

# ON TRACK

Newsletter of *the*  
Mid Gippsland Family  
History Society Inc.



NO. 107  
April – May  
2000

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<b>SEMINAR CO-ORDINATOR</b>	vacant	
<b>PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR</b>	vacant	

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Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance at the rear of the Moe Library, Kirk St, Moe. Our Library will open at 7:00 pm, with meetings starting at approximately 7:30pm.

Fees 99/00: Membership Single \$18 ; Family \$25  
Library: gold coin donation per visit for non-members

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There is a research fee of \$10 plus SSAE for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquiries should be clear and concise.

Please direct all enquiries to The Secretary, PO Box 767, Morwell, 3840, and mark the envelope "Research Query".

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Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and, while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editor takes no responsibility for submitted items.

For your  
Diary

The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies will open its doors for us on Sunday 25th June. Meet at Gunn's Gully at 8.00am. The Institute is at 1/41 Railway Road, Blackburn. To find out more about them check out their journal, *The Genealogist*, available in our library, or their website, <[www.alphalink.com.au/~aigs/index.htm](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~aigs/index.htm)>.

In the last edition of *On Track* members were surveyed about our meeting times. From the responses it seems that the current time suits most people so we will continue to meet the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

## **PRO UPDATE**

On Friday 31st March the Laverton search room closed and on Monday 3rd April the Melbourne Archives Centre opened. Following is some information from the PRO website regarding researching at the Archives centre.

### **Melbourne Archives Centre**

*The joint research facility of the Public Record Office Victoria and Australian Archives State Office*

#### **LOCATION**

Level 2, Casselden Place,  
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.  
Phone (03) 9285 7999.  
Toll Free: 1800 657 452  
E-mail: [ask.prov@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ask.prov@dpc.vic.gov.au)  
Internet <[www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)>



#### **OPENING HOURS FROM 3 APRIL 2000:**

9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm, second and last Saturdays of each month  
(excluding public holidays)

The first Saturday opening of the MAC will be 29 April 2000. For other Saturday openings for 2000 see over the page:

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May: Saturday 13th and 27th  
June: Saturday 24th  
July: Saturday 8th and 29th  
August: Saturday 12th and 26th  
September: Saturday 9th and 30th  
October: Saturday 14th and 28th  
November: Saturday 11th and 25th  
December: Saturday 9th

## ACCESS TO RECORDS

No original records are kept at the Melbourne Archives Centre. The collection comprises the microform copies of records frequently used by genealogists.

## ORDERING RECORDS

- **20 items** per person can be pre-ordered.
- Two deliveries per day Monday to Friday, four items per delivery.
- **Same day delivery of up to four items if ordered by 10:30 am.**
- Records for Saturday must be pre-ordered.
- Special arrangements can be made for access to bound volumes, large and fragile records.

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## Life in the 1500s.

We are not sure how much truth is in the following but it is quite interesting. Thanks to Sandra for passing it on. She spotted it on a Channel Islands mailing list.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and were still smelling pretty good by June-although they were starting to smell-so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

Baths equaled a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs. Thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the pets dogs, cats and other small animals, mice, rats, & bugs lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed; so they found if they made beds with big posts and hung a sheet over the top, it addressed that problem. Hence those beautiful, big 4-poster beds with canopies.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors which in the winter would get slippery when wet. So they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed at the entry way, hence a "thresh hold."

They cooked in the kitchen in a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They mostly ate vegetables and didn't get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been in there for a month. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork and would feel really special when that happened. When company came over, they would bring out some bacon and har it to show it off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man "could really bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Most people didn't have pewter plates, but had trenchers-a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of times worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers, they would get "trench mouth."

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

*Continued on page 8*



## Who's Surfing Where!

### From Carol's Collection

Carol has passed these addresses on. She received them from the Wonthaggi group's internet club.

FREE B.M.D. sites for researching England, Ireland, Wales & Scotland. Enter Names then enter ALL DISTRICTS

<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl>



### IRELAND- GRIFFITHS VALUATION 1855

Searchable database of Irish residents

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/griffiths/griffith.htm>

### Another one of Bob's Beauties

The address for the Newcastle Library is

<http://www.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library>

Bob found a photo of a relative's headstone taken in the 1920s on this site. It was part of the "Snowball Collection", a photographic collection, available online at this site.

Bob states that, "The *Snowball collection* is apparently so vast that if anybody has any association at all with the Newcastle area they are mad if they do not tune in and have a look around."

## From some recent Southern Cross Genealogy Newsletters

### British Genealogy Sites

Here's a site worth a visit ... <http://www.genealogylinks.net/uk/index.html>

Derick Cusick reports it is home to a vast army of great sites.

### Army Service Records - UK

Many of us have some ancestors who were in the UK military forces. You might try and visit the British Ministry of Defence site at [www.mod.uk/forces/records/army.htm](http://www.mod.uk/forces/records/army.htm)

There are some other interesting links here too.

## Recent Additions to the Library

### Fiche

Sale Cemetery Transcriptions

### Books

Wonthaggi Cemetery Records

Land Records in Victoria

The Hearth Tax

Walhalla State School Records

Heyfield Cemetery Index

Heyfield Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions

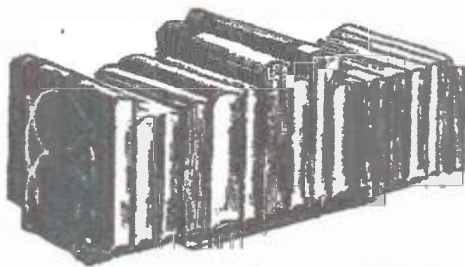
It is the Pen Gives Immortality To Men

Genealogical Research in Edwardian London

Barefoot and Pregnant Irish Famine Orphans in Australia

Genealogical Research Directory 2000

The Vanish Research Book ( A guide for researching the family of adoptees)



### CD ROM

Genealogical Research Directory 1992-1999

*Thanks again to Sandra who forwarded this on from an Essex mailing list.*

## **Naming order of children**

### **English & Welsh 1700-1879**

First daughter - named after the mother's mother (maternal grandmother)

Second daughter - named after the mother's father's mother

Third daughter - named after the mother

Fourth daughter - named after the mother's oldest sister

First son - named after the father's father

Second son - named after the mother's father

Third son - named after the father

Fourth son - named after the father's eldest brother.

Exceptions apply if there was a duplication of a given name. In that case the practise was to skip to the next name on the list.

### **Irish 1800's**

First daughter - named after the paternal grandmother

Second daughter - named after the maternal grandmother

First son - named after the paternal grandfather

Second son - named after the maternal grandfather

After that alternate names using the grandmother's, grandfather's, mother's, aunt's and uncle's names. If a child died that name was to be recycled with a future child.

### **Scottish 1700-1800's**

First daughter - named for maternal grandmother

Second daughter - named for paternal grandmother

Third daughter - named after her mother

Other daughters were named after other family members

First son - named after paternal grandfather

Second son - named after maternal grandfather

Third son - named after his father

This policy holds true unless one family member had more assets or a higher social standing than the other. One unique aspect of Scottish naming was that if two grandmothers or two grandfathers had the same given name, two children in the same family would end up with the same name. Another practise was to name daughters after the clergyman or other important male figure.



## NEWSLETTER NOTES

The **Descendants of Convicts** are on the net. You can find them at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>

The **Port Phillip Pioneers** can also be found on the web. Their address is <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~pioneers>



The Newsletter of The Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc., Feb 2000, continues with the **war theme** and gives details of **Congress 2000** which will be happening in **Perth 27th September- 1st October**.

The **East Gippsland Family History Group Inc.** have moved to **21 Morgan Street Bairnsdale**. Read the Autumn 2000 edition of their newsletter for **Rules For Storing Textiles**.

**Sources of Church History** is an article in *Quondam* (Toora & District FHG), March 2000.

The Summer 2000 issue of *Belfirst Genies* (Port Fairy) includes the addresses of **County Record Offices for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland** as well as **some useful London addresses**.

A list of **Immigrants who came from Sydney to Port Phillip on the John Barry in 1839** is printed in *The Reef's Rumbblings* (Stawell Biarri), November 1999.

And finally, on the next page, from *The Family Link* (Sale), something I have seen a number of times over the last couple of years and it continues to make me chuckle.

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### Translation of Computer Lingo

<b>Log On</b>	Makin' the wood stove hotter
<b>Log Off</b>	Don't need no more wood
<b>Monitor</b>	Keep an eye on the stove
<b>Download</b>	Gettin' the firewood orf the ute
<b>Mega Hertz</b>	Wotya get fer not bein' careful gettin' the wood
<b>Floppy Disc</b>	Wotya get from liftin' too much wood
<b>Hard Drive</b>	Dodgin' the potholes on the way home
<b>Prompt</b>	What the mail ain't 'cos of the potholes
<b>Windows</b>	Wotya shut when it's cold outside
<b>Screen</b>	Wotya shut in the mozzie season
<b>Byte</b>	What the mozzies do
<b>Chip</b>	Wot ya eat when ya got the munchies
<b>Microchip</b>	Wots left at the bottom of the packet
<b>Modem</b>	Wotya did to the lucerne paddocks
<b>Dot Matrix</b>	Old Dave Mattrick's wife
<b>Lap top</b>	Where puss sleeps

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Life in the 1500s *continued from page 3*

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is small, and they started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take their bones to a house and reuse the grave. In reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on their wrist and lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night to listen for the bell. Hence, on the "graveyard shift," they would know that someone was "saved by the bell" or he was a "dead ringer."

## EARLY MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND DISEASES CONTINUED

Puking Fever	typhoid fever
Putrid Fever	typhus or diphtheria
Quinsy	streptococcal tonsillitis
Remitting Fever	malaria
Rheumatism	disease of joints
Rickets	disease of skeletal system
Rubeola	German measles
Saint Anthony's Fire	erysipelas
Saint Vitus' Dance	chorea
Scariatana	scarlet fever
Scarlet Rash	roseola
Sciatica	rheumatism in the hips
Scirrhus	cancerous tumors
Scotomy	dizziness, nausea and dimness of sight
Scrivener's Palsy	writer's cramp
Scrofula	tuberculosis of the neck lymph nodes
Scrupox	skin disease
Septicemia	blood poisoning
Shakes	delirium tremens
Shaking	chills, ague
Shingles	skin disease characterized by skin blisters
Ship Fever	typhus
Sirasis	inflammation of the brain due to sun exposure
Sloes	milk sickness
Small Pox	contagious disease characterised by fever and blisters
Softening of the Brain	apoplexy
Spanish Influenza	an epidemic influenza
Spina Bifida	deformity of the spine
Spotted Fever	typhus, cerebrospinal meningitis fever
Sprue	tropical disease characterised by intestinal disorders and sore throat



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E-mail: [mac@net-tech.com.au](mailto:mac@net-tech.com.au)

**PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

**Books (postage cost on application)**

Childers Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1879-1994	\$ 5.00
Gippsland Crematorium Register	1985-1995	\$15.00
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions	1985-1995	\$15.00
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1879-1995	\$30.00
Moe Cemetery Register	1891-1996	\$20.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1881-1997	\$30.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Register	1872-1995	\$15.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions	1873-1994	\$15.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Register	1887-1995	\$15.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions	1886-1994	\$20.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1872-1994	\$40.00
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	1869-1995	\$15.00
Willow Grove Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1898-1993	\$15.00

**Microfiche (postage included)**

Childers Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1879-1994	\$ 4.00
Gippsland Crematorium Register	1985-1995	\$ 8.00
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions	1985-1995	\$ 8.00
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions	1879-1995	\$15.00
Moe Cemetery Register	1891-1996	\$10.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions	1881-1997	\$15.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Register	1872-1995	\$ 8.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions	1873-1994	\$ 7.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Register	1887-1995	\$ 8.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions	1886-1994	\$ 7.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions	1872-1994	\$25.00
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	1869-1995	\$10.00
Willow Grove Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1898-1993	\$ 5.00

All Cheques made payable to "Mid Gippsland F.H.S. Inc."