

Mr Wood, known to his pupils as "Jerry", was prominent in Brooklyn affairs for many years. He was an officer of the progress Association, the ratepayers' Association, the Debating Society, the School of Arts and the Anglican Church, among other voluntary functions. As the correspondent to the "Argus", he was an outspoken advocate of Brooklyn's interests.

He looked after his own interests, too. In 1910, he acquired the major part of Seymour's grant at the Old Dairy. Later, he purchased sections of land in the Peat's Crater area. His son., John Gray Wood ("Jack") was later to extend these holdings. In effect the Wood Family gained control of grazing land in the Crater and at Seymour's, moving the cattle between the two areas.

William Henry Wood died in 1926 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Brooklyn Cemetery.

"Ned" Higgins

George Edward "Ned" Higgins was born in 1866, a member of the well-known Hornsby Family. In 1908, he bought a section of the Sullivan property. He developed a farm there and acquired further property along Marramarra Creek, to which he travelled by boat from Peat's Bight.

Although handicapped by loss of a leg, Ned Higgins was a well-known axeman and a Hornsby Shire Councillor. He would often return home after Council meetings by catching the last train and then making his way along Brooklyn and St John's Roads.

He died in 1929, aged 63 and is buried in a grave in Brooklyn Cemetery that has only been marked in recent years.

John Gray Wood

Jack Wood was the son of William Henry Wood. He was born in 1895, at Berry, but came to Brooklyn with his schoolmaster father. When he left school, he worked on his Father's land, which he inherited in 1926.

Jack became a familiar figure, delivering milk to Brooklyn residents from his horse and cart. His two memorable

features were a capacity to swear and a severe stammer. Given the consonants required to engage in the former activity, the latter proved a real handicap, especially when small boys teased him into action.

Nevertheless Jack was a lovable character who worked the dairy until the 1950s, when a flood destroyed the pasture at Seymour's Gully.

Jack lived on into his nineties, having retired from the district.



The Bayview Hotel at Cowan in 1883. It was on the Peat's Ferry Road on the site of the modern Cowan Store.

MARVELLOUS MUOCAMURRA



INTRODUCTORY NOTES BY
TOM RICHMOND, OAM
LOCAL HISTORIAN

J.D.TIPPER AND
OTHER PERSONALITIES

John Duncan Tipper

John Duncan Tipper was born at West Maitland and became a chartered engineer. He gradually acquired a reputation as a field naturalist. For some years, he searched for a piece of land that would enable him to establish a private sanctuary.

In 1934, he took out a lease of 600 acres of Crown land and this became the first section of his sanctuary. The land was that part of the present Sanctuary nearest to the Highway. The aim was to preserve species by protecting their habitat. Having started the project, Mr Tipper began to acquire adjoining land. Ultimately, his Sanctuary covered 2,050 acres.

In fact, it had already grown to over a thousand acres when the Royal Australian Historical Society conducted its second excursion through the area in 1936.

On that occasion, Tipper acted as guide. By 1936, the road up to the present centre had been constructed and a picnic reserve set out.

The loop track appears, from the 1936 article, to have been completed by then, offering views over the The visitors in 1936 noted that "the forest beauty of this locality was much marred some years ago by timber-getters, who were not always discriminating in their slaughter of trees." They also remarked on the impact of bushfires. Apparently, there had been a number in the period 1934-36, and there was a long drought in progress, resulting in the fact that no water was observed in the Basin. It is quite likely that the fires destroyed houses in the Crater.

The major lookout was there by 1936, as well. This lookout was named after Tipper in 1952, and in 1956, the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Kenneth Street, unveiled a brass plaque on a cairn of rocks, commemorating Tipper's work.

Muogamurra was proclaimed as a National Park in 1968 and came under Government control. The last of Jack Wood's cattle were rounded up and destroyed. Kangaroos were introduced to control the growth of grass.

Tipper was one of an enduring line of individuals to be

associated with this area. Others have been mentioned in previous pamphlets, but short pen-pictures are given, below.



VOLUNTEERS work on the access road to Muogamurra, during the period of Tipper's private lease.

William Romaine Govett

Govett was born in 1807 at Tiverton, in England. He was appointed to the NSW Surveyor-General's Department in 1827, and came out on the *Asia*. He is best known for his work in the Blue Mountains, where Govett's Leap preserves his name. When the Department was reduced in 1833, he found himself unemployed and returned to England in 1834. He published magazine articles about New South Wales in 1836-37. He died in 1848.

Granny Lewis

"Granny Lewis" was an Aboriginal woman who settled at Marramurra Creek, with her German partner, John Lewis, in the 1820s. The couple had a large family and her descendants are all fully proven members of the Guringai people.

John Lewis was a former soldier and convict. He became a lime burner, taking his product to Windsor or Sydney by boat.

"Granny Lewis" lived until 1880 and is buried on Bar Island. Her descendants include members of the Shattles, Rose, Lewis, Green and Godbolt families.

John Crumpton

John Crumpton was the son of Thomas Crumpton, a boatbuilder from Mangrove Creek. John married Mary Crossland in 1860. She was the sister of Burton, Walter and Fanny Crossland, all of whom were prominent in early River family life.

Crumpton settled at Sunny Corner, Peat's Bight, and raised a family of eight children. In view of the family connections, it seems likely that he would have been involved in timber-getting and boat-building. He is credited with having been a capable stone-mason and with having carried out stone work on the Anglican Church at Bar Island.

Crumpton died in 1904. It is worthy of note that his sister, Sarah, was married to a neighbour, Joseph Izzard.

Joseph Izzard

Joseph Izzard was the great-grandson of Peter Hibbs, a First Fleeter who settled on the Hawkesbury. Joseph was born in 1848, and in 1870, married Sarah Crumpton, the daughter of a Mangrove Creek boatbuilder and the sister of John Crumpton.

Izzard appears to have settled at Peat's Bight in about 1883, although his title was registered in 1886. In 1883, his two children, William and Robert, were attending Peat's Ferry School, which they did in preference to crossing the River to go to Bar Island.

Joseph Izzard went on to found one of Brooklyn's earliest hire boat businesses, with its location where McKell Park is now. He was also the owner of the *S.S. Cora*, which provided tours. Joseph Izzard, until his death in 1924, was one of the most familiar figures on the Lower River. He was involved in the Progress Association and was often the first to be called to salvage or repair operations.

William Henry Wood

William Henry Wood was born in 1861 in Ireland. He commenced his career as a schoolteacher and surveyor at Dremone, in County Tyrone. He took charge of Brooklyn Public School in 1896, retiring in 1925.