



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

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**WELCOME** to everyone to the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Ted Szafraniec who is the curator of photography for the Blue Mountains Historical Society was our October guest speaker. Ted spoke about an early photographer in Katoomba, George Kitch, and of his work in promoting the Blue Mountains using the new medium of photography. Ted produced examples of various prints including postcards and 'carte visit' cards. George Kitch was Mayor of Katoomba for some years and he and his son-in-law had a stationery shop with photographic business opposite the Katoomba railway station, right on the corner. Ted showed us some of the advertising George did for his photography and for his shop in various Blue Mountains papers. He also spoke of how difficult it was to compete in the industry at the time of the late 19th century depression as there were many competing photographers.

**Guest Speaker:** As today is our Annual General Meeting there is no guest speaker but there will be a display of memorabilia connected the WWI to celebrate 100 years since the signing of the Armistice. This will be followed by a delicious morning tea.

**Those members who wish to do so are asked to bring a small plate for sharing and also any family memorabilia they may wish to display relating to WWI.**

As the AGM is the Society's last general meeting of the year, we will be celebrating the end of the year with our annual Christmas Party to be held at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls on **Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**. The time is **12noon** for a **12.30 pm** start at a cost of **\$45**. All money to be paid at today's meeting.

**AGM:** All positions are available as always. Most of the current committee members have been long standing members of the Society so it is hoped this year some of our newer members will nominate to participate in the running of the Society

Anyone wishing to take up any of the executive positions, i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer is welcome to nominate with all nominations put to the floor. There is always a need for one or two extra committee members. New committee members bring new ideas which are always welcome. For anyone interested Nomination Forms can be found in the Society's corner of Springwood Library.

With regard to committee members this is not an onerous task. Committee meetings are held once a month, on the fourth Friday of each month. These meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church Springwood in whatever room is available on the day. It is not essential that you attend each meeting, so long as there is a quorum the meeting can proceed - half the committee members plus one.

Having said all this, it is essential to point out that there will be no pressure brought to bear on any members attending the AGM, your participation is purely voluntary.

**Committee Meeting:** There was no committee meeting for October, this was replaced by the Street Stall held in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Street Stall:** The Street Stall was held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. We were lucky with the weather being not too hot and we had plenty of customers though there are still quite a lot of items left over, some of which was donated to charity at the end of the day. Some of the better items have been retained and will appear on our trade table from time to time. The stall made a total of \$299.60 which was a pleasing amount. "Thank you" to those members who donated items for the stall and a special "thank you" to all those who helped on the day.

Tickets for John's lovely crocheted rug were also sold at the street stall at a total of \$18.

**Library Volunteers:** The Roster will finish at the end of November but individuals may like to attend the Library in the first couple of weeks of December. Ian will be doing one Tuesday session in Katoomba, the second Tuesday of the month.

The Roster will recommence at the beginning of February. Ian will do one session in Katoomba, the 4th Tuesday of January.

"Thank you" to all our Library volunteers for the help you offer those wishing to trace their family history.

**Sale Table: Reminder** – Items can still be brought to today's meeting if there is something you no longer want or need.

**The Explorers' Tree:** The last issue of the Explorers' Tree for 2018 was available at the October meeting. Copies were mailed to those members who had paid for postage. If you missed the meeting your copy will be found in the concertina file at Springwood Library.

**Raffle:** Tickets for the raffle of John Gordon's beautiful hand crocheted rug are still being sold and will be sold until our Christmas Party when the lucky winner will be drawn. Tickets are \$1.00.

#### **What's On:**

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Poppy Park being re-created for 2018.**

A version of Poppy Park is being re-created for this coming Remembrance Day Sunday 11th November 2018, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the ending of World War 1. **You are invited to attend Penrith Paceway (147 Station street, Penrith) from 8am - 3pm for this Commemoration**

Please bring your Poppy along and let us remember together.

**Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum** – will be open on **11 November 2018** and there will be a brief flag raising ceremony and a minute's silence starting at 10.50am. Serving and returned service personnel will be admitted free of charge on the day.

**Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December** Santa will be arriving at the museum on. The museum will be closed on Sunday 2 December.

**Hawkesbury Historical Society and author and actress, Patsy Trench,** will be launching Patsy's latest book, a biography of Hawkesbury Pioneer, George Matcham Pitt.

**Saturday 24th November at 2.00pm** at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor

The event is free, but bookings are essential. Contact the Secretary at [secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com) or phone 02 4578 2443. Afternoon tea will be served after the launch.

**Sydney Mechanics Institute: Dickens" A Christmas Carol read by Geoff Usher (175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

**Thursday, 29 November, 11:00am–2:00pm**  
**FREE — Bookings Essential**  
**Click here to book or call 02 9262 7300**

#### **Items of Interest - From our Treasurer:**

##### **Rylstone Historical Society 'Cottage Museum'**

On Sunday 4th November Carolyn and I travelled to Rylstone in the NSW Mid-West in order for our wonderful auditor, Mr Bob Christmas to audit our Society's Financial Records and Annual Report.

Whilst there, and while Bob perused my Treasurer's files, we attended the excellent small Cottage Museum operated by the Rylstone Historical Society. They have good selection of bygone items with lots of things our pioneering families would have been most familiar with. But the two most impressive things were: 1. their wonderful volunteers, and; 2. their personality files. Carolyn's family comes from the Mudgee, Gulgong & Rylstone areas and on a previous visit we attended the Rylstone Cemetery to discover lots of headstones of her past relatives. Shirley, a wonderful volunteer at the Museum, using the personality files, was able to find lots of information from newspapers, indexes, obituaries and photographs of Carolyn's ancestors and relatives. The Museum is only open on a Sunday from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Beware: cafes and pubs all close their kitchens promptly at 2:00pm on a Sunday!

**WWI research websites: Australian War Memorial** <https://www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/service-records>.

These records also include Red Cross records of soldiers wounded and missing in action;

**National Archives of Australia** <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/>;

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission** <https://www.cwgc.org/>

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