



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

### Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains  
Federal Member for Macquarie  
State Member for The Blue Mountains

### Office Bearers

#### President

Yvonne Wright

#### V-President

Colin Brest

#### Secretary

Colin Brest

### Treasurer & Research

Ian Kendall

### Committee

Pauline Gibson

Ann Krasny

Ann Raaphorst

### Public Officer

Joan Edwards

### Coordinators

#### Explorers' Tree

Editor: Rhonda Flowers

Layout/publishing:

John Arnold

Proof reader Ian Kendall

### Membership Secretary

Ann Raaphorst

### Members' Interest &

#### Indexing

Joan Edwards

#### Web Master

Ian Kendall

#### Librarians

Pauline Hinckman

Alison Tissington

### Library Roster

Brian Meagher

#### Publicity

Pauline Gibson

### Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

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

What a wonderful display of War Memorabilia we had at our April meeting. Thank you all those members who participated, everyone appeared to enjoy browsing the display. Our Guest Speaker last month was Mr Joe Elkush who gave a very interesting talk about the first Australian to be killed in WWI. Mr Elkush kindly stepped in as guest speaker at the last minute when the advertised guest speaker could not attend.

**Today's guest speaker** is Cathy Jones who works for Strathfield Heritage Organisation. Cathy will be giving a talk about Strathfield including information on the Arnotts Biscuit family. Strathfield Heritage website <http://strathfieldheritage.org/abo> (an extremely interesting website to visit)

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

**June Guest Speaker:** We are hoping that Madison Thompson, from St Columba's High School will be our guest speaker. Madison won a trip to Gallipoli and London for Armistice Day 2014 with her essay on "Why is WWI Important to Australians".

**Explorers' Tree Awards:** The Bob Howard Award, which is presented for the best family research article and the Coolgardie Safe Award that is for the best "other" article, are presented annually to members who have written stories for publication in the Explorers' Tree. Recipients of the Awards also have their name inscribed on a trophy that is kept in Springwood Library. Unfortunately for some unknown reason these Awards have not been presented for the years 2013 and 2014 but this has now been rectified with the presentation of the 2013 Awards at our last meeting.

The Bob Howard Award Certificate was presented by Vicky Edmunds from Blue Mountains City Library to Joan Edwards for her article "Identifying Great Grandfather, William Dawson 1810-1895."

The Coolgardie Safe Award for 2013 was won by Jan Balfour who sadly passed away in September 2014. Her Award has been posthumously presented to her family.

Vicky is currently perusing the 2014 articles and it is hoped that the Awards for these articles will be presented before the end of the year.

**A reminder:** Any member contributing a story to the Magazine is a potential winner for either the Bob Howard Award or the Coolgardie Safe Award. Rhonda is looking for stories for the next issue and members have until the end of May to get their articles in.

**Committee Meeting:** The Committee met on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April and held the following discussions.

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

The Society now has three definite guest speakers for our Seminar they are:

1. Ray Thorburn from Kiama Family History. Ray will be our first speaker of the day. His talk will be about colonial immigration from 1830s to 1850s.
2. Our second speaker is Gail from State Records Kingswood. Gail will be covering the period of free immigration from 1845 to 1900 which is when their records end.

3. Fiona from the National Archives of Australia will be our third speaker. Fiona's talk will be on immigration from when NAA records commence until around 1960.

4. The final speaker whom we have not yet formalised, will be speaking on immigration following the Second World War up until the present day.

There may be some overlapping with the years but this is not seen as a problem.

The talks of each of these speakers will contain where they came from, why they came, what influences brought them here and perhaps, in the case of the last speaker, how they fared in their new country of adoption.

**Catering:** Last seminar we were spoilt with Pauline Hincksman taking on the responsibility of the catering but Pauline will be leaving us soon as she and Bob are planning a sea change. Accordingly we need to call on members who may be willing to form a committee to help with organizing the catering for day i.e. various salads, purchasing of chickens, cakes for morning tea etc. as well as kitchen rosters. If you would like to help please see any of the committee.

**Street Stall:** As planned our Street Stall went ahead last Saturday as, at 7am when the decision was made to hold the stall, the sun was making an effort to appear. The morning didn't start too badly with only a few showers after we had set up. Colin managed to get a canopy from **Colourart Springwood** that protected most of our sale items. Unfortunately around 12noon down came the rain in buckets full and we were forced to pack up. All was not lost as we made \$547.40 on the day, \$111.10 of that amount came from the auction of the chainsaw kindly donated by Janet Knight and won by Richard Russell. A big **"Thank you"** to those members who helped on the day and to all those members who donated goods and brought cakes and plants. A "thank you" also goes to Colourart Springwood for the use of their canopy. Any members shopping for art supplies might remember Colourart's kindness to the Society.

#### **The Woodford War Memorial - Update.**

The Sunset Service at the Woodford War Memorial was spoilt by a massive hail Storm that blanketed the area with a deep covering of hail. Thanks to the Woodford Academy's offer of the use of their largest room, the ceremony was held indoors. For those not able to squeeze inside, the service was relayed on loudspeakers outside. In all, about 150 people attended the ceremony that included a 92-year-old WW2 Veteran whose name appears on the Memorial. Two Scottish pipers played before and after the ceremony. Following the service many of those present braved the cold and mud and walked to the Memorial for the laying of flowers and wreaths guided by torchlight provided by members of Woodford Rural Fire Service, who did a wonderful job on the day.

#### **What's On:**

**\*Tench Luncheon, Saturday 20th June 2015**, 12 noon at Nepean Rowing Club. Guest speaker Margaret Fowler who will be talking about Elizabeth Fowler, Postmistress of Mulgoa 1877-1892. Bookings 4735 4394 email [info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au](mailto:info@armsofaustraliainn.org.au) RSVP before 10<sup>th</sup> June Cost \$30.00.

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

**\*Are you a descendant of a first fletcher? - Inaugural meeting** to form a new chapter in the Nepean/Hawkesbury area to be held in the Tebbutt Room Hawkesbury Library, 300 St, Windsor, **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am.**

For information contact Sharon Lamb 0419 434 776.

**\*Archaeology Open Day, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10am to 4pm** at the Archaeology Workshop, old Council Chambers Building, Station Street, Penrith.

**\*Penrith Regional Gallery, Home Front Exhibition** until **24<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

**\*Liverpool Genealogy Society Inc.,** cnr. Hume Highway & Congressional Drive, Liverpool will be opening their Resource Centre for two nights **20<sup>th</sup> May & 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 6-10pm** for research, librarian assistance available

**News from Trove:** By June 2015 Trove will have uploaded Blue Mountains Newspapers, the earliest being The Mountaineer (1894-1908).

**War Chest Appeal: Socks for the boys** - Coordinated though organisations such as the [Australian Comforts Fund](#), groups formed at community centres such as the Melbourne Town Hall where every day up to 40 women would knit socks, vests, balaclavas and kneepads to parcel up and send to the home front. Thousands of women and schoolchildren knitted throughout the war. Over 1.3 million pairs of socks were sent overseas – often with a small personal note inside the sock informing the digger who had knitted the garment along with a brief message. In Victoria, when demand exceeded supply, bicycle spokes were turned into knitting needles and sold to other states. Knitting provided comfort not only to the men who received the garments but also for the women who knitted. It was a meditative way to pass the time and feel they were contributing to the war effort. So ingrained was the daily activity of knitting while sitting by the radio waiting to hear news from overseas, that some women, in the years after the war had ended, found themselves reaching instinctively for their needles as soon as the radio was turned on. Colin Brest remembers his mother telling him his aunts turned heels of socks while sitting in the movies.

**Sad News:** Members who knew, Betty McGrath, will be sad to hear of her death last month.

**Websites:** [England's Immigrants Database](#) is a fully searchable database of over 64,000 names of people known to have migrated to England during the period 1330 to 1550; Roll of Honour Name Projections <https://www.awm.gov.au/1914-1918/roll-honour-name-projections/>; State Library of NSW <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/> this site is well worth a visit to discover what records they hold.