



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

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

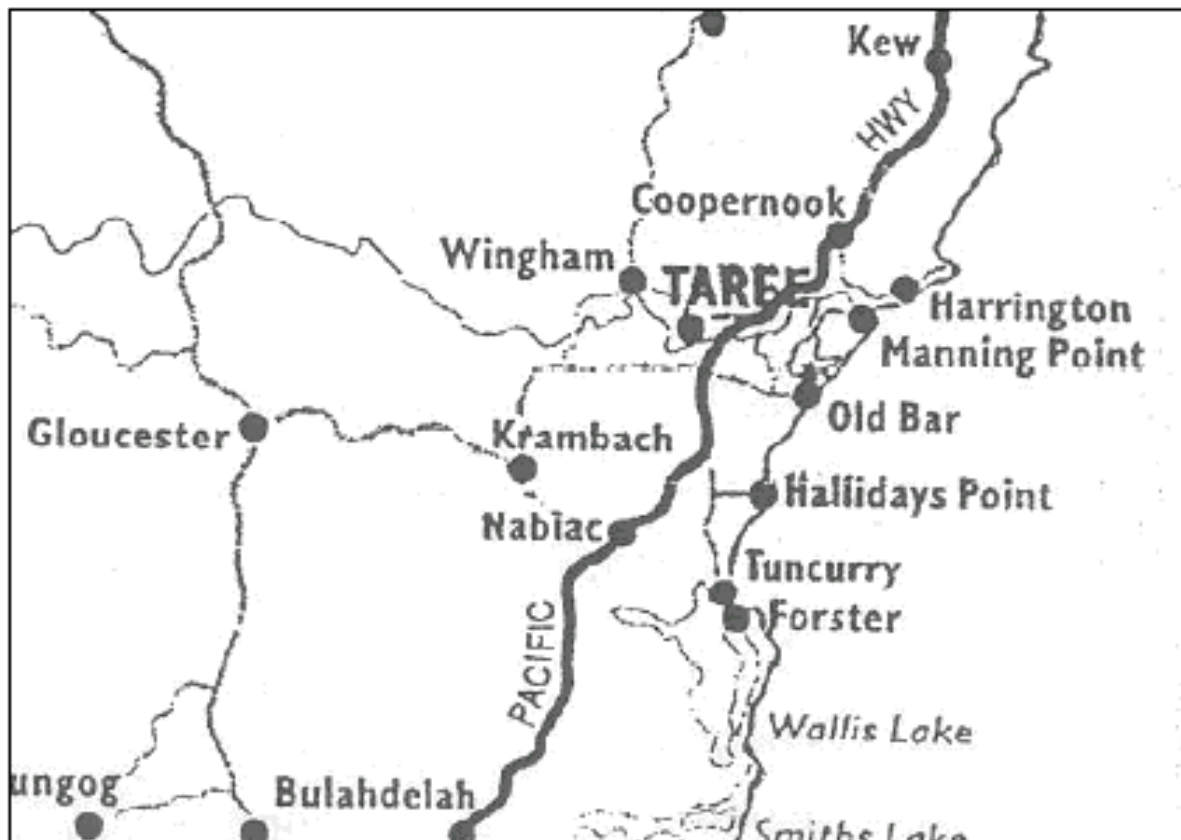
OPERATING IN OUR 26TH YEAR FROM THE GREATER TAREE CITY LIBRARY

*No 118*

*April– June 2011*

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**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.** Taree covers the whole Manning region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas:

Manning Valley, Wingham, Taree, Kendall, Coopernook, 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 Sawyer

Vice Presidents: G Troth L Kidd

Secretaries: J Jones (Correspondence) S Robinson (Minutes)

A Ranger (Membership)

Treasurer: C Troth L Haynes

Librarians E Sawyer N Swan

Research: G Toohey N Swan

Committee: B Haynes G Martin A Calvert

Public Officer: L Kidd

Publicity: G Sawyer G Toohey

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

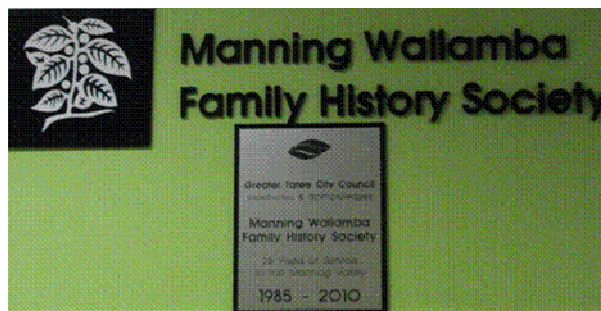
A hearty welcome and happy researching to all our new members!



It is with sadness that I report having been notified that our Sister Society at Wingham closed its doors on 28<sup>th</sup> February. An invitation is being extended to former Wingham

Society members to join with us should they so desire. We also welcome the formation of Taree Family History Inc, who have similar aims to our own and we wish them well.

I must thank member Joanne Gorton for her donation of a copy of her recently published book "The Birds of Mooney's Gap." Joanne has put in a mammoth effort to research and publish this book and she is to be congratulated on a wonderful professional and informative book. Members will find it a great read!



Our area within the Greater Taree City Library has now been officially recognised with our logo and name affixed to the wall in a prominent position. The signage looks very impressive and many thanks must go to Council's Margie Wallis for her efforts in that regard.

The "cat is out of the bag" now regarding the secrecy surrounding the visit last year of a researcher from Who Do You Think You Are. The episode featuring actress Georgie Parker has gone to air revealing her connection to the pioneering Breckenridge family of Forster. A very interesting episode! Georgie was apparently unaware of her connection and had never been to Forster.

In my last report I pleaded with local members not already active within our society to come forward and participate in some of our activities, with input at meetings and learn how to help out at the library. Thank you to those showing interest in that regard. My plea still stands! Many hands make light work.

On a social note, I am hoping to lead a group of members on a holiday tour of one week later in the year, say late October or November, to Lord Howe Island. I have expressions of interest from seven members to date. Please contact me should you wish to participate. Costing have yet to be ascertained.

Lord Howe is an idyllic island only a couple of hours flight from our local coastline. "No mobile phones, no deadlines, no peak hour, no queues, no hassles, no worries!"

Has everyone read the March edition of Australian Family Tree Connections magazine? We feature as Guest Society! We have some spare copies for sale at the library. Please remember that you can have a copy ordered monthly.

Happy researching everyone, and may your brick walls crumble!

George Sawyer

President

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

***MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:*** Current membership expires at the end of June. Renewal forms are available at the Library and in this issue of the Fig Tree. Just print the last page, fill in your details and forward your form and payment (cheque/money order) to the Secretary, PO Box 48 Taree 2430.

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



***BUNNINGS BARBECUES:*** Dates have been changed for Bunnings barbecues. They are now June 26, July 31, October 30, November 27. If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of these days, please add your name on the list at the Library.

***NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to:*** Graham Steel, David and Gabrielle Archer, Deborah Donald, Deborah Kelly, Nerida Gilfillan, Gloria Welsh, Yvonne and Doug Bentley, Jennifer Fisher and Ruth Ryan. A big welcome back to Diane Brooker, one of our founding members. We hope your genealogy journey is fruitful.

***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

### ***“DIGGING AROUND THE ROOTS OF YOUR FAMILY TREE”:***

During Seniors’ Week two very successful “How-to” courses were held, firstly at the GTCC Library and then at Old Bar Community Technology Centre. The course consisted of a two hour training session followed by a two hour hands-on session. Over twenty people attended these days. This course will be run again at a date to be decided.

This photo shows participants using computers during the “hands-on” session.



***MAY MEETING CANCELLED:*** There will be no General Meeting in May due to many Society members attending the Port Macquarie Family History Fair.



### ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>NO MEETING</i>
			<i>Port Macquarie Fair</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Workshop</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>General Meeting</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Bunnings BBQ</i>



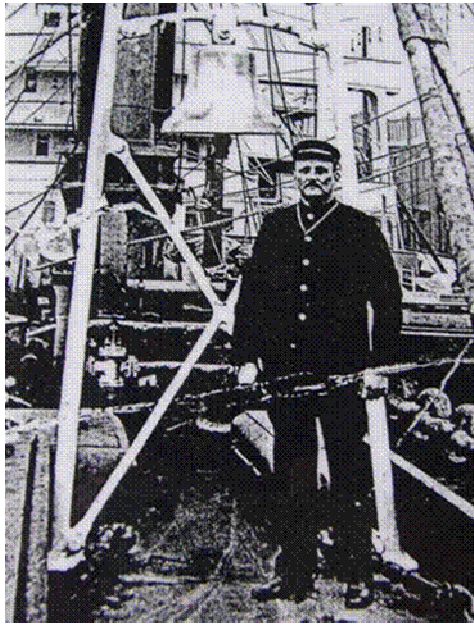
### ***RESEARCH ENQUIRIES***

S Hawkins	re Charlotte Lock BULLEY
W Willison	re James Hugh STEWART former Mayor of Taree
Camden Haven Historical Society	re E BACON Builder
S Small	re Mary O’BRIEN born 1875
B Shepherd	re Sydney Augustus BRIDGE
J Blenkin	re BLENKIN family

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



## ALBERT NICHOLS, BOATSWAIN ON THE TITANIC



Albert Nichols 1864-1912, was a third generation Lord Howe Islander and was the first born of Thomas and Mary Nichols part of an early settler family on the island. He was not particularly fond of his parents, his mother being a very hard taskmaster, and actually testified against them in a letter to Captain Richard Armstrong, the resident Magistrate on the island in August 1879. Armstrong held other official positions of importance as well.

Albert is reputed to have kept a bonfire ready to light at Blinky Beach on the island with the view of summoning a passing ship and getting away from it all.. At a little older than 18, he actually saw a ship passing, lit his beacon, and when a boat put into the island to investigate, he convinced the crew that he had been shipwrecked on the island.

He left the island without a word to family, married later in England, worked on ships for a time, eventually becoming the boatswain on the ill-fated Titanic.

In the boatshed at Pinetrees Guesthouse Lord Howe Island is a poster proclaiming the White Star Line Titanic of 45,000 tons, “the largest and safest steamer in the world, sailing on her maiden voyage 10<sup>th</sup> April 1912 to New York from Southampton”

A picture of Nichols on a ship deck with ship’s bell behind him, together with a copy of his letter dated April 8<sup>th</sup> 1909 written on headed paper of the ship “Adriatic,” to his Uncle William and Aunt Hanna Nichols on the island, is featured.

His daughter Jean and grand daughter Anne from Wales, visited Lord Howe some 20 years ago to visit his birthplace. Anne’s brother has Albert’s boatswains whistle as a prized memento.

Apparently, when the Titanic was sinking, Albert gave his whistle to a crew member to hand to his wife Grace, before going below decks to assist the remaining crew. Albert perished with the ship.

*Acknowledgement to Pinetrees, Lord Howe Island 1842-1992-Kerry McFadyen*

## **TAREE AND MANNING VALLEY'S LINKS WITH LORD HOWE ISLAND**

Elizabeth (Beth) McMath Singleton was born at Taree NSW on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1906 (39575/1906) to Andrew McMath Singleton and Ruby S M Singleton (nee Dangar) who were married at Kempsey NSW (4180/1902).

The Singleton family lived near my Grandparents William Henry (Bill) and Edith Jessie (Edie) Richardson, in the close knit farming community of Mondrook, between Tinonee and Wingham, on the Eastern bank of the Manning River

The Richardson family of eight girls and two boys naturally formed a strong friendship with the Singleton family which comprised at least three girls. In 1930 Beth Singleton married Gerald George Massy Kirby (5142/1930) who was born on Lord Howe Island 13<sup>th</sup> November 1902 (32972/1902).

Gerald, known as "Kirb" was educated at Newington College Sydney and became a successful assistant sales manager for Wunderlichs in Sydney, selling roofing products. After the marriage and the commencement of the great depression, they moved to Lord Howe temporarily to help his widowed mother run the guest house then known as "The Pines", with the intention of resuming his sales career when times improved. They were never to return to live on the mainland.

When his mother saw how well he and Beth took to managing the guest house, she stepped back, retiring from the physical work of the guest house. The rest is history.

As the guest house progressed and prospered with the hard work put in by the energetic and gregarious couple, the need for staff arose and Beth summoned her friend Lillian Hazel (Hazel) Richardson, her former neighbour and friend at Mondrook to come and work for her, knowing hat she competently ran the big household on the farm.

This worked well for some time until Hazel met and fell in love with a visiting postal employee in Walter H (Wal) Bowles. The need to replace Hazel arose so a despatch was sent off to Mondrook for Hazel's Sister Evie to replace her. Edith Evelyn Richardson came to Lord Howe soon after and took up duties at "The Pines".



Evie there met up with an islander in Edward James (Jim ) King and they were married in Sydney 21<sup>st</sup> November 1936. This time however, Evie remained on the island for some 65 years until following Jim's death in 1983 and her gradual decline in health, she moved to the mainland , and Taree, to receive adequate health care and supervised accommodation.

Evie had become quite an identity on Lord Howe, with her cooking, butter making, gardening etc. She was instrumental in helping save the endangered Lord Howe Island Woodhen.

A former dairy company cream boat, on retirement from plying the waters of the Manning River, collecting milk and cream from farms, was taken to Lord Howe to end its working life.

The boat's name escapes me, however, it could have been "Sunrise," "Sunshine," or "Sunbeam."

*Acknowledgement: Pinetrees, Lord Howe Island 1842-1992-Kerry McFadyen Submitted by George Sawyer*



## **The Census**

**Census Taker: "Good morning, madam, I'm taking the census."**

**Old Lady: "The what?"**

**Census Taker: "The c-e-n-s-u-s!"**

**Old Lady: "For lams sakes! What with tramps takin' everythin' they kin lay their han's on, young folks takin' fotygrafs of ye without so much as askin', an' impudent fellows comin' roun' as wants ter take yer senses, pretty soon there won't be nothin' left ter take, I'm thinkin'."**

**--1890 Harper's Weekly**





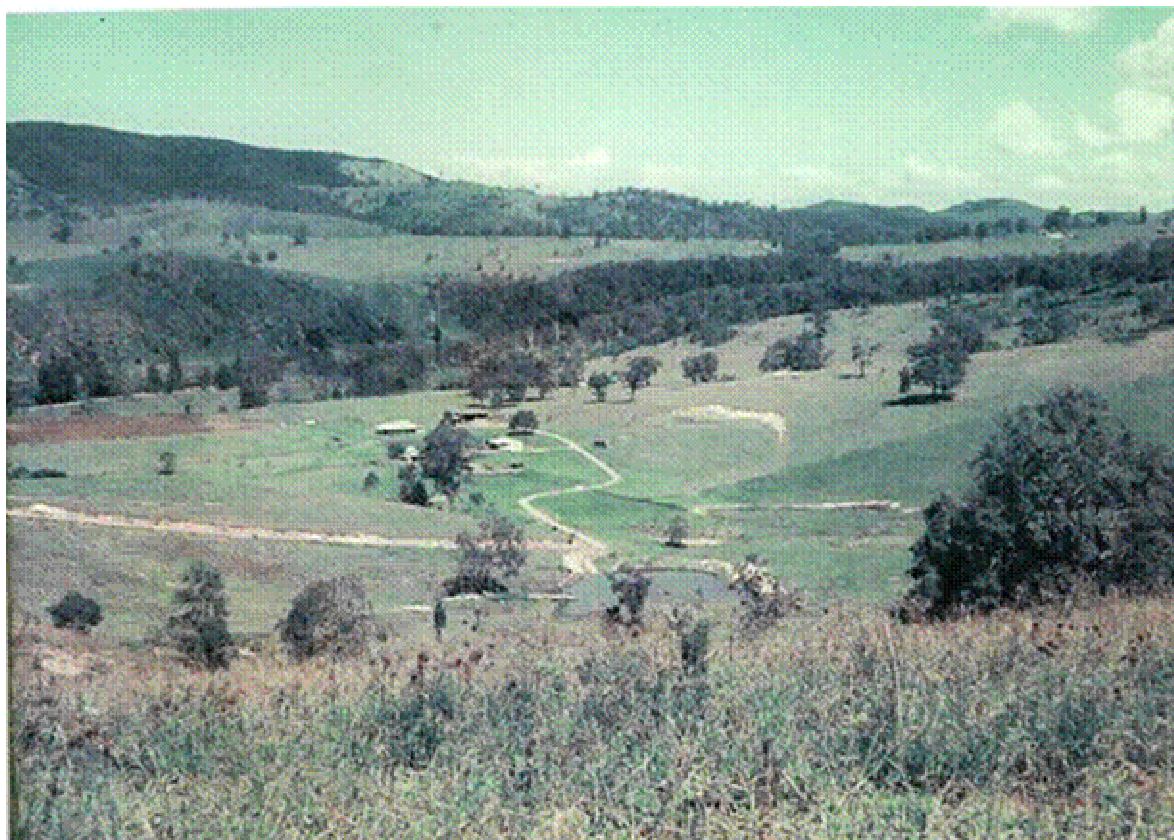
## **ISOLATED AND UNMARKED GRAVES**

Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc. Taree is currently working on a project to record graves on private property and unmarked graves in all local cemeteries.

To ensure that the Society's Burial Records are a comprehensive list of all burials in this area we are asking anyone who knows of graves on private property, unmarked graves, placement of ashes or burial sites to provide any details they can.

Forms are available in the Society area of the Greater Taree City Library or can be downloaded from the Society website.

The photograph below is that of the site of the grave of Isabella Green, Leonard Green and Baby Green at Knorrit Flat. Can any reader identify the property (formerly Burnett's) from the photograph?



## **FROM THE JOURNALS**

### **INTERESTING ARTICLES**

“Time Traveller”-Shoalhaven Genealogical Society Vol.94 Dec 2010 Page 4  
Difference between <http://> and <https://>

Casino & District FHG Inc “The Crossing Place” March 2011 Newsletter  
Page 6 “Grave Stone Photographs”  
Page 7 “Revolutionary New Marriage Search”

### **WEBSITES**

Queensland Family Historian Feb 2011  
German Headstones in Australian Cemeteries. Searchable by given name, surname, or place. Cemeteries arranged by state.  
<http://www.familienarchiv-papsdorf.de/ozcemeteries.htm>  
[genesreunited.co.uk](http://genesreunited.co.uk) has the complete England & Wales 1911 census online  
Website of interest from “Footsteps” Port Macquarie & District FHS Inc Page 16-Genealogy search Aus.- over 4000 Aus Family Tree Websites are indexed  
Free- <http://www.genealogysearchaustralia.com.au/>

### **Tasmanian sites– all gathered together here**

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal\\_index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_index.htm)

### **General site collections**

<http://www.wotsmygenes.com/index.asp>

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

### **New Zealand Sites**

<http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/marriagesdatabase.htm#Search>

<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Resources/NewZealand/History/FamilyHistory/Cemeteries/>

### **Society of Australian Genealogists Guides for Research**

<http://www.sag.org.au/helping-you/research-guides.html>

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

*No members' discounts on these books*

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

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

***Orders to Secretary PO BOX 48 Taree NSW 2430***

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

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



**MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC**  
**PO Box 48, Taree NSW 2430**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2011/2012**

Single \$25.00

Family \$33.00

Overseas Price on application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIPT No: \_\_\_\_\_