



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 13th November, 2015

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WELCOME to all our members at today's AGM.

There is no guest speaker today but hopefully there will be an interesting display of members' family history.

Last month's guest speaker was Judith Dunn who gave a fascinating talk about some of the weird and wonderful characters in Parramatta's past. The hour passed all too quickly as the members listened to the fascinating stories told by Judith.

Today: Those members who would like to display some of their family research or bring items of interest that may have belonged in their family or anything else of interest, are invited to bring them along to this meeting for a display which can be browsed at morning tea. If you would also like to wear something to add to the flavour of the day connected to your roots i.e. scarf, beret, kilt, sari, etc. please do so.

Next General Meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, **12th February 2016** commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood.

AGM: By now members wishing to nominate for a position on the committee will have forwarded their forms to Colin or Yvonne. Yvonne is retaining her position as President unless someone else wishes to nominate for this position, as is Colin. Ian's position as Treasurer is a different matter if there is no-one wishing to fill this position. As Ian has been Treasurer for longer than the time as set out in the Constitution he will need to be nominated by all the members from the floor. There is one withdrawal from the current committee that will leave quite a hole due to the lack already of committee members. Of course there will be no pressure brought to bear for additional committee members but if there are some members who are debating whether to volunteer or not, please feel free to put yourself forward, you would be most welcome.

A reminder - the committee meets once a month on the fourth Friday at 10am in the Presbyterian Church Hall and meetings usually finish around 12 noon. There is no obligation to attend every meeting.

Committee Meeting: At the last committee meeting held 23rd October 2015 it was decided the general meeting would be held first followed closely by the AGM with no break for morning tea. After all the official proceedings the committee would then be providing a special morning tea as previously mentioned by of a thank you to our members for all their support of the Society with donations of goods and cakes, etc for our street stalls, help with providing food for the seminar, purchasing raffle tickets and generally volunteering when volunteers are required for our various activities. The committee hopes that this will be a nice finish for the last meeting of the year.

GARAGE SALE: We were very lucky with the weather on the day we held our garage sale and, while we were not inundated with customers, there was enough interest for the Society to make **\$301.60**. Thank you to Yvonne, Colin and Dorothy for assisting Pauline on the day and thank you to those members who turned up to lend their support.

Newsletter 2016: The printing of the Newsletter came under discussion due to the high cost of printer ink. Commencing in February, members who receive the Newsletter by email will be requested not to take a hard copy at meetings as only a small number will be printed for those members not on the internet and for placement in Springwood Library.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets go on sale today and at our Christmas Party when the winning ticket will be drawn. It is a picture but this year not a painting. It is a lovely embroidered picture of a medieval lady, Briar Rose, donated by Ian's wife, Carolyn. "Thank you Carolyn for your kind donation."

Christmas Party: Today is the last day for payment for the Society's Christmas Party to be held at the Grandview Hotel Wentworth Falls on **Friday 11th December 2015**. As previously mentioned the cost for a two course sit down luncheon is \$40.00 with tea and coffee included in the price, except for any specialty coffee e.g. Latte, Cappuccino or coffee obtained at the bar. If you have not yet paid, please see Ian today. The commencement time is **12noon for 12.30pm**. Everyone who attended last year had an enjoyable time and hopefully it will be replicated again this year. Once again Ian has prepared our entertainment with some new games- something to look forward to.

New to Find my Past: From the Telegraph Newspaper, 5th November 2015.

"At the outset of World War II the British government undertook the gargantuan project to create a register of every citizen. A virtual army of 60,000 people was sent out to 16 million households on one day in 1939 to collect the names, birthdates, addresses, marital status and occupations of everyone living in England and Wales.

These records known as the 1939 Register provide a unique snapshot of Britain before it was hit by the full force of war. The Register has now been made available to the public online by findmypast.com.au. "Thank you John Gordon for the article."

What's on:

Tarella, Hobby's Reach 99-101 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls. **Open Day - Saturday, 21st November 2015.**

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

Female Orphan School: Seminar and Exhibition – Victoriana Sydney 1837-1901 to be held **29th November 2.00pm-3p.m.** Cost \$20.00.

The Kurrajong Family History Group Afternoon Tea event at the Tebbutt Room, Deerubbin Centre Windsor, **25th November 2015 at 2pm**. Guest speaker, Duncan Macniven, Retired Registrar General, Scottish Registry. Cost **\$5.00**. Contact Carolynne Cooper 45760356 or email secretary@kurrajonghistory.org.au

Hambledon Cottage, Cnr. Hassell Street & Gregory Place, Harris Park, **Exhibition - Her Story** Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women. From Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm, October 2015-March 2016

Following the trend of Judith Dunn's talk on some of the weird and wonderful characters in Parramatta, Sydney also had a number of eccentric characters. Arthur Stace was one such character.

Arthur Malcolm Stace (1885-1967), pavement scribe, was born on 9 February 1885 at Redfern, Sydney, fifth child of William Wood Stace, a labourer from Mauritius, and his native-born wife Laura, née Lewis. Raised in poverty, Stace later claimed that he became a ward of the state when aged 12, worked for a couple of years, gaoled for drunkenness, turned to stealing after losing jobs. He enlisted in WWI and when he returned to Australia in 1919 he was discharged medically unfit and fell into his old ways, drunk, broke and out of work. Inspired by a preacher to give up the grog he then helped out at various charitable institutions for down and outs. In 1942 he married. After hearing the evangelist John Ridley telling a congregation that he wished he could "shout eternity through the streets of Sydney" he claims he was inspired by a powerful call from the Lord to write "Eternity". As Stace had a piece of chalk in his pocket, he bent down and wrote it and from that day on wrote it 50 times a day. Stace became known as "the Eternity Man". It is estimated that he wrote "Eternity" on the streets of Sydney about 500,000 times. To read his complete story, visit the **Australian Dictionary of Biography**. **Note:** "Eternity" was emblazoned on the Sydney Harbour Bridge for the New Year Millennium Celebrations in his honour.

Websites: Historical Directories <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16445coll4>

Have been digitised by Leicester University is a free and worthwhile site which can be searched by Location, Decade or Key Word - highly recommended; **Ireland Reaching Out** (www.irelandxo.com) is a new Irish Government-sponsored programme seeking to connect people of Irish heritage abroad with their place of origin in Ireland; **New Zealand Papers Past** <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz> Photographic images of C19 NZ newspapers – 750,000 pages from 39 different publications. Printable 3 page user guide is available; **New Zealand Seafarers Memorial Trust:**

www.seafarerstrust.org.nz/seafarersscroll Some of the known seafarers who have lost their lives at sea while serving in New Zealand waters. Searchable by Surname or Vessel.

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