



ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

P.O. Box No 767
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Association No A0023846S

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SPAM TRAP: replace [at] with @

Issue # 149 November 2010 - January 2011

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs>



Meetings:

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

Membership Details:

2009 - 2010, Single member: \$25.00.

Family membership, \$30.00.

Membership is due and 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) MGFHS research facilities are also available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Visitors: Gold Coin donation per visit for non-members.

Research:

There is a minimum research fee of \$20, plus a stamped, self addressed business size envelope, for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Cemetery Lookups

MGFHS charge a fee for lookups in their cemetery's. For \$2 per name we will provide you with the register details plus a transcription of the head stone if there is one.

Please send a business size SSAE with your enquiry to:

The Research Officers, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840

From the Archives:

Issue 60: *Member Profile: Mavis Lynch*



Mavis Lynch is an inaugural member of our group, was its first Treasurer and is still a regular attendee at monthly meetings. Mavis was born at Morwell 60 plus years ago and has lived in the area ever since. She has resided in Traralgon since her marriage to Rob, and they have 2 sons and three grandchildren.

Mavis became interested in her family origins many years ago and endeavoured to discover as much as possible by quizzing older family members, often unsuccessfully. She joined the G.S.V. in 1966 and is No. 49 on the 1850's Group register.

Several ancestral families arrived during this period, the remainder during the 1860's. Ancestors came from Ireland (North and South), Scottish Lowlands, the Border counties, China and include Palatine settlers from the Rhineland who settled in Ireland. Her husband's family came from Londonderry, Cornwall and Somerset.

Mavis is a very busy lady, and doesn't have much time for family history research now-a-days, but is keenly interested in this fascinating hobby. She enjoys talking to researchers and reading other family historians publications and the information gleaned from "fleshing out the bones".

Besides family history, Mavis's other interests include Latrobe Valley University of the Third Age (currently President), National Council of Women (Branch Acting Secretary,) Traralgon Historical Society, and growing the best weeds in Traralgon! !

Editor's note: Mavis is also a whizz at the Genealogical Trivia Nights we have had, and has proved to be almost unbeatable! !

Issue 61 *Member Profile: Dawn Cowley*



Dawn is an inaugural member of our group, and has variously held the positions of Chairman, Secretary, Publicity Officer and now Newspaper Editor during the 11 years of the group's existence. She was born Dawn Davies at Yallourn, and has lived in the Mid Gippsland area most of her life.

Her Interest in genealogy has led her into many allied activities, including teaching family history with SCOPE, conducting a monthly radio program on Gippsland FM radio, giving talks to Various organizations and schools, and her major project for the last four years – collating and indexing the extra B.D.&M. certificates generated by the registry office when a certificate is requested.

This last project is very time consuming – taking up on average 10-12 hours a week. She also helps on a regular basis at the Mormon Church Family History Library at Traralgon and has attended several Country Groups meetings of the former GSV groups.

Dawn has published a book on her Davies family titled Characters of Will, and is currently in the final stages of gathering information for a similar publication on her maternal family line – Jessup. She has organised several family reunions, and has gained a great amount of information on her families of interest for these reunions. But without doubt, the best part of these family gatherings is the pleasure that those attending get from renewing old ties.

Formally a school teacher, Dawn now works half time as a library assistant at the Central Gippsland College of TAFE. She has many other interests but has a particular involvement with the education of her children, and still has a big commitment to Newborough High School. In her "free" time Dawn likes to read, talk, sew and dabble with numerous handcrafts, particularly cross stitch, tapestry and wool embroidery.

The above articles are from 20 years ago, both the above ladies are still very active within MGFHS

MID GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

INVITATION



MID GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

IS CELEBRATING ITS

30TH BIRTHDAY!!!

AT: OLD GIPPSTOWN

ON: SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2010

AT: 11.30 FOR A 12 NOON START

COST: \$20 ADULT

\$10 CHILDREN UNDER 12

WE ARE HAVING A BBQ LUNCH CATERED FOR BY THE VENUE

MAIN COURSE AND DESERT, TEA AND COFFEE.

BYO ALCOHOL OR PURCHASE AT THE VENUE

RSVP (WITH NUMBERS ATTENDING) BY 28 NOV 2010

DAWN: 51* 271780 OR 0400 *114332

(REMOVE *)

GOLD IN AUSTRALIA

(A letter to his parents in Cornwall from Robert Glasson of Guyong, NSW, 1851)

The following has been received from a native of Cornwall, who has amassed a very considerable property by his intelligence, enterprise, and industry, in the country of his adoption:

"Guyong, May 26th, 1851. My dear Parents - You will, doubtless, have heard, ere this comes to hand, that a discovery of an extensive gold field has very recently been made in this district, or rather in this immediate neighbourhood. The diggings, at present being worked, are about 18 or 20 miles from here, but gold has been found even on this estate - indeed it is found in almost every place it is sought. The papers which I shall regularly send you will give you all particulars of the discovery, progress and result of the diggings - the name of which is "Ophir."

You can form no idea of the excitement that prevails; whilst the discovery is regarded by some as an inestimable blessing, others consider it the greatest calamity that could befall us, as it must involve thousands in ruin. Wages will be augmented to prices which no sheep holders can pay. Consumable articles, flour for instance, will soon realize famine price, and shepherds will be leaving their flocks - hence the result is easily seen.

I may, however, remark that hereabouts we are not likely to suffer to the extent that the distant sheep holders are. Thousands are already flocking to the diggings - some will be unsuccessful, others will dislike the work, and hence we shall have a chance of getting labour.

As we should drive the nail that will go, I am busily hitting one that goes well. I shall, with the greatest despatch, turn my wethers and a flock of ewes into cash. I shall send sixteen carcasses to the diggings tomorrow. I soon expect to slaughter 100 sheep per week. My present price is 3d. per lb., but it is thought 6d. will soon be obtainable. I have, happily, wheat enough to yield 7 or 8 tons of flour, and I expect to sell it at GBP 80 per ton, at which price I have already sold some.

One poor fellow found in one day, last week, gold worth GBP 420 - and he was so bewildered at his sudden luck, that he has been half fool ever since. Mr. TOMS, his sons, and party, eleven in all, found GBP 130 worth last Friday. It is estimated that, up to last night, there had been obtained by the diggers gold to the value of GBP 20,000. Half of Sydney and Paramatta will soon be up here; in fact, Bathurst is left a town of women and children. I have no doubt that in the course of three years the population of this part of Australia will be doubled. Mr. Hargraves, the discoverer of the diggings, tells me that he never saw any spot in California so rich as "Ophir", and it is expected that other diggings, equally productive, will soon be found.

Tell Mr. STEPHENS, of Troon, that the best thing he can do for his sons is to send them to Australia. We have had a splendid autumn - grass is abundant. I had intended to shear upwards of 6,000 sheep this year, but shall now reduce them, probably, to 4,000.

Wool! The thing is never mentioned. Nothing but gold can be tolerated. The discovery may contribute, perhaps, to my property, but by no means to my happiness. I have so long been accustomed to a tranquil monotonous life, that I dislike the bustle and excitement that prevails. I may not be able to write again for some time, but I shall send you the papers as stated above.

Pardon all inaccuracies, and believe me, dear parents, your dutiful son,

Richard Glasson."

Julia Mosman, CORNWALL ONLINE PARISH CLERKS - helping bring the past alive
Website: http://www.cornwall-opc.org/Par_new/a_d/austell_st.php



THE RESTORATION OF ONE OF THE BILLS HORSE TROUGH'S



This trough has been relocated to its former site in Hazelwood Road, by the Morwell Rotary Club.

Located next to the Latrobe Regional Gallery
In Commercial Rd., Morwell
The trough is a reminder of former times.

A Life Governor of the RSPCA George Bills directed that a trust fund be set up to erect horse troughs, "wherever they may be of opinion".

Of the over 700 troughs erected by the trust,
One was set up in Morwell c 1940.

Made of pre-cast concrete with a curved pediment
the troughs were inscribed
"Donated by Annis & George Bills Australia".

VICKI'S WONDERFUL WEB FINDS

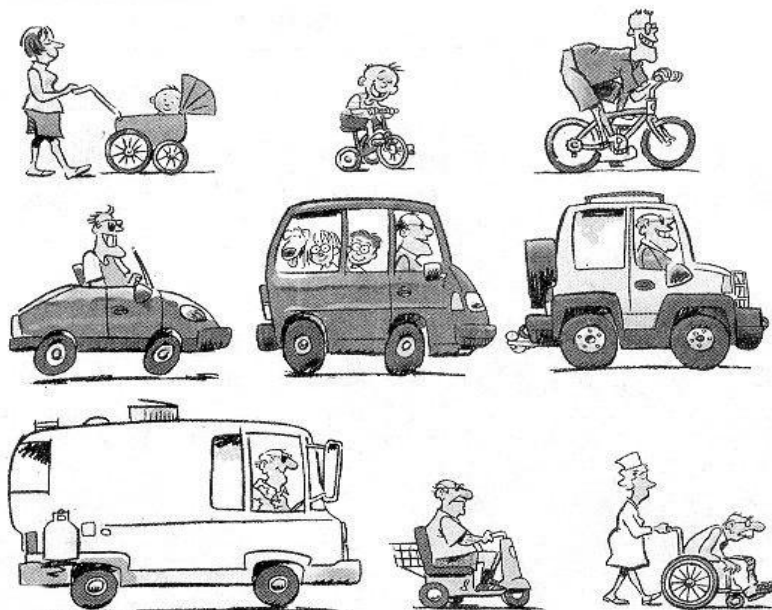
Thanks Vicki for sharing these gems with us

SYMPTOMS:

Patient has blank expression, often deaf to spouse and children. A continual complaint as to the need for names, dates and places. Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters, swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places; such as cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bills from spouse. Mumbles to self and has a far away look in the eyes...

"Anty" is a nickname for Anastasia.

The Wheels of Life



REGARDING THE PRESTON CEMETERY

HELP WANTED

David Weatherill is undertaking further research into the Preston Cemetery near Melbourne, Victoria. The following is some brief data he has.

* It has been known over the years as Darebin Creek Cemetery, McLeans/Macleans Cemetery, Strathallan Darebin Creek, McLean's Cemetery Darebin Creek, Strathallan Cemetery and finally Preston Cemetery.

* The cemetery site was part of Crown allotment 10, Parish of Keelbundora, purchased at the crown land sale 12 September 1838 by Neil Campbell. Like many of Darebin's first land purchasers, Neil Campbell was a speculator and in 1842 sold the land to Malcolm McLean. For the next 40 odd years, the land known as Strathallan/Strathallan Estate, was leased for grazing.

* In 1864 Malcolm McLean donated one acre from his property for a cemetery. Anecdotal evidence notes that early graves belonging to the McLean family existed on the site. The site became a cemetery on 21 December 1864.

* The cemetery was known as Strathallan Cemetery, and for many years it was a private cemetery. On 7 March 1917 the site of 2 acres 1 rood 14 perches was gazetted as a cemetery [VGG 1917-865] and so became a public cemetery. The extra land had been added to the original 1 acre over the years.

* The Council of the City of Preston was appointed as Trustee of the cemetery on 7 November 1928 [VGG 1928-2932].

* The name of the cemetery was changed from Strathallan Public Cemetery to Preston General Cemetery, following a request from the Preston City Council.

* Parish Records note the following two buried at Darebin Creek. They may be the first burials in the land set aside by the family for the cemetery:

- Allan Maclean, 80 years, 4 November 1844

- Hannah Maclean, 73 years, 9 February 1846 [Wife of Allan] *Data from Parish records.*

There is more to the history of the cemetery and if people are interested David can provide a more detailed overview of the history of the cemetery. The above is a brief outline of its early history.

In 1931, the wooden structure in the cemetery burnt down taking with it all the early burial records. The only data left re these earlier burials is from the headstones that are in the cemetery. The Memorial Inscriptions were transcribed by B. C. Grayden in 1987. Both the GSV and the AIGS hold copies of those lists.

What David is trying to do is to put together a list of the earlier burials in the cemetery from 1844 (Maclean) to 1870.

While he has a few burials in the cemetery (collected via death certificates) he is wondering if any readers have information for burials in the cemetery during the time period 1840 - 1870; most data would probably be from death certificates. If anyone does have any information he would appreciate hearing from them. The 1850s/1860s is a lean year for data; the earliest three burials he has located to date are:

WATTS, Ann, Aged 86 years, Died: 23 January 1860.

CHAPMAN, Sally, aged 36 years, Died: 13 December 1860

PARTINGTON, James, Aged 96 years, Died 21 December 1860

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

David Weatherill

Email: djweath@bigpond.net.au

Fundraising for 'Roses from the Heart'

Roses from the Heart: "Sew a bonnet and be part of history.

25566 bonnets are being made with empathy for convict woman who endured much but received so little recognition. Their economic and social contribution was enormous, yet the 'stigma' shrouding their existence always precluded discussion of their value." <http://www.christinahenri.com.au>



Christina Henry is well on her way to collecting the 25'566 convict bonnets she needs to complete a memorial to the convict women sentenced to Transportation to Australia - 1788 to 1853.

More bonnets are still needed so please keep sewing and send them to Christina, details below.

The 'Roses from the heart' CD is a compilation of 15 songs about convict women and their experiences. The CD weaves the story of the Convict women through prose and music.

A beautifully illustrated booklet gives a fabulous background into the songs and experiences of the convict women.

Included on the CD is Fred Rea's song 'Christina, take me home' voted 'The Most Popular Song', at the WAM SONG OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010

(Western Australian Music Industry Association Inc. awards)

Christina has sent her thanks to the MGFHS members who voted for the CD.

The CD is being sold as a fundraiser for 'Roses from the heart'

Every one who has convicts, especially women, in their background will want to own one of these CD's.

Check the website above for details on how to get your copy: Cost is \$30

Every song on the above CD is a beautifully woven story (poem) about convict women or a woman in particular. I have, since receiving my CD, spent many hours listening and singing along with the songs.

The first recording on the CD is of Christina retelling the story of these 'ladies'

Then the beautiful ballads begin:

Sky and Sea by Dave McGilton. "Sail away, Sail away, lost to sky and sea".

Fields of Athenry by Pete St John. "We had dreams and songs to sing"

Sad Loss of the Amphitrite by Stan Graham. "She went down- down- down, to the bottom of the sea"

Transport Ship by Erik Kowarski. An instrumental

The Convict Ship by Lillian O'Donnell. "This convict ship will make the trip to far Van Diemen's Land"

The Convict Maid by Maria Forde. "To Botany Bay you must be conveyed"

The Bells of Ireland by Pete St John "In Ireland 1842, Mary Welsh was called a thief"

The Green among the Gold by Steve & Ros Barnes. "We sent our sons and daughters here"

Mary Parker's Lament by Judy Small. "And never again to see home, and never again to see home"

Mary, the Girl from Botany Bay by Ted Egan. "Sail across the dark and stormy ocean"

A Rose in your Heart by Bernard Carney. "So much sorry, so mush grief, forever labelled a common thief"

A Bunch of Dammed Whores by Ted Egan. You have to listen to this one... a real beaut!

Follow the Call by Maria Forde. "I follow the call of my own Celtic blood"

Roses from the Heart by Dave McGilton & Christina Henri. "And send them a rose from the heart"

Christina take me Home by Fred & Fiona Rea. "With by bonnet held so tight, guide me safely through the night, take me home... Christina take me home"

Christina Henri

PO Box 1020

Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia. 7006

Want the bonnet pattern? Email Kaye: [macore\[at\]tadaust.org.au](mailto:macore[at]tadaust.org.au)

In This Issue

MGFHS turns 30. Celebrate with lunch at 'Old Gippsdown'

Archive profiles: Mavis Lynch – Dawn Cowley

Gold in Australia 1851: Bills Horse Trough

Preston Cemetery, help wanted. Roses from the heart.

Publications for sale by Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. (MGFHS)

Address ALL enquiries regarding publications to 'The Secretary', Mid Gippsland Family History Soc. Inc.

PO Box 767 Morwell Victoria 3840

ALL checks to be made payable to Mid Gippsland F.H.S. Inc.

Books (postage cost on application)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|----------|
| Boolarra Cemetery Register 1887 – 1998 | plus Transcriptions | - 2005 | \$16.50 |
| Childers - Thorpdale Cemetery Register | plus Transcriptions | 1879- 2008 | \$ 6. 00 |
| Gippsland Crematorium Register | | 1985- 1995 | \$16.50 |
| Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions | | 1985- 1995 | \$16.50 |
| Gormandale Cemetery Transcriptions | | -2007 | \$10.00 |
| Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions | 2 Volumes | 1879- 1995 | \$40.00 |
| Moe Cemetery Register | | 1891- 1996 | \$22.00 |
| Moe Cemetery Transcriptions | 2 Volumes | 1881- 1997 | \$40.00 |
| Narracan Cemetery Transcriptions | | -2002 | \$ 7. 50 |
| 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 Volumes | 1872- 1994 | \$60.00 |
| Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions | Updated 2005 | 1869- 2004 | \$16.50 |
| Willow Grove Cemetery Register | plus Transcriptions | 1898- 1993 | \$16.50 |
| Yallourn Cemetery Transcriptions | | 1930- 2000 | \$50.00 |

Microfiche and CD'S are also Available

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs/publications.htm>

“Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editor and committee of Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc., take no responsibility for submitted items.”



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



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