

NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

EDITION 157

November 2025

Newhaven Community Hall, 23 Cleeland St, Newhaven VIC 3925

PO Box 821, Cowes 3922

Email: piadgs@outlook.com



Website: piadgs.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1704498350155545>

Our vision is “To promote, foster and practise all aspects of genealogical study”.

A very warm Welcome to our new members:

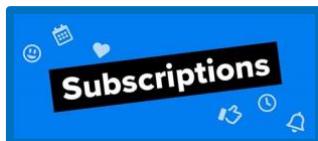
Jasmin Omanovic and Ross McGrath

The end of the year is coming around very quickly. On the agenda for our November meeting was the Christmas Breakup. A note for your calendars:

6th December, San Remo Hotel 12 noon.

Please let Lesley know that you and your partner/spouse/friend are coming: piadgs@outlook.com

Don't forget to bring a story or photo to share.



2025/2026 Membership Subs: Thank you to everyone who has paid their subs.

We did things slightly different this year – subs were due as at the 1st October and were to be paid by the 31st October. By receiving payments earlier, we have been able to better plan for upcoming expenses and ensure we remain financially stable. Reminders will be sent out to members who have not yet paid.

As from the 1st January, we are having to adjust some of our costings: printing costs will now be 50 cents per A4 Black and White page, and \$1.00 for A4 colour.

For NEW commissioned research: First visit will be free, but thereafter for non-members the cost will be \$20 per hour, for members the cost will be \$15 per hour. Also, a \$25 deposit will be required in both cases.

Prices will not change for those who have already entered into a research contract with the Society



Adrian Banks Photography

Many thanks to Doug Elms who recently donated to the Group a wonderful, more powerful projector. This projector will make things much clearer when we need to display documents, power point presentations etc. such as at the AGM or when we have a special workshop. Thank you, Doug!!



Our October Gathering was held at the Café Bazaar in Cowes. The coffee and food were great and the company excellent



ROSTER VOLUNTEERS:

Have you ever thought about becoming a Duty Roster Volunteer but have held back because of a lack of knowledge. We are holding a Volunteer Training Day – 16th January, 10-12 noon, followed by a light lunch. We will send more details through closer to the date.

The Training will be held at the Newhaven Hall, and we will take you through everything you need to know. Duty is usually 3 hours, and we are open two sessions a week.

We encourage all our present volunteers and new volunteers to come along. Enquiries can be directed to our email address: piadgs@outlook.com



MORE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

February 14th, 1pm to 4pm – Jemma Kinnaird will introduce us to AI and how we can use it in our Family Research.

There will be a small charge for this workshop - \$5.00 for Members and \$10 for non-members. Afternoon tea will be included.

With AI fast becoming a part of our lives, this workshop is a must and will be open to everyone

David Rathgen has volunteered to run a Beginners Class in March – more details closer to the time. Maybe you know someone who would like to start the journey but doesn't know where to start. This is the class for them.

Check out the Phillip Island Vibe (<http://www.phillipislandvibe.com.au>). We have had a couple of articles in the last two or three issues. Thanks to Denni for supporting us!

CLOSURE DATES FOR THE YEAR: We will close the rooms for research etc as at 12 December and re-open on the 13th January 2026.



Family History or Genealogy is not all about tracing the ancestors back to the year dot.

We all have photos tucked away – some of the people we know, some we don't. But those photos can give us an insight as to what life was like way back then.

With Christmas fast approaching, at our November committee meeting, I asked the Committee to have a look for the earliest photo that they could find that was Christmassy...here are four that I've already received, each with their own a story...

Christmas in the 1950s – Elaine Alexander

Our family Christmas was held at my Grandma's house, with everyone travelling by public transport, except my family who lived close by. The adults all brought food to make up the traditional feast of lamb, chicken (which was expensive and a rarity), roast potatoes and vegetables. My Mum made the pudding, which was wrapped in a cloth and hung in the back veranda for weeks until it matured. It contained sixpences which were strongly sought after by the grandchildren. We were careful not to swallow the precious coins. Bowls of nuts in their shells and glacé fruits were also a novelty. Our tree was a native Casuarina tree, cut from the local creek banks and decorated with homemade paper chains. We only received one present from Santa but I was lucky to have a single aunt who gave each of us a book, usually written by an Australian author e.g. The Magic Pudding. Another highlight was the annual visit to a Melbourne department store to see Santa. We were dressed in our best clothes as we also had a photo taken with him. Photos were a rarity in our childhood. All my cousins were girls, and we usually played dress ups in the afternoon or searched for tadpoles in the open street drains. Simple times but fond memories.



And this is Sophie – wide eyed and eagerly awaiting Christmas...



Sue Viney: I was brought up in England, so Christmas was quite different especially weather wise – cold, frosty, and snow if we were lucky. I don't remember what the festivities were like, but I do remember one year I received my first ever book – Famous Five by Enid Blyton. I wasn't impressed – it was a book... but once I started reading, well suffice it to say I have been an avid reader ever since.

Can't quite see the date of this visit to Father Christmas. I know how proud I was to receive that wooden pencil case – I have always loved all things to do with stationery.

This is my maternal grandmother, Hope Louisa LEE and the love of her life, Charles Nassau Martin SLEEMAN – they married on Christmas Day 1911

He was a widower aged 43 and she was a spinster aged 22.



You will have received an email (Sunday 9th November) about a service being offered for photo repair etc.

If you have a subscription to MyHeritage, their website offers a similar service. The four photos above have each been enhanced using MyHeritage.

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT GENEALOGY SOCIETY INC

**JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
AT THE SAN REMO HOTEL**

**6TH DECEMBER 2025
12 NOON**

145 Marine Parade, San Remo, Vic, 3925

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMPANY

BRING A PHOTO OR A STORY TO SHARE – MAYBE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
YOU’VE DISCOVERED IN YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH

