

Mr. J. F. Donnelly

A well known and highly respected personality of the Bellinger River, John Frederick Donnelly, passed peacefully away at the Bellinger River District Hospital on June 26, at the age of 76 years after a brief illness.

His friends were drawn from every station in life—race or creed counted for little; his shouted greeting and cheery wave of the hand were given with equal friendliness to all. He enjoyed the perennial type of happy disposition that never seemed to vary. It can be said that his generosity and willingness to lend a helping hand to his fellow men have left the highest form of Christian memorial.

The late Mr. Donnelly was born at Bellingen in 1871 on the property selected by his father, John Donnelly. In the flood of 1876 his father rowed the family from their flooded house on the river bank, over the top of the maize in tassel to the foot of the hills. It was decided then that their house should be built on higher ground.

As a boy he attended the Bellingen Public School, as a pupil of Mr. Boulton. After leaving school he took up farming on his father's farm.

At Taylor's Arm, in 1905, he married Theresa Frank, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. Frank, the wedding ceremony being conducted by the Rev. W. H. Jones. In 1940

they retired from the farm to live at Urunga.

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He was interested in beekeeping, on which he became a reliable authority. For some time he was vice-president of the N.S.W. Beekeepers' Association.

He was also a pioneer of early-crop tomato growing on the North Coast.

He was a member of the Bellinger River Agricultural Association, acting as committeeman and steward. As a judge of farm produce he visited Dorrigo shows.

He was a very active Churchman, and for 19 years was a local preacher in the Methodist Church, traveling by horse to such centres as Macksville, Taylor's Arm, Bowraville, Dorrigo and the Orara. At various times he filled the offices of circuit steward, secretary and treasurer of Church trusts, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, and lay representative to Conference. He was keenly interested in public affairs—was a Justice of the Peace, and served a term as Shire Councillor.

His wife and son Fred of Euroka (Macleay) and two grandchildren survive him. His brother Jim predeceased him.

After a service in the Bellingen Methodist Church on June 28, conducted by Rev. A. Cropp, the cortege moved to the Macksville Cemetery where Rev. E. Bate officiated at the graveside.