QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 88

THE W H MacFARLANE COLLECTION

Historians, Tasmania
Clergy, Northern Tasmania
Torres Strait

INTRODUCTION

THE RECORDS

1. Correspondence
2. Published Material
3. Typescripts
4. Torres Strait Records
5. Miscellaneous Records
6. Miscellaneous Items

OTHER SOURCES
INTRODUCTION

William Harold MacFarlane was born on 30 September 1884 at Yorketown, South Australia, the eldest of nine children of Richard Thomas and Laura (nee Pryor) MacFarlane.

After obtaining his Th.L. degree from St Aidan’s Theological College, Ballarat in 1909, Rev. MacFarlane served in three parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat before offering his services to the Australian Board of Missions. In 1917 he was appointed to Murray Island in the Torres Strait as Mission Priest and nine years later he became Priest-in-charge of the Western and Central Torres Strait Islands. From 1927 until 1933 he was Administrator of the Diocese of Carpentaria. On his return to Australia he was Victorian Secretary of the Australian Board of Missions in 1934 and 1935. He then came to Tasmania where he was rector of St Barnabas Church, Scottsdale, from 1935 to 1940 and of Christ Church, Longford, from 1940 to 1945. He served as North-central Rural Dean until his retirement from the active ministry of the Anglican Church in 1946.

In January 1915 he married Alexandra Gwendoline Hosken: a great support, she shared his keen interest in Church and Mission life. Five children were born of the union.

Rev. MacFarlane and Mrs MacFarlane retired to Bridport where he assisted at St Marks’ Church. He died on 13 September 1963 after being struck by a car at Bridport.

A prolific writer of articles, usually on historical subjects, for periodicals, newspapers and scripts for ABC radio, Rev. MacFarlane also published under the pen names of ‘C. Coral’, ‘Wandana’, ‘Derwent’ and ‘Rambler’. His Torres Strait missionary journals, anthropological writings and photographs are held by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra.

Rev. MacFarlane bequeathed his entire collection of historical papers, notes and manuscripts to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, where it was received in November and December 1963. The collection was used as a secondary reference source until this guide was produced in August 2005.
## 1. Correspondence

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>W H MacFarlane, correspondence</td>
<td>c1920-1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1948-1949</td>
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<td>1/3</td>
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<td>1/5</td>
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<td>1/6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>1/7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1962-1963, nd</td>
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<td>1/8</td>
<td>Letters from Rev. MacFarlane printed in <em>The Church Chronicle</em></td>
<td>1920-1932</td>
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## 2. Published Material

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<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>W H MacFarlane, scrapbook of published articles on Torres Strait by ‘C. Coral’</td>
<td>c1925-1929</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Scrapbook of published articles on Torres Strait, ‘When shadows lengthen’ by ‘C. Coral’</td>
<td>c1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Scrapbook of published articles on Torres Strait by ‘C. Coral’</td>
<td>c1926-1928</td>
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<td>Scrapbook of ‘Stories of the Strait’ by ‘C. Coral’</td>
<td>c1927-1930</td>
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<td>2/5</td>
<td>Scrapbook of paragraphs on Torres Strait by ‘C. Coral’ published in <em>Bulletin</em> and <em>Sydney Mail</em></td>
<td>c1928</td>
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<td>2/6</td>
<td>Folder of published articles on Torres Strait by ‘C. Coral’</td>
<td>1928-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>Scrapbook of articles published in <em>Mercury</em></td>
<td>1946-1951</td>
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<td>2/9</td>
<td>Scrapbook of stories published in <em>Leader, Melbourne</em></td>
<td>1947-1949</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sun, Australian Journal

2/10 Scrapbook of articles published in *Age* and *Sun* 1947


2/12 Folder of articles published in *Cummins & Campbell’s Monthly Magazine* 1948-1950


2/15 Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings on various subjects (including articles by Rev. MacFarlane, 1935-1960) c1914-1960

2/16 Scrapbook of articles published in *North Eastern Advertiser* (includes articles by K W Church) 1951-1960

2/17 Scrapbook, ‘Early Settlers of the North East’, published in the *North Eastern Advertiser* 1952-1963


2/19 ‘The story of Tasmania’s North East’, no.1-94, newspaper cuttings from the *North Eastern Advertiser* pasted on large sheets *Oversize item* 1955-1963

2/20 Newspaper cuttings from *North Eastern Advertiser* *Oversize item* 1948-1963

2/21 Newspaper cuttings from various publications by and about Rev. MacFarlane 1932-1961, nd

2/22 Newspaper cuttings from *Examiner* *Oversize item* 1955-1963

2/23 *The Reibey church at Hadspen* (1957) (also typed order of service in the unfinished church, 1957) 1957

2/24 Scrapbook of articles on fossil prints at South Mount Cameron in *North Eastern Advertiser* (includes article by Rev. MacFarlane on turtle, 1957) 1962
2/25 Folder of published paragraphs on north-eastern Tasmania place names  

3. Typescripts  

3/1 W H MacFarlane, typescripts on Torres Strait subjects  
3/2 Typescripts on Tasmanian subjects  c1950  
3/3 Typescripts on Australian subjects  
3/4 Typescripts on general subjects  
3/5 Typescripts of short stories  
3/6 Typescripts of Brisbane ABC broadcasts  c1950  
3/7 Typescripts of Hobart ABC broadcasts  c1950  
3/8 Typescripts rejected by various journals and newspapers  

4. Torres Strait Records  

4/1 Queensland parliamentary papers, 1866-1896; typed copy of letter by H M Chester, 1875; Henry M Chester, *Narrative of expeditions to New Guinea*, Brisbane, 1878; Mrs Sinclair’s reminiscences, 1926; ‘Story of a trip round some of the islands in Torres Strait, April, 1926’, typescript by H M Chester’s son; letters from Charles L Chester, 1952  
4/2 *Quetta Memorial Church, Thursday Island, Torres Strait*, 1895; typed notes on the wreck of the *Quetta* by Bishop of Carpentaria, 1902; typed notes on the church by H G Simpson, 1920 etc  
4/3 *The Creed, Lord’s Prayer, Ten Commandments, and Hymns in the Murray Island language, Torres Strait*, Sydney, 1924  
4/4 W H MacFarlane, ‘Wrecks in the vicinity of Torres Strait’, manuscript notebook  c1924,  
4/5 J P Thomson, *Jubilee of Thursday Island*, Brisbane, 1927  
4/6 *The Diocese of Carpentaria*, 1927, also manuscript letter
from Henry, Bishop of Carpentaria

4/7 ‘Junius’, ‘Sea tragedies’, newspaper articles in the *Capricornian*, pasted in two scrapbooks, also loose ‘Sea tragedies’ newspaper cuttings 1928-1929

4/8 W H MacFarlane, Torres Strait nomenclature, manuscript notebook nd

4/9 Diocese of Carpentaria, Quetta Memorial Cathedral, Thursday Island, *The Parish Gazette*, 1 September 1933 (includes article ‘Farewell to the MacFarlanes’, p.4) 1933

4/10 W H MacFarlane, three lists of photographs relating to Torres Strait 1935, 1961, nd

4/11 W H MacFarlane, typed list of exhibits for exhibition nd

5. Miscellaneous Records

5/1 Church of England, Bealiba, Christmas greeting card from Wm. H. MacFarlane, Deacon-in-Charge 1910

5/2 *Iona, magazine of S Aidan’s Theological College, Ballarat* (paragraph re Rev. MacFarlane, p.46) 1910

5/3 *United service of thanksgiving and intercession in the Mechanics’ Hall, Cressy...Coronation Day, Cressy, [Vic], [1911] (Rev. MacFarlane was one of the officiating clergy)* 1911

5/4 W H MacFarlane, National Geographical Society membership certificate 1925

5/5 Australian Broadcasting Commission, New South Wales Branch, invitation to Rev. MacFarlane to prepare talk forms 1947-1949

5/6 Australian Broadcasting Commission, Queensland Branch, invitation to Rev. MacFarlane to prepare script forms 1948-1952

5/7 Australian Broadcasting Commission, Tasmanian Branch, invitation to Rev. MacFarlane to prepare talk forms 1948-1958

5/8 Australian Broadcasting Commission, South Australian Branch, invitation to Rev. MacFarlane to prepare script forms 1950
5/9  W H MacFarlane, notebook re travelling expenses to Sydney, Murwillumba etc, with itinerary 1960

5/10 Tasmanian Gazetteer Committee, minutes of meetings etc (Rev. MacFarlane was a member of the committee) 1959-1960

5/11 National Trust of Australia (Tasmania), invitation to Rev. & Mrs MacFarlane to opening of Franklin House, 28 October 1961 1961

5/12 W H MacFarlane, notes on Samuel Cox, compiled for *Australian Dictionary of Biography* 1963

5/13 W H MacFarlane, letterhead “Timoa”, Bridport, Tas nd

5/14 W H MacFarlane, obituary in *Church News* October 1963; biographical information compiled by his son Philip MacFarlane, 1990 1963, 1990

6. Miscellaneous Items

Scottsdale

6/1  *Township allotments for sale: plan of Heazleton, Scottsdale, county of Dorset* Oversize item nd

6/2  North-Eastern Agricultural and Pastoral Society Exhibition, Scottsdale, certificate of merit Oversize item c1890

6/3  Scottsdale Floral, Art & Industrial Society, *Catalog first annual exhibition*, programme-catalogue second annual exhibition, catalogue third exhibition, schedule of prizes third exhibition, schedule of prizes fourth annual exhibition 1910-1913

6/4  *Coronation Day, June 22nd, 1911: grand patriotic concert in the Mechanics’ Institute, Scottsdale*. Souvenir programme 1911

6/5  *Opening of Scottsdale-Branxholm railway extension: admit one to public luncheon* (card) [1911]

6/7 Anzac commemorations, 1930: citizens in memoriam service, program 1930

6/8 St. Paul's Church, Springfield: 1884- (parish of Scottsdale) - 1944 1944

6/9 Dorset Lodge, No.17, T.C., Unique Masonic festival to mark the occasion of Wor. Bro. A.W. Biggs and his six sons... Bro., the Rev. Harold G. Biggs, Scottsdale, 1947 (pamphlet) 1947

6/10 Scenic Tasmania pictorial tour souvenir series, Scottsdale, (foldout photographs) [1947?]

6/11 St Barnabas’ Church Patronal Festival, Birthday social: programme 1948

6/12 North Eastern Advertiser, scrapbook of newspaper cuttings on various topics relating to Scottsdale and north-eastern Tasmania 1950-1955

6/13 To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her coronation June 2, 1953 from the Municipality of Scottsdale, order of service 1953


6/15 St. Barnabas Players, Rookery Nook, program [1955]

6/16 Parish of St. Barnabas, Scottsdale, The order of services for centenary Sunday....27th November 1955 1955

6/17 Scottsdale Centenary, 1955, scrapbook of newspaper cuttings 1955

6/18 Scottsdale Church of England, Parish of Scottsdale combined funds canvass 1956, Scottsdale, 1956 (includes receipts and expenditure etc for 1957) 1956

6/19 Scottsdale Tasmanian “Thousand” souvenir booklet 1962

6/20 St Barnabas’ Church, Scottsdale, 70th anniversary service 1962

6/21 RSS&AILA, Bridport Sub Branch, Lest we forget, commemoration service, 1962 1962
6/22 *Scottsdale “a way of life” in Arizona* (brochure)  

**Bridport**
6/23 Brimalaw House, Bridport, Mrs Heazlewood, proprietress, business card  

6/24 *Osborne House Coffee Inn, Bridport…proprietors Irene Austin, Dodger Squires, opening day Nov. 14, 1948* (brochure)  


6/26 *Ceremony of Naturalization, Bridport Public Hall, April 20th, 1956 by the Warden of Scottsdale* (one typed page)  

6/27 Bridport Progress & Tourist Association, *Information for visitors and campers* (one page)  

6/28 St Mark’s Sunday School Hall, typed notes; names for Book of Remembrance  

**Other Items**
6/29 Edith Lade, Burnie?, letter to Walter ?, includes mention of people in north-eastern Tasmania  

6/30 *St Mary’s Church, Hagley: 1861-1932*  

6/31 Suter family, Bridport, letter from Mrs E Greig, Queensland  

6/32 Editha Wilks, Westbury, manuscript notes re early settlement at Ringarooma  

6/33 K R von Stieglitz, *Christ Church, Longford* (duplicated pamphlet)  

6/34 Scott family, manuscript notes  

6/35 ‘The story of Tasmania’s north-east’ (32 manuscript sheets illustrating the history of north east Tasmania, possibly used during Scottsdale’s centenary celebrations)  

6/36 W G Fitzgerald, *Examiner* articles on north-eastern Tasmania  

6/37 *Oversize item*
6/37 Church of the Good Shepherd, Hadspen, parish of Carrick: order of service for dedication of the completed church... by the Rt Revd. G F Cranswick...1961 (with newspaper cuttings etc)


6/39 St. Andrews Church, Carrick, Tasmania nd

6/40 Lette, Peter, typed inscription on tombstone (with note on names of some other people buried in Cypress Street Cemetery, Launceston) nd

6/41 James Stafford Spotswood, typed notes nd

6/42 ‘Ode to Ringarooma’, by B. G., newspaper cutting; ‘Ringarooma, Ringarooma’, manuscript poem; manuscript note by Constance M Haines re origin of name of Ringarooma nd

6/43 Three pencil sketches of front and two side elevations of a vertical board house, perhaps at Bridport nd

OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, photograph database, search for MacFarlane collection

Beswick, John, MacFarlanes' history of north east Tasmania (Scottsdale, 2007)