



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 11th May, 2018

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WELCOME to everyone at today's meeting.

Fred Gooch was the speaker at our last meeting and he held a very captive audience with his talk on Old Government House, the Governors that lived there together with tales of foreign spies and intrigue.

Vicki Edmunds, the Springwood Librarian, presented the Bob Howard Award, the Coolgardie Safe Award and two Highly Commended Certificates for each of those categories at the April meeting. William Beck was presented with the Bob Howard Award and Pauline Gibson was given a Highly Commended Certificate. The Coolgardie Safe Award went to Jo Adam with a Highly Commended Certificate going to Joan Edwards.

Guest Speaker today: Unfortunately there is no guest speaker today but we will be holding a Members' Forum with a general discussion. If you have any questions regarding your research be sure to bring them along and see if they can be answered.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **8th June 2018 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church.

June Guest Speaker: Our member, Anne Devrell who has been a member of the School of Arts for many years will give a talk on this subject with an insight into the history and forming of the School of Arts touching briefly on the Mechanics Institute.

The Committee on Friday 27th April 2018. Again there was not a lot on Agenda the main topic being the High Tea.

High Tea, Saturday 19th May 2018, Christ Church Anglican Church, Springwood, 2pm: Invitations to the High Tea have been sent out to members and other local Societies and an advertisement was placed in the Gazette.

At the time of the committee meeting, the numbers were low but we are hoping for more response from our members and from the advertising of the event. The cost is \$30.

If you are writing an article about "A Wedding" for inclusion in the book Ian is preparing it can be emailed to him with photos, if any, at ike13024@bigpond.net.au or handed to him at this month's meeting.

Remember there is no obligation to write a story or to present it on the day but to come along and enjoy some fun and delicious food.

High Tea Catering: Could those members who wish to volunteer the use of their china for the day and those members who wish to contribute any cakes or slices or generally help in the preparation of food and clearing up afterwards please see or contact Yvonne if you haven't already done so at Friday's meeting. Yvonne's email address is whywrite@dodo.com.au.

High Tea Festivities:

A reminder - As well as presenting your stories or if not, some members may wish to bring along their wedding dress, if they still have it, photos, special

memento or anything you feel might make an interesting display

Member profile: Colin has sent out information on how to write your member profile either in question and answer form or just by writing about yourself and following the guidelines.

The Explorers' Tree: Keep those articles coming in or your member's profile as discussed at the April meeting. Rhonda's email address is rwflowers@optusnet.com.au.

Raffles - Tickets for our first raffle for 2018 kindly donated by Ian are on sale again today and will be drawn today not at our May meeting as previously advised.

If any member has an item they would like to offer for our future raffles could you please let Yvonne or one of the committee know.

Trade table - A reminder to bring along any unwanted items.

What's On:

NSW ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference – 16th September 2018, Batemans Bay Soldiers Club “Sailing into History”. Cost: Full Conference Early Bird by 6th July \$130 or Registration \$150 Registrations close 10th August. See website for full details and registration form – www.sailingintohistory.org.au

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum - Open Days, Sunday 20th May and Sunday 27th May 2018.

Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Walk – Cox's Road, Saturday 26th May 2018. Contact Doug Knowles 4751 3275

Some Family History quotes:

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. – Chinese Proverb.

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking. – Unknown

Genealogy is sometimes about proving that bad family traits came from the other side of the tree!

Snippets:

History of Afternoon and High Teas:

Anna Maria Russell, Duchess of Bedford (1788-1861) is credited as the creator of teatime. Because the noon meal had become skimpier, the Duchess suffered from “a sinking feeling” at about four o'clock in the afternoon. At first the Duchess had her servants sneak her a pot of tea and a few breadstuffs. Adopting the European tea service format, she invited friends to join her for an additional afternoon meal at five o'clock in her rooms at Belvoir Castle. The menu centered around small cakes, bread and butter sandwiches, assorted sweets, and, of course, tea. This summer practice proved so popular the Duchess continued it when she returned to London, sending cards to her friends inviting them to join her for tea. This practice of inviting friends to tea in the afternoon was quickly picked up by other social hostesses.

During the second half of the Victorian Period, known as the Industrial Revolution, working families would return home tired and exhausted. The table would be set with any manner of meats, bread, butter, pickles, cheese and, of course, tea. None of the dainty finger sandwiches, scones and pastries of afternoon tea would have been on the menu. Because it was taken standing up or sitting on tall stools, it was termed “high tea”.

Sydney of Yesteryear: A walk around the streets of Sydney uncovered some interesting old buildings in Kent Street:

Theosophy House a lovely brick four storey building built in 1883 by the Theosophical Society. Founded in 1875 in New York, it has been in existence in Australia since 1895.

The Society has three objects:

1. To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.
2. To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science.
3. To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in the human being.

Alfred Deakin, Australia's second Prime Minister, was a member of the Society as was Professor John Smith, one of the founding professors of The University of Sydney.

Judges House. This beautiful old house was built of the NSW Chief Justice, Judge Dowling. From housing the well-to-do it became a City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen, providing relief to the city's poorest for over 100 years.

Websites: Scottish Website – **Happy Haggis**, Keeping genealogy free since 2002 www.happyhaggis.co.uk;
Top Free Online Marriage Indexes and Databases – ThoughtCo. www.thoughtco.com