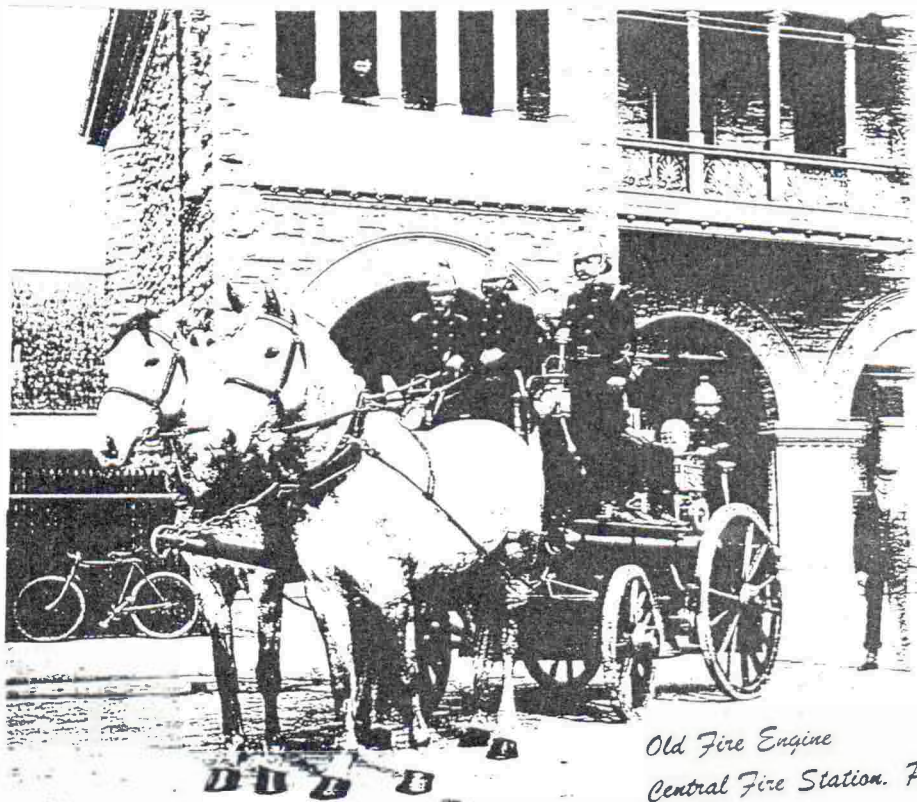


*THE*  
MID GIPPSLAND  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Inc  
NEWSLETTER



*Old Fire Engine  
Central Fire Station, Perth  
1905*

ON TRACK  
DECEMBER 96 NO. 87

## OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1996-1997

PRESIDENT:	Elaine Johnston
VICE-PRESIDENT:	vacant
SECRETARY:	Pam Pratt
TREASURER:	Don Tylee
FUND RAISING:	Leonie Robinson
LIBRARIAN:	vacant
LIBRARY ASSISTANTS:	Jenny Draper Lori O'Connor
PUBLICITY:	vacant
HOSTESS:	vacant
RESEARCH:	Claire Wood
CEMETERY RECORDS	Florence Butcher
SCHOOL RECORDS:	Anne Pawley
NEWSLETTER:	Claire Wood
SPECIAL PROJECTS:	vacant
SEMINAR CO-ORINATORS	vacant

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at the Meeting Room of the Moe Library, Kirk St, Moe. Entrance is from the rear carpark. The Society's Library will open in the Meeting Room at 7:00 pm, with meetings starting at approximately 7:30pm.

Fees 96/97 : Membership Single \$16; Family \$22  
Library \$2:00 per visit for non-members

\*\*\*\*\*

There is a research fee of \$10 plus SAE 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 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.

# Waanyarra Historic Cemetery

The first rush to this area occurred in 1853 and brought with it deaths from mining accidents, illness and disease. The oldest surviving marked grave in this historic cemetery is that of John Gibson Brown, who died on October 10th, 1859. The recorded history of this rich gold-mining region indicates, however, that many burials must have taken place prior to this date.

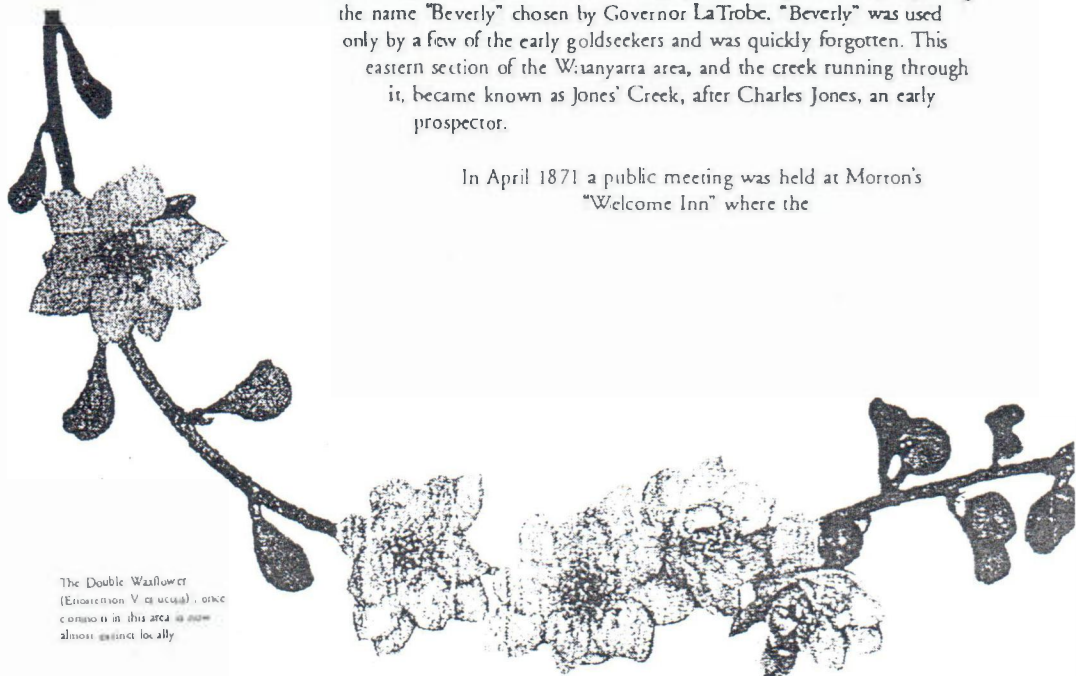
Before the introduction of wooden coffins it was usual to enclose a body between two sheets of bark for burial. Local identity Mr Cheetham is credited with making the first wooden coffin used here. It was made for the burial of a child.

Initially the cemetery was situated to the south of this site, but seasonal flooding of Jones' Creek resulted in it being moved to this higher ground.

When Phillip Chauncey surveyed this area in 1861 a reserve for a cemetery was marked out on the north side of the Dunolly to Tarnagulla road, west of this site. The site, however, was not favoured by local residents and was never used.

Chauncey officially name the area Waanyarra during his survey, replacing the name "Beverly" chosen by Governor LaTrobe. "Beverly" was used only by a few of the early goldseekers and was quickly forgotten. This eastern section of the Waanyarra area, and the creek running through it, became known as Jones' Creek, after Charles Jones, an early prospector.

In April 1871 a public meeting was held at Morron's "Welcome Inn" where the



The Double Waalflower  
(Eriostemon V. australis), once  
common in this area is now  
almost extinct locally.

first Trustees for the various sections of this cemetery were elected. They were:

Thomas Leach	Anglican
Thomas Boan	Hebrew
James Gourley	Presbyterian
Michael Morton	Roman Catholic
William Holt	Wesleyans

These people organised the burials and kept the cemetery in good condition for many years. It was totally funded by public subscription, but as time passed and the population of the area declined, money dried up and the public interest in maintaining the cemetery made the task of the Trustees very difficult and they resigned their positions. A new team of Trustees unsuccessfully attempted to rekindle community support and the cemetery closed officially in 1891.

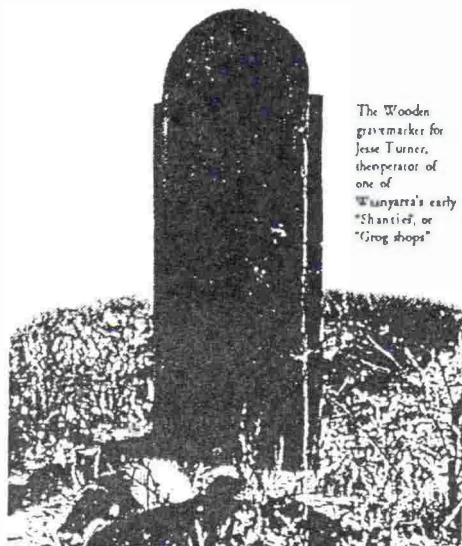
Despite its official closure, local families continued to use the cemetery for many years without permission, preferring to be buried in family graves in the district in which they had lived for most of their lives.

As far as can be ascertained, Mrs Deborah Chapple (nee Corrie) is the only person to have gained official permission to be buried here since its official closure. Debbie, as she was affectionately known, had been a tireless worker for the maintenance of this cemetery.



The Shire of Bet Bet became the Trustees of the Waanyarra cemetery in 1965 and receives annual grants for its maintenance.

Since 1988 an informal group, The Families and Friends of Waanyarra, has dedicated itself to maintaining the historic significance of the area. They placed the bronze plaque recording the names of those buried here without a marker and have cooperated with the Tarnagulla Recreation Parks Committee, the Bet Bet Shire and its Development and Tourism Committee in the erection of this signboard and in the renewal of the front fence and gates.



The Wooden gravemaker for Jesse Turner, the perpetrator of one of Waanyarra's early "Shanties", or "Grog shops"

## Talks Program March to June 1997

**W**e have planned a series of talks to meet the needs of both first time and more experienced researchers. Due to demand the talk on Indexes and Registers and the half day beginners seminar are being repeated. To book please contact Bronwyn Fensham (03) 9369 3244.

Note that for the talk on registers and indexes numbers are limited to 15, while for the half day seminar the limit is 30.

### Crime, Law and Punishment

A case study will be used to demonstrate how to use public records to research the arrest, trial and sentencing of an individual.

*Thursday 20 March 1997, 10.30am – 12.00pm*  
Public Record Office, 57 Cherry Lane, Laverton.

### Indexes and Registers – The Neglected Records

Many records, particularly 19th century correspondence that is central to historical research, are very easy to retrieve if you understand how to use the associated indexes and registers. At this session you will find out how these records work and have the opportunity to use them yourself.

*Thursday 29 May 1997, 10.30am – 12.00pm*  
Public Record Office, 57 Cherry Lane, Laverton.

### A Beginners Guide to the Public Record Office

A half day introduction to archives during which we will explain what public records are, how you get access to them and how you should prepare for a visit to the Public Record Office. We will take you on a tour of the Repository and present a family history case study. The session is free and afternoon tea will be provided.

*Thursday 19 June 1996, 1.00pm – 4.30pm*  
Public Record Office, 57 Cherry Lane, Laverton.

### The Public Records of Death

A look at the records which can be used to establish when, where and why people died.

*Thursday 10 April 1997, 10.30am – 12.00pm*  
Australian Archives and Public Record Office  
City Reading Room, 2nd Floor, Casselden Place,  
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

### Family History Research at the Public Record Office

An introduction to the records most commonly used for family history research.

*Thursday 8 May 1997, 10.30am – 12.00pm*  
Australian Archives and Public Record Office  
City Reading Room, 2nd Floor, Casselden Place,  
2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

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## City Search Room is moving

**T**he search room is to become part of a joint facility shared with the Victorian State Office of Australian Archives, on the 2nd floor of Casselden Place, 2 Lonsdale Street.

The last day of Operation at 318 Little Bourke Street will be Friday 24 January 1997. The search room will re open at Casselden Place on Monday 3 February.

The NEW hours of opening will be:  
9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Monday, Tuesday and Friday  
9.00 am to 6.00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday.

Further information about the move will be provided, in our search rooms and on our home-page (<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~provic/>).

Staff from both the Public Record Office and Australian Archives will work together in the joint reading room to provide an advisory service about the holdings of both institutions. The full range of services of both institutions will continue to be offered and researchers will be able to request access to records of both the PRO or Australian Archives on the one visit.

While the search room advisory service will be a shared operation each institution will remain a separate entity governed by its own legislation and existing differences in certain procedures and fees will continue.

## SACRED GROUND

submitted by Edward M. Tunn (19/10/96)

It was during a recent visit to Glasgow, Scotland that I came upon them. There they were, laid out at the fork of a road in three neat rows. There was an even dozen and they looked spic and span in their white granite surface with the readily identifiable A.I.F. insignia set into the centre top of the stone.

I'm talking about the last resting place of 12 Australian Army personnel, all except one from the First World War.

It all started with my younger sister's retirement in Glasgow some two years ago. As a retirement hobby, she decided to take up family history. Later, with my elder sister, she decided to track down the burial of some ancestors. Their investigations lead them to a cemetery in Glasgow that carries the grand name of the Western Necropolis, St. Kentigerns, Lamhill, Glasgow

The first visit to the Necropolis struck gold, with the help of the local gravedigger (what wonderful people they are when you are looking for information about *their cemetery*.), they soon found the last resting place, complete with headstone, of my maternal grandparents and two of their infant children. To the family history buff, this was like winning Lotto, well almost.

We certainly felt like a rather large hole in our "tree" had been partially filled [since this discovery, we have found another grave with the headstone going back to 1825, this time in the Greenoch area of Scotland, so it's all happening].

All this happened just before my wife and I arrived in Glasgow on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1996. We didn't waste much time visiting the Necropolis - the next day, the 29<sup>th</sup> June it was into my relatives' car and off to see my grandparent's headstones.

It was while we drove along the road leading to the main entrance, and took the left road at the fork that I immediately recognised the A.I.F. insignia set into the somewhat standard war grave headstone.

My shout of "stop" shook my brother-in-law, the driver, to the core as he jammed on the brakes - he thought I had just spotted his rear wheel rolling past us. There were no car problems. It was just that I wanted to get out and look over this little piece of Australian war history set in the midst of a huge Glasgow cemetery so far from home.

I couldn't find out any details of how these troops ended up in Glasgow, so I thought the best thing to do was to take down the details of the headstones, and follow it back up in Australia. So to this end, I have much pleasure in presenting this information through the Mid-Gippsland Family History Group newsletter.

In conclusion, let me say that all the graves are well looked after, and with the soft Scottish rain falling on them will remain ever green.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY WAR GRAVES  
WESTERN NECROPOLIS  
ST KENTIGERNS, LAMHILL,  
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

NEILL - 1379 GUNNER /N.E.NEILL /AUST. HEAVY ARTILLERY /  
27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1918 AGE 30/ HE HATH DONE ALL THINGS  
WELL / MARK 7.73

PRENDERGAST MAJOR/ KATHLEEN LAURA / PRENDERGAST/ ROYAL ARMY  
MEDICAL CORPS / 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 1954 AGE 43/ AU REVOIR FOR NOW  
MICK/ SOMEDAY WE WILL MEET AGAIN/

ADAMS 306 PRIVATE/ MICHAEL JOSEPH ADAMS / AUST.  
MACHINE GUN CORPS/ 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1917 AGE 27/

M'LEOD 2537 PRIVATE/ R. McLEOD/ 49<sup>TH</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1917 AGE 36/

VIRTUE 478 PRIVATE/ T.S VIRTUE / 1<sup>ST</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1916 AGE 25/ WITH JESUS / WHICH IS FAR  
BETTER/

MYERS 5381 PRIVATE/ C.D. MYERS / 21<sup>ST</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 1918 AGE 26/ IN THE BLOOM OF HIS LIFE  
/ GOD CLAIMED HIM/ HEATHCOTE VIC. /

TIPPING 6397 PRIVATE/ S.T. TIPPING / 24<sup>TH</sup> BN AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1918 AGE 25/ UNTIL THE DAY DAWNS/ AND  
THE SHADOW FLEE AWAY /

BUTLER 2783 PRIVATE/ T.G.W. BUTLER/ 37<sup>TH</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1918 AGE 27/ LOVED SON OF MARY A. WILLIAMS /  
F RUTHERGLEN VICTORIA/ A DUTY NOBLY DONE /

BRYAN 3244 DRIVER/ E.H. BRYAN/ 49<sup>TH</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF. /  
13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1918 AGE 27/ HE DID NOT SHUN / HIS  
COUNTRYS CALL/ BUT GLADLY GAVE HIS LIFE/ HIS ALL

PRUNSTER 35280 GUNNER/ C. T. PRUNSTER / AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY /  
9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1919 AGE 25 / MAY THE HEAVENLY WINDS /  
LOW SOFTLY / ON THIS SWEET/ AND HONERED SPOT

COOPER 5268 DRIVER / R. COOPER / AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS/ 27<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 1918

UPTON 2670 PRIVATE / G. S. UPTON/ AUSTRALIAN T. M. BATTERY / 13<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER 1918 AGE 22/ GREATER LOVER HATH NO MAN / HE  
LAY DOWN HIS LIFE/ FOR HIS FRIENDS

**ON THE RIDGE - The Shire of Mirboo 1884-1994 by John Murphy**

Mirboo has never known in which direction to look - to the north towards the La Trobe Valley where the main railway line went to Melbourne, or to the south and the large towns of Leongatha and Korumburra.

Early settlers found the soil rich and the rainfall good, but the task of clearing the land for grazing a challenge because of the steep terrain, untouched forest, heavy undergrowth and long wet winters.

This book tells their story - of the changes that occurred with the coming of the railhead to Mirboo North, the wars and the depletion of the male population, the development of road transport, the selfsufficiency of the people who lived away from other main centres of population on the highways, the companionship of neighbours in hard times, the smaller centres which have never become big towns.

The index of names would fascinate those who were interested in Mirboo families.

My personal interest was in the families that immigrated as a group from Elaine in 1878. This timing would have coincided with the end of the gold at Steiglitz in the Brisbane Ranges, just near the town of Elaine on the Midland Highway. My maternal grandmother was born at Steiglitz, then lived and married at Elaine.

**NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY**

Searching land records in Victoria, by Wendy Baker

My ancestors were Londoners, by Cliff Webb

Genealogy and the Internet, by Anne Foxworthy

The Parishes, Registers & Registrars of Scotland

Where did I read that?, by Liz Vincent

In search of your European roots, by Angus Baxter

PROACTIVE

**Inquiry into the Public Record Office**

As the Public Bodies Review Committee, which conducted the inquiry into the operations of the Public Record Office, was not reconstituted after the election the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee was requested to finalise the work and to table the report at the Spring Session of

Parliament.

Many of the Inquiry's recommendations are being implemented, particularly with regard to the establishment of a new records centre, for which \$20 million has been allocated, and the development of a government wide policy for the management of electronic records.



# AIGS SERVICES

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MANY WAYS WE CAN HELP YOU AND THE PROFITS FROM THESE SERVICES ARE PUT BACK INTO MORE RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBERS

## RESEARCH SERVICE

The Institute offers a Research Service for people who just can't get to the Library. Research requests must be specific. Our charge is \$10.00 per hour for members, \$20.00 for non-members. Members please quote your membership number. All enquiries should include an SAE.

## ENGLISH & WELSH BIRTH, DEATH & MARRIAGE INDEXES (St. Catherine's House)

The Institute offers a search service of these indexes 1837-1940. For just \$5.00 the Institute will search a nominated date, plus one year either side — total of three years. Send your research request to St. Catherine's Search Service with the name and the nominated search date (there is no refund for a nil search).

## ENGLISH & WELSH BIRTH DEATH & MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

We offer a courier service to St. Catherine's House. Reference information from the St. Catherine's House Index is all that is required — Cost \$26.00 posted to your address.

## UNRELATED CERTIFICATES

The AIGS Unrelated Certificates Index is comprised of Birth, Death & Marriage Certificates which members have donated to the Library. It covers many thousands of names. A transcript of a certificate can be supplied for \$5.00 per name. The AIGS Unrelated Certificates Index on microfiche is available for sale for \$12.00.

## ENGLISH & WELSH PROBATES (Somerset House) 1858-1934

Two services are offered on these Wills and Administrations.

- (1) A five year search service: you supply a person's name and the year of death and we will search that year and the next four years for \$5.00.
- (2) A courier service for the Will/Administration posted to your address: \$8.00 for one name, \$6.00 for each additional name. Probate films and applications forms are available in the Library. Please include an SAE.

## PCC WILLS 1750-1857

Two services are offered on these Wills which are not as straightforward to search as the later ones.

- (1) A five year search service: you supply a person's name and the year of death and we will search that year and the next four years for \$10.00.
- (2) A courier service for the Will posted to your address: \$14.00. PCC films and applications forms are available in the library. Please include an SAE.

## STERLING CHEQUE SERVICE

Do you require a Sterling Cheque to renew or join an English Society or purchase books etc? The Institute offers a Sterling Cheque service for amounts up to £100.00 for a fee of only \$4.00.

## AIRMAIL STAMPS

The Institute sells Overseas Airmail Stamps so you can send an SAE with all your overseas queries.

Prices are: English \$1.30 — Irish \$1.60 — Canadian \$1.40 — USA \$1.20. Available at Bookstall.

## DOCUMENT BINDING SERVICE

Does your family tree or family history require binding? The Institute offers a binding service to members. You may leave material for binding at our Library office but please place your documents in a packet clearly marked with your name, address, telephone number and the date. If sending material by post please mark as before and add \$3.00 for return postage. Charges are: 4mm (20-40 pages) = \$2.00; 8mm (60-80 pages) = \$2.50

## GIFT VOUCHERS

Available from Bookstall in any amount. Great idea for Christmas, birthdays and special occasions.

## IGI MICROFICHE PRINTOUTS

For family historians who are unable to attend our Library or any LDS Family History Centre we offer the opportunity of having your family names photocopied for study at home.

Cost for this service: 50 cents per page plus \$5 handling fee (for up to 10 pages), postage included.

#### **DONATE-A-FICHE**

This service has been one of the best things to happen at the AIGS, for the Library and for its Members  
England & Wales: see details on page 363.  
Scotland, Ireland, Canada & America: see details on page 363.

#### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

These self-help groups meet at the Library each month. For a small subscription each year you can come along and talk over your problems with others with similar interests. 85% of your subscription goes to purchasing more resources for your special interest. See details on page 381.

#### **SEMINARS and COURSES**

A comprehensive number of Seminars and Courses are offered throughout the year to help you learn more about the resources available for use and how to use them. See full details on page 361.

#### **COUNTRY GROUP VISITS**

As a service to country people, we will open our Library on a Sunday to groups of ten or more persons wishing to use our resources. Write to the Regional Liaison Officer stating a choice of dates and you will be advised which is available for your visit. Members of AIGS will be admitted free; all others from your group will be charged our normal visitor's fee of \$10. We will open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tea/coffee will be supplied.

#### **FAMILY SEARCH TRAINING**

To assist first-time users of this program, training classes are held in the Library at regular intervals. See details on page 361.

#### **FAMILY SEARCH ON CD-ROM**

The Family Search program is a truly unique program offering searches in the following areas:

International Genealogical Index (IGI)	Social Security Death Index (USA only)*
Ancestral File	Military Index (USA only)*
LDS Locality Catalogue	

**THE IGI:** Using the IGI data base, records for the entire British Isles or Canada etc. as a whole can be examined or searched by an individual country or county. It can be searched by using either the Marriage and Christening Index or the Parent Index. The Marriage and Christening Index is arranged in the same format as the IGI on microfiche. The Parent Index contains the same information as the Marriage and Christening Index but is arranged into families, enabling you to identify children you may have previously overlooked.

**ANCESTRAL FILE:** The Ancestral File contains genealogies which have been submitted by researchers to the LDS.

**LOCALITY CATALOGUE:** This is used to locate the information that is available through the LDS e.g. Church, Census, History, Taxation Records etc.

**THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX and MILITARY INDEX (USA only):** This will be of particular interest to researchers looking for later records in the USA. The Social Security Death Index covers deaths reported to the Social Security administration from 1937 through to 1988. The Military Index has two parts, the Korean War and the Vietnam War Veterans. \*(The USA Social Security Death Index and the Military Index are not available for searching in the AIGS Library—information is available only by postal enquiry.)

The Institute offers a research service for FAMILY SEARCH on CD-ROM for Family Historians who are unable to attend our Library or any LDS Family History Centre.

For up to a maximum of ten family names, we will provide a computer printout of any available information or will download the information to disc. (For information downloaded to disc this service is restricted to the IGI section of Family Search.) Cost for this service is \$15.00 per hour. Please send an SAE to AIGS for our research application form.

All these services are carried out by the experienced members of our Research Team who are all volunteers.

**PLEASE SEND ALL REQUESTS FOR THESE SERVICES TO THE**

**AIGS, PO BOX 339, BLACKBURN 3130**

**ENCLOSING AN SAE**

also from the Record on June 9th 1914

Telephone : A silent cabinet has been placed in position at the Traralgon Post Office for use of the public after office hours

Obituary. - On Wednesday last an old resident of Toongabbie, named Mary Ferguson, passed away at the ripe old age of 77 years. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Friday. The burial service was conducted by Rev. Father McMahon and the funeral arrangements carried out by Mr F. L. Grubb.

Quoits : On Saturday afternoon a number of games were held in the Club competition were played off, and in some instances the finishes were close and exciting. A remarkable end was played between W. Pentland and Mr A. Wigg. The first quoit was a "ringer," and the remaining three were placed on top of it, almost as straight as it was possible to put them.

Traralgon South. A meeting of the Rabbit Suppression League was held. Present were: Messrs G. Pentland, Thos Downie, C. G. Lade, A. Thompson, W. Watson, J. J. Dunbar, E. G. Redpath, D. McDonald, L. Maher, J. Plant, C. Stammers, G. Maxwell, T. Powell junr., E. W. Pentland, H. Thompson, and J. P. Dunbar (Secretary)

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## Improved access to probate records

**R**equiring wills and probate records has never been easy and is time consuming. The difficulty lies in working out in which series and then in which box [unit] of that series the document you want is stored.

In an attempt to simplify and speed up the process we have developed an electronic data base

which will be introduced into all of our search rooms in January 1997.

Once a file number for an estate has been obtained from the Probate Index the next step using the computer provided in the search room will be to type in the file number. The Public Record Office series (VPRS) and unit number for the files for the estate will appear on the screen

**Public  
Record  
Office**

Home Page address:

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~provic/>

Email address:

[lavpro@vicnet.net.au](mailto:lavpro@vicnet.net.au)

# MID-GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

	\$ (+ postage)
<b>BOOKS</b> (postage cost on application)	
<i>Hazelwood</i> Cemetery Transcriptions (2 vol)	30 (set)
<i>Gippsland Crematorium</i> Transcriptions	15
<i>Gippsland Crematorium</i> Register	15
<i>Traralgon</i> Transcriptions (2 vol)	40 (set)
<i>Walhalla</i> Transcriptions	15
<i>Toongabbie</i> Register & Transcriptions	20
<i>Trafalgar</i> Register & Transcriptions	20
<i>Willow Grove</i> Register & Transcriptions	15
<i>Childers</i> Register & Transcriptions	5
<b>M/ FICHE</b> (postage included)	<b>\$</b>
<i>Traralgon</i> Transcriptions (6)	25
<i>Toongabbie</i> Register & Transcriptions (2)	7
<i>Trafalgar</i> Register & Transcriptions (2)	7
<i>Willow Grove</i> Register & Transcriptions (1)	5
<i>Childers</i> Register & Transcriptions (1)	4

Inquiries\Orders (etc) should be directed to  
The Publications Officer  
Mid-Gippsland Family History Society  
PO Box 767  
Morwell 3840