



# THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE  
MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY  
HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.  
TAREE

OPERATING SINCE 1985  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANNING VALLEY LIBRARIES

*No 135*

*August 2015*

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

Taree covers the whole Manning Region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas:

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

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

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

## **President's Report for August 2015**



Dear all 108 Members,

The MWFHS teamed with the Manning Valley Historical Society and the LDS Family History Centre to provide a Scottish focused Genealogy Fair at the start of the BONNIE WINGHAM SCOTTISH FESTIVAL on the Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. 30 interested people turned up which exceeded all expectations, so this will be the first of many such co-productions.

Our BBQ fundraiser on the Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at Bunnings, started very quietly, but turned out to be very profitable, meaning that the board can say “Yes” more often. A big thank you to all who attended for the day, enough people that we could have a complete shift change. The next fundraiser is Masters BBQ Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Your help would be much appreciated.

In June several members attended the Fellowship of First Fleeters’ inaugural meeting at St John’s Hall. We offered our services as it is necessary to prove your genealogy to belong. Any interested members should contact Malcolm Tompson at [secretary@ffmidnorthcoast.com.au](mailto:secretary@ffmidnorthcoast.com.au) or at their website [ffmidnorthcoast.com.au/html\\_files/venue.html](http://ffmidnorthcoast.com.au/html_files/venue.html)

For security reasons it has become necessary to fit all 3000 of our individual resources with Radio Frequency Tags “RFIDs” so that the library security system will be able to track any removal. These RFIDs will cost \$720 which we hope to fund through a grant rather than use our “sausage sizzle” money.

Throughout the year Gloria & I have participated in Greater Taree City Council’s ongoing training in Grant Applications by Sarah Wilkinson. This has also been a great opportunity to meet other “Not for profits” to discuss their successes & failures when applying for grants. We have now made our 1<sup>st</sup> application to our State Member’s Community Builders Grant.

In July Gloria & I also attended a Fair Trading for Incorporated Associations seminar. Fair Trading is now within the State Finance Department. After the meeting they kindly forwarded the entire presentation, so if anyone wants the latest requirements of running a small incorporated association I would be happy to forward this on.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Manning Wallamba Family History Association. Our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party is to be held 11.00 am Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> August at the Taree Library as the finalé to the August Family History month.

Regards  
Graeme

**NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to the following new members:**

NO.	Member	Research Interest
16003	Brenda ROWE	Cox, NSW, from 1836 & Williams, NSW from 1853
16004	Jillian CICOLINI	Dominco & Keszenz Cicolini Itlay, Upper Lansdowne & Joseph Taree
16005	Marlene HEWSON	McLean,
16006	Kenneth BEETON	Beeton, Taree, 1880 ( All Family)
16007	Henry SHRUBB	Shrubb
16008	Lynette DE GUNST	De Gunst, Bundaberg 1800, Ryan Vict, Young & Charters Towers, McKay New Zealand, Staunton Young, Qld & NT.
16009	Judy YARRINGTON	Broomfield, Scotland, Collyer Aust, Yarrington, Norwich, Hazell Scotland
16010	Patricia McMAHON	
16011	Stephen BILLINGHAM	

**BARBECUES:**



Next BBQ will be held at

MASTERS Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September

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



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

The preferred format is by a Word document.



## **DINGO CREEK**

*Oh! Bright Is the beam of the morning star,  
And clear in the moon's silv'ry streak  
But brighter and clearer than aught from afar  
Are the waters of Dingo Creek.*

*They came from the mountains, so rugged and steep,  
Away on the hill, -cold and bleak;  
The cockatoos scream, and the wallabies leap  
O'er the waters of Dingo Creek.*

*Across rocky scours and deep gullies down,  
'Neath boulders and moss-stones they seek,  
They sweep round the curves, where precipice frown,  
On the waters of Dingo Creek.*

*Now rushing, now roaring, in turbulent foam;  
Now gliding so gently and meek;  
Now shallow, now deep, still onward they roam,  
The pure waters of Dingo Creek.*

*Bright is their sheen, as past Bobin they go,  
Through Marlee they wanton and freak,  
By Ashlea, Bowhill, and Belbourie they flow  
The clear waters of Dingo Creek.*

*Green, green are the banks, and shady the bowers,  
Where lovers in fond whispers speak;  
The peach and the fig, and the lemon tree flowers,  
By the waters of Dingo Creek.*

*Oft let me muse by the clear, limpid stream,  
Like Plato, the old learned Greek;  
Disturb not my thought, disturb not my dream,  
As I sit by the Dingo Creek.*

*And when I have passed from this mortal scene  
This spot for my rest would I seek;  
Oh! Lay me low, 'Neath the willows so green  
Of the beautiful Dingo Creek.*

Rev. William Anton Smith   Wingham November 1888 (Presbyterian Minister Upper Manning 1886-1891)

## **MARTIN BRIDGE 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

The Manning River Bridge was opened by the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Alexander Mair on 17 May 1940.

The bridge replaced a punt, that crossed the river from Pulteney Street, Taree to Glenthorne.

It was later renamed the Martin Bridge in honour of L. O. Martin, Minister for Works and Local Government and Member for Oxley.

Historic photos of the bridge can be found on the GTC Council Photo Archive <http://cdm20040.contentdm.oclc.org/>



Photo by Graeme Rose

## **ELECTORAL ROLL UPDATE**

In early 2014 the Australian Electoral Commission began to enforce restrictions on access to the current electoral roll - in effect only allowing individuals to check their own enrolment details. The electoral roll, both in its current digital form and in microfiche and microfilm in libraries and archives, is of course a key genealogical tool and the lack of access to the current edition meant that the tracing of present day family members and long lost relatives was severely hampered. However, as part of the inquiry into the 2013 federal election the question of access to the current electoral roll was revisited and in May this year the AEC's heightened restrictions were withdrawn.

This is fantastic news for family historians as this means we can once again visit AEC offices to examine the current electoral roll for genealogical research purposes. Any individual can again examine the electoral roll for any name - though electronic recording of the data is not allowed. For further details of how to access the electoral roll please visit [http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/About\\_Electoral\\_Roll/](http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/).



## **MY FAMILY TREE JOURNEY** Nancye Swan

Family History has long been an interest of mine as far back as a school child learning about Australian History. Yes, in lots of families these are connected.

I grew up knowing I was a descendant of a First Fleeter, MATTHEW JAMES EVERINGHAM, and a Second Fleeter, ELIZABETH RHYMES. My paternal grandfather used to tell me about how my First Fleeter (my great great great grandfather) fitted into school history lessons, eg first settlement, his freedom, settlement at Sackville Reach and his almost finding a route across the Blue Mountains (before Blaxland Wentworth and Lawson) from Kurrajong Heights

Grandfather also told me about the second generation EVERINGHAM sons settling on several major rivers along the coast of NSW, including the Richmond River where my ancestor settled.

I left home and went to work in the Manning River area. Here I met another branch of the EVERINGHAM family and became interested in compiling my family tree. The Matron where I worked was a descendant of yet another branch of the family. She knew VALERIE ROSS who, at the time, was compiling an EVERINGHAM family tree book. I was talked into doing my branch for inclusion.

On my visits back to Northern Rivers I started quizzing my grandparents, aunts and parents. Most had lots of information, dates and facts which I committed to paper. My branch was fairly small so not too difficult to do.

The information I learned was sent off to VAL ROSS and "CORNSTALKS" was first published in 1980 by the Library of Australian History. This was updated and reprinted for the Bi-Centenary of Australia, a much larger volume. Val has also had three other books published about the life and times of MATTHEW EVERINGHAM.

After reading these volumes I learned that what I thought were nice stories told by my grandfather were indeed factual.

I consider myself fortunate to have this side of my family so thoroughly researched, published and recorded for posterity. In fact it took the contributions of many and a lot of time and research by Val Ross for this to happen.

I was curious about my Maternal family JACKSON. I had caught that addictive bug and was off on another family tree journey.

Quizzing various family members put me in contact with others doing similar research- also was contacted by a United Kingdom relative who was researching my Maternal grandmother's family - MORTIMER. So I was kept very busy doing research.

Eventually these two families saw the collected information printed and given to various family members. Unfortunately these were not published. So I am lucky that I do have a good record of my family for future generations.

My family tree journey continues with my husband's family. Again I have quite a lot gathered from family members but it is slow going.

To those starting out on their journey I would suggest they start with older relatives, take notes and check dates etc using BDM Indexes. Family History Societies in relevant areas can be helpful, as can internet searches BUT check all information. Do not assume all is right because it can make an ASS out of U and ME.

Start today on what can be a very interesting Family Tree Journey.

## **RESEARCH IN A CEMETERY**

Adapted from [http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy\\_news/2015/07/4-ways-to-research-in-a-cemetery.html](http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2015/07/4-ways-to-research-in-a-cemetery.html)

Cemeteries can be critical for finding information related to the births and deaths of our ancestors. When there is a lack of records sometimes the only information we have will be on a gravestone. In this article we'll discuss four ways you can expand your cemetery research.

## 1. Ancestor Research

The Greater Taree City Council website has a listing of local and historic cemeteries (<http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au/live/our-community/cemeteries/>).

If you are researching from afar you will likely use the [austcemindex.com](http://austcemindex.com), [Findagrave.com](http://Findagrave.com) or [billiongraves.com](http://billiongraves.com) websites to help search for your ancestors' graves. The challenge with using a website rather than visiting in person is that it causes you to focus too tightly on a single ancestor. One of the greatest benefits of researching in a cemetery is discovering other ancestors in nearby plots. While you can't do this virtually you can sort of recreate the effect on Findagrave.com

Search for an ancestor that you know is listed in Findagrave.com. Next use the "Find all [surname] in:" feature which appears in the sidebar to the left. This will show you all the other people in that cemetery with the same surname. There are also options for searching the surname more broadly in the same town, county, and state. If you are searching for a common name that might not be practical but searching the same cemetery is always a good idea.

## 2. House Research

One of the best ways to use cemetery research is to research the history of your own house. Maybe you've never considered doing that before! It can be as fun as researching your own family and you'll discover that the former residents of your house become almost like family after researching them.

If you live in a house that was built before 1900 then chances are good that the former residents are buried in one of the local cemeteries. You'll have to do deed research first to find out their names, followed up with census and vital record research but it shouldn't be too hard to track them down. Once you've discovered the former residents of your house visit the cemetery to learn more about them.

## 3. Local History Research

Genealogists typically have ancestors spread across a wide region or even multiple countries. Our ancestors just didn't stay put! The flip side of genealogical research is doing local history - research in your own back yard. Researching the local history of your town or village can give you a deep appreciation of the people who lived there before you.

Start your local history research with a tour of the oldest local cemetery. There you will likely discover the founders of your town. Walk through the cemetery and notice the surnames that are most prevalent. These will be the earliest families that stayed to help build the town into what it is today.

Also notice war memorials or veterans numbers on gravestones. Get to know the people from your town who served in the World Wars, the Boer War and other conflicts. You might even see gravestones for certain professions such as ship captains or fraternal organizations such as the Masons.

Next think about what interests you. The one thing that is guaranteed to happen is that you will gain a richer appreciation of your town!

## 4. Carver / Art Research

There is so much more to cemetery research than just the names and dates on the gravestones. Have you ever noticed that gravestones are different shapes and sizes in different time periods? If you look closely you will see patterns that will help you identify the age of a stone quickly.

The art and letter carving on a gravestone also changes with time. The art on the gravestones contains symbols that held greater meaning in a time when many people didn't know how to read. For instance, grapes represented Christianity and an hour glass reminds us that time flies and life is fleeting.



Dawson River



Ingham QLD



Woola Woola (Photos by G Toohey)

## **ACCURACY v ASSUMPTION**

**There isn't much point in framing and displaying a neatly completed family tree template if half of the information in it is incorrect!**

Here are six quick tips to getting your genealogy research right:

1. Assume nothing! Just because a woman is a man's wife doesn't mean she is his children's mother; check their birth records. Just because you've only known your surname spelled one way doesn't mean people with variant spellings are not related to you; surname spellings have become consistent only in the last 100 years. Just because a gravestone say Great Grandma Hannah died in 1898 aged 68 doesn't mean she was born in 1830; check the birth records for up to ten years before that date.
2. Do your own research. The internet is heavily populated with family trees that have been copied, often many times, from sloppily researched or even deliberately misleading originals. It's tempting to grab a "ready made" tree or branch of a tree and attach it to a seemingly matching piece of your own ancestral heritage, but if you don't double-check every bit of the research, you could end up taking your own genealogy research in the wrong direction. What's the point of that?
3. Don't follow traditional naming patterns religiously. While they existed in Ireland and many other societies, few families always, always followed them. They can be a clue worth following up, but make sure you find the evidence before recording it as certain.
4. Check your maths before you start filling in dates on your family tree templates. A woman who married your 3 x great-grandfather in 1812 should not be recorded with an estimated date of birth in 1805 just because her 1841 census says she was 36.
5. Ditch the notion that all your ancestors were saintly and never told a lie. Vanity is not a modern phenomenon. It's been around for centuries. So has the pleasure of "getting one over on the authorities". Not everything noted in an official document will necessarily have been honestly recorded. There is also the possibility that there was some other influence at play when someone told an untruth. In many cases, they won't even have been providing misleading information intentionally. Age was less of an issue than it is now and many people didn't know exactly when they were born so they simply estimated. Bear in mind also that freedom of speech and religious practice are relatively modern

notions. Your ancestors may well have lied about their true religious persuasion to avoid arrest, eviction or social exclusion.

6. Remember, while you still can, that your memory is fallible. Expect to forget who gave you that nugget of information about Great Aunt Nellie becoming a nurse overseas. There will come a day when you want to start tracing her life but don't know where to start or the name of your original source. Note everything. Get accustomed to taking a photocopy or transcribing the title page of every book or document that yields ancestral information. If you train yourself to carefully record all your sources, you will avoid having to duplicate your own efforts and will also allow others to evaluate the trustworthiness of your genealogy research.

By following these guidelines you'll be able to proudly present your genealogy research in family tree templates and be confident that others can rely on it, too, including your own descendants.

Source: [www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com](http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com)



### **RESEARCH SERVICE:**

Research Forms can be downloaded from Society website.  
Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00. Research enquiries will be published in our newsletter  
The Fig Tree.

#### **Current Research:**

- McLEAN, McLACHLAN, CAMERON connections in the Manning area
- Daniel USSHER- Sergeant of Police
- William Thomas JOHNSTON born Tasmania, Lived Pulteney St Taree 1949

If you can help with any of these enquiries, please contact the Research Officer or email  
[secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au](mailto:secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au)



### **SPELLING LESSON**

If **GH** can stand for **P** as in hiccough  
If **OUGH** can stand for **O** as in dough  
If **PHTH** can stand for **T** in phthisis  
If **EIGH** can stand for **A** as in neighbour  
If **TTE** can stand for **T** as in gazette and  
If **EAU** can stand for **O** as in Plateau

Then the right way to spell POTATO should be

**GHOUGHPHTHEIGHTTEEAU**