

The Gympie Researcher

*The newsletter of the
Gympie Family History Society Inc.*

December 2015

No. 81

I.S.S.N 1035 - 3534

Year of the Goat 2015



*Merry Christmas
From the GFHS &
an amazing 2016*



**Don't forget our Show & Tell Christmas Party
19th Dec 1pm at the rooms—bring a plate of food to
share and something to talk about**

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MEMBERSHIP FEES:	Annual fees are: All due by 31st August each year Single Membership \$35 Family Membership \$45 (Two members of an immediate family residing at the one address) PRO RATA till 31st August 2015:		
	Dec to Feb	Mar to May	Jun to Aug
Single Membership	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family Membership	\$40	\$30	\$20
INFORMATION:	Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.		
WEB PAGE:	www.gympiefhs.egympie.com.au		

EDITORS COMMENTS

I would like to say a big **Thank You** to everyone who has contributed stories to our 'Researcher,' also all the help given to our projects for the year, it has been a real team effort. The ladies of the back room work their butts off to keep our Library full of up to date information and the indexing makes it so much easier for researching. Di is the power behind our projects and we can never thank her enough for all she puts in.

Lyn Fleming

MEMBERSHIP: WE CURRENTLY HAVE 63 MEMBERS

PRESIDENTS REPORT; Meeting of 7th November 2015

Hi to all,

Well we are almost at the end of another year. All is going well at our rooms and some new members are very welcome as they have offered to help with quite a lot of things and that is a great asset.

Hopefully our crawl on the 11th November will be as usual a great night, thank you to all the researchers doing a great job. Looking forward to our Christmas break-up and show and tell on December 19th.

I have been busy in the back room re-doing scrap books that have seen better days. We do have a lot of fun in the library and have been getting a lot of indexing done, thanks to Val T and Joyce who are great workers. Faye is doing some on Funerals and also research. Keep up the good work everyone. Thanks to Peter, Fay's husband for fixing the outside window, we have also had the kitchen window glass replaced, that was at a cost.

I have most likely missed something but remember I am getting older and likely to forget.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Margaret.

RESEARCH

REQUESTS THAT HAVE COME INTO THE RESEARCH OFFICER.

Ian Hands re info on a Bidwell's Track or Simpson's Track near Tiaro, Bauple area, Glenwood. Referred him to the Bauple Museum for Info. Also "Winds of Change" book mentions a Mr. Bidwell. Letter sent.

Janice Ingliss, Re—George William Kirby and Marion Moran Preston Family. Father was Joseph Charles Kirby and Caroline Collins. Sending cheque.

Geoff Curtis, Re-Daniel Joseph Curtis Publican and Hotelier. Seems to be a mystery for the client. Requested Fee.

Faye Kennedy

George Malcolm Waddell was born on the 9th June 1894, the son of George Waddell and Mary (nee Whittington) owners of the Two Mile Hotel. In 1908 at the age of 14 he won third prize in a literary competition. The following story was printed in The Gympie Times on the 24th Dec 1908

TOM GREEN'S CHRISTMAS.

The Green's lived in a small bush township. They were very poor. Mr Green owned a large farm and had got everything right on it, when drought set in and killed his stock and ruined his crops. After the drought they had to make a new start in life. Mr. Green could not get his farm in working order again for want of capital. Anyhow he decided that he could not employ labour he must do the work himself. While he was doing this, however, he had to support his wife and two children, Tom and Maggie. Tom was about 14 years old and Maggie 10. Tom and his father had to cut wood to support the family, but although they worked very hard they could only just manage to get along.

One day, while preparing dinner, Mrs Green found that they were running out of flour, so when Tom came home, she sent him to the storekeeper's shop to get some. Accordingly Tom went to the store and got the flour. He stayed talking to Mr Brown, the storekeeper, for some time. At last he noticed that the sun was sinking low in the west and he said, "Well Mr Brown I must start for home at once or Mother will be anxious about me." The horse had only taken a few paces when Mr Brown called out, "Wait a minute Tom." Tom stopped and the storekeeper went into his shop and returned with some lollies which he gave to the boy. While Tom was putting the lollies in his pocket he noticed a ticket amongst them. He picked it out and handed it to Mr Brown. That gentleman refused to take it and laughingly said, "keep it boy it is a lottery ticket, give me a tenth of the winnings and I shall be satisfied." With this they parted and Tom went home. When he got home he shared his lollies with his sister, and gave the ticket to his mother, who put it away in a box. Some time afterwards Tom's mother fell ill. Cost what it might, Mr Green was determined to have a Doctor down, so Tom rode up to Gympie and bought the Doctor. The Doctor said that the illness itself was not dangerous, but as Mrs Green was very thin and weak the case was a serious one. He wrote out a prescription and Tom took it to the chemist in Gympie and got the medicine required. Before Tom went home he bought a copy of the 'Gympie Times' to read. That night Tom's father found, while reading the paper, that a certain number ticket had drawn a prize of £20, and that it was not yet claimed.

Tom's ticket was produced and found to be the right one and he got the £20. He then went to the store to give the storekeeper half, because he had given him

the ticket. At first Mr Brown refused to take any, but at last he took £2. The £18 left paid the doctor's bill and bought nourishing food for Mrs Green, so that she was quite well again. About a fortnight before Christmas Mr and Mrs Green got the loan of Mr Brown's buckboard and horse and drove to town and when they came back they had numerous parcels with them. These were put away and on Christmas Day they were opened and among the many things needed for the house were a rifle and new suit for Tom and new dresses and a doll for his sister, so that after all the family had a very Happy Christmas just when they thought it would be a miserable one. G. WADDELL (age 14 years) Two Mile Gympie.

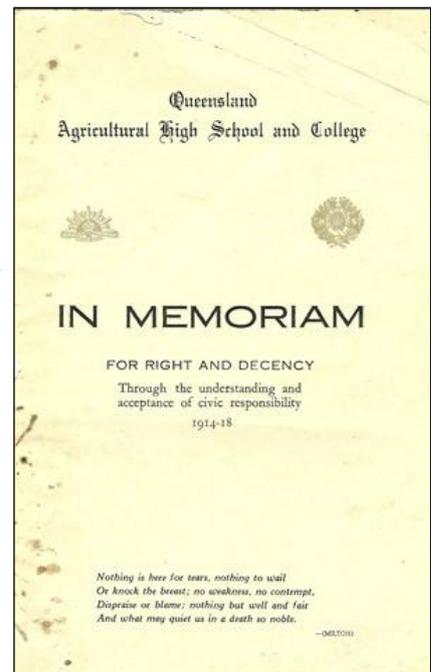


Between 1910 and 1912 George attended the Queensland Agricultural High School and College leaving with a diploma. On the 21st August 1914 George Waddell, #399, enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment, embarking from Brisbane on the HMAT 'Star of England' on the 24th September 1914.

He proceeded to Gallipoli



9th May 1915 where he suffered shrapnel wounds. 3rd June 1916 he was promoted to Lance Corporal. George was Killed in Action on the 23rd December 1916 at Magdkaba, Egypt and is buried at El Arish Military Cemetery, Egypt.



Lyn Fleming Sources
Trove, Ancestry, WW1
Service records

RESEARCH FEES

Members Free (when visiting personally to the rooms and doing your own research although we are happy to help guide you or if you are from interstate and are not able to do your own research)

Non Members \$5 per visit to rooms (at our discretion)

Mail & Internet Inquiries

\$30.00 Australia

\$35.00 overseas

For Research Requests:

email c/- gfhs@spiderweb.com.au or mail to: GFHS, P O Box 767, Gympie QLD 4570

The Research Process Explained:

You make your enquiry, we then look to see what information we can find quickly—then we contact you to see if you wish to proceed and advise of the fees.

If you do, we ask for \$30 (or \$35 overseas—to cover extra postage). Once payment is received, we then investigate either your specific queries or start at the beginning and check cemetery records, BDM registers, local registers, school registers, pedigree charts, some shipping, local history books, Gympie Times records, previous cemetery crawl presentations, previous research requests, mining, electoral rolls and so the list goes on.

We hold a lot of various local registers and cuttings and basic items you would find in a local history library. We also have access to the internet and can often suggest websites and ways of searching that you may not have thought of.

We do many hours of ongoing research and then either email the information to you as we go, or mail packets to you so you have the hard copies. We then also keep the information we have researched for you on file and it is then available to future people who may be researching your names too. Many times we have put people in touch with other searchers of their own trees.

Our research people do so much more work than you would realise to help you in your search for information. Please feel confident that everything possible is done by our volunteers to supply you with any relevant information we may have in our library.

The funds raised from your payments for our research, assist us with obtaining further records and to produce books and CD's for easy access of family details in Gympie and the surrounds.

Payment can be by either cheque sent to our P O Box as above or direct deposit into our Bank account is another option for those who feel comfortable with the method. Details of our bank account are: BSB 633000 Account# 153118963 and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to gfhs@spiderweb.com.au. if possible when you have made the payment. Then we can allocate your payment and get on with the research!

Our research officer is Faye Kennedy.

The Gympie Researcher

The Kilkivan Cemetery Crawl on Tour—OMG!

This trip is probably our favourite of all three tours so far. We began with a quick tour into Woolooga and a brief story of the township. Then we raced out to Boonara near Tansey because we had the benefit of being able to spend the morning with the hosts and owners of “Boonara” which is an original house built for the JONES family {The David Jones family that is} back in 1862. The house has mostly original features and Rob the current owner is totally besotted with the property and the history and is more than happy to share. He and his wife supplied a scrumptious Devonshire tea of fresh scones and jam and cream which were all devoured while listening to his tales of old. A wander out to the family plot {now the St David’s cemetery} to learn more of the early settlers. Next we headed into Kilkivan and out the otherside of town to view the family plot of more of the Jones family and back into town for lunch at the lovely park. We again offered a picnic lunch as an optional extra and many people {having experienced or seen them previously} joined us. Well supported raffles were drawn amongst great delight over the choices on offer.



After a rest in the shade—back in the bus and off to the Smelter. Many people had not travelled out that far before and found the story of the copper smelters (3 in total) of great interest. Finally back to the Rossmore Cemetery for a self guided tour through the beautiful resting place of many of the pioneers of the area. A long day but very much enjoyed by all.

In fact the trips have been so well received we have decided to re-run them in 2016, with some interesting changes and inclusions along the way. We are not going to be focusing so much on the cemeteries but on the people and history of the areas. So if you couldn't make them previously, or would like to come along again, please write down the dates (see page 9) and let me know you are interested and I can contact you closer.

11th November 2015 WWI Cemetery crawl

We had a lovely evening with 6 members of the 5th Light Horse in costume in attendance and we were able to handover a \$250 cheque to them which was part of our Veterans Affairs 100years grant we received last year. Our amazing Bugler was a young lady named Jamie Lee Griffiths who donated half of her \$50 {from the same grant} to the 5th Light Horse and the balance to Legacy—she did an amazing job on the night as well. We had Elizabeth POWER who is a granddaughter of the POWER family who built “Kitawah” {now Gunnabul} and helped us celebrate the four POWER boys who went to war. Also we had the niece and nephew of one of the other families come up from Tewanin and brought the War and Peace Art for one of their uncles which was very nice for crawlers to look at. We also honoured Ashley BIRT who died in the line of duty 4 years ago in Afghanistan. Still a Digger.

Thanks to all of the lovely members who continue to support our Society xx
Di Woodstock

WW2—some 5000 Australian Nurses Served, 78 Died some through accident or illness but most as a result of enemy action or while Prisoners of War.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN AT WAR.

My name is Geraldine Cole and I recently came to live in Gympie at Nahrunda after 13 years on the Gold Coast and previously Melbourne, Victoria.

I joined the Gympie Family History Society Inc. on 23/10/15 and was warmly welcomed into the fold. With Remembrance Day fast approaching I was thinking about the involvement of Australian Women in war, both on the home front and on active service abroad.

Australian Nurses have been going to war for over 100 years, often serving far from Australia in remote and dangerous places and their skills have saved lives.

I have just retired as a Registered Nurse and I was very fortunate to meet one of Australia's bravest and most decorated war time nurses, **Sister Vivian Bullwinkle**. It was 1968 when I met her and she was Matron of the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne and I was a young Nurse on placement. Matron was very welcoming and serene and particularly kind when I contracted German Measles from English children who had arrived by boat and were interred at the hospital.

This is a little information about this remarkable lady who served her country for us.

NAME: Vivian Bullwinkle
D.O.B: 18/12/1915 D.O.D: 3/7/2000
PLACE OF BIRTH: Kapunda, South Australia
YEARS OF SERVICE: 1941—1947
RANK: Lieutenant Colonel
AWARDS: AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM.

Vivian Bullwinkle was an Australian Army Nursing Sister, sole survivor of the 1942 Banksia Island (off the coast of Sumatra) atrocity and POW. She spent three and a half years in harsh captivity tending to the needs of injured and ill prisoners and survived to give evidence at a War Crimes Trial in 1947.

Post war Vivian Bullwinkle devoted herself to the Nursing profession and the relatives and friends of those killed on Banksia Island.



When I march on Remembrance Day I will think of Vivian Bullwinkle and other women in war time such as those on the home front caring for families alone as well as fearing for the future and coping with the grief and trauma of losing love ones.

Source: records of the Australian War Memorial.

www.gympiefhs.egympie.com.au

Kerry-Ann {our esteemed treasurer} and poster girl [creat-ess of our posters], is also now our web designer! After many years of applying for grants unsuccessfully, she has taken the bull by the horns, read a heap of books and spent many hours “playing” and now we are able to update and add things and everything!!!



Firstly we would like to announce the initial access to over 200,000 surnames indexed from our library since 2004. On the front page of the website—click on research—then click on the link 2015 main index list as at 18 Nov 2015 and then an excel list will open that you can scan through.—Contact us for copies {cost will depend on the volume}

But have a look at the new format—it is still in building phase but have a peek through the link at the bottom of the home page which says New Test Site. Let us know what you think.

Thank you to Kerry-Ann for taking this on—I hope she realises—that like the rest of us—she is now a member for life!!!!

Di Woodstock

2016 Programme

Gympie Family History Society
Cnr Station & Chapple Sts

28th Feb—Bus Tour—Munna Creek revisited

23rd Mar—Gympie Crawl

2nd May—Bus Tour—Kandanga revisited

22 June—Gympie Crawl

11 Sep—Bus Tour—Kilkivan revisited

19th Oct—Gympie Cemetery

Details—contact Di Woodstock 0419 224 628

gfhs@spiderweb.com.au

GFHS facebook page

www.gympiefhs.egympie.com.au

LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm

Friday 9.30am to 12pm

Saturday 1pm to 4pm



MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN:

Michael O'LOUGHLIN was born in Milltown, Malby, Clare, Ireland on the 2nd of July 1888, the fourth and youngest son of the eight children of Patrick and Bridget Mary (O'BRIEN) O'LOUGHLIN.

His older brother John (known as Jack) O'LOUGHLIN, arrived in Brisbane in 1886 and Michael followed, arriving on the "*Orontes*" in July 1906. All but one of the O'LOUGHLIN siblings immigrated to Australia.

Michael enlisted in the AIF on 13th October 1914, in Rockhampton. He was twenty five and a half years old, single, a labourer, could read and write and was a Roman Catholic. He named his father Patrick, who was still living in Ireland, as his next of kin. Michael was appointed to 15th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade in the AIF at Enoggera. He became Private 475 and a member of the 2nd Expedition Force. Michael's army

records have three enlistment forms but very little information on any of them. We know that he served at Gallipoli, as he was awarded the 1914-15 star. Although he signed up for the duration of the war he was only there for a short time and returned to Australia in August 1915. This was long enough for him to have suffered a serious head wound. A casualty form dated 15/ July 1915 states that he was "Left behind and returned Australia medically unfit". The form authoring his return to Australia on the "*Ballarat*", dated 23/8/15, stated that he was "discharged 1st M.D. debility".

In 1916 Michael was living in Toowoomba when he enlisted again in the Citizen Forces on 5th September and became Pt O'LOUGHLIN No: 117 (later changed to No: 342) in the Garrison Military Police. On Dec 1st 1916 Michael swore an "Oath of Allegiance" in Sydney New South Wales and was posted to Nelson Island isolation camp. In 1917 he was transferred to No.2 District Guard, Addison Rd, Nelson Island and was reported as having VD. He was discharged in April 1917, when his services were no longer required and he was recorded as having a "bad character."

Never one to give up Michael enlisted for a third time on 5th July 1917, at Enoggera. He stated on his enlistment paper that the second time he was discharged it was because he was "Medically unfit for further active service". This time he became a member of the No. 1 District Guard. On the 17th of September 1917 he was discharged for the last time as being "medically unfit through his own default" This time his character was stated as being "good".

The time between Michael leaving the army in 1917 and appearing in Esk Police Court in 1924 is a blank. What he did and where he went is still unknown, but he does seem to have gone steadily down hill

On 13 November 1924, in the Esk Police Court, Michael was charged with “breaking and entering the premises of Mr T H Crust, saddler, and stealing a buggy whip valued at 3/6.” He pleaded guilty. He said his reason for committing the crime was to go to goal. He also wanted to appear before a judge so that he could “prove he was an honest man and moral man” (Queensland Times 13 November 1924). The same paper stated that “the defendant had been out of work for 4 years, and had a bad reputation. He was well known to police in various Queensland cities.” This suggests that after he left the services he had wandered from town seeking work, not always successfully.

When Michael came up for sentencing on December 8th 1924 it was pointed out that he had previously asked for a medical examination but this had not happened. He was further remanded so that he could undergo this. He was examined and found to be of unsound mind and remanded again. Back in court again a few days later he was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for his own safety. “not so much as a punishment, as to have him “watched” . (Brisbane Courier 16th Dec 1924).

Michael seems to have stayed out of trouble for the next ten years but in December 1934 he was back in the magistrate’s court in Toowoomba, charged with vagrancy. He was reported as living under a railway bridge in a vermin infested bed of old rags, which he shared with a dog. He told the police a rambling story about seeing spirits.

On 11th June 1935, at the Toowoomba Police Station Michael was examined by Dr. Spencer Roberts and Dr. Bruce Smith, who certified him as being insane. He was committed to the Asylum for the Insane at Willowburn. His brother Jack O’LOUGHLIN, taxi owner, of 9 Edmund Street, Toowoomba, is named as his next of kin on the certificate accompanying his admission. This certificate also gives the cause of his insanity as “war injuries to head”. Willowburn was renamed Toowoomba Mental hospital in 1953. Michael was in care for over twenty years and died there on 16 July 1956. The cause of death was given as myocarditis and senility. He was buried in the Toowoomba cemetery in an unmarked grave. Michael was the brother of Mary O’LOUGHLIN, the grandmother of past member Joan FERGUSON. When Joan found this gap in her family history she thought Michael deserved something to mark his time on this earth and set about correcting this. She thought that he was entitled to a war graves plaque

To obtain an official war graves plaque Joan had to prove that his death was war related. To do this she had to obtain his death certificate, then write to the Commissioner of Veteran’s Affairs. They in turn passed the information on to the War Graves Commission in Canberra. Four or five months later she was notified that Michael O’LOUGHLIN had been granted a war grave. On the twenty first of November 2014 she was notified that an official memorial for Michael had been erected. Michael O’LOUGHLIN’S resting place has been marked with a cement edging and an official war memorial plaque. Nearly sixty years after he died, this troubled man who tried so hard to serve his country, has a proper grave and headstone in Toowoomba Cemetery.

Marjorie J. Head

Sources :- A.I.F. Records; Aust. War Graves Commission; B.D.M. Records; Dept. Veteran Affairs Records; Drayton and Toowoomba cemetery records; Qld. Times (Ipswich) 13th Nov. & 19th Dec. 1924; The Brisbane Courier Mail 16th Dec. 1924; The Courier Mail 21st Dec 1934; Toowoomba Mental Hospital Records

ELLEN WEDLOCK



I was born Ellen Delia McCallum at Station Road, Gympie on 10th October 1933, the third of seven children to James and Annie Margaret (nee Rasmussen) . My father was born in Beaconsfield, Tasmania, and his grandparents came from the Sterling Shire Scotland. My mothers father came out from Denmark and her mother from Ireland. My first memories are from Tin Can Bay, where I started school. There were no buildings at Rainbow Beach then. From Tin Can Bay in 1940, we moved to Goomboorian where my parents had a half share dairy farm and I first learnt to milk a cow. When we came from school we had jobs to do. We walked miles to attend the Enterprise School.

As part of the war effort, the school children would collect old tyres, newspapers, books, and old saucepans. There was also air raid drills when we had to leave the school room and run to the deep gully. During WW2, families who offered to knit socks for our soldiers were given Khaki wool and this is where I learnt to knit, doing the easier parts, and then the older women would knit the heel part and finish off. I taught myself to crochet, with the easier patterns. From Goomboorian it was on to another half share farm at Dagon. There was always plenty of work for us kids, helping with milking cows, cutting food for the cattle and still attending Dagon School. Our transport to Gympie was on the train and the old red rattler. (I was happy to see it back home again) I left school here at Dagon and worked on the farm.

Think it was about 1950 when my parents bought a farm at Stewart Road, Coondoo, and it was here I met my future husband Leslie Wedlock. We were married at my parents home and I then became a farmers wife helping with picking beans, milking cows and raising our 2 children, son Jim and daughter Joan. They attended Wolvi School and then for a couple of years Condo School, before attending Gympie State High. Jim married in 1977 and had 3 daughters and 2 sons and Joan married in 1990 and had 1 son and 1 daughter.

In 1970 we left the farm to buy a home in Gympie where I still live. Les had a job in the then Widgee Shire Council as a plant operator and worked on construction on many of the roads around the shire. I continued to pick beans for a few years and then did voluntary work for Meals on Wheels where I was a cook and also a Committee member for awhile. I joined Q.C.W.A. (Qld. Country Women's Association) where I held every position at different times (except treasurer) for about 15 years, and I was in Red Cross for 10 years. When Little Haven was started in Gympie, I was one of the foundation members to work with Phil. Many lamingtons were iced and sold and I also worked with 2 Mayoress's (Mrs. Venardas and Mrs. McClintock) to help with catering.

After moving to Gympie, I started collecting dolls (some vintage) and also dressing them. I won lots of 1st and 2nd places at the Gympie Show. I also won State Wide Queensland 1st prize for hand made stocking flowers and Raffia hats. Reading was also another hobby and I

love collecting books, mainly about Australian History. I have tried many crafts and always liked sewing, which was taught to me by my mother when I was a teenager. I started researching my fathers family history in 1983. On a trip to Tasmania with Les, we were able to meet some relatives and I came home with a photo of my father's mother and some other family members (sadly I don't know who some are but pleased to have found them.) I made a two week trip to Denmark in about 2000. I have my Danish history back into the 1700's thanks to my Danish penfriend Risto. I made a trip to Norfolk Island which I enjoyed very much and I have been to Tasmania 5 times looking for family history and been quite successful. I became a war widow in April 1998 as Les passed away. I tell my children and grandchildren that they are a league of nations as they are descendants Danish, Irish, Scottish, English, German etc. etc. I enjoy the family researching, it is amazing what you find.

Ellen Wedlock

Ashley BIRT

We honour those who are still serving their country in these trying times throughout the world.

Ashley BIRT was a local bloke who joined up, went to Afghanistan, but didn't come home.



It is now 4 years since his family lost their boy.



One of our unsung hero's of the Library is Joyce Stephens. Following is a poem she found on the back of an advertisement for NewsXpress Northgate.

James M. Schmidt was a Marine Lance Corporal stationed in Washington D.C. when this poem was written in 1986, he originally called it "Merry Christmas my Friend."

With a slight change of wording the lyrics have been adapted to fit our Aussie soldiers. The poem has been changed many times over the years by members of different parts of the Military serving world wide..

Source -The Older we get the better we were.



T'was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone
In a one bedroom house, made of plaster and stone

I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who, in this home, did live.
I looked all about, a strange site I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stockings by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On a wall hung pictures, of far distant lands

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds
A sober thought came through my mind,
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home
The face was so gentle, the room in disorder,
Not how I pictured an Australian soldier.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in a poncho, the floor for a bed

I realized the families that I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon around the world, the children would play,
And grown ups would celebrate, a bright Christmas Day.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought bought a tear to my eye
I dropped to my knees , and started to cry.
The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice,
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more
My life is my God, my Country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep
I kept watching for hours, so silent and still
And we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.
I did not want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honour, so willing to fight.

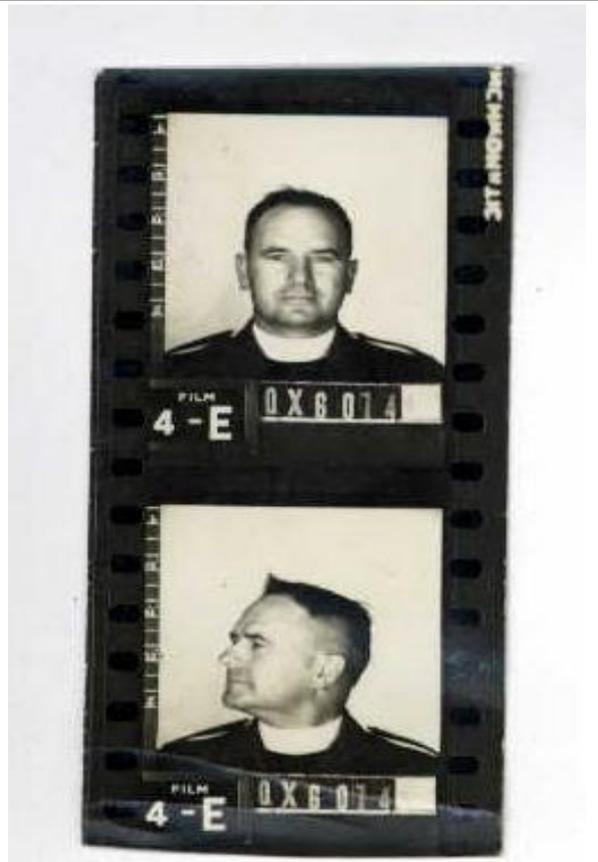
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.

GYMPIE BORN ACHIEVERS.

Whilst researching for our Cemetery Crawl's I have noticed how many babies born in Gympie have grown to become famous adults. This is the start of a series I would like to add to our Researcher Magazine. Our first story is the founder of Boy's Town.

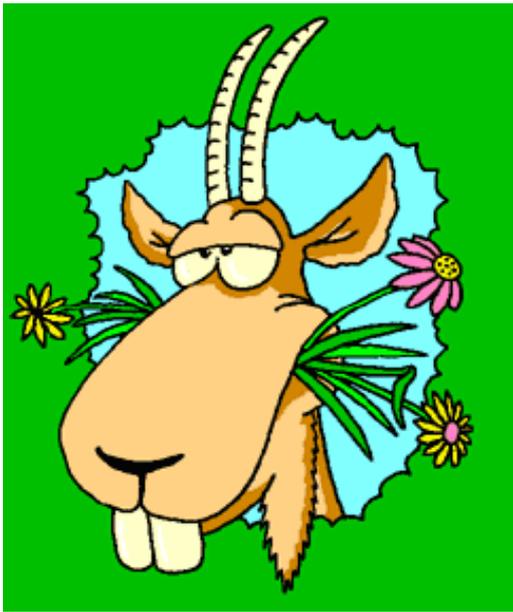
OWEN BEEVOR STEELE:

Born in Gympie on the 30th August 1898. His father Charles Beevor Steele was a direct descendant of Thomas Moore, councilor to Henry V111 who was convicted of treason and beheaded. He was Canonized as a Saint in 1935. Owen's education began at Gympie Convent School followed by secondary education at De La Salle College, Armidale, New South Wales (1912-1915) and the Central Technical College, Brisbane (1915) with private tutoring in Latin. Attracted to the Catholic Priesthood, he entered St. Columba's seminary, Springwood, New South Wales in 1916 and transferred to St Patrick's College, Manly 1917. He was ordained Priest for the Archdiocese of Brisbane in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on the 30th November 1921. The following year he was appointed Curate in the Parish of Beaudesert. 3 years later he became Priest of a new Parish, St. Sebastian's, in the suburb of Yeronga.



When WW2 broke out he immediately volunteered for service in the A.I.F., Fr. Steele was appointed a Chaplain, 4th class, on 13th November 1919. He served during the Siege of Tobruk, Libya and in the fighting in North Africa culminating in the battle of El Alamein, Egypt (1942), he was twice mentioned in dispatches. In 1958 he was appointed a M.B.E. for his continued involvement with the welfare of the servicemen, especially the survivors of Tobruk. After the war he returned to Beaudesert as Parish Priest. In 1949 he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Monsignor. Inspired by the movie 'Boys Town' he purchased with Government assistance the property 'Beauparc', on the outskirts of Beaudesert. Two years later with accommodation for 84 boys under the care of the De La Salle Brothers Boys Town was opened. Lyn Fleming source: Biography by Denis Martin

THE GOATS OF GYMPIE



2015 is the Year of the Goat on the Chinese Zodiac, which got me thinking about our Gympie Goats. Our beloved President Margaret Long has a female goat, named Lawna who was adopted into the family early this year. Lawna's colouring is black and tan and she was born at Widgee. As is often the case with young kids around the age of 4 months, she was put out for adoption hence the reason she ended up as part of Margaret's family. Our Society's Library is the centre of much frivolity and many stories of Lawna's exploits are told here. Sadly Lawna has an insatiable appetite especially for Margaret's flowers and she can be a little over zealous,

one such episode leaving Margaret backed up against the garage wall with a nasty gash to her leg. The horse has also had problems with Lawna, retaliating with a kick breaking one of Lawna's horns. (heard on the grapevine that said horse is responsible for eating some of the flowers blamed on Lawna)

Lawna also loves to ride on the ride on mower and has even stowed away on the trailer just to be with the mower when it was being taken to another property! I decided to do a little research, and I find the goat has played a big part in our towns history. Here are a few of these findings and I hope they give Margaret a better understanding of goats.



The Chinese regard the goat as peace loving and kind, the lucky flowers for "The Year of the Goat" are carnations and primroses so maybe try planting these.

The One Mile Centenary Book tells us that families moved to Gympie following the discovery of gold bringing with them goats for milk and meat. Some escaped and others were left behind leading to goats overrunning the town. In the same book Col Garson recalls: "early this century domestic goats had to be registered. It cost 2/- for a nickel plated disc which was put between the animals horns. It was the job of the Council worker, Jimmy Bennett from Elizabeth Street to shoot the unregistered goats. Another employee with a dray and a big draught-horse followed him, putting the bodies in the dray. I don't know what they did with them but it was rumored they were sold to a butcher who sold them as lamb?"

A One Mile resident sat in a 4 wheeled lorry with the goat pulling him around. He would travel along Crescent Road, up Station Hill and down to Nosworthy's Feed Store (where the Civic Centre is now), he would buy a sack of corn, put it in the lorry and sit on top of the sack. On the way home the goat would pull him up Mellor Street, under the subway and then down the hill back to Crescent Road. Now that's quite a feat!

A story in the Gympie Times on the 16th August 1873 titled, "*The Gympie Goat*" (By one who knows it) gives the point of view of an adult goat and the owner of a promising flower garden.

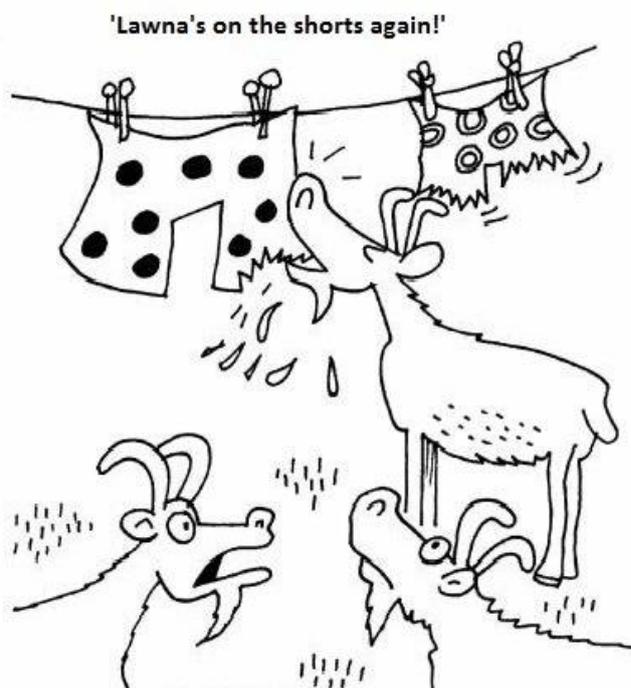
From the first view point, the goat is a very useful animal; it's milk compares very favorably with the liquid vended under the same name by the ordinary milkman, and it's meat is a very good substitute for butcher's meat. It is true that the goat is afflicted with erratic and predatory habits, but then, "it's the poor things nature," when one gets used to it, it is not disagreeable, but rather the other.

Now for the gardener's view. Of all the animals under the sun, the goat is the vilest, the beastliest, the most cunning, the most destructive, the one with the least sense of common decency or appreciation of the rights of man, the most persistent, the most intensely exasperating. It is the dirtiest, most mischievous, and persecuting brute that ever roused up a gardener at 4 am. It is responsible for a fearful mass of violent abrogation that has been muttered by mortal man since it's appearance on earth, contemporary with rats, mice, fleas, bugs, scorpions and other vile, venomous, and useless trash. Until the owners of goats, no matter whether of the Nanny or the Billy sex, prevent their becoming a nuisance

and a pest to their neighbours, the latter will be compelled in self defence to expand ammunition in a manner that will be, to quote a Ministerial phrase, "not ineffective." If gardeners and goats can not co-exist in Gympie which shall knock under? Here is an important problem, who will solve it! Phew! Lucky Lawna was n't around then!

Merry Christmas Lawna we look forward to your antics next year, the year of the Monkey !!!!!

A Very Merry Christmas Everyone and look forward to seeing you all next year. Photo's by Kerry-Ann Story by Lyn Fleming



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE {Please note that some prices have changed}

- **MINING ACCIDENTS SERIES** by Betty D'Arcy, information on mine accidents from the annual reports of the Mines Dept. (Qld) Volumes 1-14 (1878-1945). Cost per volume \$13 plus p&p **B**, order whole set add p&p **E**, order 5 copies add p&p **D**
- **PIONEER REGISTER** of families of Gympie and Surrounds (pre 1900) \$30 plus p&p **B**
- **PIONEER HEADSTONE BOOK** of Tozer Park & King Sts Gympie \$30 plus p&p **B {updated}**
- **A GOLDEN FUTURE 1867-1967** Stories, reports & photos of Gympie (photocopy version) \$15 p&p **B**
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- **The Gympie Chinese Vol 1** Stories of the early Chinese people of Gympie. \$15 p&p **B**
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 1. **Headstone Transcriptions to 1995** \$25 p&p **C**
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- **GYMPIE CEMETERY CRAWL BOOKLETS** Presentations of headstones by our members. Approximately 10 names described per booklet. Includes some photos of headstones. Cost \$5 each plus p&p **B** for 3 booklets (we are up to book 38 now) (ask for a list of names)

Postage codes: A=\$4 B=\$5 C=\$8 D=\$10 E=\$16 to any part of Australia

See inside front cover for where to order.



Gympie Family History Society Inc ^{Page 19}
P O Box 767,
Gympie QLD 4570
Ph: 07 5482 8211

Membership Form

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I/We hereby apply for membership renewal of the Gympie Family History Society to **31st August 2016** and agree to be bound by the rules of the Society.

Signature/s _____

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The Gympie Researcher