

NEWS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

EDITION 167

October 2026

Newhaven Community Hall, 23 Cleeland St, Newhaven VIC 3925

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

Goodness me, October already! Spring is here, the days are getting longer, and there is plenty happening at PIADGS!

Our **2026 Annual General Meeting** was held at Newhaven Hall on **19 September**, with **22 members attending** and another **14 sending their apologies**.

The various reports were presented, discussed and accepted, and one important motion was passed:



💰 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW JUST \$35!

For the coming year, membership has been reduced to **\$35 per individual member**, with no family membership applying.

Membership is **due from 1 October and must be paid by 31 October**.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has already renewed!

👥 MEET YOUR 2026/27 COMMITTEE. We are delighted to announce your Committee for the coming year.

Executive Committee Members:

Sue Viney – President

Allan Briggs – Vice President

Malcolm Swaine – Admin Secretary

Lynne Saunders – Treasurer

Committee Members:

Sophie Maddigan, Elaine Alexander, Pauline Scoble (Minute Secretary) and Gail Wade

A very special **THANK YOU** goes to **Lynette Duguid**, who has stepped down as Secretary from the Committee for personal reasons.

Lynette has been an important part of our team and she will certainly be missed. We wish her all the very best for the future. ♥

And, of course, behind every committee is another very important — and often silent — team!

We are talking about the wonderful people who regularly put their hands up to help with **setting up the rooms, organising the kitchen and all those little jobs that make our events happen.**

To all of you — a huge THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without you.

HAVE YOU SEEN US IN PHILLIP ISLAND VIBE?

We are doing our best to get an article into **Phillip Island Vibe** magazine every month. This month's topic is particularly interesting:



 **AI — CAN WE TRUST IT?** Sue had a very interesting “conversation” with Gemini while trying to establish some facts — with some rather interesting results!

Look out for our story on **page 14.**

Can't find a copy of the magazine? No problem. You can read the latest edition online at **phillipislandvibe.com.au.**

And remember — **we'd love to hear from YOU!** If you have a genealogy story, interesting discovery or research experience you'd like to share, please contact **Sue or Elaine Alexander.**

BRICK WALLS? LET'S KNOCK THEM DOWN!

Are you stuck?

Have you been searching for that elusive ancestor for years?

Does your family tree seem to have hit a brick wall?

Help is on the way!

On **10 October**, **Elaine and David Rathgen** will be leading an event especially for **new researchers and anyone suffering from “brick wall syndrome”!**

And that's not all.... David will also show you how to **turn your genealogy data into a story** — something you can preserve and pass on to future generations.

Because a family tree full of names and dates is wonderful.....but imagine being able to tell the **story behind those names!**

A yellow poster for 'Seniors Month Ancestor Discovery'. At the top, the title is in large, bold, blue and yellow letters. Below it, a pink banner says 'Presented by: Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society'. Underneath, a yellow box says 'Cost: Gold coin donation'. To the left is the society's logo, a circular emblem with a tree and the text 'PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.'. To the right of the logo, text says 'For new researchers or those with a mystery relative, bring along any information you have on your ancestors, such as full name, dates and places of birth and death and our volunteers will take you on a voyage of discovery.' Below this, a blue box says 'Plus for more experienced researchers, methods of recording your story will be introduced.' At the bottom, there are three sections: 'When' with a calendar icon, 'Where' with a location pin icon, and 'Contact' with a person icon. The 'When' section says 'Saturday, 10 October 1:00pm – 3:00pm'. The 'Where' section says 'Newhaven Hall 23 Cleeland St, Newhaven'. The 'Contact' section says 'Bookings required, please contact Sophie on 0428 506 831 or piadgs@outlook.com'.

NEED A HELPING HAND?

COMMISSIONED RESEARCH

Did you know that PIADGS offers a **Commissioned Research Service**?

For just **\$20 per hour**, an experienced researcher can help you:

- discover your ancestors
- investigate difficult research problems
- explore new avenues
- tackle those frustrating brick walls

If you're not sure where to look next, why not let one of our experienced researchers give you a hand?

Contact any Committee member for more information. Or email: piadgs@outlook.com

WHO ARE THEY?

HELP US PUT NAMES TO THE FACES!

Did you come along to the AGM and enjoy the **pictorial history** we presented?

We now need a small group of members who would like to sit down together with those photographs and help us identify: **Who are they? Where were they? What were they doing? And when?**

Photographs are such an important part of our history, but a photograph without names and stories can eventually lose its meaning.

So if you have a good memory, recognise some familiar faces, or simply enjoy a bit of detective work...

We'd love your help!

Please contact **Sue** if you'd like to be involved.

Roster Volunteer Wanted

We are looking for a **Roster Volunteer for the 4th Thursday of each month, from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.**

At the moment, we have no one available to cover this session. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Allan Briggs on 0418 145 889** — he would love to hear from you!

It was decided at the Committee meeting that, if we are unable to find someone to cover this session, **we may have to close the room on those afternoons.**

Special Interest Group

Would you be interested in joining a **Special Interest Group**, perhaps focusing on **Family Tree Maker**?

The suggestion is that the group would meet **once a month**, with the venue, day and time to be decided. It would be an informal group where members could **share ideas, discuss their experiences and learn from one another**.

Future Event – Family Tree Maker

We are currently in discussions with **Peter Reading from vicGUM**, who has offered to run a **one-day Family Tree Maker demonstration and learning event**.

We are looking at holding the event **sometime in the New Year** and would need to apply for a grant to help cover the costs.

If you would be interested in attending, please let me know: **Sue – 0419 665 862** suevinev@icloud.com

During my discussions with Peter, he indicated that he would also be happy to run a **three-day event**, covering different levels of experience:

- **Beginners**
- **Experienced Users**
- **“Beyond” – taking your Family Tree Maker skills further**

This could be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Family Tree Maker and share knowledge with other members.

THE STRESS OF A RESEARCH OFFICER



Some people expect a lot when they send a request for information and research to a Family History Group or Society. Is it any wonder volunteer researchers stress out at times? Here are a few examples provided from Casino District Family History Group; from the **ridiculous to What The!!!**

- I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
- The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she may have been still born. What do you think?
- Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. See what you can do.
- I have had a hard time finding myself in London. If I was there, I was very small and cannot be found.
- He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
- Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your Library?
- My grandfather died at the age of 3.
- We lost our Grandmother. Will you please send us a copy?
- Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
- Where would my parents have first met? And where would they have socialized? I think they may have lived in the local area.
- Our 2nd Great Grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the Library. He was married 3 times in the endowment house and has 21 children.
- For running down the Wheelers, I will send \$3 more.
- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
- I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.
- This family had nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are please add them to the list.
- Further research will be necessary to eliminate one of the parents.
- And from a 14-year-old boy – I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welsh line in the USA, England and Scotland countries. I will do the research.
- And to clarify- Family History Groups or Societies do not usually have a group of old 'biddies', volunteers, just sitting around, waiting to spend hours doing your family tree research for free.