



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 9th February, 2018

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2018 a new year starts -WELCOME back all our members and any visitors we might have at this, the Society's first meeting for the year.

Not having found a guest speaker for today's meeting, Ian has kindly offered to give a talk on hints and tips to help with your research. Along this line, if any of our members have a hint or tip to pass on at the meeting they are welcome to add theirs to any hint or tip that Ian might have.

Next meeting: The t meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **9th March 2018 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church. Currently there is no guest speaker.

The Committee met for the first time since our October meeting on Friday, 2nd February 2018 to discuss ideas, etc. for the coming year.

*One of the first things on the Agenda was our December Christmas Party and everyone on the committee was unanimous in agreeing that it was a huge success both as to venue and staff, food and bon homie. The raffle which was drawn at the party was won by Trish Brown and it raised \$130 which was a very pleasing result.

*It was decided, subject to availability with the Church, to hold a street stall on Friday, 16th March in the grounds of the Church. While there still some unsold items from a previous garage sale being held in our storage unit more items are welcome if members have anything they wish to contribute. These can either be brought to the March meeting or brought to the stall on the day.

*Our fund raiser for the year will be another High Tea with a slightly different topic "Weddings". You will be invited to write the story of a wedding in your family history with a photo or photos, if you have any. The wedding you choose might have been an unusual wedding; a comedy of errors might have occurred, or it might just a regular wedding, the choice is yours. As with the last High Tea, if you would like to, you can personally present it to the audience on the day. Ian will again produce a booklet of your stories and these will be offered for sale.

*As it is difficult to find guest speakers who are happy to come to the Blue Mountains to give a talk for a short duration, discussions were held as to how to make our meetings, without a guest speaker, interesting.

One suggestion was the topic "Six Degrees of Separation" where members could give an account of an example of this they have discovered when researching their family history – e.g. ancestors from both maternal and paternal sides who at one time lived down the road or next door to one another.

"Places of Importance in our Family History". As family history is not just about names on a family tree but also about how and where our ancestors lived, another suggestion - and this could be an ongoing topic - is to ask members where their ancestors lived, be it in a suburb of Sydney or a country town, and research the history of the area. In the course of research, it often turns out that our ancestors have rubbed shoulders at one time. It was discovered at the committee meeting that some branches of Ian, Ann and Pauline's families lived (Continued over page)

in the Mudgee and Sofala areas. If any members have old photos of the area being researched, these could then be shown on the day of the meeting when that particular area is being discussed. Someone might also have an anecdote they might like to mention.

These are just ideas at the moment and members are invited to let the committee know at our meetings, ways in which your research can be enhanced this year.

Raffles - it is proposed to again commence our bi-monthly raffles. There will be no raffle in February. If any member has an item they would like to offer for our first raffle could it be brought along to our February meeting.

Trade table - Once again our trade will be operational, so any unwanted items can be brought to our meetings, starting with our first meeting of the year. Anything left over from this and our March meeting could be kept for our street stall.

Sandwich Board - Our Sandwich Board advertising our meetings while they are in progress has arrived and will be in front of the Church for our first meeting.

Springwood Library - Ian's talk on Family History in Springwood Library which was to be held on 1st February unfortunately had to be cancelled but is rescheduled for 10.30 am Thursday, 1st March. Bookings are essential through the Library.

Research Enquiries?

*Ian has received an enquiry from someone looking for **Lyn Fuller** who was last known to live at 100 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls.

*Linda Smee is looking for further information on her gt-grandfather **Benjamin Roberts** who built the Alameda Hotel in Lawson (later the Grand Hotel which burnt down). She does have some information on him but feels there is more to discover.

* Katoomba Cemetery – looking for a photo of the headstone of **Leslie Bailey** who died in 1970 buried Katoomba Methodist KME2 Row 5 Plot 28. Possibly a WW1 Soldier from Terang, Victoria. Enquirer: Margaret McIntosh.

***John William Davey** and his wife, maiden name **McGuire** lived in Katoomba in 1954. They may have had a child. Enquirer: Shirley Devlin.

If any member has any information regarding these enquiries could you please advise Ian, thank you.

What's On:

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum, Trains, Trams & Model Ts, "Showcasing transport in the 1920s" **Sunday, 11th February 2018**. For more information, visit valleyheightsrailmuseum.info.

Item of Interest:

Port Macquarie – Bicentenary celebrations to be held in **September 2018**:

Lieutenant John Oxley, Naval Officer with the British Navy, Surveyor and Explorer.

This year marks 200 years since John Oxley and his team of 15 explorers traversed the mountains from the west and surveyed the Port Macquarie-Hastings area for early European settlement. On 28 May 1818, Oxley led an expedition from Bathurst and followed the Macquarie River until it disappeared into 'an ocean of reeds' (Macquarie marshes). From the 6 July Oxley's party proceeded north-east until they discovered the Castlereagh River, then turning east they found the rich Liverpool Plains, reached and named the Peel River (named in honour of Sir Robert Peel, an important British politician at the time of the discovery), crossed the southern part of the New England Range near Walcha, found the Hastings River and followed it to its estuary which was named Port Macquarie.

In 1821 the township of Port Macquarie was established as a penal settlement.

Tamworth which was also established in 1818 following the crossing of the Peel River and the discovery of the Peel Valley will also be holding bicentennial celebrations this year.

Lieutenant Oxley, was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales in 1824, he died at Kirkham, near Camden, on May 25, 1828. More on this and other historical people can be found on the Australian Biographical Dictionary.

Websites: <http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/> - this site is a free site with lots to offer including BMDs and Census; <http://www.happyhaggis.co.uk/online.htm> - another free site with a range of resources; <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history> - although it's the National Records office for Scotland it has lots of good links.