

# Tree of Life

Official Journal of

# WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

ISSN 0815 0729

HISTORY GROUP INC.

**Events** 

Website: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

February 2023 Vol. 40 No 1

WHAT'S	INSIDE	THIS	<b>ISSU</b>	E
		Who	came	fi

Our Calendar 3	30
Group News	
2023 Fees and Charges 1	. 1
About Special Interest Groups 1	
Did You Know ?	
Accessibility2	6
Family History Research	
Find us at	
from the President	
your Editor	
Save the Date	•
Bunnings1	7
State Conference	
We're Turning 402	
Valé	
Beryl Whatson2	) 3
Russell Welham2	
Members	
A Reminder 1	0
Contributions	. U
Home Words	
Census of the World1	7
The Post Office – 100 Years Ago 1	. /
So You Want to Write Your Family History?2	) 5
Terrigal Shortcake with Curried	ر۔
Cheese Sauce2	) 6
Ciicese Sauce	_ U

Who came first? Impetus to	
Emigration	5
Life Members2	
Profile Jan Barrett2	1
Transport1	
Publications	
For Sale 27, 2	8
Reflections	
Return to Tipperary Weekend1 What we've been up to Roundup 2022 Christmas Jingle & Mingle 1 A Very Special Event	836 s3902 52
Other News	

Local LDS Family History Centre.. 32



Wyong Family History Group Inc.

**Patrons:** Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell

David Harris, State MP for Wyong

Meetings: Are held on the 2nd Saturday monthly between February and October, at

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens

Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211

Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' - available on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours

by appointment.

Fees: non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and

1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

#### **Office Bearers 2021**

President: Kerrie Metcalfe
Secretary & Minutes Secretary: Pamela Andre
Vice-President & Public Officer: Lynda Smith
Treasurer: Michele Gane

Management Committee:

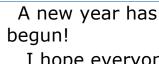
All the above executive plus Martin Fisher, Lyn Hagstrom, Regina Hogan, Dellas Johnston, Roger Lewis, Pamela Mansergh, John Selwood.

Assets Manager & IT Manager:		Roger Lewis		
Bookstall Supervisor		Glenise Clery		
Cottage Administrator	Tuesday:	Lyn Hagstrom		
	Wednesday:	Helen Hord		
	Thursday:	Wayne Bermingham		
Cottage Relief Administrators	S	Glenise Clery & Lorraine Cameron		
Cottage Roster Planner:		Cheryl Whamond		
Course Supervisor:		Ellen Sheerin		
Electronic Journal Distributor	-	Lorraine Cameron		
Grant Applications Planner:		Ruth Sewell		
Group Collector of Statistics:		Martin Fisher		
Journal Snippet Readers/Sub	mitters:	Lynda Smith & Meg Gibson		
Librarian:		Lyn Hagstrom		
Librarian Assistant:		Dellas Johnston		
Local Research Officer & Project Organiser:		John Selwood		
Membership Secretary & Irish Tips:		Pam Mansergh		
Printing Publications – Books & CDs:		Roger Lewis & John Selwood		
Proof Reading:		Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Lorraine Lonergan		
Publicity Officer:		Lynda Smith		
Raffle Organiser:		Christine McKenzie		
Scrapbooking [Photos]:		Annette Shearer		
Seminar & Guest Speaker Facilitator:		Regina Hogan		
Subscription Site Snippets:		Pamela Andre		
Tree of Life Editor:		Helen Johnston-Lord.		
Unrelated Certificates Organiser:		Jacqueline Wieringa		
Webpage Managers:		Roger Lewis & Kate Walter		
Weekly Newsletter Editor:		Wayne Bermingham		
Welfare		Pam Mansergh		

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kerrie Metcalfe - President - LM80



I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season, the first in three years without restrictions.

Our rooms opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January and we, as a Group, are heading into a busy 2023.

A warm welcome to all our new members. We hope you enjoy the year ahead researching your roots. It's amazing what the volunteers will help you find if you try to visit the Cottage. Our rooms are packed full of resources that will surprise you. If you have been a member for a number of years how long is it since you looked at your family history? It's time to take the plunge and see what mystery you can solve by attending the many events we have planned for 2023.

This year is a special year as we turn 40 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and we will be celebrating with a party to mark the occasion, so watch this space. I have been around for 22 of those years in various positions and many of them as President. I have seen the Group go from strength to strength and have met and made some wonderful friends. We have a dedicated band of volunteers and helpers who have seen many changes and ups and downs over the years but we have survived.

The other major event for 2023 is the 38<sup>th</sup> NSW & ACT Association

of Family History Societies Annual State Conference and we are hosting it. Save the dates 8 – 10 September 2023. This event brings many groups, societies, genealogist and family history vendors together in one place. It's a weekend of learning from professional speakers, bonding with other likeminded people, browsing trade tables with all manner of family history related merchandise and information, and you may even make a cousin connection.

Due to Covid19 this will be the first face to face conference in three years. It will also have a virtual aspect, for those who cannot come in person, but the focus will be on getting together and moving forward.

In line with all the above we will still be running our Special Interest Groups, Courses, Master Classes, bus trips to State Records, and all the normal in-house events so a big year lies ahead.

If you have some kind of expertise, you feel would be helpful to the Group in its planning for the Conference or activities please come forward and let the Administrator at the cottage know as all help will be valuable and appreciated in this particularly busy year.

As I finish off, I wish everyone good health and happy hunting and I hope you call in to say hello at the Cottage. •••

# FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Hello All!

What a busy November our Group has had with many events to share. You may have already seen some items in *The Newsletter*, however, including them here allows others to see some of the things we organise.

We are now back in full swing. Organising not one but two major events calling for lots of work.

Group plans occasionally miss the TOL deadline, therefore, as Kerrie says 'keep an eye on Wayne's Newsletter' to keep up to date with what is happening with your group.

As I reflected in our last issue, our Armistice Day Commemoration has prompted me to unearth some interesting stories in my research, I am including just one in this issue's Their War. We are planning a presentation of one of my findings for our May General Meeting.

Do you write pages of your family history? Don't feel it is too hard or they are not 'good enough' to share here. Once you start writing, you will find your style and become addicted to writing. Writing using the computer is a lot easier than pen and paper, changing words and moving sentences is not as off putting as crossing out and re-writing. We can help you. Your story does not have to be long, just a few paragraphs or long enough for several editions.

We are one of the places your stories will be appreciated. Our next deadline is 21 April 2023.

I always say 'My Mum was a saver' ... she saved a vast amount of 'stuff' including some interesting recipes. The one included in this issue intrigues me, I could find no reference to this with a quick Google search, only a sweet treat. If you dare to try it, let me know. (see page 26) •••

# Wyong Family History Group Inc.

# Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month

Time: From 7:30 pm Where: Your place

We usually have a subject to get the conversation started.

Members receive an email the day before the meeting with a link to join. We continue this gathering where people can informally share their

discoveries and stories.

Join us, meet other members, and see what they have discovered. Think of it as a kitchen table discussion, an opportunity to Learn and Laugh.

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

**All Welcome** 

# WHO CAME FIRST? IMPETUS TO EMIGRATION

Lynda Smith nee Prentice, LM 2

We all wonder what reasons our ancestors might have had for moving thousands of kilometres across the globe. I had always thought my PRENTICE ancestor Thomas, moved from Scotland to Dunedin in New Zealand in search of adventure. He arrived in 1875 at the age of 20. His older brother Archibald may have left Scotland earlier than this. He spent some time in Australia, particularly in Victoria, before settling in Invercargill. Archibald had met an English governess, called Clara Mary STUART in Victoria and they married there in 1886 then returned to New Zealand. Until recently, I thought these two were my only Scottish relatives to emigrate. I was wrong!

Thomas and Archibald's mother was Mary ALLAN. She had a number of siblings, including a brother called William. William and his first wife Mary had at least nine children before she died in 1865. It seems that their eldest daughter, Mary Weir ALLAN [born 1842] had emigrated to Dunedin sometime in the early 1860s. She married a Robert RAYNBIRD in 1866. She must have corresponded with her family, extolling the virtues of New Zealand because her father William ALLAN and some of his adult children had also emigrated by about 1870. When William died in 1910, his gravestone mentions 40 years in New Zealand.

Mary's husband Robert RAYNBIRD was born in a small village called Westhorpe in Sussex. His parents were quite well off. I have not yet discovered his arrival details. Robert appears to have been well educated and was very interested in the local community and politics. He joined the local Railway Committee promoting the extension of the line to Portobello and the local Road Board. Robert also served on the North East Harbour School committee for over 20 years. In 1881 he was elected as a Councillor for Broad Bay and by 1888 he was a Justice of the Peace.

The RAYNBIRD family had their own jetty and farmed a large parcel of land, with Robert often experimenting with new strains of grain. Sadly, Mary and Robert lost a number of their children in tragic circumstances. Their eldest, Robert junior, died of typhoid fever in Kalgoorlie, WA. He was only 30 and had been an Insurance Agent before succumbing to the lure of gold. Their daughter Edna, a promising Music teacher and gifted entertainer, died at the age of 22. Another daughter, Leila only lasted a year [1873-1874]. Their youngest son, Thomas Henry died in a drowning accident in Northeast Harbour at the age of 15, only one year after the death of his older brother.

Their eldest daughter, Mary Barr RAYNBIRD first married a sailor, Robert BURNS who was lost at sea only two years after their wedding. She later married her brother-in-law Dr. Thomas BURNS, a noted Edinburgh-trained surgeon.

Their remaining son, William Astor RAYNBIRD fought in the NZ Army Machine Gun Corps in WW1. He married Elizabeth Ferguson Lambert MACDONALD in 1920 and they had two children. They also farmed in the Broad Bay area until William had to retire early. His health had been affected by his WW1 experience. William died in 1941, aged 66. The remaining daughter, with the unusual name of



Media Easley married William BACON in 1898 and they had two children.

William ALLAN's son Thomas [born 1847] married Isabella CLEARWATER in Dunedin in 1871. Thomas and Isabella were also farmers in the Broad Bay area. They had seven children before Isabella died in 1906. Thomas wasted no time in finding another wife, marrying Alice Lavinia BACON in 1907.

William's daughter Janet Ferguson ALLAN married Alexander DAWSON in Dunedin in 1874. Her cemetery records claim she lived in Otago for 58 years, suggesting she arrived in 1861, so **she** may have been the first emigrant in the family.

William Barr ALLAN, born 1854 married a Mary [possibly McIVOR] and became a builder in the Otago area. By 1907 William was owning hotels in the Naseby area. Initially he ran the Marine Hotel, until Dec. 1909.

In 1910 he, his wife and children were living in the Victoria Hotel, when it was set on fire. An inquiry found that there was evidence of arson, but no blame was laid. The building, stock and some furniture were insured, but this would not have covered all the losses. By Dec. 1910, William was

selling the Victoria Hotel to a Walter WEBB. William died suddenly in Nov. 1924.

NZ BDMs list a possible nine children for William Barr and Mary from 1882-1904. William ALLAN senior married again in 1880 and he and second wife Ann HELLYER had a further five children. They all married in the Otago region.

By the time my Thomas arrived, he had a ready-made extended family of an uncle, cousins, their partners and some second cousins. Thomas spent some time working in a coal mine before deciding farming was for him. His uncle, William ALLAN was a coal miner in



Thomas & Norah and their youngest son Thomas Allen PRENTICE b. 1898

Scotland and is listed as a 'surfaceman' in NZ. Perhaps Thomas worked with him initially? Thomas did some work as a carpenter as well. Thomas married an Irish lass, Nora [aka Honora, Norah] TUOHEY in 1879. He was a strict Presbyterian, and she was a strict Catholic, so they married in the Registry Office. They decided to raise any boys as Presbyterian and any girls as Catholic. Sundays must have been fun as they had four of each!

Thomas' brother Archibald became a grocer in Invercargill. He and Clara had seven children.

One of them, Archibald Stuart PRENTICE became a dealer of bicycles and motor bikes. He never married and when he died in 1962, he left a substantial estate of over £5,600. He very generously gave bequests to a number of friends, a Scottish cousin, and his siblings. He

stipulated in his will that money be used to create headstone to note the family members who had passed.

His nephew Keith inherited an Indian motor bike. I discovered Keith and his wife Myrtle still living in Invercargill in the 1980s. Keith and Myrtle visited us when we lived in Gorokan in the 1990s. Keith still had a love of motor bikes, and still had the Indian.

We corresponded for the next 30 years until sadly, both Myrtle and Keith passed away recently. I would have loved to have told them about the ALLAN family. I still have shipping records to locate, but it is satisfying to know that my Thomas and







Keith's Archibald had family to support them in their new lives. •••

Resources: Letters from Keith Prentice, family photos, NZ BDM Indexes, Paperspast website, Scotland's People website, Ancestry.com, Findmypast.com.au, FamilySearch.

# Their War

# They are remembered

They sleep not in their native land, but beneath a foreign sky,

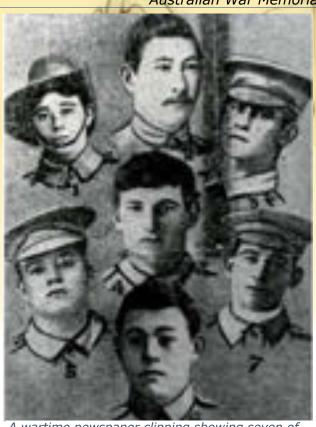
Far away from those who loved them, in hero's graves they lie.

# THE SAM FAMILY

Australian War Memorial



William Flood Sam, 1915. Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia. NAA: SP42/1, C1915/4058



A wartime newspaper clipping showing seven of the eight Sam relatives.

William Flood Sam emigrated to Australia from Guangdong, China, in 1860. He worked as a miner, cook, labourer, grocer, and market gardener. He married an Australian woman named Jane May White, and they had 16 children. Five of their sons – James, Norman, Henry, George and Tom – served in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) during the First World War.

James, a 23-year-old miner, enlisted in November 1914 and was assigned to the 4th Battalion. He reached Gallipoli in July 1915, but had the first of several hospital admissions due to illness shortly afterwards. Following the withdrawal of allied forces from Gallipoli, James was sent to Egypt, and eventually sailed to England in September 1916. He saw action on the Western Front in 1918, before returning to Australia in January 1919.

Norman, also a miner, enlisted alongside James in 1914, at the age of 19. He served on Gallipoli with the 4th Battalion, in a different company to his brother. Norman was promoted to corporal in 1917, and was soon sent to fight in France. On 17 April 1918 his head and right hand were damaged by shrapnel. Norman was sent to England for treatment and his index finger was amputated. He returned to Australia in December 1919.



Members of the 4th Battalion queue outside the canteen on



A team of six horses tow equipment in France, 1917.

Henry, a 32-year-old labourer, enlisted in February 1915 and joined the 17th Battalion. He served on Gallipoli and later on the Western Front. Henry suffered from poor health throughout the war and was hospitalised several times with muscle and joint pain. During a period of recovery in London, he met an English woman named Ethel. They married on 19 February 1917, and returned to Australia in 1919 with their baby.

George, a married motor driver, enlisted in March 1915, aged 25. He was recorded as absent without leave in April, and was discharged from the AIF. George enlisted again in June, denying any previous service on his attestation form. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, like his two younger brothers. He joined his unit during the final stages of the Gallipoli campaign. After further training in Egypt, George was sent to France in March 1916, where he served for the majority of the war. By August 1918, George had been promoted to sergeant and was overseeing pack

animals that carried ammunition forward to machine-gun posts at Chuignes. On 23 August he maintained a constant supply despite heavy fire from the enemy and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions; his coolness, courage, and determination were noted in the citation for the award. He returned to Australia in 1919.

The details of the fifth brother, Tom, are unknown. Though his service was mentioned in newspapers at the time, he does not appear in official records. Two of William and Jane Flood Sam's grandchildren are also known to have served in the First World War: William and George Loo Long. Despite the White Australia Policy and discriminatory attitudes of the time, the service of the Sam family appears to have been highly regarded by their local community in New South Wales. Upon George Sam's return to Australia in 1919, the *Wyalong Advocate* reported "these lads had demonstrated to the world that they were men, seeking to uphold the glorious traditions of the British empire". •••

# 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 **obligitary**.

Your courtesy is appreciated. •••

# **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**



Here at **Wyong Family History Group Inc.** we offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practice and share their special interest. 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. [see page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**]

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

SIGs go for one to two hours

Breaking through Brickwalls – Helen Burkett moderates our Brickwall Group this year broadening it to cover UK, Australia and Convict questions. Ann Cooke has kindly offered to assist her, especially with the latter two subjects as she has more expertise in NSW than Helen does and she has convict family too.

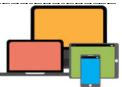


Helen has gathered very many resources and concentrated on more obscure websites over time and intends to show one or more of these each month. They will also be looking at the lesser used

resources at our own Centre.

Watch the weekly newsletter or enquire at 'The Cottage' for more information.

**Multi-Media Devices** – Roger Lewis & Ellen Sheerin continue this group helping attendees sort through their questions no matter what the media or device.



**DNA Special Interest Group** – 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! ... Stuart Purvis-Smith



**FAMILY TREE MAKER** – This popular SIG will continue with moderator Martin Fisher. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.



# Numbers are limited - Bookings Essential ...

# 2023 FEES AND CHARGES

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the following fees and charges apply:

1. **Membership Fees** for a 12-month Membership:

Single: \$40.00 Family: includes 2 Adults and 1 other person living at the same address. \$50.00

2. Junior: 18 years and under \$20.00

3. **Special Interest Group Fees (SIG)**: No Handouts. Casual. Question and Answers from participants. \$3.00

4. **Information Sessions**: These run up to two-hours with a structured format and topic with handouts \$5.00

5. **Seminars:** Usually held at a larger venue with one or more guest speakers

\$30 Members and \$35 Non-Members.

6. **Beginners Course:** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day

7. **Intermediate Course** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00.per day

8. **Advanced Course** \$60.00 for 4 weeks or \$20 per day

9. **DNA** Days for this will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. AM and PM Sessions. Bookings are **essential** and must be in advance. One on One DNA help \$10.00 per hour

10. **Personal Research** after an appointment to discuss your requirements. Approx. \$50 per couple researched

11. **Master Class** These are longer sessions depending on topic; they are structured and can be a hands-on workshop. \$20.00

#### **PHOTOCOPYING**

A4		А3	
Black & white	.40¢ per copy	Black & white	.60¢ per copy
Colour	.80¢ per copy	Black & white	\$1.20 per copy
for double sided .30¢ per copy extra			
Laminating A4 \$1.50		Laminating A3	52.00

12. **Non-Member Research Fee** for a two-hour session – become a member for only \$10.00 extra

\$30.00

•••

# MELBOURNE CUP AFTERNOON.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

After last year's interesting virtual function, getting back to an 'in person' event was a lot of fun.

Thank you, Kerrie Metcalfe, Lyn Hagstrom and the committee for the successful afternoon on Melbourne Cup Day, as well as Pamela Andre and Michele Gane for

running the sweeps. Roger Lewis made it possible to watch the race on the Big Screen, he and Martin Fisher cooked a tasty sausage sizzle. We had plenty of food generously supplied by members. A social event with a chance to 'glam up' and catch up with fellow members.



Do you need help with your DNA?

One on one assistance is available on Tuesdays & Thursdays for just \$10.00 per hour.

Advance bookings are essential.

Please contact the office on 4351 2211

# ANCESTRY DNA & NSW STATE ARCHIVES DELIGHTFUL DOCUMENTS SEMINAR

Roger Lewis LM#127

Held on Sunday 6th November 2022, this event was great success, apart from a few hiccups at the start, the Seminar got off to a great



Christine addressing the crowd.

start with the first speaker Christine Woodlands presenting her talk entitled The Family Historians First Stop for DNA testing 2022, she had a captivated audience who were busy taking notes and asking questions.

After lunch the seminar continued with the NSW State Archives lead archivist Emily Hanna updating what is happening at State Archives and giving important advice to those who are attending State Archives in the near future.

Christine drew the 'A' raffle, 1st prize of a 12months Ancestry.com subscription went to Pamela Mansergh LM#14, 2nd prize winner was a Wooden Bowl won by Joy Pilkington #279

Emily drew the 'B' raffle, 1st prize of an Ancestry DNA Kit was won by Pam Mansergh, however she kindly insisted a redraw which was won by an overjoyed Cheryl Whamond #736, 2nd prize winner was a wooden salad Bowl won by Doug Thomas #341

The lucky door prize was claimed by Cecil Brown #450 Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Jason Reeves at Ancestry and Alan Smith from Central Coast Woodturners. •••



Regina Hogan presenting Cec Brown with his prize.

# REMBERANCE DAY 2022

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

The 15 members who attended were all impressed with what had been accomplished and genuinely appreciative with their comments.

Lyn Hagstrom member 768

I would like to thank everyone that attended the morning as well as all those people that contributed photos, stories, memorabilia, decorations etc. I was so touched when watching the reactions of the people there as they watched the photo slide, looked at pictures and read the stories of our ancestors.

I had a lot of help in setting the room up from Wayne, Lyn, Ann and John Selwood, so thank you.

Wayne organised beautiful music to be played quietly during the morning as well as the 'Minutes Silence' at 11am. A wonderful contribution along with his family stories. Helen Johnston-Lord provided the poppies and the stories associated with each of the different colours along with many photos, books etc. Regina Hogan, Sandra Ireland, Lyn Clark-Duff, Gwen Bates, Annette Shearer, Martin Fisher, Robin Snodgrass, Helen Hord, Lynda Smith and Ann Holland all contributed so much that we had to use a third table. I thank you all as it meant that there was a lot less of my information on the main tables.

I was overwhelmed with the response and the respectful atmosphere of the morning. Thank you everyone. A touching, moving tribute ed. •••







# NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

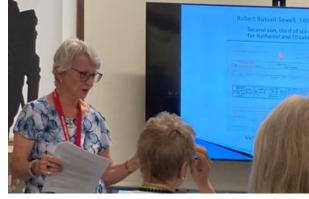
In the absence of our President, Kerrie, this meeting was ably conducted by Vice President Lynda Smith. Member 303, Howard Kirwan was presented with his 15-year membership Certificate and medallion.

Fellow member 689, Ruth Sewell presented 'Which Sewell am I'. Using the skills gained at Ellen Sheerin's PowerPoint workshops, Ruth took us though the entertaining, sometimes irreverent tale of discovering the journey of her Sewell ancestors and their

descendants.

Ruth showed us how using this medium of telling family history can help enlighten your own family about their heritage. •••





#### **TRANSPORT**

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

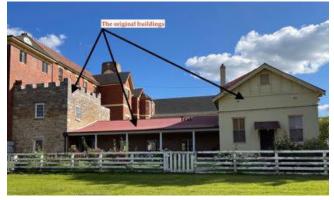
If you have are able to help, email The Secretary: secwfhq2@westnet.com.au

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



### RETURN TO TIPPERARY WEEKEND

Yass & District Historical Society Inc., Family History ACT & Canberra & District Historical Society ... 18 - 20 November 2022





Four of our intrepid members journeyed to Historic St Clements Retreat & Conference Centre, Galong, for an all-inclusive long weekend jam packed with Irish information for both Genealogists and Historians alike.

Galong is about 45 kms northwest of Yass and just over 400 km from Wyong.

Members Ellen Sheerin, Joy Pilkington, Kerrie Metcalfe and Regina Hogan



agreed, there was so much information shared. They also thought the grounds were well worth the visit. •••

# A VISIT TO STATE ARCHIVES

Pamela Andre member #810

Nine enthusiastic Members plus our driver, Roger made the trip down to Kingswood. After a coffee break at McDonalds, we arrived at the Archives. Two other Members also made their own way there making a total of twelve from WFHG. With the shelves covered with our preorders, each of us took our seat and went through our requested files. The Scanners were very well used with Roger being on hand to assist those who needed help with scanning. Each of us, one member in particular, came away with some wonderful finds.

The trip home was good. Some were just resting while others were chatting away discussing what they had found. It was a great day all round. Look forward to our next visit to Kingswood in 2023. Thank you, Roger, for being our driver. I know it was a long day for you.



### THE POST OFFICE - 100 YEARS AGO

An extract from Home Words for Heart and Hearth dated 1892 – 1893.\*



A report of 1788 puts the average number of letters sent weekly from St. Martin-le-Grand as follows:

Monday,18,000 to 20,000; Tuesday, 16,000 to 18,000; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, about 15,000; Saturday, 22,000 to 25,000; Sunday, no mail to or from London. The postages of Bristol amounted to about £16 a day. Bath in season, £14 to £16, but in summer only £8. Salisbury, £5. In the first year of penny postage, 1840-1, one hundred million penny stamps were sold, value £416,666 13s. 4d. Fifteen hundred million are now required, value £6,250,000. Such is the power of the penny. Sorter.

#### **CENSUS OF THE WORLD**

The last census was a big undertaking, but what can we say of a census of the world? Statisticians abroad have been making an estimate – they cannot approach the exactitude of a census – of the populations which this earth maintains. They find the total to be 1,510,281,000 persons. Asia is returned as having 830,599,000 population; Europe, 349,873,000; Africa, 203,321,000; America, 121,335,000. Australia and Polynesia, and Polarland (sic), together maintain a modest 4½ millions. Taking the average of Europe, less than 94 people are found to one square mile. Asia has 48 persons to the square mile, Africa, 18, America, 10. Less than two persons are found to the square mile in Australia and Polynesia. Polarland (sic) maintains about one person to every twenty miles. Europe has an area of 3,713,34.0 English miles; Asia, 17,150,210 miles; Africa, 11,514,770 miles; America, 15,311,490 miles; Australia and our Polynesian isles comprise some 3,500,000 miles; and Polarland (mostly unexplored), 1,729,500 miles. The figures are those of Mr. Henry Heylyn Hayter, C.M.G., Government Statist of Victoria. ••• \* in my collection, ed.

Don't Forget Our 1st Bunnings Fundraising BBQ for 2023

Sunday 23rd April

Please save the day if you are willing and able to be involved in this vital fundraising event towards the end of April. We need at least 10 volunteers to cover two shifts during the day otherwise we will be forced to cancel. More information to come. •••



# 2022 CHRISTMAS JINGLE & MINGLE

Kerrie Metcalfe LM80

The Group had their annual end of year get together on Sunday 4 December at the Toukley Golf Club, the tables were decorated to set the theme. Approximately 40 members and their partners attended

We enjoyed good company, a nice two course meal, games such as Trivia, word scrabble and heads and tails, several of us went home baring baskets won in the monster raffle which due to our generous members totalled 14 baskets. The venue was new for us. It was a lovely way to spend a Sunday, with organisers being able to relax, mingle and enjoy. •••



Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Although we didn't have our now traditional slide show in the background, the light bright venue more than made for an enjoyable day. •••

### GOOGLE MAPPING

Helen Burkett Member 342

We recently held a most interesting workshop with Jeff Madsen who specializes in Digitising, Maps and Genealogy running it for us and with me assisting.

He started with an overview of the use of maps to advance your family history and then continued with a lesson on using Google maps to track family lines across countries and



continents. The maps are easily downloadable and sent to those you choose.

This is a most gratifying occupation and often of more interest to family members and friends than the written word.

Members brought their laptops and commenced making a map at the workshop and went home with enough information to continue at their leisure.

I intend to hold a short follow up meeting for those who have progressed but have thought of more questions along the way as mapping is also a passion of mine. Coupled with a tasty lunch and likeminded company, this was a most successful foray into the world of mapping.

A good attendance at our first of many events tabled for 2023. •••

We will be at this Event which has free admission at the Wyong Race Course

Central Coast Council
Administrator, Rik Hart said
the festival is all about
providing opportunities for
the community to get
together and celebrate the
diversity of older people on
the Central Coast.

# FIND US AT ...



"We have 89,000 seniors in our region who achieve amazing things, including generously donating their time to volunteer to a number of community and sporting groups, organisations and charities," Mr Hart said.

•••



# SAVE THE DATE! 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023



38th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES
THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY



Hosted by

# WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

At Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre, 1 Hargraves Street TOUKLEY

SAVE THE DATE AND WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS

The website goes live 1st March.

Email: wfhgconference@westnet.com.au



# JANICE BARRETT, LIFE MEMBER PROFILE.

Jan Barrett LM44

My maiden name is SMITH. In 1938, my parents bought a farm at Jilliby, land that was once part of William CAPE's estate. We left the farm just after WW2 ended., and lived a number of places, before returning to the coast in 1949. I finished my schooling at Wyong High School in 1950.

I married Norman BARRETT in 1957 and by 1964 we had two children. Life revolved around their schooling and interests for the next twenty years. I involved myself in some volunteer work when I could, including Wyong Hospital, Gorokan High School and the Order of the Amaranth, a Masonic organisation.

I was always interested in my family history and organised a SMITH reunion in 1990. This was very successful. I had lots of questions about Norm's side of the family as many had died young. In 1998 I heard about Wyong Family History Group. I went along to a meeting and joined, becoming member No.44. Norman joined as well, becoming Member No. 45. Esther and Denis Dean had joined the year before us. Esther and I had been friends for years, having met at an early P&C meeting of Gorokan High School.

It has been a challenge, but I have since discovered that the Barrett's all died from heart failure. I have published a number of books for my family, summarising my years of research. I am still working on a comprehensive study of the infamous 1935 "Shark Arm Case" that involved one of my SMITH uncles.

Keith Shakespeare was President when I joined and the group celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year with an event at St Luke's Church Hall at Toukley. We met in rooms at Alison Homestead on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, from 7.30pm. In 1999 I ioined the committee. I was involved in selling our publications at events and other fundraising activities such as selling raffle tickets. In Sept. 2000, Keith and the other executives all stood down and no-one wanted to take over. My dear friend Esther proposed that I become President of the group, so I suggested she could be Secretary. We were elected! Keith Shakespeare and Lynda Smith were elected Vice Presidents, and Margo Willcox was Treasurer.

My first task was to find us a better meeting place as the kitchen at Alison Homestead was too cramped. It was too hot in summer and if we left the door open to get some air, hundreds of moths came in! We moved into The Oasis Centre, run by the Salvation Army in Wyong in 2001. Our membership was now over 70. Norm and I decided that we needed to improve the social interaction within the group, so we began hosting BBQ's in our backyard. Family members were also invited and we charged \$5 a head to attend. We also held a garage sale and used some of the money raised to buy resources for the group to use in their research. We worked very closely with the local Library Service so that we did not duplicate what was freely available there. We now had enough resources to warrant the appointment of our own librarian, and Elaine O'Sullivan took on this job. The group started a number of indexing and transcribing projects, including the Death Records at Wyong Court House, Simplicity Funerals, an Index to Residents of Wyong Township 1930-39 and



Paul Crittenden, Esther Dean, Pat Sharp and myself, at NSW Parliament House.

updates to our cemetery books.

I stood for President again in 2001 and we retained the same office bearers. The group settled into the Oasis Centre, which had computer and Internet access. We opened the room two afternoons a week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2-4pm for both members and non-members to use our resources and expertise. The group began applying for available grants, such as the Area Assistance Scheme and ones from the Council to help us grow. In 2001 WFHG

presented Patricia Sharp with Life Membership, our others being Keith Shakespeare and Lynda Smith. I stood for President again in 2002 and was elected unopposed.

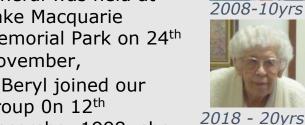
In March 2002 local Member of Parliament, Paul Crittenden made a speech to his colleagues, highlighting our achievements. We were also invited to attend Parliament House in Macquarie St. Sydney for a tour and lunch. We will continue with the story of Jan's long history with our Group in our next edition. ... ed

# Valé

# BERYL WHATSON MEMBER #46

Roger Lewis LM127

Sadly, Beryl Whatson passed away on Sunday evening 13th November 2022. Her funeral was held at Lake Macquarie Memorial Park on 24th November,



group 0n 12th December 1998, she

was a dedicated researcher and a valuable member of our Group.

Beryl did the Journal snippets and was a 2005/6 committee member

Beryl also wrote many interesting stories for our Tree of Life Journal.

It is with sadness we farewell Beryl who has now joined her ancestors and offer our condolences to her family. •••

# RUSSELL WELHAM # 221

Roger Lewis LM127

Russell joined 11th May 2006 and was a member until 2021. Sadly, he passed away on Saturday 21st January 2023.



During his time in the Wyong Family History Group Russel was a committee member, was a regular on the duty roster and managed the Group assets.

Russell was Editor of the Tree of Life and The Branch (now the Newsletter), he also attended many group functions and helped at Bunnings BBQs.

Our condolences to his family.

I have provided a link to the groups Tree of Life March 2008 produced by Russell. 2008 Tree of Life •••



# Do you want to know your Family History but just don't have the time? For a reasonable Fee

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

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

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

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

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

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. P.O. BOX 247

WYONG, N.S.W. 2259

PH: 4351 2211 Tuesday - Thursday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Email: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Web Address:

www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au



Example of what you may receive.

# SO YOU WANT TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

First published in 'Tree of Life' February 2015

The Late Beryl Whatson member 46

Do you want to go way back into the early records overseas, or are you just aiming to get your families into Australia?

Are you willing to spend money on certificates? In NSW we have a cheaper alternative, as there are three transcription agents, who can look at the registers and transcribe them for you. They often can give more information in their transcription, than the Govt. has space for on the form they issue, when they provide the certificate for you.

Are you willing to accept that your ancestor may have been:

- 1. A convict
- 2. Not married
- 3. A bigamist
- 4. In Gaol or any number of other unusual things?

Do you want to illustrate your records? A family history with illustrations will generate more interest within your family, than just a list of names, dates and places would.

# Are you willing:

- 1. To Visit cemeteries, old houses, properties? Some of these visits can now be done, on the internet.
- 2. Chase up distant relatives: that 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin once removed may be the person who has the only photograph of your ancestor.
- 3. Search shipping and immigration lists?
- 4. Go on trips with the Group, where you will learn lots of tricks to searching for information on your family.
- 5. Search to see if a book has been written about your family, and whether it is available on inter library loan, or can be viewed at the Mitchell Library or National Library in Canberra. Some books are held by the local family or historical society where your ancestor lived, and don't forget the local council library or an ad in the newspaper, searching for other descendants.

I could list other things, but I want to get you thinking about what your aim is. The internet has opened up a great wealth of places where you can get information and illustrations that you can use, providing that you do not publish the photographs, which could break copyright. But sometimes you can take your own photograph of the house or school where your family had lived, then you own the copyright.

If not held locally, maybe the State Records Offices at Kingswood, and the State and Mitchell Libraries in Sydney would be the place to search. And don't forget to try the library nearest to where your ancestor lived, they can be found on the web pages for the council of the area. Write to them, they like to help!

Do you want to spend days away in the locality where your ancestor lived, visit, and photograph the church, house, farm of your ancestor, and chase up local records?

Think about it and write down your aims before you start. Make a list of the photographs you would like to find, of the family, mother, father, and each child. Their house, school, and local shopping centre in the time period they were living there. England especially, has sites where you may find photographs of past times of villages.

Google the village where they lived, the church where they were baptised, married or from where their funeral left. If you can't find a headstone, try for a general view of the churchyard where they were buried. The list is endless, go for it!!!

**Did you know** we have several designated Mobility Parking spaces right near our door?

**Did you know** if you stop your vehicle in a designated parking area for people with disabilities, without displaying a permit, you can expect to receive an on-the-spot fine or penalty notice of **\$587 and one demerit point**. (one of the few parking fines applicable to private or public parking areas)



**Did you know** The Cottage is wheelchair accessible with one basic accessible toilet?

**Did you know** if you find our hill a challenge too far, contact the Cottage on 4351 2211 and someone will be happy to transport you safely to and from our door? •••

# TERRIGAL SHORTCAKE WITH CURRIED CHEESE SAUCE

Editor's Mum's Recipe

Australian Women's Weekly ... 12 October 1960

"Eight ounces Mother's Choice self-raising flour, ½ teaspoon salt, pinch cayenne pepper, 2oz. butter, ½ cup grated matured cheese, 1 egg, ¾ cup milk, 2 cups white sauce, 2 cups diced cooked vegetables.

Sift together dry ingredients, rub in butter and add grated cheese. Mix to soft dough with beaten egg and milk. Turn onto a floured board and knead lightly, roll into round shape about 8 or 8 inches in diameter. Cut into 6 or 8 wedges and fit into greased sandwich tin. Bake in hot oven 20 or 30 minutes. Heat white sauce, mix in vegetables and fill split wedges of shortcake with this mixture. Cover with curry-cheese sauce, serve at once.

Curried Cheese Sauce: Combine in a double saucepan: 1 cup grated cheddar cheese with 1 teaspoon grated onion, 1 teaspoon curry powder and ½ cup milk. Stir over hot water until sauce is thick and of smooth consistency." •••

# **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 - NEW  USB \$5.0.00 + pi This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838-196 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. Syste requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10GB hard disk space  BOOKS & CDS  Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015 Reduced Price  CD \$ 7.50 + pi Reduced Price  CD \$ 10.00 men & Reduced Price  Reduced Price  CD \$ 10.00 men & Reduced Price  Reduc	More details at: <a href="http://www.wyon">http://www.wyon</a>	gfamilyhistory.com.	<u>au</u>	
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Baptisms, burials and marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's diaries and misc. entries. Includes	_	Glennie's diaries and	misc. er	•
Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy and the Hawkesbury River	• •			

**Publication** Type Price Wyong Agricultural Association **Book out of Print Reduced Price CD** \$7.50 + p&hCovers 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 \$20.00 + p&hBook **Reduced Price CD** \$7.50 + p&hWyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013] USB or CD \$35.00 + p&hFully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains birth, marriage and death details, some photos, personal stories and obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. 673 pages **Book out of Print** Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 - 1995 Last copy - Special Price Book \$ 20.00 + p&h 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 **Book out of Print** Contains 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices as well as Church and Cemetery photos **Volumes 1 and 2** available on combined CD **Reduced Price** \$17.50 + p&h**Wyong Remembers** Book \$19.00 + p&hThe history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages **Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017 Reduced Price** \$12.50 + p&hIncludes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries **Jilliby Cemetery Wyong Shire NSW Book out of Print** Noraville Cemetery Wyong Shire 1869 - 2012 Book \$20.00 + p&hSt Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries Wyong Shire 1886 - 2001 Book \$15.00 + p&hRonkana Cemetery Wyong Shire 1825 - 2016 Book \$ 15.00 + p&h **Reduced Price CD** \$ 5.00 + p&h Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016 \$25.00 + p&hBook **Reduced Price CD** \$10.00 + p&hThis 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\$ 5.00 + p&h Reduced Price CD **Reduced Price Palmdale Cemetery** \$5.00 + p&h30,000 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 \times Books $ 25.00 + p&h$ Great Value for these records which are not on the Internet. Nor are they available from any other source. Usually priced at \$40.00 for the two books, buy both now for only \$25.00

# LIFE MEMBERS



From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership.

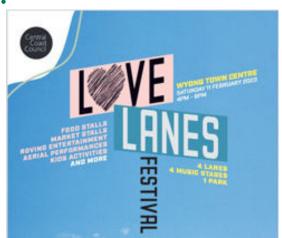
These members have been recognized for their commitment and contribution, helping us become the Family History Group we are today. •••

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

# FIND US AT ...

# LOVE LANES FESTIVAL

As has been the case in the past WFHG will be conducting guided walking tours of Old Wyong Town. If you have an hour free during the festival why not join our John Selwood and Wayne Bermingham on one of their walks, they would love to see you there on 11<sup>th</sup> February. •••



Timed to coincide with the Love Lanes Festival - WFHG Cottage Open Day on Saturday 11th February. •••



# LAST DAY OF 2022

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

A morning tea for the last day we were open for 2022, somehow morphed into another Christmas party! I guess everyone is happy to socialise again.

Thank You to those who worked hard to set up, feed us and clean up at the end of the day. I hope you had a chance to mingle and were not too exhausted. •••



### 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'.
- **SIG** = Special Interest Group ... Booking essential
- **Info** = Information Session

	2023	Event		
Wedne		esday 1 – Sunday 12 NSW Seniors Festival 'Celebrate Together'		
>	Sat 4	General Meeting 1:00 pm		
ца	Thu 9	CCC Seniors Expo 12 noon to 5:00 pm Wyong Race Club		
Februa	Fri 10	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 1		
ш	Sat 11	CCC Love Lanes Festival 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm Wyong CBD		
		WFHG Inc <b>Open Day</b> at The Cottage		

	2023	Event
	Wed 15	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 17	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 2
	Tue 21	DNA SIG 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Wed 22	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up 7:30 pm
	Thu 23	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 24	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 3
	Sat 25	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting for March 10:00 am
	Fri 3	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 4
	Sat 4	CCFHG & RAHS Seminar 10:00 – 4:00 pm at East Gosford
	Thu 9	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
_	Sat 11	General Meeting 1:00 pm
March	Tue 15	Master Class Effective Photography in a Cemetery
Ma	Tue 21	DNA SIG 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
_	Wed 22	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up 7:30 pm
	Thu 23	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 25	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting for April 10:00 am
	Sat 1	State Archives Bus Trip
	Mon 3	Planning Meeting
	Fri 7	Good Friday - Monday 10 - Easter Monday
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
	Sat 15	General Meeting 1:00 pm
	Tue 18	DNA SIG 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
-	Wed 19	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
April	Fri 21	Tree of Life Deadline
٩	Sat 22	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sun 23	Bunnings BBQ – Lake Haven
	Tue 25	ANZAC DAY – COTTAGE CLOSED
	Wed 26	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up 7:30 pm
	Thu 27	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 29 / Sun 30	Seminar To be Announced
Tue May 2		Committee Meeting 10:00 am
Sat	June 3	WFHGInc 40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
	Α	Date for your Diary 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Running Waters of History

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies





# Wyong Family History Group Inc.

#### **Research Centre**

'The Cottage', Wyong Community Cultural Centre,

6 Rankens Court, Wyong [entrance via the old school grounds]

**Open**: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm.

At other times by appointment. Public Holidays - Closed.

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: [02] 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: **secwfhg2@westnet.com.au** Website: http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

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

# Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 April, 2023 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

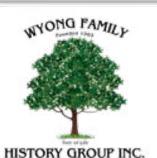
Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au gosford@ldsmail.net

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#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

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