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**WELCOME** to this, our third meeting for 2016. Our guest speaker today was to be Margot Riley from the State Library but unfortunately Margot has had to postpone her visit until our May meeting. Ian will be filling in today. Do you have **19** convicts? Well Ian does and today he will introduce all 19 of them and then talk a bit about a couple of them, most probably George Kendall, Matthew James Everingham and William Shipman Baxter and if time, Thomas Radburn (Swing Rioter). It could be an extremely fascinating talk.

**March Guest speaker:** Susan Boyer, Author was our guest speaker last month. Susan gave an interesting insight into what Australia was like for both the new arrivals and the Aborigines with the arrival of the First Fleet and onwards. Those present found Susan to be a great story teller.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, **13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016** commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

**Guest speaker for May meeting:** As mentioned above, Margot Riley from the State Library will be attending. Her topic: Identifying photographs; Photography and Fashions.

**Committee Meeting:** The members of the committee met on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April and the following was discussed:

**The Explorers' Tree Magazine:** Rhonda is very happy with the response to her request for stories and already has enough stories to fill the next copy of The Explorers' Tree. You are still requested to keep those stories coming in though, as they will be put to good use in subsequent issues of the magazine.

Vicki Edmunds, Springwood Librarian, has now read all the stories in our 2015 issues of The Explorers' Tree and has chosen the winners of the Coolgardie and Bob Howard Awards. Hopefully these Awards will be presented to the respective recipients either in July or another time suitable to Vicki.

**High Tea:** You will no doubt have received the wonderful Invitation to our High Tea prepared by Ian which is to be held on **14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**. As well as being sent to our members Invitations will be going out to some of our neighbouring Societies. The committee thinks it can comfortably cater for 60 guests so if you are interested it would be an idea to book early.

The event has been costed at **\$25.00** pp to cover the hire of the hall and the delicious High Tea that will be provided.

At the April meeting Yvonne will be asking whether any members would like to go on the catering committee. This will involve working out what and how much food we will need to provide. Perhaps anyone who is interested might like to stay behind after our meeting to discuss this.

### High Tea cont'd:

Yvonne will also need to find out who would be prepared to help with setting up the Hall on the day and help clean up afterwards also whether any members are willing to loan some special China cups, saucers and plates for the event. Great care will be taken.

**Raffle: There are to be two raffles for this event. One is a "seen to be believed" beautiful crochet rug made and donated by our member John Gordon, "thank you John". The other raffle is six Aynsley cups and saucers in the delightful "Pembroke" pattern donated by our member Lynne Tocher, "Thank you Lynne". Tickets for both raffles have been priced at \$2.00 each.**

**Membership:** The Society now has 54 fully paid up members which is very pleasing to see.

**Social Outing:** Ann Krasny is working hard to find some interesting places for our Social outings for our members to attend. As mentioned in last Newsletter the first outing for 2016 is a visit to the Penrith Museum of Printing which is situated next to the Penrith Paceway, opposite the Stadium, on **Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> April** commencing at **11am**. Members should meet at around **10.45** at the Museum. There are buses from Springwood that will take you to the Paceway. If you haven't as yet put your name on Ann 's list it will be available at today's meeting. Anyone requiring a lift can see Ann. Tour takes 1-1 ½ hours, the cost is \$3.00 if 10 members attend but will be more if there are less than 10 members. There is a minimum charge of \$30 per tour. The group can have lunch at the Paceway afterwards if preferred, a nice way to round off the outing. Attending these outings is a great way to get to know other members of the Society. It is often hard to get around to mixing with every member during morning tea and in the two hours that we meet.

**Updating Members' Research Interests:** You are all probably aware there is a component on the Society's website that lists Members' Research Interests. This can be very helpful to you and to visitors to our website who are looking for family connections. If you have discovered more ancestors since you originally submitted your list, a new form for you to fill in and submit can be found on the Society's website.

**Perpetual Calendar:** Have you ever wondered what the actual day was on which one of your ancestors was born, married or died? This is an easy thing to discover by visiting a Perpetual Calendar website, one such being [www.searchforancestors.com](http://www.searchforancestors.com).

**Fund Raising Table:** Members will be interested to read that the fund raising table of goods donated by the committee last month raised a total of \$37.00. Thank you to those members who purchased something. Every little helps.

**Unwanted Certificates:** Have you ever ordered a Certificate either in Australia or overseas to find that it does not belong to your family? What to do with an unwanted Certificate? There are a number of websites you can visit that may help you in disposing of these Certificates, visit any of – [www.rootschat.com](http://www.rootschat.com); [www.certificate-exchange.co.uk](http://www.certificate-exchange.co.uk) or [www.dustydocs.com.au](http://www.dustydocs.com.au).

**Blue Mountains Family History Society on Facebook:** Just a reminder that our Society is on Facebook and that many interesting items can be found there. If you haven't already visited the site give it a try, it will also help the Society's site. If you become a friend on Facebook occasional interesting items will be posted to your Facebook page." Occasional" is the key word as with some of these sites, your Facebook page can get inundated.

### What's on:

**Arms of Australia Inn Museum, Play, Pioneers in Petticoats.** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. Cost \$30, Concession/child \$25. Tickets can be obtained [www.blaxlandanddaughter.com](http://www.blaxlandanddaughter.com) or call 13 28 49.

**Blue Mountains History Conference 2016 - Artefacts:** Victoria & Albert Guest House **8.45am-4.30pm Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Cost **\$60** including morning and afternoon tea, lunch & a USB of presentations. Visit the website [www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au](http://www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au) or contact Jan Koperberg **4751 5834**

**Some coming events at Hawkesbury Central Library,** 300 George Street, Windsor

**\*Examining Historical Documents Session,** Thursday **28<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-8.30pm \$10 RSVP 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

**\*Walking/Driving Tour: McGraths Hill & Pitt Town Cemeteries** Thurs. **12<sup>th</sup> May & Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> May 10.11.45am.** Free

**\*Tour: Rediscover the Old Morgue & Hospital Precinct** Fri. **20<sup>th</sup> May 11am-noon** and **Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> May 11am-noon.** Free

**\*All you need to know about Historical Newspapers,** Tues. **24<sup>th</sup> May 6.30-8.30pm.** Cost **\$10**  
Bookings essential for all events **4560 4460**

**Website:** Curious Fox is a Gazetteer of villages and towns in the UK with links to exact locations on old and modern maps, plus a page for each village with genealogy and local history covers the whole of the British Isles, i.e. England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland, plus the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The site is organised by traditional historic counties [www.curiousfox.com](http://www.curiousfox.com); Digger History info, an Australian site dedicated to servicemen & women, images, documents in both World Wars <http://www.diggerhistory.info/>; A Vision of Britain Through Time, a vision of Britain between 1801 and 2001 including maps, statistical trends and historical descriptions <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>