

# THE Cedar Log

**41st Year of Publication**

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



*'High Finance' - Painting by an acquaintance of Johan Morhaus, the father-in-law of Joy Morhaus (RTFHS Member 954), of the bankers in Hong Kong being marched to and from work after the Japanese invasion in December 1941. They were held in a compound surrounded by a tall barbed wire fence for the duration of the war.*

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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**

As you read this, warmer weather has hopefully arrived after our cold winter, by NSW North Coast standards. We have had our **Annual General Meeting** on 3 August and the following positions have changed. Liz Marshall has resigned from the committee after 4 years as a committee member. Many thanks to Liz for her contribution. She remains doing her Cedar Log Assistant Editor role and managing our Facebook page. The incumbents in the positions of President (Victoria Evans), Secretary (Judy Cosgrove) and Treasurer (Bonnie Bennett) have not changed. Ann Emery has been elected as Vice President and Jill McCann as a committee member. Our thanks go to Ann and Jill for volunteering for these positions. Joy Conlon, Sue McCulloch and Jan Ousby remain as committee members.

We had the sad news that **Nola Cummings**, member #874, passed away in July 2024. Nola joined the Society in 2008 and was married to Anzac Cummings, who started Cummings Retravision many decades ago in this area. Nola will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

We had another successful **BBQ at Bunnings** fundraising event in June and raised \$1,800. Many thanks to those who helped at the BBQ. There is a photo and short report in this issue. The committee has agreed that we will hold 2 BBQs a year to provide extra funds for our Society.

In this issue, we have stories by Lynn **Francis**, Dawn **Lotty**, Julie **MacRae**, Joy **Morhaus** and Leigh **Wilson**, on very different aspects of the **Boer War** and **World Wars 1 & 2**. Thanks to these members for their contributions. We have also reprinted an excerpt from a book in our *Marie Hart Library* on the **Reminiscences** by James **Ainsworth**, during the years 1847-1922. It describes in detail the **massacre of Aboriginal people in East Ballina** in 1853. Our usual writers of journal **Gleanings** were unable to compile their contribution for this issue, so I have done one on our overseas eJournals. Please take the opportunity to view all the wonderful journals we have available.

Consider writing a story about one of your ancestors and having it published in *The Cedar Log*. One of our members was contacted by a hitherto unknown relative, via the editor, about the story she had published in *The Cedar Log*. Important new information was exchanged about an ancestor, who had emigrated to Australia. This is always a possibility, as well as your story providing interesting reading and insights for our members and the other family historians who read our journal ... so start writing!

Enjoy Spring!  
Carmel, Editor



**RICHMOND - TWEED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC (RTFHS)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**

This last year as president and member of the Committee of Management, has been both a privilege and enjoyable time for me, despite my initial reluctance to the surprising nomination and then election to the role.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT - It has been my honour to work with the extremely dedicated team of Secretary, Judy Cosgrove; Treasurer, Bonnie Bennett; Membership Secretary, Jan Ousby; Cedar Log Editor, Carmel Crosby; Event Organiser, Joy Conlon; Facebook Manager, Liz Marshall; committee member, Ann Emery, and more recently our new IT Manager, Sue McCulloch. Sadly, for us, Liz has decided to step down from the committee but will continue as the manager of our Facebook page. We will miss her calm and measured contributions to discussions.

MARIE HART LIBRARY (MHL) COMMITTEE - Although Kerrie Alexander stepped down from her role as Library Officer, her experience will be retained as she remains on the Library Committee. Jill McCann has taken on the Library Officer's role and has also accepted an invitation to join the Committee of Management in order to facilitate efficient communication and organisation. She will be an asset to the committee. Thank you to the other Library Committee members, Joy Conlon, Janine Thomson and Carol Brown.

THE CEDAR LOG EDITORIAL TEAM - Consisting of Carmel Crosby as editor and Judy Cosgrove and Liz Marshall as assistant editors, they continue to put out interesting and high-quality quarterly journals. It is a demanding undertaking, and their efforts are much appreciated by members.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS - I would like to thank our other committed volunteers:

- Dawn Lotty who does the monthly newsletter and other event fliers.
- Allan Ridgewell our Publicity Officer and Paper Exchange Journals Officer.
- Eldon Wright who sees to maintenance in the MHL.
- Our many duty officers and our Research Officer, Janine Thomson.
- Robyn Hilan, our auditor.

40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - Much of the early months of the 2023-24 committee involved preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our Society, which was held on 2 December 2024 at the Ballina Byron Islander Resort. Our Patron, Martyn Killion, chaired the meeting and gave an entertaining and interesting talk to those present. It was a wonderful way to acknowledge the evolution of the RTFHS and the dedication of so many and it was great to see everyone having a pleasant time together. Thanks must go to Carmel Crosby for the initial organisation, Joy Conlon for

finalising arrangements and decorating the room, and Ann Emery, who wrote a special poem for the occasion. But to be honest the entire committee was involved.

ORGANISATION - Our initial planning meeting was held in October last year and another in January of this year. At this time, I expressed my belief that to survive and grow, when so many other societies around the world have ceased to exist, we needed to look at ourselves as a business, and members and prospective members as clients. We set a number of goals for the year and decided on a number of initiatives, as well as the focus for each meeting.

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS - We are indebted to all the speakers for their contributions to our General Meetings and to the coordinators. These meetings provided members with a range of engaging and informative topics and in looking back it is incredible just how much we have done. The topics included:

- August 2023: we enjoyed a presentation by speaker Samantha Elley, who wrote the book *Tales from the Grave*
- September: we joined Helen Smith for the mini seminar, *DNA: What Use is It? Which Test, Why and from Whom?*
- October: John Tranter spoke about *FamilySearch and how to use it better*
- November, Carmel Crosby presented a very thorough, practical and informative presentation titled, *Newspapers - Where else to look besides Trove?*
- February 2024: Richard Goss coordinated a focus on Wills – *Where There's a Will, there's a Family*
- March: Dawn Lotty gave a talk on the *Black Sheep in her Family* and Ann Emery coordinated a session on members talking about their *DNA Connections*
- April: Judy Cosgrove coordinated the 'We Need You!' accounts in recognition of ANZAC Day.
- May: I coordinated talks on the *Women Who Shaped Us* in recognition of our mothers and Mother's Day.
- June: The successful *Antique and Heirloom Roadshow* was coordinated by Joy Conlon and was definitely a highlight for the year.
- July: We had a Zoom meeting with Rosemary Kopittke, who presented *Connecting with Family Lines Online* that looked at various research platforms and their advantages and disadvantages.
- Today: Ann Emery is coordinating the topic *Ships that Brought our Ancestors*

THE MARINERS PROJECT - John Broadley has continued to coordinate this very demanding project and is investigating ways to make the database available to members and researchers. Lynn Francis and Ross Glover have now joined John and me, making a team of four. As they say, 'the more the merrier' and we greatly appreciate their research help!

CONCORDANCE OF NAMES - This year has also seen the conclusion of the efforts of Margaret Schmitt, Carol Brown, Kristine Pryor, Karen Chilcott and Richard Goss in creating a database of names from 22 non-indexed local books, with ultimately 31,242 references to names. There are plans

to launch this either later in the year or early next year and to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work done by those involved.

FUNDRAISING BBQs - An important consideration for any organisation is how to remain financially viable, and certainly, the introduction of the successful Bunnings BBQs held in March and June 2024 helped with that. Not only did they provide additional revenue (a total of \$2,800 profit) but also a pleasant opportunity to work together in a more social setting. Thanks must again go to Carmel for initial reconnaissance of the operation, to Ann and Trevor Emery for the tremendous amount of time and effort put into all the purchasing and transport of supplies. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped on both days.

We recently held a pleasant Christmas in July luncheon, with 32 members and friends attending.

SQUARE READER - The purchase of a Square Reader, which was Carmel's idea, was a great advantage at the last BBQ and approximately 50% of the purchases were made this way. We are investigating how to integrate this form of payment into other areas, such as membership fees, to better meet members' needs.

PROMOTING OUR SOCIETY – This has been foremost in our minds so that we can continue to grow a strong supportive membership and keep what we offer relevant and desirable to all researchers.

- Our brochures have been left at various places including the Ballina Tourist Information Centre and Crawford House Museum, Alstonville
- Ann Emery was interviewed on Paradise FM radio leading up to our anniversary and did a very professional job to raise awareness of the Society and what we do. Our hope is that this might occur on a regular basis in the future. So, if you are a frustrated 'radio jock' please let us know!
- I have done two talks to other organisations, one in May to the *North Coast Chapter of the First Fleeters* and the other a few weeks ago at the *Ballina Evening View Club*. I have also been invited to speak about our Society, at the *Palm Lake Resort* later in the year.
- The committee is currently organising a display at Ballina Fair Shopping Centre in August during Family History Month

FEEDBACK & ACTION - The Committee of Management has been cognisant of the need to provide the best facilities and resources to support research. We have continued to review the feedback from the 2022 survey at each meeting and, where possible, implement the suggestions such as those regarding meeting topics, technology, research skills, and coffee-making facilities. Even our recent purchase of an *Ancestry* subscription came from members' requests.

REPAIRS - Thanks to Judy's correspondence with the council, our guttering has been cleared, the drainpipe repaired, and the window locks replaced to allow the windows to be opened. Our new blind at the front door is working well thanks to Eldon, Trevor, Ann and Judy.

MARIE HART LIBRARY - The MHL also saw the setting up of a tea and coffee station, for the convenience of members using the library. Jill McCann has kindly donated a small fridge. This will

be helpful in summer when we hold proposed training sessions. Our thanks also to Carmel for the donation of a large TV screen for use during training sessions.

MEMBERSHIP - It is important that we keep building our membership, not only for financial reasons, but so that we continue to be surrounded by supportive like-minded members, who have a richness of experience, knowledge and skills.

We now have 105 financial members and have had a regular trickle of new members each month over the last 12 months.

A number of memberships were not renewed this year for a range of reasons including, relocation, illness, family commitments, age and those no longer researching.

We sadly lost 7 members including our Honorary Fellows, Nola Rodey and Esme Smith, and members, Elvin Andrews, Yvonne Hammond, Kevin Geaghan, Bert Clapham and Nola Cummings.

Jan Ousby and I have also updated the documents in the members' package to make the information accurate and up to date.

COOPERATION BETWEEN HISTORY GROUPS - As I've mentioned previously, I believe that to be the best we can be, there should be more cooperation and interaction between the various history organisations in the district, and depending on who is mayor after the next local election, there are plans for representatives to meet with the mayor and form a consultation group to protect and promote our historical sites and information. Apart from this, the more our groups understand what each other offers, the better we can support each other and support our researchers.

IT MANAGER - We were extremely fortunate to secure the experience, knowledge and skills of Sue McCulloch in her role as our IT Manager. Prior to Sue taking on the role we were very ably served by Don Howell, Carol Brown, and Richard Goss in recent times. Sue is being assisted by Carmel Crosby.

Don Howell is one of our IT coordinators, sending out the E-Journals and the drop box and doing the desktop backups. He does a huge amount behind the scenes, and is going to continue in the role. Don is working very effectively with Sue McCulloch.

Sue McCulloch has also been working quietly behind the scenes, meeting with those who are connected in any way to IT, doing an audit of our devices, and setting up new systems. She has been tidying up the desktops on the computers and is also about to update our Microsoft 365 Plan. Sue is also preparing for the delivery of training workshops to members. Updating our website is an ongoing task which she continues to work at as does Liz Marshall with our Facebook page.

CONCLUSION - There was a lot for the committee to do, and there still is, and unfortunately sometimes the wheels turned more slowly than we liked, despite our best efforts. We need to remember that despite our commitment, we are after all just volunteers.



## BBQ Fundraising Event at Bunnings Warehouse, Ballina

### By Carmel Crosby, BBQ Organiser

Our Society held a second successful and busy fundraising BBQ at *Bunnings Warehouse* in Ballina, on Saturday 8 June 2024. We cleared just over \$1,800, which was an increase on the March BBQ. Many thanks to those who volunteered on the day or assisted in other ways, including, Trevor and Ann Emery who purchased the food, drink and other items as well as worked at the BBQ. Other workers on the day were Jan Aitkin, Kerrie Alexander, Bonnie Bennett, Joy Conlon, Judy and Lyle Cosgrove, Terry Doherty, Margaret Evans, Victoria Evans, Fiona Jones, Jill McCann, Joy Morhaus, Diane and Graeme Robertson, Allan Watt, Rachel Wright and yours truly. Richard Goss had volunteered, but was unfortunately sick, and Tanya Binning was called away on family matters. Both were unable to attend.

Although we have had 2 BBQs in 3 months, the committee has decided that we will hold 2 BBQs per calendar year, going forward. This will be manageable and provide welcome funds for our Society.



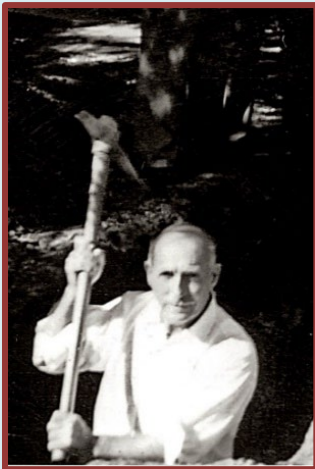
*L-R: Trevor Emery, Jill McCann, Ann Emery, Kerrie Alexander and Jan Aitkin*

## A World War 2 Tussle – RAAF v Manpower Directorate

By Leigh Wilson – Member 805

It was in early in December 1941 that Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbour, inflicting huge destruction and many deaths, making Australians shockingly aware that the Japanese Imperial Forces intended to reach Australia. Clearly, the actions already taken by Australia would be totally inadequate for the future. It was now that Prime Minister **Curtin** forthrightly stated: -

"For Australia our **utmost** - meaning everything we have and everything that belongs to us - must now be mobilised. The protection of this country is no longer just a contribution to a world at war, but is resistance to an enemy threatening to invade our own shores. **It is now work or fight as we have never worked or fought before.** Hours, previously devoted to sport and leisure, must now be given to the duties of war. Every citizen has a duty parallel to that of the man in the fighting forces. Brains and brawn are demanded in every place of war endeavour. We have to pep up the production of every essential requirement."



*My maternal grandfather, Frank Angel, digging an air-raid shelter in the garden of his house at Fullarton.*

Fullarton, a suburb of Adelaide.

At the very time of the Pearl Harbour turmoil, in Adelaide my mother was giving birth to me, which spared me from direct exposure to WW2 activities. Instead, as I was growing up, I learned about the war from books - mainly about the fighting, the destruction, and the strategies. Sometimes it was very specific aspects, and sometimes it was the big picture. Thus it was for many years that I believed I understood most aspects quite well. But it hadn't occurred to me to wonder how the lives of individual people were affected, even those who were not in the immediate line of battle - affected, not necessarily in a highly life-threatening way, but none-the-less resulting in stress, difficulty, and fatigue.

In the early 1940s, my maternal grandfather, Frank **Angel**, having recently retired from the position of State Manager of WD & HO Wills (a major distributor of household perishables especially tobacco products), forthwith started digging an air-raid shelter in the garden of his house at

After my father died in 1970, I came by a bundle of letters he had written to my mother during the war. These surprised me by referring to some aspects of the management of the civilian population in war-time Australia.

At this stage, I need to travel back in time, to when my paternal grandfather, George **Wilson**, having completed his apprenticeship as a tailor, set up in business in central Adelaide. An ambitious and creative man - knowing that “ready-made” suits for men were being mass-produced in the USA - he converted his business to operate in that way. His timing was good, so that through the 1920s the business grew substantially, and even during the Great Depression there were about one hundred employees.

His eldest son - my father - notwithstanding having attended a prestigious school, was then required to work in the business from the bottom up (including, famously, setting traps for mice). His father’s intention was that he would eventually take over control of the business. In September 1939, just as war was declared, my parents married; and almost simultaneously war-time regulations sprang into being. Now, and suddenly, the business had to manufacture exclusively for the Government’s needs; for example, at one stage, it was nothing but overcoats - thousands of them - for the Armed Services.

There’s a totalitarian feel about this, isn’t there? Yes, there was indeed - it was total organisation and total involvement.

Early on, the government’s regulations about manpower were aimed just at detering skilled workers in essential civilian services from volunteering for the armed forces. The deterrence was not totally mandatory - a person could appeal to be released from their reserved occupation (of course, the appeal did not always carry through, especially because it had to be supported by the senior management of the business involved).

At the dawn of 1942, when facing the Japanese advance through the Pacific, more than 100,000 Australian men were called up for full-time service in the armed forces. (Remembering, by the way, that conscription to the armed forces had never been implemented in Australia). This call-up greatly increased the competition between the Armed Forces and Civilian Manpower for labour, and created a crisis. The resource of labour would have to be managed with unsparing efficiency.

So the Government forthwith established the **Manpower Directorate** with responsibility for all *reserved occupations and industrial priorities*. It was governmental determination - and desperation - to optimise the use of human resources. The Directorate was a really powerful body.

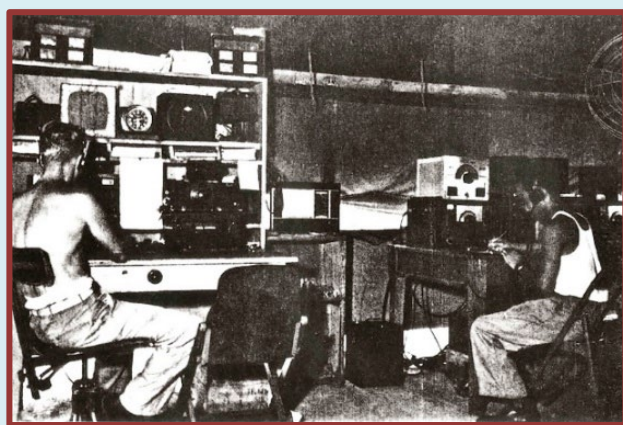
All engagement of male labour was tightly controlled and a national register of both male and female labour was created, so that the government had the power to say what every person was to do whether in the armed services, the war industry or in civilian industry.

It was also in 1942 that my father, Lenard George Arnold ‘Len’ Wilson, enlisted in the *Royal Australian Air Force* (RAAF). Firstly, he was trained in Victoria as a cipher clerk, then early in 1943 he was sent to a camp tucked away in the bush some miles to the side of the tiny Northern Territory township of Adelaide River about a hundred kilometres south of Darwin, which was itself being comprehensively bombed. The camp was in a very remote place indeed. He was attached to Group 22M of “Wireless/Telegraph” probably involved mainly in monitoring local messaging and transmitting long-distance messages. The work roster was a never-ending 12-hours on, 12-hours off.



*Men of Group 22M RAAF in their parade uniforms. When working they often wore shorts and boots only. Len Wilson on right.*

Every man had to be completely self-reliant including constructing his bed, arranging their tent, doing his washing in a bucket, and repairing his clothing. Men from southern Australia found the steamy hot tropical weather very debilitating and skin problems were extensive. Medical treatments for tropical ailments were non-existent. The only means of communication was by letter, always subject to censorship. Most food was uninspiring, with many challenges for the cooks including minimal refrigeration. Hanging over everything was the conviction that the bombing of Darwin implied the imminence of invasion.



*Men at work in the Wireless and Telegraph unit near Adelaide River, Northern Territory. Original source unknown. Reprinted from a calendar produced by Coleman's Printing in Darwin in the late 1900s.*

And now some of these aspects come together.

Early in June 1943 my father received a letter stating that his father George, aged 63, had been laid low by a sudden heart attack, that extended bed-rest could not be avoided, and that consequently he would be unable to work in the foreseeable future. (Of course even the Manpower Directorate was unable to prevent a person from ceasing work in such a circumstance.)

Letters flowed back and forth between my father and a brother-in-law solicitor in Adelaide, formatting an application for the RAAF to release him from his then-current posting so as to manage the clothing business while it was subject to Manpower controls. This was declined by the RAAF on the grounds that it couldn't justify the inevitability of encouraging a number of other such applications – these would, of course, adversely affect Australia's fighting strength at a very pressing time.

Then, Manpower declined to approve his application for inward transfer because it was not convinced that the business really required the specific capabilities of my father - in effect, management by the owner was unnecessary (surely some lesser person at the business could fill the role?). After further letters and personal representations by the solicitor, Manpower eventually agreed to accept my father *provided* the RAAF would agree to his release.

Whereupon, the RAAF said it would *not* agree to his release but instead, it would agree to him re-positioning to Adelaide, there to continue working for the RAAF on a similar basis.

Finally, Manpower accepted this proposal on the understanding that he would attend to the clothing factory's requirements outside his commitments to the RAAF.

So the end result was that he held two full-time jobs from then until the war-time arrangements were dismantled. To be sure, this was not the same as being exposed to active warfare on the front line, but still it was pretty stressful – and after the war's resolution, no recognition at all was forthcoming.

In the present era, regulations and actions such as these would be considered well beyond the pale in a modern democratic community such as Australia considers itself to be. I suspect that many people would be astonished to be controlled in such ways.

As a footnote, I can say that sixteen months later, in October 1944, George had another heart attack that this time was fatal. He had been unable to resume work, other than to offer advice, since the previous attack.

With the end of wartime activities, the *Manpower Directorate* was rapidly dismantled. Totalitarianism in Australia had ceased.

## A Letter from The Boer War

By Dawn Lotty – Member 924

I don't know who or how it started, but the people of Penrith New South Wales (NSW) decided to write to the young local men who had volunteered as part of the *NSW Imperial Bushman's Unit* fighting in the Boer War in South Africa from 1899 to 1902.

It only seemed natural that my husband's great-grandmother, Elizabeth **Aubrey**, who while raising 10 children, running a local farm and involved in every aspect of community life would be one of the correspondents.

This letter, transcribed for the most part below, appeared in the local Penrith newspaper, *The Nepean Times*, on 24 November 1900, under the heading **Private C Giles, who was reported to have died, writes to Mrs D Aubrey, of Penrith, under date Kimberley, 4th October, as follows: -**



*An Australian Scout by W.B Wollen (1857 – 1936), 1901, South Africa.*

*I received your Nepean Times while at Mafeking nearly 10 weeks ago. It was the first and only paper I have received since arrival in S. Africa, so it was a treat. I have had a bit of an experience which I will tell you of. We were only a few days in Mafeking when we left there for Zeerust to relieve Colonel **Hore's** party of Bushmen who were besieged at Elands River. We had some severe fighting and got to within two miles of the besieged place, when General **Carrington** gave the order to retire, and as our casualties were few you will not be surprised to hear that we were very angry at not being able to go forward and relieve our comrades instead of retiring when we could see no cause for it, and up to the present it has not been explained. The Boers had surrounded us so we had to fight our way back to Mafeking. This was a very trying time, as we had to ride at night and fight in the*

daytime. Wagons of provisions, etc, were burnt at Zeerust. Some of the men were that tired that they actually fell asleep in the firing line while there was a lull. We arrived in Mafeking and rested a week, and got reinforcements, I collected a fine lot of curios, but I have lost them since with my kit and other valuables. We left Mafeking about the 11th August. Our scouts encountered the Boer patrol a few miles from Mafeking. We drove them back to Ottoshoop, where they had a good position and were in force. On August 16 the battle of Malmane was fought at this part. This is the only gazetted battle I was in though I was in far more dangerous fights before. This was the day the big guns were on the job, and also the pompoms, though you pay little or no attention to bullets, except explosives, after the first few moments. The pompom makes you move in quick time, they are very deadly. This day 80 men with picked horses were told to take and hold a kopje at any cost on the right flank, and as I had a fast horse I was among them. We had a pretty hard time on this kopje, being without food for ourselves and horses for 86 hours—the boys christened it Starvation Kopje. At 4 a.m. on Sunday, 10th August, again men with good horses were picked and sent on a patrol under a lieutenant—about 12 men, I think. We had proceeded about 5 miles from Ottoshoop and stopped at a farm to make enquiries, when a lot of Boers came galloping over a rise within 70 yards of us, firing as they came. I was the nearest to them by about 20 yards, and when the bullets began to ping and crack around us, the officer wheeled his horse and yelled to us to race for our lives. I had a good horse, so had no fear of being caught, but I reckoned without the bullets. As I was turning my mare a bullet hit her high on the leg. Away she raced over the rough ground, galloping well. When she had gone about 160 yards another one hit her, but she did not check for 50 yards. A bullet came through my hat, taking it off my head, and as the explosives—Martini and Mauser—were bumping around pretty brisk, I was thinking about getting off and running for the river, which was only about 60 yards away, but as a bullet at this moment struck the mare under the arm, entering her heart and pinning me to the ground, I had something else to think about; As I fell some of the Boers galloped past in pursuit of my mates, while others knelt down all around me firing at my mates, who were now disappearing over a rise. I opened fire on these and succeeded in wounding one who was only about 20 yards from me. I was very shaky and in an awkward position, and it was only a fluke I hit him. As soon as I opened fire they put the bullets around me, and for a quarter of an hour after the "Hands up, I shoot!" order I did not know whether I was going to be shot or not. But after a few minutes with the commando I knew I was all right. The Boers were very polite and civil, and I cannot speak too well of their treatment of us. The food was pretty rough and scarce, but it was what they had themselves, so we could not growl. After being captured I was taken to the laager (camp). General **De La Rey** was in command. I was then taken to Lichtenburg, the next day taken to Klerksdorp and put in gaol. The day's ration consists of 8oz bread and meat, a dish of mealy or boiled corn, and a bucket of water. The gaolers did all they could for us, and the English people in town, of which there were a number, used to send us things at different times, for which we were grateful—tobacco, bread, cigarettes, matches, candles, soap and eggs. Everything quiet for

*a time after our arrival. Several of the men arrived over the next few days. They brought the news that the Boer doctor had informed them that I was dead and he had buried me. Over the next few days news in town was that the British are in Potchefstroom, which is 80 miles from here. Boer commando coming in from that way and going through Klerksdorp to the Vaal. All the Boers left town last night, taking two Methuen's scouts whom they were going to shoot for being spies and their sick and wounded from hospital. Field Cornet **Pretorius** interviewed us about 7 p.m. (Field Cornet is a South African civil administrator, assisting the magistrate) to know if his people put us safe in British lines would we give them our written parole not to take up arms again. We refused and thanked him. After refusing this offer we thought our chance of getting away small. In fact one Yeomanry prisoner who was with us and had a bit of cash was in a ill humour with himself because he had followed our lead and not signed, but we got off better than we thought, as the following will show (from his diary).*

*On Sept 16 - In best of spirits. Field Cornet came, and informed us that we were moving at 9 a.m. to-morrow in the direction of Kimberley.*

*Sept 17 – Up bright and early for the start. We wrote letters to the friends in town who had sent us things, and also to the gaolers for their kindness, and exchanged mementoes. A bullock team and wagon came at 10 am. with four guards. On passing through the town the English women grew very excited, rushing out in the street waving their hands and aprons; and others, thinking we were going to Machadodorp and not knowing we were going to be released, were crying, and some came near and said with tears in their eyes, 'Goodbye, boys, cheer up, it won't be long now.' We had on board the wagon a leg of beef and a bag of mealy meal, like oatmeal, So we were not too well off for food.*

*Sept 23—Camped outside Bloemoff on the Vaal River at 7 a.m., inspanned (yoked/harnessed) at 11 a.m. and entered town, picked up three men of the East Lancashire and one Sergeant Scots Fusiliers, crossed the Vaal at 1p.m., left the wagon and set out on foot by ourselves with a tin pot, a few handfuls of mealy meal, and some with overcoats, others with blankets, to make for Kimberley - 100 miles away.*

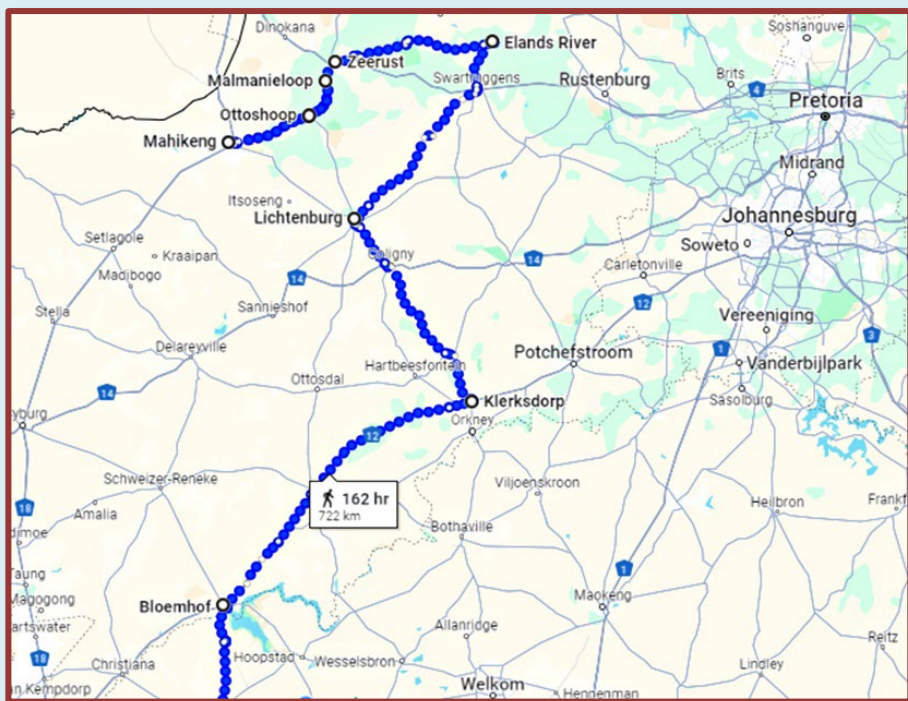
*We travelled in the early morning and evening! to miss the fierce heat of the day. The party split up on the road, the Australians going by themselves. We arrived in Kimberley, on Saturday, Sept 29, after a very rough time. We reported ourselves to headquarters and were sent to the convalescent camp. Three of the men went to hospital suffering from exposure, but I never felt better in my life after I had a day's spell. I met plenty of Australian Bushmen here, in fact there are five of the chaps who were out with me the morning I got nabbed. They greeted me as if from the grave, and could not do enough for me. One of the chaps who were wounded the morning I got caught was in Kimberley, and when I first met him he commenced to hug me in the middle of the footpath, and would not let go my hand till he had a rough*



*account of what had occurred. There are a lot of men in all the hospitals with malarial, enteric and typhoid fever, and it is a marvel to me how I missed it all.*

When I originally found this letter, I decided to research the Boer War and discovered that these uncensored letters, sent home by the soldiers from the commonwealth countries, raised their concerns about the lack of sound military decisions made by the British army leadership. Nurses' letters contained photos of the conditions in the British concentration camps, where some 45,000 white and black women and children starved to death – so at odds with how the Boers treated their prisoners of war and the local English women and children. These soldiers and nurses were labelled traitors, cowards and Boer sympathisers.

It is estimated about 16,000 Australians fought in the war and 600 of these men died while 6 Australian men won the Victoria Cross. Charles Giles safely returned home and in 1917 married Sarah Cox at Parramatta where Charles died in 1946 aged 77.



*Map courtesy of Google Maps showing most of the places mentioned in the letter. Kimberley is 160 km south west of Bloemhof.*

## Sr Editha's Time in New Guinea in WW2

By Julie MacRae - Member 302

Jessie **MacRae**, born 1890, was the seventh child of Farquhar and Sarah MacRae. They lived on the family farm outside Mittagong, New South Wales (NSW). In 1906, Jessie was out in the field, tending the vegetable garden, when she felt the call of God to serve him. She joined the *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* convent in Bowral, NSW, to do her noviciate training. She became Sister (Sr) Editha (see photo below) and a teacher.

She spent 20 years teaching throughout NSW and Queensland (Qld). Her first missionary post came in 1929 to Thursday Island, Qld, then in 1939 she was posted to Vunapope, on the island of New Britain, in Papua New Guinea, much to her delight.



*MacRae family with Jessie (Sr Editha) seated centre front.  
About 1899.*



In February 1939, when Sr Editha stepped off the boat at Rabaul, New Britain, she would have seen a town of about 2000 inhabitants, of many nationalities, nestled on the edge of a humid dense tropical jungle, surrounded by volcanic hills. The air would have smelt of copra (coconut flesh) drying in the hot sun. Copra was the main industry at the time.

Daily temperatures reached, on average, 31 degrees Celsius, every day, all year round, with an average rainfall of over 2000 ml per year.

Rabaul, at the time, was the capital of New Britain, with a deep secure harbour. The common language spoken and understood by most of the population was Pidgin English. The favourite food was sweet potato, which grew abundantly in the lush tropical climate.

When a large ship docked at Rabaul, it was a social event. Carrying fresh food from Australia, the ship would be unloaded, the food distributed and shared around the islands.

Vunapope is a Catholic Mission, established in 1881 and is located 28 kilometres around the bay from Rabaul, about 1km from Kokopo. Vunapope housed missionaries from many different countries and there were numerous buildings and a cathedral. The nuns had a convent that, from the front balcony, looked out over the harbour. Sr Editha was a gifted teacher and at the Vunapope mission was put in charge of the Chinese school. She was creative, artistic, musical and a great organiser. My mum said she was strong, vibrant, outgoing and quite a character. Editha was renowned for her bright spirit and was loved by many.

In December 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, and in the same month a Japanese reconnaissance plane was spotted over Rabaul. An uneasiness came over everyone and there was great fear of what was going to happen. People started leaving and the Australian Government evacuated non-local women and children. The Japanese had begun persistent bombing raids on Rabaul from 4 January 1942.

The missionary nuns wished to stay, but the Australian Government would only allow this if they did Red Cross work, so they immediately sewed red crosses onto their white habits. The nuns prepared a boarding school building to be used as a makeshift hospital so that when the nurses and staff from the Numanula Hospital arrived, they would have a place to work and stay.

On the night of 22 January 1942, the Japanese began attacking Rabaul. Those at Vunapope were woken by the noise and lights of the battle that was raging. The next morning, those who went to the beach stood in quiet disbelief. The harbour was full of Japanese ships, with more still arriving. The tension was exhausting. Japanese soldiers arrived that day and proclaimed "You Are All Prisoners". The missionaries heard that the Australian soldiers were told to retreat, every man for himself. There was no escape plan in place for them.

The Missionaries prepared and went out into the forest, and searched for the wounded and anyone in need of assistance. They continued this work over the coming days and weeks, giving assistance and comfort to the many caught up in this ordeal.



*Photo taken after the camp was liberated by Australian Army soldiers in September 1945. Bishop Scharmach centre left. Courtesy Australian War Memorial.*

-Bishop Scharmach of Rabaul had an audience with the Japanese command and somehow convinced them that he would be the go-between with the Japanese and the missionary prisoners. At the Mission, there were the nuns, brothers, a priest, hospital staff, nurses, patients and a doctor and his family.

Just before the invasion, a local company owner had given the Bishop the keys to his store, before he fled. The Bishop and his flock, collected foodstuffs, took them to the Mission and stowed them around in different spots. The nuns were told to hide everything of value. They were confined to the mission, so had to rely on the Bishop for news of what was going on in the wider world. Sr Editha was keeping a diary, of what was occurring. The Bishop heard of this and told her to destroy it. If the Japanese discovered any writings, they would all be executed. What a story Editha's diary would have told!

During this time, Editha developed appendicitis. There were no anaesthetics or drugs available, but somehow she managed to survive an operation to save her life.

To keep themselves occupied during imprisonment, and to keep up morale, the nuns did the brothers' and priests' washing and sewing. They studied whatever they could. The doctor taught them first aid. The nuns taught English to whomever wanted to learn and they studied German and French from other missionaries there.

Sr Editha remembered the music to *The Mikado* and helped teach it to others, so they could put on a show. They ended up singing the “Lord High Executioner” with a Japanese commander watching, which they thought was a great joke.

Each day the Japanese guards assembled the prisoners of war (POWs). They were counted and searched. The nuns were advised to never be caught alone with a guard, so they went around in groups. The guards poked and prodded into everything, so the nuns had to be careful to guard their stores, which were housed in the ceiling of a native hut. These stores kept the nuns going for a good 6 months. The Japanese, quite suddenly, decided that they wanted the Mission buildings, so the prisoners were all moved to native huts. Very promptly the Mission was surrounded by barbed wire. The guards walked around the camp, so to grab the stores, the nuns had to climb a small ladder, grab what was needed and then put the ladder back before the guards got back around. One day the ladder was forgotten and the guards found it. The store of food was all lost and they were never allowed near that hut again.

In June 1942, The Japanese wanted to send all the women prisoners to Japan. The Bishop intervened and negotiated that the missionaries could stay. He had again saved them.



*The tunnel dug to provide shelter from Allied bombing. Photo taken September 1945. Courtesy Australian War Memorial.*

sheer chasm, they were ordered to descend and everyone slid or slipped down the cliff face to the valley floor.

The male POWs began digging a tunnel into the hillside for protection. The Allies had begun bombing raids, and as these raids intensified, the need for the tunnel grew more necessary. Very soon, all the internees were using the tunnel more and more, eventually to the point where they were spending most of daylight hours in the tunnel.

The Japanese gave the POWs nothing, so they were slowly starving. The indigenous nuns would bring bananas and taro and leave it for them. At night, some of the nuns would creep out and take what they could from the wreckage of the buildings after a bombing raid. The Japanese soldiers would not do this, so the nuns would set about this ghastly task.

In June 1943, all the Mission buildings were destroyed. The Japanese confiscated the tunnel, and the Mission POWs were marched off, through the jungle, 7 km to the Ramale Valley. Arriving at a

No sunlight penetrated the trees. It was damp and unhealthy. The men dug a well and created a pump for water, which had to be boiled.

The group numbered over 300 people, from 17 nations. They lived on local weeds and jungle plants. Pigweed was a staple food. Also consumed were grubs, larvae and snakes. Even feral cats were eaten at one stage. Eventually, they were allowed to establish a vegetable garden. Only 20 were allowed out each day to tend the garden. They brought back what they had grown, but the guards, stole most of the produce for themselves.



*US air attack on Japanese shipping in Rabaul, November 1943*

The indigenous nuns trekked into the jungle valley, every day, carrying heavy baskets of food for the internees. They were not allowed to see or speak to them. The guards checked each basket for contraband and took the best of the food for themselves.

The POWs were in the Ramale Valley for 18 months.



*Ramale Valley, New Britain. A group of Sisters waving as they prepare to move out of the Ramale Valley Internment Camp. 1945. Courtesy Australian War Memorial*

At Ramale, on 16 September 1945, the internees were ordered to dig a trench. They were to be executed. The Japanese were not going to leave any prisoners. Soon the POWs heard a noise - a loud “COOEE” came through the jungle. RELIEF and rejoicing. The prisoners were saved. They were found by Australian soldiers led by a Missionary.

Because the Vanupope Mission buildings had been completely destroyed, the internees had to stay in camp for a bit longer, until accommodation could be set up. The Australian nuns were returned home to recover and recuperate.



*Sisters and Priests boarding an Australian Army barge for transfer to the motor launch Gloria. They are being evacuated from Ramale Valley to Rabaul. Courtesy Australian War Memorial*

After a couple of years, Sr Editha returned to Vunapope and Rabaul, where she continued to teach. It was what she loved and where she felt at home. She died suddenly in 1970, aged 79, while preparing for a visit to Darwin. It was just as she had wanted - working up until the day she died.

Her strength, courage and cheerful nature have won her a place in many a MacRae heart.

Many atrocities were witnessed, but not spoken of.

Editor's note: A movie titled *Sisters of War*, available on DVD, was made in 2010 about the events described by Julie.



**Johan ‘Han’ Maarten Morhaus,  
Father-in-law of Joy Morhaus  
His Experience in Hong Kong in WW2  
- Story from Cover Graphic**

**By Joy Morhaus and Carmel Crosby**



Johan Maarten **Morhaus** was born in The Netherlands in 1896. When WW2 was approaching, he was the bank manager of a Dutch bank in Hong Kong. The families of Dutch workers were sent to the Dutch colony of Indonesia, so as to be out of harm's way of the threatening Japanese war machine. Johan's wife, Zina, and son, Jan (later known as

Ian), were among those who left Hong Kong, before it surrendered on 25 December 1941. Unfortunately, the evacuation to Indonesia turned out to be insufficient as all Europeans there were interned in camps, by the Japanese, after they invaded Indonesia in January 1942.

The photo below is on *Wikimedia Commons* and is described as 'Japanese soldiers arresting western bankers and taking them to their imprisonment in a Chinese hotel'. It bears a striking resemblance to the painting on the cover of this journal (see above), which is a painting in Joy's possession and which Joy understood to have been painted by one of her father-in-law's acquaintances in the banking community. Presumably, he saw the photo during or after the war and decided to paint a picture of this memorable time, which they had experienced. It is not known when or where the photo was first published. Joy was told that the painting



was of the bankers going to and from work each day under guard, from a compound surrounded by barbed wire and that it was definitely not an hotel!

Johan reunited with his wife and child (Joy's future husband) after the war and lived in Hong Kong until they moved to Australia in 1951. They had no more children. Johan died in 1981 and Zina in 1982.



*Western bankers in Hong Kong arrested and taken to their imprisonment, after the Japanese invasion in December 1941. Johan Morhaus is first on the right after the man in a pith helmet. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*



## **NEW MEMBERS**

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

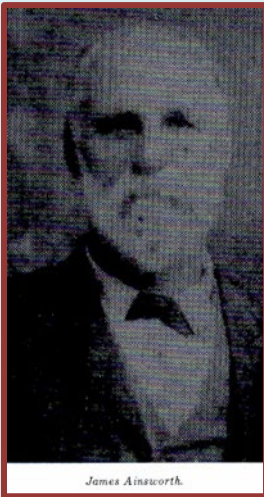
Member No 1051  
Member No 1053  
Member No 1054

Gai Hart-Hughes  
Kay Stone  
Toynera Macgregor

Ballina  
East Ballina  
Ballin

# Massacre of Aboriginal People in East Ballina 1853-54

Compiled by Carmel Crosby



James **Ainsworth** came to the Ballina area in 1847 as a 5-year-old with his family. In his 80<sup>th</sup> year, he wrote a small book covering the years 1847 - 1922, named *Reminiscences – Ballina in the Early Days*. It has been reprinted at various times by community groups as it is beneficial in preserving the history of the area. We have a copy in the Marie Hart Library (H2.478/10).

Among the many topics he covers in the book is the massacre of Aboriginal people near Black Head, on the northern end of Shelly Beach, East Ballina in 1853 - 54.

A memorial, built in 2001, is situated on the walkway about 100 metres north of Shelly Beach (see photo below)



Following is a transcription of the relevant section of the booklet we have in our library, which was reprinted by Apex 40 Ballina in 1987.

### **“AN EAST BALLINA MASSACRE SHOT DOWN LIKE DOGS”**

“In 1853 or ’54 when Queensland was still under the jurisdiction of N.S.W. it was the custom (occasionally) to patrol distant territories with black-trackers in charge of white troopers. These were trained horsemen and musket shots, but were possessed very often with only a cramped conception of their duty.

It had been alleged in Brisbane that the blacks to the north of the Tweed had murdered some white men and that the murderers had fled south towards the Richmond.

In due course one afternoon one of these patrols – a small one – rode into East Ballina and put up at Ainsworth’s public house, “The Sailors’ Home”. That is to say the white troopers stayed at the hotel while the black trackers camped outside.

The object of the mission to Ballina was not disclosed to the settlement and no inquiries were made by the patrol, but at 3 o’clock the next morning they turned out and ascended the hill in the direction of the present reservoir [Editor’s note: present in 1853, not now]. The blacks had a camping ground on the clear slope of the hill facing the valley reaching over towards Black Head. At the time between 200 and 300 of them lay asleep in the camp.

The troopers and trackers stealthily surrounded the slumbering blacks and when sufficiently close at a given signal opened fire. Men, women, and children were slaughtered without mercy, and their screams and cries during the onslaught were heartrending. Between 30 and 40 of the poor wretches were killed outright and many who got away were badly wounded. Their graves may still be found on the fatal ridges [NB: written in 1922].

The patrol, after its bloody work, returned north and the white settlers at East Ballina reported the unprovoked attack to the N.S.W. government. The authorities, however, gave no satisfaction, and when pressed to take action against the troopers the settlers were peremptorily told to mind their own business and were warned that persistence in the matter might lead to trouble for them.

In their flight from the camp the blacks took refuge in the scrub and did not return for quite a period. They sought no reprisals and took no revenge; and to the credit of the whites in the meantime, be it added, they were shown every sympathy and every assistance.”

## My Uncle Taught Reg Ansett to Fly

By Lynn Francis – Member 996

My father, Mick **Francis**, was born in 1899. He married when he was 48 years old and had 6 children. We never knew any of my father's family but heard that his brother Joe was a pilot for Qantas. That was the family story, incorrect as it turns out.

Joseph (Joe) Francis was born at Crown Street Women's Hospital, Surry Hills (Sydney) on 18 April 1892. He was the first child of Mary Ellen **Gorman**, my paternal grandmother. His father was supposedly of royal Italian heritage (another family story). His birth father is not listed on the birth certificate, but when he was 5 years old, Mary married Arthur Edwin Francis and Joe took his last name. He grew up in Oatley with 4 siblings.

From 1913 to 1916 Joe worked in electrical and mechanical engineering at Ramsey Sharpe & Co, George St, Sydney. He married Florence **O'Conner** at the Church of England, Hurstville, on 27 November 1915, when he was 23 years old (the first of 3 marriages). They had a daughter, Joan Isabel in 1916.

When he was 24 years old Joe attended pilot training at the State Aviation School, Richmond, New South Wales (NSW). Joe attended the first course from which 10 pilots were accepted by the Australian Flying Corps (AFC). Another 8, including Joe, were dispatched to England to offer their services to The War Office. Joe felt his weight (over 11 stone/70kg) was against him being accepted by the AFC. This information comes from a book by Neville Hayes "*Billy Stutts and the Richmond Flyboys*". I read on an aviation website, on a blog by Neville, that Joe was one of his favourites, but he couldn't find much information on him after his return to Australia.

Joe embarked from Sydney in January 1917, one of 8 Aviator pilots on the troop ship *SS Omrah* which was torpedoed and sunk the following year whilst troop carrying. They arrived in England and were accepted as probationary flight officers and were paid one shilling per day as compared to six shillings per day when in NSW. The NSW government agreed to make up the difference until they gained their wings. In 1918, Joe passed out 2<sup>nd</sup> in the stunting course at Gosport School of Special Flying, UK. He was selected as a Royal Air Force (RAF) Pilot Instructor and was promoted to Lieutenant on 1 April 1918. On 7 February 1920, he was repatriated to Australia. He was awarded British War & Victory medals and was mentioned in despatches.

After his return to family in Oatley (with his girlfriend from England hot on his heels) he decided to go back to England as the job prospects in Australia were not good for pilots. He joined the Auxiliary Division Royal Irish Constabulary (ADRIC) aka the 'black and tans', service no.1298, M Company, and was promoted to Section Leader on 1 January 1921. Joe was discharged on demobilisation of ADRIC on 19 January 1922. On return to Australia in 1923, he applied for his Civil Aviation License and was granted B License No.4. Charles Kingsford Smith had applied for his commercial license two years earlier.

In 1926, Joe was an instructor at the Royal Victorian Aero Club, where John "Tommy" Pethybridge, who was the co-pilot of Charles Kingsford Smith on the "Lady Southern Cross", gained his "A" license with Joe in Melbourne 1930. Joe also taught a 20-year-old, Reginald 'Reg' Ansett, to fly!



*Reg Ansett in 1936, aged 27, around the time he started Ansett Airlines in Victoria. Photo by J. Leonard*

Reg Ansett gave a speech on 20 September 1968 at the Aero Club's annual dinner about early reminiscences of the club and learning to fly. Following are a few snippets relating to Joe printed in 'Plane Talk', the club magazine in 2014.

"I had an interview with Joe Francis, one of the two instructors of the Victorian Aero Club at Essendon. Incidentally, Joe and I formed a very close friendship, which carried through right until his death. Joe stood there on the tarmac digging wax from his ear with a match (which was a habit of his) and strongly advised against the Air Force."

"Joe maintained the Air Force was hopeless in peace-time and as he had had this experience, I promptly dropped the idea and looked around for sufficient money to pay for my course with the Aero Club, and it just so happened that my parents had taken out a small insurance and this was about to mature.....This paid for my dual instruction and early flying".

"Flying wasn't too difficult in those days. There were no complications from the Department of Civil Aviation and from my recollections, there were only about four aircraft stationed at

Essendon. Of course, we had to do anti-clockwise circuits and we were instructed to keep a very close lookout because of the great danger of collision.”

“After four hours’ dual, all of which was done at the break of day, Joe Francis decided that I was ready to go solo.” (It was later decided that another 2hrs might be beneficial.)

Capt. Joe Francis went on to be a manager at *Australian National Airways* (ANA). He wrote an article for ‘**The Boy** – Annual for 1946-7’ titled “Box Kites to Skymasters”. The Annual included a few words about the author, as follows:-

“Captain J. Francis, an executive of Australian National Airways Pty. Ltd can undoubtedly be termed one of the pioneers of civil aviation in Australia. His flying and organisational ability have in no small way helped to establish civil aviation on the very firm footing that it has in Australia today. Captain Francis is the holder of the oldest current commercial pilot’s license in Australia and has flown every type of aircraft from the box-kite days to the present luxurious DC3 Skyliners. His civil commercial pilot’s license number is 4. With over thirty years practical flying experience, Captain Francis has seen Australia moulding its air destinies. Many of the men he mentions in this article were close acquaintances and, in many cases close friends of his. He not only watched but helped build Australia’s civil skyways.”

Joe bought a pub in Ballarat with his third wife. He died in 1963.



## **New Arrangements for Distribution of *The Cedar Log***

Due to increased postage costs, from this issue, we will be distributing the paper copy of the journal to members in the local area (Ballina, South Ballina, Lennox Head and Bangalow) as follows: -

- Journals will be available at the monthly meeting, in the Ballina Players Theatre, in the month the journal is published - March, June, September and December (at the Christmas party)
- Uncollected journals will be placed in the *Marie Hart Library* where they can be collected by members during opening hours in the month following this meeting
- Any journals still uncollected will be taken back to the following monthly meeting for possible collection by members. Remaining uncollected journals will be hand-delivered, where possible, or posted. The uncollected December journals will be posted in the week before Christmas

We hope members are not too inconvenienced by this change.

The Editorial Team

## News from the Marie Hart Library

By **Jill McCann- Library Officer**

**These new books have recently been added to the Library:**

- *Rowdy Voices and Quiet Whispers: Female Convicts of Port Macquarie*
- *Port Macquarie's Last Convicts*
- *From Scotland to Ireland to Alstonville: the history of the **Johnston** family by Elaine Clinton*

The Library has renewed its subscriptions for the following magazines:

- *Who Do You Think You Are?*
- *Roots Ireland*

As has been announced elsewhere, the Society has purchased a subscription to World Heritage Ancestry and it is located on both computers in the library. This subscription has access to all records on Ancestry but will not allow access to external sites linked from Ancestry, such as, articles on Newspapers.com, Fold3 military records.

It is for research purposes only – you may not build a tree or use the message board to contact other Ancestry users.



### When to Find our Research Officer in the Marie Hart Library

Our research officer, Janine **Thomson**, is available to members (and visitors on payment of a \$5 fee) for research assistance.

Janine is on duty at the *Marie Hart Library* on the following days.

Each month: -

First Saturdays 10am - 1pm

Fourth Saturdays 1 - 4pm

Third, fourth and fifth Wednesdays 1- 4pm

Other duty officers may also be able to assist with research on other days, so pop into our Library during opening hours and further your family history research.

## Gleanings of Overseas eJournals

### By Carmel Crosby

The following journals are received as eJournals and can be read from home via the link that members receive monthly, or in the *Marie Hart Library*. There are many useful articles to assist with family history research especially with respect to UK records.

*Getting started in your Irish Research* by David Ryan – page 6.

*Family Houses and Local History Resources before 1837* by Jackie Depelle – page 22

*Calderdale, West Yorkshire. The Schrivener.* Dec 2023

*Hitting a Brick Wall?* (good article with tips and free website suggestions) by Margaret Williams – page 192

*Barnsley Roots*, Jan 2024

*The English Poll taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381* (some records remain and are held at The National Archives) by Mike Ward – page 209

*Researching Romany Ancestors* (also known as Gypsies and Travellers) by Beverley Walker – page 212

*Birmingham, The Midland Ancestor* Dec 2023

*The Future of Family Tree Research* (a short and sweet article on the changes in family history research and storage) by David Saunders – page 338

*Birmingham, The Midland Ancestor* June 2024

*Fleet Marriages* by Michael Gandy – page 389

*Society of Genealogists Magazine* Dec 2023

*Never Underestimate the Value of a Photograph* (history and storage of photographs) by Helen Dawkins – page 455

*Society of Genealogists Magazine* March 2024

*Discovering your Military Ancestors - UK* (covers medals, ranks, where the regiment was and what they were doing, day to day operations of units, POWs and more) by Graham Bandy – page 9

*Society of Genealogists Magazine* June 2024

*Northerners – A History from the Ice Age to the Present Day* by Brian Groom – page 164

*The Manchester Genealogist* No. 2 June 2024



## Monthly Speakers



**4 May 2024 – The Women Who Shaped Us**, coordinated by Victoria Evans.

Women through the ages have had a profound influence on others. History has recorded the famous ones but there are so many ordinary women who have been dedicated to their families, have achieved so much for themselves and have had a profound influence on others too.

We had four speakers at this meeting talking about the women who had touched and shaped their lives (L to R in photo): Helen Mooney, Ross Glover, Judy Cosgrove and Tanya Binning. Judy **Cosgrove** told the story of her mother – the woman who shaped me.

Tanya **Binning** – her maternal grandmother, who came to Australia from Northern England during the depression, and how she found out about her grandmother's life through her research.

Helen **Mooney** – her mother's humble beginnings, the education and skills she acquired and eventually receiving an OAM for her achievements.

Ross **Glover** - his great-grandmother, her accomplishments and progress through life.

### 1 June – Antiques Roadshow



Organised by Joy **Conlon**, we had an interactive display of heirlooms with members talking about the item they brought along, its story and significance to their family. The items were on display with an explanation of their history for everyone to look at more closely, during an extended afternoon tea break. Speakers included (L to R in photo): Patricia Wilson, Ann **Emery**, Dawn **Lotty**, Jill **McCann**, Judy Cosgrove, Meryl **Broadley**, Shirley **McAnelly**, John Broadley (obscured), Helen **Scott** and Geoff **Roston**.



*Some of the Heirlooms on display with members and visitors in the background. The Players' Theatre, Ballina*

**6 July** – We had a presentation via Zoom from Rosemary **Kopittke**, who described various ways to connect with family lines online. She talked about social media sites, like Facebook, Flickr and Blogs, as well as the major Family History Sites like Ancestry, MyHeritage, Family Search, Lost Cousins, Geneanet and WikiTree, and how useful each are for finding family ties. A handout was sent to members by email, which summarises the main points of Rosemary's comprehensive presentation.



## 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)



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*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.*

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

**Saturday 7 September Meeting:** Video on Introduction to Ancestry with Q&A.

**Saturday 5 October Meeting:** The Men Who Influenced Us.  
Co-ordinator – Judith Cosgrove

**Saturday 2 November Meeting** – They Came in Chains. Co-ordinator – Victoria Evans

**Saturday 7 December:** Christmas Lunch at The Edible Garden Café, 12 Convery's Lane, Wollongbar. Cost \$40. If you would like to attend, contact Bonnie Bennett on 0414 927 361.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership fees for the year 1 January to 31 December 2025 are \$40 Individual or \$50 Joint Membership. Journals will be sent to financial members only