

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



No. 113  
September - November 2001

### MID GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

PRESIDENT:	Raymond Hough	5167 1218
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Pam Pratt	
SECRETARY:	Sandra Dumble	5127 3025
TREASURER:	David Grant	5127 1505
LIBRARIAN:	Bob Jones	5634 7635
PUBLICITY:	Robyn Byrne	5167 1784
HOST:	Vicki Evans	
RESEARCH:	Claire Wood	
NEWSLETTER:	Robyn Byrne	5167 1784
WEBMASTER	Wes Halket	

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Website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs)

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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.

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Membership Fees 01/02: Single \$20; Family \$25  
Library: gold coin donation per visit for non-members

Our library is open to the public Wednesday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm. Volunteers from our group are available to assist with research at this time.

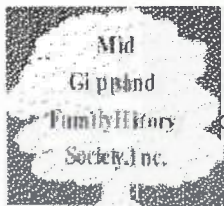
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There is a research fee of \$10 plus SSAE for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquiries should be clear and concise.

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



This is Wes's winning design in our search for a simplified, hence user and computer friendly, logo. Congratulations Wes and thanks for taking the time to come up with some ideas. Hope the judges weren't too picky.

**Welcome** Noticed some new names on the membership list. Welcome to Alison Graham and Ian Dumble. (Must be a case of if you can't beat them join them, hey Ian!) Welcome back to Kafin Healy. Best wishes to these three with their research.

**Apology** You may have noticed that this *On Track* is a little late. Sorry, but don't be too hard on me it is the first late edition in my 4 years (21 editions) as editor.

**Meetings** At the August meeting more elections were held and there was a reshuffle of the committee. This has meant that the position of secretary has been filled, thanks to Sandra. See the inside cover for the full line up.

Our October meeting was held at the Moe & District Historical Society. See Sandra's report on the following page.

In November Dawn Cowley spoke on Organising Family Reunions. It was great to have Dawn back in the rooms. I don't know whether anyone is rushing out to organise a reunion but when they do' if they remember some of the things discussed' they will surely have a good one.

Our next meeting is January 24th. No speaker is planned so bring along your research and get off to a flying start for the year 2002.

**Wednesday openings** resume on February 6th but remember as a member of the society you are able to use our resources during Moe Library opening hours, if the meeting room is not booked. Sign for the keys at the desk and go for it!

If you are able to help out on the Wednesday afternoons let Pam know and she will place you on the roster.

**Other news** We have been busy over the last few months playing host to the Gippsland Groups' annual meeting and the Combined History Groups meeting. Thanks to those members who helped make these meetings happen. Our society has also featured in the LaTrobe City Link and we were successful in our application for a grant for a photocopier (\$1200).

**Fees** for 2001/2002 are now due. \$20.00 single /\$25.00 family. Only financial members will receive newsletters from now on.



HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



### Descendants of Wilhelmsburg passengers.

Margaret A. Rowwe-Keys is organising a reunion, for August 2003, of descendants of over 500 German and Danish passengers who arrived in Port Phillip (Melbourne) in 1853 on the ship Wilhelmsburg. She is also compiling a book which will include family trees and biographical information on the passengers.

Contact Margaret A. Rowe-Keys

39 Shady Grove

Nunawading

Vic 3131

Ph: (03) 9884 8996

email: rowekeys@ihug.com.au

### AN EVENING AT THE MOE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eighteen members and guests of Mid Gippsland Family History Society recently spent an enjoyable/informative evening at the rooms of the Moe Historical Society. Our hosts for the evening were Andy Ringin, Sheila Mangan and Bill Adams who were on hand to mingle with our members and answer questions. The collection is housed in the old Moe Court House in High Street with rooms devoted to areas such as Yallourn, Walhalla, Moe and surrounding districts.

Mr Andy Ringin entertained the group with recollections of Moe in days gone by, putting stories to photographs of the pioneering identities of the area. He also gave us instructions on how to use the 1902 washing machine which was standing in the corner and a tale about two young women who visited the rooms (they are only in their eighties) who said their father had been the local blacksmith and pointed to where, as children, they had placed their mark on the bellows which were prominently displayed in the room.

One of our hosts, who will remain nameless, commented with a twinkle in the eye, as I was leaving, "some old Judges were sitting at the front of the room with you tonight. Did you happen to feel any other company?"

Take time to visit the Moe Historical Society Rooms if you have not already done so. It is well worth the visit.

*Sandra*



## Member's Profile

### Wes Halket -Webmaster

**When and why did you get started on your family history?** It was my daughter Debbie who first started me on family history, after she had a call from a distant relative enquiring about our family. This was just before my mother died, so I was able to get quite a lot of very accurate information from her, even though she was almost 90 at the time.

**Names researching:** Harrow, Harborough & Tester (Sussex)  
Morgan (Bristol)

**How far back have you researched?** Middle 1600s with absolute certainty, but early 1200s in a very general way.

**Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?** William Harbrow and his wife Elizabeth Tester with their first three children arrived in 1842 on the *Earl Of Durham*. They were part of a group nominated by Henry Dendy, as workers for his Brighton estate, but when they arrived he denied knowledge of them and they were left to fend for themselves.

**Who is your favourite ancestor?** Elizabeth Tester, she had a very hard life in the early part of her time in Australia, raised twelve children and out lived seven of them as well as her husband, William

**Most interesting find?** For many years I searched every record I could find for my Halket g-grandparents. My father had twin sisters as well as twin aunts and I knew his grandfather was William and grandmother was Margaret Harper. It was when my daughter Debbie and I were searching the 1851 census for Fife that we found William Hacket, wife Margaret and the children, with twins who had the same christian names as my aunts. I think we came very close to being thrown out of the GSV Library that day.

**If the family tree fairy could give you the answer to one question which would it be?** My mother's grandfather, George Morgan, has frustrated me ever since I started family history. He arrived from Bristol in 1848 and vanished about 1868 after spending three years in Castlemaine gaol for stealing a horse. Apart from those twenty years, his life is a complete mystery.



## Who's Surfing Where!

### Bob's Beauties

Bob has forwarded the following addresses and information on. They are from numerous mailing lists which he subscribes to.



The State Records Office of New South Wales (Australia) has just added the Index to the 1841 Census to its ever expanding website <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>

There is a list of Middlesex Surname Interests at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~bpefisk/fh/midxsnsms.html>

You may add to the list by using the form at <http://www.bfisk.dircon.co.uk/fh/surname.html>

Information about the Middlesex Mailing List may be found at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~bpefisk/fh/Middlesex.html>

Stella will do lookups for Palmer's Index to the Times, Pigot's London 1825, Bedfordshire wills prior to 1868  
email to: [stella.watkin@ntlworld.com](mailto:stella.watkin@ntlworld.com)

### **ABNEY PARK CEMETERY**

The address is too long to type in. Just type ABNEY PARK CEMETERY in Yahoo and it will come up. Abney Park was used by residents of Hackney, Dalston, Stoke Newington areas of London.

There is a mailing list for people interested in Police ancestors. Send a subscribe message to:

POLICE-UK-D-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode)

or

POLICE-UK-L-request@rootsweb.com (list mode)

### **Robyn Recommends**

If you are interested in Melbourne history, especially around Little Lonsdale Street, check out the Museum Victoria site: [www.museum.vic.gov.au/littlelons/index.html](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/littlelons/index.html)

From the NSW Registry FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2001 As well as a price increase for certificates (September 2001) they mention that an on line ordering facility has been added to their indexes on their website. [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au).

The new service became operational in late January this year and has proven to be very popular with Family Historians from all states of Australia, as well as many overseas countries. The service operates seven days a week, 24 hours a day and the following statistics will give you an idea of the popularity of this service.

The number of applications they have received using this service, up to July, include:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number Received</u>
January	2,660
February	7,320
March	35,840
April	53,260
May	66,280
June	65,680
July	69,980

From Eastman's Online Newsletter, 4 June  
**Online County Galway Records**

'Dan Hamilton sent an e-mail to me this week describing an on-line database that should be interesting to many people with Irish ancestry. Lalley.com is really designed for genealogists researching Wilmington, Delaware Irish families -- especially those with County Galway connections. However, its resources will be of value to many with Irish ancestors even if those ancestors did not stop in the Wilmington area.

Searchable databases on the site contain almost 9,000 Roman Catholic sacramental records, death records, data from the 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 U.S. Wilmington Census, and Wilmington City Directories, passenger lists for ships sailing from Galway to New York in the Famine years 1846 to 1851. Visitors will also find the names of every land occupier recorded in Griffith's 1855 Valuations of Tenements for eight civil parishes in the north County Galway, Ireland as well as information for the Hannon, Hart, and Lalley families including a documented Family History Report for each family.

The same Web site also contains the entire 1901 census returns for the civil parish of Cargin, County Galway. The Web site is planning to add the records of Wilmington, Delaware's Cathedral Parish of St. Peter 1849-1870.

This is an excellent example of a "grass roots" database: a local effort that results in high-quality genealogy information becoming available to millions on the Internet. Web site owner/operator Joseph M. Lalley, Jr. deserves an award for his efforts. To look for yourself, go to:

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

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**Email me some of your favourite sites!**



*Knockback  
Champion Bay  
Western Australia  
August 1st  
1871*

A transcription of a letter written to my ggg grandfather, Philip O'Shea (living somewhere in Melbourne at the time). He later lived in Little Bourke and Little Lonsdale Streets before settling in Stanley Street West Melbourne, where he died in 1903.

*My dear brother*

*I received your letter about two months since and was glad to hear from you and that you were all well I have not been very well for the last three months I have had a sort of a abscess under my jaw keep coming and going but it dont seem to go alltogether as yet- it only stops me from work a few days but it is painfull some times and disagreeable but I suppose it will be better before I am twice married*

*Give my love to my sister and my two little neices I shall be very proud to get your likeness so you must not disappoint me. I promise to send you mine wen I get a chance to get it taken I am three hundred miles from the nearest likeness taker so you can just fancy what a wilderness I live in. They call me Old Shea and I think I am getting old. I am not grey but nearly whiteheaded. I have a rough life of it knocking about the bush and on the road sleeping under the cart five nights out six and when I am at home I have no one like you have to look after me and cheer me up. Mary has forgot me and gave me turnips so I am a lonesome man nothing to look forward to now but*

Continued next page

*workwork. Shearing is nearly here so I will get enough of the road about eight weeks wool carting – but never mind I may be happy yet so I will say goodbye hoping this will find you all well. Write soon. I wrote home a short time ago to ?? to see if I can hear what is become of Mary – your affectionate brother*  
*John Shea*

Poor John, I wonder what became of him.

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

This is just a selection of items from some of the newsletters we have received lately.

*Bridges and Branches*, Sept. 2001

Index to admissions to **Echuca Hospital** 1882-1931 available soon.

*Wangaratta Threads*, Sept. 2001

List of **aboriginal internet sites**.

List of unrelated certificates

*Roses and Thorns*, Sept. 2001

Some history of **schools in the Benalla** area.

*Vic. GUM*, Sept. 2001

Article on locating **Australian Business archives** on the web.

Oct. 2001

Internet addresses for finding **antiquarian or out of print books**.

*Quondam*, Sept. 2001

The **Victorian Free Church and Nathaniel Kinsman**. I found this very interesting as I have ancestors who were married by Nathaniel Kinsman in his furniture store at Fitzroy.

*The Genealogist*, Sept. 2001

Article on **gunmakers**



*continued next page*

*Yarram Genealogy Group*, July 2001

**Obituaries** Foster Mirror – selected years

**Early Settlers** Index (Continued)

Narre Warren

Shire Of **Berwick Rate Book** entries 1870s

**Cassilis Cemetery** Transcriptions

*Pivot Tree* (Geelong & District), October 2001

All things related to the sea.

East Gippsland

Members' Interests 2001

Hughenden & District Family History Society, Sep 2001

Continues with plenty of local lists and news.

*PROactive 25*

Outline of **Seminar Series** Feb– June 2002

**Ned Kelly**-Ned Online [www.prov.vic.gov.au/nedonline](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/nedonline)

Article on **preservation of records** and gives the following websites as a starting point.

[www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/rkpubs/advice10.html](http://www.naa.gov.au/recordkeeping/rkpubs/advice10.html)

[www.nla.gov.au/pres.conver/](http://www.nla.gov.au/pres.conver/)

[www.amol.org.au/recollections/](http://www.amol.org.au/recollections/)

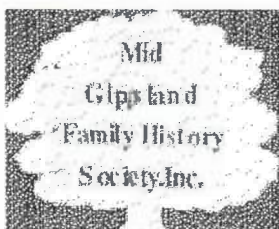
[www.amol.org.au/craft/conservation/conservation\\_index.asp](http://www.amol.org.au/craft/conservation/conservation_index.asp)

[www.cyndislist.com/preservation.htm#General](http://www.cyndislist.com/preservation.htm#General)

[www.aiccm.org.au/aiccm/home](http://www.aiccm.org.au/aiccm/home)

Contributions for this newsletter can be emailed to  
[sbyrne@i-o.net.au](mailto:sbyrne@i-o.net.au)

*Happy New Year!!*



**Mid Gippsland Family History Society, Inc**

P.O. Box 767 Morwell, Vic 3840

Or contact Jean McNally,

Phone: 03 5174 3137

Fax: 03 5176 0520

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	\$5.50
Gippsland Crematorium Register	1985-1995	\$16.50
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions	1985-1995	\$16.50
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1879-1995	\$33.00
Moe Cemetery Register	1891-1996	\$22.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1881-1997	\$33.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Register	1872-1995	\$16.50
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions	1873-1994	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Register	1887-1995	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions	1886-1994	\$22.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions 2 vols	1872-1994	\$44.00
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	1869-1995	\$16.50
Willow Grove Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1898-1993	\$16.50

**Microfiche (postage included)**

Childers Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1879-1994	\$ 5.00
Gippsland Crematorium Register	1985-1995	\$ 9.00
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions	1985-1995	\$ 9.00
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions	1879-1995	\$16.50
Moe Cemetery Register	1891-1996	\$11.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions	1881-1997	\$16.50
Toongabbie Cemetery Register	1872-1995	\$ 9.00
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions	1873-1994	\$ 8.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Register	1887-1995	\$ 9.00
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions	1886-1994	\$ 8.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions	1872-1994	\$27.50
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	1869-1995	\$11.00
Willow Grove Cemetery Register & Transcriptions	1898-1993	\$5.50

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