

Redland Researcher



proudly supported by Redland City Council

*The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

Issue No. 156

Aug 2025

Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

PO Box 605, Cleveland Qld 4163

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

Patron: Les McFadzen

Management Committee 2025/2026

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| President | Helen Veivers |
| Vice President | Kevin Hughes |
| Secretary | Alison Louttit |
| Treasurer | Yvonne Weston |
| Assistant Treasurer | Val Burt |
| Librarian | Karen Hawkes |
| Membership Officers | Russell and Jean Clarke |
| Displays Co-ordinator | Elaine Speck |
| Website Co-ordinator | Kevin Hughes |
| Archivist | Janelle Everest |
| Newsletter Editor | Pat McCallum |
| Committee Member 1 - Document Coordinator | Greg Glidden |
| Committee Member 2 | Dianne Smith |

Special Interest & Other Groups

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| DNA Interest Group Convenor | Kevin Hughes |
| Facebook Co-ordinator | Yvonne Weston |
| Magazine Interest Group Convenor | Annette Hall |
| Writing Interest Group Convenor | Helen Veivers |

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, Kristin Bain and Malcolm Goddard.

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>. Redland City Council maintains the position for a Local History Advisor; Gillian McNeill is Local History Technician.

A Note from the Editor

Pat McCallum

What an exciting Annual General Meeting (AGM), Wednesday 9 July 2025. Members have again demonstrated their commitment to the Society and its purpose by standing up and contributing in various ways to keep the Society humming along. Many current and past members have contributed to the success of the Society from its inception to the present, making time in their private lives to volunteer in various ways to the Society. It's important that those who currently contribute shouldn't feel they will be trapped in the roles they assume. Once again this is demonstrated through movement in roles on the Management Committee in particular with Alison Loutitt taking on the key role of Secretary, members stepping up into the GRA group and the diversity of contributions to the *Redland Researcher*. The challenge at the moment is to attract new members with an interest in genealogy and family history. Keep sharing the benefits of the society in your discussions about your family history; access to the expertise of other members, access to resources in the Genie Room and companionship with those of shared interests.

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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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Requests to reprint articles should be directed to redlandgs@gmail.com.



President's Annual Report – 2025

Helen Veivers

It is with pleasure that I present my Report for the 2024 - 2025 Year. The Redland Genealogical Society is continuing to thrive, despite a recent drop in membership numbers. Our Genie Room continues to be central to our wellbeing. It is here that we assist members and members of the general public to search for their ancestors. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Redland City Council which provides the room within the Cleveland Library as well as access to Ancestry and Find My Past with the 1921 Census addition. Our current Funding Agreement with the Council expires on 30 June 2027. I would like to acknowledge our gratitude to Local History Librarian, Georgia Bennett, for her support of our Society. In August 2024 Georgia provided an information session for family historians as part of National Family History Month. Georgia has recently advised that she would be leaving her role with the Redland City Council and would be moving to a position in the South Burnett Region of Queensland. Georgia's support for our Society will be greatly missed.

While our Genie Room is central to our wellbeing, it would mean nothing without the support of our Genealogical Research Assistants (GRAs) who provide information and support for all who visit our Room. I would like to thank each and every one of our GRAs for what you have done throughout the past year – you are the core of our Society and what a great core you are!!! Several additional GRAs are now assisting in the Library and this has assisted our librarian to a great extent. I need to single out our hardworking Librarian, Karen Hawkes who leads the team of GRAs. Karen has done an absolutely exceptional job with organising the Library and conducting meetings of GRAs. She was elected unopposed at a recent meeting of GRAs to lead the team again in 2025 – 2026. Thank you, Karen!

With our Guest Speaker program we've attempted to increase members' knowledge of family history associated matters. In August 2024, we organised a Brick Wall discussion session. All present felt this was a worthwhile activity as a way to increase all members' knowledge, as well as attempting to solve a particular Brick Wall. September saw one of our favourite presenters, Helen Smith, engage us in a topic titled "Wring That Document Dry" during which Helen showed just how much information documents hold and ways to extract it. Scottish Research was the theme of a presentation from a very early Redland member, Ailsa Corlett. Ailsa provided those present with many, many strategies for researching Scottish ancestors. To help mark Remembrance Day Col Sutcliffe provided the group with very pertinent information concerning Hellfire Pass on the Burma Railway. We began 2025 with a visit from Robyn Tennant from the Queensland Local Ambulance Committee who, in a very entertaining way, reminded us of techniques for resuscitation, including the use of a Defibrillator. Cyber Security and ways to keep ourselves safe online was the topic in March presented by Warren Drover from Volunteers in Policing. A member with huge Family History knowledge, Malcolm Goddard, was the Guest Speaker for April. Malcolm's presentation provided many strategies for searching military ancestors. Jan Richardson from Griffith University was the Guest Speaker for June providing information about "The Biographical dictionary" and, in particular, how members could add information to the Dictionary.

I would like to thank each and every one of the members of the Management Committee – this group has been an absolute pleasure to work with! Vice President, Kevin Hughes, has continued to manage both the website and the DNA Interest Group, as well as setting up sound and vision for our meetings at the Donald Simpson Centre and assisting with setting up Displays in the community. Thank you, Kevin! Dianne Smith took on the role of Secretary when nobody else stepped forward. She has done an absolutely sterling job. I know, and the Society knows, that we can rely on Dianne to perform the role of Secretary in an absolutely exemplary manner. Dianne has indicated she needs to step away from the role. The whole Society will be poorer, Dianne. Thanks for all that you've done.

Treasurer, Yvonne Weston, has continued to provide a wonderful service as Treasurer, backed up by Val Burt as Assistant Treasurer. Yvonne and Val have managed to conduct financial matters for our Society in a seamless manner when one or both of them are absent on holidays. Yvonne has continued to manage our growing Facebook presence as well. Her Monday Murmurings are very popular. Thanks Yvonne and Val!! Our new Membership Officers, Russell and Jean Clark, have done a great job of managing Membership, a really important role. Pat McCallum took on the role of Newsletter editor following the 2024 Annual General Meeting. While introducing some new concepts, Pat has continued the high quality productions. Thanks, Pat! Elaine Speck has continued to organize Displays for the Society during the year. These included one at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre in October for Seniors' month. Such displays are important for our Society as a means of getting the work the Society does known out in the community. Our records have continued to be safely maintained by Archivist, Janelle Everest. Thank, Janelle – it's comforting to know that the Society's history is safe. Thanks, too to Lyn Smyth for her work as Welcoming Officer at Meetings. Your contributions

to the Redland Genealogical Society over many years is appreciated. Greg Glidden stepped back into the Management Committee during the year into one of the Committee Member spots and took on the new role of Forms Officer. The Society's Forms are in very good hands. Thanks, Greg.

Our Interest Groups are an important part of whom we are. Annette Hall has continued to manage the Magazine Interest Group, providing us with some very interesting excerpts from various magazines at our meetings. The Writing Group has met every two months according to the established schedule. Some members' work has been published in the "Redland Researcher". Interest in the DNA Group appears to have waned of late, although Kevin is persisting.

During the year one of the Redland Genealogical Society's staunch members, Jeanne Dixon, passed away. Jeanne had performed many roles for the Society over the years and will be sadly missed.

Some initiatives during the year included a display in the Cleveland Library during Family History Month in August, the use of "The Square" for accepting payments in our Library, the addition of Membership Application, Renewal Application and Change of Details Forms to our website, the production of a QR Code, the establishment of a Problem Solving Folder in the Library and the loading of Craig Smee Databases onto Computer 3.

While I reported on an increase in membership for 2023-2024, I'm sorry to report that in the past three months there has been a definite decline in Membership. Following discussion at a recent Management Committee meeting, a strategy suggested by our Membership Officers is being trialled – the introduction of information sessions for members, especially new members. I urge our members to promote the Society in the community at every opportunity. Let's see if we can reverse the trend.

Before concluding my report I would like to acknowledge our Patron, Les McFadzen. Les took on the role of Patron following his many years as President of our Society and has continued to support the Society whenever and however he can. Thank you, Les, for your continued advice and support.

Thank you one and all for your support of the Redland Genealogical Society. It's truly appreciated. Without your enthusiasm the Redland Genealogical Society would not be the successful organisation it is. In closing, I wish those members newly elected to the Management Committee a successful year and to all members a happy and healthy year ahead.



Membership Officer's Annual Report – 2025

Russell and Jean Clarke

As reported last year our Membership numbers are still going up and down; but unfortunately, we have had a small net loss over the last 12 months. The current membership totals 113. Note, each individual of a Family membership is included in this total. For comparison last year's total was reported as 118.

Since the AGM in July 2024 to 30 June 2025, we have welcomed twenty-five (25) new members and one (1) re-joined member. This indicates a loss of thirty-one members over the last 12 months with nearly fifty percent occurring in one remarkably bad month. However, to counter that loss the greatest proportion of the new members has occurred in the last six (6) months. We look forward to increasing our membership level over the next 12 months particularly by staying in closer contact to our current members.



Display Coordinator's Report 2025

Elaine Speck

For senior's week in October 2024, the Society arranged a Manned Display at Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre. There were two shifts each day with two people on duty for each shift. Three new helpers volunteered their time. This was a great help as we also lost some of our regular members from the past. The week was a great success. Many enquiries from people who seemed genuinely interested in either starting research or getting help from us to continue what they have already done. We handed out well over 20 Visitor Information Kits and many forms as to who and where we are.

The second Display was on October 28th at the Morning Tea put on by Probus Clubs at the Redland Museum. There was a \$10 dollar fee for morning tea this time and the numbers were down. Our display was outside away from the morning tea. Many ventured outside with enquiries to where we were set up. Well worth the effort. Thanks to Eddie and Annette Richards for organizing, to Kevin and Greg for my usual backup; with Greg happily, his old self. Thank you.



Treasurer's Annual Report - 2025

Yvonne Weston

Redland Genealogical Society IncStatement of Income & Expenditure

for the year ending 30/04/2025

| INCOME | | | EXPENDITURE | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| Memberships | 3 | \$3,122.50 | Advertising | 2 | \$0.00 |
| Bank Interest | 4 | \$315.91 | Bank Fees | 3 | \$4.00 |
| DNA Interest Group | 5 | \$55.00 | Float | 4 | \$0.00 |
| Donations - attendances | 6 | \$591.00 | Fundraising-Christmas/functions | 5 | \$561.00 |
| Donations - 50/50 scheme | 7 | \$0.00 | Fundraising - raffles | 6 | \$0.00 |
| Donations - library box | 8 | \$66.10 | Fundraising - trips | 7 | \$0.00 |
| Donations - Other | 9 | \$92.10 | Library Subscriptions | 8 | \$2,287.91 |
| Library - members' purchases | 10 | \$71.50 | Insurance | 9 | \$224.26 |
| Newsletter Advertising | 11 | \$0.00 | Meeting Room hire | 10 | \$605.00 |
| Starter Kit/Work Book sales | 12 | \$0.00 | Newsletter - expenses | 11 | \$102.40 |
| Fundraising - brick wall research | 13 | \$20.00 | Postage (incl. Newsletter) | 12 | \$39.00 |
| Fundraising - bring and buy | 14 | \$0.00 | Post Office Box Rental | 13 | \$159.00 |
| Fundraising - Christmas | 15 | \$660.00 | Purchases - books | 14 | \$80.79 |
| Fundraising - raffles | 16 | \$287.00 | Purchases - CDs | 15 | \$0.00 |
| Fundraising - trips | 17 | \$0.00 | Purchases - DVDs | 16 | \$0.00 |
| Refunds | 18 | \$20.00 | Purchases - fiche/USB | 17 | \$0.00 |
| Sundries | 19 | \$8,807.27 | Purchases - furniture | 18 | \$0.00 |
| Members' badges | 20 | \$14.00 | Purchases - lib. Equipment | 19 | \$215.00 |
| Fundraising - Functions | 21 | \$0.00 | Purchases - stationery | 20 | \$150.58 |
| Grants | 22 | \$0.00 | Refunds | 21 | \$20.00 |
| Term Deposit | 23 | \$7,000.00 | Society Memberships | 22 | \$235.00 |
| | | | State Govt Fees | 23 | \$62.10 |
| | | | Sundries - Administration | 24 | \$9,026.27 |
| | | | Term Deposit | 25 | \$7,000.00 |
| | | | Members' Badges | 26 | \$70.00 |
| | | | Internet - Administration | 27 | \$138.95 |
| | | | Guest Speakers | 28 | \$0.00 |
| | | | Square Fees | 29 | \$11.59 |
| | | | DNA Resources | 30 | \$0.00 |
| TOTALS | | <u>\$21,122.38</u> | TOTALS | | <u>\$20,992.85</u> |
| Opening Balance 1/5/2024 | | \$2,703.44 | Closing balance 30/4/2025 | | \$2,832.97 |
| | | <u>\$23,825.82</u> | | | <u>\$23,825.82</u> |

STATEMENT OF CURRENT ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Bank of Queensland- Cheque Account | \$2,832.97 |
| Bank of Queensland -Term Deposit | \$7,000.00 |
| Floats held | \$60.00 |
| Advances held | Nil |

There are no liabilities.

The Association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the Association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

In accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act of 1981, Part 7, Division 2, Section 70D, Redland Genealogical Society declare that zero (\$0.00) remuneration has been paid to any member of the management committee of this association nor to any relative of the members of the management committee of this association.

Meeting date: 9 July, 2025

Treasurer

8/5/25



Librarian's Annual Report – 2025

Karen Hawkes

We have welcomed 783 members and visitors to our Genie Room, with many visitors joining on the spot after talking to our GRAs. This number is approximately the same as the previous year. Members have borrowed a total of 125 books, CDs, magazines and journals. A list of our Complete Catalogue can be viewed on our Society website, the Redland Library website and on Computer No. 3 in the Genie Room.

The Society has continued to renew our online subscriptions to: The Biographical Database of Australia, The Genealogist, FindMyPast and Roots Ireland.

Our magazine subscriptions are: Family Tree Magazine UK, Who Do You Think You Are? and Irish Roots.

We also have the benefits of our Affiliate Membership with the Genealogical Society of Queensland (“GSQ”), their subscription websites are: Fold3, Irish Ancestors, MyHeritage, Newspapers.com, Roots Ireland and The Genealogist. GSQs subscription websites are all free to access from your home computer for RGS members.

The Redland Council Library subscriptions are: Ancestry and FindMyPast with access to the 1921 Census of England and Wales. All are available to members and visitors to our Genie Room.

We had various books, journals, CDs, microfiche, USBs and Family Research donated and recommended to our Library, resulting in 30 new acquisitions. Thank you to all who have donated, including those who have donated miscellaneous items for use in our Genie Room. Our latest donation was from Julie Oakes with books, journals and two very large folders consisting of German family research from the Lockyer Valley area.

I would like to thank Georgia Bennett, the Local History Advisor, Gillian McNeill, the Local History Technician and all the Library staff for their expertise and help in supporting us in our Genie Room. We wish Georgia Bennett all the best for her future as Georgia has resigned from her Library role. We look forward to working with the new Local History Advisor.

We currently have 17 GRAs. This number is up from the beginning of the year when we only had 13. I would like to say “A very big Thank You” to all GRAs who are currently on the Team and all GRAs who have been on the Team in the past year. You are all very much appreciated for the time that you give and the knowledge that you bring to the Team and to our Society. If any Members are thinking of joining the GRA Team, you would be very much welcomed. We said our Goodbyes to the passing of a beautiful friend, mentor and fellow Member, Jeanne Dixon.

I would like to give an extra “Thank You” to Annette Hall, Russell Clarke, Malcolm Goddard, Helen Veivers, Dianne Smith, Greg Glidden and Pat McCallum for helping and supporting me in my role as Librarian.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Genie Room at the Library. Thank You.



Newsletter Editor's Annual Report - 2025

Pat McCallum

The Society's newsletter, *Redland Researcher* survived a full year following the transition from Greg Glidden's capable hands to my novice efforts during 2024/25. Not without a couple of hiccups along the way, we were able to meet our publication deadlines during the year.

The newsletter is an important way that members can demonstrate their interest and expertise as genealogists and family history researchers. The *Redland Researcher* is not just a publication to receive and read. By contributing content members demonstrate we are an active and engaged society preserving our stories in a public way. During the year there have been a growing number of members who are confidently contributing small and longer pieces for the newsletter. It is all the better for the diversity of the topics and stories told.

These included short reflection pieces like those contributed to the *Treasure Trove* section to longer pieces. *Treasure Trove* contributors included Audrey Warner, Cynthia Carson, Annette Hall, and Alison Louttit, with a couple from myself.

The longer pieces demonstrate the capabilities of members in doing deeper research into personalities and topics from their family history projects. During 2024/25, Malcolm Goddard has contributed a number of articles including those touching on military history and the local history of the Goddards. Coincidentally, Malcolm and I both produced items on

Lord Mayors, his from Brisbane and mine from Toowoomba. I included a biographical note on the remarkable George Fishburn, a rail contracting pioneer in NSW and VIC. These longer pieces were supported by additional short pieces from Helen Veivers on finding her Great Grandfather's pocket watch, and Cynthia Carson on an old document found in a book.

I want to encourage all members to consider contributing short or long articles to the newsletter during the coming year. If you have not done this before or perhaps see it as a trial akin to submitting school assignments, I can only encourage you to do something simple first, which is what I did. You can take drafts to the Writers Group or submit them to me for feedback. These can be short or long stories. They may be just snippets, reflections on a photograph or some treasure found from *Trove* newspapers at the National Library of Australia. After all, we are all coming across stories like this in our research. Publishing them in the *Redland Researcher* is just another way of sharing them. I know I get satisfaction from preserving interesting stories about interesting people who have not been written about previously. Our newsletter is issued to members, shared with other family history societies around the world and deposited in the National Library's Magazine eDeposit repository. I am hoping some more members will catch the writing bug during 2024/25.



Writing Interest Group Convenor's Annual Report – 2025

Helen Veivers

We've continued meeting in the Elders Room in the Cleveland Library. The number of attendees has been low but some excellent writing has been produced by the group.

Our meetings always start with the opportunity to write. It amazes me the diversity of ways people respond to the same writing task. Tasks have included writing about life's cold experiences on a cold, windy day in July 2024, describing a shopping centre scene in September 2024, writing a full description of a family photo in March 2025 and writing about a humorous event in our family history in May 2025.

Members have submitted some very interesting samples of their writing for others to read and critique. We learn so much from these sessions.

In July 2024 we discussed writing a Memoir. I attended a Writing workshop on Bribie Island in September 2024 and the September meeting focussed on hints for writing a family history. For the meeting in March 2025 attendees brought along a photo from their family history collection and we wrote something which put the photo in its historical context. Our May 2025 meeting concentrated on including humour in family history writing and how easy or difficult it was to do.

I'd love to have more RGS members attend our Writing Interest Group meetings. They're held in the Elders Room in the Cleveland Library on the 4th Wednesday of the months of March, May, July, September and November, commencing at 1.00pm. Why not come along!



Facebook Co-ordinator's Annual Report – 2025

Yvonne Weston

Our Facebook page has maintained a good reach over the last year, even better than the year before, and we have gained a following from Redlands residents because of the local content that has been shared or posted. Most of our followers are living either in the Redlands or in the surrounding Brisbane suburbs. However, we do occasionally attract the attention of people from overseas countries. Sharing our posts with local community groups has certainly increased our reach and hence more residents come to hear about us. I thank those members who are actively sharing these posts.

During the year we have had enquiries for assistance in research, offers of resources and requests to join our Society. All the enquires and requests have been quickly and positively attended to, some even resulting in new members joining the Society. These requests confirm that we are heading in the right direction to increase awareness of our Society. Of course, there is always more to do in this space and the hope it to attract the attention of younger people and encourage them to start their own genealogy research. This is possibly the most difficult task that the page has but we continue in those efforts.

Our 'RGS Members Chat', is a private Facebook group restricted to RGS members only, as an online forum to discuss their research and share hints and tips with the group. This group is only open to current members of our Society and

the discussions can be viewed and contributed to only by the RGS members who have become members of the private group.

This group has been particularly useful allowing members to remain in contact, discussing a variety of topics and sharing resources. It is a great platform for those who need information in between meetings or if they are unable to attend in person.



DNA Interest Group Co-ordinator's Annual Report – 2025

Kevin Hughes

The DNA Group has had a decreasing number of participants the past 12 months. This has been due to the initial group of attendees that started in March 2023 having viewed some 70 DNA associated Videos and having covered most of the basic manipulation tools that one can do to the DNA matches. There have been 7 meetings in the Elders Room at the Cleveland Library during the last 12 months with 24 members attending during that time. As a result, the form of the DNA meetings is being revised and in future we may change to more of a one-on-one type discussion as demand requires and new members receive their DNA results.



Website Co-ordinator's Annual Report – 2025

Kevin Hughes

The RGS website continues to work well. Over the past 12 months I have added 48 Exchange Genealogical Branch magazines, updated 8 Sections of the website and added four *Redland Researcher* magazines.

The added or updated RGS Sections are as follows:

- Online Membership Forms;
- Library Catalogue Lists;
- Library Bookshelf Lists;
- General Meeting Guest Speakers List;
- Benefits of Membership Application Forms;
- First Nations Peoples Research Lists;
- Websites for Genealogical Research links; and
- Unrelated Certificates List.

Sections of the RGS website are added or replaced only after the Management Committee have discussed and/or revised them.

If any RGS Members have any suggestions to add to, or improve the website, the Management Committee are more than happy to discuss them and if they agree they will be happy to incorporate the changes.



Magazine Interest Group Annual Report – 2025

Annette Hall

The Magazine Interest Group consists of those members of the Society who subscribe privately to various Family History Societies around the world. The Journals issued by these societies are circulated by the majority of the group. Once circulation is completed they are placed in our Library for the use of all RGS Members.

From the records I hold, the MIGroup was set up around 2003. Beverly Bourke was the co-ordinator at that time followed much later by Jeanne Dixon and Pat Misson. A lot of the MIG members were also GRA's and the journals were read and passed around, often at the Library or dropped in letterboxes.

Around 2021/22 there were 20 journals being circulated and between 16 and 18 members. Much smaller numbers now unfortunately.

Thank you to all members of the Magazine Interest Group, past and present for their generosity over the years.

My Father's Story – Part 1

My English side of the family

My father **Frank Cartlich Moreton** and his brother **Herbert Edmund (Bert) Moreton**

Elaine Speck

My father passed away in 1957 at the age of 46, so I don't know a lot about his life. Uncle Bert was still with us as he lived his life in Australia, always with my father and mother, having never married. In early 1988 I sat my Uncle Bert down with a tape recorder and got him to tell me what he remembered about his life as a child in England and when he and my father came to Australia.

Uncle Bert was the first born of four children to my grandparents, **Roland Edmund Moreton** and **Emily** nee **Cartlich**. He was born **Herbert Edmund** in 1909, then my father **Frank Cartlich** 1911, **Enid Emily** 1913, and **Hilda Mary** 1917. They lived between Stoke-on-Trent and Hanley in Staffordshire England.

Uncle Bert's earliest memory was when he was six years old. His parents were going to a masked ball and he was determined not to stay home with the babysitter. So they took him with them and then he cried all night at the sight of the masks. He was a very sickly child.

He had polio at 6½ which he actually contracted just after going to the masked ball. One morning he went outside to play and fell over and couldn't get up. He was in braces in bed for 3 months and had to learn how to walk again. Three other children living near them got the polio also. Six months later he developed scarlet fever caused by an open drain. He was in hospital for about two months. Just a short time after this a diphtheria epidemic started, and he caught that as well. His father was called home from the 1st WW because they thought he would not live – he brightened up as soon as he saw his father and "lived to tell the tale" - you might say. We are not finished yet. At nine years of age he was unwell again. His parents took him to outpatients several times and in the end he actually had an attack of appendicitis in the hospital. He remembered them putting gauze over his face and then they gave him chloroform. He saw sparks flying. This operation was in The Royal Infirmary in Stoke-on-Trent. He was operated on by a Japanese woman doctor. No one else in the family got any of these sicknesses.

Before the war, my grandfather, Roland Moreton, was a fireman on the railway. He then moved on to the gas company. He was in charge of the steam engines that gave gas to all the city. My grandmother Emily worked in a drapery store selling ladies dresses.

My grandfather went to war in 1916. He volunteered to go, and he was a very brave man. He spent a lot of his time in the terrible trenches in France and he came home at the end of the war with medals for bravery.



Roland Moreton (E. Speck)

The first two were standard medals. The first one was 1914/19 VICTORY MEDAL. The second 1914/1918 BRITISH WAR MEDAL. The third one PALMER STAR – a very high British medal maybe even the highest and, to top it off he won the French version of the VICTORIA CROSS called THE CROIX DE GUERRE.



Medals and memorabilia of Roland Moreton (E. Speck)

He took despatches through allied townships that had been bombed and taken over by the Germans. The two men who went before him got killed. He used to bury himself in the rubble during the day with all the Germans around him and then travel at night. I am lucky to actually have these medals along with his two shoulder badges, buttons off his uniform and a silver cigarette case that he had with him in the war.

On returning from the war he had to strip off at the front door because of all the lice and nits from the trenches. He said they used to sit in the trenches and crack them like fleas. They burned all his clothes that he arrived home in, so I guess I am really lucky to have inherited what I have. After the war he returned to his job with the steam engines.

My father Frank was an outgoing child. He got in strife with his teachers. He kicked one in the shin and his father had to take him to another school. He did do his full time at school up to age 14. He liked adventure. He

used to ride his bike up to Newcastle to visit his friends, one of them being a John Bullock, and they would ride down to Stoke-on-Trent to visit him. He rode his father's bike and one day nearly hit a tram car, ran into a post and smashed the bike. The two boys, Frank and Bert, would go to the pictures most weekends. It cost tuppence (two pennies) for both to go into the theatre.

Uncle Bert had a job on a Saturday morning delivering half-cut coal to households for which he got sixpence. He would walk at least two miles delivering the coal.

In 1919 they were at Penkhill Church School. It was a big stone building only a quarter mile from their home. My grandfather was the church Choir Master and my father became one of the main singers. He was a boy soprano at age 10 and sang solo in the choir.

My father was a very good swimmer and used to go swimming in the baths near Newcastle. My brother has a medal that he won.

Uncle Bert was "confirmed" in Hartshill Church of England at age 14 but not my father. He must have been too young. Uncle Bert left school in 1923. He had a job offered as a cabinet maker. They were all excited. His mother made him lunch and off he went. He sat there for half a day and at the end there was no job. His mother was quite upset. Next his Aunt Hilda (his father's sister) found him a job doing errands. He used to deliver groceries in a Hand Truck. He would walk at least two miles over Trenton Bridge. His next job was mixing self raising flour and bagging it. They made a paste out of the flour to close the bag.

In 1924 his father got him a job at Allermas Railway-Midland and Scottish Railway - cleaning the engines. Still with the railway, they put him on knocking up. This was waking up the drivers and firemen between 10pm and 6am. He had to knock on their doors, and they were supposed to put their heads out of the window to acknowledge that they were awake, but they just abused him. One night he bumped into some burglars trying to break into a pub. He had a big fright and he ran away. The next night his mate, who did the same job, told him he saw him running away, and they had a good laugh; a navy uniform with a peaked cap for this job.

My father had left school and was working in a butcher shop. He obviously was the adventurous one as it was his idea to come to Australia. By 1926 at age 14, he had talked his parents into letting him do just that. Uncle Bert was working on the railway during the 1926 strike. He was paid one pound a week by the Union to stay on strike. He always went to the Union meetings and my father used to say to him "I don't know how you can listen to that rubbish". One day he just got sick of it and went back to work - three days a week only. Uncle Bert decided then that he wanted to go with his brother to Australia.

They were brought out here by a Church of England Scheme. From what I can gather, there was a Church of England minister named Canon Garland who was a bush brother in Australia who would travel to England, going from church to church to recruit boys for Australia. They had a choice to go to Argentina, Canada or Australia and my father chose Australia. To join this immigration scheme, it seems they had to get a reference from the church and school. By this time my father already had his, but Canon Garland had to work on Uncle Bert's reference to get it passed because of all his sickness.



Frank before leaving England (E. Speck)

They left home on the 10.30pm train with their parents running along beside the train. Their father had made two large wooden boxes and two small boxes for their belongings, and these were sent on ahead and placed in their cabin. They arrived in London early morning and were sitting on an embankment of the Thames when a policeman came along and talked to them. He offered them a feed and took them to a café.

They came to Australia on the ship "Hobsons Bay" - a 26,000 ton Ocean Liner (this ship was sunk during the Second World War), belonging to The Aberdeen and Commonwealth Line which left from the Torquay Docks.

My father was sick the whole way on the boat, but Uncle Bert was fine. There were 36 people assigned to their table, and one night there were only 2 people waiting for dinner, Uncle Bert being one of them. The waiter said to Uncle Bert "would you like some cooked pork" and he said "sure".

The trip took six weeks, and they passed through the Suez Canal and Colombo (now Sri Lanka). The ship called into Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and then to Brisbane. My father had chosen to come to Brisbane. Most of the boys had chosen Queensland. They were put into a dormitory at Kangaroo Point. There were other boys from the Church of England, as well as the boys off their boat, in the dormitory.

(To be continued)

MY MILD-MANNERED UNCLE JOHN

What I didn't know as a child!

Dianne Smith

I first met my Uncle John about 1954 when he came to visit his brother, my father. Over the next few years he visited on and off, and when my parents wanted to go out for an evening, he would come and stay. Uncle John and I would, on many occasions, sit at the kitchen table and sort out his stamp collection. Uncle John always appeared to be a quiet and mild-mannered man and I enjoyed his company.

My Uncle, **John Fursden William Smith** was born on 5 November, 1907 in Narrandera, NSW, to John Richard Smith (1869-1916) and Minnie Florence Smith (nee Rice) (1888-1965). He was the first born child of the marriage, followed by three sisters and two brothers. The youngest brother, William Richard Samuel Smith (1916-1962) was my father who was about 8 years of age when the tragedy took place.



William R.S. and John F.W. Smith (Personal collection D. Smith)

John Fursden lived a quiet life with his family, originally in Ganmain, NSW, where his father was a Sawyer (timber worker). His father, John Richard Smith, died suddenly at the age of 42 in 1916 and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Ganmain Cemetery. The family was left destitute. John's mother, Minnie, and 5 children then returned to Tumbaramba to be with Minnie's family. She was pregnant with my father at the time. Her family didn't want the Smith family living with them as they were still producing children of their own so they were housed in another property owned by Minnie's father.

Minnie Florence Smith remarried in 1923 and had another 6 children. The family was poor, and from what I remember my father saying, the "Smith kids" did not like their step-father. John Fursden was known to look after his sisters and brothers – making sure they were dressed and ready for school, doing their hair, etc. He was highly thought of by his sisters.

On or about October, 1925, John Fursden, aged 18, was working as a Postal Officer for the GPO and had recently been transferred from Tumut to Sydney.

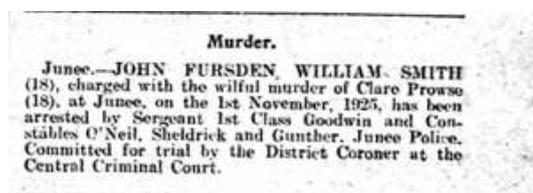
His girlfriend, Clare Prowse, (1907-1925) also aged 18, worked as a telephonist for the GPO and had recently been transferred from her home town of Adelong to Junee, NSW. The postmaster at Junee said: "She was a very fine little girl – smart and obliging, and one of the best in the service".

John Fursden resigned from his position with the Postal Department and on 30th October, 1925 left Sydney by train for his home in Tumbaramba. The following day he arrived in Junee where he booked into the Loftus Hotel for the weekend. The newspaper reports say that he purchased a razor and at a barber's shop requested that it be sharpened. He was seen around town with Clare that afternoon and evening.

On Sunday, 1st November, 1925, John Fursden went to Church twice in the company of Clare. In the evening, he walked her home from Church, kissed her goodnight and slit her throat with a cut throat razor! She staggered into the house where she was boarding and died.

Police were placed on duty at the railway station, searched shops that were open at that time and watched cars leaving the town. They also went to the hotels, making inquiries concerning strangers to Junee.

The police subsequently found John Fursden at the Loftus Hotel, in Room 11. He had attempted to kill himself with the razor and by drinking a partial bottle of iodine. He was unconscious and was taken to the Junee Cottage Hospital in a critical state. He almost died before morning, recovered later, and was conscious by midday. He was placed under police guard.⁽⁴⁾



NSW Police Gazette 2 Dec 1925 (Trove)

He was later charged with the wilful murder of Clare.⁽¹⁾ Over the next month he was nursed back to health, transported to Sydney, put on Trial at the Central Criminal Court, and in December, 1925 sentenced to death by hanging.⁽²⁾ They didn't mess around in those days!

A nurse at the Junee Cottage Hospital testified that Smith had said, "*I don't know why I did it. I took the razor from my pocket and it was all over in a few minutes. She was the only girl I ever had during the last*

two years.” He did not mention the girl’s name, but said that he cared for the girl.

The Inquest took place on 19th November, 1925 at the Junee Court House and was reported at length in *The Daily Advertiser, Junee*.⁽⁵⁾ John Fursden Smith was not represented by Counsel. Constable Gunther gave evidence regarding the finding of the girl’s body and of Smith’s arrest. He stated that Smith said to him”. *“I don’t know why I did it: if it had been another ten minutes later it would not have happened. Did she suffer much?”* Constable Gunther said “No”. Smith said: *“I bought the razor on Saturday at a paper shop and had it sharpened at a shop near the Loftus Hotel. I gave 7/9 for it (about 80 cents). I met the girl at about 7.15 at the corner of her street. We went to the Methodist Church. After Church we went for a little walk.” “We then went up the back lane and stood just inside the gate for a while. I kissed her goodnight. I put my hand in my coat pocket where I had the razor. I kissed her again and while I was doing it I cut her across the throat.”*

In the official statement given by John Fursden Smith to Constable Gunther, John also said: *“I became frightened and ran back to the hotel, and there I realised what I had done. I then attempted to take my own life by cutting my wrist and temple and by taking some iodine. I thought that was best, as I was frightened. We had previously had a little misunderstanding, but had made it up again on the Saturday night and were on the best of terms.”*

The Trial took place on 10th December, 1925. John Fursden stated during his testimony that *“I did not know what I was doing..... I had no reason for doing that to the girl – none whatsoever.”*

The Jury deliberated for approximately 15 minutes, returning with a verdict of Guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy on account of his youth. The Judge advised the Jury that *“in the case of a Capital 1 crime, such as murder, the Act allows me no latitude whatever. There is only one sentence prescribed but, of course, the recommendation will go along to the Executive, who have to consider all these questions”*. – John Fursden fainted as he was taken out of the dock.

SENTENCE: *“John Fursden William Smith, the sentence of the Court is that you be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, and that on a day hereafter to be named by His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council, you be taken to the place of execution and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul.”*⁽⁶⁾



Conviction Sheet (Personal collection of D. Smith)

The sentence of death was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment by the New South Wales Cabinet on Thursday, 7th January, 1926.⁽³⁾ Premier Lang said *“definitely that the convicted youth would spend the remainder of his life in prison”*.

He served 20-25 years at Goulburn Gaol, NSW. Unfortunately, the Gaol records have been destroyed.

On John Fursden’s release from Gaol he reconnected with his family, but did not return to Tumburumba to live. This tragedy had caused great embarrassment to the family. John moved to Sydney and over the next few years took employment as a textile worker, packer, storeman and process worker. He became engaged to be married in 1955 and was married on 17th December, 1955. On 5 May, 1960 the marriage was dissolved. Who knows if his wife knew of these events.

I lost contact with my Uncle John after my father’s death in 1962 as my Mother didn’t keep in contact with the Smith Family. I only saw Uncle John a couple of times in the years after my father’s death, before I emigrated to Canada.

Uncle John died in Sydney, NSW, on 23 April, 1974, aged 67 years and was buried at Botany Cemetery, Sydney, NSW, in an unmarked grave.

1. NSW Police Gazette No. 48, Wednesday, 2 December, 1925, page 627 – *“Murder”*.
2. No. 21315 – John Fursden William Smith – Convictions.
3. The Brisbane Courier (Qld), Friday, 8 January, 1926.
4. The Daily Advertiser, Tuesday, 3rd November, 1925 – *“Junee Tragedy, Girl’s Throat Cut, Suspect in Hospital, Coroner’s Inquiry Today”*.
5. The Daily Advertiser, Thursday, 19th November, 1925 – *“Tragic Death of Clare Prowse – Junee Coroner Holds Inquest – Smith Committed on Murder Charge”*.
6. Transcript of Trial proceedings.

Uncovering the Truth

The Hunt - Mahoney Mystery, solved by DNA research

Malcolm L. Goddard

mlgoddard@primus.com.au

Over a century ago, a child named **Ernest Hunt** was born in Oamaru, New Zealand. For generations, his true parentage was a mystery — until a modern journey of DNA and genealogy research unearthed a remarkable story involving two continents, three families, and a man whose name had vanished from family memory.

This is the story of how traditional records and modern DNA testing revealed Ernest Hunt's true parents, solving a 130-year-old mystery.



*Ernest Hunt 1891 - 1971, photo during WW2 (Served in NZEF in WW1 & WW2)
Featherston Cemetery, South Wairarapa District, Wellington, New Zealand*

Part 1: Who Was Ernest's Mother?

Ernest Hunt was born on **14 August 1891** in Oamaru. His birth certificate listed only one parent: **Emma Hunt**, age 19, of Motueka. He had no recorded father and was raised not by Emma, but by her sister **Elizabeth Temperton (née Hunt)** and her husband **Henry Ardern Temperton**.

Records show Emma returned to Motueka after the birth and married **Roland Frederick Norton Goddard** four years later in 1895. Ernest, however, remained with the Temperton's, living with them across various New Zealand towns from 1891–1911. This upbringing, it appears, shaped his identity and eventual adoption of the middle name George, first appearing in 1914 military records — most likely in honour of Henry Arden Temperton's father, George Temperton and then used throughout the rest of his life.

Ernest knew and used his own name his whole recorded life. If he had been adopted by a someone outside the

family, his name would most certainly have been changed. Including in military records prior to 24 Aug. 1915 when Ernest was in the "XII Nelson Regiment" a territorial (reserve) infantry regiment of the New Zealand Military Forces which was formed in 1911. You had to be resident in the Nelson / Motueka region to join this unit, so I believe that Ernest was living in or near Motueka and hence his mother as a 20 year old, at that time.

This is further confirmed as Ernest listed **Mrs E. Hunt, Motueka** as next of kin — further validating Emma as his biological mother. After he served in the "XII Nelson Regiment" and then enlisted for WWI in the NZEF in Napier, marrying **Agnes May McLean** (1900-- 1927) in 1919. He later married **Ophelia Wells** (1898 - 1934) in 1933 and then later **Ivy Frances Lee** (1911 - 1971) in 1935, fathering at least nine children across these three marriages.

Despite inconsistencies in later records (including his death certificate stating he was born in India and the son of "Albert Hunt"), genealogical evidence and DNA confirm Ernest was indeed Emma Hunt's son. He obviously lied to Ivy, his last wife, about his origins and place of birth, and she had no way to check, and his two children still living (Margaret and Ron) also believed that he had been born in India, as I'm sure their mother told them this story.

Ernest's mother Emma's name is further listed on his death certificate with the married name Hunt, and Goddard as her maiden name. Not many people would want to record their mother as an unmarried woman. Once again his wife Ivy would have had no way to check, and I suppose it makes him sound more interesting and exotic.

Emma Hunt (1872–1932) is now positively identified as Ernest's mother through both historical records and DNA matches connecting her Goddard descendants with those of Ernest Hunt.

Part 2: Who Was Ernest's Father?

Solving his paternity mystery took longer. DNA testing of ten of Ernest's descendants revealed unexpected links to an Irish — Australian family — the **Mahoney's** of Wallsend, New South Wales. Applying the **Leeds Method**, I grouped DNA matches into family clusters, and did this for each of the ten Hunt family members whose DNA I had.

One cluster in everyone's DNA profile consistently matched with 23 known descendants of **John Mahoney**

(1824–1900), an Irish convict sent to Moreton Bay in 1823, and his son **Edward Mahoney (1865–1909)**, born in Australia but later lived on New Zealand's West Coast in the 1880s and 1890s.

DNA matches with descendants of Edward Mahoney's siblings — including solid half-second cousin matches with **Richard Gardiner** and **Hellen Gardiner**, and shared matches with **Andrea Morris** (Hellen's daughter) , and Warner Reid their half brother and six other family members — all support the conclusion that **Edward Mahoney** was Ernest Hunt's biological father. Additional evidence places Edward Mahoney in precisely the right time and location: on the West Coast of New Zealand in the 1890s. Newspaper reports from the time mention Edward participating in boxing matches and being fined for illicit alcohol sales — colourful proof of his presence in the area.

It was now clear that **Edward Mahoney fathered at least two sons out of wedlock:**

- Ernest Hunt, with Emma Hunt, raised by her sister's family the Temperton's.
- Alfred Dreckmann, with Elise Dreckmann, raised by his grandmother Emma Dreckmann

DNA tests show Ernest's and Alfred's descendants share substantial genetic links, confirming their connection as **half-brothers**

Everyone in the chart below is related to everyone else in the chart via DNA, and all are descendants of John Mahoney of Wallsend, New South Wales in Australia'

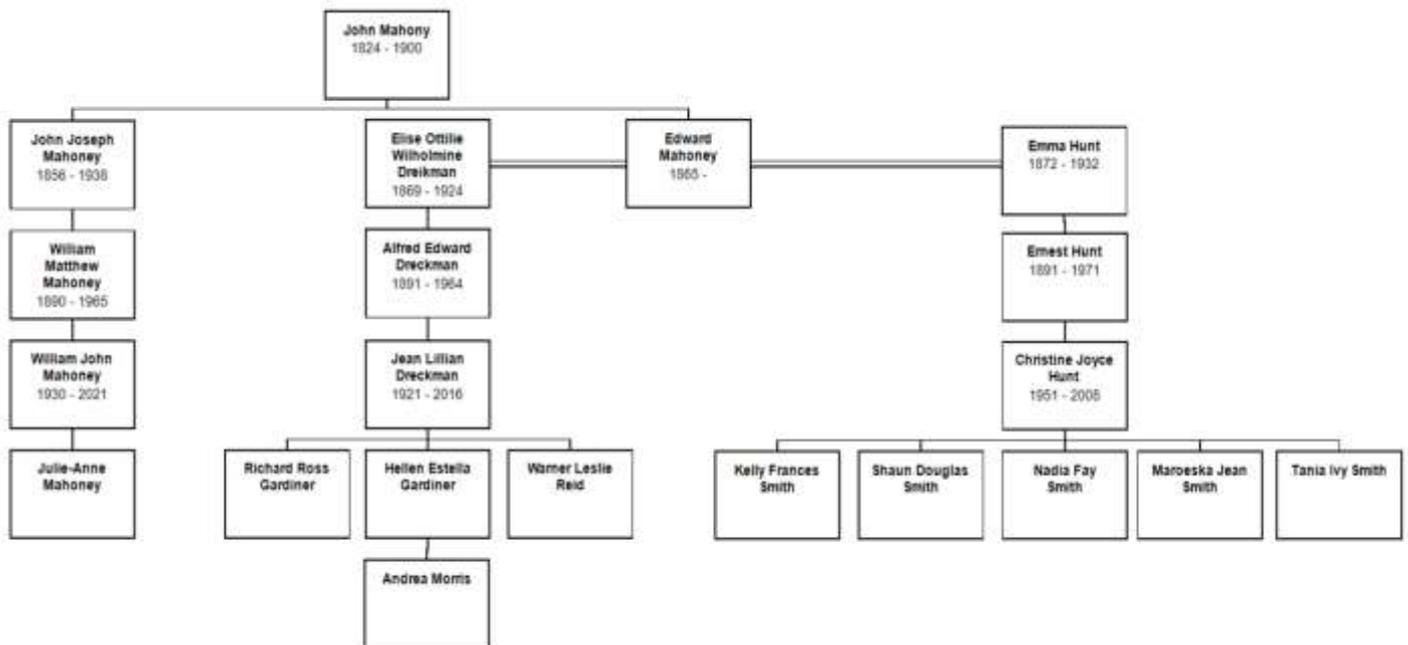


Chart of descendants of John Mahony showing lines of transmission to select matched DNA tests (M. Goddard)

A Summary of Ernest Hunt's immediate Family

Children of Ernest Hunt and Agnes May McLean (married 1919):

1. Esma May Hunt (1920 - 1999)
2. Olive Agnes Hunt (1923 - 2016)
3. Audrey Jane Hunt (1925 - 2013)
4. Lorna Antoinette Hunt (1927 - 2004)
(adopted by the Lund family)

Child of Ernest Hunt and Ophelia Wells (married 1933):

1. Stillborn Hunt (1933-1933)

Children of Ernest Hunt and Ivy Frances Lee (married 1935):

1. Ronald George Hunt (b.1936)
2. Ernest Brian Hunt (1939 - 2014)
3. Norma Frances Hunt (1941 - 2010)
4. Ivan John Hunt (1942 - 2020)
5. Margaret Fay Hunt (b.1945)
6. Ngaire Lorraine Hunt (1948 - 2005)
7. Joan Elizabeth Hunt (1948 - 2007)
8. Christine Joyce Hunt (1951 - 2008)

DNA: The Final Proof

The significant shared DNA matches across Hunt, Mahoney, Gardiner, and Dreckmann descendants leave no room for doubt. Charts built from AncestryDNA test results clearly show the genetic link to **John Mahoney** and his son **Edward Mahoney**, confirming Edward as the biological father of both Ernest Hunt and Alfred Dreckmann.

Genealogy charts, birth, marriage and military records, and over three years of solid research tied together with DNA evidence from 33 people have revealed the full truth. As we all know, **DNA doesn't lie.**

References and Sources

- New Zealand Birth, Marriage and Death (BDM) records
- New Zealand Military Service Records: Ernest Hunt (WWI & WW2)
- AncestryDNA match trees and Leeds Method clustering of
- Hunt, McFadyen, Cunningham, Dreckmann and Gardiner family records, photos and correspondence
- Newspaper articles: *West Coast Times* (1887), *NZ Truth* (1890s)
- Certificates: Birth and marriage certificates of Ernest Hunt (1891, 1919 & 1933)
- Research over 2022-2025, led by Malcolm Goddard and contributed to by numerous Ernest Hunt descendants
- Find a Grave [website](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/257986798/ernest-george-hunt).
www.findagrave.com/memorial/257986798/ernest-george-hunt

Ideas for improving the newsletter are always welcome.



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.

Reinstating listings of members research interests on a periodic basis is being considered after discussion at the General Meeting and at the Management Committee

August is Family History Month

August is designated as Family History Month to raise awareness and encourage participation in genealogy and family history research.



Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations

Together We Can Achieve Much More

<https://www.affho.org/family-history-month-events/>

The Federation website lists Family History Month Events across Australia and New Zealand in a range of formats from in person events to online seminars.

STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND

Family History Month Program details are available at <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/familyhistorymonth>

| | | |
|--------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Aug | Sweat, Strikes & Sunshine, Queensland's Working Heritage | Booking required |
| 5 Aug | Railway connections in your family history | Booking required, Online webinar |
| 11 Aug | Who's your Mob | Booking required |
| 20 Aug | Death Records: pathways to people's lives | Booking required |
| 28 Aug | Working Women | Booking required |



The National Archives of Australia has two Queensland events advertised. Details are available at <https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/queensland>.

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 19 - 22 Aug | The Irish experience in Queensland | In person seminar, reserve a spot |
| 22 Aug | The journey of a record | Online, reserve a spot |



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Wandering Through the Web

Ethical AI for Genealogists

Brenda Leyndyke

<https://www.journeytothepastblog.com/2025/04/ethical-ai-for-genealogists.html>

As genealogists and bloggers use AI in their writing and research, I believe it's important for them to provide transparency which is a foundation of good writing, especially in genealogy, where accuracy matters.

In this post, I'll explore the role of disclosure statements in genealogical writing, why transparency matters, and how I disclose the use of AI in my blog writing.

A New Cluster on the Block

Jim Bartlett

<https://segmentology.org/2025/07/25/a-new-cluster-on-the-block/>

AncestryDNA has rolled out an "auto" Cluster program. I tried it and got 8 Clusters, ranging from 3 to 9 Matches in each one. A total of 40 of my 60 Matches above 65cM. The other 20 Matches were not included because they didn't form a Cluster of at least 3 Matches. I know the Common Ancestors for each of the 40 Matches and the program clustered them 100% correctly. I'd give AncestryDNA an A+ for this new program. I'm impressed and anxious to have the ability to adjust the cM ranges downward to get more Clusters.

ChatGPT AI Fact Extractor

Steve Little

<https://chatgpt.com/g/g-KQgmxiHqC-steve-s-facts-extractor>

An add on for those wanting to process family history documentation through ChatGPT. Upload a document (e.g., wedding announcement; obituary; etc.) and extract facts in the form: "LABEL: Value". This is version 3. Also, works well with Steve's Fact Narrator: <https://chatgpt.com/g/g-5EsrFHqJ-steve-s-fact-narrator>.

Steve is an international presenter on the use of AI in family history research and has the following comments to make.

While large language models excel at pattern recognition and insight generation, TODAY they cannot (do not?) verify facts in real-time. Treat their outputs — both factual claims and their supporting references — as sophisticated research leads requiring independent verification.

When LLMs make factual claims or provide citations, always confirm through authoritative sources (which language models emphatically are NOT). Unverifiable information or references should be considered speculative rather than factual, regardless of how well-formatted or convincing they appear.

<https://bsky.app/profile/digitalarchivist.bsky.social/post/3lauyp6z7ys2w>

Ancestry's Club 1890

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/club-1890>

Club 1890 is an invitation-only offer for our most passionate Ancestry members. Curated by **Crista Cowan**, the Ancestry Corporate Genealogist, this exclusive membership offers expert resources, advanced learning, and unique events for unparalleled family history experiences. One Ancestry member who was invited and attended had the following comment:

Understandably, most people balked at the \$5,000 annual price and let their feelings known in the chat.

Some notable responses: "That's crazy" "Wayyyy too expensive" "Can't possibly afford" "Deal breaker" "I'm out!"

And my personal favorite: "Will it be 50% off for Black Friday?" ...

If there was one feature that might entice me to paying up for Club 1890 it would be access to a chromosome browser. If Ancestry ever introduced that to their subscribers it would be a game changer for my research. It is really helpful for those researching endogamous populations.

<https://bsky.app/profile/jernealogy.bsky.social/post/3lu6lymnwys2a>



North Stradbroke Island
MUSEUM
on Minjerribah

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

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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/>



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07 3286 3494

General Hours

Open 7 days a week — 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Rotary Heritage Library Hours

Open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., for research and quiet exploration.

Holidays

The Museum is closed on ANZAC Day, Good Friday, and during the Christmas period.

Upcoming Events

1 – 29 Aug, Victory in the Pacific

4 – 31 Aug, Our Armed Forces: Textiles Exhibition

<https://redlandscoastmuseum.org.au/whats-on/>

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
\$25.55 Historical Image – Download
\$25.55 Historical Source Image – Download
\$35.90 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
\$41.00 with Registration Number
\$56.00 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
\$20.00 Uncertified Historical Image - Download
\$57.50 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
\$74.00 – 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
\$69.50 Basic historical Images - 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
\$24.00 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
\$59.21 – 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
\$56.00 – 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/