

WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



HISTORY GROUP INC.

Tree of Life

Official Journal of

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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*Artificial Intelligence



FEATURING

Norah Head

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, John Selwood and Beverley Hopkins (to be ratified)	

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 YOUR PRESIDENT

Lynda Smith – President – LM2



We have certainly have had a busy time of late. We decided to hold some Information tables at local shopping centres in September. We ended up speaking to over a hundred people, handed out many brochures, heard lots of interesting stories sold some raffle tickets and publications. We also took a table at the Toukey 50 + Leisure & learning Centre's Spring Fair. We had another productive day, helped a few people with the basics of 'how to start' and publicised our upcoming seminars. I would like to thank all of the members who gave up their time to help promote our group.



Lake Haven



Bateau Bay

Our Seminar on Artificial Intelligence with Andrew REDFERN was a huge success. Andrew gave a very entertaining and informative talk on the many ways AI programs can be used in genealogy. He also told us many interesting stories about members of his own family. (see *page 7*)

Shortly after this event, we hosted a second Seminar, featuring Duff WILSON from America and Stefan HARMS from Germany. These very clever gentlemen know all there is to know about Family Tree Maker and Family Book Creator. Again, this was a great success, both financially and educationally. The feedback was very positive, though both seminars did highlight a need to upgrade our sound system and invest in a portable Internet device. (see *page 8*)

We have a number of social events coming up, including a Melbourne Cup Day afternoon tea on November 5, a Remembrance Day sausage sizzle and display before the meeting on November 9. The end of year luncheon "Jingle and Mingle" is on again, at Wyong RSL [Club Wyong] on Sunday December 1, starting at 11am. Our last event for the year is a Bunnings BBQ on December 29 at Lake Haven. Please ensure you register your interest in any of these activities.

Our Special Interest Groups [SIG] are going well, as are our monthly Zoom sessions. We cover very interesting topics at these Zoom sessions. Feel free to just listen in if you don't wish to do a presentation. Our last education class for the year is currently running. We have also been steadily gaining new members, which is wonderful.

We held a very successful planning session for 2025 recently. Some events are still to be confirmed, but I believe we have included many appropriate activities, both social and educational. See our website for a detailed view of the proposed calendar.

Our group exists because we have a common interest, and we are willing to share any knowledge or skills we may possess. Members who volunteer to assist with fund raising, providing morning teas, cooking sausages, hosting classes, guiding heritage walks, helping others with their research, preparing newsletters, journals, collections of snippets, and much more, all do so freely, using their own time and sometimes their own resources to keep our group relevant and interesting. Please think about ways you can help us 'grow' and you may find the personal benefits greatly outgrow any perceived negatives.

Lastly, don't forget that we are continually in need of funds to cover our running costs. At present we have books of Rotary Raffle ticket to sell. Each book has 10 tickets, priced at \$2 each. First prize is \$4000 cash. All monies raised from this raffle comes back to our group. If you can't sell a book of ten, you can just buy a couple yourself. Tickets can be found in the office. Payment can be by cash or Eftpos. Feel free to contact me anytime, with suggestions, compliments or concerns.

Happy searching, Lynda. ... ❖

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Welcome to our November 2024 edition.

We are featuring Norah Head in this issue. Thanks to those who have provided Helen Burkett and myself with their memories and contributions. I have a rather large collection of photos from the area and apologise for using so many.

Sorting through the information available has been absorbing.

Keep an eye on the weekly Newsletter to see our next featured topic.

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

Wishing each and every one of you the joys of the holiday season.



Researching, writing and recording your family history is a wonderful gift for your family, they may not appreciate it at the moment, time will shine a different light on your efforts.

Email your stories to me at wfhgtol2@gmail. Our next deadline is 21 January 2025.

Stay well and Stay safe. ... ❖

MEETINGS

General Meeting Saturday 10th August.

Regina Hogan Member 533

Sixteen members and one visitor attended the Cottage last Saturday for our August General meeting. Another three members attended via Zoom. Our guest speaker Sara Powter and her husband Steve set the scene perfectly by dressing in period costume. Sara shared fascinating insights into her convict-themed historical novels set in Colonial Sydney and Parramatta. Sara also donated a print of Arthur Streeton's "The Purple Noon's Transparent Night" as a lucky door prize. Congratulations to Martin Fisher who was the lucky winner.

This is the link to Sara's website where you can check out her novels and if you sign up to her newsletter you will receive a free novella.

<https://www.sarapowter.com.au/>

Photo 1: Regina Hogan thanks Sara Powter for her interesting talk.

Photo 2: Sara Powter presenting Martin Fisher with his lucky door prize.



Brenda Haire member 1016

At the August General Meeting, via Zoom, I thoroughly enjoyed Sara Powter's Convict presentation.

Little did I know she would speak about Thomas and Robert Webb who were complicit in the infamous 'Rum Rebellion' and were the brother's of my maternal Ancestor James Webb who was a NSW Corporal and who sailed to Australia on the 2nd Fleet ship 'The Scarborough.' and became one of the first shipbuilders on the Brisbane Waters at Woy Woy.

Access to Zoom allows me to participate, when I can't attend personally, in the activities of WFHG and also learn from visiting speakers.

I am now in contact with Sara and have learnt more about my ancestors. So exciting.

One never knows that a little snippet of information can open up new chapter to a family's history.

Annual General Meeting followed by September General Meeting

Lynda Smith – President – LM2

On September 14, we welcomed Mr. David HARRIS M.P. to our General Meeting where he presented us with our Community Grant. We now own a brand new Scan Pro machine and PC. This will make searching our early records on fiche and microfilm, so much easier.



We also held a Special Meeting to discuss minor changes to our Constitution. Some wording needed to be brought up to date and some inconsistencies corrected. All changes were approved by the attendees.

October General Meeting

Regina Hogan Member 533

Members who attended the meeting last Saturday were treated to an interesting talk by Alison Brennan from the Powerhouse Museum. As well as giving us an overview of the history of the Powerhouse and its



collection, Alison spoke about the iconic Neon signs in the collection and their connection to her own family.

MILESTONE AWARD

President Lynda presenting Elaine Middleton with her 20 year Membership Certificate. Congratulations Elaine! ... ❖



ZOOM MEETINGS

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

I am enjoying these regular meetings, with my lack of mobility, they are a wonderful way of staying in touch with fellow members and sharing our stories and memories, often sending me researching another memory.

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. ... ❖

AI SEMINAR

Regina Hogan Member 533

On Saturday 28 September, members gathered for an engaging seminar featuring guest speaker Andrew Redfern, known for his expertise in technology and family history research. Andrew captivated the audience with his insights into using modern technology to enhance genealogical research. He also shared innovative storytelling techniques to bring family histories to life. His enthusiasm and expertise left everyone inspired to take their projects to the next level. For those who missed it – you missed a truly remarkable and inspiring event!

A special thank you goes to all the members of our wonderful



Photos: Top, Andrew Redfern;
Bottom, Regina & Andrew.



group who contributed to making the day such a success. ... ❖

AI SEMINAR

Lynda Smith. LM 2

A very enjoyable time was had by all who attended the seminar. Andrew was very entertaining and knowledgeable. He dispelled a number of commonly held myths about the use of AI and associated technology in our genealogical research. His stories about his own family research were also informative. The spread we supplied for morning tea was exceptional and was much commented upon. We sold some second-hand books and lots of raffle tickets, both for the prizes on the day and our Christmas raffle. I did omit the survey that we usually hand out, but the verbal comments were very positive. ... ❖



AI SEMINAR

Helen J-L member 505

I have dabbled with AI and always felt like it was somehow cheating. I mentioned this to Andrew and he tells me had never thought about that.

Having said that, I found the day quite stimulating and can see how it might be useful.

A Special Interest Group could definitely help. ... ❖

FAMILY TREE MAKER & FAMILY BOOK CREATOR SEMINAR

Lyn Clark-Duff #907 Treasurer

The seminar, Family Tree Maker and Book Creator, held on October 8 was a great success from an educational and social point of view and I am very happy to report it was also a financial success.

Your committee was given the opportunity to host this seminar with respected international speakers, Duff Wilson and Stefan Harms and, despite the non-negotiable date and short timeframe, we decided it was worth the risk. I am happy to report that the seminar resulted in a modest financial surplus.

There were 73 registered attendees, including 34 non-members who came from as far away as Goulburn, Minto, Port Stevens, suburbs of Sydney, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Many said that they were grateful for the opportunity, and they were very happy with the

educational content. A number commented on the high standard of our morning tea.

Once again, WFHG has enhanced our reputation in the family history community and has shown that we can host a great educational event in a friendly and relaxed environment. Well done, Lynda, Martin and all the team!

FAMILY TREE MAKER & FAMILY BOOK CREATOR SEMINAR

Lynda Smith (President and Publicity Officer.)

Reflections on the Family Tree Maker/Family Book Creator Seminar held at Tuggerah Community Hall.

With over 70 attendees, I think the day was a success.

Some comments from the Survey:

- The venue & seminar were perfect;
- Very Informative;
- Much cheaper than the other option that ran in NSW; very good; thank you for a fabulous day;
- All expectations fully met; All great, thank you; Great opportunity;
- Most people came by car, often with others and six came by train, one person attending from Abbotsford and another from the Lake Macquarie area;
- A number of people found out about the seminar from the speakers themselves sending out an email;

Thank you to all our members who assisted on the day. The food supplied was amazing, and we received many verbal compliments on this, especially Lyn Hagstrom's boiled fruit cake and Ellen Sheerin's GF cookies. The raffle was a huge success, Sue Fisher being kept very busy, and we sold quite a few new and second-hand books thanks to Ann Holland and others who helped. Special thanks to Martin Fisher for bringing this seminar concept to us and for liaising with Peter in Bendigo, and to Regina Hogan for arranging lucky door prizes and gifts for the speakers. Martin, Regina and Lyn Clark Duff handled the registrations and many members helped prepare the food and completed the final clean up at the end. I personally received a number of verbal compliments about the friendliness and helpfulness of our members and the quality of our events. Well done everyone.

FAMILY TREE MAKER & FAMILY BOOK CREATOR SEMINAR

Helen Johnston-Lord 505

Hosting a seminar at short notice, on a week day in school holidays was always a risky idea. With almost no hesitation, we decided it could be worthwhile. With a lot of promotion from our group and VictoriaGum, we were able to 'pull it off'.

I am not familiar with this software and have been thinking of

making the investment. I enjoyed the event and was fortunate enough to win one of the raffle prizes, a copy of FTM24. I think I will have to join the FTM SIG when the software is delivered.



Stefan Harms, Lynda Smith, Duff Wilson & Martin Fisher



Duff Wilson Stefan Harms & Peter Reading (VicGUM)



They Came from far and near.

ACCESSIBILITY

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. ... ❖

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. ... ❖

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
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 39]

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



2025 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

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. 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

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to our new members. 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
1070	Victor Thomas	1077	Dennis Willmott
1071	Patricia Thomas	1078	Maria Northcote
1072	Irene Van Heck	1079	Anne Howe
1073	Lyn Hewitt	1080	Megan Hughes
1074	Susan Scotton	1081	Liz Fantrill
1075	David Scotton	1082	Karen Lane

1076	Sandra Willmott	1083	Narelle Cameron
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WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

EAT*, CHAT AND BE MERRY whether you have been
NAUGHTY OR NICE, DON'T THINK TWICE.

Please join us on

Sunday, 1st December 2024

For this year's

Single & Mingle *Christmas Party*

At Club Wyong, 15 Margaret Street, from 11:00 am

Partners Welcome

Cost: \$35.00 * **

Payment Options: Direct Deposit, PayPal, in person at the Cottage

Enquiries & Bookings: 'The Cottage' – 4351 2211

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

Bookings Close 14 November (advising any food intolerances)

Email: wfhg06@gmail.com

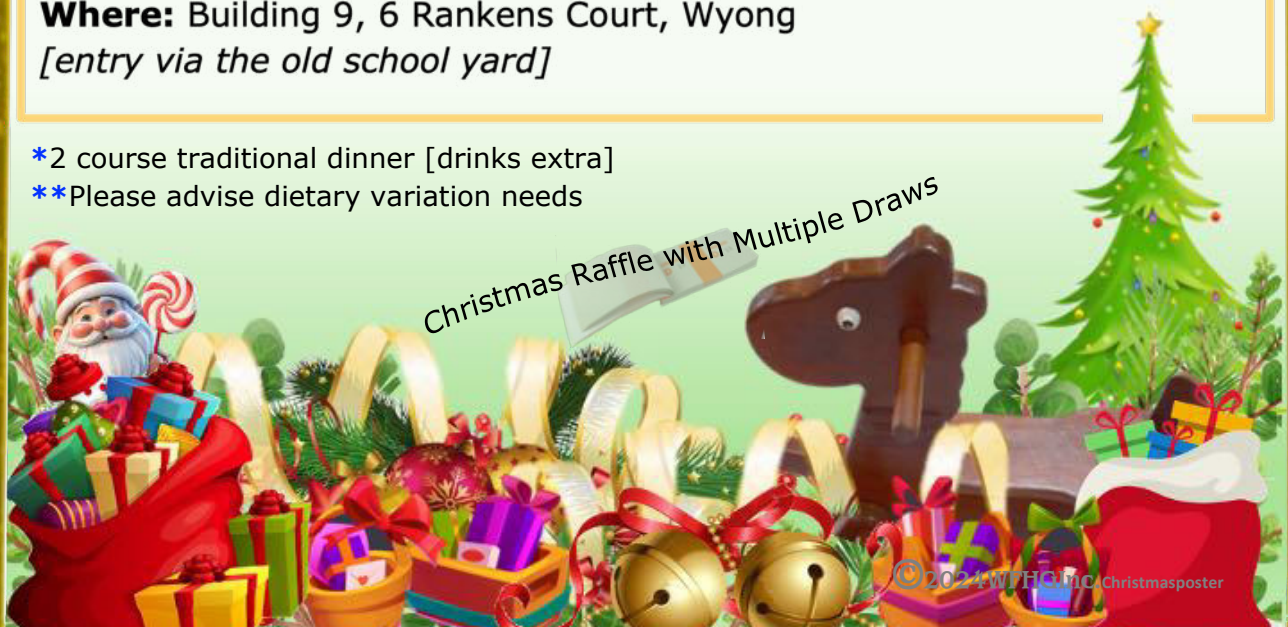
Where: Building 9, 6 Rankens Court, Wyong

[entry via the old school yard]

*2 course traditional dinner [drinks extra]

**Please advise dietary variation needs

Christmas Raffle with Multiple Draws



©2024 WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC. Christmas poster



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.

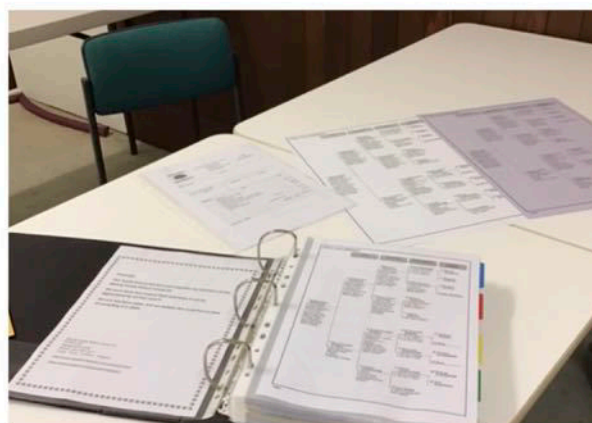
Starting at \$50.00 for both Grandparents we are currently offering a variety of Family History Packages. Each additional person costs \$25 including printing.

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.

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.



Private Caleb James Shang. Credit: Cairns Historical Society



Private Sidney Shang. Credit: Cairns Historical Society

CALEB SHANG

Australian War Memorial

Caleb James Shang was born in Brisbane in 1884, the eldest of 13 children of Lee Wah Shang – who had been born in Canton, China – and his wife, Jane.

Caleb left school when he was 12 years of age and was working as a clerk before the First World War. In January 1916, his younger brother Sidney enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in Townsville, and Caleb signed up several months later in Brisbane. Thirty-one-year-old Caleb embarked for England on the troopship *Seang Choon* in September.

Caleb served with the 47th Battalion at Messines Ridge in Belgium, conducting patrols through enemy territory, and acting as a runner, delivering messages under heavy fire. He carried water and ammunition to the front line, and taught himself to use lamp signals to send information to battalion headquarters. Caleb was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for fearlessness, resource and initiative. Australia's Official War Correspondent Charles Bean wrote that Shang was tireless in his duties, and that each time he returned to headquarters he had some kind of useful information.

In 1918, he distinguished himself at Dernancourt, near the Somme. Caleb volunteering for duty at an observation post in an advanced position and remaining there until it was destroyed. He again acted as a runner, making numerous trips carrying ammunition under heavy enemy fire.



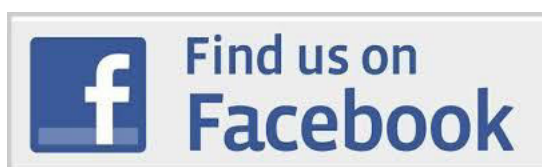
Cairns Anzac Day parade, 1943. Credit: Cairns Historical Society

On one occasion he used a Lewis gun to successfully cover his company's withdrawal. As a result of his bravery, he was awarded the Military Medal and a bar to his DCM.

In May 1918, the 47th Battalion was disbanded and Caleb Shang was transferred to the 45th Battalion. In August he was wounded by shell-fire in his right leg and was evacuated to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital in Kent, England. In March 1919, he returned to Cairns and was greeted on arrival by the Returned Services League and townspeople. He was hailed as a hero, and the local newspaper named him "the greatest of Cairns soldiers". His brother Sidney arrived home in September 1919.

After the war, Caleb worked as a herbalist in Victoria. On 28 April 1923 he married Anna Louise Kassene. Caleb and Anna later moved back to Cairns. They had two daughters, named Delta and Nancy, and one son named Hilton. Throughout the 1930s, Caleb spent long periods in hospital due to poor health and was granted a full war pension in 1934. He served in the Volunteer Defence Corps during the Second World War. His daughter Delta recalls that her father was a modest man, and the only Anzac Day parade that he ever attended was in 1943. There was an increase in racial discrimination during the Second World War, and Delta believed her father may have decided to march in response to this.

Caleb died following illness on 6 April 1953, and among those who attended his funeral were members of the Returned Services League of Cairns.



NORAH HEAD MERCHANT MARINERS MEMORIAL

This large ship's anchor leaning on a basalt monument with a plaque was dedicated in 1995 and is located outside the grounds of the Norah Head Lighthouse, ed.

*Coast Community News: December 3, 2022
Sue Murray*

"Many people forget that we have a strong local history in our area in relation to merchant mariners during World War II," he said.

"The east coast of Australia saw significant enemy action during the war, with mines laid by German raiders and attacks by Japanese submarines.

"These took a heavy toll on civilian merchant shipping supplies which were heading north to Darwin and Port Moresby.

"Many ships were sunk and many men were killed or injured," Rose said.

One ship, the MV Nimbin, was the first merchant ship to be lost during the war.

It struck a German-laid mine 13km off Norah Head at 11.15am on December 5, 1940, and sank in three minutes.

Seven men, including the master, were killed and 13 were later rescued.

Another ship, the SS Iron Chieftain, was the first ship to be sunk by Japanese torpedoes in 1942.

The tragedy left 13 sailors dead, but 25 survivors made it safely to The Entrance beach, guided by the light from Norah Head lighthouse.

We asked our members to share stories about Norah Head, traditionally the land of the Darkinjung people.

Whilst researching, I have found much of the history of the area, adding to your personal stories. I hope you enjoy learning about this beautiful area of our region.

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

Norah Head

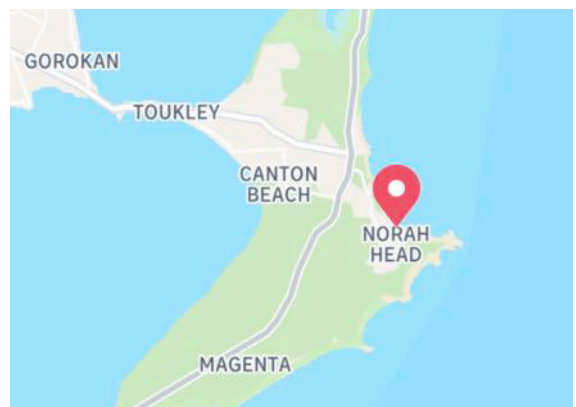




Photo by Helen/Harry Johnston-Lord.

NORAH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE

Lynda Smith LM2.

This major tourist attraction is well worth a visit. It is now an automated light, but the keeper's cottages still exist, as does the weather station. The cottages are now holiday lets.

<https://reflectionsolidays.com.au/unique-stays/norah-head-lighthouse/>

Up until 1903, this area had no lighthouse and there were too many shipwrecks. Ship owners petitioned the Colonial government, pleading for lighthouses to be constructed all along the coast. In the 1850s alone, more than ten ships were wrecked in this area, with the loss of over 80 lives! Eventually the government began a lighthouse building program.

Pioneer settler, Edward Hammond Hargraves owned a huge land grant in the Norah Head, Budgewoi, Toukley area. He had claimed the government reward for finding payable gold in NSW and wisely used these funds to buy land. Eventually a family home was built near what is now called Hargraves Beach.



Hargraves Homestead:
<https://wyongoneplacestudy.weebly.com/norah-head.html>

Sadly, many bodies washed up on this and other nearby beaches over the later part of the nineteenth century. There is a story that one of these casualties had a considerable sum of money on his person when found, and Mr Hargraves forwarded this to the government, suggesting it be used to fund construction. His plea was ignored until newspapers of the day started publishing articles and letters about the continual loss of life of our coast. Mr Hargraves died in 1891 and did not see the lighthouse that was eventually constructed. His son, Edward John,

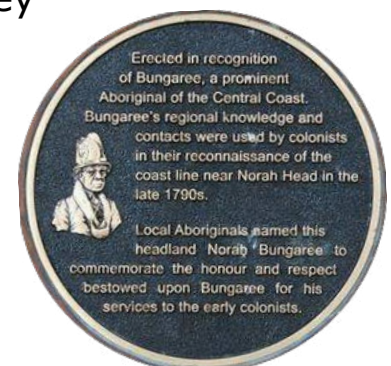


Photo: Monument Australia

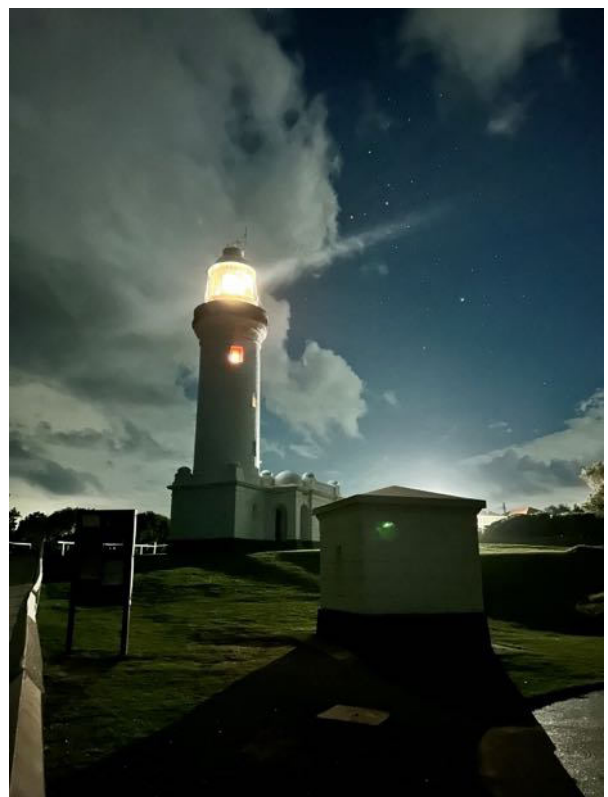
moved into the home and he continued to pressure the government to act.

Eventually, in 1901, plans were drawn up and work was supposed to start. Various problems occurred and preparations did not get underway until 1903. The site was levelled and access roads created. The wharf in Cabbage Tree Bay was used to transport supplies to the site. The concrete blocks were pre cast off site and just mortared together onsite, so the building came together quickly. It ended up being 77 feet high. It was estimated that the total cost would be 15,000 pounds. The Lighthouse was officially opened on November 15 1903 and the light was switched on at 7.10 pm that night. Mr Williams had the job of first keeper, and Mr Hanson and Mr Kells were assistant keepers. Three Federation bungalow- style homes were constructed nearby for the keepers and their families. As the light had to be tended 24 hours per day, 3 men were required to do 8-hour shifts.

The doors to the lighthouse bear the Latin saying "Olin periculum nuns salus" which means, "Once perilous, now safe". The light could be seen 18 miles out to sea, and sometimes further, and flashed every ten seconds. It originally was powered by kerosene and the light itself was manufactured in England. In 1961, the light was electrified, with a diesel back-up generator.

In 1984, the system was fully automated, and keepers were no longer required. A caretaker stayed onsite to ensure that the grounds were maintained. The Lighthouse is now recognised as a Heritage site. The area is also a site of significant First Nations historical occupation. The grounds include a plaque to Bungaree, a well-known local.

The Lighthouse celebrated its Centenary on Nov 15, 2003 and a useful book was published to record its history. This book was written by Christy Chivas and can be found in our group's library, as well as the local Council libraries.



Norah Head Lighthouse at night, 2024, taken by Luke Smith, my son.

Many years ago, when I taught High School History at Northlakes HS [San Remo], I ran a course called Contemporary History and included many hands on activities. One of these was an excursion to Norah Head Lighthouse. We were given a tour and were allowed to climb the internal staircase and stand on the top deck.

The view was amazing, the climb up 96 steps, however, I found quite exhausting!

The Heritage site is now overseen by Trust volunteers who do all sorts of necessary jobs. Reflections Holidays manages the rental of the cottages and the lighthouse tours. Contact them on [02\) 4086 5503](tel:0240865503) for more information about these aspects.

There is also public access to the rock platform below the lighthouse. If you plan to check this out, please wear appropriate shoes and watch the waves. Tides turn very quickly!

Norah Head



Photo:lovecentralcoast.com

Photos of Norah Head rock platform and surf conditions by Helen/Harry Johnston-Lord.



References:

Personal knowledge, personal photo

Photos by Helen and Harry Johnston-Lord

Norah Head Lighthouse Celebrating 100 years, written by Christy CHIVAS

<https://reflectionsolidays.com.au/unique-stays/norah-head-lighthouse/>

<https://lighthouses.org.au/nsw/norah-head-lighthouse/>

LIGHTHOUSE TOUR QUOTES

from <https://www.lovecentralcoast.com/news/around-the-twists-of-the-historic-norah-head-lighthouse>

- On night tours when the conditions are right, it is said that visitors can see all the way to Sydney from the top of the lighthouse.
- "When there's a westerly blowing all the pollution out to sea, people get an amazing surprise to see Centrepont (Sydney Tower) 74 kilometres away."
- "It is said on the right nights you can also see the city of Newcastle."
- "On the balcony you can look at two major cities with one linear sweep of your eyesight. You can't do that anywhere else in Australia."
- "The lighthouse architect Charles Harding was a Scottish Presbyterian, and as a bit of a middle finger up to the English ruling classes, he put the Scottish lion on the doorway glass etching rather than the English lion, which faces the opposite direction. No one really noticed until much later, but by then it had become an established piece of the building so nothing was changed."

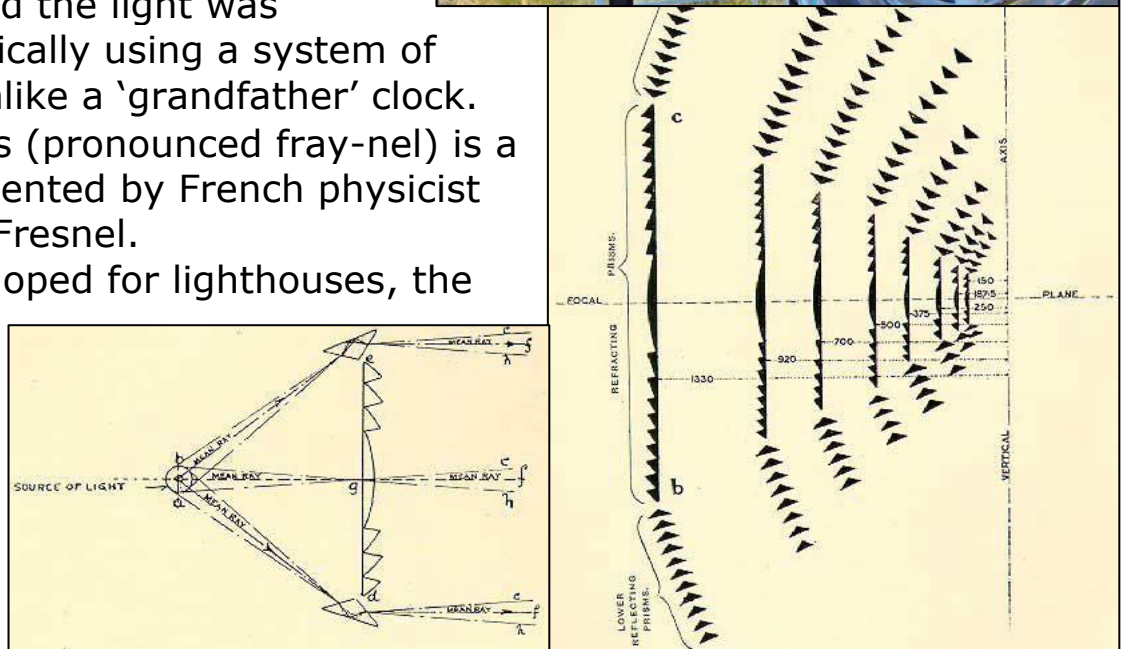
A LITTLE ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE LENS

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Originally, a vapourized kerosene burner and mantle generated the Norah Head beam. Remarkably, the Chance Brothers second order catadioptric lens with Chance pressurised concentric wick burner lens floated in a bath of mercury to ease friction and the light was turned mechanically using a system of weights, not unlike a 'grandfather' clock.

A Fresnel lens (pronounced fray-nel) is a type of lens invented by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel.

Originally developed for lighthouses, the design enables the construction of lenses of large aperture and short focal length



without the weight and volume of material which would be required in conventional lens design. Compared to earlier lenses, the Fresnel lens is much thinner, thus passing more light and allowing lighthouses to be visible over much longer distances..

<https://chancebrothers.com/technology/>

Lens photo: <https://www.lovecentralcoast.com/norah-head-lighthouse-reserve>

NORAH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE CONNECTIONS

Sonya Edwards member 991

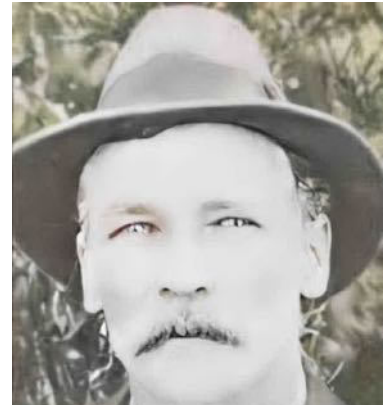
This major tourist attraction is well worth a visit. It is now an automated light, but the keeper's cottages still exist, as does the weather station. The cottages are now holiday lets.

<https://reflectionsolidays.com.au/unique-stays/norah-head-lighthouse/>

Up until 1903, this area had no lighthouse and there were too many shipwrecks. Ship owners petitioned the Colonial government, pleading for lighthouses to be constructed all along the coast. In the 1850s alone, more than ten ships were wrecked in this area, with the loss of over 80 lives! Eventually the government began a lighthouse building program.

My 2 x Great Grandmother, Bridget Donnelly's life offers a captivating glimpse into 19th-century Australia, marked by resilience, family ties, and significant local history. Born in Quorrobolong in 1860, Bridget's family relocated to the Cooranbong/Mandalong area the following year. As a teenager, she eventually moved to Toukley/Noraville. Her sister Sarah had married Alfred Freeman from the Freeman Waterhole family, who was now a man with strong ties to Wyee and Noraville, and it's likely that Sarah, leveraging her community connections, found Bridget a position as a live-in housekeeper in the home of Edward Hargraves, the notable figure behind the Australian gold rush. He built a large house on the beach at Noraville. It is still there today, in Elizabeth Street, which is named after his wife. The beach, Hargraves Beach.

When Hargraves' wife passed away, family lore says Bridget's Irish father, James Donnelly, urged her to marry Hargraves, despite the more than 40-year age



*Alfred James Henry
Freeman*



*Norah Head Lighthouse
1956 taken by my mother
... SE*

difference. With the backing of the local priest, it seemed like a favourable match in their eyes. But Bridget, fiercely independent, rejected the idea, leading to a major fallout. The conflict grew so intense that she severed ties with both her father and the Catholic Church, embracing Protestantism instead.

At the same time, the Kay family had moved to Terrigal from Maitland. Although it's unclear how Bridget met John Kay, their paths crossed, and they married in Terrigal in 1881, where they began their life together. The families remained close, supporting one another as the Central Coast evolved. In 1901, when construction of the Norah Head Lighthouse began, Fred Freeman and John Kay secured the contract to transport preconstructed cement blocks from Wyee Station to the headland, all by bullock teams, as motor vehicles were yet to arrive. To streamline the journey, the Freeman family completed the first bridge at Budgewoi in 1902, likely to avoid the long trek around Lake Munmorah.

Though John Kay passed away in October 1902, his 17-year-old son, Will Kay, continued the work, helping his uncle Fred until the lighthouse was completed in 1903. This family not only left their mark on the region but also demonstrated the grit and determination that defined a generation, shaping the Central Coast's landscape for years to come.

The photo of the lighthouse was taken in 1956 by my mother. ... ❖

LIFE WAY BACK THEN

Christine Ullrich #224

My parents moved around the top end of the Central Coast over the years, mainly to do with work choices. Sometimes back and forth to same areas.

Norah Head in the early 60s was for pleasure, where dad had a boat housed up on the beach, along with many other boats at the time. This is the area where the boat ramps now are. Summertime would see us as a family cooking sausages on an open fire on the beach. Sliding down the hill, which certainly, as we learn now, didn't help the erosion issue of said hill. The poles were still in Cabbage Tree Bay which were part of the old timber loading wharf. In 1967 we moved out to Norah Head. There were two stores near the Reserve then. One is still operates today.

The store we moved to was a "takeaway and grocery store"; now seen as Woody's Inn. Dad would open at 4:00 am. to serve the fishermen and surfers food; leave mum to operate store while he went to work at on one of the power stations. In the summer the store stayed open until midnight. In those days camping was allowed in the

reserve and was always full. The residence attached to shop was small. I was married in June 1968 therefore giving more room to my brothers.

When my wedding came, I walked through the shop to the bridal car out front. The shop still stayed open for the day with help organised. Dad catered for my wedding, transporting the food to North Entrance Progress Hall.

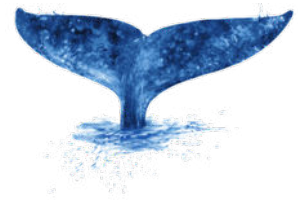
The shop was sold couple years later as my parents had more to do with food catering at the power stations.

The Norah Head store didn't stay operating too long with new owners.



Over the more current years the facilities changed and grew with Marine Rescue, boats ramps and the second store operates as a full sit down cafe and take away. The Norah Head Light House has been cared for and is a great tourist attraction. A group of shops have been built along the route going into Norah Head. A housing estate between Bungary Road and Wilfred Barrett Drive was established.

Wilfred Barrett has its own ghost stories. Jenny Dixon Beach is famous for its long staircase to beach plus a mix of stories. Heading out to Solder's Beach is a Caravan Park and a Nursing Home. The Soldier's Beach carpark has a kiosk for the many surfers, swimmers, fisher people, tourist and local whale watching.



The surf club and complete area of Norah Head is a great part of the coast. People pay to visit and stay, we live here and appreciate that Norah Head has grown from a fishing village to a thriving tourist destination. ... ❖

SEA SHELLS AND RUBBER DUCKS

Alan Smith, husband to the world's most wonderful genealogist.

Hi Folks,

My family moved here from Bondi Junction in Sydney when I was 2½ years old, so, I've had the distinct privilege of growing up on our amazing Central Coast and enjoying all that it has to offer.

Why am I writing an article about Norah Head you might ask?

Well, the main reason is, that my wonderful wife, Lynda, is President of the WFHG and, even though I'm not a member of the group, nor

even a family history researcher, I have been conscripted to put my younger adventures and escapades down on the page.

Norah Head

Seriously though, I have spent a very large portion of my younger years, and my adult life, in and around, both Norah Head and Noraville.

Flash Back: Wyong 1955. We originally left Sydney because I was a very “sick kid” and needed to get away from the city in order for my health to improve. When I was old enough, my parents enrolled me for swimming lessons at Wyong Pool and, thanks to Brian and “Aunty Robyn” Mitchell, I went from not quite swimming a lap of the pool to joining the squad and knocking out over 11kms a day... 6 ½ days a week.

Water... I'd found my “heaven”.

My health improved dramatically, I suddenly had heaps of energy and life was very, very good. It turns out that there are lots of things that you can do in water besides swimming and the Central Coast has an abundance of beautiful waterways and beaches. As we lived near the Wyong river, we became heavily involved in kayaking through the formation of Wyong Canoe Club, and went on to have success in the State and Australian Titles.

When I was young, my family often holidayed at Canton Beach, even though we only lived in Wyong. This was so that Dad could keep his business going during the day and rejoin us in the afternoons. He was the best electrician in Wyong.

While I was a senior at high school, I used to work for George Lockyer at East Toukley Aquatic Craft and Sports in my holidays and on weekends. His son, Steve, was in my class at school. They did lots of boat repairs and, of course, after they have been repaired, we had to take them out and test them. Some of the boats were outside fishing boats, and even a couple were ocean racing boats, and we would launch them in Cabbage Tree Bay.

Now, I wasn't a mechanic, and I didn't have a boat licence, but I got to go along on quite a few test-runs in the lakes and ocean as a passenger. These guys were very skilled drivers but, to my young naïve mind, they also had a big dose of crazy. They all had their own



boats that they used in competition and many of these test-runs scared the daylights out of me.

Norah Head is always very beautiful and picturesque, but when you're flying past the lighthouse, and around The Bull, at a million miles an hour, often with a water skier on the back, life takes on a whole new set of priorities. Survival was very high on my agenda then.

Near Canton Beach there was a riding school and a lot of my friends could also ride, so we would often rent horses and head out through the Wyrrabalong red gum forest to the beach. We'd follow the trails through the National Park and pop out just south of Pelican Point near Woodies Blocks. The horses loved the water and we would spend quite a few hours having fun riding on the beaches and in the surf. Now, these horses were not dumb. We quickly worked out that it took an hour, or so, to get to the beach, but once the horses heads were turned towards home they would charge off through the scrub and get back home in 20 minutes. It was great fun.

My Dad, Stewart, was a surf lifesaver at Bondi and when we moved to the Coast, he joined the Lakes Surf Life Saving Club and I spent a lot of time there as a kid. He did patrols, became a patrol captain and an instructor at the Lakes.

When I was old enough to drive, I was rarely at home. My best mate, John Edwards, and his family lived in Pacific St Noraville, which later became Pandora Parade. I spent a lot of wonderful time there and enjoyed visiting with John's maternal grandparents, Cardie and Grandfather, who lived in Cliff St Norah Head, overlooking JD's (Jenny Dixon Beach).

We would always be out with friends and much of that time was spent around Norah Head's beaches. My blue 1958 VW Kombi van was very well known and my parents would often get a phone call from friends to let them know that I had been spotted somewhere at the beach.

I joined Soldiers Beach SLSC (because John and other school friends were already members there) and I spent many very happy years enjoying one of the finest beaches in the world. During this time, I did patrols, did heaps of body surfing, trained in surf boats and surf skis, helped to run the "nippers", became Club Secretary twice (once at 17 for a few years and then again as an adult) and followed my dad's footsteps to become an instructor.

I even lived at the surf club for a while.

I participated in many surf carnivals for Soldiers and was part of the rescue crew when we ran carnivals at home. My events were swimming, skis and surf boats.

I learned to drive IRB's (Inshore Rescue Boats) better known as "rubber ducks" and, as Soldiers was only the 2nd club in Australia to have one of these, we travelled a long way up and down the coast promoting them as a brilliant asset to surf lifesaving.



When I was 19, I had a registered green fiberglass VW Beach Buggy and I was fortunate enough to land a dream summer job as a beach inspector at Soldiers. I had this job for two years.

Several of us in the club had these buggies and they were great for patrolling the southern end of the beach. We even occasionally did patrols, all the way down to North Entrance Beach. They were great fun to drive, and the beaches and sand hills became our playground. When the beach was empty, we would tie a surf line to the roll bar, then drive quickly, very close to the water's edge with someone, in the water, skiing along behind on a boogie board.

One Sunday afternoon at the club, we decided to have a BBQ, and we decided that grilled shark steaks would be lovely... as you do. Just to the north of Pelican Point, at the southern end of Soldiers, there is a deep gutter that always has sharks in it.

So, our plan to catch them was this:

- ✚ First, get some decent bait. Jimmy Neath and his wife, Bev, were club members and had a butcher's shop in East Toukley. They gave us a couple of out-of-date legs of lamb. Step 1... complete.
- ✚ Use a huge 8" hook attached to 3' of heavy chain, which is in turn attached to a white five-gallon drum.
- ✚ Join two surf lines together and attach one end to the drum.
- ✚ Have two beach buggies on the beach. Thread the other end of the surf line through the roll bar on one buggy which acts as an anchor and won't move. Tie the loose end of the line to the roll bar on the other buggy.
- ✚ Put the leg of lamb securely on the hook and take it out to where the sharks are, in the club's rubber duck.
- ✚ Throw some burly in the water and throw the bait, hook, chain and drum overboard.

🚦 Move the duck back and wait. What could possibly go wrong! Well, the answer is... nothing. It went perfectly.

The guys in the duck saw the drum get pulled under; gave the buggy drivers a signal and the second buggy, with the rope attached, just drove up the beach. The 6' shark just skipped across the top of the waves at about 30 mph and covered the 400 yards to shore in record time. After such a successful venture, there was only one thing to do. That's right... do it again. Needless to say, the BBQ was a huge success and lovely grilled shark steaks, and ice-cold beer, were enjoyed by all.

Now, at one point the local council decided that we could no longer drive our buggies on the beaches. Well, a week, or so later, we had the beach closed due to huge seas and a heap of very strong, dangerous rips. We still kept watch over the beaches at these times as there are always some entitled fools who think that they know best... and then of course, Yes!... one turned up.

He came down from the top carpark with his board, and despite us giving him warnings over the PA system, he walked right down to the beach to the southernmost end. He stood looking at the surf for a while and then dived in with his board, into the more sheltered area just north of Pelican Point. We were watching him with binoculars and after only a few minutes he tried to paddle through a wave, misjudged it and got smacked in the head with his board. He was now floating in the water, just hanging onto his board.

We had a dilemma.

We had a board rider, who was injured, clinging to his board, and he was a mile away... possibly in a bad way. We couldn't run that far and still save him, so we did the only sensible thing. We drove a buggy, that had been banned from the beach, the mile to Pelican Point, successfully pulled



the guy from the water and brought him back to the safety of the clubhouse. Luckily, after a short time and a bit of first aid, he made a full recovery and was well enough to take himself home.

As it turned out, some of the public came up to see how he was. After being reassured that he was fine, they raved about the buggy rescue. We told them that we weren't supposed to be using them for rescues or patrols but they said that he would have died without it. We agreed. Anyway, someone must have contacted the newspaper, because a few days later a team of reporters and photographers

turned up and did a front-page story for the paper. The council then reversed their decision due to public pressure and allowed the buggies to be used on the beach again. They definitely helped save many lives in the years that followed.

All three of our kids became nippers at Soldiers and participated in many training days and mini carnivals. I helped with water safety on these days. One Sunday, when the kids were all in the water, the sand bank collapsed, washing all of the little kids out in a rip. We had heaps of senior club members on hand though, and it was “all-hands-on-deck” as we had to pull, in excess of 30, very tired, bedraggled kids from the ocean. Thankfully, no-one was hurt.

Our eldest son, Adam, stayed with surf lifesaving for many years and went on to follow the family tradition of rowing surf boats. He competed in many carnivals, including the State and Australian titles. They were also one of the very first crews to have a female member... the lovely Kelly Marsh. Kelly’s dad, Bob, was the sweep for the boat.

My dad, myself and Adam, all did a lot of surf boat, and other water craft training right around Norah Head and, on the days when it was too rough, we trained off Canton Beach, in Tuggerah Lake. We even used to tow a five-gallon drum, $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water, to make it harder.

We spent a lot of time at the beach as kids and I started my hobby of shell collecting at an early age.

My dad would quite often use the “barter system” rather than getting paid for an electrical job. This frustrated my mum no end.

He came home one day with a big box of beautiful sea shells from all over the world and gave them to me. I was immediately hooked and it became a lifelong passion.

I’ve scoured all of the rock platforms and beaches around



Norah Head many, many times. I've dived in all of the rock pools, especially at Pelican Point at the south end of Soldiers. I found many wonderful treasures but I've also seen the odd blue-ringed octopus, sea snake, cone shells etc... so be careful out there. I still have several lovely display cases full of my precious sea shells at home.

Norah Head

When I started teaching, I was appointed to Wyong High and met Bob Ferguson, who became a lifelong friend and godfather to one of our kids. It turned out that he was a "water man" too. We used to go to Cabbage Tree Bay at least 3 or 4 times a week to go snorkelling and spearfishing.

Now, Bob was a redhead with an over-abundance of freckles. He was very sun conscious and went by the theory that *it's always better to be safe than sorry*. So, picture this: A middle-aged man wearing a long-sleeved shirt, buttoned at the wrists; long corduroy pants with bicycle clips at the ankles; face, ears and neck, all covered with thick white zinc cream; a terry-towelling hat; flippers; mask; snorkel and a spear gun. It was truly a sight to behold and I always felt very under dressed, but we had an absolute ball.

We never once shot a fish but we always saw heaps. There were always plenty of whiting in the bay, often in huge schools that you could swim through; lots of stingrays, bream, flathead and rock fish, and there were always sharks in the 30' deep gutter in front of the rock pool. We didn't bother them and they left us alone. When the seas and currents would allow, we would venture out of the bay and swim around past the front of the rock pool to Lighthouse Beach and reef, or we would go north to JD's.

With my teaching career, as you can imagine, there was often a huge amount of stress involved. To combat this, at the end of the day, I would often just go for a drive to unwind and listen to some good music along the way. I would either head into the valleys west of Wyong or, more often than not, I'd end up parked in the top carpark at Soldiers watching the waves and the surfers. I'd quite often bump into someone that I knew and we'd watch the world go by as we caught up on old times.

Lynda and I still go there often to either have a quiet lunch, watch the whales or just relax in a beautiful environment with the invigorating sea air.

I've been incredibly lucky to spend many, many wonderful hours in the water around Norah Head and I'm so happy that I had the chance to do so.

I believe that we certainly live in the greatest country in the world and I know that our little piece of heaven is just absolute magic.

Photo Credits (in order)

Lighthouse: lovecentralcoast.com

Rubber Duck: surflifesavingsydney.com.au

Beach Buggy: This was my car and is a personal photo.

Soldiers Beach looking towards Pelican Point: lovecentralcoast.com

Rock Pool: lovecentralcoast.com

Sea Shells: shellwala.com

Cabbage Tree Bay: from Google Earth.

Soldiers Beach: from Google Earth.



DID YOU KNOW ?

The first burial at Noraville Cemetery in New South Wales took place in 1869, when the cemetery opened.

One burial that caught my attention was that of sisters, Grace (17) and Kathleen (11) Holmes who were savagely murdered as they went for a walk at Canton Beach on August 29, 1950. Their killer was never found.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

Marine Rescue Norah Head is one of only two New South Wales bases with ocean facing launch ramps. The other is at Woolgoolga, a distance of 207.77 nautical miles North (385.04 km road distance).

Photo: [Harry J-L](#)



CHINESE NEW YEAR 1909

Thomas Fennell Esq., R.N., writes:

A number of Chinese have recently located themselves on the coast, catching, curing and exporting fish. A good many of these celestials have settled on the banks of Lake Macquarie, and also on Tuggerah Beach Lake, the latter a beautiful sheet of water teeming with all kinds of fish, many of which are entirely unknown in Sydney. The largest and most lucrative trade is carried on upon the estate of E.H. Hargrave, Esq., J.P., of Bungari's Nore. For some days towards the

close of January the Chinese at this settlement were very busy with some important business of their own. They erected a large tent and surrounded it with green bowers. On Friday, the 2nd instant, however, a deputation of the Celestials waited on the good people of Mr. Hargrave's station, and informed them that next day was the beginning of their new year, and invited their Anglo Saxon fellow settlers, of both sexes to join them in a friendly celebration of their festival. The invitation was accepted; and on entering the enclosure all were surprised at the magnitude and excellence of the preparations. A large bush table was covered with a cloth as white as snow. The collection of edibles was such as would have satisfied the veriest epicure. Geese, ducks, sucking pigs, pork, ham, tongue, a splendid sirloin of beef with a plum pudding to match. Plenty of good ale and porter was also provided. For dessert there were not only all the fruits in season, but a number of excellent Chinese confections. The Chinese waited on their guests most attentively and all was harmony. After the removal of the cloth wines and other liquors were placed on the table and the health of Her Majesty the Queen was drunk three times three, a royal salute being fired by the Chinese with their largest sized crackers. The guests returned to their homes highly delighted with their afternoon's treat. - Evening News 13 February 1909.

Norah Head

https://www.freesettlerorfelon.com/norah_head.htm



JANET DICKSON, 1870 [JENNY DIXON]

The Ghost at Jenny Dixon Beach Urban Legend
Central Coast News - Central Coast Australia

Residents around Jenny Dixon Beach often talk of seeing the ghost of a young dark-haired girl in a long white dress, with her arms outstretched in a call for help. She is said to be a survivor of the shipwreck of the coal schooner, *Janet Dickson* in a storm off Noraville, and that she continues to look for her son who died in the wreck.



Jenny Dixon Beach, photo Courtesy of Central Coast Council



The main road through Noraville in the 1800s

Over the years, the ship's name was talked of as 'Jenny Dixon' after which the local beach was named. (Another ghost, the Phantom Hitchhiker, has also been encountered by many locals around Jenny Dixon Beach.)

The ship's bell, salvaged many years later, now tolls at Toukley Primary School. ... ❖

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:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Accession No</i>
Norah Head Lighthouse 1903 - 2003 Century	Book	LHW011
Norah Head Lighthouse Celebrating 100 years	Book	LHW010
Noraville Cemetery 1869 - 2012 (Wyong Shire)	Book + CD	CEM100, CD464
Noraville, Wyong	Book	CEM040, CEM041
People of Wyong Book 4 Historic Builders, Norah Head Lighthouse Keepers, Notable Residents, etc	Book	LHW084

And remember further information can be found in the One Place Study on our website: www.wyongfamilyhistory.com.au ... ❖



MY CONNECTION?

Helen Johnston-Lord member 505

My mother's parents, Tom and Edith Birtwistle, retired from Erina to Warrigal Street, The Entrance circa 1946. We would often travel from Lane Cove to stay with them. From the back sunroom we could see the sea and at night, the sweep of the lighthouse beam.

I recall, on one visit, much discussion about a boat being grounded. After a quick search, I think this must have been the small coastal vessel TSS Allenwood soon after she became stuck on the beach near Norah Head on 14th September 1951. Another story for another time

Pa died in 1949 and after Granny died in 1955, the house was sold.

When we retired and moved to the Coast, Like Lynda and Allan, Harry and I often took a drive to Norah Head particularly with the forecast of 'strong and powerful seas', to "fill up our senses". ... ❖



THANK YOU

Newish member Fiona Goldsworthy, # 1063, graciously offered to deliver the Father's Day raffle prizes to the lucky winner John Hely who lives in Sutherland while on her way to a family event. A big thank you to Fiona for her generosity.

Photl: The happy winner John Hely with his prize.



WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Christmas Raffle

Tickets Now on Sale

\$2 a ticket or 6 for \$10

Drawn on Sunday, 1st 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

Handmade Children's Toys and furniture donated by
Lorraine and Rod Cameron
Christmas raffle prizes.



Table/desk: 52cm high, 48cm x 55cm table-top, Tiger not included. Similar pre-school activity book and pencils



Cradle: 49cm long, 28cm wide, 33cm headboard, including bedding and a different doll.



Rocking horse: 70cm long (nose to tail), 28cm wide, 25cm high, 28cm seat length. Size will suit a toddler.

Rotary 41st Annual Community Raffle

The Entrance

Top Prize - \$4,000 cash.

Tickets are now available from the office for the 2024 Rotary Raffle.

This is a major fundraiser for our group every year.

Tickets are only \$2 each or you can buy a book of 10 tickets for, you guessed it, just \$20.

100% of all tickets we sell comes back to the group, **All** we have to do is sell the tickets so please support this worthwhile cause and buy a book of tickets.

The Raffle will be drawn on the 25th February 2025.

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	
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	Reduced Price CD	\$ 7.50 + p&h
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.

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. ... ❖





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
November	Tue 5	Melbourne Cup Afternoon Tea 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Bookings essential.
	Wed 7	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 9	Commemorating Remembrance Day from 10:00 am. Sausage sizzle 11.30 am General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Matt Robinson WW1 Memorabilia, meeting to follow speaker.
	Mon 11	Remembrance Day. Beginner's Course Week 4.
	Thu 14	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 16	Museums of History (State Archives) Bus Trip. Booking Essential
	Tues 19	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 20	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: School Days 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
	Sat 23	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Wed 27	Spotlight on Cemeteries What is in our Library 10:30 am – 2.30 pm
December	Thu 28	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Sun 1	Jingle & Mingle Christmas Party Club Wyong . 11:00 am start Bookings essential.
	Tue 3	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Thu 12	Last Day for 2024 Christmas morning tea 11:00 am
	Wed 18	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Christmas stories 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
	Sun 29	Bunnings BBQ fundraiser at Lakehaven
	2025	Event
January	Tue 7	Committee Meeting 10:00 am
	Mon 13	General Clean-up day 10:00 am
	Tue 14	Cottage Re-opens 10:00 am
	Wed 15	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Cemeteries & interesting Grave Markers 1.00pm–2.30pm
	Thu 23	Australia Day Morning Tea And Sausage Sizzle 11:00 am
	Sat 25	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 21	Deadline for TOL
	Sun 26	Australia Day
February	Thu 6	Scottish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Sat 8	General Meeting 1:00 pm Guest Speaker: Robert Patton Cottage opens at 12 Noon for research.
	Mon 10, 17, 24 & March 3 Beginner's Course Week 1 9:15 am – 2:30pm	
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

	2025	Event
	Sat 15	Central Coast Love Lanes 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
	Tue 18	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 19	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Family Heirlooms 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm
	Sat 22	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 25	Committee Meeting for March 10:00 am
	Thu 27	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
March		NSW Seniors Festival `Time to Shine` 3rd-16th March
	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	Introduction to DNA information session 10:00am – 2:00 pm with Lyn Hagstrom
	Thu 13	Family Tree Maker SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Fri 14	Seniors Expo Wyong Racecourse 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
	Mon 17	PowerPoint- Bells and Whistles Workshop 10.00 am – 2:30 pm With Ellen Sheerin
	Tue 18	DNA SIG 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Wed 19	Monthly ZOOM Catch Up. Topic: Entertainment ie: Cinema, Dances, Circus, Zoo 1:00 pm – 2.30 pm
	Thu 20	St Patricks Day Morning Tea & Outfit competition from 10:00 am
	Sat 22	Multi-Media SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
	Tue 25	Introduction to FTM information session 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
	Thu 27	Irish Research SIG 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Microsoft Office Training Session with Ellen Sheerin 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm



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@gmail

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 January 2025 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.

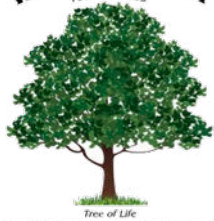
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WYONG FAMILY
founded 1983



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.