



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 12th September, 2014

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WELCOME members to this month's meeting of the Family History Society and welcome to the members who have recently joined, our latest member being Patricia Browne.

Last month's guest speaker Emeritus Professor, David Carment gave an interesting talk on his family, the well-known Sulman family, who first came to the Blue Mountains in the 1880s.

Today's guest speaker is none other than our Treasurer, Ian Kendall, who will be talking about DNA research and how it can be used as a tool in family history, both personally and more generally; how to join the DNA family history program and how to get the results and what to do with them when you have them; how they could help you find lost cousins; how they could really throw your concept of your family into disarray.

Next meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at **10am** on 10th October **2014**. There will be no guest speaker at this meeting but we will be looking at "Knocking Down Your Brick Wall". Members with "brick walls" are asked to write down their problems and bring them along to the October meeting.

Items of Interest to Members: The committee met on 22nd August last and held discussions on the following items:

Seminar 2015: Discussions on next year's Seminar are well underway with more information to follow in future Newsletters.

Laptop: Arising from the problem our last guest speaker had with the incompatibility of his laptop with our projector, the Society is currently investigating the idea of purchasing our own laptop to avoid this problem in future. It is also planned to ask for volunteers to be instructed in the use of this equipment at meetings.

Meet and greet: Commencing with our September meeting, a member of the committee will meet and greet members as they arrive at our monthly meeting. Brian Meagher has offered to do this, as will Ann Krasny when she returns from her trip. Perhaps other members may wish to volunteer in this capacity at a later stage.

Library volunteers: As requested by one of our members at the last general meeting, an endeavour will be made to further train volunteers at the library and it is hoped that this training will be on going. Approaches are currently being made to those best likely to assist in this training.

New Book – Kiama Family History Society has recently published the "Kiama Public School Admission Book 1915-1944". The cost is \$30. Interested members can contact Kiama Family History Society, Kiama Municipal Council, Family History Centre, PO Box 75, Kiama 2533.

Attention - Springwood Library: Due to rain Springwood Library will not be opening until **Monday 22nd September** and the car park will not be available until **Saturday 27th September 2014**.

Reminder regarding the computers in the Family History area of Springwood Library. These computers, including the ones belonging to the Library, are to be used for **one hour only** unless no one else wants to use them and should be vacated if and when someone does arrive.

Reminder - Cake Stall: November 21st 2014 to be held in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church. As well as donations of cakes, jams, and pickles - donations of books, DVDs and crafts will be welcome additions to the stall on the day.

Name Badges: Just a reminder to members to collect their name badges on arrival at our monthly meeting. This is helpful for new members and makes it easy to have social contact with each other without the necessity of trying to remember names.

Social Outings: Due to lack of numbers the last two advertised social outings were cancelled. Don will try again to interest members in an October social outing. This will be advertised at next month's meeting.

Marilyn Rowan Transcription Agent: Super Saturdays. For **September 6,13,20 & 27th plus October 4th** Marilyn is offering full NSW transcripts for \$18. If you visit <http://nswtranscriptions.com.au> you will find some helpful tips for researching the BDM site since changes were made in June.

Holroyd Local History Research are looking for information and photos of Servicemen and Women who were born, lived or enlisted in WWI from the Holroyd District (Prospect & Sherwood). Contact Dorothy 9632 9203 or Pat 9635 0796.

What's On: As from September's meeting, events happening in the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas can be found on the printed copy of the BMACHO (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations) calendar on the table where you sign in. For those with computers these events can be viewed at

the BMACHO website
www.bluemountainsheritage.com.au/

What's On:

Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park exhibition "Walking Beneath the Union Banners" Sat. 30th August-30th October 2014 during Museum opening hours. Contact highground@swiftdsl.com.au.

Historic Linnwood 25 Byron Road, Guildford. **Open Day** Sunday 14th September 2014 11am-4.00 pm. Admission \$3. Display of Military Vehicles incl. WWII Jeeps NSW, Colonial police, military and convict memorabilia, arts and crafts. If you haven't visited Linnwood before on an Open Day it is worth a visit.

What's in a Name? - Blues Point: Blues Point was named after William (Billy) Blue (1767-1834) convict, settler and ferryman, possibly born in Jamaica. Convicted in London 1796 of stealing sugar and transported to Botany Bay on the "Minorca" 4 years later. After serving out his 7-year sentence he lived at The Rocks with Elizabeth Williams an English born convict, they married at St Phillips's Church in 1805 and had 6 children. Billy worked as a waterman and collected and sold oysters and other items. In 1811 Governor Macquarie appointed him harbour watchman and constable. Due to this appointment he was able to acquire a new home overlooking Sydney Harbour that became a local landmark "Billy Blues Cottage". He found favour with both government officials and the public, to whom he endeared himself with his whimsical style and banter. In 1817 Billy was granted a farm that he called "Northampton" on the southernmost tip of the north shore of Port Jackson. The headland became known as "Billy Blue's Point". From this position Billy built up a "fleet of ferries". His wife Elizabeth died in 1824 and Billy died on 7th May 1834. Streets in North Sydney are named after him and the site of his northern ferry terminus, remained known as Blues Point.

To read more about the adventures of Billy Blue and other interesting Australians visit the Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>.

Williams in the family tree? Check out this family.

Websites: Australian Cemeteries index (best searchable index) <http://austcemindex.com/index.php>; Other Australian Cemeteries <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/nsw/index.htm>; Catholic Cemeteries <http://www.catholiccemeteries.com.au/deceased-search/> and <http://search.catholiccemeteries.org.au/default.aspx>; Balmain <http://www.balmaincemetery.org/index.html> and <http://www.balmaincemetery.org/Burial%20Register/Balmain%20Cemetery%20Register.pdf>; Rookwood Independent http://www.rookwoodindependent.com.au/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=11; Gunning Shire <http://www.gundaroo.info/genealogy/cemeteries/>; Waverley Cemetery <http://www.interment.net/data/aus/nsw/sydneymetropolitan/waverley/> and http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/services/library/local_studies/self_guided_history_walks/waverley

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