



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 8th November 2013

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Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to our last general meeting for the year and our AGM. It has been a good year for the Society and we have had some interesting guest speakers. Yvonne Stewart from the Benevolent Society was our last speaker for the year and she gave a wonderful talk on the history of the Society from its inception in 1813 and how relevant the Society is in today's world.

AGM: For various good reasons 4 members of the committee are retiring this year. All positions are available as always, but the vacant positions needing to be filled are: **Vice-President and 3 or 4 general committee members.**

Being a committee member is not an onerous task. Committee meetings are held once a month, on the fourth Friday of each month. These meetings are held in the small room behind the Presbyterian Hall in Springwood.

New faces will bring new ideas to the Society so please consider nominating to become a committee member. If there are not enough nominations to fill the vacant positions it will be necessary to call for nominations from the floor.

Next meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood on **14th February 2014**. The guest speaker for that meeting will be Joy Ware sharing her book "Altnachree: An Irish castle, a family and a man with a passion".

Items of Interest to Members:

***Member's fees:**

At the Society's last meeting the Treasurer, Ian Kendall, spoke to the members regarding the current finances of the Society and the need to increase membership fees from \$25-\$30.00. As set out in our Constitution, to increase the fees, Ian sought a Motion from the members that the proposed increase be put before the members at our AGM. It is intended that the fees be increased from the current \$25.00 to \$30.00 for single membership and **\$30.00 to \$40.00** per couple. This Motion was duly carried so members will be voting at today's AGM whether an increase in membership fees is agreed.

***Publishing: Book - "Life in the Blue Mountains during WW2"**

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, Joan Edwards is writing a book entitled "Life in the Blue Mountains during WW2", **all sales and profits of which Joan has kindly donated to the Society.** To help with the research and publishing of this book, a grant was submitted to the RAHS (Royal Australian Historical Society). In 2012 the Society was fortunate to be granted an Award from the RAHS for this purpose in the amount of \$1,200.00.

After much debate at a number of committee meetings this year, as to whether the Society wished to go ahead with contributing towards the publication of the book, it was eventually decided the Society would contribute \$2,800.00 plus the RAHS Grant of \$1,200.00 for the printing. It must be stressed here, that while the book is being written by Joan the book **belongs** to the Society as publisher but the **copyright** belongs to Joan as the author and owner of the work. As with all publications by the Society e.g. the Wood Coffill publication, Wood Coffill still own the copyright even though the Society published it and retained all sales and profits.

Christmas Party:

Could any member who has not paid for the Christmas Party please see Ian Kendall today to finalise payment. A reminder that the Christmas Party is being held at the Lawson Hotel which is just across the road from Lawson Station on **Friday the 13th December 2013**. The time for the lunch is **12.00 for 12.30pm**.

Raffle:

Tickets for the raffle of a painting donated by Pat Carruthers will be on sale today, at the Society's stall and at the Christmas Party. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Christmas Party.

November Stall:

A reminder the Society's stall will be held in the grounds of Springwood Presbyterian Church on

Friday, 29th November 2013 from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

Could those members who have kindly offered to supply craft items, jams, pickles, cakes, plants and books bring them to the Church at around 8.30am on the day already priced. A reminder that cooked items need to have ingredients listed. A big "thank you" to those supporting the stall. A few volunteers may be needed to help on the day, please ring Pauline Gibson 47544495 if you would like to volunteer.

Library: Some members may be wondering why the Society's books in Springwood Library cannot be borrowed. The reason being, they are a source for research and must be available for anyone coming into the Library to do research, as in the case of the Library's own research books.

Family Search - <https://familysearch.org>

Wales, Court and Miscellaneous Records 1542-1911.

There are several records sets from Wales courtesy of the National Library of Wales. The collection contains court records and marriage bonds. These date back to before the census and civil registration, when land and property records are needed for pre-1841 search. This collection is being published as records become available:

<https://familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https://familysearch.org/records/collection/2040546/waypoints>

Biographical Database of Australia

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/>

This is a new research tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts and indexes of many original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived in or were born in Australia, starting from the earliest times. This first release contains convict, muster, census, baptism, marriage and burial manuscript records for most of the NSW population 1788-1828; for Norfolk Island and Tasmania 1802-1811; and many immigrant and convict records from 1829-1837 along with the full text of short biographies of +11,000 residents of most colonies/states published 1881-1907. There are many more databases to be added yet. The initial annual subscription for individuals is \$25.00

National Library Canberra - Exhibition "Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia showing how European explorers gradually unravelled the secrets of the south land. Commences 7th November 2013 to 10th March 2014 from 10am to 5pm. <http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/mapping-our-world>

Trove - The National Library announces more digitised Newspapers online - visit

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

or

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q=>

Find my Past – Search new Australian records of births, marriages and deaths for free until 31st January 2014 - findmypast.co.uk

What's on?

Historic Linnwood House, 25 Byron Road, Guildford - **Open House, Sunday 10th November, 11am-4pm.**

BMACHO General Meeting Saturday 8 February 2014 with guest speaker Wendy Hawkes, Cultural Development Officer for Lithgow City Council, talking about Sir Joseph and Dame Mary Cook, followed by a workshop to design a Heritage Trail Map, similar to the Garden Trail Map used by the gardens on the Mountains.

Websites: Australian Biographical Dictionary where famous Australians and their history can be found including Edward Smith Hall - founder of the Benevolent Society <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biographies/name/>; Dictionary of Sydney - http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/suburban_sydney; A list of NSW Railway Stations names and origins plus historic photos, etc. http://www.nswrail.net/library/station_names.php; List of Sydney Suburbs and the history behind them http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sydney_suburbs; Origins of suburb names in the Hills District <http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Origins-of-Suburb-Names.html>; Ballarat Historical Society <http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com/> with a wonderful collection of photographs and an online search of Ballarat Benevolent Society, Register of Inmates 1860-1872; Picture Australia on Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au/general/australian-pictures-in-trove>; Australian Heritage Photo Library <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/heritage/photodb/imagesearch.pl> Museum Victoria containing an online search of the Biggest Family Album in Australia together with other interesting information <http://museumvictoria.com.au/collections-research/>

