



# The Surf Coast Family History Group



Vol. 35, Summer-December 2008 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 10.00am — 12.00pm  
or until 2.00pm on request

**Meetings are held**

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

**Visitors Welcome**

**enquiries:**

Norma Phone 52616239  
Pat Phone 52896686

**Forthcoming Meetings**

**November 13th Meeting:**  
**Tom & Libby Luke:**  
**"An Gernow a Geryn"**  
**(The Cornwall we love)**

**Dec 11th Meeting:**  
**Xmas Break Up**  
**Please bring a plate**

**Please submit topics of interest**  
**for next year**

**Wishing you all**  
**A Merry Xmas**  
**&**  
**A Happy New Year**

**The New Committee Members 2008-2009**

**Chairperson**

**Norma Morrison:** normamor@tpg.com.au

**Secretary**

**Yvonne Schneider** gertschn@bigpond.com

**Treasurer**

**Thelma Western:** tdwestern@yahoo.com.au

**Librarian**

**Rose Johnson:** justrose\_69@msn.com

**Committee Member**

**Colin Wood:** cnwood@esystit.com

**Committee Member**

**Dulcie Quinlan:** dulcieq@dodo.com.au

**Committee Member**

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

**Committee Member**

**Christine Guerow:** 52647602

**Newsletter Editor/ Vice Chairperson**

**Pat Hughes** sehguh43@bigpond.com

The Anglesea Family History Group does not hold itself  
responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of  
articles published in this magazine

## **News on the 1911 UK census**

In this we examine the background to the project and explain why the census is being released early. We will also run through the exciting new features that make this census more insightful than its predecessors.

**Its three years early** As you're probably already aware, from 2009 the information contained in the 1911 census will be released, in batches, in the form of both high-quality digital images and fully searchable transcriptions, online. Thanks to a ruling by the Information Commissioner, the census is being released (bar the withholding of some sensitive information) three years earlier than its expected 100 year closure period. This is great news for family historians, and so too is the news that findmypast.com, the market leader in online genealogy, is managing the project.

**A giant of genealogical data** The 1911 census is gargantuan in stature: in its physical form it occupies two kilometers of shelving at The National Archives, or, for the analogically minded, that's the combined length of 200 double-decker buses - though assuredly the census holds more people. There are 36,070,492, in fact, and among them are the forebears of family historians the world over.

**Invaluable new information** As with previous censuses the 1911 census shows the name, age, gender, and marital status of each person, as well as detailing their occupation and birthplace. But for the first time ever the following information is also included:

- Details of nationality
- Duration of current marriage
- How many children have been born to that marriage - including children no longer living at home and those who died
- Details of the precise branch of a profession or trade an individual worked in. For instance, whether a carpenter worked in a colliery, a ship works, or was a house carpenter and joiner
- Household schedules have survived so we can see our ancestors' own handwriting, complete with any unsolicited additional comments they might have made

**First UK census in colour** 1911 will be the first ever UK census to be scanned in colour, making its images far sharper and more faithful to the original document than those of any that has preceded it.

**Spread the word [1911census.co.uk](http://1911census.co.uk)** will be, at launch and for some considerable time after, the only place to access the 1911 census online. If you have friends or colleagues who share your interest in family history, then be sure to tell them to register on the site so that they don't miss out on the launch.

**MEMBERS STORY**

*By Colin Wood*

**Our own ANZAC**

The WWI service of Frederick Wood

Fred wood - my father - was born in Yarram (South Gippsland) in 1889, and attended the North Devon State School.

He worked in the district at various times as both a farmer and carpenter.

In January 1915 he traveled to Queensland to take up farming work with relatives, and it was here on August 6, he enlisted in the A.I.F at Dalby (south east Queensland). After just three weeks basic training at Fraser's Camp near Brisbane he was shipped off to Egypt.

Little did he realize that this was the beginning of four years of hell in which he participated in most of the Australian Infantry's major battles of the war. After a further short training period near Cairo - interrupted by 11 days in a Cairo hospital with diarrhea - he landed at "ANZAC COVE" and remained on Gallipoli until the evacuation in December 1915.



After the evacuation of Gallipoli my father was sent back to Egypt to defend the Suez Canal against an impending attack from the Turks. The attack never took place.

Now part of the 4th Division he embarked on the SS Caledonia on June 2nd 1916, destination, the "WESTERN FRONT", France.

On arrival in France my father was transferred to the "12th MACHINE GUN COMPANY" (Vickers Guns) and now came under the direct control of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division. For the remainder of the war the 4th Division was to see duty in both the "SOMME OFFENSIVE" in France and the "FLANDERS OFFENSIVE" in Belgium. Their first major battle in the Somme was the "BATTLE of POZIERES" on July 21st 1916, closely fol-

lowed on August 4th by the "BATTLE of the WINDMILL".

Charles W Bean, the official Australian War Correspondent, wrote of the Windmill site:

"THIS SITE MARKS A RIDGE MORE DENSELY SOWN WITH AUSTRALIAN SACRIFCE THAN ANY OTHER PLACE ON EARTH".

On August 4 & 11 the 4th Division made unsuccessful attacks on "MOUQUET FARM". In total the Allies made seven attacks on this fiercely defended site but the Germans remained in control. The 4th Division sustained 7158 casualties in these battles with little ground gained.

On August 7, 1916, Private F.F Wood was reported "MISSING IN ACTION" and a telegram was dispatched to his parents informing them of the situation.

On August 26, Private F.F Wood was reported "NOT MISSING, WITH UNIT".

These two dates are of significance as later information revealed that while their son was supposedly "missing" he had been awarded the "MILITARY MEDAL" for "BRAVERY IN THE FIELD".

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The Citation reads:

"Major General HV Cox KCMG CB CSI commanding the 4th Australian Division congratulates No 2812 Private F.F Wood, 12th Machine Gun Company, on the excellent work in

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building and refitting machine gun positions and keeping his gun, which was twice buried in action".

On September 3, the 4th Division was transferred to the "Flanders" sector in Belgium, but the 12th Brigade which included the 12th Machine Gun Company was hastily returned to the "Somme" in France to support the Allies newest weapon - TANKS" - in the "BATTLE of FLERS-COURCELETTE". Although these hastily constructed tanks performed poorly (many did not make it to the front line), they never the less proved there value in breaking down barbed wire and breaching trenches.

Their next engagement was at the poorly planned "BATTLE of BULLECOURT".

The official British War Historian was moved to state:

"Few attacks were carried out in such disadvantageous circumstances against such solid defenses".

June 1917 saw the 4th Division back in Belgium to take part in the major push of the "FLANDERS OFFENSIVE".

Their first engagement was the "BATTLE of MESSINES". This battle was preceded by the detonation of 19 mines (600 tons of explosive) placed in tunnels under the Messin Ridge. More than 10,000 German casualties resulted from these explosions.

The ridge was taken and the plains beyond the ridge secured in readiness for the next stage of the offensive - the "BATTLE of PASSCHENDAELE".

The Passchendaele campaign was fought during the wettest winter in over 30 years. The troops referred to it as the "BATTLE of the MUD".

Individual campaigns in this major offensive fought by the 4th Division were:

The "BATTLE of MENIN ROAD"; the "BATTLE of POLYGON WOOD"; the "BATTLE of BROODSIENDE".

The five Australian Divisions had now fought in the line for eight weeks and were exhausted. They had suffered 38,093 casualties.

After a recuperation period the Australian troops were once again sent back to the Somme in France to repel the Germans in what was to become the last major offensive of the war, known as "The one hundred day Offensive" .

The five Australian Divisions, now combined to form the "AUSTRALIAN CORPS", and for the first time under the leadership of an Australian commander (Lieutenant General John Monash), took part in three battles during this offensive.

In the "BATTLE of DERNANCOURT", just over 4000 Australian troops of the 12th and 13th Brigades repelled two and a half German Divisions totaling more than 25,00 men.

The next engagement was the "BATTLE of HAMEL" on July 4, 1918. The five divisions of the Australian Corps under the brilliant leadership of Lieutenant General Monash achieved all its objectives in just 93 minutes.

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The "BATTLE OF AMIENS" followed on August 8. A total of 430 British Tanks were assembled for this attack and once again all objectives were accomplished.

A German Commander described the success of the Allied attack as:

"A BLACK DAY FOR THE GERMAN FORCES".

This was to be the last action for both the 1st and 4th Australian Divisions in World War One.

My father, who by this time had been promoted to Sergeant, was sent to England in prepara-

tion for repatriation to Australia.

Another five months passed before he was to set foot on Australian soil, the delay being the result of a shortage of available transport ships due to the heavy losses from German U-Boats during the war.

To my knowledge, my father, despite being at the front line manning his Vickers Gun for much of his four years of service, did not sustain any serious injuries, spending just eleven days in hospital with diarrhea prior to arriving at the Front.

Colin Wood

**The India Office Records**

A useful site for anyone with research that had family  
Who lived or served in India.

The British Library's card index which has now largely been transcribed and is searchable  
online at <http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI>

**Welcome to our new Committee Members**

Thank You for your participation for next year

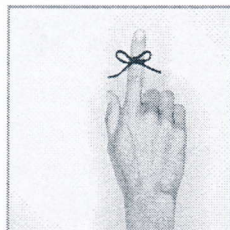
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**A Gentle Reminder**

Membership fees are due

Please pay Thelma Western our Treasurer

If you have already paid thank you for your commitment



## New Acquisitions

### Victorian Crown Grantees Revised Indexes South West Victoria Cemeteries

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#### Useful Websites

searching for indexes <http://www.coraweb.com.au/>  
Lancashire Wills search: <http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/lws.htm>  
Order copies on film through

## Xmas Raffle

It is Christmas time and again we are having a Xmas Raffle  
this year we need a new Computer and as always new records for our research  
Attached are 10 raffle tickets @ \$2 each

Please can you help by buying them or help by selling them to friends

Raffle to be drawn on the 20th December at 1.00pm at the  
Historical Society rooms McMillan St

We need volunteers to sell tickets if you would like to put your name on the roster

Please contact Norma Morrison: 52 616239

It is most rewarding to help and support your Family History Group.



### The Surf Coast Family History Group

#### For Sale:

Schools of the Surf Coast Shire  
Anglesea to Wurdi Bolue

Surf Coast Cemetery Records on  
CD

Contact: Norma Morrison  
Phone: 52 616239

### Research!

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### LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

TUESDAYS 10.00AM—12 NOON

OPEN UNTIL 2.00 PM IF REQUESTED ON THE DAY

“PLEASE NOTE: WE CLOSE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS”

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## Surface Mail

If undelivered return to  
**The Surf Coast Family History Group**  
P. O. Box 98 Anglesea  
Victoria 3230