# **ON TRACK**

## Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

ABN No. 88 735 748 406

# P.O. Box No 767

# Morwell 3840

Issue # 117 June - August 2002

## Website: www.vicnet.au/~mgfhs

## Meetings:

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

Membership fees 2001/2002: Single \$20; Family \$25 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) The library is available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Fees: Gold Coin donation per visit for non – members.

## **Research:**

There is a research fee of \$10 plus a stamped addressed envelope for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Please direct all enquires to The Secretary P.O. Box 767 Morwell 3840 and mark the envelope "Research Enquiry".

## Newsletter:

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

## In This Issue:

Tangil Gold Field Blue Rock Lake Pioneer Wall.Member Profile: Ron Pratt. Library News. Net News.From the Morwell and Mirboo Gazette. A Fatal Accident. The Ridge Picnic.A day in Boolarra. The Mowhawk Minstrels. A Ball in the Mechanics.B. D. M. Certificate addresses. Meeting dates for 2003.

President: Ron Pratt Telephone 03 51681234 Email: bhf@net-tech.com.au

Vice President Vacant

#### <u>Secretary:</u> Sandra Dumble

Telephone 03 51273025 Email: sandian@i-o.net.au

## Treasurer:

David Grant Box 78 Moe 3825 Telephone 0351271505 Email: dgrant@net-tech.com.au

## **Publicity/Editor:**

Kaye O'Reilly 0351221282 Email: macore@i-o.net.au

## Librarian:

Bob Jones Telephone 0356347635 Email: bobjones@dcsi.net.au

## WebMaster:

Wes Halket Telephone Email: wesh@vic.australis.com.au

## **Research:**

Clair Wood Telephone Email clairewo@yahoo.com

#### **Birth Death and Marriage Certificates**

Address updates

Write to: The Registrar-General Registry of B.D.M's

#### Victoria

GPO Box 4332 Melbourne Vic. 3001 \$A17.50 ☎ (03) 1300 369367 ➡ <u>http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/</u> Search "MAXI" online http://www.maxi.com.au

#### Tasmania

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#### **Northern Territory**

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Queensland Queensland State Archives 435 Compton Road Runcorn QLD 4113 PO Box 1397 Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109 ☎ (07) 3875 8755 Facsimile: (07) 3875 8764 E-mail: <u>qsa@iie.qld.gov.au</u> <u>■http://www.archives.qld.gov.au</u>

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## Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. Meeting Dates for 2003

General meetings are held on the Fourth Thursday of each month, except December. In the Meeting Room of the Moe Library in Kirk Street. Rooms open 7 p.m. Meetings start time 7.30 p.m. *Enter via the back entrance of the Library.* 

January 23, 2003 February 27, 2003 March 27, 2003A April 24, 2003 May 22, 2003 June 26, 2003 July 24, 2003 August 28, 2003

September 25, 2003 October 23, 2003 November 27, 2003

#### Committee Meetings are held on the week prior to the General Meeting. Wednesday at 12 noon in the meeting room at the Moe Library

January 15, 2003 February 19, 2003 March 19, 2003 April 16, 2003 May 14, 2003 June 18, 2003 July 16, 2003 August 20, 2003 September 17, 2003 October 15, 2003 November 19, 2003

The Secretary: Sandra Dumble -- 🖀 (03) 5122 1282 -- 💻 sandian@i-o.net.au

# Ron Pratt {continuing from Pam Pratt}

#### When and why did you get started on your family history?

I think the main impetus followed a 'Pratt family reunion' at Ellenbank in 1988. We obtained a brief outline of the early Pratt history and details of the descendants of George Pratt and Elizabeth Treadwell who were the basis of the reunion. Pam spent many hours in the library, on the internet, GRD and countless other sources researching further branches of my family and all the branches of her own family.

During Pam's illness and subsequent death from cancer, I have endeavoured to maintain the research and update existing families.

#### What names are you researching?

The number of names keeps increasing the further back you research. Names listed in the GRD include Aldous, Baker, Barker, Bloodworth, Douglas, Herring, Hiam, Hornblow, Jolley, Lumsden, Oxley, Pascoe, Pratt, Sampson, Sims, Sinclair, Skewes, Storey, Treadwell, Weaver, Woodcock, & Wright.

I expect to gain a large amount of new information following up on contacts made at the 'Treadwell family reunion held at Geelong on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October 2002. This was for descendants of Thomas Treadwell and Martha Hornblow who were the parents of Elizabeth Treadwell.

#### How far back have you researched?

The earliest confirmed ancestor was William Aldous of Fressingfield, UK born about 1450. He was an ancestor of Pam. Pam being 15 generations from him.

#### Who were your first ancestors to arrive in Australia?

Many came out about the same time. Charles Herring sailed from Plymouth on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1849 on the "Sir George Seymour' arrived at Pt. Henry, Geelong on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1849. Thomas Treadwell and Martha arrived at Pt Henry on 28th October 1849. The first Pratt arrived at Pt. Henry on13th Jan. 1853.

The Pratt's and the Treadwell's both at Gnarwarre and later moved to Poowong Nth.

#### Who is your favorite ancestor?

No real favorite but I admire their spirit and resolve to overcome extremely tough conditions. When you read the conditions they endured on the voyage out and for some years after till they became settled, you really wonder about these so called refugees who want every comfort when they arrive.

#### What is your most interesting find so far?

I think Pam would have said finding distant relatives who have researched their ancestors and you can then exchange a lot of information thus saving many hours research. The Aldous ancestor from 1450 was one of these.

#### If the tree wish fairy would give you the answer to one question. What would that be?

I would say confirmation that the Barker's in my family tree were coachmakers to Queen Victoria. Pam would probably have said the solution to the alleged murder in Lilydale probably involving one of her ancestors.

## Want your newsletter e-mailed?

Members or Groups may register to have their Newsletter sent via E-MAIL.

If you would accept an e-mail version of the Newsletter please register with "The Secretary", Sandra Dumble whose address is on the front page.

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# TANGIL GOLD FIELD

Tangil was a gold mining settlement about three miles due north of the present township of Willow Grove. In the year 1848 **F. Brodribb**, **W. Pearson** and **H. Reoch** were granted leases of two cattle runs, one of which, *Tanjil Hills*, gave the town its name. Tangil is an aboriginal name meaning "*the place of snow or frost*".

Gold was first discovered in this area in 1858. This area is now being covered by the waters of Blue Rock Lake. Gold was first discovered by **Hugh Massey Stewart**, but first officially reported at Alberton by **Edward William Gladman**. Most gold was alluvial, but some nuggets were found in the surrounding gullies and hills – the largest being 37 ounces. Other recorded nuggets were from Blue Rock, 12 ounces; Californian Gully, 17 ounces; Klondike, 14 ounces.

The reefs and leads in the hills were rick in gold, the Empire Reef yielding five and a half ounces to the ton. Other reefs were Gumsucker, Golden Crown, New Year, Moonlight, Blue Rock, Cement Hill. The last machinery was moved from Blue Rock to Tasmania in 1910.

Tangil township was founded in 1867 and soon there were houses, two stores, two hotels, a post office, a school, a police station and a recreation reserve to service the needs of the miners and their families.

One facility which has been impossible to locate is the Tangil Cemetery, supposedly containing about 30 graves, though there is only positive evidence that 6 children and 3 adults were buried there. Other lone graves are known to be scattered throughout the area.

Tangil and other residents were serviced by vehicles travelling on a track through Shady Creek to Walhalla bringing goods from Melbourne. Other dray and bush tracks criss crossed the district bringing goods from Port Albert and other places.

After the mining boom, farming was the main occupation, and the name **Tangil** had now become **Tanjil**.

Further evidence of progress is now seen with the waters of Blue Rock Lake covering a place where many years ago people once worked and lived.



## The above has been transcribed from a plaque on the Pioneer Wall at Blue Rock Lake:

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# BLUE ROCK LAKE PIONEER WALL

This plaque is to commemorate the pioneers of old Tanjil and surrounding districts, who cleared the forests on these hills and opened up the area for mining and farming in the latter part of the eighteen hundreds, and whose efforts to survive, through many hardships, will not be forgotten.

In recognition and appreciation of GEORGE & ISABELLA BELL and family settled in the Tanjil Valley 1879.

In recognition of CHARLES & MARGARET BLOYE arrived at Russells Creek 1879. Settled at Hill End mid 1880's.

In recognition of the contribution made by the BURGESS & MOORE families in pioneering the Tanjil Valley.

In recognition of EDWARD & JANE CRONIN and family selected property known as "Bon Hill" at Fumina South approximately 1885.

In recognition of DAVID & HARRIET ESPIE arrived at Russells Creek early 1860's settled at Hill End 1880.

True pioneers PATRICK, LIZ. FARRELL selected 1885 "Killarney" Blue Rock. Remembered by all descendants In recognition of ERNST WILHELM & AUGUSTE HULDA FECHNER who settled in Willow Grove 1878.

In appreciation of the contribution of JESSE & ESTHER HASTHORPE Arrived at Russells Creek 1860's. Later selected land at Tanjil South

In recognition and appreciation of PETER & MARY HUNTER and family who selected land on the Tanjil River 1879.

In recognition of THOMAS & MARGARET BAIRD IRVINE and family who settled in Willow Grove 1865

In recognition of the achievements of FARQUHAR & ELLEN LAMONT and HECTOR & MARY LAMONT who settled in the Hill End area during the 1880's.

In recognition of the services of ANDREW & RACHAEL LECKEY and family settled in the area 1870's.

In recognition of MR JOHN GEORGE LUDWIG and family who settled in the Willow Grove district in 1880 and opened the first Post Office.

In recognition and appreciation of JOHN & FRANCES MacPHERSON who selected land on the Latrobe River 1886.

In recognition and appreciation of the achievements of THOMAS & ANN NEEDHAM and family who settled in Willow Grove 1872.

In recognition of JOHN PAUL & family arrived at Russells Creek early 1860's.

In recognition of HENRY & JESSIE CAMPBELL ROBINSON and family who settled in Willow Grove 1884.

In recognition and appreciation of the achievements of HENRY GEORGE and VICTORIA MARGARET STAFF who settled on land at Westbury 1875.

To commemorate the achievements of WILLIAM JEFFREY & VIOLET MCNEIL TURNBULL and family whose association with the Tanjil Valley dates back to 1867

In recognition of the achievements of JOSEPH SAMUEL & CLARA VARNEY and family who settled at Russells Creek 1862.

In recognition of CORA E. VARNEY and family. Early settlers of the Tanjil Valley.

To commemorate the achievements of CHARLES JAMES & ESTHER WALKER and family settled on the Latrobe River 1870.

To commemorate the achievements of THOMAS WEBB & family who selected land at Hill End 1883.

In recognition of the pioneering family of WILLIAM HAMILTON WHITTAKERS of "Tanjil Hills Station" 1884.

In recognition of CHARLES HENRY & ELIZABETH WILLIAMS and family settled at Tanjil 1875.

In recognition of JOHN & ANN WILSON and family settled in Tanjil East (Becks Bridge Road) 1879.

The above has been transcribed from plaques on the Pioneer Wall at Blue Rock Lake by Sandra Dumble

#### The Morwell & Mirboo Gazette

New Years Day 1886

#### The Ridge Picnic

#### Tues 5th Jan

The annual gathering on the Ridge, at Morwell, on New Years Day, attracted a large number of residents, including their wives and families, and everything passed of very pleasantly. The various sports for the children attracted large fields, and thanks to the exertions of Messrs. Firmin, Rintoull, Gooding and others, prizes were given to nearly boy and girl on the ground. For the older members various exhilerating (sic) but harmless games were indulged in, refreshments being freely distributed to those who felt inclined to eat and drink. The list of winners is rather long, so we will be excused if we do not publish it. Nearly £25 was given away in prizes. The tug of war at the exclusion of the day proved very exiting, and so well matched were the men that was really hard to say which side won. A second tug of war Hazelwood v. Morwell - was a hollow defeat for the later, who hadn't a leg to stand on.

#### **The Mowhawk Minstrels**

On New Years Night the Mowhawk Minstrels gave a very nice entertainment in the Mechanics Institute, in aid of the funds for clearing the proposed racecourse. Although not crammed, the hall was fairly filled, with an appreciative audience., the several songs rendered, receiving wellmerited applause. All the members wore Black crape on their arms out of respect to the late Mr. W. McCrae Murdoch, who was the first to propose their visit. At the conclusion of the performance, Mr W. Waldon, on behalf of the club, thanked those present for their attendance, and a vote of thanks to the performers was also passed on the motion of Mr. G. Firmin. The hall was then cleared for dancing, which was kept up with vigor until 6a.m., fully 75 couples being present. Owing to the heavy expense of bring the company to Morwell, we are informed that the additions to the funds of the club will not be extensive.

#### **Ball in the Mechanics.**

On Boxing night a ball was held in the Mechanics Institute, in aid of the funds of the Morwell Roman Catholic Church, and was in every way a great success. Dancing was commenced shortly after 8 p.m., and was kept up with much spirit until nearly midnight. Messrs. Lott and Moore supplied the music and Mr. J. Rintoull acted as M.C. We understand that fully £15 has been added to the funds of the church.

#### A Day in Boolara (G.A.P.)

#### Tuesday Augest 10th 1886

The fates having arranged that a day should be spent in the above township, I made up my mind to make the most of it, and must now admit that a most enjoyable day was passed. To those who do not know where Boolara is, for their information I may inform them it is twelve miles from Morwell, on the Mirboo line. Like a good many other places in Gippsland, it has sprung up since the opening of the railway, and its progress has been very rapid. It is rather pleasantly situated on the Little Morwell, which is joined by O'Grady's Creek just on the outside of the township, so that the place will always have a permanent supply of water. I here fell in with Burke, who was the finder of the coal seam that is now being talked so much about. He kindly offered to show me the seam so having procured a candle we set out. At a distance of about a mile from the township on the banks of the Little Morwell, the seam has been prospected and a tunnel driven a distance of 150 feet. There was a quantity of coal lying at the mouth, and the sample - in my humble opinion is first-class, a good color, (sic) and many of the pieces were 18 inches square. We went inside the tunnel, and I measured the seam, which averaged a little over three feet. and the further we went the better the coal appeared to get. It is splendid country for working in, a small seam from six to nine inches making a very safe roof, and as the seam is rising there is a good fall for the water, and the mine is thus able to drain itself. After emerging from the tunnel (I hardly felt happy while there) we went about thirty chains higher up the creek, where I was shown the same seam again. In this place it is identically the same as lower down, so it is proved the seam is of good width. Coming back again on the opposite side of the creek, I was again shown the seam, and up on the hill a shaft is being put down to strike it. It is now sunk ninety feet, and at 130 it is expected the seam will be met. The prospects of the seams are indead encouraging; the railway runs right alongside, from the line to the tunnels mouth is no more than 100 yards, and anyone travelling in the train can see it plainly. Timber is very plentiful, and any that might be required for mining purposes is thus, happily, very handy. Should the company that is now being floated be successful, there is every reason to be certain of a prosperous era for Boolara, as the easy facilities make success certain. The company have nearly 700 acres of land from the Government, and the coal shows prominently all through it, while immediately adjoining it on the back another company have taken up an area of 4000 acres, which will soon be placed on the market, if it has not already been done. On our way back we called at Hoffman's mill, which has lately been erected here, and the blue gum that was being cut was a very clean sample. There are two small engines of ten and eight horsepower respectively, and a good deal of timber is got through in the day; a tramway a mile long has been laid connecting the mill with the station. It is a pretty walk from the mill to the township, the tramway following the windings of the creek upon which the mill is situated. We got back in time to hear the several candidates for municipal honors address a number of residents, and I came tho the conclusion that I had to come away only to soon.---Express.

The Morwell and Mirboo Gazette Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1885.

#### FATAL ACCIDENT

Quite a gloom was cast over the township of Morwell on Saturday evening last, when it became known that Mr W. McCrae Murdoch, eldest son of Mr. W. Murdoch, one of the oldest residents had been thrown from his horse and killed. The particulars at first to hand were very puzzling, several different accounts of the cause of the accident being related. Now that the enquiry has been held the true facts have been elicited. It appears that the special train which conveyed the Governor and party to Sale travelled between Morwell and Traralgon by ticket, the staff, being retained at Morwell for Mr. Robb's engine, which was to pass through afterwards for Traralgon. Unfortunately Mr. Robb's engine met with an accident and Mr. J Woodcock, the stationmaster, found it necessary to send the staff to Traralgon in order that the goods train could come on, and it was in the execution of this errand that the deceased met his death. We give these particulars in order to make the reason clear why it was that the staff were detained at Morwell. From the evidence given at the enquiry, it has been ascertained that the deceased arrived at Traralgon, handed the staff to the station manager there, and immediately returned towards Morwell. Having passed through the railway gates, he was next seen by a son of Mr. Scott, a ganger on the line, riding on the road, when suddenly both horse and rider disappeared. Mr. Scott immediately ran to the spot, and there found deceased in an unconscious state. Subsequently he took him to Traralgon on a trolly, and although still breathing on arrival there he expired shortly after. The sad new on reaching Morwell was received with profound regret, the deceased having resided here from his childhood and was a general favorite. In his public position as assistant at the railway station, he had gained the respect with all of whom he was brought in contact; and in private life he was ever foremost to assist in the social advancement of his fellow townsmen. Words cannot express the loss which Mr and Mrs Murdoch have sustained by the death of their son, the shock to Mrs. Murdoch being so great as to occasion a very serious illness. Mr.Geo. Murdoch, brother of the deceased, travelled over 250 miles in order to pay the last tribute of brotherly love, and with his brothers and sisters feels the loss very much. The remains of the deceased were followed to the Morwell cemetery this morning by a long precession of sorrowing friends, upwards of 50 buggies and 70 horsemen being in attendance, clearly indicating the esteem in which the deceased was held.

#### Statements made before S.Vary, Esq., J. P.

Joseph Woodcock sworn, deposed: --

I am stationmaster at the Morwell railway station. I knew the deceased. He was a porter at the station, and on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. I had occasion to send the staff to Traralgon otherwise than by rail. I sent the deceased with it, and he left Morwell at about 3.40 p.m. in a trap, and was to catch his own horse in a paddock some three miles from Morwell on the Traralgon road. I did not see him alive after he left to go to Traralgon. Deceased was sober, steady and reliable, and , I believe, a fair horseman.

#### John Archibald Mowbray sworn, deposed: --

I am stationmaster at Traralgon. I remember the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., and on the afternoon of that day at about 5.10 p.m. the deceased came to me with the staff. He was on horseback and when he handed me the staff he did not get off, but immediately returned towards Morwell. Deceased was perfectly sober. He was not riding at a fast pase but rode away steadily. At 6.30 p.m. I heard that deceased had met with an accident., and I wnt to where I heard he was, and found the line repairers bringing him in on a trolly to Traralgon. Deceased was then breathing, but died about 7.50 p.m.

Thomas Duck sworn, deposed: --

I am a platelayer, and reside in a gatehouse about a mile and a half from Traralgon. I remember the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. About 5.30 p.m. I saw the deceased ride through the railway gates. He seamed to be sober and was riding steadily towards Morwell.

Charles Scott sworn, deposed: --

I am 14 years of age, and reside reside with my parents on the road between Morwell and Traralgon, about two miles from the later place. On the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. I was in the garden, and I saw the deceased riding a brown mare down a hill close to where I was, and going in the direction of Morwell. Deceased was proceeding at a sharp canter. I suddenly saw both horse and rider disappear, and then I called my father, who ran to where the deceased was lying. I caught the horse. There are a number of trees on the road where the accident occurred. There was no one near the deceased when he fell.

## Library News

New to the Library are the following:

"Index to Extra Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates No.18". Produced by Dawn Cowley

"Our Past Together" History of Morwell Park Primary School by Brett Godden

*The following were donated by Wes Halket* "Purvis for Survis" History of Purvis Stores in Latrobe Valley.

"Our Yallourn" History of Yallourn by Lauris Stanger-Brill.

"Yallourn was....." History of Yallourn by Prue McGoldrick.

"The Old Brown Coal Mine", History of the Yallourn Open cut mine. by Kath Ringin.

"Yallourn Power Station", Story of the Yallourn Power Station. by Colin Harvey

"Genealogical Research Directory 2002" No need for explanation.

"Across the Old Bush Track" History of Hernes Oak and the Haunted Hills. by Dorothy Squires-Taylor.

## NET NEWS

I found this tip for **protecting your address book** in 'Origins', The Newsletter of the Cairns FHS.

*Aileen Park* suggests you add a 'New Contact' to your address book. Type AAAAAAA in the name field and <u>WormAlert@somewhere.com</u> in the e-mail address field.

Aileen's theory is "The name AAAAAAA will be placed at the top of your address book as entry #1. This will be where a worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends. When it tries to send itself to AAAAAAA, it will be undelivered because of the phoney e-mail address you entered. (WormAlert@somewhere.com) If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the phoney address) the worm goes no further and your friends will not be infected." The second advantage to this is "If an e-mail cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your inbox almost immediately. Hence, if you ever get an e-mail addressed to WormAlert@somewhere.com and it is undelivered, you will know right away you have the worm virus in your system. You can take steps to get rid of it."

(I tried this and for some reason the address went to third place in my address book. The theory however is sound and well worth the small effort it takes to put into place.)

# NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

August - November

The "Mallee Stump" has an article detailing Handy Hints from the *Carry On* Cookbook. "Port Phillip Pioneers Group" has a list of the more notable *early newspapers*.

Benalla & District "Roses & Thorns" has an article outlining The *Wilkins* Family Reunion last March.

Bass Coast "Reflections" *Early Phillip Island Settlers* pages feature **John David McHaffie** and **Robert Gall.** 

"Peninsula Past Times" had these articles: Details on the application changes for **Victorian B.D.M's**:

A story about Frances Edwards, a child pioneer: A list of Unclaimed Burial Deeds.

"South East Family History Group" lists WEB site addresses to assist you in your search for **Cornish Ancestors, Christopher Sharam's** obituary from the **Border Watch** plus an article on **Dr David Hastings Young.** 

"Nathalia Genealogy Group" has a new Web Page at

#### http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/users/valk/index.html.

If you have been looking for a recipe for **Sheeps Head Pie** you'll find it in this newsletter along with some other oldies!

#### Members take note:

This is your Newsletter... Why not use it to help in your research? Deadline for articles is the first Wednesday of February, May, August, and November.

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

## Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc., MEMBERSHIP FORM

Cut out and post with your cheque to: The Secretary, MGFHS, ...PO Box 767, Morwell 3840

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