

The Compass

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# The



# Compass

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## From the Editor's Desk

Hello, and welcome to the December edition of "**The Compass**". It is amazing how fast 2010 is drawing to a close, seems just like yesterday that I was preparing the 2009 edition, they say that once you get past 50, the years speed up.

December traditionally means the season for giving and receiving, the time for all good things and peace on earth, unfortunately there are some in our community that are not as fortunate as we, spare a thought for those and where possible put a little something under the local charity Christmas tree, you never know what fate has in store for you.

This Quarter we are looking at the website "**Ozgenonline.com**", "originally our mother site until we became of age and finally able to have a website of our own. Ozgenonline.com is best described as a one stop browser, dedicated wholly to Family History, and related sites such as cemetery photo linkages. I think that you will find that Ozgen will become your preferred genealogy browser.

Imagine over a hundred years ago, jumping on a bicycle and riding from Adelaide to Port Darwin in the now Northern Territory, the terrible conditions of the outback not to mention the dangers. One hundred years ago Aborigines were attacking European travellers, as a research of the newspapers and historical Police Gazettes will show, then there are the flies, scorpions, sand drifts, the most poisonous snakes in the world, crocodiles and not to mention the problem of thirst and boredom. But there were people that not only took the challenge and did that, but also rode around Australia, and this month we pay homage to those intrepid men in our brief insight into their story, in "**Across Australia by bicycle**"

Everyone knows the old saying "**Blind Freddy knew that**" or similar versions, it is even in a song "**You weren't in love with me**" by Billy Field but what does that mean and where did it originate, well the contender goes way back to 1864 and is associated with the NSW Bushranger Ben Hall, a fascinating tale of Ben is told in our feature "**Ben Hall and the legend of Blind Freddy**"

I guess the most frustrating thing to a genealogist is striking a "**brick wall**" that is when all the information one has gathered suddenly becomes stalled, and no matter where you look or any help you get from others, there appears as if there is no way over the wall, especially when you are researching marriages in London during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. There possibly could be a good reason, maybe the marriage occurred as a clandestine marriage, and was conducted in the Fleet Street Prison. Now I am not saying that your ancestors were an inmate in the Prison, but rather that is where the marriage took place. In our feature on Fleet Street Prison entitled "**til death us do part**", we explore the Prison itself and the people incarcerated therein, how did marriages become allowed to be conducted in Prison? Perhaps this article may help to get you over that brick wall.

The popular "**This was Australia**" segment is again exploring the curious events of the Colonies before Nationhood, bringing to light little known facts about our country.

"**Computer Talk with Ivan Randall**" in which he discusses that dreadful moment when your Computer freezes and refuses to do anything you ask of it. Ivan once again offers some good advice to the novice and the experienced alike.

**CJ Dennis**, the Australian Poet, was born in Auburn in South Australia where his father owned the hotel, later moving to Gladstone and finally the family settled in Laura. Because his mother suffered from ill health, he was raised by his Great Aunts, and when old enough he was enrolled as a boarder-student in the Adelaide Christian Brothers College. Later he secured a position as a solicitor's clerk, aged 19 he began writing poetry particularly with an Australian flavour, and these were published in The Bulletin. In 1916 he wrote "**The Sentimental Bloke**" and in the first year he sold 65,000 copies of the poem. By 1917 he was the most prosperous poet in the history of Australia. He died at the age of 61 and was buried in Box Hill Melbourne. There are several memorials to him, both Melbourne and Sydney, and if you ever get to Laura in South Australia look for the bust of him outside the Town Hall. In this issue we have included for your pleasure a poem of a Bush Christmas, to some it will probably bring back memories of an era long gone, to others an insight into what life was like in the country area of Australia many years ago. We hope you enjoy the offering.

I hope that over the last year you have each been enjoying "**The Compass**" as I have enjoyed bringing it to you.

Since our last issue, "**The Compass**" has been awarded the honour of being select by the **Australian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO)** as the winner of the "**Nick Vine Hall Award**" for a Publication by a Family History Group category "**A**" that is a Group or Society with a membership of under 499 members. The runner up was the **Wagga Wagga Family History Society Inc** for their publication "**Murrumbidgee Ancestor**." In category "**B**" that is a Society or Club with over 500 members, the winner was the **Queensland Historical Society Inc** for their publication of "**Queensland Family Historian**" and the runner up was the **Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra** for their publication of "**The Ancestral Searcher**." We offer our congratulations to each and every one of the Societies and Groups mentioned above.

It is time for me to put the pen down or in this case the keyboard, and let you enjoy your reading, but before you do so, I would like to thank our readership for the interest shown in this publication, and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an even better New Year for 2011.

Colin Withall – Editor ■





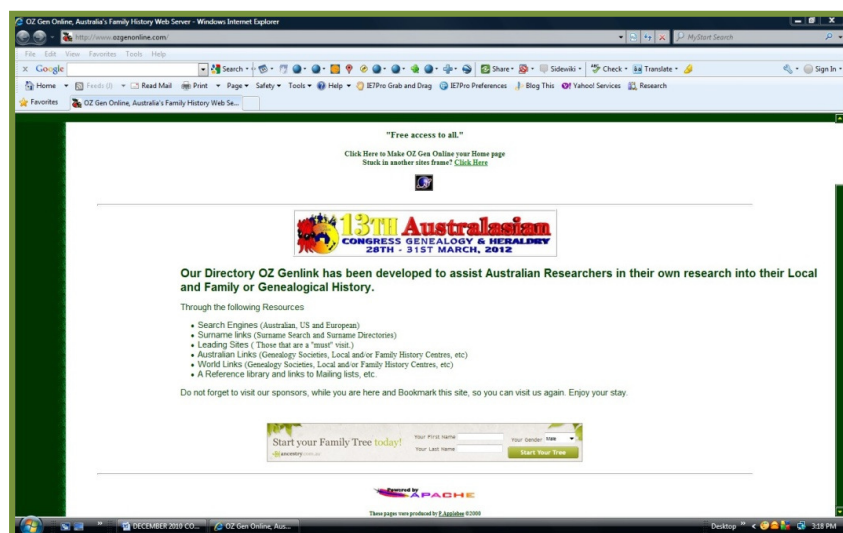
## Introduction to Ozgenonline.com

Our mother website located at [www.ozgenonline.com](http://www.ozgenonline.com), is dedicated entirely to Local and Family History Research, both within Australia and around the world, it has proven to be one of the most versatile websites around, and highly recommended as a one stop research assistance site.

In 1999, Peter Applebee (*ANDFHG's President*) founded Ozgenlink, the forerunner to the now highly praised website, originally appearing on the free hosted site of Geocities.com, it quickly became popular amongst Family researchers, so much so the website outgrew the resources of a free hosting site, and in 2000 its name was changed to Ozgenonline, and commenced operating under its own dedicated server.

In 2006 when ANDFHG became an established group, it became incorporated as a hosted site on Ozgenonline, displaying our Newsletters and research advice and assistance. Since 2009 ANDFHG was designated its own website and is now located at [www.andfhg.org](http://www.andfhg.org). Regardless of the many Family History Research sites out there, our mother site still figures prominently in the daily workings and research of our members, and is well worth a visit by all researchers.

## Navigating around ozgenonline.com



Ozgenonline can best be described as a one stop research site. The home page is very easy to understand and you will notice that there is a direct link to the Ancestry website, where tentative searches may be conducted, however it must be pointed out that to view some results, one has to become a subscriber to Ancestry, this can be very easily done from the displayed link.

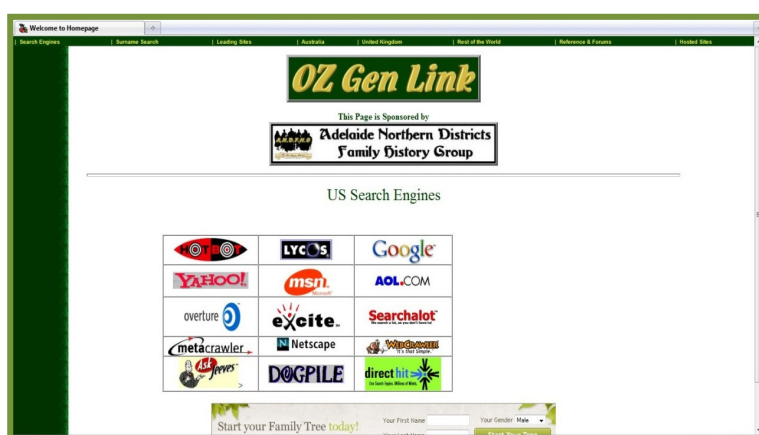
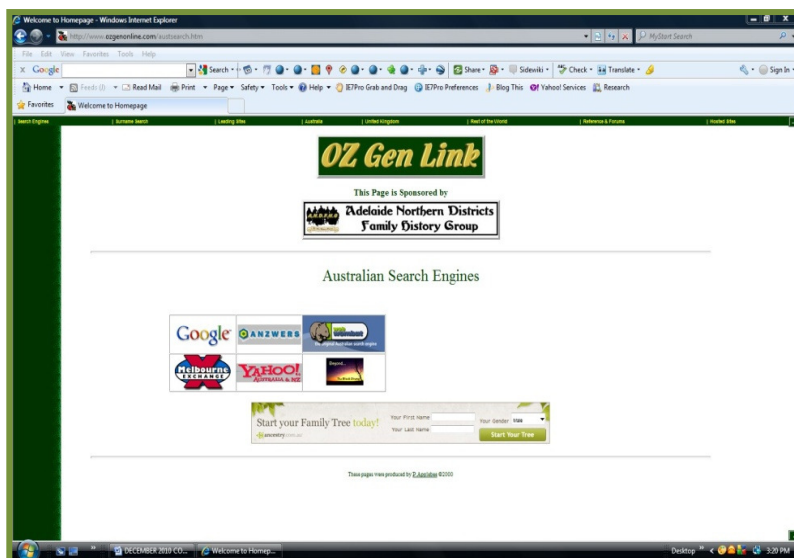


Upon connection to the website, you will notice that the layout page has a search bar located at the top, displaying 8 linking tags, by clicking on any of these tags, a drop down window will appear allowing you to select your preferred link for researching.

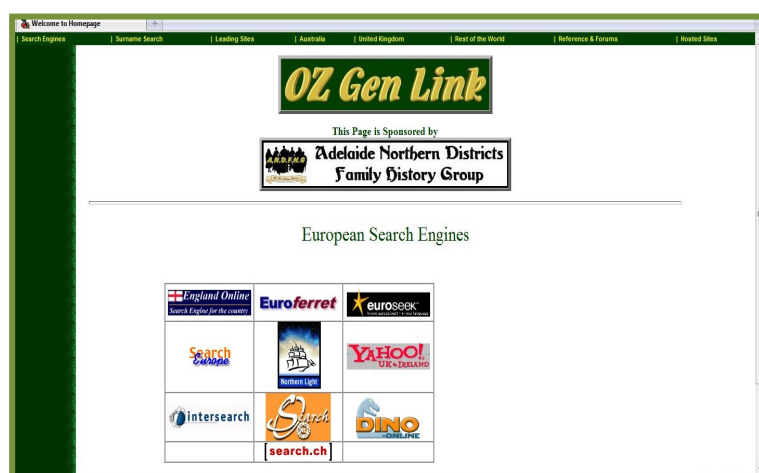
Examining the tags from left to right, we will discuss each of the Search engines available.

Clicking on the tag named “**Search Engines**” will result in displaying a choice of three search engines available, choosing to use any of the search engines listed, will enable a quick connection to a search box, where a query may be posted.

These links can be very valuable when researching, because each site may return different search results, for example on the right is a selection of several search engines suitable for searching within Australia.



It follows that there are also American Search Engines, dedicated to US Family research, you will notice that they differ greatly from the above Australian Search Engine list.



Of course, if you are researching your Family History within Europe, there would be no advantage in using the Australian, or American search engines, so there are a number of links available which are dedicated to European Research. Google can be searched by entering a Google UK search via their toolbar.

It should be remembered that a good search on any subject should be undertaken using several search engines, this is because not every search engine will display exactly the same results; some search engines such as AskJeeves.com will allow you to enter a question, whereas other search engines will only accept a basic word prompt search.

The next tag along the selection bar is **"Surname Search"** by selecting this tag, a dropdown window will appear, listing two links **"Surname Directories,"** which contains links to **"US surname directories"** and **"The Guild of One Name Studies,"** whilst the **"Surname Web"** provides the researcher a link to search the surname around the world, and if desired the chance to apply for a DNA Genealogy test.

By selecting the link **"Surname Web"** a new window will open, at the top you will notice a direct link to the Applebee Family Research Group, should you have any member of this family in your tree then obviously this would be a recommended site to explore.



Examining the window to the left, you will notice a list linking to various websites, such as **"Ancestor Search-Global search engines"** which is American orientated. **"Rootsweb search"** could mean that a number of American sites respond to the search query.

The most helpful site I have found is **"Surname Helper"** by selecting this link; you are taken to the Surname helper website, once there you can enter a

surname, and select a country of origin for example the UK. A search is then made of the internet for information relating to your query, almost immediately as many as 21 sites or more can be located, and popup as separate WebPages from the whole internet. Sites such as **"Central Criminal Courts-Old Bailey"** **"National Archives UK"** **"Ellis Island (New York)"** **"Family Search"** and **"Google"** etc, all having a list of hits relating to the surname you entered.

### Leading Sites

Family Search  
UK BMD  
Ancestry.co.uk  
The 1901 Census for England And Wales  
The 1911 Census for England And Wales  
Commonwealth War Graves Bound for South Australia  
The Ships List  
Roots web  
Genuki

However, the most valuable links to the Family History Researcher, are located on the **"Leading Sites"** tag.

By clicking on any of the selections displayed you are immediately connected to that site, which is extremely helpful when searching for information and not knowing the actual address of the site.

The most annoying thing about internet research however, is knowing whether the site's address string is **"dot com," "dot org," "dot gov,"** or **"gouv,"** however, by using these quick connections, all that confusion, and the problem of not knowing where to go for the information you are seeking can be eliminated.

For the history buff the **"Australia General"** link would prove to be the most valuable to anyone researching Australian ancestors. Here one can connect to the **"Australian War Memorial site," "Australian Place Names Search," "Anzac database 1914-18," "Australian Cemeteries," "Red Coat Settlers"** (British soldiers sent to Australia to guard the transported convicts and remained after discharge to settle). This is a very interesting and valuable tool in researching Australian ancestors.

The heading **"Australia"** makes connection to the various links available in the 8 states, these lead to such sites as Cemeteries, State registers for obtaining certificates, State archives, Family History Societies and much more.

### Australia

Australia General  
Australia Territories  
New South Wales  
Queensland  
South Australia  
Tasmania  
Victoria  
Western Australia

### United Kingdom

United Kingdom  
General  
Scotland  
North-East Counties  
North-West Counties  
North- Midlands  
Wales  
South-Midlands  
Eastern Counties  
Home Counties &  
Greater  
London  
South-West Counties  
Southern England  
South-East England  
Northern Ireland

The "**United Kingdom General**" link contains quick linkages to such sites as "*1911 Census*," "*BDM Certificates*," "*Catholic Family History Society*," "*FreeReg –Search English Parish Registers*," "*National Archives*," "*Gravestone Photographic Resource*" (Free photographs of Cemetery headstones) which can also include many Australian Cemeteries. This is an invaluable collection of research material, and is very extensive in its composition.

The "**Rest of the World**" tag provides valuable links to various Genealogy sites around the world, such as Greece, Holland, Germany, Croatia, Indonesia, and Malta to name just a few. Under the Commonwealth link there is a link for researching many records in India.

### Rest of the World

Canada  
Ireland  
New Zealand  
South Africa  
Rest of British  
Commonwealth  
United States  
Rest of the World

### Reference Forums

Reference Library  
Mailing Lists  
Research Interest Forum  
Tips and Hints Forum

"**Reference Forums**" links to valuable information such as the "Reference Library" where extraordinary research material is available, for example Archaic Medical Terms, a very handy resource when examining old documents for the cause of death, such as "*Bad Blood*" (*Syphilis*), "*Camp Fever*" (*Typhus*), or "*Rag-picker's disease*" (*anthrax*).)

Mailing Lists contain links to RootsWeb, which can help the researcher to find information about their ancestors, and at the same time connect to other people researching the same area. "*Tips and Hints*" contain an Australian Message Board where people can ask for help, or post a hint, or a trick they had found that helped in their research.



## Hosted Sites

# OZ Gen Link

Page Sponsored by

## Australian Cemeteries

Now with its own Private Domain.



**The Appleby Research Organization**  
A Non-Profit One Name Study Group.



**"From Pughole To Pasture"**  
The Story of a Pioneer South Australian Family

**James Family History Search**

## Andrew G Peake



**Salisbury & District  
Historical Society Inc.**



**Lyndoch & District  
Historical Society Inc.**

## Kanjemac's Cemetery Indexes

## Forever Remembered

Recording our history for the future.



**HEADSTONES FROM  
CEMETERIES OF TASMANIA**



**Index to Royal Women's Hospital  
Midwifery Book No.1 (1856-1876)**

Hosted Remotely by Ozgenonline on a Separate Domain

## Australian Cemeteries

**"Hosted sites"** contain links to a variety of other websites, such as *"Australian Cemeteries"* and *"Forever Remembered"* where Cemetery lookups and photographs of grave sites and headstones are available.

Whilst *"The Index of the Royal Melbourne Women's Hospital Midwifery (Book1856-1876)"* link opens to an alphabetical Index, providing a list of women who bore children in the Hospital during the 20 year period, and can provide some interesting facts concerning Victorian female ancestors.

Each entry provides such details as the full name or alias of the patient, her age, place of birth, number of children she had including the present child, and her marital status.

It was interesting to find an entry in the year 1872, for a Fanny Walding, who was then aged 43, married, and had just given birth to her 14<sup>th</sup> child.

Fanny first appeared in the Index in 1862, when she was aged 33 years, and had been delivered of her 9<sup>th</sup> child. Fanny continued as a patient in 1863 with her 10<sup>th</sup> child, 1865 her 11<sup>th</sup>, 1866 her 12<sup>th</sup>, and in 1869 her 13<sup>th</sup> child. The information in this index would prove to be invaluable to anyone researching the name Walding, because these details are not readily available from other records. ■

### In closing

We are confident that anyone visiting Ozgenonline would find that the whole website immensely interesting and is well worth adding to their Bookmarks, and will undoubtedly become a favourite research assistant, do give it a try.

— ■ —

### The law of arguments:

- *A woman has the last word in any argument.*
- *Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.*



## By bicycle across Australia

The outback of Australia is a dry and harsh place, and travel even today in the modern motor car equipped with air-conditioned comfort, and music playing in the background, on well maintained highways, can be tiring and a little daunting for many. In reality the outback is full of rugged beauty, but to the unwary, filled with danger and often death.

But turn your mind back to over 100 years ago, and ask yourself would you travel the same track from Adelaide to Port Darwin before there were made roads, just a dirt track often covered with bull dust<sup>1</sup> and always with the ever accompanying Australian fly, which seems to home in on perspiration from miles away. Temperatures that reach 50-60 degrees Celsius in the sun, and depending upon the time of the year can reach much higher, dehydration is a constant threat, and with little water to be found, death is always a companion.



◀ **Outback Australia near Coober Pedy South Australia.**

Regardless of the hazards mentioned, there were some fearless people that ventured out into the interior, such people as the famously fatal expedition of Burke and Wills in 1861. Ludwig Leichardt, who in 1848 disappeared forever in the vast wilderness of Central Australia, the intrepid Edward John Eyre, who walked 2000 km from Adelaide to Albany in Western Australia in 1840-1841. John McDouall Stuart, who in 1862 explored the interior of Australia surveying the track for the overland telegraph from Adelaide to the present day Darwin.

However there were other men, who when we think about their endeavour today, many would shake their heads in wonder. These very brave and in some cases called foolhardy men, traversed outback Australia, on bicycles some equipped with solid rubber tyres, which had no gears, and were very heavy to manoeuvre. A few of these men were:

### Percy Armstrong:

In 1893, Percy Armstrong and a friend rode solid tyre bicycles from Croydon (*near the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland*) to Sydney. They rode 3200km in about 6 weeks on back roads and stock routes on bicycles that weighed over 30kg including luggage and water.

Percy's mate stayed in Sydney, but a Sydney bicycle agent offered Armstrong a new bicycle fitted with pneumatic tyres, so that he could attempt to break the Sydney to Melbourne record of 5 days 16 hours.

Accepting the challenge, Armstrong rode 183km on the first day including some night riding without lights. On the third day he encountered some bad roads and had to contend with walking some distance, despite this he managed to complete 204km. On the fourth day he crossed many flooded creeks using railway bridges. Whilst riding at night, he hit a culvert and tore out four spokes from a wheel, by the light of a campfire he mended the broken wheel by replacing the spokes. After a brief rest he rode the remaining 108km to Melbourne, arriving around midday.

He had ridden 930km in 4 days 3¾ hours, for an average 222kms per day. His record remained unbroken for 5 years.

### Arthur Richardson:

In 1896, Arthur Richardson became the first man to cycle across the Nullarbor Plain. He rode from Coolgardie in Western Australia to Adelaide in 31 days. In 1899 he rode solo around Australia starting from Perth and travelled north, he completed the ride in 243 days, the first to do so. During the Boer War he became a bicycle messenger in South Africa.

### Jerome Murif:

In 1897 Murif rode north from Adelaide on a German built "Electra" bicycle, it is said that he "*wanted to do something*." He arrived in Darwin 74 days later and had cycled 3150km, and became the first to ride the transcontinental route. He had spent days walking his bicycle over sand that was too soft to ride, encountering the dreadful Bull dust of the outback, that seeped into every crevice, causing rubbing, and the flies were a constant annoyance affecting his eyes. Encountering the dried up tussock-grassed flood plains of tropical Northern Australia, he later said that it was "*like riding a bicycle up and down a stairway, with the stairs of unequal heights and width, blindfolded*." In many places he had to swim his bicycle across flooded creeks, he became lost, but persevered and never gave up until he reached Darwin. Snakes, scorpions and crocodiles were an ever present threat, especially around the water holes and creeks of Northern Australia.

<sup>1</sup> The Bull dust of outback Australia, is of a very fine red dust of talcum powder consistency, and is better described as being similar to water. A thick drift up to 40cm deep cause hazards to travellers, being so fine it penetrates even the smallest crack of a motor vehicle, and clogs the radiator and other parts of the air filters, causing overheating. Not easy to remove from windscreen glass or bodywork, as rubbing seems to cause it to adhere to any surface, often impregnable to water because of its fineness. When driving and encountering a patch of Bull dust, the result is similar to driving through a pool of water, the spray envelopes the vehicle, and even enters the interior. The major hazard of bull dust is that it tends to hide deep holes in dirt tracks, and hitting them at speed can cause damage to the axle or cause a tyre to blowout. Extreme caution is practiced by outback travellers. It is often referred to as the quicksand of the outback.

## Francis Birtles:

Francis Birtles was born in Fitzroy Victoria in 1881; in 1905 he arrived back in Australia from South Africa where he had worked with the Royal South African Police. After arriving at Fremantle in Western Australia, he bought a bicycle and started out for Sydney NSW via Central Australia, nearly dying of thirst near Kalbarrie. He returned to Coolgardie, and cycled across the Nullarbor via Adelaide to Sydney.

### **The Adelaide Advertiser of 1908, reports.**

*"Saturday, August 29, 1908, after a 12,000 miles cycling tour around Australia from Perth via Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and along the telegraph route to Adelaide again. A little less than two years after setting out from Perth, and twice he made futile attempts to ride from Laverton Victoria to Oodnadatta in outback South Australia. On the second occasion he escaped with his life. Travelling south to the Coast road and then continued east, after reaching Melbourne he rode to Sydney, Brisbane and turned north to Darwin then followed the overland telegraph line practically to Adelaide."*

Francis Birtles died on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1941 from coronary vascular disease. — ■ —

## Ben Hall and the Legend of Blind Freddy



**B**en Hall was born on 9 May 1837 in New South Wales; he later turned bushranger when he fell into company with Frank Gardener a notorious Bushranger. In April 1862, he was arrested on the orders of Police Inspector Sir Frederick Pottinger for taking part in an armed robbery whilst in the company of Frank Gardener. The charge was dismissed through lack of evidence.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 1862, Australia's largest gold robbery took place, when Frank Gardener led 10 men, including Ben Hall, and robbed the gold escort coach near Eugowra New South Wales, stealing 77 kilograms (170 lb) of gold worth more than £14,000<sup>2</sup> and £3,700 in cash. Ben along with several others was arrested in July, but once again the police were unable to present enough evidence to charge him. He was released about the end of August, but with mounting legal costs he drifted into a life of crime.

He was known as *"Bold Ben Hall," "Brave Ben Hall"* and *"the Gentleman Bushranger,"* because in all of his escapades he never ever killed anyone, and even went to extremes to avoid bloodshed. Many of his raids were so designed to taunt the Police.

Ben Hall took over as leader of the gang after a robbery at Eugowra, when Frank Gardener absconded to a new life in the north. Over a few short years, he committed over 600 robberies but he never killed anyone, and this contributed to his image as a popular folk hero.

In October 1863 the whole gang bailed up the entire town of Canowindra New South Wales, shepherding everybody into Robinson's Hotel and instructed them to eat or drink all they wished - at the gang's expense. The *"party"* lasted for three days until the 14 dray drivers warned Hall that the river was rising, and that they needed to leave before they were stranded. None of the hostages were mistreated during the *"captive party"* and were provided with entertainment. The local Policeman was humiliated by being locked in his own cell. When the hostages were set free, the gang insisted on paying the hotelier and gave the townspeople *"expenses"*. The outcome being that the gang had achieved their objective of making people to take note of the gang's power, and to humiliate the Police.

There were plenty of sympathisers who offered them safe hiding places, and who in return were often rewarded with a share of the stolen goods. Ben Hall was seen as a *"Robin Hood"* figure, stealing from the rich and redistributing the loot to his supporters, family and friends.

Sir Frederick Pottinger was said by Hall, in a later statement, to be threatening and bullying him because he could not catch Frank Gardener.<sup>3</sup> In 1864 the Melbourne Punch newspaper lampooned the Police as *"fashionable and working country women- scrubbing and cleaning scouring the country for Bushrangers"* In 1865 Pottinger was recalled to Sydney, for having neglected his duty when he rode in the races at Wowingragong, and failed to notice that Hall's gang were also there at the racecourse. While Pottinger<sup>4</sup> resigned his commission, his actions were described with the term of *"even Blind Freddy couldn't see it"* by the newspapers of the day.

By May 1865, Ben Hall had decided to escape from New South Wales. However he was betrayed by a man who had previously given the gang assistance and protection. The Police were waiting for him, and at dawn on 5 May 1865, Ben Hall was ambushed by eight Policemen who were armed with double barrelled shot guns and .56 calibre Colt rifles. Outnumbered Hall fled without firing a shot, he was shot in the back as he ran away. It was later found that he had been shot 30 times.



His body was taken back to Forbes N.S.W where an inquest was held, he was later buried in the Forbes Cemetery on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 1865. A headstone was erected in the 1920's, and his grave site is well maintained, and attracts many visitors. — ■ —

### ▲ **Location of the Robbery at Eugowra Rock**

<sup>2</sup> Approximately AUD\$4.5 million in 2009 terms, but with the mailbags the amount was more than double that figure. Half of the gold was recovered in one of Gardener's hideouts, the remainder has never been found. Treasure hunters still visit the area.

<sup>3</sup> Frank Gardener later died in 1904 in Colorado USA, reputedly from pneumonia.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Frederick Pottinger died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1865, when his pistol that he carried near his breast, accidentally discharged while boarding a moving coach.

## 'til death us do part. The uncivil marriages of Fleet Street Prison.

The date 1742, The marriage broker dressed in a black frockcoat, soiled from the dirt and refuse of the compound, leering with his blackened teeth, as he held his scrawny hand out for the price of the marriage, and at the passing of a few coins, the clergyman recited the marriage ritual. The Groom hands clasped before him bound heavily in chains, a rough and callow fellow, head shaven with a sneer on his face agrees to the question asked "... 'til death you do part?" "Aye" he mutters, and the marriage is finalised. The Bride dressed in fine satins and of demure countenance, sighs with relief as the final words are uttered "... now pronounce you man and wife." The Groom is hurried away by the guards, because he has another ceremony to attend, a meeting with destiny, for he is to hang within the hour.

And so it was in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, quick marriages performed not with the usual Banns or Licence, no church ceremony here, no expression of love, or consummation of the nuptials, but a hurried affair arranged in haste and purely of convenience, for this was a marriage performed in the Fleet Prison of London. The bride probably in dire circumstances, usually debt ridden, underwent this style of marriage to escape her debtors. At this time in England married women did not own property, whatever she possessed legally passed to her husband upon marriage, that also included her debts, of course if he should die then the debts died with him, and not become encumbered upon her, and not even the most dogged creditor could follow the husband to enforce the debt.



▲ The Bride's arrival for a Fleet Street marriage.

Fleet Street Prison was a den of iniquity where clandestine marriages were performed on a conveyor system. Where a sailor on shore after months perhaps a year or more at sea, sampled the wares of the many inns within the area, drunken and besotted with the wiles of the local bawdy houses, should fall into a drunken sleep, and suddenly where upon regaining his senses, to find that he is married. The wife may well be a low class doxy, but legally she was

his wife, and should he died at sea (*as many did*) she could claim his possessions and any money due him.

On the other face of the coin, there are records in existence that give a completely new face to the workings of Fleet Street Prison and the clandestine marriages performed therein. Cases exist where for reason of propriety many a pregnant lass underwent a marriage to her beau in secrecy, in many cases the marriages have been backdated (*for a price of course*). On the other hand many a man married for some other reasons, and there appears such entries as, "*married, but I knowing that the groom wanted only a little whoring he married in haste and decamped there from soon after. Married to satisfy his parents and social obligation, but his affections laid elsewhere among those of his own ilk.*"

The Rev. Alexander Keith, who had been reader at the Rolls Chapel, and afterwards incumbent of a Mayfair proprietary chapel, a great place for illegal marriages, on being suspended, excommunicated, and committed to Fleet Prison for contempt, in 1743, wrote a pamphlet to defend his conduct. The following extract gives some curious examples of the sort of marriages that were contracted:—

"As I have married many thousands, and, consequently, have on those occasions seen the humour of the lower class of people, I have often asked the married pair how long they have been acquainted. They would reply, some more, some less, but the generality did not exceed the acquaintance of a week, some only of a day—half a day. . . . Another inconveniency which will arise from this Act <sup>5</sup> will be, that the expense of being married will be so great, that few of the lower class of people can afford it; for I have often heard a Fleet parson say that many have come to be married when they have had but half-a-crown in their pockets, and sixpence to buy a pot of beer, and for which they have pawned some of their clothes. . . . I remember, once upon a time, I was at a public-house at Radcliff, which was then full of sailors and their girls. There was fiddling, piping, jigging, and eating. At length one of the tars starts up and says, '— me, Jack, I'll be married just now; I will have my partner!' The joke took, and in less than two hours ten couple set out for the Fleet. I stayed their return. They returned in coaches, five women in each coach; the tars, some running before, others riding on the coach-box, and others behind. The cavalcade being over, the couples went up into an upper room, where they concluded the evening with great jollity. The next time I went that way, I called on my landlord and asked him concerning this marriage adventure. He at first stared at me, but, recollecting, he said those things were so frequent, that he hardly took any notice of them. 'For,' added he, 'it is a common thing, when a fleet comes in, to have two or three hundred marriages in a week's time among the sailors.' . . . If the present Act, in the

<sup>5</sup> The reference here was Lord Hardwicke's proposal of the Marriage Act 1753, requiring Banns to be published before marriage.



*form it now stands, should (which I am sure is impossible) be of any service to my country, I shall then have the satisfaction of having been the occasion of it, because the compilers thereof have done it with a pure design of suppressing my chapel, which makes me the most celebrated man in this kingdom, though not the greatest." (Vide Keith's "Observations on the Act for Preventing Clandestine Marriages.")*

It is recorded in the "**Weekly Journal**," respecting this establishment for weddings, *'that a coal heaver was generally set to ply at the door, to recommend all couples that had a mind to be marry'd, to the prisoner, who would do it cheaper than anybody.'* Mr. Mottram could afford to be moderate in his charges, for he transacted an enormous amount of business. From one of its registers, it appears that he married more than 2,200 couples in a single year. He was a very obliging gentleman, and never declined to put on a certificate of marriage the date that was most agreeable to the feelings of the bride. On the occasion of his trial at the Guildhall, in 1717, before Lord Chief Justice Parker, it appeared that this accommodating spirit had caused him to enrich certificates of his own penmanship with dates prior to the day of his own ordination. Convicted of solemnising marriages unlawfully, Mr. Mottram was fined £200; but this misadventure did not deter him from persevering in his practices."

People particularly females were cajoled into marriage by the many glib brokers, that frequented the coffee houses, Inns and brothels in the vicinity of Fleet Street. It must be said that not all marriages were performed within the prison walls; many were performed in such places as the Inns and Taverns, bakeries, brothels, coffeehouses, and even in a blacksmith's foundry.

Under English Law, all marriages prior to 1754 were legally valid, providing the marriage ceremony was performed by a person in holy orders, regardless whether or not the orders were of the Church of England. There was no necessity for Banns or Licence to be obtained, neither was the place or time of the ceremony important. As result many marriages took place clandestinely, perhaps to avoid the expense of a public ceremony, or perhaps the parents objected to a marriage.

In 1696 the Marriage Duty Act tightened the law and imposed a fine of £100 on any clergyman who performed a marriage without banns or licence, although neither were an obligation under civil law. Proof of a marriage had taken place, and that could be provided by any clergyman. This combination of factors proved to be financially beneficial to many a clergyman incarcerated in Fleet Street Prison for debt, which for legal reasons were not beneficed clergymen because of their indebtedness, and therefore could avoid the fines. Marriages in the early days of Fleet Street were performed in the Prison Chapel, but as time went by Fleet Parsons began conducting marriages in their own lodgings. Enterprising owners of coffee houses nearby started to rent out rooms as chapels, which were quickly followed with a flood of

various shops and businesses following suit. Tavern Keepers (and there were many) either kept a parson on a weekly wage or with the Inn Keeper providing the room (chapel) acted as the parson's clerk divided the fee between them.

In the "**Weekly Journal**" of 29<sup>th</sup> June 1723, it is stated *"From the inspection into the several registers for marriages kept at the several alehouses, brandy-shops, etc, within the rules of the Fleet Street Prison, we find no less that 32 couples joined together from Monday to Thursday last without licences. Several of the above named brandy-men and victuallers kept clergymen in their houses for 20 shillings a week, hit or miss; but it is also reported that one clergyman there would not stoop to such low actions, but makes at least £500 per year."*

Touts or brokers were paid a shilling to solicit customers, often accosting everyone that passed by, signs appeared everywhere bearing a male and female hand conjoined.

Although there were no banns or licence, register keepers did keep written records of the marriages performed. Marriages were first entered into a pocket book by the parson, and for a small fee were later entered into a regular register of the marriage house, unless the couple wanted the marriage to be kept a secret and this would be arranged for a fee. Unlike the regular Parish Registers, the Fleet Street Registers recorded the full name of the couple, their marital status, residence, and the groom's occupation. In the case of a marriage of a sailor, the name of his ship was sometimes also included.

Actually, all classes of people married in the Fleet, the registers contain names of people from all professions, from the local shopkeeper, to professional men such as lawyers and surgeons, Guards Officers, and peers of the realm. Of the recorded research undertaken into Fleet Marriages, it is demonstrated that of the estimated 250,000 marriages the majority were legitimately and soberly undertaken.

## The Fleet Street Prison:

To begin to understand how Fleet Prison became a centre of clandestine marriages, we have to explore the institution itself. Fleet Street, unlike later times of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century or of prisons today, were run on a profit making basis, charging prisoners not only for their food and lodging but also for a range of various services, including the act of jailers turning keys, and the putting on or removing their leg irons. Visitors were charged on entry and exit. The Prison featured a tea-room and the London Coffee House, both of which were open to the public. The running of the Prison was headed by the Warden, appointed by patent; the patent holder would then offer the wardenship to the highest bidder. The most infamous example of a fee being paid to the patent holder was in 1728, when Thomas Bambridge paid £5,000 to John Huggins for the wardenship. Apparently he then



used his position to exhort huge sums of money from the prisoners and later was accused of extreme cruelty. He was found guilty of loading the prisoners down with irons and locking them in dungeons. For these offences he was found guilty and committed to Newgate Prison, and prevented ever to hold the office of Warden again.

Wardenship was sought after because of the lucrative post, as well as receiving money for the rental of rooms to the inmates, the warden received fees on commitments and discharges and for almost every other service he provided such as water etc however, if a prisoner had a trade such as tailoring, he could continue to practice that trade within the prison



confines. Others not having a trade found it extremely difficult to exist, the Fleet Prison was so expensive, that prisoners were reduced to begging, and a special grill was located in a wall, through which prisoners could plead to passersby for alms.

◀ **The Begging Grill, Fleet Street Prison.**

The poorest inmates were relegated to the lowest dungeons, but for those that could afford better lodgings, comfortable quarters were available. In the 1830s the better class of prisoners could expect to pay half a crown per week for more luxurious lodgings. Other rooms cost one shilling per week, and inmates were expected to supply their own furnishings. Should two persons share a room then each were charged sixpence per week. If a new arrival was to share a room he was said to be "*chummed*" on the original occupant, upon arrival he was given a "*chum ticket*" which was a piece of paper with the name of the prisoner and the room in which he was to share.

When the prisoner went to the rooms assigned, he had to show the "*Chum ticket*" to the occupant, who either had to share the room with him or pay five shillings to "*purchase him out.*" If the prisoner was offered the five shillings he was compelled to take it and find another room to share instead. In some cases up to three people could be "*chummed*" in the one room, until an act of parliament prohibited more than two people being "*chummed*" together.

It is little wonder that in these circumstances, clergymen imprisoned for debt, resorted to the practice of clandestine marriages. Of all the marriages performed in London during the 1740s up to 6,000 marriages a year were taking place in the Fleet area, compared with 47,000 in England as a whole. One

estimate suggests that there were between 70 and 100 clergymen working in the Fleet area between 1700 and 1753. It was not merely a marriage centre for the criminals and poor, however: both rich and poor availed themselves of the opportunity to marry quickly or in secret.

While some of the Fleet marriages were for criminal or fraudulent purposes - and it was these that made the venue notorious - and, although the Fleet parsons and register-keepers were not averse, for a fee, to antedate marriages and certificates, the great majority of the estimated nearly a quarter of a million or so couples marrying there, did so with the aim of making a normal lasting union.

In March 1754, with the introduction of Lord Hardwick's Marriage Act in an attempt to put an end to these clandestine marriages of the Fleet Prison, however on that date some 217 marriages were registered in the Fleet.

The two factors that finally ended the Marriages within the Fleet Street area were the introduction of the necessity of banns or licence, coupled with the insistence of the marriage to be performed in a Church Ceremony to be legal. In addition the insistence that parental permission was made mandatory. ■

### Research the Fleet Street Archives:

Search the National Archives records at, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

[www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk) RG7 Registers include Fleet Street Marriages. Search by surname.

### What are the RG7 Registers?

RG7 is the collection of the Register General registers and notebooks of Clandestine Marriages and Baptisms in the Fleet Prison, King's Bench Prison, the Mint and the May Fair Chapel ranging from 1667-c1777.

### Scope and content

Principally registers, 1667-c1777, and note books, 1682-1774, giving particulars of clandestine marriages and baptisms performed in the Fleet Prison, at the May Fair Chapel, at King's Bench Prison or within the Mint, as well as entries in the Fleet registers of other ceremonies performed at these places. This series records the marriages of a significant proportion of the population of London and surrounding areas up to 1754. The '*Report of the Commission into Marriage Law' of 1868,*' estimated that countrywide in the first half of the eighteenth century, a third of all marriages were actually clandestine. Of these, the Fleet registers in this series are the most significant source, containing an estimated 400,000 entries representing over 200,000 weddings. — ■ —

## This was Australia. Past events within the nation.

**Christmas Day 1827**, the ship *Dryad* under the command of Captain Gould, anchored in Boston Bay South Australia. The Master, Captain Gould found fish and game especially kangaroos plentiful, and the officers and crew apparently enjoyed the abundance of fresh meat and fish for their Christmas dinner. This was the first recorded Christmas celebrated in South Australia, and it would take some 9 years before permanent white settlement in the site of Adelaide on 28 December 1836. The Bay was discovered by Matthew Flinders who was so impressed with the harbour that he named it Port Lincoln, after the place where he came from in England.

On **20<sup>th</sup> February 1877**, the South Australian farmer Richard Bowyer Smith and his brother Clarence took out a patent for their model of a stump-jump plough, which consisted of ploughshares that moved over obstructions, such as stones and mallee stumps, and back into the ground again without an interruption to the ploughing of the field. Although the mechanism had won an Agricultural award in 1876 on Yorke Peninsula, there were still many farmers suspect of the stump-jump plough, and dismissed it as a *"tickling the soil with a contraption invented by a lunatic."* As they say the rest is Agricultural history.

**30<sup>th</sup> November 1878** was the day that the song *"Advance Australia Fair"* was performed for the first time at a Sydney Highland Society function, the song was written by Peter Dodds McCormack under the pen name *"Amicus"* (which means friend in Latin). The song quickly became popular and an amended version was sung by a choir of 10,000 voices at the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1901. In 1907 the Commonwealth government awarded McCormack with £100 for his composition. In 1974 the Prime Minister of Australia Gough Whitlam declared the song a National song, and was to be used on all occasions excepting those of a significantly regal nature. In 1984 the song was adopted as the National Anthem of Australia by the Labor Government of Bob Hawke. The first line was altered from *"Australia's sons let us rejoice"* to *"Australians all let us rejoice."* The song has many detractors dismissing it as dull and boring, with many wanting a newer and more inspiring National Anthem.

**August 1884**, an outbreak of Small Pox occurred in Bordertown, South Australia. The outbreak emanated from the Bordertown Police station, when a prisoner fell sick and was the suspected cause. The government Surgeon from Mt. Gambier sent to Bordertown to investigate the outbreak after several Police Officers also developed symptoms. The Police station was quarantined, one of the Police troopers was severely affected with the disease along with two of his children, with another officer developed advanced signs of contracting small pox.

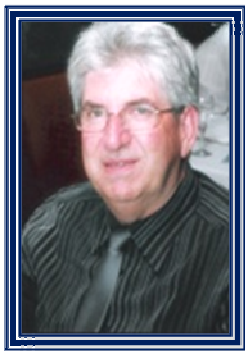
**1890**, the total population of Australia had reached 3,151,000 people. It was claimed in February that the idea of a united Australia had gathered a huge support base. Sir Henry Parkes the New South Wales Premier, at a meeting of all the heads of the colonial states, moved a motion to form a union of all states into one nation, his proposal included the appointment of a Governor-general and a Parliament consisting of a Senate and a house of Commons. Attending the conference were the Premier of South Australia J.A Cockburn, and the leader of the opposition the honourable Thomas Playford (grandfather of the much later long serving Premier of the State.)

**December 1890**, two brothers Jack and Harry Bagust of New South Wales, bred the world's first pure breed of cattle dog. They wanted a dog with a strong working ability, intelligence, hardiness, biting power and stealth. They named the dog the *"Australian blue speckle cattle dog,"* or the *"Blue Heeler"* as it became known. Starting with a breed bred from a dingo and a blue mottled Scotch collie, they then refined further by breeding a strain using a Dalmatian, often used to guard horses, and black and tan kelpie to provide intelligence. The result was the breed of dog sought worldwide for its ability for working with cattle.

**23 May 1892**, was the date that multiple murderer Frederick Deeming was hanged in Melbourne. A hunt for Deeming was initiated soon after the discovery of a woman's body behind the hearth stone of a house which he had been renting, and was identified as being his second wife, that he had travelled to Australia in December 1891 with. Deeming was later located in Perth where he was arrested in March 1892. After his arrest it was later found on information from England that he had been renting a house in Rainhill near Liverpool, where five bodies were discovered under the floor. The bodies were of a woman aged about 35 years and four children including a baby of 18 months. London detectives pursued the enquiries into his frequent departures and arrivals from England, in the belief that Deeming could have been the mass murdered known as Jack the Ripper, who has never been apprehended.

**3rd December 1896**, The New South Wales parliament was told by Mr. A.H. Griffith, a member, that Australian men were turning to crime on Sundays, during the week they were law abiding people, but on Sundays they are drinking alcohol which is against the law in every colony in Australia, and he claimed that in NSW the situation was rife describing the practice as a *"festering sore in our social system."* In theory it was claimed that according to the law, there was no liquor sold or consumed on Sundays however, from his own observation he found that there was more liquor sold and consumed on Sunday than any other day of the week. He called for a more stringent Policing of the Law, and arrests of Publicans and consumers, stating that it was wrong to break the Law.

## Computer Talk...with Ivan Randall.



**Quote of the Quarter:** *“Some things Man was never meant to know. For everything else, there's Google.”*

### Help something's wrong with my computer!



**T**here are many different ways that something can go wrong with your computer. This may range from something disappearing from your screen to a catastrophic failure of the hard drive, motherboard or power supply which brings it to a grinding halt.

The main thing is not to panic and take notice of what is happening around you. Is the power in the house still on? Is there a strange burning smell?

Are there any power lights still showing on the computer, monitor or other peripherals? If the failure is less dramatic, what are the symptoms?

Take note of any error messages that appear (write them down) even if they do not make sense to you, so that you can consult someone more knowledgeable who may be able to help diagnose the problem, or if you need to have a serviceman look at it, these messages may help to fix the problem more quickly thus saving repair costs.

Remember that repair time is usually the major cost as most components are relatively cheap these days.

#### Above all stay calm and don't panic:



If you panic and turn off the computer then you may be costing yourself in extended repair time. The only time that I would recommend turning off the power immediately, is if there is a strange smell, smoke or sparks coming from the machine and make sure that you remove all power plugs from the mains socket.

There are several things that you can do to try and resolve the problem.

#### 1: Analyse the Situation:

The first as I have mentioned is to take notice of what is happening. If the computer is acting strangely, then note down what it is doing. Is it rebooting continuously or freezing up. Is the strange behaviour only present when you use certain programs? With this sort of behaviour it is worth asking yourself, is the program a new installation or has a new update been recently installed? Have you installed any new hardware that may be causing a problem? (Printer, camera, external hard drive, other USB devices). If this may have been the cause, then uninstalling the hardware may solve the problem.

#### 2: Restore to an earlier session:

If it was a software problem then doing a "System Restore", which restores all system files to a previous time, may be the answer. You will need to consult the windows help system to find out how to do this, but I recommend that you consult someone with more knowledge beforehand. If you were installing a program at the time things appear to have stalled, then check the task bar at the bottom of the screen to see if there is another window hidden behind the installation window which is waiting for an input from you (I have read the terms and conditions etc). I am told that this is quite common with Vista and Win7.

If you are having a problem with any of the peripherals connected to your computer (particularly printers, scanner, modems), then it is a good idea to try switching off the power (at the mains) of the device, wait for 30 seconds or more and switch it back on, wait for all lights to become normal and it may also help to reboot the computer at this time. Reboot by either doing a restart using the Windows shut down procedure and choosing restart as the option required or try turning the computer off at the power button on the computer which may have to be held in for 5

to 10 seconds. Don't switch it off at the power point before trying these two options as that can have unpredictable results. It is amazing how many times the problem will go away. I have a printer that quite often refuses to start up properly unless I remove and reconnect the power cord. I should switch it off at the power point but that is inaccessible behind my desk.

### 3: Run a Malware Scan:

I have said this many times before and I will say it again as it is very important to guard against internet nasties. Make sure that your



Virus Scanner is up to date and if the computer is still operational, but exhibiting strange behaviour, run a full system virus scan and if your scanner does not

include a malware scan, then it may be worthwhile checking out the web for one of the reputable free ones and downloading it and running it. (I use Malwarebytes' AntiMalware)

### 4: Check the Power cords:

If the computer is completely dead, then the first thing to check is that the power is connected. It would not be the first time that a power cord has been dislodged or someone has used the power point for something else and not put the plug back in the wall socket. It is also a good idea to check that all the cables connected to your computer and peripherals are firmly in place.

### 5: Seek Professional Help:

Now, if all your efforts fail to solve the problem, what do you do? Obviously you need some expert help and that probably means engaging the

services of a computer technician or a service organisation. The question to ask is whether the computer is still under warranty or did you take



out one of those extended warranties that all computer stores try to sell you? If so, return to where you purchased it and see what is involved in getting it repaired. Generally it means returning it to the manufacturer's service facility (usually interstate) at your own expense, which may or may not be cost effective.

The other drawback is that often you cannot talk to the person repairing the computer and if you have not explained the fault well enough, there is a chance it will come back in the same condition as you sent it with "no problem found". Don't get me wrong, if the computer is covered and the problem is a hardware failure then this is the way to go.

Otherwise the use of a local service person or organisation may be a better option. So where do you go? The best approach is to ask around and see what other people's experiences have been. Was the problem fixed at a reasonable price and were they happy with the service? It pays to get several quotes from recommended repairers to see what the range of costs might be. There is a lot to be said for word of mouth recommendations when choosing repairers, as people will not suggest those that they have been unhappy with. In conclusion, if something goes wrong with your computer, take note of what is happening, try to resolve it by one of the techniques described above, ask for advice from more knowledgeable colleagues, check for warranty and if all else fails take it to a reputable repairer or it might be better to buy a new computer. —■—

## "How to tell the sex of your Computer"

### From a women's point of view. Computers are masculine because -

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you might have had a better model.

### From a males point of view. Computer's are feminine because -

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay packet on accessories for it.

—■—



## A Bush Christmas.

By CJ Dennis 1876 -1938 written in 1931

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums  
As down the road old Rogan comes -  
The hatter from the lonely hut  
Beside the track to Woollybutt.<sup>6</sup>  
He likes to spend his Christmas with us here.  
He says a man gets sort of strange  
Living alone without a change,  
Gets sort of settled in his way;  
And so he comes each Christmas day  
To share a bite of tucker and a beer.

Dad and the boys have nought to do,  
Except a stray odd job or two.  
Along the fence or in the yard,  
"It ain't a day for workin' hard."  
Says Dad. "One day a year don't matter much."  
And then dishevelled, hot and red,  
Mum, thro' the doorway puts her head  
And says, "This Christmas cooking, My!  
The sun's near fit for cooking by."  
Upon her word she never did see such.

"Your fault," says Dad, "you know it is.  
Plum puddin'! on a day like this,  
And roasted turkeys! Spare me days,  
I can't get over women's ways.  
In climates such as this the thing's all wrong.  
A bit of cold corned beef an' bread  
Would do us very well instead."  
Then Rogan said, "You're right; it's hot.  
It makes a feller drink a lot."  
And Dad gets up and says, "Well, come along."

The dinner's served - full bite and sup.  
"Come on," says Mum, "Now all sit up."  
The meal takes on a festive air;  
And even father eats his share  
And passes up his plate to have some more.  
He laughs and says it's Christmas time,  
"That's cookin', Mum. The stuffin's prime."  
But Rogan pauses once to praise,  
Then eats as tho' he'd starved for days.  
And pitches turkey bones outside the door.,

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums  
The chirping of the locusts comes  
Across the paddocks, parched and grey.  
"Whew!" wheezes Father. "What a day!"  
And sheds his vest. For coats no man had need.  
Then Rogan shoves his plate aside  
And sighs, as sated men have sighed,  
At many boards in many climes  
On many other Christmas times.  
"By gum!" he says, "That was a slap-up feed!"

Then, with his black pipe well alight,  
Old Rogan brings the kids delight  
By telling o'er again his yarns  
Of Christmas tide 'mid English barns  
When he was, long ago, a farmer's boy.  
His old eyes glisten as he sees  
Half glimpses of old memories,  
Of whitened fields and winter snows,  
And yuletide logs and mistletoes,  
And all that half-forgotten, hallowed joy.

The children listen, mouths agape,  
And see a land with no escape  
Fro biting cold and snow and frost -  
A land to all earth's brightness lost,  
A strange and freakish Christmas land to them.  
But Rogan, with his dim old eyes  
Grown far away and strangely wise  
Talks on; and pauses but to ask  
"Ain't there a drop more in that cask?"  
And father nods; but Mother says "Ahem!"

The sun slants redly thro' the gums  
As quietly the evening comes,  
And Rogan gets his old grey mare,  
That matches well his own grey hair,  
And rides away into the setting sun.  
"Ah, well," says Dad. "I got to say  
I never spent a lazier day.  
We ought to get that top fence wired."  
"My!" sighs poor Mum. "But I am tired!  
An' all that washing up still to be done."

— ■ —

<sup>6</sup> Possibly referring to Woollybutt Corner, this is a locality on Hayden's Bog Creek in East Victoria, about 350km east of Melbourne.

## Adelaide's old photographs.

**Opposite top: — Parliament House Adelaide 1876.** *Image published with permission of the National Library of Australia. Nla.pic-an3986884. Photographer: George John Freeman 1843-1895.*

The Legislative Council was the first Parliament in South Australia, having been created in 1840, members were originally appointed by the Governor of South Australia, but only served in an advisory capacity, because the Governor retained all the legislative powers.

The first Council of Government held its meeting in the sitting room of Government House from 1836 to 1843 in the 1840's the public demanded a representation form of Government. This followed with a series of reforms to the membership of the Legislative Council, and it was expanded to include 24 members made up of 4 official and 4 non official members, both of which were nominated by the Governor on behalf of the Crown, the remaining 16 were elected by a select group of propertied men. In addition to the reforms the Governor no longer oversaw the proceedings, this being now the domain of a Speaker elected by the members.

In 1843 representation was expanded to include prominent land owners, in that year its proceedings were open to the general public. With the now larger membership of the Council, and the proposed admission of the public to the proceedings, a larger meeting place became necessary.

The location of the new building was on North Terrace, west of Government House, and is adjacent to the present Parliament House. The building was of brick with a slate roof, and consisted of a single room complete with a gallery that could hold fifty people, with reserved seats for newspaper journalists.

The new Chamber was opened in October 1843 and became the prime meeting place for the Council for the next twelve years. Because of the increased membership to 24 the building soon became small, and a newer two story extension of the first chamber was completed in about July 1855, for a total cost of £17,000 pounds.

The Legislative Council met upstairs in the building for the first time in November 1855, sharing the facilities with the newly created House of Assembly. In 1856 the Legislative Council prepared what was to be the Constitution of South Australia, which laid out the means of true self- government, and created a two tiered system of government.

The Legislative Council transferred most of its legislative powers to the new House of Assembly. Whilst all males could vote the Council still restricted

voting rights to the wealthier classes of Adelaide Society.

The building became far too confining, and in 1874 a commission was appointed to discuss plans for a new Parliament House. A design competition was opened in 1879, with one competitor being selected. However from commencement of the construction of a Parliament House in 1883 until its final completion and opening of the west wing in 1889 and the Assembly moved into the West wing.



▲ left the Legislative Council building, right West wing of new Parliament House. Circa 1889.

Following an economic depression in 1890 further construction was put on hold. It was not until 1936 that the project was recommenced, and finally the building was completed in 1939. The Legislative Council continued to hold its sitting in the old building until 1936. In 1980 it was opened as the only museum dedicated to Constitutional history, and is currently occupied as Parliamentary offices.

**Opposite below: Adelaide looking south from Montefiore Hill 1880.** *Published with permission of the State Library of South Australia. Reference B4072.*

In the foreground is the old road from Pennington Terrace to Morphett Street and into the city proper. To the centre left is the Adelaide oval, and just to the right of this, are the open vacant parklands, on which in 1914 the South Australia Lawn Tennis Club was established, later renamed the Memorial Drive Tennis Club, and is where the Davis Cup and the Australian open championships played on grass courts in later years. The tree lined area on the extreme right of the roadway is the site of the North Adelaide Golf Club which was established there in 1870 and still exists today. Originally consisting of 9 holes, the players had to share the Montefiore parklands with cows, the greens had to be fenced to prevent the cows from grazing on the grass, a player was allowed to have another shot should his ball hit the fence, and he was allowed to lift his ball without penalty if it landed in a cowpat. — ■ —

## Adelaide of yesteryear.



Parliament House Adelaide 1876



Adelaide Looking South from Montefiore Hill 1880.

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*To One and All*



To all our members and readers wherever you may be, on behalf of the President and our Committee, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

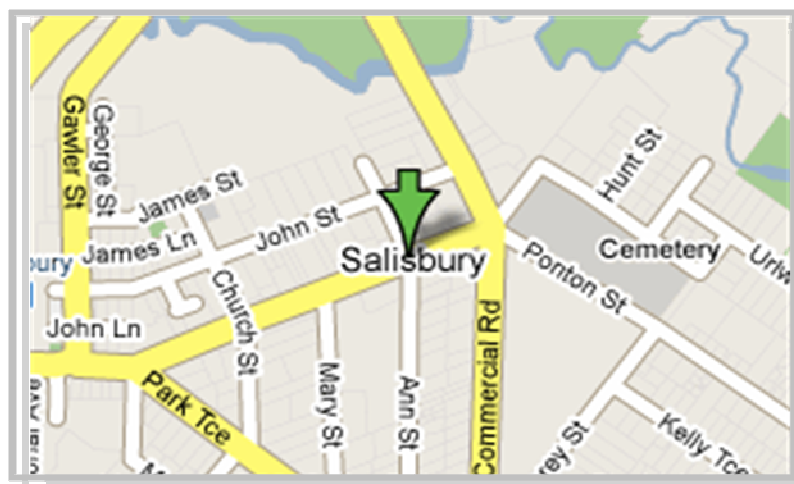
~ The Editor.



**The Home of Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc.  
The Old Police Station" Ann Street Salisbury Sth. Australia**



**Where to find us**



**The ANDFHG meeting**

every Thursday from 10am to 4pm for Family Research, members, visitors are welcome.

Open days are held on Saturdays twice Monthly between 1pm to 4pm.

Volunteer Genealogist Researchers are available to assist and guide in all Family History matters. Resource Services are available.

rooms are open

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