



# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

### Saturday 16 September Annual General Meeting

**12.30 pm BARBEQUE LUNCH.** Salads, bread, tea & coffee provided. BYO meat and alcohol/soft drink.

#### 2 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's that time of year again, when we ask all members to have a say in deciding who will run the family history group for the next year. If you want to influence the direction that our group takes into the future, come along and vote for the people who you think will do the best job – or stand for election yourself. Several of the current committee members have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election, so new faces are needed.

As with all our functions where catering is involved, we need some idea of the number of people attending the BBQ lunch prior to the AGM.

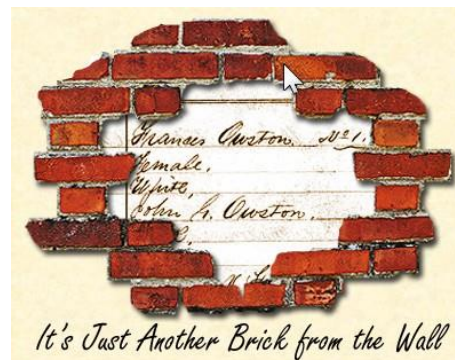
Please RSVP to < [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) > subject: 'BBQ', by Wednesday 13 September to assist with catering.

### Saturday 14 October. 'Brick wall swap'.

#### Part One 1.30 pm

Write a brief account of your 'brick wall', including a list of resources you have checked, and speak briefly about it at the meeting. Someone in the audience (hopefully) then offers to try solving the problem.

Please RSVP to < [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com) > subject: 'Brick Wall', by Thursday 12 October.



### Saturday 28 October. 'Brick wall swap'.

#### Part Two 1.30 pm

The second session will work in reverse – each problem-solver speaking briefly on how they tackled, and hopefully broke through, the brick wall.

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## 5 Ways To Tell If Your Genealogy Research Is Accurate

There is a lot of guesswork and uncertainty in genealogy. People in the past may have put the wrong information on old records, either from genuinely not knowing, or from having something they wanted to hide. Mistakes can be made in transcriptions of documents from one location to another; even tombstones are known to sometimes have mistakes on them from the stone cutter. Census takers make mistakes in the spellings of names (and even dates and places of birth of the householders they enumerate). Those who published family genealogies back in the 19th century, when this was a popular thing to do, often relied on legend, gossip, and the erroneous family stories other people gave them.

There is a lot of room for human error in genealogy research, and you are undoubtedly going to come across it, either in the work of others, or through mistakes you make in your own work. Even the best genealogists will once in a while discover they got an entire line wrong based on one incorrect assumption, misinterpretation of a record, or by obtaining a faulty record. With so much room for making mistakes, how do you know you've gotten it right? How do you know if your genealogy research is successful?

The fact is, except for mother/child relationships (and even these might be non-biological without you knowing it, if there was a secret adoption), genealogy is never a 100 percent sure thing. Even the best, most carefully carried out research can still potentially be proven wrong by a future researcher who discovers a clue no one ever noticed or that has just come to light.

However, there are a few ways to be as sure as you can ever possibly be that your research reveals the correct family relationships and information. Here are five ways you can tell if your genealogy research is most likely correct.

### 1. You Have Found the Same Information in More Than One Set of Records

The more often a family relationship, name, birth or death date, marriage date, or other important piece of family information is repeated through various record sets, the more likely it is to be correct. This is especially true if the records are primary records (records generated at the time of the event they mention).

For example, if you find the same names of parents or birth date or any other type of information for an ancestor in:

- Birth and death certificates
- Old newspaper birth and death announcements or other articles
- Wills
- Military records

the more reason you have to trust that the information is correct. Unless you find something drastic later that makes you question this information, or that refutes it entirely, you can be reasonably sure your research into this person is successful.

### 2. Your Research Matches the Research of Other People

In the online age, you are bound to come across people who are distant cousins or relatives by marriage who are working on your line. They may have been working on it for a while, possibly just as long as you or longer. It is important to compare research with these people.

If you find that your research matches up, including the sources you both used to arrive at your conclusions, you can have a great deal of confidence that your research is correct. If there are discrepancies in your research, then one of you is wrong, and you both need to look at your work again.

If you can find other people who have worked on the same line, try matching up your research with theirs. In fact, the more people you find who have done the same research and whose research is identical to yours, the more sure you can be that your research is correct.

### 3. You Can Reverse Engineer Someone Else's Work

Those big genealogy books of the 19th century, though notorious for containing mistakes, also contain many correct things. Most of them come with annotations in the form of footnotes and/or endnotes as to where the author got the information used to write the genealogy.

Use these sources and find them yourself. It is always good genealogical practice to look at the original record in any case. You may find information on it the original researcher missed. If you can go through all the sources the author used and still come to the same conclusions as him or her, then you can be as sure as you can be that your research is successful.

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#### 4. Look for Confirmation for Your Wild Assumptions

Sometimes, in genealogy research, we have to take a leap of faith in our conclusions due to a lack of solid evidence. Even the well-respected genealogical journals often contain articles where the author made their conclusion based on an assumption. However, those assumptions are always backed up with ample amounts of secondary evidence (evidence where the record doesn't outright state a family relationship or date, but one can be inferred from the information that is there).

If you have made a large assumption in your research, look for secondary evidence to back it up. The more secondary evidence you can find, the better. Once you've accumulated enough of it, you are at a point of being as sure as you can be about the accuracy of this line.

Of course, the best thing is if you one day discover a primary record that confirms all of this secondary evidence. Keep looking for a primary source, even if you have a lot of secondary evidence. Just because you haven't found one yet doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It may be out there waiting for you to find it.

#### 5. Get DNA Evidence

While still relatively new to the world of genealogy, DNA has a remarkable ability to prove and disprove family relationships that would once have been impossible to confirm. While DNA may not be able to tell you the exact names of your particular ancestors, it can definitely put you in a suspected ancestor's family (or take you out of it) without a doubt.

If you have a person in your family tree with whom you have a suspected but unconfirmed direct relationship, DNA can confirm or deny it for you. You just need to get at least one (but the more the better) modern descendant of that person to compare their DNA with yours. The various DNA testing companies online can then tell you if the two of you are genetically related within a certain number of generations.

The more people you can get to take the test, the more accurate your results will be, especially if one person doesn't match up with all of the rest of the people who tested into the family. DNA offers about the surest way to confirm the success of your genealogy research, as there is no room for human error in DNA results.

Genealogy is imprecise and uncertain by nature. There is always a chance a relationship or information about an ancestor's birth, death, marriage, or anything else is wrong. This is truer the farther back into the past you go. People weren't always as careful about accurate record keeping as they are now, and making up noble lines of descent to make a family seem more prestigious was common. While you can never get around these things entirely, you can make sure your genealogy research is as accurate and successful as it can be by using the five tips above. Being as sure as you can be is the same as declaring victory in genealogy.

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/5-ways-tell-genealogy-research-accurate/>

*Thank you to Elaine Alexander for forwarding this to me*

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### MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

A great resource for those researching family who arrived post WW2. You can search by name, place, occupation etc. <https://www.destinationaustralia.gov.au/>

For a full list of records available on familysearch see:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

Online resources for finding & seeing the parish for villages in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany.

<http://goneresearching.blogspot.co.nz/2017/01/online-resources-for-finding-seeing.html>

Family history research in Italy

<http://www.museoitaliano.com.au/italian-historical-society/genealogy>

Talking Gippsland history <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2009/07/02/2614950.htm>

Leith Local History Society <http://www.leithlocalhistorysociety.org.uk>

The Brick Wall Club <http://www.thebrickwallclub.co.uk/home>

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## FAMILY TREE MAKER 2017 - UPDATE

Some users of Family Tree Maker may already be up and running using the online (download) version of the new software as released by Software McKiev.

Other users are awaiting the release of the DVD and/or USB, which are expected to be available in Australia, mid to late August 2017.

All being on track with the release of the DVD and USB versions, PIADGS will conduct a "special" Family Tree Maker User Group session in September, for users to share their experiences in using the new software. We will advise as soon as we have a date organised.

To place an order to purchase a copy of the Australian edition of Family Tree Maker 2017, go to **VicGUM** at <https://www.vicgum.asn.au/>

For further support information, for both Windows and Mac users, go to the **Software McKiev Family Tree Maker Support Centre** at <https://support.mackiev.com/>

Any queries, please contact PIADGS Family Tree Maker User Group Co-Ordinators – Suzanne Hayes or Genevieve Hayes via email [piadgs@gmail.com](mailto:piadgs@gmail.com)



### 'Phillip Island Cemetery'

It was a talk well worth waiting for! As a fourth generation Islander, secretary of the Cemetery Trust and a committee member of the Historical Society, our Mayor, Cr. Pam Rothfield, was well qualified to present her talk on the Phillip Island Cemetery in June. We learnt a lot about cemeteries in general and the Phillip Island Cemetery in particular. The audience included several members with personal connections to Phillip Island's early families.



## AN ISLAND CEMETERY

By L.J.J

Perched upon a high hill and distant about half a mile from the main road leading from Cowes to Cape Woolamai is situated the tiny graveyard that serves as the last resting place of those who have ended their days on Phillip Island. It is, indeed, an ideal peaceful resting place. Journeying along the road from Cowes towards Rhyll one branches off abruptly and follows the track to Cape Woolamai. It is whilst travelling along this long, straight, sandy and dusty highway that the islanders' cemetery comes into view.

Numbers of visitors proceed along the road during the season on their way to the Nobbies and the Cape, but owing to its seclusion and distance from the road few are aware that the cemetery is near by. A thick belt of tea-tree lines the road, through which a rough track has been cut, which in turn leads towards flat, marshy pastures, ....? ..... enough in the winter and spring, but in the summer a plateau of sun-scorched and withered grasses. The ruts in the ground betraying evidences of a recent interment wind in and out skirting giant gums and Christmas bush on their journey until the crest of the hill with its hidden memories is reached. Here the visitor is confronted with a cyclone fence, which surrounds the ten acres set aside for the islanders' burial ground, and peering up here and there amongst the burnt bracken and twisted saplings, the whitened memorials of those departed meet the eye.

Bush fires unfortunately have played havoc in the district, and the blackened gums and burnt scrub show that a severe fire passed over the graveyard recently. Walking among the graves one comes across many names familiar on the island. Chief amongst these is the name of Cleeland, whose monuments bear sad inscriptions of departed relatives. The name of Cleeland is almost a household word on Phillip Island, and it is interesting to learn that John Cleeland, at one time licensee of the Albion Hotel in Bourke-street, and owner of the racehorse Wollamai (who won the Melbourne Cup in 1875), is still living at his home at Newhaven, and is for his years comparatively hale and hearty.

Crossing over to an opposite corner of the cemetery, quite neglected and overgrown by creepers is an old post and rail wooden fence, with a strand of barbed wire wound round the bottom to keep the intruding rabbits at bay. A primitive wooden headstone served its purpose and merely details the fact that John ---- resteth here. The bush fires, however, have had no mercy, and have treated trees and tombstones alike, with the result that the railings and headstone are burnt and blackened to almost past recognition. Near by is a newly covered grave, with everlasting flowers placed upon it, and in close proximity, leaning up against a sunbaked eucalyptus, rests the grave-diggers' steps. The quietness of this small burial ground with its backing of scrub and gum trees has a strange and weird fascination. Entering with reverence, one looks around to discover how beautiful its situation is. He listens, and the soft music of breakers on the seashore falls upon his ears, then glancing to westwards, the sandy glimmering beach can be outlined through the tea-tree, whilst to the northward the waters of Westernport Bay, glittering in their many ultramarine and Prussian blue tints, are relieved by the distant hues of French Island, distinguished by its well known headland formation, Tortoise Head.



## PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

The first ball under the auspices of the Phillip Island Football Club, took place at Leeson's Hall, on Friday evening the 13th inst. The Hall was beautifully decorated with ferns and evergreens. The ball committee worked hard to make the affair a success, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, I am pleased to say their efforts were amply rewarded. First class music was provided by Messrs Groves, Burton and Jeury, while Mr A. McLardy officiated as M.C. There being about 30 couple present. In addition to the 24 dances on the programme, there were 9 specials and it was exactly half-past five o'clock on Saturday morning when the assembly broke up, everyone declaring that the affair was the most enjoyable and successful one that has taken place at Cowes. Most of the guests present showed their appreciation of the affair by wearing rosettes of "Royal and Scarlet" ribbon. I must not omit to mention that the catering was intrusted to Mr Leeson, and reflected great praise for the able manner in which it was carried out.

Mornington Standard. Saturday 21 June 1890

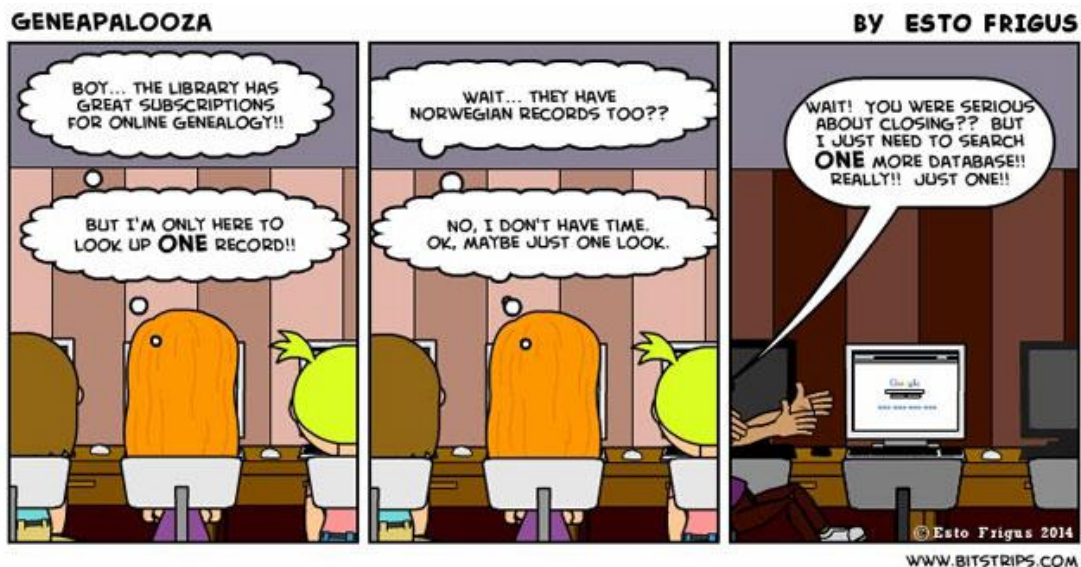
## PHILLIP ISLAND

Sir: Adverting to your article on Phillip Island (14/10/44), the island is one of the few localities in Victoria where returned fighting forces personnel with requisite rural experience can be expected to make a success of farming on small holdings under natural conditions. There is still ample room for 100 new settlers on Phillip Island, provided they are encouraged to work under the co-operative system to offset excessive cost of production. If the deplorable misdirection and failures after World War One are to be avoided, water should be first conserved to irrigate land before new settlers are called upon to overcome inadequate rainfall and hazardous seasonal conditions which have hitherto ruined so many disillusioned triers. Good merino woolgrowing areas which are inflated in value would have been subdivided decades ago if the soil and climatic conditions had been conducive to closer settlement.

—H. J. GARDENER  
(San Remo).

The Argus. Wednesday 18 October 1944

**SODS SECOND LAW OF GENEALOGY:** Never ever put the right information on ANY of your certificates because if you do your descendants may actually find you.



## IGA COWES

Anyone shopping at the IGA Grocery store in Cowes, please give our **Shopper Number 595** and all credits will go to the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society Inc. It would be most appreciated by the Committee if you could spare a few points.