

Do you need help to break through a brick wall in your family history research?

Looking for a convict in your family tree?

Need help reading some old documents you have found?



Are you a fan of *Who do you think you are?* and you want to know about your ancestors?

If you answered **YES** come and talk to the volunteers at our group.

You never know what you might find !



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Find us on Facebook

OPEN

Tuesday 10:00 am—4:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 am—6:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am—4:00 pm

All times subject to volunteer availability.



East Gippsland Family History Group
acknowledges the East Gippsland Shire Council
for their financial support.

EAST GIPPSLAND family history GROUP



family history

a link to our *past*
a bridge to our *future*

Who We Are

The East Gippsland Family History Group (EGFHG) was formed in 1979 when a small group of family historians got together to help each other in their research. This remains the essence of our purpose: to help each other with our family history research. Our numbers have grown from strength to strength. From operating out of the boots of our cars once a month we now have around 170 members with our collection housed in spacious rooms open three times a week. We also publish a quarterly informative newsletter *the black sheep* for our members.

We have an ever expanding range of resources, including full internet and online subscriptions, colour and black and white photocopying (at discount rates for members), computers and kitchen facilities for all. We are regarded as one of the largest and best resourced family history groups in Victoria with records that span the world.

What We Do

We do research! We are an active volunteer group that supports and assists its members, and visitors, to find the information you seek. We have the resources, and where necessary the guidance, to find your family history anywhere in the world or help with your history based project. If you want help, we do one on one sessions at our rooms. If you just want to come and do your research uninterrupted you can do that too!

At our **monthly meetings** we hold information sessions or workshops to further develop the skills of our members or guest speakers that help bring to life the history of our region.

Don't live locally or not comfortable about your own ability to research your family? We can do the research for you. We have a very experienced research team who, for a small fee, can explore the resources for you and give you a written report of what they find.

In 2018 we are conducting family history classes at our rooms in conjunction with U3A.

Our Resources

Apart from maintaining an extensive library which has been gathered over years directly for family and historic research, we also hold an extensive collection of microfiche, microfilm maps, cemetery and school records and other databases and registers that are not available anywhere online.



We have access to *Ancestry* (worldwide) and *Findmypast*, two of the most popular online search engines, plus other more specific sites. Our computers give access to more than 650 CDs, DVDs, compiled records, indexes and research assets through combined databases.

Our spacious facilities allow us the luxury of a large bank of computers, film and fiche readers, colour photocopier, map presses, lunch area and working areas for all members.

Our Projects

Their Duty Done

Have you seen the supplement in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* that pays respect to local East Gippsland men who lost their lives in WW1? During the anniversary of WW1 we are committed to working with our local paper providing this information for this twice yearly supplement. We maintain our own website www.theirdutydone.com and are endeavouring to find photographs of all the men and women involved and ultimately for all those who returned as well. It is a huge project.

Bairnsdale Cemetery

Our goal of photographing every headstone in the Bairnsdale cemetery is completed and the images are currently being linked to our database giving researchers the optimum of information.



What We've Done

Digitisation of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* and *Every Week*

Our last successful grant in 2014 was for the digitisation of our local papers giving greater access to local knowledge and stories. Access of this is exclusive to our rooms and at the East Gippsland Historical Society. Those familiar with *Trove* will know that the local papers are there until 1919. This project has seen the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* digitised from 1920 - 1972 and *Every Week* from 1920 - 1946. These records are only available to use from within our rooms.

Awards

In History Week 2014 our newsletter, *the black sheep*, was Highly Commended in the small publication section of the Community History Awards. *the black sheep* is a joint publication with the East Gippsland Historical Society and is distributed to our members as a colour pdf publication.

Becoming a Member

Membership is open to everyone with an interest in family history anywhere in the world or local history in our region.

Membership entitles you to full access to the rooms and all our facilities with support from other members for those "brick walls" in your research. For \$30 per year (plus \$5 joining fee) (*this increasing to \$40 and \$10 respectively in July 2018*) you receive full access to the rooms and your newsletter.

There are many opportunities to be involved in other projects apart from your own history and if you are looking to expand your knowledge even further

several of our members hold either Diplomas in Family History or Associate Diploma in Local and Applied History and can help you with this online opportunity through some of Australia's universities.

Not tech-savvy? Don't worry we can help you with that too !

Interested? Our contact details are included on this brochure. Call in and be inspired to research further on your family tree.