

WYONG FAMILY
Founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Patron:	Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
Meetings:	Are held monthly on the 2nd Saturday monthly between February and November, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Old School Community 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 2024

President:	Lynda Smith
Vice-President:	Lyn Hagstrom
Secretary & Minutes Secretary:	Ann Holland
Treasurer:	Lyn Clark-Duff
Management Committee:	
All the above executive plus Peta Baigent, Martin Fisher, Regina Hogan, Roger Lewis, Kerrie Metcalfe and John Selwood.	

Assets Manager & IT Manager:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisor:	Ann Holland
Caretaker:	Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Administrator	Tuesday: Lyn Hagstrom
	Wednesday: Helen Hord
	Thursday: Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Relief Administrator:	Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster Planner:	Cheryl Whamond
Courses in Family History Supervisor:	Ellen Sheerin
Electronic Journal Distributor	Lorraine Cameron
Grant Applications Planner:	VACANT
Groundsman:	Will Ferrett
Group Collector of Statistics:	Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator:	Regina Hogan
Irish Research Tips:	Kerrie Metcalfe
Journal Snippet Critiques:	Lorraine Cameron, Peta Baigent
Librarian:	Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistants:	Peta Baigent, Dellas Johnston, Sue Fisher
Local Research Officer & Project Organiser:	John Selwood
Membership Secretary:	Wayne Bermingham
Printing Publications – Books & CDs:	Roger Lewis & John Selwood
Proof Reading:	Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Terry Joyce
Public Officer:	Roger Lewis
Publicity Officer:	Lynda Smith
Publications [Books, CDs] printing:	Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Raffle Organiser:	Christine McKenzie
Scrapbooking [Photos]:	VACANT
Tree of Life Editor:	Helen Johnston-Lord
Unrelated Certificates Organiser:	Jacqueline Wieringa
Webpage Manager:	Roger Lewis
Weekly Newsletter Editor:	Wayne Bermingham
Welfare:	Administrators

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lynda Smith – President – LM2



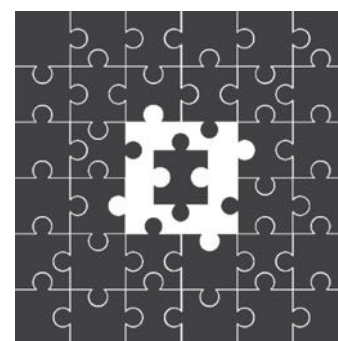
As most of our members are aware, the last few months of 2023 were quite stressful for the committee. We had a number of issues at the Cottage, and Council was strongly suggesting that we move out for twelve months. We did the rounds of a few buildings but none of them provided enough room. In the end, we were able to stay at our current location. The work on the two burned buildings is yet to begin, so our driveway is still closed. We hope that this situation is resolved in 2024. We realise that many of our members rely on vehicle access to attend the cottage and we apologise for the delay, which, unfortunately, is not under our control.

What we can control, however, is our services to members. We are hoping to provide Zoom access to more meetings and special interest groups. Our research room volunteers and our Library volunteers are available to do some research on your behalf. All you need to do is send the cottage an email, or even phone during opening hours. If you would just like a phone chat, please let us know and we will pair you up with another member. It may also be possible to arrange home visits once we work out insurances and other technicalities. As an extra tempter, we will be subscribing to Findmypast.com again, using some of the profits gained from hosting the State Conference in 2023.

Christmas for me was an unusual one. It was the first one in my nearly 50 years of married life that was not spent with my husband. He celebrated with our youngest son's extended family and some friends, while I had lunch with our daughter on the Gold Coast. She needed some live-in help after surgery, so we had some quality time together. We also experienced the wild weather of the Christmas – New Year period, but suffered only the minor inconvenience of no Internet or mobile phone service for a few days. The grandkids did not fare so well! I hope you all managed some time for yourselves and some contact with family & friends.



I am looking forward to a year of breaking down brick walls, finding black sheep, learning more about my DNA results and entering more of my data into my Ancestry tree. I will also be writing more stories for this excellent publication. I urge you all to put pen to paper and tell us how you are going with your research, any problems you may have overcome, or still have, and anything else of interest. If you have difficulty putting your thoughts on paper, we can offer you help. Please support your journal and keep finding those puzzle pieces.



*Free Jigsaw image from
Vecteezy.com*

Take care, Lynda. ... ❖

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Where: Your place. We will also be hosting the Zoom sessions on our big screen at the Cottage if you happen to be available to participate in that way.

Contact the Cottage to put your name down – phone 4351 2211

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

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 obligatory.

Your courtesy is appreciated. ... ❖



DID YOU KNOW HELP IS AVAILABLE?

As a member you are entitled to assistance when you're doing research here at the 'Cottage'. Volunteers are on duty every day ready and waiting to help you locate records and even add flesh to some of your ancestor's bones with such details as where they lived, what they did and perhaps even what they looked like. ... ❖



AT THE COTTAGE

Melbourne Cup Day 2023

Lynda Smith LM 2.

Some 20 members and their partners enjoyed a tasty sausage sizzle and a huge array of food - from some very decadent mud cake to some lovely fresh fruit. Everyone's needs were accommodated. Many thanks to all who helped set up the day and those who stayed behind to clean up. A special thanks to Lyn and Paul Hagstrom for bringing their little Weber, and for Paul for cooking the sausages to perfection. Lyn C-D and John Selwood helped sell the sweeps and distribute the prizes. John Selwood won the prize for best decorated Men's hat and Terry Joyce won the Ladie's hat for her very colourful creation. Thanks also to Helen Johnston-Lord for her clever art work and Lyn Hagstrom for her beautiful horse statues and interesting information on thoroughbred horses. Everyone watched the race with interest, and some of us even won some of our money back! All in all, a very pleasant social event. If you missed out this year, keep us in mind for 2024!



TRANSPORT

Members – Transport to and from The Cottage is a problem for some of our members.

If you are able to help, email The Secretary:

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

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



Remembrance Day 2023

Lyn Hagstrom member 768

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the picture slide show and displays for the morning, our slideshow now runs a little longer. Unfortunately, there was only four of us there with at least five others who were unable to attend. Thank you to Brenda Haire, Lyn Clarke-Duff and Pamela Andre who joined me for the service which we all enjoyed. It was really moving to hear people's stories and what they have found with their research. Discussions were also had on how and where to find information.

The displays were also kept in place for the afternoon's General Meeting, fitting in



with the talk

from our guest speaker, Trish Skehan.



November General Meeting

A big thank you to Regina for organising to have such an entertaining and knowledgeable person to speak at a General Meeting held on Remembrance Day. Whilst the talk given was not on the topic advertised, it was very appropriate for the day nevertheless.

Trish Skehan spoke on the stories and how she found them for her book that she is writing which will be available in 2025. The stories were funny and sad but told brilliantly by Trish. We could have listened to her for so much longer. ... ❖



Last Day at Cottage 2023 Morning Tea

Thursday 14th December saw the hosting of our last day morning tea, some dozen or so members enjoyed good company, good times and good fun. ... ❖



Celebrating Our National Day

Lamingtons and Australian Flags were all part of our Aussie Morning Tea.



On Thursday 24 January, eight members made a special effort to attend our morning tea despite the rather unpleasant hot weather that day. An excellent morning was had by all with an abundance of food, some enjoyable background music and special decorations to set the mood.



ACCESSIBILITY

Our wheelchair accessibility has been closed temporarily due to the fire in April 2023. Central Coast Council are unable to tell us a date when we can again use our access road and carpark. *The Cottage* has one basic accessible toilet.



If you find our hill and stairs a challenge too far, contact the Cottage on 4351 2211 and someone will be happy to help you safely to our door. ... ❖

BUS TRIP TO ROOKWOOD CEMETERY.

Regina Hogan member 533

Six WFHG members enjoyed a great day in perfect weather at Rookwood Cemetery on Saturday 18th November 2023. Upon arrival, the WFHG members were greeted by Julie Rusten, a representative from the Friends of Rookwood Cemetery. With a heartfelt dedication to the recently departed WFHG member, Harry Johnston-Lord, who had been closely associated with the Friends of Rookwood Cemetery for many years, Julie led the group on a guided tour.

As our minibus traversed the cemetery's winding paths, Julie skilfully highlighted historical landmarks and intriguing headstones. One of these being the final resting place of John Thomas (Jack) Lang, a distinguished past Labour Premier of New South Wales who passed away in 1975 at the age of 98.

A significant highlight of the tour was the visit to the St Michael the Archangel Chapel, an architectural gem constructed in 1890 within the older Catholic section of Rookwood. The chapel, showcasing the Gothic Revival-style, underwent restoration in 1990 in celebration of its centenary. It stands as a testament to the cemetery's historical and cultural significance.

After the tour the group headed off in discovery of ancestral burials. I did find some of the grave sites on my list, but disappointingly, there were no headstones to mark their final resting place. I had bought some flowers at the little florist shop at the entry to the cemetery and had to be satisfied with taking a photo of a sprig of flowers lying on the grass of their grave site.



Prepare for your visit to Rookwood Cemetery by utilising the deceased search function on the Rookwood General Cemetery website to locate your ancestor. Print out the information and bring it with you to guide you during your visit. Use the deceased search function on your mobile phone to pinpoint the exact location of the grave site once you're at the cemetery. This process is applicable to both the Rookwood General Cemetery and the Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. It's advisable to bring a portable phone charger, as mobile phone batteries may deplete quickly during your visit.

In addition to uncovering ancestral pursuits, the group took time to appreciate the Hidden Sculptures exhibition. Hidden Rookwood Sculptures is an annual outdoor sculpture exhibition, running since 2009. It takes place amongst the pathways and gardens in one of the oldest sections of Rookwood Cemetery. The group marvelled at a diverse array of sculptures, ranging from creations by school children and teenagers to those crafted by established stonemasons and professional contemporary artists.

We unanimously acknowledged that we had a delightful day, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to David Pilkington, our bus driver, and his wife Joy for skilfully navigating the cemetery and ensuring our safe journey there and back. ... ❖



BUS TRIP TO MUSEUMS OF HISTORY STATE ARCHIVES COLLECTION.

Regina Hogan member 533

On Saturday 25 November, ten members of the Wyong Family History Group embarked on a bus trip to explore the Museums of History, State Archives Collection. Amidst the wonderful records, our group had a successful day, delving into a wealth of historical information. Personally, I secured five marriage certificates, one birth certificate, and one death certificate from the records I had requested - a haul that more than justified the cost of the bus trip. The excursion provided a wonderful social day, enhanced by the opportunity to enrich our ancestors' stories. Special thanks to our skilled bus driver, Ivan, for ensuring a safe journey to and from the archives. ... ❖

EXCURSIONS TO ROOKWOOD AND KINGSWOOD

Lyn Clark-Duff member 907

Recently two small groups of members travelled to Sydney by minibus to further our family history research at Rookwood Cemetery and at NSW Archives & Records, Kingswood. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our volunteer drivers (and navigators) who drove us there, waited around and then brought us safely back home.

I would like to express a HUGE THANK YOU to David and Joy Pilkington who took the tour to Rookwood, and Ivan and Margaret Counter who took us to Kingswood. Also, many thanks to Roger Lewis, who worked behind the scenes, to organize the bus hire and advise the group about pickup times and locations. What a great service to members!



If we are to repeat these excursions in future, we need more members to register and to help cover the costs and more volunteer

drivers to be available. I would encourage you to join us for a great day's research and companionship. ... ❖

2023 Jingle and Mingle

Lynda Smith LM 2.



Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success. The table decorations were very colourful and festive. We had an abundance of beautifully decorated raffle prizes, dedicated ticket sellers and the quizzes challenged the brain cells. It takes a very brave person to ask factual questions of a group of dedicated researchers! The updated



slide show gave detailed coverage of our past history. It was very good to see some faces of folks no longer with us.

The room was very comfortable, and easy to access. There was a last-ditch attempt by the Club to move us upstairs, so they could use the room for their toy raffle, but we refused. The veggies could have benefitted from a few more minutes of heat, but in general, the meal was tasty. It appears that if we choose to use the Club again, we have to be extremely specific about food intolerances.

It was good to see so many members and some partners attend and everyone seemed to enjoy the event, especially those who won the many prizes.



2023 Jingle and Mingle

Regina Hogan member 533

Cousin Maria Powell and I had fun today at the Wyong Family History Group's Jingle and Mingle Christmas party. We even managed to win a few raffle prizes. 🛎





A MURDER IN THE FAMILY

Lynda Smith LM 2.

"Murdered Te Anau NZ, early 1950s" is the notation I made in 1990 when I visited long lost PRENTICE cousins in Dunedin. My father's parents left New Zealand in 1931 and contact with family was sporadic over the following years. Prior to our visit, I had finally made contact with some of my father's extended family and they arranged a reunion afternoon tea for us. While I was there, I took notes, as you do!

My great grandfather came from a family of four brothers and four sisters. Many of their descendants had stayed in the south, either in Dunedin, or in the farmlands or coastal towns nearby. My father descends from John, who made the journey to the North Island. One of his sisters, Margaret Maud, married a Martin HUGHES in 1919 in Dunedin.

Martin and Maud had four children, Ivy Tuohey, Allan, John Joseph [known as Jack] and Archibald, before Martin died, quite young, in 1926. The youngest child, Archibald, born in 1926 died in 1930. The family told me the little one had a heart problem. The murdered person referred to in my notes, is John Joseph HUGHES. In 1990 online access to NZ newspapers wasn't an option, so I did not pursue the matter.

Now that I am entering my research into Ancestry trees, I am continually finding new information. I have recently used the NZ Paperspast website to find out more about Jack's murder. Jack was working at Makarewa Freezing Works as a butcher in 1955. Makarewa is a small town, 8 kilometres north of Invercargill in the Southland area. His brother Allan ran a motor mechanic's shop in Dunedin. On March 11, HUGHES and COLLINS left the freezer works for a few days off. On the night of March 14, Jack visited Allan and his wife Elsie in Dunedin. He had a friend with him, who he introduced as Harvey COLLINS, who worked as

a caretaker at the same freezing works. Jack owned a Rover, a fact that became crucial in the story. He and Harvey had driven up in this vehicle. From the trial, Allan had this to say about the 14th.

"The accused wanted to buy the car, and the price agreed to was £1025. The money was to be paid when the ownership papers were obtained, and the transfer papers filled in. The accused said he would pay by cheque. The witness said he gave his brother the change of ownership papers, and told him to fill them in. After 5.30 p.m., the witness said, he spent half an hour with the two men at the bar of the Victoria Hotel. They had about nine beers. About 6.40 p.m., the two men went to his home for tea. His brother asked him about getting another car, and the witness suggested one that would be available in about three weeks. The accused mentioned during the evening that he could get £2000, quite easily, from his parents."

They then went to Allan's home, where a pleasant evening was had, some more alcohol consumed and Jack and Harvey left about 10.30pm, stating that they would return to Makarewa the next day.



Jack also owned a Melior rifle, which he kept in the car, another fact that would prove to be crucial. On March 16, COLLINS ended up back at the Freezing works in Jack's Rover and when asked about Jack, said he was "on the drink in Christchurch" which is a fair distance from Dunedin. This statement did not gel with other comments made during the trial. Witnesses said Jack was *"about the steadiest fellow I have ever met for a freezing worker. Hughes was a light drinker and a conscientious worker."*

On March 14, at Dunedin Post Office, a withdrawal was made from JJ HUGHES' account for 35 pounds. Later the same day, this money was used to make the final finance company payment on the Rover. A man identifying himself as HUGHES made this payment and had the car's papers given to him. The Finance Company employee stated later in the trial that he did not personally know HUGHES and had assumed all was correct with the transaction.

Later in the afternoon of March 16 the manager of the Freezing Works approached COLLINS. He asked about the spare keys to the huts, as 145 pounds was missing from one of them. COLLINS denied knowledge of the theft, but shortly afterwards was seen driving off in a car. The manager noted the licence number and handed the information to Constable SKIPWORTH. The car was later identified as the Rover belonging to HUGHES. COLLINS did not return to the Freezing works.

Jack's brother Allan sent two telegrams to the Freezing works in late March. The second telegram resulted in the response, "Addressee left works." It was most unusual for Jack to do this without corresponding with his brother. Allan eventually reported to the Police that his brother was missing.

PRESS, VOLUME XCI, ISSUE 27662, 19 MAY 1955, PAGE 12

MAN MISSING SINCE MARCH 11 (New Zealand Press Association,

"INVERCARGILL, May 18. Police throughout New Zealand are searching for a 34-year-old slaughterman, labourer, and shearer, John Joseph Hughes, who has been missing since March 11.

Mr Hughes was employed at the Makarewa freezing works. He is a well-built man, 5ft 10 in tall, with a fresh complexion and dark brown hair, parted on the left side and brushed back."

According to another witness at the trial, on March 17, COLLINS was seen in the Rover, near "...Oran bridge, with the accused driving. The accused produced two bottles of beer, and provided drinks for the witness and his workmates. The accused showed them the car and explained the performances he had had from it. When he opened the back door, he drew their attention to bloodstains on the floor mat. The accused said that he and some friends had been shooting, and a pig had been put in the back of the car. His friends, he said, were following in a station waggon, and would probably have some venison or wild pig aboard. The workmen were to stop them and get some. Up to 4.30 p.m. no station waggon passed."

Another witness, Leo Martin Twiss, an agricultural contractor, of Southbridge, said... "he met the accused in Nelson under the name of WOODWARD. They shared a room in the Dominion Hotel for three days from March 22. The accused had a Rover car with him which he said he had bought in Invercargill. He had a rifle in his possession, and the witness removed a jammed shell from the rifle."

Dudley Alfred Henry Bagot, a car salesman, of Christchurch, said... "about April 2 the accused brought in a Rover sedan to trade it for a car with more ground clearance, because of the country he was going into. The witness said he made the accused an offer for the car as a trade-in for a Ford VB. There was £65 difference in the price of the cars. The accused said his name was John Joseph Hughes. The extra £65 was the subject of a hire-purchase agreement. The agreement was signed by the accused "J. J.

Hughes." He also signed two promissary notes. The accused handed over the registration papers and a signed form of change of ownership. Later, the accused returned, and said he had altered his address, and correspondence should be addressed care of Mr Jones, butcher, Southbridge. He said his house was being renovated. The witness said he saw the accused transfer some boots and a shearing head from the Rover to the Ford.

The witness said he swept out the Rover and found two empty .22 shells and one unexploded shell. The two empty shells were thrown into the garbage tin. The other shell was handed into the Police."

Police later tested the blood residue from the car and found it to be human. Other witnesses spoke of how COLLINS showed off with a rifle, shooting at trees and bragging about his hunting prowess. It also appears that COLLINS was an alias, one of many that this person had used. The very diligent Police Constable SKIPWORTH searched through over 5000 photographs of criminals and matched up his identities. His work was later recognised with a NZ Police Award for Merit. He determined that COLLINS was actually Harvey Eric ALLWOOD.



Eglington Valley, 44 miles west of Te Anau, near the Fiordlands, on the way to Milford Sound.

"Detective-Sergeant G. W. Alty, of Dunedin said in evidence that on May 17, with Detective-Sergeant Marshall, Detective McCoombe, and Constable Preston, he went to a farm property at Hawea Flat, where he found Allwood in a hut. Allwood was arrested on warrant, in connexion with another matter. When we first told the accused, we had a warrant to arrest him, he denied he was Allwood, and claimed his surname was ROBERTS but shortly afterwards he admitted he was Allwood, and that at the Makarewa freezing works he had gone under the name of Harvey Collins," said Detective-Sergeant Alty. The witness said they searched the hut. "In a suitcase under the bed, I found a driver's licence in the name of John Hughes," he said. "The accused told us it had been left in the glovebox of a Rover car he had bought from Hughes at Invercargill."

Over 30 witnesses were called for the Crown. The evidence against the accused was overwhelming.

PRESS, VOLUME XCI, ISSUE 27697, 29 JUNE 1955, PAGE 8

" INVERCARGILL, June 28. A post-mortem examination of the body of John Joseph Hughes revealed that he had been shot twice in the head, and that his skull had been fractured in several places, probably by a blow delivered from behind or from one side, said Dr. Eric Frederick D'Ath, professor of pathology at the Otago Medical School, in the Magistrate's Court at Invercargill today. Dr. D'Ath was giving evidence on the second day of the hearing of a charge of murder against Harvey Eric Allwood, aged 34, a former freezing worker at Makarewa. Allwood is charged with murdering Hughes, who was aged 34, at Te Anau on or about March 15. Neither of the bullets nor the blow would cause instant death, Dr. D'Ath said. He described how Hughes's body was found under a log in the Eglinton Valley, about 44 miles from Te Anau. The body was clothed, except for the trousers, and was partly decomposed.

ALLWOOD was found guilty and sentenced to death. He had been in custody since May 17. He appealed in September, but the appeal was denied. ALLWOOD tried to say that he had accidentally shot HUGHES and thought he had killed him. When he saw him move, he shot him again, as an act of mercy. He said they had been arguing over who would shoot rabbits first. Unfortunately for him, ALLWOOD had led a life of deceit and he was not believed.

PRESS, VOLUME XCII, ISSUE 27789, 14 OCTOBER 1955, PAGE 14

ALLWOOD HANGED

(New Zealand Press Association) AUCKLAND, October 13. Harvey Eric Allwood, aged 34, was hanged at the Auckland Prison at 6.29 p.m. today for the murder of John Joseph Hughes at Te Anau in March.

John Joseph HUGHES was buried in Dunedin, on May 28 1955, by his family. He is in Block 173, Plot 30 in Anderson's Bay Cemetery, with his mother Maud who died in 1944. It is thought that he died on March 15.

Resources: Paperspast. Ancestry.com, NZ BDM Indexes,

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eglinton_River

<https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/cemeteries-search?recordid=17291&type=Burial>



A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

2023 was a challenging year for me personally and I would like to thank Wyong Family History Group Inc. for their continuing support and good wishes. Bringing together **your** Tree of Life is certainly keeping me mentally active. Many challenges are still before me in 2024, however time will tell.



The Committee have a lot planned for 2024 and participating can be very rewarding and informative with a bit of fun thrown in.

Please enjoy this issue and your stories and reactions are always welcome. Email your stories to me at wfhgtol@westnet.com.au Our next deadline is 21 April 2024. ... ❖

JANUARY ZOOM

Helen Johnston-Lord member 506

To coincide with our National Day, the topic for this ZOOM was 'Who were your first Australians'. We had 11 attendees who either had interesting stories or were interested in the yarns of others.

Some had First Fleeters whilst others had tales of convicts.

I was prompted to revisit the ancestors of my father and update their information.

Preparing for and joining these sessions can prompt a whole new direction in your research. Why not join us on February 21 and share the story of How Your Parents Met?

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR ELIZABETH SPENCE?

Helen Johnston-Lord DipFamHist member 505

This is part of my journey for the Diploma of Family History, UTAS, submitted November 2016, giving a voice to my ancestor.

"After 170 days at sea, we have finally arrived in Port Jackson and landed at a pretty little bay tucked behind the intimidating headland.

"Our Patrick was amongst the group of craftsmen, under the government-organized bounty system, selected by Dr. Boyter to travel to Australia.

"With Margaret just six years, little George barely 15 months and myself bearing another child, Patrick and I joined over 300 others aboard the barque *John Barry* at Dundee in March 1837. There was sickness aboard the overcrowded 520 ton three masted ship. Our possessions were packed between the decks. Provisions were adequate with nursing mothers being allocated extra. There is another Scottish Spence family on board, although they are not related.

"We encountered very bad weather as we crossed the ocean and the decks were often awash with seawater.

"To our great sorrow little George was one of the twelve who died on the voyage, succumbing to diarrhea on 6 May 1837, his life was so short. I was delivered of Peter Keay on 23 June 1837, we were still ten and a half weeks from Port Jackson, nine others were born.

"It is August 1837 and we are here at what will become the Quarantine Station, they say for one week. There are few buildings and the craftsmen are set to building the hospital.

"What will become of us in this strange land. Fortunately Patrick and I have some reading and writing skills and Patrick is a mason. Will our children survive and thrive?

Elizabeth Spence 25 August 1837"

Elizabeth was born Elizabeth Keay, in 1811 at Collace, Perth, Scotland and died 27 August 1878, Harts Lane, Australia.

Patrick became known as Peter in the Colony. Elizabeth and Peter had a total of 12 children. They were my three times grand parents. H J-L. ... ❖

DAVID BOYTER R. N. ... AGENT FOR EMIGRATION

Submitted by Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Convict Ship Surgeon-Superintendent

In 1836 Dr. Boyter was appointed agent of emigration to New South Wales on the plan suggested by Sir Richard Bourke, subject to the confirmation of the Secretary of State. He was instructed to proceed to Scotland, and in that country to select mechanics for emigration to the colony, of the following descriptions, and in the following proportions: viz., carpenters, one eighth; joiners one eighth; stone masons, one half; blacksmiths, one eighth; and bricklayers one eighth. These artificers were all to be married men, and accompanied by their wives and children; the ages of neither of the married couple to exceed thirty years.

The Australian reported that Dr. Boyter was to offer a passage to Sydney on the following terms:

THE AUSTRALIAN, FEBRUARY 1837

"Each married couple under thirty years of age a bounty of £30. Each child above two and under seven years £5; Each child above seven and under 15 years £10; Each unmarried daughter above fifteen and under thirty years £15; any young woman, under the protection of a family above 18 and under 30 years £15.

"This bounty according to the present rate of passage money in London is perfectly adequate to pay the whole expense; it may, therefore be considered a free passage.

"Dr. Boyter entertains the fullest expectations of being able to procure as many respectable families from Forfarshire and the adjacent counties as will require a ship of large tonnage for their conveyance; in which case, a ship of the first class will be brought into the Tay, and receive every person on board, with all their necessaries and luggage; and Dr. Boyter will feel bound to proceed direct to NSW in the vessel himself. As

Dr. Boyter has frequently been in the Colony and made himself fully acquainted with everything relating to emigration, the whole superintendence and direction have been entrusted to him ."

Source:

https://www.freesettlerorfelon.com/david_boyter_surgeon.html



SOMETHING FYSHY!

Lynda Smith LM 2.

One of my father's first cousins, Eric GREEN married a lady called Jean Dorothy FYSH in 1946. A relative just found this wedding photo of the happy couple and sent me a copy.

For reasons lost in time, Eric's family nickname was Beau and Jean's family nickname was Tolly. Recently I had a chance to do some research on the FYSH line. [Pun not intended] I soon discovered that Jean's father was one Arthur Kershaw FYSH, born in King's Lynn, Norfolk, England in 1891. He was with his family in the 1901 UK Census, and I found a UK marriage for him in 1908 but he could not be found in the 1911 UK Census. His wife, Violet Hilda FYSH nee DINES and their two- year-old son Thomas were living with her parents in 1911, still in King's Lynn.

Using Ancestry.com I found him in Australia in the 1913 Electoral Roll, living just outside Lismore, on a farm. As both he and his wife Violet Hilda DINES were 16 when they married, I assume this was done because they were expecting Thomas. Did the relationship falter? Were they too young to make things work? Did Violet even know where he was? Another Ancestry researcher had found his arrival in Australia as an unaccompanied male in Dec. 1909 per the ship **Osterley**.

I will never know the answers to those questions, but the next few years showed an interesting twist in the story. Arthur signed up with the 1st AIF and saw action overseas, He joined on 28 Sept 1915 and listed his father Alfred who was still living in Kings Lynn as his next of kin,,,. On 21st May 1918 he notifies the Army that his next of kin is Violet Hilda, his wife, living at 12 Union St., King's Lyn, Norfolk, England. The Army takes Next of Kin relationships seriously. They did not believe Arthur until he



provided a certified copy of his marriage to Violet on 21 Sep. 1908. It is included in his Army records, which is quite amazing.

Arthur was sent to the Western Front and in April 1918, he was gassed. He was shipped back to the UK and hospitalised. He returned to Australia in December 1919. Did he reconnect with Violet and his son Thomas during his time in the UK? It seems likely because of the change to the NOK information. If so, then you would think that Violet and Thomas would come to Australia as soon as they could. I looked and looked, eventually finding them coming out on the **Berima** in 1922.

Further checking of Electoral Rolls has Violet living with Arthur from 1930 onwards. I haven't found any earlier Electoral Rolls for the couple as yet. Thomas was also with them for a few years at a place called Newstead, near Byron Bay. In the 1940s Arthur and Violet moved into Byron Bay and Arthur started work at the butter factory. Thomas stayed on at Newstead, married and ends up a plantation manager [presumably bananas]. Other researchers have included siblings for Thomas, all born in the 1920s: Gerard in 1923, Jean in 1925 and George in 1927. So, it appears the marriage survived years of separation, a war, the Great Depression and another war. Arthur died in 1958 and Violet in 1964. They have a joint headstone in Byron Bay Cemetery. Sadly, the photo I have is not overly clear, but the intention is obvious. This couple overcame so much.

What of their children? Thomas Arthur FYSH married Eileen Pearl KEEVERS in 1934 in Byron Bay. They had at least one son, Thomas Leslie/Lesley in 1936. Thomas Arthur died in 1992 in Lismore.

Gerard FYSH fought in WW2, and he married Catherine Susan FLETCHER in 1944. They had a large family, according to their joint headstone: David b/d 1946, Thomas Gerard, Anthony George, Robert Francis, Clare Susan, Paul, Geoffrey James, Mary Ann and lastly, John Bernard. Gerard died in 1980 in Byron Bay and Catherine in 2012.

George Wilfred FYSH joined the Navy in 1946 when he was 18. He served two years. At this stage, I do not know his whereabouts from 1948-1960s. He married later in life, in 1963, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, to a divorcee, Dorothy Jean ANDERSON nee RATTLE. I found their marriage details on FamilySearch.org. It was most exciting! George was working for Steamships Company, one of the three



major businesses operating in PNG at the time [Burns Philp, Steamships and New Guinea Company]. Dorothy stated she was a cashier, living in the Boroko Motel. It appears that George had been working in Port Moresby off and on through the 1960s. There are a series of Aircraft Incoming Passenger cards showing him coming and going from Port Moresby to Queensland, either on holiday or for business that I found on Findmypast.com. He stated he was a supermarket manager and then a freezer manager. Having lived in Port Moresby myself, from 1966-1969, I know that frozen meat and other goods came in shiploads on a regular basis. My father worked for New Guinea Company and when we moved to Rabaul, I worked as a checkout chick at their own supermarket in the Christmas holidays. My mother worked in the offices of Burns Philp. It is certainly a small world.

By 1972 George was living in Brisbane with Dorothy. George died in 1990, having returned to Byron Bay after Dorothy's passing in 1980. I have not found any children for this union, but there are four children noted on Dorothy's first husband's Army file.



Jean FYSH and Eric GREEN had four children: Timothy, Gordon, Noel and David. Jean GREEN nee FYSH died in 2011. I have recently sent a message to Andrew FYSH to see if he would like to exchange information and I am currently in contact with Gordon's daughter Cara, who supplied the wedding photo.

Resources;

[Ancestry.com](#), [Ancestry researcher Andrew FYSH](#), [cousin Gordon GREEN](#), [Findmypast.com.](#), [FamilySearch.com.](#), [Qld. BDMs](#), [NSW BDMs](#), [Ryerson Index](#), [Australian War Memorial](#), [National Archives Australia](#), [Findagrave.com](#)



VALÉ PETER YATES MEMBER #228

Kerrie Metcalfe LM (80)



Peter was a member of Wyong Family History Group Inc. from the 19 July 2006 until 9 October 2023. Peter was very involved and very passionate about coaching High School Students in Lawn Bowls, which left him very little time, however he was supportive of our group, and we appreciated his continued membership. Peter attended social events when he was able to, and he also made resource donations on occasions. Our condolences to his wife Bev and family. ... Rest in Peace.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Here at **Wyang 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/Co-ordinators are keen to share their knowledge with others. Please support them.

All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar [page 34]

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



SIGs go for one to two hours

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 continues. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.

Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential



2024 FEES AND CHARGES

The following fees and charges apply:

- Membership Fees** for a 12 month Membership:
Single: \$40.00
Family: includes 2 Adults and 1 other person living at the same address. \$50.00
- Junior: 18 years and under \$20.00
- Special Interest Group Fees (SIG):** No Handouts. Casual. Question and Answers from participants. \$3.00
- Information Sessions:** These run up to two-hours with a structured format and topic with handouts \$5.00
- Seminars:** Usually held at a larger venue with one or more guest speakers
\$30 Members and \$35 Non-Members.
- Beginners Course:** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
- Intermediate Course** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
- Advanced Course** \$60.00 for 4 weeks or \$20 per day
- DNA Days** for this will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. AM and PM Sessions. Bookings are **essential** and must be in advance. One on One DNA help \$10.00 per hour
- Personal Research** after an appointment to discuss your requirements. Approx. \$50 per couple researched
- Master Class** These are longer sessions depending on topic; they are structured and can be a hands-on workshop. \$20.00
- Non-Member Research Fee** for a two-hour session – become a member for only \$10.00 extra \$30.00

PHOTOCOPYING

A4	A3
Black & white .40¢ per copy	Black & white .60¢ per copy
Colour .80¢ per copy	Black & white \$1.20 per copy
for double sided	.30¢ per copy extra
Laminating A4 \$1.50	Laminating A3 \$2.00



VALÉ

KEVIN BRADBURY MEMBER #189

Roger Lewis LM 127

Sadly, Kevin passed away on Sunday Jan 7th, 2024.

Kevin Bradbury has given much time to the group over the years. He joined our group on the 10 February 2005 and was more than happy to help whenever and wherever he could.

He did roster duty for a number of years until he had to give it up due to health problems,

Kevin revamped the *Gene Military Booklet* with information on researching your military ancestors.

Kevin served on the 2009 State Conference Committee and was instrumental in its success for the hosts Wyong Family History Group Inc.

He also was involved with the ANZAC displays between 2015 -2018

Kevin was involved with the arranging of the ANZAC event we held at the Wyong Golf Club in 2015.

Kevin Bradbury a true gentleman Rest in Peace.



DID YOU KNOW THE NAME TOUKLEY?

is thought to have indigenous origin. Two very different theories are that 'toukley' means 'many brambles', or that 'toukley oukley' means 'rough on one side, smooth on the other', interpreted as referring to Tuggerah Lake and Budgewoi Lake. The town's name was officially changed from **Toukley Oukley** to Toukley in 1969. ... ❖



Their War

They are remembered



*They sleep not in their native land, but beneath a foreign sky,
Far away from those who loved them, in hero's graves they lie.*

THE IMPERIAL CAMEL CORPS MEMORIAL

The Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05975.002

The Imperial Camel Corps Memorial is in Embankment Gardens in London. The memorial features a bronze sculpture of a soldier mounted on a camel by Major Cecil Brown. The sculpture is mounted on a stone pedestal on the sides of which are two bronze relief plaques and two bronze name tablets. Two running soldiers are depicted on the bronze relief on the the south side and two officers standing alongside a kneeling camel are depicted on the bronze panel on the north side. The inscription beneath the relief on the southern side reads: 'Engagements/ 1916/ Romani / Baharia / Mazar / Dakla / Maghara / El Arish / Maghdaba 1917/ RAF / Hassana / Gaza 1 /

Gaza 2 / Sana Redoubt / Beersheba / Bir Khn / Weilfe / Hill 265/ 1918/ Amman / Jordan Valley / Mudawara (Hedjaz)'. The inscription beneath the relief on the northern side reads: 'To the glorious and immortal/ memory of the Officers NCO & men/ of the Imperial Camel Corps British/ Australian New Zealand Indian/ who fell in action or died of wounds/ & disease in Egypt Sinai and Palestine/ 1916-17-18'. This memorial was unveiled by General Sir Phillip Chetwode and the dedication performed by the Bishop of London on 22 July 1921.

CAMELS CARRIED WOUNDED

Camels equipped with 'cacolet' stretchers transport wounded soldiers across the desert during the Sinai campaign of 1916-17.

Two Camel Companies were formed from NZMR Brigade Reinforcements. The roles of camels in Sinai and Palestine included transporting wounded on 'cacolet' stretchers. This was an uncomfortable experience, as C.G. Powles observed in his history of The New Zealanders in Sinai and Palestine (p. 41):

"The cacolet was a contrivance lashed to a camel's back which carried a man on each side; but the rolling motion which accompanied the camel's gait allows of neither rest nor ease and exacts the full penalty of pain from the unfortunate occupant. Happy indeed was the man whose wound permitted him to be lashed instead to his horse."

Source:

'Camels carrying wounded', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/camels-carrying-wounded>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 30-Jul-2014



THE INTERNATIONAL CAMEL BRIGADE

The only truly mounted infantry troops in this theatre of operation. The International Camel Brigade consisted of four infantry battalions made up mostly of Gallipoli veterans. It had 18 Infantry Companies, each consisting of six officers and 169 other ranks. Ten of the companies were Australian, six were British and the remaining two were from New Zealand. In total they numbered about 2,800 men, over three times the size of a Light Horse Brigade, and they were supported with 36 Lewis guns, eight Maxim Guns, and six small-calibre 9-pounder guns. They rode camels to reach the enemy before dismounting and fighting on foot as conventional infantry.

The lighter Egyptian camel became the mount chosen for carrying troops. The camels could cover an average distance of 3 miles (4.8 km) an hour, or 6 miles (9.7 km) an hour trotting, while carrying a soldier, his equipment, and supplies. The camel companies consisted of a small headquarters and four sections, each of seven groups of four men. The establishment of a company was 130 men, all armed with Lee-Enfields, the standard British bolt action rifle of the time.

Each company added a machine-gun section of fifteen men with three



Lewis guns; the company headquarters also received extra staff. All this increased company strength to 184 men. The four companies were expected to operate as independent units that travelled by camel but then dismounted to fight as infantrymen. Following the practise of cavalry and mounted infantry units, one man of each group of four held the camels when the team was in action, which reduced a team's firepower by a quarter. However it was soon discovered that camels were not as nervous as horses when faced with artillery and rifle fire, and one man would look after twelve to sixteen camels once the troopers had dismounted.

It has been estimated that in excess of a million camels were lost during World War One.

Menangle Park, NSW. 1916. Members of the AIF, training as reinforcements for the Imperial Camel Corps (ICC). This camel was donated to the ICC by Mr Abdul Wahid (Wade) who used the symbol A33 as his brand.

Sources:

[Australian War Museum](#)

https://birtwistlewiki.com.au/wiki/Imperial_Camel_Corps



Save the Date!

MILITARY SEMINAR

Saturday 20th April.

Military records matter, we can learn much from these.

With a speaker from the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, and hopefully someone from the National Archives of Australia's Chester Hill Office, join us for an informative day.

Watch the weekly newsletter for details when they are finalised.

FREE COURSES

Lynda Smith LM 2.

A few years ago, my husband and I had to face the fact that his beloved mother Gladys, was suffering from dementia. Neither of us had dealt with this illness before and I naturally turned to the Internet to find some information to assist us in helping her. I discovered a free online course being offered by the University of Tasmania. This University runs a number of MOOC- Massive Open Online Courses, that are free.



Understanding Dementia is the first one I completed, followed by **Preventing Dementia**. These are run through a research branch of UTAS called the Wicking Institute. I quote from their website

<https://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia>

"**Understanding Dementia** addresses the foremost issues surrounding dementia, providing avenues for discussion as well as rich global networking opportunities to engage with this major international health Issue. The course provides knowledge designed to maximise quality of life across the trajectory of dementia for people with the condition, their families and caregivers.

To obtain the most from this course, participants should expect to spend approximately 3 hours per week engaging with the content and completing related course activities. There are 7 weeks of scheduled content. After completing the final quizzes for all three modules of the course: 'The Brain', 'The Diseases' and 'The Person', participants will be eligible to download a certificate of completion."

<https://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/preventing-dementia>

"With the ageing of the world's population, dementia is a major public health issue. Is it possible to modify your risk of dementia? A substantial proportion of risk is associated with advanced ageing as well as genetic risk factors, but the latest research has indicated there are factors you can modify which may decrease your susceptibility to dementia. The **Preventing Dementia** MOOC investigates the best available evidence about dementia prevention, drawing on a range of expertise from around the globe."

I would highly recommend these courses to anyone interested in finding out more about this devastating illness. I found the course information to be very helpful. ... ♦

BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

This 4 Week Course Includes:-

- 📖 *How to Begin Research*
- 📖 *Record Keeping*
- 📖 *Charts*
- 📖 *Filing & Organising*
- 📖 *Australian Records*
- 📖 *Google*
- 📖 *Software*
- 📖 *& Much, much more*

Begins: Monday 12 February 2024
thence each Monday to 4 March 2024

Time: 9:10 am for 9:30 start – 2:30 pm

Where: Wyong Family History Group's Cottage, Wyong

Cost: \$60 for full course or \$20 per day - pay in advance.

Book & Pay: on line: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

Payment Options: Direct Deposit, PayPal, EFTPOS, in person at the Cottage

Enquiries: 'The Cottage' – 4351 2211,
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Email: wfhg06@westnet.com.au.

In Person: Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong.
[enter via the old school yard]





WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

***Do you want to know your Family History
but just don't have the time?***

For a reasonable Fee

Let us research either the Paternal or Maternal side of your family.

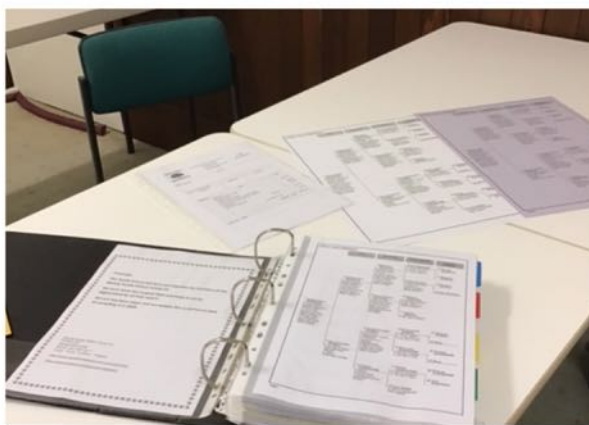
Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.

Other costs may be incurred for certificates or transcripts (after consultation with the client)

You will receive an A3 Ancestral/Pedigree Chart showing your line, and an A4 display folder of information and stories we may find as well as all the documents you pay for.

All research will be done by our volunteers, some have a Diploma of Family History or have been researching family history for many years. Researchers use our resources, our access to paid genealogical sites, societies in places of interest to your subject also newspapers and State Archives.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.
P.O. BOX 247
WYONG, N.S.W. 2259
PH: 4351 2211 Tuesday – Thursday
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Email: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au
Web Address:
www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au



Example of what you may receive.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

More details at: <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au>

Publication	Type	Price
DIGITAL RELEASE		
Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 - NEW	USB	\$ 50.00 + p&h
This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838-1967 and Burials 1837-1987 with links to copies of the original church register pages for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes. System requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10GB hard disk space		
BOOKS & CDs		
Servicewomen of the NSW Central Coast – Their Lives & Service NEW	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
156 Page, fully indexed book outlining the lives and service of 330 women who served in armed services and who were either born, lived or died on the NSW Central Coast.		
Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Reduced Price	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Reduced Price	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs		
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 – 1954	Book out of Print	
Reduced Price	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Incorporating the Wollombi Express 1892-1906 and Wyong District Advocate 1906-1920. Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details		
People of Wyong Book 1	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages		
People of Wyong Book 2	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages		
People of Wyong Book 3	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages		
People of Wyong Book 4	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Wyong Abattoir, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs		
People of Wyong Book 5	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
All Wyong District Schools both former and current, public and private, with a list of each school's Head Teachers. 270 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured & b&w photos of each school		
Purchase all 5 books in this series at the same time and receive 10% discount		
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book	\$ 7.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006	Book out of Print	
Records available on combined CD		
Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay		
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley & Wyong 1963 – 2011	Reduced Price	CD \$ 12.50 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1984 – 2013	Book	\$ 30.00 + p&h
Reduced Price	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Reduced Price	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area	Reduced Price	CD \$ 5.00 + p&h
Baptisms, burials and marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's diaries and misc. entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy and the Hawkesbury River		

Publication	Type	Price
Wyong Agricultural Association	Book out of Print	
Covers the history of the Wyong Agricultural Association as reported in local newspapers, lists of Office Bearers, photos of Founders and first Committee plus the minutes of all meetings held from 1 May 1913 to 18 June 1930. 248 pages. Fully indexed	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013]	USB	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains birth, marriage and death details, some photos, personal stories and obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. 673 pages	Book out of Print	
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995		
Volume 1	Books out of Print	
Contains 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4790 in memoriam notices and 238 miscellaneous event notices. Includes church photographs		
Volume 2		
Contains 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices as well as Church and Cemetery photos		
Volumes 1 and 2 available on combined CD	Reduced Price CD	\$ 17.50 + p&h
Wyong Remembers	Book	\$ 19.00 + p&h
The history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages		
Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017	Reduced Price CD	\$ 12.50 + p&h
Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries		
Jilliby Cemetery Wyong Shire NSW	Book out of Print	
Noraville Cemetery Wyong Shire 1869 – 2012	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries Wyong Shire 1886 – 2001	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery Wyong Shire 1825 – 2016	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016	Book	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
This index has been compiled from the WFHG Inc. cemetery database. It includes burials [and niches] at Jilliby and Noraville Cemeteries and the burials at Ronkana, St Barnabas [Yarramalong] and Yarramalong Cemeteries. Books have been produced for each individual cemetery that provide additional details such as photographs, headstone inscriptions and, in the case of Ronkana, St Barnabas and Yarramalong Cemeteries, newspaper death, funeral or probate notices for some of the burials. The WFHG Inc. acknowledges the work of Mr Vince McKenzie and his son Clive, gravediggers, whose records form the core of our index. We also acknowledge the CC Council Bereavement Officers for their contribution to our records. Contains cemetery maps, Deceased details – name, age, date of burial, grave location [section, row, plot], some records have birth dates and maiden names. Includes all graves including those unmarked. 220 pages		
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
30,000 names – not all from Wyong		
Genealogy Recorder	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
SUPER SPECIAL - 2 BOOK PACK		
Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011		
Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015	2 x Books	\$ 25.00 + p&h
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
The Late Gwen Bates	70	20 Feb 2021

GENEALOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Stuart Purvis-Smith, #770

It is now just over a year since the reality of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and ChatGPT hit public consciousness in November 2022. It had already been used in many ways with which we may be unknowingly familiar but the arrival of ChatGPT has caught our attention and opened discussion about its uses, potential, limitations and risks. In genealogy, A.I. is with us now whether we like it or not and our DNA Interest Group has been exploring it for some time. For any member who is interested in A.I. or who would just like to know how it is impacting family history research, I strongly recommend joining the Facebook group "Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI)" whose stated aim is "This group is intended to explore the intersection of genealogy and artificial intelligence (AI) in its many difference facets. We want to help genealogists harness the power of AI while understanding both the benefits and limitations of new AI-based technologies." There are many smart people including Blaine Bettinger and a number of Australians contributing to the group and it is worthwhile joining just to sit in on the discussion. We live in exciting times.



Image source:

https://pngtree.com/freepng/adobe-illustrator-icon-logo_3571106.html >png image from pngtree.com/



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, PAMELA
ANDRE MEMBER #810, SECRETARY:
DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2024**

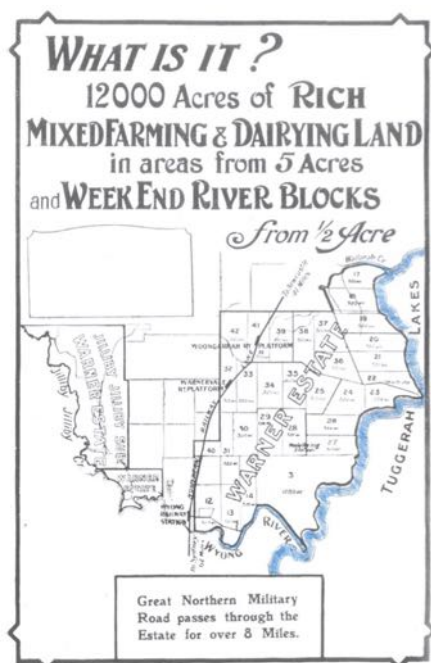
Lynda Smith, President, on behalf of the 2023-2024 Committee.



From everyone who has been on a committee with Pamela, and anyone who has had her help with their research, we thank you for your time, your expertise and your dedication to our group. You have been a very capable Secretary and you have also taken on other tasks, such as looking for grants, organising bus trips, Bunnings Fundraiser BBQ's, booking venues for events and being a research assistant. You also played a mammoth role in organising the Conference last year. We understand that the needs of family come first, and always will.

We look forward to seeing you when you are able to come into the Cottage to catch up with the news and maybe do a little work on your own research. We look forward to seeing you in our Zoom sessions as well.

Thank you also for persuading Ann Holland to take over as Secretary. Our group is in good hands. ... ❖



WARNER ESTATE – 1915

In 1903 Albert Hamlyn Warner bought 12,000 acres to the north and east of the Wyong township and subdivided the land into small farms, weekend blocks and shop sites.

The Warner Estate, property prospectus, published by Albert and Leslie Warner in 1915, advertised blocks highly suitable for productive farming as well as weekend river and lake-front blocks at very reasonable terms.

Weekend blocks were sold for £1 deposit and they boasted, "absolute water frontage, with no mud, sharks or sand flies."

In 1915 lake-front land sold from £12 per acre. That would be the equivalent of only \$1030 per acre today (according to the Reserve Bank of Australia's

inflation calculator).

This is just a taste of the rich history and the many fascinating stories to be told by the historians and descendants of the pioneering families in the Wyong and Tuggerah Lakes district. ... ❖

SOURCES: Wyong Museum & Historical Society Archives; Reserve Bank of Australia's inflation calculator.

We are planning a Bus Trip to Historic Sandgate Cemetery on Saturday 6th April

Sandgate Cemetery, located in Newcastle, is a historic 40-acre cemetery that has been serving the community since 1881. With over 85,000 interments, Sandgate Cemetery is the resting place of over 600 Novocastrian war heroes who returned from World War 1, as well as over 230 graves where the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in foreign lands are memorialised by their families on headstones.



As a significant historical site, Sandgate Cemetery offers visitors the opportunity to reflect on the rich history of Newcastle and its people. Watch the weekly newsletter for further details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Darkinjung people as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. we pay our respects to the Elders, past, present, and future, and recognise the continuing connection and contribution to this land. We would like to extend that respect to any First Nations people who are our readers.

THE WYONG RIVER

The **Wyang River** was crucial to the development of the surrounding farmland in the past. It was also used by local fishermen to access the Tuggerah Lakes system and bring their catch back to the Fishing Co-Op at Tacoma. For many



years a ferry service also operated from Wyong to The Entrance. In the early 1970s the NSW Canoeing Association held their State Titles on the lower reaches of the river. Today, the waterway is popular with recreational paddlers and riverbank fisherfolk. ... ♦





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.

	2024	Event
February	Sat 3	General Meeting 1:00 pm, Guest Speaker: Robert Patton, his travels along the Silk Road. Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Tue 6	Research Assistant Drive 10:00 am.
	Tue 6	New Research Assistant Info . 2 Sessions: 10:30 am – 12 noon, or 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Bookings essential.
	Thu 8	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.
	Sat 10	Love Lanes Festival.
	Mon 12	4-week Beginners Family History Course begins at The Cottage. Concludes 4 March. 9:10 am-2:30 pm. Bookings Essential. Cost \$60.00 per person.
	Tue 20	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 21	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm – Topic: Love Stories ... How did your special people meet?
	Thu 22	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 24	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
March	Tue 27	Committee Meeting for March 10:00 am
	Thu 7	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 9	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Danielle Lautrec from Generation Genealogy and author of The Good Genealogist Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	NSW Seniors Festival – Beyond Reach: March 12 to 24	
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 19	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 20	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm – Topic: Easter Celebrations, traditions and holidays
	Thu 21	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon St Patrick's Day morning tea CCC Senior's Expo Information Stall at Wyong Racecourse.
	Sat 23	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Easter Weekend March 29 – April 1: Cottage Closed	
April	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 4	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 6 Save the Date	Proposed Sandgate Cemetery Bus Trip. \$35 members, \$40 non-members. <i>Pick up locations and times to be determined.</i> Bookings and payment essential.
	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 13	General Meeting 1:00 pm Lyn Parkes from Creighton's Palmdale



	2024	Event
April		Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Tue 16	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
		Australian Heritage Festival: April 18 – May 19
	Sat 20 Save the Date	Proposed Military Seminar (\$35 members, \$40 non-members. <i>Details to be confirmed</i>) Bookings and payment essential.
	Sun 21	Tree of Life Deadline
	Wed 24	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm – Topic: Your Anzac Connections
	Thu 25	Anzac Day Cottage Closed 
	Sat 27	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 30	Committee Meeting for May 10:00 am
May	Thu 2	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon PowerPoint SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Thu 9	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 11	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: To be confirmed. Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Wed 15	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
		National Volunteer Week: May 20 – May 26
	Tue 21	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 22	Volunteer's Morning Tea 10:30 am
	Thu 23	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 25	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting for June 10:00 am



B3 Bookbinding
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Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Research Centre

'The Cottage', Building 9, Wyong Old School Community Centre,
Rankens Court, Wyong.

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm.
At other times by appointment. Public Holidays – Closed.

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

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Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: [02] 4351 2211

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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 April, 2024 is the closing date for submissions for next issue of the "Tree of Life".

Local LDS Family History Centre

Akora Road, Wyoming [near ALDI]

**Opening Hours: Tuesday 6 – 8 pm,
Friday 10 am – 2 pm**

Generally closed during school holidays. Open at other times on request

Free access

Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au_gosford@ldsmail.net

The WFHG has an affiliated agreement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which permits our members to access restricted files and images from the computers in The Cottage.

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WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

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.

Members' contributions are always welcome.