



Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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A Member of:

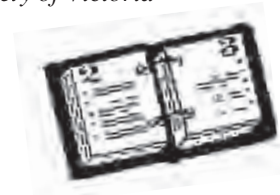
Genealogical Society of Vic - South Eastern Historical Assoc Inc

Vic Assoc of Family History Organisations - Royal Historical Society of Victoria



John Todd (*seated*) with sons Thomas Walker, John & William from Cranbourne (*left to right*). This photo was taken in the 1880's.

Our thanks to Sharyn O'Neill for allowing us to publish this part of her family history here, it certainly makes a great front cover! If you have a photo of local interest that you would like us to feature in our newsletter please contact the newsletter editor.



General Meetings

14th March at 8 pm

Ralph Neale

- ➔ "Victoria's most scandalous shipwreck - the wreck of the Schomberg"

11th April at 8 pm

Tom Corfnat - Secretary of the Victorian Colonial Infantry Association Inc.

"Victoria's Volunteer Forces"

9th May at 8 pm

Speaker To be Advised

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Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.

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<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nwfhg>

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Committee Members

President	Lynne Bradley	Librarian	Clare Vivian
Vice President	vacant	Membership Officer	Pam Lowther
Treasurer	Anne Blair	Newsletter Editor (<i>Acting</i>)	Lynne Bradley
Minute Secretary	Eileen Durdin	Publicity Officer	Wendy Goodwin
Corres. Secretary	Fay McCoubrie	Research Room Manager	Carolyn Jones

Membership & Meetings

Membership:

Single \$25 + \$5 joining fee
Joint \$40 + \$5 joining fee
Payable 1st July each year.

Meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Nov - May: 8 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of the month
(except January)

Jun - Oct: 2 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the month

The cost is \$2 and includes a light supper.

Family History Research Room

Our Family History Research Room is located within the Narre Warren Library, Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Family History Research Room hours:

Tuesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have a large collection of books, maps and microfiche available to our members. We also welcome visitors - a research fee of \$5.00 per day applies to non-members.

Research Queries

We offer a research service for those unable to visit our Family History Room personally but please note that we can only research our own holdings and those of the local municipal libraries.

The cost for this service is \$10 per hour plus photocopying expenses. All research queries can be sent to the Research Officer at the above address.



Family History Research Room Information Sessions

For new members who would like to discover exactly what we have in the Family History Research Room - or for those members who are currently not using the holdings we have to their best advantage. Pam Lowther is currently holding friendly and informal information sessions with small groups of members. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are available.

For further information or to reserve a place at the next session please contact Pam on (03) 9704 9598

Members: Free

Visitors: \$5 charge.

Publications for Sale

Microfiche:

Berwick Cemetery
Register & Headstones 1867 to 1999 = \$22.00

Harkaway Cemetery
Register & Headstones 1863 to 1999 = \$6.00

Pakenham Cemetery
Register & Headstones c1850 to 1999 = \$22.00

+ \$2.50 postage & packing for up to 3 sets of fiche

Books:

Harkaway Primary School - Origins to 1975
by Jennifer Boyer = \$20 (postage included)

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the City of Casey in allowing us the use of facilities at the Narre Warren Library.

WOW!

Sausage Sizzle 7th January at Bunnings, Fountain Gate.

What a great day - we cleared \$1,217.00 after we sold off the sausages we had over.

I had sausages and onions up to my ears, but I didn't mind a bit when I found out how much money we had made. How fantastic! \$\$\$\$\$\$

We were so lucky with the weather because the days before were so hot. The weather changed so much on the day, we nearly got blown away.

What a great bunch of people I had to work with, what great teamwork. Everyone put in more than their share, we had husbands who were not even members who were just so helpful, so a special thank-you to David Allen, Ron McGrath and Bill Hayes. Ron cooks a mean sausage. Great work!

Many thanks to Lynne, Jeanette, Clare, Mary, Val, Carolyn, Anne, Di, Diana and Jenny Hayes, our spruiker. I don't think we would have done so well without her. Special thanks to Lynne, who always makes herself available to help all members, we are so lucky to have such a dedicated President, our group would not be the same without her. And a special thanks to Anne Blair; who always does so much behind the scenes.

Thanks also to Lorraine and especially Carolyn who helped me

cut up 30 kgs of onions – so we did our fair share of crying! Next time we have a sausage sizzle I will have to have helpers the day before to help cut onions and bag sausages. So, if you cannot help on the day, maybe you could help in this way.

A big thank-you to Clare who stayed all day to help me out.

Hopefully we will have another one later in the year.

Sausage Sizzle Coordinator
Shirley Peterson



Di Christensen, Mary McGrath, Jeanette Angee, Shirley "The amazing sausage sizzle co-ordinator", Ron McGrath and Clare Vivian. (Left to Right)

Indexing wills and probates

PROV, VAFHO and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have undertaken the indexing of wills and probates, enabling people to search for a name on the index and then find the digitised wills etc.

The LDS Church has had teams of members in Melbourne filming the documents-this is going ahead at an extraordinarily fast rate, however, the indexing is much slower.

There are 67 indexers listed but not all of these are able to index on a weekly basis.

There are 13,026 batches to be done, each of which has to be keyed in twice and then they need to be

checked. This work can be done from home if you are connected to the Internet, Lesle Berry can email you the instructions.

At the rate the project is proceeding it will take until 2041 to be completed and not many of us will be here then so to ensure that we can find documents for our families, join this indexing team now.

Please email for more details.

Leslie Berry
lindexing@optusnet.com.au

or Di Christensen
Robert.c1@optusnet.com.au

English Magazine CD Resource Index

Family Tree Magazine & Practical Family History Magazine An Index of resources from the cover CD's

These CD's contain a wide variety of genealogical resources, trial versions of family history software and back issues.

These resources cover England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Don't forget the CD is inside the back cover!

A fully searchable copy of this index will be available in the research room soon!

Resources	Month/ Magazine	
Barnstaple (part), Devon 1871 - Census	Sept 2006	FTM
Bedfordshire 1885 (Kelly's) - Directory	Dec 2005	PFH
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Hants, Oxon 1830 (Pigot's) - Directory	Mar 2006	PFH
Buckinghamshire (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Sept 2005	FTM
Buckinghamshire 1907 (Kelly's) - Directory	Oct 2005	PFH
Cambridge 1858 Post Office (Kelly's) - Directory	Dec 2006	PFH
Cambridgeshire (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Oct 2005	FTM
Cheshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Jan 2005	FTM
Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire 1828-9 (Pigot's) - Directory	Apr 2006	PFH
Christchurch 1901 - Census	Jul 2005	FTM
Cornwall 1893 (Kelly's) - Directory	Jan 2006	PFH
Cornwall Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Sept 2004	FTM
Cornwall Vol. 9 - Parish Records	Oct 2006	FTM
Cornwall, Stratton 1871 - Census	Aug 2005	FTM
Coventry 1871 - Census	Jun 2005	FTM
Cumberland 1847 - Directory	Dec 2004	PFH
Cumberland, Lancashire, Westmorland 1828-9 (Pigot's) - Directory	Aug 2006	PFH
Daventry, Northamptonshire 1871 - Census	Jun 2006	FTM
Derbyshire (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Aug 2005	FTM
Devon (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Jul 2005	FTM
Dorset (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Nov 2005	FTM
Dorset, Dorchester 1861 - Census	Dec 2005	FTM
Dorsetshire 1899 (Kelly's) - Directory	Nov 2006	PFH
Edgbaston, Worcestershire 1891 - Census	Sept 2005	FTM
Essex (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Dec 2005	FTM
Gateshead 1871 - Census	Sept 2004	FTM
Gloucester 1906 (Kelly's) - Directory	Feb 2006	PFH
Gloucestershire (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Jan 2006	FTM

Resources	Month/ Magazine	
Gloucestershire Vol. 9 - Parish Records	Nov 2006	FTM
Gloucestershire, St Philip and St Jacob 1891 - Census	May 2006	FTM
Gloucestershire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Oct 2004	FTM
Great Britain and Ireland 1893 (Cassell's) Vol. 1 - Gazetteer	Nov 2005	PFH
Hampshire 1844 - Directory	Oct 2004	PFH
Hampshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Aug 2004	FTM
Hampshire Vol. 9 - Parish Records	Sept 2006	FTM
Hereford, Leicestershire, Monmouthshire, Rutlandshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, N & S Wales 1835 (Pigot's) - Directory	Jun 2006	PFH
Hertfordshire (marriages) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Feb 2006	FTM
Hitchin, Hertfordshire 1851 - Census	Dec 2006	FTM
Irish County Index Maps – Antrim, Carlow, Cavan, Fermanagh, Galway, Longford, Meath, Wexford	Apr 2006	FTM
Irish County Index Maps – Armagh, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tyrone, Wicklow	Jan 2006	FTM
Irish County Index Maps - Clare, Cork, Londonderry, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Waterford	Feb 2006	FTM
Irish County Index Maps – Donegal, Down, Dublin, Kildare, Leitrim, Sligo, Tipperary, Westmeath	Mar 2006	FTM
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 1839 (Pigot's) - Directory	May 2006	PFH
Kingsbury East/West, Somerset 1841 - Census	Aug 2006	FTM
Leicestershire and Rutland 1912 (Kelly's) - Directory	Jan 2005	PFH
Leicestershire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Apr 2006	FTM
Leicestershire, East Leicester (part) 1871 - Census	Feb 2006	FTM
Lincolnshire 1933 (Kelly's) - Directory	Nov 2004	PFH
Lincolnshire (Caister) & Wiltshire (Calne) 1871 - Census	Apr/May 2005	FTM
Lincolnshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Mar 2006	FTM
London 1839 (Pigot's) - Directory	Jul 2006	PFH
London 1846 Post Office - Directory	Oct 2006	PFH
London Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Feb 2005	FTM
Maidstone 1871 - Census	Jan 2005	FTM

Resources	Month/ Magazine	
Manchester 1773 - Directory	Mar 2005	PFH
Master Name Index	Apr 2006	PFH
Master Name Index	Jun 2005	FTM
Master Name Index	Nov 2004	PFH
Middlesex 1898 (Kelly's) -Directory	Sept 2006	PFH
Middlesex Vol. 1 - Parish Records	May 2006	FTM
Middlesex, Edmonton (part) 1871 - Census	Mar 2006	FTM
Norfolk Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Nov 2004	FTM
Norfolk Vol. 9 - Parish Records	Dec 2006	FTM
Norfolk, Conisford 1851 - Census	Apr 2006	FTM
Nottinghamshire - Parish Records	Jun 2005	FTM
Nottinghamshire, Sherwood, St Mary (part) 1871 - Census	Mar 2005	FTM
Oxford, Oxfordshire 1871 - Census	Nov 2005	FTM
Oxfordshire 1823/44 (Pigot's) - Directory	Apr 2005	PFH
Preston 1871 - Census	Oct 2004	FTM
Reading 1891 - Census	Aug 2004	FTM
Rotherham 1871 - Census	Dec 2004	FTM
Saxmundham, Aldeburgh area, Suffolk 1851 - Census	Nov 2006	FTM
Sevenoaks, Kent 1901 - Census	Oct 2006	FTM
Shropshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Aug 2006	FTM
Somerset (Phillimore's) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Mar 2005	FTM
Stourbridge 1871 - Census	Feb 2005	FTM

Resources	Month/ Magazine	
Suffolk (Phillimore's) Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Apr/May 2005	FTM
Surbiton and Esher, Surrey 1901 - Census	Oct 2005	FTM
Surrey Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Jun 2006	FTM
Sussex, Brighton, The Palace 1891 - Census	Jan 2006	FTM
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 1 Part 1 - London	Apr/May 2005	FTM
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 1 Part 2 - London	May 2005	PFH
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 2 Part 1 A - B	Jun 2005	PFH
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 2 Part 2 C - D	Jul 2005	FTM
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 3 Part 1 E - K	Jul 2005	PFH
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 3 Part 2 L - M	Aug 2005	FTM
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 4 Part 1 N - S	Aug 2005	PFH
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 4 Part 2 - T - Y	Sept 2005	FTM
The Universal British Directory 1793 - 1798 Vol. 5 Appendix A - Y	Sept 2005	PFH
Wales (North & South) 1844 (Pigot's) - Directory	Feb 2005	PFH
West ham, Essex 1851 - Census	Jul 2006	FTM
Westminster 1901 - Census	Nov 2004	FTM
Wiltshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Dec 2004	FTM
Yorkshire North (+map) 1891 - Directory	Sept 2004	PFH
Yorkshire Vol. 1 - Parish Records	Jul 2006	FTM

The Great War	Month/ Magazine	
British Propaganda and How It Helped the Final Victory	Dec 2005	PFH
Every day life on the Western Front	May 2005	PFH
First Impressions Under Fire	Mar 2006	PFH
Heroes of the Victoria Cross	Jan 2005	PFH
How the Allies prepared for the great offensive on the Somme	Feb 2005	PFH
How the Boer War Prepared Us	Feb 2006	PFH
How the Trouble Began	Jan 2006	PFH
How the wounded were brought home	Apr 2005	PFH
Lower Deck Life in war time (October 13th, 1917)	Jun 2005	PFH
Naval Struggle in the Mediteranean	Nov 2004	PFH
Out with the Dover patrol	Jun 2006	PFH
Scotland's share in the war	Sept 2005	PFH
Sway of Battle in the Air	Sept 2004	PFH
The Demobilisation of the British Army	Nov 2005	PFH

The Great War	Month/ Magazine	
The Impact of the Zeppelin	Oct 2005	PFH
The insatiable hunger of the guns	Apr 2006	PFH
The Story of the British War Horse	Jul 2005	PFH
The Tactics of The Great War	May 2006	PFH
Victories on the Somme and Avre	Oct 2004	PFH
Who fired the first shot?	Aug 2006	PFH
Winter Campaign in the Trenches	Dec 2004	PFH
Women's effort in the War	Mar 2005	PFH
Women's supreme work in the war	Aug 2005	PFH

The War Illustrated	Month/ Magazine	
Blowing up the bridges	Sept 2006	PFH
Sea power and the submarine	Jul 2006	PFH
The Historic Armistice	Oct 2006	PFH
The War Illustrated	Dec 2006	PFH
Why Britain went to war	Nov 2006	PFH

The Downes Family Reunion

On the weekend of October 28th & 29th, 2006 descendants of Timothy and Anne Downes gathered at Yarrowonga and St. James to renew old ties, create new ones and to learn something of their origins.

Timothy Downes was born in County Limerick, Ireland c1794 and lived in a small townland named Moneymohill. At the tender age of 20 he married Anne Hanrahan, a young girl from the adjoining townland of Moyreen. The family was not wealthy, Timothy had only six acres of land but somehow they managed to bring their six children through The Great Famine, a time which saw Timothy lose his farm and his wife.

The family sent the eldest daughter Bridget aged 24 to Victoria in 1853, she worked hard and sent for her sister in 1856. Bridget married and in 1857 Bridget's husband John applied for assisted passages for Timothy and the three single sons who all arrived in 1858. The last and eldest son, Patrick arrived in 1863 with his family, however the joy of having the family reunited completely was short lived, Patrick died within 9 months of his arrival, leaving a young wife and four young daughters in a new country.

The family settled in the Winchelsea area, sheer hard work saw the boys build their land holdings, the girls married and they too began to acquire property. When land in north east Victoria was opened up two of the Downes boys took up land in St. James, near Benalla, while one remained in Winchelsea.

Hard work, guts and determination saw each of Timothy and Anne's children better themselves and secure their positions in life to a degree that could only be dreamt of back in Ireland.

For the past 22 years, my second cousin once removed (or so the computer tells me) Graham Downes has been researching the family history and dreaming of a family reunion and a book. Since meeting Graham on the Internet a few years ago, we've become great friends and research buddies so it just seemed natural to offer to help him.

The problem was that I knew as much about organising

a family reunion as Graham did – zip, zilch and zero! There are some really good books and websites that can give you some hints and tips and I would suggest consulting one or two if you're in this position.

150 or so people gathered at the Yarrowonga & Borders Golf Club on the Saturday afternoon and just as many spent a wonderful day at 'Fairview', the St. James property selected by Timothy's youngest son Daniel in the early 1870s. 'Fairview' is still owned and run by Daniel's descendants and the family was very keen to play a major role in the weekend's proceedings. Not everyone attended both days, late comers and early goers and last minute attendees made keeping track of the numbers very difficult.

It's amazing how costs build when you're trying to cater for large numbers, we were very lucky to have an original oil painting done by one of the family given to us to raffle to offset costs and a professional photographer in the family stepped up to take the pictures all weekend and offer them to everyone on Cd Rom.

We did some things right, we printed name tags for everyone (an absolute must), we allocated each original Downes child a colour and had displays of family trees and photographs (another must) on the wall, people want something to look at. Everyone's name badge included a shamrock in the colour allocated to their particular branch of the family so you could tell at a glance who was who. This proved very handy when we wanted pictures of the descendants of the different branches, it was much easier to ask for all those with orange shamrocks on their badges than all the descendants of Michael Downes because most of them didn't know!

An MC for the day is a must and it can't be the organiser because everyone wants to monopolise his time. Our MC was run ragged all weekend trying to keep Graham on track and adhering to the carefully planned program, I know that because I was running with him.

In another lucky break a member of the Downes family has a winery and gave us bottles of wine with



Downes' Family Descendants

a 'Downes' label, combined with chocolates they made great gifts for the usual categories of oldest family member, the person who has come the greatest distance, etc. We did have one unique prize, 'Uncle Ron' got the prize for best looking 40 year old corpse you've ever seen. In an unfortunate move he'd been wrongly listed in the family data as dying in a car accident in 1959. He took it rather well, I thought.

I must have drawn the short straw because I got the job of telling the family a little of their early history in Victoria. Or it might have been because I've had so much practice at it because every time I do a talk to illustrate what you can find out about a person you know nothing about and what records to use, Timothy's eldest daughter Bridget always comes with me. Bridget lived an extraordinary life, she survived abject poverty as a child, was the first family member to come to Victoria and of course, her first husband was the victim of an axe murderer, who very likely was either herself or certainly one of her brothers. Her second husband died in unfortunate circumstances also. None of the family knew the story but they all seemed to take that rather well too.

Five draft copies of the soon to be published Downes Family History were made available for everyone to make corrections to. Now, here's the scary thing, I was totally unprepared for the people who wanted history

rewritten. Requests like "can't you take out Joe Bloe, he was a real b*s*a*d and she was only married to him for 5 minutes anyway" or "you know my daughter in law was a real witch, I just couldn't stand to see her name in the book, it would be so upsetting for the whole family, can't you take her out?" We got the last one twice in fact, now when there were no children resulting from a marriage you might get away with it, but what do you do about the marriage that resulted in 5 children? If you remove their mother, where did they come from? The stork or maybe the cabbage patch? And will they thank you for removing their mother from the family records when they're older? It's a problem we still haven't quite come to grips with, on one hand you don't want to offend anyone and you're trying to get their cooperation, on the other hand is it right to adulterate facts in an effort to make them more comfortable for some?

Tours of properties still in family hands within the area were arranged along with the local cemetery at Devenish and the memorial plaque placed at the site of the original homestead at 'Fairview' all proved very interesting to most of the family. Judging by the cards, letters and emails that poured in after the event it was a very successful weekend and one that I'm immensely proud to have been involved in.

Lynne

Library News



Hello to all members,

A Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a good Festive Season.

It is 3 days before the annual stocktake on 17th January as I am writing this, so I hope it all goes well and we can get it done in one day. We did last year so a big thank you to all the people who are helping again this year.

What a great sausage sizzle we had on 7th January, Shirley Peterson did such a great job in organising it all. I won't say any more as I am sure it will be mentioned in another article in this issue.

What is new in the library? I have had a bit of a break from library duties since we broke up for the year, but I have been doing stocktake updating and a few other things since last week.

Some new additions:

- Colonial Painters 1788-1880 (Book) donated by Carolyn Jones
- Chinese Australian Journeys 1860-1975 (Book) donated by Jen Angee
- Wangaratta Cemetery CD
- Ballarat & Ballarat Directory 1865-66 CD
- Early Aust Electoral Rolls V2 CD
- Centenary Celebrations June 1978 Cranbourne Primary School No 2068
- "The Eagle" Endeavour Hills Hallam (Newspapers) May, June, July & August 1985 donated by Sue Hall
- Vital Connections-Melbourne and its Board of Works (Book) donated by Robyn Jones
- SA Pre-Civil Marriages CD
- Aust Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Time CD
- Australian Family Histories –Bibliography & Index 2nd Edition CD
- Post Office Directory NSW 1904 CD
- Post Office Directory QLD 1903 CD
- Post Office Directory SA 1903 CD
- Post Office Directory Tas 1904 CD
- Post Office Directory Vic 1904 CD
- Post Office Directory WA 1905 CD
- Cemeteries of Sth West Vic CD
- Bound for SA Passenger Lists 1836-1851 CD
- Darragh Index 1861-1924 (microfiche)
- Tetlow Index to the RK Cole Collection (microfiche)
- Tracing your WW1 English Ancestors (Book) donated by Robyn Jones
- Specialist Indexes in Aust-Supplement to 1998 Edition

That's quite a lot of new additions so I hope everybody can get something out of them.

My own news is not much this time. Terry and I did go to Gippsland for a few days in November before the fires broke out. We stayed at Rawson for a few days and had a lovely time. The place was quite busy as they can cater for groups. There were two groups having conferences and also a School Group from Melbourne. The School Group didn't bother us as they were over the other side of an oval, although a couple of bright sparks decided to start having a kick of the soccer ball at 5.30 am. However the food was great and we had some pleasant day trips. Most of these trips were where the fires have been raging over recent weeks. We went to Walhalla, of course, as Terry's Dad grew up there. We have been there before on quite a number of occasions but it is such a pretty place especially in the warmer weather. We had the place practically to ourselves as we were there by 9.30 am so it was great to look around without the crowds. Met a lovely lady by the name of Rae-Anne Vincent at the Walhalla Museum, she was very helpful and gave us the name of a man who could possibly help with school records for Walhalla. Luckily Walhalla was spared from the recent fires and I hope the residents are feeling OK. We will go back again. We also visited the Thompson Dam, which is very low as we all know, but it was good to see it for ourselves. We toured around the area and generally had a good time. On the way home we went to Willow Grove, where at one stage we had a block of land. Willow Grove is near Blue Rock Dam and we used to go boating on the Dam. We had a caravan at Longwarry North and Blue Rock Dam was close by. We had some good times there and used to take the boat over to the other side and have picnics. Great fun. Back home and then getting ready for Christmas it seemed as if we had never been away. That's all for now.

Clare Vivian

DISCLAIMER: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.

Research Room Roster

Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
MARCH		1	Win Preston - Wls & Shp Eileen Durdin - C/C	3	Val Holland - Con Shirley Peterson
6	Lorraine Taylor Eng & Gen Ann Blair Tas	8	Di Christensen - Aus Valma Newson	10	Lynne Bradley - C/C Robyn Jones
13	Fay McCoubrie Diana Wheeler - Eng & NSW	15	Nowella Ahlgren - Ger, BI & Aus Gail Quinn	17	Carolyn Jones Aus & Gen Betty Jones
20	Mary McGrath Clare Vivian	22	Lynne Bradley - C/C Donald Connop	24	Wendy Goodwin Tas Pam Lowther IT & Cem
27	Jeanette Angee Carolyn Jones - Aus & Gen	29	Win Preston - Wls & Shp Eileen Durdin - C/C	31	Val Holland - Con Shirley Peterson
APRIL					
3	Lorraine Taylor - Eng & Gen Ann Blair - Tas	5	Di Christensen - Aus Valma Newson	7	CLOSED EASTER
10	Fay McCoubrie Diana Wheeler - Eng & NSW	12	Nowella Alghren - Ger, BI & Aus Gail Quinn	14	Robyn Jones Betty Jones
17	Mary McGrath Clare Vivian	19	Lynne Bradley - C/C Donald Connop	21	Carolyn Jones Aus & Gen Pam Lowther IT & Cem
24	Jeanette Angee Carolyn Jones - Aus & Gen	26	Win Preston - Wls & Shp Eileen Durdin - C/C	28	Wendy Goodwin Tas Lynne Bradley - C/C
MAY					
1	Lorraine Taylor - Eng & Gen Ann Blair Tas	3	Di Christensen - Aus Valma Newson	5	Val Holland - Con Shirley Peterson
8	Fay McCoubrie Diana Wheeler - Eng & NSW	10	Nowella Alghren - Ger, BI & Aus Gail Quinn	12	Robyn Jones Carolyn Jones Aus & Gen
15	Mary McGrath Clare Vivian	17	Lynne Bradley - C/C Donald Connop	19	Betty Jones Wendy Goodwin Tas
22	Jeanette Angee Carolyn Jones - Aus & Gen	24	Win Preston - Wls & Shp Eileen Durdin - C/C	26	Lynne Bradley C/C Pam Lowther IT & Cem
29	Lorraine Taylor - Eng & Gen Ann Blair - Tas	31	Di Christensen - Aus Valma Newson		

Legend

Aus = Australia	Eng = England	Ger = Germany	Shp = Shipping
Tas = Tasmania	Wls = Wales	Gen = General	Cem = Cemeteries
Vic = Victoria	BI = British Isles	Con = Convict	IT = Computers
C/C = Casey/Cardinia	NSW = New South Wales		

News Flash

from the Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation

Ancestry (Library edition) is now available at all branch libraries!

Ancestry is available free to members of the Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation and is accessible from all the public PCs. There is no remote access so unfortunately it won't be able to be used from home. Researchers just need to book a computer at the library and to be a library member. If you aren't a library member then will need to join up - we just need to see some identification with a current address eg. a drivers licence.

Heather Arnold.

Vale-Nick Vine Hall 1944-2006

Most family historians will know the name Nick Vine Hall. He has been a keen genealogist for many many years, and has written many books including "Tracing Your Family History in Australia." He was well known for his radio programs, and a speaker at seminars and conferences. However, he spent the last years of his life lobbying for Australian censuses to be retained; in this hew was successful in that the 2001 and 2006 censuses have been retained. Thank you Nick.

Nick died from cancer in late October after battling this disease for some years, he never lost hope that he would recover.

He was well known all around the world, and tributes were written on many genealogical websites Our sympathy is with his family at this sad time.

DL Christensen



New Members! - Welcome!

Gayle DOWLING

Laura HEWSON

Wendy HUTT

IT innovations

I have been grappling with the IT/computer issue for a while now. I know that the majority of our members are not up with all of the technical ins and outs of how everything works and honestly it is a full time job trying to keep up with all of the changes these days.

I have come up with a way that I hope will help you more easily access the resources on our computers. Because there is no standard, we end up with a vast array of different programs that all work differently and all need to be accessed via a different icon. Just keeping up with which icon turns on which program is not an easy task!

Instead of a huge number of individual icons on each computers desktop some of the resources will now be grouped to make them easier to locate and search/browse. For example late last year we added five Wise's post office directories, a Sand's & McDougall directory of Melbourne and a Ballarat and District directory to our collection. All of these directories run through "Adobe Acrobat". So we either have seven extra individual icons on each computers desktop, one icon for each directory. Or we can have just one icon which will take you to a page where you can choose which directory you want to use. To make it simple this icon will just be called "Directories".

Directories are a great resources and I am sure we will add more of them in the future. Using this system we can simply add the new acquisitions straight into "Directories". So they are all in the same place. You will be able to access them through the same icon.

I hope this helps everyone more easily access our great resources. I would really appreciate any feedback or suggestions about this IT innovation or any other research room related computer issue.

Good Luck Searching!

Pam Lowther

IT Officer.



Victorian spare Certificates

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~hilaryfr/sparecerts.htm>

<http://groups.msn.com/VictorianGenealogy/sparecertificates.msnw>

Archaic Medical Terms

http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm

Australian Medical Pioneers Index

<http://www.medicalpioneers.com/>

Our History. The Royal Women's Hospital

<http://www.thewomens.org.au/ourhistory>

Women Of Vision - Index and History of Nuns and Sisters of the Catholic Church in Australia 1838 - 1918

<http://www.stbedes.melb.catholic.edu.au/home/br/>

Northern Ireland Gen Web

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgv/>

AWM - Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files

<http://www.awm.gov.au/redcross/index.asp>

Bright Sparcs – A register of people involved in the development of science, technology, engineering and medicine in Australia

<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/bsparcshome.htm>

Names of people being researched in Australia and New Zealand

<http://www.brandis.com.au/surnames/>

Australians in the Boer War - Oz-Boer Database Project

http://members.pcug.org.au/~croe/ozb/ozb_1st.htm

South West Victoria's War Heritage

<http://www.swvicwarmemorials.com/>

Chinese Heritage of Australian Federation Project

<http://www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/>

Australias Oral History Collections – National Library of Australia

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ohdir/>

Accoucheur's Antique

Warning: The Accoucheur's Antique portion of the web site contains graphic pictures. Viewers discretion is advised.

<http://www.fcgapultoscollection.com/antique.html>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope 2007 brings you luck, not just with family history but with everything.

We wrapped up last year with a great Christmas meeting which gave us all quite a few laughs and raised a bit of money – and all thanks to the really wonderful job Diana Wheeler does with the Christmas meeting and Christmas Lunch. Thank you Diana for a job so well done, yet again.

The Research Room has been closed but a few of us have been working none the less, thank you to all the ladies who made the stock take so painless on the day.

What can you say about the Sizzling Shirley Peterson and her band of helpers - \$1,217 clear profit, it's just unbelievable! It was a day out of the box, it really was, I know Shirley puts a lot of work into these days, she really is a Sausage Sizzle Coordinator Extraordinaire – thank you so much Shirley. These days also bring extra jobs for our Treasurer too, Anne Blair, so thank you Anne.

I'd like also to thank Jenny Coates for the simply superb job she has done with the newsletter over the past few years. Jenny was responsible for many innovations that gave Spreading Branches a much better Casey-Cardinia feel and perspective than ever before and I was very disappointed to learn that she couldn't continue on as Newsletter Editor.

Jenny's shoes will be incredibly hard to fill.

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to this edition's Guest Newsletter Editor, Pam Lowther for assembling the bits and pieces that you're reading now in some kind of order, it's not an easy job, but one that does give an incredible amount of satisfaction when you're done!

Lynne



Spreading Branches

May 2007

The deadline for the May 2007 edition of Spreading Branches is 15th April 2007.

Members Interests

How

Googling

a name found me

Have your members interests been posted on our website? It does not take very long to list the names you are researching and it is very well worth while.

Out of the blue I received an email from Lynne, our website organiser, that someone was looking for me, I replied to the email submitter and found not one, but two people interested in the RYE-BARNETT families.

One lass found me by "Googling" the name Thomas Barnett, and found him in our members interests list on our NW&DFHG website. From there, an email to Lynne connected her to me. There was a flurry of emails and phone calls in the first three days with giving and receiving information.

She is a descendant of the above family, and was able to refer me to another researcher connected to another who had much information on John Rye, brother of Ann Rye, my great great great grandmother. She sent me his will, a portrait, a family tree and other information to follow up on.

It is absolutely amazing what you can find while "Googling."

Di Christensen



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For more information contact Pam

Email: pamelalowther@yahoo.com.au Phone: (03) 9704 9598 Mail: P.O.Box 1243, Narre Warren, 3805

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Whats New?



So what is this "Whats New?" thing? Well in short it is a way for you to more easily access new computer resources as they are acquired.



There will be an icon on each computer's desktop that looks just like this. It will take you to an Adobe Acrobat document that has a brief description about each new resource. When you find the resource you would like to search or browse you can click the button in the bottom left corner of the page "Click here to go to this book"

New resources will stay in "Whats New?" for a few months and then will be accessible separately.

So why not make this a part of your visits to the research room. Keep in touch with the new resources on offer to all of our members.