



# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

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

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

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

**Saturday 21 June** at 2pm

**Lucy Nuttall**, Branch Manager of the Phillip Island Library, will be talking about the **National Library and the Trove website**.

Prior to coming to Phillip Island Lucy worked in many areas of the National Library, including Reader Services, where much of the Library's family history related material is housed, Libraries Australia / Trove, and as Learning Program Coordinator she worked closely with the library's family history specialists

### Family Tree Maker Users Group.

**Saturday 14 June**  
at 1.45 for 2pm

If you have any particular issues relating to Family Tree Maker, or would like any specific topic covered, please submit any questions / queries prior to the meeting to 'FTM' <[piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)> and Genevieve Hayes will collate your queries.

Cost: \$2 members, \$5 non-members

Please RSVP by Thursday 12 June to 'FTM' <[piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)>. We need to know numbers for catering purposes.

**Saturday 2 August**

Doug Elms, President of VicGUM, will be talking about 'Charting in Family Tree Maker'. More information closer to the date

Reminder – Please do a 'back-up' of your FTM files prior to attending the User Group. Bring along your laptop, extension cords, internet connections etc.

If you would like any further information about the Family Tree Maker Users Group, please contact Genevieve Hayes at [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) or 5956 6340

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Do check our **web page** : [www.piadgs.org.au](http://www.piadgs.org.au) for the latest news from the Group

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**WANTED** – Cardboard wine / water casks (empty) for use in our library for magazine storage

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## SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN HOLIDAY

Thanks to the internet and other technological marvels, overseas holidays can be arranged very readily. Technology also helps with genealogy – or it can hinder! We all know how easily misinformation can be shared through genealogical websites. Now I know the misinformation is both here and there. Fallibility in humans is not restricted to modern technologies.

My wife and I enjoyed a recent holiday in Europe which took us to northern Germany (Schleswig-Holstein) where we meet several third cousins who are as fascinated as I am with genealogy. It was great to share information and to help each other find out how and where we are related.

On the other hand the best laid plans can and do go awry. We began our holiday not in Germany but in Hungary. Thus I had done all (but not all) my homework on enjoying the cultural sights of Budapest, except for finding out if there were any public holidays we should know about. After an excellent night's rest in a well-placed but reasonably priced hotel, it was time to call a taxi. The taxi came, I gave him the address of the Liszt museum, he knew exactly where to go, but our way was interrupted by wag waving groups of natives enjoying their National Day – Liszt was closed! Next stop - the main market – closed! Driver, determined we should enjoy a cultural experience, took us to the National Art Gallery – open for only two hours, with one remaining hour before it shut. In that hour we found a small gem by Rupert Bunny 'St Kilda Beach.' It was heartening to discover St Kilda in Budapest.

Over in northern Germany we made our centre a town now called "Bad Bramstedt." It used to be known only as "Bramstedt" but when the then Danish king discovered several other towns of the same name he decided this deserved better. Not that there is any reason for the "Bad" (meaning Bathing waters) to be added except upward social mobility. These days the city has capitalized on the "Bad" (meaning healing waters) partly in order to offer spa and wholeness therapies – but there are no natural springs of water anywhere nearby, just a pleasant stream flowing through.

When allocating time to these purpose-led holidays my lessons are that (a) we can plan and prepare too much and (b) we can never plan or prepare too much. On the one hand I had arranged to meet the head archivist of the State Archives, but thanks to a mix up with accommodation that had to be changed – he did not mind at all. On the other hand I had arranged and confirmed with a local archivist to be in her office on a specific day – but when we arrived she had gone on holiday! We turned then to another local archive library that was also closed (although it was the correct day and time to be opened), but the local tourist office kindly telephoned the recently retired town archivist who was most obliging, kind and helpful.

At another small town the archivist was looking forward to meeting us, she having located and copied documents I had been looking for over many years, I having given her much advance notice of my visit. Yet again in another town the next archivist reminded me that he had been looking for many years and had yet to produce any document that would trace my missing great-uncle and great-aunts. "Look, let me show you," he said (in perfectly good English). He returned with a copied page of a list of baptisms that he had indeed sent me several years before. "I already send you this!" "Yes" I replied; "but you did not also back then send me this extra paragraph." He had included the death notice of a great-grandmother which supplied details of some lost third cousins I had been hunting. He had the grace to smile, apologise, and say that "now I understand why you are so persistent! I will look again for you."

When visiting the places from whence our ancestors may have come – especially I would say, when in European countries – do NOT be afraid to speak English, but if you possibly can, learn a courteous phrase or two in the local language; learn the local language genealogical terms and use them – 'Family Tree'; 'godparent,' 'genealogy,' 'father' 'mother' 'sister' 'brother' – 'baptism' 'confirmation' 'marriage' 'burial' and the like. Keep them in a handy piece of paper and point to them. They will be glad to help.

By all means use the internet to get the correct address and phone number and name of the local archivist; plus their business hours – but! telephone ahead and check they are still at that address and open. (Ask your hotel to do this for you, or ask the local tourist office to do it for you!). Indeed there is no reason at all why we cannot telephone from here in Australia (during their office hours) and ask them for their assistance.

Offer to pay in local currency. Use our fee schedule as a rough guide; but pretend the same numbers are the local currency – thus \$15 becomes Euro15.

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My achievements:

I found third-cousins several times removed who are delightful, kind, helpful and great enthusiasts. They have families with different interests but great young people with bright hopes and futures.

There is a new generation of researchers, genealogists and archivists (all younger than I) all eager to make fresh discoveries and to give us the benefit of their expertise.

German archive libraries and storages are just like ours! Very neat and tidy (like their guardians) or piled with dusty shelves and boxes (depending on their guardians!).

They are not so much into digital as we are – they rely on microfiche and original journals. They like to be paid in cash, not with credit cards.

We had mini family gatherings that were hilarious as well as helpful.

My family tree now dates back to that most appropriate (for an Anglican clergyman) of all dates – 1662 - the year the Book of Common Prayer was published! And, as suspected, we are all descended from the serfs (mind you, we also have one serf who led a local group to revolt against the king during the 1840 struggles in Denmark).

Keep hunting!

David Rathgen, President  
May 2014



Hungarian National Day



A possible original Rathgen home

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## PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

From the Frankston and Somerville Standard, Wednesday 13 December 1922

### THE POST OFFICE.

From Monday the innovation of having the post office open continuously from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. will be initiated, and Miss Hunter again takes up her position as assistant. One by one new subscribers are being added to the local telephone exchange and gradually the advantage of this service is being realised. Men are now engaged in removing the pipe poles and substituting extra wires, and new wires being strung, connecting Messrs. W. J. Kennon, Captain Dixon and Mr. E. Cleeland with the exchange.

### STREET LAMPS.

The resolution passed at the last Council meeting held at Cowes in March has at last been carried into effect and the new street lamp mid-way between the post office and the Corner Store was lit last week. Gradually Cowes is emerging from darkness to light.

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**John Gay, Poet, Westminster Abbey:**  
*Life is a jest, and all things show it;  
I thought so once and now I know it.*

**Owen Moore:**  
*Owen Moore is gone away.  
Owin' more than he could pay*

<http://shadowsoftime.co.nz>

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## OLD OCCUPATIONS

### PURE FINDER

I am an Old Pure Finder, yes pure is the word  
 What I find, me and my kind, you might find absurd  
 I searches out what lurchers left, it's a strange kind of job  
 Picking up a job or two, to pick up just two bob.

I am an Old Pure Finder, when folks say "How d'ya do?"  
 Says I, "Well, I do doodoo and do do well don't you?"  
 I do doodoo so well, when the doodoo I do sell,  
 But could do doodoo better if the doodoo didn't smell.

I am an Old Pure Finder, and often privvy to  
 Evacuation information, where the dung is new.  
 As canine clay collector I tries to do my bit  
 At the places with the faeces and the spots where doggies hit.

I am an Old Pure Finder, a retriever of the mess  
 And not the kind of job to do, unless done to ex-cess  
 Riches come from bitches, as I work dern hard  
 Accruing Basset assets, whilst praying to St Bernard

I am an Old Pure Finder and Miss Brown down our street  
 Smiles, beguilingly and looks at me so sweet.  
 She knows what I wants, as she walks around  
 And lets her mighty Mastiff for to litter on the ground.

I am an Old Pure Finder, Miss Brown's Boxer he's a champ  
 Which leaves a lot to be desired and all of it quite damp.  
 I wished he had a family, says she "Oh, haven't you heard?"  
 There'll be no pups popping-up, he has been doctored."

I am an Old Pure Finder, & reporters from the press  
 Come to me, for a scoop, though one he did confess,  
 In passing, was just dropping-by, said this newshound chap  
 But asked a lot of questions, just to write his load of clap trap

I am an Old Pure Finder & strive for self improvement  
 I adore orchestral music, like Beethoven's final movement  
 And study at the Kennel Club which is a hard slog  
 But, if asked to pick a favourite, 'twould be sausage dog.

'Pure Finding' was a Victorian London occupation well established by 1851, by 1935 it had disappeared. Just in case it is not obvious from the song 'Pure' was a euphemism for dog muck. As a source of income it paid about 8 shillings per bucket. Due to a worsening economic climate and the popularity of 'Pure Finding' as a career for those without recognised skills the revenue fell to about 1/6 per pail.

The 'Pure' was taken to tanneries for use in tanning. The alkalinity counteracts the acidity left from the tanning agents. Indeed a tannery of orthopaedic leather in Colyton, Devon had a 'dog shit pit' in the sixties and as John said it was a foul hole.

Chicken guano had been discovered in the 1980's, as it was easier to obtain but still provided the same high quality results.

Because dog pollution can spread serious disease in humans pure finding was encouraged from a health standpoint.

Horse manure certainly became the subject of political debate and inevitable legislation because of the sheer volume of traffic, as it were.

The inspiration for this song was Henry Mayhew who published interviews with 1000 of London's poorest workers in his tome "London Trades & London Poor", his attention to detail was legendary.

Source: <http://www.users.waitrose.com/~cresby/songs/PureFinder.txt>

I looked up the etymology, because 'pure' seemed like an odd word for it. Turns out the original is actually 'puer', probably from the French word for 'stink'.

Source: <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/puer>

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**LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY**

Lay, Patricia (comp.)	Cornish Australian heritage. A biographical register of Cornish-Australians 1788-1998
Quarrell, Avis	Port Fairy past and present
Hoy, Alice	A City built to music. The history of University High School, Melbourne 1910-1960
Tennison, J	Making history. The S.D.A Victorian Branch 1908-2008
Prentice, Malcolm	Scots in Australia
Yates, Thomas E.	What a journey. Life in the Victorian Railways 1948-1987
Moule, Thomas	County maps of old England
The Eye of war	
Edquist, Harriet	Harold Desbrowe-Annear. A life in architecture

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**IRISH DAY 3 May**

Our guest speaker for this day was Lyn Thorne from the A.I.G.S. Lyn's vast knowledge of research in Ireland was a great help to those who attended, in particular to those who forwarded queries to her prior to the day. Several 'brick walls' were breached.


**Irish Blessing**

May you be half an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead

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## IGA COWES

It would be appreciated if members and friends could do an occasional / regular shop at the local Cowes IGA store, and use our **Shopper Number 595**. We have been able to take advantage of an occasional \$25 voucher to buy supplies for our BBQs and afternoon teas.

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## MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

- Buckinghamshire Online resources  
<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/centre-for-buckinghamshire-studies/online-resources/>
- Project to study the lives of 66,000 convicts convicted at the Old Bailey  
<http://www.digitalpanopticon.org>
- Date an old photograph <http://www.cartes.fsnet.co.uk/date/main.htm>
- Victorian Post Office directories 1866/67 <http://tinyurl.com/k87wp2m>
- Victorian Sheriff's Office warrants <http://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/warrants>
- Italian genealogy online <http://www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom>
- Greek genealogy <http://greekgenealogy.org/index.htm>
- Ireland. Registry of Deed index project includes Pre-civil registration of Irish marriages database <http://tinyurl.com/lnellxk>
- If anyone in your family served in the navy of any country, have a look at <http://www.battleships-cruisers.co.uk/royal.htm>
- The Highland clearances <http://www.theclearances.org>
- New Zealand <http://www.pearlspad.net.nz/>
- Guide to locating military records for the various regions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire <http://iabsi.com/gen/public/ahm.html>
- History of Brighton and Hove <http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/>
- Latvia Latvians online <http://latviansonline.com/reviews/article/3572>
- Latvia Raduraksti <http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/>
- Poland Polish Origins [http://polishorigins.com/document/home\\_page](http://polishorigins.com/document/home_page)
- Slovenia <http://www.biseri.eu/useful-resources.html>
- Genealogy in France. A beginners guide to researching your French ancestry [http://genealogy.about.com/od/france/a/french\\_ancestry.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/france/a/french_ancestry.htm)
- Old photos of Melbourne <http://www.onlymelbourne.com/melbourne-picture-gallery/thumbnails.php?album=92>

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## FROM THE JOURNALS

The April edition of **The International Settlers Group** newsletter has advice for searching in Galicia, Belarus, Prussia, Poland and in the registers of the Slovenian diocese of Maribor (which includes the registers for the Dioceses of Celje and Murska Sobota).