



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 14th August, 2015

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WELCOME to all our members and any visitors to today's meeting.

Today's guest speaker is John Low. Before his retirement John worked in the Blue Mountains Library at Springwood in Local Studies. John is a well-known historian of the Blue Mountains. John's topic today will be "Tracking Corporal Brackenrig Through Colonial NSW". Brackenrig was the corporal who established the Springwood Military Depot in 1815.

Norma Thorburn from St Marys & District Historical Society was our last month's guest speaker. Norma gave a very informative talk about the early beginnings of St Marys, the land grants and some of the well-known identities out of the pages of our early history.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 11th September 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

September Guest Speaker: It is hoped Fiona Parise will be available to give a talk on Nancy Wake. As Fiona is currently overseas this cannot be confirmed, however, failing Fiona another interesting speaker will be enlisted.

Committee Meeting: The Committee met on Friday 24th June, 2015 and held the following discussions:

2015 Seminar: Saturday 15th August.

Those members who plan to attend the seminar but who have not yet paid could you please see Ian today.

Catering: Thank you to all the members who volunteered to help on the day and for those members offering to provide cakes and slices. Without the help of our members the day would not be the success we hope it will be. "Thank you".

Cakes and slices: Could those members providing cakes and slices endeavour to deliver them to the hall between **8.45am** and **9am** on the day, thank you.

Decorating the Hall: Terry has managed to obtain a number of flags from the Leura Progress Association and we thank them for their assistance. Hopefully the flags will add a bit of colour to the day.

Setting up of the Hall: As there is a function on in the hall on the Friday evening before our seminar, it is not possible to set up chairs, tables, etc the afternoon before. Members of the committee will be arriving at the hall at 7.30am on the day of the Seminar. Any member who would like to assist with the setting up would be quite welcome to join them.

Seminar bags: Ian has purchased a number of plastic envelopes to be used as Seminar bags and handed out to those people registering on the day. It is proposed to fill these envelopes after today's meeting with bookmarks, pads, biro, research information etc. If members can spare some time after the meeting to help with this task it will be most appreciated.

Raffle: Ann Raaphorst is in charge of our Seminar raffle. First prize is a lovely Afghan rug made by one of our members, Ivy Wells. Second prize is a gift certificate for any online course from a choice of over 200 courses from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. Raffle tickets go on sale today. If you are not attending the Seminar perhaps you might like to support the Society by buying a raffle ticket.

Family History Month: As mentioned last Newsletter the Society will be assisting the public and interested members at Springwood Library during Family History Month for “A Taste of Family History”. It will be for a week commencing **Monday 17th August to Saturday 18th August 2015** from 10am to 1pm with the exception of Tuesday and Thursday, please see below for details. The roster is as follows: Colin Brest and Margaret Chapman **Monday 17th**; Ian Kendall and Jan Koperberg **Tuesday 18th**; Don Graham **Wednesday 19th**; Ian Kendall and Margaret Chapman **Thursday 20th**; Jan Koperberg and Colin Brest **Friday 21st** and Don Graham **Saturday 22nd**. On the days Ian is rostered on he will be conducting two sessions, one commencing at **11am to 12noon**: a tutorial on using our resources, then from **1pm to 2pm**: a tutorial on using the fiche machine. As the numbers for Ian’s sessions will need to be kept fairly small it will be necessary to book if you are interested in either session. Bookings will be taken at today’s meeting.

The Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards: These Awards will be presented by Vicki Edmunds, Librarian, at our September meeting.

Reminder Explorers’ Tree: New stories are now required for the October edition of the Explorers’ Tree. Anyone interested in submitting an article, the cut off date is the middle of September.

Christmas Party: As mentioned in our February Newsletter, as it was such a great success last year, the Society has planned to again hold our Christmas Party at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls. A date has been fixed with the Hotel for Friday 11th December 2015, which would normally be a meeting date. The cost for a two-course sit down luncheon will be \$40.00. Tea and coffee is included in the price except for any specialty coffee e.g. Latte, Cappuccino or coffee obtained at the bar. Expressions of interest will be sought next meeting.

Library News: The following is a list of new books that have been added to our collection in Springwood Library:

The Naval Heritage of Port Stephens - Ian Pfennigworth;

The Second Fleet - Britain’s Grim Convict Armada of 1790 - Michael Flynn;

The Founders of Australia – A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet - Mollie Gruen.

Social Outings: The first of the Society’s Social outings for 2015 will take place sometime in September with a trip to the Penrith Printing Museum. The date and names of members who may be interested in attending will be canvassed at the September meeting.

What’s on:

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

Bathurst Remembers 200 Years of History, 26-27th September 2015 Bicentenary Collectables, Gem and Mineral Exhibition. This two-day event will amass hundreds of feet of historical displays as well as numerous sellers of a great variety of material. Where: Bathurst Showgrounds in the three pavilions as well as outdoors.

It’s a Riot! Parramatta Female Factory. When: Friday 23rd October 2015. Where: Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street, North Parramatta. Free shuttle bus from Parramatta Station or wharf and short walk from Parramatta Leagues Club bus stop. **Entry:** Gold Coin donation. **Events Schedule,** Tours 10.30-11.30am or 2.30-3.30pm (bookings essential); Official Opening 12 pm; Lunch 12-1pm (Bring your own picnic lunch); Keynote speaker 1-2pm Author - Alasdair McGregor, Biographer - Francis Greenway.

Websites: Especially for members who may be new to family research - In Australia the Ryerson Index www.ryersonindex.org/ is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers from the Sydney Gazette of 1803 up to within the last date or two. For free searches in the UK :FreeCEN <http://www.freecen.org.uk/> is part of FreeUKGEN, an initiative aimed at helping make high quality primary (or near-primary) records of relevance to UK genealogy conveniently and freely available online, in a coherent, easy to access and search, information retrieval system. Other projects associated with the FreeUKGEN initiative are FreeBMD and FreeREG.

Websites: Unfit for publication <http://www.unfitforpublication.org.au/>; Early Days of Windsor <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks13/1302241h.html>; Blue Mountains Local Studies <http://bmlocalstudies.blogspot.com.au/>; Springwood Historians – History on the Web <http://springwoodhistorians.blogspot.com.au/>; Annandale on the Web <http://www.ramin.com.au/annandale/story1.shtml>; Macquarie University Law School – Colonial Law Cases http://www.law.mq.edu.au/research/colonial_case_law/colonial_cases/less_developed/colonial_inquests/new_south_wales_inquests/1831insw/; Monument Australia <http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/>; The history of Immigration to Australia <http://panique.com.au/trishansoz/people/peoplehi.html>; Victoria Museum – A quick guide to passenger lists on the internet <http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/infosheets/passenger-lists-on-the-internet/>