

WYONG FAMILY
Preserving Legacy



Tree of Life

HISTORY GROUP INC

Tree of Life

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 20 September 2012
Member contributions are always welcome

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Patrons: Craig Thomson MP for Dobell
Jill Hall MHR for Shortland
Darren Webber MP for Wyong
David Harris

Our meetings are held at 7.00pm on the 2nd Thursday night 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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Thursday:	Murray Hill	Research – Local	Janice Barrett
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from the President

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



As I sit down to write my contribution to our *Tree Of Life* I have to recall the past three months and look at what the group has achieved and maybe what some of our members have achieved in their search for ancestors. The group is a place members can share their research breakthroughs, so come on in and tell us what you are up to.

The group had their second bus trip to State Records for this year in July and a lot of happy members returned with their ancestors wills, or other startling facts that helps to inspire you, we very much appreciate our drivers who give of their time to drive the bus so we can have these trips, at the moment our thanks goes to Ken Cooke and David Pilkington.

We held a very successful beginners course with the 2012 Family Tree Maker Raffle being won by Patricia Geer (member 591)

We were guest speaker at
The Toukley Art's Society.

We continue to run our
interest groups.

Julie Newman was kind
enough to give some tuition on
using the new ScanPro and
this was very welcomed by
those who attended.

Our General Meetings
have been low in numbers
mostly due to colder nights and
illness.



*Esther Dean with some of our beginners
Taken on the last day of the course*

I attended Taree Genealogy Fair with our Librarian Glenise; we had a lovely weekend and were made very welcome.

Our group participated in the Biggest Morning Tea with the Chamber of Commerce and the neighbour centre.

A small group of us went to the State Library to meet with David Berry to see if we could understand what resources they have and how to use them, David was very helpful showing us different card indexes and the eResources, however we found it is a place that the more you use the better you will understand it. In the future we will do a talk and demonstration on using their website, most likely at a General Meeting so you will need to come to that to hear the talk.

We reluctantly farewelled Frank Gero a dedicated member of the group for a number of years, Frank moved further north and is sorely missed for his knowledge and work he did for the group. His afternoon tea was well attended as he was well known as Cottage coordinator on Wednesday and Thursday, he was sent off with reluctance but well wishes from all.

We were lucky that someone put their hand up to take on Thursday coordinator and we welcomed Murray Hill, who is finding his way around and doing well.

It takes quite a bit of work to run the group and we have now started a Busy Bee Day once a month. Our first one was on the 4th June and attended by 16 wonderful members who got in and helped with all manner of

things. We hope to continue getting support for this day as it gets all the little things done that we have no time for doing. For example we have to keep the kitchen stocked so that was seen to, stationary needs were seen to, printing was done, computer screens cleaned, filing, compiling our small publications, and shredding. We need people to help with these things and to help us keep the cottage clean and inviting.

We had our Bunning's BBQ fundraiser and this was a big success and thanks go to the members who gave their time to help out, it was a bleak winter's day.

Four of us attended a Workshop held by the RAHS in Sydney on *Managing Your Collections*. This was so informative that it has put me on a mission to get our masses of paperwork into some sort of system that allows easy retrieval, so a group of us have started on this and hope to have it sorted by the New Year.

Coming up in September is the State Conference hosted by Botany Bay and I along with our Librarian will be attending. We also have our Annual General Meeting, this is the time for you to come forward and take on a position to help keep things running. In October we will welcome Joy & Allan Murrin as quest speakers. November another bus trip to State Records and of course our annual Christmas get-together in December. So keep an eye on the website for more details.....**TOL**

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Information Day

Kerrie Metcalfe, member 80, LM, President WFHG Inc

The weather was sunny although a little cold, when the dedicated volunteers of our group opened the doors of the cottage on the 28 July, to celebrate family history week for members or anyone who may have had an interest in researching their family, we pulled out the BBQ added a few snags and onions with the help of Michele and her Granddaughter Grayson , Joy and Roger put up a shelter just in case it got too hot or worse still rained. We set up our raffle of a Chicken and Vegetable tray (won by Janice Barrett) all the computers were on and volunteers just waiting to be of help, where does this story end? Well there were certainly more volunteers than visitors or visiting members but we had a great time, we did get a couple of interested members come in and one new member, we enjoyed the BBQ and made a small profit from the raffle, all that is left to say is thank you to those you did come along and to the helpers who gave of their time

In Kerrie's photos: top, Joy Pilkington and Roger Lewis; middle, Helen Burkett, Trish and Esther and bottom, Michele Gane, Grayson and someone bending over.

Ed.....TOL

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from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Welcome to the August 2012 edition of the 'Tree of Life'.

On 25 May, I attended the final session of the Family History Course. Every one received their certificates and are keen to build on their knowledge. It was good to see Esther Dean back on deck and we wish all those who are not travelling as well as they could, our sincere good wishes.

A rail trip to the State Library is planned for Monday 27 August, leaving platform 2 of Wyong Station on the 7:38 am on the Newcastle to Central train.

After reading the item from Wyong Council, Harry and I visited the Noraville Cemetery to take some photos. We thought this was an interesting and peaceful place despite being so close to the road.

When reading through stories, I often follow up information on the Internet or in my personal collection to find an appropriate illustration to enhance a story. This is often my undoing as I tend to go from one thing to another.

I am fascinated with family history and where our searches lead us. In my first comment, I mentioned my mother's family had lived at The Entrance in the 1940's and 1950's. Marilyn Cridland suggested I fill out their information for the Pioneer Registry. This I duly completed, however, I realised Mum and Dad as well as some of Mum's siblings could fit into this Registry. Conversations with cousins have set me on another path of research that may or may not fit the Pioneer Registry. One cousin's aunt



has sent me a family report adding many branches to our 'tree'.

The photograph was taken at the marriage of Joseph Birtwistle and Irene McCutcheon taken 17 June 1933 at Wamberal. Joe and Rene are the parents of my cousin previously mentioned. From left to right, we have Edith (Ada) Birtwistle (nee Robinson), an unknown lady, Thomas Birtwistle, Joe, Rene, my mother Alma and another unknown. Tom and Edith were my grandparents. Irene's mother was Ruth Bannister and her father Edward McCutcheon. The Bannister family has a very interesting history.

Remember the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 20 September and the next deadline for the "Tree of Life" is 27 October 2012.....**TOL**



Unravelling William Douglass

Jean Macleay, member 359

When tracing your family history you usually start with yourself and work backwards. As I went back through my mother's family I found I was descended from four persons named William Douglass. They were all pioneers on the Hawkesbury River where my maternal grandfather was born, but how are they related to me and what is their relationship to one another?

The first William Douglass (1755 - 1838) was a convict who arrived here in the first fleet on the ship "Alexander". William married Mary Groves, also a first fleet convict transported on the ship the "Prince of Wales", on 1st June 1788 in Sydney by the Chaplain Richard Johnson. It is possible

to confirm that William and Elizabeth had 3 children. The first, John was born in 1789 and died in 1793. Elizabeth and her twin brother, Joseph, were born on 8 February 1796. Joseph died shortly after birth leaving Elizabeth the only surviving child. After Elizabeth's baptism in 1796 there is no further trace of Mary Groves. Elizabeth married Daniel Jurd when she was 16 and he 32 years old. They had 9 children and a large number of descendants



William is recorded as having a relationship with Sarah Dailey, who is shown in the 1806 Muster as being his 'housekeeper'.

My second William Douglass (1809 – 1831) is, I believe, the son of the first fleet William Douglass and Sarah Dailey. They are shown together on the 1828 census. William jnr. age 20, labourer working for John Grono and living with William Douglass, age 72, butcher at Pitt Town. This census is the basis for my belief that this William is my first William's son. There were some disastrous floods on the Hawkesbury in the 1800's and many records were lost so it is impossible to prove or disprove the relationship of the two Williams, nor to find a death record for Mary Groves. The 'Fellowship of First Fleeters' do not accept that these two Williams are related.



My third William Douglass (1834 to 1892) is the son of William Douglas no.2 and Jane Wright whom he married in 1831. Jane was the daughter of James Wright (1786 - 1825) and Mary Hartley nee Turnbull (1798 - 1825). James was a convict on the "Indian" arriving in 1809. Mary was the daughter of the Turnbulls who were very early free settlers on the Hawkesbury. They arrived on the "Coromandel" in 1802. Mary married Joseph Hartley in 1813 and James Wright in 1816. It is unclear what happened to Joseph Hartley. James Wright murdered Mary in 1825 and was hung in Parramatta shortly thereafter. This left Jane and her two siblings orphaned. Presumably the Turnbulls brought them up.

William Douglass no. 3 married Harriett Forner and lived in the Gosford district with their six children. This William's younger sister, Mary Ann, married John Singleton and is my 2 x great grandmother. John is the father of my great grandmother.

And so to my fourth William Douglass (1768 to 1852). He was a convict who arrived here on the "Coromandel" in 1805. He settled on Mill Creek on the Hawkesbury and must have behaved himself as he became a policeman and pound keeper. This William married Mary Ann Cross the

daughter of Charles Cross and Rose Hannah Flood. Both Charles and Rose were convicts transported on the “Neptune” one of the ships of the disastrous second fleet which arrived in 1790. William and Mary Ann had 12 children but none of these children was named William. Their daughter Eleanor Douglass married John Cross grandson of the first fleeter John Cross (1757 - 1834) arrived on the “Alexander”. This is the same ship as my first William Douglass. William and



Mary Ann had seven children and lived most of their married life on the Macdonald River, Hawkesbury region. Their second child Charles David Cross is my great grandfather who married Mary Jane Singleton, my great grandmother the daughter of John Singleton and Mary Ann Douglass.

.....**TOL**



What Price Grief?

Part 2 (Continued from last issue)

Lynda Smith, member 2, LM

The sad tale of infant mortality and the impact on nineteenth century families.

Samuel Charles **Smallhorn**,

In February 2011, I received a small card letter from the USA. It was from a fellow SMALLHORN researcher, Barbara Jansen, who had lost my details some 10 years before. She is connected to the SMALLHORNS via an uncle of my Samuel senior. She took a punt on finding me among the many Smiths in the white pages! We renewed our connection via email and she had some news on young Samuel! It appears that he featured in some WA newspapers recently digitised via TROVE. Barbara had been able to find some amazing information on this lost soul. I hadn't thought of looking for him in this way! I also ended up sending for Geoff Blackburn's 1993 book via the interlibrary loan service [just speak to your friendly Council Librarians!] and this work has proved to be most beneficial. Barbara also contacted Geoff somehow and he ended up sending her the main section on Samuel via email. I have scanned other pages as well, as I was interested in the premise behind the Society and whether or not the

plan was a success.

It appears there were 4 ways a child could end up being the responsibility of the Society:

- a. boys of respectable parents who are reduced in circumstances, or orphans of same,
- b. boys neglected and deserted by their parents who are living on the streets,
- c. boys from workhouses who volunteer to go and
- d. boys from gaols who have been sponsored to attend the Society's school.

The Brenton Asylum at Hackney Wick was established by the Society as a school for such boys. I quote from Blackburn's work "once accepted into the school the boys were 'trained' for colonial life. The boys were taught to do everything for themselves. [from a report quoted in the book] "they grow their own vegetables, cook their own food, wash and mend their own clothes and do in fact all the work that is required on the premises – bricklaying, plastering, carpentry etc." The boys led very regimented lives, designed to create skilled, God fearing young Englishmen who would be of use in the colonies.

The boys rose each day at 5.45am, they dressed, washed etc. and at 6.15am assembled for roll call, inspection, scripture reading and prayers. At 7.15 until 8am they attended school, which consisted of the Commandments, reading, spelling and writing. They then ate breakfast in silence from 8-8.45am, worked in the fields from 9-12 noon, had dinner and playtime etc. until 2pm [but no gambling!], more field work again until 5, tea from 5-6pm, more schoolwork [mathematics etc.] until 8pm, then prayers and bed [a hammock] by 8.30pm. A similar establishment was later created for girls at Chiswick.

The Society went to great lengths to ensure that acquisition of children was done legally and that they did not become the dumping ground for illegitimate children etc., but I am sure this did indeed happen. Legal forms were drawn up for parents to sign, agreeing to hand over their children 'for

Resources:

IGI 1984 & 1994 editions
Historic indexes online:
Victorian BDMs, WA BDMs,
Tas BDMs,
Australian Federal electoral
rolls 1903-54 via
Ancestry.com.au,
TROVE digitised newspapers,
Battye Library of WA
Research by B Jansen [2011]
& Peter Dunn [1996],
Books:

***"The Children's Friend
Society - Juvenile emigrants
to Western Australia, South
Africa and Canada 1834-
1842"*** by Geoff Blackburn,
published 1993 by Access
press WA,
***"Dictionary of Western
Australians 1829-1914. Vol.1
Early Settlers 1829-1850,"***
compiled by Pamela Statham.

the purpose of being educated and trained for service.... and be sent out to the colonies to be apprenticed' [pg.23 Blackburn], but one has to wonder how many of these parents could read and write, let alone understand that they were signing over their children for life. It was also stated that no child would be sent to the colonies unless there was a specific place for them determined by the local committee. It appears that the society endeavoured to inform parents when their child was leaving, but sadly this did not always happen. Blackburn states that there are reports from parents and children complaining that consent had not been granted etc. There is no record of anything like this for young Samuel. His father could write and presumably knew what he was doing at the time. I have no idea which category of boy he was [a, b, c or d], but by 1833 Samuel junior was at the Brenton School. He was one of 25 boys and 4 girls sent to Albany, WA. He was put into the care of a **Captain Thomas SHER[R]ATT**, a merchant of King George's Sound. Later he moved 90 miles away to Kojonup to work with a **Mr Edward SIMPSON**. In 1859 Samuel is listed on the York census [Northam area] as an unmarried storekeeper, working for **RG MEARES**, who was the son in law of another Society boy, **Edmund WRIGHT**.



By 1888, Samuel was suffering ill health and was admitted to the Mt Eliza Invalid Depot, as he had no living relatives in WA. He later expressed a desire to visit some relatives he had in Victoria. A benefit was held for Samuel in 1890 and locals donated enough money for his sea passage [presumably] to Victoria. By Dec.1891 Samuel had died, as a result of a stroke, in the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. His passing was noted in the "Eastern District's Chronicle", as a resident of the area for many years. At some time, Samuel had also acted as the caretaker of the Mechanics institute Hall in the York area. A photo of Samuel junior in his later years is held by the Battye library in WA. I just had to obtain a copy!.... *to be concluded*

...TOL

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Photo Gallery

Final Session of Family History Workshop – 25 May, 2012



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Occupational Hazards for Billy Blue

© Dawn Montgomery, 2008

Purpose statement:

The QFHS Family History Writing Group were asked to write about an ancestor's occupation when they reached Australia, and how they fared in life once here.

In 1801, when William (Billy) Blue stepped ashore at Sydney Cove from the *Minorca*, his occupation was what for the next century was euphemistically referred to as 'government servant'. He had been tried at Kent Assizes in 1796, and convicted, on four counts of stealing 20 lbs of sugar from a ship he was unloading, in his part-time occupation as a lumpers – a wharfie in Australian terms. It was not his first apprehension for this type of theft – reportedly to help with his chocolate making business – and he was not the only one accused or convicted of this crime. But Billy was the only one sentenced to transportation. A biographer (Meg Swords) some years ago put the opinion that he was chosen because he was a fine figure of a man and a hard worker and this was what the infant colony needed. Others are more realistically blunt and say it was because he was a Negro, but maybe this is a '20th century comment'. He seems to have had no discriminations against him because of his colour, either reported from the U.K. or in Australia.



With thanks to Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW [ML 560] for permission to reproduce Billy Blue, 1834 / 1934. By J. B. East

If we are to believe his burial certificate, Billy Blue was around 66 when he arrived in Sydney Town. However, Meg Swords claimed in an addendum to her book that he was 29 when sentenced, though we can find no confirmation of this, and she was unable to point to where she discovered this 'fact'.¹

His seven years sentence was over by 1803 when he was listed as 'free'. By 1804 he was co-habiting with Elizabeth Williams, a 'fair English woman'. Elizabeth had been convicted of theft at Hants Quarter Sessions, Winchester, on 11 July 1803 and arrived in 1804 on the *Experiment I*, with a sentence of 7 years but was listed as 'free' in records of 1804 and 1805. On 27 April 1805, one month after their first child Susannah was born, Billy and Elizabeth were married in St. Philip's Church of England on Church Hill, by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. Witnesses to their marriage were Edward and Dulcibella Piper, two of the socialites of the day. Further acknowledgement of Billy's acceptance was that his grandson, also William Blue, was a pupil at the exclusive King's School at Parramatta in 1845-1849. Interestingly, his grandfather was still listed as a 'government servant' in the school's records. And the child following young William in the school's register is the grandchild of the Pipers.

As a free man, Billy set himself up in business with a fleet of small boats and his was the first cross-harbour ferry service in Sydney. Governor Lachlan Macquarie, seeing Billy with his little fleet, dubbed him 'The Commodore' and this sobriquet remained with him for the rest of his life. There is an 'Old Commodore Hotel' in Blues Point Road in Sydney, named after him and with Billy Blue memorabilia on its walls. Many of the streets in Blues Point are named after members of the Blue family.

With Billy having all these boats, in 1811 Macquarie decided to appoint him as "Watchman of the Heaving Down Place in Sydney Cove, with the Powers of a Constable", and thus Billy became the first water policeman in New South Wales. He was given occupancy of a quaint octagonal house on the foreshore at the area now known as Mrs Macquarie's Chair, on the edge of Sydney's present Botanical Gardens.

Note: This first appeared in The Mail (Descendants of Convicts Group, July 2008). Permission to publish given to Wyong FHG (Helen Johnston-Lord, Editor) March 2012.

In January 1817 he received from Governor Macquarie a grant of land, 80 acres, on the north side of Port Jackson. This is now the Sydney suburb of Blue's Point, near the northern end of Sydney Harbour Bridge. He was obliged to cultivate 18 acres of this land, and he called it "Northampton Farm". He must have been very proud to have achieved this land-ownership status, something he could never have done in England.

However, in October 1818 he was caught smuggling casks of rum across the harbour and ended up behind bars for a year for his troubles. Because of this he was dismissed from his Watchman/ Constable position. Of course he also lost his occupancy of his house at Sydney Cove. It is not known how Elizabeth and their children fared during this period. It is documented in various reports and essays on him and his activities that he

steadfastly refused to implicate anyone else in his smuggling activities, claiming that he had found the casks of rum floating in the harbour.

After his release, he still had his ferry business, but with increasing competition from Berry and Wollstonecraft, two influential businessmen of the time who are commemorated in Berry's Bay and the suburb of Wollstonecraft, both on Sydney's North Shore. As he grew older, Billy found it increasingly hard to row his clients. He is recorded as frequently agreeing to take people across the harbour as long as they rowed themselves and him, so he would have the strength to row himself back home!

So Billy overcame his occupational hazards as he went through life. In his earlier days, so he claimed in an petition to Sir Thomas Brisbane in 1822, he had fought with General Wolfe in 1759 at Quebec, been a scout and 'spie' for General Cornwallis, and was in the Marine Guard of Honour for King George III's 'crownation'. He also claimed to have gone with the Marines to 'Jermamy' after the King's coronation and to have been a sergeant of Pioneers on the Continent. If he really had been 99 when he died, he would have been of the right age to do these things. If he had not been there, and was really only 29 when sentenced how would he, an illiterate man in England, have known about these events happening before he was born? Unfortunately, due to lack of records of those participating in these events, there is no way we can prove or disprove this claim.

Billy and Elizabeth had seven children with only the last, Samuel, not surviving to adulthood. Elizabeth died in 1824 aged 44 or 50 depending on which record you believe. Billy died in 1834, his burial certificate giving his age as 99. A more recent biographer, Cassandra Pybus (*Black Founders*, 2007), concurs with my contention that he probably was 99 when he died, thus 66 when he arrived in Australia. Billy and Elizabeth are my great-great-grandparents on my Dad's side.....TOL

Addendum: My Dad, Billy's great-great-grandson, lived to be one day short of 101 years and four months. Dad's youngest sister lived to 95. I'm hoping I have their genes!

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www.conference2012.org.au/

Louis Frederick Pittard

Conclusion

*Beryl Whatson, member 46 - 12th grandchild of Fred and Maud Pittard
Maud Marion Agnes Pryme nee Wheeler.*

Maud was born at Gulgong 30 June, 1873 in a fettlers hut. She told me on one of the rare times when she offered any family history. She also told me that she had a brother "Bill", who she thought may have been long dead when she was telling me about him. Her father, so she said was Charlie Pryme.

Family history has a way of finding, the often true details of the family, so I was surprised to learn from Charlie's death certificate that he had "no issue"!

OK, so now I looked at the wedding date, for her mother Miriam Wheeler to Charles Pryme. The wedding had taken place when Maud was 4 years old, at the Temporary Church at Hill End, which at that time was very busy with gold miners. Maud's brother Bill was about six years older than Maud and was born at Camperdown in the house of their grandparents, Charles and Mary Ann Wheeler. They had raised him there, whilst Miriam had procured work at Gulgong in the house of a family living in the town. I was to find out later, that it was a son of her employer who had fathered Maud. This information was given by Miriam, to one of my aunts who had passed it on to me. I feel sure that, when her pregnancy became obvious, Miriam had been given her notice and Charlie Pryme had taken her in. Maud was to tell me that she remembered that the miners often came in to the fettlers hut at night, where they smoked and drank around a lamp on the table and she had drunk the dregs from their glasses. She put this down to her hating alcohol for the rest of her life.

Charlie Pryme must have been a great guy to take on Miriam with her 2 children, neither of which had fathers to help with their raising.

After the marriage, Bill came to live with Miriam and Charles and was still there until Charles Pryme died in 1904 at Rookwood.

Maud told me, that she and Bill used to ride a horse across snow-covered fields, to the convent school in Orange. Maud said the sisters were very strict, except for Sister Rose who was a "lovely lady". At this time, they were living at Huntley, a small settlement just off the road from Lucknow. The family eventually moved into Sydney and when Maud met her future husband, she was employed as a laundress for a lady living at Croydon. She was very proud of the fact, that she could iron a shirt, which was dripping wet with starch, in just 3 minutes. This was the time when irons were heated on a fuel stove, even in the heat of summer. Years later, I found that Miriam's first child was a son named Frederick, also born at her parent's house at Camperdown. Researching this child, I found a death for him at Louth; he had drowned in the Darling River aged 24 but

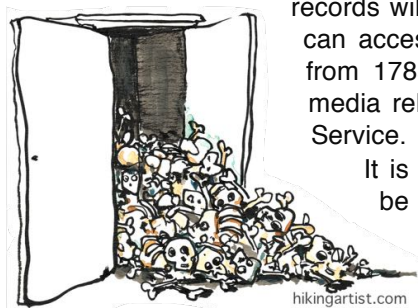
details of his parentage were scarce and his age was only approximate. I have claimed him as my grandmother's elder brother, whom she had never mentioned, maybe had never known.

When Maud was about 19, she met my grandfather Louis Frederick Pittard, known as Fred. He had recently been engaged to a young lady and they had many happy times on his sailing boat in Sydney Harbour until, there was an accident and his fiancé drowned,. I have a photograph of the boat and it looks to be carrying too many people for the size of the craft.

Fred and Maud were married 6 June, 1893 at St. James, Church of England at Croydon and had six children between 1893 and 1912...**TOL**

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Skeletons were streaming out of the closet this National Family History Week [27 July to 5 August] with the State Library of NSW promoting its Family History Service and free access to a cache of online resources that a general Internet search won't find! Every NSW resident with a State Library card can tap into a multitude of free eresources via the Library's website and, by selecting Family History, hundreds of years of relevant



records will appear onscreen. For example, users can access every issue of London's The Times from 1785 to 2006! Click here to read the full media release on State Library's Family History Service.

It is timely to remind members that we will be visiting the State Library on Monday 27 August, travelling in the top level of the third carriage of the train that leaves Wyong at 7.38 am ...**TOL**

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News from NSW State Records

More probate and divorce records arriving

The Supreme Court NSW is regularly transferring probate packets (NRS 13660) and divorce records (NRS 13495) to State Records. As they arrive we are adding the lists to Archives Investigator (AI). We now have over half a million probate packets listed! The most recent transfer is Probate Packet Series 4, Probate No. 705057 (Jan 1971). To locate a probate conduct a simple search in AI adding the name of the person and the word 'death' in the title.

There are now have over 80,000 divorce files listed dating up to 1951. To see if we hold a divorce file, again just use the simple search option in AI and type in the words 'Divorce' and surname of the petitioner or respondent.

Research Topics page - an A-Z list to help you into our collection

We have developed a popular 'Research Topics' page in order to make it quicker and easier for you to locate information on a specific topic. Currently listing 16 broad subjects this page is an ongoing project. The webpage is easy to navigate with an A-Z listing of topics.

So you've found that elusive document but what the heck does it say? One of the most visited posts on the Archives Outside blog lists some practical tips for reading old, handwritten documents...**TOL**

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Katunga, Victoria

Doug Thomas member 341

Katunga is an area north of Shepparton, that was settled with the usual Squatter Stations from the 1840's. Closer settlement was carried out as a result of Soldier settlement after WWI when the big stations were cut up to give returned soldiers a place to develop. This happened in many areas of Australia with mixed results, depending on the quality and size of the land as well as the support being given to the settlers. These notes are to highlight the information boards that are on display in the village detailing some of the families who were involved with the development in the area. There are lists of soldier settlers at Katunga and at Strathmerton 10 km to the north.

The families listed at Katunga include:

Adams	Hendy
Berry (Johnston)	Prentice
Carter	Rowe
Cumming	Thornton
Hansen	Tyack

I have photographed these boards and can let you have further details if you have an interest, from that area. ...**TOL**

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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP thanks

Lakes Tiles for their support



**LAKES TILES,
CENTRAL COAST
WALL & FLOOR TILES**

9 Arizona Road – Charmhaven - NSW 2263

Phone 4392 6411 - Fax 4392 5676

Friends of Noraville Cemetery

The Friends of Noraville Cemetery Project will be the first “Friends of” group for Wyong Council and will be facilitated in 2 stages.



From early discussions with Council's paid staff it was recommended the establishment phase will commence with two separate groups of volunteers to focus on the Noraville Cemetery. The two groups should provide a manageable number of volunteers to implement the program and achieve the most positive results for both Council and the volunteers.

The broader aim of the group will be to preserve Noraville Cemetery heritage, individual groups will be responsible for:

Family History Research

The broad focus for this group will be to support Council's Cemetery Officer responding to requests from relatives of deceased person's in locating graves and recording of wording on headstones. The group may also research stories of prominent locals interred in the cemetery. The development of a register for council access for the purpose of restoration and maintenance;

The preparation and distribution of historical information pamphlets

Ground maintenance support

The Grounds Maintenance group will support the work of Council's paid staff in keeping the cemetery clean and in a respectful state. Duties could include Brush cutting, maintaining perimeter around graves, removal of old flowers and rubbish, maintaining memorial garden, removal of graffiti on graves, etc.



Anyone interested in being involved in the establishment of this exciting and valuable project please contact Dawn Brown, Community Development Worker, on 43505386 or via email at Dawn.Brown@wyong.nsw.gov.au; and request an expression of interest form to be sent to you....**TOL**

**Notice of
Special General Meeting and Annual General
Meeting**

A Special General Meeting will be held on Thursday **20th September 2012** at 6.30pm for the purpose of amending the Constitution of **WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.** please find notice of motion inserted in this edition of *Tree of Life*

The Annual General Meeting, following this meeting is to elect office bearers for the year 2012-2013, and adopt the auditor's report for the year ending 30th June 2012. All positions on the committee become vacant and financial members are invited to nominate for any of the following positions President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members. Nomination forms are available at *The Cottage* and must be submitted by Thursday 13th September seven days before the meeting.

This will be followed by the General Meeting, supper will be provided

Venue *The Cottage* Wyong Community Cultural Centre 6 Rankens Court, Wyong

Please note the AGM and GM is a week later than it usually is, due to the State Conference being held on the weekend of the 14th 15th and 16th September.

If you would you prefer to receive your *Tree of Life* electronically in pdf format instead of post. Could you please let us know by emailing wfhg06@westnet.com.au

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
584	Wendy Peters	Elslick, Day, Peters & Aston
585	Elaine Butchard	Butchard & Rixon
586	Anne Tice	Downham & Ashworth
587	Darrell and	Egan, Murphy, Kilcullan, Perfrement, Condon,
588	Frances Travers	McCourt, Travers & Fryatt
589	Gladys Conroy	Bonshore
590	Robyn Badcock	Joseph
591	Patricia Geer	Hall, Richards, Schirmer & Cunningham
592	Dianne Vanni	Elliott, Dean, Wicks, Thompsaon, Biagi, Vanni,
593	Nicole Vanni	Welch, Staughton, Meredith, Holton & Bray
594	Leone Baldwin	Baldwin, Crowe, Hackett, Booby & Bell
595	Lorna Wales	Ingram
596	Ron Hill	Hill, Goman, Powell, Owens, Clinton & Notman
597	Vivienne Hill	
598	Desmond Wilkins	Wilkins & Nepveur
599	Helen Boshell	Jefferies, Simmonds, Wiggins, Barber, Willis, Wilkins, Brewer & Thomas

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. They will be placed back on the shelves by the volunteer on duty that day.

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Publications for Sale

More details at

<http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/nswfhg/publications.html>

CDs

Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 - 1953 (Published 2009) [Also available as Book; See below]	\$ 20.00 + p&p
Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park.	\$ 10.00 + p&p
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006	\$ 25.00 + p&p

BOOKS

Wyong & District Pioneer Register - pre 1910 and pre 1930 (Out of print; New Edition coming)	
Wyong and District Next Generation Register 1930 - 1950 (Published 2010)	\$ 25.00 + p&p
Wyong and District Pioneers 1910 - 1930 Supplementary Information (Published 2010)	\$ 20.00 + p&p
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 - 1953 (Published 2009) [Also available as a CD; See above]	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 - 2006	\$ 40.00 + p&p
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 - 1939	\$ 10.00 + p&p
Guide to Researching Your Family Tree	\$ 6.00 + p&p
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area (Pub. 2009)	\$ 25.00 + p&p
Central Coast Roll of Honour. (Published 2009)	\$ 40.00 + \$10.00 (in Australia) p&p
Brought in by the Tide. (Published 2009) .	\$ 10.00 + p&p

CEMETERY BOOKS

Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]	\$ 27.00 + p&p
Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW	\$ 25.00 + p&p
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW	\$ 15.00 + p&p
Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW	\$ 15.00 + p&p
All four Cemetery Books	\$ 75.00 + p&p
Gravedigging Index of Wyong Shire, Compiled by Mr. A V McKenzie and his son Clive.	\$ 25.00 + p&p
Genealogy Recorder – NEW	\$10.00

GENE-GEMS

Gene Jotter, Recording Family History Information A5 size	\$ 2.50
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GENE-GUIDES

Gene-Guide No 1 – Australian Military Records	\$ 4.00
Gene-Guide No 2 - Gene-Scottish, Guide to Scottish Research	\$ 2.50
Gene-Guide No 3 - Gene-Ireland, Guide to Irish Research	\$ 2.50

WFHG INC Planned Events

	2012	Event
August	Wed 8	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 9	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Mon 20	Busy Bee Day at 'The Cottage' from 10 am
	Fri 17	Family Historian Interest Group – 1.00pm - 3.00pm
	Sat 18	Workshop – Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Thu 23	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
	Mon 27	State Library Trip by train leaves Wyong at 7.38 for anyone interested in this trip please meet at Wyong station
September	Tue 4	Committee Meeting
	Wed 12	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 13	NSW & ACT Conference GyMEA
	Fri 14	NSW & ACT Conference GyMEA
	Sat 15	NSW & ACT Conference GyMEA
		Workshop – Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Sun 16	NSW & ACT Conference GyMEA
	Mon 17	Busy Bee Day at 'The Cottage' from 10 am
	Thu 20	6.30 pm Special General Meeting , AGM & General Meeting to follow, at 'The Cottage'
	Fri 21	Family Historian Interest Group – 1.00pm - 3.00pm
	Sun 23	Bus trip to Rookwood Cemetery Open Day
	Thu 27	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
October	Mon 1	Labour Day Holiday
	Tue 2	Committee Meeting
	Wed 10	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 11	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Mon 15	Busy Bee Day at 'The Cottage' from 10 am
	Fri 19	Family Historian Interest Group – 1.00pm - 3.00pm
	Sat 20	Workshop – Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Thu 25	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
		Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
	Sat 27	WFHG Seminar Wyong Golf Club– Allan & Joy Murrin
	Tue 30	Committee Meeting
November	Thu 8	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Sat 10	Visit to NSW State Records
	Wed 14	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Fri 16	Family Historian Interest Group – 1.00pm - 3.00pm
	Sat 17	Workshop – Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Mon 19	Busy Bee Day at 'The Cottage' from 10 am
	Thu 22	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
		Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
December	Tue 4	Committee Meeting
	Wed 12	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 13	WFHG Christmas Party

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
(7.00pm on 2nd Thursday of the month). 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:

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://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswwfhg/>

*WFHG thanks Mr. Craig Thompson, MHR for his assistance in the
production of this issue of the Tree of Life.*

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Remember deadline for next 'Tree of Life' is 27 October 2012

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