



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 10th February, 2017

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Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

WELCOME BACK to all our members and hoping you all had a good break and are looking forward to an interesting year with the Society. We welcome a new member, Geoffrey Connolly, and hope he finds being a member of our Society enjoyable and beneficial to his research.

First Meeting in 2017: As mentioned in our last Newsletter from this meeting onwards our general meetings will now be held in the small hall opposite where we previously met. While this hall is quite small it does have a kitchen attached for our morning teas and the Society now has the benefit of only paying \$50 a month in lieu of \$80, which gives an overall saving of \$300 p.a.

Today's Guest Speaker is Jo Henwood, is a member of the NSW Dickens Society and also the Australian Bronte Association. Jo will be giving a talk on the Macarthur/King family. Jo is a member of the Australian Storytellers Association and has several lectures coming up next month as the WEA in Sydney.

Next month's meeting: Will be held at **10am on 10th March 2017** in the small hall of the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Next month's guest speaker: John Howells from the Lancer Barracks Museum will be our guest speaker. John has kindly offered to look up for members any ancestors who may have been in the Boer War, the Light Horse WWI or the First Armoured Regiment WWII. If any member has an ancestor in any of these categories could you please give details to one of the committee at today's meeting or email Pauline p_gibson@ozemail.com.

Committee Meeting: The committee met on the 27th January 2017. As it was the first committee meeting since the AGM there was a lot to discuss, as follows:

30th Birthday Celebration: It was agreed by all the members of the committee that our 30th Birthday Celebration combined with our AGM was a great success. Trish Doyle our local State Member for the Blue Mountains visited on the day after attending a Remembrance Day celebration. Trish was very personable and circulated amongst our member. Trish enjoyed her visit so much that she mentioned our Society and also our journal "The Explorers' Tree" when she next attended Parliament.

Christmas Party: 26 members attended the Society's Christmas party at Wentworth Falls. The committee felt those who attended enjoyed the food, the entertainment provided by Ian and that it was a lovely end to the year.

Memories of a Special Woman in My Life - The Book: There are still copies of this book available and Ian will be taking these to the February meeting in case there are any members who would be interested in purchasing a copy.

Library Roster: Brian will no longer be looking after the Library roster and Ian has agreed to perform this task. We thank Brian for all his time and efforts in this regard as it is not an easy thing to co-ordinate and can be quite frustrating at times. "Thank you Brian."

Raffle: Thank you to all members who our supported our Christmas raffle which made \$63.00. For those not at the Christmas Party, the lucky winner was Lynne Tocher.

Street Stall: Due to the large amount of items in our storage facility it was decided that a stall would be held in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, 18th February, 2017** from 8am to 1pm. As the Society still has quite a lot of items left over from our last garage sale which were kindly donated by our members we won't be calling on members for extra items to sell.

Sale Table: As our table of items for sale has been quite successful in making a little money for the Society, the committee agreed it is still worthwhile carrying on with this table. Starting with our February meeting, if members have any unwanted items they wish to part with, at this or any of our monthly meetings, they would be well received. If you are able to put a price on the item, it would be appreciated.

Raffles: It was decided that the Society would hold a raffle every two months commencing in March.

2017 Seminar: Ideas were discussed at the committee meeting concerning our proposed seminar on **Saturday, 9th September 2017**. As the large Presbyterian Hall is no longer available to the Society, Colin has made a tentative booking to hire the hall at the Baptist Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Some members may remember that this venue has been used before and it has proved most satisfactory as regards the size of the hall and the kitchen provided.

The topic proposed is "Settling the Blue Mountains" and we will be looking at finding speakers on topics such as "Rail in the Mountains", "Early days in our Mountain villages", etc.

Any of our members who have any ideas on what topics would be suitable for this seminar or with regard to entertainment please see any of the committee members, all ideas are worth considering.

Member's fees reminder: Membership fees are now due. Fees for single membership - \$30.00; \$40.00 per couple plus \$7.50 for postage of The Explorers' Tree if required.

The Explorers' Tree: The first edition of The Explorer's Tree for 2017 will be available at the March meeting.

What's on - Upcoming events:

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum "Trains, Trams & Model Ts, Showcasing transport in the 1920s" in conjunction with The Roaring 20s and All that Jazz Festival – Saturday **February 25th** and Sunday **26th 2017**.

The 53 National Gem & Mineral Show "GEMBOREE 2017" **Friday 14th-Monday 17th April 2017** to be held at Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow.

Glenbrook & District Historical Society walk – Glenbrook Lagoon Precinct – the first water supply for the 1867 railway **Saturday, March 11th 2017**. For information contact Doug Knowles 4751 3275.

There are times when the editor is stuck for items of interest to fill the Newsletter. This is one of those times so here is a poem found on Facebook on Ancestry UK, which is a site a number of our members belong to:

Genealogy Gems

My dishes are piled high in the sink
The dust in my bedroom would drive you to drink
Now what is the reason for all of this mess?
I have an addiction; I have to confess.

I have a disease and there is no cure
It's called "Genealogy" what is the lure?
It's finding the kin that I have never known
Who knows, maybe one of them ruled from a throne.

I'm searching for ancestors, living and dead
To get information, I'd stand on my head
I plod through old graveyards to look for my kin
With all of these tombstones where shall I begin?

I go to the archives and search every tome
And get so involved I forget to go home
My family keeps wondering where I can be
While I keep looking for my family tree.

But don't try to cure me, I like the disease
Don't try to reform me, it won't be a breeze
I'll keep on researching 'til I cease to be
And then my descendants can research "ME".

Australian Genealogy Blogs

- Australian Genealogy Journeys <<http://ausgenjourneys.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Diary of an Australian Genealogist - Shauna Hicks <<https://diaryofanaustriangenealogist.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Genealogy Blog Finder | Australia & New Zealand Blogs <http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/australia_nz.asp>
- GeniAus - Popular Australian genealogy blogger, Jill Ball. <<http://geniaus.blogspot.com.au/>>
- Unlock the Past - Australian Genealogy & History Blogs - Links to several Australian blogs. <<http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/australian-genealogy-history-blogs>>

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