

THE  
MID GIPPSLAND  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.  
NEWSLETTER



13th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS  
of the  
MID-GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ON TRACK

FEBRUARY 1994

NO. 70

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1993-1994

PRESIDENT:	Mavis Lynch
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Karen Healy
SECRETARY:	Andree Tumney
TREASURER:	Anne Pawley
LIBRARIAN:	Jean McNally
LIBRARY ASSISTANTS:	Shirley Connaghan Florence Butcher Rosemary Wigg
PUBLICITY OFFICER:	Michelle Freeman
FUND RAISING:	vacant
RESEARCH OFFICER:	Gay Rogers
CEMETERY RECORDS:	Eddie Tunn
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Claire Wood
SCHOOL RECORDS:	Anne Pawley
MISCELLANEOUS:	Michelle Freeman

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Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month except December, at the Moe City Library, Kirk St., Moe. The Library will open at 7pm, with the meetings starting at approximately 7:30pm.

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There is a fee of \$5 for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Please direct all enquiries to The Secretary, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840, and mark the envelope "Research Query".

Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and, while every effort to ensure accuracy, the editor takes no responsibility for submitted items.

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## Leonie Robinson - Members Profile

Hi, I was like most others in the group hoping not to be caught for a members profile, but... I was born at Cummoock in Traralgon in 1954, the first of two daughters to Ray and Ruth Evans (nee Goodwin). My sister Cheryl is two years younger than myself.

I grew up in Traralgon, where my father worked for the railways driving trains. I attended Pax Hill Kindergarten, then Stockdale Road Primary School, before moving on to Traralgon High School in 1969 for 3 3/4 years. On leaving school, I was employed by Kaiser in Traralgon as a machinist.

In December 1971, I married Brian Robinson from Warragul. Brian was a carpenter from Warragul working for a Moe builder, and had been called up for National Service in the Army three months before we were married.

After our marriage, we spent 3 months in Liverpool near Sydney, and then down to Seymour for 8 months. When Brian's National Service was finished, we moved back to Moe where Brian's work was. We have three daughters, Sharon, Christine & Julie, now 21, 19 & 16. Brian is a self-employed builder, employing one of his brothers. I spent the next sixteen or so years bringing up our children, helping Brian (as a slave labourer). Over the years, I've also been a member of the Elizabeth Street Primary School Mothers Club, Albert Street Primary School Parents Club and Newborough High School Tuck Shop.

In 1988, my children gave me a family tree book for Christmas, so I decided it was time to get going on this project. We filled in our book very quickly and ran out of space for more generations we move onto folders and lots of paper.

I have now traced the Robinson's who owned cordial factories in Warragul, Morwell, Leongatha etc., Goodwins of Toongabbie, Evans & Dohertys from Truganian and Tarneit.

The Robinson's history was special for my father-in-law as he knew nothing at all of his family, 6 generations of whom have lived in Warragul. My parents-in-law travelled to Western Australia and met two Aunties, one 99 years old the other 95, and many cousins.

I became a member of the M.G.F.H.S. about 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years ago after many talks with Florence Butcher. I am now totally addicted to finding more about my ancestors' lives in Victoria, as many were very early settlers.

I am a member of the G.S.V. and enjoy projects such as cemetery transcriptions. My daughter, Sharon, is also very keen on discovering family history. The rest of the family has learnt to live with us family history nuts, and don't mind too much. It is always great to get help, and to be able to help others in our quest for history.

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DID YOU KNOW???

That the oldest known advertisement was issued by the English printer William Baxter in 1479, to publish books from his press

THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN  
(continued from the Dec. newsletter)  
contributed by J. G. Rogers

Gippsland Guardian 29-8-1862

Rosedale : "The mails are carried with great punctuality between Sale and Melbourne, and it is a credit to the contractor, Mr George Evanson , who has worse roads to contend with as well as less time allocated. The long talked of bridge at Flynn's Creek was washed away last Sunday, and the mailman with the English mails, had a narrow escape of being drowned, horse and all."

And so at this time the mounted mailman still plodded wearily over the mountains and through the fern-choked gullies. True, he now had the advantage of a packhorse to lead, but the contract time for the conveyance of mails between Melbourne and Sale was 68 hours, 68 hours to cover 140 miles.

Small wonder that the Sale paper scornfully compared the mailman's pace with that of an able-bodied old woman on foot, or the feelings of dissatisfaction increased when the (Melbourne) newspapers arrived in so wet a condition that their addresses were illegible, or that a mailman named Norris turned up minus the mail, the packhorse, loaded with English mails, having wandered away in the scrub between Shady Creek and Moe. The horse was not found for a week afterwards, and it speaks well for the care in their packing that, when found, the mails were all right.



## THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN

(continued)

This was not the only time that Norris lost anything. He seems to have succeeded Jeremiah Conan, and in the "Times" 12-9-1862, he advertises: "Lost at Shady Creek, or on the road between their and the Moe, five one pound notes, whoever will bring them to me, or leave in the Club Hotel Sale, for me, will be rewarded. J. W. Norris, Gippsland Mailman."

The Gippsland Times, 27-2-1863, reports of the floods between Traralgon and Sale, and the crossing of the same by the mailman, John Norris riding one horse and with a packhorse carrying 200lbs of mail.

Gippsland Guardian 17-7-1863

"Bad floods at Rosedale. The mails have been brought to and fro in a boat most kindly lent by the Snake Ridge folks.

At Morwell the contractor, Mr Evanson, finds the Morwell Bridge completely under water, and sends his assistant on the other side back to Mr Lears at the Moe for the night. At 2a.m. the contractor rose, borrowed some old clothes from Mr. Smith of the Morwell Hotel, and started on a voyage of discovery across the bridge.

The hour, the darkness, the solitude, the rush of water, all combined to make this a most courageous feat, and having reached the weather rail of the bridge, Mr. Evanson clung to the outside, and passed along, when he found 3 enormous trees had become jammed in the railings of the bridge, blocking its passage.

THE GIPPSLAND MAILMAN

(continued)

Evanson returned to Morwell, borrowed a saw and some rope. With the latter he roped himself to the bridge and with the former he sawed through the three logs and succeeded in dislodging them.

He finally exchanged mails with his man at the Moe and returned to Sale, delivering his bags at 2p.m.; only five hours after contract time, and exactly twelve hours since he commenced his first attempt to cross the bridge ( and all this in the name of delivering mail."

Guardian 24-7-1863

Petitioners wanting a daily mail from Melbourne. The number of journeys would be double, more pack horses would be needed, but only half the weight of newspapers would come each days. An extra horse would be required however to carry in the English mails. The petition meet with a flat refusal - the postal service between Sale and Melbourne was already over 1000 miles per week, and to boost another 300 miles a week was considered to be financially unwarranted

Guardian 18-9-1863

"Telegraph Line - Mr. Thomas Thomson is the successful tenderer for surveying a telegraph line from Melbourne to Sale and Port Albert, at 45/- per mile.

Thomson worked from Sale, and a Mr Hardy from Port Albert, to meet at a selected point. Most of the line ran through rough virgin, thickly wooded country, but the timing was so good that the surveyors met within a quarter of a mile of the appointed place.

(to be continued)

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## TRIPPING AROUND THE TRACKS

Contribution this issue by Jean McNally and Eddie Tunn.

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE (Sept 1993). Althea Douglas has written a interesting article entitled An Archive Is Not A Library, briefly explaining the differences in approach and philosophy between Libraries and Archives.

MALLEE ROOTS (Nov 1993). June Procter reports that anyone trying to track down relatives in the South Island of New Zealand should try writing to the Otago Early Settler's Museum, 220 Cumberland St., Dunedin, or to the Dunedin Star Weekender.

PENINSULA PAST TIMES (Nov. 1993). Rob Nelson of 60 Corrington Circle, Nollamara. W. A. 6061. is compiling a Shipping Interests Index.

The NSW Registry of BDMs offers a registration number checking service if you have numerous references to the same name, but are unable to determine which entry relates to the person you are seeking. The Registry will check up to 10 registrations for \$20, but you will need to provide registration numbers and all known details.

THISTLE (Oct. 1993) The Scottish General Register Office has announced new fees. For Civil Registration certificates £11/50p. Over the counter, the cost is £8/50p. Parochial registrar certificates (OPR) cost £14 and £11 in person. Personal searches of the registers now cost £15 per day.

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AIGS SEMINAR

ETHNIC IMMIGRATION - 1852 to 1900

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 1994 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$15 members; \$20 non-members \$25:00 family  
No concessions \$5 lunch and teas

SPEAKERS

THE IRISH	Dr. Margaret Pawsey
The Chinese	Morag Loh
The Germans	Walter Struve
The Jews	Dr. Bill Rubinstein
The Italians	Bette Leone Maiuto

Payment required by 11<sup>th</sup> April

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The Italian Historical Society has produced Tracing Your Ancestors - For Victorians, a kit which will help Australians of Italian descent trace their ancestry. Topics covered include details of the location of Civil and Church records in Italy with sample letters in Italian for people who wish to write to Italy for documents.

There is a map showing the regions in Italy and a list of the provinces which make up each region; details of the Govt. Depts, Genealogical Societies, Libraries and other useful addresses; an Italian/English vocabulary of words frequently found in Official documents, and translation of Italian Christian names into English. The kit is available from The Italian Historical Society-Co.As.It., 304 Drummond St., Carlton. Vic. 3053.



13<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS\CHRISTMAS BREAKUP 1994

About 20-25 members, ex-members, families and friends enjoyed our 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary\Christmas Breakup Picnic BBQ and funday at the Willow Grove Property of Dot and Ian Needham. Jean McNally won the raffle. Pictured above member David McInnes & his wife enjoying the day.

Special thanks to Dot and Ian Needham for once again providing such a great setting for our end of year celebrations

# NEWS FLASHES

HERE'S THE  
LATEST INFORMATION  
ON....

## CEMETERIES

WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY RECORDS  
(Register & Headstone transcriptions)  
now available on Microfiche for \$5

Trafalgar Cemetery Microfiche \$7

Hazelwood Cemetery at Morwell  
available Mid 1994

Contact the Mid-Gippsland Family History Society  
P.O. Box 767, Morwell. Vic. 3840 for copies.

## BIGAMY

Did you know that bigamy was not regarded as a civil offence before 1603, many individuals ran away and married again without risk of being caught, and often with a clear conscience.

# WHAT'S ON.

MARCH MEETING	Leon Bartlett of LDS Church on 1881 Census, or if Leon is unavailable, a workshop (see May
APRIL MEETING	GUM Group (Genealogists using microcomputers) talk, demos
MAY MEETING	WORKSHOP - Select and talk about a grandparent from your your ancestry; or Leon Bartlett if he is unavailable for March meeting; booksale
JUNE MEETING	Not finalisd
JULY MEETING	Annual General Meeting

Karyn is also trying to organize speakers from the GSV and the Australian Archives. Talk to Karyn if you're interested in field trips to the AIGS, Port Albert or Laverton.

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An Easter raffle will be drawn at the March meeting.

Hamper	1st prize
\$20 petrol voucher	2nd prize
Easter Egg	3rd prize



Please address all correspondence to: Mid Gippsland Family History Society, Inc., P.O.Box 767, Horwell, Vic 3040.