



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2015

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Pauline Gibson

### Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

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

**Today's guest speaker** is Norma Thorburn a Past President but now Treasurer of St Marys & District Historical Society. Today Norma will talk on the history of St Marys and its surrounds.

Madison Thompson, from St Columba's High School was our June Guest Speaker. Madison gave a wonderful talk and our members were most impressed with her presentation. Unfortunately due to computer incompatibility Madison was not able to show the photos she had prepared to go with her talk.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

**August Guest Speaker:** John Lowe, a well-known identity in the Blue Mountains will be our guest speaker.

**Committee Meeting:** The Committee met on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 and held the following discussions:

### **2015 Seminar: Saturday 15th August.**

By now members will have received flyers for the seminar and bookings are now being taken.

**Advertising:** Colin has done a great job by way of advertising the seminar sending flyers to various family history groups, historical groups, libraries, etc. most of these being in the localities not too distant from the Mountains as well as in the AFTC Magazine.

**Entertainment:** Terry has managed to find our after lunch time entertainment. We will now be entertained by the Valley School of Highland Dancing for a short time after lunch. "Well done Terry".

**Catering:** The number of volunteers to help with the catering has now increased to seven. Thank you all those members for offering. A meeting will be held after today's meeting to sort out our catering requirements.

**Cakes and slices needed:** Could any member who is willing to make either cakes and slices for the morning tea and lunch time dessert, please write your name and what you propose to cook on the list provided near Ann Raaphorst. All offers will be greatly appreciated.

**Decorating the Hall:** To give some added interest to the seminar the committee proposes to decorate the hall with flags from various countries. Any member with the flag of another country, who would like to offer it for use on the day, please see Colin or Terry.

**Family History Month:** A date has now been set for the Society's assistance to members of the public in Springwood Library during Family History Month. Entitled "A Taste of Family History" the committee chose the week commencing **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015**. There will be volunteers in attendance of the whole week from 10am to 1pm with the exception being Tuesday and Thursday. On these days Ian 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 our August meeting.

The Society is also hoping to organize a Family History Display in the Library.

**Farewelled:** At the June meeting our departing members, Pauline and Bob Hincksman were farewelled and presented with a card and the gift of a bottle of Champagne together with the Society's thanks and well wishes for health and happiness in their new home.

**Position vacant:** With the loss of Bob Hincksman the Society is in need of an IT person for the Society's computers in the Library. This requires managing the computers, updating passwords, adding software, etc. Any interested member, please contact our Treasurer, Ian Kendall.

Ann Krasny has stepped in to assist in the Library with Alison Tissington, "thank you Ann".

#### **The Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards:**

Vicki Edmunds, Librarian has now decided on these Awards for 2014. Vicki was very impressed with the calibre of the articles. These two Awards will be presented, possibly at our August meeting or, if not, before the AGM, with the special mention of a highly commended to another of our members.

**Explorers' Tree:** New stories are now required for the October edition of the Explorers' Tree. Now is the time for all budding authors to come to the aid of the magazine. Rhonda looks forward to being inundated with articles. One suggestion Rhonda had at May meeting was to write a story about your favourite ancestor.

**Liverpool Family History Society** have produced a small booklet, "Our Liverpool Boys" and have kindly sent the Society five copies. The booklet contains stories and photos of the young men from the Liverpool area who went as soldiers to the Great War. The Society has retained one copy for the Library, the remaining four copies will be available at our July meeting for members' perusal and a copy offered to any member who may have a family connection in the book.

#### **What's on:**

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

**William Cox Historical Festival and Open Day** at the **Arms of Australia Museum** cnr Great Western Highway and Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains, **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 9am-3pm**. There will be a plaque unveiling at **11am**. A great day is planned with entertainment and activities for young and old. Admission is free.

**Linnwood Historic House Open Day** 25 Byron Road, Guildford, **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 11am-4pm** – Admission \$3 children under 5 free. American Independent's Car Display, Trash n'Treasure plus much more.

**Mechanics' Institutes** were educational establishments, originally formed to provide adult education particularly in technical subjects, to workingmen. They were often funded by local industrialists on the grounds that they would ultimately benefit from having more knowledgeable and skilled employees. The Mechanics' Institutes were used as 'libraries' for the adult working class, and provided them with an alternative pastime to gambling and drinking in pubs. While the first Mechanics' Institute started in Scotland in 1827 the first one in Australia opened in Hobart, Tasmania in 1827 followed by Sydney in 1833.

Wikipedia has a website on the Mechanics' Institute with a list of existing and historical Mechanics Institutes. By visiting the Wikipedia site and any of the Mechanics' Institutes listed thereon you may gain an insight into the social history of a particular area

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics'\\_Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics'_Institute).

**Websites:** UK Genealogy Common Acronyms and Jargon <http://www.oz.net/~markhow/acronym-uk.htm>

Aussie Heritage <http://www.aussieheritage.com.au/listings/nsw/Kingsgrove/MoorfieldsMethodistCemetery/5949>;

Ryerson Index – search Death Notices & Obituaries in Australia <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswsdps/dpsindex.htm>;

UK Historical Directories <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4>;

London Cemeteries – some with searchable databases <http://www.londoncemeteries.co.uk>;

Aust Govt – Convict sites particular interest Pt 2 <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/about/convict-sites.html>;

Queensland Government Convict Database <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts>;

Convict Creations - <http://www.convictcreations.com/index.htm>;

Historic NSW Railway Stations <https://nswrailwaystations.wordpress.com/nswhrsi-newsletters/>

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