

# Eurobodalla Historic Cemeteries Conservation Management Study

## Inventory Part C



### INVENTORY of BURIAL SITES 29-50

Lone burials, Memorials, Miscellaneous

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For Eurobodalla Shire Council  
March 2021



## Eurobodalla Historic Cemeteries Conservation Management Study Inventory of burial sites - Part C

This Volume is Part C of the Inventory and includes records on Lone burials, Memorials and some miscellaneous entries. Cemetery numbering follows on from that in Parts A and B. The sites in *italics* have been noted in other reports or publications but have not been included in this volume as there is insufficient information available at present. The inventory records are set out in the following sequence.

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## **Lone burials with grave markers**

## 29 Albert Read's Grave - Tiverton

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>       | 85 Haxstead Road, Central Tilba, NSW 2546 |
| <b>Owner /manager</b> | Private                                   |
| <b>Type</b>           | Isolated Grave                            |

### History

The Read brothers - Horrex (Honk), Albert and Charles - selected land on the open coastal headlands between Tilba and Little Lakes from 1870 to 1875 and bought 120 acres from John Forster. They established three adjoining properties - "Haxstead", "Avondale" and "Kent Farm" with the help of two aunts and walked their milking herd up from Numbugga (near Bega) to their new selection in 1873 without missing a milking. They made cheese the day they arrived.

Charles Read selected "Kent Farm", their Aunt Eliza left "Avondale" to Albert, and "Haxstead" to Horrex Read. They later bought "Bellingah" on the southern shore of Tilba Lake from G Du Ross and incorporated it into "Kent Farm". They all lived in the original homestead on "Haxstead". Albert Read died in 1886. His wife, Margaret Elizabeth (daughter of James Southam) married Joseph Thomas Fookes from Corunna in 1888 who then farmed "Avondale". They started supplying ABC in 1904. Margaret reared 12 children - 6 children to Albert Read and 6 to Joseph Fookes. She died in 1913. The property's name was changed to "Tiverton" in c1950.

### Description

Broken concrete slab pieces

### Condition (general)

Tomb broken in pieces. No headstone. The grave was not inspected as part of this study.

### Significance

LEP 2012 Item 73

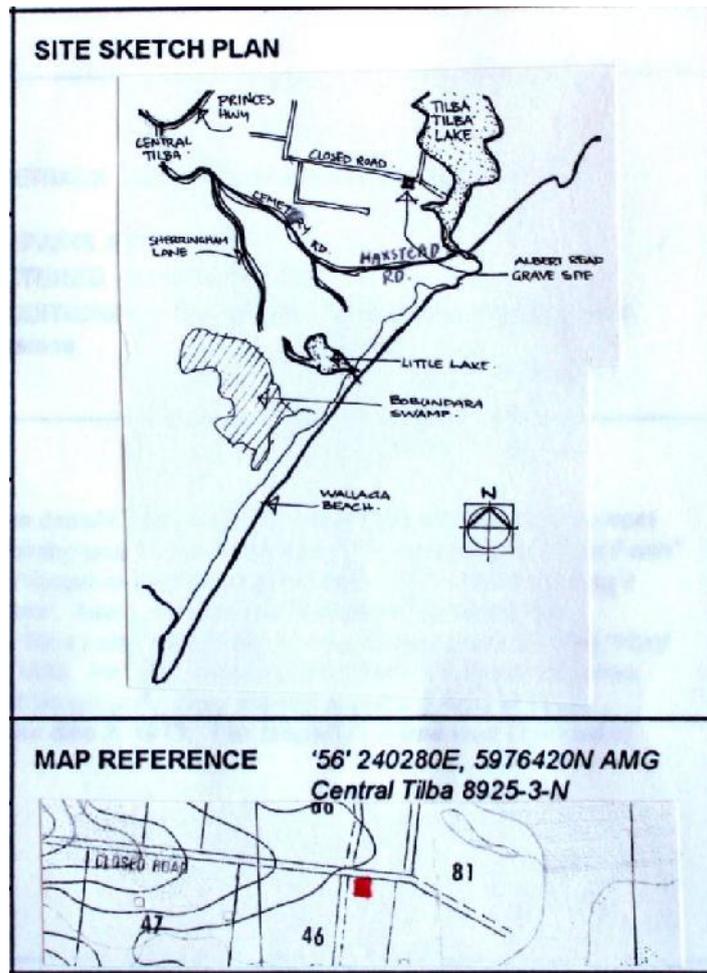
The grave site of Albert Read has high level local historic significance for being associated with and representing the presence in the local Central Tilba area, of one of its early pioneers and also the location of his property. The grave has local social significance to the descendants of the Read family in the Central Tilba area. (EJE report)

### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

Referenced in Tilba Times by Pacey and Hoyer

### Recommendations

- Continue current management.
- Restoration should be discussed with Council's heritage adviser prior to commencing work.



Location map EJE



The remains of Albert Reads grave. Photo by EJE consultants 1997

## 30 Bottin Family Graves

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Address</b>       | 1071 Reedy Creek Road, Dignams Creek, NSW 2537 |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private  |
| <b>Type</b>          | Historic family cemetery - Closed              |

### History

George Bottin, local farmer, died aged 49 on 3 December 1880 following a five week long alcoholic coma. The son of Thomas and Jane Bottin, he was buried on 5 December 1880 by J Humphrey and Mr Vinlin. His headstone also remembers the death of his son, William Bottin.

William was buried in the same location following an accidental drowning in the Tuross River. William was 25 when he was buried on 29 March 1898 by W H Spear. Until the mid-1970s there were two graves side by side, the second with a wooden "headstone". This second grave "headstone" was nearly destroyed by fire and was removed to the Eurobodalla Shire depot, Narooma, for safe keeping. It is thought that the grave was that of a male member of the Southam family of Couria Creek.

### Description

Marble Headstone inscribed:

Sacred to the Memory Of  
**GEORGE BOTTIN,**  
WHO DIED DEC 2<sup>ND</sup> 1880  
AGED 49 YEARS.  
ALSO  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**WILLIE,**  
HIS SON, WHO WAS ACCIDENTLY  
DROWNED IN THE TUROSS RIVER  
MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> 1898. AGED 25 YEARS.  
  
HAD HE ASKED US WELL WE KNOW  
WE SHOULD CRY, AND SPARE THIS BLOW  
YET WITH STREAMING EYES SHOULD PRAY  
LORD WE LOVE HIM, LET HIM STAY.

### Condition

The headstone is in good condition with lettering clearly legible  
The timber fence post remains at the site but has fallen over.

### Significance

Local Heritage item 219 gazetted 20/7/2012

The gravesite of George and William Bottin has local historic significance for evidencing the pattern of settlement and also the type of settlers in remote Eurobodalla Shire areas in the late 1880s. It has local social significance for descendants of the Bottin family. It has local scientific significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the burial techniques in remote areas of the Shire in the late 19th century. (SHI citation)

This is one of a number of isolated burial sites to be found across the Shire. Collectively they shed light on settlement patterns of the 19th century and the challenges that many European settlers faced at that time – in the case of the Bottins – alcoholism of the father and accidental drowning of the son. The inscriptions across the Shire reveal that death by drowning was not uncommon.

### Site elements

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Grave             | All that remains is the headstone which is a finely carved marble stele with a gentle gothic top and a carving of a bird and wreath. Lettering remains crisp and legible. There is relatively little staining on the headstone, which is in very good condition and still vertical. |
| Setting           | The headstone is between the road and creek in a former clearing of native bush. Understorey plants are growing back with an amount of leaf litter on the ground.   |
| Fencing           | The 1997 photo shows remains of a timber fence that presumably was around the grave.  |
| Signage           | There is no signage   |
| Vehicle access    | The grave site is about 10 metres from a public road. There is no vehicle access to the grave.  |
| Pedestrian access | The grave is on private land. There is no formed pathway.   |

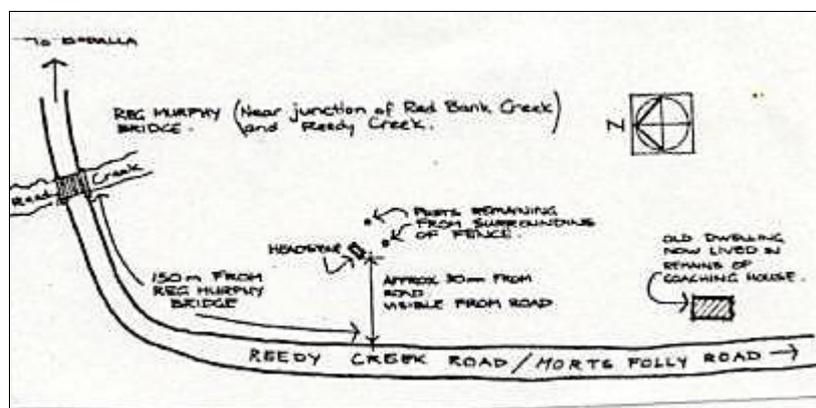
### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

As the cemetery is on private land permission should be sought before entering the site. It is unlikely this road will become an alternative tourism trail in the near future.

### Recommendations

The grave is on private land and management of the site is at the discretion of the owner. Opportunities include:

- Remove undergrowth from the immediate area,
- Remove overhanging branches if any that could damage the headstone
- Reinstate a fence, preferably in character with the original
- Interpret the history of the site with a small interpretation sign



Map by EJE consultants 1997



Approximate location of grave indicated by yellow circle. Map by SIX Maps 2019



Gravesite looking towards Reedy Creek Road 1997 Note the remnant post with decorative top at the left of photo. Photo by EJE circa 1997.



The grave site looking towards Reedy Creek Road. S Pryke 2012



Bottin family headstone. Photo by S Pryke 2012.



Corkhill, William Henry. (1899). [The grave of George Bottin and his son Willie at Reedy Bridge on Reedy Creek Road] Retrieved May 10, 2019, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140260012>. Note the original fence surround. The edge of an adjacent headstone is just visible on the right hand side of the photo.

## 31 Coman Family Graves

**Address** 126 Wamban Road, Kiora  
**Owner manager** Private  
**Type I** Isolated headstone

### History

The stone dates from 1858 and marks the burial place of early settler William Coman and one or two of his family members.

The National Trust of Australia cemetery index card for the site notes:- 'Only the remains of the original owner of the property known then as Condoin and his granddaughter are known to be buried here. He was William Coman and the child was Ellen Coman aged 8 days.'

The rest of William Coman's family are buried at Moruya and elsewhere. (Kay Fenton Boyce) 1997.

A separate record suggests Ellen Coman, who died 15/9/1859 aged 35 is also buried on the Wamban property - presumably in the same burial plot. See hand-written notation below.

|         |           |                    |        |                        |   |
|---------|-----------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|---|
| ✓ COMAN | William   | 1895               | H      | 7                      | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Alicia    | 1913               | H      | 8                      | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Phillip   | 1922               | H      | 9                      | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Alicia    | 1929               | H      | 9                      | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Ellen     | 1924               | H      | 9                      | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Catherine | 1939               | H      | 10                     | 1 |
| COMAN   | Walter    | 1905-1904          | H      | 11                     | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | Margaret  | 1899               | H      | 12                     | 1 |
| ✓ COMAN | James     | 1880               | H      | 12                     | 1 |
| "       | Ellen     | Moruya County 1925 |        |                        |   |
| Coman   | William   | 11/6/1858          | age 72 |                        |   |
| "       | ELLEN     | 15/9/1859          | age 35 | Buried Wamban property |   |

Documentation indicating that an Ellen Coman aged 35 years was also buried at Wamban property. Source MDHS records

'Crossing Wamban Road stands the original Coman Homestead which is not less than 125 years old. The verandah has been removed and is now occupied by Mr John Cox and family. A special feature of the house is the bake oven outside the wall of the house, opening off the oven located inside. The original kitchen is now a store room and has huge fire place with hooks for hanging saucepans etc. 1978'. Source from handwritten note in MDHS records.

## Description

Single sandstone headstone standing within the garden. There is no obvious evidence of a border or surrounding burial plot. Inscription recorded as:

Gloria in Excelsior Deo  
IHS  
Of your charity pray for the soul of William Coman  
Native of the County of Tipperary Ireland  
Who departed this life on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1858  
Aged 75 years Requiescat in Pace Amen  
Erected by his beloved Wife Mary Coman

## Condition

The stone is vertical and appears in good condition although with some evidence of rising damp and a small patch of delaminating stone toward the base.

## Significance

The stone is significant for marking the burial place of early settler William Coman and one or two of his family. His house was nearby and up to 10 descendants or relations are buried in the Moruya cemetery.

## Detailed description and condition of elements

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Grave  | Single stone memorial in grass  |
| Setting  | Approximately 100 metres from dwelling and in proximity to Moruya river |
| Fencing  | Nil   |
| Signage  | Nil   |
| Vehicle access                                 | Only by permission of owner   |
| Pedestrian access/<br>pathways                 | Only by permission of owner   |
| Vegetation – remnant<br>vegetation, trees, etc | Grass and domestic garden setting                                       |

## Listing

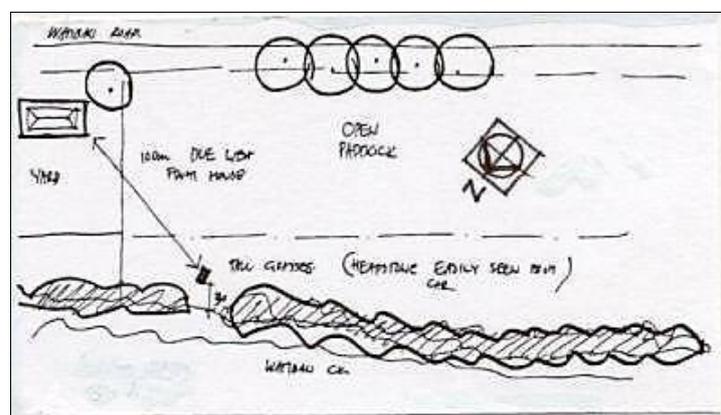
ELEP 2012 Item 61

## References

Moruya CPS Records, 1997

## Recommendations

Continue existing maintenance.



Map by EJE 1997



Photo by EJE 1997



Headstone 2019

## 32 Grave of James Richard George

**Address** Wamban Rd, Deua  
**Owner /manager** NPWS  
**Type** Isolated grave

### History

Joseph George was born at Liverpool near Sydney in 1843. He moved with his family to Majors Creek in the 1850s during the gold rush. At an age of 15 he met his wife-to-be, Mary Hart. They were married at Majors Creek in 1860. Their first legitimate son was born in 1860 and was named Joseph F, after his father. Joseph was a butcher by trade, and he and Mary opened a butcher shop at Merricumbene, between Moruya and Araluen.

As the story of George's discovery of the Bendethera Valley explains, an Aboriginal man stole his horse resulting in a pursuit across the mountains until he reached Bendethera. Joseph George took up land there in early 1863, buying and also leasing a total of 840 acres. It was the discovery of gold in the Deua River at Araluen in 1851 which led to the opening up of the rest of the Deua area for farming. Farmers were able to make a living by supplying goods to the Araluen miners and later to the miners at Nerrigundah, when gold was discovered there in 1861.

Joseph and Mary had another son, James R in 1862 and a daughter, Mary A, in 1863. Joseph employed several workers to help construct his first home on the flat ground near Con Creek. It was situated near the bread oven. This home was later burnt down and they slept in the barn until the next house was built. More children were born including Doranda (1866), Charlotte (1867), Benjamin J (1869), Randolph George (1871), Charles W (1874), Annie H (1876), Maria (1878), James Sydney (1882) and Ernest (1884). The children were able to work on the property and each had a paddock to cultivate and look after. The Connell and Clarke brothers, bushrangers in the area, helped at Bendethera working for Joseph. At Bendethera they bred horses, sold produce to Araluen, Nerrigundah and Moruya, including bacon, corn, wattle bark, chaff, wheat, kept pigs, bullocks, cows and calves. They had the benefit of irrigation from Con Creek and Deua River. A water race was constructed by miners out of work who were looking for tin and gold at Bendethera. The race carried water from the creek and irrigated the paddocks, particularly during drought conditions and in 1978? it was worked again. The Georges used the old bridle trail networks to transport produce to the markets. In the 1880s many people from the surrounding districts visited Bendethera for the picnic races at Racecourse Flat.

Joseph George Senior died on 27 April 1909 at Gundry aged 66 years. Mary died in 1908, aged 70 years. Both are buried at Moruya. Joseph George constructed a highly prosperous and productive farm at Bendethera. Randolph George bought Bendethera from Auction in 1932. He left it to his brother Charles' two sons, who sold it to Allen Rankin in 1939 for 500 pounds. In later years, Rankin sold Bendethera to Ross McKinnon of Wollongong. He sold out to the Robinson family, also from Wollongong. The National Parks and Wildlife Service took over in 1979. Today only the bakery oven, water race, stand of trees and a George family member's grave remains as evidence of the former Bendethera farm site. There is no evidence of the former George family homestead, having been demolished some years ago. According to George family records, a child named James Richard George is buried at this site. The death certificates of both parents list 13 children living and 1 male deceased in 1908 and 1909.

## References

EJE Group study

"Bendethera Story" in "Genies' Journal", Moruya and District Historical Society Inc, K and P Reid, 1992

## Description

Large white timber cross marking the grave site. Large stones evident. Slightly overgrown. (1997)

## Significance

ELEP(2012) Item 90

HHIMS Item 2819

Held to be the burial site of a child named James Richard George, son of Mary (nee Hart) and Joseph George who were early European settlers of the Bendethera Valley.

The grave has local historic significance for its role in providing evidence of a George family member, son of a well-known local pioneer in the Bendethera Valley. Socially it has local significance to George family descendants of the Bendethera area and is of cultural significance in relation to the history of Bendethera. It has local scientific significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding about the methods of burial and importance of private grave sites in the lives of early Bendethera Valley settlers at the beginning of this century.

## Detailed description and condition of elements

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Grave             | Marked by a wooden cross painted white           |
| Setting           | Grassland clearing associated with historic site |
| Fencing           | none   |
| Signage           | nil  |
| Vehicle access    | 4WD  |
| Parking           | Informal   |
| Pedestrian access | Informal   |

## Issues or particular factors pertaining to this burial plot.

From Moruya and District Historical Society: Bendethera Grave.

The following paragraph was written by Kerry Reid

"Now each year at Easter my family and friends ride through the same bridle trail that Randolph re-cut in the 1930's. We find when we go to Bendethera and we walk or ride and camp at the site of the yards and homestead you can't help but remember the battles that just being there caused. One can almost see or feel the fellows coming from each paddock with their horse teams. We've been told it was a pretty sight seeing teams coming home to be fed before everyone had tea. This year we put stones made in the form of a cross on the baby's grave. We really want all who camp or bushwalk through to remember the once happy family who lived there, and we don't mind the wallabies and kangaroos and wombats. The caves are a well-known tourist attraction. I just love the place and dread the day I'll be too old to ride that old bridle trail.

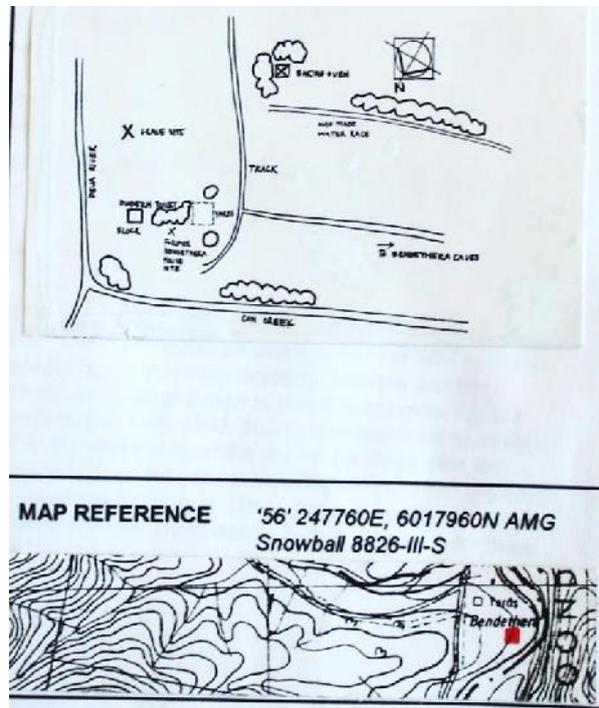
The child was James R. George born 30 December 1861 Merricumbene. Died 1862.

## Recommendations

- That a fence be erected around the grave, to a design based on the earlier fence shown in the 1987 image below (the State Heritage Inventory citation [1997] mentions that NPWS were to erect a fence around the grave site).

- The perimeter of the fence be outlined in local stone so the location of the grave is not lost in the event of fire.
- A small interpretation panel be provided to inform the public of the significance of the grave.

Images



Map by EJE 1997



- Grave of one of the George children at Bendethra.

1987

JAMES RICHARD GEORGE - INFANT  
 SON OF JOSEPH GEORGE AND MARY  
 WIFE HART.

1987 Photo of the former fence that surrounded the grave of infant James Richard. Copied from MDHS records in 2019.



Photo by EJE 1997

**Statement of Significance**

The Bendethera Valley is of particular significance because it conserves both the evidence and the physical setting of grazing, mining and recreation/tourism activities in a location which is remote from both the coast and tablelands. Descendants of many of the early settlers of this and other areas within the region still have knowledge and memories which relate to these areas and their history.

The place has high local significance for its place in the local region's history. Bendethera was the foundation of the George family's land-holding in the 1860s and later, the Rankin family. Between them the two families established its pastoral value, were responsible for modifying the landscape, and used the land for about 100 years. Bendethera is also associated with Myles Dunphy, who was an important figure in the protection of the Deua.

Bendethera has wider significance as an outstanding example of a selector's holding established under NSW Land Acts after 1861. It has some typical features such as the attempt to more fully exploit the land by combining grazing and mining, albeit with minimal mining potential. The extensive irrigation system and methods of cultivation are also unique and indicate levels of investment rarely within the capabilities of selectors.

Overall, the Bendethera homestead precinct has local heritage significance for a combination of reasons. Each would individually make it an important part of the history of the local region.

**Physical Description**

The grave site of James Richard George (born 1862), who died as a young child is located on the river flat not far from the yards. It shows no evidence of it being a grave site, with the exception of the hardwood fence, constructed by NPWS to protect the site and to mark the location of the gravesite.

The fence was reconstructed to look similar to the original fence at the site. There is no visible sign of a cross that was erected at the site, although there is currently a small square-shaped piece of stone within the fence perimeter that is likely to be part of the cross. Members of the Illawarra Speleological Society erected a white cross in honour of the gravesite on the 28th April 1996. The cross eventually rotted away but by then, the fence had been built by NPWS to mark and protect the site.

The addition of a treated pine fence was constructed, and then at a later date, a hardwood fence was constructed inside the treated pine fence to replicate the original fence around the grave.

**Historical Summary**

Summary:No details First Date:1840 Last Date:1995 Historical Comment:Date unknown

Extract from HHIMS citation

## 33 Graves on Narooma Golf Course

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>      | 3 Ballingalla Street, Narooma          |
| <b>Co-ords</b>       | 36°13'06.0"S 150°08'29.5"E             |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Crown land leased by Narooma Golf Club |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated burial                        |
| <b>Status</b>        | Closed                                 |

### History

Older local residents say there were only ever two isolated graves overlooking the sea near what is now the 5th green of Narooma Golf Course, not three.

Until the 1930s, the area now occupied by the golf course was common land and frequented by Narooma residents for both formal and informal recreation. The Narooma Cemetery was only established on a nearby headland overlooking Glasshouse Rocks in 1895, and until that time bush burials were not uncommon.

Long-time Narooma residents, including Cletus Grumley and Ron Constable who played and hunted in that area as children before it became a golf course, stated there were only ever two graves on the site and they were in amongst some bush surrounded by a rough fence.

A 1957 newspaper article quoted Mrs Edie Hunt (nee Downer whose father Ted Downer was first mate on the SS *Coomonderry* and lived near the Pilot Station as a child) as saying the two graves belonged to Elsie Ross and John Flintoff. Narooma historical researcher Mrs Eileen Grumley said it was local knowledge in the 1940s that Elsie and John were buried in the two graves, although it was not known who was in which grave.

Elsie May Ross died of whooping cough on 17 February 1890 aged 10 months and was buried two days later. Elsie was the daughter of Jane (nee Thompson) and John Ross, then a fisherman, but later Narooma's first Pilot, whose father Capt John Ross had been the pilot at Moruya. Elsie was one of 12 Ross children.

John Flintoff was recorded in the 1891 census as a resident of Narooma. At one time he worked as yardman for James Flanagan who owned Narooma Hotel at that time (later became Hyland's Hotel). Flintoff died in 1892. Flintoff's death does not appear to have been registered locally.

Longstanding Narooma residents were upset when a third grave appeared on this site in the late 1960s purporting to be that of a 'Mrs Nell Murphy'. The third grave appeared following work on the graves by Alan Murphy of Narooma Golf Club, yet no evidence exists for any Nell Murphy ever being in the Narooma area, nor of there ever being a third grave. There is no record or local knowledge of any Murphys in the area in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

### Description

The three white pointed timber crosses with pine log edgings are not original; they were created by Alan Murphy in the late 1960s to mark the graves.

### Condition

The grave plots are well marked and maintained

## Significance Generally

LEP Item 182

The graves have local historic significance as an early burial site and for providing evidence of the period of occupation of the Pilot station by John Ross and the site he and Jane Ross selected as a private burial plot for their daughter Elsie Ross. The plot is also representative of bush burials that were not uncommon in Narooma prior to the establishment of the cemetery at Glasshouse Rocks in 1895.

## Significant burial plots

Elsie May Roos

John Flintoff

## Site elements

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Grave                                       | Natural earth outlined in timber logs                                  |
| Setting                                     | Set in grassland adjacent to the golf course, with shrub growth nearby |
| Fencing                                     | Unfenced   |
| Signage                                     | Not signed   |
| Vehicle access                              | No. The site is well away from the road.                               |
| Parking                                     | NA   |
| Pedestrian access                           | Accessible across grass. Seek permission from Club prior to visit      |
| Shade, rest and contemplation areas         | Shrubs nearby provide shade.   |
| Vegetation – remnant vegetation, trees, etc | Photos show that the c1995 stand of shrubs are growing well            |

## Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

The place record has been corrected following extensive research by local historian Eileen Grumley and Narooma Historical Society. That research shows there were historically only two grave sites. It is not known if Alan Murphy created the third grave perhaps for the ashes of a relative Nell Murphy.

## References

Alan Murphy, *The First 50 Years of the Narooma Golf Club 1930-1980*, 1980.

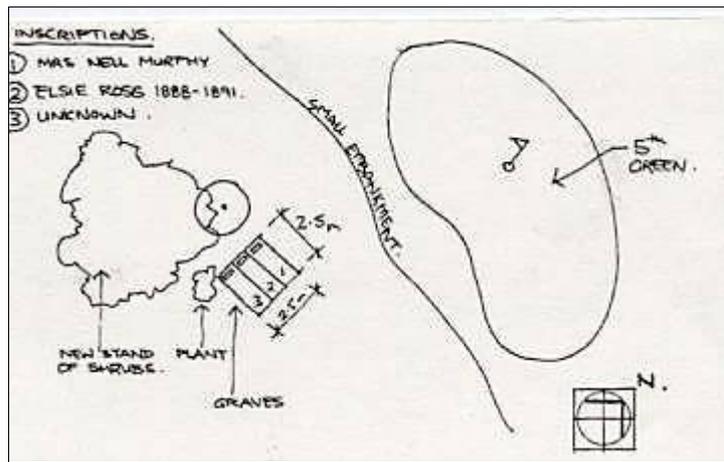
Letter from Narooma Historical Society secretary Laurelle Pacey re Graves on Narooma Golf Course, 2005.

Nerida Cook, 2011

## Recommendations

Continue to maintain in good condition.

Add information panel adjacent to the site explaining the historical record and the later discrepancy.



Location of graves on Narooma golf course



Graves in their setting EJE 1997



Photo by Nerida Cooke 2011

## 34 Henry Jefferson Bate Isolated Grave

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>      | Mountain View Farm            |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private                       |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated burial with monument |

### History

This is the grave of Henry Jefferson Bate and his daughter Matilda Eleanor Bate.

HJ Bate died 1/11/1892, aged 76. Buried in the same plot is Matilda Eleanor Bate who died 7 August 1873 aged 35 years.

### Biography

Henry Jefferson Bate was born March 22, 1816 to Samuel Bate (1776-1849) and Matilda Eleanor King (c1787-1869) and died 1 November 1892 at "Mountain View", Tilba Tilba, New South Wales, Australia of unspecified causes. He married Elizabeth Kendall Mossop (1819-1910) 25 January 1836 in St. James' Church of England, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Ancestors are from the United Kingdom.

### Offspring

| Offspring of Henry Jefferson Bate and Elizabeth Kendall Mossop (1819-1910) |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Name   | Birth  | Death  | Joined with   |
| <a href="#">Matilda Eleanor Bate (1838-1873)</a>                           |  |  |   |
| Samuel William Bate (1842-1935)  |  |  |   |
| <a href="#">Richard Mossop Bate (1848-1925)</a>                            | 24 February 1848 Dapto, New South Wales, Australia | 6 April 1925 Tilba, New South Wales, Australia | <a href="#">Henrietta Teresa Higman (1857-1909)</a> |
| Elizabeth Honor Bainbrigge Bate (1850-1910)                                |  |  |   |
| Ellen Gay Bate (1853-1934)   |  |  |   |
| Mary Harriet Bate (1855-1952)  |  |  |   |
| Frances Hawtry Bate (1860-1953)  |  |  |   |
| John Bate (1863-1938)  |  |  |   |

### Obituary

Some of the very old hands will probably remember a Mr. Henry Jefferson Bate who resided in this district in the 'fifties.' This gentleman died quite recently at Tilba Tilba, in the Cobargo district, and the local Watch thus refers to the deceased:—"Henry Jefferson Bate was the son of Samuel Bate, who came out in the year 1806, one of the civil officers in connection with the first batch of convicts sent to Tasmania. He returned to England in 1816 in the ship Jefferson, and on that voyage his son, the late Henry Jefferson Bate was born. The family did not, however, remain long in England, as soon afterwards Samuel Bate was appointed Inspector of Distilleries for New South Wales, and on arrival took up his residence at Middle Harbor, his son remaining with him until his marriage, when he settled in the Illawarra district, then in its infancy. Mr. Bate used to tell many interesting tales of his adventures in the early days of the colony, not the least exciting being the capture of a gang of bushrangers, in which he was mainly instrumental.

From Illawarra he returned to Sydney, and started business as a miller in the old Victoria mills in Lower George Street, in conjunction with the late Mr. Berkelman, and afterwards as a commission agent in Sussex-street. In 1860 [or thereabouts] he came to Merimbula and erected a sawmill, and nine years later took up his residence at Tilba Tilba, being one of the first selectors in this district, and he has always been known, and justly so, as the pioneer of Tilba." (Illawarra Mercury, 15 November 1892, page 2, with some corrections to dates and spelling by Harry Bate 2019)

### Death

BATE.—November 1, 1892, at his residence, Mountain View, Tilba Tilba, Henry Jefferson Bate, aged 76. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 November 1892, page 1)

### Sources include:

Headstones

[http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Henry\\_Jefferson\\_Bate\\_\(1816-1892\)](http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Henry_Jefferson_Bate_(1816-1892))

[www.geni.com/people/Henry-Jefferson-Bate](http://www.geni.com/people/Henry-Jefferson-Bate)

### **Description**

The monument consists of two short polished granite headstones mounted on the concrete border of the double grave. The centre of the grave is capped with a cement based screed set approximately 150 mm below the border.

The monument is located in a small adjacent to a tall kurrajong tree about 20 metres north east of the road to Gulaga Mountain.

### **Condition**

The monument is of robust construction and in good condition, although there is some algal growth on the cement. There has been no uplift from the tree roots.

### **Significance**

HJ Bate was the son of Samuel Bate who migrated to Australia and is associated with the large family of Bate who have lived in the Tilba district for several generations.

### **Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.**

The immediate setting of this grave, in an actively ploughed paddock puts it at risk of damage from farm implements and does not do justice to its memorial function.

It also has interpretative potential due to its proximity to the Mountain View access road, a popular path for tourists visiting the mountain.

### **Recommendations**

- Enhance the grave's immediate setting eg using mown grass or similar.
- Provide some form of fenced protection accessible from the road. This could be elaborate, or a simple farm style fence set about 2 meters from the edge of the grave.
- Provide an interpretation panel that tells the story of Henry and his daughter Matilda and their link to the Tilba area. This could be at the road or closer to the graves.



View to Gulaga Mt with the grave plot visible at the base of the tree. The tree poses no threat to the graves and should be retained. Photo PG



The monument is stable but would benefit from removal of weeds, cleaning and enhancement of immediate landscape. Photo PG



Photograph of Henry Jefferson Bate taken by William Henry Corkhill. Source National Library of Australia (Trove PIC TT530).

## 35 John Young Family Vault

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>      | Bermagui Road, Akolele               |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private                              |
| <b>Type</b>          | Mausoleum/Tomb/Funeral Vault/Ossario |

### History

Constructed in 1903, the main inscription on the vault reads "To the Memory of my dear husband and our father, John Fenwick Young, born at Perth, Scotland, who died at Tilba Tilba, 10th January 1903, aged 62 years. We mourn the loss of one we loved, we did our best to save, beloved in life, regretted still, remembered in the grave".

The vault is also the resting place of Elizabeth Young (born 10 July 1847, died 11 September 1930). John Young (died 27 December 1964, aged 82 years) and Richard Neville have memorial plaques attached to the vault and John Young is buried in Narooma Cemetery. John Fenwick Young, one of the early pioneers of the Tilba area, purchased the "Mountain Valley" 320 acre property on 9 September 1876 for £1,320 from Thomas Forster. He selected the rest in 1895 to total 470 acres.

### Description

Twisted iron railings. Granite and stone base. Marble and granite headstone with decorative element. Three vents in south wall base.

### Condition

Some repairs required to north (front) wall, especially above door to vault. (1997)

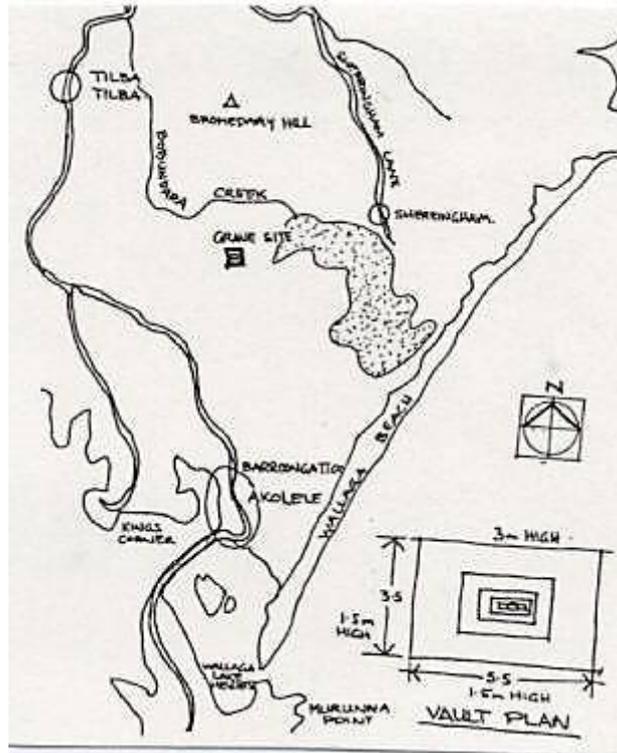
### Significance

ELEP 2012 Item 2

The private vault has regional historic significance for being the only one of its kind in the South Coast region and also for its association with a major early pioneer in the Tilba area. This is a significant edifice regionally because of its unique scale and design and its dramatic siting at the head of the valley. It has local social significance for descendants of the Young family. It has local scientific significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the success of early pioneering families in Tilba and the significance of private memorials in the lives of those families in the early 20th century.

### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

The vault is on private land and not accessible to the public



EJE 1997



The vault is located within the yellow circle



Photo EJE Group 1997



Young Family Vault in its setting. Photo PG 2019

## 36 Fredric Lester-Blanchard's Lone Grave

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>      | Upper Deua River near Alpine, on the west side of the river bank at the Alpine homestead crossing. |
| <b>Owner/manager</b> | NPWS   |
| <b>Type</b>          | Lone grave plot  |

### History

Frederick Lester-Blanchard was born 1866 at Parkers Gap near Jerrabatgulla. He settled on the Deua about 1895 and married Theresa Magdalen Murphy (born 1874) in 1905. Lester and his step brother Jack Berry built Alpine homestead largely from local materials and the property was simply known as 'Blanchard's'. Mrs Blanchard was a keen gardener, growing flowers vegetables and fruit trees. The homestead remains occupied and is a palpable link to the pioneering days in the upper Deua when the only access was by horse track. Lester died in 1937 aged 71, leaving a widow and daughter Mary.

His obituary by Rev Fr Moore appeared in the Braidwood Review on Tuesday 19 October 1937. In reference to Lester and Terry he said *Between them they made a veritable little paradise on the banks of a glorious stream, surrounded in every direction by towering majestic mountains, grim guardians of a brave courageous family. It was an open house for everyone who ventured down and their hospitality was such that it almost forced one to come again.*

### Description

A small marble headstone at the head of a broken concrete or cement apron. A more recent post and rail fence has been erected around the plot which is surrounded by natural grass. The inscription reads: Fredrick Lester-Blanchard Died 11<sup>th</sup>. Oct. 1937 Aged 71 Years RIP.

### Condition

The headstone is cracked but stable and some lead lettering is missing, but otherwise clearly legible.

### Significance

The burial plot is associated with European settlement on the upper Deua River at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and demonstrates a tangible link to that period. It is cared for by community members who demonstrate a continuing social attachment to the place and its former settlers.

### Significant burial plots

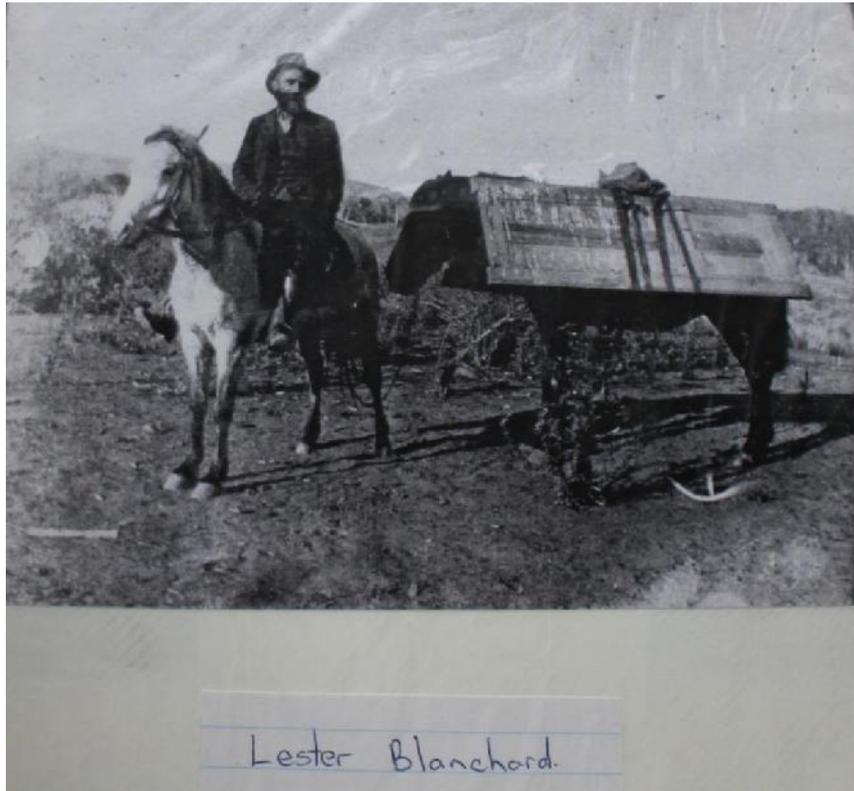
Lester Blanchard is significant for his place in European occupancy of the upper Deua River Valley and for his role in constructing Alpine Homestead, the most significant structure surviving from that phase of European pioneering.

### References

The Deua River Track by Peter Smith

### Recommendations

- Repair cracked headstone
- Add an interpretation panel to the perimeter fence
- Continue current management



Lester Blanchard transporting door on a packhorse. Undated photo from private collection of Mr Hart.



The fenced burial plot in its setting in February 2011. Photo PG



The grave showing headstone and slab. PG 2011



Headstone detail. Photo PG 2011

## 37 Maria Thompson's Grave

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Location</b>      | Point Parade, Congo |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Crown land - NPWS   |
| <b>Type</b>          | Lone burial         |

### History

The first tombstone erected in the district is to be seen at Congo Heads with the date upon it: 1837. It is a memorial to Maria Thompson. The stone although open to the full blast of the ocean, is in perfect preservation (comment by EJE 1997). Maria was born Maria Durrant in Sussex, England and transported to NSW for seven years. Both George and Maria Thompson were assigned as convicts to Mr John Hawdon who leased a farm at Elderslie (Camden area NSW) where they were married.

Hawdon received a land grant at Kiora in 1831 and built his new home there in 1832/33. George Thompson received his ticket of leave in 1837 and was allowed to remain in the St Vincent [Moruya] district and he could possibly have been living in the Congo area at the time of Maria's death. Following Maria's death in 1837, George married for a second time to Jane Harper in 1838.

In the early 1980s the Eurobodalla Council erected a sturdy white painted fence around the headstone for its protection. The site was being overgrown by Bitou bush that was brought under control by poison.

### Description

The burial comprises a sandstone headstone engraved with the words  
Sacred to the Memory of MARIA the beloved Wife of GEORGE THOMPSON who died March 19<sup>th</sup>  
1837 Aged 24 Years.

The headstone is vertical and robust and set within an enclosure of white painted timber rails that have been bolted together. The monument is a semicircular sandstone stele with cutaway shoulders.

### Condition

The stone is actively delaminating from the upper corner which suggests the exposure to rain is exacerbating its condition. The grain of the stone appears to run parallel with the face, which would further facilitate delamination. Its proximity to the ocean and on-shore sea spray would expose the stone to considerable salt, which may also be a contributing factor.

### Significance

Listed on ELEP 2012 as Heritage Item 83

The headstone records one of the first European deaths on the south coast and predates civil registration by 20 years.

Historically this gravestone has regional significance for recording the first death on the South Coast in the early decades of the 19th century. Socially it has similar significance because it records the location of earliest settlement in the region as well as who settled there. It has regional scientific significance for its potential to reveal information about local area demographics in the early 19th century. (SHI)

### Detailed description and condition of elements

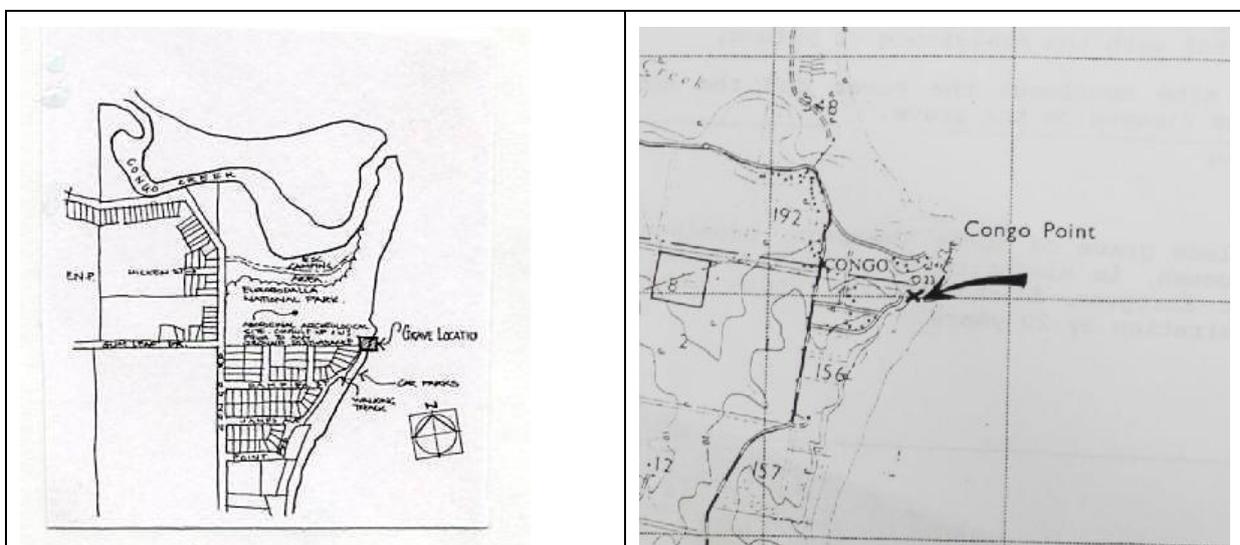
|  |   |
|--|---|
| Grave  | Sandstone headstone with grain parallel to face. Lettering still distinct but beginning to fade. Delamination a problem |
| Setting  | Set in native coastal bushland about 50 metres from the beach   |
| Fencing  | Painted timber post and rails bolted together   |
| Signage  | No interpretative signage   |
| Vehicle access                                 | About 10 meters from end of tarred road to suburban cul de sac  |
| Parking  | On nearby road  |
| Pedestrian access/<br>pathways                 | Bush track  |
| Vegetation – remnant<br>vegetation, trees, etc | Natural coastal shrubs and small timber.  |

### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

Located on a local walking track behind the dune the burial plot would have some limited public exposure and hence some basic interpretation may be worthwhile. Unless the delamination can be arrested it is likely that the lettering will be lost progressively over the next 50 years or so.

### Recommendations

- Provide on-site interpretation of Maria Thompson's story,
- Undertake periodic repair and repainting of the timber surround,
- Obtain specialist advice on methods to retard delamination and implement same.



Location maps from Shire-wide Heritage Study 1997



Grave and surround EJE 1997



Photo showing active rust in the bolts and some timber splitting around the bolts. PG  
December 2017



Some letters are eroding and the stone face is delaminating. PG 2017



Delamination of upper right-hand corner of front face



Delamination is also occurring on the rear face

## 38 Montague Island Cemetery

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b> | Montague Island               |
| <b>Co-ords</b>  | Lat 36.253333 Long 150.226667 |
| <b>Manager</b>  | NPWS                          |
| <b>Type</b>     | Small historic burial site    |

### History

Montague Island is about 80 hectares in size and nine kilometres offshore from the township of Narooma NSW. The lighthouse was built in 1881 and automated in 1986. The island is now a nature reserve managed by the National Parks and wildlife Service.

There is one small cemetery on the island, set away from the lightstation and reached by a dirt track. It is well cared for and contains two graves, surrounded by a white fence and a metal plaque set in front of the graves providing information on the burials, as one of the headstones is now badly weathered.

Two children are in one grave, part of the family of Head Lightkeeper John BURGESS and his wife Isabella (nee O'DELL). Burgess was a Marine Captain and Montague's first headkeeper serving from 1881 until July 1899:

- BURGESS, John Sydney O'Dell; Died 9th July, 1888, buried 11th July, 1888, aged 2 years and 10 months. The length of illness was noted as 3 days.
- BURGESS, Isabella Millicent; Died 24th January, 1890, Buried 25th January, 1890, aged 1 years and 8 months. Cause of death noted as "Whooping Cough".

The other grave is that of First assistant keeper Charles Townsend who died 3rd December 1894.

- TOWNSEND, Charles; Died 1st December, 1894, Buried 4th December, 1894, aged 37 years.

Townsend had been carting stores from the wharf in Old Jetty Bay to the lightstation.<sup>1</sup> On the way back to the wharf, the horse took fright, bolted and ran off the track among the granite boulders. Townsend was thrown in the air falling with his stomach across the guard iron which ran along the top sides of the spring cart and injuring him. He was assisted to the quarters but died 12 hours later in great agony from injuries received, leaving his wife and five children.

These windswept graves are a poignant reminders of the isolation of early lightkeepers' families on Montague Their families felt they may not have died if they could have received speedy medical help.<sup>2</sup> The head keeper's wife, Mrs Burgess, wrote soon after Townsend's death in 1894:

We never could procure assistance till too late; although steamers pass both north and south frequently, they do not seem to see when we have a distress signal flying from our flag staff. It is very hard to think that the Government has not supplied us with a cable or signal station on Montagu Island...

Another known burial on Montague was in the vicinity of Old Jetty Bay, one of the crew from the whaling schooner *Camilla*.<sup>3</sup> The exact site is unknown. 'Charlie' from New Zealand was buried on

<sup>1</sup> Laurelle Pacey, *The Lure of Montague*, December 2013, p.36. Capt. John Burgess, copy of Statement on death of Charles Townsend to Police Department, Inspector General's Department Sydney, 21 December 1894, Edna Townsend collection; report in *Daily Telegraph*, 10 December 1894, p. 4, stated three children.

<sup>2</sup> *The Cobargo Watch*, 9 January 1892, 15 December 1894, 29 December 1894.

<sup>3</sup> Pacey, op. cit., p. 8; *The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser*, 27 August 1859, p. 3.

Montague on 21 August 1859 after being ill for two weeks. Presumably the ship's boats landed at Old Jetty Bay. One of the boats was swamped and subsequently lost while returning to the ship.

The Australian Cemeteries Index includes an additional burial of Alfred Westaway died 3 April 1893, BDM death register NSW 4567/1893. However Westaway was washed off the rocks on the north-east side of the island while fishing and drowned 3 April 1893.<sup>4</sup> Rough seas made it impossible to save him and he sank after about 10 minutes. There is no known record of his body having been recovered and there is no mention of his burial in the Montague Island Visitors Book.

## Description

The cemetery comprises two headstones each with a border around the grave has been filled with loose gravel. The monument on the left is shorter and is inscribed for both children although the stone is badly weathered and clarity of lettering is poor. That on the right is for Charles Townsend. The two monuments are surrounded by a low painted-timber railing. A interpretation panel has also been provided.

## Condition

The site is well managed although condition of the children's headstone is reported to be poor.

## Significance

Montague Island Lightstation and its setting are highly significant as one of a collection of lighthouses which combine the natural values of a rugged coastal island with the cultural values of a prominent landmark and isolated outpost associated with the development of coastal shipping in the late 19th Century. The site was added to the Commonwealth Heritage List on 22 June 2004.

Montague Island Lightstation was listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999.

## Significant burial plots

- Burgess (CPS 1044) Sydney John O'Dell, died 9<sup>th</sup> July 1888, Aged 2 years 10 months, born Sydney.
- Burgess (CPS 1096) Isabella Millicent, Died 24<sup>th</sup> January 1890, aged 1 year 8 months.
- Townsend Charles, died 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1894 aged 37 years, Assistant Lighthouse Keeper. Leaving a wife, Ellen and 5 children. This death is not registered on the Moruya Court of Petty Sessions records

The two children's parents were Mr John Burgess, Lighthouse Keeper on Montague Island, and his wife Isabella, nee O'Dell. John Burgess conducted the inquest into Charles Townsend's death.

## Recommendation

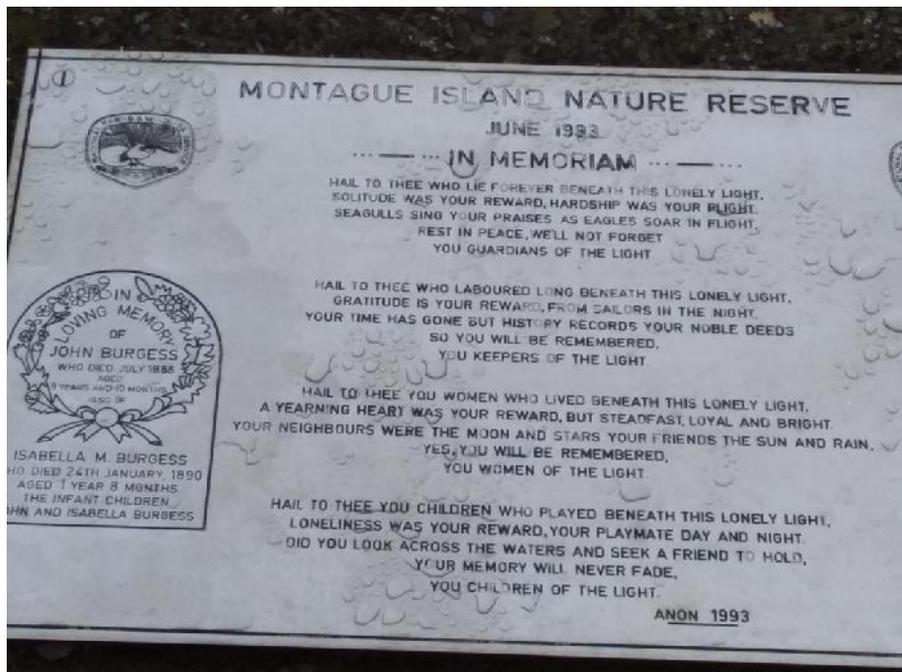
Continue existing management practice

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<sup>4</sup> Pacey, op. cit., p. 44.



The Montague Island Cemetery, April 2019, Courtesy Gail Drury



Interpretation panel set in front of the cemetery. Courtesy Gail Drury



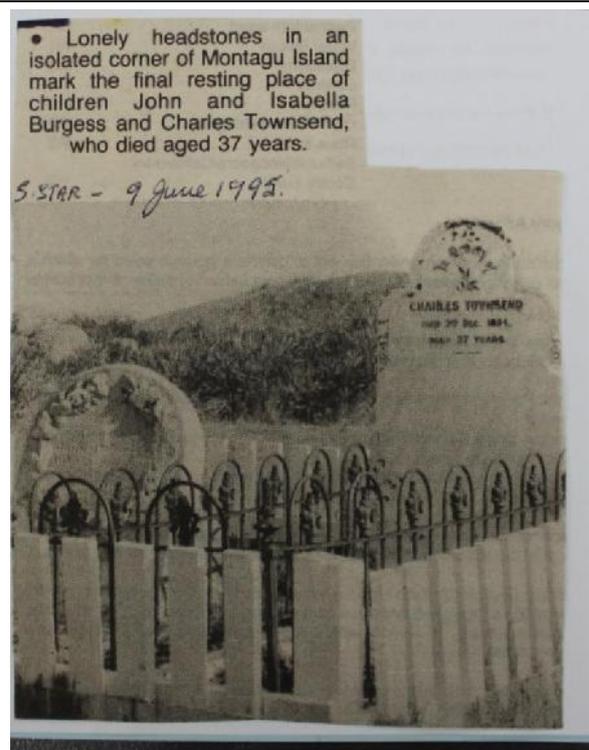
Children's headstone



Headstone for Charles Townsend



Detail from Interpretation plaque, April 2019, Courtesy Gail Drury



Montague graveyard, 9 June 1995, Southern Star. Note that the picket fence shown in this photo has since been simplified.

## 39 Port Philip Neddie's Grave

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>      | Wattlegrove Road, Tinpot |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private                  |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated burial          |

### History

Port Philip Neddie and Black Paddy had a disagreement over an Aboriginal woman. As far as is known, they were over on the Deua River when Port Philip Neddie and the woman headed south. They were camped by their fire on the point above the Wandella Creek and Tuross River junction (where the gravestone is now situated), when Black Paddy caught up with them and drove a tomahawk into Neddie's back. Black Paddy had tracked them all the way from the Deua River, a considerable distance. What happened to the woman we do not know, but Black Paddy returned to the Deua and lived near Coorenbene.

Allan Rankin Snr (1851-1941, so at the time still a lad) asked him what he would do if the police came along. Black Paddy smiled and said he would show Allan what he would do. Black Paddy slipped over the bank of the river into deep water and appeared over on the distant bank. Grandfather Rankin said there was only a brief ripple on the water. Joseph George, who settled at Bendethera around 1863, employed Black Paddy to blaze a track from Bendethera to Nerrigundah. George then used this track to trek supplies into the Gulph gold diggings. It is not known if this was before or after the killing.

Basil Carden (1904-1988) told Jim Sturgess that a Norwegian chap working up the Tuross River cutting eucalypts carved the headstone that marks the grave. The inscription reads "in memory of Port Philip Neddie died 6.11.1864". The grave is situated on Portion 76 at the junction of the Wandella (Wandellow) Creek and Tuross River, Parish of Eurobodalla, County of Dampier, Land District of Moruya, Eurobodalla Shire, Eastern Division, NSW.

### Description

The headstone appears to be 'found' stone – not carved or dressed - and inscribed in a fairly crude manner. It is set at the head of a ring of bush stones that are partly covered by native grass.

### Significance

ELEP 2012 Item 244

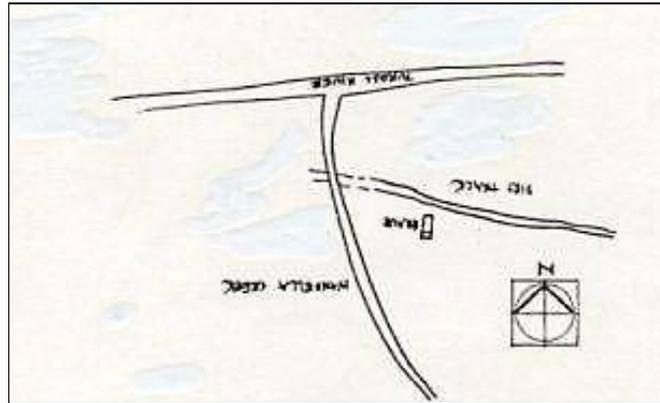
The grave has regional historic significance for its role in marking the site of conflict between two Aboriginals of the same tribe – and in particular the approximate site of Port Philip Neddie's death. It is unusual that a grave of an Aboriginal was marked by a headstone. The fact of it existing as the only such grave site in the region gives it regional significance. Socially the grave site records the unique regard in which an Aboriginal tracker was held by this remote South Coast community. It thus has high level local social significance. Scientifically it has high level local significance for providing evidence of the form of burial and recognition afforded a well-known Aboriginal personality in the South Coast area in the late middle 19th century.

### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

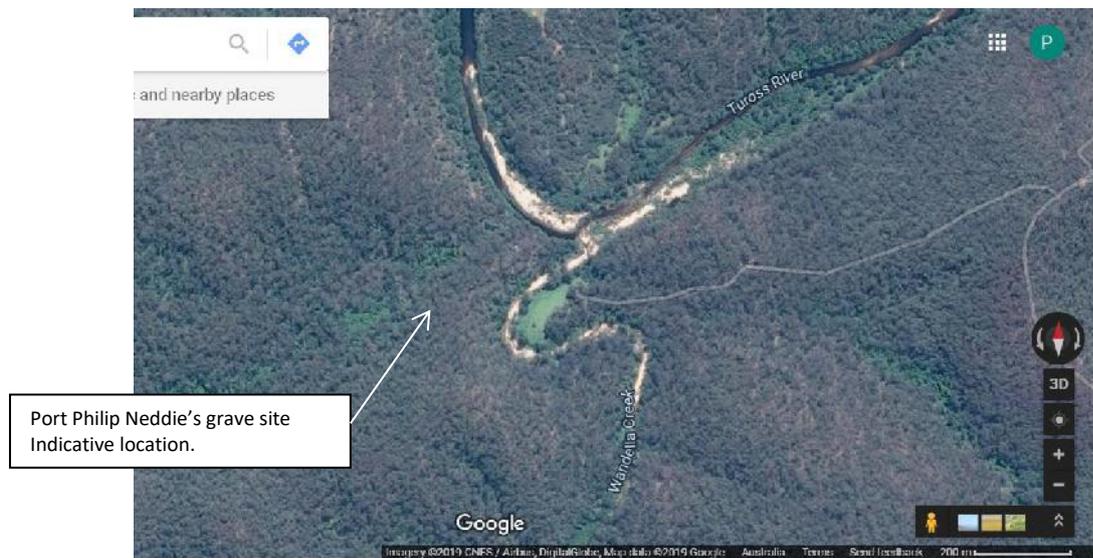
The site is relatively isolated and was not inspected in 2019 as part of this report.

### Recommendations

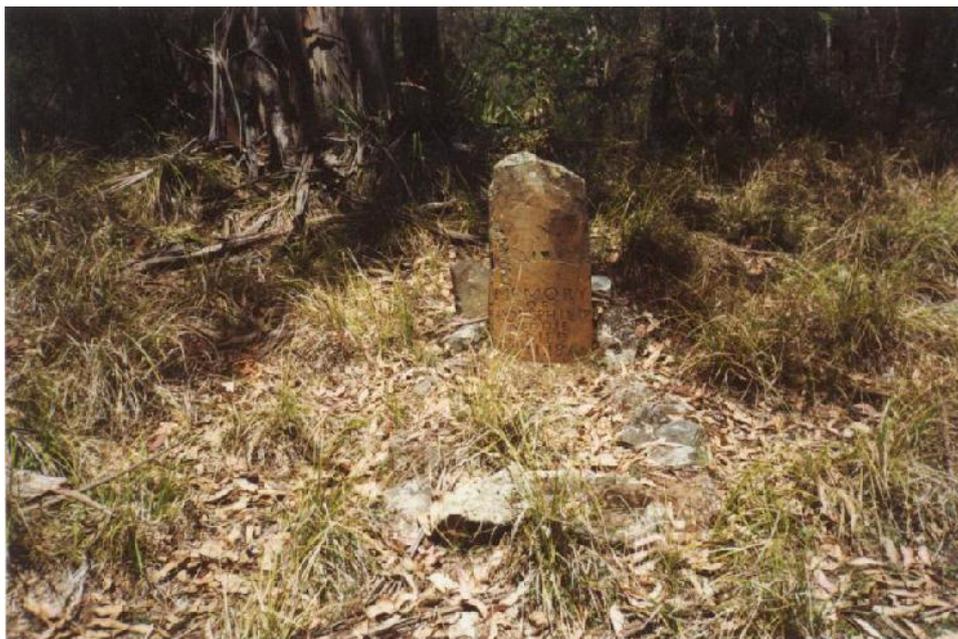
Leave the site in an undisturbed condition.



Site map reversed to show north at top of page. EJE Consultants 1997.



Google aerial photo of the junction of Tuross River and Wandella Creek. North to top of page



Port Philip Neddie's grave marker.  
EJE report 1997

## 40 Rankin Babies Grave

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>      | 'Canoolie', Deua River via Bendethra             |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private property within Deua River National Park |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated burial site                             |

### History

Allen and Catherine Rankin had family connections to Jerrabatgulla, Berlang, and Favourite Flat at Araluen before they moved to the site on the upper Deua River after their marriage in 1883. There they raised a large family starting with Allen b 1884, 2 boys that died at birth and are buried near the homesite [the subject of this citation], Henry (known as Bill) b 1888, Lily b 1891, Mary Vera b 1894, Kathleen b 1898, Sylvia b 1900 and Iree b 1902. They were all born at Catherine's parent's place at Favourite Flat other than Allen and the two babies that died. After the loss of the babies Catherine decided to be closer to medical help as it was a 38 kilometre horse-ride with over 20 river crossings from Allen and Catherine's farm to Araluen.

All other births were successful and the Rankin family was large, hard-working and well-respected. The property was only accessible by horse trail, and with everything needing to be brought in by pack horse, the Rankin's were not only self-sufficient, but also self-reliant. Their own house and outbuildings were built from split timber, shingles and stringy-bark sheets, and the fences from timber post and rail. It is not surprising that the new babies were buried on the site, not far from the house rather than being taken by pack horse up the difficult path to the Gundillion cemetery, or even further to Araluen.

Over time the girls married and left the property to start their own families. In 1939 Allen and Catherine, then 88 and 79 respectively, decided to move to Moruya after residing up the Deua for 56 years. They left the way they had arrived, on horseback leading their packhorses. Allen died two years later aged 90 and Catherine two years after that aged 83.

Oldest son Allen Rankin continued to run the property. Sadly the house burnt down in the early 1940s and Allen converted the old split-slab dairy to a simple house in which he stayed when up from his home in Moruya. When running cattle it was not necessary to be on the property all the time.

Rankin's property was eventually acquired by the Donahues who built a modern cottage on the south side of the river flat well away from Rankin's homestead, probably in the 1970s or early 80s. In the meantime much of the Rankin's former homestead had burnt, decayed, been eaten by termites or generally collapsed. By 2011 all that remained were a few timber fence posts, some stacked slabs from the former dairy, some metal farm implements and old metal bed-frame, stone footings from the original kitchen and a few introduced trees and shrubs. The latter however are interesting as they help to locate the former home site in relation to historic photographs. Of specific relevance is a tough old japonica bush that appears to have been located on the south western corner of the house paddock, under which it is believed the Rankin babies are buried.

### Description

The pair of graves is believed to be located under a japonica bush near the former south west corner of the Rankin homestead home paddock. There is no readily visible evidence of the graves, although the japonica bush is robust and distinctive and is the only one in the vicinity.

## Condition

The burial sites were not obvious at a site inspection on 10 March 2010.

## Significance

Heritage Item 265, Eurobodalla LEP 2012

The burials are testimony to the difficult circumstances surrounding settlement in this remote but very beautiful and fertile area. They demonstrate the isolation of the area, its hardships and the endurance of the Rankin's in establishing settlement at this site.

## Detailed description and condition of elements

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Setting                                     | In open grassland within the base of the upper Deua River valley   |
| Fencing                                     | Nil  |
| Signage                                     | Nil  |
| Vehicle access                              | By 4WD nearby  |
| Parking                                     | Informal   |
| Pedestrian access                           | Informal but good  |
| Vegetation – remnant vegetation, trees, etc | The surviving japonica bush is highly significant as it helps to locate the burial site. Beyond the clearing the native bush is re-establishing. |

## Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

The site is privately owned although accessed by bushwalkers and four wheel drivers.

The Rankin homestead site is significant not only for its association with early European settlement in the upper Deua, but also because of its aesthetic and evocative setting.

## Recommendations

- Mark the site with a stone monument and plaque.
- Add an additional interpretation panel at a suitable location to describe the place when it was occupied by the Rankins



Google photo of Rankins, with north to the top of page, river at top left. It is believed the infants were buried under a japonica bush shown circled in the centre of image. The first home-site is shown as paired rectangles north of the site. An adapted dairy is to the east.



Graves believed to be under japonica bush on right of photo.  
Photo by: Peter Smith 2010

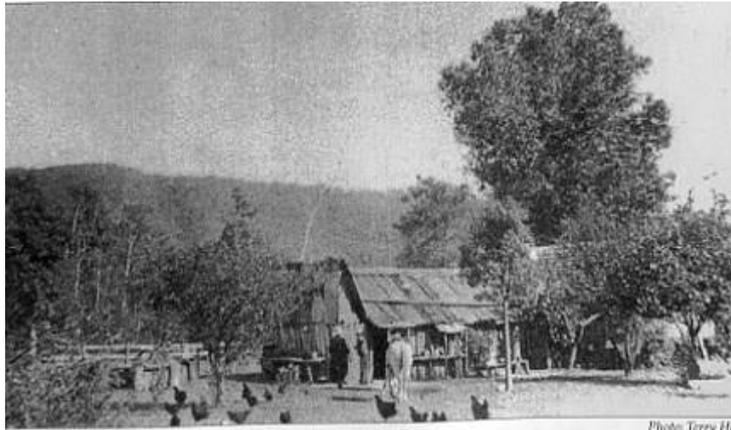


Photo: Terry Hart

**A day on the Farm,**  
showing the chooks, horse, fruit trees and family members.

Source – *The Deua River Track* by Peter Smith



Photo: Terry Hart

**The Rankin house (Canoolie),**  
showing main house on left and kitchen on right.

Source – *The Deua River Track* by Peter Smith



Photo: Terry Hart

**The Rankin Family**

back, left to right; Unidentified, Kathleen Bradley (nee Rankin), Allen Rankin junior, Lily Behringer (nee Rankin), holding daughter, Phyllis, Vera Willis (nee Rankin), Bill Willis.

Source – *The Deua River Track* by Peter Smith

## 41 Sutherland's Babies' Grave

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Address</b> | 3070 Belowra Road, Belowra  |
| <b>Owner</b>   | Private                     |
| <b>Type</b>    | Historic lone burial-closed |

### History

Catherine and Alex Sutherland had two sets of twins, one set in 1901 and another in 1905. One of the babies from the first set of twins (the twin of Jessie) died in infancy. Sadly, one of the newborns from the second set of twins (twin of Harry) also died in infancy. Both of the newborn babies were buried in a fenced enclosure at "Belowra" near the stockyards on Portion 96. The timber fence decayed over the last 100 years or so and has been replaced with a stone marker and brass plaque.

Tragically, Harry the surviving twin from 1905, also died at Belowra when he was 3 1/2 years old. A death certificate was needed for him to be buried so he had to be transported from Belowra to Cobargo in a tiny coffin on horseback. The rivers and creeks were turbulent and at the Junction of the Wadbilliga and Yowrie Rivers the coffin was swept off the horse. It was retrieved and little Harry was eventually buried in the Cobargo cemetery. The father of both sets of twins, Alex Sutherland, worked as a stockman for Charles Byrne the owner of Belowra, and drove bullocks to Nerrigundah to supply the miners with beef.

Alexander Sutherland was the son of Sarah and Daniel Sutherland. Sarah was the first born child of Mary and WD Tarlington, the first Europeans to bring cattle overland to the district. Sarah and Daniel had nine children including Alex and hence the Sutherland family is very well established throughout the district and beyond. Catherine and Alex had very strong links to the early European settlers in the district, particularly to Belowra, Yourie and Cobargo and many of their descendants remain in the area.

### Description

The memorial comprises a large natural granite rock located on a south facing slope of a gentle rise near the stockyards. A commemorative bronze plaque is fixed to the face of the stone. The dwelling, which is no longer present, was on the ridge and there are two old pear trees about 40 metres to the east of the memorial. A slab hut was built further east of the Sutherland's home circa 1900 and was reconstructed in 2000.

The burials were initially marked by a timber fence that collapsed over time. However some surviving pieces of timber indicated the burial site and the stone has been placed accurately over the graves. Several surviving portions of the timber fence were placed next to the stone.

### Condition

The stone and plaque are in excellent condition.

### Significance

Local heritage Item 12 ELEP 2012

The site is significant for marking the tragic death of one of each set of Catherine Sutherland's twins and highlights the challenge of raising children in remote areas at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It also contributes to an understanding of the European occupancy of the Belowra area. The commitment of the descendants and local community members to the remarking of the grave site indicates the very high level of social value that the site holds for members of the local community.

## Site elements

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Setting,                                    | Isolated setting in grazing land – although initially the family homestead was about 50 metres north of the memorial |
| Fencing                                     | The current stone replaces a decayed fence   |
| Signage                                     | Basic information on the memorial plaque   |
| Vehicle access                              | 4 WD across paddock  |
| Vegetation – remnant vegetation, trees, etc | Open grazing country with Casuarina trees growing along the creek lines and natural bushland on the distant hills.   |

## Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

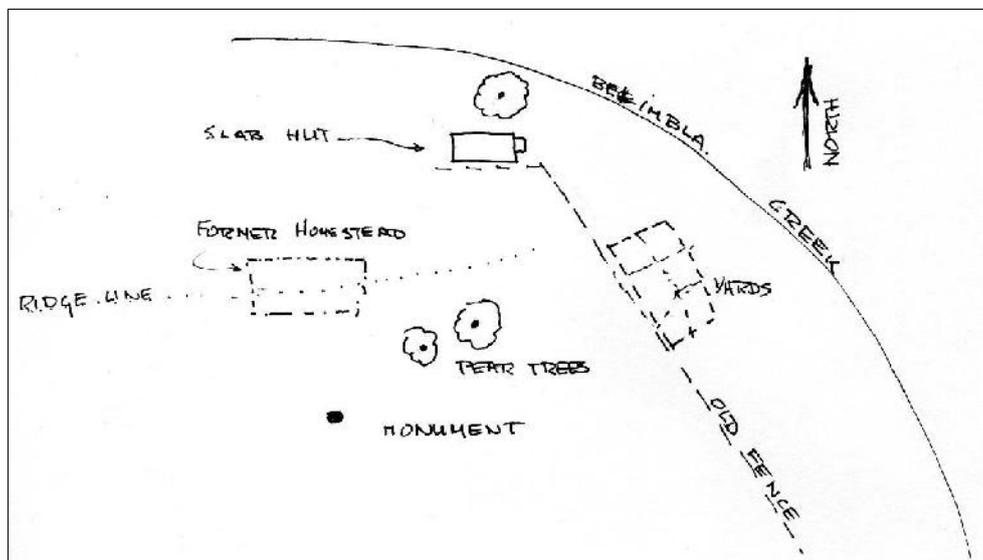
The site is not accessible to the public without permission from the landholder.

## References

Mrs G Reid, Batemans Bay 1997  
Catherine Lawler's personal history

## Recommendations

The site is stable and durable. Continue current management



Site sketch



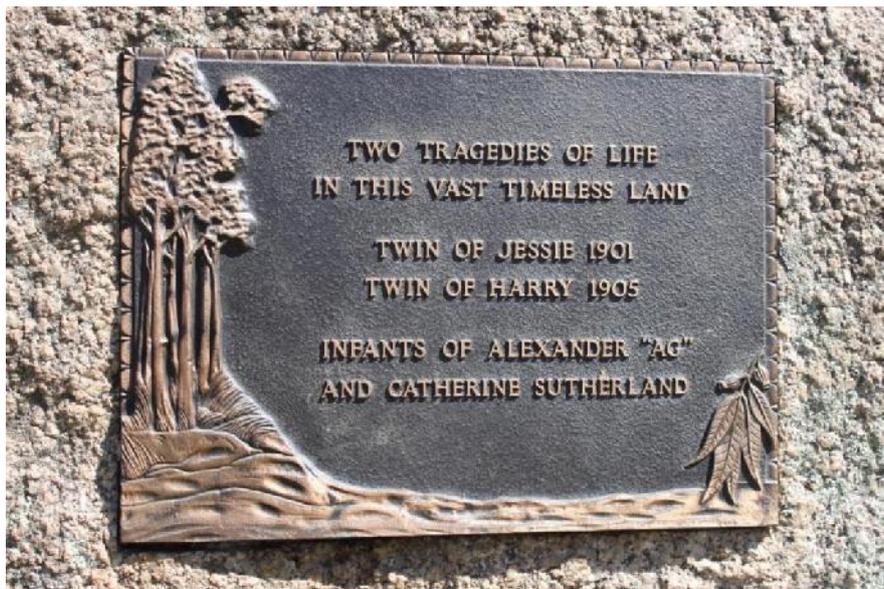
Google image; Yellow circle indicates location of memorial.



Sutherland Babies Grave - Image by the EJE Group1997



Memorial with plaque attached 2019. Photo PG



Detail of memorial plaque 2019. PG

## 42 Unidentified Grave - Deua River

**Address** Deua River Road near Bakers Flat, approximately 35kms west of Moruya  
**Owner manager** NPWS  
**Type -** Lone historic grave

**History** Believed to be 50 -100 years old.  
It appears to have come to public attention in a newspaper article in November 1995.

### **Description**

A rectangular stone-lined depression approximately 1.8 x 0.9 metres with soil level about 450mm below the surface.

### **Condition**

Aged but sound.

### **Significance**

Possibly a burial site but not yet substantiated. There is no record of the site on the NPWS Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS)

### **Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.**

There is no documented history of the site and even though it appears to be a grave, there has been no excavation to confirm this. Investigation of the sub-surface would require approval from the NSW Office and Environment and Heritage under the NSW Heritage ACT.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the site be left in an undisturbed state.

*Moruya Examined 17/11/1995*

## Old grave site discovered

### Police appeal for information

An unidentified grave site has been found approximately 35kms west of Moruya off the Araluen Road in the Deua National Park.

Moruya Police and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are hoping local people may be able to advise them as to whether the grave is occupied and to whom it belongs.

An archeologist with the National Parks and Wildlife Service who inspected the site recently has estimated the grave to be between 50 and 100 years old.

The grave, which is on a hill-side, has a border of lichen covered rocks and a cairn of rocks at the top end.

The top-soil of the grave has subsided about 45 centimetres exposing the neatly-dug straight sides of the grave.

The grave dimensions appear to be about six foot by three foot.

Moruya Police said they probably discount foul-play or murder because the grave-digger would not have gone to that amount of trouble to make a final resting place.

The grave was found about a month ago by a surveyor who was doing some contract work for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Moruya Police have intimated that if no information is received through local historians or long-term locals, they may ask their crime squad to "probe the grave" to ascertain whether it is actually inhabited.

If the grave, that is situated within the Deua National Park, is definitely inhabited, it will be up to National Parks and Wildlife Service to determine what policy to follow.



Sergeant Carl Paget from Moruya Police Station contemplates the unidentified grave in the Deua National Park.

*Moruya Examined 22/11/1995*

### Grave remains a mystery

An old and unmarked grave site near Moruya remains a mystery - despite an appeal from local police for information last week.

A police spokesperson said yesterday no-one had come forward.

A surveyor doing contract work for the National Parks and Wildlife Service found the grave site about 35 kilometres west of Moruya, off the Araluen Road.

Police said then they may eventually ask their crime squad to "probe the grave" to ascertain whether it is occupied.

Newspaper articles collected by MDHS.



The stone-lined grave site in its setting, 2019. Photo F Hood



Detail of stone lined gravesite 2019. Photo F Hood

## 43 W E Seccombe's Grave

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>      | Haxstead Road, Central Tilba |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private                      |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated lone burial         |

### History

The headstone of William Seccombe's grave reads: "In loving remembrance, William Eastcott Seccombe, born 31 December 1850. Died 30 December 1898, at rest". His death certificate notes that he was buried on 'Mr J P Seccombe's Estate, "Henkley" Central Tilba by WH Nicholls'.

John Palmer Seccombe (William Seccombe's brother) had selected "Henkley" in 1870 and was an original ABC Cheese Factory shareholder and chairman from 1893 to 1899. William owned the adjoining property "Morangi" (now "Lustleigh Park"), which he had selected in 1877. He died in 1898 from tuberculosis at the age of 48 and was buried on a portion of "Morangi", later incorporated into "Henkley".

Both Seccombe brothers had mined gold in New Zealand and Will married a New Zealand girl, hence the Maori name "Morangi". William Seccombe was always to the fore in any public movement for the advancement of the district. He was also an enthusiastic sportsman. Following his death his wife and five children returned to New Zealand and the property sold to Otho May (Tilba Tilba storekeeper) who changed the name to "Lustleigh Park".

### Description

Granite or marble headstone with a cement base. The monument has a metal fence that is now within timber post and rail fence, presumably for added protection from cattle. It is located in isolation in the grass paddock

### Condition

Not closely inspected in 2019 but from a distance appears sound, with the headstone still vertical.

### Significance

ELEP 2012 Item 69

The grave of William Eastcott Seccombe has high level local historic significance for representing the presence and importance of one of the early Central Tilba area pioneers and for its role in identifying the extent and location of William's original "Morangi" property, now incorporated into his brother's early selection, "Henkley". Socially the grave has significance to the local Central Tilba area descendants of the Seccombe family. It has local scientific significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the methods and importance of private burials in the lives of early Central Tilba pioneers in the latter years of the 19th century. (EJE report)

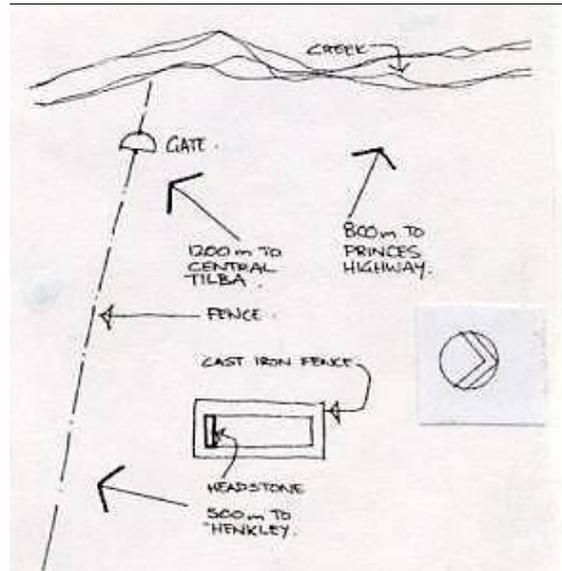
The grave contributes to the rich cultural landscape to be found within the Tilba area.

### Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

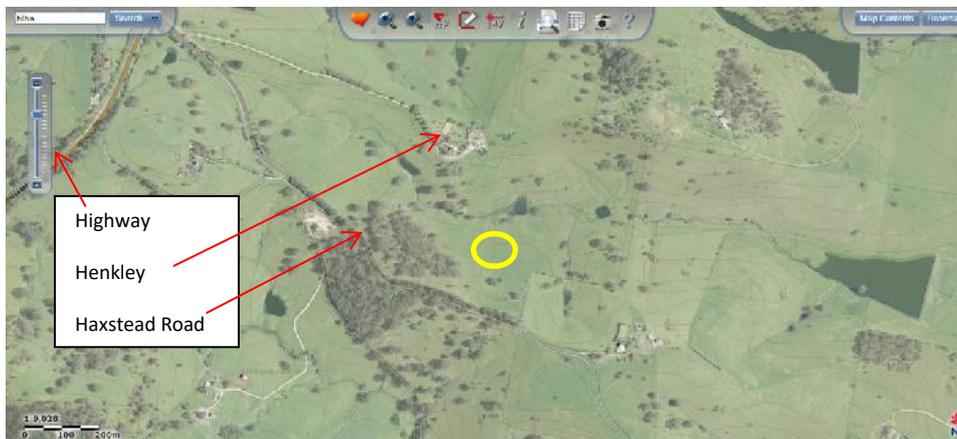
The burial is on private property

### Recommendations

Continue current management.



William Eastcott Seccombe's Grave Image by: The EJE Group



William Seccomb's grave circled. Source of map – SIX maps



William Eastcott Seccombe's Grave with metal surround. Image by: The EJE Group 1997



A robust timber post and rail fence has been erected around the grave



Corkhill, William Henry. (1900) *[Grave of William Eastcott Seccombe]*  
Retrieved May 10, 2019, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-140301315>

## 44 William Fletcher's 'Dummy' Grave, Nerrigundah

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>       | William Fletcher's 'dummy' grave is to the west of Young Street, off Byrnes Street (road to Belowra), Nerrigundah opposite the old Cemetery which was dedicated in 1867.<br><br>His actual grave is somewhere in the original graveyard area near Graveyard Creek behind the Roman Catholic Church, then leased or owned by C J Byrnes, and still private property. |
| <b>Owner /manager</b> | 'Dummy' grave is on Crown land probably that is subject to a land claim; his actual grave is on private property  |
| <b>Type</b>           | Lone burial site - closed   |

### HISTORY

Court of Petty Sessions (CPS) records show that the bushranger William Fletcher was buried on 10 April 1866 by Charles Henderson, and witnessed by C Nelson and B Hitch. He was buried "in a desert spot some distance from the usual burying place" following an inquest conducted by Magistrate W S Caswell.<sup>5</sup> The usual burying place at that time was the Graveyard Creek area, behind the Roman Catholic Church on Byrnes Street, not the old cemetery bounded by Young, Gulph and Belmore Streets which was dedicated in 1867.

William Fletcher was shot and wounded by Constable Miles O'Grady at Nerrigundah on 9 April 1866 when the Clarke gang of bushrangers held up the township. Fletcher from Moruya was a married man with an eleven-month-old daughter. He had fallen in with the bushrangers the previous day and became caught up in the hold-up and the subsequent shooting of Constable Miles O'Grady, a murder which further increased the gang's notoriety. Fletcher died one hour after being shot, while the other gang members escaped.

This event at Nerrigundah dramatically increased the official and public focus on the Clarke gang who were outlawed soon after. It took some time for all members of the gang to be caught however, and the trial and execution of the two Clarke brothers lasted into 1868.

Old Nerrigundah residents Norm and Vin Dickson said in an interview in 1981 that the marked grave opposite the old Nerrigundah Cemetery, commonly shown to visitors as being that of William Fletcher, is in fact the grave of a Nerrigundah resident who committed suicide at the turn of the twentieth century, not Fletcher's.<sup>6</sup> His identity is unknown to date. It was unconsecrated ground. The Dickson brothers, late residents of Nerrigundah, were adamant that Fletcher is actually buried behind the Catholic Church as told to them by their grandmother, who was alive at the time of the bushranger's raid on Nerrigundah.<sup>7</sup> This is supported by many people long associated with Nerrigundah. As children the Dicksons were taken to look at Fletcher's grave which consisted of four posts with rails around the top. The site has since been bulldozed.

This marked 'grave' beside Young Street was created in 1966 for the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bushranger raid of Nerrigundah.<sup>8</sup> "One of the organisers of the event told me years ago they figured they had to have a grave to show on the day outside a cemetery; they found this

<sup>5</sup> *Empire*, 16 April 1866, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> Notes from an interview of Norman and Vin Dickson by Jack Miller, 11 March 1981, for an historic village trail for the Nerrigundah interpretative centre, Narooma Historical Society archives.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*; that location was also confirmed by Cath Lawler, interview with Laurelle Pacey, 10 May 2019; Maureen Burdett, *Nerrigundah – an Anecdotal History*, 1992; Trevor Kincaid, interview with Laurelle Pacey, 12 May 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Trevor Kincaid, formerly of Nerrigundah and keen keeper of the local history, interview Laurelle Pacey 12 May 2019.

mound of dirt opposite the cemetery, so that's where they created William Fletcher's grave," Trevor Kincaid said.

Controversy has surrounded the question of why William Fletcher joined the gang on what was to become a fateful journey. Family members suggested he made an error of judgement joining the group with Clarke, whom he must have known, and was trying surreptitiously to extricate himself from an unforeseen situation when he was shot. Other rumours circulated at the time to suggest he may have been motivated in some way by recent Fletcher family difficulties. The answer to this question remains unknown. His family had lived in the Moruya area for some considerable time prior to William Fletcher's brief life of crime, and continued to stay there despite what must have been a shameful and heart-breaking time for them. His wife Ann later remarried and left the district, and his daughter was adopted by Ann's new husband.

The plaque on the 'dummy' grave states he was born in 1843, and therefore only 23 when he died. The Death register at Moruya Court House supported that date, whereas birth registration records show he was born in 1838.

### DESCRIPTION

In 1997 an old forged iron cross grave-marker with rock surrounds marked the site. In 2010 a rough nameplate was in the location, displacing the rusted cast iron cross which is of a type also found in the adjacent cemetery. The grave marker in 2010 was evident in photographs of the site taken in 1981 and 1992.

### CONDITION

The plate appears to be sound but the stones are slowly disappearing under vegetation.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Item 206 - ELEP 2012

Although this is not the actual burial site of William Fletcher, the site being indicated by a grave-marker has local historical significance for providing evidence of the historic 1866 raid of Nerrigundah by the Clarke bushrangers, an event in which Constable Miles O'Grady and William Fletcher died. The current grave has local social significance for Nerrigundah history 'story-tellers' of the town's famous event.

### OTHER ELEMENTS

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Setting,                    | Natural bush regrowth                   |
| Fencing                     | Collapsing rural post and wire fence    |
| Signage                     | Not signed                              |
| Vehicle access              | Bush track                              |
| Parking                     | Informal                                |
| Pedestrian access/ pathways | Informal bush path 10 metres from track |

### ISSUES PERTAINING TO THIS BURIAL PLOT.

This is not Fletcher's burial plot. His actual grave was just outside the original cemetery near Graveyard Creek, behind the Catholic Church.

The older iron plate headstone evident in 1997 is no longer on this dummy site; the plaque is probably the one placed there in 1966 for the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nerrigundah bushranger raid.

### REFERENCES

*Empire*, 16 April 1866, p. 5.

Notes from an interview of Norman and Vin Dickson by Jack Miller, 11 March 1981, for an historic village trail for the Nerrigundah interpretative centre, Laurelle Pacey archives.

Cath Lawler, interview with Laurelle Pacey, 10 May 2019

Maureen Burdett, *Nerrigundah – an Anecdotal History*, 1992

Trevor Kincaid, interview with Laurelle Pacey, 12 May 2019.

K Boyce Family History of WHAT – or do you mean the Pioneer Directory? (researched and written by K Boyce).

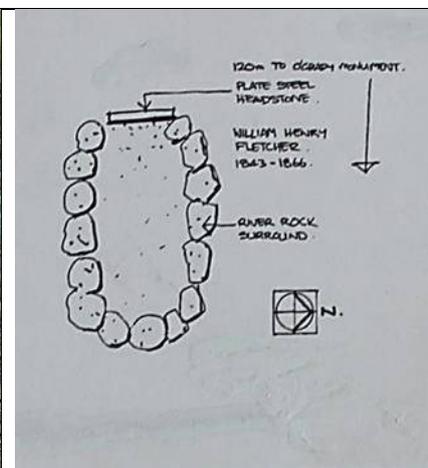
EJE Heritage Study of Eurobodalla Shire

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install an interpretation panel explaining Fletcher's involvement in the Clark Brothers raid on Nerrigundah and the correct details surrounding his burial.



Metal plaque at the 'dummy' grave site of William Fletcher. Image by PG  
(Note that the birth date is believed to be incorrect)



William Henry Fletcher Grave Site.  
Plan by: The EJE Group

**Lone burials - for which there is no evidence at ground level**

## 45 Aboriginal Isolated Burials

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>       | Throughout the shire                |
| <b>Owner /manager</b> | Various                             |
| <b>Type</b>           | Pre and post 1788 isolated graves   |
| <b>Status –</b>       | Archaeologically significant relics |

### History

There is little evidence of the burials of the many Aboriginal people who lived and died on the south coast over the previous several thousand years and it is only in exceptional circumstances that the skeletal remains of traditional burials survive and are rediscovered. Notwithstanding this, Aboriginal heritage studies by Kamminga in 2003 and Feary in 2008 indicate former burials within coastal areas of Eurobodalla National Park south of the Tuross River and around Potato Point. The report *Invisible Places* (Donaldson and Feary 2012) indicated isolated burials associated with poignant accounts of Aboriginal life following the arrival of Europeans. Some of these are noted below.

#### Murunna Point

On the southern side of the Wallaga Lake entrance, several sites were recorded in 2003 (Webster and Kuskie 2003) and in July 2008, a section of the headland eroded away to expose the skeletal remains of a traditional Aboriginal burial (Feary 2009). The burial has been left in situ and Bega Valley Shire and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) have put erosion control measures in place to ensure its long-term protection. (Caring for Ancestors – P13)

#### William Campbell

Since European settlement the deaths of well-known Aboriginal people were sometimes recorded in the local media such as that of William Campbell whose death on Friday 22 March 1901 was reported by the *Moruya Examiner*:

*Death of an Aboriginal – Campbell, the well-known Aboriginal died suddenly on Monday at Coila. He has been in indifferent health for some time past...* (Source - *Invisible Places* p8 burial site yet to be established).

#### Neddy

An Aborigine by name of 'Neddy' was granted 40 acres on 20 /5/1878 as a gazetted reserve on the south bank of the Tuross River – adjacent to Borang Lake. 'Neddy's Point' as it came to be known, had the lease revoked in 1918 and the land was subsequently held by the Berriman family. They had a good relationship with the Aboriginal people and allowed continued camping and fishing on the Point. When Neddy passed away he was buried on the point sometime before 1910. (*Invisible places* p17)

#### William Benson

William Benson's reserve at Turlinjah, on the shore of Tuross Lake, was granted on 22/11/1880. Benson worked for the Hawdon family at Kyla Park. An extended family of about eight adults and eight children are recorded as living on the 32 acre reserve from 1883 and 1888. The lease was revoked in 1917, possibly as a result of William Benson's death. Written sources indicate the presence of two burial grounds or cemeteries in the Turlinjah area, one located outside Benson's reserve within the southern grazing lot of Kyla Park, and one within it on the peninsular.

### King Tommy Tinboy.

There is a king plate (breast plate) in the Milne collection in the National Museum of Australia that is inscribed to Thomas Tinboy, King of Nelligen. Milne recorded the following information in relation to the king plate:

*This plate was worn by Aborigine King Tommy Tinboy. He was a full blood black and King of this district for many years. Mr McCarthy states that this black was well known to him for many years ... He used to bring fish and wild honey to his house. In return for this he got tea, sugar, flour and tobacco... This plate was found by Mr W McCarthy in an anthill in the ranges near Nelligen Creek, where the King placed it no doubt before he died. (Invisible places p20)*

It is presumed he is buried in the bush.



Breast plate belonging to 'Thomas Tinboy, King of Nelligen'.  
Image from the Milne Collection file 85/310, folio 169

### Batemans Bay

In the discussion on the Batemans Bay Aboriginal Reserve, the Invisible Places publication notes that no archaeological places are recorded from within the former reserve area, however other sites in the general area include middens near the marina and a burial found in sand dunes within the Catalina Golf Course.

### Wallaga Lake

The main cemetery at Wallaga Lake Koori Village is recorded is recorded under a separate entry. However, information was gathered as part of The Caring for the Ancestors project (Appendix 6 page 12) indicates that there are additional burials outside the main cemetery.

### King Merriman - Akolele

Since 1931 there have been several revocations and additions of land to the Wallaga Lake Aboriginal reserve. In 1949, the loss of 21 acres to make land available for non-Aboriginal people's holiday cottages (now part of Akolele) was of particular concern as the revoked land is believed to contain burials (Goodall 2008). Local elder Guboo Ted Thomas told NPWS staff in 1979 that King Merriman was buried at Akolele, within the area excised from the Aboriginal Reserve.

A separate account is that King Merriman is buried behind the pre-school / workshop. "The 'Old Cemetery' which was marked by the scar tree. Boy Andy – cut that big old tree down, near the dam. When he had the cattle and use to clear the land." MD 2011.

In 1979 Bill Campbell informed Brian Egloff that King Merriman was buried 'down there at Wallaga Lake down at the old cricketing ground just at the back of the beach. That's where he's buried...'  
Merriman died on 26/11/1904.

Biamanga  
Possibly buried in the 'Old Cemetery'.

Granny Tungiy  
"On the headland out from Umbarra at 'Granny's Point'. The grave site is near the big log by the lake."

Chinese graves are near the tank on the way in to Wallaga.

Bunjuk  
CF: Harold Freeman [CB's son] informed CF that Bunjuk was buried near a scar tree at Wallaga Lake.

### **Significance**

The burials illustrate the long history of Aboriginal occupation across the Eurobodalla Shire area. While some of the burials are comparatively recent it is likely that others predate European arrival.

### **Issues or particular factors pertaining to these burial plots.**

There is a risk that ground that is being disturbed for whatever reason in the areas noted above could inadvertently disturb significant skeletal remains.

In the event that skeletal remains are uncovered work will need to cease while approval is sought from the Office of Environment and Heritage.

### **Recommendations**

- Confirm the location of the 'Old Cemetery' at Wallaga Lake and if possible confirm the location of King Merriman and others.
- Develop a predictive model of the locations or type of country likely to have been used for Aboriginal burials before the arrival of Europeans.

## 46 Belowra Tramp's Burial

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Location</b> | Belowra Road             |
| <b>Owner</b>    | Private                  |
| <b>Type</b>     | Isolated unmarked burial |

### History

Catherine Lawler's personal history records the following story:

'There was a chap who wandered into one of the huts at Belowra and ate some pollard that contained poison intended for rabbits. He died before he could get medical attention. The local doctor who would have been in Moruya, and the police were notified. His body was rolled up in a sheet of stringy bark and he was buried at Belowra. This was during AG Sutherland's time as manager.'

It is understood the chap was a tramp – probably walking through the valley looking for itinerant work. This was common during the depression years from say 1929 – 33, but at other times as well. The tramp initially denied he had eaten anything but as his condition deteriorated admitted to eating some of the pollard – not knowing it to be poisoned. Sadly by this stage a cure, if there was one, was too late and his death followed.

### Description

His precise burial spot is not known, however the land portion advertised camping availability in 2019 with a sign on a tree. The land is lightly timbered over native grassland.

### Significance

This is a poignant story that tells much about lifeways in the valley at the time – homelessness of the tramp, the lack of vehicle access to doctors and hospitals, lack of phone communication and rural farming and labour practice.

### Recommendations

Undertake further research as the 'tramp's' death may have been recorded on police records and possibly in the local newspapers of the day, so there is the possibility of uncovering additional information such as dates and people involved.

Add an information plaque onto the land portion on which the burial occurred.



Land parcel on which the burial is believed to have taken place. 2019 – west side of Belowra Rd

## 47 Tuross Head Mystery Graves

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>      | Tuross Head, possibly in the little park that is bordered by the grassy dunes of Coila beach, Bridges Road and Chauvel Crescent, near the paved path leading from Coila Beach to Coila Lake, although no one knows for sure exactly where, in this area, the graves might be situated. |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Presumed to be Eurobodalla Shire Council although possibly on adjacent private land.   |
| <b>Type</b>          | Isolated burials without markers   |

### History

The following article was written by Carlene Winch-Dummett and published in the Journal of the Moruya and District Historical Society March 2018.

“Discovering the identities, or even a general inkling, of the occupants of the graves begins with known facts and these often lead to clues to other relevant information. So it is that the events of March 1867 will lead the investigator to two definite burials and, possibly, in fact probably, two other burials. A fifth burial may be identified as a later interment, perhaps almost 20 years later.

In a lonely, melancholy patch of shrubbery on Friday 29 March, 1867 two young men were laid to rest in coffins among the she-oaks following a coronial inquest presided over by Mr Caswell, the local magistrate, and a jury of twelve. George Magill, one of the deceased, had been found on the evening of Thursday 28 March, and Thomas Mahon on the morning of 29 March. It was already dark following the coronial inquest when their bodies were laid to rest in hastily built coffins in the oak scrub ‘by the flickering wood fire’, the ‘moaning sea’ and the ‘sighing wind’, and where the Presbyterian Minister Rev. P. Fitzgerald prayed over their graves. According to the Empire Sydney, NSW. (Mon. 8 April, 1867), the young men were buried near where two graves already existed.

This mournful scene began in what could be described as a simple misunderstanding of the force of the swollen Tuross River meeting the powerful waves of the rushing sea. On 26 March, 1867 Frederick Massey, George Magill and Thomas Mahon, all young strong and healthy men, were drowned at the mouth of the Tuross River. How could this tragedy happen? In the second week of March, the farmers of Eurobodalla had been cheerfully anticipating good returns from their efforts, particularly potatoes and corn which were expected to be bumper crops. Then, on Saturday, 23 March, the rains set in and by Sunday the Moruya River had risen by twelve feet. By Monday, 25 March, the swollen river met the incoming flood tide. The Moruya area lost crops, animals, fencing, punts, bridges and structures. The damage was not confined to Moruya but spread throughout the Eurobodalla including the Tuross River and surrounding lowland properties.

On that fateful Tuesday, 26 March 1867, a number of spectators had gathered at Tuross Lake to observe the flooded Tuross River and its effect on the bar at the opening to the sea. Four boats were on the river where it spreads out to form a lake about a mile in width before entering the sea. Mr Brice, a local farmer from Horse Island, and his daughter were in one boat. Mr Dansey, who operated the punt over the Tuross River, was in another boat with Mr Goodin, Mr Southern and three others from the sawmill on the Tuross River. They arrived safely near Sandy Point. Francis Hawdon, son of John Hawdon, accompanied by a visitor to his father’s property, George Magill, and Thomas Mahon, his father’s coachman, took a flat bottomed boat on to the lake. A fourth boat, a flat-bottomed dinghy with Frederick Massey, a French sailor employed by Dansey, and William Parsons on board, also moored at Sandy Point. Massey proposed going further in the boat but Parsons refused so Massey

set off alone. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of Frederick Massey, Francis Hawdon joined George Magill and Thomas Mahon and followed Massey.

Although the waters on the lake were still, at the heads the river current pulled strongly towards the opening to the sea. The opening at the bar was only about three hundred metres wide and the ocean was rushing towards the opening with massive waves turning the turbulent river waters into a powerful cauldron. Both boats fell mercy to the current. The first casualty was Frederick Massey who jumped out of his boat and vanished in the waves. Francis Hawdon, who had been struggling unsuccessfully with a broken oar in the hope of getting the boat onto the bank, seeing Massey disappear, jumped out of the boat and was swept into the waves. Being a Journal of the Moruya & District Historical Society Inc. March 2018 22 strong swimmer, he struggled to reach the shore. Magill and Mahon remained in the boat until it reached the breakers, then they too jumped overboard and drowned.

Mr Goodin, one of the spectators, continued to monitor Francis Hawdon, who was buffeted around the bar for about fifteen minutes or more before getting into a small eddy. This offered an opportunity for those on shore, Mr Goodin, James Southam, Daniel Southam, William Parsons and Isaac Cole, to make a human chain to rescue him. Despite the sea at the bar being black with mud they held hope that the bodies would be recovered. Sergeant Brennan rode up the beach from Moruya to join in the search. However, it was not until two or more days had passed that the bodies of the two unfortunate men were washed up a mile north of the river mouth where they lost their lives. The body of Frederick Massey was not found.

The bodies of Thomas Mahon and George Magill were interred on the 29 March 1867 at a site near two existing graves. There are no official or anecdotal records of the deceased in the two existing graves. They may have been the graves of sailors or passengers on ships that floundered in the region, but that is just speculation.

Although it has been suggested that the two existing graves were those of Andrew Lovell and Christy Caffey, (The Sydney Morning Herald Wed. 9 January, 1867) death records show they were buried at Broulee. In January 1867, just two months before the burials of Thomas Mahon and George Magill, their bodies were washed up on Broulee Island, a few miles north of Tuross Head. According to Jack Kenneth Loney, *Wrecks on the New South Wales Coast*, (1992: p.48) the deceased were from the schooner Hope which was wrecked in December 1866 between Broulee Island and Tuross Head. The Hope was built on the Tuross River for oyster growers by Moses Fletcher, a seaman and shipwright. Fletcher had property at Trunketabella and built small wooden ships in association with the Tuross steam sawmill of Goodin, Hicks brothers and Brown at Turlinjah just a few miles down the Tuross River. (Mr Goodin was one of the men mentioned as being on the Tuross River the day that Thomas Mahon and George Magill drowned.)

Similarly, an accident closer to Tuross Head in 1842 at the Moruya bar, reported in The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 November 1842, describes the loss of three men and two boys who were conveying a cargo of wheat from Moruya to Broulee in a whale boat belonging to Captain Oldrey of Broulee. One of the bodies was found much mutilated, but the other bodies were not found.

While there is no evidence to support the identities of the bodies in the graves that pre-dated those of Mahon and Magill, there is a very strong possibility that there is a fifth grave at, or near, the site of the four graves. On Monday, 16 February 1891, a seaman, Louie Strone (Strom), drowned off Tuross Head. Strone was a member of a three man crew of the steamer Meeinderry, a steel ship chartered by Tuross property owner Patrick Mylott, a wine merchant of Balmain Sydney, to make weekly voyages from Sydney to the South Coast of NSW. The crew were attempting to drop off supplies at Tuross from the Meeinderry by one of the lifeboats when it capsized. The mate and the other seaman

were saved, but Louie Strone was drowned. Strone's body washed ashore and was buried at Tuross Head. (Extract from Moruya and District Historical Society Journal, 20 December, 2013.)

Therefore, the identities of the deceased of two of the graves have been verified, those of Thomas Mahon and George Magill (1867). There are two older graves whose occupants have not been identified (pre-1867). There is a fifth grave, that of Louis Strom. (1891). But exactly where these graves are has also not been verified."

#### Sources include:

- All newspaper references above and including further newspaper reports are available on Trove, National Library of Australia. [Trove.nla.gov.au](http://Trove.nla.gov.au)
- *Diary of Pilot Station Moruya 1866*
- Gibbney, H.J. 1980. *Eurobodalla*. Library of Australian History. Sydney.
- [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

### **Description**

In her article Carlene Winch-Dummett describes the setting:

"The area is cool and shady, with a dry creek bed, and sheltered by a canopy of she-oaks that sigh mournfully when the south easterlies drift through their spindly branches."

### **Condition**

Unknown

### **Significance**

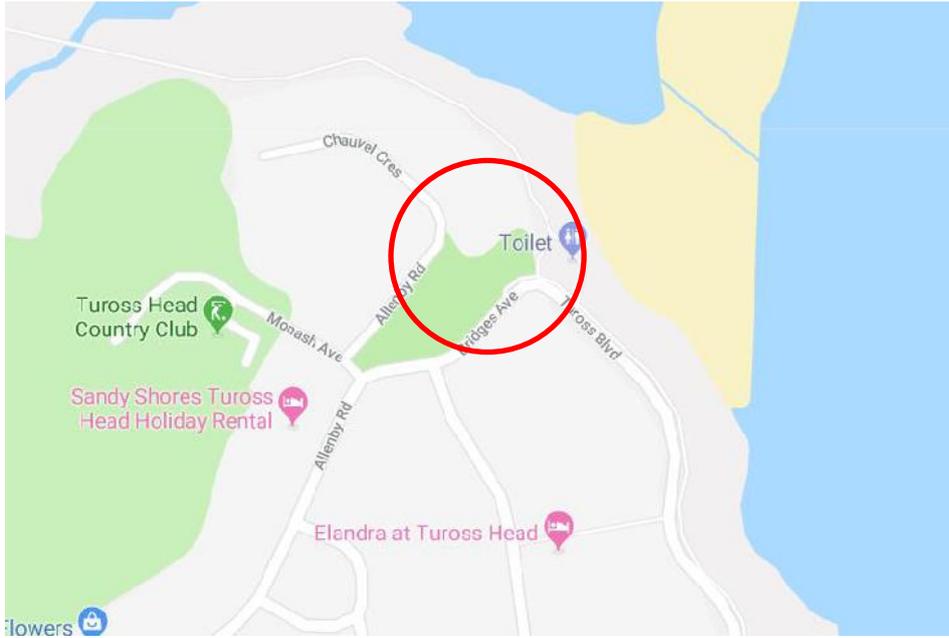
Although the specific site is not known, the burials illustrate some of the challenges faced by early European settlers, many of whom were poor swimmers and did not fully appreciate local water conditions. It is interesting to note how many of the deaths in the historic records of Eurobodalla Shire were from drowning.

### **Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.**

It is possible that the graves have been disturbed by infrastructure works, vegetation or changes to landform over the intervening years, however it seems appropriate to acknowledge the burials in some physical manner.

### **Recommendations**

Provide an interpretation panel in the vicinity of the park to tell the story based on the research and article published in the MDHS article.



The graves are presumed to be in the area of the red circle

## **Memorials - commemorating a deceased person or persons**

## 48 Horace Nathaniel Ramsay - Stone Monument

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>      | Belowra                                     |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Private                                     |
| <b>Type</b>          | Bronze plaque on a memorial granite boulder |

### History

Horace Ramsey lived from 1899 to 1995 and worked as a drover, stockman, bullocky and dingo trapper, with much of his time spent working in the Belowra Valley. The valley is a close working group and he is fondly remembered by its community who erected this plaque in recognition of his efforts. Cath Lawler's personal history records the following note:

"Horace Ramsay was a great character. He had a bullock team and carted wattle bark. He also was a dingo trapper and drover who loved the races and was a keen punter. The Thomson family together with Horace Ramsay's family joined forces and erected a memorial to Horace. His ashes are under the memorial which is just inside the boundary of the clear country at the bottom end on the O'Reilly side."

### Description

A brass plaque fixed to a large natural stone that was set in a prominent position beside the main road through Belowra. Horace's ashes are beneath the stone.

### Condition

The plaque and rock are robust and in good condition

### Significance

The plaque honours a man who was well regarded in the Belowra area particularly for the range of rural skills that were necessary to enable successful farming in a remote location such as Belowra during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of those skills are no longer needed due to change farming practice, modernisation, improved access and transport. In many respects the plaque honours a passing tradition and mateship that grew through working together and looking after one another. The memorial has strong social value to the local community.

### Site elements

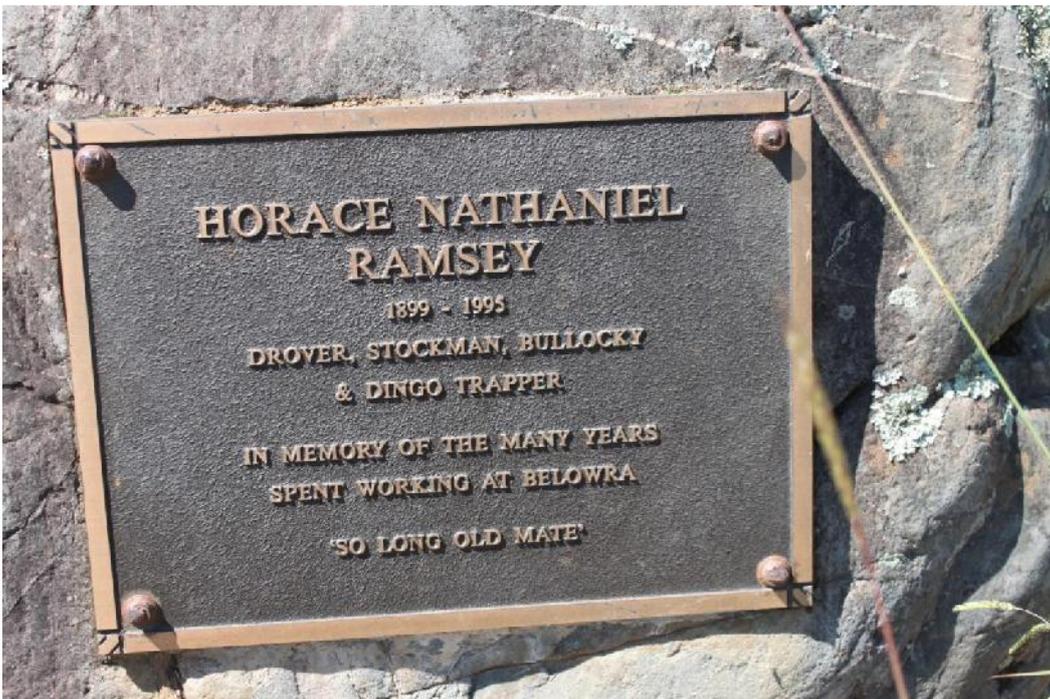
|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Setting,                    | Cleared grazing land       |
| Fencing                     | NA                         |
| Signage                     | Only what is on the plaque |
| Vehicle access              | Good – by a public road    |
| Parking                     | na                         |
| Pedestrian access/ pathways | limited                    |

### Recommendations

- Continue existing management.
- There would be merit in expanding on Horace's life and activities as he represented a particular type of rural Australian who in many respects is disappearing from modern culture.



The memorial stone in its grassland setting. 2019



Bronze plaque mounted on memorial stone 2019

## 49 Melville Point Memorial

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>      | Melville Point Tomakin   |
| <b>Owner manager</b> | Eurobodalla Shire Council  |
| <b>Type</b>          | Memorial listing the names of burials in the nearby former cemetery. |

### History

The former Tomakin Cemetery was bulldozed by developers in the 1960s as part of the Sunpatch Estate development at Tomakin.

It seems there were two cemeteries at Tomakin, neither of which now exists. The first resulted from the wreck of a ship at Broulee following which some bodies were washed ashore at Tomakin (refer Broulee record) and were buried some distance from the beach on a mound afterwards known as the 'Old Cemetery'. Some time later the first Mr Barling, his wife and the first Mr Sebbens were buried there. A metal fence was around the Barlings grave. In a later gale the graves were covered with sand and debris. The site is belied to have been at the south end of Sunpatch and in addition to the iron fence, had 'wooden headstones'.

While the Sunpatch Estate development was in progress the remains were brought to light by bulldozers.

The later Cemetery was where the Sunpatch authority built Memorial Park. This later cemetery was on land that had been given to the churches by Mr George (Dusty) Barling towards the end of the 1800's. (From a letter by Holroyd Innes to the Moruya Examiner 22/2/1963, reproduced in *Tomakin – The Undiscovered History* by Mark Young).

The later cemetery was known as Burying Point (now Melville Point) and contained the burials of 29 people between 1878 and 1914, the last of which was Richard Sebben in 1914. His headstone was broken but still visible in 1972 although its current location has not been ascertained. The fate of the other headstones is not known.

In recognition of the former cemetery, the local community in conjunction with Eurobodalla Shire Council mounted a bronze plaque on a Moruya Granite stone slab that was sited at nearby Melville Point. The memorial was unveiled on 29 July 1989.

### Description

The memorial comprises a natural slab of Moruya granite on which is fixed a bronze plaque listing the names of the 29 souls who were buried in the cemetery. The memorial is within a mown grassed area near the Melville point lookout.

### Condition

The memorial is robust and in good condition

### Significance

The memorial is significant as a tangible record of the 29 people who had been buried in the cemetery and it has high levels of social value for community members who saw the project through to completion. It is also significant as a reminder of the inappropriate planning and development practices that can occur when authorities are insensitive to people whose forebears had lived locally for many years.

## Issues or particular factors pertaining to this cemetery or burial plot.

The precise location of the former cemetery does not appear to be known. There may be opportunity to undertake further research, for example using aerial photos from the 1940s to pinpoint the location and determine where it sits relative to present development.

## Recommendations

- Continue to mow the grass around the memorial,
- Allow for further landscaping providing the memorial is not obscured from view from the lookout road-way,
- Endeavour to locate the Richard Sebben memorial,
- Undertake further research to precisely locate the former cemeteries

S. STAR 14-7-1989 G 11

## Melville Point Cemetery Memorial Plaque

Some time ago Mr Bill Allen of Nelligen approached the Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society's Research Officer, Mrs Nancy Cregan, with a request for information about his pioneer forebears buried in the old Melville Point Cemetery at Tomakin.

Sadly, the cemetery was no more, having been bulldozed by the developers of the quaintly named "Sun-patch Estate" in the early 1960s.

It was through Mr Allen's initial request that the Memorial Plaque project was undertaken by the Society and a search for details concerning the Cemetery revealed 29 burials covering the 37 years between 1878 and 1914.

A list of known descendants of these pioneer families of the Tomago River district was prepared and all were contacted with a request for a donation to enable a memorial plaque to be erected.

The response was overwhelming, with donations from descendants and other interested persons quickly mounting up, with the shortfall made up by the Historical Society.

Earlier this year a quote for the plaque was obtained from Arrow Engraving and Foundry Company of Cheltenham in Victoria.

John Hyland of the Council's engineering staff very efficiently oversaw the production and delivery of the plaque and arranged for a slab of magnificent Moruya granite to be delivered to the site.

Ian Tomlie and Axc Weyman of the Shire's Central District Depot in Moruya arranged for the old Cemetery grounds to be slashed and tidied up in readiness for the slab positioning.

On Saturday, July 1, Roy Shepherd of Moruya oversaw the positioning of the slab which was carried out by Len Sharp of Moruya with a brick crane kindly provided by Alan Brins of Badgely Capital Masonry, Moruya.

What a lucky community we are, in that a request for help from local citizens, businesses and Council is seldom denied.

### REDRESS

This is a marvelous example of a community redressing an injustice done to pioneer settlers and their families and descendants.

All is now in readiness for stonemason John Halls of Moruya to dress and affix the plaque.

The unveiling ceremony is to be carried out at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, July 29 by Bill Allen, a fitting reward for the prime mover behind the project.

Invitations to all donors have been sent out, and all will be honoured guests on the day.

An open invitation is extended to the public to attend the ceremony and pay tribute to these 29 pioneers of our district.

Among those buried at Melville Point are an un-named female child of the Morris family, only five days of age, (died 9.9.1882), and William Morris, 82 years, who died on November 4, 1899.

A most poignant record is that of the Barling twins, Lottie and Arthur, who died on 10.10.1887 aged 2 months.

As an adjunct to the Memorial Plaque unveiling ceremony Mr Allen will also launch the Historical Society's latest publication, "Batemans Bay District Burial Listings".

This publication consists of 87 pages containing the almost 1500 recorded burials occurring in the Society's area of charter up to December 31, 1988.

The publication costs \$10, which includes postage to anywhere in Australia and is available by order only.

Contact the Secretary, P.O. Box 448 Batemans Bay, NSW 2536. (Copies available on the day).

### RESEARCH

The publication was researched by Society members and friends and has been compiled by Society Secretary Mrs E. Teague.

The publication is a marvelous research resource for local and family historians.

Afternoon tea will be served in the Tomakin Community Hall by members and friends of

Guest speaker will be Mrs Gillian Hall of "Finder's Keepers" Antiques at Batemans Bay.

All Welcome.

The Society's address is P.O. Box 448 Batemans Bay.

President (Mrs C. Hill) can be contacted on 78 6044 and the Secretary (Mrs E. Teague) on 72 5954.

Footnote: Corrective or additional information about Melville Point Cemetery or any other cemetery in our District would be most appreciated by your Historical Society.

• Below: Grave of Elizabeth M. Wadsworth, died 1888. Buried at Melville Point.

• Right: Grave of Richard Sebbens, died 12/04/1914. The last recorded burial at Melville Point.

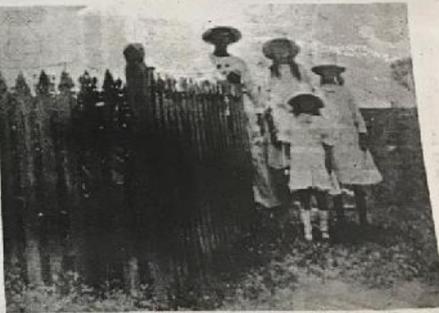
the Tomakin Combined Pansioners following the ceremonies.

This whole exercise has been a perfect example of co-operation within the community and the culmination at 2.30 p.m. on July 29 at Melville Point Tomakin is worthy of a large attendance.

Any and all interested persons are cordially invited to attend.

### NEXT MEETING

The Historical Society's next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. in the Teacher's Staff Room at the Bay Primary School on Monday, July 24.

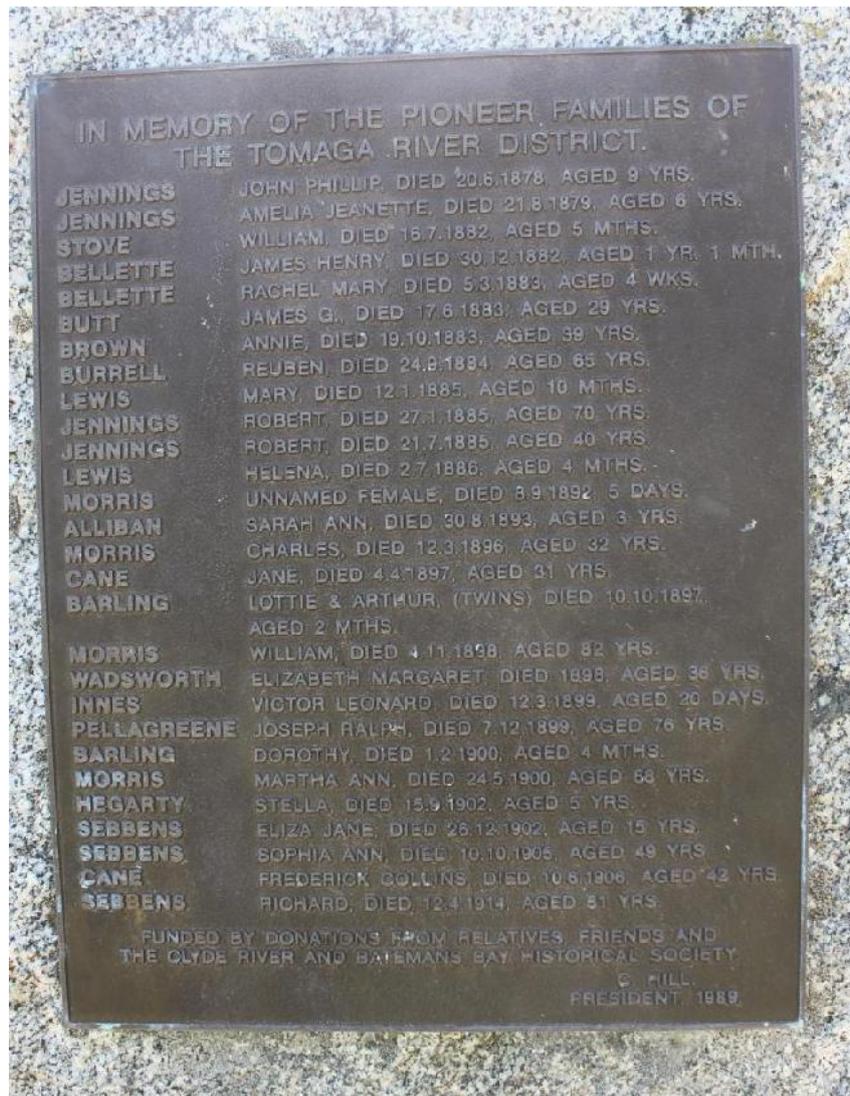
Southern Star 14/7/1989



Southern Star, Friday August 11, 1989



Memorial stone in its setting, 2019



Memorial plaque, 2019

## 50 Miscellaneous Graves, Cemeteries and Memorials

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>       | Throughout the shire               |
| <b>Owner /manager</b> | various                            |
| <b>Type</b>           | Isolated Graves, former cemeteries |

### Benjamin Nixon Lone grave

'Oakvale' on the road to Braidwood (owner in 1985 was Mr Fred McCauley) contains the grave of Benjamin Nixon, who was born on the 11 March 1811, at Herefordshire, England , and died on 24 July 1877 aged 66 years. Source; *History of the Port of Nelligen*.

### Former Nelligen Presbyterian Church cemetery

The church once stood in the vicinity of Currowan Street and Nelligen Place. The church was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. In 1979 the land was cleared for a new subdivision during which the headstone of George Wright (Died 21 October 1871, aged 48) was discovered in a tangle of blackberries .It was repaired and relocated to the C of E section of the Nelligen general Cemetery. Wrights grave is believed to have been one of several in the area of the former church. Source; *History of the Port of Nelligen*



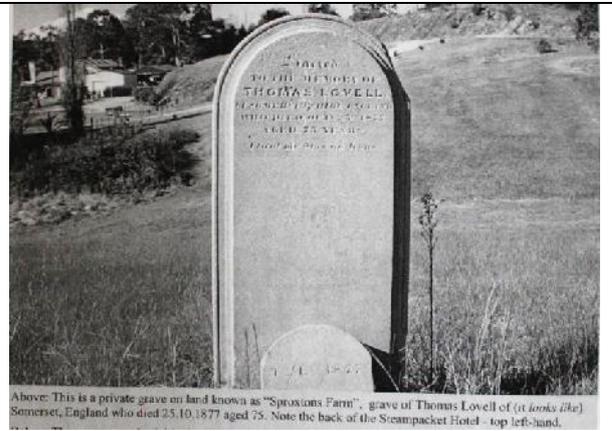
Indicative location of Presbyterian Church burials, Nelligen

### Thomas Lovell lone grave

Locate on the hillside facing the new Steampacket Hotel carpark (on open grassland that was Mr Knott's property in 1985). A single headstone to Thomas Lovell of Somersetshire, England, who died on 13 October 1877.



Rear side 2019



Front face with foot stone. source Avril Longren

### Turlinjah Cemetery

Location of cemetery not identified. 6 Burials recorded (Source MDHS)

Deaths Eurobodalla : Database (Access 2007 - 2010) - Microsoft Access

File Home Create External Data Database Tools

>> Switchboard Place Report Cemetery Query Report

Cemetery Query Report turlinjah

|   |               |           |        |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------|
| CHAPMAN                                 | James         | 19/6/1895 | 7mths  |
| Turlinjah by James Chapman              |               |           |        |
| CHAPMAN                                 | Lucy May      | 7/3/1898  | 9mths  |
| Gen. Cem. Turlinjah by Henry Chapman    |               |           |        |
| JABBRAH                                 | Minnie        | 1/2/1894  | 20     |
| Turlinjah by John McLean                |               |           |        |
| KAY                                     | Ernest Joseph | 30/1/1896 | 10mths |
| Turlinjah by George John Knox           |               |           |        |
| KEAYS                                   | Johanna       | 29/5/1893 | 44     |
| Turlinjah by John L Ross                |               |           |        |
| PETERMAN                                | John          | 5/08/1906 | abt.86 |
| Aboriginal Cem Turlinjah by John L Ross |               |           |        |
| SLY                                     | Unnamed       | 1/5/1891  | 10days |
| Turlinjah by Robert Speers              |               |           |        |

Thursday, April 11, 2019 Page 0 of 0

Printout from MDHS database for Turlinjah Cemetery.

## Marks Gully Nelligen

The MDHS database entry below shows the Chinese national Ah Sing was buried at Marks Gully near Nelligen.

| Details of Deaths recording the place |   | nelligen |                              |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------------|
| <b>AH SING</b>                        |   |          |                              |
| Occupation:                           | Chinese Cook  | Age:     | 40                           |
| Marital Status:                       | Unknown   |          |                              |
| Date of death:                        | Place of death: date of death unknown, near Nelligen    |          |                              |
| Usual residence:                      |   |          |                              |
| Place of Birth:                       | China   |          |                              |
| Father's Name:                        | Unknown   | Unknown  | Father's Occupation: Unknown |
| Mothers Name:                         | Unknown   | Unknown  |                              |
| To whom married:                      | Unknown   |          |                              |
| Children of marriage:                 |   |          |                              |
| Cause of death:                       | Verdict at an inquest. Found dead, HM Keightley Coroner |          |                              |
| Date of Burial:                       | 7/08/1879   |          |                              |
| Cemetery:                             | Marks Gully, Nelligen by GH Eckley                      |          |                              |
| Min_Rel of; Witnesses:                | No min; J N Smith, GH Eckley, Albert Sproxtton          |          |                              |

## Coila Cemetery

The cemetery apparently no longer exists (MDHS comment).

Burials at Coila. Source MDHS database

| Coila Cemetery Query Report |         |                |               |  |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Age                         | Surname | Other names    | Date of death | Cemetery                                 |
| 60                          | AH SAM  | Ah             | 15/1/1894     | Crown Land, Coila by William Gray        |
| 1day                        | CLARKE  | Unnamed        | 6/11/1904     | CofE Cem. Coila by William Grey          |
| 14days                      | GRAY    | Laton          | 31/8/1891     | Edward Gray's Farm, Coila by John McLean |
| 25                          | MAGILL  | George         | 26/03/1867    | Coila by William Harkus                  |
| 25                          | MAHON   | Thomas         | 26/03/1867    | Coila by William Harkus                  |
| 12                          | McLEAN  | William        | 4/2/1890      | Coila by Edward Walter                   |
| 04                          | TURNER  | Lillias Martha | 5/10/1866     | Coila by Alex Bonnyman                   |
| 42                          | WHEELER | Edward         | 7/03/1868     | Coila James Southam                      |

**Assorted burials north and west of Batemans Bay/ Nelligen**BENANDARAH, BOLARO, BUCKENBOURA, CULLENDULLA, CURROWANDURRAS, KYNEMALLOW, MARKS GULLY, PEBBLY BEACH, SHALLOWCROSSING, TOBACCO FLATINDEX

|            |                  |          |
|------------|------------------|----------|
| ARMSTRONG  | Currowan         | 6.       |
| BOWNE      | Buckenboursa     | 6.       |
| BROOK      | Buckenboursa     | 2, 3, 5. |
| CAHILL     | Benandarah       | 1.       |
| CAMPBELL   | Buckenboursa     | 1.       |
| CARTWRIGHT | Currowan         | 3.       |
| CRUISE     | Pebbly Beach     | 1.       |
| DAVIES     | Kynemallow       | 1.       |
| DICKSON    | Currowan Abor.   | 1.       |
| DUFFY      | Currowan         | 3.       |
| FAIRBAIRN  | Durras           | 4.       |
| FOO        | Benandarah       | 4.       |
| GILLIES    | Benandarah       | 3.       |
| GILLIGAN   | Cullendulla      | 1.       |
| JONES      | Tobacco Flat     | 1.       |
| McCRAWLEY  | Currowan         | 2, 4.    |
| MOULT      | Durras           | 1, 2.    |
| MUNROE     | Benandarah       | 2.       |
| RIXON      | Shallow Crossing | 1.       |
| ROWAN      | Currowan         | 1.       |
| SHOEBRIDGE | Bolaro           | 1.       |
| SING       | Marks Gully      | 1.       |
| THOMSEN    | Buckenboursa     | 4.       |
| WOODS      | Durras           | 3.       |

Source : Burial Listings for the Batemans Bay District CRBBHS 1989