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WELCOME to our second meeting for 2016. Today we welcome Susan Boyer, Author. Susan has written more than twenty books in the educational field. She has a great interest and passion in Australian History and produced her first book on this topic in 2011 "People in Australia's Past – their stories, their Achievements". Today we can look forward to an interesting talk based on her latest book "Across Great Divides".

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, 8th April 2016 commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Guest speaker for April meeting: Margaret Riley from the State Library. Topic: Identifying photographs; Photography and Fashions

Committee Meeting: The members of the committee met on Friday, 26th February and the following was discussed:

The Explorers' Tree Magazine: The March edition of the Explorers' Tree will be available at March meeting. This is rather an exciting edition as it is the 100th edition produced by the Society, the first copy was printed in January 1987.

Members will also receive a reprinted copy of Issue No 1 at the meeting but within a modern cover and in A5 style (The original was A4 with a dark red front and back cover) and Numbered Issue 100 Commemorative Extra. This has been prepared by our Treasurer, Ian. "Thank you Ian" for undertaking this time consuming work.

There would be no 100th edition of the Explorers' Tree, of course, without the stories contributed by our members, "thank you all", so keep those stories coming in and keep Rhonda our editor happy.

High Tea: The High Tea as outlined by Yvonne at the February meeting was discussed by the committee and it looks as though it will be a very exciting event.

The Hall has been booked for **14th May 2016**. As an afternoon event would be preferable, the time of **2pm** was decided.

As well as providing a High Tea, part of the afternoon's entertainment will be the reading of stories that participants in the day have written on the topic "**Memories of a Special Woman in My Life**". Yvonne had put forward a number of topics and this was the one most favoured by the committee. The story should be no more than one page and if there is an accompanying photo so much the better as it is planned to make up a booklet from the stories and sell at around \$10.00 each. Should anyone not wish to read their story, Yvonne has offered to do this.

As the committee is hoping to make some money for the Society, as well as producing an interesting and entertaining afternoon, it was thought that the Hall could comfortably hold around 50-60 people. **\$25.00** was thought to be a reasonable amount to charge considering the cost of catering and the \$125 to be paid to the Church for hire of the Hall.

Cont'd over

High Tea cont'd: An attractive invitation will be prepared and sent out by email to our members and to local Societies. Bookings will be essential.

Members will not be asked to contribute to the catering this time. Cakes will be obtained from catering suppliers and members of the committee will prepare the sandwiches. Special needs will also be catered. Of course if any member wishes to help in this regard, no offer will be refused. Members will, however, be asked if they could supply china cups, saucers and small plates and teapots if they have any sitting in their cupboards (gathering dust!). It will be necessary though to form a small committee, mostly for help on the day.

Newsletter 2016 Reminder: As mentioned in the November Newsletter, due to the high cost of printer ink members who receive the Newsletter by email, will be requested not to take a hard copy at meetings as only a small amount will be printed for those members not on the internet and for placement in Springwood Library.

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

Social Outing: The first 2016 social outing is a visit to the *Penrith Museum of Printing* which is situated next to the Penrith Paceway, opposite the Stadium, on Thursday, 21st April commencing at 11am. Members should meet at around 10.45 at the Museum. Buses from Springwood that will take you to the Paceway. Ann will provide a list at Friday's meeting for those members wishing to attend. Anyone requiring a lift can see Ann. Tour takes 1-1 ½ hours, the cost is \$3.00 if 10 members attend but will be more if there are less than 10 members. There is a minimum charge of \$30 per tour. There is a bistro/pizza café at the nearby Paceway where we could have lunch afterwards.

New books in Library: Our Librarian, Ann, has supplied a list of the books that have now been accessioned and are now in the Library:

Isaac Barrow Blue Mts Map Maker – Brian Fox.

The Plantagenet Encyclopaedia – Elizabeth Hallam.

Tasmania Country Link 15th Edition – UBD Street and Travel Directory.

Cox's Road Dreaming Guide Book – Bathurst Regional Council.

The Romance of the Rosewarne's - Gillian Rosewarne
Port Arthur the Australian Convict Experience – Port Arthur Historic Site.

Queensland Frontier – Glenville Pike.

New Books in Library continued:

Nepean History – The Stories Behind a Unique Treasure – Nepean News.

Treasures of Penrith's Past Exhibition – Penrith City Council.

The Place of Waters, A Story of Glenelg's First 50 Years – Dulcie M Perry.

Leaving their mark, The Borrondara (Kew) Cemetery – Friends of the Cemetery.

Our Yesterday's – Australia life since 1853 in Photographs – Irma and Cyril Pearl.

The Evidence to the Bigge Reports Vol. 1 and 2 – John Ritchie.

The Last Frontier – Cape York Peninsula Wilderness – Glenville Pike.

What's on:

*New Miss Fisher Murder exhibition. Venue Old Government House, Parramatta Park, Cnr Pitt and Macquarie Streets, Parramatta NSW. Dates from 15 Mar to 19 Jun 2016. Adult \$21.50, Child \$11.50 (5-15yrs), Concession \$19.50, Family \$51.50.

*Glenbrook Historical Society walks:

March 26th - 9.00am. "The Descent to the West" Mt. York: Three short return walks on the three most historic roads to the West, Cox's Pass 1815, Lawsons Road 1822 and the newest, Berghofer's Pass 1909. Includes morning tea: Special Walk: \$12.00

April 9th - 1.30pm. "Bull's Creek" Railway relics: - Stone dam and site. Adults: \$8.00 ea. Children under 16yrs. Free - but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. (No dogs please.) Bookings are essential:

Phone Doug. on 4751 3275 for details re meeting place, time and grade of walk. Good walking shoes are essential. Please bring a hat and drinking water. Note: Bad weather on the day, excessive wind and rain could cause cancellation due to hazardous conditions.

*Hawkesbury Regional Museum: new exhibition called Interesting Objects: 60 years of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Collection. The museum is located at 2 Baker Street, Windsor and is open Wednesday – Monday, 10am-4pm. 4560 4655.

*Back to St Bartholomew's Day - 16th April 2016 9am-3pm. St Bartholomew's Church - its hidden secrets revealed. Ponds Road, Prospect. \$6.00 per person.

News from Victoria: Victorian BDMs: Indexes now free! The Victorian BDM indexes which previously cost 99 cents per page to view, are now free.

Fund raising: There will be a number of unwanted items on sale at today's meeting brought in by committee members. Hopefully members will participate in this fund raising activity at future meetings.

Websites: Interested in Medieval Terms <http://hemyockcastle.co.uk/index.html5>;

Prospect Heritage Trust www.prospectheritagetrust.org.au; Riverstone and District Historical Society

<http://www.riverstonehistoricalsociety.org.au/>; Findmypast 1939 Census now available www.findmypast.com.au;

Scottish sites - Scotlands People www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, a one-stop shop for all historic records; National

Records of Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk; Scotland BDM Exchange www.setbdm.com