

**Mildura & District  
Genealogical Society Inc.**

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The Petschel Family Hamilton, Vic. Taken about 1920 See story page 3.

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## From the President

Congratulations to our newsletter editor Helen Stagg on the excellent newsletter she presents each quarter. I was particularly impressed with the photo of our retiring committee members on the front of the last edition. The girls in question Raylee Schultz, Fay Mannes and Anne Newberry have all served us well and the committee will miss both them and their input into the running of the society. There is a vast array of expertise among our membership and on this occasion it was the talents of Jan Stewart who arranged the flowers that bought those beaming smiles to the girls' faces. Thanks Jan.

The balance of the committee was elected unopposed but we do have some vacancies, the main two being a publicity officer and someone to look after the roster. Please come forward and offer your assistance. The positions are not arduous and the previous incumbents are more than willing to help show you the ropes.

Bernadette Wells conducted the elections at the AGM and then gave a presentation on her book "Merbein Blockies and the Evolving Mechanization of Horticultural Implements and Practices" about the various implements used by blockies and some of the items they invented to improve their working conditions and ease their workload. At the September meeting our member Nola Andriske told us of the conditions prior to and on the boat when her ancestors arrived.

At the October meeting we were encouraged to bring along photos and explain why they were of particular interest. I particularly enjoyed the extract from the paper that accompanied the one bought in by Helen Petschel. Her ancestor had written a letter to the paper during the war regarding the young men enlisting and while it is very funny now it would have been very serious at the time. (See cover photo and letter facing page.) I was also intrigued by what Mal Williams does with his old photos (copies of course). He has stuck them to board which makes them look much more fitting of the time they were taken. We all know how frustrating it is when you can't identify someone in a photo. Do you have names on the backs of yours?

We are in the process of arranging a workshop with Debbie Beavis for late March 2015. The program has not yet been finalised but we will let you know further details in plenty of time so you can keep the date free.

The end of the year has sneaked up on us again. The rooms will be closing on the 13th December and reopening on the 12th January. The Committee and I hope you enjoy the Christmas break and wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

*Lyn Grant.*



Have you seen the new Tasmanian Names Index website?

[http://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names/](http://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/)

It includes: Arrivals (19th Century). Passengers and ships arriving, mainly in Hobart. Contains surnames A-K, L-Z to be added; Births (1803-1933). People born in Tasmania including some baptisms collected by the Registrar General (1900-1933 baptisms only); Census (1837-1857). Householders in the 1840s and 1850s, not complete for all districts; Deaths (1803-1933). People who died in Tasmania including some burial records collected by the Registrar General (1900-1933 burials only); Convict permissions to marry (1829-1857). And MORE!

## “APOLOGY ASKED FOR.” A woman with courage speaks out!

The photo on the cover of this “Grapeline” shows the Petschel family, Hamilton. Helen Petschel’s father, Charles, the little boy in the front on the right was child number 13 of 16, (one child still to be born when this photo was taken). This is the house on Ballarat Road, Hamilton which Helen’s granddad built. It was built with a lot of thought, had hot running water in the kitchen and even a sewing room for her grandma. Although the house is no longer in the family, it is still there and the Petschel family are always welcome visitors.



The letter to the editor below was from Helen’s Grandma Petschel [Dorothea Louise nee Jäger] who died in May 1958. Helen wrote: *“As they retired to Melbourne and we only visited on our holiday after the picking I have very vague memories of her. But if you read this letter you get a glimpse of someone with a bit of spunk. I wish I had known her.”*

**Hamilton Spectator Thursday 14 November 1918**

### **APOLOGY ASKED FOR.**

(To Editor Hamilton "Spectator",

Sir, - Could you please spare a corner of your valuable paper to make known the following.

I am an Australian. On my father's side Dutch and on my mother's Slav. My husband is also an Australian, on his father's side a Saxon and on his mother's Slav. We have lived here for over 20 years together, my husband all his life. We have lived clean, honest, and respectable lives, and are striving with God's help to rear a large family in like manner. Since the war we have helped in many and various ways to do our bit, and yet because we have not sent our two eldest lads to the front (both under 20), not because we not loyal, but because they are young, and we believed it was the duty of all English eligibles to enlist first, and then if still more men were wanted the others could follow, for this, and we know of no other reason, we were last night openly insulted in our home. We had all gone to bed early tired out the lads from shearing all day, and I with cooking, baking, and washing for them. I have no other help, and was thoroughly tired, and ill besides.

When at last I managed to fall asleep I was rudely awakened by a deafening row which was apparently made by the pipers' band playing "Yankee Doodle" up the front path to the door. Then a shouting, roaring, and thundering, almost enough to waken the dead, some of them coming to the side verandah calling for my husband, who was hastily dressing. On going to the front door they commanded him to say "To hell with the Kaiser" (where they ought have been), and which he would not have said if he had been properly awake, for he had not been brought up to wish anyone in hell, not even his blackest enemy and as far as the Kaiser is concerned he has not harmed us as much as the "pipers' band." This disreputable "mob" smashed the front door, woke up all the children, gave me a fresh splitting headache, and thus completely spoilt the night. I had been up and down the night before with one of the boys, who was ill with bronchitis, and so between his cough and the crying little ones, and my own suffering, there was no thought of sleep till after 4 o'clock and at half past five I must be up to get the early breakfast for the shearers.

If this is part of the righteousness we hear so much of I wonder does it exceed that of the Huns. We are told they destroy property and molest women and children. If the demons who molested us last night would prove their own loyalty by going to the war, where they ought to be, instead of pretending loyal, by forcing others to prove theirs, it would be more to their credit. I trust, however, that the righteousness and commonsense of our leading citizens will put a stop to such disgraceful raids, of which this is only one, and punish last night's raiders as they deserve. I also demand through your paper an open apology for last night's disturbances.

I am, etc,

DISGUSTED AND INSULTED,

DUTCH-AUSTRALIAN.

Ballarat Road, Hamilton, Tuesday morning.



**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOUR GENEALOGIST FRIEND: Mildura Nichols Point Cemetery**

**Books**

Book 1: Monumental and Lawn Cemetery Register

Book 2: Monumental Cemetery Inscriptions

Book 3: Lawn Cemetery Inscriptions

Price: \$30 each or \$75 for the 3 books together.

There is a 10% discount for members of the M&DGS.

Postage is \$16.00. To order *Email:milduragenealogy@gmail.com* or call into the rooms on open days.

## **DARETON & COOMEALLA HISTORY**



Coomealla Social Tennis Club about 1935, an example of the photos Malcolm is collecting.

It was during 2012 that I decided to renew my research into Dareton and the Coomealla Irrigation Area, as 30 years had passed since Lillian Slade and I published the book as part of the 1982 Back To Dareton celebrations. It was, and still is, not my intent to publish another book, but rather compile a digital archive of photos and other stories which is aimed at complementing, updating, and correcting information in the original book. The format of this archive is yet to be decided.

The History of Dareton and the Coomealla Irrigation Area book is out of print and cannot be reprinted as the original layout pages were lost in the fire at the Sunnyland Press in Red Cliffs. However, times have moved on and technology has allowed a pdf version to be created. **My main interest is in securing copies of photos relating to Dareton & Coomealla, both old and new.** How to find these photos is the main reason that I decided to build the family trees of all those who have lived and/or worked in Dareton & Coomealla, with the aim to make contact with descendants.

### **Brief Early History:**

The Coomealla Irrigation Area (C.I.A) was proclaimed in the NSW Government Gazette on 29th May 1924 and the township of Dareton, within the C.I.A, was proclaimed on the 3rd Oct in the same year. The development was commenced in January 1920 when a rough survey of the "Nine Mile" area was conducted. A more detailed survey, with soil samples, was done in May 1920, concluding that the area was suitable for irrigation. The "Million Farms" concept was put forward soon after the First World War, in support of returned soldiers and to promote the development of Australia. It was under this scheme that a decision was made in September 1922 to establish an irrigation area at the "Nine Mile". Surveys and designs were

prepared and construction of the infrastructure commenced in November 1923. The area was named Coomealla. The works were completed in 1924 and the first 25 farms were set apart for application in May 1924.

### 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations:

With the decision of a group of local citizens in July this year to go ahead with a celebration of 90 years of Dareton and Coomealla on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in 2015 (Thursday 4th to Monday 8th June), there is some urgency now in my research, which can be broken down into four main areas.

- Reviewing/updating information in the book.
- To provide names to the class photos from the Dareton Public School.
- To establish a memorial/honour/nominal roll of persons who have served in all wars who have connections to Dareton & Coomealla
- Coomealla Memorial Gardens database update, headstone photographs, and to see if there would be interest to establish a friends group for the cemetery.

I would love to hear from anyone who has any family or working connections with Dareton & Coomealla over the past 90 years. The program for the 90th Celebrations is almost finalized and if you wish to be added to the mailing list you can email your details to: [90thcelebrations@coomeallaclub.com.au](mailto:90thcelebrations@coomeallaclub.com.au) A Facebook page has also been setup: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/daretoncoomealla/> so feel free to join the group.

My contact details are: Malcolm Williams 20 Belar St Dareton NSW 2717

Ph: (03) 5027 4591 email: [malwil24@bigpond.com](mailto:malwil24@bigpond.com) Skype: malwil24



Debutante Ball mid 1950s Dareton Hall. Another wonderful photograph in Malcolm's collection.

## Library Report:



### NEW ACQUISITIONS IN THE LIBRARY

#### RESOURCES PURCHASED

- GUM - Family Tree Maker version 2012 and 2014 - Instructional DVD. Geno 6 & 7
- Pupil register – Glenburnie (Big Hill) No. 1200 1873 -1900. Geno 4
- Pupil register – Gorae West No. 4556 1937 – 1986. Geno 4
- Pupil register – Gorae No. 2532 1905 - 1985. Geno 4
- Pupil register – Digby No. 2047 1864 – 1938. Geno 4
- Pupil register - Narrawong East No. 2807 1967 – 1973. Geno 4
- So you are totally new to Family Tree Maker second edition. Family Tree Maker 2012, 2014 & Mac 2 & 3 by *John Donaldson*.
- British and Irish Newspapers by *Chris Paton*.
- Discover English Parish registers by *Paul Milner*.
- Finding Florence, Maude, Matilda, Rose - Researching and writing women into Family history by *Noelene Kyle*.
- Scotland's People the place to launch your Scottish research by *Rosemary Kopitke*.
- Sewerage records an untapped magnificent resource by *Susie Zada*.
- That Elusive digger tracing your Australian Military ancestors by *Neil C. Smith*.
- The family historian's enquire within, (sixth edition) by *Janet Few*.
- Tracing mining ancestors a brief guide to resources in Australia and New Zealand by *Shauna Hicks*.
- Tracing your Ancestors using the census by *Emma Jolly*
- Tracing your Pauper Ancestors by *Robert Burlison*.
- Tracing your Textile ancestors by *Vivien Teasdale*.
- War on the Veldt Tracing your Australian Military Ancestors in the Boer War 1899 – 1902 by *Neil C. Smith*.
- The History of St Joseph's Parish Red Cliffs by *Loris Bugno*

#### DONATIONS RECEIVED: FROM THELMA BOCK

Biographical index of South Australians 1836-1885 volume 1 by *Jill Statton*.  
Biographical index of South Australians 1836-1885 volume 2 by *Jill Statton*  
Biographical index of South Australians 1836-1885 volume 3 by *Jill Statton*  
Biographical index of South Australians 1836-1885 volume 4 by *Jill Statton*

#### FROM NOLA EDWARDS

Buronga Township and School by *Vicki & Kevin Cock*  
Gold, Gamblers & Sly grog by *Geraldine Carrodus*  
Last of the Lantern Swingers by *G. B. Eggleton*  
Old Walhalla Portrait of a Gold town by *Raymond Paul*  
"Owen Jones" Labour Pioneer on the Castlemaine goldfield by *Raymond A. Bradfield*  
Paddle-steamer captain my life on the rivers by *Jack Searles*  
Register of members 2000 - The Ulysses Club Inc.  
Riverboats by *Ian Mudie*  
The Switzerland of Australia by *Wm. Harrison Lee*  
Victoria: from discovery to Federation by *Hugh Anderson*  
A woman on the goldfields recollections of Emily Skinner 1854 – 1878 edited by *Edward Duyker*  
Paddle steamers to Cornucopia by *Sydney Wells*  
The WAAAF in Wartime Australia by *Joyce Thomson*



**DONATIONS RECEIVED: FROM JUNE GREATZ**

Discovering Historic Burra South Australia by *National Trust of South Australia*  
Red Mud to Green Oasis by *G. Arch Grosvenor*

**FROM PHILLIP RENFREE**

Your Store Myer – The story of Australia’s leading department store by *Stella M. Barber*

**FROM LIZ WALLACE**

Four Towns and a Survey by *Noel F. Learmonth*

**FROM SUE BURGESS**

Heartbeat of the Country by *Weekly Times*

**FROM PHILIP & JENNY DEDMAN**

Waterloo the true story a social history of Waterloo and Chute, Victorian Gold era settlements by *Hugh Patrick Carrol*

**FROM ANITTA MAKSYMOWICZ**

Prussian Past – Polish Present by *Anitta Maksymowicz*

**FROM MILDURA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

History of the Mildura High School by *Glenn Miller*

**FROM RAYLEE SCHULTZ.**

Laptops & Tablets for Seniors for Dummies by *Nancy Muir*

**FROM PROJECTS GROUP**

Paddlesteamers, barges and other river craft.



**Liz Wallace sent me the following:** I found a good site to look up ancestors in Liverpool, Lancashire.

St Paul's Liverpool. <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Liverpool/Liverpool-Central/stpaul/>

St Peter's Liverpool. <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Liverpool/Liverpool-Central/stpeter/>

St Nicholas Liverpool. <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Liverpool/Liverpool-Central/stnicholas/index.html>

The sites have quite a lot of info transcribed for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials. Gives place of abode, also occupation of father in Baptisms. Also photos of the church. (*Thanks Liz!*)

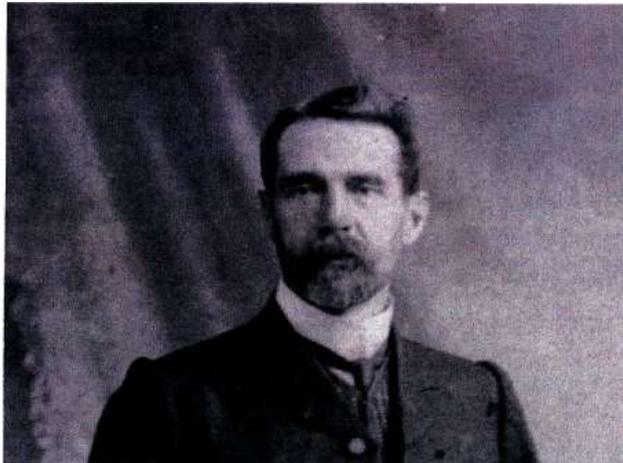
Other  
useful sites!

<http://www.understandingyourancestors.com/ia/germanimmigration.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/GenealogyQuestionsAndAnswer?ref=bookmarks>

*History of Father and Son* submitted by Roy Fraser

## John Barnes Ackland



John Barnes Ackland was born 14.12.1856 Putsborough, Barnstaple, Georgeham, Devon, England. Their home was called Church Gate as it was attached to two churches. John was the first son of Thomas & Mary Ann Ackland (nee Barnes). John's parents were very strict, so much so, that John ran away from home to make his own way in life. John had committed the unforgivable sin of daring to whistle in the house on a Sunday. Mary, his mother never forgave him and she drew the blind down on his third floor bedroom window and it was never raised in her lifetime. Photographic scenes of Barnstaple in various books of St. Peter & St. Paul's Churches take in the blind-covered window. To my knowledge John never returned home.

He went to London to find work and make a new life for himself and he found employment in the soft goods and clothing trade. He apparently did very well and was soon offered a job in Adelaide Australia to work with Matthew Goode and Company and again was contracted as a draper. He left England on the ship Chimborazo bound for Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Captain J. Vine Hall was the Master and there were 357 passengers on board. The ship arrived in 1877 with unassisted immigrants to Victoria. In 1882 John at the age of 26 years had moved to South Australia where he met and married Edith May Randell whose family was prominent in Murray River shipping. Edith was 20 yrs. of age at her marriage and was the daughter of Samuel & Elizabeth Randell and granddaughter of William Richard Randell born in Sidbury, Devonshire England who had come to Australia in July 1837 with South Australia's foundation fleet.

In 1884 John was in Port Augusta 200 miles north of Adelaide on behalf of his employers. In 1891 he was listed as a warehouse-man in Mitcham in Adelaide. In 1893 he was listed as an accountant at 42 Childers Street North Adelaide. In 1894 his address was shown as Hawkers Road, a superior area.

He was sent to Western Australia to open a branch in Perth for Mathew Goode and Coy. In 1898 he moved to live at Claremont W.A. until 1902 when he left the old firm and shifted to Northam where he bought into the firm of Throssell, Son & Stewart. They were general merchants and the name was changed to Stewart & Ackland. John's interests had been in merchants' businesses but now he moved to a farm at Wongan Hills, about 60 miles north of Northam W.A. where he became a Justice of the Peace. John Barnes Ackland died in Moora W.A. on 1 11 1915 and is buried in Wongan Hills Cemetery W.A.

**John Hugh Ackland.** Son of John Barnes & Edith May Ackland (nee Randell).

Born 21.8.1890 Upper Mitcham, South Australia, married 20.12.1914 to Elsie Edith Coomer of Lake Ninan W.A. Died 29.7.1958 Wongan Hills, aged 68 years. Buried Wongan Hills W.A.

John Hugh attended school at East Perth, Claremont and Northam before going to Scotch College. At the age of 15 years he was apprenticed to T. H. Wilding of Mokine to learn the skills of farming. At that age he was not robust, and an outdoor life was recommended for his health. Upon completion of his 3 year apprenticeship he was given a horse (Skipper) by T. H. Wilding as no wages were paid to apprentices in those days. Skipper was a thoroughbred horse and very fast and with the kangaroo dog (Leo) John caught kangaroos for meat for the family at Lake Ninan. In 1908 at the age of 18 years, after serving his apprenticeship at Mokine, he settled

on land that had been selected in 1905 by his brother Royston, on the North & East side of Lake Ninan. His mother and father joined him in 1909 and his brother Royston in 1911.

After his marriage to Elsie Edith Coomer in 1914 he went to live on land he had selected adjoining his brother Royston's selection. He had already built a mud brick house on his land, before his marriage. After his father's death in 1915, he joined the A.I.F. and served with the 28th. Battalion in France. He was overseas when his son John (Jnr) was born in 1917. He was wounded in action and spent several months in hospital. While waiting to be repatriated back to W.A. he worked on farms in Devon England and met several relatives. While he was overseas, his brother Royston managed the two farms, then ran a partnership of J. B. Ackland and Sons.

In 1922 the partnership was dissolved and each brother had his own farm. Upon taking over the running of his own farm he embarked upon clearing more land for cropping. The light land was rolled with a heavy roller pulled by a horse team and some was ploughed in with a heavy disc plough. In 1927 a Twin City tractor was bought which completed the rolling of timber, other than that which had to be cleared by axe.

Before he went to the war he was secretary of the local Progress Association and upon his return he took a keen interest in public life. He was a member of the Wongan-Ballidu Roads Board and Chairman for 16 years. He took an active interest in the Primary Producers' Association and was a foundation Director of Co-operative Bulk Handling. While Chairman of the Wongan-Ballidu Road Board, a new Town Hall was built, in Wongan Hills and also the first hospital. He bought and gave the land for the Wongan Hills Masonic Lodge, and was the sole guarantor for the building, when the economic depression forced the other guarantors to withdraw.



During the Second World War he was active in the Volunteer Defence Corp and was Officer-in-charge of the Cadoux Platoon. In 1947 he won the State Parliamentary seat of Moore for the Country Party, and retained the seat, unopposed until his death in 1958 when he collapsed and died on the steps during the opening of the Wongan Hills Junior High School. (Submitted by Roy Fraser)

## Eliza Regina Richardson

In the last issue of Grapeline, there was an article about Alfred Edward Ballantyne. I promised a feature this time on his wife Eliza Regina (Gina) Richardson, daughter of Henry Percival Prideau Richardson pictured on the next page with his daughter.

An article in the Sunraysia Daily in 1959 claimed that she was only eleven years younger than Wentworth, having been born there in 1870. In 1959, she held the honour of 'having sold more raffle tickets for the RSL than anyone has ever been able to count!'

Her father, H P Richardson arrived from Tasmania in 1868 to manage Lake Victoria Station. As a girl, Regina loved riding, shooting, and boating. Dances and country race meetings were other favourite amusements. As an experienced equestrienne, she had cleared a jump of 5 feet while riding side saddle!

Regina married Alfred Ballantyne in 1897, head stockman and later manager of Moorara, Karparkora, Tolarno and Cuthero, Ballantyne had earlier worked at Mildura station before the arrival of the Chaffeys.



In the 1902 drought they had to condense water from a well and cart it 16 miles for drinking. In 1909, the Ballantynes moved their residence to Cuthero. At Karparkora, Regina had not seen a woman for 18 months at a stretch.

Ben Chaffey sold Cuthero to Armstrong Bell Pty Ltd, and it was later sold to Arthur Crozier and sons. Ballantyne managed it for him till 1921 when he put in for 5000 acres of Garpung and was successful. They called the property Balmoral. One of Regina's most vivid memories was of the paddleboats which took wool barges up the Darling. She told the story of the burning of the Rodney over a

dispute about non-union shearers. Mrs Ballantyne went to her first Melbourne Cup the year before her death, a trip organised by Mildura RSL in gratitude for her years of fundraising.

Mrs Ballantyne died on May 31 1962 at Mildura Base Hospital. \*\*\*\*\*

A snippet of interest from Marion Holland

**The Chimney relic of the Cobdogla Station homestead complex.**

During a trip to Adelaide a little while back I stayed in the Cobdogla Caravan Park. On taking an evening stroll around the park I happened upon this relic in the middle of the park. It was fenced off and it wasn't till I entered the fenced off area to investigate that I realised what the significance of this relic of a chimney was. On reading the plaque I noticed a connection with the Chaffey Brothers as at one time, portion of the property had been transferred to the Chaffey Bros. Irrigation settlement of Renmark. The station was completely resumed in 1910 for the Cobdogla irrigation scheme.

Custody of the remains were taken by the Cobdogla Caravan Park around the year 2000 however restorations began in the 1990s with

a plaque placed at the chimney and official unveiling in approximately 1999.



*Genealogists don't die, they just lose their census.*  
*Genealogy - It's all relative in the end.*

## RESEARCH REPORT

The year is coming to an end very quickly with the festive season nearly upon us. Most inquiries over the past couple of months have been mainly for information about if and where particular family members are buried in the local cemeteries. I have spent much of my time checking the Sunraysia Daily Indexes and digging around in the various cemetery books, in particular the Mildura, Red Cliffs and Merbein books. For most inquiries I have been able to find out relevant information about the particular family member(s), or provide suggestions and possible leads for them to follow up on. Below I have listed some of the current research inquiries and where they are up to at this point in time.

Also, Sue Andrews has been helping with the Grave Project for the returned servicemen (being able to identify the parents and children of the servicemen whereby the next of kin can be contacted by the Veterans Affairs Department to put a plaque of recognition for their service during the Second World War) and has created a detailed spread sheet of the names and details of the list that Ken Wright sent to us at the beginning of the year.

Finally, remember to call in and share what you have found, or any sources that you have found to be particularly useful, whether they be from the Public Record Offices, the State Libraries, Trove, Electoral Rolls, Rate Books and/or the Titles Office. Moreover, come along to the meetings and drop into the Carnegie Centre and have a chat with other members about the research you are conducting at the moment.

**Margaret Thompson** Inquiry into the burial details of Kenneth Vernon Burnett who died in 1961. Details of Ken's burial site, including notes from the Sunraysia Daily Indexes, cemetery information and a scanned image of the headstone were sent to Margaret.

**Madeleine Davidson** Inquiry into the death of an uncle, John 'Jack' Davidson, who was drowned in the Murray River in 1927, wanting to know if he was buried in the Mildura Cemetery. I had a look through our cemetery records and I did not find any mention of 'Jack' Davidson so suggested that Madeleine contact the Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society. Fortunately, they had some information about 'Jack's' death, although this has resulted in several more questions for Madeleine to ponder: Why did it take so long for his body to be retrieved from the River? Why did it take 3 years for the news to get back to Scotland?

**Ann Perrin** Request from Queensland into details about her family buried at the Red Cliffs Pioneer Cemetery – James, Hazel and Patrick Phemister and Peta Lamond. I located the records and sent the information onto Anne noting that on the grave there are details of their deaths and two plaques concerning James and Hazel.

**Diane Vines** Diane requested information regarding Albert Arthur Vines who she thought was buried in the Mildura Cemetery. I sent Diane the various details of the burial and a scanned copy of the headstone, along with some information from the electoral rolls as to where he lived in Mildura.

**Jim McCreadie** This request was from Glasgow, Scotland and involved information regarding the deaths of Leonard, Charles and Irene Bell. Jim had some information except the burial details, which I was able to provide him with as well as the cemetery details and information where his family members had been living in Mildura. He has also requested a copy of the death/funeral notices from the Sunraysia Daily which I am currently in the process of obtaining for him.

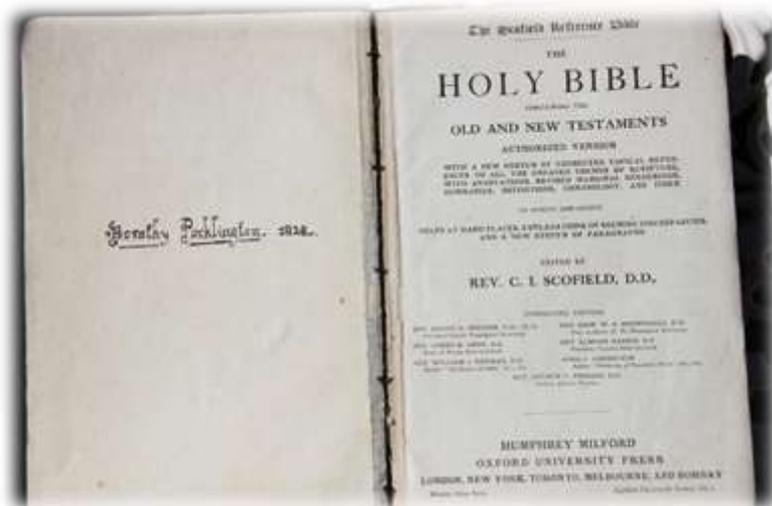
**Research Officer: Andrew McCormick**



## *The Red Cliffs Church of Christ Bible Mystery - the Final Piece! By*

*Chris Cook, Secretary, Red Cliffs Church of Christ*

Remember this story from a couple of years ago, vol 12 no. 4 2012? During renovations of the church a Bible was found with the name of Dorothy Pocklington inside. After some investigative research it was able to be returned to Dorothy's family and her daughter Joy Tarrant made the trip to Red Cliffs to receive it. But we never really found out how the Bible came to be in our church cupboards.



That mystery was solved recently.

We received an email from Mary Perkins who came from Minlaton, S.A. She knew Dorothy and her husband George Tarrant well. When they were forced out of China they came as pastors for about three years, to the Baptist Church of Minlaton. Mary writes: 'It was 60 years ago so some details are now a bit vague. They actually lived in the same street as our family...'

From Minlaton the Tarrant's moved to Malaya to work amongst Chinese immigrants labouring in the rubber plantations. Mary writes 'Anyway before they left Dorothy gave me that Bible which was a Schofield Reference Bible. Like many of us she had more than one Bible and I guess had to down size to go overseas.'

Mary kept that Bible which she occasionally used for reference. By the time the Tarrant's returned from Malaya, Mary had married and moved to Queensland. Her husband Cliff was a Church of Christ minister.



Cliff and Mary Perkins served in Red Cliffs from 1973 to 1977 and that's how the Bible ended up on our shelves!

**DID YOU KNOW?** South Australian cemeteries are actively re-using graves. If you are concerned and want to find out more you could visit this page:

<http://saving-graves.australiancemeteries.com/SouthAustralia.html>

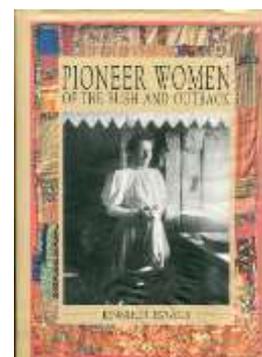


## Book Review by Jenny Dedman...

### Pioneer Women of the Bush and Outback by Jennifer Isaacs

(Published by Lansdowne Publishing Pty Ltd Sydney NSW. First Published 1990)

Covering the period since Pioneers first moved into the bush and settled the land in the European style, this book discusses the following topics: *The Home, Housekeeping, Food, Shopping Long Distance, Childbirth, Childhood and School, Women's Work outside the Home, Outsiders, Isolation and Company, Sundays, Dances and Special Occasions.*



All of us who have ancestors arriving in Australia in the 1800's will find this book interesting. It sheds light on how tough these ancestors were. (I am sure that we would find it tough to live as they lived).

**The first home:** This was made from a canvas tent fly over some poles, then upgraded to bark slabs or split logs. Roofing was made from either canvas, bark slabs or shingle. The ingenuity of the women made these rough structures into a comfortable home.

**Housekeeping:** This included making soap from animal fat, carting water, washing, (using a wash board) and making clothes among all the other things like cooking and taking morning tea to the men. The majority of household supplies arrived in bags, which were usually reused to make a number of household items.



Chaff bags could be made into mattresses, 50 lb flour bags were used as pillow slips, 25 lb flour bags were used to hang salted meat. The finest bags were made into children's clothes. Hessian bags were used to line the walls. These pioneers were very adept at recycling. Nothing was wasted. This book illustrates the many ways that items were reused, altered or used to for other ingenious purposes. The many photographs allow a great insight into life in the early days.

There are profiles on many women, for example **May Jane Cobden**, (in brief {1854 to 1927} married at 16, lived on Ballarat gold fields, moved to Mannus NSW (550 km). She shifted three times until settling at Rosewood. (10 km from Mannus) Her husband died in 1896 when she was 42 with ten children to raise. She then turned to what she knew best, midwifery. Her note book records the delivery of 91 babies between 1900 and 1923.

**Pioneer Women of the Bush and Outback** is a book that will enable the reader to understand the lives of the pioneers and the conditions in which they lived. (Mr Phillip Renfree has donated this book to Mildura and District Genealogical Society.)

Committee members can be contacted via our email address: [milduragenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:milduragenealogy@gmail.com)

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The M&DGS Inc. gratefully acknowledges the contribution of

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whose office has printed this newsletter, free of all cost, as a community service.

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC AOO23291P  
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