

# GENIE ALLERGY



**Journal of Coffs Harbour District Family History Society Inc.**



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COFFS HARBOUR DISTRICT  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

Annual Membership Fees: Single ..... \$45.00  
Joint (2 persons at same address)..... \$60.00

A fee of \$10 will be charged if you would like your "Genie Allergy" posted.

**RESEARCH:**

**Library Hours:** Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm  
Saturday: 10.00am – 12.00pm then 1.00pm – 3.00pm (except 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month)

**Library Fees:** Members - free on production of current membership card  
Visitors - \$7 for 2 hours  
*Duty Monitors are available for advice and assistance*

**Library Rules:** \* Current membership cards are to be worn in the rooms.  
\* Attendance Book to be signed on arrival and departure.  
\* Bags to be left in area indicated by Monitor.  
\* Pencils only to be used in Library.  
\* Photocopies available through duty Monitor and will be charged according to price schedule.  
\* One microfiche only (do not remove plastic sleeve) to be removed from drawer.

**Correspondence Inquiries:** Research will be undertaken for an initial fee of \$30.00.

For more information, email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com)

**Workshops:** are held on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month or as otherwise advertised.

**RECIPROCAL RIGHTS** – Reciprocal rights are offered to members of all family history societies who visit our rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required.

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in "Genie-Allergy". All care is taken to be accurate, however the Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space constraints.

**Contact Persons:** President – Fiona Hulbert 653 3866 Secretary – Cheryl dal Pozzo 6652 5145  
Vice President - Robyn Little 6651 2529 Treasurer – Ruth Doward 0413 841 911

Please contact Fiona or Cheryl if you are interested in filling the vacant positions on the Committee



## Our President's report.....

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to another year of research.

Two monitor workshops were held during the break with everyone learning something new, including me. Further workshops will be held as required. Monitors are still required to fill some vacancies in the roster. Our current monitor situation is not that healthy. Kerry Meagher, our monitor co-ordinator, has expressed concerns that we will have to close the rooms on certain days if we do not have enough people to fill the vacancies. At present we do not have any reserve monitors for emergency situations. I would urge all members to consider volunteering at least once a month. Beginners are always rostered on with an experienced monitor. Your assistance is appreciated.

Organisation for the May Seminar is well under way. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. Our search for a new location is on-going and wherever we finish up, the committee is mindful that as a Society we must be able to pay our way, including our various subscriptions and rent. The Committee has taken on board members concerns and that is why the search continues for a possible alternative.

Don't forget the DNA Workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Look forward to seeing you there.

Happy researching  
Fiona Hulbert #1470  
President

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



A warm welcome to our new members. We hope you will make yourself at home and find us to be a friendly and helpful group. Don't be afraid to ask the Monitors on duty for help – they will do their best to steer you in the right direction with your research.

<b>Roger O'SHEA</b>
<b>Alison WILSON</b>

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CONTACT DETAILS ETC.

**Memberships are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> JULY each year**

Renewal forms were sent out with the June Newsletter and from now on you will be issued with a **membership badge** replacing the current membership cards. Badges will display your name and membership number and if required prior to the renewal of your membership, they will be available for \$6.50 with a pin or \$7.50 with a magnet. If you are interested, please let Bev Salter or Stan Gordon know. When renewing your Membership:

1. A completed membership form **MUST** be completed for all payments made. Be sure to complete Section 2 with your Membership type, how you would like to receive your quarterly journal, sign the form and show the method of payment. Note: The completed form is used to ensure our records are kept up to date and therefore it is vital we receive a form to cover all membership payments.
2. Membership will now be \$45 a single and \$60 a double + \$10 if you would like your “Genie Allergy” posted to you each Quarter. They will no longer be available for collection but will be emailed to you.
3. Payment methods:
  - (a) Cash is payable only in person at our Research Room.
  - (b) Cheque is payable in person at our Research Room or by mail to  
PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour 2450.
  - (c) EFT/Direct Deposit: BSB, Account No., etc. as details on our membership form  
and **you must quote your member number and/or name at the time of payment.**
    - (i) Online through your financial institution; OR
    - (ii) In Person at a BCU branch (Bananacoast Credit Union).

Following payment by EFT/Direct Deposit, **IT IS ESSENTIAL** that a copy of the completed membership form be **emailed, mailed or delivered to our Research Room. Renewed membership badges will be placed in the Badge Box on the Admin Desk in our Research Room for your collection if you haven't included a stamped addressed envelope with your renewal.**

**Membership forms are available on our website**

<https://www.coffsharbourfamilyhistory.com>

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## SCANNING SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

The Society is offering this service to members who would like their old photos, slides or negatives digitised. **Stan Gordon** has offered to assist members by doing the scanning. He would prefer that members go to his home at Toormina and take their photos, negatives and slides as well as a USB drive so the scanned images can be saved to the USB. The cost of this service is 50 cents per image which will be added to our Society's funds. If you would like to take up Stan's offer, please phone him on **02 6658 7955** or email him at [stngordon@gmail.com](mailto:stngordon@gmail.com) to arrange a suitable time. If you have large documents, such as foolscap BDM certificates or newspaper pages up to A3 size, etc., you are able to scan them using the A3 Book Edge Scanner we have in our room. This Scanner is now installed on the WIN7 computer and the scanner unit is on a trolley under the bench ready to wheel out and use. The scanned images will be saved to the computer and then can be copied to your USB drive or you will be able to print them. As our Society's printer is an A4 one, the scanned images are reduced in size to fit but if you would like to have them printed as A3, you will be able to do this at a print shop. Please ask the monitors on duty for assistance.



## DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

from Diane Smith - DNA Special Interest Group Convenor

The DNA Special Interest Group will resume on Monday March 6th 2022 and is open to all financial members of the CHDFHS. A limit is set at 10 people per meeting and bookings must be made to attend. Social distancing and current Covid regulations need to be adhered to. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Curran Centre, 12 Gordon St Coffs Harbour from 10am – 12 noon. There is a charge of \$4 to cover room hire. Bring along your own laptop if you have one. Wi-Fi is available. Please bring your own morning tea as there is no access to the Centre’s kitchen.

If you have recently had your DNA tested or received one as a Christmas present regularly attending our meetings is a great place to learn about DNA and genetic genealogy and how it assists your family history research. The group provides a friendly and informal forum to help you understand and interpret your DNA results in a more comprehensive way. For more information, please refer to our website at [www.coffsfamilyhistory.com](http://www.coffsfamilyhistory.com) under “Groups” or contact Diane at [dilin.smith@gmail.com](mailto:dilin.smith@gmail.com)

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### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MEMBERS’ INTEREST GROUP?

If you are interested in the formation of a Group relating to another area of research (other than DNA), the Committee will be pleased to hear from you - email [coffsgenie@gmail.com](mailto:coffsgenie@gmail.com). Possible Groups could be of a country (e.g. Irish), a particular family history software program (e.g. Legacy or Brother’s Keeper), Convicts, FamilySearch, etc. When the Society forms an Interest Group, a convenor or joint convenors will be appointed to the Group and each Group formed by popular demand would be for members only, meeting on a regular basis, time and place (possibly once a month), with the aim to help participants in that specific area of interest.

- If you are interested in a **My Brother’s Keeper** please contact Jim on [walledcity@live.com.au](mailto:walledcity@live.com.au)

**Please contact Fiona or Cheryl if there is any other area that may be of interest to you.**

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### MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

- Use of Society’s resources including books, microfilms, microfiche, computer system, etc
- Receive quarterly Journal Genie-Allergy
- Attend meetings and monthly workshops
- Guidance with research in our library
- Resource borrowing scheme
- Free entries in Member’s Interests Directory
- 2 hours free research per year for members who are resident 50km or more from Coffs Harbour.

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### EXCHANGE JOURNALS

As exchange journals are no longer being printed, they will now be available for viewing by members from the Admin desktop at our rooms. Monitors can access these journals and you can download them onto a USB. If anybody would like particular journals emailed to them, please contact Lyn via email at [lynette.brotherton@gmail.com](mailto:lynette.brotherton@gmail.com)

## How Did Easter Start?



**Easter** - Latin Pascha, Greek Pascha, principal festival of the Christian church, which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. The earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd century, though the commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection probably occurred earlier.

The English word Easter, which parallels the German word *Ostern*, is of uncertain origin. One view, expounded by the Venerable Bede in the 8th century, was that it derived from Eostre, or Eostræ, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring and fertility. This view presumes—as does the view associating the origin of Christmas on December 25<sup>th</sup> with pagan celebrations of the winter solstice—that Christians appropriated pagan names and holidays for their highest festivals. Given the determination with which Christians combated all forms of paganism (the belief in multiple deities), this appears a rather dubious presumption. There is now widespread consensus that the word derives from the Christian designation of Easter week as *in albis*, a Latin phrase that was understood as the plural of *alba* (“dawn”) and became *eostarum* in Old High German, the precursor of the modern German and English term. The Latin and Greek Pascha (“Passover”) provides the root for Pâques, the French word for Easter.

The date of Easter and its controversies - Fixing the date on which the Resurrection of Jesus was to be observed and celebrated triggered a major controversy in early Christianity in which an Eastern and a Western position can be distinguished. The dispute, known as the Paschal controversies, was not definitively resolved until the 8<sup>th</sup> century. In Asia Minor, Christians observed the day of the Crucifixion on the same day that Jews celebrated the Passover offering—that is, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first full moon of spring, 14 Nisan (Jewish calendar). The Resurrection, then, was observed two days later, on 16 Nisan, regardless of the day of the week. In the West the Resurrection of Jesus was celebrated on the first day of the week, Sunday, when Jesus had risen from the dead. Consequently, Easter was always celebrated on the first Sunday after the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan. Increasingly, the churches opted for the Sunday celebration, and the Quartodecimans (“14<sup>th</sup> day” proponents) remained a minority. The Council of Nicaea in 325 decreed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21<sup>st</sup>). Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Eastern Orthodox churches use a slightly different calculation based on the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar (which is 13 days ahead of the former), with the result that the Orthodox Easter celebration usually occurs later than that celebrated by Protestants and Roman Catholics. Moreover, the Orthodox tradition prohibits Easter from being celebrated before or at the same time as Passover. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century several attempts were made to arrive at a fixed date for Easter, with the Sunday following the second Saturday in April specifically proposed. While this proposal and others had many supporters, none came to fruition. Renewed interest in a fixed date arose in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, resulting from discussions involving the leaders of Eastern Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox, Coptic, Anglican, and Roman Catholic churches, but formal agreement on such a date remained elusive.

In the Christian calendar, Easter follows Lent, the period of 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter, which traditionally is observed by acts of penance and fasting. Easter is immediately preceded by Holy Week, which includes Maundy Thursday, the commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples; Good Friday, the day of his Crucifixion; and Holy Saturday, the transition between Crucifixion and Resurrection. Liturgically, Easter comes after the Great Vigil, which was originally observed sometime between sunset on Easter Saturday and sunrise on Easter Sunday.

Later it would be celebrated in Western churches on Saturday evening, then on Saturday afternoon, and finally on Sunday morning. In 1955 the Roman Catholic Church set the time for the vigil at 10 PM, which allowed for the Easter mass to be celebrated after midnight. In the Orthodox traditions the vigil continues to be an important liturgical event, while in Protestant churches it is little known.

By the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Easter vigil was well established in various liturgical expressions. It was characterized by a spirit of joyful anticipation of the Resurrection and, because of the belief that Jesus' Second Coming would occur on Easter: the return of Jesus. In the Roman Catholic tradition the vigil has four parts: the celebration of lights focused on the Paschal candle; the service of lessons called the prophecies; the administration of the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to adult converts; and the Easter mass. The use of the Paschal candle, to denote the appearance of light out of darkness through the Resurrection, was first recorded in the year 384; by the 10<sup>th</sup> century it had gained general usage. The prominence of baptism at Easter goes back to early Christianity, probably the 4<sup>th</sup> century, when baptism was administered only once a year, at Easter. In the Roman Catholic service the priest blesses the water to be used in the forthcoming year for baptism, with the faithful taking some of that water with them to receive protection from vicissitudes. Lutheran and Anglican churches use variations of this vigil service.

All Christian traditions have their own special liturgical emphases for Easter. The Easter sunrise service, for example, is a distinctive Protestant observance in North America. The practice may derive from the Gospel narrative of Jesus' Resurrection, which states that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb "while it was still dark" (John 20:1) or as dawn was breaking (Matthew 28:1 and Luke 24:1).

It is a service of jubilation that takes place as the sun rises to dispel the darkness.

Easter, like Christmas, has accumulated a great many traditions, some of which have little to do with the Christian celebration of the Resurrection but derive from folk customs. The custom of the Easter lamb appropriates both the appellation used for Jesus in Scripture ("behold the lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world," John 1:29) and the lamb's role as a sacrificial animal in ancient Israel. In antiquity Christians placed lamb meat under the altar, had it blessed, and then ate it on Easter. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Lenten fast has ended on Easter with meals including eggs, ham, cheeses, bread, and sweets that have been blessed for the occasion.

The use of painted and decorated Easter eggs was first recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The church prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week, and the notion of specially identifying those as "Holy Week" eggs brought about their decoration. The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection. Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolizes new life emerging from the eggshell. In the Orthodox tradition eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood Jesus shed on the cross.

The custom of associating a rabbit or bunny with Easter arose in Protestant areas in Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century but did not become common until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Easter rabbit is said to lay the eggs as well as decorate and hide them. In the United States the Easter rabbit also leaves children baskets with toys and candies on Easter morning.

In a way, this was a manifestation of the Protestant rejection of Catholic Easter customs. In some European countries, however, other animals—in Switzerland the cuckoo, in Westphalia the fox—brought the Easter eggs.



Tell us your story!

Do you have an interesting story or an article to share? Include photos if you have them as they always add interest. You may want to share humble origins, or a grand adventure, wars, marriages or even why you became interested in Family History in the first place, If you do, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me on [shaz@ingersole.com](mailto:shaz@ingersole.com)

Members are invited to submit stories of interest, enquiries regarding their research, or questions about research for inclusion in our Journal. Material needs to be received by the deadline to be included in the next available issue. The closing date for the June Issue is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.



## COME BY CHANCE

Did you know that this is the name of a village in the Pilliga district of Northern NSW. When Banjo Patterson first found it listed in a gazetteer, he turned it into a bush ballad called “Come By Chance”. It began as a sheep station bought by brothers George and William Colless in 1862 and they named it “Come By Chance” to reflect surprise at being able to make such a purchase in this area – good sheep country in the Walgett shire north of Coonamble. Hence the name of the property became the name of the locality.

Mr Colless later owned the Post Office, Hotel, Police Station, Blacksmith Shop, Cemetery and other building blocks. Reputedly, the only privately owned village in the Southern Hemisphere. Cattle were grazed in early days, then predominantly wool and since the late 1860’s, cereal crops have been grown. In the early days, people didn’t need as much land to make a living and 2560 acres of land was considered as a living area.

The development of Artesian bore water, early this century was a terrific boost to primary production. It meant that properties could graze both cattle and sheep. At least 10,000 acres of land is needed to earn a living today and now the population is around 125!

## From The Diary of F/Lt. Lloyd "Danny" Boardman D.F.M. of 457 Squadron serving in the Northern Territory, Australia 1943



Wednesday 8th March 1943 – IT'S ON! Squadron to move at dawn for Pearce Western Australia. Jap fleet sailed from Singapore and heading for Perth. 452 and 457 Squadrons to move independently under own escort. Much racing around getting things organised. Got to bed about midnight only to be awakened by the Adjutant at 3am.

Thursday 9th March 1943 – Took off at 08.00hrs. Set course for Derby. Flew into rain & cloud but Tommy did a grand job and we lobbed at Derby after 3 hours 20 mins. Plenty of sore dings about. Took off for Port Headlands but we ran into the worst dust storm I've seen since my desert days. 16 aircraft flying around at 100 feet over Pardoo forced landing strip. We couldn't get through so partook of Mr Welch's hospitality. We stayed at his homestead. Had a few whiskies and partook of fresh meat and cold water.

Friday 10th March 1943 – Took off at dawn in dust and we experienced our first prang. Frank Payne taxied into a drain and bent his prop. We landed Port Headland in blinding dust storm and grounded all day till 452 Squadron landed in so off we took and set off for Carnarvon a hop of 450 miles. Ran into heavy cloud & dust. A sudden jolt shook my 90 gallon tank loose thus preventing petrol to pump through. I managed to keep going until petrol ran out and I landed on a clay pan with a run-off 210 yards. Got down OK and 'Blue' Thompson flew off & told the boys who had landed at Carnarvon OK. My first thoughts were how lucky I was, so didn't worry as I knew I wouldn't be there long. FLIGHT LIEUTENANT "DANNY" BOARDMAN - 12 - I cut the word PETROL in the salt crust and had a rest. Then dropped my 90 gallon tank and started to syphon petrol into my Mae West and had approximately 3 gallons in when the C47 turned up. Previously I had stepped out the length & breadth of the clay pan and nothing outside a Tiger Moth or a Wirraway could have landed but Captain put the C47 down OK and we filled "Blondie" up and the boys held my wingtips and I gave her full throttle and she was off like a bird. Landed in the dark at Carnarvon and had a wizard bath & a few drinks. We stayed at the Gascoyne Hotel & had a wonderful sleep which we all needed badly.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1943 - With 30 gallon tank on we took off from Carnarvon and 'Blue' & I landed in Geraldton where 'Blue' had a lucky escape when his under-cart started to collapse. Met John Manford and we hauled "+" into a hangar and fixed her up. Met W/Cdr "Dixie" Chapman and had a drink. Talked of old times and ran round in his staff car. All the station was around to look at the Spitties. Nice W.A.A.A.F's too. Took off and beat up the tarmac, headed South for Perth. Followed the railway line as my oil pressure gauge was u/s. Passed some lovely country and finally landed at Guilford at 11.45hrs. Got things organised, sleeping quarters in A.H.A buildings. Food quite good.

Fresh vegetables & meat. 452 Squadron landed at 4 o'clock after losing 3 Spitties on the long trip. We lost 1 at Pardoo due to dust storm. Went to bed early as we were all just about done. Met Chris Daley & John Doyle. Our advance party here too.

Sunday 12th March 1943 - Readiness at 0400. Terrific dust storm which made everyone cranky. Released in the afternoon but did a Sector Recce of the area around Perth, Garden Island & Pearce. The formation was lousy as we are all clapped out. Just died that night after a few beers with 85 Squadron boys. The reason for our big move is that a big Japanese task force left Singapore shadowed by submarines but was lost 1600 miles South. The higher ups expect a bash on Perth as it is a big submarine base and their kills is colossal. We also received a personal congratulatory signal from A.O.C. NWA on our good job flying from Darwin to Perth."

With permission From his daughter Debbie Reynolds, Kempsey FHS

### SERIOUS LOCK-DOWN ADVICE

Everyone, please be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!  
I was just talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking my Pepsi and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she put a different spin on everything! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge because he's been acting cold and distant!  
In the end, the iron straightened me out and said that the situation wasn't all that pressing and that all the wrinkles would be ironed out soon! The vacuum however, was very unsympathetic.....told me to suck it up! But the fan was very optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon! The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged while the doorknob told me to get a grip! You can just about guess what the curtains told me..... they told me to pull myself together!  
We will survive!!

Pass it on – gotta keep the humour!



**Coffs Harbour  
& District LALC**

## Harmony Day

March 21, 2022

Harmony Day celebrates the cultural diversity of Australia and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT GRANNY SMITH IS OUR VERY OWN?

The Granny Smith, also known as a green apple or sour apple, is a tip-bearing apple cultivar which **originated in Australia in 1868**. It is named after Maria Ann Smith, who propagated the cultivar from a chance seedling.



The Granny Smith Cultivar originated in Eastwood, New South Wales, Australia (now a suburb of Sydney) in 1868. Its discoverer, Maria Ann Smith (née Sherwood), had emigrated to the district from Beckley, East Sussex in 1839 with her husband Thomas. They purchased a small orchard in the area in 1855–1856 and began cultivating fruit, for which the area was a well-known centre in colonial Australia. Smith had eight children and was a prominent figure in the district, earning the nickname "Granny" Smith in her advanced years. The first description of the origin of the Granny Smith apple was not published until 1924, when in that year, *Farmer and Settler* published the account of a local historian who had interviewed two men who had known Smith. One of those interviewed recalled that, in 1868, he (then twelve years old) and his father had been invited to Smith's farm to inspect a chance seedling that had sprung near a creek. Smith had dumped there, among the ferns, the remains of French crab-apples that had been grown in Tasmania. Another story recounted that Smith had been testing French crab-apples for cooking and throwing the apple cores out her window as she worked, had found that the new cultivar had sprung up underneath her kitchen windowsill. Whatever the case, Smith took it upon herself to propagate the new cultivar on her property, finding the apples good for cooking and for general consumption. Having "all the appearances of a cooking apple," they were not tart but instead were "sweet and crisp to eat." She took a stall at Sydney's George Street market, where the apples stored "exceptionally well, became popular" and "once a week sold her produce there."

Smith died only a couple of years after her discovery (in 1870), but her work had been noticed by other local planters. Edward Gallard was one such planter, who extensively planted Granny Smith trees on his property and bought the Smith farm when Thomas died in 1876. Gallard was successful in marketing the apple locally, but it did not receive widespread attention until 1890. In that year, it was exhibited as "Smith's Seedling" at the Castle Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Show, and the following year it won the prize for cooking apples under the name "*Granny Smith's Seedling*." The apple was so highly successful that the following year, many were exhibiting Granny Smith apples at horticultural shows.

In 1895, the New South Wales Department of Agriculture recognised the cultivar and had begun growing the trees at the Government Experimental Station in Bathurst, NSW, recommending the gazette its properties as a late-picking cooking apple for potential export. Over the following years the government actively promoted the apple, leading to its widespread adoption. Its worldwide fame grew from the fact that it could be picked from March and stored till November. Enterprising fruit merchants in the 1890s and the 1900s experimented with methods to transport the apples overseas in cold storage. Because of its excellent shelf life, the Granny Smith could be exported long distances and most times of the year, at a time when Australian food exports were growing dramatically on the back of international demand. Granny Smiths were exported in enormous quantities after the First World War, and by 1975, 40% of Australia's apple crop was Granny Smith. By this time, it was being grown intensely elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as in France and the United States.

The advent of the Granny Smith apple is now celebrated annually in Eastwood with the Granny Smith Festival.

History of the Granny Smith - Wikipedia



## **Skeletons in the Cupboard**

Do you remember when, as a child, there were conversations not to be had in front of the children? Things that were whispered about back then are now openly discussed and as a family history researcher, there are still some stories we would like to know more about. It is difficult to ask older member of the family if there is still a stigma attached and it would be distressing for them. Things like mental illness, suicide, illegitimacy, immorality, crime and sexuality are now more openly discussed.

In the UK, Before the Acts of Parliament were repealed in the 1960s, a person could be imprisoned for homosexuality. Victorian morals meant that a baseborn child had a tough life and was not able to participate in some occupations and illegitimacy ran at about 50%, especially amongst the poor. Hence our ancestors went to great lengths to “keep it in the family” and so it was covered up. A mother would cover up her daughter’s indiscretion by bringing up the child as her own or the child was otherwise informally adopted within the family or by friends. These days people choose not to marry and a baby out of wedlock today is of little concern to today’s society. DNA testing can unravel some of these past indiscretions and we hear stories of people discovering cousins they never knew existed, people who had no idea they were adopted and others who have discovered family that were unknown to the. Nowadays everyone is happy to find a lost relative.

Back then, marital discord could be picked up from the Censuses. Divorce was beyond the pocket of the ordinary man so many dropped in and out of relationships but couldn’t remarry whilst the first husband/wife was still alive. This didn’t stop bigamy however! Those with criminal backgrounds, often because of drunkenness, were in court numerous times and were reported in the local newspapers. And of course, those with serious criminal offences were either executed or transported to the land down under. This of course was a terrible slight on the family still in the mother country, but now days we accept many of these convicts as adding the colour to our families, especially here in Australia.



Our ancestors however, were often economical with the truth and sometimes willfully lied. But how easy was it to lie, for what reasons did they lie and how can we recognize those lies? To answer these questions, we need to understand how records were created, how reliable they were and why they were created in the first place. They lied about their ages, names, birth places, parents and marital status. The legislation behind the documents stipulated a variety of penalties for giving false information to authorities. Under the terms of Rose’s Parish Register Act of 1812 (UK), if convicted you could be transported for 14 years. The Births & Deaths Registration Act of 1874, carried a maximum sentence of penal servitude for up to 7 years, so there were incentives not to lie and those who refused to fill in the Census or who gave false answers could be fined between 40/- to £5. The opportunity was there if they wanted to deceive, as there were few checks in place and in most cases, people didn’t have to prove that the information they were giving was correct.

As mentioned above, illegitimacy was the big driver for lying on BMD records. Children born out of wedlock thus faced severe social and legal discrimination and a lot of effort went into covering it up to avoid the stigma. Children born to unmarried parents often invented a father's name on their marriage records but this was difficult in their own community where their background may be well known but moving away from the area, gave them a better chance of getting away with it. It was easier still to lie on Census forms as these were completed in their own homes: women could become a widow, or a child listed as a niece to cover up an illegitimate child. Adulterous and bigamous marriages encouraged deceit on records as the Church disallowed marriages between close relatives eg a widower could not marry his sister-in-law so these laws forced people to lie. Outdated to us!

Divorce became available in 1858 but was too expensive for most people, so often couples co-habited until the first spouse died. Or they pretended they were married anyway. Age is another casualty of truth especially if there was a large age difference between husband and wife. Often the man would get younger and the wife older – often discovered when the ages didn't tally with birth or christening records.

When it came to what people would not lie about, there was NOTHING. People did make mistakes or were confused but illegitimacy and the legal system made lying tempting, and in some cases, necessary.

In your research, if the facts don't add up you may have to assume that someone was lying!

With thanks to and permission from Peter Ewart and Dave Annal, Kent Family History Society

### **WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS**

**26<sup>th</sup> February – DNA Presented by Ken Hunt**

**25<sup>th</sup> March - Fairbridge Farm Children presented by Ruth Doward**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April - TBA**

**28<sup>th</sup> May – Seminar with Kay Vernon and Suzanne Voytas (see Flyer attached)**

**Workshops are free to members and \$5 for visitors.**

**Seminars are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.**



## Coffs Harbour Family History Society - Publicity

169 Rose Avenue Coffs Harbour

### D.N.A. Workshop.

**Presenter:** Ken Hunt

**When:** Saturday 26. 2. 2022

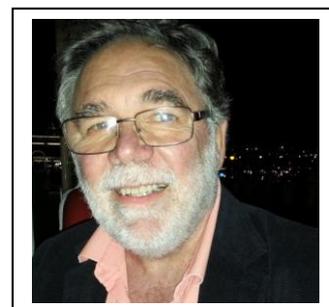
**Where:** Room 1. Community Village – 22 Earl St, Coffs Harbour

**Time:** 1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Attendees:** Need to arrive at 1.00pm for 1.30pm start  
Need to pre-book coffs [genie@gmail.com](mailto:genie@gmail.com) (essential)  
Follow all Covid guidelines  
Wear a mask  
Sanitise and sign in  
Lap tops are optional

**Cost:** Free for members and \$5.00 for non members

**Afternoon Tea:** Please help provide



**About the Speaker:** Ken Hunt is now retired and living in Port Macquarie. He has had various careers and a lifetime interest in Science. He has worked in rose gardens, served overseas in the Australian Army, rose to the rank of Detective – Superintendent in the Australian Federal Police, and has worked in diverse areas such as Family Law, Computer Crime and Counterfeit Currency, also running his own training and consultation business and, just prior to retirement, owning a manufacturing and design enterprise.

Ken holds a Bachelor of Business (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) and the Graduate Diploma in Intelligence Analysis (Swinburne University of Technology)

Having been involved in Family History for many years, Ken's interest in science, and a "brick wall", led him down the avenue of using D.N.A. as a genealogy tool. Since then, his family tend to steer clear of him as he is known to "whip out a DNA testing kit at the slightest provocation and request cheek swabs".

Ted Mitchell  
**Publicity Officer**



# COFFS HARBOUR FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## FULL DAY SEMINAR

**DATE:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**VENUE:** Cavanbah Hall, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour  
**TIME:** 10.00am to 4.00pm  
**COST:** Members \$25      Non Members \$30



**SPEAKERS:**      **KAYE VERNON & SUZANNE VOYTAS**

**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:** Kaye and Suzanne both have extensive experience in tracing family history and are willing to assist other researchers.

Kaye will talk of “The Plight of Children in Early 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries” and “Looking for Gold and Finding Gems” in the NSW State Records.

Suzanne will talk on “Irish Ancestry” and “Unusual Tips for Family History Research”

### IMPORTANT FOR EFTPOS PAYMENTS

Please register by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at either our Research Rooms at 168 Rose Avenue, Coffs Harbour, or post the form to PO Box 2057, Coffs Harbour, or send email to [coffs.genie@gmail.com](mailto:coffs.genie@gmail.com)



Cut here .....

### REGISTRATION FORM

**NAME:** ..... **MEMBER NO.**.....

**PAYMENT METHOD:** Tick one CASH..... CHEQUE.....EFT.....

**FOR EFT..... NAME:**              CHDFHS    BSB: 533 000      A/C: 32823957

(Reference: for CHFHS staff only – please quote member’s number or name)

**DATE PAID**.....**RECEIPT NO**.....

Would you like to bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea or lunch      **YES/NO**

Do you have any special dietary needs? .....

