

# *Redland Researcher*



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*The newsletter of  
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

*Celebrating 40 years in the Redlands  
1981 ~ 2021*

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# Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

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Patron: Les McFadzen

## Management Committee 2020/2021

President	Helen Veivers
Vice President	Kevin Hughes
Secretary	Dianne Smith
Treasurer	Yvonne Weston
Assistant Treasurer	Karen Hawkes
Membership Officer	Annette Hall
Librarian	Pat Maclean
Archivist	Janelle Everest
Displays Co-ordinator	Elaine Speck
Newsletter Editor	Greg Glidden
Committee Member 1	Lyn Smyth
Committee Member 2	Val Burt

## Life Members

**2010** Denise Brady and Marel Donaldson (Foundation Members)

Kaye Barber, Pamela Gilbert, Elaine Speck, Glenda Webb

**2011** Les Callaghan, **2013** Les McFadzen

**2016** Jeanne Dixon

**Management Committee Meetings** - first Wednesday of the month, February to December at 2pm.

**General Meetings** - second Wednesday of the month, February to December from 12:15pm to 2:30pm at Donald Simpson Centre, Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. An entry fee of \$2 applies at each meeting to cover the room booking and to receive a ticket in the lucky door prize. Free parking is available at the Centre, and meals can be purchased from its café by those wishing to have an early lunch prior to the meeting.

**Annual General Meetings** - second Wednesday of July at 12:15pm. This is followed by a General Meeting.

**Meetings are not held during the month of January.**

**The Society's Collection**, on-line data bases, books, microfiche, CD-ROMs, etc, contains resources for world-wide research. These are held in our **Genealogy Room, Cleveland Library**, cnr Middle & Bloomfield Streets, Cleveland.

**Financial Members can access this room for research any time that the Cleveland Library is open**, to make use of the Society's collection and to freely access the Research Websites to which the Society subscribes. **To obtain the key**, members must present their **RGS "Redland City Library Service"** card to the Library Reception staff. **It is not the same card you privately obtained for borrowing resources from the Council's Libraries**. It is the card given to each new member, **which you must activate at the Library each year** by presenting your latest RGS Membership Card.

**Genealogical Research Assistants (GRAs)** are in the room to assist RGS Members and the General Public –

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am to 12.15pm and Saturdays 12:30pm to 3:15pm**

**Volunteer GRAs:** Pat Maclean (Librarian), Bob Aldred, Thel Brooks, Greta Brown, Val Burt, Margaret Clark, Russell Clarke, Jeanne Dixon, Annette Hall, Karen Hawkes, Margaret Johnson, Bev McFadyen, Eddy Richards, John Ryan, Irene Salvatierra, Penny Stewart, Helen Veivers, Robyn Waters.

**Local History Collection:** The Redland City Council's Local History Collection is housed in the Cleveland Library with much of it available on line at [https://redl.sdp.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/search/asset/1007593/0](https://redl.sdp.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/search/asset/1007593/0). Angela Puata is Redland City Council's Local History Librarian; Gillian McNeill is Angela's assistant.

## Disclaimer

*The opinions expressed in "Redland Researcher" are not necessarily those of the Management Committee, nor of Redland Genealogical Society Inc. The responsibility rests with the authors of submitted articles; we do not intentionally print inaccurate information. The Editor reserves the right to edit, abridge or reject material.*

## A Note from the Editor

Remembrance Day is upon us. This edition includes articles from two members on their relatives' experiences of the horrors and aftermath of the First World War. My mum used to speak of the reverence in which Remembrance Day was held during the years of WW2. She then was a conductress on the Brisbane trams and all of them would come to a stop at 11am to remember the fallen!

At present, our website is undergoing a make-over. The result will be a wider range of resources being available to members from their homes. When completed, full details will be circulated.

COVID-19 concerns again caused us to cancel displays, a Family History Fair organised by the Church of the Latter-day Saints, and an open day at the Genealogical Society of Queensland. These displays are important for promoting the activities of our Society and have proved to be a successful means of attracting new members.

A gentle reminder – in the interests of promoting our Society, don't forget to collect a few "business cards" that have been printed with brief but relevant information about what we do and where we are. They are easily carried in handbag or wallet for handing out when talking about family history to family, friends or anyone interested.

Greg Glidden

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### Copyright

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### Banking Details

Heritage Bank | Redland Genealogical Society | BSB: 638-070 | Account No. 011106514

### Membership Fees & Payment

Single Membership \$30.00 per annum | Family Membership \$45.00 per annum

**Payment by New Members and for Renewals can be made either to -**

**Membership Officer** at General Meetings, a **GRA** on duty in the Genealogy Room, or by **Electronic Funds Transfer**

**When paying by EFT, please ensure that the following details are inserted in the Payment Reference -**

RENEWALS: **Membership No. & Surname** | NEW MEMBERS: The word **"New"** & **Surname**

**Members renewing by EFT** need to complete a Renewal Form, scan it, and email it to the Membership Officer

*Redland Researcher* is free to Members. It is emailed unless otherwise requested.



## Librarian's Jottings

### Library closing dates over the Christmas holiday period

The dates when the Library will be closed for the holidays this year are Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December until Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This means that the Library will not be attended by GRAs during this time. However as members you are free to access the Library at any time when the Cleveland Library is open. To do so you will need to present your RGS card which you will have updated when you renewed your membership of the Society.

### Lost and lonely among the magazines

If you've ever remembered reading an article of interest in "*Family Tree*" or "*Who Do You Think You Are?*" and then spent too long in the library unsuccessfully trying to find it again, you will be pleased to know that indexes to these articles are now available. They have been downloaded from the internet and are now in print form in folders available in the library. "*Family Tree*" covers 2016 to 2021 and "*WDYTYA*" covers 2013 to 2021.

### New books in the library

Title	Author	Call number
Tracing your Irish Ancestors 5 <sup>th</sup> edition 2019	John Grenham	2/IRE/GUI/GRE
Tracing your Scottish family history on the Internet 2020	Chris Paton	2/SCT/GUI/PAT
Finding True Connections: how to learn and write about a family member's history 2019	Gareth St John Thomas	3/WW/FAM/THO

### Researching an early local family in Mount Cotton

Recently a little group of GRAs have been working with the Local Historians in Cleveland Library in a search for information about an early family in Mount Cotton. They owned the land where the new sporting complex is to be constructed on Heinemann Road. When an old loggers' loading ramp was found there it sparked a lot of interest about the history of the land and the GRAs involved took up the challenge to research the family while the Local Historians followed up the story of the purchase of the land. It has been a good experience and quite fun to work co-operatively on the project.

### Interesting books with a local touch

Have you read the story "*Murder at the Dunwich Asylum*" by Karen Thurecht? You can borrow it from Redland Libraries. There might be a bit of a wait, though – it's very popular. Fictional murder mysteries might get you in, especially the genealogical ones, but so do non-fiction accounts that are well researched and poignantly told, like a book about the ill-fated voyages of early emigrants to Moreton Bay.

Jane Smith's book "*Ship of Death*" is a very readable account of the voyage of the "*Emigrant*" from Plymouth to Moreton Bay in 1850 with the dreaded disease, typhus, on board. Unable to dock in Brisbane, those on board endured another three months of quarantine in very basic conditions on Stradbroke Island. The graves of some who did not survive remain in the cemetery there, just over the water from us, people whose names are still known today.

This book is in the Redland Libraries collection along with many others that offer background and context to your ancestors' lives.

### On the buses in wartime Brisbane

Were your ancestors "on the buses" in Brisbane during World War II? Brisbane City Council Archives has recently added to the *Brisbane Images* web page a new resource on Brisbane Transport staff during the war years 1939 -1945. These records are particularly valuable as they include the temporary employment of women as conductresses during World War II and whose employment records were never officially created. There are also names of staff who left for military service and were later re-employed. Some, of course, did not return. You will find this little treasure of a database under "*Brisbane Images*" on Brisbane City Libraries' website, under "*Brisbane Transport*", then "*Transport Staff*" [https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/BrisbaneImages/](https://library-brisbane.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/BrisbaneImages/).

### For the lifelong learners

Are you interested in doing a free online course on genealogy? The University of Strathclyde in Glasgow has partnered with FutureLearn to present a six-week course at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy/>. Units cover: Analysing documents/Effective searching techniques/Using major sources/Genealogical proof & DNA testing/Putting your research into context/and Documenting & communicating your research results & sources. Weekly study time is four hours. The course has been running for some time and is well-regarded (and free!)

Pat Maclean

## In Search of More GRAs



Are you hiding your genealogical insights under a bushel? Do you enjoy sharing your passion and helping others? Isn't it a good feeling to see another's delight when you've helped them discover some interesting fact about an ancestor? Then perhaps you might like to be a GRA, a Genealogy Research Assistant. We are looking for new people to join our little band. We give our time on a rostered basis in the "genie" library and have a meeting every two months to catch up as a group and have a discussion about the running of the library.

If you think you'd like to participate, have a chat in the Genealogy Room with a GRA or our Librarian, Pat Maclean, or phone Pat. Training is provided and there is time for you to ease into your new role and learn the ropes.

Maybe something new for the New Year?

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## A Connection to the Past

*by Audrey Warner*

I have a friend named Ann who was born in Ireland, but it was only recently that I found that she had grown up not far from the town in Laois where my ancestors originally hailed from many years ago.

My great-great-great-grandfather, Felix Connor, was born in Mount Mellick in County Laois (Ann tells me it is pronounced *Leesh*) in 1812 and in 1849 was convicted of stealing a sheep and transported to Tasmania on the *Hyderabad* in 1850. I wondered why he was tried in Queens County, but Ann also tells me that was the old name for Laois. Felix was granted a Ticket of Leave in 1853 and his family followed him in 1854 settling in Hobart where one of his sons, my great-great grandfather, John, went on to become a respected Sub-Inspector of Police.

So, thanks to Ann, I am gradually learning a little about the town of Mount Mellick and its history. The most interesting detail to me is that the town is noted for its embroidery and particularly Mount Mellick fringing, as I have enjoyed both embroidery and knitting from a very early age. I have been involved in researching my Family History for over twenty years now and have finally found something I do which can be linked to past generations. Through YouTube demonstrations, I have taught myself how to make the Mount Mellick fringe which I will now attach to any scarf that I make and hope to also learn how to do the Mount Mellick embroidery.

## DNA Interest Group

In recent years there has been a groundswell in the use of matching DNA results as a tool for family history research. In recognition of this, the Society has established the *DNA Interest Group* to support members who use this method as one of their research resources.

*What is in your DNA?*



Meetings are planned to be held on the third Wednesday of the month, from 1pm to 3pm.

The first meeting was held on 20 October 2021 at the Birkdale School of Arts Hall and the Group is off to a good start! Ideas exchanged included an example of a spreadsheet with instructions to keep track of DNA matches, and a Cousin Relationship Chart.

The next meeting is planned to be held at this Hall on 17 November from 1pm to 3pm.

Our Librarian has been looking for a range of resources, e.g. magazine articles, internet sites, etc. as readings and references for the new Group and has been putting together a folder of resources to help members of the group with their learning. Pat advises that the resource can continue to build with more added over time, and she also is compiling a bibliography to include books, etc.

To date, twenty members have expressed interest in forming this Group. New members always are welcome.



## Sergeant Colin Douglas McCowan

*by Beverly Bourke & her  
brother Colin McCowan*



Colin Douglas McCowan, aged 23, enlisted at Lismore on 18 October 1915.

He was born 3 May 1892 at Palmers Channel, near Maclean, NSW, the eldest son of sugar cane farmer and miller, Alexander (Sandy) and his wife Annie (McDonald) McCowan. When the Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR) stepped up their interest in cane milling in the lower Clarence, they squeezed out many local cane mills. Sandy sold his interests and moved further north to become a successful dairy farmer in Tyagarah and Myocum. After eight years the family moved into Mullumbimby when the dairy industry came under enormous pressure from a severe drought and low butter and milk prices set by the Government's Necessary Commodities Control (NCC) Board in Sydney.

Colin had three younger brothers and three younger sisters who all revered him. The family were members of Presbyterian Churches in the various locations, with Sandy holding key positions. The family adopted strong Christian principles and practices of the day. Colin was inexplicably tied to sugar cane farming and milling and dairy farming up until age 20. In the last few years before enlisting it seems he worked in one of the many road and bridge-building work gangs, to take pressure off his parent's dairy farm.

He was a very responsible elder brother who looked after his brothers and sisters as well as participating fully in activities around Mullumbimby. His love of poetry is reflected in his elder sister's autograph book. 'War fever' was at an all-time high in the Mullumbimby area around the time he enlisted and other members of the family participated strongly in activities supporting the war effort.

Not long after Colin enlisted, his family shifted to take up farming in North Arm on the Sunshine Coast. They joined friends who had already moved there because of substantial Government incentives such as discounted land prices.

Colin together with his cousin DD Campbell and other 'boys from the Tweed' travelled to Thompsons Paddock in Enoggera to undertake extensive training. He initially joined C Company, No 2 Depot but was then moved to A Company 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. After a relatively short space of time he was promoted to Corporal on 27 May 1916 by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Raff Woolcock and transferred to D Company 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Due to sharing its numeric title with the famous Scottish regiment, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion became known as the 'Australian Black Watch' and was recognised with the addition of a bagpipe band which followed them everywhere. Coincidentally, the 42<sup>nd</sup> contained many men like Colin of Scottish descent. He was also involved in intensive training for Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs).

On 4 June 1916, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion entrained to Sydney to join the ship HMAT *Borda* at Woolloomooloo docks. It left on the next day to a resounding farewell and travelled via Melbourne and Adelaide to collect more troops and then on through the Suez Canal to stop at Tel el Kebir in Egypt. When he reached Egypt, Colin sent a cable home to his family to say he had arrived safely in his first overseas country. The usual inoculations were provided here as well as at all other stages and places of training. They re-joined the ship at Alexandria and sailed to Marseilles in southern France from where they travelled by train to Le Havre. A ship was boarded to cross the English Channel to Southampton where they went by train to Amesbury. From there they proceeded to their training site at No 11 Camp, Lark Hill on the Salisbury Plain. This indirect route was used in order to minimise exposure to the heavy German submarine presence in the North Sea.

Colin was a prolific writer and sent many post cards to his parents, siblings and extended family during his training in Brisbane and England. Some of these held by family are considered gems for the words chosen, the descriptions of his surroundings and his considered thoughts for the recipients. In England he wrote of the fierce cold in the tin and wooden huts, the countryside, the concerts, the 'tommy' instructors, the conscription vote, the zeppelins while on leave in London and that King George V, General French and General Monash all came at different times to inspect the troops.

Four Battalions – the 41<sup>st</sup>, the 42<sup>nd</sup>, the 43<sup>rd</sup>, and the 44<sup>th</sup> joined to form the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division under General Monash. After months of intensive training, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division moved to France on 24 November 1916 via train to Southampton, boat to Le Havre, train to Bailleul and trucks to Armentieres. Along the way they became familiar with 'gaspirators' and had other updates on equipment and training.

Lieutenant Colonel Woolcock, known affectionately as the Colonel, kept detailed diaries of the movement and status of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion for his period in charge and other officers maintained these diaries until disbandment in October 1918. On arrival in France, the 42<sup>nd</sup> was comprised of 33 Officers and 949 men and this number was basically maintained throughout the majority of the War and as men were lost, they were replaced.

The men were billeted in a number of different places like Armentieres, Pont de Nieppe and Neuve Engise in very different forms of accommodation. The Battalions spent the next six months preparing themselves for the Battle of Messines although they would not have known that at the time. This preparation consisted of a number of days in the trenches followed by a similar number of days behind the lines spent repairing structures and in extensive training and learning about new and different forms of warfare. The four Battalions replaced each other in the trenches for these short intensive periods. The weather was terrible according to the Colonel for he constantly reported rain, sleet, snow and resultant mud.

Their first taste of direct action was Christmas Eve 1917 where they stole silently across the town square with full packs in a blanket of snow to reach the gum boot store. They were issued with knee high gum boots which were meant to keep moisture out but in reality, didn't. The YMCA gave them a cup of tea and a biscuit and they entered the trenches to by-pass the returning soldiers, with orders to hold the trench for six days. A number of the men died or were wounded in this first mission and all future missions.

What a way to spend Christmas!

During these periods in the trenches, they participated in a variety of activities including forays and raids into no man's land. Colin was promoted to temporary Sergeant and later confirmed as Sergeant. As an NCO he would have had a great deal of responsibility in motivating and organising his men during this trench warfare and training periods. There was a persistent loss of men during this period, and this loss escalated dramatically as the really intensive action started.

The Battle of Messines was a thoroughly planned activity which used different tactics to previous battles in the Somme. It would give the allies the high ground around Ieper (Ypres) and provide them with a strong base to move on with success in the next battles that followed until the end of the War. The 42<sup>nd</sup> was a pivotal Battalion in all this activity. As the war went on, they lost men in the various battles and they were ordered to disband on two occasions. Both times they refused. Their last action was at St Quentin Canal in late September 1918, and they were finally disbanded on 22 October 1918.

The Battle of Messines began with a softening up period from 21 May to 7 June and Colin and his Battalion were in the trenches during most of this time. Over 20 huge bombs were planted under the German lines. Once these exploded at 3.10 am on 7 June, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division swung into highly scripted action which succeeded mainly because of the training, organisation and leadership of the NCO's like Colin, under horrific retaliation of gas and bombs by the Germans.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> continued to progress towards Warneton as per the detailed plans. On 24 June 1917, Colin was in OWL Trench and shot in the buttocks and sent off to the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) along with two other wounded soldiers. They never reached the RAP. There was heavy shelling in UNBEARABLE trench near the RAP and it was assumed he was blown up by the shelling in that trench, but no one knew for certain.

His father had told Base Records of their move from Mullumbimby to North Arm, so a telegram was sent to his family there on 10 July 1917 saying that he was wounded. That was all the army could say at this point in time. Colin had been a regular writer to home and his correspondence stopped. His parents waited anxiously for news of his whereabouts for three months. They then contacted Base Records for further information. Also help was sought from the Red Cross here who immediately cabled their London office to start enquiries.

His possessions went mistakenly to a Mrs Kerr in Scotland. She wrote to Colin's parents in April 1918 (10 months after his death) explaining that she had received some articles which were supposed to belong to her son. She discovered they belonged instead to Colin and was sending them back to the Kit Store in London. This at least gave the family an inkling of the sad news that he was dead.

The family received conflicting statements from a number of different sources, but they had no formal news about Colin from the Army despite polite requests from his father, Sandy.

In June 1918, a Court of Enquiry was held in the field to find out what had happened to Colin. The Court agreed Colin was, 'Killed in Action on 24 June 1917'. This was transmitted to the family 14 months after his death.

Sergeant C D McCowan's name is engraved on the wall halfway up the northern staircase of the Menin Gate Memorial in Ieper, Belgium. His name also appears in the Roll of Honour in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and in Honour Boards in Mullumbimby, North Arm and Brisbane.

His family displayed tremendous courage and great dignity in the way they dealt with the delayed and conflicting information surrounding the death of their son and brother. In the reports there were a number of quotes which give us a good indication of how he was regarded by his army colleagues. His Company Sergeant Major wrote, '*Colin was one of the straightest men I have ever met and one of the most liked by all*'.



## Members' Interests

Please contact Members through the Society's email: [redlandgs@gmail.com](mailto:redlandgs@gmail.com)

**Member's Name:** Bev CLARKE

**Membership No:** 358

SURNAME	Country	Town/City	State/County	Year or Range of Years
ISHER SINGH	India	Reho, Jalandhar	Punjab	1876
SMITH	Ireland		Cork	1870-1890

**Member's Name:** Ian BARRETT

**Membership No:** 193

SURNAME	Country	Town/City	State/County	Year or Range of Years
BARRET	England			1700-1800
BENNETT	Australia			1828-1920
CALDER	Scotland			1770-1870
CALDERWOOD	Scotland			1800-1900
CASKIE	Scotland			1790-1850
JACK	Scotland			1891-1978
MONRO	Scotland			1770-1870
RICHMOND	Scotland			1790-1890
WATT	Scotland			1770-1870

**Member's Name:** Jeanette JENSEN

**Membership No:** 204

SURNAME	Country	Town/City	State/County	Year or Range of Years
DONNELLY	Ireland		Tyrone (?)	1860
DONNELLY	USA		California	1860-1870
DONNELLY	Australia		Victoria	1860

## Discussions on Brick Walls

In place of a guest speaker for September, members brought along information on their Brick Walls. Several members presented their problems, and the meeting was thrown open for general discussion on each. Members present drew on their past research experiences to assist.

The meeting went well, a lot was learnt, and two members had their Brick Walls partially solved.



## Who'd Have Thought?

*by Margaret Clark*

I have been searching for my husband's long-lost older half-brother since 1988. He wasn't lost at all. Turns out I was looking for him under the wrong name. Now how can that be?

My husband found out that he was adopted when he was talking to his grandma, helping her with the washing and drying up; she didn't realize that he didn't know. He has had a good life and had been adopted into a loving family, but it still came as a shock. His adopted mum died when he was eleven, so he and his three-year-old brother were placed in the hands of his grandparents to raise. His dad worked away a lot with the Electricity Authority in Victoria where they lived. My husband's adopted surname is Clark.

Over the years we have found his biological dad and family in 1988, and we had him and his wife up to be with us for Expo. This is where we found out a lot of information from his dad. His dad had a four-year liaison with his mum, and they had two sons. My husband was given up for adoption at the age of six months. His mum married a Yank in the Second World War and she and his older brother went to America as a war bride. But that is another story.

We have been to America five times and missed seeing his mum as she died three years before we found out about the American family. They welcomed him with open arms. We asked them when are they going to come and visit us, but their comment was, "Oh that is too far to travel" - I ask you?

All up, my husband has nineteen siblings. I have only eight. My husband's biological dad met and married an Australian girl when he jumped ship in 1935. She was two months pregnant when they married, and they split up before she had the baby. His dad told us his name was Trevor Maurice Jones and roughly when he was born. He was born in December 1936. Now this is the brother we have been looking for all this time. My sister-in-law put on Facebook that we were looking for Trevor Maurice Jones and she received a reply from a lady who said, "I think he may be my uncle, but you have the wrong surname."

It appears that when my husband's dad separated from his wife, she had a long relationship with a chap by the name of Kruger and his older brother took the surname of Kruger. We never thought of a change of name in our research. He would have been a toddler at the time so as far as he was concerned, he was a Kruger. Trevor had an older half-brother by the name of John Lewis. Lewis being Trevor's mum's maiden name. The lady who replied to Facebook is John Lewis's oldest daughter. She had been searching for Trevor Maurice Jones/Kruger for some time. She wanted to meet him as he was her only uncle. Now she has a second uncle with my husband. She is so thrilled, and we have kept in touch. She told us her dad died years ago.

I thought I have to find this chap. I went to the electoral roll and typed in his name for all the States of Australia. I found a Trevor Maurice Kruger, the only one, who lives at Blue Bay near Newcastle in New South Wales. I went to the white pages and couldn't locate a telephone number, so I wrote to him explaining who I was. We didn't receive a reply. After a month, I thought I would write again. You know what Australia Post is like with losing things! This time we received a phone call from Trevor. As they were talking on the phone, tears ran down my husband's face. They talked for a couple of hours.

I have since written Trevor a couple of letters and exchanged photos etc. Trevor has six children and by profession is a biologist - worldly travelled and he had never met his biological father!

Because of COVID-19 we can't travel to see him yet. We are all upset about that, but it won't be long before we do. Trevor is 85 years of age and very methodical in his thinking. We were dreading that he may have dementia or something similar. He has my husband's laugh. We have to be patient a bit longer.

I am in touch with our new niece who lives in Tamworth and I have told her that we have claimed her as family. It is strange hearing her voice and her calling me Aunt Marg.

Thirty-two years of searching have paid off. Welcome to the family Trevor!

## My Uncle, Eric Clark

by Penny Stewart



Eric Allen Clark, my great uncle, was not a recognised “war hero” rather an idealist enlisting to see the world swept away with the romance of fighting for his country with the backdrop of a stoic colonial family that believed in “king and country”. Reality turned out to be far different for him.

He was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1892 in Colombo in Ceylon to a family that had its roots throughout the colonial empire. Both his grandfathers, William Clark and John Agar MacCarthy were Missionaries from India and most of his direct family were born in Ceylon. He was one of four sons with two having died whilst still children. He was a young child when his mother, Emily Stuart Clark nee MacCarthy passed away and, had only just enlisted, when he would have received news that his younger brother, Guy, at twenty years of age, was killed in action in 1915 whilst serving with the UK 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Queen Victoria’s Rifles.

*Photographer unknown, Eric Allen Clark taken at Victoria College, Jersey sixteen years of age, circa 1876, digital image, personal collection*

Why did he choose the Australian Light Horse? One can only speculate that perhaps the many troopships, calling into Colombo, his hometown, travelling from Australia to Egypt loaded with horses and troops influenced his decision. With a height of 5 feet 9 1/2 inches, weight 140 pounds. and chest measurement of 36 inches, he fitted the enlistment requirements in Australia.



Enlistment took place in Busselton, Western Australia on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1915 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. He curiously chose to enlist in the name of “Eric Allen Clarke” with an extra “e” stating that his occupation was a Rubber Planter. His age is shown as “26 yrs. 11 months” but he was born in 1892, which meant that he was just 22 years of age.

In Western Australia, he trained at Claremont showgrounds under Major E Summerhayes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and embarked at Fremantle, on H.M.A.T. A20, “Hororata” on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1915.

*Photographer unknown, 10th Light Horsemen undertaking mounted drill, Guildford, Western Australia, December 1914. Source: Australian Military History of the Early 20th Century Desert Column, The Western Mail, 4 December 1914, p. 23, Accessed 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. [http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light\\_Horse/index.blog?topic\\_id=1104952](http://alh-research.tripod.com/Light_Horse/index.blog?topic_id=1104952)*

He joined the 10th Light Horse Regiment on the 23rd November 1915 at Heliopolis. It is assumed that he continued on to Gallipoli where the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse were used as reservists, leaving in December 1915 to return to Egypt. They had further training because many reinforcements’ only experience was fighting in trenches and they needed to be skilled in mounted warfare. The heat of Sinai desert combined with the lack of water placed a heavy burden on the men and their horses.

In Heliopolis, Eric contracted Dysentery and was sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital and an Australian Convalescent Depot returning to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Regiment on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1916. He was put on fourteen days detention for leaving parade without permission on the 18 March 1916 and lost fourteen days’ pay. One wonders if his leaving the parade was due to Dysentery because while on detention, he was admitted to the Ras el tin Hospital for Chronic Dysentery not returning to his unit till 29<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

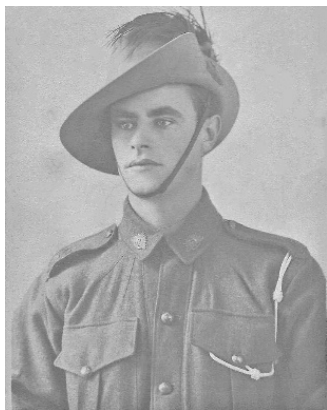
A notation on a Statement of Service that during his time with the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment shows Eric was promoted to Lance Corporal.

Eric embarked on the “Lake Manitoba” for England to attend No. 5 Officer Cadet Battalion in Cambridge. He became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 2 June 1917. He left for France to join the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Havre on 26 June 1917.

A 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion War Diary record shows their involvement with the Battle of Messines with a lot of artillery fire on both sides, with troops wading in mud waist deep due to bad weather. It is difficult to imagine where men lived and slept in the water-logged trenches that were permeated with the smell of putrefying bodies, food and excrement being subject to aircraft bombing and gas shelling during July.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Eric was admitted to a hospital at St. Omer with the record "NYD", Not Yet Diagnosed, but subsequently recorded as Shell Shock "W". A subsequent Medical Case Sheet shows his left ear drum had been ruptured and bleeding from both ears, mouth and nose. An Army Form W3436 states that he was buried in a dugout for quarter of an hour and that he had just returned to duty from the previous day after being classified not fit for duty due to shell shock but was still returned to active service.

After the 7<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, he was admitted to the 59<sup>th</sup> General Hospital and then the 8<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Rouen to be embarked to England via ship, Grantully. A Neurological Report from the 4<sup>th</sup> London General Hospital stated he was nervous, shaky and suffering from Neurasthenia. He attended Officers Convalescent Hospital Cobham Hall for a month in August 1917 and Perham Downs in September 1917.



Perham Downs was a command depot set up for Australian soldiers to convalesce prior to returning to active service run by the Australian Overseas Training Brigade whose task it was to battle-harden troops ready for combat. He was moved to Sutton Veny with No. 1 Command Depot's transfer in October 1917.

A "Detailed Medical History of an Invalid" of 8<sup>th</sup> June 1918 states he has tremors of mouth and lips, is underweight with insomnia and depression and that he was to be returned to Australia on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1918. It also states his condition was totally due to Active Service, disability was permanent for Military service, livelihood was impaired by a third and recommended him discharged as permanently unfit.

*Photographer Unknown Private Eric Allen Clark*

*circa 1915, digital image, personal collection.*

Eric returned to Australia in May 1918 and his service with the A.I.F. was terminated on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1918. He received the British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914/15 Star.

Prior to discharge, Eric approached the Australian Intelligence Corps requesting to be appointed as an Intelligence Officer. It would appear this request was declined as there seemed to be some discrepancies in claims that he made. Additionally, the Records office in Victoria received various letters from Eric's brother-in-law, W.L.S. Gwatkin, that show that Eric had visited Colombo misrepresenting himself, claiming to be a Captain and wearing various military medals. This all seemed to indicate that Eric was having some problems readjusting to civilian life.

Readjustment was difficult for Eric because he returned to Australia with no visible disabilities. "Shell Shock" was not perceived in a good light even by medical authorities and was put down to cowardice. Using the "W" as part of its description seemed to indicate one was either "worthy" or not also "Neurasthenia" was viewed as a "*nervous breakdown precipitated by the dreadful stress of war*". It can only be presumed that Eric's subsequent actions after his discharge were his attempt to prove his being "worthy" of recognition to both his family and to himself.

"Worthy" seems a small word to cover his experiences at Gallipoli, Sinai, and Messines.

## Family Research in St Kitts and Nevis, West Indies

*by Val Burt*

A very good website for this research is <https://www.dloc.com/UF00075409/00003>. Titled *Caribbeana - being Miscellaneous Papers relating to the History, Genealogy, Topography, and Antiquities of the British West Indies*, it consists of 6 volumes of papers published from 1910 to 1919.

The papers include family trees of early notable, mostly British, families who lived there from the 1700s. Each volume is searchable on the website.

## Teachers I Have Known

*by Dawn Montgomery*

When I was at school, I thought I wanted to be a teacher. In retrospect, this was probably because it was the only world I had known. These days, I thank my lucky stars I didn't proceed with that ambition. I don't think I would have been very good at disciplining fractious children.

But here are some teachers I remember. Most of them are nuns as I went to Catholic schools.

I attended my first school at Chatswood, in Sydney, run by the Sisters of Mercy – later to be known by people who had endured their schooling, as the Sisters of No Mercy, even as the Merciless Mercies!. Sister Charles was in charge of the kindergarten. I remember her as a big black crow, always scolding and flapping her arms, strict and cranky. My Mum said I used to have nightmares about her and one night I called out in my sleep, "Sister Charles is a pig!"

My ambition in life then was to move to the next classroom which was the domain of Sister Mary Joseph. Another big black crow, but this time a real sweetie. My best friend, Mary, was in her class and used to tell her sisters and myself about all the good things that went on there. Sadly, I only got to enjoy Sister Joseph for one term, then spent the rest of the year in hospital with rheumatic fever. The next year was a repeat performance.

After I'd recovered from my hospital sojourns, doctors recommended I be sent to the country, so I was eventually despatched to board at St Joseph's College at Lochinvar, just north of Maitland in the Hunter Valley. This school was run by the 'black St Josephs', an offshoot of the order established by Australia's St Mary Mackillop, who are known as the 'brown St Josephs' – these designations from the colour of their habits. We students referred to them as 'black Joeys' and 'brown Joeys'. Lochinvar at that stage had the enviable reputation of having had only one student fail the Leaving Certificate examination, in their decades of existence. There has since been one other that I know of, in over 100 years.

The five years at Lochinvar were my happiest schooldays and some of our class are still in touch with others, sixty-plus years on. My first teacher there was Sister Francesca (Frannie to us kids), who ruled over classes 3 and 4. She sat me next to the one boy in our class, a day pupil. He protested volubly – "But Sister, she's *a girl!*". All to no avail. We later became friends, but he had to leave our school at the end of primary school and later wrote himself off in a motorcycle accident. Frannie was okay and, when the nuns discarded their habit and veil, we were all surprised to find she had curly hair and was quite pretty.

When we got to high school, we had to adjust to having different teachers for different subjects. I liked this, with the challenge of their different personalities. First year high school, my favourite teacher was Sister Agnes. She was only about 10 years older than we were, and quite modern. Plus, we enjoyed her teaching for more than one subject. Sister Agnes was my favourite teacher, even if she did give me 20 black marks in a maths exam for a simple mistake; "Because you should have known better" was the explanation when I asked why, when my friend lost only one mark for the same mistake.

In second year high school, we enjoyed the teaching for English, of Sister Henrietta, who quickly became known by us as Daddles, for some reason. Another sweetie. I never recall her losing her cool, no matter how stupid we were in our assessments.

Sister Paul was one feared by many, including me. I managed to feel her wrath at the end of a bamboo cane, on a couple of occasions. In later years, at a school reunion, I was amazed when she told me, after asking where in Brisbane I was living, that a relative of hers "owns the Holland Park pub" – I lived at Holland Park – and another relative was the publican at the Glen Hotel at Eight Mile Plains. These revelations didn't seem to me to fit with her persona, at all. She also confessed surprise when I told her we were all afraid of her, though I don't see how she could not have known how terrified we were, of her strictness, and her caning ability.

At the end of second year high school I left Lochinvar and returned to live in Sydney and went to my Mum's old school, Monte Sant' Angelo in North Sydney. Back to the Mercy nuns. I remember one nun there who insisted on calling me Margaret, as the only other child with my surname – "not a Catholic surname" she commented when we met – had been named Margaret. This really annoyed me. One day, when she kept saying "Margaret, answer the question" and my friend Margaret who sat behind me whispered "She means you". I told her "Sister, if you are talking to me, my name is not Margaret, it's Dawn". She nearly exploded, but at least she never called me Margaret again.



When I started training to be a nurse, I was allocated for my probationary month to the Women's Medical Ward. The nun in charge was Sister Christopher, who had known me as a patient in the same ward. She handed me to a Nurse Scully, who had nursed me a year or two earlier, to induct me. Scully took me out on to the balcony of the ward, where there were about a dozen patients, not too sick. As she straightened the counterpane on a patient's bed, she said, "Now, the first thing you have to learn, Dawn, is how to look busy all the time. Isn't that right, Mrs Green?"

But Mrs Green was too busy laughing, to answer.

## Family History and Local History A Collaborative Approach

The Cleveland Library branch is home to an extensive Local History collection for the Redlands Shire and surrounds and the resources of the Redland Genealogical Society (RGS – otherwise fondly known as the 'Genies') are also onsite, enabling library staff and volunteers to work together to offer a unique collaborative service for residents of the Redlands.

The Library shares knowledge of local identities, events and places in the Redlands, and the volunteer 'Genies' assist individuals searching for evidence of their ancestors. In other words, the RGS Genealogical Research Assistants help families find their ancestors, and Library Officers uncover the stories linked to their journey after they arrived in the Redlands. Or vice versa.



*The Holzapfel family with 10 children  
Mt View Rd, Mount Cotton 1916. Image  
HP00713, Redland City Libraries collection.  
From Redland City Council Libraries, Local  
History Collection.*

In recent months the Library has digitised Council Rates records, land evaluations and meeting minutes for the Cleveland Shire and the former Tingalpa Shire prior to amalgamation and before the formation of the Redland Shire in 1949.

These records along with title deeds, post office directories, newspapers and electoral records reveal interesting information for the local history researcher and those looking for evidence of their family.

*[This article was printed in "Queensland Memory", a State Library of Queensland e-newsletter promoting Queensland heritage and, amongst other things, the sharing of information such as collection highlights and what is happening in Queensland's collecting organisations. It was written by Angela Puata, Local History Librarian, Cleveland Library and appeared in the September 2021 edition.]*

*Our Society is very fortunate to have our Genealogy Room in the Redland City Council's Cleveland Library, beside the Local History Library section, and for the close association that we have with Angela and her assistant, Gillian. It is an arrangement many Societies would envy.*

*Editor RR ]*

## Oral History Project to Capture Impact of Covid-19

*The following is extracted from a Redland City Council news bulletin - some members might be interested in contributing their experiences for the information of our future generations.*

Redland City Council Libraries' Local History Team is spearheading a project to capture the experiences of residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim is to gather a snapshot of feelings and experiences throughout Redlands Coast and show how our families, communities and workplaces have been impacted by the pandemic.

Interviews will be conducted between October and December. They will be recorded and will become part of our local community story, to be preserved as an historical record of what it was like to live through this moment in time. Participants will receive a copy of their recording

For more information or to express an interest in participating, email [localhistory@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:localhistory@redland.qld.gov.au)



## Guest Speakers

### August 2021

Helen Smith, Dragon Genealogy, was our August speaker, and her subject certain to grab our attention “Begotten by Fornication”!

Helen has the reputation of sharing good strategies for finding people whose parents may be a “little suss”. She discussed a wide range of resources that could be beneficial for tracing our “illegitimate” ancestors.

So-called “Bastardy Records” and “Bastardy Bonds” were maintained by the parishes. It was in the interests of church wardens to identify the father and sue for maintenance. Otherwise, the responsibility for providing for mother and child fell onto the parish. County archives, Workhouse records, Petty and Quarter Session Court records of a father sued for non-payment of maintenance, are sources worth investigating.

Changes over the centuries to laws regulating these issues do not make research easy.

### October 2021

Cara Downes, National Archives of Australia, presented “Copyright for Family Historians”. This is an important issue for all family historians due to the legal implications of infringing copyright. This could be done unwittingly, and it is imperative that we are versed in this matter.

We need to be familiar with the following information provided by Cara -

MATERIAL	COPYRIGHT EXPIRED IF	OTHERWISE DURATION IS
Literary, dramatic, musical works	Author died & the work was made public before 1955	Life of author + 70 years
Artistic works	Creator died before 1955	Life of author + 70 years
Photographs	Made before 1955	Life of author + 70 years
Sound recordings	Made before 1955	Date made + 70 years
Films	Made before 1955	Date made + 70 years
Published edition		Date first published + 25 years
Works where author unknown (orphan works)	Made before 1949	Date made + 70 years

- Material referred to as “In the Public Domain” is material on which copyright has expired, and safe to use
- Material in the category of “Creative Commons” is material for which the author allows “free usage” but may retain certain rights, such as the right to acknowledgement whenever it is used.

## A Few Words on Copyright

Did you know that private letters have the same copyright protection as literary works? When the author (writer) dies, copyright to publish passes to the next of kin and does not expire until 70 years after the author's death.

The owner of a letter, or of any magazines, books, etc published in hard copy, is not infringing copyright by passing them around, by selling them, or otherwise disposing of them.

However, care must be taken with materials subscribed to or purchased in digital format. These are subject to copyright and licencing agreements usually prohibiting that they be shared with anyone else. This should be spelt in the magazine. If in doubt, always seek advice from the publisher. Magazine Interest Group members who chose to subscribe to digital format, encountered this problem and sought approval from the publisher to share with the Group's members.

If you want to include an article in your family history story from a publication, whether hard copy or digital format, always seek and record permission to do so. Mostly permission will be given. Often, this will include a request for you to acknowledge the source of the article. This needs to be respected.

## Zoom Meeting Chat Group

Member, Penny Stewart, has taken on the task of establishing and hosting Zoom meetings to enable members to discuss on-going problems with research. Initially they will be held monthly, changing to fortnightly when teething problems have been resolved.

Five members joined the first meeting. They gave positive feed-back, advising that it was very informal and enjoyable.

Meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 7 pm, although the timing of these may change in 2022. If anyone is interested in joining the Group, please send an email to [redlandgs@gmail.com](mailto:redlandgs@gmail.com) and Helen will forward it to Penny.

Zoom meetings will complement the RGS Facebook private chat group (RGS Members Chat). It is being well used, with lots of interesting resources being shared and advice being sought. This is what the group is designed for and great to see. It is a good resource to have and use between meetings.

RGS members now have a number of opportunities to be in touch with fellow members between monthly General Meetings – GRAs in the Genealogy Room 3 days weekly, Facebook Chat page, and now Zoom chat meetings.

## Discussions on Brick Walls

In place of a guest speaker for September, members brought along information on their Brick Walls. Several members presented their problems, and the meeting was thrown open for general discussion on each. Members drew on their past research experiences to assist. The meeting went well, and two members had their Brick Walls partially solved.

The sharing of information was beneficial to all present.

National Archives of Australia	Queensland State Archives
<p>16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill  <b>Phone:</b> (07) 3249 4200  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.naa.gov.au">www.naa.gov.au</a></p>	<p>435 Compton Road, Runcorn  <b>Phone:</b> (07) 3131 7777  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.archives.qld.gov.au">www.archives.qld.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>Important!</b> Before visiting, you should check NAA's requirements, details on <a href="https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/research-centres">https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/research-centres</a></p> <p><b>NB! COVID-19 restrictions Telephone before visiting!</b></p> <p>Open - Wednesday to Friday 9:00am to 4.30pm          Closed – Saturday to Tuesday and Public Holidays</p> <p>A public kitchen with tea and coffee facilities is located on the Ground Floor.</p> <p>Free on-site parking is available.</p> <p>The strengths of their Brisbane facility collection are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• immigration records that date from the 1850s</li> <li>• post office and mail service records and photographs</li> <li>• works plans which cover everything from iconic buildings such as the General Post Office and Customs House, to defence service homes built in typical Queenslander fashion.</li> </ul> <p>You can register on their website to arrange a subscription to their free newsletter.</p>	<p><b>Important!</b> Before visiting, refer to "Public Search Room" in their website for requirements for using the search room and for accessing records.</p> <p><b>NB! COVID-19 restrictions You will need to book your visit by using the link - <a href="#">Booking a session</a></b></p> <p>Currently, times may be available Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm.</p> <p>Times may be available on the second Saturday of the month.</p> <p>Free on-site parking is available.</p> <p>Visit their website for details of a free taxi service from Fruitgrove Railway Station each Tuesday.</p> <p>The QSA holds informative Seminars and Events throughout the year, on their premises and at external venues. Check "What's on" in their website for details or arrange a subscription to their free "qsa bulletin".</p>

## Where to get your Certificates

Prices are based on Historical Certificates, where available

### Queensland

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Qld)  
110 George Street, Brisbane. 4000  
PO Box 15188, City East, Qld 4002  
Phone: 1300 366 430  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm  
**\$22.90 Historical Image** – PDF on-line  
**\$22.90 Historical Source Image** – PDF on-line  
**\$32.20 Historical Certificate** – includes postage  
[www.qld.gov.au/familyhistory/](http://www.qld.gov.au/familyhistory/)

### New South Wales

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
GPO Box 30, Sydney, NSW 2001  
Phone: 13 77 88  
**\$35.00** (with Registration number)  
**\$48.00** (w/out number, includes 10-year search)  
Both include postage; Credit card charges extra  
[www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

### Transcription services:

[www.joymurrin.com.au](http://www.joymurrin.com.au)  
<http://www.transcriptions.com.au/>



### Victoria

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
GPO Box 5220, Melbourne, Vic 3001  
Phone: 1300 369 367  
**\$20.00** Uncertified Historical Image - via download  
**\$33.80** Historical Certificate – postage extra  
[www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au)

### Australian Capital Territory

(Pre 1930, apply to NSW)  
Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT 2601  
Phone: (02) 6207 3000  
**\$65.00** includes postage  
Historic Death and Marriage Indexes are available.  
[https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/18/kw/bdm](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18/kw/bdm)

### South Australia

Births, Deaths & Marriages  
Consumer & Business Services  
GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, SA 5001 Phone: 131 882  
**\$55.50** - includes postage  
<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages/family-research>  
Also, use their link to [Genealogy SA](http://GenealogySA) for an online name search for BDMs and other worthwhile resources!



### Western Australia

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
PO Box 7720, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850  
Phone: 1300 305 021  
**\$20.00 (uncertified copy)** – includes postage  
<https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/>

### Tasmania

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
GPO Box 198, Hobart, Tasmania 7001  
Phone: 1300 135 513  
**\$55.42** – includes postage  
[www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/home](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/home)

### Northern Territory

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages  
GPO Box 3021, Darwin, NT 0801  
Phone: (08) 8999 6119  
**\$47.00** – postage extra  
(1856-1863 = NSW) (1863-1870 = SA)  
[www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm](http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/bdm)



### New Zealand

Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages & Citizenship  
PO Box 10-526, Wellington 6143 New Zealand  
Printout **\$(NZ)25.00**  
(Visa, MasterCard & American Express accepted)  
A printout has more information than a certificate  
[www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/](http://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/)

The above information is correct at time of going to print. Please use it as a guide, and check websites for full details. Prices are subject to change. If you do find any incorrect information, I will appreciate your advising me. [Ed. RR]



### GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

25 Stackpole St (cnr Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Rd) WISHART 4122

Phone: (07) 3349 6072

Email: [info@gsq.org.au](mailto:info@gsq.org.au)

Website: [www.gsq.org.au](http://www.gsq.org.au)

**Opening hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 10:00am to 2:00pm - Saturdays 12noon to 4:00pm

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**When visiting, you must present your RGS Membership Card and quote Affiliate Membership Number 6511**