



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 8th July, 2016

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WELCOME members and any visitors to today's meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. Our guest speaker today is Stephen Ford. Stephen will be talking about the Land & Property Information where he is a researcher. He plans to present a case study of a property in the Springwood area to demonstrate what can be researched.

Last month's speaker, Greg Clancy, gave a very interesting talk entitled "Hitler's Lost Spy" concerning Annette Wagner, a Swiss-born Nazi spy and a woman of many talents. From her arrival in Australia in 1938 to broadcasting her own radio programmes a way of transmitting coded messages, to becoming an authority on women's fashions, to being involved in taking aerial photographs of parts of the New South Wales coastline before her final expulsion from Australia just prior to the commencement of WWII.

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

Guest speaker for August meeting: Babette Smith mediator, conciliator, dispute resolution consultant and the author of a number of historical books such as *A Cargo of Women*, *Susannah Watson and the convicts of the Princess Royal*, *A Cargo of Women* the novel, *Australia's Birth Stain* and in 2014 *The Luck of the Irish*.

Committee Meeting: The members of the committee met on Friday, **24th July 2016** and the following was discussed:

The Explorers' Tree Magazine: The June copy of the Explorers' Tree will be available at today's meeting. Anyone unable to attend the meeting will be able to collect their copy of the Magazine from the expander file in the Society's area of Springwood Library.

Coolgardie and Bob Howard Awards: Vicki Edmunds, the Springwood Librarian, has confirmed that she will be available to present these Awards at today's meeting.

Family History Month: As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, August commences Family History Month and our Society will again attend Springwood Library to promote family history for the week **1st-5th August** from **10am-1pm**. Volunteers so far are - **Monday 1st August:** Colin Brest; **Tuesday 2nd August:** Ian Kendall; **Wednesday 3rd August:** Yvonne Wright; **Thursday 4th August:** Ian Kendall; **Friday 5th August:** At this point there is no volunteer. Anyone who would like to fill this spot please see Yvonne or Colin.

Wednesday 3rd August Gail Davis, from State Records will give a presentation on **Researching Family History Records at State Records**.

Memories of a Special Woman in My Life - The Book: Ian is still accepting stories for this book if anyone is interested in either contributing their first story or an additional story with photos if available.

Social Outings:

9 people attend the Mount Victoria outing on Tuesday 14th June. Six members and 3 non-members. They visited the Museum at Mount Victoria Station which everyone found extremely interesting. The volunteer on duty advised that he had worked in the Dining/Tea rooms at the station in his youth, in the days when three course meals were to be quickly provided for the passengers who alighted the train, on their way to the Jenolan Caves and that he eventually became the manager.

The group then walked to the Imperial Hotel, and enjoyed tea, coffee and a chat before being taken to the Dining room for a tasty lunch.

After lunch, the group walked up to St. Peter's Anglican Church - dedicated in 1871; returning along the GWH to Selsdon St., a side street, in order to reach Montgomery Street, and visited the Larsen's cottages, which was associated with Henry Lawson, the poet. (Berghofer and his friend H.G. Rienitz, a school-teacher, shared an enthusiasm for education and for the mountain climate. They both bought investment property in Mount Victoria around the same time in the 1880s and wished to capitalise on the growing tourist trade and its attendant services). Berghofer, like Rienitz, built cottages for leasing in Montgomery Street: the semi-detached cottages known locally as Larsen's Cottages, were built for Berghofer and probably constructed by Larsen. Neils (Peter) Larsen was Henry Lawson's father and it is said that Henry Lawson himself did some of the painting.

Travelling east, along Montgomery Street the group passed the Fire Station, and the Manor House, once owned and erected in the late 1870's by J.R. Fairfax (S.M.H.) on the most commanding point at Mount Victoria. The Manor House is still a magnificent, rambling edifice constructed on solid stone foundations, embellished architecturally with cedar fittings. Sympathetic restoration has retained its impressive qualities.

After an enjoyable social outing the group caught the 2.50 pm train back down the Mountains.

Next Social Outing: Ann Krasny, our social outing organiser, will be overseas for the next few months so the next social outing will not be until October.

Fund Raising Table: A reminder to bring any unwanted items books, cds, dvds, bric-a-brac along to our general meeting to sell on behalf of the Society.

Garage Sale: This year's garage sale will be held in November at Pauline's home, 64 White Cross Road, Winmalee. Any items brought to our general meeting and not sold can be held over for the garage sale.

What's On:

Valley Heights Railmotor Tours: Sunday 17th July 2016 Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum in conjunction with State Mine Railway & Lachlan Valley Railway are hosting railmotor tours from Lithgow and Penrith. Ride the 2km of steam tramway and enjoy the fabulous exhibits including the 57 class loco and fully restored "Caves Express" RBR carriage. A sausage sizzle and cafeteria will be available on site. From Lithgow departs Lithgow at 8.45am return 6.15pm. Departs Katoomba at 9.35am and returns at 5.15pm. Return fares are: Adult \$55.00 Child \$45.00. Book online at www.stateminerailway.com.au.

From Penrith departs Penrith at 12 noon and returns at 3pm. Return fares are Adult \$35.00 Child \$25.00. Book online at www.lvr.com.au

These fares include entry into the museum and rides on the steam railway.

175 Years - Anniversary Commemoration. St Peter's Richmond (1841-2016), Sunday **24th July 2016. 11.30am** Historical Displays and Food Stalls. **2pm** Celebration Service in the Church.

Open House at Historic Linwood, 25 Byron Road, Guildford, Sunday 10th July 2016, 11.00 am-4.00pm Admission \$3.00, American Independence Car Display; Arts & Crafts Stalls, City of Holroyd Brass Band, Sausage Sizzle.

NSW State Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Historic WWI exhibition after 100 years. For the first time in almost 100 years an extraordinary series of hand-coloured First World War photographs will be on public display from **25th June 2016** until **21st August 2016**. The free exhibition – Colour in Darkness: Images from the First World War – showcases over 150 unique photographs.

Interesting Web site: Websites for Indigenous research • STATE RECORDS NSW: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/resources-for/indigenous-people/> Indigenous-communities • ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS NSW FAMILY RECORDS UNIT: <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/about/family-records-unit/> • STATE LIBRARY OF NSW INDIGENOUS SERVICES UNIT: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/indigenous/index.html> • INFOKOORI: <http://li1084/searchbrary.sl.nsw.gov.au/> • AIATSIS: <http://aiatsis.gov.au/> (Dawn magazine here) • LINK-UP NSW: <http://www.linkupnsw.org.au/> • STOLEN GENERATIONS TESTIMONIES: <http://www.stolengenerationstestimonies.com/> • FIND AND CONNECT: <http://findandconnect.gov.au/> TROVE: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> (digitised newspapers)
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