

WYONG FAMILY
Founded 1982



HISTORY GROUP INC

Tree of Life

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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INCORPORATED

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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.

Office Bearers 2012 – 2013

President: Kerrie Metcalfe 02 4351 5430
Secretary: Kerry Clarke secwfhg2@westnet.com.au
Minute Secretary: Esther Dean
Vice-President: Trish McDonald
Treasurer: Michele Gane
Management Committee: All the above executive plus Marilyn Cridland, Pam Mansergh, Helen Burkett, Wayne Dean, Ann Cooke.

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Cottage Co-ordinators		Raffles:	Eileen Wheway
Tuesday:	Marilyn Cridland	Research Officers:	Robin Wright
Wednesday:	Trish MacDonald		Trish McDonald
Thursday:	Murray Hill	Research – Local:	Janice Barrett
Cottage Roster:	Ann Cooke	Snippets:	Lynda Smith
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Field Trips:	Jack Eglon	Volunteer	
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Grant Applications:	Doug Thomas		

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

FAMILY HISTORY TRACING SERVICE

Australian, International or Local Research

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Church & Headstone e-Photos in Wyong & District

Enquiries to: The Secretary, WFHG Inc.

P O Box 247 Wyong, NSW, Australia, 2259

Email: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

from the President

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

President's Annual Report for the Year 2011-12

September 2012

I am pleased to present to you the 29th Annual Report for the Wyong Family History Group Inc.

We began the year (from September 2011) with 257 members and now have 301 members showing a steady growth. We exist with the commitment of volunteers and without them we would not be able to provide the service we do. I will endeavour to report on all areas of our Group.

Our Management Committee: This is the core of the Group. Without them we would have no Group as they plan, implement and summarise every event, publication, resource purchase, workshop, training day, and they make decisions on what might be the best outcome for the members. This comes with commitment and pride in what they are doing. Without them, the President could not survive, so I commend them and thank them for their support.

Resources: Since research is our priority it is essential we keep up to date with the latest resource and this year we have introduced access to British Newspaper Archives and Scotland's People, as well as our continued subscription to ancestry.com and findmypast.uk & au. On top of this our esteemed Librarian keeps her eye out for new CDs and book resources and many new additions have been added to our resources. Our CD list is over 400, which are all loaded on the computers in the middle computer room. Another resource is the microfilms that can be ordered from familysearch.org and we have provided the latest equipment for you to get a better quality from these very old records. I'm sure many members have taken advantage of using the ScanPro2000 - if not you are missing out.

The Cottage: In October 2011 we rearranged the computer rooms and moved the office. This enabled us to give members more room to carry out their research. It's been a work in progress and a few more minor changes may occur over the coming Christmas break. The Cottage opens three days a week and takes twelve volunteers to do this. Sometimes it gets difficult when we have not got enough people to cover the days. Ann Cooke does the best she can with who we have available. It would be good to open more often but we don't have the

manpower to do it. However, it is something that is always on the back burner. We farewelled our Thursday coordinator Frank Gero, Murray Hill saved the day by putting his hand up to cover Thursday. The coordinators are responsible for opening up and locking up at the end of the day, as well as being on hand to help throughout the day. These people do one day every week. This is a big commitment and much appreciated by our Committee.



Fundraising: This was boosted by the wonderful job Trish and the team did in selling Rotary raffle tickets last year. We made a tidy sum and hope to do better this year. We were also fortunate to have two Bunnings BBQ's that also provide some income and our members are very generous in giving their time to help out. The other way we make some money is by selling our publications and donated books that we may already have. So thanks go to the girls who keep this going and to the members and public who donate to us. We held a Beginner's Course and a Seminar early in the year and these also helped the finances a little.

Publication: Marilyn Cridland has continued to add to our growing Pioneer Book that has been slowly developing over the past few years. This has been a large project depending on people to send back signed copies of their family information. It will be an asset to the Wyong Community and family historians when it is finally printed and published. Jan Barrett and her team of helpers have compiled the Simplicity Funeral records held by Toukley, Bateau Bay and Wyong. This is at the printers as I do this report and will be another helpful resource. Noraville Cemetery is in the process of being updated and John Selwood is transcribing the family notices from the *Express Advocate* that are held by Tuggerah Library.

Events and Excursions: We held a great Christmas Party in 2011 and we gathered for a social BBQ at the cottage early in 2012. We attended Australia day in the Wyong Park and got wet; we participated in the biggest morning tea with the Neighbourhood Centre; we have had two trips to Kingswood State Archives and one still pending in November; we had a trip to State Library; a trip to Rookwood Open Day is planned and a number of members are looking forward to that, we held a Seminar; we were represented at several genealogy fairs; we have done several community talks for an Arts Group, Probus, View Club and U3A to come. We have had a number of guest speakers at our General Monthly Meeting.

Public Relations (P.R.): This has taken on a larger role the past year with our ladies attending Tuggerah Library on three occasions with our publications and information about our Group. It has been very successful in letting the community know we are here and brought us a number of new members. Thanks go to Trish McDonald for putting this in place and Pam Mansergh for her help and support to Trish. We have renewed our relationship with the Wyong Chamber of Commerce and attended a dinner meeting and a community forum. This has enabled networking with other community groups and local business people. Our webmaster John Owen keeps our website up to date and we have a number of enquiries from that as well. Helen Johnston-Lord has produced three newsy journals (*Tree of Life*) and Russell gets *The Branch* out to the members each month. To add to all this Esther keeps the members informed by email so I think everyone should be well informed about what is going on.

Special Interest Groups: This year thanks to Gwen Bates we have added the Scottish and Irish Group, and thanks to John Owen the Family Historian Group. The long running Convict Group still meets on the second Wednesday led by June Johnston. Family Tree Maker users had meetings in the first half of the year led by Marie Heilbrunn; PAF was also showcased by Trish McDonald as well as a Filing Family History workshop which was enjoyed by those who attended.

Assets: Our assets grow each year but some of it depreciates as well, so a list has been compiled by Doug Thomas and this will be a work in progress.

Volunteer Training: Two training sessions have been held for resource volunteers. This is an area we are hoping to improve on. Helen Burkett ran the last one, which was very well received, and we are planning more days like that for the

future. If our volunteers know what we have and where to find it this in turn has to help our members.

Busy Bee: This was started this year so we could get help to keep up with the workload and behind the scenes work that goes on to run a Group such as ours. We have had some wonderful people come along to lend a hand and it has helped us sort out the CD list, get a filing system in place (which is still a work in progress) as well as collating booklets, membership kits and other printing. It has also helped to get our shopping such as kitchen supplies and stationery with everyone doing a little and having a laugh along the way. We will keep this going but once everything is caught up we will think about doing it bi monthly.

Summary: All in all I believe we have had a successful year. We have provided the community with education on how to start the best trip of their life walking in your ancestors' steps. We have provided a well-resourced facility, guidance and friendship.

We as a Group have promoted and encouraged the study and preservation of family and local history, we have assisted many members in their research, and we have done well. It has been a privilege and a challenge to be your President.....TOL

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Christmas Message from the President

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

It's hard to believe another year is almost over, we will all soon be getting ready for the festive season, and for the group it is our Christmas get together that comes to mind, I hope you will all give some thought to joining us at Club Wyong on Thursday 13th December at 6.30 pm we always have a great time, good food and it's good to see everyone.



As I have an annual report in this issue of *Tree of Life* I will keep this short and just welcome Kerry Clarke as secretary and Ann Cooke to the committee, I thank Russell Welham and Esther Dean who both stood down, however Esther will still be there to keep us in line and take the minutes.

I look forward to working with the committee in 2013 and I am sure it will be a year full of all your favourite family history events, starting early in the year with Australia Day where we will begin our community presence at the Wyong Race Course for a full day of Australia Day events, the Wyong race course turns 100 and a big day is being planned so watch for further information coming soon.

Then our Seminar with Joy and Allan Murrin not to be missed in February a great way to begin the year and learn how to use the familysearch.org website and NSW BDM's

I congratulate our two new life members Robin Wright and Roger Lewis, I thank everyone who has helped me in the past year to make our group what it is today, it takes a lot of hard work from a number of willing workers. To all members I wish you a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Stay safe and visit us when we open for 2013 in January.....TOL

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from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Welcome to the November 2012 edition of the *Tree of Life*. This issue sees the last of Dawn Montgomery's interesting stories of Billy Blue. The Committee hopes that the earlier time for the February and March General Meetings will be a success.

Congratulations to Robin and Roger on their Life Membership, and to all involved in keeping our group ticking, a heartfelt Thank You.

Old photographs fascinate me, many families, regardless

of their financial situation, had collections of family photographs.

These important and not inexpensive social records were displayed with pride. Home photography was not as easy as it is today. Some of my extended family are showing interest in my collection and I am now busy converting these to digital with notations.

I have vague recollections of my father's Auntie Rene having this photograph of the Gibbeson family on a beautiful cedar chiffonier in her Belvoir Street, Surry Hills terrace built by her father, Peter Keay Spence. Her mother was Ann Gibbeson. The photo was taken circ. 1853.



Harry and I wish every one Peace and Joy for the Festive Season and that 2013 brings happy research outcomes and remember the next deadline for the *Tree of Life* is 27 January 2013.....TOL



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New Life Members

Esther Dean, member 23, LM

At our General Meeting in August it was decided to award a Life Membership to **Robin Wright**, member number 133. As Robin was overseas at the time of the Annual General Meeting on 20 September, it was a pleasant duty for our President **Kerrie Metcalfe** to present Robin with his Life Membership Badge and Certificate prior to the commencement of our Management Committee meeting on 2 October.

However, at the Annual General Meeting held 20 September our member number 127 **Roger Lewis**, was presented with his Life Membership Badge and Certificate by our longest serving member and also Life Member **Lynda Smith**.

Congratulations to Robin and Roger.....TOL

Profile #113 Robyn Wright Life Member.

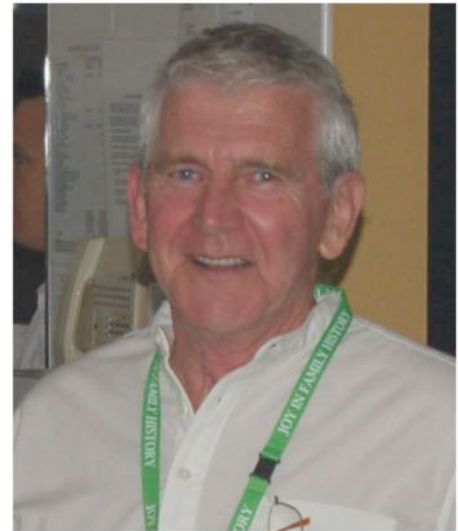
Robyn joined WFHGInc. on the 27 August 2003 and became a life member on 20 September 2012 and over the last seven years has become an invaluable member of our Group. He is the silent worker (well, not so silent) in the background who is always there when needed.

Robin's expertise in research is called upon almost constantly. He doesn't confine his activities to The Cottage and on many occasions has ventured to the State Library in Sydney to research on behalf of members and non-members. If anyone has a brick wall, Robin is the person to ask. He might not knock the wall down, but he'll have a good go at it.

He is a very reliable back-up for the Cottage Coordinators and fills in at a moment's notice.

Bunnings barbecues and Cottage clean-up days see Robin helping out – nothing is too much trouble for him.

We have indeed a very worthy new Life Member of WFHG Inc..... TOL



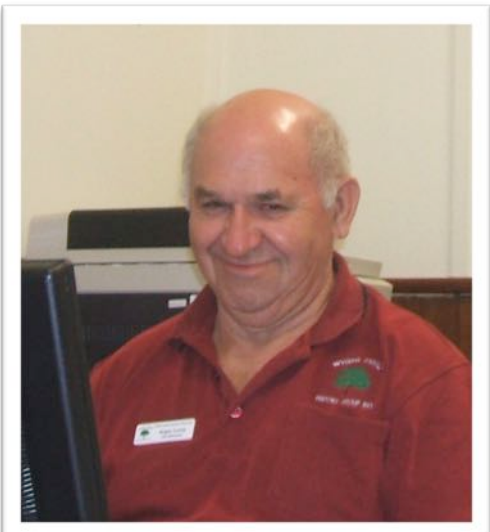
Profile #127 Roger Lewis Life Member.

Roger became a life member on 20 September 2012.

Life Membership was awarded to Roger in appreciation for his years of service to our Group. He first began maintaining our computers when we were resident in the Wyong Plaza Shopping Centre, sharing a shopfront with the Wyong Chamber of Commerce. At that time we owned one computer and one printer and about 20 CDs.

Over the years our Group has grown considerably and with our move into The Cottage (Wyong Community Cultural Centre) we were able to increase our computer capability. And so Roger's workload increased accordingly.

At this point we have over 400 CDs computer accessible, 8 computers and 3 laptops, all installed and maintained by Roger. Our purchase of the ScanPro 2000



meant more work for him, which he gladly performed.

In addition Roger helps out at our social barbecues and the Bunnings barbecues, our clean up days and anywhere else he is needed. Needless to say his own family research is on the backburner.

While giving so much time to the WFHG it is noted that Roger works full-time, and so his assistance to our Group takes up quite a lot of his spare time..... TOL

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Photo Gallery



On Friday 26 Oct we held a well attended Scottish and Irish Advanced Course, Gwen Bates shared her knowledge and ideas with all those who attended.

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WFHG Headstone Hunters Head for Rookwood – September 2012

Doug Thomas, Member 341 and driver

Sunday 23 September dawned nice and sunny, heralding a beautiful day, it was even a bit hot if you had to walk far. We picked up Kay Croall and Sue Hunter, Bryce and Rosalyn Dyne, Kim Faraway, Michele Gane, Meg Gibson, Jean Machon, Kaye Moss and Chris Ullrich at Toukley where the markets were in full swing. Then Joan Haslam and Kerry Clarke on the way to Tuggerah, where Pam Mansergh, Trish McDonald, Wayne Dean, Ian Anderson and Lorna and Maurie Wales joined us.

We had a few back seat drivers who knew the things that Doug wasn't sure about and soon, all settled down to chatter lots as we moved towards Rookwood without incident. Thanks Michele for taking the reins.

We settled onto making the Crematorium our base as it seemed to have good facilities, some food and tours of the area. There were some musical items by groups from Epping and Bankstown and displays by trade associates. There was a decent similar setup at the Anglican offices and I'm sure most of the denomination offices. Heritage buses from the new Bus Museum at Tempe (opening December) ran a pick up and put down on a circuit allowing people to move about easily. You still needed to walk a bit though. Doug didn't notice the *No Buses* signs that were meant for big buses, so he managed to pick up from some faraway places. And

there was a parade which closed some central roads after lunch.

Lunch, yes we did have some, and sampled the Devonshire teas and cups of tea/coffee etc. The old and new Hearses were really impressive. And yes, most members managed to find some ancestors. If not their own then to help others do so. We didn't lose anyone and I think that a good day was had by all....TOL



WFHG Headstone Hunters Head for Rookwood – September 2012

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Report from 2012 State Conference, Gymea

Glenise Clery. Librarian. #284.

This report will be presented from three perspectives, firstly, as a stallholder, secondly as a purchaser of resources for our Group and thirdly as one of the 280+ Conference registrants.

Our Trading Table

Friday's Expo was a busy day for our trading table and many thanks must go to Trish, Bernie and Michelle who caught the train down to help Kerrie, Doug and I who were the only 3 members to attend the Conference from our group. We were advised that over 200 members of the public, as well as most Conference registrants had attended on this day. It was great to have a new publication to offer but a little dismaying to hear the question "don't you have it on CD?" I was fortunate enough to attend a very informative talk given by Heather Garnsey on the National Archives UK site on the Friday morning. She explained the new "Discovery" section on this site which currently has about 30 million records and should hold 50 million UK records by 2015. She also suggested making use of the many Guides and

Podcasts on this site which are all free. Members of SAG should note that they are eligible for 15 free downloads each year from this site when researching at the Sydney rooms.

Our table was in an excellent position, plenty of room and adjacent to the speaking area which meant that we didn't have to move when listening to the Guest Speakers. The only drawback that I noticed was that the Conference was held in a large room under the club (concrete walls – no windows) and internet and phone connection were practically unobtainable.

Purchasing Resources

Over the course of the weekend I managed to buy what I hope will be a few very useful resources for the Group. Only a small number of the Family History Groups had new resources for sale but I managed to find a number of interesting books which have been published by some of the Historical Societies in the Sydney area. I would estimate that there were as many Historical Societies and special interest groups attending the Conference as there were Family History Groups.

Attending the Conference

Topics covered by the many guest speakers were quite varied and included talks on "*Why Family Historians Should Embrace Social Media*", "Build Your Own Website", "Preserving Your Family History Amidst the Challenges of Technology" and "DNA Technology and Family History". I found myself a little out of my depth during these particular talks but I'm sure there were many who gained useful insight from them.

Carol Liston gave an interesting talk on NSW Land records and advised that the Torrens Purchasers **Index** 1863 – 1971 should soon be available free on line (it is hoped by Christmas) at www.six.nsw.gov.au . From this index, one can find the Volume and Folio numbers which are all that will be required to obtain a Torrens Title image showing all purchasers of a particular property from 1863 onwards. This will be available through the on line shop at a cost of \$11.90.

Ian Heads spoke of the "Discoveries and Dilemmas of a Sporting Historian" and Brad Manera gave a very interesting talk on the involvement of Aboriginal soldiers in the First World War.

Trish Levido's topic was "Your Spoken Family History Legacy". She also gave advice as to the type of recording devices that should be used if we are recording oral family history.

Paul Brunton from the Mitchell Library spoke of the Endeavour Voyage and the Charting of the East Coast of Australia.

Lisa Murray from the Sydney Council History Department urged us to view the Dictionary of Sydney on line. She spoke of "Community Connections: Technology and the Renaissance of Local and Family History". She also pointed out the strong voice that we, as members of Family History and Historical Groups have, as preservers of the many records we continue to index for our local areas and our continued interest in searching through historical records. One worrying comment that she made at the conclusion of her talk was that the current State Government has given no indication that they are willing to support the further preservation or indexing of historical records beyond 2013.

Though there were perhaps a few too many stairs to navigate for some attending the Conference, everything appeared to run smoothly. The MC was great as was the food and the venue was adequate for the numbers attending.

Next year the Conference will be in Canberra and the following year (2014), the

Conference will be hosted by the Illawarra Family History Group.

It has been pointed out that there will be many opportunities for research while visiting Canberra next year, for example, The National Library and War Memorial as well as other less known record repositories and I would urge other members of our Group to think about attending next years Conference..... TOL

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Christmas Time Is Here

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

will be holding its
annual Christmas Party
on Thursday, 13th December 2012
at Club Wyong / RSL
corner of Margaret Street and Anzac
Street, Wyong
at 6.30 pm.



**For those who have trouble with stairs
there is a stair lift just ask at the desk and if you need
a special diet please indicate this when you book.**

Bookings can be made at the Cottage and must be paid for by Friday, 7th December 2012.

Menu 2 Course Meal \$28 per person

Roast Beef and Pork with gravy

Baked Potato and Pumpkin

Greens

Cauliflower in white sauce

Bread Roll

Plum Pudding and Custard

Fruit Salad and Cream

Tea and Coffee



Report on talks at 2012 Conference at Sutherland

Doug Thomas #314

Comment: Talks at the conference focused strongly on IT, Social Media and Technology

An Adventure – Build your own Website, Pat Fernley

Pat talked about several free website creation software programs which she recommended and gave out notes with some further info. She stressed the importance of researching a program to suit your needs. Cost of having a website could be as low as \$200 a year but you have to watch for hidden costs. – another speaker mentioned using Facebook as an alternative instead of a website to suit her needs. But that's another story - I will put a guide together using Pat and my notes ASAP.

Some net sites she gave include;

www.google.com/sites/help/intl/en/overview.html

<http://wordpress.org>

www.weebly.com

www.webcity.com.au

www.wix.com

www.yola.com

www.jimdo.com

www.webnode.com

Rapidweaver for Mac: <http://www.realmacsoftware.com>

Preserving your Family History amidst the Challenges of Technology,

Caitlin Hickie

Analog photography/paper copies can have a long life, we know because of examples found and which have survived extremes like fire and flood. Digital is still an unknown. DVDs haven't been around for long enough to prove themselves – 10 years seems to be an outside guess and Caitland suggested that memory sticks and cards should only be used short time. Caitland is the Corporate Archivist for SBS – Her main thrust was to have files saved on external drives and then to store these off site. Multiple sites are good; give each child a copy annually hopefully one copy will survive.

Don't store near hazards – Hot Water services, Heaters or the laundry chemicals

Be aware of what format is more likely to survive. Jpeg is most common and probably the best format currently except Raw - but will lose some quality each time the file is saved.

Initially you need to be able to

1. identify where your files are now. Make sure that you can identify people. Put names on them.
2. what their importance is and which you want to save. What do you want your descendants to find in 100 years?
3. regularly check how they are – say each 12 months. Keep your process simple so that they can understand what they are.

A few final points to Consider: saving to the clouds, offsite on the net, with a commercial supplier. Multiple memberships could give all your family members easy access. Don't use labelling that could spoil your medium. Use quality markers, inks and products that should give more longevity. Spread the risk as much as is practical. Save as *read only* to prevent accidental deletion. Finally, remember, to keep your fingers crossed..... TOL

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Great Grandma, A COUNTESS...No Less!

Jean Macleay, member 359

Catherine de Werdinsky, an exotic name sitting on a leaf marked great grandmother in my husband's tree. She was easily found marrying Laurence Bower in 1853 at Fremantle recorded in the BDM records of Western Australia. Catherine and Laurence had two children, again easily found in the WA records, Henry Adolphus in 1855 and Walter in 1857. And then she vanishes. Nor is there a record to be found for either her birth or arrival into Australia. I could find a record of death for Laurence in NSW in 1925, but no record of any type for Catherine. In desperation I tried searching Catherine's maiden name in 'Ancestry' and there she was in the 1871 Census! She is living at 109 Belvedere Road, Croydon, Surrey, age 45, *Profession or Occupation Countess, Where born Russia, Brit sub.* She is residing with her General Servant Elizabeth Pippen age 59.

Having found that she was living under her maiden name in England I found a great deal more.

It appears Catherine's full name is Countess Catherine Augusta Koslawsky de Werdinsky. In her will she states that her uncle was Prince Koslawsky and grandmother Princess Koslawsky. Her long and detailed will is also available on line. As an example she leaves to Mrs Pembroke Jones "my gold watch, my gold locket, my large pearl eardrops, a bracelet with amethyst (French), my black silk cloak lined with red silk and trimmed with fur, my black velvet cloak, my French scarf shawl, the whole of my house and body linen, also the residue of my wardrobe except that which I give to Maud, Fred's wife.". In another part of the will she states "I wish my many kind and dear old friends to know that I have left this vale of keen sorrows, trials and cares for my Happy, happy Home of undying bliss. Please put three times in the *Times Newspaper* these few words: 'Died at Brighton – the date of my death_ the countess Catherine Augusta K. de Werdinsky. Her end was sweet peace.' These few words will be quite sufficient."



This map is marked where Worden Castle could have been. At one time there was an independent country called Galicia north of what was then the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The university of Lemberg, where de Werdinsky is said to have done his medical studies, is in the town of L.viv. (also marked on map)

Can this be my Catherine, Western Australian mother of two boys? This notice was duly published on the 18th, 19th and 20th April 1889, upon Catherine's death on 13th April 1889 at Brighton.

But wait there's more. Also on line is a piece stating Catherine was the daughter of Adolphe de Werdinski, a shadowy, not to say shady, character claiming to be an Austrian Count, who also used the name David Beck. Again there is a great deal to be found about Count Adolphe de Werdinsky/Dr. David Beck on line. Adolphe claims to have been born in Worden Castle in Galicia. This is described as being at the foot of the Carpathian range near the town of Galatzia. At different times this area has been Polish, Russian and part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This may explain why at different times Adolphe claimed to be Hungarian or Polish. There are many letters written by Adolphe to British newspapers from the position of an advocate for his suffering Polish compatriots. For instance to *the Editor of the Bristol Mercury of 21st December, 1833*. "Sir, England has been, of late, infested with adventurers pretending to be Poles. Under this disguise and false pretences of

distress they continue to abuse the charitable dispositions of the British nation. May I then trespass on your kindness with the request to publish these few lines, intimating, that all such as have claims to the protection of the Polish Association will find ready assistance on application to, Sir, Your obedient servant, ADELPH DE WERDINSKY. Eastfield Cottage, Westbury.” This is a short letter compared to some of the others he wrote claiming such things as “Europe languishes under the chains of slavery, England and France alone enjoy their national liberties.” Another excerpt from one of his letters of September 1832 says “Poland can never be annihilated if the voice of the civilized world unite in opposing such an act of barbarity. O Britannia! Sure thy children will be the first to thunder out, unanimously, a cry against the Nero of the north, and stop the awful devastations, and the unparalleled atrocities committed in the soil of freemen.” He paid £1 to be a member of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland and made a donation of a further £1 and was praised for collecting £7 for the cause. Both his nobility and military service has been questioned. He was involved in several cases involving assaults on women including sexual assaults, and was charged in cases relating to fraud or attempted fraud. He was put in debtor’s prison in 1837 and in 1844 was found bankrupt during a case where he was brought to court for attempting to defraud a woman of her inheritance. He was also involved in a failed invention for an engine powered by gun-cotton. In 1850, after he was found guilty in a case of assault on his adopted daughter, he moved from London to Southampton and then to Hull where he renamed himself Dr Beck and worked for some time as a locum for the local GP.

The next surprise in store on in the *Eastern Counties Herald*, Thursday, 25th September, 1856. **“Shocking Case of Starvation** We have this week the painful duty of recording a most distressing case of starvation at Hull. About twelve months ago, a Hungarian refugee came to reside in this town, and under the name of Dr Beck, endeavoured to earn a livelihood for himself and family by teaching languages; but, after suffering the keen and protracted pangs of poverty and destitution for several months, he expired on Monday last, under most painful circumstances. We are given to understand that the deceased’s real name was Adolphe de Werdinsky, born in March 1803 at Worden Castle Galatzia.” This article goes on to say that whilst living at Southampton, where he practised as a physician, under the name of Dr Beck he married a female much younger than himself and had two children, one of whom has died.

The next record to be found is permission granted to a Mr John Willcox to place a gravestone on a public grave in the Hull Cemetery. This gravestone reads “ In Memory of Count de Werdinsky (Known as Dr. Beck) of Worden castle in Galicia who died Septr. 22nd 1856. Aged 53 Years. By strangers’ hands thy humble grave adorned By strangers honor’d and by strangers mourn’d Also near this place James, son of the above, who died August 17th 1856, aged 5 months. Lines sent by Mlle de W. (*Catherine?*). “Thy will be done, Almighty God! Take my parent, for he’s Thine; I bow me low before Thy rod, Chastising yet Divine.”

Again that’s not the end of the story, the Hull newspapers reported that Mrs Beck and her surviving child left Hull for London on Werdinsky’s death. She does not appear in census records after that. However, a further search on line there in an article entitled ‘The Fate of Mrs. Beck’ quotes from a book published in 1866 by Julius Jacobsen, the Hull Police Court Interpreter “the Emperor of Austria by some means discovered the death of her (Mrs. Beck’s) husband, and the circumstances in which she was placed. His majesty immediately sent for the widow and her

children, and on their arrival in Austria he gave them a small estate, which they are doubtless still enjoying.”

The name Adolphus has been passed down in the Bower family with many children bearing it as their second name.

Unfortunately, my husband cannot remember his Granny Bower ever mentioning her mother-in-law.....TOL

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What Price Grief?

Part 3 (Conclusion)

Lynda Smith, member 2, LM

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

Samuel Charles **Smallhorn**.

Over the Easter break, I decided to tidy up my **Smallhorn** files and I ended up on the Victorian BDM website. I paid to view their historic indexes and came across some 24 entries, including Samuel's DC for 1891. I saved this list for future use, paid my \$17.50 via credit card and was allowed to download this document



immediately. I discovered that Samuel had been in the care of his half brother Charles Philip **Smallhorn** [b 1845 in Hobart] and his son Charles William **Smallhorn** [b 1870 Vic], who both lived in Melbourne at the time. Poor Samuel had suffered a stroke, ended up being unable to communicate and was hospitalised soon after his arrival. He was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery. Nephew Charles W was the informant on the DC and there are a couple of discrepancies in the details, but these are only minor. Half brother Charles P had been raising his 2 children [Charles W and Meg] alone after his wife Mary Ann [nee **McLeod**] had died of TB in 1871. The children had been 3 and 1 at the time. Unlike his father Samuel senior,

Charles P did not remarry.

How did Samuel junior know about his half brother Charles P, living in Melbourne in 1890? Had he been in contact with his father and step mother in Hobart since their arrival? Did the Society keep such records? Had he met any of his half siblings over the years? Again, more questions than answers at this time! Samuel senior had died in 1862 and his second wife Mary in 1861, leaving behind Samuel's 6 half brothers and sisters [4 more had died in infancy] in Tasmania and Victoria.

Sometime after Samuel junior's death in 1891, half brother Charles P and his children ended up moving to WA and where they set up residence in the Northam/York area [east of Perth on the way to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie]. In 1901, Charles P's son, Charles W marries Margaret Ann **Pescud** in Leonora, WA. They had 4 children: Alice 1902, Alfred Lewis 1903, Lily 1906 and Marguerita in 1908. Sadly, it seems that the **Smallhorn** name now dies out on this line, as son Alfred does not seem to have had any issue. Alice married and had 4 children to John PYE and Marguerita married and had one son to John **Stockwell**. Lily did not marry. Charles Philip's daughter, Meg [Margaret Mary], married William Albert **Huggett** in 1902 WA, but she died by 1906 in Coolgardie East and her only son William died in 1911 aged 8. This family well knows the grief of losing loved ones at a young age!

My **Smallhorns** are listed on some of the Federal electoral rolls available on www.Ancestry.com.au . In the 1903 Federal election Charles P is listed as a printer and Charles W as a carpenter, both living in the Northam area of WA. By 1916 they were in the Kalgoorlie/Yilgarn area. On May 23 1923, Charles Philip **Smallhorn**[e] died in Yilgarn/Westonia WA. By 1924 son Charles W was back living in the Preston area of Victoria. It seems that the ties to family back in Victoria and Tasmania were stronger than the original reason for moving to WA for young Charles W. Other **Smallhorn** siblings had moved from Tasmania to Victoria over the years. My ancestor [Samuel Alfred, son of Alfred Thomas] chose NSW. I don't believe Samuel Charles junior left much in the way of assets, but perhaps he spoke well of the WA colony and Charles P was in need of a fresh start at the time. Mining was booming in WA and the lure of gold may have proved to be too strong.

I have not located any wills for these people as yet, so that is an area worth exploring further. I am sure TROVE will also unearth more information on these families over time. For whatever reason, back in England, Samuel was taken into the care of the Children's Friend Society as a young boy. He was educated and

ended up gainfully employed, thousands of miles away in the colonies. That must have been a terrifying experience for such a young person. He worked hard, made friends and earned a place in colonial society. It seems he was much respected, loved by at least some of his extended family and his passing mourned by those who knew him. Can one ask for anything more? Samuel Charles b 1818-d 1891 is more than just a ? on my family tree now. Samuel, you have come to life through the combined research of many people and I am proud to have you as part of my heritage ...TOL

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.

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Occupational Hazards for Billy Blue

© Dawn Montgomery, 2002

Place of Origin - Jamaica

I first learnt about Jamaica in primary school, long before I ever heard of Billy Blue and my negro heritage. I was fascinated by the country and to visit it became one of my ambitions. Then I learnt about Billy Blue, my g-g-g-grandfather, and it became even more imperative that I go there.

Billy Blue was transported to Australia from England, but we have no firm knowledge of where he originated. For all we know he could have been born in England, of slave parents. But I don't think so, or don't like to think so. Some people try to pin him down as an American Indian – but what would an American Indian have been doing, living and working in Britain in the 1790s? Rigby even published a tale about him saying that he was from America and jumped ship here in Australia! Their story teller/editor certainly didn't do their homework.

I thought it much more likely that he or his family was from the West Indies, as this was at least a British colony back in those days. And Jamaica was 'the West Indies' to most people. Subsequently a researcher states that Billy Blue denied being born in Jamaica – but maybe his lineage still is from there.

Now, he called his farm, the 80 acres granted to him by Governor Macquarie, *Northampton*. Why would a negro from the West Indies, or even a north American Indian, call his farm by that name? He was living in Middlesex and tried in Kent, prior to coming here. Strangely enough, I unearthed an M.I. from Northampton, from *English Surnames, V.II, p.66* a footnote in a section on Scottish Family Names – Blue is an Argyllshire surname – stating "At Little Brickhill, Co.Northampton is this inscription: 'Here lieth the body of TRUE BLUE, who departed this life Jan. ye 17, 1724, aged 57.' " So "True Blue" is a saying and a nickname from way back. But was True Blue black? Who knows. One of these days I'll delve further into that.

In 1990, my partner and I were going to the USA, to New Orleans and Florida. I looked at the map and said, "I'd love to go to Jamaica. I've always wanted to go to Jamaica." So we decided to go, but it was not so easily done. We found it almost impossible to get any information about the place. I tried to swap some of my timeshare but the few places they had in the north of Jamaica were so popular with English and American tourists that we had no chance, particularly as we would be there during the northern winter when they all flocked south for the warmth like Aussies flock to Cairns and the Whitsundays. So we abandoned the idea of the Jamaican tourist strip and headed for Kingston. But still we had no luck – no maps, couldn't even find a travel agent who could book us a flight. We were eventually advised to ring Air Jamaica as soon as we landed in USA, and take it from there. This we did, literally from the airport on arrival. But we still didn't find a map.

In New Orleans, we visited a travel agent, on advice from Air Jamaica, to confirm and pay for our bookings. I casually noted that we had had difficulty finding a map and the agent said "Oh, here you are. I've got some here. No problem." What a relief.

Studying the map, we were surprised to see that Jamaica is divided into three 'counties' - Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey. And there was a town called Manchester, and a few other 'English' ones - Bath, Bideford, Sheffield, Stonehenge, Westmoreland, to name just a few.

"I wonder if there is a Northampton?" I said to John. "I wonder if there's an index?" I turned the map over and there was Northampton listed. It was just outside Santa Cruz, about 80 miles west of Kingston, the capital.

Note: First published in Queensland Family Historian May 2003. Permission to publish given to Wyong FHG (Helen Johnston-Lord, Editor) March 2012.

Well, we got to Kingston. Sadly, since Independence, the locals have let things run down a lot, but you can still see signs of the magnificent buildings that were there. One day we went down to the local bus station and caught a bus to Santa Cruz. We were the only white people on the bus, and a subject of great interest to everyone. We arrived at Santa Cruz just as school was finishing for the day – the children in their crisp yellow and white uniforms were a bright and noisy picture.

John said, "Let's look for a pub." When I protested, he said, "That's where we can find out how to get to this place of yours." We ventured into a corrugated iron ramshackle building, which someone pointed out to us as 'the local,' and all talk around the bar stopped. It was a bit daunting. As we bought a drink, we told the barman we wanted to get to Northampton and did he have any suggestions as to how. He called the yardman in and repeated our question. This guy said he had a

friend with a car and he'd see if he could find him, to take us. Which he did. Northampton was about five miles out of town and, we were told, it was just a locality now, no village left.

When we arrived, and got out of the car, we could not believe what we were seeing. We could have been in an Australian bush town – low scrub, brick bungalows dotted around, and a rocky landscape much like what Blue's Point would have been in the early 1800s. Was this where Billy Blue came from? We'll never know, but I wouldn't be surprised.

Epilogue

Incidentally, while researching in the National Library of Jamaica, we got talking to the Director who was surprised to have Australians looking for family. On learning we were from Brisbane, she told us she was corresponding with someone from Brisbane, and 'perhaps you know him.' Skeptically, I said "Perhaps I do." She went off to get the correspondence and came back saying "He's Doctor John Pearn." I know John Pearn from my medical background and also from our local family history society when his wife was a member. Small world, eh? Because of this somewhat tenuous link, and because of the interesting way my John had told her about Billy Blue, she offered to have a look in their archives and records for me, as we had only one day left in Jamaica by that stage. Six months later, when I had given up ever hearing from her, I received a two line airletter telling me she and her staff had looked at everything they could think of, but found no mention of him. Which didn't surprise me at all...TOL

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Australia Day

100 Year Celebration of Wyong District Agricultural Association Race Day and Show

Wyong Family History Group will be participating in the Australia Day celebrations, to be held on the 26th January 2013 at Wyong Race Club, **free** entry from 11am, this day will be packed with activities to suit all ages. You will be greeted by Town Crier Jerry Adams, the official ceremony will start at 12 noon with Flag raising, welcome to country, and address from the Mayor Doug Eaton followed by cutting of the cake. There will be races from 1pm to 5pm as well as a bush band to entertain throughout the day and 15 fete stalls. For the kids there will be pony rides, Jo Jo the clown, face painting, a kindifarm and much more. Historical Cars will be on display, a tug of war competition is also planned.

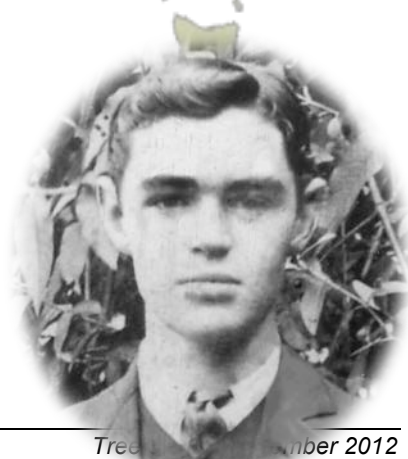
Our group has been asked to dress in period costume to set the theme, so any members wishing to attend in costume please contact the cottage to arrange a suitable time to choose a costume from our supply, we have a number of dresses, aprons, mop hats for the ladies and vests for the men and would appreciate your participation. This will be a fun day for all the family so mark your diary now and come and join in the celebrations, stay for an hour or all day, have a bet on a horse who knows you might even win a prize.....TOL

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Tragic End to Sunday School Picnic

Harry Johnston-Lord member 504

The United Methodist Free Church Sunday School of



Elliot Street, Balmain had chosen Eight Hour Day Monday 7th October 1901 to hold their Sunday School Picnic. This was to be held at a spot known as Shepherd's Paddock on the bank of the Parramatta River near Ryde Wharf which was believed to be at the end of Charles Street, now called Kissing Point. So named because boat bottoms "kissed" the riverbed here.

The day was typical Sunday School Picnic weather – overcast and rainy. The party traveled from Balmain by the steam launch *Nixie*. John Eastabrook and his cobbler Edward Brown, both 18 years of age, elected to row from Elliot Street, a distance of about 8.5 kilometres. They probably intended to be towed back because it would have been a long row in the dark. *John Eastabrook* Their boat had been made fast to the launch at the end of the day when the warps were let go for the launch to go upstream and turn to be facing downstream to re-embark the party for the return journey at about 6.30 pm. A sudden southerly squall hit. Two of the children saw the boat had been swamped and raised the alarm. The engine was stopped with little delay.

Hands on a ferry *Gannet* saw the boys and a life ring was thrown. Two of the ferry crew, George Snowden and Arnold Stanford jumped into the water and swam towards the boys but they disappeared, not to be seen again alive. Sunset had been just after 6.00pm so it would have been quite dark.

The swamping was suspected to be as a result of a combination of circumstances; in all probability the boat had been secured too close to the propeller, on a line too short added to the arrival of the squall.

John was a strong swimmer and had earlier in the day rescued a young girl from drowning whereas Edward could not swim at all.



Edward Brown

The Police at Ryde were contacted and they made contact with the Water Police. Between 8.00 and 9.00 the search was joined by the Water Police Launch *Biloela* bringing with them more dragging equipment. The search was called off at 11.00pm.

Tuesday dawned worse with thunderstorms. The dragging resumed and Edward's body was located after some time but not that of John. The search continued until 11.00am on Friday morning when John's body was found between the wharf and Dame Edith Walker Hospital on the other side of the river.

An In Memoriam Service was held for the boys on Sunday 20th October and the final hymn was "Shall We Meet Beyond The River".

John and Edward were buried side by side in section 4 of the Methodist Cemetery, Rookwood Necropolis. John's family were poor and his funeral was paid for by the Sunday School community.

John Eastabrook was a great uncle on my mother's side – my grandmother's brother.....TOL

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FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

Date: Saturday 2 February 2013

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.
presents a Family History Seminar with
Guest Speakers Allan and Joy MURRIN.

- Using the NSW Birth, Death and Marriage Index - Joy.
- FamilySearch RESOURCES - exploring the new website - Allan.

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch Break, meal available at Golf Club at your own expense.

- RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY in UNITED KINGDOM from AUSTRALIA - Joy.
- IS IT THE BEST OF TIMES? - Allan.

To be held at: ~ WYONG GOLF CLUB.

Pacific Highway

Wyang 2259

Cost per person \$20.00

Bookings Essential by 29 January 2013

via The Cottage on 43512211



Research Centre 'The Cottage' open
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10 am - 3 pm.
6 Rankens Court, Wyong NSW 2259

Postal Address
P.O. Box 247
Wyang NSW 2259

If you would 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
600	Leonard (Macka) Fernance	Bailey, Fernance & Waters
601	Jennifer Beavan	
602	Sharon Collins	
603	Helen Jones	Jones & Hunt
604	Ellen Sheerin	Sheerin & McGlinchey
605	Susan Davis	Cornwell, Sternbeck, Woodbury, Bailey & Potts
606	Stephen Harmston	
607	Dimity Harmston	
608	Robert Wicks	Wick, McCrory, Mullaly & Fitzgerald
609	Moya Wicks	
610	Charles Corbett	Corbett, Wise & Plummer
611	Michael Turner	Maher
612	Stephen Benoit	Benoit, Kelly, Baxter, Shallvy Hampton, Child & Cooper
613	Christine Benoit	
614	Patricia Kennedy	Byrum, House, Wotton, White, Hosan, Morris, Kennedy, Foy, Briscoe, Russell, Eggins & Unicomb

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.



Publications for Sale

More details at
<http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/nswwfhg/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
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 – 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	\$ 25.00 + p&h
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 + p&d \$10.00 (in Australia)
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	\$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
November	Thu 8	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 7 pm
	Sat 10	Bus Trip 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	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Sun 18	WFHG Stall – Baker Park
	Mon 19	Busy Bee Day from 10 am
	Thu 22	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
	Sat 24	Volunteer thank you lunch 11 am start at The Cottage
December	Tue 4	Committee Meeting
	Wed 12	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 13	Christmas Party at Club Wyong/RSL 6.30 pm
		Rooms close for Christmas Break
	2013	
January	Tue 8	Committee Meeting 10 am
	Sat 12	Clean-up day at 'The Cottage' from 8 am & BBQ Lunch
	Tue 15	Rooms Re-open at 10 am
	Sat 19	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2 pm
	Sat 26	Australia Day at Wyong Race Course from 11 am
February	Sat 2	Seminar with Allan & Joy Murrin, Wyong Golf Club 10 am – 4 pm
	Tue 5	Committee Meeting 10 am
	Wed 13	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon
	Thu 14	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3 pm Webinar – Building a Family from Circumstantial Evidence
	Fri 15	Family Historian Workshop Interest Group 1 pm – 3 pm.
	Sat 16	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm
	Mon 18	Busy Bee Day from 10 am
	Mon 25	Volunteer Training Day
	Thu 28	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm
March	Tue 5	Committee Meeting 10 am
	Wed 13	Convict Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon Was you Ancestor in Business? Tuggerah Library, Westfield from 10 am
	Thu 14	General Meeting 'The Cottage' 3 pm 'The Life & Times of Mr Les Arndell' (a nonagenarian).
	Fri 15	Family Historian Workshop Interest Group 1 pm – 3 pm.
	Sat 16	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 10 am – 2pm.
	17 – 24	Seniors Week
	Mon 25	Busy Bee Day from 10 am.
	Thu 28	Scottish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 10 am – 12 noon. Irish Interest Group 'The Cottage' 1 pm – 3 pm.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Research Centre

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre,
6 Rankens Court, Wyong (entrance via the old school grounds)

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

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

Contact the Group as follows:

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 January 2013

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