



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 10th April, 2015

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WELCOME to all our members to today's meeting.

This month being the 100th Anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli, the Newsletter will concentrate on where information can be found for your research concerning soldiers in WWI and WWII. A display table of artefacts from both **WWI** and **WWII** is being organized for today's meeting. Members are welcome to bring along an item of memorabilia from either **WWI** or **WWII** to contribute to the display. A power point display with photos of Gallipoli will also run during morning tea.



Sunday Times: Sunday 15th August 1915 – Sir Ian Hamilton's Great Despatch on Dardanelles War "Our Splendid Fellows Not To Be Denied - No Finer Feat Has Ever Been Achieved By the British Or Any Other Soldier."

Read this Despatch on Trove

Guest Speaker: Last month's guest speaker was Trish Skehan from the Canada Bay Heritage Society. Her talk was on the Bushells Tea family and all things related to tea - from the discovery of tea in China and various tea drinking customs to weird and wonderful teapots. Some members brought along teapots, spoons, etc to make an interesting display. **Today's guest speaker** is Joe Elkush from the Springwood RSL Sub-Branch. We were hoping to have someone from the Red Cross but this was not to be so Mr Elkush has kindly stepped in at the last minute.

Bob Howard Award: Vicky Edmunds from Blue Mountains City Library will be presenting the Bob Howard Award to the lucky winner for a factual family history article in the Explorers' Tree. Any member contributing a story to the Magazine is a potential winner for either the Bob Howard Award or the Coolgardie Safe Award. Rhonda is looking for stories for the next issue and members have until the end of May to get their articles in.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 8th May 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

May Guest Speaker: Cathy Jones who works for Strathfield Heritage will be giving a talk about Strathfield including information on the Arnotts Biscuit family. Strathfield Heritage website <http://strathfieldheritage.org/about/>

Committee Meeting: Due to the lack of a quorum, four members of the Committee met on 27th March 2015 for an informal meeting. Under the circumstances no decisions could be made, though a number of topics were discussed among them being the forthcoming seminar.

2015 Seminar: Saturday 15th August. The committee is hoping that some members will offer to form a committee to organize the lunch on the day. Please see one of the committee members if you are interested.

Speakers: We have a definite offer from Ray Thorburn of Kiama Family History to speak on the day, a speaker is coming from the National Archives of Australia and we are still waiting on confirmation for our two other speakers.

Name Badges: To help members get to know one another, name badges will now be located with the attendance book; wearing one will greatly assist in this endeavour.

Street Stall: Saturday, 2nd May 2015 in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Could those members who are willing to contribute either food items or other saleable goods please indicate these items on the sheet available so the committee will have an idea of what will be available on the day.

The Woodford War Memorial. This beautiful little war memorial has not been used for an ANZAC Service for over 25 years. In fact thousands of people drive past it each day and do not recognise it as a war memorial, even most of the locals don't know it is a memorial and express great surprise when they find out. Members, Terry and Rhonda Flowers have researched all the names on the memorial and this year decided to send out an email to all the local bodies and organisations to see if a service could be held there in this important ANZAC Centenary year. The response was very heart-warming and a small group are now in the process of organising the service in conjunction with BMCC, the Hazelbrook Association, the Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre and the tiny little Woodford Progress Association with a membership of perhaps two people and Terry and Rhonda. Below is a small history written by Rhonda on the Woodford War Memorial:

'LET US NOT FORGET THEM! DID YOU KNOW?'

In 1922 due to local benefactors and local fundraising an elegant sandstone pavilion was built in what was once a large park on the southern side of the highway opposite the old Woodford Post Office. The park, Memorial Park, is now diminished as successive highway widening has progressively carved great chunks from the park but leaving the handsome pavilion intact. Inside that pavilion is an obelisk etched with the names of local Woodford boys who enlisted in WW1 and WW2. Five of those boys did not return from the battlefields. This year for the first time in more than 25 years there will be an ANZAC service at the pavilion in honour of these local families.

Woodford ANZAC Day Sunset Service – assemble at the Woodford War Memorial GWH (south side) at 4.30 pm for a short memorial service. **All welcome** - Organised by Woodford Progress Association in conjunction with Hazelbrook Association and MMNC. '

What's On:

The Hills District Historical Society, Spirit of Anzac Exhibition, Heritage Centre. Commencing 18th April-October 2015, 12noon-4pm, 1st & 3rd Saturdays. Coffee and Tea available.

Hartley District Progress Association's Historic Governor Macquarie event, Sunday 26th April 2015, Commencing 11.00 am bookings required Ph. 1300 760 276 for details

What's On cont'd:

BMACHO: The BMACHO Calendar of Events available for viewing with the Attendance Book.

The first port of call for service records of soldiers who served in WWI which have all been digitized would be the **National Archives of Australia** <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/>.

The **Australian War Memorial** in Canberra is one of the best, if not the best War Memorials in the world. If you have never been there it is well worth a visit. The War Memorial website is <https://www.awm.gov.au/>. Visiting the website you can discover a lot of information such as in the case of **Harold Roy Baldock** who was killed in action at Bullecourt. His name appears on the **Honour Roll** along with his Service Number, Unit and Action; **First World War Red Cross Wounded and Missing Files** where a digitized copy of his personal details supplied by his mother for his inclusion on the Roll of Honour can be found and downloaded; **First World War Embarkation Rolls** which show the ship on which he embarked in 1916 also downloadable. This was all the information available on Harold Roy Baldock to be found on this site. Other information for researchers can be found on the same site such as **Pre WWI Conflicts, Nominal Rolls, WWII PoWs, Honours & Awards, And Australian Naval Forces Records.**

Turning again to Harold Roy Baldock, as he died overseas further details for him can be found on the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** site <http://www.cwgc.org/>. This site commemorates the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. Searching this site shows that Harold Roy Baldock died on 3rd May 1917, has no grave but his name is inscribed on the Memorial Wall at the **Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery.**

Photos of this and other memorials can be found and purchased on <http://twgpp.org/index.php>

Details of Harold can also be found on **The AIF Project** from which a Certificate can be printed as well as taking you straight to his National Archives war record including Enlistment Form

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=11860>

The RSL have a website called **RSL Virtual War Memorial** <http://www.rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/> where families are encouraged to write a story of their soldier. They also have a daily Honour Roll giving the names of soldiers who died on that day as well as other interesting information.

Websites: Register of War Memorials <https://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/landing>; **Monument Australia** <http://www.monumentaustalia.org.au/>; **Department of Veterans Affairs** <http://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/cemeteries/first-and-second-world-war-cemeteries> **U.K. Imperial War Museum** <http://www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-london/first-world-war-galleries> **Cyndi's list of links** <http://www.cyndislist.com/>; **The Great War Memorials** <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/memorials/ww1-memorials.htm>.