



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

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**WELCOME** members and any visitors to today's meeting of the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. Our guest speaker today is Vicki Wilson who will be talking about the letters and postcards that have been discovered in Probate packets held at the State Archives Kingswood.

**Last month's speaker:** Dr. Catherine Bishop, the author of "Remarkable and Scandalous Businesswomen of Sydney's Past" was last month's guest speaker. Catherine kept us entertained with anecdotes of some various business women contained in her book. We heard how once a woman of property wed, all her property became the property of her husband. While this doesn't seem fair, it did have one advantage, the wife couldn't be sued for any loss sustained by a third party.

**Next Meeting:** The next general meeting of the Society is our **AGM** and will be held on Friday, **11<sup>th</sup> November, 2016** commencing at **10am** in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood. On this day we will also be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the commencement of the Blue Mountains Family History Society. There is no guest speaker at this meeting. Notices for election to positions within the Society has already been emailed by Colin.

**Committee Meeting:** There was no September committee meeting as Yvonne was not able to attend due to a foot operation. As there was also not much on the agenda for that month it was unanimously decided by the committee members to postpone the meeting.

**Explorers' Tree:** The last edition of our magazine for 2016 will be available at our meeting today. Rhonda is now looking for new articles to complete our March edition next year. Rhonda has suggested that if members don't have a story about their ancestors they might like to write about a memorable event in their own childhood such as your first paying job, best Christmas ever, worst holiday ever or perhaps how things have changed in relation to transport, shopping, etc.

**2017 Seminar: Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Seminar Topics:** Nothing to new to report on our proposed seminar for 2017.

**The Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:** Invitations have been sent to the Mayor, Susan Templeman, Trish Doyle and Jenni Tresize, the founding member. To date we have no definite acceptances with the exception of Jenni who wishes to bring her husband granddaughter to our celebrations. Members are asked to bring a plate to this function, if possible. For catering purposes, could you please indicate at today's meeting what you are likely to bring. There has been a hiccup with our celebratory cake. Unfortunately, Rowena Cook has developed a shoulder problem and is unable to make the cake. One option is to organise with Springwood Cake Shop to make a butter cake and ice and decorate it, unless one of our members knows of someone who knows a cake decorator would be prepared to make it. Please see Pauline at today's meeting if you know of someone.

**Reminder:** To bring of photo of yourself taken 30 years ago for display purposes - how did you look back then.

**Christmas Party 2016:** Yvonne has been in touch with the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls and organised our Christmas party for Friday, **9<sup>th</sup> December 2016**. The cost will be the same as last year - **\$40.00** for a two course meal. Could members wishing to attend please indicate on the sheet to be found on Ian's table. Members will need to pay at our November meeting.

**Fund Raising Table:** This table has been doing a small trade at our monthly meetings and adding to our bank account. Thank you to the members for your support.

**Garage Sale:** 64 White Cross Road, Winmalee, **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016**. If members have any unwanted items could they bring them to the October meeting or drop them off at 64 White Cross, Road. If no-one is home, they can be safely left on the verandah. Items left over from our trade table will also go towards the garage sale. Some donations have already been received from Janet, Vaughan, Glenis and Lynne, thank you.

**Memories of a Special Woman in My Life - The Book:** Ian is still working on this book and hopes to have it available at the AGM.

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

**Historic Houses Open Day Hill End – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016.** Access to a number of unique gold rush buildings not normally open to the public. Adult \$25 Concession \$18, bookings essential. Ph. 6337 8306 or email [HillEndOpenDay@yahoo.com.au](mailto:HillEndOpenDay@yahoo.com.au)

**Blue Mountains Cultural Centre** 30 Park Street, Katoomba: **ARTEXPRESS** an exhibition of outstanding works by 2015 Higher School Certificate Visual Arts students from schools in NSW. **17<sup>th</sup> September-6<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-4pm.**

**Findmypast - New Records added:** NSW 1891 and 1901 Census; Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists 1851-1924.

**Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum, 20-22** Grose Street, Leura. Exhibition "a Coterie of Cosies" Celebrating Australian Through Tea Cosies, Hand knitted by Marianne Alcock and Janet Gilbert, **15<sup>th</sup> September-16<sup>th</sup> October 2016**. Open 7 days **10am-5.30pm**. Museum & Exhibition Entry: \$5.50 pp.

**Blue Mountains Historical Society – Halloween Ghost Tour, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016**, Woodford Academy, 90-92 Gt Western Highway, Woodford. A 1.5 hour behind the scenes tour of the Blue Mountains' oldest Building. Time: **7.30 & 8.30pm**, cost \$26 pp, Bookings essential [www.trybooking.com/76501](http://www.trybooking.com/76501).

**Parramatta Female Factory Friends** will be holding "It's a Riot" - Riot day at the Factory, commemorating the life and times of the Parramatta Female Factory Women. When: **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 9.30am-3.30pm**. Where: **Cumberland Hospital**, Fleet Street, North Parramatta, Entry fee: Gold Coin - Tour Bookings Essential, available from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. For more information, contact **9639 0140**

#### **A Snippet of Information:**

**Jessie Street Gardens:** In her talk to the Society Dr. Catherine Bishop illustrated her talk with a photo of a statue of a woman which could be found in the Jessie Street Gardens. Where are the gardens and who was Jessie Street?

Jessie Street Gardens are located in Loftus Street, near Circular Quay, Sydney and honour the life of a leading Australian women's rights activist, Jessie Street.

The full story of Jessie Street can be found at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/street-jessie-mary-11789>

**Parramatta Female Factory:** Colin advises that the letter prepared by our Society and signed by members at the last meeting, was forwarded to the National Trust and favourably received. The rescue of the Parramatta Female Factory from developers is still ongoing.

**Interesting Web sites:** Free UK Genealogy Website: <http://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/>

- Westpac Bank Archives (Bank of NSW) <https://www.hawkesbury.org/source/westpac-bank-archives-bank-of-nsw/>
- Dictionary of New Zealand Biography <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/dnzb/>
- Dunedin Genealogy <http://www.dunedingenealogy.org.nz/>
- New Zealand Genealogy Links <http://www.genealogylinks.net/newzealand/index.html>
- Wellington City Council Archives <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/archives/>
- Papers Past <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>
- New Zealand family history @ Christchurch City Libraries <http://library.christchurch.org.nz/familyhistory/>
- Auckland City Libraries <http://www.aucklandcitylibraries.com/populartopics/resourcepages/familyhistorywhakapapa.aspx>

An interesting website: The Encyclopaedia of Women & Leadership in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Australia -

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0453b.htm>;

Shops and Shopping - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/alotinstorech2.pdf>

Hill End & Tambaroora Gathering Group New Searchable Website <http://www.heatgg.org.au/>



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