



THE FIG TREE

JOURNAL OF THE

MANNING WALLAMBA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

TAREE

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Manning Wallamba Family History Society was named in 1985 for the two major river valleys in the area, the Manning and the Wallamba and covers the Region as shown in the above map and includes the following areas:

Taree, Wingham, Kendall, Cooperbrook, 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 2018-2019

President:	Ken Beeton	Research Officers	Sue Robinson
Vice Presidents:	Graeme Rose		Wal Horsburgh
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	Lorraine Martin (Minutes)	Assistant Librarian:	Lorraine Martin
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Treasurer:	Sue Robinson	Publications Officer:	Jan Mitchell
Asst. Treasurer:	Graeme Rose	Publicity Officer	Vicki Fletcher

Isolated & Unmarked Graves: Pam Jarman

Social & Management Committee: Graeme and Pam Jarman

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and friends,

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve as your President 2017-2018.

Made easy by the fact of your willingness and proficiency to carry out duties assigned to you.

The year has been a beginning for some of us and a dedicated carry on for others.

There is a great camaraderie within the organization with a will and can do attitude.

We lost a great friend and organizer in Gloria Toohey a pleasure to know and to remember.

We all came to the fore with the organization not losing a beat.

Our Bar B Qs have been very successful thanks to those willing volunteers, the more the better not just the willing few.

The future is bright with many new ideas to be discussed with upgrades on the agenda.

Workshops have been well attended for those who are interested in the topic presented, many thanks to our workshop organizers.

Family history month provided venues by Mid Coast Libraries some attended well while others not, a need to look into with Library and ourselves.

Again I express my thanks to you all.

Looking back going forward.

Ken Beeton

President

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome to the following new members -Barbara Joy North & Judith Hall. We hope you enjoy your genealogy journey.

Our Membership now stands at 121



BARBECUES:

BBQs will be held at BUNNINGS on the last Sunday of March, May, July, September and November. The next one will be **Sunday 25th November, 2018**

If you are able to spare an hour or two on any of our BBQ days, please add your name to the list at the Library or email secretary@manningwallambafhs.com.au. Please remember that COVERED SHOES MUST BE WORN.

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.

At our next workshop on **Saturday 27th October** - the topic will be
"Hidden Resources of MWFHS"

and the final Workshop of the year is on **Saturday 24th November.**

A guest speaker - Lyn Stewart will be giving a presentation on **"Finding Margaret Murphy"**. This is her story re the research involved to find her g/g/grandmother who was from Ireland.



WANTED: ARTICLES FOR THE FIG TREE

As you know the main theme for Fig Tree this year has been "My Military Ancestor". **Thank You** to all those who contributed. It is time now to think about 2019 with the main theme being **Taree History.**

MID-COAST STORIES

Two of our members Janine Roberts and Penny Teerman have launched their new website and if you haven't already "had a look" it is well worth the visit.....

<https://midcoaststories.com/stories/>

Mid-Coast Stories preserves and promotes our regions unique history. These stories are short, factual and often quirky, describing the people, places and events that have influenced our region.

Flying Officer Ellis Henry Ross (DFC)



Service Number 40060

Final Rank: Flying Officer

Service: Royal Air Force

Units: Royal Air Force

No. 83 Squadron (RAF)

Conflict Operation:

Second World War 1939-
1945

AWARDS

The Distinguished Flying
Cross

Photograph Unveiled -

LATE FLYING OFFICER ELLIS ROSS

CEREMONY AT MITCHELL'S ISLAND

A photograph of the late Flying Officer Ellis Henry Ross, who was killed in action in Germany on 13th August, 1940, was unveiled at the Mitchell's Island school on Saturday afternoon. The late Flying Officer received his early education at the Mitchell's Island School and later attended the Taree High School, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ross of Tamworth came over for the unveiling ceremony, which was performed by the mayor of Taree, Ald. W. P. Chapman, in the presence of a representative attendance including about 20 returned soldiers and members of the Mitchell's Island Junior Red Cross. The latter formed a guard of honour for

Mr. and Mrs. Ross, Mr. A. H. Young, Headmaster of the Mitchell's Island school, presided for the unveiling ceremony and read apologies from Mr. W. J. Stewart (a former teacher of the school, Mr. J. N. Harrison (District. Inspector of Schools), Mr. W. J. Berrell (president of the Taree branch of the R.S.L. and A.I. League, Mr. McCaffrey and others. The chairman mentioned that preliminary arrangements for the ceremony had been made by the ladies of Mitchell's Island. Referring to the Late Flying Officer he said Ellis Ross had received splendid inspiration from Mr. Stewart and other teachers: who took part in the building of his character, and in addition he possessed inherent qualities which had won for him such glory and distinction in the service of his country. He had been honoured with the decoration of the Distinguished Flying Cross, because of his great service to the Empire in its hour of trial, and those who knew him had therefore met, to make some, tangible recognition of his services, and the supreme sacrifice he had made. After the singing of 'O God our help in ages past' the mayor of Taree was called upon to unveil the photograph. Ald. Chapman said he was proud to be able to take part in honouring Flying Officer Ross, and to join with the people of the locality in expressing sympathy to the bereaved parents. One and all gloried in the achievements of their son, and were proud of what he had done, and the part played by him in helping to conserve the privileges enjoyed and achieved by the people of the British Empire. The late Flying Officer Ellis Ross joined the Air Force in 1936 and after completing a course at Point Cook he was sent to England for special training, and while there transferred from the R.A.A.F. to the R.A.F. When war was declared he went into action at once. On 13th June, 1940, he was decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace, and later it was reported that he had been killed when his plane was shot down at Dortmund Ems Canal, Westphalia, in Northern Germany, on 13th August, 1940. At the time he was in charge of a two-engined bomber, and all four members of the crew were killed. At this stage. Mr. Chapman read the following letter from the King to Mr. Ross, 24th February, 1941. The Queen and I offer you our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow. We pray that your country's gratitude for a life so nobly given in its service may bring you some measure of consolation. — George R.I. Continuing, the mayor, said the late Ellis Ross was one of the first three men from N.S.W. to be decorated for distinguished conduct in the war. Earlier mishaps experienced by Ellis Ross were at Somerset, when he ran short of petrol on a night flight, and his machine struck a wireless aerial mast, and crashed in the garden of a private home, he soon recovered from the injuries then received. Later his plane caught fire, necessitating him and other members of the crew bailing out at Scampton. He was badly burned, but later was able to report for duty. Mr. and Mrs Ross' eldest son, Ernest, was an engine fitter in the R.A.A.F., and a third son, Clarence Maclean Ross, had received his elementary training, and was now abroad. The speaker mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. Ross lived on the Manning for 10 years and left for Tamworth in 1931. Mr. Frank Lean on behalf of the Returned Soldiers present, conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. Ross the sincere sympathy of all returned soldiers in the district, and said how honoured they were to be present at such a function. Mrs. de R.L. Curtis, on behalf of the Taree Women's Voluntary Service, apologised for the absence of the president, Mrs. W. P. Chapman, who had been passing through a long illness, and was at present in Sydney to undergo further treatment every member of the W.V.S. hoped and prayed that Mr. and Mrs. Ross would have their other two sons spared to return to them

safe and sound, Mrs. Young, on behalf of the residents of the Island, said the history of the life of Ellis Ross would be a glorious tradition to the children of the locality. Rev. G. A. Fisher (Cooperbrook) said it was a great thing to be able to leave this world better than it was when one entered it, and those who knew the air officer whose deeds for his King, his country and his fellow men, and this should remind each one that each had a part to play if the war was to be won. No sacrifice was too great in order to assure that the great work the soldiers set out to do should be accomplished. After Mr. Frank Belford had sung 'The Supreme Sacrifice' the mayor unveiled the photograph of Flying Officer Ross, and again extended deep sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Ross in their loss. The following inscription appears beneath the photograph

'Flying Officer Ellis Henry Ross, D.F.C. R.A.F. Killed in action in Dortmund Ems Canal West Westphalia 13/8/40.

Miss Eileen Shoesmith, president of the Mitchells Island Junior Red Cross, attached a laurel wreath to the photograph, and Mr. Young next recited Tennyson's beautiful, poem 'Crossing the Bar'. Mr. Ross, on behalf of his wife, and other members of the family, then conveyed sincere thanks to all who had joined in honouring their son. The ceremony closed with the singing 'God of our Fathers' and then the visitors were the guests of the ladies committee at refreshments, which were served under the trees in front of the school. ²

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (DFC)



The Distinguished Flying Cross is a military decoration awarded to personnel of the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and other services and formerly to officers of other Commonwealth countries, for acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy. ³

Sources:

¹ Supplement to the London Gazette 31 May 1940. Page 2356

² National Library of Australia. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article162133849>. Northern Champion (Taree NS 1913-1954) Saturday 14 June 1941 page 8.

³ Wikipedia.org/wiki/Distinguished_Flying_Cross_(United_Kingdom).

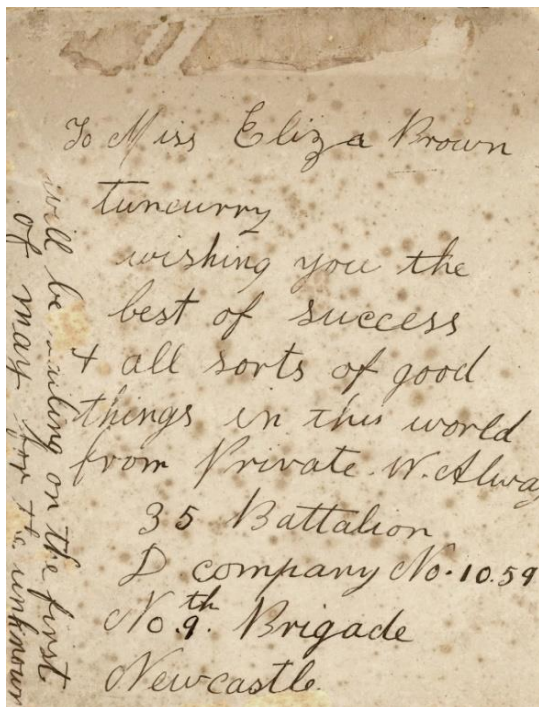
Submitted by Wal Horsburgh

PRIVATE WILLIE ALWAY

Service Number 1059 35th Battalion D Company



When you find a photo among a collection you receive from your Aunt, and because you are interested in the Family's History, your curiosity can't help but get the better of you. More particularly, a photo that has a hand-written note on the back, from a person you have never heard of before!



*"To Miss Eliza Brown (My Grandmother) Tuncurry
wishing you the best of success and all sorts of good
things in this world.*

From Private W. Alway 35 Battalion D Company

No 1059 No 9th Brigade, Newcastle.

Will be leaving on the first of May for the unknown."

My curiosity aroused I started my research, and these are the results of my findings.

Willie Alway was born on the 14th of August 1893 at Kogarah, New South Wales and he died 8th of June 1917 in Belgium.

'Remembered with Honour Villers-Bretonneux Memorial'

Willie was born to Rosina Levenia Nixon in 1893, from his birth registration Father unnamed. His mother Rosina married Edwin Wilberforce Always in 1894. He had four siblings - Henry Edwin, Ivy Rose, Harold James, and Cecil Milton Alway.

He enlisted in the Military at Newcastle on the 7th of January 1916 at the age of 22 years and 4 months and was assigned to the 35th Battalion, his address was given as Bulahdelah. Later on this was changed to - c/- Jones Island Post Office, and next of kin his father E. W. Alway.

Willie embarked from Sydney on board the "Benalla" on 1st of May 1916, arriving in Plymouth on the 9th of July 1916. There would have been training camps before departing Sydney and also on arrival in Britain.

On the 21st of November 1916 he proceeded overseas to France, departing Southampton on the 16th of February 1917, when he was transferred to the 9th Machine Gun Company in the field. Little is known of his field movements until his death on the 8th of June 1917.

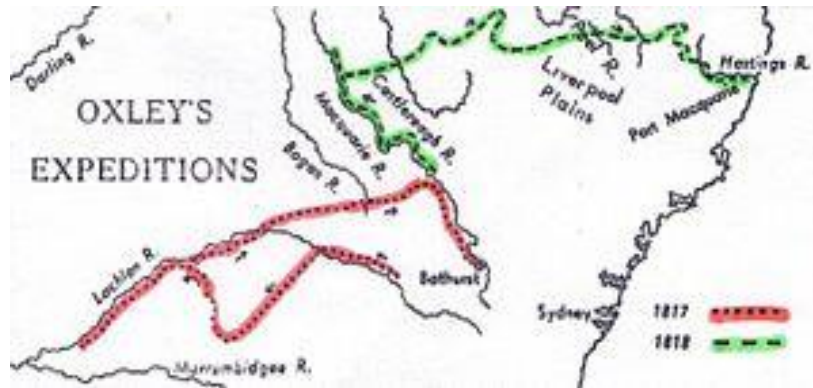
I write this story knowing that my grandmother married Robert Nixon Everingham on the 15th August 1917. Could there have been a different result?



The Villers-Bretonneux Memorial is an Australian National Memorial. It commemorates all of the Australian soldiers who fought in France and Flanders from 1916 to 1918 during the Great War of 1914-1918.

THE JOHN OXLEY BICENTENNIAL

...."On September 1818 from the hill over one of the streams near which we halted the coast line of hills was plainly seen; and we appeared to have but a rugged journey before us". The party camped on the western side of Mt. Seaview.



On the 21st September 2018 I had the pleasure of being part of the 200 year celebration of John Oxley's Expedition arriving at Mount Seaview, a celebration organised by Wauchope Historical Society.

The weekend activities commenced with a welcome dinner attended by local parliamentarians and invited guests. Following the dinner George Hegarty, Secretary of Wauchope District Historical Society, welcomed guests and officially launched

Rob Tickle's book - "John Oxley, a new prospective".

The descendants of John Oxley's brother - George Evans, John Harris and Richard Watts were at the gathering.

Weekend activities included –

- Helicopter rides around Mt. Seaview, giving a much better understanding of the type of country the expedition struggled to transverse.
- A 4WD trip around this historic property, which gave us a chance to see the geology and flora of this World Heritage Area - Mt. Jasper Nature Reserve. This is a National Heritage area due to the low levels of disturbance to the vegetation, and it is considered to be in a condition, similar to that, when the Hastings Valley was first discovered by Europeans.

Later in the afternoon presentations by Dr. Ian Telford GradDip, MSc and PhD at University of New England, Botanist and Curator of the Herbarium at the UNE. Dr. Telford spoke about Charles Fraser and the botany of John Oxley's 1818 Expedition.

Richard Grimmond recounted the monumental trek he undertook in 2003 when he followed Oxley's Journal and re-discovered the waterfall Oxley had named Beckett's Cataract. He made a video of this journal which was shown during the weekend.

Oxley's 1818 Expedition has created a lot of interest, with communities such as Harrington hosting celebrations to commemorate this event.

By Barbara Waters Manning Wallamba Family History Society.

One of our members – Harry Shrubbs, submitted the following

My Older Generation didn't have that "green thing"

Dennis Byrne posted this in June 2013 on the Internet Pretty much expresses my sentiments about the young folks who scold us old folks about not being environmentally conscious enough ("having that green thing"). I don't know who wrote it or I would have credited it.

Being Green -

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations. "She was right – our generation didn't have the 'green thing' in our day. Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then. We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300 horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. –

But she was right – We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry out clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But she was right – We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then, we had one TV or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room, **and** the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

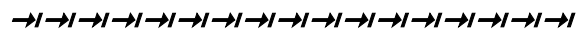
In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn – we used a push mower than run on human power. We exercised by working, so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right – We didn't have the "green thing" back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle

every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen and we replaced the razor blades in a razor, instead of throwing away the whole razor, just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums into a 24 house taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing". We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances, and we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But, isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

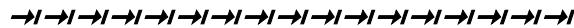


ATTENTION DUTY MEMBERS AND RESEARCHERS

It has recently been necessary to repair the legs of the main table in the Family History Room.

Therefore, under no circumstances is the table to be dragged towards the computers. If it needs to be moved, it must be lifted.

Thanks for your co-operation



RESEARCH SERVICE Research Forms can be downloaded from Society website.
<http://manningwallambafhs.com.au/>

Initial Research Enquiry \$20.00 including up to 2 hours research and limited photocopying, to the value of \$5.00

Extra microfilm copying \$1.00 per page. Additional Research \$10.00 per hour.

CURRENT RESEARCH: Don Anderson : William & Carolyn Smith

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Our Christmas Lunch is being held at the Taree Leagues Sports Club
on Sunday 2nd December at 12.00 noon.

Full details will be available shortly.



*Wishing all our Members and their Families the very best for
Christmas and a Very Happy New Year*



PLEASE NOTE

We will be closing on Saturday 15th December 2018 and will reopen Tuesday 29th January 2019

OMMISSION: *In the last edition of the Figtree we published an article on 'Military Exemptions' given to soldiers of the Manning. Unfortunately, I did not make it clear that this information was obtained from the following sources -*

References:

Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer November 18 1916

Northern Champion Saturday 4 November 1916

<https://nswanzaccentenary.records.nsw.gov.au/in-service/military-exemption-courts/>

<https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/provenance-journal/provenance-2015/military-exemption-courts-1916>

<http://ww1.au.uk/2525/news/death-conscription-australian-military-courts-first-world-war/#WOQjjNIzZPZ>

RECENT NEW RESOURCES

TITLE	ID No.		AUTHOR
Copeland goldfield, NSW, History & heritage cemetery	CEM:596	R	H Ling,H Robson, W Swan
Anglicans in the parish of Taree 1845-2003	CH:022	R	J.Kirby & P Cane
Lyne Electoral Roll 1988	ER:034	R	
Lyne Reference Electoral Roll 1998	ER:035	R	
Lyne Electoral Roll 2000	ER:036	R	
Cundletown: Ghinni Ghinni, Jones Island & Manning River Chronicles of early days 1829-1880	NP:174	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Cooperook: Chronicles of early days	NP:175	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Harrington: Chronicles of early days	NP:176	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Mitchell Island: Chronicles of early days	NP:177	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Mondrook: Manning river Chronicles of early days 1837-1970	NP:178	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Nabiac district: Chronicles of early days	NP:179	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
Old Bar, Manning river: Chronicles of early days	NP:180	R	Rod & Wendy Gow
The Minorca Pipers	FH:144	R	G M H Piper
Crystal Creek, From twelve mile to (Booral, Stroud & Gloucester)	DH:142	R	John Murray
Dubbo 1871-1985, Sporting Greats	DH:143	R	
Kiama, Terralong Tracks	DH:144	R	D Cotte & Y McBurney
Manning, Gold on the	DH:145	R	M V Historical Society

TITLE	ID NO		AUTHOR
Mitchell's Island, School of Arts Hall 1905-2005	DH:146	R	
Molong, road to	DH:147	R	Y McBurney
Mudgee, Apple tree flat, a gateway to	DH:148	R	B Pauling
Bourke, a pictorial history Vol.1	DH:149	R	B Cameron
Bulga Plateau, The Mountain speaks, a folk history of	DH:150	R	Helen Hannah
Dubbo, Walkabout	DH:151	R	Bill Hornadge
Moorland-Camden Haven, Echoes of the past	DH:152	R	Dorothy Mooney
Manning Valley Dairy Industry, A History of (Bringing Prosperity to the Valley)	DH:153	R	Bill Peach
Gandanguurra, The Language of the Mountain People and Beyond	INA.003	R	Jim Barrett
Boswell Annabella, Journal (Account of early Pt Macquarie)	PEO:379	R	Morton Herman
Jenkins, Pioneering from my angle (Bulga Plateau)	PEO:380	R	C M Jenkins
Pioneering women of Port Macquarie 1821-1823	PEO:381	R	Pt Macquarie F H S.
Manning, Cricket in the 1893 - 2015	PEO:382	R	Les Eastaway
The Jarrett Family, Pioneers of the Richmond Area	PEO.383	R	Joan Ransom & Doreen Jarrett
John Oxley, A New Perspective	PEO.384	R	Ron Tickle
Murray River, Paddle-steamers & River Boats Aust.	PHO:127	R	Pete Dobr'e
Sydney's, Most Historic Area, The Rocks	PHO:128	R	Cedrick Emanuel
Parkes, Beautiful Shire of	PHO:129	R	Helene Brain
Capertee, the story of 1882-1982	SH:072	R	Bruce Jefferys
Woodburn, central school 1870-1996	SH:073	R	Sylvia Smith
Bow Bow Creek school 1850-1967	SH:074	R	Glenda Smith

POSTAGE
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