



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE
MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.
TAREE

OPERATING SINCE 1985
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANNING VALLEY LIBRARIES

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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, Cooperook, Old Bar, Forster, Harrington, Manning Point, Nabiac, Bulahdelah, Kew, Krambach, Oxley Island, Mitchells Island, Tinonee, Moorland, Lansdowne, Killabakh, Failford, Rawdon Vale, Tuncurry, Coolongolook, Bungwahl, Smiths Lake, Wallis Lake.

OFFICE BEARERS

President:	G Rose	
Vice Presidents:	G Toohey	L Kidd
Secretaries:	S Robinson	J Mitchell
Treasurer:	L Haynes	V Fletcher
Publicity:	G Rose	G Toohey
Librarians	J Mitchell	C Troth
Research:	G. Toohey	N. Swan
Committee:	I Hardy	P Jarman L Kidd
Public Officer:	L Haynes	

President's Report for February 2015



Dear all 139 Members,

Firstly I would like to thank all those who attended the MWFHS Christmas Party at Club Taree.

Thanks to Pam & co. for organising this event.

As usual a good time was had by all talking about all things ancestral. Gifts were given to all who attended, courtesy of Nancye.

When Life Membership was previously bestowed on Lyn McMartin, she was given a certificate but no badge. I took the opportunity of the Christmas Party to give Lyn a Life Membership badge which she has promised to wear at all times in the future.

2015 has started with exciting new Web pages at www.manningwallambafhs.com.au.

We appreciate all feedback as our aim is to make these pages as useful to you as possible.

We can change these pages as we see fit, no more (disinterested) third party involved.

This modern update has been produced by Greg Golden at Golden Age Media in Forster after recommendation from our Library & business people in town.

Please add this address to all media at your disposal Personal web pages, Facebook etc & ask your friends to look & comment. This activity raises our standing with Google so that we are the first web page that anyone will see when they make family history enquiries about our area.

The MWFHS has teamed up with the Manning Valley Historical Society and the LDS Family History Centre to provide a Scottish focused Genealogy Fair at the start of the BONNIE WINGHAM SCOTTISH FESTIVAL on the Thursday 28th May.

Go to <http://www.manninghistorical.org/> & click on "Bonnie Wingham" for a complete itinerary.

If you want help in tracing your Scottish ancestors there will be forms available in Wingham & our rooms beforehand that you can fill in the information you have & what you would like to know.

I have 2 honest sailor ancestors from Scotland, David Anderson who came from a sailing family & Duncan Butters who came from a manual weaving family, so no future in that, he had to become a sailor then in Australia a shipwright.

Our next rare BBQ fundraiser is Sunday 22nd March at Masters Taree South. I find that attending, even only for 3 hours, gives me a feeling of "ownership" of anything that this money buys. A big thank you to all who attend and help make this fund raising so successful.

Our 30th birthday is coming CLOSER - how will we celebrate and how will we mark the occasion? (events? projects?)

I would like to draw your attention to new information available on FindmyPast in our Library.

I have found lots of Last Will & Testaments which contain not only how much money the person was worth but usually details every asset, son's names & occupations, plus also their daughter's husband's name & occupation. Several of my ancestors were £1 poms who then leased land in Bathurst/Kelso from the 1850s. Some were very successful & turned that lease into freehold so that at death their estate was measured in the many £1000s, others remained as tenants, so even though prosperous & held in high regard their estate was measured in £100s

Regards

Graeme

New Members: Welcome to:

NO.	Member	Research Interest
14031	Gary Thompson	Coady, Wilmont, Ford, Thompson & Cook
14032	Diane Thompson	
14030	Sandra Everingham	Clarence Bratz, Sydney 1922
14033	Barry Wilkes	Wilkes, Dungog & Manning 1800, John Still Robinson, Moorland 1800.
14034	Noelene Wilkes	Unicombe, Ewhurst, England & Australia
15001	Evelyn Wall	John O'Brien, Taree & Mary Murphy.

BARBECUES:



Next BBQ s will be held at

MASTERS Sunday 22nd March

BUNNINGS Sunday 31st May

If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of our BBQ days,
please add your name to the list at the Library or
secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

REGULAR EVENTS:

General Meeting: Held at 1.30 pm every 3rd Saturday of the month.

Workshop: Held at 1.30 pm every 4th Saturday of the month.

SENIORS WEEK: 14th—22nd March

We will run our popular "Skeletons in the Closet" course on Wednesday 18th March at HARRINGTON LIBRARY from 10.30 to 3pm. These courses are designed for beginning genealogists and as a refresher for more experience researchers. Bookings are essential at either the Harrington or Taree Library..

1880s BATHURST SHOW Agricultural success of George Churches

BATHURST TIMES THURSDAY 10 APRIL 1886

Lord and Lady Carrington were guests of the A.H. & P. Association.

PIGS - Steward: R. Tremain. Judges: James Carpenter and George Churches.

FARM PRODUCE - Potatoes - 1 cwt. - 1st John Schofield, 2nd George Churches
Collection of vegetables for cattle feed - 1st Little & Howard, 2nd G. Churches
Carrots - 1 dozen - 1st George Churches, 2nd Quong Sing

The Bathurst paper was not very tolerant of the Chinamen who won prizes for their vegetables at the show. They wrote - "In section J., garden produce, John Chinaman, as usual, had it all his own way. He is *facile princeps* the gardener of the universe, and, unsavoury mortal though he be, he is the salvation of Australia in the back blocks, for they would be scurvy stricken but for him. With the exception of Messrs. Churches, and Little and Howard, no white man won a first prize in the section where the Celestials competed, and this forces us to the enquiry: "Is the Caucasian played out?" The prize list shows a most tonous repetition of the names of Quong "Sing", On "Sing" and Sam "Sing" and however much they deserve it, we have not space to "sing" their praises.

BATHURST TIMES TUESDAY 21 APRIL 1887

Collection of vegetables for cattle feed - 1st George Churches
Flitch of Bacon - 1st Geo. Lee 10/-, 2nd George Churches 5/-
Cheese - 10lb - not less than three months old - 1st George Churches 10/-
Carrots - 1 dozen - 1st On Sing 10/-, 2nd George Churches 5/-
Collection cut flowers - 1st R. Coleman 10/-, 2nd George Churches 5/-

Special prize, choice volume of poems, presented by Mr J.W. Little, for best floral wreath work of young lady between 14 and 21. Awarded to Miss Churches (Ann Emma).

BATHURST TIMES THURSDAY 12 APRIL 1888

PIGS - Sow and six young pigs - Berkshire - under three months.
1st George Churches £1.10.0, 2nd E. Ingersole 15/
POULTRY - Brahma pootra, dark, hen - 1st George Churches, Raglan 7/6
2nd W.H. Webb 2/6
Collection of vegetables for cattle feed - 1st George Churches, Raglan £1
2nd John Godfrey, snr. Raglan 10/-
Oaten hay (sheaves) 1 cwt, bale or bundle - 1st George Churches, Raglan £1
2nd H. Bayliss, jnr, Vale 10/-
DAIRY PRODUCE - Flitch of bacon, without shoulder or ham -
1st George Churches, Raglan 10/-, 2nd J. Schofield, Peel, 5/-

BATHURST TIMES THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1889

PIGS - Berkshire sow - 1st E. Mortimer £1.10.0
2nd George Churches, Raglan 15/-
Sow and six young pigs - Berkshire - under 3 months

MAISIE PHILP 1919 - 2013 HER FAMILY AND HER LIFE

Maisie was born at Nana Glen N.S.W. on 12th. November 1919 and baptised on 26th November 1919 at Uralla N.S.W. in the Methodist Church.

Her parents were Sydney Ward Philp, born 1892 - died 2nd August 1982 and Matilda Ann nee Bullen, born 1891- died 25th.October 1972. Sydney Ward Philp was a great grandson of Alexander Philp, a convict and Sophie Nichols, daughter of John Nichols, a convict who arrived in the colony on the First Fleet.

Maisie was very reticent when asked about her forebears. She was always a very private person. She had two siblings, Elsie Maud Philp, born 6th March 1916 — died 1st July 1962 and Kenneth Ward Philp, born 7th October 1921 - died 3rd October 2009.

She came to Taree with her parents in 1941 when her father, a railway fettler, was transferred from Nana Glen. He then worked on the maintenance of the branch line serving two dairy product factories in Taree until his retirement on 1st November 1956.

They rented a house in Wynter Street before buying a home in Cornwall Street in 1942.

Maisie never married but was engaged to Abel James Paterson who was working on the railway at the time. He was 3 months younger and they had attended the same school at Nana Glen. They were childhood sweethearts.

He enlisted in the A.I.F at Paddington on 16th April 1941, his locality then was shown as Dorrigo. Next of kin was listed as Janet Chambers.



His date of birth was shown as 29th.February, 1920 at Cessnock. His service details were NX72991 - Private - Posting, 8th.Division Provost Company. Private Paterson became a prisoner of war when Singapore fell in 1942 and was in Changi P.O.W. Camp. He died on 20th July 1943. Place and cause of death not stated on his records. Details of Japanese P.O.W. deaths are sparse and difficult to research. Many POWS were used as slave labour on projects such as the Burma Railway.

Escape attempts were common and most who did get away died from starvation and disease. Beatings and executions occurred but only scant details are available.

A considerable number of prisoners died in Changi itself. Pte. Paterson may have been one of those.

Not knowing about his fate was a burden she carried privately for many years.

There is a reference to a Roll of Honour at Grafton - details are not yet known.

Maisie and Neta Oram are related through the Blanch and Philp families. Maisie's grandfather, William Philp and Neta's great grandfather, William Colthurst Bennett were first cousins. Maisie was Godmother to Kelvin Oram, elder son of Neta and John.

Aunty Maisie was a very close friend of Neta and John for over 63 years and very much part of their family life. They were appointed as her Guardians in 2009.

She passed away peacefully on 13th June 2013 at Karingal Gardens Nursing Home, Taree and was interred in Dawson River Lawn Cemetery, Taree.

Her graveside service was conducted by Rev. David Freeman, Chaplain, Karingal Nursing Home.

Her grave inscription reads "AT REST - REUNITED WITH JAMES NX 72991 "

This record is intended for local Historical Societies and to provide an insight into the life of a quiet, kindly little lady, who touched so many people. It would have been sad not to do this.

John and Neta Oram and family.

MAISIE PHILP - "THE FORSTER BUS LADY" 1941 TO 1960

HER WORK ON THE BUSES 1941 TO 2013

Maisie started on the Forster/Tuncurry/Taree buses in 1941, working as Conductress for Brien Ivens.

Tuncurry resident 'Joe' Fazio ran the service in the 1930's and had previously provided service cars for passengers and goods in the same general area. There had been a growing need and pressure for a regular coach facility and some form of sponsorship by local businesses was proposed. His business was certainly operating in 1938 when the F. Parsons' ferry/punt sank with a Fazio bus and 12 passengers, a lorry and a number of cars and their passengers aboard. No lives were lost but there was a lot of water damage to vehicles and luggage etc. The water level reached half way up the windows of the bus.



Joe Fazio died suddenly in 1940 and Brien Ivens, who may have worked for Fazio, then established the Red Safety Coaches which operated between Forster and Taree as well as the Gloucester Krambach/Nabiac service. The two buses would meet at Nabiac to transfer passengers as required. The Gloucester service was eventually sold to Jim McCulloch, who had been one of Brien Ivens' drivers. Other drivers for Ivens were Norm Handebo, 'Pop' Latham, Jim Berry and Spencer Meppom who also drove on his various bus runs.

Brien Ivens sold out to Lorenzo Pappalardo and Maisie worked for him until 1960 when the Forster Bridge was opened and the business was sold to Ritchie Brothers. Later, Eggins Comfort Coaches took over and expanded their services considerably.

When Maisie retired in 1960, a Taree newspaper paid tribute to her :—

"Passengers on the Tuncurry/Forster bus run will be sorry to lose their conductress, Maisie Philp, who left the service last Saturday. Maisie was very popular with the passengers and nothing ever seemed to be too much trouble for her. Always smiling and courteous, she was particularly helpful to elderly passengers. Maisie seemed to be part of the bus and the folk who travel the route will miss her very much."

During busy tourist seasons, two buses were often needed to pick up passengers at Taree railway station and Maisie saw to the stowing of luggage to allow for easy retrieval at the various holiday cottages and guest houses. The luggage racks were on top of the buses. She was a slightly built lady but always managed to load and retrieve the suitcases without undue delay. She was helped by the bus drivers too, although she was a capable "hands-on" organiser.

The services involved using the ferry/punt until the bridge linking the twin towns

opened in 1959, often experiencing lengthy delays due to operational problems —shifting sand bars —weather —traffic volumes etc.

Maisie was always at hand to keep passengers informed and pacified. The 'last ferry trip' was 'celebrated' when the bridge was put into service. It was quite an occasion for the local folk.

Maisie would often do shopping in



Taree for people along the bus route. Parcel and newspaper delivery were all part of the service. Staff from local shops would meet the newly arriving holiday makers and take orders for bread and other essentials.

Neta Oram recalled meeting the incoming buses when she worked for a Forster bakery in the 1940s.

Maisie was a kind, obliging and popular person. She was highly regarded by Aboriginal people who travelled on the bus.

When the Forster/Taree service ended in 1960, Maisie worked for Taree Chiropractor Arthur Keenan as a receptionist for nearly seven years and for his successor D.M. North until 1967 when she retired to care for her ageing and frail parents.

Her Mother died in 1972 and her Father in 1982. She then lived alone in Cornwall Street,

Taree until admitted to Manning Base Hospital on 21.7.2011 after a series of falls and age related problems.

She died peacefully in Karingal Gardens Nursing Home, Taree on 14.6.2013. At her oft repeated request, she was buried privately at Dawson River Lawn Cemetery Taree.



WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE

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

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au



Manning Wallamba FHS Inc, Manning Valley Historical Society Inc and LDS Family History Centre

invite you to



WHICH FOREFATHER WAS MINE?

Genealogy Fair

focusing of our Scottish Heritage

Thursday 28TH May 2015 10am to 2pm

Wingham Services Club, Bent St Wingham

Entry and basic research \$20

Guest Speakers' Topics

- Documents to Help with Your Research
- The DNA Aspect of Family History
- Using Trove to unearth Your Family History

To download a research/entry form go to:

www.manninghistorical.org

and follow the Wingham Bonnie Scottish Festival link

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'

Current Research:

Quinlivan family– Cundletown

Buckshiram family– Karuah, Gloucester, Taree

Location of "Crossroads Wickets" possibly Coopernook or Cundletown

If you can help with any of these enquiries, please contact the
Research Officer or email
secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au



TROVE NEWSPAPERS:

Recently added:

Northern Champion (Taree, NSW : 1913 - 1954)

Port Macquarie News and Hastings River Advocate (NSW : 1882 - 1950)

Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer (NSW : 1898 - 1954)

Dungog Chronicle : Durham and Gloucester Advertiser (NSW : 1894 - 1954)

Coming Soon:

Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales
Taree, NSW : 1898 - 1954)



ACCESS TO STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Your Manning Valley Libraries card can now provide access to the State Library of NSW online resources, including local & international newspapers, full-text journals, magazines, online databases, eBooks and eAudiobooks.

To access the Library of NSW online resources visit the Library of NSW website
(<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/>), register and log in using your Library card number



CESSNOCK CEMETERIES:

Cessnock City Council has updated and modified their website and it now includes a link to local cemeteries. There is some general information on the cemeteries and their locations. There is also a link to the burial registers which allows a look up of burials in the local cemeteries.

ACKNOWLEDGING LIFE MEMBERS

During 2014 the Society voted to have some form of acknowledgement of our Life Members, who have given valuable service for the ongoing development of the Society. After some research and help from Bob Weller of XX Trophies we came up with the plaque pictured. Manning Valley Libraries mounted the plaque and the 25th Anniversary Plaque on the wall in the Heritage area of Taree Library.

Thank you to all concerned.





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