



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 9th August, 2013

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains
Federal Member for Macquarie
State Member for The Blue Mountains

Office Bearers

President

Audrey King

V-President

Joan Edwards

Secretary

Yvonne Wright

Treasurer & Research

Ian Kendall

Committee

Colin Brest

Kate Doyle

Pauline Gibson

Pixie Hallinan

Pauline Hincksmann

Ann Raaphorst

Alison Tissington

Public Officer

Joan Edwards

Coordinators

Explorers' Tree

Editor: Audrey King

Layout/publisher: John Arnold

Proof reader Ian Kendall

Other Publishing

Joan Edwards

Membership Secretary

Ann Raaphorst

Members' Interest &

Indexing

Joan Edwards

Web Master

Ian Kendall

Librarians

Pauline Hincksmann

Alison Tissington

Library Roster

Pauline Hincksmann

Publicity

Pauline Gibson

Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to this month's meeting of the Society. Last month's guest speaker, Kaye Vernon, gave an interesting insight into the effect the Irish famine had on one particular part of Ireland, Skibbereen, West Cork by way of a DVD Kaye had recorded with Denny O'Sullivan, Curator of the Skibbereen Famine Cemetery. Kaye then went on to talk about orphaned children in the 19th Century and in particular in Australia. It was surprising to hear how people had advertised in the newspapers for the purchase and sale of children and to learn of "baby farming".

Today's guest speaker is Lorraine Purcell from the Hill End Historical Society. Lorraine's talk will be on the Pioneers of Hill End

Next meeting: This will be held at 10am on the 13th September 2013 in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Our guest speaker will be Lorraine Turtle from Turtle Consolidated Services, Transcription Agents.

Items of Interest to Members:

Publishing:

The 5th Magazine Index (2011-2012) has now been completed by Joan Edwards and is now edited and has been printed.

Explorers' Tree:

Items are now required for the next Explorers' Tree. Audrey King advised that while she has a number of short articles, there is a need for some longer articles for the next edition.

Missing Magazine:

The Society's copy of **Inside History No. 14** is missing. Could members please check to see whether they may have the missing copy?

Christmas Party:

Would any member who would like to attend this Christmas Party to be held at the Lawson Hotel on Friday, 13th December 2013 but who have not indicated this please write their name on the list on the Treasurer's table. This is necessary to confirm our booking and give an indication of the number who will be attending. The meal will consist of a buffet with meat and baked vegetables, dessert, bread rolls, tea and coffee. The cost will be \$25.00.

State Records Kingswood Open Day - 30th August 2013. At last month's meeting six members indicated they were interested in attending this day - all were drivers. Since then State Records have put its Programme online and members were able to book for the sessions they would like to attend. Could those members please indicate on the list at today's meeting what time their session commences so that lifts can be organised for any non-drivers. As this is the last meeting before the Open Day it will have to be organised by phone or email.

Family History Month:

As mentioned at the July meeting and in the last Newsletter, August is Family History Month and our Society in conjunction with the Blue Mountains Library, will be holding an "Introduction to Family History Resources" throughout the month in Springwood Library. Volunteers from the Society will be giving a free one-hour overview of the resources available to assist with research. These sessions will take place at 10am and 11am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays commencing on Tuesday 6th August through to Thursday 29th August. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. There will also be a Family History display set up in the Library.

Chichester Wills:

The jurisdiction of the Consistory Court of Chichester extended over the whole of the Archdeaconry of Chichester and that embraced the western part of Sussex.

The index to over 22,000 Wills recorded in the Court that covers the period 1482–1800 can now be searched in the National Wills Index. This index was originally published in 1915 as British Record Society Volume 49 and includes the *names* of testator / testatrix, *place*, often *occupation* and *document reference*, which will help locate the original document at West Sussex Record Office in Chichester.

The [National Wills Index](#) managed by *British Origins* is the largest online resource for pre-1858 English probate material, containing indexes, abstracts and source documents and, more importantly for readers, most of this material is not available anywhere else online.

News from SAG: NSW Law Almanacs

Do you have legal professionals in your family history? If they practised in New South Wales, you can now search and view the complete collection [NSW Law Almanacs](#) which date from 1886. The almanacs have been catalogued by year and are fully searchable. You can view the almanac on the site or download the entire pdf of an almanac for viewing offline. Information available about individual legal

practitioners includes their date of admission, firm name and address.

Melbourne Cemeteries The [Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust](#) is made up of 20 cemeteries and memorial parks in the north, east and west of Melbourne. Their [Deceased Search](#) page provides researchers with the ability to search the records of the majority of these cemeteries and memorial parks.

Although each cemetery is listed individually, clicking on the Deceased Search link will allow you to search across all cemeteries or to refine your search to just a single cemetery. Cemeteries available to search include Altona Memorial Park, Emerald Cemetery, Burwood Cemetery, Lilydale Lawn cemetery, Werribee Cemetery, Williamstown Cemetery and many others

What's on in Family History:

Scottish House Genealogy: Interest Group for Beginners **Saturday August 17, 2-4.30pm** at Scottish House Australia, 62 Railway Pde, Granville. Cost \$10 bottomless tea and coffee. Limited numbers must book. Contact Moyna 4232 1912 or moyna34@tadaust.org.au

Wyong Family History Group Seminar, Saturday 17th August 2013 to be held at RSL Club Wyong, cost \$20. Speakers Dr Tanya Evans (Macquarie University/Benevolent Society); Bill Hoyles (Barnardo's) and Ann Howard (historian/Barnardo's connections). Phone 4351 2211 Tues & Thurs 10am-3pm or email secwfhg2@westnet.com.au

Ben Hall Festival Raid Weekend – 27th-29th September 2013: Bathurst will be marking the 150th Anniversary of the Ben Hall Raid of 1863. This raid saw some far reaching effects that changed people's lives and the Government of the day. The weekend festival will have numerous activities over the three days including; re-enactments, talks, tours, historic bushranging and colonial displays and memorabilia, book launches.

Websites: **Bower Bird's Nest** a collection of historical, phantasmagorical, and allegorical links <http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/bowerbird.html>; **Queensland Cemetery Records** <http://www.interment.net/aus/qld/>; **Links** a collection of family history links <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~donegal/family/flinks.htm>; **Free Settler or Felon** <http://www.jenwillets.com/index.htm>; **Middlesex Maps** <http://homepages.gold.ac.uk/genuki/MDX/maps.html#Henley>; **Irish Convicts to NSW** <http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/convicts.htm>