

WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

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FEATURING

Memories

OF TOYS, PLAYTHINGS & THE FESTIVE SEASON

Member contributions always welcome!

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Patron: Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
Meetings: Are held monthly on the 2nd Saturday between February and November, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Old School Community 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 2024-2025

President: Lynda Smith
Vice-President: Lyn Hagstrom
Secretary & Minutes Secretary: Ann Holland
Treasurer: Lyn Clark-Duff
Management Committee:
 All the above executive plus Peta Baigent, Martin Fisher, Regina Hogan, Beverley Hopkins, Roger Lewis, Kerrie Metcalfe and John Selwood.

| | |
|---|---|
| Assets Manager & IT Manager: | Roger Lewis |
| Bookstall Supervisor: | Ann Holland |
| Caretaker: | Wayne Bermingham |
| Cottage Administrator | Tuesday: Lyn Hagstrom |
| | Wednesday: Helen Hord |
| | Thursday: Wayne Bermingham |
| Cottage Relief Administrator: | Lorraine Cameron |
| Cottage Roster Planner: | Cheryl Whamond |
| Courses in Family History Supervisor: | Ellen Sheerin |
| Electronic Journal Distributor | Lorraine Cameron |
| Grant Applications Planner: | VACANT |
| Groundsman: | Will Ferrett |
| Group Collector of Statistics: | Martin Fisher |
| Guest Speaker Co-ordinator: | Regina Hogan |
| Irish Research Tips: | Kerrie Metcalfe |
| Journal Snippet Critiques: | |
| Librarian: | Lyn Hagstrom |
| Librarian Assistants: | Peta Baigent, Dellas Johnston, Sue Fisher |
| Local Research Officer & Project Organiser: | John Selwood |
| Membership Secretary: | Wayne Bermingham |
| Printing Publications – Books & CDs: | Roger Lewis & John Selwood |
| Proof Reading: | Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Terry Joyce |
| Public Officer: | Roger Lewis |
| Publicity Officer: | Lynda Smith |
| Publications [Books, CDs] printing: | Roger Lewis, John Selwood |
| Raffle Organiser: | Christine McKenzie |
| Scrapbooking [Photos]: | Lyn Johnston |
| Tree of Life Editor: | Helen Johnston-Lord |
| Unrelated Certificates Organiser: | Jacqueline Wieringa |
| Webpage Manager: | Roger Lewis |
| Weekly Newsletter Editor: | Wayne Bermingham |
| Welfare: | Administrators |

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

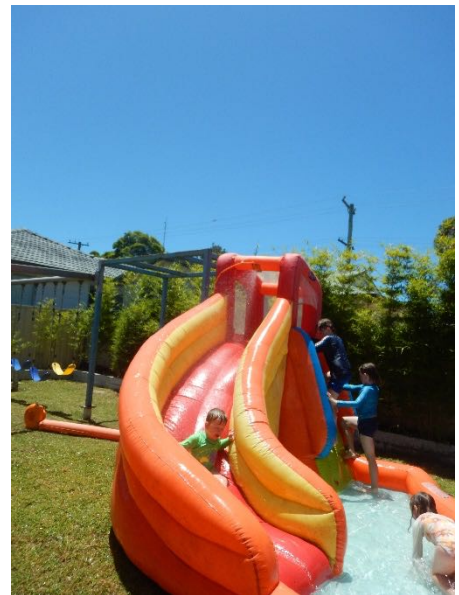
Lynda Smith – President – LM2



Our Christmas luncheon at Club Wyong [Wyong RSL] was a great success. All who attended enjoyed the food, the quizzes, the camaraderie and the raffle draw. We had so many prizes that just about everyone in the room won something. For the first time ever, we had pre-sold some raffle tickets at our seminars and shopping centre information tables, so some prizes were won by non-members. On our last day at the Cottage we held a Christmas themed morning tea, which was also well attended. A special thanks to Lyn and Paul Hagstrom for providing us with delicious Christmas cake and other goodies.

Traditionally, we always close for a few weeks over December/January and our calendar begins with a top to bottom clean of our cottage and grounds. Thanks to the hard work of our members, all the rooms sparkled and the outside areas received just as much attention. Sadly, I forgot to take before/after photos! Come and visit and see for yourself.

My Christmas this year was a special outdoor family event. Our youngest son and his wife hosted their first family lunch at their new home in Toukley. They are renovating, and currently have no oven, so our son worked miracles with a smoker and a BBQ, while the rest of the family supplied other dishes. There were thirteen adults and seven children under eight, so it was a joyous, but noisy affair. The children enjoyed a blow-up water slide and we adults indulged in nibbles and cold drinks under the newly built outdoor patio. It was lovely.



The Group managed to sneak in a Bunnings BBQ on Dec. 29. This was very successful and we added a good amount to our bank account. We have a busy calendar for the first six months. Your committee has tried to provide a range of interesting sessions, hopefully something to interest everyone. A seminar is planned for early April. Our Special Interest Groups have resumed and we have a Beginner's Class scheduled for February/March. Our Library has been given some serious attention over the break. It looks fantastic



and the new signage will help you locate what you need very easily. Thank you to the members and their partners who made this transformation possible.

Lastly, a number of members came together on Thursday January 23rd to recognise what a spectacular country we live in. VP Lyn Hagstrom brought in some of her family photo books that chronicled her many trips around Oz. The books highlighted the amazing variety of flora, fauna, culture and landforms we have all around us. We are indeed, lucky. As promoted by the National Australia Day Council, we should all - Reflect, Respect, Celebrate.

Stay safe and well, Lynda.



December Bunnings Barbeque

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Welcome to our first edition for 2025.

We are featuring Toys, Playthings and the Festive Season this issue. Thanks to those who have provided Helen Burkett and myself with their memories and contributions.

I have been able to attend a few of our events thanks to the generosity of Lynda Smith & Lorraine Cameron's transport.

The Jingle & Mingle Christmas function was very enjoyable as was the Last Day of the Year get together. .

I also enjoyed the Australia Day Celebration and managed to fit in a little research.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on the weekly Newsletter to see our next featured topic.

Please enjoy this issue and your stories and reactions are always welcome.

Researching, writing and recording your family history is a wonderful gift for your family, they may not appreciate it at the moment, time will shine a different light on your efforts.

Email your stories to me at wfhgtol2@gmail.com. Our next deadline is 21 April 2025.

Stay well and Stay safe. ... ❖



NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Regina Hogan Member 533

Our November 2024 meeting was attended by 24 members as well as three visitors. In honour of Remembrance Day, and keeping with the theme of the day, we welcomed guest speaker Matt Robinson, whose presentation captivated everyone. Matt shared the story of an extraordinary World War I archive that had unexpectedly arrived at his antique shop. His deep passion for military history shone through as he recounted the story and showcased remarkable pieces of memorabilia, including a delicate envelope containing dried poppies from Flanders Field, dating back to 1917.

Special thanks to Kerrie Metcalfe and Melissa Metcalfe for their contribution in organising Matt as our speaker for the day.



Matt Robinson telling us about the amazing collection of memorabilia.



Matt Robinson is thanked by Regina for his presentation.

Lynda Smith LM2 President.

November's meeting was a massive success, largely due to the many hours of work that Lyn Hagstrom and her husband Paul put into the visual presentations, the BBQ, morning/afternoon tea and the displays. Everyone really enjoyed the powerpoint presentations and the tables full of wonderful original documents, photos and research about some of our military ancestors. The sausages were cooked to perfection and the food supplied by many of our members for morning/afternoon tea was delicious. Thanks also to Sue Clegg and Kris Havron for coming in early to help set up. Thanks also to all the members who supplied their special memorabilia and research for others to view. The guest speaker was excellent and I am sure that all who attended were amazed at the collection of documents/souvenirs and photos that Matthew showed us. Thanks also to Melissa Metcalfe for assisting with the talk, and Kerrie Metcalfe for doing the genealogical research for Matthew. Well done all! ... ❖



ZOOM MEETINGS

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

These meetings have continued over the summer and have been a fun way to share our experiences.

Our themed topics have shown us how many of you are experimenting with PowerPoint or similar software, this is a good place to show your efforts. ... ❖

2024 MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Lyn Hagstrom, member 768

We had 14 attending and 2 apologies due to illness. All enjoyed a nice relaxing fun afternoon with plenty of food, talking and laughter while waiting for the main event.

The Race was keenly watched, everybody hoping to have the winner or place getters, followed by much excitement at the result. Relief that every horse made it home safely.

I would like to thank all that came and John Selwood, Sue and Martin Fisher, Christine McKenzie, Will Ferrett and my other half Paul Hagstrom for help in setting up, preparing the food and making sure we had the TV working. Also, for everyone who helped clean up at the finish.

A big thank you to all that made it a wonderful afternoon. ... ❖





EXCURSION TO THE NSW STATE ARCHIVES

Regina Hogan Member #533

On Saturday, 16th November, seven enthusiastic members of the WFHG embarked on a rewarding trip to the NSW State Archives. Renowned for its extensive collection, the Archives offer invaluable resources for family research, including birth, death, and marriage certificates often found in deceased estate and divorce files. Inquest files also provide fascinating insights into family histories.



Our bus driver Dutchy.

The excursion proved fruitful, with all attendees uncovering a wealth of valuable information, including some unexpected discoveries that added depth to their family stories.

A special thanks goes to our trusty bus driver, "Dutchy," for ensuring a smooth and safe journey. The day was a resounding success and a reminder of the rich resources available to support our genealogical pursuits. ... ❖



The seven happy members who made the trip to the State Archives

DID YOU KNOW HELP IS AVAILABLE?

As a member you are entitled to assistance when you're doing research here at the 'Cottage'. Volunteers are on duty every day ready and waiting to help you locate records and even add flesh to some of your ancestor's bones with such details as where they lived, what they did and perhaps even what they looked like. ... ❖

2024 JINGLE & MINGLE

Lynda Smith

Our 2024 Jingle & Mingle at Club Wyong was an excellent day. Melissa Metcalfe provided us with some wonderful games. The reindeer quoit toss was a particular favourite, even though most of us were poor shots! Melissa and Kerrie supplied some lovely gifts for the prize-winners. Helen Johnston-Lord provided a colourful array of table decorations and John Selwood supplied some beautiful Christmas bush.

Normally, we don't sell our Christmas raffle tickets to non-members, but we had the three lovely timber child's items [rocking horse, crib with doll and table and chair], as well as our usual hampers, so tickets were also sold at shopping centres and at our seminars. Some prizes were also won by member's spouses/children who attended the luncheon.

Thank you again to all the members who donated such quality items, those who helped put the prizes together and my raffle helpers on the day - Ann Holland, Lyn Hagstrom, Sue Clegg, Sue Fisher and Chris McKenzie.

The meals were promptly delivered and quite tasty. The venue was very suitable, aside from the fact that the audio-visual system did not work. We had about 33 attend on the day.



Creating Hampers

Christine McKenzie member 781

Thanks to all the generous people who donated to our Christmas raffle. We were able to make up over 20 prizes thanks to your generosity. Thanks to Dellas Johnston and Lorraine Cameron who included their names inside their donated items. By word of mouth I know that Jan Barrett and Helen Johnston-Lord made beautiful craft items which are very much appreciated.



Thanks so much to all the volunteers who helped make up the baskets and wrapped prizes, Lynda Smith, Kristine Havron, Lyndall Hall, Sue Fisher and special thanks to Sue and Martin Fisher for putting all the prizes in their car to bring back to our Christmas party on Sunday. Kerrie Metcalf is making up baskets to bring in on Sunday, so thank you Kerrie.

Once again thanks to all for your support.

2024 LAST DAY MORNING TEA

Sixteen members, including the 3 volunteers on duty, attended the Last Day Morning Tea on the 12th December. Everyone was very impressed by the wide variety of food, cakes, pastries, fruits and even decadent chocolate desserts. Entertainment was a slide show of photos of members past and present compiled by Helen J-L.



AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Lynda Smith (President and Publicity Officer.)

Again sixteen members enjoyed a lovely day at the Cottage on 23 January. We set up tables on the veranda and the breeze kept everyone cool. As usual, there was an abundance of food, the sausages and onions expertly cooked by Paul Hagstrom and lovely fresh salads completed our meal. Helen Johnston-Lord provided some colourful banners depicting scenes and symbols of our nation and Lyn Hagstrom allowed us to browse her collection of beautiful photos of our unique flora, fauna and landscapes. It was a lovely day, full of conversation and friendship. Thank you to all who assisted on the day.



ACCESSIBILITY

If you find our hill and stairs a challenge too far, contact the Cottage on 4351 2211 and someone will be happy to help you safely to our door. ... ❖

TRANSPORT

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

If you are able to help, email The Secretary:
wfhq06@gmail.com
or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. ... ❖



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



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

All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar [page 34] ***BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – Remember, if you book and are unable to attend, please phone and cancel.***

SIGs go for one to two hours

MULTI-MEDIA DEVICES SIG – Roger Lewis & Ellen Sheerin continue this group helping attendees sort through their questions no matter what the media or device.



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



FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG – This popular group continues. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SIG – Alternating monthly with our popular DNA SIG, this new group offers a safe, friendly, fun environment to explore the wonders of AI.



Whether you're curious about how AI can enhance your family history research or just want to experiment with its incredible possibilities, this "AI Playroom" is the perfect space to learn, share, and enjoy.

Stuart Purvis-Smith and Regina Hogan (*assisted by ChatGPT*) **Come play, explore, and discover AI with us—no prior experience needed!**

SCOTTISH RESEARCH SIG It is not always easy to unravel the records of these two gaelic countries. We
IRISH RESEARCH SIG will help you try to find what you are looking for. These popular groups continue. Watch the Newsletter for dates for the next session.



MICROSOFT OFFICE SIG – The Standard Office bundles come with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and OneNote. Join this group to discover to learn some of the amazing features of this package. Watch the Newsletter information about the next sessions.



Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential



2025 FEES AND CHARGES

The following fees and charges apply:

1. **Membership Fees** for a 12 month Membership:
 - Single: \$40.00
 - Family: includes 2 Adults and 1 other person living at the same address. \$50.00
2. Junior: 18 years and under \$20.00
3. **Special Interest Group Fees (SIG):** No Handouts. Casual. Question and Answers from participants. \$3.00
4. **Information Sessions:** These run up to two-hours with a structured format and topic with handouts \$5.00
5. **Workshops:** longer session, 3-3½ hours max, more hands-on, possible use of personal devices, a skills-based presentation \$10.00
6. **Master Class** These are longer sessions depending on topic; they are structured and can be a hands-on workshop. \$20.00
7. **Seminars:** Usually held at a larger venue with one or more guest speakers \$35.00 Members and \$40.00 Non-Members.
8. **One-on-one** DNA, FTM or other hands on personal **help**. Only certain times available. Bookings are **essential** & must be in advance. One on One help \$10.00 per hour
9. **Library Spotlights** members only, guided exploration of specific resources. Bookings essential No fee.
10. **Personal Research** after an appointment to discuss your requirements. Approx. \$50 per couple researched
11. **Bus Trips** prices will vary according to destination, tolls, size of bus, petrol prices etc. Charges will be kept to a minimum. Booking essential.
12. **Beginners Course:** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
13. **Intermediate Course** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
14. **Advanced Course** \$60.00 for 4 weeks or \$20 per day
15. **Non-Member Research Fee** for a two-hour session with limited assistance – become a member for only \$10.00 extra \$30.00

PHOTOCOPYING

| A4 | | A3 | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Black & white | .40¢ per copy | Black & white | .60¢ per copy |
| Colour | .80¢ per copy | Black & white | \$1.20 per copy |
| for double sided | | .30¢ per copy extra | |
| Laminating A4 | \$1.50 | Laminating A3 | \$2.00 |

A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS

Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, wearing membership cards in a manner that it is clearly displayed is obligatory.

Your courtesy is appreciated. ... ❖

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month
Time: Usually 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Your place.

Contact the Cottage to put your name down – phone 4351 2211

We continue this gathering

Join this gathering and meet other members, where people can informally share their discoveries and stories.

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

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

All Welcome

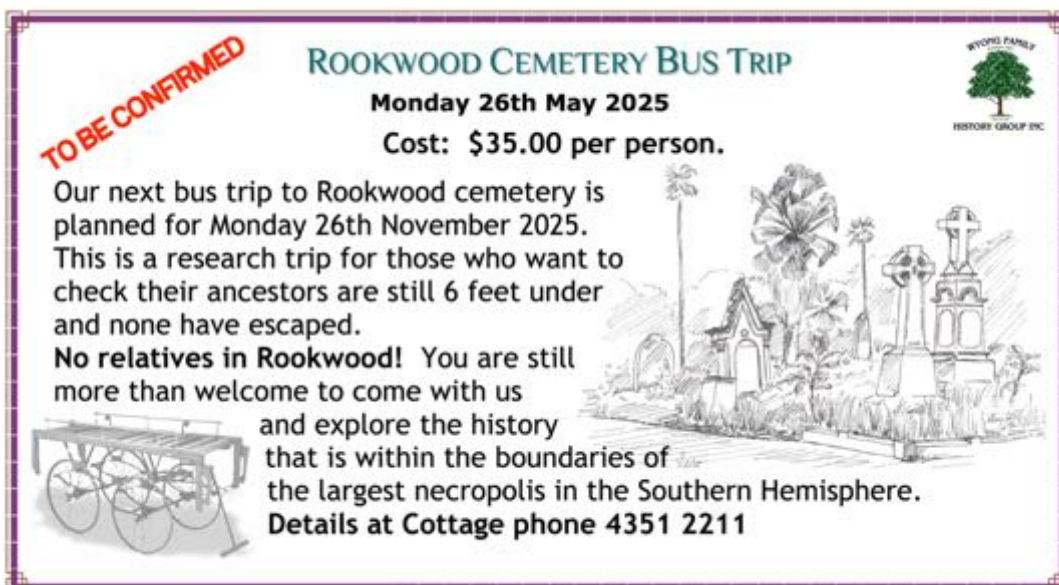


St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Morning Tea
Thursday 20th March at 10:00 am

Join us for a morning of fun and frivolity.

Come along as your favourite **GREEN** character, if you wish, have some fun, enjoy the music and the tasty nibbles and there may even be **CAKE** and a **Raffle!**



TO BE CONFIRMED

ROOKWOOD CEMETERY BUS TRIP
Monday 26th May 2025
Cost: \$35.00 per person.

Our next bus trip to Rookwood cemetery is planned for Monday 26th November 2025. This is a research trip for those who want to check their ancestors are still 6 feet under and none have escaped.

No relatives in Rookwood! You are still more than welcome to come with us and explore the history that is within the boundaries of the largest necropolis in the Southern Hemisphere.

Details at Cottage phone 4351 2211

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Presents

GENEALOGY GOLD: MINING SYDNEY'S ARCHIVES & MANAGING YOUR TREASURES

with **Lilian Magill and Jill Ball**

Sunday 6th April 2025

10:15 am – 3:30 pm

At Wyong Golf Club, 319 Pacific Highway, Wyong

Free Parking. Bus stops near by. Club lunch choices from \$11.00. Club opens at 10:00

The Cost is \$25.00



Morning: Exploring the City of Sydney Archives with Lilian Magill.

Lilian will introduce the City of Sydney Archives, an interesting free site, what it contains for genealogists, where to find them and how to use them. She will show how to navigate your way through the different categories and then go 'live' on the site and do searches, so you can see how the site works. Lilian is a genealogist of almost 40 years. She loves to share her knowledge with others and when not researching her ancestors, she enjoys reading and quilting. There will be a short break during this session.



Afternoon: Managing our Genealogy Assets: Physical, Digital and Cranial

with Jill Ball, using this image to cover each of the steps in this process. Jill (aka GeniAus) is a former librarian, teacher and IT specialist. Jill is an amateur genealogist who has travelled widely in search of ancestors. She uses social media to share her enthusiasm for technology and genealogy.



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

Payment Options: Direct Deposit, Eftpos,

PayPal, in person at the Cottage

Enquiries The Cottage' – 4351 2211,

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

Email: wfhg02@gmail.com

In Person: Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong.

[enter via the old school yard]

Expect a Raffle



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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

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

For a reasonable Fee

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

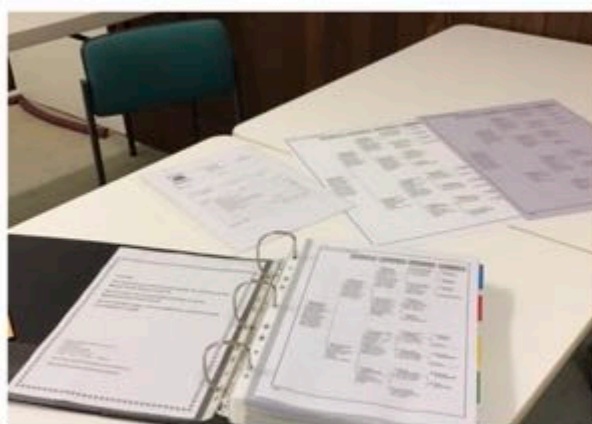
Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.

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

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

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

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



Example of what you may receive.

Their War

They are remembered

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

AUSTRALIA UNDER ATTACK: RAIL TRANSPORT AND AUSTRALIA'S WAR EFFORT

Australian War Memorial

Rail transport was the main means of shipping service personnel and military equipment around the country. However, Australian railways were not up to the demands of war. Each state used a different gauge, much of the rolling stock was unsuited for the task, and not until early 1943 was rail transport centrally organised. And yet the demand for quick and efficient means of transport only increased as coastal shipping was diverted for use by the armed forces or reduced by losses to enemy action.

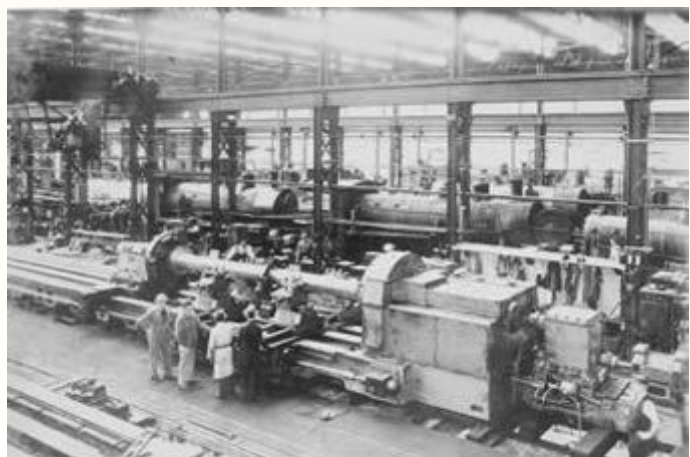
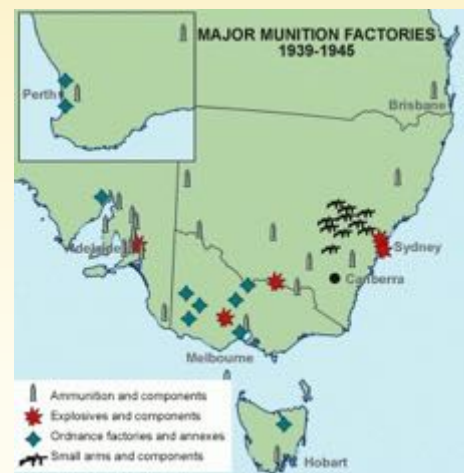
The rail network in Queensland was closest to the fighting. In 1942 the army had effective control of transport in northern Queensland. This led to the Queensland Railways Commissioner and the federal Minister for Transport clashing with the Minister for the Army, a dispute only solved through the Prime Minister's intervention.

By the end of the war hundreds of thousands of Australian and Allied soldiers, and even enemy prisoners, had travelled millions of kilometres on Australian trains.

Rail Workshops

State railway workshops were established centres of industry that played a vital part in Australia's war effort. In 1942 the Ipswich Railway Workshops, Queensland, was a major centre of wartime production. As well as constructing and maintaining the tracks, locomotives and rolling stock that were under

increasing demand from military as well as civilian traffic, the workshops produced war material and provided the expertise and tools to test



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL. Gun lathe construction. X2432

enemy weapons.

Ipswich Railway Workshops expanded in 1941 when the federal government constructed a Tool and Gauge Room. The skilled technicians at the railway workshop were able to provide support for the munitions factory at nearby Rocklea.

Troop trains in the Northern Territory

With sea lanes exposed to enemy attack the Allies had a major problem moving troops and supplies over land to Darwin. Troop trains could move armies from east to west but not from south to north. The narrow gauge Central Australian Railway from Adelaide ended at Alice Springs. A single line railway ran southeast from Darwin for 500km to Birdum. The 1000km from Birdum to the Alice was partially traversed by rutted vehicle tracks. In 1942 the AMF, CCC and the US Army worked together to build a road to connect the two railheads. When the link was complete truck drivers of the Australian Army Service Corps ran road convoys that transferred men and material that had been transported by troop train from supply depots and training camps in the south to the railhead to forward bases in the north.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Troop train in near Oodnadatta May 1942 **040764**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Troop train in South Australia **045002**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Ice cream cart meeting a troop train Clapham Junction 1943 **058930**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Troops and trucks detrain at Alice Springs, December 1942 **027919**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Troops detrainning, Clapham Junction 1943. **058929**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL Ambulance train X5197



We asked our members to share stories Remembering Toys, Playthings & the Festive Season.

What a pleasure it has been to read the reminiscences of fellow members.

A special thanks to all who have assisted in this little feature. HJ-L editor.

Memories REMEMBERING TOYS, PLAYTHINGS & THE FESTIVE SEASON
That's How it Was Looking Back in Time

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PRENTICE FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE.

Lynda Smith nee Prentice. LM 2

When I was about three years old, my family [Mum, Dad, and newborn sister] moved into 39 Lone Pine Ave., Umina. Up until this point, we had been living with my maternal grandmother in Artarmon and Dad was working for NSW Fire Brigade out of Lane Cove Station. Mum and Dad had spent many weekends building a little 2-bedroom fibro and tile house in a newly opened estate. Originally, it was to be a weekender, but housing was still in short supply in Sydney. My dad's parents and extended family helped when they could. When my sister was born in 1958, my grandmother's house became too small for all of us, hence the move.



The soil around our home was largely sand. Mum had to work hard to get anything to grow, even grass. The surrounding bush was full of native plants, including spindly pine trees, paperbarks, old man banksias, bracken fern and flannel flowers. The road was dirt and we had an outside pan toilet and tank water. For a number of years our Christmas tree was one of these bush pines, chopped down by Dad. We filled a metal bucket with sand and stood the tree in this, occasionally giving it some water. If we were feeling especially festive, the bucket would be wrapped in Christmas paper. Decorations were very basic- home-made paper chains, a glittery paper angel made at school, a few store-bought baubles and not much else. Due to the nature of the long thin pine needles, it was difficult to get ornaments to stay in place.



Mum hated the needles dropping, so eventually, we purchased a very modern silver 'tinsel tree' that stood on 3 little metal legs and the branches had to be poked into holes in the timber 'trunk'. It all packed up quite tidily into a box and could be easily stored. We also had those concertina style fold-out bells, balls, garlands and other shapes that decorated the room. These were carefully refolded each January and the cardboard edges held together with a paperclip. Over the years, we added flashing lights, tinsel and more store-bought ornaments to our stash. At some point, the paper angel was replaced by a 'lovely' silver plastic star.



From mid-1966 we moved to Papua New Guinea. We came 'home' every two years, over the Christmas break and stayed with family, so we did not bother to



decorate our tropical homes in those years. When we weren't on leave, Mum did her best to make Christmas look 'normal'. This photo [Rabaul 1969, I believe] was taken using a timer, and tripod. Obviously, Dad didn't get the positioning quite right! The silver tinsel tree had been upgraded to a green plastic version with fold up branches.

Eventually, a 'real' look plastic tree with branches that hooked into the main trunk was purchased. This was taller, in old measurements, maybe six feet high, and was quite impressive. Christmas ornaments were now widely available in shops, and came in many types of material, from wood, to glass, plastic, felt and even metal. We ended up with a large box full and it was fun choosing a particular colour or theme each year.

I left home in 1974 to attend university, but always managed to spend some of the Christmas festivities with my parents. Mum and Dad always decorated the house and kept up our family traditions.

After Dad passed away in 1992, Mum started to simplify her life, and the big fake tree was replaced by a smaller one, possibly only three feet high, but the decorations stayed the same, with some handmade versions from assorted grandchildren added in for colour. After Mum moved into care, in 2018, my sister became custodian of most of the family decorations. She faithfully puts up the tree every year in her granny flat in the back yard of 39 Lone Pine Ave. The roads are no longer dirt, the bush is severely thinned out, but the block still belongs to my family. My parents would not recognise the larger modern home that my nephew has created onsite, but evolution is to be expected. We all have to move with the times. Jan. 2025.

<https://weeds.org.au/profiles/radiata-pine-monterey/> [pine tree]

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/1607308653/vintage-tinsel-christmas-tree-1960-1950> [tinsel tree]

https://www.visitfyldcoast.info/blogs/old-christmas-decorations/#google_vignette [paper bell photo], Family photos.

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Martin Fisher #653

I well remember the Christmases of my late teenage years;

But...before we got to the main day there was the Christmas Eve to get past. First was the Christmas Eve service at about 7pm down at the local Methodist church in Lakemba, after which a group of we younger people would gather and plan the remainder of the evening. The remainder of the evening consisting of about 5-6 hours of carol singing around the neighbourhood specifically in front of the houses of the older members of the congregation at their request. We usually had about 15 houses to visit and sing at, spread from Lakemba to Bexley, and Belmore to Condell Park so we covered a large territory but we loved doing it. Before we started there was the job of loading the old piano from the hall on to the truck and lashing it down (we didn't do anything

by halves) Of course everyone we visited wanted us (anywhere between 20 to 25 singers) to come in for a cool drink (soft) and some nibbles but it didn't take an Einstein to work out that we would never have enough time to get through the night and satisfy all requests so we restricted the food and drink to just 3 times during the night. One of the visits was always at midnight as the man who lived there was born on Christmas Day, so he & his wife not only got to hear carols sung but he also received a rendition of Happy Birthday



On Christmas Day it was always church service first, then home to open the presents, followed by a huge Christmas lunch with all the family. The luncheon feast (it can only be described as such) contained amongst other things cooked ham, roast pork, roast chicken, baked potatoes and vegetables, (a far cry from today's cold meats and salad) followed by Christmas pudding and custard. Sixpences from pre-decimal coin days were saved specifically for putting into the Christmas pudding mixture. The meal started with the customary pulling of the Christmas bon-bon and the telling of the groan inducing jokes contained therein.

After the dishes had been cleared away it was all outside to play French cricket until one by one we succumbed to the excesses of the previous hours. ... ❖

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION SPARKS A SEARCH.

Lynda Smith nee Prentice. LM 2

Many years ago, I saw an episode of *Days of our Lives*, where the main character decorated her Christmas tree with baubles displaying the names of members of her family. I started doing this, using ballpoint tubes of paint. Since then, I have added extended family members and friends' names to our tree. Each year, the baubles go on our tree first, with the names of those who are no longer with us closest to our angel, and the rest scattered all over the tree.



This year, when I placed the bauble of my husband's cousin Jan high on the tree, it made me remember what a lovely person she was. Jan was a highly respected primary school teacher at Carlingford West when she was in a car accident with a drunk driver. Jan died of her injuries, leaving a husband and two young daughters behind. Janice Irene MUNNS was born in 1941 and died in 1976. In 1963 she had married a New Zealander, Ivan

Carlingford West when she was in a car accident with a drunk driver. Jan died of her injuries, leaving a husband and two young daughters behind. Janice Irene MUNNS was born in 1941 and died in 1976. In 1963 she had married a New Zealander, Ivan Francis Leonard LITTLE in Concord West. They had two daughters, Jacqui and Nikki.

Over the years since Jan's death, my immediate family lost contact with Ivan and the girls. I was told Ivan remarried in 1978. The last update I had was in 1987 when Jan's father passed away. My in-laws were executors for Jack and they cared for his wife Muriel until she passed in 1990. They could not locate Ivan, Jacqui or Nikki at the time.

I decided the other day that I would check my records to see what I had on Ivan and the girls. Ivan was born in Dunedin in 1934 and came to Australia sometime between 1960 and 1963. He was a carpenter by trade. I checked the Ryerson Index to see if he had died but did not find him. Obviously, he could still be alive. The last Electoral Roll entry I have for him is 1980, where he and his second wife were still at the family home in Dundas.

Unfortunately, I did not know Ivan's parents or siblings at this stage. I tried PapersPast NZ for entries about Ivan, with no success. I then looked for LITTLE families in Dunedin, and took a leap of faith on a man called Francis William LITTLE, Ivan's full name being Ivan Francis Leonard LITTLE. I thought I was on a roll, finding all sorts of information about this man- WW2 records, Electoral rolls, even a will. There were also items in the NZ papers. I had the feeling this was not the right man though, as his military records for 1939 said he was single and that his next of kin, his father lived in Outram, not Dunedin. His will listed no wife or children, only nieces and nephews.

Then I started to find Electoral Roll entries for a Francis William LITTLE in other South Island locations, with a different occupation and a wife, Annie Edna. A crucial clue came from the newspapers- a Francis William LITTLE was taken to court for the non-payment of maintenance for his wife, Annie Edna and 2 children in 1937. On Ancestry I found a Police Gazette that detailed Francis' abandonment of his family. He owed £16 in maintenance. He was given the option of paying more per week to catch up, or go to gaol for three months. The article said that Francis was born in NZ in 1907. It appears Francis did not make good on his promise, and he was arrested on 14 Nov 1938 and released 11 Feb 1939. I looked at the newspapers again and found death notices for two infants- twins, one dying at 7 months in December 1938 and the second one in April 1942. Annie was living at 83 Glasgow St., Dunedin South on both occasions, with no listing for Francis. I do not know if Francis was the father of these babies, but the BDM Index lists him as so.

It was time to see if anyone on Ancestry.com was researching this couple. I had found a Francis William LITTLE marrying an Annie Edna

ABERNETHY in 1932 on the online NZ BDM site. I also discovered, on Findmypast, a travel document from 1972, showing Ivan returning to NZ at the same time that Annie LITTLE nee ABERNETHY died. Again, a possible coincidence, but the evidence was mounting up. I found someone in NZ who had this couple on their Ancestry tree and wrote to them last night. His tree had a daughter born 1933 and a private male, living, for Francis and Annie. I asked the researcher if he could confirm my theory. I received a reply this morning, agreeing with me. I had found Ivan's family!

The excitement did not end there. I found Annie Edna ABERNETHY being born in 1911 [NZ] and her parents George ABERNETHY and Johanna JOHNSTON. George was born in 1866, Shetland, Scotland to a Mitchell ABERNETHY and Jane/Jean. Mitchell and family emigrated in 1875 per ship ***Invercargill*** and soon started taking up land in the far south. Mitchell died in 1915, and Jane in 1921.



I have watched all episodes of the TV series **SHETLAND** to date, and recognised the names of some of the areas mentioned in the ABERNETHY records. How thrilling! Mitchell's parents were George ABERNETHY and Janet LESLIE [many spelling variations for both names]. George senior was a famer/fisherman in Reawick. His family is listed in the 1841 census, but by 1851 George is no longer with the family. Janet is listed as head, crofter, managing 2 acres, 5 children at home, plus her widowed mother and an aunt. In 1861 Janet had 4 acres. Her eldest son Mitchell was a fisherman, 3 other children still at home, plus her mother and aunt. Other researchers have Janet dying in January 1871. I haven't researched the NZ ABERNETHY's as yet.

Back to Francis William LITTLE- his background is a little confusing at present. It seems his mother was Rose BARRETT, born 1874 in London. She married Ernest Augustus LITTLE in 1895 [NZ] and had numerous children to him. Then in 1906 she registers Myrtle Violet with no father but in 1907 our Francis is registered as LITTLE. At some stage Rose and Ernest part company and she takes up with a Sydney Walter PLAW and has at least three children to him in 1909, 1910 and 1913. They do not marry until 1920. Sydney seems to have a previous wife and numerous children, so it is all quite puzzling at present. Sydney died in 1931 and Rose in 1934. Both are buried at Anderson's Bay Cemetery. It is interesting to note that the 1911 Electoral Roll has Rose and Sydney living at 68 Glasgow St., Dunedin South and Rose's son Francis's family at 83 Glasgow St in 1938... spooky!

Francis, or Frank and Annie must have reconciled at some point, because the electoral rolls for the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s have

them living together with their daughter Irene. Frank paid for the Anderson's Bay Cemetery plot when Annie died, and her headstone reads: ILMO Annie Edna Little, loved wife of Frank and a loved mother, died 26 June 1972, aged 60 years. When Frank died in 1976, he joined Annie in the same plot, but nothing was added to the headstone.



So the quest for Ivan's family continues. ...

Resources

[NZ BDMs](#), [Findagrave](#), [Findmypast](#), [Ancestry.com](#), [Ryerson Index](#), [Paperspast NZ](#), [Google maps](#), [NZ Archives](#), [personal photos](#).

<https://emuseum.aberdeencycity.gov.uk/objects/783/ship-invercargill-> [painting of ship](#)



CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Helen Burkett member 342

Looking back at my childhood in Adelaide, one of my favourite memories is of attending the John Martins Christmas Pageant. This Pageant commenced during the Depression of 1933 and its main aim was to escort Father Christmas to the Magic Cave at the John Martins Department Store. By 1935 the Pageant included the Lord Mayor's Christmas appeal float to raise money for underprivileged children and in 1939 a Pageant Queen was introduced for wartime fundraising. The Pageant was then abandoned until 1945 due to WWII and has continued since that year though John Martins closed in 1998 after trading for 132 years. Interestingly, the Company's business records are now held by David Jones archives. However, the Pageant goes on and there is a Facebook page with wonderful old photos of both the Pageant and the Magic Cave.

My mother started taking me when I was about 5 years old and I was allowed to sit at the front of the crowd with the other children while the adults stood behind us. It was a wondrous sight and we never wanted it to finish. There were bands playing and the floats held fairies on horseback, nursery rhyme characters, huge puppets and castles. The final float heralded Father Christmas on his sleigh with reindeers on his way to the Magic Cave which we also visited each year.

In 1993 the Pageant celebrated its diamond anniversary with 1600 people taking part and a crowd of 400,000 people.

Before we moved to Sydney I was able to take my two eldest daughters to the Pageant and, of course, they loved it just as much as everyone else.

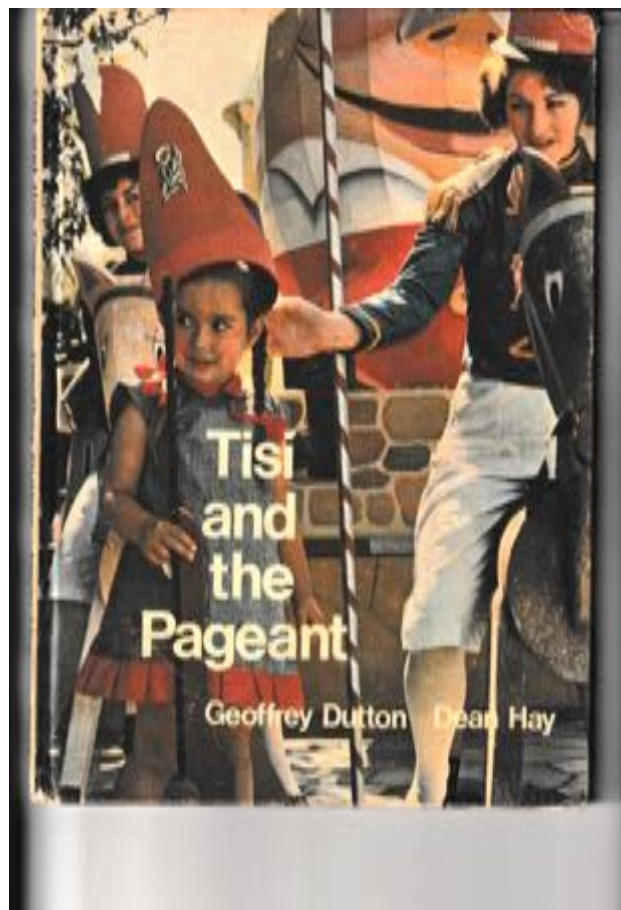
For some years my brother worked for John Martins and here he is waving up at me as we stood on a balcony watching the proceedings below.



The Pageant in Book Form

In 1968 Geoffrey Dutton who came from a pastoralist family in South Australia and was the writer of many well known Australian books, both fact and fiction, wrote one for children and named it ***Tisi and the Pageant***. It is about a very young farm girl who set off on her own to go to Adelaide to see the Pageant and her adventures along the way. I bought this book for my eldest daughter and it has been in the family every since. As I look at it now, those wonderful times come back to life.

I believe that we certainly live in the greatest country in the world and I know that our little piece of heaven is just absolute magic.



REMEMBERING ONE FAVOURITE PLAYTHING

Helen J-L member 505

My two brothers were older than me. Both were rather mechanical and had Meccano sets and trains for 'quiet' play with Dad.

As a mere girl, they were reluctant to share with me.

Our parents found a solution for me, adding to my collection over some years. I remember enjoying creating buildings for many years, sometimes with Mum, even after I married. I still have almost all the pieces tucked away somewhere. These days Lego has taken over, however, the structures I remember creating were relatively life like.



digital.collections. State Library of South Australia

Bayko Building set contained an instruction book and assorted bricks, window frames, roof sections and metal rods for constructing a house.

This construction set system was developed by Charles Plimpton in the 1930s. It uses bakelite, one of the early plastics. Bayko combines the engineering aspects of Meccano with architectural principles of earlier building bricks. Made in red and white

the set came with bricks, window and door frames, roof tiles, pillars, arches and other pieces necessary for building miniature houses and other buildings. Each piece had vertical holes through which thin metal rods could be passed and which attached the model to the base.

Bayko was popular and exported widely. It was taken over in 1959 by Meccano, who marketed it as Meccano Bayko. Under this branding it continued to be manufactured until 1967. By that time Meccano itself had been sold to Lines Brothers, and cheaper alternatives such as Lego were available.





Some years ago, I saw a rather extensive collection on sale on Ebay, the seller was ex-senator Bob Brown.

The Powerhouse Museum have at least one set and I have just discovered Facebook page with 222 members, I have just joined.

And lastly, a word from the manufacturer . . .



Clean, hygienic and easily sterilized by placing in diluted antiseptic, these Sets are ideal for children incapacitated by sickness or disease.

Yeah, right. If you can drag them away from the electronic toys today, that is! ... ❖

THE SWEET TASTE OF CHRISTMAS.

Lynda Smith. LM 2.

My mother Cecily loved to bake. She was a stay-at-home mum for the first eleven years of my life and we rarely saw a store-bought packet of biscuits, unless it was something savoury like Saos or Jatz. Mum made the best biscuits, slices, pies and cakes. She studied Cake decorating at Gosford Tech. and was very talented with fondant! Luckily for us, she passed this talent onto our daughter.



Christmas cooking was special. Mum always made our Christmas puddings, initially using calico cloths and later aluminium steamers with Bakelite knobs. I still have a selection of these steamers lurking in my cupboard.

Of course, threepences and sixpences could be inserted into the batter, but Mum preferred to add them to each slice to make sure everyone found something. Mum's specialty was her Christmas cake, cooked weeks before,

and given the full royal icing treatment. Sometimes she used fancy paper to go around the sides, but the top of the cake always featured appropriate festive decorations. It was a shame to cut it, but I really loved getting the corner piece that had more icing to enjoy.

Rum balls, small fruit mince pies and white Christmas slice were on hand to feed to visitors, and yes, her rum ball recipe included real rum! Glacé fruit was a special treat at this time of year, and I loved the pineapple and the green and red cherries. Mum loved the ginger and the figs. We had nuts in their shell too, and the grown ups were kept busy cracking the harder ones for us kids. It was a real trick to get the two halves of a walnut out intact. I did not like the Brazil nuts or hazel nuts, and others seemed to agree as they were often the only ones left after Christmas.

Of course, Mum made her own custard for the pudding, but I preferred a big dollop of Peter's Vanilla ice cream. When I was eleven, [in 1966] we moved to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea and the cost of living was so high, Mum took on an office job with the Forestry Commission to help our family finances. The tropical conditions were not conducive to her cream sponges and fairy cakes, but Mum did what she could to keep traditional sweet treats on hand during the festive season. When we returned to Umina in 1972, she and Dad took on a business, so there was less time for home baking. She still made an effort for her grandchildren's birthday cakes, weddings, anniversaries and even my 50th birthday. Her love of baking was even featured at her funeral, via the photo collage.



Cecily PRENTICE nee FOX at front left, my sister Kathy O'SULLIVAN, front right, and myself, at my home in Woongarra, Christmas Day 2005.

R.I.P. Cecily 1927-2022.

Sources:

<https://picclick.com.au/Vintage-60s-Aluminium-Pudding-Steamer-1200mls-375087746184.html>
Family photo/knowledge.

Cecily's White Christmas Recipe

Ingredients:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 250gms cophia | 3 cups rice bubbles |
| 1 cup desiccated coconut | ¾ cup icing sugar |
| 1 cup full cream powdered milk | ¼ cup halved green glace cherries |
| ¼ cup sultanas | ¼ cup halved red glace cherries. |



Grease a 19cm x 29cm lamington tin. Line with greaseproof paper. Melt cophia in a saucepan over low heat and let cool. Combine all the other ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well, then slowly pour in the cooled melted cophia. Mix well, then press mixture evenly into tin. Refrigerate until set. Cut into pieces with a warmed knife. Serve.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

| Publication | Type | Price |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| DIGITAL RELEASE | | |
| Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 - NEW | USB | \$ 50.00 + p&h |
| This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838-1967 and Burials 1837-1987 with links to copies of the original church register pages for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes. System requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10GB hard disk space | | |
| BOOKS & CDs | | |
| Servicewomen of the NSW Central Coast – Their Lives & Service NEW | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| 156 Page, fully indexed book outlining the lives and service of 330 women who served in armed services and who were either born, lived or died on the NSW Central Coast. | | |
| Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| Reduced Price | CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| Central Coast Roll of Honour | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| Reduced Price | CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| 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 | | |
| Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 – 1954 | Book out of Print | |
| Reduced Price | CD | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| Incorporating the Wollombi Express 1892-1906 and Wyong District Advocate 1906-1920. Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details | | |
| People of Wyong Book 1 | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages | | |
| People of Wyong Book 2 | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages | | |
| People of Wyong Book 3 | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages | | |
| People of Wyong Book 4 - NEW | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| Includes Wyong Abattoir, Naval and Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs | | |
| People of Wyong Book 5 - NEW | Book | \$ 40.00 + p&h |
| All Wyong District Schools both former and current, public and private, with a list of each school's Head Teachers. 270 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured & b&w photos of each school | | |
| Purchase all 5 books in this series at the same time and receive 10% discount | | |
| Place Names of the Wyong Shire | Book | \$ 7.00 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006 | Book out of Print | |
| Records available on combined CD | | |
| Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| Includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay | | |
| Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley & Wyong 1963 – 2011 | Reduced Price | CD \$ 12.50 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Erina 1984 – 2013 | Book | \$ 30.00 + p&h |
| Reduced Price | CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| Reduced Price | CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area | Reduced Price | CD \$ 5.00 + p&h |
| Baptisms, burials and marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's diaries and misc. entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy and the Hawkesbury River | | |

| Publication | Type | Price |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wyong Agricultural Association | Book out of Print | |
| | Reduced Price CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| 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. 248 pages. Fully indexed | | |
| Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| | Reduced Price CD | \$ 7.50 + p&h |
| Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013] | USB | \$ 35.00 + p&h |
| Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains birth, marriage and death details, some photos, personal stories and obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. 673 pages Book out of Print | | |
| Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995 | | |
| Volume 1 | Books out of Print | |
| Contains 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4790 in memoriam notices and 238 miscellaneous event notices. Includes church photographs | | |
| Volume 2 | | |
| Contains 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices as well as Church and Cemetery photos | | |
| Volumes 1 and 2 available on combined CD | Reduced Price CD | \$ 17.50 + p&h |
| Wyong Remembers | Book | \$ 19.00 + p&h |
| The history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages | | |
| Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017 | Reduced Price CD | \$ 12.50 + p&h |
| Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries | | |
| Jilliby Cemetery Wyong Shire NSW | Book out of Print | |
| Noraville Cemetery Wyong Shire 1869 – 2012 | Book | \$ 20.00 + p&h |
| St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries Wyong Shire 1886 – 2001 | Book | \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| Ronkana Cemetery Wyong Shire 1825 – 2016 | Book | \$ 15.00 + p&h |
| | Reduced Price CD | \$ 5.00 + p&h |
| Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 | Book | \$ 25.00 + p&h |
| | Reduced Price CD | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| This index has been compiled from the WFHG Inc. 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 those unmarked. 220 pages | | |
| Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939 | Book | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| | Reduced Price CD | \$ 5.00 + p&h |
| Palmdale Cemetery | Reduced Price CD | \$ 5.00 + p&h |
| 30,000 names – not all from Wyong | | |
| Genealogy Recorder | Book | \$ 10.00 + p&h |
| SUPER SPECIAL - 2 BOOK PACK | | |
| Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011 | | |
| Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015 | | |
| | 2 x Books | \$ 25.00 + p&h |
| Great Value for these records which are not on the Internet. Nor are they available from any other source. Usually priced at \$40.00 for the two books, buy both now for only \$25.00 | | |

LIFE MEMBERS



From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership.

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

| Name | Memb No. | Date of Award |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| The Late Keith Shakespeare | 01 | Sept 1994 |
| Lynda Smith | 02 | 08 Dec 1995 |
| The Late Patricia Irwin Sharp | 03 | 14 Sept 2001 |
| Marilyn Cridland | 11 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Pam Mansergh | 14 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| The Late Esther Dean | 23 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Janice Barrett | 44 | 13 Sept 2007 |
| Kerrie Metcalfe | 80 | 9 Sept 2010 |
| Roger Lewis | 127 | 20 Sept 2012 |
| Robin Wright | 133 | 20 Sept 2012 |
| Trish McDonald | 194 | 09 Oct 2014 |
| Glenise Clery | 284 | 09 Oct 2014 |
| Michele Gane | 174 | 03 June 2018 |
| John Selwood | 79 | 03 June 2018 |
| Meg Gibson | 43 | 20 Feb 2021 |
| The Late Gwen Bates | 70 | 20 Feb 2021 |



VALÉ

FRANK GERO MEMBER #199

It is with deep sadness that I announce to you the passing on January 27, 2025, of ex member Frank Gero

Frank joined the Wyong Family History Group in 2005, he was semi-retired and came to the group as an approved volunteer. His research interest was France, and he was always on the lookout to learn more about European research where he could share with other members. Frank was always ready to help where he could, and he made everyone welcome at the cottage with his friendly assistance

Frank was Cottage coordinator for Wednesday and Thursday for several years,

He was a committee member and assistant to the treasurer, then treasurer in 2010, plus Field Trip organiser for 4 years.

Frank was also on the committee in 2009 when we hosted the State Conference, he helped design the program for the Conference and worked hard



Frank at his farewell

within the team to ensure success.

He also helped organise *Ye Olde Colonial day* in 2011, which was a joint effort with the Alison Homestead committee. He always had the best interest of the group at heart, Frank always participated in events that the group put on. He was a well-respected, proactive member. He played a major role in the growth of the group. And was missed when he moved to Smiths Lake in 2012, Frank joined our 7 members at Port Macquarie's 2015 State conference.

Frank remained a financial member until 2021. Giving support to WFHG. Inc for 16 years.

Rest In Peace
Roger Lewis



With Roger at WFHG open day August 2009



with Town Crier Graham Keating at Ye Olde Colonial Day 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Darkinjung people as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present, and future, and recognise the continuing connection and contribution to this land. We would like to extend that respect to any First Nations people who are our readers.



BOOK REVIEW THE SECRETS OF BRIDGEWATER BAY

Lynda Smith – President – LM2

Nathan Dylan Goodwin meets Long Lost Family.

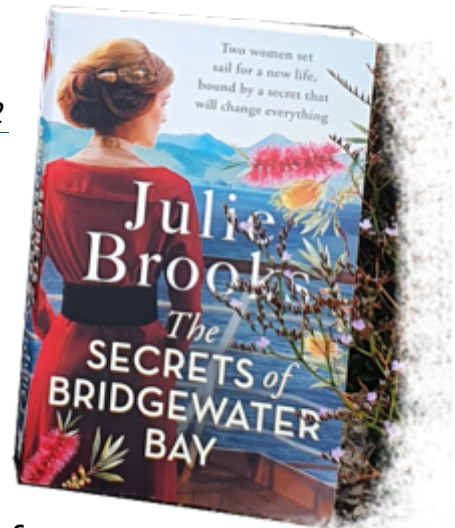
Many of you would have heard other members talk of the excellent novels involving British Forensic genealogist, Morton Farrier, written by ND Goodwin, or the TV series, Long Lost Family which reunites adoptees with birth parents.

I have just read a new female Australian author- Julie Brooks, who published "The Secrets of Bridgewater Bay" in 2021. I won't spoil the story, but it involves an enthralling mix of estranged families, DNA analysis, photo and documentary evidence, journeys and discoveries. Central Coast Library Service has multiple copies, and it is well worth a read!

I have just reserved her next title, "The Keepsake", pub. 2023 and she has another, "The Heirloom" coming in 2025.

If any of you come across any other works of fiction with a family history theme, please give us a short review.

Happy reading, Lynda.



A NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Hi Helen J-L & Helen B,

I have just taken a break from my long-overdue housework to read The Tree of Life (in full). I really enjoyed reading the Norah Head feature.

Many thanks for all your efforts.

Kind regards,

Lyn Clark-Duff #907 10 November 2024

Congratulations on the way the society is working. Bet cousin Esther is up there applauding everyone. When I remember back to the way it used to be for your society, moving into the cottage was certainly the best move ever. A bit like our move into the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. Best wishes for the coming season and 2025.

Cheers.

Marie Green, President, Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society.



B3
Bookbinding

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WFHG INC. PLANNED EVENTS

Subject to change.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, **all** our meetings, interest groups, information sessions and courses are held at 'The Cottage'.

Bookings will assist in organising events and may make the difference between holding or cancelling the event.

SIG = Special Interest Group
confirmed

Info = Information Session.

TBC = To be

| | 2025 | Event |
|----------|--|---|
| February | Thu 6 | Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 8 | General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Robert Patton Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research. |
| | Mon 10, 17, 24 & March 3 | Beginner's Course Week 1 9:15 am – 2:30pm |
| | Thu 13 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 15 | Central Coast Love Lanes 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm |
| | Tue 18 | AI SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm |
| | Wed 19 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Family Heirlooms 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm |
| | Sat 22 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| Tue 25 | Committee Meeting for March 10:00 am | |
| Thu 27 | Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office SIG with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm | |
| March | | NSW Seniors Festival `Time to Shine` 3rd-16th March |
| | Thu 6 | Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 8 | General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research. |
| | Mon 10 | Introduction to DNA Workshop 10:00am – 2:00 pm with Lyn Hagstrom |
| | Thu 13 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Fri 14 | Seniors Expo Wyong Racecourse 10:00 am – 1:00 pm |
| | Mon 17 | PowerPoint- Bells and Whistles Workshop 10:00 am – 2:30 pm With Ellen Sheerin |
| | Tue 18 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm |
| | Wed 19 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Entertainment ie: Cinema, Dances, Circus, Zoo 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm |
| | Thu 20 | St Patricks Day Morning Tea & Outfit competition from 10:00 am |
| | Sat 22 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Mon 24 | Exploring our Library Resources – from 10:00 am |
| | Tue 25 | Introduction to FTM information session 10:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| | Thu 27 | Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm |
| April | Tue 1 | Committee Meeting 10:00 am |
| | Thu 3 | Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sun 6 | Genealogy Gold Seminar Lilian Magill & Jill Ball 10:15am – 3:15pm Wyong Golf Course. Booking Essential |
| | Mon 7 | Facebook Training - Setting up a private page with Ellen Sheerin 10:30 am |
| | Wed 9 | How to get the most out of a trip to Kingswood with Regina Hogan/Kerrie Metcalfe 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm |

| | 2025 | Event |
|------------|---|---|
| | Thu 10 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 12 | General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research. |
| | Tue 15 | AI SIG 12.30pm - 2.30pm |
| | Wed 16 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: WW1, WW2 and others 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm |
| | Australian Heritage Festival 18th April – 18th May | |
| | Easter Weekend 18th – 21st Cottage Closed | |
| | Mon 21 | Deadline for TOL |
| | Thu 24 | ANZAC Morning Tea at The Cottage 10:30am |
| | Fri 25 | ANZAC Day Cottage Closed |
| | Sat 26 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sun 27 | Heritage Month Walking Tour 11:00 am Alberts café near Wyong Station Finish 12:30 pm Wyong PO TBC |
| | Tue 29 | Committee Meeting for May 10:00 am |
| | Wed 30 | Heritage Month free event: Unearth a Treasure with Lynda Smith 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm |
| May | Thu 1 | Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sun 4 Tue 6 Tue 13 | Heritage Month Walking Tour 11:00 am Alberts café near Wyong Station Finish 12:30 pm Wyong PO TBC |
| | Sat 3 | Museums of History (State Archives) Bus trip TBC |
| | Mon 5 | 2025 Planning Meeting 10:00 am |
| | Thu 8 | Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 10 | General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Lyn Hagstrom Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research. |
| | Sun 11 | Mothers' Day |
| | Wed 14 | Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: The Great Depression, how it may of affected our ancestors 1.00pm–2.30pm |
| | Thu 15 | Preparing for a Rookwood trip- Lyn Hagstrom 10:30 am – 12 noon MS Office SIG Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm |
| | National Volunteer Week 19 May.2025 – 25 May.2025 | |
| | Tue 20 | DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm |
| | Wed 21 | WFHG Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea 10.30 am |
| | Thu 22 | Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Sat 24 | Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon |
| | Mon 26 | Rookwood Cemetery Bus Trip TBC |
| | Thu 29 | Shipping records Information Session 10:00 am – 12:30 pm with Helen Burkett |

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Research Centre

'The Cottage', Building 9, Wyong Old School Community Centre,
Rankens Court, Wyong.

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

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

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Wyong NSW 2259

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

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

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome, and 21 April 2025 is the closing date for submissions for 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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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.