

# THE South West Genealogist

The Official Newsletter of The Warrnambool Branch of the A.I.G.S.

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**DISCLAIMER :** The Warrnambool Branch of The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter.

**CORRESPONDENCE** All correspondence should be directed to  
The Editor, The South west Genealogist,  
PO Box 607, Warrnambool Victoria Australia 3280

**AREA ADMINISTRATOR :** The Area Administrator may be contacted by writing to the address given for correspondence.

**MEETINGS :** The Warrnambool Branch of The A.I.G.S. meets at 8.00 pm on the second Thursday of the month in the library of the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, 23 Merri Street, Warrnambool. Visitors are most welcome.

**OFFICEBEARERS :**

AREA ADMINISTRATOR	Noel Hallam
SECRETARY	Peter Shipp
TREASURER	Peter Shipp
EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER	Doug Holmes

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of 'The South West Genealogist' the new monthly newsletter of the Warrnambool Branch of the A.I.G.S. The appearance of this newsletter is as a result of the decision at the November 1989 meeting of the branch to introduce a newsletter.

This decision was based on the need to make members more aware of the activities of the branch and to get them more involved in these activities.

The newsletter is for the use of members and they are encouraged to submit items for publication, questions, names being researched and any other information they believe would be of interest to their fellow family historians.

When submitting information gleaned from another publication please cite the source so we can append it to the article for the information of other members who may wish to seek further information. Articles on your own research and experiences are most welcome especially odd **occurrences** and luck you may have had in your researching or sources you have come across. Tips such as these can assist a **fellow member who** has come to a **dead end** in their research.

it is envisaged that a number of regular items will be included such as book reviews, columns on English, Irish and Scottish research, AIGS & GSV activities, an Area Administrators Report, Victorian and Australasian Sources, International Sources and a number of others. If you can contribute to any of these areas please do as all help will be most appreciated by the editor of the newsletter.

All constructive comment is welcomed, once again please become involved as the newsletter is here for your benefit and use.

THE AREA ADMINISTRATORS CORNER

Dear Members,

The year 1990 will be a great one for the members of the Warrnambool Branch of the A.I.G.S.

Through the courtesy of Mr Peter Ronald, Director of the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum, we move into a wonderful new home, which I feel sure will make us the envy of other groups.

I take this opportunity to thank the Director and Staff for their assistance in the past.

Some of our members have already commenced to man the reference library, but we would still like to have more names. If there is any member who can spare the time, your assistance would be appreciated.

Our first meeting for 1990 will be of course in the new reference library and will be held on the second Thursday of the month, the 8th February at 8pm.

As the reference library is a distance from the front door, it will be necessary for us to lock the front door whilst our meetings are in progress, so anyone arriving after the time the meeting is due to commence, may not be heard.

I wish all members good luck in their research, and I know that we can benefit from each other.

Noel Hallam  
Area Administrator



CHILDRENS DAY 1990 FLAGSTAFF HILL

Dear Members,

We have been asked by Miss Beattie for assistance on Childrens Day.

They would like us to man the library, and we can also set up a display just outside the library door.

I would appreciate the assistance of any member who would have time to spare on that day.

VENUE      Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum Reference Library

DATE        Saturday February 17th.

TIME:       12 noon until 4.30pm

With Thanks,

Regards,  
Noel Hallam

THE IRISH CONNECTION

As most members are aware *the district* surrounding Warrnambool was one of *the highest concentrations* of Irish settlement in Australia and was examined by TV programs *such as* 'Beat of a Distant Drum' and books *such as* Patrick O'Farrell's 'The Irish in Australia'. Because of this special situation it seems almost mandatory to include a column on Ireland and Irish research in 'The South West Genealogist'.

The Irish Connection will attempt to cover modern day *Ireland*, some basic Irish history and family history research and sources in Ireland, *Eire* and the province of *Northern Ireland*.

INTRODUCTION TO IRISH RESEARCH

Irish research like all overseas research requires *the researcher to first gather all of the data* contained in Australian records and family documents *before embarking on research in Ireland*.

*The following sources should first be checked to obtain as much information as possible about the family being sought and all names, placenames and dates should be recorded and where possible verified by cross referencing between the different sources where possible.*

*Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates, Family bibles, correspondence, wills, family photographs and albums, and any other family documentation available.*

*The information you are seeking besides the actual lines of the family is who were the first ancestor's to Australia and when did they arrive. Working back through BDM's should determine who were the first arrivals and their death certificate should tell you when by subtracting time in the State/Colony from the year of their death.*

*When you have the year of arrival searching of the shipping records at the Public Record Office (some are available through the Warrnambool Branch of the A.I.G.S.) for the ancestors name usually will yield the name of the ship they travelled here on. If a passenger list is available obtain a copy as it will tell you who came with the ancestor, spouse, children and other relatives such as parents, brothers and sisters and so on.*

*To determine where the ancestor came from, not the port of departure as shown in the shipping records, you need to examine the BDM's and if you are lucky they will be given, unfortunately sometimes only the County of origin is given. What you seek is a city, town, townland or even a parish or church. Family documents such as letters and the family bible may contain this data and even addresses if you are lucky enough. Also note down the religion of the ancestor, remember it could have changed over the years.*

*A word of warning when using BDM's, the information may not be correct as the informant may not **have known the correct** information and took a guess. Death certificates can be unreliable if the spouse was not the informant, marriage certificates are likely to be correct, record witnesses on marriage certificates as they are usually relatives ie brothers and sisters. Especially look for parents names of the first ancestors as these are needed when you begin searching in Ireland. Birth certificates of the first children born in Australia are more likely to be correct as the parents are usually the informants.*

