

WYONG FAMILY  
Founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

# Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Events

Annual General Meeting Notice.....	9
Monthly Help & Chat Gathering By	
Zoom .....	17
Our Calendar .....	38
Save these dates .....	25, 28, 32

### Did You Know ...

Accessibility.....	4
Help is Available? .....	5

### The Valleys

A liitle about the Valleys.....	18
Cemeteries of [old] Wyong Shire .....	23
Did You Know ? ...	
At 'The Cottage' .....	26
Place Name Meanings .....	26
Living in the Dooralong Valley .....	19
My Family History .....	22
My Memories .....	29
Our family Connection with	
Jilliby Cemetery .....	25
My Connection .....	31
St. Barnabas Church.....	24
Spring Fair September 2018 .....	27
The Beginning of Settlement.....	18

### Group News

2024 Fees and Charges.....	8
About Special Interest Groups.....	8

from the President .....	3
from your Editor .....	4
Transport.....	7
What we've been up to ...	
at The Cottage.....	5
History Walks 2024 .....	4
Zoom Meetings .....	7

### Members

A Reminder .....	21
Contributions	
Marquis de Rays Conspiracy .....	14
My Grandmother's Bridesmaid .....	10
Solving a puzzle .....	15
Wyong Italian Families.....	12
Life Members .....	37
Milestone Achieved .....	7
New Members .....	7

### Publications For Sale..... 33, 34

### Sharing ..... 32

### Raffles..... 9

Acknowledgement of Country .....	37
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### Other

B3 Bookbinding.....	39
Local LDS Family History Centre.....	40
The Fine Print .....	40

FEATURING

# The Valleys



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:	<b>VACANT</b>
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

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Lynda Smith – President – LM2*



It was very pleasing to see so many attendees at our last General Meeting. There were even some visitors. We all very much enjoyed Janelle Collins' talk on the DNA research she does for people wanting to find adoptive or egg donor parents. She does all of this for free and has had considerable success. Sincere apologies to those who had hoped to join via Zoom. Our Internet service kept dropping out and Zoom contact could not be maintained. This problem is being investigated.

The demolition of the burned building should be complete and the Cottage should be accessible on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. I can hear cheering! It will be so good welcoming back those of you who need vehicular access to the Cottage.

Attendance at our Special Interest groups has also been promising. As well as one-on-one DNA assistance, we now offer one-on-one assistance with Family Tree maker, so please let the Cottage administrators know if you wish to do either of these.

Special thanks to our Librarian/Vice President Lyn HAGSTROM for supplying so much First Nations artwork and artifacts for our recent NAIDOC Week display. Lyn has travelled widely and very cleverly obtained these items as souvenirs.

The Intermediate Class has also been a great success, with ten keen attendees. We will probably run another Beginner's Class later in the year, so spread the word. Our next significant event is that of our Seminar in September. Please mark the date on your calendars and arrange your payment. See the advertising in this journal for more details. We also have a number of events in Family History Month [August] so please support these.

We have all commented on the weather of late. It does seem to be colder this Winter, but maybe it is just me getting older! On that note, stay safe, and WARM. Good luck with your research.

Take care,

PS. My new email address is [wfhgpres@gmail.com](mailto:wfhgpres@gmail.com) so please make sure you use this one when contacting me. My mobile remains unchanged: 0403 322 553. I am happy to hear from any of you, especially if you have any ideas for events. ... ❖

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## A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505



Welcome to our August 2024 edition.

How are you finding the cold? I am afraid I have never functioned very well, as I get older, this is more of a problem.

We are featuring The Valleys in this issue. I would like to thank those who have provided Helen Burkett and myself with their memories and contributions. Sorting through the information available has been absorbing.

Please enjoy this issue and your stories and reactions are always welcome.

Email your stories to me at wfhgtol2@gmail. Our next deadline is 21 October 2024. ... ❖

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## ACCESSIBILITY

Our wheelchair accessibility has been closed temporarily due to the fire in April 2023. Central Coast Council informs us that, all things being equal, we should be able to use our access road and carpark from the second week in August. *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. ... ❖

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## WYONG HISTORY WALKS 2024



John Selwood & Wayne Birmingham once again hosted History Walking Tours of Wyong earlier this year. These tours organised through Central Coast Council, have proved very popular. ... ❖

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## DID YOU KNOW HELP IS AVAILABLE?

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

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## AT THE COTTAGE

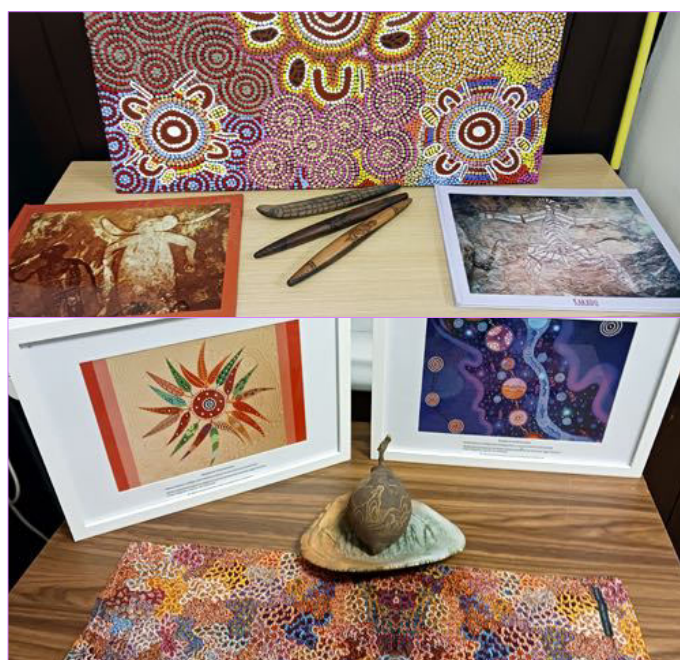
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### NAIDOC Week Display

Unfortunately, the NAIDOC Week morning tea [10<sup>th</sup> July] was cancelled as we received no response, [other than from the organisers].

I would like to thank our VP/Librarian Lyn Hagstrom for setting up all her lovely First Nations artwork and resources.

Please remember to put your name down if you are interested in any of our activities. We don't want our organisers to waste their valuable time, effort and money putting on activities that garner no attendance



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### Volunteers Morning Tea

18 volunteer members enjoyed a Thank You morning tea here at the 'Cottage'. Judging by the steady chatter and regular outbursts of laughter it was obvious that everyone was enjoying themselves.





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## May General Meeting

A total of twelve members gathered at the Cottage, while three others joined via Zoom. Our guest speaker, Karen Rogers, from The Guild of One Name Studies presented a very interesting talk on exactly what a one name study is and how it may help with your own research.



Karen kindly donated a booklet – “Researching Surnames: A Guide to One-Name Studies” which will be available in the Cottage library for interested members. Regina Hogan presented Karen with a small gift.

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## June General Meeting



Danielle Lautrec, Author of The Good Genealogist gave an interesting talk.

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## July General Meeting

Our guest Janelle Collins spoke about her work bringing families together through DNA this was a very interesting talk and enjoyed by all that attended.

Unfortunately we had internet problems and couldn't provide Zoom, apologies to those who missed out because of it.



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## MILESTONE AWARDS

Christine Randell, member #173, (20 years) and Karelle Keane, member #703, (10 years) received continuous membership certificates from Lynda Smith.

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



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## 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. ... ❖

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## NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to our new members, and a big welcome back to Denise Chivas. 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
461	Denise Chivas	1067	John Hopkins
1065	Susan Smith	1068	Kim Formosa
1066	Clare Jones	1069	Cheryl Wootton

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## TRANSPORT

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

If you are able to help, email The Secretary: [wfhg06@gmail.com](mailto:wfhg06@gmail.com) 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:

- 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
- Junior: 18 years and under \$20.00
- Special Interest Group Fees (SIG):** No Handouts. Casual. Question and Answers from participants. \$3.00
- Information Sessions:** These run up to two-hours with a structured format and topic with handouts \$5.00
- Seminars:** Usually held at a larger venue with one or more guest speakers  
\$30 Members and \$35 Non-Members.
- Beginners Course:** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
- Intermediate Course** \$60.00 for full course over 4 weeks or \$20.00 per day
- Advanced Course** \$60.00 for 4 weeks or \$20 per day
- 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
- Personal Research** after an appointment to discuss your requirements. Approx. \$50 per couple researched
- Master Class** These are longer sessions depending on topic; they are structured and can be a hands-on workshop. \$20.00
- 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



HISTORY GROUP INC.

## WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**1pm Saturday 14 September 2024**

Wyong Family History Group Inc. will be holding their Annual General Meeting on 14 September 2024 in the Meeting Room of "The Cottage", Building 9, 6 Ranken Court. Wyong. Only financial members can vote.

Nominations are now open for Executive and Committee positions. Any financial member may be nominated for election to the Committee by any two other financial members. Nomination forms are available at

The Cottage Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

A copy of our Constitution is available for viewing by visiting our webpage, or in the office at The Cottage.

## RAFFLE

Tickets \$2 each  
at The Cottage

As New Unused 'Kenneth Cole' Gentleman's Dress  
Watch Classic Style  
Analogue

Donated by a generous member

KENNETH COLE  
new york

## WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

### Christmas Raffle

### Tickets Now on Sale

\$2 a ticket or 6 for \$10

Drawn on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at the

## Single & Mingle

Christmas Party

A large selection of prizes including quality wooden items, hand crafted items and baskets of Christmas food and festive goodies.

Tickets can be purchased via our Group website, by including your membership number in the description.

**Multiple Draws**

## MY GRANDMOTHER'S BRIDESMAID

Lynda Smith July 2024. LM2.

After listening to Janelle Collins' talk at our July General Meeting, I was inspired to try my hand at solving a little mystery of my own. DNA wouldn't help [or so I thought], but Janelle's use of Trove, Electoral Rolls and other resources would be.

When my grandmother Alice SMALLHORN married Cecil FOX in 1923, she did so without her parent's financial support. She and Cecil had been engaged since 1920 and had known each other for some years before that. Cecil was a French polisher and cabinet maker, and Alice's parents felt she could do better. She disagreed, and at the age of 28, was certainly old enough to know her own mind.

Alice and Cecil arranged and paid for their wedding and honeymoon. I only have ever seen this one photo of Alice in her wedding dress, in a studio setting.

She only had one bridesmaid, Winnie [Winifred] ARCHBOLD and their Best Man was her only brother Samuel SMALLHORN. Cecil and Sam were cricket team mates and good friends.

There are no wedding photos showing Winifred and Sam. Thankfully, I have photos of great uncle Sam, and know of his life, but I knew very little about Win. Family stories mentioned Win as a childhood friend of Alice's, so I thought I would investigate how they may have met.

Alice spent some years living in Paddington, as a child, before moving to Willoughby, where her father had built a large family home in Remuera Street.

Alice had not finished her schooling at this time, so attended Willoughby Public School from 1907-1909. I checked Electoral Rolls for



No. 21.  
No. 138

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. C 155570

SCHEDULE.  
MARRIAGE ACT, No. 15, 1899.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

I, Herbert Smirnoff Begbie being  
a minister of the Church of England  
do hereby Certify that I have this day at St Stephen's Church, Chatswood  
duly celebrated Marriage between  
Cecil Wellington FOX  
Cabinet Maker, Chatswood, N.S.W. Bachelor  
and  
Alice Irene SMALLHORN  
Home duties, Willoughby, N.S.W. Spinster  
after Declaration duly made before me as by law required.

DATED this 31st day of October 1923.

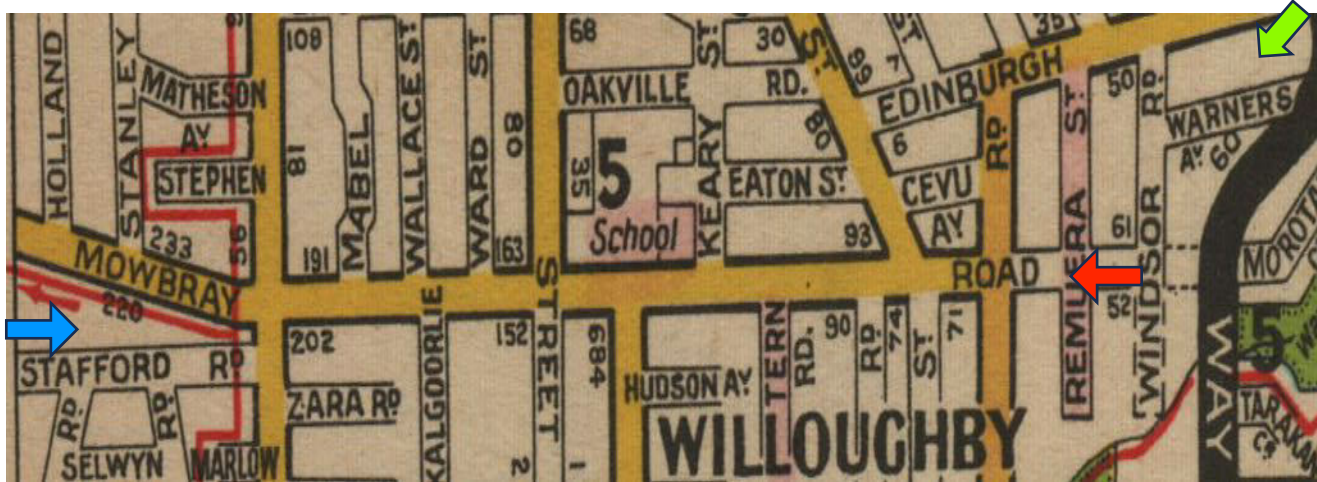
Signature of Minister  
H. M. Begbie  
Signature of Bridegroom  
C. W. Fox  
Signature of Bride  
Alice Smallhorn  
Signature of Witnesses  
Winifred Archbold  
Samuel Smallhorn

Insert Christian and Surname in full of Minister or Registrar.  
Insert Designation.  
Place.  
Insert Christian and Surname of Bridegroom as full length.  
Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bridegroom.  
Insert Christian and Surname of Bride as full length.  
Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bride.  
N.B. - "Condition," Bachelor - Spinster, Widower - Widow, Divorced - or Divorced (Peti.)  
\* "and," as the case may be.

File Sections 5, 28, and 29, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.

"The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed, otherwise the parties and the officiating Minister or Registrar are liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf."





ARCHBOLD's in the same area. I found Oswald John ARCHBOLD and his wife Mary, living in Mowbray Road. Willoughby, not far from Remuera Street. in 1913. Later the family moved to 47 Edinburgh Street. Google maps showed me that 47 still exists today, and is on the corner of Edinburgh and Third Avenue. I checked NSW BDM's and found Oswald's marriage, and the births of his two daughters, Geraldine M in 1893 and Winifred C in 1898. I still could not be sure that this Win was the one I was looking for.



*St Stephens, Chatswood*

This Win was the same age as Alice's brother Sam. She may have attended the same school, but it is more likely that she went to local Catholic schools. My wider research on the ARCHBOLD name had led me to believe this family may have been Catholic. Alice's family were staunch Church of England.

This Win was the same age as Alice's brother Sam. She may have attended the same school, but it is more likely that she went to local Catholic schools. My wider research on the ARCHBOLD name had led me to believe this family may have been Catholic. Alice's family were staunch Church of England.

I then tried Trove and found only a couple of entries. Both referred to education. One article listed a Winifred C ARCHBOLD passing her exams to move onto High School. Another mentioned her 94/100 score in her Stott's College Shorthand course. Pieces were starting to fit. In the Electoral Rolls of the 1930s Winifred is listed as a clerk and a typiste.

For a time, in the 1930s the parents and Win lived in nearby Narrabeen. When Win finally married, in 1937, she became Mrs Michael Vincent BURKE and by 1943, she and Michael were back living at 47 Edinburgh Road.

I then had a bright idea. My grandmother kept a Birthday Book and I inherited this when she died. I found it and flicked through the pages. There, in my grandmother's loopy, unique writing was an entry for Win ARCHBOLD on March 1st. Then just underneath she had written Win



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BOURKE- a spelling error to be sure, but proof to me that I had found the correct Win!

I then decided to create a basic public tree for the ARCHBOLDS on Ancestry and soon found other people researching this family. One lady, Lynne ARCHBOLD, had a huge public tree, with hundreds of photos and documents. I wrote to her, explaining my dilemma, and she replied the next day to report that, sadly, she did not have a photo of Win. What I did discover, however, is that my father has a connection to the ARCHBOLD family. The further back I went, the more familiar the names became. I had not yet entered my JOHNSON/OLIVER lines into Ancestry, so I opened my folders to discover that yes, I am distantly related to Winifred!

I have just sent messages off to two private trees connected to Win's father Oswald, so here's hoping they can help. As I haven't completed entering all my lines, the DNA matches will be something to investigate in the future. In the meantime, I will continue looking for a photo of Win. Sadly, she was widowed in 1949 and had no children of her own. She lived a long life, staying at 47 Edinburgh Road., Willoughby until the late 1970s. My grandmother died in 1977. Win died in 1987 and joined her husband in Macquarie Park's Catholic Section.

#### *Resources*

*NSW BDMs, Trove Newspapers, Ryerson Index, Ancestry.com, Personal papers and photo Hamlyn's Sydney Street Directory, 26th Edition, Pub. By Paul Hamlyn Pty Ltd. 1976, Pg.42 Google maps.*

*Henry Oliver & Margaret Sheldon  
Bridget Oliver & D.D. Matthews  
Charlotte Oliver & John Johnson  
Frances Johnson & RAW Green  
Augustus S Green & Clara Mines  
Sam Smallhorn & Charlotte Hilliard  
Alice Smallhorn b. 1895 & Cecil Fox  
Nita Green & Arch Prentice  
Alan Prentice & Cecily Fox  
Lynda Smith nee Prentice [ME!]*

*Same couple   siblings   friends*

*Henry Oliver & Margaret Sheldon  
William Oliver & Mary Brown  
Richard Archbold & Mary Pauley  
Gerald Archbold & Mary Ann Olver  
Oswald J Archbold & Mary A Griffin  
Winifred Archbold b 1898*



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## WYONG ITALIAN FAMILIES

*Marilyn Zaia member 975*

When I moved to the Central Coast from Sydney, my extended family thought it would be a good idea if I researched the family history in Wyong. So I joined the Wyong Family History Group.

We had a farm and market gardens in Wyong and I form the Italian connection. Our name is listed on the Welcome Wall of the Maritime Museum in Sydney and we are among the first Italians to arrive in Sydney.



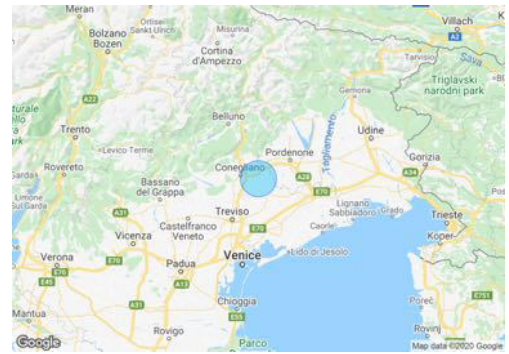
Giacomo (James) Zaia and Dominica Agostinelli owned a farm and properties in Wyong.

Giacomo was born in Codogno, Italy. They married in 1895 at Eugowra and had a family of 10 children. James died on 31 July 1954 at Wyong, NSW.

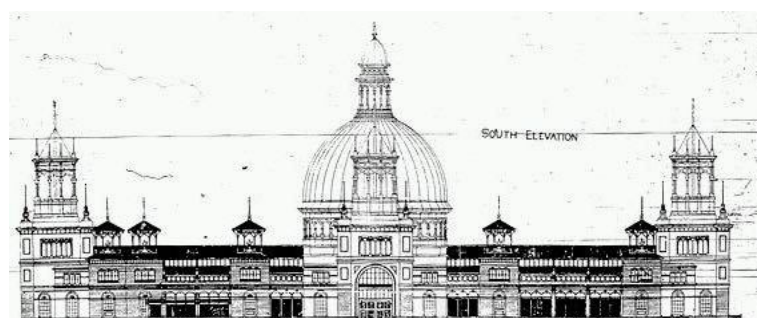
Giacomo, my great grandfather travelled with his parents, Angelo and Maddalena Zaia and his six siblings arriving in Sydney on 7 April 1881. My great grandparents were among 217 Italians to make the voyage from the Veneto region in Italy. They were caught up in the "Marquis de Rays" conspiracy and paid for their passage to find a new beginning, and settle in a new country, what they were told was a prosperous new settlement. However, this voyage was marked by corruption, and many died from fever and malnutrition in the attempt to set up "New France". This was to include New Ireland, parts of New Guinea and the Solomons.

Finally the Italians were rescued and the ship "James Paterson" was sent to bring them to Sydney. Sir Henry Parkes decided that they should be allowed to settle in the Colony. They were disembarked and lodged in the Agricultural Hall of the Exhibition Building in the Domain. The Exhibition Building or "Garden Palace" was built to house Sydney's first international exhibition in 1879. Three years later it burnt down, the stone pillars of the Palace gates which mark the main entrance to the Botanical Gardens from Macquarie Street are the only reminder of the grand building.

Giacomo (James) Zaia was on the "James Paterson" steamship. He was 15 years old when he arrived in Sydney and was listed as an agricultural labourer. He spent many years farming in Wellington, New South Wales and in his later years moved to Wyong. The colonists in Sydney didn't know what to do with the Italian immigrants, so it was decided to send them to work as labourers and domestic staff and they were split up and allotted to families in NSW who needed help on their properties. That is how the ZAIA's ended up in Wellington as the whole family were sent to work on a farm. The four brothers and sister were



*Jillyby Cemetery*



*Garden Palace*

agricultural labourers, and the parents acted as caretakers with two younger children, Catterina and Giuseppe to raise. They later established farms in the region, later to sell their property and relocate to Wyong.

The Italian immigrants were given posts all over NSW. Most families wanted cooks in the English style, but the Italians only knew Mediterranean cooking and they were good at "growing the grapes" and making wine. Tizzana Winery near



Ebenezer in the Hawkesbury was established in this way by Italian immigrants. It is described as "Tuscany by the Hawkesbury River" and was set up in 1887. New Italy was also developed in the Lismore region as Italians wanted to stay together and form a new community. It is an interesting place to visit today and there is a memorial to the original voyage and the Marquis de Ray expedition.

We don't know why the ZAIA family settled in Wyong. Perhaps it was the fertile farming land and the access to water through Wyong creek and river. They became involved with establishing St. Cecilia's Catholic Church volunteering time and gifts in the early years.

Thank you to Helen Burkett for her invaluable assistance helping me researching land records through Old Systems Titles of the NSW Land Registry Services. ... ❖

## CONSPIRACY

*A short explanation of the aforesaid Conspiracy ed*

During the 1880s, there were waves of "immigration schemes" being sold in Europe. People living in rural poverty were often the targets of these expeditions, which promised a better life in a new land rich with potential. The Marquis de Ray, a Frenchman, put together several such expeditions to a place called "New France" on the island of New Ireland, which was part of New Guinea. He pitched the destination to Italians as a tropical paradise. At the time, southern Italy was dealing with earthquakes, soil erosion, and high taxes, leading to a significant interest in emigration.

In 1880, the Marquis de Ray was pitching the Italians his third migration scheme; he had already sent two ships of migrants to Port Breton in Papua New Guinea. He lured unsuspecting farmers to the colony of "New France" with intriguing advertisements that



*Lewis W. Hine*



Advertising material depicting colonists at Port Breton distributed in Europe in the late 19th century



---

promised a lush home with peaceful beaches and freedom from the Italian dictatorship.

Desperate for a better life, many families sacrificed everything to get on board the ship. They paid large sums of money (1,800 gold francs per family) for transport, rations, land, and a home once they arrived. Many even signed away five years of their lives to serve as indentured workers.

The Italian government saw through the mirage of the Marquis de Ray's claims and realized how dangerous the journey was going to be. The government forbade all Italian citizens from joining the expedition and issued an edict refusing to issue passports to interested families. To avoid the wrath of the French and Italian governments, the Marquis routed the expedition through Barcelona, Spain. With Italy unable to intercede, the Marquis left with 340 Italian passengers in July of 1880.

The Italians eventually built a thriving community of their own, south of Woodburn, NSW, but today, no one lives at the old settlement. Instead, it has been transformed into a roadside stop with a cafe, museum, and park. The attraction celebrates Italian culture and tells the story of the founders' struggle to find a place of their own in the South Pacific.

[https://www.ranker.com/list/what-happened-to-new-italy-immigrants/rachel-souerbry ...](https://www.ranker.com/list/what-happened-to-new-italy-immigrants/rachel-souerbry)



*Photo Peter Ellis*

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## SOLVING A PUZZLE

*Lynda Smith LM2*

Back in the 1980s, I met with two spinster cousins of my grandmother, Alice FOX nee SMALLHORN. These ladies were from her mother's HILLIARD side of the family. My grandmother had previously given them a Victorian era photo album and they gave this to me. In my naivety, I took all the photos out of their cardboard pages. [That is another story entirely!]

One of the ones that puzzled me was a large "Salon Panel" sized photo of a funeral wreath, that had handwriting added to the bottom in black ink. It says "Photo of wreath placed on the late G. T or L ...atham's grave by S.T. Prop. & staff 1904." I had no idea who this person was, what S.T

prop. was or why my family kept this odd photo. I wasn't even sure of the spelling of his name.

Whilst getting ready for my talk for the latest Intermediate Class recently, I came across this photo again. I decided to try and find out who this person was. Put on sleuthing hat!

1. I tried Ryerson for G Latham's who died in 1904. No result. I then tried G Tatham and struck gold. George TATHAM had died in March 1904 in Sydney.
2. The photograph was printed by Creelman of Sydney Arcade, Sydney.
3. I then went to Trove, to look up the notice from Ryerson and discovered the answers to my questions.
4. S.T. Prop. Stands for *Sunday Times*, the Sydney Newspaper. George was a much-loved member of staff and worked on this newspaper, as well as the *Referee* and the *Arrow* for 16 years.
5. He was a machinist and engineer and also ran his own Engineering Works. [see ad below]
6. George was also a Mason, an avid follower of Randwick Rugby Club and a keen fan of rowing. His promising personal athletic career was cut short by a knee injury in Glasgow, during a jumping competition in his youth.
7. The death notices and funeral notices gave further information on George's larger family. His wife's maiden surname was HADDEN and he was the brother-in-law of many, with the surnames of HADDEN, PLUMB, WILBOW, WERNER and TAYLOR featuring in notices.
8. He lived in Surry Hills [104 Cooper Street,] and was buried at Rookwood Cemetery [or Necropolis, as it was called then]. His nickname was "Fat George" and he died suddenly of a heart attack.
9. He was a member of the NSW Printers, Overseers Association.



I then checked NSW BDMs online and discovered a marriage for George TATHAM to a Mary Ann HADDEN in 1885. This confirmed the connection in the newspaper notices. Births are not so easy to determine as there are a number of entries for variations of Mary and George. I decided that I didn't need to pursue this any further.

So, what is the connection to my family? My great grandfather, Samuel Alfred SMALLHORN, was a linotype operator with a variety of Sydney newspapers, and he was a Lodge member. At this time, he was living in Paddington [59 Stanley Street.]

So, to make an educated guess, I feel that Sam and George were long time workmates, and possibly also Masonic brothers. Sam may have been responsible for arranging the wreath.

This investigative process is one way of adding to your family history through the use of non-written sources, such as photos.

Mystery solved! Only have about 50 other unidentified photos from that album to go!

*References:*

*Ryerson Index, Trove Newspapers, NSW BDM website, personal knowledge of SMALLHORN family, Photo from the Smith family Collection.*



## WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

### Monthly Help & Chat Gathering by Zoom.

When: 3rd Wednesday of the month  
Time: Usually 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
Where: Your place.

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**



# The Valleys

*We asked our members to share stories about the The Valleys. Whilst researching the area I have found much of the history of the area, I have, however chosen to include mostly personal stories in this edition of your Tree of Life These Valleys have a rich history, both First Nations and Settler.*

*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 THE VALLEYS

*Extracts from The Ecology of the Tuggerah Lakes Historical Records  
By Anthony Scott*

### **Timber cutters move in for the cedar and forest oak**

*The Great Northern Road, built by convict labour and linking Sydney with the Maitland area via Wisemans Ferry and Wollombi, was completed by 1830, and a small settlement was established at Wollombi. Timber-getters from that vicinity were soon in this area seeking two timbers mainly; the forest oak which was used principally for shingles, which were in great demand; and cedar which was eagerly sought after as an ideal timber for making furniture of many kinds. The forest oaks grew profusely along the mountain ridges and the slopes (but not in the valleys), and the cedar trees abounded in the big scrubs in the Yarramalong and Dooralong valleys.*

### **Rich alluvial land waiting to be developed**

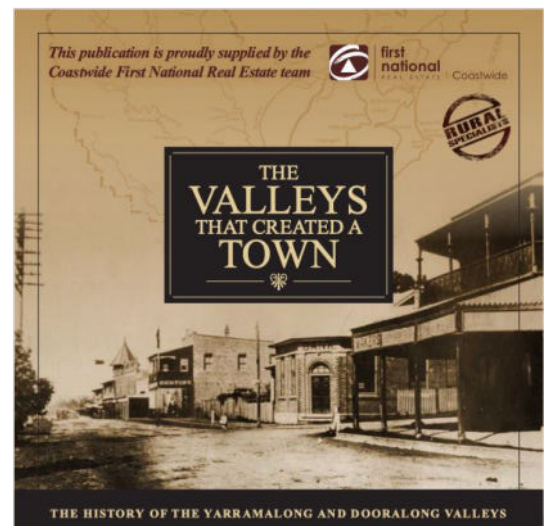
*... At Wyong Creek, 14 miles north of Gosford, there are thousands of acres of the richest alluvial land, which would be immediately bought up if the Government expended a few hundred pounds in making a road along the creek ... (Australian Town and Country Journal, 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 1878)*

## THE BEGINNING OF SETTLEMENT

*Coastwide First National Real Estate sincerely thanks  
Max Farley for his valuable time and input for this  
publication.*

Interest in the Yarramalong Valley started with cedar getters in the 1830s but Europeans had been travelling near and through the Valley for decades beforehand.

In the 1830s George Bloodworth, the son of a respected emancipist brickmaker, was illegally removing cedar from Crown land in Jiliby/Dooralong, Yarramalong and beyond.



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Bloodworth's wife had a sister married to Richard Hill, a Member of the Legislative Assembly. It was probably Hill's association with Bloodworth, William Charles Wentworth, and Wyong's Cape family that led to him receiving a grant in the area of 843 acres.

The grant was from near Yarramalong School down to Wyong Creek and to the east. It encompassed Stinsons Lane and the Yarramalong Cemetery area. On 8 November 1854, Hill sold this land which he had probably never seen.

By 1866 settlers in the Yarramalong Valley included the Balls, Beavens, Boyds, Durringtons, Fannings, Hills, Kellys, Kennedys, Lettes, Morans, O'Neills, O'Tooles, Stinsons, Tobins, Waters and Watkins. A number of these were at Yarramalong and Wyong Creek although the Beavens were slightly higher up the Valley at Cedar Brush Creek.

These events, and similar ones in Dooralong Valley, took place some 30 years before Wyong township itself was established. At that time the Wyong site was described as *"a wild scrub full of dingoes and wallabys"* and remained largely so until the railway came in the late 1880s.

*Reproduced with kind permission Coastwide First National Real Estate. ... ❖*

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## **LIVING IN THE DOORALONG VALLEY**

*Lyn Hagstrom member 768*

Paul and I have been living in Jilliby, part of the Dooralong Valley, for nearly 11 years. We moved up from Annandale, Inner West of Sydney when Paul felt the need to escape the city for a life on acreage.

Paul had been visiting our youngest daughter on a property she was renting at Cedar Brush Creek out past Yarramalong, while I was at work. Paul realised while sitting on the verandah enjoying coffee and a chat with Naomi, that was the life he wanted. Country peace and quiet not city hustle and bustle. I grew up in the Blue Mountains with the National Park as a playground and was not enjoying the city so much and agreed.

Both Dooralong and Yarramalong Valleys are beautiful valleys to live in with most properties being mainly 10 or more acres. Ours is a 40 acre 'L' shaped bush block with a 20 metre road frontage hidden behind two small properties on the side of a ridge. Access to Dooralong Valley is from Jilliby or Dicksons Roads both off Hue Hue Road and Mandalong Road from Morissett/Cooranbong. All roads are now tarred. Dicksons and Mandalong Roads were dirt roads when we first moved here. Sometimes travelling on the tarred roads can be just as adventurous as driving on





the roads when they were dirt. Number of potholes experienced seem about the same after heavy rain.

## The Valleys

The Dooralong Valley is wide and travels out to Lemon Tree where it is narrower and is surrounded by the Wattagan National Park and Olney State Forrest. Yarramalong Valley travels out to Cedar Brush Creek and Ravensdale with Kulnura and Mangrove Mountain being reached via Bumble Hill at Yarramalong. Driving along both valleys is worth taking the time to do, although Yarramalong is the only place with a shop/café/restaurant called Angel Azzuri, a very popular meeting place for locals and tourists. Your travel takes you past many thoroughbred horse properties used for spelling and breeding, cattle, sheep and very passionate organic farmers. Many properties are used as B & Bs or offer camping opportunities.

The Harvest Festival is a major attraction which is held in June and encourages large numbers of tourist to the area. A great chance for the people of the valleys to showcase their produce and lifestyles.



We have wallabys, eastern grey kangaroos, brushtail possums, echindas are frequently seen on our property and far too many varieties of birds ranging from tiny wrens, striated thornbills, honeyeaters to our resident sulphur crested cockatoos. Quite often you will hear a cacophony of bird songs and calls when outside. It is very easy to be distracted from any jobs by the birds and animals. I enjoy being able to observe their behaviours and interactions with each other. Many times I have witnessed the cockatoos warning others of danger from foxes and goannas, while magpies will make a racket if we have a visit to our dam from white-bellied sea eagles, a rare and exciting experience. Occasionally we see deer quietly passing through the bush or the dreaded foxes. Nights can be difficult to watch TV in summer due to rather loud range of frog sounds coming from our dam. If we are very fortunate, we can sometimes hear Powerful Owl, Boo Book Owl and Barking Owl, all of which are threatened in our area, making it very exciting and a special experience when hearing them.



For us the 'Carols by Candlelight' is the main Valley activity and is hosted by our local Rural Fire Service. Students from Jilliby Public





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School help with entertainment as do local talented residents. A very pleasant evening in Dooralong oval catching up with residents old and new, as well as catching up with our 'Furies' for latest advice/news on any fire activities.

If driving along Jilliby Road, you will pass the Wyong Pony Club and Sporting Horse Association grounds which is used at least three weekends a month. Our daughter and her two children used to participate in both groups and I found it a great way to meet many of the families that lived in both valleys. I spent many a Sunday taking copious amounts of photos. It was not unusual to see four generations of the one family participating in events at the Sporting Horse days, with many of these families having lived many years in the area.

The Dooralong Valley has Jilliby Public School, while Wyong Creek Public School caters for families of the Yarramalong Valley. Both schools have less than 100 students each. I have had seven of my eight grandkids attend Wyong Creek Public School with mostly positive experiences. Barker College now uses the old Yarramalong Public School as a school for local aboriginal population.

Our biggest adjustment living here has been rather poor communication services, which doesn't appear to be improving much at all. The travelling to shops and services, whilst further away, is easier and quicker compared to where we lived in Annandale. Not much traffic or traffic lights, what bliss. Space around us is such a joy and while we may not see our neighbours, we know that they are there if we need any help. Whilst living through the Covid period had its challenges, we were able to make the most of enjoying not being confined to a small yard or unit. I should say that we had two of our daughters and their families living with us on the property, not unusual for people living out here.

In the nearly 11 years of living here, we have experienced threat of bushfires, as well as the very real impact of drought and floods. Fortunately, our valley has not been directly impacted with fire, not so fortunate with floods. Dicksons Road is usually not closed by flood waters for very long, maybe a day or two, but travelling into Wyong or Tuggerah for supplies can be more challenging. We have learnt to be prepared with not only extra food supplies, but also fuel for generators as we usually suffer from loss of power, some more than others. Without power supply we have no water to the house as the pumps for the water tanks need electricity. While life in the Valleys has its challenges, the space and peacefulness of the area certainly makes up for it. ... ❖

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### **A REMINDER FOR MEMBERS**

*Members are reminded that anytime they are at 'The Cottage' for any purpose, wearing membership cards in a manner that it is clearly displayed is obligatory.*

*Your courtesy is appreciated. ... ❖*

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## MY FAMILY HISTORY

Emma McBride Federal Member for Dobell

My family's history on the Central Coast traces back to my Great Great Grandfather, William Beavan, who arrived in Australia as a convict aboard the "Mary Ann" in 1835. After his transportation, he settled in Brush Creek, Yarramalong, where he dedicated himself to farming until his passing in 1887. His final resting place is the most historic gravesite at Saint Barnabas Church, established by local volunteers and opened in 1885.



Photo H J-L

The Bevan family continued to shape the valley's landscape through generations, their endeavours ranging from farming and bushcraft to carpentry, notably contributing to the construction of bridges and wharves. Over time, the family moved towards urban life, with my Great Grandmother Dinah, affectionately known as "Lexie" Bevan, residing on Margaret Street in Wyong.



Wyong Astra in the 1940s

My mother, Barbie, vividly recalls her childhood visits with the family during the 1950s. She fondly remembers the orchards, the bustling dairy farm at Tuggerah, and her unforgettable experience at the Astra Theatre in Wyong, where a screening of "Phantom of the Opera" left her trembling with fear.

Family holidays were a cherished tradition, often spent by the lakeshores of Budgewoi. Here, they would row boats under the midday sun and venture out at night to prawn by the light of their lanterns.

The family legacy extends beyond agriculture and carpentry to community sports ; my Great Uncle Ron took pride in his role as the greenkeeper responsible for maintaining the cricket pitch at Baker Park, so the local community always had a place to enjoy their sport.

I am honoured to share these recollections of my family's history, of community spirit, and an enduring connection to this remarkable corner of Australia.

*Thank you Emma for taking the time to share this part of your family's history ... ed. ... ❖*

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Find us on  
**Facebook**

I have been clearing out filing cabinets of late and found some handwritten notes. It appears I wrote this information back in 1988, possibly for a media release. Our group was then in the process of transcribing the small Council owned cemeteries, with a plan to publish books in 1989. The information is still relevant today.

'According to Mr. E STINSON's *"A Pictorial History of the Wyong Shire" Volume 1*, the oldest church building in the area is that of St. Barnabas Church of England at Yarramalong. It was opened around 1885-6, being built by community effort, under the supervision of James BAILEY, a local builder. The timber came from the WATERS sawmill. This church has its own graveyard. Most of the old headstones were the work of John COOK, stonemason, who married into the STINSON family. Two headstones featured in Volume 1 are those of Ezekiel WATERS [1885] and Jane WATERS [1878], and Mary STINSON [1896] and her husband Hamilton [1902]

Two other graves at St. Barnabas are those of Brush Creek pioneers William BEAVEN [possibly the first burial, *see page 19*] and George PALMER, schoolmaster of Yarramalong Public School from 1877-84. St. Barnabas closed in 1977 and has been kept as an historic site.

The second church was St. Silas Church of England at Wyong Creek, opening in April 1886. The first Wyong township church was St. James Church of England, which opened in 1906, and the first Roman Catholic Church had its foundation stone laid at The Entrance in Oct. 1925.

There are two cemeteries in Yarramalong, about 2 miles apart [about 3.2 kms]. Yarramalong Cemetery is the oldest, can be found on a hillside, 11 miles [about 18 kms] from Wyong, halfway between Yarramalong Public School and STINSON's Lane. The first burial there was that of Elizabeth Stinson CAMPBELL, the great grandmother of Edward STINSON. Elizabeth died in 1865. The inscription on the headstone is illegible. Other members of the STINSON, WATERS and HILL families, pioneers of the district, are buried there.

St. Anne's Church of England was built in 1921 at Dooralong by local builder Hugh D'ARCY. He was also the builder of "Hakone", the home of Albert Hamlyn WARNER. ["Hakone" is now part of the Strathavon Complex on Wyong River, and used to be a fancy guest house/Country Club]. D'ARCY also built the building on Church St. with the big conical towers.

The Methodist, now Uniting Church at Ourimbah had its foundation stone laid in 1927, while St. Peter's Church of England at Ourimbah was dedicated in 1909. The first church at Tuggerah was All Saint's C of E,



dedicated in 1933'. [Sadly, white ants attacked this building and it is no more. It was across the road from modern day McDonald's at Tuggerah.]

That was the end of my initial notes.

*Resources: The Pictorial History of Wyong Shire" by Edward STINSON. ... ❖*

## OUR FAMILY CONNECTION WITH ST. BARNABAS CHURCH.

*Lynda Smith LM2 July 2024*

When our eldest son became engaged, in 1998, his in-laws to be were travelling around Australia. When she wasn't studying at the National University in Canberra, Adam's fiancée, Linda WELLS, stayed with us. She decided that their wedding should be a local one, as we would be doing most of the arrangements. After much searching, Adam and Linda decided on St. Barnabas for their ceremony and Yarramalong Hall for the reception. Both sites could be hired and the church was now considered to be ecumenical, so Linda was able to choose the Minister.



The service was lovely and many photos were taken in the grounds. A bus was hired to bring the non-local guests out to the valley from Wyong Train Station and the hall was a great location for a low-key country style reception. We all had a wonderful time.

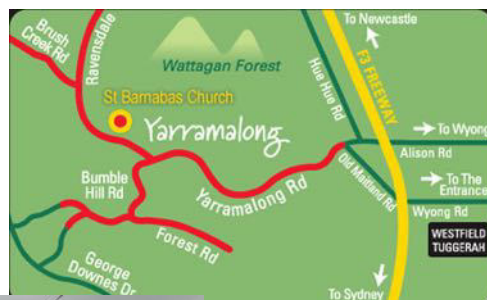
*Resources: Own photo.*

*Map and Church exterior from website.*

[https://www.yarramalongvalley.com.au/yarramalong\\_attractions/saint\\_barnabas\\_church.html](https://www.yarramalongvalley.com.au/yarramalong_attractions/saint_barnabas_church.html)

*Hall photo*

<https://alisonhomestead.wordpress.com/tag/yarramalong-hall/> ... ❖



*Yarramalong Hall*

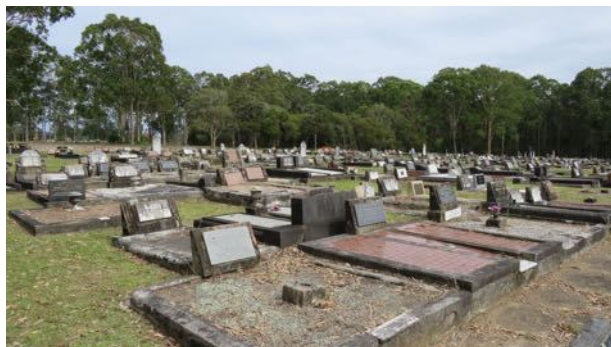
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## OUR FAMILY CONNECTION WITH JILLIBY CEMETERY.

Lynda Smith LM2

## The Valleys

Jilliby Cemetery, on the corner of Hue Hue Rd. and Jilliby Rd. is special to our family. Many years ago, before our transcripts were completed] one Mother's Day, my husband and I asked his mother if she wanted to visit her mother's grave. Edith MUNNS nee MORGAN and her husband Bertie MUNNS were both buried in this cemetery.



Bertie and Edith had retired to Wyongah in 1948 from Concord West. Bertie had worked for Arnott's Biscuits, first in Newcastle and then in Concord. Sadly, Gladys declined our offer as there was no grave stone and she had forgotten where her parent's plot was situated.

I contacted Wyong Shire Council to see if they had records. They put me in touch with their grave digger, Mr. McKENZIE and he was able to tell me exactly where the MUNNS grave was, in the Methodist section. Over the next few months, we arranged to have a lovely piece of sandstone cemented in place and we had a brass plaque done with all the relevant details. We kept this a surprise.

The following year we took Gladys out to Jilliby and showed her where her parents could be found. She was very touched, and from then on was able to visit on special days and leave fresh flowers. When my husband's parents passed away, both were cremated and portions of their ashes were added to the MUNNS plot.

The older cemeteries of the area are now largely closed. If you have strong family connections [and there is room] then the occasional burial is permitted. Jilliby Cemetery is still open, as is the newer one at Noraville. Most locals seem to prefer Palmdale Lawn cemetery and Crematorium at Ourimbah. ... ❖

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# REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

*Lest We Forget*



## DID YOU KNOW ?

Helen Burkett member 342



### At 'The Cottage'

The following resources are held at The Cottage. Come in and browse.

In the Library:

Title	Type	Accession No
St. Barnabas & Yarramalong Cemeteries	Book/ CD	CEM099/CD464
Mountain & Valley (Articles from Yarramalong area)	Book	NSP017
St. Barnabas	Leaflet in small box	REL016
Yarramalong Public School Centenary 1870-1970	Book	LHW018
Yarramalong School of Arts 1904-2004	Book	LHW024
Yarramalong Valley History Notes by Ma Farley	Book	LHW068
Yarramalong – Back Then – Yarramalong Past	Book	LHW015

Drop Files Esther Dean Computer Room

A folder of interesting stories about Yarramalong and areas which includes an article on Bumble Hill, place names, and a comprehensive article on residents of the Yarramalong Valley in the early years.

**And remember** further information can be found in the One Place Study on our website: [www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au) ... ❖



## MEANING OF PLACE NAMES

For those who have wondered:

- Cooranbong Derived from the Aboriginal word "Kour-an-bong", meaning "rocky bottom creek" or "water over rocks".
- Dooralong In the Darkinjung language, it's believed 'dooralong' was a type of timber that made the best spears.
- Hue Hue Comes from a locality and former school in the Wyong LGA. Extensive research has been unable to find a meaning behind the name of the road.
- Jilliby An Aboriginal word meaning 'where two creeks meet'.
- Kulnura An Aboriginal word meaning "in sight of the sea" or "up in the clouds"
- Mandalong An Aboriginal word meaning '*where the forest oaks grow*'
- Watagan An Aboriginal word meaning "many ridges"
- Wyong In the Darkinjung language, it means 'edible yam', referring to the species in abundance in its waterways. More modern reports also say that the word could mean 'running water', but these claims are unverified.
- Yarramalong derives from the two words meaning horse (Yarraman) and place (long).  
Yarraman might have a linguistic connection to the words 'yira' and 'yera', meaning large teeth.

Traditionally the land of the Darkinjung people ... ❖



# YARRAMALONG SPRING FAIR SEPTEMBER 2018

## JACK GEAR RESERVE, LINGA LONGA RD. YARRAMALONG.

Lynda Smith LM2

## The Valleys

For a number of years, pre Covid, Alan and I loved attending the Spring Fair. As part of the Spring Festival, the valleys also hosted a Scarecrow Competition. It was always great fun, driving through the valleys, taking photos of the marvellous creations people came up with. Some had a political message, and others were just fun. As 2018 was the anniversary of the end of World War One, it was fitting that the winning entry was on that theme.

Others just caught my eye because of the whimsy involved, like this unicorn. Other entries featured colourful fat pigs, ballerinas and political statements concerning the possibility of coal mines affecting local water supply. Many entries featured crows.

The Fair featured lots of stalls full of hand made goods. One of the local schools did a raging trade in home-baked cakes. My husband's Central Coast Woodturners had a huge display. A feature of the day was the wife carrying race.



The definition of 'wife' was a little elastic, but it was all in good fun.

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There were also many demonstrations: sheep shearing, milking, spinning and blacksmithing.

The children were entertained with face painting, pony and camel rides, jumping castles and a farm animal nursery, as well as the usual fairy floss and other sweet treats.

There were numerous food stalls as well. The highlight of the day for me was the woodchopping event. The last time I saw such an event was at a Sydney Easter Show many years ago. It was very noisy, but also very exciting to watch. I was amazed at how quickly huge logs were cut in half. For those who are unfamiliar, woodchopping is a handicapped event, with the best chopper having to give the others head starts of various lengths. Invariably, the 'best' one, still managed to win. Woodchopping seems to be a family affair as well, with lots of fathers, sons, uncles and nephews being involved, often through generations.

Sadly, Covid closures put paid to the festival for a few years. The Scarecrow competition has managed to survive, and we still make the effort to do a tour and take some photos. Last year, the competition coincided with the weekend of our Conference. I was able to check them out on the Monday. It appears from a recent check of the website, that the Fair is no more. Other events, such as the Art Show may continue, along with the Scarecrows. It is a great shame that this lovely, old-fashioned family event is no more.



*Photos by Lynda Smith.*

2018 Program from <https://www.facebook.com/YarramalongSpringFestival/> ... ❖

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*MELBOURNE CUP DAY*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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Hi Folks,

My name is Alan Smith and I'm not a genealogist as such, but I am married to a very dedicated one, so I guess that makes me an honorary member of the group.

When I was 2½ we moved up from Bondi in Sydney, and I had the great pleasure of growing up in Wyong when life was much simpler and less complicated. My parents were Stewart and Gladys SMITH and, with my sister, we lived on the north western corner of the intersection of Alison Rd and Hope St at 52 Alison Rd. Dad was the local electrician and everyone in the area knew him well and loved him.

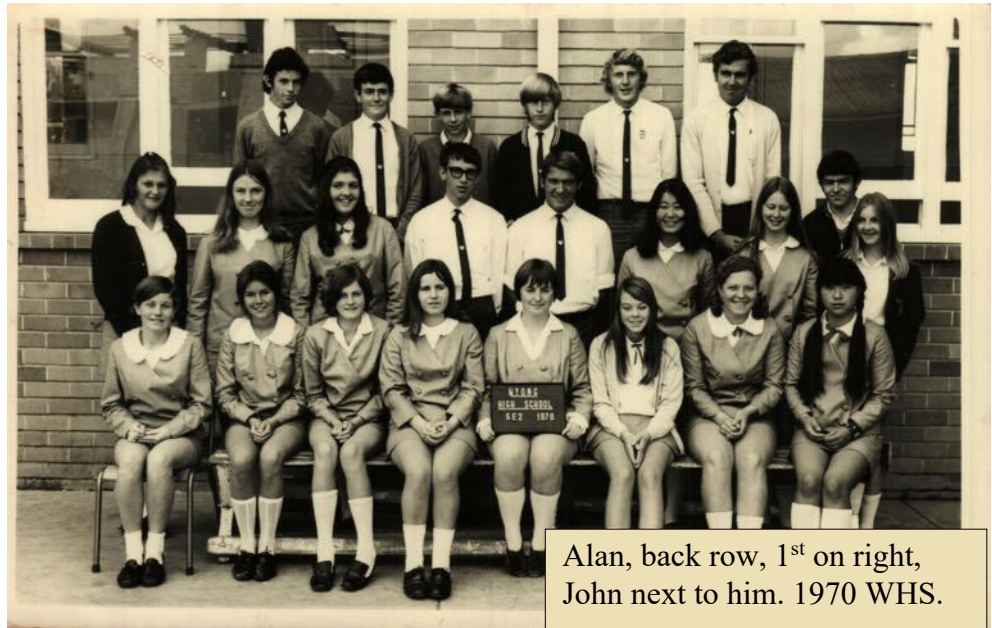
I don't remember my first visit to the valleys west of Wyong but they have always played a huge role in my life. I do remember, as a very young kid, going blackberry picking in the Yarramalong valley many, many times and also hunting for mushrooms in the paddocks of family friends. There was always an abundance of both, and we never returned home empty handed. We would walk for what seemed like miles along the side of the road chasing the blackberries and my dad would then send me back to get the car... an FJ Holden work ute. I was only 8 when this first happened. I learned to drive, through necessity, at a very young age.

I often went with Dad when he was working and consequently got to know almost everyone in Wyong and the valleys. One family, the STOCKIE's, had a property at Wyong Creek that was beside the State Forest. Their daughter, Joanne, and son, Micky, were the same age as us and we got along well. They had several Shetland ponies, including Meg, who I liked to ride. We had to catch them, saddle them, and when we were finished, cool them down and brush them. It all sounds wonderful but one day Meg had different ideas. She threw me off, into a barbed wired fence, and I still have the scars on my leg to remember her by.

One of the biggest events in the valleys, back in the day, were the local dances. Even as a young kid we would get all dressed up and the whole family would go. Mum and Dad were very good dancers and we quickly learned all of the old-time dances as well. The only one that I wasn't too keen on was the progressive barn dance where you change partners every minute or so. All of the lovely old ladies knew me and kept asking questions about school etc. It was very kind of them, and I was always polite, but I would have to answer the same questions 20 or 30 times during the dance.



The old dances were wonderful though and it gave the whole community a chance to get together, relax, have fun and then finish up with tea and scones provided by the Ladies Auxilliary. Once I got my driver's licence though, the dances took on a



Alan, back row, 1<sup>st</sup> on right, John next to him. 1970 WHS.

whole new meaning. They were a great night out with your girlfriend.

When I was in primary school, we didn't have much to do with the valley kids, but in high school, at Wyong, we got to know them very well. Wyong was the only High School in the district, so it had a large drawing area.

One of my best mates through high school was John EDWARDS, who lived with his sister and parents, Dennis and Pauline, at 70 Ravensdale Rd. I spent a lot of time there growing up and we had some wonderful adventures along the way. When I married in 1974, he was my Best Man.

The property was a 45acre dairy farm and when I was there John and I would often help Dennis with the milking. This usually went well, but I remember one day that John forgot the first, most basic rule of dairy farming: you don't milk the bull! John had let it into the dairy along with the cows. It turned out alright though. After a few anxious minutes we just feed it and eventually pushed it back into the paddock. No damage done. John's Dad, Dennis, was a proud Welshman and we thought that he'd be angry when he found out, but he just fell about laughing.

Anyone who knew John realised very quickly that he was a character. He often got up to mischief without knowing that he was doing it. Their house was two storeys with John's bedroom, a bathroom and a carport downstairs. John's room had a huge window overlooking the property. One weekend a few of us from school were sitting around the downstairs rooms. John was sitting on his bed and decided to polish and clean his .22 rifle. Yes, you were allowed to have them back then. Anyway, just as he finished, a flight of ducks flew past. John took aim and pulled the trigger. He forgot the gun was loaded and he blew a nice neat .22 sized hole in his plate glass window. {No ducks were harmed in this event.}

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As a teenager, one of my great interests was cars and one of the EDWARDS' neighbours was Gary SMITH (no relation).

He was a couple of years older than us and he worked as a mechanic for Wyong Motors. His family had the sawmill on the corner of Yarramalong and Ravensdale Roads. Gary had an old homemade buggy that he'd built and we spent quite a bit of time tinkering with it, trying to keep it running. Gary also had 73/74 LJ Torana that he had built. He had somehow shoehorned a Holden V8 into it and got it registered. It was a great car.

Another family from Yarramalong were the BARTONS. Their property was in a little valley, on the left, just before you get to Yarramalong village. Their lovely blonde daughter, Keren, was in my class at school and somehow, I got roped into helping her dad build a piggery.

The valleys hold so many wonderful memories for me that they have become my "safe place" ... a place to go just to escape the stresses of daily life. As a teacher, I would often just get into the car at the end of a long, hard day and drive along the familiar valley roads; pass all the familiar old homes; revisit old memories; visit Matthew Flinders' black cat and then retrace my steps to return home, relaxed.

*Photos from the Smith family collection. ... ❖*



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### MY CONNECTION?

My mother's brother, Cecil Birtwistle had a place at Peat's Ridge where he was a timbergetter, probably during the depression, their brother Tom and nephew John also spent time there. In more recent years, members of the Birtwistle family were orchadists in the Kulnura area with one cousin also involved with horses.

Please let us know at [wfhgtol2@gmail.com](mailto:wfhgtol2@gmail.com) your thoughts on this feature which I conclude with this picture of the Yarramalong Gun Club published in Wyong Flashbacks – 1975 *Helen Johnston-Lord* editor







### Sharing

Do you have a hobby or interest outside Family History?

Perhaps you have a particularly 'colourful' ancestor or may be a fascinating family heirloom that you'd like to talk about.

Why not share your story at the "Show & Tell" of one of our General Meetings?

For more information, please contact Regina Hogan on

0412 541 412 or you can email her at [reginahogan99@gmail.com](mailto:reginahogan99@gmail.com).



**ROOKWOOD CEMETERY BUS TRIP** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY** From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**MUSEUMS OF HISTORY NSW STATE ARCHIVES READING ROOM BUS TRIP**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

***Jingle & Mingle Christmas Party*** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024



## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

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

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



# WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

*Presents*

## **FAMILY HISTORY:** *past, present and future* *with* **Andrew Redfern**



**Saturday 28th September 2024,**

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**At Tuggerah Community Hall, Anzac Avenue, Tuggerah**

**The Cost is \$25.00 per person**

**Lunch available at multiple venues within easy walking distance.**

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**Morning: Artificial Intelligence & Technology with Family History.**

**Afternoon: Family History.**

Join us for an exciting day of Family History exploration, led by Andrew Redfern, who will cover such topics as artificial intelligence and creative ways to share your ancestor's stories including blogs, videos and on social media. Learn about how AI can be used by genealogists as part of their family history work and see demonstrations of creative ways of employing technology to publish your findings. Using examples from his own research, Andrew will share interesting tales from his own tree including murderers, priests, runaway convicts, asylum inmates, wealthy squatters and everything in between.

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Book & Pay online: [www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au)

**Payment Options: Direct Deposit, Eftpos,**

**PayPal, in person at the Cottage**

**Enquiries The Cottage' – 4351 2211,**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Email: [wfhg06@gmail.com](mailto:wfhg06@gmail.com)**

*Expect a Raffle*



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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.

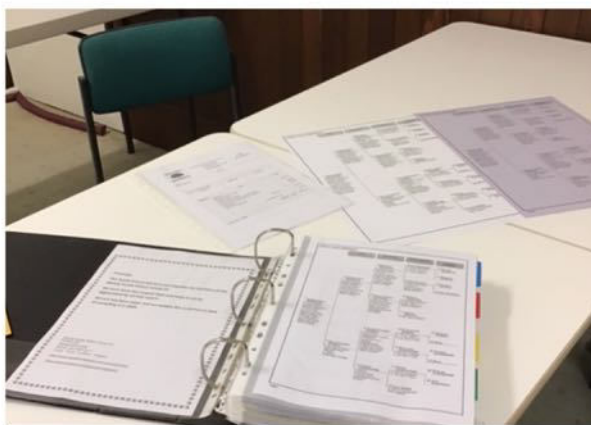
**Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.**

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](mailto:secwfhg2@westnet.com.au)  
Web Address:  
[www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au](http://www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au)



*Example of what you may receive.*

## 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.

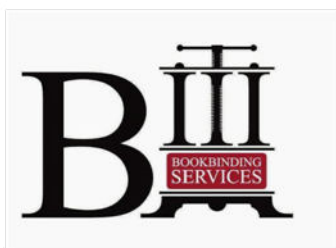
**SIG** = Special Interest Group

**Info** = Information Session.

	2024	Event
<b>Thu 1 – Sat 31 Family History Month</b>		
<b>August</b>	Tue 6	<b>John Selwood presents:</b> Creating the perfect page. 10:00 am – 12 noon
	Thu 8	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 10	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Sarah Powter: Topic; Writing Historical Fiction. <b>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</b>
	Sat 17	<b>WFHG OPEN DAY</b> (Sausage sizzle etc.) 10:30 am – 2:00 pm
	Tue 20	DNA <b>SIG</b> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 21	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Topic: Sporting Achievements from 2.30 pm
	Thu 22	Irish Research <b>SIG</b> 10am – Noon Microsoft Office <b>SIG</b> 12.30-2:30pm
	Sat 24	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 27	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 29	Mapping <b>SIG</b> , Hands on session using Google My Maps with Helen Burkett. 10:00 am – 12:30 pm <b>Booking Essential.</b>
<b>September</b>	Thu 12	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 14	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm <b>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</b> <b>NSW &amp; ACT State Conference via ZOOM</b>
	Thu 12	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 17	DNA <b>SIG</b> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 18	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up Topic: Men of Note 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 25	<b>Spotlight on Pioneer Registers in WFHG collection</b> 10:30am – 2:00pm with 30 minute lunch break.
	Thu 26	Irish Research <b>SIG</b> 10:am–Noon Microsoft Office <b>SIG</b> 12.30-2:30
	Sat 28	<b>Artificial Intelligence &amp; Technology Seminar with Andrew Redfern</b> 10:00am – 2:30pm Tuggerah Hall Cost \$25.00 <b>Booking Essential.</b>
<b>October</b>	Tue 1	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 3	Scottish Research <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Thu 10	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 12	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA <b>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</b>
	Tue 15	DNA <b>SIG</b> 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 16	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up Topic: Childhood Fun & Games 1.00pm–2.30pm
	Sat 19	<b>Rookwood Bus Trip to be confirmed</b>
	Mon 21	<b>Beginners Course commences to be confirmed</b> <b>Deadline for TOL</b>
	Thu 24	Irish Research <b>SIG</b> 10am-Noon Microsoft Office <b>SIG</b> 12:30=2:30pm
	Sat 26	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10am-Noon
	Tue 29	Committee Meeting for October 10:00 am



	2024	Event
November	Tue 5	<b>Melbourne Cup Luncheon</b> ( <i>Sausage Sizzle TBC</i> ) & <b>Afternoon Tea</b> 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm <b>Bookings essential.</b>
	Wed 7	Scottish Research <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 9	<b>General Meeting</b> 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: TBA <b>Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.</b>
	Mon 11	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 16	<b>Museums of History (State Archives) Bus Trip TBA</b>
	Wed 20	Monthly <b>ZOOM</b> Catch Up Topic: Family Holidays 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
	Sat 23	Multi-Media <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Wed 27	<b>Spotlight on Cemeteries</b> 10:30 am
	Thu 25	Irish Research <b>SIG</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
December	Sun 1	<b>Jingle &amp; Mingle Christmas Party Club Wyong</b> <b>Bookings essential.</b>
	Tue 3	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 12	<b>Last Day for 2024</b> <b>Christmas Morning Tea</b>



B3 Bookbinding  
Janita Ayton  
Phone 0403 667 295  
b3bookbinding.com  
b3bookbinding@gmail.com

B3 Bookbinding specialises in custom designed handmade books and boxes.

Using quality papers and traditional methods with a lot of creativity Janita can bring your project to fruition.

Repairs and restoration work are also welcomed and with over 30 years' experience as a bookbinder you can be assured of quality and know how that will protect your precious heirlooms.



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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@gmail.au](mailto:secwfhg2@gmail.au)

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

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

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**Remember, Member contributions are always welcome and 21 October 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](mailto:au_gosford@ldsmail.net)

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

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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.*