



ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

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Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.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 2006/2007: Single \$25; Family \$30 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, minimum 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".

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Family History Week offerings

Contributors:

Vicki Evans, Helen McLennan, Vaughan & Brian Knox, Kaye O'Reilly,

Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. Writing Competition - 2007

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

**Congratulations go to Vaughan Knox, for her story
'MARTHA BARR'**

Without the support of their womenfolk it is doubtful if the men who pioneered our country would have succeeded as well as they did. Martha was certainly one woman whose support of her husband and family made possible their travels and successful lives.

Martha was my great-great grandmother and I follow her through the female line of the family.

It could not be said that her life was an easy one. She was born in Paisley, Scotland, on 19th. April, 1830, the elder daughter of Robert Barr and Martha Glen. At this time the weaving industry of Paisley was experiencing a recession and standards of living which were already low were reduced even more. Children were sent to work in the factories at a very young age and worked long hours for very little pay. However little they received it did supplement the family income. Martha was one of these children and often set off for work without any breakfast. Many families had left Scotland for other lands and opportunities to better themselves.

So difficult were the times that one newspaper would be passed from one family to another, a leg of mutton was used by several families to make each a pot of soup. Each family would pay a small coin for the privilege. Robert and Martha also made the decision to seek a better life and set sail aboard the "Robert Benn" arriving in Melbourne on 26.1.1842, with son John and Martha. Their sister Mary died on the voyage, she was just three years of age.

Robert was an Elder of the Presbyterian Free Church and its congregation had diminished so much with the exodus of families that the church was forced to close. He was presented with the church Bible which had been printed in Amsterdam in 1643. This Bible came with the family and is still in existence today. After a short stay in a camp on Batman's Hill Robert obtained employment as a shepherd in the Glenelg district of western Victoria where the family lived in a hut on the banks of the Glenelg River.

When Martha was twelve years old she tried to rescue two men who were trying to cross the river on their return from delivering a flock of sheep to Adelaide from N.S.W. She had launched their small boat but lost an oar and was saved from being swept away when they jumped into the river. These men were also from Scotland and spent quite some time living and working with the family, making wagon parts and doing repairs for passing vehicles.

Martha and her family later moved to Melbourne where her father successfully invested his savings by purchasing cottages. Martha was employed as a cook in the kitchen of Government House. She caused great concern when the head cook became ill and important guests were invited to dinner. Martha had to prepare the meal and served soup which still had the shredded vegetables included. This was not the done thing in polite circles, but the guests enjoyed their soup and this became the regular way of serving it. Martha was promoted to Head Cook.

While walking along a Melbourne street one day Martha was delighted to meet one of the young men she had tried to rescue many years earlier. It was George Mackinlay. His memories of her must have been happy ones as he proposed to her there and then! They were married on May 14th. 1852 in Melbourne and their first home was in the Shire of Bulleen on the farm "Deep Creek".

They remained in the area for twenty four years, moving location several times, but always engaged in mixed farming. During this time their eleven children were born. Three died as children, Robert at ten, Mary, sixteen and Catherine, three. While George and the boys tended the

farm, Martha and the girls kept house, and Martha had goats to supply milk. Her favourite "Nanny" was not past foraging in the neighbour's garden. When the elderly bearded fellow shot "Nanny" Martha was not impressed. Her usual quiet disposition was replaced by a fiery temper and she seized the beard and refused to let go until George appeared on the scene to restore calm.

John Barr, Martha's brother had been working and training horses and bullocks on various stations and told them of good country in N.S.W. He and George set off to investigate the area leaving Martha and the family to run the farm. Eventually two selections were taken up near Temora on the Mimosa Creek, one in George's name and one in Martha's securing as much land as the law allowed. George, George Jnr. and John Barr travelled to what was to become their new home taking horses and a dray loaded with provisions. Martha was again left responsible for the family and farm. Terms of the selection required a residence to be built and the land fenced, and that it had to be occupied for five years. A bark hut was the first residence but a house was later built on the eastern bank of the creek. It is still occupied today.

On completion of the house in July, 1876 George returned to Melbourne to bring Martha and the children to the home he had built himself with timber from their property "Linton." They went by train to Wodonga and then probably by coach and spring cart or dray. In 1877 they again returned to Melbourne with the five youngest children to transport the rest of their household belongings and various livestock over four hundred miles to "Linton". The two oldest boys had remained at "Linton". Along the way the family would camp at night and had to endure some very wet weather, particularly in Victoria.

Life was even harder for Martha and her family. Drought over the next two years meant the loss of almost all their livestock. They were left with a few poddy calves and goats. Kangaroos ate what little pasture there was and cattle from a neighbouring property strayed into "Linton". The men were forced to work away for long periods. Martha and the children cleared land and maintained their farm.

At last things were looking better. Crops were planted and harvested. A flock of sheep formed the beginning of a fine wool flock. Gold was discovered in 1879 and large numbers of miners arrived. Martha was in demand as the local midwife. A school opened in tents at Temora and Martha took the children to live in a bark house so they could attend. When a typhoid epidemic broke out they returned home. The whole family was infected but all recovered.

More land was selected, some of the children married and moved onto their own farms. Crops flourished and more settlers had come into the area. George, a devout Presbyterian, had built a small church known fondly as the little tin tabernacle, and often conducted the service. Martha's circle of friends grew and life was at last able to be enjoyed.

George died quietly seated in his armchair in 1902, and Martha began to live in the past. Her daughter Ellen and her husband cared for Martha who needed constant attention. Martha believed she was still at "Linton" and would wander away from the house and become lost. One of her grandsons was appointed to keep an eye on her and he loved to hear the stories she would tell him of her early life.

Although she was small in stature and had worked hard her general health was always good. She died peacefully on the first of July 1911 and rests with George in the Temora cemetery.

I have no doubt she was a fine representative of the women of that era whose contribution to the early times of Australia made our country what we enjoy today.

Author Vaughan Knox

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Congratulations go to Helen McLennan for her story

THE REVEREND JOHN GREGSON



The Reverend John Gregson was born 20th September 1822 and christened at the George Street Baptist Church, Kingston upon Hull, East Yorkshire, England. His parents, William Gregson and Hannah Shepherd were from a farming family of Bishop Burton, a village about three miles west of Beverley situated on the main road leading from York and about nine miles north of Hull. The village is a charming rural retreat delightfully situated in a hollow amidst waving woods and plantations. The town of Kingston upon Hull is a seaport, founded by King Edward I. It is 39 miles from York.

As a young man John Gregson was attracted to preaching and Sunday school work and would walk long distances every Sunday to his class. He was persuaded to take up the ministry as his life work.

After completing his ministry training at Rawdon College near Leeds, Yorkshire, John Gregson attended the Glasgow University for sections of the arts and medical lectures he required. He then entered the ministry.

His first charge was a small town in the north of Scotland and was followed by periods in Bideford in Devonshire, Mills Hill near Manchester and Beverley in Yorkshire. An opening then became available in the foreign mission field, this he accepted, and in 1854 he traveled to India as a missionary under the Missionary Society. John was stationed at Benares in the Bengal Presidency, India.

In Calcutta he met Fanny Ann Hardinge to whom he was married in a service held at the house of the Baptist Missionary, Benares on 22nd January 1856. Fanny was born on 12th November 1839 at Copipore, India to George Henry Hardinge and his wife, Mary. George was a draftsman and Sergeant, Foundry, at Copipore.

John and Fanny were stationed at Benares with a missionary senior to him when the Indian Mutiny broke out. Their first son William Hardinge Gregson was only 18 months old. It was arranged that the senior missionary should take the two families to Calcutta for safety. When the request was made to headquarters for a chaplain and none other was available, John Gregson volunteered to serve as chaplain to the army with Major-General Sir Henry Havelock. He remained with the troops and was at Cawnpore soon after the dreadful massacre there.



He was in many engagements and received the Indian Medal. On the declaration of peace he left the army and accepted a call to the Havelock Chapel, Agra, named after its builder, where, in addition to the European congregation, he ministered to a Christian native village. His life at Agra was a busy one. In addition to his ministerial duties, he took great interest in the soldiers, a detachment of whom would parade regularly to the chapel to hear him. His interest was shown by having a regular social at his house, when sometimes as many as 80 would sit down to tea. The singing of the soldiers was an enjoyed feature of these meetings.

In 1865 John Gregson obtained a well-earned furlough and visited England. He was warmly welcomed and his addresses in the various parts of the country where spoke, were well received and reported by the newspapers. After 18 months he returned to Agra, leaving his two eldest sons at school in England.

In 1871 John and Fanny decided to travel to Australia rather than part with any more of their family as by then they had two more sons and two daughters. Prior to their departure a long article in 'The Delhi Gazette, Wednesday, December 27, 1871 reported from Agra on two testimonial meetings held to farewell them. The first meeting held by the Soldiers Christian Association was on 2 December and the second, which was convened by their friends at the Haveloch Baptist Chapel, Agra was on 19 December. The article included a copy of the glowing testimonial presented to John together with Rs. 500 enclosed in a pretty handbag.

The family arrived in Melbourne on the ship 'James Service' on 26th March 1872. On board were Rev John Gregson, his wife Fanny Ann and their children, James Cheetham 8, Frances Hannah 5, John Blewitt 3 and Marion Ross 2. Their eldest two sons, William Hardinge 16 and Robert Shepherd 14 arrived in Melbourne from England in September 1872 on the ship "Somersetshire".

So began their life in Australia. After a short visit to Adelaide, John Gregson accepted a call to a church in Kyneton. Here their daughter Florence Gertrude was born. Following 5 years in Kyneton he accepted a call to the Baptist Church, Bendigo. During his time there, the church was freed from debt, additions were also made and paid for. Also during the six years in Bendigo, three more daughters were born, Mary Louisa, Alice and Emma.

The family then moved to Melbourne and John accepted a call to the Union Church in Glen Eira Road, Caulfield. In 1889, this church was burnt down during the night following a social evening, held to celebrate the final payment on the cost of extensions that had been made. A new church was built around the corner in Orrong Road and John continued his work there until his retirement in 1892 due to failing health. When his health improved he continued to conduct services at Elsternwick on the first Sunday of each month and at Bacchus March on the last Sunday of the month.

Fanny Ann died 15th July 1895. Rev. John died 22nd June 1900. They were both buried in the St Kilda Cemetery in a family grave. Also buried in this grave were their daughters Frances Hannah Burgess, Emma Gregson, Florence Gertrude Gregson and Marion Ross Gregson. Their granddaughter Frances Menie Gregson, eldest daughter of their son, William Hardinge Gregson was also buried there in 1910.



The Gregson Family Grave at The St Kilda Cemetery Melbourne

Sources used:

In Memoriam from 'The Southern Baptist' July 12, 1900

'The Delhi Gazette' December 27, 1871

BDM Certificates

Notes from H.E. Gregson

Notes on Bishop Burton & Kingston upon Hull by GENUKI

Heroes of Britain in Peace & War by Edwin Hodder

Author Helen McLennan

CHECK THE MGFHS WEB SITE FOR UPDATES TO THIS PROGRAM

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs>



MID GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PRESENTS

A FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

ON SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER 2007

At the MOE TOWN HALL in ALBERT STREET, MOE

10AM – 4PM

ENTRY COST \$10 per person

TOPICS:

IMMIGRATION RECORDS: JENNY CARTER

BEGINNING EUROPEAN RESEARCH: YVONNE IZATT

ITALIAN RESEARCH: DIANA HOOKHAM

DUTCH RESEARCH: PAUL KRIEK



Sponsored by the Latrobe City Council

PLUS A SPEAKER FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA

LUNCH BREAK: 12 TILL 1 PM

There are ample places to purchase lunch near the Moe Town Hall. If you want to bring your lunch there will be tables provided inside the Town Hall.

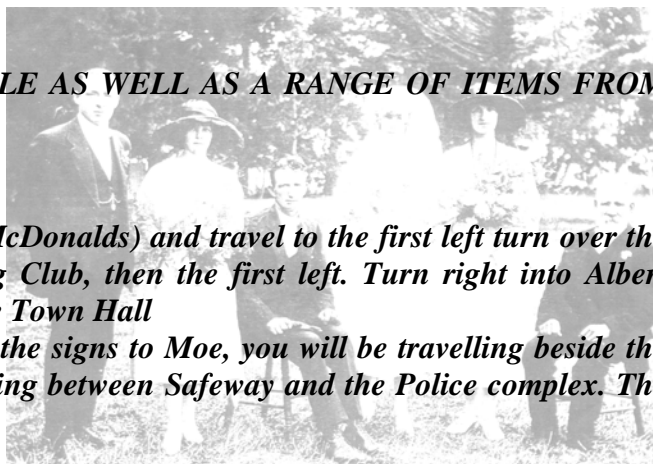
FREE Tea and Coffee will also be provided.

MGFHS PUBLICATIONS WILL BE ON SALE AS WELL AS A RANGE OF ITEMS FROM MACBETH'S

GETTING THERE:

From Melbourne, take the first Moe exit (at McDonalds) and travel to the first left turn over the railway tracks, turn right towards the Racing Club, then the first left. Turn right into Albert Street before K-Mart and follow the road to the Town Hall

From Sale, take the first Moe exit and follow the signs to Moe, you will be travelling beside the railway track, go around the roundabout, exiting between Safeway and the Police complex. The first left will be Albert Street.



NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages

FREE to SEARCH ONLINE

Births to 1906 - Marriage to 1956 - Deaths to 1976

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/search.htm>

To search the NSW Historical Index's click on the link, either Births & Deaths or Marriages, then it's simply a matter of filling in the squares.

It is important to remember that the way you spell your names isn't necessarily the way the registrar of that day spelt them!

To switch between Births & Deaths to Marriages use the link "go to births/deaths search" or "go to marriages search" the button is on the right hand side of the screen, the fourth button under "search now".

Information given online is;

Deaths: Registration Number & year, Last Name, Given Name(s), Father's Given Name(s), Mother's Given Name(s), & District.

Births: Registration Number & year, Last Name, Given Name(s), Father's Given Name(s), Mother's Given Name(s), & District.

Marriages: Registration Number & year, Groom's Surname, Groom's Given Name(s), Bride's Last Name, at Time of Marriage, Bride's Given Name(s) & District.

With all entries returned you are given the option of purchasing the certificate for \$25. This will then be posted to you. Non historical certificates are \$33

A NSW full certificate should list;

Death: Registration number, name, date & place, occupation, age, cause of death, name and occupation of father, mothers name and maiden name, informant and registration details, when and where buried, undertakers name, religion, how long in which state, marriage details and children.

Birth: Registration number, date, place, name, sex, fathers occupation, birthplace & marriage details. Mother's maiden name, age & birthplace, any siblings? Informant information, Accoucheur (doctor) nurse or witness plus Registration details.

Marriage: Registration number, date, place, names of parties, occupations, residences, conjugal status', birth places, ages, parents names and maiden surnames, parents occupations.

Some certificates could show less information. Children's names might be shown, or a number given.

Remember that any certificate is only as accurate in its information as the person who registered the details knew the facts.

Using indexes

Start with what you know. Hopefully this will get you to the years covered by the available indexes.

You will know or can find out where and when your grandparents died?

The death index, being the most recent data available, will be your starting point.

(The starting place in all family histories is your self then work forward, the easy part, then backwards)

You must always remember to think laterally. Say you knew your grandmother's name was Anne, in the indexes she could be Ann, Anne or Annie. The same applies to surnames. Sounds like, phonetic spellings, should always be tried. Still can't find the people you are looking for? Less is best. The person transcribing the index might have missed a key stroke, making your job of guessing the spelling used virtually impossible. Keep persevering and don't forget the * key, i.e. Johns* will give you all names starting with Johns like Johnson, Johnston, Johnstone. Or *ston will give you the names ending with ston like Dunston, Weston, Thurston, Kenniston, Johnston, Beeston, and so on...

I like the NSW BDM site also for its LINKS link. You will find that on the right hand side of the page at the bottom. Quick links to all the other Australian State and Territory BDM sites, some also free to search.

You can save yourself some money on certificates by using a transcription agent.

Check <http://www.joymurrin.com.au/> for details. Joy Murrin will transcribe all the information on a NSW certificate for \$15. Virtually two for the price of one!

Happy hunting, ED

Members of MGFHS, Brian & Vaughan Knox, were among the many Genealogists who took advantage of the numerous Seminars and Open Days on offer for this years Family History Week held between the 4th and 12th of August. They have kindly given us an overview on what they found on offer. Remember this web site for next year as it listed many places of interest. <http://www.familyhistoryweek.org.au/EventsVIC.htm>

FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR NARRE WARREN NORTH

A Family History Seminar was held by the Church of the Latter-Day Saints on August 4th 2007 at 1 p.m. Displays of various family albums, scrap-booking and information were presented in the main area.

Three subjects were covered. How to Strengthen Your Research Techniques was the main presentation given by John Drewry. He covered the area of Acts and Laws, records and record keeping. He gave dates and descriptions of these and explanations of their purpose, where these records were held and what we might expect to gain from their contents. Information on the occupations of various office holders and their role in society was also explained. He then spoke of the Lincolnshire Family History Society, The National Archives and the I.G.I.

The second speaker was Daryl Haywood – Bringing Your Family Together on the Web - who spoke of his family of Whittakers who settled on the York Peninsular of South Australia and he showed a video presentation he had made after one of their family re-unions. Information on setting up a web page included the warning about having a guest page, and how he had deleted his as he was inundated with un-solicited advertng.

The final topic was the World Wide Web, use of the Family Search programme and the introduction of the new information and up-dated Personal Ancestral File. This is to be available on a staggered time line so as not to overload the system. One million new names per week are being recorded. U.S.A. will see it first, then L.D.S. in Australia in February, 2008, and the general public after then.

At the close of proceedings we were then treated to a sumptuous spread. We were made very welcome by the members and shown their research facilities. A very pleasant and informative afternoon and their location is easy to find with plenty of parking.

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

August 9th was the date for this event held in the Village Roadshow Theatrette, Latrobe Street, Melbourne. A large attendance from all over Victoria heard six speakers after a welcome from Anne-Marie Schwirlich, CEO and State Librarian. It is not possible to pass on all the information but this is a brief summary of the topics.

Stephen Due spoke of the work currently being undertaken to compile the Australian Medical Pioneers Index and the welcoming of any information or photos you may have for this project.

Anne Piggott of National Archives, Victoria, spoke about the project to compile an index of names of all Australian War Dead. Over 100,000 Australian personnel are interred in overseas graves. As part of this work Anne visited cemeteries to photograph and record graves in Kranji, Singapore (1200) Terendak in Malacca, Malaya, which includes graves of 24 Vietnam veterans, and Kanchanburi, Thailand, which has over 5,000 graves including over 1,000 Australians. It is proposed this index will include the where, when and why they died, rank, if they had been a P.O.W. and perhaps a photo of the serviceman to attach to the grave photo - contributions welcome.

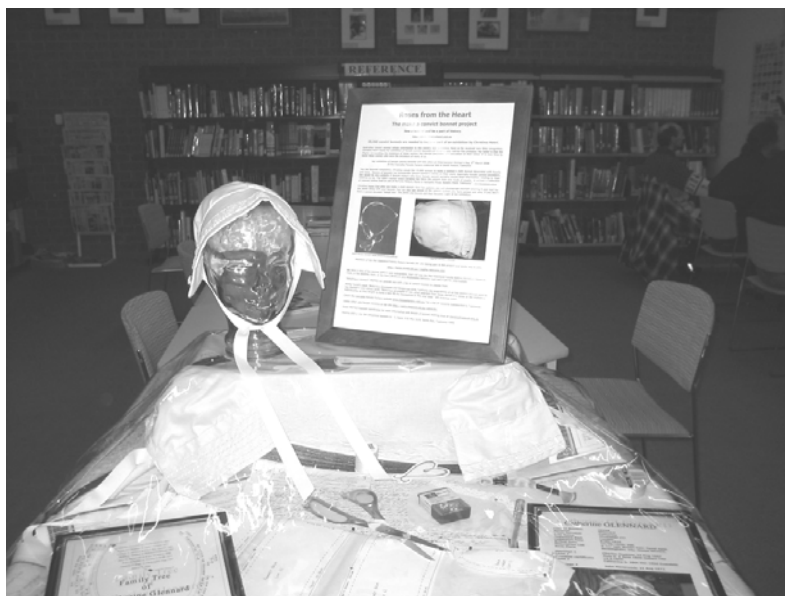
Tim Hogan is the Newspaper Librarian at the State Library and his current project involves indexing early newspapers and their contents – a massive one when we were told there are more than 100,000 volumes and increasing. Some newspapers will be searchable on line. It is hoped this will be in 2008/9. Australia's first newspaper was published by John Pascoe Faulkner and the first twelve issues were hand written. This was an illegal paper as it had not been registered according to British law.

Anne Levens, Project Manager, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages gave an overview of current projects, discussed provision of information versus privacy issues, also concerns about identity fraud and the extension of time relating to the release of information.

Shauna Hicks' subject was What's New at the PROV. and advised of the need to check their web site regularly. Included in expanding the digitising of records are the prison records and those of wills and probate. The latter is hoped to be on line in 2008 with wills and probate linked for greater ease of access in 2009.

The final speaker was Graeme Davidson, Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor, School of Historical Studies at Monash University who gave the 2007 Don Grant Lecture – Speed-relating – Family History in the Digital Age. He told of his research into his family, including visits to their place of origin in England, the importance of our research for history and a caution not to let the ease of access to information diminish the adventure.

All presentations were very interesting and informative and there was a short time for questions after each talk. Victoria is leading the way with the digitising of so much information for the public and in particular, us as genealogists. *Brian and Vaughan Knox.*



Many Libraries' also had displays concerning family history. One was our own Moe library where we displayed information on the make a bonnet tribute, 'Roses from the Heart'. The table was well attended with a great deal of interest shown, as well as a few patterns taken.

The GSV and the AIGS held open days where free access to their libraries' with expert help, was available. I went along to the AIGS where they had one helper each for everyone who had booked in. Along with Pakenham the Blackburn, Wantirna and Braeside Family History Centres (LDS) held free workshops and events for Family History enthusiasts.

Don't miss out on what's on offer next year, look out for the dates and keep that week free for events of interest to you! *ED*



The Stawell Biarri Group for Genealogy Inc. are holding a Family History Expo 'Your Family History – From Pioneers to the Present' on the weekend of the 13th and 14th of October. Held at the Entertainment Center, Main Street, STAWELL be there from 10am to 4pm each day to further your knowledge of Family History. Enquiries to the Secretary ellenino@netconnect.com.au



VICKI'S FINDS on the NET

While indexing vital records for Somerset County, Pennsylvania, I came across a name that has a sort of humorous ring to it. The name is "Christian Evil." Christian was born about 1789 and married Elizabeth Miller in 1820. I've always wondered what part of his name he most resembled. (By the way, I've also seen some "Evel" names that might be related.) - Thanks to Ora Flaningem

A chain of funeral homes in Buffalo, New York, is called Amigone Funeral Home. It is pronounced Am-a-gone, but reminds me of "Am I gone?" -Thanks to Kathy

We met up with some friends while on holiday in Devon, England, where their ancestors originated. The wife declared her marital name to be "Bowdy"; however, her husband pronounced it as "Body." As we passed the local church we saw the vicar leaning on the wall in the sun. "Hello," said our friend, "Can you tell me if you have any 'Bodys' in the graveyard?" "Many," said the vicar. "Which particular one were you interested in?" It took a minute for us to explain to the vicar what the laughter was about, as well as to our friend. -Thanks to Jean

Publications for Sale by Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.

Address ALL enquiries regarding publications to The Secretary, Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.
PO Box 767 Morwell Victoria 3840 ALL checks to be made payable to Mid Gippsland F.H.S. Inc.

Books (postage cost on application)

Boolarra Cemetery Register 1887 - 1998,	plus Transcriptions	- 2005	\$16.50
Childers Cemetery Register	plus Transcriptions	1879- 1994	\$ 5. 50
Gippsland Crematorium Register		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gormandale Cemetery Transcriptions <i>NEW</i>		-2007	\$10.00
Hazelwood Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1879- 1995	\$40.00
Moe Cemetery Register		1891- 1996	\$22.00
Moe Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1881- 1997	\$40.00
Narracan Cemetery Transcriptions		-2002	\$ 7. 50
Toongabbie Cemetery Register		1872-1995	\$16.50
Toongabbie Cemetery Transcriptions		1873-1994	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Register		1887-1995	\$16.50
Trafalgar Cemetery Transcriptions		1886-1994	\$22.00
Traralgon Cemetery Transcriptions	2 Volumes	1872-1994	\$60.00
Walhalla Cemetery Transcriptions	Updated 2005	1869-2004	\$16.50
Willow Grove Cemetery Register	plus Transcriptions	1898-1993	\$16.50
Yallourn Cemetery Transcriptions		1930-2000	\$50.00

Microfiche also Available

NEW PUBLICATION

AVAILABLE NOW

GORMANDALE CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS

Book form \$10 .00 plus \$2.00 postage

“Articles for this newsletter are accepted in good faith and while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the editor and committee of Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc., take no responsibility for submitted items.”



**GORMANDALE CEM.
TRANSCRIPTIONS
NOW AVAILABLE**

Newsletter #136

Mid Gippsland Family History Soc. Inc
P.O. Box 767, Morwell, Victoria, Australia