

~*Furphy Murrurs*~



Shepparton
Family History Group Inc
A0041654N
P.O.Box 1529 Shepparton 3632
www.vicnet.net.au/~shepfh

Newsletter No 51
May 2016



SHEPPARTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP inc

Shepparton Family History Group Inc report

A small dedicated group of our members continue to provide an excellent service to anyone researching their family history, whether they had a connection with the Shepparton district or even further afield. Our ever growing library of local records together with many resources from interstate and overseas will, in most cases, provide some extra information for anyone visiting our rooms or inquiring via the internet.

Due to health concerns our secretary for the past several years, Wilma, has had to resign from the position. Wilma had agreed to take on this hard to fill position of secretary even though she confessed to being a novice with computers. She then soon mastered the task of typing and group emailing minutes and attachments to all our members as well as fulfilling all the other secretaries duties. Thank you Wilma for your valuable contribution to our club.

Not one to be idle, Wilma has since donated to the SHFG, a number of local and family history books given to her recently.

Thankfully one of our new members, Peter, has taken on this essential position, his background in the teaching profession and his technical knowledge with computers, etc, will be an asset to our group. Peter also has a connection to the "Lost Shepparton" bookshop, specialising in the history of Shepparton and district. This bookshop is now located within the Heritage Museum complex and undoubtedly many of the people seeking information on Shepparton's history may also be researching family history in our area.

One of the items for discussion at our general meeting has been the re-distribution of information which we receive in the form of emails. Many of these emails would be of interest to our members but we do not want to be filling their email boxes with items which may not interest them. The emails mainly consist of newsletters from other family history or commercial groups (Vic Gum, GSV, Archival Access, etc). If any of our members would like to receive these emails please email us at shepfhg@fastmail.fm and ask to be included in our mailing list (at present it is not possible to send selected emails to individuals).

The minutes of all our meetings are emailed to all our members whose email address we have. If you require your email to be added to, or removed from, this list then please email your request to shepfhg@fastmail.fm.

Extreme Weather Policy

Last summer we had agreed not to open our rooms for research on days when the temperature was forecast to exceed 38 °C. Even though our rooms are air conditioned our volunteers can be subject to extreme temperatures sometimes having to walk a long distance from available car parking.

The Shepparton 7 day forecast will be available on the SFHG website and where closure of our rooms is a possibility "Open" or "Closed" will be displayed on the appropriate "Meeting and Research Times" page.

If you were planning to do research on a predicted closure day please email SFHG in advance to make possible alternative arrangements.

Earlier Start for Friday Research (see page 8 for research times)

Coming Events

SFHG Annual Meeting

The SFHG annual and general meeting is to be held July 20th 2016 2.00 pm at the Family History room, Welsford street, Shepparton.

Items to be discussed include subscription fees, extreme weather policy and research opening hours.

** until further notice Friday research will now be from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm **

Library Display

Each year our member Kerry organizes a display in the Goulburn Valley Regional Library. This display encompasses some of the specialised research material we have available at our rooms and is on display for one month. This display is great advertising for our club and we encourage everyone to take some time out to visit this display during June.

Family History Month (August 2016)

An initiative of AFFHO (Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations).

Family history and genealogy is one of the most popular hobbies around the world. There are over 250,000 Australians who are members of family history related groups and the month has broad appeal across Australia. Libraries, archives and other organizations also participate in National Family History Month.

During August events will be conducted across Australia and online that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects. Check your state for details of local events and remember to check online events which you can do at home.

<http://familyhistorymonth.org.au/all-events/>

Cemetery Photography

When photographing a grave / headstone for family history records consider photographing the following:



1. The cemetery entrance including the town, either on the name plate or on a written card.
2. The grave from all 4 directions.
3. Headstone or all plaque images from several directions to help with reading the wording especially if light conditions are unfavourable.
4. Neighbouring graves. This not only helps to locate the grave later but other relatives may have been buried close by.
5. Distant photos to show the location of the grave with reference to other landmarks.

Vale: Bruce Robert Wilson OAM

It was with much sadness that we learned of the passing of Bruce Wilson. Bruce had a passionate involvement in the Shepparton community and incredible knowledge of the history of Shepparton and many of its early citizens. His regular history segment on local community radio was essential listening for many people throughout the Goulburn Valley. Bruce was a member and regular visitor to our research rooms.

Our condolences to Bruce's son Neil, daughter Jenny, and family.

Do you have an English Certificate of Baptism?

Have you seen a record of baptism that states "received into the church"?

Apparently it usually refers to a baby baptised privately who is sickly and may not be expected to live. If the child recovers then "received into the church" becomes the more formal and public procedure.

More information is available on the websites britishgenealogy.com and genesreunited.com.au

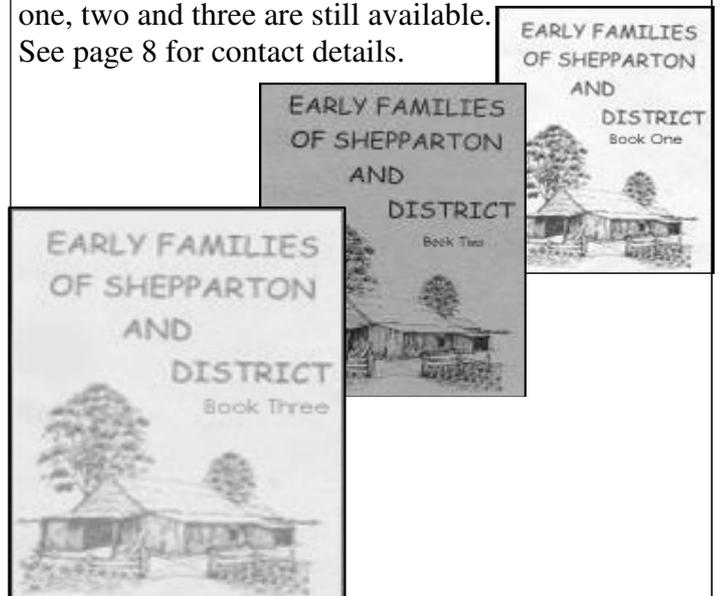
Possible TROVE Funding Cuts

There has been a lot of publicity about possible funding cuts to TROVE which could stop them from further digitising newspapers, gazettes, etc

We can all send petitions to members of parliament expressing the need for TROVE to continue their good work.

Write your own letter or Google "trove petitions" to bring up links to many petition sites on line.

Early Families of Shepparton and District books one, two and three are still available. See page 8 for contact details.



Recent Library Additions:

- *'Pioneer Brothers. Henry and John Muller. Their Heritage and Descendants 1715-2015'*, by Margaret E. Fleming and Marie Dickson.
- *'History of Goulburn Valley Urban Fire Brigades Association. Golden Jubilee 1912-1962'*.
- *'About Some Euroa and District Personalities and Families'*, by Cliff Halsall.
- *'Kyabram Methodism'*, by W.H. Bossence.
- *'Kyabram 1892-1992 100 Years of Gleanings. Extracts Selected from the Kyabram Free Press Files'* compiled by Don Anderson.
- *'History of Guiding and Scouting in Mooroopna'*.
- *'Strathmerton Primary School 1886-2011'*.
- *'Two Brothers, a bit of a Yarn'*, by Roger Furphy.
- *'Furphy, the Watercart and the Word'*, by John Barnes and Andrew Furphy.
- *'Made in Shepparton. The History of J. Furphy & sons 1873-1998'*, by John Barnes.
- *'Eureka from the Official Records. The Story of the Ballarat Riots of 1854, and the Eureka Stockade, from the Official Documents in the Public Record Office of Victoria'*, compiled by Ian MacFarlane.
- *'A Matter of Record. History of Public Record Office Victoria'* by Professor E.W. (Bill) Russell.
- *'Provenance. Celebrating 30 Years of the Victorian Public Records Act'*, by Professor E.W. (Bill) Russell.
- *'Summary Guide to the Public Records of Victoria'*, Public Record Office Victoria, 1990.

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 climb some of your brick walls.

All these are available for loan to SFHG members.



New Members

The Shepparton Family History Group welcomes our new members, Ted, Narelle, Peter and Andrew.

We look forward to seeing you at our rooms and successfully continuing your family history research.

GENEALOGISTS PRAYER

Genealogy is my pastime - I shall not stray.
It maketh me to lie down and examine half buried tombstones,
It leadeth me into still courthouses,
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me into the paths of census records
And ships passenger lists
For my surnames sake.
Yet though I wade through the shadows
Of research libraries & microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement,
For a strong urge is with me.
The curiosity and motivation they comfort me.
It demandeth preparation of storage space
For the acquisition of countless documents.
It anointeth my head with burning midnight oil.
My family group sheets runneth over.
Surely birth marriage & death dates
Shall follow me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in the house of a family history
seeker forever.
Amen

Research Requests

Some of the surnames our researchers have been tracing include:

Tomkin Mary Rachel

James "Digger"

Gray Adam, Drumanure 1840—96

Whitehead Henry, Numurkah / Shepparton c1890

Moore & Flanagan, Kialla 1870

Baker / White Frances, Shepparton / Yarrawonga

Philipson Closer Settlement, Shepparton 1913

Albanian Settlement in the Goulburn Valley

The first recorded Albanian, with his English wife, to come to Australia, arrived in Brisbane in 1885¹. Several more arrived in Queensland from 1908 to 1920, attracted to the agriculture employment, sugar cane, market gardens, tobacco and fruit growing.

Many men, and some families, arrived in the 1920's, settling in Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria (especially around Shepparton).

Excerpts from a newspaper article give an insight into the life of one of these families.

Shepparton News June 24 1937

... these homes have been selected for a detailed description, mainly because they contained wives and children who had recently come from Albania, and were therefore, more likely to have carried the true Albanian standard into their new homes.

A CHEERY WELCOME

The first home visited was that of Mr. Archi Sparo, who had no hesitation in asking us inside as soon as he learned the object of our visit. We shook hands with Mrs. Sparo and met the only suggestion that our customs were different to those of Albania in the fact that as soon as we were seated, she came around and shook hands with us all again. On enquiry, we found that it was the usual custom to wait until a guest was seated before he was welcomed.

The surprise came in young Archi Sparo, a lad of 12, who had been in the country six months. He was a fine active type, with a keen sense of humor and plenty of intelligence.

Although he could not speak a word of English when he arrived. His first few months at Shepparton East school had made him so proficient that he was able to converse with us without trouble, and with only the slightest trace of an accent.

Mr. Spiro, senior, was not at all reticent in telling us about his father's home in Albania, where he had 300 acres which was worked with the aid of the family, just as many Australian farmers are helped by their families of sons and daughters. This farm was located near Kortche, one of the larger towns of Albania.

OWNED HIS HOUSE

Mr. Sparo said that he owned his own brick house, which had cost him 12,000 francs (£600) in gold money to buy. His present property at Shepparton East consisted of 40 acres, 13 of which were planted with canning fruits, and the remainder of which was devoted to vegetables.

Mr. Sparo said he was quite satisfied with Australia, and he and his sons would become good Australian citizens.

This is the story of the majority of Albanians in the Shepparton district; a community of farmers and workers, a community having as all communities will have, one or two who may not reach the highest standard of citizenship. On the whole, they are desirable citizens, hardworking and honest, whose origin, after another generation will not be questioned, so wholly they will have adapted themselves to the country of their adoption.

It was said that the first Mosque¹ to be built in Victoria was at Shepparton East. The following article in the Argus Newspaper, 25th October 1938, indicates that the large Albanian community did have their own mosque prior to 1938.



There are many Albanian families in and around Shepparton and now there are several generations established in our community.

A new mosque was built in 1960 on the "outskirts" of the town but is now surrounded by the residential district.



Shepparton Albanian Mosque

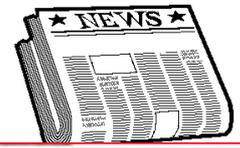
The majority of Albanians are Muslim but a percentage are orthodox Christians. Mother Teresa was a well known Albanian catholic nun¹ who worked for the poor in the slums of India.

During WW2 Albanians were considered "enemy aliens" but Victoria was more lenient than other states with Albanians just reporting to police once a week. Some fought in the war alongside Australian soldiers, one being interred in the Port Moresby cemetery in Papua New Guinea.

NB: The SFHG have many folders listing multicultural groups within our community. Albanian families are well represented in this resource.

Google "Kurbet -The Albanian experience" for more information.

¹ Information from Wikipedia



Riverine Herald (Echuca, Vic. : Moama, NSW), Wednesday 14 April 1875

SHEPPARTON.—The Shepparton correspondent of the *Waranga Chronicle*, reports that at a meeting of the Progress Association held at Shepparton, the hon. sec. reported that he had received a reply from the Postmaster-General, in answer to his letter asking that Shepparton should be made the terminus of the mail, instead of stopping at Mooroopna as at present; under consideration. The chairman, acting under instructions from the President of the Echuca Shire, proceeded to elect trustees for the public park, racecourse, recreation reserve, &c. Ten candidates were nominated, but on a show of hands being taken, Messrs. G. North, John Fraser, Oram, Leahy, and Wm. Fraser, jun., were chosen. Mr. John Fraser then moved, and Mr. Leahy seconded.—“That one of the three members at present sitting for the Eastern Riding of Echuca Shire be formally asked to resign his seat.” Both these gentlemen argued that all this portion of the shire is virtually disfranchised, because none of them ever make their appearance in this quarter; that they do not care one jot about the requirements of their constituents; that this is now getting an influential and important district and quite capable of sending and supporting a member of their own choosing if they are to continue attached to the Echuca Shire. This was carried by acclamation. It was incidentally mentioned (states the correspondent) that Messrs. Currie, Rutherford, and Kianear, our present members, are all resident on the Murray, some forty to fifty miles from here, the trio being closely connected with squatterdom, having decidedly bucolic tendencies, and therefore strictly opposed to such waste of valuable money as that which would be entailed in putting bridges over the Goulburn and Broken Rivers. This may last for a time, but eventually the selector will make his power felt. We are badly in want of rain; the ground can hardly be ploughed. Selection is going ahead northwards, in the direction of the Murray, faster than ever. A tremendous area has been taken up within the last three months.

AN EVENTFUL LIFE.—An old man named John Lahey died in the Sandhurst Gaol on Sunday last (states the *Bendigo Advertiser*.) An inquest was held on the body of the deceased on Monday by Dr. Pounds, when it was ascertained, from the evidence of Dr. Cruikshank that the cause of death was exhaustion and diarrhoea. Mr. Gale, governor of the gaol, stated that the deceased was brought from Echuca to undergo a sentence of fourteen days for larceny. On admission he appeared to be feeble from old age. Dr. Cruikshank attended the prisoner, who complained of rheumatism. He was properly attended, but died about two a.m., on the 11th instant. Deceased told witness that he had a wife and daughter at Echuca, and a telegram was sent to these relatives, informing them of the deceased's death. The jury found a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence. The wife of the deceased came to Sandhurst yesterday, but was too late to see the remains of her late husband, who had already been buried. She called on the coroner, however, in the evening at a hotel where he was holding another inquest and appeared in great distress at not having been able to attend her husband's funeral, and also because she had no money wherewith to secure her means of transit back to Echuca.

Her husband, she stated, had been convicted for stealing a piece of sausage at Echuca. Her own life has been rather an eventful one. Her husband had formerly married in Ireland. He was 68 years of age, and the father of 28 children. By his first wife he had 9 children, all of whom are dead. When the present Mrs. Lahey was a Miss Honora Kelly, she attended the wake of the first Mrs. Lahey, who, before her death, had obtained the peculiar promise from the then young girl that she would marry the deceased. This marriage duly took place in Dublin, and proved a most fruitful one. This is now 40 years ago, and the present widow was then 21 years of age. Out of the 19 children, the fruits of the second marriage only, 3 are still living.

WE NEED YOU !

Volunteers are an essential part of every organization, 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.

Member's Personal Family History Research

EMMA LANGRIDGE

Over many years I have traced the stories of several generations of my family members and the conditions under which they lived. All too often women as individuals became invisible. They did not have the vote and had very few employment opportunities or rights, especially once they married. Birth notices took the form of 'to the wife of Mr. John Smith, a son', and funeral announcements were similarly worded. She had lost not only her maiden name but her identity, but had the security of her home unless the marriage failed.

It is in this context that I came across the story of Emma Langridge, the mother of my mother-in-law and great grandmother of my children. There is much that I can only surmise. I barely knew Elizabeth, my mother-in-law, and the only thing she once mentioned about her family was that her grandfather had been Mayor of Collingwood.

. Elizabeth Langridge was born in 1874 followed by her younger siblings, Emma born 1876 and named after her mother, John 1878, Arthur 1880 and Robert born 1882. Their parents were John Langridge and his wife, Emma, nee Burrows. Emma was born in Tasmania in 1854. Her father was a convict and her mother a free woman. I could not find a record of Emma's death, or a remarriage after her husband died in 1902, but I thought I must be overlooking something.

A few years ago an exciting new resource appeared on the internet, Trove Newspapers, still ongoing, by the National Library of Australia, which publishes digitalised, searchable copies of Australian newspapers from earliest times until the 1950's. I found that Elizabeth's grandfather, George David Langridge was not only Mayor of Collingwood but that he was a Minister in the Victorian government and at the time of his sudden death in 1891 was Chief Secretary and Acting Premier. As Federation had not yet occurred, state governments had responsibility for all sectors. He also founded the Langridge Building Society which was carried on until at least the 1940's. His will ran into several pages of property listings. His state funeral was a prestigious affair for which public offices were closed for the day, and lavish tributes flowed freely. His eldest son John, my children's great grandfather was described as an engine driver for the Victorian Railways.

In 1887 the newspapers carried accounts of the 'Port Melbourne outrage'. At 2 a.m. on Sunday 21st August, Emma Langridge, a married woman who had been estranged from her husband for two years was savagely raped by four men. She tried to escape by hiding under a dray but was dragged out

again and the attacks continued. She lost massive amounts of blood and was not expected to live. She was left in a police cell for the remainder of the night, then when she was found to be still alive, was moved to hospital. Three of the men were charged but they were acquitted, with the jury apparently being influenced because the victim had been drinking and was of 'dissolute character'. On her appearance in court, still very ill, she was described as in her thirties but prematurely aging. Her address was given as Station Street, Port Melbourne, which was probably a railway worker's cottage, although whether she still lived there is doubtful. Her husband was described as an engine driver with 'good connections'. There are too many coincidences to rule out the probability that this Emma Langridge and the great grandmother of my children are one and the same.

In 1887 her eldest child, Elizabeth, would have been 13 years of age and the youngest of her five children would have been only five years of age, and it was stated that she had been estranged from her husband for two years before that. Why would any mother voluntarily desert her children and home and choose a life of street walking? Was she simply an alcoholic or a prostitute? How did her husband treat her? Did the successful Langridge family look down on the convict's daughter? Perhaps she had no choice, or was depressed or mentally ill. Who cared for the children? Was there any support given to them by the Langridge family? Obviously there was none given to Emma, unless she rejected it.

On 26th March, 1891, the same year that her distinguished father-in-law died, Emma was jailed for 12 months for committing an 'indecent act' with a man in a public place, i.e., a vacant block of land. The man ran off and only Emma was arrested. She was described as being a 'great nuisance' to police.

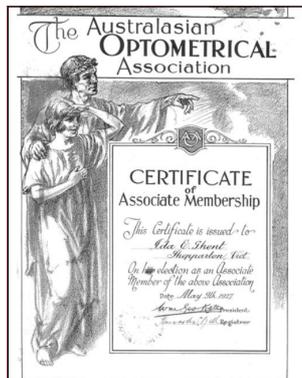
I still can't find a death certificate. Did she die, alone and unidentified, on the street? I searched my memory of my brief conversations with my mother-in-law for clues about her childhood, but there weren't many. The descendants of her other children or of her siblings may have some oral traditions but I don't know them. In today's society domestic violence and crimes against women have not been eliminated but at least they are being brought into the open as the crimes that they are.

Eileen Torney

Ida Emily Ghent (1899* - 1985)

One of the first women to practice optometry in Australia

There were very few women optometrists until about 1970. Ida Ghent was one of the first. She was born in Bristol, England in 1899* and migrated to Australia about 1915. She worked as a bookkeeper or accountant before embarking on the course for Fellowship of the Victorian Optical Association, the precursor to the Optometrists Association Victoria. She graduated with distinction in 1921. She was awarded the Medal of the VOA for obtaining the highest marks in the course at the Association's AGM on July 22 1922. She established her own practice in Shepparton, Victoria where she remained until about 1940. Registration of optometrists was introduced in Victoria in 1935 and she was one of six women among 286 optometrists that were registered in 1936. The Kett Museum has her certificate of Membership of the VOA of August 21 1922 and her Certificate of Associate Membership of the Australian Optometrical Association, dated 1927. The Museum also holds copies of her lecture notes, a photograph of her practice in Shepparton and a menu of the VOA Congress dinner signed by her and other attendees.



* British records indicate birth year as 1893

The growing importance of Shepparton as a commercial centre is evidenced by the large number of business and professional people who are making this town their headquarters. Miss Ida E. Ghent is to be numbered among the latter. Having for some time conducted a successful optical practice at Glenferrie, she has now decided to visit Shepparton once a fortnight, and may be consulted at her brother's (Mr. S. H. Ghent) pharmacy, Wyndham Street. Miss Ghent is a qualified optician, and a Fellow of the Victorian Optical Association, of which body she is at present treasurer. Miss Ghent is holder of the association's gold medal, which she won in 1922.

Shepparton Advertiser Sep 15 1924

Miss Ida E. Ghent, F.V.O.A., a sister of Mr. S. H. Ghent, chemist, of Wyndham Street, and who is well known as treasurer of the Victorian Optical Association, has taken possession of premises in the Lyric Theatre Buildings, Maudé Street, and is prepared to advise on all phases of optical troubles. Miss Ghent, who recently practised at Glenferrie, has qualified by examination in all branches of her profession, and should prove an acquisition to Shepparton and district.

Shepparton Advertiser Sept 15 1924

Miss Ida Ghent, who has been appointed one of the Victorian delegates to the Australian Optometrical Conference in Brisbane, intends to leave for that city on April 25. She anticipates being away about a fortnight.

Miss Ida Ghent who has returned
Shepparton Advertiser March 18 1929

SEND-OFF TO MISS IDA GHENT

The Shepparton Dramatic Society gave a farewell party last week to Miss Ida Ghent, who is sailing for six months' holiday in England.

The party was held at the home of Mrs. R. Dudley. The ladies provided supper, and the evening was a very pleasant one. On behalf of the Dramatic Society, Miss Ghent was presented with a book of poems. Those present included Mrs. V. Mills and Misses M. Bowyer, H. McCrabb, J. Dudley and J. McAlpine, and Messrs. Meredith, W. McConray, S. and R. Bowyer.

Shepparton Advertiser March 18 1936

Ida Emily Ghent married William Patrick Mulconry in 1936.

She died at Hawthorn, Vic, in 1985. Her ashes rest at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Web Sites of Interest

Find My Past

The F.M.P. website (www.findmypast.com.au) has now added to its list of records, "Victoria, mental health institutions". These are indexed and can be viewed for free after registering.

Many Irish names appear on this set of records. You may find a family name, particularly if you have found their name in an inquest.

On the home page in the drop down "search" menu select "A-Z of Record Sets" then search for "mental health". The "Victoria, mental health institutions" link reveals a search box. As little as a surname can be entered to bring up your results.

Billion Graves

A Google search for "billion graves" gives a useful tool for searching many cemeteries for a surname and given name.

Deceased Online

www.deceasedonline.com is a central database for U.K. burials and cremations.

Irish Genealogy

Claire Santry's Website. An excellent guide to Irish resources. www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/

Irish Catholic parish registers are indexed and can be searched free on www.findmypast.com.au

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

Members please note that 2016/17 subs fall due from July and will be 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 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 9.00 am to 12.00 pm ** Note 1 hour earlier starting time.****

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

Shepparton Family History Group

2013-2014 Office Bearers

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

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

Index

SFHG Report	p....1	Albanian Settlement in the G.V.	p....4
Vale Bruce Wilson	p....2	Local Newspaper Items	p....5
Coming events	p....2	Members Research Item	p....6
Cemetery Photography	p....2	Ida Emily Ghent	p....7
Recent library additions	p....3	Web Sites of Interest	p....8
New Members / Research Requests	p....3	Office bearers, meeting times	p....8