



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 14th November, 2014

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains

Federal Member for Macquarie

State Member for The Blue Mountains

Office Bearers

President

Audrey King

V-President

Lynne Tocher

Correspondence Secretary

Yvonne Wright

Minute Secretary

Lynne Tocher

Treasurer & Research

Ian Kendall

Committee

Colin Brest

Pauline Gibson

Ann Krasny

Brian Meagher

Ann Raaphorst

Public Officer

Joan Edwards

Coordinators

Explorers' Tree

Editor: Audrey King

Layout/publisher:

John Arnold

Proof reader Ian Kendall

Other Publishing

Joan Edwards

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 members to this month's meeting of the Family History Society and the Annual General Meeting.

Last meeting: Last meeting there was no guest speaker as a "break down those brick walls" meeting was held. A few members put forward their problems that elicited a lot of discussion. Unfortunately time ran out, so not everyone got a chance to discuss his or her particular brick wall. A similar type of meeting will be held next year and hopefully those members who missed out will get the chance to discuss their "brick wall".

AGM: Today's meeting is the Society's AGM. As mentioned in the last Newsletter our current President, Audrey King, will not be standing for re-election. Audrey has done a great job in this capacity especially with having to cope with a sick husband this year, as well as health problems of her own. The Society is desperately in need of a new President and would welcome any member who thinks they would like to give it a try. You will be well supported and assisted by an experienced executive and committee. Our Society requires a President and Executive to continue to exist, and it would be a shame if the Society folded because no one was able to offer to fill these positions. Some of the current committee members have been on the committee for quite some time and are very *au fait* with their roles and responsibilities. Our Treasurer, Ian Kendall, is a past President and has now been Treasurer for longer than the required time and according to our Constitution, requires approval of the members to continue for a further year in this role. Blue Mountains Family History Society is YOUR Society; please keep it strong and functioning.

Items of Interest to Members: The committee met on 24th October last and held discussions on the following items:

AGM: As you will see from the above, the coming AGM and the problems associated with attracting new members to the position of President and also as committee members came in for quite a lot of discussion. Hopefully the problems will be resolved satisfactorily today.

Christmas Party: As the Society has the use of a private room for the Christmas party, to make it a less formal occasion, Ian will be organising a few games, similar to those played at earlier Christmas parties. As well as tickets on sale for our raffle that will be drawn on the day, there will be a number of small lucky door prizes, so remember to collect a ticket on arrival at the venue. Any member who has not yet paid their \$30.00 for the lunch, would you please pay Ian at the AGM and advise if you have a special dietary requirement.

The Explorers' Tree as members know, is the Society's Magazine that is produced three times a year. Audrey King who is and has been the editor of this wonderful magazine for many years would like to step down as editor.

Preparation is a five-part process:

1. Gathering of articles. This requires lots of cajoling, perhaps even arm-twisting, to obtain articles, short or long for the journal.
2. Editing. Fixing spelling, adjusting grammar, ensuring appropriate punctuation. **(Cont'd over)**

Explorers' Tree (cont'd)

3. Layout. Taking the articles and placing them into the template using desktop publishing software.
4. Proof reading. A final reading of the journal catching any errors that may have slipped through so they may be corrected.
5. Printing, and Distribution.

Currently, Parts 1 & 2 have been done by Audrey King who has indicated she wishes to relinquish this role.

Parts 3 & 5 are completed by John Arnold. And Part 4 is done by Ian Kendall.

There may be quite a few members who would be able to take part in this process. Your help is needed. If there is any member/members who would like to assist, could you please approach Ian Kendall during the course of the meeting.

Cake Stall: As you know the Society's Cake Stall will be held on the Friday following our AGM, i.e. **21st November 21st 2014** in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church. As previously mentioned, though it has been called a "Cake Stall" - donations of books, DVDs and crafts will also be welcome additions to the stall on the day. Could members please indicate on the sheet provided at today's meeting what items they would like to donate in order to give the organisers an idea of what will be on offer. So far there has been very few offers of cakes, slices, etc.

Ryerson Index: For those members who have only recently joined the Society and perhaps some other members who may not know, there is a wonderful research tool available in the Ryerson Index. The Ryerson Index is an online database containing 4,672,829 death notices from 239 different Australian newspapers where you can search, free of charge and up until very recently, the death of someone you may be researching. To search you need to enter a complete surname or a location, the search can be broadened by adding a given name or a nickname, a year range – either the earliest year or latest year or both or a newspaper. To visit this very helpful website visit www.ryersonindex.org/

New Book: 'In the Wake of the Lord Melville', about the convicts, crew and passengers who sailed from England on the *Lord Melville*, arriving in Sydney in 1817. Colin Brest has kindly donated this to the Society.

British Newspaper Archives being trialled on computers in Blue Mountains Libraries for **30 days from 17th November 2014**.

What's On:

Blue Mountains Historical Society Open Day: Saturday, 15th November 2014 will be the last open day for the year highlighting the work the Society does as caretaker of our past. Tarella Cottage and its Hobby's Reach meeting rooms will be open for inspection from 10am to 4.00pm. Tarella Cottage is a 19th Century house and the old kitchen is still functioning, you will be able to see and eat scones cooked in a camp oven. The Garden Stall will be available from 9.00am, **Cost:** Entry to the grounds is \$9.00 and includes morning or afternoon tea. You can also picnic in the grounds and enjoy wonderful views of Sydney. **Where:** 99 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls.

Old Government House Parramatta has been holding an Edwardian & Wartime fashion exhibition entitled "Clothing the People", which finishes on **Sunday, 16th November 2014**. The exhibition can be viewed from 10am-4.00pm, 3.30pm being the last admission time this has only come to light recently. **Cost:** Exhibition **\$10.00 Conc. \$8.00** - Exhibition and House tour **\$15.00 Conc. \$12.00**.

Carols by Candlelight at Old Government House: 6th December 2014, an evening of traditional carols accompanied by the New South Wales Police Band and Model Farms High School choir. **Time: 7.00-9.00pm**. Entry fee - a gold coin donation.

Springwood Library: Members please note Springwood Library will again be closing its doors from **Monday 1st December 2014 until Monday 5th January 2015**.

Member's fees:

A reminder membership fees are due 1st January 2015. Fees for single membership - \$30.00; \$40.00 per couple plus \$7.50 for postage of Explorers' Tree if required.

Newcastle NSW Christ Church Cathedral records
The University of Newcastle has placed many of its Cultural Collections online via Flickr. One of these collections is the [Register Book of Christ Church Cathedral](#) from the archives of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. You can browse the images for baptisms (1839-1861), marriages (1839-1855) and burials (1839-1854).

Websites: New - East Perth Cemeteries website <http://www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au>; Public Record Office Victoria <http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-23> digitised records including the recently added North Melbourne rate books 1855-1905; Planning on visiting an overseas war grave - visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission where you can download a free WWI War Graves App or search online for the grave of a soldier who died overseas <http://www.cwgc.org>; Dating old Photographs <http://www.rogerco.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/time/date.htm>; Scottish Indexes www.scottishindexes.com; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board WA <http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au/>