



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 11th October 2013

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Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to this month's meeting of the Society. Members found our September guest speaker, Lorraine Turtle, full of good advice with regard to Probates and Deceased Estates that are held down at State Archives Kingswood.

Today's guest speaker is Yvonne Stewart who will be giving an interesting talk on the Benevolent Society that was founded as the NSW Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Benevolence in 1813 but changed its name to the Benevolent Society of NSW in 1818.

Next meeting: There is no guest speaker this meeting as it is the AGM with our general meeting first, followed by the AGM. Following the AGM Suzanne Voytas, will present a 10-minute talk about the State Conference, with a PowerPoint presentation of some photos taken at the Conference.

AGM Reminder - all nominations for the new committee are to be with the secretary by 11.00 am on Friday, 1st November 2013.

Items of Interest to Members:

Member's fees:

In the last Newsletter it was mentioned that at the August Committee meeting, after some discussion, it was decided there would be no increase in membership fees this year. However, following that meeting our Treasurer compiled a list of our outgoings for this year and it would appear that the money the Society has invested is rapidly dwindling. At today's meeting Ian will present us with some facts and figures that will demonstrate why it may be necessary to increase our fees for next year. To increase our fees it will have to be put to a motion at the Society's AGM next month.

Christmas Party:

For new members the Society is holding its Christmas Party at the Lawson Hotel on **Friday the 13th December 2013** at a cost of **\$25.00 pp**. There is a list on Ian's table for anyone still wishing to attend. Ian is now collecting money from members and all money will need to be in by our next meeting, 8th November. The time for the lunch is **12.00 for 12.30pm**.

Raffle:

One of our more artistic members has kindly offered to donate a painting for the Society to raffle. Tickets will be on sale at the AGM, at our Stall and Christmas Party. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Christmas Party.

November Stall:

Plans to hold a stall in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church on **Friday, 29th November 2013 from 9.00am to 12.30pm** are still going ahead. Thank you to those members who have offered to provide something for the stall. It is not too late for any member to add to the list on Ian's table something they would like to contribute to the stall - craft items, jams, pickles, cakes, plants and books. All items can be brought to the stall on the morning in question with a price on each article. Cooked items need to have ingredients listed.

"Life in the Blue Mountains during WW2"

Most members will be aware that Joan Edwards is writing a book on the history of the Blue Mountains during WW2 as last year Joan gave a presentation at one of our meetings, outlining what the book would contain. Joan kindly offered the book to the Society who will benefit from sales. To help with the publishing of the book the Society obtained a grant of \$1200 from the Royal Australian Historical Society and our Society will be contributing a further \$1200 towards the printing. Printing of the book should take place on or before September 2014. The book is well underway and today Joan will give a further presentation. What is needed now is promotion of this publication - so members go out there and spread the word!!! Perhaps you may belong to a group you could mention it to, or you may have a friend or friends who lived in the Blue Mountains during WW2 and who would undoubtedly find it full of reminiscences.

Celebrating 100 Years - Next year Valley Heights Locomotive Depot will celebrate 100 years - 1914-2014. There will be an official opening on Friday, 31st January 2014 with events taking place from February to October 2014.

NSW Registry of Births Death & Marriages: There will be changes made to accessing Family History via the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in early 2014. Information concerning the changes will be sent with this Newsletter via email for those members who receive their Newsletter electronically.

RootsIreland.ie is delighted to announce that all records will have a discount of 40% until **Sunday, October 13th 2013** (midnight Irish Time/GMT). You can purchase any record for just 15 credits instead of the usual 25 credits. Visit their website <http://www.rootsireland.ie> and login if you are an existing member or register to join.

Library News: Accessioned Books now on shelves: Kelso Village - Book 1; Winmalee High School - The Pioneer Years - 1984-1990; **Goulburn** Pioneer Cemeteries - St Saviour's, Mortis Street, Towrang Stockade, Jewish and St Patrick's College; Church Of St Thomas Port Macquarie - Early Parish Registers; **Barefoot** And Pregnant? - Irish Famine Orphans In Australia - Volume 2; **Cont'd over**

Finetta - A Family Saga 1791-1987; NSW Immigration Deposits Combined Index 1853-1900; The Exiles Of Canada Bay; Grave Reflections - The Story of St Peters Graveyard Cooks River 1839-1859; Altnachree - An Irish Castle, a Family, and a Man With a Passion; **Golden** Journeys -Visits to the Western Goldfields of New South Wales 1852-1859 with map; **Index** to Family History Journals and Magazines 2011-2012; **Holtermann's** Nugget.

What's on:

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum, Open day, Sunday 13th October & 27th October 2013.

Springwood Historical Society, Meeting, Friday 18th October 2013

Glenbrook & District Historical Society. Walk: "Glenbrook Discovery - Heritage Walk" Saturday 19th October 2013, Contact Doug Knowles: 4751 3275/Tim Miers: 4739 2384

Central Coast Family History Society Inc. Family History Fair, 2nd November 2013, 9.30am-3pm, Venue Gosford City Lions Hall, Building 3, rear 8 Russell Drysdale Street, East Gosford.

News From SAG:

Destination Australia.

<https://www.destinationaustralia.gov.au/site/> The Destination Australia website aims to draw on the stories of the people and their family members featured in the photographs showcased on their site to create a history of Australia's post-war immigration. The 21,000 photographs on the site come from a promotional series of more than 25,000 photographs taken by the Department of Immigration and are hosted within the National Archives of Australia RecordSearch database.

Sydney University Calendars:

<http://calendararchive.usyd.edu.au/index.php>

The Sydney University Calendars from 1852 to 2008 are available online and fully searchable. The Calendar is an annual University publication and includes general and historical information about the University as well as the names of officers including administration and teaching staff. Up until 1975 it also included an accumulative list of graduates, women graduates by their married name (1925-1930), undergraduates (1943-44), examination results and prize holders to 1975 and more.

Websites: Government Honours site with search function

http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/honour_roll/index.cfm

Queensland cemeteries pics <http://www.chapelhill.homeip.net/FamilyHistory/Photos/index.htm>

Free online magazine that commenced in 2012 covering all things Celtic. Available to download free in PDF format <http://www.thecelticguide.com/index.html>; Have you been watching "Secret History of our Streets"? Visit Charles Booth Online Archive <http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>