

WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Patrons: Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
David Harris, State MP for Wyong

Meetings: Are held on the 2nd Saturday bi-monthly between February and October, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours by appointment.

Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2019 – 2020

President:	Wayne Dean
Secretary:	VACANT Roger Lewis (acting)
Vice-President:	Lorraine Cameron
Treasurer:	Michele Gane
Management Committee:	All the above executive plus Pamela Andre, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnson, Roger Lewis, Kerrie Metcalfe, John Selwood.

Assets Manager & Computer Administrator:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisors	Niel and Julie Nielsen
Cottage Co-ordinators	Tuesday: Marilyn Cridland Wednesday: Helen Horde Thursday: Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster:	Cheryl Whamond
Education Co-Ordinator:	Kerrie Metcalfe
DNA Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Stuart Purvis-Smith
English/Welsh Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Helen Burkett
Family Tree Maker Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Martin Fisher
Grant Applications:	Roger Lewis
Group Collector of Statistics:	Eileen Eliassen, Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator:	Regina Hogan
Multi-Media & Facebook Group Co-Ordinators:	Roger Lewis, Ellen Sheerin
Journal Snippet Submitters:	Lynda Smith and Meg Gibson
Librarian:	Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistant:	Dellas Johnston
Membership Secretary:	Pam Mansergh
Minute Secretary:	Pamela Andre
Project Coordinator:	John Selwood
Public Officer:	Roger Lewis
Publications (Books & CDs) Printing:	Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Publicity Officer:	VACANT
Scrapbook (Photos):	Annette Shearer
Seminar, Events & Trips Organisers:	Dellas Johnstone (acting)
Tree of Life Editor + Word Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Helen Johnston-Lord. wfhgtol@westnet.com.au
Unrelated Certificates:	Jacqueline Wieringa & Kerry Clark
Webmaster:	Roger Lewis & Kate Walter
Tuggerah Library 3rd Saturday of the Month:	Annette Shearer & Christine Randall

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





Hello All!

The year is nearly over and I feel privileged to have been a little more involved this year than previous years. What a pleasure to be surrounded by so many helpful, caring and sharing folk.

We have a new Committee this year with some familiar names and some new. A very big **THANK YOU** to those who give their time to help keep our wheels turning. There are still some vacancies to be filled especially that of Group Secretary. [see *Vacancies* p 8.]

Our next planning meeting is just after this Tree of Life's publishing date. Therefore, keep up to date by reading Wayne Bermingham's weekly Newsletter right to the end, you will be informed of up-coming events and any changes.

If you have the chance to attend one of the Special Interest Group or Information Sessions, you will find an enthusiastic and friendly group of fellow attendees. [current list see p12]

Reasons for researching our family history are wide and varied. Often our memories are dotted with stories passed from generation to generation. Confirming these yarns can be eyeopening to say the least. I am sure Wayne B's story on page 9 will be familiar to some of us.

Whilst researching the Memorial in this issue, I recalled a late cousin who served in the RAAF, maybe at HMAF Butterworth, during the Malayan Emergency. Another research project I have started.

This year's Christmas event will be offsite. Access to The Cottage is not so good when a number of mobility challenged folk attend. Setting-up, catering, service and packing up at the end of the day, usually falls to the same group of members who have little chance to mingle and enjoy the day. We all appreciate their efforts, however it will be nice to see them being 'waited on'. Bookings are now open for our 'Jingle & Mingle' [see page 24]

Throughout any given year, the WFHG Inc offer a range of events we think will be informative and interesting for our community. These are rarely priced for profit, hoping to cover expenses. To ease the demands on members pockets, the Group now has a variety of payment options for some of our events. We hope this will encourage folk to commit by booking early and start paying, thus enabling planning to progress smoothly.

Our annual summer break commences on 13 December. Harry and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable festive season, perhaps indulging in a little research and joining us again when we re-open on Tuesday 14th January. Remember, your stories help to make our publication interesting and the deadline for the next *Tree of Life* is 20 January 2020. ... 🌳



Reflections: The DNA Special Interest Group

Stuart Purvis-Smith member 770

We have just completed our first full year of meetings. We now have a solid group of DNA enthusiasts who know that DNA should now be regarded as an essential and routine part of serious genealogy. The group has some DNA neophytes who joined recently and

it is hoped that the Christmas sale of DNA test kits will result in more newcomers. There is a huge range of resources freely available for genetic genealogy and the regular SIG meetings will explore new developments as well as nurturing new members. ... 🌳

Reflections: Wyong Neighbourhood Centre & Wyong Primary School Celebration

John Selwood LM #79

The original Wyong Primary School building is 130 years old this year. Also the Wyong Neighbourhood Centre celebrated 40 years of their foundation. To commemorate these milestones birthday celebrations were held at the old school on Tuesday, 1st October. Wyong Family History Group worked in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Centre and had a display of old school equipment and of our publications.

Bronwyn Chambers gave an excellent Welcome to Country talk and her grandson Jack played the didgeridoo. [Jack has been elected the first Aboriginal Captain for 2020 of Wadalba High School.]

Speakers at the celebration were

our Federal and State members, Emma McBride and David Harris, Sharryn Brownlee the President of the Central Coast Council of P&C Associations and Mr Leo O'Meara who was Principal of Wyong Primary from 1970-1974. John Selwood gave the gathering a brief history of the establishment of the school and how it developed over the following years. ... 🌳



Reflections: Regimental Records

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Following the Military Matters session in our second stage Family History Course, those attending this session were able to see how to access their own military person's records in both Australia and the UK

and how to find the costs involved in obtaining records. Not just for the 20th century conflicts. Regimental History is around 300 years old and much is available to research. ... 🌳

Reflections: Guest Speaker – Pat Perrett

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

We welcomed Pat Perrett as our Guest Speaker for our August General Meeting. Pat is currently the Editor of the Newsletter at our local museum, Alison Homestead.

Pat spoke of how Alison Homestead has nearly recovered from the disastrous fire on 3 December 2011. [see *TOL February 2012*.] Some of the changes made and how they are moving forward were also part of



her informative talk. For more about this local asset see

<https://alisonhomestead.com.au>. 🌳

Years of Service Recognised

At the same general meeting, the following members were presented with Certificates by the President and thanked for their continuous membership:

#173 Christine Randall – 15 years
#174 Michele Gane – 15 years
#413 Margaret Gerrets – 10 years
#412 Eileen Eliassen & #427 Richard Cloake – both 10 years were unable to attend the meeting and their certificates will be posted. 🌳



Reflections: Information Morning

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

This October 10th morning was convened by Kerrie Metcalfe and attended by new and seasoned members. Kerrie gave a short history of our Group and how we have grown. The UTAS Diploma of Family History was discussed and recommended by those of us who have participated in this course.

Librarian Lyn Hagstrom [#768] spoke of the many resources available for **all** members to access. After a delicious morning tea, a tour of the Cottage and resources was available. I for one discovered a resource I had not yet utilised. ... 🌳



Reflections: English/Welsh Group 2019

Helen Burkett member 342

We have had a very interesting year having changed our format to breaking down English/Welsh brick walls for our members. Many and varied are the problems we have encountered with successes and failures as always. Some brick walls have to be put aside and come back to later!

I have also done my best to keep the Group interested with a variety of lesser known and sometimes obscure facts and websites.

I would like to thank the members who have come to the Group all year and helped to make it a success. We have been more than happy to see others come and go hopefully because we have set them on the next part of their journey.

It has been my pleasure to run this Group since Esther died. I promised her I would do this and have kept that promise. I think she'd be thrilled to know how much knowledge we've all gained with lots of fun along the way.

For now though, I have given the Group everything I've got and have run out of steam and new information. I am, therefore, finishing it up at the end of this year and will concentrate on a full day's session during the Advanced Course next year and perhaps also a couple of 2 hour workshops during the year. I will reconsider in the future. Perhaps another Group can take our place for the time being. Change is good. ... 🌳

Reflections: State Records Visit – September 2019

Carmel Peak member 658

Members who travelled by bus on Saturday 28th Sept to undertake their own research at State Records, were rewarded with not only perfect weather for the day but a very pleasant and comfortable trip down and back, compliments from our volunteer bus driver, David Pilkington. On this occasion David and Joy picked up the bus at Morisset before heading to Wyong and Westfield Tuggerah to pick up all participants prior to heading down the M1 to Kingswood. As normal we took the opportunity to call into McDonalds

for morning tea just prior to 10am when we arrived at State Records.

By all accounts everyone was successful with their research thanks to the generosity of the staff who were so very helpful all day. The trip home was entertaining with President Wayne conducting a group quiz David P had saved from his daily newspaper; the group having lots of fun with reasonable success. Thanks to all participants for a great day. *[Due to driver availability, the date for this event was changed after our last issue was published. ed.]* ... 🌳

Reflections: Visit to Society of Australian Genealogists [SAG]

Carmel Peak Member 658

A small group of members took the opportunity to visit SAG on Tuesday 22nd October to learn about the many resources available to SAG Members and Non- Members. This trip was organised in a response to the survey results provided by members last year on ideas for potential Field Trips.

Those of us who took this opportunity were rewarded with very detailed descriptions and tours of the two sites currently occupied by SAG. The morning was spent in the

Library located at 379 Kent St and also included close to 2 hours to do our own research before we broke for lunch and walked down to the Richmond Villa for the second session provided by Heather Garnsey, Executive Officer of SAG which was in a nutshell, fascinating. Some of us are already planning a return visit and others have already joined SAG to take advantage of the educational webinars and other research opportunities. We can all recommend a trip down to SAG to our fellow WFHG members. ... 🌳



New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to our many new members and we look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Included in this list are corrections from previous publications. 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	No	Member
948	Martin Deehan	952	Catherine O'Keefe
949	Marion Deehan	953	Michelle Owen
950	Diane Gordon	954	Janet Clark-Duff
951	John O'Keefe		

GROUP SECRETARY:

- This voluntary position is vital to the smooth running of any organisation such as ours.
- Can you fill the gap at our meeting table?



• If you believe you may have what it takes, or would like to 'have a go' contact Roger Lewis

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

for more details



PUBLICITY OFFICER:

- Could you fill this important voluntary role?
- Could you beat our drum?
- Want to meet some interesting media folk?
- Most of this position can be achieved working from home.
- Computer skills required to source all types of media to advertise our special events, meetings and items of interest.



• Contact Lorraine Cameron
wfhg06@westnet.com.au

Publicity: the giving out of information about our group for advertising or promotional purposes.



Lore versus Fact

Wayne Bermingham member 623

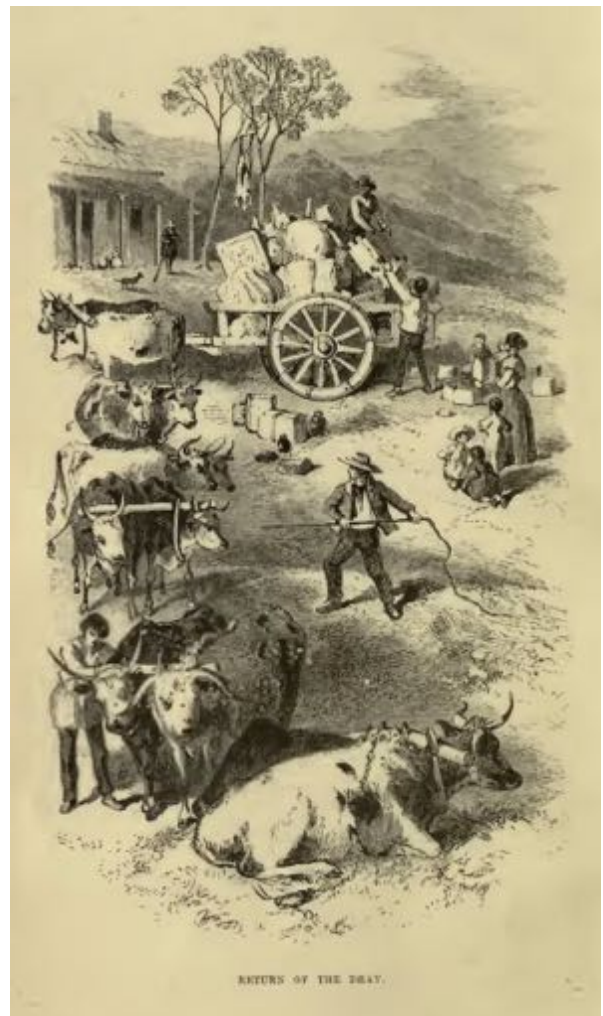
Do you recall listening to the stories your Grandmother would tell when you went to visit during the school holidays or were you more interested in finding something fun to do outside, then again were you told to go outside and find something to do? Well there's no need to tell me because I already know from talking to loads of family historians that the answer is no, followed quickly by "gee I wish I had paid more attention to Grandma's stories when she was still with us!" It's an all too familiar story when it comes to family lore for Australians, we just didn't and often still don't pay much attention to our Grandparent's stories of when they were young or how different things were back then. Luckily for me my Grandma lived with us so I had her around every day which gave me lots of opportunities to listen to all those wonderful family stories on countless occasions, in fact I heard them so often I could even repeat them word for word. Don't get me wrong I really enjoyed spending time with my Grandma she was a lovely person and to say she enjoyed spinning a yarn would be an understatement, though I have since discovered there was a good deal of truth in those ol' yarns.

One story she often told was that of her own Grandma, Eliza Ryan nee Davis, being the first woman to cross the Blue Mountains in a bullock wagon and she had some compelling evidence that seemed to support the claim in the shape of newspaper cuttings published on the occasion of

Eliza's 100th birthday.

According to one newspaper article and I quote

"After a voyage of almost six months the young Irish girl arrived in Sydney and was met by her uncle who had arranged a position for her at one of the city stores. During that period she stayed with friends whose home was on the Parramatta Road in the vicinity of where the University now stands while the surroundings were mostly bush. It was quite a memorable occasion the day Eliza's uncle, John Davis, a carrier to and from Sydney to O'Connell, drove up to her door in a heavy dray for the purpose of transporting Eliza to the



Western settlement. The trip was something of an ordeal in those early days but eventually they arrived at Mr. Davis' farm house."

At the time I had no cause to doubt Grandma's story nor did I see the need to ask any questions about this or any other parts of the family lore but in hindsight I guess I should have because, as you all know, hindsight makes everyone perfect. Fast forward thirty years and I'm now doing my family research so it seemed logical to check if there's any mention of my two times great grandmother in the history books. Well it wasn't long at all before the facts completely quashed generations of my family's lore by reminding me the Blue Mountains were crossed in 1813 while Eliza didn't even arrive in New South Wales until 1854 making it highly unlikely for her to have been the first woman to cross the Blue Mountains in a bullock wagon or just about anything else for that matter.

There's a lot more to Eliza's story... born on 24th June 1828 in Meelick, Co. Limerick Ireland, she arrived in Sydney on 29th July 1854 per the ship *Araminta* as a 26 year old Assisted Immigrant. While in O'Connell she met and later married Matthew Michael Ryan on 27th March 1856 at Bathurst. The couple took up land – virgin forest – and built a home for themselves and future family of ten children. At the time of her death on 8th November 1931 at "Ryanlee" O'Connell Eliza Ryan was aged 103 years, she had 140 grandchildren and 63 great grandchildren, her husband Matthew had passed away almost 40 years earlier. She knew Oberon when it was nothing more than a camping

ground then known as Bullock Flat. The main streets of Bathurst were not kerbed and guttered nor were there any bridges over the rivers of the district. People wishing to cross the Macquarie River in those early days did so in an old boat, or with the aid of a friendly heavy dray, which was the chief means of transport. The Catholic Church, (afterwards know as the Guild Hall), was on the corner of Kepple and George Streets and of course early day bushrangers were common in the area. Every Sunday the family would drive four miles in a 'tip-dray' over a rough track to go to church, her husband was the first man to introduce a spring cart to O'Connell which created quite a sensation for a time, water came from a well at the back of the house and wood had to be cut for the fire, bread was baked fresh by hand every day while the fields were ploughed with horses.

In future when I tell this story I'll just leave out the bit about Eliza Ryan nee Davis being the first then all the rest of the story will be perfectly true which, as far as I'm concerned, still makes for a pretty interesting account. And you know what, being or not being the first woman over the Blue Mountains in a bullock wagon is of no great consequence now compared to the amazing life my Grandma's Grandma lived. The things she accomplished must not and cannot be underestimated while the things she witnessed can never be seen again and of course her legacy lives on in her many descendants as well as in this and other documents about her. ... 🌳

Reflections: 35th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies

Kerrie Metcalfe LM [#80]

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. annual Conference was held from the 11 – 13 October 2019 at Knox Grammar School and hosted by Ku-ring-gai Historical and Family History Society.

Roger Lewis and I attended on the Friday and it was pleasing to see some of our members had also made the effort to attend on the Friday and some for the full conference, from our group were Joy Pilkington #279 Wendy Condon #942 Heather Hocking #778 Ellen Sheerin #604 as well as Roger Lewis #127 and Kerrie Metcalfe #80

There was a good variety of trading tables to browse and buy all kinds of books, CDs, and all things pertaining to Family History. As well as our esteemed Transcription agents Joy Murrin, Marilyn Rowan and Laurie Turtle, Gould and SAG had good size tables and many smaller groups.

As I was attending my 16th Conference it was wonderful to meet up with so many other likeminded people and the many people that have become known to me over the years. I felt a little sad that I was only there for the one day, and missed so much, however it was great networking with other societies and learning what's happening in the genealogy world. It was the first time in about 20 years we did not have a trading table.



From what I can tell you is the Knox Grammar provided a very large area for the trade tables and speaker alike. The area was a building of three basketball courts all under cover, just as well as it did rain heavily. Therefore there was lots of room to get around the trade tables and no overcrowding.

I cannot make much comment about Saturday and Sunday or the annual dinner as I wasn't there, but I have heard good reports and it was a bonus that our group won the gift of \$500 put up by Marilyn Rowan Transcription Agent. We were drawn out of the many members of the association. Wendy Condon was presented with our cheque

On the Friday I attended the following talks:



- *Joy Murrin: Insights from the NSW Birth, Death and Marriage Registrations. It's amazing how much you learn every time you hear Joy speak. She shared tips and tricks for searching and how to look closer at the information*
- *Danielle Lautrec :Stories from the Photographic Collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists The Society of Australian Genealogists has a vast photographic collection, dating from the early 1800s to the present day. Using examples from the collection, such as the famous Houison Collection, Danielle will illustrate the chronology of photographs, discuss their potential for family history and demonstrate how to find them in the catalogue.*
- *Suzanne Voytas - The future of Family History Societies. Suzanne spoke about facing the changes and finding ways to use the changes for our best interests, and getting the market out of the 1970s and 80s.*

The 2018 Conference in Batemans Bay made a profit of about \$17,500

since this was hosted by the Association the money will be used to help member Societies. Some suggestions to be considered are

- *A donation to trove to continue the great work being done*
- *To a group who wish to digitize their own local papers*
- *Support regional and rural seminars, workshops and talks*
- *Help regional groups get started*

There were other ideas and they were all to be put together and discussed at the next Committee meeting November. Groups and Societies will hear more about this in due time.

This Conference had a good line up of speakers for Saturday and Sunday and my thoughts are it may well be a very successful and rewarding conference. Next year it is in Newcastle titled: *Riding the Waves of History* and will be held at Wests Leagues Club, New Lambton from Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September 2020. I know I will be attending this one, no more withdrawals for me. In 2021 Port Macquarie are hosting it. ... 🌳

George Ernest Swadling

Jean Macleay, member 369, provided this story

George Swadling, born 1865, was the first pioneer of Long Jetty. He was granted a Homestead Selection of 160 acres in 1895 in an area then described as The Entrance via Wyong. In 1902 he married Sarah Gleeson.

According to an account written by George he fulfilled all conditions of the grant. He built a four roomed house with verandah, kitchen and storeroom, dug a deep well and put

a pump on it. He put a fence around the land and cleared several acres for cultivation, built stock yards and a cemented cow bail, a cart shed, a barn, a fowl run and a big pig pen which was divided into four runs. He also planted about 300 fruit trees. He delivered his vegetables and fruit by horse and cart to Gosford from where they were sent by boat to Sydney markets.

George also cut logs, mainly blackbutt and mahogany and hauled them to a shipyard at Terrigal. He cut and drew the first sleepers for the construction of the Hawkesbury Bridge. In the early 1920s George entered the building trade and became a master builder. Many of his buildings still stand today.

Despite his busy working life George still found time for cricket and boxing. He also owned a racehorse and a trotter which he raced locally. The race track later became an aerodrome and is now the site of The Entrance High School.

In 1925 George was appointed a 'special constable' by Gosford Police Station. He also held the


position of ranger with Erina Shire Council.

He sold most of his property in




1932. In the resulting subdivision Swadling Street was named in his honour. Swadling Reserve at Toowoomb Bay also bears his name. George died in 1950. ... 🌳

Special Interest Groups




Here at Wyong Family History Group Inc. we currently offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. SIGs are free to members and go for one to two hours. Current Groups are:

- 🌳 Computer/Social Media (bi-monthly)
- 🌳 DNA
- 🌳 Family Tree Maker
- 🌳 Microsoft Word











We also run information sessions. These sessions are usually an hour or so and may just give your research and what you do with it, a boost.

🌳 **Shipping**– Tuesday 26th November 10.00am in conjunction with last English/Welsh Group. Lots of information. All welcome.

No Bookings Required


Mary Parker 1758 - 1824

Jean Macleay member 359

The Womb Of The Large Small Family

Mary Parker was born on 26th August 1758 in the London area. It is possible that she was the daughter of John and Esther Parker baptized in the parish of St George's Bloomsbury on 9th December 1759.

Mary worked for John and Mary Hickman who ran a low class lodging house where whole families rented a room. The rent at that time was 2 shillings a week or 2 or 3 pence a night. This house was in Duke Street (now Coptic Street), Bloomsbury not far from the British Museum and in the vicinity of St. George's. Perhaps the fact that the family was known in the area enabled her to obtain the position, miserable though it was.

Mary worked as a domestic servant, helping with the cleaning. Mrs Hickman took in washing to augment her income so Mary could possibly be found out the back stirring a boiling copper. She probably slept in the airless basement with casual lodgers in the same room. She was in her early twenties and would have been toiling from morning into the night, paid only with food and lodging.

The first confirmed fact for our Mary Parker is the record of April 1785 when she was arrested for stealing two of Mrs Hickman's table cloths valued at 5 shillings. She was held in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, for the long period of six months before she was brought

to trial. The trial was held on 21 September 1785 and was mentioned in the Old Bailey Sessions Papers. Mary Hickman and Henry Baker were witnesses and were paid 15s. and 10/6 respectively. (Twice and three times the value of the stolen article). Mary was sentenced to six months confinement to Clerkenwell to where she was sent from Newgate on 24th September 1785.

Conditions in Clerkenwell Bridewell were overcrowded and filthy at that time as was the case in all gaols, but Mary may have been better off than most as she was employed as an assistant at the prison hospital. Mary was released on 24th March 1786.

Only three weeks later on 19th April 1786 at 10.30 at night she went back to the home of Mrs Hickman where she was seen on the garret stairs by a lodger William Headland and a young lad also a lodger. The lad went up the stairs into the garret and found many clothes lying about and Mary Parker in the corner of the space.

Mrs Hickman, who was preparing for bed having just finished her washing, heard the commotion and ran up the stairs to find Mr Headland and Mary at the top. Mary had none of the clothing with her and it could only be proved that the clothing was lying about although they had been left hanging on the lines in a locked garret.

Had Mary gone to the house to get a character reference in order to get another job? Or had she gone to collect her possessions which had been left behind?

In any event she was convicted of "burglariously and feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling house of John Hickman, about the hour of eleven in the night, on 19th day of April last, and burglariously stealing therein, two muslin gowns and coats, value 40s. a cotton gown, value 20s. three cotton frocks, value 4s. eleven shirts, value 31s. one shift value 2s. and one diaper clout, value 6d. his property. She was found guilty of stealing, but not of the burglary and sentenced to be transported to parts beyond the seas for 7 years. She was at the time 28 years of age and could neither read nor write. Mary was immediately sent to Newgate prison where she remained for the next eight months and ten days until 6th January 1787 at which time she was taken aboard the "*Lady Penrhyn*" which was making ready for the voyage to Botany Bay. However, Mary Parker spent a further five months on the "*Lady Penrhyn*" before she finally sailed on 13th May 1787.

During the voyage the women suffered sea sickness, home sickness, diseases caused by the unsanitary and cramped conditions. At least four convicts died on this ship, the youngest one year old and the oldest 70 years old. Four children were born, one still-born. Mary, who had learned nursing skills in prison would doubtless have been of some help to her ship

mates.

The journals of the ship's surgeon Bowes (Arthur Bowes Smyth) gives us some insight into various aspects of the voyage. At the end of April, whilst still at Portsmouth, Bowes notes that "The Women very sick wt. the motion of the Ship". In September just after leaving Rio he reports that the weather was very squally and "Many of the Women recd. hurts & bruises from falls". Bowes had a very poor opinion of his convict charges "there was never a more abandoned set of wretches collected in one place at any period". He considered them unwashed and unsavory, although one wonders how he expected them to do anything about personal hygiene. There had not even been any provision of rags for their



monthly period, and they certainly had no petticoats to tear up and use for such purpose. He did have the grace to write however, upon arrival at Farm Cove, that they were "dress'd in general very clean & some few amongst them might be said to be well dress'd".

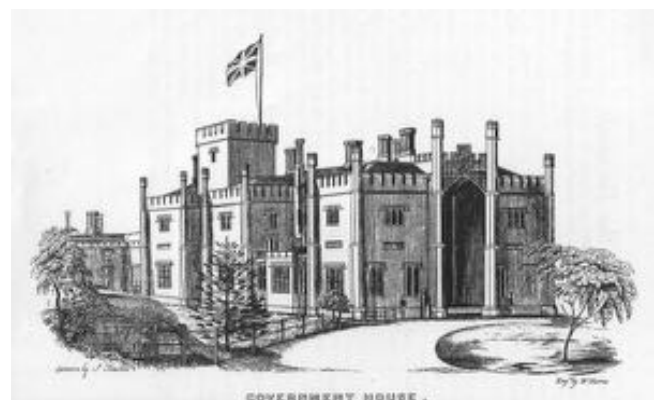
The fleet arrived in Botany Bay in the middle of January and after three days sailed around to Sydney Harbour. The flag was raised on 26th January 1788 but the women weren't brought ashore as they had to wait until the stores were unloaded and the men had erected tents for them to sleep in.

So it was not until Wednesday 6th February that the women were brought ashore from their transport ships. It is recorded that it was a warm day with frequent thunder squalls. Bowes journal again provides a record of the day's proceedings:

"At five o'clock this morning, all things were got in order for landing the whole of the women, and 3 of the ships longboats came alongside us to receive them; previous to their quitting the ship, a strict search was made to try if any of many things which they had stolen on board could be found, but their artifice eluded the most strict search, and at six o'clock p.m. we had the long wished for pleasure of seeing the last of them leave the ship. They were dressed in general very clean, and some few amongst them might be said to be well dressed. The men convicts got to them very soon after they landed, and it is beyond my abilities to give a just description of the scene of

debauchery and riot that ensued during the night. They had not been landed more than an hour, before they had all got their tents pitched or anything in order to receive them, but there came on the most violent storm of thunder lightening and rain I ever saw." The journal of the marine Watkin Tench, however, tells us that "a candid and humane mind will not fail to consider and allow for the situation these unfortunate beings so peculiarly stood in. When landed, their separation became impracticable, and would have been perhaps wrong." The sailors had requested, and must have been given 'some Grog to make merry wt. upon the women quitting our ship." (*the Lady Penrhyn*)

It would seem that Mary did nothing in the early days of the colony to bring her to the attention of the authorities and therefore there is no record of what service she was put to in the colony. There is a legend based on a story told by William Small, Mary's son, that her first child Rebecca was born at Government House. This was reported in The Daily Telegraph of 23 January 1788. On the other hand she may have been employed at the hospital having had experience in that capacity



beforehand. If this was so it may well be that that was where she met John Small who was also employed there.

However they met, a relationship was formed and John and Mary

were married under a tree by the Reverend Richard Johnson on 12 October 1788. Mary and John lived a respectable urban life and had 7 children. I am descended from their fourth child John.

George Herbert Cross

Jean Macleay member 359

Continuing My Grandfather's Story

After this date [1906] the children arrived at regular intervals as was the way at that time. Phillip George was born on 26 October 1908, Ida Thelma on 27 August 1910, Herbert Victor (Bert) on 4th December 1911.

Life must have been grindingly hard for this family living in the poorest of circumstances. George did not seem to hold any permanent position. The school records variously show him as being a *Labourer, a Sleeper Cutter and a Teamster*, in other documents he is show as a *Timber Getter*. The northern rail line was being built at this stage and timber felled in the district would have been used for sleepers and carted to the site by bullock teams.

By 1913 the family situation was desperate. I can remember being told that grandma prepared the meals of the fettlers and this would have been their only meagre income as George was declared bankrupt early in 1914. Stanley Douglas, a Down's Syndrome child, was born on 13 July 1913, George was constantly drunk and belligerent and the household effects were being sold up to satisfy debts.

George's various submissions to

the Bankruptcy Court show that he believed that the main cause of his bankruptcy was "Loss of bullocks used in my team. Ill health. Sickness in the family" In an affidavit to the Supreme Court in Bankruptcy Coff's Harbour signed on 15th October 1913, George states that "before September 1911 until March 1913 he was the bullock driver of a team which he hired from Mr Henry Bligh Moran of Repton. During April, May and June 1913 he drove a bullock team belonging to Mr Frederick Burgess of Bonville on the halves system. From June on he was timber cutting. Whilst driving the team hired from Henry Bligh Moran he did not earn more than an average of about 25 shillings per week and out of these earnings he had to pay agistment fees for the bullocks and had to replace bullocks that died whilst in his possession. It was whilst hiring this team that his debts accumulated. Driving the



team belonging to Frederick Burgess his weekly earnings did not average more than two pounds from sleeper cutting.

George Cross held a Selection at Bonville, being Conditional Purchase No. 08/191, of 63 ¼ acres and an additional Conditional Purchase of 69 ¼ acres, in the Parish of Bonville District of Bellingham which by an agreement of 7th of October 1911 he sold to James Channells of Warrell Creek for £500 upon certain terms. James Channells paid a deposit of £300 out of which amount George paid £232 to Messrs Hunter Brothers of Repton and £12 to Mrs Dean of Bonville, £32 for 2 horses which died, £5 to D. Bailey of Repton and with the balance he paid other sundry debts. Further amounts were paid by Mr Channells to

George amounting to £125.10.- out of which George paid £16 for a horse and cart which he later sold, £30 for agistment fees for the bullocks and £26 for 4 bullocks bought to replace bullocks that had died, £23 for timber he had purchased and a further £30.10.- in payment of sundry accounts. George states that he never kept any books showing the amounts earned by him or moneys from time to time expended, but all moneys earned were expended in the maintenance of himself, his wife and 7 children.

This last statement absolutely does not agree with the stories of his constant drunkenness and abusive behaviour. ... *We will continue the story of Jean's Grandfather soon.* ed. ... 🌳

An Old Book

Lynda Smith Life Member 2 & Helen Johnston-
Lord Member 505

Another extract from the 1875/6
Yearbook continued: **Annual Summary** Pg.6, Chronicle of Home News:

"December 27 1875: A Remarkable Funeral. – At the pretty village of Hatfield, near Doncaster, there was solemnised to-day a funeral of one of those remarkable gentlemen whose school is nearly extinguished [sic]. He was possessed of considerable property, and some people designated him Squire Hawley, but he delighted in "Jack Hawley" and would not be accosted by his correct name, Pilkington, a family of the highest respectability. He died on Christmas Day, and was buried two days after in his own garden, in the centre of the graves of his cattle which died during the **rinderpest**. He was laid out in full



hunting costume, including spurs and whip, and was carried from the house to the grave on a coffin board. He was then placed in a stone coffin, which, weighing upwards of a ton, had to be lowered by means of a crane. His old pony, Nance, was shot, and buried at his feet in bridle and saddle, and his dog and an old fox were buried at his head. The funeral ceremony was performed by the Roman Catholic priest of Doncaster, who had especially consecrated the ground, and was witnessed by only a few mourners, chief of whom was the deceased's physician. He left the whole of his estate to his groom, John Vickers, on

condition that the funeral, etc., be conducted according to his expressed wish, and should he fail in doing this, the whole of the property was to revert to the priest at Doncaster for the benefit of the Catholic religion. He was only fifty-two years of age."

[*rinderpest* = cattle plague that was a devastating virus that could wipe out total herds. It took decades to reduce the incidence of this disease. The FAO took this on as a project and claimed worldwide elimination of this disease in 2011]

H J-L: This snippet piqued my curiosity, a relatively quick 'Google' search and this is just some of what I found:

New Zealand Herald, New Zealand Herald, Volume XIII, Issue 4494, 8 April 1876.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/news/papers/NZH18760408.2.36.2>

"BURIAL OF SQUIRE HAWLEY.

To the Editor of the Herald. Sir, —In Thursday's Herald, under the heading of "Our Sporting Chronicle," there is described the funeral of Squire Hawley, where the Roman Catholic priest of Doncaster is stated to have specially consecrated the ground beforehand for the eccentric squire to be buried alongside his favourite horse, shot for the purpose, and the bodies of both deposited in the garden, in the centre of the graves of his cattle, which died during the rinderpest. Now, sir, as this Romish priest might appear to your readers as being as eccentric as the squire himself would you kindly insert the following copy of the said priest's letter to the Times on the subject.— I am, &c., Ritualist.

The Rev. Charles Burke writes to- the Times, under date St. Peter's, Doncaster, January 3 111 your issue of Wednesday last, there appears an account of the funeral, under very peculiar circumstances, of a Mr. John Hawley, at Harfield, near Doncaster.

After noting its whimsical and painfully grotesque character, your correspondent goes on to say that, the funeral service was performed by the Roman Catholic priest of Doncaster, who had specially consecrated the ground beforehand. This statement made, I cannot doubt, in perfect good faith — has been copied by several papers, and by some of them not without sundry embellishments. A great deal of virtuous indignation has been expended upon this poor offending priest. To give only a single instance, one of the papers denounces him for allowing the services of the Roman Catholic Church to be "prostituted to such vile purposes." Now, sir, I am the Roman Catholic priest of Doncaster, and I am sure your courtesy will allow me space to say: 1, that I did not perform the funeral service; 2, that I was not present at the funeral; 3, that I did not consecrate or bless the ground beforehand; and lastly, that I have not been at Harfield for several months."

I found a short biography:

[https://en.wikisource.org/w/index.php?title=Pilkington,_William_\(DNB00\)&oldid=3581771](https://en.wikisource.org/w/index.php?title=Pilkington,_William_(DNB00)&oldid=3581771) "LIONEL SCOTT PILKINGTON, *alias* JACK HAWLEY (1828–1875), sportsman and eccentric, born in 1828, and educated for a short time at Rugby. One of his

great-grandfathers had been a stud-groom, and Pilkington early in life developed a strong love of stable life. On his father's death he became heir to his property, taking up his residence, when he came of age, at

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 National Monument in Kuala Lumpur

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Thank you Ellen Sheerin [#604] for sharing this photograph taken during recent overseas travels.

This National Monument in Kuala Lumpur was completed and officially opened on 8 February 1966. It was proclaimed a memorial park dedicated to the 11,000 people who died during the 12-year Malayan Emergency (1948–1960).

The sculpture depicts 7 figures, 5 of the figures [1. holding the Malaysian flag, 2. armed with a rifle and bayonet, 3. armed with a machine gun, 4. soldiers tending to fifth wounded compatriot] represents the victorious allied forces while the other 2 figures that

lie on the ground represents that of the defeated communist forces. Every day at dawn, a soldier raises the national flag and lowers it at dusk.

Overall the monument depicts the victory of the forces of democracy, peace and freedom over that of communism.

Each of the bronze figures symbolises leadership, suffering, unity, vigilance, strength, courage and sacrifice. The stones that the soldiers are standing on were imported from the small coastal city of Karlshamn in South Eastern Sweden.

Australia's commitment to the emergency lasted 13 years, between 1950 and 1963, with army, air force and naval units serving. The Malayan Emergency was the longest continuous military

commitment in Australia's history. Thirty-nine Australians were killed and 27 wounded.

RMAF Butterworth is an Air Force Station of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) situated near Butterworth in Penang, Malaysia. It is also currently home to the Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System (HQIADS), part of the Five Power Defence Arrangements for Malaysia and Singapore, which is commanded by an Australian Air Vice Marshal.

The airfield was formerly known as RAF Station Butterworth, a Royal Air Force airfield of the Royal Air Force between 1941 and 1957; and was subsequently known as RAAF Butterworth, an air force airfield of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) between 1957 and 1988. ... 🌿

An Old Book

Lynda Smith Life Member 2

Another extract from the 1875/6 Yearbook continued: **Foreign and Colonial News Pg.105:**

“ **January 17 1876:** Indians in Arms. – A party of Apache Indians attacked a squad of twenty-three soldiers on this day 50 miles south of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The soldiers were hunting buffaloes. The troops fought gallantly, killing over twenty Indians. Three soldiers were wounded, one fatally. Reinforcements were sent from Santa Fe to pursue the Indians.

February 8. **Fire in New York.** – “Fire destroyed on this night two hotels and other houses in New York, the loss being estimated at \$3,000,000. In attempting to



extinguish the flames three men were killed and five others were injured.”

March 2 “The Sitting Bull.”—Two thousand United States troops, under Generals Crook and Custer, were about this time sent to the Yellowstone Region to operate against 1500 rebellious Indians, commanded by a chief called “The Sitting Bull.”

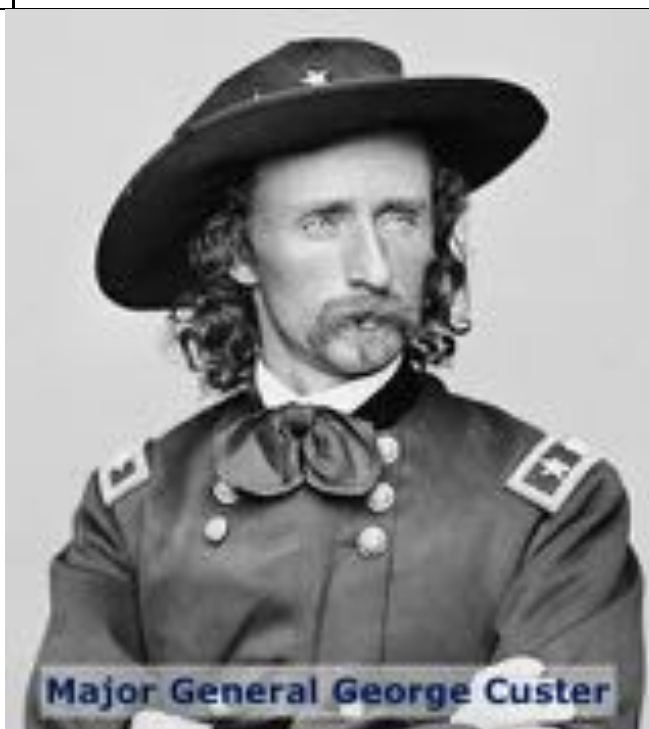
Page 108: **June 25** “War with the Indians. – Two detachments of troops, under General Custer and Major Reno, attacked a body of 2,500 Indians on this day, in a defile in Littlehorn, Arizona. General Custer’s command was overwhelmed and annihilated; he himself being killed,

with sixteen of his officers and 300 privates.”

Wikipedia entry : The US 7th Cavalry, a force of 700 men, suffered a major defeat while under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer (formerly a brevetted major general during the American Civil War). Five of the 7th Cavalry's twelve companies were annihilated and Custer was killed, as were two of his brothers, a nephew and a brother-in-law. The total US casualty count included 268 dead and 55 severely wounded (six died later from

their wounds), including four Crow Indian scouts and at least two Arikara Indian scouts.

August 28. “A Great Fire of San Francisco on this day destroyed 100 buildings, including the German Hospital. The loss is estimated at 500,000 dollars. Two hundred poor families were rendered homeless; one fireman was killed and several persons injured.” ... 🌳



Transport

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

If you have any ideas, email The Secretary:

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

or phone (02) 4351 2211 during open hours. ... 🌳

for



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

Sunday 8th December, 2019. 11am – 4:00 pm.

For this year's

JINGLE & MINGLE

Partners Welcome

Where: Wyong Golf Club, 319 Pacific Highway, Wyong.

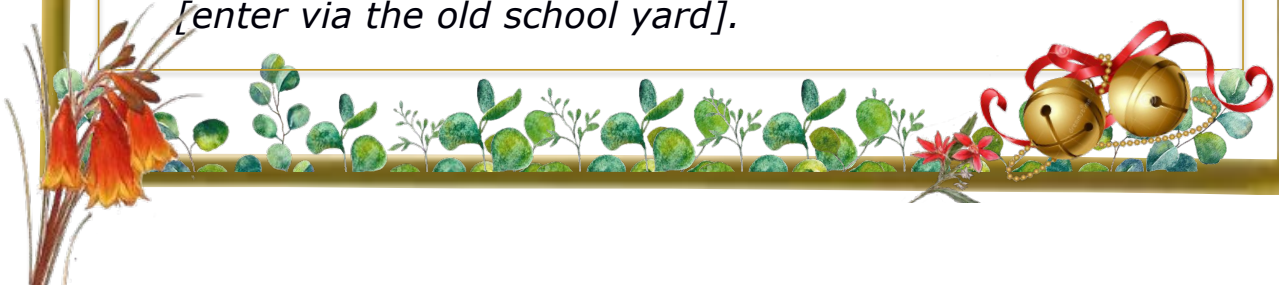
Cost \$30.00 *[Please advise dietary variation needs]*

Payment Options: Direct Deposit, PayPal, in person at the Cottage **or take advantage of our Payment Plan**

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].



Publications For Sale

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

BOOKS & CDs

Bowden Family Funerals – Wyong. July 1999 – January 2016	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$15.00 – p&h
Brought in by the Tide. <i>[A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]</i>	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour. <i>[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.]</i>	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954 incorporating the Wollombi Express (1892-1906) and Wyong District Advocate (1906-1920) <i>Contains enteries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details</i>	Book	\$ 27.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
 People of Wyong Book 1: Health and Service Providers – includes: Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade, Ministers <i>[298 pages]</i>	Book	\$ 35.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 2: <i>Includes: Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. [252 pages]</i>	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 3: <i>Includes: Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing and Transport. [297 pages]</i>	Book	\$ 42.00 + p&h
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book	\$ 8.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006 – Out of Print – available on combined CD.		
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011	CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1985 – 2013	Book	\$ 30.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Agricultural Association <i>[248 pages]. 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 with fully indexed list of names</i>	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong & District Pioneer Register <i>(Published 2013) [673 pages]. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.</i>	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 40.00 + p&h

Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices (1932 – 1995) (available separately-see below) Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs Contents Volume Two – 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices includes Church and cemetery photographs	Two Volume set	Book	\$ 45.00 + p&h
	Book Volume 1		\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Book Volume 2		\$ 25.00 + p&h
		CD	\$ 35.00 + p&h
NEW	Wyong Remembers: The history of the Wyong War memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events (53 pages)		Book \$ 19.00 + p&h
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939		Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
		CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area [Baptisms, Burials and Marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's Diaries and Miscellaneous Entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy & the Hawkesbury River.]		CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h

CEMETERY

Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW [1886-2001]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW [1825 - 2016]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
All 4 Cemetery Books		\$ 50.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 [220 pages] This index has been compiled from the Wyong Family History Group's 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 Unmarked Graves.	Book	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery [30,000 names, not all from Wyong]	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Genealogy Recorder		\$ 10.00 + p&h

WFHG Inc Planned Events

- *Subject to change.*
- *Note: Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, workshops and mini sessions are at 'The Cottage'.*
- *Information Sessions: Detailed list available on website.*

	2019	Event
November	Fri 1	2020 Planner - Committee
	Sat 2	Volunteer's Thank You Luncheon
	Tue 5	Melbourne Cup Day
	Fri 8	Morning Tea at Tuggerah Library
	Sat 9	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Tue 12	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Sat 16	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am - 12 noon
	Monday 18 - Friday 22 NO ROAD ACCESS TO COTTAGE	
Dec	Tue 26	Shipping 10:00 am - 12 noon in conjunction with last English/Welsh Group. Lots of information. All welcome. DNA Special Interest Group 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Tue 3	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Sun 8	WFHG Inc Christmas Party - 'Jingle & Mingle'
	Thu 12	Last Day for 2019 - Re-opening 14 January 2020
	2020	Event
January	Tue 14	Cottage Re-Opens
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
February	Sat 1	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Sat 8	Love Lanes
	Tue 11	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Sat 15	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am - 12 noon
	Sat 22	Computers/Tablets/Facebook Interest Group 10:00 am - 12 noon

Wyang Pioneers' Lunch

Wyang RSL Club was the venue for the annual Pioneers' lunch Saturday, 26th October in keeping with tradition two of our members volunteered their time so that our group had a presence at the function as well as conducting a book sale to help raise a few dollars for WFHG Inc.

Sales results for the day are as follows ...
one copy of People of Wyong Book 2, three copies of People of Wyong Book 3 and three copy of Wyong & District Pioneer Register for a total of \$316 plus an additional \$44 from second hand book sales. ... 🌳



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 9.00am – 12 noon

(WFHG members available to help)

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Website: <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au>

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

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 January 2020 is the closing date for items to be included in the 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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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's contributions are always welcome.