

Redland Researcher



The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.
a branch of Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

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Redland Genealogical Society

a branch of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

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2018/2019 Management Committee

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Kaye Barber, Pamela Gilbert, Elaine Speck, Glenda Webb

Life Member 2011 Les Callaghan, **Life Member 2013** Les McFadzen

Life Member 2016 Jeanne Dixon

Membership: Membership is *either* through the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. and nominating to be a member of the Redland Branch *or* by directly joining the Redland Genealogical Society (Inc.) as an Associate Member; refer page 3 for Membership Fees. **Associate Membership of RGS does not entitle members to free use of GSQ facilities.**

Meetings: The Management Committee of the Redland Genealogical Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month, February to December, commencing at 2.00pm.

General Meetings of the Society are held on **the second Wednesday of each month**, February to December, from 12:15pm to 2:30pm, at the Donald Simpson Centre, Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. **An entry fee of \$2 applies at each meeting.** The Annual General Meeting is held in July, followed by the General Meeting. Meetings are not held in January.

The Society's Collection such as books, microfiche, CD-ROMs etc, which contain resources for world-wide research, are held in the Genealogy Room in the Cleveland Library, corner Middle and Bloomfield Streets. Volunteer Genealogical Research Assistants (**GRAs**) are there to assist both members and the general public on-

Tuesday and Thursday: 9.30am - 12.30pm Saturday: 12.30pm - 3.30pm

Financial members of the Society have access to this Collection any time that the Cleveland Library is open.

GRAs: Pat Misson (Librarian), Bob Aldred, Kaye Barber, Greta Brown, Margaret Clark, Jeanne Dixon, Annette Hall, Karen Hawkes, Margaret Johnson, Brenda Jones, Ross Lambert, Bev McFadyen, Les McFadzen, Pat Maclean, Jan O'Brien, Irene Salvatierra, Dianne Smith, Helen Veivers, Audrey Warner, Charlotte Wruck.

A reminder to GRAs: If unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange to swap duty with another GRA.

Local History Collection: The Redland City Council's local history and heritage collections are housed in the Cleveland Library. Angela Puata is Redland City Council's *Local History Librarian*.

A Note from the Editor



Helen, Jeanne, Annette and Kevin - ready to provide advice at our Display at the Redland Museum Heritage and Harmony Fiesta.

Annual General Meeting in July

Members are reminded that the AGM of the Redland Genealogical Society is due to be held at the Donald Simpson Centre, Cleveland, on Wednesday 10th July 2019, commencing at 12.15pm. All positions will be declared vacant at that time, and members are encouraged to nominate to become part of the Management Committee. Nomination forms will be made available to members shortly.

"Cyclone Althea", written by Les McFadzen about his activities on returning to home after having served in Vietnam, contains a deeper story within! We can gain some insight into the difficulties experienced by personnel, who have served in active duty, in coming to terms with returning to what we know as "normal life".

I am sad to report that our late member, Sue Dodds, recently passed away following a serious illness, and aged only 56 years. Sue had been able to take advantage of Donald Simpson Centre's wheel chair access until she became too ill to attend meetings.

Greg Glidden

Contents

2018/2019 Management Committee; Membership & Meeting Details	2
RGS Library Room; Genealogy Research Assistants	2
A Note from the Editor	3
Contents; Membership Fees	3
Librarian's Jottings	4
"The Randall Diary" An Introduction by Helen Duggan	5
Excerpt from "A Diary of a Voyage, London to Brisbane 1868, written by George Randall"	6
Guest Speakers; Heritage & Harmony Fiesta, Redland Museum	8
"Cyclone Althea" by Les McFadzen	9
Where Electoral Rolls are Available	13
Wandering Through the Web	14
Members' Interests	14
National Archives Information; Qld State Archives Information	15
Where to get Your Certificates; QFHS Information; GSQ Information	16

The opinions expressed in this Redland Researcher are not necessarily those of the Researcher Committee, nor of the Redland Genealogical Society. The responsibility rests with the authors of submitted articles; we do not intentionally print inaccurate information. The editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject material.

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Associate Membership Fees

Single Membership is \$30.00 per annum. Family Membership is \$45.00 per annum

The Redland Researcher is free to all types of membership.

Unless requested otherwise, the Redland Researcher is sent to members by e-mail

Librarian's Jottings



We have some changes to equipment within the library, happily providing improvements to the access of various indexes and databases.

No.1 PC has been restored, to once again enable access to the International Genealogical Index on disc. The IGI collection was created by The Church of Latter Day Saints in 1973 and continued to grow through December 2008. It contains several hundred million entries, each recording one event. Over time access to the IGI has been available on microfiche, on CD and later as a digitised version on the internet. We are fortunate to have access to all three versions of the collection.

The new operating system installed to this PC now requires a different method of access from that previously in place. Details on how to use the new system are available on the desk next to the computer. Pending further investigation, only the IGI will be able to be searched on this machine for the present time.

A laptop computer has been donated to the library. The unit has Wi-Fi capability, which will be a bonus in providing additional internet research access. A connection to FindMyPast has been installed on the computer's desktop, and a Wi-Fi mouse also attached for the benefit of members unused to fingertip control pads. To date, the unit has been found to work well, and has removed the conflict at log-in with our subscription and that provided by Redland Libraries. If Wi-Fi is not available for any reason, our subscription to FindMyPast can still be accessed via either of the two online computers in our room. One log in at any time is allowed. Full instructions for use are with the unit.

Lists of recently added databases to commercial sites such as Ancestry, TheGenealogist, etc. are being placed on the flip file on the desk next to the door. Also to be found here are notifications from FamilySearch.org and other providers. It is hoped that these lists might prompt an otherwise unconsidered research site.

We have taken out a renewed 12-month subscription to Biographical Database of Australia. This site is a comprehensive research tool comprising transcripts and indexes of original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived in or were born in Australia.

South Australian Wills & Probate Records from the State Records of SA are now available for free on FamilySearch. The collection includes wills, probate records and inheritance tax records, from South Australia, from 1844 to 1916. Information about the collection is available at <https://bit.ly/2D9vspg>. You can search the records at <https://bit.ly/2HWKX9x>.

The Federation of Family History Societies, London, is changing its name, and rebranding as Family History Federation. The change will officially launch at Family Tree Live, April 2019, with a new look website. The FFH Newsletter of April 2019 advises that the 2019 edition of ***Our Really Useful Information Leaflet*** is now available to download from their website. It's free and lists over 80 websites of interest to family historians. It includes a 'how to' genealogy guide and contact details for member societies. This new edition promises an article on using DNA in genealogy. Also available to download is ***Our Australasian Really Useful Information Leaflet***. The website is worth exploring for its scope and detail.

We are still looking for Society members to train as GRAs, and would like to hear from anyone interested in joining us in the library. Full training is given and new members are always placed with experienced assistants. Please contact me via telephone or email (see page 2), if you are able to help.

Latest Acquisitions -

Books

They Came to a Plateau

1 QLD HIS HAR

Donated by Patricia Maclean

Pat Misson

The Randall Diary

A Diary of a Voyage – London to Brisbane 1868 - written by George Randall

An Introduction

by Helen Duggan

My Great Grandfather, George Randall, was born in Hertford on the 9th February 1843. He was the son of Richard, a tailor and a Freeman of the City. George's mother Eliza, nee Webb, was a stay-maker. My Great Grandmother, Naomi Jackson, was born in the village of Anwick, near Sleaford, in Lincolnshire on the 24th September 1831. Naomi's father was a farmer.

Both George and Naomi were in service in London. We assume that this is how they met.

In a diary written by George between 1866 and 1868, he mentions having a serious illness, which seemed to linger on. He often mentions that he feels a change of climate might improve his health. At this time George was writing about emigration, an interest he had had since he was a boy.

George and Naomi married in Anwick on the 20th May 1868. Soon after, on the 12th June 1868, they sailed from London on "The Planet".

George kept a diary during the voyage, which ended in Moreton Bay on Monday the 19th October 1868, 129 days since leaving London. The final leg of the voyage was up river on the Paddle Steamer "Kate", on Wednesday the 21st October 1868. George describes life on board in some detail. Unfortunately, Naomi had to contend with morning sickness as well as sea sickness.

The diary, written in a school exercise book, is now in the National Library in Canberra.

Soon after their arrival, George and Naomi decided to open a small general store in Stanley Street South Brisbane. A son, Richard, was born on the 7th February 1869. A second son, George Jnr, was born on the 31st August 1871. The business prospered and after nine years in Brisbane, George, Naomi and their sons left for a two year holiday in England

The time in England revived his interest in Immigration again. He became an Emigration Lecturer and spent many years back in the UK. Jack Walton's biography, "George Randall Emigration Officer Extraordinaire" deals in part with this time in George's life.

George and Naomi settled in Birkdale about 1900. "Somersby Grange" their home is on Birkdale Road, and lived in by a family member. The Lych Gates, which used to be at the old entrance to the Cleveland Cemetery, were erected by George Randall. The Gates were dedicated on the 27th February 1927, in memory of his wife, Naomi, sons George and Richard and the early pioneers. Richard, an artist, died on 15th October 1906, Naomi on 7th July 1915 and George Jnr on 30th September 1924.

George Randall died 5th July 1930, survived by his six Grandchildren. Miss Margaret Willard had cared for the family, following the death of her sister Harriet (Mrs George Randall Jnr) on the 26th December 1926. The Willard's farm, called "The Pines", located on Old Cleveland East at Capalaba, was purchased by the Redland City Council in 2016 and now is included in its Heritage Register.

Editor's Footnote -

Helen rewrote the diary and it was then typed by her daughter-in-law, Lilly Duggan. Rewriting the diary was no mean feat, considering its length and having to decipher the handwriting and old sailing terminology.

The diary gives readers a remarkably descriptive, at times moving insight into what emigrants from "the Old World" endured on the long voyage to Australia; specifically, day to day life on a sailing ship, during a journey of 129 days in 1868, from England to Moreton Bay: sleeping conditions; meal preparations; periods of little wind, rising hopes of a speedier journey when the winds changed, only for hopes to be dashed again when the winds died; a very harrowing experience of coming so close to being driven against rocks near Wilson's Promontory to be saved only by a call for "all hands on deck", resulting in "every man, boy and officer being out in an instant".

Serialising the diary in the "Redland Researcher" was considered impractical due to its length. Instead, a bound copy of the diary has been printed for our Library Room. The first ten entries are printed over the following two (2) pages.

A Diary of a Voyage

written by George Randall

Friday, 12th June 1868

On this day, we left my brothers and walked to Charing Cross, where we took a steam-boat to Blackwall arriving there about 5 O.C. We found the ship just ready to come out of the Docks. An awning was up over the Poop and most of the passengers assembled under it. We got on board at once, went down to our berth and found our luggage all safe (this we had put on board on Wednesday, when Harry and his wife Willie, Cousin Sarah and Mrs Grant had come to see us off) and then came up on deck, just in time to see the ship towed out of the docks. We drew alongside the pier to take on the crew and then start down the river with a parting hurrah, that to me was rather thrilling to hear. Away we went slowly down the river with the steam-tug ahead of us, till we reached Gravesend at dusk where we were moored for the night.

During our passage down the river, we had a very good opportunity of seeing the scenery on both sides, which in some parts was very good, the parts particularly rising high above the ordinary level, clothed with green fields and trees and studded all over with pleasant looking and cosily seated houses.

Other parts, principally on the left bank, were flat and reminded one of the Lincolnshire Fens. Each scene was new to us, but each seemed familiar and no doubt gained additional interest from our looking on them, as on the last glimpses of the scenery of our native land.

Little or no time however was allowed for thinking, as the different persons who were to be our fellow passengers claimed our attention and each scene was rapidly passed and the journey to Gravesend seemed to be soon performed. We moored close to the iron steam warship "Victoria". We went below had some refreshments, made our bed, came on deck once more, to look at Gravesend and the river at night, had a short conversation with a young man whose sister was going to Brisbane and then went to bed, where we slept pretty well in spite of the noise that was going on all night.

Saturday, 13th

Got up about 7 O.C. walked about the ship till 8 O.C. when we had breakfast. After breakfast finding there (was) several things we wanted for cabin use besides those we had got off Mr Allen, I went on shore and purchased them. Had a glass of beer, my last, I thought in England and wished I could take Naomi one.

Returned to the ship before dinner, several fresh passengers came on board here, and the Captain. Two or three clergymen came on board in the course of the day and addressed a few words to us leaving a number of tracts with us. About three o'clock we delivered up part of our tickets and about 5 O.C. the agents, friends of some of the passengers, Mr Allen and Mr Wheeler, the Queensland Emigration agent, left in a boat, giving us a parting cheer and the steam-tug towed us out to sea. About 10 O.C. we went to bed.

Sunday, 14th

This morning, I got up about 7 O.C. A fair wind was blowing so the sails were spread and we moved along slowly. Breakfasted at 8 O.C. The cook made coffee for us all and gave us our allowance of bread and butter. Wind shifted about 11 O.C. and the steam-tug came to us and towed us along for two or three hours. Dinner at 1 O.C. Fresh beef and mutton with potatoes again today. Saw land plainly – Margate and Ramsgate – could see the white cliffs and the long pieces of sandy beach. Wrote letters to Mother and to William as we heard the Pilot would take letters on shore with him when he left us off the Isle of Wight. Most of the day was spent on deck looking about us. In the afternoon the wind freshened again and we went along nicely. The steam-tug left us.

Monday, 15th

Today, we seemed to be getting more at home – began to arrange some of our things. The weeks allowance of various articles were issued to us. It was arranged that we should join in and form one "mess" with seven young men who composed the rest of the intermediate passengers. Naomi made a pudding for us which was very much liked. Stiff breeze most of the day but it was not favourable to us and the order to 'bout ship pretty often given. It was rather disheartening to be told we were making very little way, although we went along at a good rate. I forgot to mention that in the early part of yesterday we saw the French coast Calais and saw a church and several other objects through a glass.

Tuesday, 16th

Early today we heard the Pilot would leave us. So directly after breakfast, I finished the letters to Mother and William and put them in the bag. Came in sight of land opposite Newhaven before dinner, a steamer came alongside and the Pilot left us amid considerable cheering. The sea was rather rough today and several people were sick. Naomi among the number, though not as bad as some were. Found out that Mr Smith, one of our mess, knew Hertford well, having been to Christwells School. He mentioned some of the places and persons he knew there. Said he could let me have the "Herts Guardian" sometimes and he was a native of Enfield. Should always find out where he was by applying to the Grand Solicitors Officer, Brisbane. Was very pleased to find someone on board who knew Hertford.

Naomi very little or no better. Fancied some of the home made cheese we had brought from Anwick with us. In the afternoon made us some bread with baking powder which was very much liked. Bed about 10 O.C. as usual lights not being allowed after that time.

Wednesday, 17th

Naomi and the sickness generally a little better. Sea a little calmer. Weather fine. Not making much progress. In the evening had a short conversation with Mr Macalister on Queensland past and present and English politics, he being like myself an admirer of Mr Gladstone, Bright etc. Read parts of Lang's work on Queensland given to me by Mr Allen, to whom I gave a copy of the "Emigrant" when we were coming down the Thames. Had hot cakes for tea.

Thursday, 18th

A fine breeze had been blowing all night in the right direction and unknown to us we had been going along splendidly and continued to do so all day. It seemed to put us all in good spirits and I could not help continually leaning over the side of the ship and watch her cleaving through the water at a faster rate than I had yet seen her. Of course all sail was spread. Naomi much better. During the latter part of the afternoon and nearly the whole evening we could see land – the Cornish coast. We watched it as long as the light would let us with no little interest, as we were told we should see no more of England if the present breeze continued unless we were up at 3 or 4 O.C. next morning.

The eyes of most of the passengers seemed to be directed toward it during the evening as the dim outline of the abrupt and stately looking rocks became more and more indistinct in the mist of evening. Naomi asked me if "I regretted leaving England now". At such a moment, it was almost an unfair question when so many recollections were crowding upon the memory. Still I cannot say I did regret, even at that moment, having taken the journey we were on now. I must also confess that I felt far less emotion on taking a last view of my native land than I had expected or imagined I should feel whenever that moment came. The reason I cannot tell. Later in the evening Eddystone Lighthouse was to be seen, but I did not see it.

Friday, 19th

Very strong breeze blowing and in the right direction. It was said we had come over 100 miles in the night and were still going at a good rate. Of course land was quite out of sight and we were now fairly on our journey with a fair wind. I fancied once it seemed as though England had held us as long as she could (keeping us tacking about in the channel by unfavourable winds but at last finding us determined to go and bent upon our course), she sent us off in double quick time.

The sea was rough – rougher than we had yet seen it, we being now in deep water and symptoms of general sickness appeared. Nearly all of the female passengers were sick. Naomi among them. A fight or an attempted fight between two 2nd cabin passengers. A few days ago two notices had been stuck up excluding all passengers except those belonging to the 1st and 2nd cabins from the Poop of the Ship. I thought it was a piece of downright humbug, and said so. Found on enquiry it was usual on board Passenger Ships. Thought it would be a good opportunity to put up notices on various parts of the ship in the following words: – "Notice. It is earnestly requested that all fighting in future be conducted on the Poop" and other Notices excluding 1st and 2nd cabin passengers from our part of the ship.

Saturday, 20th

The sea somewhat rougher and less wind, the ship rolled and tossed about "a good deal". Morning fine but rather cloudy. Between 9 and 10 O.C a yacht passed us in full sail. She tossed very much but went along very nicely and when passing us, was at no great distance. We crowded on the side of the ship and hurraed, which was heartedly returned by the few on board – and on she went.

More sickness on board today – Naomi very ill indeed – continually sick, kept to her bed all day. Felt very queer myself all day. Later in the afternoon I was sick three times, but felt better after it. Ship tossed very much. It was very squally and everything was wretched. At night, we, (myself and Mr Davy) stuck up the "Notices" unobserved, went to bed, neither of us feeling at all well.

Sunday, 21st

Got up feeling somewhat better. Naomi a trifle better but did not get up all day, as the afternoon turned out rainy, squally and uncomfortable. Had to lie down myself several times to keep off sickness. Prayers were read by the Captain on the Poop but I had vowed not to go on the Poop again, so I would not go. I proposed we should have prayers on or in the Fore Castle getting the sailors to join us. Preserved meat today for dinner. In the evening and during the night, the ship rolled excessively and the sea washed over her decks. Plates and dishes, cans and basins rolled and rattled all night long. Water came into our berth considerably making things still more uncomfortable.

On the 18th I had forgot to mention that the little window lighting our and the next berth was open to give us an airing and a sea swept in, soaking all our bedding and other things causing considerable consternation and bother. Luckily, it was a fine day and we took them all out and got them tolerably dry. Nearly all the passengers things got served the same. It was rather a laughable sight to see us all running up on deck with our beds and blankets.

Guest Speaker

February Meeting



Trish Johansen of TJ's Digital Studio gave an informative presentation on "Save Your Photos", including outdated media such as slides, negatives and videos. How many of us have these lying around in boxes, stored in garages, gathering mould and mildew? Tips were given on removing photos that had been glued into albums and the dangers of having photos under plastic covers or in plastic sleeves.

A good starting point for saving your photos, is to rate their importance, concentrating on those that will be of interest to future generations. If scanning them into your PC, always back them up on reputable brands of external hard drives or "in the Cloud". Many companies offer Cloud storage, but always read the fine print before signing up.

Trish's address generated a lot of questions from our members, indicating the importance of this topic for family historians.

March Meeting

Peter Dunn, Web Master of the "Australia @ War" web site www.ozatwar.com, gave a wide-ranging talk on military locations in Brisbane and the Redlands areas during World War II", including Australian military units raised in the Redlands.

When the USA military arrived, many buildings, schools, houses and parks were commandeered. General Macarthur established his headquarters in the AMP building, Queen Street and lived with his wife and son in Lennons Hotel, George Street. Sir Zelman Cowan, later a Governor General of Australia, worked on the same floor as Macarthur.

Some Redlands sites included a Radio Receiving Site, Capalaba; a Transmitter at Redland Bay Golf club with a circuit established to the USA War Department; Officers' Quarters at Redland Bay Hotel; a USA Navy Anti-aircraft Gunnery School, Wellington Point. The Australian Women's Land Army was stationed at Birkdale School of Arts, accommodated in tents around the building, and worked on farms throughout the Redlands.



April Meeting



Paul Oates delivered a talk on "A Surprise Cornish Connection". He talked of Cornwall's "proud Celtic heritage" and its being a recognised minority. For centuries it considered itself as separate from England and had its own language. The "surprise connection" came about while Paul and his wife were furthering their family research by visiting Cornwall and discovered a direct ancestral link between their two families.

Heritage & Harmony Fiesta

Redland Museum



Our display at the Museum's Heritage & Harmony Fiesta in March went off very well. We had our mannequins dressed to suit the occasion and our Display Coordinator, Elaine (at left) and Membership Officer, Annette were dressed in period costume.

This was a free event for the general public, well-supported by many local community groups and schools. It enabled us to promote our activities to a wide range of people to draw new members.

The good support from our members to share time on the display gave us an opportunity to get to know other community groups, partake of the range of food on offer and enjoy some of the concerts.

Cyclone Althea

by Les McFadzen

From the School of Military Engineering (SME) I went up to Windsor then took the Old Putty Road north to link up with the New England Highway at Singleton, which was my normal choice for a trip north. I used the Old Putty Road to get used to the handling of a sports car, but did not take any risks on the trip home, although I did manage to hit 121 mph [195km/h] on my favourite stretch in Queensland between Maryborough and Howard.



Home at last

I was not bored. No true country boy could be bored in that environment, but my life seemed to lack any significance. My whole world previously revolved around assessing the risk in everything I did, looking at every face I saw for that first flicker of hatred, every roadside bush for a sign of movement or colour out of place and finally the relief brought by knowing I had survived another day.

Now, I felt as if I was in suspended animation, just waiting for the time when I could return to duty and some semblance of a structured life style. In times of stress in Vietnam while waiting for something to happen I would think of the farm and the places I knew along the creek where I had spent happy hours as a kid killing time. Now I wished I was back in South Vietnam.

I desperately needed someone to talk to, someone who would understand what Vietnam service entailed, but I knew no-one who would understand. I went to visit my cousin Paul but all he could talk about was his cows and the days we spent in the bush as kids, although it was probably more my fault as I couldn't bring myself to raise the subject of my overseas service. It was just so foreign to life on the farm and what he was doing.

Even after I serviced my car one Saturday and removed the hard top and cleaned it inside and out, I was still feeling depressed. Early the next morning when everyone went to the dairy I decided to take it for a run.

I pushed it as hard as I could on the dirt section of East Funnel Creek Road to build my confidence then really put my foot down when I hit the bitumen at Paul's turn-off, even though it was a narrow winding road not built for speed. When I got to the Bruce highway intersection I turned south, instead of the usual northerly direction for no real reason, and slammed my foot to the floor and held it there regardless of the road conditions.

I knew the car wouldn't roll but it could break loose and slide. I did slow a little for some corners but even a four-wheel drift on one corner at 125 mph (200 km/h) didn't make me feel any better and it didn't convince me to ease off either.

I don't think I was trying to commit suicide but knew it didn't really matter if I didn't survive a crash. I was soon well south of Funnel Creek and the road, although relatively straight, had a few dips and small hills. I became airborne a few times on crests.

From SME to the farm at East Funnel Creek took a bit over 24 hours with only stops for fuel and I was home for a late breakfast on Tuesday 23rd November.

Coming straight from the constant bustle, watchfulness and adrenaline rush of Vietnam to the quiet, clean, peaceful life on a farm in the bush in Central Queensland was a major jolt. The peace and solitude left me restless and uncomfortable.

I had no desire to go into town or to visit people. My manners, language and general attitude took a while to return to what was considered acceptable in 'polite society'.

The last time I left the road on a crest, the front end started to float and even after the rear wheels touched down I didn't ease off the accelerator although I thought I might go over backwards as the bonnet lifted further. Because of the low seating position and high bonnet, at the best of times, near forward vision was limited.

I realized I hadn't been able to see the road for some time when a semi-trailer went past in a flash with his air horn blasting. The buffeting from his air stream felt like hitting a brick wall and I only just managed to drop the nose and regain steering and control to find I was straddling the centre line.

No wonder he was blowing his horn as the road was too narrow there for a centre line and he must have been as far off the side of the bitumen as he could go. I was still doing well over 100 mph when I passed a small sedan towing a trailer. I had a quick glimpse of a young family. When I saw the driver with his short back & sides I thought he could have been a digger on his way to a new posting in Townsville.

I realized that if it had been them at the last crest instead of the semi, with their lower line of vision, and unable to swerve there would have been blood and guts spread for miles. I eased right off then and after a few kilometres pulled off the road and sat there thinking about what my driving could mean to another family.

[As I write this I realised I had probably only thought I had seen the occupants. Maybe my mind wanted to see something. I may have been looking for a reason to live a bit longer. If the approaching car had been traveling at the limit of 60 mph and I was doing close to 125 mph, a combined speed of approximately of 290 km/h, would I have been able to see any occupants? Surely it would have been just a flash!]

After a few minutes, I did a U-turn and headed back north. I noticed I was running on fumes and pulled into the Connors River service station for fuel. From there back to the farm seemed to take forever but I was still back home before lunch.

The drive back gave me time to think and I decided I was missing Amy. For almost two years the only real relaxation I had experienced was in her company. I also realised I had made a mistake in thinking I could walk away from my experiences, both in the Republic of Vietnam and in the Republic of China (Taiwan), without looking back.

I know I should have been able to benefit from this leave period but there was something missing. Immediately after lunch I penned my first letter to Amy and then it was a matter of waiting for her reply which was much quicker than I expected. After receiving her first letter I began writing to her on a regular basis and over the next few months waited eagerly for her replies.

One evening Bob and Doris Read came for dinner. After dinner Bob asked me if he could interview me for an article in the Sarina RSL newsletter. I had known Bob had some WWII service but did not know the extent of his service and he didn't give too much away, but as we spent the evening chatting I realized he was the one bloke I could talk too.

Dad sat in and listened but didn't contribute to the flow of conversation. After an evening of comparing some of the similarities and differences of our military service, Bob suggested I write about my experiences. I didn't know it at the time but he was in the process of doing the same thing himself with his WWII service. I realized when I read his book that he had been through some horrific experiences in the Middle East and the PNG campaigns and how little each of us had given away that night.

Outside of my letters the immediate change in diet was the most important thing in my life at that time. On Mum's cooking my weight went from 8st 15lbs [57.61kg] to 11st [69.85] in just 36 days before I was rescued by Cyclone Althea which struck Townsville on Christmas Eve.

My ulcer cleared up with the change in diet and I didn't have a recurrence of the symptoms for 40 years. My left knee was still a problem as it would puff up at the slightest jarring and a lot of the time I had to use a walking stick that Dad gave me.

Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Althea hit Townsville on Christmas Eve 1971, a Saturday night. We had quite a bit of rain in East Funnel Creek over the next few days as the resulting low moved south but it eased off a little on the Monday morning.

By Tuesday I needed to get away for a while so I went down to Armstrong Beach to visit Uncle Roy and Aunt Addy. There were still intermittent heavy showers but the main effects of Althea did not extend as far as Sarina.

The rain had stopped just before I left the Sarina to St Lawrence road and had turned east onto the road to Armstrong Beach. The early morning sun appeared for the first time in days and threw shadows across the road which obscured a causeway that was flooded. To me it looked just like a flat road because the water on the causeway was level with the road surface on both sides, and the same colour.

I didn't even take my foot off the accelerator. I hit the water at about 130 km/h, the nose dipped [no pun intended] then came up and I surfed across on the skid pan with the engine roaring as the rear wheels left the road surface when the back end floated. As soon as I felt the change I began changing down through the gears while still not sure what was happening.

I made the other side again and when the front wheels touched the rising bitumen the bonnet reared up until my forward momentum allowed the rear tyres to touch as well. By this time I had reached second gear so I hit the accelerator and shot out of the causeway and about fifty metres down the road madly pumping the wet brakes before they started working.

The engine spluttered for a few minutes and I had difficulty keeping it running but it gradually settled down. I left it running when I walked back to see what I had hit. The water had backed up from a creek and judging by the guide posts was about chest deep on the road but barely moving at all.

The only movement in the water appeared to have been caused by my surfing and the resultant bow wave. As I stood there pondering my good fortune I could see the ripples settling back to the original glass-like surface. It was easy to see how I could miss the fact there was supposed to be a causeway.

I looked around for a barricade, or something I could put across the road to warn other drivers, but could not find anything. I heard the car miss a couple of beats again and decided to head off. I hoped other drivers would be locals and would be familiar with the causeway and its propensity to flood.

At Uncle Roy's place, and with his help, I took the four carburettor barrels off and put the air cleaner back on in their place. I never did use the open barrels again. The trip home was uneventful as, by the time I left the beach, there was no sign of water on the road, although the engine still had an intermittent miss.

About 10am on Wednesday Uncle Ferg turned up at the farm and said he had received a phone message from the Army in Townsville cancelling my leave and ordering me to get to the Regional Engineer's (RE) office at Lavarack Barracks as soon as the Bruce Highway north of Mackay was open.

I started packing immediately and after advice from Uncle Ferg, turned the radio on and listened to the ABC station for their RACQ road closure updates. They indicated the water levels across the Bruce Highway were falling and the several closures in force would be lifted by midday.

I always travelled in uniform when driving on leave or to new postings. When it was time to leave the farm, I had difficulty starting the car and it felt like it was running on three cylinders but I took off with the road still closed at Giru. By the time I had reached Giru the police had opened the road, as the RACQ report had indicated, but only to heavy traffic as the rain had stopped for several hours. There was a bridge over the creek where the water was flowing quite swiftly, but where the highway was flooded it was just still back-water that covered the road and paddocks either side.

I drove up to the head of the queue and, after talking to a truckie and explaining to one of the cops that I was required in Townsville by the army to assist in the cyclone recovery effort, they agreed to let me try to get through. Some of the other drivers who should have been in front of me were less than pleased with my idea.

I stuck the Datsun's nose between the rear wheels of the tip truck as arranged with its driver and, with my bumper almost touching his rear differential, we entered the water. I knew the truckie understood what I wanted him to do. He knew he couldn't increase or decrease his speed. If he slowed down I would be in trouble and I didn't want to get flooded in front of the cop and the other drivers that said it couldn't be done.

Fortunately, the truckie knew what was required and maintained a constant speed about 10 mph and, with him pushing the water out of the way, I made it through. The water was deeper than the top of the doors on my car yet I had no problem getting through at all. Thanks to the truck pushing the water out of the way my tyres barely got wet. I stopped and thanked him and gave the spectators a wave then took off for Townsville.

It was pouring rain again before I reached Lavarack Barracks in Townsville and, after a four hour window, the highway was closed for another four days. After a visit to the RE and meeting the others in the office, some of whom I had met briefly before on courses at SME I moved into my room at the North Queensland (NQ) Area Sergeant's mess which was to be my home for the next six months.

The only bloke in the office that I really knew was Alan Limn, the Mechanical Supervisor, who had been an instructor in the Engineer Services Wing (ESW) wing at SME when I was banished there in '69. I had visited Townsville twice, briefly in the past as it was never on my bucket list.

There are two prominent features in the area, Mount Stuart and Castle Hill.

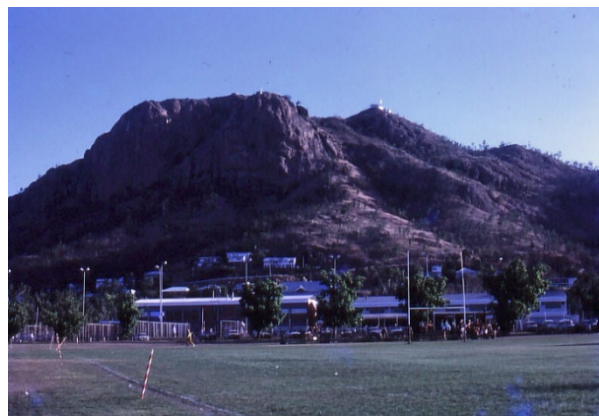


Mt Stuart from the RE's Office

Mt Stuart, about 584 metres (1915 ft.) above sea level, is nestled amongst grass trees and savannah bushland that is sparse and usually brown and is the backdrop for the barracks situated at the base of the mountain, and between it and Lavarack Avenue. The road up to the top is about nine kilometres. It is a good drive to the fantastic Townsville lookout. You can see out to Cleveland Bay in the east as well as Ross Dam up in the northwest. The Rotary lookout is a covered picnic area, which is clean and quite pleasant in the breeze and is a good spot to take a girl on an evening drive.

The second feature is Castle Hill that is an isolated pink granite monolith standing in the middle of the city. It rises to a height of approximately 290 metres (950ft.) above the bay and dominates the city skyline. It is a distinctive natural feature like the Glass House Mountains on the south Queensland coast. There are several vantage points from which to view the city and Magnetic Island just across the Bay.

The hill rises abruptly from the coastal plain. The surface is mainly bare rock with small areas of soils. There are three peaks to the summit and on the northern cliff face a large graffiti called 'The Saint' is painted.



Castle Hill from the Rugby Grounds

There are several buildings and installations on the hill. On the northern-most peak of the summit is a 1942 observation post, a low, square, concrete bunker with observation apertures. During the Second World War, Castle Hill was used as a communications and observation post. Members of the 5th Australian Division were deployed on the hill, and the observation post they constructed remains there. In 1942 a radar station was also established on the summit.

The next few days I spent settling in to the mess and the routine at the RE's office, which was a two-minute walk from the mess. One of the first things I did was write to Amy and change my postal address. I had my first letter from Amy, via my new address in less than two weeks. I did receive one from home readdressed by my mother to Lavarack Barracks.

I didn't need to use my car. However, the first time I did need to start my car it sounded like only one cylinder was firing although the other three would fire intermittently.

After work that day I stripped both carburettors and found one of the float chambers had mushrooms growing in it. The other was full of yucky stuff that smelt like fuel but looked like it had been retrieved from a toilet. I managed to clean enough of the 'yuk' out of the carburettors to get the engine running again; then I rang the Nissan workshop in town and booked it in for a service.

After that I tried to keep it away from water, however I had forgotten about drunks.



View from Mt Stuart across the barracks to the Ross River Bridge. Magnetic Island is in the background

Author's bibliography list has been removed due to lack of space [Ed. RR]

Where Electoral Rolls are Available

Current electoral rolls for all three (3) levels of government are available for viewing at offices of the Australian Electoral Commission. The address for its Brisbane Office is Level 7, 488 Queen Street and its Beenleigh Office, 108 George Street. The AEC does not keep historic electoral rolls for public viewing. Electoral rolls kept by Parliamentary Members in their local offices are not available to the general public.

Our Library Room has electoral roll information on CDs/Fiche; some can be accessed on FindMyPast and Ancestry.

Until 1988, rolls were arranged by state then by electorate, division and subdivision; names were then organized alphabetically within the subdivision. From 1989, rolls were organized alphabetically within divisions by state. From 1991, rolls were organized alphabetically by name within each state.

The National Library of Australia in Canberra has available selected microfiche of the Commonwealth electoral rolls from 1901 to 2008, and holds a limited number of state electoral rolls on microfiche for the time prior to Federation. A comprehensive guide to researching historic Commonwealth, State and Territory electoral rolls is available on the National Library of Australia website <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-electoral-rolls>.

The State Library of Queensland currently holds electoral rolls covering the following ranges –

Q'land 1860-1900 (Ask for Guide at Desk)
1860-84, 1889 State [CD-ROM]
1895, 1896, 1900, 1901 State [CD-ROM]
1903-2008
2012, 2014 State (Request from storage)
2015 State (Open access level 4)
2017 State – Available *onsite only*
1905, 1906, 1909, 1910, 1912 State [CD-ROM]
1913 Commonwealth [CD-ROM]
1915 State [CD-ROM]
1922, 1934, 1941, 1949, 1959
Commonwealth [CD-ROM]

New South Wales 1842-64 (Ask for guide at the Desk)
1903-2008
1903 [CD-ROM]
1913, State [CD-ROM]
1935 Commonwealth [CD-ROM]

Victoria 1841-1851
1899 only
1856; 1903-2008
1903, 1939 [CD-ROM]

Tasmania 1856-1900 – imperfect
1914-2008
1903 [CD-ROM]

ACT 1928+

WA 1901-2008
1901 [CD-ROM]
1939, 1949 [CD-ROM]

SA 1991-2008
1909 [CD-ROM]
1939, 1941, 1943 [CD-ROM]

NT 1922-2008
1884-1940 [CD-ROM]

New Zealand 1853-1874/75; 1880/81-1887; 1890; 1893-1894;
1896-1897; 1899-1900; 1902-1903; 1905/6; 1908;
1911; 1914; 1919; 1922; 1925; 1928; 1931; 1935;
1938; 1941; 1943; 1946; 1975; 1978; 1981
1881, 1893, 1896 [CD-ROM]
1911, 1935 [CD-ROM]

[Last revised: Sep 2018]

Wandering Through the Web

Australia, New Zealand & Overseas Family History Contacts



NB: Organisations listed here generally do not provide direct research assistance. They do, however, provide links to societies that you may find helpful! Some societies provide links to newsletters which you can download at no cost!

The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

This organisation states that it was established to coordinate and assist the work of Australian and New Zealand groups with interests in family history, genealogy, heraldry and related subjects.

- Web: <http://affho.org/>
- Log into website, select **About**, then **Membership List**. Select the appropriate tab for **Aust, ACT, NSW, NZ, Qld, SA, Tas, Vic, and WA** for names and contact details of, and links to, societies in these locations. The link in the tab **Int** takes you to the Federation of Family History Organisations in the UK – refer to details at the end of this list.

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc.

This association states that it can provide researchers with contact details of the most appropriate member societies to assist with their enquiries.

- Web: <https://www.nswactfhs.org/>
- Log into website and select **Members** for names and contact details of, and links to member societies.

Victorian Association of Family History Organisations

This Association is an umbrella organisation of family history and genealogical societies together with State Government instrumentalities.

- Web: <http://www.vafho.org.au/>
- Log into website, select **Membership**, then **VAFHO Members** in the dropdown menu for names and contact details of, and links to member societies.

The Family Historian (South Australia)

- Web: <http://thefamilyhistorian.com.au/south-australian-history-societies/>
- Contains a list of South Australian History Societies and a link to each.

Lone Tester HQ (Western Australia)

- Web: <https://www.lonetester.com/2017/04/discovering-links-25-free-links-for-western-australian-genealogy-research/>
- Log into website for links to a range of Western Australian research sites.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

- Web: <https://www.genealogy.org.nz/>
- Log into website, select **About us** then **Branches & Area Contacts** which takes you to the page **Regional Listing of Affiliated Branches & Area Contacts**. Links here take you directly to societies.
- Selecting **About us**, then **Interest Groups & Contacts** takes you to the page **Interest Groups & Interest Contacts**. Links here take you directly to the following interest groups -
Australia, Channel Islands, East India, European, English, Genealogical Computing Group, Huguenot, Irish, Irish Lower North Island, Isle of Man, Maori, North America, Pacific Islands, Scottish, Shetland Islands and Welsh.

Federation of Family History Societies

- Web: <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/>
- Log into website, select **Find a Family History Society**. This will take you to their page **Contact our Member Societies**. Here are links to societies under the headings **England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Overseas, One-Name and Other (a variety of specialist societies)**. The **Overseas** link provides links to societies in Canada, Germany and the USA.

Members' Interests



Please contact Members through the Society's email: redlandgs@gmail.com

Member's Name: **Margaret STALLMANN**

Membership No: **311**

Surname	Year/ Range of Years	Town/City	COUNTY/STATE	COUNTRY
Asbeck	1860-1900	Hagen-Haspe	WESTPHALIA	GERMANY
Behnecke	1860-1900	Hagen-Haspe	WESTPHALIA	GERMANY
Büch	1860-1900	Hagen	WESTPHALIA	GERMANY
Henseler	1860-1900	Hagen	WESTPHALIA	GERMANY

Member's Name: **Greta BROWN**Membership No: **181**

Surname	Year/ Range of Years	Town/City	County/State	Country
Hoare	1875	Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Holmes	1869		QLD	AUS
Hooper	1930	Wynnum	QLD	AUS
House	1900	Perth	WA	AUS
James	1950	Windsor	QLD	AUS
Jamieson	1930	Fortitude Valley	QLD	AUS
Jarome	1930	Red Hill Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Jarrott	1930	Red Hill Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Jewel	1900	Gympie	QLD	AUS
Jones	1901	Lismore	NSW	AUS
Jones	1920	Lismore	NSW	AUS
Kavanagh	1930	Longreach	QLD	AUS
Kelk	1930	Wynnum	QLD	AUS
Kelly	1834	Tumut & Gundagai	NSW	AUS
Kelly	1856	Tumut	NSW	AUS
Kennedy	1890	Longreach	QLD	AUS
Key	1900	Lismore	NSW	AUS
King	1940	Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Lihou	1960	Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Lynden	1780	Connemara	GAL	IRL
Marrow	1930	Melbourne	VICT	AUS
Mcclay	1861	Brisbane	QLD	AUS
Mccosker	1890	Emerald	QLD	AUS
Mcculloch	1860	Sydney	NSW	AUS
Mcdonald	1899	Denchur, Darling Downs	QLD	AUS

**16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill**Phone: **(07) 3249 4200**Website: www.naa.gov.au

Important: Before visiting, refer to "Step-by-step guide for researchers" in their website for requirements for ordering & accessing records and using Reading Room.

Hours & Facilities:

Wednesday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm

Closed Public Holidays

A public kitchen with tea and coffee facilities is located on the Ground Floor.

Free on-site parking is available

The strengths of their Brisbane facility collection are the immigration records that date from the 1850s; the post office and mail service records, and photographs that are a rich source of information for local history.

Queensland State Archives**435 Compton Road, Runcorn**Phone: **(07) 3131 7777**Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au

Important: Before visiting, refer to "Public Search Room" in their website for requirements for using the search room and for accessing records.

Hours & Facilities:

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm

Closed Public Holidays & Christmas/New Year period

Open second Saturday each month, 9am to 4.30pm

The Readers Lounge has tea & coffee facilities, a refrigerator and microwave.

Free on-site parking is available.

Visit their website for details of a free taxi service from Fruitgrove Railway Station on Tuesdays.

The QSA holds informative Seminars and Events throughout the year, on their premises and at external venues. Check "What's on" in their website for details or to arrange subscription to their free "qsa bulletin"



Where to get your Certificates

Check the relevant Registrar's Office for details

These prices are based on Historical Certificates, where available

Queensland

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Qld)
110 George Street, Brisbane. 4000
PO Box 15188, City East, Qld 4002
Phone: 1300 366 430
Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
\$22.00 Historical Image – PDF on-line
\$22.00 Historical Source Image – PDF on-line
\$31.00 Historical Certificate – includes postage
<https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/>

New South Wales

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 30, Sydney, NSW 2001
Phone: 13 77 88
\$33.00 (with Registration number)
\$46.00 (w/out number, includes 10 year search)
Both include postage
www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Transcription services:

www.joymurrin.com.au
<http://www.transcriptions.com.au/>



Victoria

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 5220, Melbourne, Vic 3001
Phone: 1300 369 367
\$24.50 Uncertified Historical Image - via email
\$33.00 Historical Certificate – postage extra
www.bdm.vic.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory

(Pre 1930, apply to NSW)
Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 6207 3000
\$63.00 includes postage
Historic Death and Marriage Indexes are now available.
https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18/kw/bdm

South Australia

Births, Deaths & Marriages
Consumer & Business Services
GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, SA 5001
Phone: 131 882
\$48.75 - includes postage
<http://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/wcm/births-deaths-marriages/>

Western Australia

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
PO Box 7720, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850
Phone: 1300 305 021
\$20.00 (uncertified copy) – includes postage
www.bdm.dotage.wa.gov.au/

Tasmania

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 198, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Phone: 1300 135 513
\$53.98 – includes postage
www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/home

Northern Territory

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 3021, Darwin, NT 0801
Phone: (08) 8999 6119
\$46.00 – includes postage
(1856-1863 = NSW) (1863-1870 = SA)
www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm



New Zealand

Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Citizenship
PO Box 10-526, Wellington 6143 New Zealand
\$(NZ)25.00
(Visa, MasterCard & American Express accepted)
A printout has more information than a certificate
www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/

Queensland Family History Society Inc.

58-60 Bellevue Avenue, Gaythorne 4051

Phone: **(07) 3355 3369**

Website: www.qfhs.org.au

There are no stairs at this venue. It is accessible by either train or bus. Parking is available in the street.

Members are reminded that RGS is an Associate Member of QFHS.

Membership cards are available from our RGS Secretary for a borrowing fee of \$2. QFHS will charge an Hourly or a Day fee, if you do not take this card with you.

If registering online for seminars, the card is not needed. Our QFHS Membership number, obtainable from RGS Secretary, must be stated.

Disclaimer-

Prices, addresses, etc. are correct at the time of going to print. Use this as a guide only; prices are subject to change. If you do find incorrect information, I will appreciate your advising me.

[Ed. RR]

Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

25 Stackpole St (cnr Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd)

WISHART 4122

Phone: **(07) 3349 6072** Email: info@gsq.org.au

Website: www.gsq.org.au

Opening hours:-

Mondays & Public HolidaysClosed

Tuesdays to Fridays10am to 3pm

2nd & 4th Wednesdays.....6pm to 9pm

Saturdays.....12noon to 4pm

SundaysInterest Group Meetings only