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TURNBULL NEWSLETTER

March/April 2014.

I sincerely hope everyone had a great 2013 Xmas and all the best for the New Year of 2014.

It was a disappointing 20th December for Hawkesbury residents when on that date the Premier of NSW, Mr. Barry O'Farrell, announced he intended to proceed with the construction of the new bridge across the river at Windsor, a new and shiny bridge unable to handle any bigger volume of traffic than the current old bridge, which he intends to pull down. This is not very smart planning by a Planning Department which knows nothing about the Hawkesbury District.

The absolute lack of care and respect by this NSW government for the history and heritage of Windsor and the Hawkesbury District is unbelievable. It's an appalling neglect of the area by the State Government for which it will be badly judged, in the long term.

Adding to neglect of the old township of Windsor is now the new DA, which has been presented to Council for another Cinema complex plus a Tavern at McGraths Hill. At the same time, oddly, we learn the Jolly Frog hotel, formerly known as Podesta's Hotel, burnt down re-

cently, I'm horrified about all these events and wonder if it's all part of a bigger plan to destroy the old township of Windsor.

I've written about the old cemeteries of Sackville and Ebenezer which accommodate so many of our ancestors, but said little about Wilberforce cemetery previously, which also accommodates many of our ancestors. On Australia Day this year Wilberforce Cemetery received a very appreciated award. The award was accepted by one of the two original 'driving forces' of the Cemetery, Jill {nee Tuckerman} Vincent and lovely acceptance speech was given by her on the night.

Friend of Wilberforce Cemetery.

Mayor Ford, Australia day Ambassador Susanne Gervay, Hawkesbury City Councillors, Council Staff and Distinguished Guests.

Congratulations to all who are present this Australia Day, for your contributions to the Hawkesbury community – you all deserve an award, I'm sure.

The Friends of Wilberforce Cemetery feel humbled and greatly honoured to have been brought to this special occasion because we have been nominated by some person – we don't know who – for a community award. It was a great surprise to all of us – so much good has been done by others.

Our group came into being 11 years ago when my friend Audrey Robinson and I were socialising at a Wilberforce School fete. During the conversation we shared our concerns about the neglected state of our historic Cemetery. We had both heard of many disrespectful things happening there – It was Audrey who put the ball in motion – she knew who to contact from her experience in other projects. A big thank you to you, Audrey. We began a series of meetings with Council staff where we expressed the need to protect the Cemetery by fencing it. I would like to acknowledge the guidance and great support we received from two special people – my late friend Janet Warneke (nee Gosper) and Mrs. Mavis Cobcroft, still a strong supporter of our group in spite of illness. Both ladies urged us to request the metal security fence they had seen protecting schools and cemeteries - but at that stage it was hard to convince Council of the need.

*A few months after our first meeting, on Father's Day 2003, vandals came and smashed 25 grave monuments in one night. This happened to one of the oldest, most historic cemeteries in Australia where at least 34 First, Second and Third Fleeters are buried. Something had to be done to stop it happening again and to protect restoration work. **This vandalism** put us in*

touch with many descendants of the families buried there – some of them 6th and 7th generation people. A big thank you to many present to day, and several have travelled a long distance to be here. One of our members came from Victoria, Geoff Bowd (son of the late Doug Bowd who was well known to many of us and a renowned Hawkesbury Historian). Geoff has been a great help and support throughout our endeavours.

As a result Council approved fencing and installed floodlighting. We are now pleased to acknowledge that the lower portion of the Cemetery is now enclosed with a 2.1 metre (7ft) high security fence and is secure at night. It is also floodlit and looks very beautiful after dark.

Now many monuments have been restored while others are waiting to be done. We thank every one for their continued support; it has been greatly appreciated.

Development of the Cemetery remains a “work in progress” so we need your continual support.....Thank you.



Jill and the Award

Ancestry research can be a very exciting experience as I've discovered only too well. Recently I received an email from David McCabe in London. David has established his own successful *David McCabe Design* company there and, believe it, he is an expatriate Aussie who moved to the UK many years ago. The oddest thing is, he was looking for more information about research I had done years ago on **John Turnbull**, who arrived here in January 1801. This John Turnbull had sailed around the Pacific Islands for a couple of years looking for a good salt which could be used for curing pork, among other things, when they became shipwrecked in the Islands and had to return to Sydney Cove for a while. Eventually they got a passage back to London in 1804.

In 1805 he wrote a book about his trip around the Pacific in which he very unkindly wrote that the early Aussie Colony inhabitants, other than the Army in the Colony, were of a very poor class in 1801. When he came back here in 1804, he again wrote of the poor class of free settlers, except for 8 or 10 newer arrivals, of a better class. (Was he referring to the newly arrived Coromandel settlers? Sadly we will never know - later I believed I'd found the will of that John Turnbull, made in London and acted upon in 1816 after John died.)

Now David McCabe believes that this will belongs to another John Turnbull whom he is re-searching. This John had a long association with the revolutionary South American, Francisco de Miranda, who was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1750. Soon after meeting Miranda, John Turnbull took a liking to him and appears to have funded much of what Miranda did, good or bad, until he died, after which time John Turnbull's sons, particularly the eldest son Peter, appear to have continued that association. We are now trying to prove which John Turnbull owns the 1816 will and now it seems certain that David McCabe's (*David McCabe Design Company*) John Turnbull is the owner. The interest in John Turnbull was created by the fact that David McCabe is designing a museum for Caracas where much has been written about the connection between de Miranda and John Turnbull. The big question which we can't answer at this time is.....is John Turnbull of de Miranda, the same John Turnbull who came here in 1801? But an even greater query which needs answering: was Miranda's John Turnbull also connected to our John Turnbull who arrived here 1802? We know now both were of Scottish descent..... so the search for answers continues.

To be continued:

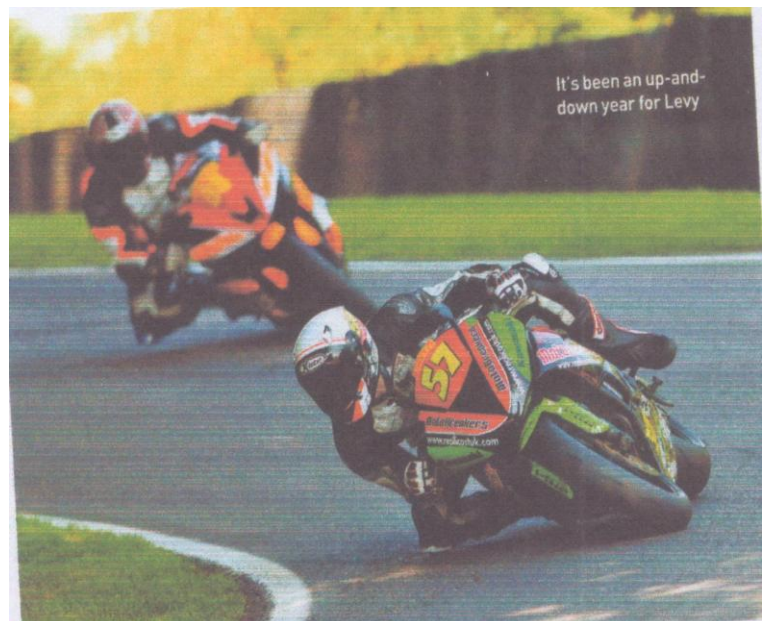
I've pursued many John Turnbuls around the world to this point in time and it's very disappointing that so far none appear to be ours – but maybe I have a real lead this time.

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I am continually amazed at the number of new Turnbull relatives I come across - usually accidentally and unexpected.

We had a problem recently in the wonderful park opposite my place and had to call Wollongong Council to deal with it. I received a very helpful response and the name attached was Andrew Marning. The Marning name was familiar so I replied asking if he was related to the late Valerie (Blundell) Marning - and yes, he was her son. Andrew has a couple of brothers so I've now added three new names to the long list of newfound relatives.

DAWN DAY'S grandson, *Levi* had an unsuccessful end to his 2013 racing season in the British BSB series. At Donnington, Silverstone



and Brands Hatch he didn't do well. However he was happy with his first season with BSB and hopes to do better this year. He writes: "I was fortunate to get a ride in the Suzuka 8 Hour Race riding an Aprilia RSV4 Superbike for the Over Racing Projects with veteran Japanese GP racer Toshi Arakaki. This was my first time at Suzuka and my first time on a Superbike. I was selected to start the Le Mans Style race. We suffered a crash in the race and spent hours in the pits, but did get the bike going again and finished the race. Endurance racing is something I'd like to continue to be involved with in future. My girlfriend Katie is British and her family kindly let me live with them this year. It was great to feel welcome in a new country so I could concentrate on my racing. I worked for Katie's uncle as a grave digger and this was not the sort of thing I was expecting to do this year, but I was very fortunate to have some work and it certainly kept me fit. My season would not have been possible without the generosity of many people here and in England and I take this opportunity to thank them all." **Levi Day**

GOOD LUCK LEVI IN 2014.



I am receiving amazing Turnbull stories and this one is all about Hedley Charles Turnbull, from the Sackville North family with the Manning connections.

Hedley was the son of Thomas Turnbull and Elizabeth Manning, born at Sackville Reach on 3 March 1878. He married Bernice Hibbard in Kempsey, NSW in 1909. His granddaughter Gil Bambrick writes: "Hedley had a long and very interesting life. He had the typical looks of the early Turnbulls with strong features, broad forehead and thin lips. He initially trained as a pharmacist and one of his postings included work-

ing at the historic Bangalow Pharmacy in Northern NSW when it first opened. He went on to study veterinary science at Grand Rapids University in Michigan in the USA. On his return to Australia he practised as a veterinary surgeon at Lismore and remained there till Bernice died in 1953. Hedley died in 1971".

In Nov. 2013 a reunion was held in Sydney



of Hedley and Bernice's youngest daughter, Sally Parry and the grandchildren. The children of five of their daughters came. Sally Parry is seated in the centre. Like her father, she too has enjoyed a long and interesting life. While many of the cousins had met each other previously on a one to one basis, it's the first time for years they had met as a group. It was an exciting day and the cousins and their aunts, look forward to doing it again. Gil, dressed, in black and white is standing behind Sally.

Remember Toby Turnbull, the grandson of Ian and Marjorie in Nanango, Qld? Toby was the most seriously injured of all the men in the Canberra bridge crash back in 2010. His recovery has taken a long time, but he is now working again on light duties and trying to do as much as he can. He still has nightmares about it and is often in a lot of pain so we wish Toby and his family all the best in the future.

To Ian and Marjorie, his Grandparents, who have not been experiencing the best of health recently, I hope you're both on the mend and that you were well and truly "rained on", in the recent badly need downpour.

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Alexander in War Cry, NZ's Salvation Army Magazine.

It's at this time that we also now learn more about a recent Grenada story. It's a few months since I heard from Lyn in Victoria, about Alexander Turnbull who arrived in Australia in about 1860 from Grenada. Lyn has pursued Alexander up and down the south east coast, from Melbourne to Sydney and searched the Goulburn area where it's known he married, but we still could not find anything about his birth or parents in Grenada. Then just a few days ago I received an email from Jenna Jones in New Zealand. Jenna had just come across our Turnbull Newsletter in NZ where the story about Alexander Turnbull first appeared re his Grenada background.

I have now put Jenna in touch with Lyn Robinson in Victoria, and there has been an exchange of information and pictures. Jenna also sent me copies of those pictures, which are the only known pictures of Alexander Turnbull's existence, in Australia and New Zealand.



Lena his daughter in NZ

Lena was Jenna Jones NZ, Great, Great Grandmother and also was Lyn Robinson's Great Grandfather's sister in Vic. Australia.

It is very disappointing that I only had one query about Breaker Morant. However since last November's issue the Scottish Genealogy Society has given me access to a copy of the song the Breaker always sang. He probably only knew one song and it was called "Maggie Lauder". It is well known by those who knew him that he only ever sang 'Maggie Lauder'.

It can be found on YouTube and is a very catchy song. So much that I've found leaves little doubt in my mind that Harry Morant had a strong Scottish connection via the girl whom I believe was his mother, Margaret Gray – and he probably became an orphan, born in Lambeth Dec. 1859, where in 1864, Francis Morant and his wife, (maybe his parents) died on the same day in Lambeth. William Harry Morant, by that name, first appeared in Scotland on the 1861 census, with his mother and grandparents, Inn Keepers in Denny. In the 1871 Scottish Census there was a slight variation of his surname and he was now in Govan, near Glasgow with only his grandmother and a couple of young cousins.

I'm sure a skilled researcher in Britain will find the necessary proof. I have researched him widely from here as best I can, but any more information has to be found in London.

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Some of our residents from the Hawkesbury and areas in NSW and QLD have recently had to leave their homes for health reasons and I wish all of them the best in their new environments. I particularly wish a couple of the ladies many of us have known the very best of wishes: Joan Turnbull, previously of Sackville, and Jean Turnbull from Richmond.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Thanks to so many of our family members I have been collecting some amazing pictures of our families from long ago, so I am going to begin sharing these old pictures with readers.

(See next page)



PAUL McCANN (shorter man) &
"Fatty" FRED PETERS (fell in Lae)



GEORGE TURNBULL 1806 – 1885



Picture of the 50TH Anniversary group with their children and partners, grand children and great grandchildren, also Fay and Gai , Gai's daughter Rochelle attended and helped celebrate

Congratulations to John and Valmai (nee Madden) Turnbull who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

John (aka 'Tarpot') and Valmai grew up in the Wilberforce and Sackville areas respectively, met at a dance in the Wilberforce School of Arts Hall in 1960 and married four years later on the 7th March 1964 at St John's Church in Wilberforce.

The wedding party consisted of John's twin sisters, bridesmaids Gai and Fay Turnbull with another Turnbull descendant, Ray Turnbull, as best man. The groomsman was Terry Hall. The flower girls were the bride's two

young sisters, Kay and Louise Madden. The wedding reception was held at Belvedere Lodge in Oakville, (now named Oakville House). The couple then honeymooned in far North Queensland where they visited the groom's brother Phillip Turnbull.

John is a direct paternal descendant of the Coromandel pioneer John Turnbull, (his great- great, great- great -grandson) therefore carrying on the family name.

Whilst there are no sons to carry on the family name on this ancestry lineage they are fortunate to have 4 daughters and now 5 grandchildren with 2 great grandsons - amazingly they still live in the Hawkesbury, not far from where the first John Turnbull settled in 1802.



Wedding Party, Anthony John and Valmai Joyce Turnbull. Twin bridesmaid's Fay and Gai – Terry Hall on left and Ray Turnbull on right – flower girls Kay and Louise – Valmai's Dad

Recently I've received some wonderful stories about an early family who lived in the Toongabbie area in the 1950's. They were close to where OUR original Turnbull family settled and began farming experiences in the colony, before getting 100 acre grants at Portland Head.

The anonymous writer says a little about his early days: When we moved from Forest Lodge to Toongabbie in 1957 I went to Patrician Brothers Blacktown, with boys from as far away as Kurrajong. Little Frank Gow got 6 [caned] several times from the brother. There was a John Pye & his cousin a Mason from Windsor. There was 2 Hessions, cricketers Phil and Frank. I know now Frank Gow wasn't a foreigner, could he be a descendant of a convict & also a Mason. I am not sure of the Pye's or the Hession's, they may have come later to the Hawkesbury. As well at Toongabbie's Rod (knuckles) Blundell, an orphan, often briefly attended Toongabbie Hotel on his way home to live with the Shipways, I think. Knuckle's was a Toongabbie Tigers

player who played lock against Johnny Raper in Presidents Cup & first grade for Parramatta. Knuckles was a dour tackler & would probably have made a mint in NRL were he younger.

(Some names above may have been known and remembered by our readers.)

Before ending this issue, for anyone visiting Scotland who maybe interested in visiting the last remaining Turnbull pele castle or tower in the border, *Fatlips*, it has now been renovated, and visiting times may be found on the net. I believe it is now quite spectacular to see.

Again I must thank the participants for their stories in this Issue, they are great stories and much appreciated. PLEASE KEEP THE STORIES COMING.

Also, all the best to those who may still be struggling with illness and I hope all your results turn out the right way.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT JULY/AUGUST IN 2014.

Thanks to Carolyn Wright who is taking on the editing task of this NEWSLETTER – I'm pleased it's now out of my inept hands.



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