



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

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### Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

**Welcome to our June meeting:** We do not have a guest speaker at this meeting, instead we will have Vicki Edmunds from BMCC Library to present the *Bob Howard Award* and the *Coolgardie-Safe Award* for the best entries in their categories for *Explorers' Tree* in 2016. Our President, Yvonne, will explain both awards and Jan Koperberg will have the Shields on hand to see the names of the past winners. Our esteemed editor of *Explorers' Tree*, Rhonda, has prepared a handout which everyone will receive further explaining the role of our Journal and presenting ideas everyone should consider as she encourages EVERYONE to submit an article.

Joan Edwards and Ian Kendall will then speak about our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsFamilyHistorySociety/>

Our page, published by Facebook, is an important part of the Society's outreach to the community and is well used by many others. It is however, not well used by our members and can be a vital link in our cooperation with all members. Joan and Ian will address your concerns with privacy as well as the general functioning of the many facets of our page.

**Guest Speaker for May meeting was:** Trish Skehan, who is a bit of a regular and interesting speaker, gave a talk on her book "A Gleam of Gold" and what went on at the Northern Goldfields, particularly at Stewart's Brook. It was about floods, fire, famine, murder and mayhem. To use Trish's words "It's a WOW of a story". In my words, I was, "Spellbound!"

Following Trish's talk, the Society purchased the ten books in the series on the Northern Goldfields written by Trish and these will be available in our library when accessioned.

**Guest Speaker for July meeting will be:** Vicki Wilson. Vicki is well known to members and she will be speaking about being a Wigmaker. Wigmaking, although still important in the theatre and for medical applications, was very important in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as most men and women wore wigs, especially powdered to keep the "nits at bay". We look forward to Vicki's presentation.

**Biennial BMFHS Seminar: 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**, Springwood Baptist Church. Planning is well underway with negotiations for a fourth speaker occurring. Our seminar this year has a very local flavour with much about the history of the Blue Mountains and the settlers at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The Committee have also organised an excellent entertainer following the sumptuous lunch. Make sure you have this date pencilled in your diary.

### **2017 Association Family History Conference-Orange: 22-24 Sept 2017**

With the theme of Your Family Story: Telling, Recording and Preserving an exciting program of speakers and workshops will explore the many ways of relating the story to your ancestors.

The Conference will be held in the city's centrally located cultural precinct with complementary exhibitions planned for the adjoining Library, Museum and Gallery. There will be some tours on offer and another really big cultural experience in the offing! Including the Conference Dinner 6:30pm Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Conference Website: <https://yourfamilystoryinorange.wordpress.com/>



**EXPLORERS' TREE:** The June Edition of *Explorers' Tree* will be distributed at the June meeting, posted to those who have paid for postage and available in the concertina folder on the bottom shelf in the Springwood Library for those not at the meeting. This issue is a great read with lots of interesting articles. Thank you to those who contributed and thanks to Rhonda and her team for the editing and composition. Contributions for the October edition are most welcome.

**BMFHS Library:** New Additions to the Library

- Canberra's First School House, "A social history of Canberra's first School now St John's School House Museum 1845 – 1986" – Hope HEWITT – Ref B/5/8, CAN BOOK 1
- Canberra Collection – P.A. SELTH – Ref B/5/8 – CAN BOOK 2
- On the Record – A practical guide to Oral History – Paul ASHTON – Ref A1, ONT QUARTO 1
- Dorsetshire Map – Ref N/1, DOR FOLIO 1
- Old Map of Middlesex 1610 – Ref, N1, OLD QUARTO 1
- A Patchwork Heritage, Thirteen Australian Families – Sally WHITE – Ref A6, PAT BOOK 1
- The Hawkesbury Scene – Stan STEVENS – Ref B/5/1, HAW FOLIO 1
- Tracing your family history – Marijke ALDERSON – Ref L1, TRA BOOK 1

**Society Outings:** According to Ann, our Outings Organiser a very successful excursion to Blackheath was held on Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> May with visits to quite a few places of interest both historical and of general interest, including a very social lunch.

Ann is organising a visit to ABC Studios (\$9 & \$8 conc.) but requires a minimum of 6 people to make this trip worthwhile and definite commitments are required.

**Family History Month:** AUGUST is once again Family History Month and the Society will once again take part in activities to celebrate Family History. If you have suggestions for any activities, please let Yvonne or any Committee member know.

**Tarella Cottage Museum:** 'Delicate' - an exhibition of exceptional Laces and Trims - a variety of very pretty and interesting items made from lace, including ladies collars and cuffs. This is also a rare opportunity for you to have a close look at a collection of silk lace lengths that we believe Geoffrey McLaughlin sent home from Malta in 1915. Please come along on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>, between 10am and 4pm to Tarella Cottage Museum. Only \$5 entry to the Blue Mountains History Centre. We also have a cafe where you can enjoy a 'cuppa'.

**WHAT'S ON:**

**Wunderkammer:** 10<sup>th</sup> Jun 2017 to 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017

Everglades Historic House & Gardens will provoke and challenge environmental change by opening its closet to a secret stash of exotic animals in June. The Wunderkammer exhibition of ethically-sourced taxidermied animals by artist Rod McRae will be displayed at the Leura landmark from June 10<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August, 11am to 3pm daily.

**Pansy Line Tour:** Join the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society as they take the Pansy Line Tour on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017. WALK ALONG as they explore the remnants of the Richmond to Kurrajong Railway 1926-1952. With the railway gone for so long, it is getting difficult to find many remnants but our experienced local guides will show you what there is, much of which is on private property and not normally accessible. Coaches depart from Richmond and the tour includes lunch in Kurrajong. Some walking would be involved. Pansy Walking the line in 2017 Bookings are essential. Details and bookings are to be found on their website, <http://www.kurrajonghistory.org.au/> Or contact David on 02 4567 7993. Costs are: Adults \$35, Seniors \$30 and children \$25

**Glenbrook & District Historical Society:**

Sat, 10<sup>th</sup> June - Walk: "The Mountains Murders" – Captain Lee Weller's murder site and Grave – Contact Doug Knowles 4751 3275

**Royal Australian Historical Society Conference 2017**

The RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee announces that their next conference will be held at Cowra, in the Central West of NSW, on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2107. The venue will be at the Cowra Services Club, 101 Brisbane Street, Cowra.

**Blue Mountains Association of Cultural and Heritage Organisations (BMACHO)** Biannual Conference 2018 Save the date! BMACHO has scheduled its 2018 Conference a year out, and knows that last year's Conference at Mt Victoria "Artefact" will be a hard act to follow. The date is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and a theme has yet to be determined.

**A Convict in the Family?** Blue Mountains Cultural Centre every day until Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jun 2017. Details: Was your ancestor transported for a pittance? A Convict in the Family? Showcases the rich, large-scale photographs of Mine Konakci – a travelling exhibition from Sydney Living Museums.

**WELSH FAMILY HISTORY – Online**

Welsh Genealogy – <http://www.welshgenealogy.net> Genuki – <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/> National Library of Wales – <https://www.llgc.org.uk/> Archifau Cymru – <https://archives.wales/> People's Collection Wales – <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/> Bangor Uni Library – <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/library/> Names – <http://uk-surnames.com/Wales/surnames.php> Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology – <http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>