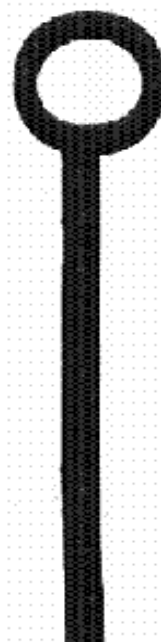


TIME LINE



November 2024



GLADSTONE 1854

AUSTRALIA 1788

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GLADSTONE DISTRICT Inc.

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Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc.

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VISITORS MOST WELCOME

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The Resource Centre is situated in the George Young Building, Francis Ward Drive, Gladstone

Our Centre is air-conditioned

This journal, "TimeLine " is produced in March, July, and November each year

Articles can be preferably emailed to

gladgen@hotmail.com

Library Hours

Monday	7 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday	9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations Peoples and pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

We have internet access at our resource centre thanks to the sponsorship of:



DISCLAIMER:

Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc. and its members either individually or collectively does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or information contained in this newsletter.

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Districts in the Gladstone Region (1929)

Beecher, Benaraby, Bororen, Boyne Valley, Burua, Calliope, Glassford Creek, Iveragh, Littlemore, Many Peaks, Miriam Vale, Mount Jacob, Mount Larcom, Nagoorin, Norton, Raglan, Targinnie, Ubobo, Yarwun.

From the Editor's Desk

Meet our Patron, Gail Sellers OAM. See pages 14 & 15

This year she has been honoured with the order of Australia, OAM. The "Gail Sellers Community Gallery" in our Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum (GRAGAM) has also been named in her honour.

This issue has some stories of local families and their service and sacrifice for Remembrance Day, 11th Nov, 2024 .

It was announced today, 11 Nov 2024, 56 years after his heroism, that Australia's highest military honour, the Victoria Cross, was finally awarded to **Private Richard Leslie Norden**, posthumously for "most conspicuous acts of gallantry" during the Vietnam War. **See page 5.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-11/private-richard-norden-awarded-victoria-cross/104584768>

Many thanks to Life Member, Paulette Flint for her help with research and the use of some of her publications.

Are you receiving our emails?

Please ensure that you can receive emails from:

gladgen@hotmail.com

Webpage: <http://www.gladstonegenealogy.wordpress.com>

Check out our Facebook page

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Genealogical.Society.Gladstone.District.Inc>

The following is a list of people who may be able to assist your research:

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Central Qld, Victoria, Irish, Scottish Lowlands, Central England
Jan Koivunen janakoi@hotmail.com 0417 216 062
Australia including Convicts
Paulette Flint pauletteflint25@gmail.com 0415 353 557
Local History, South Australia, Early Qld, Computer research
Yvonne Cooper yvonne.cooper@activ8.net.au 0439 766 647
New South Wales, Scotland, Computer research, Australia including Convicts.

PRINTED by GLENN BUTCHER MLA

Phone: (07) 4904 1100

<https://www.glennbutchermp.com.au/parliament>

Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc. would like to acknowledge the generosity of Glenn Butcher, Member for Gladstone (ALP) whose Gladstone Electorate office has kindly printed this Timeline journal.

Glenn is currently the,
Shadow Minister for Police & Crime Prevention,
Shadow Minister for Corrective Services,
Shadow Minister for Sport.



We have reciprocal visiting rights with the following societies:

Bundaberg Genealogical Association Inc

Kendall's Road, Bundaberg
(07) 4155 1900

Webpage <https://www.bga.org.au/>

Opening times

Tue 12-2.30, **Wed** 10-2.30, **Sat** 1-4

Last Wednesday of month 7.30-9.30 (not Dec)

<https://www.facebook.com/bundabergfamilyties>

Gympie Family History Society

Old Gympie Railway Station, Chapple Street Gympie
PO Box 767, Gympie, QLD, Australia, 4570

Webpage <https://www.gfhs.com.au/>

Opening times **Wed** 9.30-2pm, **Fri** 9.30-2pm, **Sat** 1-4pm

<https://www.facebook.com/GympieFamilyHistorySocietyInc>

CQFHA (Rockhampton) Family History

Corner of Renshaw and Highway Streets Rockhampton

Webpage <https://www.cqfamilyhistory.org.au/>

Opening times

Tue, Fri and **Sat** 1-4pm, **Thu** 9am-noon

<https://www.facebook.com/cqfamilyhistory>

The Redland Genealogical Society

Webpage <https://rgs.net.au/> Email: redlandgs@gmail.com

(Our Library Room is located in the Redland City Council's (RCC) **Cleveland Library**, located at the intersection of Middle and Bloomfield Streets. Ask at the reception desk for directions.

Opening Times

Tue 9.30 -12.30pm, **Thu** 9.30 - 12.30pm, **Sat** 12.30-3.30pm

(Except Public Holidays & during the Christmas Break).

<https://www.facebook.com/redlandgs>

Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History

Webpage tdfhs.org.au

Opening Times

Mon-Fri 10am - 3pm

452 South Street Harristown 4350

<https://www.facebook.com/TDDFHS>

Reciprocal Rights are extended to all members of family history societies who visit our rooms to do research. Proof of current membership is required. The daily fee will be \$2.50, rather than the \$10.00 charge for visitors.

For appointments outside these hours, please phone for an appointment on 4634 7377

EVENTS CALENDAR 2024/5

RSVP to Secretary Sue Norris
by Saturday 7 December
gladgen@hotmail.com
0407791007

(Pay for own meals and drinks)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

Last Opening Date for 2024: Wednesday 11 December 2024

Christmas Lunch: Saturday 14 December 2024 at Harvey Road Tavern, Gladstone (12 noon)

Rooms Clean-up for Members: Sunday 19 January 2025 (9.00 am)

Reopening Date for 2025: Wednesday 29 January 2025 (9:30 am)

General Meeting: Saturday 8 February 2025 (1.30 pm)

Annual General meeting: Saturday 8 March 2025 (1.30 pm)

Victoria Cross awarded to Private Richard Leslie NORDEN

Name Private Richard Leslie NORDEN

Award Victoria Cross for Australia

Post-Nominal VC

Date Granted 1st October, 2024

Citation For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in the presence of the enemy in the 'AO Surfers' Area of Operations in the Bien Hoa province Vietnam, on 14 May 1968 during the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral.



Media Note



During Operation Toan Thang, 5th Platoon, B Company were ambushed and came under heavy fire from an estimated squad of seven to ten North Vietnamese Army regular soldiers. Private Norden, a member of the leading section, ran forward under heavy enemy fire to the Section Commander and forward scout who were wounded during the initial contact.

Private Norden killed one North Vietnamese Army soldier whilst moving forward and, having expended his ammunition, recovered that enemy's automatic weapon which he used against further North Vietnamese Army soldiers. He then half-carried, half-dragged the severely wounded Section Commander back to the section. Private Norden, seriously wounded, again advanced to the forward scout.

He pressed forward under enemy fire and reached the scout, killing the North Vietnamese Army soldier who had been using the scout as a shield. Having determined that the scout was dead, Private Norden returned to the section to collect grenades and moved forward for a third time. He cleared the area to enable the body of the scout to be recovered. Private Norden showed a complete disregard for his own personal safety, and his courage and selfless acts resulted in the enemy position being secured and likely saved the lives of other members of the platoon.

Award ID 3039482

Richard Leslie Norden, was born 24 August 1948 in Gundagai, New South Wales, Australia to Walter Rodger Norden and his wife Rita May Norden (nee Crane). Richard served in 3 units in Vietnam: 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit 05 Dec 1967 to 30 Jan 1968, 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment 31 Jan 1968 to 09 Apr 1968 and 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment 10 Apr 1968 to 13 Aug 1968.

The Coral Reunion group have been campaigning for Richard to receive this award since May 1968 after the Battle of Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam. In August 1968, Richard was awarded the Distinguished Conduct medal, DCM, for his action on 14 May, 1968. It was presented by the then Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Culler (himself a Victoria Cross recipient) in 1969.

Following the awarding of the Victoria Cross, it has been announced that the Distinguished Conduct Medal, awarded in August 1968 for the same action, is hereby cancelled, and now many Vietnam Veterans are agitating for the reinstatement of the DCM for Richard.

Richard Leslie Norden died on 30 Oct 1972 in Canberra, after a motor cycle accident while serving as a constable with the ACT Police force. His funeral was held on Wednesday 1st Nov 1972. It left the St John's Church, Reid, for the Canberra Cemetery. Richard left behind a family and a nation who will be very proud of him. *My late husband also served in the Battle of Coral & Balmoral on 13th May, 1968 and I am very pleased to see Richard awarded the Victoria Cross as I have long followed the progress of the association to ensure Richard received this honour, (Mrs John Frank Cooper).*

Monday 11 November 2024, Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Extract of the speech by ANTHONY ALBANESE, PRIME MINISTER:

It's been more than 56 years since fierce fighting at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral saw twenty-five Australians killed and over one hundred wounded. It would be Australia's longest and deadliest battle of the Vietnam War. The terrible toll would have been higher but for the courage of a 19 year old private from Gundagai by the name of Richard Norden. His deeds are more than worthy of the highest military honour our nation can bestow - the Victoria Cross for Australia. Today in honouring Richard Norden and all he fought for, Australia also honours all those who fought for him, his fellow veterans, those who served alongside him and those who took up his cause when they learned of his story. Everyone who kept alive the memory of his valour, everyone who has championed and advocated due recognition of Richard Norden, and everyone who has kept faith with Australia's promise to remember all those who have served and their loved ones. The Hall of Valour here at the Australian War Memorial bears the names of one hundred and one Australians who have been awarded the Victoria Cross. By any standard, the late Private Richard Norden belongs in their esteemed company. The Victoria Cross for Australia is a rare honour and a unique one. It is open to all ranks, and all ranks of the Australian Defence Force are required to salute a Victoria Cross recipient. Today, all Australians salute the memory of Private Richard Norden VC. **Lest we forget.**

OFFICIAL OPENING –MEET ME AT THE CAFÉ EXHIBITION

10:30 am, Saturday 23 November in the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum

RSVPs appreciated on 07 4976 6766

The official opening of Meet me at the Café: The stories behind the cafes of Gladstone (1900-1970).

An exhibition of documents and artefacts based around the book published by Paulette Flint in May 2022. Celebrating Gladstone's cafes, tea rooms and milk bars from a time before television, computers and online dating.

This exhibition will be on display from 23rd November.



Gladstone's Virtual Roll of Honour

Compiled by Paulette Flint, Local Historian (Grad Dip Local, Family and Applied History)



The Roll of Honour for the Great War (World War One) 1914-1919, Town of Gladstone and Shire of Calliope, is located at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery Museum in the Museum Room.

In mid-2023, Paulette Flint, Local Historian (Grad Dip Local, Family and Applied History), was approached by the Gallery Curator to research and write about each of the 362 names listed on the board.

This research was to be then digitised to be able to be accessed by users seeking information on servicemen and women from WW1 who enlisted in Gladstone, or who lived in Gladstone.

Funding was obtained for this massive project under the Commonwealth Government's "Saluting Their Service" Commemorative Grants Program.

Paulette produced files for all those names which could be found and identified as having enlisted or served in the Armed Forces.

Information was included from each individual's Service Record (all of these are digitised on National Archives of Australia website), and other websites such as State Library of Queensland for photographs of individuals, Australian War Memorial, Red Cross Missing and Wounded Files, The AIF Project, Virtual War Memorial Australia, and also from personal records obtained from descendants where possible.

Once the individual files were digitised and placed on a website, a QR code was generated.

This QR code (see below) can be scanned and the user will be able to access the Virtual Roll of Honour.

Or paste this into your browser

<https://grgm.qld.gov.au/museum/virtual-roll-of-honour-town-of-gladstone-and-shire-of-calliope-the-great-war-1914-1919>

[\(Virtual Roll of Honour Town of Gladstone and Shire of Calliope: The Great War 1914-1919\)](#)



William Thomas BAIN

From the Virtual Roll of Honour by Paulette Flint



Photographs: State Library of Queensland, from "Queenslander" newspaper

Rank: Private

Service Number: 4101

Unit: 10th Reinforcements, 26th Battalion

Place of Birth: Herberton, Queensland

Date of Birth: 17 April 1892

Enlisted at Rockhampton 24 August 1915 age 23 years 4 months. Next-of-kin was his mother, Mrs Sarah Bain, Calliope, via Gladstone, (and later of Bulimba, Qld). On enlistment he was 5 feet 6.75 inches and weighed 9 stone 0 lbs. His chest measurement was 31.5-33.5 inches. His occupation was grocer. He served in France and was killed in action on 14 November 1916. Buried in No Man's Land about 1 mile East of Le Sars, 4.25 miles NW of Combles. Later re-interred in Warlencourt British Cemetery, Warlenbourt-Eaucourt, Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, France. Plot 5, Row F, Grave 22. (See also brother: John Herbert BAIN)

Service record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](https://naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint

2023

Lest We Forget

Remembering William Thomas BAIN No.4101, 1st A.I.F.

Thomas is listed on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour

This form was sent to the next of kin, asking the following questions;

“Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum”

If you are researching a soldier who died, this document can give much valuable information.



Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier	<i>Bain, William Thomas</i>
Unit and number (if known)	<i>26th Battalion NO.4101 Private</i>
With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)	<i>Town (if any) Calliope,</i> <i>District-Gladstone, State-Queensland</i>
What was his birthplace	<i>Herberton, North Queensland</i>
Date of Death	<i>November 14th 1916</i>
Place where Killed or Wounded	<i>Flers, France</i>
<u>Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories</u>	
What was his calling	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Age at time of Death	<i>(24 years) twenty four</i>
What was his School	<i>Calliope State School</i>
What was his other Training	<i>Nil</i>
If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia	
Had he ever served in any Military or Naval France before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars)	<i>No other service</i>
Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or his regiment	<i>Only other brother served with A.I.F. in France, now returned, also eleven (11) first cousins joined A.I.F. two being killed</i>
Was he connected with any other member of the A.I.F., who died or distinguished himself (Please state Relationship)	<i>Cousin to Pte. V.P. McDonnell 15th Battalion (Queensland) Cousin to Pte. I.R. Doyle 19th Battalion (Sydney, New South Wales). Both missing in France, and afterwards reported killed in action.</i>
Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information-	<i>Sarah Mary Bain</i>
Relationship to Soldier	<i>Mother</i>
Address	<i>Oxford St. Bulimba, Brisbane, Q.</i>
Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information-	<i>Mr J Pujolas (Justice of Peace)</i>
Address	<i>Calliope, Gladstone, Queensland.</i>

Missing presumed dead in WW1

For soldiers missing in action presumed dead, proof of them being deceased was requested from soldiers that had witnessed their death or seen their bodies. This was the case with my grandfather Andrew Joseph O'Dowd. Andy was part of the 6th reinforcement of the 36th Battalion. He arrived in England 29th January 1917 on the 'Beltana', his service number was 2854, Andy was in "B" company. Andy provided a letter confirming the death of Private Samuel Strickland at Passchendaele, his letter states:

'I regret to inform you that 2882 Pte S Strickland was killed in action on 12th October 1917. He was rather dark, teeth missing upper jaw, about 5'8" in height. Nationality was Swiss, as far as we know he has been a seafaring man. Next of Kin's address: - (Friend) Peter Rainey, Nambucca Heads NSW. His trade is engineer, yours faithfully A J O'Dowd'. Letter dated 12th January 1918.

Andy must have sent a photo that Samuel Strickland had received back to the sender, as he received the postcard below from Flora Christensen.

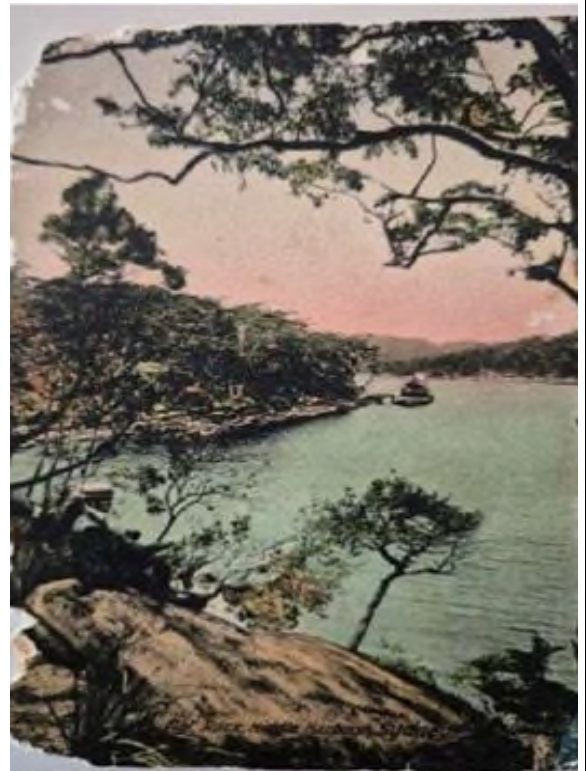
Dear Friend, many thanks for your thoughtful action in returning the photo addressed to Pte. S Strickland.

We heard he was missing some time ago and were wondering where he was. Very sorry to hear he was killed. He was a mate of my only brother who was also killed in Messines Battle 7th June 1917. But there I suppose you hear and see enough sad things over there without my adding to it.

I don't know where you are from so I am undertaking the task of writing you a letter as I may speak of things and places that you don't know of but would like to hear from you again if you care to write. Trusting you will have all good fortune in the future, yours Sincerely Flora Christensen.'

Flora's address was:

"Fern Villa" Erskineville Newtown Sydney New South Wales, Australia.



Editor's Note: This is a well known postcard, look carefully and you will see a man wearing a white Boater hat, sitting on a rock. The caption on the bottom reads, "Flat Rock, Middle Harbour Sydney" It dates from about 1905. I have seen this postcard before and I may even have a copy of it somewhere.

Flora's brother was Anton Christensen #2781 was also part of the 6th reinforcement of 36th battalion, he arrived on the 'Beltana' with Andy and Samuel Strickland and was taken on strength with the battalion in May 1917. Anton's next of kin was his father Lauritz Christensen from Nambucca Heads.

Samuel Strickland's next of kin on his attestation papers was a friend, Peter Rainey, from Nambucca Heads. It was later found that Samuel's surname was Stuckland, after much correspondence between Samuel's next of kin, solicitors and the Swiss embassy, his estate and service medals were sent to his father in Basle (Basel) Switzerland.

Submitted by John O'Dowd, Member GSGD Inc

THE NIGHT OF THE BOMBER'S MOON

Copyright by Paulette Flint, June 2024

(As told to her by Nellie McEachran November 2023)

It was a clear night in Townsville with a bright full moon and Arch McEachran and his wife Nellie were walking home from the pictures at West End.

"This is a bombers' moon tonight!" said Arch looking up at the sky.

Nellie asked, "What do you mean by that?"

Arch continued. "Look at those big white clouds. They (the Japanese bombers) can hide behind them."

It was 26 July 1942 in the middle of World War Two. Archibald Stewart McEachran and his wife Nellie Jane (nee Johansen) were living in a small flat in Townsville, North Queensland. They had been married in Mackay on 6 June 1942 and Arch was based in Townsville with the Australian Military Forces in the Transport Section.



Archibald 'Arch' McEachran Q114524 Australian Army and Nellie (nee Johansen) on their wedding day, 6 June 1942,

Townsville played an important role in the Second World War in the Pacific in the years 1942 to 1945. It was a major military base, with Australian, United States and other military personnel sited at various camps around the city. The Battle of the Coral Sea had taken place from 4 to 8 May 1942, when the Allied Forces of Australia and United States turned back a planned invasion by the Japanese which was headed for Port Moresby in New Guinea.

The McEachrans' little flat in Townsville was in Warburton Street on Stanton Hill just below Castle Hill, and looked out over the Strand, which was a beachfront area of Townsville overlooking the sea and Magnetic Island. That night, Nellie and Arch had walked to an open-air picture theatre in West End to watch a picture show.

After reaching home, they went to bed and were not there long when air-raid sirens sounded the alarm. It was 11:30 pm. Arch had to go to his base at Queen's Park which was only about three blocks away near the old Townsville Hospital.

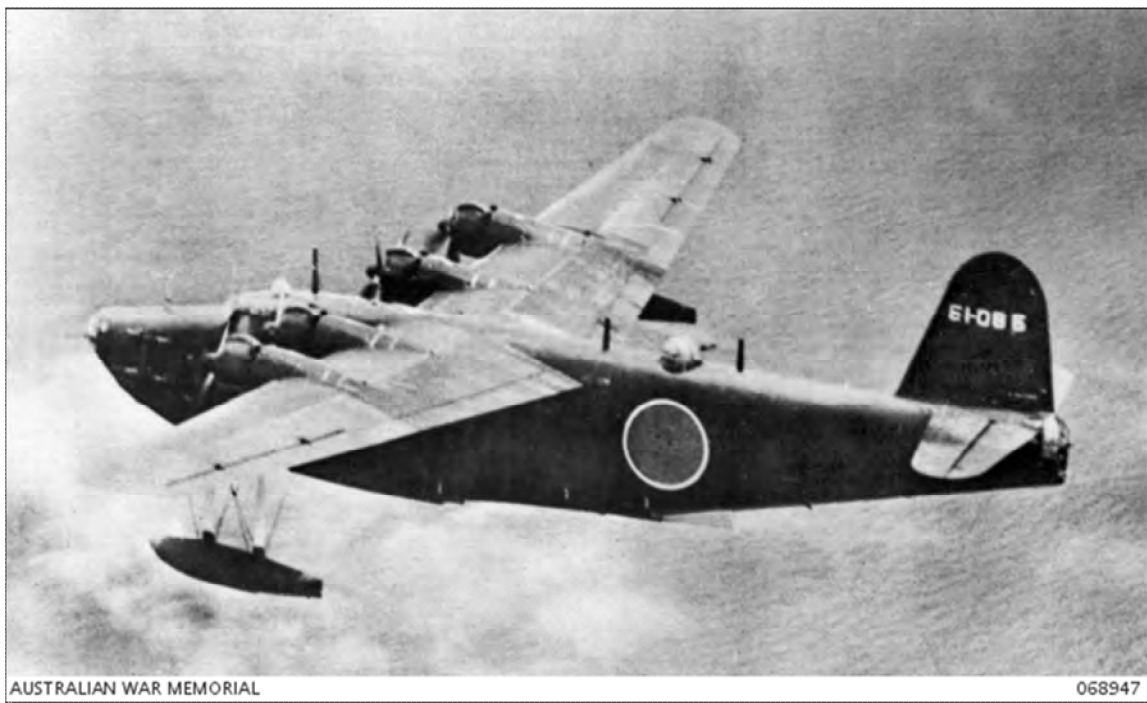
Nellie had made arrangements that if there was an air-raid and Arch had to leave, she was to go into the next-door flat with their neighbour, Mrs Walsh. There the two women sat under the kitchen table with an old coir mattress over the top of it. The sirens had stopped after a while, and they sat for some time, but nothing seemed to be happening. Nellie and Mrs Walsh couldn't hear any aircraft or bombing, so they ventured out onto the veranda of the flat to look out over the Strand and Townsville Harbour.

Looking around they could see some blue lights shining up in the school grounds opposite. (This may have been at Townsville Central School, which was in Warburton Street.) Nellie said she'd never seen these lights before, and they were told later that the lights may have been shone by the Fifth Columnists to give the Japanese pilots positions. There were more than a dozen search lights probing the sky tracking the bombers.

Then the women heard a big blast which came from the harbour. The Japanese bombers had dropped bombs. The bombers were trying to hit the wharf and facilities, but the tide was out, and the bombs hit the mudflats behind the wharf.

Nellie and Mrs Walsh dived back under the table.

In subsequent news reports of the bombing attack, it appears that this was the first of three raids by Japanese bombers on Townsville, and the first air raid along the east coast of Australia. This first attack took place at 11:30 pm and two Japanese Kawanishi H8K1 "Emily" four-engine flying boats were involved. They had flown from Rabaul, which was a small town situated in Papua New Guinea on the island of New Britain. They were long-range aircraft which were designed for long range and extended endurance on patrols or bombing missions alone over the ocean.



"Emily" four engine bomber reconnaissance flying boat. The Kawanishi navy 2 flying boat, model 12. Japan. Four engine, high wing, all metal monoplane. Power plant: 4 x 1825hp. Mitsubishi "Kasai 22", 14-cylinder motors. Armament: 20 mm cannons and 7.9 mm machine guns. Manufacturers: the Kawanishi Aircraft Co Ltd. (Photograph from Australian War Memorial, 068947 - out of copyright)

The searchlights had scared off the bombers, but they returned at about 12:40 am the following morning which is when the bombs were dropped in the port area. However, these had fallen harmlessly into the sea.

Nellie said that as soon as the air-raid sirens sounded, the Armed Forces in the area sprang into action, shining searchlights and putting up planes to find the bombers. Soon after, the United States Forces shot out the electrical transformer which led to the lights on the wharf. As well as the usual blackout throughout the city, this plunged the port area into total darkness. The only lights to be seen were the searchlights, and the mysterious blue lights which were lit in the school yard nearby.

The searchlights used would have been Sperry lights owned by the US Army and were usually operated by women.



Three members of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) working on a Sperry 90cm searchlight at No. 79 Anti-Aircraft Searchlight (AASL) Battery at Pallarenda beach in Townsville. Gunner Rebecca Edna O'Donnell, from Bowen Qld, is the AWAS on the left.

(Photograph from Australian War Memorial, P01040.002 - out of copyright)

There were to be two subsequent bombing raids by Japanese flying boats. They were both small raids. The third raid dropped a bomb on the racecourse, but no one was injured in any of the attacks. Although the Japanese press proclaimed that Townsville had been left 'ablaze' with the railway, the port and the roads destroyed, the only actual casualty was a lone palm tree.

The pilot of one of the two planes involved in the attacks was Sub Lieutenant Kiyoshi Mizukura
pictured below.



Sub Lieutenant Kiyoshi Mizukura who raided Townsville, Queensland twice and Mossman once in his Emily flying boat in July 1942, while he was a trainee pilot.

Many Thanks to Life Member Paulette Flint, for this interesting story.

Also many happy birthday wishes for Mrs Nellie McEachran

References:

Marriage record Queensland BDM www.bdm.qld.gov.au

Photograph from Mrs Nellie McEachran collection

[Kawanishi H8K - Wikipedia](#) From Wikipedia, 26 July 2024.

Australian War Memorial Collection www.awm.gov.au

Ibid

Ibid

Meet our Patron

Name Mrs Gail Mary Sellers
Award Medal of the Order of Australia
Post-Nominal OAM
Date Granted 10th of June, 2024
State QLD
Suburb West Gladstone
Postcode 4680
Citation For service to the community of Gladstone.



Media Note

Gladstone Regional Council

Mayor, 2010-2016.

Deputy Mayor, 1997-2008.

Councillor, 1988-2016.

Gladstone and District Sports Foundation Trust

Trustee, since 2008.

Former Deputy Chair.

Community

Patron, Genealogical Society Gladstone District Inc., since 2004.

Patron, Yaralla Softball Club.

Patron, Gladstone Eisteddfod.

Patron, Gladstone Youth Music Council.

Governance Appointments

Former Board Member, Gladstone Area Water Board.

Former Board Member, Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre.

Former Board Member, Gladstone-Calliope Aerodrome.

Gladstone Midday Rotary Club

Former President.

Former Vice-President.

Member, over 20 years.

Former Member, Rotaract Club of Gladstone.

Zonta Club of Gladstone

Former President.

Charter Member, since c1992.

Teaching

Teacher, Department of Education Queensland, 1972-2007.

Former Teacher, Gladstone South State School.

Former Teacher and Specialist Librarian, Gladstone West State School.

Former Director, Port Curtis Sub Centre.

Regional Liaison Officer, The University of Southern Queensland, 10 years.

Awards and Recognition include:

Gail Sellers Community Gallery named in her honour, 2024.

Announcement Event

The King's Birthday 2024 Honours List

Award ID

3026757

Opening of Gail Sellers Community Gallery



Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett and former Mayor Gail Sellers

Former Mayor Gail Sellers has been honoured for her decades of dedication to shining a light on, and nurturing, Gladstone's talented arts community with the naming of a gallery at the Gladstone Art Gallery and Museum.

Gladstone Mayor, Matt Burnett, led the tributes as he opened the Gail Sellers Community Gallery with Mrs Sellers, her husband Tony, sister Cheryl McMurtrie, children Todd, Kirsten, and daughter in law, Abi and grandchildren Jude, Florence and Sid there, to share the special family moment.

Mayor Matt Burnett said Mrs Sellers, who entered local government in 1988 and served as Deputy Mayor from 1997-2008 and Mayor from 2010-2016, had long been a passionate champion of the arts in the community.

Cr Burnett said. "Throughout her career and to this day, Gail has shown an unwavering commitment to the gallery and museum and to our artistic communities. The gallery and museum staff fondly reminisce about their excitement when Gail, a person with numerous commitments, would spontaneously pop into the gallery and museum and immerse herself in the joy of art".

"Gail helped launch many exhibitions for emerging and seasoned artists alike, including Margaret Worthington, Pam Tanner, Irene Sparks, Rosemary Anderson, Jo Williams, Val Anderson and Beryl Wood to name a few. At the core of Gail's passion was her deep connection with the Zonta Club, an organisation dedicated to supporting women. "As long as I have known Gail, she has spoken about the limitless opportunities ahead for women, encouraging empowerment and equality," he said. "The gallery and museum holds cherished memories of Gail's unwavering support during the 2019 exhibition commemorating 100 Years of Zonta. Zonta members celebrating with us today would understand the extraordinary spirit of this remarkable woman."

Mrs Sellers said she was deeply humbled by the honour, which she said was not just a personal accolade, but a testament to the collective efforts of all those who stood alongside her throughout what she described as an "incredible journey". "To my family and friends, who have been my pillars of strength and given me unwavering support throughout this journey, I owe you a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid," she said.

"Serving our community has been the greatest privilege of my life, and every moment has been a lesson in humility, determination, compassion, patience and resilience." Mrs Sellers said the former Gladstone Town Hall building held a special place in her heart, not just as a gallery, but one that shaped childhood memories.

"From the early age of four, accompanying my mother to pay rates at the counter, riding my bike each Saturday morning into the library which was downstairs, performing on the town hall stage, attending a town hall meeting about the building of a new entertainment centre which was the catalyst for my local government journey," she said.

Gallery and museum curator, Claire Robinson, presented Mrs Sellers with a book which was a collection of images and memories from her time in the gallery and museum.

Previously published on 8th March 2024 in "Gladstone Today" by Di Stanley

Boyne Valley Cemetery Index:

Includes Nagoorin, Builyan/Many Peaks, Norton burials in cemeteries



The Boyne Valley Cemetery Index was put together by Life Member, Paulette Flint, from death records originally held at Gladstone Court House and extracted by Life Member, Melva Bensted.

This index incorporates burial records for the three cemeteries in the Boyne Valley district of Gladstone Regional Council, **Nagoorin Cemetery**, **Norton Cemetery** and **Builyan/Many Peaks Cemetery**.

All these cemeteries are now closed for burial. Nagoorin Cemetery received a facelift in 2018 with new fences and a plaque listing burials placed in the cemetery. The Norton Cemetery is not maintained by Gladstone Regional Council.

The Many Peaks Cemetery is erroneously entitled Builyan Cemetery both on the signage at the cemetery and on the Gladstone Regional Council website. Originally, It was the Many Peaks Cemetery, although some burial records in the index state Builyan Cemetery.

It should be more correctly named, Builyan/Many Peaks Cemetery, or Many Peaks/Builyan Cemetery. It is situated in the Builyan locality.

Some 186 burials are listed in the index which was taken from the original death records of the Gladstone District Court House.

The records include:

Surname,

First Names,

Sex,

Age,

Occupation,

Death Date,

Death Place,

Burial Place and

Parents' names.

Parents' names were taken from the Queensland Birth Death and Marriage Index online, and thus may include their transcription errors. Where no parents were mentioned, the records annotate "Unknown" or "Unnamed".

It also includes: The whole index in PDF format, plus available photographs of the remaining headstones and some other cemetery photographs, stories taken from newspaper articles, a map of grave locations in Many Peaks Cemetery, information about each Cemetery and some death certificates, all on a USB stick.

Postage of a USB stick is much cheaper than the cost of a printed copy. It is \$20, plus postage and packing.

Enquiries: Email gladgen@hotmail.com

TRAGIC DEATH BY MOTOR ACCIDENT

Ronald Thomas (Snow) Robinson

The news that Mr. Ronald ("Snow") Robinson had been killed as a result of a motor accident on Tuesday afternoon shocked residents of Gladstone where he has been a familiar figure for many years.

The tragic accident was discovered at about 4.40 p.m. on October 22 by Messrs. Sayers and Baynton of Gladstone and Messrs. A. Wendt and W. Stanley reported to the ambulance. Mr. Robinson had been driving in his Austin 3-ton truck along the road to Stowe, about a mile from Calliope, when by some mischance the truck left the road on the left-hand side and turned over, coming to rest upside down with the driving side door open, and Mr. Robinson pinned underneath.

The rescuers arrived on the spot shortly afterwards and released the injured man. They immediately summoned the Gladstone Ambulance, and the bearers quickly conveyed him to the Gladstone hospital.

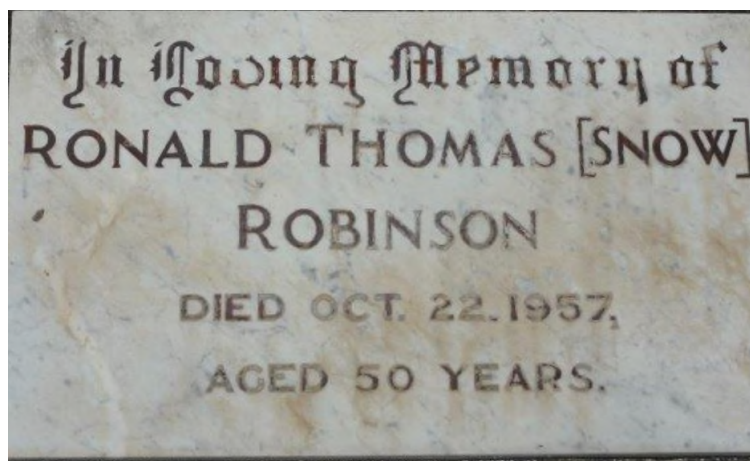
He was admitted to hospital at 5.45 p.m. suffering from severe chest injuries and expired a short time later. The badly damaged truck was brought to town by Anderson's towing service.

The late Mr. Robinson who was 50 years of age was a native of Lithgow, N.S.W., but had lived in Gladstone for about 20 years, coming here from Newcastle, and carried on a successful carrying business, also possessing a collector's license for batteries and similar machinery, and was agent for Golden Fleece petrol.

He was a keen sportsman, fishing being a hobby, and had arranged to go on a fishing trip with some friends this weekend. His interests in amateur boxing and wrestling extended to training young boys in these arts and promoting boxing contests.

The late Mr. Robinson, who lived at 12 Eden Street, Gladstone, is survived by a wife and young family. His funeral moved from the Church of England on Thursday 24th October for the Gladstone cemetery.

Published in the Gladstone Observer 26th October, 1957



His grave No.2435A is in Position 63 Row 10 Section C GLADSTONE CEMETERY

Ronald Thomas Robinson was born 4th March, 1907 in Lithgow, New South Wales, to Herbert T Robinson and his wife Mary A. Hall.

A Ronald Thomas Robinson married Mona Dorothy Bailey in Newcastle New South Wales 30 Jul 1927 (Reg 11717/1927)

This Ronald Thomas Robinson married Edith May Lord in Brisbane on 29 March 1937.

Death of **Ronald Thomas Robinson** QLD 1957/C/4903 -date 22/10/1957 and Mother: Mary Hall Father/parent: Herbert .

Death of **Edith May Robinson** QLD 1984/3022 - date 29/04/1984, birth 1918 and parents Mother: Matilda Guy Father/parent: John Edward Lord



DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

6th September 1957

Florence Lousia Barnes and Alfred James Joseph Pashley

Mr. and Mrs. A. J Pashley, of Oaka Lane, Gladstone, who recently marked the Diamond Jubilee of their marriage were united in matrimony at the Presbyterian Church, Gladstone, on September 6, 1897.

Since that time they have lived in the districts around Gladstone, Many Peaks, Glassford Creek and Calliope where Mr. Pashley carried out the various pursuits of diving, copper mining and farming.

Whilst diving he was engaged in pile driving on the railway bridges over the Kolan and Calliope Rivers, also on bridges in the construction of the railway as far as Cairns.



Glassford Creek Railway bridge under construction

Mr. and Mrs. Pashley can relate many interesting tales of the early days of Gladstone history.

Retiring from farming some years ago they took up residence in Oaka Lane, their present address.

Of their family three sons and two daughters reside in Gladstone, one son in Brisbane, and two daughters in Rockhampton. One son, George, died some years ago in Brisbane.

The sons are Messrs. Alfred, John and Theodore Pashley (Gladstone) and Mr. Fred Pashley (Brisbane).

The daughters are Mesdames S. De Landelles and R.J.Mackay (Rockhampton), Mesdames W.McLeod, Auckland Street and J.P.Mackay, Eden Street, Gladstone.

Mr. and Mrs. Pashley's descendants also number 24 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Alfred Joseph Pashley died on 28 June 1958 aged 86 years, his wife Florence Luiza, died on 13 March 1958 aged 81 years.

Alfred married Rosamond Sophia Barnes on 22 May 1895 but she died 29 Dec 1895 aged just 20 from a complication of pregnancy. Alfred then married her sister Florence Louisa Barnes on 6 September 1897.

They went on to have a large family of five sons and four daughters.

Hilda Rosamond Pashley (1898-1969) mar. Stewart Douglas St. Clair De Landelles 03/03/1920 details: 1920/C/684

Myrtle Florence Pashley (1901 –1979) married William McLeod 27/01/1926 details: 1926/C/316

Winnifred Lilian Alice Pashley (1904-) married John Peter Mackay 19/12/1934 details: 1934/C/3901

Alfred James Henry Pashley (1906-1994) married Elma Ethel Josephine Noon 01/12/1936 details: 1936/C/4154

John Thomas (Jack) Pashley (1908-1997) married Laura Lillian Farmer 04/08/1938 details: 1938/C/3031

Sophia Clara Pashley (1910-1979) married Robert James Mackay 05/01/1938 details: 1938/C/449

George Frederick Pashley (1913-1941) died in Brisbane.

Frederick Clive Pashley (1916-1991) served in WW2 as Sapper Frederick Clive Pashley Q36669

Theodore Clarence Pashley (1918-1962) married Joan Osborn, 23/03/1945 details: 1945/B/984

*Anniversary article Published in the Gladstone Observer Sat 26th October 1957,
bd&m details from <https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/>
and <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/13371915/person/312347156945/facts>*

1976 Wedding of Helen Denning McGREE and Jeffery REEVES (P1 of 2)



Back row: Maurice McGree, Mark McGree, Shirley McGree (wife of John jnr), Bruce McGree John McGree (junior);

Front row: Bev McGree (wife of Mark), John McGree (snr) father of bride, Jeffery Reeves, Helen McGree, Bon McGree (mother of bride), Ailsa McGree (wife of Bruce), Vera Moore (second cousin of Helen).

The bride and groom walked into the church together, preceding the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs J McGree, and the bride's attendants Carla and Krista McGree, when Helen Denning McGree and Jeffery Reeves were married in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on **Saturday December 11, 1976 at 4:30 pm** and instead of the traditional bridal march, organist Mrs Norma Tanna, played the hymn, Take My Hand.

During the Nuptial Mass, celebrated by Fr P Connors, Sr. Vicki read the first reading, Mrs Joan Wilson, the response, Br. Michael, the second reading, and prayers were led by the bride's brothers John and Maurice, and Mark and Gary Collins, while the offertory procession was formed by Dr. and Mrs McGree, and Mr C. Reeves.



The bride chose an ensemble of cream suede crepe. The floor-length slim gown with cross-over shoulder straps, was worn with a jacket featuring a peplum and short bell sleeves fastened in the front with loops and small covered buttons. Helen wore a cream Swiss lace straw hat, and carried three lilac carnations tied with purple ribbon and on her jacket she pinned a blue opal brooch belonging to her mother.

Guests at the wedding were seated on chairs around the bride and groom near the altar. Soloists Thelma Richards and Lyn McMahon sang Where Ever You Go and Crimmond, while Thelma sang Gunoud's Ave Maria during the signing of the register.

The bridesmaid's gown, highwaisted with graceful puff sleeves and that of the flower girl were made of light blue polyester crepe. Their gowns were sprigged with blue and mauve flowers that matched the Victorian posies of blue and mauve flowers that the girls carried. The bridesmaid wore a blue hat adorned with real flowers.

1976 Wedding of Helen Denning McGREE and Jeffery REEVES (p2 of 2)



The bridegroom wore a beige safari suit, while the best man, Noel Comrie, and ring bearer, Matthew McGree, who carried the two wedding rings for the double ring ceremony, wore pale blue safari suits.

The mother of the bride looked charming in a formal gown of pink satin backed crepe, to which she pinned an orchid corsage.

Mr Reg Tanna was chairman at the reception held at the Rocky Glen Hotel. Guests travelled from Sydney, Ingham, Innisfail and Gladstone district.

Guests received token souvenirs of the marriage, the women a silver spoon topped with a rose, and the men a leather key pouch.

All serviettes, coasters and satin packs of matches were monogrammed in silver.

Back row: Noel Comrie, Helen McGree, Jeffery Reeves, Carla McGree

Front row: Mathew McGree, Krista McGree



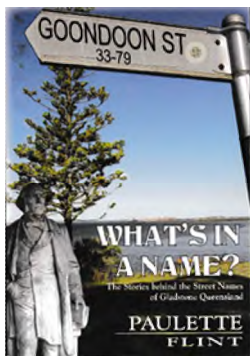
Abridged from "Unusual touch to a wedding" with Jean Sugden,
The Gladstone Observer, 11th December, 1976 .

The beautiful photos were generously supplied by the bride.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*The Stories behind the Street
Names of Gladstone Queensland*

by Paulette Flint



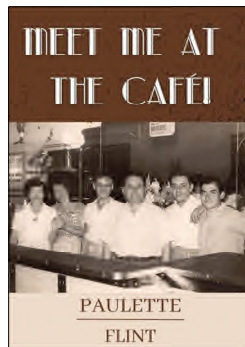
What's in a Name?" affords a fascinating glimpse into the stories behind the street names of the city of Gladstone.

From the untimely death of Richard Hetherington, the first Mayor and highly esteemed Postmaster, who stumbled into the hold of the 'SS *Queensland*' when delivering the mail at night, to the downfall of William Edward Hilliard, the Sub-collector of Customs, these stories open up windows to the past and give the reader a unique insight into what Gladstone was like in the early days.

MEET ME AT THE CAFÉ!

*The stories behind the cafés of
Gladstone 1900-1970*

by Paulette Flint 2022



"Meet me at the Café!" combines photographs and stories of the cafés, tea rooms and milk bars in the town of Gladstone from a time before television, computers and online dating.

Nothing compared to a hearty burger from Mick Coronas at the Niagara Café, or a cold milk shake with shards of ice from Percy at the California Grill Bar.

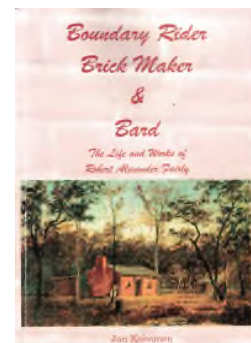
After a night at the local picture theatre, young people would meet at the local café to turn on the juke box and jive to the latest tunes.

BOUNDARY RIDER,

BRICK MAKER & BARD

*The life and works of
Robert Alexander Fairly.*

Compiled by Jan Koivunen



Australian Bush Poetry from the late 1800s by poet, Robert Alexander Fairly who lived for a time on the Milton gold field at Norton, via Gladstone Qld, then at Burua near Gladstone, where he is buried.

'Fairly's verse is varied and often humorous but his obvious forte was in the mode of the bush ballad in which he conveys an optimistic spirit.' (Review from *Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Kookaburra Shells 2006.*)

These two books are available from the author, Paulette Flint.

Mobile: 0415 353 557

Email: pauletteflint25@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/gladstonehistoryinc

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Available for purchase at Jan's Flower Shoppe, Toolooa Street, Gladstone and the Gladstone City Library and at our society rooms.

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Transforming RAIL to TRAIL



Boyne Valley Trail

Taragoola - Boynedale / Awoonga Dam - Nagoorin - Ubobo - Bullyan - Many Peaks - Golimbel



Dawes Range Tunnels Trail

Golimbel - Tunnels 1 to 6 - Barrimoon - Kalpowar - Bancroft - Crana - Mungungo - Bukali - Monto



Burnett River Bridges Trail

Monto - Mulgildie - Abercorn - Ceratodus - Eidsvold - O'bil Bil - Mundubbera - Boomerang - Philpott - Humphrey - Mt Debateable - Reids Creek - Gayndah



Gladstone Region
Southern Great Barrier Reef
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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