



# Tree of Life

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Member 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 bi-monthly between February and October, 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 10:00am and 3:00pm.

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

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### Office Bearers 2016 – 2017

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President:	Kerrie Metcalfe, <a href="mailto:kerriem17@bigpond.com">kerriem17@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary:	Kerry Clarke, <a href="mailto:secwfhg2@westnet.com.au">secwfhg2@westnet.com.au</a>
Vice-President:	Roger Lewis
Treasurer:	Michele Gane
Management Committee:	All the above executive plus Wayne Dean, Martin Fisher, Dellas Johnston, Jean Macleay, Pam Mansergh, John Selwood.
Assets Manager & Computer Administrator:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisors	Niel and Julie Nielsen
Course Co-Ordinator	Trish McDonald
Convict Group Co-ordinator:	June Johnston
Cottage Co-ordinators	Tuesday: Marilyn Cridland Wednesday: Trish McDonald Thursday: Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster:	Ann Cooke
eBranch Editor:	Kate Walter
English Group Organiser:	Helen Burkett
Family Tree Maker Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Martin Fisher
Fund Raising:	Vacant
Grant Applications:	Douglas Thomas
Guest Speaker:	Jean Macleay
Information Sessions	Organised by the Committee
iPad/Tablet Interest Group Co-Ordinators:	Roger Lewis
Journal Snippets:	Lynda Smith and Meg Gibson
LDS Film Orders	Marilyn Cridland
Librarian:	Glenise Clery
Librarian Assistant:	Dellas Johnston
Membership Secretary	Pam Mansergh
Minute Secretary	Glenise Clery
Project Coordinator:	John Selwood
Public Officer:	Kerry Clarke
Publications (Books & CDs) Printing	Roger Lewis
Publicity Officer:	Lorraine Cameron
Raffles:	Eileen Wheway
Research Officer:	Robin Wright
Scottish & Irish Group Organiser:	Gwen Bates
Scrapbook (Photos)	Helen Hord
Seminar & Events Organisers	Committee Members
Tree of Life Editor:	Helen Johnston-Lord, <a href="mailto:heloora6@bigpond.com">heloora6@bigpond.com</a>

Tuggerah Library 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month:  
Volunteers' Representative  
Webmaster:  
Webpage Editor  
Word Interest Group

Annette Shearer & Christine Randall  
Helen Burkett  
Kate Walter  
Kerry Clarke  
Helen Johnston-Lord

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



## *from the President*

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

May already and winter is creeping up with a chill already in the air after a very hot summer, keeping warm staying indoors and

family history research seems to be a good idea to pass the next couple of months before we can again enjoy the outdoors. It's a good time to come down to the Cottage and catch up, check out any new resources you have not looked at yet, prepare yourself before you come by looking at our resource list on our website

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

As I cast my thoughts back over the past few months I can only say things are going well for the group in most aspects. However our plea for volunteer help in running the group seems to fall on deaf ears. I do thank those who have come forward and welcome Julie and Niel Nielsen to the position of bookstore organisers, Carmel Peak to be Trip organiser and a big thank you to Susan Wards who is now helping out with the website. As the AGM draws closer think about joining our committee and learn more about how things really work behind the scenes.

If you are coming to brick walls it would seem you have done a good bit of research so consider passing your knowledge on by coming on our duty roster. This may even help you break through your brick wall.

We have had some interesting Information sessions with more to come, attendance is important so we can continue to have them any suggestions are welcome. Also a great job is done by those who moderate our Special Interest Groups.

Show them appreciation by attending.

Our first DNA discussion group was amazing. So well attended showing the huge interest in DNA for family history, many of us find it daunting but as we hear more we learn more therefore I am pleased to say a bi-monthly interest group is beginning in June moderated by Stuart Purvis-Smith who has knowledge of DNA but is interested in how it works for family history. This group will be based on sharing knowledge as we get it. We also have Kerry Farmer coming, she has been a speaker on DNA for family history for many years, this day is not to be missed. We have booked Tuggerah hall for the occasion so mark your diary and book in for the 2 July and yes it's a Sunday but hall hire dictated the time.

It was with pleasure we attended the LDS centre at Gosford for a day of family history sharing thanks to Kate Walter for inviting us to show what our group has to offer and to Robin Wright, Trish MacDonald and Roger Lewis for their help on the day. The State Records Kingswood trip was once again a welcomed trip for those who attended. And we have welcomed some good guest speakers at our General Meetings.

Coming up is our Beginners Course so I wish everyone every success in this four week course and hope it helps you start a fascinating hobby or help you to advance in what you have started.

That about wraps the past couple of months up, however I finish with a sad note in remembering our much loved Esther Dean who lost her battle with cancer in April, how missed she is....🌳





## from the Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

I would like to say a big Thank You for all who are sharing their stories in this issue. At this time of the year stories with a connection to Anzacs are featured.

We too were saddened by the news of Esther's death, a very willing worker missed by all.

One of the advantages of being retired is being able to volunteer. Whilst my mobility is not that good, I find my involvement with our Group rewarding.

Harry and I attend the DNA Information Session and are keen to attend the day at the Tuggerah Hall. We also attended the April General Meeting where Mark Bundy from Rookwood Cemetery gave another informative talk, answering lots of questions.

Family commitments mean we are not always able to join these meetings, when we can, they always add to our information base.

The recent Autumn weather has given me an opportunity to indulge in photography, it is amazing what lurks in our garden.



Remember, your stories help to make our publication interesting and the deadline for the next *Tree of Life* is 20 July 2017.... 🌳

## VALÉ ESTHER MARY DEAN - 1936-2017.

Lynda Smith, LM 2

Esther Mary DEAN, nee HILL was born on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1936 in Scone, NSW. She was the oldest of three children to Jim HILL and his wife Muriel. Jim worked as a carpenter and coffin maker. The family moved to Merrylands in Sydney when Esther was young. She attended Merrylands Primary School and later concluded her education at Parramatta Girls High.

Esther gained employment as a stenographer at the Building Worker's Union in Sydney. She also joined a tennis club where she met her future husband, Denis DEAN. They married some years later, at Sydney Anglican Church, in June 1959 and Denis often comments that Esther really was a beautiful June bride.

Esther and Denis moved to Balmoral on Lake Macquarie and purchased a block of land for 90 pounds. They built a large garage to live in. Esther worked at the Rathmines Flying Boat Base for a time.

Their son David was born in 1962 and Stuart followed in 1964. The family decided to move to Corryong in Victoria and Denis took up work as a welding inspector for the Snowy Mountains Authority. They also spent time in Khancoban and Talbingo before Denis accepted a job at Liddell Power Station near Muswellbrook.

Eventually, the family settled in Mannering Park and Denis continued his work at various power stations while Esther cared for the boys and their home. Esther became very involved in the school P&C Association and helped in the school library. In 1975, member Jan Barrett met Esther when they both attended a



meeting about the new Gorokan High School. Both became foundation members of the P&C, Esther as Secretary and Jan as Treasurer. Later, they both worked in the school canteen as well and became firm friends. Esther was made a Life Member of the P&C Association for her many years of service to school communities. Esther was also involved with the local Scouts and Sailing Club, supporting her sons.

Denis is a very active Masonic Lodge member and Esther supported him in this activity. Esther was heavily involved in fundraising for charities supported by the Masons and she assisted in many social events such as debutante balls, Grand Lodge meetings and other Church Women's Fellowship activities. Esther became a founding member of the Board of Management of the Lake Haven Masonic Village and held this position for more than ten years.

From 1997 to 2000 Esther and Denis were two of the 500 Pioneer Volunteers helping to set up the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, something they really enjoyed.



In 1997, Esther joined our group and became member 23 and her dear friend Jan joined a year later. Esther had great passion for genealogy and was happy to share her skills and knowledge. Within a year she had joined the Management Committee and became Secretary in 2000. Esther held this important position until 2006 and again in 2011. She also acted as Minutes Secretary for many years. One of the most important jobs Esther took on was that of Fundraising Coordinator. She was responsible for organising many Bunnings Barbecues, and our participation in the annual Rotary raffle. Funds from these activities paid for our rent and insurance

each year. Esther also became the group's Public Officer in 2007.

As Esther's research continued, she discovered that one of her ancestors was a convict, John Fibbens/Fibbins, who arrived in 1826 per *Marquis of Hastings*. Esther thoroughly researched John and was fond of dressing up as him for various group events. She became an inaugural member of our Convict Interest group in 2006 and later founded our English/Welsh Interest group. Esther happily shared her knowledge with others in many ways. She was a popular presenter in our regular "Exploring Family History" classes, did talks for community groups and volunteered as a research helper at Tuggerah Library one Saturday a month.



Member John Selwood made a wonderful speech at Esther's funeral. He recalled meeting Esther for the first time when she came to his Primary School in 2001. Esther and her dear friends, Jan Barrett and Keith Shakespeare manned a family history table at an expo being held there. John joined our group as a result of this meeting. Esther's quiet, motherly nature and her passion for helping others endeared her to all our members. Many saw her as our fairy godmother. Esther became a research assistant at the Cottage and she frequently helped





members and visitors break down brick walls in their family history. Esther was one of a team who helped transcribe our Wyong Courthouse Records book, our Cemetery books and our Simplicity Funeral Records books. Esther also organised our field trips to places like State Archives [Kingswood] and Rookwood Cemetery from 2005-2012. As a result of her dedication, hard work and many achievements, Esther was awarded WFHG Life Membership on September 13 2007.

We all became familiar with Esther's cousin Marie, who lived in Toowoomba. Marie was an experienced researcher and we soon exchanged journals with her FH group. Esther would also pass on hints and resources that Marie recommended. Marie and Esther joined forces to research their common ancestor, John Fibbens/Fibbins. Denis would often accompany Esther to our meetings and social events. His skill as a photographer was frequently put to good use. One Christmas party, Esther was part of a skit and she created a very memorable old granny character, shuffling along with a walking frame. She wore a dowdy dress complete with no dentures or foundation garments. It was another example of Esther's attention to detail.

In 2016, Jan Barrett contacted local MP David Harris. She felt that Esther's many years of community service should be publically acknowledged. Davis agreed and he presented Esther with a Certificate that recognises her tireless commitment to many and varied community groups for over 40 years.



Our beautiful Esther was diagnosed with cancer some years ago. She fought bravely for a long time and was an inspiration to us all. I recall a conversation I had with her only a couple of weeks before she passed. She rang me to tell me that she had enjoyed an article I had written for this journal. In it, I had mentioned a newly found connection to someone who worked around Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley. Her John Fibbens/Fibbins had spent time in the same area at the same time and we imagined that he could have known my people. It was lovely to chat with her.

Esther and Denis were the proud grandparents of T'keyah, Connah, Masen, Blake and Jack and great grand daughter Zara.

Denis cared for Esther at home until her last few days. He commented to me at the funeral that their daughter-in-law Jodie's help had been invaluable. Esther and Denis' many friends also rallied around and helped with practical matters. Esther's funeral was held in the Masonic rooms at North Wyong . Bowden Family Funerals officiated and it was a beautiful service. Well over one hundred people attended. There was standing room only, with many listening from outside. A good friend of Denis', Ken Hitchcock, gave a lovely eulogy and member John Selwood also had wonderful things to say about Esther on behalf of our group. I have included many of their thoughts in this article.

You will be sorely missed, beautiful Esther!

Thank you Ken Hitchcock, John Selwood and Janice Barrett for your assistance in producing this article LS... 🌿



*Life Members, Lynda Smith, Marilyn Cridland, Jan Barrett, Esther Dean and Pat.*

# LOVE LANES IN WYONG TOWN CENTRE

*Kerrie Metcalfe, member 80, LM*

*A very hot affair at the Wyong Love Lanes festival.*

Our group took part in the inaugural Love Lanes Festival at Wyong today in extreme temperatures. We proudly showed the public what we are about, and I was amazed at the crowds who braved the heatwave conditions and came out to bring Wyong alive with people, colour, music, history and food. Well done, and a big thank you to our members who worked in extreme conditions. .... 🌳



## A HUGE THANK YOU

*Helen Burkett, member 342.*

A huge thank you to our member Wayne Bermingham for restoring the one and only photo I have of my great grandfather Hartwig. Wayne's offer to restore photos for members is a very generous one as I know it takes quite a deal of time. The photo was taken on the occasion of the Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1924 of my great grandparents August & Eleanore. August contracted influenza and pneumonia only days later and died very soon afterwards. The photo was found wedged behind the linen cupboard of my mother's house when it was demolished in Adelaide and the new owner had the great kindness to track me down and send it to me..... 🌳



### **Australian Convict Interest Group**

**Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am to 12 noon. 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..... 🌳**



## TWINS IN THE FAMILY

Lynda Smith nee PRENTICE. LM 2

I know I am talking to fellow genealogy tragics when I describe the reactions of all of my children when I start to talk about an ancestor's daring deeds. Their eyes roll and the mumbling begins, followed by excuses to leave or requests to change the subject. It is most disconcerting! One night in June last year, our youngest son Luke and his new bride Belle [nee WASSON] called to ask if they could 'pop over'. They live ten minutes away. After some general chat, the big announcement was made – "We are pregnant!" This was rapidly followed by the extra detail of – with TWINS! My husband quickly congratulated them both. My first response was, "I bet they are boys. Twin boys seem to run in the family." My son's surprised reply was, "Why didn't I know this?"

Of course, he had not listened when I had mentioned any of my research finds. Belle was interested, as both her parents were adopted and she knows little of their genealogy. I had grown up hearing family stories from both my parents. My father [Alan Roy Stewart PRENTICE b 1927 NZ] had identical twin uncles, Ray and Roy. In fact, he was named after his Uncle Roy. This is the only photo I have of my Dad's grandmother Ivy and some of his aunts and uncles, taken in the 1950s. All were living in New Zealand at this time and this was taken when my grandparents visited their home town of Wellington NZ.

My mother [Cecily PRENTICE nee FOX] had told me the story of her lost little brothers. When she was three [in 1930], my mother was run over by a car when she was crossing a road with my grandmother Alice [FOX nee SMALLHORN]. Her feet were damaged, but otherwise she was unharmed. However, the shock of the accident caused my grandmother to miscarry. At this time, such mid-term babies did not get birth or death certificates, so they were not named.

This same grandmother [Alice] told me the story of her baby brothers who died as infants. Charles Chenhall and Harold Rossiter SMALLHORN were born to Samuel A SMALLHORN and his wife Charlotte nee HILLIARD on May 15 1901 at home in Paddington. They had birth and death certificates and newspaper notices marking their short existence. Sadly, they were born prematurely and each only lived a few weeks. Their second names came from the surnames of their birth attendants. I have not found any photos of these babes and no-one can recall if they were identical or fraternal twins.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 11 June 1901, page 1**

**"SMALLHORN.-May 15, at her residence, Beltana, 11Walter-street, Paddington, the wife of S. A. Smallhorn, of twin sons (prematurely), Charles Chenhall and Harold Rossiter, survived 18 and 24 days respectively. Two buds in heaven." [Trove]**

This same great grandmother Charlotte [Mrs S.A SMALLHORN] had seven brothers, including twin brothers, Sydney Edward and Alpha Ernest HILLIARD, born 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1860. Alpha then went on to have his own set of twins, but he broke the pattern by having a girl, Nellie and a boy, Gilbert.

My great grandfather Sam was one of seventeen children, all single births, but the earliest twins I have found on this line date back to 1771 in England. James and John SMALLHORN were baptised on 15 January in London, children of Samuel and Barbara.





These guys were younger brothers of another Samuel, born 1761, who is my direct line ancestor.

On my other grandmother's side, Nita PRENTICE nee GREEN, had identical twin boy cousins who lived in the Tweed Heads area. They were famous for boat building and competitive rowing. They became life members of TH Rowing and Aquatic Club. Henry [Harry] and Augustus [Gus] were born 4 January 1889. They were the children of Richard W [Dick] and Lydia GREEN. Dick was the eldest in the family of Richard Augustus Willoughby GREEN and Frances JOHNSON. My grandmother Nita, is the daughter of Augustus Stuart [Gus] Green, who was born in 1872, the 8<sup>th</sup> child of RAW GREEN'S family. She told me stories about her family's long connection to rowing. She was very proud of her cousin's achievements Both Gus and Harry died in 1971 at Tweed Heads Hospital, both as a result of strokes. They died within 48 hours of each other. [details from a newspaper article "Row Twins Die"- unknown date and publication, clipped and kept by a relative at the time].

**"Death of twins: Members of top rowing family Twin brothers from one of the world's great rowing families died within two days of each other this week in adjoining wards of Tweed District Hospital. "Gus and Harry Green both of Tweed Heads inseparable through most of their lives were 82. Mr. "Gus" Green died following a stroke on Sunday and Mr. Harry Green died yesterday afternoon, also from a stroke. Mr. "Gus" was for more than 20 years Australia's top eights, fours and single sculls builder with a business in Sydney until he retired about 20 years ago to Tweed Heads. He used only cedar for the fine finish of his famous boats. Almost all Australian champions and crews rowed in the boats, including Merv Woods and Bobby Pearce. Mr. Harry Green was Australian champion sculler in 1912 and New South Wales sculls champion, a**

**member of the NSW fours and eights crews the year after. He was a founder of the Tweed Heads- Coolangatta Rowing Club. The older brother Mr. Dick Green was NSW Champion and their grandfather Mr. Richard Green was the first Australian to challenge for the world title in England. Their nephew, Mr. Ken Goswell was three times Queensland champion sculler. Mr. "Gus" Green's son Barry of Currumbin Creek between 1953 and 1956 was NSW light weight champion sculler and represented Queensland twice. Mr. Gus Green was cremated at the South Tweed Heads Garden of Remembrance on Monday. The Cremation service for Harry Green will be held there today."**

*[Unknown newspaper article found on Geni website, supplied by fellow researcher Susan Rayner]*

The last story I have grown up with concerns my sister and myself. My mother had the same doctor for both births. Kathy was born on the same day of the week, in the same month as I was, at exactly the same time of day. She weighed the same and was the same length as I was. The doctor said, "Mrs Prentice, you have had twins three years apart!" We looked very similar as well and my father later had trouble working who was who in our baby photos!

It turned out that our son's twins chose Christmas Day to be born, just over six weeks early. It has been a hectic couple of months for all concerned, but both boys are extremely healthy and they are thriving, thanks to the amazing advances made in neonatal care. Damon John Alan was 2.5kg and Leonard James 1.5kg when born at 12.10pm. Damon [twin 1] needed a little help with breathing for a few days, and both stayed in humidicribs for about two weeks. They were able to come home after four weeks in Gosford Hospital.

Resources:  
Australian BDMs, NZ  
BSMa, IFI, family  
records and photos,  
oral history, Trove  
newspapers.



This photo was taken on the day they were due- February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017. Lenny [held by Belle] is now over 3kg and Damon [held by Luke] is over 4kg.

Perhaps I'll wait awhile before I tell my son the story about the triplet girls on his father's side! .....🌱

## 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
818	Joy Soltan	825	Sharon Versteeg
819	Carmen Fitzgerald	826	Diana Mears
820	Diane Abello	827	Karen Wilkinson
821	Debra Tidesley	828	Terry Theakstone
822	Anne-Marie McCarthy	829	Brenda Theakstone
823	Stanley Adams	830	Alan Whatson
824	Angela Dundon		

## 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. 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.....🌱

Congratulations also go to three couples who have reached their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2017.

★ Janice and Norman BARRETT

★ Eileen and Ray WHEWAY

★ Beryl and George WHATSON

Wonderful achievement  
congratulations to you all

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

*Information Sessions at the Cottage 2017 These sessions are free to members and will go for approximately one hour*

Date	Topic	Presenter	Time
Tues 23 May	Google Search	Helen Burkett	11:00 am
Wed 21 June	Using British Newspapers	Helen Burkett	11:00 am
Tues 25 July	Ryerson Index	John Selwood	11:00 am
Wed 16 August	Deceased on line and Billion Graves	Trish McDonald	11:00 am
Tues 19 Sept	Using and Printing from Trove	TBA	1:00 pm
Thurs 19 Oct	Using our library resources	Glenise Clery	11:00 am
Wed 15 Nov	Tasmania Uni Subject TBA	Kate Walter	11:00 am

## 2017 RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

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

- 20 Years:** Congratulations  
Esther DEAN and Denis DEAN who achieved 20 years of service this April 2017.  
Valé Esther Dean.  
Sadly, Esther passed away just before being awarded her 20 Years Recognition of Service. Her husband Denis will receive this award on her behalf.
- 15 Years:** Congratulations to Carol JONES who achieved 15 years of service in April 2017.
- 10 Years:** Congratulations to the following members who achieved 10 years of service:  
In May 2017:  
     🌿 Shirley GRAHAM  
     🌿 Pamela NEWTON  
     🌿 Phyliss SPICER  
     🌿 Lyndall HALL
- In June 2017  
     🌿 Kaye MOSS  
     🌿 Penny PEARMAN  
     🌿 Kay CROALL  
     🌿 Anne LEVETT  
     🌿 Janet SIMPSON

## WHAT DOES THAT SAY?

*Lynda Smith LM 2 March 2017*

I had an interesting phone call from my sister today. She is our mother's carer and she was having difficulty with an admission form for some scheduled eye surgery for Mum. One of the questions related to mum's place of birth in May 1927. Our mother is almost blind, so my sister was filling the form out on her behalf. She couldn't read the hospital's details on their copy of the birth certificate, so

she rang to ask me if I remembered anything. Mum wasn't happy with just putting in Sydney or even the suburb. She is a stickler for details.

Mum had always told me that she was born in a private hospital in Chatswood and that a Nurse Hillcot [her pronunciation and spelling] was responsible for her mother Alice's care back in 1927. I was at work, so I



rang my husband and explained the problem. He found my photocopy of the birth certificate and couldn't read the name either. It was a handwritten version, dating from 1940. So he started to



research via Google. After about half an hour he sent me a name, address and a photo of the hospital. It was Milton Private Hospital in Blakesley St Chatswood. The property is now a private residence and can be found via a Google Earth street view search.

When I came home, I started a search for the elusive Nurse Hillcot. A check of Trove gave me a couple of birth notices that gave thanks to a Nurse Hillcote. My husband had found a reference to the Blakesley Street home being linked to a Dr. William George Vincent HILLCOAT at some stage. Perhaps he ran the hospital or was a relative of the nurse? Is this the correct spelling? I checked my copy of the Birth Certificate and this was confirmed. The spelling change to HILLCOAT was vital to unlocking the story. I discovered that WGV HILLCOAT was mentioned in Australian War Memorial records for World War 1. Vincent, as he was known, was a Doctor of Divinity- a Presbyterian minister, who enlisted in 1916. He became an Ambulance driver for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Ambulance, with the rank of Private. Sadly, he died as a result of shrapnel wounds during a battle at Polygon Wood near Ypres, Belgium on Sept. 20 1917. Vincent left behind a widow, Florence and a toddler son, Clifford. There is a Red Cross file full of lovely letters from his comrades, either describing the battle or commenting on the man himself, such as "a very nice man, who wore glasses". Another said he was "worshipped by his fellow soldiers". There are a number of photos of this man available in these records.

He is also written up in a number of commemorative books.

[WGV] Vincent was the eldest son of William James HILLCOAT and Matilda Maud CLARKE, born 1886 in Maitland. WJ and Matilda had married in Maitland in 1885. Vincent had a brother Herbert born 1888, who died in 1893. His sister, Myra Ivreen [aka Ivy] was born in 1893. So was Nurse HILLCOAT his mother Matilda or his sister Myra, or his wife, Florence? William James also had sisters, so that was also a possibility.

**"HILLCOAT – The Relatives and Friends of Mr. WILLIAM JAMES HILLCOAT, Mr. and Mrs. R. VANDILL, and Nurse HILLCOAT are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of his dearly love WIFE and their MOTHER Matilda Maud Hillcoat; to leave her late residence, Milton, 20 Blakesley Street, Chatswood, THIS (Tuesday) MORNING, at 10:30, Congregational Cemetery, Northern Suburbs, Per motor service, CHARLES KINSELA, Motor Funeral Director, Gordon Road, Gordon, 'Phone JY1094."**

I then found the above SMH funeral notice for Matilda HILLCOAT on Ancestry.com.au , for August 30 1927. Nurse HILLCOAT is mentioned as a relative. Vincent's sister Myra [Ivy] had married in 1916, to another soldier, Robert VARDILL, so she couldn't be our nurse. Matilda couldn't be the nurse either. The 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. SMH death notice, below, provided some more conclusive evidence of the identity of our nurse. It mentions that Matilda was her mother-in-law. As only one son had married, it had to be Florence Elizabeth, widow of WGV.

**"HILLCOAT – August 28 1927, at her residence, Milton, 20 Blakesley Street, Chatswood. Matilda Maud, dearly loved wife of William James Hillcoat, and beloved mother of Ivy and the late Rev. Vincent Hillcoat and beloved mother-in-law of Nurse Hillcoat and R. Vardill, and dearly loved grandmother of Cliff Hillcoat and Myra Vardill, aged 74 years"**

Florence Elizabeth FORSYTH was born on 21 January 1887 and she died on Sept. 28 1967, aged 80. Her son Clifford married in 1933 and had 2 children. So, the identity of the nurse who helped my mother enter this

world was  
Florence  
HILLCOAT.

This photo  
shows WGV  
HILLCOAT,  
his wife  
Florence and  
their son  
Clifford. The  
last pieces of  
conclusive  
evidence are  
the Sands  
Directory from



1923 onwards and the 1930 NSW Electoral roll which both list Florence as a nurse, living in Chatswood. By the 1932 Sands Directory, Florence has herself recorded as a matron, of Milton, Blakesley St Chatswood. I contacted an Ancestry researcher to see if she knew any more about the hospital. She responded, saying that the hospital was opened after Vincent died and that the first baby born there was one of Vincent's nieces. I have emailed the local studies librarian at Chatswood to see if she has any records. Hopefully, she can add some more information about Florence. It's such a good name for a nurse!

When I rang Mum to fill her in on my findings, she told me that her mother Alice used to work with Nurse Hillcoat once she and her sister went to school. She recalls going on car trips with this lady. Nurse Hillcoat owned a 2 seater car with a dickie seat. Mum said she and her sister were at the mercy of the weather on every trip.



20 Blakesley St Chatswood, birthplace of my mum, Cecily May Fox. [current view]

*Resources: Copy of NSW birth certificate, family stories, Google , Google Earth street view, Ancestry.com.au, Lois Brown, Ancestry researcher, Australian War Memorial website, Trove newspapers.*

## MICHAEL BENNETT

*Sourced from RAHS newsletter 9 March 2017*

In May 2015 Michael Bennett, historian for the Native Title Service Corporation, recorded material for the RAHS YouTube channel about his work on bringing together his research on Aboriginal Trackers in New South Wales.

You can now access Michael's research on 'The Pathfinders – the History of NSW Aboriginal Trackers', which was launched in November by the Police Commissioner, Mr Scipione. The website provides an overview of the history of trackers from 1862 when the current NSW Police Force was established, through to 1973 when the last tracker, Norman Walford, retired. There is also a timeline and information on the lives of individual trackers, including details on the police stations where they worked and lived, as well as the traditional language groups to which some of the trackers

belonged.

Michael explains how "a good tracker could pick up the smallest change in the landscape and quickly work out in which direction a person or animal was moving. Although trackers are no longer employed by the police, the skills and knowledge are still retained by many Aboriginal people throughout NSW."

The RAHS congratulates Michael on the launch of his website and encourages everyone to go to the website and follow 'Pathfinders' on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

To go to the website, [click here](#)  
[Click here](#) to view *Aboriginal Trackers in New South Wales* by Michael Bennett on RAHS YouTube – part of the 2015 RAHS project [Beyond the Blue Mountains: Following the Road from Bathurst....](#) 🌳

# WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR ELIZABETH SPENCE?

*Helen Johnston-Lord member 505*

After 170 days at sea, we have finally arrived in Port Jackson and landed at a pretty little bay tucked behind the intimidating headland.

Our Patrick was amongst the group of craftsmen, under the government-organized bounty system, selected by Dr. Boyter to travel to Australia.

With Margaret just six years, little George barely 15 months and myself bearing another child, Patrick and I joined over 300 others aboard the barque *John Barry* at Dundee in March 1837. There was sickness aboard the overcrowded 520 ton three masted ship. Our possessions were packed between the decks. Provisions were adequate with nursing mothers being allocated extra. There is another Scottish Spence family on board, although they are not related.

We encountered very bad weather as we crossed the ocean and the decks were often awash with seawater.

To our great sorrow little George was one of the twelve who died on the voyage,

succumbing to diarrhea on 6 May 1837, his life was so short. I was delivered of Peter Keay on 23 June 1837, we were still ten and a half weeks from Port Jackson, nine others were born.

It is August 1837 and we are here at what will become the Quarantine Station, they say for one week. There are few buildings and the craftsmen are set to building the hospital.

What will become of us in this strange land. Fortunately Patrick and I have some reading and writing skills and Patrick is a mason. Will our children survive and thrive? *Elizabeth Spence* .....🌳



North Head Quarantine Station.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Here at **Wyang Family History Group Inc.** we currently offer a range of Special Interest Groups where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest.

Current Groups are:

🌳 <i>Australian Convicts</i>	🌳 <i>Family Tree Maker</i>
🌳 <i>Computer/iPad &amp; Tablets (bi-monthly from January)</i>	🌳 <i>Microsoft Word</i>
🌳 <i>English &amp; Welsh</i>	🌳 <i>Scottish &amp; Irish</i>
🌳 <i>Facebook (bi-monthly from Feb)</i>	

More information about these groups is on the Website or phone The Cottage during open hours. Upcoming dates are included on our Planned Events on page 26.....🌳





# Wyong Family History Group Inc.

proudly presents: –

**A Day with Kerry Farmer, Professional Genealogist**

## **“DNA for Family History”**

An informative and entertaining presentation of how DNA works  
and how it can be a useful tool in the genealogists toolbox

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**

- 10:00am Registration (tea & coffee available)
- 10:45am Welcome & Introduction
- 11:00am **Guest Speaker, Kerry Farmer and DNA for Family History**
- 12:00 noon Lunch.
- 1:00pm DNA presentation and a Question and Answer session on DNA.

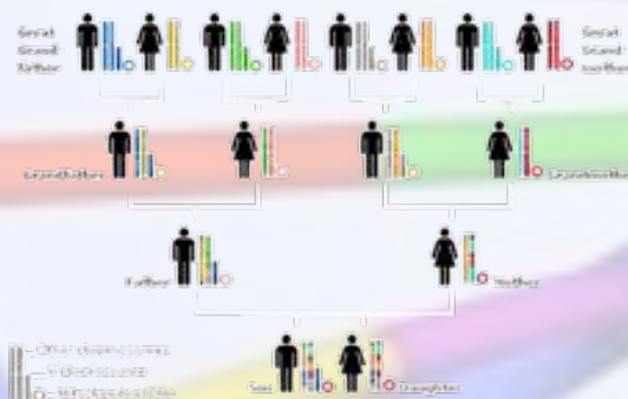
Raffle prizes including an Ancestry DNA Test Kit and Food Hampers etc.

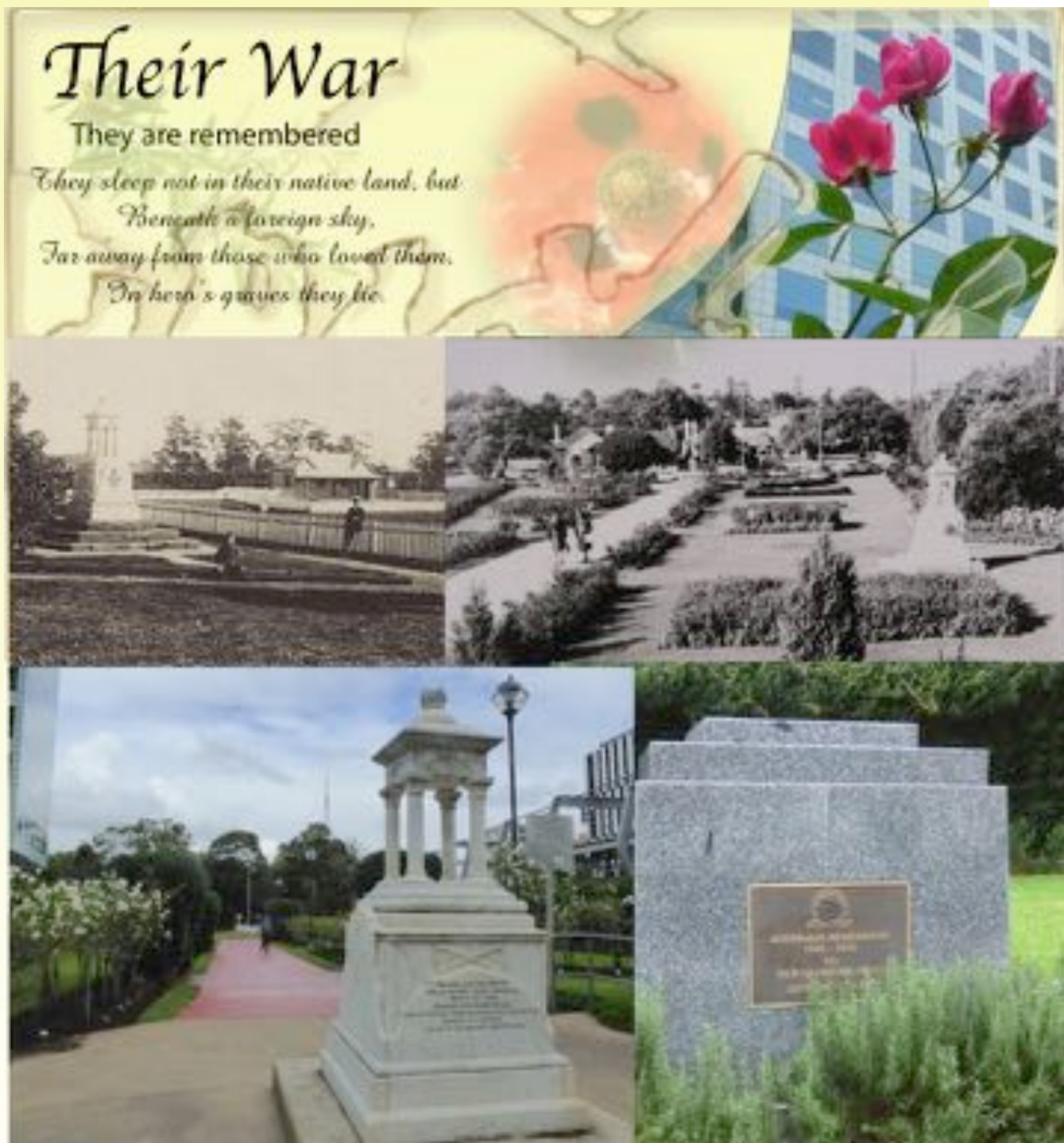
Venue: - Tuggerah Community Hall, 9 Anzac Road, Tuggerah.

ALL WELCOME

Cost :- \$10 (includes Sausage Sizzle, Tea & Coffee)

Bookings preferred - contact Wyong Family History Group, 4351 2211  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am to 3pm





## MEMORIALS: CHATSWOOD GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

*Helen Johnston-Lord member 505*

In 1901 The Boer War Memorial Fountain was erected in Chatswood Park, one of many around the country. This was moved to the western side of the newly created Garden of Remembrance and rededicated in 1952. This lovely place of remembrance and reflection is within 150 metres of Chatswood Station.

Two underground air raid shelters were built in the gardens during the Second World War, and demolished after the war

The development of the Chatswood Interchange saw another move for the Boer War Memorial, no longer a fountain, this time to the northern end of the Garden.

The *Australia Remembers* Memorial now



occupies the former site.

Anzac Day services are held at the Cross of Remembrance which is mounted on an earth mound said to symbolize the tin hats worn by soldiers in the Great War.

Many of the standard roses are *Roses of Picardy* grown from budwood obtained from Villiers-Brettonneux and Delville-Wood War Cemeteries in the Somme area of France. This connection provides a link to an area in which over 30,000 Australian soldiers were killed in action during the First World War. Rosemary plants around the "Australia Remembers" Memorial were grown from a cutting brought back from Gallipoli by an injured serviceman in 1915.

I remember visiting this garden with my mother as a child. She had known someone who had a plaque in front of one of the roses. When Harry and I visited the garden earlier this month, the ground staff

were preparing for this years Anzac Day. Despite the nearness of all the modern buildings, this is fitting memorial to all service personnel.... 🌿



## THE ROSEMARY BUSH

*Lynda Smith, Life Member No. 2., written March 2008.*

My grandfather, Cecil Wellington FOX enlisted in the AIF on 3rd August 1916. After training, he was sent to England in January 1917. He joined the 1st Machine Gun Battalion and became a member of 10/1 Machine Gun Company. During his time in France, he was gassed and spent 2 months in various hospitals before returning to active duty. Thankfully for me, he survived, came home in September 1919 and resumed his relationship with my grandmother Alice SMALLHORN. They married in 1923 and went on to have two daughters and five grandchildren.



Cecil proudly marched with his unit in the main Sydney ANZAC Day March every



year. On one of these marches, someone gave him a sprig of rosemary to wear on his coat. Rosemary traditionally means remembrance, so it was an appropriate choice to wear.

Later that day, he gave this sprig to his very green-fingered wife and she managed to get it to strike. Over the years, the bush grew to huge dimensions and Alice was able to provide baby plants to friends and



family.

Sadly, my grandfather died young, in 1953, aged 58. He only met Peter, his first grandchild as I was born in 1955. My grandmother Alice stayed on in the family home in Eric Rd Artarmon until her death in 1977. The rosemary plant continued to flourish over this time. Before my mother and her sister sold the Eric Rd home, they transplanted as many of their mother's plants as they could. She had a wonderful garden full of mature old style roses [that actually had a perfume], carnations, bulbs, gerberas, hydrangeas and other colourful blooms. They potted many pieces of the rosemary bush and, thankfully, they took root.

By this time, only a couple of the grandchildren had married, but as we settled, my mother or my aunt made sure we were given a healthy descendant of the original rosemary bush. All three of Cecil's grandsons joined the Army cadets and participated in local ANZAC Day marches and services. Ross, the youngest grandson, joined the Army. My uncle Bruce had enlisted in the Australian Navy in WW2. I was involved in Girl Guides for many years and we always marched in local ANZAC events. On all of these occasions, we wore sprigs of rosemary from our special bushes.



*From left, Robert, Noni, Peter [behind] and Robert Jackson, Nov 2011.*

We may not have had grandfather's medals to wear, but we felt connected to him in this way. Sadly, Grandfather had sold his military medals during the Great Depression, along with sporting trophies and medals. He was unemployed and had a young family to feed. I have since paid for replica medals which I proudly display in my home.

My uncle and aunt have since passed away, but their sons still march in honour of their dad and our grandfather. My eldest cousin, Peter, has inherited the green thumb, and many of the plants. Descendant rosemary plants are now being distributed to our children as they mature and settle into their own homes. Peter also gained approval from Northern Suburbs Crematorium to plant a rosemary bush near the niches of his parents and grandparents. This plant is thriving and my cousin checks on it regularly.



Sadly, my original bush died a couple of years ago, but Peter has generously supplied me with a new one, which is being nurtured. My mother and sister share a very healthy plant in their new home at Umina. I may have never met my grandfather Cecil, but his deeds are well known in the family and his memory is kept strong in later generations.

Lest we forget..... 🌿

# WARRNAMBOOL IN WW1

Maryanne McDonald, member 778

It all started with Cath (Henry) Macdonald my Warrnambool Technical College & Pressy P.F.A mate sending me a Post Card photograph that she said 'would boggle my mind' . . . well since then, the can of the proverbial has opened & I've continually been 'wowed - bowled over & even speechless' & it's certainly 'boggled my mind'. And the discoveries keep on a keepin' on.

This is what I've found to date, with a little help from my friends, including Sleuth Cath Mac on the ground in Warrnambool.



Front of Postcard: Pa with Pipes 2nd row, seated, head turned to R.

The regimental Sgt Major is next to me & then Dinnie McDonald. The 30. cent stamp on the reverse & I am in the back. Dave Watson is the one in the front.

Dear Jim

With best wishes from the Regimental Major who is wanting to know why you don't write to him as he has wrote to you twice.

Well Jim how are things with you at present. This is as far as I got & am likely to stay for some time. I have 11 papers now & 3 new ones came in since this was taken. Let me know if you receive this & I will fire off a letter at you. Remember me to the AMP staff from Stan.

AMP Staff from Stan

Reverse of Postcard: Ok, here's the names mentioned:

Regimental Sgt Major – name unknown  
Dinnie McDonald – we know him as Pa  
Dave Watson – name above 'CARD'  
Dear Jim – Cath's grandfather  
AMP Staff - Dave W worked there

From Stan – Stan Mitchell. (Who is Stan? - written by Cath's Dad.)

Ok, next. I have asked around all sorts of places & people to try & find out if the photo & people can be identified. No luck to date.

At present it is being investigated by the National Archives. Fingers crossed that they can come up with an answer.

I thought it was in the Codford Camp in the UK where Pa was based, but wherever it is it's bloody cold.

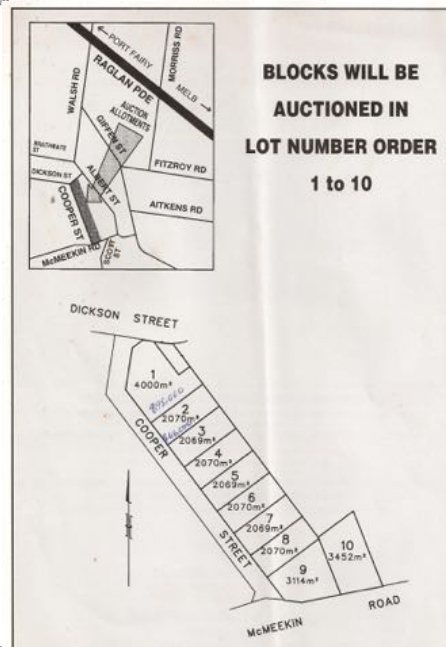
Then we found out that Dave Watson was from Warrnambool and attended the Warrnambool Agricultural High School. His father was the principal.

Now here's the thing, Cath's Grandfather bought the Warrnambool Agricultural High School when it closed & that's where Cath was born.



THE ROSE SERIES, P. 2001

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL FARM, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC.





Then looking into Dave's history. Very sadly he was K.I.A 26 Sept 1917 at Polygon Wood, Zillebeke Lake, Ypres, Flanders Belgium. He was buried on the spot, but has a memorial at the Menin Gate, Ypres.

His elder brother Percy was K.I.A 25 April 1915 at Gallipoli, Turkey. He is in the Lone Pine Cemetery.

Plus another brother, Leslie went to war, but returned.

Their elder brother, Alfred "Eddie" passed in 1915.

What sad news for Alfred & Agnes Watson.



Leslie

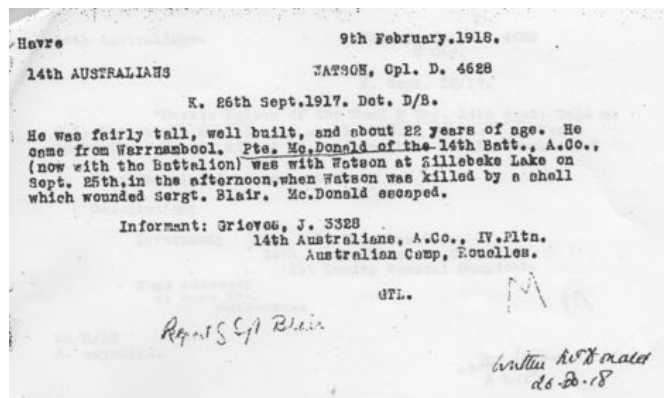


Unknown Dave

I am sure there's a picture of Percy somewhere, but wanted to share this next mind boggling piece of information I found.

On all paperwork it states that they lived at "Ballymena", Raglan Parade & Sleuth Mac found it was 496, no name anymore. It was owned by a Mrs Rustle.

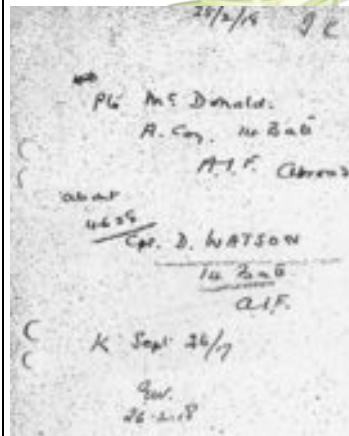
My "68-ers Gang" came to stay at Etta in



January & as they drove from WB talked me into going to Canberra with them on their trek south. I am so glad I did as we went to the WM & this is what I discovered.

"Hooley Dooley" is all I can say. What a find.

"LEST WE FORGET"



Maryann honouring David at the WM.  
Would have done one for Percy too.

The next step was to look at Pa's WW1 Diary that I'm transcribing with Doug, (not a lot of progress yet) to find what Pa said about 26 September 1917.

Page 44 commences:

"nothing much to note. weather getting wintry".

I guess one wouldn't want to, or not be permitted to write about the war???

Anyway reading on to Sept 30 - Oct 7th, still on page 44:

"Word came through that Pipe Band was knocked out. Only 2 reporting for duty next morning. McKenzie was killed. Have not heard any further particulars yet. Stan who resigned and went into lines was wounded in arm & now in hospital at Base France. Winter has set in in this last few days squally & cold. Finished Lieut Farrelly's uniform. He is quite pleased with it. Now making an overcoat for Q. M's little girl. Had another Tailor helping us this last few days. Bluey Campbell"

So folks, I do hope you haven't found this diatribe too boring.

Myself, I find it totally fascinating & the follow up from the Government to see if they can identify the Pipe Band, its



members & where taken would be sensational.

As I mentioned, I thought the Pipe Band picture could have been taken at the Codford Camp, UK, but once I saw the K.I.A report, it may have



*Queen Mary's  
Little Girl  
Mary  
Princess Royal  
and  
Countess  
of  
Harewood  
During WW1  
Comforting British  
Servicemen*

been taken on the Continent?????

Once more of Pa's Diary is transcribed, I reckon lots more will 'pop out' for investigation. He was 37 yrs old.... 🌳



## GENEALOGIST'S DISEASE

*Author Unknown*

**SYMPTOMS:** Patient continually complains of a need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression on his face and often seems deaf to mate and children, has no taste for work of any kind, except for feverishly looking through records, libraries, and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters and spends hours sithelen (sic) cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls and hides the phone bills from mate. Patient mumbles to self and has a strange



look in his eyes. Has a strange compulsion to gather and scatter old papers all over the house, leaving piles of paper everywhere with

strange numbers and names all over them.

**TREATMENT:** No known cure.

Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Disease is spreading throughout the county very fast, quickly becoming an epidemic. Patient should attend genealogy meetings, workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and given lots more forms and a computer situated in a quiet corner of the house where he or she can be alone. If family supports patient through this, patient will occasionally come out of strange trance and will act normal again, unless you drive by a cemetery or court house.

**REMARKS:** The unusual nature of this disease is such that the more sick the patient becomes, the more he or she seems to enjoy it, sometimes dancing with glee and yelling. I FOUND IT.... 🌳

## MICROSOFT WORD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

12:30 am to 2:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each Month at 'The Cottage'

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## AN EXTRACT

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*Continuing John Slater's letter to his wife in Nottingham.*

*Published for the benefit of his wife and four children*

Printed by Sutton and Son 1819

PP Since the present Governor took the command, the roads from the town to town have been much improved, for the convenience of the settlers bringing their produce to market, and many prisoners have gained their pardon, by working upon these roads, and assisting in the construction of new ones. There is a good road for upwards of one hundred and forty miles in the interior of the country, which branches off to the several towns, viz. Parramatta, sixteen miles from Sydney to Castle Hill, to Richmond, to Windsor, to Hawkesbury, to Liverpool, to Banbury Curran, Cow Pastures etc and to Bathurst Plains, beyond the Blue Mountains, in a part of the country newly discovered.

The Blue Mountains are exceeding lofty, and to make a road over which was considered, at one time, almost unsurmountable, being so inexpressibly difficult to ascend - steep and variable; but Captain Cox, with a chosen party of prisoners, succeeded about three years ago, after a very great labour and expense, in accomplishing the desired object for which the prisoners received their pardons. Settlements are formed and forming on the other side of these mountains, and such fertile grazing land I never heard speak of, as it is described to be (sic) by the land on the nearer side is not so fruitful in many places as wished, and in cases of a flood, or other accidents, Sydney and this part depend on another settlement called Van Dieman's Land, about nine hundred miles by water to the southward of Port Jackson, which, freed from any such impediment, produce the most astonishing crops, and succours this part from starvation. These floods I speak of, and which we have reason to dread every March, or about that time, are caused by the very heavy falls of rain upon the Blue Mountains, which for want of a speedy vent in a proper channel,

produce an influx of the River Hawkesbury, so high as twenty feet, at times above the banks, and sweep away consequently, grain, pigs, poultry, sheep and cattle and everything, both crops growing and bars with their contents, to the great injury of the settlers in general, and total ruin for many. You would scarce credit, that several gentlemen on these occasions lose four or five hundred sheep, and consider themselves lucky if they have time to save their cattle, which they preserve by driving them on the highlands. A corn stack with poultry and pigs has been seen seven miles at sea, driven down this river so rapidly; in short, these floods sweep barns and houses not well secured, as well as property, and are the terror of the country - but what impoverishes one establishes another, as the settlers uninjured by these rains make a fine market of the grain, inasmuch as wheat has been so high, as the load weighing 2lbs, sold for a dollar; but those days are gone by, the Van Dieman's Land supplying this place so abundantly. The produce of this country is simply stock of every kind; wheat and Indian corn, and vegetables of all kinds; but Van Dieman's Land coming nearer to the climate of England is most productive of vegetable food and of good kinds. The growth of hops has been encouraged, and also that of flax, but the latter is not so much noticed as might be expected. The tobacco plant has been, and is attempted at by many, but does not attain that perfection expected. The manufacture of the country is but very little - some coarse cloth, and some hats are the chief commodities attended to, and which have attained any degree of perfection; also earthenware of an inferior quality. Some small brigs have been built and launched, but the colony is too young to be expected to produce any matters of importance. At Parramatta there is a factory for females, who are employed in spinning etc in the manufacture of blankets etc; this is a government establishment, and the place where women who do not conduct themselves with propriety are sent for

punishment, and confined for limited sentences when, if no amendment takes place, they are punished in a more exemplary manner.

The colony at large is governed by Lachlan Macquarie, Esq.; there is also a Lieutenant Governor at headquarters (Parramatta) and another at Van Dieman's Land, but all things require the sanction and signature of Governor Macquarie to establish their legality. The laws are executed by the authority of the Supreme Judge, who superintends civil causes; by his Honour the Judge Advocate, in criminal causes by the Superintendent of Police, and the several Magistrates of the colony, in petty and frivolous offences. A prisoner is very closely looked after, and the Superintendent of Police has the power of sending a prisoner, having committed an offence, to Newcastle, the harbour where the convicts of this county are banished to; he can send them for one, two, three years or more, as the character of the person, or the nature of the offence may require, to which order the Governor gives his sanction, and that is sufficient. All Magistrates have this power, nevertheless depredations are committed daily. All heavy causes are sent to Sydney to be tried, and in cases of murder at any out settlements, the parties are returned thither, if found guilty, to be executed. Trifling matters are arranged without troubling the Judge, if the parties are prisoners; but if free, the regular forms of justice must be gone through.

On the arrival of a ship of prisoners, the Governor's Secretary goes on board, accompanied by the principal Superintendents of convicts, and the tradesmen in the service of government, for instance, carpenters, bricklayers, etc are selected for the several branches they pretend to; servants also, of certain descriptions, are appropriated to such gentlemen as may want the, and what remain unengaged are then sent to the different outposts to supply the settlers who

may seek their aid. It is no uncommon matter to see a jeweller, a clerk, or a tailor, with a reaping hook in his hand cutting grain; or with an axe falling a tree. Hard work and hard fare is generally the lot of a settler's man, but I am fortunate and remain in Sydney, headquarters. No prisoner can travel from one town to another, without a pass signed by a Magistrate, on pain of being sent to Newcastle, or punished at the discretion of a Magistrate. The Superintendent of convicts assigns the men to their different gangs, when each man receives orders what he is to do from another prisoner appointed overseer over him - thus prisoners becoming overseers obtain their pardons in course of time. Each gang musters and attends church on a Sunday morning. A prisoner for his labour receives 2lbs of beef, and 7 lbs of flour from the King's stores, and an overseer half as much more as a common man. Government men work from day light until three o'clock, excepting an hour for breakfast, and the rest of the day the prisoner to employ himself as he may think proper, but on Saturdays from day-break until 10 o'clock without a breakfast hour. A man offending those in authority over him, is marked, and as men are constantly sent to the out-stations, he may expect to be sent the first opportunity - thus men are punished. Some offences, such as stowing away in a ship to desert from the colony, and insolence, etc are punishable with the Jail Gang, which gang is employed emptying necessaries, and at all dirty and hard work, and sleep in the jail, and are compelled to wear a dress half brown and half white, exposed to public view. Industrious attentive people, steady in their duty, will gain a living before idle and disorderly persons, but truth I must tell, that a man must be well known before he is entrusted, or can do so comfortably as he might wish, as so many fall short of their promises, and so much artifice and dishonesty prevails.



As I have spoken of Newcastle, the place for sending convicts and prisoners to, from our Courts and Criminal Jurisdiction, I shall endeavour to explain in what manner the misery, which is intended they should bear, is extended to them; on their landing at Newcastle both legs are put in irons, they are set to work in the coal mines and about the lime-kilns, and are looked after with the strictest scrutiny. A man at this place cannot earn anything by labour, as all the work is

on account of Government, and thus solely depending on his meat and flour, out of which he has to defray his lodging, washing etc, he is reduced to the lowest state of indigence and poverty which man can possible bear, and which I should fall short in the explanation of.

...We hope to include more of this insightful letter as space permits..ed. ...

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## RALPH'S RANT - 1942.

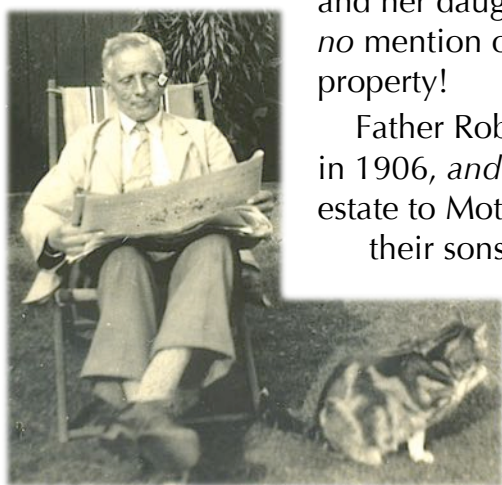
Helen Johnston-Lord, member 505

I am *really* disappointed with my wife's inheritance. Lucy got just £300! And her mother so well off, with the farm *and* her house!

Here we are in Cheshire with war all around us. We buried 91 year old Mother Robinson in April and really, I *expected* more from her effects, estimated to be worth £2436 0s. 4d. Probate assigned it to her son John

and her daughter Alice, *no* mention of the property!

Father Robinson died in 1906, *and* left his estate to Mother and their sons Robert and Frank.



Mother and Father Robinson had nine children; five girls and four boys, Florrie died in 1895 aged almost eight. Ada and her family migrated to Australia in 1910, Robert followed in 1911, dying in 1923 leaving his Australian widow and their two boys. I suppose Robert had his share of the estate when his father died. Three of the girls married, Alice remained single.

Ada returned to visit her mother in 1937, I suspect Mother gave *her* a share of her fortune when they went to Runcorn that day. I am not sure she would have seen any of it if she hadn't come from Australia.

Leaving the bulk of her estate to sickly Alice! Alice was supposed to care for her, but she was so frugal *and* wouldn't let anyone else help.

Whether Polly or Fred had anything from their mother, I doubt I will ever know, however I feel we have been shortchanged!

....



## Publications For Sale

More details at

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

### BOOKS & CDs

<b>Bowden Family Funerals – Wyong.</b> July 1999 – January 2016	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$15.00 – p&h
<b>Brought in by the Tide.</b> [A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]	<b>Book</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
<b>* Central Coast Roll of Honour.</b> [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.]	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h

## MORE PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

<b>Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954 incorporating the Wollombi Express (1892-1906) and Wyong District Advocate (1906-1920)</b> <i>Contains enteries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Mariages with many relevant details</i>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 27.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h
<b>Place Names of the Wyong Shire</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 8.00 + p&h
<b>Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
<b>Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong &amp; Toukley</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
<b>Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011</b>	<b>CD</b>	\$ 25.00 + p&h
<b>Simplicity Funerals Erina 1985 – 2013</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 35.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h
<b>Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013</b>	<b>Book</b>	20.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h
<b>Wyong &amp; District Pioneer Register (Published 2013)</b> <i>[673 pages. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage &amp; Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.]</i>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 40.00 + p&h
<b>Wyong &amp; Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices (1932 – 1995)</b> <i>(available separately- see below)</i>	<b>Two Volume set</b>	
<b>Contents Volume One</b> – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs	<b>Book</b>	\$ 48.00 + p&h
<b>Contents Volume Two</b> – 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices includes Church and cemetery photographs	<b>Book Volume 1</b>	\$ 28.00 + p&h
	<b>Book Volume 2</b>	\$ 28.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 38.00 + p&h
<b>Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h
<b>Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
<b>The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area</b> <i>[Baptisms, Burials and Marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's Diaries and Miscellaneous Entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy &amp; the Hawkesbury River.]</i>	<b>CD</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h

## CEMETERY

<b>Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
<b>Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012]</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
<b>St Barnabas &amp; Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW [1886-2001]</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
<b>Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW [1825 - 2016]</b>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
<b>All 4 Cemetery Books</b>		\$ 50.00 + p&h
<b>Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries</b>	<b>CD</b>	\$ 25.00 + p&h
<b>Palmdale Cemetery</b> <i>[30,000 names, not all from Wyong]</i>	<b>CD</b>	\$ 10.00 + p&h
<b>Gravediggers Index of Wyong Shire, Compiled by Mr A V McKenzie &amp; his son Clive.</b> <i>[Gravediggers' records, up to mid 2008 of Wyong Shire cemeteries.]</i>	<b>Book</b>	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	<b>CD</b>	\$ 15.00 + p&h
<b>Genealogy Recorder</b>		\$ 10.00 + p&h

## JOHNSTON REUNION

<p>Descendants of <b>WILLIAM</b> and <b>ISABELLA</b> (nee Cunningham) <b>JOHNSTON</b> from Whitsome, Scotland, who arrived in Australia in 1817 and settled in the Bathurst and Wingham districts are invited to a reunion to celebrate 200 years since their arrival in Australia, 5-6 August 2017 at Wingham Golf Club, Wingham, NSW.</p> <p>A very happy Reunion was held at Bathurst in 2013 to recognise the importance of William &amp; Isabella's arrival in Sydney on 6th August 1817 on board the "Canada" following a journey of 138 days, and their subsequent perilous journey across the Blue Mountains in 1823 with four very young children in Bathurst,. William was appointed to the Government position of Superintendent of Agriculture as that area had started to open</p>	<p>up the western area of New South Wales. A very moving ceremony for approximately 75 descendants was held with a special bronze plaque being placed on the memorial wall in Bathurst to honour early settlers in 2013.</p> <p>As it is now almost 200 years since William and Isabella Johnston (as a newly married couple), and William's friend Michael Henderson, arrived in Sydney Town, it is an appropriate time to honour these ancestors with further recognition of their courage and renewal of friendship with the many descendants of this large family - there were 12 surviving children born in the Colony between 1818 and 1838.</p> <p>Enquiries to Margaret Chaffer – <a href="mailto:margaretaffer@bigpond.com">margaretaffer@bigpond.com</a>... 🌳</p>
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## WFHG Inc Planned Events

- **Note:** Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, workshops and mini sessions are at 'The Cottage'.
- **Information Sessions:** see page 11 for detailed list.

	2017	Event
May	Tue 2	Committee Meeting for May 10:00 am.
	Fri 5	Beginners Course Day 1
	Tue 9	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 12:30 – 2:30 pm
	Fri 12	Beginners Course Day 2
	Tue 16	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Fri 19	Beginners Course Day 3
	Sat 20	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon
	Tue 23	Information Session – Google Search 11:00 am
	Wed 24	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Fri 26	Beginners Course Day 4
	Sat 27	Computer/Tablet Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
	Tue 30	Committee Meeting for June 10:00 am.



## CONTINUING PLANNED EVENTS

	2017	Event	
June	Tue 6	NEW WFHG - DNA Special Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 Noon	
	Thu 8	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 12:30 – 2:30 pm	
	Fri 9	Filing Workshop	
	Sat 10	General Meeting 11: 00 am Sausage Sizzle Lunch – Guest Speaker	
	Mon 12	Queens Birthday Holiday	
	Tue 13	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	
	Wed 14	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Sat 17	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon	
	Sun 18	Bunnings BBQ	
	Tue 20	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Wed 21	Information Session – Using British Newspapers 11:00 am	
	Sat 24	Facebook Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Tue 27	Committee Meeting for July 10:00 am	
	Wed 28	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
July	Sun 2	WFHG - DNA Talk with Kerry Farmer 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	
	Tue 11	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	
	Wed 12	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 12:30 – 2:30 pm	
	Sat 15	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon	
	Tue 18	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Sat 22	Computer/Tablet Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Tue 25	Information Session – Using Ryerson Index 11:00 am	
	Wed 26	Scottish & Irish Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.	
	Sat 29	Volunteer’s Thank You Luncheon	
August	National Family History Month	Tue 1	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
		Tue 8	Microsoft Word Interest Group 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
		Wed 9	Australian Convict Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
		Thu 10	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 12:30 – 2:30 pm
		Sat 12	Annual General Meeting 1:00 pm.
		Tue 15	English & Welsh Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
		Wed 16	Information Session – Deceased Online & Billion Graves 11:00 am
		Sat 19	Volunteer Help at Tuggerah Library 9:00 am – 12 noon
		Mon 21	Closing date for “Tree of Life” copy
		Wed 23	Scottish & Irish Workshop
		Sat 26	Facebook Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon.
		Tue 30	Committee Meeting for September 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.

Tuggerah Library, Westfield: Workshop 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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.*

### *The Fine Print*

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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.*

**Remember, 21 July 2017 is the closing date for items to be included in the next issue of the "Tree of Life".**