

THE ENDEAVOUR



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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
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BOTANY BAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

Discovering Your Heritage

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Meetings

Normally held on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at the 'Tradies', The Kingsway, Gymea, commencing at 7.30pm

Library and Research Centre Messages and Bookings Only: 02 9523 8948

Port Hacking Community Centre 184 Gannons Road (south) Caringbah NSW 2229
Open: Mon, Wed & Fri: 10am-3pm; Sat: 10am-2pm. For bus route 978 & timetable, see: <https://www.transdevnsw.com.au/services/timetables/south-southwest/>

Fees

Annual fees from 1 Jul 2021: single membership – \$40; family membership – \$55;
Joining fee – \$10; Membership renewals due 1 July each year, late fee - \$10

Research

Volunteer members of the Society will research family history relevant to the Sutherland Shire for non-members: minimum fee of \$20 (first hour) and \$20 per hour thereafter.

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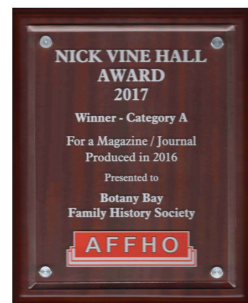
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CALENDAR



The calendar as at 15 August 2021. Many of the BBFHS activities are not listed here and will depend on the COVID-19 situation. Many will be held on ZOOM – please check the Events Calendar on our website (www.botanybayfhs.org.au) or see your BBFHS Email News (eNEWS) when it arrives in your email inbox.

2021

- Sep 1 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. AGM
Members' Father's Day Stories
- Sep 15 Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom
- Oct 6 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Leonie Bell
Creating Powerful PowerPoint Presentations
- Oct 4 Labour Day (Monday) Public Holiday (Centre closed)
- Oct 20 Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom
- Nov 3 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom. Speaker – Stephanie Bailey
Military graves and memorials at Woronora Cemetery
- Nov 17 Member's Chat Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom
- Dec 1 Meeting – 7.30 pm on Zoom? Speaker – to be advised

Botany Bay Family History Society is a member of:

- The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies
- The Australasian Federation of Family History Societies
- The Family History Federation in the United Kingdom

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

With the cancellation of the 2020 AGM due to Covid-19, who would have guessed we would be facing the same predicament in 2021 and, as a result, now holding our first online AGM. And while the past 18 months has been fraught with issues outside of our control, it is wonderful to know that our BBFHS family has remained free of the pandemic.

The ongoing pandemic has brought a range of challenges as we bounce from one regulation to another. Covid-19 could have been devastating for BBFHS – it has changed the way in which societies like us now operate, and will continue to operate, into the future. And while it has been disastrous for the physical operation of our Research Centre, the pandemic has seen members embrace the introduction of online meetings and chat sessions.

The use of Zoom at BBFHS was adopted long before other societies took it up and has been a major success for us. We are now able to source international and interstate speakers for the monthly Wednesday night meetings, as well as enjoying short presentations from within our own membership who attend the mid-month themed get-togethers. Several of our interest group meetings have also been available thanks to Zoom.

Zoom is extremely easy to use, and I can't stress enough that it is not necessary to have a web camera and microphone to watch a presentation. You are in control of what you watch, exactly like watching TV. Obviously, you can participate more using built in web cameras and microphones on laptops, iPads, and tablets but if you do not have them, it doesn't stop you from watching the meeting and you can still add comments (if you want) simply using the Zoom chat feature.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, it is important, now more than ever, to remind members to regularly look to our website, eNEWS and Facebook page to keep up to date with planned events and sudden changes to activities that can happen with little warning. During lockdown our Research Centre telephone isn't manned, but our email address botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au is monitored throughout the day and we continue to respond to all enquiries received.

In the past year I have attended several forums relating to the management and success of local family history societies during the current Covid pandemic as well as longer term, and any society that is not willing to move into the digital age of online meetings, webinars, and other activities, sadly will not last the distance.

Regional, interstate, and international societies are enjoying increasing

memberships through their online presence as location is no longer a barrier to joining. For BBFHS, however, while we have been fortunate to have kept a similar uptake to replace members leaving, we are certainly not growing our membership. This is a concerning issue and your committee is looking at ways we, too, can increase membership.

One initiative in the past year has been the introduction of a private Members Area where material can be uploaded as an additional benefit of membership. Currently all electronic exchange journals, as well as issues of *The Endeavour*, can be found there. The latest presentations explaining My Heritage's *Theory of Relativity* and *Ancestry's Story Scout* have been uploaded and if any member has done a presentation, whether it be in Word or PowerPoint, or even a small video recording, we welcome adding it to what is hoped will be a growing library of resources.

Another initiative which is currently in development, will be the introduction of hybrid meetings. Not just for the monthly meetings but also for the various interest groups where some members prefer to meet physically while others wish to attend online. Hopefully this will be functional by the December Tradies meeting if we are able to go ahead with a physical meeting.

I would like to now thank the volunteers who rallied to keep our Research Centre open, when possible, as well as my fellow committee members who have assisted me in what has been a difficult year. Without the constant support of all the Society's volunteers, no matter how small or large their contribution, BBFHS would come to a sudden halt without you.

Jennie Fairs

BOTANY BAY FHS NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Botany Bay Family History Society Inc will be held on Wednesday 1 September 2021 on Zoom. Only financial members can vote. Any financial member may be nominated for election to the Committee by any two other financial members. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary at botanybayfhs@yahoo.com.au.

With Conviction

NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies
Annual Conference 2021

Save the Date!

Saturday, 11th September 2021

8:30am – 5:00pm

Virtual Conference

Presented by
Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc

Please send us an email if you would like to receive our regular newsletters as we continue to plan the conference for these unprecedented times

Email: 2021conference@gmail.com

Website: <https://conference2021.wixsite.com/pmdfhs>



...beyond reasonable doubt

SOME EARLY IMMIGRANT VOYAGES FROM BRITAIN TO AUSTRALIA WERE RISKY

By Peter **Londregan** (Member)

In September 1849, my 3 x great-grandparents, Daniel and Mary Jane **Davies**, with their seven children, arrived in Sydney from London as assisted immigrants on the 904-ton ship *Kate*. The family all arrived safely after the 101-day journey. There was one death and four births during the voyage.¹ All up, the ship landed 337 assisted immigrants to start their new lives in the colony.

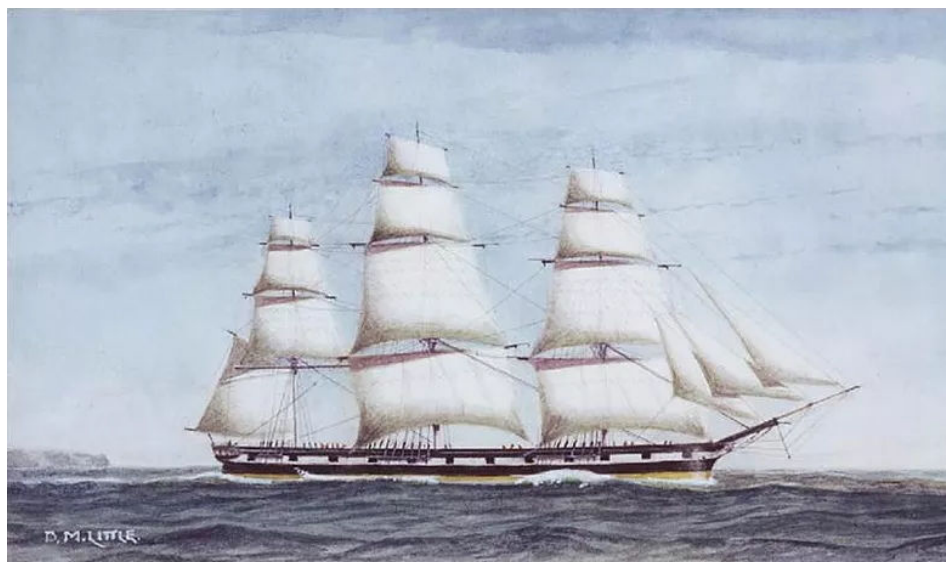
The voyages to Australia in those days were reputed to be risky. I wanted to see if I could assess how risky those trips were. I looked at all 64 assisted immigrant ships that arrived in NSW in 1849.

In the 18th and 19th centuries all immigrants from Britain and Ireland came to the Australian colonies by ship. Around the 1880s steam ships progressively replaced sail for these voyages. Steam allowed ships to be larger, more comfortable, faster and safer. The sailing ships used for about the first one hundred years of immigration were small (mostly under 1000 tons), cramped and uncomfortable (especially for steerage passengers), risky and slow. Hygiene was difficult to maintain. In the early years, the voyages took five to six months, with the First Fleet taking eight months to reach Botany Bay (with stopovers in Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town). In later years, the sailing ships were regularly taking about four months to complete the voyage.

All my immigrant ancestors came from Britain and Ireland to Australia before about 1885 and all came by sailing ship.

NSW Archives has extensive records about assisted immigration to NSW, including shipping records. In 1849, 64 ships carrying assisted immigrants arrived in the colony (which then included what would become the colonies of Victoria and Queensland). The numbers of immigrants on each ship were easily obtained from these records.

At that time local newspapers had stories about most ships' arrivals. These arrivals were important for the colony. The ships brought news from Britain and elsewhere (British newspapers), mail and cargo as well as the immigrants. Before the overland telegraph was completed in 1872, ships were the only source of overseas news. The local newspaper stories often had information about ships' voyages, including details of births and deaths during the voyage, which was not always included in NSW Archives information. This information seems plausible as journalists obtained the details by interviewing ships' officers shortly after arrival. These officers were required to keep records of the voyages, which were



The *Bussorah Merchant*, typical of the ships carrying passengers to Australia in the 1830s and 1840s.

inspected by local officials on arrival. The website *Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters* at <https://marinersandships.com.au/> also has voyage birth and death information for some voyages.

Using *Trove* and the *Mariners* website I obtained birth and death data for 61 of the 64 assisted immigrant ships arriving in 1849. These 61 ships landed 14,794 assisted immigrants, with 139 births during the voyages and 318 deaths. Slightly more than two passengers out of each 100 died during the voyages.

This number of deaths seemed high to me, so I decided to do more detailed analysis.

The overall voyage mortality rate (using an actuarial formula) for these 61 ships was 2.14% and ranged from 0% for six ships to 8.39% for the *Sarah* (24 deaths²) which arrived on 10 December 1849. The breakup of voyage mortality rates was:

- 6 ships (10%) with no deaths on the voyage and 6 (10%) with a voyage mortality rate of under 0.53%
- 11 ships (18%) with a voyage mortality rate of greater than 0.53% but less than 1%
- 22 ships (36%) with a rate of 1% to less than 3%
- 11 ships (18%) with a rate of 3% but less than 5% and
- 5 ships (8%) with a rate of more than 5% (maximum 8.39%)

What does this mean?

I needed to find a benchmark to compare with these voyage mortality rates. Britain produced a life table for this period, called English Life Table Number 3 (ELT3). It used census data for 1841 and 1851 and births and deaths in England for 1838 to 1854. ELT3 was calculated using mortality rates determined from that data. This time period fitted in with the 1849 voyages. A life table gives the life expectancies for males and females for each year of age, using that data.

To get a benchmark mortality rate for comparison with the voyage mortality rates, I used other research I have done. I have data for about 1400 immigrants including age at departure from Britain and sex. From this I calculated an English benchmark rate of expected **annual** mortality of 1.78% using ELT3. This rate covers the age range of immigrants and can be used for the 1849 immigrants. In 1849 the assisted immigrant ships took an average of 109 days to complete the voyages. This is 29.86% of a year. The expected 109-day mortality rate is 29.86% of 1.78%, which is 0.53%. This means that if the 1849 immigrants had not undertaken the voyage, they would have had a 109-day mortality rate of about 0.53% had they stayed in Britain. This compares with the overall 2.14% voyage mortality rate for the 61 ships arriving in 1849.

Conclusion

The immigrants were about four times more likely to die on the ship than if they had stayed at home (2.14% versus 0.53%). Only 12 of the 61 ships (20%) had a voyage mortality rate less than the staying at home rate.

The immigrants would not have had much chance of reducing the risks of the voyages. Few of them had been to sea before and did not know in a detailed way what was in front of them. They had little opportunity to choose which ship to travel on, nor their fellow passengers. Some dangers would have been known, but the potential for a better life in the Australian colonies was probably a strong motivator, despite the risks.

Separate research might reveal whether this better life eventuated.

This research is specific to the 1849 assisted immigration voyages and cannot be extended to other years or voyage types without further research.

REFERENCES

1. *Sydney Morning Herald* Monday 24 September 1849, page 2
2. *Sydney Morning Herald* Tuesday 11 December 1849, page 2



BBFHS RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

In May and the beginning of June, the Research Centre was almost back to normal, opening four days a week, with Centre Volunteers being rostered on duty. Then, new Covid-19 regulations called for a lock down and the Research Centre was closed the last week of June, all of July and probably most of August.

The Genealogist subscription has been extended at the Research Centre for the length of the Sydney lockdown. Thank you to Brenda who organised this. *Find My Past* and *British Newspaper Archives* were still available for home use for BBFHS members until the end of August. *Ancestry* is available through the National Library of Australia until the end of the year.

Because the announcements about Sydney Covid-19 regulations and lock down are made each week, please read the BBFHS eNEWS each weekend to see if our Research Centre is permitted to open. If so, a roster and a call for Volunteers would need to be made.

MANY THANKS go to all the Centre Volunteers who have been on standby through these difficult times. We all appreciate your time and commitment.

RESEARCH CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Closed due to Covid-9 Lock Down

Please refer to the eNews and/or our website for dates and times when restrictions are relaxed.

Before attending, it is best to phone 9523 8948 to make sure that volunteers are on duty and the Centre is open

Closed public holidays

When researching, please ask for help if you need it – it is why the Centre assistants are there and they like to help.

TRAILBLAZERS – VALERIE MAY TAYLOR AM AND RONALD JOSIAH TAYLOR AM

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

Valerie May **Taylor** nee **Heighes** was born in Crown Street Women's Hospital, Paddington on 9 November 1935, the daughter of Allan Heighes and his wife Edna. Allan Tom Heighes lived in Marrickville, later in Waverley and became an engineer. On 30 March 1935 he married Edna Elvene **Carter**. They lived in Waverley, then Maroubra and had two children: Valerie May and Gregory. Allan was an engineer for Exide Batteries so the family moved to Lower Hutt, New Zealand in 1939 when the company set up a new factory there. World War 2 broke out in September 1939 and they were unable to return to Australia until 1949 when they settled in the Sutherland Shire.

At age 12, during a polio epidemic in New Zealand, Valerie became ill and was unable to walk for two years. With the support of the Sister Kenny Treatment and Rehabilitation Method she made a slow but complete recovery. During her illness Valerie was unable to attend school. She fell behind in her studies and left school. She was a budding artist and began working with the NZ Film Unit, drawing for the animation studio. In 1950, on returning to Australia she found work as an illustrator and comic-book artist. Due to Government restrictions, American comics had to be re-drawn by local artists before they could be published in Australia.

The Heighes family settled in the Sutherland Shire in a waterfront property on Burraneer Bay. Valerie spent many hours spearfishing and exploring the waters in and around Port Hacking. She taught herself to scuba dive with equipment given to her by a neighbour. Valerie met and married Patrick **Parsons**, a fellow skindiver. In 1958, they were living at 347 Woolooware Road with the Heighes family but the marriage did not last. Valerie joined the St George Spearfishing Club where she met Ron Taylor again, having met him previously at the Heron Island Dive Festival. She competed against him in events. He was the men's champion and she was the women's. In 1963 they married at the Hurstville Registry Office with their mothers as witnesses. As a couple, they would achieve world-wide fame.

Ronald Josiah Taylor was born in Kogarah on 8 March 1934, the son of Alfred Josiah Taylor and his wife Gladys Myrtle **May**. During World War 2, Alfred Taylor enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy and Gladys and Ron lived at Bexley. After leaving school Ron trained as a photo engraver and was employed in a studio in Castlereagh Street Sydney. He soon developed an interest and proficiency in cameras and photography which would lead to his later fame.

As a teenager Ron spent much time in and around the meshed baths at San Souci. In 1951 he found a facemask there that someone had lost. Exploring the underwaters of Botany Bay opened a new world for Ron and he became 'hooked'. By 1953 Ron was a breath-hold skin diver and speargun fisherman. In 1955 he built his first underwater breathing apparatus from parts obtained from army disposals stores. However this device could provide air for only a very short duration scuba dive. When more advanced scuba equipment was available Ron was able to spend much more time exploring the underwater world.

In 1956, Ron began to enjoy photographing sea life using a 16mm Bell and Howell movie camera which was on loan to him. He built a perspex underwater housing for it, the first of dozens he would construct for his cameras over the next fifty years. He learned to be very selective in choice of subject and camera technique. He became aware that there was great interest in sharks and began to specialize in photographing them.

In 1956, Ron also became a member of the St George Sea Dragons Spearfishing Club and won four consecutive Australian National spearfishing championships between 1962 and 1965. In 1965 he represented Australia at the world Spearfishing Competition held in Tahiti, French Polynesia and became the World Spearfishing Champion.

In 1960, Ron bought his own Bolex camera, built another housing and began making films for theatrical release. He attended the Heron Island Dive Festival and met the blonde skin diver, Valerie Heighes, who had won the Miss Heron Island competition. He persuaded her to take part in his film and so began a collaboration that would endure for the next fifty-two years.

In 1962 Ron's first film *Playing With Sharks* was released in cinemas by Movietone News. This was followed by *Shark Hunters* which sold to Australian and American television. In December 1963 Ron and Valerie were married in Hurstville NSW. The Queensland Government Tourist Board commissioned and released his next film *Skindiving Paradise*.

In 1965, Ron Taylor became the first man in the world to film a great white shark underwater without the use of an anti-shark cage. The Taylors tried to make a career out of filmmaking and their passion for the sea as they followed the festival circuits around coastal Queensland and New South Wales charging admission to the showings of their films. About this time they became disenchanted with competitive spearfishing and gave up the sport completely when they realised the damage it was causing to the marine environment.

In 1969 Ron and Valerie were hired by Peter **Gimbel**, a wealthy American filmmaker, to work on a production *Blue Water, White Death*, subtitled *The Hunt for the Great White Shark*. It was filmed in the Indian Ocean along the coast of



Great White Shark, at Isla Guadalupe, Mexico. Animal estimated at 3.3 to 3.6 m in length, (photo: Terry Goss, [Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic](#) licence)

South Africa and also in South Australia. This footage is still regarded as the most memorable shark footage ever seen. It broke all box office records for a documentary film and was the second grossing film of the year after only *Love Story*. The film was re-mastered and re-released in theatres, also on DVD in 2007. In 1970 and 1971, the Taylors filmed the thirty nine episode television series *Barrier Reef* and in 1973 the documentary series *Taylor's Inner Space* – thirteen half hour episodes filmed around Australia.

Ron and Valerie's films attracted Hollywood attention. They were hired to shoot the live action great white shark sequences for *Jaws*. Other film work followed, including all the underwater photographic work for *The Blue Lagoon* as well as pieces for National Geographic and the *Wild, Wild, World of Animals* TV series.

In the 1980s, Ron and Valerie Taylor, through their pioneering work in recording and presenting the underwater world, led public opinion to the then new concept of marine conservation. Educational awareness and intense lobbying persuaded politicians to introduce legislation to protect and preserve Australia's unique marine heritage and relationship with the sea.

In the 1980s and 1990s Ron Taylor worked on other Hollywood films

including *Return to the Blue Lagoon* and *The Island of Dr Moreau*. He continued to make educational awareness features such as *Shadow Over the Reef* in 1993. This film was instrumental in preventing the test drilling for oil inside the Ningaloo Marine Park. Documentaries were made about the lives of Ron and Valerie Taylor and their contributions to scuba diving, exploration and conservation of the marine environment.

Ron Josiah Taylor died at age 78 on 9 September 2012 at his home in Fairlight, with acute myeloid leukaemia. He was cremated at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium and was survived by his wife Valerie.

After Ron's death, Valerie continued her work as a conservationist. In 2014 she campaigned against an Opposition Bill to remove sanctuary zones from marine parks in South Australia. In 2018 she released two books *The Undersea Artistry of Valerie Taylor* and the children's storybook *Melody the Mermaid: Adventures in the Kingdom of the Sea*. In 2019, her autobiography was published. It was written with Ben **McKelvey** and titled *An Adventurous Life*. Valerie continues to dive but in warmer waters now due to arthritis. She continues to inspire people to become involved in the marine world and its conservation.

Awards, honours and other recognitions:

Ron:

1962 – Encyclopaedia Britannica Award for '*Playing With Sharks*'

1966 – NOGI statuette for Education and Sports awarded by the Underwater Society of America

1993 – Scuba Schools International (SSI) Platinum Pro 5000 Diver

2003 – Member of the Order of Australia (AM) – For service to conservation and the environment through marine cinematography and photography, by raising awareness of endangered and potentially extinct marine species, and by contributing to the declaration of species and habitat protection.

Valerie:

1981 – NOGI award for Arts, Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences

1986 – Order of the Golden Ark presented by His Royal Highness, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

1993 – SSI Platinum Pro 5000 Diver

1997 – American Nature Photographer of the Year award

2000 – Membership of the Women Divers Hall of Fame

2001 – The Centenary Medal and the Australian Senior Achiever of the Year

2010 – Member of the Order of Australia (AM) - For service to conservation and the environment as an advocate for the protection and preservation of marine wildlife and habitats, particularly the Great Barrier Reef and the Ningaloo Reef, and as an underwater cinematographer and photographer.

Ron and Valerie:

1992 – Australian Geographic Adventurer of the Year

1997 – The jury award for the film *Shark Pod* at the Antibes Underwater Festival, France

1998 – The Golden Palm Award for the book *Blue Wilderness* at the 25th World Festival of Underwater Pictures in Antibes, France

2000 – International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame

2002 – Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia's Serventy Conservation Medal

2008 – Australian Geographic Lifetime of Conservation Award

2011 – Australian Cinematographers Society Hall of Fame

Life membership of the St George Spearfishing & Freediving Club Inc

2012 – Renaming of the newly declared Neptune Islands Group Marine Park surrounding the Neptune Islands in South Australia to the Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park

REFERENCES

NSW BDM, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>

Australian Electoral Rolls

New Zealand Electoral Rolls

Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com.au>

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

1911 England Census

UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seaman's Services, 1848-1939

London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917

Ryerson Index. <https://ryersonindex.net/search.php>

Australian and New Zealand Find a Grave Index

Trove. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

The Seven Seas (Indonesia), <https://www.thesevenseas.net/> Ronald Josiah Taylor (1934-2012) – A Tribute by Douglas David Seifert, World Editor, DIVE Magazine



NEW MEMBERS

We offer a warm welcome to the following new Society members. Please take advantage of your membership by attending meeting nights, classes and the Research Centre (please ask for help if you need it).

1860	Kerry Ledwell	Caringbah
1861	Suzanne Slater	Oyster Bay
1862	Chris Waterman	Gymea Bay
1863	Lorraine Henshaw	Turrumurra

BBFHS EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Jean **Campbell** (Research Centre Coordinator)

The BBFHS eNEWS is being sent to members every week, as there are activities and events that need publicising weekly. This contains many webinars, online classes, conferences, newsletters and genealogical information. Stephanie Bailey continues to support the weekly distribution and sends the eNEWS out every weekend. Thank you, Stephanie.

The five classes *Introduction to Family History* were cancelled. There were very few registrants and then Sydney went into lock down, so the Research Centre was closed.

In May and June, some Interest Groups started meeting in the Research Centre. After the lock down, some Interest Groups are meeting via Zoom – check our website at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/> for details.

Meetings are held by Zoom every first and third Wednesday each month. There have been some knowledgeable speakers and some fascinating Members' Meetings on the third Wednesday. The last ones were 'Famous (or Infamous) Ancestors', 'Brickwalls' and 'Show & Tell'. Thank you Jennie Fairs, who facilitates these meetings.

COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the December 2021 journal should be submitted as soon as you have it available but the deadline is **Wednesday 3 November** – preferably by email to the Editor at bbfhs_eds@yahoo.com.au. Copy may also be left in the Editor's folder at the Research Centre, handed to the Editor or a committee member at a monthly meeting or posted to **PO Box 1006 Sutherland NSW 1499**. Please affix your name and date of submission to the copy and indicate if you want any materials returned.



DISABLED ACCESS

is available for Research Centre users.
Please phone the Centre on 02 9523 8948
to make arrangements.

CLARA WARNER – A SAD END

by Barbara Barnes (Member)

Leonie Bell, Co-ordinator of the Writer's Group, invites participants to write stories connected with a suggested theme. The stories are interesting both for the writers and the readers (or listeners). A recent theme was **Fire**, which inspired the following story concerning my late husband's great grandmother. I needed to look back in time, family history records, at a family event that involved fire. I enjoyed the journey and hope you do too!

On a crisp Sydney autumn day, 8 April, 1862, a six-year-old Clara Anne Warner,¹ stood on the deck of the ship the *Annie Wilson*,² as it sailed through Sydney Heads to moor in the Harbour before passengers embarked. On board with Clara were her parents, John and Eliza Warner, and her brothers: Francis, Albert and Orlando. The family were sponsored³ for this journey by Eliza's brother, John Gale, leaving their London home for an unknown future in the New South Wales Colony. Like any girl of six, looking out from the ship's deck, Clara Anne was probably a mixture of curiosity and trepidation of what the coming days, weeks and months would bring. No thoughts of her adult life being part of her thinking.

Clara's father, John Warner, was born in Horsham, Sussex in 1817.⁴ Although the Warner forebears were extensive, their details are not for this story. His marriage to Eliza Gale, who had been born in Bodmin, Cornwall in 1829,⁵ took place in the church of St Philip and Jacob in Bristol in 1852.⁶ The English Census records for 1851 and 1861 show John's occupation as a draper's assistant with the family living at 26 Portman Place, Marylebone, London in 1861.

The early years after their arrival in Sydney were not easy for John and Eliza. A further four children were born between 1862 and 1868. Although Clara and her English brothers grew to adulthood and established productive lives in their new country, only one of their Australian-born siblings survived birth or early childhood. Young Clara Anne would have watched her mother's pregnancies and her subsequent coping with the sadness of the young children's deaths. John Warner immersed himself into Sydney colony life, continuing with his occupation as an assistant draper and eventually a draper. A funeral notice at his death in 1902 mentions *many years in Hordern's*.⁷

Further sadness entered the life of the Warner family, and for this story, when Eliza died in June 1869. Her death certificate⁸ noted the cause as lung disease for two weeks. Clara Anne, only 14 years old, was left with a grieving father, four brothers and an infant sister in the household. Only six weeks after the death of her mother, her three year old brother, John Henry, died and was subsequently buried

in Rookwood Necropolis on 1 August.⁹

The next available record sees 18 year old Clara Anne having a home birth of a daughter, Minnie Louisa, on 2 August, 1873.¹⁰ The certificate clearly records her as illegitimate. The home was in Miles Street, off Riley Street, Surry Hills. Both these streets still exist.

I now have to juggle some dates. With an early August birth date, Clara Anne would have probably conceived in November, 1872. We jump to 26 December, 1873,¹¹ when Clara married Thomas **Bailey**, Mariner, in Sydney. No age for either Clara or Thomas was noted on the church record. Using an age for Thomas Bailey found in shipping records, he would have been 27 years to Clara's 19. The infant Minnie Louisa was now 5 months old.

Like other people with an interest in Thomas Bailey and Clara Anne Warner, it has been accepted that Thomas was the birth father of Minnie Louisa. Via the many crew lists of merchant ships in Australian waters found on the web site, *NSW, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922*, Thomas' sea-going career as a steward was easily established. It seems that Thomas first arrived in Sydney on 19 March, 1869, on the ship *Nineveh*.¹² Although the available shipping records of his Australian voyages are incomplete, they do show that Thomas worked consistently on ships between Sydney and Rockhampton with occasional diversions to Melbourne, Auckland and Fiji. The known records do not show if Thomas was in Sydney in November, 1872. Disappointing! Never fear, we all love a good if mysterious story!

Before we move on, the church where the couple was married on that Boxing Day of 1873 was the Christ Church, Sydney, now commonly known as Christ Church St Laurence in George Street, Haymarket. An extract from the Church's history information¹³ states: 'The parish has always had a strong commitment to the socially-marginalised'. A comment by the transcriber¹⁴ of the marriage record reads: 'No consent to the bride's marriage is recorded in this register (which would normally be the case as she is under 21 years of age)'. Could this church have been chosen by the couple as being sympathetic to them with the youth of Clara with her infant child to this mariner being in town? It is, however, an important point that the witnesses at the marriage were John and Elizabeth Warner, her father and his second wife.

If it may be thought that Clara was left too much to her own devices in her teen years, it should be noted that her father, John Warner, would have been courting Elizabeth **Isherwood** during 1873, for they were married¹⁸ on 10 December of that year, 16 days before Clara to Thomas Bailey. John was 56 and Elizabeth 37. Adding to John's English and Australian born children, he and Elizabeth produced three boys and two girls between 1874 and 1881.



Christ Church St Laurence, circa 1880

The lack of records for the years following their marriage has been frustrating. However, the available crew lists reveal that Thomas was still sailing the coastal routes till at least 1883 including voyages on the *Ringarooma* to and from Auckland in 1879. Somewhere in these years Clara and her daughter Minnie moved across the Tasman to New Zealand, for Clara and Thomas welcomed two sons there, their births registered in Wellington: Thomas Albert in 1875¹⁵ and James Alexander in 1878.¹⁶ The family returned to Sydney later in 1878 as the baby, James Alexander, died in Sydney on 14 November 1878 having only been in the area for 18 days.¹⁷ Despite searching NSW shipping records and using Google, no records were found for their return.

From their Clara and the children's return in 1878, nothing more was found for Clara until entries in the Sands Directories of 1896, 1898, 1899 and 1901¹⁹ all recording her as *Mrs Clara Bailey, 9 Great Barcom Street, Sydney*. This address was further confirmed in the 1901, NSW, Australian Census taken on 31 March. Minnie Louisa married two weeks after the Commonwealth of Australia was declared on 1 January, 1901. The 1901 Census records show that Minnie and her new husband, James **Barnes**, were living close by in 6 Samuel Street.

Unfortunately, the final records found for Clara are those about her death,²⁰ the Coroner's Report²¹ and her burial place in 1902.²² Thomas, however, was well and truly alive at this date because he was noted in Clara's death notice as the 'beloved wife of Thomas Bailey' even though the informant for the death registration was their son, Thomas Albert Bailey.

The Sydney Morning Herald 21st July 1902 – Second Edition

Death Notice and Article

BAILEY: July 19, 1902 at Sydney, Clara Bailey, beloved wife of Thomas Bailey, aged 47.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH. The City Coroner (Mr J.C. Moore) conducted an inquiry at St. Vincent's Hospital on Saturday respecting the death of a woman named Clara Bailey, 47, who died at the institution that morning from the effects of burns.

Evidence was given to the effect that about 10pm on Friday the deceased was seen sitting in her room at her residence, Great Barcom Street. She was reading, and a lighted kerosene lamp was standing on a small table beside her. About three-quarters of an hour later a smash was heard, and Mrs Maud Frost, who resided in the same house, discovered the deceased with her clothes in flames and the lamp lying on the floor broken. The flames were extinguished, and the deceased was found to be seriously burned. Her injuries were attended to, and she was later removed to the hospital, where she died about 9.30am. The Coroner entered a finding of accidental death.

I've constructed a brief timeline. The accident with the lamp occurred on Friday night 18 July and she died the next morning in St Vincent's Hospital. The Coroner's Report was prepared the same day, Saturday 19 July. The burial took place on Sunday 20 July at Rookwood Cemetery. Clara's brother, Orlando Alexander Warner, provided the grave. Clara shares the grave with Orlando's infant daughter, her niece, Alice Maud Warner, who was both born and died in 1882.^{23, 24} The grave is in the Church of England area of Rookwood Acropolis. Area G Grave No.151.²⁵

A final tribute to Clara, who died when she was just 48 years of age, was published in the Memorial section of the *Sydney Morning Herald* one year later. There is no mention of her husband, Thomas Bailey and no further information has come to light as to what happened to him.

The Sydney Morning Herald 19th July, 1903 Memorial

BAILEY: In loving memory of our dear mother, Clara Annie Bailey, who departed this life, July 19, 1902. Gone but not forgotten. Inserted by her loving son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Lucy.

Rest in Peace Clara Anne (Warner) Bailey. In 2021 we look back at your life and wonder what could be written in the unknown pages of your teenage years. They could not have been easy!

Some additional information adding to our Clara Anne's (or in some records, Clara Annie's) story.

DNA testing has confirmed that Thomas Bailey is the natural father of Minnie Warner. Male and female Barnes descendants of Clara Warner and Thomas Bailey submitted DNA samples to AncestryDNA during 2020. Each of these people has been connected to people linking back to the name Thomas Bailey.

Thomas Bailey was apparently alive at the time of Clara's death. He was not listed as 'deceased' on her death certificate and was the only family member listed on Clara's newspaper death notice (see above) referred to her as his beloved wife. Although no further mention of him can be found, it is likely that he continued to ply his career on merchant ships sailing Australian and the Pacific waters and may have died or been lost on some far off shore.

Clara Anne's death was closely followed by her father's death on 2 October, 1902. John Warner is also buried in the Rookwood Acropolis, Church of England Section, Section 4, Row 9, Grave No. 1979. John shares the grave with his second wife, Elizabeth Isherwood, who died in 1912.

The informant on Clara's death certificate was her son, Thomas Albert Bailey, who married Lucy May **Crump**.²⁶

Both Thomas Albert and Lucy were cremated at Woronora Cemetery, where other Barnes family members have been interred or cremated. Thomas Albert Bailey, Wall of Memories, Panel 23 – GG – 0409. (No memorial plaque with the surname Bailey shows in this garden bed.) Lucy Bailey, Port Cochere, Wall of Memories, Panel 8, No.0023. Thomas Albert Bailey's signature appears as a witness to the marriage of Minnie Bailey and James Edward Barnes on 16 January, 1901.²⁷



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This article lists the new Library accessions. We remind members that there is a wealth of family history information accumulated over some 37 years in our Library. **Not everything is online!** Check out our library catalogue at <http://www.botanybayfhs.org.au/library--research-centre.html>. You may be very surprised at what you find! **Come to the Research Centre and have a look.** Thank you for the donations from those members who are ‘downsizing’.

AUSTRALIA

- The Scots in Australia – 1788-1938 [A.HIS.11.23LC]
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- Fletcher’s Mutiny Cyclorama [A.HIS.8.6LC]

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Shady Acres – Politicians, Developers and Sydney’s Public Transport Scandals 1872-1845 [AN.HIS.38.6LC]
- Our Little School on the Hill: A Historical Narrative of St. Andrew’s Catholic Primary School, Malabar 1915-2015 [AN.LH.2036.2LC]
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- The History of Port Macdonnell [AS.LH.5291.1LC]

OVERSEAS

- Researching In Nelson and Marlborough, Regional Research Repositories in New Zealand [NZ.GUI.1.2LC]
- Researching in Waikato, King Country and Taupo, Regional Research Repositories in New Zealand [NZ.GUI.1.3LC]
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- Loch Ard Shipwreck Centenary, 1878-1978 [G.IMM-SHP.AV.HIS.2.12LC]
- Was Your Grandfather a Railwayman? A Directory of Railway Archives Sources for Family Historians [G.OCC.BRIT.SOU.10LC]

NOTE: ‘LC’ indicates a loan copy, which can be borrowed; ‘CD’ a compact disc.

Compiled by Janette **Daly** (Librarian)



by John **Levy** (Editor)

Aileen Trinder has let me know that Pat **Fearnley** has rebuilt the *Pastkeys* website with Weebly hosting and a fresh new look at www.pastkeys.com. *Pastkeys*, established by BBFHS members Aileen and Pat in 1986, has compiled indexes to the NSW Immigration Deposit Journals, the Unassisted Arrivals to Sydney NSW, Convicts & Employers and other records relating to immigration and has always had a particular interest in indexing lesser known records that give a person's ship of arrival or other useful information. On the new site are all the details of the many indexes and articles on various aspects of the projects that have been published over the years.

Aileen is currently updating the Colonial Secretary's In Letters Index which will soon be available as a 2nd edition:

NSW Colonial Secretary's In Letters Index 1826-1896

Based on the late Joan Reese's "Convicts & Others" index (1826-1894)



JACK GIBSON OAM (1929-2008)

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE COACH, PLAYER AND COMMENTATOR

by Colleen **Passfield** (Member)

John Arthur **Gibson**, always known as Jack, was born on 27 February, 1929 in Kiama, New South Wales. He was the son of John Cooper Gibson and his wife, Esther Florence nee **Thomson** and the last of their children – Frank, Mary, Rose and Norene.

John Cooper Gibson (1876-1965) had served in the army in South Africa during the Boer War and, in 1909 married Esther Florence Thomson (1887-1971). Esther Florence, known as Florence, was born in Eden, NSW, the daughter of Alexander Thomson and his wife Mary Ann nee **Hart**. In 1913, their first child, Francis Alexander, was born in Paddington. During WW2, Frank enlisted in the 2nd AIF in Queensland. In 1916, a daughter, Mary, was born in Waverley but died the same year. Two more daughters, Rose and Norene were born after 1917.

In 1902, John Cooper was probationary constable 7883 in the NSW Police Force but in 1907, he was dismissed. After 1916, his training helped him obtain a job as a bush policeman in Queensland. During a fight between Aborigines and shearers, he was struck and lost the sight in one eye. The family then moved to Kiama on the south coast of New South Wales where Jack was born in 1929. On the electoral rolls between 1930 and 1937, John Gibson was described as a fisherman. The family moved back to Gladesville, in Sydney, but efforts to set up small businesses were unsuccessful and the family moved to Caringbah in the Sutherland Shire. On the electoral rolls, John Gibson is described as a labourer. He died on 24 March 1965 and was buried at Woronora Cemetery in the Roman Catholic Lawn 2 section. Florence Esther Gibson died on 17 May 1971 and was buried at Woronora Cemetery in the same RC Lawn section.

The family was living at Gladesville when Jack, at age 8, was sent as a boarder to St. Gregory's College at Campbelltown. Homesick, he left after a year and then attended Marist Brothers, Eastwood. However he found it difficult to cope and was moved on to other schools. The family was living in Telopia Avenue, Caringbah. Jack was a student at De La Salle College at Cronulla but re-enrolled at St. Gregory's in 1942 and remained there for two years. Jack excelled at sport, especially rugby league, but academia did not interest him. In his Intermediate Certificate exam in 1944, he failed English and both Mathematics subjects but excelled at woodwork and metalwork.

When Jack was fifteen, he left home and, with his mate, John **Toohy**, set out for Queensland. They started off cutting cane, then moved to mustering sheep and cattle. It was a rough life and there were often scuffles where Jack relied on his fists to get out of trouble. During his time away from home, at boarding school at St. Greg's and in Queensland, Jack was in regular correspondence with his parents and sister, Norene. His family was always supportive but, by 1949, Jack had had enough and returned to Sydney for good.

Jack played A grade for Cronulla Junior Rugby League and a few games in Third Grade for St. George. About this time, Jack was working as a doorman and sometimes chauffeur for Joe **Taylor**, the owner of the Celebrity Club in the Eastern Suburbs and he became friendly with Joe's son, Ron, who played Rugby League. A well known gambler, money was no object to Joe Taylor and his son. He set about recruiting seasoned players like Jack **Lindwall** from St. George and entered the Celebrity Club football team in the Eastern Suburbs Junior League competition. In 1951, the Celebrity Club won the A-grade premiership and Joe Taylor was impressed by the 1.9 m tall and 100 kilogram Gibson so employed him at the Celebrity Club and at Thommo's, an illegal two-up school he ran.

The growing popularity of the football Club was causing concern to the district's senior club, Eastern Suburbs a foundation club in 1908, so they pulled some of the Celebrity Club players into grade, as they were entitled to do. Players who refused to go were told they would be banned for life if they didn't comply. Initially chosen in third grade, Jack soon made his mark and was promoted to first grade. He played for Eastern Suburbs between 1953 and 1961 and earned a reputation as a hard man and a reliable forward who revelled in the tough stuff. During the 1950s, Easts were regarded as the great underachievers of the premiership but Jack continued to impress and by the 1960 season was set to achieve his one hundredth first grade game.

In 1954, Jack met Judy **Worrad** who had won the Miss Pacific beauty contest held at Bondi where she lived with her parents. They were married on 21 May, 1955, at St. Anne's Catholic Church at Bondi. After a honeymoon at Surfers Paradise in Queensland the Gibsons moved into a flat on Eloura Road in Cronulla. With Judy pregnant, a block of land at 137 Nicholson Parade, near Gunnamatta Bay, was purchased and work commenced on building the family home. In September, 1956, their first daughter, Suzanne was born. Five more children were born – Tracey, Joanne, Luke, Matt and John.

After the appointment of Dick **Dunn** as first grade coach in 1960, there was a growing belief that Easts could achieve something special. Jack Gibson regarded Dunn as the best coach he ever had and the only one who showed confidence in him. *'He made me a better player. He seldom used criticism; he preferred the good and positive things about a player'*. At the end of the season, Easts were in the

grand final for the first time since 1945 to play against the St. George team which, for the previous five seasons had been almost unstoppable. In the first half, St. George held a slim lead 5-2 but unfortunately for Easts, went on to win the game 31-6 but many Easts fans predicted the worst was behind them and looked forward to the 1961 season. Many were surprised when Jack Gibson was overlooked by selectors for the Australian side. George Crawford named him as one of *The Sunday Telegraph's* players of the year and 'Sydney's most underrated footballer'.

In early 1961, while playing cricket, Gibson slipped a disc in his back and after the pre-season trials needed surgery to repair it. Against doctor's advice, he opted to play on and not consider retirement. He also began writing a weekly column for *The Sun* newspaper. Easts struggled through the season and didn't even make the top four.

The Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club opened in September 1961 and soon began donating money to the football club. When Neville **Charlton** was signed from Wests club, Jack asked for an immediate release declaring he would not play for Easts again. He felt betrayed by the club as he and Charlton had previous history and he would be moved from his front row position to accommodate Charlton. There were also issues when Easts demanded a transfer fee that Jack thought was excessive considering his service to the club. The ugly situation was only relieved when Easts reduced the transfer fee by half, the Newtown Club paid the fee and Jack signed on to play the 1962 season with them.

Jack was appointed captain of the side but, in a pre-season match between Newtown and Easts at Henson Park, he broke his left collarbone. After his return, the side was in good form during the season and finished in the top four after being second last in the previous season. Drawn to play against St. George in the major semi-final in the first week of the finals, Jack delivered a challenge in his weekly column in *The Sun*. The result was St. George won 30-9. The following week, Newtown played Western Suburbs and were defeated 25-13, ending their season.

As the 1963 season approached, at age 34 and with lingering injuries, Jack asked Newtown to place him on the open transfer market with no fee. The club agreed because of his 'loyal service to rugby league' and the Western Suburbs Club snapped him up. Jack soon established himself at the club and was happy playing with players like the Australian hooker Noel **Kelly**, Denis **Meaney**, Peter **Dimond** and Arthur **Summons**, captain of the side. At the end of the season, Wests finished second to St. George setting up a major semi-final clash which they won 10-8. The 1963 grand final was played on a ground that looked like a swamp, before a record crowd of 69,860 and, once again, St. George prevailed winning 8-3. As the players walked off, the *Sun-Herald* photographer John **O'Gready** captured an image of the two captains, Arthur Summons and Norm **Provan**, which

became known as *The Gladiators*. It won many awards and became the inspiration for the trophy awarded on grand final day to the winners.

During the 1964-65 seasons, Jack Gibson was preparing for life after playing football. He began to think about coaching, seeking advice from men like Arthur Summons who advised him to coach a team for only three years before moving on to avoid becoming stale. Jack's last game was against St. George at Kogarah Oval on 22 August 1965. Wests lost 37-10.

After being rejected for the coaching position at Easts for the 1966 season, Jack applied again in November, 1966 and narrowly won the vote against strong opposition. This was the start of a coaching career that would eventually see Jack Gibson regarded as one of the greatest coaches in Australian rugby league, not only because of his five premierships as a coach. With a professional approach, he introduced new coaching and training methods in the 60s, 70s and 80s that earned him the nickname 'Supercoach' and radically changed the game.

With a thirst for innovation, Gibson was influenced by the coaching and management style of Vince **Lombardi**, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers in the NFL competition and often travelled to the USA to watch their games and study their professionalism across all aspects of the business, including coaching, administration and TV broadcast rights. At an NFL annual conference in 1972, he befriended San Francisco 49ers coach, Dick **Nolan** and was invited to study and observe the operations of the 49ers team. Adapting what he learned to Australian rugby league, the new coaching and training methods that Gibson introduced modernised the game and his professional attitude ensured better conditions for coaches.

In 1967, Jack began his first-grade rugby league coaching career at Eastern Suburbs. The previous year they did not win a match but under Gibson, in 1967, they came fourth in the competition and again finished fourth in 1968, considered by some as a footballing miracle. In 1969, he left Easts to coach St. George taking them to the Sydney Premiership in 1971. He then left St. George to coach Newtown, where they made the final after not reaching the semi-finals since 1955.

In 1973, with backing from the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club behind them, Easts, now known as the Roosters, set about to win the premiership which had eluded them since 1945. With a strong team in place, they secured former club-captain, Jack Gibson, as coach. Easts dominated the 1974 season winning 19 of 22 matches and, in the grand final, defeated Canterbury to win the Roosters first premiership in 29 years. In season 1975, the dominance continued and on grand final day defeated St. George 38-0. As well as winning the mid-week Amco Cup, Easts also defeated English champions, St. Helens R.F.C. in the inaugural World Cup Challenge.

In 1976, Easts no longer dominated the competition and Gibson moved on to coach South Sydney in 1978 and 1979 but failed to get them as far as the semi-finals. He then linked with Parramatta leading them to three consecutive premierships from 1981 to 1983. After winning their first premiership in 1981, Gibson had six words for the jubilant blue and gold army of fans back at the Parramatta Leagues Club: 'Ding, dong, the witch is dead'. This was a quote typical of his laconic wit and many of his quotes are still referred to in rugby league circles. Later that night, some of those fans burned the old and decrepit Cumberland Oval grandstand to the ground.

Gibson's last club coaching job was with Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks from 1985 to 1987. With few big name players to work with, he did an excellent job in developing a pool of local junior talent and, in the two years after his departure, the club made the semi-finals.

In 1989, Gibson coached the New South Wales Blues in the State of Origin. They lost 3-0 to a Maroons side coached by his friend and protégé, Arthur **Beetson**, a former Rooster. The following year in 1990, his Blues defeated Beetson's Queenslanders 2-1. Gibson quit while ahead and took up a position at the Roosters in 1991 as manager with Mark **Murray**, former Test half-back, as coach. He did this until 1994.

Coaching innovations:

- First to use a computer to evaluate player performance including the first club coach to track and use individual player tackle counts.
- His teams were the first to train with sides from other codes – he trained his team alongside soccer players and used Australian Football specialists as kicking coaches.
- Introduced mascara under the eyes to reduce glare for night games under lights.
- First to use weights-machines such as the Nautilus exercise machines.
- First to use video extensively as a coaching device.
- First to have players' fitness scientifically tested in pre-season with the 'pinch test' (skinfold method).
- First to insist upon his own integrated coaching team including co-ordinator (Ron **Massey**), fitness conditioner (Mick **Souter**) and injury treatment/rehabilitation (Alf **Richards**).
- Made the 'bomb' a potent attacking weapon used by both Easts and Parramatta under John **Peard**.

By 1977, the Gibson family had moved from Nicholson Parade to a home in Cowra Place, South Cronulla, overlooking the entrance to Port Hacking. Always a devout Catholic, Jack and his family were regulars at Mass at St. Aloysius' Catholic Church, Cronulla and supported local charities. Like their father, his sons attended St. Gregory's College at Campbelltown. Jack had also acquired a farm at

Beechwood, near Wauchope, where he frequently took his sons and, in the pre-season, members of the teams he was training. His team would play trial matches against the local Wauchope side.

Jack's son Matthew had moved to the farm to work with the quarter-horse stallions they kept on the property. Jack and Matt were returning from a race meeting at Taree and driving a horse float when one of the stallions from the property, standing near the gate, was 'spooked' and got his hind leg caught in the bullbar of the truck. When Matt tried to free the horse, it lashed out in a frenzy and bit his leg causing severe injury. Flown by air ambulance to the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, Matt's leg developed gangrene and had to be amputated below the knee. Devastated, Jack blamed himself but Matt got on with his life declaring: 'Maybe I needed some slowing down'.

In the 70s, Jack was concerned by the effects that drug addiction was having on young people in the community. He had seen the children of friends also young men he had coached destroyed by their addiction. To assist in the fight against illicit drugs, he loaned a house he owned in Gunyah Street, Cronulla, to the We Help Ourselves (WHOS) Organisation. In 1981, Jack and his wife, Judy, were devastated when Luke, their eldest son, aged 18, was arrested and, in court, charged with injecting heroin. From the age of fourteen, Luke's behaviour had been somewhat erratic and professional advice had been sought. However, Luke's schizophrenia was not diagnosed until 1986. He struggled to cope with it and, on 9 January, 1988, Luke Gibson died of a heroin overdose. He was 25. Jack and Judy became fervent in their support of research into schizophrenia and he donated the proceeds from four books he wrote with Ian **Heads** to that cause.

In 1988, Jack Gibson was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia 'for service to rugby league as a coach'. In 2000, he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for being a five-times premiership winning coach. On 17 April, 2008, Gibson was selected as Coach of Australian rugby league's *Team of the Century*.

Since 2008, the Jack Gibson Cup has been contested each season by the Sydney Roosters and Parramatta Eels clubs, which he coached to successive premierships in 1974-75 and 1981-1983 respectively.

In 2006, Jack Gibson was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. He was admitted to the Garrawarra nursing home at Waterfall, where he died on 9 May, 2008, just 9 minutes before rugby league's historic Centenary Test Match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. His death was announced during the match by Peter **Sterling**, whom he had coached at Parramatta. At all rugby league matches that weekend, a minute's silence was held in respect for him.

Five days later Jack Gibson's funeral was held at St. Aloysius' Church where he had been a 'regular' since the early 50s. He was farewelled by a large

crowd, many of whom watched outside on a big screen. Roosters players formed a guard of honour as the hearse was driven away. Wearing an Eastern Suburbs track suit, Jack Gibson was buried at Woronora Cemetery beside his son, Luke.

Judith Mary (Judy) Gibson died on 4 February, 2016. She was cremated at Woronora Cemetery and her ashes placed with her husband Jack and son Luke.

‘Played strong. Done fine’.

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NOTES AND NEWS



Pam Garland, a member since 1995, has passed away on 22 May 2021. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Bernard Culkin. I've received news that member Bernard passed away in late May 2021. We send our sympathies to his wife Pat, his family and friends.

Ray Ibels. Member Ray Ibels has recently passed away. Our condolences go to his wife Noelene, his family and friends.

Doug Rickard. In more sad news, Doug Rickard passed away in early August.. Doug and I corresponded over his many interesting contributions to *The Endeavour* and I always enjoyed our after-meeting chats, for we had a shared interest in scientific instruments. We share our condolences with his family and friends.

Camden photos. More than 1,200 images of people and places which were captured on glass negatives by early commercial photographer Roy Dowle, have been donated by his granddaughter to the Wollondilly Heritage Centre. At <http://www.wollondillymuseum.org.au/archives/photographic-archives/> click the link to *Roy Dowle Glass Plate and Film Collection*.

In 1789, a smallpox outbreak is thought to have killed at least half of the Aboriginal people living in the Sydney region – much worse than Covid-19. Was it incidental or deliberately introduced? See <https://tinyurl.com/hthz4chz>.

Full Probate Packet Listing Is Now Online. NSW State Archives have completed listing 872,000 NSW probate packets in their online catalogue, having filled the gaps for the period 1890-1913, and 1919-1928. Packets from 1817 to 1976 are now searchable online.

As their guide at <https://tinyurl.com/fxn9ar4t> explains, a grant of probate is the authority given by the Supreme Court of NSW to the executor(s) to deal with a deceased person's estate. Records in a probate packet include the last will and testament, codicils (additions or revocations to the will), and letters of administration. You can search for probate packets in *Collection Search*, by entering a person's name and the word 'death'.

Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW, an article by Paul Irish and Michael Bennet, is available for download from <https://tinyurl.com/6nvyy862>.



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BBFHS INTEREST GROUPS

by Barbara **Barnes** (Interest Groups Coordinator)

Some interest groups are running in ‘social distancing’ mode on Zoom. If you haven’t participated in an interest group before, this is an opportunity to tune in from a distance and see if a particular interest group interests you. Please check the eNEWS and our website for up-to-date information.

The group Coordinators are:

Writers Interest – Leonie **Bell** (0403 952 762, LNBell@iinet.net.au)

Irish Interest – Barbara **Wimble** (wwimble@iinet.net.au)

Scottish Interest – Jean **Campbell** (jeanhcampbell47@gmail.com)

Australian Interest – Patricia **Jarvis** (9521 1375, patricia_jarvis@optusnet.com.au)

Legacy – Sue **Jones** (scjones@optusnet.com.au)

Family Tree Maker for Windows and Macs – Pam **Heather** (pamheather@gmail.com)

Reunion for Mac – Pat **Fearnley** (patfearnley@bigpond.com)

DNA for Family History – John **Levy** (j.levy@bigpond.net.au)



Journal Contributions

All journal contributions – large or small – are welcome. Email your input to bbfhs_edu@yahoo.com.au, leave it in the Editor’s folder at the Research Centre or hand it to the Editor or any Committee member at our monthly meetings. Please add your name and contact details.



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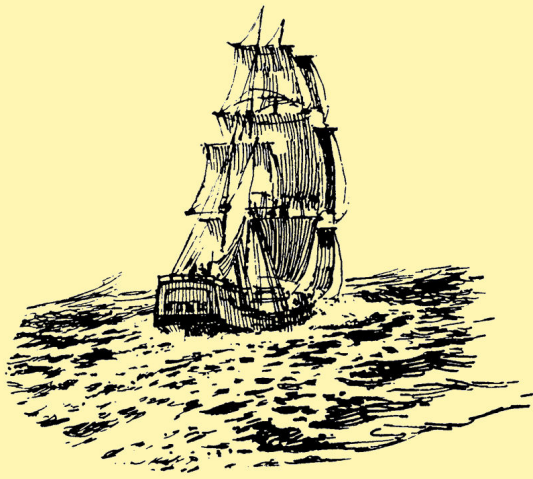
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