

Chapter 3 from REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN, A HISTORY OF THE DEEBING CREEK ABORIGINAL MISSION IN QUEENSLAND 1887-1915 BY BILL THORPE (2004) SEAVIEW PRESS ADELAIDE

Reconstructing relations: Murri biographies and experiences

This chapter is an attempt to trace as many Aboriginal people as possible who had been at Deebing Creek during its existence as a mission from 1892 to 1915. The analysis focuses mainly on the people themselves and their connections or otherwise to relatives and other Murries. The following survey has identified well over 200 Aboriginal people who were at the mission in this period.

A core of Yuggera people began, and continued to be, at the mission but most Murries had been taken or relocated there from a wide sweep of remote, rural and urban sites throughout Queensland and, in some cases, from New South Wales. Altogether, over 50 different locations have been found from whence Aboriginal people came. I have calculated that 27 people were born at the mission itself, and these people are noted below with an asterisk (*). There were probably more people born whose names are not listed here, including unnamed babies who died soon after childbirth.

As noted elsewhere, the primary sources (unpublished government files on Deebing Creek), upon which the following account is based, are largely one-sided, fragmentary, and bureaucratic. The one-sidedness mainly refers to standpoints and interpretations that reflect government, missionary and other white official worldviews and where Aboriginal voices rarely surface (see chapter 2). Moreover, files for the years 1903-1905 and 1910 to 1912 appear to be missing altogether. Unless stated otherwise, the main sources used are the Deebing Creek files A/69417, A69418 and TR 1666/1 box 14, Queensland State Archives, Runcorn; and items ID/311 at file number 01-012-003 on Deebing Creek and Purga at Community and Family Histories, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, Brisbane. I have also consulted other archival and official records (published and unpublished), secondary accounts and Murri histories, including interviews.

This unevenness in the record makes compiling even a rudimentary genealogy difficult, let alone any account that claims to be definitive.

Furthermore, tracing those people who were at Deebing Creek involves locating places where people came from around Queensland; and charting the human traffic between missions, reserves, institutions and lock-ups such as Bribie Island, Fraser Island, Myora (Stradbroke Island), Durundur (Caboolture), Purga (south of Deebing Creek), Barambah (Cherbourg), Westbrook Reformatory (Toowoomba), the Aboriginal Girls' Home (West End, Brisbane), and Boggo Road gaol (Dutton Park, Brisbane). Complicating the identification process were wholesale removals that failed to name any of the Aboriginal people involved. For example, all Aboriginal people at Southport except 'Short Dob' were sent to Deebing Creek on Southern Protector Meston's orders in 1902 (Imbruglia, 1992:74).

As a 'duggai' (a Murri term for 'whitefella') moreover, I do not have the experiential knowledge about Murries and how they are related to other Murries and their families, even though I have known Frances Wright for many years, and her father, Les Davidson, before he died. Thus my efforts to reconstruct various lives and link them together may be wrong in some cases. Hopefully, future researchers may be able to pursue the leads I and others have provided to winkle out more evidence and information, and to encourage more Murries to reconstruct their own histories. A good model here is Michael Aird's *Brisbane Blacks* (2001).

Despite these shortcomings it is vital that a start be made and that the 'Deebing Creek' Murries be identified, so that their descendants and relatives can continue the task of restoring family and community histories. In any case, researchers (including historians) face the opposing challenges of either more than enough documentation or too little of it.

Names are set out below in alphabetical order, e.g. 'Annie', 'Brown', 'Curtis' etc. While people may be identified through both surnames and Christian names, in many cases the available sources only provide Christian names, while Indigenous names are rarer still. There is the added difficulty of knowing if the names recorded by the mission and government authorities were people's real names. Information about people's ages, dates of birth and ages at death is also incomplete. Where possible these details are included. Some people, e.g. 'Arthur',

'John Curtis', 'Maria McKenzie' and 'William Ryan' are documented more than others. Such people attracted the attention of missionaries, police, and government officials; or had, like Curtis or Albert Henry, gained media focus from their sporting exploits. At the end of most entries the dates are given when particular people were at Deebing Creek itself, e.g. 1903-1906.

Ada. Born 1889 or 1890, Charleville. Sent to Deebing Creek from Charleville, probably sometime in 1905. The Chief Protector noted that Ada's 'reputed father' could not be found ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1905, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1906, p.14).

Aggie. Born c. 1876, in Surat region on Condamine River. Had four children: May (10); Thelma (6); Kitty (4); 'and a baby a few months old' (unnamed). Aggie was removed to Deebing Creek 'for the sake of her own interests' sometime in 1906. ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1905, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1906, p.14.)

Ah See. No date or place of birth cited. Chinese woman given permission to marry **Peter Rouse** at Deebing Creek in 1905 ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1905, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol.2, 1906, p.16).

Albert. On Deebing Creek cricket team 17 February 1894 (*Queensland Times*, 20 February 1894). Not to be confused with **Albert Henry**.

Alice. Born 1892. No place of birth mentioned. Removed from Deebing Creek by government into domestic service in September 1906.

Alice. Born c.1895, the daughter of Sam Tanna, a Pacific Islander and a white woman. At Deebing Creek in 1905 ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines',

Queensland Parliamentary Papers, vol. 2, 1906, p.13).

Alice. No date or place of birth cited but may have been born in Buderim, Maleny or the Sunshine Coast region. Alice, although legally married to Jack Sandwich, a South Sea Islander, was removed from Buderim to Deebing Creek in 1904, and their child 'left in their father's custody' ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.12). Possibly related to **Alice**, above.

Amy. Born 1893, St. George region. Committed at St. George on 7th June 1905, at school 17th June 1905 and removed from Deebing Creek by government for domestic service on 3rd October 1906.

Amy. Born 1894, no place of birth listed. At school in 1905 and removed by government for domestic service in October 1906.

Anderson, Bob. Born 1885 at Redbank, near Ipswich, died 1953 Ipswich. The younger brother of **Sam Anderson**. At Deebing Creek in 1895 (Ryan, 2001:23) and there until the early 1900s when, according to his daughter Evelyn Dodds, he went to work at the Millungera cattle station on the Flinders River near Charters Towers. At this property, the manager's son, Bertie Neale saw Anderson 'racing other lads' and started training Bob for the Charters Towers Hundred. In 1904 Bob won this event, beating the Australian champion, Arthur Postle. 'Bob later ran in Sydney and Melbourne and returned to Ipswich to win a number of races' (*Queensland Times*, 22 June 1984). It appears he was still living at Deebing Creek and, according to Ryan, he was transferred to Purga in 1907 when Deebing Creek mission closed (Ryan, 2001:23). (Ryan is wrong about the date of Deebing Creek's closure.) But Bob was certainly at Purga for a while, probably from 1915 (and certainly by 1918) with his wife Sarah Anderson (Summerville and Delaney to William Gall, Under Secretary, 1 November 1918, item 09717 QSA). **Les Davidson** recalled that there were 'foot races' at the mission and that Bob was 'one of the greatest runners we had'. (Les Davidson interview, Good Friday 1978). Bob remained in Ipswich until his death in 1953 aged 68 (*Queensland Times*, 22 June 1984).

Anderson, Sam. Born c. 1884 Ipswich region, from Waka-Waka people. Sam's father was a squatter of Scottish background, Henry Samuel Anderson (Langford-Ginibi, 2001:vi). Sam's mother was Mary Jane Anderson. In 1895 Mary Jane and Sam were at Deebing Creek (Ryan, 2001:13) but there is no official archival evidence for this or the reasons why they came to be there (Habermann, 2003:62).

Sam was an outstanding all-round cricketer (batsman, bowler and wicketkeeper), learning his craft on Coochin Coochin Station near

Boonah (Langford Ginibi, 1994:58-59), and first playing for Lowood against Tarampa in 1905. Sam was picked to play for the Queensland Country side the same year. Sam also played for the Ipswich Railway Club but decided to quit it 'after Normanby Cricket Club refused to play the Railway team' because it contained Aboriginal players (i.e. Anderson and **Albert Henry**) (Ryan, 2001:32). Sam continued to play cricket on and off in the Ipswich region until 1912. No record remains as to whether Sam still lived at Deebing Creek during this period. Ryan states Sam was at Peak Crossing in 1913 and living outside the mission, and then went to live in northern New South Wales. There he continued his cricket career at Casino, Glencoe, Coraki and Lismore. On 15th September 1928, at the Lismore Recreation Ground, as wicketkeeper, he caught Donald Bradman off the first ball for a duck (Ryan, 2001:65).

Anderson, Kathleen. See **Anson, Kathleen.**

Andrew. No place or date of birth in records. Hired 2nd January 1906 to Dr. McDonald. (Could be Andrew **Richards**).

Annie. Born 1896 or 1897, Taroom region. Committed at Taroom 2nd November 1904, at Deebing Creek school 7th November 1904.

Anson, Maryann/ Bungarrie. Born 1835, Crows Nest. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Anson, Kathleen/Gangaran. Born 1896, Esk. According to Habermann, who quotes Mona Parsons, a member of the Anderson family, Kathleen Anson and Kathleen Anderson were one and the same person (Habermann, 2003:62-63). Kathleen attended the Deebing Creek school in 1903.

Arthur. Born 1890. Sentenced at Rockhampton, 7th March 1904, for 7 years. Arrived at Deebing Creek, 16th March 1904. Arthur kept running away; and came to the attention of government authorities, who eventually invoked the *Aborigines Protection Act* Regulations to confine Arthur at Deebing Creek (see chapter 2). Arthur seems to have stayed at Deebing Creek until 1906 when he disappears from the records.

Banjo. Born Roma, date of birth unknown. Sent from Roma in 1904

to Deebing Creek. The official printed record stated that the medical officer who examined Banjo could not certify him as insane ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1904, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.12).

Barlow. (m) Born 1878, Mt. Hooby. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Barry, Sarah/ Gardin. Born 1867, Peak Crossing. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Bawn, Mollie. No place or date of birth listed. Described in 1906 as being legally married and owed a small sum of money from her earnings in 1906 (see entry on **Jerriba** below).

Beckett, Brinda/ Bunjul. Born 1877, 'Gulf of Carpentaria'. Lived at Deebing Creek in early 1900s. Mrs. Beckett's story is somewhat similar to Mary Page's (see below). Mrs. Beckett was constantly worried about her son, Jack. On 29th September 1907 she wrote to the Chief Protector about him, pleading for him to be returned to her, especially when she fell ill with tuberculosis. Jack was apprenticed as a stable-boy to Mr. Cox, a racehorse trainer at Hendra, who took Jack to Sydney for about a year. Superintendent Robert Morrison and **George Beckett** (Jack's father) also wrote letters urging Jack's return. However, these appeals did not sway the Chief Protector, who insisted that Jack remain in employment. (Another account is in Habermann, 2003:36-37.) A sample of the correspondence is set out below.

Soon after Jack was taken into employment, J.M. Costin, acting Chief Protector, wrote to George Beckett on 23rd August 1907:

'I received the letter written for you this morning ... If Jack Beckett was my own son I would not ask different treatment for him and, if you only knew it, he was chosen as the best of the four from Deebing Creek to go to Sydney with Mr. Cox.

Yourself and his mother may think you know what is best for the boy but I can assure you that you do not, and that is why the Chief Protector is charged with the very great responsibility of protecting aborigines, mothers, fathers and children in the dealings with the white man'.

On 14th April 1908 Mrs Beckett wrote:

'In reference to Jack Beckett. I his mother have heard he has been in Brisbane and gone away again and was not allowed to visit me now Mr Howard this is very hard upon me as I am very ill and am fretting very much over him. I don't know of any reason why he should not be allowed to visit me as I am not bad nor drunken woman, I have always stood by my boy ...'.

Mrs. Beckett's reply softened hard bureaucratic hearts for a moment. Howard sent her some money to pay for her medicine, and on 27th April 1908 agreed to let Jack see his mother provided he return to Mr. Cox:

'Jack is at service but his master has kindly agreed to allow Jack to go to the mission to see his mother ... and he may remain with her till Saturday ... when his master expects him to return. Please inform Mrs. Beckett ... and see that the boy returns at the time stated'.

A grateful Mrs. Beckett wrote back to Howard on 12th May 1908:

'I have to thank you for your kindness in sending to me 1 pound I have had to go to the doctor and he says I have one of my lungs sore and he gave me medicine to make it better ... I am indeed very thankful to you. I was very pleased to see my boy again I only hope he will grow up a good boy and those he is among will not teach him bad things, you might write Jack and give him good advice and tell him to write me often as I think always about him'.

Beckett, George. Born 1858, Mount Walker. Husband of **Brinda Beckett**. At Deebing Creek in early 1900s. In August 1907 George wrote to the Chief Protector objecting to removal of his son (see above).

Beckett, Jack. No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1900s but does not appear in official lists. Son of George and Brinda Beckett. (See entry on **Brinda Beckett**.)

Beckett, Freddy. No place or date of birth listed. A professional runner

in 1906 (see discussion of pedestrianism in chapter 2). Son of George and Brinda Beckett and elder brother of Jack.

Bell, Roger/Rodger/ Jung Jung. Yuggera man, date and place of birth unknown but probably in the early 1870s. 'He was the eldest of four brothers' including **Stanley** Bell, 'all of whom had been taken as boys and raised by pastoralists to work on their properties ... He had been given the name Roger Bell by the family for whom he worked on Bellevue Station' (Burger, 1979:3). Bellevue was located at Esk and owned by C. Taylor (*Queensland Times*, 20 February 1894). This fact strongly suggests he was born in the Esk region. First reported officially as living at Deebing Creek in March 1894 but may have been there earlier. Had a wife whose baby died soon after childbirth. Father of ***Julia Bonner**, who was born at Deebing Creek around 1900, and the mother of **Neville Bonner**. Roger was a member of the Deebing Creek cricket team in 1894, and was working at Bellevue during this time.

Bell, Stanley. Brother of **Roger/Rodger** Bell. On Deebing Creek cricket team in February 1894. Like his brother, Stanley was employed on Bellevue station at Esk. On hearing about the proposed cricket match against the white team in Ipswich, Stanley telegraphed **Curtis**, asked to be included as a bowler (*Queensland Times*, 20 February 1894).

Ben. (m) Born 1875, Logan district. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Ben, Annie/ Boonjeen. No place or date birth cited. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Health described as 'poor'.

Ben, F. (m) Born 1843, Logan district. Father(?) of **Ben** (see above).

Benanda, Alex. (See also **Alex Bundanda**). Attending school in 1903.

Bertie. Born 1902, Crows Nest. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Bertie. Born 1901 or 1902, probably in Roma region. Committed at Roma, 7th June 1904; at Deebing Creek school 8th July 1904.

Berty/Bundi. Born 1894, Taroom Station. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Billy, Alfie. /Juberman. Born 1889, Boonah. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Attending school 1903.

Billy, Peter. /Urara. Born 1892, Boonah. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Attending school 1903.

Billy, W./ Grungan. Born 1887, Alpha. At Deebing Creek 1903.

'Blind Polly'. No place or date of birth listed. Died of 'old age' in February 1897.

Blake, Jack. Born c.1853, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1901, possibly earlier. Buried at Deebing Creek cemetery (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Bligh, Martin. No date or place of birth listed. Presumably Martin was brought to Deebing Creek sometime in 1909, but no record exists of this. That year Martin was contracted to work as a stablehand for Mr. Cox, a racehorse trainer at Hendra (see entries on **Paddy, Alex Bundanda**). Martin 'ran away' from Cox and 'came to Deebing Creek on October 2nd '09'. Morrison, the Deebing Creek Superintendent, wanted Martin returned to Mr. Cox, as he was 'an undesirable inmate'. Howard wrote to Cox on the 26th of October 1909 and asked Cox to take Martin back. Cox agreed to do so and took Martin away on the 6th of November 1909.

Bolton, Lucy. No date of birth recorded but stated in Chief Protector's report that Lucy came from Taroom. She was sent from there to Deebing Creek in 1904 ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1905, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1906, p.10). Accepted an offer of marriage from John Nip, a man from Taroom and returned to Taroom ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1906, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1907, p.16).

Bowen, Billy/ Billie. No place or date of birth recorded but possibly came from Chinchilla. At Deebing Creek early 1900s. Working on Logie Plains station via Warra, 31st August 1908 for S.A. Taylor. Making a living for himself and wife by professional foot-racing in the Sheffield Handicaps, but did not want to keep doing this. Wanted job stockriding but nothing available locally (i.e. around Ipswich). Wanted to return to

father in Chinchilla where he thought he would get a job. Likely to have returned to Chinchilla.

Bowen, Ruby. No place or date of birth listed. Possibly the wife of **Billy Bowen**. Had three children; moved from Deebing Creek to Taroom c.1915.

Brooks, Ellen/ Geenjubi. Born 1849, New South Wales. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Brown, Bertie/Jugara.** Born 1894 at Deebing Creek. Attending school in 1903. A son of **Billy Brown**. Contracted in 1908 at 14 years of age for 6 months to 'bring up horses and cows and made generally useful' for W. O'Brien, farmer. Stamp on permit, 'Aboriginal settlement Barambah'. In 1912 Bertie was removed from the Maryborough district to Barambah for 'going about armed and killing cattle' (Blake, 2001:39).

***Brown, Janet.** Born 1902, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Brown, Billy/ Brown, Willie. Born c. 1873 in the Logan River district. One of the first Murries when Deebing Creek began as a mission proper in 1892. He appears to have moved between the mission and Ipswich; and early in 1893 worked in that town for a couple of months and spent some time camping in Queen's Park with his wife and their young daughter, probably **Bessie Brown**. He also had two sons -- one of whom was **Bertie Brown** -- but it is unclear whether he or Topsy had any more children. Deebing Creek Superintendent, Robert Morrison, reported Brown on 22nd January 1908 for refusing to let one of his sons work for an employer. Could also be **Willie Brown** who wanted his children to attend Esk state school in 1908, which the Chief Protector approved of.

Billy was a member of the first Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team (see entry on **Curtis** below) and played in their first two matches in Ipswich. In the first, perhaps as a middle-order batsman, he made 2 runs (*Queensland Times*, 20 February 1894). In the next match he was mentioned as a team member, but there were no other details about him (*Queensland Times*, 13 March 1894). Thereafter his

cricketing career appears to have ended, at least as a player outside the mission.

At Deebing Creek, Brown became an overseer of Aboriginal workers and was the 'boss' of **John Lynch** who had been brought to Deebing Creek in 1902 (Interview with Les Davidson, 18 January 1978; interview with John Lynch, Good Friday 1978). In January 1907 Brown refused to allow one his two sons (possibly **Bertie Brown**) to continue working under indenture for an unnamed employer and brought the boy back to Deebing Creek. For this, Billy Brown faced expulsion from the mission because his actions went against government regulations under the *Aborigines Protection Act*. In the absence of further evidence, we can only guess at Brown's motivation for bringing his son back to Deebing Creek but it is possible that this employer was treating the son badly, or exploiting him in some way.

***Brown, Mable.** Born 1899, Deebing Creek. Attending school in 1903.

Brown, Mary/ Narinbun. Born 1890, Burketown. Attended school 1903. Removed by government from Deebing Creek into domestic service, 8th September 1906.

Brown, Jessie/ Hoombunpa. Born 1889, Ipswich. Daughter of **Billy Brown** and **Topsy Brown**. It seems that Jessie came with her parents to Deebing Creek in 1892-1893, alternating in this period between camping at Queen's Park and Deebing Creek, staying at Deebing Creek until she was 14 years old in 1903.

***Brown, Stanley.** Born 1896, Deebing Creek. Younger son of **Billy** and **Topsy**. Attending school in 1903.

Brown, Topsy/ Goongarnjin. Born Esk region 1865. Wife of **Billy Brown**. She may have lived there until she met her husband in 1888 in the Ipswich region, where she gave birth to her first child, **Jessie Brown**, in 1889. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Bunder, Bertie. No place or date of birth listed. Attending school in 1903.

Bundanda, Alex/ Alex Bannana/ Alex Benanda/ Alex Bananda. Conflicting documentation about date, place of birth, family of origin.

Born either in 1895 or 1897 on Thursday Island of Malay background. No official details of which parents were Malay/Islander/Aboriginal. Described as 'Half Malay'. Always employed on reserve and/or contracted out from Deebing Creek. Removed by government from Deebing Creek, 11th January 1907 for outside employment, mainly as a stable-boy. Transferred from Barambah along with **Jack Normanton** in 1910, suggesting that both had been transferred from Deebing Creek to Barambah in 1907 and then to Deebing Creek again in 1910. Both Bundanda and Normanton working at Pittsworth at the time. The men were wanted back at Deebing Creek because there was plenty of work for them 'about Ipswich at present'.

Bundi, Mary. No date of birth in official record but possibly born at Taroom. Sent to Deebing Creek from Taroom in 1904 but was allowed to go to Jimbour with her husband, **Tommy Lake**. Mary and **Mabel** were accompanied to Deebing Creek by five children from Taroom who were sentenced as 'neglected children' by the Taroom magistrates' bench ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1904, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.11). The report did not name who these children were.

Burnett. (m) Born 1875, Bunara. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Callam. (m) No date or place of birth listed. A member of the first Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1894.

Carbine. No date or place of birth listed. Described in report by constable Wilson, 7th August 1903. Married to **Clara** at Deebing Creek. In same report, Deebing Creek Superintendent, Ivins stated that Carbine and Clara were 'two of the best blacks' that had ever been on the Mission Station. Both working in 1903 on a ringbarking contract about 5 kilometres from Mt. Hallon near Esk. Employer did not have a permit to employ them but Ivins let blacks take jobs 'to keep down the expense of the mission'.

Carbine, Clara. No place or date of birth listed. Wet-nursing a baby whose father was a white stockman on Mitchell Downs station. Mrs. Frew, who ran the Aboriginal Girls' Home in Brisbane, sent Clara to Deebing Creek. The baby in question was discussed under the heading, 'Particulars relating to the parentage of the alleged white

child now in possession of Aboriginal Clara' Carbine'. One marginal note reads: 'It is certainly very undesirable that a quadron should be living in a Black's Camp'.

Carrie/ Woongargun. Born 1843, Ipswich. Health described as 'poor', 31st August 1903.

Chapman, Alf. Born 1872 at Gayndah or Nanango. Son of Billy Chapman and 'Kitty'. Described in 1907 as a 'drunken lazy scamp' who mistreated Nancy.

Chapman, Nancy/ Juribar. Born 1882, Burketown, died 22 October 1906. Nancy 'was brought from Bourketown (sic) when she was a little girl' to Deebing Creek, so she could have been one of the first Murries sent to Deebing Creek when it began as a mission in 1892. There is no official record of who Nancy's father or mother were. On 7 December 1903 Nancy married **Alf Chapman**. After her marriage, she worked for one year for a Mr. Boyce at Toowoomba, and later for a Mrs. Sutton at Indooroopilly. Nancy died on 22nd October 1906. 'She got up about 6 o'clock complaining of a choking sensation and died in a few minutes'.

Chloey. Born 1896 or 1898, probably Roma. She was committed from Roma to Deebing Creek on 7th June 1904 and admitted to Deebing Creek school on the 8th July 1904. Chloey was removed by government from Deebing Creek in January 1907 to be employed as a domestic servant.

Christina. Born 1895 or 1897, probably on Marlborough Station, 70 kilometres north-west of Rockhampton. On 22nd February 1904 Christina was 'committed' at Rockhampton for 7 years and, on 16 March 1904, sent to Deebing Creek (Chief Protector's Report 1904, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.10). Removed by government from Deebing Creek, 3rd October 1906.

Close, T. (m) Born 1885, New South Wales. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Collins, A./ Bingpul. Born 1875, Normanby Station. A member of the first Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1894.

Collins, Bidgi/Bridget/Brigit. Born 1876, Dalby. Buried in the

Deebing Creek cemetery (date unknown but most likely to be between 1904 and 1914). (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976.)

Collins, Billy/ W. Born 1873, Normanby Station/Harrisville, 30 kilometres south-west of Ipswich. A member of the first Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team (see entry on **Curtis**). Buried in Deebing Creek cemetery (date unknown but most likely to be between 1904 and 1914). (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976.)

Collins, Hanna. Born 1883, Fassifern. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Collins, Harriet.** Born 1900, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Collins, Janey/ Tingila. Born 1845, Harrisville. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Collins, Kate. No place or date of birth listed. Attended school in 1903.

Combo. Originally from Namoi River in New South Wales, no date of birth listed. Came to Queensland in 1844 as a servant of the squatter, C.R. Haly. In 1846 Haly, along with a number of flockowners and cattlesholders such as Gordon Sanderman (Saunders, 1982:15) occupied the Boyne River region on the north western side of the Bunya Mountains. It is unknown how long Combo worked for Haly but at some stage he worked for Joshua Bell at Jimbour station on the Darling Downs north of Dalby until 1900 when he was at Deebing Creek for a short time. Combo wanted to return to Jimbour. Southern Protector Meston approved. Combo was the father of Charlie Samuels, 'once champion runner of the world'.

Collins, Hanna. Born 1883, Fassifern. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Health described as 'poor'.

***Collins, Harriet/ Billinga.** Born 1900, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Collins, Janey/Tingila. Born Harrisville near Ipswich, 1848. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Collins, Violet. Born 1899, Alpha. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Coolwell/ Coolwool, George. No place or date of birth listed. On Deebing Creek cricket team, March 1894.

Clara. Born 1899, St. George region. Sentenced at St. George 12th June 1905 and at Deebing Creek by 15th June 1905.

Crofton, J. Born 1871, New South Wales. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Curtis, Esther. No place or date of birth cited. Attending school in 1903.

Curtis, John. Date of birth unknown. Mostly referred to as 'Curtis'. Curtis was among the very first Aboriginal people to be at the Deebing Creek mission (in 1892) (Habermann, 2003:9). Like a number of other Murries at Deebing Creek at the start, Curtis came from outside the Ipswich district, probably from the Logan like **Johnny from the Logan, Edward** (Habermann, 2003: 18) and **Billy Brown**. (Johnny from the Logan was described, along with Curtis, by the first Deebing Creek superintendant, Edward Fuller, as one of the 'workers' at Deebing Creek who did a lot of the labour to establish the mission. Curtis had a 'farm' on the mission and successfully grew English potatoes.) (Fuller to Secretary, Aboriginal Committee Ipswich, 1 May 1893; Thorpe, 1978: 86; Habermann, 2003: 17). **Edward** was a Logan River Aboriginal who had been at Deebing Creek since 1893 and in 1894 was one of a number of Murri men Southern Protector Archibald Meston picked to give a display of boomerang and spear throwing at the North Ipswich reserve (*Queensland Times*, 4 August 1894).

Early in 1894 Curtis became the captain of the Deebing Creek Aboriginal men's cricket team (*Queensland Times*, 17 February 1894). Before this, in 1893, he had played for the Raceview Club in Ipswich, together with **George Coolwell/Coolwool, Harry Thompson**, and **Billy Brown** (Whimpress, 1999: 205). This led to cricket being played at the mission itself, and soon a number of other Aboriginal men there combined to form the 'Deebing Creek Aboriginal Station' team (*Queensland Times*, 17 February 1894).

Led by Curtis, in their first match outside the mission in February 1894 at Ipswich, Deebing Creek defeated the 'Combined Press Team' by 7

runs on the first and only innings. Curtis shared an opening stand of 33 with Thompson and had the outstanding bowling figures of 7 for 18 (*Queensland Times*, 20 February 1894). In early March that year, Curtis and the same cricketers who had won against the pressmen in Ipswich played against a 'West End' team at Deebing Creek itself but lost the match in the second innings (*Queensland Times*, 6 March 1894). Later that month, Deebing Creek and the press team played a return match and the press team won on the first innings (*Queensland Times*, 13 March 1894). The two teams met again on 2 June 1894 at the North Ipswich ground. This time two innings were played and the Deebing Creek cricketers won both innings and the match itself by 10 wickets. Curtis top scored with 21 not out in the second innings (*Queensland Times*, 5 June 1894).

These victories showed that the Deebing Creek cricketers under Curtis's captaincy, and Curtis himself, had the potential to compete at a higher level and, in January 1896, the team played its first match in Brisbane at the Exhibition ground against a 'National Union' team. Deebing Creek won the first innings but lost the match. Curtis was the outstanding bowler, taking 5 wickets in each innings (*Queensland Times*, 28 January 1896). Curtis's ability and his leadership skills impressed the *Queensland Times*' cricketing correspondent, 'Old Sport', who in 1897 and 1901, argued for Curtis 'to be given a trial' to represent Queensland (Whimpress, 1999: 208). However, for reasons unknown, this did not happen.

Apart from his cricketing career and his early years at the mission, little is known about Curtis's life and from 1901, like many others, he disappeared from the records. It is possible that, as 'Curtis Ford', he was buried at the Deebing Creek Aboriginal cemetery (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976). Interestingly, there was 'an old Aboriginal minister' with the same name who had established a 'small Christian mission' outside Tuncester, near Lismore, New South Wales sometime in the early 1930s (Burger, 1979:10).

Daisy. Born 1901. No place of birth cited. Arrived Deebing Creek, 15th August 1904.

Darkie. (m) Possibly born at Yarrabah. No official details of his parents

and age. Darkie served a term of imprisonment at St. Helena, after which he was sent to Barambah via Brisbane. At the time, Darkie was with 'Blind Topsy' where he 'made an attack on Mr. Tronson with a spear'. (Albert Tronson was the former superintendant of Durundur reserve and took over as superintendant at Barambah in 1905) (Blake, 2001:16-17). After this, Darkie was sent to Deebing Creek. There he married '**Blind Topsy**' and wanted to return to Yarrabah. The Chief Protector, W.E. Roth insisted that Darkie was to remain at Deebing Creek but was transferred to Barambah in 1906.

Ivins was the Superintendent at Deebing Creek when Darkie was there. According to Mrs. Smith, Ivins' daughter, Ivins had a quick temper and a 'native from the Gulf country ... was brought to the station. He was from a different tribe to the other natives and had speared, killed and eaten a white missionary. The authorities decided to bring him to Deebing Creek, and on his arrival, Mr. Ivins had a good talk to him and said to him, "Darkie, you be a good boy and we will get on fine, but if you are a bad boy this gun might go off and shoot you". Mr. Ivins then shot up in the air several shots in succession which really frightened Darkie and he said: "Me be good boy Boss, me be real good boy" and he kept his word and never gave any trouble on the station. He was a real loner though and didn't mix much, preferring to wander about on his own, usually with a spear in his hand hoping to spear a fish or some native food, which he seemed to prefer. He wore only a loin cloth'. (Ryan, *Dusky Legend*, 2001, p.14).

Davidson, Dinah. Sent from Roma to Deebing Creek in 1914. Dinah and the other Davidsons listed here were one family. Les Davidson stated that he was born in Cunnamulla so the family may have come from this part of Queensland.

Davidson, Donald (senior). No place or date of birth cited but most likely to have been Cunnamulla region as son, **Les** born there. Sent from Roma to Deebing Creek in 1914. Sent with other members of family, **Jack, Janice, Jessie, Les** and **Lizzie** to Deebing Creek/Purga mission in 1914-1915.

Davidson, Leslie/Les. Born 1914, Cunnamulla. Son of **Donald** Davidson. Sent to Deebing Creek in 1914 via Roma. Transferred to

Purga in 1915 with other members of his family (see chapter 4; Thorpe 2002).

Daylight, Annie. Born 1891, Esk. Attending Deebing Creek school in 1903.

Daylight, Biddie. Born 1878, no birthplace cited. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Daylight, Bridget. May also be **Biddie Daylight**, but no corroborating evidence found. Bridget Daylight was buried at Deebing Creek (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Daylight, J. (m) Born 1900. Place of birth not known. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Daylight, P. (m)** Born 1901, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek 1901-1903.

***Daylight, Purcy.** Born 1902, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek 1902-1903.

Daylight, William/Billy (senior). Born 1868, Emu Creek. At Deebing Creek 1902-1903. Buried in Deebing Creek cemetery. (John Lynch. 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

***Daylight, William/ Billy (junior).** Son of **Billy Daylight senior**. No date, place of birth listed but likely to have been at Deebing Creek. Buried at Deebing Creek (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Dick. Born 1892, St. George region. Removed from St. George 12th June 1905 to Deebing Creek. At school on 15th June 1905. Removed by government from Deebing Creek 30th November 1906.

Doolah Kitchony. (m) Described as a Malay in 1903. Born 1888, Normanton. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Drumley, R. (m) No place or date of birth recorded but likely to be a Yuggera man. A member of the Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1896.

Eddie. Born 1901 or 1903 Taroom. Committed at Taroom 2nd November 1904. At Deebing Creek school, 7th November 1904 and 21 May 1905.

Edward/Edwards/ Edward Thomas?/Mundi. (m) Born 1863 Logan district. Mentioned in Fuller's May 1893 report. Could also be the Edward from the Logan and a member of the Deebing Creek cricket team (*Queensland Times*, 17 February 1894).

Edward, Jim. No place or date of birth listed. Possibly the son of **Edward** and **Nellie** who were married in 1897.

Edwards/Edward, Jim /Gimpojo. Born 1889, Bundambah. At Deebing Creek in 1903 attending school.

Edwards, Nellie. Born 1873, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Health 'poor' in 1903, so she may have died at Deebing Creek.

Esther. Born 1894, St. George region. Committed at St. George, 7th June 1905. At Deebing Creek school 17th June 1905. Removed by government from Deebing Creek, 20th June 1906.

Eveline. Born 1898 or 1899 Taroom. Committed 2nd November 1904 at Taroom and at Deebing Creek school on 7th November 1904. In late 1907 or early 1908 Eveline was removed by the government and sent into domestic service in Brisbane.

Florrie, Alice. Born 1891, Killarney. Attended Deebing Creek school 1903.

Florrie, Nellie. Born 1893, Stanthorpe. Attended Deebing Creek school 1903.

Florrie. Born 1903 or 1905, probably Roma region. Committed at Roma, 7th June 1904. At Deebing Creek school 8th July 1904.

Fogarty, Charlie. No place or date of birth listed. Moved from Deebing Creek to Taroom c.1915.

Fogarty, Fred. No place or date of birth listed. A member of the Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1896. Buried at Deebing Creek cemetery (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Fogarty, G. No place or date of birth listed. A member of the Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1894.

Fogarty, Weber/Helen. No place or date of birth listed. Wife of **Fred Fogarty** (?) Buried at Deebing Creek cemetery (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Foote, Ellen/ Archer. Born 1847, Upper Logan. At Deebing Creek in 1903. See also Habermann, 2003:13.

Foote, Johnny. No place or date of birth listed. According to Habermann (2003:9) who cites a July 1892 newspaper article, Johnny was one of the original Murris to be at the beginning of the mission.

Ford, Curtis. (See entry under **Curtis**)

***Ford, Maybery (nee Richards).** Born 28 April 1912, Deebing Creek mission. Maybery was the daughter of Florence and Dick Richards and the sister of the famous Aboriginal boxer, Ron Richards. Maybery died at Ipswich on 15 January 2000. (Pers. comm. Frances Wright, 8 December 2003.)

Ford, Mrs. Wife of **Curtis Ford**. Buried at DC cemetery (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976). Not to be confused with Julia Ford, whose headstone is the only one at the Deebing Creek cemetery.

Fraley. No place or date of birth listed. Moved from Aramac to Deebing Creek in 1914.

Fred. Born St. George, 1897 or 1899. Sentenced at St. George and arrived at Deebing Creek, 21st May 1905.

Fred. Born 1900, probably Charleville. Committed at Charleville, 16th May 1905. At school 21st May 1905.

Freddy/Freddie. Born 1903 or 1905. Committed at Rockhampton, 7th June 1904. At Deebing Creek school 8th July 1904.

George. Born 1904 Roma region. Committed at Roma, 7th June 1904. At Deebing Creek school 8th July 1904.

George, Alice. No place or date of birth listed. Attended Deebing Creek school 1903. Probably a daughter of **Charlie** and **Kate**.

George, Charlie. Born 1868, Nerang. On Deebing Creek cricket team (February 1894). At Deebing Creek 1894-1903. Still at Deebing Creek in 1915. Moved with his wife and son, **Norman** to Barambah (Cherbourg) then Taroom.

George, Kate, Katie. Born 1879, Chinchilla. Wife of **Charlie George**. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***George, Louie.** Born 1900, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***George, Norman.** Born 1902, Deebing Creek. Son of **Charlie** and **Katie George** who moved to Barambah (Cherbourg) with his parents, c.1915 then to Taroom.

Gibson, J. (m) Born 1878, Morven. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Grace. Born 1895, no place of birth listed. Removed by government from Deebing Creek 28th January 1907.

Graham, Peter. No place or date of birth listed. The Chief Protector's report for 1905 stated that Peter Graham of Roma had three children. Without corroborative evidence we have no way of knowing if the Protector was correct about Graham 'consenting' to the government removing his children to Deebing Creek 'to give them a little education, and to remove them from their camp-life surroundings' (*Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1906, p.14).

Green, Emily. No place or date of birth listed. Attended school in 1903.

Green, H. (m) Born 1889, Logan district. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Harry. Born 1900, Charleville region. Committed at Charleville 16th May 1905, at Deebing Creek school 21st May 1905.

Harry. Born 1901, no place of birth listed. Arrived Deebing Creek, 21st May 1905.

Harvey, Emily/ Wanjin. Born 1865, Laidley. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Harvey, Jack. Born 1894, place of birth 'not known' . At Deebing Creek school 1903. Likely to have been the 'Mr. Harvey' mentioned in John Lynch's list of people buried at Deebing Creek.

Harvey, J./Jackie. No official record of his birthplace or date of birth. Most likely to have been a Yuggera man. Like **Billy Brown**, Harvey moved between the Aboriginal camp in Queen's Park and Deebing Creek but seems to have spent more time at the camp with his wife and around Ipswich than at Deebing Creek, at least in the early years of the mission. Allegedly stole a blanket in 1893 from another Aboriginal, **Sandy**, in order to sell it.

Harvey, Tommy. Date and place of birth unknown. Most likely to have been a Yuggera man and **Jackie Harvey's** brother. Tommy was among the very first people who went to live at Deebing Creek. The first superintendant in his 1893 report to the Deebing Creek Committee stated that Harvey had been at the 'Home' since May 1892 on rations. According to **John Lynch**, a 'Mr. Harvey' is buried at the Deebing Creek mission cemetery, either Tommy or Jackie (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek'. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976). Tommy was more of a 'resident' at Deebing Creek itself than Jackie, so of the two was more likely to have been buried there.

Harry. Born 1901, no place of birth listed. Arrived Deebing Creek, 21st May 1905.

Henry, Albert. Born either Lowood or Taabinga in 1880. (Whimpress 1999 states Lowood; a 31 August 1903 list states that 'Henry' was a 'native of Taabinga.) There is no published or official information about Henry's childhood, but it was possible that Henry visited Ipswich as a teenager. At about 18 years of age 'he came back to Ipswich from Nanango' (Whimpress, 1999:208). There is no official record of when Albert arrived at Deebing Creek, voluntarily or otherwise, but it seems likely that it was sometime in 1898.

Along with Eddie Gilbert, Jack Marsh and **Sam Anderson**, Henry, a fast bowler, was one of the best known male Aborigines in Australian cricket, renowned for his ability to bowl extremely quick, and sometimes dangerous, deliveries.

His first appearance for Deebing Creek was in a social cricket match in November 1898 (Whimpress, 1999:208). The next record of his

career was when he represented Bundamba in the 1900-01 season. He soon showed that he was a first-class cricketer, as a fieldsman as well as a bowler, and was good enough to be selected for Queensland against New South Wales in March-April 1902 (Whimpress, 1999:209). In this match, a Queensland-based reporter claimed that Henry 'was the fastest bowler in Australia', dismissing the New South Wales' opening batsman, Pye, sending his off-stump flying several metres back (Whimpress, 1999:210). At the same time, the umpires no-balled him – not for the last time – decisions which dogged his ultimately short cricketing career which ended in 1905.

At the local level, Henry played for the Carlton Club in the West Moreton Cricket Association in 1902-03, alongside other Deebing Creek cricketers **Alex (Alick) Morgan, Charlie Morton, Mitchell, Close** and later **Harry Thompson** (Whimpress, 1999:210). Apart from his cricketing prowess, Henry was a professional runner, like a number of other Deebing Creek Aboriginal men. Henry took part in the Sheffield Handicaps in 1905 along with Thompson, Alick Morgan and his brother, J. Morgan (Whimpress, 1999:216; see chapter 2). Henry started to 'defy authority' at the Deebing Creek reserve, 'thus causing his removal to Barambah' (Whimpress, 1999:217) in 1908 -- where he continued his resistance. This behaviour sent him to Yarrabah the same year where he died in March 1909 (Blake, 2001: 31; Whimpress, 1999:217).

Howden, Tommy. Born 1897, no place of birth listed. Described as a 'kanaka' (Pacific Islander). Had a skin disease which prevented him from attending school in 1905. Sent to Deebing Creek c.1900, 'but no particulars or papers appear to have come with him'. ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1906, p.13).

How Ling, Emily. Born 1891. Place of birth 'not known'. Removed from Deebing Creek by government for domestic service, 8th September 1906.

How Ling, Kate. Born 1893. Place of birth 'not known'. Hired to outside employer at 1 shilling and 3 pence per week and clothing on

20th September 1906). Removed from Deebing Creek, 8th September 1907 by government for domestic service.

Jack/Wamban. Born 1874, Bundi Station. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Jackie/ Jackey. Born 1897, Roma region. Committed at Roma on the 7th June 1904 and arrived at Deebing Creek on the 8th July 1904 from Roma. Hired 2nd January 1906 to Dr. McDonald. Removed from Deebing Creek 11th January 1907 for outside employment.

Jackson, Kittie. Born 1845, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Jerome, Alice. No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek before 1915. Alice was married to **Jerry** Jerome.

Jerome, Harry. Also known as **Harry Armstrong.** No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek before 1915.

Jerome, Jerry. No date or place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek before 1915. Jerry was a famous boxer.

Jerriba. No place or date of birth listed. Described as 'legally married' in 1906. Jerriba had been working as a domestic servant, as the Chief Protector wrote a memorandum to William Foote on 6th June 1906, stating that 'a small sum' was owed to her and, as she was married, the money should be handed to her. No record exists in these particular files (there may be records elsewhere) as to whether Jerriba received her earnings.

Kathleen. Born 1894, no place of birth listed. Removed from Deebing Creek 28th January 1907 by government for domestic service.

Kelly, Ned. No place or date of birth listed. Went/sent from Deebing Creek to Taroom c.1915.

Kew, A. (m) Born 1894, Brisbane. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***King, Alice.** Born 1901, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

King, Charley. Born 1895, Dalby. Attended school 1903. At Deebing Creek in 1903 and until 1915.

King, Jessie. Born 1886, Dalby. At Deebing Creek 1903.

***King, Mollie.** Born 1899, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Kitty. Born 1900 or 1902, Taroom. Committed at Taroom 2nd November 1904, at Deebing Creek Industrial School 7 November 1904.

Lake, Bella. Born 1867, place of birth not stated. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Either the wife or sister of **William Lake**.

Lake, W.(William?) Born Nanango 1868. A member of the Deebing Creek cricket team in 1894 (*Queensland Times*, 13 March 1894). At Deebing Creek in period 1894-1903 although it is not clear whether he was resident there the whole time. May have been a brother or relative of **Tommy Lake**, from Jimbour, who married **Mary Bundi**.

Lilly/ Lily. Born 1901 or 1902, no place of birth listed. Arrived Deebing Creek 15 August 1904.

Linch, John/ Lynch, John/ Lynch, Johnny. Born Alpha, Queensland, between 1889 and 1891. The 31 August 1903 of names list states that John was 14 years old in 1903. In a statement to **Les Davidson** on 20 March 1976, John said that he was born on the 20th February 1890 while a newspaper report, 'The oldest Aborigine in Ipswich' claimed that John was born in 1891 (*Queensland Times*, 6 January 1978). His Indigenous name was Jeanbegara. His mother was an Aboriginal woman who worked as a domestic servant in a hotel and his father was a Chinese baker, Ah Min. The name 'Lynch' came from an uncle (Interview with John Lynch, Good Friday 1978).

John was removed in 1902 from Alpha by the police and sent to Deebing Creek via Rockhampton and Brisbane. His parents did not accompany him. John said in his interview that both his parents were employed and had worked in various parts of outback Queensland such as Barcaldine, Tambo, and Jericho. At Alpha they 'had their own place' (Interview with John Lynch, Good Friday 1978). So on the face of it, John was not a child in need of 'protection'. However, under the *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act of 1865* so-called 'half-caste' children were classified automatically as 'neglected' (Haebich, 2000: 174). Police and magistrates could arrest them and send them to a mission or reserve for their 'education' (Kidd, 1997:31). This power may have been invoked in John's case but is difficult to prove.

At Deebing Creek John lived with an Aunt who came to the mission separately from him. John's main job was to pick up the mail each morning (or every second day) at Ipswich and bring it back to the superintendent at Deebing Creek (Interview with John Lynch, Good Friday 1978; *Queensland Times*, 6 January 1978). John also worked for Foote's dairy, Rockton's farm about 8-10 kilometres from the mission, and possibly for Greenham, the Ipswich chemist. (As noted in chapter 1, Foote and Greenham were founding members of the Deebing Creek management committee.) John was unsure whether he was ever paid for his labour but thought Foote paid him 2 shillings (40 cents) a week pocket money. John remained at Deebing Creek until its closure in 1914. After that, he mainly lived at Boonah (Bob Morrison, pers. comm. Ipswich, 13 February 1978) and, before he died, at Churchill, on the southern outskirts of Ipswich. In 1976, John made a statement to **Les Davidson** regarding the names of 13 people buried at the Deebing Creek cemetery – a list which remains the only evidence we have about the Murries buried there.

Logan, Janey. No place or date of birth listed. Hired as a domestic servant from Deebing Creek in early 1900s. Was a patient in Ipswich hospital in 1906 for over a month with 'housemaid's knee'. Married, husband's name unknown but could be **R. Logan**. Had absconded from hired service in Brisbane in 1906 which may account for why she had to go to hospital. In 1906, Janey was also owed a small sum of money from her earnings (see entry on **Jerriba** above).

(A **Matilda Logan** is mentioned in a letter from H. Reeves to Meston, 27 July 1901. No other details have been found.)

Logan, R. (m) Born 1887, Milbong. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

McDonald, Esther. Born 1895, no place of birth listed. Sentenced under Reformatory Act to Deebing Creek. Wanted to leave the camp and go to employment. This may have been the other '**Esther**' from St. George on 17th June 1905 who was then removed from Deebing Creek by the government for domestic service on 20th June 1906.

McGrath, Neddie/ Bunbi. Born 1838, Warrill Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Probably the 'Mr McGrath' at Deebing Creek in 1892. Still at Deebing Creek in 1903.

McGrath, Tom. Born Inglewood, no date of birth listed. Removed to Deebing Creek from Inglewood in 1915 with his four children.

Mackenzie, Maria. Born between 1884 and 1886, probably at Rockhampton. There is no official record as to who her parents might have been but it seems clear that her father was White and her mother Aboriginal. It is possible Maria was an orphan. Maria was likely to have been a relative of Tom McKenzie, who had been removed from Rockhampton to Fraser Island in 1900 (Evans, 1999:143).

Maria entered the official record on 9 October 1896. R.A. Rankine, the Rockhampton Police Magistrate, sent a telegram to the Under Secretary in Brisbane informing him that Maria had been arrested 'under provisions of vagrant act' as a 'neglected child'. Rankine also stated that 'larrikins in town' had raped her. On the same day Rankine charged Maria of being a 'neglected child having no visible means of subsistence and ... found wandering about with (A)borigines' and sentenced her to 'three years detention' in the Reformatory and Industrial School for Girls at Toowoomba. Maria arrived at the Toowoomba Reformatory on the 13th October and was there for at least two weeks and possibly longer.

On the 13th October the Home Secretary wrote to the Peter Robertson and notified him that he wanted to send Maria to Deebing Creek. Robertson replied that he would 'be pleased to rescue' her but pointed out that 'diseased females' like Maria could not be treated at Deebing Creek. Robertson therefore urged that Maria should be sent to the Lock Hospital before she came to the mission.

Robertson's letter may have prompted the authorities at Toowoomba to check Maria's condition to determine whether she had in fact contracted venereal disease or was pregnant. On the 23rd October, the Acting Superintendent of the Toowoomba Reformatory, under government instructions, had Maria 'examined by the medical officer'. This 'medical officer' signed himself 'Prison Surgeon'. His report simply stated that 'I have this day examined Maria McKenzie. She is in good health and never has had any sickness'.

This uninformative diagnosis nevertheless suggests that Maria had avoided a pregnancy and venereal disease -- confirmed by her

acceptance into the Deebing Creek mission in January 1897. Just the same, there is the two month gap between the date of the examination and Maria's arrival at Deebing Creek. As is so often the case, the official record falls silent at this crucial point. Either Maria stayed at Toowoomba until she was sent to Deebing Creek or she may have been sent to the Lock Hospital as a further check on her condition.

Maria lived at the mission until 1901 when she was hired as a domestic servant to Harry Hill, who worked in the administrative branch of the Brisbane Posts and Telegraphs and who lived in Toowong, Brisbane. Maria was under contract for one year. She did not return to Deebing Creek at the end of her contract but may have continued working for the Hill family or other employers.

McKenzie, R./ Wongerdy. (m) Born 1887, Woodford. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

McKeown, Alf. No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1914 and possibly earlier.

Madiquill, J. (m) Born 1881, no place of birth listed. South Sea Islander. Sent from Brisbane to Deebing Creek in 1903.

Maloney. No place or date of birth listed. In 1897 mentioned as having a wife and two children suffering from consumption (tuberculosis). No details as to whether his wife or children lived or died, or what happened to Maloney himself.

Martin, W. Born 1876, Maryborough. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Minnie. Born 1891, no place of birth listed. Removed from Deebing Creek 8th September 1906 by government for domestic service.

Mitchell, Alice. Born 1873, Cooktown. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Mitchell, W. Born 1870, Cooktown. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Morgan, Alick/ Buyu/ a.k.a. Alick Robertson. Born 1883, Normanby Station. At Deebing Creek 1903-1906. Expelled from mission (see discussion on 'pedestrianism' in chapter 2).

***Morgan, Charlie.** Born 1896, Deebing Creek. Attending school 1903. Went/sent from Deebing Creek to Taroom c.1915. 'Was a professional runner', perhaps before leaving Deebing Creek.

Morgan, Jack/ Cobmine. Born 1885, Laidley Creek. At Deebing Creek and died there between 1904 and 1915. Buried at Deebing Creek (John Lynch, 'Aboriginals buried at Deebing Creek. Statement to Les Davidson, 20 March 1976).

Morgan, Maryann/ Wooley Head. Born 1849, Maroon. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Morris, Eileen. Born 1907, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek at close of mission in 1915.

Morris, Norah. Born 1910, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek at close of mission in 1915.

Mort, Charlie. A member of the Deebing Creek cricket team in 1896. (See **Charlie Morton.**)

Morton, Charlie/ Moreton, Charlie/Mookoin. Born 1871, Stradbroke Island. May also be known as **Charlie Mort.** Morton played first class cricket in Brisbane with **Albert Henry** (Ryan, 2001:28). At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Morton, C. (m)** Born 1900, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek 1900-1903. Likely to be son of **Charlie Morton.**

Morton, Daisy/ Muminda. Born 1878, Laidley. At Deebing Creek 1903.

***Morton, E. (m)** Born 1899, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek 1889-1903. Likely to be son of **Charlie Morton.**

Nellie. Born 1897 or 1898, Taroom region. Committed at Taroom 2nd November 1904. At Deebing Creek school, 7th November 1904.

Nellie. Born 1895, no place of birth recorded. May be the same 'Nellie' as above. Removed from Deebing Creek, 8th September 1906 by government for domestic service.

Nellia. No place or date of birth but possibly Coochin Coochin making her a Yuggera. Described as a 'very old woman' at living at Coochin Coochin in 1906, the widow of Mick Booma. Nellia wanted to go back to Deebing Creek where her daughters were.

Nellie. Born 1900, no place of birth cited. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Niney. (m) Born 1898, St. George region. Committed at St. George on 15th June 1905 to Deebing Creek. At school 15th June 1905. Removed from Deebing Creek 1st February 1907 by government for outside employment.

Norman. Born 1898, St. George region. Sentenced at St. George on 12th June 1905. At Deebing Creek school, 15th June 1905.

Norman. Born 1901, Crows Nest. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Norman. Born 1870, Normanton. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Oard, E./ Ord, E. (m)** Born 1900, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Probably son of **Harry** and **Topsy**.

O'Brien, Philip. No details of date and place of birth found. Philip first came under official notice as coming from Barambah on 18th December 1906. Deebing Creek Superintendent Ivins wrote to Foote on 19th April 1907 complaining about O'Brien arriving at Deebing Creek drunk. O'Brien's wife was ill at the time (illness not specified). Foote wrote to the Chief Protector, Richard Howard, on 25 April 1907 enclosing Ivins' report on O'Brien. Howard sent a memo to Ivins on 16 July 1907, asking Ivins to send O'Brien to the Chief Protector's office. Ivins replied: 'I have interviewed Philip O'Brien and find he is unwilling to go to Brisbane'. It is unknown what happened to O'Brien after this and he disappears from the record.

Ord, Harry. Born 1873, Esk. At Deebing Creek in 1903 and there until 1915. Had a three year old child, **E. Oard/Ord**, born at Deebing Creek.

Ord, Topsy. Born 1880, Townsville. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Wife of **Harry Ord**. Topsy moved to Taroom with her husband in 1915.

Paddy, Paddy McLean(?) Various dates of birth listed: 1895, 1896 or 1898, no place of birth listed. Committed from Roma on the 7th June 1904 and admitted to the Deebing Creek school on the 8th July 1904. Removed from Deebing Creek 11th January 1907. On 21st January 1907 the Chief Protector, Richard Howard wrote to the Under Secretary asking him to end the unexpired portion of Paddy's 'sentence of detention' at Deebing Creek so that Paddy could work for a 'suitable employer' at 2/- week wages. The Chief Protector's

letter was in response to a request from Mr. Cox, a racehorse trainer based at Hendra, who wanted a number of boys 'suitable for stable work'. Thomas Ivins, Deebing Creek Superintendent, suggested that there were 'three boys here that ... would be suitable, Paddy McLean, **Jacky Beckett**, and **Alex Bundanda**'.

Page, Mary. Old, nearly blind woman from Chinchilla, grandmother of **William Ryan**, an 8-year old boy at Deebing Creek. In 1901 Archibald Meston insisted that Mary, who depended on her grandson to run messages for her at Chinchilla, be brought to Deebing Creek where her grandson had been sent, together with some other Murries, 'on the advice of the police' (Thorpe, 1984:64). It is uncertain whether Mrs Page was actually removed to Deebing Creek. (See entry on **William Ryan**).

Polly. ('Blind Polly'?) No date or place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in March 1897. Son died a fortnight after being born at Deebing Creek (see chapter 2).

Polly, Alice, Katie and Polly. No places or dates of birth listed for these women, who were put in charge of 12 unnamed Aboriginal children who had been committed at Roma to Deebing Creek in 1904 ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector', 1904, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.11). The Roma location suggests that all of them belonged to families from that region.

Queenie. Born 1893, St. George region. Committed at St. George 7th June 1905, at School 17th June 1905. Removed from Deebing Creek by government 3rd October 1906 for domestic service.

Richards, Andrew (sr). No place or date of birth listed. Possibly from Roma region. Inferring from the fact that **Nora** and **Polly Richards** were brought from Roma to Deebing Creek, and from the experience of the **Davidson** family, it seems likely that most of the Richards listed here were removed together to Deebing Creek. The practice of removing whole families was not uncommon (see Haebich, 2000).

Richards, Andrew (jr). Son of above. Attending school in 1903.

Richards, Bessie. Born 1886, no place of birth listed. In 1906 Bessie got a job outside the mission, probably as a domestic servant. Earned

money from 'hired service' in Brisbane but had absconded. In May 1906 the acting Chief Protector found another job for her.

Richards, Dick. Date and place of birth unknown. At Deebing Creek from 1911 or 1912 until 1915. Father of **Maybery Richards** (later Maybery Ford) and famous middleweight boxer, Ron Richards (Aird, 2001:29).

Richards, Eileen. No place or date of birth listed but probably from Roma. Moved from Roma to Deebing Creek in 1914.

Richards, Jessie. No place or date of birth listed. Wife of **Andrew Richards**.

Richards, Leslie. Daughter (?) of **Andrew** and **Jessie Richards**.

Richards, Milda. Daughter of **Andrew** and **Jessie Richards**.

Richards, Nora/Novah. Moved from Roma to Deebing Creek in 1914.

Richards, Polly. Moved from Roma to Deebing Creek in 1914.

Robinson, A./ Muningah. Born Normanton, 1881. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Rolfe, Annie. Born 1905, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek when mission closed down in 1915 and may have been there earlier.

Rosey. Born 1884, Maytown. Had been in domestic service with a white family from 1895 to 1905, possibly at Toowoomba or the Toowoomba region. Was sentenced at Toowoomba in 1905 for 'getting into trouble' and removed to Deebing Creek. 'As usual, there was no corroborative evidence as to the paternity' ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', 1905, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, 1906, p.15).

Rosie. Born 1901 or 1902, no place of birth listed. Arrived Deebing Creek 15th August 1904.

Ross, D. No place or date of birth listed but probably from Yuggerah country and/or Logan given the origins of most of the Deebing Creek cricketers. A member of the Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team in 1896.

* **(?) Rouse, Alfie.** Born 1910, possibly at Deebing Creek. Possibly a son of Peter Rouse. Moved to Purga mission in 1915.

* **(?) Rouse, Elsie.** Born 1905, possibly at Deebing Creek.

* **(?) Rouse, Harry.** Born 1907, possibly at Deebing Creek. Possibly a son of Peter Rouse.

Rouse, Peter. No place or date of birth listed. The Chief Protector gave permission for Peter to marry **Ah See** at Deebing Creek ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines', *Queensland Parliamentary Papers* 1906, p.16).

Rouse, Maggie. No date of birth listed but probably born at Nanango in early 1890s. A 'list of people known to have been resident at Deebing Creek prior to 1930' states: 'Moved Nanango to Deebing Creek in 1914 with her 3 children'.

Roy, Norman. No date or place of birth listed. Moved from Deebing Creek with his wife to Cherbourg (no date given) but possibly in 1915.

Ryan, William. Born 1893, Chinchilla. Sent to Deebing Creek in 1901. William was the grandson of **Mary Page** (see above). The documents quoted verbatim below demonstrate the harsh face of Aboriginal administration in action in arriving at a decision about William and his grandmother (see chapter 2). The heartfelt plea to return the boy expressed in James Dudley's letter suggests racism against Mrs Page, and claims that William need not have been removed as he was not a 'neglected' child. But Dudley's advocacy failed to dissuade the authorities, who accepted the case for the boy's removal by John Dullahide, who claimed that he could not look after William because he was a poor man himself. This correspondence is particularly noteworthy for revealing, in one of countless places in Queensland, the poignant and distressing consequences of colonialism that affected Murries and non-Murries alike, albeit in sharply dissonant ways.

Archibald Meston, Southern Protector wrote to the Under Secretary on 29th August 1901: 'Referring to the letter sent to(?) you as an enclosure by the hon. A. Rutledge (the Colonial Secretary) advising that a boy removed from Chinchilla to Deebing Creek be sent back to live with his grandmother, Mrs. (Mary) Page at Chinchilla, I made

further careful enquiries before exercising the discretionary power with which you verbally entrusted me and I annex two commemorations emphatically opposed to the boy's return, one being from a son in law of Mrs Page, so I shall give the old lady the option of leaving the boy where he is or going to join him at Deebing Creek'.

(Note from Arthur Rutledge, who saw Meston's letter on 31 August 1901: 'Noted with many thanks for the information which I have communicated to the person who wrote on behalf of Mrs. Page. I may be permitted to add that I think the right decision has been arrived at'.)

(The 'person who wrote on behalf of Mrs Page' was James Dudley). Dudley wrote to Rutledge on 12 January 1901:

'Pleas excuse the Liberty i am taken in troubling you with a few lines consurnen a pore old woman name Mrs Page 64 years of age who is near blind and dependen on her grand son William Ryan to run messages for hir the said William Ryan was taken by Mr Meston and sent Below the Boy is about 8 years of age and atended school Reglar for With the School Master at Chinchilla. Mr Little Can vouch Consurnen the Boy Parentage the the mother is $\frac{3}{4}$ wite and Legle marid to a Hard Working Wite man name William Bateman the child Was a well conducted Boy and well taken Cair of the Boy was taken (words missing) ... Reperesentation of some one who had a spite on the pore old woman the residents of Chinchilla ar quite willin to sine a Petition for the Return of the Boy if necessary'.

John Dullahide, Chinchilla Station 8 August 1901 to Meston: 'It has come to my ears that Mrs Mary Page of Chinchilla is trying through the help of Mr R. Mackie of Fairy Meadow to get her boy sent back to her, and I now wish to point out a few reasons why I consider that the boy is better off where he is provided he is well looked after.

First of all the boy in question is not belonging to her. He is one of her daughters children. I am myself married to one of Mrs Pages daughters, and keep Mrs Page in clothes and food myself and I know that if once the child comes up here it will fall to my lot to keep him also, as Mrs Page is quite incapable of do so herself as she is almost blind. I think if once you send the child up here again he will be just as

badly off as when you took him, as I see no other means of his getting looked after in a proper manner unless I take him myself and as I am only a poor man with a large family, I cannot afford to do so and I think it will be a kinder action to have the child where he is than to send him back to Chinchilla, where he cannot possibly be well looked after and will not get the education that he receives where he is. I am only writing this for the good of the child, and I will deem it a great favour if you will not let either Mr Mackie or Mrs Page know what I have told you, as they might think I was not inclined to keep the child, but as I have already stated, I am quite willing to do so if I could afford it, but as I cannot, I know what would become of the child if left to others.

If you reply to this letter please address it to L. Hughes Chinchilla Station, Boonaya and marked Private, as I am mostly away from home and Mrs Page might get hold of it, and it would cause rows'.

Meston wrote a marginal note (4 February 1901) on Dudley's letter as follows: 'I saw all parties concerned at Chinchilla and see no reason why the boy should not be allowed to go back to his grandmother. He and a girl were removed on the advice of the police. The school inspector also wrote earnestly advising their removal. It would be much better if the old woman went to her grandson at Deebing Creek'.

Letter from H (?) Reeves, 27 July 1901 to Meston from Downs Sub District Chinchilla Station: 'Re yours of the 24th Instant I believe it would be better to leave the boy where he is and if Mrs Page would go and live with him at Deebing Creek it would be better for her...'

(As far as I can discover, William Ryan remained at Deebing Creek and his grandmother stayed at Chinchilla, but further evidence may come to light to confirm this or not.)

Salisbury, Doris/Dorothy. Born 1891, Brisbane. Sent to Deebing Creek and attended school in 1903. Employed by James Pascoe, north Ipswich, an engine-fitter at the railway yards. Hired at 1 shilling and 9 pence a week and clothing. Had been working for the Pascoes for 10 months in 1907.

Salisbury, Grace. Born 1898, Brisbane. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Attended school 1903. Elder sister of **Doris/Dorothy**.

Sandy, Albert/ Nimgun. Born 1887, Logan district. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Married to **Violet**. Went to Beaudesert in 1908 to ask his grandmother, Mrs. Black, to come to Deebing Creek.

Sandy. No place or dated of birth listed but if he was the father of **Albert Sandy** he could have been born on the Logan. Sandy was a member of the 1894 Aboriginal cricket team.

Sandy, Mabel. Born 1890, Beaudesert. Attending Deebing Creek school in 1903.

Sandy, Violet. Born 1902, Esk. Daughter of **Albert** and **Violet**. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Shields, Sarah. Born 1869, Townsville. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Slab, Charlotte. Born 1900, Barcaldine. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Slab, F. (m)** Born c. 1891, Deebing Creek. Probably the son of **J. Slab** and **Lizzie Slab**.

Slab, J. (m) Born 1873, Southport. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Probably one of the Southport Murries removed by Meston in 1901.

Slab, Lizzie/ Waggill. Born 1879, Rosedale. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Smith, Eric. Born 1907, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek at end of mission's existence in 1914 and may have gone to Purga. As with the Richards and Davidson families, the Smiths (see below) were probably removed to Deebing Creek together and then transferred to Purga or another settlement.

Smith, Ernest. Born 1908, no place of birth listed.

Smith, Evie. Born 1907, no place of birth listed.

Smith, Frank. No place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1915. See **Eric Smith** above.

Smith, Jack. Born 1910, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1915.

Smith, Lizzie. At Deebing Creek in 1915 and possibly the daughter of

Louisa Taabinga. Lizzie had 3 children with her at Deebing Creek in 1915.

Smith, May. No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek, October 1906.

Smith, Molly. No place or date of birth listed. At Deebing Creek, October 1906. 'Married and happy', according to Superintendent Ivins letter on 31st October 1906.

Sylvia/ Loan. Born 1886, Nanango. At Deebing Creek 1903.

Taabinga, Harry. Given this name, probably born at Taabinga or that region. At Deebing Creek in 1915.

Taabinga, Louisa. See **Harry**. At Deebing Creek in 1915. Wife of **Harry Taabinga**.

Taabinga, Mary. At Deebing Creek in 1915.

Tanna, Alice. Born 1892, no place of birth listed. Hired at 2 shillings and 6 pence a week and clothing. Removed from Deebing Creek on 8th September 1906 by government for domestic service.

Tanna, Nellie. Born 1895, no place of birth listed. Removed from Deebing Creek by government for domestic service in 1906.

Theresa. Born 1897, St. George region. Committed at St. George 7th June 1905, at Deebing Creek school 17th June 1895.

Thomas, Edward. No date or place of birth listed. A member of the Deebing Creek cricket team in 1894 and 1896. (See entry on **Edward** above). Edward Thomas was quoted after the match of 20 February 1894 (which the Deebing Creek cricketers won by 7 runs): ' " By golly, it bin regular picnic day altogether; me bin think 'im my grandfather, nor my uncle bin 'ave 'im day longa Saturday. Crikey! First I no like 'im – bin altogether a bit afraid, but you bin see me?"' (*Queensland Times*, 24 February 1894).

Thompson, Amy/ Bundarcha. Born 1869, Helidon. At Deebing Creek in 1903. Amy was possibly **Harry Thompson's** wife or perhaps his sister.

Thompson, Charlie. Son of Harry Thompson. At Deebing Creek in early 1900s.

Thompson, Douglas. Son of Harry Thompson. At Deebing Creek in early 1900s.

Thompson, Florrie. Born 1891 at Gatton, the second child of **Harry Thompson**. Attended school 1903.

Thompson, Harry/ Goolparjo. Born 1873. Described as 'native of' Normanby Station, the son of a White father and Aboriginal mother. Harry grew up in the Gatton, Helidon and Laidley districts, which were part of the 'Cateebil' subdivision of the Yuggera (Habermann, 2003:14). As a teenager, he played cricket in the Gatton and Laidley districts before coming to Ipswich where he played cricket for the Raceview Club. He appears to have moved between Ipswich and Gatton, playing cricket in both locations and became a father at 20 years of age with the birth of his first child, **May Thompson**, at Helidon. In 1893 (or early 1894) he was at Deebing Creek and, together with **John Curtis, George Coolwell/Coolwool** and **Billy Brown**, formed the nucleus of the first Deebing Creek Aboriginal cricket team (Whimpress, 1999:205).

***Thompson, H. (m)** Born 1902, Deebing Creek, the third child of **Harry Thompson**. At Deebing Creek 1902-1903.

Thompson, Jessie. Born 1894, Helidon. At Deebing Creek in 1903. It is likely that Jessie was born in the Helidon region, as her father **Harry Thompson** played cricket in the Gatton and Laidley districts before coming to Deebing Creek in 1894. (Helidon is 17 kilometres west of Gatton.) Attending school in 1903. Jessie removed from Deebing Creek, 8th September 1906 by government for employment outside the mission. In Deember 1908 her father wanted Jessie to come home for Christmas.

***Thompson, Lottie.** Born 1896 at Deebing Creek. Attended school 1903.

Thompson, May. Born 1890 at Gatton, the eldest child of **Harry Thompson**. Attended school 1903. Removed from Deebing Creek by government, 8th September 1906.

***Thompson, Vida.** Born 1899 at Deebing Creek, the youngest daughter of **Harry Thompson.**

Thorp, Emma. Born 1894, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Thorp, Fanny. Born 1863, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Thorp, Nation. (f) Born 1889, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Thorp, Sarah. Born 1892, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

***Thorpe, J. (m)** Born 1901, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek 1901-1903.

Thorpe, S. (m) Born 1900, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Tobane, Bertie. No place or date of birth listed. Moved to Taroom from Deebing Creek, c. 1915.

Tommy. Born 1833, Dugandan. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Tommy. Born 1897. No place of birth cited. Malay background. 'The boy that was sent from the Lepper (sic) Station'.

Tommy. No place or date of birth listed. Attending Deebing Creek school in 1903.

'Topsy'. Born 1880, probably Cooktown. In 1895 or possibly earlier Topsy had been employed by a Mr. Burke, a selector on the Annan River, near Cooktown. Topsy had become blind while working for Burke. Her condition was pronounced incurable and Burke stated that he could not care for her. Topsy was then sent to the Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, South Brisbane. The Institute's Superintendent, Isaac Dickson agreed to take Topsy on trial, 'but should she prove unsuitable the Committee will look to you to have her removed'.

Topsy was at the Institute until 1900. According to Mrs. Frew, Female Protector of Aborigines, Topsy 'really was useful in many ways' while there. Topsy was also employed briefly by a Mrs. Casperson. However Topsy was not happy in either place and ran away. Both Mrs. Frew and the Institution Superintendent agreed that Topsy needed closer supervision, and approved her removal to Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek Topsy married '**Darkie**', a man from Yarrabah (see above).

Polly and Darkie were probably from the same tribal grouping or at least may have come from the same 'country'. Both Topsy and Darkie stayed at Deebing Creek until 1906 when, on 8th September, they were sent to Barambah.

Totsy. Born 1903, Charleville region. Committed at Charleville 16th May 1905. At Deebing Creek, 21st May 1905.

Tottie. Born 1897, St. George region. Committed at St. George on 7th June 1905. At Deebing Creek 17th June 1905.

Towry, J. Born 1882, Cooktown. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Violet (Sandy). Not to be confused with her daughter who was born at Esk in 1902 (see above). Violet (the mother) probably came from Esk as well or that region, which is confirmed by her connections to Barambah. Violet was at Deebing Creek in the early 1900s. In 1906 Violet was working for Mr. Joyce at Beaudesert, and with her husband, **Albert Sandy**, left her employment. Husband in Brisbane hospital and she wanted to return to Barambah with Sandy and Sarah as all her friends were there. Violet unable to walk because of a swollen ankle on 17th March when returning from the sports at Bundamba. The acting Chief Protector, J.M. Costin advised: 'I told Sarah that she could not go back to Barambah unless she bathed Violet's foot with hot water etc. and a bottle of liniment was given to Violet, and Mr Ivens (sic) advised to take the girl to a Dr. the next day if there was no improvement'. Chief Protector Roth approved forwarding railway passes to enable Violet to travel, an unusual instance of official concern.

Wagtail. Born 1868, Nanango. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Walsh, Charlotte. Born 1870, no place of birth listed. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Walsh, Elcie. Born 1898, Mitchell. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Wanjin/ Emily Harvey. Born 1865, Laidley. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Wayson. No place or date of birth listed. Moved from Deebing Creek to Taroom c. 1915.

Weedy, Archie. No place or date of birth listed. Moved or removed from Deebing Creek to Taroom in 1913.

***Welsh, J. (m)** Born 1901, Deebing Creek. At Deebing Creek, 1901-1903.

Welsh, Peter. Born 1891, Mitchell. At DC in 1903. Attending school in 1903.

Welsh, Willy. Born 1892, Mitchell. At DC in 1903. Attending school in 1903.

Williams, Matilda. Born either in 1894, 1896 or 1898, Cooyar. (1896 date most likely). Second daughter of **Harry** and **Eliza Williams**. 'Committed' to Deebing Creek on 15th August 1904 for 5 years from Crows Nest. Removed from Deebing Creek 28th January 1907 by government to go into domestic service.

Williams, Maud. Born 1901, Cooyar. The youngest daughter of **Harry Williams** and **Eliza**, of Cooyar. Committed to Deebing Creek along with sisters **Matilda** and **Rose** in 1904 ('Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines' 1904, *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, 1905, p.10).

Williams, Rose. Born 1890, Cooyar. Sent to Deebing Creek in 1904. Eldest daughter of **Harry Williams** and **Eliza** of Cooyar.

Willie. Born 1884, St. George. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

Wilson, Edie, Edith/ Bungarrie. Born 1888, Winton. Attended Deebing Creek school in 1903.

Wilson, Harry. Born 1894, Pittsworth. Transferred from Westbrook Reformatory (Toowoomba) in early March 1901 to Deebing Creek. Attending school in 1903.

Woods. No place or date of birth cited. On Deebing Creek cricket team, February 1894.

Yarga/ 'Princess King'. Born 1861, Bunya Mountains. At Deebing Creek in 1903.

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