

# NEWSLETTER no. 24

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA - MID GIPPSLAND GROUP

Chairman: Mrs. Dawn Cowley, Telephone (051) 27 1780

Secretary: Mrs. Karen Healy, Telephone (051) 27 2235

January, 1986

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On Thursday 28 November, 1985 our fifth Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers was held at the Education Centre, Moe. The majority of Executive Positions changed hands and a number of new positions were created to ease the work load of the secretary. Office Bearers for the year 1985-86 as follows:

Chairman:	Mrs. Dawn Cowley
1st Vice Chairman:	Mrs. Jean McNally
2nd Vice Chairman:	Mr. Eddie Tunn
Secretary:	Mrs. Karen Healy
Treasurer:	Mr. Frank Robinson
Librarian:	Mrs. Lyn Gorman
Assistant Librarian (Microfische):	Mrs. Yolanda Reynolds
Newsletter Committee:	Miss. Julie Stevens, Mrs. Lyn Sephton Mrs. Margaret Kilmartin, Mrs. Mavis Lynch.
Publicity Officers:	Mr. Eddie Tunn, Mrs. Barbara White
Tea Lady:	Mrs. Irene Arnott
Research Committee:	Mrs. Gay Rogers, Mrs. Dot Needham, Mrs. Cheryl Weymouth, Mrs. Yolanda Reynolds, Mr. Don Macreadie
Book Buying Committee:	Mrs. Lyn Gorman, Mrs. Gay Rogers, Mrs. Jean McNally
Collection of Key and Payment for Hire of Room:	Mrs. Irene Arnott
Seminar Committee:	Mrs. Dawn Cowley, Mrs. Karen Healy, Mr. Barry Kilmartin, Mrs. Barbara White
Cemetery Transcription Officers:	Mr. Bill and Mrs. Barbara White
Projects Officer:	Mrs. Margaret Kilmartin
Preparation of Beginners Kit:	Muriel Hardisty

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the annual report as Chairman of the Mid Gippsland Group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria, for the year ending November, 1985. This group has now been operating for five years.

The attendance at our monthly meetings is steadily growing. I feel that this is partly due to the publicity through our display at Mid Valley and the very successful seminar, and also due to the growing popularity of genealogy as a hobby. We try to provide a wide variety of speakers at our meetings, and the speakers during 1985 were very interesting and covered a wide range of subjects.

The bus trip was not very well attended but the few that did make the trip down to The G.S.V. library and Latrobe Library enjoyed the day. Our seminar was a great success, with a very large attendance and excellent speakers. This was followed up with a full one day seminar with Mr. John Cairns Smith Barth speaking on Scottish Genealogy, which was very popular, and also attracted a large attendance. Thanks very much to those who organised these days, and the Mid Valley display.

Our sub-committees are still working well, and the Newsletter committee are to be commended on putting out a worthwhile publication, please help them by supplying any article which could be used.

The Library is now a very valuable asset to our group, and we are most fortunate in having such a capable Librarian in charge. Thanks Lyn.

I would like to thank everyone in the group for their attendance and help during the past year, and especially our secretary, Dawn, who does a great job coping with the work load, and our Treasurer, Mavis.

As I am not standing for re-election as Chairman, I would like to say thank you to everybody who has helped and supported me during my two year term, and wish the incoming committee every success in the future.

J.D. Pattison

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

This meeting brings to a close the fifth year of the Mid Gippsland Group of The Genealogical Society of Victoria, which continues to flourish with membership now approaching 80. Our group is now among the largest of the country groups.

This year we have put into practice a couple of ideas aimed at increasing public awareness of our group and helping fellow researchers. Firstly, a one day display at Mid Valley shopping centre early in the year was very successful, and prompted a larger one, held over three days, at the end of August, as a lead up to our seminar. I feel sure that these displays achieved both of the abovementioned aims.

Secondly, our first ever "open research day" attracted interested people from many parts of Gippsland to use the material available in our library.

As usual, the achievements of our group during the past year have been possible because of the efforts of the willing group of members who work for the benefit of others as much as for themselves:

- those who spent Anzac Day transcribing the Hazelwood and Narracan cemeteries.
- those who typed up the inscriptions, particularly Irene Arnott and Bill and Barbara White, without whose help these projects would still be uncompleted.
- those who manned our displays at Mid Valley.
- those who helped in the kitchen and with food preparation for our seminars and open research day.
- those who contributed to our newsletters.

Special thanks to those who accepted responsibility at last years AGM for particular positions. These include our Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Newsletter Committee, Publicity Officers, Tea Lady, Research Committee, Book Buying Committee and Seminar Planning Committees, who carried out their duties efficiently and very capably. The smooth running of our group is largely the result of their untiring efforts. Sincere thanks to all of you.



John and Mavis have continued to be a source of strength to our group, and on behalf of all members I thank them for the time they have put into their respective duties as Chairman and Treasurer of our group.

The three years I have spent as Secretary have been busy, mostly enjoyable, rewarding and certainly never dull !! I wish my successor an interesting and successful term of office. With the continuing and growing support of our members, our group must go from strength to strength. Thank you.

Dawn Cowley.

#### TREASURER'S COMMENTS

At the first of January we have seventeen fully paid up members for the 1985-86 Calendar Year, by which this group bases its membership fees. These fees were set at the Annual Meeting in November and are now due.

Member	\$ 8.00
Family Member	\$10.00
Newsletters only	\$ 3.50

These fees are above those collected by The G.S.V. (our Parent Body) and are set to cover such things as meeting venue fee, Newsletter production, tea and biscuits, expenses necessary to run the Group and, if any surplus, to be distributed as set from time to time by meetings. In the past we have been able to build up a small profit which has been set aside to build up our library.

As you pay your fees please make sure that you receive a membership card as it is needed to be able to borrow from our library. Also make sure that I know your name, address and 'phone number for our records.

I noted in the Treasurer's folder some items for sale:-

- Family & Local History Sources in Victoria (\$4.00)
- Victorian Pioneers who signed the Loyal Address etc. (\$2.00)
- Members' Interest Directories - G.S.V. (\$4-4.50ea.)
- Generation Charts (from 50c to \$2.00 ea.)

If you are interested in any of these items please see me.

Frank Robinson,  
Hon. Treasurer.

#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

During the year the library has continued to expand with many new books, pamphlets, tapes and journals being added to our resources. Most of the material has come from purchases by the book buying committee, however, a large amount has been donated by group members and sincere thanks to the generosity of those people.

We now possess a very good selection of books of general interest to the family historian, concentrating on Victorian and Australian research but also covering English, Irish and Scottish research and some on European research.

The collection of local cemetery records has been boosted this year with the addition of the Traralgon, Narracan, Hazelwood, Gormandale and Mirboo North transcripts. We now hold records to 16 local cemeteries, plus material relating to other Victorian cemeteries.

Newsletters are exchanged with 15 other country groups and these are becoming more popular and are being borrowed more often by our members. The collection of tapes remain a much neglected form of research and are rarely borrowed, although they cover a wide and interesting range of topics.

All material in our library is now catalogued into two sections. The first catalogue groups all books into subjects; the second is an alphabetical index to pamphlets, newsletters, journals etc. It is hoped this system will help members use our library more easily and efficiently.

The benefit of the library is reflected in its use and an average of 40 books per month are borrowed. Members are generally very co-operative about returning the books each month and only \$13.00 has been collected in overdue fees throughout the year. A total of \$23.50 (from the library petty cash) has been spent on such items as manila folders, filing cards etc. leaving a balance of \$10.50. In addition, a supply of library stationery has also been purchased this year, which includes book pockets, cards, covering and repairing materials.

We now have reached a stage where our library is presented with three problems:

1. Storage - the quantity of books has finally outgrown the locker under the stairs and more storage space is urgently required,
2. Access - as the number of books increases so does the problem of transporting the books up and down the stairs to our meetings. The problem has been overcome this year by the willing help of several able-bodied people and my sincere thanks to all of them.
3. Display - at this stage display is only a minor problem, however, one which needs consideration. The present system of displaying books on the table is becoming more chaotic, and in the near future we shall need a system whereby the books are displayed systematically.

I feel that the library is a valuable research source for our members and needs to be constantly updated and expanded, however, until the problems of storage and access have been considered it will not be possible to make any further additions except on a small scale.

I would ask members to consider and discuss these problems, as a comprehensive, country-based genealogical library is an important asset for country researchers.

Lyn Gorman,  
Librarian.

#### NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

Newsletters from: Bendigo, Ballarat, Yarram, South Gippsland and the Mallee Groups (the Mallee Group is newly formed and covers the Shire of Walpeup - Murrayville, Underbook, Ouyen etc). Also newsletter from G.U.M. (Genealogists using Mini/Micro Computers).

- Bendigo Group's Members' Interests.
- Devon, Information compiled by Terry Grigg (Guest Speaker at our Seminar).
- Register of One-Name Studies 1985.
- Trafalgar & District Historical Society Gazette.
- Narracan Cemetery Memorial Transcriptions.



- 'Caledonia Australis' by Don Watson - Scottish Highlanders on the frontier of Australia.
- 'Chandeliers & Billy Tea' by Peter Cuffley - A catalogue of Australian Life 1880-1940. (Donated by Irene Arnott)
- 'Woods Point & Gippsland General Directory 1866'
- 'The Clans & Tartans of Scotland' by Robert Bain

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A GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT

from the Narracan Shire Advocate, Wed 5th Feb, 1913.

Under the provision of an Act providing for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock, passed on the 31st December, 1912, the previous Act was repealed, and now the birth of any child born in Victoria before the marriage of the parents may be registered by the father at any time after such marriage, provided there was at the time of birth no legal impediment to the marriage, and the child referred to shall be entitled or be declared to have been entitled to all the rights of a child born in wedlock.

Application, accompanied with fees amounting to 15s (for one child), and an information paper containing full particulars, should be made to the Government Registrar of Births and Deaths; and a further fee of 5s will be payable on registration.

Formerly, a child could only be legitimized within six months of marriage.

'SALE PICTORIAL NOSTALGIA'

Family researchers with roots in Sale may be interested in the new publication 'Sale Pictorial Nostalgia'. This book tells the story of early Sale from 1841-1926 in large full-page pictures.

Published by Southern Newspapers Pty. Ltd., Macalister Street, Sale; cost \$5.50. Also available through 'The Express' office in George Street, Morwell.

CAN'T LOCATE THAT BIRTH?

The following may be the reason why :-

Often settlers were many miles from a registration office and the township was only visited every few months. You can visualise the occasion. Pop is in his spring cart and Old Jess is about to jump into a gallop of sorts when Mamma calls out, "Don't forget to register Marmaduke!" - their latest son. Once in the township Pop purchases the necessaries of life, does some haggling over prices and then proceeds to enthusiastically slake his thirst! Arriving home slightly befuddled and weary he is asked, "Did you remember to register Marmaduke?" Of course he remembered - as he returned through the home gate! But these were men worthy of their salt and he shouts in reply, "Of course I did: do you take me for a fool, woman?" !!!

- excerpt from 'Western Ancestor'