



ALEXANDRINA LIBRARY SERVICES

HISTORY ROOM

NEWS

May 2008

by Helen Halm

No 46

Greetings from Goolwa where History Week is uppermost in our minds.

On Thursday May 22 our History Room Volunteers will host a “**Bring your Project - Show and Tell**”. We would love to see/hear about your projects, share resources, introduce you to our computer terminal with its records of Births Deaths and Marriages and much more, our wiki, or the many other resources in our lovely History Room.

Come for a chat/demo during the morning, (from 10 am) or participate in our (slightly) more formal information sharing in the Council Chambers from 1.30 p.m. The transcripts of interviews with Roly Bartlett and Dawn Liebelt will be presented.

Frodo has updated the CD which now contains many photos, interviews and indexes upon which our volunteers have worked. Librarian Robyn Lockwood will give us a brief introduction to the very useful alexhistory.pbwiki.com which allows us to update and search the text information and much more.

Craig Whitcher will outline his research into his family history in the area. If you would like to spend a few minutes telling us about your project, do let Frodo know by ‘phoning 8554 2434 or advise the Library staff on 85557000..

Other activities within our region include:

Goolwa Branch of the National Trust – on May 21 Port Elliot Historian Lorraine Pomery will speak on Churches

Friends of Milang Cemetery and the **Milang and District Historical Society** have activities on May 18

Port Elliot Branch of the National Trust is hosting a display on May 16-18 and 23-25 At **Strathalbyn** the **Alexandrina Council** will present Heritage Awards on May 22

Glenbarr will open its doors on May 25 and the **Strathalbyn Branch of the National Trust** is also hosting demonstrations and display on May 25

The full program Statewide is available in the Library, and from

http://www.history.sa.gov.au/history/history_week/historyweek.html (that is history/history_week/history week.html)

How the internet has enhanced our scope to research, store, share historical information. Whether it is the on-line resources of the various genealogy groups, the registries of births, deaths and marriages, historical backgrounds, old maps...the list could be endless. (Dawn has had so many useful tips on websites – and thanks to our wiki we can now search back copies for that tip we knew would come in useful some day if only we could find it).

And podcasts have added an almost essential dimension to our busy world – the ability to learn more via mp3 or iPod while carrying out mundane chores. Thanks to an interesting little snippet in “Net Guide” (Feb.08) I visited www.cyndislist.com in search of podcasts on the subject of Genealogy. A random selection gave me a one-hour Episode 46 from www.genealogygemspodcast.com. (Dial-up and limited broadband users beware – it was 52mb).

This covered graphology – what studying handwriting may tell us about the character of our forebears. One wonders what future generations will be able to discover when communication is increasingly per e-mail. To preserve some of this information the Powerhouse Museum (www.powerhousemuseum.com) in conjunction with Windows Live Hotmail has launched a project Email Australia.

For anyone researching European history, the opening of archives from the International Tracing Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross may help. 26 km of shelving containing 47 million records of approx. 17 million people whose lives were affected during the Nazi Regime of the ‘30’s and ‘40’s are now open for general research. The records are also being digitised and made available to Museums in the US and Poland. The card records are available in Bad Arolsen, Germany. The digital material is not easily searchable but a visit to the Holocaustmuseum (www.ushmm.org) gives some useful information.

Each week I have observed our River receding. I thought the National Library might like some of my photos - until I visited www.pictureaustralia.org. Somebody had already uploaded photos from Hindmarsh Island, along with some pithy comments. If you have photos which may be of historical significance at some future time this is a very good place to share/store them. .

Our Visitors Book reveals some interesting information – some of us enjoyed a visit from the Murray Bridge Historical Society recently. Among those researching families were visitors from Ireland, Scotland and other parts of the UK and New Zealand. Approx 400 entries reveal research being conducted on 137 local families/places. Some visitors sign the book, facilitating contact between people researching the same family. Others quietly come, research, and go.

“A great success is always the sum of many small decisions”

Hope to see you at “Show and Tell on Thursday 22 May.

Happy researching,

Helen

Genealogy help is available by appointment on Thursdays, to guide you through your research. Please phone the Library on 8555-7000 to make an appointment. For comments, suggestions or to receive this newsletter – email

historyroom2004@yahoo.com.au or phone the Library on 8555-7000

Back copies of this newsletter can be sourced on the Alexandrina Council website –

<http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/site/page/cfm>