



# NEWSLETTER

No. 40

JANUARY, 1989.

Genealogical Society of Victoria  
Mid Gippsland Group

Chairman : Mr G. Sephton, Boolarra

051 - 696285

Secretary : Mr P. Robinson, Mirboo North

056 - 681433

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER :

At our October meeting we had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Gary Pressland from the Police Historical Unit talk about his work in the unit and the holdings that are held there.

The unit is based in the Russell Street Police Garage at present and it was formed in 1987. Our Group was the first genealogical group he had spoken to and he informed us that genealogists were the biggest users of the unit. Perhaps there will be even more work for him and his staff once the word gets around.

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting in November was disappointing, consequently we still need a Junior V.P. and Program Organiser. Hopefully we can resolve the situation at our January Meeting.

Thanks to all the members who have agreed to "share the load" in 1989, everybody must realise if more people were prepared to do a LITTLE bit, the longer serving members would not become disillusioned about the future of the group.

Enough of my grizzles, it's that time of the year again and although its a bit late for Christmas Greetings, may I wish all our members and readers of the newsletter a happy and prosperous year in 1989.

## MEETING DATES FOR 1988 :

The following Thursdays are our meeting dates for this year in the Staff Lounge at Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education.

26th January	23rd February	23rd March
27th April	25th May	22nd June
27th July	24th August	28th September
26th October	23rd November	

## P.R.O. FREE BUS SERVICE - CITY TO LAVERTON :

A free bus service will operate between the Public Record Office City Search Room, 318 Little Bourke Street and the Laverton Repository. The bus will make two return trips daily, Monday to Friday.

To LAVERTON	To CITY
9.30 am	12.15 pm
1.00 pm	4.00 pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1989 :

Following our Annual Meeting on 24th November, listed below are Committee members for 1989.

Chairperson - GREG SEPHTON

Snr. V. Chairperson - BILL WHITE

Jnr. V. Chairperson - To Be Appointed

Secretary - FRANK ROBINSON

Treasurer - IRENE ARNOTT

Librarian - FLORENCE BUTCHER

Assist. BETTY MUSGROVE and SHIRLEY CONNAGHAN

Public Relations - BILL WHITE

Publicity Officer - LYN SEPHTON

Supper Organiser - GLADYS MACREADIE

Newsletter Committee - MELINDA VAN KLAVEREN, DAVID MCINNESS, LYN SEPHTON

Program Coordinator - To Be Appointed

Ancestor Reporter - LYN SEPHTON

Research Officers - DON MACREADIE with others in specific localities.

Beginners Kits Officer - IRENE ARNOTT

Seminar Committee - EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

To the outgoing Committee, thanks for a job well done

To the incoming Committee, good luck for the tasks ahead

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EXTRACT FROM THE 'FAMILY TREE DETECTIVE' :

Educational Records .....

..... there is a detailed school register which gives the names of children and parents, ages, dates of admission, periods of absence and even reasons for absence. My favourite entry is for ten year old George, son of George Podmore of Dunham Massey, who in 1788 'informed me that his mother had leave .... for him to absent from school 3 weeks to take care of the family while his mother assisted Mr Carter to make hay. But they took 10 days more'.

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THE VAGUE FAMILY REUNION by Ian McGown

The Vague family reunion was held at Ballarat and Creswick over the weekend of the 10th and 11th November 1987. The family had lived and worked there during the major part of the gold rush years.

Like so many other Cornish mining families the Vagues migrated first to South Australia. They were attracted to the copper mines where the huge deposits of malachite were said to be literally sticking out of the ground. In the early 1850's rumour spread of the discovery of gold in Victoria. Cornishmen joined the world wide rush to seek the 'glittering prizes'. The realization of that dream was achieved only by the lucky few. The immigrants universally came to a place of hard work and in this pioneering environment enjoyed only few of the amenities of life.

It was appropriate then, that the programme for the reunion provide for an explanation of the life and times of the early settlers in addition to an outline of the family's ancestry.

On Saturday morning members of the family assembled and registered at Craigs Royal Hotel in Ballarat (partly owned by a Vague). The afternoon was devoted to a conducted tour of the early shallow diggings, the deep leads and the the eventual sluicing operations.

The tour embraced a visit to the homes and home sites of members of the the family as well as to the cemetery. It was resolved that a suitable memorial should be erected on the now unmarked grave of our great great grandparents. It is hoped to achieve this on the anniversary of this reunion.

The ceremonial dinner was held in the opulent dining room of Craigs where Prince Albert had also once enjoyed the Victorian splendour. This was the occasion to renew old acquaintances and compare foggy memories and ancient photo albums.

The memorial church service on Sunday was conducted entirely by members of the family and proved yet again that the Wesleyans of Cornish stock had lost none of their singing ability albeit quantity and gusto occasionally disguising a lack of quality.

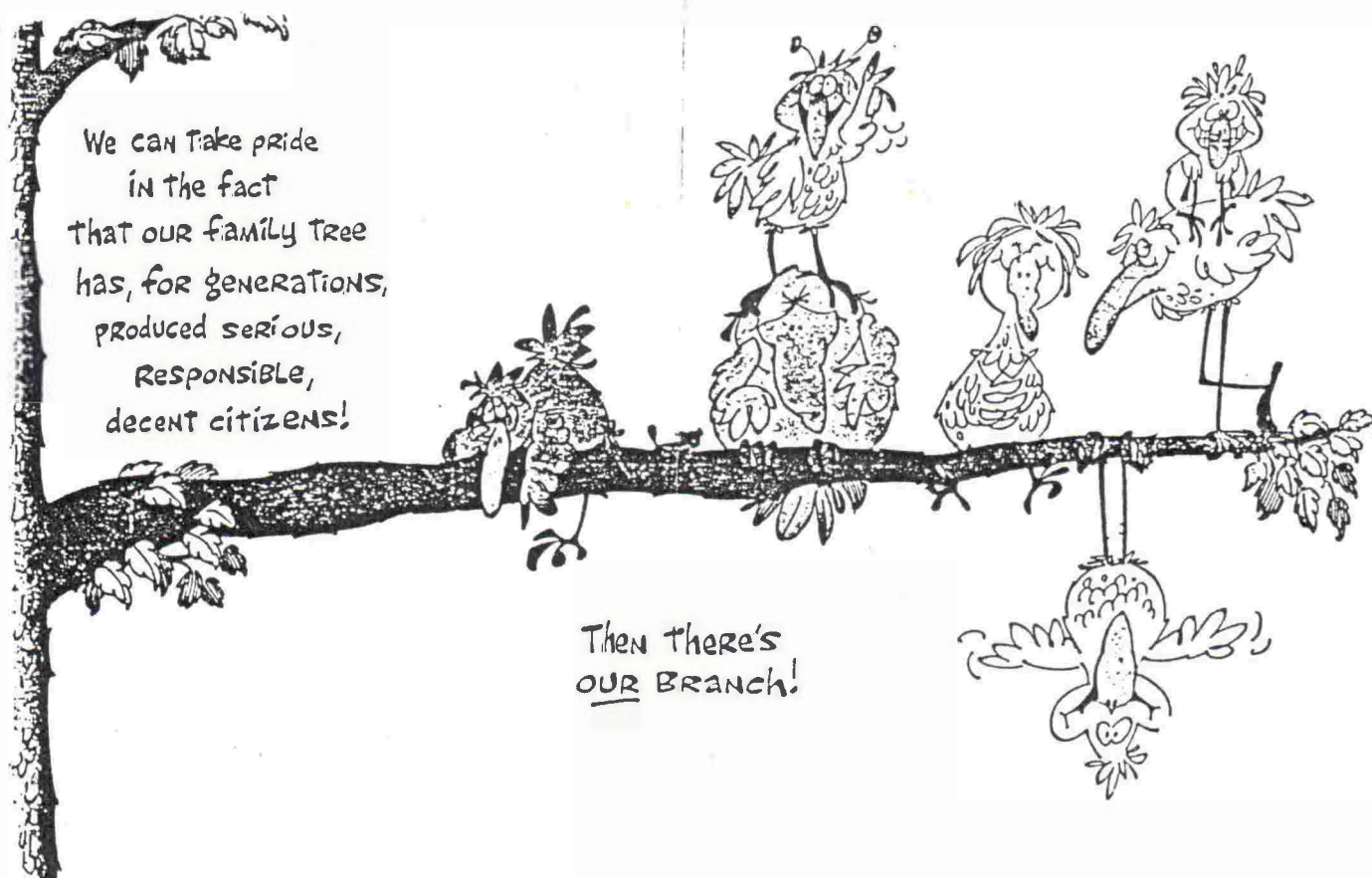
The luncheon menu centred around the ubiquitous Cornish pastie. The afternoon was a period of great conviviality with old friends and a time to inspect the displays of photos and memorabilia.

Our host welcomed members of the family who visited from as far away as New Zealand and Western Australia. These greetings were returned in messages from absent friends from around the world.

Cutting of the ceremonial cake marked the official opening. Appropriately it was decorated with Celtic symbols and the Coat of Arms of the Duke of Cornwall. The book on the Vague Family History was launched during the ceremony and provided the purchasers with a permanent reminder of the family's background.

The traditional photographs of oldest and youngest and the whole group made welcome additions to many a family album.

The occasion was judged a huge success and was particularly savoured by many of the elderly who realized that perhaps they might never meet as broad a gathering of their relatives again.



HELP :

We have practically exhausted our supply of material for your Newsletter. We need items for inclusion in forthcoming issues.

CORRESPONDENCE :

All correspondence should be addressed to our Secretary  
Mr F. Robinson, 8 Baths Road, Mirboo North, 3871.

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Contributions are accepted in good faith and the Newsletter Committee do not accept responsibility for accuracy of information or opinions expressed.

Compiled for the MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP G.S.V. by the Newsletter Committee, Melinda van Klaveren, David McInnes and Lyn Sephton.  
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