

WYONG FAMILY
Founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

ISSN 0815 0729

Website: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

February 2022

Vol. 39 No 1

Events

| | |
|---|----|
| Calendar | 22 |
| CCC Love Lanes Festival | 16 |
| Monthly Help & Chat Gathering By Zoom | 6 |
| Seminar 21st Century Genealogy with Jill Ball | 19 |

Group News

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| About Special Interest Groups | 15 |
| Family History Research | 17 |
| From Your Editor | 5 |
| Your President | 3 |
| Life Members | 20 |
| Mothers Day Raffle | 17 |
| Valé Peter Bates | 5 |

Members

| | |
|------------------|----|
| A Reminder | 15 |
|------------------|----|

Contributions

| | |
|--|----|
| The Mystery of Graham Dredge . | 10 |
| William Parsons Meeker William & Marriage | 7 |
| Members Savings Plan | 6 |
| New Member | 6 |
| Reflections | |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Zoom Meeting 22 January 2022 | 17 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Transport | 15 |
|-----------------|----|

Publications For Sale.. 20 - 22

The Fine Print..... back page Their War

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Melaka Warrior Monument ... | 13 |
| Singapore's Dunkirk | 14 |

To Other Groups and Societies. 22

Other News

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Local LDS Family History Centre. | 24 |
|----------------------------------|----|

We are OPEN !

'The Cottage' is open. (Watch our notices for changes)

Double vaccination proof must be shown before entry

Due to the Current Covid rules We are open with reduced numbers

Bookings are required

Please contact 'The Cottage'

email: wfhg06@westnet.com.au

phone: 02 4351 2211 during opening hours.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:00am – 3:00pm

We are OPEN & ready to help with your Family History Journey !



We have a
COVID-19 Safety Plan
and are committed to
keeping you safe.



Members contributions are always welcome.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

- Patrons:** Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
David Harris, State MP for Wyong
- Meetings:** Are held on the 2nd Saturday monthly between February and October, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211
- Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage'** – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours by appointment.
- Fees:** non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.
-

Office Bearers 2021

President: Kerrie Metcalfe
Secretary & Minutes Secretary: Pamela Andre
Vice-President & Public Officer: Roger Lewis
Treasurer: Michele Gane
Management Committee:
All the above executive plus Martin Fisher, Lyn Hagstrom, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnston, Pamela Mansergh, John Selwood, Lynda Smith

| | |
|---|---|
| Assets Manager & IT Manager: | Roger Lewis |
| Bookstall Supervisor | Glenise Clery |
| Cottage Administrator | Tuesday: Marilyn Cridland |
| | Wednesday: Helen Hord |
| | Thursday: Wayne Bermingham |
| Cottage Relief Administrators | Glenise Clery & Lorraine Cameron |
| Cottage Roster Planner: | Cheryl Whamond |
| Course Supervisor: | Ellen Sheerin |
| Electronic Journal Distributor | Lorraine Cameron |
| Grant Applications Planner: | Peta Baigent |
| Group Collector of Statistics: | Martin Fisher |
| Journal Snippet Readers/Submitters: | Lynda Smith & Meg Gibson |
| Librarian: | Lyn Hagstrom |
| Librarian Assistant: | Dellas Johnston |
| Local Research Officer & Project Orgainser: | John Selwood |
| Membership Secretary & Irish Tips: | Pam Mansergh |
| Printing Publications – Books & CDs: | Roger Lewis & John Selwood |
| Proof Reading: | Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Lorraine Lonergan |
| Publicity Officer: | Lynda Smith |
| Raffle Organiser: | Christine McKenzie |
| Scrapbooking [Photos]: | Annette Shearer |
| Seminar & Guest Speaker Facilitator: | Regina Hogan |
| Subscription Site Snippets: | Patricia Andre |
| Tree of Life Editor: | Helen Johnston-Lord. |
| Unrelated Certificates Organiser: | Jacqueline Wieringa |
| Webpage Managers: | Roger Lewis & Kate Walter |
| Weekly Newsletter Editor: | Wayne Bermingham |
| Welfare | Pam Mansergh |

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kerrie Metcalfe - President – LM80



Here we are with a New Year and our first Tree of Life for 2022, and still facing uncertainties for the future. I hope all our members and readers had a safe and COVID-free festive season and were able to spend time with family and friends.

To say COVID is affecting our Group is a fair statement to make as we try to plan events for 2022 and follow restrictions. This is testing the patience of our management committee. We have at least opened our rooms for research under COVID rules. Understandably we notice less members using our facilities, but we are grateful for those who are coming in and more so our administrators who open the rooms for use and some days see no-one.

The good news is that we did get to finally launch our newer publications on the 1st of

December. This went very well indeed even though, due to bad weather, we had to change the venue at the last minute. We had a good roll up and finally the People of Wyong Books 4 and 5 were launched as well as the Interactive USB Wyong and District Anglican Church Records 1835 – 1987. Congratulations go out to John Selwood and Glenise Clery along with their helpers for bringing these resources to fruition. Also, we give a big thank you to Rex Toomey from Port Macquarie who prepared the interactive USB for the Church Records. Afternoon tea was



supplied by our volunteers and presented beautifully by Kay Croall who worked tirelessly in the kitchen with help from Regina and Lyn. It was also good to see our patron, State MP, Mr. David Harris in attendance and to give the Welcome to Country. Our Federal MP and patron, Emma McBride was in Canberra, so she sent along a representative.

Following the Launch, we celebrated Christmas at the Wyong Golf Club on the 5th December. Although numbers were down, the twenty-five who attended enjoyed the Christmas spirit and atmosphere set by our Tree of Life editor Helen Johnson-Lord and the social activities such as Bingo, Trivia and a guessing competition presented by member Melissa



Metcalf. The raffles were plentiful and looked very festive thanks to generous donations and Christine McKenzie and a team of helpers preparing the baskets.

Getting into 2022 our priority was to hold a training day for members to understand how the research rooms worked and where to find things. We split this into two sessions, a morning and afternoon, so to keep numbers limited in these uncertain times. This helped us to have no more than three in each room with the presenter. I am so pleased and thankful for those who made the effort to come and for Lyn Hagstrom, Ellen Sheerin and Karelle Kearn who stayed all day to present what we have in each room and it's exciting to think we will see some new faces on future rosters. Go easy on our new volunteers as they learn and settle in. I can assure them that they will be surprised at how much they will learn just by helping out at the Cottage.

We will continue with a monthly Zoom get together on the third Wednesday night at 7pm. A new topic will be presented each month; topic ideas are welcome. It's hoped we will encourage new and old members to join Zoom as it's going to be a major part of genealogy into the future

We have several things coming up so be sure to check the Calendar of Events in this issue of the Tree of Life as well as our weekly Newsletter. We will try to bring as much interesting genealogy events to you as we can. Special Interest Groups (aka SIG's) are running monthly. A small fee to attend is

required to help us with expenses at the Cottage. We will be running other workshops that may interest you, so please read your Newsletters.

In 2021 many of you faced illness, operations, hospital stays and loss. I wish to acknowledge you all and trust you have a much better year ahead.

I also welcome Life Member and Member #2 Lynda Smith to the Committee now that she has

retired. I also welcome Glenise Clery as Bookstore Supervisor and Peta Baigent as Grants Application Planner. It is my pleasure to work with you all into the future. Our Group cannot survive without volunteers, so keep this in mind when we put out a call for help. We really do need help to keep our Group operating effectively.

Hope to see you in the Cottage. ...



VALÉ

Peter Bates

Sadly Peter Bates member 69 long-time member and husband of Gwen Bates Life member 70 passed away Wednesday 2nd February.

Peter's Funeral will be held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at the Rose Chapel Palmdale at 11am.

Our heartfelt condolences to Gwen and family.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Hello All!

Another year giving us many challenges.

The changing nature of life during these times is not easy when trying to produce our publication. Our plans may change at any moment.

We like to have our diary sorted early, however, flexibility is the key to survival of organisations such as ours.

We thank all our loyal members for staying with us.

As Kerrie notes, we recommend you read all the emails and

Newsletters from the Group.

Where possible, joining our Zoom meetings helps us stay in touch with each other and Group news.

I really enjoy my little contribution to the Group, putting our publication together, reading your stories and selecting the appropriate articles for each issue.

Remember, once you start writing, you will find your style and become addicted to writing. We



are one of the places your stories will be appreciated. Our next deadline is 21 April 2022.

Stay Well, Stay Safe! ... 🌳

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

MONTHLY HELP & CHAT GATHERING BY **Zoom.**

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month
Time: From 7:00 pm
Where: Your place

We usually have a subject to get the conversation started.

Members receive an email the day before the meeting with a link to join.

We started this gathering as a remedy for all those who miss coming into the Cottage. Their success has prompted requests to continue once a month in the evening.

Join us, meet other members, and see what they have discovered.

Think of it as a kitchen table discussion, an opportunity to Learn and Laugh.

Stay with us for as long as you like. Not a meeting, but a gathering.

All Welcome!

NEW MEMBER

A very warm welcome is extended to our new member, and we look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Contact any of our 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 |
|-----|-----------------|
| 995 | Darryl Clifford |

MEMBERS SAVINGS PLAN

Throughout any given year, WFHG Inc. offers a range of events, both educational and social, which we think will be informative and interesting for our members, and the wider community.

To ease the demands on members' pockets, the Group has introduced a variety of payment options for these events.

We hope this will help members afford to book early and start paying in small instalments.

Would you like to go to one or some of our events but don't want to pay out all that money in one go?

Instead of paying the full amount for an event why not pay small amounts on a regular basis into our Members Savings Plan?

We are now giving members the opportunity to pay in instalments for those events, seminars, workshops, courses etc. that they wish attend



Put a few dollars away whenever they want then use their savings to pay for the special event that they want to attend.
Payments can be made by PayPal, Direct Deposit, (or EFT or Cash at the Cottage)
(payment details on our website Home page www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au)



WILLIAM PARSONS MEEKER – WILLIAM & MARRIAGE

*Dr. Terry Ann Joyce member 897 and Ms. Pam Prior
(London, England).*

*We conclude this complex interesting story of the Meeker
family.*

Establishing that
a relationship
existed between

William Parsons Meeker and Elizabeth Vandenbrandt was for various reasons, a lengthy research process. Despite this article's focus on William Parsons Meeker, how we came to suggest that he not only married but he also had a son, required an extensive search and analysis of information on Elizabeth Vandenbrandt (1784-1861). Consequently, a lengthy discussion follows on how we came to our conclusion.

At the outset, we acknowledge that it is possible that William didn't marry Elizabeth, instead he gave his name as the father for her child. Alternatively, unbeknown to William, Elizabeth may have taken his surname as her own and named

William as the
father
(deceased) of
her child.

However,
given the
evidence,
these are
unlikely
scenarios.
Despite a
lack of
specific

evidence that a marriage occurred, there appears to be adequate documentation to indicate Elizabeth Vandenbrandt married William Parsons Meeker. Also, before William left England for America in 1812, they became parents for a son, who they named William Peter Meeker.

Initially, we only knew Elizabeth's first name. A search of various genealogy databases was undertaken. From our investigation, we determined that Elizabeth was an English lady named Elizabeth Vandenbrandt. She was born in Middlesex on 15 June 1784 and baptised on 20 January 1785. Her parents were Emanuel and Mary Vandenbrandt.

Elizabeth was 25 years old when she gave birth to William Peter Meeker on January 1 1810.

In order to substantiate her relationship with William Parsons Meeker, we sought to establish that Elizabeth Vandenbrandt and Elizabeth Meeker were one and the same person and confirm that she was William Peter Meeker's mother.

To achieve this aim, we first looked for other family members for Elizabeth Vandenbrandt. The search located her grandparents' marriage. A marriage between Marey Igake and John Vanderbank,



Regency Wedding Couple

from St Giles in the Fields (London), was found within the Fleet notebooks. They married on 2 February 1746 and were parents for Elizabeth's father, Emanuel Vandenbrandt.

Emanuel was born in 1750 and married Mary (unknown). They had two sons and a daughter. Their sons did not survive childhood. However, Elizabeth lived well into her seventies.

Land rates for 1786 and other years confirm Elizabeth's father lived and worked at 32 Maddox Street, St George, Hanover Square, London. Given that Elizabeth was born in 1784, it is likely this Maddox Street address was her childhood home. Street Directories confirm Emanuel's address and list his occupation - a 'taylor' (a master tailor).

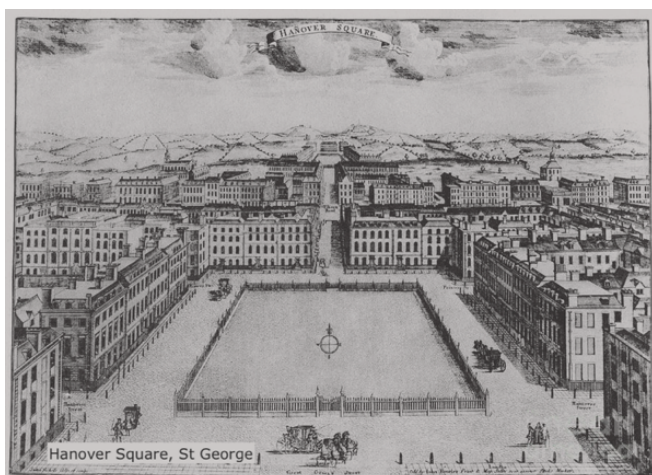
When the 1810 parish church baptismal record for William Peter Meeker became available, we were a little confused about what we read. The record names 'William Parsons' and 'Elizabeth Meeker' as his parents. We wanted to determine who were William Parsons and Elizabeth Meeker?

We discovered William Parsons Meeker's name after a brief search of newspaper archives. He was an

American merchant, living and trading at 64, Basinghall Street, London, England, in the early nineteenth century.

The process for finding Elizabeth Meeker was not so simple. We found land tax documents which named Elizabeth's father, until his death in 1821, the 'Occupier' for 32 Maddox Street, St George, Hanover Square, London. Following his death, Elizabeth Meeker, not Elizabeth Vandenbrandt, is the named 'Occupier'. That document supports our view that Elizabeth Meeker was Emanuel Vandenbrandt's daughter, Elizabeth.

The UK census return for 6 June 1841 shows Elisabeth Meeker aged 55 years and of independent means. Elizabeth's age, 55 years, does not match her birthdate. The reason for this was the directive for Enumerators to 'round up or down', the age to the nearest multiple of 5 for a person over 16 years of age. Elizabeth lived at Toxteth Park, Lancashire, in the same household as William Peter Meeker and his wife, Charlotte (Callan) and their three children. Given William's mother was named Elizabeth Meeker (nee Vandenbrant) the



older woman living with William and Charlotte is William's mother.

The 1861 UK census asked people to submit their marital status. This census document shows Elizabeth Meeker 'widow'. Given William Parsons Meeker drowned at sea, almost fifty years previously, we believe that Elizabeth Meeker was his widow.

Very early into our investigation, the name of William Peter Meeker and Charlotte Callan's seventh child aroused our interest. Born in 1847, Francis Vandenbrandt Meeker's middle name resembles a surname. Often, children were given (and still are) their mother or grandmother's maiden name. We wondered if that was the case for Francis Vandenbrandt Meeker? Following our discovery that Elizabeth Meeker (nee Vandenbrandt) was William Peter Meeker's mother (from parish church baptismal record) we could say "yes", Francis' middle name represents his relationship with his grandmother. This issue alone is a compelling acknowledgment of Elizabeth Vandenbrandt and Elizabeth Meeker's oneness, and her marriage to William Parsons Meeker.

A late purchase of the Will for Winifred Mary Charlier, one of William Peter Meeker's granddaughters, validated our findings. Among her effects were family silver spoons initialled with 'WPM' - William Peter Meeker and EV - Emanuel Vandenbrandt.

Despite no marriage record, we strongly suggest that William Parsons Meeker and Elizabeth Vandenbrandt were a married couple. The punitive 1753 Marriage

Act was in place and may have impacted on their relationship. That is, as Elizabeth's grandparents, John Vandenbrandt and Marey Igacke had done in 1746, Elizabeth and William may have had a clandestine. Clandestine wedding occurred when people weren't members of the Church of England faith. Catholics, such as Elizabeth Vandenbrandt, would undergo a marriage ceremony outside of the realms of the C of E (or outside of any other faith) church. Some records of clandestine marriages exist in Fleet notebooks, but most accounts have not survived. A search for a Meeker-Vandenbrandt marriage within the notebooks was unsuccessful.

It is also possible William and Elizabeth did not marry. Instead, they may have lived in a condition of 'customary concubinage'. According to some researchers, many English couples, in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, lived together 'illegally'. That is, not adhering to church or State law, instead, the neighbourhood recognised their relationship.

William Parsons Meeker is said to have died at sea on his way back to America in 1812. We believe that at the time, he was a husband and a father. William Peter Meeker was the only child for Elizabeth and William. If William had not suffered an early death at sea, his son and daughter-in-law, Charlotte Callan, would have made him a grandfather eleven times. We can safely say, contrary to thinking thus far, that William Parsons Meeker has many descendants in

places such as England, Europe, Canada and Australia.

Our American ancestor may not have achieved greatness during his short life. Nevertheless, the new knowledge presented in this paper entitles him to more than a few sentences in the history books. William was from a respected Meeker family and enjoyed his time working with the fashionable Philadelphian high society. He appreciated the pleasures from wealth but, his money wasn't an inheritance. Rather, it came from hard work as a merchant trader. He took a financial risk, crossed the Atlantic and as an agent in London, he traded items for his business in Philadelphia. It was while he was in London that he experienced bankruptcy, which is probably the greatest emotional low any trader could experience. His marriage to Elizabeth Vandenbrandt provided him with a son and heir. Perhaps she rescued him from homelessness when his home and effects were forcibly sold to raise dividends for his creditors? Our one hope is that as a consolation for his misfortunes, becoming a husband and father made William Parsons Meeker a happy man.

Clearly, William's story is a mysterious one. Did he inform anyone in Philadelphia or his family in New Jersey that he had married and had a son? We've not seen discussions in the US literature of William's financial woes despite his American business partnership and connections. It needs to be asked, were his business partners/family members aware that he was bankrupt and that he was both a husband and a father, and, did they chose to bury this information when William died at sea?

How did William Parsons Meeker spend his time between the discharge of his bankruptcy in 1809 and his death in 1812? An important subject for further research would be the circumstances surrounding William's death.

Dr. Terry Joyce is a descendent of William Parson Meeker's youngest granddaughter: Theresa Josephine Maude Meeker (1859-1935).

Pam Prior is a descendent of William Peter Meeker's brother-in-law: John Callan (1813- 1852).

Correspondence: Dr. Terry Joyce: doctor.terry60@yahoo.com.au

References are available upon request. ... *ed.*



THE MYSTERY OF GRAHAM DREDGE

Lynda Smith LM 02

Continuing the story of this family of wanderers.

Ruby and Graham reconciled in Kalgoorlie and created a child - Gordon Havelock Dredge, who was born in the Straits Settlement on 26th May 1910. I am not sure why Ruby chose to return there for the birth. Perhaps her parents were still

residents, and she needed their support. Now things become decidedly fuzzy. Graham is listed on the Electoral Roll for 1910, living at 43 Varden St., occupation accountant. Other Ancestry researchers have Graham dying in Kalgoorlie, sometime in 1911, but

there is no BDM record, no sign of him in Kalgoorlie cemeteries or any other source I can locate. The only reference found so far is in the 1928 obituary of Ruby.

Nepean Times (Penrith, NSW: 1882 - 1962), Saturday 4 February 1928

MRS. DREDGE

Many Penrith residents will be deeply grieved to learn of the death of a very esteemed ex-resident of this town, Mrs Ruby Constance Dredge, which took place at her residence, Haig Street, Wentworthville, on Sunday, after a lengthy illness. This community was greatly indebted to the deceased lady, particularly by reason of her splendid musical services on behalf of many public movements. Her personal qualities endeared her to the many who knew her.

The late Mrs Dredge, who was 41 years of age, was born at Ravenswood, Queensland, and was

the daughter of the late Mr W. H. Williams, and of Mrs Williams. Her father was a mining engineer, and his professional duties engaged him at one time or other in every State of the Commonwealth, in New Zealand, and in the Straits Settlement. Seventeen years ago he and his wife came from the Straits to Penrith, and continued to reside here till he died some nine years ago.

On December 5, 1907, Mrs Dredge was married at Broome (West. Australia) to Mr Graham Dredge, who died about 17 years ago. For many years Mrs Dredge resided in Penrith, and left here a few years ago to take up her residence at Wentworthville.

She is survived by her mother, a son (Gordon), a brother (Mr W. T. Williams, Kalgoorlie, West Australia), and two sisters (Mrs W. H. Hand, of Penrith, and Mrs Hogan, of Penang, Malay Peninsula).

The funeral took place on Monday, the remains being brought to John Price and Sons funeral parlors (sic), Penrith, and afterward, to the Methodist portion of Penrith general cemetery. Rev. W. T. Stuart-Wright conducted the service. A number of beautiful wreaths were received, including one from the Penrith Methodist Church choir.

Graham would have been 30 in 1911. I find it very strange that there is no mention of him in the newspapers of the time either. Accountancy is not a dangerous occupation! Did Graham disappear again? Was it easier for Ruby to



say she was a widow and start a new life in the east?

As you can see from the obit., Ruby and her young son eventually settled in the Penrith area of NSW. Her parents and one married sister were nearby. She established herself as a teacher of young people wishing to learn musical instruments, singing and dramatics. Her son Gordon was her star pupil. There are many articles in the Nepean Times and other local papers that detail concerts arranged by Ruby and performances by Gordon. Her father WH Williams died in 1919 and her mother later in Dec.1928.

Ruby's youngest sister, Olive married Claude D.D. HOGAN in 1912, in the Straits Settlement. In 1939, just after the declaration of war with Germany, the Hogans left London for Singapore. Once Japan entered the war, Singapore was no longer safe, so civilians were evacuated, using any vessels available. Claude opted to stay. Olive, a nurse, left on the small Dutch owned coastal steamer "*Tandjong Pinang*", with many other women and children on 14 Feb., the day before Singapore fell. Along the way, they rescued others whose ships had been bombed by



Japanese planes. There were over 200 souls onboard. Their vessel later was sunk in the Bangka Strait on 17 Feb. 1942 by the Japanese. Most on board lost their lives by drowning. About 15 were captured and taken to a nearby POW camp, but most did not survive the war.

Olive did not survive. Claude was captured in Singapore and spent time as a POW in Changi but survived the war. He was a barrister. Their 2 adult children, Sylvia and Claude were safely out of harm during the war- Claude in England and Sylvia in Perth.

Of the 13 children born to WH WILLIAMS and his wife Mary Ann BRUNSDON only two, Elizabeth HAND and Walter T WILLIAMS lived to relative old age, Elizabeth reaching 75 and Walter 68. Seven children died in infancy. That must have been heart-wrenching.

Of the DREDGE family, only two of the daughters married and had children. The DREDGE name lived on with Gordon, who married in 1937 and had 3 sons. Gordon was a gifted student, who excelled at Mathematics, Music and English. He was dux of his primary school and attended Sydney Grammar School. He went on to follow in his father's footsteps and became an accountant! The circle is complete.

Resources: Trove newspapers, Australian BDM certificates, Wikipedia, Google images, Outbackfamilyhistory.com.au, <https://www.kimberleyaustralia.com/broome-history.html><https://www.navyhistory.org.au/the-naval-evacuation-of-singapore-february-1942/>



Their War

They are remembered

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

MELAKA WARRIOR MONUMENT

Bukit Cina, Malacca City, Malacca, Malaysia

From Wikipedia

*Composed and written by Dai Kuisheng of Nan'an ancestry Respects from all
Malaccan Chinese expatriates*

Malacca Warrior Monument, officially the Malacca Warrior Monument for the Chinese victims of Anti-Japanese occupation 'Malacca Warrior Monument for the Chinese victims as a result of opposing Japanese colonisation') is a monument at Bukit Cina in Malacca City, Malacca, Malaysia. It was built to commemorate the Chinese victims of the Empire of Japan occupation of Malacca as part of British Straits Settlements during World War II and was unveiled officially by then high commissioner, Sir Edward Gent in 1948. The first known major renovation for the monument was in 1972. The monument is inscribed with four Chinese characters, "忠貞足式" (pinyin: *Zhōng Zhēn Zú Shì*) in Chiang Kai-shek's handwriting, which means "their (those who have fought against the Japanese) loyalty can be taken as an exemplar".

The epitaph is written in Classical Chinese and is translated as below:

After the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, the Overseas Chinese called for the opposition of the



Japanese rule and rallied for the rescue of the country by donating money and belongings. The Chinese diaspora in Nanyang joined the Allies in armed conflicts against the Japanese, thus the Japanese suppressed the Chinese diaspora for opposing them.

On 15 January, the 31st year of the Republic of China, the Japanese conquered Malacca, and the local expatriates suffered terrible encounters. In the beginning, the Japanese Army searched door-to-door for anti-Japanese dissidents, and approximately 300 people were killed for being involved in anti-Japanese efforts. After that, 56 workers from the Asahan Rubber

Estate, and about 200 residents of Jasin Hot Spring Area and other villages were killed, one after another. Thousands were killed by the Japanese Army; some were killed by sword, some were crushed on their skull, some were disembowelled, some were buried alive collectively, and some were trapped in a closed room and then burnt alive. Despite this, they faced their demise with courage and the

Japanese with no fear. Some berated the Japanese right in front of them before dying and some remained silent until the end. It was rare to hear about people pleading and surrendering to the Japanese. It is evident that they stuck to their principles and died heroically. ... 🌳

5th of May, the 37th year of the Republic of China

SINGAPORE'S DUNKIRK

Naval Historical Society of Australia

Lieutenant Geoffrey Brooke served in the battleship *'Prince of Wales'* which sank on 10 December 1941. He survived this ordeal and when the opportunity came, he and a number of his shipmates escaped in the river steamer *Kung Wo*. Brooke writes of his experiences in Singapore's Dunkirk (Brooke 1989), but tragically this episode did not emulate the success of the English Channel crossing.

Another unfortunate consequence leading to confusion was that naval personnel responsible for coding and decoding signals were approved to leave the island aboard *'HMS Jupiter'* in the early hours of 12 February. As they had destroyed all code books the Rear Admiral Malaya was thereafter unable to read signals. While the presence of a Japanese Fleet, bound for Sumatra, was known to

the Dutch it was no longer possible to pass this information to Admiral Spooner. This proved disastrous as by dreadful coincidence the Japanese invasion fleet heading for the Banka Strait converged with the approaching fleet of small ships departing Singapore.

With the Japanese now within gun range on the opposite side of the Causeway a few thousand more persons escaped in an organized convoy on the night of 11/12 February. Afterwards a fragile fleet of forty-four independent unescorted sailings occurred on 'Black Friday' 13 February, with a few stragglers coming behind on 14 February. Over the final five-day period before surrender on Sunday 15 February 1942, about 5000



souls escaped but less than one in four made a safe landing, the rest being killed or captured.

On paper the escape plan seemed straightforward, a 20-mile passage over the Singapore Strait at night, and then laying up under cover of one of the numerous Netherlands East Indies islands, before island

hopping to cover the next 60 miles and crossing the Banka Strait to the large island of Sumatra. The Japanese, however, were well aware of this deadly game of cat and mouse and had set a trap with aircraft overhead and ships guarding the Straits which caused havoc. ... 🌳

A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS

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.

Adhering to the strict COVID-19 health orders is a condition of entry to 'The Cottage'.

Your courtesy is appreciated. ... 🌳

TRANSPORT

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

If you are able to help, email The Secretary:

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. ... 🌳



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Here at Wyong Family History Group Inc. we offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. Moderators/Co-ordinators are keen to share their knowledge with others. Please support them.

All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar. [see page 22]

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

SIGs go for one to two hours, we are asking for a \$2.00 donation to help keep our resources up to date.


Observing strict COVID-19 protocols once SIGs resume. Watch the Cottage Newsletter for more information.

🌳 **Breaking through Brickwalls** – Helen Burkett moderates our Brickwall Group this year broadening it to cover UK, Australia and Convict questions. Ann Cooke has kindly offered to assist her, especially with the latter two subjects as she has more expertise in NSW than Helen does and she has convict family too.


Helen has gathered very many resources and concentrated on more obscure




websites over time and intends to show one or more of these each month. They will also be looking at the lesser used resources at our own Centre. Watch the weekly newsletter or enquire at 'The Cottage' for more information.

 **Multi-Media Devices** – Roger Lewis & Ellen Sheerin continue this group helping attendees sort through their questions no matter what the media or device.




 **DNA Special Interest Group** – After the DNA test, you may be wondering about the next step or how to understand your DNA results. Whether or not you already have your results back, why not come along to our DNA SIG meetings for some guidance. DNA enthusiasts old and new, all welcome! ... Stuart Purvis-Smith



 **FAMILY TREE MAKER** – This popular SIG will continue with moderator Martin Fisher. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.



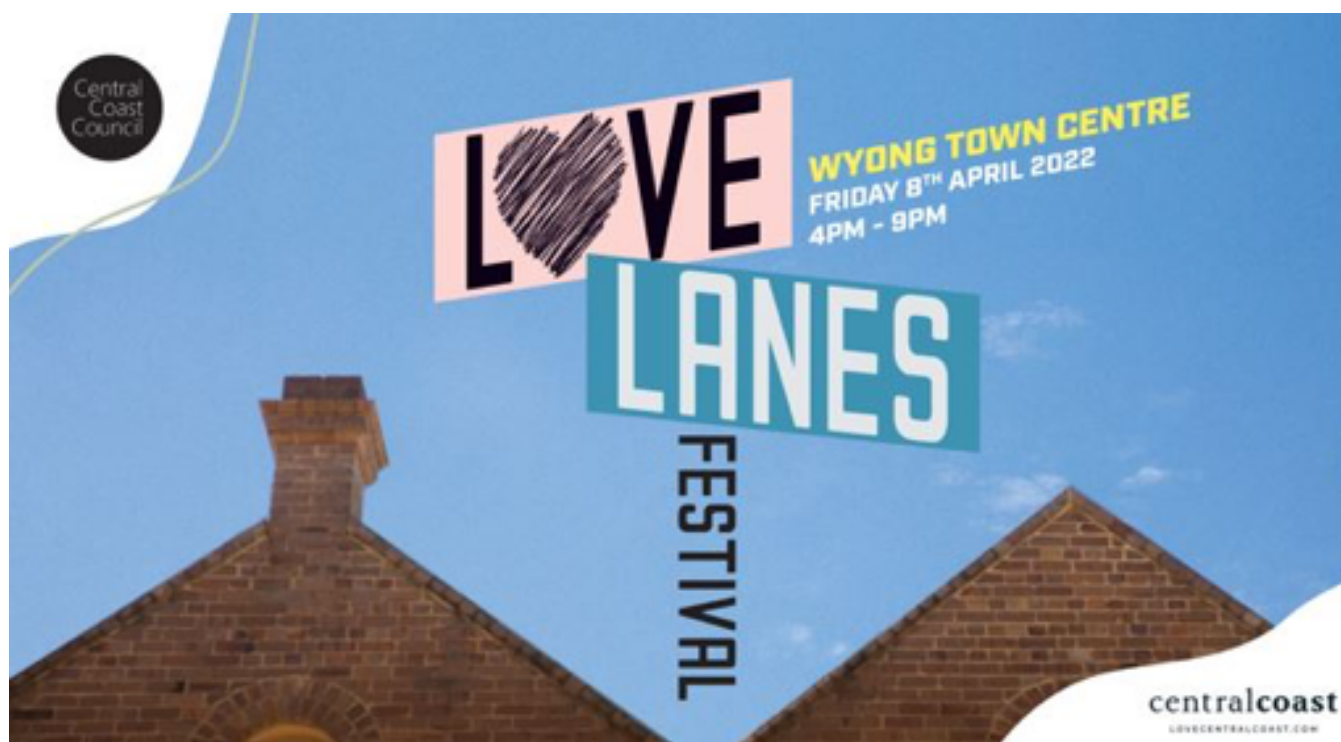
 **WORD/POWERPOINT** – Once again Helen Johnston-Lord and Ellen Sheerin will moderate this group. We have expanded to include PowerPoint. Word is a powerful desktop publishing software and PowerPoint has many uses in sharing your family history.



Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential ... 

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL'S LOVE LANES FESTIVAL

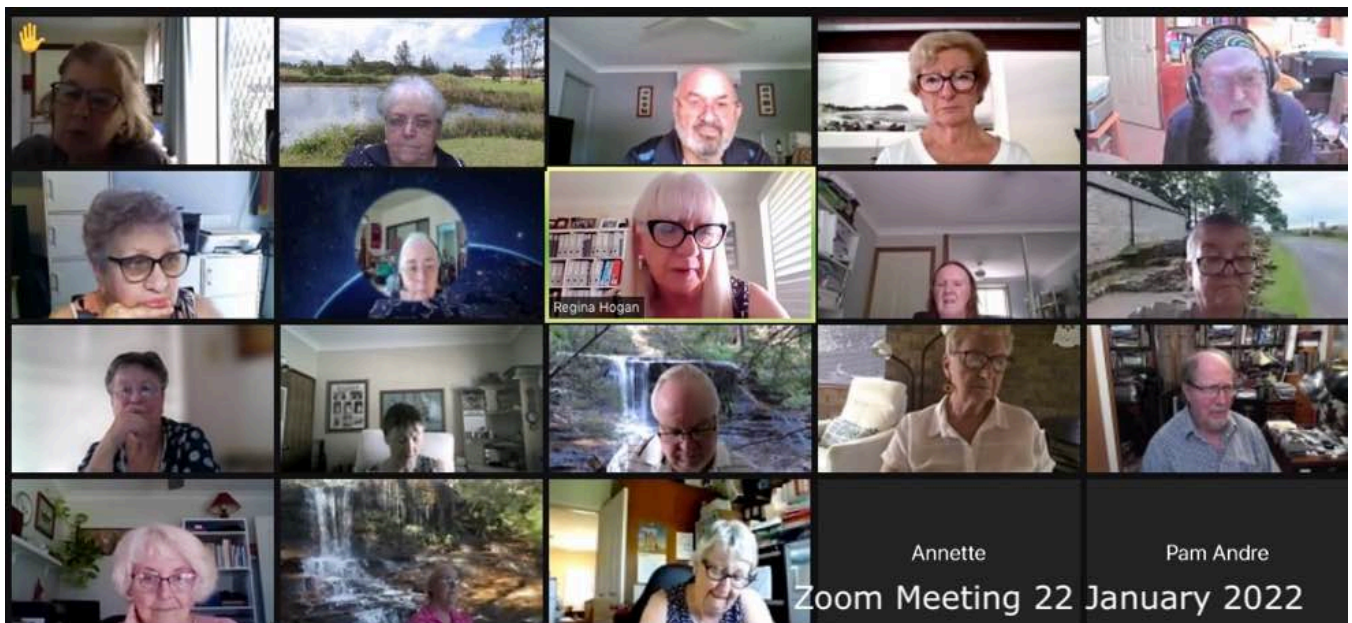
Look for us again at this popular local event!



Mothers' Day Raffle

Attractive Crochet Three-Piece Bedspread set

Available
 Now
 Tickets are
 just \$2.00
 each at the
 office





WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

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

For a reasonable Fee

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

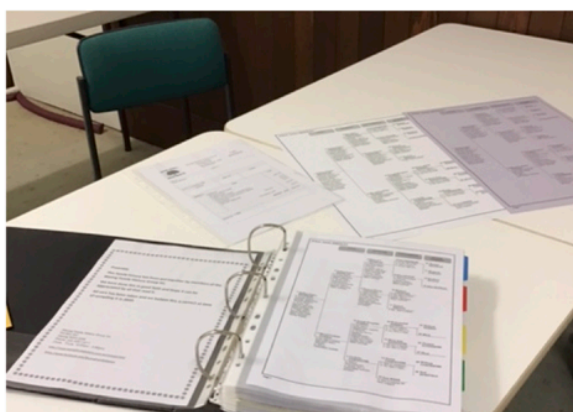
Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.

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

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

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

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



Example of what you may receive.

Presents

a Seminar

with **JILL BALL**

21ST CENTURY GENEALOGY - USING OLD AND NEW TOOLS TO CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE

Sunday 20th February 2022, from 10:00 am
At Wyong Golf Club, 319 Pacific Hwy, Wyong NSW 2259

Jill (GeniAus) Ball [the person]

Jill is an amateur Australian genealogist who has been chasing ancestors for thirty years and devotes every spare moment to family history. She loves embracing technology for genealogy.

Jill has presented at international, national, and state education and genealogy conferences. She serves on the Education Committee of The Society of Australian Genealogists and is President of the Lake Macquarie Family History Group. Jill has been voted as Australia's Gold Genealogy Rockstar several times.



Cost: For WFHG Members is \$30.00 - Non-Members \$35.00

Lunch is not included

Book & Pay online: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

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

Enquiries 'The Cottage' – 4351 2211,

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Email: wfhg06@westnet.com.au.

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

Tea & Coffee
Available all day
(drinks extra)



©2022 WFHG Inc. BALL

LIFE MEMBERS

From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership.

These members have been recognized for their commitment and contribution, helping us become the Family History Group we are today. ... 🌳



| Name | Memb No. | Date of Award |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| The Late Keith Shakespeare | 01 | Sept 1994 |
| Lynda Smith | 02 | 08 Dec 1995 |
| The Late Patricia Irwin Sharp | 03 | 14 Sept 2001 |
| Marilyn Cridland | 11 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Pam Mansergh | 14 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| The Late Esther Dean | 23 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Janice Barrett | 43 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Kerrie Metcalfe | 80 | 9 Sept 2010 |
| Roger Lewis | 127 | 20 Sept 2012 |
| Robin Wright | 133 | 20 Sept 2012 |
| Trish McDonald | 194 | 09 Oct 2014 |
| Glenise Clery | 284 | 09 Oct 2014 |
| Michele Gane | 174 | 03 June 2018 |
| John Selwood | 79 | 03 June 2018 |
| Meg Gibson | 43 | 20 Feb 2021 |
| Gwen Bates | 70 | 20 Feb 2021 |

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

| Publication | Type | Price |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|
| DIGITAL RELEASE | | |
| Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838 – 1967 and Burials 1837 – 1987 with links to copies of the original church register pages for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes]. <i>System requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10gb hard disk space.</i> | USB | \$ 50.00 + p&h |
| BOOKS & CDs | | |
| Bowden Family Funerals – Wyong. July 1999 – January 2015 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| | CD | \$15.00 – p&h |
| Central Coast Roll of Honour. [Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs.] | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| | CD | \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954 incorporating the Wollombi Express [1892-1906] and Wyong District Advocate [1906-1920] Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details | Book | \$ 27.00 + p&h |
| | CD | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| People of Wyong Book 1: Health and Service Providers – includes: Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade, Ministers [298 pages] | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| People of Wyong Book 2: Includes: Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. [252 pages] | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| People of Wyong Book 3: Includes: Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing and Transport. [297 pages] | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| People of Wyong Book 4: Includes: Wyong Abattoir, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |

| Publication | Type | Price |
|---|---|--|
| Representatives [257 pages] Fully indexed. Coloured and b & w photographs | | |
| People of Wyong Book 5: All Wyong District Schools both former and current, public and private, with a list of each school's Head Teachers. Coloured and b & w photographs of each school [270 pages] Fully indexed | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| Place Names of the Wyong Shire | Book | \$ 7.00 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006 <i>– Out of Print – available on combined CD.</i> | | |
| Simplicity Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011 includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| Simplicity Wyong Shire NSW, Toukley, and Wyong 1993 – 2011 | CD | \$ 25.00 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Erina 1984 – 2013 | Book CD | \$ 30.00 + p&h \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013 | Book CD | \$ 20.00 + p&h \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Wyong Agricultural Association [248 pages]. Covers the history of the Wyong Agricultural Association as reported in local newspapers; lists of Office Bearers; photos of founders and first Committee; plus the minutes of all meetings held from 1 May 1913 to 18 June 1930 with fully indexed list of names. | Book CD | \$ 35.00 + p&h \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953 | Book CD | \$ 20.00 + p&h \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013] [673 pages]. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. | CD | \$ 35.00 + p&h |
| Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices [1932 – 1995] | Two Volume set | |
| Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs | Book Book Volume 1 | \$ 45.00 + p&h \$ 25.00 + p&h |
| Contents Volume Two – 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices includes Church and cemetery photographs | Book Volume 2 Out of Print | |
| Wyong Remembers: The history of the Wyong War memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events [53 pages] | Book | \$ 19.00 + p&h |
| Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939 | Book CD | \$ 10.00 + p&h \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area [Baptisms, Burials and Marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's Diaries and Miscellaneous Entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy & the Hawkesbury River.] | CD | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009] <i>– Out Of Print</i> | | |
| Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012] | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW [1886-2001] | Book | \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW [1825 - 2016] | Book CD | \$ 15.00 + p&h \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 [220 pages] This index has been compiled from the Wyong Family History Group's cemetery database. It includes burials [and niches] at Jilliby and Noraville Cemeteries and the burials at Ronkana, St | Book CD | \$ 25.00 + p&h \$ 20.00 + p&h |

| Publication | Type | Price |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| Barnabas [Yarramalong] and Yarramalong Cemeteries. Books have been produced for each individual cemetery that provide additional details such as photographs, headstone inscriptions and, in the case of Ronkana, St Barnabas and Yarramalong cemeteries, newspaper death, funeral or probate notices for some of the burials. The WFHG Inc. acknowledges the work of Mr Vince McKenzie and his son Clive, gravediggers, whose records form the core of our index. We also acknowledge the CC Council Bereavement Officers for their contribution to our records. Contains: Cemetery maps; Deceased details – name, age, date of burial, grave location [section, row, plot], some records have birth dates and maiden names. Includes all Graves including Unmarked Graves. | | |
| Palmdale Cemetery [30,000 names, not all from Wyong] | CD | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| Genealogy Recorder | | \$ 10.00 + p&h |



To Other Groups and Societies Attention Journal Co-ordinator

WFHGInc. now has a dedicated **incoming journal email address** for exchange journals from associated groups. Would you check and alter your email records so the next Journal to our group will be emailed to the following:
wfhg10@westnet.com.au

If you have any changes to **your** journal received address, please let us know, by return email to wfhg10@gmail.com.au

Kindest regards,
Lorraine Cameron – Journals.

WFHG Inc. Planned Events

- Subject to change.
- **The activities on this planner take into account COVID-19 restrictions.**
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, ALL our meetings, interest groups, master classes and courses are held at 'The Cottage'.
- **SIG** = Special Interest Group
- **INFO** = Information Session

The following applies for all Special Interest Groups and Information Sessions unless otherwise stated.

Bookings Essential

Strict limit of FIVE plus presenter in meeting room at one time

| | 2022 | Event |
|----------|--------|--|
| FEBRUARY | Thu 10 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. |
| | Sat 12 | ZOOM Monthly Member's Meeting 1.00 pm. |
| | Tue 15 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. |
| | Sun 20 | Seminar with JILL BALL |
| | Tue 22 | Using GRO (Free BDM – Census, UK) Index Info 10:00 – 11:00 am |
| | Wed 23 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:00 pm |
| | Thu 24 | Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 26 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. |

| | 2022 | Event | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| MARCH | Tue 1st | Committee Meeting 10.00 am. | |
| | Fri 4 | Beginners Family History Course – Week 1 | |
| | Tue 8 | Using Word & PowerPoint in Family History SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm | |
| | Thu 10 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. | |
| | Fri 11 | Beginners Family History Course – Week 2 | |
| | Sat 12 | Monthly Member's Meeting 1.00 pm. | |
| | Tue 15 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. | |
| | Thu 17 | Immigration & Shipping Info 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | |
| | Fri 18 | Beginners Family History Course – Week 3 | |
| | Wed 23 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:00 pm | |
| | Thu 24 | Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | |
| | Fri 25 | Beginners Family History Course – Week 4 | NSW Seniors Festival 25 March to 3 April |
| | Sat 26 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | |
| | Tue 29 | Committee Meeting for April 10:00 am | |
| | Thu 31 | CCC Seniors Expo, Wyong Race Course | |
| APRIL | Thu 5 | Introduction to F.T.M. Info 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | |
| | Fri 8 | CCC Love Lanes Festival 4:00 pm – 10:00 pm | |
| | Sat 9 | Monthly Member's Meeting 1.00 pm. | |
| | Tue 8 | Using Word & PowerPoint in Family History SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm | |
| | Thu 14 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. | |
| | Friday 15 – Monday 18 Easter | | |
| | Tue 19 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. | |
| | Thu 21 | Deadline for Tree of Life | |
| | Sat 23 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | |
| | Wed 27 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:00 pm | |
| | Thu 28 | Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. | |
| MAY | Sun 1 st | Seminar - CANCELLED | |
| | Tue 3 | Committee Meeting 10:00 am | |
| | Sun 8 | Mothers' Day | |
| | Tue 10 | Microsoft Word/PowerPoint SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. | |
| | Thu 12 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10 am – 12:00 noon | |
| | Sat 14 | Monthly Member's Meeting 1.00 pm. | |
| | Tue 17 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. | National Volunteer Week 16 – 22 May |
| | Sat 21 | WFHG Volunteer's Thank You Lunch | |
| | Tue 24 | NSW State Archives Bus Trip | |
| | Wed 25 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 7:00 pm | |
| | Thu 26 | Brickwall SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. | National Trust Australian Heritage Festival 18 April – 19 May |
| | Sat 28 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | |
| | Tue 31 | Committee Meeting for June 10:00 am | |

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.

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: [02] 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

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

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

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 April, 2022 is the closing date for items to be included in the next issue of the "Tree of Life".

Local LDS Family History Centre

Akora Road, Wyoming [near ALDI]

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

Generally closed during school holidays.

Open at other times on request

Free access

Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au_gosford@ldsmail.net

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

The Fine Print

No part of the "Tree of Life" may be reproduced without written permission from Wyong Family History Group Inc. The Group does not accept responsibility for information contained or opinions expressed by authors of the articles published in the "Tree of Life".

Unless an article is marked copyright, Family History Groups have permission to re-print items from the "Tree of Life" providing the source is acknowledged and it is only used for the purpose of family research. Copyright remains the property of the submitter. © ... e&oe. ... 🌳

WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

To promote and encourage the research and preservation of family and local history, to assist members and others in family history research. To develop and maintain a Public Library and research, collect, preserve and maintain its resources in its Library.

Members contributions are always welcome.