

THE Cedar Log

Issue No 165 – September 2025

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia



2025 – 2026 Committee Members (CM): (L to R) — Carmel Crosby (Editor & CM), Jill McCann (CM & Library Officer), Victoria Evans (President), Ann Emery (Vice President), Judy Cosgrove (Secretary & Assistant Editor), Jan Ousby (CM & Membership Secretary), Bonnie Bennett (Treasurer) and Ross Glover, seated (CM)

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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 to the September issue of *The Cedar Log*, as the winter weather is finally leaving us. In this issue we have some annual reports from the President, Victoria **Evans**, and our auditor, Robyn **Hilan**. As Robyn reports, our finances are in a much-improved state from just a few years ago. Our now regular BBQs at Bunnings are part of the reason for this improvement. We have also been successful in obtaining other grants and support, thanks to the work of the committee.



We had our **Annual General Meeting** on 2 August 2025, and the following positions have changed. Joy **Conlon** has resigned from the committee after 3 years as a committee member. She remains doing her positions of Social Events and Saturday Meetings Afternoon Tea Organiser. The incumbents in the positions of President (Victoria **Evans**), Secretary (Judy **Cosgrove**), Treasurer (Bonnie **Bennett**) and Vice President (Ann **Emery**) have not changed. Jill **McCann** and Jan **Ousby** continue as committee members, as does the editor, who is an automatic appointment to the committee. Ross **Glover** was nominated and was accepted unopposed, as a committee member. Our thanks go to Ross for volunteering to be on the committee, and to retiring and remaining committee members for their time and work for our Society. It would not survive without you.

Honorary Fellowship awards have been presented this year to Carol **Brown** and Robyn **Hilan**, both long time members of our Society. They have contributed in many ways to assist in its functioning and continuation. The presentation speech given by our president for both Carol and Robyn, are included in this issue.

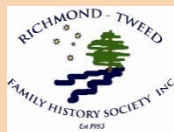
We have several articles written by our members, Jill **McCann**, Ross **Glover** and Dawn **Lotty** about family members or ancestors, who participated in the World Wars. Leigh **Wilson** has also written about the connection between a famous Aboriginal person and his ancestor. We have our regular **Gleanings** of journals in our library, contributed by Janine **Thomson** and photos from our **Christmas in July** luncheon.

Correction: RTFHS member, Julie MacRae, kindly advised me that there was an error in my article in the June 2025 journal, on *NSW Cemeteries with Online Searchable Indexes*. She pointed out that the **Lismore Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Gardens** has a searchable online index. <https://lccforms.lismore.nsw.gov.au/apps/crem/>

We are still hoping to receive more articles on Schools for our **2025 Writing Competition**, which closes on 30 September. Details are available in this issue, so please consider brushing up your writing skills!

Enjoy Spring! Carmel, Editor

RICHMOND-TWEED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — PRESIDENT'S REPORT Saturday, 2 August 2025

The last 12 months have gone extremely quickly. When I first started to write this report, I was somewhat at a loss as to what had actually transpired during that time, but on reflection, I realised that it has indeed been another successful year, albeit with a few challenges thrown in along the way.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT — It has once again, been a privilege to work with the members of the Committee of Management. They work extremely hard and always have the best interests of the Society at the heart of everything they do.

The 2024-25 team has been: Vice President, Ann Emery; Secretary, Judy Cosgrove; Treasurer, Bonnie Bennett; Membership Secretary, Jan Ousby; Cedar Log Editor, Carmel Crosby; Event Organiser, Joy Conlon and Committee member, Jill McCann.

I would like to also express my deep thanks to the Committee, and in particular, Ann Emery, who calmly stepped up when I had to take leave, and navigated some challenging situations that arose.

Sadly, Joy Conlon, has decided not to nominate for the next committee, but luckily for us, will continue to organise our afternoon teas! She has been a wonderful asset to the committee and the Society, especially in organising events such as our delightful Christmas luncheon, in seeking quotes for various things and as a valued member of the Library Committee. Sue **McCulloch** has resigned from the role of IT Manager and from the Society. We are in the process of assessing our needs and resolving issues that have arisen.

Although Liz **Marshall** is no longer a committee member, she continues to maintain our Facebook page, to work as part of the Cedar Log Editorial team and to welcome everyone to our monthly meetings. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing work of Dawn **Lotty**, who does our monthly meeting flyers; Janine **Thomson**, our research officer; Allan **Ridgewell**, our Publicity Officer and Paper Exchange Journals Officer; Don **Howell**, who does our computer backups and the Dropbox each month, and also Robyn **Hilan**, our auditor. Thank you one and all.

PROMOTING OUR SOCIETY — Promoting our Society has continued to be an important focus in the planning and decision making of the committee. If we are to survive, when other

societies have ceased to exist, and if we are to continue to grow and be relevant, then we must continue to raise our profile, both locally and further afield, and continue to identify and provide (within reason) what researchers need and want. To this end we have taken the following steps this year: —

- We became a Paradise FM Partner allowing us to be regularly promoted on the radio.
- Members have spoken each month on the Paradise FM Radio Station, providing information about our Society and about various aspects of family history research. These volunteers have included Leigh **Wilson**, Ann Emery, Bonnie Bennett and on several occasions by Jill McCann. We have already had feedback from people in the community, including from a lady yesterday, who after hearing about our meeting on the radio, is now interested in attending our meeting and possibly joining as a member.
- Speaking at other community groups increases awareness of our Society. In February I did another talk about our Society to the Australian Independent Retirees group. I took a lot of enquiries about what we have to offer. Another talk is planned at the Ballina Library's Monday Morning Social Circle in about a month.
- Carmel Crosby has been providing articles for the Ballina Wave magazine. The articles have covered such things as how to research, our Society's resources and facilities and our meetings. Anecdotal evidence says this step is also raising awareness of the Society.
- A number of Expos have also given us an opportunity to promote what we have to offer. Jill and Ann attended the inaugural Lennox Head Community Expo with a display and spoke to many people. Members also represented us at an expo at Palm Lake Resort, resulting in at least one new member, and we have also registered to attend the first Ballina Expo, to be held at the Lighthouse Surf Club, at the end of August.
- Even the BBQs are providing another venue to promote ourselves.

ORGANISATION — Although we only have ten General Meetings each year, there is a lot of planning and organisation that needs to be undertaken by the Committee to bring them into fruition. Organisation for the twelve months ahead, will begin again shortly by the incoming committee. It is a continual process that often requires reviews and adjustments along the way. When choosing topics or presenters, we try to think of topics that would be of interest to our members and deliver information to further our repertoire of research skills and resources.

We are indebted to all the presenters, both our members and guest speakers, for their contributions to our General Meetings and to the coordinators who manage them.

These meetings provided members with a range of engaging and informative topics. The topics included:

- August 2024: The theme was “*The Ships We Came On*”.
- September: The September focus featured a guide to using our then newly acquired Ancestry subscription and included various features and how to best use them.
- October: We were extremely industrious with three presentation topics. Firstly, Judy Cosgrove coordinated talks on the topic “*The Men Who Influenced Us*”. Carmel Crosby then presented an overview of how to effectively use the “*Biographical Data Base of Australia*” subscription in the Marie Hart Library (MHL). Lastly, Kerrie **Alexander’s** presentation titled, “*The Use of Artificial Intelligence to Search for a Family*” was a fascinating look at the future of research.
- November: In November the topic was “*They Came in Chains – Member Stories of their Convict Ancestors*”. Jill McCann and Sue **King** from the North Coast Chapter of the First Fleeters, were among the presenters. Ross **Glover** presented an interesting history of the convict era that gave context to the topic.
- February: To start 2025, we had a marvellous talk and PowerPoint presentation by Patricia **Wilson** and Jill McCann, titled, *The History of European/Colonial Settlement in Ballina – the first 100 years*.
- March: Eric **Kopittke** presented a Zoom meeting titled “*In the Steps of an Ancestor*” with examples of researching ancestors in Australia, Britain, Germany and Poland.
- April: Jill McCann coordinated stories about our ancestors' military service for the topic “*For King and Country*”.
- May: Joy Conlon coordinated “*For Better or Worse*” featuring entertaining marital stories, wedding photos, dresses and memorabilia. Ross Glover wrote a brief introductory history of marriage through the years, and Judy Cosgrove added information on the origins of some of the symbols that still exist today.
- June: Geoff **Hutchinson** presented a talk based on his recently published book titled “*Shipwrecked*” — *A History of the Richmond River Bar, Ballina, 1840 – 2024*. It captured the broader story of shipwrecks and other tragedies on the Richmond River and Ballina Bar.
- Last month: Michelle **Hurcum** used her extensive knowledge gained when working at the NSW Lands Department, to present a very interesting and practical mini seminar on accessing and using NSW Land Records for research.
- Today: Ann Emery is coordinating a presentation on the valuable research tool, the Trove website.

TECHNOLOGY — Staying financially viable and being able to maintain the right type of computer technology for undertaking modern research, go hand-in-hand. The committee has been mindful that we need to not just maintain the technology we have now, but also plan for what our members will need into the future without breaking the bank.

In keeping with this thinking, we now have a new laptop to replace the old existing one. It is important that we have a reliable device for our monthly meetings, that can also meet changing technological advancements. Similarly, we have also purchased a new printer as the old one was beginning to require replacement parts and show wear.

Although we commenced the last twelve months with high hopes for refining our computer setup, it became apparent this was not going to be the case. Our technology, namely our computer setup, became the cause of ongoing concern throughout the last few months. The situation created a lot of concern for the committee and demanded a lot of consideration. There were several access issues that had been created; however, it appears that we may be finally turning the corner by being able to resolve these issues. I would like to thank Ann Emery, Don Howel and Ross Glover for their ongoing support in trying to resolve things.

We also experienced some issues with our existing phone and phone number. We now have a new phone number and phone. We believe it is important, that non-members, interested in research, should be able to contact us outside of our normal operating times, seek assistance and/or arrange an agreed upon time to meet. This access is especially important during holiday periods when there are often visitors in the area and is yet another way to promote the Society.

FUNDRAISING — Our decision to undertake Bunnings BBQs to improve our financial position, has been very successful. Our first two BBQs in 2025 raised a total of \$3,884, with \$2,081 coming from the BBQ in April and \$1803 from the June BBQ. It has been a wonderful effort by the volunteers, and we still have a final one on the 13th of September. The additional funds have allowed us to purchase new equipment, to replace the very old existing ones.

I think I can speak for everyone who has helped at the BBQs, in saying that the BBQs are a pleasant way for us to work and enjoy each other's company outside our normal settings.

Ann and Trevor Emery once again spent a lot of time on organisation, purchasing and transporting supplies to the site. Carmel again organised our BBQ dates, the operation of the Square Reader to take payments, and in organising the volunteers' roster. Thank you once again to all our volunteers.

MARIE HART LIBRARY LEASE — We were successful in securing a new three-year lease of the Marie Hart Library premises. Council has replaced the window locks, so the windows

can be opened in Summer, and they have repaired a leaking downpipe and cleaned the gutters.

HONORARY FELLOWSHIP — After a number of years, this year saw a resumption of the giving of Honorary Fellowships. The Committee of Management developed a Selection Criteria Policy to ensure this is done in a fair and transparent manner.

MARINER'S PROJECT — John **Broadley's** concept for the Mariner's Project is a very exciting one for our area, but also a very demanding one. Unfortunately, the database of names is quite large and the team, small. John is hoping in the short term to embed more of the research into the database and is perhaps looking for someone to take over the project.

CONCLUSION — Despite some challenges, the 2024-25 year, we have continued to make progress toward our goals. This is particularly the case from both our financial standpoint and from increased profile.

As a group we are strongest when we work together and provide a good service, that meets the needs of existing members and allows us to attract new members.

RICHMOND - TWEED FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

Audit Report 2024/2025

By Robyn Hilan, Auditor - Member 488

The annual audit has been completed and it can be reported that the Treasurer has maintained the accounts in an orderly manner.

Results for the year under review are very pleasing. The Committee should be well-pleased with their effort to improve the financial position of the Society. The fund raising (BBQs) has proved a positive turning point in the direction the finances were taking.

No doubt the Treasurer's report will highlight significant matters, but I also would like to reiterate them.

Annual Result: The surplus of \$4686.78 is highly commendable. This is particularly so, as, unlike last year's surplus, it stands alone from any input from reserves.

Income: The net income from the fundraisers (\$3887.30) contributes significantly to the over-all surplus. What a credit to the workers! With further BBQs planned for the next

financial year their effort will help ward off significant deficits and potentially extend the life of the Society.

Expenditure: It should be noted that the expenditure was significantly reduced by the Sponsorship of the Journal (which almost covered the full production cost) and the Council Grant by which they waved the annual Lease for the Marie Hart Library (\$654.50). This reduction of \$1,854.50 also contributed significantly to the positive annual result. However, it should be noted that this reduction is unlikely to recur, which adds to the importance of the fundraising effort in the overall results into the future. The treasurer has instigated the transfer of the maintenance of the fire equipment to the Council which also reduces recurrent costs.

It was noted that library/computer expenses were less than the previous year, but it is a “given” in these days that we cannot do without technology and it is usually a recurrent expense for programmes, internet access and the like, and can be hazardous if technical problems arise.

Bank Balance: Bank balances for the past three years are very informative.

June 2023 - **\$385.47**. Without the legacy funds it was unlikely the Society could fund its operation and faced “winding up” within the year.

June 2024 - **\$4624.11**. The turn-around was due to the input of \$5,000 from the legacy reserve, plus the fundraising efforts of the Committee.

June 2025 -**\$10,910.46**. INCREDIBLE!!

Reserves: In the middle years of the Society’s history, funds were able to be set aside from time to time, and placed into a reserve. Gradually those reserves were called up. It is probably 15 years, if not longer, (I cannot access the records) since the funds allowed a transfer into reserves.

But...with \$10,000 plus in the bank account, unless there is a significant expenditure planned by the committee, I recommend the Society place \$5,000 into a term deposit to benefit from the better interest.

The Treasurer is commended for her attention to the account keeping – and the Committee for its vigour in improving the financial standing of the Society. The members are the beneficiaries of this good work.

Robyn Hilan

HONORARY FELLOW AWARD

Presented to CAROL BROWN - Member 677

5 April 2025



Becoming a volunteer in any organisation is mutually beneficial for both the organisation and for the volunteer. Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS) is dependent on the good will, dedication, and experience, of its volunteers. While volunteering, is not undertaken for the purpose of seeking recognition, it is however important that we, the RTFHS, acknowledge these efforts and show our heartfelt appreciation.

The giving of the title of Honorary Fellow is one such way and demonstrates the society's acknowledgement of the members who have demonstrated exceptional support.

The Committee of Management is cognisant of the fact that, our members have a variety of demands and commitments on them, outside our society, and contribute as they are able. I am sure most members would recognise that we have had and still have MANY industrious members, but as in many organisations or even families (for that matter) there are those that go above and beyond. The committee deemed it crucial that we establish criteria to ensure that the awarding of the title of Honorary Fellow adheres to principles of consistency, fairness, and transparency.

The current Committee of Management has developed such a criterion. Selection criteria for Honorary Fellows will include the following considerations.

- Be a long-standing, active member of RTFHS.
- Support RTFHS by regular attendances at our monthly meetings.
- Served on the Committee of Management.
- Have held a position or positions on the Committee of Management or the Library Committee for a number of years.
- Authored articles for the Cedar Log Journal.
- Participated in monthly talks at the general meetings.
- Willingly shared their wealth of knowledge and experience with other members.
- Initiated or participated in special projects.
- Volunteered as a duty officer.

- Promoted the Society in the community.
- Encouraged new members.
- Participated in fundraising activities and other supporting activities.

To receive the title of Honorary Fellow, is our recognition of such service.

Our records show that to date there have been nine Honorary Fellows. It has been 11 years since the previous recipient received the award. In 2014, Frank **Harvey** received recognition for his service. Prior to that the recipients had been:

- Edna **Tucker**,
- Audrey **Chappell**,
- Marie **Hart** (1995)
- Dorothy **Southwell** (1996)
- Nola **Rodey** (1998)
- Suzanne **Warmerdam** (2003)
- Esme **Smith** (2007)
- Jean **Cummins** (2009)

Today we are proud to honour an extraordinary member as an Honorary Fellow. I would like to invite, Member 677, Carol **Brown**, to come forward please.

Early last year, at Kerrie **Alexander's** suggestion, we thanked Carol for her service at one of our monthly meetings. However, the committee at that time realised that Carol deserved greater recognition and that has led to today.

Carol Brown joined the RTFHS in 2000. During the time of her membership, Carol has contributed significantly to our society. According to our records, Carol served on at least five committees. She was secretary from 2003 to 2006 and vice president in 2008.

Carol provided IT support for over 10 years. She undertook many IT jobs including backing up the computers for years until Don Howell took over that role.

Carol meticulously catalogued all CDs and microfiche, when they featured heavily as research tools, systematically organized the stock takes, and efficiently addressed and resolved queries.

It was Carol who went through the Access Database Catalogue and entered an identifier into the title field, e.g. "*Ireland*," "*How to*," or "*Family History*", of each entry, so that duty officers could easily locate books in the printed catalogue.

A Review of Services took place in 2019, that involved significant work in the Marie Hart Library (MHL). Carol was a member of this group from the beginning. In 2021, this evolved to become the Library Committee with Richard **Goss** as Library Officer and Carol, Kerrie Alexander, and Carol **Donaghey** as members. Carol remains a member of the library committee.

In yet another role, Carol assisted Margaret **Schmidt** with a project to index the names in 22 non-indexed local books. Other members of the team included Kristine **Pryor**, Karen **Chilcott** and Richard **Goss**. The project evolved significantly, encompassing 31,242 references to names, which will support our research.

Carol has also been a long-standing and valuable duty officer, assisting members and visitors with their research. She has also regularly presented talks at the monthly meetings and contributed to *The Cedar Log* Journal.

Carol was also part of a previous fundraising effort in the form of helping and organising the trading table that was at our monthly meetings. There are undoubtedly other tasks, unknown to us, that Carol has undertaken for the MHL and the society.

It is extraordinary contributions to RTFHS like Carol's that makes us what we are today.

Carol, on behalf of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society, thank you. Thank you for your long service, your hard work, and dedication. You have made a remarkable difference. Please accept the title of Honorary Fellow of the RTFHS, this framed certificate and these flowers.



An Australian Bank Note is Linked to My Family's History

By Leigh Wilson – Member 805

It can be interesting and even quite pleasant that, during an otherwise ordinary day, you can come across a reminder of your past - yours or even of others in your family.

Here's the way a small everyday item pulls up memories for me.

It starts by taking a look at the Australian \$50 bank note, the design of which originated back in 1995 when polymer was replacing paper. The artwork on the note featured two portraits, one of them being of David **Unaipon**, the renowned indigenous man-of-many-parts.



The Point McLeay mission church in 2003. It is also featured on the \$50 note

If you look closely at the note, you'll notice there's a small image of a church. It's one that was built in the 1860s at the Point McLeay mission in South Australia. It still stands and still is used.

That mission was started in 1858 by George **Taplin**, a 2x great-grandfather of mine, who was the superintendent. Born at Kingston in Southern England, by the time he was 13 years old both his parents had died, and he then started work as a

law clerk. In 1849, aged 18, he migrated to South Australia, arriving at the time when Adelaide and the entire State were barely ten years old. There he trained with a well-known church minister, and then married, and by 1856 was working as a schoolteacher at Port Elliott (near Victor Harbour).

Two years later, in 1858, he was appointed to create and then operate a mission and school on the eastern side of Lake Alexandrina, the larger of two lakes through which the river Murray flows to the sea. This area was in the traditional land of the Ngarrindjeri (anglicised

version - Narrinyeri) indigenous nation; and the mission aimed to provide educational and occupational skills.

For support, Taplin looked for and found three indigenous men who were enthusiastic and capable. One of these took the name of James, which, attached to his tribal name gave him the full name of James **Ngunaiponi** (anglicised version - **Unaipon**); and he proved to be outstandingly able, becoming fluent in English, well-versed in Christianity, and competent in dealing with community matters. It has been thought that he came from a line that traditionally inherited a leadership position in the tribal group.

James' son David was born at the mission in 1872, and very soon it was clear that he had intellectual capabilities similar to those of his father. So, in 1885, at the age of 13, it was arranged for him to live in Adelaide working as a servant for a man while being actively encouraged to develop his interest in literature, philosophy, science, and music.

Meanwhile, George Taplin, aided by his wife Martha and their two eldest sons did an extraordinary range of work in the education and work-training for the Narrinyeri people, as well as providing medical support and provision of Christian services. The church was built by the community during Taplin's era; and in addition he created substantial and unique records, both of the activities of the settlement and of the Narrinyeri's traditions.

George Taplin's death in 1879 at the age of 47 resulted from heart problems brought on by his unrelenting work. His eldest son became the mission's superintendent, while the second son (my great-grandfather) became involved with indigenous matters more widely. In 1893 the Taplin family's direct involvement in running the mission – now known as Raukkan – ceased.



David **Unaipon** went on to interact with a great many people, involved in a range of activities as an inventor, writer, lecturer, churchman, and advocate for many interests. George Taplin's descendants continued to be interested in Raukkan, visiting it and promoting indigenous advancement in general. Both Elsie

Taplin (my maternal grandmother), and her husband – who was a keen amateur naturalist – were friends of Mr Unaipon.

One day in 1949, when I was seven years old, I was visiting my maternal grandparents when, soon after I entered the house, a man who also had been visiting, was introduced to me, shook

my hand and left. I was told that the man was David Unaipon and although I hadn't heard of him before and I never saw him again, I never forgot him either – because of his unusual surname, and the feeling that there was a distinctive atmosphere about him.

By the time he died in 1967 David Unaipon had blazed a spectacular trail with notable achievements in writing and journalism, mechanics and ballistics, inventions, and public speaking.

So nowadays, every time I use a \$50 Australian bank note, I look at the artwork and that era flashes into my mind, and I realise that I touched the hand of the great David Unaipon that day in 1949, and that he – in about 1879 – had been touched by my famous 2x great-grandfather.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS) 2025 Writing Competition

The RTFHS is having a writing competition on the theme of **School Days – Stories of our own or our ancestors' days as a pupil or teacher.**



- The competition is open to society members as well as non-members
- Independent external judges will be used & the identity of the writers will be unknown to them. Prizes will be awarded: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$50 and 3rd - \$20. Results will be announced at the annual RTFHS Christmas party on 6 December 2025 and listed in the December issue of our journal, *The Cedar Log*
- The completed work should be between 500 and 1200 words, excluding references and photo captions. References should be stated during or at the end of your story. Illustrations or photos can be included and are encouraged
- 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
- Email entries to the editor, by 30 September 2025, at editorcedarlog@gmail.com in word or PDF format.

HONORARY FELLOW AWARD

Presented to ROBYN HILAN - Member 488

2 August 2025

In April of this year, we recognised the huge contribution that Carol Brown, made to the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS). We did this by making her an Honorary Fellow.

It had been 16 years since the previous Honorary Fellowship had been presented. At that time, I spoke about how becoming a volunteer, in any organisation, is mutually beneficial for both the organisation and for the volunteers and not undertaken for the purpose of seeking recognition; and that RTFHS is dependent on the good will, dedication, and experience, of its volunteers.



Giving the title of Honorary Fellow is one way that demonstrates our society's acknowledgement and appreciation of a member's exceptional support over time.

The society's Honorary Fellows Selection Criteria ensures that the decision-making adheres to principles of consistency, fairness, and transparency.

Today at our August meeting, we again recognise a giant of our society. Someone who has committed herself tirelessly to the society, generously contributed vast amounts of time, energy, skills, and experience, into making the society the very best it could be. The person I am speaking about is Robyn Hilan, Member 488.

Before I get started, I would just like to say that I hope the information that follows is accurate. It was provided with much love, however if there are any corrections to be made, perhaps you would let me know later, and I will make any adjustments before it goes into *The Cedar Log*.

Being relatively new to the society, I do not have the benefit of having seen or experienced all that Robyn has done, but like other members, I am still benefitting from what she achieved. However, I will briefly mention my first encounter with Robyn.

Not long after I joined the Society, I was impressed by a presentation, by a very charismatic member, who was introduced as Robyn Hilan. I had not met Robyn Hilan before. Not only was I totally engaged by the content and delivery of her talk, but also by her humour and her obvious skill with PowerPoint. When I was first asked if I would become president, I suggested the committee should approach this lady, Robyn Hilan, as she would make a perfect president. Their response was, “she’s already been there and done that!”

Since that time, I have gotten to know Robyn quite well. We have enjoyed coffees together and discussions about the history of the society, analysis of trends, our progress, and future strategies. Our society has greatly benefitted from the wealth of her experience and skills, as well as her very sensible, and practical approach.

In preparation for writing this citation, I began asking members who either knew Robyn or had worked alongside her. It was overwhelmingly apparent to me that the members held and still hold a deep respect, admiration, affection, and appreciation of all Robyn achieved. I decided that I would tell Robyn’s story with their words.

Kerrie **Alexander** informed me that Robyn had been a member of a committee from 2003. She became Treasurer in 2005 when the sitting Treasurer passed away unexpectedly. The Society was left with no accounts program and no backup person. Robyn stepped in, obtained a program, set it up, and took on the task of Treasurer. She remained treasurer until 2009, when she handed it over to Bonnie **Bennett**, our current Treasurer.

Robyn was President on two occasions, with the first being from 2009 to 2010. On being elected on the second occasion, she stated that she would hold the position for just two years but continued for five!

Carol Brown told me that Robyn was born in Ballina, into a family that has been here since the early settlement of the town. She is apparently related to half the town! I imagine that could be either a blessing or a hindrance to family history research!

Robyn joined RTFHS in 1996, while she was still working in Newcastle. When she was home on holidays, she would do research in the Marie Hart Library (MHL). There was no internet in those days, just books, journals, and microfiche.

Jacky **Chalmers**, spoke to me about Robyn’s contribution to *The Cedar Log* development. The first journal, put out by Marie **Hart**, consisted of two A4 pages of typed stories done by Marie. Jacky recounted that it was Robyn’s lateral thinking that led to the establishment of the Editorial Team concept in 2014 (as distinct from Editor only). That team consisted of Carol **Donaghey** (who was great at gathering stories and editing), Dawn **Lotty** (who had fabulous research skills) and Jacky (who had experience with layouts and software.) They worked and had fun together for five years and with Robyn’s guidance this dedicated team

won the Nick **Vine-Hall** Award. This was not only a great thrill for them but also for Marie Hart.

As I alluded to earlier, Robyn is well known for her PowerPoint presentations. Everyone spoke of how her inclusion of special effects and cartoons (as well as the well-researched content) made the presentations extremely interesting and easily kept everyone's attention. I might add, that, her wonderful sense of humour also had and has had a lot to do with it.

Robyn has done many presentations over the years, and Carol is hoping that perhaps she might be convinced to repeat some of them.

Kerrie also related some of the following information. Robyn –

- proposed that RTFHS have an identifying logo designed to include a Cedar Tree, Southern Cross and two Rivers – the logo that we use today.
- arranged for the State ARK (Archives Resource Kit) sets of microfilms to be loaned to the Society in stages, for a three-month period for \$13 per quarter! This included hundreds of microfilms of parish records, shipping, and immigration records. The Society had been given a film reader.
- set up the New Member's Kit rather than using just a welcome letter.
- was instrumental in the purchase of a public address system for use in the Society meetings and proposed that it be portable to allow for external use such as during "walks and talks" at the Pioneer Cemetery.
- established a Public Relations and Media Position that was initially filled by Carol Donaghey.
- wrote the RTFHS Privacy/Data Protection General Statement
- pushed for the purchase of technology such as a data projector, laptop computers, and mobile internet to allow connection at the MHL, and also for presentations at the monthly meetings.
- had oversight of the changes to the Society's Constitution in 2011.
- set up introductory sessions for members interested in DNA. A group was then established under Kerrie Alexander's leadership.
- proposed naming the research room at the Maritime Museum, the 'Marie Hart Library'. This was then passed by the Management Committee and is a wonderful acknowledgement of the efforts of our founder.
- contributed many articles for *The Cedar Log* Journal.
- was the main speaker at many monthly meetings (at least once a year for six years), and occasional guest speaker, on the Society's behalf, at other Society and Service Groups.
- with others, pushed for Job Descriptions to be introduced for committee members

- volunteered as a Duty Officer at the Marie Hart Library for a number of years.
- negotiated with the RSL for two-year's sponsorship of *The Cedar Log*.
- has been our auditor since 2010, and
- recently generously funded the publication of two of our *Cedar Log* Journals.

According to Robyn, many of the situations mentioned above, were made possible with the excellent support of committee members, especially during her terms as President.

Robyn's support of the RTFHS has been long, and it continues still. She found ways to improve the society and overcame impediments. She has always had and still does have the very best of intentions for our society.

Robyn Hilan deeply cares about the RTFHS and she has been and is a wonderful friend to us all.



Distribution of *The Cedar Log*

Due to increased postage costs, 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

Please collect your journal if possible.

With thanks, The Editorial Team

For King and Country

By Jill McCann – Member 1010

Many of you would know of someone in your family tree who fought or served in the Great War. Hardly a family in Australia was untouched in some way.

Australia's total population at the time was about 4 million, and the 416,809 who enlisted for service represent 38.7% of the total male population aged between 18 and 44. Of these, an estimated 58,961 died, 166,811 were wounded, 4098 went missing or were made prisoners of war, and 87,865 suffered sickness. That total probably doesn't include thousands who returned with what we now call PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), which affected them and their families forever.

This photo shows some of my husband's family and was typical of the photos taken as young men went off to the War.



The young man on the right in the back row is Herbert **Purdie**, aged 20. His sister Florence is the girl in the middle and the soldier behind her is her fiancé, Percy **Jurd**. The other young man is not in uniform – yet. He is Herbert and Florence's cousin, Robert **Miller**, who also enlisted and went to Gallipoli and then Palestine with the 5th Light Horse. The young woman in front of him is his sister

Doris and the other young woman is a cousin to the Millers and Purdies – Muriel **Roberts**.

Robert and Percy both came back from the War, although Robert's brother Gordon drowned in 1917 when his ship, the HMA *Afric* (His Majesty's Australian Transport) was torpedoed. Herbert was killed in 1916 on the Somme.

Recently I visited the War Memorial Hall in Wardell, where the Purdie's lived. Herbert and his brother Athol (not in this photo) are both listed on the Honour Roll. **There are 174 names on that list. 41 deaths.**

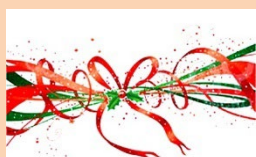
Think about the impact on this little community – on all the little communities in Australia – whose young men went off full of excitement and bravado and came back broken, or not at all.

Christmas in July

A delicious Christmas Fare and a lovely time was had by RTFHS members and friends at the Cherry Street Sports Club on 26 July 2025. See if you can find yourself in the photos below. Photos kindly taken by Ann Emery.



26 July 2025



THE AUSTRALIAN SLOUCH HAT

Adapted from an article first published in *The Cedar Log*, December 2008, written by Esme Smith, past RTFHS member #317, now deceased.

This hat is synonymous with the Australian digger. However, research shows that soldiers from various nations wore this headgear, including soldiers from India, the United States of America, New Zealand and Germany.



Courtesy: Kommando- 'A picture of my ceremonial slouch hat', 2007. Source: Wikimedia Commons

The Australian practice of wearing the slouch hat began in 1885 when it became part of the uniform of the newly formed Victorian Mounted Rifles. The commanding officer, Colonial Tom Price, witnessed the wearing of the large-brimmed hat by the native police of Burma and realised that it offered good protection from the harsh conditions in which his men could find themselves.

The hat later became a symbol of the bravery of Australian soldiers at Gallipoli and the Western Front. It has been proudly worn by successive soldiers of the Australian Infantry Forces (AIF). The Poet Laureate, John Masefield, is recognised as writing in praise of Australian soldiers who wore the slouch hat when he said, *'Instead of an idiotic cap that provided no shade to the eye, or screen for the back of the neck, that would not stay on in a wind, nor help to disguise the wearer from air observation, these men (the Diggers) wore comfortable soft felt slouch hats that protected in all weather and at all times looked well.'*

Of soft khaki felt, the hat originally featured a high-domed crown with the right side of the brim turned up and held in position by a cord attached to a hook, which protruded from a gilt lion's head boss, fastened high on the side of the crown. It has been suggested that the right side was looped up to cater for the rifle drill of the day and to make it easier for marching troops to perform the 'eyes right' command in parades. The hat included a two-piece buckled chinstrap. It is now worn with a seven-band puggaree (from the Hindi word, pagri, which is a thin scarf of muslin) which represents the six states and the territories of Australia. When New South Wales adopted the slouch hat in 1889 the brim was turned up on the left side and this was followed by most States.

The hat includes the soldier's unit colour patch (on the right side), corps or regiment hat badge (on the front of the puggaree) and the general service badge (the rising sun), on the left brim, which is folded up and clipped into place.

BBQ Fundraising Event at Bunnings Warehouse, Ballina

14 June 2025

By Carmel Crosby, BBQ Organiser

Our Society held a second successful and busy fundraising BBQ for 2025 at Bunnings Warehouse in Ballina, on Saturday 14 June. We cleared just over \$1,800, which will help pay for some hardware upgrades, website subscriptions and other resources for our library. 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 **Aitken**, Kerrie **Alexander**, Bonnie **Bennett**, Tanya **Binning**, Joy **Conlon**, Judy **Cosgrove**, Victoria **Evans**, Cheryl **Gibbes**, Ross **Glover**, Rhonda **Hall**, Jill **McCann**, Diane and Graeme **Robertson** and Rachel **Wright**. Members enjoyed working and chatting with each other whilst benefiting our society.

We will be having our third and final BBQ at Bunnings for 2025 on Saturday 13 September, so come along and buy a sausage sandwich on the day if you aren't already working on the BBQ.



L to R: Diane Robertson, Tanya Binning, Graeme Robertson
Victoria Evans, Rachel Wright
& Carmel Crosby

L to R: Trevor Emery, Jill McCann, Joy Conlon, Cheryl Gibbes & Ann Emery



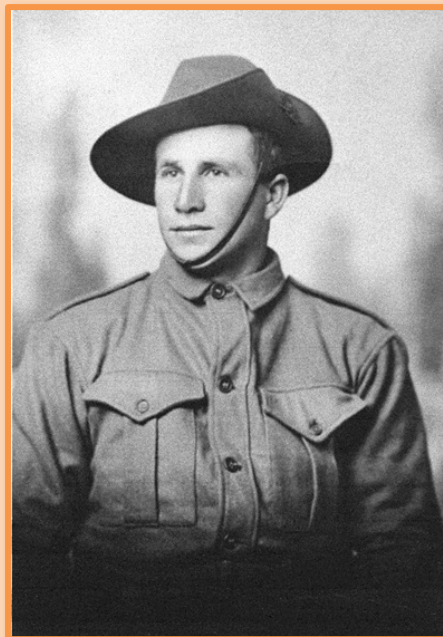
Lance Corporal Hector Small

By Dawn Lotty – Member 924

On a quiet country road, 5 kilometres north of the New South Wales (NSW) town of Camden, stands the abandoned Methodist Church at Brownlow Hill and in the Church grounds an obelisk dedicated to the men who died in WW1. The last name on the obelisk is that of Hector **Small**.

Lance Corporal Hector Small was my maternal grandmother Annie's cousin. They were born and raised in a multi-generational community at Brownlow Hill.

Brownlow Hill was a rent-to-purchase farming experiment commencing in the 1840s that encouraged free farmers from Sussex and Kent to emigrate to NSW. According to Alan **Atkinson's** book on *The History of Camden*, the Smalls were the most successful, becoming substantial dairy farmers.



Hector, born on 9 June 1892, worked on the family's farm, was educated at the Brownlow Hill school and was a very dedicated Methodist.

Even before the success of the NSW Imperial Bushman's Unit in the Boer War, young men from farming communities like Camden, and many towns across the State, were part of a volunteer citizens mounted infantry defence scheme operated from a base at the Lancer Barracks in Parramatta. Hector was part of this scheme for 3 years.

He married Alice Mildred **Stafford** at the Methodist Church in Brownlow Hill on 29 April 1914. Alice was 21 and Hector was 22.

A mere 4 months later, Hector enlisted for World War 1 on 26 August 1914. According to Army records he was 5 feet 7½ (172cm) tall weighed 10 stone 6 lbs (66kg) with brown hair and brown eyes.

He departed Sydney on the *Star of Victoria* on 20 October 1914 with the 1st Contingent of the Light Horse Brigade. His war records also show that after training in Egypt he was deployed to the Gallipoli Peninsula to the 4th Field Ambulance on the 26 May 1915. The Light Horse Brigade was considered unsuitable for Gallipoli, so the men were deployed without their horses.

We all know that over 60 000 Australian soldiers died in World War 1 and 156 000 were wounded or gassed, fighting the enemy, but there is one other enemy that since the recorded days of the Roman legends walks in lock step with the soldiers - **disease**.

Once again, Hector's war records show that one day after his deployment to the field ambulance he was admitted to hospital with influenza and was there until 29 May 1915 returning to duty a week later on 5 June.

One month later he was admitted to the Australian Hospital in Egypt on 3 July suffering from enteric fever and haemorrhage commonly caused by intestinal parasites as a result of consuming contaminated food or water. Hector died two days later, on 5 July 1915, and was buried the same day at the Cairo war cemetery.

On 27 April 1916, according to the *Camden News*, the Methodist Church at Brownlow Hill held a special service for Hector dedicating a beautiful and much needed reading desk - more commonly called a lectern - in his memory.

I was interested to find out what happened to Alice. I was expecting her to remarry but was surprised to find that she did not - returning to live with her parents and then the whole family moved to Manly. This picture of Alice was taken in 1930.

Alice died at Manly in October 1972 - 57 years after her marriage to Hector but her headstone amazingly records her as the 'wife of the late Hector Small'.



Alice Mildred Small, nee Stafford, 1930, aged about 37.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

My Father - Trevor Thomas Glover

By Ross Glover – Member 1046

I acknowledge the work of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in digitising my father's service records, and the brief notes Dad made on his time in the Air Force for the information I am presenting here.

*Photo descriptions are within the nearby text, in ***bold type**, preceded by and asterisk. The many locations Ross's father travelled to during the war are also in bold {Editor}.*

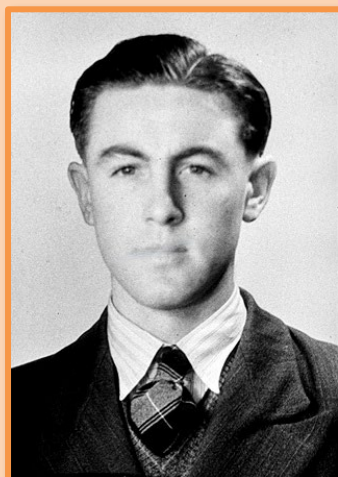
My father, Trevor Thomas **Glover**, was 15 when war began on 1 Sept 1939. He was living in Mosman, on Sydney Harbour, when the Japanese mini submarines attacked the Harbour on 31 May 1942. In three weeks, on the 20 June 1942, Dad would turn 18.

Two days after this birthday he was in **Woolloomooloo** for a medical for enlistment in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). He wanted to be a pilot, but if you were under 21 you couldn't go into aircrew without your parent's consent. His mum said no!

While waiting for a second call up into the Air Force, he was ordered to an Army medical and was called up for the Army. Dad was working in the Taxation Department at the time and one of his co-workers was married to a Major stationed at the Victoria Army Barracks in Sydney. She knew Dad wanted to be in the Air Force and told her husband of this. The Major proceeded to squash Dad's Army call up.

Oh, how my story would be different if he'd joined the Army. Well, I wouldn't be here for one! Because Dad met the woman who was to be my mother, when he was posted to Rockhampton with the Air Force. On 5 August 1942 he was called up to the RAAF as a trainee wireless operator.

Here is his ***enlistment photo**, a fresh faced 18-year-old, ready to face the challenges ahead for his country, and possibly his King.



At the conclusion of rookies training, he was sent to load 500lb bombs onto ships, as the wharfies were on strike. Dad remembered that the food was great, as it came from the ship's cook and not the mess at his rookies' camp.

After this, he was sent to **Point Cook in Victoria** for his wireless operator training. It was at Albury railway station, on the way to Point Cook, that he had his first beer!

At Point Cook he saw an airplane crash into Port Phillip Bay. This was also a first. As was sleeping on a mattress made of straw, which they had to collect for themselves!

Because Dad had worked as a telegraph messenger at Mosman in Sydney, he already knew Morse Code, and he was quickly sent to the Wireless Air Gunnery School in Ballarat for final training.

Stationed to Queensland

On the 8 January 1943 he joined the No.12 Signals Unit at **Townsville, Queensland**. It was here he caught Dengue Fever, twice. Probably because on night duty, there were “millions of insects”!

He was then sent to No.21 Operational Base Unit at **Rockhampton**. It was here he had his 19th birthday and met the girl who was to become his wife and my mother. She was 17 and working in the services canteen at the time. She went on to join the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, (the WAAAF) in 1944 and also became a wireless operator. The fact that they were both wireless operators led to some interesting verbal Morse Code conversations at the dinner table when I was young. I presume they were ‘adult’ conversations!

At Rocky, as Rockhampton is locally known, the wireless room was right near the runway. It was here that an American P40 Kittyhawk aircraft landed and crashed into a plane already on the ground, killing the pilot of the landed plane. Dad had not yet left the country and he was already seeing casualties of war.



He also notes he saw his first Spitfires! They would remain one of his favourite planes. He would always speak fondly of “Spitties”.

Spitfire, built in 1939, at Duxford, England, in 2024. Photo courtesy Julian Herzog. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons_license

It was in Rocky, that, along with an officer and 3 others, he became part of *No. 1 Air Support Party*. This is the group with which he saw out the war. Before he died, Dad had found the digitised records of his wartime service and noticed there was no mention of this Air Support Party. He wrote a number of letters to various departments and organisations, but no one knew of this particular group. But he knew it existed - he'd been in it! {Editor's Note: All WW2 Australian Army, Navy and Airforce service records are now digitised and freely available on <https://www.naa.gov.au/> Choose 'Record Search'}

It was only after Dad had died that I found the records of No.1 Air Support Party in the National Archives. This site is constantly digitising records, so it is possible the record you can't find today will be there tomorrow. The official record only lists the groups where he was 'taken on strength' (meaning a person officially becomes part of a unit). It does not list all the places Dad went. If it wasn't for Dad's notes, I wouldn't have any idea of his actual movements.

From Here On, this is My Father's Memories of His War.

They are his good memories. He did not write down any of the unpleasantness of his war. He very occasionally talked about some of it.

After Rocky, it was back to **Townsville**, where, while waiting for transport to New Guinea, they spent their time on the wharf guarding their equipment. The country was at war, but necessary military equipment still had to be guarded against theft.



He sailed to **New Guinea** on ***SS Katoomba**, a civilian passenger ship requisitioned to be a troop carrier.

They passed through **Milne Bay** on the way, and he noted it was very deep and beautiful. They arrived at **Lae, New Guinea**, soon after its capture by the Allies, and had to erect their tents in the thick mud of Lae.

Dad mentioned to me a few times how close they were to the front lines, as they moved around New Guinea, providing and collecting intelligence to be used by the Air Force and later, American PT (Patrol, Torpedo) boats. They received information at times from the hidden Coast Watchers, New Guinea tribesmen and reconnaissance planes.

Meeting the Yanks

The Japanese flew over Lae each night, which, according to Dad, made the Yanks panicky.

Dad also noted there was an African American transport company near them, so Dad and some others visited. The transport company men were very surly at first. It was obvious they didn't particularly like 'whitey'. However, the Australians were different to the American whites and they soon became friendly and would always stop for the Aussies if they were walking down the road to Lae. Interestingly, Dad notes, as they walked, the white Yanks would often drive past them.

They were then sent to support the American Marines 1st Division and once flew to **Cape Gloucester (on New Britain Island)** through a very heavy storm. Lightning was chasing itself all around the props and wings. The storm was so bad that 2 other planes landed at Finschhafen to wait it out. Dad's plane, however, kept going, and in the process, left an indelible memory on him. I'm sure there must have been a few moments of terror.

They then went to **Talasea** by ***LCI (Landing Craft, Infantry)** at night - about 164kms over open water.

At Talasea they had a native hut for their use, rather than having to pitch tents. Apparently, they were the first Australians that the Americans of the 1st Division had met in the field, so they had to sing the Australian National Anthem and other Aussie songs for the Americans. At this time, of course, the anthem would have been *God Save the King*.



Dad remembers the 'Head' (that's the Marine word for toilet) at Talasea, because at night there were an amazing number of fireflies. It made the experience quite beautiful. They had to wash in a nearby creek, but that was OK as it was hot water, which went with the bubbling mud pools nearby.

They got as many cigarettes as they wanted from the Marines. However, when the Marines left the island, they buried their cigarettes, so the 185th American Infantry Regiment couldn't get them. Obviously, the antagonism between Navy and Army was at play.

Surviving Japanese Bombing

On their way to bomb Cape Gloucester the Japanese bombers flew over them several times at night. I guess they all waited for the bombs to fall on them.

Dad remembered the chief of the village at Talasea. He had been a police boy and had some experience of Australians. The chief made sure that when the villagers killed some pigs, which were cooked on banana leaves, some was brought over for the Aussies.

At some point they were sent back to **Cape Gloucester**, before once again boarding a ship. This would take them to **Biak Island**. They were taken out to this ship in a Duku. This, I think, is a type of canoe. On the way to the ship, Dad noticed a 6-metre crocodile in the water! He knew he had to climb up the sides of the ship carrying all his gear - rifle, gas mask, kit bag, ammo pouches etc. I'm sure that croc made Dad extra careful climbing up!

Late one afternoon on the way to Biak, as the ship pulled into what had been a small mission, the Japanese came over and bombed them. Dad felt more vulnerable on the deck of the ship than he ever did on land.

After Biak they went to **Noemfoor Island** (one of the Biak Group) departing at night. As they got closer, they saw flashes of light. The Japanese were bombing the island, as the Yanks had only recently landed. This was very soon after 2 July 1944, which was when the island was invaded by the Allied forces. Dad was 20.

I thought a direct quote from Dad's notes might be interesting

"We landed early AM. Erected a tent fly, where we lived for several days. 105mm gun just above us and searchlight. Sleep in raw, as very hot, and soundly as very tired – unloading our gear etc. The gun would fire (air raid warning). Jump into fox hole and as Japs came near, searchlight would light up and we felt as though Japs could easily see us. Bombs and strafing didn't do us any harm."

After Noemfoor was secured, they flew to **Morotai Island**, just north of the equator and erected their tents. Looking for a campsite, they walked past some Yanks, found a spot and camped for the night. Next day they asked the Yanks where the frontline was. The Yanks said, "We are the frontline!" The Americans were suitably impressed with the Australians, but Dad and co. quickly moved their camp!

As Dad says in his notes, they now had "regular visits" from the Japanese. They had an air raid shelter, which was a trench covered by coconut palm logs! Fortunately, the closest a bomb came to him was a parachute flare right above them. This was the Japanese trying to spot where the allied troops were.

A large fleet, preparing for the invasion of the Philippines, was being assembled in the bay off Morotai. There was an urgent message from the Yanks requesting a wireless operator and mechanic. Dad and one other from Air Support Party were told to get ready. Fortunately for Dad, and for me, there was a big storm for a few days and his call up to join the invasion fell through. The Americans probably found some of their own to fill the positions. In later life, Dad was glad of that storm.

The invasion of the Philippines had started. The frontline in the Pacific war had moved and the Australians were left to clean up in New Guinea. But that was OK, as the Australia Forces wanted to make sure our country was safe. From Morotai, the Air Support Party went back to **Madang** and RAAF HQ.

Dad's strong memory of this time was diving from a large barge onto coral and then swimming to a big cliff at the edge of the reef, which went down into blackness. Knowing Dad, he would have gone down this cliff as far as he could. I also think this is where, after a big storm, Dad bodysurfed the biggest waves of his life. He remembered because he was the only one game enough to be out there!



From Madang he was sent westward 500km to **Aitape**, to join with the 6th Division. This was by *LCM (*Landing Craft, Mechanised*) *Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of Louisiana.* They then went again by LCM to **Dogreto Bay**, about 130km, to link up with the 16th Brigade. They landed at night as the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) were on one side of the island and the Japanese were on the other. This was probably **Kairiru Island**.

The Salvation Army (Salvos) helping out

It was raining with a fair swell when they landed and they all got wet, but about 2am, the Salvos came along with cups of tea and coffee. This bit about the Salvos is underlined in Dad's notes. Obviously, it really meant something to him. The Salvos would also meet them with fruit cordial or similar, when they were coming back from patrol. It is this note of Dad's that made me realise he wasn't always sitting next to a telegraphy set, he was also expected to be a foot soldier.

When returning from one such patrol, they came to 2 paths and took one which led them to troops busily digging in. They kept going and after a few hundred yards, walking through the jungle, realised they were heading straight for the Japanese. As the jungle so dense, it was easy to lose your bearings.

Dad was then sent to join the 17th Brigade, in the **Torricelli Mountains**, an area used for gardening and foraging by the natives, and which the Japanese forces depended on for their sustenance. Dad was based at **Maprik**. He remembered that the ‘dunny’ was right on the path and you were in full view of passers-by. But in front of you was a “beaut view”. Most nights the native drums sounded out.

Then it was on to **Yamil**, very near Maprik, and Battalion HQ.

The Japanese Surrender

On the 11 September 1945, General **Adachi**, Commander of the Japanese 18th Army in New Guinea, surrendered himself at Maprik. He was driven to Yamil, where Dad was. I wonder what it was like for him, now 21 years old, to see the leader of the enemy be driven into camp and then loaded into a plane to fly to Wewak, for the official surrender. I do know the troops at Yamil organised a small aircraft to ferry grog up to them to celebrate. Probably through the efforts of the wireless operator!

After Adachi’s surrender, for Dad, it was back to **Aitape**. Here a large amount of grog had been accumulated. There were more celebrations and then they flew to **Hollandia in Beauforts**. The Commanding Officer (CO) knew they had been celebrating hard and flew up and over ridges and down into valleys multiple times. I’m sure Dad was thinking very nasty thoughts about the CO!

Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s HQ

In Hollandia, which is now **Jayapura** in Indonesia, there was an American squadron, and they would fly to Townsville each week and bring back fresh eggs, butter, tea etc. Life had improved for Dad. He used to go to Gen. Douglas **MacArthur’s HQ**, there in Hollandia, which was a nice big home, with a swimming pool in the mountains. What a comparison to a tent in the jungle or the mud.

The Slow Trip Home

His unit was offered a trip home on a Liberty ship going to Sydney. They got as far as **Finschhafen**. It was here the RAAF HQ sent a message for them to disembark – no reason given. So, they stayed at Finschhafen. Dad worked at the airport as a traffic controller. This he says in his notes was “A bit nerve-wracking at first”. An understated man, was Dad.

Finally, it was home time! The war was over, but the excitement wasn't about to end! Though he didn't know this. They hopped aboard a Liberator to fly home. Unfortunately, over the next 100 kms, it proceeded to lose one engine after another, until only one was left. They had to throw out all the gear on board, and only just managed to land on the strip at **Lae**. Eventually they took off in a DC3, heading to **Port Moresby**. As the plane left the 'strip they saw petrol streaming from a wing tank. After a hurried landing, they searched along the strip and eventually found the petrol cap. One more try. And they made it to Moresby.



Dorothy and Trevor Glover

Next morning it was back to the DC3 and one engine caught fire! Overnight in Moresby and the next day they got into another DC3 which made it to **Townsville** and refuelled. Finally Australian soil! Several people got off this plane and decided to catch the train home! After refuelling it was onward! But the plane lost one engine over **Rocky**. And they had to land there. Everybody went into town and celebrated a safe landing with Bundy rum. They were there for 4 days while a new engine was fitted. Then, finally, home to **Sydney**!

Dad had gone to war at 18, been to much of the north coast of New Guinea and surrounding islands; had his 21st birthday somewhere in the jungle; seen some awful things, [Dad told me of the time they had to collect and bury the bodies from a crashed Japanese bomber, 'particularly gruesome' he said to me]; and he had some great experiences, like the surfing at Madang.

Dad was discharged on 8 April 1946, having served 3 years 9 months. Then one year later, on 9 August 1947, he married Dorothy, the girl he met at the Services Canteen in Rocky.



Gleanings of Journals in the Marie Hart Library

By Janine Thomson – Research Officer

Beneath the Poison Floorboards. Archaeologists discover an astonishing collection of artefacts under the floorboards of Freemantle's historic prison.

Danger in the Bay. Explores the deadly history of Sydney's Dobroyd Point bombora.

Traces – Edition 31 – Page 9, & 17

Put Your Family on the Map. Where to find them and what makes them an unmissable resource for family historians.

Northern Ireland. Find out what's new in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

Who Do You Think You Are – March 2025 - Page 15 & 62

Lest We Forget: A Missing WW1 ANZAC from the Battle of Crete, 1941. Tells the story of a series of remarkable coincidences.

HISTORY – Royal Aust. Historical Soc.- March 2025- Page 3

Easter Extravaganza. Reveals the origins of our Easter customs, some of which are stranger than others.

American War of Independence. Shares online records for this 250-year-old battle between the USA and England.

Around Britain – Hampshire. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Hampshire.

Who Do You Think You Are – April 2025 - Page 14, 57 & 64

Old Terminology and Relationships. What's in a name? Uncovers alternate meanings of family titles and the old naming patterns used in the UK.

Links and Chains – June 2025 – Page 18

The British in India. Provides expert advice for researching your European ancestors in India.

Masters' and Mates' Certificates. Explains how to use these essential records to research a Merchant Navy ancestor.

Around Britain – Norfolk. Focuses on information and records available for the county of Norfolk

Who Do You Think You Are - May 2025 – Page 32, 40 & 64

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.**

Monthly Speakers

3 May 2025: Joy **Conlon** co-ordinated a popular session **For Better or For Worse** where many members brought along their ancestors or their own wedding photos and memorabilia. Attendees enjoyed viewing these exhibited items and much discussion was generated. Ross **Glover** wrote an informative introduction to the institution and history of marriage, which was read at the meeting by Terry **Doherty**. Kerrie **Alexander**, Judy **Cosgrove**, Robyn **Hilan**, Shirley **McAnelly** and Jill **McCann** told their interesting and sometimes humorous accounts of weddings. Their talks will be printed in a future edition of *The Cedar Log*.

7 June 2025: Geoff **Hutchinson**, from Marine Rescue in Ballina, presented a talk on Shipwrecks in or near the Richmond River, Ballina, from the early days of European settlement. He has written a book on the same subject. It is available for purchase at the cost of \$55 from the Fishermen's Co-op, Keppel St, West Ballina or from Marine Rescue, 2 Lighthouse Pde, East Ballina, on the first Sunday of the month, 7 – 11am, when they have their monthly BBQ. Proceeds will go to assist in purchasing a replacement rescue vessel.

5 July 2025: We had a very popular Mini-Seminar, organised by Carmel **Crosby**, on **New South Wales (NSW) Land Records**, presented by **Michelle Hurcum**, who formerly worked for the NSW Land Records Department. Michele showed us in detail how to find parcels of land that our Ancestors might have owned in NSW. Attendees also enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and catch up with other members and guests

NEW MEMBERS

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

1069	Karen and Robert Arnold	East Ballina
1070	Janine and Mark Feodoroff	East Ballina
1071	Elsbeth Berger	Goonellabah
1072	Peter and Carol Lamont	Ballina
281	John and Joan Fraser	Ballina (rejoined)

Photos of our Monthly Speakers and Co-ordinators



L to R: Judy Cosgrove, Shirley McAnelly, Robyn Hilan, Kerrie Alexander, Terry Doherty, Jill McCann, Joy Conlon



Geoff Hutchinson with his book Shipwrecked



Michele Hurcum and Carmel Crosby



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 6 September Meeting: Significance of Landholding for Early Colonial Women. Presented by **Narissa Phelps**.

Saturday 13 September: Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Ballina
9 am – 4 pm. Come along and visit or buy a sausage if you aren't working on the stall.

30 September: Closing date for RTFHS Writing Competition.

Saturday 4 October Meeting: Solving Your Family History Brick Walls. Small groups will work on examples. Send in your Brick Walls ahead of the session. Co-ordinator - **Jill McCann**.

Saturday 1 November Meeting: History of the Pioneer Cemetery, Ballina. Presented by **Jill McCann** and **Patricia Wilson**.

Saturday 6 December: Christmas Lunch – location and cost 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.