

58 GILBERT ST, WYALONG NSW 2671

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The Captain Cook Ditty Box



Image: Coffin-shaped ditty box. 1779. Carved wood inlaid with mother-of-pearl shell, silver stand. Bequest of Sir William Dixson, 1952. Source: NSW State Library/Curio/Past Exhibitions

Captain Cook's sudden and violent death caused profound grief among his crew. During the homeward voyage, sailors on board HMS Resolution carved this coffin-shaped ditty-box from a fragment of the ship's timber. It holds a lock of Cook's hair and a watercolour sketch of his last moments alive.

The ditty-box was presented to Cook's widow, Elizabeth with the story of how it was made. In 1912, Thomas Hart recorded that a week after Captain James Cook's murder, his head was brought to the ship. Locks of his hair were placed into a coffinshaped "ditty-box" made by the carpenter and crew. One dug out the centre, two carved various parts, others beat out coins for the plates and a picture was drawn. Buttons, braid and tokens were added. 1

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Before the popularisation of photography in the mid-19th century, individuals of status would often have their portraits painted.

Unfortunately, the artists who produced portraits in colonial Australia rarely signed and dated their work, causing a dilemma for researchers and historians. Age, fashion and hairstyle are some of the clues used to find out when a portrait was painted.

William Lawson, after 1846. MIN 63, Water-colour miniature on ivory (below). In 1819, he was appointed commandant of the new settlement of Bathurst, and later discovered the rich farming lands of Mudgee.

This is probably a copy of an original 1845–46 daguerreotype by Australia's first known professional photographer, George Goodman. ²



Wiradjuri country

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this newsletter contains images, names and voices of people who have died."





Pg 22.....Notice Board

Publications 4 Sale:



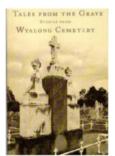
125 Golden Years

Wyalong & West Wyalong 1894 - 2019

A beautiful photographic book researching the changes and uses of the buildings in the main streets of Wyalong and West Wyalong.

Cost: \$40 + postage

Tales From The Grave Stories From Wyalong Cemetery.



How Wyalong and West Wyalong came to be the towns they are today through the lives of 100 people.

Cost: \$20 + \$10 postage

Tales From The Grave 2 Stories From Wyalong Cemetery.

Cost: \$25 + \$10 postage

Or

Buy both books for \$55.00 (includes postage)



Contact >>> genealogy@wyalongfamilyhistory.com / butcher.pam@yahoo.com

Ye Olde Words...

Excogitate:

To plot, plan, devise, with Latin roots to bring out by thinking. First recorded in the 1840s.

—Oxford Dictionary



Editor's Report

Welcome to our March 2024 edition of *The Mallee Stump!*

I trust everyone is rested and ready to take on the search for the missing links in their family tree.

On 15th February, our beloved Treasurer,
Terry Butcher, passed. Terry held many
elected offices with WDFHG Inc. alongside
wife, Pam. We send our love and
condolences to Pam and their family at this
difficult time. The wonderful eulogy for
Terry's funeral service is included for
members who could not attend the funeral,
and is a testament to Terry's commitment
to community and family.

This journal's story, 'It Began with Isaac', explores Isaac and Sophia Fletcher and their family making ends meet in the dusty Wyalong goldfields. 17 births were recorded for Sophia in 23 years, but there are unconfirmed references to more. Isaac was tasked to help raise 7 stepchildren after Sophia's first husband, John Stanford died in a mining accident. Five of the boys served Australian in the Great War, and all five survived.

Thank you to our members who contribute stories to *The Mallee Stump*. We'd love to hear about your uncle who kept a diary during the war, a funny story about one of your ancestors, or a tale about the Wyalong district.

Please send your contributions to: victoriamiddleton33@gmail.com

As always, our thanks to Pam Butcher for her commitment to the Research Requests. If you can assist Pam, please contact her directly.

Victoria Middleton Editor

Free Site Searches & Resources



MyAncestors.com.au ³ is a free-access, free-content, online ultimate link library for Australian genealogy and ancestry records. Thousands of links and useful information to help you trace your family tree.

Browse by category or search by state. Use the search function to find specific information and make your ancestry trail easy!

Topics include:

- Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Buildings, land and settlement
- Cemetery and burial records
- Census and Electoral rolls
- Convicts and courts
- Health, Homes and Adoption
- Historical Societies and Groups
- Occupations and trades
- Other selected lists
- Passenger lists and immigration
- Wars, conflicts and heroes

There is a fantastic list of names and addresses of colonial photographers from 1850 onwards.





TITLE: Communications - Postal - Flying bush mailman at Kayrunnela...

Digitised 2 days ago

The NAA (National Archives of Australia) are digitizing records, documents and images every day. The categories are endless and so diverse, they will surprise you.

Check them out at 'Newly Scanned Records':

https://recordsearch.naa.g ov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Int erface/ListingReports/New lyScannedList.aspx

In Memory of Terrence 'Terry' Ivo Butcher 24/04/1939 – 15/02/2024

—Funeral Service Eulogy



Image: Terry Butcher Source: Courtesy of Goodmorningco.com.au

"Ladies and gentleman, family and friends,

We gather here today to celebrate the life of a remarkable individual, Terry Butcher, born on the 24th April, 1939, at Royal North Shore Hospital in St. Leonards, Sydney, just half an hour before Anzac Day. Terry's journey through life is one filled with stories of resilience, service, and the bonds of family and community.

Terry's early years were spent in the embrace of a large and loving family at 5 Park Rd. St. Leonards. The family lived in a grand two-storey house with a view that stretched across North Sydney, where the Sydney Harbour Bridge adorned the skyline. These formative years during World War II were not without challenges, as Terry's mother, Annie, found herself alone with two young boys while his father, Ivo, served in the Army stationed at Rathmines on the north coast.

The war brought about a time of uncertainty and the family moved to Narenburn near the park, facing the nightly sounds of an Anti-aircraft Gun emplacement practicing at 8:00 pm. In those moments, the resilience of the Butcher family was tested. Letters exchanged between Terry's mother and her parents in Central Wyalong captured the fear and the uncertainty of those times, yet the family's bond remained strong.

Terry's father, Ivo, played a pivotal role in shaping Terry's character. After serving in the army, Ivo joined the family in Central Wyalong, leaving behind his job in St. Leonards. A chance encounter with Ted Brown at the Post Office Hotel led Ivo to a temporary job at John Meagher's, a position that would last an incredible 39 years. The Butcher family moved to 11 England St. West Wyalong, marking the beginning of a new chapter.

Terry's own professional journey began at John Meagher's in the hardware department, followed by a distinguished career at the Post Office. His commitment to service was evidence in the meticulous care he took in his responsibilities, from changing blotting paper to delivering telegrams. His dedication and congeniality were the hallmarks of his 39-year career.

In 1961, Terry met the love of his life, Pam, at a picnic-BBQ at Clear Ridge State Forrest. Their union in marriage on 3 November, 1962, marked the beginning of a loving partnership that endured the trials of life. Together, they raised five children, and welcomed twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren into their close-knit family.

Terry's spiritual journey reflected the diverse influences of his Anglican and Presbyterian heritage. His involvement in the Church of England, Sunday School, and later becoming a Server, Rector's Warden and Lay Reader, showcased his commitment to his faith and community. He fondly remembered the camaraderie of the Young Anglicans and Junior Anglicans, a time of shared dances, tennis and camps with other groups.

WDFHG INC MARCH 2024 3

In Memory of Terrence 'Terry' Ivo Butcher continued...

Throughout his life, Terry embraced various roles, from his involvement in the Town Band and Dance Band to his commitment to the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows. His leadership in the Friendly Society and subsequent roles as District Grand Master and Area Master demonstrated his commitment to friendship, love and truth.

Terry's passions extended beyond the professional and social realms. His love for shooting and participation in national competitions, coupled with his organizational skills in table tennis, reflected his dedication to sportsmanship and team collaboration.

As we reflect of Terry's life, we are reminded of the gifts he shared with us. From the invaluable lessons learned from his father about customer service, to the joy he found in helping others during his time at the Post Office, Terry's impact on his community was immeasurable. His involvement in the Town Band, service in the Manchester Unity, and participation in various sports showcased his diverse talents and passions. Terry will also be well-remembered as the local bugler for Anzac Day services and funerals.

In addition to these gifts, Terry's involvement in the Church, from being a Server to his role in the Men's Society, Vestry, and Men's Breakfast, highlighted his dedication to spiritual growth and community engagement. He leaves behind a legacy of encouragement, camaraderie and the belief in the importance of servicing a higher purpose.

As we bid farewell to Terry Butcher, let us remember the lessons he shared, the love he bestowed upon his family, and the impact he made on the communities he touched. In celebrating his life, we honour a man who lived with purpose, embraced diversity and left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire us all."

—Eulogy read by Wayne Brooks.



'Well Anyway'— Is it Ungarie?

-Story: Dal Stivens' first Written Novel

Our September 2023 *Mallee Stump* issue featured Noel Pidgeon's article on writer, **Dal Stivens**, who wrote the Miles Franklin Award novel 'A Horse of Air'.

This editor was thankful to be loaned Dal Stiven's first novel, *Well Anyway*, (written 1936-1939, and first published in in 2012). Thanks, Noel.

This was interesting reading, particularly Professor Harry Heseltine's Introduction of Dal Stiven's early life and insights into the novel, including a lot of waxing lyrical about its setting.

The story takes place in the fictional town of Mygarlie, with a distant echo of the small town of Ungarie. The lonely poppet heads of disused mines, wheat and sheep farming and the bordering mallee country, align perfectly with Ungarie.

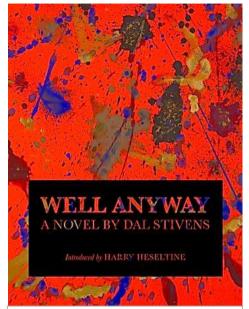


Image: Well Anyway by Dal Stivens. Source:

https://scholarly.info/book/well-anyway/

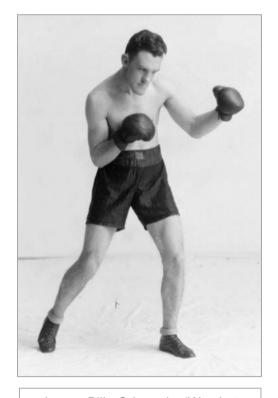


Image: Billy Grime, the 'Wombat Wollaper', from Wombat, NSW. A NSW State champion of the 1920s.

Source:

https://australianboxingzone.com/202 0/08/09/billy-grime/ The remote society harbouring the conflicts of the characters may be reminiscent of Stivens' early life in West Wyalong. He focuses on the patterns of domestic life during The Depression and the vernacular of the time. And it all centres around a prize fight.

The tensions between father and son, brother and half-brother, husband, *de facto* wife and barmaid, lead to an eruption of violence in a small-town tragedy. Stiven's uses an interesting narrative technique to explore every raw emotion, casting the action in the continuous present, in a series of first-person narratives. Stiven's voice is excluded, and all the information is expressed in the voices of the characters.

The novel's familiarity with the ways of our district in that capsule of time were written articulately and only by one who knew the sadness and violence of that life.

The 'cockies'—farmers—reminded me of my father-in-law, Jock, a 'cockie' from Grenfell, who left the mother country in the 1920s. He talked about the district prize fights and the local lads in those days who were looking for an easy bob and were too quick with their hands. And, yes, he was one of them.

—Editor

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Discovery Before Cook

—Story: Sightings and Landings in Australia before 1778



Image: The Duyfken was the first European ship to reach Australia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European marit ime exploration of Australia

Image: Dutch Navigator, Willem Janszoon (1606).

Source:

https://historymapaustralia.blogspot.co m/2013/08/1606-willem-janszoon.html

From the historical records of the past four centuries, it may be gathered that colonisation has been carried on by different countries with varying success.

The French writers on Australian vovages, the President de Brosses and the Abbe Prevot, claim French sailor, Jean Binot Paulmier de Gonneville as the discoverer of this continent.

Gonneville sailed from Harfleur, Normandy in June, 1503, was caught in a storm at the Cape, lost his reckoning, and drifted until he saw birds flying south. Following them, he reached a land where he lived for some time and to which he named 'Southern India'. He describes the natives as friendly and somewhat civilised. Recent voyagers thought him mistaken, as their experience with the natives on the north coast of New Holland was uncivilized. treacherous and cruel behaviour.

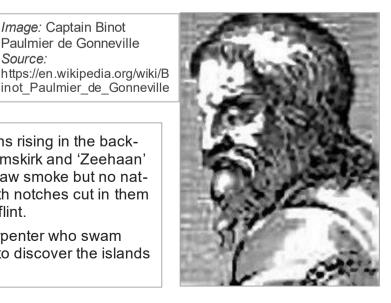
General Anthony Van Diemen, Governor of the Dutch settlements in the East Indies, wanted to explore the coast of the "Great South Land".

Commodore Abel Jans Tasman, a Dutch navigator, sailed from Batavia on August 14th, 1642, in the Heemskirk, with his brother, Gerritt Tasman, in the fly boat Zeehaan. They arrived at Mauritius on September 5th, and sailed east on October 8th. Altering the course to south-east, Abel Tasman sighted Point Hibbs, a cape on the west coast of Tasmania on November 24th, 1642, at 4 p.m. Tasman named the island 'Van Diemen's Land', in honour of the Governor of Batavia.

Image: Captain Binot Paulmier de Gonneville Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B

The explorers observed lofty mountains rising in the background, two of them later named 'Heemskirk and 'Zeehaan' by Flinders. They pulled ashore and saw smoke but no natives, and trees of enormous height with notches cut in them seven feet apart by the natives using flint.

The Dutch flag was hoisted by the carpenter who swam ashore, and Tasman sailed eastward to discover the islands of New Zealand.



Discovery Before Cook continued...

The Dutch had already visited the north-west and south coasts of Australia.

The Spaniards were anxious to acquire valuable possessions in the unknown regions of the south. In 1594, Spaniard, **Fernandez de Quiros**, was given charge of an expedition commissioned by the Viceroy of Peru to establish a settlement on one of the Solomon Islands.

Some years later, de Quiros prevailed on King Philip II of Spain to instruct the Governor of Peru to equip an expedition for the discovery of the great continent, which he believed lay south of the East Indies. Two vessels and a launch provided, the expedition set sail from Callao on December 21st, 1605, with **Luis Van de Torres** as chief in command, de Quiros as sailing captain.

On April 2nd, 1606, they discovered a vast territory full of great mountains. De Quiros named the new region 'Australia del Espiritu Santo', took formal possession of it in the name of the King of Spain, and founded a city he called 'La Nueva Jerusalem'.

The whole project was a failure. The natives were warlike and a battle ensued, and soon de Quiros abandoned the settlement. Torres parted company with de Quiros, and returned to his ship, *Almiranta*. He sailed along the west side of the land, which he found to be an island, and not the Australian continent.



1619 Frederick de Houtman
1642 Abel Tasman
1696 Willem de Vlamingh
1699 William Dampier
1770 James Cook
1788 Arthur Phillip
1797–1799 George Bass
1801–1803 Matthew Flinders

Source: Courtesy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_marit ime_exploration_of_Australia



Image: Commodore Abel Jans

Tasman Source: Courtesy

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abel_T

asman

For two months, Torres explored the seas north-east of Australia. Steering westward, he sighted the eastern shores of New Guinea, and sailed the passage of the straits which bears his name as the first European to sail it. He sighted Cape York, but returned without further explorations to the south. It is believed de Quiros had found one of the New Hebrides Islands and returned home, defeated.

The Dutch yacht *Duyfken* (Dove) was dispatched from Java to explore the coast of New Guinea. In March, 1606, it sailed westward along the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula and landed, but left needing provisions and because of the hostility of the natives. They named it 'Cape Keer-Weer' (Turn Again) after the incident.

In 1602, the Dutch East India Company was established, forming settlements in the Indian Archipelago, their headquarters in Batavia, Java. This mercantile company fitted out their vessels on a liberal scale, and their commanders were skillful and daring.

Discovery Before Cook continued...

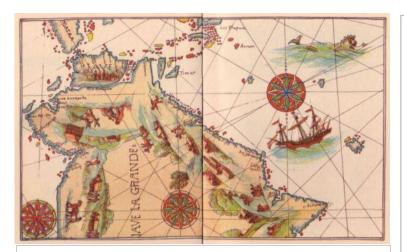


Image: Jave La Grande, the first map of Australia, 1530-36 *Source:* Courtesy

https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks05/0501051h.html#ch-12

In 1616, Hartog's Island, in Shark Bay, was discovered by **Dirk Hartog** in the *Eendracht*.

In 1618, **Zeachen** discovered and surveyed the land from North West Cape to 15 parallel of latitude, and the territory he named 'Arnheim's Land'.

In 1622, South West Cape was discovered and the West Australia Coast.

In 1628, Dutchman, Captain Peter Carpenter explored the coastline of the Gulf of Carpenteria from Cape Keer-Weer to Arnheim's Land.

Other navigators of the Dutch East India Company, also undertook the exploration of the same land. Tasman was continuing a series of discoveries initiated by the Dutch when he sighted the coast of Tasmania. But in the year 1770, several important discoveries in the southern hemisphere were made.

The Royal Society of London persuaded the English Government to send an expedition to observe the transit of Venus. **James Cook** commanded the *Endeavour*, which was chosen to carry the scientific party. "...The surveys he made in North America, as well as by his proficiency in astronomy", showed he was well fitted to take charge of the expedition. ⁴

In 1798 Governor Hunter of New South Wales, gave **Flinders** and **Bass** the sloop *Norfolk* for the purpose of making discoveries. They sailed round Van Diemen's Land, and discovered the river Tamar and its estuary, Port Dalrymple.

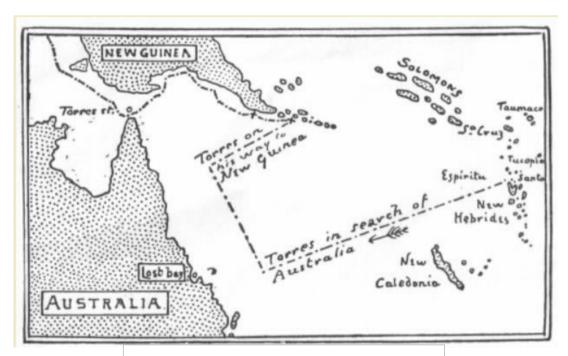


Image: Torres Track

Source: Courtesy 10 Reasons to Learn Spanish .com

Adopting a Grave

Most Australian gravesites have perpetual tenure, meaning the site cannot be resold or reused and are reserved for the inhabitant in perpetuity. However, this is only generally true where the site was originally purchased and not provided by the state.

In some cases, sites do have limited tenure (of say 50 to 100 years) in which case the cemetery is free to resell the plot once tenure has expired. In this case, often the remains will be removed to another location along with any headstone.



If you want to take responsibility for an older gravesite and particularly if you want to renovate, reuse or undertake any monumental work, you need to search for the direct relative of the person responsible for the grave (the Applicant), or the next of kin who is the main beneficiary to the Applicant of the grave in question.

If you can't locate a direct descendant, the cemetery may accept a statutory declaration stating that you have made attempts to find the appropriate descendant and that you are the next of kin with "authority of all concerned".

If you are successful in "adopting" the grave you will become legally responsible and this responsibility would then be passed on to your main beneficiaries.

If you find that the burial information is incorrect you can have the cemetery correct the record by providing certified proof (say a death certificate) with the correct information.

This does not mean that the cemetery will correct any headstone errors. To change the monumental work, you will have to be or become officially responsible for the site. ⁵

Believe it or Not!

How about that

Would you believe that in 1968, Australian Prime Minister Gordon said at the opening of National Export Week that Australia exports stainless steel cutlery to Sheffield, England; tulip bulbs to Holland; windscreen wiper blades to Iceland; waffle machines to America; safari suits to Zambia, Africa; and Irish stew to Scotland.

—AIATSIS/Collections/Dawn



A Whirlwind!

The Wyalong Star and Temora and Barmedman Advertiser, West Wyalong, 11 Jan 1895, featured an article in Local District News.

'At 2:00pm on the 10th January, the calm summer day was disturbed by a dense black column of dust to a tremendous height in the air travelling along the main street of West Wyalong.

When people were suddenly struck, they cried "Explosion! Earthquake!" before the whirlwind passed them and they saw spectators laughing.'



Spotlight: John Thomas 'Jack' Patten

—Story: Aboriginal Leader, Boxer, Journalist, Soldier, History-maker



Image: Jack Patten.
Source: Courtesy Britannica Kids
(http://www.pattenproject.com/jack/)

John Thomas 'Jack' Patten was born 28 March, 1905, at Cummeragunja, an Aboriginal reserve near Moama, NSW. He was the eldest of six children to John James Patten, a blacksmith and police tracker from Coranderrk, Victoria and his wife Christina Mary (nee Middleton), a local farmer's daughter.

At Cummeragunja, Jack was educated by schoolmaster T. S. James and Theresa Clements (nee Middleton), Jack's aunt. Despite school being a rarity for indigenous children in the early 1900's, Jack and his siblings continued their education in Tumbarumba and attended high school in West Wyalong. During WWI, Jack first demonstrated his organisational ability in his voluntary efforts with the Junior Red Cross.

Making His Way

After three years of high school at West Wyalong, Jack won a scholarship, then tried to join the Australian Navy to further his education—as encouraged by his parents and maternal grandfather, George Middleton. Rejected by the Australian Navy based on race, Jack turned to general labour, taking on jobs as a blacksmith's striker for his father, and later working for Sydney City Council.

In 1927, Jack was part of a boxing troupe that ventured to far north New South Wales. Whilst boxing under the name of "Ironbark" at Casino, he met Selina Avery, an educated Bundjalung woman from the Clarence River Aboriginal settlement of Baryulgil.

Jack and Selina had the first of seven children by 1929 and were married at Tabulam, NSW in 1931.

Appalled by the living conditions at Baryulgil, where strip bark gunyahs were still used and Aboriginal children were not allowed in the local school, Jack organised the local men to dismantle the Upper Copmanhurst house.



The Aborigines Progressive Association EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1938.

Front Row: T. Foster (Treasurer), J. T. Patten (President), W. G. Sherritt (Secretary).

Back Row: R. McKenzie, C. Charters, J. Timbrey, Sor. (Committeemen).

(W. Sims unavoidably absent)

Source: Courtesy https://koorihistory.com/jack-patten/

The house was relocated and rebuilt on Baryulgil Square, which was land owned by the Bundialung people.

Political Awakening

During The Depression, Jack Patten and his family relocated to Salt Pan Creek, an Aboriginal squatter's camp in Sydney's South-west. Jack joined an existing community of dispossessed Aboriginal people, including Jack's younger brother, George and father, Jack Patten Snr.

Spotlight: John Thomas 'Jack' Patten continued...



Image: Protestors on Australia Day, 1938. Source: Courtesy State Library of NSW

Working at Sydney City Council, Jack moved his family to La Perouse. In the 1930s, Jack met Michael Sawtell, who encouraged his strong oratory ability and public speaking on Sundays at the Domain. In 1937, Jack and William Ferguson founded the Aborigines Progressive Association.

Through Sawtell, Jack was exposed to White Australian politics, and P.R Stephensen and W.J Miles offered him an office in their publishing business. In 1938, Jack wrote and published the first Aboriginal newspaper, *The Abo Call*.

In his efforts to expose the living conditions of his people to the Australian populus, Jack hitchhiked through Eastern Australia, noting local Aboriginal concerns and giving them publicity in his national newspaper.

Jack Patten and William Ferguson held a conference at Australia Hall in Sydney on 26 January 1938, to mark the sesquicentenary of European settlement in Australia and the first Aboriginal Day of Mourning. The next week, Jack led a deputation of twenty Aboriginal men and women to meet Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and his wife, Dame Enid, and the Minister for the Interior, Jack McEwan.

Speaking about the delegation's goals, Jack then issued the Prime Minister a copy of the APA's 10-point Plan for Citizens Rights. ⁶

In Feb 1939, Jack encouraged the Cummeragunja residents to leave and cross the Murray River for Victoria in the Cummeragunja Walk-Off. For his actions Jack was arrested and charged with inciting Aborigines.

The APA Split and Kristallnacht Protest

Jack Patten led a delegation of Aborigines Progressive Association members to the German Consulate in Sydney, to protest the persecution of Jews in NAZI Germany. This and the AAL's Melbourne protest, were the only two protests against the acts of the *Kristallnacht* in the world, but the media painted them as drunken and disloyal.

Jack's split with Ferguson after the Cummeragunja Walk-Off, came to a head when Ferguson led the Dubbo branch of the APA to dismiss Jack as the organisation's President. From then, Patten's branch only maintained New South Wales, Barmah and Shepparton in Victoria, and Cherbourg and Beaudesert in S.E Queensland.

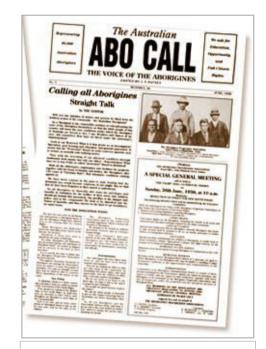


Image: The Australian Abo Call Source: Courtesy https://koorihistory.com/jack-patten/



Image: Jack Patten on the Day of Mourning Protest, 1938. Source: Courtesy of State Library of NSW

Spotlight: John Thomas 'Jack' Patten continued...

As it was illegal for Aboriginal people to serve in WWII, Jack campaigned for the law to be amended. When the change came, Patten handed the APA Presidency to his brother in-law, William Onus and enlisted in the Australian Army on December 12, 1939, serving in Palestine, Egypt and Israel.

Stolen Children

Discharged from active military service in April 1942 with a shrapnel-damaged knee, Jack served with the Allied Works Council, building roads and infrastructure at Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

Jack later returned to family life and labouring on the Clarence River, near Baryulgil, NSW, before his six oldest children were stolen by the Aborigines Protection Board, leaving only the youngest, Cecil.

Daughter, Muriel was sent to Cootamundra and the younger five girls to Bombaderry, but were later reunited at Cootamundra and trained as domestic serfs. Jack retrieved eldest son, John at Bombaderry and took him home.



Image: Jack & Selina Patten, WWII.

Source: Courtesy

https://koorihistory.com/jack-patten/

Return to Victoria

By 1946, Jack Patten had relocated to Victoria, depressed by his wartime experiences and had separated from his wife. He found work at Jackson's Track, felling trees and labouring in saw mills.

Returning to Melbourne, Jack continued his work in the Aboriginal civil rights movement, working to ensure that Aboriginal people had adequate representation when appearing in court. His final years saw him as President of the Victorian Aboriginal Elders Council and reuniting a final time with William Ferguson to oppose British atomic testing at Maralinga in South Australia.

Killed in a motor accident in Fitzroy in 1957 and buried at Fawkner Cemetery, Jack Patten was 52 years old. He was survived by wife, Selina and their seven children. ⁶



St John's Cemetery, Parramatta is Australia's oldest surviving cemetery and the most intact Georgian cemetery in NSW.

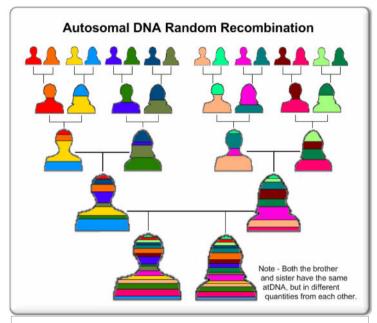
In use between 1789 and 1824, it contains the oldest known undisturbed grave in Australia, marked by a slab of river sandstone which bears the inscription: "H.E. Dodd 1791."

Henry Edward Dodd was Gov. Phillip's butler. He was buried there on 29th January 1791. ⁷

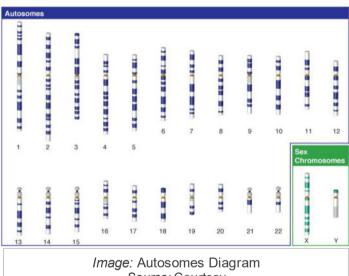


What is Autosomal DNA?

—DNA: Partnering your Genealogical Research



Source: Pritchard DNA Project (www.pritcharddnaproject.com) Courtesy Penzig Collection, NSW Govt.



Source: Courtesy
https://isogg.org/w/index.php?curid=652

Everyone inherits approximately 50% of Autosomal DNA from each of their parents. When you have a DNA match, you both share a specific portion of DNA and therefore, you must share a common ancestor from whom that portion was inherited.

The amount of DNA you share with a match indicates what your relationship might be with that person within an expected range. Once you have identified your most recent common ancestor with a match, you can add them to your family tree.

An autosome is any chromosome that is not a sex chromosome. The members of an autosome pair in a diploid cell have the same morphology, unlike those in allosomal (sex chromosome) pairs, which may have different structures. The DNA in autosomes is collectively known as atDNA or auDNA.

For example, humans have a diploid genome that usually contains 22 pairs of autosomes and one allosome pair (46 chromosomes total). The autosome pairs are labeled with numbers (1–22 in humans) roughly in order of their sizes in base pairs, while allosomes are labeled with their letters.

An Autosomal DNA test is the most popular test (and the cheapest) and it is a good test to start with. It will give you matches with male and female relatives from your maternal and paternal sides of your tree.

You are related in some way to each match generally within the last 7-8 generations.

An Autosomal DNA test can give you a:

- list of people you match with and the means to contact them
- An ethnicity estimate showing the geographical location your ancestors could have been from
- The ability to access your raw data to upload to other sites 8

'Happy Go Lucky'

—Newspaper Comic Tribute to Reg Rattey V.C.

The 25th August, 1945, edition of *The Argus*, Melbourne, on page 28, featured a tribute to Australia's 15th Victoria Cross recipient, **Sgt. Reginald Rattey V.C.** 9

The tribute was unique because the article was presented in a 'comic strip' with drawn scenes and speech bubbles. This was a popular expression of romanticing the heroism of these Australian soldiers, as if to pit them beside the likes of the infallible Superman.



SGT. (**** CAL.) RATTEY BROUGT HONOUR TO THE MILITIA WHEN AS A MEMBER OF THE 25 BATT. HE WON THE VICTORIA CROSS IN SOUTH BOUGAINVILLE ON MARCH 22-1945. DESCRIBED AS A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY SORT REG RATTEY WAS A MOST RETIRING HERO AND SAID HE WOULD RATHER BE A FARMER THAN A SOLDIER





BARMEDMAN, A SMALL TOWN IN SOUTH N.S.W TOOK A HOLIDAY WHEN THE PRIME MINISTERS TELEGRAM INFORMED REG RATTEYS FAMILY, ON A FARM NEAR BY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE EMPIRES HIGHEST DECORATION



BATTALION SET OUT TO CAPTURE A JAP POSITION ASTRIDE THE BUIN ROAD



REALISING THAT HEAVY CASUALTIES WOULD FOLLOW A CONCERTED MOVE, HE TOOK HIS BREN GUN AND RUSHED FORWARD ALONE



FIRING FROM THE HIP HE RACED INTO BITTER ENEMY FIRE, HE SMASHED THE FIRST POST WITH A GRENADE AND THEN RACED BACK FOR MORE BOMBS

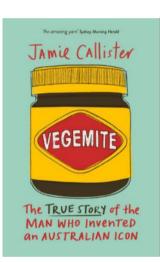
14

'Happy Go Lucky' continued ...









The True Story of the Man who Invented an Australian Icon

By Jamie Callister

Paperback

modern Australia.

Released on Vegemite's 100th anniversary, this book is the true story of its inventor, Cyril Callister and the rocky road to Vegemite's acceptance by Australians to become an icon. Spanning the Gold Rush, The Depression and two world wars, it opens a window on the evolution of

Booktopia: \$26.95 (May 2023)

https://www.booktopia.com.au/vegemite-jamie-callister/book/9781922616630.html

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY USING IRISH NEWSPAPERS & OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS

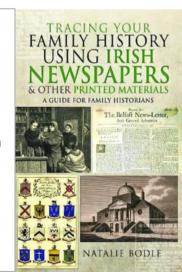
By Natalie Bodle

Paperback

\$39.99 Preorder (1 April)

Tracing your Family History using Irish Newspapers is a great introduction for the family historian into Irish newspapers, journals and periodicals and how these resources can be used to paint a picture of the lives of your ancestors with so much more than what can be found in primary source material. An informative guide with hints and tips throughout.

https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/tracing-your-family-history-using-irish-newspapers-and-other-printed-materials-by-natalie-bodle-9781399062282



It Began with Isaac

—Story: A Wyalong Goldfields Pioneer and a Family Legacy

Isaac Fletcher was born in 1867, in Grenfell, NSW, and died on 29 May 1928. His life as a Wyalong pioneer was memorialised in his obituary (*West Wyalong Advocate*, 1 Jun 1928).

Described as "one of the oldest and most respected pioneers of the early days of the Wyalong goldfields", Isaac passed away after a lengthy illness, having moved with his wife, Sophie to Kogarah Bay, Sydney in 1926.

Devoted to the Methodist Church, kind and well-respected, he was survived by his "...widow and a large family of sons and daughter and step-sons and daughters. The whole of the five step-sons (the Stanford brothers) were on active service during the Great War and returned."

This was a family with an interesting history and, after some research, that proved to be true.

Isaac Fletcher married Sophia 'Sophie' Elizabeth Stanford nee Brown (1865-1950) on 11 Mar 1904, in West Wyalong. They had 6 children: Hilda Lillian Fletcher (1899-1906), Dollie Fletcher (1902-1903), Victor Fletcher (1904-1977), Henry Fletcher (1906-1949), Louisa Mathilda Fletcher (1908-?) and Violet Evelyn Fletcher (1910-1992).

Sophie Fletcher's Obituary (*West Wyalong Advocate*, 13 Apr 1950), tells us that she and first husband, John Nile Stanford, a gold quartz miner, had moved to the Wyalong goldfields early on. They had seven sons, two dying in infancy, and two daughters. John Stanford was killed in the Perseverance Mine in 1898. A branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association (AMA) was established, and Jack Goggin, the manager of the mine, was elected chairman of a committee to raise money for John's widow and children.

MR. ISAAC FLETCHER

Mr. Isaac Fletcher, one of the oldest, and most respected ploneers of the early days of the Wyalong goldfields, died on Tuesday night at his residence, 31 Carlton Crescent, Kogarah Bay. He had been seriously ill for some time past, and the end was not unexpected.

The late Mr. Fletcher came to West Wyalong shortly after the outbreak of the field, and for many years was engaged in mining pursuits. Later he entered the building trade, and was so engaged until he left West Wyalong to reside in Sydney in February, 1926. For many years he was closely, associated with the Methodist Church here as lay preacher and Superintendent of the Sunday School. On the occasion of their departure from West Wyalong, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher were entertained and made several presentations, when warm tributes were also paid to the estimable qualities and devotion to the Church. Of a kindly, amfable and unassuming disposition, Mr. Fletcher enjoyed the high esteem and respect of a wide circle of friends. and the news of his death will be received with genuine regret.

He is survived by a widow and a large family of sons and daughters and step sons and daughters. The whole of the five step-sons (the Stanford brothers) were on active service during the Great War.

Image: West Wyalong Advocate, Death Notices, Mr Isaac Fletcher Source: Courtesy Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper /article/128745751



Image: Sophia Elizabeth Stanford/Stephens/Fletcher (nee

Brown)

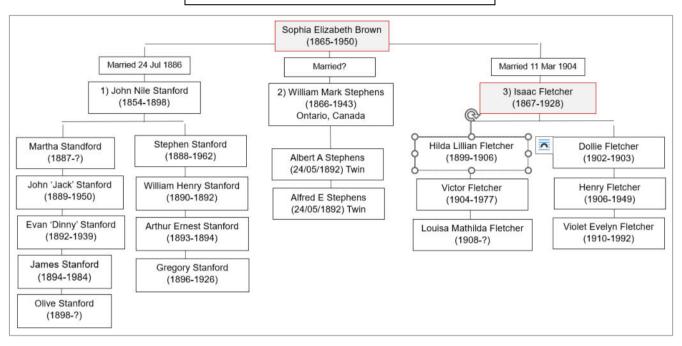
Source: Courtesy

https://www.myheritage.com/researc h/record-1-303456411-1-609975 Isaac Fletcher was in mining for many years and, later, in the building trade until he and Sophie left West Wyalong and moved to Sydney in Feb 1926. He was closely associated with the Methodist Church as a lay preacher and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Rev. V T Smith said at a Methodist Church gathering, that "...he desired very earnestly to thank...Mr Fletcher for his Sunday School work, and his assistance as the local preacher..." (*The Wyalong Advocate and Mining*, NSW, 20 Oct 1917). The same newspaper, on 21 Sept 1950, noted the Methodist President speaking of "Isaac Fletcher, Sunday School Superintendent", when he visited.

But much was to happen before then, including the family's involvement in a court case and the two world Wars.

Sophia Elizabeth Brown's Family Tree



In 'Wyalong Quarter Sessions, 24 April' (*Wyalong Star*, NSW, 27 Apr 1906) Isaac and Sophia Fletcher stood witness to the indecent assault of Emily Ellen Brown (1881-1951), the wife of Sophie's brother, Henry Brown.

Despite having "...nailed the windows down and pegged the front door..." Emily heard an intruder in the room and asked who he was. He responded, "For Christsake missus don't go crook." She recognised his voice as Edwin Henry Bollard (1882-1917), the husband of Sophie's daughter, Martha Stanford (1887-1921). Emily struggled with Bollard until she unlocked the door and met Sophie and Isaac Fletcher outside. Bollard returned home and the three confronted him there. Sophie asked Bollard, "Are you not ashamed of yourself?", and he responded that he had "done nothing." Emily hit him and called him a liar. The next day, Emily's husband returned from work in Temora and reported the assault to the police.

When Isaac Fletcher was deposed, he told the Court that



Image: Emily Ellen Brown and Henry Brown.

Source: Courtesy

https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-397025921-1-502648/henry-harry-brown-in-myheritage-family-trees

he and Sophie had heard a noise from Mrs Brown's house. He went to the fence and spotted Bollard leaving. When Bollard was deposed, he advised there was no assault and he only "went there for a shake down." The jury returned a 'Not Guilty' verdict, but added that Bollard "...was deserving of a severe censure."

World War 1

All five Stanford sons, Steve, James, John, Evan and Gregory, were on active service abroad in World War I and, incredibly, all returned. Sophia and Isaac's son, Henry Fletcher was a prisoner of war in Malaya and suffered the effects until his death in 1949.

It Began with Isaac continued...

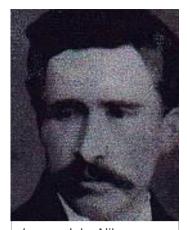


Image: John Nile Stanford Source: https://www.myheritage.c om/research/record-1-

John Nile Stanford and Sophia's sons—Isaac Fletcher's step-sons:

James 'Bulla' Stanford (10/09/1894-16/03/1984) married (1) Annie Miriam Sybil Oakman, 3 Mar 1919 at the Methodist Church, West Wyalong. 2 x daughters. Also married (2) Nancy Thelma (Pansy) Marshall later in life in 1972. James died in 1984, in Wagga Wagga.

WWI: Enlisted as service no.2228, age 20, labourer, single, living in Darlington. C of E. Private, 20 infantry Battalion.

Embarkation: 30/09/1915, HMAT Argyllshire, Sydney. 10

Gregory Stanford, (29/10/1896-5/12/1926) married Effie Vera Annie Perry in c.1919. 2 x children. He died in a motorbike accident in 1926, in Kogarah, NSW.

WWI: Enlisted 14/02/16, service no. 1989, age 21, labourer, Single. Living in West Wyalong. Private, 56th Infantry Battalion. Embarkation: 23/6/1916, HMAT Barambah, Sydney. 11



Image: Gregory Stanford Source: https://www.myheritage.co m/research/record-1-397025921-1-505203



Stanford Source: https://www.mvheritage .com/research/record-1-283137921-1-504452

Image: Evan 'Dinny'



Image: James 'Bulla' Stanford Source: https://www.mvheritage. com/research/record-1-283137921-1-504453



Image: John 'Jack' Stanford Source: https://www.myheritage.com/ research/record-1-283137921-1-504451

Image: Stephen Stanford served with the 1st ANZAC Cyclist Battalion. Source: https://vwma.org.au/

explore/people/2215



John 'Jack' Stanford (1889-1950) married Mabel D Eacott in 1918. 7 x children. He died in 1950 in Botany, NSW.

WWI: service no. 2365, age 25, single, living West Wyalong, C of E. Driver, 10 Company ASC. Embarkation: 20/10/1914, HMAT Armadale, Melbourne. 12

Stephen Stanford (1888-19/05/1962) married Florence Maude Victoria Powell in West Wyalong, 19 May 1909. 7 x children. He died in 1962, and was buried in Temora Cemetery.

WWI: Enlisted 28 Aug 1916, 2nd Australian Infantry Battalion, as Lance Corporal. The Virtual War Memorial records his service as a Private in 1st ANZAC Cyclist Battalion, and his service number as 713. He served between 28/08/1916-20/10/1918. 13

Evan 'Dinny' Stanford (1892-24/01/1939) married Leila (Lillia) Matilda Dyason on 10 Oct 1925 in Glebe, NSW. (No children). Evan died in 1939 and is buried in Temora Cemetery. ¹⁴

WWI: service no. 3015, single, Royal Australian Navy, midshipman.

Embarkation: 4 Aug 1914, HMAS Australia, Syd.

Of the five brothers, 'Dinny' would be written about the most during the war, because his detailed letters to his mother, Sophie were given to the *Wyalong Advocate* for publication. Dinny's wartime accounts with the enemy were full of enthusiasm and the hope to get the ships that got away.

Dinny had 8 years in the Australian navy, and by 1919, he was ready to come home. The *West* Wyalong Advocate, 24 Jan 1919, published his letter to Sophie from HMAS Australia after the surrender of the German Fleet. He complains of their six months wait to return home because their relief was hit with an epidemic of vellow fever, and if they are not relieved, Dinny writes, "...it means I am going to get into trouble, because I am not going to sit quiet and be sat on." He speaks of being on the flagship of the 'suicide squadron', because for two years their vessels acted as bait for the German navy, enticing the them to chase them. The last two years, they were conveying merchantmen to Holland and Denmark, and were the only squadron not to lose a ship in seas with "plenty of subs".

Dinny gives a thrilling account of the German navy's surrender on 21 November 1918 in the North Sea. When they sighted the German Fleet of 70 ships, the *HMAS Australia* was leading one line of the 1400 Allied ships and the *HMAS Barham* was leading the other, to close in behind them and escort them into harbour. "In case of treachery, we had all our guns loaded and trained on them," he adds, and "In my case, I would only have liked an excuse for sinking the lot." ¹⁵

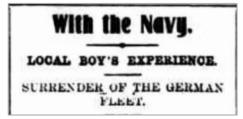


Image: HMAS Australia crew washing their kit on deck. Source: Courtesy https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-australia-

Local Lad on the 'Australia.'

Following are extracts from a letter which Mrs. I. Fletcher, of West Wyalong, has received from her son. Evan Stanford, who is on board H.M.A S. "Australia." The letter is dated Callao, South America, 18/1/'14:—

Since we left Sydney on the 4th of August last we have travelled some, I can tell you. After we left Suva, we went to Fanning Island, then to Camelia Bay, in Mexico, then to Columbia, then to Peerless Island, then to Panama, and now we are at Callao. Our next stop will be Valparaiso. I don't think we will be back in Australia before 1916, and perbaps not then. We have chased five German men o'-war for 25,000 miles, and then ran them into the arms of another fleet, which sank four of them, but some got away. We did not get a shot, but perhaps we will be lucky enough to meet the Dresden (that is the one which got away), and then "Good-bye Dres-We have not seen a potato for six weeks, and we only have one meal of fresh meat a week. We have not had leave ashore since the 14th June, and I don't expect we will till about next May. I can tell you I could do with a run to stretch my legs."

Image: Evan Stanford's Letter, West Wyalong Advocate, 10 Mar 1915.

Source: Courtesy

https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-

10969-2064263844



It Began with Isaac continued...

Evan 'Dinny' Stanford was popular, jovial and recognised for his bravery in battle, including the Battle of Jutland. He was an outstanding rugby league footballer and, for many years, a plaster's labourer.

On 22 Jun 1937, a year before Dinny died, Lillia sued him in the NSW Supreme Court for a dissolution of marriage on the grounds of desertion for 3 years without just cause. ¹⁶

He was working at Temora District Hospital when he passed away at 47 years.

STANFORD v STANFORD.

Lillia Matilda Stanford (formerly Humphrey) v Evan Stanford. Marriage, October, 1925, at Glebe, Issue, desertion. Decree nisi. Mr. Taylor (Messrs. W. C. Taylor and Scott) for petitioner.

Image: Divorce Notice. Evan & Lillia Stanford. The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, 3 Dec 1938.

Source: Courtesy

https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10450-26245863/sydney-morning-herald-

nsw?snippet=cede413afae823b7be5d15ef66b52ca5#



Image: Henry Fletcher's ID on "Oath of Enlistment, 3 Dec 1940.

Source: Courtesy NAA

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImag

e.aspx?B=4628503

Isaac and Sophie's second son, **Henry Fletcher** (18/10/1906-28/05/1949) was born and raised in West Wyalong, and married Effie Vera Annie Perry in 1929.

Henry enlisted on 3 Dec 1940, in Paddington, and was a labourer, married, and living in Kogarah Bay, NSW. NSW Service no. NX66114, Warrant Officer Class 2, General Hospitals, Australian Military Forces (Army WW2). Embarkation: Malaya, 2 Feb 1941, Sydney.

Henry was promoted to Sergeant 15 Feb 1942. The AIF in Malaya reported Henry missing 1 Apr 1942. On 4 Jun 1943 he was 'Missing believed POW'. On 9 July, he was confirmed a 'Prisoner of War in Malaya'. On 8th Sept 1945, Henry was 'Recovered from Japs at Changi PW Camp and sent to Sydney 10th Oct 1945 as a casualty.

Henry's 'Proceedings for Discharge' form (11/02/1946) document his war service of 1896 days—including 1710 days in active overseas service—and his discharge from the AAF on 11 Feb 1946.

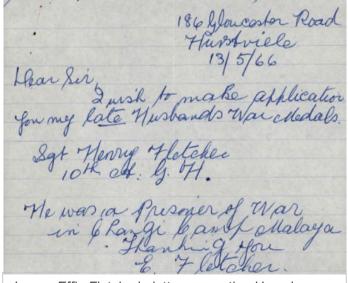


Image: Effie Fletcher's letter requesting Henry's war

medals (1966)

Source: Courtesy NAA 17

A 'Determination of Demobilization Priority (21/11/45) was given 'Allotment of Special Priority' due to Henry's status as an ex-POW of Japan in Changi Prison, Malaya.

Henry' obituary (*West Wyalong Advocate*, NSW, 16 Jun 1949) described his death "...at such a comparatively early age," and as resulting "...through privations suffered while he was a prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp for three and a half years ...and has not been in good health since."

On 13 May, 1966, Effie Fletcher wrote to Australian Defence for Henry's war medals. On 6th Jun 1966, they were sent to her: the 1939/45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal and the Australian Service Medal.

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Believe it or Not!

Monkeys as Coin Testers

The Macleay Argus Newspaper, Kempsey, NSW, on 29th Jan, 1892, featured an article about the Siam (Thailand) merchants seeking apes to identify counterfeit coins.

Vast numbers of counterfeit coins were in circulation, and the monkeys proved highly adept at distinguishing 'base' coins from official coins by putting them in their mouths. If a base coin was detected, the monkey vented with angry chattering. ¹⁸



Break and Exit

The Wyalong Star and Temora and Barmedman Advertiser, West Wyalong, 11 Aug 1903, featured an article: 'Prisoners Escape'.

Prisoners, Gilbert Edward Green and Thomas Gordon made a 'break and exit' from Wyalong lock-up after pleading guilty to 'break and enter' in a house at Buddigower Station, receiving a Sentence of six months.

After a night running through the mallee scrub to Yalgogrin, they were captured and charged with breaking out of gaol. ¹⁹



Research Requests

Colleen Manual is looking for:
Alfred Bertie McGrath (d.8/10/1932 West Wyalong) and Irene Elsie McGrath (d. 23/4/1929 West Wyalong)



Paul and Sue Fredrickson are looking for:

<u>Bernard Ryan</u> (b.14/11/1872 Blakney Creek near Yass)

His parents James and Bridget Ryan. Bridget buried

Wyalong cemetery in 1912.



Image: Bernard Ryan's grave, Rookwood Cemetery, Syd. Source:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/260905674/bernard-ryan



Richard Gilbert is looking for a property his mother (**no name given**) stayed on in 1942. All mail was sent to PO Box 120 West Wyalong in 1940's.



Thank you to Bennie Campbell nee Hines for the parcel of service sheets covering Weethalle, Wyalong and Ungarie. They will be very helpful.



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Notice Board

March

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG)

Topic: The Unruly Rural Rush

Online Zoom: 16 March 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Member \$5. Non-member \$20.



Delve into the unruly rural rush of colonial squatters and pasturalists moving inland, followed by shepherds and stockmen. Small towns sprung up with trades and shop keepers to provide to the needs of the rural population.

https://sag.org.au/event-5481418?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=3/1/2024

April

Museum of History NSW Inquest Index: 1916-1963

Online: 22 March 2024, 10:30 a.m. FREE.



GENEALOGISTS

GENEAL OCISTS

Just updated with surviving inquest papers from 1916-1939 and April - Dec 1963 (Glebe Coroners Court), the inquest index is a valuable source for family historians. This webinar will show you how to use the Inquest Index and explore the new additions.

https://mhnsw.au/whats-on/events/inquest-index-1916-1963/

May

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) Friday Hangout with SAG



Free virtual **Hang Out with SAG**, most Fridays at 4pm with a range of speakers who tell stories of their family history research.

https://sag.org.au/event-

5527585?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5/1/2024

June

The Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) The Writing Group June Meeting

Online Zoom: 13 June 2024, 10:30 p.m.

Non-Members: \$20.

Share goodreads, discussion, helpdesk workshop, guick guiz, listen to a guest speaker.

https://sag.org.au/event-5481320?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=6/1/2024

Ye Olde Words...

Brabble:

To argue stubbornly about trifles; wrangle. Noisy, quarrelsome chatter.

—Dictionary.com



Snowbrowth: slush

Dating back to the 1590s, snowbrowth refers to freshly melted snow, as in "This morning there was a perfect carpet of white on the lawn, but now it's merely snowbrowth."



-ExpressWriters.com

Further Reading/Footnotes:

- https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/curio/exhibit/196/indexc049.html?from_collection=2&page=4#exhibit
- https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/archive/curio/exhibit/483/close upfb98.html?from collection=2&page=17
- ³ https://www.myancestors.com.au/
- 4 https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-26616416
- ⁵ https://www.myancestors.com.au/blog/adopting-a-grave
- 6 https://koorihistory.com/jack-patten/
- https://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/cemeteries.html
- 8 https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/resources-dna
- https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/964228
- https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1890977
- https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1931840
- https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1793470
- https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-20202-274974/stephen-stanford-in-australia-first-world-war-nominal-roll#fullscreen
- https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/219900518/evan-stanford#source
- https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10969-2068847948/stoker-evan-stanford-in-newspapername-index-usa-canada-australia#fullscreen
- https://www.myheritage.com/research/record-10450-26232629/sydney-morning-herald-nsw?snippet=132ce67f614365dbe2222a4a66dd2906#fullscreen
- https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?
- https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/234193732/25331170
- https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/144886303/17518555



Old Advertising

Image: The Wyalong Star and Temora and Barmedman Advertiser, West Wyalong, 22 Oct 1895, Advertising, Page 4.

Source:

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/17516321Trove