

# MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc TAREE

Issue 151 August 2019

## THE FIG TREE



Operating Since 1985 in Partnership with Manning Valley Libraries

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### Inside this Issue

President's Report	1
Office Bearers	1
Secretary's Report	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Research Report	3
Librarian's Report	3
Unmarked Graves Report	3
Research Service	4
Regular Events/Diary Dates	4
Useful Links	5-6
Resources for Sale	17-18

### Articles of Interest

#### **Family Heirlooms & Treasures**

The Gold Locket	7-8
Aunty Nell's Biscuit Barrel	14-15

#### **History of Taree -**

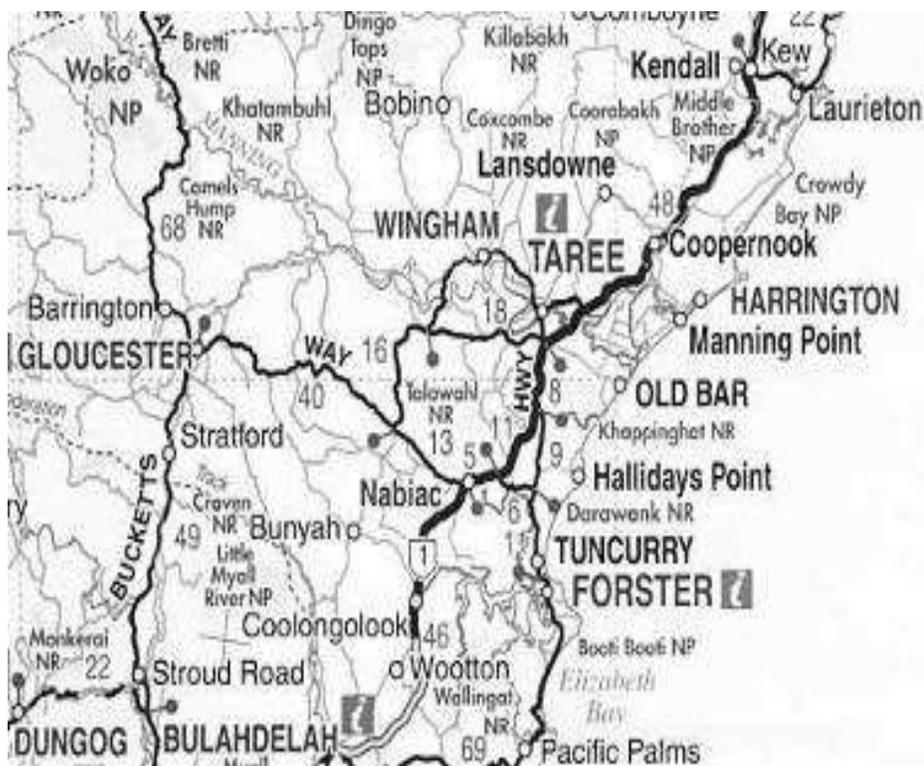
William Wynters' Tale	9-10
Dairying on the Manning	11
Incorporation of the Municipality of Taree	12-13

#### **A Bit of Humour**

Marriage Failure	16
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#### **Flash Back**

Gumboots & Gravestones	19-20
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Time flies, or are the months getting shorter or is the year being squeezed. We have had a busy year with very successful activities which have been instructive and worthwhile achievements. As always, I would like to thank a very supportive group who organise and run our organization. We are blessed with some very experienced and knowledgeable people, so show your appreciation when they help you. Our fundraising, whilst being successful, sometimes lacks a bit of support.

### **So why do we fundraise?**

New Printer, Future storage requirements including our storage shed, upgrading computers, purchasing more materials to improve our research and store the results, end result, better and simpler for you to do your research. Remember it is your organization so support it as much as you can.

For those who are not feeling a hundred percent, then a big get well. Looking to the next year and many more achievements.

Ken Beeton  
President

## OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

President:	Ken Beeton	Research Officers	Sue Robinson
Vic Presidents:	Graeme Rose		Wal Horsburgh
	George Sawyer	Duty Roster Clerk	Janine Roberts
Secretaries	Barbara Waters (Mail/Email)	Librarian	Sue Robinson
	Sue Robinson (Minutes)	Asst. Librarian	Kay Brooke
	Vicki Fletcher (Membership)	Newsletter Editor	Joan Irvine
Treasurer	Lorraine Martin	Publications Officer	Sue Robinson
Asst. Treasurer	Graeme Rose	Publicity Officer	Vicki Fletcher
	Public Officer	Lyn Haynes	
	Isolated & Unmarked Graves	Pam Jarman	
	Social & Management Committee	Graeme & Pam Jarman	
	Auditor	Dan Adam	

## **The following reports were tabled and carried at the recent AGM**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This year has seen my role as Secretary becoming less daunting, I am appreciative of all the help I have been given, particularly computer advice. Vicki and her knowledge of Facebook are great in promoting the Society. I am now printing all journals that come by email on the new printer, this is so much easier. The fundraising Bunnings BBQ's continue to be a success, a big thank you to those who readily put their hands up to help, it makes it easier to fill the roster.

I was disappointed with the response to Bonnie Wingham's Genealogy Fair, maybe this event has run its course, again clashing with a family history event at Port Macquarie didn't help.

Our relationship with the library and their coordination of events such as National Family History Month help us as we don't have to worry about advertising or bookings.,

We are fortunate that our member Janine Roberts has the drive to organise historical walks. As a Society we can all do our bit and this certainly promotes MWFHS. Our workshops continue to be of interest.

Thank you to all who have made my job much easier, to the research time I do enjoy helping you and gaining local knowledge is important.

Barbara Waters (Secretary)

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Congratulations everyone on a very busy and productive year. Our corner of the Midcoast Library is most of the time a hive of activity with lots of people dropping in to ask for a hand or just have a chat. It's amazing how interesting some of our enquiries have been.

Membership continued to be one of our major earners, just down a little from last year with an income of \$2393.00 for the year and we have also had over \$600 paid in during July. Bunnings BBQ's were only manned 4 times this year as we missed out on the May booking. However, we still made a profit of \$3102.35. Research enquiries also generated a slightly increased amount this year, up to \$354.60.

Regular yearly expenses were annual fees for Insurances at \$321.00, Membership fees to State and National Societies at \$218.00 and our annual rental for the Mac's Storage Shed of \$1080.00. Gold Age Media also charged us \$198 for the upkeep of our webpage and google account.

The Google Email Account was set up with the help of Greg Golden from Golden Age Media. The monthly fee is between \$4.50 and \$6.00 up to now and can only be paid using Credit or Debit Card. With this in mind we set up this year a separate account with Holiday Coast Credit Union, an S14.1 account which allows direct debits monthly for the email account. Office 365 Software annual fee of \$129 is also paid from this account. All we have to do is make sure we transfer/pay into this account enough each year to cover these expenses.

A major purchase this year was a new Kyocera Photocopier from Holiday Coast Office Supplies for \$1759.00. This has proved invaluable for easier printing of our Figtree Magazine and other publications such as Pioneer Registers. Admin. Expenses included the usual Australia Post Box hire and postage and Holiday Coast Office Supplies for maintenance of our printer, purchases of paper and other office expenses. We also paid \$357.50 for the printing of 1000 advertising brochures which look really professional and informative. \$300 was another expense for an update to one of our laptops, giving us a much better machine.

Looking at the Income and Expenditure we were down by \$391.58 for the year. However, we have gained in assets and everything is much easier to use. At the end of the Financial Year our closing balance was \$17,148.27 which is a very healthy balance to end the year.

Thanks everyone, I have enjoyed working with the figures for the Society over the last 5 or 6 years and look forward eagerly to the next 12 months working with our group in one capacity or another

Sue Robinson (Treasurer)

## RESEARCH REPORT

A report on the activities of the research team held at the Library of a Saturday morning. During the year the team has had 56 research requests which have been satisfied. This has created an income of \$354.60 for the Society.

I would like to thank my team of helpers for the efforts they have provided, my Secretary Sue, researchers Barbara and Kaye and guest researchers that have given their input of a Saturday, a very big thank you.

As this has been a year of learning we have gained in confidence as we progressed. I do hope that the forth-coming year will be a greater success.

The other project that is ongoing is the digitising of the Pioneer Cards to the Legacy Family History Data Base. This was started by Gloria. Although slow to get going, it is a big job in checking the sources of each of the peoples listed in our registers, and is progressing slowly. A big thank you to Peter and Sue Langdown for their tireless efforts on this project.

Wal Horsburgh (Research Officer)

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Stocktake has been completed, some reference books were missing, but a couple have now been returned. With the help of Sue Robinson we have adjusted records accordingly.

We have made and presented to the Auditor the following lists:

A list of stock such as computers, printer, BBQ equipment to the value of \$10,962.80

A list of reference books, CD's and Fiche to the value of \$91,594.79

A list of publications ready for sale to the value of \$1,834.00

**Total Value is \$104,391.59**

This shows how rich in stock we are! So well done everybody. All digital records are now up to date and we just have a few reference books to be catalogued.

I feel we still have to move our reference books around to increase space between each category group to enable us to place new items into correct area in number order, this may also prevent the dog earing of books. I know that early in the year we were given a USB stick with the Dagger Family History on it, up to today I have not been given a copy of this item to make into a book and I would like to see it put into stock before I sign off.

I am very pleased to have been Librarian over the years and also have served in different positions with the Society which enabled me to help others with their research, many thanks for everyone's help and friendship.

Jan Mitchell (Librarian)

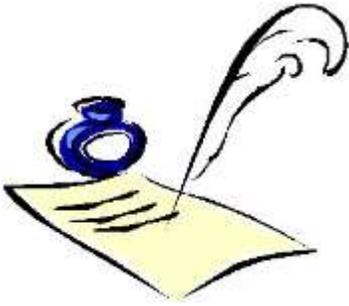
## UNMARKED GRAVES REPORT

Not as much achieved as hoped, no chance of keeping pace with items under Gloria's domain. Some extra information has been added to names already in the data base. This information has been supplied by family. What do we do with these info sheets/copies of inquests? A folder? New additions to be uploaded to data base in the library. I will liaise with Sue, Peter and Wal. There are still queries to be followed up.

**Old Harrington Cemetery:** This is located in the State Park near the foreshore at the Crowdy Head end of Harrington. Evidence has been uncovered to indicate the site of an unmarked grave. There are 5 children buried here. Genevieve Godwin from the Landcare group has approached State Parks to see if the area can be restored. Photos were received but no further information.

**Pilot Hill Cemetery.** The Harrington/Crowdy Head Lions Club maintains inside the cemetery. Recently the grave markers and the fence were painted. The information booth has a new roof and there has been maintenance to the flagpole.

Pam Jarman



**WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE**

*As you know the main theme for last year was  
"My Military Ancestor".*

***Thank you*** to all those who contributed.

*The themes for 2019 are*

***"The History of Taree***

***And***

***"Family Heirlooms & Treasures"***

**BUNNINGS BAR-B-QUE**



BBQ's will be held on the last Sunday of  
March, May, July, and September &  
November. The next one will be

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

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

**NB: COVERED SHOES MUST BE WORN**

**Research Service**

Research Forms can  
be downloaded from  
Society website.

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

Initial Research  
Enquiry \$20.00  
including up to  
2 hours research and  
limited photocopying, to  
the value of \$5.00  
Extra microfilm  
copying \$1.00 per  
page. Additional  
Research  
\$10.00 per hour.

**DIARY DATES**



**Christmas Party to be held at Taree Leagues Club Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Last Duty Research Day for 2019 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December and we will reopen on**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**GENERAL MEETING:**

1.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month **except Dec & Jan**

**WORKSHOP:**

1.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month except Dec & Jan

**(Upcoming Workshops)**

28 September 2019 – Walk through MWFHS Resources

26 October 2019 - TBA

23 November 2019 – Talking about Margaret Murphy

## USEFUL WEBSITES

The following are some useful links to help you in your research.

### AUSTRALIAN CIVIL REGISTRATION: –

- NSW Historical Indexes - <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au>
- QUEENSLAND - <https://www.bdm.qld.gov.au/IndexSearch>
- VICTORIA - <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/>
- STH. AUST. - [genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html](http://genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html)
- TASMANIA - <https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/indexes>
- WESTERN AUST - <https://www.justice.wa.gov.au>

### OVERSEAS CIVIL REGISTRATION: -

- ENGLAND & WALES <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
- NAT. RECORDS OF SCOTLAND - <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history>
- SHEFFIELD INDEXES - <https://www.sheffieldindexers.com/LinksIndex.html>
- LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIAGES - <https://mi.lincolnshiremarriages.org.uk/>

### LIBRARIES –

- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUST (Catalogue) [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)
- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUST (Digitised Newspapers, plus much more) - [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au)
- STATE LIBRARY OF NSW - [www.library.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.library.sl.nsw.gov.au)
- BRITISH LIBRARY - [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)
- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND - [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)
- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND - [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)
- COUNTY CLARE LIBRARY (IRELAND) [www.clarelibrary.ie](http://www.clarelibrary.ie)
- NEW** WALES LIBRARY <https://www.library.wales/information-for/family-historians/records/>

### MILITARY –

- AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL - <http://www.awm.gov.au>
- NATIONAL ARCHIVES (also have searchable databases for Military Records) - <http://www.naa.gov.au/>  
(As do THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE UK) <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

### ARCHIVES-

- NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA - <http://www.naa.gov.au>
- NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND - [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)
- NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF UK - [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- NSW ARCHIVES - [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- SA ARCHIVES - [www.archives.sa.gov.au](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au)
- NT ARCHIVES [https://dca.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/267832/researching-your-family-history.pdf](https://dca.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/267832/researching-your-family-history.pdf)
- TASMANIAN ARCHIVES - <https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/default.aspx>
- VICTORIAN ARCHIVES - [www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA - [www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au)
- NEW** SCOTTISH ARCHIVE NETWORK - <http://www.scan.org.ukdigitalarchive.index.htm>

### CEMETERY/BURIAL AND DEATH NOTICES-

- THE RYERSON INDEX - <https://www.ryersonindex.org>
- ROOKWOOD CEMETERY - <http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/>
- AUSTRALIAN CEMETERIES - <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au>
- ALL AUST STATES AND US - <http://www.interment.net/aus/nsw/index.htm>

## USEFUL WEBSITES Cont'd

### **Church of Ireland Parish Registers -**

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegisters/PARISHREGISTERS.pdf>

A colour-coded resource accounting for what survives; where it is and with additional information of copies, transcripts and online indexes

### **Dublin Port Archive NEW**

<http://dublinportarchive.com>

### **Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI –**

<https://registers.nli.ie>

This website contains images from the NLI's collection of Catholic parish register microfilms. It contains records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880.

### **Westmeath Genealogy - 9000 records (baptisms, marriages, deaths, gravestones)**

<http://www.westmeath.rootsireland.ie>

### **Waterford County – 12,000 records added.**

<http://waterford.rootsireland.ie/generic.php?filename=sources.tpl&selectedMenu=sources>

### **Limerick - This site consists of 10 websites.**

<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/genealogy/websites-researching-limerick-roots>

### **West Cork Genealogy –**

<http://www.westcorkgenealogy.com>

This is a genealogical database of people from West Cork where information is difficult to get. There are some interesting links including parish map links and West Cork families to name just two.

### **Carmarthenshire, Wales –**

<https://forebears.io/wales/carmarthenshire>

<http://www.dustydocs.com.au/county/3/wales/94/carmarthenshire.html>

[https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/county/carmarthenshire/parish\\_records/](https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/county/carmarthenshire/parish_records/)

### **Scotland –**

<https://www.oldscottish.com> NEW

### **META SITES –**

CYNDI'S LIST	-	<a href="http://www.cyndislist.com">www.cyndislist.com</a>
CORA NUM'S CORA'S WEB	-	<a href="http://www.coraweb.com.au">www.coraweb.com.au</a>
GENUKI	-	<a href="https://www.genuki.org.uk/">https://www.genuki.org.uk/</a>
IRISH GENEALOGY	-	<a href="https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/">https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/</a>

## **"FAMILY HEIRLOOMS AND TREASURES"**

### **THE GOLD LOCKET**

*By Sue Langdown*

The story passed down in the family is that when Rolston Charles Golds became engaged to Martha Rebecca Shaw he gave her a gold locket which she wore for the rest of her life. The locket was engraved with his initials, "RG". A photo of each of them was placed inside.



**The photo of Rolston Charles Golds  
c1893, retrieved from the locket**



**Martha Rebecca Golds (nee Shaw) c 1893**

The couple, both aged 21, married on Christmas Day 1893 in St James Church in the parish of Bermondsey, in the county of London. They lived in Deptford, an area on the south bank of the river Thames in London. Rolston's occupation at the time of their marriage was recorded as a hammerman, but over the next 15 years he is recorded as being a labourer and a blacksmith. In this time, Martha bore nine children, two of whom died of pneumonia before the age of one year. Then, in November 1909, Rolston died at the age of 37 as the result of tuberculosis. At that time Martha was expecting their tenth child. Just two months later, Martha suffered further heartbreak when her mother Martha Adelaide Shaw died. A month later the tenth child, a daughter who Martha named Adelaide Martha, was born, but sadly this child lived for only seven months, dying from tuberculosis in October 1910. Then in May 1913 the couple's third daughter, now aged 12, died of tuberculosis.

How Martha survived so much misfortune and supported her young family as a single mother is unknown, however, on the 1911 census she wrote that she was a sewing machinist.

In 1919, the oldest surviving daughter, Rose, now aged 20, married a sailor in the Australian Navy, and she migrated to Australia to live with him in his home town of Taree.

It is believed that this was the reason that Martha decided to also migrate to Australia. Rose was writing to her mother telling positive stories of her new life in Australia, with its warm climate and new opportunities. So in

## **THE GOLD LOCKET - Continued**

November 1921, Martha boarded the "Ormuz" with her 4 youngest children, Florence, now 18, James, 16, William, 15 and Albert 13, bound for Taree. It is not known how this move was funded. Martha resided in Taree with her family for many years, owning several properties; eventually again following Rose in a move to Sydney. In 1956, Martha died aged 84, at Rose's home in Wentworthville and is buried in Prospect Cemetery.

Martha's locket is now a treasured family keepsake which has been worn by several great granddaughters at their weddings. The photo of Martha inside the locket has now faded beyond recovery, but the photo of Rolston is still reasonably clear. It is the only known photo of him. Recently it was carefully removed so that a digital copy could be made. Found behind his photo were some strands of hair, carefully twisted together into a circle. We can only presume, but believe that they are likely to be Rolston's hair.

The locket which was a token of the love and faithfulness Martha shared with Rolston has, since researching her story, also become a memento of Martha's incredible courage and endurance through much heartbreak.



**Martha Rebecca Golds, wearing the locket, and the four children who came to Australia with her in 1921. Clockwise from left: James, William, Florence and Albert.**



**Martha Golds, taken in 1955, the year before she died. Still wearing the locket, Martha is holding her great granddaughter who later wore it on her wedding day.**

## HISTORY OF TAREE

### William Wynter's Tale

Submitted by Ivan Ransom MWFHS

William Wynter was not the first settler on the Lower Manning. John Guilding took up a grant near Coopernook in 1828. The Cedar Rush was in full swing and the sound of the axe was ringing through the hills when the Wynters arrived in 1832. The Cedar-getters were not the first, either. The Gattang-speaking Biripi had witnessed Oxley's retinue tramping through the bush in 1818, evaluating what was to become, within a couple of years, Port Macquarie, on the next major river to the North, a place reserved for people Governor Ralph Darling particularly didn't like.

Arriving in Sydney in 1829 with his wife, Elizabeth Duke and three infants ( eldest son Delamore had been boarded to acquire an education and would arrive in the colony in 1837), William Wynter, in recognition of his Naval service in the Napoleonic Wars as a Purser, was given a grant of 2560 acres on the North bank of the Manning River, South of Brown's, or Crooked Creek. At that point in time, the colony of New South Wales was defined as extending from the penal settlement of Port Macquarie in the North to the penal settlement of Broulee, near Bateman's Bay, in the South. "Tarree", as the grant had been named, was at the time, rough bush with occasional stumps of huge Cedar trees. To the South, a timbered floodplain formed what was to become the "Taree Estate". At first the family lived at Cundletown where there was a good wharf, later setting up house on a high terrace overlooking the Estate near what is now the Taree TAFE.

To conquer isolation and to trade with Sydney and Port Macquarie, William Wynter had a carvel ship built: a fifty-foot, 60 ton topsail schooner (a fair representation of which is the mural in the Wynter Tavern at Bushland). Timber was in abundance. Several of the assigned convicts had shipbuilding experience. A slipway was laid at what is now the riverbank below Pulteney Street. A gravel bar at Coocumbuc Island prevented any vessel of reasonable draught from proceeding further upstream beyond Taree at that time. It was not until the 1880s that a channel was dredged along the South Bank allowing ocean-going vessels to pass on to Tinonee and Wingham.

The Worimi and Biripi people used to gather at the site of Taree, fording the river at dead low tide across the gravel bar. Early settlers used this crossing, too, emerging from the river at what is now West End Avenue. At the highest point on the bank, near this exit from the crossing, Wynter's "Taree Barn" was erected. This served as a meeting place for the locals. The Reverend William Macquarie Cowper, Chaplain of the Australian Agricultural Company at Stroud, conducted the first church at Taree on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1845. The Anglican Church of Saint John the Divine occupies the site today.

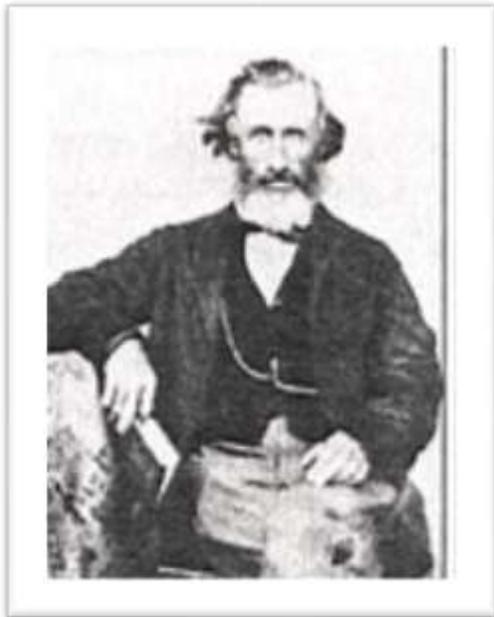
The Wynter boys, Thomas and William II, were fluent Galang speakers. They and their father were held in high estimation by both Europeans and Aborigines. William Wynter Senior pleaded with Governor George Gipps to proclaim reservations for the natives. As a magistrate and Timber

## **'A William Wynters Tale' Continued -**

Commissioner he led an arduous and exhausting life. On the Marriage of the daughter, Mary, to Henry Flett in 1840, William Wynter retired and as women were not generally allowed to hold property, the control of Taree Estate went to Henry Flett. The property was seriously in financial deficit. Henry Flett proceeded to survey up the Northern end of the property, on the seaward side of the shallows, to auction it off as a township. It was the biggest Auction in the colony to date. Travelling to Port Macquarie to help arrange a sale, proved too much and William Wynter passed away in 1853 at 67 years of age. His burial in the graveyard of St. Thomas' Church is unmarked but readily locatable as funerals were conducted there in the strict order typical of a military establishment.

Elizabeth lived on until 1869. She and her daughter, Mary Stimson Flett, were celebrated as midwives. Henry Flett was the Member for Manning – Macleay in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly 1859 – 1864 and passed away in 1877. Mary sold the estate piecemeal and so it passed out of the hands of the Flett family, but not before gifting land by 1890 for the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist and Roman churches and the hospital.

Delamore Duke Wynter, (1819- 1894) the eldest son, arrived in Taree in 1837 and married his cousin, Mary Tilney (1848-1885). His younger brother, Thomas Hutchinson , married her sister, Emma in 1851 . The Wynters and the Tilneys were closely acquainted before arrival in the colony. Delamore was a qualified apothecary and served in general medical practice. William John Wynter, (1853-1931) the Third son, did not marry.



**William Wynter**

Date of Birth - 1786  
Place of Birth - Plymouth, England.  
Date of Death - 09/10/1853  
Place of Death - Port Macquarie, NSW Australia



**Henry Flett**

Date of Birth 01/04/1810  
Place of Birth – Caithness, Scotland  
Date of Death - 08/11/1877  
Place of Death – Taree, NSW, Australia

## HISTORY OF TAREE

*The following story appeared in the Figtree - Issue 5, November 1986, Page 9 and was originally submitted by Doreen Gill, Cundletown. Doreen's father Andrew A Gill was a Director of the Manning River Co-op Soc. For 33 years 1929-1963 and her brother Dallas M. Gill for a further 23 years 1963-1986.*

### DAIRYING ON THE MANNING

The Dairying Industry came into being on the Manning as the early pioneers settled on the land and acquired a few head of dairy cattle.

The Lower Manning was harassed by yearly floods, which helped to build up a rich alluvial soil, where corn flourished and was grown extensively, becoming a primary industry. Everything from planting to husking and bagging was done by hand.

When shelled and bagged into 4 bushel bags, this was sent to the Sydney Markets by ship and after expenses a return to the farmer of 1/- to 1/6d could be expected.

These early farmers had it the hard way – milking by hand – the milk was “SET” in huge tin dishes, the cream skimmed and made into butter by hand.

William Gill was one of the first to send butter to Sydney Markets from Jones Island in wooden kegs, which held 40 lbs of butter. These kegs were taken to Croki in a corn bag on horse-back to be shipped.

Homemade butter sold on the local market for sixpence a pound in 1890. In 1892 the Lower Manning Dairy Co-op Society was formed and a factory built on Mitchells Island at the mouth of Scott's Creek. Creameries were established at Luthrie Bau – Coopernook – Dumaresque Island and Ghinni Ghinni. Here the milk was brought by the farmers by boat or horse and dray to be separated, the cream taken to the factory and the skimmed milk taken back to the farm to feed to the pigs and calves, which were raised extensively.

First at the Creamery was first home. Often late-comers did not get home until 3.00pm just in time to milk again by hand. As farmers acquired their own separators, the creameries were phased out.

The cream was then collected from the farms by boat and taken to the factory for processing. The original factory was replaced by a modern new building with modern machinery in 1919, which supplied the needs of the Industry until the 1940's when the business was moved to Chatham about 1948 and another phase of the History of Dairying was continued.

## HISTORY OF TAREE

*The following story appeared in the Figtree - Issue 4, September 1986, Page 3.*

### THE INCORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPLAITY OF TAREE

Taree was gazetted on Thursday March 26 1885. Thirty years earlier in December 1885 Henry Flett had held an auction of lots of land to form a proposed village of Taree.

Flett had named the streets Victoria and Albert, after the then Queen and her Prince Consort; Wynter after his father-in-law; Macquarie after Governor Macquarie; Pulteney after a suburb in his own home town in Caithness, also Commerce and Manning.

From 100 lots he sold a total of 40, at an average price of 20 pounds per half acre block.

The proclamation for the foundation of the Taree council was issued by His Excellency - The Right Honourable Lord Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus. The gazettal was contained in the supplement to the NSW Government Gazette in 1885 and proclaimed an area of 296 acres to be set aside for the municipality. The leading spirits saw that a council was essential for its progress and that the town would ultimately become the leader of the district.

The first returning officer was appointed and instructed by the Government to conduct a poll of ratepayers of the Taree Municipal District for the election of six aldermen to constitute the first council of the Municipality of Taree.

The returning officer appointed was Mr. Charles Boyce, co-founder of The Manning River Times. The election was held in the Agricultural Hall then situated on the old Showground. <sup>1</sup>

**Aldermen elected** were Henry W. Flett, Thomas West Dugdale, John Belford, William Wootton, John Robinson and George Saxby.

The first meeting of council was held in the Agricultural Hall on Monday May 28 1885, under the chairmanship of the returning officer Mr. Boyce, until the election of a Mayor. Alderman H. W. Flett defeated Ald. Dugdale by four votes to two – but Ald. Dugdale succeeded him in the office in the years 1886 to 1890.

**Ald. Flett** was a son of Henry Flett who took over the grant of Taree from William Wynter. Keenly interested in local affairs and advancement of the district, he was undoubtedly a great pioneer.

**Ald. Dugdale** the second Mayor of Taree had a general store in Victoria Street where Peel's store now stands. <sup>2</sup> Old Duggie, as he was affectionately called, was a good townsman. His wife was drowned in a collision between the Barrabool and the Bonny Dundee, when proceeding from Sydney to Taree. Her body was found near Seal Rocks.

**Ald. Belford** was a butcher whose business stood on the site of Rose's Café<sup>3</sup> His slaughter house was on the river bank below Macquarie Street. He was afterwards a successful farmer at Taree Estate and was a pioneer committeeman of Taree Agricultural and Horticultural Association. He retired to Willoughby and died in 1934 aged 91.

**Ald. Wootton** father of the famed Dick Wootton trainer, horse owner and station proprietor, was a

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<sup>1</sup> The Old Showground was on the site of the present Manning Mall

<sup>2</sup> Peel's Store no longer exists, however, it was located next door to where Yarad's Store is now. (see following picture)

<sup>3</sup> Rose's Café was in Victoria Street, near to where the National Bank is today.

bootmaker who lived opposite Fotheringham Park. He later moved to the corner of Victoria and Commerce Streets and built the Ship Inn.<sup>4</sup> He later built the Steam Packet Hotel<sup>5</sup> subsequently taken over by Mr. W. O. McMahon.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Wootton had as his apprentice the late Mr. Steve Whitbread the ex-Town Clerk, also a notable figure.



MR. STEVE WHITBREAD,  
Who has been Town Clerk of  
Taree since 1888.

**Ald. Robinson** was a retired farmer living in Victoria Street, his home was built by Captain Benaud, master of the Diamantina, a paddle wheel steamer which traded on the Manning. He was also superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School,

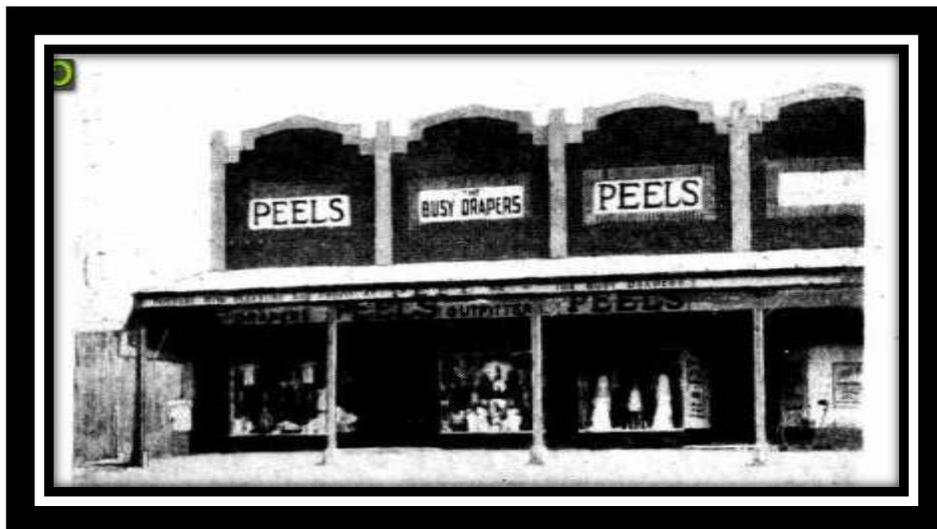
**Ald. George Saxby** who established the cordial works, now known as Saxby's Soft Drinks, was a quiet but a keen businessman. He was the fourth and ninth Mayor of Taree. Ald. Saxby established the Independent newspaper in Commerce Street, Taree, in the 1890's. A sculptor and mason, his work can be seen at the Taree Court House and Wingham School.

At the second meeting of the council on June 10, 1885 applications were called for the joint position of Town Clerk, Inspector of Nuisances and Bailiff.

On June 17 1885 the late Horace Beeton was selected from four applications to fill the position. He was paid £100 a year, subject to the provision of a bond of £200 for the "due and diligent performance of his duties".

The unsuccessful applicants for the position were Messrs George Ochs, C. McIntyre and Charles Dyball. At the same meeting Messrs G. Ochs, a surveyor living at Tinonee and R Howell were appointed valuers at the annual fee of three guineas.

The late Mr. Horace Beeton retained his position until March 13 1886, when he resigned and was succeeded by a former applicant Mr. Ochs.



<sup>4</sup> The Ship Inn –This building no longer exists.

<sup>5</sup> The Steam Packet Hotel burnt down in October 1913.

## AUNTY NELL'S BISCUIT BARREL



Ellen Irvine was born at “Wombateena” on 12th November 1865 the fourth child of David and Mary Irvine (nee Halpin), her childhood was spent on the family property, attending school and church at Ashlea, Dingo Creek.

Ellen Irvine fondly known to family and the wider community as Aunty Nell.

The Presbyterian Church was an important part in her life for many years she taught Sunday School, belonged to the Girls Auxiliary and Women's Missionary as well as being on the committee of the Protestant Federation, like many young women of her day she assisted at the annual church fete, along with Miss L Broomfield and Miss E. Johnson manned the flower and plant stall for many years.

She supported Missions and children's orphanages locally and internationally throughout her life.

In 1905 with her sister Margaret Isabella Agnew Irvine they purchased land bounded by Bulga Rd (now Murray Rd), Richardson Street and Lambert Street Wingham where they build a cottage, Maggie was a dressmaker, after Maggie's death in 1910 from Typhoid Fever, Nell continued to live in the cottage.

In 1927 she allowed part of her property to be used by Wingham Cricket Club and a pitch was put down. Later she purchased a block of land 25 William Street and built her home “Stranraer” named after the town her ancestors came from in Scotland.

Like many women of her time who never married, Nell after Maggie's death, supported herself by taking in boarders. Over the years many of these people bought their families to meet Miss Irvine or Aunty Nell. Lately I have sorted through many boxes of cards and correspondence and photographs finding letters and cards from people with names not familiar to me thanking her for her kindness to them.

Aunty Nell had a beautiful garden exhibiting in the local agriculture shows and flower shows with a lot of success. I remember visiting with my parents, before we went home we all walked around the garden with her admiring the beauty of it.

Nell was frequently asked to make bouquets for weddings with flowers from her lovely garden. She was an active member of Wingham Red Cross.

The Bible on the pulpit of St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Wingham is dedicated to the memory of Miss Ellen Irvine.

As a child visiting Aunty Nell with my parents, I was always fascinated by this pretty biscuit barrel sitting on her sideboard, my brother and I would always be offered a biscuit, the biscuits always soft, and a little stale, we had been told we were to say thank you and eat the biscuit without passing comment.

After my great aunts death in 1960 my father gave me the biscuit barrel which I had always greatly admired from a distance.

On researching this item I was surprised when I discovered it was not as old as I thought. The Biscuit Barrel was made by William Wood & Co at their Albert St. works in Burslem England (1877-1932) amongst goods made by this pottery company were highly decorated jam-pots, biscuits barrels, biscuit-jars for the table, tea pots of various degrees of decoration, painted, gilt and enamelled.

The hallmark on the bottom of the barrel indicated the item was made between 1915-1932 which was identifiable, as a Staffordshire Knot with a crown above. James Dixon & Sons London was the silversmith, and stamped A Saunders Sydney. Was this a gift to my great aunt or did she purchase it, this I will never know.



Another interest of Aunty Nell's was family history, a copy letter she had written in 1934 to the then Honorary Secretary of the Australian Genealogist Society Mr. E. McC.S. Hill F.S.C(Lond)F.S.A.G a former resident of Wingham and the owner of the Elephant House in Bent St., seeking information about her family. She received journals of the Society of Australian Genealogists for many years but did not carry out any research. This letter began my interest in family history.

It is interesting in a letter written in July 1934 by Mr Hill two year after the Society of Australian Genealogists had been established in 1932 *“I am sure we did not realise the immensity of the work which lay before us when the President Mr. H. J. Rumsey and I organised this Society. We were warned not to start the Society as it would be a complete failure, the success of it is almost becoming too much for us.”*

I am sure neither Mr E. McC .S. Hill nor my great aunt would have envisaged that family history research would become an important pastime or how people travel the world to find their roots.

Ellen Irvine died on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1960 and is buried in Wingham Cemetery.

References .Irvine Family papers  
William Wood & Co the potteries.org/allpotters/1115.htm

Barbara Waters . MWFH Soc

## MARRIAGE AND FAILURE

The following article appeared in "Tracks" (by member Kerry Golds) - the Journal of the Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage Association Inc. and originally appeared in –

The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1901, Page 4

It has nothing to do with our themes for this year, however, I couldn't help myself and had to include it. Enjoy!!

"Mr. Walker, Registrar at Ballarat Victoria, recently married a couple who almost embraced him after the ceremony of, making them happy as man and wife. The Registrar has now received the following letter from the bridegroom, who appears to have discovered that all that glitters is not gold:

'Dear Sir, - I am sorry to inform you the woman I married turned out no use to me. I found out she was not married, only living with a Chinaman before. She is also a drunkard. In fact, I could not live with her so I have left her a few weeks ago. If you will be so kind as to strike the marriage off the register, as I shall be clearing from her. Hoping you will send me a reply, what is best for me to do under the circumstances, as I want to be free from her sort. Yours,

PS – She said she wants it struck off, so send me an answer as soon as you can".

Mr. Walker, who has always been known as an obliging and courteous official has not yet decided whether it is within his province to cast oil on the troubled waters, but it is more than probable that he will inform the bridegroom that he will have to make the best of what he considers to be a bad bargain.



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Penrith cemetery Anglican Section 1,2,&3
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Penrith cemetery Uniting church, Presbyterian & Salvation Army Portions.
Pensioner from the past 1901 by R White & J Martin
Pioneer Register Cessnock Local area.
R/C Greendale cemetery Photographic Collection series 50
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# FLASH BACK

The following article appeared in the May/June 1989 issue of "The Fig Tree" and is, I am sure, still relevant today

## GUMBOOTS AND GRAVESTONES:

By Marilyn Easter

Anyone that has been involved in cemetery transcribing will realise the sense of humour one must possess while on the job. Without it, one would be literally round the bend.

Our weather over the last twelve months has played havoc with our transcribing. Set a date to do a cemetery and sure as anything it would rain. When we look back to 1987 and remember just how hot it was in Sept., when we transcribed Wingham, it is a shock to the system to have to paddle around in mud at one or two of our cemeteries. At least we know now (when our time comes) where not to be buried. Maybe there was a drought on when some of the low-lying cemeteries were first used. Redbank is one such cemetery. With river transport being the main transport of the time, it is a wonder one of the hills closer to the river was not used. Mitchells Island Cemetery, which is situated on the side and top of a fairly steep hill, has one of the best views out (Real Estate Agents, eat your hearts out). It is so peaceful looking out over the little village of Croki on the banks of the Manning River. Maybe it is my love of fishing that gets me carried away, for I have often looked at the river, while cleaning years and years of mould off my ancestors' headstones, and thought I was mad. Why was I cleaning headstones, when I could be fishing?

Our mild winter has made Failford Cemetery hazardous. Had nothing to do three weeks ago, so with the help of my teenage daughter and the old favourite gumboots we set off for Failford. It rained on the way out so we weren't expecting to stay for long. It turned out to be a beautiful day until I realized the lizards my



## GUMBOOTS & GRAVESTONES (Continued)

daughter saw with their heads<sup>3</sup> sticking out of the graves were actually Copperhead Snakes. Two more were sighted later in the day sunning themselves on top of graves. Maybe they were as pleased to see the sun as we were, but I wish they had been hibernating. It is not a nice sensation, sitting on one side of a grave-surround, having a cuppa while plotting our next waves, then getting up to find a snake sunning itself on the other side. Maybe they were waterlogged under the ground and had to get out. We left at about four in the afternoon and one was still out on top of a grave. There wasn't any sun at that time of day, so the snake's reasoning is off-line. The cemetery was checked a week later with only one sighting.

On our transcribing days we load up with paper, plot maps, powder to dust off old sandstone headstones, water, tracing paper and the old faithful thermos. But I can remember one day we had to take along a crowbar while transcribing Woola Woola Cemetery. We didn't use it to probe for possible graves but did use it to try and turn over a five foot high sandstone headstone which was lying face down, so that it could be read. Friend's husband was on one end of the crowbar trying to lift the headstone, while I was on hands and knees trying to read the inscription on the stone. Friend was in fits of laughter while watching us, we must have looked a sight to anyone driving past. It took ages to try and decipher the inscription, in fact long enough for my friend to draw a cartoon of the hazards of transcribing.

Another Cemetery which had the trusty old gumboots out again was Woodside, not because of snakes but because of spiders. I was once bitten by a Funnelweb Spider so am very wary of little holes in the ground. Our Cemetery Man, John Martin at the Council Office, said he would investigate.

So all you people out there who transcribe cemeteries will know what I am talking about. BUT IT IS FUN, ISN'T IT?



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