



# Relative Thoughts

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## Quarterly Journal of the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group Inc.



Above: Flashback to the launch of *WW1 ANZACS of the fleurieu peninsula Stories from Pioneer Families* in November 2016 at the Port Noarlunga Arts Centre

Below: The ANZAC Project Committee responsible for putting the book together





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# INDEX

Inside Front Cover—Contact details and Committee listings	2
President’s Report—Joy Nieass	4—5
Vale Carlien Jared	6—8
Welcome to New Members	8
Knute Andersson—Kerry Edwards	9
Look What You Missed!!! - Elizabeth Grocke	10—19
The Sad Story of Sarah—Cheryl Willis	20—22
The Late Sir Ross Smith—Kerry Edwards	23
Upcoming Speakers & Events; Resource Room opening times	24
Volunteer Research; Editor’s Note; When & Where	26—27

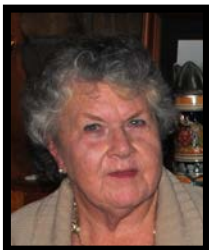


FPFHG Facebook  
Group



View of Witton Bluff on Facebook and websites

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the third Journal for this year. We are now into winter and aware of the change in our weather - 'crank up the heater and put on another jacket' and enjoy this edition.

Many thanks to those who have contributed and look forward to more stories from your family or local history research. A huge thank you to Christine Keen for her amazing work in putting these contributions together for this edition.

It is with sadness I advise you of the passing of one of our loved members – Carlien Jared. Carlien and her late husband Ron were the instigators of the 'trading table', this started with pot plants, jams etc. "The Jared Award" presented each year to a member in recognition of their contribution to the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group was first presented to Carlien and Ron for their contribution and devotion to the Group. Carlien will be missed by us all. Several members attended Carlien's funeral and extended our condolences to her family.

During the past months we have enjoyed our speakers at General Meetings. In April we revisited our publication *The Anzacs of the Fleurieu Peninsula* with Kath Fisher, Lynette Gibson, Mary Ann Minor and Joan Davies. Our May meeting was an interesting presentation by Dr Ian Moffatt who explained his work with the ground penetrating machine which locates disturbed ground and enables his team to locate gravesites, burial grounds and many other situations. In June we heard the story of Edward Stirling, one of the pioneer settlers in the establishment of the State of South Australia and the Strathalbyn area was presented by a descendant, Beth Robertson. Reports for these presentations are in this edition for you to refresh your memory or to read the stories and enjoy. Thank you to Elizabeth Grocke for her presentation of speakers for our meetings.

May was "Festival of History Month", we scheduled a workshop for beginning your family search and assistance with DNA. These were organised by Sharon Green— thank you Sharon. The presentation with Dr Ian Moffatt was our History Festival advertised presentation, several visitors attended. From these activities we welcomed some new members. We welcome them to our membership and hope they enjoy their researching and time with us. Our participation in the Festival was well received and successful.

Despite the upheavals of the past two – three years we have continued to operate in our usual way. This has been possible because of the devotion and care of the members who have been working on projects, opening the Resource Room for members to access the resources available, leaders who have put together workshops, research evenings and also the Committee members who assist in keeping the Group moving forward.

As you are aware there are many tasks to keep Groups such as ours functioning – If you are able and would like to assist in the organising of The Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group please consider joining the friendly Committee or maybe come along and assist in the Resource Room, help in the kitchen on meeting day - the opportunity is coming up at the Annual General Meeting to be held in November. These roles keep our Group organised and we all

enjoy the results of their work. Please talk to me or a Committee member if you are interested.

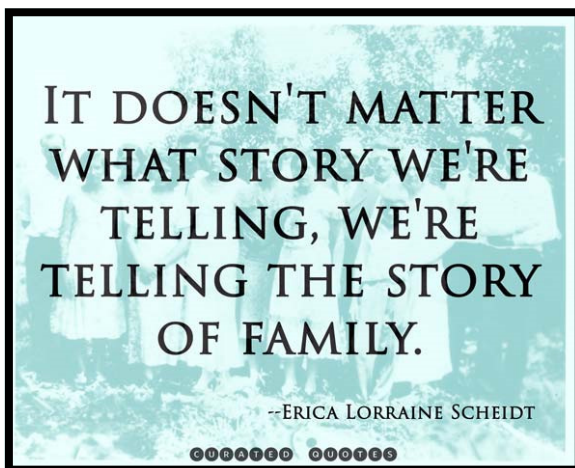
As we all research our families we discover some amazing stories, some which delight, maybe shock or confirm previous family stories. There are always new resources available on the internet. Maybe a training course taken will assist in putting it together as our tree grows with more branches and leaves. Checking magazines and publications from other Groups can further enhance the research and outcomes. Some of these publications are available on our 'drop box'. Checking our website for information is also another source – this is often demonstrated at our meetings, please ask for the instructions. Also the old favourite - the local library is another great place for researching. Libraries are worth a visit and speak with the local history officer. Please check the website calendar, there may be an activity which you will be able to attend and enhance your research skills, and also to meet some of our amazing volunteers who work on these activities.

August is "National Family History Month" – watch out for further resources which will be advertised and our speakers for the General Meeting are from the National Archives, they will demonstrate how to access their records. Information from Google: National Archives – "First created as a part of the National Library of Australia, the National Archives developed into an independent agency in 1961 and its functions were passed into law in 1983. As the National Archives has grown, so has its expertise, its premises, and the many ways the collection can be accessed."

Thank you to you all for your continuing support and I look forward to our next three months.

Stay safe and warm,

**Joy Nieass**  
**President**



<https://quotesgram.com/img/funny-quotes-family-history/6857718/>

## VALE CARLIEN JARED



Carlien Emma was born on 1 November 1938 in Semaphore. She was the second child of Edna May and Richard George Healy.

Carlien attended LeFevre Peninsula Primary School and completed her schooling at Adelaide Girls Technical High School. Carlien helped her parents to operate and sell tickets for the Chairplane ride or Whizzy, which they owned at Semaphore Beach.

Once Carlien completed her schooling years, she started working at Charles Birks in Rundle Street in Adelaide, as a milliner (more commonly known as a hat maker). Several years later the workroom was closed down, when the company was taken over by David Jones. Carlien was given two excellent references but decided to learn typing at Prides Business College during her evenings. This led to a job offer in the Adelaide Debtors Accounts Office, where she was able to make her way up to becoming Senior Clerk.

Growing up, Carlien tried out a few sports (basketball, netball, squash and tennis). She played each sport for a couple of seasons, but soon realised that she wasn't very good at any of them. Instead, she much preferred to go dancing. In her 20's, Carlien attended the Wonderland Ballroom, where she met the love of her life and future husband Ron. They continued to attend the ballroom together in the years leading up to their marriage. A few years after they met, Carlien was at work one Friday afternoon when she received a phone call from Ron who had a very important question to ask her 'would you like to become my wife?' This led to their marriage in 1967 at the Semaphore Baptist Church, where they celebrated their love with their dearest family and friends.

Carlien only ever lived in two houses throughout her life, after her marriage to Ron, they built their family home in Morphett Vale. Of course, the family home had to have a bathroom painted and tiled in mauve, as this was Carlien's favourite colour.

Once Carlien and Ron found out they were going to be parents, Carlien was kept busy crocheting, knitting and sewing clothing items for their future children. Carlien gave birth to their first daughter Annette, second daughter Karen and their only son Andrew.

Carlien and Ron also took the family on numerous trips, as they liked to explore and do things together. Some of the most memorable places they visited were Broken Hill, Kangaroo Island and the South East.

Carlien and Ron were overjoyed in 1996, when Annette gave birth to their first grandchild 'Chloe Anne'. Three years later they welcomed their second grandchild into the world 'Madeline Kate'. Nanny and Puppy (as they were affectionately known) loved spending time with the girls as they were growing up. Carlien was more than ecstatic to witness Chloe marry Alex just a few weeks ago. This was something she had been looking forward to for such a long time, and even as she was becoming more unwell, this was a goal she was determined to achieve.

Carlien loved cooking all throughout her life, always ensuring she served up hearty home cooked meals for her family as well as trying out new slices to share with her friends. She was well known in friendship circles for her scrumptious egg sandwiches. She loved being able to share recipes with others, as well as pass on her special kitchen tricks to her children and grandchildren. Chloe and Madeline would often like to help Carlien out in the kitchen. Carlien always gave them simple yet fun jobs to do, such as cracking the eggs. Half the shell would always end up in the bowl, but she always let them help her out. Carlien always saved the best job for Chloe and Madeline, licking cake mix or icing off the beaters. Her love of cooking has been passed on to her children and grandchildren.

Carlien equally enjoyed looking after her garden, and she would spend hours outside potting plants, picking flowers and growing fruit and vegetables. In 1998, Carlien and Ron went on an overseas holiday to Europe.

Carlien said that on this trip, her most memorable moment was getting the chance to see the fields of Tulips in the Netherlands. Each time Carlien would visit her two daughters in Mount Gambier, she would always assess their gardens to see which flowers they were currently growing. She would always bring cuttings down from her own garden and would take other flowers and plants back home with her.

Carlien and Ron were also big fans of playing card games. Another love of Carlien's was Slim Dusty and his music. Carlien and Ron were lucky enough to attend some of his concerts when he visited Adelaide.

Carlien also had an admiration of Dawn Fraser's sporting achievements.

When Ron retired, they got back to some of their shared interests, such as returning to local dances, taking computer lessons, and they also began joining several groups within the community. One of their favourite groups they attended on a regular basis was the Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group. Soon after joining the group, Carlien suggested they have a monthly trading table. She manned the table for six years, and was kept busy making jams and marmalades and potting plants. All of these sold very well and were a good fundraiser for the group. In November 2011, this group presented Ron and Carlien with "The JARED Award" which is now presented annually. This inaugural award was given to Ron and Carlien in recognition of their outstanding long term service as volunteers. Unfortunately, as Ron's health started to deteriorate, Carlien had to stop manning the trading table, as she spent many hours at the hospital looking after him. This became a full time job before he sadly passed away in 2012.

Carlien was a very independent woman, who always wanted to remain living at home and do things for herself. All her life she continued to cook, clean, garden and drive herself around. She would resist care and help from others, but loved the fact that her son Andrew was there with her and provided assistance where necessary. Andrew's girlfriend Bev also provided care and support for Carlien, which included recently going to Bev's house for a beautiful roast lamb tea. Carlien was always very open to trying new things, continuing to do so even into her 80's. The grandchildren were quite impressed when Carlien dressed up as a cowgirl for Chloe's 21st birthday and they were even more surprised when she played beer pong at Christmas.

After Carlien saw the struggles that her children faced when they had to plan Ron's funeral, PowerPoint presentation and write his eulogy, she took it upon herself to start writing and composing her own. Carlien and Karen spent many hours working on these tasks, ensuring she could pick all of the best stories and photos to share with all of you today. Carlien meant something special to each and every one of us. She was most well known for her sense of humour, her sneaky smirks and her kind selfless nature, always wanting to do things for everyone else. She was a loving, wonderful and caring person who was very generous with her time. These were just some of the many reasons we loved Carlien.

On behalf of Annette, Andrew and myself, we would like to thank mum for unconditionally loving us and thank her for everything that she did for us throughout her life. Our family truly did have the best mum, wife and Nanny. Our hearts are broken, and we will forever love her and miss her. We hope she is now resting peacefully, reunited with Dad.

**Karen**

**Note:** This is an edited edition of the eulogy read at Carlien's funeral.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

We would like to welcome new members:

**Kaye Gifford, Pauline Barratt,**

**Heather Alcorn, Colin Pitman,**

**Robyn Hobbs, Lynn Kearin**

**Nola Clisby**



## KNUTE ANDERSSON by Kerry Edwards

My father John Edwards recently gave me a very unusual picture made mostly with match sticks and string, that had been hanging on the wall of his home for many years. After becoming its new owner I decided to look into its history. I knew it had a connection to the Swedish man who had lived in his caravan in our backyard when I was a child, Andy Andersson. He had been a cray fisherman out of Cape Jaffa (near my childhood home of Kingston SE) and when he retired my parents, John and Marcelle, offered him our backyard. My dad said the picture was made by Andy's brother Sven in the basement of his home in Sweden. Sven brought it out as a gift to my dad when he and his son Oliv visited Andy. When Andy died in 1976 (at age 71 years) my dad arranged his funeral in Kingston SE as Andy had never married or had children. I was able to find his plaque on the Find A Grave website. This showed his name as Knute Daniel Andersson (double S) known as Andy. With help from Joy Nieass and Heather Boyce we found his WWII service record in the *National Archives of Australia* website, a lot of family details in *World Ancestry* including his brother Sven who died in 1981 and a newspaper article in *Trove* that said he immigrated from Sweden to Victoria about 1936. His WWII record gave a lot of information such as his description and a photo. I've put all the information together into a document that I've had printed and laminated to put on the back of the picture for future generations to know its story.



## LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED!!! By Elizabeth Grocke

April 2022 *Kath Fisher, Joan Davies, Lynette Gibson and Mary Ann Minor—Anzac Revisited.*

Published by the PPFHG in November 2016 this book tells the stories of a number of WW1 soldiers, nurses and a sailor. A few of the stories in the book are presented today.



### Corporal Charles Guerin

Charles is a grandson of settler **Patrick Guerin** who settled in Hackham in 1853. He came with siblings to SA in 1846 on the ship the *Hooghly*. He purchased Sections 830 & 844 from John Morphett – east of Hackham and north of Noarlunga. He identified with Hackham and various family members farmed the land.

Patrick married **Winifred Mulvehill** in 1847 in Adelaide. Their son John, born in 1851 later married **Sarah Rayner**, daughter of Noarlunga settler, John Rayner. Sarah's nephew, **Walter Russell Rayner's** story is also in the Anzac 100 book. John and Sarah had 10 children with Charles, the youngest was born 7 May 1893 in Noarlunga.

Charles (aka Charlie) was a farm labourer. He, and his brother Frank, were members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Australian Light Horse Regiment A Squadron which he joined 1912. Their commander, **Capt Carew Reynell's** story is also in the book. Charlie was a private and remained in the volunteer militia for three years.

At the age of 22 years Charlie enlisted on 9 June 1916 and trained at the **Mitcham Camp**, as did so many others. He embarked on HMAT A68 Anchises. His service was delayed due to illness in England but he finally joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 7 Feb 1917 at **Armentieres, France**.

After a few months of fighting the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion engaged in a heavy bombing campaign at the **Battle of Messines** in Belgium. Charlie must have impressed his officers as he was promoted to Lance Corporal on 17 July 1917 and by 9 March 1918 he was a Corporal. He also experienced heavy fighting at Yprès during Sep & Oct 1917 and by Christmas the officers had been recalled to the Somme. Here is an excerpt written about that Christmas by his officers:

*Owing to the uncertainty of future movements, the Battalion's Christmas dinner was held during the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and being unable to secure a room sufficiently large to accommodate all, this meal was served in the various billets. It was supplied out of proceeds from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Trench Comfort Fund in Adelaide, and consisted chiefly of turkey, vegetables and plum pudding...*

By Easter at the end of March 1918 the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was heavily involved in the defence of Amiens which continued to May 1918, followed by heavy bombardment by mustard gas

shells around Villiers-Bretonneux. According to his grandson, Peter Guerin, Charlie was gassed there and succumbed to influenza and admitted to hospital on 15 Sep 1918 and returned on 15 Oct 1918. Charles suffered from breathing problems for the rest of his life.

Charles returned to Australia on 8 Sep 1919 and on 20 Dec 1920 he married **May Alica Nicholle** at the Kangarilla Methodist Church. He began married life working on a vineyard which Charlie purchased on Chalk Hill Road near McLaren Vale and initially lived in the old Wattle and Daub Hut and he gradually extended his property.

### Kath Fisher



Lance Corporal Frank Dean Stillwell 1

Born in 1896, Frank Dean Stillwell was the fifth child of **William and Rhoda Stillwell** at Hackham. William was a late settler, arriving in SA in 1878 and married Rhoda **Hutchinson** in 1884. Rhoda came from a well-established pioneering Hackham family. Her grandparents, William and Harriet (nee Palmer) settled in Hackham in the early 1840s, calling their farm 'Ardwick'.

Frank's parents originally lived at '**Holly House**', Gates Road, Hackham and William ran a grocery delivery which he ran from a horse and cart (right). He drove through the settlements of Hackham, Christies Beach and Port Noarlunga. After 1900 they moved to their new home on Penney's Hill road which they called Haslemere.



Frank attended Morphett Vale Primary School and Sunday School at the small Baptist Church opposite where the parent's lived in Penney's Hill Road in 1897. He later became a labourer and was interested in the military, having been a member of the **75<sup>th</sup> Senior Cadet Unit** for two years before he enlisted.

On 19 Feb 1916, at the age of 20, Frank **enlisted** and after joined the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion C Company. He commenced training at **Morphettville** Racecourse. The first few months consisted of many drill sessions and early April musketry training in dry bed of the Sturt River and target practice in the Glenelg and Henley Beach sand dunes. On **3 May the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion** commenced an operation to round up German settlers in the Adelaide Hills but after much local protest ended up doing marches and manoeuvres in and around Adelaide.

Finally, Frank departed with his Battalion on 9 June 1916 on board the *S.S. Afric* (A19), a White Star liner:

*"Never in the history of the State had so large a crowd assembled to witness the departure of a boat. Hundreds of coloured streamers seem linked up to the soldiers on board with the crowd on the wharf, the intermingling of colour presenting a spectacle long to remain in the memories of those present:"* (Colliver, Capt. E.J; Richardson, Lieut. B.H p.13)

On Nov 1916 Frank with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion left Southampton for **Armentieres** where there

was prolonged trench warfare.

Like Charles Guerin, Frank was involved in the Battle of Messines in Belgium and as a result of heroic action was **mentioned in Despatches**. The citation read:

*“On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917, East of Messines, this man was one of a Lewis Gun team in an attack. After the majority of the team had been wounded, he took charge of the gun. He showed great ability and courage under heavy enemy fire. Mainly through his coolness and persistence with which he worked his gun, the enemy was forced to retire after attempting a counter-attack in numbers. He also gave valuable assistance in dressing the wounded.”* (AWM)

Subsequent to this Frank was **promoted to Lance Corporal** and involved in **specialist training in the use of the Lewis Gun**.

On leave in England, Frank became ill and hospitalised between Dec 1917 and Jul 1918. He eventually rejoined his Battalion on 5 Aug 1918. A few weeks later on **1 Sep 1918 Frank was killed in action at Mons St Quentin**. (Right) He was hit in the



stomach by mortar gun fire and was buried where he fell and is commemorated at the Villers Bretonneux Memorial and Cemetery.



Sadly, Frank's brother-in-law, **Private Charles Thomas Black** was also killed a few months earlier at Villers Bretonneux. Both Frank and Charles are **commemorated on a plaque** on the old **Hackham Baptist Church** on Penneys Hill Road. (Left)

Franks brother Private Clifford Roy Stillwell enlisted 27 May 1918 and his story is in the book.

## **Kath Fisher**

### Sister Elsie Annie Eglinton

Elsie Eglinton was born at O'Halloran Hill on 28 March 1883. She was the sixth of seven children born to James Eglinton (1849-1941), a farmer/storekeeper, and his wife Jane (nee Rae) (c1851-1938). Elsie's grandparents, Robert Eglinton (1823-1875) and Catherine (nee Ross) (1829-1895), were early settlers. They arrived at Port Adelaide from Lanarkshire Scotland aboard the *Marion* on 10 December 1854 with their sons James, aged four (Elsie's father) and his brother Robert aged one. Robert and Catherine settled in Reynella where 10 more children were born between 1856 and 1870.



Elsie's grandfather was a blacksmith and wheelwright. He purchased a workshop and cottage from John Reynell in Reynella around 1862. In addition to repairing equipment and shoeing

horses, the workshop provided a station at Reynella for changing over the teams of coach horses used on the mail route between Adelaide and Willunga. Elsie's father operated a General Store located next to the Horse Changing Station in Reynella until he retired in 1916. Sadly, the store no longer exists but the Horse Changing Station is currently being restored by dedicated volunteers.

Elsie became a nurse and trained at the Adelaide Hospital. On 10 August 1914, at the age of 31, Elsie joined the Australian Army Nursing Service, a civilian reserve of the Australian Army Medical Corps. On 26 November 1914, Elsie and several other nurses from Adelaide travelled to Melbourne by train to join the Hospital Ship *HMAT Kyarra A55*. They arrived in Melbourne the next day. However, the ship's departure was delayed and it wasn't until 5 December 1914 that the ship actually sailed.

When they left Australia, the nurses thought they were going to England and France but a shift in war strategy meant they were diverted to Egypt. The *Kyarra* arrived at Alexandria around 14 January 1915. Two Australian General Hospitals were established in Cairo, 1AGH was based in the Grand Heliopolis Palace Hotel and Elsie's unit, 2AGH, was set up in Mena House, a former Royal Hunting Lodge.

Elsie served on the British Troop Transport ship *Ionian*, one of the ships that had been utilised to assist with the evacuation of wounded men from Gallipoli. While sailing back and forth she got to know Scotsman George Mackay, the ship's third engineer who later became her husband.

In October 1915, Elsie was assigned to duty in Suez with invalids returning to Australia and on 1 December 1915, she was promoted from Staff Nurse to Nursing Sister. On 1 February 1916 she was Mentioned in Despatches by a Commander in the Field in recognition of her outstanding services to Administration in Egypt.

Elsie also served in France where she suffered from respiratory illnesses on several occasions. In April 1917 she was admitted to hospital and sent to England on sick leave. When she recovered, she was attached to the 2nd Australian Auxilliary Hospital at Southall London and transferred to Queen Mary's Military Hospital in Whalley Lancashire on 23 May 1917. On 10 August 1917, Elsie married George McBeth Mackay, RNR, of Ibrox, Glasgow, Scotland at the Methodist Church in Whalley. When she married, Elsie left the Australian Army Nursing Service in accordance with the regulations and joined the Red Cross.

George remained in service and survived the sinking of the *Ionian* on 20 October 1917 when the ship hit a mine enroute from Liverpool to Plymouth. Elsie returned to Australia alone in April 1918 and worked as a duty nurse on the voyage since she wasn't entitled to a free passage home. George migrated to Australia a few months later.

George and Elsie lived in Largs Bay for most of their married life. George became interested in Local Government and was elected to the Port Adelaide Council as a Councillor for Barker Ward from 1941-1945, an Alderman in 1945 and 1949-1955, and Mayor from 1946-1949.

George and Elsie had two children, Malcolm George Mackay born in Brighton in 1919 and Margaret Agnes McBeth Mackay, born in Glenelg in 1922. Malcolm married Ruth Ella Shapley in 1955 and they had three children. Malcolm and Ruth both died as a result of a car accident in Victoria on 8 July 1999. Margaret Mackay died at Wheeler's Hill in Victoria in 2008.

Elsie Mackay (nee Eglinton) died at Unley SA on 9 July 1955 at the age of 72 and George Mackay died in Roseville NSW on 5 March 1959. Elsie and George are buried in the North Brighton Cemetery SA.

In recognition of her service during WWI, Elsie received the 1914/1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. In addition, she received two oak leaves, one large and one small, emblems to be worn with the Victory Medal and riband, indicating that she was "Mentioned in Despatches by a Commander in the Field". Elsie also received a "Certificate for Mention in Despatches".

Her name appears on the Morphett Vale War Memorial and on the Roll of Honor located inside the Reynella Memorial Hall.

### Joan Davies



### Claud William Mason †

Claud Mason was born on 24 December 1894 at O'Halloran Hill and attended the O'Halloran Hill and Reynella Public Schools. He was the youngest of nine children born to Joseph Webb (Joe) Mason and his wife Eliza Ann Parker. Claud's grandparents were early settlers in O'Halloran Hill. His paternal grandparents, George Mason and Harriet (nee Webb) arrived from Essex in 1855 and his maternal grandparents, William Parker and his wife Elizabeth (nee Bromich) arrived from Warwickshire in 1849.

The Parker family operated a Post Office and General Store in O'Halloran Hill which was established around 1854. William Parker died as a result of injuries sustained in an accident when he was thrown from his cart at the top of Tapley's Hill in 1860 and his wife continued to run the store after his death. When Elizabeth Parker died in 1891, Claud's parents were living on a property near Minlaton. Joe and Eliza Mason moved back to O'Halloran Hill with their family of seven children and took over the Parker family business. Two more children, including Claud, were born after they returned.

Claud and his family lived in accommodation at the back of the store that was located behind the "Three Rifles" Memorial. The building was demolished around 1963 when the Main South Road at O'Halloran Hill was widened.

Private Claud Mason (Regimental No. 4169) was an unmarried labourer aged 20 years and 9 months old when he received his parent's consent to enlist with the Australian Imperial Force for active service on 17 August 1915. He embarked from Adelaide on board the *HMAT A30 Borda* on 11 January 1916 and served with the 48th Infantry Battalion on the Western Front.

The 48th Battalion played a crucial role in blocking the main road into Amiens when the Germans launched their last great offensive. Unfortunately, the Australians suffered heavy casualties and Claud Mason was killed in action on 8 August 1918, the first day of the battle. He was buried in the Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, Somme, France. However, it wasn't possible to identify his actual grave and a special memorial cross was erected with the inscription "Buried in this Cemetery, actual grave unknown".

Claud was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and was honoured with a Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 17 May 2015. His name is

located on the Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial.

The "Three Rifles" O'Halloran Hill Memorial was erected in memory of those who fell in the Great War 1914-1918 on a corner of land donated by Joe and Eliza Mason after their son Claud died in France. The Memorial remains on a small island near the intersection of Main South Road and Chandlers Hill Road. Claud's name is recorded on the Memorial with the names of six other young men from O'Halloran Hill who also died during WWI.

His name also appears on the Reynella School Roll of Honour Board located in the Morphett Vale RSL Sub-Branch Clubrooms, the WWI Roll of Honor in the Reynella Memorial Hall and on a monument in the Keane Memorial Gardens on the corner of Chandlers Hill Road and Herrings Lane Happy Valley. There's also a Memorial dedicated to him in the Happy Valley Cemetery where his parents are buried.

### **Joan Davies**

#### Archie Skinner

Archie was not quite nineteen years of age when he joined the Australian Navy on 13 July 1911. He joined the ship Protector as a stoker, 2<sup>nd</sup> class and his official number was 1210 His character on reports is given as very good and his ability as satisfactory.

Prior to joining the Navy, Archie who was born to William Thomas Skinner and Sarah nee Button on 22 October 1891 had lived in the area where he was born-Yankalilla.

With the outbreak of WW1, Archie along with others serving in the Navy were enlisted, with the medical examination showing that Archie apart from stating his height etc stated that he had a tattoo of a woman, birds and flags on his right forearm and a nude woman, anchor, sailors and flags on his left forearm.

He served throughout WW1 as a Stoker 2nd Class spending time on the *Cerberus*, and the *Australia*. He also spent several months in early 1915 at the London Depot. Finally, at the end of hostilities he returned to Australia with the ship doing a survey taking from December 1918 till June 1919. At all times his conduct is recorded as very good and his ability as satisfactory.

He was granted approval to be discharged to shore with a pension taking in consideration for leave not taken while on active duty. The only mention of Archie receiving any medals is in his service papers where a red diamond and a blue one are drawn in a column headed Medals, Clasps etc. In hand writing is written near the red diamond "No 3 Lt Rundle Street Kent Town 22/1/24 Adelaide South Australia".

*Archie Skinner sitting second row, extreme right.*

Little can be traced of Archie during the subsequent years but in 1937 newspaper reports that Archie who owned the cutter *Sea Hawk*, was in court for possession stolen goods. It was revealed during the trial that Archie had taken two men and a woman as passengers from



Ceduna to Pt Pirie. It appears a draper's shop in Ceduna had been robbed and a quantity of men and women's clothing had been stolen. The three passengers were imprisoned with Archie receiving a fine of five pounds.

When Archie enlisted for WW2 on 30 March 1942 his occupation was given as a fisherman, which would tie in with him owning the cutter mentioned before. He gave his next of kin as a friend Mrs Jean Arbuckle of Balkatta Road North Beach, a suburb of Perth. In the Australian Census of 1943 his address was given as Magazine Reserve, Woodman's Point. Naval Dockyard Police. He served on the ship *Leeuwin* as a constable and again his conduct was very good. He remained with the ship after the cessation of hostilities and was finally discharged on 27 September 1949.

No details of when and where he died can be found.

### **Lynette Gibson**



#### William George How

William (Bill) George How was born on 1 August 1894, the tenth child and sixth son to William Henry How, a mason and his wife Fanny nee Brooks of Pt Willunga South Australia.

Growing up near the sea lured William to take up fishing as an occupation with the catch being taken to the Adelaide markets.

William was 5 feet 9 ¾ inches (177 cms), with blue eyes, brown hair and a "fresh" complexion with good vision when he enlisted on 7 March 1916 in Adelaide, giving his mother Fanny as his next of kin. He was appointed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company with his rank being a sapper and his service number being 6765. He and the rest of the Company were trained at Ascot Vale, a suburb south west of Melbourne. Their role in war time was to perform a variety of engineering duties such as bridge building, laying or clearing of mine fields, demolition, the digging of underground work including that of subways, cable trenches and saps (chambers for such things as signals and medical services).

The Company embarked for overseas on 17 January 1917 to be trained for a short period of time with the British and Canadian Tunnelling Companies before going to relieve the 255<sup>th</sup> Company in May of that year in the Lavante/Fauquissant area in France. During this time William spent some time in hospital due to pleurisy and finally in October 1918 transferred back to England to be hospitalised there. He left England on the ship *Anneas* arriving in Australia on 13 February 1919. In May of that year he was discharged as medically unfit due to pleurisy after serving a total of three years and 62 days of which two years and 28 days were served overseas. For this he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In the same year that he returned home he married Ibis Undice Pearve Reed who lived in the area near the slate quarries at Willunga and whom he knew well before the war. In time they had a family of five children.

They settled in the Pt Willunga area, living on a small acreage with the house being on the corner of Port and Bowering Hill roads. William also owned several blocks in the area where he grew the feed for the cows in the home area. From these they sold milk to locals.

During WW2 he was granted some land at Dinglabladinga, on the Willunga to Meadows Road



as part of a government scheme. Some of this land was cleared with crops such as lucerne being grown. Also it was used for cows from the Pt Willunga farm to pasture when they were not being milked.



As well as having a farm (Section 396) he spent many hours fishing, with his sons joining him. Fish were caught using nets with the schools being sited from the cliff tops. The How family built a shelter made from limestone with a thatched roof for protection when spending long hours looking for the fish. Once the fish were brought ashore they were gutted and headed before men and the catch set off for the markets in Adelaide where they were sold by auction.

Like many who served in WW1 William suffered from shell shock and found loud noises especially thunder very disturbing, so he used his skills learned as a sapper and dug first one tunnel then another at the base of the cliffs at Pt Willunga just a short distance from home. Not only was the shelter a refuge when needed but also it became a place to store his boat, also the nets as well as keeping the catch cool till it went to market. Story has it that on the return journey home, the men were so tired after the long hours fishing and going to town that they let the horse, who knew the way home, lead the way while the men slept.



*How family fishing, early 1900s*

Jeff, William's youngest son recalls that his father was a strict, hard man probably due to serving in the war and raising a family through the depression years. Another description of William is "Bill is a locally well-known hoary old fisherman with a nice little farm and a big vocabulary".

William's wife Ibis died on 2 October 1963 aged sixty-nine years.

He married Maisie McKechnie and the couple in time sold the house and three acres and lived in a unit in McLaren Vale. Maisie was of the Mormon faith and William not only became a Mormon as well, but he became a quieter person and his big vocabulary was reduced significantly.

William George How died on 7 October 1985 aged ninety and he is buried in the Enfield Memorial Park in the general section Row AH site 149.

### **Lynette Gibson and Joy Nieass**

Australian Birth, Death and Marriage Indexes.

*Family Histories. Willunga District* compiled by O M Decaux.

*A BEACH IN TIME memories of Pt Willunga* by Joanna Burns.

Personal interview with Mr Jeffrey How, youngest son of William George How who also provided the photo of his father.

*McLAREN VALE Sea & Vines* by Barbara Santich.

Fidge Photo of the How family fishing

For my two World War 1 veterans I chose two Morphett Vale men, both of whom are listed on the Morphett Vale War Memorial.

Firstly, I spoke of Walter Donovan Teare whose forebears came from the Isle of Man to settle in Morphett Vale in 1856. Grandfather, Thomas was the local blacksmith as was Walter's father, William John, who married twice; firstly, to Bridget Molloy from Willunga and secondly, Ellen Donovan who mothered three children, two girls, Ellen and Myrtle, and then a boy, Walter.

The family attended the local Catholic church. The children's education was firstly at the local Morphett Vale Primary School and later Walter completed his education at Christian Brothers' College. Both Walter and sister Myrtle were appointed provisional school teachers with Walter being posted to Waukaringa and Myrtle to Bowillia.

Walter enlisted in the A.I.F. and was posted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment spending his war in Egypt and returned to Australia in 1919. The following year he married Elizabeth Hennessy but the marriage was not successful and the couple divorced in 1924. Little was known of his life from that time other than from the poetry he wrote which was published in newspapers both in Adelaide and Melbourne. Walter died in Victoria in 1944 and is memorialised in the St Mary's church grave yard where he rests with his father.

It is most likely that Walter would have known Eugene Augustus O'Sullivan, both having grown up in Morphett Vale and attending the local Catholic church. Eugene was also the youngest child of his family. Whilst Walter told us in his poetry that he had some memorable times in Egypt, Eugene's war seemed to be a constant battle against the rules applied to him with regard to authorisation required for leave and loss of pay and fines incurred for breaking those rules. He had enlisted in 1915 and appointed to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion. Just prior to being shipped out Eugene took the opportunity to visit his father who, at the time, was quite ill. The harvest was due to start and labour was scarce so Eugene decided to stay on to help until his father had recovered sufficiently to continue running the O'Sullivan farm. Unfortunately, his battalion shipped out before he returned and Eugene was declared AWOL and Court Martial proceedings for desertion were commenced. Eugene was able to explain the circumstances of his absence but he was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment with hard labour which was downgraded to being AWOL with the proviso he embarked on the next available ship. He was then appointed to the 10<sup>th</sup> battalion and shipped out on 16 December 1916.

He had some illness prior to being sent to France early in July 1917. Eugene was one of the 12,000 men killed in action at Passchendaele during the three months of the Third Battle of Ypres.

The stories of both Walter (pgs. 178-180) and Eugene (pgs. 117-119) are included in the FPFHG's publication *WW1 ANZACS of the Fleurieu Peninsula* copies of which are in the Group's library.

**Mary Ann Minor**



**May 2022** *Dr Ian Moffat—Searching for the Beaumont Children and Other Adventures in Unmarked Grave Detection.*

The reliable detection of unmarked graves is one of the most important challenges faced by community groups, industry and law enforcement agencies. Burials are ubiquitous in the archaeological and forensic record. However, these features are challenging to locate with conventional techniques. Geophysical methods are often used for this purpose due to their non-invasive nature and rapid site coverage. However, graves remain a difficult target due to their subtle response and small size. This presentation reviews a number of grave detection projects, including the search for the Beaumont Children, mapping unmarked graves in the Little Glory Cemetery in Port Elliot and mapping WWII graves from the Battle of Tarawa, to discuss current best practice in this field.

Ian Moffat is an Associate Professor of Archaeological Science at Flinders University where he undertakes research in the application of earth science techniques in archaeology. He has previously held research positions at the University of Cambridge and the Institute for Mediterranean Studies. Ian holds a PhD from the ANU and a BA and BSc (Hons) from UQ. In addition to his academic career he has worked at Ecophyte Technologies, Precipice Training and Archaeometry Pty Ltd.



**June 2022** *Beth Robertson—The Stirling Family Connection with Slavery.*

Beth was in her 20s when she learned the family oral tradition that her forebear Edward Stirling, c1808-1873, was born in Jamaica to a Creole woman and a plantation owner of the Scottish clan Stirling. The story told that Edward's father took him to Scotland to be educated, funded him to come to South Australia with his cousin Charles in 1839, and bailed them out when an initial pastoralist venture failed. Edward went on to make his fortune in pastoralism and mining, and his children – including Sir Edward Charles Stirling – consolidated their father's success.

'Of course your three-greats grandmother was black', boomed her father's cousin Edward Stirling Booth when she questioned him about the story. In all other respects Edward's mother remains a figure of mystery. However, Beth's own and other descendants' DNA test results indicate that she was the daughter of a woman from the West African region now known as Ghana. In eighteenth and nineteenth century Jamaica she would have been referred to as a mulatto – the daughter of a Negro mother and a white father.

Edward Stirling Booth was the family historian of his generation, and in the absence of proof to the contrary he came to the conclusion that Edward Stirling's father was a William Stirling of the Kippendavie branch of the clan Stirling. The family only learned his true identity in 2007. In recent years Beth has been exploring how her family history contributes to two developing areas of international historical research. An article of her findings, entitled 'Edward Stirling: embodiment and beneficiary of slave ownership' is published in the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, No 6, 2022. It is freely available online at <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/journals/australian-journal-biography-and-history>.

**Elizabeth Grocke**

## THE SAD STORY OF SARAH By Cheryl Williss

On 27 September 1839, the *Lady Lilford* moored at Port Adelaide, after ‘a pleasant voyage’ from Liverpool of 102 days. Among the 200 immigrants on board were John McHarg, his wife Elizabeth and their family of six, from the village of Clendrie in the parish of Inch, Wigtownshire, in Scotland’s south-west.

John and Elizabeth’s eldest, 22-year-old Sarah, soon found work as a domestic servant in the Hindley Street home of Catherine and Joseph Bouch. But by 1841, Sarah had moved with her family to their new property in an area known as ‘the Meadows’, a 4000-acre parcel of land otherwise known as the Seventh Special Survey. The survey had been completed in December 1839 and the first land sold in the following year.

In 1841 Deputy Surveyor-General Thomas Burr was stationed here with his family, approximately two and a half miles from the McHarg property. Sarah found employment as a companion to Frances, Thomas Burr’s wife. Frances never relished being left alone in a tent in the bush and was grateful for Sarah’s company at these times.

At 1.30 pm on Thursday 3 June 1841, Sarah took her leave from Frances Burr and headed for home – and promptly disappeared.

Sadly, it seems a fortnight passed before Frances and the McHargs realised that Sarah was missing. On 19 June, the *South Australian Register* reported the ‘mysterious disappearance of a female’ who was last seen wearing a green and white cotton gown with a black velvet trimmed cape, a pink apron and a straw bonnet with light ribbons. She also had a deformity in one of her feet. She had been carrying two books: the *Book of Common Prayer* and a novel, *The Castle of Inchvalley*.

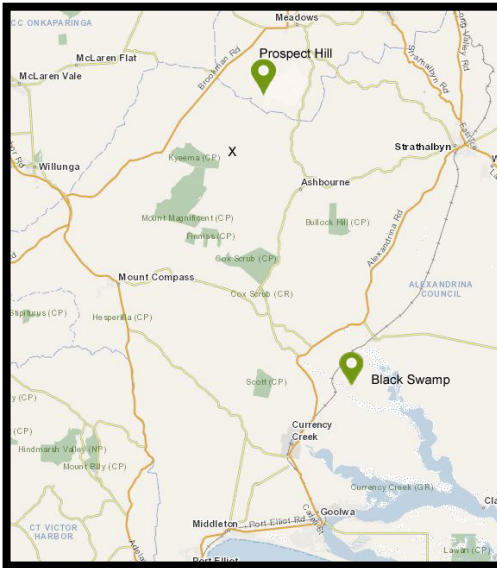
The well-beaten track between the Burr camp and the McHarg property was one on which Sarah had often trod before, but for some reason this time she strayed. Perhaps something frightened her.

A thorough and prolonged search began. On the same day that Sarah was last seen, the inaugural Strathalbyn horseracing carnival was held, and the *South Australian Register* newspaper took note of the fine weather for that occasion. But the ensuing rains had erased any clue of the direction Sarah might have taken.

Tom Murray, a stockkeeper who had recently arrived in Adelaide from the Meadows with a herd of cattle, was quickly apprehended and charged with ‘having unfairly dealt with the missing girl’. But after spending a week in the lock-up and no evidence surfacing, Tom Murray was duly liberated.

On 25 August 1843, local settler Lieutenant Thomas Higgins was passing by the area known as the Black Swamp, not far from Currency Creek – and some 15 miles from whence Sarah had so mysteriously disappeared more than two years earlier. Here he discovered the remains of a body inside a makeshift shelter.

Police Commissioner B T Finnis wrote to the coroner, John Nicholls, asking for an inquest. The coroner’s initial decision not to hold an inquest because he ‘did not consider the matter



*The X marks the approximate location of the McHarg property - where Sarah was supposed to be heading*

within his jurisdiction owing to the length of time supposed to have elapsed' led to Finnis petitioning the governor. Advocate-General William Smillie concurred with Finnis. But it seems John Nicholls had second thoughts on the matter and also wrote to the governor seeking an opinion. On 7 September, Governor George Grey formally requested the coroner 'take the necessary steps'.

The inquest was held at Currency Creek where seven jurors – including the former accused Tom Murray – examined 'the bones of a human body' which, based on the strong circumstantial evidence before them, proved to be the remains of Sarah McHarg. Long since scattered by dingoes, the bones included a skull, thigh bones, a shoulder bone, ribs and pieces of vertebrae. They were in 'a good state of preservation' and 'the slightest indication of violence could not be discovered'.

Sarah had built 'a sort of wurley with branches'. Inside was a bed made of twigs and grass, her books and what was left of her clothing. Scratched with what appeared to be 'a pin or a sharp stick' in the margins of her prayer book was a request that 'anything I got from my grandfather is to be given to [my sister] Agnes at my mother's death with my blessing'. Elsewhere were instructions to 'have my little box' and 'take care of my books'. To her sister Elizabeth she wrote, 'grieve not for me, I am resigned to my fate'.

On the 170th anniversary of the discovery of her remains, a plaque was laid in Sarah's memory, on a quiet edge of bushland on Milligan Road, Prospect Hill, not far from where she had left for home on a fateful winter's day.

### Names of the Jurors

- John Reynell Esquire, Foreman
- Charles Reeve

- Edward Spicer
- Simeon Eastwood
- William Gardner
- William Broughton
- John Allan
- William Metcalf
- James Day
- Gilbert James Elliot
- Thomas Murray
- James Smith

Author's note: About five years ago, while Colin and I were out on our regular Sunday afternoon drive, we came across this plaque on Milligan Road, Prospect Hill. My curiosity aroused, I did some research of my own. The article was originally written for the journal of the Pioneers Association of South Australia (refer *The Pioneer*, Autumn 2018.) However, for local interest I have added the map and the names of the jurors.



#### References:

*South Australian Register*, 28 September 1839 p 4.

*South Australian Register*, 5 June 1841 p 3.

*South Australian Register*, 19 June 1841 p 3.

*Southern Australian*, 8 September 1843 p 3.

SLSA, PRG 1377/73: copies of official correspondence and reports from Police Commissioner's Office, Colonial Secretary and coroner.

SLSA, 994.232 5539, Harold Sheard, 'Graham's Castle in retrospect', *Victor Harbour Times*, 1963.

**Cheryl Williss**

## THE LATE SIR ROSS SMITH by Kerry Edwards

Kerry Edwards and Joy Nieass attended the Commemorative Service to mark the 100th Anniversary of the funeral of Sir Ross McPherson Smith KBE, MC & Bar, DFC & Bar, AFC. It was held at St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide. The poem was read out by Mr Greg Mackie, Chief Executive, History Trust of South Australia, Chair, Epic Flight Centenary Celebrations 2018-2019.

### THE LATE SIR ROSS SMITH

And you are gone—Napoleon of the air,  
Who swooped to home and fame in one great flight;  
Who bridged the seas and dared the desert's death,  
Half a world crossed, and in the flight  
'Gainst Nature's laws and man's indifference,  
With courage common to Australian youth—resource,  
Bush-born, and faith unshakeable,  
In man's power to do that of which he dreamed—  
You faced the odds, and by the will to win,  
Made hills of mountains, lakes of oceans vast;  
Piloting your noble crew through trackless ways,  
Till came the day this message thrilled the world—  
"Ross Smith arrived". A world's heart beat fast;  
Another milestone in its march was passed.

Thus in the march of man towards things that were  
But dreams, Australia played a part, and but for Fate,  
Which whirls men and things around, and in its freaks,  
Respects not even him his fellows may deem great,  
She would have in her son gained further fame;  
But Fate has said—Did not that deed of his  
Place him 'mong the supermen? The work he planned  
Another brain and hand may execute. E é n were it done  
It were no more than his....To this we bow,  
Yet softly falls the tear; we are but men, and  
Childishly would claim him as our own when  
He was all the worlds. And now, his race has run—  
And mankind mourns a great and noble son.

By Frank McCabe

The poem was written by Frank McCabe, Goodwood. It appeared in *The Register* newspaper shortly after Ross Smith's death on 14 April 1922. It also appeared in the booklet for the *Unveiling of The Sir Ross Smith and Sir Keith Smith War Memorial* at Adelaide Airport on Sunday 27 April 1958 and was read by Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams KBE, CB, DSO.

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS & EVENTS



All meetings are held at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Road, Christies Beach. If you have a suggestion for a suitable speaker please contact Elizabeth Grocke with details.

16 July—John Andrewartha, West Torrens Curiosities

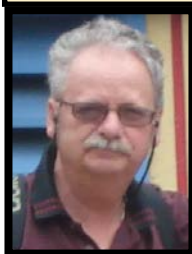
20 August—National Archives of Australia—Tips and Hints

17 September—Ani Peters, Charles and Charlotte Folland Story

15 October—Ron Dearing, Some Flesh on the Bones—Family History

19 November—AGM, John Brownlie, The Head Stone Project “War Vet Head Stones”

## RESOURCE ROOM OPENING TIMES



The Resource Room is available to members for research. During the opening time before the Saturday general meetings, Resource Room volunteers will not be available to give assistance with ‘Family Research’, but books, newsletters and magazines can be borrowed from 12.00pm to 1.15pm, and during the afternoon tea break.

Other opening times for the Resource Room will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons during February to October, and the 1st Wednesday in November, from 1.00pm—3.30pm.

Members wishing to access *findmypast* and *Ancestry* during resource room openings, are now requested to contact Chris Grivell and book a specific time. Chris’s contact details may be found at the front of the journal.

Opening dates for this quarter are: 6 July, 16 July, 20 July, 3 August, 17 August, 20 August, 7 September, 17 September, 21 September, 5 October, 15 October, 19 October, 2 November, 16 November, 19 November—resource returns only.



## EVENING COMPUTER GROUP



The evening computer class is held in the Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Street, Christies Beach. A \$5.00 donation is requested to help cover the cost of the hire of the hall. The Group meet monthly on the second Monday night of the month at 7.30pm.

The program consists of a presentation on a specific topic followed by a question and answer session. Bring a tagged laptop from home but if you cannot you will be seated with someone who has a similar operating system to you.

Contact Heather Boyce if you are interested.

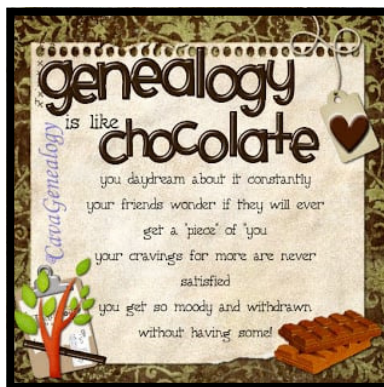
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## **VOLUNTEER RESEARCH**

Research can be undertaken for anyone seeking information on ancestors in our local area. Please forward requests to Volunteer Research, PO Box 1078, Christies Beach North SA 5165.

## **EDITOR'S NOTE by Christine Keen**



Welcome to another packed edition of Relative Thoughts.

By the time this journal goes to print, I will have formally advised the Executive Committee, that I will be standing down as Journal Editor at the end of 2023. This was not an easy decision, but one that has been brought about due to health issues, and other events happening in my life.

If you think you're up to the challenge of putting together the Group's quarterly journal, please feel free to contact me. I'm more than happy to answer questions, and I'd be more than happy to have someone work alongside me putting next year's editions together.

Thank you to all our members that have contributed to this edition. Please start sending in your contributions for the final edition of 2022. Contributions will need to be received, by the September general meeting.

**Christine Keen**  
**Journal Editor**

## WHEN & WHERE

### MEETINGS

The monthly Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from January—October at 1.15pm, Uniting Church Hall, 23 William Street, Christies Beach. The Resource Room is open from 12.00pm each meeting day.

Annual General Meeting is held on the 3rd Saturday in November commencing at 1.30pm. Committee elections are held at this time.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**Aussie Interest Group**—meets at 1.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month. For information contact Ros Dunstall.

**United Kingdom and USA Interest Group**—usually meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month but may vary. For information contact Sharon Green.

**Evening Computer Group**—meets at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. For information contact Heather Boyce.

**DNA Evening Group**—usually meets at 7.30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month but may vary. For information contact Sharon Green.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

#### **Membership with Electronic Journal:**

Family (2 people) - \$35.00

Single—\$30.00

#### **Membership with Printed Journal:**

Family (2 people) - \$40.00

Single—\$35.00

A \$5.00 joining fee applies to all new and lapsed memberships.

Fees should be paid to the Treasurer prior to the November AGM each year.

**PUBLISHING** This journal is issued quarterly to members. Items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor by March, June, September and December. FPFHG shall not be held responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by the authors of submitted materials, or shall FPFHG vouch for the accuracy of any genealogical data, offers, services or goods that appear herein. The Editor reserves the right to edit any articles proffered for publication.

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