

# ~*Furphy Murrurs*~



*Newsletter No 36 May 2008*

**SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc. (pages 1 - 6)**  
**SHEPPARTON HERITAGE CENTRE inc. (pages 7-10)**

**SFHG Report:**

The past six months have been very busy for our group. The GMAGS family history expo at Mulwala last November saw an increase in attendance, perhaps due partly to the SBS television series "Who do you think you are". Keep Saturday 15th November free for this year's Expo.

Our members enjoyed the Christmas break up afternoon tea and a well earned break over the Christmas - New Year holiday, coming back with renewed enthusiasm.

We attended the Bendigo family history expo in March, having a busy day helping with research requests and catching up with other genie groups. Our members always look forward to this annual event.

We welcomed Mornington Peninsula family history society to our district in April and it was wonderful to meet such a great group of people. (see further report on page 5).

All members please note that our annual meeting will be held on 16th July 2008 at 8.00 pm in the Welsford st rooms. This is an opportunity for you to help shape the future of your club.

**Office Bearers 2007-08**

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Eileen Torney (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)
- Garry Wallden (vice President)
- Betty Foster & Fay Botheras (Research Officers)
- Eileen Torney (Librarian)

**GMAGS Expo Sat 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The ninth annual **Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups** will be held again at "Club Mulwala". In excess of 30 stallholders will be there and several guest speakers will once again make this a day not to miss for any one researching their family history. Many exhibitors from outside the Goulburn Murray area will also be attending. Enter this date in your diary now! Goody bags, lucky prizes and the ever popular fuel raffle are all features of this great day.

It is essential that all members support this very worthwhile event to ensure that it continues to be a major Family History Expo in the Murray Goulburn region.

Keep up to date with the expo program at [www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~gmags)

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. (Ed Furgol)

## THANK YOU

Joan and Alice Esam have been cutting, cataloguing and indexing, articles of interest from local newspapers for many years. These articles are an extremely valuable resource for family historians seeking information on people from the Goulburn Valley.

They are hanging up their scissors, but remaining very valuable members, and we are looking for a volunteer to take over their work from the end of June. If you think that you could help us carry on with this important task please contact Joan.

Thank you Joan and Alice for your dedicated work for our club, many future geniuses will also be very grateful for your efforts.

### \$\$\$\$\$ Membership \$\$\$\$\$

Members please note that 2008/09 subs will be due in July and payable to the treasurer.

P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.  
Single \$25.00. Family \$45.00.

## Don't Forget

### • **Members only research days.**

The first odd dated Sunday of each month is set aside for research by our members. Come along between 1.00 and 4.00pm and make use of your facilities at the Welsford st rooms.

### • **Maguire College Free Internet Evenings.**

The fourth Tuesday evening of each month from 7.00 to 9.30 pm is reserved for a Family History oriented internet evening. Maguire College staff make their time available to explain the vast internet options available for everyone researching their family history. Learners are very welcome.

## New Members

The Shepparton Family History Group welcome as new members to our club, Margaret Guppy, Ted Ball and Cheryl Dickinson. We are sure that if you take advantage of our vast range of research materials your family history searching will be most rewarding.

## Research Requests

Names requested for research during November - April included:

Akeroyd, Alexander, Berry / Mitchell, Brett, Brownbill, Dawe, Harris, Keating, McAlpine, Murphy, Quirk, Taig, Wright.

Epitaph for a deceased waiter-

“God finally caught his eye.”

(George S Kaufman)

## Library Acquisitions

- “*Friend and Foe*” *Caroline Chisholm and the women of Kyneton, 1840 -2004*, by Brenda Stevens-Chambers.
- *Galloway, Isle of Arran and Western Highlands, by Midland Red Motor Services*. Donation
- *Surrey*, by Paul Ellek.
- *Essex*, by Paul Ellek
- *South Wales and the Monmouth Shire*, by Paul Ellek.
- *English Villages. The Shell book*, by Michael Joseph, 1980.
- *Firth of Clyde(The)*, by Jarrold Colour Prodns.
- *Oxford in colour*, by Jarrold Colour Prodns.
- *Newbridge Football Club Centenary 1988 - 100 years on and going strong*, by committee.
- *Skye (Victoria) 100 years 1850 - 1950*, by Dot Morrison. 2004. Donation.
- *Henry Thorne of Murchison - an enterprising pioneer*, by Susan Brook-Raso. Donation.
- *Thomas Gawne from Ballaugh to Kilmore, Benalla, Yabba North and Beyond*, by Patricia Beard and David Gawne. Donation.
- “*From Lincolnshire to the Bush*” (History of the Ball Family). donated by Ted Ball.
- *Two model farmers - “Ann and Joseph Day of Murchison”*, by Charles Fahey.
- *No man's land - “Women of the Northern Territory”*, by Barbara James.
- *Ghost towns of Australia (1980)* by George Farwell.
- *Maskell Family Reunion - 2007*. Donation.
- *Not bricks and Mortar but people - “History of Mooroopna Hospital Vol 2*, by G Nice.
- *Review of Closer Settlement* (Shepparton district, fruit growing), by Committee 1934.
- Herald Sun Wedding Anniversaries 2001 - 2007. (Newspaper cuttings).
- “*From Tamlaght O’Crisley to Tallygaroopna*” CD , by Barry Campbell.

## Busy, Busy, Busy

In the past six months we have had in excess of 500 people sign our visitors book during our research days.

## WE NEED YOU !

Volunteers are an essential part of every organisation, if you can help with indexing, newspaper cataloguing or even being on duty during our open days, it will help to ease the workload on some of our overworked members and improve our club's resources.

Could you spare some time to learn about our resources and then help others with their research?

If so we would love to hear from you. Please call at our rooms during opening hours.

## Mrs Olive Anne Hicken

When state laws were changed allowing women to become Justice of the Peace, one lady in the Shepparton district was quickly nominated for that position. That lady was Mrs Olive Annie Hicken, a local orchardist and well known leader in helping those in need, be they individuals or community groups.

*Shepparton News May 1927.*

Col Bouchier expressed pleasure at the appointment of Mrs Hicken as a J.P. for the Northern Bailiwick. As the Bill authorising the appointment of women as J's.P. had become law, he didn't see why we shouldn't have a lady justice so that when the requisition came before him he recommended the appointment to the proper authority.

*The Shepparton News May 23 1927.*

### First Shepparton J.P.

The accompanying portrait of Mrs Olive Annie Hicken will be at once recognised by all the Shepparton people. Mrs Hicken has filled a multiplicity of public positions, and her appointment as a J.P. has added another onerous task to her many activities. Thinking people have long ago decided that there is a necessity for female JP's and there is only one opinion among Shepparton people about Mrs Hicken's fitness for that position—by character, no less than by experience, she is the very lady for the job.



Mrs Hicken

Mrs Hicken, whose maiden name was Miss Olive Greaves, has lived all her life in Shepparton except for a period of seven years. For a long time she has kept house for her uncle Mr. Wm Macdermott, who, though considerably past the allotted span, is mentally alert as ever he was. He is fortunate in having a lady so competent as his niece to attend to his domestic affairs, as well as to assist him in conducting his business.

It might be thought that in the discharge of such duties Mrs Hicken would find rather more than enough to do, but she is one of those women to whom work is the chief pleasure life has to offer. Carving little or nothing for the recreations which are so attractive to most people, Mrs Hicken has only to be shown a public matter which needs attention and she at once throws herself into it with all the energy of her ardent nature. Difficulties which to many people would appear insurmountable are no bar to her - she brushes them aside as mere vexatious worries which must not be permitted to interfere with the object she has in view. Give her the lead in any

movement and it may be taken for granted that it will be done with marvelous attention to every detail. For over nine years she has been working, with the best possible effect for the Mooroopna Hospital, and at present she is engaged in an attempt to raise a notable sum for the hospital in its jubilation year.

Mrs Hicken came into special prominence when the Victorian Farmer's Union was launched, taking part in an aggressive organizing campaign and being largely instrumental in the formation of the Shepparton women's branch of that organisation. Since she began her work in that respect the Goulburn Valley electorate has been a safe seat for Col M.W.J. Bouchier, C.M.G.,D.S.O.

Mrs Hicken's work for the Mechanic's Institute took on a special character during the time that her uncle, Mr. Macdermott was president of the institution. Until recently she took a hand in selecting every book, and she has helped to have all the volumes nicely covered. The latest move is to establish a children's section in connection with the library.

The baby health centre has always commanded the sympathy of Mrs Hicken, and it was largely owing to her that the Shepparton Shire Council was induced to give the scheme financial support and to grant a site for the building in the Queen's gardens. She also devotes much time to motoring Sister Elcoate, who is in charge of the centre, on her trips to outlying parts of the district. The New Settlers League, of which she is the local representative, has the highest opinion of her because of her zeal in the cause of these people, many of whom have occasion to bless her.

An allied scheme is the establishment of a branch of the Bush Nursing Association at Katandra. When the committee were doubtful about the funds for this purpose, Mrs Hicken told them not to worry and straight-way set herself to work to procure the signatures of several representative gentlemen guaranteeing the nurses salary, and also took a fair share of the risk herself.

It is impossible to enumerate all of the activities of Mrs Hicken, but some idea of her amazing versatility may be gained by the fact that she took the part of "dear little Buttercup" when the "H.M.S. Pinafore" was produced in Shepparton a few years ago by the Orvale Choral Society, under the baton of Mr.H.F.V.Konig. The part is one which few amateurs would care to attempt, but Mrs. Hicken's fine voice and strong sense of humor enabled her to give an excellent rendering of it. She also played the part of Ruth in the "Pirates of Penzanze".

Mrs Hicken has not a great fund of finesse— in fact she is on occasion very blunt in her way of expressing her opinion, but that is not saying she is tactless. What principally aids her is that no one can question the goodness of her heart or the worthiness of her aims. Let a case come before her where help

is needed, or wrong is so much as contemplated, and her good will is instantly enlisted, and that with surprising effect, and after all a person who does this wins many admirers, even though they do not always agree with her.

As the preceding articles show, Mrs Olive Annie Hicken was a leading light in enhancing the well-being of the community. After being one of the foundation committee members of the Country Women's Association, she went on to serve as the State President or State Treasurer for many years.

Mrs Hicken was awarded the O.B.E. in 1951, she died at Brunswick in October 1965 aged 82, her ashes are interred in the Fawknor cemetery.

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## Recent Events

### Chinese Puzzle

Recently while researching the Shepparton cemetery and putting together information for a cemetery walk, two of our members, Kerry and Eileen, came across a small headstone inscribed with Chinese lettering and so a mystery began. Who was buried there, what did the inscription represent and who could translate the characters ?

The Shepparton News printed the story of the mystery and we were pleased to see it on the front page thus not only giving our group some publicity but also creating interest amongst the community as to the identity of the unknown person buried at the cemetery.

Eileen received several phone calls from two ladies who were prepared to translate the headstone and also an email from the Golden Dragon museum Bendigo. From the information gathered it tells us the name of the village, the male name, his age and the date, the year of the tiger.

Part of the headstone is damaged so some of the characters are not very clear. It would appear to be a Mr Charlie Ah Hoe originally from Toi Shan city but had lived in Shepparton for quite a while.

His obituary below is from "The Shepparton News" 27th Sept 1926.

*A familiar figure in Shepparton streets was the late Mr. C Ah Hoe, who passed away in Mooroopna hospital last Saturday. The funeral took place yesterday in the Shepparton cemetery, the service being conducted by the Rev H.G. Secomb (Methodist), and the burial arrangements being carried out by Messers Kittle Bros.*

*The deceased was a well-known market gardener who has resided in Shepparton for about 40 years. Some time ago he took a trip to his native land but he returned*

*to Shepparton which he seems to have regarded as his home. "Charlie" as he was mostly called, was of a kindly disposition, though he could fight for his rights too when occasion arose. He was always willing to contribute to charitable objects and he was generally esteemed for his consistent sense and practice of fair play. The respect felt for him was evidenced by the attendance at his funeral of nearly all his own countrymen in the town and immediate district, as well as a considerable number of Europeans.*

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## Cemetery Walk

SFHG member Kerry Betts is busy preparing a cemetery walk based at the Shepparton cemetery. She is looking at the stories of some of our pioneers, and using a variety of historical sources to fill out their stories. With such a variety of headstones it will only be possible to impart a fraction of the information in this large cemetery which dates from the 1870's. The acquisition of former primary school, Shepparton Park, added to its available land. It is attractively sited on the only sand hill remaining in Shepparton, the others having fallen victim to the march of progress.

Previous researchers have photographed the early headstones and compiled detailed registers, headstone transcriptions and plans.

As we enter we see the graves of our early Methodist pioneers on our left and Church of England on our right, and anyone familiar with Shepparton's history will soon find many familiar names, some, such as Longstaff and Bouchier are also commemorated in our street names. It is not possible to include everyone. There are so many stories.

The early divisions catered for the major Christian denominations but Shepparton has always had a diverse multi cultural population. The additional section labelled as "neutral" has a Chinese headstone with Chinese characters. Close to this grave are those of Moslems with the star and crescent symbol. After an increase in the Moslem population in the 1940's a separate Moslem section was established in the cemetery.

Patterns of migration are even visible in the Roman Catholic section, where the early graves are mostly of Irish extraction. Further along is a section with more ornate headstones and Italian names. In another area very elaborate crypts have been constructed.

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Kerry is also looking into the symbolism of headstones. As a full walk is only for the very fit she is trying to limit her information to a compact section, others can go further if they wish. People wanting to look up their own families graves can find the location from the records in the Shepparton Family History rooms.

Some of the notable graves included in the walk are Charlie Ah Hoe, Lieutenant Colonel Murray Bouchier (commander of light horse regiment at Beersheba), William Fraser (lessee of Tallygaroopna Run early 1860's), Thomas John Kittle (builder and undertaker), Alfred Leahy (Government surveyor of early selections), Edward J Maltby (owner of the Shepparton Hotel), Colin McPherson (owner of The Shepparton News), Sisters of Mercy (Roman Catholic Nuns)

### Mornington Peninsula F.H.S. Visit

The SFHG welcomed the MPFHS to our April meeting and it was a very enjoyable evening starting out with a short meeting and then three of Mornington's members enthralled us with some of their family history stories.

Ian Sinclair introduced the group and Sue Raso spoke about her Henry Thorne of Murchison and presented our group with a copy of the history. As you know it can be a small world in genealogy and of course this family was well known to some of our members. Sue spent several hours on Thursday trawling through our records and confirming some of her family history. Roger MacDonald spoke about his family history and presented us with a record of the Walsh family from Kyabram. Our group is always pleased to receive family histories for our library. Val Latimer spoke about the upcoming launch of her book "Echos from the front".

Lyn Emblin spoke a few words on behalf of MPHS and presented Bruce with a calander and "Skye One Hundred Years" by Dot Morrison. Supper was enjoyed and everyone chatted about all things genealogical and more.

Thursday morning brought us all together again for a look at our records and research and a visit to the Shepparton Heritage Centre and of course morning tea. For Mornington it was then either the art gallery, shopping or the Cemetery walk conducted by our member Kerry on a lovely autumn afternoon. A leisurely hour or so viewing the graves of some well known and lesser known former residents all with interesting tombstones, one being a Chinese headstone (see page 4).

The evening brought us together again at the historic Terminus Hotel where 26 of us enjoyed a wonderful evening chatting over our meal and learning from each other about our respective groups. We thank Ian Sinclair and our member Wendy Evans for arranging the visit. We have an invitation to visit the Mornington Peninsula F H S rooms, which we hope to take up later in the year.

### Centenary of Women's Vote in Victoria

Even one hundred years after the first fleet had landed in Australia, women were still not allowed to vote in state elections. The Australian Women's Suffrage Society was formed in 1889 with the aim to obtain the same voting rights for women as those possessed by men

In an extraordinary effort to gain the right to vote for all Victorian women, a handful of dedicated women took to the streets in 1891 to collect signatures for a petition to present to the Parliament of Victoria. The result was an impressive collection of close to 30,000 signatures of women from all walks of life and all areas of Victoria. In Shepparton 129 signatures were collected for the petition, many residents from surrounding districts were also signatories. In April 1894 a meeting of women in Melbourne founded the Women's Suffrage Society. (Suffrage meaning "the right to vote").

By 1905 all women\*, except Victorian, were given the right to vote in state elections. Women\* had been given **federal** suffrage in 1902, Australia being the first major country in the world to give women the right to vote and stand in federal elections. Victorian women\* had to wait until November 1908 for the Adult Suffrage bill to be passed granting them equal voting rights with men.



The 260 metres long 1891 suffrage petition.

On June 28th, there will be a centenary celebration of this milestone event at the Queen's gardens and Eastbank centre, Shepparton from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm. SFHG will have a display in the Eastbank centre featuring biographies of some of the Shepparton women who signed the petition.

If you have a relative who was one of the suffrage petition signatories we would like to hear from you.

To search the petition online, go to:  
[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/)

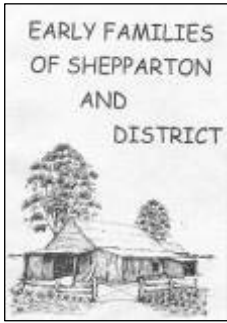
### Some Local Signatories to the Suffrage Petition:

Jane Appleby, Anne Barrott, Anna Carmichael, Louisa Dargie, Mary Fairley, L C Furphy, Elise Gourley, Maggie Hodgins, E Kittle, Emma Logan, Jessie Martin, Isabella McCracken, S McBride, Jane Moore, Caroline Northill, Anniebella O'Toole, Mary Rae, Susan Redding, Ann Shallberg, Ellen Smithers, Isabella Sprunt, Jennie Tonkin, E A Vibert, Martha Wilson.

### Web Sites

<a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/24fgux">www.tinyurl.com/24fgux</a>	Digitised New Zealand papers 1840-1915. Many Australian articles.
<a href="http://www.tinyurl.com/29yloa">www.tinyurl.com/29yloa</a>	Irish online databases. Co Cork BDM's. (Pay site).
<a href="http://www.findmypast.com">www.findmypast.com</a>	Searchable list of passengers leaving UK 1890-1960.
<a href="http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk">www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk</a>	Almost 50 million Scottish records to access. Births up to 2006.
<a href="http://www.paperofrecord.com">www.paperofrecord.com</a>	Worldwide Newspaper search. includes Port Phillip Herald 1840-1902.
<a href="http://www.copyright.org.au">www.copyright.org.au</a>	Australian Copyright Council. Detailed copyright information.
<a href="http://tascoastalcemeteries.com">http://tascoastalcemeteries.com</a>	Tasmanian Coastal Cemeteries. Searchable index.

## BOOKS FOR SALE



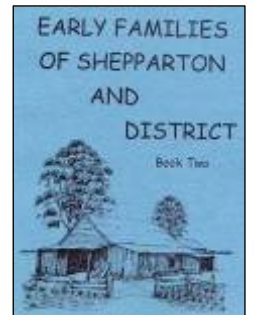
### **EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT**

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

### **EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT**

#### **Book Two**

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



## 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.

Shepparton Family History Group  
P.O.Box 1529.  
Shepparton 3632

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