



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

# Newsletter

DATE 14th January 2014

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### Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

WELCOME members to the Society's first meeting of the New Year and which also happens to be St Valentine's Day.

Today's guest speaker is Joy Ware sharing her book "Altnachree: An Irish castle, a family and a man with a passion".

**Next meeting:** The next general meeting of the Society will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at **10am on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. The guest speaker for that meeting will be Bob Maynard who will present a talk on the 1842 UK Royal Commission into the Employment of Women and Children in the Mines.

### **Items of Interest to Members:**

At the committee meeting on the January 2014 the following was discussed:

What to do with one's research and photos? How best to preserve them? In April our guest speaker will be Lorraine Purcell, who was our guest speaker last year talking about historical Hill End. This time Lorraine will speak on the importance of getting all the family history research out of the shoebox (or computer) and into some form of sharable resource, for future generations. This will be followed up with a general discussion on ways to preserve our research at the May meeting.

We are instituting a 'mentoring' system to help members with their research and involving members, who may be able to offer help to others in a field of research of which they have a particular knowledge. A mentoring form to this effect will be available at today's meeting and for download.

As mentioned in the December Newsletter a Suggestion Box will be available at today's and subsequent meetings for members' input such as, whether or not social outings should recommence; whether you want a guest speaker at our monthly meetings or whether you would like a more hands on approach to family history research and in what way, etc.

At the December committee meeting it was suggested that the Society approach Bunnings Valley Heights with a view to holding a sausage sizzle to generate some money for the Society. This has been investigated but was found not to be a viable venture - a cake stall in Springwood later in the year was thought to be more preferable.

**Raffle** - For those members who were not present at the Christmas Party the raffle of the lovely watercolour painting by Pat Carruthers was won by Ann Raaphorst's daughter, Mitzi Raaphorst.

**Fees** - A reminder that membership fees are now due, \$30.00 for single membership and \$40.00 per couple. Members have up until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 to pay their fees before they become unfinancial.

### Positions vacant:

\*The Society is in need of a representative for the NSW/ACT Association as we are about to lose our current representative, Suzanne Voytas who was also Vice President of the Association. Suzanne has resigned this position as she and her husband will be leaving the Blue Mountains in the very near future and making their way down south. Being a representative involves attending 3 meetings throughout the year that are held at Botany Bay. Lunch is included, lunch at 12.30 and then the meeting from 1-3.30, culminating in attending the State Conference wherever this may be held each year. One meeting has already been held this year, the other two before the State Conference being held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and in May either Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Any member who may be interested in filling this position or finding out more details, please see Audrey.

\*The Society would also like to have another member on the committee, if at all possible. This is not a very onerous position and simply requires attendance once a month, usually on the fourth Friday and is held in the small room at the back of the hall from where our meetings are held. The meetings go for about 2 hours and commence at 10am. Here the committee discusses ways to improve how the Society is run, guest speakers, ways to help members further their research, etc. All input and ideas are listened to and discussed. New people usually bring fresh ideas.

\*New Book announcement: The Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society have recently published the first volume of a book in which the entries of Baptisms, Marriages Burials have been transcribed for the period 1861-1902 St Stephens Church, Kurrajong. They have also included some history on the four churches of St Stephens Parish involved at that time and of the ministers involved at that time. The book "St Stephens Church Kurrajong - Parish Registers 1861-1902" is priced at \$27.00. Interested members can visit the Historical Society at <http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au/>

\*"Heritage" an online Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Cultural Heritage Organisation Inc. This is a very interesting e-publication containing many historical snippets. Any member who may be interested in receiving a copy please email [johnnanette@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnnanette@optusnet.com.au) for inclusion in their mailing list.

### Access to records

January is a good time to check if new records have been made accessible to researchers. For example the National Archives of Australia releases previously embargoed records at the beginning of each year when the 30 year closed period expires. ScotlandsPeople has a similar program releasing birth, death and marriage records. Trove has also added new papers, visit Trove to check this.

**Lionel Philip Tomlinson:** Findmypast are looking for descendants of this Irish man who died in India in 1897. The search has been launched following the discovery of a box containing the man's photographs in a Queensland tip, which were passed to the expert hands of Findmypast.com.au researchers. Findmypast delved into their new 2.5 million British in India records to determine the man's identity as - Lionel Philip Tomlinson. Now they are calling on the Australian public to help locate Mr Tomlinson's living descendants and reunite these important pieces of family heritage with them. Anyone with information on the family is urged to contact Findmypast.com.au so these memories can be kept preserved. For further information visit [www.findmypast.com.au](http://www.findmypast.com.au)

### What's on:

**Penrith City Council and Library's 2014 History Conference** "Makings of a City: Building a Nation – From Cox to Campaigns. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Cost \$40 which includes conference pack, tea & coffee on arrival, lunch, morning & afternoon tea. For details visit: [www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Makings-of-a-City-History-Conference/](http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Makings-of-a-City-History-Conference/)

**100 Years of Wedding Dresses at Everglades 1880-1980.** Where: Leura Golf Club, 1 Sublime Point Road, Leura; When: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 2pm. Cost \$35 or \$30 National Trust Members includes afternoon tea. Bookings essential contact Anita McIlwrath 4784 1974 or Birgitta Sandstrom 0448 219 254.

**Sculpture at Scenic World** The exhibition is open 7 days a week from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and will include 35 artworks from international, national and local artists within the natural splendour of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains.

**Websites:** Find and Connect: History & Information about Australian orphanages, Children's Homes and other institutions <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>; Royal Historical Society eNewsletter <http://login.brandmail.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1086550&a=35148&k=9f2d58f>. An interesting Irish Newsletter – Kilmainham Tales <http://kilmainhamtales.ie/>; State Library of South Australia for South Australian almanacs and directories ranging in date from 1864 to 1959 <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/FHservice>; Royal Australian Navy Lists <http://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/navy-list> 1900s-1980s

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