

# THE Cedar Log

37<sup>th</sup> Year of Publication

Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.

Ballina NSW Australia



Australian Joint Stock Bank building, Lismore. 2021.

The **Australian Joint Stock Bank** (AJSB) operated from 1852 to 1910 in Australia, after which it became the Australian Bank of Commerce and then was taken over in 1931 by the [Bank of New South Wales](#) (now Westpac). A branch of the AJSB opened in 1876 in an impressive building on the corner of Woodlark and Molesworth Streets in Lismore (above photo). It was a prominent architectural feature at the time and still remains a beautiful specimen. It is now occupied by various commercial interests.

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

(Incorporated in New South Wales)

**Location:** Marie Hart Library, 6 Regatta Avenue, Ballina  
NSW Australia

**Website:** [www.rtfhs.net.au](http://www.rtfhs.net.au)

**All Correspondence** to be forwarded to:

Secretary, Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc., PO Box 817, Ballina  
NSW Australia 2478. Or email: [secretaryrtfhs1@yahoo.com](mailto:secretaryrtfhs1@yahoo.com)

**Patron:** Martyn Killion, BA, Grad. Dip App. Science (Information), Dip FHS.

**Honorary Fellowships:** Marie Hart, Nola Rodey, Suzanne Warmerdam, Esme Smith, Frank Harvey

**President:** Richard Goss 0418 356 527 [presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com](mailto:presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com)

**Vice President:** Eldon Wright 0416 165 760 [elwright48@bigpond.com](mailto:elwright48@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Position Vacant

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Bennett

**Publicity Officer:** Allan Ridgewell

**Membership Secretary:** Jan Ousby

**Social Events Organiser:** Gwen Clark

**Library Officer:** Richard Goss

**IT Manager:** Position Vacant

**IT Support:** Carol Brown

**Research officer:** Janine Thomson

**Web Master:** Liz Marshall

## **Committee Members:**

Carol Donaghey, Liz Marshall, Jan Ousby, Jackie Chalmers

**Journal Editor:** Carmel Crosby

email: [editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com)

**Assistant to Editor/Production:** Liz Marshall

**Assistant to Editor:** Judith Cosgrove

**Societies Exchanging e-journals please contact:**

Email: [richmondtweedfhs@yahoo.com.au](mailto:richmondtweedfhs@yahoo.com.au)

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and the first Saturday of the month.

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## **Editorial**

**By Carmel Crosby**

As you receive this edition of The Cedar Log, Spring will be commencing, the flowers blooming and the weather will be warming up after a cold winter (by Northern NSW standards). Perhaps we can also spring clean our family history notes and get back to some research, breaking down any brick walls we still have or even making a start on writing up some stories about our ancestors. I look forward to any of these stories you might feel inclined to write and have published in our next Cedar Log.

We have had some deaths in our Society family. Liz Marshall's husband, Terry, passed away in early June. Many of us remember Terry when he assisted Liz in selling raffle tickets at our meetings. Liz (Member 941) is our very valuable assistant editor and Web Master, who posts regularly on our Facebook page.

Alf **Clark**, husband of Jill Clark (Members 396), passed away peacefully on 9 July 2021. Alf regularly attended our meetings and you might remember when he led us in singing a carol at our yearly Christmas party. Alf and Jill have been members of the Society for many years and Alf will be greatly missed. We are thinking of Liz and Jill at this sad time.

We had our AGM on 7 August and Richard Goss is our new president. Congratulations Richard and we wish you the very best in your undertaking of this position. Many thanks to Don Howell, our outgoing president, for his service during the last 2 years, which have been particularly trying with all the changes required for Covid-19. Unfortunately, we do not have any volunteers to take over from our secretary, Kerrie Alexander, who resigned after a stunning 12 years in the job! Judy Cosgrove has volunteered to do the committee meeting minutes. This will relieve the secretary position of some workload. Carol Brown has resigned from her position as a committee member. Carol has had several roles in the Society for nearly two decades and we very much appreciate all she has done. Eldon Wright has agreed to fill the Vice President role, after some post-AGM negotiations. Thank you to Kerrie,

Judy, Carol and Eldon for your contributions. There are now two vacancies for general committee members plus the secretary role. If anyone would like to volunteer for one of the vacant positions, please contact Richard Goss.

A great Christmas in July was held at the Summerland House Farm on the 24th July. Many thanks to Gwen Clark for organising it. See the centrefold of this journal for a report and photos.

Covid-19 has been causing disruption to the greater Sydney area and some regional areas in New South Wales, including our own Northern Rivers. Border issues continue to disrupt travel plans within NSW, with other States and with New Zealand. We have had to cancel one of our meetings as guest speakers from Queensland could not cross the border to come to Ballina to deliver their talks. Hopefully, we can hear from them in 2022.

Many thanks to Frank **Harvey**, Judy **Cosgrove** and Janine **Thomson** for submitting articles for publication in this month's Cedar Log, as well as those who write our regular features. We welcome articles on any family history subject especially stories on your ancestors and their antics and adventures, be they unusual or very normal. Looking forward to hearing from you and stay safe in these testing times.

*Carmel*, Editor.

## Articles for December Cedar Log

Thank you for those who wrote a story for this issue of *The Cedar Log*. Once again we are looking for a short story from any of our members for upcoming issues. Although we sometimes have a 'theme' for the issue, we are happy to accept any article you would like to submit. It is great to read stories about other members' ancestors!

The **December** issue will be mainly relating experiences with **DNA**. This could be a personal discovery you have uncovered or connections you have made with new-found relatives. If you have delved into the technical aspects, perhaps you could tell the rest of us how to explore the wonders of DNA.

Please submit your stories to the [editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com) by mid-October.

## President's Report for 2020-2021

I would like to present my report to the AGM



Again, this has been a very different year for all members. It may not have been as disruptive as last year but it has been far from normal.

The first half of the year, August to December 2020, was disrupted extensively by the COVID-19 restrictions. Firstly, because of these restrictions we had to defer our AGM until October. We did manage to hold the AGM in October but with restricted numbers and under the strict COVID-19 rules that applied to the gathering of people indoors.

Also, because of the restrictions, we were forced to cancel the speakers we had organised for September and October. For the September meeting Eric and Rosemary **Kopittke** had been organised, but they had to be cancelled. Similarly, John **Rogers** was scheduled for October to give a talk on the Northern Rivers but again this had to be cancelled.

The seminar by Helen **Smith** that was scheduled for November was also cancelled because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. However, using the expertise of Richard **Goss** we did manage to hold a ZOOM meeting in November. Even though the number of participants was small it proved to be a very successful exercise and was a very good trial for future meetings in case we are forced into further restrictions because of COVID-19.

By December the situation had eased somewhat and we were able to hold our annual Christmas luncheon at Summerland House Farm, Alstonville. Even

though we were forced to place a cap on the number of attendees, those who were able to attend had a very enjoyable time.

In the second half of the year, it looked like things were improving substantially and the committee was able to plan the meetings for the year. We were able to go back to the Players Theatre and abide by the distancing and check in rules that now applied to the gathering of people indoors. Our first meeting in February 2021 was member participation and the topic was “How to Document Your Family History”. This was well attended and enjoyed by all now that we were back to some semblance of normality.

With the ability to manage the attendances at the Players Theatre, we were successful in being able to hold meetings for the next four months. In March we had Robbie **Braithwaite** do a presentation on her book “A Stroll around the block: Lismore CBD’s Heritage”. This was very successful and enjoyed by all present. In April we had another member participation meeting the topic of this meeting was “More Family History Discoveries”.

In May we had a presentation by Benita **Parker** on her book “Pimlico – where’s that”. Benita had been scheduled a year earlier but because of the COVID-19 shutdown she had to be cancelled. Very obligingly, Benita agreed to attend this year and do her presentation. Again, this was a very good presentation and was thoroughly enjoyed by the members who were present.

In June we held a webinar presentation that was provided by the State Archives of NSW. The webinar was a detailed account of what school records are available in NSW for people researching family history. This webinar highlighted some of the finer and unusual details that may be found in some school records. I was most appreciative of the help I received from the State Archives in being able to provide this webinar for our Society.

Unfortunately, by July an outbreak of Covid in NSW and Queensland led to border restrictions and shutdowns and as a result we had to again cancel the guest speakers. This was programmed to be Eric and Rosemary **Kopitke**.

This being the second time that we have had to cancel Eric and Rosemary they must, by now, be feeling that we or they are jinxed.

Other points that I would like to mention are as follows:

We were fortunate that after opening up the Marie Hart Library in June last year we were able to keep it open for the full year. In early 2021 NSW regulations required the Society to register a “Covid Safe Plan” and introduce entry requirements. The requirements were that we needed to have all persons, who entered the library, use the QR code and if unable to do this then the Society was obliged to keep an electronic record of the personnel who did not use the QR code. We have been fortunate in our area that we have not had, as yet, any instances of infection and therefore there has not been a call on us to provide this electronic data. However, it is essential that this record is kept up to date. How long we will have to maintain the QR code and electronic register we do not know.

On a pleasing note, we have stabilised our membership with about 10 new members joining in the last 12 months. This means that our membership has stopped declining for the present. Unfortunately, only time will tell if Covid will have any detrimental effect on the membership. Once we were able to resume our regular monthly meetings the attendances have been good which is pleasing.

Early this year the Cedar Log editorial team changed. The June 2021 Cedar Log was their first production. The new editorial team is: Carmel **Crosby** – Editor, with Liz **Marshall** and Judy **Cosgrove** as assistant editors. I would like to thank the retiring editorial team Jane **Griffin**, Judy **Cosgrove** and Christine **Reeves** for their work. I would also like to thank the new editorial team for taking up this very important role in our Society.

During the year we established a Facebook page. I would like to thank Liz **Marshall** for taking on the role of administrator of Facebook. The Facebook page has been accessed by many people and it has also led to some new people joining our Society. This has been quite beneficial for the Society and just goes to prove that we must keep up with technology if we want to survive. We



are also in the process of completely revamping our web site. Our web site has been in need of this for some time and the new web site should be launched in the near future. My thanks go to everyone that has been involved in this undertaking.

With the agreement of the committee, it was decided to undertake an upgrade of some of our equipment. Part of this upgrade was to purchase two new computers for the Marie Hart Library. This has been done. At the time of this report one new computer has been put into operation for members to do their research and the other computer will shortly be available for administrative work and also for members to undertake research. As part of the equipment upgrade there are a number of items that are in the project stage. When all the projects are finished, we should have an up-to-date service for members.

In the library there are a number of projects being undertaken by the library group. When they are finished it will make the searching and locating of information for researchers a much more efficient and easy process.

Unfortunately, I have to close my report on a less pleasing note. I have found, through personal and other reasons, that I am no longer able to carry on the duties of President. I have been in this role for two years and I must say that they have been rather difficult but interesting years. The challenges that have been presented over the last 18 months with respect to COVID-19 has meant that many of our activities have needed to be kept under constant review and at times it has meant changes at short notice.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the committee for their assistance over the last twelve months and especially Secretary, Kerrie **Alexander**, for her valued assistance. I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the members who have supported us through these trying times. Without your support at functions and meetings the Society could not be able to function to its full extent.

Don Howell. President



# Audit Report

## Year ending June 2021

**By Robyn Hilan - Member 488**

The Covid Pandemic has disrupted the *activities* of the Society and in turn has affected the *financial accounts* over this past 18 months. Any meaningful comparison between the results for the financial years 2021, 2020 and 2019 is difficult.

With regard to the income and expenditure for the year under audit the following is noted:

- The income for 2021 is inflated due to the transfer of \$7043 from the contingency reserve to the working account.
- The second grant from the RSL Club was finally received after further negotiations - but a year later than promised, thus it is out of its proper place in the comparisons. However the amount is now somewhat immaterial and the grant not as crucial as it was when first sought.
- It is reassuring to see Membership Subscriptions holding up at \$3,600 which is a positive for the finances. More importantly a sustained membership gives purpose to the future of the group.
- The expenses in some instances reflect the inactivity imposed by Covid.
- It is noted there is no Lease payment for the Marie Hart Library. This requires an explanation/investigation. It could mean there is a very late

charge to come which may mean a double payment in the next financial year.

- Repairs and maintenance reflects two services by Wormald (fire extinguisher) which is unusual and seems more expensive than on previous occasions.
- Computer Equipment and Library expenditure is higher due to the addition of new computers and related add-ons.

Setting aside the boost to income from the reserve and the purchase of equipment in the expenses, the ratio between income and expenditure is very acceptable. The update to the computers, made possible because of the legacy of the previous year, is commended.

The Society has never been in a better situation financially. The Committee has made considered purchases during the financial year which not only enhance the facilities but also contribute to furthering the aims of the Society. With the funds in hand and a continued balanced approach to spending, the Members could be confident the future is financially secure into the next decade.

Other than matters already mentioned, there was nothing in the accounts which warrants mention. The Treasurer continues to maintain the accounts in a prompt and orderly manner. I commend the Committee members for their oversight and decisions concerning the financial activities.

Time was when the Society had many members and few dollars. The challenge into the future is to maintain the ‘people’ side as the dollars should be able to hold their own for a while!



## Plaque for Laurie Mathers

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, a plaque commemorating Laurie and his generous bequest to the Society was unveiled in the Marie Hart Library by our president, Don Howell. Also in attendance were Kerrie Alexander and Richard Goss. Laurie's stepdaughter, Leanne Hooley, emailed Kerrie to say she was thrilled to hear about the plaque and see photos of the unveiling.

Laurie joined the Society in 1985 and was member number 124. He had a continuous membership until shortly before his death in early 2019, aged 88. Laurie generously left bequests to six local charities, including \$20,000 to the Richmond Tweed Family History Society. The funds are being used on purchases to benefit the members and keep our Society in a strong financial position. Thank You Laurie!



*President Don Howell,  
Kerrie Alexander (Secretary) and  
Richard Goss (Library Officer)*

**Vale**  
**Audrey Chappell**



We are sad to advise that Audrey Chappell, passed away in 2020. Audrey was member number 26, so part of the Society from the earliest days. She was awarded Fellow of the Richmond Tweed Family History Society in 2003. Audrey was president of the Society in 2003 and secretary from 1989-1991. Along with Carole Browne, Audrey compiled and verified the Ballina district Deaths and Burials that we have available in the Marie Hart Library.

Audrey was a war bride from the UK. She and her husband, Brian, moved to the South Coast of New South Wales in 2004 and a special afternoon tea was held by the Society to farewell them, in November of that year. Audrey and Brian celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on the 1st of November 2016.

They both turned 90 in 2015 so Audrey must have been around 95 when she died. She will be sadly missed by her friends and family.



## How to Resolve Conflicting Research Information

by Frank Harvey – Member 724

**It won't take long before a family history researcher locates a record which seems to conflict with a long-held family story.** Did your favourite, but now deceased Aunt, tell you a tall story? Surely your favourite Grandmother wouldn't have lied to you! Or would she? Is it possible that dear old Grandpa really knew more than he ever told you?

There are a number of things we can do to resolve these uncomfortable and sometimes conflicting pieces of evidence:

### **STEP ONE: GIVE THESE TROUBLESOME FACTS SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION**

Let's suppose one report says that Uncle Billy was born in Ballina, another says Alstonville and yet another says he was born in Wardell – all nearby New South Wales locations! What are we going to do? Will we choose Ballina, because that is what the oldest record says, or because that's what we were always told?

It would be much better to recognise that we are now facing a contradiction which must be examined with complete honesty, so such conflicting records demand some special attention. They scream at us – more research please! So dig a little deeper. Don't think of them as a nuisance, because they are the stuff which produces good research. Be prepared to search a little wider than you have done before.

**For instance:** if we locate a woman living with her husband in one location, and then find her living with her mother in another location – all on the same census – we have uncovered a contradiction. The author encountered such a situation on the 1881 UK

Census; but by digging a little deeper he was able to discover that the husband was now insane and somewhat violent, and his wife had taken refuge with her mother. The entry showing her residing with her mother was correct—but the entry showing her living with her husband was the result of her husband’s sad removal from reality!

**Another instance:** however, if we find the woman on the next census with a different surname, living with a different man (while the first husband is still living) we have found a clue that something quite extraordinary is going on. So give it some attention!

By digging much deeper the author uncovered a truly sad story. By this time the husband (mentioned in the above example) had been committed to an asylum, together with several of his siblings - some of whom ultimately committed suicide. Seven years after the husband’s incarceration in the asylum his wife remarried at a Registry Office in a town far away from her usual residence. It has been suggested she was under the impression that because her first husband had been incarcerated for over seven years she was somehow now free to remarry. However, if such an annulment was possible, she should have obtained a Court Order of some kind. *And if this lady had remarried in her home town and using her correct surname I would have found her much earlier than I did!*

[**Please note:** because of the dubious nature of this marriage, most of the details of this matter are entered into my research software in a confidential manner, so they cannot be divulged without changing the format of the entry. Even though the people involved are long-deceased, such information should be treated with great sensitivity.]

These kinds of contradictions will create uncertainty for us, but we musn’t make the mistake of thinking that we need to come to an immediate decision. Time and lots of patience are vital equipment in a researchers toolbox.

## **STEP TWO: DON’T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF**

Never waste unnecessary time over small discrepancies. It is not usually a matter of great importance to know if your ancestor ‘John Smith’ was born on the first or third day of a particular month—but it certainly does matter to know if your ancestor is

the ‘John Smith’ born in 1900 or 1902 if you are trying to find him on the 1901 UK Census!

To resolve other more complex contradiction you may need to get to work in pursuing further evidence—as well as asking and answering some of the following questions:

- What is the general level of credibility of the information before me?
- Does it come from an original record, or from a transcription of an original record?
- Is the information from an authored article or book?
- Is the information from an eye-witness account or from a second-hand source (known as primary or secondary records in genealogical circles)?
- Does the information categorically answer my problem, or just offer me another clue?
- Can we trust the informant, and is there any possibility they may wish to embellish or shade the truth?

### **STEP THREE: WIDEN THE FIELD OF YOUR RESEARCH**

The more research we undertake, the greater the likelihood we will find ourselves confronted with towns, states or countries of which we have no basic knowledge. So it is important to momentarily step aside from the current contradiction and try to develop an understanding of our new research landscape.

Today’s internet offers us a plethora of information about every subject imaginable. We must check out what various internet sites offer, or read what other researchers have to say about a place or a person or a war or a political climate—or whatever.

We should join the local library and read everything we can lay our hands on, dealing with the new area we are researching. Remember that some authors spend months researching for just one important paragraph in their best-selling novel!

### **STEP FOUR: NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER!**



## **John Gray**

### **An early pioneer of Casino**

**By Judy Cosgrove. Member 989**

One of the earliest pioneering families of the Casino district, and indeed the Richmond River Valley, was the **Gray** family. They were highly respected individuals in this district and the members of the Gray family made significant and positive contributions to both the economic livelihood and social life of the Casino area.

In the early days in the history of Casino the township was described by the pioneers as “The town of the three John’s”. Three of the town’s major establishments were run by three men with the name John. John **Meanley** was in charge of the Durham Ox Inn; John **Grimes** opened the first store in Casino and my Great-Great-Grandfather John **Gray** started the first blacksmith’s shop. Each of these establishments was essential to the progress of Casino.

John Gray was born in Roxburghshire, Scotland, in 1817, the son of Andrew Gray and Isabel (**Landreth**) Gray. He resided in his native land where he learnt blacksmithing. In August 1848 he married Sarah **Mumby** (a dressmaker) in Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, London. John and Sarah travelled to Australia on board the ship “Steadfast” arriving on March 26, 1849, in Sydney. He was engaged as a smith to Mr Clark **Irving** and in 1849 he took up his duties at Tomki Station, east of Casino. At this time, he was the only blacksmith established between Grafton and Brisbane. In 1850, he shifted to a place above Casino, on Doubtful Creek, known as Queebun and there established a store and shoeing forge.

Mr C.H. **Fawcett**, the “Father of The Richmond”, induced John to come to Casino and secured him a site on the south bank of the river, where he established a

blacksmith's shop and residence occupied by him for forty-four years. He trained his son, Thomas, in the same trade.



In February 1879, John's wife, Sarah, was drowned in shallow water, in the Richmond River. She was the mother of the couple's fourteen children. One of them, Susan, was my Great-Grandmother. John felt the loss of Sarah keenly and turned the business over to his son **Thomas (pictured here)**.

Mr. M. Ryan, in an article entitled "Occupations From The Past: No 5 The Village Blacksmith," explains why the presence of a blacksmith shop would have been a priceless asset to the developing town. 'Back at the turn of the century (and before then) and for some decades after that, the blacksmith was the prince of tradesmen in any country town. Other tradesmen were dependent on his skills for the manufacture and repair of tools and materials. He was the vital link in transport when the horse and buggy, bullock and wagon plied the roads. Timbermen, miners, farmers, stockmen and others converged on the blacksmith shop. It frequently became the meeting place where village politics, gossip and the more serious items of weather, crops and loads were discussed and debated. The blacksmith's work varied a great deal according to his locality; there were however, tasks common to all. One of these was the shoeing of horses and bullocks. Frequently, the blacksmith was also the local coach builder and wheelwright.'

The blacksmith shop of John Gray (and later his son, Thomas) provided many of these functions. Cattle stations used to send up to thirty horses at a time to be shod. Beside the shop stood a wheelwright shop where he constructed coaches, agricultural implements and cattle brands. He also made the "stops" (large chains with metal links) which were used to trap the cedar logs as they floated down the Richmond River. The original homestead of John and Sarah was made from red cedar cut in the area.

John's talents were also employed in other fields. In an article entitled "Tomki Homestead Stables - Casino A Relic of a Past Age", Len **Dockrill** and James **Haling** discuss the sandstone and brick stables to be found on the famous Tomki Station.

“To hold the building square and to help strengthen it, five large bolts have been placed through the building. On the other end of these bolts are attached large S’s. Both of these were the work of John Gray.” Much of the metal work for the first Irving Bridge over the Richmond River at Casino was provided by his shop.

So successful was his business that he employed up to ten workers, who were boarded in a large house near the shop. The shop itself was made from pit-sawn timber and was 20x30 feet (6 x 9 metres) in size. The shop was taken down just prior to World War Two.

The information for this article was sourced from: *A Gray History* by Thomas J. Gray B.A. Dip.Ed 1977. Many thanks to the Casino and District Family History Group

## Find My Past

Hopefully our research rooms, the Marie Hart Library, will be open again soon, after the present lockdown due to Covid in NSW. As soon as it is allowed, why not pop into the Library and have a look at the wonderful *Find My Past* (FMP) website which our Society has available? For those who aren’t aware, FMP is similar, but different, to *Ancestry.com*. The main records, like BDMs and censuses, are available on both sites. Some features special to FMP include: -

The censuses can be searched by address. Bring up the specific census you are interested in by searching in the All Records Sets button in top right hand corner and follow the link to search by address.

There is an excellent collection of Catholic baptisms, marriages and burials covering the UK and beyond, which is invaluable to those researching Catholic ancestors.

- Some researchers find the *Search All* function in FMP gives more targeted search results. This will save time in finding the correct records for your ancestor.
- FMP has exclusive relationships with a number of archives, making it the essential family history website for places like Surrey, West Devon, East and North Yorkshire and Staffordshire.
- And last but not least, as mentioned elsewhere in this journal, FMP will be the exclusive publisher of the 1921 census for England and Wales due to be released in early 2022.



## Christmas in July 2021

*Kerrie Alexander & Rachel Wright*



*Eric Clark & John Broadley*

Our members gathered at Summerland House Farm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate this occasion. It was a great opportunity to catch up with our Family History friends in a social setting.



*Margaret & Rosemary Playford  
& Fiona Jones*



*Robyn Hilan & Leonie Oliver*



Joy came dressed in festive attire which added greatly to the festive atmosphere. Members wore a variety of colourful masks in keeping with Covid regulations. Thanks to Gwen Clark for organising this successful event.



*Jackie Chalmers & Anna Wutte*



*Bonnie Bennett & Marlene Lester*



*Judy Cosgrove*



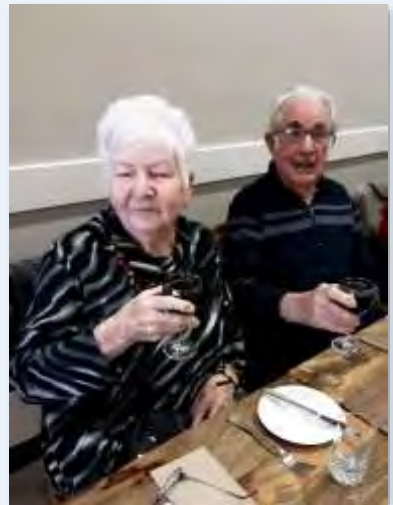
*John & Shirley McAnelly*



*Jenny Craddock & Carol Donaghey*



*Meryl Broadley, Jan Earnshaw  
& Liz Marshall*



*Gwen & Eric Clark*

## 1921 Census of England and Wales

For those with relatives, ancestors or descendants of ancestors, living in England, Wales and Scotland in 1921, your wait will soon be over, as the 1921 census of England and Wales will be released in early 2022. It is a little later than originally planned as there were some delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To make it even more tantalising, *Findmypast* was awarded the exclusive contract to publish the census records and we have a subscription to this, which is available on our computers in the *Marie Hart Library*. There will be digital images of the original household returns and transcriptions of these. The census for Scotland is due to be published on the *ScotlandsPeople* website in the second half of 2022. There was no 1921 census in Ireland because of the Irish War of Independence.

As the census was taken in 1921, it will show the effect of the First World War. Presumably, there will be a reduction in men aged 20-30 years, who perished on the battlefields and less children aged approximately 3-7 years, as the young men were away at the war. New questions asked were about divorce and householders' workplaces as well as detailed questions on education.

There is a great article about the 1921 census on the Who Do You Think You Are? website, which Don Howell pointed out. Follow the link below to view it. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/when-will-the-1921-census-be-available/>



## Finding your Lost Cousins

**By Carmel Crosby – Member 762**

LostCousins is a free website founded by Peter Calver, in the UK. Follow this link to find it. <https://www.lostcousins.com/>

As the name implies it aims to link you up with your Lost Cousins. It is quite a unique website as it uses census entries, rather than family trees or DNA to find your matches. The advantage of this is that census information is available to the public and everyone can see the same information. You enter your relatives from past censuses onto the site and the LostCousins computer looks for other members who have entered the same people from the census. If you and another member are related to the same individual on the census, then the two of you must also be related to each other. A search function matches you with your 'cousin'. You don't only enter your ancestors, as that would put you in contact with your living cousins whom you probably already know. So entering relatives from the branches of your family is key to finding your 'lost cousins'.

It is recommended to add census data from the 1841, 1881 or 1911 England & Wales, 1881 Scotland or Canada, 1880 or 1940 US or the 1911 Ireland censuses. Lots of tips and advice is given throughout the website to help with the different steps.

What Happens Next?

If matches are found, initial contact is made through the site, and only when both members have agreed to make contact will you each find out the other person's name. You can continue to communicate with your new-



found relatives through the LostCousins site if that's what you prefer or via other methods.

You'll probably want to share with your new cousin some of the information you've collected about your family's history. No doubt you'll each want to know how the other person is descended from your common ancestors

With luck you'll find that your cousin can solve some of the mysteries you've encountered when researching your family. And as you get to know each other better you might decide to exchange old family photos and other items that have been passed down the generations. Now that you've found someone who shares your research interest you might even decide to collaborate on future research.

When I first joined LostCousins some years ago, I found a 'cousin', who was indeed connected with my 2x great grandfather's sister in Wales. We collaborated on our shared family history and made many discoveries along the way. She also put me in contact with other 'lost cousins', whom she had already found. So my research was extended in many ways, just by the one contact found through the LostCousins site. For a small fee you can subscribe to the site, which has a few added benefits. However, I have never found this necessary.

### LostCousins Newsletter

Another ongoing benefit of being a free subscriber of *LostCousins* is the monthly newsletters produced by the founder, Peter Calver. These are reasonably short and easy-to-read, with lots of interesting information. They also announce when various paid sites are having a free weekend or discount subscription. The link to them lands in your email inbox on a regular basis. Here is a link to a recent one. Once you are registered, you can access all the previous issues. <https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/jul21news.htm>

## Suffolk Family History Society

We received the following update from the *Suffolk Family History Society* and thought it would be a timely reminder of what is available on overseas Family History sites. If you do not have interests in Suffolk, try looking up other county Family History Societies in the UK, via their Federation website. <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/societies-az>



If any members are researching Ancestors from Suffolk, East of England, you may find it useful to consider contacting, or indeed joining *The Suffolk Family History Society*. The Society started in 1975 in Lowestoft and there are now 5 Groups in Suffolk (Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Sudbury and Lowestoft) and also a group that meets quarterly in West London.

On offer are a popular Quarterly Journal, *Suffolk Roots* (available on the RTFHS electronic journal list), an active website [www.suffolkfhs.org.uk](http://www.suffolkfhs.org.uk), and a Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkFamilyHistorySociety/>

**From the Suffolk FHS Publicity Officer** - "Over many years we have had a team of transcribers visit the three Suffolk County Council Archive Offices, transcribing over 1.2 million baptisms, with a similar number of marriages and burials. These have been loaded onto CD Roms and are also downloadable online, both for a cost. To find out more, go to our website (under *Publications*). Note: some have been

loaded onto Find My Past, however the majority are only available by purchase from us.

So, what happens if you only want a few names and details? We run a very reasonable Search Service – just look at *Search Services* on the website for more information.

If you join the Society you can also: -

- Have free access to ZOOM talks, Family History related videos and copies of the *Suffolk Roots* journal (hard copy or electronic)
- Search Suffolk Monumental Inscriptions
- View or join a HELP Forum to chat with other members
- Find details of your ancestor's home parish
- Search 17<sup>th</sup> century Suffolk Hearth Tax returns
- Read Journals (like yours) from some other Family History Societies
- Read a research guide to research your WW2 military ancestors
- Search for any Suffolk miller ancestors and their mills going back to 1086
- Preserve your Family History, following advice on self-publication
- Search for other members who have great-grandparents in common with you”

If you would like more information, contact Howard **King**, Trustee and Publicity Officer, Suffolk Family History Society. [publicity@suffolkfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@suffolkfhs.org.uk)



# New South Wales State Archives & Records

By Carmel Crosby – Member 762

Whilst looking at the **NSW State Archives & Records (NSW SA&R)** site, to write a short piece about the webinar we viewed at our June meeting on *School Records*, I came to understand the site a little better so I thought I would share a few points I learned.

The **NSW SA&R** is the largest collection of records relating to the history of NSW and the lives of its people. The records in the collection are arranged firstly by the Government **agency** that created them, then into a **series** of records, then into **items** (bound volumes, files, documents or objects) within the series.

The **NSW SA&R** site has a new *Collection Search*, which is a powerful single search tool that provides access, in the one place for the first time, to the 1.9 million items in the State Archives Collection *and* the 1.7 million *Online Index* entries. *Collection Search* can be found within the guide on the following link, or on the home page. Type in one of your family names and see what comes up. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/using-collection-search>

*Online Indexes* are found in Quick Links on the home page or via the following link. It is another way to search i.e. by choosing the *series* you are interested in and then looking for a family name. It will have a *guide* about the series, including dates covered, and is helpful to understand what you will or won't find in the item you are interested in. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indexes-a-z>

The *guides* mentioned above can also be found on this link under *Research A-Z*. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/research-a-z>

## How to See the Item You Have Found?

If you think you have found an item pertaining to your family, there are several ways to view it (not many are directly available to view online). If you are near Sydney,

you can visit the centre and look in person. Note they are closed during periods of Covid-19 lockdown. Some items are available for purchase and will be delivered either digitally or by post. If there is a little shopping cart symbol on the item you are interested in, then you can order it. If there is no shopping cart symbol, the centre's *Copy Service* can be used (there is a link towards the bottom of the home page with all the details on cost etc) or a transcription agent can be engaged to find and copy the item, once again depending on Covid restrictions.

Some indexes link to Family Search e.g. the Bounty Immigrants Index 1828-1842, with images of the items available there. Others are digitized on Ancestry.com. Some images are freely available on the site e.g. Convict Indents 1788-1801. Some microfilms are in **Archives Resources Kit (ARK)** which can be accessed at some libraries, like the Family History and Resource Centre, Centenary Drive, Goonellabah. These microfilms are copies of the most popular and heavily used colonial records relating to convict arrivals, assisted immigrants, births, deaths and marriages. Seek and you shall find....

If you need help with navigating the site or trying to figure out how to get the item you have found, the **NSW SA&R** can be contacted by phone or email and the friendly staff will help you.

### **Last but Not Least!**

At <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars> all the webinars on the **State Archives** site can be viewed. They are on a wide range of topics, focusing on the extensive resources held by the Archives and give details on how to access them. All webinars are recorded and past webinars appear in the library so you can view them at a convenient time. As the webinars contain a lot of information, it is probably beneficial when viewing them, to have a second **NSW SA&R** webpage open so you can look things up as you watch/pause the webinar. Links to *guides* and *indexes* pertaining to the webinar topic are on the *webinar* page.

There is certainly a lot to see on the **New South Wales State Archives & Records** site. Have a look around this extensive site and you might find records to enhance your family history.



## Useful Websites

### By Janine Thomson – Member 980

\***JewishGen** - serves as the global home for Jewish genealogy. Featuring unparalleled access to millions of records, it offers unique search tools, along with opportunities for researchers to connect with others who share similar interests.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/>

\***Find a Grave** - this totally free website has records, photos, and sometimes even biographical information from hundreds of millions of graves around the world. The database is fully searchable by name, location, and even individual cemeteries.

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

\*Discover details of the **London Blitz during WW11**. Use the interactive web-mapping to explore and search for different bomb locations across London. Click on individual bombs and find information relating to the neighbouring area. You can explore statistics for different areas and see how many bombs fell in different wards and boroughs in London as well as read memories of Londoners that were contributed to the BBC

[www.bombsight.org](http://www.bombsight.org)

\***The US GenWeb Project** - each US state has its own section within the project's site, and each state has a page for each of its individual counties. The information on these pages is all user-contributed, so it can vary in quantity and quality. Some places may have a ton of information, while others have very little. You may find such things as old newspaper records, census records, land records, family bible records, tax records, cemetery records, old journal and diary records, old photographs and more. Some of these records are not on any of the subscription sites, because they are submitted by users from their private collections, or from their own local research discoveries.

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

\***Chronicling America** is a free database of 1.56 million historic photos gleaned from over 16 million digitized newspapers, published in The United States between 1900 and 1963.

<https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>

## Journal Gleanings

**By Janine Thomson**

“50 Websites to Watch”. Provides an extensive list of new releases and resources to explore.  
*Who Do You Think You Are – January 2021 - Page 15*

“Best Websites for the Holocaust” Provides the best sites to find vital resources for research into WW11 holocaust victims.

*Who Do You Think You Are - January 2021 - Page 47*

“DNA Testing and Researching... what does it really mean?” This article is worth reading if you are considering taking a DNA test.

*Ghostbuster – Campbelltown FHS – March, 2021 – Page 9*

“Genealogical Research Corner - Databases”. A guide to help you get the most out of online databases.

*Journal – Cleveland FHS – April, 2021 – Page 9*

“Oral Histories”. This edition contains several articles on Oral History, including tips on how to create your own, and websites providing access to Oral History Libraries and guides. *Descent – Society of Australian Genealogists – Autumn 2021*

“The Friendship Games” - Stories of love, war and unity during the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

*Traces – Edition 15, 2021 – Page 9.*

“Children in Care” Looks at how different institutions sought to provide for destitute children in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Who Do You Think You Are? April 2021 – Page 69.*

“How to get the most out of *familysearch.org*”. The first part in a series of articles that provides step by step instructions on how to get the most out of the free FamilySearch databases.

*Tasmanian Ancestry – Tasmanian FHS – June 2021 – Page 19*

## Australian e-Journals Review

September 2021

By Jackie Chalmers

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

### Australian A-F

Secret Men's Business by Elaine Gifford

*The Heraldry and Genealogical Society of Canberra Inc., The Ancestral Searcher*, Mar 21

The Kendall Connection with Australia by Edward Kendall

*AIGS Inc. Trading as Family History Connections, The Genealogist*, Dec 20

A Mariner's Mischances by Dan Cerchi

*AIGS Inc. Trading as Family History Connections, The Genealogist*, Apr 21

Cumbalum and Tintenbar by Ian Kirkland

*Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer*, Mar 21

The Best and Most Illustrious of His Race by Alexander and John Staats

*Alstonville Plateau Historical Society Inc., The Pioneer*, Jun 21

A Drowning Tragedy by Marie Larnach

*Bathurst Family History Society, Carillon Chimes*, May 21

The Arrival of Aeroplanes in the Bega Valley by Pat Raymond

*Bega Valley Genealogy Society, The Valley Genealogist*, Feb 21

The Bowral Free Press and Its Struggles by Philip Morton

*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter*, Feb 21

The De Mestra Family and Garryowen Story by Ian Mackey

*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter*, Mar 21



- The 'Haydon Family' Collection by Carolyn Dougherty and Philip Morton  
*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, Apr 20*
- Once a Windmill at Lower Mittagong by James Jervis  
*Berrima and District FHS, Newsletter, May 21*
- The Great White Plague by Colleen Passfield  
*Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Mar 21*
- Thomas Saywell's Brighton Hotel by Leonie Bell  
*Botany Bay FHS Inc., The Endeavour, Jun 21*
- Talking About Cemeteries by Bronwyn Prentice  
*Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Mar 21*
- Churches in Bundaberg and District  
*Bundaberg G A, Family Ties, Jun 21*
- German Ships with No Ship Lists by Lisa Burton  
*Burwood & District FHG, Burwood Ancestry, Mar 21*
- Free ... Online by Marlene Davidson  
*Central Coast & District FHS Inc., E-Muster, Apr 21*
- The Good by Ken Mason  
*Coffs Harbour & District FHS, Genie Allergy, Mar 21*
- Doctor Will. C. Speece by Rosie Doherty  
*Coffs Harbour & District FHS, Genie Allergy, Jun 21*
- Gypsies in Australia? By Louise Ball  
*Cooroy-Noosa G & H Research Group Inc., Missing Link, May 21*
- Joseph Backler, Convict and Portrait Painter by Richard Neville  
*Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, May-Jun 21*
- Convict Joseph Wild  
*Descendants of Convicts Group, The Mail, Jul-Aug 21*
- John Gilbert (Engineer)  
*Dubbo & District FHS Inc., Newsletter, Mar-Apr 21*
- James Skelly by Shirley Durrant  
*Echuca-Moama, Bridges and Branches, Mar 21*
- A Hallelujah Moment by Catherine Murnane  
*Echuca-Moama, Bridges and Branches, Jun 21*
- First Fleeter Resilience in Times of Pandemic by Jon Fearon  
*Fellowship of the First Fleeters, Founders, Jun 21*

## Marie Hart Library News

By Richard Goss



In June, we saluted Laurie **Mathers** for his kind and generous bequest to The Society with a plaque (see separate article in this journal). The plaque is now hanging beside acknowledgements (**see photo**) to Marie **Hart**, the Fellows of The Society, and our Nick Vine-Hall Award (for the 2017 journal). He, they, and our *Cedar Log* editorial staff have made memorable contributions to our

Society.

Shortly after the unveiling of the plaque, Ballina Shire Council confirmed the continuing lease on the Marie Hart Library's premises. We celebrate each and all of the sources of our success

Our new *Dell* computers have accelerated researchers' access to the internet. Both monitors facilitate side-by-side arrangement of source and note-taking documents. Without a by-your-leave, Microsoft updated them to Windows 11, which will be a new learning curve for us. Record keeping is aided by *Snip & Sketch*, called *Snipping Tool* in Windows 11. Also available are the full range of *Office* apps.

We introduced new rules permitting downloading to USB memory stick, requiring antivirus scanning of the stick; and banning researchers from uploading from external storage devices.

Our e-Collection of family history documents increases regularly. Our large collection of Australian and International eJournals read well on the new computers in the library and at home through Dropbox to members only. They are augmented by our growing collection of Name Indexes for previously unindexed local history

books. This project continues and all members willing to make notes, as they read a local history book, are welcome to contribute to posterity. It may not be glamorous, but the results are in. Weaving a cemetery's postcode into the call numbers for the *Cemetery* category of our collection of materials, gives our browsing researchers faster and broader access to family history leads and confirmations. You are welcome to come and try. This initiative may be extended to other categories of our collection

In August, we reintroduced tours of the library's collection for new and existing members and upgraded our Duty Officer's training.



## Guest Speaker 4<sup>th</sup> September

### **John Rogers: *History of the Northern Rivers Region of NSW: the pioneering years.***

Although working for 30 years in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, John Rogers has had an interest in history since his school days. After leaving the AG's Department, he spent time in Northumbria, UK, where he wrote a book on the history of that county. Next, came a similar book on the Isle of Arran, which is off the coast of Scotland, near Glasgow. After these productive years and having lived near Alstonville for some time, he realised he had ignored the history of where he lived. So he turned his pen to an all-encompassing book on the history of the Northern Rivers. John will introduce his book and talk about certain aspects of it at our monthly meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September (or at a later date, if this meeting needs to be postponed). We have a copy of his book in our library, waiting to be borrowed and read.



*Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc*  
**Family History Seminar 2021**

**Saturday 6 November 9.30 am to 4.30 pm**  
**Registration \$35 (including lunch)**  
**The Players Theatre, 24 Swift St, Ballina**



**Guest Speaker Helen Smith**

Helen, who is well known to our RTFHS members has written a number of books and spoken to a wide variety of audiences nationally and internationally including conference, cruises, expos and societies on family history research.

**Seminar Topics**

- **How to get the most out of Ancestry DNA website**
- **DNA problem solving with Case Studies**
- **Trove: not just newspapers**
- **Where there's a will there should be a genealogist**

**Enquiries:** Richard Goss (p) 0418 356 527

Email: [bpbb3282@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bpbb3282@bigpond.net.au)

## Monthly Speakers

For those of you who were unable to attend the Saturday meetings over the past three months, this is a summary of the topics presented by our speakers.

**June 2021** - we viewed a webinar from the **NSW State Archives & Records** on School Records. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars/school-records> Follow this link if you would like to view it again. Links to guides and indexes pertaining to schools are on the Webinar page. See an article on the **NSW State Archives & Records** in this issue of our journal for more about searching this large and important repository of NSW records.

**July 2021** - unfortunately the meeting needed to be cancelled as the speakers, Eric and Rosemary **Kopittke**, were coming from Queensland and there was a lockdown in South East Queensland. Hopefully, we will be able to hear them at a future meeting.

**August 2021** - after the AGM, which has been reported on in the editorial at the beginning of this journal, we had several speakers relating their experience with DNA.



*Carmel Crosby, Jan Connor,*

*Jan Earnshaw & Shirley McAnelly*

**Carmel Crosby** spoke on experiences she had when contacting DNA matches on Ancestry and also interesting finds of unknown close relatives that DNA turns up.

**Jan Connor** spoke on *Interesting finds through DNA*. Jan took a couple of people, whom she found on both *Ancestry* and *My Heritage* and

explained that their being on both sites gave more depth of research.

Jan **Earnshaw** spoke on *Tracing my great, great grandmother through DNA matches*. Jan found some fairly remote DNA matches that linked up. She explained how it helped her to have had her DNA done to back up the evolving story about her 2x great grandmother.

Shirley **McAnelly** spoke on *Breaking Down the Illegitimate Birth Puzzle of my Great Grandmother using DNA*.

As we had some spare time, we also viewed a webinar on *Irish Records* which went through the various free and paid sites and what they have available on each one. Hopefully, this might help us with our Irish ancestry. Thanks to Don Howell for organising this.



## Membership for 2021

### Membership Secretary Jan Ousby

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

Member No 1009	Veronica Matthews	East Lismore
Member No 1010	Jill McCann	Ballina
Member No 1011	Vicki Hughes	Ballina

**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 Northern 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** holds numerous local records including the Local Schools Admission Registers, Cemetery Records, Burial Records, Honour and Memorial Rolls from many locations within the Northern Rivers.

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

Access is available to microfiche, CDs and computers connected to genealogical websites, to which we subscribe, including *Findmypast* and the *Biographical Database of Australia*. We are also a *FamilySearch* affiliate, which gives access to more than the standard *FamilySearch* site. Ask the member on duty, during normal 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.



**Journal of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc.**  
Published March, June, September & December

The Editor, Carmel Crosby, would be pleased to accept articles for inclusion in this journal. Ideally, they should be sent by email to [editorcedarlog@gmail.com](mailto:editorcedarlog@gmail.com) but typed hard copy is also welcomed. The format preferred is Times New Roman font; 12 point; single spacing.

Please add your contact details as the Editor may need to discuss with you any editing, abridgement or deferral to a future date of any material submitted for publication. It is your responsibility to ensure that your article does not infringe copyright. Items remain the copyright of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society and the author. Your input is important and makes for interesting and diverse reading for our members as well as to the other readers of our journal throughout Australia and 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, so get those fingers typing.

The society does not accept responsibility for opinions and statements published by individual contributors. Original material in this journal may be reproduced with written permission from the society.



## 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.**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **2021**

**Saturday 4 September:** Meeting: Guest speaker: John Rogers – Talking about the History of the Northern Rivers Region of NSW: the pioneering years.

**Saturday 2 October:** Meeting: Subject: Skeletons in the Closet presented by members. Contact Dawn Lotty on 6687 2442 if you would like to present a talk.

**Saturday 6 November:** 9.30 am to 4 pm. Full Day seminar with Helen Smith: See inside the journal for more details. Enquiries: Richard Goss (Mob) 0418 256 527; email [bpbb3282@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bpbb3282@bigpond.net.au)

**Saturday 4 December:** 12 noon. Christmas Lunch and Party at Summerland House Farm, Wardell Rd, Alstonville. Contact Gwen Clark if you would like to attend. Ph: 6628 7797.

**DNA Discussion Group meetings** will be held at the Marie Hart Library on the 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10am conducted by Kerrie Alexander. Please advise Kerrie if you will be attending, as places are limited.

[rtfhsdna@yahoo.com](mailto:rtfhsdna@yahoo.com) .

The group conducted by Leonie Oliver meets on the third Mondays, commencing at 1pm, when Leonie is on duty at the library. Please advise Leonie if you would like to attend at [gandloliver@gmail.com](mailto:gandloliver@gmail.com)

Members with any level of experience with DNA are welcome to attend.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership fees for the year 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 are \$35 Individual or \$45 Joint Membership.

Journals will be sent to financial members only.