

THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY

HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

TAREE

OPERATING SINCE 1985
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MANNING VALLEY LIBRARIES

No 134

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Postal Address: PO Box 48 Taree NSW 2430

ABN 50 373 809 536

Website: www.manningwallambafhs.com.au

Email: secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au



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 Rose

Vice Presidents: G Toohey L Kidd

Secretaries: S Robinson J Mitchell

Treasurer: L Haynes V Fletcher

Publicity: G Rose G Toohey

Librarians J Mitchell C Troth

Research: G. Toohey N. Swan

Committee: I Hardy P Jarman L Kidd

Newsletter: I Hardy J McGeachie

Public Officer: L Haynes

President's Report for May 2015

Dear all 149 Members,

Welcome to all our new members. Several new members joined after Gloria held an "Introduction to Family History" talk at Harrington. Don't be shy, we love talking about all things Family History plus more.

Our last BBQ fundraiser was meant to be Sunday 22nd March at Masters Taree South. Heavy rain on the Saturday night resulted in the kiosk being flooded & it was still raining when we arrived at 8:15 am. Not wanting pneumonia I cancelled the event. We needed the rain but unfortunately no money.

Our next rare BBQ fundraiser is <u>Sunday 31st May at Bunnings</u>. I hope that we can refresh our bank account so that the board can say "Yes" more often. A big thank you to all who attend for the day or part thereof and help make this fund raising so successful.

The exciting new Web pages at www.manningwallambafhs.com.au have been very well received.

We appreciate all the positive feedback as our aim is to make these pages as useful to you as possible.

The MWFHS has teamed up 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 28th May.

Guest speakers' topics are:

Documents to Help with Your Research by Lorraine Turtle (Turtle Consolidated Services), The DNA Aspect of Family History by me Using Trove to unearth Your Family History by Kaye Wallace (Manning Valley HS)

Go to http://www.manninghistorical.org/ & click on "Bonnie Wingham" for a complete itinerary.

If you want help in tracing your Scottish ancestors there will be forms available in Wingham & our rooms beforehand that you can fill in the information you have & what you would like to know.

Our 30th birthday is coming CLOSER - how will we celebrate and how will we mark the occasion? (events? projects?)

Those who know me will find it hard to believe that I had a relative Rev. John Rose who was an Anglican Minister assigned to a range of towns from Junee to Kiama & then the Southern Highlands. He retired from the Marulan Church in 1972. Just recently I used Google Maps & then "Street View" to show me the church in Marulan in which he served. On the front gate was a sign with the open hours & a phone number that connected me to the retired verger, who had also been married by Rev. John Rose in the 1960s. I arranged to stay at the Marulan Motel & meet him & his daughter at the restaurant. Photos & stories in exchange for a Chinese meal. I was able to provide them with information on his background that they had never thought appropriate to ask. The longer you leave these opportunities, the less people are still alive to provide witness.

Finally, best wishes to Gloria Toohey, who is staying in Newcastle for the next 5 weeks 18th May to 26th June for holiday & radiotherapy. Please be aware that although she welcomes emails during that time some of her many duties will have to be put on hold.

Regards

Graeme

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to: Elizabeth (Betty) and John Thompson; Reg and Karen Farrell; Ken and Shirley Billings; Joy McHugh; Kathryn Dawes-Read; Christopher Gregory; Karen Kerslake

BARBECUES:



Next BBQs will be held at

BUNNINGS Sunday 31st May
MASTERS Sunday 27th 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

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Membership will expire at the end of June. Please complete the renewal form (enclosed with mailed Fig Tree or attached to emailed Society News) and return it with payment to continue your membership.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Saturday, 15th August:

All positions will be declared vacant, and some people will not be seeking re-election. Please consider what you can contribute to the running of our Society.



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 anything you would like included, please email them to

secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au

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:

- Request for copy of Photo of "Fanny Fisher"
- Burial location of Horace Walter Rouse- Wingham 1947
- Location of Crossroads Wickets Cundletown or Coopernook
- Holmes Buried Woodside Cemetery
- Location of Bulmer burials

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



LIST of BRITISH CENSUS DATES since 1801

1801	Census	Tuesday 10 March 1801	
1811	Census	Monday 27 May 1811	
1821	Census	Monday 28 May 1821	
1831	Census	Sunday 29 May 1831	
1841	Census	Sunday 6 June 1841	
1851	Census	Sunday 30 March 1851	
1861	Census	Sunday 7 April 1861	
1871	Census	Sunday 2 April 1871	AVAILABLE ONLINE
1881	Census	Sunday 3 April 1881	
1891	Census	Sunday 5 April 1891	
1901	Census	Sunday 31 March 1901	
1911	Census	Sunday 2 April 1911	
1921	Census	Sunday 19 June 1921	
1931	Census	Sunday 26 April 1931	
1939	Mini Census	Friday 6 September 1939	
1941	Census	No census due to WWII	
1951	Census	Sunday 8 April 1951	
1961	Census	Sunday 23 April 1961	
1971	Census	Sunday 25 April 1971	
1981	Census	Sunday 5 April 1981	
1991	Census	Sunday 21 April 1991	
2001	Census	Sunday 29 April 2001	
2011	Census	Sunday 27 March 2011	

Manning Wallamba FHS Inc, Manning Valley Historical Society Inc and LDS Family History Centre invite you to



WHICH FOREFATHER WAS MINE?

Genealogy Fair focusing of our Scottish Heritage

Thursday 28TH May 2015 10am to 2pm Wingham Services Club, Bent St Wingham Entry and basic research \$20

Guest Speakers' Topics

- Documents to Help with Your Research
- The DNA Aspect of Family History
- Using Trove to unearth Your Family History

To download a research/entry form go to:

www.manninghistorical.org

and follow the Wingham Bonnie Scottish Festival link

TAREE WAR MEMORIAL CLOCK

"The Taree War Memorial is in the form of a clock tower made from rock faced granite. A Latin Cross is recessed into the four stone faces of the memorial with a clock fixed to the centre of these crosses. At the base of these crosses is an inset marble panel lead-inset with the names of the dead as well as those who had volunteered. The monument faces west and contains a list 36 dead on the main panel. Panels set on the eastern, western and northern face of the monument also contain a list of those who had volunteered.

In late 1923 the Taree war memorial committee held a competition to determine the most appropriate form for a war memorial. A number of designs were submitted and locals were allowed to vote on their preferred design with the votes sold at 1/- for each ballot. First prize with the most votes went to a design comprising of Arch and Gates, second prize went to a monument designed for the intersection of Victoria and Manning Streets, third prize went to a design for a new children's ward at the local hospital, and fourth prize went to a design for a new clock tower. A decision was made in late May 1924 by the committee to select the clock tower, designed by Purnell & Fizelle, and erect it at the main intersection in the town. The memorial was dedicated on the 6th of June 1925." The inscription reads:

ERECTED TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF TAREE DISTRICT WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1919

Source: http://monumentaustralia.org.au/australian_monument/display/23397

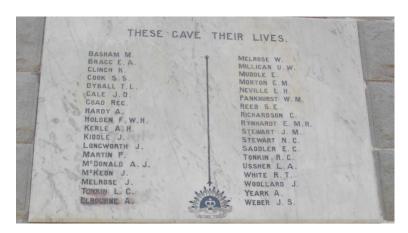
The foundation stone for the memorial was laid by the mayor (Alderman W.H. Muldoon) on about the 20th April 1925 and was unveiled two months later on Saturday 6 June 1925 by Major General Cox. At a later date (1966) the memorial was moved to Fotheringham Park. Behind the main memorial are a series of polished black granite stele (upright pillars) recording later conflicts.



War Memorial and Exchange Hotel, Victoria St 1937. Photo: State Library of NSW



Fotheringham Park 2015



THESE GAVE THEIR LIVES

Of the 36 names on the Memorial Plaque "These Gave Their Lives" there are three pairs of brothers:

- John and William MELROSE, born Scotland the sons of Robert Melrose. Both died in Belgium, John on 7 June 1917 and William on 12 October 1917.
- John and Norman STEWART, born Taree, the sons of William and Elizabeth (Gamack) Stewart.
 The brothers enlisted together, were in the same unit, and died in France within three days of each other, Norman on 11 April 1918 and John on 14th April 1918.
- Richard and Leslie TONKIN, Both born Taree, sons of the late John Ellis Tonkin and Margaret Jane (McCabe) Tonkin. Richard enlisted on 29 September 1914 and was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 19 August 1915. Leslie enlisted on 5 February 1916 and was killed in action in France on 14 November 1916.

Also of interest:

- Uriel Anderson MILLIGAN gave his age as 18yrs 6 months when he enlisted on 8 December 1915, but NSW Births gives his date of birth as 21 November 1898, thus making him 17yrs and 17 days. He was killed in action in France on 12 November 1916, 9 days before his 18th birthday.
- Edward William RYHNHARDT was a Teacher of Mathematics at Taree District School.
- John Kenneth CLINCH, born in South Australia, was a Printer at the Manning River Times.
- William Manning PANKHURST, son of Thomas and Fanny (Druce) Pankhurst, died of wounds in France on 14 June 1917. His sister Hannah served as a nurse in the Australian Army Nursing Corps and returned to Australia

THE STORY OF THE POPPY

Originally published in " Vic Eddy "-unit magazine of the 8"" Division Signals Association 1966
Article by JMEddy (nickname "Vic).

Millions of` Australians each year pin a Red Poppy (sic) in their lapel, the funds thereby raised from the sales going to the RSL. Very few of those who buy or sell the poppies know the story behind the custom.

The Flanders Poppy was first described as Flower of Remembrance by Colonel John McCrae, well known in peacetime as a Professor of Medicine at the great Canadian University of McGill. A gunner in the South African War, at the outbreak of World War I he wished to join the fighting ranks.

However the authorities decided his great abilities could be more advantageously used otherwise and he was detailed as a Medical Officer with the First Canadian contingent. At the second battle at Ypres in 1915, in charge of a small first-aid post, during a lull in the battle he wrote in pencil on a page torn from his despatch book these verses:

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That marks our place: and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly ` Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved and now we lie In Flanders' fields.



Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch: be yours to hold it high, If you break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders' fields.

Sent anonymously to Punch, the verses were published under the title "In Flanders' Fields". In May 1918, Colonel McCrae was brought, as a stretcher case, to one of the big hospitals on the coast of France. On the third night, with the verse obviously in his mind, he said to the doctor who attended him: "Tell them this: If you break faith with us who die we shall not sleep ". The same night he passed over. Today he sleeps in a beautiful cemetery above Winfreux, from where the cliffs of Dover are seen clearly on a sunny day. Each Remembrance Day the British Legion lays a wreath on his grave, a tribute to a great rnan whose thoughts were always for others.

An American lady, Miss Moina Michael, read the poem and wrote a reply:

We Shall Keep the Faith

Ohl You who sleep in Flanders' fields Sleep sweet- to rise anew We caught the torch you threw And holding high we keep The faith of those who died.

We cherish too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led,
And now the torch and poppy red
Wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that we have died for nought:
We have learned the lesson that we taught
In Flanders' fields.

During World War 1, working for the YMCA at one of their overseas secretaries meetings, she was given \$10 in appreciation of her hospitality. Touched by their gift she bought 25 red poppies, showed the donors McCrae's poem and her own reply. They asked for 25 separate poppies. She claimed this was the first group selling poppies!

The French Secretary, Madame Cuerin, conceived the idea of selling the poppies to aid ex-servicemen and women and their dependants. Touring different parts of the world she promoted the idea. In 1921, the first supply of poppies was made in France, sold in England, the profits being devoted to assist needy women and children in France.

Earl Haig believed provision of work for disabled ex—service people was as important as raising the money. The British Legion's Poppy Factory was established by the late Major Howson in 1922 with five such men working in a small room over a shop in Bermondsey, England. It is now a large up-to-date building at Richmond, employing at July 1966, 248 disabled men; 52 from WWI and 196 from WWII of whom 40 were receiving 100% pension and a further 70 receiving 50% or more. Over the last 43 years the factory has provided work for not less than 1000. Forty or fifty people assemble poppies in their own homes; directly or indirectly the factory providing work for 318 men.

(Previously appearing in The Eagle Eye, June 1996 and The Crossing Place March 2015)

A TALE OF TWO GRAVES

In an area of bush adjoining Woolla Woolla Cemetery there are two similar headstones, and there are other similarities between the two men buried there. Both were single men whose deaths were sudden, natives of Scotland and with no family members in Australia. These men were of Richard Stoddart (died 1906) and Richard Shaw (died 1912). Shaw's age is uncertain, with the newspaper report, stating 34 years, the Coroner's inquest about 50 years and the headstone 59 years.

The circumstances of their deaths are very different as is the reporting in the local newspapers.

Sudden Death at the Hospital Ball. . . MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY

A magisterial inquiry was held by the District Coroner (Mr. A. Gates, P.M.), on Friday last, 8th inst. at the Court House, Taree, as to the cause, of death of Mr. Richard Stoddart, who dropped-dead at the Hospital Ball on the previous night.

Sergeant Hogan deposed that he knew Richard Stoddart, 'Whose body was then lying at the Fire Brigade Station, in Taree. About- 1 o'clock that morning some messengers came to the Police Station and informed witness that Stoddart had fallen down in a fit in a dance at the Belmore Hall, and that he appeared to be dead. Witness at once went to the hall and from there to the Fire Brigade Station (close by, and on the floor saw deceased, who was lying on his back. The body was fully dressed in a black suit of clothes. He had boots on. Witness had a table procured and the body placed thereon/and, all the clothes removed therefrom. The body was then quite warm. .All the underclothing on the body was very wet, apparently with perspiration. There were no external marks of violence on the body. Witness had known the deceased for about four years. He was of sober habits, and very industrious. Witness met him on Thursday night at about 8.30, in Victoria-street, Taree. He told witness that he was going to the ball. They walked together to the Belmore Hall, and the deceased went in. He was then apparently in his usual good health. He made no complaint to witness of feeling unwell. He was a native of Scotland, and had no relatives in this district, as far as witness knew. Andrew Thomson deposed that he is a draper, residing at Taree. He was at the Belmore Hall on Thursday evening. A ball was taking place there in aid of the Manning River District Hospital. Witness was Master of Ceremonies at the dance. Witness had seen the body lying at the Fire Brigade Station, Taree. The deceased was at the ball on Thursday night. He was dancing. About 1am, witness saw several men carrying the deceased out of the hall. Witness immediately went in search of Dr. Gormley, whom he found at once. Witness asked the doctor to go and see the deceased, and the doctor left immediately to attend to him. There was no disturbance in the hall during any part of the night. Witness saw the deceased about a quarter of an hour before he saw him being carried out. Witness asked him how he was enjoying himself, and deceased said he was enjoying himself well. David Cowan, solicitor, deposed that he was at the Hospital Ball at the Belmore Hall on Thursday night. He had seen the body lying at the Fire Brigade Station, Taree. It was that of Richard Stoddart. Witness was speaking to the deceased just before he went to get his partner for the dance in which he fell. It was a waltz. Witness was dancing about five feet away from him when he fell. He seemed to fall down in a heap. He did not appear to have slipped or stumbled. There was no collision. Witness went to the deceased as soon as he fell and endeavoured to lift him up. He was limp and unconscious. Four of them picked him up and carried him outside into the air. They laid him down on the grass, and almost immediately Dr. Gormley came on the scene. The doctor tried for close on half-an-hour to bring him back to consciousness, but did not succeed. Witness

afterwards helped to carry him in to the Fire Station. . Eleazer (sic) John Little, auctioneer, deposed that the body lying at the Fire Brigade Station was that of Richard Stoddart. Witness was at the Hospital Ball at Taree on Thursday night, and saw the deceased there dancing. Witness spoke to him several times during the evening. Witness was standing a short distance away from where the deceased was dancing when he fell. Witness heard the deceased fall, and immediately went to his assistance. He never moved after he fell. Witness assisted in carrying the deceased out of the hall. Dr. Gormley came on the scene immediately after they carried him out. Witness afterwards saw the body removed to the Fire Brigade Station. There was no disturbance in the hall during the evening. Harry Wood Kerle, contractor, and carrying on the guarry works at Chatham, deposed that Richard Stoddart had been working at the guarry since July 25th, 1905. He worked full time at the quarry on Thursday. Witness saw deceased on Thursday at about 4.30 p.m. He was then working in the ordinary way, and appeared to be in his usual state of health. He did not complain to witness of feeling unwell. There is a sum of £6 12s due to the deceased by witness. He was laid up for a week from the 14th to the 19th May last. suffering from lumbago and rheumatism, so witness was informed. Since then he had been working constantly. John William Gormley deposed that he is a legally qualified medical practitioner and Government medical officer residing at Taree. He was present at the Hospital Ball at the Belmore Hall on Thursday night. A little before 1am he was in the waiting room, when someone called him and he went out. Witness saw a man being carried down the steps, into the open air, and followed and saw the deceased being placed on the ground. Witness made an examination and found that the man was apparently dead. Witness tried artificial respiration and other means to see if he could resuscitate him, but beyond getting him to gasp once, it was of no effect. Witness asked some of the bystanders to report the matter to the police and suggested that the body be put into the Fire Brigade Station. That morning witness made a post mortem examination of the body. There were no external marks of violence. Witness found the right lung extensively diseased, and the main artery of the aorta and one of the aortic valves were diseased. Witness was of opinion that death was due to syncope, caused by the disease of the aorta and arteries of the heart. The other organs of the body were sound. He appeared to be a man of about 48 years. The Coroner's finding was that the said Richard Stoddart, at the Belmore Hall, Taree, in the State of New South Wales, on the 8th day of June, 1906, died from natural causes, to wit, of heart disease. The remains were interred on Saturday morning at the Woolla cemetery— the Rev. W. Tassie conducting the service. The Manning River Times 13 June 1906

Line In Memory of Richard Stoddart.

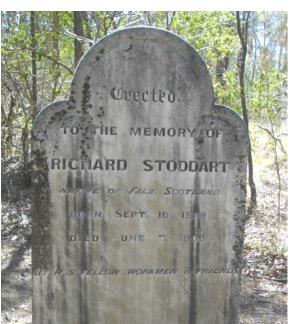
Another grave on yonder hill, Another absent face, Another-man for god and drill Steps up to take his place! "Poor Dick," I hear a navvy say; " Poor Dlck," his mates reply;

Carry him through the shadows grey, - Out where the dead men lie.

We set a stone to mark the spot, With simple railing round;

Some friend puts in "Forget-me-not," And mosses drape the ground.

Soon will the busy sweep of life Remember him no more; He leaves no children, friends, nor wife. Far from his native shore.

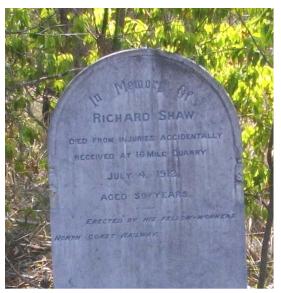


Kindred shall hear across the wave Sad tidings by the mail, But none will see a brother's grave or hear the curlew's wail— A dirge at closing eventide, Where some lone cattle bell Tolls out along the green hillside, Weep not; he slumbers well. So strike the tent, roll up the swag, Pay all the bill — be sure-This is the way the world doth wag; For rich as well as poor. There's more to scheme and fight about Behind the millionaire, But "dust to dust" we crumble out, Forgotten ev'rywhere. Is this the sum of human life? Does death end all for men? Those questions ring above the strife Of action, tongue and pen! Just when the tide is flowing strong And all seems grand and gay, Some little hidden spring goes wrong And man is called away. Why is it so? The ready lip Will ask. Let faith respond: Life is a short apprenticeship For greater things beyond. So Charon waits with muffl'd oar. And ferries each alone Out from a bright and busy shore Into the dark unknown! —Hawkeye. (Henry "Hawkeye" Edwards – author and poet from Cundletown- the northern bridge over the Manning River on the Pacific Highway – Taree Bypass- bears his name.) The Manning River Times 27 June 1906

QUARRY ACCIDENT NEW ARRIVAL KILLED.

TAREE, Friday

On Tuesday Richard Shaw aged about 34 employed at the Sixteen mile quarry on the third section of the North Coast railway was struck by a large piece of stone which fell from above. He died in the Manning River District Hospital last night. He was unmarried and only recently out from Scotland. Sydney Morning Herald 6 July 1912



SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT RAILWAY QUARRY. DEATH OF THE INJURED MAN On Tuesday last a terrible accident occurred to Mr.Richard Shaw, a man of about 34- years of age, employed at the Sixteen mile quarry on the third section of the North Coast Railway. He was working in the quarry, which is a very deep one, when a large piece of stone which fell from above.

Coming from a great height the stone naturally fell with tremendous 'force' and it caught the poor fellow on the back. It cut right through the muscles of his back and fractured his ribs. He was brought as soon as-possible by the railway train to the M.R:D. Hospital, the locomotive doing one of the most rapid journeys it has yet accomplished. On arrival it was found that his injuries were of a terrible nature and he

is not expected to live. Mr. Shaw is unmarried and is only just out from Scotland. The unfortunate man died about 11 o'clock on Thursday night.

Gloucester Advocate 10 July 1912

Coroner's Inquest held at Taree Court House 4 July 1912: Effects of injuries accidentally received through a stone crushing him at the Govt Quarry at Karrack Hill.













Celebrating 225 Years of the

Cobcroft Family in Australia.

Date: 27-28th June 2015

Place: St John's Church Grounds, Wilberforce. N.S.W.

For Further information Contact:-

Warren J Luxford
luxfordw@bigpond.com
4471 3230 or 0408 468 148

Anne Cobcroft
annecobcroft@yahoo.com
0423 954 880

or

Visit our Facebook page at:-

https://www.facebook.com/groups/131206405531/

NEW RESOURCES

IR:085R	Colonial Duchesses. The emigration of Irish women fore the great famine
NI:011R	The people of Norfolk Island & Van Diemens Land & their families 1788-1820
FH:144R	The Minorca Pipers. Donated by Graham Piper.
SHP:147C	Queensland Custom house shipping 1852-1885 + Passenger and Crew
PEO:371R	Shellharbour's Forgotten Cemetery & Selected Pioneers
PEO:372R	Remembering Bega Valley Servicemen of WW1
MI:180R	Manning Wallamba Family History- Members' Interests
CEM:579R	Dispatched Down under-Tracing the resting place of the First Fleeters
GEN:148R	Norfolk island & Lord Howe island-general information. (Donated)
CEM:580R	Colonial Era Cemetery of Norfolk Island. (Donated)
PEO:372	Reminiscences of Australia: Family history of James T Ryan M L A.



Manning Wallamba Family History Society Inc.
PO Box 48

Taree NSW 2430

www.manningwallambafhs.com.au secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au