

# ~*Furphy Murrurs*~



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*Newsletter No 39 October 2009*



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**SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc. (pages 1 - 6)**  
**SHEPPARTON HERITAGE CENTRE inc. (pages 7-12)**

## **Shepparton Family History Report**

Our computer network is now operating reasonably well, the four new computers are all loaded with the majority of our databases and they can all be used for searching the CD rom's in our collection.

More indexing of local history books, shire rate books and parish maps is being carried out by several of our members. As these indexes are completed they are loaded onto our computers for use by everyone re-searching local family histories.

Two full length shelves have been constructed and installed on the west wall of our research rooms. The lower shelf is taken up with the network computers which has given us a more space on the lower workbench. The upper bookshelf is being used to house our growing collection of family history magazines. We thank the local Goulburn Ovens Tafe (GOTAFE) carpentry apprentices for the construction of the shelves and also Norm Botheras for the work involved in fitting them into place.

A very successful "Researching on the Goldfields" seminar was held at the Shepparton library on August 1st to celebrate Family History week. (See the report in "Recent Events" p2).

Several interstate visitors have been to our rooms to research their family histories, all going away much better for the several hours spent with our researchers.

We were very saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Margaret Babidge after a very short illness. Margaret was a long term committee member of the Shepparton Heritage centre and a friend to many of our family history group members. Our condolences to her family and friends.

At our well attended annual meeting in July the office bearers listed below were elected to office.

Another very successful year for the SFHG is drawing to a close. To all the members who have so willingly given their time and effort towards the betterment of our group and for all the 'behind the scenes' work involved with research, indexing, , cleaning, cataloguing, committee duties, resource purchasing etc , etc, we thank you very much. We do still need more of our members to be involved and to volunteer to help with duties in the rooms. All our active members are very busy people outside our club but they still find the time to get involved and make the Shepparton Family History Group an organisation to be proud of.

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### **2009-10 Office Bearers**

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Eileen Torney (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)
- Garry Wallden (vice President)
- Lorraine Waldron (Research Officer)
- Eileen Torney (Librarian)

## Recent Events

### National Family History Week 2009 1st to 9th August

Our intention to run a "Hospital records on the Goldfields" seminar at the Shepparton library to celebrate family history week was not fulfilled due to our key speaker being unable to attend.

At short notice we were able to obtain the services of renowned family history researchers Dorothy Wickham and Claire Gervasoni from 'Ballarat Heritage Services' to conduct a 'Family Research on the Goldfields' seminar. Claire and Dorothy both have vast experience in PROV Ballarat records, book publishing, cemetery, shire and hospital records, newspaper articles, obituaries etc and many other family history related resources in the Ballarat area.

More than 60 people attended the seminar held on Saturday 1st August. Dorothy and Claire presented to the Goulburn Valley Regional Library a facsimile copy, on fine archival paper, of the 1870's publication 'History of Ballarat'.

One member of the audience had with her copies of letters from an ancestor stating that they had sheltered Peter Lalor during the Eureka Stockade rebellion. Dorothy and Claire were naturally very interested in this piece of Ballarat history.

We asked for a gold coin donation to help cover some of our expenses, more than \$80 was donated.

Once again we thank Libby very much for her part in this very successful day

### **Ancestry.com**

Our members have been taking advantage of the Wednesday\* morning internet sessions, 9.00 – 12.00, at the Goulburn Valley Regional Library to search the online data base Ancestrylibrary. (\*every week except the first Wednesday of each month).

Some of the Australian records include:

- Electoral Rolls 1901—1936
- Shipping Records
- P.O. Directories

UK records include:

- Ten yearly census records from 1841 to 1901.
- Birth, death and marriage records.
- Immigration records (includes passengers returning from Australia).

The only charge for research is for any associated printing costs.

Other Goulburn Valley libraries also have access to Ancestry.com, contact them for details.

## Coming Events

### **GMAGS EXPO**

The Goulburn Murray association of Local and Family History Groups is holding the 10th annual family history expo on Saturday 21st November at Club Mulwala. (see page 5 for more details)

### **Photo Restoration Workshop**

In our last newsletter we asked for expression of interest in participating in a photograph restoration workshop. Unfortunately we did not have enough people interested to continue. For anyone who would still like to learn the basics of computer aided photo restoration, the Yarrowonga Family History Group has organised a similar day, conducted by Carol Heath, and using 'Photoshop Elements' as the editing program. It will be on the 22nd November and approximate cost of \$60, which includes notes and all meals for the day.

### **Bendigo Family & Local History Expo**

10am-4pm. March 14th 2010  
Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre  
Browning St  
[www.bendigofamilyhistory.com](http://www.bendigofamilyhistory.com)

### **WikiShepp**

WikiShepp is a collaborative website that enables registered users to work together, building a record of the history of the Goulburn Valley.

A Wiki workshop is held at the Goulburn Valley Regional Library on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.00am to 12.00. This workshop is open to anyone interested in helping with the development of WikiShepp.

Google "wikishepp" to check out the history information being made available for the Goulburn Valley district.

### **VAFHO State Conference**

**'The Border and Beyond'**  
**28-30 May 2010**  
**Club Mulwala**

Presented by the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations in conjunction with the Yarrowonga Family History Group. Family historians please mark these dates in your diary.

"Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you." -- **Mark Twain**

### For Sale

Following the purchase of our computer network we now have for sale several desktop computer keyboard roll out drawers.

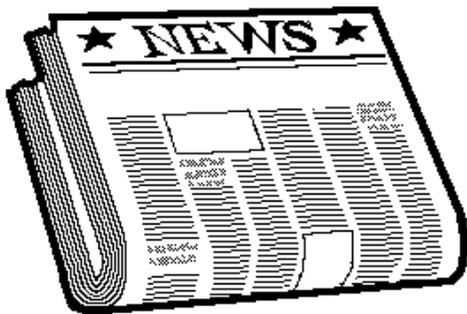
These are in good condition and for sale at \$20 ea. Enquires to our rooms during opening hours.

### Library Acquisitions

#### Books

- *Index to Numurkah Leader 1920—1924* by Anna Doncan.
- *Your Clan Heritage—Clan McLeod* by Alan McNie. 1989
- *Your Clan Heritage—Clan McDonald* by Alan McNie. 1989
- *A Century of Our 1909—2009. Shepparton High School* by Helena Kilfoyle & Rae McLean. 2009
- *Mooroopna Primary School Centenary No 1432 1874—1974. By Committee*
- *Temporary Wunghnu Cemetery 1876—1888 & Wunghnu Public Cemetery from 1879—* by Doris Morriss

### Printed Articles of Interest



Extract from the March 2009 British "Family Tree"

#### **Domesday Book 1086**

Most people are aware of the Domesday Book of 1086, for which we have to thank William the Conqueror who ordered a survey of England to register all taxable holdings; those exempt from taxation were not listed. The measurements of taxable units were usually expressed in hides or curucates or similar terms, the annual value assessed and the relative rise and fall in value compared to the time of conquest 20 years earlier. Plough teams, pasture, pannage and any factor that contributed to the land's annual value had to be included.

Northumberland and County Durham were excluded but details for those counties were later noted in the Boldon Book. Also omitted were Cumberland, northern Westmoreland, London and Win-

chester. The original survey is at The National Archives at Kew. Fortunately, transcriptions in modern day script are available and are included with the relevant Victoria County History.

The domesday book can be searched online at :  
[www.domesdaybook.co.uk/](http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/)

(Please note the spelling is not doomsday as usually pronounced.)

The Shepparton News Thursday, April 21, 1938

#### **Death of Mr. W. Macdermott Outstanding Commercial Leader**

*With the death in a Melbourne private hospital on Monday night of Mr. William Macdermott, 83 years, Shepparton has lost an outstanding citizen, whose vision and acumen materially contributed to the advancement of the district.*

*During his long residence in Shepparton he was associated in numerous enterprises which were responsible for the town's development not the least important being his notable work in connection with the establishment of Shepparton's greatest secondary industry—the cannery.*

*The funeral to the Shepparton cemetery yesterday afternoon was one of the largest in the Goulburn Valley for some years, the concourse of mourners and the impressive array of wreaths being indicative of the respect and esteem with which he had been regarded in the community.*

*The late Mr. Macdermott arrived in Shepparton in 1873—65 years ago—to manage a business for Swallows (afterwards Swallow and Ariel), and three years later he established the grocery business which he controlled until his death.*

*He took a very prominent part in the establishment of the Shepparton cannery and was one of the first directors, and also took a keen interest in the Mechanics' Institute from its inception besides many other organisations. He was a director of Wholesalers Ltd.*

*In the course of his long and successful business career he acquired a number of farming and town properties, and owned the Shepparton flour mills.*

*He was widely known throughout a wide area, and was always prepared to help the man who was a "trier".*

*His wife predeceased him some years ago. Mrs. O. A. Hicken, state president of the Country Womens Association is a niece, and Mr. J. Sandy is a nephew.*

"Everyone has ancestors and it is only a question of going back far enough to find a good one." -- Howard Kenneth Nixon

## Shepparton's First Church

The following article was published in 'The Shepparton News' in May 1940.

### **OLD CHURCH DEMOLISHED Had Stood Since 1874**

#### **Was Town's First Church And School**

*A link with the earliest days of Shepparton and the first church erected in Shepparton, the old United Free Methodist Church in Welsford Street, in which some of Shepparton's oldest residents received their early schooling and religious training, is this week being demolished to make way for a modern garage. The building has not been used for church purposes for about 40 years, and there are a number of Shepparton residents who have never heard of it.*

*The building was erected in 1874 by the United Free Methodists, who, a year earlier had held the first service of any kind in Shepparton in a cottage owned by Mr. John Furphy on the present site of Moran and Cato's Wyndham Street shop. The church was solidly built of red gum timber, and an examination on Tuesday showed that the timber was still sound, although badly warped, almost throughout the building. The slab roof was covered with galvanised iron a good many years ago. Inside, the pine lining and floor were in perfect condition. It is possible that these may have been of later origin than the building itself.*



The 'One-eyed Church'.  
United Methodist Free Church.

*The first school held in Shepparton was opened by Miss Maria Crimp in 1875, and between 25 and 30 pupils attended. It was carried on until, in the later seventies, the first Government school was commenced on the site of the present State School.*

*The signboard in front of the building was removed about three years ago and is now in the possession of the Borough. It has considerable historic interest as the lettering was painted by Sir John Longstaff, Australia's greatest portrait painter, when he was a boy in Shepparton.*

*The leading family in the church were the well known Furphy family, and Mr. G. V. Furphy, J.P. and Mr. W. Furphy are among those who remember it from its earliest days. The union with the Wesley-*

*ans, a vigorous body who had built a brick church in Stewart Street in 1878, was accomplished in Shepparton before the general union of Methodist churches in Australia took place, and the services were transferred from the old church to the church which was built in Maude Street.*

### **Christmas Break Up**

Our Christmas break up afternoon tea will be held from 2.00 pm, Sunday December 6th, 2009 at the Welsford street rooms.

Members and guests are cordially invited to attend and participate in a friendly afternoon tea to mark the completion of another successful year for the Shepparton Family History Group.

Members please bring a plate.

### **Holiday Closing Times**

The Shepparton Family History Rooms will be closed on Wednesday 23rd December and re-opened on Wednesday 6th January 2010.

### **Research Requests**

Some of the research requests to our club during the past six months included the names: George Howard b c1830, Robert Hepburn, John McKenzie b1833, Sidney & Emma Smith, Mary and John Johnson, Nellie Massie b1893, William Stammers, Capt K.G. Jackson, Frederick Gawne b 1870, Mary Thomas b 1875, Frederick Hawkins b 1870,

### **An Item of Interest**

An article from British Family Tree magazine Oct 2009.

Ultraviolet light has been used successfully by volunteers from the Manchester and Lancashire family history society to reveal the formerly hidden details from water damaged census records. Previously unreadable files from the 1851 census will be available in the coming months.

\$\$\$\$\$ **Membership** \$\$\$\$\$

Members please note that 2009/10 subs were due from July and are payable to the treasurer.

P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton Vic 3632.  
Single \$25.00. Couple \$45.00. Joining Fee \$5.00

**\*Local & Family History EXPO 2009\***  
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009**  
**10am to 4pm**  
**Club Mulwala**

**INFORMATION SESSIONS INCLUDING**

Suzie Zada	Geelong History
Shauna Hicks	Convicts and Criminals
Simon Darlington	Hereditree - Family Tree Software
Susan Reynolds	Archiving and Conservation

**A Large number of Stalls including:**

**Scottish Ancestry Group**  
**Wendish Heritage Society**  
**Ballarat Heritage Services**  
**Mining Accidents**  
**Good Reading Secondhand Books**  
**New Zealand Records**  
**Victorian Immigration**  
**Geelong & District Historical Society**  
**Pixel by Pixel Photo Restoration**  
**Many Goulburn and Murray Valley Family History**  
**Groups**  
**.....and there will be much more!!!!**

**Raffle for \$300 petrol voucher \*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\* Prize will be doubled (\$600) if the winner is present at the draw**

**Information / Goodie bags**  
**Lucky Door Prizes, Ancestry.com vouchers**  
**Entry \$10 (Includes entry to all speakers)**  
**Meals available in the club**

Margaret Sawyers from the Public Records Office of Victoria will be presenting to the SFHG a "Place of Deposit" (POD) certificate at the GMAGS expo after 3.00 pm.

All members are invited to a meal in "Diggers Restaurant" Club Mulwala (from 6.00pm at own cost), after the conclusion of the Expo to help celebrate the 10th birthday of GMAGS.

## Family History Research Web Sites

**www.lostcousins.com** The primary aim of LostCousins is to find people who share your ancestors - which is done by comparing the information you enter about your relatives with the information that other members have entered about theirs. Information has to be entered from actual census records to ensure accuracy. Basic membership of LostCousins is free. A very informative regular email newsletter is free to all members.

**www.oldbaileyonline.org/** A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court.

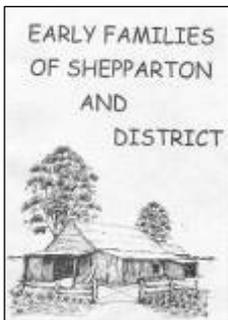
**www.awm.gov** The Australian War Memorial website commemorates those men and women who fought and died for Australia in all wars and armed conflict.

**http://cas.awm.gov.au/** Australian War Memorial Photograph Collection Records. Search all the available records at the a.w.m site.

**www.gvrlc.vic.gov.au/wikishepp** A site still in the developing stage, linking the history of Shepparton and district as well as it's people.

**http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home** Australian newspapers Beta . The National Library, in collaboration with the Australian State and Territory libraries, provides free online access to selected out-of-copyright Australian newspapers. The Australian Newspapers Beta service is currently in beta testing phase, but users can already search and browse over 2 million articles from over 200 000 newspaper pages dating from 1803, with more pages added daily.

## BOOKS FOR SALE



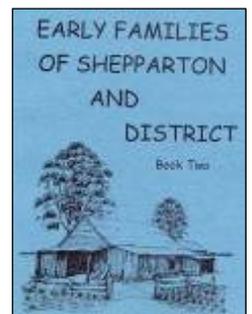
### EARLY FAMILIES OF SHEPPARTON AND DISTRICT

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/~shepfh](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh) email: [shepfhg@fastmail.fm](mailto:shepfhg@fastmail.fm)

Meeting Times: Third Wednesday, 7.30pm at the SFHG Rooms (\*\* note change in starting time)  
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.  
First odd dated Sunday 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm .(For Members Research Only)