

~*Furphy Murrurs*~



Shepparton
Family History Group Inc
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Newsletter No 55
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SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

Shepparton Family History Group Inc report

Christmas Break

Our members took a well earned Christmas break from December 21st through January 9th but were soon busy again with visitors to our rooms and enquiries via email. An afternoon tea and chat on December 20 gave everyone a chance to discuss the past year and plan for 2018.

Change of Research Times

At the 2017 annual meeting it was decided to change the research opening time and dates to better suit the availability of our volunteers. Our opening days were changed to the first and third Friday of the month (previously uneven dated Fridays), and to the second and fourth Sunday (previously even dated Sundays). Friday research is now from 9.00am to 12.00 (previously 10.00 am to 1.00 pm)
Members only research day is now the first Sunday of each month from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

New Shelving Purchased

The Shepparton Family History Group has now been operating for 34 years and over that time we have amassed a large amount of research material. As with most family history groups we are challenged to find space for our ever expanding library. New shelving has been purchased and installed, brightening up the appearance of the library, and some older magazines relocated to ease the pressure on our librarian.

Digitisation of more records may be the future answer to this problem but this will require more members with a lot of spare time to devote to digitising and electronic cataloguing.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Shepparton Family History Group Inc will be held at our Welsford St rooms on Wednesday 15th August at 2.00 pm. All members are asked to make the effort to attend and help shape the future direction of our group.

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Coming Events

WODONGA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Invites you to its seminar

“Finding and Preserving Memories”

Date: Saturday 1st September, 2018

Venue: Felltimber Community Centre, Ritter Road, Wodonga

Registration: 8.30 am Start: 9.00 am Finish: 4.00 pm.

Topics and Presenters:-

Dating photographs – Barb Toohey and Sue Pillans. Barb and Sue are members of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra.

The Life of Emigration – the processes and experiences of 19th century migration – Dr. Liz Rushen is the Chair of the History Council of Victoria, a social historian; Liz has published widely in the field of migration history.

Finding shipping records – Meg Bate is the Assistant Library Manager at The Genealogical Society of Victoria.

Restoring and preserving photos and documents – April Padbury. April holds an associate degree in Local and Applied History.

Cost \$40, \$35 early bird if booked and paid for by 3rd August, **WFHS** members \$35. Morning, afternoon tea and lunch provided.

Contact: Wendy: 0447 035 725

Email: secretary@wodongafamilyhistory.org

Mail: Wodonga Family History Soc. Inc., PO Box 289, Wodonga 3689

Family History Month

An initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO), August is National Family History Month.

Events of interest during this month are listed on the website:

<http://familyhistorymonth.org.au>

Annual Meeting S.F.H.G.

The annual meeting of the Shepparton Family History Group Inc will be held at our Welsford St rooms on Wednesday 15th August at 2.00 pm.

Past Events

Closer and Soldier Settlement Commemoration at Girgarre

On Sunday 25th February 2018 the Girgarre RSL Sub Branch unveiled information panels commemorating and dedicated to the “Closer and World War One Soldier Settlers” and their pioneer role in Stanhope North and Girgarre district.

Amongst the large crowd there to see the unveiling were many descendants of the original settlers who had come to witness the historic occasion where a vital piece of their family history was recorded on a brass plaque together with many photographs of farming in the 1920’s era as well as photographs of some of the settlers.



Girgarre Soldier and Closer Settler Memorial

New Additions to Library

- *Remembering the Dookie Fallen—100 years On*
By Helen Rankin and Dianne Feldtmann
- *Tatura and District—The People*
By Phyllis Mactier
- *The Two Pound Watch—From Cheshire to Port Phillip—Story of Langford and Sidebottom Families*
Edited by Lee Steele, donated by the Langford and Sidebottom families.
- *Joining the Dots—A History of the Goulburn Valley Environment Group*
By Pat Patt
- *The DECA Dream—Recollections of the Largest Driver Education Centre in Australia and the Careful Cobber Program*
By Beryl Goodfellow

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.

Prominent People of the Goulburn Valley

Information from "Longstaff" by Peter Tims.

Sir John Campbell Longstaff

John Longstaff, one of Australia's most highly regarded portrait painters, was born at Clunes, Victoria, in 1861 to parents Ralph and Jessie (nee Campbell) Longstaff.

After being expelled from the Miners Rest school John was put into the care of his Grandparents and lived on their farm outside Clunes. While a student at Clunes State School John took drawing lessons and at the age of 9 won a state wide students' drawing competition.

In 1873 John and his father moved to Mooroopna, Ralph opening a timber yard in Mooroopna and shortly after a store on High Street Shepparton a well as purchasing 340 acres of land at Bunbartha. This was to become the site of Ralph Longstaffs' first branch store which John was to be put in charge of at the age of fourteen.

After Ralph opened his second branch store at Wunghnu John returned to Shepparton to live with the family. At the age of 17 John painted his first oil on canvas painting "The birth of Venus", based on an illustration of a Botticelli painting.

Ralph secured jobs for John in the lands office then the bank and law office to prevent him from painting and to learn respect for work. All this failed and John was put to work as a clerk in a Melbourne importing firm counting house.

While in Melbourne John painted furiously at weekends, and also at designing small advertising cards for his firm. His employer Butler was so impressed with his drawing that he wrote to Ralph urging him to send John to the National Gallery School. Ralph relented and in his second year John painted "Motherless", winning first prize of £30 awarded by the school and later being sold for £100. Another of his paintings that year was titled "On the Banks of the Goulburn".

A 19th century picture painted by Edwin Long depicting a dancing Spanish gypsy girl and held by the National Gallery was very popular in the 1880's. A visitor to the gallery requested an enlarged copy of the picture, to be five feet high by four feet wide, for which he was willing to pay £40. John Longstaff was commissioned to paint the picture, completed in 1887, but unfortunately in his haste he painted the copy horizontal instead of vertical and it had to be redone. He sent the first copy to his mother, it was later purchased by the Shepparton Art Gallery in 1947.

In 1883 John met Rosa Crocker and his portrait of her titled "What Shall I Say?" won joint first



Sir John Campbell Longstaff

prize in the students exhibition of 1883. John and Rosa were later to marry in 1887 just before he left for Europe as the winner of the National Gallery of Victoria's first travelling scholarship.

Shepparton Adviser October 3 1941.

Sir John Longstaff Dies

Former Shepparton Resident

The death of Australia's foremost portrait painter - Sir John Longstaff - in Melbourne on Wednesday has caused profound regret, particularly among his old friends in Shepparton where he grew up.

He had not been in good health for some time, but he tripped over a mat at his home in East Melbourne and fractured several ribs.

Sir John was a son of the late Mr Ralph Longstaff, who settled in Shepparton in 1875 and conducted a store in High Street. As a young lad John assisted his father in the store and amusing stories are told of how, when making an entry for a customer whose name he did not know, he would sketch the man's face on a paper accompanying the entry and the likeness was so excellent as to leave his father in no doubt of the customer's identity.

John Longstaff painted a portrait of another artist with links to the local district, namely Marian Ellis Rowan, born 1848, the daughter of Charles and

Cont'd

Marian Ryan. Charles was the lessee of the Katandra Run from 1848 to 1855. (The Katandra Run was a subdivision of the large 166,000 acre Tallygaroopna Run).

As a very young woman in the Goulburn Valley, Ellis had began to paint wildflowers, birds, insects and butterflies and she continued to do so for the rest of her life.



**Portrait of Marian Ellis Rowan
by John Longstaff**

Did You Know ?

Gretna Green is a village in the South of Scotland which was famous for runaway weddings by young English couples when irregular marriages were abolished in England and Wales after 1753. This encouraged a marriage trade over the border by young couples availing themselves to the right to marry under Scottish law.

Gretna Green was historically the first easily reachable village in Scotland following the coach route from London to Edinburgh.

The differences between Scottish marriage laws and those in neighbouring countries meant that a couple wishing to get married could do so by "irregular marriage" meaning if a public declaration of consent by them was made before two witnesses, they could marry.

As blacksmiths were nearly always available in small towns to be witnesses they became known as "Anvil Priests".

In England parties had to be 21 years of age, but in Scotland prior to 1929, boys as young as 14 and girls

Cont'd

of 12 could be married. After 1929 the ages were raised to 16 for both boys and girls. Parent's permission was not required.

Read the complete article in the British Family Tree magazine February 2018 at the SFHG Library. This may help to understand why you may not be able to find a marriage for your ancestor.

Banns

From the 13th century in England, Banns referred to a notice read out in church on three successive Sundays, stating a couple's intention to marry, giving anyone with an objection the chance to declare it. The Banns were read out in the home Parish Church of both parties.

[Marriage licenses](#) were introduced in the 14th century, to allow the usual notice period under banns to be waived, on payment of a fee and accompanied by a sworn declaration that there was no [canonical impediment](#) to the marriage.

Even though Banns had been read a marriage may not necessarily have taken place.

Old Occupations (From Census records)

Tozer: Referred to a person who worked in a wool mill, employed to tose or tease the cloth.

Tallow Chandler: One who made or sold candles

Tirewomen: A women employed to dress or attend to the dressing of others. A ladies maid. A female dresser in a theatre. A tiring woman.

Sedgeman: A skilled workman who applied sedge (a type of grass) which was used as an early roofing material.

Nob Thatcher: A wig maker

Ancestry.com went down today so I spent some time with my family.

They seem like nice people.



A Family History Record

Many family historians gather years of research on their ancestors without ever putting the information into book form. Lyn Austin has written the life story of her grandmother Lilian Derbyshire. The following article consists of a very brief précis of this book.

Lilian Derbyshire was born on 15th February 1890 to parents Annie and Thomas Derbyshire in Stretford, Manchester, England. Weighing only 3 pounds at birth, Lilian was not expected to live, her family used to say that she could fit into a quart jug. Her older brother had died at an earlier age, and older sister Annie was eighteen months. Within seven years siblings Marion and Florence were born.

Lilian's father, or "Papa" as the children called him, greatest love was for music. He mostly played the piano, the cello and big bass, but could play any instrument. In any of the houses the family lived in there was always a piano in the front room

Among some of Lilian's earliest memories of her childhood, she told of gentlemen engaged in earnest practice for the orchestra in the "front room". If there was any special holiday or occasion, the orchestra always played at that event, with Lilian's father either playing an instrument or conducting the musicians.

One sad memory stayed with Lilian forever. It was when she was about eight years old and Marion, her four year old sister was very ill. The sick child lay in an upstairs bedroom and the children had been told that they must not venture into the room, or even go near the door. On this day, while Annie was taking care of baby Flossie, Lilian went upstairs to her room. She noticed the door to Marion's room slightly ajar. Quick as a wink she pushed the door and looked in, desperately wanting to see her little sister. Lilian would never forget how beautiful tiny Marion looked as she lay, so ill, in the bed. Suddenly Marion called out "Lily" in a feeble voice. Hearing her mother on the stairs ... Lilian darted to her room. Unfortunately it was the last time she was to see her little sister. Marion passed away that night of diphtheria.

Lilian could play the piano from an early age but it was about this time that Lilian took up music seriously and who is to say whether her sister's passing had prompted the child to this.

Lilian was a very tiny girl and not particularly clever in her lessons at school. A doctor found that she was partially deaf and within a couple of years Lilian also had to wear glasses.

The Derbyshire family were all strict church attendees and no excuses were accepted. From the day they could read, each child was given a tiny "verse" book. This book measured approximately two inches by two inches with a bound leather cover. Upon waking each morning the girls could ponder over the text and verse for each day.

It was around 1904, when she was 14 years old that Lilian was advanced enough with her music to commence teaching music to her first group of pupils. She was overjoyed to also then be able to accompany the musicians



Joseph and Lilian Ford (Derbyshire)

who came to her parent's home.

When about nineteen or twenty years old Lilian received her "cap and gown", along with four letters to be used after her name, she dreamt of going to Germany to continue her studies. The outbreak of war destroyed these dreams. Lilian moved to keep house for her widowed uncle in the Sweeny Mountain where the war seemed not to exist.

The war was still in bitter progress when Lilian joined the Queen Mary's Army, the Women's Army Aux. Corps. (W.A.A.C.). She was sent to the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Middlesex not far out of London. Many of the patients were men who had lost limbs, some without legs at all. At the completion of a day's work Lilian was often called upon to play the piano for the sing-alongs.

In 1917 an injured 23 year old Australian soldier, Joseph Patrick Ford, was admitted, he had lost a leg while fighting in France. Lilian's heart was captured. Joseph was soon out of bed and working in the Carpenter's Shop at the hospital. Lilian and Joseph were married in July 1918.

The newly weds planned to travel to Australia but had to wait for Joseph to have further treatment and a wooden leg fitted. While still in England their first child, Benjamin, was born, named after Joseph's father, an early Irish pioneer to Australia.

Christmas eve 1919 saw the small family board the "Pt. Napier" on route for Australia with mixed feelings. Joseph was returning to his family, Lilian was leaving hers.

On a stop over at Cape Town, Lilian was approached by a lady wanting to buy her baby Benjamin, an incident Lilian never forgot.

On arrival in Victoria and settling in Broadford Lilian "shocked and delighted" the local town-folk, her dresses were 15 inches above the ground. This was the height of fashion in England but in Australia it was immodest to show any leg.

Within a few years the young Ford family had a deposit for a 500 acre farm at Reedy Creek, 16 miles from Broadford and a previously thriving gold fields town but now almost non-existent. Living at their property about one mile from Reedy Creek over sloping hills was a rugged, lonely existence broken by horse and buggy shopping trips to Broadford. Lilian remembered one section of track near Strath Creek was so steep a heavy log had to be tied to the conveyance and dragged along the ground at the back. To enjoy the company of friends, Lilian said the trip was worth every bump.

The house at Reedy Creek was a four room construction made from huge logs with any cracks filled with a mixture of mud and straw or "wattle and daub" and a corrugated iron roof. This was like something Lilian had never lived in or even seen. Before long the house and surrounds were soon a home with a large vegetable garden.

When Lilian was in England her complexion was flawless, milk white skin with rosy cheeks, she was soon to learn how hard the Australian climate and way of life was. Her delicate hands which used to skip across the keyboard now became hardened to the everyday manual chores.

On a typical morning there were eggs to collect, the cow to be got in, milked, the milk separated, the cream hand churned into butter. Then there were the numerous calves, pigs and horses to feed.

Lighting the fire to boil water in a huge kettle just to make a cup of tea or to bake bread in a camp oven was familiar to the early Australian pioneer women.

After a few years Lilian was overjoyed to hear her parents with her sister Annie and niece Dorothy would be coming to Australia. They arrived in Broadford by train and endured the rough buggy trip to Reedy Creek, they must have wondered about this strange country.

By this time the girl from Manchester was a true Australian woman but it must have made her papa feel sad to see that those small gifted hands hardly ever touched a keyboard anymore. After a short time Lilian's parents journeyed to Melbourne to settle there.

Lilian was often helped by her mother at harvest time when the thresher team always had a cooked breakfast of bacon, eggs and chops. Cakes and scones were then baked and together with billies of tea packed into a wicker basket and walked down the paddock for the working men. No sooner were they back at the farm house when the men would appear for their hot lunch. This tiny framed woman stood up to all the continual work and through it all never lost her sense of fun.

Life at Reedy Creek continued but after two miscarriages and when Lilian was found to be having another child it was decided that she would go to stay with her family in South Melbourne. Her father was enjoying life as a Band Master and musician at the Tivoli Theatre. Carol was born in December 1926.

With Lilian expecting another child in 1927 it was decided to sell the farm and move to Broadford, Lilian enjoying the hustle and bustle. Unfortunately the family that purchased the farm at Reedy Creek were unable to pay most of the money and Joseph had practically nil to show

for all his years of back breaking work.

Another daughter, Loris, arrived in 1928.

Being in town had many advantages for Lilian, she was able return to the piano and to tutor several pupils. Even a wash-house attached to the home was now a luxury.

Joining the Salvation Army and playing piano for regular Sunday church now brought back memories of her days in England.

In 1931 the family purchased another farm not far from Kilmore just off the Hume Highway. The homestead even had running water and a very modern "Lux" stove. The washhouse even had a tin bath and a "copper" to provide hot water for the bath and every Monday white clothes and sheets were boiled in the metal container.

Joseph and Benjamin now worked the 1000 acre farm "Oakleigh Park", wheat and oats were grown, chaff was bagged and sold to the Broadford General Store, honey from their bee hives was gathered and sold in 7 pound tins. A one ton wagonette was acquired and used to carry wood into Kilmore for sale The wood was cut into two foot blocks from logs by cross-cut saw, a teenage boy and his father with one wooden leg laboured long and hard.

Lilian, as often as possible, with the two girls, walked the six miles to church in Broadford, sometimes getting a lift from a passing motorist. After the Sunday night service the Captain would drive them home at night.

In 1939 Lilian's mother became seriously ill with Parkinson's disease, Lilian and Annie spent many months caring for her in Melbourne until she passed away in 1941. Letters were the only communication the family had with Lilian, many ending with the words "send spot cash".

In 1942, 18 year old Carol was called up by "Man Power" to help with fruit processing in Shepparton during WW2. Benjamin married June Keays in 1945 and settled in Kilmore East. After the war Loris worked in Melbourne as a machinist.

By 1952, Carol was married to Lester Moyle and Loris to Harry Close. Joseph travelled to different parts of Australia to visit his many relations and Lilian moved back to Broadford.

Joseph passed away in 1966 aged 71 years.

The following years saw Lilian live with her sister in Melbourne, where she again joined and worked continuously for the Salvation Army. Her eightieth birthday was celebrated in the Fitzroy Gardens.

It took one bad fall and a broken hip in 1974 to bring to a standstill Lilian's work for the Salvation Army. She spent time with Benjamin then Loris while convalescing. For Christmas she came to spend time at Mooroopna with daughter Carol but suffered a slight stroke and was paralysed on her left side.

Christmas 1975 saw Lilian receive a gift of a small electric organ which she played beautifully with her one good hand.

It was Easter 1976 that Lilian caught a bad cold that never really left her. As her body became weaker her spirit grew stronger, but the end came quickly as she passed away on 13th May 1976.

Lyn Austin's book also contains many photographs, documents, certificates, family letters and other material.

A WW1 Soldier's History Documented

Just over 100 years ago in September 1916 a 21 year old farm-hand from Marungi Leslie Joseph McCrabb joined the A.I.F to serve his country, not knowing that within 13 months he would give his life in the bloody battle of Passchendaele.

His niece, Betty Foster, has compiled a record of Leslie's war service, the family's battle to find out details of his death and his final resting place.

Starting with only two photographs of Leslie, Betty was encouraged by a member of the Shepparton Family History Group to write to the National Archives Australia (NAA) as they held a file for every enlisted soldier. 36 pages duly arrived from the N.A.A. detailing Les's short time as a member of the A.I.F.

Some of the information included:

- Date of enlistment,
- Age
- Place of enlistment
- Place of birth
- Occupation
- Next of Kin and their address
- His Will and Testament
- Height, weight, birth marks, tattoos
- Medical details
- Date of embarkation and name of ship

Letters to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission asking for Leslie's burial place eventually turned up his name listed on the Menin Gate Memorial as well as a brief history of the Memorial.

Seeking information from the Red Cross returned several pages of information that was stored at the War Memorial Canberra. Amongst the documents received by Betty was a copy of a letter to the Australian Red Cross Society written by Leslie's mother and dated Nov 29 1917, seeking information on her son who was listed as "missing". Other documents state that he was killed in Action 4-10-1917.

A letter to the University College, Australian Defence Force Academy Canberra Australia resulted in information gleaned from "The AIF Project". The A.I.F. Project* provided more information, listing not only the basics as provided on the enlistment form but also a short history of the Menin Gate Memorial. A list of Leslie's cousins involved with the conflict together with their rank and fate. Other details listed are the route taken to his final destination and medals issued at war's end.

* The AIF database is drawn from a range of official sources, including personal files on the National Archives website, and Embarkation and Nominal Rolls. Decorations, Promotions, Roll of Honour circulars, Post war deaths are also listed.

Embarkation Roll lists: Name, alias*, address, age, religion, occupation, next of kin name and address, relationship to next of kin, date of enlistment, regimental number, unit on enlistment, rank on enlistment, previous military service, date of embarkation, ship of embarkation, port of embarkation.

Nominal Roll lists:

Regimental number, unit and rank at end of war, decorations, fate (KIA / DOW / DOI / DOD / RTA etc.)

Decorations list:

Award and date of award*, circumstances of award*.

Roll of Honour Circulars list: Place of birth*, age to Australia (if born outside Australia)*, school*, other training*, occupation*, previous military service*, place where killed or wounded*, age at death*, biographical information*, details of any relatives in the AIF who were killed or who distinguished themselves*.

Postwar deaths list: Date of death*, age at death*, place of burial or cremation*, recorded in Garden of Remembrance.

* indicates "if information available"

Other documentation in the AIF Project to add to the war history of Leslie McCrabb includes:

- A brief history of the AIF
- Unit and Formation Histories of the AIF 1914-1919
- Maps of Gallipoli and the Western Front
- Maps of Sinai and Palestine
- Map of Major Australian memorials in France and Belgium
- Detailed explanation of Honours and Awards

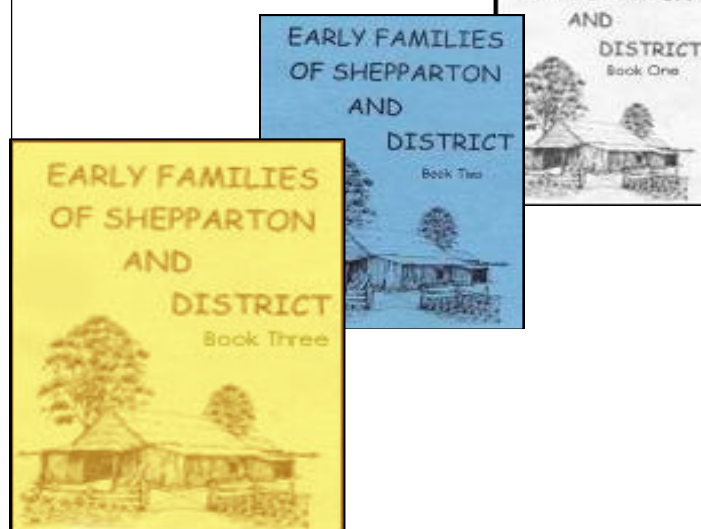
Photographs of local War Memorials and newspaper cuttings are also included in this extensive documentation Betty has accumulated in the memory of her uncle, Private Leslie Joseph McCrabb 7054.



Leslie Joseph McCrabb

Early Families of Shepparton and District books

one, two and three are still available. See page 8 for contact details.



Web Sites of Interest

Church of Ireland Parish Registers.

www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/anglican-record-project

[National Library of Ireland](http://www.nli.ie) (NLI) has announced that it will be digitizing its parish records and as of July 8 will provide free online access.

www.irishcentral.com/

Australian Institute of Geanealogical Studies (A.I.G.S.) is now known as Family History Connections and can be found on the web at:

www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) records:

New files now open:

- Capital sentence and Crime files, male prisoner register
- Divorce case files and cause book from 1942
- Children's Court register from 1917
- Hospital birth registers*

***Hospital Patient Registers:** The P.R.O.V. holds birth and death registers for many country hospitals. Use the PROV search bar to find "birth registers"

Google: prov hospital patient records

This can provide access to a list of Victorian country hospital registers detailing Admissions and Discharge details. These records need to be ordered and browsed at the Public Records Office.

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

Members please note that 2017/18 subs were due from July and payable to:

The Treasurer, P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.

Current membership is: Single \$25.00. Couple \$45.00. New member joining fee \$5.00

Renewal subscriptions can now be paid by direct deposit to our bank account. Please ensure that you include your surname and the word "subs" in the banking details box to help our treasurer identify the deposit.

National Bank Wyndham St Shepparton, BSB: 083894 Acc No: 03832 8159



Don't Forget

Members only research days.

The first Sunday of each month, 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, is set aside for research only by our members.

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 email: shepfbhg@fastmail.fm

General Meetings Third Wednesday ** 2.00 pm **

Research Times Every Wednesday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

2nd and 4th Sundays 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

1st and 3rd Fridays 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

First Sunday 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm (For SFHG members research only)

Shepparton Family History Group

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Peter Matthews (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)

2017-2018 Office Bearers

- Garry Wallden (Vice President)
- Lorraine Waldron (Research Officer)
- Kerry Betts (Librarian)