

# ~*Furphy Murrurs*~



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*Newsletter No 41 May 2011*

## SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

### Shepparton Family History Report

We apologise for the absence of the November 2010 newsletter due to other commitments. Since our last newsletter in May 2010 the Shepparton Family History Group have been kept busy with research queries, indexing of records, cataloguing and recently the copying of local records.

A very time consuming project was recently undertaken by our group, this being the photographing of the Rodney Shire Rate Books covering the years 1886 to 1952. The books were being held in the City of Greater Shepparton archives but were earmarked for transfer to the Public Records Office of Victoria. To ensure that a copy of these rate books would be available locally, the SFHG sought and gained approval from the council to copy all of these books.

To assist with the photographing a high resolution digital SLR camera was purchased and an adjustable camera stand borrowed. Both these items proved invaluable as we were able to produce very clear images of these original books even though the early ones were hand written and over 120 years old. Approximately eleven thousand images were taken, the storage required for these images was in excess of the capacity of our laptop computer necessitating the purchase of an extra hard drive.



Lorraine & Jan



Bob

With the photographing completed the next task of checking and collating the images is now in progress.

We eventually hope to have the records indexed to enable quicker searching but in the meantime the alphabetically listed and yearly grouped rate books will soon be available on our computers for research.

Thank you to all our volunteers for the many hours you have given to ensure this project would be completed before the rate books were transferred to Melbourne.

Fay and Joan have been busy visiting many of the cemeteries in the Goulburn Valley and photographed all new and altered headstones. They have updated our record of headstone transcriptions and photographs. This has involved both time and expense in travelling to the cemeteries as well as checking of the updated records.

This is another example of our volunteer members going out of their way to provide research material for the rest of the community.



Garry, Bev and Kerry

## Library Acquisitions

### **Books**

- The Progress of Swan Hill and District (Ultima, Lake Boga, Nyah) 1912.* By J. Edward Robertson
- Bendigo Independent 1868 Inquests –Book 3.* By Annette O'Donohue
- Bendigo Advertiser Personal Notices 1911-1920. Vol 4.* By Betty Jackman
- Winter-Irving.* By Warwick Finlay
- The Highland Clearances.* By John Prebble. 1963
- Dookie College - The First 100 Years.* By Roger Aldridge. 1986.
- Home Away From Home –Celebrating 125 Years of “The Victoria Hotel”.* By Katherine Sheedy. 2007.
- Grahamvale Primary School No 3696 - 100 Years 1911 to 2011.* By Committee 2011.
- Deadly Details -A guide to some causes of death listed on Death Certificates. 2nd Edition.* By Patricia Lay.
- Coaches Called Here - A History of Buangor and Surrounding District.* By Tim Allender and Des Brennan 1996.
- Invergordon Rural Finance and Settlement Scheme. (Index of Block Holders).*
- A Guide to Finding Records of Crown Land at Public Records Office Victoria.* By Phillippa Nelson and Lesley Alves. 2009.
- Prime Ministers of Australia 1901 - 1983.* By Michael Page.
- Tasmanias Convicts - How Felons Built a Free Society.* By Alison Alexander.
- Queen Trucanini - The last of the Tasmanians (Aboriginal).* By Nancy Cato and Vivienne Ellis
- And So It Was* (Chinese migrant story, Waghunyah Area) - By James Wong Yen.
- No Music By Request - “A Portrait of the Gorman Family”.* (Rochester Area). By June Epstein.
- Votes for Women - The Australian Story.* By Kirsten Lees.
- 40 Years of the Goulburn Valley Motor Vehicles Drivers Club Inc.* By GVMD club.
- Hope and Hardship - Soldier and Closer Settlers in the Katandra District 1919 - 1933.* By Katandra and District History Group.

### **CD's**

- Gallipoli and The Anzacs - A Resource for Secondary Schools.* By Veterans' Affairs
- Tasmanian Convicts*

(Library Acquisitions cont'd)

### **Family Histories**

*Marshal History. (Seymour, Wallan, Yan Yean).* By John Marshall. (CD)

*Larmour Family Tree* (Chart).

### **Microfiche**

*Index for Candidates for the Victorian Police Force 1852 - 1893.*

*Infant Life Protection Act 1901 - 1908* (Illegitimate Births, Children and Nurses, Adoptions, Deaths.)

### Life Membership for Alice Esam

Alice Esam and her daughter, Joan have been active and enthusiastic members of the SFHG since its beginnings nearly 30 years ago. Before we had rooms of our own our microfiche and reader were kept at their home and available for members to consult. Alice has always helped with all our activities and



donations of secondhand books, office materials and hand knitted goods for sale still come in regularly from both Joan and Alice. Failing health prevents her from continuing her regular attendance, but her interest is unabated.

The members of the Shepparton Family History Group considered that she should be rewarded for this achievement. The presentation of a Life Membership certificate was conducted at the Shepparton Family History rooms in May 2011 by club president Bruce Manson.

## Past Events

### National Family History Week 2010 31st July to 8th August

Our family history week contribution in August 2010, in conjunction with the Goulburn Valley Regional Library, was to be a seminar conducted by professor Janet McCalman from Melbourne University to demonstrate the Founders and Survivors project. Founders & Survivors is a partnership between historians, genealogists, demographers and population health researchers. It seeks to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men women and children who were transported to Tasmania. Many survived their convict experience and went on to help build a new society.

Unfortunately, because of a last minute illness, Professor McCalman was unable to attend. Rather than cancel the seminar it was decided to go ahead and to use the Founder and Survivor internet site [www.foundersandsurvivors.org/](http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org/) to demonstrate how any family historian with a Tasmanian convict in their family tree can enter the convicts information.

The web site states:- *"We are collecting information on convicts transported to Tasmania, and their families and descendants. If you have information on a convict, you can submit his or her details to us. This information will enable us to build a picture of the lives of convicts after they were freed, and of their families."*

After the conclusion of this successful day a number of the audience expressed interest in becoming involved with the project.

### Bendigo Family History Expo

The expo held on March 20th 2011 was enjoyed by the members who made the trip. A number of enquiries made at our display table kept us very busy.

Jenny kindly made herself available again for New Zealand research. It is apparent that many people have New Zealand links which they want to research and it proved to be a very popular spot.

We renewed friendships with other group members and had a very pleasant day.

### Goulburn Valley Health - Hospital Fair 3rd April 2011

Our group had a display table at the fair and members, Bruce, Bev and Lorraine kindly gave their time to promote family history. There were a number of enquiries from people regarding the resources available for research in the area.

## Coming Events

### **New Zealand Research** **Family History Week 2011** **Saturday August 6th**

The Shepparton Family History Group in conjunction with the Goulburn Valley Regional Library will host a talk by Jenny Baldwin.

Do you have New Zealand connections ?  
Did your family travel to New Zealand ?  
Is there a gap in your history during the gold rush ?

Jenny will explain how to research N.Z records including "Papers Past, Shipping, BDM's, Burial Locator, Electoral rolls, Websites, etc.

Time: 1.00 - 4.00pm

Place: Shepparton Library,  
Marungi St Shepparton.

Admission: Free.

Members a plate please.

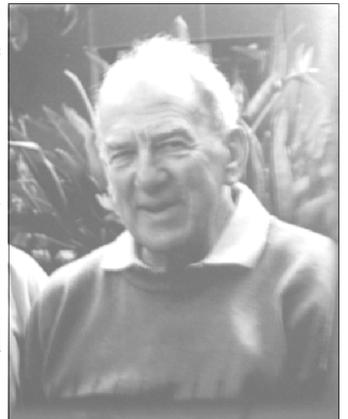
For more details: email: [shepfhg@fastmail.fm](mailto:shepfhg@fastmail.fm)

## **VALE**

### **John Wallace Reed Esq**

Our members were saddened to hear of the recent passing of John Wallace Reed, a past president and secretary (1998 & 1999) of the Shepparton Family History Group.

John and his wife Joyce were regular active members and the inaugural delegates to the Goulburn and Murray Association of Local and Family History Groups (GMAGS). John was very interested in seeing our club progress and was especially keen to move us into the computer age.



He was obviously a forward thinking man, it would have pleased John immensely to know of our network of computers now available in the rooms.

John is survived by his wife Joyce, son David, daughters Suzanne and Sally, and seven grandchildren.

## Shepparton—The First Land Sale

(An article by Kerry Betts for recent library display)

In the early 1850s a wooden punt ferried people, miners and other travelers, across the Goulburn River. A small village, including a couple of inns and a police station, soon developed at the site. In 1855 Mr. Wilmot surveyed the small village and the surrounding area. In 1860 his Plan of “Shepparton Reserve” was proclaimed the site of the township of Shepparton.

Shepparton’s first land sale was held at Benalla on March 13 1856. The land was purchased by just six men:- Henry Baber-Allotment No 4, Section B; Charles Beggs-Allotment No 3, Section B; Frederick Knight-Allotment No 5, 6 & 10 Section A, Allotment No 2 & 9 Section B and Section C; John McDonell-Allotment No 7, 8 & 9 Section A, Allotment No 10 Section B; Johnson Parsons-Allotment No 5, 6, 7 & 8 Section B and Section D; and John Somer-Allotment No 1,2,3 & 4, Section A. The police station was on Allotment No 1, Section B.

In August 1856 Mounted Constable Henry Baber was “appointed one of the inspectors of Slaughterhouses and of Cattle intended for Slaughter for the Ovens district”. In 1861 Henry Baber, farmer, married Caroline Bandy and settled in the Geelong area. At this time it is unclear which Henry Baber purchased land in Shepparton in 1856.

Charles Beggs was a squatter. In March 1856 he held the licence for the Benalla Station where he was living with his wife Charlotte and their daughters, Elizabeth and Sophia. Later in 1856 he also held the licence to Yabba Yabba station and was depasturing a total of about 1,700 head of cattle.

Frederick Knight was a land owner and store-keeper. In partnership with Mr Oliver he built the Prince of Wales Hotel which he sold before his marriage to Dorothy Wilson in 1868. He selected land six miles on the Shepparton side of Benalla and was residing on land at Mount Ada near Benalla when he passed away in 1875.

In 1856 John McDonell, cattle farmer, married Margaret McLaurin. They lived in a house a mile to the east of his father, Roderick McDonell’s house on Yielma Station. The licence of the station was transferred to John in 1859. He died as a result of an accident in 1865 and was buried in the Yielma cemetery.

In 1856 Johnson Parsons, an innkeeper, bought Section D where he had erected an inn out of slabs a number of years earlier. In August 1855 he had been appointed Keeper of the Public Pound at Shepparton, a position he held until his resignation in 1863. He was living in Sebastapol when he died in 1872. He is buried in the Ballarat Cemetery.

In 1876 the allotments purchased by John Somer

were sold to Messrs. Lightfoot and Swallow. In 1876 a John Somer died and was buried in Rushworth cemetery. This John Somer had been a squatter in the Lancefield area before moving his family to the Tatura / Rushworth area. He may have been the John Somer who purchased land in Shepparton.

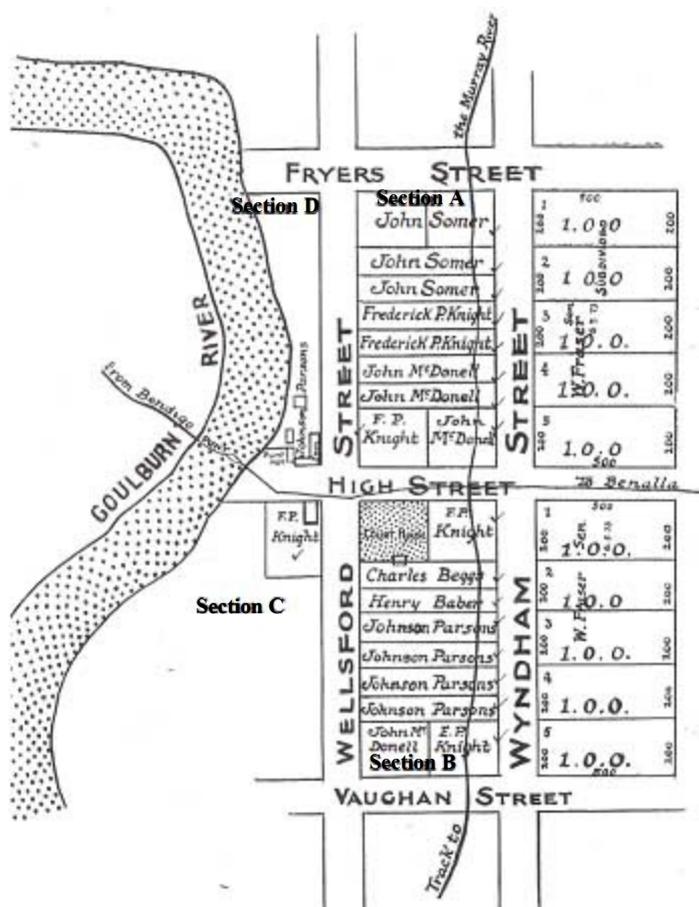
Footnote:

It seems that the men who bought the land in Shepparton in 1856 mostly saw the purchase as an investment. It appears that only two of the men, Knight and Parsons, lived in Shepparton for a period of time. Beggs, McDonell and Somer probably did not. It is doubtful if Henry Baber lived in Shepparton as in April 1856 a Henry Baber was living in Benalla.

None of the men are buried in the Shepparton cemeteries. Superintendent Baber returned to England. Henry Baber, farmer, is buried in the Ballarat Cemetery; Beggs in Violet Town; Knight in Benalla; McDonell in Yielma; Parsons in Ballarat and Somer in Rushworth.

This article was written using some of the information gathered by the SFHG. If anyone has information on these men, or the land sales, we would be pleased to hear from you. We are happy to provide and / or receive any information.

Plan of Shepparton— County Unnamed, MacGuire’s Punt



### Australian Census 2011

The Census is conducted every five years. The next Census, Australia's 16th, is planned for the night of 9th August 2011.

Once processing of the Census forms is completed, all records of names and addresses are destroyed. The only exception is for those people who have elected to be part of the Census Time Capsule. The Australian Bureau of Statistics will only pass personally identified information to the National Archives of Australia for secure storage for 99 years for those people who have expressly consented for ABS to do so as part of the Census Time Capsule.

We all know how valuable to family history research past census records can be so let's ensure we preserve our history for future generations.

Remember to answer YES to question 60 to have your census information stored. Please promote this with family, friends and workmates.

### Diary Dates

**Sat 30th July 2011** 9.00am-4.00pm: Wodonga. "Colonial Australian Irish Lives" seminar.  
ph: secretary (02) 60563220.

**Mon 1st Aug 2011**, 10:00am-4:00pm: Family History Feast. State Library Victoria. Free. Booking essential.

**Sun 28th August 2011** 10.00am-4.00 pm: Maryborough Family History Expo

**Frid 2nd Sep & Sat 3rd Sep 2011:**  
Unlock the Past Expo at Geelong.  
(see [www.unlockthepast.com.au](http://www.unlockthepast.com.au))

### Old Trades and Occupations

**Accoucheur:** A man who assisted women in childbirth, a medical practitioner with this speciality.

**Ackerman:** An ox herder.

**Amber Cutter:** A person who cut ambergris (a substance secreted from the intestinal tract of the sperm whale) which was used in the manufacture of perfume

**Anilepman:** A smallholding tenant of a manor.

**Appraiser:** A person who assessed the worth, value or quality of something.

From "*Dictionary of Old Trades and Occupations*" by Andrew and Sandra Twining

### Annual Meeting

Please remember the SFHG annual meeting on Wednesday 20th July, 7.30 pm, at the heritage centre rooms.

The continued successful running of our club will rely upon more members willing to contribute their skill and time. A small number of dedicated members are working hard to keep the rooms open for the benefit of all family history researchers.

### Submissions for Book 3.

We are asking for expressions of interest from anyone who would like to contribute a family story to a possible third book of "Early Families of Shepparton and District".

If there is enough interest, and when sufficient stories have been received, the next edition in this successful series can be published.

### Research Requests

Some recent requests to our researchers included the names:

Amos Alder, Nellie Atkinson Massie, Thomas Leslie Kilpatrick, Agnes McKenzie (Clugston), George Henry Jackson, Violet Sadie McFarlane, William Henry Oram, Alice Oram, Charles and Elizabeth Lines, Andrew James Rankin / Margaret Adelaide Alessio, Alexander Allison / Mary Ann Cornford.

### Members Interest List

Our members interest list is currently being updated. If you wish to be included we welcome your information which can be either left at the SFHG rooms, mailed or emailed (see page 8 for details).

Please include the following information about the names you are researching:

Surname; Given Names; Town, County or State; Country (use Chapman code if possible); Date of interest.

The Members Interest List is displayed on our website and available to world-wide search engines. Members will only be identified by a number and all enquiries come through our research officer.

Please send information to the SFHG by the end of September 2011.

**Matron Elsie Jones D.S.O. O.B.E (1883 - 1972)**

Miss Elsie Jones O.B.E died at her home in Cluden St East Brighton on the 5th august, 1972. Her death severed a link between the Jones family and Mooroopna and District Base Hospital which extended back 91 years to the time when her father, William Jones, was appointed house steward of the Mooroopna Hospital and her mother was appointed matron.

Mrs Jones served as matron until her death in 1895 and was referred to by her contemporaries as a "ministering angel". After she died the lady governors of the hospital provided a memorial stone for her grave. Mr Jones died in 1897 after serving the hospital faithfully for 18 years. The house steward and matron lived on the hospital grounds and it was in these surroundings that their three daughters grew up.

Miss Jones commenced training as a nurse at the hospital in 1904 and graduated in 1907. She then gained a mid-wifery certificate at the Women's Hospital and returned to Mooroopna Hospital as a sister. When Matron Campbell resigned in 1912, Miss Jones was appointed matron. At this time the nursing staff consisted of a matron, one sister and about 10 trainee nurses caring for up to 60 patients.

In 1916 when flood waters invaded the hospital to a depth of over a foot, Miss Jones set an example to her nurses in the care of the patients. The hospital annual report for that year states "We desire to place on record the loyalty and assistance rendered by the whole staff during the great flood. Notwithstanding the fact that they all had to wade knee deep in water for some days, the utmost cheerfulness prevailed, the whole staff, from the medical officer downward, stuck loyally to their posts and carried out their work under the most trying circumstances, their great anxiety being the welfare of the patients (65 in number).

Unable to resist any longer the call of her country, Miss Jones resigned in 1917 to join the Australian Army Nursing Service and served overseas at Salonika. She returned in 1919 and resumed as matron of the hospital. Her association with servicemen gave her great sympathy with them and she always had a little comfort to offer when a returned servicemen was admitted to the hospital.

After the second World War the Returned Servicemen's Sub-Branched of Shepparton, Mooroopna and Shepparton East recognised their debt to Miss Jones, endowing in perpetuity a nursing prize. The nurse to whom this prize is awarded must possess sympathetic understanding of her patients and outstanding practical nursing ability, the attributes which Miss Jones rated most highly in a nurse.

Miss Jones continued to head her nurses through the 20's and 30's in what must have been almost intolerable working conditions. She was responsible for overseeing the catering and house-keeping services as well as the



**Matron Elsie Jones**

nursing service and was responsible for all nursing lectures to trainees until a tutor was appointed in 1941.

She maintained her progressive outlook and was able to provide the nursing service for the expansion which came with the status of a base hospital, the provision for non-public patient accommodation and the major rebuilding programme of 1935-36. With the coming of the second world war, the staff and material shortages again increased the difficulty in maintaining the high standard of nursing care she desired but she never faltered in her aim to provide the greatest possible comfort for her patients, and, in 1945, her long devoted service to the community was recognised by the award of the Order of the British Empire.

Never content to rest on her laurels, Miss Jones faced the post-war advancement in development of hospital and nursing services with a progressive, forward looking attitude which kept the hospital's nursing services among the foremost in the State and it's nursing school graduates welcome in hospitals throughout Australia.

She retired in 1957 to live with her friends, Miss Crane, who had been her deputy for 26 years, and Miss Sanguinate, at East Brighton. Since then, and right up to the time of her death, she maintained a keen interest in the affairs of the hospital and encouraged a continuous stream of visitors who could give her news of the hospital and it's staff, present and past.

The committee of management of the hospital was very conscious of Miss Jones's contribution to the hospital and to nursing and when a building was purchased for a new school in 1964 it was named the "Elsie Jones School of Nursing".

A symbolic Florence Nightingale lamp, back-lit at night, sculptured by Marc Clarke is fixed to the front of the school in MacLennan St Mooroopna to remind those who knew her of a true daughter of Florence Nightingale and a very great lady.

Elsie Jones is interred in the Brighton Cemetery Lawn P Grave 36

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Source: "Not Bricks and Mortar and Paint – but People" by Geoffrey Nice.

Other women listed in the Brighton Cemetery Newsletter are: May Butler-George, Suzanne Dorothy Kelly, Annie Sudholz, Dr Gwendoline Alice Margaret Donald, Marion Barrett, Ada Cambridge, Rebecca Sarah nee Greaves Timms, Maria Christina nee Brown Jamieson, Margaret nee Jamieson Goslett.

Reprinted with permission, Brighton Cemeterian newsletter "Amazing Women of the Brighton Cemetery" issue 24, June 2011. Special thanks to Lois Comeadow.

## Family History Research Web Sites

[www.lincstothepast.com](http://www.lincstothepast.com)

More than 500,000 images, documenting thousands of years of Lincolnshire county history.

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/)

Combined records of National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and General Register Office for Scotland (GROS).

[www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

New project to make the birth, marriage and death records of England and Wales easier to use.

This is a subscription site.

[www.genphotography.com.au/](http://www.genphotography.com.au/)

A site of images, products and services to help you locate your Tasmanian ancestors.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Papers Past contains more than one million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1945 and includes 65 publications from all regions of New Zealand.

<http://headstones.weebly.com>

South Australian Cemetery lookups.  
*“By photographing the gravestones of these ancestors, we are actively recording family history not only for those researching now, but those in the future.”*

<http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au/>

The heart of *Mapping our Anzacs* is a tool to browse 375,971 records of service in the Australian Army during World War I according to the person's place of birth or enlistment. These records tell the stories not only of soldiers, but also of nurses, chaplains and others.

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

Millions of pages of historical newspapers becoming available for the first time (second half of 2011) The aim is to digitise up to 40 million pages from the UK national newspaper collection over the next ten years.

<http://www.facebook.com/lostdiggers>

For nearly a century a unique, precious trove of Australian history has lain hidden and neglected among the dust and cobwebs of an attic in a disused French barn.

View some of the 3000 photographic glass plate images and help to identify these unnamed soldiers.

## Public Records Office Victoria Bendigo

The PROV has recently established a branch upstairs in the Bendigo Goldfields Library.

The Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC) holds records created by private bodies and Victorian government agencies located in the Central Goldfields region of Victoria. The collection includes local government and court records and also private collections and business records. BRAC holds a mix of permanent and temporary public records and became a POD in 2007. The Centre has been established through a collaborative partnership between Public Record Office Victoria, the City of Greater Bendigo and the Goldfields Library Corporation.

The staff are extremely helpful and you may find records of relatives who lived in the area.

Opening times:

Wednesday and Thursday, (except for public holidays), 1pm – 5pm [www.brac.vic.gov.au](http://www.brac.vic.gov.au)

### Looking for Mining Ancestors?

The last few editions of Australian Family Tree Connections magazine have featured articles by Shauna Hicks. Entitled “Looking for Mining Ancestors”. Shauna points out there are websites and other sources of information available that you may not have thought of; mining indexes, photographs, Picture Australia, Moonta National Trust, Wikipedia-Charters Towers, ACT Miner's Rights 1932-1962, and of course local family history groups, to mention just a few.

Don't forget that many families travelled the length and breadth of the country in search of employment or the dream of riches.

Part 4 in her series of articles focuses on Bendigo and other gold mining areas and may be of interest to researchers who had relatives in those areas.

Copies of these magazines are available for members, to read or borrow, from the family history rooms.

### 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.

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

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**2010-11 Office Bearers**

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

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

Members please note that 2011/12 subs are 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**

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Internet: [www.vicnet.net.au/~shepjh](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~shepjh) email: [shepjhg@fastmail](mailto:shepjhg@fastmail)

Meeting Times: Third Wednesday 7.30pm at the SFHG Rooms  
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)