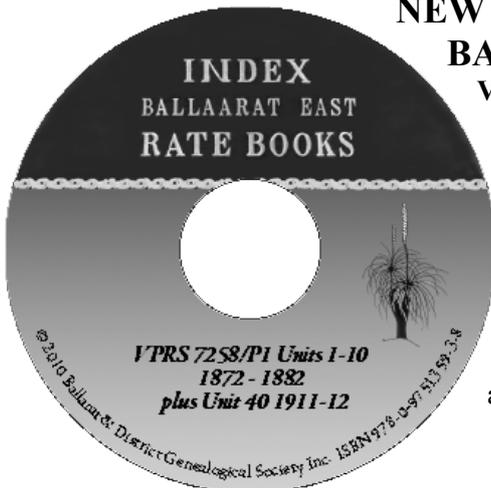


NEW B&DGS INDEX

BALLARAT EAST RATE BOOKS

VPRS 7258/P1, Units 1-10 1872-1881-2, plus Unit 40 1911-12



By the time you are reading this newsletter the Society's latest index on CD will have been launched during Ballarat's Heritage Weekend on Saturday 8th May 2010. Cr Samantha McIntosh who holds the Heritage Portfolio for the City of Ballarat, accepted our invitation to perform the honours at the Mining Exchange.

This new index has taken a team of volunteers an astonishing four and a half years to compile.

At the latest count there were just on 44,500 entries transcribed from eleven of the Ballarat East Rate Ledgers. These magnificent old books are a wonderful source of information about owners and occupiers of dwellings in the Ballarat East municipality over a decade in the 1870s and then there is a jump forward of thirty years to a monster unit for 1911-12. This book alone took eighteen months to transcribe. The gap is due to the realisation of the enormity of the task. In the beginning almost five years ago now, we hoped to index the entire unbroken series from 1872 when Ballarat became a Township, to 1921 when the Town merged with the City in the West, but that proved to be too ambitious. However the result is pleasing to those who toiled for so long. Each record has been checked and re-checked thoroughly several times by different proof readers so we believe the error rate is very low. But, as experienced researchers will know, the spelling variations which occur in old records can be quite creative. Every name in this index has been transcribed as written in the original entry.



The production of every new index is very exciting because a whole new source of information can now be made available. Ballarat has such a treasure trove of original records but without indexes family historians are floundering. Finding information on a searchable CD is so quick and satisfying.

*Special thanks must go to **Meryl Rowse**, pictured below, and Helen Mollison who have done a sterling job in bringing this indexing project to completion. At right below is Meryl with Cr Samantha McIntosh at the launch of the Ballarat East Rates Index CD at the Mining Exchange during Ballarat Heritage Weekend, 8 May 2010.*



Price of BALLARAT EAST RATE BOOKS INDEX CD is \$30.00 plus \$5.00 for p & h.

Email Enquiries to - researchballarat@hotmail.com

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This information can be found on the society's website at www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ballarateast-ratebooks-index-cd.htm

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