

NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

EDITION 163

June 2026

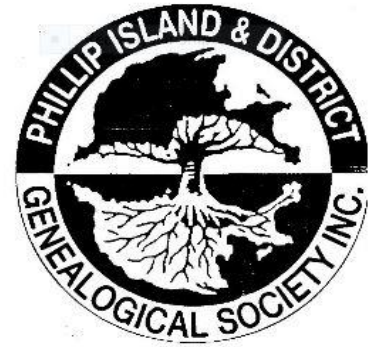
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Our vision is "To promote, foster and practise all aspects of genealogical study".

**A hearty welcome to new members:
Rose Smith, Roy Van Amersfoorth and Kevin Daley....**

A busy time was had by all during May – **Volunteer Week 18–24 May 2026**

Along with 24 other stall holders (25 in total), our Society was represented at the **Volunteers Expo** held at Berninnet on 20th May. A Big Thank you to Allan Briggs for setting up and taking down our display. Thanks to Lyn Duguid, Sophie Maddigan and Elaine Alexander who also helped. Allan and I were photographed by a young lady doing work experience with the Sentinel Times.

Bass Coast unites for the Year to Volunteer Expo at Berninnet



Sue Viney (President) and Allan Biggs (Vice-President) of the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society at the Phillip Island Volunteer Expo. b16_2126

THE HEART of volunteering is now beating a little stronger on the Bass Coast after the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) hosted a landmark event on Wednesday May 20 to celebrate local volunteers who keep this region running.

In honour of National Volunteer Week, the 'Your Year to Volunteer' Expo at Berninnet provided a day of connection, inspiration and growth for current and aspiring volunteers.

The doors of Berninnet were thrown open to showcase the diversity of volunteer organisations within Bass Coast Shire, from environmental conservation and emergency services to community arts and social support.

The event kicked off with a marketplace of 25 community

By Bruce Wardley

stalls, giving local organisations a hub to showcase their work while residents browsed volunteer opportunities that aligned with their passions.

"It is a great way to allow community groups to show who they are," David Rooks from the organising committee representing PICAL said.

"It helps build community capacity, they all give back to the community," he said.

Cassie Atkinson from Volunteering Gippsland said it was about sharing knowledge and providing a space for organisations to network and develop new skills.

"The nature of volunteering is changing with the highest

number of volunteers now 15 to 25-year-olds. Young people like to volunteer for events because it is short and sharp with a minimum of meetings," Ms Atkinson said.

"They love to do things they are passionate about such as the environment and enjoy anything that they can add to their CV."

For many the hurdle to volunteering is simply not knowing where to start, and the expo was designed to match volunteer skills with a cause that needed them.

PICAL also hosted a development workshop to give Bass Coast community groups a dedicated space to sharpen their skills and network with other organisations.

For more information go to volunteeringgippsland.com.au.





Our Society was fortunate to apply for and receive a microgrant from BCSC in the amount of \$100 to be spent on celebrating our volunteers. The committee decided that we should take out our Roster Volunteers to a morning tea at the Golf Club. We thoroughly enjoyed sitting in the sunshine and chatting. Each volunteer was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation



TROVE EVENT - 9 May

Trena Ronnfeldt from GSV spoke on what was available at **Trove** as well as newspapers and provided hints for successful searching. We had quite a few visitors from other genealogical societies. After Trena's talk and PowerPoint presentation we were treated to a scrumptious afternoon tea – Thank you Lyn Duguid, Helen Swaine and Robin Krumins

We have available the PowerPoint presentation of the Trove afternoon – if you would like a copy, please email piadgs@outlook.com and we will send you a link.

In a follow up email, Trena reminded us the following: "I'd love to point you and your members to our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@GSVFfamilyHistory>. There is a great collection of GSV member stories and other family history content. It's completely free to watch, so please do share it with your members! "

We have received lots of positive emails thanking us for inviting Trena to come and talk to us about **TROVE**. In this quarter's "**Ancestor**" magazine Trena has written a double page spread about **Unlocking Trove**. The magazine will be available for you to borrow from our Library, by the end of this week.



David Rathgen's **Beginners Classes** have started successfully. He had one student come all the way from The Gurdies!!

We are excited to share that we may be taking the classes to the Corinella Community Centre. Discussions with the CC Centre have been underway for a month or so and are looking promising.

Please encourage any of your friends who are interested in Family History but don't know where to start, to come along and learn the basics. Feedback so far received have been very positive.

Did you know we have a **website**: <https://piadgs.org.au> (click on the link and it will take you to the website)

There's also a **Facebook** page – but you have to ask to join – it is a private group ie only piadgs friends can join.

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



(Almost) Last word: Have you been following us in The Phillip Island Vibe? This month's article is written by Allan Briggs.

The Vibe is also available on line:
<https://www.phillipislandvibe.com.au>

We are so appreciative of Denni Slorach for supporting us.

If you have a story to share, please contact me (sueviney@icloud.com) and hopefully we can get your story in print!!

So, planning for the future:

July 11th See the flyer attached to this newsletter. You are invited to join us at the RSL, on the Terrace from 2pm to 4pm. Afternoon tea is available for purchase from the kitchen. Bring your treasure, or your treasured friend and share their story.

August is Family History Month, and we are looking at holding open days at our room in Newhaven. An opportunity to come and have a look at what we do, and how. More details – once the Committee has worked them out ☺!

September is our AGM – Saturday 19th September is bookmarked

Treasures, Troubles and Tea



Please bring along a treasured family item
e.g. letter, photo, quilt or jewelry to display

Bring your genealogical problems and let's see if we can help you

Afternoon tea is available – scone, jam and cream, with tea or coffee

Treasured Friends are also welcome

Raffle

Saturday July 11, 2-4pm

Phillip Island RSL, Cowes

This is an opportunity for you to catch up with other members, display your family memorabilia, and discuss any problems you have in your research. Enjoy afternoon tea with other friendly, like-minded researchers.



RSVP by the evening of Thursday 9th to piadgs@outlook.com