



Tree of Life

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Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Patrons: Karen McNamara, Federal MP for Dobell
David Harris, State MP for Wyong

Meetings, are held on the 2nd Saturday 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' – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

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

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

from the President

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



Happy New Year to all our readers, we are well into the first month of 2016, our rooms have opened for research and we hope to see our members visit us at the Cottage this year and see if you can break down some brick walls or find some interesting information on your ancestors, we have subscriptions to a number of sites with excellent resources on them to be found. Our librarian Glenise works hard to keep you informed of new resources' and updates, our secretary Kerry sends weekly reminders of what's on

and we have some good workshops coming up, also our website is constantly updated so make some time this year to devote to your family history..... 🌳



from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 50

As Kerrie mentioned in her report, the first month of 2016 is almost over. This summer has shown us that living where we do can be challenging with the temperature some days reaching over 40°C other days being beautifully sparkling and with a January rainfall over 800ml it is no wonder the humidity is so high.

Our own research has taken a few interesting turns and information is coming from unexpected sources. Staying inside with the air con on and the internet being kind, research seemed like a good idea. Now I am not so sure, the phrase 'A can of worms' comes to mind and of course the holidays were a bit of a problem. I am forever sorting through 'stuff' and am trying to collect all like information together, an endless task it seems and I am easilly side-tracked with an interesting scrap of paper or



perhaps recipe.

This year we are continuing with the Microsoft Word Special Interest Group. You can join us for any session and we will try to answer any questions you have, we don't mind repeating ourselves.

Thank you to those who have been able to send me their stories. I may be able help put your research into a story. I can be contacted through the Cottage or perhaps drop your stories or ideas into the Cottage if email is not your 'thing'.

Jean Macleay's story about the VC Memorial Drive prompted me to feature this on our 'Their War' Memorials page.

Beryl Watson has provided us with a very impressive list of convicts she is researching. If you have convicts who interest you, send me a list and maybe join the Australian Convict Interest Group.

The deadline for the next *Tree of Life* is 20 April 2016..... 🌳



from the Secretary.

Kerry Clarke, Secretary, member 433

Dear Members,

Well, here we go with another busy year. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday period, and spent some quality time with friends and relatives.

John and I went on a bus trip to the Snowy Mountains, and although there was only snow in the distance, we had some great walks, and did tours of Cooma, Jindabyne, Thredbo and Charlotte's Pass. The days were cool and sunny, with none of the rainy weather you had here on the Central Coast.



We have some very interesting events planned for you in 2016, commencing with the Facebook Workshop on 20th Feb, which will be similar to the beginners workshop held last year for those who missed it, and then a Special Interest Group will begin on 23rd April and continue every 2 months on the 4th Saturday.

All our Special Interest Groups are on again this year, commencing with the IPAD/Computer group on 23rd January. The only change to the Special Interest Groups so far is that the Scottish/Irish group has been combined into a morning session.

The first State Records Bus Trip will be on 2nd April, with an information session to help researchers to be held at the Cottage on 21st March.

This will be conducted by Gail Davis from State Records, and we strongly recommend that you attend this session if you are planning to go on the Bus Trip, because there are changes to the website, and also at the facility itself.

The 6 week Beginners' Course will commence on Friday 1st April – this course is open to members and non-members, so if you know anyone just starting out on their own exciting journey, bring them along.

Our website has a full listing of our events and meetings, and gets updated weekly, so keep checking regularly – also, my weekly updates will advise of upcoming events or any changes to previously advertised events.

We hope to see many of you at the Cottage this year, we will be having free training sessions, courses, workshops, and of course our computers and library are always available for you to access Tuesday to Thursday, 10am – 3pm..... 🌳



BEING HELEN EDWARDS

Helen Burkett, member 342

I am who I am, Helen Edwards born Glenelg, South Australia, now Helen Burkett, in this wonderful country of Australia because of one small 3 year old boy. His interesting name was Friend Henry Edwards and he was to be my great grandfather. His maternal grandfather was Friend Fauchon hence the unusual name. He was the one and only child James and Sarah Elizabeth Edwards would have, a very sad fact in those days when having a large family was a guarantee that you may have some of the children



grow to adulthood and thrive. James was a successful business man and tailor living in the relatively safe area of Greenwich near the Thames when he made the decision to move his little family to the other side the world in 1849. Friend Henry had been born in 1846 and no more children had arrived so it was a big risk taking him to Adelaide, South Australia. The little boy had to live through the voyage and thrive in the new land and this he thankfully did.



It could have so easily gone the other way. They chose to sail on the *Brightman*, a small sailing ship and slower than many. The trip was to take 4 months

and they had only been at sea for a few days when they ran aground at Worthing near Brighton a place notorious for shipwrecks but, in this case, luck was with them. All passengers had to be rowed ashore by the local people and wait while the ship was refloated. Next it was off to Plymouth for repairs and the voyage was able to recommence. On they sailed, being passed by faster ships and with a surgeon who turned out to be either mad or a raving alcoholic. He wrote many strange letters to the newspapers on arrival in Adelaide and there were many complaints about him from the passengers on that voyage.



Helen and her father, Malcolm Edwards

They arrived in Adelaide on 5th January 1850 to incredibly hot weather - one day in January the mercury rose to 111°F (43.8°C) and remained at 98°F (36.6°C) for most of the night and fires raged in the foothills of Adelaide and also much nearer in the Parklands. James soon found that there were more than enough tailors in Adelaide and so took up some land and learned to become a market gardener and then a farmer with absolutely no previous experience. He had good friends who had done the same, a brushmaker, a book publisher, a miller, the soil was good and they had to learn fast. Friend Henry grew and learned to ride a horse, shoot a gun, work on the property and walk miles to school as often as he could be spared. His father James died young and Friend had to grow up quickly. He married, bought a farm, went bankrupt, started again, working 7 days a week while also starting a large family. The last thing he wanted was an only child and he managed to avoid that admirably. 12 children later, he bought his third farm in Pinnaroo, started a store and made good. His dear tired wife predeceased him while he went from strength to strength for another 11 years, travelling the world, visiting Argentina where a daughter had gone to live and also England to find his roots. He became a champion lawn bowls player and lived to the age of 91. I am descended from one of those 12 children and it takes a very big database to list the Edwards family now.

So thank you my dear Friend..... 🌲



FAMILY TREE MAKER "Retirement"

Martin Fisher #653

Many of you would have seen the recent announcement from Ancestry.com of the retirement of the Family Tree Maker software. There has been much written and many comments made since that announcement on 14th December 2016. There was over 6000 negative replies on their blog within the first 24 hours after the announcement.

During the next 12 months there will be much discussion and suggestions on how to handle this change moving forward. Much of the editorial comment coming from the likes of Vic-Gum, SAG, Gould's etc have included many of the suggestions being mentioned below:-



- **Do nothing.** The program will continue to operate as a stand-alone package as it has done since day one, whilst it is convenient to link to an Ancestry tree it is **not** mandatory. Repeating; the program will **NOT** stop working on the 31st December, it will continue as it has been doing into the foreseeable future. Version 2014 with the updates operates satisfactorily on Windows 10, earlier versions have some problems. It can be expected that Windows 10 will be supported for some 10 years, so there is no reason to believe that FTM 2014 will not continue to do the same.
- **Change to a different software?** Which one will you choose, some are USA based some are UK based. How long will that new program last before it is also withdrawn. We have already seen the recent demise of The Master Genealogist and now Family Tree Maker. There has been no new genealogy software for desktop application written for several years and eventually all desktop genealogy software will disappear and it will all be cloud based.
- Think about taking out a subscription to the lead pencil society and back up your electronic records to paper. (write a book)
- **Update your version of FTM** to 2014 and check for updates regularly. (highly recommended)
- **Export and save your FTM files as gedcoms.** (not as easy as it sounds.

Whilst FTM is based on gedcom protocol it varies enough to require some cleaning up of files before importing to a new program). There are problems in exporting if you are using the source templates within FTM.

- **Download** any data you have on Ancestry to your own computer including media and sources.
- We are not aware of any current program that can directly import a Family Tree Maker file complete with media etc. And none can link to Ancestry or support an Ancestry Member Tree.

So if you are an FTM user the message is **don't panic**, but be aware that you are going to have to review the storage of your family history data in the longer term.

Everything will become clearer over the coming months and we will continually keep on top of this and will be advising members of any salient suggestions as they come to hand.

One way of staying abreast of developments is to come to our monthly FTM special interest group meetings (2nd Thursday of the month 1 to 3pm) where we will be discussing this matter in depth.

Our first meeting for 2016 is 11th February.....🌳

HEMYOCK CASTLE INDEX

This is a great site for Medieval Terms, Trish McDonald, LM 194

<http://hemyockcastle.co.uk/index.html>



Site will look like this.... 🌳

VICTORIAN BDMs - Indexes now free

The Victorian BDM indexes which previously cost 99 cents per page to view, are now free. The [search facility](#) has also been upgraded and you can search all events (birth, death and marriage) in the one

search if you wish. Note that the search results do not show the registration district where the event took place.

- **Note:** The Cottage has the Victorian BDM's on which the Registration Districts can be found.....🌳

ANCESTRY.com SEMINAR REPORT

Kerry Clarke member 433, Secretary

I think everyone who attended our Seminar on Saturday 21st November, will agree that Ben Mercer is a very fitting representative for Ancestry.com. His willingness to contribute to a successful day for us and his patience with the many questions we had, was instrumental in the success of the event.

We had nearly 70 people booked in, and although a couple of members called in sick, we had such



Ben and the group before the seminar.



Clockwise from top left: Kerry Clarke holds the barrel as Ben draws the raffle, Ben presents Helen Hord with her Ancestry.com subscription, Pam Mansergh with Ben, part of the crowd and Martin Fisher with Ben Mercer. Photos from Eloora Studio.

a good roll-up we had to relocate to the larger auditorium. Wyong RSL was very accommodating, as usual and did the setup for us, and we were able to get in early to arrange our computer equipment and refreshment tables. Lunch was provided with a minimum of fuss, and everyone managed to get back to the auditorium in time for the afternoon sessions.

Our major raffle of a year's subscription to Ancestry.com which was generously donated by Ben was won by our member Helen Hord who was present on the day. At the end of the seminar, Glenise brought up the subject that many of the members present did not have their own subscription to Ancestry.com, but used the Library edition available through the WFHG Cottage. So Ben then magnanimously donated another year's subscription, for those who did not have their own subscription, and this was won by a very happy Pam Mansergh.

There were no handouts on the day, but we are hoping to get some sent up, which we will distribute if required to those who attended.

Martin and I would like to thank our helpers on the day – Roger for the IT equipment, Michele and Susan on the checkin desk, Eileen and Janet selling all those raffle tickets, Helen who buzzed around taking photos (these will appear in various places), and Anne who set up the refreshment tables that kept us going all day. These events are always a group effort, and if you don't notice and things run smoothly, then they are a success.... 🌳



Over The Sea To South Warrnambool – Part Two

Maryanne McDonald, member 782

A Story of A New Life – The McDonalds of South Warrnambool

The Isle of Skye

As Sunday 3rd September 1854 dawned, the “Edward Johnstone”¹ sailed into Portland Bay with 356 emigrants. They had left their misty isle homeland of Skye behind ready to disembark for that new and unknown life ahead of them in the colonies.

Great-great-grandfather Donald emigrated at the ripe age of 63, with his 4 daughters and 2 sons aged between 18 and 30. They were all born on Skye. One of the sons, Donald is our Great-grandfather. Along



¹ “Arrival of the “Edward Johnstone”(consigned to A.R. Cruikshank & Co) HIES Emigrant ship departed Liverpool, UK 17 June 1854. Portland Guardian and Normanby General Advertiser (Vic: 1842-1878), Monday, 4 September 1854, page 2.

with the family came 10-year-old Mary Bethune, a sept² of the clan. Little is known about her emigration under Donald's care, with the exception that she lived in the same parish of Duirinish, Inverness Shire.

Great-great-grandfather Donald, a widower³ came on his own account, paying £47/2/7. The six children were engaged by four local merchants/farmers from Belfast, Tower Hill and Portland. Little is known on their working life with these employers prior to them settling in Warrnambool with their respective spouses. They are all buried in Victoria.

Great-great-grandfather Donald's new life in South Warrnambool was full, given his age and together with his two sons, Hector and grandfather Donald, they were signatories to the petition for Warrnambool to be proclaimed a municipal district in 1855⁴. They were all householders. It is believed that several properties were owned by the McDonald's in South Warrnambool. Donald lived in Edina Street, South Warrnambool. Macdonald Street, South Warrnambool naming being an honour.

Great-great-grandfather Donald passed (decay of nature) 17 June 1868 after 13 years in South Warrnambool. Both he and his father Neil were tailors by trade, but I don't feel that Great-grandfather Donald practiced in Warrnambool.

Donald Macdonald

Great-grandfather Donald was also a tailor by trade. It is unknown if he carried this on in Warrnambool. From 1854 on arrival in Portland and working in Belfast, he was living in Warrnambool by 1855 (see footnote 4). He married Irish Mary (Golden/Goldrick) in



*Great-grandfather Donald
(1834-1908) and Grandpa
William Donald (1880-1947)*



*Mary (Golden/Goldrick) Macdonald,
Great-grandma. (1844-1896)*

² 'Sept': There are many other name variations allied to the name Macdonald belonging to Clan Donald. This was for protection and better social living. These are known as Septs. eg: Bethune and Beaton.

³ Donald's wife, Mary died on Skye between the birth of their youngest child Mary in 1841 and the 1854 Scottish Census.

⁴ Victorian Government Gazette 'Municipal Institutions Act' signed 14 September 1855. pp 2314-2315.

Melbourne in 1868. They settled in South Warrnambool, living in the Stephens Street family home, and had seven children. Mary, his wife died 20 October 1896 and is buried in Warrnambool in an old family grave with Great-grandfather Donald, Grandfather Donald and other family members. The Macdonald 'Family Bible' was commenced from this marriage.

Again little is known of his life, apart from his obituary's wordings (sudden death accounts for inquest) as below:

***The Age* (Melbourne)
Tuesday, 11 August 1908:**

WARRNAMBOOL.

Mr. Donald MacDonald, an old resident of South Warrnambool, died suddenly on Saturday. Deceased had been employed in several important local public works, and for a considerable time by the town council. He was a widower. 74 years of age, and had resided here for 45 years.

***The Argus* (Melbourne)
Wednesday, 12 August 1908:**

WARRNAMBOOL

An old identity of the town Mr Donald MacDonald, died suddenly on Saturday. He had spent the previous night dining at the house of friends and was apparently in his usual health. On the following day, however he was found dead on the floor of a room in the house in which he resided. He was 74 years of age.

William Donald McDonald



*Grandpa, William Donald
McDonald (1880-1947)*

Grandpa, William Donald was the fourth of seven children to be born in Australia. With this generation came the name change spelling from Mac to Mc. He lived in South Warrnambool and attended the South Warrnambool State School No.1902. He excelled in schoolwork and went on to attend the Jamieson Street School. In later life he was to become Chairman of the South State School. A 'treasure' in the WFHG archives is a photo of the South State School presented to him in appreciation.

Grandpa married Mary Evelyn Windsor, a Tailoress, born in Bushfield, Vic in Warrnambool on 21 Feb 1900. They had 12 children, seven born pre WW1, aged one to fourteen and five after. Grandma had a wonderful constitution



The framed presentation photograph

to rear the seven children alone whilst Pa was overseas at war. Three of their daughters passed with TB aged in their twenties in 1926, 1927 and 1933.

They lived at 9 Stephens Street, South Warrnambool in the original timber family home and it was replaced with a brick dwelling in 1941.

He followed the family tradition of Tailoring and had a business in Liebig Street, Warrnambool. This was closed

in 1914 prior to him enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force – Private McDonald No. 3403, 14 Battalion (11 Reinforcement Group), 1915 – 1918. His life was to become totally different on returning home with war disabilities and from the horrors experienced.

His extensive handwritten diaries are housed at the WFHG, along with the Ancient Order of Foresters Ledger/Cash Book of which he was a member and Chief Ranger (Court Warrnambool). His handwriting was renowned and he used to inscribe prizes for schools and clubs in the district. He worked for the City Council and Gas Works from returning from WW1 to his retirement in 1945.

To add to his accomplishments for self and community he was involved in the Scottish Pipe Bands, playing locally and overseas during WW1. He was Secretary and Treasurer for the Warrnambool and North Warrnambool Rifle Clubs and the South Warrnambool Football Club.

He was extensively involved in the Presbyterian Church, an elder at St. Johns, Warrnambool and on the committee at the South Warrnambool Presbyterian Church.

Also a lay preacher he



Back (L-R): Marion, Goldie, Trixie O, Grandma, Shirley (not yet born), Goog, Bill

Centre: Merna, Eva, Mavis, Ivy, Ina, Alma Front: Touk (Stuart), Pa

wrote and gave many a sermon, one of which is transcribed below.

Grandpa passed 17 Feb 1947 and Grandma 14 Oct 1966. They are buried in Warrnambool in the new family grave, along with other family members.

Conclusion: The Macdonald ancestors were banished from their homeland by the HIES scheme and would be proud that their heritage is being upheld, written about to be passed to future generations.

As always, research is a 'Work in Progress' and new information has come to light about another sibling to G-G Donald. We know there was a younger brother Duncan, and it will be exciting to follow this new lead, which was sourced by a cousin who went to Armadale Castle on Skye, the seat of Clan Donald.

Further research will be continued to find what happened to Mary Bethune (refer pp1) after her arrival in Portland Bay with G-G Donald in 1854.

There is a postscript to Part 1, published in last issue where a comment was made *..'emigrated and it seems that they came for "the Gold".'* This, the family has discovered has more connotations than 'digging for gold', which they didn't do, but the 'whispers' say that some of the Macdonald ladies travelled to the goldfields

Here ends this story of A New Life – at least for the moment.

- **Note:** Shirley (McDonald) Goldstraw, Grandma and Grandpa's remaining child, celebrated her 90th birthday in October 2015. This story is dedicated

"Helping one another

"This subject is one in which we must all take part in whether we do it willingly or unwillingly & after time unconsciously.

"We cannot live without the help of others. It is part of Gods plan. God in his wish from the time of Adam when Eve was given as an helpmate for him & so we find it right down to the present time that we cannot live without help.

"It does not matter what a person possesses whether rich or poor, strong or weak, the brave man or the coward; he still must have the help of his fellow creatures.

"If you even take the extreme case of a man possessing all the wealth of the world he would very soon die of starvation if he did not receive help, because his money would love his values.

"Take a miser for example a man who thinks he possesses enough wealth to live without others what a miserable existence it is which eats the very life out of him and so it is right through life as soon as one starts to be come selfish he begins to lower himself"

* & equals &

to her and the Macdonald/McDonald families past, present and future. Be proud, don't lose your heritage.

William McDonald's Sermon

Excerpt from Sermon written by William Donald (Dinny) McDonald – Lay Preacher. Year unknown. Written in indelible pencil. Possibly preached at St Johns Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder, or the South Warrnambool Presbyterian Church, of which Dinny was a member, caretaker & treasurer of the management committee.

Permission kindly given by his remaining daughter, Shirley Goldstraw to be transcribed by Maryanne McDonald.

The original document kept in the McDonald Family Bible..... 🌳

ANZAC Avenue Wyong and ANZAC Road Tuggerah

These two streets in our Shire were officially named on 12 August 1916 and 26 August 1916 respectively. They were named in honour of the men who went to the Great War. Each street was planted with trees, generally by family members of those who went to the war.

In recognition of the naming of the streets in August 1916 our Group will be holding a plaque unveiling on the same date, a centenary on from each event, to further honour the memory of Wyong's and Tuggerah's brave men.

The ANZAC Avenue plaque will be unveiled in Frank Balance Park and the Tuggerah plaque will be unveiled in the grounds of Tuggerah Hall..... 🌳

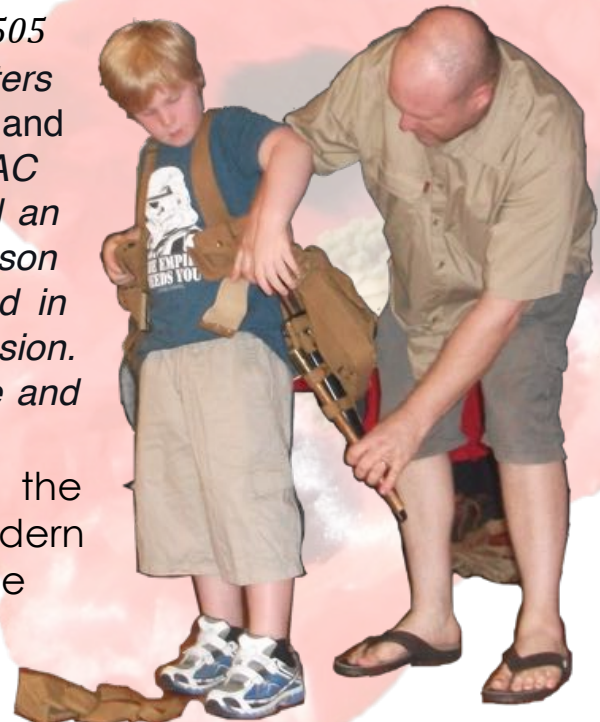
A Little About Shane Blackman.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Shane Blackman was one of the presenters at 'The Our ANZAC Heritage Conflict and Compassion' to mark the Centenary of ANZAC

Harry and I found him very informed and an interesting speaker ably assisted by his son Ollie. I thought readers might be interested in learning a little about Shane and his passion. Shortly after the seminar I contacted Shane and he sent me the following:

'I have always been interested in the military, and in history. High school modern history and numerous visits to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra solidified this interest into a little bit of




an obsession. My cupboards started to fill with books and videos on Australia at war, mainly WW1.

'I was about 38 when I stumbled upon a family tree researched and written by a distant relative in the UK. I realised there was so much military history in my blood. From the Boer War, through WW1 and WW2, my relatives had served. From Grandfathers and Great Grandfathers, Great-Great Uncles and Cousins of all connections, there were a total of 9 who served Australia in her Armed Forces. The reason that I hadn't already known this was that my Grandfather and Great Grandfather were not big talkers, and also fairly hard men. Their stories were rarely told, and if they were, they were even more rarely passed on. *(A common thread with many returned service personnel, even today. ed.)*

'In finding this new personal connection to an era that I was already very interested in, the interest grew into a passion. I started collecting small items to help teach my children (now 16, 13 and 8) of their own past. The collection grew; I started taking items to my children's scouts, guides and school classes to help teach others. Over the past 4 years things have really grown into a display that I take to local schools, businesses and libraries that includes mannequins, trenches and many small and large items from the world wars.

'My focus now is ensuring the lives and lessons of the WW1 diggers and nurses are not lost, but passed on. I strive to make the stories of the lives of great men and women brought to life through interactive talks and discussions. Because they have looked after our family in the past, we have chosen Legacy as the main recipient of any fundraising we do, although we do on occasion assist the RSL with their fundraising as well.'

I think this sheds a little light on who Shane is and why he does what he does.....



Memorials

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

The Remembrance Driveway starts in Macquarie Place, Sydney, and follows the 320 km Hume Highway and Federal Highway between Sydney, the state capital of New South Wales, and Canberra, the national capital, where it ends at Remembrance Park behind the Australian War Memorial.

The Remembrance Driveway was instituted in 1954 when Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh marked the beginning of the Driveway by planting two (London) plane trees in Macquarie Place.

The Victoria Cross rest areas and memorial parks sited along the

Their War

They are remembered

PARTRIDGE VC REST AREA

P 500m ON LEFT

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

The Story of Two War Heroes

Jean Macleay, member 359

*If you drive down the Hume Highway, you will have of course, noticed that the rest areas are named after our Victoria Cross awardees. The first one on the left if you are travelling south out of Sydney is named after **Frank Partridge**. We always have a cup of coffee here because it is half way between our home on the Central Coast and our daughter's at Huskisson. If you are old enough you will remember Frank as a Bob Dyer quiz whiz.*

His sad story is recounted on the Australian War Memorial web site as quoted below:

Private Frank John Partridge, VC (1924-1964)



"Having left school at 13 to work on the family farm near Macksville, New South Wales, Frank Partridge was called up for full-time army duty when he turned 18. He was posted to the 8th Battalion, a militia unit. The battalion moved to Lae New Guinea, in May 1944, and from June 1945 operated in northern Bougainville.

"On 24 July 1945 Partridge's unit came under heavy Japanese machine-gun, grenade and rifle fire, he was badly wounded. Ignoring his injuries, he snatched up a bren gun from alongside a dead gunner and challenged the enemy to come out and fight. He next rushed the nearest enemy bunker while armed with grenades and his knife, he killed the occupants. Finally, he attacked a second bunker until loss of blood stopped him. He 'inspired his comrades to heroic action' and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

"After the war Partridge went to London as a member of the Australian Victory Contingent, then settled back to life on the farm, living quietly with his father. In the evenings, to overcome his lack of education, he avidly read the Encyclopaedia Britannica by lamplight.

"In 1962 Partridge first appeared on Bob Dyer's television quiz show, Pick-a-box. He was an outstanding success and won many prizes, including electrical goods that were useless for his frugal lifestyle. Despite his natural modesty, and his slow bush speech, he soon became a national celebrity. Brave, intelligent and with a retentive memory, Partridge also had strong political views. In 1963 he

unsuccessfully sought Country Party pre-selection for the House of Representatives. He also married that year.

"Partridge's public successes did not bring happiness and his life lost the simplicity that he had previously known. His personal situation was overtaken by tragedy when, on 23 March 1964, he was killed in a motorcar accident."

I also found a rest area on the left a bit out of Goulburn called the Albert Chowne VC rest area. This was really worth looking into as my paternal great grandmother's maiden name was Chowne. This research showed that Albert Chowne was my 3rd cousin and brought forth a story worth telling.

The Chownes

The Chownes were ship builders at Rotherhithe in England, came to Sydney in 1839 and set up a ship building yard at Pyrmont. The family later set up another yard on the Clarence River.

John Frederick Small was a pioneer on the Clarence River, prosperous and fat. In August 1848, at the age of 27 he married Matilda Chowne then 31 years old. She died very shortly after the birth of her fourth child Frederick Small in October 1860. (Poor Matilda would have been 45 when she had Frederick). I can just imagine (cruelly perhaps) old John asking the Chownes whether they had an eligible lady to help him with his young family including his infant baby. Sure



Louisa Henrietta Small nee Chowne (31)

enough the records show he married Louisa Henrietta Chowne in November 1861. She was age 20 and the niece of Matilda.

Louisa had 9 children, the eldest of whom was my grandfather Henry Edward Small. Her brother Thomas William is Albert Chowne's great-grandfather making Albert my great-grandmother's great-grand-nephew and, as I said, my 3rd cousin. How complicated.

Like Frank Partridge, Albert's war record shows great gallantry. The AWM recounts his deed on line:

Albert Chowne's Story From Australian War Memorial:

Lieutenant Albert Edward Chowne VC

"Bert Chowne (1924-1945) was born in Sydney. He started work as a shirt cutter at David Jones but on enlistment in May 1940 described himself as a salesman. He served with the 2/13th Battalion during the siege of Tobruk, at El Alemain and later in the New Guinea campaign in which as a sergeant in 1943 he received the Military Medal. After being commissioned in 1944 he joined the 2/2nd Battalion, where he quickly became known as a fearless young leader.

"Chowne's Victoria Cross was the first awarded to a member of the veteran 6th Division. After 5 and a half years of war on the 25th March 1945, in the hills south-west of Dagua, Chowne rushed the Japanese held knoll, running up a steep narrow track he hurled grenades which knocked out two enemy machine guns. Calling on his men to follow him and firing his machine gun from the hip, although mortally wounded in the chest, Chowne pressed on reaching the enemy's foxholes and accounting for two more Japanese before he died."

Albert Chowne married Daphne May Barton in Sydney in 1944, presumably when he was home on leave before being sent to New Guinea. Sadly, they can't have had much time together and no children were born from their union.....🌳



STATE RECORDS BUS TRIP

Our first trip to State Records for 2016 will be on Saturday 2nd April. Cost is \$25 per head.

There will be 3 pickup points: Toukley shops leaving at 7:20am **SHARP**, Wyong Leagues Club at approx 7:30 and Tuggerah at approximately 7:50am (members going on the trip will be contacted approximately 1 week prior to the trip to confirm exact pick-up times and places).

For those members wishing to go on the trip you can book online at www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au or at The Cottage in person or by phone (4351 2211), please arrange to pay prior to the trip.

If time permits, there will be a comfort stop at McDonalds, St Marys.

REMINDER - State Records is out of the way and there are no shop facilities. It will be necessary to bring your lunch. There is a lunchroom available with a microwave oven, refrigerator and tea/coffee making equipment. Lockers are also available for bags etc.

PLEASE NOTE.....IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT

A reader's ticket is necessary and free, and can be organised online at www.records.nsw.gov.au; It will be waiting for you when you arrive. If you wish to speak to staff at State Records prior to this trip the phone number is 02 9673 1788.

Bags are not allowed in the reading room, but you can take in a folder with research tasks etc. You are only allowed to use pencils in the research room. If you require paper records such as wills, insolvency records, school records etc it is a good idea to pre-order these documents so they will be available when you arrive, saving you some waiting time. Up to four (4) items can be pre-ordered. You will find the reference numbers and the two (2) pre-order forms on the website. Remember any item that has a REEL NUMBER does not have to be ordered as reels are stored along the wall and are easily accessed.

There are various ways of obtaining copies of your information:-

1. Using the microfilm reader/printers for photocopies - you will need \$1 and \$2 coins to use these machines (\$1 for A4 and \$2 for A3). Bring a supply of coins.
2. You can download copies from the digital copiers for microfilm for free, using your own memory stick.
3. You are also welcome to bring a digital camera to photograph original records. State records also have a digital camera that you can use for photographing original documents in the reading room, and again images are downloaded to your memory stick.
4. The staff will photocopy any paper documents at a cost of 45 cents per A4 page and will endeavour to have them ready for when you leave.
5. The bus will leave State Records no later than 4PM.

DONT MISS THE SPECIAL STATE RECORDS TRAINING SESSION ON 21ST MARCH
(see website for details)



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

BEGINNING

WYONG FAMILY



HISTORY GROUP INC.

YOUR FAMILY HISTORY



6 WEEKS COURSE:

- GETTING STARTED
- AUSTRALIAN RECORDS
- SHIPPING RECORDS
- CONVICT RECORDS
- GROUP RESOURCES
- FAMILY HISTORY WEB SITES

Begins :-

Friday 1st April 2016 -then each Friday-6th May 2016

Venue-Wyong Family History Group's Cottage

6 Rankens Court Wyong [entrance via the old Wyong School grounds]

Time- 9-45 am - 12 noon

Cost: Members \$10 per session or \$55 for six weeks paid in advance.

Non Members \$15 per session or \$60 for six weeks paid in advance

Contact WFHG. Cottage - 43-512211-for Bookings

CONVICT INTERESTS

Convicts being researched by Beryl Watson member 46

CONVICT	Arrived	Ship	Birthplace
Agnew , Henry	1837	St. Vincent	Ireland
Agnew , James	1837	St. Vincent	Ireland
Ashford , John	1840	Maitland	England
Anderson , John O'Neil	1835	Susan	Ireland
Billingsley , Wm.	1846	Phoenix	Ireland
Bellamy , Wm.	1791	Active	England
Bragg , Wm.	1819	Baring	England
Buckley , James	1818	Morley 2	England
Buckley , Mary	1818	Maria	England
Bishop , Michael	1833	Heroine	England
Callaghan , Frances Mary	1829	Sovereign	England
Chapman , Susannah	1803	Glatton	England
Clack , Henry & Wm.	1811	Admiral Gambier	England
Fay , Ann	1796	Marquis Cornwallis	Ireland
Garnay , Henri	1860s	Sunshine	France
Goldsmith , Elizabeth	1790	Lady Juliana	England
Gough , James	1813	Earl Spencer	England
James , Robert	1824	Countess Harcourt	Scotland
Kensey , Caroline	1827	Harmony	England
Mitchell , Elizabeth Sarah	1788	Charlotte	England
Murray , John	1849	Havering	Ireland
Melville , Robert	1803	Glatton	England
Palmer , Wm.	1835	Henry Porcher	England
Power , John	1822	Prince of Orange ?	Ireland
Pendergast , John	1800	Minerva	Ireland
Parker , Mary	1788	Lady Penryhn	England
Rayner , Wm	1790	Scarborough	England
Reed , Patrick	1818	Guildford 3	Ireland
Rumsby , Ann	1822	Mary Ann	England
Searle , Robert	1833	Neva	England
Small , John	1788	Alexander	England
Williams , Jane	1801	Nile	England

Above is a list of the convicts that are ancestors of my extended family; three adopted children, three sons-in-law my husband and myself..... 🌳

Australian Convict Interest Group

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

June Johnston

Convict Interest Group..... 

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	No	Member
760	Lorna Hird	765	Mavis Sailsbury
761	Lynette Bradley	766	Allison Dougherty
762	Patricia Webb	767	Louise Salter
763	Bobbie Saler	768	Lynette Hagstrom
764	Malcolm McKissock		

A Timely 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.

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

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

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




WFHG Inc **Planned Events**

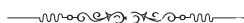
- **Note:** Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, workshops and mini sessions are at 'The Cottage'.

	2016	Event
February	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10:00 am.
	Tue 9	Google Mini Session 10:00 – 11:00 am. Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
	Wed 10	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 – 3:00 pm
	Sat 13	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Sat 20	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon Facebook Beginners Workshop 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
	Tue 23	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Wed 24	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
March	Tue 1	Committee Meeting 10:00 am.
	Tue 8	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
	Wed 9	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Thu 10	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 – 3:00 pm
	Sat 12	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Wed 16	Setting up a Web Site Mini Session 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Sat 19	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon Computer/Tablet Int. Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Mon 21	State Records Training Session
	Tue 22	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Wed 23	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Fri 25 – Mon 28: Cottage Closed for Easter	
	Tue 29	Committee Meeting for April 10:00 am.
April	Friday 1 – Sunday 10 Seniors Week	
	Fri 1	Beginners Course Day 1 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Sat 2	State Records Bus Trip
	Fri 8	Beginners Course Day 2 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Sat 9	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Tue 12	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
	Wed 13	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 – 3:00 pm
	Fri 15	Beginners Course Day 3 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Sat 16	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon


2016	Event
Saturday 16 April – Sunday 29 May	
National Trust Heritage Festival – Discovery and Rediscoveries.	
Wed 20	Closing date for “Tree of Life” copy
Fri 22	Beginners Course Day 4 10:00 am – 12 noon.
Sat 23	Facebook Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon
Sun 24	Jilliby Cemetery Tour
Mon 25	ANZAC Day
Tue 26	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
Wed 27	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
Fri 29	Beginners Course Day 5 10:00 am – 12 noon.
Sat 30	National Trust Heritage Festival continues.

Heritage Month

April this year is Heritage Month and the Group have decided to have a walking tour of Jilliby Cemetery where we will point out the graves of some of Wyong's notable citizens from the past as well as a few less notable citizens who have contributed to Wyong's development. Also, in a further remembrance of WW1 the graves of men who served in the Great War and who are buried at Jilliby will also be recognised. Keep an eye on the Events page on our website for date and times.....




Wyong

Many Australian place names based on indigenous words include a reference to water. Wyong is no exception meaning either 'an edible yam' or 'place of running water'.....

The Treasure of Love

Turn ye, Jessie, hither turn,
Treat my love no more with scorn;
In this honeysuckle grove
Let us sit and sing of love.

Charles Spence (1779-1869).....

Publications For Sale

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

BOOKS & CDs

Brought in by the Tide. <i>[A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]</i>	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour. <i>[Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs.]</i>	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
NEW! Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book	\$ 8.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay [Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011]	CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1985 – 2013	Book	\$ 35.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong & District Pioneer Register (Published 2013) <i>[673 pages. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.]</i>	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices (1932 – 1995) <i>(available separately- see below)</i>	Two Volume set Book	\$ 48.00 + p&h
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 Volume 1	\$ 28.00 + p&h
Contents Volume Two - 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices, includes Church and cemetery photographs	Book Volume 2	\$ 28.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 38.00 + p&h
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area <i>[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.]</i>	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 40.00 + p&h

CEMETERY

Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
All 4 Cemetery Books		\$ 50.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries	CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery <i>[30,000 names, not all from Wyong]</i>	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Gravediggers Index of Wyong Shire, Compiled by Mr A V McKenzie & his son Clive. <i>[Gravediggers' records, up to mid 2008 of Wyong Shire cemeteries.]</i>	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Genealogy Recorder		\$ 10.00 + p&h

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Research Centre

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

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

Tuggerah Library, Westfield: Workshop 3rd Saturday 9.00am – 12 noon
(WFHG members available to help)

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: (02) 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

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

WFHG thanks Ms Karen McNamara MP, for her assistance in the production of this issue of the Tree of Life.

The Fine Print

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Remember, 20 April 2016 is the closing date for items to be included in the next issue of the "Tree of Life".



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.

FAMILY HISTORY TRACING SERVICE

Australian, International or Local Research

Trace your Ancestors and Discover their Past

Also available

Church & Headstone Photos in Wyong & District

Enquiries to: The Secretary, WFHG Inc.

P O Box 247 Wyong, NSW, Australia, 2259

Email: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au