



Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

Number 92

February 2015

PRESIDENT : PAT BOWEN 0405 319 584

SECRETARY : MALCOLM SWAINE 0418 178 343

Postal Address: PO Box 821, Cowes, Victoria. 3922

E-mail: piadgs@gmail.com

Opening hours: Tuesday 10 am – 1 pm
Thursday 10 am – 4 pm
Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

Forums are held during the months of March, June,
and September at the Family History Rooms,
56 Chapel St., Cowes

web page : www.piadgs.org.au

Reflections Editor: Jan Andrews

E-mail: janani@waterfront.net.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are held at our rooms, 56 Chapel St., Cowes

Saturday 21 February - Jenny Harkness will speak on **FamilySearch**.

Jenny will give a Family Search update and attendees will find out about and get tips on using FamilySearch, the world's largest collection of free family trees, genealogy records and resources.

It will be an opportunity to learn more about this wonderful resource as millions of people use these records, resources, and services each year.

Members \$2.00, non-members \$5.00.

Please RSVP to 'FS talk' < piadgs@gmail.com > by 19 February to assist with catering.

Saturday 14 March - Christine O'Donnell will be speak on **Irish Famine Orphan Girls**.

Please RSVP to 'orphan girls' < piadgs@gmail.com > by 13 March to assist with catering. Members \$2.00, non-members \$5.00.

Saturday 11 April 2015 Family Tree Maker Group

Saturday 18 April - Scottish research day with **Alex Glennie**

Alex, who is back by popular demand, has offered to do one on one consults in the morning for those searching for elusive Scottish ancestors. Please book a time when you RSVP.

So that he can do some research on your queries prior to coming down to the Island, please send an explanation of your 'brick wall' before 20 March to 'Scottish questions' < piadgs@gmail.com >. Alex will be at our rooms from 10am. Contact Genevieve or PIADGS to book a time.

Alex will then be speaking to the group at 2pm. His topic will be 'How to research using Scotland's People and the Scottish censuses. \$2.00 members. \$5.00 non-members.

Please RSVP for the afternoon talk to 'Scots talk' < piadgs@gmail.com > by 16 April to assist with catering.

May Photo Books and Scrapbooking. Elaine Alexander has offered to run a session on making photo books and scrapbooking. More information closer to the date

IGA POINTS - CAN YOU HELP?

Over the past few years we have been fortunate to have the benefit of our members who shopped at the Cowes IGA supermarket donating their points to Number 595, the PIADGS.

Sad to say with the opening of the two new and much larger supermarkets in Cowes this seems to have come to an end.

We were able to use the accumulated points for grocery items when we have had functions such as the AGM and the Australia Day BBQ, as well as when we have guest speakers. This did assist us in catering for our delicious afternoon teas for which we are renowned.

So, our request is this! Could you see your way clear to do some shopping at the Cowes IGA and donate your points to Number 595 – the Family History Group of Phillip Island? We would really appreciate it.

LUNCH AT THE SAN REMO HOTEL 29 November 2014

Thanks to Helen Swaine for these photos from our very enjoyable pre-Christmas lunch



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Cutter, June	Guesthouses on Phillip Island. A history
Leitch, Brenda	Through women's eyes at pioneering days
Pownall, Eve	Australian pioneer women
Karney, Mary	An Island family (<i>the Robb family of Phillip Island</i>)
Fitzpatrick, David	Oceans of isolation. Personal accounts of Irish Migration to Australia
Woodley, Arthur E.	Western Port ferries past and present; and Captain Clarke, their most notable skipper
Mansfield Historical Society	Mansfield Valley. 150 years of history
Zaczek & Phillips	Illustrated encyclopaedia of tartan. A complete history and visual guide to over 400 famous tartans
Cochrane, Peter	Australians at war
Back to Bass. The community's thoughts and memories	
Rolls, Eric	Citizens (<i>Chinese in Australia</i>)

STRANGE WILLS

All wills for which probate is granted are filed in Somerset House, writes "A *Solicitor*" in the "Daily Mail." They can be inspected by the public on the payment of a fee. The only exception to the above rule applies to the wills of the King and Queen of England, which are kept in the records, but are sealed. Almost every day the Principal Probate Registry Office has to deal with wills of original construction. One of the most recent was the portrait of a pretty girl upon which the testator had simply written "I leave all to her." The legator, a soldier, had duly signed it, and affidavits of identity being forthcoming the will was admitted to probate, and duly filed in the archives of Somerset House. A quaint will, yet the same archives contain others just as fanciful, and some that are remarkable for their historical interest.

One of this collection, interesting from a medical point of view, was made by an unfortunate who died of the black plague that raged at one time in London. This will was placed in a bottle filled with spirits and then corked – a precaution no doubt to preserve His Majesty's law officers, who would have subsequently to handle it in the course of their duties, from infection by the deadly bacilli.

Another will is in shorthand. Considering its date, somewhere round the year 1700, this is not a little remarkable, for the well-known cipher invented by the famous Mr. Pitman saw the light of day over a hundred years later. Luckily the testator had left a key, else the authorities would have been put to no little trouble to decipher it for shorthand was unknown in those days.

A will salvaged from the bottom of the sea supplies the nautical interest. This will was recovered after a long period of immersion, and the only damage it received was in the way of shrinkage. It was made on parchment, and this when fished up was found to have shrunk to about a tenth of its normal size. But so beautifully had it been inscribed that the writing remained as clear as print to this day, and though very minute it can be read easily with the naked eye.

Another quaint though cumbersome record is "the leg of a four-poster bed." The will of a certain earl was hidden in the recess at the top of the leg, and as there was a dispute over the grant of probate, the leg and its large wooded castor had to be filed and kept as evidence.

Shakespeare's will with its remarkable signature, Nelson's will written in a common exercise book on the eve of Trafalgar, and which towards the conclusion contains these words, "The enemy are now in sight . . .," a soldier's will made in a black covered notebook through which a bullet has passed without making it illegible – these and many more go to make a collection that many a curio hunter would give his soul to possess.

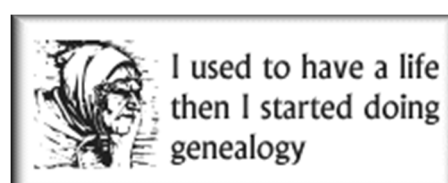
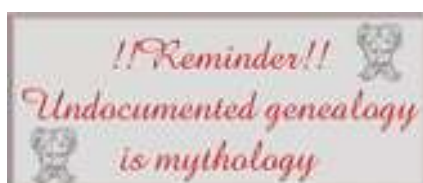
The Argus. Saturday 29 October, 1921

Source: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>



Congratulations to Gail Bridgeman and Geoff Wade on their marriage last November.

Gail is one of our librarians, and was a valued committee member for several years.



AUSTRALIA DAY BBQ 26 January 2015

What more could you ask for. Good weather, good food and good company . . .



. . . and a birthday cake for Bob, Sue and Coral



PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS – 100 years ago

San Remo.

It is not often that a Government auditor of shire accounts finds fault with the expenditure, but at the December audit for the shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai, the Government officer seems to have been brought up with a round turn on learning that the council, during the past year, had spent over £50 on deputations to the Country Roads Board and Minister of Public Works. It appears that the members of deputations charge £2/2/- each for expenses on these occasions, and that one of the jaunts cost £16/16/-, as the party consisted of seven councillors with the secretary. No one expects a councillor visiting the city on public business to sleep in a boiler on one of the wharves, but there is no reason why expenditure in this direction should not be limited by at least confining the number of a deputation to two or three. The party receiving a deputation is influenced by presentation of facts, not by crowding the reception room with numbers.

The Powlett Express and Victorian
State Coalfields Advertiser
Friday 8 January 1915.

It has long been the custom of the trustees of the San Remo cemetery to allow cattle the right of grazing there. The community does not unanimously approve of the practice and there are other parts of Australia in which differences of opinion on the subject exist. The Gundagai (N.S.W.) paper writes:—"All is grist that comes to the mill over at Deniliquin. The cemetery trustees there have given permission to graze cattle and horses within the hallowed grounds, and at night time "Roany", the milker lies heavy on the grave of Pat. Malone, to keep him dead, while "Dobbin" the cart horse, chases the ghost of Sandy McIntosh round the tombstone. We are now waiting to hear of the trustees calling tenders for the right to advertise on tombstones."

The Powlett Express and Victorian
State Coalfields Advertiser
Friday 29 January 1915

Rev. W. Burvill, of Cowes, Phillip Island, has been appointed troopship chaplain to the Expeditionary Force. He will accompany the troops to their destination, and then return to Victoria.

The Leader (Melbourne)
Saturday 13 February 1915

Encouraging Recruiting.

ROLL OF HONOR.

In order to encourage enlisting, the Phillip Island Shire council have established a roll of honor.

The President, Cr McIlwraith, said they should do as much as possible to encourage recruiting. If the German's triumphed Australia would be one of the prizes. He did not think the general body of the public realised the seriousness of the position. The Roll of Honor being established, particulars of all men enlisting could be recorded. When the soldiers were departing they should be given a send-off and presented with a souvenir. (Hear, hear.)

Cr Walker cordially supported the remarks. Many had gone with a sense of duty and they should do all they could for the men going to the front.

A fund will be opened and arrangements made by the President and councillors and secretary. Cr Steenholdt, Bowman and others supported the previous remarks. The shire intends to take its share of Empire burdens and give every assistance when most needed.

Dr. Baird, health officer, Dalyston, has offered to examine recruits free of cost.

The Powlett Express and Victorian
State Coalfields Advertiser
Friday 19 February 1915.

Volunteers for the War.

SEND-OFF SOCIAL.

SAN REMO, Friday.

A social was given in the San Remo Shire hall on the eve of the 26th ult., as a send-off to Messrs W. Hoddinott and H. Potter, the two first residents of this district to volunteer for the front. The hall was prettily decorated with flags and flowers and filled by an enthusiastic assemblage. The chair was occupied by Cr A. S. McIlwraith (President of the local Shire council.)

The concert programme began with the singing of the National anthem and Rule Britannia. Several speeches were made during the evening and Messrs Hoddinott and Potter farewelled with every good wish. The remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing.

The Powlett Express and Victorian
State Coalfields Advertiser
Friday 19 February 1915

MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

Recommended by David Rathgen, this site contains images of all registers of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the State Archives of Hamburg for the German Empire (1871-1918) and during part of the Weimar Republic (1918-33). This site is written in German, this part of the whole site has an English tab, but the English tab site does not work yet. To translate each page use Google translate app or Bablefish section by section. Each Directory on this site takes at least 15 minutes to download, sometimes 25 minutes.

<http://www.hamburg.de/kulturbehoerde/332-5-standesaemter/>

If you need assistance, please contact David – drathgen@inet.net.au or 0411 118 706

Hebridean connections <http://www.hebrideanconnections.com>

Discovering Anzacs <http://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au>

Origins - Immigrant communities in Victoria
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/origins/history.aspx?pid=22>

Photographs of headstones from cemeteries world-wide. You could be lucky!
<http://www.gravestonephotos.com/>

New on 'Find My Past' (available in our rooms)

Essex marriage index 1538-1900

Essex baptisms index 1538-1900

Warwickshire burial index 1538-1900

Warwickshire marriage index 1538-1900

Warwickshire baptism index 1538-1900

Tasmania deaths 1803-1933

Tasmania marriages 1803-1933

Tasmania births 1803-1933

Kindertransport records. Records relating to the evacuation of Jewish children to Great Britain during World War 2



Source: <http://www.ancestraltrails.ca/humour.html>

IGA COWES

Anyone shopping at the IGA Grocery store in Cowes, please give our **Shopper Number 595** and all credits will go to the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society Inc. It would be most appreciated by the Committee if you could spare a few points.

Contributions are accepted in good faith and the Newsletter Committee do not accept responsibility for accuracy of information or opinions expressed.