

NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

EDITION 155

September 2025

Newhaven Community Hall, 23 Cleeland St, Newhaven VIC 3925
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Facebook: Family History : Phillip Island & District

Website: piadgs.org.au

Our vision is
"To promote, foster and practise all aspects of genealogical study"



.... Spring is here.

**Welcome to our new members:
Jemma Kinnaird, Heather Hick, Julie-Anne Tatnell, Dianne Fry**

Friday 5th September was the committee meeting and the most important item on the agenda was the AGM – 20th September, 2pm, Newhaven Hall, 23 Cleeland St

All the relevant Paperwork should now be in your IN box - if not, please check your SPAM box, or contact Lesley (piadgs@outlook.com)

We do look forward to seeing you all. Instead of the traditional BBQ, there will be lovely afternoon tea.



August was Family History Month:

Monday 25th August, our Society was invited to hold two chat sessions at the RSL – How to start your Family History research. The first Chat was with the Coffee Club Members in the ANZAC Room, and the second was with the View Club out on the deck. Lynne Saunders and I (Sue Viney) delivered both talks supported by Peter Buckney, and

which were very enthusiastically received.

The following day Charlotte (Pakenham Library) and Elaine Alexander (PIADGS) hosted a combined event at the Berninnett Library, again, talking about how to start your Family History research journey. Each speaker illustrated her talk with a power point presentation. Between 25 and 35 people attended - very exciting to see so many people.

A website to explore:

if you have ancestors from the UK you might like to check out this website:

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk> Covers England and Wales only. It is free to join and for the research side of things, there are some questions to answer: last name, first name, year of birth and death, was the person a soldier who died while serving in the British armed forces between 1850 and 1986.

Print outs – I paid £1.50 (\$3.21) for a print-out of five pages for one of David's ancestors, Charles William VINEY. He was a soldier killed in WWI. We had his name, date of birth and death, also his regiment number. The return was almost immediate, but I am still waiting for my grandmother's probate documents – apparently that requires someone to do the look-up – but the cost was still only £1.50.

Date for your Calendar:



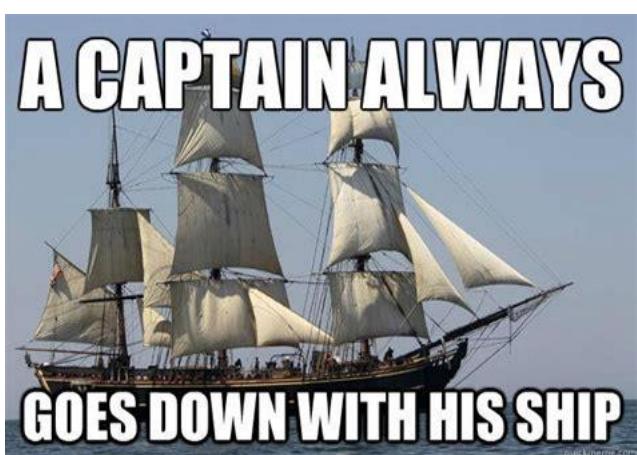
We would love to have you come and join us for Coffee and Cake at the Café Bazzare on Saturday 11th October 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Come for a Chat or bring your research problem and let's see if the brains of the group can help you solve it.

**Got a story to share – please send it to:
sueviney@icloud.com so we can include it
in our newsletter. Thanks!!**

All of us have a story or two (or more) about our ancestors. Some are true and some not so.

As a little boy, David Viney's favourite family story was that his paternal grandmother's grandfather, Edmund SMITH, went down with his ship at the Battle of Jutland (1916). Can you imagine the picture in a small boy's mind... Very proud of this story.



Recently David decided to check out this "famous" ancestor's going down with his ship, and see if he could find the naval reports etc. Research showed that Edmund Smith was never in the Royal Navy. He was, however, a Master Mariner in the Merchant Navy – but not only that, we discovered he died in 1876 in the Hanwell Mental institution. Was the story of "going down with his ship" part of the family protecting themselves from the then stigma of mental illness?