

THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Address by Greater Taree City Council Mayor Paul Hogan

On behalf of Greater Taree City Council, I am delighted to acknowledge the 25th Anniversary of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society. I welcome the Society's executive and members to this special presentation.

The Manning Wallamba Family History Society was formed on 30 July 1985 by a group of enthusiastic researchers who shared a passion for family history and wanted to share their research and learn more about family history together.

The Society's first meeting was held at Ormsby House with further meetings held at Manning Gardens School. The Society then found a permanent home at Taree Library, which has remained the Society's meeting place ever since. In addition to regular meetings and workshops, Society members began volunteering their time on a

regular basis to assist library customers with their family history research.

Throughout the years, the Society has staffed the family history research centre, day after day, week after week. Family history queries are often long and detailed – so this has to be acknowledged as a significant contribution to the library's operations.

During the past 25 years, Manning Wallamba Family History Society members have assisted with the compilation of hundreds of family histories pertaining to families of the Manning Valley.

Other projects Society members have worked on include compiling the pre-1860 Pioneer Register. Volumes 1 and 2 of the Register have been completed and members are now working on Volume 3. Cemetery Transcripts has been another important and ongoing project. To date the Society has published 24 books of burial records covering more than 32 cemeteries and burial grounds within the Greater Taree and Great Lakes Council areas.

The Society was also a prominent lobby group in the successful bid to have Taree Library as a regional centre for the State Records *Archives Resources Kit* – an important set of data for historical research.

The partnership between Manning Wallamba Family History Society and Council's Library Service continues today, with the Society based in the heritage area of Taree Library - and we acknowledge the financial contribution from the Society that assisted with the fit out of the new library's heritage area.

Family History Society volunteers currently provide research assistance in the Library six mornings a week – a contribution of over 1300 voluntary hours per year.

In March this year, the Society presented the *Skeletons in the Closet* workshops in partnership with the Library as part of Senior's Week. The program proved so popular that it has now been incorporated as a regular program that runs at Taree Library once a month. I congratulate you on this success.

I am delighted to publicly acknowledge the tremendous work of the Manning Wallamba Family History Society and all of its members over the past 25 years. Your research has contributed greatly to the core of knowledge about families of the Manning Valley and forms an important part of our local history.

In particular, and on behalf of the Councillors, our Senior Leader Cultural Services, Margie Wallis and the Library Staff, I thank you for the enormous contribution to our Library Service. The research support you have given via the library to our community, to visitors and to other researchers is particularly noteworthy.

Congratulations Manning Wallamba Family History Society on the achievement of your first 25 years.

I would ask George Sawyer, President of Manning Wallamba Family History Society to come forward and accept this plaque from Council in recognition of the Society's contribution to the Manning Valley.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009-2010

It is with some pride that I present this Annual Report because at last Annual Meeting nobody was keen to take the position of President. I was somewhat disappointed that no one stood. Although willing to stand for the position myself, my wife Elaine and I, after many years of illness and inability to travel, wanted to do just that in between our quarterly visits to Sydney for health monitoring. I felt that I would not be able to give the position the attention it deserved so did not stand.

It became apparent that the position was in desperate need of filling, and on the urging of some fellow members I put up my hand and was duly elected (whilst touring the West Coast).

Our Society has progressed during the past year, both financially and socially. The Bunnings barbecues have proved our most successful means of raising finances and have proven "a good day out" for those involved,. It is indeed sad that the PCYC Markets have folded.

At this juncture I wish to applaud the support given me by our secretaries (minutes and correspondence) Sue and Janette, Research Officer Gloria, whose input into the "Skeletons in the Closet" workshops, "How To" manuals, Fig Tree magazine and research duties has been legendary! My Vice President Graham, thank you for your advice, friendship and support. Treasurer Christine, a big thank you for your sterling efforts. Librarians, all who have been involved during the course of the year, a big thank you, and to Joanie especially, thanks for your valuable guidance. To all those who have given of your time to become duty volunteers at the library, a big thank you too! Lorna, our BBQ buyer/supplier, you have done us proud! Thank you too, to Gloria H. our Publications Officer for your efforts with printing of the Fig Tree and resource books for sale.

Sales of our resource books, burial records and pioneer registers have diminished somewhat and reasons for this are unclear. It is however realised that burial/cemetery records are now largely available on the Internet.

I must at this stage give the Society's heartfelt appreciation to Margie Wallis and her team at the Greater Taree City Library for their continued support and co-operation. We would be lost without such a comfortable, convenient and well equipped home. We are now pleased to learn that we will have our library area officially marked to identify "those strange people who are having such a good time up in the corner". Greater Taree City Council marked our 25th anniversary and association with the library by making a special presentation at the Council Chambers prior to its August 18th meeting. This was indeed a very proud moment for us all in attendance. The impressive plaque will be treasured and installed prominently in our area at the Library.

During the year we were made aware of certain legal shortcomings of some concern, which some members scoffed at as being of little consequence. We did take the matter seriously, and have made inroads into what has been a rather daunting task. It was never intended to destroy resources or to seek retribution in any way. Some members thought otherwise and some ill feeling resulted over this and other matters of which they felt concern. I do trust that these matters are now behind us.

We have now purchased a more functional resource cupboard with no swinging doors to hinder access to shelves, and have removed superfluous materials to a centrally located storage facility, where previously member stored articles are now held. No one needs to now ask "who is holding what" because it is all in one convenient location.

Let us now get on with the pleasures of helping members and enquirers to find their past and solving those bedevilling mysteries that taunt us along the way.

We now have a membership in excess of 100 and growing. I do implore members who are able, to become a little more involved with duty, assisting with fundraising or even socially. Any suggestion of activities to brighten up the social aspect of our Society will be welcome.

Finally, to all those members who have helped along the way, and have not been mentioned by name, a big thank you. In this the 25th Anniversary of our founding, we must pay tribute to our founders and those gone before us who have contributed so much to our success.

George Sawyer

SOCIETY NEWS

CONDOLENCES: Several of our members have recently lost a family member. We wish them our sincere condolences.

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

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to: Judy Woods Taree; Jean Domjen Taree; Noelene Armstrong Rainbow Flat; Tammie Arundell Krambach; Susanne Wiltshire Nabiac; Glenda Wilson Hallidays Point; Gail Pendelj Old Bar; Laura Sykes Taree; Gary Martin Krambach; Margaret Dixon Logans Crossing; Terri Ann Godbolt Nabiac; Roma Lenton Wingham; Ellen Pearson Harrington

BUNNINGS BARBECUES: Next date is 28th November. If you can spare an hour or two please put your name on the list on the notice board.

MONTHLY "CUPPA": Come along to our regular "Cuppa" afternoons held on the last Wednesday of every month except December in the Library meeting room at 2.30pm. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with other members.

PIONEER REGISTER BOOK 3: Forms for Pioneer Register Book 3 are available for download from the Society Website or can be photocopied from a copy on the Society Noticeboard in the Library.

LIBRARY DUTY: There are some spaces on the Duty Roster. Why not consider going on duty with a "buddy" who will help you learn the routine. It is not a difficult or arduous task. If you would like to help with duty or learn how to, please contact the Librarians.

"SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET": Due to the ongoing interest in these classes we have decided to conduct them on a regular basis. The next session will be Wednesday 6th October and then the first Wednesday of every month except January. Please contact the Library for further details and to make a booking.

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



LIBRARIANS' REPORT: AUGUST 2010

Firstly, the acting Librarians would like to thank all those who have joined in and helped us during the past few months. We have learned quite a lot on the way. A special thanks goes to Joanie and Christine for their help during this time.

These few months have been up and down as we stumbled through our learning process. Yes, we have made mistakes, but overall we have muddled through the best we could.

The Accession register is now in alphabetical order and is on the big computer that is used daily. For those of you who use the computer, one just has to click on the MWFHS icon on the top right hand corner of the screen to read what is available either in the individual sections or by accessing the Alpha section. A word search can be obtained by holding down the CONTROL and F keys

simultaneously. Then just type in a word, hit the enter key and it will automatically make the search for you.

A new printed Register has been suggested and will available as soon as possible. The listings will be updated as we accumulate new stock.

As you are well aware, we have limited space available to us, so please consider what you wish to acquire; if an article is available on CD, fiche or microfilm format, it should be preferred for purchase over hard copy or book format. We understand that this could be a problem for some with little computer ability, but as stated, space is at a minimum. Help will be available for those who need computer assistance.



A list of CDs that are no longer fit to be used on our computers will be added to the wish list and will be given preference for future purchases.

We wish the new Librarians the best for the following year and know they will have a wonderful time exploring the accessions we already have, and may future purchases be of benefit to all. Elaine and Nancye

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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Saturday	2 nd October	Monthly Workshop		
Wednesday	6 th October	Skeletons in the Closet Workshop		
Saturday	16 th October	General Meeting		
Wednesday	27 th October	Afternoon Cuppa		
Wednesday	3 rd November	Skeletons in the Closet Workshop		
Saturday	6 th November	Monthly Workshop		
Saturday	20 th November	General Meeting		
Wednesday	24 th November	Afternoon Cuppa		
Saturday	4 th December	Monthly Workshop		





ASHLEA, A FORGOTTEN HISTORY

Prior to the coming of white pioneers, the aboriginal people had long enjoyed the amenities of a beautiful, clear running creek, which they called Ghongol. Here, where the water teemed with fish, game was abundant and the brush provided a variety of berries, fruit and yams, they had lived a tribal life since time immemorial.

Today, this rural farmland locality is known as Ashlea and is situated on Dingo Creek, approximately 8 km west of Wingham, along the Wherrol Flat Road. An observant traveller might notice a sign that points to Church Lane, this being the only remaining indication of a Presbyterian Church, erected in the 1800's, by Scottish born settlers. The little wooden church, that served several generations of devout worshipers is now long gone.

During the 1840's and 1850's settlers began taking up small blocks of land along the banks of Dingo Creek. Many of these people were families of Scottish origin who had arrived in N.S.W. during the 1830's and 40's, as bounty immigrants, firstly employed on large properties in the Hunter Valley area. Here they had become 'colonised' and had worked hard, always saving towards the day when they could realise their ambition of becoming landowners in their own right. When land became available for selection in the Manning, the Scots were foremost amongst those eager to take up the challenge.

A number of these families selected their land along the banks of Dingo Creek, a tributary of the Manning River. As rough timber dwellings were built and the brush covered flats of the Dingo began to yield to the axe, thoughts turned to other needs, such as schooling and religious instruction.

Mr. James McPherson presented an acre of land and by community effort a Presbyterian Denominational School, constructed of slabs on sleepers, with a shingle roof, was built. Here, in 1856, Mr. William Thompson became the first teacher. Three years later, in 1859, 64 students were on the roll.

Mr. Thompson transferred in 1860 and was replaced by Mr. William Small who had previously taught at the Redbank Presbyterian Denominational School, opposite present day Taree. In the early 1950's, Margaret Smith, a daughter of Mr. Small, recorded an interesting account of her early life at Ashlea. Amongst other observations of what seemed to be a hard lifestyle, Margaret stated that the only leisure activities for young men were cricket or hunting, for girls there was an occasional dance or birthday party. Her father, the schoolteacher, organised a Mutual Improvement Society for young people, which consisted of songs, speeches and recitations, held in the school. Periodically, church services, conducted by Presbyterian and Wesleyan ministers from Taree, were also held in the school.

Margaret said that as 'the main means of transport was horseback, it was a fine sight to see a group of young people setting out for a picnic, the girls rode side saddle and looked very gracious'. She concludes that 'the settlers in this district came mainly from Scotland and Ireland and were a good, sturdy type of people'.

The school eventually became a National School and after 50 years, closed in 1906. In 1892, my Great Grandfather, Albert Yarrington, having previously taught in the area, at Dumaresqu Island and Clarkson's Crossing (Nabiac), took up his final position, before retirement, at Ashlea. Later, his son, Harry, married Ethel Broomfield, a descendant of one of those early Scottish Dingo Creek settlers. Today, their Grandson and Great Grandson still run a dairy farm, "Bow Hill Dairies", which encompasses the original 50 acres, selected by the Broomfield's, on Dingo Creek.

Between 1875 and 1877 the settlers erected a modest Presbyterian Church in close proximity to the school. Early services were conducted by a minister travelling from Taree or by lay preachers. The Upper Manning charge of the Presbyterian Church came into being in 1883. During my research, I was amazed to find that the newly appointed minister preached to a congregation of 200 people at Ashlea shortly after his arrival. They certainly would not have fitted into that little church of my memory!

In early days, the social fabric of the district evolved around the school and church. The church was frequently used as a meeting place for groups, such as the Ashlea Literary and Debating Society and the Ashlea Choral Society, which held concerts and organ recitals in the church. Church picnics were popular and there was a local cricket pitch and tennis court in regular use. In 1906 the Ashlea Church Choir sang at the opening of the Bobin Presbyterian church. Nearby, the Dingo Creek Post Office provided the community with postal, telephone and telegraphic services.

Gradually, with the advent of better transport and roads, Ashlea declined as a community as people travelled on to the larger centre of Wingham. Eventually, by the mid 1900's, the Dingo Creek Post Office became obsolete and dwindling attendances heralded the closure of the Ashlea Presbyterian Church in 1962.

London's St Paul's Cathedral has a tablet near the tomb of its architect, Sir Christopher Wren, which reads, 'If you should seek his monument look around you'. There is no such noble building to commemorate the hardy Scottish settlers of Ashlea. To seek their monument, you need to look beyond the entrance gates of the of the district's farms where, in many cases, descendants still strive for agricultural excellence on the land settled by their forebears.

Ruth Woodward June 2010



Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU WILL FIND A LINK

By Ian Herford (Member 560)

During our travels through Western Australia we called into the Albany Department of Conservation for some information on a National Park we intended to camp in. While the person behind the counter was getting the required information I happened to look up onto the staff information board which showed the whereabouts of the various staff members, and there in bold letters was my name IAN HERFORD.... When we had received the information we asked for, I asked the person behind the counter if "he" (the other Ian Herford) was in,.... "just a moment she said and I will ring his office and see if he is there... and who shall I say is asking?".... "Ian Herford I replied" "Who" she said.... then picked up the phone, dialed the extension and said.... "you will never guess who is out here to see you".... and promptly hung up the phone....Well... an hour or so later with many shakes of the head and comments like "I don't believe this" we had established a positive family connection, his great grandfather and my grandfather are brothers. Since this meeting I have been in contact with his father who is also exploring his family history and have exchanged information to fill gaps in our research.

The moral of the story is It does not matter where you are, even if you think that there is no family connections ... there just maybe. So just keep your eyes open.



About London, England, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

(Source: ancestry.com)

Parish records--primarily baptisms, marriages, and burials--are the best source of vital record information before the nineteenth century. Before Civil Registration began in 1837, key events in a person's life were typically recorded by the Church rather than the State. Starting in the sixteenth century, parish records are some of the longest running records available.

About this Collection:

This data collection contains baptism and burial records from 1538-1812 and marriage records from 1538-1753 for more than 10,000 Church of England parish registers from parishes in the greater London area. It also includes Bishop's Transcripts - copies of parish registers sent to the bishop of a diocese. Records are typically arranged in chronological order. Names in these records have not yet been indexed.

- Record type
 - · Parish, borough, and county

However, this collection can be searched by:

Event date

Historical Background:

Some key dates for understanding the historical background of parish registers includes the following.

- **1538** A mandate is issued requiring that every parish was to keep a register. Many parishes ignored this order. Only about 800 registers exist from this time period.
- **1598** Clergy were required to send copies of their registers to the bishop of their diocese. These copies are known as Bishop's Transcripts.
- **1643-1659** Registers were poorly kept during the English Civil War and the Commonwealth period which followed, or abandoned altogether.
- **1711** An order was made to the effect that all register pages were to be ruled and numbered. This was widely ignored.
- **1733** The use of Latin in registers is prohibited.
- **1751** Calendar reform. Prior to this the year commenced on 25th March, so any register entry for December 1750 would have been followed by January 1750.
- **1754** Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act. A separate marriage register is enforced which records witnesses, signatures of all parties, occupation of groom and the residences of the couple marrying. It also enforced Banns and made clandestine marriages illegal.

1763 – Minimum age for marriage set at 16 (previously the Church accepted marriage of girls of 12 and boys of 14). Those under 21 still needed the consent of parents. On marriage records individuals that are over 21 often have their age listed as "full age" rather than an exact year.

1812 – George Rose's Act. New pre-printed registers were to be used for separate baptism, marriage and burial registers as a way of standardizing records.

About Baptisms:

Children were usually baptized within a few days or weeks of birth. Earlier records generally only listed the name of the infant, the father's and/or mother's name, the date of christening, and whether the child was illegitimate.

About Marriages:

Couples were usually married in the bride's parish. Until the early 20th century couples could marry at a very young age. Earlier records generally only listed the names of the bride and groom and their marriage date.

About Burials:

Burials took place within a few days of the deceased's death. Records generally only listed the name of the deceased and the burial date. However, sometimes other family members were listed as part of the deceased's name; for example, "Mary wife of John Smith" or "Matthew son of William Clark." In earlier records it was not uncommon for women to simply be referred to as "wife of [husband's name]."



RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

- Linda Doherty (Coffs Harbour) asking for information on Theodore DE MEUR
- Clyde McGinnes (Geelong) asking for information on William MCGINNES
- Pam Small (Taree) SMALL, BUSSELL, BROPHY, GRIFFITHS, HUTCHISON
- Roz Cudlipp (Lansdowne) PARKER and TURNER (England)
- Rosemary Di Lemos (Sth Aust) McLAUGHLIN family

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

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

www.deceasedonline.com/

www.findmypast.com.au

www.census.nationalarchives.ie

http://beta.familysearch.org

http://www.prov.vic.gov.au

www.llgc.org.uk

www.genuki.org.uk

www.cwgc.org

www.zades.com.au

www.capebanks.org.au

www.nmm.ac.uk

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.archivesoutside.records.nsw.gov.au

Recently updated website-improved search facilities and new

genealogical data

Details of thousands of people buried around London-search is free but

pay to download.

Australian site - formerly worldvitalrecords.com.au

1901 and 1911 Irish census-free to search

Run by LDS Church-300 million new additions added

Public Record Office of Victoria-view passenger lists and download wills

from 1841-1925 free.

Free access to Welsh wills

One-stop reference site for finding genealogical info for UK and Ireland Commonwealth War Graves-details of those who died in the two World

Bellarine Peninsula & Geelong & District History

Cape Banks FHS - has an extensive list of links to family history websites National Maritime Museum-click on 'Researchers' then 'Family History

Research

National Archives UK

Archival Collections-tips on preserving & dating records & photos

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					
Coopernook, Moorland, Harrington	\$19.00					
Lansdowne	\$17.00					
Wingham Anglican [Old Section]	\$17.00					
Wingham - All other Denominations	\$17.00					
Wingham Beams	\$10.00					
Killibakh, Marlee, Woodside	\$17.00					
Redbank	\$15.00					
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						

Gravestone Humour

Humour can sometimes be found in epitaphs on gravestones:

(Source: http://theoldentimes.com)



[&]quot;Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up, and no place to go."

[&]quot;Here I lies, and no wonder I'm dead. For the wheel of a wagon went over my head."

[&]quot;Here is Owen Moore. Gone away owin' more than he could pay."

[&]quot;On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune."

[&]quot;Tears cannot restore my wife. Therefore I weep."

[&]quot;Here lies my wife, here let her lie. Now she's at rest, and so am I."

	CIAL CTATEAN		VEAD 2000 2040		
FINAN	CIAL STATEMI	ENT FOR THE	YEAR 2009-2010		
INCOME			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Membership		3260.00	Resources		1379.17
Newsletter		0.00	Resources (557454)	U/P Cheque	-29.50
Donations		88.30	Equipment		2422.08
Cemetery Book		146.00	Cemetery		40.00
Pioneer Registe		881.00	Pioneer		125.48
Other Publication	ons	168.00	Other Pubs		0.00
Research		571.00	Newsletter		227.55
<u>Fundraising</u>	70.00		Newsletter Postage		78.44
Fair	78.00		Mem/Interest		128.37
Float	350.00		Research		40.08
Mags	1042.85		<u>Fundraising</u>	000.00	87.14
Markets	1133.30		Mags	806.00	
B/Kits	90.00	4700 FF	Beg/Kits Fair	0.00 0.00	
Bunnings Ex/Sun	<u>2098.40</u>	4792.55 21.10	Bunnings	889.20	
Supper & Work	chone	100.60	Seminar	15.00	
Supper & Work Sundries	snops	748.35	Raffle	0.00	1710.20
Suridites		740.00	Supper &	<u>0.00</u>	1710.20
Interest		14.17	Workshops		22.45
			Admin		334.38
			Post Box		0.00
			Sundries		3539.60
			Insurance		0.00
			Subscriptions		0.00
			Webpage		0.00
			Bank Fees		0.00
TOTAL INCOM	1E	\$ 10,791.07	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	E	\$ 10,105.44
OPERATING S	SURPLUS for the ye	ear			\$ 685.63
CASH BOOK E	BALANCE		BANK RECONCILILIAT	ION AS AT 30th	JUNE,2010
July-2009	Opening Balance	7453.48	Balance as per Bank St	tatement	4852.93
	Plus Income	<u>10791.07</u>	Plus Investment		3500.00
		18244.55			8352.93
	Less Expenses	10105.44	Less unpresented cheq	ues	213.82
30 June 2010	Closing Balance	\$ 8,139.11			\$ 8,139.11
			Unpresented Cheques		
			690	19.22	
			618	67.60	
			619	50.00	
			620	15.00	
			621	12.00	
			623	50.00	
				213.82	