



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

# Newsletter

DATE 11th April 2014

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WELCOME members to the Society's third meeting of 2014.

Today's guest speaker is Lorraine Purcell who will be introducing a very necessary topic for those researching their family history - The importance of getting all the family history research out of the shoebox (or computer) and into some form of sharable resource for future generations.

At our last meeting Bob Maynard, one of our members presented an informative talk on the 1842 UK Royal Commission into the Employment of Women and Children in the Mines, covering the living and working conditions of women and children in mining communities in the UK before 1842. Bob also produced a number of interesting old miners' lamps.

**Next meeting:** The next general meeting of the Society will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at **10am** on **9<sup>th</sup> May 2014**. There will be no guest speaker for this meeting as members of the committee will expand on Lorraine's talk of preserving our family history research and photos with an open discussion on, "**How Can I Preserve my Family History for Posterity**"

### **Items of Interest to Members:**

The committee last met on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. Items under discussion were:

**Mentoring:** As mentioned in the previous two Newsletters this year the Society is starting a mentoring system to assist our members in their research. Members are encouraged to visit the Society's website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs> in order to download and complete a mentoring form if they feel they would be able to render research assistance on a specific area or topic to other members of the Society.

**Key areas of research interest:** A reminder - members are also being asked to take the time to write down what areas they are particularly interested in and where they need help, whether it is here in Australia or overseas. If these can be written up and brought to a general meeting, they can then be taken to the next committee meeting for discussion as to what avenues of help would be available.

**Suggestion box:** The committee was delighted to receive a few suggestions in the Suggestion Box regarding possible guest speakers. Another member has put forward an idea for fund raising. Thank you. These suggestions are being investigated.

**Note:** Keep those suggestions coming in!!!

**Raffle:** A reminder regarding the raffle of the book entitled "For the Love of Will" which is an interesting look into the life of a soldier serving overseas during WWI. The raffle will be drawn at the end of today's meeting. Tickets will be on sale before the meeting and at morning tea - \$1.00 each.

**Explorers' Tree:** Audrey would be pleased to receive further items for the next edition of Explorers' Tree.

**Sydney Sands Postal Directories** are now freely available online at the City of Sydney website.

The firm of John Sands Ltd (Printers and Stationers) published their directory each year from 1858–59 to 1932–33 (except for 1872, 1874, 1878 and 1881). The household and business information it contains has become a fundamental source for research into Sydney history, especially family history. It also lists country towns as well. The City of Sydney has now obtained a complete digital edition of the directory from WF Pascoe, scanned from the microfiche, and is making it freely available on their website. Just click on the following link:

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/history/search-our-collections/sands-directory>

### **Sydney Maritime History – 10,000 photographs**

Thousands of historic photos offering a glimpse into Sydney's maritime history as far back as the 1850s have been donated to the City of Sydney archives. The 'Working Harbour' collection features about 10,000 photographs of the harbour, historical ships, well known ferries and the Sydney Harbour Bridge and building construction, from the private collection of former RAN Petty Officer and Sydney ferry master Graeme Andrews OAM.

Visit and view the collection of images with this link:

<http://www.shf.org.au/archives-research/photographic-collections/the-graeme-andrews-collection/>

### **What's on:**

**Historic Woodford Academy Open Day Easter Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014** All Day Breakfast catered for by Red Pepper Catering in the Grand Dining Room **10am-4pm**; local historian Ken Goodlet will be presenting his book 'Blue Mountains Journeys' as part of the National Trust 2014 Heritage Festival Event from **2-3pm**. Museum entry Adults \$6, Concession/Children \$4 National Trust members \$2 Guided Tours \$2.

**Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc** Anzac Cemetery Walk to be held at Lithgow (Bowenfels) Cemetery on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 10.00am. The Walk will commence in the car park at the cemetery at 10.00am with a short introduction & morning tea. Bring your own tea & coffee and we will supply the Anzac Biscuits. We will then follow a course set out to visit several Returned Service Men & Women's graves where a short history will be read on each one and a small card with a poppy & rosemary will be placed on their grave.

### **What's on cont'd:**

**\*Lithgow & District Family History Society** has chosen to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's Journey to Lithgow in 1954 by hosting a 1950's themed Devonshire Tea at Lithgow Library Learning Centre, Main Street **on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**

**\*Bathurst Heritage Week from 9 to 18 May**, a joint initiative of Bathurst Regional Council, Bathurst branch of the National Trust, Bathurst Heritage Network, Bathurst Family History Group, and Bathurst District Historical Society. The week includes History Mystery bus tours, guided walking tours in the Central Heritage Area, Cemetery tours, open houses, the 199<sup>th</sup> Bathurst Proclamation Day, Museums open days and exhibit talks, and other special events.

**\*Reminder: BMACHO** (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations) are holding a History Conference "Opening up the Route to the West - Architecture and the Railway" **Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014**, Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Street, Katoomba. For more information see <http://www.rahs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/BMACHO-Program-Registration-Form-Conf-2014-1.pdf> RSVP by Wednesday, 30 April 2014.

**\*Hill End Historic Site Autumn Holiday Program Sat. 12<sup>th</sup>- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April - 10am** The National Parks & Wildlife Discovery Ranger will be running town tours, ghost tours and activities in Hill End throughout the holiday period. Contact the Visitors Centre in High Street or phone (02) 63378206 for details about times and cost.

**\*Hill End Historic Buildings Open Day Sun. May 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am to 3.30pm**

**Meet at the Royal Hall, Hill End (Bookings desirable)** A fantastic opportunity to view up to 10 historic buildings in the beautiful village of Hill End. These buildings are generally not open for inspection. They include the Royal Hall with pioneer photos on display, the grand Craigmoor (courtesy National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hill End), miner's cottages, churches, the artists - Jean Bellette's and Donald Friend's homes (courtesy Hill End Artist in Residence Program) and La Paloma Pottery.

Experience the ambiance of these incredible gold rush buildings set in the isolated landscape of the Central Tablelands. Sealed roads from Mudgee or Bathurst. Bookings advisable by Phone: (02) 6337 8306 or (02) 6337 8333 or Email: [pandr@antmail.com.au](mailto:pandr@antmail.com.au)

**Websites:** With Anzac day just around the corner, find out more about Australia's involvement in the various theatres of war visit <http://www.dva.gov.au/help/Pages/OtherDVAwebsites.aspx> here you can click on the War Film Archive to hear first hand accounts from survivors and much more, together with overseas external links. Irish Family History Foundation e-Newsletter **Clann** <https://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/71043/327168/pub/> **New website** Tambaroora, a western gold mining town <http://www.warwicktaylor.com/tambaroora/index.php>

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