

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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HISTORY GROUP INC.

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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.

Member contributions are always welcome

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Patrons: Karen McNamara, MP for Dobell

Darren Webber, MP for Wyong

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month between February and November, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon and 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Members Free.

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Burkett, Wayne Dean, Roger Lewis.

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Bookstall Coordinator Trish McDonald
Bookstall Assistant Glenise Clery
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Special Events Presentation: Anne Lee
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June Johnston

Wednesday: Trish McDonald Thursday: Lorraine Cameron

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Research – Local: Janice Barrett

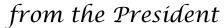
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• Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211



Kerrie Metcalfe, member 80, LM, President WFHG Inc.

I can hardly believe we are so far through 2014. It's August and we are celebrating Family History month with many events taking place all over the State. We have a couple of workshops coming up. Other groups have open days or book launches. It's all happening in the genealogy world for a whole month.

We are approaching another Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September, since our last *Tree of Life* the volunteers have been busy in all different areas to promote our group. Helping our members with their research, keeping up with new resources and keeping the cottage open each week enabling you to have access to our large resource

library both on computer and in books. It's pleasing when I visit the *Cottage* to see people taking time to come in and use the facility.

As the AGM approaches it is time for members to think about what role they may be able to play in the continuation of our Society's growth and stability into the future, we have a list of positions that need filling so think about taking on something or just learning. Please contact the *Cottage* and ask the coordinator to pass on your interest to Helen Burkett our Volunteer Representative or speak to one of the committee members.

The committee strives to make meetings interesting by inviting a guest speaker each month to talk on a topic of interest. When we have these people who are usually locals we need to have an audience for them so come along to our meetings once a month and you may hear something of interest.

We have some really good Special Interest Groups getting off the ground this year, Family Search, English Research covering different Counties each month, as well as our older ones such as Scottish & Irish and convicts, we hope the Family Tree User Group will get off the ground soon as it has always been a workshop in the past run by Marie. We haven't found anyone to take the lead to meet each month. It needs to have a leader, someone who will set the room up and just lead the topics, guide people to help each other.

Workshops have been very popular with a shipping workshop run by Helen Burkett and another one planned for November; English workshop run by Esther Dean now an interest group. Using iPads and Tablets workshop was totally booked out (that's what we want to see).

Field trips are another way we try to encourage our members to get together with trips to State Records, Rookwood and some new places coming up. These trips usually require the hire of a bus and if we don't get the interest we can't run them. State Records has always been well attended as it is a full research day with everyone finding more facts and stories to add to their tree. We usually have three trips a year, however, this year it was hard to fill the seats so next year there will only be two trips arranged.

We will be holding an Introduction to Family History Research Course in October and there will be a limit of 20 places so, if you know someone who wants to get started on the family tree, tell them to contact us and reserve a place. It begins on Monday the 13th.

Don't forget to keep up with events by checking our website or facebook pages.

Next year is the ANZAC centenary and we are now about to set things in motion to do our bit in reflecting and remembering those times and people who gave their life for our Country, if you have any ideas please let us know as we have now formed a subcommittee and hope to hold an event in April as well as anything else that may be achievable. TOL

from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

The last three months have thrown up their own challenges for Harry and myself, however, we are still here soldiering on.

Thank you to the Committee for organizing such a diverse range of activities for Members, I hope you are taking advantage when you can.

There has been a very good response to the 'It's a Riot' bus tour in October. This has been booked out with a waiting list being opened.

Remember the Annual General Meeting on 18th September, this is your chance to help choose the Committee. You might like to volunteer to be a part of the running of our Group.

Whilst I do have some submissions still at hand I once again ask please keep your articles especially those connected with World War I coming. Keeping to the deadline for each issue gives me time to sort stories and present them to you in what I hope is a clear and interesting manner.

So remember the deadline for the next Tree of Life is 20 October 2014..... TOL



Join us on FaceBook

Ann Howard

Guest Speaker at July 2014 General Meeting.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Some of you may remember visiting Ann Howard on Dangar Island last November.

Ann Howard very generously gave us an interesting insight into city children who were evacuated to the 'country' during World War II. She has been researching the evacuations and has collected many stories to be published in the not to distant future.

How Ann became aware of this history was a story in itself.

We look forward to the publication of this new slant on our WWII history..... TOL

NOTICE OF AGM.

Notice is given for The Annual General Meeting for

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

When: 3pm 18th September 2014

Where: 'The Cottage'

Rankens Court, Wyong.

Phone 4351 2211.

HISTORY GROUP INC.

MYONG FAMILY

Computer Talk

Worth a Look App.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

My mobile phone is, by today's standards, fairly basic. It does have a camera and Internet access, however I really just wanted a

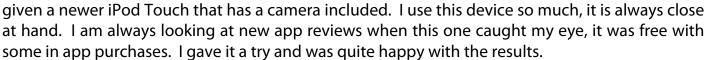
phone with a camera. I have been using an iPod Touch for some years. I have an iPad, Harry has a Mini iPad and a couple of years ago I gave my early iPod Touch to my then four year old grandson. He was delighted. I was

CamScanner
By: IntSig Information;
camscanner.net
For: Android, iPhone,
Windows Phone

Get it: Google Play, iTunes, Windows Phone

Store

Cost: Free; various in-app purchases and upgrades.



The CamScanner app looks like it a 'handy to have on hand all the time scanner'. (App is short for application)..... TOL

Rookwood Cemetery Bus Trip

Martin Fisher, member 653

Friday the 13th turned out to provide perfect weather for visiting a cemetery. We enjoyed Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, a little bit overcast but with the Sun making guest appearances throughout the day. Eighteen of our members joined the bus and travelled down the freeway to Sydney. On arrival at Rookwood we stopped at Reflections cafe for a refreshing cuppa and something to eat before moving in to the cemetery and on with the tour.

I'm reluctant to mention that a certain person forgot to pick up the portable step before we drove out of Toukley shopping centre car park, and there was an altercation between bus and step......the step lost and we spent the remainder of the day physically bracing what was left of the step with our feet so that the less mobile could alight the bus in safety. The step has now been replaced with a metal folding one.

A special thanks to our driver Garry Lee, who spent most of the day driving around the maze of roads spreading throughout the 720 acres of Rookwood. With all that practice I'm sure Garry could now navigate around that cemetery blindfolded.

We were expertly guided by that doyen of the cemetery, "Harry (just try keeping me away from Rookwood) Johnston-Lord" who gave an illuminating running commentary about the various occupants of the graves, some of the history of the cemetery and the role the railways played within the grounds. Many thanks to Harry for providing his expertise on this trip.

Throughout the day members left and rejoined the bus as they searched for their relatives graves and I reckon that some of the more enthusiastic members must have covered more ground on foot than the bus covered.

Around about the middle of the day after we had rounded up all those who were on foot, we moved on to the Chinese Pavilion to partake of an enjoyable lunch before some of us recommenced the tour whilst the remainder re-entered the hunt for lost graves, on foot.

About 3:00pm we made our final stop on the tour with a visit to the Australian War Graves site before we departed the cemetery and headed for home, arriving back on the Coast before 5:00pm.

The conversations on the bus during the return journey led me to believe that most members

who went on the trip found who/what they were looking for and everyone had an enjoyable day

Personally I rediscovered my brother's grave which we couldn't find during last year's bus trip, probably because we had been misdirected by cemetery staff to the wrong area last year. I also located a family plot containing 7 relatives from my maternal grandmother's branch of the family. Pre-trip research made it so much easier to find this grave, so it pays to do your homework before you go.



Rookwood cemetery will be holding an open day on Sunday 14th September 2014 but at this stage WHFG has not put in place any arrangements to run a bus trip for this event.**TOL**

Convict Interest Group

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12. If you have a convict or think you may have a convict in you family then come along. We will assist you in any way we can with your research. At present we have a small compact group and would love for you to join us.

James Henry Crowe (1898–1918) part one

Leonie Baldwin member 594

James Henry Crowe was born on 18th August 1898 at Cootamundra, New South Wales. He was the eighth child of Robert Daniel Crowe and Emily Elizabeth (nee Parish). Robert was born on 1st August 1853 at Camperdown, Newtown, New South Wales and Emily was born on 12th July 1863 in Chiltern, Victoria. They were married in Clarendon Park, Eurongilly New South Wales on 26th December 1881.

Robert and Emily had ten children during the twenty nine years of their married life. The children included; the first born (unnamed) died at birth (b.1882); Robert Thomas (b.1883); Susan Maude (b. 1886); Agnes Emily (b. 1888); Ellie Elizabeth (b. 1891); John Cecil (b. 1893); Myrtle Alice (b. 1896); James Henry (b. 1898); Edward Stacey (b. 1901); Raymond Anderson (b. 1904).

Robert Daniel was a fettler with the NSW Railways. His job was to maintain the railway tracks by ensuring any imperfections were ground or sanded to provide a smooth surface for the train wheels.

The Great Southern Railway line from Sydney through the Cootamundra township opened on 1st November 1877, resulted in a business and



Robert Daniel and Emily Elizabeth Crowe

population boom. Further extensions of the line to Gundagai (1886) and Temora (1893) made Cootamundra the hub of a thriving area and provided employment for many men in the Cootamundra area and surrounding towns. Many of the Crowe family through the generations gained employment with the NSW railway in Cootamundra.

Emily Elizabeth, widely known as Granny Crowe in her capacity as midwife was responsible for helping many residents of Cootamundra into this world – many in the front room of her home at 61 Berthong Street, Cootamundra.

Undoubtedly James (known as Jim), like many of his male descendents was a country born lad, learning the tricks of rural survival from his brother John Cecil (known as Jack), five years his senior. One can imagine, Jim and Jack playing in the paddocks, shooting and trapping rabbits and cooling off in the dams in the hot summer days. Playing around the railway lines where most relatives worked was also a likely pastime.

Around 1903 after Jim had reached school age, (5 years old) he attended the Cootamundra Public School in Cooper Street. The school was built in May 1877 and later extended due to the growing population of the town and subsequent growth in the number of children attending school. Education became compulsory under the 1880 Public Instruction Act – which required children of school age to attend at least 70 days each half year. When he commenced his schooling, Jim joined his brother Jack and sisters Ellie and Myrtle. They would have walked the half mile to school, taking a short cut over the railway lines to get to and from school each day. By the time Jim started at school his older siblings Robert, Susan and Agnes had surpassed the age of fourteen and had left school.

Jim's father (Robert Daniel) was a Methodist by religion and undoubtedly Jim and his brothers and sisters were raised with the beliefs of this religion including strict observance of Sunday as a day of rest and prayer.

The family was an average working family but with 9 mouths to feed, there wasn't a lot of cash left after food and necessities were paid. It was expected that Robert Daniel as the head of the household worked to provide for his family. Wage levels for working people were low. The basic wage case in 1907 held that 42 shillings was a "fair and reasonable wage". However this applied to workers under Commonwealth Awards, but most workers received far less than this Award.

Emily may have received some compensation as a mid wife but this was more likely to be in the form of food or clothing rather than cash. Robert also contributed to the family budget until he was married in 1909. The family lived in a small home with three bedrooms including the parent's room at 61 Berthong Street, Cootamundra.



James Henry Crowe - seated

During Jim's years as a young child, Australia became a nation with Queen Victoria signing the documents in 1900 to create the Commonwealth of Australia. The following year (1901) the federal flag (containing the Union Jack and southern cross) was raised above Parliament (then in Melbourne). Other significant changes included the installation of street lighting in 1904 (although this occurred in Sydney and was sometime before this occurred in small country towns such as Cootamundra). Undoubtedly Jim would have also learnt at School the importance of Antarctic explorers Mawson, David and Mackay reaching the (magnetic) South Pole (1909).

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- iii. The Australian people, 1788-1945 / Brian Fitzpatrick
- iv. Cootamundra District A Photographic History published by Cootamundra Local History Society 1989
- v. Cootamundra District A Photographic History Vol V published by Cootamundra Local History Society 2007
- vi. Cootamundra District A Photographic History Vol IV published by Cootamundra Local History Society 2004
- vii. Births Deaths and Marriages
- viii. Lessons for Life -125 years of public education Cootamundra Public School

Canberra was chosen as the site of the national capital (1904). Possibly of greater interest to Jim was Australia winning the Ashes in 1908 after losing them several years in a row to England. The following year (1909), Australia again won the Ashes this time on England turf. Unbeknown to Jim, Don Bradman was born at around this time (1908) just down the road from the school. He was about two-and-a-half years old when his parents moved to Bowral in the NSW Southern Highlands. Bradman is now widely acknowledged as the greatest Test batsman of all time.

Mainly due to the railway lines that intersected at Cootamundra, the town started to develop and build.

Wallendoon and Parker Streets was a hub of activity with a number of new stores opening. The Government Savings Bank was constructed (corner of Bourke and Parker streets) in 1911, and Jenkins' Garage opened in 1912. Down the road in Mackay Street the District Hospital opened (1910) and a few years later (1917) the Roman Catholic Church was built.

The town celebrated with parades such as Empire Day. One popular activity was the gathering of families, particularly to celebrate special events such as Christmas and Easter as well as births and weddings and other significant family events. Transport was primarily still horse and cart with wheat and wool bales often seen being taken though the main streets on the way to sale.

Jim was 14 years old when his father Robert Daniel passed away (25th January, 1912). Robert was 59 years old. Emily was left to raise her family, four of whom were under 16 years old. There was no form of assistance to the family from the Government which meant the older children who worked and did not have their own family were expected to provide for their mother and those children still living at home.

Clearly, the loss of his father so soon in his life had a significant impact on Jim and meant his childhood came to a sudden halt. He joined the Senior Cadets a year later (1913), and around the same time was employed as an apprentice pastry cook with Holmes and Company – a local Bakery. Two of the cooks he worked with at the Bakery were of German descent and subject to internment.

The War Precautions Act 1914 which came into effect on 10th August 1914 provided that citizens of enemy countries could be interned for the period of the war. Internment was not applied universally; some enemy aliens merely had their movement within the country restricted and were required to report weekly to police.

Around this time, events were taking place in Europe and Britain that would change the lives of many Australians as the world entered World War I.

William John Gamble was my Grandmother's brother. TOL

.....to be continued as part of Their War. ed.

ANZAC Centenary

Our group has formed a sub committee to host an event on the 11 April 2015 to commemorate the World War 1 soldiers who fought with courage and mateship. We plan to hold a free event where we will have guest speakers, and hands on help to find information on your military ancestors, this will be open to the community and held at the Wyong Golf Club. There will be displays and books for sale, this will be an all day event.

We are also looking into the possibility of having some trees replanted in Anzac Road Tuggerah by Wyong Shire Council that were there many years ago. There were 16 trees each representing a returned soldier, its not known exactly when these trees were removed or why, however from a newspaper article we do know the names of the men they honoured. If you know anything about this John Selwood would welcome any information you have, please phone the cottage and we will get him to contact you.

Also if you have a ancestor who you would like to include in our display please let us know. This is in the early planning stages you will hear more about it as more information comes to hand...... TOL

Left: Sentitivity Walk Memorial, North The Entrance, recently mature plants were stolen from this site, Above: Ourimbah War Memorial. They sleep not in their native land, but beneath a foreign sky,

Their War

Their Stories are worth recording and telling.

A Young Soldier's Letter to his Mum

Pamela Newton member 260 It was 1915 and The Great War of Europe, W.W.1, had begun. A young Australian boy, 17 years of age wanted to join the services and go to War to help protect his Country. His parents were very much against him joining as he was so young. However, they knew, that if their permission wasn't given, he would take a false name and age, and if anything should happen to him, his parents would not be notified. They then knowing relented. their son's determination. A letter card was sent

off to his mother, Louisa Bentley, two days before he sailed. It was addressed to his mother, Mrs.

G.W.Bentley, "Dyrabba", Addison Road, Marrickville, an inner suburb of Sydney. Lionel was initially a country boy from Tenterfield, N.S.W. where his father was the proprietor of "The Tenterfield Courier", the local newspaper. The letter read as follows:-

Far away from those who loved them, in hero's graves they lie.

Dear Mum.

Liverpool Camp, 15/6/15 Just a few lines to let you know that I have been alloted to the 2nd Reinforcement of the 18th Battalion, and that we leave Sydney on Friday. (I am not making any mistake). This Friday coming I was picked upon on account of previous training. I am not getting any leave, so I might not see you again. I wish one of you would come up as soon as, to take my port and send up a few bob. When I leave, Ther you will be able to draw my pay. Well, if I don't see you any more, I will say "Good Bye". Give my love to all the Bentleys. If you do come up, you will want to come Wednesday, (tomorrow) as I might leave here on Thursday. From your loving son, Lionel.

Lionel did sail, and sadly was killed soon after he



landed. I am not sure as to when his parents found out, but *Lionel Samuel Bentley* 1897-1915 I have a copy of a letter from the Army as follows.

HEADQUARTERS, 18th .Battalion, A.I.F.26/5/1916 Dear Mrs. Bentley,

On going through Battalion Records I find that your son, No.1799. Pte. L.S.Bentley, died of wounds on the 28th August, 1915. I am enclosing Statements from Cpl. Foster and Private Cubis of this Battalion, who were with him on the night of the 28th of August. signed -

When Lionel Samuel Bentley was born on November 25, 1897, in Tenterfield, Australia, his father, Geoffrey, was 35 and his mother, Louisa, was 34. He died as a teenager on August 28, 1915, in Gelibolu, Turkey, and was buried there.

Charles H. Harrison Lieut.Adjutant, 18th Battalion, A.I.F.A letter was also sent to his mother from the friend that was with him at the time. Lionel had his arm and side blown away, and because the soldiers were being called to "move on", his friend had to leave him in the trench. I felt compelled to write this story today, as today is 25th April, 2009, Anzac Day, and hearing of other stories told by the press, I wanted to tell a story that I heard so many years ago, from my Grandmother and Great Aunt, sisters to Lionel. He was taken from his family at this young age, doing what he felt was his duty to his Country. His brother Ernest was another fallen soldier. He died six weeks after coming back to Australia, in Randwick Military Hospital in 1917. Another son, Walter, went to war, however he came home, and their son Geoffrey William Jnr. volunteered, however he was medically rejected. TOL

More articles in this series soon…ed.



Brick Wall Breached

Jumping The Ditch, With the Help of Volunteers.

Lynda Smith LM 2

I have always known that my father had been born in Wellington NZ. He had often told my sister and me the story of his journey across the Tasman when he was three. He bragged that everyone except him was seasick, and a kindly steward had kept him entertained on the trip over. He could not recall the name of the ship, but knew he had celebrated his 4th birthday in Australia. Armed with these vague clues, my husband and I visited the Australian Archives Office in Sydney. We spent 4 hours trolling through microfilm before I found the family on the *Makura* in 1931. That was more than 20 years ago.

Since then, my research has led me to believe that my grandmother's family had a history of crossing the Tasman, or 'jumping the ditch' as it is now called. Over the last few years I have developed a timeline of my great grandparent's lives. I was entrusted with the care of the last diaries of Gus and Clara GREEN and I have recently finished transcribing Clara's. Gus GREEN was born in Sydney, but went adventuring in New Zealand in the 1890s. He met Clara MINES whilst there and they married in 1898. I started tracing their children and discovered that some were

born in Sydney and others in New Zealand. Some married in NSW and others married in NZ. Eventually, they all ended up in Australia in the 1930s and 1940s. It was all very confusing!

Through websites like **Ancestry.com** and **Findmypast.com**, I accessed Electoral Rolls for both Australia and NZ. The online indexes are incomplete, so I was not able to prove conclusively when the family was in NZ and when they were in Australia, but I did get some more evidence of their gypsy ways. I then sent out appeals to various interested cousins and some more information came my way. The son of the youngest child of the family had some photos and

school records that proving the family were in Australia in the 1920s. Others had photos of the family taken in different locations and at various times.

I then started to look for reasons why the family may have made so many trips. I surmised that having Clara meet her Australian relatives may have been the first. Shortly after the birth of their first son in 1899, the newlyweds ended up in Sydney. 2 children were born in 1901 and 1902. Sadly, their first daughter Lucy also died there in 1901. The remaining children were all born back in NZ from 1905-1912. The deaths of Gus' parents may have played a part, as well as the search for work in the Great Depression. 2 nights ago, I entered "New Zealand Shipping Records" into 'Google' to see if anything new was available online. The following website blew me away. Familysearch.org has made my task so much easier! 2 wonderful volunteers, Bill and Glenys Chadderton recently spent 15 months indexing over 270,000 shipping list pages. They finished this task in 2009 and handed their work over to



[Photo taken in Murwillumbah shows my father Alan with his grandfather Gus and his father Arch, 1931]

FamilySearch.org. A larger group of volunteers are now transcribing the digitally scanned pages. The project is ongoing and Archives NZ suggests that researchers keep checking. The resulting resource is invaluable to researchers like me.

New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Passenger Lists, 1839-1973.

Description: Images and index of the ship passenger lists from Archives New Zealand. There are various types of lists including both outbound and inbound passengers at the various ports of New Zealand. The earliest outbound lists are from minor ports (ports other than Auckland or Wellington) and begin in 1886. The inbound passenger lists also include airplane arrivals in Auckland beginning in 1939 and continuing through 1965. Additional records will be added in the future. The original records are located in the Archives New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

I quickly discovered that just using the GREEN surname in the search box gave me thousands of hits. There are a series of possible filters that include an age range, parents, other travelling companions gender and life events listed on the LHS of the main page. Using a process of trial and error, I discovered that the age range worked best for me. Many passenger lists only record Mr or Mrs without even an initial, so I had to use my knowledge of birth dates and electoral roll entries to try and narrow down possible voyage years. The first results page brings up a number of 'hits' with basic details, based on your supplied information. It is wise to click on any entry that looks promising, as the second page gives more transcribed data. Finally, down further, on the right hand side of the page, there is an option to view a scanned copy of the shipping record itself. This allows you to verify, one way or the other, whether the person may be yours. As the initial search page relies on someone's interpretation of sometimes questionable handwriting, or water damaged pages, it is also wise to check spelling variations and similar initials. Useful entries

can be downloaded and saved, or printed and access to this site is free.

In the space of 8 hours, I located 5 trips back and forth from 1921 and 6 other trips relating to other families. Gus GREEN's father had died that year, so that was an event I used to narrow my search. In 1925 there was a return journey, with only the parents and their youngest 3 children. The four elder boys had all opted to stay in NSW. Albert, the eldest, had served in the NZ Army in WW1 and had been offered land in the Tweed Heads area as part of the Soldier Settlement scheme. He gave his younger brothers work, growing bananas.

Back in NZ, my grandmother Nita married in 1927 and my great aunt Jo in 1928. I then found a journey of the youngest son, my great uncle Jack, back to Sydney in 1930. He was 18 by then, and probably wanted to leave home and have an adventure of his own. Later the same year, my great grandparents also 'jumped the ditch' again. Their eldest daughter, my grandmother Nita and her family took the trip in 1931, followed by my great aunt Jo and her husband and young son in 1933.

I have yet to find Clara's first trip to Sydney to meet her in-laws c 1900 and the return of the young family to NZ by 1905. Gus GREEN died in 1941 and his widow Clara was left to support her children and grand children through the Second World War. 2 sons and 2 sons in law were on active duty. Throughout this time, Clara received letters from her sister Kate and her brothers who all still lived in NZ. Sadly, Kate's husband Charles CHAPMAN died suddenly in 1945. Kate wrote, pleading with Clara to visit. She chose to do so once peace was declared. There is a question over her mode of travel. Her diary mentions air travel as an option, but I am not sure that the family would have afforded this, so she may have gone by ship. This was to be a fateful decision for Clara as she died in NZ in 1946, only a few short months after her tearful reunion with her siblings.

There is obviously more to do, but the work of such volunteers as the Chadderton's makes that process so much easier. My family thanks you! TOL

My O'Connell Family

Beryl Whatson member 46

Growing up with no knowledge of my father or his family, let alone his ancestors, left me with a feeling that, half of my family was missing.

I knew all of my mother's brothers, and their children, and I knew that there was a sister, who we didn't visit because of some incident in the past, that had happened before my birth. There were plenty of cousins, uncles and aunts and my grandparents, with whom we lived, so until my mother died in my late teens, the lack of a father had no bearing on my life, because my grandfather had been my father figure until I was twelve years old.

I had married in the 1950s and had three adopted children, when I met with the granddaughter of my aunt, who was into family history. She was the granddaughter of my mother's sister, the one missing member of my mother's siblings. As I helped her with my side of our family, she encouraged me to start researching my father's family.

After a slight problem because he had tacked on another name, which through me off the track, I finally found his parents, by making contact with someone, who had known the family. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I had Irish ancestors named O'Connell.

James O'Connell, with his sister Margaret immigrated to NSW to join their other sister Catherine who sponsored them. They arrived in 1865 on the ship St Hilda, and came to live in Sydney near Catherine, who had married and had two sons.

James went off to work for a settler on a property in the Lower Hunter on a property named "Bell Vue", near Paterson. He didn't stay there long, before he moved to Austral Eden on the Macleay River, and became a tenant farmer on the property of John Verge. It was on this property

that James met and married Jane Williams at Smithtown near Gladstone, in 1867.

Jane Williams had arrived as a baby about two years of age, from Fiji with her parents on the Ship "Narwhal" in December 1850. According to the shipping list in the Sydney Morning Herald,

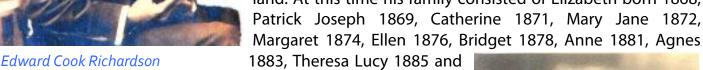
the family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, 3 sons, 2 daughters and a servant. James O'Connell and Jane Williams, whilst living at Austral

Eden had a family of two sons and nine daughters. Then in 1880, James had saved his money and had enough to buy his own property at Jerseyville near South West Rocks.

The property had a back entrance to Boyter's Lane and fronted the Macleay River at Rainbow Reach. It was recently available for sale.

Here he built a bark cottage and settled down to farm his land. At this time his family consisted of Elizabeth born 1868,

finally James John 1888. The



earlier children were born at Austral Eden and the latter at Rainbow Reach/Jerseyville.

As each child matured and married, grandchildren arrived and the O'Connell descendants multiplied, my Irish relatives also multiplied, and unknown to me I gained a lot more relatives. When I started my family history, I found that my grandmother O'Connell was child number 7, Bridget born 1878 at Rainbow Reach. She married in 1899 Edward Cook Richardson at South Kempsey Catholic church. Edward was also of Irish descent, being the only son of Edward Heatley Richardson and Theresa Naughten, whose families arrived from Ireland in 1840, the cousins were multiplying and my Irish genes were also getting stronger by the minute, as I catalogued my families.



Bridget O'Connell Richardson

James O'Connell and Jane Williams spent their married life at Rainbow Reach, Jerseyville and both are buried in the Fredrickton Cemetery.

Their daughter Bridget, who married Edward Cook Richardson spent some of their lives in Sydney and the remainder in the Blue Mountains at Mt. Victoria where their eldest child, my father was born and their retirement at Blackheath. They are both buried in the Blackheath Cemetery.

In 2013, on a visit to South West Rocks, I went to the Kempsey Museum, which also houses the local Family History Soc. and guite by chance there was also visiting two ladies who were looking for my O'Connells. One lady turned out to be a granddaughter of my grandmother's eldest sister, so that I gained a 2nd cousin on my visit there. TOL

Searching For An Unknown Father Or Ask No Questions And You'll Be Told No Lies.

Beryl Whatson member 46

Beryl wrote this in 2009 and sent it to Australian Family Tree Connections, and had a surprise when it won 2^{nd} prize in the competition. We thought it was time to publish it here...ed.

I was born in the early 1930s, when "children should be seen and not heard". This and the aforesaid "ask no questions" were drummed into me by my maternal grandmother, in whose house I was born on the coldest morning for forty years.

The household consisted of my grandparents, my single mother and her younger brother, also single. It was a happy childhood, as long as I obeyed the rules, because grandmother had a strap, which she would use if necessary. She was the only one who ever used the strap on me.

When I was six, we moved to our beach house, on the Northern Beaches, and when I was nine in third class, the teacher asked us for the names of our parents. Of course I said that I had no father, so innocently on arriving home I asked grandmother if my father had been killed in the war. Mum was at work, or I would have asked her, but the curt "yes" that my Gran answered, convinced me that she was lying, I had asked a question and had been told a lie!

When I was twelve, my beloved grandfather died from a stroke, I was the only one to witness this, so my father figure was gone, my uncle had married which left us without any males in the house.

Uncle eventually divorced and moved back home and all went well until my mother died when I was eighteen. Gran was showing signs of dementia and uncle and I had to go to work in the city. He remarried and I decided to leave home.

Clearing out my mothers papers I found an incomplete application for my birth certificate, with my father's name on it. Unknown to me he had tacked a "John" in front of his two Christian names. I eventually married and before the ceremony, I did a search at the Register of BDMs in Sydney for my father's death, with no results, so I was no further on in my investigations. That extra "John" was the problem.

I had a little information given to me by friends of my mother; my father was married with a son five years old when I was born. Father was separated at the time he met my mother and they formed an attachment.

As the years passed I adopted and raised three children, and my uncle arrived back on the scene, and I met up with my cousin's daughter. She was researching her mother's family and didn't know too much about my side of the family, so I became interested in helping her. Then she suggested that I try researching my father's family, but how would I start?

I joined my local Family History Society and also the Soc. of Genealogists in Sydney. This was the best move I had ever made because I put an inquiry in "Descent" and was answered by someone who had attended high school with my half brother. This man, well known in the Genealogical world had met my father and had spent school holidays with my paternal grandparents in the Blue Mountains.

He gave me a lot of help with the grandparents' dates and places of death and burial, and because I was then living in the lower mountains, I was able to search for their graves. On getting the death certificate of grandfather, I discovered that my father had predeceased him. He had died just a few years after my mother, and he had been living at Manly and probably had seen me going to High School.

I am convinced that my Mum had given him photographs of me over the years, and he had visited our home once when I was not there, and had been hastily sent on his way by my grandmother. I now know that he had met my mother after work in Sydney and that is where she

had given him photographs. He and his wife were divorced by this time.

Then I started looking at the Genealogical Research Directories, and found someone who was researching "my names". On contact with this person, I found that he knew my father's younger brother, and he eventually was able to persuade this uncle of mine, to let him copy a photograph of my father, to give to me. Success, and new cousins. On a holiday to Queensland, I met this relative, his mother and two aunts.

I also made contact with another cousin of my father. I had written to a Kempsey newspaper, inquiring about my Irish great grandfather and his family. Someone saw it, contacted a friend in Nowra, who phoned her cousin in Sydney and contact was made with my father's side of the family. I now see more of my father's family than of my mother's family.

The most amazing feature of this story is, that the name that my maternal grandmother had given me, was of her step father, as she was also illegitimate, and she knew it too! Her mother had three children before marrying Gran's stepfather. We knew of two, but found another in our searches. Gran only mentioned her brother Bill, but we found Frederick!

My maternal family can be traced back to the time of William the Conqueror, mainly through illegitimate births, and also Switzerland on a direct line.

My paternal family can be traced back to Ireland and Scotland with a little bit of Fiji and Italy tossed in. TOL

More Brickwall stories soon...ed.



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Presents

Introduction to Family History Research

We will hold a four week course to get you off to a flying start in researching your family's history.

Starting **Monday** 13th October ending **Monday** 3rd November

Venue: The Meeting Room in the Cottage

6 Rankens Court Wyong

Time 10am to 12 noon

Cost Members \$10 per session or \$35 for the four weeks paid in advance Non Members \$15 per session or \$55 for the four weeks paid in advance Please phone 4351 2211 or 4351 5430 for further information or to book your place

Limited to 20 people

Week one Where to start and how to organise your records Trish McDonald Using Australian Records and where to find them Week Two Esther Dean Week Three Using the Group's resources and where to find them **Glenise Clery** Week Four **Ouestions** answered and websites By a Panel

FAMILY HISTORY IN THE MODERN ERA.

WORKSHOP

Coming up on August 23rd Jill Ball will give a talk on the use of Social Media in your Family History research.

Jill Ball (the person)

This connected Granny is well known in genealogical circles for her use of social media to communicate with genealogists and family members around the world

In 2013 she was named as The Gold Medallist Rockstar Genealogist for Australia and New Zealand.

She shares her passion for integrating technology with genealogy

through her blog, Geniaus (http://geniaus.blogspot.com), and with speaking engagements in Australia, at sea and abroad. She has written several articles for Inside History Magazine and Family Tree Tracker Magazine and is currently writing her first genealogy book. GeniAUS' Hangouts on Air in which she conducts online learning activities for switched on family historians are Jill's latest endeavour in the world of Social Media.



The Workshop

Registration: 10.00 am. First Session 10:30 - 12 Noon

Social Media for Genealogy. In this session Jill will answer the question 'What is Social Media', demonstrate some popular social media sites and explain how they can be used in family history. We will learn how to join the most popular sites, Facebook, Google+, Twitter and have a quick tour of several other sites.

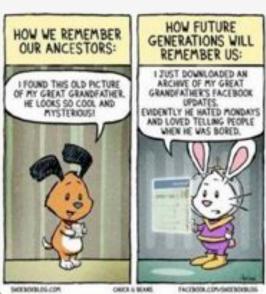
Lunch Break: 12 noon - 1:00pm A sausage sizzle will be available for a gold coin donation Second Session 1:00pm - 2:00pm.

Sharing your stories via Social Media. In this session we will examine ways to share your stories online via blogs, shared documents, wikis and other social media tools. We will look at examples of sharing by genealogists in Australia and overseas.

Afternoon Break: 2:00 – 2:30pm. Lucky Door Prize drawn during this break

Third Session 2:30 - 3:30pm

Geneagoogling - it's more than just search. Whilst many genealogists use Google's Search Engine they are unaware of the other free tools in Google's stable that can help them with their research. In this presentation Jill will show how the Google products she uses regularly in her genealogy day help her with her research and organisation.



BOOK NOW AND BEAT THE RUSH

Cost: Members \$10.00 Non Members \$15.00

Venue: The WFHG Cottage, Wyong **Bookings** at The Cottage or online. www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPECTACULAR BUS TRIP

Hunter Valley Gardens



Attention all members:-The "CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SPECTACULAR" bus tour to Hunter Valley Gardens is on again this year.

Mark the date on your calendar, Wednesday 3rd December 5:30pm

See over 1.5 million Christmas lights in exciting new sound and

 $light\ displays\ set\ amid\ the\ gardens\ and\ fairy tale\ of\ Hunter\ Valley\ Gardens.$

Price:- \$40.00

Price includes bus trip and entry to the gardens.

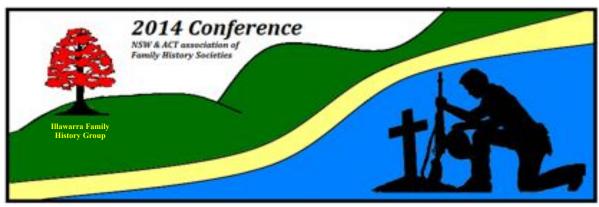
A choice of Food & Drink is available to purchase at the Gardens







HISTORY GROUP INC.



Illawarra Remembers: 1914 - 2014

Join us in Wollongong for the Annual conference of The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies.

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September 2014 The Fraternity Club, Fairy Meadow

(3 Km north of Wollongong on the Princes Highway)

A Special Weekend of Activities for family historians.

- ♦ The latest ideas on researching
- ♦ Speaker and expert advice
- **♦ Trade Tables**
- ♦ Illawarra Remembers WW1
- ♦ Check out the beauty of the Illawarra Area

For more information and Bookings check our web site at www.conference2014.org.au



Illawarra Family History Group Inc. PO Box 1652 WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

New Publications

Records from SIMPLICITY FUNERALS, WOY WOY – 156

pages. Covers funerals arranged at Woy Woy since it began in 1991 up to the end of 2013.

Contains: Deceased's Full Name, Date of Death, Place of Death, Age, Place of Burial/Cremation, Date of Burial/Cremation, Date of Birth.

Also indicates if an Inquest was held, and where available, the date of arrival in Australia if born overseas.

WYONG and LAKES DISTRICT ADVOCATE

Personal Notices (1932 – 1995)

Two Volume set \$48.00 + p&h (available separately- see below)

Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices and 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs

Volume 1 \$28-00 + p&h

Contents Volume Two- 11,973 deaths, obituary and probate notices, includes Church and cemetery photographs

Volume 2 \$28 + p&h

New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to all new members and we look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Contact any of these 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	Research Interest
697	Ray Malone	Malone
698	Lee Hulzer	Murray, Hamilton
699	Wendy May	Allen, May
700	Clair Bean	Green, Mawling/Mowling, Warner, Williams
701	Mark Cotterill	Cotterill, Sutton, Willcox
702	Helen Cramp	Burdon, Cramp, Sewell, Williams
703	Karelle Keane	Carmady, Griffen, Ogden, Yarnold
704	Suzanne Rudd	Freudenstein, Pocock, Simmons, Vogele
705	John Mann	Burrill, Fleming, Jerkin, Knight Mann, Mcauley
706	Margaret Stephens	Bowles, Bridge, Lancaster
707	Jennifer Ferguson	
708	Jack Bushell	
709	Margaret Bushell	

WFHG INCPlanned Events

	2014	Event
	Tue 5	Committee Meeting 10 am.
ust	Sat 9	Family Search Interest Group. 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12noon
	Wed 13	Australian Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
	Thu 14	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3 pm.
	Sat 16	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm.
August	Sat 23	Family History in the Modern Era. Presenter Jill Ball The Cottage 10am-
Α		3.30pm. BBQ lunch – gold coin donation. FULL
	Thu 21	No Family Tree Maker group at present
	Sat 23	Jill Ball Workshop
	Tue 26	English Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12noon.
	Thu 28	No Scottish/Irish interest group this month
	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10 am.
	Wed 10	Australian Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
	Fri 12 – Su	un 14 NSW & ACT State Conference
_	Sat 13	Family Search Interest Group. 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12noon
September	Thu 18	AGM and General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3pm.
ten	Sat 20	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm.
Sep	Tue 23	English Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am.
	Thu 25	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
		Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm.
	Sun 28	Bunnings BBQ
	Tue 30	Committee Meeting 10 am.
	Wed 8	Australian Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
	Thu 9	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3 pm.
	Sat 11	Family Search Interest Group. 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12noon
	Mon 13	Beginner's Course – week 1
	Sat 18	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm.
aqc	Mon 20	Beginner's Course – week 2
October		'Tree of Life' Deadline
	Thu 23	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
		Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm.
	Fri 24	It's a Riot Parramatta Female Factory – Bus Tour - Bookings at Cottage
	Mon 27	Beginner's Course – week 3
	Tue 28	English Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am.

WFHG INC Planned Events continues next page

WFHG INC Planned Events continues

	2014	Event
	Sat 1	Volunteer Thank You Lunch
	Mon 3	Beginner's Course – week 4
	Tue 4	Committee Meeting 10 am.
	Sat 8	Family Search Interest Group. 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12noon
ber	Wed 12	Australian Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
November	Thu 13	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3pm.
Nov	Sat 15	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm.
	Mon 17	Shipping Workshop 10am – 12noon
	Tue 25	English Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am.
	Thu 27	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
		Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm.
	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10 am.
ber	Wed 3	Hunter Valley Christmas Lights Bus Tour
December	Wed 10	Australian Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon.
Dec	Thu 11	Christmas Party – Wyong RSL
		Cottage Closes for 2014.

Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, they have to wear their membership card and do so in such a manner that it is clearly displayed.

Bags are not allowed past the foyer. Please use the lockers provided. You may take in research folders and a purse. Food and drink are not allowed in the research areas.

Books which can be borrowed from the library (i.e. Books without a 'NOT FOR LOAN' mark), can only be out for two weeks at a time. Please record them in the red 'Loan Book"

When returning any journals, books or magazines, please note the date returned in the book and then place them in the tray on the Library table. The volunteer on duty will place them back on the shelves that day.... TOL

NOTICE OF AGM.

Notice is given for

The Annual General Meeting for

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

3pm 18th September 2014

Where: 'The Cottage'

Rankens Court, Wyong.

Phone 4351 2211.

HISTORY GROUP INC.

NYONG FAMILL

When:

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

More details at http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au/publications

BOOKS & CDs

BOOKS & CDS		
Brought in by the Tide. [A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour. [Includes the full names, rank, type of service &	& date of	\$ 20.00 + p&h
death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who wer	e in the	\$10 in
Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs.]	Book	Australia)
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay [Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011]	CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Book	•
New Release Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013		\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong & District Pioneer Register (Published 2013) [673 pages. Fully ind		
compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references		
13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, per	sonal	
stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 40.00 + p&h
New Release Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices (1932	2 – 1995)	
(available separately- see below) Two Volume		\$ 48.00 + p&h
Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000	marriaae	
notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, include	_	
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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.

Tuggerah Library, Westfield: Workshop 3rd Saturday 10.00am – 2.00pm (WFHG members

available to help)

Contact the Group as follows:

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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.

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Church & Headstone Photos in Wyong & District Enquiries to: The Secretary, WFHG Inc.

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