

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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Members contributions are always welcome

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Patrons: Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell

David Harris, State MP for Wyong

Meetings: Are held on the 2nd Saturday monthly between February and October, at

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens

Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' - available on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours

by appointment.

Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and

1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2021

President: Kerrie Metcalfe
Secretary & Minutes Secretary: Pamela Andre
Vice-President & Public Officer: Lynda Smith
Treasurer: Michele Gane

Management Committee:

All the above executive plus Martin Fisher, Lyn Hagstrom, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnston, Roger Lewis, Pamela Mansergh, John Selwood.

Assets Manager & IT Manage	er:	Roger Lewis		
Bookstall Supervisor		Glenise Clery		
Cottage Administrator Tuesday:		Lyn Hagstrom		
	Wednesday:	Helen Hord		
	Thursday:	Wayne Bermingham		
Cottage Relief Administrator	S	Glenise Clery & Lorraine Cameron		
Cottage Roster Planner:		Cheryl Whamond		
Course Supervisor:		Ellen Sheerin		
Electronic Journal Distributor	٢	Lorraine Cameron		
Grant Applications Planner:		Ruth Sewell		
Group Collector of Statistics:	1	Martin Fisher		
Journal Snippet Readers/Sub	omitters:	Lynda Smith & Meg Gibson		
Librarian:		Lyn Hagstrom		
Librarian Assistant:		Dellas Johnston		
Local Research Officer & Project Organiser:		John Selwood		
Membership Secretary & Irish Tips:		Pam Mansergh		
Printing Publications – Books	s & CDs:	Roger Lewis & John Selwood		
Proof Reading:		Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Lorraine Lonergan		
Publicity Officer:		Lynda Smith		
Raffle Organiser:		Christine McKenzie		
Scrapbooking [Photos]:		Annette Shearer		
Seminar & Guest Speaker Facilitator:		Regina Hogan		
Subscription Site Snippets:		Patricia Andre		
Tree of Life Editor:		Helen Johnston-Lord.		
Unrelated Certificates Organ	iser:	Jacqueline Wieringa		
Webpage Managers:		Roger Lewis & Kate Walter		
Weekly Newsletter Editor:		Wayne Bermingham		
Welfare		Pam Mansergh		

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kerrie Metcalfe - President - LM80

At our AGM on the 10 September 2022, I was elected President till September 2023, and I aim not to continue

into 2024. I have the same Committee to work with and I am grateful that they have stayed on for a very interesting year ahead. The only real change is that Life Member and early founder of the Group, Lynda Smith, Member No.1 has taken on the role of Vice President. I look forward to working with Lynda throughout the coming months.

Since our last *Tree of Life* we have had a successful Intermediate course and two Bunning's BBQs for fund raising. Thanks to all who helped as without you we couldn't do it. We also had a trade table at Maitland

where we nearly got blown away. Thanks to Glenise Clery and Joy Pilkington we had a profitable day. Roger Lewis was a great help getting stock to our allocated site while Lyn Hagstrom and I spent the day buying new resources and networking. As a result of our discussions we are on board to hold the 2023 NSW & ACT State Conference in September next year. This will be face to face and virtual and plans are well underway.

All the hard work and support from our members is paying off

with things looking better financially. We are paying the bills and keeping the Group viable. We are very fortunate to have a very good treasurer who keeps us on track.

We have had several workshops at the *Cottage* as well as our special interest groups (SIGs) which are now in full swing. I encourage members to use our *Cottage* and resources as you never know what you may find or learn just by coming and having a chat. Also keep up with what's on through our weekly newsletter.

In 2023 we will be celebrating the Groups 40th Birthday. This will be in June and as mentioned the State Conference will be in September 2023. Workshops, Master Classes, Beginners and Intermediate courses, and the usual SIGs will be held. It's





great to be able to get back to the social aspects of family history so come along and join in.

Christmas is creeping up quickly. We will have a Christmas lunch this year at Toukley Golf Club. See page 27 and watch the newsletter for details. I think that is enough from me till next time. Stay safe, stay healthy. ... *

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Hello All!

At last, a break from all the rain.

Again, I have included a few items from Wayne's Newsletter. I hope they are appreciated by our wider readership.

Bunnings BBQs at Lake Haven undercover car park have been a success, our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped this happen.

Group plans occasionally miss the TOL deadline, therefore, as Kerrie says 'keep an eye on Wayne's Newsletter' to keep up to date with what is happening with your group.

Our Armistice Day Commemoration has prompted me to unearth some interesting stories in my research, hopefully some of the results will be on show at this event.

Thanks to the generosity of others providing transport, I have been able to visit The Cottage a few times in recent months to make use of the Group's vast resources.

Many of us have lived in times of interesting pages of history.

For me, the Coronation of the very young Queen Elizabeth II, the Assassination of JFK, Men walking on the Moon, Cyclone Tracy, the Turn of the Century, not only the century but the Millennium, the devastation of the events of 9/11 which changed the world as we knew it. Record Bush Fires, the COVID19 pandemic which introduced many of us to virtual contact. This year, the devastating floods and the Queen's 70th Jubilee followed by her death and the ascension of King Charles III are all written large in history.

Do you write pages of your family history? Why not share them with us?

Your submissions are always welcome and remember, once you start writing, you will find your style and become addicted to writing. Writing using the computer is a lot easier than pen and paper, changing words and moving sentences is not as off putting as crossing out and re-writing.

We are one of the places your stories will be appreciated. Our next deadline is 21 January 2023.

Stay Well, Stay Safe, and enjoy the Festive Season. ... 🌻

ROOKWOOD TALK

Regina Hogan member 533

Members who attended Mark Bundy's talk on Tuesday 9th August were treated to a very entertaining and informative talk on Rookwood Cemetery. Mark also kindly donated two books, Dead and Buried, to our Group. A big thank you to Mark for making the time to come and visit us. Also thank you to Sandra Ireland for organising the morning tea, Lyn Hagstrom for her assistance and Helen Hord for her technical assistance getting Mark's USB working. ... 🏶



Mark Bundy presenting the books to Regina Hogan.



Mark Bundy and Harry Johnston-Lord. Harry has known Mark for many years as a Tour Guide with The Friends of Rookwood.

A VISIT TO ROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Annette Shearer member #492

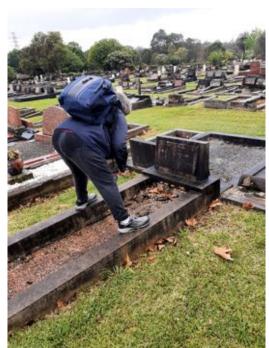
On a cold, wet morning an intrepid Group of Researchers consisting of Joy Pilkington, Kay Small, Peta Baigent, Lyn Clarke-Duff, Joy Smith, Elizabeth O'Shea, Marilyn Rankmore, Regina Hogan and Annette Shearer headed to Rookwood Cemetery, driven by David Pilkington. First stop was at McDonalds, Ryde for a quick coffee and toilet stop.

An unnamed member went to extraordinary lengths in the rain to get the perfect headstone photo.

Unfortunately the rain persisted and there were a lot of wet people getting on and off the bus. The mobile phone reception was

didn't leave anyone behind.

awful but David kept driving around the cemetery, picking us all up. He The prize for the wettest of the Group went to Peta. Despite being "drowned" Peta had the biggest smile on her face having successfully found the people she had been looking for.



Those who had never been before were amazed as to how large Rookwood Cemetery was. Most plan to go back in the future. Another Bus Trip?

Thank you, David, for getting us all back home safely, after a difficult driving day. Also to Joy for making sure we were all there and for supplying us with sweet treats. ... *



Wyong Family History Group Inc.

MONTHLY HELP & CHAT GATHERING BY ZOOM.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month

Time: From 7:30 pm Where: Your place

We usually have a subject to get the conversation started.

Members receive an email the day before the meeting with a link to join.

We continue this gathering where people can informally share their discoveries and stories.

Join us, meet other members, and see what they have discovered. Think of it as a kitchen table discussion, an opportunity to Learn and Laugh.

Stay with us for as long as you like. Not a meeting, but a gathering.

All Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to our new members, and we look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Contact any of our members by sending an enquiry to:

Member's Name & No.

C/- Wyong Family History Group Inc., P O Box 247, Wyong NSW 2259.

No	Member	No	Member	No	Member
1004	1004 Loretta Nicholls 1011		Robert Patton	1018	Elizabeth O'Shea
1005	1005 Les Hartwig 1012		Fiona Heiuk	1019	Beverley Yates
1006	Norelle Hartwig	1013	Lorraine Keating	1020	Linda Doherty
1007	1007 Julie Deaves 101		Lindsay Baker	1021	Lynette Johnston
1008	1008 Michael Porter 1015		Elaine Baker	1022	Kathryn Cathers
1009	Susan Porter	1016	Brenda Haire	1023	Robert Burch
1010	Maureen Beattie	1017	Laurie O'Neill	1024	Anthony Pass

Members Savings Plan

Throughout any given year, WFHG Inc. offers a range of events, both educational and social, which we think will be informative and interesting for our members, and the wider community.

To ease the demands on members' pockets, the Group has introduced a variety of payment options for these events.

We hope this will help members afford to book early and start paying in small instalments.

Would you like to go to one or some of our events but don't want to pay out all that money in one go?

Instead of paying the full amount for an event why not pay small amounts on a regular basis into our Members Savings Plan?

We are now giving members the opportunity to pay in instalments for those events, seminars, workshops, courses etc. that they wish to attend

Put a few dollars away whenever they want then use their savings to pay for the special event that they want to attend.

Payments can be made by PayPal, Direct Deposit, (or EFT or Cash at the Cottage) (payment details on our website Home page www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au) ... *

TRANSPORT

Members – Transport to and from The Cottage is a problem for some of our members. If you have are able to help, email The Secretary:

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. ... 🏶

THE CENTENNIAL PARK TRAGEDY.

Lynda Smith, LM 2

By all accounts, Frederic William WOLGAST was a good bloke. He was loved by his large family, adored by a fiancée and respected by his colleagues. Frederic was a Police Constable. He was the son of Charles August WOLGAST and Jane/Jean CAMERON, born in Merriwa in 1891. He was one of at least thirteen children born to this couple.

Frederic trained to be a policeman and spent some time in Mittagong. In 1917, a drunk man who thought he was being robbed shot wildly at Frederic. Thankfully, he was not injured.

By 1921, Frederic was working in Sydney, patrolling the streets around Centennial Park. It seems the park was a popular haunt of couples, seeking some unchaperoned time together. This activity was common after work was finished for the day, so the deepening shadows allowed peeping toms good vantage points. Another activity that took place with some frequency was the robbing of such couples.

On Thursday January 19, 1921, Frederic was on patrol. A promising athlete and well-known boxer, Jack KENNEDY, was in the park with his fiancée, Minnie PHEGAN when they were accosted by two men. One of them snatched the lady's handbag. Kennedy yelled "Stop thief!" and went after the two men. Constable WOLGAST heard the commotion and also came running. He was apprised of the situation and gave chase. The fleeing men separated and WOLGAST followed one. KENNEDY chased the other who fled through a hole in a fence, dropping the handbag. WOLGAST also tried to stop the man, who turned and then fired three shots at him from a handgun.

Frederic was hit once in the chest, damaging a lung. The man ran off. KENNEDY approached Frederic, borrowed his service revolver and continued to chase the culprits, while others sought help for Frederic. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in a serious condition. He was able to give a physical description of the man who shot him before dying of his wounds on January 21st. Frederic was 29 years old.

A Police funeral was held for Frederic on January 22nd. Over 200 Police from all divisions paraded in front of the horse drawn hearse. Over 600 people lined the street leading to St Matthias'Church of England in Paddington, where a very moving service was held.

Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 22 January 1921,

"**WOLGAST**. – The Relatives and Friends of Mrs. J. WOLGAST are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her dearly beloved SON, Frederick William Wolgast; which will leave Charles Kinsela's Private Mortuary, 143 Oxford–street, city, THIS SATURDAY, at 10 a.m. for Waverley Cemetery. CHARLES KINSELA, Tel , Wav. 8 Bondi Junction.

WOLGAST. – The Relatives and Friends of Mr. and Mrs. M. BAKER, Mr. A. WOLGAST, Mr. and Mrs. E. GRANT, Mr. and Mrs. C. WOLGAST, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. DOGGETT, Mr. and Mrs. N. WILKINS, Mr. B. WOLGAST, Mr. and Mrs. N. WOLGAST, are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved BROTHER and BROTHER-IN-LAW, Frederick William Wolgast; to leave Kinsela's Private Mortuary, 143 Oxford-street, city, THIS SATURDAY, at 10 a.m. for Waverley Cemetery. CHARLES KINSELA

WOLGAST. - The Friends of Sergeant CONNORS and FAMILY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of his beloved FRIEND, Frederick William Wolqast; which will leave Charles Kinsela's Private Mortuary, THIS SATURDAY, at 10 a.m. for Waverley Cemetery. CHARLES KINSELA."

Frederic was buried in Waverley Cemetery, and a large headstone was erected.

The wording says" This Monument was erected by the Government of New South Wales to Constable Frederic William Wolgast who was shot dead whilst in the execution of his duty on the 19th January, 1921, also his sister Wilhelmina Henrietta GRANT died 22nd June 1935. "If wishful thoughts could bring you back."

On January 26, a reward of £250 was posted for information leading to the arrest of a man described as "25 to 27 years of age, five feet six or eight inches tall, medium build (about 10 stone in



weight), clean shaven, dressed in shabby grey sac suit or black clothes, dirty white boots or shoes and gabardine cap or grey felt hat." The second man was described as 20-25 years of age, five feet six or seven inches tall, medium build, wearing a dark coast, brown trousers and a soft felt hat." [from NSW Police Gazettes, published in Trove]

On the 29th January, one of Frederic's brothers, Norman, wrote a letter of appreciation to the Inspector General of Police. He thanked the Police for all their efforts in finding the culprit, the respect they had showed and the sympathy expressed to the family. This letter was published in the Police Gazette on the 2nd of February.

On the 10th of February, the Coroner's Inquest confirmed that Frederic had been murdered, but surprisingly actually named Charles Wynne SPEECHLEY as the murderer, before there was a trial.

On the 16th February, the Police published the fact that a Charles Wynne SPEECHLEY, alias Charles WHITE, George WHITE and Charles WYNNE had been detained by detectives and held for trial. He had a Police record for offences in 1918 and before, but details were not given.

The trial began in April in the Central Criminal Court. Various witnesses were called by the prosecution, including a number of men who admitted spying on couples and knowing SPEECHLEY, whose nickname was "JEWEY". One witness, a William Arthur SMITH [no relation of mine!] said that SPEECHLEY owned a motorcycle and was known to hide in bushes by crawling into them for cover. This witness [nickname BROWNIE] gave Police a detailed description of JEWEY and later identified him for Police. He heard the shot but did not see SPEECHLEY shoot the Constable. It appeared that

the culture of harassing couples was widespread in the park but was not often reported to the Police.

Another witness, there with a lady friend, said he saw SPEECHLEY and SMITH creeping up to attack the couple and he had called out a warning. Mr. YOUNIE chased after the men but fell over a tree root. He could identify both men and gave aid to Constable WOLGAST after he heard the shot.

The Defence complained that there had been too much speculation in the Press and that his client had been convicted before all the evidence had been produced. SPEECHLEY claimed he was at home and not in the Park on the night in question and his wife confirmed this. SPEECHLEY claimed he was not guilty. There were slight discrepancies in the physical descriptions given of the two men. The Jury found SPEECHLEY guilty and he was sentenced to death.

On the 20th April, the Police Superannuation and Reward Fund Board awarded Mrs. Jeanet Wolgast (mother of the late Const. Frederic William Wolgast). an allowance of £156 per annum, to take effect as on and from the 22nd January, 1921, for a period of five years; then to be reconsidered. Sadly, Mrs. WOLGAST died in December 1921.

Fast forward to 1956 and an article appeared in the papers titled "Girl's Undying love for Policeman", where Kathleen CONNOR[S], Frederic's fiancée, spoke of her actions over the past 35 years. Every year she had placed an In Memoriam notice for Frederic and she had stayed single in his memory. "Loved in life and living yet, in the heart of one who will never forget."

A postscript to this article states:

(A 31 year-old mechanic of Cabramatta (Sydney), Charles Wynne Speechley, was charged with his murder and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Speechley was eventually released from prison and vanished.)

Central Queensland Herald (Rockhampton, Qld.: 1930 - 1956), Thursday 2 February 1956.

A further search of TROVE under Charles Wynne SPEECHLEY revealed that

his death sentence had been commuted to life imprisonment in July 1921. SPEECHLEY served 20 years and was released in 1941, 'under licence', which meant there were restrictions on his movements. By early 1942 he was back before the Police again, charged with illegal sexual acts. He was allowed bail of £20. He chose not to appear in court on the appointed date and disappeared. Police then started a hunt for him, but by 1947, all they had determined was that SPEECHLEY had spent some time in Queensland, Victoria and may even have gone overseas during the war years. Officially, no-one knows where he ended up. A sad end to a heroic tale.

A FamilySearch contributor believes he died on 9 October 1976, in Inglewood, Victoria, Australia, at the age of 87.



Charles Speechley

<u>Sources</u> Trove newspapers, NSW BDM Indexes, Ancestry trees, Google FamilySearch.

FYI Ancestry Name Meanings for WOLGAST German: Habitational Name From Any Of The Places So Named In Brandenburg And Pomerania.

My connection: Frederic WOLGAST's niece Phyllis BAKER married into my GREEN family in 1927. ...

People of Wyong Books 4 and 5

John Selwood LM 79

Book 4 – Find out about the Wyong Abattoir which at one time was the largest employer in Wyong; find out who the people were who have parks named after them; find out who has represented Wyong in all levels of Government; the Norah Head Lighthouse – its history and its keepers plus much more.



Book 5 – This book gives the history and the names of the Head Teachers of **ALL** the schools in the former Wyong Shire. Do you know where the school named Wanda was located or where the Darkinjung Barker Aboriginal School is today? You can find out in this book. (see page 28) ...



DID YOU KNOW? THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NSW

David Barnes member 318

After many years, my former employer, The Geological Survey of NSW, has started the process of making images from the photographic collection that I looked after for much of my working life available to the public.



Currently there is a small collection of historic images that can be searched, viewed and downloaded at:

hWps://gsnsw.canto.com/v/heritage/landing?viewIndex=0 There are also a selection of modern records available at: hWps://gsnsw.canto.com/v/public/landing?viewIndex=0 Due to a lack of staff the addition of new images will be a slow process, but I can thoroughly recommend browsing these. If you are lucky, you might find an image of a mine that a forebear worked at or if you are really lucky, a photo of your forebear themselves.



Group of coal miners including children from Lymington Colliery (or Myall Extended pit) at Cardiff near Newcastle.

The above is an example of an almost local photo. The date is unknown but Lymington mine operated between 1885 & 1934.

I answered a job advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1973. Fortunately, I was already studying for a TAFE certificate (a requirement) and armed with a keen interest in macro photography (which swayed the selection committee).

My job from the outset was as a scientific photographer for the research section of the NSW Geological Survey. This slowly evolved over the years to include all sorts of work for the department relating to the mining industry including for the Survey's Geological & Mining Museum in The Rocks. They were the custodians of a Photographic Collection dating back to the 1870's. I became responsible for the Collection when the Museum was closed in the 1990's.

I worked for the NSW Geological Survey for almost 40 years....

Their War

They are remembered

ARMISTICE DAY.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

In my all-girls Primary School in the late 1950s,
Armistice Day meant everything stopped at 11:00 am on the 11th
November. We would stand for 2 minutes silence when we were asked to remember those who fought in WW1 and WW2. Some had lost family; others had returning service folk in their family. The only family member I knew of was an uncle by marriage. Therefore, he was who I thought about. Recently researching his history has clarified his story. ... *

ROCKY CREEK WW2 HOSPITAL COMPLEX

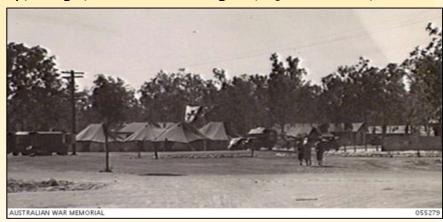
Helen Johnston-Lord member 505 From Wikipedia

Memories.

Rocky Creek World War Two Hospital Complex is a heritage-listed military hospital at Kennedy Highway, Tolga, Tablelands Region, Queensland,

Australia. It was initially built in October 1942, with further construction continuing over the course of much of World War II.

Patients treated at the Rocky Creek Hospitals usually arrived in Cairns from Papua New Guinea, to be transported to



Rocky Creek by the 4th Australian Hospital Ambulance Train. The train ran three times a week.

In 1944, The buildings still had canvas walls, but the floors were concrete and each ward had its own amenities, such as a wood stove, kerosene refrigerator, a permanent toilet and an office and dressing room. In October 1944, electricity supply, originally generator powered, switched to mains power, supplied by the Barron Falls Hydro Electricity Board. The hospital closed in 1945. ...

VISITING NORTH QUEENSLAND

John Selwood LM 79

In August this year I was finally able to take a holiday in Queensland that was delayed two years due to Covid. Among the places that I visited were Rocky Creek Memorial Park and the Charters Towers Pioneer Cemetery.



Rocky Creek is located on the Atherton Tablelands and was the site of the largest military hospital in the Southern Hemisphere during WW2. The Memorial Park is on the site of the 2/2nd Australian General Hospital's laundry and medical supplies store.



The 3,000-bed hospital treated over 60,000 patients from 1943 to 1945. All that remains today on the site are a few concrete slabs that were the floors of some of the buildings. The park was dedicated in 1995 and the first plaques placed on 15 August 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific. Throughout the park are granite stones on which plaques of the various service units that had an association with the military hospital have been placed. There is also a commemorative wall of plaques which is updated annually in August. There is a rock commemorating the birds and animals that also served in the war.





Charters Towers was the site of a goldfield that developed in 1872 and by the turn of the century had a population of over 25,000 people. Over 6 million ounces of gold were extracted from the ground in the first 40-50 years of its existence. The town went into decline following WW1 and today has a population of around 8000. The town has many heritage listed buildings. Gold is still being mined today by several large companies.



The pioneer cemetery contains some 5000 burials but only 343 have memorials. Many are marked by stones arranged around the gravesite. I found two interesting headstones the like of which I had never encountered before. One was a





headstone made of iron. Unfortunately the inscription on this and other similar headstones have rusted away. The other interesting headstone I saw was a circular one that contained the names of three people. Again, unfortunately the top of the headstone had been broken. ... *





A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS

Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, wearing membership cards in a manner that it is clearly displayed is obligitary.

Your courtesy is appreciated.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Here at Wyong Family History Group Inc. we offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. Moderators/Coordinators are keen to share their knowledge with others. Please support them.

All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar. [see page 301

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL - Remember, if you book and are unable to attend, please phone and cancel.

SIGs go for one to two hours, we are asking for a \$2.00 donation to help keep our resources up to date.

Breaking through Brickwalls - Helen Burkett moderates our Brickwall Group this year broadening it to cover UK, Australia and Convict questions. Ann Cooke has kindly offered to assist her, especially with the latter two subjects as she has more expertise in NSW than Helen does and she has convict family too.



Helen has gathered very many resources and concentrated on more obscure websites over time and intends to show one or more of these each month. They will also be looking at the lesser used resources at our own Centre. Watch the weekly newsletter or enquire at 'The Cottage' for more information.

Multi-Media Devices – Roger Lewis & Ellen Sheerin continue this group helping attendees sort through their questions no matter what the media or device.



DNA Special Interest Group - After the DNA test, you may be wondering about the next step or how to understand your DNA results. Whether or not you already have your results back, why not come along to our DNA SIG meetings for some guidance. DNA enthusiasts old and new, all welcome! ... Stuart Purvis-Smith



FAMILY TREE MAKER – This popular SIG will continue with moderator Martin Fisher. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.



Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential ... 🤻



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Our guest speaker for the August General meeting was Mark Dunn, author of The Convict Valley.

Mark had some very interesting stories of the First Nations men: Bungaree and Burigon in Colonial Newcastle as well as introducing Biraban, the Rev. Lancelot Threlkeld's interpreter. I have read Mark's book and found it very enlightening as was his talk. ... *



SOCIAL BBQ

From the Cottage Newsletter

On 20th August, the group hosted a Social BBQ for members and their quests here at the 'Cottage' and apart from a chilly breeze, which is to be expected during August, the weather was sunny with blue skies. The 18 or so who did attend all had a very enjoyable time on what I can only describe as a fun day. It was really nice to see everyone socialising with one another in a relaxed atmosphere while sharing genealogy stories, as you would expect, though that wasn't the only topic of conversation. Oh before I forget thanks to everyone who donated cakes, slices, buns, fresh fruit etc it was all very nice indeed, I know because I tasted most of it and the cheese cake was delicious Lyn. Thanks also to Kay Croall's grandson who helped cook lunch alongside Roger Lewis and thanks also to those who helped clean up. Functions like these give our members the chance to get to know others who they wouldn't normally meet during the week and they also provide the platform for wonderful social interaction between our members, the opportunity to share genealogy stories and hints as well as being a really nice day out among nice people who share a common interest. I would encourage everyone who is able to attend events such as this in the future.





Vol 39 No 4

Tree of Life - November 2022

Pamela Andre (secretary) took the opportunity to present member Will Ferrett, member 945, with an Appreciation Certificate for cleaning the grounds around the 'Cottage'.

Before & After

If you haven't visited the 'Cottage' for a while you won't have seen the result of Will Ferrett's cleaning work. These two photos give you an idea of the transformation. ...

NSW ACT 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Kerrie Metcalfe President LM (80)

I spent the weekend of 16-18 September attending all the YouTube talks of the virtual NSW ACT 37th Annual Conference, hosted by Newcastle Family History and Maitland. The theme was Riding the Waves of History. There were some very good speakers such as Carol Baxter on writing stories; Kerry-Ann Tape from State Library spoke on First Nations (Koori) research records; Louise Gale using Electoral records; Cathie Sherwood enlightened us on Finding Female ancestors, this was very good; Gay Hendriksen The Home Curator, just to name a few. I have attended many conferences over the years, and they are a fabulous way to learn, network and meet new people who share your interest. COVID19 pushed us into a new way of presenting which has been



difficult to come to grips with, but we carried on, and now most Conferences will be face to face with a virtual presence - a learning curve for all.

Maitland held a Trade Fair on Sunday at the Old Maitland Goal Barracks. We nearly got blown to Timbuktu but mixing with other societies and local groups was refreshing and amazing. Many Groups, such as Port Macquarie, Nepean, Central Coast, Muswellbrook, and several other small groups, including us, came with their goodies. We did very well indeed, sold a good many books, caught up with friends and did some networking, a big thank you to Glenise, Joy, Roger, Lyn and Paul for being there and keeping us grounded. ...

MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS.

Helen Johnston-Lord member #505

For me, a minor mishap at my home desk resulted in a long period of time with very painful ribs. These meetings have helped me stay in touch with the Group, have a few laughs and catch up with the goings-on.

Many topics are informally discussed with ideas to follow up. Short discussions about an ancestor or two make an interesting mix. Why not join us for a while for our next session? Stay at home, in you pjs if you wish, and put faces to names. ... *

AFFO* Congress Norfolk Island 2022 History in Paradise

Regina Hogan member #533

After being postponed from 2021 due to COVID, the *Australian Federation of Family History Organisations held its 16th Australasian Congress on beautiful Norfolk Island from the 1st to the 4th August.

With COVID numbers still high, I was in two minds on whether to attend. But being fully vaccinated and the organisers advising the event would be as COVID safe as possible I decided to take the plunge, navigate the airport queues and catch the plane to Norfolk Island. The package included a hire car and a week's accommodation, leaving plenty of time to explore the Island before the Congress started. A half day orientation bus tour of the Island on our first day took in some of the key historic sites in Kingston, Longridge and Cascade.

I also spent a great afternoon at Kingston browsing through the historic beachfront Norfolk Island Cemetery reading wonderful and sometimes sad headstones telling stories of riots, tragic deaths, murders and drownings. I do love a cemetery!

By now I had met up with some old genimates, including my 3rd

cousin Jill, and made some new ones. This is the best part of any conference - socialising and enjoying the company of other family historians.

The first day of Congress was the trade show, which was held in Rawson Hall in Burnt Pine. Unfortunately, there were only a few trade and information tables. Three pre-recorded presentations were shown on a large television at the front of the hall. Regrettably, the noise of the trade tables at the rear of the hall made it very hard to hear the presentations. Later in the afternoon the AFFHO President, Robyn Williams, made the official welcome to the Congress.

The conference got off to a smashing start with keynote speaker, television journalist, Ray Martin giving a wonderful presentation of his tumultuous childhood and his discovery of his Aboriginal ancestry. Ray is a wonderful storyteller who easily paints a vivid picture with his words of intrigue and humour. His presentation was well received, and he made time after his talk to meet delegates, sign autographs, and



My Selfie with Ray Martin

pose for selfies. Yes, I did manage to get a selfie with Ray!

Concurrent speaker sessions took up the rest of the day. The speakers and subjects were varied with a good emphasis on Norfolk Island content. It was good to see all the attendees wearing masks at the presentations.

Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt OA is the Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology Sydney. She is also an award-winning author and was our keynote speaker on the second day of Congress. Her very moving talk about her family and her book Home had the attendees totally enthralled.

Larissa was also the final speaker at the conference. She gave a very different and amazing talk on Eliza Fraser. Her 2016 book Finding Eliza is on my reading list.

Some of the sessions I attended included Wendy Holtz on Norfolk Island at the State Library of New South Wales, Jan Richardson on soldiers' travels with the British Army in the 1800's, Jason Reeve on Ancestry content and



Professor Larissa Behrendt OA

community updates and Shauna Hicks on Finding Love in Paradise.

The morning tea and lunches were very good and plentiful.

Cousin Jill and I played hooky on the last morning of the conference and took a tour of Colleen McCulloughs house. The contents of the house were just wow! Much of it you would find in a museum or art gallery. It was totally worth seeing but no photos allowed inside.

Tours of the cemetery, the Pier Store, the Sirius Museum and Government House were organised for all delegates over the three Congress days. There is so much history on Norfolk Island it is sometimes overwhelming!

The Congress dinner was an island style fish feast at a property called "Orn Dar Cliff". The food was delicious, and the sunset was amazing. Talented

Island singers and dancers entertained us while we enjoyed a delightful evening. It was a great way to end a wonderful week.

Unfortunately, there was a small COVID outbreak and the AFFO President was unable to attend the dinner. A big disappointment.

Congratulations to the organisers for a wonderful Congress in paradise. I am now looking forward to seeing some of my genimates again when I attend the Queensland State Conference in late October....





WELLINGTON NZ GANG BEHAVIOUR IN THE 1920S.

Lynda Smith LM 2.

Evening Post, Volume C, Issue 132, 1 December 1920, THEFTS AT NEWTOWN ARRESTS AND REMANDS.

"For several weeks past the Wellington South police have been making inquiries about a series of thefts and the operations of a gang of youths and others suspected of burglaries and some days ago rounded up seven or eight youths against whom about forty charges—some of them dating back three years—have been laid. A special sitting of the Magistrate's Court has been fixed for Wednesday next to consider these charges."

The first husband of a lady who married into my PRENTICE family was one of these youths. John William COMPTON was born in 1905, one of four children born to Daniel and Emma COMPTON. John grew up to be a

solid lad. In 1924 his charge sheet describes him as: "five foot 7 inches tall, fresh complexion, brown hair and eyes, broad nose, strong build, with a scar on his right forearm".

We first meet him on 2nd
December 1920, when he and a
mate are before the court,
charged with stealing 8 leather
straps and a key belonging to
stables owned by the
Government. The Judge described



John as a hard case. He was in court again on 16th December 1920, when he made a court appearance with 16 other South Wellington youths, aged between 16 and 20, accused of 60 instances of break/enter and theft. Some of these crimes were done in small groups of three or five, others in pairs. John was accused of being involved in 25 of the 60 instances, the highest number, so it sounds like he was one of the leaders. He was only 16 at this time. The solicitor noted that Compton had been in the gang for two years. He was out of the control of his mother and his father was given to drink. The boy was described as having the makings of a dangerous criminal.

John was sent to Weraroa State Farm. Weraroa had initially been used to house conscientious objectors during WW1 but was now being used as a training facility for youths. The judge said his sentence there would be determined by his behaviour. If he misbehaved, then he would return to court.

John appears in the papers again in 1924. He and a friend decided to hassle a local Chinese man, Joe YART and John's friend threw a hot pie at YART. John then knocked YART down. He was fined £2 for this and his previous convictions noted. In 1925, he and a friend were charged with assault and using obscene language. They were both fined £5 and released. In 1926 he was arrested on a tram after he assaulted a conductor who had asked him to stop smoking in a non-smoking area of the tram. John was with a group of mates at the time, who had decided to obey the conductor's commands. John refused and also pushed the conductor to the floor.

Sometime in 1928 John married Iris Margaret CONNOLLY and they had a son named Gerald Bruce in October that year. In 1929 John was back in the papers again, for assaulting a police officer who had arrested him for breaking a window belonging to a Chinese man. He was given a gaol term of two months.

John died on 19th February 1931, aged 26. I had thought this might have been from violence, but it turned out to be a work accident. By 1931 John was working as a rigger. He was being hoisted up on a platform on the outside of a partially built structure when a steel cable broke. He plunged a considerable distance and died on site. The Inquest found this to be an accidental death, but comment was made that the nature of the cable break was unusual. Perhaps John had made himself an enemy? It seems entirely possible.

Iris married again in 1940 and had a happy life with her second husband and her son. Stanley died in 1973 and she continued to live in Wellington until her death in 1996.

William HUGGETT joined my family when he married Margaret SMALLHORN in 1902 in Western Australia. Margaret sadly caught typhus and died in 1906, leaving a young son, William Leroy who later died in a

buggy accident in 1911. William had remarried in 1910, to a Rose Caroline GIBLETT. They had a daughter together, Joy Alberta Lucy **HUGGETT** in August 1914.

Sources: NZ BDM online indexes, Ancestry.com., https://ethnicelebs.com/lee-tamahori, Google images, NZ Paperspast website, Find my past for census records. Memories o

CHRISTMAS PAST

Harry Johnston-Lord member 504

Christmas was good back then. All the family would be there and bring something for the table. The venue rotated annually in some kind of rota. There was no turkey, but there was a chook, a small chook or two, but full of flavour unlike the huge modern bird with lots of bland meat. The plum pudding was a wonder. My mother made at least four and everybody had a stir of each one. The copper was brought to the boil, I had the job of keeping the fire going, and in went the puddings to cook. When cooked the puddings were hung to cool.

They were loaded with heaps of fruit and other stuff and spread throughout with trey bits. OK, trey bits were three penny bits and made of silver.

These photos are about actual size, about 16 mm.

One little miss who I don't remember hearing her name (she must have been a cousin but not close) whinged

about everything. Mum had a word to her and her mother had words with Mum. She lost. When it came to the pudding whinging Winnie just pushed her pudding around the plate and carried on bellyaching. She hadn't found any coins. The somewhat bedraggled remnants went into the chook yard. The next day I scored TWO more trey bits. ... *

Many moons ago my mum was in a village for respite. I visited her and was asked by the staff if I would be Santa for them. They said they had a Santa suit, all I had to come up with was footwear. I agreed and they handed over a parcel.

On the appointed day I dressed in the gear with a light shirt for camouflage as I drove to the village. Things went fairly well, I went into the room of a lady who was bed bound, met a lady who had been dumped there and not visited in over a year and so on. Then there was the lady who tried to drag me back to her room for a bit of the other. Fortunately, the staff were a wake up to her and rescued me.

I was glad to get home and out of that suit. That was one of those 40 degree days and the bloody suit was polyester. ... *

A Date for your 2023 Diary



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Course

BEGINS Early

FEBRUARY

Santa Photos

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Oval of restrictions, Santa

With the removal of restrictions, Santa photos are back!

I don't remember visiting in-store Santa as a child, therefore there are no such photos for me. These things

were probably not in our one income family budget.

I do however remember 'oohing' and 'aahing' over David Jones Elizabeth Street windows after Macquarie Street specialist appointments. The greatest treat was Mark Foy's dioramas, at the other end of the Sydney CBD. What a fantasy land, Mum & I would spend, what seemed like forever, looking at every detail then chatting about these on the tram journey back home. On reflection, I







guess there was a charge and Mum thought this was good value.

Mark Foys, such an elegant building, spared the wreckers, is now known as the Downing Centre, which is used as a court house complex. ...

How to Photograph in a Cemetery Workshop.

Helen Johnston-Lord member #505

For those visiting a cemetery, member, Martin Fisher had so much practical information to pass on. Unfortunately, the weather has not allowed for a visit to the Jilliby Cemetery. ... *



Eat*, Chat and be Merry whether you have been Maughty or Nice, don't think twice. Please join us on

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Vol 39 No 4

Where: Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong

[entry via the old school yard]





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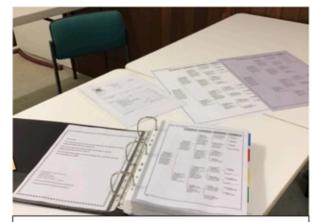
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Example of what you may receive.

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Great Value for these records which are not on the Internet. Nor are they available from any other source. Usually priced at \$40.00 for the two books, buy both now for only \$25.00

LIFE MEMBERS



From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership.

These members have been recognized for their commitment and contribution, helping us become the Family History Group we are today. ... *

Name	Memb No.	Date of Award
The Late Keith Shakespeare	01	Sept 1994
Lynda Smith	02	08 Dec 1995
The Late Patricia Irwin Sharp	03	14 Sept 2001
Marilyn Cridland	11	13 Sept 2007
Pam Mansergh	14	13 Sept 2007
The Late Esther Dean	23	13 Sept 2007
Janice Barrett	44	13 Sept 2007
Kerrie Metcalfe	80	9 Sept 2010
Roger Lewis	127	20 Sept 2012
Robin Wright	133	20 Sept 2012
Trish McDonald	194	09 Oct 2014
Glenise Clery	284	09 Oct 2014
Michele Gane	174	03 June 2018
John Selwood	79	03 June 2018
Meg Gibson	43	20 Feb 2021
Gwen Bates	70	20 Feb 2021

WFHG Inc. Planned Events

- Subject to change.
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, information sessions and courses are held at 'The Cottage'.
- **SIG** = Special Interest Group ... Booking essential
- **Info** = Information Session

	2022	Event			
	Tue 1	Committee Meeting 9:30 am			
		Melbourne Cup Lunch and Afternoon 1:.00 pm - 4:00 pm.			
	Sun 6	Seminar – DNA & State Archives 10:15 am –3:30 am			
		Club Wyong Bookings essential			
_	Thu 10	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am - 12:00 noon			
November	Fri 11	Remembrance Day Morning Tea 10:30 am			
ove	Sat 12	General Meeting, Member's Show and Tell Ruth SEWELL 1:00 pm			
Ž	Tue 15	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm			
	Wed 16	Scottish / Irish SIG 10:00 - 12:00 Noon			
	Sat 19	State Records Bus Trip			
	Wed 23	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:30 pm			
	Thu 24	Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon			

	2022	Event				
	Sat 26 Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon					
December	Sun 4	Christmas Luncheon 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Toukley Golf Club Bookings Essential				
	Tue 6	Committee Meeting 10:00 am				
Dec	Thu 15	End of Year Morning Tea 10:30 am Last day at Cottage for 2022				
	2023 Event					
ıry	Mon 9	Cottage Clean-up Day				
	Tue 10	Cottage Re-opens Committee Meeting 10:00 am				
	Tue 17 Cottage Information Day 10:00 am – 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm – 3:00					
January	Fri 20	Mapping Your Ancestors Master Class				
Jai	Sat 21	Tree of Life Deadline				
	Thu 26	Australia Day - Cottage Closed				
	Sat 28	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon				
	Tue 31	Committee Meeting for February 10:00 am				
	Wednesday 1 – Sunday 12 NSW Seniors Festival 'Celebrate Together'					
	Sat 4	General Meeting 1:00 pm				
	Thu 9	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon				
	Fri 10	Beginners Family History Course – Week 1				
	Sat 11	WFHG Inc Open Day at The Cottage				
ary	Wed 15	Scottish/Irish SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon				
February	Fri 17	Beginners Family History Course – Week 2				
Fe	Tue 21	DNA SIG 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm				
	Wed 22	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:30 pm				
	Thu 23	Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon				
	Fri 24	Beginners Family History Course – Week 3				
	Sat 25	t 25 Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon				
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting for March 10:00 am				
	A Date for your Diary 8 th – 10 th September 2023 The Running Waters of History The 38 th Annual Conference					



of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

Wyong Family History Group Inc. Research Centre

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre,

6 Rankens Court, Wyong [entrance via the old school grounds]

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm.

At other times by appointment. Public Holidays - Closed.

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: [02] 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: **secwfhg2@westnet.com.au** Website: http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

WFHG thanks Ms Emma McBride, for her assistance in the production of this issue of the Tree of Life.

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 January, 2023 is the closing date for submissions for next issue of the " $Tree\ of\ Life$ ".

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

To promote and encourage the research and preservation of family and local history, to assist members and others in family history research. To develop and maintain a Public Library and research, collect, preserve and maintain its resources in its Library.