

THE
MID GIPPSLAND
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc.

NEWSLETTER

GRAND PATRIOTIC CONCERT

MORWELL

MONDAY,

MECHANICS'

MAY 24,

HALL

1915



Empire Night

--- God Save the King. ---

PROGRAMME:

1. CHORUS "Rule Britannia" HARMONISTS
(The audience is requested to join in the refrain.)
2. SONG "Death of Nelson" MR GAW
3. QUARTETTE "Will ye no Come Back Again" HARMONISTS
4. SONG "Land of Hope and Glory" MISS HINSON,
(With Chorus by the Harmonists)
Land of Hope and Glory,
Mother of the free,
How shall we e'er love thee
Who are born of thee
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set,
God who made the mighty make the mightier yet.
5. MALE QUARTETTE "Soldiers Farewell" HARMONISTS
6. SONG "Veteran's Song" MR TULLOCH
7. PART SONG "Soldiers Chorus" HARMONISTS
8. Patriotic Address by M. Davine, B.A., L.L.B.
(Member of A.N.A. Board of Directors.)
9. CHORUS "Gipsy's" HARMONISTS
10. SONG "Motherland" MR MAXWELL
11. QUARTETTE "The Girl I Left Behind Me" HARMONISTS
12. CHORUS "Softly Falls the Shades of Evening"

GOD SAVE THE KING.

ACCOMPANISTES: Misses Rintoull and Dickson

ON TRACK

APRIL 95

NO. 77

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1993-1994

<i>PRESIDENT:</i>	<i>Dawn Cowley</i>
<i>VICE-PRESIDENT:</i>	<i>Karen Healy</i>
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<i>FUND RAISING:</i>	<i>Jean McNally</i> <i>Val Cooper</i>
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<i>CEMETERY RECORDS:</i>	<i>Eddie Tunn</i>
<i>SCHOOL RECORDS:</i>	<i>Anne Pawley</i>
<i>PUBLICATIONS OFFICER:</i>	<i>Rosemary Wigg</i>
<i>NEWSLETTER:</i>	<i>Claire Wood</i>
<i>SPECIAL PROJECTS:</i>	<i>Michelle Freeman</i>
<i>HOSTESS:</i>	<i>Glad Macreadie</i>

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 7:00 pm, with meetings starting at approximately 7:30 pm.

There is a research 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, PO Box 767, Morwell, 3840, and mark the envelope "Research Query".

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.

MEMBERS PROFILE - ROSEMARY WIGG

I first saw the light of day in Castlemaine on a winter's day in July, some time before 1950, the first of two children to Frank and Myrtle Robbins (nee Stainsby). My parents were both High School teachers, Dad teaching Science, and Mum Maths. Both graduated from Melbourne University, Dad in 1926 and Mum in 1929. They met at a College dance and were engaged for 8 years - married women had to stay home then and Mum wanted to teach.

I attended Castlemaine South Primary School till I was about 7, when I went to Camp Hill Primary School. The next step was to Bendigo High School, where I had the dubious distinction of having both parents teaching at the same school I went to, though not both at the same time. Dad even taught me for one year. School was otherwise uneventful and I gained my Matric. in 1955, doing a variety of unrelated subjects including Biology, which I did after school as an exchange student at the local Grammar School, without having done it in form 5. Career guidance said either Librarian or Pharmacy. I chose Librarian, but my father had other ideas and enrolled me at Pharmacy College without telling me (he thought I had too much brains to be a librarian!).

I went through the Pharmacy course under the old apprenticeship system, studying by correspondence (yuk!) and working in the oldest Pharmacy in Bendigo by day. Everything was vintage stuff, from the magnificent set of old bottles with their mysterious contents right down to the boss himself. I vividly remember making pills - yes, real ones - on the vintage pill machine that was 100 years old even then. Everything was made from scratch, even iron tonics, where the first job of the day was to go to the hardware store to buy a pound and a half of iron nails to be dissolved up to get iron for the mixture. I then transferred for my second two years to Prince Henry's Hospital, going from the sublime to the ridiculous as this place was still not quite finished and everything was brand shiny new. Everything was still made from scratch, a far cry from today's labels on bottles technique.

MEMBERS PROFILE - ROSEMARY WIGG (cont)

We used to make I.V. solutions and autoclave them, gooey ointments 10 pounds at a time, and even Agarol by the gallon. I was lucky enough to attend both the old Pharmacy College (Swanston St., now R.M.I.T., with its vintage labs. and lecture theatres which really did look like theatres) and the new College in Parkville which was brand new but had no atmosphere whatsoever.

I graduated PhC.M.P.S. in 1961. I didn't learn a lot at college to equip me for my future life as a family historian - pig Latin has come in handy though. During my apprenticeship, however, I learned two invaluable things - how to read a doctor's prescription, and how to type. I met my future husband at Pharmacy College and we were married in 1963 at St.Mary's Anglican Church, Morwell. We have 2 children- David is 28 and Andrea is 26. Some 18 months after our marriage we purchased a pharmacy in Morwell and ran it for some 24 years - or rather he did.

I retired thankfully from sticking labels on bottles to raise the kids. I was the usual taxi driver to little aths., cricket, football, and ballet. I took up sewing for one of the local ballet schools. I made thousands of costumes over a stint of over 10 years, mostly making troupe costumes. This was very challenging as I generally had no more to go on than a verbal description of what was required, and had to research the rest myself. Here I learned the basic art of research, whether it be pouring through books to find out what a storybook character should be wearing, or what was worn at a particular time period or particular part of the world.

I started from scratch, making my own patterns, as there were none commercially available, then buying the right sorts of materials in bulk. Spotlight loved to see me walk in the door! I've made all sorts of things, from tutus, and a crinoline, to a full set of Russian National costumes with nothing more to go on, than the video of the opening ceremony of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

MEMBERS PROFILE - ROSEMARY WIGG (cont)

As inevitably happens, kids grow up and leave home so I needed something else to do. I just fell into family history, though it had been a part of me all my life, as my dad was always researching something (family history or otherwise) with his active, enquiring mind. He went round the old relies in the 1930s and wrote down their stories. In 1949 he did the rounds again and constructed a family tree. Both these efforts survive and are family treasures.

My dad was a greenie long before greenie were invented. He was also an explorer of sorts and has a fossil and a plant named after him. He fought long and hard to save the Whipstick Forest (near Bendigo) from subdivision in the 1970s. It is now a National Park.

My Mum started doing Family History when her Mum died in 1964. She did the whole thing by letter as there was no I.G.I. then, and not even any B.D.M. indexes. I started doing the Wigg tree some 7 years ago as no-one else would do it, and gradually extended it to cover all ancestors on both sides, as well as trying to trace all my relies in Australia.

I have been on the duty roster at the L.D.S. Library for 5 years now and I enjoy it very much. I taught myself to use the computer to put my information on disc for the Robbins reunion last year. I had spent 12 months prior to that constructing the tree, and came up with a staggering 3006 descendants for my Robbins immigrants.

My family's roots are very spread out- some 25 counties in England, 5 in Scotland, plus Guernsey. They either had a wanderlust or lived in areas where 3 counties converged. I've been back to England, Scotland and Guernsey to see where they lived. It's an eery experience to spot names you saw on a census for 150 years ago, and quite humbling to go in to the lovely churches and walk in their footsteps.

I do have other interests besides family history - my garden, my video camera and my music, especially trad. jazz, so you won't always find me pouring over a microfiche reader- just nearly always.

SCOTTISH RECORDS - BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGE

These microfiche record will beat the LDS Family History Library in Traralgon between Thursday 11th May until Thursday 25th May 1995. For more information, contact the Library on 051) 750170

WANTED

Copies of
Gippsland Heritage Journal nos 1 & 2.

These issues are now out-of-print and I'd love to complete my set.

River of Little Fish - W. J. Cuthill's History of Traralgon

Anne Pawley, 21 Hazelwood Rd Traralgon 051) 748291

SEARCHES DONE
REASONABLE RATES

NEW ZEALAND
BIRTH DEATH & MARRIAGES RECORDS

VICTORIAN ELECTORAL ROLL
1978, 1979, 1980

send SAE to
SALLY SHINE
PO BOX 276
MOE 3825

CENTRAL PLANS OFFICE
Ground Floor, 2A Treasury Place
Melbourne

Land settlement Records in Victoria are based on the division of Victoria into smaller areas called Counties, which are in turn made up of smaller areas called Parishes. In high density settlement there are townships within Parishes.

Victoria is made up of 37 Counties, 2004 Parishes and 909 Townships (these 909 townships were created by the Land Act Townships, and are not the more commonly known Local Government Act Townships).

The Central Plans Office holds maps/plans in three main categories: current plans, Put-Away Plans, Historical Plans

Current plans are those that are kept up-to-date. They show whether land has been sold by the Crown, or whether it is reserved or unreserved.

Historical Information commonly found on Current Plans include location and measurement of particular Crown Allotments, names of original Grantees, date and issue of Crown Grants (i.e. of freeholding) departmental reference numbers documenting the sale or reservation of particular allotments, the sequence of land occupation within particular parishes or groups of parishes. Alphabetical registers of all current record plans index Plans by Parish or Township.

Put-Away Plans: These are superseded plans. They include old record plans which have become dilapidated or congested. They also include original survey plans of subdivisions or Parishes, usually signed by the Surveyor and the supervising Surveyor. The Plan Register (or Plan Index) indexes these plans by Parish or Township.

Historical Plans: This collection is a miscellaneous group of plans and maps which have been collected by the Central Plan Office over the years. Some are very early land subdivision/occupancy plans which preceded or complemented the official plans. Other plans in this collection have been produced by other Authorities. Indexes allow searching by Parish Name, County Name, Surveyor Name and Plan Order.

ADOPTION & WARDSHIP

(extracted from *Adoption, wardship and related records: a brief guide*/ Public Records Office, guide to records no. 7)

The Adoption of Children's Act 1928 became law in July 1929, and the first legal adoption was registered in October 1929. The 1928 Act for the first time provided for the transfer of parental rights, duties, liabilities and responsibilities to the adoptive parents and offered secrecy, safety and stability to the child and to the adoptive parents.

Before 1929, adoptions were not recognised in law, but were sometimes arranged anyway by Government, non-government organisations and individuals

Because of the unofficial nature of adoption prior to 1929, there are no "adoption records" per se. People searching for information about adoption should look at records of state wardships, fostering, boarding-out, court records, maintenance records, and in printed material such as police gazettes. Information may be available from non-Government agencies and institutions which have been involved in social welfare and adoption.

From at least 1851, child welfare services in Victoria relied heavily on the participation of private and voluntary organisations. It was not until the early 1860s that Government Agencies were being created to handle children's welfare issues. These agencies were administered by the Chief Secretary's Office/Department until the establishment of a separate Welfare Department in 1970:

- Department of Industrial and Reformatory Schools 1864-1887
- Department of Neglected Children 1887-1924
- Department of Reformatory Schools 1887-1954
- Children's Welfare Department 1924-1960
- Social Welfare Branch 1960-1970
- Social Welfare Department 1970-1979
- Department of Community Welfare Services 1979-1985
- Department of Community Services 1985-1992
- Department of Health and Community services 1992--.

Most of the records of these Agencies, and the records of some of the non-Government agencies are held by the Department of Health and Community Services.

ADOPTION & WARDSHIP (cont)

ADOPTION INFORMATION : There are three ways that researchers may seek information about an adoption

1. Through the Public Records Office: Records at the PRO containing personal and private information about people are generally not available to the public for a period of 99 years from their creation.

References to children in both Government and non-government care may be found in the records of the Chief Secretary's Office; Court records, and Police records.

2. Adoption Information Service, Department of Health and Community Services: Information may only be made available to eligible people. If you are an adopted person, a relative (either by birth or adoption), or child of an adopted person, then you may be eligible to obtain or give information relating to the adoption. Adoption information is not guaranteed to be available and depends on other eligible people being prepared to have the information released.

The AiS may be able to help if you are looking for information on a person who may have been in the custody of a non-government child welfare organisation before 1929. In some cases, records of these agencies are held by the Department, or AIS may refer you to the non-Government Agency.

If you know the name of the non-government agency in whose custody the child was placed, or which arranged the adoption, then you may contact that organisation. All agencies operate under the same rules in releasing adoption information, and for dealing with Fol requests.

3. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: To seek access to information in the custody of the PRO that are closed to public access or to records held by any Government Department (other than adoption records), you will need to make an Fol request to the Department. Generally, for reasons of privacy and confidentiality, only the person who the record are about can obtain the information under Fol.

The Mid-Gippsland Family History Society Library has in its Library Neglected and criminal: foundations of child welfare in Victoria by Donella Jaggs. This book is well worth a look if you are researching adoptions.

UNION CLEARANCE BOOKS

During the 19th century, workers who were members of a Union and who moved from one district to another, had to receive a clearance from the local branch of the Union to enable them to work.

The Union Clearance Books were kept by the local branches, and those which survive document the movement of unionists from one district to another. The Books usually show where the member served his time, the district that the unionist was moving from, where they were to be employed, and their wage rate.

If the Union was running a Pension Plan, Death/Disability fund, or sickness relief, the Clearance Books will sometimes show information about dependents, place of residence and health.

WINNERS OF THE EASTER RAFFLE

<i>1st prize</i>	<i>Jean McNally</i>
<i>2nd prize</i>	<i>Claire Wood</i>
<i>3rd prize</i>	<i>Claire Wood</i>

SCOTTISH RECORDS

The Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS has indexed the 1851 census for Govan, all ten parishes for Glasgow City, all eight areas of Barony and three of the four areas of Gorbals, with only Laurieston remaining to be completed.

The index, of 342,443 entries, is held on computer and the Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS accept postal inquiries for which they ask a donation of at least £3 per surname searched plus a large SAE. As there is a great many names listed, please send as much information as possible about the family you are looking for as this will help find the entry. Send to Mrs Elizabeth D. Smith, 6 Sutherland Drive Giffnock, Glasgow, G46 6pl.

Plans to reopen Cassilis Cemetery

It is 66 years since the last burial took place at the Cassilis cemetery; its colourful goldmining history buried beneath weeds and the remaining few crumbling monuments. Now it is waking again, with the Cassilis residents beginning their task of restoring it and opening it once more for public use.

The Governor-in-Council recently approved appointment of a six member Trust, whose job it will be to administer the cemetery and maintain it according to Health Department guidelines. Trust members are Don and Marion McCain, Colin and Mary-Louise Smith and Howard and Christine Reddish.

But before any new graves can be dug, the Trust faces a tricky task of locating all of the old ones. This is a task made doubly difficult by the fact that in the early, anything-goes days of goldmining, records were not kept.

Fortunately, thanks to modern archaeological techniques, it is possible to find old grave sites without disturbing them, and this is what the Trust intends to do. Over the years, numbers of tourists and local people have visited the cemetery, many of them relatives of the men and women buried there. There is a wealth of information tucked away in hundreds of peoples' memories, about the cemetery and its history. The Trust wants to hear from everyone who has some connection with the cemetery, however distant, so that all information can be documented.

So far, all that is written is a bare list of 94 names, plus the inscriptions on the few surviving tombstones. The stories of these people, the men, women and children of Long Gully whose bones rest in the cemetery, need to be reconnected with the records of their resting place. Then, any traveller who finds his or her way to the little graveyard behind the hill, will discover a place of beauty and of history preserved, a place to be proud of.

The Trust is asking for anyone with information about the Cemetery to write down what they know and send it to:

The Secretary, Cassilis Cemetery Trust
P. O. Box 160, Swifts Creek, 3896.

Cassilis is between Omeo and Swifts Creek, off the old Omeo Highway

Condensed from an article in the "Bairnsdale Advertiser" May 13 1994

SEMINAR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9th

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

MOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL

Fowler Street, Moe

MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Florence Chuk, on Assisted Immigration

Ada Ackerley, "Cut off without a shilling"

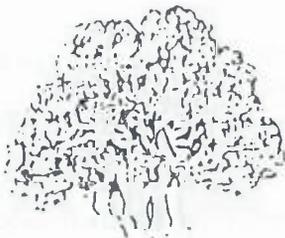
*Other speaker will be discussing
Scottish research, and convict records*

for further information, contact

Dawn Cowley on 051) 271780

Gay Rogers on 051) 274259

Jean McNally on 051) 743137



please address all correspondence to the

Mid-Glppsland Family History Society Inc., PO Box 767, Morwell, Vic 3840