

Redland Researcher



proudly supported by Redland City Council

*The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

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Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

PO Box 605, Cleveland Qld 4163

Email: redlandgs@gmail.comWebsite: www.rgs.net.au

Patron: Les McFadzen

Management Committee 2024/2025

President	Helen Veivers
Vice President	Kevin Hughes
Secretary	Dianne Smith
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Assistant Treasurer	Val Burt
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Facebook Co-ordinator	Yvonne Weston
Magazine Interest Group Convenor	Annette Hall
Writing Interest Group Convenor	Helen Veivers
Document Coordinator	Greg Glidden

Life Members

2010 Denise Brady & Marel Donaldson - Foundation Members
 Kaye Barber, Pamela Gilbert, Elaine Speck
2013 Les McFadzen

Past Life Members

2010 Glenda Webb, **2011** Les Callaghan,
2016 Jeanne Dixon, **2019** Pat Misson

General Meetings are held **on the second Wednesday of the month**, February to December, **12:15pm to 2:30pm**, at Donald Simpson Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland. An entry fee of \$2 applies to cover the room booking (and a lucky door prize ticket). Free parking is available at the Centre. Meals can be purchased from the Centre's café by those wishing to have an early lunch prior to the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting is held on the second Wednesday of July at 12:15pm, followed by a General Meeting.

The Management Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month, February to December, at 2pm.

Meetings are not held during January.

The RGS Collections contain a range of resources **for world-wide genealogical research** in various formats. These are held in our Genealogy "Genie" Room in the Council's Cleveland Library, Middle St (opp. Bloomfield St), Cleveland.

RGS members can use the RGS Library and its facilities, including accessing available online research organisations, at any time the Cleveland Library is open. **To obtain the Genie Room key**, members must present their **RGS** Redland City Council's Libraries Service card to the Cleveland Library Reception staff. It is not the same card that you use for borrowing privately from the Council's Libraries. It is the card given to all joining members. You must activate this card at Cleveland Library each time you renew RGS membership by presenting it with 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 12.30pm - Saturdays 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Volunteer GRAs: Karen Hawkes (Librarian), Bob Aldred, Val Burt, Margaret Clark, Russell Clarke, Annette Hall, Megan James, Bev McFadyen, Sandra Pawluk, Eddie Richards, Dianne Smith, Helen Veivers, Audrey Warner, Robyn Waters Christine Mines, Alison Louttit and Kristin Bain.

Redland City Council's Local History Collection: The Local History Collection is housed in the Cleveland Library with much of it available online at <https://rcc.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/HOME>. Georgia Bennett is Redland City Council's Local History Advisor; Gillian McNeill is Local History Technician.

A Note from the Editor

Pat McCallum

With May now on us, we have seen off Easter and the memorial times of Anzac Day, and by the time this edition of the Redland Researcher is distributed we will also be past Labour Day. The world has become a so much more uncertain place in these few months, largely because of events outside of Australia. As genealogists we preserve and curate memories and tell stories which are grounded in facts. This edition has some of those stories which serve to remind us that the World has faced challenges in the past and moved on from them through ordinary people making do to build for better times in the future. Here we go again!

Dianne Smith has advised her intention to stand down from the position of Secretary at the next Annual Meeting. This is a critical position for the Society which **must be filled**. Members should reflect on their capacity to stand up for the continuing operation of the Society by nominating for this position.

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Membership Fees & Payment

Single Membership \$35.00 per annum - Family Membership \$50.00 per annum

Membership fees & Membership Renewal fees can be paid by Cash, Cheque or Electronically at General Meetings, or by Cash or Cheque to a GRA in the Genealogy Room. Alternatively, fees can be Transferred Electronically to the Society's bank account, Bank of Queensland Cleveland, BSB: 124-025 Account Number: 2349 3170.

When paying by Electronic Transfer it is very important that:

New members include the word '**New**' and '**Surname**' in the 'Payment Reference'!

Renewing members include '**Membership number**' and '**Surname**' in the 'Payment Reference' and also email or hand in a completed Membership Renewal form to the Membership Officer!

Application for Membership forms are available on the website, at General Meetings, and in the Genealogy Room.

Membership Renewal forms are emailed to members prior to their membership expiry date.

Redland Researcher is free to Members. It is emailed unless otherwise arranged.

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.

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Society Updates

Monthly Meetings

In March 2025, the Monthly Meeting was host to a very informative presentation from Alan and Warren, Volunteers in Policing, on Scam Prevention as part of their Community Safety and Crime Prevention outreach.



As well as their tips on scam prevention, Alan and Warren brought along a range of handouts with valuable tips for personal safety particularly relevant to seniors.

Regular contributor Malcolm Goddard presented to the April 2025 meeting under the title "My father was an original ANZAC!", he was challenged on the veracity of the claim by one of his teachers. As they say, "He has the receipts." Malcolm took members through his approach to researching military service as a component of family history. We were directed to common and not so common sources and search techniques within online resources. An example of the results of Malcolm's military service research appears in this edition.



Yvonne stood in as chairperson of the meeting in the absence of Helen Veiviers on leave.

This is the schedule of presenters for the remainder of 2025.

- 14 May – Karen Thurecht – From Family to Fiction
- 11 June – Jan Richardson, Griffith University – The Biographical Dictionary
- 9 July – AGM
- 13 August – Col Sutcliffe – Charles Dickens and The Old Curiosity Shop
- 10 September – Helen Smith – Dragon Genealogy
- 8 October – RGS Members – Brick Wall Session
- 12 November – Eve Terry – National Archives of Australia – War Brides: Stories of Love and Adventure
- 11 December – Christmas Celebrations

Memberships

Russell and Jean Clarke

Membership at the 14th May 2025 stands at 114. Three new members since February have helped support the list to compensate for those not able to renew.

Facebook

Yvonne Weston

Facebook is an important way the Society engages with its members and the broader community. In my latest report I advised we reached 4,578 people in March with 5 posts and had 10,464 views. A decrease on the previous month but considering school holidays, long weekends etc, not too surprising overall. We have 362 followers, just a gradual increase but still on the right track.

The most popular posts continue to be our Monday Murmurings:

- 14 April - reached 1,556 people with 2,462 views
- 21 April - reached 1,601 people with 2,398 views
- 29 April - reached 2,501 people but got 3,501 views.

The reason the number of views is higher than the reach is because our posts have been shared to community groups' Facebook accounts and therefore seen by a lot of their group members. This is the benefit of sharing our post to groups that I am not part of. If you have the

opportunity to also share to other groups, please feel free to do so.

Another quick reminder that RGS Members Chat is quite active, and we would love to welcome more RGS members to join. It is a 'members only' resource open to all members and is a great space for sharing hints, tips and ask questions. If you wish to join the chat group, there is now a link to it on the Facebook page in the 'about us' section, simply find our group and request to join, remembering to answer the security questions so that I can verify that you are a member of RGS and then can approve your request.

Website benefits

Members are reminded that the Member's Section of our website provides access to a number of exchange magazines. You can access the website from home and keep up to date on what is happening in genealogy societies such as our own, around Australian and more broadly.

DNA Interest Group

April's DNA Interest Group meeting was cancelled in light of the distractions of public holidays and Easter and a lack of interest in March. DNA information is an important component of family history research. Members need to consider what would be most beneficial in supporting them in developing their skills and interest in this key area, and discuss this with the DNA Coordinator, Kevin Hughes, or members of the Management Committee.

Helen Veivers at #Connections2025

Our president Helen Veivers was on official duty in her other capacity as the President of the Genealogical Society of Queensland at the Australasian Conference 2025 CONNECTIONS Past-Present-Future held from 21 to 24 March 2025. The conference attracted genealogists from around the globe to a schedule of expert presenters.



Helen Veivers Opening the #Connections2025 (Photo by John Boeren)

The conference was the subject of attention on social media. Helen was name checked on the [BlueSky](#) platform by John Boeren, international genealogist, on the first day while giving opening remarks.

"The [#Connections2025](#) conference in Brisbane has now officially started. Helen Veivers opened the event. Looking forward to interesting talks. And of course, curious about the number of participants with Dutch roots! [#genealogy](#)"



Helen Veivers with the Conference Planning Committee at #Connections2025 (GSQ)

The #Connections2025 Conference was an outstanding success. There were in excess of 400 people in attendance, all of whom were brimming with excitement to be able to be together in one physical space with other family historians for the first time since the COVID outbreak in 2021. The chatter created was huge!! While the venue at Brisbane Technology Park in Eight Mile Plains wasn't perfect, it did allow 3 presentations to be run simultaneously and, by opening dividers to have a very large space for Keynote presentations.

Keynote Speakers were Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist, from the United States, Dr Nick Barratt from England, best known for his work as lead consultant and onscreen expert with the early series of the British television show "Who Do You Think You Are" and Hamish Maxwell Stewart, currently attached to University of New England in New South Wales but who has done extensive work on the Convict Memorial, the centre piece of the National Trust Tasmania Unshackled Penitentiary Experience in Hobart, Tasmania.

Another feature of the Conference was the Trade Display area where in excess of 40 Groups/Companies had the opportunity to speak with Conference delegates. Once again, this was a very busy area when presentations were not in progress.

It was so great to see so many Family Historians sharing their discoveries and enjoying each other's company!



From the Genie Room

"where RGS lives"

Karen Hawkes, Librarian

Hello Everyone, Have you visited our Genie Room this year? When visiting please remember to Sign the Attendance Book and to fill out the Borrowing Book when Borrowing Books, CDs, Magazines and Journals. A list of our Complete Catalogue can be found on Computer No: 3 in our Genie Room, also on our Website and on the Redland City Council Library Website for you to browse. Our Catalogue was updated in February 2025.

Our Society subscribes to the following sites, all accessible in our Genie Room ONLY – FindMyPast, Biographical Database of Australia, RootsIreland, The Genealogist.

A Reminder to Please DO NOT take the Passwords for the above Subscribed Sites home for personal use. They are to be used in the Genie Room Only. The Subscription Sites are continually updating and adding new information and records – come check them out in our Genie Room.

We also subscribe to Family Tree UK, Who Do You Think You Are? UK and Irish Roots Magazines. The latest copy of each can be viewed in our Genie Room and previous copies can be borrowed.

The Redland Library subscribes to Ancestry and FindMyPast including The 1921 UK Census, these can be accessed on the Library Computers in our Genie Room.

Dr Craig James Smee Databases have now been installed on Computer No: 3 in our Genie Room. The Database consists of three lists being:

- (1) "Born in the English Colony of New South Wales: 1788-1820"
- (2) "Births and Baptisms, Marriages and De Facto Relationships, Deaths and Burials in the Colony of New South Wales:1788-1830", with the addition of a fifth decade (1831-1840)
- (3) "Female Convicts Transported to the Colony of New South Wales:1788-1840", which lists and traces the colonial experience of every female transported.

Instructions on how to access and use the Databases are in the Red Folders next to the Computers in the Genie Room.

The Cleveland Library Local History Team will conduct a Cemetery Local History Walk at the Redland Bay Cemetery on Saturday 17th May. There are two Saturday walks. First Walk at 9.30 am - 10.30 am and the Second Walk at 10.45 am -11.45 am. Please Book on the Cleveland Library Website if you are wanting to attend either of these walks.

We Thank Ian Barrett for his time and knowledge as a GRA as he has resigned and we Welcome three new GRAs. Christine Mines, Alison Louttit and Kristin Bain – Thank you for Volunteering. Please make them Welcome when visiting the Genie Room. I Thank all GRAs for their knowledge and help, we now have 17 GRAs. I ask all members to please consider joining the Team as we are still in need of more GRAs. Below is an article written by Audrey Warner on "Why I became a GRA".

New Acquisitions-

- (1) The Families of God's Acre. 1859-2009. Author - Brain Thomas Grenier. Category - Family History. Location - 1 QLD FAM GRE. Donated by Bronwen Davis.
- (2) Ngali Dullan - We Remain. Author - North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah. Category - Indigenous. Location - 1 QLD IND SIM. Donated by Helen Veivers.
- (3) Census of New South Wales. November 1828. Author - Malcolm Sainty. Category - Census. Location - 1 NSW CEN SAI. Donated by Dianne Smith.
- (4) Tracing Your Dublin Ancestors. Author - James G. Ryan and Brian Smith. Category - Guides. Location - 2 IRE GUI RYA. Donated by Ursula.
- (5) Chasing Our History - Stories from Mowbraytown and East Brisbane. Second Edition. Author - Justeen and Geraint Gregory. Category - History. Location - 1 QLD HIS GRE. Donated by Anonymous. THANK YOU to all who have donated.

The next GRA Meeting will be Monday 26th May, 2025 commencing at 10 am in the Elders Meeting Room at the Cleveland library. All Members are Welcome. Looking forward to seeing all in our Genie Room at the Library. Thank you.

WHY I BECAME A GRA (For the newbies that's a Genealogical Research Assistant)

Audrey Warner

When I retired at the end of the last century, I decided I needed to find out something about my family history so went to a meeting of the RGS advertised in the local paper. At that stage I didn't even know the first names of my grandparents. In those days, meetings were held at night in the Cleveland Primary School. As a result of those meetings, I learned about the Society's research facilities in the Cleveland library so toddled along to see what I could find little knowing that, apart from learning LOTS about not only my family but also my husband's, I was to meet so many interesting and learned people.

Each time I went along, there were GRAs willing to give their time to show me where to look in their many records to see if I could find an ancestor or two. I had no idea what a GRA was, but didn't care because they were obviously caring people giving their time to assist the uninitiated in this strange world of genealogy. I had no idea then that I would join their ranks, but their numbers were few (sound familiar) so, in a short while, with little knowledge but much help, I also became a GRA. That was in a different world where microfiche was probably the most modern way of researching, and communicating by mail, especially overseas, took ages and one would have to wait in the hope that whoever you had written to would even reply.

So now, in a completely different world, I am still looking for elusive ancestors, but with the help of many GRAs over those years have been able to find so many people and their stories. They have not always been happy stories and some of the people I am glad I didn't meet in real life, but many of the resources I have used I have come across because I have been a GRA.

It is a real joy when we are able to set someone on the right path to finding their stories. I didn't know too much at all when I began and know there is still much more with technology changing all the time but have never regretted becoming a GRA. We are only supposed to be on duty for three hours a month, but there are so few of us these days that most of us are on duty twice and even multiple times each month, so please take pity on us and offer your services to become a GRA. While being there to guide people in finding their families, you can learn so much that may help you along your own journey and we meet so many folk with the most fascinating stories.

It would be such a pity to have to forfeit the room in the library and all those resources so carefully chosen if we are unable to provide the service required because of the lack of volunteers. Due to family circumstances, I resigned a while ago, but returned when able and I learned just how few of the over 100 members are willing to help. Of course, from my own experience I realise there are some who just cannot help although they may wish to do so, but it would be great to have a few more volunteers to share in what is really quite a pleasant and rewarding way to spend a few hours a month.

Malcolm Goddard's Key Military Research Websites

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission www.cwgc.org
- National Archives of Australia www.naa.gov.au
- Archives New Zealand www.archives.govt.nz
- The National Archives (UK) www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- The National Archives (USA) www.archives.gov
- Virtual War Memorial Australia www.vwma.org.au
- Forces War Records <https://uk.forceswarrecords.com/>
- Society of Genealogists www.sog.org.uk
- Fold3® by Ancestry www.fold3.com
- Find a Grave www.findagrave.com
- Family Search www.familysearch.org
- Family Search Labs www.familysearch.org/en/labs/

In Memory of
Private ROLAND WILLIAM HENRY GODDARD

63137, N.Z.T.M. Battery, 1917 and 1918

His story by nephew Malcolm L. Goddard



Roland William Henry Goddard was the eldest child of Roland Frederick Norton Goddard and Emma Hunt, and was born on 9 June 1895 in Nelson, New Zealand. Called Mick in the family by early 1915 he was living in Blenheim, New Zealand and working as a labourer. He was also a member of the "The 12th Nelson Regiment" and reserve militia regiment, up until he later joined the main NZ Army.

Mick applied to join the NZ Army in April 1916 for the 23rd reinforcements (in Blenheim) but was rejected on medical grounds for 3 months, as he had previously had rheumatic fever.

He again attempted to join the Army again on 24 July 1917 (for the 32nd reinforcements) and was successful.

Standing 5 feet 9 and half inches tall with a dark complexion, brown eyes and light brown hair. Mick entered Trentham Training Camp on the 20th of August 1917 where he began training with the 31st and 32nd Reinforcements.

He embarked for England on 22 Nov. 1917 and arrived in Liverpool on 7 Jan. 1918 and was sent to the Sling Camp. On the 20th of March he proceeded to France where he entered Etaples Camp for further training.

From there he was sent to the frontline and joined the 2nd NZ Entrenching Battalion on the 28th of March. Essentially a Labour force, this unit was full of new reinforcements and previously sick or wounded men returning to duty. During this time (March and April 1918) they were thrust into the German Spring Offensive and were used as Infantry at times. Before long, Mick was posted to his new unit 10th Company 1st Otago Battalion on the 14th of April.

On the 3rd of July 1918, he was detached to duty with the 2nd NZ light trench mortar battery and saw action during the Rossignol Wood fighting. The Otago Battalion was heavily involved with scouting and raiding of the German positions, and the New Zealanders so harassed their opponents that the Germans eventually abandoned Rossignol Wood.

In contrast to the relatively static trench-based stalemate that characterised the Western Front for most of the First World War, by mid-1918 the tide had turned in favour of the Allied armies and open warfare ensued over swathes of the French countryside. The position of the front line shifting rapidly eastwards in August-September 1918 during one of the New Zealand Division's final offensives of the war, the Battle of Bapaume.

From July 1918, the overstretched German army faced renewed attacks from the British, French, Belgian and American allies along the Western Front. On 21 August the British Third Army (with the New Zealand Division as part of its IV Corps) launched an attack north of the previous battlefield, intending to drive the Germans back towards the town of Bapaume. This ground was chosen as it was less torn-up by years of shelling, and thus better suited to mobile attacks with armoured support.

The New Zealand Division supported the right flank of the main attack in the first few days of the battle, but from 24 August it took a lead role. In a single day the New Zealanders captured the towns of Gréville and Loupart Wood and the village of Biefvillers. The following day they began to surround the town of Bapaume, where several major roads intersected. The German defenders resisted the siege until the night of 28 August, when they retreated to positions just east of Bancourt and Frémicourt. The New Zealanders entered Bapaume next day and continued to push the front-line further east across largely abandoned terrain until they halted east of Bertincourt to regroup.

By early September the British First, Third and Fourth armies had pushed the Germans back to the Hindenburg Line east of Bapaume, the area from which they had launched their Spring Offensive in March.

Mick was wounded in action during the Battle of Bapaume from gunshot wounds to the head, back and chest on the 24 August 1918 and died from his wounds the following day 25 August 1918. He was just 23 years old and left a wife Elizabeth and daughter Joan.

He is buried in the Bagneux British Cemetery Gezaincourt, France, Grave Reference: VI. C. 31. For the first time since he died in 1918, we visited Uncle Mick's grave in France, in October 2024. The cemetery is beautiful and immaculately kept and very peaceful, in a field at the end of a laneway with wild apples growing.



At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Lest we forget.

George Down,

A Long and Honourable Career, Former Mayor of Brisbane 1903-1916

Malcolm L. Goddard

George Down was born on July 12, 1847, at Kapunda, in the Colony of South Australia. His parents, John Down (1823–1862) and Naomi Slaughter (1821–1888), had arrived in Adelaide as supported migrants from London aboard the ship *Isabella Watson* on May 13, 1846, along with 230 other passengers.



The South Australian Colony was established as part of Edward Gibbon Wakefield's plan for systematic colonization, which aimed to avoid the problems faced by colonies reliant on slave or convict labour. Wakefield's model focused on selling small tracts of land and subsidising passage for British workers, ensuring a concentrated settlement around cities. However, early settlers in the 1830s and 1840s faced delays in land surveys and agricultural production, making the colony reliant on imports for basic needs, from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Despite these challenges, more immigrants, including the Down family, continued to arrive.

By 1849, John and Naomi had two sons, George and his younger brother Thomas. The economic situation in South Australia had become dire, so the family relocated to the Moreton Bay settlement in Queensland, where Naomi's father (Thomas Slaughter) and uncle (Alfred Slaughter) and their families had recently settled, after arriving aboard the *Fortitude*. The convict settlement of Moreton Bay had been declared a free settlement in 1842, but new immigrants faced challenges. The Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang, who had promoted an immigration scheme, mistakenly believed that land grants were assured for the settlers, leading to confusion and difficulty when they arrived with no land or accommodations prepared. Captain John Wickham, the local Police magistrate, allowed the immigrants to set up camp in what later became known as Fortitude Valley, where the Down family eventually settled. Despite their initial hardships, the settlers' industriousness helped them establish themselves in the *new* colony.



George attended school in Brisbane and later worked as a managing clerk for a local law firm Messrs. Flower and Hart, Solicitors before becoming an accountant. In 1872, he married Rebecca Howe, the daughter of John and Rebecca Howe of Brisbane. George became deeply involved in local government, serving on the Booroodabin Divisional Board from its creation in 1880, and eventually becoming its chairman before it merged with the Brisbane City Council in 1903. He was elected as a Brisbane City Council member

and served as Mayor of Brisbane from 1903 to 1916. He remained an alderman until the construction of Brisbane City Town Hall in 1920-1925, where his name can be found on the foundation stone (see above).

Outside of his political career, George was passionate about cricket. He was a foundation trustee of the Brisbane Cricket Ground and held leadership positions within the Queensland Cricket Association. He also contributed significantly to his community, serving as secretary and treasurer of the Valley Methodist Church for 27 years and leading the church choir for more than 30 years.

George was instrumental in the establishment of ANZAC Day. As Mayor, he initiated and chaired the first meeting of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee of Queensland in January 1916, which set April 25 as the day to honour the soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli.

George Down passed away peacefully at his home Westwell, in Jeays Street, Bowen Hills, which had been his home for 59 years, on July 8, 1934, just a few days shy of his 87th birthday. He was survived by his wife Rebecca and 10 of their 12



children. His legacy lives on through his contributions to Brisbane's development and his role in the creation of ANZAC Day.

George Down was my wife Lesley's Great Great Grandfather.



George Down's name on the ceremonial mayoral chains

References

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3. MR. GEORGE DOWN. The Brisbane Courier. Queensland, Australia. 11 April 1930. p.20. Retrieved 25 March 2017 – via National Library of Australia.
4. ANZAC DAY. The Brisbane Courier. No. 18, 135. 1 March 1916. p.4. Retrieved 23 March 2016 – via National Library of Australia.
5. Obituary. The Courier-Mail. Queensland, Australia. 10 July 1934. p.25. Retrieved 23 March 2017 – via National Library of Australia.



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

Reciprocal Arrangements

The Genealogical Society of Queensland has reciprocal arrangements with the following societies:

- [Society of Australian Genealogists](#) - (**SAG**) 120 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000 (Archives/Offices) 2/379 Kent St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 (Library)
- [South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society](#) - (**Genealogy SA**) 201 Unley Road, Unley, SA, 5061
- [Tasmanian Family History Society \(Hobart Branch\)](#) - (**TFHS Hobart**) 19 Cambridge Road, Bellerive, TAS, 7018 (Old Bellerive Post Office)
- [Genealogical Society of Victoria](#) - (**GSV**) L1/10 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC, 3000
- [Family History Connections](#) (Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies) - (**FHC**) Unit 1, 41 Railway Road, Blackburn, VIC, 3130 (Opposite Blackburn Railway Station)
- [Western Australian Genealogy Society](#) - (**WAGS**) Units 4,5, and 6, 48 May Street, Bayswater, WA, 6056
- [Family History ACT](#) - (**FHACT**) Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St., Cook, ACT, 2614
- [Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory](#) - (**GSNT**) Unit 1, Harry Giese Building, 1 Willeroo Street, Tiwi, NT, 0821
- [New Zealand Society of Genealogists](#) - (**NZSG**) Level 1, 159 Queens Road, Panmure, Auckland, 1072 (Family Research Centre)
- [Queensland Family History Society](#) - (**QFHS**) 46 Delaware Street, Chermside, Qld, 4034

Thomas Arthur Price M.B., Ch.B (1871-1957)

Doctor, mayor, father of scouting, and killer of mosquitos

Pat McCallum



Studio Portrait of Dr. Thomas A. Price. n.d. (State Library of Queensland)

The threads we follow in tracing our families often lead to stories of interesting people. By happenstance, I was following a family group who were linked to one of my ancestors through an illegitimate birth. Dr. Price's sister married into that family. His life story is one of those fascinating pieces of Queensland history which deserve preserving.

Thomas Arthur Price was born in the Colony of Queensland in 1871 to English immigrant parents. His large family were not well off and his early education was at the Leichhardt-street State school in Brisbane. He was fortunate and able enough to gain a scholarship to what was then the Queensland Grammar school. His first career choice was architecture. However, he soon changed to studying medicine, both at Edinburgh and London.

His first position as a doctor was as a resident medical officer at the Adelaide Hospital. If you reviewed his early career, you would be forgiven for thinking that Dr. Price had either a good deal of bad luck in his choices or that there was something in his performance which would give cause for circumspection if you were considering him for appointment. He went from the Adelaide Hospital to a position as assistant medical superintendent at the Goodna Asylum, outside of Ipswich. He soon after took up a similar position at the Willowburn Mental Hospital in Toowoomba. Toowoomba would be the base of his professional and personal life into the future. As with his previous positions, he did not stay at Willowburn long and eventually set up in private practice as a successful ear, eye, nose

and throat specialist in Toowoomba.

Dr. Price was a robust personality. This suited his move into local politics. He would serve as an Alderman on the Toowoomba City Council for nine years and for one of those, in 1918, he was elected mayor by the alderman as was the custom at the time.

He was on the side supporting conscription for World War One and found himself dealing with opponents of the policy during heated public debates. He was welcomed as a worthwhile holder of the position of mayor on his election.

Alderman Price arrived in Toowoomba 15 years ago, and since then, and during the seven years that he has been in the council, he has done much good for Toowoomba. In scientific and artistic concerns Dr. Price has always been in the forefront. He was largely instrumental in the consummation of the Greater Toowoomba scheme, and is chairman of the Rat and Mosquito Board, chairman of the health committee in the council for the last seven years and is chairman of the Patriotic committee.

[The Toowoomba Chronicle, Wed 20 Feb 1918. p. 6. THE NEW MAYOR.](#)

Mayors can come and go and leave little trace of their achievements. However, Dr. Price is still memorialised in Toowoomba over 100 years on from his time as an Alderman. The Dr. Price Memorial Centre, a kindergarten and rest rooms in the Civic Square, was opened in Toowoomba a year before his death in 1957. It was named to honour the great works that he had done for Toowoomba, his love for his fellow man and his enthusiasm for the cause of the underprivileged. It stands today.

Beyond the credit he was afforded by many, with ridding Toowoomba of mosquitoes, there were two episodes in Dr. Price's life which caught my attention.

He was a man before his time when it came to health policy in Australia. In 1938, he gave evidence to a Royal Commission on medical fees. His evidence was largely set aside as being outside of the terms of reference. He articulated a prescient and detailed strategy for the provision of family focussed medical services through general practitioner doctors of choice, to all, including ordinary workers, pensioners, unemployed as well as the well-to-do. Such a service could only be provided by a compulsory health insurance scheme which he argued would be created by the merger of friendly society voluntary insurances. It would be 45 years before a Federal government introduced a universal health insurance system.

His early career as an architect no doubt aided Dr. Price in designing a stunning residence located on the Toowoomba range with views across the valleys below. This residence, *Geeumbi*, featured four bedrooms with open fireplaces, large loungeroom with plate glass windows, maids room, and two large 12ft verandahs. Part of the roof comprised two decks giving a magnificent panoramic view of the Range and Table Top Mountain. There was a tennis court and tea house, and large swimming pool. It is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register.



Geeumbi (Queensland Heritage Register)

As impressive as *Geeumbi* is, it was a second accommodation arrangement which is the other episode in Dr. Price's life which made an impression on me while researching his life. Near *Geeumbi*, on the slopes of the range in Redwood Park, Dr. Price set up the 'Eagle's Nest Swagmen's Camp' during the Great Depression in the 1930s. This camp was to be a "self-help rest camp" for the unemployed to stay for a week or two, gain good food, a clean bed and fresh hope. Unlike the compelling presence of *Geeumbi*, the Camp's features required an 'archaeological dig' to recover their existence in the lush bushland. The Eagle's Nest Swagmen's Camp is also listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. Two more different legacies are unusual in one man's life. Which of the two would Dr. Price have been most proud of for their recognition in the Register?

Dr. Price had an enduring commitment to the Scouting movement and is regarded as the Father of Scouting in Toowoomba. At one time he was deputy Chief Commissioner for Queensland. That he would name his swagman's camp "Eagle's Nest" and that two headstones, one in Darwin where he died and the other in Toowoomba, contain the word "Eagle" signify where his enduring passions lay. Perhaps Eagle's Nest rather than *Geeumbi* was closer to his heart. While the word "EAGLE" is inscribed on both cemetery monuments, in Toowoomba the World Scout emblem of fleur-de-lis with encircling rope is bracketed beside the word on the Toowoomba headstone. Whatever inspired the inscription, it signified Thomas' sense of 'service' and 'duty', qualities promoted by the Scouting movement.

Thomas was the last of his siblings to pass away.

References

The references in support of this biographical note are included in Dr. Price's profile on WikiTree accessible at WikiTree contributors, "Thomas Arthur Price M.B., Ch.B (1871-1957)," WikiTree: The Free Family Tree, (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Price-37115> : accessed 29 April 2025).



Killed while going to a Funeral

Alison Louttit

This is the story of my Great Great Aunt and her family. My dad always talked about this family story when we would visit the cemetery in Cootamundra, NSW. This all happened before my dad was born, but he knew the family were related to him.

Sarah Jane Faunt, born in Sydney the daughter of Edward and Mary Faunt, married John Heaver in Wagga Wagga, NSW in 1870. John had established the first business in Coolamon, a general store. They had at least 9 children, three of whom died young. But it is what happened in 1914 on Sarah's death that was the real tragedy for the family when the distraught family were taking her body back to Cootamundra (over 400 kms away) for burial. Sarah's remains and her family were on board The Temora Mail Train when it collided with a Goods Train 200 metres north of Exeter in heavy fog. My TreasureTrove is reported in the newspapers of the day

TRAGEDY OF HEAVER FAMILY. KILLED WHILE GOING TO FUNERAL.

Though she was almost frantic with grief, Mrs. Pitts, sister to Mrs Arthur Heaver, and consequently a connection by marriage of the Heaver family, told a graphic story of the tragedy.

"Mrs Heaver, sen., wife of Mr. John Michael Heaver, died at Sir Alexander M'Cormick's hospital on Friday morning," she explained, and we were going down to Cootamundra for the burial. The body was in the mortuary van. A special carriage was obtained, and in it were Mr. Heaver, sen., Mr and Mrs. Arthur Heaver, and Misses Alice, Violet, and Lily Heaver. Mrs. Arthur Heaver was my sister. The Misses Heaver were all nurses— Alice at Jenner Hospital, Potts Point, and the other girls at The Terraces, Paddington. I was not in the carriage. I went into the sleeper.

"I was asleep when the accident happened, but the crash threw me out of my bunk, and when I came to my senses I was outside looking for my relatives. It was appalling. It was not altogether dark, but the fog was so heavy that it was worse than darkness, because you could not see anything.

"I searched for hours and hours in my nightdress for my sister, and I was covered in blood. The carriages were piled up one on the other, and it was so high that they told me that I could not get up on them to look for her. Couldn't get up! I got up on them, and called out, 'Are you there?' Lily, a little girl, heard my voice. 'Yes,' she

answered, 'we are here. - But go back. This is no place for you. We are dying.' What a brave girl she is.

"I could not do anything. The mass was too heavy for me to lift. So I waited. I saw a poor woman with her two arms out of the door. She was screaming and begging that God would help her. She asked me to kill her and put her two hands out. She died before they could get her free. She didn't suffer very long.

"When they were eventually got out, Violet was on top of the water cistern in the lavatory: Alice was up in the hat rack. Arthur was pinned down beneath a mass of iron and wood. His wife was lying in his arms, Arthur, who was conscious all through, told me that my sister was dead. I asked him if he was sure. He said, 'Yes, I know she is dead. I kissed her just as she died.' Just before the end she asked him if he lived through the terrible night to take care of her children. Poor. Annie! I can hear her now calling to me from beneath the wreckage, 'Come to me, dear, I'm dying.' She would not come into the sleeper with me. She wanted to stay with the girls. They were hysterical with grief for their dead mother.

"The whole family, with the exception of Violet, were found huddled together. Alice died with her head on her brother's shoulder, and the poor old father was lying close to them. The two girls, when they were released, tried for an hour to bring their sister back to life. They never flinched. Their hearts did not fail them You never saw such bravery. I had some brandy with me in case anybody broke down, and I poured it over a dozen faces as they were laid out, hoping to call back to life somebody's mother or sister. I can't get the dreadful picture out of my, I'm afraid I never will."

The Scone Advocate (NSW : 1887 - 1954), Tue 17 Mar 1914. Page 4. TRAGEDY OF HEAVER FAMILY.

Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/157004121>.

Reporting on the Inquest into the accident provided heart rending details of the scene of death and destruction at the crash site and of the heroic efforts of those rendering assistance.

THE INQUEST

... A very sad case was that of Mr. Arthur Heaver, junior, who was underneath the framework of the carriage and asking for it to be lifted off him. It was nearly three hours before he was got out, and on any weight being lifted off him, and being unable to speak, he used to kiss his hand as a token of gratitude. His wife was found dead alongside him. During the whole time he behaved most manfully-a regular hero. Happily, the lights were out, and a thoughtful conductor turned off the gas, so the fire danger was averted. The rescue work was carried out by fires lit out of the debris of the carriages, and tea and refreshments got ready by willing hands. A number of frightened women were noticed but the majority was

calm. ... The train which the mail ran into was a long cattle train, and nearly all the ends of the trucks were knocked out by the impact. The sight was an appalling one, one that you would turn from, with sorrow, but the passengers and others seemed impelled to work on in the hope of saving life. ... The wounded men and women were most considerate and in many cases asked for others to be attended to first. In conclusion. Mr Cusack said it was more like a nightmare than a reality. There were 14 killed in the disaster, 3 of them the Heaver family, Sarah's husband John, their daughter Alice and daughter-in-law Annie. The funerals were all held in Cootamundra and it was a very large gathering for the 3 killed in the crash, and Sarah.

Queanbeyan Age (NSW : 1907 - 1915), Tue 17 Mar 1914. Page 3. FOURTEEN KILLED.

Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/31401000>

"Truth is the first casualty of war"

Editor

For varying reasons, it is often what is not said which supports the contention that truth is the first casualty of war. The public silence on the loss of more than 1000 Australian prisoners of war on board the *Montevideo Maru* when it was sunk by the American submarine USS Sturgeon on July 1, 1942, in the South China Sea, took three years to break.

1000 Australians From Rabaul Believed Lost

CANBERRA, Wednesday.- Much concern is felt about nearly 1000 members of the 2/22nd Battalion taken prisoner at Rabaul, and **whose fate is unknown**, said the Army Minister, Mr Forde, in the House of Representatives.

In reply to a question by Mr. Rankin, CP. Victoria, as to whether the Government had received any official advice that a large number of the men had been

drowned. Mr. Forde said that officers of the garrison who had been liberated had been questioned.

They said that between 700 and 1000 men of the 2/22nd Battalion left Rabaul by ship in 1942, and were believed to be bound for Hainan. No trace of the ship had been found after it had left Rabaul, and **while all possible inquiries were being made, it was feared that many of the men had been drowned.**

Army News (Darwin, NT : 1941 - 1946), Thu 27 Sep 1945. Page 1. 1000 Australians From Rabaul Believed Lost

Accessed at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/47725676>.

For those interested, the genealogists at WikiTree have a category page for the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* which links to profiles of the 1,054 lost in the sinking. The page can be accessed at [https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Montevideo Maru Sinking%2C 1942](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Montevideo_Maru_Sinking%2C_1942).

Do you have a treasure from TROVE to share? Write them up and send them to the Newsletter Editor at redlandgseditor@gmail.com or take them to the Writers Interest Group and turn them into something special to remember.

Note: The National Library of Australia focuses on digitising newspapers published before 1955 on the general understanding that they are out of copyright. Newspapers published after 1954 remain in copyright and require permission from the publishers to digitise and deliver online. Some newspaper titles published after 1955 have been made available due to individual agreements with the publisher. Please check them.



Forthcoming Events

Redland Libraries

Saturday, 17 May 2025 | 9:30 – 10:30am [Redland Bay Cemetery](#)

Saturday, 17 May 2025 | 10:45 – 11:45am [Redland Bay Cemetery](#)

Tuesday, 20 May 2025 | 10:30 – 11:30am [Redland Bay Cemetery](#)



[Redland Bay Cemetery Local History Walk](#)

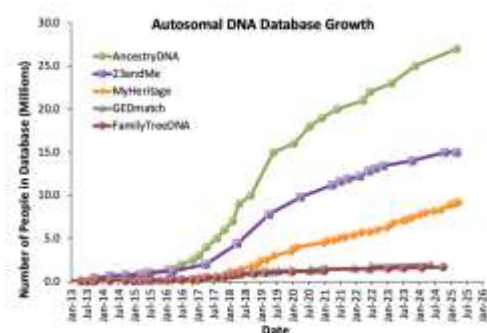
Redland Bay Cemetery is the final resting place for many pioneering families, with burials dating from the late nineteenth century. As part of this year's National Trust Heritage Festival, the Local History team will take you on a guided tour of this historic cemetery.

Free event. Bookings required.

Wandering Through the Web



DNA Testing Statistics



© 2025 by Leah Larkin, www.theDNAgeek.com

This chart shows the growth in DNA testing released following the RootsTech 2025 conference. According to Leah Larkin who compiled the data, there are now more than 53 million tested DNA kits across the four main testing companies: AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA. To put that in perspective, it is estimated that there are over 8 billion persons in the world today. Given that DNA testing and Genealogy are heavily first world pursuits, a better marker would be the estimated 1.3 billion people who live in developed countries. By the numbers, that is about 4 kits for every 100 persons in developed countries. Not saying that they belong to them.

4-Tool Combo Solves a DNA Problem

Family Tree Advice Blog

The Family Tree Advice blog discusses the limitations of various tools and the use of a combination of tools to resolve the question, "Why does the grandmother show up in my Family Tree Maker file as 'wife of 4th cousin 1x removed'?" There was a ton of intermarriage in our shared ancestral hometown. So the grandmother and I have 27 different relationships in FTM, but none of them are by blood." The writer was able to resolve this question by using a combination of tools to compensate for the shortcomings of the common genealogist's tool set.

<https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2025/05/4tools.html>

Australian Genealogy Blogs (FeedSpot)

1. Diary of an Australian Genealogist <https://diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com/>
2. Genealogical Society of Victoria Blog <https://www.gsv.org.au/welcome-to-the-gsv-blog>
3. Geniaus <http://geniaus.blogspot.com/>
4. Family Tree Frog <https://familytreefrog.blogspot.com/>
5. Yarra Plenty Genealogy <http://ypgenealogy.blogspot.com/>
6. Australian Genealogy Journeys <http://ausgenjourneys.blogspot.com/>
7. Kylie's Genes Blog <https://blog.kyliesgenes.com/>
8. Tasmanian Pioneers Blog <http://www.tasmanianpioneers.com/blog>
9. Genealogical Society of Queensland Blog <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/>

A complete list of contacts for a long list can be obtained by request from FeedSpot at

https://bloggers.feedspot.com/australian_genealogy_blogs/?feedid=5655&src=f1_featured_email



Located on Minjerribah, Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island.
Open Wed-Sun 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Exhibitions (include)

- Aboriginal Room and Pioneer Room
- WW1 Soldiers in Dunwich Cemetery
- Dunwich Benevolent Asylum
- Shipwrecks around Straddie

Friends of the Museum

You can support the aims and objectives of the Museum by becoming a Friend of the Museum.

Friends of the Museum receive life membership of the Museum, invitations to all Museum events and functions, and acknowledgement in the Museum.

<https://www.stradbrokemuseum.com.au/>

Redland Museum

60 Smith Street

Cleveland QLD 4163

07 3286 3494

Open 7 days 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Upcoming Events

17 May 2025 – A Night at the Museum in Celebration of Adventure Fest.

24 May 2025 – Twilight at the Museum in Celebration of Adventure Fest

26 May 2025 – Show 'n' Tell May 2025: Working on the Bay

30 May 2025 – ATASDA 'Artists Inspired Perspective': Floor Talk & Demonstration

13-22 June 2025 – 2025 Queensland Day Play: Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

29-11 July 2025 – Free Kids Craft

13 July 2025 – Holden Out for a Cure All Holden Day

<https://www.redlandmuseum.org.au/whats-on/events/>

National Archives of Australia

16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill

Phone: (07) 3249 4200

Website: www.naa.gov.au

Important! Before visiting, you should check NAA's requirements at <https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/research-centres#before-you-visit>. Bookings are not essential but may be required if busy. Phone 07 3249 4200 to plan your visit and to find out more about COVID-19 health and safety measures in place.

Open - Wednesday to Friday 9:00am to 4.30pm
Closed – Saturday to Tuesday and Public Holidays

Free on-site parking is available.

The strengths of their Brisbane facility collection are -

- immigration records that date from the 1850s
- post office and mail service records and photographs
- 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.

For details of regular Events, you can register on their website to arrange a subscription to their free newsletter.

Queensland State Archives

435 Compton Road, Runcorn

Phone: (07) 3037 6777

Website: www.archives.qld.gov.au

When visiting the Reading Room, it is advisable to pre-order items on the "ArchivesSearch" catalogue to ensure that they are available on your arrival - <https://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/>

Open hours are Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm & second Saturday of each month 9.00am to 4.30pm. The Reading Room is not open on public holidays or during the Christmas to New Year holiday period.

QSA's archival collection comprises of millions of public records dating back to the early Moreton Bay penal settlement of 1823. Free on-site parking is available.

The QSA holds informative Seminars and Events throughout the year, some on their premises, some at external venues. Check "*What's on*" in their website for details. You can keep informed of these **by arranging a free subscription** to "*qsa bulletin*", using the link on their website. The bulletin is sent by email.

Where to get your BDM Certificates

Prices are based on Historical Certificates, where available

This information is a guide. Please check websites for full details of types of certificates available, how to place orders and how to make payments.

Prices are changed regularly by government agencies.

Queensland

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Qld)
Level 32/180 Ann St, Brisbane City QLD 4000
PO Box 15188, City East, Qld 4002
Phone: 13 74 68
Hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
\$24.70 Historical Image – Download
\$24.70 Historical Source Image – Download
\$34.70 Historical Certificate – Postage included.
<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/rbdlm>

New South Wales

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 30, Sydney, NSW 2001
Phone: 13 77 88
\$39.00 with Registration Number
\$53.00 w/out number (includes 10-year search)
Postage included
Credit card charges extra
www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Transcription services:

www.joymurrin.com.au
<http://www.transcriptions.com.au/>

Victoria

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 4332, Melbourne, Vic 3001
Phone: 1300 369 367
\$22.50 Uncertified Historical Image - Download
\$55.80 Historical Certificate – Postage extra
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
\$72.00 – Postage included
Historic Death and Marriage Indexes are available.
<https://services.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/public-registers>

South Australia

Births, Deaths & Marriages
Consumer & Business Services
GPO Box 1351, Adelaide, SA 5001
Phone: 131 882
\$31.25 Historical Image - Emailed
<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages/family-research>

Also use their link to [Genealogy SA](http://www.genealogy.sa.gov.au) for an online name search for BDMs **also** to search a number of 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 – Postage included
<https://www.wa.gov.au/service/justice/civil-law/searching-family-history>

Tasmania

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 198, Hobart, Tasmania 7001
Phone: 1300 135 513
\$64.72 – Postage included
<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/indexes>

Northern Territory

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 3021, Darwin, NT 0801
Phone: (08) 8999 6119
\$54.00 – Postage extra
(1856-1863 check NSW)
(1863-1870 check SA)
<https://nt.gov.au/law/bdm>

New Zealand

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

