

# THE Cedar Log

**41st Year of Publication**

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



Until the devastating February 2022 floods, the old **Lismore Municipal Building** was the home of the **Lismore Regional Museum** managed by the **Richmond River Historical Society**. <https://www.richhistory.org.au/richmond-river-historical-society/>  
The latter is still operating offsite, but the building and museum are awaiting flood restoration works.

The original building housing Council Offices was constructed in the Art Deco style and opened by the Premier of New South Wales, T. R. **Bavin** MLA, on 19 March 1928. Features include tall windows and a parapet hiding the roof-line.

The **Lismore Council Chambers** moved to a flood-free site in Goonellabah, over 2 decades ago.

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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.**

## **Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.**

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

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## Editorial

**By Carmel Crosby**

As our **40<sup>th</sup> year as a Society** continues, we have reprinted in this issue a photo from the past showing researchers in the Pilot's Cottage in the early days. Our resources and equipment have grown immensely since then!

Sadly, three members of our Society have passed away in recent months. Yvonne **Hammond** (28 Oct 1922 – 18 Feb 2024) member #752, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2022 and an article about her life and reaching this milestone was in our December 2022 *Cedar Log*. Elvin John **Andrews** (13 August 1945 – 21 February 2024) member #861, presented several talks to our monthly meetings on military topics. Esme **Smith**, member #317, a past president and editor died on 5 April 2024. A short article about Esme is in this issue. Our condolences go to their friends and families.

We have had 2 successful **fundraising events** this year. Thanks to members voting regularly in February, we earned \$500 from The Greater Bank. In March we held a successful BBQ at Bunnings, Ballina, and raised \$1,000. Many thanks to those who participated in both these events. There is a photo and short report on the BBQ in this issue. We will hold another BBQ at Bunnings on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Please contact the Secretary or Editor if you are able to volunteer your time to help on the day.

In this issue we have stories by Victoria **Evans** and Judy **Cosgrove**. We also have a list of websites and tips to help find **Wills and Probate** records in Australia, compiled by Richard **Goss**. There is also my own story about what I found thanks to an 18<sup>th</sup> Century English will. Besides our regular features, a list of **Irish history resources** in local public libraries is included, for those who would like to learn about the long and complicated history of the country that many of our forebears came from. We also have an interesting story of a **Japanese gravestone**, found in a garden in Ballina. How did it get there?

We have several members who have answered the call to fill key positions. Sue **McCulloch** will take over as **Web Manager** and **also IT Coordinator**. Jill **McCann** will be the new **Library Officer**. Thanks very much to Liz **Marshall**, Carol **Brown** and Kerrie **Alexander** for filling these rolls admirably for several years. We are still in need of **Duty Officers** for some time slots, so if you can assist, please contact Bonnie Bennett or the secretary.

Stay warm as you continue enjoying researching your ancestors and consider typing up a short story to immortalise them in *The Cedar Log*.

*Carmel*, Editor

## Reminiscence of our 40 Years as a Family History Society



MEMBERS of the Ballina Family History Group at work. From left, Mrs Raylene McLaren, Mrs Marie Hart and Mrs Myra Arrighi.

This photo was published in *The Northern Star*, 11 March 1985, 15 months after the first meeting to form the *Far North Coast Family History Group* (the original name of our *Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.*).

The accompanying article announced that the Society had moved into rooms at the Ballina Pilot's Cottage, having previously operated out of the Ballina Library. It was open to the public and there were 30 members, mainly from Ballina and Lismore. Books and other resources were kept in the Cottage and a duty officer was available to assist members and visitors. The microfiche reader was not in operation yet, but it made a nice prop!

Copyright, and permission to use the photo, was sought from *News Corp Australia*, who now owns *The Northern Star*, but they were unable to find the photo, or locate or confirm the copyright of the image. We feel it is acceptable to publish the photo, as we have tried to find the copyright owner, without success.



# VALE Esme Joy Smith

9 January 1933 – 5 April 2024



Sadly, another of our long-term members passed away recently. Esme was an Honorary Fellow and Member Number 317 and joined our Society in 1991. She was President and Vice President, as well as Editor for 11 years in total, between 1998 and 2011. Esme was always willing and ready to assist anyone with their research. She had recently received a Certificate of Appreciation award for her service to our Society.

Esme was in hospital after Christmas 2023 and went to Residential Care in about February 2024. Her sister, Faith, lived with her and also went into Residential Care at the same time. She will miss her sister dearly.

The eldest of 6 children, originally from Bungawalbin, Coraki and Casino, Esme studied and then worked as a Social Worker in Sydney for the Child Welfare Department. She remained unmarried but had a close extended family including her father (her mother having died when Esme was aged 32), her siblings and their children. At her funeral, her nieces and nephews described Esme as the matriarch of the family and they loved visiting Esme, Faith and their grandfather at their lovely house in Strathfield, Sydney. Holidays at Evans Head were also a highlight. Esme loved Samoy dogs and had several of them over the years. After she retired and moved to Alstonville, she took up family history research and joined our Society. She was also keen on embroidery, needlework and felting and was a board member at Maranoa Aged Care in Alstonville.



Rest in Peace, Esme.

## My Favourite Ancestor EVELYN URSULA MOWLE

By Victoria Evans - Member 1016

On being asked to write about a favourite ancestor, I immediately thought of my grandmother, Evelyn Ursula **Mowle (photo at right)**, which in some ways is an unusual choice because she lived such an ordinary country life, while other ancestors had quite interesting lives. However, my grandmother was someone I always had a deep, loving bond with, from the time I was just a small child until her death shortly before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She lived to see incredible changes in almost every aspect of everyday life.

The other reason for choosing her is that it was her knowledge of our various family lines that was the impetus for my family history journey. Although we had often looked at the old family photo albums, I had no real connection to the people in the photos nor any understanding of where they belonged in my tree. That was until one such occasion when I was looking at a small photo of my grandmother's mother, whom I only knew as Grandma Mowle, and it dawned on me that I knew nothing about the parents of this special person in my life. So, I asked her, "What was your mother's name?" Needless to say, I didn't stop with that one question, and at times I'm sure I drove Nanna mad with my enquiries, or as she probably felt, my interrogations! I made it a habit to always carry a notebook and pen in my bag when visiting her. Her knowledge of the lives and experiences of my family members, from more recent times and from generations back, allowed me to see them as real people and feel I knew them. I learnt of her great grandparents Darby and Mary **Curry**, who came to Australia in 1837 from Ireland with three children, and of their lives in Australia. They were just one example and her information, which gave me very accurate research leads and allowed me to 'know' them as more than just names and dates.





*Evelyn's mother,  
Alice Elizabeth*

Evelyn Ursula Mowle was born on the 10 April 1910, at the private hospital of Nurse Eleanor **Poole**, in Armidale, New South Wales (NSW), to parents Owen 'Charles' Mowle and Alice Elizabeth **Herbert**. She was the youngest child and had three older sisters, Henrietta Iona born in 1898, Blanche Vere born in 1900 and Mary Margaret Hannah born in 1906 and a brother, Keith James born in 1902. As well, Evelyn had three half-brothers from her mother's first marriage - Hugh **McDonald** born in 1887, Thomas Herbert McDonald born in 1888, and John McDonald born in 1890. She had an affectionate relationship to all her siblings and remained close to them throughout her life.

As a very young child, my grandmother experienced two of her half-brothers, Hugh and Tom McDonald leaving home to serve in World War 1 and could recall how fearful her mother was. She also recounted stories of their

experiences while at war, and of family friends who never returned.

Evelyn's first years were spent on the family property at Guy Fawkes, near Ebor in NSW. Her father hated the cold climate there, however, and purchased a property on the Armidale Road at Middle Creek. She recounted the journey to their new home with the older children riding on horseback and the younger children in a sulky with their parents. She liked the way the sulky would rock about when on uneven ground.

While there was a small home on the new property, Charles soon added on to this and the family ended up with a large very comfortable home which they named 'Riverview', as it commanded beautiful views over the Macleay River. The home had five bedrooms, several large living rooms filled with cedar tables, bookcases and cabinets and a long sunroom. On the walls were large portraits of various family members. The house was surrounded by a large colourful garden of raised beds and contained many varieties of flowers and trees. At the back of and separate to the house was a large laundry room with a fireplace for heating water and irons and large tables for handling the clothing and linen.



*Evelyn's father,  
Owen Charles Mowle*





*Evelyn's childhood home 'Riverview'*

on the front veranda on hot evenings. The family also enjoyed playing card games such as euchre and cribbage.

All members of the family were very good riders and could handle riding over the steep terrain. Like most families in the area, the Mowle family liked to attend dances and would travel great distances either in the sulky or on horseback to attend. These occasions often went until the small hours of the morning and if they weren't staying over with friends, the return journey was done by the light of a lantern. In later years, a young Slim Dusty was a regular performer.

The children attended the Lower Creek School and rode there on horseback, rain, hail or shine. Evelyn recounted that most children valued their education but if not, poor behaviour, careless handwriting or mistakes would see them receive a rap on the knuckles. To further

her education, Evelyn went to live with her brother, Tom, in Kurri Kurri and finished her schooling there at the local Catholic school.



*Evelyn on left, 1930 aged 20, with her sister, Blanche*

Evelyn's sister, Henrietta, became a governess for several large pastoral families in the New England area of NSW, before marrying. Her sister, Blanche, became a triple certificate nurse and then, while in Melbourne, joined the Order of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and spent the remainder of her life as a nun in New Zealand. Her brother, Keith, took over the running of their father's property. Evelyn had always wanted to be a nurse like her sister, but being the youngest, was required at home, which was often the case in many families of the time. Occasionally, she spoke of how she believed she would have

been a good nurse and I had a sense that it was something she regretted.

On July 19, 1932, she married William ‘Bill’ Donald **Toose**. Their families were well acquainted and Bill was a frequent visitor at ‘Riverview’ before they married. As Evelyn was Catholic and Bill, Church of England, his brother James was the only family member to attend their wedding at the All Saint’s Anglican Church, Kempsey. This was despite both families being accepting of the match.



*Evelyn’s husband, William Donald Toose*

The newly married couple initially lived with Bill’s mother, Mary Lydia Bain Toose (nee **McDonald**) and some of Bill’s siblings, on the Toose property at Comara, which fronted the Armidale Road. The home had been the original Comara Post Office. Bill’s father had died suddenly at the age of 51 years, when Bill was only 17 years of age, and as the oldest son, he had taken over the responsibility of running the property alongside his mother.

As the family did not own a vehicle, Evelyn travelled to Kempsey by bus to have their children at a private hospital. Likewise, once she had each child, Evelyn probably made the return journey with the baby in the same way.

Evelyn and Bill built their own home on the property a short distance below the old Toose family home and moved in around 1939 just prior to the birth of their son William Owen. Evelyn had named the property ‘Oakley.’

Like ‘Riverview’, ‘Oakley’ was a popular destination for family and friends, especially those from Sydney. Evelyn was known as a kind and capable host despite also working hard helping with the milking, the mustering of their beef cattle, raising poultry and maintaining an extensive fruit and vegetable garden. They always had plenty to share. They were almost self-sufficient and this stood them in good stead during the tough times of the depression.

The three children attended the local Comara Public School and later June and Jennifer went to live with family members in Mosman and Neutral Bay and completed their high school education there. As a family, they were actively involved in school fundraising activities and community events such as dances, celebrations, farewells, cricket, and tennis matches.



*Bill and Evelyn’s home, ‘Oakley’ at Comara*

The arrival of World War II was a challenging time for them, as it was for all Australian families. Three of Bill's brothers, James, Reginald and Maurice, enlisted to fight for their country, leaving those at home constantly worried for them. Numerous other family members also enlisted and some paid the ultimate sacrifice.

James went to fight the Japanese in Singapore and narrowly escaped a massacre at Bukit Timah. He recounted that it was only his bushman skills and good

sense of direction that enabled him to escape the enemy, when so many others were killed where they slept. He made it back to Singapore only to become part of the allied surrender. James became one of many Australians imprisoned in Changi Prison. For quite some time the family was unsure of what had become of him. Eventually, to their great relief and excitement, his mother received a telegram saying he was alive and was on his way back to Australia on a hospital ship. Reginald served in Europe and then returned to fight in New Guinea. He survived but received a shrapnel wound to his head and contracted malaria. He returned to Australia and came home to Comara where Evelyn nursed him during his fevers. Fortunately, all three boys survived the war.



*Bill and Evelyn's children (L to R):  
Jennifer, William & June*

Life on Oakley was often very solitary after the children left home. Apart from visits from family and friends, Evelyn and Bill spent considerable time alone together at Oakley. They became an effective team and relied heavily on each other. They were resilient people who had endured and survived many challenges including bushfires and droughts.

Evelyn and Bill were much-loved parents and grandparents. They were extremely kind and patient and no one can recall them ever being angry. All the grandchildren spent holidays and weekends with them, fishing, swimming in the creek, riding horses and picking wild mushrooms and berries. It was an idyllic life and our memories of those days are precious.

In May 1984, Bill, aged 84 years, had a riding accident while mustering cattle for a sale. He was cantering his horse 'Jimmy' when the stirrup leather on his saddle broke. He fell heavily and was knocked out. On gaining consciousness, he somehow walked quite a distance back to the house. He was later diagnosed with a fractured vertebra. In order to receive the medical attention he needed, they moved to their home in Kempsey. Evelyn nursed him night and

day, for a period of 12 months and saw to everyone who visited. He never complained during that time even though he was in extreme pain. Bill died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1985. They had been married for almost 55 years. Evelyn was such a strong lady both physically and mentally throughout.

Evelyn remained in her Kempsey home and lived independently until she was 97 years of age at which time, she entered an aged care facility. She regretted leaving her home but accepted the situation. Just 6 weeks prior to her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Evelyn contracted pneumonia twice. On the latter occasion treatment did not help. She passed away at the Kempsey District Hospital on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2010. Her funeral service was held at All Saint's Anglican Church, Kempsey and she was buried at the East Kempsey Cemetery.

Evelyn loved riding horses and was known as a good rider. Indeed, she was still riding horses and mustering into her seventies. She once recounted a story to me, and it is how I like to remember her, as I believe it reflects some of her true spirit that was perhaps subdued by day-to-day life. When she was about 17 years of age, she rode to her married sister Mary's home at George's Creek, to help her with the washing. This was an arduous task that took the entire day. As it drew time to return home, a large electrical storm broke. As she was passing the nearby police station, the policeman came out and gave her his cape as protection from the heavy rain. As the storm built in intensity, Evelyn stirred her horse on and noticed how the cape was blowing out behind her. She said it felt thrilling and she urged her horse to gallop even faster. She laughed at this point in the telling and said, "Gosh I thought I was just something!"

Evelyn Ursula Mowle was a strong, independent, sensible, kind, and generous person. She never complained about any aspect of her life. One of her favourite sayings was 'a spoonful of honey goes a lot further than a bottle of vinegar' and she absolutely lived her life according to that philosophy.



# Australian Probate Records and Wills

## Compiled by Richard Goss - Member 977

**Accessing probate records and wills in Australia** can vary depending on the state or territory. Here is a breakdown of how you can find these records in different regions.

*Drawdown from: Public Probate Records and Wills: How it varies across Australia*

<https://www.willed.com.au/guides/public-probate-records/>

### New South Wales (NSW):

**Probate Records:** In NSW, probate records are public. They are organized into five series based on the year and date when probate was granted, not the date of death. These records, known as **Probate Packets**, contain the last will, codicils, letters of administration, and other related documents. Not everyone who passes away in NSW will necessarily have a probate packet, as it depends on the type and value of assets in the state. To access these records, you can locate the probate packet in the **online catalogue** of the **Supreme Court of NSW**, pre-order for your visit to their Reading Room, and purchase a copy of the packet<sup>1</sup>.

### Victoria:

**Public Probate Records:** Roughly 95% of probates administered after January 2017 in Victoria are still with the **Supreme Court of Victoria**. Each record includes a valid will, a probate file or administration file, and other important documents related to the estate. The **Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)** is in the process of digitizing wills and probate records. Currently, records from 1841 to 1925 can be viewed online, and records from 1926 to 2016 can be ordered for viewing and photography at the North Melbourne reading room. There are no fees for this service, and you can also request copies to be emailed or posted to you<sup>1 4</sup>.

### National Online Register:

The **Australian Registry of Wills, Deeds, and Documents™** is a national online register. Executors can find a deceased person's last will and testament, power of attorney, and property title location<sup>3</sup>.



## **FamilySearch:**

The **FamilySearch Library** has a solid collection of probate records from Australia, although not all of them can be circulated to FamilySearch Centers. These records were kept by each state in Australia, beginning in the 1800s. If the deceased had property in another country, the will may have been probated there as well<sup>2</sup>.

The process and availability of probate records may differ based on the specific circumstances and location. It is advisable to check the relevant authorities or repositories for accurate and up-to-date information.

Follow these links to sources of more specific and detailed information.

1. [Public Probate Records and Wills: How it varies across Australia](#)
2. [Searching probate records | The Supreme Court of Victoria](#)
3. [The Australian Registry](#)
4. [Australia Probate Records • FamilySearch](#)
5. [Wills and probates | PROV](#)

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## **Links to Wills and Probate**

### **Australia**

*If you are new to Wills and Probate research, you will be informed by reading the article above and reviewing the website of the:*

***Australian Registry of Wills, Deeds and Documents™***

[https://theaustralianregistry.com.au/willregistry/public\\_register](https://theaustralianregistry.com.au/willregistry/public_register)

### **Australian Capital Territory (&NSW & NT)**

*The National Library of Australia has a collection of “Indexes to Inquests and probate records”. There is not a current research guide. 26 results for Northern Territory and NSW regional book publications are listed at:*

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/search?q=Indexes+to+Inquests+and+Probate>

### **New South Wales**

NSW Probate Packets and Wills **guide:**

<https://mhsw.au/guides/probate-packets-wills-guide/>

### **Northern Territory**

NT Archives Service **guide to Archives Navigator:** <https://navigator.nt.gov.au/>

*Use the HELP function for instructions.*

Use Probate in the KEYWORD search function to identify 11 Series; 1 Agency; and 23 Records. See also the ACT above.

## **Queensland**

Supreme Court of Queensland for notices published after 1/1/2012  
<https://www.queenslandreports.com.au/qlr/public-notice-database>

Supreme Court of Queensland for notices published before 1/1/2012  
<https://sclq.tind.io/>

## **South Australia**

See the FamilySearch list: [Australia Probate Records • FamilySearch](#)

## **Tasmania**

*A Tasmanian Wills Introduction is available at:*  
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-archives/guides-to-records/wills/?print>

*Use the Tasmanian Names Index to view Wills up to 1989:*  
[https://libriaristas.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names/](https://libriaristas.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/)

*Index books to recent Wills and Wills post-1989 (AD960)*  
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-archives/guides-to-records/wills/what-is-available-physically/#articleBody>

## **Victoria**

VIC Public Record Office guidance  
<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/wills-and-probates>

VIC Supreme Court Record Searching guidance  
<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/wills-and-probate/searching-probate-records>

## **Western Australia**

Wills & Letters of Administration guidance  
[https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead\\_reckoning/government\\_archival\\_records/t-z/wills\\_and\\_letters\\_of\\_administration](https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/government_archival_records/t-z/wills_and_letters_of_administration)

## **WA Probate guide**

[https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead\\_reckoning/indexes\\_and\\_catalogues/n-s/probate](https://slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/indexes_and_catalogues/n-s/probate)

## **On *Find My Past* website, search under Wills or Probate**

Australian Record Sets for Wills or Probate

[Historical Records - Search all Record Sets | findmypast.com.au](#)

[https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/historical-records?region=australia-and-new-zealand&keywords=Wills&page=1&order\\_direction=desc&order\\_by=relevance](https://www.findmypast.com.au/search/historical-records?region=australia-and-new-zealand&keywords=Wills&page=1&order_direction=desc&order_by=relevance)

### **New South Wales, Will Books 1800-1952**

[New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **New South Wales, Deceased Estate Files 1880-1923**

[New South Wales, deceased estate files 1880-1923 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Queensland Intestacies & Wills**

[Queensland intestacies & wills index | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Queensland Wills Index 1857-1940**

[Queensland Wills Index 1857-1940 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Queensland Intestacy Returns Index 1896-1916**

[Queensland Intestacy Returns Index 1896-1916 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Queensland, Trustee Files 1889-1929**

[Queensland, Trustee Files 1889-1929 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Tasmania Wills & Letters of Administration 1824-1989**

[Tasmania Wills & Letters Of Administration 1824-1989 | findmypast.com.au](#)

### **Victoria Wills and Probate**

[Victoria wills & probate | findmypast.com.au](#)

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## **Marie Hart Library**

CD081AB Queensland - Intestacies, Insolvencies & Wills 1859-1900

Several books are available on Wills and Probate in the UK.

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NB: Online sources indicated above were accessed in January 2024.

## What I Learned from the Will of my 7x Great-grandfather

By Carmel Crosby – Member 762

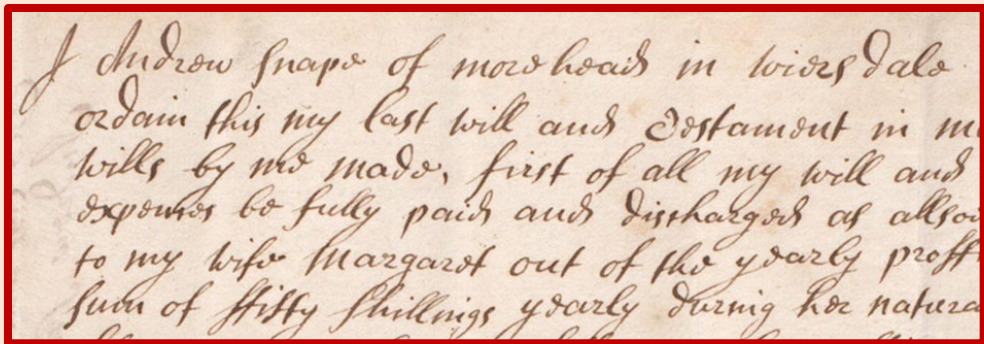
I thought **Snape** was a strange surname when I first saw Professor Snape in the Harry Potter movies but had to change my thoughts about it when I found that my 7x great-grandfather was named Andrew Snape.

I knew my mother's paternal 3x great-grandparents were Edward **Beetham** and Isabella **Robinson**. They lived in London around 1800 but had originated in the north of England. As Edward's ancestors were landowners there is a reasonable amount of information about the Beethams back to the 1200s. I did not know much about the Robinsons, however.

I knew Isabella was born in about 1753 in Sedgfield, Durham, and that her father was John Robinson. I had obtained a CD named '*Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics 1607-1840*', to look into another side of my family, but found the Robinsons mentioned. Up until then, I did not know that they were Catholics. The CD lists 270,000 names of Catholics, collected from various sources, which are also listed on the CD. Working backwards, it could be seen that Isabella Robinson was the daughter of John Robinson and either he or his father, also named John Robinson, had made the move in the mid-1700s, from Lancashire in the north-west, across to Durham in the north-east of England.

One of the books, which references these families, is *The English Catholic Nonjurors of 1715*. It was a summary of the register of their estates (presumably related to the 1715 Jacobite rebellion). Nonjurors were those who refused to take an oath to William and Mary in 1689, when King James 2<sup>nd</sup> fled to France. They were part of the larger group known as the Jacobites. Nonjurors tended to be conservative Anglicans, but not always.

The information and names listed in the book indicated the relationships, including Andrew Snape as father to several daughters, one of whom married a John Robinson. A cousin of mine, who researches on this family line with me, saw a record of a will and probate of an Andrew Snape from Morehead, Upper Wyresdale, Lancaster, for 10 Sept 1715 and requested a copy from the Lancashire Archives. This indeed showed that Andrew Snape and his wife Margaret (née **Parkinson**), had 4 daughters, including Elizabeth, from whom I am descended.



**Above: The beginning of the will of Andrew Snape – ‘I Andrew Snape of Morehead in Wiresdale ordain this my last will and testament...**

**Following is the essence of the will and a summary of the deceased’s goods.**

To my **wife, Margaret:**

- 50 shillings yearly, from the profits of lands at Morehead and Forton.
- Also ‘one of the best beds in my house with sufficient bedclothes

**Ellin**, my oldest daughter,

- all my lands and appointments at Moorhead...and to her heirs forever
- One cupboard in the fine house at Moorhead, with 1 table and 1 clock
- she paying to her mother the sum of 50 shillings a year out of the same
- pay to my daughter Jane out of the lands at Moorhead the sum of 40 pounds within 12 months of my decease

**Elisabeth**, my second daughter:

- all my lands and appointments lying in Forton to her heirs forever
- she paying to her mother the sum of 50 shillings a year out of the same
- one livery cupboard, one oval table and one pair of bedstocks at my house at Forton
- pay to my youngest daughter Mary out of the lands at Forton the sum of 40 pounds within 12 months of my decease

To my daughter, **Jane**, the sum of 60 pounds out of my personal estate.

To my daughter, **Mary**, the sum of 60 pounds out of my personal estate.

To my 4 daughters **Ellin Elisabeth Jane** and **Mary** equally, the remaining part of my personal estate.

Appoint **Ellin** and **Elisabeth** ‘my Executors or Executrixes.

**Inventory of goods and chattels and the value of each – Total of £260 – including: -**

Goods from the various houses, flax loft, chambers and milk house (mostly small value)



Corn, hay, cows, sheep (£70)  
A mare, saddle and bridle  
Money owing by bonds and bills - £114

It is pleasing to see that Andrew left his wife 'sufficient bedclothes' to go with the bed he gave her. It is interesting that the 2 oldest daughters, Ellin and Elizabeth, were given the most, but had to look after their mother and 2 younger sisters. The will lists the names of the two properties owned by Andrew Snape, which gave me somewhere to look for. In the probate part, it appears that Ellin and Elizabeth could sign their names, which seems unusual for those times.



*Above: Signatures of Daughters, Ellin and Elizabeth, the Executrices and the mark of Margaret, Andrew Snape's Wife, in a section that was like Probate, though it was not called that*

During a trip to the UK in 2019, I decided to look for the houses mentioned in the will. I'm not sure why I thought two houses mentioned over 300 years previously, would still be there and able to be found, but it was worth a try. My husband and I searched in Forton but could not find any sign of the house from there. We then literally drove uphill and down dale looking for the location of the house, **Morehead in Upper Wyresdale**. Nobody in the area was really sure where it might be, but we continued our search, undeterred.

We saw some beautiful scenery, a sign saying we could be fined forty shillings if we didn't shut the gate, and many houses that weren't the right ones. My husband said after we talked with one old fellow, that I needed to re-phrase how I asked about the house my ancestor owned 300 years ago, because the old chap seemed to think I might be after his house!



Fortunately, the following house was the correct one and we could not believe our long search was over. We walked around the back of the house as there was a lane running down the side and we could hear voices around the back. I came out with my somewhat altered spiel about looking for the house of my ancestor, Andrew Snape, and the lady turned around and pointed to above the door. And lo and behold, there were the initials and date - A.S. 1683. It was hard to believe that my ancestor, Andrew Snape, had put his initials above this door, 336 years ago, probably when the house was first built.

**Photo: Me - excited to see my 7x great-grandfather's initials above the door of the house he built in 1683.**

It is quite a substantial house (see photo) and still a working farm. The owners invited us inside and showed us around. We saw some original features, including several very solid 300-year-old beams.

So that is the story of the 1715 Will of my 7x great-grandfather, Andrew Snape and how much useful information can be gleaned from such documents and what might be found as a consequence if you go looking.



## A Piano that Revealed a Story

By Judy Cosgrove - Member 989



On a visit to a small local cemetery in South Gundarimba, a small settlement close to Lismore in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales, I noticed a piano-shaped headstone. It is a memorial to honour world-renowned pianist Una Winifred **Atwell** (died 28 February 1983) and her husband Lew **Levisham** (died 29 December 1977).

Until 9 September 2022 her burial site was marked by a small plaque and a memorial book with a brief story of her great success (see below).



The new owner of the cemetery felt more was needed. He erected this headstone in September 2022. He was a fan of her musical style. His parents had seen her play in Lismore. He listened to her recordings and watched her play on a TV program that she had made on her third visit to Australia. The headstone was designed and crafted in Lismore.

**Who was this woman and why was she buried here?**

Born in Tunapuna, Trinidad, in 1910, Una Winifred Atwell showed an aptitude for music from a young age. By age 6, she was already a competent pianist and played at parties, charity concerts and other social gatherings.

Her father was a successful chemist and he insisted she qualify in this profession. If need be, she could take over the family business. She did qualify, but her first love was music.

In the 1940s she had the opportunity to meet and play for her idol the classical pianist Alexander **Borovsky**. He saw her potential and she went to study classical music in the USA with him.

During World War 2, she played for the American troops. She learnt the rudiments of the rolling base, the boogie-woogie style and even worked out several routines including the “Five Finger Boogie”.

In 1945 she moved to England to study at *The Royal Academy of Music*. Like most students, in order to survive adequately, she played at clubs and theatres. Her talent was spotted at a gig by Keith Devon of the **Delfont** Agency. He asked her to fill in for a star who was ill at a concert at the Casino Theatre, London. Bernard Delfont was in the audience at the concert, and he was so impressed by her bubbly personality and talent that he put her on a long-term contract.

In 1946 she married comedian Lew Levisham and he helped to shape her career.



*Winifred Atwell – photo courtesy of The Australian Women’s Weekly, 8 Dec 1954*

In 1951, she cut a disc for *Decca Records*. The tune “Black and White Rag” started a craze for her honky tonk style. She didn’t like the sound of the tune played on a baby-grand piano, so her husband bought her a battered upright piano at a junk shop and she played the music on this.

By 1952 her popularity had spread internationally. She was the biggest selling pianist of her time. Her 1954 hit “Let’s Have Another Party” was the first piano instrumental to reach Number One in the UK Singles Chart.

Her first trip to Australia was in 1955 and her tour broke box office records on the Tivoli



circuit. She played in every capital in Europe, played in three Royal Variety performances and at a private party for Queen Elizabeth.

She had her own TV program in Britain - *Bernard Delfont Presents the Winifred Atwell Show* – and on her third trip to Australia she recorded a TV show, which screened in 1960-61. She took on Australian guitarist Jimmy **Doyle** as her music director in the 1960s.

In 1962 she made a nationwide tour of Britain. Her husband was a shrewd entrepreneur. He realised the potential of the Australasia area and settled in Sydney in 1970. They purchased an apartment on the beach front in *Flight Deck*, a complex in Collaroy, Sydney. She was a member of the Moby Dick Surf Club at Whale Beach, where she performed in support of the Surf Club.



*Winifred Atwell at the keyboard – photo courtesy of The Australian Women’s Weekly, 8 Dec 1954*

During this period, they often holidayed at Evans Head and drove around the Northern Rivers area. On a drive they spotted the small cemetery at South Gundurimba and fell in love with its beauty, peace and tranquillity. This, combined with a long-standing friendship with a now-deceased Catholic priest, Father Jim Carney, who served at Coraki, led to the request that they be buried at the cemetery. Her husband died in 1977 in Hong Kong, but he was buried by Father Carney at the cemetery.

After her husband’s death, Winnie contemplated returning to live in Trinidad. She purchased a home but found the weather too hot! She returned to live in Australia. In 1978 she appeared in an episode of *This is Your Life*. We learnt she liked cricket, mangoes, and hated mushrooms.

Winnie made regular appearances on the *Mike Walsh Show*. Her last public performance was on this variety show in 1980. She had suffered a stroke and only continued to play the organ at her local Catholic church at Narrabeen.

She became an Australian Citizen in 1981. Following her death in 1983 she was re-united with her husband at the small cemetery (**original gravestone on right**).





## What was Winnie like?

She was a dynamic personality on stage, but in her private life was a shy, retiring and softly-spoken woman of modesty. She was not a musical snob. Music was for everyone to enjoy. Eloquent and intellectual, she was well-read and informed about issues and current events.

While she enjoyed the affection of the public, Winnie was keenly aware of prejudice and injustice and was outspoken about racism in Australia. On a tour in 1962, she spoke out about the living conditions of the aborigines being third world. The bulk of her estate went to the *Guide Dogs Australia* charity.

Gracelands has Elvis; Gundarimba has Una Winifred Atwell!

## References:

- Wikipedia – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winifred\\_Atwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winifred_Atwell)
- Lismore City News - <https://www.lismorecitynews.com.au/story/7911673/honky-tonk-queens> By Cathy Adams. Updated 21 September 2022
- Find a Grave website.



## New Members

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

Member No 1045	Val Dunn	Ballina
Member No 1046	Ross Glover	Wollongbar
Member No 1047	Quentin & Eileen Ridley	Byron Bay
Member No 1048	Kerry Bryant	Evans Head
Member No 1049	Lorraine Beattie	Ballina
Member No 1050	Ross & Julie Woolfe	Alstonville
Member No 1051	Barbara Plumb	Alstonville

## What's on the Web?

Compiled by Carmel Crosby, Editor

<https://blog.familytreedna.com/category/research/> This blog on the FamilyTreeDNA website, has many interesting articles to read, related to DNA and all things genealogical. One topic, mentioned to me by our Honorary Fellow, Frank **Harvey**, is “**What's in a Name?**”, which describes surname origins. More articles, are found in their *Ancestry* blog section <https://blog.familytreedna.com/category/ancestry/>

We also have in the *Marie Hart Library*, two **books** on surnames. *Research Your Surname* by Dr Graeme **Davis** (G-158) covers the meaning of a surname, how old it is, where it comes from and many other genealogical aspects relating to surnames. *Help! Why Can't I Find My Ancestor's Surname?* by Carol **Baxter** (G-157) explains the distortions that can occur in a name, sound charts and surname tables showing how and why distortions occur.

Finding where your ancestors lived in Ireland is important. Here are 4 sites where you can explore and find townlands, civil parishes, baronies etc

<https://johngrenham.com/places/>  
<http://www.irish-genealogy.com/townlands.html>  
<https://thecore.com/seanruad/>  
<https://www.townlands.ie/>

**Flax Growers of Ireland 1796** <https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796all.php>

Many websites have these records. This free one is easy to search, either by name, county or parish. There are unfortunately no distinguishing features that would allow you to find your John Ryan apart from another John Ryan, in the Flax Growers records, but it might confirm some details or alert possibilities. This particular site has a mountain of other information and records. As their home page says – “this site contains genealogical information extracted from various census, directories, cemeteries and newspapers. Free sources of Irish genealogical information are rare on the internet! This site offers a number of online Irish databases and transcribed documents, including Land Owners in Ireland 1876, Irish Flax Growers List 1796, Pigot & Co's Provincial Directory of Ireland 1824, Postal Directory of Cork 1842-43, Slater's Commercial Directory of Ireland 1846, Guy's Postal Directory of Cork 1914 and cemetery transcriptions and photographs”.

# A Mystery to Solve at the Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum

## Ballina, New South Wales.



### WHAT'S THAT IN THE FRONT GARDEN?

It's a **Haka**, a Japanese gravestone, to a merchant sailor off the passenger ship *Yawatta Maru*

#### The Haka reads

*Yawata Maru. Japan.*

Meiji 33rd year August 28th passed away. (33rd  
year of the reign of  
Emperor Meiji in the western year 1900)

Hiroshima Ken (*prefecture*)

Saeki gun (*municipality*)

Fukae mura (*his village*)

**Okasaki.** Tomoji (*family name Okasaki*)

Shyaku (*a posthumous Buddhist name*)

Ken shou shinshi (*Tomoji Okasaki was a follower of  
Jodo Shinshu Buddhism*)

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, death is considered a  
natural process of life and not the end of it.

Translation by Tazuko **McLaren**, Southern Cross University.

Donated to the museum by Catherine **Farrell**. East Ballina.

Information courtesy of the Ballina Naval and Maritime Museum. A newspaper report of the death of Mr Okasaki is on the following page.

## News Item in the *Evening News* (Sydney NSW) Thursday 30 August 1900

### A FATAL MISTAKE.

*A Japanese youth named T. Okasaki. employed as a steward on the steamer Yawata Maru, which is berthed at Circular Quay, received fatal injuries through jumping from a moving tram shortly before midnight on Tuesday. The tram was proceeding round the curve leading from George-street to the Quay, when Okasaki alighted, and, losing his balance, fell, resulting in his head striking the woodblocks with considerable violence. He was taken to Sydney Hospital, but died shortly after admission to that institution, his skull having been fractured.*

*The city coroner held an inquest yesterday. The evidence showed that the deceased, Tomoji Okasaki, was 27 years of age, and had left a wife in Japan. He got into the tram at Liverpool-street, and was the only passenger in the second car. At the curve near the fire station, Circular Quay, he walked out on to the platform, as if to get out. The conductor called to him to wait until the tram stopped but deceased jumped straight off. He landed on his feet, and then fell heavily on to the back of his head. He was taken to Sydney Hospital but died there in less than half an hour from the effects of a fractured skull. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.*

A mystery still to be solved by the museum volunteers. How did this gravestone come to be in a garden in an East Ballina home purchased by the donor? The previous owner may have the answer. Enquiries are ongoing.

## The History of Ireland

**By Carmel Crosby – Editor**



It was requested in the member survey in 2022 that we do something on The History of Ireland. This is a very big topic and outside the Family History sphere, though relevant to our ancestry and genealogical study. Members could perhaps take advantage of resources in our local Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL). Some are listed below. Unfortunately, there are not many.

Novels by Edward Rutherfurd. This is a two-part series - *The Dublin Saga*. Part 1 is *The Princes of Ireland*, which starts in pre-Christian times and continues up to the 1500s. Part 2 - *The Rebels of Ireland* covers the last 400 years. Impeccable historical research and fantastic storytelling render these historical novels very easy reading and educative at the same time. Part 1, named slightly differently as '*Dublin Foundation*' is available in the RTRL, Brunswick Heads branch. Unfortunately, part 2 does not seem to be available, but could be purchased if you were hooked after part 1, as I was.

*The Famine Irish – Emigration and the Great Hunger* edited by Ciaran Reilly, 2016. (HIST 941.5081 FAMI) is available at the Ballina branch of the RTRL. While not a full history of Ireland it is a worthwhile read nonetheless. It is a collection of essays by scholars, historians, genealogists etc. providing a wide-ranging analysis of emigration during and after the famine and includes several chapters on convicts and immigrants in Australia.

The *Story of Ireland* (HIST DVD 941.5 STOR), is a DVD available at the Lennox Head branch of the RTRL. Over 5 episodes, written and presented by Fergal Keane (2011) it covers from pre-Christian times to the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is very comprehensive and also challenges some myths about the country's history.

*Ireland – History and Landscape* by Brian Solomon, 2008. (HIST Q 941.5 SOLO) available at the Tweed Heads RTRL branch. I have not seen this book, but it looks like it has scenic photos of the Emerald Isle, as well as presumably, some written history.

*The Penguin Atlas of British and Irish History*, by Barry Cunliffe, 2001. (HIST 941 PENG) available at the Byron Bay RTRL branch. It 'is a comprehensive guide to the richly eventful history of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Drawing on the very latest findings of historians and archaeologists, and illustrated throughout with detailed maps and photographs, it follows the story of the British Isles from the arrival of the first humans half a million years ago right up to the present day.'

*The Course of Irish History*, 1967. Edited by T.W. Moody and F.X Martin. New edition from 2012. Not in the RTRL but available to purchase – just put the name into Google and many options appear. A very comprehensive book, which covers from pre-historic times to 1966. The updated version covers more recent times, but family historians would mainly be interested in pre-1966. I have requested that the RTRL purchase this book as it is a good reference on Irish History.





## BBQ Fundraising Event at Bunnings Warehouse, Ballina

Our Society held a successful fundraising BBQ at *Bunnings Warehouse* in Ballina, on Sunday 10 March 2024. We cleared just over \$1,000 and had stock leftover, which can be used when we stage a further event. Many thanks to those who volunteered on the day or assisted in other ways. The team learned a lot and are keen to do it all again!

A special thanks goes to Ann and Trevor **Emery**, who purchased, collected and stored items for use in the weeks before the event, as well as on the day and afterwards for our next attempt.

**Saturday 8 June 2024** has been allocated and we will hold a BBQ once again at Bunnings in Ballina. If you are not helping on the day, please come and say hello &/or buy a sausage sandwich.



*L-R: Trevor Emery, Joy Morhaus, Tanya Binning and Ann Emery early on the day, before the hordes arrived*

## Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson

“DNA”. Answers some of the most frequent queries when it comes to DNA testing and results. “Local Resources for Family History Research – County Mayo”. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the county of Mayo.

“Irish Naming Convention”. Explains the family naming patterns that result in multiple children with the same name – and how to read them.

*Irish Roots – Issue 129, 2024 – Pages 8, 10 & 28.*

“Flood Rescue and the Water Brigade”. A history of floods and rescue in the Lismore area.

*The Bulletin - Richmond River HS – February 2024 – Page 1.*

“Juggler Down Under: W.C. Fields in Australia.” Describes the tours of Australia in 1903 & 1914 by W.C. Fields as a vaudeville performer before he became a famous actor.

“Kings Cross Heritage and Activism”. A story that sheds light on a period of early community activism and the history of the villa Maramanah.

*HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc. - March 2024 – Page 1 and 5.*

“The Twists and Turns of Tiwi History”. Tiwi history is full of surprising events and stories that might turn some ideas of Australia’s past upside down.

“You’ve got to be kidding”. How 1940s con artists swindled trusting Victorians.

“Farewell to HMAS Australia”. Seen through the eyes of two trainee naval officers, this article tells of the global voyage of HMS Hood and hints at darker times ahead.

*Traces – Edition 26 – Page 17, 22 & 19*

“DNA Snips Chronical”. The third in a series of articles provides simple instructions on transferring your DNA data from *Ancestry* to *MyHeritage*.

*Timespan - Nepean FHS – March 2024 – Page 19.*

**And some helpful websites....**

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/ScotlandsCriminalDatabase.aspx> Search over 800,000 Scottish court and prison records.

[http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/cjsmee\\_intro.html](http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/cjsmee_intro.html) an early Australian Colonial Database 1788-1830.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx> Library and Archives Canada – Immigration and Census records and lots more.

# Gleanings of Australian eJournals

## By Jackie Chalmers

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

The History of the Bega Soldiers' Memorial Part 1 which will be commemorating its centenary on 24 May 2024 by Pat Raymond

*Bega Valley GS, The Valley Genealogist*, Feb 24

Mittagong Motorcycle Club 1946 – 1949 compiled by Philip Morton

*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter*, Mar 24

Mullumbimby 'Arthurs on the Brunswick' by Wes Arthur

*Brunswick Valley HS Inc., Museum*, Apr 24

Mary Jane Austin of 'Austinlee' The Heights, Enfield 1843 – 1910 by Marguerita Carey

*Burwood & District FHG, Burwood Ancestry-tree*, Mar 24

Hobbies of my Ancestors by Sharon Greene

*Campbelltown District FHS Inc., GhostBuster*, Mar 24

Peter Dodds McCormick, writer of Advance Australia Fair by Jenny Burgess

*The H&G Soc. of Canberra, The Ancestral Searcher*, Mar 24

Mr. Stewart's Flight by Lindsay Harden

*Cape Banks FHS., Little Bay, Sydney, Kith & Kin*, Mar 24

The Tribulations of George Sunderland 1839 – 1842 by Glenn Townsend

*Colo Shire FHG Inc., Family Ties*, Apr-May 24

Frank Gardiner and his Gang by Shirley Durrant

*Echuca-Moama FHG Inc., Bridges and Branches*, Mar 24

Watermen and Lightermen by C.J. Eddington

*Family History WA, Western Ancestor*, Mar 24

A Biographical Dictionary of First Fleet Ships – Part 3 written by Gary L. Sturgess

*Fellowship of First Fleeters, Founders*, Apr-May 24

Shauna's Family History A-Z by Shauna Hicks

*The Hawkesbury Crier, The Hawkesbury Family History Group*, Mar 24

John Morris Stephens aka John Morris by Joy Jorgensen

*Fellowship of First Fleeters, Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter, Newsletter*, Autumn 2024

- Tasmanian Medals and Tokens by Kath Lonergan  
*Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association Inc., Newsletter*, Mar 24
- Dowden, George 1820 -1875 from ‘Stories Behind the Tombstones’ by John Rossiter  
*Ipswich Genealogical Society, Bremer Echoes*, Feb 24
- Emeritus Professor Henry Oliver Lancaster AO FAA 1913 – 2001 by Jocelyn Bakewell  
*Kempsey FHG, Cedar Branches Newsletter*, Apr 24
- The Story of Wallerawang, Part 1, the first 50 Years after James Walker took up his Land Grant  
*Lithgow FHG, Lithgow Pioneer Press*, Feb 24
- My Boyhood Home – 39 Agnes Street, Torwood by Rob Thomson  
*Logan River District FHS Inc., Dugullumba Times*, Feb 24
- Joseph Percy Harris (Percy) Howard (1887 – 1957) (Manager/Teacher on Ulgundahi Island: June 1916 - Feb 1920)  
*Maclean District HS, Clarence River Advocate*, Mar 24
- Nineteenth Century German Migration from the Rheingau to Australia’s Hunter Valley by Paul Kiem  
*Newcastle FHS Inc., Journal*, Mar 24
- Our Girls by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews  
*The Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc., Newsletter*, Apr 24
- A Story of Cowling and Holland Families by Kate Holmes,  
*Picton & District H&FHS Inc, The Stonequarry Journal*, Mar 24
- The Architects of Toohey’s Hotels by Lisa Murray  
*Magazine of the Royal Australian HS, History*, Mar 24
- The Story of William Redfern (1774 – 1833) by various contributors  
*Redcliffe & District FHG Inc., The First Settlement City Gazette*, Mar 24
- A Disaster in the Making by Mary Temple  
*FHS of Rockingham & District, Between the Lines*, Mar 24
- Army says ‘Go’, man says ‘No’: William White, conscientious objector by Mary Olivieri  
*Ryde District Historical Soc. & FHG, The Ryde Recorder*, Mar 24
- Wednesday the Perfect Day for a Wedding by Alan Clark  
*Shoalhaven FHS, Time Traveller*, Apr 24
- School Records; Their Place in Family History  
*Toowoomba & Darling Downs FHS, The Gazette*, Mar 24
- Percy Edward Boulton by Gaynor M. Dowell  
*Tweed Gold Coast FH & Heritage Assoc. Inc., Tracks*, Mar 24

## Monthly Speakers

**3 February 2024 – Where There’s a Will, There’s a Family.** Three very interesting and well-researched talks were given on aspects of wills and probate that members had found about their ancestors. A will puts flesh on the bones of birth, death and marriage records. They can assist with identifying family members, the financial wealth of the deceased, occupations, location and type of family property and the names of married daughters. In addition, the coordinator, Richard **Goss**, showed members the steps to access information regarding Australian wills and probate in Australia, including using *Family Search* and *Find My Past*. An article with links to various relevant websites is included in this issue of *The Cedar Log*. Our speakers were (L to R in photo): Richard Goss, Robyn **Hilan**, Dawn **Lotty** and Carmel **Crosby**.



**2 March 2024 – Dawn Lotty** told us about one of her ancestors, a young man who ran wild, got up to a lot of mischief and became **The Black Sheep of her Family**. He came to Australia as a convict and still got into trouble! A very entertaining and interesting story.



**DNA Connections** - Co-ordinated by Ann Emery - we had talks from members about people they have met through testing their DNA. This is now adding to the research we do and it can be a journey that can help us find where our ancestors came from; help solve genealogical puzzles and brick walls; connect

us with previously unknown family members and branches, and enlarge and enrich our family history. Our speakers were (L to R in photo): Carmel Crosby, Lois **Keith**, Jill **McCann**, Joy **Conlon**, Ann **Emery** and Dawn Lotty.

**6 April 2024 – “We Need You!” – Military Stories.** Co-ordinated by Judy **Cosgrove** we had four speakers with very different and interesting stories to tell.

Dawn **Lotty** told us about a letter from a Private in the Boer War giving a firsthand account of the conditions the troops faced and amazingly their letters **were**n’t censored.

Victoria **Evans** had a story about a young man, who joined the air force in WW2 and was flying in Catalina Flying Boats, out of Darwin, when the plane went down on Baru Island, Indonesia. Nearly 50 years later the plane was found by local people and his brother was fortunately listening to the Australia All Over radio program one Sunday morning when one of the rescue team rang to say they were looking for the families of the deceased airmen. There were emotional visits by remaining family members to the scene of the crash and where the recovered bodies of the airmen were buried.

Julie **MacRae** related the story of her great aunt, who was a missionary nun near Rabaul, New Britain, when WWII broke out and of the hardship and terror she faced for several years. A movie about this story called ‘**Sisters of War**’ is available on ABC iView until 30 May 2024 or as a DVD in the local Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Brunswick and Murwillumbah branches).

Leigh **Wilson** had an interesting story about his father’s service in a Wireless and Telegraph unit in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), based 100 kilometres south of Darwin and the tussle between the RAAF and the Manpower Directorate about whether his father could leave the RAAF to run the family business, when his grandfather became ill during the war. They both won and Leigh’s father did a full-time job in the RAAF in Adelaide as well as running the family business, after RAAF hours!

Some of these stories will be printed in the September issue of *The Cedar Log*.



*L to R: Leigh Wilson, Julie MacRae, Dawn Lotty and Victoria Evans*



## SOCIETY and JOURNAL DETAILS

**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)



**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. Contribution deadline is 6 weeks before the month of publication. 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.*

*The society does not accept responsibility for opinions and statements published by individual contributors. **Material and articles in this journal may only be reproduced with written permission from the Society. Please contact the editor via email.***



# 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 or the Co-ordinator if you would like to participate in one of the presentations listed below.

**Saturday 1 June Meeting:** Antiques Roadshow – bring in an Heirloom and there will be an interactive display with members talking about their treasure if they would like to. Coordinator – Joy Conlon.

**Saturday 8 June: Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Ballina** 9 am – 4 pm. Come along and visit or buy a sausage if you aren't working on the stall.

**Saturday 6 July Meeting:** Connecting with Family Lines Online. Zoom Presentation by Brisbane-based Genealogist, Rosemary Kopittke

**Saturday 27 July: Christmas in July Lunch.** Details will be advised, when available, in the Newsletter and at Saturday meetings.

**Saturday 3 August Meeting: AGM plus The Ships We Came On –** Stories about the ships or voyages that our ancestors came to Australia on. Co-ordinator – Ann Emery.

**September** – to be advised.

## **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.