

~*Furphy Murrurs*~



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Heritage Centre Inc
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Newsletter No 42 October 2011



Shepparton
Family History Group Inc
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SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

Shepparton Family History Group report

Since our last newsletter Shepparton Family History Group members, capably led by Kerry, have completed the checking of nearly 11,000 photographic images taken of the Rodney Shire rate books as well as re-photographing any pages which were not of acceptable quality. The massive task of indexing all the names appearing in the rate books, covering the years 1886 to 1952, has been commenced by one of our members. Fay is no stranger to the tedious computer work involved with indexing having undertaken many other similar tasks for our group.

The rate book copies are available to view on one the computers in our room but at present they will have to be searched by individual years and individual shire ridings.

The New Zealand research day we held during family history week was a great success. Our member with New Zealand links, Jenny Baldwin, conducted the seminar and had all in attendance very happy with her complete roundup of possible places and web sites to track down any family history information relating to New Zealand (more details on page 2).

Our annual meeting was conducted in July, all the serving office bearers were returned (details on page 8).

Following the success of our two earlier books, the Shepparton Family History Group intends to publish Book 3 of

“Early Families of Shepparton and District”

Was your family in Shepparton and district before 1940?
Would you like your family included?

Write an account of no more than 1,000 words.

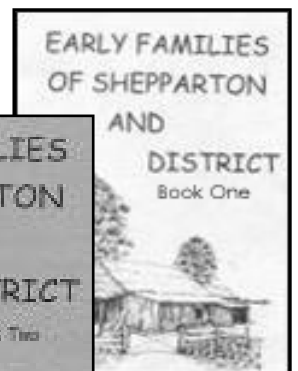
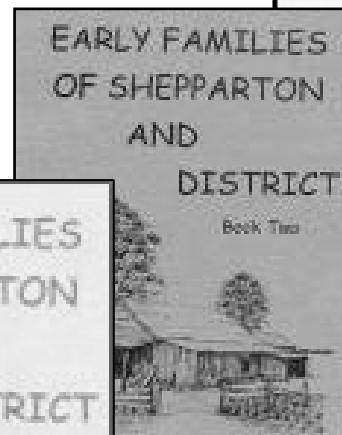
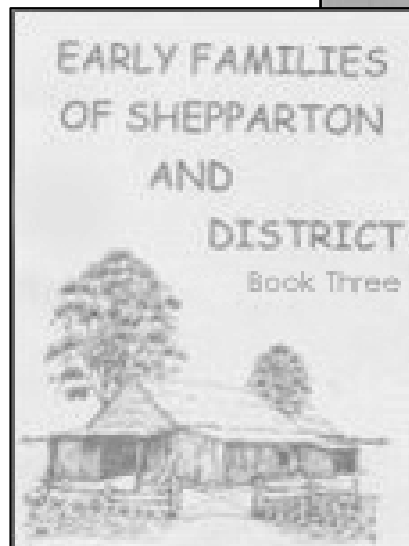
Include one (or two) photographs if you wish.

Our contact details are:-

Post: P.O. Box 1529, Shepparton 3632

Email: shepjhg@fastmail.fm

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~shepjh



Past Events

National Family History Week 2011

Our family history week contribution in August 2011, in conjunction with the Goulburn Valley Regional Library, was a seminar conducted by one of our members, Jenny Baldwin. New Zealand Research was the title for the seminar, with Jenny explaining the many resources available to the family historian wanting to trace any connections to the 'land of the long white cloud'.

Using the wireless internet connection at the library Jenny was able to explain the various internet sites available, this included 'Papers Past', a very valuable free site which contains more than two million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1945 and includes 68 publications from all regions of New Zealand.



Jenny Baldwin speaking at the G V Regional Library

A number of CD's are available with information relating to NZ resources. These include burials, marriages, census, electoral rolls and shipping records. The Shepparton Family History Group have these records available at our rooms.

GMAGS Seminar

Guest speaker Shauna Hicks was the presenter for a seminar held at the Yarrowonga Family History Centre on the 10th October 2011.

Mining Ancestors, Caring for Family Archives, and Online Newspapers were the chosen subjects, each of these being a great resource for genealogists.

Shauna's wealth of knowledge in these areas was apparent as she could relate her experience in successfully finding her own family tree information from each of these resources.

The cost was only \$10.00 per head which included morning tea, light lunch and afternoon tea all catered for by the Yarrowonga Family History members.

This was an exceptionally good day and everyone attending came away with some extra sources of information to study.

(visit www.shaunahicks.com.au/)

Coming Events

SFHG Christmas Break Up.

Our annual Christmas break up will be held on Sunday December 18th. Research and afternoon tea will be from 1.00 to 4.00 pm.

Members please bring a plate to share.

Upcoming Exhibition "On Their Own: Britain's child migrants"

This exhibition will be of interest to family historians who may have a child migrant on their family tree.

From the 1860's to the late 1960's more than 100,000 children were sent from Britain to Canada, Australia and other Commonwealth countries through child migration schemes. Few were orphans, many came from disadvantaged families. Some were treated kindly, others were treated appallingly. All suffered separation from their families.

In the main the exhibition focuses on Australia and Britain.

- Immigration Museum, Melbourne.
- 13th October 2011 to 6th May 2012
- www.britainschildmigrants.com

Excerpt from Ancestor Vol 30 issue 7 article by Geoff Read.

Library Acquisitions

Books

Ships Deserters 1852—1900. By Jim Melton

History of Bunbartha Primary School 1881—1997.
By Elsie Brady 2011

1001 Life Story Questions. By Bob Mitchell

Small Community Big Heart—The Invergordon Closer Settlement Story. Compiled by Rosemary Kennett. (Donation)

CD's

New Zealand Early Settlers Locator. Census, electoral rolls, Jury lists, Burgess rolls. (Donation)

Diary Dates

SFHG Break Up and Afternoon Tea.

Sunday December 18th 2011

From 1.00 to 4.00 pm.

Please bring a plate to share

Research Room Christmas Break

The hardworking volunteers of the SFHG deserve a well earned break and to this end the research room will be closing on December 18th and re-opening on January 4th 2012.

Betty, Eileen, Fay, Joan, Lorraine and Kerry have spent an exceptional amount of time, researching, collating, printing and making available more and more resources for our club and for the general public. We receive a number of enquiries via the internet from people, both interstate and overseas, looking for information specific to the Shepparton area and quite often an answer can be found from resources put together by our volunteer members.

Bendigo Family & Local History Expo

This very popular Expo will once again be held:

25th March 2012, 10am-4pm

Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre

Browning St Kangaroo Flat

Visit: www.bendigofamilyhistory.com/

Echuca High School Reunion

Echuca High School will celebrate 100 years of Education on Sat 14th & Sun 15th April 2012.

Interested past students please contact:

Mrs P. Collins pcollins1@iinet.net.au

Mrs M. Rehe 03 5480 2369 or

Mr R. Watkins PO Box 2141 Echuca 3564.

Surname Research Requests

Recent requests to our researchers included:

APPLEBY & BROAD FAMILIES. (Shepparton & Numurkah) (other info is on file at our rooms)

TILLEY - Robert H. & Mary Ann (nee BEDFORD)

WILSON - James & William James (Whroo & Murchison)

DUNCAN - William. (Karramomus).

STOTT - James & Margaret Ross (nee McKENZIE)

PAYNE FAMILY - (Pine Lodge).

DARVENIZA, DENEHY & HOWARD Families.

HAWKINS - George & Mary (nee HARTY),

SUTHERLAND, GUY, McAULIFFE.

From "The Numurkah Leader" 23rd January 1945

Colin Gilmour "In The News"

A cable message from London last Tuesday had reference to an exploit by Colin Gilmour, son of Mr. and Mrs Alex. Gilmour of Cobram, who enlisted in Numurkah. The message read: - " Chased by four Focke-Wolf 190s, which kept up a continuous cannonade, Pilot-Officer Colin Gilmour, 26 of Cobram, Victoria, recently dived his 100-miles an hour Huster plane into a clearing in a wood and shook off his pursuers by making tight turns around the trees. When the Germans gave up the chase he lifted his small unarmed plane over the trees and delivered his mail on time. Gilmour is in charge of a Dutch based air mail service, which at one time operated from an air strip 500 yards from the enemy. Flying in all weathers throughout the winter, pilots have averaged 83 per cent on schedule. Often they have been flying the only planes in the sky."

A Grave Attempt

A former UK resident has launched a remarkable project to record inscriptions from earthquake damaged gravestones in New Zealand and post them online. Vicki Anderson reports.

As much of Christchurch's past lies in pieces following the devastating earthquake, a local resident is in a race against time to preserve the valuable inscriptions on the region's historic gravestones.

The Hunting Kiwis project will record and preserve photographs of all the rural cemeteries in the Canterbury region to ensure that information from headstones is available online for further generations around the world.

A website established to document the mammoth task undertaken by Helen Leggatt has already had thousands of hits and received donations from New Zealand, Canada, and the USA.

Helen, a freelance writer, says the catalyst for the project was the 7.1 Darfield centred earthquake that shook much of her beloved Canterbury countryside last September. On visiting a local cemetery afterwards she saw for herself the extent of damage to many historic gravestones.

"I was horrified to see so many of the earlier graves, including some of the most elaborate plinths and obelisks, had been toppled, damaged or smashed"

The "Hunting Kiwis" project can be followed at www.genealogyjourn.wordpress.com

Extract from UK Family Tree magazine July 2011

The Final Insult

The ashes of thousands of Victorian loved ones are set to be scattered to the winds at cemeteries across the state because, by law, their time is up.

At two of Melbourne's largest cemeteries—Springvale in the south east and Fawkner in the north—memorials of more than 40,000 Victorians have expired. Unless families pay a perpetuity fee of about \$430, they will be thrown away.

Even at historic Melbourne General Cemetery in Carlton—where the remains of Burke and Wills rest along with the former prime minister Sir Robert Menzies—the ashes of hundreds are under threat.

The expired memorials are marked with stickers and will be “disestablished” and their plaques destroyed.

To check the status of a memorial at the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, email:

enquiries@gmct.com.au

or visit www.gmct.com.au

For information on memorials administered by Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, email: sbc@smct.org.au or visit www.sbc.smct.org.au

Excerpt from Herald Sun Sunday Oct 6th 2011 by Robyn Riley.

Old Trades and Occupations

Elymaker - oilmaker

Endholdernn - inn keeper

Enumerator - census taker

Fellmonger: A dealer of, or person who cured (by removing hair) animal skins or hides. Also known as a Skinner.

Fencible: In Scotland, a soldier called up for home defence. Some of the early records of the Fencibles, ie, the Loyal Tay Fewncibles, can provide useful information to the genealogist, eg, when and where enlisted, age etc.

Fenman: 17 C Lincolnshire—One who worked in the Fens (low marshy land or bogs)

Feuar: The tenant of a feu—a feudal tenure of land for which rent was paid in money or grain (a Scottish term).

Firkin Maker: 17 C Lincolnshire—A person who made small wooden barrels with a capacity equal to nine gallons or which held 56 lbs of butter.

From “Dictionary of Old Trades and Occupations” by Andrew and Sandra Twining

DEAR ANCESTOR

Your Tombstone stands among the rest,
Neglected and alone,
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who care;
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist;
You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you,
In flesh, in blood, in bone;
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

Author Unknown



As Others See Us

There were the Scots
Who kept the Sabbath
And everything else they could lay their hands on.

Then there were the Welsh
Who preyed on their knees
and their neighbours.

Thirdly there were the Irish
Who never knew what they wanted
But were willing to fight for it anyway.

Lastly there were the English
Who considered themselves a self made nation
Thus relieving the Almighty of a dreadful responsibility.

Author Unknown.

SHIRE OF RODNEY RATE BOOKS

Photographing Project

Earlier this year the Shepparton Family History Group photographed the Shire of Rodney Rate Books. The books were being kept at the Greater Shepparton City Council offices, and were due to be sent to the Public Records Office in Melbourne for permanent storage. We were pleased to be given both permission to photograph the books and use of a room at the Council offices. It was a huge task undertaken by a number of our members, involving about five months work, resulting in more than 11,000 photographs. We photographed the 57 Rate Books covering the years 1886 to 1952, and also four small Valuation Books covering 1953/54. The left and right hand pages were photographed separately. Most of the information of interest to genealogists is on the left hand pages. From 1889 onwards the books were organised into three ridings. The information is in alphabetical order; in some books by the occupiers' surnames and in others by the owners' surnames, so at this stage the photographs are partially searchable. The indexing of surnames of both occupier and owner has begun. The photographs have been saved on CD and are available for research at the SFHG rooms.

Land divisions in Victoria

In the beginning, Victoria was divided into counties and parishes along English lines, and although these divisions are still the basis of legal documents in relation to land it was soon found that they were inconvenient and unrealistic from the point of view of the conditions existing locally. For this reason, the shires that were later formed with reference to local needs and local convenience bear no relation to the boundaries of the counties. The formation and maintenance of roads was one matter that could clearly be dealt with more satisfactorily by some local authority than by the central administration, and in 1853 a Roads Act was passed. Following this, a series of District Roads Boards were set up. After a Local Government Act was passed on 2nd September 1863, many Roads Districts became Shires. On 19th March 1886 the Shire of Rodney was proclaimed. Between its establishment in 1886 and the severance of eight square miles on 1 April 1954 to form the Borough of Kyabram, the Shire of Rodney underwent very few changes.

Shire of Rodney ♦ Time Line

19th March 1886 Shire of Rodney proclaimed.

The Shire included the Parishes of Undera, Coomboona, Kyabram East, Mooroopna West, Mooroopna, Girgarre East, Toolamba, Toolamba West and North Murchison.

18th May 1888 Shire subdivided into 3 Ridings:-

Mooroopna Riding - included Parishes of Mooroopna, Undera, Coomboona.

Tatura Riding - included Parishes of Toolamba West, North Murchison.

Kyabram Riding - included Parishes of Kyabram East, Girgarre East, Mooroopna West.

1st April 1954 Kyabram Borough was proclaimed.

Kyabram Township in the Parish of Kyabram East severed from the Rodney Shire.

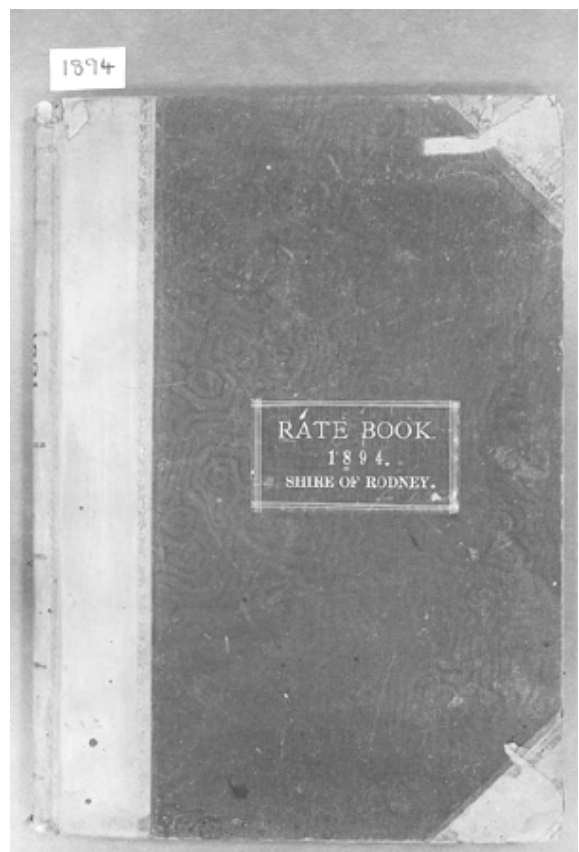
23rd April 1954 Riding boundaries were adjusted.

Following the severance of about 6 square miles to the new Borough of Kyabram, it was necessary to adjust Riding boundaries:-

Mooroopna Riding - Parishes of Coomboona, Undera, part of Mooroopna, part of Toolamba.

Tatura Riding - Parishes of Murchison North, Toolamba West, part of Mooroopna, part of Toolamba.

Merrigum Riding - Parishes of Girgarre East, Mooroopna West, part of Kyabram East.



Mr. William Robert Banner

From "The Shepparton News" July 26 1937

MR. W. R. BANNER DEAD
Found at Foot of Gorge
Funeral at Shepparton Today

The death occurred in tragic circumstances at Beechworth yesterday afternoon of Mr. William Robert Banner, 84 years, a very old resident of Shepparton.

The late Mr. Banner, who has been at Beechworth for some time, was found by a search party at the foot of a gorge in the rugged hill country. He had been missing for two days and nights, and a large search party which was organised scoured the countryside.

Prominent in sporting circles as a noted athlete and a conspicuous pioneer worker for Shepparton Sports Carnival, William R. Banner, who for close to half a century has been an interested witness of the evolution of Shepparton from its humble origin, has also enjoyed a high reputation in the poultry world as a successful breeder and exhibitor of White Leghorns.

Of Scottish extraction, the late Mr. Banner was born when Victoria was in the throes of the gold fever of the 'fifties. His father who by occupation was a boot-maker, worked on the "diggings" at Spring Gully, near Fryerstown, as an engineer. Right through his varied life he carried vivid recollections of his infancy spent in the glamorous early days of Victoria's history. When only a lad, he worked among the miners, and following experiences at Vaughan on the Loddon, in the vicinity of Castlemaine, he went to Huntley at the age of 14 to work on the Bendigo mines.

When alluvial mining petered out, the late Mr. Banner proceeded to the Riverina, and followed a variety of occupations, including droving, tank-sinking and shearing. Then he went to Bendigo, where he was employed by P. F. Ryan, a well-known manufacturer of cordials, at Golden Square.

A KEEN SPORT

As "Bill Samuels", Mr. Banner engaged in professional pedestrianism with considerable success. His forte was long-distance running, and his specialty was the ten-mile event. He competed in many Victorian and Riverina sporting meetings, and was pitted against the leading runners of the day, including Joe O'Brien, who for years carried the Australian hour record and was undefeated even by the worlds best runners in their repeated attempts to wrest the title from him. O'Brien later went to West Australia where he lived in retirement for many years.

Mr. Banner's athletic life alternated with various occupations in the Riverina and Victoria. At differ-

ent periods, he was in Melbourne and Sydney, and his urban occupations were mixed with station life in the Riverina. Some of his employers included the well known Alexander Wilson of Coree station on the Bogan River; J. D. Sangers, of Wangamong; W. Vergoe and Co., the Melbourne wine and spirit merchants; and the Clarks of Berlinda.

IN RAILWAY WORK

Later, he became a railway employee, working at the Newport workshops, and at Ballarat, Bendigo, Camperdown and Maryborough, on the installation of machinery, and after a period in the Spencer street terminal, he was transferred in 1876 to Shepparton, and in 1885 he married Janet, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gibb, of Tatura.

He was employed by the department for 38 years at Shepparton as train examiner—a record for this district.

He left the department, considerably over the retiring age, in 1914, and during his long service with the railways he gained the estimation of his colleagues.

While in Shepparton, the late Mr. Banner had two absorbing hobbies—poultry breeding and the Shepparton sports carnival. With the support of Mr. M. Halpin and a group of other enthusiasts, Mr. Banner, in 1906 organised a special drive which enabled the carnival to increase considerably its prize money, which had jumped from £97 the previous year to £313. This was made possible largely because of the public subscription of £100, organised by this enthusiastic sportsman.

THE SHEPPARTON GIFT

The most notable departure was the introduction of the £100 gift, which attracted the leading athletes in the sport and established Shepparton's reputation in the athletic world. The enlarged carnival proved a decided success, and in the organising work, the name "Banner" figured prominently on the records, in company with three staunch veterans—John Stubbs, who was secretary from its inception in 1899 to its disbanding in 1934; M. Halpin and John E. Byass.

For his outstanding service to the carnival, Mr. Banner was honored with the distinction of having been the only honory life-member appointed by this important sporting organisation.

For many years he had the exacting duties of starter with a marked degree of success.

For many years he was a great poultry fancier, his White Leghorns being exhibited at leading shows in Australia and New Zealand. As a result, he



Mr. W. R. Banner

accumulated a collection of prize medals, which provided striking testimony of his proficiency in the difficult art of competitive poultry breeding. He acquired from front-rank English breeders, a collection of Minorcas—some from a Captain Telford—others from outstanding English exponents of the art, and other Leghorns from Loch Torridon.

Of the Leghorns, there are two varieties—those for laying and those for show purposes. Personally, he did notice a great deal of difference, although naturally he preferred the show types.

In regard to the laying strain, it was interesting to note that in collaboration with the late Hugh Pye, the famous cerealist, who was then principal of the Dookie Agricultural College, he arranged a laying competition.

Amongst the shows at which Mr. Banner has exhibited were: Melbourne Royal, Shepparton, Euroa, Tocumwal, Finley, Williamstown, Wagga, Perth, Fremantle, Cobram, Kyneton, Seymour, Wangaratta, Elmore, Dookie, Numurkah, Nathalia, Murchison, Rochester and New Zealand.

During his 43 years residence in Shepparton, the late Mr. Banner was a member of the original Shepparton High School Advisory Council, and was instrumental in collecting the money with which to purchase the land in Fryers Street.

Always keenly interested in hospital affairs, he was life governor of Mooroopna Hospital and twice president of that institution.

In the early days he was instrumental in the organisation of sheep dog trials conducted by the Shepparton Agricultural Society.

Some years ago, following the death of his wife, Mr. Banner removed to Beechworth. His son, William, is on the Victorian Railways at Williamstown, while his daughter, Jessie, is the wife of Councillor H. E. S. Bird, of Shepparton.

The funeral to Shepparton Cemetery took place this afternoon. Services at the church and at the graveside were conducted by the Rev. B. A. Rogers, of Shepparton Baptist Church.

Maritime Research

If you are looking for information about passengers, ships and shipping the Trust is your first 'port of call' for information about Melbourne's maritime past.

The National Trust offers a **Maritime Research Service** based at the National Trust library at Tasma Terrace in the Melbourne CBD.

Family historians and other can get information on such things as:

- ships consigning convicts to Sydney and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).
- ships from UK carrying migrants wanting to establish new lives in Australia, USA or Canada after WW1 or after WW2
- ships of WW1 & WW2 inter coastal vessels around Australia plus between Australia-New Zealand and Australia-Papua/New Guinea.

The maritime library collection includes comprehensive databases of all ships visiting Australia from the 1st Fleet to the present day, supported by some 40,000 photos of ships and early views of the Melbourne Docklands.

We also have a complete collection of Lloyds Registers from 1770 to the present day.

Research costs

A quote for costs can be sought before research begins.

The research centre can be contacted via email on polly.research@natrust.com.au or via post:

Maritime Research Service
National Trust of Australia (Vic)
4 Parliament Place
East Melbourne 3002

Research: \$20 for up to two queries (extra queries at \$10 each).

For image/photograph requests, costs are \$10 for a postcard size and \$15 for a 8"x10".

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.

This was the scene which confronted our volunteer members when they arrived at our rooms for duty one day several months ago.

Vandals had broken several windows, beyond repair, unfortunately just out of sight of police station cameras across the road.

We were fortunate the damage was confined to the windows and none of our precious resources or equipment was damaged.

The specialised windows are now to be replaced incorporating an added security feature.



Shepparton Family History Group

2011-2012 Office Bearers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Manson (President) • Eileen Torney (Secretary) • Wilma Emmett (Assist Sec) • Kerry Betts (Treasurer) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Wallden (vice President) • Lorraine Waldron (Research Officer) • Joan Esam (Librarian) |
|---|--|

\$\$\$\$\$ Membership \$\$\$\$\$

**Members please note that 2011/12 subs were due from July and payable to:
The Treasurer, P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.
Single \$25.00. Couple \$45.00. Joining Fee \$5.00**

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/~shepjh email: shepjhg@fastmail

Meeting Times	Third Wednesday	7.30pm at the SFHG Rooms (** 2.00pm during Winter months)
Research Times	Every Wednesday	12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.
	Even Dated Sundays	1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
	Odd Dated Fridays	10.00 am to 1.00 pm.
	First odd dated Sunday	1.00 pm to 4.00 pm .(For SFHG members research only)