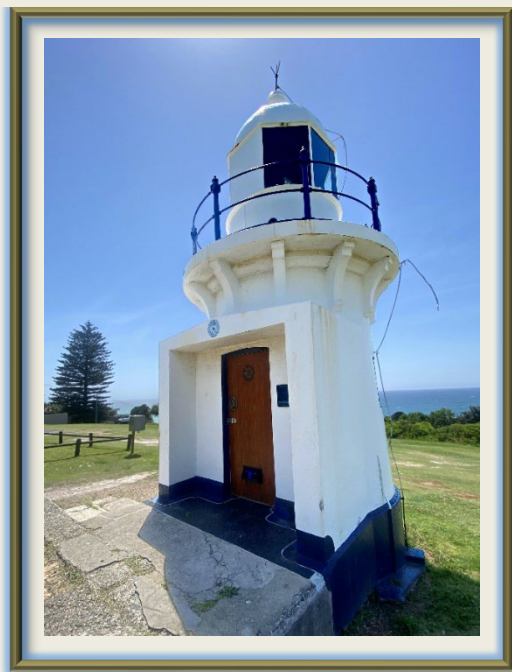


THE Cedar Log

Issue No 163 – March 2025

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia



The Richmond River Lighthouse - located on the corner of Harbourview St and Beach Rd in East Ballina - a temporary lighthouse was first established in 1866 to guide ships into the mouth of the Richmond River. The present lighthouse was designed by James Barnet and built in 1879. As it is on a hill, it only needs to be 6 metres tall but can be seen from a distance of 19 kilometres. Further information about the lighthouse is available at these websites.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richmond_River_Light

<https://lighthouses.org.au/nsw/richmond-river-lighthouse/>

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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

Welcome back to another hopefully prosperous year in your family history research.

We have several articles in this issue on *The Women Who Shaped Us* - thanks to **Tanya Binning**, **Judy Cosgrove** and **Ross Glover** for writing these stories. Also, thanks to **Frank Harvey** for allowing us to reprint an article he wrote in 2017 about the *Historic Development of the Australian States*. We also have reports on a **Writing Competition for 2025**, new books and library news, journal Gleanings, Monthly Speakers and more.

In February, committee members, Ann **Emery** and Jill **McCann**, attended the inaugural Lennox Community Connections Expo to advertise our Society. 40 groups participated and we hope to gain some new members from this extra exposure.

The first fundraising BBQ at Bunnings for 2025 will be held on Saturday 26 April. Please volunteer for a couple of hours if you can, as 'many hands make light work'! Contact me, at the editor's email, or at a meeting, if you can assist.

Happy researching in 2025 and consider publishing a story in *The Cedar Log*. All contributions welcome!

Sponsors of our Journal, *The Cedar Log*



We are very grateful to 2 sponsors for this and recent journals. **Robyn Hilan**, RTFHS Member 488 and past president, has donated \$800 to cover the printing and postage costs for the September and December 2024 journals. We are very grateful to Robyn for this generous gesture.

In addition, the **Cherry Sports Group** has donated \$400 to sponsor this present issue, March 2025. The **Cherry Street Sports** club is in central



Ballina, at a handy location for many of our members and we often have our Christmas-in-July get-together there. Members and Friends might like to visit **Cherry Street Sports** or **Club Lennox Sports** and enjoy the food and friendly atmosphere. Location details are on the back cover or visit their website <http://www.cherrystreet.com.au/>

The Women Who Shaped Us – Catherine Jean BAYLEY

By Judith Cosgrove - Member 989



Catherine Jean Walsh nee Bayley

The woman who shaped our family was my mother, Catherine Jean **Walsh** nee **Bayley**.

She was born in Casino on 12 February 1916, the third child and only daughter of Richard Cromwell **Bayley** and Josephine Janet **McAlpine**.

My Nan Bayley told us that Mum was a very quiet child, who loved reading, growing flowers, was neat and tidy, well organized, enjoyed music and singing and attended Sunday School each week.

Her aunt gave her a piano for her 8th birthday and she was sent to have music lessons. Her love of music continued, and music was always played at home. Mum listened to South Pacific, My Fair Lady and other musical albums. She put up with Elvis, The Beatles and many other bands that were popular, which my brothers and

sisters played loudly! Both of my sisters are excellent pianists, and my sister Janet studied at the Conservatorium of Music and graduated as a Music/English teacher.

My mother was an excellent student, a good runner and hurdler and enjoyed playing hockey. My sister, Janet, and I inherited the athletic traits and I certainly enjoyed playing hockey.

Mum attended school in Casino and completed her Intermediate Certificate at Casino High School. She hoped to further her education and train as a teacher, but a series of events made this desire impossible.

Mum's father was injured while working on the railway. Her brother, Horace, was killed in a car accident, aged 19, and in 1931 and the worldwide Depression hit. A neighbour died in childbirth and my grandparents took the child and raised him.

With money scarce, Mum was trained for employment. She did 'Commercials', which involved learning, shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. She was employed in the office at **Glynn's** Department store in Casino, which was run by her Aunt Elsie Bayley, her father's sister, until her marriage.



Mum was in the same Intermediate class as Dad's brother, Gordon. He introduced them and a romance blossomed. She married James Ernest **Walsh** in 1936, aged 20, at St Mary's Catholic Church, Casino. Mum had to leave the store as there was a policy that married women were not employed.

This was a mixed marriage as Mum was Church of England and Dad was catholic. Her father refused to attend the wedding, but her mother and brother did, and it took place in a small room at the side of the main church area. There are no pictures of the wedding as neither family owned a camera and much of my father's money was given to his mother to help support the family, his father having died in 1931.

My parents moved to Brisbane where Dad worked as a bricklayer. My sister Mary was born in 1937 and my brother Robert in 1941. He was 6 months old when my father enlisted in the Army in 1942. Dad's other brothers and brother-in-law had enlisted in 1939 and 1940 respectively, but since Dad had children, his brothers discouraged him from enlisting earlier.

To keep his family safe, he moved them to Casino where both sets of parents lived. Mum lived with her parents, Nan and Pop Bayley. Dad went to Darwin after the bombing and came home on leave in 1943 before being shipped out to New Guinea.

My brother Kerry, a very healthy 10lb baby, was born on New Years Day 1944. I am pleased my mother had family support at this time as this is a joyful event shared by a couple.



James Ernest Walsh in WW2 army uniform

Mum and both families made care packages for their boys serving in the war and raised funds for the Red Cross. The knitting needles clicked, and Nan was always sewing clothes for the family. Mum started a large vegetable garden, kept poultry and milked the cows to provide milk, cream and butter. The produce was shared with others or used as a means of barter for the ingredients needed to make the cakes and puddings for the soldiers or for cigarettes for the care packages or for items needed for the family.

Her brother-in-law was killed in Greece on 18 April 1941 and fear struck when she saw the telegram boy, who brought the news of death or wounding of the soldiers. This is when her problem with anxiety began. A trait she passed on to some members of the family, including myself.

\With 3 children to care for on a soldier's pay and with rationing, she became very thrifty, and she instilled in us to never live beyond your means.

When Dad was discharged in 1946, my brother Kerry was 2, Robert was 5 and Mary 9. Kerry had never seen him before, and my grandfather had raised him until this age. The bond of all three remained very strong with my grandparents throughout their lives.

My parents built their own home in Casino and my father found work at the local quarry. My father returned from the war with physical and emotional problems. He suffered from bouts of malaria, severe skin problems and drank heavily. Mum always encouraged all things in moderation with us.

Four other children including myself were born between 1947 and 1956. William in 1947, Janet 1950, Peter 1952 and myself in 1956. My eldest sister was 19 when I was born and at Teacher's College in Armidale, I was 5 when my niece was born. Mum cared for my sister's children when they lived in Casino, so she could teach at the local primary school. She cared for my dad's sister, Ruth, who had Down's Syndrome, to give my Aunt Flora respite at various times. My Grandmother had died in 1958 and Ruth survived until 1962.

My parents, like many in their generation, believed in giving us every opportunity and I know they sacrificed a lot for us. Mum never learnt to swim, ride a bike or drive and these were all things we were taught to do.

We were all well-educated, were encouraged to play sports like football, netball and hockey. We joined the Swimming Club and the girls were taught to play the piano. My brothers joined the Surf Life Saving Club at Evans Head when they were old enough.

Mum always attended our school functions, worked in the Canteen, was a keeper of swimming times at the Swimming Club and regularly attended Mass and Church functions. Mum loved making our birthday and Christmas special. Every year until I was 16, we had a 3-week holiday at Lennox Head. We always had a great time with our cousins and met up with the same group of friends each year. It took me some time to realize that Mum probably did the same things as she did at home over this holiday!

In the 1960's Dad began work as the foreman bricklayer for Adrian **Wade** and Sons. Once again, Dad was away for months, with the building team. Mum was the sole parent. I had very little opportunity for socialising with peers, as she was a very protective and strict person. I never went out with a boy or was allowed to sleep over at friends' homes and was given very specific time limits if I went out to netball and swimming. Discipline was very strict. I got a rude wakeup call when I attended University at age 17!

I am grateful, however, for the strong values she gave us and the strength she showed when raising us.



Judy's mother with her grandchildren

She instilled her values to be honest, loyal, show empathy, take every opportunity you are given as a blessing and do your best. Also to always be humble and not boastful of your achievements. She was pleased we had the opportunities she had missed and that we were successful in our various professions. Mum was never very affectionate. We got the cuddles from our Nan Bayley. This negative aspect was a

lesson for us when raising our own families and interacting with others. She was more relaxed as a grandparent and great-grandparent and more tolerant too. When my marriage broke down in 1990 and I was the sole parent for 3 young daughters, she assisted me in every way she could, giving me the confidence that I could survive this experience.

After Dad retired, they travelled around visiting children and grandchildren and got to see a lot of this country as we were spread far and wide.

This was curtailed for some time when my father was diagnosed with cancer in late 1980 and Mum devoted her life to caring for him until his death in March 1983.

After Dad's death, the trips recommenced. She also joined a Legacy Widow's group and Church Women's groups and kept gardening and reading.

My mother was diagnosed with dementia at age 84 and went to live at St Michael's Nursing Home in Casino. She passed away aged 90 in 2006. She lived without my father for 23 years. Luckily, she was a strong and independent person.

She was a good mother, and I am grateful for the values she instilled and the sacrifices she made for our benefit. I have often contemplated what path her life would have taken if she had furthered her education.



The Women Who Shaped Us

Ada May ATKINSON

By Tanya Binning - Member 680



Ada May Atkinson with her husband William Fleming and their three children - Gladys at the back and Elsie and William front. The photograph was taken for their passport 1923 prior to travelling to Australia

I would like to introduce you to the person who left her mark on our family, without being aware of it.

Like many families who immigrated to Australia, a long line of loving and caring relatives was left behind and more often never to be seen again.

I hope that by writing this short story that her memory and values remain for future generations. The story needs to be told and put safely away.

Ada, our maternal grandmother, died before I was four years old,

and my sister had never known her laugh or her ready smile. She is in photos with her grandchildren as babies, who were obviously her treasures.

Life can move along quickly growing up, but like tasting your first warm and sweet mango, some things remain in your memory. It sets a longing for that of mango season to come around again. I was glad to find a word for it.

The word seems to be something that you may have experienced and long for; a homesickness ... **Hiraeth is a Welsh word.**

Wikipedia writes that there is no English word for it, but a similar word is found in many languages of the world.

HIRAETH, or ‘Hiraeth am gartref’ means a longing for a *place*. Even one that is *unknown* to us. Maybe like the feeling of a nurturing closeness of falling asleep, while in caring arms (see **note** at the end of this story).

In our home, what I did see was the morning ritual of our mother, Gladys, winding up the dark brown mantle clock above the fireplace. I saw her turn the key slowly and I am sure that with each turn, she thought of the wedding gift her mother had given her. At home it struck the time regularly and was the beating heart of our home.

What was the life Ada had lived that made her the person who was so lovingly spoken of by both those who knew her, as well as all her family? For me, life had snatched her away far too soon.

Arriving in Australia: Ada had arrived by ship, coming to Australia with her husband and three children. The depression in England had started to throw a dark blanket of struggle on their family.

As a marine engineer, work in the shipping yards of Newcastle had become scarce for him. Relocating was their best option. They took the three of their four children born and left their old stories behind.

When I first started finding her life through my research, I had great help from my eldest cousin, Lorraine, who had grown up as a country policeman’s daughter in the *Riverina area of New South Wales*. Like her father in his profession, she grew up being a keen recorder of the truth, in the tales told. Once married she worked with administration skills and became a pastor’s wife. Everyone had a story, and they were important to her, no matter what the story was.

While young, she grew up with tales told around the kitchen table. Her mother spoke of her earlier life in England with her parents and the ongoing family story began. As babies were born to them, Ada had made the journey out to visit their policeman’s home in the Riverina area.

At home, our grandparents lived next door to our family, as they had subdivided their block of land and gave two portions to two of their three children to build on.

My cousin said that they were a refined, close family and enjoyed each other’s company, after other family members came to settle in Australia and bought homes nearby.

What was Ada's story growing up with her family?

Ada lived in Northumberland in the north of England above Newcastle, in a market town on the way up to the Scottish border.

Ada's maternal grandfather was the town's post office clerk. His grocery store ran from there. Many of his children were employed there while they were young. After her grandfather became a widower, he chose to live with Ada's family. On retiring, her grandfather worked as a truant officer who was also a town bell ringer. He knew everyone in the town but never gossiped about other people's lives. He was well respected, but not by the children who wagged school on some days. Ada would have gone to school regularly.

With our cousin's recollections, and through research, a story emerged.

Ada's father worked from home as a bonesetter after giving up the profession of master cabinetmaker, who employed workers. In today's terms he would be called a chiropractor. My cousin said that screams of pain were often heard from the upstairs treatment room, while her mother had visited her uncle Ned and his wife in the school holidays.

Ada's father also visited other nearby towns working as a bonesetter. This was reported in his written obituary. His treatments were a relief, like a nurse inflicting necessary pain for the good of the patient. He was well known and respected in the area.

Ada's mother had nine children, but only four survived. A fifteen-year-old sister was amongst those who had died. Ada had seen pain and courage in loss. She knew compassion and the value of a precious life.

About her story growing up, Ada's older brother, Edward, became a prisoner-of-war in the African **Boer War**. At home with his father, Edward had trained and became a bonesetter.

During **WW1** in France, Edward's position was acting Corporal in the **Veterinary Corps**, most probably working with the horses and filled with muddy days.

On retiring in the family home, Edward became a beekeeper, which would have taken him to green fields and tall trees away from their street. His wife wrote regularly to Ada in



*Grandmother, Ada, with my cousin,
Lorraine*

Australia, with family news. Mail was sent by ship and took months to arrive. The mail was read to her family in their home and treasured.

What made our grandmother so special to us, you may ask?

She laughed easily; she always saw the positive side to life and encouraging others to do that too. She was supportive, caring and loving. She made friends easily. It was plain to see the influence she had on her children. Our cousin said she always kept a bible in the loungeroom.

Was she rich? Was she famous? Was she special?

All grandmothers have a special place in our lives. What she had experienced at home with her family and friends growing up made her our very special person.

She was the woman who shaped us.

Our grandfather, a quiet man adored her and missed her greatly after she died. Our mother, the baby of the family, would have thought of her each morning as she turned the large, short key in the mantle clock above the fireplace. '*Look to the new day, see what it brings you*' she would have heard her mother say.

Notes – sourced from online Wikipedia

Hiraeth is a **Welsh word** that has no direct English translation. The University of Wales, Lampeter, likens it to a homesickness tinged with grief and sadness over the lost or departed, especially in the context of Wales and Welsh culture. It is a mixture of longing, yearning, nostalgia, wistfulness, or an earnest desire for the Wales of the past.

The Cornish and Breton equivalents are *hireth* and *hiraeth*. It is associated with the Amharic-Ethiopian concept of *Tizita*, the German concept of *Sehnsucht*, the Galician-Portuguese *saudade* or the Romanian *dor*. A similar Scottish Gaelic term, *cianalas*, also refers to a type of longing or homesickness, often used in relation to the Outer Hebrides.

Etymology - Derived from *hir* 'long' and *-aeth* (a nominal suffix creating an abstract noun from an adjective), the word is literally equivalent to English 'longing'. A less likely, but possible, etymology is *hir* 'long' + *aeth* 'pain, grief, sorrow, longing'. In the earliest citations in early Welsh poetry it implies 'grief or longing after the loss or death of someone'.

Culture - Nineteenth-century attempts to spread the English language through its exclusive use in schools at the expense of the Welsh language, following the 1847 Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales (commonly known as the "Treachery of the Blue Books" in Wales), led to an increase in *hiraeth*. Between 1870 and 1914, approximately 40% of Welsh emigrants returned to Wales, a much higher percentage than the rest of Britain, and it has been claimed that this was due to *hiraeth*.

Historic Development of the Australian States

by Frank Harvey – Member 724 and Honorary Member

This interesting article is reprinted with the kind permission of Frank Harvey. It was first published in The Cedar Log in 2017.

The vastness of Australia has created its own unique history of when, where and how the various Colonies, Territories and States of Australia came into being. Knowing the details of this historic development may assist in your search for early family records.

1788 - 26 January: The Colony of New South Wales (NSW) is established – covering a vast area, including what we now recognise as Queensland (Qld), South Australia (SA), Victoria (Vic), Tasmania (Tas) - with New Zealand (NZ) and Norfolk Island also being administered by NSW. At that date, the western border of NSW was set at the 133rd meridian. The remaining area of the continent being known as New Holland.

1825 - 16 July: The NSW western border was adjusted to the 129th meridian, which is still the present eastern WA border.

1825 - 3 December: Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) is proclaimed as a separate Colony.

1829 - 18 June: New Holland was proclaimed as the Swan River Colony.

1832: Swan River Colony renamed as the Colony of Western Australia, when the colony's founding Lieut-Governor, Capt. James Stirling, belatedly received his commission. However, the name 'Swan River Colony' was informally used for many years.

1836 - 29 December: Province of South Australia is proclaimed. However, its dimension was narrower than today, being surrounded in all three land sides by NSW!

1840 - 16 November: New Zealand was constituted as a separate Colony.

1846 - 17 February: Colony of North Australia was proclaimed by *Letters Patent. Most of this area we know today as northern Qld, with 'North Australia' having a southern border at the northern border of S.A. stretching eastward to a point just south of Fraser Island!

1846 - 28 November: Colony of North Australia revoked by Queen Victoria.

1851 - 1 July: Colony of Victoria formed – with the same boundaries as today.

1856 - 1 January: Name of Van Diemen's Land changed to Tasmania.

1859 - 6 June: Qld authorised as a separate Colony by *Letters Patent.

1860: SA's western border moved from 132° E to 129°E (giving it a common border with WA). At this time, the Northern Territory (NT) remains nominally under the administration of NSW.

1862 - 12 April: Queensland's western border moved to 138°E (reducing the size of NT).

1863 - 6 July: NT now annexed to SA by **Letters Patent*

1901 - 1 January: **Commonwealth of Australia** proclaimed. [Note: Norfolk Island was now placed under the authority of the new Commonwealth government to be administered as an external territory]

1911 - 1 January: NT transferred to Commonwealth control

1911 - 1 January: Federal Capital Territory (i.e. ACT) established within NSW

1915 - 12 July: Jervis Bay Territory (south of Sydney, NSW) added to Federal Capital Territory

1927 - 1 February: NT divided into North Australia and Central Australia at 20th parallel

1931 - 12 June: North and Central Australia remerged back to one NT

1938 - 29 July: Federal Capital Territory renamed as Australia Capital Territory (ACT)

1979 – Norfolk Island was granted limited self-government by Australia, when the Norfolk Island Act was passed. The island elects a government that runs most of the island's affairs. As such, residents of Norfolk Island are the only group of residents in Australia not represented in the Commonwealth [Parliament of Australia](#)

1989 - 11 May: Jervis Bay became a separate Commonwealth Territory

2006 - 20 December: After reviewing the status of Norfolk Island, the Australian government decided to make no changes to the governance of the Island

2016 - 1 July: Norfolk Island's self-government was abandoned, and Norfolk Islanders will now enrol to vote in the ACT electorate

* **Letters Patent** (always in the plural) are a legal instrument in the form of a published written order issued by a monarch, president, or other head of state, generally granting an office, right, monopoly, title, or status to a person or corporation. **Letters patent** can also be used for the creation of corporations or government offices, or for the granting of city status or a coat of arms.

Editor's Note

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia> This link has a map developed in 1996 by David R. Horton, which attempts to represent the language, social and cultural groups in First Nations Australia.

The National Museum of Australia has interesting material online, including a timeline of facts about European and First Nations occurrences, at the following link. <https://digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/>

Christmas Lunch



*On left from front - Anna **Wutte**, Jackie **Chalmers**, Rita **Chand** & Jan **Ousby**.*

*On right from front – Judy **Cosgrove**, Rachel **Wright** & Lorraine **Beattie***

A wonderful time was had by all who attended our Christmas Lunch at *The Edible Garden Café*, Convery's Lane, Wollongbar, in December last year. The venue was lovely and well decorated in a Christmas theme and the food was delicious. Thanks go to Joy **Conlon**, our Social Events Organiser, for finding this new venue and organising the event, with the capable assistance of Bonnie **Bennett**, our treasurer.

*Judy **Cosgrove**, Anna **Wutte** and Jackie **Chalmers** leading the singing of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas**



7 December 2024

*On left from front – Joy **Conlon**, Noelene **Buongiorno**, Cheryl **Gibbes** & Roslyn **Thornton**,
On right from front – Tanya **Binning**, Kerrie **Alexander**, John **Broadley** & Meryl **Broadley***



The **Christmas Raffle** was drawn, and first prize went to Rita **Chand**, second to Cheryl **Gibbes** and third to Rachel **Wright**. Thanks to everyone who supported our annual fundraiser. Rachel Wright and Judy Cosgrove won the Trivia Quiz and shared a box of Cadbury Favourites for their efforts.



*On left from front - Rhonda **Denning**,
Margaret **Evans**, Val **Dunn**, Alison **Draper**
& Tanya **Binning** (behind)
On right from front – Bonnie **Bennett**, Lynn
Francis, Richard **Goss** & Kristine **Pryor***



2025 RTFHS Writing Competition

This year we are having a **writing competition** on the theme of own **School Days – Stories of our or our ancestors’ days as a pupil or teacher.**

It is 11 years since our Society held a Writing Competition, and it is about time for another. So get your thinking caps on or look through your family tree to find an interesting story just waiting to be told.



- An independent external judge will be used, and the identity of the writers will be unknown to the judge. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes (yet to be determined) will be awarded and results will be announced at the annual Christmas party in December 2025 and listed in the December *Cedar Log*.
- The completed work should be between 500 and 1200 words, excluding references. These should be stated at the end of your story. See a separate article in this month’s journal about writing references.
- Copyright will remain with the author, but The Cedar Log requests first choice to publish any of the entries received.
- Your name, email and phone number should be on a separate cover page for your entry.
- Entries should be submitted by email to the editor, editorcedarlog@gmail.com in word or PDF format. Illustrations or photos can be included.

Entries close on 30 September 2025, so start typing!



Vale - Rosemary Playford

In early December 2024, we heard of the passing of a long-term member #360, Rosemary **Playford**. She was a very active member of our Society, along with her sister, Margaret, until recently. She will be sadly missed by her sister, and brother, Russell, and sister-in-law, Winifred, and also by the members of our Society. RIP Rosemary.

Adding References to Articles for *The Cedar Log*

We would like contributors to add references or sources to their articles, as much as possible. This helps others know where they might look for similar research and it also legitimises the details provided in articles. As some of our articles have previously been given as a talk at the Society's general meeting, perhaps make a note of sources as you are preparing your talk, so they can be added easily to the printed version.

We would prefer if references are **NOT** added as endnotes or footnotes, which is available in Word. It makes the formatting in the production of the journal more difficult. Just add a number in the paragraph in the article (as *superscript* x² if you know how to or we can alter it) and add the number and reference manually at the end of the article. Some examples are:

1. NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Marriage Registration #1234/1922
2. Sydney Morning Herald 1 July 1895. Accessed on *Trove*
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_de_Groot
4. Francis Sheppard, *History of London*, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1971

If you are unable to be specific, a list of references used, without numbering or reference in your article, can be listed at the end of the article.

We look forward to your articles!

With Thanks from the Editorial Team editorcedarlog@gmail.com



RootsTech March 2025

This conference, hosted by *FamilySearch*, is occurring again on 6 – 8 March 2025. It is free for online viewers and has a wide range of topics so follow the link to register.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/>

Hundreds of recordings of the 2024 and previous conferences are available on the site and can be accessed now at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/searchh>

The Women Who Shaped Us - Unintended Consequences

By Ross Glover – Member 1046

This is a story about some strong women ancestors of mine and the effect they had on me.

During my time researching my family, I've collected facts – when people were born, when married, when died, where they lived etc. But recently I asked our president, Victoria **Evans**, for some help on researching some South Australian family. She looked at the women in that line and realised there was a theme of strong women. I had never looked for 'themes' or stories before, but I could see what she was talking about.

There is a thread that runs through these women: 'education' and bettering yourself.

I'm going to talk about the influence of one woman in particular, my great-grandmother, **Eliza Taggart** (née **Orchard**) and how her drive and ambition affected me, even though we never met. But to understand her, you need to know a bit about her mother, Louisa **Orchard**.

Louisa, my 2x great-grandmother, was born 1847 in Cornwall to an unmarried mother, Mary Orchard, who in 1851 was working as a servant in the small farming village of Garras. In 2011 this village only had a population of 1437 people, over half of whom were Navy personnel. So, I assume it was a tiny place in 1847.

1847 was the same year Charlotte **Bronte** wrote Jane Eyre, Emily Bronte wrote Wuthering Heights and the same year that the British Factory Act restricted the working day for women, and children aged 13-18, to 10 hours per day.

In 1861 at the age of 13, Louisa was herself a domestic servant in Mawgan, Cornwall, half a mile from Garras. She worked for a farmer (of 41 acres) by the name of John **Read**.

Sometime in 1867, at the age of 19, she moved to South Australia (SA). It took about three months to get here at that time. Probably for a servant girl, that would be three months in steerage. I have no idea if she came out by herself or with siblings [though I have no knowledge of siblings] or if, as is more likely, she came out as an assisted single woman. Whichever way, it would have taken courage for her to do so.



*Louisa - Home Hill – courtesy National Trust
Tasmania*

In 1868 in Nairne, SA, she married Henry **Taggett** who had come from Victoria, after his first wife had died, leaving his 3 children behind, probably with his brother-in-law. But that's another story! And I'm not sure Louisa knew it!

Louisa had three children with Henry, who was a copper miner (the son of a copper miner). Her eldest child, Eliza, was born in 1869.

In 1878 Henry died. Unless my research is wrong, this happened on their tenth wedding anniversary – the 28th of May. Cause of death: a burst blood vessel, which happened during a coughing fit.

In November 1878, Louisa, now 31 and a widow, has applied to the Education Department to have her children's school fees paid, so she could send them to school. This is granted, as reported in the *SA Chronicle and Daily Mail* 23 November

1878. Her eldest daughter, Eliza, is now 9 years old, but Louisa does not send her out to work and she makes sure she can go to school!

My next record of Louisa is in Queensland (Qld) or northern New South Wales (NSW), roughly 4,000 kilometres from Kanmantoo, SA! This woman, who has already travelled from Cornwall, now packs up her family and moves vast distances again.

I'm not sure where she actually went, because there are two possibilities. Anecdotal evidence says she moved to the Maranoa district in Qld to work as a cook for the men building the railways. Gutsy move with three kids!

However, there is also record evidence that a Louisa Orchard married a Ben **Thompson** in 1884 at Mount Barker, SA. This is fairly close to Kanmantoo, where she is known to have lived. But would she have used her maiden name, Orchard, rather than her married name, Taggart?

It is known that she was living in Mullumbimby, NSW, in 1930 and had had a husband Benjamin Thompson, who had predeceased her in 1912. But did she marry him in SA, or up

this way? Did she marry him at all? I haven't been able to find a record of marriage in either NSW or Qld. The SA record is the only one I can find which may connect the two. Either way, she packed up her family and moved. I'd love to know; did she travel by boat around the coast, or paddle steamer up the Murray/Darling, or overland. It was a long trip no matter how she did it.

This was Louisa's last big move. I know little of her life at this time in the Northern Rivers, but she stayed in the area. She died in Mullumbimby, on 31 December 1930, aged 83, and is buried in what is now the Murwillumbah Memorial Park, NSW.

This life of Louisa's, in Australia, was also Eliza's childhood. A childhood of moving around and the importance of education; being raised by a woman, who did what it took to better her life.

In 1888, when she was 19, Eliza married William Charles **Burnell** at Fortitude Valley in Brisbane, Qld. He was a sawyer and sleeper cutter.

Their first child, Nellie, was born at Upper Burringbar, NSW, in 1894.

But Eliza's true character and strength becomes apparent after they moved from this region to Tasmania sometime before 1897. I know this because that is the year when their second child, Enid, is born at Duck River in north west Tasmania. This is Eliza's only big move. She spends the rest of her life in the Burnie/Devonport area of Tasmania.



Eliza Burnell (née Taggart) and her son Bertram

Eliza was a strong, determined and astute woman. It seems she believed in community, education, and improving her position in life.

According to an article in the *Burnie Advocate* of 1981 (written by a woman, who, as a younger woman, knew Eliza), Eliza went behind her husband's back to get a loan to acquire land in Cooee, because she thought it was a desirable place to live, and she "believed wholeheartedly in the future of the district".

In 1904, a house and attached store was built on this acre block. Later it was the Cooee Post Office and Eliza was Post Mistress.

Later still, they added a dancehall, which was rented out for community events. For many years, this was Cooee's only place for entertainment. Every week there was a dance and once a month a ball was held.

Her husband was still working as a sawyer, but Eliza had a tearoom added to the store. She not only catered for the tearoom but also took in mending and laundered clothes. It was a case of - "Let's make money how we can. Let's make our life better".

Eliza also had a well-developed social conscience, giving meals and food staples to itinerant workers and those in need, when she could.

She had little formal education herself and what she had was probably only acquired in SA, but the world of ideas was important to her. She took a particular interest in well-educated visitors and those from overseas. She intended that her daughters would enter the teaching profession, which at the time provided the only opportunity for girls to gain a state-funded secondary education. In fact, both Nellie and Enid trained as teachers. Though only Nell would go on to teach.

Eliza and her daughter, Enid, enter public life

In 1924, aged 55, Eliza became the first Justice of the Peace (JP) for Emu Bay and she sat on the bench of the Children's Court in Burnie.

The next year, 1925, she and her second daughter, Enid, ran in the Tasmanian State elections, two of three women, who were the first women ever to run in the State election. They did not get elected, however, but Enid would go on to make electoral history, becoming the **first woman elected to the Federal House of Representatives**, where she also was the first woman in the Federal cabinet.

I think Eliza's desire to see social improvement and politics as a way to make things happen, possibly found a like-minded person in Enid. When Enid was 15, Eliza took her to Hobart and there they met Joseph **Lyons**, the then Minister for Education and Treasurer of Tasmania. Two years later Enid (17 and Methodist) and Joe (35 and Catholic) were married. I'm sure this cross-religion marriage was fully endorsed and encouraged by Eliza.

I think Enid had a very special place in Eliza's heart because when she died in 1941, her will named Enid and the husband of her third daughter, Annie, a Mr John **Gilmour**, as executors, and left everything in her estate to them, to be "divided between ... my children in such a manner as they see fit". Her eldest child, Nellie, is not mentioned at any time by name.

Admittedly, it would have been difficult for Nell to be executor, as she was living in NSW. There are only two bequests, both to Enid's children, even though they are not the only grandchildren.

There is a caveat here, in that I'm not sure if actually leaving everything to the executors was a common practice at that time, though other wills I have seen did not do this.



*Nellie and Enid Burnell as schoolgirls
in Burnie C1910*

Nell Burnell, my grandmother, married Hubert **Glover** in 1922.

I think Eliza's particular relationship with Enid, wherein she seemed to give preference to Enid, affected my grandmother – because Nell gave preference to eldest children. She definitely preferred my father (the eldest) over his sister. She preferred my brother (the eldest) over me. She preferred the eldest daughter of my aunt to her sisters. This was a characteristic of my grandmother which annoyed my mother to a quiet but passionate degree.

The upshot of this for me was that I grew up thinking I was, if not a second-class citizen, at least not quite good enough.

I never understood this aspect of my grandmother, why she was like this, why my brother was the 'darling', until I looked

into the family, to write this story. Having said that, I think, overall, she was a good Nana.

I initially, in this research, saw two strong women, Louisa and Eliza, who made more of their lives than they started with.

I have now realised that the determination and drive of one of them and her probable preference for the like-minded soul found in her second daughter, made my grandmother feel not as important; something she would, maybe subconsciously, rectify in her family. Eliza's drive and determination had unintended consequences for her great grandson.

Thanks to Victoria Evans and the research facilities at the *Richmond Tweed Family History Society*, I now have a much better grasp of some of the women who shaped me.

News from the Marie Hart Library

By Jill McCann – Library Officer

Regular visitors to the library will be aware that there are changes being made to the computers.

Our IT specialist Sue McCullough has been working on consolidation of the two Library computers. When her work is completed there will be an update on usage of the computers for all duty officers.

The following books have been added to the Marie Hart Library in recent months.

An interesting addition has been the donation of 5 books about schools in the local region. These books were all compiled by John **Selwood** of the Wyong Family History Society, who donated them to us.

- Primary Schools of the Casino District
- Schools of the Upper Clarence
- Primary Schools of the Tweed, Richmond and Brunswick River Districts of NSW
- Closed Primary Schools of the Tweed, Richmond and Brunswick River Districts of NSW
- Primary Schools of the Big Scrub and Surrounds
- Primary Schools of the Ballina, Coraki and Evans Head Districts.

We also have some new books for researchers interested in **South Australian History:**

- *Shipping Arrivals and Departures South Australia 1627 – 1850* by R T **Sexton**
- *Migrant Ships for South Australia 1836-1860* by Ronald **Parsons**
- *Baillieres South Australian Gazetteer and Road Guide 1866*
- *A Free Passage to Paradise* (an index of those who applied for free passage to South Australia)
- *Burra Burra. Reminiscences of the Burra Mine and its Townships* by Ian **Auhl**
- *“A Exelent Coliney” The Practical Idealists of 1836-1846* by Colin **Kerr**

Closer to home we have:

Chunes Cemetery NSW 1888-2022 compiled by RTFHS member Kristine **Pryor**
Uralba by Ian **Kirkland**

Other new books

- *What Happened When - A Chronology of Australia from 1788* by Anthony **Barker**
- *Newcastle as a Convict Settlement: The evidence before J.T **Bigge** in 1819-1821*
- *Send the Boy to Sea: A Memoir of a Sailor on the Goldfields* by James **Montagu Smith**
- *History of the Australian Goldfields* edited by Nancy **Keesing**
- *Rowe Family History from Liverpool England to Lismore NSW*

We are always looking for members who would like to spend some time in the library helping our visitors. Please consider volunteering - just one morning or afternoon a month would be a great help!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2025, it is time to do so! Your support helps keep our *Marie Hart Library* and website up-to-date and operating! You have free access to our research officer, all our resources, including *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*, and also receive *The Cedar Log* four times a year.

Fees are \$40 for a single or \$50 for a joint membership and are for the calendar year 2025. Prompt payment early in the year would be appreciated. Please complete a Renewal Form, which will be emailed, or will be available when paying in person. Cash or cheque can be paid at the *Marie Hart Library* or at the Saturday afternoon meeting, or via direct debit.

Bank details are: -

BSB: 637 000

Account No: 720036355

Name: Richmond-Tweed Family History Soc. Inc.

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



MINI SEMINAR - NSW Land Records

Presented by Michelle Hurcum

At the Players Theatre, 24 Swift St, Ballina

Saturday 5 July 2025, 1- 4pm

Cost: \$5.00 includes afternoon tea

Michelle Hurcum formerly worked at the NSW Dept of Lands and has extensive knowledge of NSW Land Records. If you are interested in locating a parcel of land that may have belonged to an ancestor, or have an interest in old maps, this presentation is for you. Michelle's workshops are always informative with many useful tips to aid your research. If you have a specific example you would like her to look into and cover in her talk, please forward it to Carmel Crosby, Co-ordinator for this seminar, by 5 April.



CONNECTIONS

Past - Present – Future

**17th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry &
5th Qld History State Conference –**

Hosted by the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.
21 – 24 March 2025, Brisbane.

See the website for details. <https://www.connections2025.org.au/>



Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson – Research Officer

Haplogroups. Learn how they can expand your knowledge of your genetic ancestry
Local Resources for Family History Research – County Dublin. Puts an emphasis on resources specific to the County of Dublin.

Irish Naming Convention - Part 3. Further explains how family naming patterns can optimise your searches in the Catholic Church records.

Irish Roots – Issue 131, 2024 – Pages 8, 10 & 28.

The Irish Famine. Explains its causes and effects and how to research your affected ancestors.

Find your Ancestors Home on Online Maps. Instructs how to search the updated collection of free Ordnance Survey Maps.

Around Britain. Newly digitised resources can help you research your roots in Bedfordshire.

Who do you Think You Are – September 2024 – Pages 30, 50 & 61

The Curious Case of Captain James' Ostrich Farm. The little-known history of ostrich farming in Australia.

Exploring People and Places. How to research using the City of Sydney assessment books.

HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc.- September 2024 – Page 6 and 14

Australia's First Wine. Australia's wine story is fascinating and ambitious.

Woodman Point Quarantine Station. Secrets of Fremantle's Hidden Community.

Traces – Edition 28 – Page 19 & 44

Get the Scoop! How to make the most of online newspaper archives.

Methodists. Recommends websites for researching the followers of Methodism in your family tree.

Around Britain. Reveals the latest resources for the County of **East Sussex**.

Who do you Think You Are – November 2024 – Pages 14, 35 & 62

Get more from your DNA Test. Shares 10 tips on how to use the latest DNA tools to work with matches and grow your tree.

Criminal Justice in England and Wales. Explains the wealth of diverse records available for the criminal-justice system prior to 1875.

Around Britain. Reveals the latest resources for **Northamptonshire**.

Who do you Think You Are – December 2024 – Pages 15, 28 & 62

Monthly Speakers

2 November 2024 – They Came in Chains. Co-ordinated by Victoria **Evans** and introduced by Ross **Glover**. He said that poverty and overflowing prisons in Britain led to the transportation of convicts to America. However, in 1783, the American War of Independence ended and the now independent America refused to accept any more convicts. Consequently, England had to find somewhere else to send their prisoners and transportation to New South Wales was the solution.



Prisoners were sent to hulks as a temporary measure and were eventually transported and the first convict ships left Portsmouth, England, on 13 May 1787. People, including children, were often arrested for minor offences.

Jill **McCann**, Sue **King**, from the First Fleeters, and our President, Victoria **Evans**, then told the stories of their ancestors, who came to Australia as convicts. It made us all stop to think about how they must have felt having to leave their families, who would then be struggling to survive; the unhealthy and unhygienic conditions on the hulks; the long voyages on the transportation ships and of course what happened to them after they arrived.

We can only think that the descendants of these convicts have given us a positive outcome.



1 February 2025 - Patricia Wilson, assisted by Jill McCann, gave us a very informative and fascinating insight into The First 100 Years of Ballina's European History.

Patricia related about Captain Rous and his 'discovery' of the Richmond River, the port on the river, and the shipping activities, which were the main form of transport, and the eventual building of the break walls.

She also talked about the early settlers, from the squatters to settlers under the Crown Lands Act in 1861, and the formation in 1883 of the first council, which had 6 members.

Patricia had some wonderful photos of the old buildings, houses and churches.

Her presentation gave us lots of information and taught us about the history of Ballina, a town we are all very familiar with.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Member No 1058	Catherine Mackie	Wollongbar
Member No 1059	Carolyn Nolan	Ballina
Member No 1060	Terry Doherty	Alstonville
Member No 1061	Elizabeth & Geoff Rosten	East Ballina
Member No 1062	Narissa Phelps	Lennox Head

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*, *Ancestry* and the *Biographical Database of Australia*. We are also a *FamilySearch* affiliate, which gives access to more than the standard *FamilySearch* site. Ask the member on duty, during opening hours, if you need assistance with any of the library's resources.

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

The Cedar Log – Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc. Published March, June, September and 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 but 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 have any surnames in bold, the first time they appear in your article, after the heading. Add sources or references at the bottom of your article if possible. 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 and the views of authors are not those of the RTFHS. **Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and/or 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. **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 2025

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

Saturday 5 April Meeting: For King and Country - stories about our ancestors' military service. Co-ordinated by **Jill McCann**

Saturday 3 May Meeting: For Better or For Worse – Show your ancestors' (or your own) wedding photos, dress or memorabilia and tell their story. Co-ordinator **Joy Conlon**.

Saturday 7 June Meeting:

To be advised.

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.

A vibrant red diamond-shaped graphic containing various images of people at sports events, food, and social gatherings. Two circular logos are overlaid: "CHERRY STREET SPORTS" with a red apple icon and "CLUB LENNOX SPORTS" with a green and red vertical bar icon. At the bottom, the text "Food, Family & Fun!" is written in a white cursive font. Below the graphic, contact information for the Cherry Sports Group is provided.

Food, Family & Fun!

Cherry Sports Group
60 Cherry St, Ballina T 02 66862811
10 Stewart St, Lennox Head T 02 66874313
WWW.CHERRYSTREET.COM.AU