

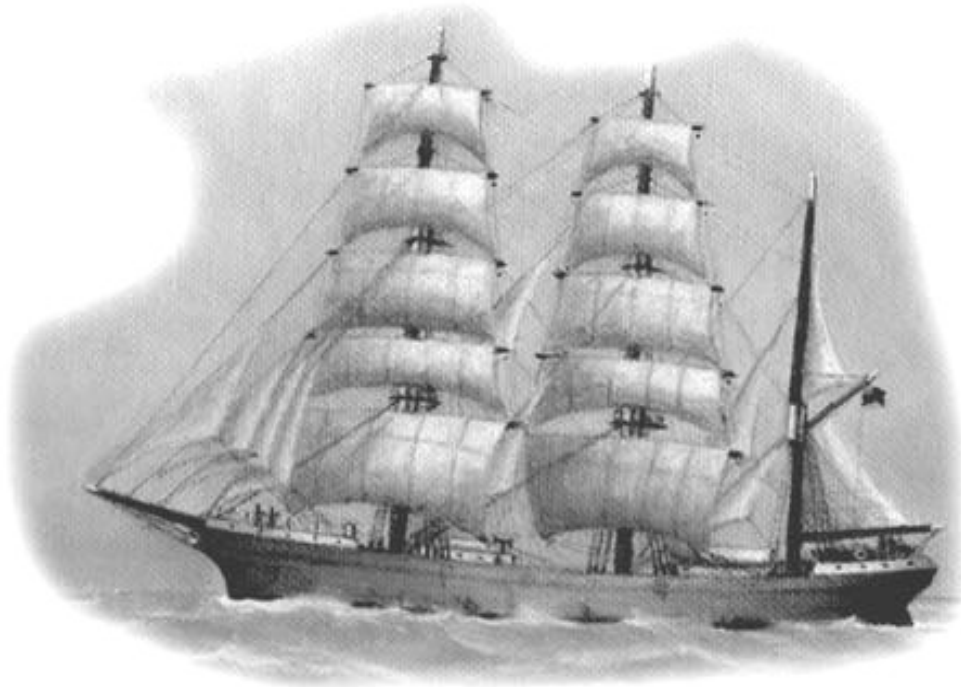
# The Surf Coast Family History Group

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Vol. 44, Winter-June 2012 edition

(Sub group of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc.)

## Inverlochy Log



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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

## The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is housed in the Anglesea Historical Society Museum McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

### Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm  
Wednesday by appointment  
Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

### Meetings held on

The 2nd Thursday of the month  
commencing at 10am at the  
Historical Society Museum  
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

### Visitors Welcome

### enquiries:

Norma Morrison Phone 52616239  
Pat Hughes Phone 52896686

### Forthcoming Meetings:

#### 12th July Meeting:

“Members bring something interesting  
from their family History”

#### Special Combined Meeting:

26th July held at the  
Anglesea Community House  
**Stuart Evans**  
Vice President of the City of Melbourne  
Highland Pipe Band  
“The History of Scottish Bagpipes”

#### 9th Aug Meeting:

**John Stewart:**  
“Don’t forget about the Fiche”

Please submit topics of interest

## The New Committee Members 2011-2012

### Chairperson

### Secretary

### Treasurer

### Librarian

### Committee Member

### Committee Member

### Committee Member

### Committee Member

### Newsletter Editor/ Vice Chairperson

**Norma Morrison** leslie.morrison@bigpond.com

**Volunteer needed**

**Thelma Western** thelwestern@gmail.com

**Rose Johnson:** justrose3226@hotmail.com

**Chris Guerow** chrisguerow@gmail.com

**Kathy Feather:** etame@ozemail.com.au

**Harry Davies:** bevhenry@netspace.net.au

**Peter Matthews:** Matthews@melbpc.org.au

**Pat Hughes** pathugs@bigpond.com

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responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of  
articles published in this magazine

# Wood Family Reunion

Earlier this year I attended a reunion of some 80 descendents of Francis and Hannah Wood, some from as far distant as Queensland, kept up at the Devon North Public Hall, near Yarram, South Gippsland, not far from the site where my forebears originally selected land in 1855.

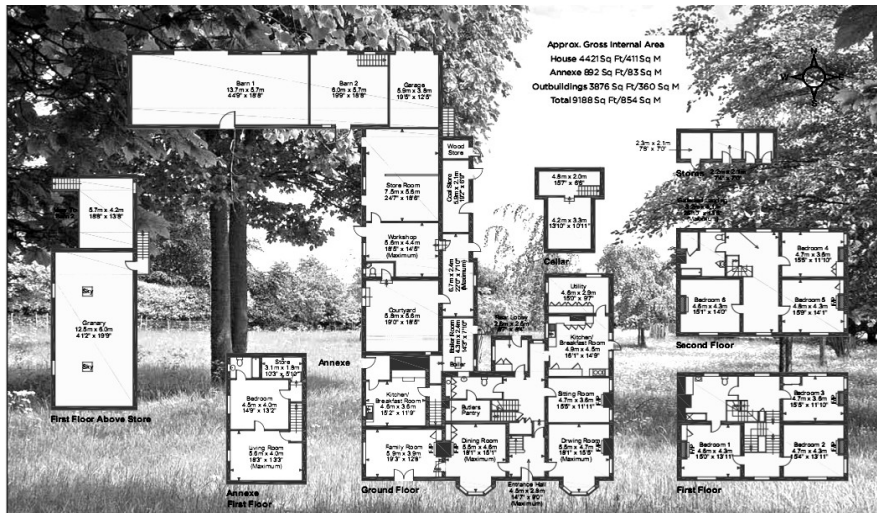
The reunion was very ably organised by my cousin Alec Wood as was our previous reunion held in 1977. Alec had accumulated considerable additional information in the thirty five years since the previous reunion.

One item which I found to be of particular interest was detailed photos of the home our ancestors had left behind.

I had previously seen a small photo of the facade of the residence but had no idea of the expanse of both the house and the outbuildings surrounding it.



**Riplingham House**



**Plan of the house**

The property of some 240 acres plus a substantial residence had been held under leasehold by Francis Wood from 1827 until their departure for Australia in 1854.

The property at Riplingham is currently on the market and this had enabled Alec to acquire a number of the Estate Agents sales photos of both the house and the surrounding outbuildings.

It makes us realise the sacrifice Francis, Hannah and family made to take up a pioneering role here in Australia.

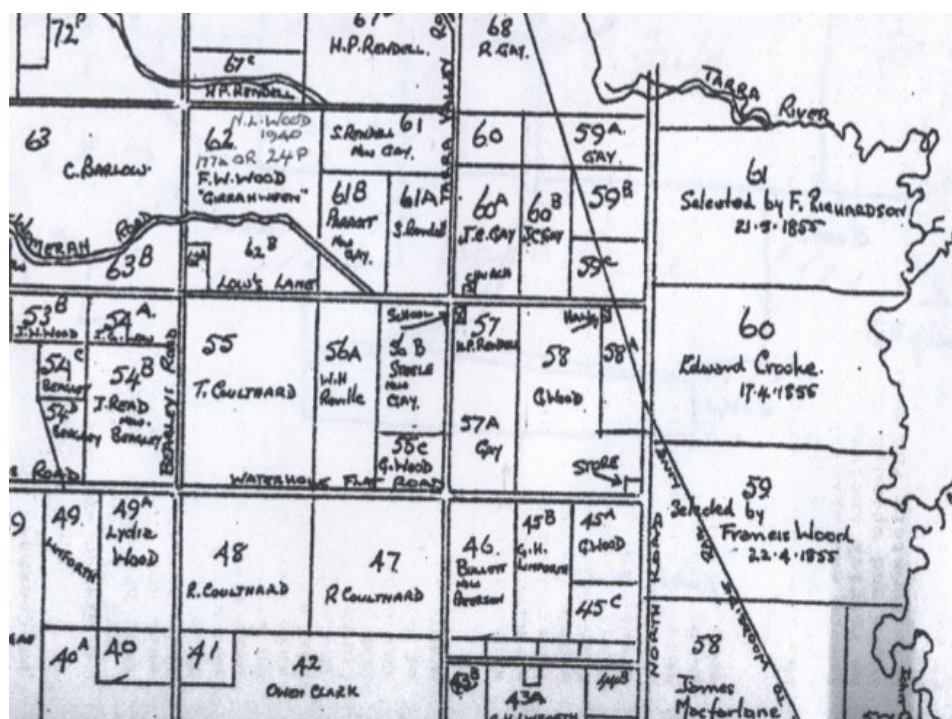
On arrival in Australia Francis and other family members had tried several business ventures in

Melbourne, Geelong and on the goldfields near Bendigo, but apparently without much success.

When the Government released land for Selection in the Yarram district Francis made the decision to return to farming.

Francis obviously had extensive knowledge of what was required for a successful farming operation and selected his site carefully.

The allotment (No CA59) of 326 acres was purchased for One Pound per acre. It consisted of gently undulating land with permanent water access from the Tarra River. Francis named his allotment "Riplingham" after the property they had left behind in England. Other members of the Wood family followed and also took up nearby selections.



**Allotment 59, selected by Francis Wood (Right side, Second up,)  
Other family Lots are under names of G Wood, Rendell, Coulthard, Linforth**

When Francis senior died the property was divided between the two younger sons, George and Francis junior. Francis Junior took the southern section of the property and retained the original name of "Riplingham".

George took the northern section and called it "The Gums", but later changed the name to "Blue Gum Park".

Later in the afternoon Alec had organised a pleasant surprise for us. He had arranged for us to visit

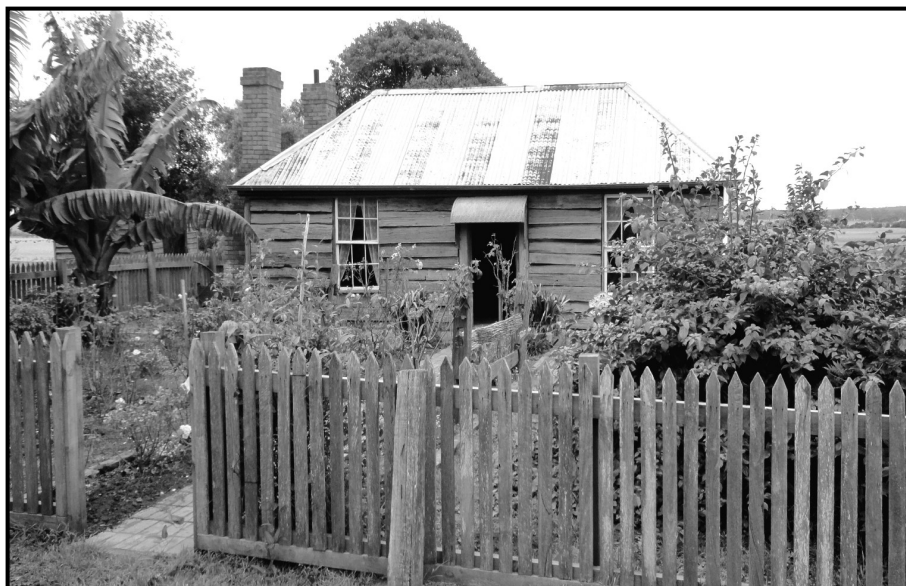
"Blue Gum Park".

It was here at "Blue Gum Park" that the original family home was situated and we were able to see first hand just how our ancestors began life in their new country. The property is currently owned by Mrs Lesley Coles (nee Wood) aged 92 and living in a Nursing Home in Yarram and is operated by her son, Alan.

The cottage has been carefully restored from a very sad and sorry state which Alec informed me was almost on the ground and appeared to be beyond repair.

This was actually their second house, the first one built down by the river, having been abandoned after the first winter when it was realised that the area was too damp and soggy and potentially flood prone.

One interesting aside during the visit was a comment from a cousin who had been a train driver all of his working life, including during the steam era. He said to me "Did you notice that cutting as you drove in to the property". I hadn't noticed it but said that I had. "Well" he said "that cutting was part of the old Yarram to Woodside railway line and I have driven steam trains along that line on many occasions and didn't know this place existed".



***The Cottage at "Blue Gum Park"***

Later on Saturday about 20 of the group gathered at the Yarram Bowling Club for our evening meal and this enabled us to get to know each other in a more relaxing atmosphere.

Sunday Morning was taken up with visits to the Alberton and Yarram Cemeteries where gravestones were pointed out that I would never have known were relatives. Poor Francis senior and his wife Hannah, the eldest of this branch of the Wood family to migrate to Australia, had no headstone whatever, just a piece of manicured grass. Arrangements are in hand to provide them with a simple but appropriate plaque.

We left the proceedings at this point as we had a long journey back to Torquay. Our gratitude goes out to Alec and his family for the organisation that they had put in to the reunion and hoping we will still be around for the next one.

Colin Wood

## Anglesea's Forgotten Hero Remembered

Evans, Pte. Alfred John, 3139, 58th Bn. A.I.F., K.I.A. Ville-sur-Ancre, France 4th July 1918



**Mr & Mrs. J. Evans unveiled his picture in remembrance to their forgotten Ancestor  
“Pte Alfred John Evans born in Anglesea”**

**To follow will be a tree planting ceremony in remembrance of Alfred and solders lost in  
the first World War.**

**This beautiful photo put on canvas was donated by Mr. Robert Armstrong a  
descendent of Alfred**

### **South Australian Motor Vehicle Registrations 1906 - 1927**

State Records of South Australia aims to keep researchers up-to-date with recent transfers of records to our custody, and ongoing additions to finding aids in *Archives Search*, which may be of interest.

We are currently working with the National Motor Museum to transcribe this research from hand typed paper pages to electronic format. This project will ensure that the work of George Brooks will be available to a wider audience and give family historians a glimpse into their family motoring history .

The records cover a period of 21 years from 1906 when motor vehicle registration commenced in South Australia. The data contained in this database consists of Car registration number, Registered Owners Name(s), Address (suburb/Town) and in many instances the vehicle model.

Australian National Motor Museum

We would like to thank the National Motor Museum and Mr George Brooks who are the owners of the research for giving us permission to publish this database. You can visit the National Motor Museum at Birdwood in South Australia or view its website at <http://www.history.sa.gov.au/motor/motor.htm>