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*Newsletter No 49
May 2015*



SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

Shepparton Family History Group Inc report

Many years of providing a neat, clean and friendly environment for a very reasonably priced research, has earned our group praise from many of the family historians we have been able to either help or at least provide possible hints on where to further their knowledge. The two week break over Christmas gave some of our overworked members a chance to relax and unwind after an almost unbroken year of keeping our Family History Group functioning in the way that we have all come to expect.

Shortly after returning from the Christmas break one of our members noticed an activity in our rooms which should not have been occurring. The unwanted activity was from termites steadily eating away at woodwork within our library, research and meeting rooms. Any hopes of a quick resolution to the problem were dashed when the full extent of the damage was assessed by the council and a local pest control firm. It soon became apparent that our library and research rooms would need to be evacuated and a great deal of our resource material together with computers, photocopier, microfiche readers etc had to be relocated to another area to allow the builders access to repair all the damaged walls. The completed renovations are a credit to everyone involved, it is very difficult to find any difference between the original structure and the renovated one.

Our rooms were closed for most of March and re-opened early April. Due to such short notice of the necessary closure it was impossible to notify impending visitors to our rooms and we do apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced. The photographs on page 3 show the disruption caused by these tiny wood eaters.

Our annual participation in the Bendigo AIGS Family History Expo was in doubt due to many of our records being relocated but after some searching, enough resources were gathered up and our table at the expo was once again able to be filled with many records relating to the Shepparton district.

Sales of books were quiet but our newly released "Early Families of Shepparton and District" book 3 created interest, especially amongst those who had enjoyed the previous two editions in this series.

It was sad to hear the news that this, the 25th, was to be the last expo to be held by the Bendigo group. Due to a number of factors, including the pending demolishing of the Kangaroo Flat community centre together with many of the group members finding it harder each year to fulfill the work required to stage the event.

We thank the Bendigo Family History Group for their hard work and wonderful efforts to bring local family history to us all.

The City of Greater Shepparton council conducted their biennial "Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Award" on April 11th 2015. The Shepparton family history group had entered book three of "Early Families of Shepparton and District" in the category of "Best Publication" and although not successful in taking out the award this time the opportunity to further promote the book, and our group, made it a very worthwhile exercise. A certificate of appreciation was forwarded to us from the council.

The Shepparton Library have a display cabinet set aside for community groups to display, for one month, an array of items pertaining to that particular group's activities. Each year Kerry displays some of our resource material or publications in a great visual arrangement which displays to the public some of the many items available in our extensive library. Drop into the Shepparton library during the month of June to see the display of research material we have available when searching for ancestors from the British Isles.

Coming Events

Maryborough Family History Group inc

Family & Local History Fair "We Remember"

Sunday 9th August, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Community Hub, Nolan St, Maryborough
Admittance: \$5.00
Email: familyhistorystation@hotmail.com

National Family History Month

August 2015 is family history month throughout Australia. A guide to activities can be found on the web site: www.familyhistorymonth.org.au

Family History Feast

This will be held on Monday 10 August at the State Library of Victoria during National Family History Month. Once again collaborative partners will include the State Library of Victoria, Public Record Office Victoria, National Archives of Australia (Melbourne Office) and the Immigration Discovery Centre of Museum Victoria. Theme for this year is World War 1. Professor Bruce Scates will be delivering the annual Don Grant Memorial Lecture. Bookings will open hopefully on 22 June. Check Library website closer to the event for booking details.

Venue: Village Roadshow Theatrette, State Library of Victoria. 10th Aug 2015

Group: State Library of Victoria

Contact: Anne Burrows

Email aburrows@slv.vic.gov.au

Web: www.slv.vic.gov.au

VAFHO FAMILY HISTORY EXPO

Come and join us at our Family History Expo at Seymour

WHEN: SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER, 2015

WHERE: SEYMOUR CLUB

TIME: 10.00AM TILL 4.00PM

COST: \$15 per person

GUEST SPEAKERS: Neil Smith (Military History), Vic Gum, (more to be announced)

DISPLAY & TRADING TABLES: Geelong Family History Group, First Fleet Fellowship, State Library Victoria, Descendants of Convicts Group, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Port Phillip Pioneers Group, Mostly Unsung, International Settlers Group & many more.

See VAFHO website for further updates:
(Google "vafho expo")

Recent Library Additions

'The Shepparton Fire Brigade: The Last 25 Years', by Noel Hussey

'Go Fast, Turn Left', by Goulburn Valley Auto Club
'Red Cross Calling: History of the Mooroopna Red Cross Branch 1914-2014', compiled by Ian Pleydell and Gwenda Collins

'Mason Family', folder of information

'My Shepparton: A Pictorial History', Geoff Allemand

'Vickers Family', folder of information

Some road and ordinance survey maps - Europe, Ireland, Western Australia, New Zealand

'History of the Shepparton & District Horse & Pony Club 1953 - 2013', compiled by Wendy Holland, updated by Debbie Hicks

'Fifty Years on the Honeysuckle: Kialla Golf Club', by Glenys Holyman and Kay Woodward

'Euroa, portrait of an Australian country district', John Sullivan

'Our First 100 Years' Orrvale Primary School 1913 - 2013

Calendars

'Lost Mooroopna 2014'

'Lost Echuca Moama 2014'

'Lost Maryborough 2015'

'Shepparton Rotary 2015'

'Vintage Bendigo 2015'

Please avail yourself of our large selection of magazines and newsletters.

These include the GSV Ancestor, Australian Family Tree Connections, British Family Tree as well as Victorian and interstate newsletters.

They are very informative and may help you solve some of your brick walls.

All these are available for loan to SFHG members.

Research requests

Webb Richard Ponsonby

Davis Bernard Maitland

Ryan Cornelius and Wife Catherine Finnan/ Ryan

Palling Cornelius

McIver William James

Forsythe, Fleming, Morgan, Adams, Huilme,

Kelly & Beaton

Repair of family history rooms after termite damage



Much of our equipment had to be moved to the Heritage Centre meeting room to allow clear access to the damaged wall area.



Items which could not be easily removed were covered to help protect them from the dust.



The gas heater was another attraction for the termites



Two of the research room walls as well as two walls of the library were completely replaced.

Smile Awhile

An extract from the GSV Irish ancestry group magazine "Blarney" May 2015 Vol 27 No 2.

From the Book of Irish Laws

When you become old your family must allow you one oatcake each day, a jug of sour milk and seventeen sticks of firewood. They must bathe you every twentieth night and wash your head on Saturday.

Birth Death Marriages Victoria

From 1 July 2015 there will be **changes to fees** and to the Melbourne Customer Service Centre hours. The new opening hours will be 8am – 4pm. These new hours will allow more people to visit before work.

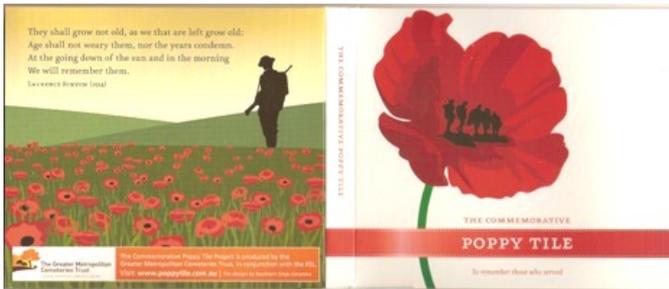
Search your family history

You can search two online indexes, the Historical index and the Marine index. Your search results will give a summary of details held in our birth, marriage or death registers.

Once you find the details you want, you can get a copy of the original register record in the form of an uncertified image

<http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/>

The Commemorative Poppy Tile



Recognising those who returned from War

Between 1914 and 1918 some 112,399 Victorians enlisted to fight in the First World War. Those who died from causes associated with battle are commemorated by the War Graves Commission. However, those who returned and then lived out their lives in the community, and are buried in our cemeteries, are not recognised unless their family has recorded this fact in their inscription.

In recognition of this and to commemorate the centenary of World War I, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT), in conjunction with the Returned Services League of Australia (Victorian Branch), has produced a special poppy tile that can be affixed to headstones and cremation niches to indicate that someone served their country during war.

The GMCT has made the packages available for sale at all GMCT cemeteries and participating RSL branches. Other cemeteries around Victoria have been offered the opportunity to sell the package.

The price for the package is \$10 (+GST), any profits will be donated to charity.

See www.poppytile.com.au/ for more details.
Or phone GMCT (03) 9546 9377

A tile package can be seen at the SFHG rooms.

Battle To Farm

One of Victoria's most important military collections will be made public for the first time, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Special Minister of State, Shaun Leane, unveiled an important new website for historical and family research.

Battle to Farm enables the public to access 10,000 government records on the Victorian Soldier Settlement Scheme. The scheme helped settle thousands of returned World War One soldiers on farming land across Victoria through government leases, drastically transforming the landscape of regional Victoria.

Over the years there has been great debate as to the success or failure of the settlement scheme as ex-soldiers were entering farming life in a difficult economic climate as the world descended into the Depression.

Over 50 per cent of those allocated blocks left the scheme. Many were unable to cover their debts when food prices plummeted, while others accused the government of leasing blocks that were too small. Through these resources, we can see not only the land allocated to each settler, but the hardships they faced.

Searchable by soldier name and geographic location, the new website developed by Public Record Office Victoria is an extraordinary achievement, making public for the first time one of Victoria's important military collections.

The website features digitised soldier settlement records, letters from the soldiers about their farming life, video interviews of people who grew up on settlement blocks, photographs and a guide to understanding the records.

For more information

visit soldiersettlement PROV.vic.gov.au

Extract from vic.gov.au bulletin 8 April 2015

Battle To Farm

This website is a resource for people looking for Victorian government records about soldier settlers.
Understanding the records

On this site you can access the individual records of thousands of World War One returned soldiers who leased farming land across Victoria between 1919 and 1935. Enter a settler's name in the search box or search by geographic location through the [digital map](#). Watch historian Dr Charles Fahey [explain](#) the kind of information you're likely to find within the records as a family or historical researcher.

Extract from PROV website

Several local WW1 soldier settler family members were interviewed by Monash university students in collaboration with PROV staff and the video recordings can be seen on the Battle to Farm website.

Jack Gervasoni's farm at Katandra consisted of both grape vines and cereal cropping and his story is told by son Ken Gervasoni.

Sir John McEwen's story of life on the farm at Stanhope is told by Bob Holschier.

Go to soldiersettlement PROV.vic.gov.au and then either click on a link to watch the video interviews or enter a surname into the search box (click on the magnifying glass top right corner) to bring up a list of matching results and a map showing the location of the settlement farm.

The History of Local Government in the Shepparton Area Dates Back to 1871

Prior to that time, the **Echuca Roads Board, proclaimed in 1864**, comprised a large area of northern Victoria west of the Goulburn River. But the Shepparton area east of the Goulburn remained unproclaimed. On **May 20, 1871 the Shire of Echuca was proclaimed**, absorbing the old Road District and a substantial area of new country, including the Shepparton and Numurkah areas, and given the name Eastern Riding. The new Shire of Echuca extended from Mitiamo on the west to Yarrawonga in the east. The Murray River formed the northern boundary and the southern boundary extended to Elmore.

It was not many years before there was agitation in the Eastern Riding for a break-away from Echuca Shire. On **May 31, 1879 the Shire of Shepparton was created** by severance of a large area from the Echuca municipality.

The Council for the new shire was to have six members. George Graham, Samuel Wellwood Alfred William Day, William John Fairman, James Coldwell and James Campbell. The inaugural meeting was held on August 19, 1879 in the Shire Hall, when each councillor was sworn in by the returning officer. Cr Graham was elected President for the 12 months to August 1880. The first secretary of Shepparton Shire appointed in 1879 was James Meek Nicksen. His appointment included the duties of Secretary, engineer, valuer, collector and inspector of rabbits.

The new Shepparton Shire extended from the Murray River in the north to the Broken River in the south and had its headquarters at Shepparton.

On April 18, 1884 the northern part retained the title Shire of Shepparton with headquarters at Numurkah, and the southern part given the name of Shire of Shepparton South.

The northern shire was changed to the **Shire of Numurkah on September 11, 1885** and the southern section to **Shire of Shepparton on July 2, 1886.**

The **Dookie Riding was added to the shire on December 23, 1903** and the **Kialla Riding on May 14, 1911**

On **May 31, 1927** the Shepparton township area was severed from the shire and the **Borough of Shepparton was created**. On August 25, 1927 the first councillors for the Borough were elected. They were;- North Ward – J.T.Stuart, A.T.B.Goyen, H.E.S.Bird; Central Ward – A.W.Fairley, F.E.Grutzner, J.Riordan; South Ward – R.Broomfield, J.D.Mitchell and John Pick. The first meeting was held in the Shire Hall on Wednesday, September 14.

At a meeting of Borough Council on Wednesday October 5, Mr Ray West was chosen as Town Clerk (then 30 years of age). The first regular monthly meeting was held on Monday October 10 in the AMP building then in Wyndham St.

A meeting was held on November 13, 1927 with both representatives from the Borough and Shire Council's attending to discuss matters in connection with the **severance of Shepparton from the shire**. These were finalised in **December 1927** when it was agreed that certain reserves, parks and gardens should come under the jurisdiction of the Borough including Shepparton Cricket Reserve, Queen's Gardens, Victoria Park and the sewerage farm.

On March 16, 1949 the Borough was declared a City and proclaimed as such on February 2, 1950. On March 16 the North Ward became the Deakin Ward, named after Alfred Deakin the founder of Victoria's water conservation and irrigation system; the South Ward became the Wilmot Ward named after John George Winchester Wilmot, Land Surveyor, who completed the first survey of Shepparton in 1855. The Central Ward, comprising the central portion of the municipality retained its name.

(Taken from the article "We Were Once Part of Echuca" printed on page 72 of the *Shepparton News CENTENARY SOUVENIR EDITION*, published Friday, August 26, 1977.)

Copies of Rate Books (all indexed) held by Shepparton Family History Group are as follows:-

Photocopies of the **Shire of Shepparton Rate Books 1885 to 1941/42** (includes the township).

Photograph images of the section of the Shire of Euroa that became the **Kialla Riding 1880 to 1911.**

Photograph images of the **Rodney Shire Rate Books 1886 to 1954.**

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SHIRE OF RODNEY.

AN ASSESSMENT TO THE

Made this *Twentieth* day of *May* in the year of our Lord, 18*87*

No. on the Rate.	Surname of Person Rated.	Christian Name of Person Rated.	Occupier's Trade or Occupation.	Residence of Occupier.	Name of Owner of Rateable Property.	SITUATION OF PROPERTY.				DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF RATEABLE PROPERTY.			
						Parish.	No. of Acres.	Area.	Allotment.	Quality of Improvements.			
1	<i>Sinewath</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Surveyor</i>	<i>Meeroppa</i>	<i>Leannele Meeroppa</i>								<i>Law Mill</i>
2	<i>Sinewath</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Builder</i>	<i>Leclamba</i>	<i>James the</i>	<i>Leclamba</i>	231						<i>House land</i>

Understanding Early Parish Maps

Parish plans are the most heavily used part of the Maps Collection among family historians at the State Library of Victoria (SLV). If your ancestors are from rural or regional Victoria, a parish plan is likely to be the most detailed historical map you will find of the area they lived. A large number of our parish plans have been digitised and are available online.

From 1837 the Government surveyed and subdivided land in Victoria with the intention of selling it. Township, parish and county plans (or "cadastral" plans) recorded information about the transfer of land from the Crown (the Government) to private ownership or lease-hold. Plans were produced for each of Victoria's 37 counties, 2004 parishes and 909 townships. They show the boundaries of lands which were occupied, reserved or sold along with the date of purchase, the acreage and, post 1862, the relevant file number for that selection or sale. Some parishes in remote areas have no parish plan - in these cases the county plans act as record plans.

These plans provide information about land-ownership (such as property boundaries, names of grantees, and dates of grants), as well as more general information about an area such as the size and shape of local settlements, the location of buildings or other structures and the location of natural features such as rivers, lakes or mountains.

They are particularly useful to family historians who are seeking to identify the properties that a particular ancestor purchased from the Crown. They also contain correspondence file numbers (where applicable) which can be used to request correspondence files that now reside at the [Public Record Office of Victoria \(PROV\)](#).

It is important to remember that these plans record only the transfer of land from the Crown to private ownership - they do not give information about subsequent sales. Contact the [Land Titles Office](#) to discover this information.

The State Library of Victoria has an extensive collection of over 10,000 plans in print, microfiche and aperture card, but we do not have copies of every Victorian parish plan.

Identify your parish: refer to the township and parish guide which is available [online](#). Search for a town in the *List of townships proclaimed* to discover the name of the relevant parish.

Find and view plans: In the [online catalogue](#), choose the Maps tab, then enter the terms *real property parish*, and the name of the parish you wish to find.

Ref: State Library Victoria "using maps for family history"

Between 1849 and 1871 Victoria was divided into 37 counties, each approximately 1600 square miles (4500 sq km) in area.

The counties are further divided into 2914 parishes and townships. Parishes were surveyed to be approximately 50 square miles (140 sq km) in size. They generally had straight boundaries unless constrained to a river or mountain range.

Parishes were then subdivided into sections of various sizes generally 4 or 6 sections per parish, and then further subdivided into crown allotments, for sale as farming allotments, or designated as a town and then divided into sections.

Parish maps can show various information about each allotment as shown on page 7.

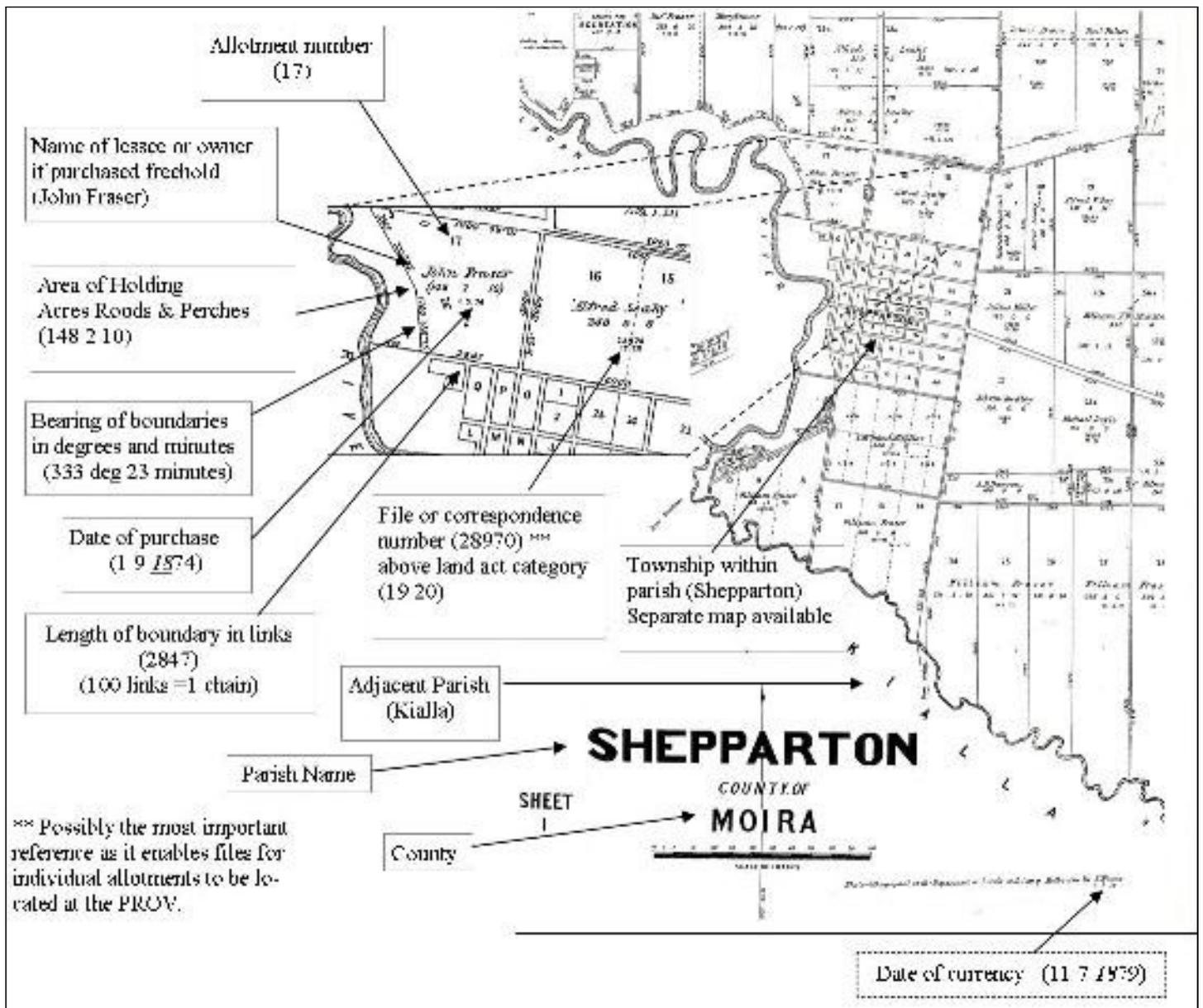
After 1966 metric measurements were used on the parish maps.



Parishes of the City of Greater Shepparton

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arcadia • Caniambo • Congupna • Coomboona • Currawa • Dargalong • Dookie • Girgarre East • Gowangardie • Karramomus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katandra • Kialla • Kyabram East • Molka • Mooroopna • Mooroopna West • Murchison • Murchison North • Noorilim • Pine Lodge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shepparton • Tallygaroopna • Tamleugh • Toolamba • Toolamba West • Undera • Waranga |
|--|--|---|

A comprehensive book, "Lands Guide, a guide to finding records of crown land at the Public Records Office Victoria", is available for download from the PROV for \$19.95.



Web Sites of Interest

“Free BMD” website includes “Free Reg” (parish registers) and “Free Cem” (census data)

FreeBMD is an ongoing project, the aim of which is to transcribe the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales

www.freebmd.org.uk

Hearth Tax Online. Search some British counties for householders in the late 17th century.

www.hearthtax.org.uk

TROVE

Everyone has probably made use of the National Library of Australia search engine, possibly without realising all the search functions available.

Eg: Just use the ~ (tilde) symbol in the simple search box to set the 'distance' between your keywords. For example: "[fred smith](#)"~2 will match items with 'fred' and 'smith' within two words of each other.

You can use the simple search box to limit your results to a certain date range. Eg; date:[1920 to 1925] limits results to just this date range.

Visit <http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove> for an explanation of many more search functions.

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

Members please note that 2015/16 subs will be 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 AccNo: 03832 8159

Don't Forget

Members only research days.

The first odd dated Sunday of each month 1.00 to 4.00pm 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/~shepfh email: shepfhg@fastmail

General Meetings Third Wednesday **** 2.00 pm ****

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)

Shepparton Family History Group

- Bruce Manson (President)
- Wilma Emmett (Secretary)
- Kerry Betts (Treasurer)

2013-2014 Office Bearers

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

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