

# THE Cedar Log

41st Year of Publication

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.  
Ballina NSW Australia



**First Birthday** of the *Far North Coast Family History Group* (which soon became the *Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.*)

In the Ballina Library on 1 December 1984.

Left to right: Valerie **Reeve**, Edna **Tucker**, Marie **Hart**, Shina **Martin** and Jessie **Johnson**, who made the cake. Photo by Patricia **Hughes**.

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Free to Members

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**We acknowledge the Bundjalung people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and rivers where this journal is produced. We pay respect to their elders past and present and honour their culture, history and tradition of storytelling.**

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(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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## Editorial

**By Carmel Crosby**

This month, we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding and first meeting of our Society. On 17 December 1983, four women joined Marie **Hart** at her home in East Ballina, northern New South Wales to found the *Far North Coast Family History Group*, which became the *Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.* by June 1988. They would be amazed to see that 40 years later, the Society is still going strong and has a wonderful library and resource room, with modern computers and internet access, many digital and physical resources, including journals from Australia and overseas, subscriptions to Australian and worldwide Family History sites and much more.

We will celebrate our **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on Saturday, 2 December 2023, at a luncheon in Ballina and photos and a report of this event will be in *The Cedar Log* in March 2024. Three members have written about what they were doing in 1983, when our Society was being founded and Judy **Cosgrove** has written a snapshot of what was happening in Australia in 1983.

As most members will know by now, our founding member and past President, Marie Hart, passed away on 17 March 2023. As well as establishing our Society, Marie made great contributions over the years, not least of which was writing regular features for *The Cedar Log* until 2019. A Tribute to Marie, written by Richard **Goss**, is included in this issue. This, and other articles about Marie and her life, will be added to our website soon <https://www.rtfhs.net.au/>

In this journal, there are family history articles by Meryl **Broadley**, Karen **Chilcott**, Ann **Emery**, Fiona **Jones** and Jan **Ousby**. Many thanks to these members, and all other members, for submitting an article to be published during this year. Also thanks to the dedicated writers of our regular features.

Last but not least, we are coming into the **Christmas Season**. The Editorial Team wishes all members and their families a joyful festive season and best of luck with researching your family tree in the New Year!

Seasons Greetings,  
Carmel, Judy and Liz, The Editorial Team.



## **Marie Janet Hart (nee Benning)**

*January 2, 1930 – March 17, 2023*

### **Founding President**

### **Far North Coast Family History Group**

*forerunner of the*

### **Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. (RTFHS)**

### **By Richard Goss – Past President of the RTFHS**



On 17 December 1983, four women joined Marie Hart at her home in East Ballina, northern New South Wales (NSW) to found the *Far North Coast Family History Group*. They were responding to an invitation placed by Marie in the Notebook section of *The Northern Star*, on 10 December 1983.

Their purpose was to form a group to promote the study of genealogy and associated subjects, to assist members and others in their individual family history research projects, and to collect and preserve material related to family, local and Australian History.

After three meetings around the table, and a growth in membership to eleven, they were given the use of the Ballina Library for monthly meetings at 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Forty years later, we continue to meet at 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month.

By March 1985, Ballina Council had arranged access to a room at the top of the Pilot's Cottage on the northern bank of the Richmond River. This remained the Group's Research Centre until late 1992 when it moved to 6 Regatta Avenue, Ballina. Bookshelves were installed before books were found and a microfiche reader acquired before any fiche were in hand. Fundraising and publicity were required.

The June issue of *Descent* informed Australian and International genealogical societies of the Group's birth. A letter published in *The Australian* expressing concerns about the capacities of the Public Record Office in Victoria and the State Archives in Queensland

caught attention. Visiting genealogists entertained and informed Group meetings. Locally, Raylene McLaren crocheted a double bedspread that was raffled with valuable success and Stalls in River Street gathered in more money to spend on the collection.

Marie, in any account of her contribution, would assert that she did nothing alone and demand that others be acknowledged for their contributions. In September 1984, the Committee was made up by Marie Hart, President; Betty Aberdeen, Secretary; Patricia Hughes, Vice President; Raylene McLaren, Treasurer; Dorothy Southwell, librarian; Jess Moore, Publicity; and Edna Tucker, Research Officer.

The Group's second newsletter, dated December 1984, was the first to be named *The Cedar Log*. In December 2023, The Society will print the 158<sup>th</sup> edition of the quarterly journal. In the second newsletter, Marie noted, *"with assistance from Betty Aberdeen, Jess Moore and Shina Martin, Edna Tucker has supplied us with transcriptions from headstones of the following cemeteries: ALSTONVILLE, BALLINA, BEXHILL, BYRON BAY, DUNOON, EAST LISMORE, NIMBIN, ROUS and WOLLONGBAR. Entries will be checked for enquirers on receipt of \$2 plus S.A.E."* (Stamped Addressed Envelope)

That foundational collection has been expanded over the years and has been joined by transcriptions of Honour Rolls and Schools' Admission Records for many towns in the Northern Rivers of NSW. In the Group's third Newsletter, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers were listed for all 33 members of the Group. By late 2023, there are 111 current members and Fellows and more than 1,000 people have been members of the Society.

Marie retired as President in 1985, and Edna Tucker, her successor, wrote,

*"In the short time the F.N.C.F.H.G. has been functioning much has been achieved under the capable leadership of our foundation President, Marie Hart. Members in and around Ballina have given much assistance, but it is to our retiring Committee and other members living in that town that I wish to pay tribute.*

*Being "on the spot" as it were, they made sure of the availability of the meeting venue and the many arrangements associated with it. They formed a roster to enable our little room in the Pilot's Cottage to open on a regular basis. All members and others researching their family history are invited to inspect the splendid range of reference material, use the microfiche for material not available at the Richmond-Tweed Regional Library and read the many newsletters received from other groups both within Australia and overseas. Everything is shipshape, just as a room in a Pilot's Cottage should be, and all items are clearly labelled for easy reference.*

*Marie did not seek re-election as President but in her new role as Vice President she will be invaluable. Marie has been carrying the load of President, Secretary and Journal Editor.*

*All retiring Committee members who were willing to accept nomination were re-elected. Judy Scott has joined the Committee as Hon. Secretary, Myra Arrighi as Special Projects Officer and Marie Shepherd as Publicity Officer.*

*We move into our new financial year hoping to maintain past members and welcome new ones. As a member you will receive your quarterly Cedar Log edited by Marie Hart - yes, she has kindly consented to again fill that important position."*

At the AGM held in 2011, Robyn Hilan, President, advised The Society's members that "the Room" would now be called the Marie Hart Library.

Rose Martin, in her eulogy to her mother, began by remembering that, "Marie was a record keeper and communicator of the written word." Within Marie's legacy to The Society, a series of "scrapbooks" are greatly prized records of her love for genealogy and genealogists. Many current and former members confirmed Jackie Chalmers' memory:

*"Marie recycled all her window envelopes – after reading all the overseas and local journals, she would record references to subjects she knew you were interested in, on a small square of paper, insert it into one of these envelopes, with directions to where you could locate this journal in the Marie Hart Library, write your name on the front of the envelope and leave it in the Library mail box."*

Rose ended her eulogy with, "... you have reflected on how capable, independent, and remarkable she was. Marie was indeed a living example of doing the right thing, and following through on her commitments."



## Victoria Evans

### Our New President



By local standards I am relatively new to Ballina, having only moved here in late 2020. However, my visits have been quite regular over the years with both my sister and mother living here for many years and other extended family members established in the area for generations. Indeed, my great grandparents are buried in the Coraki Cemetery.

Prior to moving here, I lived in the Macleay Valley for most of my life and have a deep love of the area where multiple generations of my family have lived. I completed my teacher training in Newcastle before moving to Sydney for some years and then finally moving 'home'.

Prior to moving to Ballina, I was a teacher and assistant principal. For most of my career I taught infants' classes, but during the last 7 or 8 years I was a school librarian and taught literature, history, geography, and science to the K-6 classes. I also fulfilled the many and varied responsibilities of an assistant principal.

I have had a passion or obsession for family history for more than 25 years and spent many weekends and holidays doing research. Most of my early information came via my grandmother after I realised that I really knew nothing much about my family.

As if researching my own families wasn't enough, teaching in a school that was established in 1880, provided lots of stimulus and opportunities for researching past teaching staff, students, and their families. The World War I Cenotaph in the school grounds also provided opportunities for the students to research the men recorded on it and the veterans in their own families. Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services were important dates on the school and community calendar and the research played a prominent part in both.

It was probably a natural progression in my family history journey that in 2022 I formalised my interest and joined the *Richmond-Tweed Family History Society* (RTFHS). I am very pleased that I did. I have attended most monthly meetings in that time and have also been a duty officer in the Marie Hart Library, a role I very much enjoy. A few months ago, I was invited to join the committee and just prior to the AGM was asked to nominate for the president's role. It was not a role I sought but I accepted it to support the society. Whilst I have previously been on many committees, this is a new experience for me. I am enjoying working with the other committee members, all of whom are extremely dedicated. Like many other organisations, the relevance of family history societies has been challenged by the arrival of the digital age and the internet. I hope that together we can work to raise the profile of the society and help others to realise the value of being a member.

My experience of being a member of the RTFHS is a very positive and rewarding one and I have met many wonderful members since joining. In this modern age, it is delightful to still be able to meet with other like-minded people face-to-face, to discuss the progress of our research, the challenges, and successes and to help each other.



## What Were You Doing in 1983?

The following stories were written by members about what they were doing in the year our Society was being formed.

### By Tanya Binning – Member 680

In 1983, I was completing my *Associate Diploma in Arts (ADA)* at the *Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education (NRCAE)*, in Lismore, New South Wales (NSW). This was before the *Southern Cross University* campus was built.

One of my special tutors at NRCAE was **Craig McGregor** (1933 – 2022). He had moved to Byron Bay in northern NSW because he loved to surf and he and his family could start the day early, riding a Malibu surfboard. He was a seasoned journalist and had also written scripts and books. It was my good fortune that he became a tutor at the nearby NRCAE, where I did a 6-month unit in creative writing.

Years later, I saw how my studies in Lismore had helped with my research and writing skills. The last year of study is always a good year to remember....1983!

### By Carmel Crosby – Member 762



*Carmel Crosby travelling 'first class' from Kathmandu to Pokhara, Nepal, on the top of a bus. Oct 1983.*

In early 1983, aged 26, and with what I'd hoped was enough money saved up to travel 'on a shoestring', I set out to travel in Asia. By October, after visiting many countries in South East Asia, including a very non-touristy China, I crossed overland from Bangladesh to Darjeeling in north eastern India. I still have the letters I wrote home to my mother from that trip and have chosen a few titbits to show what I was doing in late 1983.

I was surprised to see that about a third of some aerograms or letters were spent explaining where to write to, what date to write until or saying how long their last letter took. Even then, letters were going to be missed as plans changed and forwarding addresses had to be left at the Post Offices. In the space of 10 letters I twice mentioned that I had asked fellow travellers to check at a Post Restante for me and forward any letters. My mother must have been terribly confused about it all. It is so different to now when we can receive texts, phone calls, emails and video calls within seconds, anywhere in the world where there is internet and all basically for free!

**Darjeeling, India:- 3 October** – I wrote that it was a pity my mother had posted her letter 2 days before the final race of the America's Cup (sailing) and when I received it in early October, I was still trying to find out who had won (Australia infamously beat the Americans with the controversial winged keel!). I had *heard a live broadcast on short wave radio of the VFL (now AFL - Aussie Rules Football) grand final, but not the result from Sydney (now the NRL – National Rugby League)*. I was a bit of a sporting junkie...I guess I still am! The weather was now fine, which meant I could *see the Himalayas, which were beautiful*. I was waiting in Darjeeling for my permit to visit nearby Sikkim to arrive. A postscript I wrote on the back of the aerogram said that it had finally arrived! I mentioned that I hoped my mother had enjoyed her school reunion in Glen Innes, NSW. I worked out that it would have been 50 years since she finished her schooling there, and if I had gone to my reunion this year, in 2023, it would have been my 50<sup>th</sup> also. Quite a coincidence!

**Pokhara, Nepal: - 24 October** – I mentioned the various ailments travellers had been getting, such as, typhoid, malaria, amoebic dysentery and frostbite, and that one young woman had died of altitude sickness. I am not sure how my mother took this, but I did assure her I was not going high enough to get it! After a trek covering 250 km, I went to India, which, in a letter dated **28 November** from **Varanasi**, I described it as *a strange and exotic place. Just as I'm writing, on the veranda of my hotel, 3 enormous elephants, carrying large branches across their backs, are lumbering down the road amid the rickshaws, bicycles, people and cows, and I was excited to be here*. Once again I mentioned sport and that I had listened to the cricket (Australia vs Pakistan) on Radio Australia. Also *India had lost 2 test matches against the West Indies and the locals weren't happy*.

**8 December:-** this letter was written on my way cutting through Central India to Bombay (now Mumbai), then onto Goa, missing out on seeing many places I'd planned to visit, all as *I must get my letters before Christmas. Lots of people I've met are doing the same i.e. trying to catch up with their letters by Christmas. And one girl is also catching up with a jar of Vegemite!* Goa had been settled by the Portuguese 400 years previously and was basically a Christian enclave in a mainly Hindu country, so was the best place to celebrate Christmas, for long-term travellers like myself, when being so far from home.

**Mandu Fort:- 17 December** – so on the exact date Marie **Hart** and 4 other women were gathered around Marie’s dining room table, having the first meeting of what was to become the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS), I wrote a letter from a magnificent 14<sup>th</sup> Century fort, filled with old palaces, mosques, lakes and gardens, all atop a high flat-topped hill with a 50 km circumference. I can still remember thinking what a truly amazing place it was and afterwards I would tell everyone I met to try to visit there (as it was not on the normal tourist route). Also in this letter, I mentioned that there was a lady next to me on the public bus, that I was leaving the fort on, who had polio and was being taken to hospital. I wrote that I would *enquire in Bombay if I needed a polio booster!*

I did not know, at that stage, that my great grandaunt, Magdalene Flynn (nee Crosby) had lived and died in Bombay in the 1800s, otherwise I could have looked for her gravestone, when I was there.

**Goa:- 25 December** – finally I made it to Goa and collected 13 letters, many of which had been re-directed, as I changed my travel route. Good old Indian Postal Service! *I reduced the “Cs” at the Poste Restante by more than half!* My brother wrote to say I was to be an aunty again and that my parcel from Bangkok had finally arrived with beautiful Thai dresses for my 2 nieces. The earrings my mother had sent had obviously not arrived and I thought *an Indian woman must be wearing them by now!* I asked if they could make a cassette tape, so I could hear all their voices, especially my nieces and nephew who were growing up quickly in my absence. *I went to midnight mass and the Goans’ singing sounded a bit like the Tongans’, whom I’d heard in Sydney once.*

So that is what I was doing in late 1983 when Marie Hart was founding the RTFHS around a table in Ballina. My trip through India and Nepal lasted many more months and, except for the many stomach bugs I managed to catch and also the bed bugs, I enjoyed every minute of it.

## **By Judy Cosgrove – Member 989**

1983 would be a year of contrast for me. Aged 27 years, mother of a 13-month-old living in Gunnedah, N.S.W.

In October 1982, we had moved from Tamworth to Gunnedah. My husband, a Chartered Accountant, had taken employment as the manager of an accountancy firm there. Leaving a large city of Tamworth and moving to a small rural town filled me with trepidation.



*Judy Palmer (now Cosgrove) with her daughter,  
Monique, in 1983.*

I knew that my father would die in the early months of 1983, so I tried to spend as much time with him as possible.

In early February, I learnt I was pregnant. A very happy event tinged with sadness knowing that this little one and any other grandchild born into our family would never meet their grandfather.

Dad, passed away in March, 1983. I returned to Gunnedah from Casino, and assisted in the business doing Tax preparation. We purchased our own home in the area out of flood reach and in a street called Palmer Crescent. Quite ironic since my surname at the time was **Palmer!**

Luckily, this was a friendly town and an added benefit was that my brother and his family lived in Narrabri and my sister and her family were in Inverell.

We become involved in community activities. My husband joined Rotary and I worked with the women organising the Debutante Ball and other fund-raising events that occurred in the town.

Our very healthy daughter, Yvette, was born in November and Monique, celebrated her second birthday. Christmas loomed on the horizon and this meant the usual trip to Casino to celebrate with Mum and other family members who lived there.

These are my memories of 1983.

## **New Members**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members.

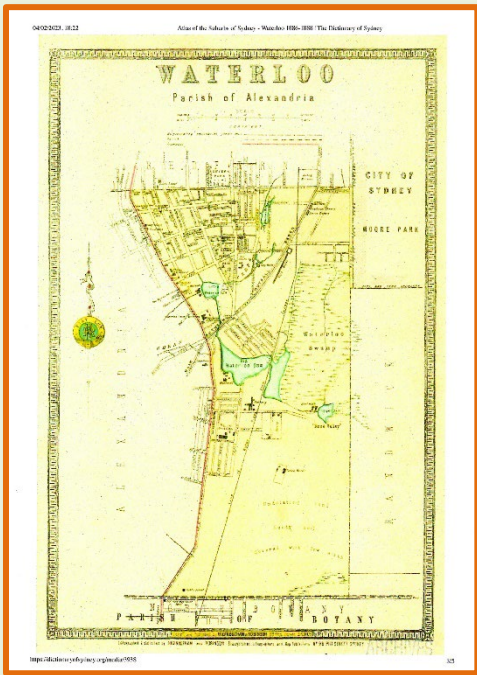
Member No 1040	Ian Schmidt & Julie Clark	Stanthorpe
Member No 1041	Rita Chand	Lismore

# Walter Joseph “Mac” McNamara (1872-1916)

## An Accidental Drowning

By Jan Ousby – Member 447

Walter Joseph **McNamara**, known as ‘Mac’, was my 1st cousin x2 removed. He was born on 11 March 1872 at Garden Street, Alexandria (known as Waterloo) in Sydney to parents, Thomas and Elizabeth McNamara. He was the 3rd child of their 8 children.



*Map of Waterloo (1886 – 1888), taken from the Atlas of the Suburbs of Sydney in The Dictionary of Sydney. Courtesy of The State Library of NSW.*

Mac's father, Thomas, a police sergeant, died when Mac was only 9 years old leaving his mother, Elizabeth, to raise their children with the youngest only 2 years old.

Waterloo was a wetland of lowlands, swamps and streams so was an important industrial water supply irrigating breweries and numerous market gardens, producing vegetables for the city from the freshwater streams. From the 1850s noxious trades were pushed out from the city to the abundant water supply of the Waterloo swamp, with the area becoming home to wool washes, tanneries, boiling down works, candle and soap making. Housing development was limited to higher ground surrounding Waterloo swamp and dam and Sheas Creek. By the 1870s, there was enormous growth and it became a fringe suburb of Sydney, with small industries, market gardens, dairies and mills with terrace housing and workers' cottages. Waterloo is now an inner city suburb

surrounded by Alexandria, Rosebery, Moore Park and Zetland.

Mac would have gone to Waterloo Public School, but would have left school at an early age to help support his mother and sibling. He became a Blacksmith (Farrier) by trade, which was a hot, dirty, demanding job.

In 1899, aged 27, Mac married Mary Ann **King** at St Silas Anglican Church, Waterloo. They had 2 children whilst living at 27 Jessen Street, Waterloo - Mary Ann Elizabeth, born 27 February 1900 and Walter Joseph 'Wal', born 18 months later on 3 October 1901. By 1905 they were living at 282 Belmont Street, Alexandria, where Mac lived at the time of his death and Mary remained until her death in 1941.

Mac died on 28 December 1916, drowning in Sheas Creek, Alexandria, near his home. It was reported in the newspaper that Mac, a blacksmith, had been ailing for some time and had been unable to work. It is not known what he was ailing from. It was reported in another newspaper article that he had left home earlier in the morning around 4am on the 28th and was later discovered by a neighbour, Andrew **Carle**. He noticed a man's body in the water, as he was walking along the bank of Sheas Creek. The body was later identified as Walter Joseph McNamara.

Mac's body was taken to the City Morgue where a Post Mortem was performed by Dr. A.A. **Palmer**, giving the cause of death as 'due to asphyxia from drowning from falling into water'.

An Inquest was held at the City Coroner's Court, Sydney, under Coroner John **Jamieson** on 3 January 1917, with the verdict - An open finding of drowning with no evidence to show whether accidental or otherwise. Cause of death - asphyxia from drowning from falling into water.

Mac's funeral left his home at 282 Belmont Street, Alexandria, on Saturday 30 December 1916, for Rookwood Cemetery. He is buried in the Old Church of England section (Zone C, Section T, Row 57, Grave 11873) and the inscription reads 'My Dear Husband and Our Dear Father'. His wife, Mary Ann, was buried with him 24 years later. (See gravestone on right)



This must have been a terrible shock for the family as Mac was only 44 at the time of his drowning. His wife, Mary Ann, was 43 and their children only 15 and 16 years old. It would appear that they were a very close loving family (both children lived at home until their marriages when they were 22 & 21). This must have been a very difficult time with Christmas just gone and Mac not

being able to work for some time. I wonder whether Mary did dressmaking to support them, as she was a dressmaker at the time of their marriage.

Mary Ann did not marry again and remained in their home at 282 Belmont Street, Alexandria, and lived until she was 67 years old, dying on 29 August 1941 from complications of Diabetes Mellitus, Chronic Nephritis (kidney failure) and Gangrene of the foot.

Mac and Mary Ann's daughter, Mary Ann Elizabeth McNamara, married on 25 March 1922, to Bert James Carr. She was 22 and a tailoress, living at home with her mother until she married. After their marriage, Mary and Bert lived nearby at 155 Lawrence Street, Alexandria. Mary died on 26 July 1971.

Walter Joseph 'Wal' McNamara married on 18 August 1923 to Emma Lily Donohue. He was 21 and a Postal Assistant, living at home with his mother. Wal and Emma lived at Campsie after their marriage and he became a Customs Officer. He died on 3 September 1934.

I had the bare bones of Mac's life and have enjoyed investigating more about his life, where he lived and the history of the area.

#### References:

The Adelaide Advertiser (2/1/1917) – MAN FOUND DROWNED

*Andrew Carle, a boy, was walking along the bank of Shea's Creek Canal at Alexandria, when he noticed a man's dead body in the water. The dead man has been identified as Walter Joseph McNamara (45), a blacksmith lately residing at 282 Belmont Street Alexandria. The man had been ailing for some time and unable to follow his usual vocation.*

The Daily Examiner Grafton (29/12/1916) and

The Tamworth Daily Observer (29/12/1916)

DROWNING FATALITY.

*The body of Walter Joseph McNamara 45, blacksmith, was found floating in Shea's Creek Alexandria. Deceased has been ailing for some time. About 4 o'clock this morning he left the home quietly and was discovered by a neighbour in the water.*

The Sydney Morning Herald (29/12/1916)

FUNERAL NOTICE

McNAMARA The Friends of the late WALTER JOSEPH McNAMARA (Farrier) are invited to attend his funeral; to leave his residence, 282 Belmont Street Alexandria, TOMORROW SATURDAY at 2pm, for Rookwood Cemetery. WOOD COFFILL and COMPANY LTD.

NSW BDM DEATH RECORD

Cause of Death - Asphyxia from drowning, fell into water - open finding at inquest held at Sydney 3rd January 1917.

# **SNAPSHOT of the EVENTS OF THE YEAR that was 1983 in AUSTRALIA**

## **By Judy Cosgrove – Assistant Editor**

### **POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT**

MONARCH: Queen Elizabeth 11

GOVERNOR GENERAL - Sir Ninian Stephen

### TWO PRIME MINISTERS

Malcolm Fraser until March 1983

Robert ‘Bob’ Hawke elected in March

### STATE PREMIERS AND TERRITORY

New South Wales: Neville Wran - Stepped down in May due to allegations that he attempted to pervert the course of the NSW Magistracy. In July he was exonerated of allegations by the Street Royal Commission and he resumed his role as Premier.

Queensland (QLD): Joh Bjelke-Peterson

South Australia (SA): John Bannon

Tasmania (Tas): Robin Gray

Victoria (Vic): John Cain Jr.

Western Australia (WA): Ray O’Connor and Brian Burke

Northern Territory (NT) Chief Minister: Paul Everingham

### **DISASTERS AND HEALTH**

February: Dust Storms sweep Melbourne and 1000 tonnes of topsoil was dumped on the city.

Ash Wednesday (16 February) bushfires in Vic and SA – 72 dead and 2000 homes destroyed.

May: QLD drought breaks. 14 days of continuous rain and extensive flooding occurred in the State.

July: First death from AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) in Australia.

August: A road train was driven into a motel at Ayers Rock (now Uluru) NT - 5 killed and 20 injured. Driver convicted of murder.

### **ECONOMY**

Australian dollar is devalued by 10 percent. Inflation rate 11 percent.



*Australian Council of Trade Unions* (ACTU) endorses the ‘prices and income accord’ drawn up jointly with the Australian Labor Party.

Sweeping changes to the structure of Superannuation were announced.

*Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission* (ACAC) sets guidelines for the establishment of a centralised wage fixing system utilising full indexation.

The federal treasurer, Paul Keating, announces the Australian Dollar would be allowed to float on the International Money Market in December.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

High Court blocks the building of the Franklin Dam in Tasmania.

Dick Smith completes world’s first solo helicopter flight.

Australia wins *The America’s Cup* (sailing).

Paul Sharp is the first European to walk alone across the Simpson Desert.

*Sydney Entertainment Centre* opened in May. December - *Cold Chisel* band plays their final concert.

Robert De Costella named *Australian of the Year*

## **SPORTING RESULTS**

NSW Rugby League (NRL) - Parramatta Eels win the grand final.

Victorian Football League (VFL) - Hawthorn won the Premiership,

Kiwi wins *The Melbourne Cup* (horse racing).

Australia wins *The Davis Cup* (Tennis).

*The Australian Open Tennis*: Men’s Champion - Mats Wilander. Women’s Champion - Martina Navratilova.

## **MAJOR FILMS**

*BMX Bandits*, *Buddies*, *Careful He Might Hear You*, *Staying Alive*, *Never Say Never Again* and *Octopussy* (James Bond), *Phar Lap* and *Star Wars – Return of the Jedi*.

## **POPULAR TELEVISION SHOWS**

*Sons and Daughters*, final episodes of *The Sullivans*, *The Young Doctors* and *The Don Lane Show*.

*Carson’s Law*, *Danger Mouse* and *Cheers* debut in Australia and the *Eurovision Song Contest* was shown for the first time.

## Finding a Hidden Photo and Unearthing New Family

By Karen Chilcott – Member 1020



One of the joys and frustrations of family history research is discovering that hidden gem that can lead you onto a path of discovery.

A couple of years ago, while cleaning up, I found a box of old photographs that I hadn't seen before and I'm not sure where they come from. They related to my mother's side of the family, of which I knew very little. Unfortunately, both my mother and her sister are no longer with us to tell me anything about them. Looking at these photographs, I decided to scan and preserve

them, and I have been going through that process for the last couple of years, scanning photographs and trying to identify who they are and how they fit into the family tree. One of these photos offered a little surprise that has led to the unearthing of new family.

The photo (**see above**) in question looked very ordinary, it was a wedding portrait in a cardboard folder and there was no writing on the folder to identify who the couple were.

I moved the photograph forward to look behind for any writing on the back and identified the couple as Bill and Joyce (nee **Jarratt**) **Garred**, married on 15 April 1936 at St Mary's Anglican Church, Ballina. Bill is my great uncle, the brother of my maternal grandmother, Gladys Irene Garred.

Surprisingly, in looking behind this photo for information, I revealed another photo - a small family snapshot. I don't know why the snapshot was there, but it was stuck down with a small piece of sticky tape that had come loose. I don't know if it was there for safekeeping or if it was being deliberately hidden.

The small unremarkable family snapshot that was hidden behind the wedding photo is very poor quality. It's dark and it's difficult to see the faces of the people in the photograph (see **photo below**). There was nothing written on the back to identify anyone.



I assumed the couple standing in the middle were probably Bill and Joyce, but this has been confirmed to be incorrect and I was unable to identify the other people in the photo other than the older woman on the front left. This was my great grandmother, 'Grandma Garred', or Ethel Alice Garred, identified from other photos I had of her (see **below**)



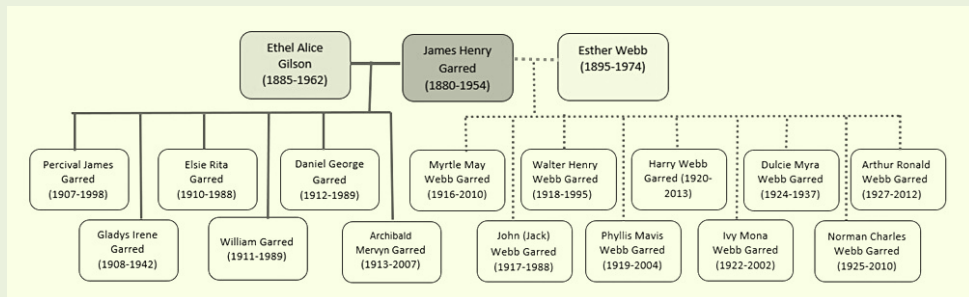
I had no further means of identifying the photo or the people in it. I maintain a family tree on *Ancestry*, and I routinely like to add photos to individual profiles on my tree, so once I had scanned these photos, I added them to Bill Garred and Ethel Garred's profiles on my tree.

At this point, I'll divert from the photo and give you a little bit of background about the family, which will be relevant to my finding out more about the people in this photograph.

My great grandfather, James Henry Garred, married Ethel Alice **Gilson** in May 1906 in Morpeth, NSW. They had 6 children - Percy, Gladys, Elsie, Bill, Daniel and Archie. They lived near Maitland until about 1910 when they moved firstly to Parkville, near Scone, then

Buckendoon, near Broadwater, and finally to Goolmangar, near Lismore. Ethel didn't enjoy living away from her family and in 1914 after an extended visit home wanted Jim and the children to relocate back to the Hunter region. Jim was a share farmer and claimed that economic reasons wouldn't allow this. In 1911, while living at Parkville, the Garred family employed a young girl, Esther **Webb**, to keep house and help with the children. In July 1915, Ethel packed her bags and left Jim and the children to return to the Hunter. She told her husband that she wasn't going to be told what to do by "That Girl" and she wanted nothing more to do with him and didn't want any of his money as she was going to look after herself. I don't know at what point James Henry's relationship with Esther Webb started but the first of their nine children was born in May 1916. James Henry and Esther raised all 15 children in and around the Lismore area with all the children calling Esther 'Mum'. As far as I know, from what my mother told me, Ethel's children had very little contact with her. Records found in the NSW state archives show that there were two attempts at Divorce (in 1917 & 1919), but these were never finalised, and no divorce ever occurred.

**Figure 1: Known Family Tree of James Henry Garred (before contact with *Ancestry* member)**



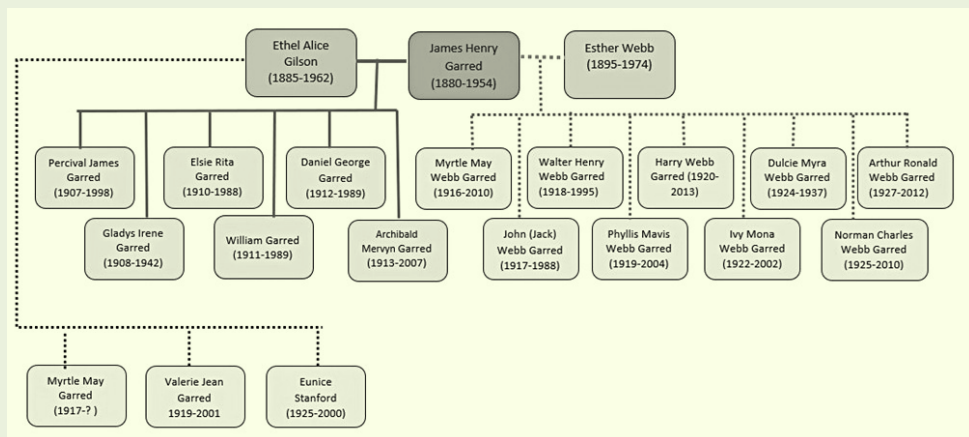
At this point, I had no further leads to follow, so put the photo mystery aside, until I received a message on my *Ancestry* page. It seems placing a copy of the photo on an ancestry profile had reaped a result.

I was contacted by a researcher named Sue, who had recently begun researching her family tree and had found a photo on my tree of her Grandma Garred, what she found interesting was that she had always thought her mother Eunice and her Aunt Valerie were Grandma Garred's only children but it seems she had six other children and she was looking for information on this new family. Sue was able to let me know that my hidden photo also included Valerie, her husband Wal and their four sons, Kevin, Peter, Ronnie and Warren.

Over several conversations we have been able to somewhat sort out the family relations and uncover further mysteries.

Sue provided a copy of Valerie’s birth certificate, which clearly states that she was born in September 1919 and that James Henry Garred is her father. A search of the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages confirms this. We also know that in 1919 Ethel was living in the Hunter region, while James Henry and Esther, living in the Northern Rivers, also had children born in 1919 and 1920, so the logistics were a little confusing. We decided to acquire copies of the divorce papers that were available through the State Archives and the amount of information contained in these two files was enormous and also very revealing. We were able to determine that, although Ethel had listed James Henry as Valerie's father on her birth registration, he was not, in fact, her father, but the real father was not revealed, just listed as ‘Persons Unknown’. The divorce papers also reveal that another child was born in 1917 at the Salvation Army’s Hopeleigh Maternity Hospital in Sydney, but no further details about this child, other than her birth, can be found. Interestingly, this child, Myrtle May Garred, born in 1917, was given the exact same name as James Henry and Esther’s first child, Myrtle May Webb born in 1916. James Henry Garred was not listed as the father of any of the nine children born to Esther Webb between 1916 and 1927 and in the divorce proceedings, he denies any relationship between himself and the housekeeper, although all the children and Esther used the surname Garred.

**Figure 2: Family Tree of James Henry Garred (after contact with *Ancestry* member)**



Ethel Garred went on to have another child, Eunice, from a later relationship and after James Henry died in 1954, she married her long-term partner, George **Parnham** before her death in 1962.

Esther Webb and James Henry Garred continued to live in the Lismore/Kyogle/Ballina area until their deaths - James in 1954 and Esther in 1974.

Ethel Garred regularly corresponded with Joyce Garred, her daughter-in-law, whose wedding portrait hid this secret for many years and this must have been the origin of the hidden snapshot, but the mystery of who hid it behind the wedding portrait will never be known. Ethel's second family were never told of or met the first family and most of the first family were also unaware of the second.

So, finally, this small snapshot hidden for years has led to unknown family being discovered and unearthed additional mysteries that are yet to be solved.



It is time once again to renew your membership for 2024. Your support helps keep our *Marie Hart Library* and website relevant, up-to-date and operating! You have free access to our research officer, all our resources and also receive *The Cedar Log* four times a year.

Due to rising costs and providing extra services, the fees have been raised for the first time in many years. They will now be \$40 for a single and \$50 for a joint membership. Fees are for the calendar year 2024 and prompt payment early in the year would be appreciated. Please complete a Renewal Form, which will be emailed, or will be available when paying in person. Cash or cheque can be paid at the *Marie Hart Library* or at the Saturday afternoon meeting, or via direct debit.

**Bank details** are: -

**BSB:** 637 000

**Account No:** 720036355

**Name:** Richmond-Tweed Family History Soc. Inc.

Please enter "**Subs**", **surname** and **member number** as a reference, so our treasurer knows who has paid!

## First Clue That Sparked a Line of Enquiry

### By Meryl Broadley – Member 841

I grew up in a family that had no interest in family history. My mother knew her grandmother and grandfather, but my father did not even know his grandparents let alone that his grandfather, Levi **White**, was a convict.

I was curious about where we came from, but when I pressed my mother for information, she would say only that she thought the family came from Cornwall.

**Until** - one day she came home very excited after seeing her youngest sister. Auntie Doreen had been somewhere - dentist, hairdresser - and picked up a magazine called *Parade*, to while away the time. This was an Australian monthly with a large NZ input and was said to be half history, half scandal. In the 1970s it introduced a section called *Know Your Ancestors*, where people could write and ask questions about their family. Auntie was reading through this when the name of her grandfather, John **Tipping**, jumped out at her. When she read the article she discovered the name of her ancestor was Isaac **Cornwell**. He was a convict, who arrived in Sydney on the Third Fleet.

So that was where the suggestion of the name, *Cornwall*, came from!

We were all very excited, but no one thought to do anything further and I had no idea how to do any research and had no one to encourage me.

**Until** - 20 years later - no sense in rushing - I was working in the Women's Prison in Sydney. I spent time with some of the inmates' families and one particular mother was nuts about her Family History. 'You have to get the certificates', she kept drumming into me. I thought, well I will one day when I ever get the time. I was working part-time then, with one child still at home and my mother was in a nursing home an hour's drive away. When Mum died at the age of 101 we left Sydney and in 2003 we moved to Alstonville. At last, I could get my hands on my ancestors - I rubbed them in glee!

As my mentor had encouraged me, I began to send away for certificates. We went through the weeks when I had to almost toss up between food on the table and another certificate. Boy was it an addictive hobby! I followed up leads from the certificates and branched out

into other areas, helped by advice and input from our *Richmond-Tweed Family History Society*.

**Until** - I had a box full of bits and pieces. What a mess! After a talk by a family historian at the U3A (University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age), I progressed to folders. Then I began to wonder what next! A book? First, the information had to be in readable form. That was a challenging - and tedious - task!

I looked at the possibilities of publishing and questioned whether we could spare \$2,000. I was quite demoralized for a while, almost finished writing up my history, but unsure what I would do with it. It was left on the shelf.

**Until** - my wealthy nephew visited one day. He had been most helpful along the way, linking me up with *Genes Reunited* early on. 'Nonsense' he said, 'I'll pay for the publication'. That was sufficient for me to sit down at my computer again and work away furiously before he changed his mind. With much-appreciated editorial assistance from my husband and Carol **Donaghey** I was satisfied with the finished product.

Finally, early in 2018 I approached Jeannette **Gilligan** at *Dragonwick Publishing*. Rats! Foiled again! She was in hospital after a fall and a serious breakage. It eventually happened, however, and later that year my *Pioneers Despite Themselves* was in hard print.



**BALLINA SCHOOLS MUSEUM**  
managed by  
**BALLINA SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**Location** Ballina Coast High School site, 57 Cherry Street, Ballina  
**Executive** President: Roslyn Mayberry  
Secretary: Mary-Anne Saunders

**Background** - In 2016 the New South Wales (NSW) government announced that Ballina High School would be demolished to make way for a new state-of-the-art secondary school. The demolition included the original two storey building built of bricks from Ballina Brickworks and opened in 1931. Ideally, our society would have appreciated the ground floor of this building for the museum. We were, however, offered a room in the only remaining



building on site, a timber demountable building (c.1951) with two classrooms and a verandah (see photo). At one stage it was going to be relocated to the eastern school boundary, but it remains proudly in situ adjacent to the school playing fields.



Over the years, staff at Ballina High School collected and stored a wide range of documents, photos, magazines, equipment, uniforms, student workbooks etc. These were housed in the Library archive rooms and digitally saved. The collection was finally moved into the timber demountable building after the major construction works were finished. This was the third move by our volunteers in as many years. The long process of filing and sorting the scores of storage boxes began but then Covid hit. Due to Covid restrictions on school sites, little could be done in 2020, 2021 and the start of 2022. Then the floods hit and in early March the Committee decided to suspend all activities and meetings until November 2022, as many members had their homes flooded and were in the long process of restoration. So setting up the museum has been stop-start from the beginning.

**Progress** - The displays are progressing and thousands of photographs have been placed in albums and digitised. The museum has many school class photographs, but the collection is not complete for all years from 1931. Through our website and Facebook page, we have offered to replace school photos lost in the floods digitally, free of charge.

As well as historical items from *Ballina High School*, other schools have made donations. These include *Ballina Coast High School*, *Southern Cross 7-12* and *Teven-Tintenbar Public School*. We currently have had visits from people organising school or family reunions, but these are by appointment only. Please email if you would like to arrange a visit.

**Website** <https://ballinaschoolshs.wordpress.com/>  
**SocialMedia** <https://www.facebook.com/ballinaschoolshs/>  
**Contact email:** [ballinaschoolshs@gmail.com](mailto:ballinaschoolshs@gmail.com)

## Photos that Fool

By Ann Emery – Member 353



This photo is of my husband Trevor's grandparents, Charles Otto **Lohse** and Hannah Mary **Stewart**, whose wedding was celebrated on 19 November 1907, at Hannah's parents' farm, *Ardgowan*, Degilbo, Queensland.

Trevor's mother had shown me this photo when we were visiting her in Bundaberg sometime around 1998. After Trevor's mother died, we gathered the family photos and brought them home where they sat in a drawer with many others. Some years later after we moved to Ballina, we decided to have some of the family photos copied and restored for framing and hanging on the wall.

Trevor did not remember the photo and we emailed copies to his brother, Noel, in Bundaberg and his sister-in-law, Diane, in Melbourne and neither of them remembered having seen the photo. I began to doubt my recollection of events and emailed the photo to my relatives to see if they recognised the photo as being one of my relatives... to no avail.

We began searching *Trove* <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> and found a newspaper report on the wedding in the *Maryborough Chronicle*, 23 November 1907. The transcript was very poor, but we were able to decipher a description of Hannah's dress. It read, "the bride..... was attired in a very handsome gown of white silk, with a cathedral wreath of orange blossom and veil, and carried a shower bouquet of flowers".

I was shattered. There was no way this photo could be a photo of Charles Otto Lohse and Hannah Mary Stewart. The newspaper's description of the dress no way represented the frilly lace dress worn by the bride in the photo. No one in the immediate family knew who the couple in this photo were.

Undaunted, I took my laptop with me when we travelled to Bundaberg in 2021 to attend Trevor's brother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Whilst there, we visited his aunt Mary Lohse who was 99 and living independently in Bundaberg, to ask if she recognised the photo. Mary and her daughter, Faye, looked at the photo and confirmed that it definitely was Charles Otto Lohse and Hannah Mary Stewart.

I talked with Mary about the discrepancy in the description of the dress in the newspaper article, compared to the photo. She laughed, stating that the photo would have been taken in a studio in Maryborough sometime after the wedding. Mary said that it was common practice for the newly married couple to have a wedding photo taken at a studio and dress in outfits provided by the studio. It was not possible to find a photographer who would travel to country farms to take photos on the wedding day.

We had never heard of the practice to have studio photos taken after the day of the wedding.

It was reassuring to know that my recollection of events was correct and we had solved a family mystery.

It was a frustrating journey, but an interesting one, and maybe this story can shed some light on someone else's question about a wedding photo that does not align with a newspaper description of the dress worn by the bride.



## YOUR CEDAR LOG

As 2024 approaches, we invite you to tell us what type of articles you would like to see in your journal in the coming year. We have had a mixture of members' family stories, informative articles to help with your family history research and news about our Society and resources available.

Please send in any suggestions you have for articles, to the editor's email, or if you have found some interesting resource, write a short piece about it. Also feel free to let us know what you think of how *The Cedar Log* has been progressing over the past year or so and by all means, send in an article to tell us all about your discoveries.

The Editorial Team  
[editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com)

# The Long Lost Walker Brothers

By Fiona Jones – Member 995

Being born into a family of Scots who, to my knowledge, found it overwhelming to even travel more than 50 miles at any given time, when I first started to explore my family history, (apart from researching my Scottish connections), my initial research only took me to New Zealand. This was because I had been told many a time that one of my Aunts had emigrated to Wellington, New Zealand, after losing her fiancé during World War II.

In fact, my Auntie Moll was part of my decision-making process in eventually embarking on my own adventurous emigration to Australia in June 1970. I had previously planned to follow in her footsteps (Canada was far too cold) but she was adamant that Australia was the “go to” place for young people – not New Zealand. And off I went. However, after emigrating, I did visit her in New Zealand a number of times and also met up with her elder sister more than once. No one in the family had told me about Elsie! Well, they **were** from a family of 13 children, so I suppose it was difficult to keep track of them all!

Previously, having had no idea of anyone else from the past having lived in any other country, it wasn't until I started looking into family history in 2007 that I discovered that I had yesteryear relatives in Canada, as well as a number of other ancestors in New Zealand.

## What was the clue that led me to believe otherwise?

My maternal great-grandmother Elspet, who was born on 18 April 1860, was named Elspet **Scott** on her birth certificate, but her mother's name was **Smith** – ahah! – an illegitimate bub.

Elspet's mother, Jessie Smith, my maternal 2x great grandmother, still single, then gave birth to a son in 1867 and soon after married the son's father, Alexander **Walker**. They went on to have 7 more children. Elspet kept the surname Scott, as her biological father was named on her birth certificate, but Elspet was raised by her grandparents, Ernest and Mary Smith (Jessie's parents) and seemingly never lived with her mother, Jessie, after she had married Alexander Walker.

I was successful in tracking 7 of Jessie's children (including Elspet), but two brothers were elusive – 11 year old James was last heard of in 1881, on that year's census, and his brother George in 1891, when he was 13.

*Scotland's People* – where I have tracked down a wealth of information about all of my Scottish-born family – could give me nothing on the brothers since those census dates. Despite my having a full premium membership with *My Heritage* – I also couldn't find any information about them at all. I was just hoping that they hadn't died as teenagers. Despite my ancestors having quite large families, I am so pleased to tell you that their offspring rarely died early in life.

### **Where did it take me? - To *Ancestry.com***

As mentioned, I had a full membership with *My Heritage* but nothing had turned up. I have had a *UK Heritage Plus* membership with *Ancestry* since early 2020 but, of course, this does not allow me full worldwide access – only UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. During the Easter Weekend of 2021, *Ancestry UK* went “worldwide” for free and I explored it for the full weekend.

### **What did I find?**

From that Scottish family of 9 children, the two brothers, who had been unaccounted for since their late teens, had separately emigrated to America in their teens. Both had married and one of them had a family of 4 – living mainly in Chicago and Michigan.

The elder brother - **James Smith Walker** was the first to emigrate at the age of 17 or 18 in the year 1887. James married a Betsy (Bessie) **Parsons** – a Swedish lady - on December 9 1899. They had one son – James Milton. Unfortunately, Bessie died in 1909 at the age of 39 when James Milton was only 9 years old.

James then married another Swedish lady – 35 year old Hulda Maria Carolina **Stenstrom** - in 1910 when he was 40 years old and they went on to have 3 more children before James died at 71 in 1941. Hulda lived until she was 73 and died in Chicago in 1953. I am continuing to research their children and grandchildren.

George Walker followed his brother to America in 1900 when George was 21 or 22. He lived with James for a while in Illinois before setting off on his own towards West Virginia. In 1914, at the age of 36, he married a Philadelphia girl – 36 year old Nellie **Barrie**. It seems they never had any children, as I think I would have found them by now if they had, but I'll keep on looking!

Nellie died in 1963 at 85 years of age, with George following her the next year at the age of 86. They had lived in Michigan for a number of years.

All this information, retrieved from *Ancestry*, was from that weekend alone. I have since been able to link their kin via *My Heritage* and at last am now getting more hints via that site.

## New Books in the Marie Hart Library

By Kerrie Alexander – Library Officer

*History of the Bushell Family founded in Australia* by John Richard Bushell born Margate, Kent 5<sup>th</sup> June 1814: *Supporting Documents* by Ted Bushell. [Bb-25]

*Gladesville Hospital Cemetery: the forgotten cemetery – the forgotten people* by Ryde District Historical Society. This cemetery was the final resting place for many of the patients of Gladesville Hospital formerly known as the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum, most of whom lie in unmarked graves. Includes a list of known burials. [C2.111/1]

*Genealogy and the Little Ice Age* by Wayne Shephard. A pocket history of the climate in Great Britain during the Little Ice Age from c1300 to c1850 and what effect it had on the lives of our ancestors. [G-176]

*London Generations: Places in London Boroughs* by the Corporation of London. Gives the boroughs of each of London's suburbs. [G-177]

*The History of Llantrisant* by Dillwyn Lewis. A comprehensive history of Llantrisant in the county of Glamorgan in Wales. [H-50]

*A History of Hampshire* by Barbara Carpenter Turner. Published in 1988 and part of the Darwen County History series this book gives a history of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from before the Roman occupation to the 1970s. [H-51]

*Reid's Mistake: the story of Lake Macquarie from its Discovery until 1890* by Keith H Clouten. A history of the Lake Macquarie region. [H2.264/3]

*Centenary of the Griffith District 1916-2016* compiled by Wendy Polkinghorne et al. A celebration of the history of Griffith. [H2.680/1]

*Adelaide: an illustrated history* by Max Colwell. A history of Adelaide with many photographs, drawings and paintings. [HAS-31]

*Biographical Index of South Australian 1836-1885 Bicentennial Bulletins* Nos 2-8. This donation of Bulletins Nos 2-8 completes our set. A wonderful resource for those researching the early pioneers of South Australia. [I-135b-h].

*Collecting Memories: Connecting Community and Convict Sites*. A booklet describing eleven surviving convict sites scattered across Australia but mostly in Tasmania. [K-71]

*Sydney's Prison Hulk HMS Phoenix 1825-1837 and the convicted felons of Colonial NSW* by Convict Connections. Includes a list of convicts incarcerated on the *Phoenix*. [K-72]

*Australia's Convict Past* by Robert Coupe. An easy to read book on the beginnings of the convict system in Australia through to the end of transportation. [K-73]

As the year comes to a close I would like to thank the members of the 2023 Library Committee – Carol Brown, Joy Conlon, Carol Donaghey and Janine Thomson, for their work and unwavering support over the past 18 months.  
Kerrie Alexander, Library Officer

## Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

**By Janine Thomson**

“Reflections”. Revives the memory of some of the historic old inns from around the Singleton area in the pioneering days.

*Patrick Plains Gazette - Singleton FHS – Vol:40, 2023 –Page 5.*

“DNA Snips Chronical”. The first in a series of articles provides a simple introduction to DNA.

*Timespan - Nepean FHS – September 2023 – Page 12.*

“A History of Sydney Harbour”. A jewel that has been cut, restyled and polished many times in the last 240 years.

“Acts of Bravery – Lives Saves at Sea”. Reminds us that heroes can be everyday people who walk amongst us.

“Researching Your Chinese-Australian Family History”. Advice to help you hunt down Chinese-Australian ancestors.

*Traces – Edition 24 – Page 9, 17 & 24*

“Three Metres from Catastrophe”. Recounts the airliner collision at Sydney’s Kingsford Smith Airport in 1971.

“A Capital Idea”. The story of a noseless hangman and the death penalty in NSW.

*HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc.- September 2023 – Pages 2 & 18.*

“Local Resources for Family History Research – County Sligo”. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the county of Sligo, Ireland.

“A Question of Genealogy”. Provides some clever search tricks which might help with your Irish brick walls.

*Irish Roots – Issue 127, 2023 – Pages 10 & 28.*

“Roman Catholic Records”. Explains how to find over 300 years of records of English and Welsh Catholics.

“Coal Mining”. This article unearths several useful sites for anyone researching coal mining ancestors.

“Around Britain – Dorset”. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Dorset, UK.

*Who Do You Think You Are – July 2023 - Page 31, 37 & 61.*

“The Northamptonshire Nobody Knew”. Reminds us there is more to researching than *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*.

*Northamptonshire Footprints- August 2023 - Page 27*

## Gleanings of Australian eJournals

By Jackie Chalmers

The following journals are now received as eJournals and may be read from home or on the RTFHS02 computer in the Marie Hart Library. If they are from the area you are researching you may well find information that will not appear elsewhere, so do check them out.

- A Tombstone Tourist's Alphabet by Jill Ball      *Lake Macquarie FHG, The Chronicle*, Jun 23
- Robert Oliver – Convict by Warren Oliver      *Lake Macquarie FHG, The Chronicle*, Oct 23
- The Kirkland Family written by Ann Martin nee Kirkland, to be published later this year by Helen Taylor      *Lithgow FHG, Lithgow Pioneer Press*, Feb 23
- Reverend Colin Stewart by Ian Holt      *Lithgow FHG, Lithgow Pioneer Press*, Jun 23
- Overland Telegraph Line – Adelaide to Darwin by Heather Cuthbert  
*Logan River & District FHS Inc., Dugullumba Times*, Feb 23
- Henry (Harry) Norman's Family 1896-1949 by Trevor Reynolds  
*Logan River & District FHS Inc., Dugullumba Times*, May 23
- HMS Captain by Pam Hayes      *Logan River & District FHS Inc., Dugullumba Times*, Aug 23
- Locals to celebrate Percy Dwyer      *Maclean District HS, Clarence River Advocate*, Mar 23
- Westward to Potterville: The Story of T.W. Howell and a Pioneer by Nancy Dixon (Howell)  
*Manning Wallamba FHS, The Figtree*, Jun 23
- Matthew Everingham – “Fact or Fantasy”  
Ref: Valerie Ross; “Matthew Everingham – a First Fleeter and his Times”, “A Hawkesbury Story” and “The Everingham Letter Book”      *Manning Wallamba FHS, The Figtree*, Sep 23
- Captain John Storey: Ancient Mariner – the story of “Coraki's Grand Old Man”  
*Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter*, Feb 23
- Mrs Tucker of Coraki - References acknowledged in Footer  
*Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter*, May 23
- Oliver Jones: a Man of Many Talents      *Mid-Richmond HS Inc., Newsletter*, Aug 23
- The Story of My Life by the Buggy Builder's House, (No. 12 Church Street, Moruya) as told to Shirley Jurmann  
*Moruya & District HS Inc., Journal*, Jun 23
- Ma's Story – The Story of Kathleen Mary Mariah Foreman (Known as Mary) as told to her grandson Errol Thomas  
*Moruya & District HS Inc., Journal*, Sep 23



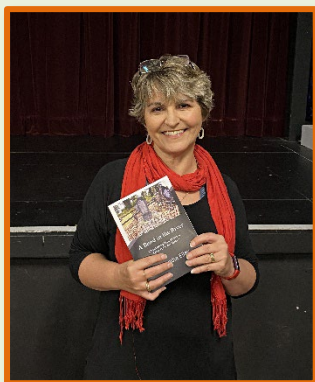
## Monthly Speakers



**July 2023** –Karen Chilcott, Jackie Chalmers, Judy Cosgrove, Ann Emery, Liz Marshall, Dawn Lotty, Carol Brown and Richard Goss presented a variety of interesting and well-researched talks on the topic,

The Story Behind the Picture. Some of these stories are included in this issue of *The Cedar Log*. We heard about a memorial to an early settler; a restored wedding photo, where the bride's dress did not match the original description; the story behind the other people in a grandfather's photo; Winifred Atwell's gravestone in Gundarimba; a photo hidden behind another one, which led to an unknown family being discovered; gold found in the hold of a ship that was sunk during World War II and early sewing machines introduced into Australia and on display in the *Powerhouse Museum*.

**August 2023** – Firstly we had our AGM, when Victoria Evans accepted her nomination as President of the Society and Linda Maslen as a new committee member. Retiring President, Richard Goss, presented his report, as did Bonnie Bennett, the treasurer. Robyn Hilan had her auditor's report available and was able to answer any queries. We then had a presentation by Samantha Elley, journalist. She has always been interested in cemeteries and has been writing family history stories for more than 30 years and runs the website *Tales from the Grave* <https://www.talesfromthegrave.org/> . She gave us a very entertaining talk about how she started researching some of the “residents” of the Woodburn cemetery and knew that she wanted to find out more and write a book about it. The book is *A Bend in The River* and it took five years to complete. Her Woodburn home was affected by the February 2022 flood, which held things up, but it is very appropriate that this year of publication is exactly 150 years since the cemetery was officially established in 1873. She kindly donated 2 of her books to our Marie Hart Library and they are available for loan.





**September 2023** – Helen Smith, an international speaker and genealogical researcher, presented a very comprehensive talk on DNA via Zoom. Notes on her talk were distributed to all members via email. A link was also sent after the meeting, to the Dana Leeds website, which Helen mentioned in her talk. It explains a method, developed by Dana Leeds, which helps those searching for biological parents and other close biological family members and also helps traditional genealogists working with more distant family mysteries.

<https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>

**October 2023** – John Trantor, a former librarian at the FamilySearch Centre, Goonellabah, spoke about the *FamilySearch* website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). It is the oldest and largest genealogical database in the world. You can search for an ancestor, under *Family Trees – Find*, and you might find that someone has uploaded or built a tree, which includes your person of interest. Gedcom file trees can be uploaded, but a drawback is that anyone can add or delete from any tree. They are not your personal tree, like on *Ancestry.com*. To see who has added information, click on *Sources* on a person’s page. Photos, stories etc can be uploaded into *Memories*. Under *Search – Wiki* [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page) you can locate an area and see what is available for that location. *FamilySearch* is a very large site, so be prepared for a big session, once you start searching. If you get stuck, there is a chat icon, which allows immediate online chat with other users. Don’t forget our *Marie Hart Library* is an Affiliate *FamilySearch* library, where locked records can be viewed, so venture in and use this valuable resource.



**The Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.** was established in 1983 to serve the family history needs of researchers initially with a special interest in North East New South Wales, Australia, in the area bounded by the Richmond and Tweed Rivers, often referred to as the Northern Rivers.

**The Marie Hart Library** (MHL) holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery and Burial Records, Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers, plus death and funeral notices and obituaries from *The Northern Star* (1876 – 2020).

Over the years, the library has expanded and now holds a wealth of information from across Australia including electoral rolls, historical and pioneer records, war records, shipping lists, probate records, landholder returns, Colonial Secretary papers and cemetery books. There are family history journals from within Australia or overseas countries, either as hard copies or in electronic form. The latter can be accessed on the computers in the MHL or from home.

Access is available to microfiche, CDs and computers connected to genealogical websites, to which we subscribe, including *FindmyPast* and the *Biographical Database of Australia*. We are also a *FamilySearch* affiliate, which gives access to more than the standard *FamilySearch* site. Ask the member on duty, during opening hours, if you need assistance with any of the library's resources.

**Family History Research Requests** can be done by the Society for a fee of \$15 per hour. Please include a 22x11 cm stamped, addressed envelope and research fees where applicable. Email the secretary or send details to our PO Box (addresses are on the inside front cover)

## THE Cedar Log

**Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.**

Published March, June, September & December

*The Editor would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally, they should be sent by email to [editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com) but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 11 point; single spacing. Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss editing of material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright.*

**Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author.** *Members' input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading and you might be lucky enough to connect with someone who has read your article, either in Australia or overseas. We would love to hear about how you broke down those brick walls or any interesting information you have found out about an ancestor or research sources or techniques that others may find helpful.*

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# SOCIETY EVENTS

**Society meetings are at the Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month. There is no meeting in January or December.**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER 2024**

Contact the Secretary if you would like to participate in one of the presentations listed below.

**Christmas/New Year closure of Marie Hart Library:** Closed 4 pm Saturday 16 December 2023 to 10 am Monday 8 January 2024.

**Saturday 3 February Meeting:** Where There's a Will There's a Family – Richard Goss

**Saturday 2 March Meeting:** One talk by Dawn Lotty – The Black Sheep of the Family.

Topic of the afternoon: DNA Connections: People You have Connected with through Testing your DNA – Ann Emery

**Saturday 6 April Meeting:** “We Need You!”, Military Stories – Judy Cosgrove

**Saturday 4 May:** The Women Who Shaped Us: Occupations, Interests, Family Traits that we Inherited – Victoria Evans.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2024 are \$40 Individual or \$50 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only