

Clan Turnbull Ebenezer Vol 4 No 2 Turnbull Newsletter July/August 2013

Recently Ann Ryan from the Central Coast sent me a wonderful picture and story about her father, Mervyn David Turnbull. Mervyn was born in 1909 in Leichhardt, the son of David and Alice Turnbull. (David was of the Sackville North family connection of Turnbull and Manning). Mervyn joined the NRMA in 1937 and worked for them for most of his life, first as a patrol officer. His job was interrupted for awhile by a stint in the Army from October 1941 till December 1945 - after which he rejoined the patrol staff. HOWEVER in January 1947 he was appointed as Engineer to the Technical Department of the NRMA where he was highly commended for his ability as an above average mechanic and a highly skilled technician. His promotion was accompanied by a letter from the head of the Patrol Dept to him, giving him A VERY GLOWING REFERENCE to be used in future, if ever needed.



Mervyn Turnbull on his patrol Bike in Crown St., Wollongong in the 1940's.

The story of the picture is as follows – The NRMA used THIS old picture to head up their internet site on the HISTORY of NSW's. NRMA, at the time NOT knowing who the person was on the bike in the picture – (still on the Net). OF COURSE the Turnbull family became aware of it and were stunned to realise it was Mervyn

Turnbull. The family contacted the NRMA and informed them it was Mervyn Turnbull, But there is yet an-other twist in the story - MERVYN was attached to the Wollongong NRMA, where Fred Wright has lived all of his life. Though Fred never spoke to Mervyn, he certainly knew about him as he was well known around the area for his expertise with the NRMA Road Service. At that time Fred had no idea he had a Coromandel Turnbull connection. It's just another one of those ODD Turnbull "things" we hear of now and then.