

AJGS (VIC)-MINUTES: July 9th 2026, 7.30 p.m. - Zoom

Apologies: Aaron Blicblau

Present: Terry Ashton, Rodney Eisfelder, Max Wald, Viv Bayer, Helen Gardner, Rene Eisner, Mark Ellison, Liz James, Yolande McNicoll,

Minutes of Last Meeting –The 2/6/2026 minutes were accepted with the following notations:

- New emails for AJGS have now been set up
- Terry still has to complete the letter re the removal of graves at Castlemaine cemetery
- Handwritten books are to be scanned-we have funds to do this-Liz will organise this
- Re the vertical banner, we will see if Vista Print can create a new one for us with our logo on it. Terry will action this.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Terry:

- Bubbles will speak to members later in 2027 after the publication of "ChatGPT did not write A Story that Begins in Bauska. It helped me write a better one"
- Terry will send a letter of condolence to Natalie Miller
- The role of the Secretary-more tasks are falling on the secretary and it would be appreciated if someone could take on the responsibility of looking after TryBooking and Social Blueprint please

Mark:

- Charitable status:
 - Mark emailed the committee a document outlining the reasons in support of having this and explained the pros and cons of getting a DJR status. Yolande asked if we need legal advice to go down this path and it might be a good idea to see if that is the case. Our member, Joey Borenstein is a lawyer and could be contacted for his opinion. DJR is useful to get grants which implies the need for a project, which we don't have at present-we need to consider possible projects.
 - There was discussion about paying someone to do marketing for us.
 - We will move forward to register as a charity and then see what the next step is.
- Preparation of the annual report-this does not have to be done just yet

REPORTS:

MARRIAGE DATABASE REPORT -RODNEY

- The database now contains 34,648 records. Rodney received feedback on the ages of someone's grandparents which was incorrect and in doing so discovered a new cousin.

FINANCIAL REPORT-MARK- received via email.

- 5 new members joined us and we now have a total of 186 members. We need to use our funds to benefit members
- Subscriptions at the Lamm Library for Gesher Galicia are to be used to help our members with their research
- To get access to Family Search records, there are LDS churches at Dingley and Braeside
- Rene and Mark will move our current bank account to Bendigo Bank as many charities bank with BB and they give grants to charitable organisations. The president and vice-president will be signatories on the account.

NEW EMAILS – RENE

- As per minutes of last meeting: Authorize and set up relevant society email accounts (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer) and ensure correct redirection/forwarding of "Contact Us" emails to Terry (Secretary), has been completed.
- The suggestion is that we change our group emails to include these 4 addresses.

- Now that we have new emails and a new mail box, can a letter be sent out to all relevant organisations to advise the change of email and postal address.
- Rene will prepare a refreshed letter head, etc to reflect this.

➤ Report re flyers:

- Please note that Indigo is overseas for the next 3 months, and will not be able to prepare any more flyers at present. Viv will see if she can use Canva and prepare some flyers for future meetings. Rene and Liz will ask those they know to see they could prepare flyers.

ROOTS PROJECT REPORT-LIZ Nothing to report

DoJR REPORT-HELEN Nothing to report

FACEBOOK REPORT – 1000 followers now

WEBSITE REPORT -AARON- The Website is up and running. Digital Freaks, the hosts, have found no issues with the website.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

AJGS will help with your genealogical research. Come with your questions/brick walls etc. and let us try and solve your genealogical queries. This event is free for all attendees. Afternoon tea provided	July 19th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall. A free event
Terry will speak about her family connection to the Dunera boys	August 4 th @ 7. 30 p.m. on Zoom
Daniel Horowitz from My Heritage will speak on <i>Introducing Family Infographics</i>	September 6 th via Zoom, @ 7.30 p.m. AEST
2026 AGM & Lionel Sharpe Presentation – Naomi Beder speaking on using 'Albumworks' to share your family's story	October 25 th 2026 @ 2.30-4.00 p.m., Glen Eira Town Hall

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Please bring your laptops for the presentation on July the 19th. Terry will bring paper plates; Max will bring books of surnames; Bernie is getting the biscuits.
- Rodney found a useful record from Ancestry
- Bernie talked at Elwood shule - about 40 were present, as well as to the AJHS
- Liz asked Bernie if he would like to give his surname talk to a group in NSW in February, 2027
- Max and Rene are to email the 'computer people'-please clarify this for the minutes
- Terry is speaking on August the 23rd (10-11 a.m.) on Researching your Jewish Family History at the Glen Eira Town Hall

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 26/8/2026

MEETING ENDED AT: 9.16 p.m.

