

WYONG FAMILY
FOUNDED 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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November 2020 Vol. 37, No 4
Emerging from COVID-19 Isolation – Softly Softly Issue.

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Members contributions 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, Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours by appointment.

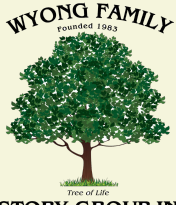
Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2019 – 2020

President:	Wayne Dean
Secretary:	Pamela Andre
Vice-President:	Roger Lewis
Treasurer:	Michele Gane
Management Committee:	All the above executive plus Pamela Mansergh, Lyn Hagstrom, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnson, Kerrie Metcalfe, John Selwood.

Assets Manager & Computer Administrator:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisors	Niel and Julie Nielsen
Cottage Co-ordinators	Tuesday: Marilyn Cridland
	Wednesday: Helen Hord
	Thursday: Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster:	Cheryl Whamond
Education Co-Ordinator:	Kerrie Metcalfe
DNA Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Stuart Purvis-Smith
Family Tree Maker Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Martin Fisher
Grant Applications:	Roger Lewis
Group Collector of Statistics:	Eileen Eliassen, Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-Ordinator:	Regina Hogan
Multi-Media & Facebook Group Co-Ordinators:	Roger Lewis, Ellen Sheerin
Journal Snippet Submitters:	Lynda Smith and Meg Gibson
Librarian:	Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistant:	Dellas Johnston
Membership Secretary:	Pam Mansergh
Minute Secretary:	Pamela Andre
Project Coordinator:	John Selwood
Public Officer:	Roger Lewis
Publications [Books & CDs] Printing:	Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Publicity Officer:	Lynda Smith
Raffle Organiser:	Christine McKenzie
Scrapbook [Photos]:	Annette Shearer
Seminar, Events	
Trip Organisers:	Christine Randall
Tree of Life Editor + Word Interest Group Co-Ordinator:	Helen Johnston-Lord. wfhgtol@westnet.com.au
Unrelated Certificates:	Jacqueline Wieringa
Webmaster:	Roger Lewis & Kate Walter
Tuggerah Library 3rd Saturday of the Month:	Annette Shearer & Christine Randall

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



HISTORY GROUP INC.

from our President: **The AGM in COVID-19**
For and on Behalf of the Committee - Wayne Dean - President -
member 489



Notice for Members

The Committee would like to advise the
Members of the date for the 2020 Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 20 February 2021 from 1:00 pm
At The Cottage

- **IMPORTANT:** *In the current **COVID-19** circumstances, associations no longer have to apply for extensions of time to hold their 2020 annual general meetings or submit annual summaries of financial affairs. Associations may conduct their AGM when restrictions are lifted or present 2020 financial information to members at the 2021 AGM.*
- "The Cottage" remains open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for research, please pre booked your session.
- The library is available by appointment.
- **Most importantly we ask all Members to renew their discounted 2020-2021 Membership to ensure we continue to function as a most affordable and valuable centre for family history research.**

Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult times. We hope you stay well and look forward to your participation with the resumption of the full range of activities and events as soon as possible.

Keep safe. ... 🌳

Important Notice

Your Committee.

COVID-19 PROCEDURES:

Should you like to spend the day with us feel free to do so providing we have computers spare and please note **we are no longer required to close the 'Cottage' at lunch time** however the volunteers still need to perform the necessary sanitising procedures before the after lunch researchers arrive.

- You can of course ring on the day you'd like to visit to check if we have space available and you can still book in advance for a day and even the time that suits you best.
- Wearing a mask while at the 'Cottage' is totally optional, unless you're using the microfilms of course.
- Don't forget to use your own pens and pencils and keep a close watch on the all important personal distancing.
- You are welcome to use a USB stick to save your research findings



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or you can continue to print the information you need.

- Your group has provided bottles of Antibacterial Hand Sanitiser for you to use when visiting the 'Cottage', please don't forget to use it.
- The volunteers on duty are not able to assist you with your research because of physical distancing regulations however they can advise you on sites to visit and how to navigate them.
- The **lockers are once again available** so please remember to put your bag/s and valuables in them while you're here at the 'Cottage'.
- Please remember to clearly display your current [**BLUE**] membership card while you're here at the 'Cottage'.
- Don't forget you are always welcome to visit the 'Cottage' during our normal open hours to renew your membership, collect your membership card, drop off donations, buy books, purchase any of our wide range of publications or just to have a chat.

If you have any flu like symptoms such as: Sore Throat, Dry Cough, Runny Nose and or a High Temperature please do not visit the 'Cottage' for at least 14 days just to be on the safe side.

Stay Safe, Your Committee. ... 🌿

from your Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Hello All!

Another issue a little late.

We are gradually returning some of our regular events so watch the website and the Cottage Newsletter for the most up-to date information.

Following guidelines is the best way we can stay safe and hopefully stay well. We are able to accommodate 3 researchers in each computer room and, provided it is available, the meeting room is available for 5, so you can sort out your information.

I have not researched at the Cottage for a long while, however, recently I have been chasing a few folk using some of the offerings on site such as the

microfiche/film collection.

Our Special Interest Group suite has been expanded to include Brickwalls, commencing February 2021 and a separate Apple Mac Computer group later this month.

Our Beginners course is due to commence on 5th March and for those pining for a visit to State Records, a Bus Trip on 20th March is in the pipeline.

We have pencilled Central Coast Council's Love Lanes Festival for Saturday 13 February, weather and pandemic permitting, this is an event worth attending.

We have also scheduled a



'Welcome Back Barbeque' for Saturday 6 March.

We are once again selling tickets in Rotary Club of The Entrance Inc. Community Raffle, see page 22 for more information.

A very big thank you to those who have submitted items for publication.

IN this issue, we conclude Jean Macleay's story of her Grandfather, George Herbert Cross.

I, personally have found some very interesting folk in my research, now I just have to write their stories.

Wayne Bermingham [Cottage Newsletter] and your editor, both appreciate your contributions and feedback too.

Why not share your family



stories and your journey of discovery with us. Your own circle of family and friends are possibly no longer interested in your yarns, we, on the other hand, find them fascinating.

As our 2020 'Jingle & Mingle' function has been cancelled due to **COVID-19** restrictions, we thought we would continue to share your Christmas stories.

Harry and I hope the 2020 festive season is good for all.

Your stories help to make our publication interesting and the deadline for the next Tree of Life is 20 January 2021.

Good and productive researching to everyone, we are all in this together, stay safe, stay well. ... 🌳



2020 - 2021 Beginners Course

Kerrie Metcalfe LM 80 Education Coordinator

The Beginners Course which started on 6 March 2020, at the *Cottage*, was brought to a stop half way through when COVID-19 restrictions were imposed.

With the easing of these restriction, the *Cottage* is open following protocols outlined on page 3.



A new starting date has been scheduled for 5th March 2021.

Don't give up as we are all in this together. ... 🌳

A Word about Membership Renewals

Interruptions to our operations caused by **COVID-19**

Pam Mansergh LM 14. Membership Secretary.



HISTORY GROUP INC.

- It is time to renew your membership.
- Renewal is due **NOW**.
- Your Management Committee have announced the following changes to renewal costs. *This is a one time only arrangement.*

Renewing Single Member:	\$30.00	New Single Member:	\$40.00
* Renewing Family Members:	\$37.50	* New Family Members:	\$50.00

* *Family Members - Up to 3 Family members who are all living at the one address.*

- To **renew** on-line go to <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au/new-memberships-202021.html>
- For other options phone The Cottage on [02] 4351-2211
- [Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm]. ... 🌳



Members' Milestones

Presentations of Certificates have been a little different this year, with only a few suitable photos available. ... ed.

Kerrie Metcalfe LM [80]

As we come to the end of 2020 with hope of a better 2021 and where we are not threatened with **COVID-19**, perhaps we start to can resume our normal interests, such as Family History events and visits to the research rooms.

I would like to recognize the following members who reached a milestone within our group. We the committee appreciate your

continued support:

10 years

- #319 **Pamela DALTON**
- #459 **Susan CANTLY**
- #466 **Julie NEWMAN**
- #469 **Janelle GATES**
- #480 **Deirdre JONES**
- #28 **Susanne WRIGHT** [rejoined]
- #489 **Wayne DEAN**
- #492 **Annette SHEARER**
- #494 **Maureen TURNER**

• **#497 Vincent [Vince] WILLIS**

Thank you one and all and a special thank you to our President Wayne Dean for his continued work within the committee for the group.

15 years

• **#185 Rhonda ROSSETTI**

• **#186 Anne LEE.** Anne has given a lot of time over her 15 years helping at functions and events along with the help of her husband Garry. Her eye for detail was much appreciated and showcased our group in a way we could be proud of. She also spent time on the Committee, did her share of roster duty and was guest speaker organizer for a time. Anne has moved to country Victoria to be near family and remains a financial member of W.F.G.H.Inc. and her expertise will be missed by many of our members.

• **#189 Kevin BRADBURY.** Kevin also has given much time to the group over the years he helped whenever he could, he did roster duty, revamped the Gene Military booklet, helped out on the ANZAC displays between 2015 -2018 as well as served on the committee in 2009 for the hosting of the state conference

• **#193 Sue HATTON.**

• **#194 Patricia McDONALD [Trish].** Trish is a life member, she gave generously for many years and was Wednesday coordinator at the Cottage, her passion was to help members find their ancestors. Trish was

presenter at our courses in family history and eventually ran the course each year. She was bookshop coordinator for a number of years and attended fairs and events selling what she could to keep our bank balance healthy, she was a wizard at selling rotary raffle tickets in shopping centres and always promoted the group wherever she was. She served on the committee and as Vice President. Trish was an asset to the growth of the group. Her dedication was much appreciated.

• **#199 Frank GERO.** Frank was Cottage coordinator for Wednesday and Thursday for a time, he was a committee member and Treasurer. Frank was always ready to help where he could and he made everyone welcome at the cottage with his friendly assistance. Frank was also on the committee in 2009 when we hosted the State Conference. He always had the best interest of the group at heart. Frank now lives further



up the coast so another loss we bear, and he also remains a financial member of our group.

20 years

- #73 **Max FARLEY** a great achievement and a wonderful support to the group, Max has supported the group for 20 years and was a welcomed member at meetings. Max has great interest and knowledge in the local history of Wyong and was always willing to buy any new publications the group published. *Max was presented*

with his 20 years of service certificate by Lyn Hagstrom. Max's health is not very good and he is unable to attend the Cottage, but his enthusiasm for our Group and research is still enormous

You have all played a part in the growth of our group over the years whether it is by volunteering or continued membership. The Management Committee say a BIG thank you to you all. ... 🌳

from your Librarian

Lyn Hagstrom member 768



I would like to highlight our CEMETERY collection which covers small and large cemeteries from across the

country, including

Northern Territory. The Cemetery collection comprises books, some four hundred [roughly], and CDs, which are loaded onto three of our computers. NOT All of the information in the books can be found on line and are certainly worth looking at for Ancestors. A couple of weeks ago I had a member who was looking for extra information on an ancestor who was buried at the Devonshire St Cemetery, which is now Central Railway. The bodies and headstones had been moved but the member was unable to find further information about where the ancestor had been moved to.

In our collection is a book called 'Sydney Burial Ground 1819 - 1901, where our member was able to find information on the ancestor including a sketch of the old headstone, none of which is available online.

Other Family History groups have compiled books that include graves that are on old family properties, old Cemeteries that are no longer used as well as the main Cemeteries of towns big and small. I have found entries for my own ancestors in the Port Macquarie and Cootamundra regions ranging from considerable amount of information about the person to just one line entries with name, date of death and burial plot number.

I would really encourage our members to take advantage of this valuable collection and consider using it for research to

compliment what is found online. Please come and have a look, if you require any help, I am only too pleased to come in any of the three days to assist.

- We are starting a new service called '**Ask The Librarian**' to allow members to make enquiries about people and places from their own research to find out if we have the relevant books available here

at the 'Cottage' for you to examine. Many of you will be surprised to learn our library carries a much wider and more comprehensive range of information than you may imagine. You can contact me directly through the following email

wfhglibrary@westnet.com.au



Did You Know?

NSW Government

Legitimation

In 1902 the Legitimation Act was passed to allow the re-registration of the birth of an illegitimate child – whose parents had subsequently married – to be updated to include details of the father and the marriage of the parents. This could only be done if there was no legal reason why the parents could not have married when the child was born.

- These new records were entered in the year of the re-registration, and the original registration was cancelled.
- The new number was recorded in both the year of birth and the year of re-registration.

In 1913, a change was made so that parents of an illegitimate child could record their marriage details by way of a declaration. This arrangement was for parents who had been unable to marry at the time of the birth for a legal reason, but had married later.

Declarations

In 1913 arrangements were made so that the true details of a child's birth and parentage could be registered. This included:

- parents who had not registered their child's birth within six months [legislation was amended for this in 1935]
- parents who had not been able to marry due to a legal reason when their child was born [addressed by the Commonwealth Marriage Act in 1961]
- foster parents who had informally adopted a child and were unable to record their details on the child's birth registration [legal adoptions were introduced in 1924].

A declaration allowed for details to be recorded by the Registry and although no formal registration was created, certified



copies of the details were issued.

Declarations were indexed along with normal registrations in the year of the birth, although in some instances the index entry appears in the year the declaration was made without cross-reference to the year of birth.

More than 4000 declarations are held by the Registry however some contain little information about events.



Many years ago, researching family history was not as simple as today. Visiting reading rooms and searching microfilm/fiche usually resulted in motion sickness for me.

On one expedition to NSW State Records Globe Street, the

Rocks, I found a notation regarding my father's brother *1934 Legitimised*, I duly noted the registration number, life happened and I promptly forgot about this.

Recent offers of discounts on transcriptions prompted me to follow this up. When the document arrived, all the information I knew was duly recorded, however, the last two items prompted me to research this Act.

As my grandmother died in 1926 when Uncle Norm was 32, I guess I will never know why my grandfather registered this information when Uncle was 40. They had married in 1899.

Helen Johnston-Lord Member 505



Registered

17 AUG 1934, SYDNEY

Comments

**THIS REGISTRATION HAS BEEN MADE UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGITIMATION ACT OF 1902.**

New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to our many 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
955	Lawrence 'Lawrie' Mackeson	963	Maree Trigg
956	Adrienne Holland	964	Greg Berry
957	Mary Kelly	965	John Hely
958	Shelley Cartwright	966	Fay Weir
959	Susan Patterson	967	Marilyn Rankmore
960	Joy Brown	968	Naomi Uhle
961	Nina Murray	969	Margaret Blain
962	Eric Ford		




Special Interest Groups



Here at **Wyong Family History Group Inc.** we offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar. [see page 26]

SIGs are free to members and go for one to two hours.

Observing strict **COVID-19** protocols some SIGs have resumed. Watch the *Cottage Newsletter* for more information.


 **NEW!** Breaking through Brickwalls

 Computer/Social Media

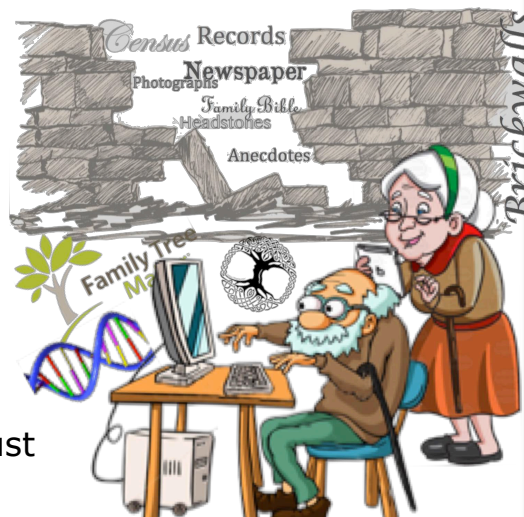
 **NEW!** Computing with Apple Mac

 DNA

 Family Tree Maker

 Scottish/Irish Research

We also run information sessions. These sessions are usually an hour or so and may just give your research and what you do with it, a boost.




Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential

A Reminder For Members


Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, they have to wear their membership card and do so in such a manner that it is clearly displayed.

*Adhering to the strict **COVID-19** protocols as listed on page 3 is a condition of entry to 'The Cottage'.*

Your courtesy is appreciated. ... 

Transport

- Members – Transport to and from The Cottage is a problem for some of our members.
- If you have any ideas, email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

- or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. ... 





According to Wikipedia:

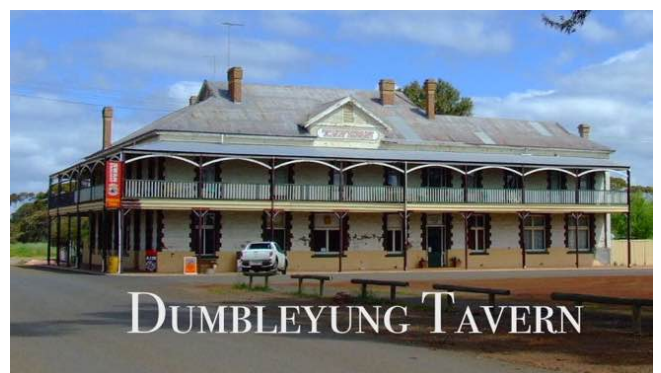
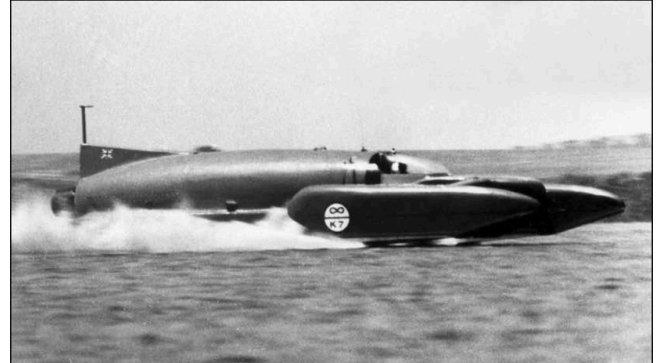
"Dumbleyung is a town and shire in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, 267 kilometres (166 mi) south-east of Perth between Wagin and Lake Grace on State Route 107. Dumbleyung's name is of Noongar origin, coming from "Dambeling" which possibly means "large lake or inland sea" (although another source suggests it came from "dumbung", a game played with bent sticks and a hard piece of fruit. The lake nearby was discovered and named Dambeling Lake by explorers Henry Landor and Henry Maxwell Lefroy in 1843, and the current spelling was used by surveyors in the 1860s and 1870s. Pastoralists and sandalwood cutters moved into the area, initially settling at Nippering, north of Lake Dumbleyung and 10 kilometres (6 mi) west of the present town."

Dumbleyung may spark a memory with those interested in speed and Donald Campbell.

On New Years Eve 1964 Donald Campbell set the world water speed record when he raced his boat Bluebird across the lake at 444.66 km/h (276.3 mph). This made him the fastest man both on land and on water.

Dumbleyung itself is a service centre with a post office, school, tavern, public library, caravan park and other facilities. Both the tavern and roadhouse offer counter meals. The community used to host the Bluebird Festival each November, though it was discontinued and effectively

replaced by the 'Taste of Dumbleyung' event; the festival showcases the



produce of the region alongside local entertainment attracting visitors to the town each April.

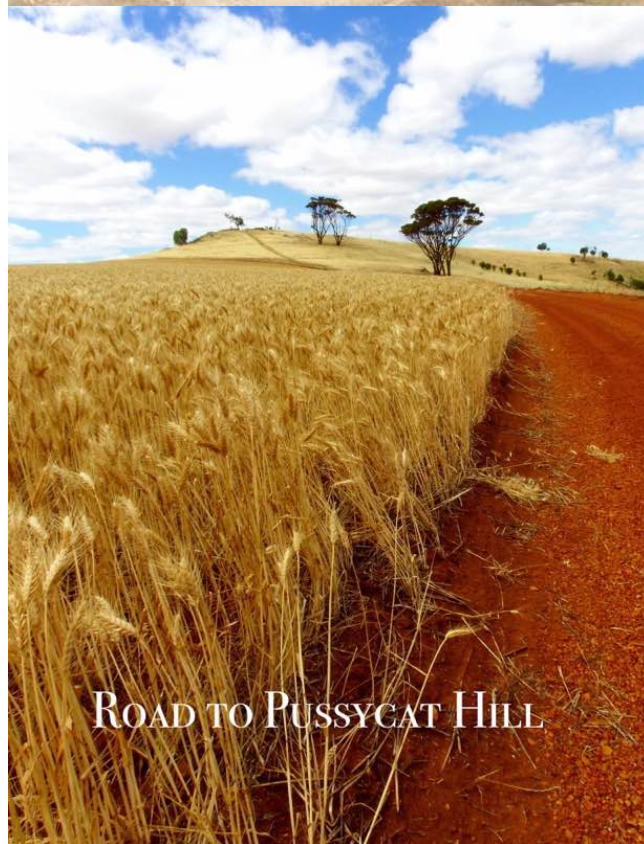
The surrounding areas produce wheat and other cereal crops. The town is a receival site for Cooperative Bulk Handling.

"Taking Tea"

A bronze life sized statue "Taking Tea" commemorates the contribution of members of the Country Women's Association (CWA) in Dumbleyung which commenced in 1930 and closed in 2013. It is dedicated to all past and present members.

The statue symbolises what the Country Women's Association means to so many country communities. The two women having a "cuppa" together represents an older woman pouring a cup of tea to a younger woman and perhaps new member to the CWA.

The Country Women's Association was first formed in New South Wales and Queensland in 1922. Subsequently each State and the Northern Territory formed an Association, a process which took a period of 14 years. The aim of the Association is to improve the conditions for women



and children and make life better



for families, especially those living in rural and remote Australia.

When we were more mobile, Harry and I travelled throughout most of our vast land. The south-western corner eluded us. There are many places in the vicinity making for an interesting detour.

I first heard of Dumbleyung

early in my family history journey. Harry Johnston-Lord's father spent some time in the area as a labourer in the 1920s although voter records show his name as Thomas Lord, later records show him as Thomas Johnston-Lord.

... 🌳



Night Witches

From Wikipedia

"Night Witches" (German nickname for the all female military aviators of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment, known later as the 46th "Taman" Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment, of the Soviet Air Forces. Though women were initially barred from combat, Major Marina Raskova

used her position and personal contacts with the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Joseph Stalin, to obtain permission to form female combat units. On October 8, 1941, an order was issued to deploy three women's air-force units, including the 588th Regiment. The

regiment, formed by Major Marina Raskova and led by Major Yevdokiya Bershanskaya, was composed of primarily female volunteers in their late teens and early twenties.

An attack technique of the night bombers involved idling the engine near the target and gliding to the bomb-release point, with only wind noise left to reveal their presence. German soldiers likened the sound to broomsticks and named the pilots "Night Witches". Due to the weight of the bombs and the low altitude of flight, the pilots did not carry parachutes until 1944.

When the regiment deployed to the front line in June 1942, the 588th Night Bomber Regiment became part of the 4th Air Army of the Southern Front. In February 1943 the regiment was honored with the Guards designation and reorganized as the 46th Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment in the 325th Night Bomber Aviation Division, 4th Air Army, 2nd Belorussian Front; in October 1943 it became the 46th "Taman" Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment.

History and Tactics

The regiment flew harassment and precision bombing missions against the German military from 1942 until the end of the war. At its largest, it had 40 two-person crews. The regiment flew over 23,000 sorties, dropping over 3,000 tons of bombs and 26,000 incendiary shells. It was the most highly decorated female unit in



the Soviet Air Force, with many pilots having flown over 800 missions by the end of the war, and twenty-three having been awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union title. Thirty-two of its members died in the war.

The regiment flew in wood-and-canvas Polikarpov U-2 biplanes, a 1928 design intended for use as training aircraft [hence its original *uchebnyy* designation prefix of "U-"] and for crop dusting, which also had a special U-2LNB version for the sort of night harassment attack missions flown by the 588th, and to this day remains the most-produced wood-airframed biplane in aviation history. The plane could carry only two bombs at a time, so eight or more missions per night were often necessary. Although the aircraft was obsolete and slow, the pilots took advantage of its exceptional manoeuvrability; it also had a maximum speed that was lower than the stall speed of both the

Messerschmitt Bf 109 and the Focke-Wulf Fw 190, which made it very difficult for German pilots to shoot down, with the exception of fighter ace Josef Kociok, who grounded the regiment for an entire night by shooting down three or four of their planes on the night of 31 July – 1 August 1943.

Cold welcoming

This all-female aviation regiment was not welcomed initially into the military with open

arms. Many of their male counterparts saw them as inferior and treated them with lack of respect. The women of the regiment were also given hand-me-downs of uniforms and oversized shoes by the men, as well as rudimentary tools [such as rulers, flashlights, pencils, etc] that lacked the "luxury" that the male soldiers received with their tools [e.g. radar, guns, radios, etc]. ... 🌲

George Herbert Cross

Jean Macleay member 359

Concluding My Grandfather's Story

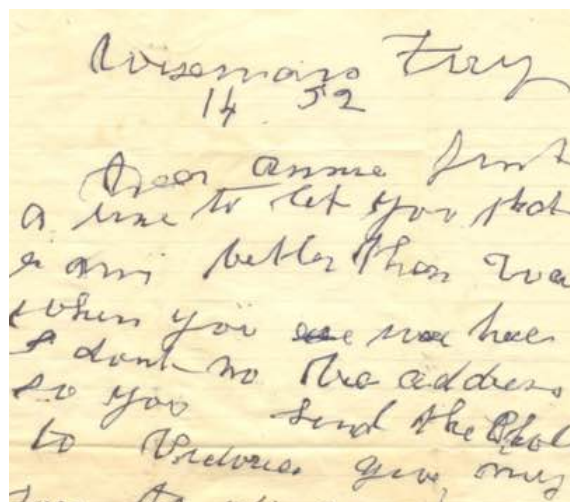
I can remember, at the time I heard of his death, that I was told he was drowned when a coastal steamer sank. I can also remember 'Bombo' being mentioned. Was this the name of the ship or where the sinking was supposed to have happened, or is it just the name of the ship upon which he served. I have spent much time over the years looking into this story without success.

Meanwhile great grandma continued to live in the same home on Singleton Road, and despite her son's treatment of his family, she remained in close touch with grandma. I can remember going up to visit her a couple of times with Mum and Grandma.

Very near the end of her life aunty Vicki gave me 'Grandma's box' an old sewing box containing treasures of grandma's. These include birthday cards etc. from her parents and grandparents including a letter from great grandma written in 1952 when she would have been 97. In this letter was a photograph

of George, this being the only one in existence as far as I know, except for the one taken as a child.

Letter from great grandma to grandma. It is amazing that the letter found her because the envelope was address to Mrs A Cross, Indiana Avenue Bellport. This should have been Indiana Avenue Campsie or Belfield. The letter says:



"Wisemans Ferry 14 52

Dear Annie just a line to let you know I am better than I was when you were here. I don't know the address so you send the photo to Victoria. Give my love to all the girls and to your own dear self.

I remain yours ever

M Cross

Ida is in ? at present [Ida was her daughter]

I have wondered why she sent the photo and thought it might mark the date of his death. As you will see below it poses more questions that it answers.

No such luck that date of photo is noted on the back but George looks about 60. Unfortunately his hat covers his bald head, but he is certainly dressed as described in the Police Gazette. The picture shows us who takes after him and among these are Uncle Phil [his eldest son], Peter Drummond his great grandson, and Cameron Curtis also his great grandson. There are many rabbits strung along the sides of his horse and one could assume that at this stage he was earning money shooting rabbits for skins and meat. This could be taken on the Hawkesbury but certainly not on the flood plain along the river. The rabbit skins were probably sold to Akubra for felt hats.

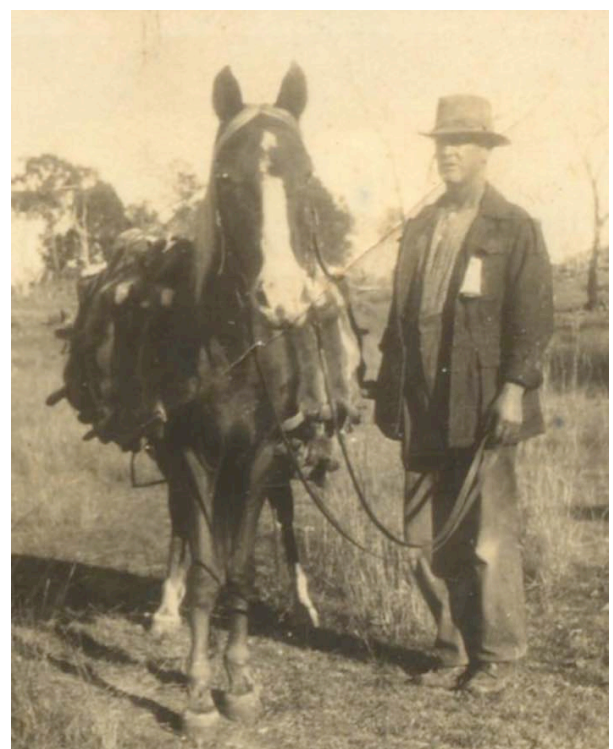
So this story is about a man who always remained beloved by his mother. Was he a worthy man who despite all his efforts became bankrupt, watched his family remain hungry and needy, watched his horses and then his bullocks die and finally tried to

find comfort in drink in the grip of which he became a belligerent and cruel abuser? If this is so, he would be deeply ashamed of himself in his sober moments and would escape into the drink again. Or was he just a really weak person who irresponsibly got grandma pregnant and retreated to the north coast where he was chased down by his future father-in-law to make his daughter an honest woman. He certainly kept close company with his brother, who was a criminal and wife deserter ... Take your pick.

- Appendix

- A further picture of George Herbert has come to light thanks to my cousin Kevin, youngest son of Philip Cross.

In her later years Aunty Vic [his only remaining child] relented and gradually over many visits told me more about him. She said he was a very clever man with his hands and anything he built was beautifully done. Of course she told of the terrible times the



family endured because of George's drinking. She told me that George, whilst living with his mother, and a neighbour called Rose built a trawler for a Sydney Italian fisherman. When completed George and the fisherman set out from Wiseman's Ferry to deliver the boat to Sydney. Aunty Vic's memory was that as they got to the entrance of Broken Bay in the night a terrible storm blew in from the south. She thought that some of the boat was found on Lion Island, but the bodies were never found. She

thought she was about 18 at the time.

[This is the story from last issue ... ed.]

Without a date, name of boat or his companion I could find no record which matched this information. In my search I went through Police Gazettes in the hope of finding some confirmation of Vicki's story. I did find one entry about George where grandma obtained judgment for child maintenance.

This ends Jean's interesting story. ed. ... 🌿

Santa

Terry Joyce member 657

It was post-war England. From 1952 my dad's parents, Fred and Mary Charlier lived in Oxfordshire and later in Buckinghamshire. My dad, John, and my mum, Betty, with their growing young family visited



*1963 Local Catholic Christmas event
with Grandpa in the Santa role*

Memories of Christmas



my grandparents every Christmas for Christmas lunch.

When our cousins arrived, we were allowed to open our presents. That is, we were given one present from under the Christmas tree and then we waited for what seemed like 'forever' [probably an hour] for the next present. When I grew up and married, my children were subjected to a similar 'torture' in a belief that the 'wait' time would enable them to appreciate the gift and the person who asked Santa to bring it to them.

I also remember that after lunch everyone moved to the lounge room where there was a roaring fire to keep us warm. It was always cold at that time of the year and sometimes it snowed on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas day. The adults would drink, smoke and chat while we

children played with our new toys. At some point, the heavy lounge room curtains were closed, no doubt to keep the warm air in, or the cold air out?

It could get pretty noisy in the lounge room. Therefore, Grandpa would leave the happy gathering and go upstairs for his afternoon 'nap'. Shortly afterwards, Granny would open up the curtains, a loud gasp would follow because in the garden,

walking towards the house was the man in a red suit carrying a sack of presents.

Santa's arrival was always a wonderful surprise, and one that sadly, Grandpa missed every year!

During charity events in the 1960s, Grandpa was called upon to wear the red suit. ... 🌲

Christmas 1957 in Scotland

Nina Murray member 961

Christmas 1957 when Christmas Day was first celebrated as a holiday in Scotland.

It was November 1957 when we first heard, Christmas Day was to be declared a holiday in Scotland. The combined Christian churches of all denominations had finally won through. No more would Christmas Day be blasphemed in Scotland, by the opening of pubs and the trudging feet of thousands, tramping into factories, shipyards, shops and offices, as just another working day: marked only by the secret

A Merry Wee Christmas



arrival of Santa coming down the lum, [chimney] leaving toys for excited children to wake up to on Christmas morning.

Memories of Christmas



I know it was 1957 because on the 14th October, my 15th birthday, I had walked out of school in self-righteous rage and anger, vowing never to return. Fifteen was the official leaving age, so I could not be made to go back; I began working. You may read/hear that 1958 was the first year Christmas Day became a holiday in Scotland, not so, that may have been the year it was officially gazetted, but not the first year it was taken as a holiday.

Families and friends gathered & gossiped: "Why weren't we told, nobody asked us, mark my word this is the sassanachs's, [the English] doing, they've been trying for years to ban hogmanay, well I'm no having it, I'll be writing to my local M.P., and I'll be having a word or two with the minister". "Aye Ellen, my Dave says he's going to work on Christmas Day, nobody's docking

him a days pay; be taking it up with the unions". Of course when it finally became clear that it would be a paid holiday and our traditional hogmanay plus 1st & 2nd of January, paid holidays' would remain, well that was different, that was fine. Didn't go down too well with the English, we having more paid holidays' than them, but what did we care. So Christmas Day was awaited with great anticipation that year.

As usual the decorations all went up in shops and houses, as did the small Christmas tree with fairy lights, tinsel and a few Christmas baubles, stood on a table, radiogram or whatever, always at the window fronting the street, generally the living room window. That way all the windows would be lit up on the dark winter's nights as everyone returned home from the pictures, a wee dance, or visiting friends, etc.

All windows were commented on, who'd put on a good show and who hadn't. And, always the conversation invariably was, would the snaw [snow] come in time for Christmas day, was "it cauld [cold] enough for snaw [snow] yet". This year especially we longed for snow; but it didn't come, at least not for Christmas. Come Christmas eve, the excitement was palpable, it had been generally agreed that the weans, [smaller children] would open their presents first thing on waking as usual, but everybody else would wait until dinner time

[around 2 p.m this year] or the arranged time for family & friends to gather and presents would be



opened then. Our immediate family, brother and wife, unmarried brother, mother and myself all gathered at my sister's home with her husband and wee Robert, who was only two. Also a few of Margaret's elderly neighbours, widows on their own with no family nearby. Margaret was good like that, a kindly nature. Our father wouldn't be there, he was in hospital, he had cancer. What a day it was, all crammed in at the small extended dinner table, not enough room for all, brother Aitken and big Robert, Margt., husband, perched on the edge of armchairs, wee Robert sat on the floor. Dinner was nothing special, mashed potatoes, green peas, and either roast chicken or mince with onions. Custard and tinned fruit to follow; Christmas crackers, paper hats & funny masks. No alcohol, a wee drink would come later. We had a *wonderful* time. Once everything was cleared away, we all settled in for the sing-song, men with a beer and whisky chaser; women with a wee port or sherry or a cup of tea and a wee bit of sultana cake. Everybody took their turn with a song, being Christmas Day, Christmas hymns

and carols were accepted, or they'd recite some poetry or a written piece, then at different times, someone or other would stand and give a toast, to the baby Jesus, to Christmas or to the hostess and the conviviality of the day. Always somebody would turn and look out the window, "is that snaw falling, or is it only sleet." So it continued until 11 p.m at night with different ones coming & going. A great day was had by all.

That was the very first time Christmas Day was a public holiday in Scotland and we celebrated it ever after, though it never replaced Hogmanay, at least not for a very, very long time. On boxing day, not officially a holiday, but many took it anyway, we all trooped out to Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, with presents, to visit my father. He'd had a great Christmas day also as had all the other men on the ward, they'd had the choice of roast chicken or roast beef with roast potatoes, gravy, veggies

etc., followed by either custard and dumpling, or trifle, or icecream and fruit. Most had been allowed a wee dram & to add to the merriment the young nurses had all dressed up, a few in french maids costumes, black stockings and suspenders on show. They'd also rubbed icecream all over some men's chests and some openly wondered where else might they have, but my Daddy swifty put an end to that, "enough oh that, my youngest lassie's only 15yrs". But again a great time was had by all, on both days. Not sure it's quite what the churches had in mind, but in our home at least the new annual holiday was declared a

May your troubles be less,
your blessings be more,
and nothing but happiness
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR!

Hogmanay Blessing

resounding success. ... 🌲

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

*Wayne Dean President,
member 489.*

This popular community fundraiser returned to The Big Green Box in NSW on Saturday 10 October

Our intrepid crew of the following folk presented themselves at Bunnings Tuggerah on Sunday 18 October.

Dellas & Keith Johnston, Sandra Ireland, Marilyn Cridland, Annette



Shearer, Peter Yates, Rhonda Bassett, as well as Julie & Niel Nielsen, Lorraine & Rod Cameron.

For the seasoned 'Sizzlers' there were changes, which they quickly adopted, together with newbies the successful day ran smoothly with the community happy to see the 'Sizzle' return.

The efforts of all involved are much appreciated. ... 🌲

August 2020 edition of The Tree of Life. An informative, chatty and wide ranging contribution of all things genealogical.


I thoroughly enjoyed everything.



Free Ancestry Access via Central Coast Library

A message from Michelle Goldsmith at Central Coast Library

Just a quick note to advise that free remote access to Ancestry via Central Coast Library will continue for now. It will be reviewed regularly.

You must be a member of the Library Service. Ancestry.com is accessed via the member services section of the online catalogue. ... 

News from Joy Murrin


Joy and Allan Murrin, Emily, Kieryn and Diane

We trust that your society members are well and keeping safe during these uncertain times.

It is a difficult time for societies with the closure of Family History Societies and Libraries. However with access to Birth, Death and Marriage Index and other databases it is

possible to research from self-isolation or social distancing. We want to assure you that we are still able to provide NSW Transcriptions. The NSW Registry has provided us with continued and safe access to the NSW Registrations. We are still able to provide transcriptions.

Also during these isolating times, we have reduced the cost of Full Transcriptions to \$18.

Wishing you well and please stay safe. ... 

37th Community Raffle

Tickets are now available from the 'Cottage' for the Rotary Club of The Entrance Inc. Community Raffle.

This raffle is a major fund raiser for our group and of course we would appreciate your support by taking a book or two.

For your chance to win \$3000 cash phone the 'Cottage' on 4351 2211 between 10:00am-3:00pm to arrange to purchase your raffle tickets (\$2 each or buy a book for only \$20).

We need your support to keep the group going.

Raffle will be **drawn 23/2/2021**.





**STATE RECORDS
BUS TRIP**

Saturday 20th March 2021
Subject to COVID-19 protocol

More information will be available on
our website.

Contact The 'Cottage' on
02 4351 2211,
Tuesday to Thursday
or email wfhg06@westnet.com.au





Life Members

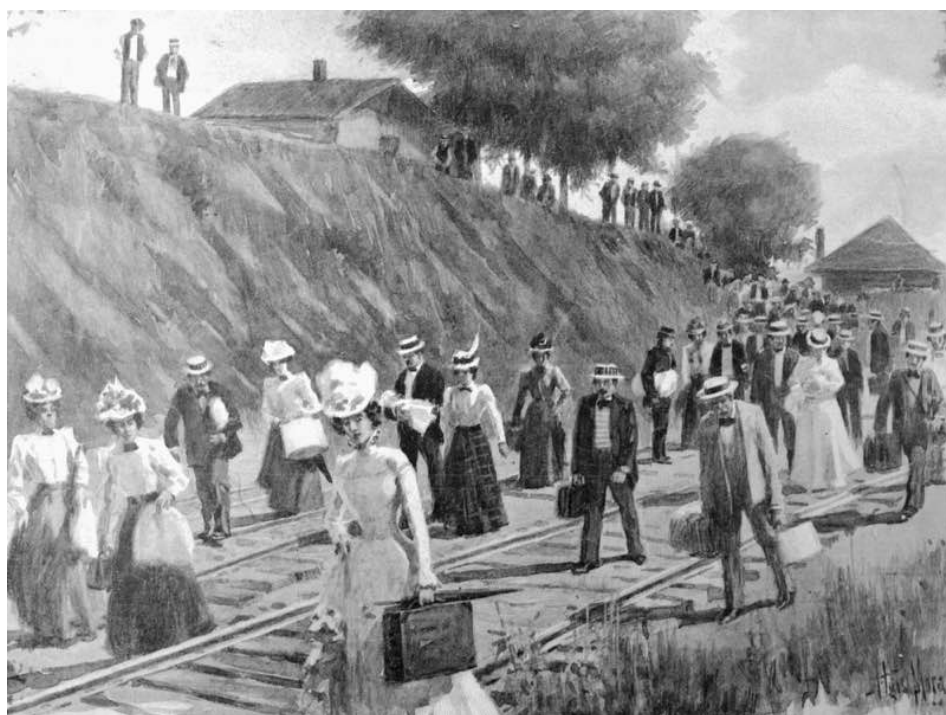
From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership. To date the following fourteen members have been recognized for their commitment and contribution, helping us become the Family History Group we are today. ... 🌿



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

Census 2021

The next Australian Census will be taken in 2021 and as family historians we all need to encourage others to agree to have their census form retained for 100 years. The family history community fought hard to get this question included in the census, but in the last Australian census held in 2016 less than half of all respondents [48%] agreed to do so. This was a fall from the 60% who ticked 'yes' in 2011. As we get closer to the next census date you'll hear more about this, but it's a good time to start encouraging everyone you know to have their form saved for posterity and for the benefit of future family historians. [Taken from the December 2019 Descent]. ... 🌿



Yellow Fever

Yellow Fever outbreaks in the 19th century caused travellers to make a beeline for other states. ... 🌿

Photographer:
Bettmann via Getty
Images

Publications For Sale

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

NEW DIGITAL RELEASE

Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987	USB	\$ 70.00 + p&h
BOOKS & CDs		
Bowden Family Funerals – Wyong. July 1999 – January 2016	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$15.00 – p&h
Brought in by the Tide. [A guide to tracing convict ancestors in one place.]	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour. [Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs.]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892-1954 incorporating the Wollombi Express [1892-1906] and Wyong District Advocate [1906-1920] Contains enteries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details	Book	\$ 27.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 20.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 1: Health and Service Providers – includes: Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade, Ministers [298 pages]	Book	\$ 35.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 2: Includes: Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. [252 pages]	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
People of Wyong Book 3: Includes: Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing and Transport. [297 pages]	Book	\$ 42.00 + p&h
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book	\$ 7.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006 – Out of Print – available on combined CD.		
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 2007 - 2011 + Wyong & Toukley	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley and Wyong 1963 - 2011	CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1985 – 2013	Book	\$ 30.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Agricultural Association [248 pages]. Covers the history of the Wyong Agricultural Association as reported in local newspapers; lists of Office Bearers; photos of founders and first Committee; plus the minutes of all meetings held from 1 May 1913 to 18 June 1930 with fully indexed list of names	Book	\$ 35.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h

Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013] [673 pages]. Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains: Birth, Marriage & Death details; some photos, personal stories, obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong.	Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate, Personal Notices [1932 – 1995] [available separately- see below]	Two Volume set	
Contents Volume One – 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4,790 in memoriam notices & 238 miscellaneous event notices, includes church photographs	Book	\$ 45.00 + p&h
Contents Volume Two – 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices includes Church and cemetery photographs	Book Volume 1	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Book Volume 2	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Wyong Remembers: The history of the Wyong War memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events [53 pages]	Book	\$ 19.00 + p&h
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area [Baptisms, Burials and Marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's Diaries and Miscellaneous Entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy & the Hawkesbury River.]	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Jilliby Cemetery, Wyong Shire, NSW [Updated 2009]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Noraville Cemetery, Wyong Shire [1869 - 2012]	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries, Wyong Shire NSW [1886-2001]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery, Wyong Shire NSW [1825 - 2016]	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
All 4 Cemetery Books		\$ 50.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 [220 pages] This index has been compiled from the Wyong Family History Group's cemetery database. It includes burials [and niches] at Jilliby and Noraville Cemeteries and the burials at Ronkana, St Barnabas [Yarramalong] and Yarramalong Cemeteries. Books have been produced for each individual cemetery that provide additional details such as photographs, headstone inscriptions and, in the case of Ronkana, St Barnabas and Yarramalong cemeteries, newspaper death, funeral or probate notices for some of the burials. The WFHG Inc. acknowledges the work of Mr Vince McKenzie and his son Clive, gravediggers, whose records form the core of our index. We also acknowledge the CC Council Bereavement Officers for their contribution to our records. Contains: Cemetery maps; Deceased details – name, age, date of burial, grave location [section, row, plot], some records have birth dates and maiden names. Includes all Graves including Unmarked Graves.	Book	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	CD	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery [30,000 names, not all from Wyong]	CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Genealogy Recorder		\$ 10.00 + p&h

WFHG Inc. Planned Events



- Subject to change.
- **The planned activities on this planner take into account the current COVID-19 restrictions.**
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, **master classes** and **courses** are held at 'The Cottage'.

The following applies for all special Interest Groups unless otherwise stated <i>Bookings Essential</i> Strict limit of FIVE plus presenter in meeting room at one time		
	2020	Event
November	Thu 12	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm [if required]
	Sat 14	ZOOM – General Meeting 1:00 pm Jill BALL Speaker
	Tue 17	DNA Interest Group 12:30pm – 2:30pm
	Wed 18	Scottish / Irish Interest Group 10:00 – 12 noon
	Sat 28	Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm [if required] NEW Computer/Apple Mac Interest Group 10.00 am – 12 noon, will be held in a different room.
	Mon 30	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
December		Thursday 10 – Last day for 2020
	2021	Event
January	Fri 8	Clean up Cottage 9:00 am
	Tue 12	Cottage Re-opens 10:00 am Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Mon 25	2021, 6 months Planning Meeting 10:00 am
	Tue 26	Australia Day
	Wed 27	NSW Schools Re-open
February	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm [if required]
	Sat 13	Central Coast Council – Love Lanes Festival
	Tue 16	DNA Interest Group 12:30pm – 2:30pm
	Wed 17	Scottish / Irish Interest Group 10:00 – 12 noon
	Sat 20	WFHG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1:00 pm
	Thu 25	NEW Brickwall Interest Group 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
March	Sat 27	Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 1 pm – 3 pm [if required] NEW Computer/Apple Mac Interest Group 10.00 am – 12 noon, will be held in a different room.
	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Fri 5	Introduction to Family History Course week 1
	Sat 6	WFHG Welcome Back BBQ

March	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker Interest Group 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Family Tree Maker Interest Group 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm [if required]
	Fri 12	Introduction to Family History Course week 2
	Tue 16	DNA Interest Group 12:30pm – 2:30pm
	Mon 17	NSW Senior's Festival Begins
	Fri 19	Introduction to Family History Course week 3
	Sat 20	Possible State Records Bus Trip
	Thu 25	NEW Brickwall Interest Group 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 26	Introduction to Family History Course week 4
	Sat 27	Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 10:00 am – 12 noon Computer/Tablets/Social Media Interest Group 1 pm – 3 pm [if required] NEW Computer/Apple Mac Interest Group 10.00 am – 12 noon, will be held in a different room.
14 to 24 April 2021. NSW Senior's Festival		



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc



BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Are you keen to discover more about the background that makes you who you are? Bring your lunch and join us for this four-week course. We will show you where to start and how to record information to begin your ancestral family tree.

Subject to **COVID-19** protocol.

This 4 Week Course Includes:

🌳 *How to Begin Research*

🌳 *Charts*

🌳 *Australian Records*

🌳 *Software*

🌳 *Record Keeping*

🌳 *Filing & Organising*

🌳 *Convicts*

🌳 *Google*

🌳 *& Much, much more*

Begins: **Friday 5 March 2021**
then each Friday to 26 March 2021

For more information Contact –

The 'Cottage' on 02 4351 2211, Tuesday to Thursday
or email wfhg06@westnet.com.au



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

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 January 2021 is the closing date for items to be included in the next issue of the "Tree of Life".

Local LDS Family History Centre

Akora Road, Wyoming [near ALDI]

Opening Hours: Tuesday 6 – 8 pm,

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Generally closed during school holidays.

Open at other times on request

Free access

Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au_gosford@ldsmail.net

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

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

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

Members contributions are always welcome.