

Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June Brick Wall discussion

Our popular, informal discussion afternoon on research problems will return in June. This is an opportunity to ask for help or suggestions from other members. Date to be notified

August Family Search

If you use, or wish to know more about Family Search, we have arranged for an expert to speak to the group in August. Further details will be given closer to the date

WEBSITE

We have received a grant to create a new website so that we can provide current information for our members and the public. It will also advertise events, include interesting articles, and give research hints. A new Facebook page is also planned.

FREE INTERNET SITES

St. Peter's, Eastern Hill, Victoria: Selected records, 1848-1998, Baptisms, 1848-1915, Marriages, 1848-1955 and Burials, 1848-1989 are available on <https://www.ancestry.com.au/> (available in our rooms). Open 'Birth, Marriage & Death Records', then 'Australian Births, Marriages and Deaths'

Convert PDF files to JPG free online:

<https://pdf2jpg.net>

Were any of your ancestors pioneers in the Port Phillip District? You might find this site of interest:

<https://www.portphillipdistrict.info>

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was the English put tacks in their tea. Also, the colonists would send their parcels through the post without stamps. Finally the colonists won the war and no longer had to pay for taxes.

School Boy Howlers (source unknown)

HOW TO USE GOOGLE IMAGES TO FURTHER YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Have you tried using Google Images in your genealogy research? If not, it is something you should try. It can bring you amazing discoveries. Here is how to use it, and why it is such an important tool to you as a genealogist.

Google Images can help you identify those old photos. It can also do some other amazing things with any old photo, even the ones you can identify. It can help you figure out the time and place a picture was taken, which is great for your research if you're not sure. It can also help you connect with other, previously unknown relatives who are researching the same ancestor.

In other words, Google Images is one of your new best friends when it comes to using photos to further your genealogy research. If you haven't used it before, be prepared to be amazed at what it can do. This feature of Google has the potential to work genealogical magic. Here's how to use it to get the most out of your family photos.

All you have to do to get started is to upload a photo to Google's search box. If the image is already online, just drag and drop it into the search box. Once it's there, click the link at the top of the Google page to "Images." This will take you, and your photo, to the Google Images page. You will get a list of search results for your image, just like you would a search using words.

The search results will show both exact matches and similar matches...i.e., pictures that are visually similar to the one you uploaded. For more precise results, focus on exact matches. However, if you look at the similar matches, or if you only get similar matches in your search results, you may be able to use those to figure out the time and/or place your photo was taken, or even locate pictures of your same ancestor in different times and settings. This will give you a nice photo library of your ancestor at different points in his or her life that you did not have before, and adds to your family history record in a wonderfully rich way.

This can be a useful feature for breaking down genealogical brick walls, as the search results will show the other websites the photo is being hosted on. You may find out a ton of historical information on that ancestor you did not previously know, just by going to those sites and reading what is there. You can also contact the owner of the site or sites you find to see if they are related and connect with them by asking genealogical questions about that ancestor and/or that branch of your family. You can be helpful to them by providing the information you know that they may not. Making genealogical connections this way is a fun and highly useful way of expanding your family tree and the individual information you have on it for your various ancestors.

Naturally, there won't be matches for every single photo. Lesser known people may have no matches at all, or only a few, or only one. If there are no exact matches, look closely at the similar ones. They can still provide you with plenty of clues about time and place, and may actually turn out to be your ancestor as an older or younger person than in your own photograph. And, of course, if you didn't know who the person was in the first place and you get an exact match... well, now you know who they are and how they are connected to you.

If you get a lot of results to your search query, you can refine it to make the results more relevant to you. Do this by adding appropriate keywords to the search box, such as time, place, and surname. You decide what keywords will work best for you in getting the most relevant image search matches to your photo. You know your genealogy best, after all.

An image search is a little-used tool that can be of superb benefit to genealogists. Even if you know exactly who is in your photo, you may still use image search to find websites with information about that branch of your family you would never have otherwise located. A well-conducted image search can reveal websites relevant to you that you would never have discovered searching only by name. Think about that.

Even if you think you know all there is to know about a particular photograph, including who is in it and the family line they come from, as well as the history of the people in that branch, you may be surprised at what Google Images is able to provide you. It is worth your time and effort to put all of your old photos through Google Images because it can uncover some real genealogical gems you just won't get with a traditional search query.

We all want to learn more about our ancestors, and using Google Images is an excellent way to do it. It is one of those wonderful little secrets that the master genealogists use to further their research, and now you can use it too. Genealogical magazines have been saying for a while now that Google, as the world's most popular search engine, is a marvelous

genealogical tool. It is, in many ways. However, most genealogists don't think beyond the name search, searching for genealogical research websites, or maybe a time period or place search for more information about their ancestors.

For example, many genealogists now know Google Maps can show the street view images of the places their ancestors lived, and what those places look like now. Satellite images provide an overview of an ancestor's entire town or region. Image searching is now a new tool in your research basket. Use it, and be amazed at what it shows you.

<https://ancestralfindings.com/use-google-images-genealogy-research/>

Thanks to Elaine for forwarding this to me

FAMILY TREE MAKER

18 March 2023

The Family Tree Maker session, run by Doug Elms, was very successful. Individual problem solving was a popular component. As a result we have compiled a mailing list of members interested in receiving FTM news. Please contact Malcolm if you would like your name added to the list.

Doug has donated several videos on using FTM which have been downloaded to our library laptop. These can be watched whenever the rooms are open. He has also volunteered to be at the rooms on selected Thursdays for FTM users to meet and share ideas, or individual appointments may be booked.



DROP IN AFTERNOON

18 May 2023



A very successful afternoon – lots of discussion, a lovely afternoon tea, and five new members joining PIADGS.

ARNIE BROWN'S STORY

Pamela Rothfield

Phillip Island and District Historical Society

A beautifully designed Certificate held in the collection of the Phillip Island & District Historical Society chronicles the daring rescue by a local hero, Arnie Brown.

The Certificate is dated 1921 and signed by a Robert Anderson and James Douglas was awarded to Arnie more than a hundred years ago for his part in the rescue of these two gentlemen.

Arnie whose real name Arnold Rae Brown - was born in 1883 in Tyabb to parents John Brown and Elizabeth Murphy. In 1911 he married Ada Leeson, from the well-known local Phillip Island family. He was a local boatman and fisherman and captained the local Cowes Football team.

Arnie was one of three children and the only boy. His father was a fisherman who worked out of San Remo in the early part of the 1900s.

After the death of his wife Ada, in 1935, Arnie remarried, to Marion Millar and continued to live in Thompson Avenue Cowes.

Arnie was loved within the local community and on more than one occasion was hailed as a local hero both on the football field and on the sea. The events surrounding February 27, 1921 seemed to be nothing out of the ordinary for Arnie.

Much of the following was included in a report to the Royal Humane Society.

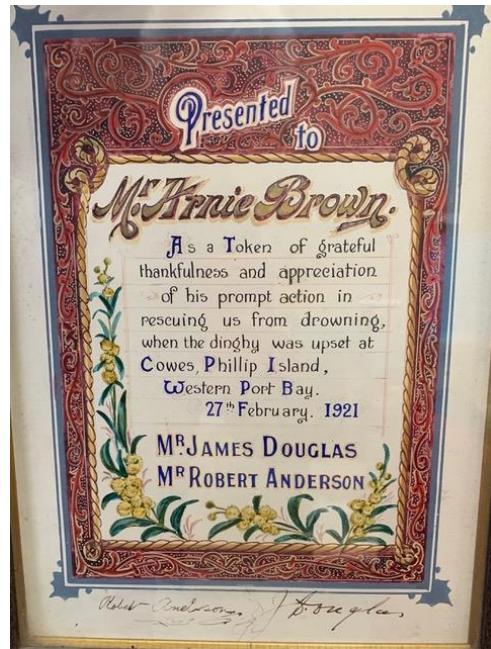
On the afternoon of Sunday February 27 1921 Robert Anderson and James Douglas, both from Melbourne set out on well-known boatman, Stanley Kennon's small craft to the 'snapper grounds' off Cowes. Stanley was recognised as one of the most capable and daring sailors ever connected with Phillip Island. Stanley, who was only 66, had suffered a stroke some time previous and had consequently retired from active seafaring. But the call of the sea proved irresistible and he bought a small boat to 'potter around' in, which was the craft that his party of two has chartered on that Sunday afternoon.

The snapper fishing had gone well, and late in the afternoon as the wind was picking up, Stanley changed the boat's direction when a line fouled the main sail and suddenly the boat overturned, with the three fishermen thrown into the water. They all managed to grasp the boat's side, albeit with a precarious hold. Stanley kept a cool head and displayed his usual cool courage encouraging his two guests to cheer up as he was convinced that his friend Arnie would come out and look for them before too long.

The men continued to hang on, and bravely ignored the fact that they were in the vicinity of earlier shark sightings. Dusk was setting in and no other boats were within sight. Stanley showed his expertise in lashing the oars together to form a kind of outrigger for the overturned craft, to stop it from sinking. The men continued to cling to the boat, but cramp, cold and tiredness saw them gradually getting weaker. Stanley continued to reassure the two men that Arnie will notice their overdue return and he will come and look for them.

Sure enough, when the two men had almost abandoned hope, they saw a boat, with her engine 'opened up' and spray flying over her bow bearing down to the rescue. It was indeed Arnie in his boat *Hinemoa*.

Arnie had been out fishing earlier in the evening and had returned to the Cowes Jetty where he moored and cleaned out his boat. As Stanley had anticipated, Arnie kept an eye out to watch for the return of Stanley and his two passengers. As the late afternoon turned into evening, he scoured the horizon, surprised and concerned that he couldn't see Stanley's little



craft and hastily climbed the beacon light at the end of the jetty, where he was able to scan the rapidly darkening waters - in vain. As reported in the press at the time: "Taking in the situation with sailor-like promptitude, he let go his mooring lines, hoisted his sail, and, opening out his engines, sped to the rescue, accompanied by his brother in-law, Arthur Leeson, a returned soldier, of Cowes. To find an upturned boat on a dull, grey evening, in a huge expanse of water like Westernport Bay, was an undertaking requiring an intimate knowledge of local tidal conditions, as well as seamanship of a high order. But Mr Brown was equal to the occasion, and, after steaming for about a mile, Leeson descried objects in the water, toward which the rescuing boat was steered. This proved to be the crew of the overturned craft. Their heads were just above the water, and they were standing on the submerged boat "like shags on a buoy," as Mr. Brown afterwards described it."

Understandably the two passengers were overcome with gratitude and presented Arnie with the beautiful certificate which now forms part of the of the Historical Society's collection.

Aside from this gallant rescue, Arnie had saved a further three lives from the sometimes treacherous waters of Western Port.

Arnie had no children from either of his marriages. Tragically in February 1952, as he was assisting the ferry to dock at the Cowes Jetty, he was knocked down by a heavy rope which was thrown at him. He fell, hitting his head severely. He was taken to Warley Bush Nursing Hospital for treatment and subsequently transferred to the Royal Melbourne Hospital with suspected fractured skull. He died the next day of head injuries at the age of 68.

Life-Saver of Western Port



MR. ARNOLD R. BROWN
He has just stepped ashore after fishing, and holds an "old man" schnapper.

The Herald. Saturday 2 April 1921

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

Give me your tired, your poor ... they're genealogists!

God gave us relatives, luckily we can choose our friends!

I think that I shall never see a completed Genealogy!

Just when you think you've found them all, Up pops another!

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

During the past weeks the erection of the telephone line to Ventnor has been proceeded with, and in the course of a few days telephonic communication will be possible with that district. The completion of this line now forms the linking up of all the different townships on the island, and will prove a great public convenience. Already at Rhyll a number of subscribers are joining the exchange and a number at Ventnor have also expressed their willingness to become subscribers.

Frankston and Somerville Standard.
Friday 5 June 1925

The Melbourne police are not at all pleased with the manner in which their extra services during the royal visit are to be rewarded. The chief commissioner has decided to grant them two days' leave, but the men contend that this is poor recognition, seeing that many of them worked at least six days' overtime.

Otago Witness. 19 June 1901

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.

AUCTION SALE.

Last Saturday an auction sale, conducted by Mr. B. Edgar, was held of articles rescued from the "Isle of Wight" Hotel, where the fire occurred, as well as many miscellaneous articles belonging to the late proprietor.

Frankston and Somerville Standard.
Friday 26 June 1925

PHILLIP ISLAND.

BY HAWK EYE

I have been informed in reply to my enquiry about the police in my last, that the pick-axe stolen at Cowes has been recovered. I would like to know "by and from whom," so that I can protect the feathers which line my nest.

The duty which devolved upon the members of the Board of Advice of Phillip Island last Thursday must have been a pleasant one, when forty-five books, some of which were very choice ones, were presented to as many scholars, who had attended school regularly. Some delay occurred after the first intention to perform the ceremony which however stimulated the children to a better attendance in hopes of getting a prize. The books were chosen by three members of the Board, and given away by Mr. Wm. Dixon after a preliminary address.

Can anybody explain to me the reason why it has been made illegal to take the eggs of the Mutton bird? They are good for food, and the oil made from the birds is useful for a variety of purposes. It has been asserted that the eggs have a peculiar property suitable for newly married folk. It is not long since that one head of a household in Corinella was presented with twins and another with triplets, owing to the stimulating effect of the climate or the eggs in question.

Why will not the resident farmers and selectors form a branch of the Farmer's Union to protect their interests.

South Bourke and Mornington Journal.
Wednesday 3 September 1879