WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

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Member contributions always welcome!

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 10:00 am and 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2025-2026

President:	Lynda Smith
Vice-President	Lyn Hagstrom
Secretary & Minutes Secretary:	Ann Holland
Treasurer:	Lyn Clark-Duff

Management Committee:
All the above executive plus Martin Fisher, Regina Hogan, Anne Lee, Roger Lewis, Kerrie Metcalfe, and Susanne Clegg.

Assets Manager:		Paul Hagstrom
Bookstall Supervisor:		Ann Holland
Caretaker:		Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Administrator	Tuesday:	Lyn Hagstrom
	Wednesday:	Helen Hord
	Thursday:	Wayne Bermingham
	Relief	Beverley Hopkins
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:		Melissa Metcalfe
Groundsman:		Will Ferrett
Group Collector of Statistics:		Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator:		Anne Lee
Irish Research Tips:		Kerrie Metcalfe
IT Manager:		Roger Lewis
Journal Snippet Critiques:		Helen Burkett, Lorraine Cameron
Librarian:		Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistants:		Sue Clegg, 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, Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Public Officer:		Roger Lewis
Publicity Officer:		Lynda Smith
Raffle Organiser:		Christine McKenzie
Scrapbooking [Photos]:		Lyn Johnston
Tree of Life Editor:		Helen Johnston-Lord
Unrelated Certificates Organiser:		Regina Hogan
Webpage Manager:		Roger Lewis
Weekly Newsletter Editor:		Wayne Bermingham
Welfare:		Administrators

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Lynda Smith – President – LM2

We held our Family History Fair on 1st August. We decided, some months ago, to celebrate National Family History Month [August] away from our cottage. Last year, our NFHM Open Day was quite successful, but some people had difficulty finding us, or were put off by the piles of rubbish in the carpark. So, we did a road trip to various venues and chose Toukley Memorial Hall, where we held our State Conference a couple of years ago. Since then, the Hall has had a furniture upgrade and Wi Fi is now available. A very successful and all round great day.

On August 1st we will have four different speakers and an array of trade tables for people to experience. These will include authors, other family history and local history groups, craft groups and more. Our group will be offering research help, as well as selling our publications and other items. We are also formally launching our latest publication: ***Wyong Pioneer Register***, available in both two volume format or USB format.

We applied for a Community Partnership Grant from Central Coast Council so that we could offer our fair speakers for free. Thankfully, we were successful. We allocated a considerable amount to advertising, so it is hoped that this will pay off and we will have a big crowd on the day. The local newspaper, Central Coast Community News has been very supportive, as has Creighton's Palmdale and Marilyn Rowan, Transcription agent. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Fair preparation and on the day itself.

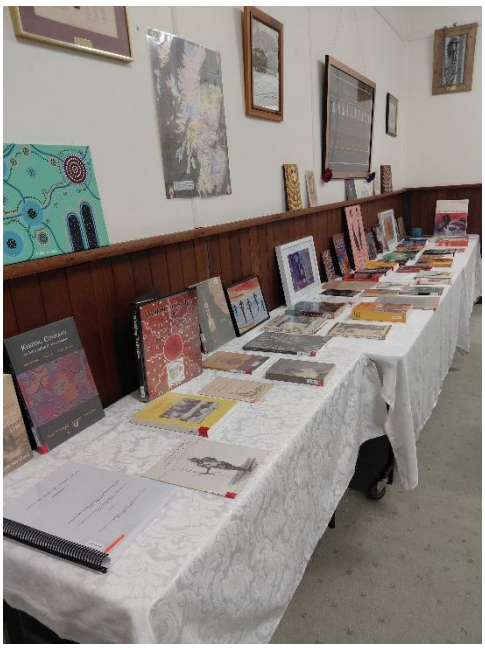
The repairs to the internal areas of our cottage went smoothly. The

external repairs will hopefully be completed in the 2026-7 financial year. Recently, there has been a massive cleanup of the carpark and surrounding areas, making access to our cottage much easier. The timber walkway has, however, suffered from some mould build up in the recent wet weather, and we had a couple of members slip. Council has promised to clean the walkway and apply some non-slip coating.

We have been treated to some excellent guest speakers at our recent monthly meetings- learning about the development of tourism on the Central Coast with author Peter FISHER and the fight to save Fairview Homestead at Mangrove Mountain by Matt LOHMEYER.

Members also enjoyed a colourful display for NAIDOC Week and a visit from Tomaree FHG and Port Stephens FHG. Both of these groups are only small and have few resources. Some of our members have been assisting them with their DNA questions and other areas of their research.

We continue to plan Information sessions and potential trips. Some are well attended, others fail to occur. It is vital that we receive constructive feedback on events you enjoy, ones you would like us to include in future, and, more importantly, ones that aren't relevant to you. Please let a committee member know your thoughts. Our group exists to assist you with your research. Please make use of our Special Interest Groups, Courses, trips and Zoom meetings. You never know where your next brickwall breakthrough will come from.



Photos taken by L Smith.

A Word from Your Editor

Helen Johnston-Lord LM 505

We hope you find our stories about places in this issue interesting. We would like to add more soon. Shacks or castles, villages, cities, mountains, valleys and countries all add to the stories of our families.

The Group has some interesting events planned, making sure they happen, means we need numbers, so book soon.

I find logging onto zoom meetings really great. Being mobility and transport challenged these days means I can keep in touch with our community. Our regular catch ups often result in improving our knowledge and skills as well as a chat. Join us, you never know what you might learn.

Watch the Weekly Newsletter for information about out next feature.

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

Email your stories to me at wfhgtol2@gmail. Our next deadline is 21 October 2026.

I hope you enjoy this issue and are able to join some of the activities organised this year. … ❖

May General Meeting

As The Cottage was closed, this meeting was a Zoom. Unfortunately, attendance was very low. We only just managed a quorum. If you would like some lessons in how to use Zoom, please let me know and we will arrange some sessions when we get back to the cottage. You also missed an interesting webinar on the NSW Old Registers 1-9.

June General Meeting

Now that we are open, there was a good roll up to this general meeting with several members joining us via zoom.

Matt Lohmeyer gave an enlightening talk on the history of **Fairview Homestead**, the areas surrounding it and the fight to save the homestead from demolition by neglect.

JULY GENERAL MEETING

Fourteen members attended this general meeting.

Author Peter Fisher presented a very engaging talk and some interesting historical photos on his book; *Wish You Were Here! A History Of Tourism On The Central Coast* Covering the first one hundred years from the 1800's to the 1970's

LAKE MACQUARIE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Regina Hogan LM533

30th May saw six members of the Wyong Family History Group attend the Lake Macquarie Family History Group's Genealogy Day and enjoy a varied and informative program.

Judith Dunn opened the day with an engaging presentation on the feisty nature of convict pioneer women. Christine Yeats then provided an excellent introduction to the Jessie Street National Women's Library in Ultimo, highlighting its important role in preserving the history and achievements of Australian women.

Christine Hingerty gave a fascinating insight into mitochondrial DNA testing and demonstrated how it can assist family historians in their research. The day concluded with another wonderful presentation by Judith Dunn on Unknown Women Pioneers, sharing the stories of ordinary women who helped shape the early colony.

To top off an enjoyable and informative day, two of our lucky members, Kris and Regina, were delighted to win raffle prizes.

As always, these events provide a great opportunity to learn something new, exchange ideas, and catch up with fellow genimates.

Photo Members of the WFHG at the LMFHG Genealogy Day

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 33]

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

SIGs go for one to two hours.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SIG: Alternating monthly with our popular DNA SIG, this 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!

CONVICT SIG: Meeting monthly on 2nd Tuesday with Christine Randall & Kerrie Metcalfe. If you have a convict or two and want to explore more, come along and we will help you with ideas and suggestions. Or you may think you have a convict and need proof, we can guide you with this as well.

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!

ENGLISH RESEARCH SIG: Helen Burkett
IRISH RESEARCH SIG: Kerrie Metcalfe
SCOTTISH RESEARCH SIG: Lyn Hagstrom
WELSH RESEARCH SIG: Helen Burkett

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

FAMILY TREE MAKER SIG: This popular group continues with Martin Fisher. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.

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

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

Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential

2026 Fees and Charges

The following fees and charges apply:

1. **Membership Fees** for a 12-month Membership:
   Single: $45.00
   Family: includes 2 Adults and 1 other person living at the same address. $55.00
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. **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	$0.30 per copy extra		
Laminating A4 $1.50		Laminating A3 $2.00	

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. … ❖

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

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

If you are able to help, email The Secretary: wfhg06@gmail.com or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. … ❖

TOMAREE & PORT STEPHENS FHGS VISITED US

Lyn Hagstrom, Librarian member 768

On Friday 5th June Michele Gane and I, on behalf of our group, provided a 'Getting Started with DNA'. Ellen Sheerin, Lorraine Cameron and Ann Holland provided very valuable support on the day. The 12 people attending felt very welcomed and were very keen participants. Even after their early start to be here by 9.30 nobody was in a rush to leave early finishing the day at around 3.30pm.

We are hoping to organise more days to both groups covering more than DNA with more of our members involved. Everyone that visited was impressed with our facilities and resources highlighting just how fortunate our group is. It is a great feeling to be able to help our smaller like-minded groups on behalf of our group.

Again, we would like to thank the above-mentioned people and all those people that have encouraged us.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW VISIT

Regina Hogan LM533

On Friday 19 June, Kris and Robert Havron, Chris Randall, and I travelled by train from Tuggerah to Sydney for a research day at the State Library of NSW.

Much of our time was spent in the Bashir Reading Room, making use of the library's extensive newspaper collection, one of its most valuable resources for family historians. As always, the newspapers provided a wealth of information and research opportunities.

Unfortunately, we ran out of time to visit the 2026 World Press Photo Contest exhibition. This annual exhibition is always well worth seeing and is something to keep in mind for future visits.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and productive day of research.

Kris, Chris and Regina at Tuggerah Station

Robert checking out the Mitchell Library Reading room

Find us on Facebook

CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SEMINAR

Regina Hogan LM533

On 4th July, Kerrie Metcalfe and Regina Hogan attended a wonderful seminar: From Classrooms to Courtrooms: Exploring NSW State Archives, hosted by Central Coast Family History Society

We enjoyed listening to Christine Yeats and Carol Liston AO as they explained how to access records from the NSW State Archives Collections, including collections that have recently been digitised.

Participants learnt about Education records, the Old Registers 1 to 9, Small Collections, including collections that have recently been digitised. as they explained how to access records from the NSW State Archives Debts Courts, and how to locate and research State Archives on Ancestry.

We were all also treated to a delicious lunch and the day provide a great opportunity to catch up with other genimates.

Regina Hogan and Kerrie Metcalfe enjoying the Seminar.

New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to our new members. We look forward to meeting and helping you at 'The Cottage'. Contact any of our members by sending an enquiry to: Member's Name & Number,

C/- Wyong Family History Group Inc., P O Box 247, Wyong NSW 2259.

No	Member	No	Member
1129	Jeannine Kokozaki	1132	Brian Trigg
1130	Phillip Murdoch	1133	Eric Jones
1131	Victoria Pickett	1134	Grahame James

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. … ❖

Milestone Awards

At recent meetings we have awarded continuous membership certificates to the following valued members:

30 years: Pamela Mansergh #14
25 years: John Selwood #79
and Kerrie Metcalfe #80
20 years: Christine Ullrich #224
15 years: Helen Johnston-Lord #505
Melissa Metcalfe #516
and Regina Hogan #533
10 years: Peter Munton #710
And Frances Morgan #804

We congratulate all for supporting us both physically and by maintaining their memberships. … ❖

Wyong Family History Group Inc.
Annual General Meeting

1pm Saturday 12 September 2026

Wyong Family History Group Inc. will be holding their Annual General Meeting on 14 September 2024 in the Meeting Room of "The Cottage", Building 9, 6 Ranken Court. Wyong. Only financial members can vote. Any financial member may be nominated for election to the Committee by any two other financial members. Nomination forms are available at
"The Cottage", Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.
A copy of our Constitution is available for viewing by visiting our webpage, or in the office at The Cottage.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

The Canadian Encyclopedia

When John McCrae volunteered at age 41 for service in the First World War, he wrote to a friend that "I am really rather afraid, but more afraid to stay at home with my conscience." In April 1915, McCrae and a young friend, Alexis Helmer, joined the 18,000 soldiers of the First Canadian Division in their positions near Ypres, Belgium. The Second Battle of Ypres commenced on 22 April and lasted for six hellish weeks. It was during this battle that the Germans launched the first large-scale poison gas attacks of the war.

A Montreal physician, McCrae served as a major and a surgeon with the Canadian Field Artillery, in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Ypres was the CEF's first major engagement of the war.

"The general impression in my mind is of a nightmare," McCrae wrote to his mother, "... And behind it all was the constant background of the

sights of the dead, the wounded, the maimed, and a terrible anxiety lest the line should give way."

On 2 May, Alexis Helmer was killed. Because the brigade chaplain was absent, McCrae, as the brigade doctor, conducted the burial service for his friend. Later, at Helmer's grave, he wrote a few lines of verse that were the beginning of the poem "In Flanders Fields."

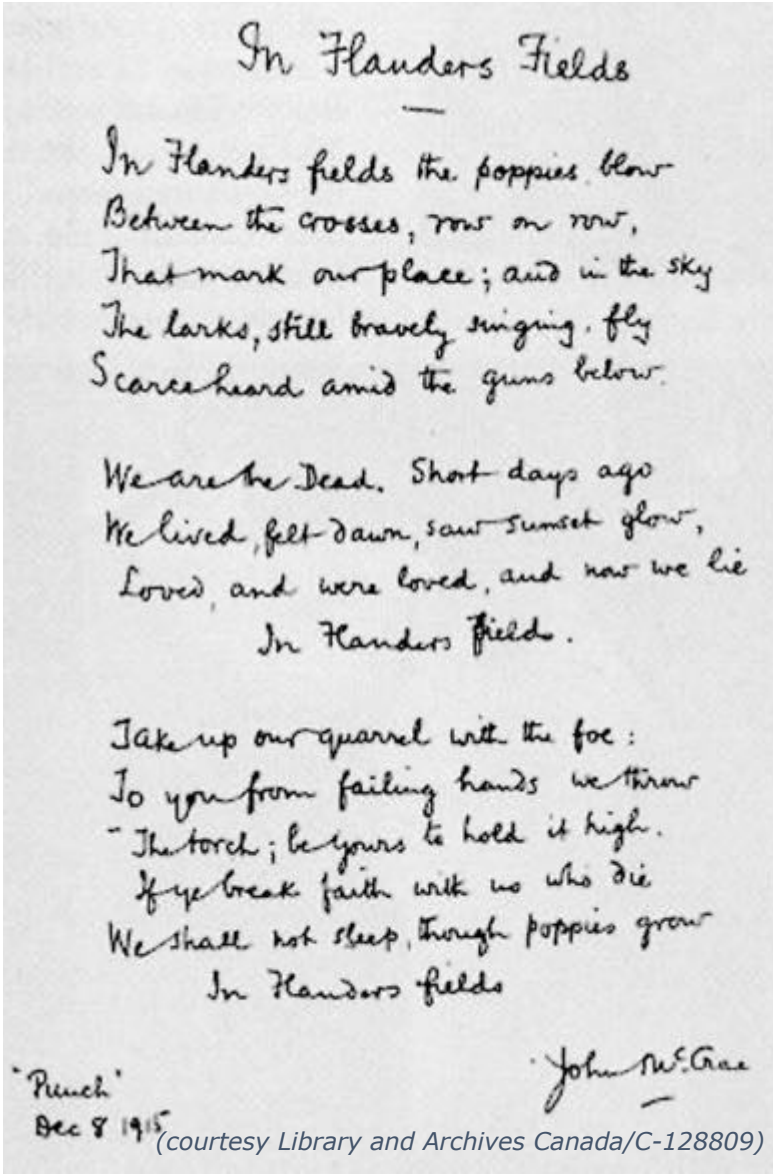
In Flanders Fields Manuscript

McCrae jotted down this most famous of war poems in 20 minutes during the Battle of Ypres. (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-128809)

Poem Published

Before the war, McCrae had written poetry in Canada, and some of his work had been published there.

McCrae later sent a finished copy of "In Flanders Fields" to *The Spectator*® magazine in London, where it was rejected. But a journalist who visited the field hospital where McCrae was serving at the front, took a copy back to *Punch*® magazine. *Punch*® printed it anonymously, without McCrae's name on 8 December 1915.


In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

John McCrae

"Punch"
Dec 8 1915

(courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-128809)

Within months it was republished in other sources, with McCrae's name attached, and quickly became the most popular poem of the war. Its powerful use of the symbol of the poppies blooming from the churned earth led to the tradition, to this day, of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those killed in service.

By 1917, "In Flanders Fields" was known throughout the English-speaking world. It was used to further the war effort, to raise money for the troops, and to help recruit American soldiers as the United States mobilized to enter the war. John McCrae soon became a household name in the US.

Legacy

Today, John McCrae's poem is read by millions in Canada and around the world each Remembrance Day. There have also been various settings to music. A history museum in the ancient Cloth Hall in Ypres (now Ieper), Belgium, is named after the poem. The special exhibition gallery in the Canadian War Museum is also named for McCrae.

In November 2025, four handwritten copies of the poem were inscribed on the Canadian Commission for UNSECO's Canada Memory of the World Register. The copies are held by McGill University's Osler Library of the History of Medicine. One is an autographed copy McCrae sent to a friend. The others were found in the correspondence and diaries of Edward William Archibald, Andrew Macphail and Clare Gass, who had copied from the manuscript circulated among McCrae's friends and colleagues in the Canadian Army Medical Corps and the No. 3 Canadian General Hospital.

"In Flanders Fields"

"*In Flanders fields the poppies blow*
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields"

Flanders Fields
Red Poppies in Flanders today. The poppy became a symbol of Remembrance Day thanks to the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by Canadian John McCrae.
(photo by Joseph Moore)

Composed at the battlefront on 3 May 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium.

BOER WAR MEMORIAL, QUEBEC CITY

National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials
The Canadian Encyclopedia

"Ring out, ring out ye bells of peace!
The war is done—the battles cease.
The flashing sword is sheathed once more,
Nor longer now shall cannon roar;
But fields are drenched with human gore.
Ring out, ring out, ye bells of peace."

This is one of several brief verses on the sides of the monument from the pen of Reverend M.F.G. Scott, of Quebec.

By Fishhead64 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4027456

In Quebec City, the Boer War Memorial was unveiled on 15 August 1905 in the presence of Lord Grey, Governor-General of Canada, the Prince of Battenberg and officers of six British naval warships. It was dedicated to all Quebecois (270) who were killed in action during the Boer War. the memorial was erected on the site of departure of the first Canadian contingent for South Africa, on 30 October 1899. Sculpted by Hamilton Plantagenet MacCarthy, the statue soldier wears the colonial uniform, holding a rifle in one hand and the Canadian Red Ensign in the other.

THE CITADELLE OF QUÉBEC

Wikipedia

The Citadelle is a functioning military installation for the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as an official residence of both Canada's monarch and its governor general. The latter, by tradition, resides there for several weeks during the summer as well as other shorter periods

throughout the year. As is done at the other federal royal residence, Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Canadian award presentations and investitures and ceremonies for both incoming and outgoing ambassadors and high commissioners to Canada are held at the Citadelle. The residence is also open to the public, running a visitors' program and free tours of the state rooms throughout the year as well as educational tours for students. The Citadelle attracts approximately 200,000 visitors each year.

The 1943 Quebec Conference was a secret military conference between the American, British, and Canadian governments held at La Citadelle.

One building of the Citadelle is used as the staff headquarters for the Royal 22e Régiment.[21][22] Several military ceremonies related to the regiment also take place at the Citadelle's parade ground, such as the changing of the guard and of battalion command and the consecration of each successive Batisse the Goat as regimental mascot.

Batisse holds the rank of Colonel; members of the regiment are required to render a salute in his presence.

A cannon is fired from the fort daily at noon as a time signal. It can be heard throughout Quebec City. Originally, two guns were fired each day, at noon to alert Quebec City residents of the lunch hour and the Angelus or noon-day prayer, and at 9:30 pm, marking the curfew for soldiers in the city. The tradition has continued since 1871, save for between 1994 and 2008.

The last reigning monarch to stay at the Citadelle of Quebec was King George VI, alongside Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother), during their historic cross-country royal tour of Canada in June 1939.

The Citadel

Both photos from the J-L collection

The view from the historic circa Citadelle of Québec with the stone fortification wall and chimney looking across the St. Lawrence River

OUR ESCAPE FROM SUBURBIA?

Lynda Smith LM 2

When Alan and I first started teaching we purchased a three-bedroom Hardie™ Plank and tile home in Gorokan. Over the next 20 years, this was extended as the family grew and Alan's interest in collecting cars expanded. Alan's parents were living independently on the Wyong River, at Tacoma, but had started to need more assistance. As a family, in 1998, we decided to look for a small property that had two residences, so Glad & Stewart could move in with us.

After some disappointments and delays, we finally found 3.7 acres in Hakone Rd., then called Warnervale, renamed Woongarrah, just after we moved in. The property is part of the historic Warner estate. The people who sold it to us were lovely. They left detailed instructions on how the pool worked, who to call to shear the sheep, what an Envirocycle® septic system meant and lots of other hints. They were moving to suburbia, and had asked if we wanted their two ewes. We said yes and our daughter named them Mildred and Dorothy. In May 2000 we moved in, and Alan's parents did so a few weeks later after their home sold. Instead of having two residences, we had a home built in sections. Alan's parents moved into an attached two-bedroom unit and Alan, myself and our two teenage children moved into a four-bedroom area. In between both areas was a games room and extra bathroom.

Hakone Rd is a dead-end, so the only traffic that came past came from our two western neighbours, or dastardly types dealing drugs, dumping rubbish or leaving unwanted pets! We were immediately impressed by the quiet, interspersed with birdsong and the number of lovely trees that dotted the property. There was also a dam filled with koi carp. The previous owners had fed the kookaburras and magpies. We continued this for a while, but soon realised that it was not something to do when one also owns cats.

Over the years, we have had four generations living under this roof. We have had extended family rent the unit, friends of our children, and have even accommodated some Italian workmen who were over here to do some work at MasterFoods™, where our son was also employed. Now, the unit is used for family and friends travelling past, as an overnight stop, or for our Queensland families when they come for a visit. Alan and I rattle around in the four-bedroom section. One of the bedrooms has become my scrapbooking room and another a storeroom for inherited furniture and a third is now an office. The games room is now a craft/family history/Lego room that is popular with the grandkids.

Sheila, Babe and Princess, pre-birth of their 5 kids, Sep 2010

Alan and grandson Riley, aged 4. 2008 enjoying the ride-on currently in pieces!

Externally, we have planted gardens, lost trees to old age and weather events, replaced fences, built a huge workshop, built more sheds, added three shipping containers, lost the koi carp to eagle-eyed pelicans and cared for more sheep, two alpacas and a herd of supposedly miniature goats. We are now livestock free, but the local mob of kangaroos, and wallabies now spend much of their time on our property. It is lovely to see, especially when the mother 'roos bend down to munch on the grass and a tiny head pops out of the pouch to do the same!

Some of the Warnervale mob 2016

It is a lot of work owning an acreage. Machinery seems to continually break down, lawn mowing takes many hours, as does cleaning five bathrooms! However, I have loved living here for the last 26 years. Sadly, suburbia is creeping up the other side of our road, as part of the ever-changing Warnervale Town Plan. There have been so many versions over the years, and we have lost track of the proposed community facilities. So far, it has been large houses on small blocks, and lots of roads now connecting us to Sparks Rd. Our dark starry night sky is now affected by streetlights and house lights.

Our empty paddocks now make excellent spaces for grandchildren on quad bikes to take supervised rides.

We both know that we would not 'fit' back in suburbia, but finding suitable alternative acreage nearby is also a challenge. We will stay here as long as we can, and I dread the thought of packing, but it has been a wonderful experience to date. I even have scrapbooks recording all the wonderful family events we have experienced here

The southern side of our road, showing new houses and a fenced off conservation area. Note- no curb and guttering as yet! Dec 2025

Our flame tree- March 2026, which 'just' missed the house when it just fell down one day

All photos taken by family members. ❖

LIVING IN THE TROPICS

Lynda Smith LM 2

PLACES

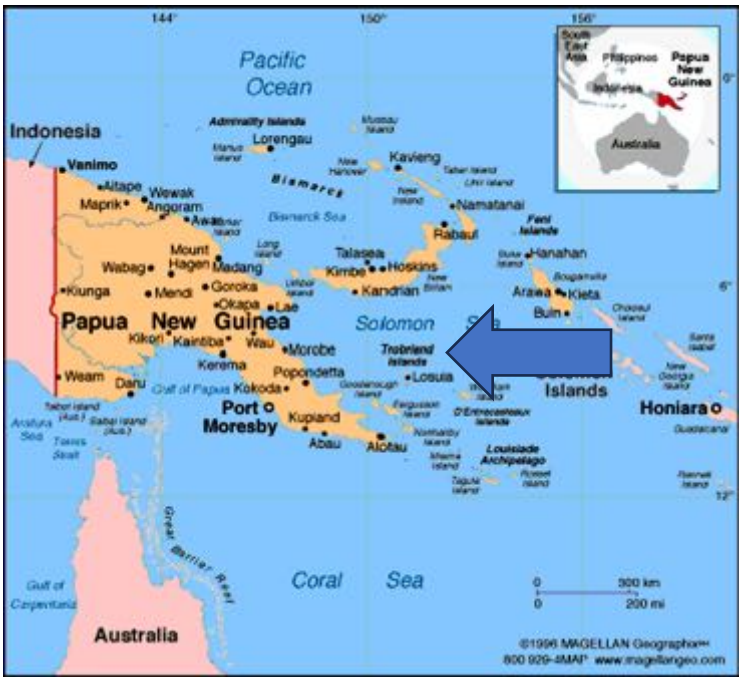
When I was 10, and living at Umina, my world was upended when my parents announced that we were moving to the Territory of Papua New Guinea for 2 years. I didn't even know where that was. I had a group of close friends, was a Brownie sixer, and had spent the last five and a half years attending Umina Public School. I naturally, did not want to move away. My parents REALLY stressed the adventure aspect, so we prepared to leave. Our departure was delayed by issues with the construction of the block of flats we were to live in, in Port Moresby.

The bulk of our possessions went by ship. We spent some days living with my grandmother in Artarmon as Dad had chosen to send our Holden Station wagon up to PM. Family transported us to Sydney Airport, where we boarded a DC 3 at night. We travelled to Brisbane, refuelled, then flew to Port Moresby, arriving in the morning. Before we exited the plane, the air hostesses pump-sprayed us all liberally with some form of disinfectant [presumably to stop us carrying insects with us], then we deplaned onto the tarmac. You could see the heat shimmering from the tar, and the humidity hit us like a wall. It took my breath away. It was not a good first impression.

My father's boss collected us at the airport and took us to our top storey unit in the suburb of Korobosea. The structure was made of timber and besser-block, with no sound insulation between levels or between sides. The timber floors added to the noise for the poor people living below us. I don't think Kathy and I playing 'elastics' on the front verandah helped either. The couple living beside us had very loud domestic arguments that involved throwing crockery at the walls each weekend, so that was also interesting. My mother hated it!

We only lived there until the end of the school year, then moved to a single family home in another suburb called Boroko. I finished 6th Grade at Boroko Public School, then attended Port Moresby High School for First Form. By the end of that year [1968], Mum and Dad had decided to sign on for another two years.

The town was very much like Darwin, as it was the administrative capital. Mum took on a secretarial job at the Forestry Commission as the cost of living was very expensive. Much of our food was imported from either Australia or New Zealand. We did visit the local market once, but it was very dirty and some of the displayed items for sale were very off-putting. We did spend a lot of time at the local beaches and Dad bought a share of a sailboat. Port Moresby was on the gulf of Papua and was a huge shipping destination. We did visit the peaceful War Cemetery at Bomana, the picnic grounds at Brown River and other



Port Moresby Harbour, 1966

locations just outside of the town like Rouna Falls.

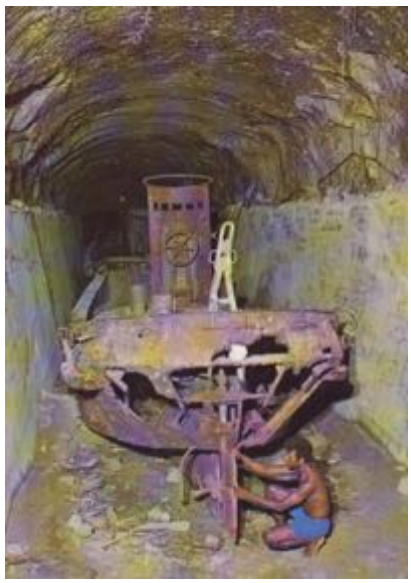
In the school holidays of 1967/68, we flew to the Trobriand Islands, off the northeastern tip of Papua. This was a place that was barely changed from traditional culture- lots of timber and thatch villages, canoe travel on the rivers, traditional grass skirts and amazing craft items carved by hand. The facilities were basic, but we didn't care. The scenery and Trobriand Islanders were worth any discomfort. I still have souvenirs we traded for sandpaper and chewing gum, the preferred currency of the locals at the time.

In the school holidays of 1968/69, we returned to Australia 'on leave' for a couple of weeks, then we flew back to PM. On arrival, Dad found out that he had been promoted to a managerial job, but in another town, Rabaul, in the north, on the island of New Britain. We packed up and flew to Rabaul via a stopover in Lae. I started Second Form at Rabaul High School. We had a lovely home outside of the town centre, opposite the area known as China Town. This was when my love of Chinese Kai [food] began. Rabaul was totally different to P.M. It was much more tropical, with the jungle only just outside the town. It was built on the rim of an ancient volcano, and was surrounded with smaller, inactive volcanoes. It also meant that we experienced small earthquakes on an almost daily basis, called gurias in the native language. We soon became used to these, but also experienced two very strong earthquakes in 1971. These quakes caused lots of building damage, and tidal waves that flooded much of the town. Our Clark Rubber swimming pool collapsed, and the stock on the shelves in the supermarket I worked at fell off, creating a huge, very smelly mess. We sold liquor, so the glass bottles could not withstand the shaking. I had a part time job there in the school holidays, working as either a cashier or milkbar attendant

[making milkshakes out of powdered milk!]. Again, food was very expensive, coming either by ship or plane for the most part. Rabaul market was very different though, so we purchased much of our tropical fruit and vegetables from there very cheaply.

The weather in Rabaul was also very different from PM. There we had had two seasons, hot and wet and hot & dry. In Rabaul, the weather was much the same all year. The rains came almost daily, sometimes heavily, often occurring late afternoon. Weirdly, it sometimes rained on only one side of a street and not the other. It was very peculiar to see. We spent a great deal of our leisure time either on or in the water. Rabaul Harbour was surrounded by black volcanic sand. There were minimal waves in the harbour, due to its shape, so it was perfect for waterskiing. A dear friend taught my sister and I how to ski and we both won prizes in the inaugural PNG Water Skiing Championships. Dad bought a small motor boat and he and mum did a lot of fishing. They even caught a marlin, which was longer than the boat itself! We also had a sailing boat and I often accompanied my friends in sailing to some small islands in the middle of the harbour [called the Beehives] where we had picnics. Our family also visited the Duke of York islands for a camping weekend. These islands were outside Rabaul Harbour, and very basic- but well known for fishing and snorkling.

Rabaul was captured by the Japanese during WW2 and the harbour is littered with bombed ships, landing barges and man-made caves tunnelled into harbourside cliffs. One of my school friends had a trapdoor in his backyard, that led to an underground set of tunnels, used by the Japanese for a HQ. There were maps drawn on the concrete walls. This was an excellent, rather unique club house for our group.



The jungle was dotted with plane wrecks, left behind artillery and other equipment. Some of the buildings in Mango Ave., showed evidence of machine gun bullets. It was an exciting place to live. Some friends and I also climbed the tallest inactive volcano, nicknamed Mother Mountain. As a family, we carefully climbed down inside a previously active volcano, called Matupi. The smell of sulphur was overwhelming.

Rabaul had a great Yacht Club and we visited there every Sunday night, to watch movies on an outdoor screen. As well as a main film, they showed old black and white reels of classic silent serials, often involving ladies being tied to train tracks. Booing the villain was mandatory. Friday or Saturday night was spent at Rabaul Cinema, which showed a different film each week. Teenage parties in friend's homes took place on whichever night was left. There was no TV in Rabaul. The only radio station was the ABC, so we all purchased 45 and LP records which we played endlessly. The first 45 I purchased was the Beatles "Help!" and I still have a great collection of those compilation LPs, like Smash Hits.

School started early with a long lunch time in the middle of the day when it was very hot. I often cycled home and had a swim before returning for the afternoon lessons. There were only 2 classes in Rabaul HS, the A class that followed the NSW Curriculum and sat for the School Certificate in Fourth Form, and the B class, who did more practical subjects. I was in the A class and studied English, History, Geography, Maths, Science, Commerce and French, until our French teacher left at the end of Third Form. My class was a real mix of nationalities. There were Chinese, Indigenous, Australians, New Zealanders, a number from European countries and some of mixed heritage. We all got on really well. My best friend was a lovely girl called Sylvia SEETO, of mixed heritage. The first class photo is from Third Form, with our English Teacher Mrs Lefevre. I am on the far right of the first row, and Sylvia is the first on the left of Mrs Lefevre. Our Fourth Form class was a little larger.

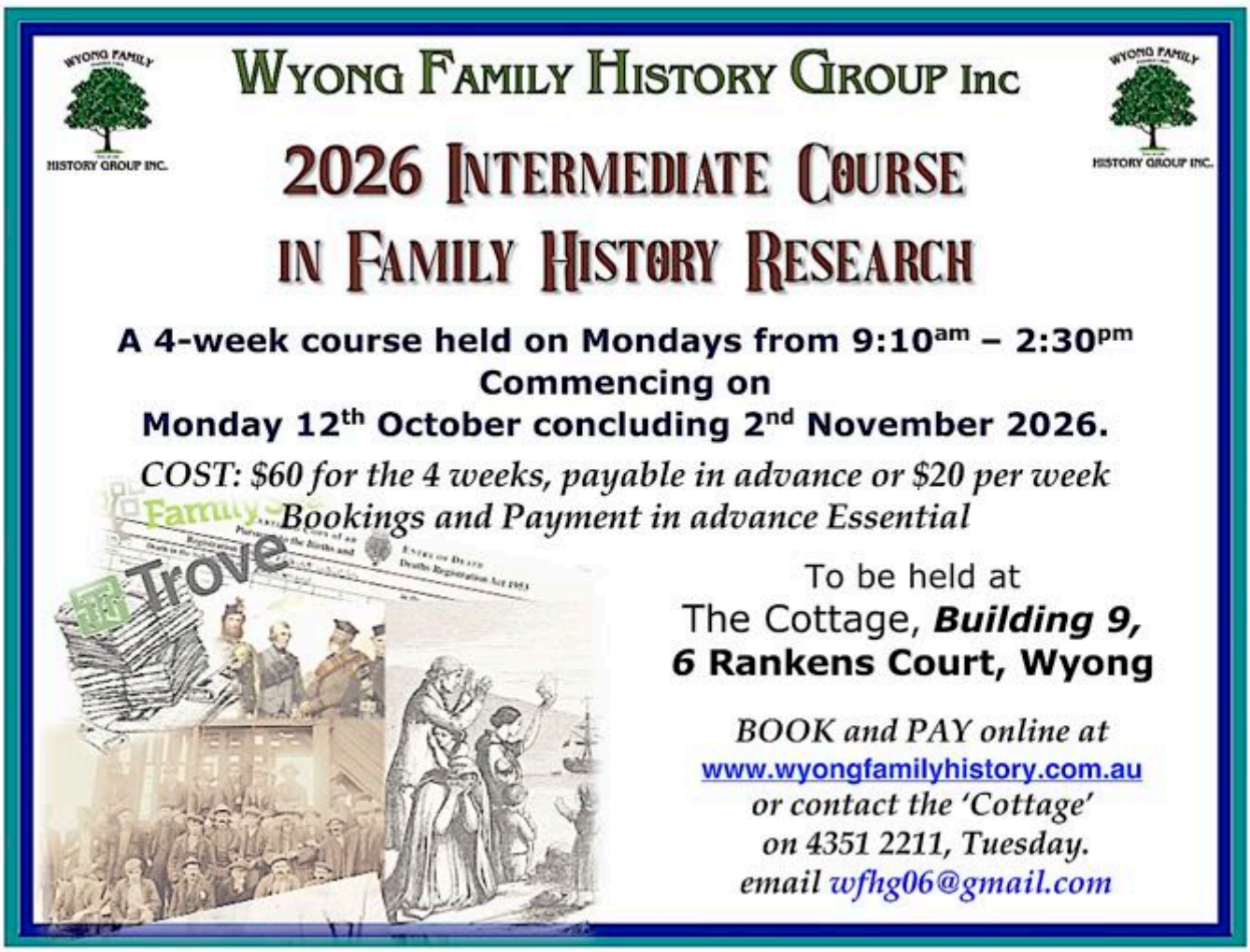
Sadly, Rabaul HS did not extend to fifth and sixth form. One could do correspondence, or travel 'south' for boarding school, either in Queensland or New South Wales. My parents investigated the cost.

They could afford the school fees, but not multiple plane trips back to Rabaul during holidays. The political situation was also becoming

more violent in PNG, with some killings of Australian Government employees, some riots and police actions, so my parents decided to return to Australia at the end of their latest term- at Easter 1972.

My sister and I flew down to Sydney in January 1972 and stayed with our grandmother in Artarmon. We attended Chatswood HS until our parents arrived, then moved back into our Umina home. I finished my senior years at Woy Woy High. I have very strong, fond memories of my time in the tropics. Dad was right, it was an amazing adventure. …❖

Sources: Family photos, historic postcards
https://www.infoplease.com/atlas/pacific-islands/papua-new-guinea-map



STORY GROUP INC.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

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

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

For a reasonable Fee

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 have paid 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.

Example of what you may receive

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: *wfhg06@gmail.com*

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

Publication	Type	Price
DIGITAL RELEASE		
Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838-1967 and Burials 1837-1987 with links to copies of the original church register pages for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes. System requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10GB hard disk space	**USB**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
BOOKS & CDs		
Servicewomen of the NSW Central Coast – Their Lives & Service 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**
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**
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 – 1954 Incorporating the Wollombi Express 1892-1906 and Wyong District Advocate 1906-1920. Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details	**CD**	**$ 10.00 + p&h**
People of Wyong Book 1 Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages	**Book**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
People of Wyong Book 2 Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages	**Book**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
People of Wyong Book 3 Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages	**Book**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
People of Wyong Book 4 Includes Wyong Abattoir, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs	**Book**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
People of Wyong Book 5 All Wyong District Schools both former and current, public and private, with a list of each school's Head Teachers. 270 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured & b&w photos of each school ***Purchase all 5 books in this series at the same time $200.00***	**Book**	**$ 50.00 + p&h**
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	**Book**	**$ 7.00 + p&h**
Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011 Includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay	**Book**	**$ 20.00 + p&h**
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley & Wyong 1963 2011	**Book**	**$ 20.00 + 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 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	**CD**	**$ 5.00 + p&h**
Wyong Agricultural Association 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	**CD**	**$ 7.50 + p&h**

Publication	Type	Price
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	**Book**	**$ 20.00 + p&h**
	CD	**$ 7.50 + p&h**
<u>UPDATED</u> Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2026]	**USB**	**$ 50.00 + 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.		
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995	**CD**	**$ 7.50 + p&h**
Volume 1 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 are on combined CD.***		
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	**CD**	**$ 12.50 + p&h**
Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries		
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**
	CD	**$ 5.00 + p&h**
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016	**Book**	**$ 25.00 + p&h**
	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**
	CD	**$ 5.00 + p&h**
Palmdale Cemetery	**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		

We also have second-hand books for sale.

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

Compiled by Helen J-L LM505
The Canadian Encyclopaedia

In March, 1973, Harry and I holidayed in Canada, having no desire to travel to the USA, we flew to Vancouver with CPAir®. We travelled across the country by the Canadian Pacific Scenic® train, spending every other night on the train. The furthest East we ventured was Quebec City staying in the Chateau Frontenac in Old Quebec City.

Although it was early Spring, we found it cold.

Quebec City, Quebec, founded in 1608, population 549,459 (2021 census), 531,902 (2016 census). Quebec City, the capital of the province of Quebec, is located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River where it meets the Rivière Saint-Charles. Here, the St. Lawrence narrows to a width of just over 1 km, and navigation is made difficult by a group of islands, the largest of which is Île d'Orléans. Cap-Diamant, a promontory with an elevation of 98 m, dominates the site and was used effectively as a fortification, earning Quebec City the name "Gibraltar of North America." The name "Quebec" is probably derived from an Algonquian word meaning "narrowing of the river." Quebec City Is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Museum of History NSW
State Archives Reading Room
BUS TRIP

Saturday 17th October 2026
Cost: Members - $40 per person
Non-members - $45.00 per person

TO BE CONFIRMED!

Pick-up points and times to be advised
The bus will leave State Records no later than 3:30 pm.
More information available on our website.

BOOK and PAY on line at www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au
the 'Cottage' on 02 4351 2211; .email wfhg06@gmail.com

Chaŧeau Frontenac

The Chaŧeau Frontenac in Quebec City (1892-93) began a tradition of chaŧeau-style railway hotels that became a distinctively Canadian architectural form.

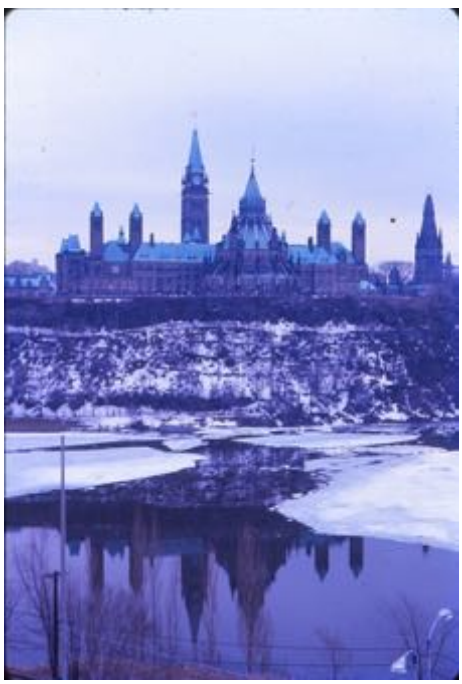
We stayed at this charming Chateau for several nights exploring Old Quebec City. We walked and took a ride on a caleche driven by an interesting chap who threw a real bearskin rug lined with an army blacket, over us for warmth.

The Parliament Building of Quebec build in 1886, viewed from the caleche

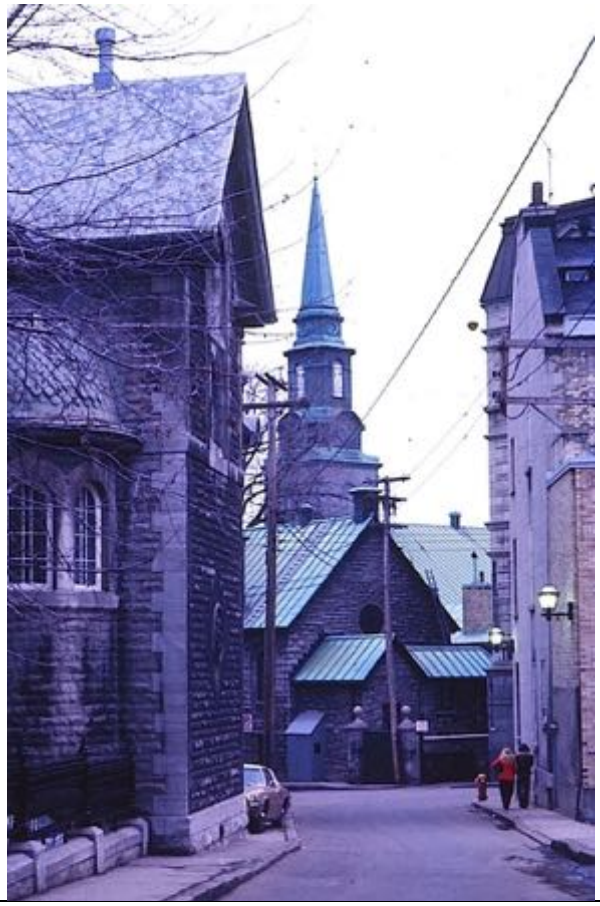
The bell-hop was a short man probably around 50 who insisted on carrying our rather heavy bags. He got lost trying to find our room. The place was a bit of a rabbit warren with corridors turning this way and that, there were also many 4 or 5 step sets of stairs, very confusing. He eventually found our lovely comfortable room. Tipping was something we knew nothing about, however we managed to find enough to reward him for his service.

We bought pizza one evening at a pizzeria whose address was 4-1/4, a very narrow place with the most delicious pizzas made to order.

We soon learned to find our way to the lift and were able to enjoy our all too short visit to this mostly French speaking, beautiful historic city. A city proud of its heritage.



The beautiful Chateau Frontenac



Looking down Rue des Ursulines in Old Quebec City, Canada, featuring the distinct stone architecture of the Ursuline Monastery and the distant steeple of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity built in 1642.

Rue Saint-Louis in Old Quebec leads straight to the historic St. Louis Gate (Porte Saint-Louis), showing gate in western wall built in 1878.

Photos from the J-L collection.

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY G C.

ZOOM

Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month
Time: Usually1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Where: At your place.

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

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 whilst you nibble your lunch or enjoy a cuppa.

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

All Welcome

BACK WHEN I WAS A KID

From the memoir of the late Harry Johnston-Lord member 504

PLACES

Back when I was a kid living in Port Kembla, you could do interesting stuff. One thing that comes to mind was the family picnic at Kiama.

So what says you! We went in the back of a tip truck seated on kitchen chairs. Loading and unloading was done by using a stepladder. We'd have been pinched if we tried that on now! I have no idea how many there were on that little excursion, but I know Grandma and Granddad were there. The seas were big so the Blow Hole was working very well.

Kiama Blow Hole: The Kiama Blowhole is the largest in the world, famous for shooting dramatic plumes of seawater up to 25 meters (and sometimes over 30 meters into the air.) *Destination Kiama.*

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
Helen Johnston-Lord	505	20 Sept 2025
Regina Hogan	533	20 Sept 2025

2026 Sydney Anzac Memorial Tour

TO BE CONFIRMED!

Travel by train

on Wednesday 28th November, Travel by train

Join us for a tour to the heritage-listed Anzac War Memorial, Museum and Monument located in Hyde Park South near Liverpool Street in the Sydney CBD.

Includes the daily service from 10:45 am to 11:05 am

Enquiries & Bookings: 'The Cottage' – 4351 2211,
Email: wfhg06@gmail.com.
In Person: Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong.

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Join our
Scrapbooking Workshop

At 'The Cottage' On Wednesday 5th November 2026

With **Cheryl Lea**

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Cost: $20.00 (includes morning tea) BYO lunch
You will take home a themed 12-inch double page and other items.
Bookings essential to allow Cheryl to have enough supplies.
Limited to 12

Contact The Cottage on 02 **4351 2211** **Email: wfhg06@gmail.com**

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

CREIGHTONS
FUNERAL SERVICE
02 4324 1533

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 **Info** = Information Session. **TBC** = To be confirmed

August	***National Family History Month 1st to 31st August***	
	Thu 6	**Scottish Research SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am – 12:00 noon ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 8	**General Meeting** 1:00pm; Guest Speaker, **Elizabeth Roberts** will speak **after** the meeting on **The Convict Trail Project**. ***Cottage opens at 12 noon for research.***
	Mon 10	**Intro to DNA Workshop** from 10am with Lyn Hagstrom & Michele Gane *$5* ***Bookings essential***
	Tue 11	**Convict SIG** 1pm-2.30pm *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Thu 13	**Family Tree Maker SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am–12 noon **English Welsh SIG** *$3.00* 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. ***Bookings essential.***
	Wed 19	**Monthly Zoom Catch up**. Topic: 1850 – 1950 fashion. From 1:00pm.
	Sun 23	**BUNNINGS BBQ** at LakeHaven Bunnings Carpark
	Thu 27	**Irish SIG 10am-12 noon** *$3* **MS Office SIG 12.30pm-2.30pm** *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 29	**Multi-Media SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am – 12:00 noon ***Bookings essential***
September	**Date**	**Event**
	Thu 3	**Scottish SIG** 10am-12noon *$3* **Military SIG** 12.30pm-2.30pm *$3.* ***Bookings essential***
	Sun 6	Father's Day
	Tue 8	**Convict SIG** 1pm-2.30pm *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Thu 10	**Family Tree Maker SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am–12 noon **English Welsh SIG** *$3.00* 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 12	**Annual General Meeting** 1:00pm ***Cottage open from 12 noon for research.***
	Tue 15	**Ai SIG** *$3.00* 12.30pm-2.30pm ***Bookings essential***
	Wed 16	**Monthly Zoom Catch up**. From 1pm. Topic: Convict Ancestor
	Friday 18th – Sunday 20th: **Annual State Conference Port Macquarie**	
	Thu 24	**Irish SIG 10am-12 noon** *$3* **MS Office SIG 12.30pm-2.30pm** *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 26	**Multi-Media SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 29	October Committee Meeting 10:00 am

October	**Date**	**Event**	**Location**
	Thu 1	**Scottish SIG** 10am-12noon *$3* **Military SIG** 12.30pm-2.30pm *$3.* ***Bookings essential***	
	Tue 6	Planning Meeting 10:00 am	
	Thu 8	**Family Tree Maker SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am–12 noon **English Welsh SIG** *$3.00* 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. ***Bookings essential***	
	Sat 10	**General Meeting** 1:00pm; Guest Speaker, **Janelle Collins** will speak **after** the meeting **'Online Resources of State Library of NSW'**. ***Cottage opens at 12 noon for research.***	
	Wed 20	**Monthly ZOOM Catch Up**. Topic: Researching Females 1:00pm – 2.30pm	

	Date	Event
	Mon 12	4-week **INTERMEDIATE FAMILY HISTORY COURSE** begins at The Cottage. Concludes November 2. 9:10 am-2:30 pm. ***Bookings Essential. Cost $60.00 per person***
	Tue 13	**Convict SIG** 1pm-2.30pm *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 17	**Museum of History (State Archives) Bus trip** *TBC*
	Tue 20	**Ai SIG** *$3.00* 12.30pm-2.30pm ***Bookings essential***
	Wed 21	**Monthly Zoom Catch up**. From 1pm. Topic: European or UK Ancestors
	Thu 22	**Irish SIG 10am-12 noon** *$3* **MS Office SIG 12.30pm-2.30pm** *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Sat 24	**Multi-Media SIG** *$3.00* 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 27	November Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Wed 28	**Proposed War Memorial Train Trip TBC**

November	Date	Event
	Tue 3	**Melbourne Cup BBQ Lunch Afternoon Tea 1:00 – 4:00pm TBC**
	Thu 5	**Scottish Research SIG** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon *$3.00* ***Bookings essential***
	Mon 9	3 week **Family Tree Maker Masterclass Workshop with Martin Fisher** begins at the Cottage Concludes November 23.10:00am-2:00pm. ***Bookings Essential. Cost $60.00 per person***
	Tue 10	**Convict SIG** 1pm-2.30pm *$3* ***Bookings essential***
	Wed 11	**REMEMBRANCE DAY Morning Tea Display at 'The Cottage' 10am**
	Wed 25	**Scrapbooking Workshop** 10am-2pm. Numbers limited. *$20* ***Bookings essential***

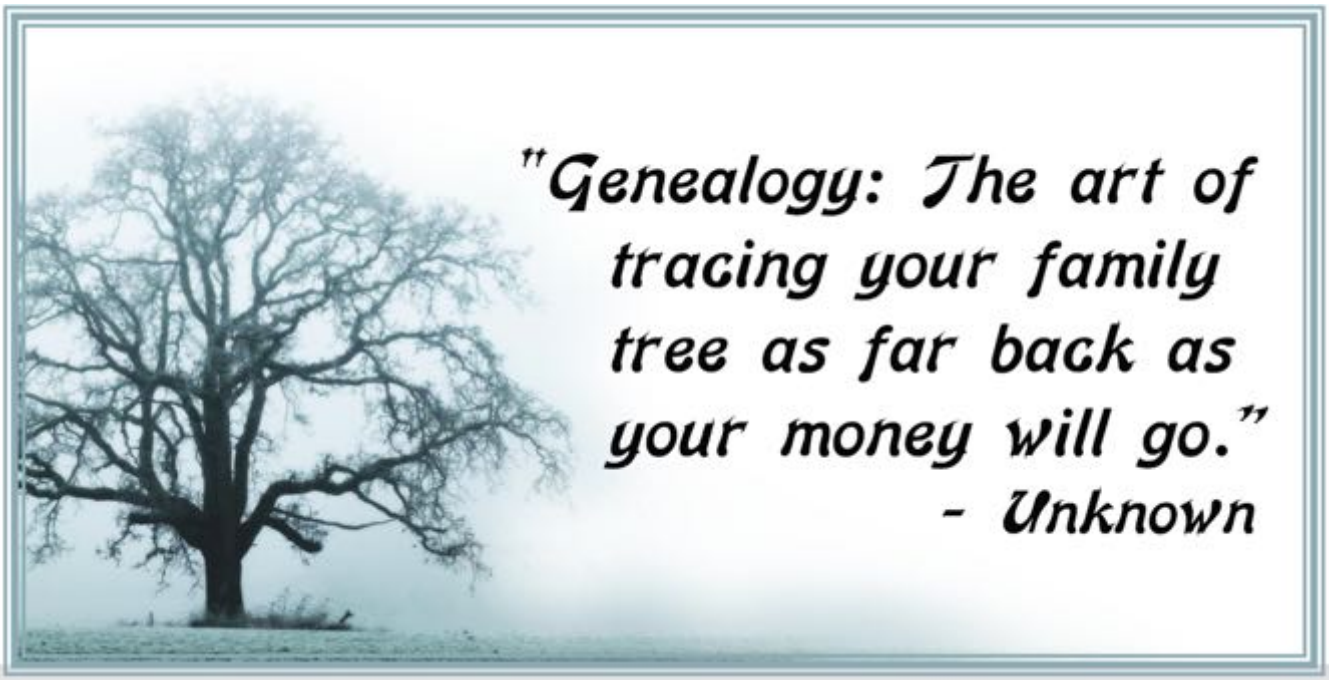
For your Diary		Date	Event
	December	Thu 3	**Scottish SIG participants Morning Tea TBC** ***Bookings essential***
		Sun 6	**WFHG CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB WYONG TBC** ***Bookings essential***
		Tue 8	**Convict SIG 12.30pm-2.30** ***Bookings essential***
		Thu 10	**Christmas Morning Tea 10.30am LAST DAY FOR 2025**
		Wed 16	**WFHG Zoom 1pm - 2.30pm Topic: Christmas or Your Choice**
	Tuesday January 12, 2027, Opening Day		

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.

Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Updated 2026]
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.
USB $ 50.00 + p & h.
Printed in a two-volume set of books $100.00 + p & h.

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.



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:
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Email The Secretary: **secwfhg@gmail**
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, You never know where you contribution could lead and they are always welcome, and 21 October 2026 is the closing date for submissions for next issue of the *"Tree of Life".*

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WYONG FAMILY 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.