



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE 13th April, 2018

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Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to everyone at today's meeting.

At our March meeting we welcomed Alison Wishart from the NSW State Library. Alison gave a very interesting talk on the methods of taking oral history and what precautions to look out for. Her talk was well received by those present and it generated a lot of discussion and questions from our members.

Today's meeting - Presentation: As mentioned in the March Newsletter after reading the 2017 editions of the Explorers' Tree, Vicki Edmunds, the Springwood Librarian, has now selected the winners of the Bob Howard Award and the Coolgardie Safe Award along with a Highly Commended for each category. Today Vicki will be presenting the Awards to the lucky recipients.

Guest Speaker today: Fred Gooch is today's guest speaker. Fred who is a volunteer guide at old Parramatta Government House will be talking to us on this topic.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Family History Society will be held on **11th May 2018 at 10am** in our usual meeting place, the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church.

May Guest Speaker: Still to be organised.

The Committee on Friday 24th March 2018. There were not a lot of items on the Agenda but the following was discussed:

Street Stall: We were lucky with our street stall which was held on Friday 16th March in that the rain held off. We did have a couple of light showers which didn't come to much. We had chosen a Friday as we thought there might have been more people in Springwood shopping for the weekend but it turned out to be relatively quiet. In spite of this the Society made **\$356.55** which is money we would not otherwise have had. There are still items left over and Yvonne will be bringing some of the better items to be offered for sale at our meetings. Thank you to those stalwarts who turned up to help on the stall and for the pickles and slice made by Yvonne and the plants donated by John Gordon.

High Tea: We are all set for our High Tea to be held on **Saturday, 19th May 2018** and if it was anything like the last one, it should be a very pleasant afternoon. It is to be held in the hall at Christ Church, the Anglican Church on the Great Western Highway, Springwood commencing at 2pm.

This year's theme is "A Wedding". Ian already has a number of stories from members for the book but will be looking for more to make into an interesting book, complete with photos. Stories **no longer** than an A4 page together with photographs, if any, can be emailed to Ian at ike13024@bigpond.net.au or handed to him at this month's meeting.

There is no obligation to write a story or to present it on the day but come along and enjoy some fun and delicious food.

The cost is \$30 and attractive Invitations have been prepared by Ian and sent to our members and a few local societies.

High Tea Catering: Could those members who wish to volunteer the use of their china for the day and those members who wish to contribute any cakes or slices or generally help in the preparation of food and clearing up afterwards please see or contact Yvonne if you are not attending the April meeting. Yvonne's email address is whywrite@dodo.com.au.

High Tea Festivities:

As well as presenting your stories, some members may wish to bring along their wedding dress if they still have it, photos or anything you feel might be of interest for a display table.

The Explorers' Tree: Just a reminder to members to keep producing those interesting stories we all enjoy reading in The Explorers' Tree. Rhonda never tires of receiving them and it makes her life a lot easier if she doesn't have to search for fillers to fill spaces in the magazine. Rhonda's email address is rflowers@optusnet.com.au.

Raffles - Tickets for our first raffle for 2018, kindly donated by Ian, are on sale again today and will be drawn today not at our May meeting as previously advised.

If any member has an item they would like to offer for our future raffles could you please let Yvonne or one of the committee know.

Trade table - Any unwanted item or items? Please consider donating these to the trade table.

What's On:

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum - Open Days, Sunday 8th & 22nd April. **Glenbrook & District Historical Society**. Walks - Faulconbridge Steam Sawmill site Sat. 14th April and The Mountain Murders Sat. 5th May. Contact Doug Knowles 4751 3275

Springwood Library, Sat. 21st April. Talk by Lt. Col. Peter Sweeney (rtd) "The Battle of Hamel". Booking required.

Member Profile: Last year Rhonda, our Explorers' Tree editor, suggested that perhaps members might like to write an article containing their profile. Rhonda originally thought these profiles could go in the Newsletter but it was decided that they would be better placed in The Explorers' Tree as a filler and because usually there is not enough room in the Newsletter. Prior to our April meeting members may have received an email from Yvonne containing guide lines for anyone wishing to write their profile.

However, this Newsletter today is the exception to the rule, there being not enough information to fill the Newsletter, so I have decided to kick start Rhonda's idea by following her guide lines:

My name is Pauline Gibson. I was born Pauline Angus on the 29th July 1945 and at the time my family were living in Sydney.

I married Peter John Gibson in 1967 and we went to live in North Springwood (as it then was) in 1968 just before the devastating bush fires that same year. I have been a member of the Blue Mountains Family History Society since 2000. At the time of joining the Society I was a legal secretary and worked for the local legal firm, John W. Hogan. I retired in 2005 and my research really took off then.

It was meeting a cousin down from Queensland in 2000 for the first time that I became interested in researching my family history. Jocelyn had come to Sydney to visit Leichhardt Council Chambers to research our grandfather who was on the first Council for Annandale. At the Council Archives we found records of the Minutes dating back to our grandfather's time on Annandale Council. We were also directed to the now defunct Annandale Council building and found two photos of him and other councillors hanging on the walls. From little things big things grow, that is how I became hooked on family history.

During the course of my research I have discovered that I have English, Scottish and Welsh ancestors and since my retirement I have been lucky enough to visit the places where they all lived. I have researched all my direct family lines their surnames being Brooks, Pithers, Horton, Fewings, McCloy, Hallam, Phillips, Grace, Dobbs, Grono, Angus and Horne.

My brick wall is my Gt Grandmother, Sarah Jane Horne from Tipperary. I cannot find her entry to Australia nor anything about her family back in Ireland. (Could her name be Horan and not Horne)

During my research I have discovered 4 convicts much to my older sister's disgust though I found it very exciting. None were first fleeters. I have also discovered a cousin, Merrill Greenfield, who lives in England and whose father was my Gt Grandfather, George Angus's brother, we've met on a few occasions and regularly correspond.

Apart from family history I enjoy art, particularly working with pastels and I like making felt toys which I do on behalf of the charity, Operation Christmas Child.

My family history tip: Try locating a family history group in the areas where your ancestors lived. I have received wonderful help and information by doing this.

Websites: Surnames. Meaning and Distribution: <http://forebears.io/surnames>

