



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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Postal Address: PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430

Website: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

ABN 50 373 809 536



Manning Wallamba Family History Society was named in 1985 for the two major river valleys in the area, the Manning and the Wallamba and covers the Region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas:

Taree, Wingham, Kendall, Cooperook, 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

Vice Presidents:	G Sawyer	G Rose
Secretaries:	J Mitchell	G Toohey
Treasurer:	S Robinson	L Haynes
Publicity:	G Toohey	
Membership:	V Fletcher	
Librarians	J Mitchell	J Roberts
Research:	G. Toohey	W Horsburgh
Committee:	P Jarman	G Toohey
Newsletter:	J Irvine	J Mitchell
Public Officer:	L Haynes	

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT:

Dear 125 members and our friends,

This is our first report as an Executive Team. During the past few years our elected executive members have functioned well as a team, sharing duties whenever needed. When no one stepped in as President the formation of an executive team was the most logical solution. The team is made up of two Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, Treasurer and Public Officer. This suggestion was sent to members and was accepted unanimously. It will be formalised at the November meeting.

Thanks to all who give a couple of hours every two months to work at the Bunnings barbecues. These are financially successful and allow the Society to purchase resources suggested by members. If there is any book, CD or other resource that you think would be helpful for your research please let us know. Remember to look at the new items already purchased. We have been fortunate to book five barbecues for 2017 in March, May, July, September and November. Watch for the dates.

Some days at the library are buzzing and then some days are lovely and quiet. It's nice to just drop in on whoever is on duty and have a chat, even if not researching on the day, If you would like to join the "Genealogy Volunteer Roster" please contact Gloria by email. On the job training will be given. Thank you to all our volunteers who have kept our Society running during 2016.

With the amalgamation of the Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester Councils into MidCoast Council there have been changes in Library management. We thank Margie Kirkness for her friendship and support for our Society, and welcome Mr Chris Jones to the position. We have spoken informally with Chris and look forward to meeting with him in the New Year.

More members becoming interested in DNA and also having to find out more about it, Graeme has given several talks on the subject. See his report later in this newsletter.

Best wishes to those who are not well and recovering, or have family members on "the sick list". We hope to see them back on deck soon.

Congratulations to Janet Dengate and Lorna Walker for being awarded Life Membership to the Society. They have both given countless hours assisting others and have served in various executive positions. Thank you, Janet and Lorna.

The Christmas lunch will be held on Sunday 11th December in the Harrington Memorial Hall. Please email or phone Pam, Gloria or put your name on the list at the Library. Bring along for display something of interest to you – holiday album, family heirloom, hobby item, family tree album etc. We had lunch at the Harrington Hall several years ago and found it to be a delightful

venue and the catering by the Hall Committee was superb.

The Society has ventured into the world of Facebook. Margaret and Gloria have set up the page and are gradually building it up. You don't have to have a Facebook account to look at the page. However, if you want to comment or "like" the page you need a Facebook account.

Christmas break for our Genealogy Volunteers will be from Saturday 17th December to Monday 30th January 2017. The computers will still be available but will need to be booked with the Library staff. Genealogy volunteers will not be there to give assistance.

As this is the last Fig Tree for 2016 we would like to wish all our members and friends a happy and peace-filled Christmas and we look forward to 2017 with hope for an enjoyable year.

With best wishes,

The Executive Team

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to the following new members (listed with their interests)

- Pauline Hammill researching Douglas, Pobje, Atkinson & Cain
- Lorraine Martin researching Buckingham (Australia/Cornwall/Devon), Webb (Yass/Gournyan/Tumut), Andrews (Yass/Gundagai), Martin/Francis (Boorowa/Harden/Yass)



BARBECUES:

Next BBQ will be held at BUNNINGS 27 November

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 email secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

REGULAR EVENTS:

General Meeting: 1.30 pm 3rd Saturday of every month except December and January

Workshop: 1.30 pm 4th Saturday of every month except December and January



OUTSTANDING SERVICE: Janet Dengate and Lorna Walker have received life memberships of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society.

Presented life memberships

JANET Dengate and Lorna Walker have been awarded life membership of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society.

Both have devoted many hours of service to the society over the 20 years they have been members.

During that time they have

held many executive positions and have served as regular genealogy volunteers.

They received their medals at recent meetings.

The Manning Wallamba Family History Society supports family history research across the Manning Valley and beyond.

Based at Taree Library, Manning Wallamba Family History Society volunteers provide research support at Taree Library on Monday to Friday 10am to 12.30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1.30pm. For more information email secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au.

Article from Manning River Times 14 Oct 2016 Photo by G Toohey

WORKSHOP REPORTS

The Society workshops held in September and October were "non-internet" days to highlight that everything is not on the internet. The success of these days has led to the planning of more similar workshops next year.

In **September** we looked at the Archives Resource Kit (ARK) from NSW State records and local newspaper microfilms. Some members had "V number" data so that was a starting point.

1. V 18501049 67 means 1850 (year) 1049 (Item number) 67 (Volume)
2. How to find the microfilm reel by using ARK Index or in reel cabinet
3. How to cut and print or save to usb

The next topic was ARK Archives in Brief following the flowcharts.
Finally we used the NSW microfiche with births up to 1918

The **October** workshop concentrated on Society resources using firstly the printed Resource Directory then the "non internet XP computer" to find resources. We looked at books and CDs which can only be accessed on the Society desktop computer. The Cemetery CDs proved very popular, as did some of the District History books.

GRAEME'S DNA WORKSHOPS

In 2012 when I was still newly researching my family tree, I discovered that I had a Black Convict ancestor.

In an effort to find out more about her origins I investigated DNA which would have passed from her to me.

I chose www.FTDNA.com as it offers more future testing choices than Ancestry & was cheaper.

If you go to www.ftdna.com then click on Family Finder then under the [Add to cart] are a few links to **OVERVIEW DISCOVER YOUR ORIGINS FAMILY MATCHES FAQ** which will explain the purpose of each test.

Family Finder has proved to be the most valuable for people just looking for their racial origins & then related people of either sex. It is also the cheapest test at about AUS \$120 for test & postage of sampler to you & back. The sampler is a small "toothbrush" that you scrape inside your cheek. This sample is kept by them forever & you can ask for more tests as needed. I asked for each test separately as questions arose. It did not always help but as more people do it I still have hope.☺

In 2016 quite a few members of the MWFHS have recently had their Family Finder done & I was happy to share my experience over the last 3 years.

My Racial origins came out:

31% Scandinavian which merely indicates that many of my ancestors came from Yorkshire & Scotland

28% Western European which indicates that many of my London ancestors were the descendants of European immigrants.

26% English which indicates that I did have some ancestors from Cornwall, Somerset, Wales & Ireland plus a "Native English" part in all those others.

12% Southern European indicates that southern English ports & London are the first port of call for ships from the south. (Portugal, Spain & Italy)

None of these results mean that I would be able to find exotic ancestors within historical time.

Only a tiny amount of the black convict were still present as she was my gggggrandmother born in 1789.

My Family Finder matches of people who do share my DNA only shows a few people with very small amounts of DNA in common. They are all 4th cousins so we share a ggggrandparent.

I immediately tried to contact the 2 closest matches without success. It was 12 months before someone else out of my matches contacted me. Since then 2 other individuals & a family group have made contact.

The benefit I have derived from this is that much of my tree was originally guesswork as I have very few fellow family researchers. By these people sharing DNA & sharing ancestors meant my assumptions have been confirmed.

DNA passes from parents to children as a random mix to each child, so just because you don't share DNA with someone does not mean you are not related. It is just chance. So NO match does not mean unrelated but YES match does definitely mean you are.

Relationship	Match Probability
2 nd cousins or closer	> 99%
3 rd cousin	> 90%
4 th cousin	> 50%
5 th cousin	> 10%
6 th cousin and more distant	Remote (typically less than 2%)

I have found these tests very interesting.

Regards

Graeme

COUSIN TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

FIRST COUSIN

Your first cousin is a child of your aunt or uncle. You share **one set of grandparents with your first cousin, but you do not have the same parents.**

SECOND COUSIN

Your second cousin is the grandchild of your great-aunt or great-uncle. **You share one set of great-grandparents with your second cousin, but you do not have the same grandparents.**

THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH COUSINS

Your third cousin is the great-grandchild of your great-great-aunt or great-great-uncle. **You share a set of great-great-grandparents with your third cousin, but do not have the same great-grandparents. Fourth cousins have one set of great-great-great-grandparents, but not the same great-great-grandparents. And so on.**

DOUBLE COUSINS

If two siblings in one family marry two siblings from another family and each couple has a child, the children are double first cousins. **The word *double* in addition to the first cousin term is because they share the same four grandparents.** Regular first cousins share only one set of common grandparents, while double first cousins share both sets of grandparents plus all lineal and collateral relatives.

REMOVED

The relationships of **cousins of different generations are explained by using the word "removed"**. Cousins who are "once removed" have a one-generation difference. For example, the first cousin of your father is your first cousin, once removed. In that case, your father's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference is explained by saying that you are cousins "once removed."

Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference between cousins. If you are two generations younger than the first cousin of your grandparent, then the relationship between you and your grandparent's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

Cousin relationships can be any combination of first, second, third and so on, with once removed, twice removed, and so on.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE LAUNCH OF NEW INDEXES

The General Register Office has launched new online indexes of births and deaths for England & Wales which provides additional information and makes ordering of certificates easier.

The key features of the new indexes are:

- The GRO have based the indexes on transcriptions of their registers made during the aborted DoVE (Digitisation of Vital Events project). This means that errors and omissions made in the construction of the original indexes, or when handwritten indexes were recast as typeset indexes, are likely to have been avoided.
- The new indexes include births from 1837 to 1915 (ie more than 100 years old), and deaths from 1837 to 1957.

- **Extra information:**
 - The mother's maiden name is now shown from 1837 onwards, which also helps us to identify illegitimate births.
 - The age at death is now shown from 1837 onward.

The existing indexes will continue to be available online at the usual sites. To view the GRO indexes you'll need to log-in at their site, and you may be required to verify your email address. (Source – Lost Cousins newsletter)

RESEARCH SERVICE:

Research Forms can be downloaded from Society website. Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00.

Current Research:

- **George GIBSON and Family Coopernook**
- **BATES, FIELD, ALBURY OXLEY ISLAND**
- **Thomas WOOTTON – verification of his crime**

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

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 any items you would like included, please email them to

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

The preferred format is by a Word document.



NORTHAM FAMILY REUNION

Descendants are invited to attend a family reunion on Saturday 1st April 2017 at the Wingham Services Club, Bent Street, Wingham, NSW to celebrate the arrival of James and Eliza (Webber) NORTHAM from Devonshire, England. The reunion will begin at 12 noon with a cost of \$14 for catering purposes. Associated names include Bird, Bulmer, Cross, Griffiths, Lilier, McKay, Murray, Richards, Wall, Winter and Wood.

Please bring along any photographs and memorabilia, bring your stories from the past and meet new family members. For further information contact David Long by post 133 Henry Street Merewether NSW 2291, by email dlong4@bigpond.com or by phone 02 4963 1847

Dixon Family Reunion

The Descendants of:

Frederick Horatio and Jane (nee Eckford) Dixon

Are holding a family reunion on the 25th November 2017 at Maitland NSW

To celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Fred Arriving in Australia

Some associated families: Baker, Bell, Black, Capp, Clift, Coward, Eckford, Gallen, Hills, Mitchel, Muirhead, Paterson, Suters, Tait, Volmer, Walters.

For further details: go to

fhdixonreunion.weebly.com

www.facebook.com/groups/FHDIXON

Or contact: Allan Shephard at: alshep724@gmail.com or phone 0419 601 226

BURIAL RECORDS AND UNMARKED GRAVES:

Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. has an ongoing project to record graves on private property and unmarked graves in all local cemeteries.

The upgrading and recording of burials has shown the Society just how many unmarked and unknown graves and burial sites there are in the area.

The deterioration of grave markings is also of concern (as shown in the examples below from Dawson River Cemetery). To ensure that the Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. Burial Records are a comprehensive list of all buried in this area we are asking anyone who knows of unmarked graves, graves on private property, placement of ashes or burial sites to provide any details they can by completing the forms available in the Family History section of the Taree branch of Manning Valley Libraries or email secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au



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	\$15.00
Gilwarra, Taree Estate, Woola - 2008 edition Book or CD	\$15.00
Tinonee, Bo-Bo, Bight, Murray Hills, Easton, Dunvegan	\$15.00
Cooperbrook, Moorland, Harrington	\$15.00
Lansdowne	\$15.00
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$15.00
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$15.00
Wingham Beams	\$10.00
Killabakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$15.00
Redbank 2008 edition Book or CD	\$15.00
Failford, Willow Point	\$15.00
Krambach	\$15.00
Dawson 1 - Methodist Section	\$15.00
Dawson 2 - Anglican A - L	\$15.00
Dawson 3 - Anglican M - Z	\$15.00
Dawson 4 - Roman Catholic Section	\$15.00
Dawson 5 - Presbyterian & other Sections	\$15.00
Dawson 6 - Columbarium, Rose Gardens & Burials from Undertakers Records & other sources. No Grave Numbers	\$15.00
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	\$15.00
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 + \$12.50 p&p

Pre 1860 Pioneer Register - Book 2 \$32.50 + \$12.50 p&p

Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430

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

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

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Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc
PO Box 48
TAREE NSW 2430