



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 9 May 2014

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WELCOME members to the Society's fourth meeting of 2014.

MAY meeting: Will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at **10:00 am** on **9 May 2014**. There will be no guest speaker for this meeting as members of the committee will expand on Lorraine's talk of preserving our family history research and photos with an open discussion on, "**How Can I Preserve my Family History for Posterity**".

JUNE Meeting: The June meeting will be held on Friday, 13th June 2014 at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at 10:00 am. The guest speaker will be **Steve Rawling AM**, President of the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society. He is currently undertaking research in Heritage listings of the Kurrajong district. Steve is also a musical entertainer having written and performed songs to recount the history of the Kurrajong Comleroy district recounting the exploits of the bushrangers and the building of the Bells Line of Road.

JULY Meeting: Ian Palmer from the First Fleeters will be our speaker at the July meeting.

ITEMS of Interest to Members: The committee last met on Friday, 28th March. (The April meeting was scheduled for ANZAC Day so an online/email forum was used). Items under discussion were:

BI-ANNUAL Seminar: Our next Seminar will be held in 2015 and planning has begun. Discussion of a possible theme has taken place with ideas for Multicultural Emigration and Family History, and Celtic Family History being two possible topics. Other suggestions are welcome. Also offers of Seminar Committee and Coordinator are encouraged.

MENTORING & Suggestion Box: As mentioned in the previous Newsletters the Society has started a mentoring system to assist our members in their research. Members are encouraged to visit the Society's website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs> in order to download and complete a mentoring form if they feel they would be able to render research assistance on a specific area or topic to other members of the Society.

Also don't forget our **Suggestion Box**. Keep those suggestions coming in!

RAFFLES: The book that was recently raffled raised \$79 plus \$2 donation. Pat Carruthers has given us another beautiful painting, of an old house, which she has put in a gold frame with a dark green mount. We need some suggestions as to how, when and where it should be raffled. This is really a beautiful piece of art and beautifully framed and should be used to raise a significant amount of funds for our Society.

KEY areas of research interest: Members are being asked to take the time to write down any areas of research they require assistance and brought to the attention of a Committee member for discussion as to what avenues of help might be available.

NEWS

*Mitchell Library

The State Library has a new model for future layout and services in the Mitchell Library. Many members had expressed concerns about changes implemented last December and these have now been fully addressed. Under the revised plan readers will continue to read and work in the large Mitchell Library Reading Room. The current special collections area inside the large Mitchell Library Reading Room will be extended for access to the Library's original materials, related reference books and the card catalogues for manuscripts and Mitchell printed books. For more info, the plan and to make a comment, http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/projects/mitchell_division_review/index.html

*Blue Book Now Digitised

Are you aware that the Blue Book aka Public Service List has been digitised and is available at <https://www.opengov.nsw.gov.au/search>. Just type 'Blue Book' into the search field. It can be viewed online or downloaded. The volumes seem to start with the Blue Book for 1872.

WHAT'S ON

***227th Anniversary of the Sailing of the First Fleet from Portsmouth Friday, 16 May 2014** – Lord Mayor's Reception Room – Sydney Town Hall 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

The Chairman – Richard Tanner & Members of the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee invite you and your guests to celebrate the 227th Anniversary of the Sailing of First Fleet from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787.

Guest of Honour & Keynote Speaker: Professor Barbara Santich 'Edible Encounters: First Fleeters and Native Ingredients'. For bookings – go to <http://login.brandmail.com.au/download/files/35148/2158126/2014.Invitation.pdf>

***The Sulman family in the Blue Mountains, Friday, 16 May 2014** – Emeritus Professor David Carment will be guest speaker at the Springwood Historical Society general meeting and will speak about his family, who attended Woodford Academy and who lived in 'Kihilla' at Lawson. Contact Dick Morony richardmorony@optusnet.com.au. The Springwood Historical Society meets in the large Presbyterian Church Hall, Springwood and the meetings start at 10:00 am.

*Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum

Sunday, 25 May and Sunday, 8 June 2014 – Open days. Contact atmuseum@optusnet.com.au or visit the museum either of these days at Tusculum Road, Valley Heights.

What's on cont'd:

***Bathurst Heritage Week from 9 to 18 May**, a joint initiative of Bathurst Regional Council, Bathurst branch of the National Trust, Bathurst Heritage Network, Bathurst Family History Group, and Bathurst District Historical Society. The week includes History Mystery bus tours, guided walking tours in the Central Heritage Area, Cemetery tours, open houses, the 199th Bathurst Proclamation Day, Museums open days and exhibit talks.

***Special walk by Doug Knowles, from Glenbrook & District Historical Society, Sunday 25 May 2014 at 10:00 am.** History 'Walk and Talk' – 'The Great Western Railway - 1867 Lapstone Hill Zig Zag and Knapsack Gully Viaduct'. Also see some of the later improvements - Lapstone Tunnel access 1892 and the 'Down refuge siding' 1909. Adults \$10.00 and children free. Bookings essential - phone Doug on 4751 3275. This walk follows Doug Knowles' presentation 'Lapstone Hill: the First Challenge' at the Blue Mountains History Conference, to be held on Saturday 10 May 2014.

***Walk Glenbrook Lagoon Precinct, Saturday, 31 May 2014** – Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Phone for bookings – Doug 4751 3275 or Tim 4739 2384. There is a charge.

*National Family History Month

National Family History Month is August this year. Find out what is on in your area by logging on to www.familyhistorymonth.org.au

***Some Hawkesbury Journeys, Wednesday, 14 May 10:00-11:45am** Getting to the Hawkesbury was not always as simple of catching the 10.05 from Central or zipping along the M7. Local Studies Librarian, Michelle Nichols, presents an insight into the life experiences of local inhabitants during their journeys to the Hawkesbury. Hawkesbury Family History Group Meeting, Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre. FREE - no need to book.

***Celebrating John Tebbutt (1834-1916), Thursday, 22 May 6:30-8:00 pm**, Renowned astronomer Fred Watson will talk about his recent book and connections with local astronomer John Tebbutt. Tebbutt Room, Central Library. FREE - bookings essential, numbers limited. Phone 4560 4460

***Blogging For Family Historians, Tuesday, 27 May 6:30-8:00 pm** - Learn the benefits of blogs in family history research. Discover how to set up a blog and make a post with Local Studies Librarian, Michelle Nichols. Charles Harpur Room, Central Library. \$10.00 - bookings essential, numbers limited, Phone: 4560 4460.

WEBSITES: There are now a number of websites in Australia that contain historical images. Here are a few: -
The National Archives of Australia has 343986 photographs in its Photosearch section – <http://photos.naa.gov.au/>
The Australian War Memorial has over 800,000 photos - <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/photographs/>
The National Library of Australia photographic collection - <https://www.nla.gov.au/what-we-collect/pictures>
Historic Photographs Australia (paid commercial site) - <http://www.historicphotographs.com.au/>
New South Wales State Records Photo Investigator - <http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au/asp/photosearch/>

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