



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 11th December, 2015

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State Member for The Blue Mountains

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WELCOME to today's Christmas Party. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since our last wonderful Christmas Party - how the time flies when you're a family historian.

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT 2016.

The AGM: Last month's meeting was a huge success with many of our members attending. At the AGM Yvonne Wright was nominated to the position of President for the second year as was Colin Brest the Secretary. Currently there is no Vice-President. Ian Kendall was unanimously elected from the floor as our Treasurer. As Ann Raaphorst had resigned from the committee Anne Devrell has stepped into the breach. We welcome Anne and any ideas she may bring to the committee. We also say a big "thank you" to Ann Raaphorst for the great job she did while on the committee, especially in her role as Membership Secretary and looking after our raffles.

Following the formalities of the general meeting and the AGM, it was then time for those members present to enjoy the delicious morning tea provided by the committee, to chat and enjoy the wonderful display of family history items that members had brought along. It is amazing what some people have had passed down to them from their ancestors.

Next General Meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, **12th February 2016** commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Committee Meeting: There will be no committee meeting this month. The committee will meet again in January when decisions will be made as to what roles members will take.

Member's fees reminder:

A reminder membership fees are due 1st January 2016. Fees for single membership - \$30.00; \$40.00 per couple plus \$7.50 for postage of Explorers' Tree if required.

Explorers' Tree: The next edition of our Explorers' Tree which will come out in March will be **Number 100**. As this will be a milestone in our Society with plans to make this a special event, Rhonda is hoping to be inundated with members' articles.

Christmas Raffle: Tickets for the picture of a lovely embroidered medieval lady worked by Carolyn Kendall went on sale at the November meeting. If you missed out then, it is not too late, as they will be on sale at our Christmas Party with the winning ticket drawn at the end of the festivities.

Library volunteering:

A reminder that volunteers in Springwood Library will finish up on the 17th December for the Christmas break and recommence again the beginning of February. Thank you to all the volunteers for the great job you do in helping our members and members of the public who drop into the Library for some help.

Newsletter 2016 Reminder: As mentioned in the November Newsletter, due to the high cost of printer ink. Commencing February, members who receive the Newsletter by email, will be requested not to take a hard copy at meetings as only a small amount will be printed for those members not on the internet and for placement in Springwood Library.

Things to do in the summer break for family research and social history research:

Google to see if there is a **Family History or Historical Society** with research rooms where some of your ancestors may have lived and perhaps pay them a visit. Most Society's with their own home have wonderful records.

Visit the **National Archives of Australia**, 120 Miller Road, Chester Hill, 9am-4.30pm Wed-Fri, closed public holidays. View original records, get advice on research with staff. Find out what's on: Naa.gov.au/visit-us/events

Visit the **State Library** <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au> in Macquarie Street, Sydney with its great wealth of family research material including the St Catherine's Births, Marriages and Deaths records for England and Wales from 1837. If you discover the registration details of a family member, you can apply online to General Register Office <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content> for your Certificate at a cost of roughly 9GBP 25p. While there you can visit the current exhibition and displays that can be found on the 1st floor. There is also a lot of research than can be found in the adjoining **Mitchell Library**.

While in Macquarie Street: Find out more about the history of our convicts with a visit to the **Hyde Park Barracks Museum** <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/hyde-park-barracks-museum>;

The Reserve Bank Museum 65 Macquarie Street http://www.rba.gov.au/Museum/index_static.html

History House 133 Macquarie Street for research www.rahs.org.au

Just behind Macquarie Street is **the Justice & Police Museum**, Corner Albert and Phillip Streets, Circular Quay, Sydney, NSW 2000. Step into the dark side of Sydney's past with a visit to the Water Police station and courts that once made up one of the city's busiest legal hubs. Crooks and cops, thugs and judges. <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/justice-police-museum/visit#fc-7> open Sat. and Sundays 10am-5pm.

Visit the **Museum of Sydney** cnr Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney. The Museum of Sydney is built on and around a site that links us to the very beginnings of modern Australia. Here in 1788 on the ancient land of the Gadigal people, Governor Arthur Phillip built Government House. In this house and its later additions, the first nine governors of NSW lived and worked <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/museum-sydney/visit>.

While in this area take a walk around **The Rocks** and see what has been uncovered during archaeological digs. In this vicinity you will also find the **Garrison Church Museum**. This museum is part Holy Trinity, Garrison Church the first military settlement with maps. The military section shows memorabilia from Boer War to Gulf War inclusive. Sydney's early history photos of people and places. Inclusive is first Prime Minister who attended this hall when it was a Parish School, as well as Cedric Immanuel prints, paintings of Rocks, maps of early Sydney, medal, WW2 uniforms, etc. Garrison Gallery, Historical & Military Museum address: 60 Lower Fort Street, Millers Point NSW 2000, Australia.

While in Sydney you can visit the **Society of Genealogists** <http://www.sag.org.au/visiting-us.html> at 379 Kent Street, Sydney where you can spend an interesting day doing research. The cost for the day is \$20.00. There is a lunch room where you can take and eat your lunch and make tea or coffee.

If you prefer not to travel too far, a visit to the **State Records** at 143 O'Connell Street Kingswood will provide you with a wealth of information including convict, immigration and criminal records, probate documents, hotel licenses, etc. <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>. Research is free and there is a room where you can take and eat your lunch and make tea or coffee. **You don't drive!** There are buses from Penrith Station that stop across the road from State Records and picks up outside State Records for the return journey. Numbers 770, 775 & 776.

A recent talk given by the ex-Registrar of **Scotlands People**, Duncan Macniven, recommended for Scottish research a visit to their website www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/.

He also recommended a visit to the **National Library of Scotland** www.nls.uk/; **Scotlands Places** www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/; **Edina** a website where you can find Statistical Records of Scottish towns <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/> and **Am Baile - Highland History & Culture** www.ambaile.org.uk/

Websites: A website worth exploring www.finderscave.com The Global Social History Project, Preserve, Validate, Discover; Beyond 1914 The University of Sydney and The Great War. This is an extensive, searchable database of biographies and archival information about members of the University Community involved in the First World War <http://beyond1914.sydney.edu.au/>; a site for surnames, meaning and statistics <http://forebears.io/surnames>