



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY  
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc. TAREE**

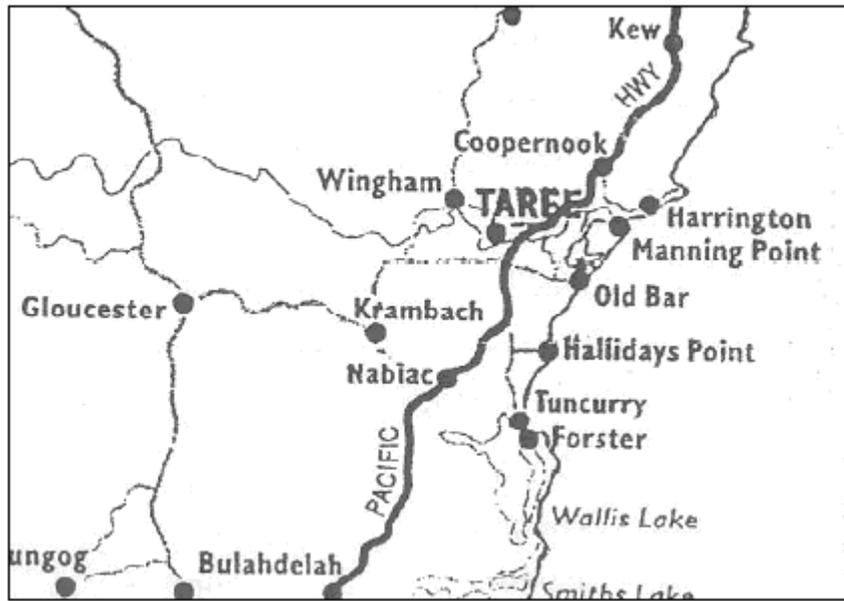
OPERATING IN OUR 27<sup>th</sup> YEAR FROM THE GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

*No 120*

*October-December 2011*

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**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.** Taree covers the whole Manning region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas: Manning Valley, Wingham, Taree, Kendall, Cooperbrook, Old Bar, Forster, Harrington, Manning Point, Nabiac, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krumbach, Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Tinonee, Moorland, Lansdowne, Killabakh, Failford, Rawdon Vale, Tuncurry, Coolongolook, Bungwahl, Smiths Lake, Wallis Lake.

**OFFICE BEARERS:**

President:	G. Sawyer	
Vice Presidents:	G. Toohey	L. Kidd
Secretaries:	J. Jones (Correspondence)	S. Robinson (Minutes)
	A. Ranger (Membership)	
Treasurer:	J. Parslow	L. Haynes
Librarians	E. Sawyer	N. Swan
Research:	G. Toohey	N. Swan
Committee:	B. Haynes	G. Martin
Public Officer:	L. Haynes	
Publicity:	G. Sawyer	G. Toohey

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



This year has really flown and Christmas looms on the horizon.

The Annual General Meeting for 2011 has been held and I thank all who had faith in me and returned me as President for another term.

Thank you to all members who supported the past executive team during the year and special thanks to those who offered to fill all positions for the ensuing year.

Your Society has had a most successful year and our financial situation is sound.

It is most gratifying that my appeal to members to volunteer help both at our Bunnings Barbeques and as duty/research helpers at our Family History area at Greater Taree City Library has made our workload much easier.

Recent workshops “Digging Around The Roots Of Your Family Tree” with our intrepid Research Officer and now Vice President, Gloria, in conjunction with Greater Taree City Library, have been most successful. Our thanks go to Library Administration for their assistance and provision of morning and afternoon teas.

Further workshops at the request of Old Bar Community Technology Centre are soon to be held with further prospects of gaining new members and a share of the attendance fees charged.

To those members who have lost loved ones since last issue, our sincere condolences.

A hearty “Get Well Soon” to those members experiencing ill health.

I do hope to see many of you at our forthcoming Christmas Dinner at Harrington Memorial Hall, Pilot Street Harrington on 20th November. Further details appear elsewhere in this edition. It promises to be a great afternoon.

Happy researching, and may your “brick walls” crumble!

George Sawyer  
President

## SOCIETY NEWS

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** Thank you to all the members that have renewed their membership for this year. We now have over 100 members in the Society.

**EMAIL UPDATES:** Please ensure that your email address is currently correct. **If you don't get an email** about meetings and workshops, could you please update your address by emailing [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)



**BUNNINGS BARBECUES:** Remember the dates: October 30 & November 27. If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of these days, please add your name on the list at the Library.

**NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to:** Sandra and Damein Aidon, Christine Bendle, Jeanette Fanning, Sheryl Humphries, Gail Latter, Lloyd Parslow, Malcolm Ranger, Graeme Rose, Anne and Leonard Yates and Margaret Yeark.  
We hope you enjoy your genealogy journey.

**ISOLATED AND UNMARKED GRAVES:** Thank you to all who have contributed to this project. We have had a steady stream of information coming in from both Society members and the public.

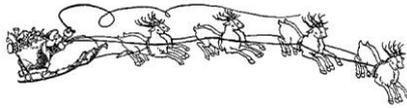
**RESEARCH SERVICE:** Research Form can be downloaded from Society website. Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00. Research enquiries will be published in our newsletter 'Fig Tree'. All correspondence must be addressed to Secretary, PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Workshop</i>

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS have been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. This will give members a chance to have some of the training courses which have previously been conducted during the week.



*You are invited*

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH** will be held at the Memorial Hall in Harrington on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, RSVP Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. The meal will be a roast dinner, dessert, tea/coffee, with nibbles on the table. **Cost will be \$15 per head**. An invitation with all information will be posted to members during October.



**MEMBERS' INTERESTS:** Attached to this newsletter is a form for 2011-2012 Members' Interests. Membership Number only will be printed in on the Society website and in booklet form. Please print the form, complete it and return by 31st October. Each member is able to submit 18 entries, Thank you.



## **RESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

- **TIGRAH CEMETERY** (email from P Breese) Any information on location and burials would be greatly appreciated.
- Dorothy ROBINSON – newspaper reports on death and inquest (enquiry from M Clarke)
- Taree Estate Cemetery – enquiry re restoration of graves (email from S Richards)

**If you can help with any of these enquiries please contact the Research Officer.**



*Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to a dozen more!*

## LIBRARIANS' REPORT

### RECENT RESOURCE ACQUISITIONS

ENG:268C National Burial Index England/Wales 3rd Edition  
ENG:269C Register of St. George Devon 1565-1812 (Donated)  
ENG:270C 1881 British Census & National Index- 24 Discs (Donated)  
GEN:144R It's Not All Online- A Guide To Genealogy Sources Offline  
MP: 237C- 243C Parish Maps NSW  
NZ:015C Discharged in New Zealand- Imperial Foot Regiments 1840-1870  
PEO:342R The Lonely Pioneer, William Bunn, Diarist 1830-1901  
PEO:343R A Patchwork Quilt- A Pioneering Saga  
PEO:344R Index To Colonial Secretary's Office- Letters To The Sheriff 1828-1850  
PEO:345R Fair Game. Australia's First Immigrant Women  
PEO:346R The People of Tocal 1822-2010  
SHP:138C Prisoners On Board The Hulk Phoenix, Prisoners Discharged Sept. 1825- Nov. 1836  
SHP:139C Prisoners On Board The Hulk Phoenix- Transportation Books Jan 1831- Feb 1847  
SHP:140C Arrivals & Departures NSW 1788-1825  
SHP:141C Free Passengers To NSW 1826-1837- Passengers, Crew and Military



### WANTED



We are always looking for Articles, Things of Interest or Upcoming events to be included in "The Fig Tree". If you have anything you would like included, please email them to

**[editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:editor@manningwallambafhs.com.au)**

## History Week - "Eating History"



History Week was celebrated at the Library with a display of Recipe Books and Cooking Utensils from days past. This display was at the entrance to the Library. Out thanks to those members who contributed and to those who put the display together.

## Manning Valley Historical Society & Museum Recipe Book Launch

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011, seven years after the original publication of The Recipe Book, Manning Valley Historical Society & Museum with the assistance of Rosemary Sinclair launched their new 2011 Recipe Book.



Members of our Society were invited to attend the event held at the Museum in Wingham and our President, Librarian and a few other members took up the invitation.

Barbara Waters, President of the MVHS, was our gracious host and gave us a quick rundown of the history surrounding this beautiful area. We gathered in the new kitchen display area of the Museum and Barbara Waters and Rosemary Sinclair launched the new book and then presented certificates of appreciation to the volunteer workers who give so

much of their time in keeping the Museum running. Our very own Ian Herford being one of the recipients. Congratulations to all involved.



## State Records NSW Open Day

To celebrate their 50th anniversary State Records NSW is throwing open its doors at the Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood (143 O'Connell Street) from 10:00 am on Friday 28 October. The theme of the day is the Archives are alive – there will be talks, behind-the-scenes tours, hands-on activities, expert conservation advice, film screenings, and a free sausage sizzle! For more information go to their website at: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/open-day>.

## **HOW TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN TEN EASY STEPS**

by John Wiseman

(Reprinted from the Rockingham & District FHS Journal)

Many of us who heard Bevan Carter's talk on writing family history would, like me, be inspired to set to work on their own history. Below are suggestions on the process of writing.

1. Click on 'Word' and open a new page. Survey the blank white page and imagine how you will lay out the text and photos, do not rush this stage. Continue to stare at the page for another 10 or 15 minutes.
2. Go and make a cup of tea and select a high sugar, thick chocolate coated biscuit. (This is brain food; it really helps the creative juices flow).
3. View pristine white page for another 10-15 minutes. Click over to emails, read jokes and forward appropriate funnies to friends. Send credit card details to gentleman in Nigeria who will forward \$10,000,000 by return. Close email and go back to 'Word'.
4. Go and make a cup of tea and select a plate full of biscuits. Dehydration and hunger are two of the main causes of the so called writer's block.
5. Scrutinise the still untouched white page, click onto your family history records. Idly scroll through the generations, click on the photos. Now delete any photos of ill-favoured ancestors or any of those that have the appearance of a serial killer. Remember this is for posterity; you want to enlighten those to come, not scare them to death.

Dealing with the photos of yourself taken in the 1960-70's; photos of ladies wearing miniskirts more than 18" above the knee, or beehive hair-dos; men wearing flares, sporting mullet haircuts or long flowing moustaches, should be discarded, preferably burnt. You should of course have destroyed any holiday snaps of Spanish waiters or Swedish au pair girls long ago. Don't dwell on Fernando or Ingrid; time is of the essence; procrastination, the thief of time. Make a cup of tea and several large sandwiches, take a nap; fatigue can affect the quality of your work.

6. Whilst you have the family history file open now is the time to tidy up some of the personal histories. For those ancestors who had the misfortune to be transported, there are two general rules. For females, they may be convicted of stealing handkerchiefs or bread for their starving children/granny. Financial gain for favours is not an option. Any children born soon after arrival in the colony are of course premature or late,

depending on the duration of the voyage. For male ancestors, thefts of chickens or ladies underwear are out; notorious highwaymen, artful poachers or robbers of the rich to feed the poor are in. Be sure to destroy any photocopies or references to anything that says otherwise.

7. Take a toilet break; overdosing on beverages is part of the writing process. Now you are comfortable have a cup of tea, remember to keep hydrated.
8. Click back into “Word”. Review the virgin white page. Take the dog outside and play ball with him for half an hour or so, you can become too sedentary as a writer.
9. Make a cup of tea and have another plate of biscuits, all that exercise will have taken it out of you.
10. Go straight to the keyboard. At the top of the page type the following in big bold letters:

THE HISTORY OF THE \*\*\*\*\* FAMILY

Well done, pour a glass of wine and help yourself to some cheese and biscuits. You deserve it, a good day’s work. You are really making progress.



### **The State Library of NSW**

The State Library is a reference and research library and does not lend items directly to individuals.

The Library provides numerous services that are available to the general public without the need to register, such as:

- using reference and open access collection onsite
- searching the catalogues
- attending events such as talks, courses movies and tours
- visiting our exhibitions

**There are some additional benefits that are limited to registered users, friends and club members.**

You can register to access more of their services and collections such as

- collections in storage
- online resources
- loans from other libraries (to be used in the State Library)

- original material such as manuscripts, maps and picture
- rare books.

Further information about registering for a Library Card click onto the following link [http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/using/access/register\\_card.html](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/using/access/register_card.html)



## Discover Your Seafaring Ancestors For The First Time

**findmypast.co.uk** have just published 1 million 20th century Merchant Navy Seamen records.

This is the first time ever that these records have been made available online. They are working in association with The National Archives to give you access to your merchant navy ancestors.

### What are these records?

The records are index cards which the Registrar General of Shipping and Seaman used between the two world wars to produce a centralised index of merchant seamen serving on British merchant navy vessels. They cover the period 1918-1941.

The merchant navy consists of all seagoing UK vessels with commercial interests and their crews.

### How will the records help me?

When you search these records, it is usually possible to find out the following key information about your ancestor: name, year and place of birth and rank or rating. Sometimes you will be able to see a physical description of your ancestor and a photograph.

Your ancestor's record may provide other useful details, such as discharge number, health insurance number, address of kin, list of official vessel numbers and signing-on dates.

### Why are these records so special?

These rarely seen photographs of the mariners mean you can see what your ancestor looked like for the first time – a rare and special achievement in your family history research.



It's possible to find a wide range of people.

People from across the globe can be found in the records, including the UK, Canada, the West Indies, Sierra Leone, Scandinavia, Somaliland, China and Japan.

You could discover vivid and unusual details about your ancestor.

The publication of the Merchant Navy Seamen records 1918-1941 is the first phase of a release of merchant navy records from The National Archives. In due course, they will be publishing additional records on [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk), covering an earlier period from 1835 to 1857.



## **WEBSITES**

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Soldiers in the First World War:**

[http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/docs/kurbingui\\_nomroll.pdf](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/docs/kurbingui_nomroll.pdf)

<http://www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin/indigenous.html>

<http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/iaaw/dedication.html>

**Obituaries Australia:** <http://oa.anu.edu.au>

New digital repository of Obituaries in Newspapers, Journals and Magazines.

**England Jurisdictions 1851:** <http://maps.familysearch.org>

Interactive England county maps showing Parishes, Districts, Probate Courts, Dates of Parish creation, Dates of Extant Records and more.

**1911 Scotland Census on-line at:**

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/census/1911/person>

**Internet History Resources:** <http://www.ihr.com.au>

Over 20,000 pages of online records for family history research in New South Wales, Australia.

Directories, Electoral Rolls, Land Records, General and Miscellaneous Records, Mining Records, Pastoral and Agricultural Records & Other Occupations.

**Deceased Online Database of UK Burials and Cremations:** [www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com)

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

### Price List for Burial Books available through our Society

Prices include postage & handling within Australia

MWFHS members receive 10% discount on all Burial Books

Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Scotts Creek - 2007 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Gilwarra, Taree Estate, Woola - 2008 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Tinonee, Bo-Bo, Bight, Murray Hills, Easton, Dunvegan	\$19.00
Cooperook, Moorland, Harrington	\$19.00
Lansdowne	\$17.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$17.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$17.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killabakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$17.00
Redbank 2008 edition Book or CD	\$20.00
Failford, Willow Point	\$15.00
Krambach	\$15.00
Dawson 1 - Methodist Section	\$18.00
Dawson 2 - Anglican A - L	\$18.00
Dawson 3 - Anglican M - Z	\$18.00
Dawson 4 - Roman Catholic Section	\$18.00
Dawson 5 - Presbyterian & other Sections	\$18.00
Dawson 6 - Columbarium, Rose Gardens & Burials from Undertakers Records & other sources. No Grave Numbers	\$18.00
Dawson 7 - Lawn Section A - L	\$15.00
Dawson 8 - Lawn Section M - Z	\$15.00
Columbariums in Church grounds, Graves on private property, Norwood	\$15.00
Index, includes Map showing locations of all Greater Taree Council Cemeteries and Name entries from all above books & their cemetery location	\$25.00
Forster & Bungwahl Cemetery Transcriptions	\$13.00
Tuncurry & Coolongolook Cemetery Transcriptions	\$15.00

*No members' discounts on these books*

*Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 1 \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p*

*Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 2 \$32.50 + \$10.00 p&p*

*Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430*

**Website <http://www.manningwallambafhs.com.au>**

**Email: [secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)**

