

# ON TRACK

## Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

ABN No. 88 735 748 406

**P.O. Box No 767**

**Morwell 3840**

### **President:**

**Ron Pratt**

Telephone 03 51681234

Email:

bhf@net-tech.com.au

### **Vice President**

**Vacant**

### **Secretary:**

**Sandra Dumble**

Telephone 03 51273025

Email:

sandian@i-o.net.au

### **Treasurer:**

**David Grant**

Box 78 Moe 3825

Telephone 0351271505

Email:

dgrant@net-tech.com.au

### **Publicity/Editor:**

**Kaye O'Reilly**

0351221282

Email:

macore@i-o.net.au

### **Librarian:**

**Bob Jones**

Telephone 0356347635

Email:

bobjones@dcsi.net.au

### **WebMaster:**

**Wes Halket**

Telephone

Email:

wesh@vic.australis.com.au

### **Research:**

**Clair Wood**

Telephone

Email

clairewo@yahoo.com

**Issue # 116 June - August**

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

### **Meetings:**

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each Month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance at the rear door of the Moe Library, Kirk Street Moe. Our Library will be open at 7pm with meetings commencing at approximately 7.30pm.

Membership fees 2001/2002: Single \$20; Family \$25 payable in July.

### **Library Hours:**

Our Library is open to the public on *Wednesday Afternoons between 1pm and 4pm*. Volunteers from our group are available to assist with research at this time. The Library is also available to members at all times that the Meeting room has not been booked by other organizations. (Check with the Public Library Staff) The library is available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Fees: Gold Coin donation per visit for non – members.

### **Research:**

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

Please direct all enquires to The Secretary P.O. Box 767 Morwell 3840 and mark the envelope "Research Enquiry".

### **Newsletter:**

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.

### **In This Issue:**

The Presidents Report 2002. Traralgon Cenotaph Inscriptions.

An 1886 Suicide. Dr Hadden of Walhalla.

Library News. Members Profile: Helen McLennan

The opening of the Church of England at Mirboo North in 1886

## The PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2002

The last year has been a very eventful one for the Association, starting with the Annual General Meeting at which Sandra Dumble was elected as President, with myself as Vice-President, however we were not able to fill the position of Secretary. At the next Committee meeting, after the problem had been discussed, Sandra volunteered to accept the Secretarial nomination, while I indicated that I would be prepared to accept nomination for President.

At the August general meeting these posts were declared vacant and I was accepted by yourselves as President, with Pam Pratt as Vice-President. While Sandra was elected as your Secretary, a task which she has fulfilled with much dedication (Sandra has also been most helpful to me)

Unfortunately Pam is no longer with us as she has gone to the biggest research centre of all, and no doubt is obtaining information from her ancestors that was not available to her in this life.

I have not always been able to devote as much time to my Presidency as perhaps I would have liked, with other people stepping into the Chair all too frequently.

I would be amiss if I failed to recognise the work done by David as Treasurer, Bob as Librarian, Robyn as Editor, Wes as Webmaster (and Mr. Fixit), Vicky as Host and Claire as Research Officer. Robyn wishes to have a rest as Editor, and I hope that someone can step into her shoes.

In general the year has been a very successful one for the Society, with the arrival of our copying machine, which is now located in the compactus, our library of CDs greatly expanded, and after some initial teething troubles, both computers now connected to the printer (although the second computer is now acting temperamentally).

We hosted the Gippsland Groups Annual Meeting in Newborough in October and the Latrobe Combined History Group November meeting in Morwell at the Morwell Historical Society's Rooms.

Our members have had several out-of-house excursions, with meetings being held in October at the Moe Historical Society Museum, with Andy Ringin as guest speaker, and in May at the Yallourn North and District Historical Society Old Brown Coalmine Museum, with David Roberts as guest speaker, and also a visit to The State Public Library.

Guest speakers at our monthly general meetings have also included, Dawn Cowley (Family re-unions), Ann Pawley (School records) and Norm Cory (computers).

The Yallourn Cemetery Transcriptions are almost ready, with some translations to be completed.

*Raymond J. Hough*  
*President.*

## "Thank you Robyn"

The Committee and Members of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society, would like to thank *Robyn Byrne* for the many years she has put in as Editor of our Newsletter. It was with regret we accepted her resignation.

"All the best, we hope to see you  
in the club rooms soon"

## Why The Newsletter Format Change?

Due to the rising costs of publishing, the Committee has decided on this change to make it more Internet friendly. Changing to a "Word" format means that **Members** or **Groups** may wish to register and have the Newsletter sent to them Via E-Mail?

If you will accept an E-mail version of the Newsletter please register with "The Secretary", Sandra Dumble whose address is on the front page.

## "EXPRESS INDEX" by Vicky Evans

We now have an index to all deaths published in the Latrobe Valley Express from 1986 onwards. This index was prepared by Vicky Evans over a large space of time and is all her own work. The index contains hundreds of names and burial details of locals and has been donated to our library. It is available on CD ROM at our meeting room in the Moe Library.

## Dr Hadden of Walhalla

*As told by Irene Arnott*

In a little cemetery close by where the old Shady Creek Hotel first stood lie the remains of several that are now forgotten. Near the grave of "Billy" the mailman, who was shot on that eventful evening many years earlier still stands a small tombstone to the memory of the first medical practitioner in Walhalla. Dr. Hadden died in the coach between Brandy Creek and Shady Creek. His death was recorded as suffocation, but on further investigation he appeared to be "Under the influence" and toppled over into the luggage well in the middle of the coach where he suffocated on May 29th 1869 age 47. His sisters in Ireland provided the money for the headstone. There had been a scare and near panic in March 1869. A woman travelling back from Melbourne with her husband and child had taken ill after leaving the coach at Shady Creek. When they reached Walhalla on horseback, she was delirious, and her husband lodged her at the Junction Hotel. Dr. Hadden's diagnosis was smallpox. Next day a public meeting was organised to take steps to prevent the disease spreading. The family escaped from the Junction Hotel during the night and returned to their own cottage further up the main creek. The cottage and its allotment were immediately enclosed within an 8 ft. high fence, with a small hut on either side of a solitary aperture, On each visit, the doctor stripped in the outer hut, stepped through to the inner one and put on old clothes in which he made the visit. He changed again when leaving, and both sheds were regularly soaked in disinfectant. Food and other items were left in the outer hut at regular times. Just as the crises seemed to be easing, the wife died. Four men agreed to bury the body high on the hill directly above the cottage and surround the grave with a high picket fence. The cottage together with all the family belongings was burnt to ashes. Dr. Hadden actually saved the town from a Small Pox outbreak, which could have been dramatic for the small country town

## TRARALGON CENOTAPH INSCRIPTIONS

Erected to the memory of and in honour of the men who enlisted from this Shire and paid the  
*Supreme Sacrifice* in the 1914 – Great War – 1918

ANDREWS. R. J.	FIRMAN. G.	OWEN. C.
ANDERSON. R. J.	FLETCHER. W	PAULETT. F.
ALFORD. E.	FRANCIS. D.	PEIPER. R.
BERRYMAN. L.	HAM. E.	PICKETT. C.
BOARDMAN. L.	HEANEY. F.	POLDEN. B.
CARTER W	JONSTON. H.	RUFF. V.
CHESTER. C.	KING. E. D.	RUSSELL. J. A.
CLEAVER. C.	KING. W. M.	RUST. A. E.
COATES. T.	MARTIN. R.	RICHARDSON. A. K.
COBBLEDICK. E. C.	MAXWELL. T. S.	STRATHAM. G.
COUCH. W. J.	MILLAR. A.	TEASDALE. J.
COUPER. P.	MILLAR. B	THOMPSON. H.
CRAWFORD. D.	McINTOSH T	VAN DAHREN. W.
De MELKER. H.	McLACHLAN. W.	WALKER. T.
DUNNE. S.	McNAIR. A.	WHITE. J.
ELLIOT. A.	McWATT. J.	WILSON. A.
ELLIOT. H.	NICHOLSON. A.	YULE. R.
ETHERIDGE. W.	NUTALL. W.	HOWE. A. M.
FIRMAN. A.	O'MARA. P.J	

In affectionate remembrance of those who gave their lives in the service of their country  
1939 – 1945

ANDERSON. N. H. A.I.F.	GRAHAM. C. P.      A.I.F.	POLLOCK. D.A.
BARKER. G. R. A.I.F.	HICKS. W. S.    A.I.F.	A.I.F.
BERWICK. G. R. E. R.A.N.	HOLMES. R.    M. N.	RYAN. L. R.A.A.F
BREEN. P. A. A.I.F	JACKSON P R.A.A.F.	STOCKDALE. F.J. A.I.F.
BROWN. E A.I.F	JONES L A.I.F.	SAUNDERS. A. A. A.I.F.
BURGE. A. A.I.F.	LAYTON. D. A.I.F.	STAGG. L. A.I.F.
CHENHALL. D.      A.I.F.	McCALLAM. C. R. A.I.F.	TIERNEY. R. A.I.F.
CRAMBLING. W. A.I.F.	MAGUIRE. J. R.A.A.F.	TUCKER. D. R.A.A.F.
CURRAN. G. T. A.I.F.	MERMOD. J. W.	WATSON. A. E.A.I.F.
DAVIS. A. R.A.A.F	A.I.F.	WATSON. F. A.A.I.F.
DOYNE. W. E. R.A.N.	MILES. A. M. A.I.F.	WILLIS. G. J. A.I.F.
FINLAYSON. W.      A.I.F.	MURPHY. P. J. A.I.F.	WELCH. A. R.A.A.F.
GREENWOOD. J. A.I.F.	MUNRO. C. A.I.F.	WILLIAMS. A.F
	McGEORGE. W. P. A.I.F.	R.A.A.F.

In affectionate remembrance of those who gave their lives in the service of the country in  
Vietnam 1962 – 1972

*BLANCK. W.A. R.A.R.      GRIST. R.M. R.A.R.    LLOYD. A. R.A.R.*

This memorial salutes the Australians  
who served in all Wars involving our nation during the twentieth century.  
Rededicated on Armistice Day 11 November 1999.  
Unveiled by Mr. THOMAS GRIFFITHS WWII veteran.  
Their sacrifice our heritage.

*Transcribed by Sandra Dumble*

## **Members Profile**

### ***Helen McLennan***

#### **When and why did you get started on your family history?**

My father's sister together with a cousin in England, in the 1920s, compiled a Gregson family tree dating back to 1590 including all the descendents to about 1915.

After visiting the village in Yorkshire where the family lived for many generations, I gradually became interested in family history, with a view to more personal information than just dates and places of events.

#### **What names are you researching?**

With each new find a new name is added. They include Gregson, Minter, Jeffery, Hardinge, Hewlett, Green, Miller, Grant, McLennan, Bone, Meincke, Baker, Bass and many more.

#### **How far back have you searched?**

I have verified the family tree to 1590 through records, and other branches to 1735.

#### **Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?**

The first McLennan to arrive in 1842 was Donald from Ross-shire, Scotland, who sailed on the "Blanche" into Adelaide. My first ancestor who arrived in Melbourne in 1850 from Folkstone, Kent, was Michael Minter who sailed on the "Brothers" with his wife, four children, a niece and a nephew.

#### **Who is your favourite ancestor?**

I don't have a favourite. - I find them all interesting.

#### **What is your most interesting find so far?**

Finding on the internet 121 paintings by my grandmother which are in the archives of the State Library.

Another find was an obituary to my, great grandfather in an 1864 Geelong newspaper.

#### **If the family tree wish fairy would give you the answer to one question. What would that be?**

Where did the Greens come from in England before 1850 in London?

---

## **NET & NEWSLETTER NEWS**

The August 2002 Newsletter of **G.U.M.** has an article by John Donaldson detailing

### **"MAILWASHER"**

Getting harassed by someone on your email? Tired of getting junk email from unknown sources? Why not make them think you no longer exist by bouncing back their email so it looks like your address has been closed down.

Are you tired of getting forwarded e-mails with large attachments that take ages to download? Are you scared of getting an email virus? Why not delete the email directly off the server so you don't have to download it.

*Read the Newsletter or go straight to the site for further info*

MIRBOO & MORWELL  
GAZETTE

Births, Marriages & Deaths

**Marriage**

*Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1886*

**Sommers – Donaldson-**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst at the Church of England, Morwell, Gippsland, by the Rev. J R Walker. Charles, third son of Wm, Sommers, Esq., Geelong, to Agnes, eldest surviving daughter of the late David Donaldson, Esq., Morwell

**Death**

*Tuesday December 28<sup>th</sup> 1886*

**Pratt** At the residence of his

Brother, Scarne, Glengarry, after a long illness. Robert Pratt, late of Maryvale, aged 42

---

*October 12<sup>th</sup> 1886*

**Traralgon Land Sale**

Messrs. A. McLean and Co., in conjunction with Marriage, Orr and Co., report having a very successful sale of township and suburban blocks on account of C. R. Wilkes. We submitted about 30 allotments in Franklin-street were secured by the Bank of Australasia, one having 46 feet frontage realising £16 15s per foot, whilst the adjoining block, having 20 feet frontage, made £15 per foot.

**Morwell Cattle Market**

Messrs. Marriage, Orr and Co report:--

Good lot of cattle forward, and good attendance of buyers on account of late rains. We sold several drafts at satisfactory prices. Horses.-- Few forward, draught mare to £26.

---

**Ball in the Mechanics**

*January 5<sup>th</sup> 1886*

On Boxing night a Ball was held in the Mechanics Institute in aid of the funds of the Morwell Roman Catholic Church, and was in every way a great success. Dancing was commenced shortly after 8 p.m., and was kept up with much spirit till after midnight. Messrs. Lott and Moore supplied the music and Mr. J Rintoull acted as M.C. £15 has been added to the funds of the church.

**Morwell and Mirboo Gazette**

*Tuesday, November 16, 1886*

**A Most Determined Case of Suicide**

Intelligence from Mirboo North, received yesterday morning, reports a most determined case of suicide. A knockabout hand who goes by the name of "Sandy," and employed by Mr. Fitzpatrick, took a dose of strychnine on Sunday afternoon. As he had said goodbye to several friends, and was noticed to be peculiar in his manner, he was watched, and when first found he was suffering severely from the effects of the poison, and strong emetics (sic) were immediately administered. In order to keep the mouth open a bar of iron had to be forced between the unfortunate mans teeth. Although every effort was made to save the mans life, they proved futile, and he gradually sank, dying in great agony about 11.30 p.m. No cause has been assigned for the rash act. It is supposed that deceased was a married man but the whereabouts of his family is not known.

It has since been ascertained that family matters had something to do with deceased destroying his life. It is also stated that he had carried strychnine about with him for 16 years, and had before threatened to commit suicide. Before he expired he said that he would have to die some time, and the present time was as good as any other. An inquest will be held today.

*"The inquest found that 'Sandy' was in fact Alexander Roberts, husband of Ann Roberts. They were married in 1854 but had been parted for 5 years. He left behind one son and two daughters.*

*Described as a quiet, inoffensive man, he was acting as a stableman at Mr. Fitzpatrick's Hotel" Ed.*

---

**Opening of the Church of England  
at Mirboo North**

*October 12<sup>th</sup> 1886*

The formal opening of the Church of England, Mirboo North, took place on Friday last, (8-10-86) and proved a great success. Service was held in the new building in the afternoon, when the Rev. Canon Watson, of Sale, preached a most impressive sermon to a large congregation. The tea and concert in the evening, were held in the railway goods shed. A most bountiful supply of good things were spread upon the tables, which were presided over by the following ladies. :-- Mesdames Burchell, Ogilvy, Peters, Napier, and Murray, and the Misses, Nicol, Richards, Edwards, Mitchell, Bair, and Scarlett (2). The following ladies also contributed towards the tables:-- Mesdames Ridgeway, Papeley, Gibbs and Coupar, and the Misses Leishman (2). A very large number sat down to tea and judging by the manner in which they fell to, it was evident that the long rides had not impaired their appetites. A concert followed, the following programme (sic) being carried out in the most efficient manner. Overture, Pas de Charge, Mrs. Napier and Miss Mitchell; address, Canon Watson; song, Last Rose of Summer, Mrs Williams; song, Grandfathers Chair, Mr. Roughead; song, Darby and Joan, Miss Mitchell; address, Rev. J Caton; song, The Cobbler, Mr. Pullen; reading, a Woman of Mind, Mr. Benn; address, Mr. Vanston; song, Miss Mitchell. Mr. C Ogilvy occupied the chair, and fulfilled the duties pertaining thereto in his usual happy manner. God save the Queen, by the company, bought the proceedings to a close.

We may add that the Church has been erected at the cost of about £200, Mr. Papeley being the contractor. The proceeds of the tea and concert are estimated at about £15. As there is still a heavy dept remaining on the church we hope that every assistance will be given to the committee in their endeavors to wipe it off, and we shall at all times be most happy to acknowledge subscriptions received by us on their behalf.

## **Library News**

New to the Library are the following CDs.:

### **The Sands and Kenny Melbourne Directory 1857 to 1861.**

The contents of this disk are viewed through the Netscape program.

### **The South Australian Marriage Index 1842 to 1912.**

This is a Digger based database similar to the Victorian BDM's and is very easy to use. The records also give more details than Victorian Based records such as the location of the marriage and the father of the bride and groom.

### **Melbourne General Cemetery Transcriptions and Index.**

This CD is not a complete record and will be replaced when the records are updated. Every name in a transcription is indexed and so you may find three entries in the index relating to the one headstone.

### **Wives and Children of Convicts.**

This is a small database of Wives and Children of Convicts in New South Wales 1825 to 1840.

### **Census Index of County Londonderry 1831 and County Cavan 1841.**

### **Census Records: United Kingdom 1851. (part)**

This is an index to a small proportion of the census and you may be lucky to find a relative.

### **1902 Post Office Directory of London. –**

There are two CDs in this set and it is a digital reproduction of the original Directory. The CD is very easy to use via Acrobat Reader and should provide a lot of information for researchers for this era.

### **Vital Records of United Kingdom (updated version 16 CD).**

This disk has been donated and replaces the 6 CD set we already have in the library which was damaged. There is a later version of the Viewer (Version 4 instead of Version 2) which enables better searches to be conducted of the 1881 Census.

### **Vital Records of Western Europe -**

This is a 20 CD package with Births Marriages and Christenings for Spain France Germany and other regions in Western Europe. Some of the entries give a lot of information and others only the bare essentials.

### **Fawkner and Coburg Cemeteries –**

We already have the Fawkner Cemetery on Fiche but this is an update and also includes the Coburg Cemeteries.