

South Coast Aboriginal Genealogy



Shoalhaven Family Local & Cultural History Fair



In accordance with traditional laws often followed by Indigenous communities in Australia the mentioning of and photographs of deceased people may offend. Please note on this site there is mention of Aboriginal people who are deceased

Note: Some language used is as found in primary sources, these are noted as [sic] in order to verify to the reader that the writer did not create a typographical error, but instead exactly reproduces the way the word/s or statement appeared in the original material.

Photos: – One Track for All – Ulladulla North Headland
Wooden Carvings by Noel Butler of the Budawang Land Care Group
who sees his work as a tool for linking indigenous culture with white history.

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Even though Australian historical primary records are mostly European based, when researching Aboriginal ancestry the principles of family history methodology differ very slightly if at all.

Australian Indigenous cultures and experiences are diverse across the country and vary greatly across the localised areas of the South Coast.

The South Coast Region includes Aboriginal communities of:

Yuin Nation - Yuin is the general or generic name for all tribes from Merimbula to Port Jackson		
Wodi Wodi – Illawarra	Bundalong – Shoalhaven River	Jeringa – Shoalhaven (North)
Jervis Bay	Kangaroo Ground (Kangaroo Valley)	Parramarrago (near Bungonia)
Alleluen (Araluen)	Wandandian – Wandandian & Jervis Bay	Budawang
Walbanga	Munkata (maybe Monkittee nr Braidwood)	And others

Most local history books, mention Aboriginal people in the first chapter only as pre-European history and some early European settlement. Whilst the majority of Pioneer registrars fail to even acknowledge Aboriginal people. Europeans first saw aboriginal people in 1770 when Captain Cook and Joseph Banks on the Murramarang beach.

Indigenous Family History

Use these 6 steps for every new generation when doing research.

- What do I want to learn about my family?
- What do I already know about my family and how do I record it?
- What photos do I have of them?
- What records do family history groups, historical societies, libraries, historians and other organisations have?
- How do I obtain the records or information required?
- Where do I go from here?

How Do I Start?

A good rule is to work backwards from yourself. This is the only way to be almost certain that you are tracing the right family. Never assume a connection with some particular family then try to fit yourself into one of its branches. It doesn't work!!!! Fill in a birth brief chart place yourself as No.1. Then move on to parents and grandparents with the information you already have. The missing gaps will be filled in later when you start your research.

Other Items from Home for Family Historians

- Photographs. Never use pen. A label on back and details written in pencil.
- Oral history form Elders
- That shoe box of old papers and newspaper clippings that Granny kept is a gold mine.
- Spend time listening to older family members
- Write down any family story it will be a good source of truth or half truth later on.

Many people record their family history research on computer. There is a large range of software available however I suggest one uses Brothers Keepers.

Type of Records to use in Aboriginal Research

Birth Details can be obtained from:
Civil Registration – Birth, Death, Marriage
Church Records – Headstones

Marriage Details can be obtained from:
Civil Registration – Birth, Death, Marriage
Birth certificates – many times will list marriage by Traditional rites
Church Records

Death Details can be obtained from

Civil Registration – Birth, Death, Marriage
Cemetery Records and Headstones
Newspaper articles

Civil Registrations - Church Records - Death & Cemetery Records

Not all Aboriginal births were registered, or European births for that matter. A must is to check local church records, and these are many times overlooked as a resource for family history research. Many include baptism of Aboriginal adults.

Check with a Family History or Historical Society to see if records have been indexed. Is there a local historian who has transcribed the records? If not contact the individual Church.

Many times Church records have details that were omitted on the civil registration information such as Totem name. Civil registration began in 1855, the place of registration is not necessarily the place of event – birth, death, marriage.

A death certificate will show name, age at death, place and cause of death, parents, name and relationship of informant, when and where buried, witnesses at funeral. Also where married and to whom, age at time of marriage, the names and ages of living children and the number of dead children. Not all death certificates have complete information.

Using the index for BDM's online at www.bdm.nsw.gov.au obtains a reference Number for the certificate; these can be purchase online or use a transcript agent. Also check Church records, cemetery records and newspapers for death notices.

Most South Coast Cemeteries have being researched. These are available at books at your local library, family history group. Historical society, whilst some are available online, many can be purchased.

Newspapers:

An example from a Newspaper as a source for Aboriginal genealogy:

Moruya Examiner, 23 Aug 1919

On Friday night last Pte. Frank Stewart was the recipient of the usual Shire address and a presentation from the Bay to honor [sic] him as a returned Australian soldier. The occasion was rather unique, in as much as the ceremony took place during the interval of a picture show. To this entertainment about 50 of Private Stewart's friends and relatives from the Aboriginal Reserve had been invited. The presentation was made by Mr D F Mackay and was received by much acclamation and to the accompaniment of the indispensable leaf strains of music from the darkies [sic].

Tindale's Genealogies

Anthropologist Norman Tindale visited various Aboriginal Missions and reserves throughout Australia in the 1930's including the South Coast. The information that Tindale gathered during these visits was included in his Collection of genealogical information. Contact: Ronald Briggs Indigenous Services State Library, phone: (02) 9273 1577 http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/fmly_hstry/fmly_hstry_tindales.htm

War records

Servicemen Enlistment and Service Records contain great information on your family members can be obtained for their enlistment records. Such as surname and given names, service number, Army unit and/or battalion, age on enlistment, place of birth, date of enlistment, place of enlistment, next-of-kin, marital status at time of enlistment, distinctive physical marks (e.g. scars, birthmarks, tattoos, etc.).

Copies of war service records are also available to download. The Australian National Archives have scanned over 453 individual Aboriginal service records from WWI are a great source for Aboriginal genealogy as many include additional papers. They are available from www.naa.gov.au

1891 Census - Microfilm records at State Records NSW

Includes a separate column for number of Aboriginal people included number of male and female.

Aborigines Welfare Board – State Records NSW

Minute books, correspondence files, photographs and Aboriginal reserves records, many of the records of the Aborigines Welfare Board are closed to public access

1901 Householder Collectors Books

The *Collectors' Books* are arranged alphabetically by census district. Each subdistrict is allocated a number or letter and is arranged chronologically within the census district. Many of the subdistricts include a map and a brief description of the area boundaries; all identify the collector responsible for the area.

Within the subdistrict, the *Collectors' Books* record the locality (including names of the street, road, gully or other variations), occasionally the number of the house, the name of the householder and the total number of persons in the household (divided into male and female). The books also list separately how many of the residents are Chinese or Aboriginal. Additional information may include the type of dwelling.

The 1901 Collectors books are available on Microfiche at various repositories including Nowra Library, some Family History Groups and Historical societies and author collection. Source: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/shortguides/07/sg7-2.htm>

Example: 1901 Milton Ulladulla Aboriginals listed in household collection data

Name	Address	M	F	AM	AF	Authors Notes +
Charles Stewart Beattie	Ulladulla Road	2	4	1	3	Wife Susan and daughters Sarah and Mary
Mary [sic] Billyboy	Camp		1		1	also know as Maria Coomee
P.... Hunt	Camp	1		1		maybe George Hunt
Charles Kerry	Camp	4	3	4	3	Self, wife Mary, daughter Ethel, mother Mary, brothers Tony, Thomas and Robert
Lewis Licey	Camp	2	3	2	3	Self, wife Emily, son Ernest, Daughters Muriel and baby (unnamed)
Harold Nyberg	Burrill St.	5	1	4	1	Self, wife Ellen, sons Harold, Richard, Cecil (Rignal), Oscar
Andrew B Nye Snr	Murraramang St	3	2	2	2	wife Jane, sons Andrew, Bertie and George, daughter Eupemia, possible incorrect numbers

Electoral Rolls

Are always worth checking, results will vary from region to region. Noted that some areas around Jervis Bay will be listed under the ACT.

Example of 1903 Electoral Roll Milton Ulladulla Districts

Surname	Christian name	Place of Living	Occupation	Authors Notes +
Andrew	Prosper	Termeil	Laborer	
Andrew	Robert James	Termeil	Laborer	
Andrews	Rachel	Termeil	Domestic Duties	
Beattie	Charles	Ulladulla	Carter	Married to Susan Allen (Coomee daughter)
Campbell	George	Ulladulla	Fisherman	With Ethel Brother
Dashwood	William	Bally Point [sic]	Labourer	Married to Phoebe Butler (aboriginal)
Nyberg	Ellen	Conjola	Domestic Duties	Aboriginal married to Harold Nyberg (German)
Nye	Andrew	Ulladulla	Labourer	Married to Jane Campbell (aboriginal). Jane herself not on electoral roll.

Example from the 1922 Electoral Roll Milton Ulladulla Districts.

Surname	Christian name	Place of Living	Occupation	Author Notes +
Brown	Ethel Mary Jane	Milton	Domestic Duties	Widow of Jimmy Governor, now wife of local Aboriginal Frank Brown
Brown	Francis Joseph	Milton	Labourer	Frank Brown
Brown	Thomas	Redhead	Millhand	
Cooley	Henry	Ulladulla	Fisherman	
Cooley	Jane	Ulladulla	Domestic Duties	
Cooley	Thomas Charles	Ulladulla	Fisherman	
Nyberg	Harold Augusta	Conjola Lake	Fisherman	
Nyberg	Regnold [sic]	Conjola	Fisherman	
Page	Elizabeth Jane	Ulladulla	Domestic Duties	nee Cooley
Page	William George	Ulladulla	Labourer	Brother of Ethel Brown
Wilson	Ambrose Ivor Earl	East Milton	Labourer	
Wilson	John	Narrawillee [sic]	Fisherman	married to Aboriginal Sarah Evans
Wilson	John Robert	Conjola	Fisherman	
Wilson	Sarah	Narrawillee [sic]	Domestic Duties	

Others Sources:

Please note that wording in some of the records can offend Aboriginal people such as: black, coloured, darkie, $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ caste. [sic] Other primary sources to check are School records, parish maps, newspapers, Court & Goal Records, Council minutes, blanket returns.

All sources will have their strength and weaknesses for family history research, depending on location and time period and type of source inline with the information being sought.

Historian Cathy Dunn, has been researching South Coast Aboriginal Families for more than eight years, with over 2,500 in the aboriginal biography database to date (July 05). Look up are available for family members contact: Ph: 4455 4780 email history@ulladulla.info

Visual Aids for Presentation:

OHT

1901 Householder Collection sheets for Conjola, Ulladulla Aboriginal camp

Ulladulla Parish Map

Mickey of Ulladulla – sketch 1880s

MU CE Baptism 1892, 1899 & 1912

Printed:

Millicent Pickalla - transcript of birth Certificate Wallaga Lake 1904

Ethel Violet Brown – transcript of Death Certificate Aboriginal camp 1900.

Aboriginal records from Braidwood Gaol 1856 – 1899

Milton Ulladulla Church Records

1901 Householder Collection sheets for Moruya, Turlinjah, Central Tilba, Batemans Bay

War service record of Ernest Lacey & Henry Cooley

Mirryal : Budawang Aborigines featured in church records – with list of church records with no Aboriginal families listed

Descendants of DURDI: includes names of Mumbla, Turner, Haddigaddi, Roberts, Andy, Piety, Penrith.

Hoskins, Parson, Pitman, Pickalla, Thomas, Mumbler, Little, Stewart, Carriage and others.

Blanket returns, Court records, Tindale notes

Collection of publications and others for generic display.

Suggested Further Readings

Publications:

- Byrne, Denis. *The mountains call me back: a history of the Aborigines and the forests of the far south coast of New South Wales*, NSW Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Sydney, 1984.
- Chittick, Lee and Fox, Terry. *Travelling with Percy: a south coast journey*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra 1997.
- Dunn, Cathy. *Mirryal : Budawang Aborigines featured in church records*, the author, Milton, 2000.
- Egloff, B. Peterson, N. and Wesson, S. *Biamanga and Gulaga : Aboriginal cultural association with the Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks*, Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Acts 1983, Surry Hills, 2005.
- Egloff, Brian. *Wreck bay: an Aboriginal fishing community*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 1990.
- Howitt, A. W. *The native tribes of south-east Australia*, Macmillan, London, 1904. Reprinted 1996, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra.
- Organ, Michael. *A documentary history of the Illawarra & south coast Aborigines 1770-1850: including a chronological bibliography 1770-1990*, Aboriginal Education Unit, Wollongong University, Wollongong, 1990.
- Organ, Michael, *Illawarra and South Coast aborigines, 1770-1900*, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, 1993.
- Townsend, Joseph. *Rambles and observations in New South Wales*, Chapman and Hall's series London, 1849. With sketches of men and manners, ... Aboriginal people from Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Moruya, ... scenery, and some hints to emigrants.
- Young, Michael. *The Aboriginal people of the Monaro*. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney, 2000. Compiled by Michael Young with Ellen and Debbie Mundy
- Wesson, Sue. *An historical atlas of the Aborigines of eastern Victoria and far south-eastern New South Wales*, Monash University. School of Geography and Environmental Science, Melbourne, 2000

Articles and Phamplets:

- Briggs, Ron and Jackson, Melissa. *Pathfinder no. 6: Black routes through the library, a guide to Aboriginal family and local history resources relating to NSW*. State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, 1996.
- Brindle, Ken, *An Index to the Aboriginal Welfare Board Correspondence Files, 1945-1969*, unpublished manuscript held by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, compiled 1987. Also held by the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs.
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service: *Coastal Custodians Newsletters* also available online at http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/content/coastal_custodians_newsletters
- Mathews, R.H. *Ethnological notes on the aboriginal tribes of New South Wales and Victoria*. Originally published in Journal of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Vol. 38 (1904), pp. 203-381.

CD Roms:

- Dawn and New Dawn 1952 – 1975*. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 2004. Dawn and New Dawn were magazines published by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board. These magazines served as a way for people to keep in contact and today the magazines are a valuable source of family history information as they include details of births, deaths, and marriages. Photographs are included.

NSW Birth Death & Marriages

Websites

Aboriginal People & Cultural Life

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Aboriginal+people+and+cultural+life>

A Guide to New South Wales State Archives relating to Aboriginal People

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/aboriginalguide/aboriginalguide-12.htm>

AIATSIS MURA catalogue for bibliographic references

<http://unicorn.aiatsis.gov.au/index.html>

Braidwood Gaol Entrance Book (1856-1899) by Peter Mayberry

<http://www.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/braidwood.htm>

Budawang Aboriginal Families – Cathy Dunn

<http://www.ulladulla.info/history/budawang/welcome.html>

Eastern Sydney Memorial Park- <http://www.esmp.net.au>

A searchable database to burials at Botany Cemetery. A good source for South Coast Aboriginal families, who were at La Perouse.

INFOKOORI: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/infokoori>

A web based index to the *Koori Mail* and biographical information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from the magazines *Our Aim* (1907–1961), *Dawn* (1952–1969), *New Dawn* (1970–1975) and *Identity* (1971–1982).

Mura Gadi - <http://www.nla.gov.au/muragadi>

A guide to manuscript, pictures and oral histories in the National Library of Australia relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples also provides links to digitised copies of material, so that users, wherever they live, can have immediate access to the Collection

National Archives of Australia - www.naa.gov.au

NSW Birth Death and Marriages - www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Mailing Lists

Korri Yahoo Group - <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/Koori/>

This is a place where everyone is welcome. It is suitable for people of all ages, a place to talk about Aboriginal issues & everything in general.

RootsWeb: Genealogy Australia: AUS-KOORI

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-KOORI.html>

Discussion of genealogy, family history, and cultural history.

RootsWeb: Genealogy Australia: NSW South East

www.scpromotions.com.au/nswse

Mailing list was established for the discussion of genealogy and history relating to the south-east of New South Wales, Australia. The geographical area covered is from Helensburgh to the Victorian border and inland to the Great Divide, including Braidwood and Araluen.