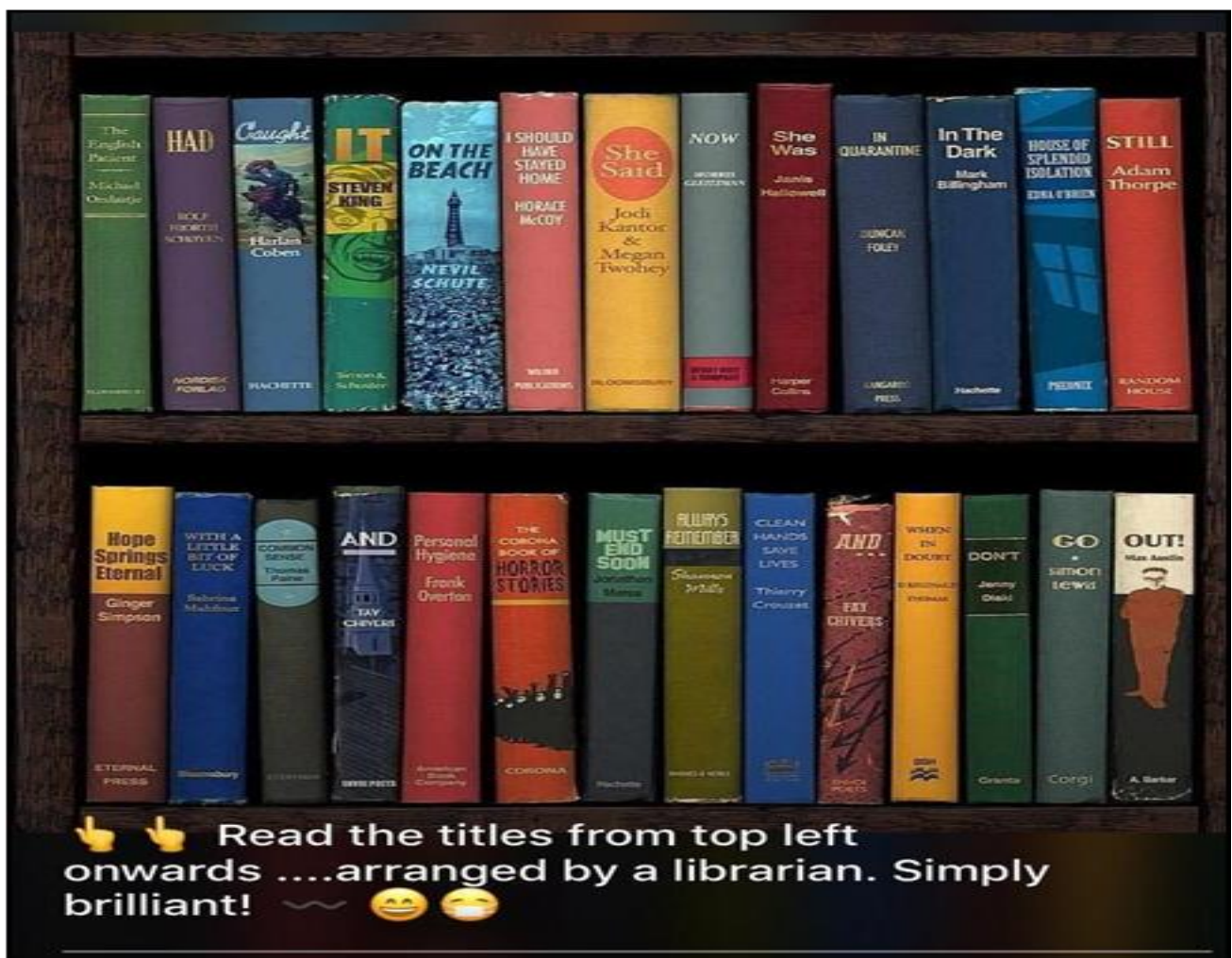
1955 - at 55 years of age you see the start of the Vietnam War which doesn't end for 20 years and saw four million people perish in the conflict.

During the Cold War, you lived each day with the fear of Nuclear annihilation.

Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900 – how did they endure all of that?

When you were a kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85 year old grandparents understood how hard school was! Yet, they survived through everything and more of that described above. Your parents and/or grandparents were called to endure all of this and you are called to stay at home and sit on the

Food for thought!



GENEALOGY: RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE

Develop an understanding of genealogy and learn how to research your family history.

On this **free online course**, you'll develop an understanding of basic genealogy techniques and how to communicate your family history. We do not concentrate on a specific country's records so it should be useful to anyone around the world.

You will consider how to effectively find and analyse sources and explore the potential of DNA testing as applied to genealogy. Start straight away and learn at your own pace.

We'll help you add historical context to your family history and discuss how to record and communicate research findings in a clear fashion.

Week 1 –you will learn how to analyse documents

Week 2 – effective searching techniques

Week 3 – using major search types

Week 4 - Genealogical proof and DNA testing

Week 5 - Putting your research into context

Week 6 -Documenting and communicating your research results and sources

What will you achieve?

By the end of the course, you'll be able to...

- Design a research plan for tracing family history.
- Apply key techniques used when searching for and analysing genealogical records.
- Describe the differences between genealogical source types and why they may cause problems for the researcher.
- Develop an awareness of the use of historic and social context in family history research.
- Develop an understanding of the ways in which genealogical information can be recorded and communicated.

Who is the course for? This course is designed for anyone with an interest in genealogy.

The course will be suitable if you:

- have no experience with genealogy or family history research;
- have some experience with genealogical research but want to develop your skills and knowledge further;
- are a more experienced genealogical researcher but want to learn new searching, analytical or communication techniques or
- find it difficult to access opportunities for training and development.

This course was developed by the University of Strathclyde. The University of Strathclyde is a leading international technological university located in Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city, committed to useful learning.

Enroll now! <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As exchange journals are no longer being printed, they will now be available for viewing by members from the Admin desktop at our rooms. Monitors can access these and you can download them to a USB. If anybody would like particular journals emailed to them, please contact Lyn via email at lynette.brotherton@gmail.com

ARTICLES OF INTEREST FROM EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Australian

Exchange Journals - Articles of Interest - December 2020			
Society	Journal and Issue	Article	Pages
New South Wales			
Armidale FHG	Dust of Ages – Jul 2020 No. 169	Book Review <i>Farewell to Heather</i>	10 - 12
Central Coast FHS Inc.	The E Muster – Aug 2020 No. 27	State Borders Within Australia & Their History	29-32
Cowra FHG Inc.	Eagle Eye – V38 #1 June 2020	“The Coromandel” 1834-1853	9 – 15
Cowra FHG Inc.	Eagle Eye – V38 # June 2020	Convict letters to the Bank of England	27 – 29
Goulburn Historical & Genealogical Society	The Argyle Bulletin – October 2020 No.86	1820 Commemorative Bulletin	1 - 26
Hawkesbury FHG	Hawkesbury Crier – September 2020	Marrying in NSW	19 - 26
Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc	Links ‘n’ Chains – October 2020 #126	Preserve Newspaper clippings	18
Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc	Links ‘n’ Chains – October 2020 #126	Interviewing Relatives	19
Richmond/Tweed FHS Inc	The Cedar Log – June 2020 No. 144	My first Family Member in Australia	10 – 12
Richmond/Tweed FHS Inc.	The Cedar Log – June 2020 No. 144	A Remarkable Life	13 – 15
Queensland			
Gold Coast FHS Inc.	Rootes – October 2020 No. 138	To Buy or Not to Buy Australian BDM Certificates	16 - 19
New Zealand			
Family History Society of NZ Inc	NZ Family Tree – April 2020	Free Access to Digitised Records from The National Archives UK	12 - 13
International			
United Kingdom	UK Family Tree – August 2020	How to Examine Documents in detail	49 – 51
United Kingdom	UK Family Tree – September 2020	Researching the 20 th Century	10 – 15
United Kingdom	UK Family Tree – September 2020	Discover How and Where our Ancestors Lived	20 – 25
United Kingdom	UK Family Tree – October 2020	Who were the Mayflower Pilgrims	10 – 19
Ireland	Irish Rootes – 3 rd Qtr. No. .115	Finding the Locality of your Ancestors in Ireland	6 - 7

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.

RESEARCH SHEETS, ETC. FOR SALE

Pedigree Charts	20c ea.
Family Group Sheets, etc.	20c ea.
Printouts from Computer (Greyscale)	20c ea.
Photocopies A4 (Greyscale)	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	\$1.00 ea.
Seven Generation Charts A3	\$5.00 ea.

JOURNAL DEADLINES

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

Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries regarding 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.

Please Email our Editor Sharon on shaz@ingersole.com if you have a story to tell.

If you would like to purchase any of this research material or any publications which may be for sale, please contact the Monitor on duty.