



The Newsletter of the
CLARENCE RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
 Established in Grafton City in 1931

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Grafton Cenotaph 1930, pre Bowling Club, Rowing Club with reclamation work, City Baths, Vehicle Ferry and adjacent to the Cenotaph, the old side gate.

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OFFICE BEARERS

President: Steve Tranter

Vice Presidents: Nita Child & Patricia James

Secretary: Robyn Schaeffer

Treasurer: Anne Ellem

Committee members: Vickie Beith, Cheryl Barnes, Suzanne Gibson, Judy Johnson and Rosemary Marshall

Public Officer: Bill Dougherty

Research Officer: Hazel Lawson

Recorder/Librarian: Vacant

Roster Clerk: Suzanne Gibson

Newsletter: Steve Tranter/Rosemary Marshall

Hon. Solicitor: Joe Fahey

Principal Patrons: The Duke and Duchess of Grafton

Patrons: Kevin Hogan MP, Ritchie Williamson MP, Mayor Ian Tiley, Bill & Dot Dougherty.

Schaeffer House is open from 1.00pm to 4.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sundays. Other days by appointment, please contact the Secretary on (02) 66425212. Research Room is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 3.30pm.

Membership fees are due in **January** each year. Fees remain at \$25 for Individuals, couples or families. Be sure to pay fees prior to the **AGM** in **March** if voting rights are to be retained. New members who join between 1 September and 31 December are deemed to be members up to 31 December of the following year. **Please note that donations to Clarence River Historical Society of \$2 or more are tax deductible.**

JOTTINGS FROM THE HOUSE

Closing for Christmas

As usual we will be closing for Christmas for a well deserved break. We will be closing from the end of the day of 14 December and reopening on Tuesday 16 January 2024. We hope all members have a safe and merry Christmas and we look forward to another great 'historic' year.

Repairs & Renovations

We welcomed great news this month with the roof repairs being nearly completed. Many thanks are due to council staff, the builders and scaffolding company. It is a credit to them that with some juggling, average weather and working around open times that everything needed was accomplished.

Birds Eggs in the Collection

Help please.

Schaeffer House is seeking some help in

identifying the types of bird's eggs we have in our collection.

We are fortunate to have quite a large collection of bird's eggs of various sizes, colours and types and we would appreciate any assistance in identifying to which bird species they belong.

Please contact the Society if you could help with this worthwhile task.

New Members

It is wonderful to welcome people to the Society and we extend our best wishes to the new members.

We look forward to welcoming more new member in 2024. Membership fees remain the same at \$25 per person or family.

Contributions

We welcome articles/contributions to our newsletter from our members. If you have an item of interest, please contact our Secretary, Robyn.

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

(Compiled by our Research Officer, Hazel Lawson)

PERSONAL VISITS.

SANDY Researching Patrick and Mary Morrissey. Anything on Mary and property at Mylneford.

INGRID Jonathon Richard Sewell his wife Hannah Elizabeth (Lawrence) Sewell, sons Albert and George not biological sons. Movements of parents in area.

CAROL Jackadgery Hall and surrounding area.

MALCOLM Robert Johnson selected land at Southgate in mid1860 sponsored nephew William Johnson and is wife Kezia, any information.

PETER Researching Reid's Sawmill at Tucabia.

LESLEY Information on Thomas and Elizabeth Bailey and descendants.

ANTHONY Researching the Rhodes Family.

ROB Clarence Valley Forestry.

SUZANNE John (Giovanni) Battista, wife Susannah Playfair. Anything on this family and whether any descendants are still in the area.

RON T.L. Orr Jewellery Shop in Skinner Street, South Grafton. Where was shop?

MARK & GANIA Researching the Schumacher Family. And Ramornie Cemetery.

LOUISE Daily Examiner write up and

photos, Grafton's first Eisteddfod 20-23 April 1955.

JENNIFER History of cotton growing at Lawrence. Was it the first commercial crop in Australia?

COLIN. Researching his Grandfather Charles Thomas Englert, Born Grafton 1887, has asked if any descendants of the Englert and Strauss families living in Grafton. He proposed to visit in 2024.

.BY EMAIL.

DON Information on Fred and Charles Tindall, any sketches drawings in relation to "Koreelah" run from January 1880-June 1854.

MICHAEL Kate Austen 1888-1927, parents Katherine Nicholson and William Austen buried Ramornie Cemetery.

JOHN Photo of Eggin's family bus 1928.

COLIN John Cowan Born 27/9/1853, parents John McDonald Cowan and Annie Moylan, any information on Annie as she left the marriage?

YOLANDE GG Grandmother Catherine Williamson Married Hugh Patterson. Lily Patterson Born 1867 married at Emmaville 1882. Any local history on grandmothers.

THE GRAFTON CENOTAPH

On 11 November the Historical Society, Clarence Valley Council and RSL Grafton Sub Branch joined together to conduct a commemorative ceremony for the Grafton Cenotaph. The Service was held shortly after the Remembrance Day service and was attended by more than one hundred people.

An account of the dedication ceremony is given below:

THE OPENING CEREMONY

This was conducted in the presence of 3,000 people on an overcast and rainy day 11 November 1923. The unveiling was conducted by the mothers of the fallen soldiers from the First World War. Addresses were delivered by Mr. H. M. Baldock (Chairman of the War Memorial Executive), Lieutenant-Colonel Allen, Alderman Robinson (Mayor of Grafton), Archdeacon Tress, the Revs. W. D. McIlwraith, A. E. Walker, and E. Coleman, and Messrs. D. J. Lobban and J. A. Puddicombe. City and Salvation Army bands attended and returned soldiers, members of "A" Company, 41st Battalion Senior Cadets, and the Boy Scouts formed a cordon around the monument.

The Cenotaph was moved in the 1950s to a location in the middle of the park. This was at a time when the Grafton Bowling club with a club house and two greens were removed. Also, at this time there was a foundation stone placed in the newly opened area with the intention of placing a pool in this area. This was subsequently not continued with and the swimming pool was constructed within

another park General Douglas MacArthur Park.

THE CENOTAPH

The cenotaph commemorates those who died in service or were killed in action in a number of conflicts in which Australia had been involved. It was originally erected to commemorate those from Grafton and District who died in service or were killed in action in World War



1930s photograph of the Cenotaph in its original position in Memorial Park.

One. Over a period of time further conflicts have been inscribed on the Cenotaph including World War II, The Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The memorial is of trachyte, on a concrete base with five steps, each inscribed with the date of a year of the war. The names of 35 fallen soldiers are inscribed on the Cenotaph.

INTERESTING ITEMS IN THE HOUSE

The Diving Suit - Mr. Charles Avery

The Society is fortunate to have in its possession a very large underwater diving suit. Volunteers have affectionally named it "Diver Dan." Before being acquired by the Society, the suit which was stored in a Council depot for many years was in a sad state of repair and needed extensive restoration.

Fortunately, a \$2000 grant from the Maritime Museum enabled the Society to have it dismantled and restored by an expert in Brisbane. The suit now stands proud on a purpose built stand with all the equipment required to pump air and be a lifeline to the underwater diver.

The lead-weighted suit was used extensively in the Clarence River area to lay cables and pipes under the water for the mains water supply for the city.

This brings us to Mr. Charles Avery. Charles spent many hours over 20 years on the water pipe, in the suit complete with heavy bolted-on helmet and an air line that doubled as communication to those above. Two tugs meant "down" and 3 tugs meant "up." The air supply to the diver was maintained by a pump operated by two men and then the diver was lowered from the deck of Oxenford's barge into near total darkness to a depth of 64 feet.

Charles Avery was born in 1831 and married firstly Ruth Kemp and had 14 children and then Louisa Philip and had 15 children. His parents (John and

Charlotte) had arrived on the Clarence in the "Susan", and became cedar cutters before settling in Kangaroo Creek and building many homes and bridges. Before Charles became a supervisor for the Water Board, he learned many skills working on the electricity line from Urunga to Nambucca, Macksville and Bowraville. After a stint in the RAAF at the outbreak of war, Charles helped construct trenches using picks and shovels to lay pipes from the Reservoir in South Grafton to Junction Hill.

Charlie was 60 when he completed his last dive. The across river main he helped to lay and repair is still in place but no longer operational.



Mr. Charles Avery.

GRAFTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In 1878, James MacIntosh, headmaster of the then Grafton Grammar School made plans for the building of a more substantial home for his grammar school at 97 Mary Street Grafton.

The Victorian/Gothic inspired style plans were attributable to George Mansfield and the builder, William Kinnear Snr, completed the building in 1879.

The type of architecture straddles the elaborate Victorian and Gothic styles of the time resulting in a building which was highly decorative in appearance in its ornate details.

The handsome building is two storied and constructed of a red brick mixture of English and Flemish brickwork and featuring dressed quoin work at the corner edges. These quoins were typically used as structural support and decoration. The timber framed roof was originally shingles but now consists of corrugated galvanised iron. Gable ends feature scalloped bargeboards which were painted white.

Verandahs were constructed on the front and rear and on the sides as an adaptation to the heat of the Australian climate and to increase the attractive-ness of the building. Four sided tapered timber posts with solid rectangular capitals and cast iron balustrades and lacework combined to

make a highly decorative facade.

In the early 1880's, the building was opened to female day students but closed in the early 1890's to become a private residence. Other uses include conversion to a boarding school and classrooms for 80 high school students before being purchased in 1914 for 2,150 pounds by the Department of Public Instruction (Education) with land for Grafton High School. The Principal of the adjacent high school had his residence in the building and it became the first Teacher's Centre outside Sydney in 1971.



Grafton Grammar School

Magnificent trees and shrubs surrounded the building and at the time was thought to be similar in appearance to an English park.

It remains one of the most beautiful historic buildings in the Grafton area.

TWO YOUNG GRAFTONIANS

Two young Graftonians, a Chateau and Liliane Marolleau.

France's Loire Valley is famous for its fabulous wine, and beautiful chateaux, among them Azay-le-Rideau. Just a short journey from "Azay" you find yourself in the tiny village of Lignieres-de-Touraine which has a very special tie to the Clarence Valley.

There, in its communal cemetery, you will find two rows of carefully tended war graves: a monument to the enormous respect and gratitude of the French people and an enduring memory of a catastrophic mid-air collision which remains a significant part of village history.

The fiery explosion which shook Lignieres towards midnight on July 15th 1944, was, tragically, the aftermath of a collision between two allied bombers. They were enroute to their target, the marshalling yards at Nevers, armed with a payload of bombs. (We know that Lancaster ME851 was carrying ten 1000lb bombs and three 500lb bombs.)

Contemporary accounts describe the Lignierois rushing from their beds to be greeted by a " ... sight like the apocalypse, spread over several square kilometres. When dawn broke the last bombs were still exploding."

Mme Guillaumet, head of the Red Cross and clearly a feisty lady, persuaded the German Commander in the area to allow the burial of all fifteen aviators in separate graves. The local Gestapo,

however, made it very clear that there were to be no demonstrations of mourning or grief.

In July each year, the citizens of Lignieres gather to remember that night and to acknowledge the sacrifice of the two air crews who lost their lives so far away from home. Two names which are read out during the ceremony are:

Flight Sergeant Arthur Hedley Jenkins (Hedley) and Flight Sergeant William (Bill) Paul . They were 20 years old.

Flying on their 13th mission with the 467 Squadron, the two were overjoyed to be members of the same air crew. They were close friends, attending Grafton High together and now making a contribution to the war effort on behalf of the Jenkins family in Southgate and the Paul family from South Grafton.

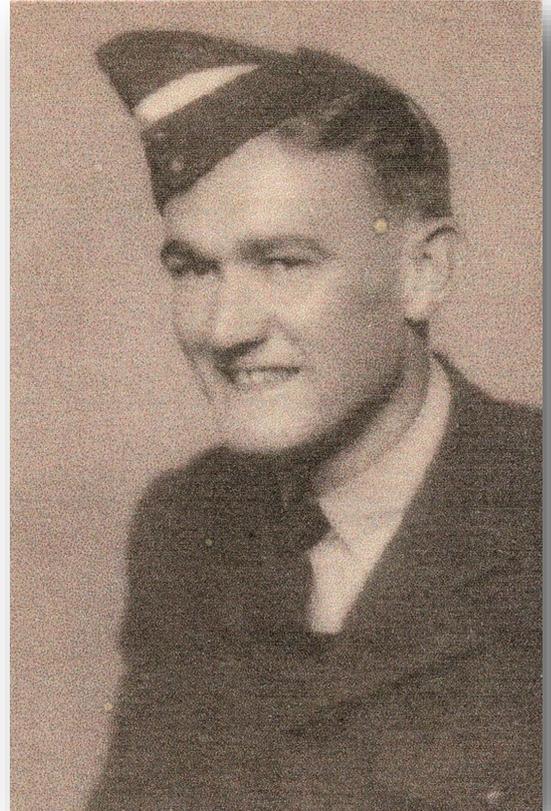
Photographs in RAAF uniform suggest young, energetic men, looking forward to a wonderful life post-war. Airgraphs kept by the families mention concern for their friends in other avenues of the war and record small glimpses of their lives. Writing to his brother Ron in March 1944, Hedley commented on the snow in England - obviously no longer a novelty to him. Apart from the cold, it created a great deal of work clearing the runways " ... and one gets a little cold after a while. My sympathy is all for the Russians." There were also bright spots: in June 1944, Bill wrote to his father, about looking forward to nine day's leave with "Jenks" at Rose Ockenden's

TWO YOUNG GRAFTONIANS (CONT..)

family home. Referring to a previous leave spent with the family, he enthused " ... and gee did we have a swell time or not".

July 2024 will see the 80th commemoration ceremony in Lignieres. Personal note: Hedley Jenkins was my uncle. I grew up aware of a great sadness surrounding the very formal photograph of a young man in uniform displayed on the lounge room wall. I was also intrigued by the foreign place names and dates inscribed on a metal plaque under the photo. Fast forward and my husband and I have visited Lignieres several times, locating Hedley and Bill's graves and, by a stroke of wonderful luck, meeting a local lady, Mme Joseyane Casez, who collects information and photos about the two air crews from visiting relatives. Another great lady, Mme. Lilliane Marolleau, who mercifully speaks English, adores befriending Australians and takes a special interest in connecting the descendants of the air crews. She was delighted to inform us that Colette Dalton, a niece of Bill, lives "down the road" in Alstonville. Colette and her family have made many pilgrimages to Lignieres and are keenly interested in preserving the story. The friendship between families continues.

Contributed by Society Member Helen Huxley (nee Jenkins)



Flt Sgt Arthur Hedley Jenkins



Flt Sgt William (Bill) Paul

RADIO 2GF—1933 TO 2023

Despite the doom and gloom of the depression years in 1933, there were some good things happening in Australia. Woolworths opened its first store in Melbourne, Gladys Moncrieff was starring in the musical *Collitt's Inn* and Errol Flynn was making his first appearance in a film. Elizabeth Andrea Evatt and William George Hayden were born. In sport, Neale Andrew Fraser was born, Newtown won the Sydney Rugby League Premiership, Australia and South Africa played the first Rugby Union Test in South Africa and the now famous bodyline bowling controversy began in the England v. Australia Test cricket series. In the media world things were also happening. Frank Packer published the *Australia Women's Weekly* for the first time and in Brisbane, two local newspapers combined to form the "***Courier-Mail***".

Meanwhile, people living in the Clarence Valley were excited with the launch of their very own commercial radio station. Up until then, like people everywhere who didn't have their own local radio station Clarence Valley residents had to be content with tuning in to stations in far-off places to hear the latest form of entertainment. The major problem with tuning in to stations in far-off places was the atmospheric conditions. If there was a storm about there would be a lot of static making it difficult to clearly hear the station. Another problem was that not everyone could afford a radio receiver.

The advent of radio broadcasting can be compared to the introduction of television to Australia in the mid-fifties. Many of us will recall sitting on a fruit case (or anything else that was handy) outside the local electrical retailer who had a television set up in the front window to get our daily dose of the new invention that had pictures with audio.

Amalgamated Wireless Australia (AWA) was granted a licence to operate a commercial radio station at Grafton on 18 July 1932. However, it wasn't until midway through 1933 that the company finally got around to establishing the station. A story in Lismore's "***Northern Star***" newspaper on 29 November 1933 headed, NEW B CLASS STATION advised of a B Class station due to go on air at Grafton with test programs on 7 December to be followed by the official opening on 15 December. The story went on to say this new station had nothing to do with the A Class station, the ABC's 2NR which was also expected to go on air in the near future.

On Saturday 9 December 1933 Grafton's "***Daily Examiner***" newspaper reported in a story on page four:

2GF GRAFTON, NEW WIRELESS STATION, SUCCESSFUL INCEPTION

The new wireless station, 2GF at Grafton, was in commission officially for the first time on Thursday night. The station started at 6pm when an address

was delivered by the manager, Mr. C.E Coldwell-Smith, who thanked the citizens of Grafton for their welcome to him and for their kindly assistance in his preparatory work.

A varied program of recorded music and announcements was continued until 10pm.

Subsequently the management received many complimentary messages, reporting that the reception throughout the district was exceptionally good, and the listeners were particularly pleased with the programme.

Officially the new station went to air at 8pm on Friday 15 December 1933. Radio 2GF was the 63rd broadcasting station to go on air in Australia being the 51st commercial station to join the 12 national stations that were operating throughout the continent. However, the initial licence was Number 43.

At 8pm on Friday 15 December 1933 announcer Mr. Coldwell-Smith introduced the then Postmaster-General, Mr. Archdale Parkhill (later Sir Archdale), who he stated by wireless, officially declared the station open. Mr. Parkhill said he had to apologise for the absence of the Prime Minister Mr. Lyons who was to have performed the opening ceremony in connection with the station, but he was unavoidably prevented from taking part in the ceremony. The Postmaster-General said the new station embodied two features employed for the first time in Australia. The station operated with a directional aerial system, which conserves the electro-mechanic

energy from being radiated over the Pacific Ocean and directed the main force in a westerly direction, and it also embodied series modulation.

Present at the official launch by the Postmaster-General was the local Federal Member, Dr. Earle Page M.H.R. Leader of the United Country Party (later to be Prime Minister) together with civic representatives, leading local identities, businesspeople and their wives. Director of AWA, Mr. L. A. Hooke (later Sir Lionel) made the trip from Sydney to be present for the launch of his company's newest radio station.



The official opening of 2GF on 15 December 1933. Dr Earle Page M.H.R. at microphone.

Photo – AWA collection

There were a number of speeches made by the special guests including Dr. Earle Page M.H.R. who also congratulated AWA for their enterprise in establishing the new station at Grafton. (Dr. Page, like a good politician spoke for twenty-five minutes in all with most of his speech devoted to the Country Party's aims.)

A prime role played by 2GF over many years has been the platform it provided for many community groups to inform local residents of their activities and events. Prior to the age of 'social media' one of the few avenues available to inform local residents of what was happening in their community was their local radio station and 2GF helped to promote numerous activities, events and happenings over the years. During times of flood emergencies, the service provided by 2GF was priceless to both town residents and rural dwellers. Through the close association the station had with the local Civil Defence (later the State Emergency Services) listeners were kept up to date with reliable and sometimes life-saving information.

Charles Edmund Coldwell-Smith won outstanding popularity for his pioneering radio work at 2GF. Amongst the innovations Uncle Col introduced during his four years with the station from its beginning in 1933 was the 2GF SMILE CLUB. Just about every kid in the listening area of the station during those pre-television days was a member. Club activities included a broadcast session every Saturday morning between 7:30 and 8:30. By April 1934, less than six months after the station had commenced broadcasting, there was almost 1,800 members. In fact, the 2GF SMILE CLUB was so successful, AWA soon introduced a similar club at its stations

in Bendigo and Albury.



The 2GF SMILE CLUB Jacaranda Float Procession 1934, Photo – courtesy Brian Noonan

Regular performers on 2GF during the thirties included a group known as Marshes Merry Makers Orchestra. The group would provide thirty minutes of joy on Sunday evenings when they presented a varied program of old and new dance numbers. The four who made up the Orchestra were Ivan Layton – pianist and leader (who also worked as an announcer); Lexie Bondfield – 2nd Violinist; Noel Lovell – Banjo & Drummer and Mary Bondfield – 1st Violinist. Other regular groups included the nine member 'Golliwogs Band' and the Smile Juvenile Band. Uncle Col was always there of course to offer his encouragement to any group or individual performer who appeared on the station. Marie Davey was an accomplished musician, and she was also always ready to lend a helping hand. Marie was the pianist who played in the 2GF Children's Choir.



*The 2GF SMILE CLUB Juvenile Band.
Photo – 2GF collection.*

2GF has employed many announcers over its ninety year history. After learning their broadcasting craft at Grafton, some of those voices went on to work in major metropolitan markets. Others decided to stay with 2GF and stood out from the crowd because they were not just 'voices on the wireless', they became a part of the community by getting involved in all sorts of activities. Uncle Col, who helped launch the station in 1933 was certainly involved in his adopted community. Another very popular voice heard on 2GF was that of Bette Charleston. Being a local obviously gave Bette an advantage in being accepted by the listeners.

Bette was hired by manager Jock Lowe and commenced work on 4 November 1940 on a six weeks trial at one pound per week. Bette recalled during an interview when I was writing a 2GF history in 1996 that her job as a junior clerk in the 2GF office in Tudor House was to do general typing, make the tea

and prepare the birthday list for broadcast. She told me she commenced work at 2GF with little intention of becoming an announcer, but with the beautiful voice and pleasant personality that she possessed, it wasn't long before Jock Lowe had Bette working on air. One of her first on-air duties was hosting a classical music program from the Turf Street studios. She told me she used to ride her bicycle to work and during the bird mating season was regularly attacked by diving magpies.



*2GF's popular Bette Charleston Photo –
Courtesy Bette Charlston.*

My personal wish is that 2GF will continue to create memories for the Clarence Valley for many more years. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Contributed by Society Member Ron Bell.

IN THE GARDEN

In the garden with Pat.

It was a great relief to finally have some decent showers to break the drought! Its amazing to see the flowers respond.

Our many Jacaranda visitors commented on the colours and variety of the flowers and plants in our gardens. Many went away with cuttings to add to their own gardens. The cane mulch saved many plants during the recent hot, dry weather

Our cottage style garden is planted with traditional favourites. The

crocus bulbs have flowered and the hippiastroms and bright blue agapanthus which both provided vertical interest in our garden design have been prolific in their showings. The various coloured geraniums both in the garden and in pots have been flowering profusely but I think the brightest spots were claimed by the petunias. Colours of red, lilac, pink, white and yellow have been brightening up all areas of the beds.

Can I recommend plantings of calybrachoas and verbena to permanently fill flat spots?

These are low growth spreaders which form colourful ground covers and the Calybrachoas foliage looks like mini-petunias and bloom almost constantly



Our beautiful front garden is a riot of colour

over a long period.

Our garden is a great experiment every year and all year- there's no limit to all the various flowering plants to delight every gardener- even if it's just filling a pot.

Our generous gift of manure has been very welcome to help our soil stay healthy. Thanks to Kerry for the horse manure and Pauline from Wahgungurry Alpaca Farm for the Alpaca manure.

Keep gardening and come and see ours at Schaeffer House.

Pat James.

NURSE MARY ANN BOOTH

Nurse Mary Ann Booth (1844 - 1929)

Mary Ann was born on 2 November 1844 in Theddingworth, Leicestershire, England and came to Australia with her parents George and Elizabeth Clark about 1851. They eventually settled at McLeod's Creek, near Tabulam, where her father had a store and butcher's shop during the time gold was being mined in that locality.

She married Henry Booth on 7 November 1859. He was the son of John and Anne Booth of Taplow Lodge, Buckinghamshire, England, and was baptized there on 1 February 1829.

Henry Booth gave his occupation as a butcher when their third child was born in Grafton in 1864.

They lived first in Queen Street and then Bacon Street before buying their own home in Pound Street, near the Jacaranda Hotel, in 1885.

Henry and Mary Ann had eleven children but sadly the two youngest, born in 1880 and 1881, were un-named and did not survive. Their second son George died in 1875 aged one year and eight months.

Henry Booth had been employed by Mr. T G Hewitt and had been with Mr. Con Duggan's butchering business for several years when his body was found in the Clarence River on 10 May 1888. He was 59 years of age. An Inquest, held on Friday 11 May, found that death was caused by asphyxia from drowning and the body appeared to have been in the water for three or four days. He had

been missing since Monday morning when his wife last saw him alive at 4.50am as he dressed and left home saying he was going straight to work as usual. She stated that she "had no reason to believe that the deceased intended to make away with himself". The jury found there was no evidence to show how he came by his death. Henry was buried in the Grafton Cemetery in Villiers Street.

After her husband's death in 1888 Mary Ann Booth, who was 44 years of age and had eight children, became a midwife. She was reputed to have worked successfully in conjunction with Dr Henry for many years and had been a widow for 41 years when she passed away in 1929. Her obituary said she was probably one of the oldest residents of the town and was much respected by all who knew her. In November 1909 a birth notice was placed in the *Clarence & Richmond Examiner*, and another one was recorded in February 1911 in the Carrs Creek Book, but Nurse Booth would have delivered many more babies in the previous 20 years when the midwives' name was not included in the birth notice in the newspaper. She did not take out registration for her nursing home when it became compulsory after 1910 due to her advancing age. However, the Electoral Rolls of 1906 to 1917 list her as a nurse and living in Pound Street, Grafton.

Mrs. Mary Ann Booth died on 8 August 1929 at her residence, 126 Pound Street, which has been renumbered to

166. She was 85 years of age and had lived in her Pound Street home for over 40 years.

Her funeral service was conducted by Canon Ware and she was buried in the Grafton Cemetery beside her husband where a headstone marks their place.

Contributed by Society Member Robyn Higham.



The Booth family.

An interesting letter from Stella Wilson (a former Jacaranda Queen).

Stella Wilson, nee Cooper, has given us a copy of a letter written by Charles Grant Tindal to her great grandfather, William John Morrow on 28th May 1855.

William Morrow and his bride Sarah Jane Cote married in Ireland in 1853, came to Australia and met Mr. Tindal who employed him at Ramornie for many years. His duties would have included the breeding and care of animals and possibly the great horse "Yattendon" (See previous newsletter) The letter is as follows.

My Old Friend,

You and I have nearly done our work so can afford to let the young ones have their turn - I write just this time to say that you need work no more longer than just suits yourself- knock off whenever you feel inclined and be sure that you shall have your house, garden and full pay as long as you live at

Ramornie- I don't exactly remember how many years we have known each other but it must be a good deal over 30 years and as far as I can remember, we only had one quarrel all that time and then as I told you the same day it was I that was in the wrong.

It would be an easy time if all masters had such servants as you have proved yourself to be and I hope at least one of your boys and girls will remain to help my sons as you have helped me.

Your old friend

C.G. Tindal

PS. If I die before you, show this letter, as a witness of my promise, to those who come after me.

William and Sarah had 7 daughters and 7 sons. I wonder if any of them stayed with the Tindals.

We congratulate our minutes secretary Cheryl Barnes who organized the very successful Jacaranda Afternoon Tea and has done so for many years.

BILL'S COLUMN**William Ernest Crisp.**
1890-1968.

Our Clarence River district has been well served by many Community minded people, but few would excel the contribution to that of Bill Crisp. For just over half of his 79 years, Bill was a member of South Grafton Council, then the amalgamated City of Grafton Council totaling 41 years of service. In that time he was elected Mayor of South Grafton 8 times and 9 times Mayor of the Combined Council, Grafton City. In fact he was Mayor of Grafton when he died in his sleep 20th November 1968. His wife, Elsie, pre-deceased him by only 9 days. They had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary August 16, 1964.

Indeed Bill died only a few days before the opening of the then new Council Chambers by the Minister of Local Government- a project close to his heart and the building of which he had championed.

I quote from the Daily Examiner Editorial 21.11.1968, "vigorous, energetic, able, enthusiastic, dedicated, loyal, untiring-Bill Crisp was all of these and so much more besides". As an Alderman of the last Council that he led I can testify to these qualities.

Bill had begun his career of public service when as a teenager, he was elected secretary of the Tenterfield branch of the Farmers and Graziers' Association.

Joining the New South Railways in 1914, Bill went on to become an engine driver.

Coming to South Grafton in 1926, he remained there, with one transfer to

Casino, for the rest of his working life, retiring in 1951. Just 2 years after his arrival he was elected to the South Grafton Municipal Council. No surprise his entry to local Government, his Father had been a member of the Tenterfield Council and his brother was later Mayor of Port Macquarie. In local Govt. Bill served as Chair of the local Water Board for 4 years and several times Deputy Mayor as well as the above mentioned terms as Mayor. For many years he was Grafton City Councils' representative on the Northern Rivers County Council-our Electricity Council in those years-and what a great loss that was. At one time Bill was also Councils' representative on the Regional Local Government association. One of his last works in local Govt. was his chairmanship of the Clarence Valley Pleasure Authority. During the negotiations with the Maclean Tourist Authority for the amalgamation of the two organisations as the new Big River Tourist Authority, Ald. Crisp attended meetings in Maclean although he had to rise from his sick bed to do so.

Local Govt. was not his only interest, he was a Foundation member of the Jacaranda Festival committee, chairman for 8 years, and with his wife, Elsie, was accorded life membership. A devout and staunch churchman he was chairman of the South Grafton Methodist Circuit Trust for many years. Ald. Crisp also served as chairman of the Grafton Technical College Advisory Council for many years and was still in that position at the time of his death. A Councillor of the C.P. & A Society, he was also President of the Grafton Branch of the Australian Labor Party for 5 years, President of the Eight Hour Day

BILL'S COLUMN (CONTINUED)

Committee at Grafton, and a prime mover in organizing the Railway Institute South Grafton tennis court.

Always a keen horticulturist, he had been an exhibitor and judge at many North Coast flower and Agricultural Shows and was often invited to act as judge of garden competitions.

He was associated with Grafton's early philharmonic society and intensely interested in the city's dramatic activities and participated in a number of theatricals. His 2 daughters inherited that interest, both becoming well known vocalists.

In a tribute to the Mayor's passing, Deputy Mayor, Ald. Neville Weiley said "Bill Crisp rendered a life time of public service to the town and city he loved. We could all do well to use his life as an example."

And I add- what a mighty record.

President of the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, Mr. W.R. Liddiard requested Prince St. businesses to close as his funeral cortege passed.

Bill Dougherty.—23.10.2023.

P.S. As a young Alderman of the 1960's, serving under Bill Crisp as Mayor, I always thought his greatest characteristic was his unbounded enthusiasm despite age and health. A tall man with gangling legs and arms he displayed that enthusiasm with outreaching arms of hospitality.

Bill Dougherty
22 Nov 2023



William Ernest Crisp

Simple Things

In the corner of the kitchen where the
coals are glowing red,

I am toasting fresh-cut slices from the
home-made loaf of bread,

And I hear the tea-cups tinkle (all be-
decked with tulips bright)

How I love the sounds of "inside"
when the "outside's" dark at night.

And to smell the rich aroma of the co-
coa, steaming hot

Or the fragrant emanations from the
old brown coffee-pot.

Now a meal and rest enjoying nor
would we change with kings!

For there's nothing like the pleasure
that we get from simple things.

Doris O'Grady

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Jacaranda Visitors

Jacaranda Festival week has once again been successful for the Clarence River Historical Society in relation to our visitor numbers. We were pleased and proud to welcome numerous buses to the Schaeffer House - we even had to juggle 3 buses on the one day.

Our visitors came from as far away as Western Australia, North Queensland and some from overseas, France in particular. The Jacaranda festival hop on/hop off bus proved a successful innovation to this year's event and enabled visitors to find us very easily.

Visitors were quite profuse in their appreciation of our house and collection and were keen to hear the stories and history of various items in the house. One very lovely moment occurred when a visiting guest, who just happened to be a musical director attached to a church, sat down at one of our pianos and played and sang to an appreciative and receptive audience of fellow travellers who promptly joined him in song.

Visitors marvelled at the beautiful condition and clean appearance of our objects and the way in which the house was presented

Kind Regards, Steve Tranter

DIARY DATES 2023 & ON THIS YEAR

Committee Meetings

February 2024.

Major Displays

Nil

In House Displays

Scouts (Cubs)— 11 December 2023
2GF— 13 December 2023

Open Days/Book Launches

Nil

Christmas Party

Christmas Lunch will be at the Crown Hotel this year. 15 December 2023, contact Robyn on 66425212 for a reservation.

On this year

Grafton Gaslight Co formed 1883
Gaol (2nd) opened in Queen St. 1893
Grafton Telephone Exchange 1903
First Railway Line opened (north) 1903
Cenotaph dedicated 1923

100 YEARS AGO

Compiled by our Research Officer, Hazel Lawson

Extracts from the Daily Examiner of November, 1923

CENTOTAPH The arrangements are complete for tomorrow's ceremony of unveiling the monument erected to the memory of Soldiers from Grafton district who fell in the Great War. An introductory address will be delivered by the President of the War Memorial Executive Committee. Mr. H. B. Baldock, then will follow an address by the Mayor of Grafton, Ald. W. T. Robinson, president of Copmanhurst shire CN. J.N. Short, Commanding Officer 41st Battalion Lient-Col. A S Allen. Ministers of religion. and Messrs. D. J. Lobban and J. A. Puddicombe. The monument will then be unveiled by the mothers of the fallen Soldier's after which the Recessionals Hymn "Lest we Forget" will be sung and the last post will be sounded.

GRAFTON CALENDERS Two fine Grafton Calendars have been forwarded to us by Stevenson's Photographic Studios. One has a photograph in colour of Jacaranda Avenue, giving a splendid impression of that beautiful spot when in its full glory. The other is surmounted by an excellent picture of the New Soldier's memorial, with the river in the background. The calendars are being sold at 2/- and 1/6 respectively and they should make excellent Christmas gifts. Both calendars are artistically finished.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS. The last shipment of new goods before Christmas is now opening at Harding's the diamond shop, 79 Prince Street Grafton. The

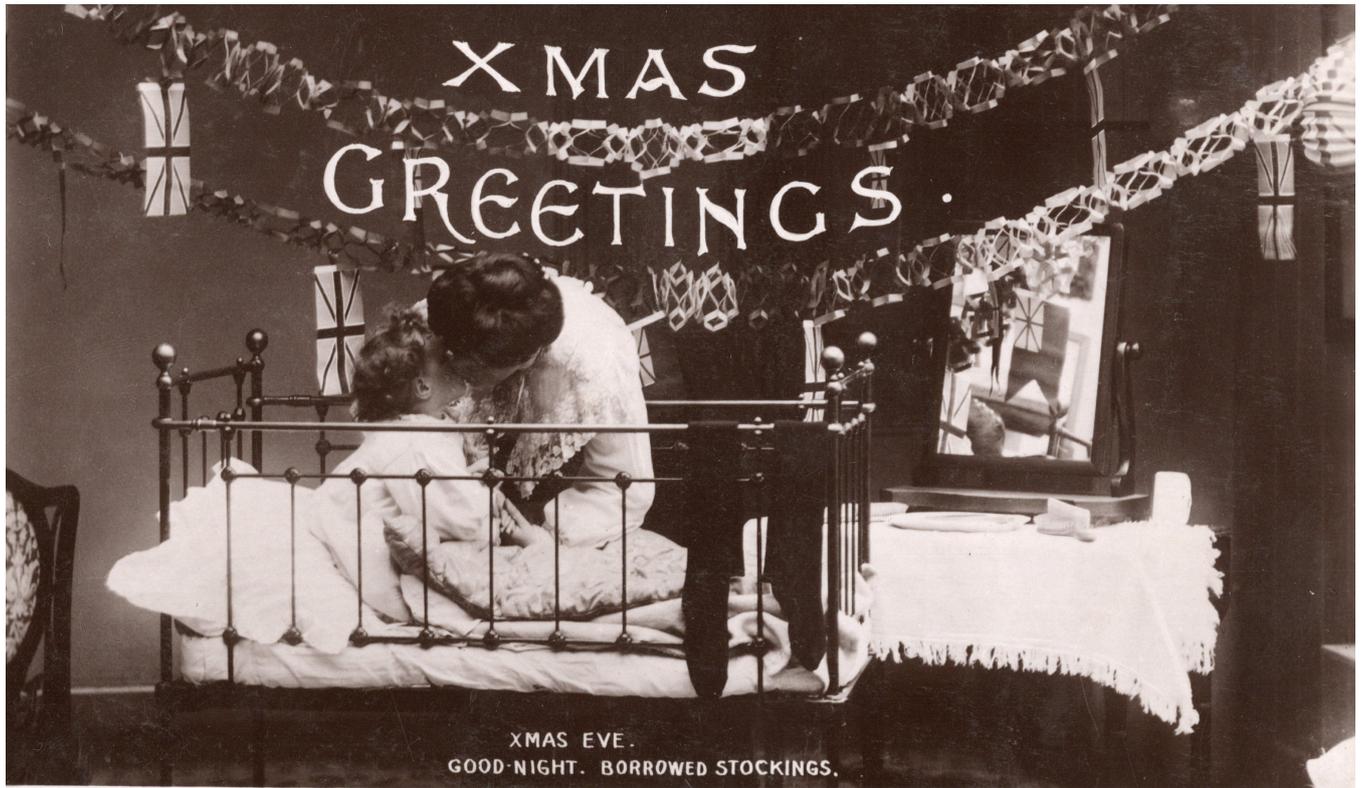
shipment includes silver plated ware, xy-lonite goods, leather and fancy goods. All Christmas novelties straight from the manufacturer, call in early and have the pick of the goods. Pay a small deposit and have the articles you choose put aside.

PUBLIC NOTICE. I wish to notify the general public that I have purchased the Refreshment Rooms, 109 Prince Street (near Money-savers Ltd). Afternoon Teas and Homemade Cakes a speciality. Ice creams and Iced Drinks. Fruit and Vegetables in season. MRS. T. NOONAN.

SERIOUS DROUGHT CONDITIONS. There is no doubt that the country districts are still suffering seriously as a result of the prevailing dry weather. A prominent citizen of Grafton who visited Saltwater, on the Casino line last week, states that the country is in a deplorable state, cattle are dying for want of fodder and water, while bushfires, too, are raging in many parts. In one instance over 1000 acres of grass land has been destroyed by fire.

MAN EATING SHARK CAUGHT IN CLARENCE RIVER. A five-foot grey nurse shark caught close to where scores of people swim every weekend highlighted the danger to open river bathers which has been aggravated by the continual dry weather.

CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS FROM THE MUSEUM



Produced by the Clarence River Historical Society

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