



NEWSLETTER

NO. 53, APRIL 1991.
Genealogical Society of Victoria
Mid-Gippsland Group
P.O. Box 767
MORWELL Vic 3840

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SECRETARY: Mrs. Dawn Cowley (Acting) 051 27 1780

1991 PROGRAM - FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

25TH APRIL 1991 - Anzac Day, Social Night
Members to bring supper

23RD MAY 1991 - Speaker on Undertakers Records
Suggestions: John Leckey, Don Weir

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

New Hours:

As from 4 February 1991

Monday	1 pm - 9 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 9 pm
Thursday - Sunday	10 am - 6 pm

SUNDAY OPENING WILL COMMENCE ON 17 FEBRUARY 1991.

"Now it's relatively easy"

The Sun, December 1990.

Donated by Shirley Connaghan.

COMPILING a family tree used to be difficult and time-consuming. Records in Victoria had been poorly organised and sometimes impossible to find. But from December 11, tracing family roots will be a relatively simple process. A new index to Victorian births, deaths, and marriages dating from the beginnings of the colony of Port Phillip and finishing in 1888 has just been completed. The new index will be available to the public at the LaTrobe section of the State Library.

LETTERS OF REPLY TO STATE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS 1990.

Dear Mrs. Dempster,

Thank you for your letter of 14 June, 1990 suggesting that full birth and death certificates should be provided at the time of the registration instead of the extracts.

Births are registered to provide evidence of citizenship, age and parentage for the Victorian born and for statistical purposes. Deaths are registered for probate and statistical purposes. Amendments to the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act in 1959 removed the requirement for informants to personally tend to register a birth or a death and enabled registration by post. The practice of sending an extract is to notify the informant that the registration has been completed. The fees are set to recover the costs. There is little profit margin in them.

Recently, a number of representations similar to yours have been received. A review of the practice of extracts and full certificates has been commissioned. It is expected that new procedures more appropriate to the needs of the community will be instituted.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours Sincerely

R. W. Walsh

Minister for Property and Services

Submitted by Shirley Donnaghan

OWA Magazine Page 12 - November 1990.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ON THE OCCASION OF:

THE ENGAGEMENT OF DAVID MCINNESS

TO FIONA AND BRIAN KEMSLEY - THE BIRTH OF THEIR SECOND SON - ASHLEY JOHN.

WE WISH MELINDA VAN KLAVEREN ALL THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE. MELINDA IS LEAVING THE VALLEY TO PERSUE OTHER ENDEAVOURS. ON BEHALF OF THE MID-GIPPSLAND GROUP, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK HER FOR THE SHORT TERM IN THE POSITION OF SECRETARY.

NEW MEMBER'S INTEREST.

Mrs. Mavis Lucas
P O Box 1052
Traralgon Vic 3844

Mrs. Lucas is researching the following family lines and would be interested to hear from anyone with information.

FATHER'S SIDE:

John Crome Currie of Dunfries, Scotland married at Kyneton to Emily Eve Pinchen.

MOTHER'S SIDE:

William Morris from Aberdeen, Scotland married at West Melbourne to Mary Jane O'Leary from Monahan, Ireland.

I N M E M O R I U M

The club was saddened to learn of the passing on this week of the club's most valuable member - Someone Else.

Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone has been with the club since it first started and did far more than any normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a social function to attend, funds to be raised, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips. "Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was one of the largest contributors to the club; whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed Someone Else would volunteer. Someone Else was a wonderful person - sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Now it is realised, everybody expected too much.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember
WE CANNOT DEPEND ON SOMEONE ELSE ANY MORE -
WHY NOT VOLUNTEER NOW!

Submitted by Mrs. Florence Butcher.

ISLE OF THE DEAD - TASMANIA.

BURIAL GROUND FOR PORT ARTHUR.

The island off Point Puer was originally named Opossum Island, but during most of the convict period it was called "Dead Island". It was the Settlements burial place - for both convict and free. From 1831 to 1877 the island was the final resting place for nearly 2,000 people. Barely an acre in area, it provided graves for 1769 convicts, including Point Puer teenagers, and 180 officials, soldiers, seamen and their families.

The free people were buried in the higher ground and many of their headstones are still standing, although some are difficult to read due to deterioration of the poor quality sandstone which was used. Convicts were buried in unmarked multiple graves, their bodies wrapped in sailcloth, covered with a layer of quicklime and a layer of soil and the grave left ready for the next burial. These graves usually held six or seven bodies and were dug as close together as possible. Convicts were not permitted to have headstones, but in later years there have been nine erected. A burial service was given for all persons.

A resident grave-digger kept graves ready for the next recipient. Once a week a boat sailed the 1 km to the island to take him fresh food supplies and take him ashore that he may attend church.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Story About Nobody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's responsibility. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Submitted by Mrs. Florence Butcher.

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 - The Genealogical Society of Victoria by the Newsletter Committee.

Mrs. Karen Healy and Mrs. Laraine Ramselaar.