



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

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Pauline Gibson

As you heard at the March meeting or read in the March Newsletter, there is **NO April meeting** due to our usual meeting day being Good Friday and that the committee was unable to find a suitable venue to hold the meeting on another day. We will be back on track for our May meeting.

Wishing all our members a **Happy Easter** and we look forward to seeing you all at our May meeting.

**March meeting:** John Howells, from the Lancer Barracks Museum, was our guest speaker for March. He gave a very interesting talk on the Lancers from their inception right through to the present day use of the barracks. While the talk ran overtime, all members appeared to find the talk extremely interesting. A tour of the Lancer Barracks is on the Agenda as a social outing

**May meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on **12<sup>th</sup> May 2017** in our new meeting place, the small hall of the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood commencing at 10am and finishing around 12 noon.

**Guest Speaker for May meeting:** Trish Skehan who is a bit of a regular and interesting speaker will be giving a talk on her book "A Gleam of Gold" and what went on at the Northern Goldfields, particularly at Stewart's Brook. It is about floods, fire, famine and murder and mayhem. To use Trish's words "It's a WOW of a story".

I don't know if members are aware but it is sometimes hard to find guest speakers who are willing to travel to Springwood or who will do so for little or no reward so we are very lucky to have Trish who travels down from the Central Coast. As Trish has a sister living in Penrith on occasion she has come down the night before and stayed with her sister but this is not always the case.

**Committee Meeting:** The committee met on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and the following discussions followed:

**The Society's Constitution:** There are to be some minor amendments made to the Society's Constitution in accordance with the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading's new Model Constitution and amendment to the Act for Incorporated Associations. Ian brought with him to the committee meeting a printout of the requirements of the Department of Fair Trading, these were discussed and accordingly Ian is now in the process of making these changes to the Society's Constitution. These amendments to the Constitution have to be with the Department of Fair Trading by September. Ian hopes to introduce the new drafted Constitution to our members at the May general meeting and the members will be able to vote on its acceptance at the June general meeting.

**Secretary's position:** As our current Secretary, Colin, will be overseas in April/May/June and part of July, Yvonne is hoping that someone from within our membership would be kind enough to step into the Secretary's position until his return. This would mean taking notes at the meeting and typing up the Minutes. Please contact Yvonne if you are happy to fill in for Colin. Yvonne has indicated that she is happy to collect the mail and handle the correspondence so there will be no need for the volunteer to look after that aspect of the position.

**September Seminar:** “Settling the Blue Mountains”. Colin advised that he has received three acceptances from the proposed speakers for our Seminar. John Low has agreed to speak, his topic being “Travelling to Wonderland: pre-motor era, coach services to Jenolan Caves”. Doug Knowles has also accepted his invitation to be a speaker on the day. Doug’s topic is the “Coming of the Railways” including settlement by ordinary men and families. Ken Goodlet has also agreed to speak in relation to his suggested topic, the Woodford area and Woodford Academy.

Unfortunately, Colin has heard from State Records there will be no-one available on this date, as it is State Records Open Day. However, Colin has a number of other avenues to look into and will keep us posted.

Colin will also be contacting Jim Low who lives in the lower Mountains to see if he would like to be our after lunch entertainer. Jim is John Low’s brother and is quite well known in the Mountains. Jim plays the guitar and writes his own folk songs.

**Catering:** It was decided that the Society would keep to the same pattern as in our previous seminars by purchasing Chickens and salads and asking our members for donations of cakes, biscuits, etc. for the morning tea and lunch.

**Raffle:** What would a Seminar be without a raffle? In order to keep costs at a minimum we are asking the members if anyone has something suitable that would be a worthwhile raffle prize. Please see any of the committee if something comes to mind.

**Seminar Folders:** We will again provide a folder for those attending the Seminar, in the main containing a notebook and pencil, with the other additions yet to be decided. It was decided, however, that they will not contain the attendees name but can just be collected on arrival.

**Social Outing:** Ann Krasny our Social outings organiser, is looking into a “Walk around Blackheath” tour, which will take place sometime after our May meeting. Ann is also looking into organising a tour of the ABC building at Ultimo for the next outing.

**Raffles:** Tickets sold for our small raffle at the March meeting and on sale again at our May meeting will be drawn at that meeting.

**The Explorers’ Tree:** Though Rhonda and Terry are away caravanning, Rhonda will still be editing our Magazine, “The Explorers’ Tree”. As you know Rhonda is always looking for articles or anecdotes to continue to make it the great magazine that it is. So keep those stories or interesting snippets coming, by emailing them to Rhonda at [rwflowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rwflowers@optusnet.com.au).

#### **What’s on - Upcoming events:**

**Parramatta & District Historical Society Inc.** Heritage Festival, **18<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017**. There will be “Walks” \$10 pp and “Talks” \$5 pp. To see more details, visit the National Trust website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw/>

**Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group - Hill End Family History Weekend 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. Delve into the Group’s resources to find links to the area’s gold mining past; Explore the many cultures and events; Participate in workshops; Learn about the Chinese miners and Experience a multicultural dinner on Saturday night. See the full program on the Group’s website [www.heatgg.org.au](http://www.heatgg.org.au)

**Woodford Academy Exhibition - A 2017 Australian Heritage Event: “If These Walls Could Speak” – Heritage, Art, Poetry, 15<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 10am-4pm.** Museum Entry & Exhibition Adults \$6, Concession/Child \$4, Family \$15. Guided Tours \$2 pp

#### **Blue Mountains Snippets 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917**

**EASTER ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS** - It is estimated that there were 30,000 passengers carried to the mountains towns by train and as the Railway Commissioners had provided a special holiday service the huge crowd was handled by the department with both expedition and comfort. At Katoomba and Leura accommodation was all taken up. At Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Wentworth Falls the towns were overrun by visitors and Lawson, Hazelbrook, Woodford, Faulconbridge and Springwood were also visited by many persons from the metropolis. On Sunday and Monday inconvenience was caused at Blackheath by a bread shortage but puddings and scones and cakes were requisitioned to sate the hunger of the holidaymakers. A fall of snow on Good Friday created much excitement but sleet and rain following spoil the effect.

**TROVE** Evening News, Tues. 10 April 1917.

**Interesting Websites:** Captain Cook Society for anyone interested in anything to do with Captain Cook and his journeys with additional links to other sites regarding Captain Cook [www.captaincooksociety.com](http://www.captaincooksociety.com); The Australian Women’s Register, an initiative of The National Foundation of Australian Women in conjunction with The University of Melbourne, many items of interest to be found here [www.womenaustralia.info](http://www.womenaustralia.info); An interest in Newcastle - Newcastle’s Cultural Collections website Living Histories @ UON <http://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/>; Most members know this site but for new members a look at RootsWeb – the Internet’s oldest and largest Free genealogical community with searchable databases, websites, mailing lists, message boards and much more [home.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://home.rootsweb.ancestry.com)