

progenitor



Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory Inc.

The Family History Place



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC

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PROGENITOR
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE
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FRONT COVER: Water scene on Poett's old coffee plantation, Rum Jungle, Northern Territory. Available on the public domain.

Rum Jungle or **Unrungkoolpum** is a locality in the Northern Territory of Australia, about 105 kilometres south of Darwin on the East Branch of the Finnis River. It is 10 kilometres west of Batchelor and shares a boundary with Litchfield National Park.

The European name for this area derives from an incident in March 1873 when miners from the nearby John Bull goldmine met a teamster who was carting stores between Southport and Pine Creek. The teamster tapped a cask of rum that he was carrying and shared it with locals. After waking up from the effects of the teamster's hospitality, they found that he had stolen 750 ounces (21 kg) of their gold, along with their horses, and disappeared. Searches for the thief lasted for a number of months until he and the gold were found.

Rum Jungle is best known as the site of a uranium deposit, found in 1949, which was mined between 1954 and 1971, producing 3,530 tonnes of uranium oxide, as well as 20,000 tonnes of copper concentrate.

Source: NT Government and Wikipedia

DR JOSEPH HENRY POETT by Ruth Sheridan

Joseph Henry Poett was born to parents Dr Joseph Poett and Julia Eliza Madden on 1 April 1805 in Dublin, Ireland. He married Sarah Susanna Wood in London on 18 October 1830. Their first child, Agnes was born at Fayal in the Azores on 20 May 1833. Their second daughter, Julia, was born in the Azores in 1835. Another daughter, Sarah, was born in 1837. By the time of their son Alfred's birth on 3 June 1839, the family had moved to Chile. Alfred was born in Concepcion, Chile. Son Henry Poett was born in Santiago Chile in 1842.

Joseph Henry Poett's wife Sarah died on 7 January 1848 at Coquimbo, Santiago, Chile. On 7 June 1848 in Santiago Chile, Poett married a second time to Mary Michael who hailed from Scotland. Family believe she was the children's nanny. The family moved to California in 1848. Newspaper records indicate that their ship was delayed in San Francisco in 1849 as all the crew deserted and headed for the gold fields. Son Joseph Henry was born in 1856.

Daughter Agnes married William Davis Merry Howard on 9 July 1849 in San Francisco. In 1850, the same year that their first son William H. Howard was born, William Davis Merry Howard and Agnes added to their real estate holdings. They became the sole owners of 6,500-acre Rancho San Mateo, some 20 miles south of San Francisco.

In late 1852, the family sailed for W.D.M.'s native Boston for a holiday with his extended family. While there, the young couple left their two toddler boys in the care of a nurse while they went to a seaside resort. When they returned to their hotel, to the horror of all, they found that the nurse had reportedly drunk cologne, gone crazy and beaten the younger son, Freddy, to death by holding him by his skirts and banging his head against the wall. The older boy, 3-year-old Willie, was also badly beaten but managed to escape from the woman and hide.

After the horrific murder of their child, Agnes, with young William in tow, left for Paris accompanied by her father and sisters.

After William's death in 1856, Agnes married his brother, George, on 17 October 1857 and they produced four more children. Joseph Henry Poett's name appears on the US IRS Assessment list for California in 1863. Agnes married for a third time in 1879 to Henry P. Bowie, some years her junior.

Julia Poett married San Francisco pharmacist John Redington. When their father Dr. Poett received the northern part of *Rancho San Mateo*, he gave a portion of it to John and Julia.

Alfred Poett was ten when the family arrived in San Francisco in 1849. Not long afterward, he was sent to London for training as a civil engineer. After working in London and the Azores, Alfred moved to San Francisco in the early 1860s, where he served as an engineer for the Central Pacific Railroad. He married Mary Louise Williams, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Williams, of San Francisco's Williams, Dimond and Company. By the early 1890s, the couple had moved to Santa Barbara. Alfred and Mary Poett had four children: Henry W., Marion, Alfred R., and Mabel.

Dr Joseph Henry Poett died at Dinard, France on 4 April 1879. His burial took place at Colma, San Mateo County, California, USA.

Sources:

Ancestry, Burlingame Founding Families, California US Pioneer and Immigration Files. US Naturalization Record Indexes. Massachusetts US Wills & Probate Records

DR JOSEPH HENRY POETT FAMILY TREE

1. Joseph POETT m Unknown mother
2. Dr Joseph Henry POETT 01/1805 Dublin Ireland m1 18/10/1830 Sarah Susanna WOOD
3. Agnes POETT 20/05/1833 Fayal Azores – 03/02/1893 San Mateo California US m 1 9/07/1849 William Davis Merry HOWARD 02/05/1819 Boston US – 19/01/1856
4. William Henry HOWARD 1850 – 1901 m Anna Dwight WHITING
5. Edward Whiting HOWARD
- m 2 17/10/1857 George Henry HOWARD 1826 – 29/04/1878 El Cerrito, Contra Costa California US
4. Julia HOWARD 31/10/1859 San Francisco – 17/03/1921 San Mateo California US
4. George Henry HOWARD 1864 California US – 8/08/1935 France m Antoinette Warrin SCHMIEDELL 1865 – 1942
5. George Henry III HOWARD
5. Henry Schmiedell Poett HOWARD
4. J. H. P. HOWARD
4. Agnes HOWARD
- m 3 1979 California, Henry Pike BOWIE
3. Julia POETT 1837 Fayal Azores – 1935 Chile m John H REDINGTON
3. Sarah POETT 1937 – 1903

- 3. Alfred POETT 3/07/1839 Chile – 4/01/1909 m ca. 1869 Mary Louise WILLIAMS
- 4. Henry Williams POETT 10/04/1872 San Francisco – 2/06/1938 m Genevieve CAROLAN
 - 5. Evelyn Carolan POETT
 - 5. Henry Williams Jnr POETT
- 4. Marian POETT
 - 4. Alfred Redington POETT 1876 California – 6/02/1964 Reno Washoe Nevada US m Maria Ygnacia de la Merced DIBBLEE
 - 5. Frederica Dibblee POETT
 - 5. Ynez Nanince Mercedes POETT
 - 5. Alfred Dibblee POETT
 - 5. Harold Howard POETT
- 3. Henry POETT 5/06/1842 Santiago Chile – 22/12/1919 Donnybrook, Western Australia
 - 4. Julie POETT 1869 – 16/10/1960 Mandurah, Western Australia m 1909 Frederick Henry LAYTON 1862 – 12/02/1950 Mandurah
 - 4. William Henry Howard POETT 1873 England – 7/10/1956 m 2 Mary MICHAEL
- 3. Joseph Henry POETT 1856



HENRY POETT by Ruth Sheridan

A research query re the final resting place of Poett of Poett's Rum Jungle Coffee Plantation led to a search for his story. A Trove and National Archives search elicited the following information, some of which has yet to be confirmed by corroborating evidence.

Poett's naturalisation application, written from Donnybrook WA in 1909, reveals that he was born on 5 June 1842 at Santiago Chile. He arrived in Australia from Ceylon in October 1880, disembarking at Glenelg South Australia.

He claims to have lived in South Australia for 4 years, Victoria 10 years and Western Australia for 14 years and 8 months. He is a widower with one son and two daughters and a coffee planter and farmer residing at Ramsey Terrace Donnybrook WA.

According to a newspaper obituary, Henry Poett "was the eldest son of the late Doctor Poett, so famous in the early days of the San Francisco "boom." Mr Henry Poett was for many years a tea and coffee planter in Ceylon [and] was the first to introduce these commodities into the Northern Territory. Taking up land at Port Darwin in 1880, he sank great sums of money in what is still known as "Poetts plantation."

Poett claims to have managed the plantation for 18 months. Based on his experiences there and in Ceylon, he had much to say about Chinese labourers versus Indian coolies, favouring the Indians over the Chinese. "Mr H. Poett, who has been a coffee planter for 20 years, and is an authority on tropical agriculture, informed the Vegetable Products Commission last year that there is no comparison between the Chinese and the Coolie labourer. He infinitely prefers the latter. The Chinese wants more wages, but he does not work so well, nor is he so reliable, for if a gold rush occurs in the neighbourhood he deserts at once. This statement is fully borne out by the general experience of planters in the Territory."

After he left Rum Jungle (circa 1885), Poett chartered a vessel and went to New Guinea. Following the death of his friend and difficulties over land transactions, he returned to Australia. The National Library has a copy of his unpublished *Diary of a journey of exploration to New Guinea, 1885-1886*. Poett is mentioned in the *South Australian Chronicle* as a farmer from Bundaleer Springs giving advice about growing fruit trees in 1889.

Newspaper articles outline Poett's life in Western Australia, with references to Poett, vigneron of Mundaring in 1900 and a bankruptcy case in the same year. *The West Australian* article stated "The bankrupt said that he was a horticulturist and had carried on his occupation at Mundaring. He started with £590. The land he had there was his own, he having got it from the Government in May 1895, a month or two after he arrived in the colony, and he had held it until about four months ago, when he sold his interest in it to Jacoby Bros. One-fourth interest belonged to his son." Readers can consult the article for more details of the complex case.

In 1908 on a visit to his son in Tambellup, Poett was involved in an accident while kangaroo shooting. According to the *Great Southern Herald* dated 1 February 1908:

“Mr. Poett of Tambellup had a visit from his father recently and some of the residents cast reflection on the old gentleman's marksmanship. Resolved to show what he could do, Mr. Poett, senior, went out kangarooing near the Gordon River. Mr. and Mrs. Wall of that locality went fishing about the same time, and Poett, who is short sighted, mistook them for a kangaroo, and let drive. Mrs Wall received several pellets in the breast whilst Mr. Wall got a few in the buttocks” but were not seriously injured.

As mentioned earlier, at the time of his naturalisation application in 1909, Poett was living in Donnybrook. His son-in-law ran the ‘Preston Apiary’ at Donnybrook. Poett’s obituary mentioned that in his later years he had a little cottage on his son-in-law’s property where he kept a trim garden and rose beds. It was there that Henry Poett died on 21 December 1919. He was buried in the Donnybrook Cemetery in the Anglican portion.

Further Reading

Australian National Archives Item ID: 4397

The History of Ceylon Tea at www.historyofceylontea.com/tea-planters/planters-registry/poett-henry--11125336.html

Argus (Melbourne, Vic.), Wednesday 22 March 1882, page 9 re cultivation of coffee in the Northern Territory, noting address of writer Henry Poett is 6 Apsley-street, Eastern Hill, Victoria.

Herald (Melbourne, Vic.), Wednesday 13 January 1886, page 4 for more on Poett’s travels in New Guinea.

West Australian (Perth, WA), Tuesday 10 April 1900, page 3

Post Office Directories Western Australia (online access through the Battye Library) for son-in-law Frederick Henry Layton.

DARWIN 100 YEARS AGO

Thanks to Trove, researchers can gain an understanding of life in Darwin a century ago, using filters of Family Notices, Advertising and Articles. Here are some examples of each.

Family Notices record deaths such as these, which reflect the different nationalities that made up the Darwin population at the time.

DEATH. LEE. —On 11th February, 1925, at Hong Kong, Henry, aged 51, beloved husband of Amelia Lee, Darwin. *Northern Standard* (Darwin), Friday 20 February 1925, page 2

Death. HANSEN—On the 13th July 1925 at Darwin Hospital Oscar, Aged 49 years, of Larvik Norway. Master of the Norwegian Steamer "PRONTO" *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (Darwin), Tuesday 14 July 1925, page 3

IN MEMORIAM SPAIN —In loving memory of our darling little grandchild, Queenie Edetta, who passed away at the Darwin Hospital, September 16th, 1923. *Northern Standard* (Darwin), Tuesday 15 September 1925, page 2

Naturalization applications also indicate the different nationalities such as this one.

I, Con Agapitos, of Greek Nationality born at Castellorizon and resident ten and a half years in Australia now residing at the Howley Northern Territory do intend to apply to the Home and Territories Department Melbourne for Naturalization. CON AGAPITOS *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (Darwin), Friday 6 November 1925, page 5

Advertising outlines some of the industries and difficulties suffered by landowners.

SING HING & CO ARE prepared to purchase for cash, wholesale parcels of SALT FISH AND DRIED FISH (Barramundi and Salmon) for cash on delivery at Darwin. Address c/o Australian Cafe. Palmerston District *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (Darwin), Tuesday 12 May 1925, page 3.

OPPOSITE TOWN HALL DARWIN MRS. EMMA FOSTER begs to notify her numerous Patrons and the Public generally, that she has resumed business at the above address and from where the latest in Fabrics, Etc., and style of Dressmaking may be had prompt and up-to-date. *Northern Standard* (Darwin), Friday 23 October 1925, page 4

ANY Person found Trespassing on my Cocoanut Plantation known as ARMSTRONG'S FARM, or in any way interfering with the Cocoanuts, will be prosecuted without respect to Persons

NOTICE is hereby given that persons cutting firewood or timber or otherwise-trespassing on block No 40 from 8 Miles to 99 Miles Darwin Railway will be prosecuted. PRESLEY BROS. *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (Darwin), Tuesday 10 November 1925, page 1

N.T. Motor & Cycle Company, Darwin Deposit Weekly Agents ... "Indian" Motor Cycles and Side-cars £25 17s 6d "B.S.A." Cycles £3 15s 7s 6d "Singer" Sewing Machines £4 Melbourne. Prices plus Freight Apply to Sub-Agents - Wing Cheong Sing & Co Darwin *Northern Territory Times and Gazette* (Darwin), Friday 27 November 1925, page 2

Details of accidents that caused death and the subsequent funerals are handy for lists of people who attended the funerals.

TRAGIC ACCIDENT. A tragic accident occurred at Darwin on Sunday afternoon last, the 1st instant, resulting in the death of one of the oldest residents of Darwin, Mrs. Eliza Sarah Brown, second wife and widow of the late Mr. Victor Voules Brown, and in serious injuries inflicted upon

Mrs. Byers, who has a dressmaking business in Cavenagh Street, and whose husband was lost between Brocks Creek and Bradshaw's Run some years ago...

Wreaths were sent by the following:— A. and D. Brown, J. and E. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E.V.V. Brown and Family, L. and C. Clark, Alf and Victor, Mr. and Mrs. R P. French, Goodman family. .Mr. and Mrs. Perez and family. Mr. and Mrs. Manolios, Mr. and Mrs. Pearse, Mr. and Mrs. Lampe and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ah Matt and family, Mr. and Mrs. CP. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart, E. and J Benison, Mrs. Tye and family, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bell, Misses Styles, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stephens, Bessie Stewart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Loftes, Mrs. Shields and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ali Hassan, Lee Wah and family, Chinese Recreation Club, Mr. and Mrs. F.E. Holmes and family. Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. F. Vaughan, Witte family, Mrs. Noonan and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Scott-Cranston, O.T. Mess, Mr and Mrs. H. Snell, Mr. and Mrs. Watts and family. Dr. and Mrs. Norris and family, Jean, and Phil Osborne, Mrs. Flynn, Harold, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. French and George Wedd, Mrs. and Miss. E.M. Elliot, Mr. A. McGuire, Blue Bird Tea Rooms, Mr. and Mrs. Len Scott and family. Mr. and Mrs. Tindill and family. Mr. and Mrs. Ponce and Family, Mrs. O'Neil and family, Mrs. Wright and family, Mr. and Mrs. A Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Bleeser, Mrs. N. Waters, J. Lee and Mrs. Yamamoto Mrs. and Mr. Lander, D. Bennett and family, Maggie and Abel, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Grigo, Mr. and Mrs. Pon and family, Mrs. Widdup and family, Wanderers Football Club, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Campbell and family. Mr. and Mrs Litchfield and family, Mrs. Wickham and family. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald and family, Mrs. C. Spain, Mrs. Spain and family, Mrs. Roberts and Joe, Granny Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Burton, Young family, Man Fong Lau and Co., Mr. and Mrs. L Wilson, M. B. Todd and family Victoria Hotel, Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Parer and family, Absent Daughters and Sons-in-Law, Mr. and Mrs. Allwright and family, Mr. and Mrs. N. McEwan, Angelis and family. John, Lill, and Myrtle, Mrs McIntyre and family.

Northern Standard (Darwin), Tuesday 3 November 1925, page 2

Many names are included in the GSNT's Pioneer Register, where more details can be found.

The 1926 Irish Census records for the Irish Free State will be released online and made freely searchable on April 18, 2026, by the [National Archives of Ireland \(NAI\)](#). This release offers a significant historical snapshot of life in Ireland as an independent nation, providing valuable resources for genealogy and historical research.

Over 700,000 household returns from the first census of the Irish Free State. Fully searchable and free online via the National Archives of Ireland. Included will be details on population, occupations, language ability (Irish) and family life.

The records for Northern Ireland from this census are not part of this release.

From Facebook William Harburn

A small essay on the contribution of WULNA / LARRAKIA man Mira to the development of the Port of Darwin

George Goyder in his diary writes on this day 16th April 1869

"16 April – Friday

Left Smith's camp for Fort Point. Arrived there at noon. Progress unsatisfactory in my absence – natives again too familiar and more numerous. Had work rearranged and brought all men inside the fence. Found two Malays in Camp the survivors of a wreck and brought to Camp by Mira who had interfered and saved them from being speared – ordered Mira a ration for his humanity. The Doctor to attend to Malays until they have recovered. The account the Blacks give of themselves is rather a disjointed one so far as we can make out. They were wrecked in a proa to the westward – total 42 persons – remainder save the two in question speared by the Blacks. Burton who understands a little Malay to get statement prior to sailing of schooner. Doctor reports two cases at Depot "

Mention is made here of a Wulna Leader called Mira. This Indigenous Elder played a pivotal role in making George Goyder's survey of the N.T. a success. Mira had been aware at the earlier failed settlement at Escape Cliffs & as such began to learn the ways of the newly arrived "Belandas". He was able to communicate & negotiate. I believe Mira was quickly able to deduce that these new, strange people were part of the future – an unstoppable force - & incremental assimilation was necessary. Mira used his influence to keep the peace between Goyder's surveying team & the local traditional owners of the Larrakia Nation. Mira had also shown considerable courage to save at least 2 of the Macassans that were ship wrecked somewhere near the Cox Peninsular. 40 Malay sailors were murdered that terrible day on Larrakia Country – the worst single day loss of life in the Northern Territory until the bombings of 19 Feb 1942. Somehow Mira managed to rescue 2 young men from this massacre & bring them to safety. This achieved several things. The 2 Malays were able to confirm the fate of their fellow seafarers & also, by doing so, emphasize the power & humanity of the man who saved them. As such Goyder would have been made acutely aware of the potentially catastrophic danger to the members of his surveying team. Goyder would have been pleased to have a man of Mira's calibre with him rather than against him. Mira also would have been acutely aware of his own mortality. He was getting old & approaching the time when his Leadership would start to fade. So to be aligned with the new Settlers could extend his authority & security for a few years to come

As such Goyder & Mira tolerated each other & in time our City grew.

Goyder respected & honoured Mira - & today a huge town square [still one of the biggest in Australia] lies in the centre of Southport. Mira Square lies at the beginning of Mira Road, which Goyder envisioned as the possible route to the Southern Colonies.

More should be done to honour & celebrate Mira in Darwin City. In my opinion he was a man of vision & humanity & undeniable intelligence & courage.



CYCLING AROUND AUSTRALIA

Heinrich Flauaus, a German from Frankfurt on Main born on 8 September 1910, arrived in Victoria in 1929 and deserted from his ship. According to internee records, he spent 12 months in Victoria; approx. 2 ½ years around Australia on a pushbike; approximately 5 ½ years in North Queensland with side shows; 3 ½ years Mt Isa; 1 year Longreach and the remainder of the period in Brisbane.

Newspapers of the day reported his cycling trip around Australia, posing as a Swiss journalist named Fuller Morgantes. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that he started his trip in Melbourne travelling through Victoria, South Australia, Central and Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland. It commented on his experience of having to go without food for 52 hours at one stage. He killed, boiled, ate, and enjoyed a snake.

Several newspapers reported different information such as *The West Australian*, which claimed that he began his journey in 1931 from Cairns, arriving in Kalgoorlie on 17 January 1934...On his tour he is selling souvenir cards, with which he hopes to pay his way... Although he has only been in Australia for a little while, he speaks fluent English. In addition to visiting Australia, he has spent some months in America.

The Horsham Times dated 11 May 1934 claimed that he was a journalist from Basel Switzerland. Tasmania's *Examiner* dated 5 July 1933 gives more detail of his route. "H. Fuller Morgante, a Swiss journalist on a cycling tour round Australia, reached Darwin by the Koolinda yesterday. Morgante left Cairns on November 5, 1931, and travelled via the coast to Melbourne. He left Mel-

bourne on May 2, but had tyre trouble at Wyndham so [he] proceeded by the Koolinda to Darwin. He uses outsize tyres for comfortable riding, but finds them impossible to procure outside the cities. He intends leaving Darwin to-morrow for Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Normanton, and Cairns, thence proceeding via the coast to Melbourne.”

The Army News dated 30 November 1945 claimed that he used the name of Henry Morgan for easier spelling and pronunciation [after his cycle trip] and that he worked as a fitter for some years.

In September 1939, he was working in the mines at Mt Isa Queensland when he was interned, but he was released soon after. The men with whom he was working held a stop-work meeting, refusing to work underground with him.

When asked for an explanation why he used another name at his Internee Interview, he explained that he did not want to have people commenting on the Germans in World War 1 and the political changes occurring there, about which he knew nothing.

The 1963 Electoral Roll records Harry Flauaus-Morgan as a shopkeeper living at 79 Camooweal St Mt Isa. At the same address is Olga Gertraud Flauaus-Morgan, presumably his wife. In 1977, they are at the same address along with Harry Duke Flauaus-Morgan, presumably their son. In 1980, Harry is living at West St, Mt Isa, no occupation.

Harry Flauaus-Morgan died aged 72 on 23 November 1982. His wife’s funeral notice dated 12 July 2014 appeared in *The North-West Star* (Mt Isa). She died at Mt Isa Hospital aged 82. Her name in the notice was Gerdi Olga Flauaus-Morgan.



From 'Find a Grave' added by Veronica Marsh
English translation
Loved, mourned, and unforgettable

From the plaques at 'Trumpeters Corner', Jandowae, Queensland.

100 Years of Service: The Nurses' Portmanteau

Born at the family property, "Lilymere", near Warra Queensland, Sister Jessie Ellen Agnes O'Neill (1884 – 1962) was the second of six children to James and Frances O'Neill, (nee Hardy). She trained as a nurse in Brisbane, becoming Queensland's first ever double-certificate nurse. In August 1915 Jessie enlisted with the Australian Army Nursing Service, caring for returning WW1 soldiers in Brisbane (6th A. G. H. Brisbane). In 1916, aged 31, she left Sydney for

France, working first in the 12th Stationary Hospital at Rouen then the 25th General Hospital. By August 1918 Jessie was working in the frontline Casualty Clearing Stations in the Somme region under the British Forces and probably nursed the first of the Spanish flu epidemic casualties.

Back from France, Jessie became a maternity nurse in New Zealand a busy district nurse. Jessie's nursing portmanteau was always with her, filled with the tools of her trade: glass syringes, suturing needles and even a tiny microscope and slides for examining blood samples. Jessie never married. After years of exemplary service, she retired to Brisbane with her sister Daisy.

Jessie gave her portmanteau to her Warra niece, Mary Nancy O'Neill (1914 – 1978). Inspired by the need to serve, Nancy also became a nurse, joining the Australian Army Nursing Service in October 1942, during WW2. Posted to New Guinea in 1943, Nancy served with the 2/7th Australian General Hospital and later with 104th Casualty Clearing Station at Aitape-Wewak. Nancy met and married Captain Brian Fogarty. In time, Nancy passed the portmanteau on to her niece, Jocelyn O'Neill, also a nurse. Finally, in August 2013, upon her retirement, Jocelyn gave the port to her niece, Erin O'Neill, a carer for people with disabilities.

The nurses' portmanteau, having travelled so far and wide, is now frail itself. A century after its first use. The port is now at The Australian War Memorial in Canberra, being archived for future generations to see how much care and love can be contained in such a little bag.

This plaque serves to remind us of Sisters Jessie and Nancy O'Neill, and all the other nurses who served. They are outstanding examples of humanity and of the standard of nursing and care given by the Australian Armed Forces Nursing Service in times of conflict.

We owe them much.

24th April, 2016.



NORAH JANE COSGROVE

Born in Toowoomba on 18th August, 1893 to parents Joseph & Norah Gill of “Quendon” Warra, Norah was educated at Warra State School and later at St Columbia’s Convent, Dalby. After schooling she trained as an assistant nurse in Dalby. She completed her first nursing certificate at Warwick district hospital.

During WW1, at the age of 24, Norah joined the Australian Army Nursing Service and on 15th September, 1917, embarked on the HMAT “Ayrshire” bound for Egypt. Norah worked in the British and Indian general and field hospitals in Cairo and Palestine, nursing soldiers with physical injuries, diseases and “shell shock”.

Her duty done, Norah returned to Australia and was discharged on 28th November, 1919.

Norah returned to nursing at Warwick. It was here she met Mr Justin Cosgrove. They were married on 8th January, 1923 and 5 children were born. Three of the children later went on to serve in WW2.

Justin pre-deceased Norah, passing away on 6th January, 1935. After an exemplary life of Service to her Nation and a devoted mother, Norah passed away peacefully at Holland Park, Brisbane, on 17th December, 1986.

It can thus be seen that the ANZAC Spirit runs deeply within the Cosgrove Family.

From a plaque displayed at Trumpeters Corner.

Contributed by Mr Desmond Cosgrove, Son, 2016



EARLY NORTHERN TERRITORY TEACHERS

Here is a selection of teachers who served in the Northern Territory in the years between 1940 and 1960. Most of them were from South Australia and returned there following their service in the NT. Some of the men interrupted their career to serve in World War II and then returned to teaching afterwards. This selection includes teachers at convents and missions as well as governesses and public-school teachers.

Joyce Horrie Atkins was born at Prospect South Australia on 25 September 1918 to parents Horace Bismarck and Dorothy Atkins. She married a teacher, Thomas John Considine. She joined the South Australian Education Department on 1 January 1939. She taught at Alice Springs in 1948.

Joyce Horrie Considine died at Mt Gambier Hospital on 25 March 1997.

Adelaide Advertiser. Find a grave.

Barbara Grace Elizabeth Bagg was born on 27 November 1934. Her father was Edwin Nestor Scott Bagg. She did her schooling in Burra South Australia before attending Adelaide Teachers College in 1949. Her name appears as one of the actors in a play by the Theatre Group at teachers college, (reported in the newspaper) in 1953.

She taught at Darwin Higher Primary in 1955. The National Archives of Australia record that a person of this name had an ASIO File in the period between 1953 and 1956.

NAA ID 1328923

South Australia Schools Admission

Mary Baird served as a governess at Ernabella Mission. She was severely burned in 1951. The *Centralian Advocate* dated 23 February 1951 describes her accident thus: "Miss Mary Baird schoolteacher at Ernabella Mission was severely burned last weekend when she was transferring some inflammable liquid from one bottle to another, it is believed. Miss Baird was taken by car to Mt Cavanagh and from there the Flying Doctor rushed her to Alice Springs Hospital."

The *Adelaide Advertiser* dated 28 May 1952 gives further information about Miss Baird thus:

"Young Teacher Loves Her Work At Ernabella Mission. It is delightful to meet someone so wholeheartedly happy in her chosen career as Miss Mary Baird of Magill who tomorrow will begin her journey back to Ernabella Mission Station of the Presbyterian Church, in the Far North after an

enforced absence of 15 months from her work as a teacher of full-blooded native children and women at the mission school. It was a serious burning incident, caused by petrol fumes igniting, that necessitated Miss Baird's return to Adelaide after two years at Ernabella.

She has occupied her long convalescence by making a study of handicrafts, which will be her special subject when she rejoins the staff. ... A trained teacher, she had hoped originally to go to New Guinea as a missionary ...

Miss Baird said yesterday. "The kiddies are very affectionate and intelligent, quick and eager in their response- to teaching. ... Miss Baird told of handicraft classes for the adolescent girls and the mothers, of the amazing talent of the children for drawing and design in colour ..."

The News (Adelaide) dated 13 July 1954 outlines Baird's plans to marry sheep farmer Frank Bennett, whom she met at the mission where he was working as a wool classer. He was from Woolsthorpe via Warrnambool Victoria where they were to make their home.

Trove

Colin Lindsay Broadbent was born to parents Edgar Allan Broadbent and Ethel May Stevens on 12 July 1926 at Gawler South Australia. He married Betty Harper.

Broadbent taught at Fowlers Bay from 1947 to 1948. His name is remembered in the CL Broadbent Trophy for the Fowlers Bay Rifle Club. He was posted to Darwin for 1949-50. Then he was transferred to Victor Harbour but en route he contracted polio so was unable to take up the position. His wife also contracted polio. He is believed to have joined the Navy in 1954; however, this researcher has been unable to find evidence confirming this.

Broadbent died on 22 January 2002 at Brighton South Australia and was buried at Centennial Park on 26 January 2002.

Trove

Daphne Broockmann taught at Hay (NSW) School in 1951. She taught at Darwin School in 1953 after she resigned from her position as assistant teacher at Hay (NSW) Infant School. In 1954, she taught at Finley (NSW) School. She was still there in 1958.

The Weekly Times Riverine Grazier Electoral Roll (1954 & 1958)

Emily Fay Brough, was born on 14 June 1923 in Launceston Tasmania. Her parents were Elias Augustus Brough and Clara Jane Christina Whittington. Fay Brough was a junior teacher at Tunbridge School (Tas.) in 1941. She attended Teachers College in 1942. Her parents lived at West Hobart at this time.

She joined the South Australian Education Department from 25/05/1948 to 31/12/1949 and taught at Alice Springs Higher Primary in 1948.

She married Alan Gill on 30 January 1950. Sadly, their baby died in 1952. Fay Gill died on 22 May 2005.

SA Education Dept Teachers History Sheets Public School Teachers Classification Board

Alfred Isaac Brown (known as Isaac) was born on 3 June 1936 at Croker Island. He was a junior teacher at Darwin Higher Primary in 1954. He graduated from Adelaide Teacher's College in 1956 and taught until 1959.

Then he followed a different career path, studying speech pathology at Monash University. He had a career in speech pathology and higher education. He was the inaugural director of the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines. He became a Professor.

Isaac Brown died on 4 July 2012 and was buried at Thorak Regional Cemetery.

Darwin High School Yearbook 2012 Judy Boland from School Archives

Born on 24 February 1899 at Broken Hill, **Owen Sylvester Burgan** joined the South Australian Education Department on January 1, 1919. He married Lottie Prior in 1922 at Newport, Victoria.

He served as a pilot officer then flying officer in World War II. At the time of his enlistment in 1943, it was noted that he had 25 years' experience as a schoolteacher. He taught at Mannum in 1944.

From 1948 to 1950, he taught at Darwin School. His next post was Renmark in 1950. He finished with the SA Education Department on 31 October 1962. Burgan died on 5 July 1965 and was buried at Moonta, South Australia

National Archives of Australia ID 5379096

Ruth Sheridan