

# *~ Furphy Murmurs ~*



*Newsletter No 34      May 2007*

## **SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc.**

### **SFHG Report**

The Shepparton Family History Group have completed another very successful six months. Visitor numbers to our rooms continue to grow, research enquiries still come in with unending regularity, more acquisitions to our ever expanding library are making our group one to be admired by many other genealogy groups. A steady number of outings, seminars and guest speakers keep our active members very involved, very busy and very much appreciated. Please support our activities, they are for the benefit of us all.

With the advent of the Internet, many family historians assume everything can be found on the "Net". Leading historians say that the real history will only be found by searching through records which can only be found in Libraries like ours and by listening to people who have the expertise in locating records elsewhere.

Browsing through the items listed in this our 34th newsletter will give you an idea of just what can be gained from becoming an active member of the Shepparton Family History Group.

### **Coming Events**

#### **Benalla & District Family History Society GMAGS members open day**

All GMAGS group members are invited to an open day on June 2nd from 10am to 4pm at St Andrews Church Primary Hall, Church St Benalla.

The day will consist of a cemetery walk followed by lunch and research.

#### **"A Tour of the British Isles with a Family History Flavour" June 20th 2007 8.00pm**

One of our members, Bill Porter, will be reliving his recent trip to Ireland at our next meeting. Bill's family history has been greatly enhanced during the time he spent touring the British Isles, visiting relations, ancestor's villages and cemeteries.

Please come along and enjoy Bill's many travel tales and his very interesting power point presentation of Ireland.

#### **State Library of Victoria Visit. 23rd June 2007**

The SFHG are travelling to the State Library on Sat 23rd June for a day which includes research time as well as two guided tours arranged by Anne Burrows. Tour one is through the Genealogy section of the library whilst the second will include the newspaper archives section.

#### **SFHG Open Day Sunday 8th July 1.00 to 4.00pm**

Come along and browse through our extensive research library which includes many new CD's, microfiche and books (see Library Acquisition list). Make this a day to restart your family history journey and to ask questions of our research team and join us for afternoon tea.

## **FAMILY HISTORY WEEK August 4-11**

### **Public Records Office Victoria Seminar Shepparton Library. August 4th 1.30-3.30pm**

James McKinnon, Manager Public Programs, will be speaking at the Shepparton Library on the subjects of Victorian wills, probates and administration papers and their relevance to family history researchers. These records are amongst the most used records at the PROV and are a boon for genealogists seeking information.

These papers may also have the address of the deceased and perhaps other family members. A will can be especially helpful in tracing female family members who may have married and changed their surname, this can then be followed up through electoral rolls and other records.

**A reminder that our annual meeting will be held on Wed 18th of July 2007 at 8.00 pm.**

**Please come along and support the committee and other members and offer your suggestions for an even better Shepparton Family History Group.**

## **Mansfield Historical Society Open Day October 27th & 28th 2007**

All members of the GMAGS groups are invited to Mansfield for the weekend to celebrate the opening of their new rooms located at the old railway station. The weekend will include tours of the Mansfield and Jamieson museums, a town walk of historic sites, lunch at the Jamieson brewery and many other activities.

## **GMAGS EXPO 2007**

### **Saturday 17th November: 10.00am to 4.00pm**

The Goulburn and Murray Association of Family and Local History Groups is holding their 8th annual expo at the Mulwala services club.

Join in with fellow researchers from around the Murray and Goulburn Valley to browse through the immense range of records held by commercial and local family history groups.

Educational sessions held during the day allow you to hear various speakers on subjects pertaining to family history.

A raffle for \$250 worth of fuel will be drawn on the day.

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### **New Members**

The Shepparton Family History Group welcome the following new members to our group.

Peter Dicker, Liz Harwood, Di Feldtman, Robyn Landvogt, Judy Marsh, Barbara McCorry, Ron Thompson, Shirley Brown and Judith Gray.

We hope they all find our group a very valuable partner in their family history research.

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### **Members Contributions**

One of our members, Kerry Betts, each year organizes an exhibition to be displayed in the entrance to the Shepparton Library for the month of May. This year's feature is a display of indexes compiled by our group and held at our rooms.

Take a trip to the library to not only look over this display but also to see the records which your library has relevant to family history. The archive of microfilm of "The Shepparton News" and other older newspapers can be a tremendous resource for tracing local families.

Jenny Baldwin is one of our newer members from New Zealand and she has already given us a great insight into finding records from across the ditch. Following on from her talk at our monthly meeting, Jenny ran an Internet night at McGuire College specifically on New Zealand family history web sites. Her list of

valuable Internet sites can be seen on our Web page. (see back page for details)

Lorraine Waldron, continues to index books at an amazing rate. Some of the books indexed so far are:-  
 100 Years of Local Government 1880-1980 Euroa Shire.  
 A Place. The Story of Karimba Hall.All Saints Church of England Tatura.  
 Caniambo, Gowangardie and Tamleugh.  
 Fruits of Our Labour.  
 Furphy.  
 History of Shepparton 1838-1938.  
 People, Places and things of the North East.  
 Pine Lodge District Centenary.  
 The History of Kialla Village Settlement.  
 The Pennyweight Kids.  
 Dookie, the years to 1988.

Many thanks to Fay and Joan for the continuous updating of the district cemetery records and to our researchers for answering the many queries which come in via email, post and in person.

### Summary of Recent Events

#### “Family Tree Maker” Workshop

A very informative and successful workshop was held by our group on 1st April. Jan Parker from the Yarrowonga Family History Group conducted the 3 hour session, explaining the basics of entering family details through to printing out a complete family history book.

Jan supplied notes and answered numerous questions from the fifteen enthusiastic participants.

Thank you very much Jan for helping our members and guests gain a greater understanding of this widely used family tree computer program.

#### Research Requests

Some of the names researched since the October 2006 newsletter were:

Currie, Dainton / Wright, Jones / Maher, Holland, McCarron, Dunlevy, Sinclair, Way, Godwin, Storey, Grey / Gray, McMahan, Leahy, Hammond, Carlyon, Close, James, Cropper, Flannery / Flannelly, Sutherland, Ellangowan (property), Sutherland, Betts, Wright, Florence, Bligh / Clapperton, Tucknott, Watts, Knight / Griffiths, Dossett, McPherson, Khull, Pither, Zerbst / Organ, Marsden / Forbes, Ballinger, Dudley, Voumard, Berry, Heal(e)y,

#### Internet at McGuire College

Family History research nights are conducted on the fourth Tuesday of the month at McGuire College, 7.00pm till 9.00pm. McGuire College staff will give you hands on experience at searching for family history information using the internet. This is a free night and a great opportunity to explore the wonders of the internet. **Learners are very welcome.**

#### PROV Trip

Five of our members from SFHG recently travelled to the Public Records Office Victoria to participate in seminars as well as research at the wonderful research facility at North Melbourne. Three seminars were held on the day with the National Archives Australia and PROV explaining the resources and facilities they have available for use by the public.

Members ordered their required files online at the McGuire College internet night (held each fourth Tuesday at 7.00pm) and had them waiting to view when they arrived at the PROV.

Many land records, wills, probates, school files and more, were browsed, photo-copied or photographed to add a little extra to each of the members family history story.

## Library Acquisitions

Mansfield Cemetery	CD
Wangaratta Cemetery	CD
Ballarat Cemeteries and Crematorium	CD
Barooga General Cemetery	CD
Police Gazette 1864, 1868, 1870, 1874	CD*
Victorian Government Gazette 1878	CD*
“Numurkah” W.H.Bossence	Book
“Researching Irish Australian”	Book
“Back to Dunnolly 150 Years”	Book
“Family History Research in the Central Goldfields of Victoria”	Book
“True Blue-Stories of Bravery from Victoria Police”	Book
“A Dictionary of Medical and Related Terms for the Family Historian”	Book
“Words from Wills and other Probate Records”	Book
“Guide to Sussex Burial Index 1813-1837 (Vol 1 Eastern Sussex)	Book
Brighton Burial Index (England)	CD
Dargo Cemetery Headstones	CD
Grant Cemetery and Historical Site	CD
“Tatura and District -The People”	Book
Tasmanian Convict Index	CD
Tasmanian BDM’s (births 1900 to 1919, deaths & marriages 1900 to 1930)	CD
New Zealand WW1 Census	CD
1881 & 1893 N Z electoral rolls	CD
National Burial Locator NZ	CD
NZ Marriages to 1956	CD
“Wool Away at Nulla Nulla”	Book

\* fully searchable CD’s

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## Interclub Newsletters

A valuable research aid can be the various club newsletters which our group receive throughout the year. Some of the group’s newsletters are:

Federation of Australian Historical Soc inc, “Wangaratta Threads”, “Blarney” Irish Ancestors Group, Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society inc, “Ibis Heritage” Kerang and District FHG, “Lachlan Valley Gold” Forbes FHG inc, “Belfast Genies” Port Fairy, “Black Sheep” East Gippsland FH inc, “The Gazette” Toowoomba & Darling Downs FH inc, Yarrawonga FHG inc, “Kilmore Connections” Hist soc, “Roses & Thorns” Benalla, and “Lost in Victoria” Southern branch Gen Soc Qld inc.

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## School Sites Recognised

Plaques have been placed at the sites of the following state schools.

Tamleugh S S No 1626  
 Earlston S S No 2850 (3 sites)  
 Koonda S S No 2631  
 Upotipotpon South S S No 2913

A brief history of each school has been compiled and a copy of the booklet is available at the SFHG rooms.  
 Contact Robin on 0357 981335 for more details.

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### Web Sites of Interest

West Australian Post Office directories 1893 to 1949: [www.slwa.wa.gov.au/search.html](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/search.html) (type in post office)

Archives Office of Tasmania [www.archives.tas.gov.au](http://www.archives.tas.gov.au)

All UK census except Ireland [www.freecen.org.uk](http://www.freecen.org.uk)

Public Records Office Victoria [www.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au)

### Changes to Victorian Birth Certificate Access

It appears that access to some information from the registry of birth, death and marriage records will be further restricted in the near future. The current restriction on Victorian birth and change of name records will increase from 75 years to 100 years. This will affect the current CD and microfiche data contained in the Edwardian and Great War indexes. Products in breach of the restriction will no longer be available for purchase after the release of the Registrar's *Access Policy 2007*.

### The Fairley Family

The Fairley surname has long been associated with business in the Shepparton area. James and Mary Fairley arrived in Australia in 1887 with their 5 sons and shortly after moved to Shepparton. James was an astute businessman and undoubtedly one of the original retail barons of Shepparton.



Fairleys store c1889  
("Shepparton Past and Present" by V.E.Vibert M.B.E)

An Obituary from "The Shepparton News" March 1st 1907, describes Mr Fairley's significant contribution to the Goulburn Valley.

#### DEATH OF MR JAMES FAIRLEY

#### A PROMINENT TOWNSMAN PASSES AWAY.



James Fairley

The News of the death of Mr James Fairley, one of the most enterprising business men in the Goulburn Valley, has been received with genuine regret by all classes of the community. The demise was not unexpected, as deceased had been ailing for some time, but with the indomitable pluck that characterised his career he fought the trouble to the bitter end. He passed away peacefully at his residence, "Ingleside" Fryers street on Wednesday afternoon about 5.30, after over a day's unconsciousness. He was, however, fully prepared for the end, and surrounded by his sorrowing wife and family met the final summons, after having left his house in order. His concluding days of life were typical of the methodical way in which he conducted his business affairs throughout-leaving nothing undone.

Drs Florance and Welshman were assiduous in their attention to him in his last illness, and no efforts were spared by a devoted wife and family to alleviate his sufferings.

The deceased was born at Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, Scotland, and was nearly 62 years of age at the time of his death. At an early age he entered the drapery business in a store in his native town. There he gradually rose from a position of servant to master in the one house. In Grangemouth he was married in 1874 to Miss Mary Agnes Walker, daughter of Mr. William Walker, a shipbroker. With his wife and five sons he came to Australia in 1887, with the

intention of taking up land. He could not find anything to suit his tastes, however, and he decided to resume his old business as a draper. During a visit to Shepparton the business of the North Eastern Joint Stock Company, of which Mr. H.M.Sutherland was manager, was offered to him, and he purchased it. Mr. T.G.M Knight, who only recently severed his connection with Mr. Fairley's business, continued as manager of the grocery department, and their association was a very amicable one, as a recent send-off to Mr. Knight, prior to leaving for Kyabram testified. The business was at that time located in High-street, opposite the railway station. Mr. Fairley soon made it apparent that he was a keen business man and possessed of progressive ideas. He worked the business up quickly, and at the same time he took an active but unassuming part in pushing the town ahead. He was more than once invited to take public positions and he was invited to stand for the shire council and other elective bodies, but he preferred to attend strictly to his business. His purse was always open however to help any laudable cause. Possessed of sound, fine business acumen, and having the rare gift of being able to express his opinion in excellent language his services were always acceptable in furthering public movements. In 1894 he with a number of other enterprising spirits launched a proposal to establish a butter factory in Shepparton. The necessary capital was subscribed, and deceased was amongst those who were on the provisional directorate. He was appointed a director, and later on became first chairman of the board, an office he held for many years. He was succeeded by Messrs George Gordon and Joseph Hillier. His business ability was highly appreciated by his colleagues, and his loss to them a severe blow. "He showed the way out of many financial troubles and business difficulties," said the chairman (Mr. Hillier) yesterday, "and we shall miss him very much indeed." The progress of the factory in spite of determined opposition owes much to Mr. Fairley's business acumen. Deceased was also a member of the executive of the Victorian Store-keepers' Association. To keep up with the expansion of his trade, in 1900 Mr. Fairley bought out business formerly controlled by Mr. Thomas Geddes, in Fryers-street and in the succeeding years he has built up one of the most prominent establishments in the country, combining all departments of commerce. He also established business places at Mooroopna and Nathalia. The former is being successfully conducted by his son, Mr. W Fairley, but he sold the latter out to Mr. C.W.Coburn.

On account of failing health Mr. Fairley took a trip to the old country in April 1902, being accompanied by his devoted wife. The business in the meantime was conducted by his sons, Messrs J.F and A.Fairley. Deceased and his wife returned the following September and Mr. Fairley had regained his old vigor after visiting old friends and renewing acquaintances with the localities familiar to him in early years. In March last he met with an accident at the Mooroopna railway station, and to this is attributed the ultimate cause of death. He was talking to his son at the station prior to the departure of the night train to Shepparton, and in hurrying to get a seat he fell down the incline of the platform and sustained severe injuries which caused him to be laid up in a private hospital in Melbourne for some time. The immediate cause of death was a kidney trouble. For months past he had been ailing, and once or twice it was thought he would not survive, but he recovered strength to partially resume his business habits, and about a month ago he attended a meeting of the butter factory board. His physical condition, however gradually became worse, and for days it was known that there was no hope of his recovery. Dr Florence spent Tuesday night with him, and did all he could to lessen his sufferings. In their sad bereavement the sorrowing widow and family have the deep sympathy of the community, as deceased was universally regarded as a kindly employer and a just man whom it will be hard to replace. He was noted for his moral, upright character, freedom from pretension, and particularly conscientious. He leaves a family of five sons, one of whom (Herbert Thomas) is now in Canada. His eldest son John Frederick, and youngest, Andrew W, have charge of the Shepparton business, and his second son -William W. conducts the Mooroopna branch, James, the third, is now in Gippsland.

Deceased has one surviving brother, Mr. Thomas Fairley, who visited Shepparton a few years ago. The funeral will leave his late residence "Ingleside," Fryers-street today (Friday) at 2.30 pm. Telegrams and messages of condolence have been received from all parts by his bereaved family, and amongst his old colleagues in business and social affairs there is a general feeling of deep sorrow at the blank created in the community by his death.

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### Sir Andrew Walker Fairley

James Fairley's son, A W Fairley, inherited his father's business skills as this tribute in "The Shepparton News" Wednesday April 21 1965 shows.

Sir Andrew Walker Fairley, KBE,CMG, Managing Director of Shepparton Preserving Company Ltd, is dead.

He was amongst the greatest of this States leaders - a man of intellectual strength, humanity and dedication who by his sagacity created the largest fruit canning complex in the southern hemisphere - and the nucleus of a prospering Community.

Sir Andrew died in the Mercy Hospital, Melbourne, at 11.30 am on Thursday. Forty employees of SPC, the company he led for 40 years, attended his funeral from South Yarra to Fawkner Crematorium on Saturday morning.

Acknowledged primarily as one of the leading fruit canning experts in the world Sir Andrew was a man of decision, recognized financial genius and vitality which made him an undisputed leader in any sphere.



For his services to the fruit industry and to the State of Victoria (Sir Andrew was a Commissioner of the State Electricity Commission for 20 years, to 1957) he was the recipient of the CMG in 1946 followed by the KBE in 1951.

In the retrospective light of his long and brilliant career Shepparton could have offered Sir Andrew no more appropriate tribute than his election both as first Mayor of the Borough (1927-28) and first Mayor of the City (1948-49). He also served as Mayor 1931-32.

He retired from municipal office in August 1950, having for many years been chairman of the important Public Works Committee.

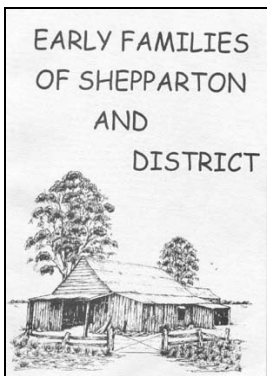
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### **Books for Sale**

*“Mary Eastman must have been a very strong woman to have coped with the hardships of her early days at Caniambo. At one time with the Broken River in flood and the water running through their home, Mary couldn’t leave as she was about to give birth to one of her children. Each time she put her hand down from the bed she could feel the water lapping around her.*

*Creameries were dotted all around the Shepparton area and it was reported in The Shepparton News of 2nd March 1894 that —”*

These are just a few lines from the many interesting stories in “Early Families of Shepparton and District”

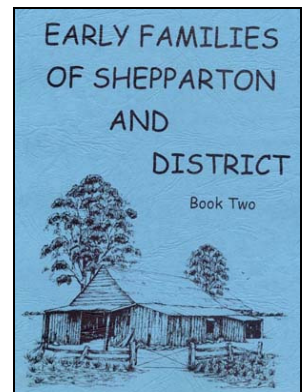


**Book 1** “Early Families of Shepparton and District “ is available to purchase from the SFHG. There are 135 family stories from early days in the Goulburn Valley.

Price: \$25.00

**Book 2** compiled by the SFHG contains 70 stories, over 50 photographs and also articles of historical value relating to the beginning of the irrigation scheme in the Shepparton area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a valuable historical reference and social history of life in the Shepparton area prior to the 1930’s .The index contains some 700 entries. Price: \$20.00

P & P is \$7.50 for up to 3 books.




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### **Membership Subscriptions Due**

Membership fees of \$25 single, \$45 joint, are now due. Please make payment to the Treasurer (P O Box 1529 Shepparton 3632) or at the Family History Rooms (open days only).

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### **Meeting and Research Times**

#### **Shepparton Family History Group inc**

Address: 154 Welsford St. Shepparton (Cnr Welsford and High St)  
 Post: P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton. Vic .3632  
 Internet: [www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfb](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfb) email: [shepfbg@fastmail.fm](mailto:shepfbg@fastmail.fm)  
 Meeting Times: 8.00pm Third Wednesday of each month at the SFHG Club Rooms  
 Research Times\*\* Every Wednesday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.  
 Even Dated Sundays 1.00 to 4.00 pm.  
 Odd Dated Fridays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.