



The Newsletter of the Clarence River Historical Society

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An Australian Themed Post Card from our Collection

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2011 OFFICE BEARERS

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"Schaeffer House" Open 1.00 pm — 4.00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday.
Research enquiries...From 9.00 am on days listed except Sunday.

**The Clarence River Historical Society Inc. is endorsed as a
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Rumblings 'round the House . . .

Schaeffer House, the home of the *Society* is 'back in business' after the volunteers enjoyed a couple of week's rest and recreation over the Christmas/New Year holidays.

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In late November, 31 Members attended a dinner at the TAFE College, to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the *Society* and this doubled as our Christmas function.

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During this time the House was a hive of activity with repairs and building. The room where the termite infestation had caused damage has had the whole ceiling replaced. The ceiling was tongue and groove so has been replaced with same although a narrower cornice had to be used as they do not make the original size. Hopefully the termites have been controlled!

For years we had discussed the possibility of having a mezzanine floor installed to allow extra storage. However, if the Council did this then it was going to be an involved operation. The *Society* decided to install pallet rack shelving in the research room.

Malcolm Ford, with help from his son-in-law, *Mark Austin* and grandson, *Benjamin*, installed this during the break. There are a few finishing touches to be done before we can store things that are seldom used. This will add an extra 31.5 cubic metres or 36 linear metres of storage/shelving.

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The library bookshelf has also had another bay added, as well as another two filing cabinets to house the overflow of Family Files. Many hours have been spent removing the old 'sticky labels' from all the filing cabinets to be replaced with Data Strip label holders which can be changed by inserting new card. [*Thank You! Mavis*]

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In December, an afternoon tea was held to celebrate the conferring of Life Membership on *Suzanne Gibson*. (See separate article on Page 14). Before the presentation, *David Bancroft*, presented cheques to the winners of *The Daily Examiner* sponsored competition for the design of the back cover of the Grafton High School Centenary book.

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At the January Monthly meeting the Treasurer, **Don Peck**, reported that we had set a flexible goal to take \$40 000 for the year and had nearly met this goal. Sale of our publications is a significant portion of the income. We thank **Don** for his meticulous book keeping and reporting.

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The **Society** depends solely on volunteers to operate, and as with any organisation, we are always in need of more volunteers. We would especially encourage local members to consider giving three hours a month to welcome visitors to **Schaeffer House**. If you are interested and would like to give it a try, then one of our regular volunteers would do it with you. We are sure you will enjoy the experience and join the roster.

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We have received an invitation to the Royal Australian Historical Society, New England and North West Regional Conference to be held in Glen Innes 17/18 March 2012. The theme is '**Tethered to the World**'* and an interesting program of speakers has been prepared including a Social History of Railway Lines; Cobb and Co. routes; digital copying; Radio – local air waves; researching country newspapers; a cemetery walk and tour and explanation of the Standing Stones. This is an opportunity to net-work with like-minded people!

*From Henry Lawson's *The Roaring Days* – 'The mighty bush with iron rail is tethered to the world...'

John Graham, who will present '**Researching in Country Newspapers**' and '**Indexing for Genealogists and Local Historians**' is a Member of the '**Dead Person's Society**' (DPS) and the **Ryerson Index**.

In 1998, the Sydney DPS decided to create an on-going index of death notices from **The Sydney Morning Herald** and **The Daily Telegraph**. Joyce Ryerson gave the DPS an almost complete index of death notices from 1986-1998 which has now been extended and other newspapers added to it. Hence the index is known as **The RYERSON Index**.

Information for the indexes is accumulated in a database on a daily basis, using software especially written for the purpose.

Each daily file is emailed to a central co-ordinator, who adds the data to the main database.

The **Ryerson Index** can be searched in two ways: by name, or by location. As stated, it is an extremely useful index for genealogy and local history.

This week our **Society** received a request from Jean at Yamba, who is the Ryerson indexer for the three Clarence River newspapers. Her request was for entries of death, obituaries or legal notices, from **The Daily Examiner** for October 12, 2006, which was the only day missing for 2006. We found one probate notice in the Legal Notices.

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Our book on the Grafton floods, '**When the Rains Come Down and the Floods Come Up**' has been a good seller with over 600 copies being sold in the year since its launch. Of course, it was rushed on to the market last January (2011) when the Clarence was in flood and we were able to include that rise in the river. Now, the waters have risen again with a peak of 5.53 metres being reached at Grafton at 9 am on Friday 27 January 2012. This is classed as a major flood.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Ingrid is researching the SEWELL family who lived in the Clarence area in the 1880-90's. **Jonathon Richard**, in particular had a splendid collection of butterflies which he exhibited at shows and also tutored the Brass Bands of Ulmarra and Tumbulgum.

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Ryle requested photos of 'two men working in a sawpit' and 'Charlie Handford's record breaking load of six logs on wagon drawn by 24 bullocks'. Although the poor copies he has are supposed to have originated at our Society we have not been able to find them in our photo file.

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Mrs Regina sought information on the Bridge, for which we sold her a copy of the 75th Anniversary book. She also wanted photos of steamers but was not sure of any specific ones. We suggested that purchasing '**Riverboats on the Clarence**' from Port of Yamba Society would be helpful.

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Jo was looking for the death of **Henry Ralph LEWIS** – Henry was a Bank Manager and a son John was born in Grafton in 1866. Unfortunately we had no reference to his death.

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Bob was told that his great great grandmother (SCHAEFFER) was one of the first white children born in Grafton. She was born in 1854. In our files we have many claims to being the first white child/boy/girl. Our earliest record is for a McPHERSON baby born in 1840.

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John enquired about his family – his mother **Ann Evelyn CAVANAGH**, born Grafton 1913. Her parents were **Edward CAVANAGH** and **Julia MUTER**. We do not have records of this family.

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Michael sought a newspaper article which might show the children of **Emma Olive RIPPON**. Family says that she had a daughter **Florence** and a 'state ward', **Agnes**.

Our records show **Emma** as marrying **George DAVIS** and having at least eight children, **Florence** being the eldest. This is also the information contained in the Davis book. Sadly there was no death notice/obituary in *The Daily Examiner* or *The Northern Star* when she died in Casino in 1931. Perhaps Casino Family History could help her as they have their local newspapers.

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Gary is seeking a tree of the **DOUGLAS** family and associated families.

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David enquired about **David ROCHE** who owned Roche's Hotel.

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Following some research we carried out for **Dr Thomas THEYE** from Germany on **J F Berini**, who practiced medicine in Grafton in the 1860-70's he wrote and thanked us for the information we were able to send him.

He added, '*Christmas is over and it wasn't white at all – Bremen, about an hour by car away from the North Sea, is very well-known for its rainy, foggy, damp weather and temps about 10 degree Celsius plus! So let's wait for the snow!*'

Thomas and **Susan PENROSE** had '*The Grip*' newspaper in Grafton. **Keith** was interested in obtaining information on them.

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Rev. Gallagher sought information on Ramornie. Again, we are able to offer our publication on Ramornie.

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Earle, from Manly Surf Club, wanted some information on the three **HENRY** brothers, originally from Grafton, for the Surf Club's Centenary.

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Narelle was hoping to find information on **Anita SMITH** and **Jack McPHERSON** who married in 1935.

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Ian wanted to learn more about **James Greer PILLAR** who lived in the Grafton Area.

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Michael sought a copy of our Hotel book. This publication is out of print but we are currently updating it for a reprint.

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Cheryle needed photos and articles on the **FRASER** family – **James, Patrick Lauder** and **William**. This family is well-documented so we could supply quite a lot of information.

Using the Internet

We are cautioned not to believe everything that is put on the internet but you cannot go too wrong (*or can you?*) when you can actually read the contents of newspapers.

The following appeared in *The Manchester Times*, September 1895

HADFIELD.- Elizabeth Hadfield (*formerly Hudson*) of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, wife of Thomas Hadfield, farmer,

and when last heard of was residing at Carrick's Creek, Clarence River, North Grafton, South Australia. The enquirer is Agnes Kersey (*sister*), 28 Cotton Hill, Withington, Manchester.

Our records show that Elizabeth died at her residence at Mount Edgecombe in 1915 at the age of 95 years having come to the Clarence with her husband 57 years previously and for many years had resided at Carrs Creek. They were among the early settlers, arriving shortly after the area was opened for settlement. After 40 years they moved to Mount Edgecombe (*near Koolkhan railway station*).

In 1900 Thomas was involved in a fatal accident when the wheel of his dray passed over him. He was on top of a load of cane tops he was taking off the field and a little girl, *Wilhelmine Stuart*, saw him fall and rushed to try and drag him away but she was not strong enough and so the horse dragged the dray over his head.

Thomas was described as '*a true type of an English farmer*'. He was a prominent successful exhibitor at the local shows.

Elizabeth and Thomas are buried in the Grafton cemetery. They had a son Thomas, an unmarried daughter, Hannah and another daughter, Mary, who was the wife of Archdeacon Garland of Queensland. Mary had married Samuel Featherstone HAWKINS in Grafton in 1887 but he died 1890 and she married David John GARLAND in Sydney in 1892. They had one son David James born in Perth in 1896.

Now, we wonder if Agnes ever heard from her sister

An interesting connection is that the Coroner at Thomas' inquest was Mr Fitzhardinge and we find his children attending Mrs Connor's Private School. (See page 8-9).

Australia Day



Australia Day, January 26 is the day in 1788 when Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet arrived at Sydney Cove.

By 1804 almanacs and calendars and the Sydney Gazette began referring to 26 January as First Landing Day or Foundation Day. On the thirteenth anniversary of the landing (1818), Governor Macquarie made the day an official holiday. In 1838 it was again proclaimed a public holiday to mark the Jubilee of the British occupation of New South Wales. In 1888 representatives from Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and New Zealand joined New South Wales leaders in Sydney to celebrate the Centenary. What had begun in NSW was becoming an Australian anniversary and the day was known Anniversary or Foundation Day.

In 1930 the Australian Natives' Association in Victoria began a campaign to have a public holiday, to be known as Australia Day, on the Monday near to January 26, making a long weekend. Victoria carried this idea out in 1931 and the rest of Australia by 1935.

When the State Premiers met in Sydney in 1938 to celebrate the Sesquicentenary, Aboriginal leaders met for a Day of

Mourning. In 1946 an Australia Day Celebration Committee was formed to educate the public about the significance of Australia Day. This later became the Australia Day Council. The Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1948 was a symbolic Australian Citizenship yet the people still remained British subjects.

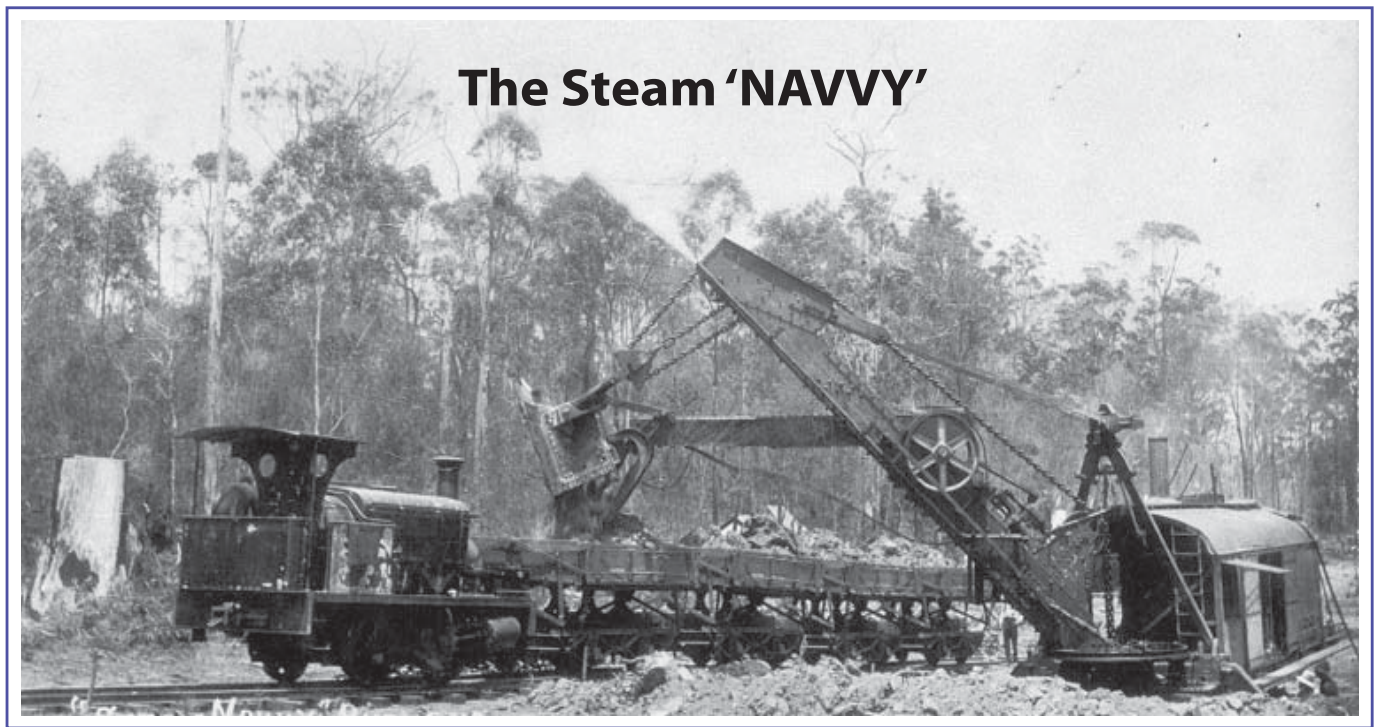
The first Australian of the year was appointed in 1960 – Sir Mac Farlane Burnett, a medical scientist. Young Australian of the Year followed in 1979, Senior Australian 1999 and Local Hero 2003. Also in 1979, a National Australia Day Committee was established in Canberra.

In 1984 Australians ceased to be British subjects and Advance Australia Fair became the National Anthem. For the Bi-centenary in 1988 Australia Day was celebrated on the actual day (January 26) instead of a long weekend and continues to do so up to the present. Rather than just being a date to recognise the Anniversary or Foundation of Australia, the day is promoted to "*develop national pride and spirit to enrich the life of the nation*".

The **Annual General Meeting** of the *Clarence River Historical Society Inc.* will be held at **Schaeffer House** on Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 7pm. There will be a Guest Speaker and supper will follow.

Enclosed in this newsletter are a 2012 Calendar and a **Subscription Form** for those whose Membership is due. The Membership remains at \$20 per year.

We welcome our new members *David Williams* and *Patricia McGarrigle*.



Steam Navy 'BUCYRUS' – 4th Section, North Coast Railway construction — 1912

One hundred years ago 'a machine known as the '*Navvy*' arrived at South Grafton to be employed on the construction of the railway line to Glenreagh'. It represented a labour saving implement.

A '*Navvy*' (*short for navigator*) traditionally referred to a labourer, especially employed in construction of excavation projects such as roads, railways or canals.

The steam or mechanical navy was a shovel that ran on wheels and on its own power. The results achieved were very satisfactory. At one stage of the Railway construction, near Bowraville, 300 men with horses and carts were sent away and were replaced with three mechanical navvies, each serviced by just 30 men. The Navy from South Grafton eventually began work around Macksville/Kempsey and another two were brought to the Macleay by the North Coast Company's steamer.

Another advantage was the steam navy could carry on excavating and

loading uninterrupted even when heavy rains set in. It was estimated the steam navy could do more work in a minute than a man could do in half an hour. In February 1912, there was a land slip on the third section of the railway line and the steam navy had been moving 800 tons of debris in a day.

As far back as 1876, a steam navy from an America manufacturer was employed by the North British Railway Company. As well as the usual benefits of speed and working in all weathers, a great advantage was that this navy did not owe allegiance to any trade union and was not bound to strike.

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TIT FOR TAT – 1923 Style

A woman teacher complained at the Teachers' Conference that it was absurd to expect assistant teachers to teach sewing under any circumstances, as every teacher was not capable of doing so. "*Every woman should be capable,*" said an interjector. "*Every male teacher should also be able to drive a nail or build a cow shed, but how many can?*" came the ready retort.

Mrs Connor's Private School



This is the photo that appeared in a larger format in Newsletter #111. Ron Appleton's mother, Dorothea had told him Mavis McClymont was a pupil at the school.

Indeed, Mavis is listed as a prize-winner in 1925. She enrolled at Grafton Primary School in 1928.

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While looking through the 1912 edition of *The Daily Examiner* to find some articles for 100 years ago, there was a '**Back to School**' section where Mrs Connor's Private School was detailed along with the Public and Convent School.

It said that Mrs Connor had conducted this school in Grafton for the past eight years and was still '*engaged in directing the youthful intellects of Grafton into the proper channels*'. Miss STACEY accompanied the singing and also taught dancing classes, while Miss WHARRIE taught elocution.

The school was for young children as well as for more advanced pupils with all branches of education being taught from Kindergarten to the finishing accomplishments. A yearly prize-giving lists awards being given for spelling, French, writing, reading, mapping, Religion/Scripture, history, dictation, as well as attendance, conduct, attitude, homework, examinations, housework and monitors (*and monitress*).

In 1912 the school room was in the Forrester's Hall, Queen Street, which was a well-ventilated brick building. Besides looking after the mental progress of the pupils, Mrs Connor saw to it that they studied under comfortable and hygienic conditions. She realised that it was '*no good enriching the brain and enfeebling the body*'.

From 1904 the school was advertised as being conducted in the Protestant Hall and then Forrester's Hall. The Protestant Hall was used by the Royal Forrester's Lodge as well as for other public meetings. In the 1890's the Hall had been set up to teach '*domestic science*' to girls from the public schools. Records so far show that Mrs Connor took over from Miss Hunter's Private School which was run by the Misses Hunter and known as Grafton Ladies' College.

Miss Hunter appears to have only had the school for 1902/3. Among her prize winning pupils were Doris BARTLETT, Annie and Joyce BAWDEN, Judith DEAN, Gladys DRISCOLL, Marjorie EBSWORTH, Alma EGAN, Madge, Mollie, Enid and Kathleen FITZHARDINGE, Minnie and Zillah FERGUSON, Nina and Irene HAWTHORNE, Eileen HENRY, Hannah KAUFFMANN Annie MACKIE, Hilda McKITTRICK, Aileen and Effie SANDERS, Lucie SMALL, Kathleen, Moya and Eileen Ventry SMITH, Amy, Dorothy and Marie SPENCER, Eileen SWITZER, Kuini YOUNGE.

Edward Forbes Connor and his wife Bessie (REAN) arrived in Australia from Liverpool, England about 1890. They had two daughters born in Sydney – Adelaide Bessie 1891 and Dorothea Lucie 1896.

Bessie's obituary in 1936 says that she had lived in Grafton for 32 years, which coincides with her opening the school

in 1904. She conducted the school for over 20 years. Edward also taught Arithmetic at the school but his obituary says that he had been an invalid for 20 years prior to his death in 1932. Both the girls were pupils at the school and later Adelaide (**Addie**) taught there.

After the school closed Addie was listed as a typiste, in Sydney. Dorothy married Joseph Reginald APPLETON in Grafton in 1921.

Before the mid-winter and December holidays the pupils presented a '*lengthy program*' of singing, recitations, dancing and drama, were presented with prizes and then entertained with an afternoon tea or a picnic on Susan Island. The details of these functions were published in *The Daily Examiner*.

This is a list of pupils (*taken from the papers*) who were awarded prizes at the annual presentations for the life of the school. N.B. There will be some missing as we have not found Prize Lists for every year yet.

Addie ARNDELL
Eugene ARNETT
Trishy ARNETT
Ian ASHTON
Florrie BANNISTER
Sybil BAXTER
Mollie BLAXLAND
Phyllis BLAXLAND
Harry BODE
Norman BOLTON
Ruth BOURKE
Bess BOWDEN
Birdie BRODIE
H BRODIE
Norma BRODIE
Ruby BRODIE
Rex BURNS
Tossie BURNS

Peggy BUSH
C CAMERON
(Older girl in 1905)
Norma CAMPBELL
Fred CASH
Nancy CLEEVE
Adelaide (Addie)
CONNOR
Dorothy CONNOR
Alma COWAN
Amy COWAN
Edna COWAN
F COWAN
Micky CRANE
Mavis CRIBB
Lennie CRIBB
Mildred CRISPIN
Olive DENNING

Kathleen DYKES
Doris ELLIOTT
Edith ELWORTHY
Marion ELWORTHY
Jean FARQUHARSON
Enid FITZHARDINGE
Jack FITZHARDINGE
Kathleen
FITZHARDINGE
Enid
FITZPATRICK (Miss)
Laurie GREENTREE
Joyce HAMILTON
Gracie HARRIS
Isabel HARRIS
Joan HARRISON
Vera HARRISON
Daphne HASTINGS
Flossie HASTINGS
Dulcie HENRY
Eileen HENRY
Myee HENRY
M'Liss HIGGINS
Dorothy HOCKEY
Marjorie HOCKEY
Phillip HOGARTH
Mollie HOJEL
Ruby HOLMES
Carmen HUGHES
Florence (Florrie)
IRVING
Eileen KENNEDY
Josephine LAW
Brian LINDSAY
John LIPMAN
Trevor LIPMAN
Mavis McCLYMONT
Margaret
McCULLOCH
Pat McDADE
Irma McLEAY
Dorothy
MacPHERSON
C MAKINSON
(Older girl in 1905)
Marjorie MAY
Jacqueline MILLER

Ion MORRISON
Tom MORRISON
Rene MOWLE
Clifford MOXON
Marjorie MOXON
Ray MURPHY
Peggy NEEDHAM
Win NEEDHAM
Weston OGDEN
Helen PENNEFATHER
Norman PERICHON
Ilda PHILLIPS
Kathleen PHILLIPS
R(N)onnie PHILLIPS
Jean PHIPPS
Doris RICHARDS
Keith RIDER
Gladys SCHAEFFER
Harold SEYMOUR
Kathleen SEYMOUR
Nellie SEYMOUR
Maisie SMITH
Nellie SMITH
Teddy SMITH
Trevor SMITH
Dorothy SPENCER
Marie SPENCER
Joan SMYTHE
Norma SMYTHE
M STOCKDALE
Jack SUTTON
Ray SUTTON
Enid TEAKLE
Agnes THOMPSON
James THOMPSON
Rowland TYLER
Annie WATT
Jack WATT
Nellie WILSON
Billy WOODWARD

Teachers :
Miss FRANCIS
Miss CRISPIN
Miss WHARRIE

While on the subject of school, *Jocelyn Clarkson*, sent the following article in response to our invitation last newsletter to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you *Jocelyn!*



An early photo of a classroom at Grafton Infants school

My great Aunt, Miss **Emily West Neyle**, was a 'pupil' teacher back in the early part of the 20th century. As did many women in those days, she went straight into this position after finishing her schooling without ever having any formal training for this occupation.

She was teaching at the school when my mother Joyce Isabelle Hockey was a pupil there. Whether she taught my mother who was born in 1908, I am unsure.

However, Aunt Emily was a much revered and strict teacher. Unbeknown to the general public and the school authorities, she only had one eye. This had been irreparably damaged when she was child. As she said, "it was poked out with a stick by another child." Consequently, the use of sticks for games or any other purpose were strictly forbidden in her presence and much frowned upon in my own family.

No one would have ever guessed she had this disability, as her blind one contained a perfectly matched glass eye. This she would take out at night and leave in a match box containing cotton wool, on the dresser in the bathroom at home.

As a curious child, whenever my sister and I stayed in the house, I would carefully sneak a view of this fascinating object, even though we were told definitely not to touch the match box.

Aunt Emily always wore a black apron at school. The reason for this is unknown, although one could only presume it was to protect her clothing from the blackboard chalk. As she was not wealthy, single and thus didn't have a husband to support her, like most people in this position she lived very carefully and frugally.

My mother recalled how Aunt Emily used to slap her black apron with a cane, to march the children into class after assembly.

A strict disciplinarian, Aunt Emily remained 'a teacher' long after she retired and lived in Sydney. We were living in Armidale by then and she would always send back our letters with any spelling or grammatical errors corrected. Possibly the reason, why I am often accused of being too critical about other people's writings and composition.



The Oval, Fisher Park, Grafton N.S.W.

SPORTS

In the last newsletter (*100 Years Ago*) we saw that the Oddfellows had issued a lengthy program for a sports day on New Year's Day.

The Grafton Argus published the results of the day which was held at Fisher Park. The program was mainly Pedestrian and Cycling events – in a novelty Bicycle race one had to race to a box of sawdust and locate a hidden penny! Miscellaneous events included throwing and bowling at a single stump, estimating the height of a pole, throwing a cricket ball and estimating the takings at the gate. Miss A White estimated £33 10s 6d – the actual amount was a penny more.

The City Band (Mr J D Klaus, conductor) rendered an enjoyable program during the day. Attendance was good but had showed a falling off from the previous year.

The Clarence and Richmond Examiner reported on 11 January 1912 that:

"There has been a remarkable decadence in athletics in the Clarence district during the last few years. Time was when an Oddfellows' or Caledonians' programme would attract three to four thousand people to Elizabeth Island, but now that many hundreds represent an average attendance. What is the cause? Committees have put forward attractive programmes for those athletically inclined but the response of late years has not been up to expectations."

The Grafton Sports Club advertised their second Monster Day's Sport to be held at Fisher Park on Anniversary Day, 26 January 1912. Again the main events were cycling and athletics, with a potato race, bowling and throwing at a stump and estimating the height of a pole and the gate takings. There was a refreshment booth and stall and during the afternoon the City Band '*dispensed a bright selection of music*'.

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The Manchester Unity Oddfellows had a substantial membership soon after it opened, and erected a hall in Bacon Street. By means of its annual sports on Elizabeth Island on Anniversary Day it encouraged and promoted athletic sports on the Clarence, in addition to supplementing its own funds.

The Ancient Forresters also erected a Hall, in Queen Street, (Mrs Connor's School), and stimulated athletics by sports on the showground prior to the Oddfellows catering for pedestrians on local tracks such as at Fisher Park.

For several years pedestrian races attracted considerable attention as a sport, and the district possessed some crack sprinters, including A McGEE, W CREIGHTON, J H MADGWICK, CURTIS, C SOUTHION, PATON and the brothers NOUD. For two or three decades there were few centres that did not celebrate public holidays by athletic sports.

Marbles

– Hazel FORD

Aggies, keeps, taw, fudge, knuckle down, pog, cat's eye, bull's eye, flicking, shooter, shoot out, ring, shot, toley.

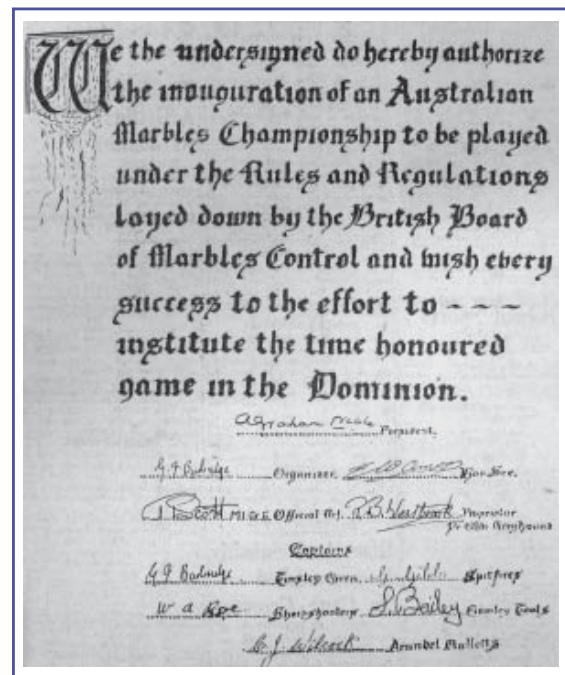
This is the vocabulary of the game of marbles played by most of my generation.

But.....Who'll come a-marbling Matilda, with me?

In August 1949, the Jacaranda Festivals Committee asked Mr E H Chataway to conduct the first Marble Championships in Australia in association with the 1949 Jacaranda Festival. At that meeting Mr Ian Malcolm stated that the Jacaranda Festival had created something that had not existed in Australia and that the Marble contests would be a second unique entertainment to commence at Grafton.

So, on 22 August 1949, an Australian Marbles Championship Committee was formed in Grafton to organise future championship games. President of the Committee was Mr E H Chataway who originated the idea; Secretary Mr L H Buckley and Treasurer Mr L J Fitzgerald. It was estimated that £400 could be raised from the Championships and this would assist in providing Christmas cheer for the children of Grafton and the funds of the Jacaranda Festival Committee.

The Certificate following authorised the championship by the British Board of Marble Control gave consent for this traditional game to be played in Grafton as the Australian Marble Championship. It delegated Mr Chataway to inaugurate the Championship to be played under the rules and conditions of the British Board. The certificate had been signed by members of the British Board from all over England and it took many weeks



before it completed its circuit round England for signatures. The organiser of the championships in England, Mr George Burbridge, of Tinsely Green, Sussex, advised that marbles had been played in that country since 1580. The championships were played on Good Friday.

One requirement was about half a dozen concrete rings six feet in diameter and two inches off the ground. Championship teams of six players with 49 standard ½ inch marbles play in a ring six feet in circumference and compressed in the centre. Each game was played between two teams, the winning team passing into the next round. The competitor shoots toley (*shooting marble and sometimes larger than the others*) and endeavours to knock marbles from the ring. If he succeeds and his toley remains in the ring he shoots again. If a competitor shoots and does not succeed in knocking marbles from the ring, but his toley remains in the ring, he stays in the ring until his turn comes again. He is killed if he is knocked out by his own or the opposing side.



The nucleus of the City Seers Marbles Team has already been formed. Some of the members, who will all be city aldermen, are seen above. Ald. E. E. Schaeffer is firing his trolley, Ald. G. C. Chalmers is admiring the shot, while the founder of the championship, Ald. E. H. Chataway throws a benevolent eye over the improvised ring.

In ordinary play the player can shoot from the edge of the ring or from the knee. As long as the competitor keeps knocking marbles out of the ring without his trolley leaving the ring, he can clear the ring if good enough. The marbles have to be knocked out of the ring, not rolled or trundled out. Sand sprinkled lightly on the ring ensures that marbles have to be knocked out.

In the individual competition the highest scorers from each team meet in the semi-finals for the right to meet the previous year's champion. Four marbles per man, with one extra marble are placed in the ring for semi-finals – thirteen marbles for the finals. The rules are emphatic that no fudging is allowed.

The British Board would recognise the winner of the championships played at Grafton as the Australian champion. An Honour Board would be displayed in

the British centre of the game showing Australian champions each year. A South Grafton timber merchant had offered to prepare a red cedar honour board which would be presented by the Australian High Commissioner. Efforts would also be made to stage an Empire Championship at Grafton and there was also the possibility of holding test matches via radio.

By the end of August 1949, the marble championships had received wide publicity all over Australia and Mr Chataway had already had many requests for further information. Some wanted to nominate for the games and other to form clubs. The aldermen of Grafton City Council had nominated a team, the City Seers, which Mr Chataway claimed would be difficult to beat. A team, called the Spitfires would challenge the City Seers.

[... Continued overleaf]

Following the finding of the Marbles Competition articles in *The Daily Examiner* I wrote to Sam McCarthy-Cox, Secretary of the British Marbles Board of Control and received the following reply:

"My records don't go back as far as 1949, like you I only have old newspaper cuttings to go on. There was mention of a match in Napia NZ in 1946, but nothing about Australia I am afraid. I would love a copy of your old newspaper for our archives if you could let me have one?"

For more about our championship go to our web site -

<http://www.greyhoundmarbles.com>

The next competition is a Tinsley Green 6 April 2012!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DON'T USE BIG WORDS

The Clarence and Richmond Examiner
November 26, 1887.

In promulgating your esoteric cogitations, or articulating your superficial sentimentalities, and amicable, philosophical, or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity, let your conversational communications possess a clarified conciseness, a compacted comprehensibility, coalescent consistence and a concatenated cogency. Enshen all conglomerations of flatulent gassulity, jejune babblement, and asinine affectations; let you extemporaneous descantations and unpremeditated expatiations have intelligibility and voracious vivacity without rhodomontade or thrasonical bombast; sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, psittacous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity, and vaniloquent vapidness; shun double entendres, prurient jacosity, and pestiferous profanity, obscurant or apparent.

IN OTHER WORDS! Talk plainly, briefly, naturally, truthfully, purely; keep from slang; don't put on airs; say what you mean; mean what you say and **DON'T USE BIG WORDS!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Membership of a lifetime

David Bancroft – *The Daily Examiner*
21st December 2011

THE newest life member of the Clarence River Historical Society Suzanne Gibson isn't one to procrastinate.

According to society president Frank Mack, if she sees a job that needs to be done *"she just gets in and does it"*.

Mrs Gibson joined the historical society in 1989 and has been helping out just about every Wednesday since.

"I just enjoy being a member of the society," she said.

Mrs Gibson was presented with her life membership badge by society public officer Bill Dougherty, who joked life membership could be dangerous.

"Of the people who have been granted life membership over the past 20 years, most are deceased," he said.

"Sue has always made visitors feel welcome."





100 YEARS AGO

(Compiled by Hazel Lawson)



Extracts from The Clarence and Richmond Examiner, November, 1911

Ladies School, established 1904, studies resume January 22nd in Forrester's Hall. Further particulars may be obtained from

Mrs Forbes Connor
Fitzroy Street, Grafton

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mary Ann Meskell was granted a Second Hand Dealers licence, also a collector's licence.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A fire broke out in the early hours of Tuesday morning, when a stable, the property of Mr C F Tindal of Ramornie was completely destroyed. The stable was situated at the rear of Mr H Maxted's residence in Oliver Street. Captain Brindle was immediately communicated with and the Fire Brigade were soon in attendance. The firemen were not long in getting the upper hand of the elements, but not before the stable was destroyed, together with its storage of hay. The fence that divided Mr Fowler's yard from Mr Mexted's was also burnt, damaged being done to the extent of 20 shillings. Mr Maxted's buggished, which is adjacent, was saved through the assistance of a number of willing workers – prior to the arrival of the brigade – by forming a chain and passing buckets of water along to the thrown on the building.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Recently the Grafton Dairy Coy. Ltd were successful in securing the first prize against the Empire for their salt butter, which was exhibited at the Islington Dairy Show.

A machine known as the "Navy" arrived at South Grafton yesterday to be employed on the construction of the railway line to Glenreagh. It is represented as being a labour saving implement.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mr J C Lane, son of Mr T T Lane, headmaster of the South Grafton Public School, has purchased the chemistry and pharmacy business so successfully carried on for some years by his uncle Mr V C Lane. The new dispenser, who is now in occupation, has had a particularly bright career and passed his final examination with much distinction. He has had both city and country experience, and should certainly uphold the excellent name established by the erstwhile proprietor.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The promotion of Mr R A Holmes, surveyor, Grafton Local Land Board Office, has been approved by the Public Service Board.

The appointment of Mr W C Carter, as a junior cleric in the Grafton Local Land Board Office, for a period of twelve months on probation, have been approved.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Back to School

Yesterday (22 January) schools reassembled after the summer vacation – the glorious five weeks of liberty that every school girl and boy looks forward to during the whole year. There are minor vacations, 'tis true, such as the week at mid-winter, the Easter week-end, and so on, but they all pale beside the long Christmas holidays. When one is little, five weeks is a very long time! It is only as we grow older that the years seem to crowd upon one another with such unseemly haste. Only then that they vanish into the halls of the past before we can white realise it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Another Post Card from our Collection