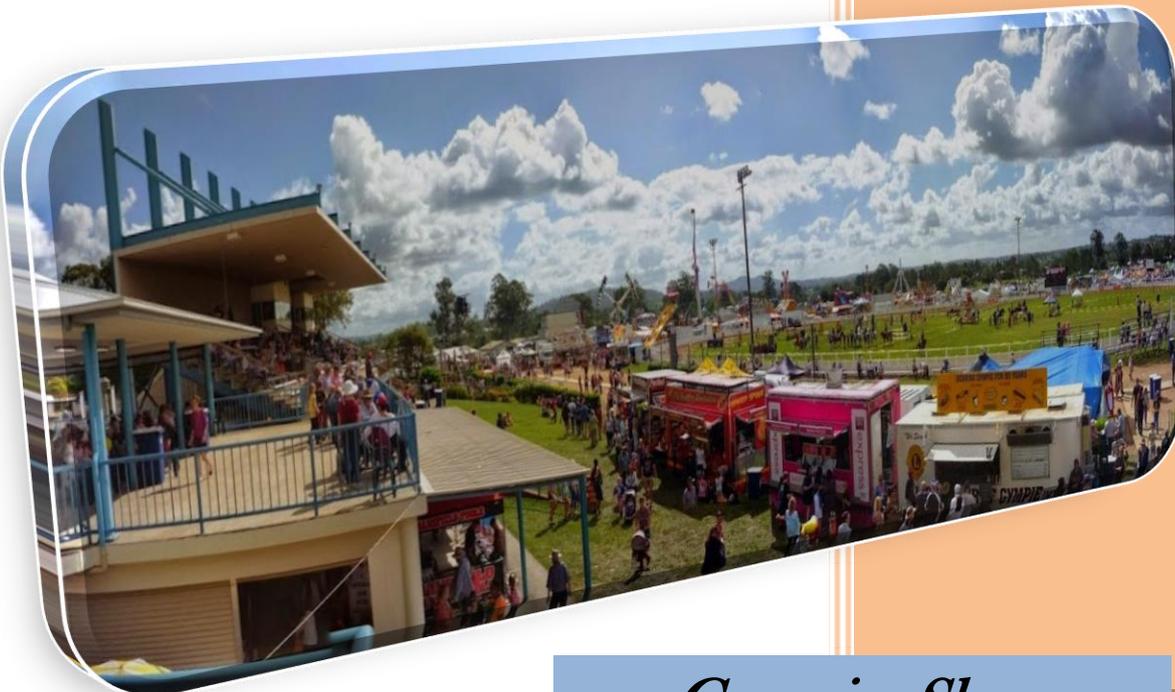


August 2018
No 90 I.S.S.N. 1035-3534

Gympie Gazette

Newsletter of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.



*Gympie Show
Reminiscences*

GYMPIE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC. OFFICE BEARERS 2018-2019

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	Margaret Long
<u>VICE PRESIDENT</u>	Conny Visini
<u>SECRETARY&MEMBERSHIP</u>	Marilyn Mullaly
<u>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</u>	
<u>TREASURER</u>	
<u>LIBRARIAN</u>	Dianne Grambower
<u>ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN</u>	
<u>RESEARCH OFFICER</u>	Denise Juler research@gfhs.com.au
<u>MAGAZINE EDITOR</u>	Val Thomas & Val Buchanan
<u>EVENTS & PUBLICITY</u>	
<u>GRANTS OFFICER</u>	Di Woodstock Ph. (0419224628)
<u>ASSIST. GRANTS OFFICER</u>	Robyn Dahl
<u>MAINTENANCE</u>	Clem Brosnan
<u>POSTAL ADDRESS</u>	P.O.Box767 Gympie QLD. 4570 Ph. 07 54828211 or phone Secretary.
<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	Downstairs at the Old Ticket Office 1 Chapple St. Gympie QLD. 4570
<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	All correspondence P.O.Box 767, Gympie QLD.4570 Or secretary@gfhs.com.au
<u>MEMBERSHIP FEES</u>	Annual fees are due by 31 st August each year Family Membership \$45 (Two members of an immediate family residing at the one address) PRO RATA till 31 st August Dec-Feb. Mar-May June-Aug.
<u>SINGLE MEMBERSHIP</u>	\$40 \$30 \$20
<u>FAMILY MEMBERSHIP</u>	\$50 \$40 \$30
<u>WEB PAGE</u>	https://www.gfhs.com.au/ (new website address)

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Gympie Family History Society Inc.

CONTENTS

Office Bearers.	1.
Contents and Editorial.	2.
Reports: President Librarian. Research Officer. Events , Grants.	3.
Society Snippets and Backroom Banter	6.
Research Fees.	8.
Romantic Wedding on a Wrecked Ship.	9.
Gympie Show Reminiscences.	11.
Childhood Memories.	14.
The District of Federal.	15.

EDITORIAL

It seems no time at all since we accepted the positions of Editors of the newly named “Gympie Gazette”. It has been a baptism of fire but we do hope all our readers enjoy the magazine. Just to remind everyone, we have reduced the number of issues from four to three this year with our second edition delayed until after the Annual General Meeting so as to include the election of new office bearers and reports for your attention.

During the year we introduced a couple of new ideas which have been enjoyed by all attending. Firstly, the monthly get togethers of members and their partners. Usually held on the last Friday of the month, these have proven very popular as a way of getting to know the family and friends of each member. . As St. Andrews Day falls on the 30th November, we would like to propose incorporating our monthly get together with a Scottish celebration- including Scottish food etc. More on that later. Another introduction was the holding of Special interest days. The first was : Convict Days, now held on the second Monday of the month. We would like to acknowledge the work done by our members on the W W 1. Books. A special thank you must go to Dianne W., Robyn Dahl and Dianne G. for the wonderful work they put into the W.W.1 soldier database- it is truly remarkable. Thanks also to the checkers/proof-readers etc. Don’t forget our next event on Remembrance Day in November. Our Secretary “Woody” is not seeking re election. We thank him for being the lone male in a room full of chattering females on many occasions (especially meeting days)and endeavouring to keep us under control. Many thanks for your years of service to this society Woody.

Don’t Forget: We need your input for this magazine to be a success. All contributions will be gratefully received. Many thanks to the members who contributed articles to this edition of Gazette. ***Val T. and Val B.***

President's Report.



Welcome all to this our 2018 A.G.M This year has flown by, or maybe it just seems that way because I am one year older. I must thank everyone involved in all that has been accomplished in what has been a very busy year for the society. Our Christmas gathering at Denise and Graham Juler's home was an afternoon of friendship and wonderful Christmas food in a beautiful rural setting, enjoyed by all. Thank you Denise and Graham.

The bus trip to Newstead House earlier this year was enjoyed by all, despite the weather conspiring against us. For just a few short hours we were transported back in time to an era of gracious living by our very knowledgeable guide. Lunch at the Ginger Factory finished the day very nicely. The launch of Book 2 in our W.W.1 series of books in April was held at the Old Railway Station. The venue was perfect and attendance was pleasing with family of some of the men mentioned in the books attending. A big thank you to all involved in organising the day. We all look forward to the launch of Book 3 in the series on November 10 at the Masonic Hall.

Monthly social get together have proved very popular and the Special Interest days are gathering interest also. Cemetery Crawls have continued this year with the weather causing a few problems. Wind and rain caused postponement for one week in March and rain again at the June crawl kept a few folk away. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of members to help on these nights, rain or shine.

A visit from Sandra Alsop from the local L.D.S. church to help us with the new Family Search program was well attended, and the wonderful morning tea was a bonus. We also welcomed three members from Maryborough Family History Society for the session.

Once again Del Reid organised for the society to have a stall at the Arms and Collectables Fair. Our maintenance man Clem has been getting things done, inside and out, all very much appreciated. Reorganising the Library, Indexing and stock take is a work in progress by Librarian Di Grambower and her band of helpers. Through the year we have had very well attended meetings and that is great to see even if I do have to use the Gavel occasionally.

If anyone likes to visit our rooms, the back room is the place to be for information on any subject you could name, especially over a cup of tea or coffee and a tasty morsel. In closing, I would like to say a big thank you to all members for their help this past year. **Margaret.**

Librarian. I have just completed my first twelve months as Librarian. A major achievement for this year is the entire listing of our Index on our web page, which moves us closer to the digital age This will make some changes for us as we will need to make sure our Reference books are available for research. If I am to be Librarian next year, I would like to set up a system where our reference books are not available for external loan, but can be only used for research in our rooms. We will always help with research and the photocopier can be used. Our library contains extensive local history and it is up to us to protect the resources we have and to respect the time and effort that has gone into their creation and collection. Thanks for the support everyone has given me and feeding me cake when necessary. ***Dianne Grambower.***

From the Research Desk.

As usual, the enquiries for research have come thick and fast this year. We are getting more and more enquiries through the website using the indexes found there. This is a great way to minimise the time taken to identify a family. It also means that we are getting requests not only from all over Australia but from countries around the world. People continue to come to the rooms as well and these people are always welcome. The facility to use Ancestry.com has also been popular and an attractive option for our members to create online trees.

Whilst most of our work is researching family members and ancestors, we also receive requests on a variety of subjects relating to our town. These have included mining accidents, houses, criminal activity, businesses and buildings. People travelling through often stop in if they have had family here. This year we welcomed members of the University of the 3rd Age who were interested in family history. These ladies became members and continue their research with us.

Families researched this year include: George Wadell; John Morton; Clyde and Sarah Wilson; William Hubbard Kidd; Ruby Olive Priddy and the family of Charles Beevor Steele. **Denise Juler.**

Events Report for 2017-2018

- Our major event for this year was the Gympie's Great War 1915 book launch in April. It was a huge success and so nice to see so many members coming together to create a great day following on from the first book launch.
- The cemetery crawls were a bit hit and miss this year. The October one was great as usual. The March one was stormed out due to the wind and delayed by a week which was then hosted by Woody and ably assisted by others the following week. It was also wet and only a small number of people attended. The June one was again not well attended as it was raining and cold. The October one is being researched by members and the new co-ordinator will be able to bring new energy and enthusiasm to these wonderful events
- We have had a few different trips organised this year and the only one that got off the ground was one to Newstead House in Brisbane (lovely and interesting from reports) and then onto the Ginger Factory. The weather has played havoc with plans and then getting dates organised has been tricky although Clem has been putting a lot of work into some.
- The next W.W.1 series book launch is on the 10th Nov at the Masonic Hall followed by Robyn and I attending the RADF Remembrance event at the Memorial Park that evening and then a stall at the Remembrance Day events on the 11th Nov. A busy time for sure.
- A lunching event on the last Friday of each month has begun and the average attendance has been 17-20 people. These are a lovely meeting of people and all members are welcome to enquire to Denise Juler or Val Buchanan for details of the upcoming events and dates and times.
- Val Buchanan has arranged for a few "talks" to take place with the members of the LDS teaching us about Family Search and the next one is Paul from Gympie Funerals on the 10th Oct.
- The Convict Mornings have been running for a few months now with good attendance most months. Dates and details are on the website. All welcome.

- There is talk of St Andrews Day being celebrated in good Scottish form with an OPEN DAY being incorporated. Check the website and the next newsletter for further information.

Publicity Report 2017-2018

- We use fliers, facebook, phone texts and the Gympie Times to promote and they all support us in our endeavours.

Indexing Report 2017-2018

- A lot of work has taken place this year and the latest files are now uploaded to the web site. New rules in regards for indexing books from the library are now in place and each book being indexed must be written on the list in the library. Speak to the librarian about this.

Grants Report 2017-2018

- We were successful after a great deal of “back and forth” to have secured funds from Anzac Centenary Grants for the printing of both 1915 and both 1916 books in the Gympie’s Great War series. Also the 1915 book launch was covered by them as well after much discussion. 1915 books have been launched in April. 1916 books are on the way to being printed for the launch on the 10th Nov 2018.
- The grant application to Gympie Regional Council was lodged in regards to the building being painted and carpeted and perhaps an additional room built. It was rejected—but purely because some of the council members had been aware of the rooms “flooding” from rain down the walls and they were not prepared to put funds towards a space that is not dry. They did say to resubmit a further grant but with discussions with them. This has not happened yet due to the work load of the War books.

This year has been one of ups and downs in our society. There are lots of very strong personalities in our group as happens with many groups as they grow and evolve. We all need to remember that we are all volunteers and in fact pay for the right to do so in the GFHS.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge the huge amount of work that Robyn Dahl has contributed to the War books. She has done the vast majority of the research and then has passed this onto me for the inclusion and editing into the books that I know I am very proud of and Robyn is too.

I wish all the new committee members all the best with their new and continuing positions and while I am stepping back a bit—I am more than happy to advise and support if required.

All the best for the next year, may it be one of harmony and achievement for all.

Di Woodstock

Welcome to our New Members.

We are a friendly group and hope to see your smiling faces in our rooms or at an event in the near future.

A Mummy covered in chocolate and nuts was just discovered in Egypt- Archaeologists believe it may be Pharaoh Roche!

Backroom Banter & Society **Snippets**



The 'Back Room' is really the place to be where all things are discussed, and opinions on all subjects come free of charge.

Our monthly 'Meet and Eat' days have gone from an idea to a regular date on the calendar, the last Friday of the month with more members and their partners joining in the fun and frivolity. The potato chip rating has Cooloola Berries at 10 brownie points followed closely by Silky Oak

Gardens on 7 points. As we strive for a different venue each month, we are also visiting different areas of this beautiful Cooloola and Mary Valley region.

We were very pleased to welcome three members of Maryborough History soc. To our seminar on Family Search presented by Sandra Alsop from Gympie L.D.S. church. We all learnt something new from her discussions and the wonderful morning tea provided by the 'Back Room' cooks was a bonus.

Clem our favourite Maintenance Man has not been idle. We now have a sparkling white (for a short time anyway) front door and he comes highly recommended when it comes to putting up curtain fittings in the meeting room. In fact we had new curtains and a new toilet installed on the same day, but not in the same room I hasten to add.

Our Special Interest day was another idea that is now a regular date on the calendar with Convict research days held on the second Monday of each month, 9am-12md. As is the case with most of our events' good dose of friendship and laughter is mixed in with research. Following on these days, if there is sufficient interest it is proposed to hold days pertaining to Irish, Welsh, Scots etc. .

As St. Andrews like to propose together with on that, or a November launch of book Hall, they celebrate Lodges.



Day falls on Friday 30th November, we would incorporate our monthly Meet and Eat day a celebration of all things Scottish. Any thoughts volunteer to make the haggis??

promises to be a very busy month with the three (1916) in our W.W.1 series at the Masonic November 10th and joining the Freemasons as the 100th Anniversary of service for the Gympie

On 10th November 2018 in partnership with the Regional Arts Development Foundation as part of the centenary of WW1 celebrations, Gympie Family History Society will be participating in honouring the brave men and women of our region who went to war. It is anticipated that a series of short videos will be produced as well as street banners to be displayed throughout the region leading up to the finale to be held in Memorial Park, Gympie during the afternoon. The plan of the organisers is that the Society will have launched the 1916 WW1 books earlier on that day at a separate event. The Society will be able to set up a stall site near the Memorial Gates to display and sell books from the

series with all proceeds from these sales remaining with the Society.

With more meetings to come, the final selection of biographies, and where possible photographs has yet to be decided. The regional Arts Development Foundation has elected to donate \$1000.00 to the GFHS for the contribution of the biographies, photographs and local knowledge already in our possession. Having the project and the grants already obtained for the production of the series of books already underway, it has allowed the Society to be rewarded for work already completed, and be recognised as a partner with the R.A.D.F. therefore widening our exposure to the general community.

Robyn Dahl.

WW1 books project.

ReminderNo.1

. On Wednesday, 10th October we are having a visit from Paul of the Gympie Funerals. He is only too pleased to answer and questions that arise so please keep this date in mind.

Reminder No.2

Our ***last Cemetery Crawl*** for the year is ***6PM OCTOBER 24th*** at the Two Mile Cemetery, Corella Rd

**GFHS Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday
of each month at the GFHS Rooms
All members are welcome to attend.
Friendship, good food and a raffle usually.
Come and join us.**

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 (at our discretion)

Mail & Internet Inquiries **\$30.00 Australia** **\$35.00 overseas**



For Research Requests:

email c/- research@gfhs.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.

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 **Account: BSB 633000 t#153118963** and is with Bendigo Bank. We ask that you confirm by email to gfhs.com.au if possible when you have made the payment or simply put your name in the reference box. Then we can allocate your payment and get on with the research. **Our research officer is Denise Juler**

Vale Merlyn Burkhardt.

It is with regret that we record the death of Merlyn Burkhardt. Merlyn was a foundation member who worked tirelessly for our Society.

We are indebted to her in many ways. When our meeting place at the Central School became unavailable Merlyn and her husband opened their home to us and we met in the rooms under their house in Ferguson St. for some years. Merlyn was our first librarian, a position she held for many years. She was also the holder of first Life Membership, which she was awarded in 1995.

Her knowledge and ability as a researcher were legendary, and she shared it generously with others. She had a large input into many of the reference books that are still used today. Our sincere sympathy goes to the Burkhardt family. The Gympie Family History Society is the richer for Merlyn's membership.





ROMANTIC WEDDING

ON WRECKEDSHIP

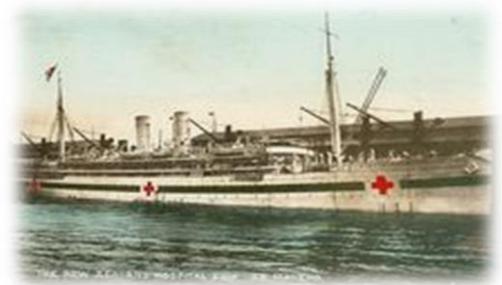
Pounded by the waves.

“In a setting more romantic than Gretna Green--the saloon of the stranded **Maheno** on the beach of Fraser Island, with the ship's organ for music--Miss Beatrice McLean of Townsville, and Mr. Dudley Ernest Weatherley one of the Customs officers in charge of the wreck, were married this afternoon. A New England Airways 'plane took Press representatives to the Island in the morning, landing on the beach at low tide in the lee of the **Maheno**.

With the deck sloping towards the sea at an angle of 16½ degrees, the minister had to lean backwards like a skier descending a mountainside, and the

bridal couple and their attendants leaned forward before him. The congregation sat on the ship's lounge settee tilted at such an angle with the canted deck that even sitting was difficult. The strange surroundings made the ceremony impressive and reverent. The Customs officer in charge at the wreck (Mr. C. Gregan) played the wedding march on the ship's organ as his colleague and his bride entered and the sea outside kept an accompaniment as a background. The ship trembled as the waves thudded against her stern and ran splashing along her seaward side. The wedding breakfast presented a problem. The slope of the table made it necessary to lay bottles on their sides. The three-tiered wedding cake needed engineering skill to keep it upright. An ingenious wedged staging gave it a level setting in the dining saloon. The honeymoon will be spent in the tiny Customs hut on the island.” *Sydney Morning Herald(NSW: 1842-1954), Wednesday 15 January 1936, page 15*

Built in Dumbarton, Scotland for the Union Company of New Zealand, S.S.**Maheno** was an ocean liner that operated in the Tasman Sea between New Zealand and Australia from 1905-1935. She also made voyages between Sydney and Vancouver, Canada. In 1915 the New Zealand government converted the **Maheno** into a hospital ship and for the next five years was used in treating and transporting allied wounded from Gallipoli and the battlefields of the Western front. During the battles for the Somme, the **Maheno** carried 14,631 patients on fourteen voyages.



At war's end in November 1918 she returned to civilian service and was at the end of her commercial life when she went aground on Fraser Island during a cyclone, July 8th 1935, while under tow to Japan. She had been sold to a Japanese company at Osaka for scrap.



S.S. Maheno

*Beached on Fraser
Island*

July 1935

All attempts to refloat her failed, equipment was salvaged and the vessel eventually abandoned. Surely no stranger setting has ever been planned for a wedding service. One of the Customs Officers guarding the wreck, Mr. Dudley Weatherley was engaged to be married to Miss Beatrice McLean of Townsville. The wedding had been postponed previously because of illness and a death in the family when Mr. Weatherley was transferred to guard the **Maheno** wreck. The Japanese captain invited the couple to be married on the ship and arrangements were made for a quiet wedding to be held on 14th January 1936 at 3.30 pm. A few friends were invited, with the timing of the wedding directly related to the high tide. By 3.30 pm, the sea would have receded far enough for the guests to walk dry footed to the ship. The wedding party and guests including children had to climb 9 metre long vertical rope ladders up the side of the ship to board the vessel.

The marriage on the **Maheno** attracted interest from around Australia with the News, Adelaide, reporting ***“Another page in the romantic history of the former ocean greyhound Maheno, which since July 9 has been stranded on the beach of Fraser Island on the Queensland coast, was added today when she became a “Bride Ship” The old ship was bright with flowers and decorations for the marriage of Mr. Dudley Weatherley, one of the Customs officers who have been keeping vigil on the stranded vessel for many months, with Miss B. McLean of Townsville. While Mr. Weatherley is stationed on the island, he and his bride will live in a shack of wood and canvas, with a canvas floor, which he has built near the wreck.”*** Dudley Ernest Weatherley remained working for the Customs Service in Queensland until his retirement. He was living in Brisbane when he passed away in 1984. Beatrice Weatherley, had predeceased him, dying in 1962 while they were living at Agars St. Rosalie, Brisbane. Now little more than a rustic skeleton, the once mighty **Maheno** remains slowly corroding away on 75 Mile beach on Fraser Island.

**Maheno
c2007**



The Gympie Show.



Renowned as one of the oldest community events in Gympie, the show is a great family event. Exhibits, entertainment, art and craft displays, woodchop, horse and cattle showing, side show alley, fireworks a rodeo and other top class events, the show offers an amazing experience. All ages and interests are catered for.

On St. Patricks Day 1877, William Kidd, Mine Host of the Seven Mile Hotel on the Brisbane Road was involved in organising a ploughing match to see who could plough the best field. With the population of Gympie increasing rapidly and many families settling in the town, the importance of food and agriculture grew accordingly. The Gympie Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Society was formed from that ploughing exhibition held at Tuckers Paddock. When the need for a Railway station became apparent, the land at Tuckers Paddock was sold to the Government in 1881. This put a halt to the yearly event until the show moved to its present site at the Southside after signing a deal with the Turf Club in 1884.

Two world wars and the depression years of the 1930's were the only things to stop the show, now one of the largest regional shows in the State, attracting competitors and visitors from across the country. Marilyn Mullaly has shared her reminisce of what show time meant to the young people of the Gympie and Cooloola region.

What do you remember about the Gympie Show?

During the Gympie show in May this year Ray and I were reminiscing about what we remembered about the Gympie Show and the impact it had on us as children. It was one of the most important events that happened in the local area every year and most of the local families attended. Your family would catch up with other families, friends and relatives that would congregate at the show. A family story from when Ray was 2 or 3 years old was that



he became lost in the crowd and that his Uncle Keith Allen found him and returned him to the family.

We both remember starting to save our money from just after Christmas, hoping to have enough to have a great time. My parents would say that they would double any amount that my sister, Jill and I could save. It was never very much that we saved but I am sure that our Uncle Don, Don Mortonson, would have made sure that we had some money to spend. Being a country kid, Ray said that he raised most of his money shooting hares and taking the ears to the council as there was a bounty paid for each pair. Staff members at the council were very trusting in believing how many pairs of ears were in the bag as Ray said that they didn't count the pairs just paid him the money for what he said was in the bag. Not sure that would be appreciated today.

A local holiday on the Friday "People's Day" allowed many families to attend and from early in the morning traffic would start to build up on Exhibition Road and I remember the thrill of watching the policeman directing traffic just on the town side of the bridge as we waited in line for our turn to go. Because we lived on the town side of the river and rarely went across the bridge even this was exciting.

As a primary school child at the Gympie Central School I remember the excitement as students from



the top story of the school, you can see from the show grounds from there, would tell their mates in the playground what rides were being erected in the side show alley and when the Ferris wheel was up. The Ferris wheel was a favourite meeting place for the young people of the day and we usually were able to find our parents if we stood in front of the grandstand. Our Uncle Don always sat in the same row of seats in the grandstand so that he could watch the wood chopping and the ring events at the same time. I think

he only moved from there when it was time to go home. Children were not allowed in the grandstand, so we just had to wait until our parents came down to collect us.

The main pavilion was filled with exhibits from the whole district, my father, Eaton Greenhalgh, was a steward in the fruit and vegetables section in the early 1950's and there were huge bunches of bananas, boxes of pineapples and pawpaws and bags of beans on display, district growers vied with each other to display their finest crops. Butter and cheese, sides of bacon, honey and bees and plants and flowers all had their sections for patrons to look through. Everyone delighted in the displays and competitions for cooking, sewing, painting and photography. Many of the local businesses displayed their stock. Machinery alley showcased new vehicles and machinery and there was often a bargain to be discussed in detail at the bar under the grandstand. The cattle pavilions and horse stalls were also a must to see with the poultry and birds exhibits a close second. I remember how loud the roosters crowing, in the poultry pavilion was, when following the crowd at a very slow pace through the building.



Of course, side show alley was the place where we spent most of our time as young people, meeting friends and watching others on the rides. It always seemed really packed with people. The dodgem cars, the Ferris wheel, the whizzer and the octopus were favourites, one year my friend, Lorelle, fell out of the octopus and broke her arm, there was very little workplace, health and safety considered back then. Putting balls down the clown's mouths for the little children or shooting at the moving metal ducks for the boys, to win, you always had to have four shots because you needed to find out how each particular gun fired. Exhibits like "the fat lady" and "the boxing tent" were well patronised with the local boys always ready for the challenge of boxing against the travelling boxers.



Further excitement could be found in the main ring where the "Nat cars" used to race around the edge scattering fine dust over the crowd or watching the grand parade which seemed to take ages to file in, circle many times and then move out again. The rodeo on Saturday of the show also created much excitement, especially when the bulls or bucking horses came over close to the rails or even jumped over them and scattered the watching crowd.

Often the family's new clothes for the winter were made especially for the show. Many feet ached through wearing new shoes for the first time or sometimes we suffered wearing woollen dresses or shirts because the weather was different every year either hot, wet or the ground boggy, or cold and foggy. Shannon's hot chips were a must while the call, hot doggy, hot doggy, hot doggy on a stick tempted many. Fairy floss, toffee apples and sample bags with actual samples in them were part of the fun.

Our children and now our grandchildren are making their own memories of the Gympie show, the agricultural element of the show is changing, costs are rising, and other interests will continue to influence planning the event. However, it was such fun to reminisce and know that many other people share these fond memories. *Marilyn Mullaly.*

Family Genes.???

I was born in England but my father was born in Cape Town, South Africa when his parents were working there. As a small child my knowledge of genetics or family history was fairly limited, but I did know that people from Africa were black.

So when I asked my grandmother why my father wasn't black, she replied,

"I washed him in Persil before we came home".

Marjorie J. Head.

Childhood Memories When I was growing up, or do you remember, how often we hear this when a group of 'more mature' G.F.H.S. members gather in the back room of G.F.H.Soc. library. The following is Faye Kennedy's story.

My father spoke of two Italian workers, his parents had working on the family farm. The story was they were brothers known as Pat and Mick, no surnames were mentioned or known, all we had was a photo of them. I tried for years to find more information. My break through was finding a book **FOOTPRINTS of ITALIAN PRISONERS of WAR** by Joanne Tapiolas. I contacted her and she was a great help filling in the missing surnames and additional information, which I thank her for.

Nicola Del Vecchio was born on March 3rd 1920 at Roseto Valfortore, Foggia, Italy to parents Pasquale Del Vecchio and Mariarosa Zita. On October 4th 1920 at Roseto Valfortore, Foggia, Pasquale Falcone was born. His parents were Francesco Falcone and Maria Camela Zito.

On January 3rd 1941 they were captured at Bardia, Libya on the first day of battle, both spending time in camp in India before coming to Australia. They arrived in Sydney on the ship "**MARIPOSA**" on November 1st 1943 then on to internment at Cowra, New South Wales. Both men were transferred to Gaythorne Queensland for farm placement to the Q3 area (Gympie) along with forty-two other Italian Prisoners of War on April 5th 1944. Nicola and Pasquale worked for J.H.Sargeant at Wilson's Pocket before being transferred on May 4th 1944 to work for my grandfather Henry Stey at Harvey's Siding. Henry grew bananas, small crops and had a dairy herd for milking.

The two men became friendly with the family. My grandmother was pregnant at that time and the men were given the honour of naming the baby girl born in 1946. My grandfather helped the men start proceedings with the Immigration Department to get the men back to Australia. While the Italians were at the farm, they helped restrain another POW worker who had become very aggressive towards my grandfather and was going to attack him with a machete... Police were called from Gympie to arrest him. (I have tried to search for a report of this incident in newspapers to no avail); Henry's applications were successful with both men returning to Australia. In February 1951 the ship, "**ASSIMINA**" arrived in Sydney from Naples with both Nicola and Pasquale on board, their destination; (according to the ships Log on NAA. website) Harvey's Siding. Nicola made one more trip back to Italy, returning with his family on the ship "**SYDNEY**", arriving into Brisbane July 1962. My father said that when the men returned to Harvey's Siding, sadly Henry was deceased and had missed the reunion with Nicola and his family by just months. (Henry died in 1962 and his wife several years before.). Photo: Pasquale (L) and Nicola (far right) at the Stey family farm c1945.

The Del Vecchio family were living at 74 Stevenson Street, Ascot Brisbane in 1962. Nicola Del Vecchio died after 1962 in the Brisbane area. Pasquale was listed as living alone at 45 Randwick Street Leichardt, New South Wales in 1957

(Researched by Faye Kennedy (nee Stey))



EARLY HISTORY OF DISTRICT OF FEDERAL

It was not until 1853 that Zachariah & Daniel Skyring took up a lease at the junction of Skyring Creek and the Mary River.

When gold was discovered in Gympie in 1867, the only route to Gympie was provided by Cobb & Co, via Durrundur, Conondale, Ubi Ubi, Cambroon and Traveston. The coach passed to the west of Tuchekoi Mountain and then to the staging post at Peacon's Pocket on the Mary River. This was a very rough track and it bypassed what was to become the Federal district.

In June 1869, Daniel Skyring selected land, what was and still is known as "Bellwood". The first home was built about one hundred metres below the present Skyring Creek bridge but in 1870 the whole family were marooned by floodwaters and had to take refuge on the roof of the building for 17 days.

In 1889, a section of railway line from Gympie to Cooran was opened and for the next 10 years or so Cooran became an important centre for the early pioneers. (I still recall my Grandmother saying that she sometimes walked from Skyring Creek over the hill and down into Cooran for supplies).

In the aftermath of the 1893 flood, the Government allocated land from the headwaters of Skyring Creek at the top of the Range down to, but not including land which was originally owned by Reads and is now known as "Llangothlin" Stud, to resettle a group of people known as the "Protestant Unity Group" who had been displaced in the South Brisbane area by the flood. The Government provided rations until the settlers became established. This communal land was later divided into individual holdings.

This left an area from "Llangothlin" downstream to where the Skyings had settled and up Middle Creek, still left to be settled. At this time a group of settlers in northern New South Wales were looking for land on which to settle. Most of these people came from Federal in the Richmond River area between Ballina and Alstonville. William Watson left the Clarence River area and the McDonald family left the Tweed River area. These pioneers were known as the "**Federal Group**". These included R.W. Graham, J. Tremeer, A. Matheson, A.H Reid, B. Walkden, W. McKenzie, H. C. Wood, J M. McDonald, W. J. Watson, A. Leahy, J. Bunter, F.A. Hollis, J. McWilliams and two Shepperson brothers. Soon the Sheppersons forfeited their land – these blocks were then taken up by P.O. O'Brien and F.A. Bunter. At that time, the cost of a block in a ballot was 10/-. Other early settlers in the district were James & David Lane and Jack Frahm. In 1905 Pat Dwyer Jnr. also selected 320 acres.

This early land was covered by vine and scrub which had to be cleared by hand, with some of the timber used for slab huts with shingle roofs and dirt floors whilst later pit-sawn timber was used. Some of the timber milled from Middle and Skyring Creek was used in the Gympie mines. In the 20s, bananas were planted in land where the trees were felled, firstly

on F.A. Hollis's property. Later Hindu groups grew bananas on the hills. Another early banana grower was A.Kelloway assisted by F.Roberts, L. Pinwill and F. Farmer. Fred.Hollis owned a bullock team which he used to transport goods and people from Cooran to their blocks. At the time, there were quite a few bullock teams in the area.



Dairying was the first industry followed in the area. In the beginning, the milk had to be separated and the cream made into butter which was then sold. Cream carriers were jacks of all trades – besides carrying the cream, on the return trip they delivered mail, bread, meat and groceries. etc..This is a photo of Cec Paxtons cream truck as it was in 1950. This photo was taken at McAuliffe's farm at Tuchekoi,

next door to our place. .With the numbers growing, it was realized that a school would soon be required so in 1908 a committee was formed to establish a school to be known as Federal Provisional School. The school was finally opened on 4th February 1910 with 24 pupils. The first Head Teacher was Miss Elizabeth Bogue who was transferred from Coles Creek School. My father, John (Jack) Rodwell enrolled at Federal school in 1916 after transferring from Coles Creek. Below is an early photo of the school taken around 1914.



Eric Rowe, as Principal taught at the school for nineteen years from 1922 to 1941 and on more than one occasion, taught two generations of a family. This is a brief history of the Federal District leading up to World War 11.

These are excerpts from the book "The Federation of Federal" published by the school in 1980. Together with some reminiscences of my own. **Val Thomas (nee Rodwell) Tuchekoi**

Teacher:

George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now Alex, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

Alex: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

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

Gympie's Great War 1914—The lead up to the war and the beginning of enlistments in 1914 through the words of the local papers and including the stories of the men who enlisted during the year.

Gympie's Great War 1915- -The year of 1915 through the words of the local papers and including the stories of the men and women who enlisted in 1915. This is in two parts-Book 1 Jan-June and Book 2 Jul-Dec.

Each Gympie's Great War book in the series is \$30 (postage is \$14 for up to and including 3 books)

NEW: Gympie Burial Register & Cooloola Crematorium Register 2005-2013. \$15.+p&hA

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 plusp&hB, order whole set add p&hE, order 5 copies add p&hD

PIONEER REGISTER of families of Gympie and Surrounds (pre 1900) \$30 plus p&hB

PIONEER HEADSTONE BOOK of Tozer Park & King Sts Gympie \$30 plus p&hB **{updated}**

A GOLDEN FUTURE 1867-1967 Stories, reports & photos of Gympie (photocopy version) \$15 p&hB

HISTORIC SKETCH OF GYMPIE 1867-1927 Stories & photographs of people & events of that period, includes index. (photocopy version) \$15 plus p&hB

The Gympie Chinese Vol 1 Stories of the early Chinese people of Gympie. \$15 p&hB

COOLOOLA COAST CEMETERY (Tin Can Bay & Rainbow Beach) transcribed 2001. Headstones, burial register in date order. Cost \$15 plus p&hB

GYMPIE FUNERALS Cooloola Crematorium— funeral notices transcribed from their website

2010 part year \$10 plus p&hA**2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015** \$15 each plus p&hA

GYMPIE CEMETERIES **Headstone Transcriptions to 1995** \$25 p&hC

2. Burial Register 1866-1994. King Street, Tozer Park Road & Two Mile cemeteries \$35 p&hC

3. Burial Register 1995-1999 Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus p&hA

Burial Register 2000-2004 Two Mile Cemetery, Cooloola Coast Crematorium register of burials in other towns \$15 plus P&HA **(Set of all 4 books) \$90 plus p&hD**

Cemetery Crawl on Tour #1 (Tiaro, Munna Creek, Miva& Gunalda) \$15 plus p&hB

Cemetery Crawl on Tour #2 (Kenilworth, Brooloo, Bollier, Gheerulla) \$15 plus p&hB

Cemetery Crawl on Tour #3 (Kilkivan, Woolooga &Boonara) \$15 plus p&hB

World War 1 Crawl August 2014 \$10 plus p&hB

World War 1 Crawl April 2015 \$10 plus p&hB

World War 1 Crawl November 2015 \$10 plus p&hB

GYMPIE TIMES SERIES

1. **1868-1874** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals and miscellaneous
2. **1875-1884** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
3. **1885-1889** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals
4. **1890-1894** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
5. **1895-1899** Births, deaths and marriages, funerals & in memoriam
6. **1900-1904** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, wills/probates
7. **1905-1909** Births, deaths and marriages, in memoriam, inquires/court

(Set of all 7 books) \$95 plus p&hD or each book \$15 plus p&hA

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&hB for 3 booklets (we are up to book 46 now) (see website for a list of names)

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

Also Old photos of Gympie in Postcards \$2 each or a set of 6 for \$10 (postage is \$2.50)

BSB 633000 Account# 153118963 and is with Bendigo Bank if you wish to order and pay by deposit—don't forget to email secretary@gfhs.com.au with your order and mail address”