

HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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Member contributions always welcome!

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

Patron:	Emma McBride, Federal MP for Dobell
Meetings:	Are held monthly on the 2nd Saturday between February and November, at 'The Cottage', Wyong Old School Community Centre, Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong. Phone 02 4351 2211
Resources and research assistance at 'The Cottage' – available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 10:00am and 3:00pm. After hours by appointment.	
Fees:	Non-members \$10.00 per hour between 10:00am and 12:00 noon and 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Members Free.

Office Bearers 2024

President:	Lynda Smith
Vice-President:	Lyn Hagstrom
Secretary & Minutes Secretary:	Ann Holland
Treasurer:	Lyn Clark-Duff
Management Committee:	
All the above executive plus Peta Baigent, Martin Fisher, Regina Hogan, Roger Lewis, Kerrie Metcalfe and John Selwood.	

Assets Manager & IT Manager:	Roger Lewis
Bookstall Supervisor:	Ann Holland
Caretaker:	Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Administrator	Tuesday: Lyn Hagstrom Wednesday: Helen Hord Thursday: Wayne Bermingham
Cottage Relief Administrator:	Lorraine Cameron
Cottage Roster Planner:	Cheryl Whamond
Courses in Family History Supervisor:	Ellen Sheerin
Electronic Journal Distributor	Lorraine Cameron
Grant Applications Planner:	VACANT
Groundsman:	Will Ferrett
Group Collector of Statistics:	Martin Fisher
Guest Speaker Co-ordinator:	Regina Hogan
Irish Research Tips:	Kerrie Metcalfe
Journal Snippet Critiques:	
Librarian:	Lyn Hagstrom
Librarian Assistants:	Peta Baigent, Dellas Johnston, Sue Fisher
Local Research Officer & Project Organiser:	John Selwood
Membership Secretary:	Wayne Bermingham
Printing Publications – Books & CDs:	Roger Lewis & John Selwood
Proof Reading:	Helen Burkett, John Selwood & Terry Joyce
Public Officer:	Roger Lewis
Publicity Officer:	Lynda Smith
Publications [Books, CDs] printing:	Roger Lewis, John Selwood
Raffle Organiser:	Christine McKenzie
Scrapbooking [Photos]:	Lyn Johnston
Tree of Life Editor:	Helen Johnston-Lord
Unrelated Certificates Organiser:	Jacqueline Wieringa
Webpage Manager:	Roger Lewis
Weekly Newsletter Editor:	Wayne Bermingham
Welfare:	Administrators

Contact Members through 'The Cottage'. 02 4351 2211

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lynda Smith – President – LM2



As the saying goes, it's been a mixed bag, as far as Group activities are concerned, so far in 2024

On the positive side, we have signed a five year lease with Central Coast Council at a peppercorn rent. Work is yet to begin on the demolition/rebuilding of the two fire-damaged buildings at the top of our access driveway. A DA has been submitted and, once approved by the Dept. of Local Government, the badly damaged building will be fully demolished. Until this is done, the full extent of the damage to the second building cannot be confirmed. It is hoped that the second building can be repaired and returned to its former use.

Members who have attended our various social events this year have enjoyed themselves. The St. Patrick's Day event was a chance for attendees to display their Irish ancestry. Next year we propose that some of their stories be told in more detail, so get researching! Remember we have an active Irish Special Interest Group. Its next meeting is in May, so come along and learn something new. Make use of our other SIGs as well as our monthly Zoom sessions on different topics. The main aim of our group is to help people with their research.



Photo Lynda Smith

We had to cancel our Military Matters Seminar this month due to low participation numbers. The speakers we had scheduled would have provided great insight into the holdings of the National Archives, and the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park. There were two bus trips scheduled for the near future but the Sandgate Cemetery trip has been cancelled. The second is to Museums of History Kingswood [aka NSW State Archives] on June 1. It is hoped that this will be fully booked and that members will gain some new information from visiting these locations.

On a personal note, I have found some new European connections of late, and am enjoying the challenge of deciphering unusual surname/first name spellings and locating far away home towns. One family is from southern Denmark [the ELLMOOS] and another from the Netherlands [VRINS]. As you can imagine, spelling variations abound for these two! I have also made great use of our subscription to the Biographical Database of Australia and our early V rolls of NSW BDMs pre 1856 to tidy up some of my early convict and pioneer families. I have also tracked family movements in New Zealand by accessing school records for many

on my father's side. The entries can provide actual dates of birth for the student, a parent's name and address, previous school, dates of enrolment/leaving and next destination. Such a treasure!

Our excellent Cottage resources are vastly under-utilised. Not everything can be found via Ancestry or Google. Please make an effort to visit the Cottage on a regular basis. If you can't physically get to the Cottage, please send your enquiries in via email, wfhg06@westnet.com.au or phone [02 4351 2211] and chat with one of our administrators. Your query can be investigated by our excellent Volunteer Research Assistants or our Librarian.

On that note, we are in need of more members to help maintain the Research Assistant roster. A number of regulars are enjoying overseas trips at present and others have had to withdraw with family commitments or personal illness. If you can spare just one day a month, from 10am-3pm, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Cheryl on 0422 013 888 or Cheryl.26@bigpond.com

To those members who have recently lost loved ones, our sincere condolences. Please know we are here to support you in any way we can. Take care, Lynda. ... ❖

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Welcome to our May 2024 edition.

This time we are featuring Budgewoi. I would like to thank those who have provided Helen Burkett and myself with their memories and comments. Sorting through the information available has been absorbing and I have discovered much interesting information about this area. We hope to highlight other areas here on the magical Central Coast.



Please enjoy this issue and your stories and reactions are always welcome. Email your stories to me at wfhgtol@westnet.com.au Our next deadline is 21 July 2024. ... ❖

ACCESSIBILITY

Our wheelchair accessibility has been closed temporarily due to the fire in April 2023. Central Coast Council are unable to tell us a date when we can again use our access road and carpark. *The Cottage* has one basic accessible toilet.



If you find our hill and stairs a challenge too far, contact the Cottage on 4351 2211 and someone will be happy to help you safely to our door. ... ❖



WYONG HISTORY WALK 2024

Lyn Clark-Duff, member 907

On Saturday, 10 February Wyong Family History Group was involved in the Love Lanes Festival held in the Wyong CBD, Wyong Town Park and surrounding areas. I was privileged to be in the first session of the "John Wayne Show" and learnt a great deal about the history of Wyong. John Selwood shared his knowledge about the pioneers and early businesses of Wyong and Wayne did a wonderful job trying to match the historical photos to each stage of the talk.

Meanwhile, Lyn Hagstrom along with hubby Paul did a wonderful public relations job talking to interested parties about what we do and how we may be able to help them and handing out pamphlets. I believe Chris Ullrich joined them after I left. I cannot take any credit – I was simply a consumer on this occasion.

Well done John, Wayne and Lyn. ... ❖



DID YOU KNOW HELP IS AVAILABLE?

As a member you are entitled to assistance when you're doing research here at the 'Cottage'. Volunteers are on duty every day ready and waiting to help you locate records and even add flesh to some your ancestor's bones with such details as where they lived, what they did and perhaps even what they looked like. ... ❖



AT THE COTTAGE

Australia Day Morning Tea – Celebrating Our National Day

Lamingtons and Australian Flags were all part of our Aussie Morning Tea.

25 January: Eight members made a special effort to attend our morning tea despite the rather unpleasant hot weather that day. An excellent morning was had by all with an abundance of food, some enjoyable background music and special decorations to set the mood.



St. Patrick's Day Morning Tea

A dozen or so members celebrated at the 'Cottage' on 21st March and all had a fun morning.

We left our Irish research names up on the wall for those who attend the Irish SIG later in the month. Please check them out and add to the collection if you have any Irish ancestors.

Special thanks to those who brought the huge amount of nibbles, we had leftovers as usual.

It would be lovely to see more in attendance at such social events. It would also be helpful if members put their name down on the booking sheets. If we don't have many names down, there is the possibility that events will be cancelled. We also need to know how many to cater for at social events. It would be unforgivable to not have enough food!



Anzac Day Commemoration

10 members attended our Anzac Day Commemoration morning on 24 April. All were most impressed by the display and quantity of material available from our library. Well done to the organisers.



February General Meeting

Regina Hogan Member 768



At our inaugural meeting of the year held last Saturday, attendees enjoyed an engaging presentation by fellow member Robert Patton. Through captivating photos and stories, Robert took us on a fascinating journey along the Old Silk Road in India and Pakistan. Notably, this gathering marked our first hybrid meeting, with some members participating via Zoom.

March General Meeting

Unfortunately, due to unexpected circumstances, our Guest Speaker Danielle Lautrec was unable to attend this meeting, we hope to include her talk on Improving Your Family History in our future schedule.

One of the recorded sessions from last year's Conference made an interesting and informative substitute.

April General Meeting

Regina Hogan Member #533

Meeting attendees enjoyed an engaging talk by Lyn Parkes from Creightons Funeral Service during last Saturday's general meeting, held both at the Cottage and on Zoom. Lyn covered various aspects of funeral arrangements, and graciously fielded numerous attendee questions, providing valuable insights and information.



MILESTONE AWARD

Susan Wards, member #372, receiving her certificate for 15 years continual membership from Lyn Hagstrom

We congratulate Susan and thank her for her support in maintaining her membership.

v



CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL SEMINAR 2024

On 2nd March, four of our members attended the Central Coast Regional Seminar where we heard tips on how to use trove and researching passenger arrivals from Christine Yeats, and a great talk on, "It's not all on line", finding hard copy documents from Archive collections and the holdings of History House and its library by Professor Carol Liston. Both excellent well known speakers I'm sure everyone learnt something from the day's topics.



Central Coast Family History Society made us most welcome it was lovely collaborating with like minded people from another group . The CCFHS did a great job with yummy morning, afternoon tea and lunch

The Photo shows Carol Liston, WFHG members Kerrie, Regina, Pam, Dellas and Christine Yeats. A great day... ❖

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL SENIORS FESTIVAL EXPO

Kerrie Metcalfe LM (80)

Held on 21st March at Wyong Racecourse. Roger and I set up a PR stall to promote our group and I am pleased to say we had a steady stream of people showing an interest. There were seventy-nine stall holders with valuable information from local businesses, services, and community groups from around the coast. it attracted 500 visitors. If you missed it this year keep a look out for the 2025 Seniors Expo, you won't be disappointed with the information this event showcases. ... ❖



ZOOM MEETINGS

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

These enjoyable meetings are a wonderful way to stay in touch with fellow members, and where they are with their research.

Our themed topics have shown us how many of you are experimenting with PowerPoint or similar software, this is a good place to show your efforts. ... ❖

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.

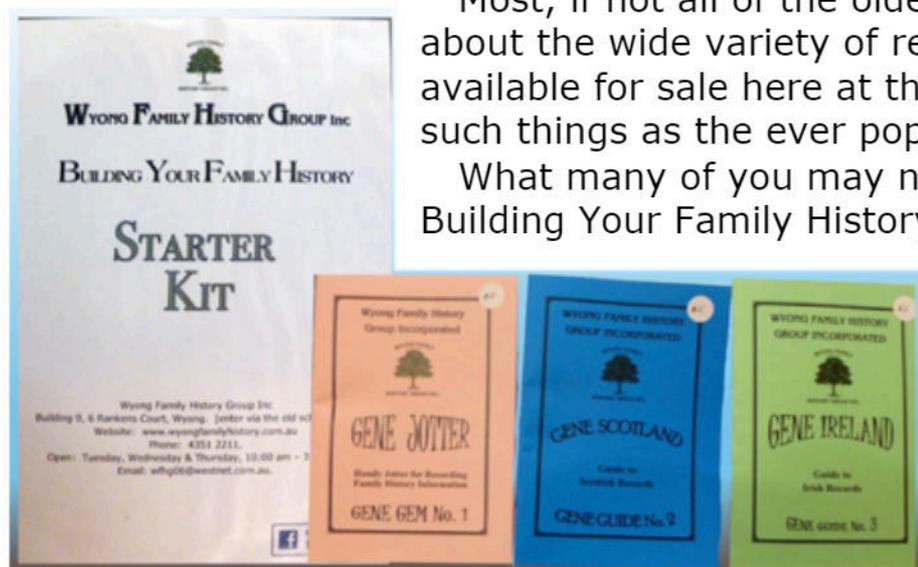
C/- Wyong Family History Group Inc., P O Box 247, Wyong NSW 2259.

No	Member	No	Member
1058	Gail Brown	1062	Craig Williams
1059	Robyn Arms	1063	Fiona Goldsworthy
1060	Sam Kier	1064	Narelle O'Brien
1061	Kate Monaghan		

WHAT'S AVAILABLE FROM THE COTTAGE ... GENE JOTTERS & MORE

Most, if not all of the older members, will know about the wide variety of resources we have available for sale here at the 'Cottage' including such things as the ever popular Gene Jotters.

What many of you may not be aware of are the Building Your Family History Starter Kit folders costing just \$5 each. The folder includes some charts inside some plastic sleeves and would be a useful gift for anyone who has an interest in genealogy.



TRANSPORT

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

If you are able to help, email The Secretary:

secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

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





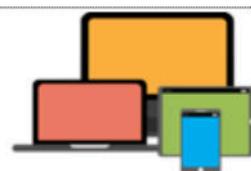
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Here at **Wyong Family History Group Inc.** we offer a range of Special Interest Groups [SIG] where members with common interests meet, learn, practise and share their special interest. Moderators/Co-ordinators are keen to share their knowledge with others. Please support them.

All are held at 'The Cottage'. Times are available on our Calendar [page 38] ***BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – Remember, if you book and are unable to attend, please phone and cancel.***

SIGs go for one to two hours

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 continues. Watch the Newsletter for topics for the next session.



Numbers are limited – Bookings Essential

2024 FEES AND CHARGES

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

PHOTOCOPYING

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



VALÉ

KEITH JOHNSTON MEMBER #340

Lynda Smith, President

Sadly, Keith Johnston, passed away on Sunday April 21st. Keith had been very unwell for some time. He had been a member for over 15 years with his lovely wife Dellas [member 332]. Both of them loved growing and showing orchids. Keith also assisted on numerous social BBQ's and Bunnings BBQs. He and Dellas even took on the messy job of slicing huge bags of onions for such events. That is true dedication to the cause! Keith and Dellas had been married over 50 years and have two children. Valé Keith.



WHEN CAN YOU HAVE TOO MANY NAMES?

Lynda Smith Dec. 2023. LM2.

I thought other researchers were a little crazy when I first saw this Ancestry entry for a lady whose daughter married into my family.

Her full name is... wait for it ... Agnes Alice Tweedhope Tolmie Kennedy MIDDLEMISS, born in 1880 in Gore, New Zealand. Her parents were Andrew John MIDDLEMISS and Mary TOLMIE. Andrew and Mary went on to have nine more children. Most of the females received lengthy names:

1882 Grace Margaret Whitelaw Tolmie MIDDLEMISS

1884 Mary Ada Tweedhope Tolmie MIDDLEMISS

1886 Evangeline Jane Weir Tolmie and her twin Janet Marion Shillinglaw MIDDLEMISS

Then they seemed to run out of ideas:

1889 Gertrude Isabella MIDDLEMISS, 1890 Andrew John MIDDLEMISS junior, 1893 Adam Robert MIDDLEMISS, and 1897 Robert Bell MIDDLEMISS then they had another daughter in 1895 and she was given the full treatment of Alice Marie Christina Lees MIDDLEMISS.

I looked back a little way and found that Mary's parents were Adam TOLMIE and Agnes Cooper TWEEDHOPE and Andrew's parents were Robert Bell MIDDLEMISS and Agnes KENNEDY.

I have yet to find the relevance of WHITELAW, WEIR, SHILLINGLAW or LEES. Perhaps they were family friends or extended relatives, or even benefactors. Who knows?

Agnes Alice had a child out of wedlock, called Violet Adella MIDDLEMISS in 1907. She married into my family in 1933, as Violet Adella RYDER. I have not yet discovered any marriage for Violet to someone called RYDER or even her mother Agnes marrying someone of that name.

Agnes then went on to marry a Thomas TATE in 1914 and had more children. Some of her siblings also went on to marry in NZ. Grace married John HARTLEY in 1901, Mary married Jonathan BURNBY in 1905, Janet [as Jessie Marion Janet] married Alfred RAILEY in 1908, Evangeline died after having a child, at age 16, in 1902. The child, Myrtle Evangeline Jane, was raised as a sibling rather than a granddaughter. Sadly, she later died young, in 1918.

Andrew's obituary in November 1917 gave some useful details.

OTAGO WITNESS, ISSUE 3321, 7 NOVEMBER 1917, PAGE 26

"He leaves a widow, seven daughters (five of whom are married), and three sons. One is a returned soldier, a second is on active service, and the third is stationed at the Central Battery, Dunedin."

This family provided a veritable warren of rabbit holes to investigate, and it seems I am easily distracted by something out of the ordinary.

Resources: NZ BDMs, Paperspast, Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findagrave.com
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/166789905/andrew-middlemiss>



Headstone is to be found at Gore cemetery.

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. ... ❖

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.

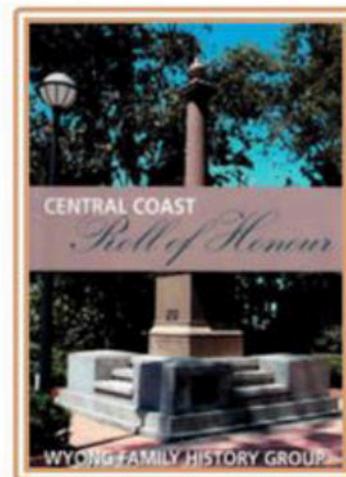
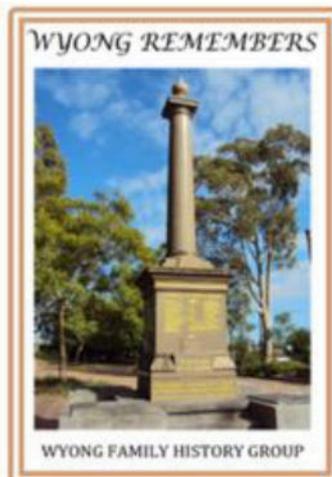
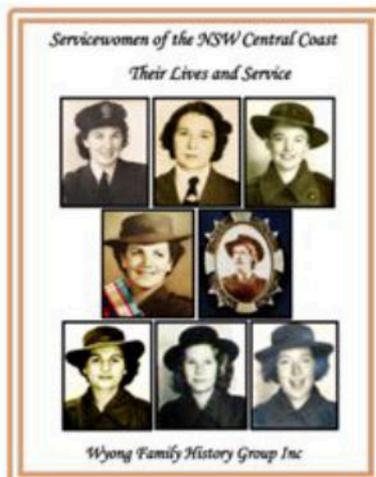
Contact the Cottage to put your name down – phone 4351 2211
 We continue this gathering where people can informally share their discoveries and stories. Join us, meet other members, and see what they have discovered. Think of it as a kitchen table discussion, an opportunity to Learn and Laugh. Stay with us for as long as you like. Not a meeting, but a gathering.

All Welcome

LOCAL MILITARY HISTORY

On Special for a Limited Time Only

3 BOOKS FOR THE LOW PRICE OF \$50*



*P & H extra

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.



Museums of History NSW State Archives Reading Room BUS TRIP



Saturday 1st June 2024

Cost: Members - \$35 per person
Non-members - \$40.00 per person

Pick-up points and times to be advised

If time permits, there will be a comfort stop at McDonalds, St Marys.

The bus will leave State Records no later than 3:30 pm.

More information available on our website.



PLEASE NOTE ... IF THIS YOUR FIRST VISIT

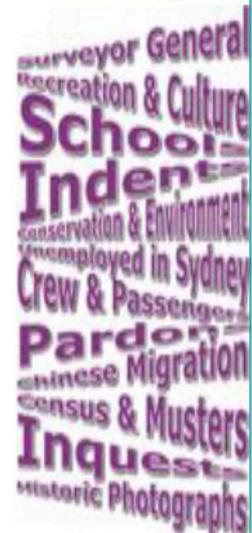
A reader's ticket is necessary and free, and
can be organised online at

[https://mhns.w.au/readers-ticket-application/;](https://mhns.w.au/readers-ticket-application/)

It will be waiting for you when you arrive.

If you wish to speak to staff at State Records
prior to this trip the phone number is

02 9673 1788



BOOK and PAY on line at www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au

or contact the 'Cottage' on 02 4351 2211, Tuesday to Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

email wfhg06@westnet.com.au

Remember

- Bring your own pencils and stationery.
- To make copies of records, bring your own camera/tablet/smartphone or USB. Paper-based photocopy service is available for a fee.
- Lockers are also available for bags etc. (bring a \$2 coin)
- The reading room has a well-equipped readers lounge with free tea and coffee, microwave and fridge, **we recommend that you bring your lunch** as there are no shops within easy walking distance – the new shopping centre at Caddens Corner is a hilly 800m walk away.



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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.

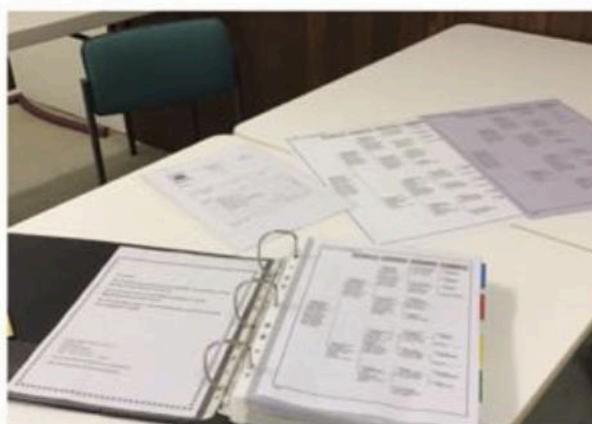
Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.

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
Web Address:
www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au



Example of what you may receive.

THE OVERLAP BETWEEN LOCAL HISTORY AND FAMILY HISTORY.

Lynda Smith. LM2.

To people unfamiliar with our group, when we mention our name, they seem to think we only research families that are connected with Wyong. We then explain that this is the location of our facilities and that we actually research people from all over the world. I am sure virtually every group has need of the same explanation to newcomers.

Family history and local history are, of course, linked. Our people had to live somewhere, and interact with others around them. They are part of the history of that location. It is therefore important to include information about these places in your family stories. Were your people pioneers in some way? Were they involved in local businesses, local government, a church, school or sporting team? This information adds 'flesh' to the bones of your ancestors and is essential if you want to understand their lives.



Photo: Helen Johnston-Lord

For those with connections to old Wyong Shire, we recommend a visit to Wyong Historical Society and its Museum at Alison Homestead, on Cape Rd., just outside of Wyong township. They have a large collection of resources, so it is worth a

visit. They also have a website. <https://alisonhomestead.com.au/> .

We also have a large collection of local history resources at our Cottage. Some years ago, we amalgamated previous versions of our Pioneer Registers into one large volume. We were aware, at the time, that some families were not represented, and other records supplied to us, needed some tidying up. We are currently doing a revision of this resource. See our website for details and forms.

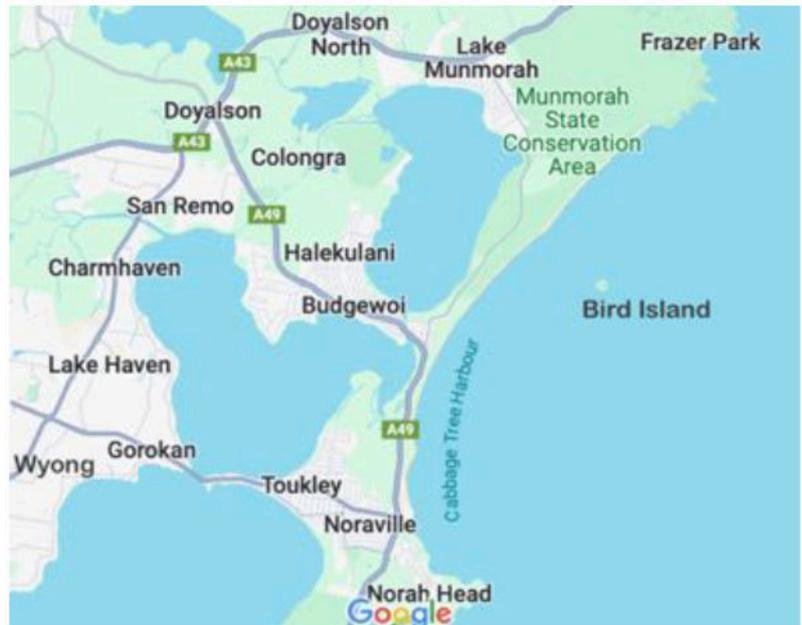
As well as the files we hold on pioneer families, we have a section on our website called Register of One Place Studies, accessible from an icon on our main page. You will find lots of information on different families, suburbs, photos of then and now, and much more.

Central Coast Library Service also has excellent local history resources. It is worth checking out their website www.libraries.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au and then the Family & local history tab. Happy researching, wherever your ancestors hail from! ... ❖

Budgewoi

We asked our members to share stories about the town of Budgewoi. These are their stories and recollections as well as other interesting information I have found whilst researching the area. I have tried to acknowledge all the sources, however, I apologise if I have omitted any.

A special thanks to all who have assisted in this little feature. HJ-L editor.



A LITTLE ABOUT BUDGEWOI

Our Heritage Souvenir Newspaper Friday March 7, 1986.

"The area we now know as Budgewoi was originally given the name Pudgeway.

"This was the name given to his 640-acre land grant by John Slade, who came to Australia as a free man in 1827.

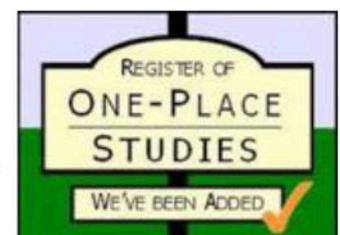
"In her booklet Place Names of the Central Coast, Elleen Pratt notes that the NSW Calendar and General Post Office Directory of 1832 calls the area Podgeway – "two miles further to the right is the shore of Tuggerah Beach Lakes, and on either side extending out into the lakes are the mouths of the Wyong and Tuggerah Creeks"

"Robert Henderson, of Veteran Hall, purchased the grant in 1841 and renamed it Budgeway.

"When it became known as Budgewoi has not been established, but there is a reference to Budgewoi plains in 1861.

"An Aboriginal word, it has been given two interpretations – young grass, or decayed weed washed up on beach or shore."

Further information can be found in the One Place Study on our website: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au



BUDGEWOI PUBLIC SCHOOL

(An excerpt from "From Pudgeway to Budgewoi" originally compiled by Bruce Russell in 1983 and since

Budgewoi Feature

updated.)

"The Budgewoi Public School was built in 1961, the first headmaster being Mr R. Passlow. He had a staff of five and about 150 pupils in the original block on the corner of Woolana and Lukela avenues.

The official record of the school states that a teacher was appointed in January, 1960 and the first class started in February, 1960.

It is possible that these pupils could have been taught at the Budgewoi Hall, the only one available at the time. The alternative would have been a home or a marquee.

Did You Know?



Ferries

In the days when the roads were dreadful, the way to get to The Entrance from Wyong was via ferry. A ferry from Budgewoi to see the flix at The Entrance in the 1950s was not unusual.

The wharf was great because the Hely Basin provided a handy spot where the ferries could turn around. Some of the ferries were pretty big, seating upwards of 150 people.

Ferries of the 20s era were still running from the old Toukley Boatshed to Wyong River in the early to mid-70s.



Budgewoi Wharf recently - Helen Burkett



Wyong Wharf and the Hely Basin (1927)

Facebook photo

Tour the Lakes by Ferry

How delightful it was in the days of the ferry boats to go for launch trips down the river and across the lakes – much more leisurely and much more pleasant than the present journey by car or by bus – to The Entrance and Toukley and elsewhere. Tourists were well catered for, and could enjoy trips around the lakes.

This picture, taken in 1935 shows Robert Brownlee's tourist launch "Lady Laurel". With the original bridge, officially opened on December 15, 1934, in the background. Robert Brownlee was Wyong Shire President in the years 1949-1950-1951-1952.



DID YOU KNOW?

Budgewoi Beach Dunecare

Rutile Mining

Rutile Mining along Budgewoi Beach
Rutile dredge mining operations commenced along Budgewoi Beach in 1966 and finished in 1973. For the floating rutile dredge to operate all vegetation was removed and dozers provided a trench for the dredging unit to float. Local coal mines provided coal, chitter* for trucks to negotiate soft sand areas to collect rutile and truck it to port. The reshaping of the dune topography was carried out in the most economical way, ignoring the fragility of the coastal environment.



The hind dune areas were planted with tea tree (*leptospermum laevigatum*) using a brush matting method. The foredune area was planted out with bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *rotundata*). This mining process and its subsequent rehabilitation threatened the entire natural biodiversity of our coastline and became the catalyst for volunteer communities to form Dunecare groups to restore the coastline and its natural biodiversity values.

- Chitter, a product of coal-mining operations, is a mixture of low grade, the bush or used as fill in road embankments or railway sidings. it can be ignited by bushfires or through spontaneous combustion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Budgewoi Feature

The Brisbane Water Story. pt.4 C. Swancott,
R.A.H.S. Printed by Brisbane Water Historical
Society. 1955



(The Brisbane Water Story. pt.4 page 101.
C. Swancott, R.A.H.S. Printed by Brisbane
Water Historical Society. 1955)

Bird Island Shipwreck

On the 16th February 1868 a brig called the Esperanza of Melbourne foundered during a S.E. gale to the leeward of Bird Island. Ten men out of the eleven in the crew were drowned, the other swam ashore.

SS Gwydir Shipwreck

Ref: Australian Merchant Shipsmerchantshipsozww2.com

During mid-February 1942 the "SS Gwydir" had been in a collision with the Free French Freighter "Neo Hebrides" and ended up being damaged and drifted onto the rocks north of Norah Head. Children went out to see the wreck and watched local people salvaging from the ship. It is thought the local milkman may have salvaged the Gwydir doors. George McPhan stated in 1991 that he believed that much of the timber and many of the ship's fittings were incorporated into the house built by the Sutherland family. The house still stands today in 2021 at 30 Main Rd Toukley.



THE BUDGEWOI I REMEMBER

Chris Ullrich (nee Buckingham) member 224

In the late 1950s, at my age of 10 years, we moved to Budgewoi from Wangi. Dad was following the power station work from Wangi to Vales Point. We camped in 2 tents in the sand dunes of Budgewoi until a house was found. House found and had no electricity for 12 months plus outside pan toilet.

There was no primary school then until 1961, children needed to attend Toukley Primary School. A walk or drive to the school bus stop was necessary and that would be



one of the reasons Mum had Dad teach her to drive at age 30 when she had to use all those dirt roads.

Budgewoi Feature

I did 5th grade at Toukley then last year of Primary at Budgewoi in 1961 when the school opened. The Headmaster was Mr. Passmore and Mrs. Passmore was teaching various subjects.

My largest emotional memory is of being left-handed and told to hand sew right-handed. We were making a red/white/blue checked gathered skirt with a waist band.

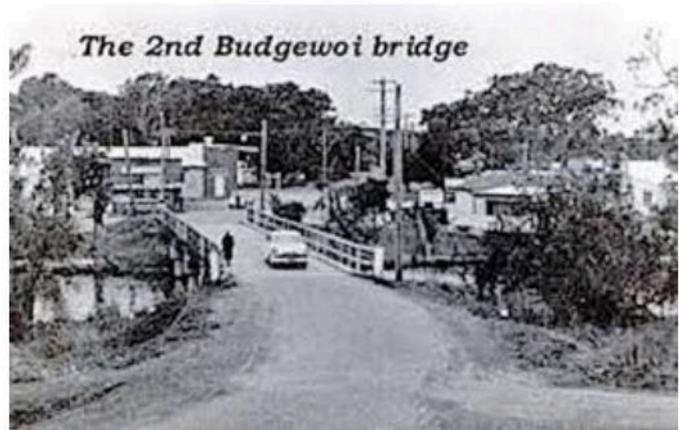
Milk was available plus vegemite or peanut butter bread crusts.

At assembly each morning we sang God Save the Queen.

Budgewoi Hotel was not there in The Circle; on the land at the time was a Hall where we attended Sunday School. The Circle held a general store, haberdashery, Catholic church, Post Office, Bait and Tackle shop, Howarth's Estate Agent and Nowland's Butchery.

One of two halls, the Catholic Church Hall at the time was used for various activities – Church, pictures, dancing and banking (Commercial Bank of Australia). The manager from Toukley would go to Budgewoi on certain days for community banking needs. The Hall area was approximately where The Circle is.

The Bridge over the Creek was wooden and lower than today, as was the road. My young brother, age 5 or 6 at one time was found jumping off the bridge. Mum took on a Fruit and Vegetable shop in The Circle in 1962. There was a skating rink* and further down looking over at McKenzie Park was a bakery and two businesses.



At Budgewoi Square (Halekulani), the shops were very different. Coles today is sitting fairly close to where a Shell Garage and Hardware store was. Arterial roads off the main road up Hali end were mainly untarred. The street we lived in was called Kahala Ave, renamed Delia Ave in later years.



Dad actually had a few pigs penned on vacant land opposite our house. This land is where Budgewoi School is now and there was a quick effort to remove the pigs once it was made known the clearing would start.

Bevington Shores Village in Sunrise Ave was previously a Youth Camp in the bush by the lake, with not many homes in the street. The

prawning was great, big catches and a fire with a 5-gallon tin sitting there to cook the prawns.

Budgewoi Feature

So so much has changed and there could be many more stories from Budgewoi.

**Also mentioned in the book held by WFHG "Blue Gum Flat to Budgewoi" written by C. Swancott and available in the library of WFHG.*

MY MEMORIES OF BUDGEWOI

Lyn Clark-Duff member 907

I commenced spending my annual holidays at Budgewoi in 1963 when I stayed with my husband's family in the old fibro cottage built by his grandparents in Werepi Street, 2nd house from the beach. It is the first street after Lakes Beach going south and is officially called Noraville.



In 1980, having married and started our own family, Dave and I bought an old fibro house in Sunrise Avenue, Budgewoi on Lake Munmorah. We spent many happy holidays there, enjoying various water sports on the lake – water skiing, sailing, sailboarding etc. Our daughters used to swing on a rope across the creek at the start of Natuna Avenue and jump off the iconic foot bridge.

Whilst some parts of the lake had sandy shores, we often had to trudge through the shallows, with slimy mud squeezing between our toes, to reach our watercraft. This did not deter our young daughters and their friends who would sometimes give themselves an all-over beauty treatment by covering themselves in mud. We also used to go prawning at night, which is no longer viable due to the state of the lake.

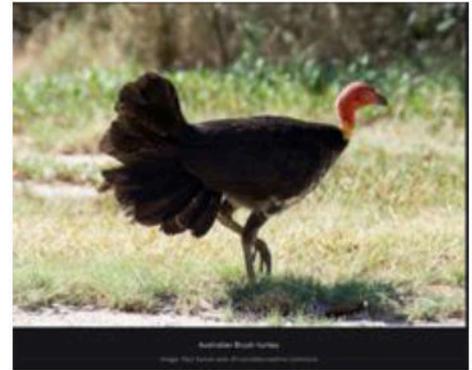
Most of our neighbours' families have owned their properties for many years (both permanent residences and holiday houses). They knew the original owners of our property, Mr and Mrs Monk, whose house was apparently the first built in Sunrise Avenue and they had lived there for many years before moving to aged care accommodation. Our lot had been surrounded by swamps before they were filled in for development and, so far, we have escaped flooding even when the lake has risen much further into our neighbours' properties. The Monks had recalled wild brumbies living in the reserve between their house and the lake.

Over the years the state of Lake Munmorah has been the subject of many environmental studies and much debate. Some said the rotting weed is due to the warm water pumped into the lake by Lake Munmorah Power Station (now dismantled); others said that it is due to increased urban development, detergents and fertilizers. Another issue is that Lake Munmorah is the top lake of the three linked Tuggerah lakes and the water does not get refreshed by the limited amount of sea water which

enters Tuggerah Lake at The Entrance. No doubt the prevailing north-east winds were also a contributing factor in depositing rotting weed on our side of the lake.

Budgewoi Feature

By 2010, our old fibro house had been practically carried away by white ants and it was finally demolished. We love living in our "new" retirement house which was built with our grown family and grandchildren in mind. It was particularly valuable during the Covid lock-down periods, when we could sit on our deck overlooking the reserve and the lake, observing the many species of birds – kookaburras, butcher birds, magpies, lorikeets, rosellas, ducks, crested pigeons and the less appealing noisy miners. Unfortunately, we have recently been invaded by bush turkeys which are determined to dig up my garden.



BUDGEWOI SAILING CLUB

Lyn Clark-Duff member 907



The community project of which I was part in conjunction with CC Council, to revitalize the un-named area on Lake Munmorah at the end of Noela Place (where there was a problem with graffiti and vandalism). We collected the information and photos from local individuals and worked with Council to create the collection of photos and stories about the sailing club and the area in general. The mural was officially launched at a special sailing regatta where former members came from all over Australia to compete at Budgewoi one last time. Sadly, the sailing club has now ceased to exist.



Photos: Lyn Clark-Duff

BUDGEWOI SAILING CLUB - ASHLEY CHAPMAN

Budgewoi Feature

Imparting love of sailing his greatest legacy Sailing master Ashley Chapman was one of Australia's great dinghy sailing enthusiasts, and mentor for more than 40 years to hundreds of young NSW sailors. He raced his 4.8-metre Corsair class dinghy Sadie Too at Budgewoi Sailing Club until just 18 months before his death.

Chapman talked with the American pilot Amelia Earhart before her fateful take-off from Lae in the then mandated territory of New Guinea in 1937. After the Japanese invasion of New Guinea in 1942 he trekked to safety across the forbidding Bismarck Range in one of the epic escapes of the war.



However, it is as a passionate dinghy sailor after he and his wife Sadie retired to Budgewoi in 1968 that he is remembered.

Ashley Leonard Chapman was born on July 29, 1913, in Hounslow, London. His interest in sailing was first sparked by the fishing smacks he loved to use to explore during annual family seaside holidays in Kent.

His widowed mother emigrated to Australia in 1926 and her children joined her as opportunity and funds allowed. Chapman arrived in 1930 aged 17.

He graduated as a court reporter in 1933, then parlayed his excellent shorthand into a stenographer/clerk job at Burns Philp's trading post in Salamaua, on the north coast of New Guinea, at £18 a month, tax free.

At Salamaua he met (and had a crush on) the anthropologist Margaret Mead. He would swim with her, infatuated with both her beauty and her sense of independence. Feminism, when it arrived years later, always had an unalloyed supporter in Ashley Chapman.

In 1937, Chapman took a launch across the Huon Gulf to Lae to see Amelia Earhart as she passed through in her attempt at a record circumnavigation of the world.

He met her at her hotel and attended a dinner party for her that night. On the morning of July 2, 1937, he was in the small crowd that watched Earhart nurse her heavily laden Lockheed into the air, headed for tiny Howland Island in the mid-Pacific. She was never seen again.

Chapman met and married Russian-born Sadie (nee Romanov) in New Guinea in 1938. After the Pacific war broke out, she caught one of the last trading ships to Australia but Chapman stayed to help refuel RAAF aircraft stationed at Salamaua airstrip.

When the RAAF pulled out he destroyed his depot and struck out inland on January 25, 1942, the last civilian to leave. He watched the Japanese land from a coastwatcher's camp in the hills above.

Budgewoi Feature

Ashley and Sadie developed a pioneering self-serve general store at Malabar after the war and prospered, retiring early to the central coast, where he co-founded Budgewoi Sailing Club in 1972 and devoted the rest of his long life to imparting his love of sailing to others.

In a speech in 1990 he observed: "Hundreds of youngsters have gone through my sailing classes over the years. I cannot recall one who became a social liability."

Sadie died in 1997. Ashley Chapman was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

*The Regatta *Calling All Skippers* was held in February 2020 in memory of Ashley Chapman and this article was written by Kathryn Bourke and Tony Maiden SMH

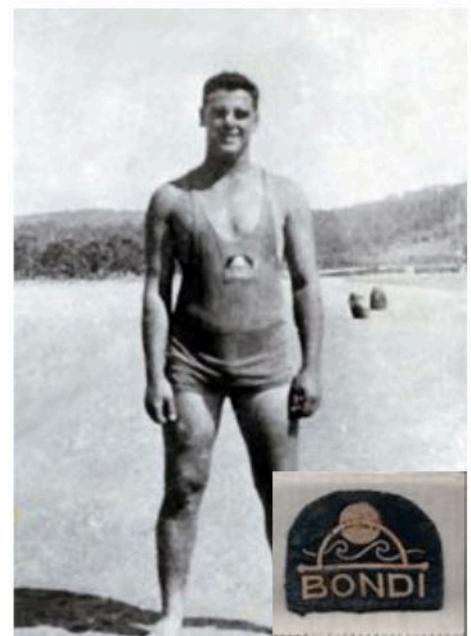
MY VISITS TO BUDGEWOI THE BUDGEWOI I REMEMBER

Lynda Smith. LM2.

I returned to full time high school teaching in 1988, after a break of eight years caring for our three children. We lived at Gorokan at the time. Northlakes High School is not far from Budgewoi and many of my students lived there. Whenever I taught local history, I always included information about the European settlement of Budgewoi, San Remo, Doyalson and areas north. The Advocate Newspaper had produced a souvenir edition in 1986 that covered local history and we had multiple copies of this newspaper. I used it as a valuable source for many years.

I also spent many years supervising school students on sports days, where we engaged in what was called 'Beach Fitness' at either Lakes Beach or those around Norah Head. My main job was to try and keep the students out of the water and get them to remove as much sand as possible from themselves before getting back on the bus. The bus drivers did not enjoy transporting the Beach Fitness groups!

My husband's father had a strong connection with Lakes Surf Club. He was one of their first Bronze Medal Trainers, having been an active member of Bondi Surf Club in the late 1930s to the early 1950s. Alan's family moved up from Sydney to Wyong in the mid-1950s and Stewart was a popular electrician in the area. My sister-in-law lived on the main road for a few years and some of her children attended Budgewoi Primary School.



Stewart Smith, about 1939 and his blazer badge, which we still possess.

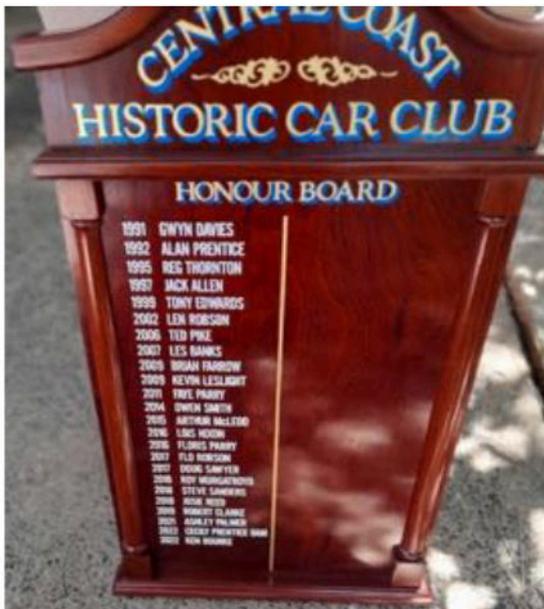
Other connections I had were of a more personal nature. My hairdresser lived in Budgewoi and worked from her home, and my dentist had rooms upstairs at the end of the small shopping centre. The shopping centre was very basic back then.

I was also a Brownie Guide Leader back then, and Budgewoi had active Brownie and Guide packs. I ran the one at Wyongah and our daughter Erin started as a Brownie in 1989. On special occasions in Guiding we would often make use of the lovely park area near the lake and have everyone from



Erin making her promise, 1989

the nearby units attend. There was shade, public toilets and plenty of room to run about.



2023 Memorial Run, with mum's name second from bottom

My parents were active members of the Central Coast Historic Car Club [CCHCC] and quite often made use of the pavilion and BBQ facilities at the same park. Their vintage and veteran cars made a good show in the carpark. My family would quite often join my parents for lunch there, when their run came up this way. After my father passed in 1992, our family donated a Memorial Trophy in his name and their February Car Run became a Memorial one for members who had passed. Since then,

until my mother's passing in 2022, our family has attended every February Run, and many of these included either a morning tea stop or lunch stop at Budgewoi.

Our two sons played soccer for Kanwal and we spent many a chilly Saturday cheering for them at Budgewoi Soccer field. Now, our grandsons play soccer for Toukley and we are back, as doting grandparents, lugging folding chairs and other gear with us. I am sure soccer fields are 15 degrees colder than anywhere else!

My hairdresser has moved out to the valleys and I have accepted defeat and let my hair go grey and un-permed. My dentist has retired, and now enjoys woodworking with my husband in the Central Coast Woodturner's Group. I retired from Guiding due to ill health in 1995, but our daughter continued on to become a Queen's Guide and a Ranger Guide.

Last time I was in Budgewoi was 2023, when I was doing a Family History talk for a community group that meets at the Halekulani Bowling Club. We have also discovered that a Take Away food shop near

Budgewoi Primary School has a vast array of Gluten free foods, so we visit there on occasion. There are very few empty house blocks now, and the shopping centre has expanded a little, but for me, Budgewoi still retains its sleepy, picturesque appeal.

Photos taken by Smith family members.

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.*

BUDGEWOI REMBERANCE GROVE

MonumentAustralia`

Located in Budgewoi Road, Slade Park, This Memorial was dedicated



Photo: Helen Burkett

Saturday 9th December, 1995. The inscription reads:

Australia Remembers 1945-1995

Budgewoi Remembrance Grove

In memory of all men & women who contributed to the war effort and the coming of peace 9th December 1995

Peter Morris MHR Cr Cliff Russell.

(<https://monumentaustrial> (<https://monumentaustrial.org.au/themes>

NAZI MINE NEAR GOSFORD

*The Sydney Morning Herald reference on Tuesday
April 8th 1941.*

“Washed ashore from an old field, a German contact which was found embedded in the sand on the beach at Budgewoi, 23 miles north of Gosford yesterday morning was exploded last night by naval men from Garden Island. It caused a huge crater. Before the arrival of the officials several



Ref; Ozatwar

civilians apparently unaware of the danger had handled the protuberances on the mine which had broken away from the field laid by an enemy raider some time ago. The mine was seen floating in the sea half a mile offshore on Sunday” “While walking on the beach Mr. W Ray a fisherman stumbled on the mine half buried in the sand at 7am today. Most of the mine had been bent or broken off and it had apparently been in the water a long time. Mr. Ray reported the mine at the Toukley Post Office, which advised Garden Island. After a preliminary inspection the naval men sent back to Sydney for explosive charges. The first one was put beneath the mine in blinding rain and failed to go off. A heavier charge was tried from a distance of about 1,000 yards. The mine exploded with a terrific roar”.

FIELD THOROUGHLY SWEEP

A naval spokesman said yesterday there was no doubt that the mine had broken loose from a field laid by a raider some time ago. This field had been thoroughly swept. A specially trained staff was maintained at Garden Island for rendering mines safe. This was the first mine washed up on the New South Wales coast in this war. The spokesman pointed out that rewards were paid by the Department of the Navy for the discovery of mines. For a mine discovered and delivered within two miles of the coast the reward is two pounds and beyond two miles five pounds. For the report of a washed-up mine on the coast the reward of ten shillings.

PART INTERVIEW WITH BILL HANSON ABOUT THE BOMBING OF BIRD ISLAND

Ernest Buckley member 873

“I can clearly remember the Australian RAAF Wirraways which would fly in formations of two or three aircraft approaching from the north and then they would fly around and carry out their bombing raids on the southern side of Bird Island. The bombed area can be seen cratered out in close up photos.



Wirraway Formation Training RAAF Radschool Association

At the same time the Wirraways were bombing and machine gun strafing Bird Island a crash boat would circle around near Bird Island. The crash boat was a small fishing boat and was secretly located there in the event there was an accident.



Aces Flying High-WorldPress.com

“Prior to the Wirraway Pilots attacking Bird Island they would line up their aircraft and attack the Island in formation. As the dive bomb attacked the Island, they would strafe it with their machine guns and release their bombs only feet from the top of the Island.

"On one bombing exercise aimed at Bird Island one of the Wirraway aircrafts flew down so low it clipped the top of a tree and damaged the aircraft. The pilot managed to fly the aircraft over to the shore line then crash landed near Budgewoi on the beachside grasslands. The RAAF may have stopped bombing Bird Island after that accident, but according to locals the RAAF restarted using Bird Island for bombing practice after the War ended. Locals also stated that the bombing was severe and created shock waves that shook the Light House. There was a concern or complaint the bombing shock waves were damaging the Light House building.

Budgewoi Feature



Photograph: Mark Smith photography



"Bill stated we would always enjoy viewing the Bombing Raids on Bird Island and would watch and wait for the fly over after their bombing raids had taken place. The pilots would bring their aircraft in from the north, then circle around the lake and fly over us. As they flew over us, they would pull back their cock-pit hatch and wave to us. This was a great Wartime experience.

"During mid-February 1942 the "SS Gwydir" had been in a collision with the Free French Freighter "Neo Hebrides" and ended up being damaged and drifted onto the rocks north of Norah Head. I went out with other children to see the wreck and watched local people salvaging from the ship. I think the local milkman may have salvaged the Gwydir doors."

George McPhan stated in 1991 that he believed that much of the timber and many of the ship's fittings were incorporated into the house built by the Sutherland family. The house may still stand as it did in 2021 at 30 Main Rd Toukley.

The Sutherland Bros were the successful tenderers for the salvage rights of the *Gwydir*. Bill stated that after the salvaging rights were awarded then the company traveled around the area looking for salvaged items from the boat and repossessed them.

THE CAC WIRRAWAY

Budgewoi Feature

Wikipedia States: The CAC Wirraway is named after the Aboriginal word "Challenge" and was a training and general-purpose Military Aircraft manufactured in Australia by the Commonwealth Air Corporation (CAC) between 1939 to 1946. During the Second World War both the Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) developed a number of "Wirraways" into combat roles, where they served in makeshift light bomber/ground attack capacity striking against the advancing forces of the Empire of Japan.



Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway by Stan Hajek



Greg and Sylvia Ray's Phototimetunnel
A Wirraway being Armed, probably at Williamtown RAAF Base, Newcastle during WW2

JOHN TUNKS REMEMBERS

Produced by Ernest Buckley (Dip Appl Sci DT Syd Uni) July 2020 (member 873)

Budgewoi and Bombs

John was born in Wyong March 1934 and a Life Member of the Norah Head Boating & Recovery Club.

He lived at Dooralong on his father's farm and orange orchard.

During WW2 John lived at Dooralong and could remember the searchlights in the night sky over Newcastle.

Boats from The Entrance were docked at Porters Creek at Wyong with the threat of invasion by Japanese Forces. Soldier Guards were stationed at the boats for protection and one of the Soldiers Committed Suicide. It was probably thought, by the Soldier that invasion by the Japanese was inevitable.

During the War years John was taken on holidays to Budgewoi by his father. In those days Budgewoi was mainly bush and sand hills and John and his father would walk through the sand hills to Budgewoi Beach to go fishing.



While they were fishing on the Beach, Wirraway RAAF Bombers would fly to Bird Island from the south and practice strafing and bombing the Island.

The Bombers in groups of two or three would fly down very low firing their machine guns and also bomb the Island. Then fly off over the beach.

The Bomber Pilots flew that low John and his father could easily see the two young pilots who smiled and waved to them on the beach.

Followed by Bombers up the Beach

The bombing was very close to John and his father and was ferocious and the pilots kept flying near them on the beach waving and smiling. John said the young pilots were having fun.

The Pilots flew the Wirraway Bombers close to the Island strafing it with machine guns and then releasing their bombs only feet from the tops of the trees on the island and then later flew low over the surface of the beach and land.

Johns father decided to move further up the beach to move away from all the action. As they moved up the beach so did the Pilots with their Bombers. The pilots thought it was funny and laughed at them on the beach attempting to move away from the target practice.



Later John heard the news that one of the Wirraway Bombers had crashed. It had flown down very low over Bird Island and clipped a tree and was damaged. It managed to make its way over to the shore and then crashed

landed.

John visited the crashed Wirraway Bomber site and said it had come down in a grassed area back from the beach. The wreck was later used for spares by the RAAF.

Shirley Dening (nee Fullagar) who was a pupil at Toukley Public School at that time, stated in 1991 that children from the Toukley Public School were taken to see the Wirraway Aircraft that had crash-landed on the beach.

Referencing:

John Tunks "Recollections of the WW2 Wirraway Bombers"

Lindsay Secomb, Norah Head "Invasion Instructions"

Rhonda Rossetti Norah Head "Firearm Licences"

Toukley Public School "100 Years" Booklet Shirley Dening Contribution (1991)

Photographs:

John Tunks: Photograph taken by Ernest Buckley

CAC Wirraway-Wikipedia

Wirraway Formation Training RAAF Radschool Association

Aces Flying High, Wordpress.com

Britmodler.com

Phototimetunnel.com

RAAF Photo – Kimberley Dunstan

Attachments:

ADF-Serials A20.97CA 395: Curtesy of Chis Richards, Norah Head Light House

John stated that the RAAF stopped using the Bird Island for target practice after the Wirraway Bomber Crash.

Budgewoi Feature

He also recalls there was a WW2 Airforce Landing Strip built at Tuggerah and a local man had cleared the site for the strip with his tractor.



Please let us know at wfhgtol@westnet.com.au your thoughts on this feature which I conclude with this photo of our granddaughters contemplating the waves *Helen Johnston-Lord editor*



In April 1841 the convict ship *Rajah* set sail from Woolwich and arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the 19th July 1841 after a 105 day journey.

There were a total of 179 female convicts on board upon arrival, only one having died en route, and they had all been provided with a basic pack of items including knife, fork, apron and sewing materials. These were supplied by the British Ladies Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners headed by Elizabeth Fry, the Quaker leader of this Organization founded in 1817. They were distributed by Lydia Irving who



Figure 1 National Gallery of Australia, Kamberrri/Canberra, gift of Les Hollings and the Australian Textiles Fund, 1989



Elizabeth Fry

worked with the same group. Elizabeth had persuaded Government officials that keeping the convict women occupied and making items that they could perhaps sell on arrival was a very good idea to keep the peace on board.

The first Matron who undertook the office on board a convict ship was Mrs. Saunders, the wife of a missionary who went out on the *George Hibbert* in 1834. She was so ill on the trip that her husband undertook most of the work but the

custom persisted.

The Matron onboard the *Rajah* was Kezia Hayter and she is the person it is believed who instigated the making of a quilt which measures 325x337 cms to be presented to



ELIZABETH FRY READING TO THE PRISONERS AT NEWCASTLE, 1823

the Governor's wife Lady Jane Franklin on arrival in Tasmania.

Stitched at the bottom of the quilt is a panel with the following words on it –

**TO THE LADIES
of the
Convict ship committee.**

**This quilt worked by the Convicts
of the ship Rajah during their voyage
to van Diemens Land is presented as a
testimony to the gratitude with which
they remember their exertions for their
welfare while in England and during
their passage and also as proof that
they have not neglected the Ladies
kind admonition of being industrious.**

June 1841

Kezia had been a visitor to the Millbank Penitentiary in London and a member of the Ladies Society and the aim was for her to assist Lady Franklin to start a similar organization in Tasmania. The quilt has become famous as it is the only documented quilt made by convicts that survives to this day.

The Master of the Rajah was Charles Ferguson and he and Kezia formed a bond on the journey and married in Tasmania at Hobart in July 1842.

In 1851 Captain Charles Ferguson became the Harbour Master for Geelong, and then the Harbour Master for Williamstown. Charles and Kezia settled at Williamstown.

At some stage the quilt was returned to England with the aim of presenting it to Elizabeth Fry. However, it is not known whether it reached her before her death. Its

whereabouts for the following 147 years is unknown. Amazingly the quilt was found in an attic in Scotland in 1989 and sent back to Australia.

Today it is known as the Rajah Quilt and is held by the **National Gallery of Australia**. From **16th March to 25th August this year** the Gallery is holding A Century of Quilts Exhibition with the Rajah Quilt being the star of the show.

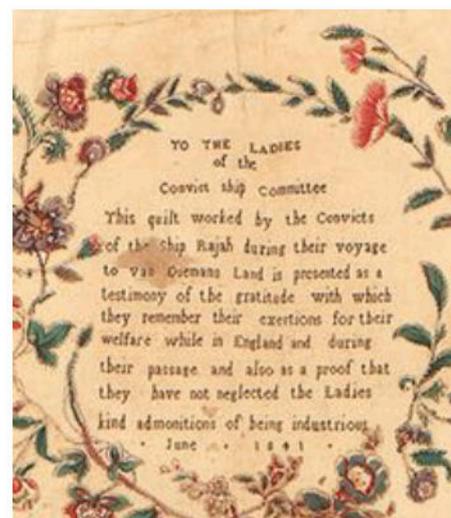


Figure 2 National Gallery of Australia, Kamberrri/Canberra, gift of Les Hollings and the Australian Textiles Fund, 1989

Sources

*National Portrait Gallery –
Material Culture by Joanne
Gilmour, 2 Oct 2018*

*National Archives – Medical
Journal of the Rajah
Female Convicts Research
Centre*

*Hawkesbury on the Net –
Claim a Convict – Rajah
Claire Smith - Doing Time –
Patchwork as a tool for
social rehabilitation in
British Prisons*

*Ferguson Family History
Historical novel – Dangerous
Women by Hope Adams (I
highly recommend)*

*[https://redbird-
patricia.blogspot.com/sear
ch?q=rajah+quilt](https://redbird-patricia.blogspot.com/search?q=rajah+quilt)*

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

Publication	Type	Price
DIGITAL RELEASE		
Wyong & Districts Anglican Church Records 1838 – 1987 - NEW	USB	\$ 50.00 + p&h
This USB contains over 15,000 primary records including Baptisms 1838-1927, Marriages 1838-1967 and Burials 1837-1987 with links to copies of the original church register pages for Gosford Parish until the early 1900s and thereafter for Wyong, The Entrance and Toukley/Budgewoi Parishes. System requirement is any version of MS windows from XP to Win10 with approximately 10GB hard disk space		
BOOKS & CDs		
Servicewomen of the NSW Central Coast – Their Lives & Service NEW	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
156 Page, fully indexed book outlining the lives and service of 330 women who served in armed services and who were either born, lived or died on the NSW Central Coast.		
Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Central Coast Roll of Honour	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Includes the full names, rank, type of service & date of death where known of over 12,000 men & women of the Central Coast who were in the Armed Forces. 400 pages fully indexed. Includes 138 stories and photographs		
Gosford Times Marriage and Death Notices 1892 – 1954	Book out of Print	
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
Incorporating the Wollombi Express 1892-1906 and Wyong District Advocate 1906-1920. Contains entries for 5892 Deaths and 1400 Marriages with many relevant details		
People of Wyong Book 1	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Health & Service Providers - Includes Doctors, Dentists, Fire Brigade and Ministers. 298 pages		
People of Wyong Book 2	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Bank Managers, Public Servants, Business People, Organisations. 252 pages		
People of Wyong Book 3	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Timber Industry, Dairying, Agriculture, Poultry, Fishing & Transport. 297 pages		
People of Wyong Book 4 - NEW	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
Includes Wyong Abattoir, N ad Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, Wyong Court House, Political Reps. 257 pages. Fully indexed. Coloured and b&w photographs		
People of Wyong Book 5 - NEW	Book	\$ 40.00 + p&h
All Wyong District Schools both former and current, public and private, with a list of each school's Head Teachers. 270 pages. Fully Indexed. Coloured & b&w photos of each school		
Purchase all 5 books in this series at the same time and receive 10% discount		
Place Names of the Wyong Shire	Book	\$ 7.00 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW 1963 – 2006	Book out of Print	
Records available on combined CD		
Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
Includes Toukley, Wyong and Bateau Bay		
Simplicity Funerals Bateau Bay NSW, Toukley & Wyong 1963 – 2011	Reduced Price CD	\$ 12.50 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Erina 1984 – 2013	Book	\$ 30.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Simplicity Funerals Woy Woy 1991 – 2013	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
The Anglican Parish of the Brisbane Water Area	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Baptisms, burials and marriages with notes from Albert Glennie's diaries and misc. entries. Includes Kincumber, Mangrove, Wyong, Tuggerah, Cooranbong, Woy Woy and the Hawkesbury River		

Publication	Type	Price
Wyong Agricultural Association	Book out of Print	
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Covers the history of the Wyong Agricultural Association as reported in local newspapers, lists of Office Bearers, photos of Founders and first Committee plus the minutes of all meetings held from 1 May 1913 to 18 June 1930. 248 pages. Fully indexed		
Wyong Courthouse Death Records 1930 – 1953	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
Wyong & District Pioneer Register [Published 2013]	USB	\$ 35.00 + p&h
Fully indexed compilation of all previous Pioneer Book entries, extensively updated references to over 13,500 individuals. Contains birth, marriage and death details, some photos, personal stories and obituaries for some individuals. Includes a brief history of Wyong. 673 pages Book out of Print		
Wyong & Lakes District Advocate Notices 1932 – 1995		
Volume 1	Books out of Print	
Contains 514 anniversary notices, 1078 birth notices, 4,000 marriage notices, 4790 in memoriam notices and 238 miscellaneous event notices. Includes church photographs		
Volume 2		
Contains 11,973 deaths, obituary & probate notices as well as Church and Cemetery photos		
Volumes 1 and 2 available on combined CD	Reduced Price CD	\$ 17.50 + p&h
Wyong Remembers	Book	\$ 19.00 + p&h
The history of the Wyong War Memorial and Centenary of ANZAC events. 53 pages		
Wyong Shire Combined Cemeteries 2017	Reduced Price CD	\$ 12.50 + p&h
Includes Jilliby, Noraville, St Barnabas & Yarramalong and Ronkana Cemeteries		
Jilliby Cemetery Wyong Shire NSW	Book out of Print	
Noraville Cemetery Wyong Shire 1869 – 2012	Book	\$ 20.00 + p&h
St Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries Wyong Shire 1886 – 2001	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
Ronkana Cemetery Wyong Shire 1825 – 2016	Book	\$ 15.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Wyong Shire Cemetery Records Index to August 2016	Book	\$ 25.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 10.00 + p&h
This index has been compiled from the WFHG Inc. cemetery database. It includes burials [and niches] at Jilliby and Noraville Cemeteries and the burials at Ronkana, St Barnabas [Yarramalong] and Yarramalong Cemeteries. Books have been produced for each individual cemetery that provide additional details such as photographs, headstone inscriptions and, in the case of Ronkana, St Barnabas and Yarramalong Cemeteries, newspaper death, funeral or probate notices for some of the burials. The WFHG Inc. acknowledges the work of Mr Vince McKenzie and his son Clive, gravediggers, whose records form the core of our index. We also acknowledge the CC Council Bereavement Officers for their contribution to our records. Contains cemetery maps, Deceased details – name, age, date of burial, grave location [section, row, plot], some records have birth dates and maiden names. Includes all graves including those unmarked. 220 pages		
Wyong Township Residents Index 1930 – 1939	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
Palmdale Cemetery	Reduced Price CD	\$ 5.00 + p&h
30,000 names – not all from Wyong		
Genealogy Recorder	Book	\$ 10.00 + p&h
SUPER SPECIAL - 2 BOOK PACK		
Simplicity Funerals Wyong Shire NSW 1993 – 2011		
Bowden Family Funerals Wyong, July 1999 – January 2015	2 x Books	\$ 25.00 + p&h
Great Value for these records which are not on the Internet. Nor are they available from any other source. Usually priced at \$40.00 for the two books, buy both now for only \$25.00		

LIFE MEMBERS



From time to time our Group awards a Life Membership.

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Darkinjung people as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present, and future, and recognise the continuing connection and contribution to this land. We would like to extend that respect to any First Nations people who are our readers.





WFHG INC. PLANNED EVENTS

Subject to change.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, **all** our meetings, interest groups, information sessions and courses are held at 'The Cottage'.
Bookings will assist in organising events and may make the difference between holding or cancelling the event.

SIG = Special Interest Group

Info = Information Session.

	2024	Event
May	Tue 7, Tue 14	Heritage Month Walking Tour 11:00 am Alberts café near Wyong Station Finish 12:30 pm Wyong Post Office. Bookings can be made via Central Coast Council on 02 4306 7900 during business hours.
	Thu 9	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 11	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Karen Rogers: Topic: The wonderful world of One-Name studies and Surnames Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Wed 15	Introduction to DNA SIG 10:00 am – 2:30 pm Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm Topic – Women of Note
	Sat 18	Australian Heritage Festival Ends
	Mon 20	National Volunteer Week: May 20 – May 26
	Tue 21	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 22	Volunteer's Thank You Morning Tea 10:30 am
	Thu 23	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 25	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 28	Committee Meeting for June 10:00 am
	Thu 30	Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 - 2:30 pm
June	Sat 1	Bus Trip Museums of History – State Records <i>Bookings Essential</i>
	Mon 3	Beginners Class Reunion - a chance for past attendees to review and share. 10:30am – 12 noon
	Thu 6	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 8	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Mon 10	King's Birthday Holiday
	Wed 12	Convicts Workshop with Kerrie Metcalfe 10:30 am – 2:30 pm with 30 minute Lunch break
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 18	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 19	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
	Thu 20	Shipping Workshop with Helen Burkett. In depth search through a multitude of shipping records. 10:00 am – 12 noon
	Thu 23	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sat 22	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon	
Thu 23	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon	
July	Mon 1	Intermediate Course 9:30 am – 2:30 pm with 30 minute lunch break. Week 1 of 4 commences, ends July 24
	Tue 2	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Wed 3	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

2024	Event
	Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Sun 7 – Sun 14. NAIDOC Week
Thu 11	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sat 13	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA <i>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</i>
Tue 16	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Wed 17	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Sun 21	Deadline for TOL
Thu 25	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sat 27	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Tue 30	WFHG free BBQ, thanking volunteers with a Xmas in July Australian theme 11:00 am – Time??
	Thu 1 – Sat 31 Family History Month
Tue 6	John Selwood presents: Creating the perfect page. 10:00 am – 12 noon
Thu 8	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sat 10	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA <i>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</i>
Sat 17	WFHG OPEN DAY Sausage sizzle etc
Tue 20	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Thu 22	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Sat 24	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Tue 27	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
Wed 28	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
Thu 29	Mapping Workshop , Hands on session using Google My Maps with Helen Burkett. 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

August



B3 Bookbinding
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Wyong Family History Group Inc.

Research Centre

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

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am – 3.00pm.
At other times by appointment. Public Holidays – Closed.

Contact the Group as follows:

The Secretary

Wyong Family History Group Inc.

P O Box 247

Wyong NSW 2259

Telephone: [02] 4351 2211

Email The Secretary: secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Website: <http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au>

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

Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 July 2024 is the closing date for submissions for next issue of the "Tree of Life".

Local LDS Family History Centre

Akora Road, Wyoming [near ALDI]

Opening Hours: Tuesday 6 – 8 pm,

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Generally closed during school holidays. Open at other times on request

Free access

Ph: 4329 3603

Email: au_gosford@ldsmail.net

The WFHG has an affiliated agreement with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which permits our members to access restricted files and images from the computers in The Cottage.

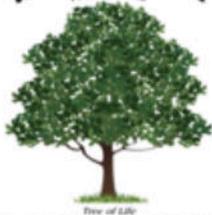
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WYONG FAMILY
FOUNDED 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

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