

# Tabourie Memories: Norman Family

**Some history on the Norman Family's association with Tabourie by Rhonda Norman**

Over many years in the 1960s the Norman Family consisting of Harry, Gloria and their 4 children Paul, Ross, Craig and Maree enjoyed camping holidays at Tabourie Caravan Park. These holidays were often group camping events with friends, many of whom were from their area of residence (Padstow) and/or work colleagues (Commonwealth Industrial Gases) in Sydney.

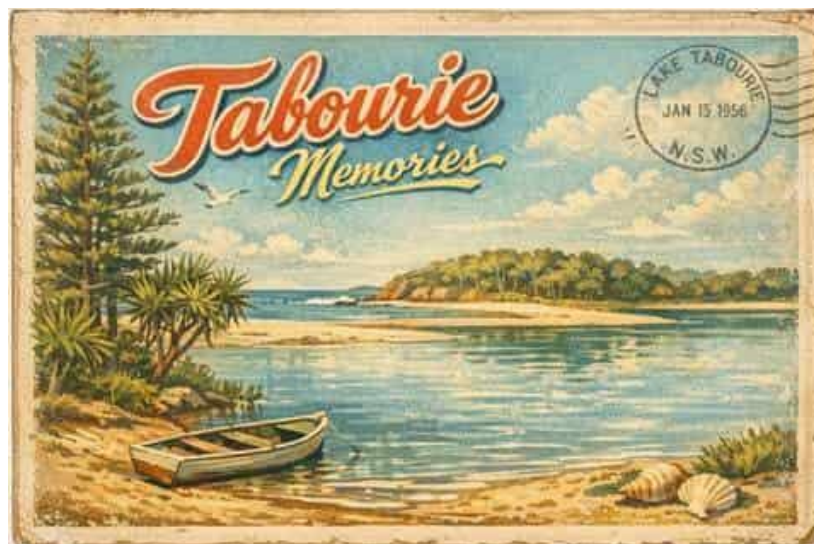
Having developed a great fondness for Tabourie Harry and Gloria bought a block of land at 47 River Road in the late 1960s for \$1,100 and a holiday house was soon constructed. At this time their house was the last one on River Road prior to the development into Lyre Drive and it was opposite the timber bridge crossing the creek which made for a quick walk to the beach. Over the following decades the house became a focal point of happy times shared with visiting family and friends. Harry and Gloria made Tabourie their permanent home in the 1990's where they remained until their passing.

Their close friends from Sydney, Arthur and Hazel Field who were also part of the Tabourie camping group, bought a block of land on River Road and retired to the home they built. Ross Norman and his wife Rhonda bought a block of land at 13 Paterson Close and subsequently built a holiday house in the 1980's. The holiday house, like that of Harry and Gloria's also became a focal point for visits by family and friends. Tabourie has become a special place to the family with the third and fourth generations now visiting as often as possible to enjoy holiday time.

Over the years several of the friends visiting likewise sensing the "specialness" of Tabourie have bought property in the area. This appears to be a common scenario repeated by numerous Tabourie residents.

When Ross and Rhonda built their holiday house in the late 80's there were still numerous vacant blocks in Paterson Close and most of the houses were holiday homes mainly owned by residents of Sydney. There were some permanent residents such as the Marshall family, Mick and Pat Hunt who had retired from Sydney and Peter and Margaret who randomly called into Tabourie on a road trip from their home in Melbourne and promptly bought a block on which to build their retirement home. As homes were built the number of permanent residents increased and generally most of the properties have remained tightly held by their first or second owners often only resulting in a sale due to death of an owner.

By way of coincidence, across 11 houses in Paterson Close since its development there have been many shared names of owners such as Jim (James) x 4, Sue x 2, Ross x 2, Don x 2, Dean x 2, Sharon x 2, Kathy x 2 and Mick x 3 (being consecutive owners of the one house)! I know that all the Normans both past and present do indeed regard Tabourie as their "special" place and give thanks for its presence in their lives.



Tabourie Memories: Norman Family