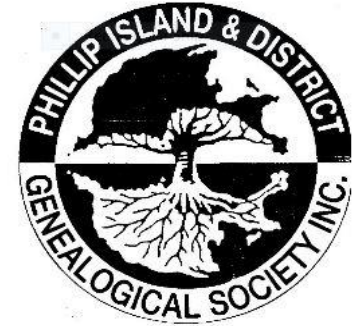


NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

EDITION 159

February 2026



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".

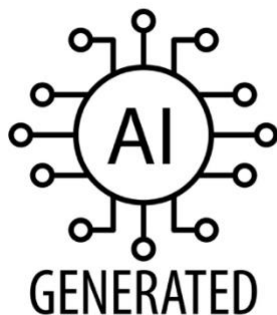
Lots of things were on the agenda for the committee meeting held yesterday (6th February).

With Lesley's resignation as Secretary, our first point of business was to appoint our new Secretary: Lyn Duguid. Welcome and thank you Lyn!

Thank you, Lesley, for your reliable and efficient work during your time as Secretary.

Gail Wade was approached to take back the reins of managing our Library. Her position was confirmed by the Committee and Gail accepted our invitation to be a member of the Committee. Welcome back Gail!!

Committee Members are: Sue Viney (President): Allan Briggs (Vice President): Lynne Saunders (Treasurer): Lyn Duguid (Secretary). Committee Members are: Elaine Alexander (Publicity etc): Sophie Maddigan (Grants) and Gail Wade (Librarian): Malcolm Swaine (Membership).



Ai Event: It is not too late to register for this event - February 14th, 1pm to 4pm – Newhaven Hall (piadgs@outlook.com)

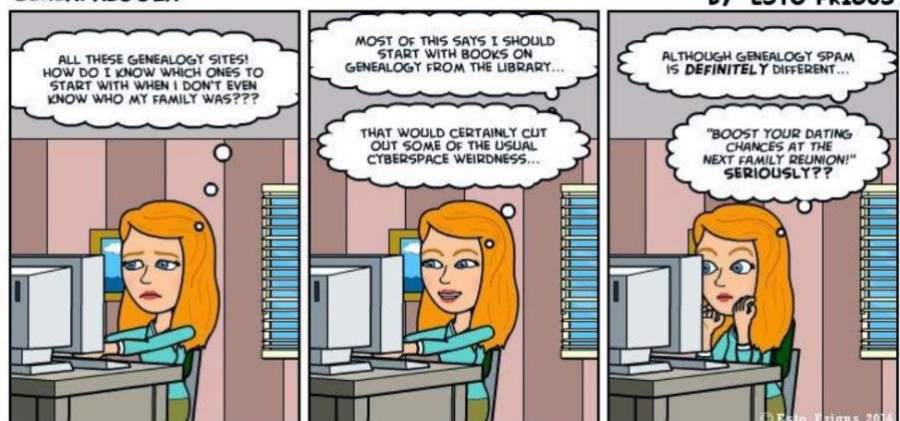
Jemma Kinnaird will introduce us to AI and how we can use it in our Family Research.

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

Coming Up: The Committee together with David Rathgan are in discussions as to how we can run a Beginners Class for Family History research. We want to offer the very best "How To" knowledge that we can. So, watch this space. We are also looking as running an Advanced course – such as researching internationally.

GENEAPALOOZA



www.BITSTRIPS.COM

Have you checked out the Phillip Island Vibe website and or their magazine. We have been fortunate to have three articles produced thanks to The Vibe. Check out their website if you can't find a copy: <https://www.phillipislandvibe.com.au>

On January 16th all the roster volunteers attended a training at our room – the idea was to ensure we were all on the same page so we can help our visitors more efficiently. The morning was voted a great success, and I think we all came away from the session feeling much more confident

One question was raised, what do we do when.... A question most of us might have already asked or will ask – what happens to all our research when.... There was an interesting article on Facebook, and I have copied the link here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP2x3Wjty9Q>



The Family History Guide
17h · 🌐

Handling Inherited Genealogy:

So what's in that box of genealogy items you just got from Aunt Clara—and how much of it should you keep?

Genealogist and blogger Aimee Cross shares a helpful YouTube video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP2x3Wjty9Q>) that helps you evaluate photographs, charts, original records, and family letters for vital information. The video also shares tips for organizing papers and deciding what to keep, share, or toss.

Learn more about inherited genealogies in Goal 3 of Project 4: Discover
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP2x3Wjty9Q>).



Over the long weekend of January 26th at the annual Gathering of Neighbours event Sophie and Lynne Saunders were at the Rhyll Hall promoting our Society.

NEW PRICES FOR PRINTING: Allan did some research for us, re the cost of printing. The committee after discussion has confirmed the following prices:

A4 – Black and White: 30 cents per sheet.
A4 – Colour: 50 cents per sheet.

A3 – Black and White: 50 cents per sheet
A3 – Colour: \$1.00 per sheet.



UPCOMING EVENT:

Date: 18th April – Venue to be confirmed: A social afternoon – 2pm to 4pm

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE – how many times have we found ourselves down the Rabbit Hole... We often go down the wrong rabbit hole and lose our way. Come along and discuss any problems you have.

From the Vibe:

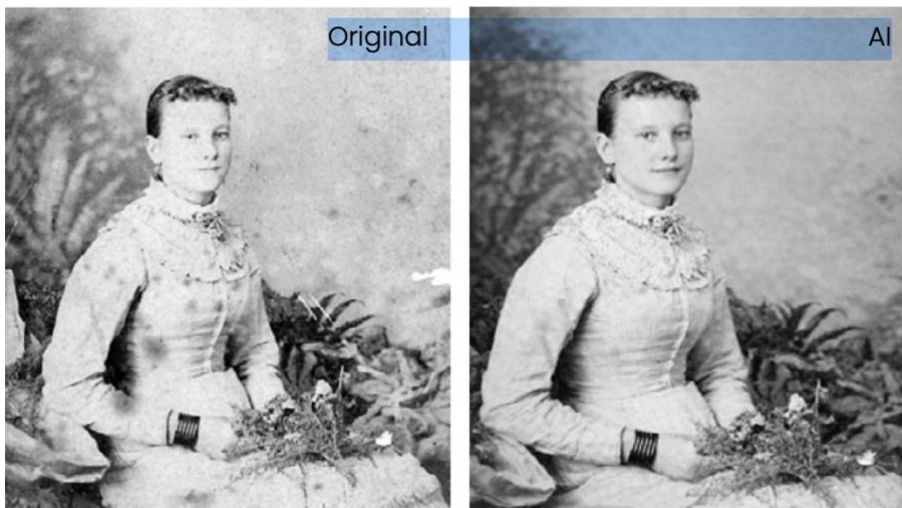
Should I use AI to research my Family History?

by Elaine Alexander

Artificial intelligence promises to be a powerful tool for family historians.

You can use AI to speed up your research by using tools to transcribe handwritten documents to digital text, translate documents from another language or generate life stories of your ancestors from your research notes, often with added historical context. You can also ask for research help, such as where to find new records. Your research notes can be organized, summarized and interpreted. However, always verify AI-provided details against primary sources, as AI should complement, not replace, traditional research.

Another popular use of AI is the restoration, enhancement or colorization of old or damaged family photos. Other techniques can bring the photo or person to life with movement.



Compare the original and AI generated photos (left) and decide whether they are a clearer photo but is it a true image? Does this technology alter the true features of the person?

If you use an AI-generated image that you or someone else produced, include the original caption and source citation. Don't assume that

undocumented images are genuine historical photographs.

Accuracy and authenticity are fundamental principles in family history, and this should extend to images as well as your written documentation.

Family historians must always analyse the authenticity and reliability of sources. This has become even more critical with the use of AI-generated content becoming widespread.

AI should be an assistant to enhance your existing skills, not a replacement for traditional genealogical research.

There is no single "right" answer as to whether to use AI – only thoughtful choices, including how truthfully you want your family history to be presented.

If you would like to know more, please attend our informative talk on this topic at Newhaven Hall on Saturday 14 February. All are welcome.

If you do not have a photo of an ancestor, an image can be created using a documented physical description eg as in a convict or military record or obituary. These images need to be labeled as AI generated so they are not seen as genuine historical photographs.