

WYONG FAMILY
Founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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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 10:00 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, 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:	VACANT	
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



At the time of writing, we are facing some serious upheavals. Our Heritage-listed cottage is finally getting some much-needed repairs, involving the foyer, dining room, storeroom and kitchen. There is also the possibility of ceiling repairs, so Council has suggested a three-four week closure. After looking at our calendar and Council's need to have this work completed within this financial year, a date of April 23 was suggested for our closure. Before this date, we would have to do some furniture clearance, but Council will assist us. I will be liaising with the Council Work Supervisor on this.

Your committee is dedicated to keeping things as normal as possible, so an alternate calendar has been proposed. We will inform you of specifics. One of the events possibly affected in May is our Volunteer Thank you morning tea. Groups like ours would not survive without many volunteer hours. We currently have nearly 200 members. Some people just join to make use of our resources to further their research. Others also attend the occasional event or meeting. Some we never see because they live a long way away. Some take on responsibilities and can be seen



frequently at the Cottage. All versions of membership are welcome, but to make events happen, there are members who go the extra mile and actually do the shopping, collect the mail, do the banking, answer the phone, set up the rooms, wash up, print off notes, maintain the computers, tend the gardens and grounds, run classes, create publicity, and much more. The list is almost endless.

Funnily enough, our volunteers also have private lives. Some have to deal with their own illnesses, others care for partners, parents, or other family members. Some work part time, or even full time. Some give their time to other groups, such as their Church or charitable societies. Some are hampered by a lack of transport or funds. Volunteers also suffer from burnout, just as carers do. We need to regularly check that people are okay and offer to take on a task that may lessen an individual's load. Sometimes, people just need to take some time out for themselves and regain their passion for what we all love, which is researching our family history. Our volunteers are invaluable.

Effective and honest communication is the key to a successful organisation continuing to grow and adapt to the needs of its members. We need to listen to each other and respond to any concerns someone might have in a thoughtful way. We also need to remember that some current problems, such as homelessness, are multi-faceted and difficult to solve.

On another note, our recent attendance at Council's Love Lanes Festival on 7th February was a great PR opportunity. We handed out bags of information and had lots of chats with people about their family history. We were kept so busy that we didn't get to have a wander around ourselves. Council chose a Woodland/Faerie theme this year and the decorations and costumes were very impressive.



Our group also had a table at the Central Coast Senior's Expo in March and it was worth the effort. We engaged with many people, including other stallholders and it was a busy time. Our recent guest speaker, Natassia, from the Central Coast Living & Wellbeing Lab was a contact made at last year's Expo. Our recent Beginner's Class also went well, with seven attendees. A number of these also became members, which is a wonderful result.



Our monthly Zoom chats have been covering interesting topics. Those who attend learn something new every session. I encourage you to join in, even just to watch and chat about the topic. It is not essential that you create a presentation. The Special Interest Groups are also going well, with a new Convict one now running monthly. We may also have a Military one if there is interest. We have also had some excellent sessions on DNA, Power-point and more advanced English research.

If you haven't already done so, I highly recommend a trip on the Postman's Run ferry that leaves from Brooklyn. More than twenty members and their partners enjoyed a wonderful day out on Friday 6th February. We had lovely weather, an excellent tour guide and amazing scenery. It was an excellent day organised by Martin Fisher.



Until your next EUREKA research moment, stay safe and well. ... ❖

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord LM 505

I may have mentioned how easily I am distracted. Researching family connections often sparks a vague memory which I usually follow up. Reading Lynda's story on page 19 ignited a tiny glimmer which led to my story about my dad.



Last issue I mentioned my recent interest in history. The same can be said for matters military. The military have influenced many aspects of our lives and history. I would like to urge you to seriously considered attending any talks or seminars planned by our group, you never know what you might learn.

Watch the Weekly Newsletter for information about our next feature.

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 now, time will shine a different light on your efforts.

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

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

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

There were twenty members, this included five via zoom and one visitor at the February's general meeting.

Robert Patton gave an interesting and engaging talk on his latest travels, to far flung places like Oman, Morocco, Spain & Vanuatu plus trips to Perth, Darwin & Broome. His presentation included great photos of some of the fascinating sights, experiences and friendly people he encountered along the way. He also tested his audience with some curly geography questions which added to the entertainment.



Robert Patton with Ann Lee

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Around twenty members attended the general meeting on Saturday. Natassia Smith from the Central Coast Health & Wellbeing LAB gave an informative talk on what the CCH&W LAB actually do then asked the attendees to give her some feedback on what Living Well means to them. A lively conversation followed which gave Natassia some ideas to take back with her.



Natassia Smith with Ann Lee

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

An appropriate subject leading up to ANZAC Day on the 25th of this month. Historian Denis Kirkaldy gave a thought provoking presentation on Gallipoli, at our April general meeting. Fourteen members, two visitors and three members via zoom attended



Denis Kirkaldy receiving a gift from Ann Lee



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. ... ❖

It was my mother who first sparked my interest in family history. When we were very small, she would tell us stories about our ancestors, sometimes funny, sometimes a little frightening and often embellished along the way.

Long before computers transformed genealogical research, Mum pursued family history the traditional way. She would travel by train from Lithgow to Sydney, spending the day at NSW State Records and the State Library, searching through microfiche and old documents.

When the Lithgow and District Family History Society was formed in 1986, she was one of its earliest members. She later became publicity officer and frequently wrote historical articles for the *Lithgow Mercury*. In 1992 she produced a booklet marking the Sesqui-Centenary of St Bernard's Church, Hartley, and St Patrick's Church, Lithgow (1842-1992).



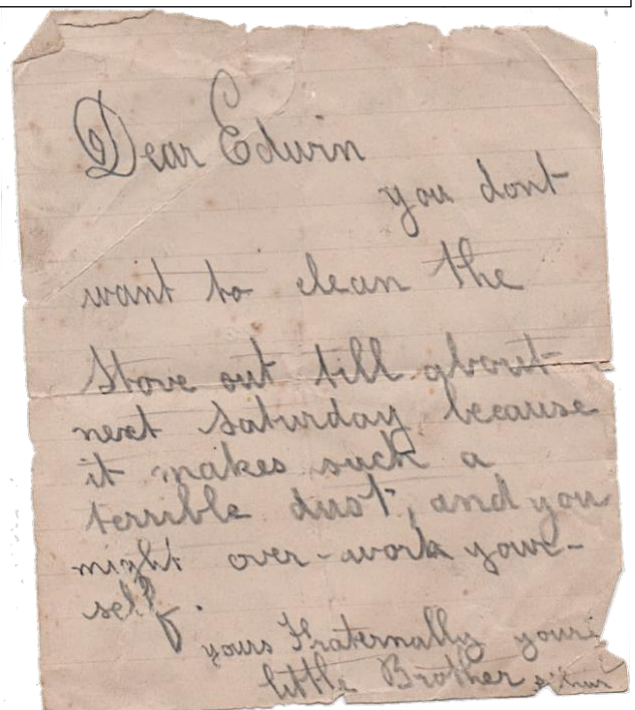
St Bernard's Church, Hartley



St Patrick's Church, Lithgow

After Mum passed away in 2012, my sister and I began sorting through her extensive collection of family history papers. There was a wealth of material, though not always well organised.

Among the papers was a plastic bag containing several Christmas cards, memorial cards, invoices for members of the LEAKE family from the Lily of the Valley Lodge, and letters addressed to Mr David LEAKE from the Dr McLachlan's Electric Belt Company. There was also a handwritten note on a scrap of paper. One side read:



“Dear Edwin,

You don’t want to clean the stove out until about next Saturday because it makes such a terrible dust and you might overwork yourself.

Yours fraternally,
your little brother Arthur.”

On the reverse:

“Dear Edwin,

You had better boile (sic) the potatos (sic) with their skins on. The meat did not come until I was ready for worke (sic). It is under the meat cover in the dining room. Put hot water on for me and oblige.

E. Leake.”

I was unaware of any connection between our family and the LEAKE name, so I set the items aside for future research and promptly forgot about them.

Late last year, I rediscovered them. What intrigued me most was the note between the two brothers. It captured an ordinary moment from long ago. I could almost picture it left on a kitchen table, waiting to be read.

But where to begin?

I started with the letters to David LEAKE of Vale of Clwydd, Lithgow. There were four, dated August to December 1904. It appeared he had purchased one of the Dr McLachlan’s Electric Belt Company’s “miracle” electric belts but was not experiencing relief for his back.

In the final letter, the company expressed disappointment that his condition had not improved—in fact, it seemed worse. Their advice included reversing the battery connections to increase its effect, and encouraged him to persevere. I’m not sure what the outcome was for poor Mr LEAKE’s back.

Turning to *Trove*, I searched the *Lithgow Mercury* and found David LEAKE’s obituary, published 23 June 1933. He was described as a “charitable and esteemed resident,” survived by a daughter, Emma, and two sons, Edwin and Arthur. His wife had predeceased him by fifteen years.

Using the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages Index, I located a death in 1918 for Mary Ann LEAKE. Her obituary confirmed she was David’s wife and the mother of Emma, Edwin, and Arthur. I also found their marriage: David LEAKE and Mary Ann BAMPTON, Sydney, 15 January 1880.

Immigration records revealed that David arrived in Australia on 5 February 1877 aboard the *La Hogue*, a 21-year-old miner from Staffordshire. Mary BAMPTON arrived on 9 January 1880 aboard the *Northampton*, also aged 21. Interestingly, David was her immigration depositor, and they married just six days after her arrival.

Further research showed they had both lived in the parish of Ogle Hay, Staffordshire. It raises an intriguing question. Were they childhood sweethearts?

David and Mary had four children, all born in Lithgow: Edwin (1881), Arthur (1883), John (1886), and Emma May (1893). Sadly, John died in 1887 at just one year of age.

At the time Edwin and Arthur wrote their notes, both were working in the Lithgow coal mines, as was their father. Evidence of this came from receipts for the Lily of the Valley Lodge of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows found among the keepsakes. The Lodge provided support for sickness, injury, and death at a time when government welfare did not exist, and such organisations played an important role in supporting working families.

After marrying, Edwin and Arthur remained in Lithgow, continuing to work in the mines and raise their families. Edwin died in 1970 while staying with his daughter in Lidcombe. Arthur died in Lithgow in 1954.

Despite many hours of research, I was unable to establish any connection between the LEAKE family and my own. How these items came into my mother's possession remains a mystery.

While searching on Ancestry.com, I found a family tree with photographs of the LEAKE family. The contributor, Sue, also lived on the Central Coast. I contacted her, and she confirmed she was a granddaughter of Arthur LEAKE.

We arranged to meet at a café in Erina. It was a wonderful moment to hand over the folder I had compiled, containing the keepsakes and memorabilia. She was delighted to receive them, and I was equally pleased to have made a new "genimate."

Although the mystery of how these items came into my mother's collection remains unsolved, their journey has come full circle. What began as a chance discovery became an opportunity to reconnect a family with pieces of its own history. It is a reminder that family history is not just about names and dates, but about the stories, connections, and human moments that endure across generations. ❖



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.



FILM PRODUCER CHARGED

Ann Holland member 981

From the "Huddersfield Examiner" 16 April 1916

"I cannot understand it, as my co-director has lodged an appeal."

Harry Grenville Taylor, age 26, stood in the dock at the Bow Street Magistrates Court on Friday the 14th April 1916 wearing his best suit.

Captain Reed, recruiting officer at Kingston upon Thames, impassively addressed the Court.

"The military authorities regarded this as a serious case of shirking on the part of an educated man."

Harry had been called up for duty and attended the recruiting office on time on Friday 11 February 1916. He completed his mobilisation paperwork and was sent to Kingston Barracks where he requested 7 days leave to attend his business in Huddersfield Yorkshire where he was the Managing Director of Grenville Taylor Productions. This leave was granted.

Harry had travelled to Huddersfield, contacting Mr Tom Herbert Kaye of 21a New Street Huddersfield to act as receiver for the purpose of winding up the business of Grenville Taylor Productions. While in Huddersfield, Harry's company put forward a claim on his behalf to the local tribunal for a month's exemption with leave to appeal again. Harry had since acted under the advice of the company's solicitor.

The magistrate, Mr. Graham Campbell said he must have evidence of the date of the appeal in Huddersfield and ordered remand on the defendant's own bail.

From the "Daily Mirror" London on 15 April 1916

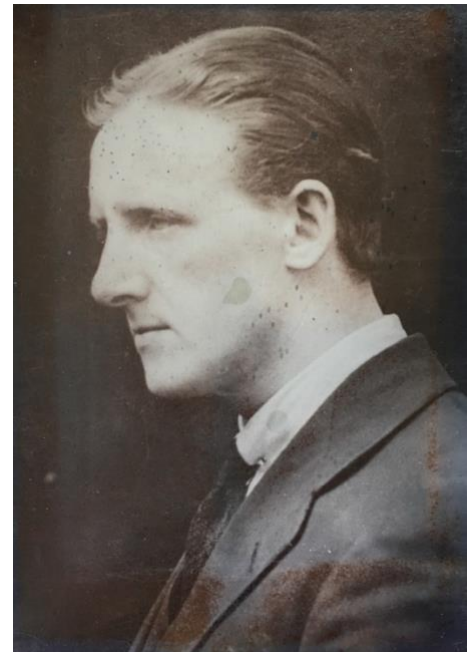
Acted On Legal Advice

Hotel Director's Reply to Being an Absentee

Court resumed Saturday 15th April 1916.

Mr A Brook Hirst of Messr's Ward and Hirst Huddersfield appeared for the Defendant. Evidence was presented as requested to the Magistrate.

The "Daily Mirror" on 15 April 1916 had misrepresented Henry Grenville Taylor as the Managing Director of Haxell's Hotel, the Strand.



On the 17 April 1916 Mr Alfred Vines sole proprietor of Haxell's Family Hotel, Strand advised the "Daily Mirror" that Mr Taylor was a guest at the Hotel.

The "Huddersfield Examiner" on 16 April 1916 correctly identified Henry Grenville Taylor as the Managing Director of Grenville Taylor Productions Company, staying at Haxell's Hotel, Strand.

Neither newspaper used his correct name, assuming that his Christian name must have been Henry not Harry.

The evidence provided by Prosecution showed that Harry Grenville Taylor had completed his attestation on 10 December 1915. Captain Reed from Kingston Barracks confirmed that a Claim for a month's exemption had been lodged at Huddersfield on 31 January 1916 several days before Harry was called up to present at Kingston Barracks on 11 February 1916. This claim had been granted with leave to appeal again. The application had since been reserved then refused at Huddersfield Tribunal. An appeal was pending against the decision of the Huddersfield Tribunal and was not yet finalised.

On behalf of the defendant Mr. Amos Brook Hirst stated the reason the exemption claim was lodged by his (Harry's) company Grenville Taylor Productions was that a £2000 contract had been entered into by the firm immediately after he had been called up for service. Harry's income from the company amounted to £1300 per year, he drove his own motorcar and he had made several flights. There was now an appeal pending against the final decision of the Huddersfield Tribunal, and until that appeal had been heard, or the time allowed had expired, the defendant ought not to have been put to the indignity of arrest.

During his 7 days approved leave granted at Kingston Barracks on 11 February 1916, Harry had written applying for commission in the newly formed Royal Flying Corps (RFC). This could only be done following his attendance for Military Service as the RFC was part of the British Army from 1912 to 1918. The Royal Air Force (RAF) was created in 1918 by merging the Royal Flying Corp (Army) and the Royal Navy Air Service (RNAS).

Magistrate Mr. Graham Campbell dismissed the case, saying the military authorities could order the defendant to report for service in the event of the appeal not being allowed.

Harry Grenville Taylor Enlistment document – Service number 27929. Date of current engagement commenced 11/2/1916 – RFC.

Grenville Taylor Productions released a photoplay in March 1916 titled "Abide With Me" a melodrama based on the Hymn and filmed in and around Battle Abbey, Hastings.

That is a different story. ❖

A remarkable sense of reflection and community filled the cottage on Monday 20th April, as many of our members gathered for the ANZAC morning tea. Those who attended were met with an unexpected and truly impressive display, thoughtfully curated by Lyn Hagstrom and Christine Randall. What began as an idea quickly grew into something much larger, thanks to their dedication and passion for preserving our shared history.

The exhibition soon became a collective effort, with members generously contributing photographs and treasured service memorabilia, adding depth and personal stories to the display. Every corner of the cottage came to life, spanning all four rooms and even the hallway, creating an immersive journey through time.

Paul Hagstrom created a wonderful slideshow from the many soldiers' photos submitted by our members, which ran for an hour and a half and was accompanied by music that was very poignant for the occasion. There were so many photos to take in as the morning unfolded. The day began with a brief introduction, followed by the Ode and a minute's silence. Thank you, Paul, for your tremendous effort.

Among the many highlights were several rare and poignant items, including a Boer War memorial book presented to grieving families, alongside two similar volumes from the First World War. These pieces offered a powerful glimpse into the ways communities have honoured and remembered those who served, and they left a lasting impression on all who attended.

It was a morning not only of remembrance, but of connection—bringing history closer through shared stories, cherished artefacts, and the collective spirit of our group. A special thank you to Paul Hagstrom and Martin Fisher for an unexpected sausage sizzle lunch, and also to the



Rare Boer War Book



Parcel from Home

ladies who helped supply a scrumptious morning tea.



WW1 books



Watching the slide presentation

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.*

HMAS SYDNEY 1

Compiled by Helen Johnston-Lord Im505

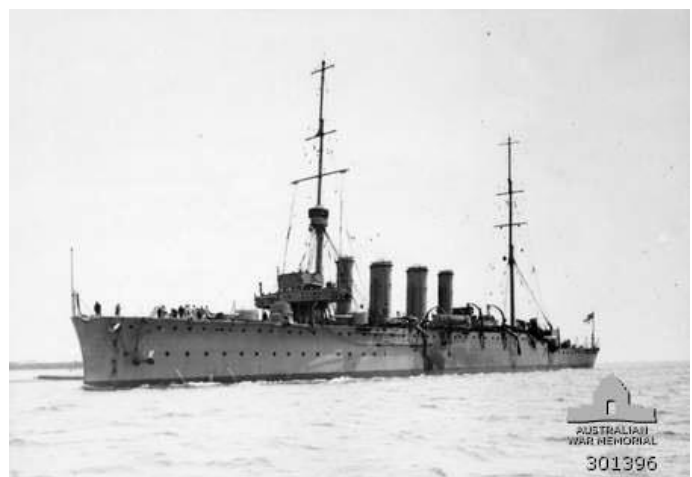
In our last issue we included a relatively new memorial to HMAS Sydney II at Geraldton W.A. 'HMAS Sydney 1' also has some interesting memorials.

From Wikipedia

HMAS Sydney was a Chatham-class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Laid down in 1911 and launched in 1912, the cruiser was commissioned into the RAN in 1913.

During the early stages of World War I, *Sydney* was involved in supporting the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, and escorting the first ANZAC convoy. On 9 November 1914,

she defeated the German cruiser SMS *Emden* at the Battle of Cocos. During 1915 and 1916, *Sydney* operated on the North America and West Indies Station, before joining the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron at



Greenock, Scotland in November 1916. On 4 May 1917, the cruiser was involved in an inconclusive action against the German zeppelin *L43*; neither was damaged. During late 1917, *Sydney* became the first Australian warship to launch an aircraft, and the first warship to do so from a rotatable platform.

After the war's end, *Sydney* spent a year in reserve before being reactivated to serve as Flagship of the RAN. The cruiser was decommissioned in 1928 and broken up for scrap.



HMAS Sydney with submarines AE1 and AE2 off Cairns, Queensland.



Sopwith Pup launch from HMAS Sydney with HMAS Melbourne in the background. Picture Naval Historical Society of Australia.

HMAS SYDNEY 1 MEMORIALS

Compiled by Helen Johnston-Lord LM505

The prow section is set into the sea wall on Olympic Drive at Milsons Point in Sydney. There are plaques immediately behind the prow. This memorial commemorates the sinking of the German raider "Emden" on 9 November 1914.

The Bradley's Head Naval Memorial is the site of the HMAS Sydney 1 memorial mast, which commemorates the "Sydney-Emden" action. This was the first engagement at sea of a Royal Australian Navy ship during the First World War on 9 November 1914 at Keeling Island near Cocos Island. The memorial also honours those who served in the Royal Australian Navy and all ships lost in service.

The memorial primarily consists of the steel tripod foremast of HMAS Sydney 1, which was removed during the breaking up of HMAS Sydney 1 at Cockatoo Island, following her decommissioning in 1928. The mast is



approximately 17 metres high and supports a sheltered gun direction platform and raised observation post. A 1993 topmast sits above with a yardarm and rigged block halyards. Steps and a viewing platform have been built at the mast base. The memorial is erected astride the nationally significant 1840s defence fortifications on the southernmost tip of Bradleys Head.



The memorial was dedicated to those who died in the “Sydney-Emden” action by the Mayor of Mosman, Alderman Dalton Carroll, on 24 November 1934. The ceremony was held to coincide with a visit by HRH Duke of Gloucester, who passed Bradley’s Head on board the destroyer HMAS Stuart at the time of the dedication (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 November 1934).

On 12 November 1964, the memorial mast was rededicated as an official memorial to the memory of those who served in the Royal Australian Navy and the 19 naval ships lost in service.

On 18 November 1991, an additional memorial with plaques was unveiled immediately opposite the memorial mast by the Governor of New South Wales, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, in honour of those who served on the HMAS Sydney ships and in memory of those who perished while serving on them.

The Bradley’s Head Naval Memorial is considered by the Royal Australian Navy to be the premier naval monument in Australia, and since 26 June 2007, is the only naval memorial to which ceremonial honours must be rendered by all passing naval ships, both Australian and foreign, when entering Sydney Harbour.

Commemoration services for the HMAS Sydney-Emden battle are held annually at the memorial. Foreign armed services and diplomatic representatives visit the site to lay wreaths when visiting Australia.

A final notable inclusion at the site is a Doric column, which originally stood at the GPO in George Street, Sydney, and was relocated to Bradley’s Head in 1871 to mark one nautical mile from the centre of the Martello Tower at Fort Denison and provide accurate sea trial measurements.

The compass stand from HMAS Sydney 1 was placed near Town Beach, Port Macquarie, NSW in 1929, whilst the wheel is on display in the upstairs foyer of the [Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron](#) in St Kilda, Melbourne.



One of the six inch guns is on display at the Army Museum of Western Australia in Fremantle and one its derricks is in the Victory Memorial Gardens in Wagga Wagga, NSW.



Gun from 'Emden' in Hyde Park



Doric Column



Compass Stand at Port Macquarie

Sources: Wikipedia, Naval Historical Society of Australia.

BRADLEYS HEAD FORTIFICATION COMPLEX

Compiled by Helen J-L LM505

The Bradley Head Lighthouse is an often photographed familiar landmark to me.

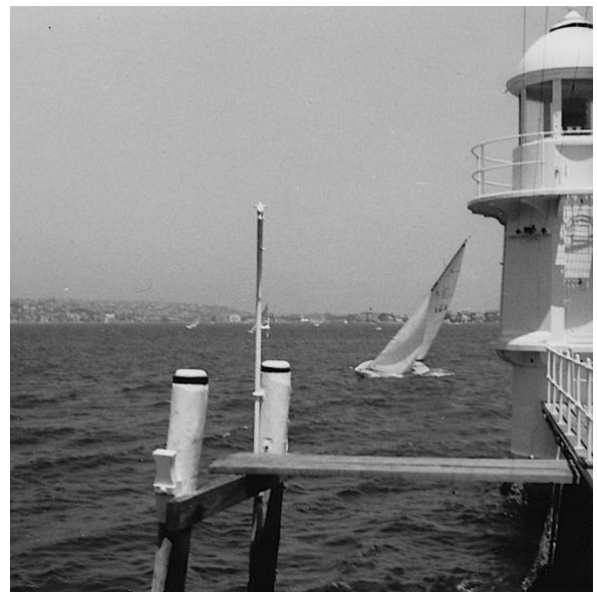
Bradley's Head was named after William Bradley, an officer on the Sirius, guard ship of the First Fleet.

In 1905, due to numerous accidents, this heritage listed small lighthouse, was built at the tip of Bradley's Head. It was the first precast concrete lighthouse in Australia.

There is also a small fort is located on this headland. The fortification formed part of a total defence system for Sydney Harbour and recalls a period when the colony of New South Wales became increasingly aware of its isolation and wealth.

It was designed by Government engineers and built from 1840 to 1934. It is also known as Bradleys Head Forts and HMAS Sydney 1 Mast and Associated Memorials. The property is owned by the Office of Environment & Heritage. It was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 30 August 2010.

The 1840 fort was cut into the sandstone bedrock outcrop on the tip of the headland and included a barbette gun pit at the eastern end. Approximately half the parapet is



constructed from cut bedrock and the remainder built up from sandstone blocks. The surviving remains consist of the parapet wall, a firing step along the base of the parapet, a terreplein (level inner area of the battery) and a rear wall. The parapet and firing step are visible.

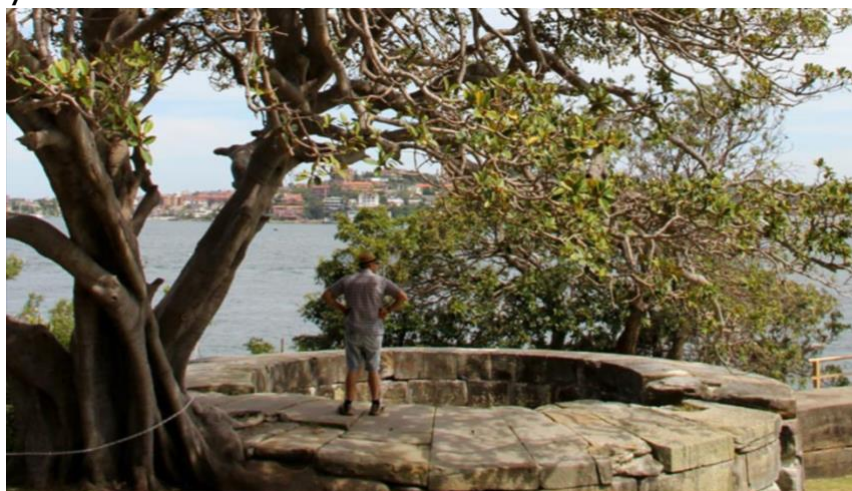
By 1871 the fort had barracks. The barracks were made from large sandstone blocks and carved out of the rock on the headland.

In 1895, TS Huntley acquired mineral leases between Bradleys Head and Athol Bay. A coal-mining site was cleared and levelled, but due to public protests, no mining was allowed.

Nineteenth century forts are of exceptional significance as one of a series of military fortifications located around Sydney Harbour which demonstrate the evolution of government policies towards defending Sydney and its harbour.

The 1840 fort and later additions have state historical significance as one of a series of planned forts resulting from fears about the vulnerability of the settlement following the undetected entry of two naval war ships into Sydney Harbour in 1839. It is one of a series of batteries established to defend the settlement, reflecting changes in government policy towards the defence of Sydney in response to political conditions and perceived war time threats from 1788 to the close of World War II.

I think if I was fit and able I would like to do one of the walking tours conducted here. ❖



Military relics at Bradleys Head, Sydney Harbour National Park. Photo: John Yurasek



SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

Lynda Smith LM 2

Whilst researching before creating my power-point presentation for our March 2026 Zoom session, I came across some interesting links with the inventor of the Victa lawnmower, Mervyn Victor RICHARDSON. The topic for Zoom was Creative Ancestors, and I had chosen to focus on my parents, and those of my husband Alan. My father Alan R.S. PRENTICE trained to be a fitter and turner but also worked with his father who was a roof tiler.

In the early 1950s he and my mother Cecily [nee FOX] would travel up from Sydney to Umina, where they owned a block of land next to my paternal grandfather in Lone Pine Ave. They helped him build a fibro and tile garage, then a two-bedroom cottage, before starting on their own

land. They stayed in the garage while they built their own fibro/tile cottage. Mum planted buffalo grass runners that she had gathered from her mum's home in Artarmon. Umina's soil was very sandy, but she persevered and they soon had a lawn, that needed to be mowed.



Dad bought a Victa mower in the mid-1950s and needed to take it to Umina in the boot of his car. The handle was fixed, so the boot had to be tied down, which wasn't overly safe. He came up with the idea of modifying the handle, using his metal skills, and created a fold down version. As Mr Richardson lived nearby in Sydney, he visited him one day and showed him what he had done.



Funnily enough, then next new model of Victa mower came out with a fold down handle, that looked suspiciously like the one my father designed. Dad graciously didn't follow this up.

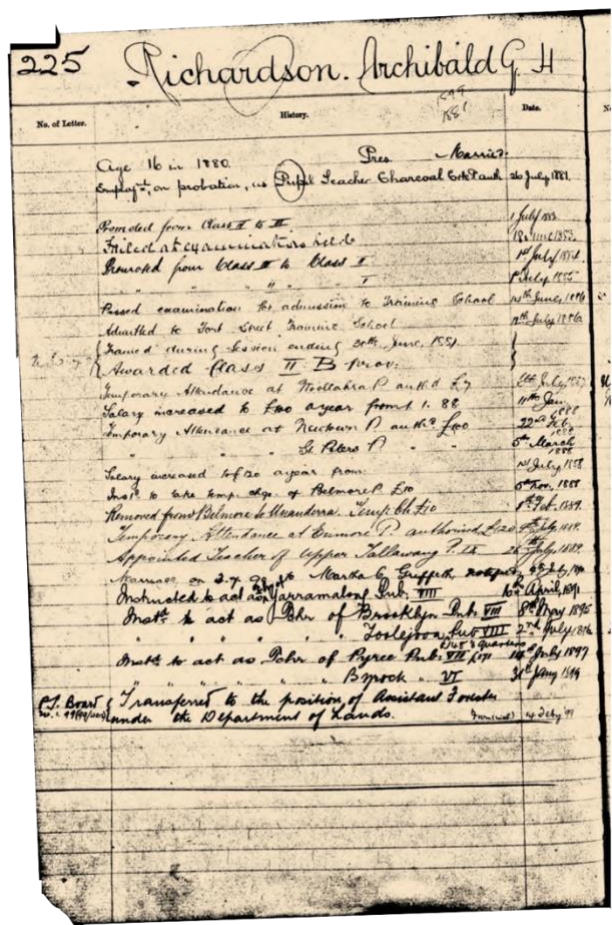
While I was researching Mr. RICHARDSON, I came across an **Australian Dictionary of Biography** article which stated that Mervyn was born in YARRAMALONG in 1893! It turns out his father Archibald G.H RICHARDSON, born in Ireland, was a school teacher. Mervyn's older brother was born in Newtown in 1892 and his two sisters, Doris [1903] and Ivy [1905] were born in Paddington. I did a little research on Ancestry and found that Archibald was born in County Tyrone in March 1864. He came to Australia with his parents, James and Eliza, on the ship ***Morning Star***, arriving 6 Sept. 1864.

By 1885 he was living near Wollongong and was working as a pupil teacher at Charcoal Creek Public School. This area was later renamed Unanderra, in the Illawarra region. By July 1887, Archibald had passed his exams and was now a teacher, being promoted to Class 1 by September of that year.

In 1890, at Newtown in Sydney, Archibald married Charlotte Martha GRIFFITH[s], sometimes known as Martha Charlotte. His teaching record shows that he was moved around quite a bit, but it seems he was at Yarramalong Public School from April 1891 to May 1895 before moving to Brooklyn. This posting is also mentioned in our publication "*People of Wyong: Book 5 Wyong District Schools and Educational Institutions*", on page 21. In 1899 Archibald left the Education Department and obtained a job with the Dept. of Lands as a Forester. In 1915, at the age of 50,

Archibald enlisted in the AIF, was classed as 'fit', and joined the 6th Squadron, 2nd Remount Unit in Egypt. He was returned to Australia in August 1916 with medical issues. Archibald died in 1924 and is buried in the Field of Mars Cemetery, Ryde.

It appears Mervyn did not attend high school. He was initially an apprenticed to a jeweller but then moved on to signwriting and later sold motorcars. In 1926 he married Vera M BERTRAM and they had a son Garry. Mervyn experimented with aeroplanes, car design and other types of engineering. In 1941, the family moved to Bray St. in Concord, into a house designed by Mervyn. When Garry



Mervyn Victor Richardson, circa 1961 - from Victa Co.

decided he wanted to attend university, Mervyn created a lightweight petrol driven lawn mower for him to use in his mowing business. This was patented and was made available for sale in 1953, and so the VICTA brand lawnmower was born. Mervyn went on to become a very successful manufacturer. In the 1960s, his son Garry took over the business. Mervyn died in 1972, in Darlinghurst. So, there is a 'Victa' connection to my father, and to our local area. ❖



SALT WATER IN HIS VEINS!

Helen Johnston-Lord LM 505

My Dad, [Peter] Keith Spence, in his youth had been a champion swimmer

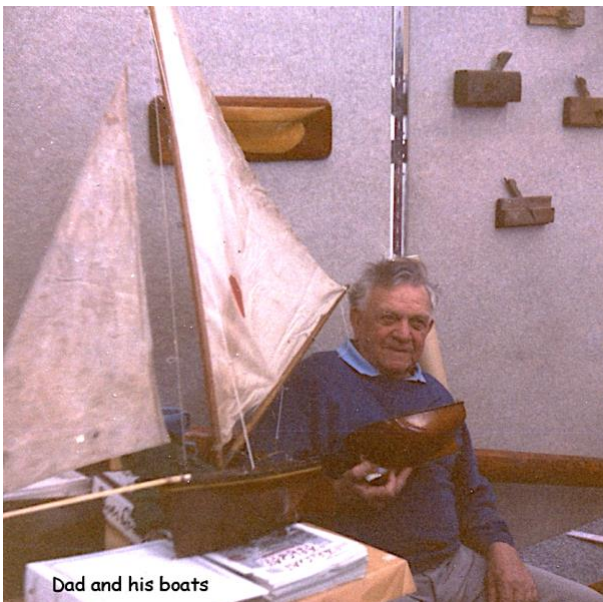
He was always 'mucking about with boats' and he was very often fishing. Being part of or starting a fishing club where ever he worked. We sometimes remarked 'he had salt water in his veins.

Boats I Remember

I remember two 10" model sail boats made of blocks of cedar with callico sails. His father had carved them so that he could race them on Billy Goat Swamp (Kippax Lake) in Sydney's Moore Park, an easy walk from the home in Belvoir Street. In 1927 he won the 'Tin Tex Shield'.

Late in his life, Dad was interviewed by Stephen Crewes for his book 'Sydney Model Racing Skiffs' Dad passed away in September 2002 and sadly never saw the book, it was published in late 2002.

In the book, Stephen relates some of the story of the races being infiltrated by local gangs, betting and race fixing. My grandfather would have none of that and made him stop.

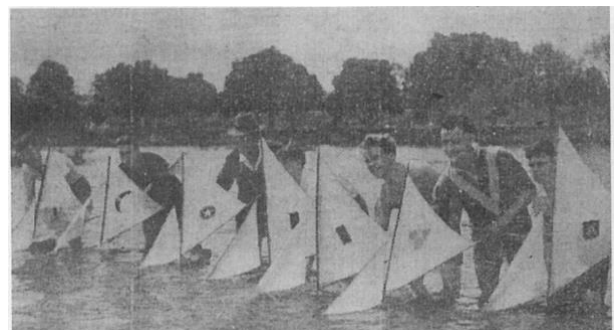


Tin-TEX Dyes.

This well-respected dye manufacturer started production early in the 20th century.

Tintex was considered a leading Australian dye manufacturer, supplying to schools, hobbyists, and theatrical wardrobe departments.

In late 2024, the manufacturing, which operated for roughly 80 years, was slated to close due to high costs.



1920s racing on Kippax Lake *

The next boats I remember were 'speed boats'.

Ever competitive, I recall him racing said craft at various places, often at Cabarita on the Parramatta River and Manly Pool and occasionally, on the Lane Cove River near where we lived.

Somehow Dad managed to become sponsored by Streets® Icecream. He had a fibreglass 'speed' emblazoned with Streets® images. He was always a competitor.

One year, Dad and my brother, Peter, then 16 or 17, took the boat to Bathurst for the regatta on the Chifley Dam. Over the weekend, they both competed in races until there was an accident. Peter was driving and another boat crossed over his boat and he was injured. He was taken to Bathurst Hospital. He must have stayed for a while as Mum and I flew to Bathurst to visit him. This was our first commercial flight, the plane was a DC3. As I was sick most of the way, this was not my best introduction to air travel.

This put an end to the 'speed' boat era.

Another vessel I recall was 'Echo'. Dad helped a neighbour built this sloop in his front yard. I remember a 'huge' lead keel being poured. *Echo* was launched at The Spit.

Dad crewed when racing and we spent many Sundays sailing around the waters of Sydney Harbour.

In the early 1960s Dad was working as an electrician for Sir Frank Packer's Australian Consolidate Press. Dad got on quite well Sir Frank, perhaps because of their mutual interest in sailing. He was involved in the electrical fit out for the first 12 metre Gretel.



Keith with 'Kookaburra' showing lead keel. *



Peter and Dad with his first 'speed boat', Althorp Street, East Gosford.



Again, in the early 1960s, Dad embarked on building a A 28ft Seahorse class plywood ocean racer designed by E G van de Stadt, in the back yard.

This took a while, he built wooden 8 foot Sabot and 11 foot Heron sailing dingies for others to pay for materials. He built one for a dingy for his tender. 'Delphis' was launched from Longueville wharf. Sir Frank Packer had given him a bottle of Bolinger Champagne to crack across the bow. Mum used an inexpensive bottle and we toasted 'Delphis' with the good stuff.

He had the idea that he could join the Sydney to Hobart race and I could be the navigator. With this in mind, we both did a Coastal Navigation course. Alas, we never did this as Dad had his first 'heart attack' at this time, this could possibly have been a panic attack as he recovered very quickly.

He was a member of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club competing in many races with many trophies to show his results. Mum even won a couple.

'Delphis' had four bunks and we would sometimes spend overnight at Store Beach near the Quarantine Station at Manly.



KA1 Gretel on Sydney Harbort



Moving 'Delphis' from our Longueville Road back yard



Launch of Delphis

She was sold in the early 1970s.

I remember him and Harry salvaging a 23 foot Star Class keel boat from Woodford Bay in the late 1970s, restoring it, sailing it for a while and then selling it.

Later, he had several mates who had more sedate vessels. When asked to join them on the harbour, he would jump at the chance.

A month or so before he died in 2002, when one mate offered him a cruise on his boat, Dad jumped at the chance. Always a boatie!

Salt Water?

Early in my family history research I discovered, from a family bible, Dad's paternal grandfather, Peter Keay Spence [1837-1896, was born at sea aboard the 'John Barry' in 1837. Ah ... a connection!

My next discovery was that his maternal grandfather, Joseph George Todhunter [1837-1874] was a cook on coastal ships. His wife, Mary Ann Ashmore [1844-?] often accompanied him, as second cook, with the children. Mary Ann was married a total of four times, all her spouses had marine connections of some sort.

As my research expanded, I found William Gibbeson [1807-1890 in New Zealand, it is spelt Gibbison]. William's only daughter, Ann [1837-1924] married Peter Keay Spence, dad's grandfaather, in 1858.

In 1821, at the age of 13, William joined a ship at Newcastle on Trent, thus beginning his time at sea. He travelled the world eventually becoming a Master Mariner. In England, in 1832 he married Margaret Potter [1808-1832] together they had three children. William left Margaret in England to travel the world. Whilst in the NSW goldfields, Margaret died back in England [cause of death, Visitation from God]

William returned to England to look after his children, however he could not settle and brought his family to Sydney in 1853. From here he continued going to sea, especially New Zealand, often leaving the children in the care of the widow Ann Amelia Hume [nee Mitford 1810-1886]. Their relationship grew and they married in 1852.

In his travels William found a place near Raglan. They settled there, he became a farmer and a pillar of the community.

Sometimes we thought dad would live forever. Apparently, we were not the only ones: His 1999 Waterways Boat Driver's licence expired on 14 February 2013 – his 100th Birthday. He died in September 2002.



Given his family background, did salt water run in his veins? Was it part of his DNA?

We three children must have been a disappointment to him as none of us shared his enthusiasm for things aquatic although Peter did love fishing.

*Sources: * Photos from Stephen Crewes book 'Sydney Model Racing Skiffs'
Other photos from our collection taken by us.
Family records also used.*



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.



SAVE THE DATE!

1st August 2026

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

At **Toukley Memorial Hall**,
13 Pearce Ave, Toukley
[behind Toukley 50 Plus]

**Speakers, Stalls, Activities,
Information, Raffle**

Enquiries:

Phone: 4351 2211,

Email: wfhg06@gmail.com

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



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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

Publication	Type	Price
DIGITAL RELEASE		
Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987	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 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	Book	\$ 20.00 + 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	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 [out of print – on back order]	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages		
People of Wyong Book 2 [out of print – on back order]	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages		
People of Wyong Book 3 [out of print – on back order]	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages		
People of Wyong Book 4	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Wyong Abattoir, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs		
People of Wyong Book 5	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 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	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	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		
Wyong Agricultural Association	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
	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h

Publication	Type	Price
Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Updated 2026] Printed in a two-volume set 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 Book	\$ 50.00 + p&h \$ 100.00 + p&h
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995 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.	CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Wyong Remembers The history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages	Book	\$ 19.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017 Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries	CD	\$ 12.50 + p&h
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 CD	\$ 15.00 + p&h \$ 5.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 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	Book CD	\$ 25.00 + p&h \$ 10.00 + p&h
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h \$ 5.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery 30,000 names – not all from Wyong	CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
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 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.



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.**

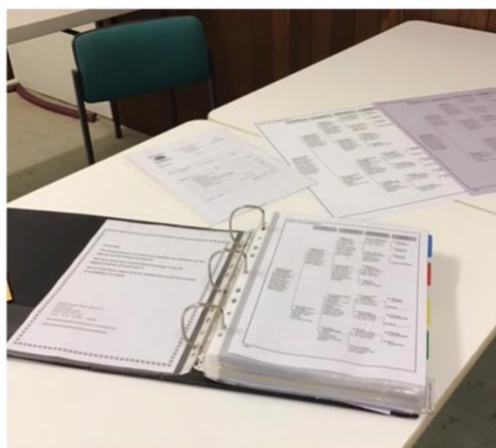
For a reasonable Fee

**Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently
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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

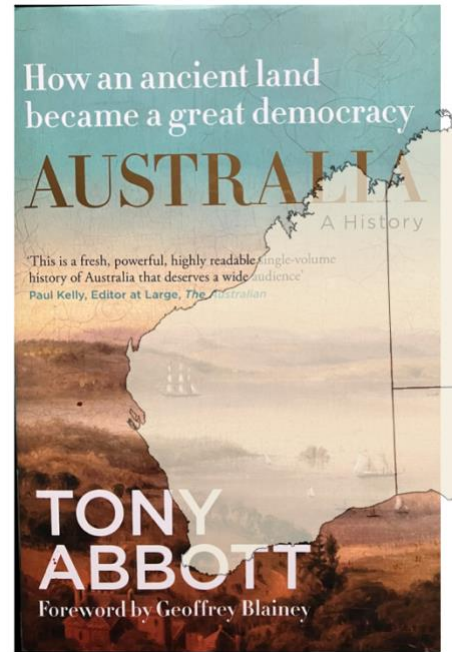
I was given this book for Christmas. My knowledge of early Australian history was minimal. I found this a fair minded, dignified account filling a lot of gaps for me, especially how our Federation was finally achieved.

From Tony Abbotts Notes:

“Just about all of us are endlessly curious about our parents and grandparents and also about our more distant ancestors, family trees and social histories attests. 'How did they live and what did they do?' are the questions we typically ask and seek to answer. And most of us delight in telling and retelling the stories from our own past, sometimes understandably embellished to put ourselves in the best possible light. Indeed, most of us would regard individuals who know little of their personal past as not only somewhat strange but as unmoored, even adrift.”

“Yet there's not, currently, a comparable interest in our country's history, even though it's hard to understand the future without a sound present or to plan effectively for knowledge of what's gone before. A 2019 survey reportedly found that 31 per cent of Australians thought that Captain Cook was the first European to land in Australia and that 47 per cent thought that his ship, the Endeavour, was part of the First Fleet that arrived in January 1788.”

A book worth adding to any library. ... ❖



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 & No.

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

No	Member	No	Member
1121	Jennette Café	1125	Jodie Ste[
1122	Caroline Thurlow	1126	Ella de Jong
1123	Linda Balinski	1127	Alan Smith
1124	Johanna van Zanten	1128	Jenny Weston

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

So far this year we have awarded continuous membership certificates to the following valued members:

- 20 years: Jenny Robertson #210
and Margaret Ross #213.
- 15 years: Valerie Freeman #307.
- 10 years: Lorraine Lonergan #717
Lyn Hagstrom #768
Stuart Purvis-Smith #770
And Chris McKenzie #781.



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

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

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: wfhg06@gmail.com
or phone [02] 4351 2211 during open hours. ... ❖



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

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

AN OLD BOOK

Lynda Smith LM

Another extract from the 1875/6

Yearbook continued: **Annual**

Summary Pg.6, Chronicle of Home News:



Page 148 Religion. November 6 1875. An Inscription for a Tombstone. –

The Leek [Staffordshire] Improvement Commission refused to receive into their cemetery the following inscription on a Mrs. Newell's tombstone ; -

"Twenty-one years a dutiful daughter, three years a chaste and virtuous sweetheart, and forty years a loving wife."

Page 150 January 24. A Singular Trait of Narrowmindedness has been exhibited by the Archbishop of Rheims. His Grace refused to allow some flint instruments and prehistoric remains to be shown at an Antiquarian Exhibition shortly to be opened at Rheims, on the plea that they tended to throw discredit on Biblical chronology.

August 19. Discovery at Pompeii has been made of a considerable number of objects of gold and silver, and close to them the carbonised skeletons of two men, who would seem to have been borne down by the storm of ashes while endeavouring to escape with their valuables or plunder.

Page 115 September 2 – Eating a Ship's Crew. – Intelligence has reached Plymouth from Sydney of the capture of a vessel, the *Dancing Wave*, by

the savages of the Solomon Islands, who had eaten all her crew. One man escaped to an adjoining island, and gave information to a vessel, which went in pursuit and found the *Dancing Wave* a perfect shambles.

Page 25: September 23 1876 – A Survivor of Waterloo.- Mr. John Lock, one of the few survivors of the battle of Waterloo, has just died in an almshouse at Rochester, at the age of eighty-four. At the time of the battle Mr. Lock was in the 6th Dragoon Guards. Although he was among the first of the troops engaged, and in the thickest of the conflict, neither he nor his horse sustained any injury.

Wikipedia: The **Battle of Waterloo** was fought on Sunday, 18 June 1815 near Waterloo in Belgium, part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands at the time. A French army under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated by two of the armies of the Seventh Coalition: a British-led allied army under the command of the Duke of Wellington, and a Prussian army under the command of Field Marshal Blücher. The battle marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

Two Centenarians. – the deaths of two centenarians were announced in Scotland, Mr. Donald Sutherland of Brough Dunnet, Caithness-shire, farmer, in his 105th year; and Mrs. Hendrie, of Forres, Banffshire, at the same age. As a proof of age of the latter, who was familiarly known in the neighbourhood of Forres as "Grannie Hendrie" it was stated she resided as a servant of the late Mr. Grant, of Kincorth, when the present laird, now seventy-eight years of age, was born.



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

	Date	Event	Location
May	Sat 9	General Meeting 1:00 pm No Guest Speaker but a webinar will be screened.	Zoom
	Tue 12	Convict SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Toukley Library Program Room
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker SIG \$3.00 10:00 am–12 noon English Welsh SIG \$3.00 10:30 pm – 2:30 pm Bookings Essential	Tuggerah Program Room 2
	Sat 16	Museums of History Kingswood Bus trip	
	Wed 20	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Researching Females 1:00pm – 2.30pm	
	Thu 21	Volunteer Morning Tea – Bookings Essential by 14th May	Alison Homestead 1 Cape Rd. Wyong
	Thu 28	Irish Research SIG 10am-12 noon MS Office SIG 12:30pm-2:30pm Bookings Essential	Tuggerah Library Program Room
	Sat 30	Lake Macquarie FHS Open Day 9am-3pm	'The X Factor' Club Macquarie Argenton

	Date	Event
June	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10am
	Thu 4	Scottish SIG 10am-12noon <i>\$3 Bookings essential</i>
	Fri 5	Tomaree Family History Group visit for a DNA Workshop
	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 10:00 am-12 noon English Welsh SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Bookings Essential
	Fri 12	Spotlight on using the ScanPro® to access our microfilm and microfiche collections. 10:00am-12 noon. <i>Free. Bookings required</i>
	Sat 13	General Meeting 1:00pm; Guest Speaker: Matt Lohmeyer on Fairview Homestead, Mangrove Mountain, followed by the meeting. Cottage open from 12 noon for research.
	Mon 15	Beginner's Class 1 2026 Reunion. 10:00am-12 noon <i>Free. Bookings essential.</i>
	Tue 16	Ai SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 12.30pm-2.30pm Bookings Essential
	Wed 17	Monthly Zoom Catch up. From 1pm. Topic: How Our Library Collection Has Helped Break Down Brick Walls.
	Fri 19	Train Trip to NSW State Library/Mitchell Library at own cost.
	Mon 22	Powerpoint Bells & Whistles Information Session. Part 2, 12:30pm-2:00pm with Ellen Sheerin. <i>\$5. Bookings essential.</i>
	Thu 25	Irish SIG 10am-12 noon <i>\$3</i> MS Office SIG 12.30pm-2.30pm <i>\$3</i> Bookings Essential
	Sat 27	Multi-Media SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Bookings Essential
	Mon 29	4 Week Beginners Course begins at The Cottage. Concludes 20 July. 9:30 am-2:30 pm. <i>Limit 12</i> Bookings Essential. Cost \$60.00 per person.
Tue 30	July Committee Meeting 10:00 am	
July	Date	Event
	Thu 2	Scottish Research SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Bookings Essential
	NAIDOC Week 5TH – 12th July	
	Wed 8	Spotlight on our Library's First Nations Collection. 10:30am-12 noon. <i>Free Bookings essential.</i>
	Thu 9	Family Tree Maker SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 10:00 am-12 noon English Welsh SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm. Bookings Essential.
	Sat 11	General Meeting 1:00pm; Guest Speaker, Peter Fisher on the history of tourism on the Central Coast will speak after the meeting. Cottage opens at 12 noon for research.
	Tue 14	Convict SIG 1pm-2.30pm <i>\$3 Bookings essential</i>
	Wed 15	Monthly Zoom Catch up. Topic: Decades- 50s, 60s, 70s. From 1:00pm.
	Sun 19	Tree of Life copy deadline
	Tue 21	Ryerson and Trove Information Session with John Selwood. 10:30am-12 noon. <i>\$5. Bookings essential.</i>
	Wed 22	Shipping Records Information session with Helen Burkett. 10:00am-12:30pm. <i>\$5. Bookings essential.</i>
	Thu 23	Irish SIG 10am-12 noon <i>\$3</i> MS Office SIG 12.30pm-2.30pm <i>\$3</i> Bookings essential.
	Fri 24	Preparing for a Trip to Rookwood Cemetery. 10:00am. TBC
	Sat 25	Multi-Media SIG <i>\$3.00</i> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Tue 28	Committee Meeting for August 10:00 am	

National Family History Month 1st to 31st August	
August Sat 1	Family History Fair Toukley Memorial Hall, 12 Pearce Ave, Toukley. Free. 10am-4pm.
Mon 3	Bus trip to Rookwood Cemetery. TBC
Wed 5	Scrapbooking Workshop 10am-2pm. Numbers limited. Bookings essential

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 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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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 July 2026 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.