



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 10 November 2010

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NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The November General Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held this coming Friday, 12 November 2010. The General Meeting will be at 10.00 a.m. and the AGM will commence at 11.00 a.m., after morning tea.

FEBRUARY MEETING

There will be no December or January general meetings. The second Friday of December is our Christmas party.

February meeting will be on the second Friday of the month and will be a **Brains Trust format**. We will have a small panel at the front of the meeting and questions can be asked from the floor (and answered from the floor, if the panel cannot answer – they won't be experts). One good way of getting your family history questions answered.

March meeting will be a guest speaker. For 2011 we are going to alternate between workshops and guest speakers, rather than have a guest speaker every third meeting.

QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire will be circulated before the February meeting asking members their preferences and/or suggestions for future guest speakers and activities. Some suggestions by the committee were workshops on specific research, e.g. focusing on a particular English county; suggesting specialists; sources; websites, etc. Other suggestions were a "Show and Tell" meeting and NSW and Australian Cemeteries Now & then, i.e. the old ones that still exist, those that have closed down, what has happened to the headstones, caskets; where records are held, etc.

OUTING FOR NOVEMBER

The November outing will be a day out to Macquarie Lighthouse by train, loop bus, river cat, ferry and bus. No tour of the lighthouse has been planned, but the journey should be enjoyable and there is plenty to see at Watsons Bay. Catch the 8.25 a.m. train from Katoomba or 9.06 a.m. from Springwood. Bring your lunch or buy fish and chips at Doyle's take-away on the pier at Watsons Bay. Information booklet \$2.00 to Don Graham. You can still put your name down, if you wish to go. Sheet on Treasurer/Secretary's table on Friday.

October outing to historic Richmond was enjoyed by a small group of members. A number of historic homes were visited, including Hobartville, the former home of William Cox Jnr, now a famous horse stud.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be available again on Friday. 3 for \$2.00 or 8 for \$5.00. Prizes to be drawn at the Christmas Party at Mt Victoria.

THE EXPLORERS' TREE

Please think about writing an article for our magazine. Articles for the next magazine need to be in by 15 February. Please send your articles and photos if you have them, to the editor, Audrey King at apk2777@gmail.com. If you do not have email, please either post them to PO Box 97, Springwood or bring them to the February general meeting. The next Explorers' Tree magazine will be available at the March meeting. You can also send questions to the editor and there will be a new section where the co-ordinators try to answer questions sent in by members.

FOOD MEMORIES AND CHANGES IN EATING HABITS

The scribes have handed in the group notes from the October workshop. Please send your personal notes about food memories, and any photos to Audrey King by the meeting on Friday. Either email, post or hand in at the meeting.

SEMINAR

We have a seminar planned for 9 April 2010 and will be calling for volunteers for the catering, setting up the hall and various other activities, at the February meeting.

ENGLAND/WALES BDMs

Margaret Chapman advises that England/Wales BDMs can be purchased online at GRO. At the moment, they can be purchased for approximately \$15.00 (depends on the exchange rate). Margaret advises that you will normally receive copy certificates within about 4 days.

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

LATEST ON ANCESTRY

Latest on line now on Ancestry New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1796-1942

Free British Military Records available on Ancestry UK. Just log in between the **7th-14th November** and visit www.ancestry.co.uk/military

SANDS SYDNEY DIRECTORY DIGITISATION

The City of Sydney Archives has completed digitisation of three annual volumes of *Sands Sydney Directory* (1868, 1888, and 1918 – out of the whole series 1858-1932)

The web address is www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au then follow the path -> About Sydney -> History and Archives -> Archives -> Catalogues and search tools -> Sands Sydney Directory.

FAIRFAX NEWSPAPERS NOW FREE

<http://newsstore.fairfax.com.au/apps/help/qa.ac?sy=nstor#top>

MORE ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

Now and Then from NSW State Records. To receive by email

http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=nowan&then-enewsletter&loc=en_US

SAG. If you haven't already subscribed to the Society of Australian Genealogists e-newsletter at <http://www.sag.org.au/subscribe-to-our-newsletter.html>, check out their website for activities during November/December at <http://www.sag.org.au>

EVENTS

Saturday, 13 November - Pauline Gibson is related to Daniel Brien who came on the 3rd fleet. A house that was once owned by him has been restored and there is an open day on Saturday, 13th November this year. The house is at Glenwood near Blacktown. In case any members are descended from Daniel Brien or have an interest in visiting the house, have a look at http://www.hht.net.au:80/whats_on/event/free/exeter_farm_open_day

Sun 14 Nov, Sun 28 Nov – Open days at Valley Heights Loco Depot Museum atmuseum@optusnet.com.au

Fri 19 and Sat 20 – UNLOCK THE PAST History & Genealogy Roadshow, 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the North Ryde RSL Community Club – one day \$45.00, two days \$60.00.

This event is open to all. If you pre-book you go into the draw for over \$1800 of prizes for Sydney. If you do not get the chance to pre-book, or wish not to, you can still register on the day.

For more information on the prizes, 12 reasons not to miss this event, the speakers, the program or to book:

<http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/events/history-genealogy-roadshow-australia-new-zealand/sydney>

Saturday, 20 November – Community History Day at Mt Wilson & Mt Irvine Historical Society. Find out more, email westring@bigpond.com

Sunday 21 November – Open Day Turkish Bath Museum, Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Historical Society westring@bigpond.com

Friday, 3 December – School Children Event re-enactment of Gov Macquarie's visit to Kurrajong, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, email frank.holland@bigpond.com

Saturday, 4 December – Meeting: Christmas "Get Together", Blue Mountains Historical Society, email John Low at grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com

DON'T FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party as previously informed, will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Mt Victoria on Friday, 10 December 2010 at 12.00 for 12.30 p.m. If you wish to attend, you can still put your name on the list, we can still take bookings.

We are waiting on the final menu and price, but the meal will be a Christmas Roast followed by plum pudding or fruit salad, tea or coffee for \$20 to \$25.00. As soon as we receive the final details, we will send an email out to all those who have put their names down to attend.

NEW MAGAZINE

This is not a recommendation, but purely out of interest. There is a new magazine out about Australian and New Zealand genealogy, history and heritage. Published bi-monthly, *Inside History* is said to be packed with expert advice, articles and tips on genealogy, and stories on our varied history, from tales about century-old houses and country towns, to the biographies of our famous (and infamous) citizens.

In Issue 1: read about author Michael Flynn's latest project on the biographies of the First Fleet; meet Perth's 14th-century church bells; learn about the National Archives release of surgeon log books from 1793 to 1880; see Tasmania's colonial artists, and much more.

Find out about subscriptions www.insidehistory.com.au