

## ON TRACK

### Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

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Morwell 3840

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SPAM TRAP: replace [at] with @

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

#### Meetings:

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

#### Membership Details:

2009 - 2010, Single member: \$25.00.

Family membership, \$30.00.

Membership is due and 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) MGFHS research facilities are also available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

*Library Visitors: Gold Coin donation per visit for non-members.*

#### Research:

There is a minimum research fee of \$20, plus a stamped, self addressed business size envelope, for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

#### Cemetery Lookups

MGFHS charge a fee for lookups in their cemetery's.

For \$2 per name we will provide you with the register details plus a transcription of the head stone if there is one.

Please send a business size SSAE with your enquiry to:

The Research Officers, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840

#### In This Issue

Ancestry on free WiFi in the MGFHS meeting room

My day at Fromelles.

Willow Grove Cemetery Picture Publication.

Vicki's wonderful web finds.

## ANCESTRY 'LIBRARY EDITION' NOW AVAILABLE IN THE MGFHS MEETING ROOM AT THE MOE LIBRARY

FIRST: Simply bring in your own laptop to access 'Ancestry Library Edition' thru the library's wireless network. You will need to bring your Latrobe City Library card with you and ask the staff at the front service desk to book you a session on their free WiFi service each time you visit. Bring the ticket into the meeting room and set up your lap top. Follow the directions on your ticket for a four hour session.

The Ancestry Library database is only available for use in the Latrobe City Libraries (Moe, Morwell and Traralgon at present). Search for the wireless network on your laptop. 'Latrobe City Library' should show. Open your web browser and the Latrobe City Page will show up.

1. <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/>
2. <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Library/>
3. <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Library/Online/>
4. <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lvlib/start.html>

This is a great new resource and one we are sure all members will want to access, *Enjoy*.

The information below was taken from the Family Matters Web Page.

<http://familymatters.blogs.slv.vic.gov.au/2010/07/26/new-on-ancestry-library-edition/>

Ancestry has added a number of interesting new databases to their website recently. Of most interest to Australian researchers are the following new birth, death and marriage indexes:

Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922

Australia Death Index, 1787-1985

Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1949

This new database was compiled from microfilm from publicly available sources across Australia. It contains over 15 million records and is very easy to use instead of having to search separate indexes online, on CD-ROM or microfiche to find your ancestors. However, the database does not cover all the index years published by the Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Nor are the search features as powerful as the indexes that are widely available on CD-ROM across Australia. However, it is handy for a quick, nation-wide search.

Other updated Australian content includes the Australian and New Zealand Obituary collection. While the website does not say which newspapers are included in this collection, it does state that it is compiled using an "automated finding and extraction system" and that most records have not been reviewed individually before publication. It is certainly one database to watch as obituaries can be a gold mine of information about an ancestor's family and work life.

A large number of databases for Germany have been added to Ancestry recently which is terrific if you can read German! Other new overseas content includes:

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**V**ictorian **A**rchives **C**entre: 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne

**Wednesday 1 September**

Introduction to the Public Record Office and using the online catalogue

**Friday 17 September**

Introduction to conducting family history research

**Friday 8 October**

Introduction to the Public Record Office and using the online catalogue

**Friday 22 October**

Investigating inquest records

Tours commence at 1pm sharp. Information sessions begin at 2pm.

**Bookings and information 03 9348 5600**

## VICKI'S WONDERFUL WEB FINDS

*Thanks Vicki for sharing these gems with us*

The old **Marble Arch Pub** in London used to have gallows adjacent.

Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hung. The horse drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "One last drink?"

If he said yes, it was referred to as "One for the road"

If he declined, that prisoner was "On the wagon"



### Plenty of Condiments

Several years ago, my sister worked at a bank in a small town in Kentucky.

One of her clients was a lady by the name of Lotta Pickles.

Thanks to Charles Facemire

### Fishy

I became interested in names, when I started researching my own family roots back in 1956. I was researching in Massachusetts records and out jumped the name "Preserve Fish." A few years ago, a site, which I frequently visited, also asked for funny names. I answered with Preserve Fish as having been one of the funniest I'd found. I received an email from a descendant of Preserve Fish at that time, which confirmed that this was the person's actual name.

Thanks to Jennie Vertrees



They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot, then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery.

If you had to do this to survive you were "**Piss Poor**".

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They "Didn't have a pot to Piss in"

### Only in Texas...

I had photos in my baby book of my mother's family, but I didn't have any names. I started my search looking for my grandparents' name and information. When I started searching the census records, I couldn't find my maternal grandfather anywhere. I finally started looking at the census page he should have been on line by line. It was then that I found they had transcribed his first name Ritchie as Bitchie.

Thanks to Christy Hutchinson in Texas

### No words necessary!



# THE FING FAMILY 'GOING TO FROMELLES'

## DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM HENRY MILLIGAN

*Speaking to the Broadford RSL, Mandy Fing (daughter of the editor) shares her thoughts on attending the Dedication Ceremony, of the New Fromelles Military Cemetery, near Pheasant Wood in Fromelles France.*

About 12 months ago I became aware that my ancestor may be among the bodies that were being recovered from the Mass burial pit at Pheasant Wood in France. William Henry Milligan, my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grand Uncle served with the 60th Battalion and was killed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at the battle of Fromelles.



Members of my family registered with the Army Fromelles project group and though it turned out that our ancestry line was not strong enough to provide a DNA match we were invited to the ceremony in France. On Monday 19th July we made our way to the small French Village of Fromelles to witness the reinterment ceremony of the last of the recovered bodies.

The day dawned bright and sunny. The village was closed to all outsiders from 8.30am. Gendarmerie blockaded all entrances and patrolled the streets. We were bussed into the village from a nearby location. Security was very tight. The ceremony took place at the new Commonwealth Cemetery. A grand stand had been set up to seat everyone. It was a hot day, 34 degrees, the grandstand was not covered and we were seated at approx 10am for a 12 noon start. You can imagine how we looked by the end of the ceremony. Luckily the organisers had thought to provide us each a bottle of water.



Of the 98 identified soldiers approximately 80 families had sent representatives to the ceremony. I consider this a fantastic effort. The small village of Fromelles was inundated with Australians and they were very hospitable. Some of the locals had dressed up their homes with Australian Flags and Kangaroos.

A large number of Association representatives from different units who had fought in World War 1 paraded with unit banners at the ceremony. These were mostly elderly gentlemen though there was even a couple of young French Scouts among the representatives. As the ceremony went on, some of these men required assistance. They had been standing in the sun for a long time.

Prince Edward opened the ceremony. This was followed by family members of the identified soldiers reading snippets of letters sent home and of diary entries located after their deaths. This portion of the ceremony was heart wrenching and emotional and there were not too many dry eyes left in the grand stand around me.

The coffin of the last soldier to be buried was carried in on a First World War military wagon. Following the wagon was a guard of honour including Prince Charles and Australia's Governor General, Quentin Bryce.

The Unknown Soldier's coffin was placed into the last grave and this was followed by the firing of volleys.

The French Defence Minister gave a moving speech; at least we felt it was moving though we couldn't understand a word of it.

Prince Charles dedicated the cemetery and he and the Governor General laid wreaths at the new monument.

After the ceremony was concluded I was delighted to see all the World War 1 unit representatives lining the exit path as we left the cemetery.

In conclusion I would just like to say that attending the Fromelles Dedication and Burial was an experience that I will never forget and I am proud to have been a part of it, however small this part may have been.



"We thought we knew something of the horrors of war, but we were mere recruits, and have had our full education in one day". *Bill Gammage, on the aftermath of the battle at Fromelles.*



The memorial wall at Fromelles, VC Corner Australia Cemetery and Memorial commemorates the names of the 1299 Australians who died in the Battle of Fromelles and who have no known grave.

Of the 887 members of the 60th Battalion who fought in the battle of Fromelles on the 19th July 1916 only 106 men called out their names at roll call.

Left: Mandy and Andrew Fing at the memorial

## WILLOW GROVE CEMETERY

### NEW PUBLICATION

MGFHS Members Brian and Vaughan Knox have been busy photographing the headstones at Willow Grove Cemetery. The new Index

“Photo Transcription Index of  
Willow Grove Cemetery Headstones and Plaques 07/2010”

Will sell at \$20 and is due for release in September. Included on the CD will be an Index of names linked to the photograph of the headstone as well as a few bonus Willow Grove Cemetery records we had on hand. Orders can be mailed to ‘The Secretary’. Details on the front page.



1105 Main Road, Willow Grove, VIC. 3825



**Congratulations to**  
Susie Zada and Pam Jennings  
on winning the  
VIC State Government Award for  
"Best Community Research, Registers and Records"

### **Scots in Geelong & District to 1860**

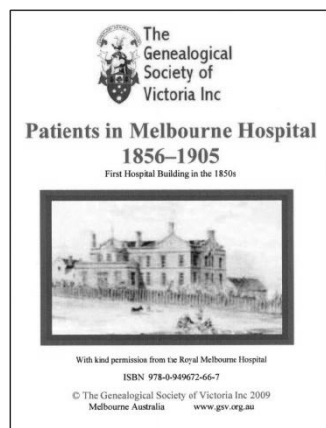
Their publication of 386 pages is available on CD-Rom.

<http://zades.com.au/>



## NEW In the MGFHS LIBRARY

Amongst the research items now available at Mid Gippsland FHS we have



Kaye O'Reilly purchased this disk and no longer has any use for it.

Thanks Kaye for donating the disk To MGFHS

*You will always be welcome to check the index in the meeting room!*

## Drouin Cemetery Headstone Index & Photographs

Our thanks to Garry Batt for sending us his Index and Photos of the Headstones and Plaques at the Drouin Cemetery.

Garry has been recording cemeteries around his home base and beyond for many years now. He is one of the unsung heroes of the Genealogy world. He freely makes his work available. *Our thanks*



## **Publications for sale by Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc. (MGFHS)**

Address ALL enquiries regarding publications to 'The Secretary', Mid Gippsland Family History Soc. Inc.

PO Box 767 Morwell Victoria 3840

ALL checks to be made payable to Mid Gippsland F.H.S. Inc.

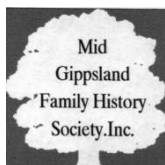
### **Books** (postage cost on application)

Boolarra Cemetery Register 1887 – 1998	plus Transcriptions	- 2005	\$16.50
Childers - Thorpdale Cemetery Register	plus Transcriptions	1879- 2008	\$ 6. 00
Gippsland Crematorium Register		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gippsland Crematorium Transcriptions		1985- 1995	\$16.50
Gormandale Cemetery Transcriptions		-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 and CD'S are also Available**

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

“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.”



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