



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

From Narre Warren to Ballarat

Firstly, I will reminisce. If my records are correct, the last time the group hired the mini bus was November, 2000, with a day trip to Colac with 11 fellow female "genies".

Prior to that we had hired the bus many times, mainly going to the Public Record Office when it was located at Laverton. Since moving to Melbourne, then to North Melbourne, public transport has been used to get us to those wonderful records we all love to get our hands on. Other trips have been a weekend to Warnambool, and day trips to Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat, researching at various places and "cemetery hopping". There was always lots of laughter and many different conversations taking place, but, as the driver, I can't often get involved in these conversations as concentration is quite intense knowing you have all those lives in your hands. *continued on page 3*



Left to Right: Val Holland, Jenny Hayes, Alice Pattison, Lyn Olney, Bernie Braentel, Wendy Goodwin, Val Bennett, Anne Blair, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Lorraine Taylor, Mary McGrath, Valma Newson, Rex McFarlane, Shirley Peterson, Eileen Durdin



The Research Room will be closing for Christmas on Tuesday, 8 December and will reopen Tuesday, 2 February 2010.

General Meetings

Wednesday 9th December at 8 pm



Christmas Meeting

Family History Fun and Games by Diana Wheeler



Wednesday 10th February at 8 pm

Speaker/Topic to be Advised



Wednesday 10th March at 8 pm

Speaker/Topic to be Advised

In This Edition

Bus trip to Ballarat (continued on page 3)	1
From the President	3
VAHFO Conference	3
Newspapers on the Internet	4
Research Room News	6
New in the Research Room	6
Sausage Sizzle Report	7
Bush Fires	7
We need your help!!!	8
Hooked on Bundaberg!	8
Research Room Roster	9
Poisoned Webpage's	9
Welcome New Members	10
Christmas Lunch in France!	10
On the Web	10
Victorian Government Gazette	11



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Family History Research Room

Location: Casey Cardinia Library Corporation, Narre Warren Branch; Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Research Room: Within the Narre Warren Library. ***Meetings:*** Narre Warren Library Meeting Room.

Opening Hours:

Tuesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

(From November to May)

Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(From June to October)

We have a large collection of books, maps and microfiche available to our members. Visitors are also welcome.

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 or Email:

research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

Membership

Single \$25 + \$5 joining fee

Joint \$40 + \$5 joining fee

Payable 1st July each year.

Casual Visitors \$5 per day

Meetings

Nov - May: 8 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of the month
(except January)

Jun - Oct: 2 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the month

Entry Cost: \$3

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

Postage & Packing

+ \$2.50 for up to 3 sets of fiche

Information Sessions

Discover exactly what we have in the Family History Research Room and put it to work in your research.

To schedule an informal information session or for more information contact:
Jane Rivett-Carnac

Phone: (03) 9796 1421 or Email:

research.room.workshop@nwfhg.org.au

Members: Free Visitors: \$5

Books:

Kindred Spirits
*20 Years of the Narre Warren
& District Family History
Group 1989-2009* - \$25.00

*Book order forms available
from the newsletter editor
or in our research room*

+ \$5.50 for each book

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

Presidents Report

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who braved the cold miserable wet weather at the sausage sizzle they are absolute legends.

On Saturday the 3rd of October an intrepid group of ladies and one gentleman set off on a trip to the Ballarat Family History Expo and I must say we all had a great day. Some stayed at the hall while some of the braver ones took a trip around some of the cemeteries. I think everyone will agree that it was a good trip up and back and the really fun part was cleaning the bus when we got back to the depot in the dark and freezing cold wind. Thank you to Jenny Hayes who did a wonderful job of driving the bus.

Wendy Goodwin

7th Victorian Family History State Conference



THE BORDER AND BEYOND

28th – 30th May 2010

CLUBMULWALA
YARRAWONGA – VICTORIA

Presented by

Victorian Association of Family History
Organisations in conjunction with
Yarrawonga Family History Group

For further information and expressions
of interest please contact:

The Convener, PO Box 10, Glen
Waverley, Victoria, 3150

Email: mullum36@bigpond.com

continued from page 1

Our trips usually start at 8a.m. from Narre Warren and finish anywhere from 4 – 7p.m. back at the bus depot.

After many years, I once again organised the hire of the bus from our council for a trip to the Central Highlands Historical Association's Family History Expo at Ballarat on October 3, 2009. Oh, my goodness, I've never driven anything like it. A near new, automatic 12 seater Mercedes Benz modern thing it is. Anyway, I managed to drive all of the 369 kilometres we travelled. The seats on the bus were occupied by Val Bennett, Anne Blair, Wendy Goodwin, Val Holland, Mary McGrath, Lyn Olney, Alice Pattison, Jane Rivett-Carnac and Lorraine Taylor. Following behind in a car was Eileen Durdin, Rex McFarlane and Valma Newson. At Rockbank we stopped to collect my girlfriend of 42 years, Bernie Braentel of Hoppers Crossing. Shirley Peterson met us at our destination.

There was plenty to see at the Expo, with the majority having success. There were also purchases made for our Research Room. At 1p.m. I took Alice, Anne, Bernie, Mary and the 2 Val's cemetery hopping to Buninyong, Ballarat Old and New cemeteries, with some having success and some not. By the time we finished we had had enough of cemeteries, and it was a "little" cold. 11 degrees was the forecast top for Ballarat that day. We went back to Gillies Street to collect those who had stayed there, and headed back to Melbourne, leaving Bernie at Rockbank to collect her car. Eventually, we arrived back at the bus compound at 6.45p.m. with all agreeing we had a great day.

Jenny Hayes



Mention the
Narre Warren & District
Family History Group
and Cartridge World will
donate 5% of your printer
cartridge refill purchase
back to your group



Cartridge World Narre Warren

Shop 11/3 Webb Street (Next to Valley Fair Bakery)
Phone: 03 9704 5955



Newspapers on the Internet

by Pam Lowther

Newspapers are a fantastic resource for whatever you may be looking for in your research. Births, deaths, marriages or funerals; immigration, war records or soldiers killed and injured in a war; crimes, court proceedings and police actions; awards, prizes and accolades, sporting events, victories and losses, the list goes on.

There is nothing quite like sitting in the State Library of Victoria for the day just working your way through rolls of newspaper film but for a more homely experience try some of these online newspaper sites.

There are more newspapers being digitized and going online all the time. These are some of my favourites:

NLA Newspaper beta

My all time favourite online newspaper site would have to be the National Library of Australia's Newspaper beta site. This site is still a work in progress and does still have a few bugs but its content more than makes up for any shortcomings. All of the available years for The Argus are now digitised and online, so for those of us with local Melbourne research this is a real gem. You can check the coverage of other newspapers on the NLA site by going to the About Us page.

If you don't find what you are searching for try coming back in a few months and try again. The text that your search is based on is being corrected all the time by a huge number of volunteers (myself included) and as the text is corrected the searches become more accurate.

As of 27 October 2009 there are 824,141 pages consisting of 8,594,169 articles available to search <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/>

The Ryerson index

An index of death notices, funeral notices, obituaries and probate notices.

The Ryerson index covers 156 newspapers and at present includes a staggering 2,226,707 entries. Although the majority of newspapers indexed are from New South Wales there are some newspapers for other states.

<http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

The Sydney Morning Herald

The Sydney Morning Herald (1955-1995) can be browsed for free but the articles can only be obtained by purchasing a subscription. Although I have discovered that earlier editions of this newspaper are included in the Google Archive search.

<http://archives.smh.com.au/>

Active Paper Archive

Although this is a small archive it has some worthwhile content. The Manchester Guardian, The Daily News (London), News of the World (London) and Weekly Dispatch (London) can be browsed, searched and/or downloaded. The years available for each newspaper are different but range anywhere from 1851 to 1918 and each year only has a handful of editions.

Note: downloading an entire newspaper may be a large file and could take considerable time depending on your internet speed.

<http://www.uk.olivesoftware.com/>

PapersPast

This site holds a vast number of newspapers covering New Zealand from top to bottom. These newspapers can be searched or browsed by date, region or title. It is also possible to view articles as computer generated text.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Google News Archive

Google offers a news archive that allows users to search and explore historical newspaper archives. This is more of a search facility than a separate archive. Some of the content is for sites such as the NLA Newspaper beta but it is also a good way to find those additional newspapers that may not immediately come to mind or may be difficult to locate. There is also a handy timeline to enable you to search in the timeframe you want. I was surprised to find the time frame extend from 1653 to the present when I searched for my grandfathers name but most of the early results are for books in the Google Books area, not newspapers.

<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

The library's online database offers many newspapers and you can access this one from the comfort of your own computer. All you need is your Casey Cardinia Library card number to log in.

Click on the "Finding Information" tab, then click on databases, then scroll down to the "Newspapers and Journals" section.

There are four sections to choose from and all are able to be used "from home". Of course this is mostly recent, unfortunately it doesn't have an archive.

<http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/>

The New York Times

If you may have any interests in the area around New York the online newspaper archive search is wonderful. You can search the whole archive from 1851. There are some restrictions on articles within a specific timeframe but for the majority of articles it is a great free service.

Articles from 1851 to 1922 and 1978 to present day are free. Articles from 1923 to 1986 are available for a fee.

It is necessary to register if you intend to use the service for more than a few articles (it is free to register).

<http://search.nytimes.com/search/>

British Newspapers 1800-1900

This archive of British newspapers boasts over two million pages from forty nine London, national and regional newspapers. This is a subscription site starting with a 24 hour pass for £6.99 with which you can view up to 100 articles or a seven day pass for £9.99 which lets you view 200 articles. A small amount of content on this site is free of charge.

<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>

All of these online resources are just wonderful and although we all love a free site the paid sites listed here are well worth the few dollars. It is certainly cheaper than an airfare!

Note: most of these newspaper archives work from news pages that have been through a process called "OCR" Optical Character Recognition. It isn't a perfect process and due to the nature of newspapers the job is even more problematic. Also any imperfections in the paper or the printing can cause errors.

One thing above all to remember when you are searching newspapers, they cover all sorts of content. Whether it's world news, local issues, a war somewhere, celebrities, politics, births, deaths, marriages ... the list is endless. While I was researching this article I found some Australian stories the New York Times archive. Newspapers do not discriminate geographically, they cover it all. Which means you may find someone in the most unlikely place!

Times Online (London)

The London Times archive is a subscription site starting with a day pass for £4.95. The searchable years start from a 1785 and go up to 1985.

<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive/>

Irish Newspaper Archives

A great one for those of us with a little bit of Irish family history still to explore. This is a subscription site starting with a €10.00 for 24 hours and go up to a year. It is free to search the archive but a subscription is necessary to view the articles. There are many Irish newspapers already online and more being added.

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

newspaper archive

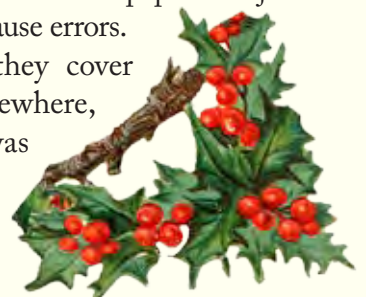
This archive has newspapers from all over the world including quite a few newspapers from Dublin, Ireland. This is a subscription site starting with at \$9.99 (USD) per month for an annual membership and \$17.99 for a single month.

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

footnote

This is largely a pay per view site. You can search the London Times from the earliest edition in 1785 up to 1820 but if you want to view the page you will need to pay either \$2.95 per image or buy a subscription. A subscription gives you unlimited access for \$11.95 per month or a full year for \$79.95 (USD). If you have any family history interests in the United States this site has a great deal of other records that will also interest you. It also holds a lot of records that are simply fascinating historically. A few records are free to view.

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





Research Room News

Hello fellow Genies,

Where has the year gone,
Christmas is almost upon
us. Thank you for all
the feed-back on the
changes in the research
room I realise many of you

shudder when I shift things around it is the only
way at present to create space for our expanding
collection.

Thank you to Wendy Eldridge for giving up a day
at work recently while we did the final shifting
of the books, we have gained some space for our
Casey Cardinia Collection and more room in our
Australian States. Wendy has put a map on the
wall showing where the books can be found. I
have a few General and Australian books to be
re-catalogued and section titles to be made and
that's it unless a good fairy waves a wand and
finds us a bigger room by this time next year we
will have to think about what we keep on our
bookshelves.

If you are travelling to Geelong and have the time
I can recommend the Alfred Deakin Ministerial
Library. This is a new Genealogy Library in the
Deakin University Waterfront Campus it is open
to the public Monday-Friday. I spent a number of
hours going through Newspaper Films and Fiche,
the library has a new fiche/film reader, another
fiche reader that is hooked up to a computer so
you can copy to USB, many drawers of micro
films and fiche for Newspapers BMD's etc. an
excellent computer catalogue program that is easy
to navigate and many wonderful books. This is
not a library just for specific Geelong research it
has many resources for Victoria, Australia and
the UK, quiet, small and cosy with helpful staff I
will be going back.

A recent book donated to our group is *The
Infiltrators: A History of the Heytesbury 1840-
1920*, the title hides the wealth of information
this book contains. A book that has an excellent
surname index, photographs with schools, honour
boards and sports teams named, short history for
more than 20 schools in the shire and chapters
devoted to early settlers by region. The shire of
Heytesbury includes Cobden, Port Campbell,
Timboon, Stoneyford, Dixie and Purrumbete.
There is a chapter on industry and commerce of

the region, and others on sport, land clearing and
settlement, the railways and local council. So
much interesting information in this book I just
wish I had relatives in the area.

We will be doing a stock take in the New Year
while the room is closed for the festive season,
so please remember to return any items you have
borrowed before we close in December. I hope
my New Year wishes come true and wish good
health to all in our merry band for 2010.

Happy reading,

Jane Rivett-Carnac

New in the Research Room

	Amongst the Old Folk: Rye Cemetery (Donated Wendy Goodwin)
	The Infiltrators: A History of Heytesbury 1840-1920 (Donated Wendy Goodwin)
	That Dinkum breed of true Aussies: The Lay Family
	The Western Port Settlement & its leading Personalities (Donated Dianna Wheeler)
	The Cardinia Embroidery
	A Clyde History Public Hall & Mechanics Jubilee
	My Family and I: Mary Patricia Dillon
	Recent Discovery of Gold in Australia 1852
	Founders of Australia & their Descendants
	Australian Pastoral Directory 1913-1954
	Official Records of the Australian Military Contingent to South Africa 1899-1902
	ANZAC Memorial
	Nomenclature of South Australia
	Australian Aldine Histories for QLD, SA & NSW
	Police Gazette for SA 1862-1870
	Police Gazette for VIC 1868, 1869, 1870, 1876, 1885, 1891-1895
	Police Gazette for NSW 19th Century 1862-1900

Sausage Sizzle Report

Hi Everybody,

As I sit here this morning typing out this report it is steadily raining outside and it reminds me of the morning of the sizzle. We arrived at eight in the morning to set up and just as we started to cook down came the rain. We all got soaked! It wasn't a great start, it was grand final day and we didn't know how we would go but we got lucky and did have a successful day (money wise) due to some very healthy appetites. We were all very happy to go home to hot showers and we cleared \$1,036.10, How's that!!

Again this would not be possible without my ever reliable helpers. I had asked for an assistant to help me with the sizzle and Clare Vivien put her hand up for the job. I would really like to thank Clare as she helped me more than she realised by just being there. It was such a bad day, she may think twice next time.

Special thanks to all the volunteers. Each and every one did an excellent job under soggy conditions. They were: Wendy Goodwin, Rex McFarlane, Eileen Durdin, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Wendy Brock, Jenny Hayes, Anne Blair and Wendy Eldridge who swapped her duty with Val Holland to help (we would have been in big trouble if this had not occurred). Thanks also to Fay McCoubrie and hubby Robin who joined our little group after he had finished his round of golf. Thanks mate! Quite unexpected (a wonderful surprise) he enabled Clare and I to have a much needed break. Clare helped me almost the whole day.

Thanks also to first time sizzler and new member Pat Wilson. I hope we didn't scare her off and she comes back again. Maybe Pat's contribution will encourage other new members to help out.

Irene Finch volunteered but due to the weather and health issues, I declined her offer, maybe next time.

A big thank you to the Friday gang, Val Holland, Jane Rivett-Carnac, Wendy Eldridge, Clare Vivian and I helped a little myself! The gang met at Clare's home to bag the sausages and onions. Anne Blair was unable to come on the day but still picked up the sausages and helped in other ways.

The sausage sizzles have raised over two thousand dollars for the Group this year. Well Done!!!

Sausage Sizzle Coordinator

Shirley Peterson

BUSH FIRES.

There have been a great many bush fires in and around Beaconsfield during the past month, and considerable damage has been done to numerous log fences, and pastures have more or less suffered through the encroachments of the fire fiend, but it proved alarmingly serious when it became known that Mr Armytage's residence was in imminent danger. The fire, which had been raging all day, came up through the paddock towards the building at a terrific pace, and was only stayed, from its destructiveness by the prompt attendance of the people around the place. At one it was thought that nothing could have stopped the flames, which were only a couple of yards from a large stack of hay, and had that got on fire the safety of the out-building, which were composed chiefly of wood, could not possibly have been saved. Two contractors-Cameron Bros-who working in vicinity of the fire and had all their clothes and tent destroyed by the fire and in their attempt to escape had the clothes they were wearing scorched. It is a most miraculous fact that so few fatal fires have occurred in and around Beaconsfield-more particularly when we take into consideration the great quantity of dry timber undergrowth with which the place is infested, and owners land should take the precaution to have this rubbish burnt off before the very dry weather sets in.

Dandenong Advertiser
6 February 1890



URGENT

WE NEED YOUR HELP RESEARCH ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!



To keep the family history group running and keep the research room open we need volunteers. At present we have a shortfall. To stay open three days a week we need your help, just a few hours a month. It isn't a lot of time to give up and the benefits of volunteering in our research room are well worth the time.

We will have to look at cutting down the hours that the research room is open or close one of the present days. We don't take this step lightly but we can't operate without enough volunteers to fill the roster. All of our current volunteers do a great job but at the moment they are being asked to do more than they should. Quite a few are doing double duty or more to take up the slack.



Meet other people with the same interests



Learn more about the vast array of resources that are held in the research room



As a volunteer you will be able to access the room at any time during the main library's opening hours



Gain new ideas on research for your own family history

It's not all work, there are lots of benefits when you are a research room volunteer. On average we try to roster our Volunteers on duty once every 4 weeks. So, for giving up a few hours each month you get a great deal in return!

If you are interested please contact the Research Room Manager for more information or talk to any of the research room volunteers or a committee member Email: research.room.mgr@nwfhg.org.au

Hooked on Bundaberg!



You may remember that we were collecting bras from members last year to put towards the Guinness Record for the longest string of bras. The bras went to Bundaberg where a total of 178,000 bras (weighing over 40 tonnes) were hooked together to form a chain stretching 65km around the Bundaberg showgrounds.



This beat the length of the existing record by a staggering 11kms.

Melbournians, Joan Garwood and our very own Angie Barnes were involved in the attempt.

This hard working group now has the long wait for the Guinness Book of World Records judges to decide if the record attempt is valid.

Val Holland

Research Room Roster

	Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
December	1	Fay McCoubrie Bev Lambie	3	Wendy Eldridge <i>NSW</i>	5	Shirley Peterson Steven Smith
	8	Mary McGrath Wendy Brock	 Closed for Christmas and January 2010 			
February	2	Fay McCoubrie Anne Blair	4	Wendy Eldridge <i>NSW</i> Valma Newson	6	Shirley Peterson Val Holland
	9	Mary McGrath Val Bennett	11	Eileen Durdin <i>C/C</i> Nowella Ahlgren <i>BI & Gen</i>	13	Steven Smith Wendy Goodwin <i>Tas</i>
	16	Bev Lambie Lynne Bradley <i>C/C</i>	18	Wendy Eldridge <i>NSW</i>	20	Robyn Jones Wendy Brock
	23	Anne Blair Wendy Brock	25	Di Christensen Donald Connop	27	Shirley Peterson Wendy Goodwin <i>Tas</i>

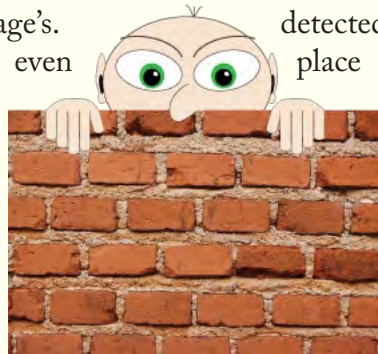
Legend

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

POISONED WEBPAGE'S AND HOW TO STAY PROTECTED!

There is a new threat on the internet to add to the bunch we already know about. We face viruses, malware, and phishing just to name a few but now we have to face poisoned webpage's.

A poisoned webpage can hide in even the most trusted website. Sites you have visited time and time again and never had a problem. The attackers move around from day to day so a page you visited yesterday or an hour ago may have been safe but isn't now! This threat is not visible and more than likely won't be detected by your existing firewall or anti-virus programs. At the moment there only seems to be one program that can provide protection against this threat. Best of all it's free! Once the program is installed it will put a green tick next to each safe webpage in your browsers results lists.



This program will run alongside your existing protection without a problem. It is easy to install and doesn't bother you unless there is a threat detected. This program does not take the place of a firewall or antivirus software.

Today's internet requires at least good antivirus and a firewall to keep our privacy, information and identity secure. Unfortunately the bad guys on the internet are getting smarter and it isn't easy to keep up. If you are unsure about your computers security there is a wonderful website that lets you scan your computer to ascertain your level of security on the internet. Even if you think you have the very best internet security available it is well worth a visit just for your piece of mind!

AVG Link Scanner can be downloaded at:
<http://linkscanner.avg.com/>

Sheilds UP!
<https://www.grc.com/x/ne.dll?bh0bkyd2>



Christmas Lunch in France

Come and enjoy our Christmas lunch in France! no not really but at the Lavender Farm at Bunyip on Wednesday, 25 November at 12 noon.

If you would like to join us in France please put your name on the list in the Research Room or contact me by 14 November 2009

Phone: (03) 5629 2431

Email: diana.wheeler@aanet.com.au

Diana Wheeler



Ancestry Raffle

Don't forget to return any sold and unused tickets along with proceeds from sold tickets, to the research room by Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas meeting 8pm, Wednesday, 9 December 2009.



Spreading Branches

February 2010

The Deadline for the February 2010 edition of Spreading Branches is 15th January 2010

On the Web



UK Gazettes Online

<http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk/>

Auckland Area Passenger Arrivals 1838-1889, 1909-1921

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/passengers/passenger.html>

Gazetteer for Scotland

<http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/gaztitle.html>

The Australian Army History Unit

<http://www.army.gov.au/ahu/>

Booroondara General Cemetery (Kew Cemetery)

<http://www.kewcemetery.com.au/FindGrave.aspx>

Ellis Island (USA)

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

Family History UK

<http://www.familyhistory.uk.com/>

World Names Profiler

<http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/>

Ireland Townland Database

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

Scottish Place Name Search

<http://www.spns.org.uk/#search>

Irish Mariners

<http://www.irishmariners.ie/>

Northern Ireland Pre 1858 Wills Search

http://applications.proni.gov.uk/DCAL_PRONI_ProniNames/SearchPage.aspx

Irish Pension Record Search

<http://www.pensear.org/>

Registry of Deeds Index Project

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds/>

Victorian Government Gazette

By Heather Arnold, Local History Librarian.

For those of us interested in local and family history there is a fantastic new on-line resource available. The Victorian Government Gazette and its predecessors have been digitised for the years 1836 to 1997. The Gazette covers all official notifications of Government and Legal activities and was the main way that the Government communicated with the Public.

Family Historians will immediately go to an index or type in a family name in any database, so I naturally typed in one of my family names Weatherhead. I came up with a patent application by my great grandfather Horatio William Weatherhead, a saw miller, for an improved mechanism for operating the throttle or cut off valves of engines from their governors. The notice goes on to say that the Commissioner of Patents, Thomas Prout Webb, accepted the 'complete specification' of the patent application, on the 13th day of August, 1890. We knew that Horatio was quite inventive and that this trait has been passed down to his descendents, but I was surprised to discover that he had been granted a patent.

Your ancestor may not have applied for a patent, but there could be a record of their appointment or dismissal from a Government position, they may have been granted a miners right, become insolvent, been granted land, applied to register a trade mark, became a Cemetery Trustee or many other activities.

For local historians you can find out information about your area. I found seven references to Cora Lynn and discovered the town was officially proclaimed on May 31st 1910. I also found a set of rules and regulations governing the use of the Recreation Reserve at Cora Lynn. For larger towns, such as Cranbourne, there are over 1500 references in total referring to both the township

and the Shire. Much information can be gained from the Gazette concerning the day to day working of a Shire, including land use, staff appointments, by-laws and loan applications.

The Victorian Government Gazette can be found on the State Library of Victoria website, <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/> Click on the link on the right hand side. You can download or save each Gazette as a PDF and print off relevant pages.



Horatio Weatherhead (1853-1925).

Horatio and his six sons arrived in North Tynong in 1909, having previously operated saw mills in Lyonville. He was living in Lyonville when he applied for his patent.

No. 7816. By HORATIO WILLIAM WEATHERHEAD, of Lyonville, in the colony of Victoria, sawmiller, for "Improved mechanism for operating the throttle or cut-off valves of engines from their governors."

Victorian Government Gazette August 15th, 1890 issue 66, page 3253





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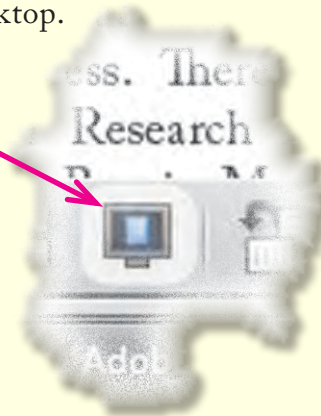
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