

Redland Researcher



proudly supported by Redland City Council

*The newsletter of
Redland Genealogical Society Inc.*

Issue No. 159

May 2026

Redland Genealogical Society Inc.

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Patron: Les McFadzen

Management Committee 2025/2026

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Honorary Life Members

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

Past Honorary 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, 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>. Kristianne Bucknall is Redland City Council's Local History Advisor; Gillian McNeill is Local History Technician.

A Note from the Editor

Pat McCallum

Our May edition comes out too late to anticipate Anzac Day with our memories and stories. I am pleased to have included contributions for some not too late reflections on the way wars have impacted our local and family histories.

As editor I am interested that members get the support they need in producing quality content for the Redland Researcher. One pathway to completing a contribution is to workshop it with the Writing Interest Group. Attendance at its meetings has been low recently. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on how they can best be supported in their writing tasks.

It is also pleasing to include several items in this Newsletter which reference people and places in the Redlands.

I have returned from my overseas travels and can report that there are volunteers over the world who are involved in supporting genealogy societies just like ours around the world.

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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.

Copyright

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



Society Updates

Monthly Meetings

In February we were very pleased to welcome Kristianne Bucknell, the new Local History Advisor for Redland Libraries. Kristianne shared with us her approaches to organising family history notes. Kristianne is the Society's key contact with the Redland Libraries and the group welcomed her with this all-in photo opportunity.



March was time for a very useful presentation by Sean Dugger on researching Irish family history. Sean had many anecdotes from his deep experience researching family history. As I posted on BlueSky he got a laugh of recognition by repeating the quote:

"If you can't get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance,"



This was followed in April by a presentation by Tracey Olivieri on the South Brisbane Cemeteries Records. As always, it was a useful to challenge to avoid the trap of falling into a narrow approach to records. Tracey's presentation was very interesting and provided a richer appreciation of the records available. Several members have begun digging further into finding information about their ancestors based on Tracey's very useful information.



Each meeting features our Genie Clinic session which always attracts lively contributions and discussions from all members present. The clinics are an opportunity to hear about other members family history travels, problems with family history tools, and amusing anecdotes and surprises coming up in their research.

Upcoming Meeting Program

- 10 June — Inspector Melissa Anderson – Queensland Police – 12 Minutes that changed the world.
- 8 July – AGM.
- 12 August – Helen Smith – Australian Census Substitutes.
- 9 September – RGS Members – Brick Walls Discussion.
- 14 October – Terence Hendricks – President 23 Squadron – History of the 23 Squadron.
- 11 Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO – Remembrance Day
- 9 December – Christmas Celebrations.

Memberships

Russell and Jean Clarke

As we move into May it is pleasing to announce our society has again increased our total membership to a new high of 133. We gained five new members during April but had one former member resign due to inactivity. While the number fluctuates as people come and go, this is a consistent trend over the past months.

The new members came to us through a variety of contacts including friends, internet, Facebook and being mentioned at a museum event! This underlines the importance of visibility to maintaining healthy membership levels. There are people out there who have an interest and will join if they are aware of the Society's existence and the support it can give them in the family history journeys.

Membership officers have bedded down the initiative to promote retention of recently joined members. The "Tours" of the Society resources and familiarity with the Genie Room are aimed at supporting new members to appreciate the long-term benefits of membership of the Society in supporting their research but also are useful for current members who do not regularly visit the Genie Room.

New Members - February - April 2026

The Management Committee endorsed the applications from the following new members at its meetings in February, March and April 2026. A further three members were endorsed in May, and these will be acknowledged in the next edition. Welcome and welcome back.

- Kerri Hibberd
- Hennie and Miempie Coetzer
- Helen Watts
- Joy Lewis
- Michelle Collins
- Heather Clark rejoined
- Sue Skinner rejoined
- Arlexia Brownjohn
- Paul Callender
- Stuart and Debbie Edmands
- Claire Ferguson
- Barbara McAndrew
- June Gangloff and Jaime Tong

Facebook

Yvonne Weston

In April, we reached 8,886 people who had a total of 25,494 views, a significant increase from previous results. We had 21 posts during the month. We have

increased our followers to 436, continuing our gradual upward trend.

As always, our most popular posts continue to be our Monday Murmurings from 3,403 views to 8,013. A fantastic overall result. It is clear that people are keeping an eye on what we are doing on a weekly basis.

Please feel free to share our posts to your friends and other Facebook groups. The more exposure we have, the better. We are still getting likes from non-members, so this tactic is at least getting us greater exposure.

A 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 related to furthering our endeavours to break down those pesky brick walls and build our family trees or genealogy research in general. We have had a few requests to join from non-RGS members and after some direct messaging, this may eventuate in new RGS memberships.

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. Just remember, if I am away so it might take a day or so to be approved.

'The Goat Lady' Inquiry

The Society recently received an inquiry about 'The Goat Lady'. That we received this inquiry underlines the importance of the visibility of the services we can offer to the Redlands Coast community. To those who do not know, Isabella Alcock (sometimes Porter) lived in a small run-down farm on acreage adjacent to Birkdale Road where she tended her goats and sometimes warded off unwanted intruders with a shotgun. Her home has been demolished to make way for the white-water rafting stadium for the 2032 Olympics. Member's local knowledge, research skills and web presence on Facebook were able to piece together some of the evidence to unravel the mystery of Isabella's alternative identities.

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.

BlueSky

With the support of the Management Committee, the Society has created a profile on BlueSky. BlueSky is an alternative social media platform to Twitter, which has lost its reputation as a safe place to share sentiments and ideas on the internet (called microblogging). BlueSky is a not-for-profit open format platform which was originally developed within Twitter but was taken private by its developers led by Jay Graber. She was the CEO and is now the Chief Innovation officer. With apologies to Sean for misspelling his name.



This is a passive presence for the Society and directs people to our website. It is currently maintained by the Newsletter Editor and serves a different purpose from our very active Facebook presence. For members who join BlueSky, they will find useful family and local

history, and genealogical society accounts amongst the 25 followers and following accounts.

Writing Interest Group

The attendance for the Writing Interest Group has been low in recent times. The next meeting is due on 27 May 2026. The Society is interested to receive input on what the most useful purpose this group can provide for members as they document the results of their family history research. You can provide this input through raising suggestions at a General Meeting or by discussing your ideas with the convenor, Helen Veivers.

Recognition of member contribution

At our April meeting, member Dawn Montgomery advised that the Ryerson Index has hit 10 million updates. The Index was originally Funerals and Deaths, and has now added Funeral Director records, Probate and stories about Deaths. Dawn has been involved in transcribing records for the Ryerson Index for 11 years. Thanks Dawn.

Upcoming Gatton Trip

The trip to the Gatton and District Historical Society Museum Village and Research Room for our Society will take place on Wednesday 20th May 2026. The arrangements will be covered at the May General Meeting and final numbers will be taken.



From the Genie Room

"Where RGS lives"

Karen Hawkes, Librarian

Its already May! Have you visited our Genie Room this year? These are times when we can't afford all the subscriptions available to access records for our research. There is a wealth of resources and our willing Genies who turn up rain hail or shine to assist you in your research. 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 the Complete Catalogue can be found on Computer No: 2 in our Genie Room, also on our Website, and on the Redland City Council Library Website for you to browse.

Our Society subscribes to the following sites, all freely accessible in our Genie Room –

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| *FindMyPast | *RootsIreland |
| *Biographical Database of Australia | *The Genealogist |

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

Also, a reminder that Books and CDs from our Collection can be borrowed only by RGS MEMBERS and MUST BE WRITTEN INTO THE BORROWING BOOK and ALSO CHECKED OUT THROUGH THE REDLANDS LIBRARY SYSTEM.

The Redland City Council Library subscriptions are – Ancestry and FindMyPast with access to the 1921 Census of England and Wales, both are available to Members and Visitors in our Genie Room.

We also have the benefits of our Affiliate Membership with the Genealogical Society of QLD (GSQ), their subscription sites are –

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| *Irish Ancestors | *RootsIreland |
| *MyHeritage | *The Genealogist |

GSQs subscription sites are all free to access from your home computer for RGS Members.

The Banking Square is available for use in the Genie Room however there is a limited number of GRAs with access to this App. If making Membership payments in cash, it would be appreciated you attend with the correct cash notes as we do not have a Petty Cash Float in the Genie Room.

New Acquisitions

Members and other recognise the value of books and materials in their possession which they are willing to make available to others undertaking their research. There is a generous spirit of sharing through donations to the Society library. The following recent donations are gratefully acknowledged.

- 3 Books Donated by Julia Oakes.
 - Grandchester Cemetery.
 - St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery Hatton Vale. Author for both – Leisha Muir.
 - The 150th Year Reunion of the Descendants of the Migrants who Sailed into Moreton Bay on the Ships SS Fortitude, Chaseley and the Lima from England in 1849. Author- Kevin Dickson.
- 2 Books Donated by Dawn Montgomery.
 - How to Write your Personal History. Author- J. Malan Heslop and Dell Van Orden.
 - Writing Life Stories. How to Make Memories into Memoirs, Ideas into Essays and Life into Literature. Author- Bill Roorbach.
- 180 Stories 180 Years. Voices and Lives from the Nundah Historic Cemetery. Commemorating 180 Years. 1846-2026. Author- The Friends of the Nundah Historic Cemetery. Donated by Karen Hawkes. THANK YOU to all who have donated.

We currently have 17 GRAs. If you would like to join the GRA Team, please contact the Librarian. The next GRA Meeting will be Monday 25th May 2026 at 10am at the Cleveland Library.

PLEASE NOTE: this Meeting and future GRA Meetings for 2026 will be held in Meeting Room No: 2 at the Cleveland Library not in the Elders Meeting Room.

I would like to Thank all GRAs for their Time, Knowledge and their Dedication in Our Genie Room especially those who have filled in to do extra Duty Days and extra tasks. Also, Thank you to Malcolm Goddard for his expertise with extra Researching and the Donation of a Computer for our Genie Room.

Looking forward to seeing all Members and Visitors in our Genie Room.

Was Great Grandma Born in a Woolshed?

Russell Clarke

On a recent trip to New Zealand, touring mainly by bus, we passed through the small town of Waihola, about 40km southwest of Dunedin in the Otago District. I immediately thought - this is where my Great Grandmother, Agnes Foot, was born in 1863. Unfortunately, I had not examined her birth certificate purchased some years ago before this holiday, but I was confident in the main details.

I could not check the facts until I got home, and the bus would not stop, so all I could do was visit the Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin to try and learn a little about 1860's Otago which, unsurprisingly, was all about gold.

A little bit of family history is necessary to see how this birth occurred in New Zealand.

John Foote (the 'e' appears irregularly on various records) was born in Preston, Sussex, which is now part of Brighton and Hove. He was baptized on 2 February 1824 in the Cavalry Barracks where his father, Richard, was a Corporal with 7th (Queens Own) Hussars. Susanna Reynolds was born in Christchurch, Middlesex about 1825 but there are several births around that time with the same (or variations of) that first name. Also, her age varies between various documents (census, shipping records) making it difficult to select the right person, but I am still working on it!

John and Susanna married at Bethnal Green most likely in July 1847 as the banns were issued in late June and up to 11 July 1847 with her name given as Susan. They soon had two children, Richard (1848) and Ellen Elizabeth (1850). The 1851 Census finds them still in the Bethnal Green area with John's occupation given as Licensed Hawker and Susanna as a Cloth Cap Maker.

On 8 July 1852 the family arrived at Hobsons Bay, Victoria, on the ship *Emma Eugenia*. John's occupation on the ship's passenger list is given as blacksmith – a sudden change!! Little is known about the family after

their arrival, although it is reasonable to assume gold would have been somewhere in the mix. Further children followed; namely, John (1853), William (1857) and Susannah (1861).

In April 1862 the family arrived at Port Chalmers near Dunedin, New Zealand on the ship *Eureka*. It seems they returned to Hobsons Bay in November 1864 on the ship *Aldinga* along with young Agnes, although she is not listed as a passenger.



Deveril, Herbert, 1840-1911 : Photograph of Woolshed Valley, Otago, showing the railway bridge over the South Tokomairiro River (National Library, New Zealand)

Once home I checked the birth certificate which showed Agnes was born on 20th February 1863 at Woolshed Tokomairiro (a locality in Otago). The birth was registered at Waihola on 16th April by her sister Ellen who is shown as a resident of Waihola. A little research soon found Woolshed was the name of a goldfield in the Tokomairiro area, so it is more likely Agnes was born in a tent or a rough timber hut located on the Woolshed goldfield. There is a Registrar's note on the birth certificate which says, "for Woolshed read Waihola". This was a note I had tended to ignore once I had the main dates, but it proves you need to read these documents carefully!!

So, technically I was correct when on that bus passing through Waihola.

REGISTRAR'S RETURN OF ALL BIRTHS IN THE REGISTERED-DISTRICT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHERLAND

No.	When Born, and Where.	Name of Inf.	Sex.	Name and Residence of Father.	Name and Residence of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Registerer, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registerer.	Name of Child after Registration of Birth.
149	20 th February Woolshed, Tokomairiro	Agnes	F	John Foot do	Susanna Foot formerly Reynolds	Laborer	Ellen Foot Sister - Waihola Tokomairiro	April 16 th	Alexander Brown Registrar	In entry 149 in books read Waihola Alexander Brown Registrar

Copy of Birth Register entry for Agnes Foot (from the collection of Russell Clarke)

Legacy at Eprapah

In May 1928, in an area now known as Victoria Point (then Redland Bay), a transfer of land title created an enduring sanctuary for native animals and flora. The 96-acre property, located near the banks of Eprapah Creek, was just off the track linking Cleveland to Redland Bay. Koalas which had survived Queensland's notorious 1927 open season on koalas with intact pelts, could now live in peace and raise their young. Possums scurried around the tree-tops and turtles blew bubbles in the clear water. Pythons prevailed. A platypus was possible too.

On the rich red soil country on the northern side of Boundary Street, bordered by Broadwater Terrace and Dart Streets, at Redland Bay lived a farmer and his wife. Before World War I he had been a jeweller. A mere fifteen years after the Wright brothers first flight, he was working on biplanes used for reconnaissance, bombing missions and mounted machine gun aerial 'dog fights'. His time abroad in the AIF Australian Flying Corp as an air mechanic had irrevocably changed how he saw the world.

In 1918, towards the end of the War, the Allies on the Western Front in France were pursuing a retreating German army. In order to cross the Somme River, the German strategic defence at the riverside bend of Mont Saint-Quentin needed to be broken. On the day the nearby French town of Péronne began to fall into Australian hands, a 26 year old Brisbane stockbroker named Robert Henry Monteith was killed in action. Of the 17 000 Australians engaged in this battle, 3000 were either killed or wounded. When Monteith enlisted, his papers were marked "not for infantry", but war changes many things. The Armistice ending the war was signed just weeks later.

A member of a prominent Brisbane family, Charles Smethurst Snow was born in Brisbane on 20 September 1882 to English migrant Charles William Snow and local Lucy Emily Garn. He was given the middle name Smethurst after his grandmother on his father's side. Elizabeth Snow (nee Smethurst) who also migrated to Australia, died in Queensland in 1908.

His father and uncle ran Snows Jewellers (locally known as Snow Bros), a shop in Queen Street, Brisbane, where Charles learnt his trade. They lived in a lovely two storey brick house built by Charles Sr. called 'Leckhampton' at 59 Shafston Avenue, Kangaroo Point. This property still stands and is now heritage listed.

Cynthia Carson

The family were closely associated with Saint Mary's Anglican Church, Main Street, Kangaroo Point. C. S. Snow was a musician, organist and choirmaster. In around 1909, he successfully built his own organ. When he returned from WW1 it was gone!

Snow was inspired by the work of Robert Baden-Powell who held his first experimental



camp for boys on Brownsea Island in southern England in 1907. In August 1908, Snow formed one of Queensland's first Scout patrols, made up of boys from the choir and church boy's club, who were being bullied by local lads. The First Scout troop, 1st Kangaroo Point, with Charles Snow as Chief Scoutmaster, was officially recognised in 1909 under the Queensland Section of the Australian League of Boy Scouts—a controlling body which he helped establish.

As the movement burgeoned, Snow became Chief Commissioner Boy Scouts, Queensland in 1925, and was awarded a King's Jubilee Medal for his work in 1935.



C. S. Snow, Founder of Scouting in Queensland

Henry Monteith was a Scotsman, who migrated to Australia in the late 1800's, marrying Kate Rose Waldie at Bowen Hills, Queensland on 27 August 1890. Their son Robert Henry Monteith, known as Bob, was born a little over a year later. They went on to have a daughter Hester in 1894.

Monteith was Chairman of Directors of Brisbane Newspaper Company Limited, which published The Brisbane Courier between 1864-1933. This is now



known as The Courier-Mail. He was also a stock broker and founder of the Brisbane Stock Exchange.

In 1918, a great sorrow shook the family. Their only son and heir apparent to the stockbroking business, Bob, was killed whilst

serving in the 26th Battalion AIF at the battle of Mont Saint-Quentin in Northern France. He'd been at war for three years and was 26 years old. He was survived by his parents and sister Hester¹.

Although Bob had not been a Scout, Henry and his wife gave a bequest of £5000 to the Boy Scouts Association, Queensland Section, in memory of their son. The money was to be "Used in training of Scouters and in assisting poor and needy Scouts to establish themselves in careers". Hence, the Monteith's gave to the sons of others after their own son was lost to them. The Bob Monteith Memorial Fund Trust was set up in April 1928.

After his war service, C. S. Snow married at the age of 41 on 19 January 1924. He wore his Scoutmaster's uniform! By 1925, Charles Smethurst Snow was living at Redland Bay with his wife Una Catherine Snow (nee Gibson). They went on to have two children Peter Charles and Beatrice Annie (Anne) Snow².

Snow had run training for Scout leaders since 1913. Snow's local connections and knowledge drew his attention to a 96-acre site on the corner of Cleveland-

Redland Bay Road and Colburn Avenue, Redland Bay. He advocated for the purchase of this land as a suitable training ground for the Queensland Scouts and their leaders.

Some of the Monteith's bequest (£200) was used to buy the site, in 1928 from Percival Pitman Outridge (a Scoutmaster) for use as a leader training centre. This became referred to as "Erapah Training Grounds". World Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell (Olave St Clair Baden-Powell nee Soames), World Chief Guide, subsequently visited this facility in March 1931. Lord Baden-Powell famously, on request, left his footprint in wet cement! Not long afterwards, on 15 April 1931, an adjoining 34 acres bordering on Erapah Creek and Colburn Avenue³, also became Scout property, extending the site.

Leader training, and the original footprint, were eventually relocated to Baden-Powell Park, Samford after its purchase in 1953.



Erapah entrance gate c. 1930's (Used with permission, Redland City Council (2014), Redland City Plan 2018 – Heritage Card 424)

The natural environment has been at the heart of the Scouting movement since its inception. Baden-Powell believed "The man who is blind to the beauties of Nature has missed half the pleasure of life". He told the boys, "As a Scout, you are the guardian of the woods. A Scout never damages a tree by hacking it with his knife or axe. It does not take long to fell a tree, but it takes many years to grow one, so a Scout cuts down a tree for a good reason only—not just for the sake of using his axe. For every tree felled, two should be planted".

In more recent times these values have married well with modern views on protecting and improving biodiversity, learning about ecosystems and living sustainably.

¹ Hester later married Clarence (Bill) Marmaduke Wilson, a stockbroker who joined with her father to run the business. Their two sons John Henry and Robert also became successful stockbrokers and financiers.

² Anne Snow later married Dr Bernard Stone (CSIRO), who became the first Branch Commissioner for Conservation, Scouts Queensland. Anne actively assisted her husband in his role, which was closely associated with Erapah.

³ Land previously belonging to Outridge's wife Esther.

Since its acquisition, the site, off Colburn Avenue and bounded to the north by Erapah Creek, has formed part of an important wildlife corridor. It has rainforest, riparian and estuarine ecosystems. It was named the Charles S. Snow Environmental Centre in 1973 after the Chief Commissioner Boy Scouts (1925-1943) who had lived locally. Charles Smethurst Snow was held in very high regard, as an excellent communicator and teacher. He is remembered as the 'father' of Scouting in Queensland.

The Scout-owned property is the first SCENES site in the Southern Hemisphere – SCENES are Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature, Environment and Sustainability. The site is devoted to training Scout leaders and youth in environmental conservation. It may be the only SCENES site in the world dedicated solely for Scout use.

The Monteith's bequest endures in 39 hectares of bushland, which remain a haven for local flora and fauna, against a backdrop of surrounding urbanisation and strong traffic flows. And, since 1928, Scouting camps at Erapah have fostered a love of nature, mixed with education, fun and friendship. In October 2022, the two land parcels, purchased in 1928 in memory of a fallen soldier, and some nearby Redland City Council owned land, were listed on the Redland City Council's heritage register. The site was, and still is, integral to the Scout movement's role in teaching respect for the environment to generations of Queensland children. Subsequently, this knowledge is passed onto their descendants, encouraging entire families to value and nurture the natural world.

On Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day it is easy to blithely say 'Lest We Forget', but it is harder to know and remember the lost consequences of past conflicts. Sometimes there is even a wonderful legacy born from heartache.

Dedication: *This article is dedicated to the memories of Lieutenant Robert Henry Monteith 16 October 1891 to 2 September 1918 (26th Battalion, A.I.F. killed in action) and Corporal Charles Smethurst Snow 20 September 1882 to 7 June 1953 (Australian Flying Corps, No. 1 School of Navigation and Bomb-dropping).*



Soldiers from a machine-gun position established in the fighting in the ruins of Péronne, photographed on 2 September 1918.

Acknowledgement

The assistance of the Erapah Scout Fellowship in providing background and an image of C. S. Snow as a Scoutmaster is gratefully acknowledged.

Images

- C. Snow, one of the soldiers photographed in *The Queenslander Pictorial, Supplement to The Queenslander*, 10 April 1915. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- C. S. Snow as a Scoutmaster, photo, date unknown, Scouts Queensland archives, at 'Mungara' Erapah. Rephotographed 6 March 2026.
- Erapah entrance gate c. 1930s (2014), Redland City Plan 2018 – Heritage Card 424, Redland City Council
- (2018). *Portrait of Lieutenant R.H. Monteith, photographed in The Australasian Traveller*, 6 December 1916. John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- Soldiers from a machine-gun position established in the fighting in the ruins of Péronne, photographed on 2 September 1918, digital image, Accession Number E03183, Australian War Memorial. <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/1918/battles/mtstquentin> ; accessed 6 March 2026.

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- Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980. (2010). Years 1908, 1919, 1925, 1926, 1932, 1936 and 1943. <https://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 10 March 2026.
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STATE LIBRARY¹ QUEENSLAND

Dearly Departed: death in life

About the exhibition

Death is a universal experience. It will come to us all. Yet the way we confront, discuss, experience and ultimately reckon with death, and the realities of dying, varies enormously. Culturally diverse traditions and practices around death offer unique insights into how communities around the world honour and mourn their loved ones, shaping vastly different experiences and understandings of life's final chapter.

Throughout the 20th century, death became a quiet taboo; something rarely spoken of, despite touching every life. Positioned at the powerful intersection of history, art and emotion, *Dearly Departed* encourages audiences to reflect on what it means to live well, die well and honour those who came before us. It reframes death not as an ending, but as a profound and enduring part of Queensland's living story.

Innovative, accessible, and deeply human, *Dearly Departed: death in life* invites visitors into a bold exploration of mortality across Queensland's past, present and future. Through rich historical insight, evocative artistic interpretation and interactive design, the exhibition sparks meaningful conversation about life, death and the memories we hold.

Free exhibition

Until 23 August 2026

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday

10am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday

State Library of Queensland Gallery, level 2

Behind Brick Walls – Expect the Unexpected

Esther Johnson and ‘Yankee Charlie’ – Part 2

aka ‘Yankee Charlie’

Pat McCallum

This is Part Two of my story about Esther Johnson, my 2nd great grand aunt; the sister of my 2nd great grandmother Jane (Johnson) Smith. Part One appeared in the Redland Researcher 158, February 2026.

During her time while in New Zealand, from the late 1860s to the time of Charles John Hickey Sibree's death in 1880, Esther Johnson's life was intertwined with that of Sibree, also known as ‘Yankee Charlie’. We are not certain who Yankee Charlie actually was. As they say there are two certainties in life, death and taxes. I doubt if Yankee Charlie paid many taxes. So, the better course seems to be to tell as much of his story as can be found by starting with his death.

In contrast to the notoriety he would achieve while alive, Charlie was laid to rest in 1880, in an unmarked grave in the company of other more reputable internees. In a further sign of disrespect, the cemetery was vandalised more than a century later and his most notorious exploit was ‘exhumed’ for re-examination in the reporting on this intrusion into his otherwise peaceful rest.

Nearby, in an unmarked grave, Charles Sibree is buried. Known as “Yankee Charlie,” Sibree came to New Zealand via

the Australian goldfields. In 1872 the man was arrested for the murder of Thomas Costello at Boatman's but was later released. Seven years later he was rearrested and again got off due to insufficient evidence; the body of Costello was never found. Less than a year later, when he was 50, Sibree died of cancer.

**Orowati Cemetery vandalised - 1989:
The Gates of Heaven and Hell⁴**

Charlie died in the Westport Hospital, New Zealand, on 3 February 1880. His death certificate gives the following life facts. He was born in New York, U.S.A., and was 50 years of age. With an apparent birth year about 1830. He was a carpenter who had been in New Zealand 14 years (arriving about 1866). He was married to Esther Josephine Kent at Westport when he was 38 (implying 1868). The formal marriage was not until 1874. It is possible that Esther was the informant on his death, although that is not recorded, and that she has counted years when she was living with Charlie in a de-

facto relationship. He had one son, with Esther. The son's age is not recorded.

Charlie's cause of death was cancer of the stomach. Two accompanying conditions were recorded, Pyloria and Marasmus. Both conditions are consistent with poor nutrition, a complication of his cancer and points to a long and difficult decline. Interestingly, pyloria is a condition often including mood swings.

Charlie's life in New Zealand over the 14 years from his arrival in about 1866 to 1880, was dominated by his connection to the death in 1872 of Thomas Costello at Boatman's Creek on the Buller Road above Westport. However, it was not long after his arrival that he came to the attention of authorities. In late 1866 or early 1867, Charles Sibree and Joseph Westwood were two of four men up before the Resident Magistrates Court at Fox's River in the Buller District on the West Coast gold fields on the charge of obtaining goods on credit falsely claiming they had struck payable gold. In an indication of his brash attitude to these types of proceedings, Charlie first argued for dismissal as he had been in the lockup for two weeks and did not have enough time to prepare his defence. The case was dismissed. Charlie, not for the only time, was released without conviction. The picture from the court report suggests that Charlie may have been what used to be called ‘a clever Dick’ who was not intimidated by the legal processes.

The gold rushes in the Buller District likely attracted Charlie away from the Victorian goldfields. His activity on the Fox's River was probably his first efforts on arrival before he moved north to Westport. While a carpenter by trade, he was also a fortune seeker like many others.

It would not be long before Charlie was living with Esther Kent. While Esther, her husband and two daughters all came to New Zealand from the Victorian goldfields, Esther appears to have settled early at Westport while her husband and children were reported to be in Auckland. In any case, William Kent died in 1867, and Esther was now a widow.

In September 1869, Charlie and Esther were living in a house in the neighbourhood of the Westport Cemetery. A news report had Charlie, Esther and a friend Robert

⁴ Press, 15 April 1989, Page 26.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/CHP19890415.2.126.3>

Accessed on 5 Mar 2026.

Cassells enjoying each other's company over a few drinks on a Tuesday morning. Things went awry when Cassells, who lived nearby in a tent, took off with the meat Esther had cooked. The scene although not complete suggests a weekday when not much else was happening, with the three acquaintances whiling the time away.

It was in 1869 that Esther had a son called Charles Patrick Sibbery Kent, later to change to Sibree. This adds credence to the note on Charlie's death certificate that they were in a relationship from about 1868 and that Charles Patrick was the unnamed son.

By 1870, Charlie was now living in the wharf district of Westport with Esther, he was known to be a carpenter. Esther was suspicious of the intentions of at least one of the women who frequented the dock areas of Westport. Anne Connolly who had drawn Esther's ire by coming to her house, defended herself by saying she was there to ask Charlie to help her move a house. It would appear that Charlie was a bit of a 'ladies man' with a dark side to his character. It was Esther and not Charlie, who was keeping the house they were living in in the wharf district. This premises may also have been a base for women working the streets of the district.

In a dramatic turn of events, Charlie was charged with murdering Thomas Costello on 31 July 1872, and burying his body at Boatman's Creek. No body was found. A version of the incident combining accounts was that Charlie struck Costello with an auger, emptied his pockets and dumped his body in a canvas bag, first in a tree hollow, and then in a culvert under a bridge he had been working on with Costello, before taking it back to the tree hollow. The initial reports that implicated Charlie in the death of Costello were from Martin Mullins who heard a remorseful tale from "Yorkey" while Mullins and Yorkey were at Larry's Creek on the night of 14 August 1872. The search for Costello's body was unsuccessful. Charlie was released for lack of evidence. However, the suspicion of his involvement remained.

In what should have been a welcomed and happy event in his life, in 1874, Charlie 'made an honest woman of' Esther Josephine Kent who was also the mother of his child Charles Jr. However, the more cynical and perhaps better-informed commentators believed that the marriage was a strategy by Charlie to stop Esther telling what she knew about the death of Costello. Esther was perhaps more committed to the marriage than Charlie at this time, and later in the year let her emotions loose when she found her 'Charlie Darling' at Maguire's Hotel 'pitching to the barmaid'. Enraged, she

tried to scare him into coming home and smashed a window in the process. She was convicted and fined.

Charlie was by this time getting work as a contractor putting his trade skills as a carpenter to good use. His close shave on the charge of murdering Costello was no impediment to his getting work as a contractor. In March 1875, Charlie was successful in tendering for the construction of the Orowaiti Lagoon Bridge. This would be a simple rough wood girder bridge with handrails. Charlie ended up in court pressing for payment for additional work he performed. His impatience led the Principal Engineer to call him an 'antiquated ass' for pursuing his claim through litigation, when he should have known the claim would take time to process.

In 1875 Charlie issued the following public notice.

NOTICE.

I HEREBY CAUTION any one from Trusting MRS SIBREE, as I will not be answerable for any debts she may contract.

CHARLES J. H. SIBREE.

Public Notice 22 October 1875⁵

It is not clear whether Charlie's purpose was to protect the earnings from his contracting business or to isolate himself from having responsibility for Esther's costs in keeping house to which he might have contributed to previously.

Charlie's contracting business was stalled when he was charged with maliciously wounding John Ryan by kicking him and breaking his jaw on the night of the 30 May 1876 at the Ship Hotel at Westport.

Evidence was given that Charlie was leaning against the door outside and Ryan shoved against him. Charlie then shoved him down and after that kicked Ryan in the jaw in a cowardly manner. Shortly after this Charlie complained of the conduct of Ryan towards his wife. Charlie gave evidence in his own defence stating he did not intentionally kick Ryan and admitted that he believed that Ryan had previously gone into his house and attacked his wife, tearing at her clothes, before his wife fought him off and forced him out. The jury, on a short retirement, returned a verdict of guilty of maliciously wounding. Prisoner was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour. His claim to be defending Esther's honour did not sway the Court to leniency.

From 1876 to 1878 Charlie served his sentence at Nelson goal. It was not a happy homecoming for Charlie. The enforced separation did not improve the deterioration in his relationship with Esther. His attitude

⁵ Westport Times, Volume IX, Issue 1326, 22 October 1875, Page 2.
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WEST18751022.2.12.1>.
 Accessed 5 Mar 2026.

became abusive. Esther does not appear to have welcomed his re-entry to her life at Westport.

Against these circumstances, Esther broke the conspiracy of silence around the death of Costello and approached police with an offer to identify the location of Costello's body. She claimed she had helped to bury the body three times to elude the police, successfully at the time. And so, on 19 February 1879, Charlie was rearrested for Costello's murder.

When arrested at his own house by Mr Carruthers and Sergeant Brown, the accused made no answer to the charge, save that it was "all right," and saying that he would go with the police without being handcuffed; but it, was considered advisable to thus secure him.

He was brought before the R.M. and remanded for eight days, during which time the police will gather all available information for the trial. Sibree, since his discharge from custody in 1872 ... he went to Reefton thence to Greymouth, and came back to Westport to work on the Stop Bank Relief Channel, when that work commenced, and we understand that nearly every time he has been in town recently himself and wife have been quarrelling; at the present time Mrs. Sibree's face shows the effects of brutal treatment.⁶

Charlie hardly demonstrated concern in the face of his re-arrest. He was perhaps well-prepared knowing Esther's intention. He resorted to his brash swagger after being unable to dissuade her with physical threats and violence. Esther went through with her threat and travelled with investigators to Boatman's Creek to locate the body.

The Inspector said that the investigation he had made showed not the slightest ground for believing the statement of the prisoner's wife, upon which alone the man had been apprehended. The prisoner accordingly was discharged.⁷

It was key to Charlie's attempts to defeat the charge that the body would not be found. It is hard to ignore the speculation that he knew it would not be found on Esther's information, possibly because it had been buried for a fourth time without her knowledge. With no body, societal attitudes against wives turning on their husbands kicked in and the credibility of Esther's eye-witness testimony was dismissed in the investigation and was never put to test in a trial. At this time Charlie was seriously ill and would pass away nine months' later after a protracted illness.

Soon after his death, more details came to light about Charlie's life before his arrival in New Zealand in the late 1860's. He is presented as a larger-than-life figure, in a

depiction that may be a composite of more than one newsworthy character.

*The Hokitika Star states :—" We have received some particulars of the career of Charles Sibree, the man charged with the murder of Costello, in the Inanguhna district, which may serve to identify him to old Victorians and West Coasters. Our informant first knew Sibree as the lessee of the Pavilion Theatre at Inglewood, when he was known by the name of **Charles Wallack, the American comedian**. He afterwards joined a travelling theatrical troupe, and next appeared as "**Sprightly**" to a conjuror rejoicing in the name of Professor Eagle. Subsequently he changed his name to **Charles Stanley**, and was for some time connected with the Wangaratta Dramatic Club. Next, he became barman to a publican named Hugh Boxborough, at **Donnelly's Creek, Gippsland**, and then appeared as **a doctor at Stringer's Cheek**. He then turned up in New Zealand, at Charleston, on the West Coast, where he got himself within the meshes of the law for fraud in connection with the discovery of a supposed quartz reef. Since then he has been well known at Westport, where he has been living with a woman known as Soldier, probably the woman who gave the information to the police which resulted in his arrest.⁸*

The source of this information is a mystery in itself. It does not appear to have been Esther but may have been their son. The broad range of the details suggest someone with a long association with Charlie or who had done in-depth investigations of Yankee Charlie over an extended period of time.

Was he Charles Wallack?

Wallack was a name in theatrical circles locally and internationally in the 1800s. The family was prominent in New York where Charlie was said to be born. A Charles Wallack, one of this family, died in New York in 1855 aged 35. His birth year would have been 1820. This Charles Wallack was principally involved in the administrative side of the theatre business.

A Mr. H. J. Wallack, Charles' uncle, well known English actor and former manager of the Princess' Theatre, London arrived in Australia during January 1861, performed at Ballarat and departed with a number of theatrical and musical professionals later in 1861.⁹ The veteran comedian W. H. Wallack, who was the family patriarch was also active in Victoria at the time. Indeed a Mr. Wallack, an American comedian took over management of the Pavilion Theatre, Inglewood in June 1860. But which Mr. Wallack was this?

⁶ Westport Times, Volume XIII, Issue 1639, 21 February 1879, Page 2. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/WEST18790221.2.11>. Accessed 6 Mar 2026.

⁷ Evening Post, Volume XVII, Issue 362, 7 March 1879, Page 2. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP18790307.2.15.7>

⁸ Lyttelton Times, Volume LI, Issue 5631, 13 March 1879, Page 5. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/LT18790313.2.30>. Accessed 6 Mar 2026.

⁹ Mount Alexander Mail, Mon 3 Jun 1861. p. 2. THE COUNTRY V. MELBOURNE. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/199603178>. Accessed 6 Mar 2025.



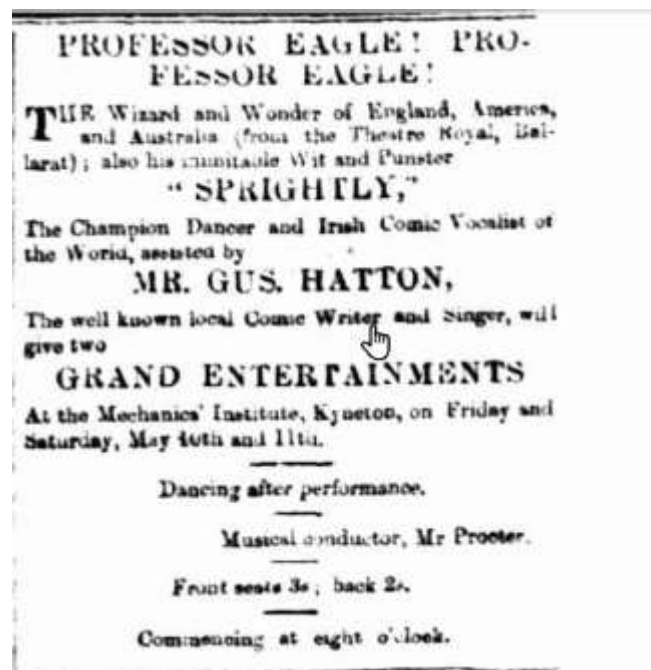
Wallack's Theatre, later called The Star Theatre, northeast corner of 13th Street and Broadway (1861-1901), New York City (Wikimedia Commons)

Dr. Graeme Skinner has compiled a blog site *Australharmony* as: An online resource toward the early history of music in colonial Australia.¹⁰ His biographical notes on the Wallacks highlight the difficulty of identifying events with personnel based on name alone. None of his notes refer to a Charles Wallack. The frequent use of stage names in reports including borrowing names from other artists make the job much harder. The reports of Mr. W. H. Wallack's appearances in *Newspapers.com* and the *British Newspaper Archives* from 1856 to 1865 are for performances in Victoria and the goldfields. It is feasible that the actual veteran comedian briefly took over management of the Pavilion Theatre as the base for his popular performances. Importantly, the biographical sketch above notes that Charlie was first known as 'Charles' Wallack in 1860. There is no support for this precise claim. However, the name Wallack does come up again.

Was he the Goblin "Sprightly", the conjuror's assistant?

Indeed, 'Sprightly' was a sidekick to a conjuror rejoicing in the name of Professor Eagle as reported. To attempt an answer to this question we have to go into the murky world of illusionists and their assistants travelling the goldfields in the 1800s. They were among a number of theatrical acts providing entertainment to the socially deprived miners.

In the magician's performance, the character of Sprightly provided an assistant in the performance of serious illusions but was also used to spice up the night by performing comic dances, and singing topical and bawdy songs, to send the audience home humming. Sprightly was a character well known to the audiences with an Irish impish allure appreciated by much of the audience.



The Kyneton Observer (Vic. : 1856 - 1900) Thu 9 May 1861

This was a world full of opportunists, impersonators of other acts and thievery of tricks and performance content. Kent Blackmore in his research of the history of magic in Colonial Australia¹¹ has identified that Professor Eagle was an imitator of another international illusionist Professor Jacob. As a character, Sprightly, would have been performed by a number or persons over time. No reports of Charlie playing the role have been found. In 1858, the opportunistic Professor Eagle and Sprightly performed at the Eagle Tavern, Campbell's Creek. An interesting co-incidence, for at this time Esther and William Kent were living at Campbell's Creek. While the facts have a basis in the cultural life of the goldfields in Victoria, there is no clear evidence that Charles Sibree once played the role of 'Sprightly'.

Was he Charles Stanley?

In 1855, a Charles Stanley, a commission agent, was up on charges of fraud in Melbourne. His stated age 30-35 makes it roughly possible but there is no firm evidence that this was Charlie.

Was he a barman in Donnelly's Creek?

No firm evidence has been found for a licence held by Hugh Boxborough at Donnelly's Creek, Gippsland. It may have been an informal establishment. Many unlicensed premises from stand-up tents to more formal establishments came and went in the gold fields. It may

¹⁰ A biographical register of Australian colonial musical personnel. Australharmony home. Accessed at <https://www.sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/register-A-1.php> on 6 Mar 2026.

¹¹ Blackmore, Kent Magic in Sydney - Mystery in History - Focus and Resources. Accessed at <https://sydneymagic.net/sources.html> 6 Mar 2026.

be simply the reporting has misspelt the name Roxborough which is the subject of some reporting in relation to liquor sales.

Although they are not close, both Donnelly's Creek and Stringer's Creek are in the Gippsland region of Victoria. They were goldfields. Here the name Charles Wallack does turn up in relation to some unsavoury matters at Stringer's Creek rather than Springer's Creek.

Case of Richard O'Brien, claimant, **remanded from Stringer's creek** relating to facts in May 1863.

*I was working on the Right-hand Branch of the Thomson, and on coming back I tried to make my claim good This was in June. I swear. I never told any person that I gave up the share in dispute. Three other chaps were working with me in the creek. One of them, Liverpool Jack, is now here. **Charles Wallack** was the other man. It made no difference to me about the claim looking better in October. I was just as anxious about it in May. Ballar is the man who I consider is keeping me out of the claim.¹²*

Then there is the report of a rape at Donnelly's Creek, Gippsland, 1865. Although the charges were dismissed for lack of admissible evidence, it was said of **Wallack** as he appeared charged with such an offence under such circumstances, against such a poor, heart-broken, demented-looking creature as Mrs Willoby:

It is a pity the bench had not the power to crop his ears, shave his head, put an ass's halter round his neck, and let the public have fair play at him for a few hours with rotten eggs.¹³

Was he a doctor at Springer's Creek?

Well perhaps not at Stringer's Creek but perhaps at Crooked River which is one of the locations surrounding Mt Buller, Victoria. The name Wallack again comes to light in the following incident.

Charles Wallack was a witness in 1865 in a theft from a stupefied man in barber shop in Gippsland. Wallack was a miner at Crooked River. One of the accused, Carey, was described as 'a coloured barber' and his co-accused Henderson was also supposedly an American. The victim collapsed and appeared to have a fit while he was being shaved by Carey. Charles Wallack made a few statements during his testimony which are of interest to our inquiry. He stated that he was a chemist by profession and he gave detailed evidence of his opinion of the cause of the victims fit and whether he might have been drugged. He did not originally think this, but he now believed the victim had been hocused (i.e. drugged with the intent of stealing from him). His evidence tended to implicate Henderson and pointed away from Carey whom he had known for sixteen years including in America.

Charles Wallack's testimony that he was a chemist and his medical style explanations of the effects of drugs may give weight to credibility of the claim he was known as a doctor. This Charles Wallack was clearly an American. In the end, there is still no clear evidence that Charles Wallack was the person known as Yankee Charlie.

Who knows?

As unsatisfying as it is, we are left with the feeling that some of these alleged characters might have been Charles John Hickey Sibree. At least one person has reported that they were. A birth record has not yet been found for the Sibree name and perhaps one of the alleged aliases is his real birth name.

Detailed references are available on two WikiTree pages at:

- WikiTree contributors, "Charles John Hickey Sibree (abt.1830-1880)," WikiTree: The Free Family Tree, (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sibree-13> : accessed 05 May 2026).
- Research Notes - Charles Sibree - alias Yankee Charlie - alter egos (https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Research_Notes_-_Charles_Sibree_-_alias_Yankee_Charli_-_alter_egos : accessed 05 May 2026.)

Members' Interests

Please contact Members through the Society's email: redlandgs@gmail.com

Member's Name: Kathy BOSWARD Membership No: 463

SURNAME	COUNTRY	Town or City -STATE, COUNTY, PROVINCE, ETC	Year or Range of Years
BRUCE	SCOTLAND	Coupar-Angus, Burrelton, Cargill	1830-1900
McNAUGHTON	SCOTLAND	Coupar-Angus, Burrelton	1830-1860

¹² Gippsland Times, Fri 8 Apr 1864. p. 3. WARDEN'S COURT, SALE. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/65363302>

¹³ Gippsland Times, Wed 1 Mar 1865. p. 3. SALE POLICE COURT. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/65364769>



Wandering Through the Web

Featured Podcast – Forgotten Australia



In this post Anzac Day edition of the Redland Researcher it is timely to feature the podcast created by Michael Adams, a Sydney-based writer, author and television producer.

If you like listening to well-presented family history research and you have not yet tuned into Forgotten Australia, this podcast is well worth a listen.

A recent episode tells the story of Kevin George Conway who was from Wellington Point¹⁴ and is buried in the Cleveland Cemetery, Cleveland.

'Boots on the ground': it rolls off the tongue all too easily. But America — and Australia — learned that in Vietnam they didn't have boots on the ground. They had them in a quagmire. The first Australian soldier killed in action was Kevin Conway, who in 1964 fought beside US Green Berets in a pivotal battle that provided a glimpse of the military debacle that was to last a decade, kill millions of people and leave a gaping hole in history.

If you have an interest in military history then you would enjoy Death-Defying Destiny Deciders the ten-part miniseries focussed on Michael's ancestors but supported by detailed narratives about the wars those ancestors were involved in.

I recently discovered that my great-grandfather was a champion diver who was active in the very same London scene as the doomed stuntmen who featured in my recent miniseries Death-Defying Death Divers!

With this as my, um, jumping off point, I'm taking a plunge into my family history, tracing the men and women of the Murtough family, from the Battle of Waterloo, the Boer War and the Western Front, to the wilds of Western Australia and the remote paradise of Lord Howe Island. We'll also take a look at the birth of tabloid sensationalism and the early days of the London Blitz.

Along the way, I'll share a few tips and tricks you can use to make your family history writing come alive.

You can find out more about Michael Adams at <https://michaeladamswrites.com/>

You can find episodes from Forgotten Australia on Spotify, Apple and Patreon

Click or scan to open your podcast app. Follow to get every regular episode. Support or subscribe via Patreon or Apple for early ad-free access and bonus episodes.



The excitement over the release of the 1926 Census of Ireland has not abated across the genealogy web. Released by the National Archives of Ireland it is free to access on their website with slick search tools. The Irish diaspora is renowned for its spread and

pervasiveness throughout the world as its population sought relief from successive depredations, political and economic over many centuries. The 1926 Census can be accessed at <https://nationalarchives.ie/search-the-1926-census-2/>.

First Irish Free State census

Census 1926 holds a unique place in history as it was the first census conducted after the establishment of the Irish Free State. Taken on 18 April 1926, it provides a detailed snapshot of life in Ireland during that period.

The 1926 Irish census recorded a population of 2,971,992, a decrease of 5.3% from the 1911 census. The 1926 census data is currently controlled by the [Central Statistics Office \(CSO\)](#) and has been transferred to the National Archives.

Census 1926 is stored in 1,299 boxes, containing over 700,000 return sheets. The returns are laced together in 2,494 canvas volumes each representing an enumeration area within each of the 26 counties. Census 1926 is made up of 21 data sets listed in Household Returns (A Form) and Enumerator Returns (B Form).



¹⁴ <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/654274>



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

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/>



60 Smith Street
Cleveland QLD 4163
07 3286 3494

Discover The Stories That Shaped Redlands

Step inside the Museum and discover a treasure trove of historic artefacts and fascinating stories about the people, places and events that helped to shape the Redlands Coast.

General Hours

Open 7 days a week —

Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rotary Heritage Library Hours

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

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

<https://redlandscostmuseum.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/rbdm>

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](#) 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/