



**I AM LIZZIE AND I AM VERY HONOURED TO
BE HERE TODAY TO SPEAK TO YOU ALL
ABOUT MY WRITING AND FAMILY HISTORY**

LEARNING TO WRITE AT
SCHOOL
AND LEARNING TO
READ

I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE JOY OF LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE AT SCHOOL AT GEPPS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 1953 – OF COURSE WE WALKED TO AND FROM SCHOOL, RAIN OR SHINE AS MY FAMILY DID NOT HAVE A CAR.

MY SCHOOL DID NOT HAVE A LIBRARY THEN BUT MY FIRST VISIT WITH SCHOOL TO THE STATE LIBRARY CHANGED MY LIFE AS I BECAME AN INSTANT BORROWER WHICH I STILL DO TO THIS DAY AT THE MAWSON LAKES LIBRARY.
AS I WAS VERY SHY EVEN AS A TEENAGER BOOKS WERE MY FRIENDS.

I NOW BELONG TO A READING FOR FUN GROUP AT THE JACK YOUNG CENTRE IN SALISBURY. WHICH IS HELD MONTHLY.

I ENJOY READING FICTION BUT REALLY LOVE NON-FICTION ON MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. MY PRESENT BOOK IS ABOUT ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON – AND DR JECKLYL AND MR HYDE. TO THINK HE WROTE TREASURE ISLAND AND KIDNAPPED VERY DIFFERENT – A VERY CLEVER WRITER SADLY HE DIED IN HIS 40'S.

A large red speech bubble graphic with a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The text 'JOY OF READING' is written in white, uppercase letters inside the bubble.

JOY OF READING

On reflection, in our house during my school years my parents urged us to concentrate at school and work hard as they had to leave school and work at 12 years old. My Mum as a domestic for the Bonython Family, whose Grandfather paid for Parliament House and Dad worked on a Dairy Farm in Pinnaroo and later drove the milky horse and cart delivering the milk.

Mum was born here but Dad came from London East End in 1919 by ship when he was 5. I only had one surviving Grandparent when I was born as even though my Grandfathers survived the wars they died early. Mum was not a reader but Dad loved reading National Geographic and the newspapers. Kids at school said to me that we were poor as we did not have a car but Mum said we were a proud family, of course I am still very proud of their work ethic which they instilled in us kids. I always did my home work and a memory of Grade 4 was the teacher put me on a small chair in the front of class and said I was dumb as I found my 12 times tables hard. It would not happen nowadays, thank goodness. Mum went to see the teacher and the teacher said I had a lovely personality. Well that has always inspired me to be the best person I can and help others with their learning.

MY WORKING LIFE

My first employment was at The Government Printing office and I still remember the joy of my first paypacket, real money in an envelope oh the joy and the feeling of pride. I worked two evenings a week doing copy holding. Those days if a girl married she had to resign, how things have changed thank goodness. I resigned from this position as I wanted to work closer to home and save the bus fare. Luckily I did as at Arcweld I met Mick, an Apprentice welder who is still my husband today. After we married and I fell pregnant I was bullied to resign but for reasons which will remain private. As I was bullied at High School I left but for a long time we struggled. I have never regretted my decision as of course I was brought up to remain proud of who I am.

Later I worked in libraries for 23 years and while working at the Parks Community Library Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited. I was made Information Officer for the day and Prince Charles asked me how long I had been working there and talked briefly to me and Princess Diana was talking with the children and she was so stunning. I visited Housebound people for 10 years and co-ordinated volunteers.

MY WORKING LIFE - CONTINUED

I grew up very quickly during this experience even though I was married with 2 daughters. Still married after 56 years and I consider myself very lucky. When I worked at TAFE I trained the young girls to be Library Technicians. My favourite position at TAFE was when I worked one day a week at Parafield Airport library. A pure joy helping those young students pursuing their flying careers very far from home.

I had gained my Library skills volunteering at Karrendi Primary for 4 years but needed to find work to help the family income. At the age of 66 I was asked to work there and I did for 4 years as an SSO. Then Covid Hit and the Prime Minister said that at 70 the ELDERLY were considered a risk. I remained grateful for the opportunity and just continued on with my Home tutoring. Which I do to this day.

My tutoring is inspired by the difficulties my brother experienced learning and I am grateful that times have changed for students with special needs as he is very talented at art but Art School would not accept him as he did not have a formal education leaving school at 14.

MY WRITING

I started writing to inspire my students that if they try hard nothing is beyond their capabilities.

I wrote my first short story called A New Life for a competition in the Country Style Magazine . I didn't win, but that has not stopped me. I have written a second half to create an adult novel , not published yet which I will read an excerpt from later. I wrote my published children's book My Friend Andy inspired by the children on the Spectrum. I was very fortunate that the Mayor of Salisbury Gillian Aldridge launched it for me in the Mawson Lakes Children's Library during their Christmas Market. How very kind of her.

I have written another Children's book called Musky about a baby Musk Oxen but not published yet.

Over the years I have encouraged my students to create a book and I have it printed and bound at OfficeWorks. It gives me and them great joy to see the end result of their hard work and instill a belief in themselves that they can achieve anything they want to. They have 2 copies and I keep one. I am very proud of their work. Another thing they love to work on is Time Travel and this requires a lot of research but very much fun learning.

MY FAMILY HISTORY

As my parents left school at 12 they encouraged us to work hard and do our best at school. Of course they could not help with homework but my sister tried to help my brother but he was not interested he just wanted to draw as he found school hard.

In the First World War my Grandfather, served in India During the Second World War Mum and Dad both worked in a munition factory. Dad could not join up as he had a very small club foot but he was very proud of his brother Harry who was in the army in Darwin when it was bombed. He survived but never spoke of the experience. He went on to be the Barber at Angaston for 50 years. We enjoyed short stays at Angaston as the brothers were very close. Auntie Alice their sister was a very dear person.

During my research I have found out that Darwin was heavily bombed.

A squad of Melville Islanders, enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy for special duties including locating Japanese mines and stranded airmen, in formation in December 1943.
AWM 062344



MY FAMILY HISTORY CONTINUED

Daly Waters was a refuelling stop for early pioneering flights through Darwin and [QANTAS](#) flights to [Singapore](#) (also via Darwin). During the 1930s

World War II

[In the early months of 1942, following the outbreak of [hostilities in the Pacific against the Japanese](#), the airfield was used a waypoint on the "Brereton Route" for operations between Australia and [Java](#). It was a staging base for aircraft from [Cloncurry](#), [Queensland](#) and then up to [Darwin](#) area airfields. The RAAF requisitioned the airfield and on 15 March 1942 it became *RAAF Base Daly Waters*; and operations commenced on 15 May 1942.

Daly Waters was named after Sir Dominik Daly Governor of South Australia who was knighted in 1856. I cannot prove he is related to me but it is very interesting.



MY FAMIOY HISTORY CONTINUED

What is County Clare in Ireland known for??

County Clare is renowned for its legacy in traditional Irish music and is home to an abundance of visual riches and spectacular scenery. Clare is located on the far west coast of Ireland, bordered by Galway Bay to the north, Lough Derg to the east, the River Shannon to the south and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

Not having any living Irish born Grandparents when I was born made it seem quite mysterious, as at school we always learned more about England. My Uncle Mick Daly was a very respected Policeman and his sister Mary was my Mum and dear r Auntie Kath I adored.. Their parents came out from Ireland as young people and met here and married. Grandad worked in the Railways and Mum was a stay at home Mum.

They lived in Riverton and Port Pirie and then Prospect. I am very lucky to have dear Brian married to my daughter Jayne who comes from Belfast when he was 7 and I have learned so much about the struggles there and the sadness. On a trip to Ireland they organized a magnificent treasured book of all the Daly family history which took 2 years to prepare. How kind of them it was very expensive. In Riverton one of my Uncles who I never met is buried in an unmarked grave with just a stone one day I would like to rectify that. Made me cry when I saw it. Wish I could have met him. Someone pushed my Mum off the station when she was 12, but she was a red head with a temper to match but very much loved by me. Auntie Kath's hubby was a Wharfie in the 50's and 60's at Port Adelaide, a very hard working man. Thank goodness the Union improved conditions for the workers.

CLOSING COMMENTS

I have always been a Titanic fan and discovered that a Eugene Daly a third class passenger, played his bagpipes on the ship. They were traditional Irish uilleann pipes which he lost because of the tragic end to the Titanic. The tune is Erin's Lament played on its last port of call. Eugene survived by jumping into the sea and was rescued by another lifeboat. He lived happily in the US and married and had children. A David Daly plays the tune on Youtube. It is very haunting.

David Daly is the Great Nephew of Eugene Daly, whose father toured the USA with the Irish Police Band in 1964 and met up with Eugene.

To me the world is made up of many different people, cultures, religions but I still feel we could possibly all live as one as John Lennon sings in Imagine my favourite song ever. Which I will play now on my phone : Thanks everyone for listening today, much appreciated.