



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 13th October, 2017

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WELCOME to all our members and any visitors we might have.

At last month's meeting, as there was no guest speaker, so the topic of "Claim a Convict" was repeated. Members who had not previously had the opportunity to tell of their convict ancestors at the August meeting were able to claim their convict.

November meeting: Our November meeting, which is the Society's AGM, will be held on **10th November, 2017** in the small hall directly behind the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood commencing at **10am** and finishing at around 12 noon. Further information to enhance this meeting will follow after the next committee 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 become either the President or a committee member. New members come with new ideas and these are always welcome. 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 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.

Guest Speaker for October meeting: We have been fortunate in securing a guest speaker for today's meeting, Leonard Janiszewski. Leonard is the Historian/Curator at Macquarie University. Leonard's talk will be on "Greek Cafes & Milk Bars of Australia", which most of our members will recall visiting at some time and the delicious hamburgers they made containing the works. Leonard together with Effy Alexakis has written a book of this title. There will be copies of the book available should anyone be interested in purchasing one. It should be an interesting talk and a trip down memory lane.

Committee Meeting: Due to lack of a quorum the committee was not able to meet in September.

September Seminar: "Settling the Blue Mountains". What a great day this turned out to be. The guest speakers gave very interesting presentations that held everyone's attention. Unfortunately John Low was unable to attend due to suffering from the flu but the remaining speakers were very helpful and stepped into the breach. It was hardly noticed that the seminar was one speaker short, as it turned out Ken Goodlet, our last speaker whose talk was on Woodford Academy had to cut his presentation short since we had run out of time. It was fascinating to hear of all the changes in ownership that had occurred at Woodford Academy from when it was first built.

Brian Fox, our first speaker and the cartographer, produced some wonderful maps and some very interesting advertisements regarding land for sale in the early 1900s in the Blue Mountains. When Brian asked those present, what was the first village to be settled in the Blue Mountains, no-one guessed that it was Mt Victoria, a surprise to all!!

Doug Knowles, our second speaker gave an interesting talk on the railway coming to the Blue Mountains with some interesting photographs of the bridge being built across the Nepean River as well as various other photos.

The entertainment after lunch was supplied by John Low's brother, Jim. Jim is a folk singer/song writer whose songs are about the Blue Mountains, people and events. One really lovely song was "Blue Mountains Blue", this was written by a friend of his. Jim had brought along some of his CDs with him which appeared to be very popular with the attendees.

Catering: What can be said about the catering - apart from the fact that it was absolutely delicious and our members did us proud with their donations of soup, salads, cakes and slices. A big "thank you" to everyone who brought along some item of food and a big "thank you" to everyone who assisted in the setting up on the day, in the kitchen and putting everything back as we found it at the end of the day. It was all very much appreciated.

Seminar Raffle: The lucky winner of the raffle drawn at the Seminar was Helen Allan.

Sandwich Board: Nothing to report as the committee is still waiting on the final costing for preparation of the sandwich board.

Christmas Party: A reminder that the Society's Christmas Party will be held at the Grandview Hotel at Wentworth Falls on **8th December 2017**, our normal general meeting date. The menu is the same as last year and the cost is \$45.00.

Christmas Raffle: Members interested in contributing goods for the Christmas raffle could you please bring your donation to this month's meeting. Tickets will go on sale at the Society's AGM in November. Suggested ideas: chocolates, nuts, serviettes, bon bons, etc.

Sale Table: Reminder - Don't forget our sale table. If there is something you no longer need bring it along perhaps it is something one of our members would like – "one man's trash is another man's treasure".

The Explorers' Tree: The last issue of the Explorers' Tree for 2017 will be available at the October meeting. If you miss the meeting it will be available in the concertina file at Springwood Library.

What's On – Upcoming events:

Blue Mountains Bahai Community will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Bahu'u'llah, on **22nd October 2017** from **3-5pm** at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts with an art exhibition, singers and a short film, all welcome.

St Matthews Anglican Church Windsor 200 Year Celebrations, **14th & 15th October 2017**. St Matthews is the oldest Anglican Church in Australia.

The Church was designed by the famous ex-convict Francis Greenway and the Contractor was William Cox. On 11th October, 1817 the foundation stone was laid by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

14th October - 10am-3pm Saturday, Big Birthday Bash, McQuade Park - Community and Family celebrations in the park in Windsor. All Welcome, includes RAAF flyover, entertainment food, history and family history, stalls, tours and re-enactments.

15th October – 11.am Sunday, Church Service and Celebration with special guests, musical highlights and historical displays. Any overflow will be catered for outside with loud speakers.

St David's Uniting Church Kurrajong Heights **1867, 150 Anniversary Service 2pm, 5th November 2017**.

Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens, Mt Tomah 30th Birthday celebrations. This November the Gardens will become a spectacular stage for a month of artistic flamboyance featuring artists and performers from the Greater Blue Mountains Region. For details visit bluemountainsbotanicgarden.com.au.

Valley Heights Locomotive Heritage Museum – Sun.29th October 2017, Open day – Halloween Day.

Convict Interests - Our Society has begun compiling a list of Convict Ancestors, Pioneers and Interests of our Members. Many of our members have quite a few Convict Ancestors whilst others are researching groups of Convicts or particular Convict Ships. This list, along with details of the member involved is available at the Family History Centre in Springwood Library in a loose-leaf folder. This list is now also available progressively on this website and will be found here. **Convict Interests** For further information email bmfhsweb@gmail.com.

Street Photographers - where would we have been without them in the 1930s-60s. They popped up all over the City and Suburbs taking candid photos of pedestrians who were then handed a ticket which enabled them to purchase a print from the company the photographer worked for. I have four such photos and without one of them I would never have had a baby photo of me. Photomedia artist Anne Zahalka is looking for original street photographs. If interested in supplying Anne with scanned photos and enquiries, her email address is annezahalka57@gmail.com.

Interesting Websites: If you have ancestors who lived in South Australia, take a look at the [State Library of South Australia's collection of Post Office directories and almanacs](#). Searchable online for the period 1864-1899; Tracing NSW prisoners - State Records of New South Wales have compiled all of the sources and techniques needed to trace your gaolbird ancestor. Watch their [handy webinar](#) to learn how to find and interpret entrance books, description books, photograph description sheets, discharge books and more great records from their extensive collections