



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 9th October, 2015

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Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to all our members and any visitors at today's meeting.

Today's guest speaker is Judith Dunn OAM. Judith is a prominent Sydney historian and has written a number of well-received publications. Judith is passionate about Australian history especially the Parramatta area. Members can look forward to an interesting talk.

Ian, our Treasurer, gave a very interesting talk on using "Trove" at our last meeting. Ian's talk was not just on searching a name in the Newspapers but much more. Those members who were at the meeting learned some new research ideas and received some tips from Ian they had not previously known or used. Following Ian's talk members were looking forward to putting this new information to the test. "Thank you Ian".

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. will be held on **Friday, 13th November 2015** and will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood. This meeting will be in the form of our Annual General Meeting. As mentioned in the last Newsletter the Committee will be providing morning tea by way of thanking our members for their contributions over the last couple of years to the Society's fund raising.

As there is no guest speaker at the AGM and to encourage more members to attend what is our last meeting for the year, the committee is hoping that members will bring an item or items connected to their family history that they would like to share with other members. It might be a photo/photos; book; something representing the area where their ancestors lived or a treasured possession, etc. If you would like to wear something such as a scarf, brooch, hat etc. to depict where your ancestors came from that would also add to the fun of the morning.

Committee Meeting: The Committee was to have met on Friday 25th September, 2015 but unfortunately this meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. This did not cause too much of a problem as there was not a lot on the Agenda for discussion. However, there will be a meeting of the committee after today's meeting.

AGM: All positions are available as always though the current committee members are all happy to retain their positions. It would be good to have some extra members on the committee, new members come with new ideas and these are always welcome. As often mentioned, 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. 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 1. As can be seen above that lack of a quorum last month necessitated in the committee meeting being cancelled.

Nominations to be forwarded to the Secretary by Friday **6th November 2015**.

The Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards: These Awards will be presented by Vicki Edmunds, Librarian, at today's meeting.

GARAGE SALE: Following the wash-out of our May street stall, left over goods were stored at Pauline's home **64 White Cross Road, Winmalee** where it was decided to eventually hold a garage sale. The sale is to be held the day after our October meeting, **10th October. 64 White Cross Road Winmalee** is the third house from Winmalee Shopping Centre and next door to the Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre. Any member who would like to assist on the day would be most welcome and, while not essential, if any member would like to contribute any cakes, jams, pickles, etc they would also be welcome.

Our Magazine - Explorers' Tree: The latest issue of the Explorers' Tree has now been printed and will be available at this month's meeting. Be sure to collect your copy at the meeting otherwise it can be found in the file in Springwood Library.

Christmas Party: A reminder about the Christmas party to be held at the Grand View Hotel, Wentworth Falls. The date is **Friday 11th December 2015**. The cost for a two-course sit down luncheon will be \$40.00. Tea and coffee is included in the price except for any specialty coffee e.g. Latte, Cappuccino or coffee obtained at the bar. A list has already been circulated for members to add their names to the list if interested in attending. Money can be paid to Ian at this meeting or at the November meeting.

Quarantine Station: The Quarantine Station at North Head operated from about the 1830s to 1984. Migrant ships arriving in Sydney with suspected contagious diseases stopped inside North Head for the disembarkation of passengers and crew to be quarantined for around 40 days in order to protect local residents becoming sick. Conditions were primitive in the early days, with tents affording accommodation.

An increase in immigrations saw the erection of a wharf and wooden but still these were not enough to contain all the quarantined immigrants. Eventually more buildings were erected including a kitchen, bathroom and hospital.

With the slowing of the world economy affecting immigration, the Station fell into disrepair. There was a smallpox epidemic in Sydney 1881 and the local residents had to be quarantined whereupon complaints arose about the primitive conditions at the Station and a Royal Commission was held. Also with the coming of more affluent migrants a class system developed at the Station with first class passengers expecting first class accommodation and conditions were upgraded and health standards were improved reducing the impact of common diseases. To find out more visit

www.quarantinestation.com.au

A visit to the Quarantine Station is an interesting day out and easy to get to by public transport, travelling by train, ferry and bus that stops right outside the door.

What's on:

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

It's a Riot! Parramatta Female Factory. When: Friday 23rd October 2015. Where: Cumberland Hospital, Fleet Street, North Parramatta. Free shuttle bus from Parramatta Station or wharf and short walk from Parramatta Leagues Club bus stop. **Entry:** Gold Coin donation. **Events Schedule,** Tours 10.30-11.30am or 2.30-3.30pm (bookings essential); Official Opening 12 pm; Lunch 12-1pm (Bring your own picnic lunch); Keynote speaker 1-2pm Author - Alasdair McGregor, Biographer - Francis Greenway.

RAHS, Royal Historical Society, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney:

Day Lecture: Scholarly Scoundrel. The story of Laurence Hynes Halloran 1765-1831. A man of many parts and considered to be the 1st Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School. **4th November 2015, 1.00-2pm,** Free admission'.

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

Coo-ee March: Most members will have heard of the Coo-ee March that commenced in 1915 in Gilgandra to recruit volunteers for the army following the tragedy of Gallipoli. It commenced with a group of 26 men leaving Gilgandra for Sydney on the 10th October 1915 recruiting volunteers as they passed through towns along the way. By the time they arrived in Sydney on the 12th November 1915 having walked around 320 miles they were a band of 263 fit and able men. On **Saturday, 7th November 2015** the re-enactment of this incredible march will be welcomed at the Old School in Emu Plains for morning tea any time from **10.30am**, a march up High Street, to Penrith's Memory Park. Those taking part will have an overnight stay at the Paceway and on to St Marys the next day. In Sydney, on November 11, they will join with the other eight re-enactment marches from all over the State.

Pioneers & Petticoats. The Cavalcade of History and Fashion Friends Day. **7th November 2015, 1.30pm for 2pm start.** East Roseville Community Hall Cnr. Babbage and Park Road, East Roseville. High Tea following Presentation. Tickets \$30, Bookings now open, pre-payment essential Ph **9417 0061**

Scottish House – 21st Anniversary lunch time special to commemorate 100 years of the Anzacs. **Saturday 14th November 2015, 10am-3.00pm.** Club Central, 2 Croft Street, Hurstville, Cost \$40pp Enquiries Carol 9389 1440 by 4th Nov. 2015

Websites: Looking for a convict <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/>; Historical Sites and Heritage Locations www.visitnsw.com; Australian Heritage, Historical Towns www.heritageaustralia.com; Objects Through Time <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/homepage/index.html>; Australia's Immigration History <http://waves.anmm.gov.au>

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