

WYONG FAMILY  
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

# Tree of Life

*Official Journal of*

**WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.**

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## Wyong Family History Group Inc.

**Patron:** Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell  
**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.

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### Office Bearers 2021

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**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.

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Assets Manager & IT Manager:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisor	Glenise Clery
Cottage Administrator	Tuesday: Lyn Hagstrom
	Wednesday: Helen Hord
	Thursday: Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Relief Administrators	Glenise Clery & Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster Planner:	Cheryl Whamond
Course Supervisor:	Ellen Sheerin
Electronic Journal Distributor	Lorraine Cameron
Grant Applications Planner:	
Group Collector of Statistics:	Martin Fisher
Journal Snippet Readers/Submitters:	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

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kerrie Metcalfe - President – LM80



Time marches on and it's hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the year.

The Group has been very active and lucky to have some very devoted volunteers that make things happen with our members in mind.

We have had a big presence in the community with attending Love Lanes where John and Wayne conducted Wyong Historic Tours, we also opened the Cottage for a few hours on the night of Love Lanes and a couple of people came down. We also had an information stall at the Central Coast Seniors' Expo held at Wyong Racecourse.



Vice President Lynda Smith has resurrected our community group talks whereby she attends groups like Probus, View Club and Retirement Villages to promote family history and our Group.

A great day was put on at the Cottage for St Patrick's Day in March. Lyn Hagstrom and Wayne Bermingham set the theme beautifully with masses of green. I was away and sorry I missed it as the photos showed everyone who attended enjoying themselves.

John Selwood and his team are

working on a new resource about The Central Coast War Service Women. We had returned to having SIG, Information's Sessions and Master Classes at the Cottage thinking all our closures of the past were over.

Then two buildings in the Neighbourhood Centre at the top of our driveway entry were gutted with fire closing access to the Cottage from the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Council are in the process of creating a new pathway entrance and in the meantime we are closed again and have had to cancel a number of events at the Cottage. Hopefully we will be reopened soon.

We continue to work on the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash at Tuggerah Hall on the 3 June 2023. We hope to have a few of our past and present members join us for a celebration of our growth and development over 40 years.

Our biggest event of the year is *The Running Waters of History* which is the title for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of NSW & ACT that the Wyong Family History Group Inc is hosting. The planning is well underway and we are confident the weekend of 8-10 September will be a big success. We look forward to seeing in person all our Gene friends from all over NSW.

We have run a couple of Raffles in our rooms which have been well supported. We had a very successful Bunnings BBQ which was a good fundraiser and a big thank you to the many members

that put up their hand to work on the roster for the day as without you it couldn't happen.

There was a successful beginners' course run in Feb/Mar and an Intermediate Course will be held beginning in June. We enjoyed an excellent Seminar on the 29<sup>th</sup> April with Christine Yeats as speaker covering land title records

and early colonial military forces. It was a very informative day.

As winter is creeping up it's a good time to revisit your family history and see what the next piece of the jigsaw is, so you can work on it and come into the Cottage where someone will be able to help you. ... ❖

### FROM YOUR EDITOR

*Helen Johnston-Lord member 505*

Hello All!

A recent 'mishap' has seen me out of action for some months. I have found a few fascinating stories to share. I am now almost back on deck and compiling your *Tree* is always interesting.

Due to the recent fire, some of our events have been cancelled, others re-located. 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.

This is an important anniversary year for many organisations.

For us at WFHGInc, we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, [page 27] whilst The Royal Flying Doctor Service celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May [page 32]. 1<sup>st</sup> Wyong Scouts also celebrate 75 years page [38].

Did anyone try the recipe in our last issue?

We are one of the places your stories will be appreciated. We would like your feedback too. Our next deadline is 21 July 2023. ... ❖





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## TROVE TREASURES

The National Library of Australia welcomes the commitment made by the Albanese Government to provide \$33m over the next 4 years to maintain Trove, with \$9.2m ongoing and indexed funding from July 2027. We are delighted that Trove's future has been secured.

Trove has a place for every story, with 14 billion Australian moments captured for future generations. It has a story for every place, with Voluntroves [sic] from Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory to Burnie in Tasmania. It is where old poetry is transformed into new lyrics, newspaper articles become historical fiction, and where Australian humanities research is powered.

Most recently, it has been a place for First Nations communities to continue to tell their stories, through our First Australians pages.

Trove is a place for all Australians, which is connected to all our places. It is a truly national treasure, and an international world leader. The overwhelming support we have received from the Trove community (both new and old) has been humbling. We take our role as the custodians of Trove, on behalf of the Library and our partner organisations, very seriously.

The certainty of this funding decision will allow the National Library to continue to provide this essential service, enrich it with new content, and stabilise and secure the platform, in line with the Trove Strategy. ... ❖

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## GUIDED WALKING TOURS

*Monday 1st, Sunday 7th & Monday 8th at 11:00 am*

Would you like to learn about the early years of Wyong and have some fun along the way then why not consider joining John Selwood and Wayne Bermingham on one of our Heritage Tours. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wyong-town-centre-heritage-tour-tickets-618850337017> to book.

As part of Heritage Month, take a fascinating guided walking tour around historic Wyong learning about its establishment and development since 1887. The guided tours will be hosted by the Wyong Family History Group Inc. and will give you a peek into life in Wyong over 100 years ago.

Commencing from Albert's Cafe next to Wyong Train Station, the tour takes about 90 minutes passing most of the town's historic buildings along the way. The walk will follow the Pacific Highway, before heading up Alison Road and finishing on Margaret Street at the Post Office. Your guides have photographs of early Wyong which make the learning experience more enjoyable.

Afterwards, you may like to take some time to read about Wyong's history further on our historical signs, stop for lunch at one of the town's

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many eateries or browse some of the unique stores in the heart of the town centre.

Places are limited to 15 people per tour and registrations are essential.



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### NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to our new members, and 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
260	Pamela NEWTON - Returning	1031	Barbara BOCKING
640	Juliette GREY - Returning	1032	Beverley HOPKINS
1025	Kerry LANE	1033	Dianne WIGGLESWORTH
1026	Beryl SOMERS	1034	Elizabeth O'CONNOR
1027	Marguerite SHOESMITH	1035	Moiria McNALLY
1028	Sue McGUIRE	1036	Sandra ANDERSSON
1029	Julie MOODY	1037	Kerren ROBARDS
1030	Jennifer CHAPMAN	1038	Kevin CONNOR

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### 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 obligitory.*

*Your courtesy is appreciated. ... ❖*

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Wyong Family History Group Inc.  
**MORNING TEA IS A BBQ LUNCH**

From noon Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Given the 24th is National Scavenger Hunt Day don't be surprised if certain items are hidden in and around the 'Cottage' for you to find. Please come along for a BBQ, have some fun with other family historians and enjoy some friendly chit chat. Oh and, there 'could' be cake! ... ❖

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### 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 two subjects as she has more experience than Helen does and she has more resources too.

Helen has a database of resources and concentrates on secure websites over time and intends to show one or more of the resources 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.



*Last session on 22 June 2023*

**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** ... ❖

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

12. **Non-Member Research Fee** for a two-hour session – become a member for only \$10.00 extra \$30.00

## THE SCOURGE OF POLIO [INFANTILE PARALYSIS] IN THE 1930S

Lynda Smith nee Prentice, LM 2

I recently discovered that a cousin of my mother's, Brian Douglas REMILTON died from polio in 1938. He was only 10 years old. He had the dubious honour of being the first such fatality in Cairns. It is all so sad. The information in the local paper is reminiscent of recent Covid regulations.

**Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), Saturday 19 March 1938.**

*FATAL PARALYSIS.*

*CAIRNS SCHOOLBOY DIES. STRINGENT REGULATIONS.*



*The first fatal case of infantile paralysis in the Far North occurred in the isolation ward of the Cairns District Hospital shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday, when Brian*



Remilton, a 10-year-old scholar of the Marist Brothers' School, passed away. The funeral will take place this morning.

Dr. J.V. Guinane, medical superintendent of the Cairns District Hospital stated last evening that in addition to the prohibitions, already provided in the "Government Gazette" all children arriving in Cairns from Southern States must report immediately to him as Municipal Medical Officer of Health at the District Hospital, and continue to attend at the hospital daily for examination for a period of three weeks. Such children must not attend any school in Cairns for three weeks, after arrival here.

The gazettal provides that, until April 6, 1938, no person under the age of 16 years shall, attend, or be permitted to attend at any cinematograph theatre, place of amusement or resort, or other places or premises where persons regularly or occasionally congregate or assemble for amusement, entertainment, dancing, physical culture or athletics, within the city of Cairns, also that Marist Brothers' School, Cairns, will remain closed until April 6, 1938, and any children living in the same home as those attending the Marist Brothers School are forbidden from attending any school for the same period.

Medical information From the website <https://princehenryhospitalmuseum.org/polio/>

Poliomyelitis known as infantile paralysis is caused by an ultra microscopic or filter passing virus usually conveyed by droplet infection from infected mucus membranes or contaminated faeces.



The disease was not confined to children. Joan Bushnell (1937-41) remembers:

*"The poliomyelitis epidemic of 1938 was frightening. It was a crippling disease. Most of us had known or seen a child at school limping around with one shortened leg, wearing an ugly built-up boot with iron splints around the leg."*

In severe cases Polio attacks groups of motor nerve cells in the spine and depending upon the extent of inflammation, various muscles in one or more limbs can be paralysed. If the paralysis involves the diaphragm or respiratory muscles artificial respiration is required to keep the patient breathing. Initially the patient was kept at rest. The paralysed limbs were supported and splinted, care had to be taken that the limbs remained straight and did not become cold and blue from lack of circulation. When the patient's condition improved, usually after several weeks, massage, movement and re-education of the affected limbs would commence. A cheerful optimistic atmosphere was an essential requisite for the

convalescent stage, as regaining all or some mobility was a long painful process for the patient. Hydrotherapy was used in some cases.

Polio vaccines were introduced in Australia in 1956 (Salk) and 1966 (Sabin) and were followed by mass immunisation programs. With the continuing immunisation of children, the disease has effectively been eradicated in Australia. The Polio vaccine is now included in the

Australian Government's childhood immunisation program.

It is estimated that a minimum of 20,000 – 40,000 people had paralytic polio in Australia between 1930s and 1960s. Actual figures for the number of people infected with the virus are up to a hundred times greater, 2 – 4 million Australians. Polio is no longer present in Australia.

Hopefully, some time soon, we will be able to say the same about Covid! ... ❖

*Sources:*

*Ancestry.com.au; Trove newspapers; NSW BDM Indexes; Qld BDM Indexes.*

*<https://princehenryhospitalmuseum.org/polio/>*

*<https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/iron-lungs-polio-1930s-1950s/>*

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## **ROBERT PATTON – FEBRUARY**

Member Robert Patton spoke of his personal perspective on Ukraine.

'In October 2022 I had the privilege of visiting Kyiv, Ukraine, to undertake some work for a charitable organisation.

'Whilst doing this work, I gained some insights into what life is really like in Ukraine for many people and to see the tremendous work that aid organisations are doing.'

An inspiring and interesting speaker. ... ❖



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## **BRUCE AND LARAIN GEDDES - MARCH**

Bruce and Laraine Geddes were our guest speakers at last March's general meeting. Members were treated to some wonderful photos of their travels in their catamaran *Topaz*, which was designed and built by Bruce.



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## LYNDA SMITH - APRIL

Our April meeting speaker was an excellent presentation by our Vice President Lynda Smith who showed the importance of using Non Written Sources to enhance your family history. A great presentation. *Lynda presented an excellent presentation and thoroughly enjoyable. ... Michele Gane.* ❖



## 2023 BEGINNERS COURSE

Kerrie Metcalfe - President – LM80

The Beginners Course ended recently, I got in to meet the group who were either starting out or carrying on with their Family History, a lovely enthusiastic group of ladies I wish them well in their research and hope they visit the Cottage to get help from our volunteers to proceed further in their research.

A big thank you to the group of presenters Ellen Sheerin, Lyn Hagstrom, John Selwood and Kate Walters for sharing their knowledge and the support group Lynda Smith and Kay Croal, a great job done by all ... ❖



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## COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1957

*from USA clipping I came across recently ed.*

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, It's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20."

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## LOVE LANES FESTIVAL

Wayne Bermingham member 623

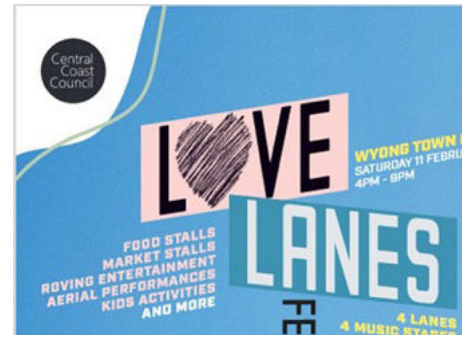


Mentioned in some quarters as the best Love Lanes Festival so far, which may be a slight exaggeration, but then again who am I to

question those in the know. John Selwood and myself were kept busy with all our walking tours on a very hot and steamy Saturday surrounded by a

wide range of activities and with so many people about we had to reduce the distance of our tours a bit. As is usually the case it's often hard to tell who has more fun during the tours, I know John certainly enjoys them and I always have a good laugh however on 11<sup>th</sup> February it was great to see our guests joining in and they all went away smiling. We conducted three tours during the event each lasting about an hour raising four hundred dollars for WFHG in the process. Special thanks to the ladies (see photo) who looked after our stall while we were off walking.

At the same time the 'Cottage' held an open day with eight visitors popping in and a potential member and course attendee. ♦



## ST PATRICK'S DAY

17<sup>th</sup> March saw 10 members at our St. Patrick's Day celebration. Everyone had a wonderful time with a couple making an extra effort to dress for the occasion. A huge thanks





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to Lyn Hagstrom for all the nibbles, food, fruit and cake and thanks also to those who took the time to join in the fun, with the raffle adding to our coffers. ❖

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### BUNNINGS BARBEQUE

Our first Bunnings Fundraising BBQ at Lake Haven Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April was a success. Only made possible with the help of ... Roger Lewis #127, Chris Ullrich #224, Joy Pilkington #279, Dellas Johnstone #332, Wayne Bermingham #623, Julie & Niel Nielsen #652 & 653, Cheryl Powderly #736, Lexie



Cunningham #865, Terry Joyce #897, Dianne Gordon #950, Ann & Robert Holland #981 and Brenda Haire #1016. ❖

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### ACRES & ARMY SEMINAR

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, we had a great Seminar held at the Tuggerah Community Hall, with Christine Yeats as presenter, our first for this year.

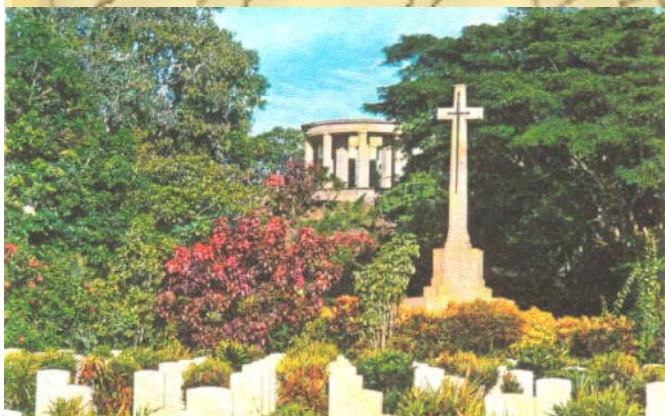
Christine showed us the various ways to trace our ancestors land and where and how to find and use the records. The afternoon was Army records covering the years from 1788 to the early 1900s. Christine is an exceptional speaker and we are sure everyone went home with new ideas to try in their research. Homemade and bought treats were available with tea or coffee throughout the day. ❖



# 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.*



Cross of Sacrifice with Memorial in the background (1968)



Photo Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

## PORT MORESBY (BOMANA) WAR CEMETERY

*Unofficial history of the Australian & New Zealand Armed Services*

The Port Moresby Memorial stands behind the cemetery and commemorates almost 750 men of the Australian Army (including Papua and New Guinea local forces), the Australian Merchant Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force who lost their lives in the operations in Papua and who have no known graves. Men of the Royal Australian Navy who died in the south-west Pacific region, and have no known grave but the sea, are commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial in England, along with many of their comrades of the Royal Navy and of other Commonwealth Naval Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery lies approximately 19 kilometres north of Port Moresby on the road to Nine

Mile, and is approached from the main road by a short side road called Pilgrims Way.

The cemetery contains 3,819 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 702 of them unidentified.

Only one woman is buried there : Sister Marie Craig who was on board a medical transport plane that crashed in Mt Carstenz.

### **Historical Information.**

After the Japanese landed at Lae and Salamaua in March 1942, Port Moresby became their chief objective. They decided to attack by sea, and assembled an amphibious expedition for the purpose, which set out early in May, but they were intercepted and heavily defeated by American air



and naval forces in the Coral Sea, and what remained of the Japanese expedition returned to Rabaul. After this defeat they decided to advance on Port Moresby overland and the attack was launched from Buna and Gona in September 1942.

Early in 1942, and almost without resistance, the Japanese established a considerable force and developed a useful base on Bougainville, the largest and most northerly of the Solomon Islands. This they held until Americans and Australians began offensive operations towards the end of 1943, when Bougainville was the only one of these islands remaining in Japanese hands. By August 1945, when the Japanese surrendered, most of the island had

been recovered.

Those who died in the fighting in Papua and Bougainville are buried in PORT MORESBY (BOMANA) WAR CEMETERY, their bodies brought in by the Australian Army Graves Service from burial grounds in the areas where the fighting had taken place. The unidentified soldiers of the United Kingdom forces were all from the Royal Artillery, captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore; they died in captivity and were buried on the island of Bailale in the Solomons. These men were later re-buried in a temporary war cemetery at Torokina on Bougainville Island before being transferred to their permanent resting place at Port Moresby.

Sources:

<http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-cemeteries/bomana.htm>

[https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/images-cemetery-images-prod/2014300/Port-Moresby-Bomana-War-Cem-May2014\\_4720.jpg](https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/images-cemetery-images-prod/2014300/Port-Moresby-Bomana-War-Cem-May2014_4720.jpg)



## MARIE LOUISE HAMILTON MACK (10 OCTOBER 1870 – 23 NOVEMBER 1935)

Audacious, unpredictable, bewitching – these are just some of the words used to describe Australian writer, poet, and First World War correspondent Louise Mack during and after her remarkable lifetime.

One of thirteen children born to Hans and Jemima Mack in Hobart, 1870, Louise made a name for herself as early as her teenage years. When the family moved to Sydney in 1882, Louise enrolled in Sydney Girls' High School, where she and her friend Ethel Turner – who would go on to write the



*Louise Mack, writer, August 1897 / photographer J. Hubert Newman [Image courtesy State Library of New South Wales, FL3283990]*

classic novel *Seven Little Australians* – edited rival magazines.

In the late 1880s when Louise was not yet twenty, she became a regular contributor to the *Bulletin*, a Sydney-based political and literary magazine. In 1898, she was given her own column, writing the 'Woman's Letter' under the pen name 'Gouli Gouli' until 1901. During these years she married her first husband, John Percy Creed, and published her first novel, *The World is Round*. Yet the true success Louise craved remained elusive. To remedy that, she sailed alone to England in 1901 to pursue fame and fortune on the world stage.

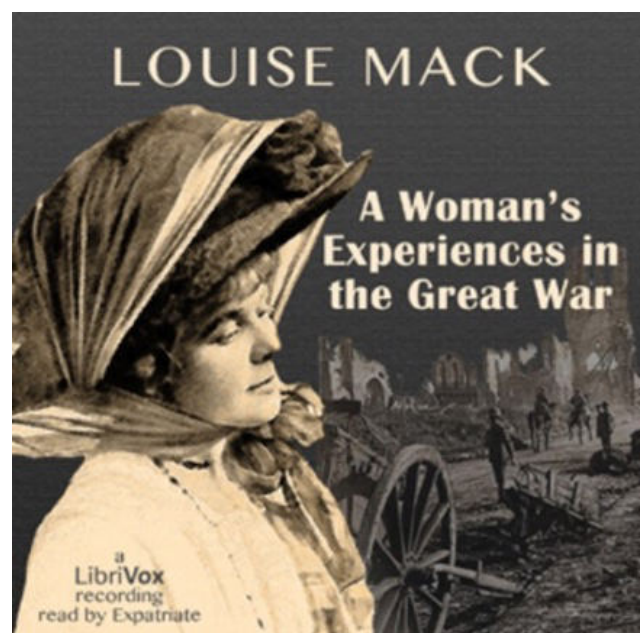
Success did not come easily overseas. Louise spent her first year there struggling to make ends meet, writing about her experiences in her 1902 book *An Australian Girl in London*. The work was well-received, and Louise was finally able to forge lasting connections in London's literary sphere.

Everything changed in 1914 when war rocked the world on a scale never before seen. Despite Lord Kitchener's restrictions on war correspondents on the Western Front, Louise managed to make her way into occupied Belgium. She travelled through German lines to Brussels, Louvain, and Antwerp, all the while reporting for both the *Evening News* and *Daily Mail*.

Louise's memoir of her time on the front, *A Woman's Experiences in the Great War*, recalls how she was the last journalist left in

Antwerp after all others had fled: "The whole city was mine. I seemed to be the only living thing left ... The ghosts of five hundred thousand people floated before my vision." She departed the city only days later, disguised as a hotel maid and smuggled from the country with a false passport. Louise's account of her final days on the Western Front cannot be confirmed. Indeed, fellow Australian war correspondent Frank Fox recalls that she left Belgium along with the other reporters.

True or not, the story was compelling enough to launch Louise on a nationwide tour upon her return home to Australia. As one Queanbeyan newspaper reported in 1918: "This is Miss Louise Mack, the pretty and charming little lady who has been thrilling crowded houses all over Australia with her wonderful recital: 'What I saw in the War'." Her lectures were almost certainly embellished versions of the truth, becoming more and more sensationalised with every new audience. It is for





this very reason, historian Jeannine Baker argues, that Louise Mack has yet to be properly studied for her role in Australian military and media history.

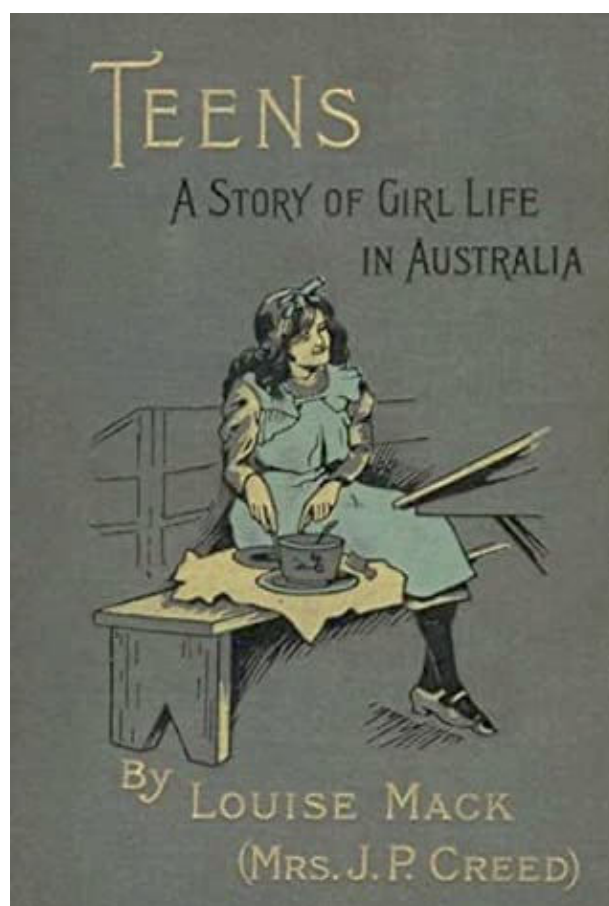
Yet despite the sensationalism, despite the embellishment, at the core of Louise's experiences lies the very important contribution she made towards women's achievements in journalism. Reporting on her death in 1935, the *Sydney Morning Herald* had this to say: "Her work would live after her." Eighty-five years later, we can say with certainty that it did."

Written by Elizabeth Heffernan,  
RAHS Volunteer 2020

### **And from Wikipedia**

*"She was not only the first woman to be a war correspondent, but she was also the first Australian to study the Germans this closely during this time. She was under shell-fire for thirty-six hours in Antwerp, and at one point went right through German lines to the city of Brussels. This fearless pursuit earned her great fame in Australia and gathered many audiences in Australian theatres, streets, and anywhere Mack was willing to tell her courageous story.*

*While back in Australia, in 1917-1918 she used her lectures on her war experiences to raise money for the Australian Red Cross Society.*



*On 1 September 1924 Louise married 33-year-old Allen*



*Louise Mack, by Kerry & Co, 1890s ... National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an23474744*

*Illingworth Leyland (d. 1932). In the 1930s she wrote a series of humorous but helpful articles for the Australian Women's Weekly, titled "Louise Mack advises".*

Mack died in Mosman, New South Wales in 1935.

### **From Australian Dictionary of Biography:**

*In 1916 she returned to Australia and in 1917-18 toured the country, speaking on her war experiences and raising money for the Australian Red Cross Society. From 1919 to the early 1930s she lectured in the Pacific islands and New Zealand and, in association with the Department of Education and the Good Film League of New South Wales, toured Australia with travel talks and films for schools.*

*When in Melbourne on 1 September 1924 Louise married 33-year-old Allen Illingworth Leyland (d.1932), a New Zealand Anzac, she claimed to have one living child. These years were very difficult for Louise, but she met misfortune with her usual courage and vitality, working as a freelance journalist and publishing two more novels, *Teens Triumphant* (1933) and *Maiden's Prayer* (1934). She died on 23 November 1935 at Mosman of cerebro-vascular disease and was cremated with Presbyterian forms. Described by Le Gay Brereton as fluffy, like a chicken, Louise was fair, pretty, extroverted, audacious, unpredictable, a genuine Bohemian who chose a life of adventure and insecurity. She died possession-less. ... ❖*

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## **THE STORY OF CECILY**

*Lynda SMITH nee PRENTICE, LM2.*

March 26, 2023, marks one year since the passing of my amazing mother. I thought I would honour her by starting to write up her life story for the family. Back in 2002, when Mum still had pretty good eyesight, I gave her a folder of loose-leaf lined pages, a glue stick and a decorative jar full of slips of paper. On each slip of paper, I had typed up a statement or questions for Mum to answer. WFHG Inc. used to sell similar Memory Jogger kits a number of years ago. These

consisted of a cloth bag, an exercise book and another small bag full of question slips. Perhaps these can be reinstated?

Mum chose a slip at random and used the question as a memory jogger. Her answers are in her handwriting, with her unique spelling, grammar and logic clearly recorded. Some of what she had to say would not be considered 'politically correct', but it is true to

what she believed about various matters.

I have transcribed her words verbatim, only adding in extremely essential punctuation and spelling corrections. Anything that needed to be explained has been added in brackets to distinguish the information as mine.

I am very lucky that my family loved taking photos, so I have many images to add to her story. A few years ago, I also created a scrapbook for Mum, documenting her many achievements. This was to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017.

Mum was awarded the Order of Australia medal for her extensive volunteer work in 2013. Sadly, Mum's sight was taken away by macular degeneration, so she did not get to see the small details I had included in the scrapbook. Friends and family appreciated it though. I will include all the text from the scrapbook in the "Book of Cecily" as I have called this work.

I plan to put all of this information on a USB for each of my children, and for my sister's children. I will also print off at least one copy and have it bound. Who knows how long it will be before USBs are superseded? Paper has more chance of lasting a long time.

My mother-in-law, Gladys SMITH nee MUNNS, also completed her memory jogger folder about the same time. I don't have as many photos of Glad's life, but I will do the same for her notes.

Unfortunately, I don't have the same information from the men in



Formal portrait of Cecily May PRENTICE nee FOX, taken Government House, Sydney. Oct. 2013.

my family. I have been trying, for some time, for my darling husband to use his copy of the Memory Jogger to record his life before meeting me.

I have written my life story pre-marriage and have added in many relevant photos and extra detail that has come from research. If you choose to do so, please ensure that you acknowledge your sources, otherwise, you are guilty of plagiarism. My husband is assisting me in detailing our lives together. Next year we will celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss. He seems to have a better memory for details than I have. We are both avid photographers so our stories will be well supplied with images. Doing so has encouraged me to



date and identify our saved photos, whether they are in printed form or digital.

**DO NOT** leave boxes or albums full of unidentified photos for your children to sort out. They are more likely to bin the lot and that would be a terrible shame.

**DO NOT** leave your own story untold. If you are lucky enough to still have older relatives around, please talk to them about this idea. Their answers can be recorded orally if writing is not a possibility for them.

An example of one of the memory joggers, and my Mum's answers.

**What schools did you attend?  
What were your best and worst  
subjects? Describe a typical  
school day.**

Chatswood Infants. Chatswood Primary,  
Willoughby Girls [High] School. [aka as  
Domestic High School]

When I first started school, we were living at  
Chatswood. When I was seven, we moved to



Alan & Lynda SMITH nee PRENTICE, in  
going away outfits, leaving their wedding  
reception at Gosford Bowling Club, 31<sup>st</sup>  
Aug. 1974.

Artarmon. I caught the bus or walked,  
usually with my sister.

Spelling was always the worst [subject], so  
reading was difficult. I have tried to improve  
over the years.

Best: History, Geography, Physiology,  
Maths.



Cecily FOX -First on left, second top row. Aged 11 years.



*[Mum was excellent at mental arithmetic.]*  
Primary:- I suppose I was classed as slow, being put out to do the gardening a lot. *[I think Mum probably had some undiagnosed learning difficulties.]*

High school: Always a struggle, never much help from home with lessons. When kept in, had to walk home from Willoughby via Mowbray Rd because there was no bus. Left school at 14 at the end of second year and started work. On leaving school have tried to better myself- Can't ever remember my sister helping me with schoolwork.

*[Mum went on to attend Stott's Business College and learned book keeping, shorthand and typing. She served as President, Secretary or Treasurer of multiple organisations for many years].*

Such heart-felt comments gave me insight into my mother's experience as a student, something I would not have had without the memory jogger activity. Her other answers are just as informative.

Food for thought!



## MEETING COUSINS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN YEARS.

*Robyn 'Bobbie' Snodgrass, member 982*

## Memories.

My dad Bill, was coming home from Smithfield in Sydney one night and reached Pennant Hills Rd. Dundas which was his usual route back to Beecroft. All of a sudden a dog ran in front of him he slammed on the brakes. Dad got out to check the dog out and found his address on his dog tag. The dog was fine, shaken but fine. Dad knocked on the door of the dog's owner and who should answer it but dad's cousin Guy. Dad and cousin Guy hadn't seen each other in decades.

As an apology for nearly hitting their dog, we had Guy's family over for dinner, so we could all meet for the first time.

Years later we opened a hardware store in Turrumurra and Guy opened one as well, which confused some of our suppliers. Life takes some strange twists and turns doesn't it. Have fun. ❖

## JANICE BARRETT, LIFE MEMBER PROFILE.

*Continuing Jan's story of her long association with our group ... ed*

*Jan Barrett LM44 written 29 July 2022*

We sold Rotary Tickets again, mostly at local shopping centres, and raised \$714. Members bravely offered to share their expertise and we ran our first "How to trace your Family History" course at San Remo Neighbourhood Centre. The course ran for 7 weeks and we gained many new members as a result. We also started producing a monthly newsletter for members which we called "The Branch".

Kerrie Metcalfe helped Pam Mansergh with this. Pam was also



From back, Alan Smith, front left, Lynda Smith, myself, Esther, Keith and Jean Shakespeare, Pat Sharp/Irwin and Marilyn Cridland. Note our white embroidered WFHG shirts

the editor of our quarterly journal "Tree of Life".

In May, we hosted another BBQ at our home. On this occasion, we recognised all the work Keith had done for the group. Sadly, Keith had been diagnosed with a serious illness and his ability to participate in the group became severely reduced as a result.

In Sept. 2004 our local paper *The Central Coast Express Advocate* ran an article and photo about our group transcribing Palmdale. The photo comment was "armed with digital cameras, water, brushes, pens and paper Jan and Elaine [and others] have transcribed 3/4 of the plaques to date".

I again stood for President and Esther stayed as Secretary for 2004-5.

We attended the Yarramalong Fair in Sept. 2004 and manned a popular table. Having Keith there to chat with descendants of local pioneers was a great bonus. In Dec. 2004 we decided to hire Charmhaven Hall for our Christmas Party. Our daughter, Jacqueline, helped out as the Christmas Elf, giving out gifts. In May/June 2005 our group was featured in a lengthy article in an *Over 50's Lifestyle newspaper supplement*. Tuggerah Library now had the Internet connected and our group provided lessons to members and the public in using it for research.

When Bunnings opened at Tuggerah Super Centre, we joined the list of groups eligible to run sausage sizzles there. This has proved to be an excellent source of funds. It does, however, require a

team of dedicated people to help out each time. For many years, Norm and I cut up many kilos of onions for each BBQ. The things you do!

We also purchased our own microfiche/microfilm reader. Then we received some bad news. Wyong Plaza had been sold and was to be refurbished. We had to find a new home, yet again.

I organised a meeting with Wyong Council and we were eventually offered rooms in their newly refurbished Community Cultural Centre in the grounds of the old Wyong Public School at the beginning of 2006. The 'Cottage' had been the local Minister's residence. There used to be a church on the block below, facing the river. The old school buildings had also been allocated to different groups. It was all hands-on-deck to move ourselves into the Cottage.

Sadly, we lost Keith Shakespeare [founding member and Life Member No.1] so we decided to honour his contribution to the group by dedicating our new Library Room to him. Keith's wife Jean attended the ceremony. She also donated a lot of Keith's research materials to the group. We were finally able to run an "Exploring Family History" course in our own rooms. We also held a successful seminar at The Berkeley Centre in Glenning Valley.

Originally, we shared the Cottage with the Tuggerah Writer's Group, but they decided to meet elsewhere after a couple of years. One of the conditions of use was that we had to open to the public, so we chose

to do so on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This meant that our members had to commit to being volunteer research assistants on a regular basis.

Our group decided that we needed to update our Pioneer Register, and we began collected data for "The next generation." By the end of the year our membership had passed 100 financial members. By the end of June 2006, the long-awaited Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park CD was available for sale. I had a busy year, attending the NSW State Family History Conference, The Central Coast FHS Fair, Maitland Family History Fair and the Wyong Historical Society's Pioneer Dinner. We also managed to get the Internet connected to the Cottage. The group also made many bus trips to Kingswood State Archives and Norm was our friendly driver.

In 2007 I was featured in a local publication called "*Significant Women of the Central Coast*". Later the same year, MP Paul Crittenden nominated me for the NSW Woman of the Year and for entry in a new publication called "*Who's Who in New South Wales*", Inaugural edition. I was accepted and also ended up with an entry in the "Who's Who of Australian Women", both published in 2008. I had to answer a lengthy series of questions for both publications and Jacqueline helped me with this task.

I was often involved with other groups, such as the Pioneer's Association. Fellow WFHG member, Lorna Clayton comes from a

Pioneer family [The SMITH's of Jilliby]. We often called upon her to give talks at our meetings. I arranged for guest speakers to receive embroidered hand towels and other items as a thank you. I often attended the annual pioneer's events as well.

Changes to our constitution meant that this would be my last year as President, so I took the opportunity to put a number of deserving members up for Life Membership. Unbeknown to me, I was also nominated, so I joined Esther, Marilyn Cridland and Pam Mansergh in receiving this honour. The group now had 162 current members. We had continued to sell Rotary Raffle tickets and run Bunnings sausage sizzles, and the group was now quite financially sound. We also purchased some microfilm for the group. We held our first open day at the Cottage, which was very successful. One of



Norm and I, with other group members, at a Bunnings' BBQ. June 2006

our members, John Owen set up a website for the group and we formed a partnership with the LDS Church to obtain their microfilms for members. Over time we have used grants and our own funds to purchase computers for our members and visitors to use.



Kerrie Metcalfe took over as President for 2007- 08. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday that year and managed to obtain an Ancestry.com subscription for the Cottage. We had applied to run a State Conference and did so in 2009 at Wyong Racecourse. I joined the Conference committee. [photo at right of us having lunch together]

I took on the job of approaching businesses for donations, organising the printing of photos of Old Wyong and the creation of placemats for the Conference dinner. The Conference, called "From Home to the Hinterland" was a great success. I also helped man the group's bookstall. WFHG presented me with a Certificate of Appreciation for my work in organising the Conference. At our December Christmas Party, I was presented with the "Skeleton Award" for my work transcribing the dead and Norm received the Silver Salver award for all his efforts at our BBQs.

Although I was no longer President, I continued my interest in keeping our cemetery records up to date. I was our group's contact with Wyong Council's cemetery officers. I was also involved with recording the historic funeral details from Simplicity, Long Jetty.

Kerrie continued as President in 2009/10. Our Next Generation Pioneer book was published and we held another seminar and Open Day. Kerrie was made a Life Member and we had over 260 financial members. Kerrie



presented me with a plant to commemorate my 11 years on the committee and my photo was put on the front of Tree of Life in May 2010. I had resigned from the Committee in Feb. 2010 as both my and Norm's health had become an issue.

I was also Welfare Officer for many years and coordinated the embroidery of our group shirts and gifts for guest speakers. In 2010 Member of Parliament David Harris made a speech about our Conference and the Group's value to the community. Since 2010, Norm and I participated in WFH Group activities when our health allowed. In 2013, the Family History Group celebrated 30 years with a special luncheon.

In 2014 I was nominated for the Australia Day Volunteer Award, run by the then Wyong Shire Council. I was also nominated, in the same year, for Citizen of the Year.

In 2018 Wyong Family History Group celebrated 35 years with an event at Wyong Golf Club. Member for Wyong, David Harris mentioned our group's activities in Parliament, and congratulated us on our longstanding dedication to family



and local history. I attended this event. In the November 2018 edition of WFHG's Tree of Life journal, I was featured with other members who had reached various milestones. I was recognised for 20 years of membership, as was Norman. "Janice has worked tirelessly for the Group over many years until bad health made her slow down. She was President for seven years and was instrumental in getting permission to transcribe and photograph Palmdale cemetery. She has worked closely with Council to keep the Cemetery and gravedigger records up to date until recently; organised many events between 1998 and 2007 which included social BBQ's at her home, fund raising events and Bunnings BBQs."

Unfortunately, continuing ill health has stopped me from being too active lately. My mobility has been greatly affected by troublesome legs and feet and I have given up driving. I try to make it to meetings and social events, but access to our cottage is quite difficult for me.

I have focussed on tidying up my own files and finalising my work on the Shark Arm Case. I have also had family photos scanned and copied to share with other family members. Sadly, my beloved Norman passed away suddenly on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019. I now live at Dora Creek with my daughter Jacqueline and rely on her for transport.



In 2020, fellow WFHG member, Lynda Smith helped me create two books, one about myself, and one about Norman's life. My hands don't like typing these days. We had copies made for the family. I have recently received my DNA results but have had difficulty following all the possible links. In 2023 I will celebrate 25 years with the group. I am very proud of our achievements to date and I hope that the group continues to grow in the future. ❖





WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.



*PRESENTS*

**2023**

## INTERMEDIATE COURSE IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

**A 4 week course held on Fridays from 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Commencing on  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June then every Friday until 23<sup>rd</sup> June.**

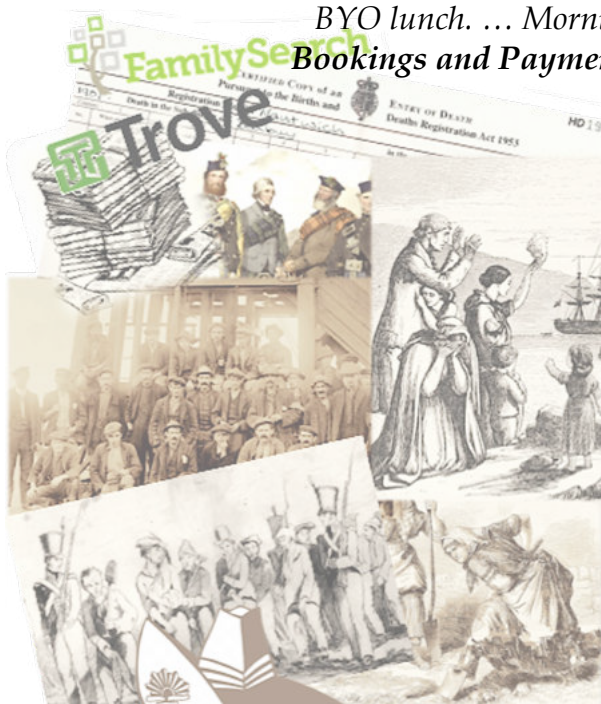
### **The course will cover:**

Week 1	Overview of basics, Ryerson Index & SMH, Surnames, Australian Military records 1900-1970s.
Week 2	Review, Using Non written Sources, Using Social Media, Familysearch.org practical session.
Week 3	Review, Historic Newspapers & Gazettes, First Nations Research, Genealogical websites, Understanding DNA matches.
Week 4	Review, Restoring and using old photos in FH, More on DNA, Old Handwriting.

***COST: \$60 for the 4 weeks, payable in advance or \$20 per week***

*BYO lunch. ... Morning tea will be provided.*

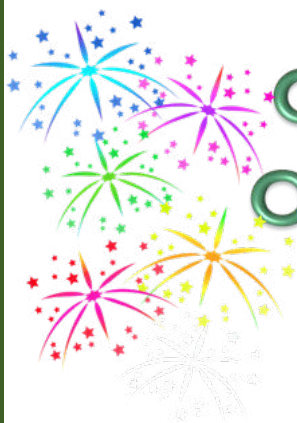
***Bookings and Payment in advance Essential***



To be held at  
**The Cottage, *Building 9, 6*  
Rankens Court, Wyong**

*[Enter via the old school yard- see map overleaf]*

**BOOK and PAY online at**  
[www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au)  
**or contact the 'Cottage'**  
**on 4351 2211 , Tuesday**  
**Wednesday or Thursday 10:00 am**  
**to 3:00 pm.**  
**email [wfhg06@westnet.com.au](mailto:wfhg06@westnet.com.au)**



# COME CELEBRATE OUR 40<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.  
Established 1983

## You are invited!



**When:** Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Where:** Tuggerah Community Hall, 9 Anzac Avenue,  
Tuggerah [opposite Hungry Jacks/Maccas].

**Cost:** \$30 per head, includes a tasty grazing table luncheon,  
liquid refreshments, Lucky Door prize, cake, fun and  
games, socialising, quizzes, displays and more.

**Enquiries:** 'The Cottage' – Ph. 4351 2211,  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**BOOKINGS & PAYMENT ESSENTIAL BEFORE 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY.**

**Book & Pay online:**

[www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au)

**Payment Options:** Direct Deposit, PayPal, or in person at  
'The Cottage', Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong.  
[enter via the old school yard]

**Email:** [wfhg06@westnet.com.au](mailto:wfhg06@westnet.com.au) for further information







38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

# THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY

8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023



At

**Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre,**  
1 Hargraves Street TOUKLEY

Hosted by

**WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.**

**Register online**

Registrations for physical attendance will close at 200.

Cost:	\$175.00
Early Bird rate	\$155.00 if paid by 30 <sup>th</sup> June
Friday night Meet and Greet	\$25.00
Saturday night Conference Dinner	\$65.00
Virtual attendance	\$50.00 (no restrictions on registration numbers)

Email: [wfhgconference@westnet.com.au](mailto:wfhgconference@westnet.com.au)

Website: [The Running Waters of History – Home \(weebly.com\)](https://www.wfhgconference.com.au)



**WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Inc.**

## **FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**

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

***For a reasonable Fee***

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

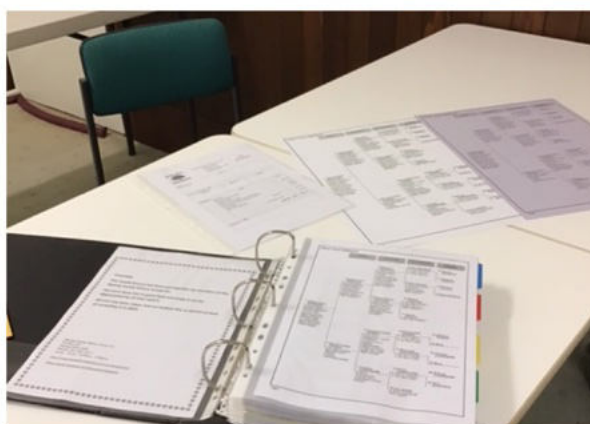
**Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.**

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

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

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

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



*Example of what you may receive.*

## MEMBERS MILESTONES

The Following Members reached their milestones between January and May this year.

Tom Duckworth	20yrs	Trevor Boyden	10yrs
Ellane Garside	15yrs	Wayne Bermingham	
Valerie Williams	15yrs		10yrs
David Barnes	15yrs	Colin Barnes	10yrs
Dellas Johnston	15yrs	Peter Holt	10yrs
		Julie Nielson	10yrs
		Neal Nielson	10yrs
		Martin Fisher	10yrs
		Susan Fisher	10yrs
		Kate Walter	10yrs



We congratulate you all and thank you for your support in maintaining your membership.



## THE CENTRAL COAST MILLION DOLLAR ROTARY CLUB

*The Rotary Club of The Entrance*

Over the last 39 years The Rotary Club of The Entrance have been running a Community Raffle where local charities sell raffle tickets to raise money for their own organisations. This year the total raised over the 39-year period has passed the one-million-dollar mark at \$1,002,625, with 36 charity and community groups taking part during the year, raising over \$30,000 for the local community.

The Rotary Club procures the prizes and pays for printing the tickets. They then invite local charities to sell the tickets over a 20-week period with the Raffle draw being held in mid-February. After the draw the Rotary Club donates back the value of all tickets sold to participating organisations.

The beauty of this project is that it enables small local groups to sell

tickets, knowing that every ticket they sell will result in the money they raise coming back to them. And although the administration can be onerous, the club is able to direct significant funds into the community.

The club's first Combined Community Raffle was conducted in 1985-86, being the brainchild of a Rotarian, Merv Harvey who wanted to do something to help local charities. Merv ran the raffle for five years turning it over to Con Bartsos in 1988 who ran it for the next 26 years. In the inaugural year, the first prize was a trip to Fiji; it is now \$4,000 thanks to Mingara. Local community groups participated and received from the club an amount equal to the value of tickets sold. The principle of 100% return to participating organisations was part of the original formula. In its second year, eighteen community



organisations sold tickets, with 13500 tickets printed. Money raised was \$9,408.

This is the longest running project for a Rotary Club on the Central Coast winning the 1991 Sydney Morning Herald Community Service Award for the Wyong Shire, having by that time raised \$100,000. In 2002, the club's 30<sup>th</sup> year, the "30-30-30" goal for the club's Community Raffle was achieved: a \$3,000 prize and \$30,000 raised, and breaking through the \$300,000 mark in total funds raised by community organisations since the inception of the project.

Over the period 214 local charities have participated ranging from Scout groups, Surf lifesaving, Ronald McDonald house, Historical societies, softball and football clubs, bush fire brigades to Neighbourhood Centres. Some organisations have been participating for up to 20 years and have made the raffle their main means of fundraising. Current Raffle organiser David Waterhouse commented "For instance, over the last 39 years, clubs such as 1st Kanwal Scout Group raised almost \$20,000, Wyong Family History Group \$37,300, the Berkeley Vale Rural Fire Service raised \$31,00 and the Special Olympics Central Coast Region raised about \$31,000, just to name a few."

Special thanks must go to James Sleeman and his staff from Sleeman Optometry at Chittaway Bay for the distribution and collection of tickets from their shop over many years. This is now done by club members in the foyer at Mingara.

In 2019 the captain of the local Rural Fire Service decided to buy all remaining tickets from books sold by

the members of the brigade. On the night of the draw, we were amazed when his name was on the first and second tickets drawn from the barrel!

During COVID, our club depended on the raffle as our major fundraiser raising approximately \$6,000 in 2020-21

Last year the club celebrated its



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. During the proceedings, long time Raffle Organiser Con Bartsos, was acknowledged with a Paul Harris Fellowship for the work he had done in keeping the raffle running over 26 years. This project is our most important annual activity.

The club is very grateful to our wonderful sponsors, who year after year provide at no cost to us the prizes for the Raffle. Mingara Recreational Club has been providing the cash prize, this year increased to \$4000. This year's other sponsors were Helloworld Travel Bateau Bay, Gem Design Jewellers, The Entrance, Ming Dragon Restaurant, Mingara and Bunnings Warehouse Tuggerah. All tickets have had a popular two for one McDonalds voucher on them thanks to Saronbell Pty Ltd. ... ♦

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## THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

*Compiled by Helen Johnston-Lord member 505*

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The Royal Flying Doctor Service has a rich and vibrant Australian history.

Before there was the Flying Doctor there was little medical help for people who lived in places far from cities. If they were seriously injured they had to travel hundreds of kilometres by horse, cart, or camel to reach a doctor. They often died before they got there.



### **The Royal Flying Doctor Service History**

On 17 May 1928, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) was born, taking its first flight across the skies of Cloncurry, Queensland, on a life-saving mission. Since then, thousands, if not millions, of similar flights have taken place, supplying both emergency and primary health care to rural, remote, and regional areas of Australia where doctors are few and communications difficult.

The plan for this type of service was conceived in 1912 by the Reverend John Flynn, superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) of the Presbyterian Church, who working in outback isolated regions, had witnessed the tragedies that could result in communities far from reliable medical care. Aided by fledging technologies in flight and radio, the organisation expanded rapidly from the 1930s with services and bases across the country, growing to be one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world today.

### **Twenty Dollar Note**

In 1994 the Australian Council Office collaborated with the Reserve Bank of Australia on the design of the Australian twenty dollar note, to feature the face of the Reverend John Flynn. In 2019, the Reserve Bank has released a new twenty dollar note, once again featuring the origins of the Flying Doctor.

**Want to learn more about the Flying Doctor's history? Take out a \$20 note.**

The fabric bi-plane 'Victory' which flew the first Flying Doctor mission from Cloncurry, QLD on 17 May 1928.

The Australian \$20 note features the Rev John Flynn (1880-1951), founder of the Aerial Medical Service in 1942 and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in 1955.

A camel signifying the five camels Flynn purchased in 1913 so that his Patrol Padres could complete their mission work throughout central Australia.

Beneath 'Victory' is the pedal radio invented by Alfred Traeger in 1929 enabling the people of the outback to call on the Flying Doctor for assistance.

The Body Chart was created by Sister Lucy Garlick in 1951 and is still used today. It enables patients to describe the region and intensity of their pain or injury during a remote telehealth consultation.



### **Sources:**

<https://www.odysseytraveller.com/articles/royal-flying-doctor-service-history/>  
<https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/about-the-rfdfs/history/>

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## RINGING OF THE BELLS FOR THE KING AND QUEEN

*Extract from: The Good Shepherd, October 2022, St Peters Church, Little Budworth (Cheshire)*

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"It is the tradition to ring church bells not only to call the faithful to church on Sundays but also to commemorate special occasions, particularly Royal ones.

"Sadly, our much-loved Queen Elizabeth II died on 8<sup>th</sup> September and so according to protocol we rang the bells on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September. For this the bells were half muffled. The effect of this is to make every second-strike sound like an echo of the previous strike. It is a sorrowful and dignified sound which is used to commemorate the passing of a Royal person,

"The muffles are leather pads which are tied to the clappers of the bells (the clappers are the parts of the bell which hit the side of the bell inside and cause the sound of ringing). When muffles are put on, they cover one side of the clapper so that when that side hits the bell it is "muffled". On 9<sup>th</sup> September we rang for 1 hour at noon with a mixture of ringing sounds (one bell after another) and tolling (when one bell is rung by itself, usually the tenor bell which is the biggest with the lowest note). This ringing was done by an exclusively Little Budworth band with no external help.

"After ring for her Majesty, we removed the muffles so that we could ring open" to celebrate the

accession of King Charles III. This we did on Saturday afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> September. The sound is much brighter when ringing open and is the same as ringing normal Sunday services.

"The muffles were put back on the bells and any ringing done before the State Funeral which took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September was done half muffled because the country was in a period of mourning. This included Friday evening practice. The bells were rung before the State funeral which took place in Westminster Abbey for one hour. This took place at churches across the country.

"So, this is how bell ringers honour our Royalty both at time of deep sadness and also rejoicing."





## 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

### WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

## Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month  
 Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
 Where: Your place. We will also be hosting the Zoom sessions on our big screen at the Cottage if you happen to be available to participate in that way.

The next 2 sessions will be on

- May 24, topic – Female Ancestors
- June 28, topic - DNA stories

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

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**

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

Publication	Type	Price
<b>DIGITAL RELEASE</b>		
<b>Wyong &amp; Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 - NEW</b>	<b>USB</b>	<b>\$ 50.00 + p&amp;h</b>
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		
<b>BOOKS &amp; CDs</b>		
<b>Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Central Coast Roll of Honour</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
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		
<b>Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 – 1954</b>	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>\$ 10.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Incorporating the Wollombi Express 1892-1906 and Wyong District Advocate 1906-1920. Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details		
<b>People of Wyong Book 1</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 40.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages		
<b>People of Wyong Book 2</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 40.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages		
<b>People of Wyong Book 3</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 40.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages		
<b>People of Wyong Book 4 - NEW</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 40.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Includes Wyong Abattoir, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs		
<b>People of Wyong Book 5 - NEW</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 40.00 + p&amp;h</b>
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		
<b>Purchase all 5 books in this series at the same time and receive 10% discount</b>		
<b>Place Names of the Wyong Shire</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 7.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006</b>	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
Records available on combined CD		
<b>Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay		
<b>Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley &amp; Wyong 1963 – 2011</b>	<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD \$ 12.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Simplicity Funerals Erina 1984 – 2013</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 30.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area</b>	<b>Reduced Price</b>	<b>CD \$ 5.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Baptisms, burials and marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's diaries and misc. entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy and the Hawkesbury River		

Publication	Type	Price
<b>Wyong Agricultural Association</b>	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
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	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 7.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Wyong &amp; District Pioneer Register [Published 2013]</b>	<b>USB or CD</b>	<b>\$ 35.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains birth, marriage and death details, some photos, personal stories and obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. 673 pages	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
<b>Wyong &amp; Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995</b>		
<b>Volume 1</b>	<b>Last copy – Special Price Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
Contains 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4790 in memoriam notices and 238 miscellaneous event notices. Includes church photographs		
<b>Volume 2</b>	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
Contains 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices as well as Church and Cemetery photos		
<b>Volumes 1 and 2</b> available on combined CD	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 17.50 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Wyong Remembers</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 19.00 + p&amp;h</b>
The history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages		
<b>Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017</b>	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 12.50 + p&amp;h</b>
Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries		
<b>Jilliby Cemetery Wyong Shire NSW</b>	<b>Book out of Print</b>	
<b>Noraville Cemetery Wyong Shire 1869 – 2012</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 20.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>St Barnabas &amp; Yarramalong Cemeteries Wyong Shire 1886 – 2001</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 15.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Ronkana Cemetery Wyong Shire 1825 – 2016</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 15.00 + p&amp;h</b>
	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 5.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 25.00 + p&amp;h</b>
	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 10.00 + p&amp;h</b>
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		
<b>Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 10.00 + p&amp;h</b>
	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 5.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>Palmdale Cemetery</b>	<b>Reduced Price CD</b>	<b>\$ 5.00 + p&amp;h</b>
30,000 names – not all from Wyong		
<b>Genealogy Recorder</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>\$ 10.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>SUPER SPECIAL - 2 BOOK PACK</b>		
<b>Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011</b>		
<b>Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015</b>	<b>2 x Books</b>	<b>\$ 25.00 + p&amp;h</b>
<b>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</b>		



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### 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

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Wyong Scouts would like to Congratulate The Wyong History Group Inc. on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We are celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and would love to hear from any former members, leaders and family members.

Email [amy.kelty@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:amy.kelty@nsw.scouts.com.au) and keep up to date with our Friends of 1st Wyong Scouts Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/309689453980487/>



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### COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1957

*More from the USA clipping I came across recently ed.*

*"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."*

*"Did you see where some baseball player signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President."*



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## 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:

[secwfhg2@westnet.com.au](mailto:secwfhg2@westnet.com.au)

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



## ACCESSIBILITY

We have several designated Mobility Parking spaces right near our door.

The Cottage is wheelchair accessible with one basic accessible toilet?



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 our door? ... ❖

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## WFHG INC. PLANNED EVENTS

- Subject to change.
- Note: Unless otherwise stated, All our meetings, interest groups, information sessions and courses are held at 'The Cottage'.
- **SIG** = Special Interest Group ... Booking essential
- **Info** = Information Session

	2023	Event
May	Fri 5	<b>Master Class</b> Researching in England & Wales 10:00 am
	Tue 9	<b>Info</b> Ryerson Index, Trove & accessing SMH newspaper Notices
	Thu 11	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 13	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm
	Tue 16	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 17	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 23	BBQ Lunch - 12 00 noon
	Wed 24	Monthly Zoom 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm Topic Female Ancestors
	Thu 25	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 27	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 30	Committee Meeting for June 10:00 am
June	Fri 2	Intermediate Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 1
	Sat 3	WFHG 40 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration 10:30 – 2:30 pm at Tuggerah Community Hall
	Thu 8	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 9	Intermediate Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 2
	Sat 10	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm
	Thu 15	<b>Info</b> – New Zealand Research

	<b>2023</b>	<b>Event</b>
	Fri 16	Intermediate Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 3
	Tue 20	DNA <b>SIG</b> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 21	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Thu 22	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 23	Intermediate Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 4
	Sat 24	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 27	Committee Meeting for July 10:00 am
	Wed 28	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm Topic DNA Stories
July	Sat 8	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Mon 17	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 1
	Tue 18	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 19	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 21	<i>Tree of Life Deadline</i>
	Sat 22	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Mon 24	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 2
	Tue 25	<b>Master Class</b> Effectively Photographing Keepsakes
	Wed 26	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm Topic ?
	Thu 27	Brickwall <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Mon 31	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 3
August	Tue 1	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Mon 7	Beginners Family History <b>Course</b> – Week 4
	Thu 10	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 12	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm
	Tue 15	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 16	Scottish/Irish <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Wed 23	Welcome Morning Tea 10.30 am followed by Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm Topic ?
	Sat 26	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 27	Committee Meeting for September 10:00 am
<p align="center"><b>8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>  <b>The Running Waters of History</b>  The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  of the NSW &amp; ACT Association of Family History Societies</p>		



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Darkinjung people as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today. 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.



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## 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](mailto: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 July, 2023 is the closing date for submissions for next issue of the "Tree of Life".**

The Fine Print

#### 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](mailto: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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Celebrating our Ruby Anniversary

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.*