

Transfer of records to Public Records Office

South Gippsland Shire Council is closing its archive and transferring the permanent value records to the Public Records Office of Victoria. The transfer will include Shire early rate records, correspondence and the pound keeper's (former Poowong & Jeetho Shire) register with details from as far back as 1891.

Council's Corporate Information Management Coordinator, David Robinson, believes the records might be of particular interest to community members researching their family history or the history of the local area.

"These records give an insight into our local history. The rate records, in particular, can be used to help track the movement of relatives during a particular time or to provide evidence of regional population growth. The records go back to pre-war time so should be able to provide valuable details for local historians or family history researchers and the wider Victorian community.

Moving the records to the Public Record Office Victoria will help to ensure the records remain properly preserved in the climate-controlled State Archive. The Archive includes formal reading rooms where the public can easily access the collection which is open to the public. The information about the Shire's collection can also be searched online.

"Preserving these records and making them accessible to the public is very important" said Mr. Robinson. "Although our existing archive is adequate, it cannot compete with the State Archive for record protection or ease of access. We hope many people find value in the transferred records."

The transfer of records is currently being prepared. It is expected to be completed early next year. You can find more information about Council's permanent records at the Public Record Office (including online search options) at: www.prov.vic.gov.au

PR2096 26/7/17