



Moxons Down Under

A Newsletter for Moxons living in Australia & New Zealand

April 2017

Editorial

Goodness gracious, is it really nearly Easter?

I seem to be shocked every five or six months about how quickly time has flown. Maybe I'm getting old.

Unfortunately, no one has contributed any stories for this issue (apart from Margaret, of course), so again, it will be mostly comprised of Margaret's and my exploits as related to Moxons.

But fortunately, we have a few "exploits" to share with you.

It also occurs to me that, now that we are all – well, most of us – getting "on a bit", we might start to share our own life stories so that they are recorded for future generations.

Clearly, due to the space available in this newsletter, such life stories can only be very brief synopses. But surely that's better than nothing.

For most of us, the other members are little more than names – let's fix that.

I suggest we restrict it to no more than two pages (about 1000 words), including photos.

I'll start it off and hope that others will follow. My 1000 words commence on page 3.

Regards for now.

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New Members

A big welcome to the following new members:

Just two in this issue:

Mary Moxon Morrissey,
Queensland. MX37

Lisa Aden, Western Australia.
MX01

David Michael

David is a member from Western Australia and belongs to MX01 which includes the "Bathurst Moxons" and which hail from Cawthorne.

David has been a Councillor on the Stirling City Council (WA) for some 11 years, has been active in his local cricket club for many years and has worked as a Research Officer at Western Australia's Parliament.



In the recent WA State election, David was elected as the ALP member for Balcatta, defeating the sitting member.

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We congratulate David on his win and trust that we will hear lots of good things being achieved by him and the new government.

A Day with Pete and Mary Ann

Pete and Mary Anne Moxon, members of the Moxon Society, hail from Virginia, USA.

Earlier this year they took an amazing six weeks trip across the Pacific to Australia, New Zealand and some Pacific Islands.

Your editor, John, and your Moxons Down Under co-ordinator, Margaret, had the very great pleasure of hosting Pete and Mary Ann for a day in Parramatta – Margaret and John's home town.

Parramatta was originally to be the site of the new British settlement, chosen for its more fertile soil – Port Jackson (Sydney) was to be just the port.

Old Government House in Parramatta Park, built in 1799, is Australia's oldest surviving government building.

So it was with great delight that Pete and Mary Ann agreed to let us show them something of both the old and the new Parramatta.

We met them at the ferry wharf in Parramatta after their one hour trip up the river from Circular Quay.



First a coffee at the café next to the wharf, where we all had a chance to introduce ourselves and for us to hear of their adventures so far.

Mary Ann, Pete, Margaret and John



We may not be genetically related, Pete belonging to MX01, and John to MX27 (on the other hand we may be – a long way back), but we soon found that we all got on very well.

After coffee we set off along the river bank walk where the path has artwork on it depicting the life of the local indigenous people, the Burramatta clan,

and their often violent interactions with the new settlers.

A quick tour of the public areas of the Riverside Theatre, then a stroll up Church Street to Centenary Square where the Town Hall and St Johns Cathedral are located.

Our visitors are very widely travelled and have “seen enough churches and town halls to last a lifetime” so we moved straight to Westfield – to show them some real Aussie culture. Well, we had fish and chips for lunch, in any case.



Lunch was followed with a short walk to Parramatta Park.

We showed them where, in 1847, Governor FitzRoy's coach overturned, killing his wife and his aide-de-camp, Charles Masters, and the monument in memory of that event.

A short walk up the hill to Old Government House where, in the courtyard, is a good pictorial history of white settlement in Australia which Pete found useful for gaining a better understanding of our early history.

We then set off through the Park, including a section where the original Cumberland Plain forest is preserved, followed by a quick look at the protected nesting area on the river bank which is used by the endangered Grey-headed Flying Fox, one of the largest bats in the world. (Thousands in residence, that day).



Finally a rather long stroll along the river to where our van was parked.

On the way back to Pete and Mary Ann's hotel in the city, we detoured through the North Parramatta precinct, home to many historic buildings under threat from development.



We certainly enjoyed meeting and getting to know Pete and Mary Ann – and we hope we didn't bore them too much with our enthusing about Parramatta's history, or wear them out with all the walking.

We hope to catch up with them in the USA in 2018 when we visit.

John & Margaret Moxon

John Bruce Moxon - MX27

I was born in North Sydney in 1938.

My parents moved a lot, so I grew up in a variety of places, including: Kirribilli, Leichhardt, Bronte, Hazelbrook, Belfield, Kings Cross, Kurmond, and Pennant Hills.

I had wonderful parents, with heaps of encouragement to pursue my dreams. And lots of taking me to events like the Easter Show, Army Tattoos, trips to the beach, etc.



After 9 years at Pennant Hills, as a teenager, we moved to Queenscliff. I moved “out of home” when I was married in 1961. I then lived in Waitara, Hornsby, and Marrickville. After my accident, we moved to Belrose, Dundas Valley for 21 years, then Winston Hills for 18 years and now Northmead since 2010.

I started school at Hazelbrook, then did a few years at North Belmore Public, and when we moved to Kings Cross, I attended Darlinghurst Public until mid-way through year 6, when I moved to Kurmond and attended the local public school.

I attended Fort Street Boys High at Petersham until 1954.

When I left school 18 months before I should have sat for the Leaving Certificate, my parents were adamant that I got a job immediately.

So I did and lasted a whole week at a place that sold canvas and canvas goods. I can't even remember what I was supposed to do.

I immediately secured a “better” job – delivering false teeth to dentists all over Sydney. I was there for a few months before being offered my first rural job, on a farm in Cowra. That lasted 3 months and then I worked on farms in Narrabri and western Queensland, before returning to Sydney just before my 17th birthday and starting an apprenticeship.

Simultaneously with the apprenticeship, I completed a Mechanical Engineering Certificate at TAFE and worked as a design draftsman after my apprenticeship was finished.

I worked for Formica Plastics as Assistant Chief Engineer from 1962 to 1966 when I was appointed Production Manager at a spring company – a very unhappy experience. I was sacked, worked for a few weeks as a machinist, then for a few months as a design draftsman before being appointed as Manager of a shoe company.

The shoe company, Carmelletes, sent me to the USA for four months in 1968 to improve my skills and then realised they

were going broke and sacked me in 1969.

I was immediately offered a job with a competitor, J Robins Footwear, and it was while working for Robins that I had the racing car accident that resulted in quadriplegia.

After five months in hospital, and a few more getting my head a bit straighter, I tried selling insurance but was ripped off – so chickened out of that.

I started a business with a friend. We built hand controls to allow people with disabilities to drive. That also failed after a few years, so I got a job taking phone orders for a hardware company – another yuk job.

I then decided to study and when I got my HSC and my degree, I worked firstly as a volunteer, then full time, for the Handicapped Persons Alliance (now People with Disability Australia) as Information Officer, and later, as Information Co-ordinator.

The NSW Public Service called and I joined it in 1984, occupying several roles, including: Senior Policy Officer (Disability), Senior Policy Officer (HR), Senior Establishments Officer, Senior Industrial Officer, Manager, Staff Development and Training, and Area Planner.

In 1998, I resigned and started my own business, in partnership with good friend, Jenny Green. That business, Moxon, Green and Associates P/L was my last paid job.

I retired from paid employment in 2008.

I've been married twice and have had several partners.

My first marriage was in 1961 to Pauline White of Pennant Hills and we had three children: Bruce b1962, Raymond b1963, and Karen b1967.

Pauline and I split up in 1971, with the boys staying with me and Karen living with her mother. And after five years, Ray (at the age of 12) joined her.

In 1986 I commenced a relationship with my current wife, Margaret Tucker. We were married in 2006.



I had been interested in car racing since I was about 10 but serious motor sport did not start until 1966, when a friend allowed me to race his Holden FJ a few times. I was "spotted" by a fellow racer and invited to join his team and I drove its Austin A95 and Studebaker Lark in many races over the following few years.

In 1969 I built my own Formula Vee racer and raced at several tracks but, while practicing at Oran Park on Captain Cook Day (29 April 1970) I crashed and my neck was broken.



Motor sport still remains one of my strong passions.

Another passion is fighting for equity for people with disabilities. We have had some successes, but the fight continues.

But my real passion is my family – my immediate family, of course, but also my extended family, and all those whom I have met through family history research.

I have had a few job setbacks. My marriage failing was a huge setback – particularly its effect on our children. Breaking my neck was a setback. A couple of failed businesses were setbacks. Failing to achieve all we set out to achieve for people with disabilities certainly set me back.

But all these setbacks, although hard to stomach at the time, in many ways made me stronger and more determined to succeed in future endeavours.

For my efforts, I was made Parramatta Council's Senior Citizen of the Year in 2010, and in 2013, I was presented

with a "Lifetime Achievement in Disability Award" by the Federal Government.

My biggest regret is not quizzing my parents and grandparents about their lives and recording it all.

And, finally, I regret the things I have said or done that have caused others pain.

My plans include continuing my research into my family, travelling, and trying to become a good person.

*John Bruce Moxon MX27
29 March 2017*

A Mystery Solved

If you have read John's story above, you would have maybe noticed that he worked for a few years at Formica Plastics. (As did Peter and Lyal Moxon also members of MX27).

The general manager at the time was a Hugh Bathurst, who told John that his middle name was Moxon.

Being in his mid 20s John was not very interested, and promptly put that information to one side.

In 2011, one Thomas Bathurst was appointed Chief Justice of NSW and Lieutenant-Governor of NSW, and in the press items about this it was noted that his father was Hugh Moxon Bathurst, so John's interest was picqued.

John was well aware of the “Bathurst Moxons”, but what was this “Moxon Bathurst”?

It turns out that Hugh, is a descendant of Harriet Moxon (1788-1865) who was an artist, and is a member of MX17.

This is how it happened: Harriet Moxon married John Cook and had a son, William Cook Snr (b Suffolk 1814 – d South Australia 1897), who in turn had a son, William Moxon Cook (b 1857 South Australia d 1917 Victoria) who married Janet Macnee, and had a daughter, Mary Rankin Cook who Married William Lloyd Bathurst in 1892.

Mary Rankin Cook and William Bathurst were the parents of Hugh Moxon Bathurst (b 1907 – d 2001).

And as a final small titbit – Hugh Moxon Bathurst had some status of his own – he was the Private Secretary to Senator James Fraser, Minister for Health in the Chifley Government in the 1940s.

And our own Sally Lee of WA is also on MX17.

So now we know.

Thomas Moxham

Many of our Moxon Society members have been introduced to each other when travelling overseas or have become friendly through Facebook, and this contributes to collaboration on research. It is always a delight when members on different sides of the

world solve a problem with a newly discovered Moxon, Moxam, Moxim or Moxham. It's even better when we can connect a new member – in this case Mary Moxham, originally from Sydney but now living in Queensland – to the research.

Member Philip Lord from Lancashire, UK recently sent me a portrait of a World War 1 soldier. His name was Frederick Moxham.



I quickly found that he was from South Australia and that his parents were Thomas Moxam/Moxham and Mary Ann Brooks who were listed in our tree The Moxhams of Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire or MX37. This tree has many living descendants spread around the English-speaking world.

So, Thomas, although born in Dorset, must have emigrated to Australia. And indeed he did.

The Adelaide Register announced the arrival on 28th November 1859 of the David McIvor, a ship of 968 tons, with 383 government (sponsored) immigrants. The ship had left Liverpool on 27th August. One of these passengers was Thomas Moxham from Dorset, England,

Here is an excerpt from the *South Australian Register*, describing the passengers:

“There are on board a large number of remittance emigrants ; and as Dr. Duncan will probably have paid his visit of inspection to the vessel before she is moored in the stream, such as have friends may then leave without obstacle: — Industrial — Labourers 72, agricultural labourers 41, female servants 85, cabinetmakers 2, carpenter 1, bricklayer 1, miner 1, clerk 1, tailor 1, joiner 1, masons 4, ropemaker 1, teacher 1, smith 1, shepherd 1, moulder 1, wheelwright 1, coach builder 1, tinsmiths 3, ploughman 1, milliner 1, dairymaid 1 ...”

“In general appearance the vessel would seem admirably adapted for passengers; but on boarding, it was evident that there was rather a lack of that rigid discipline so necessary to the well-being of emigrant ves-

sels, and in cleanliness perhaps a little behind many of the previous arrivals. The people on board, though doubtless eligible persons, from the very fact of their having passed the Commissioners, certainly did not appear to be anything superior, if equal, to the occupants of former vessels, and of their conduct on the voyage it appears that at one period matters were rather a serious aspect, from the national strifes existing amongst them" (29 November 1859)

Young Thomas Moxham was born in 1833 in Sixpenny Handley, Dorset, the youngest son of Henry Moxam and Sarah Elliott, whose family appears in the Society's tree MX37 – Moxhams of Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire.

By 1841 he was the only son left at home with his parents, and in 1851 he was a junior servant working for a farmer of 600 acres employing 20 men in West Woodyates within walking distance of his home.

Aged 26 when he arrived in Adelaide, no doubt he was a useful farm labourer. By 1863 he had married 16 years old Mary Ann Brooks and they settled in Myponga south of Adelaide and later in the Lobenthal region north west of Adelaide, followed by Norton Summit, closer to Adelaide. He died in Catherine Street, Kensington (SA) in 1909.

Three of his sons – William Thomas (b1873), John (b1875) and Frederick (b1883) served overseas in World War 1. Two survived to produce children and grandchildren in South Australia, but John died

in Pozieres, France on August 10, 1916.

Ten years earlier than Thomas Moxham's migration to Adelaide, his oldest brother John Moxham had migrated to New South Wales and settled in the Maitland area. He was the John Moxon/Moxham whose biography was published in the most recent Moxon Newsletter of November 2016. He arrived on the Emigrant in 1849 as a free settler. He had married Marina Derrick in Sixpenny Handley just before they departed for the colony. All their children were born in New South Wales.

This couple too had many children, and their descendants include our new member Mary Moxham of Queensland. Mary is an enthusiastic member who has already taken on guardianship of MX37 in association with other members.

Margaret Moxon.

Membership Renewal

Unfortunately, a number of members have not renewed for 2017.

We understand how busy many of you are, and hope that renewal has just slipped your mind.

So, we have sent this issue out to all, in the hope that it might encourage everyone to renew.

We are not a big organisation – some 40 members in Aus-

tralia and three in New Zealand, so every dollar helps us to continue to produce this newsletter and distribute it.

When you are renewing please note that you can pay by cheque or by direct bank deposit (eft).

If you choose to use eft, please remember to put your name as the "reference", so Margaret knows just who has paid.

And, while you're at it, why not encourage another family member to join as well?

Access to The Moxon Society's Ancestry trees

Have you asked for access to the Moxon Society tree to which your family belongs - for example MX27 Moxons of Silkstone, or MX01 Moxons of Cawthorne? You do not have to be a member of Ancestry to look at a tree. All members of our Society can ask for Read only access to their tree. Just send an email to Margaret at webmaster@moxonsociety.org or to Chris Moxon in England at membership@moxonsociety.org

You'd be surprised at what you might find. Additionally, you may know of gaps in the tree, particularly in relation to deceased uncles, aunts, grandparents etc. on your Moxon side. Please let one of us

know if you find errors or incomplete data.

Where and When?

Where did your Moxon ancestors live when they first came to Australia?

It would be useful to know this information so we can fill in some gaps.

It would be particularly useful as well if you have any old photos of your ancestors at work or play in those places.

In addition, it might be fun to search Trove, the National Library's newspaper, magazine and book site where you can search for your ancestor and

see if she or he made the news.

If you do find information, please pass it on to Margaret, preferably by email so she gets the link and can follow it up if needed.

And while we are in the begging mode, can we ask yet again for stories that we can publish so that other members can learn more about your family?

Maybe even your own story.

John has included with this edition a guide which you may find helpful when writing your story.

John is also very happy to "write" your story if you complete the form and send it to him.

Moxons Down Under Newsletter is produced for the benefit of the members of the Moxon Society who live in Australia and New Zealand.

Contributions are very welcome. Your editor is very happy to assist with the writing of items.

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