



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

# Newsletter

DATE 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2014

### Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains  
Federal Member for Macquarie  
State Member for The Blue Mountains

### Office Bearers

#### **President**

Yvonne Wright

#### **V-President**

Colin Brest

#### **Secretary**

Colin Brest

#### **Treasurer & Research**

Ian Kendall

#### Committee

Pauline Gibson

Ann Krasny

Ann Raaphorst

#### Public Officer

Joan Edwards

#### Coordinators

#### Explorers' Tree

Editor: Rhonda Flowers

Layout/publisher:

John Arnold

Proof reader Ian Kendall

#### Other Publishing

Joan Edwards

#### Membership Secretary

Ann Raaphorst

#### Members' Interest &

#### Indexing

Joan Edwards

#### Web Master

Ian Kendall

#### Librarians

Pauline Hincksman

Alison Tissington

#### Library Roster

Brian Meagher

#### Publicity

Pauline Gibson

#### Editor Newsletter

Pauline Gibson

**WELCOME** members to our 2014 Christmas Party. Hoping everyone had a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, happy 2015.

**Last meeting:** As you all know last month was the Annual General Meeting. As Audrey King was standing down as President, our current Secretary, Yvonne Wright stepped into the breach, for which we thank her as, without a President the Society would have been finished. Colin Brest was nominated Vice President and as no one wanted to fill the position of Secretary he has also taken on the position of Secretary – thank you Colin. Ian Kendall remains as Treasurer (where would the Society be without him?). Brian Meagher and Lynne Tocher stood down from the being on the committee and we thank them for their contributions during 2014. The committee now consists of three members, Ann Raaphorst, Ann Krasny and Pauline Gibson. It would be good to have at least one additional member on the committee, perhaps over the Christmas break someone might consider becoming part of the committee.

**Next meeting:** Meetings for the Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc will resume in February 2015. The next meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015**.

**Items of Interest to Members:** The first meeting of the new committee was held **28<sup>th</sup> November** last and the following items were discussed:

**Cake Stall:** The cake stall was held at the Presbyterian Church on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of November. Consequently there were not many people out and about in Springwood which did affect our sales, nevertheless the Society was happy to make **\$400.80** on the day. There are quite a number of books left over and the plan is to hold a garage sale some time in 2015. The books are currently being stored in Brian Meagher's garage, thank you Brian. A big "thank you" to all the members who kindly donated cakes, jams, pickles, books and other bits and pieces - your donations were greatly appreciated.

**Raffle:** Sales were down at this year's cake stall due to the heat and lack of visitors but there is still time to buy tickets at the Christmas Party for this lovely painting by Pat Carruthers. The raffle will be drawn on the day.

**Christmas Party:** Ian advised the committee that just over 40 members would be attending the Christmas Party this year - a very pleasing number. It is hoped it will be a fun time with an interesting game prepared by Ian and a number of lucky door prizes. **Reminder: 12noon** at the Grandview Hotel, Wentworth Falls, this Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**The Explorers' Tree:** As mentioned in the last Newsletter the Society was looking for a new editor for our wonderful magazine. Audrey King who has done a great job as editor for many years felt it was time to step down. "Thank you" Audrey for a job well done. Rhonda Flowers has kindly offered to step into the position and looks forward to receiving member's articles for the February 2015 Explorers' Tree. Could any member with an article to publish please email it to Rhonda Flowers at [rwflowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rwflowers@optusnet.com.au). Rhonda is in urgent need of more contributions for the next issue.

**Explorers' Tree cont'd:** It was suggested at the committee meeting, in order to promote the Blue Mountains area in our Magazine, which is read by many societies outside our area, members with ancestors or early connections in the Blue Mountains might like to contribute an article for one of next year's editions.

**2015 Seminar:** Due to a number of circumstances the Seminar planned for 13<sup>th</sup> June next year has now been changed to August at a date to be announced. This is thought to be an ideal month as it will coincide with Family History Month.

**Springwood Library Reminder:** Members please note Springwood Library is closed until **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

**Library Roster:** Although no longer on the committee Brian Meagher is still prepared to organize the volunteers' library roster - "thank you" Brian.

**Member's fees reminder:**

A reminder membership fees are due 1st January 2015. Fees for single membership - \$30.00; \$40.00 per couple plus \$7.50 for postage of Explorers' Tree if required.

**Guest Speakers:** The Society is hoping to introduce some more interesting guest speakers during 2015.

**FaceBook:** For those members who are on FaceBook don't forget to visit the Society's site on FaceBook. There is a lot to discover.

**What's On:**

\***Family Carol Service - Salvation Army**, Frances Road, Faulconbridge (off Grose Road), **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015.** Carol Singing, Brass Band, Lighthouse Big Band, Visit from Santa - ALL WELCOME.

\***Open Day - Special Christmas themed weekend - Saturday & Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014 - Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum.**

**Recently read on-line under the Heading "Things I hate about Family History"** - perhaps all our members can relate to this:

**"No one labels old photos.** It's so sad to visit antique shops and see dozens of 100-year-old photos for sale because no one ever took a few minutes to pencil names on the back. What's sadder is the shoe box of unidentified photos in your closet. You can't throw them out, because you know they're people who belong somewhere in the tree, but it's doubtful you or anyone else will ever know how." (Sadly, how true.)

**"Things I love about Family History"**

**" It gives me a sense of the people who formed me.** We are the product of people who came before. You figure that your parents moulded you in many ways, and that your parents were moulded by their parents, etc. So there's a part of each ancestor - good and bad - in our values and personalities and genes. Although playwright Edward Albee, when asked about why he had never tried to find his birth parents, responded: 'I don't want to go to the trouble. I know who I am. Once I figured out who I was, whatever care or interest I may have had in where I came from vanished completely.' "

**Websites:** Some interesting websites for members new to Family History & for other members a reminder of websites out there: **FreeBMD** Indexes the majority of births, marriages and deaths registered in England & Wales from July 1837 onwards and explains which periods are covered. Over 238 million distinct records are included - you can search them by using a variety of different filters; **FreeCEN** Indexes over 26 million names from the 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1891 censuses of England, Wales and Scotland and explains the current extent of its coverage; **FreeREG** Indexes more than 14.4 million baptisms, 4.7 million marriages and nearly 10.1 million burials that have been transcribed from parish and non-conformist registers of England, Scotland and Wales. Detailed information is provided of the places and time spans covered and those being worked on. **GENUKI** A virtual reference library of genealogical information relating to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. **Old Bailey 1674-1913** Fully searchable edition of texts relating to 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court. **National Library of Scotland** <http://www.nls.uk/>; **The National Library of Wales - Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru** Online catalogue containing over 4 million printed volumes **Local BMD** Links to all the county websites that offer online transcribed indexes to original records held by local register offices **Mays Hill Cemetery** (new website) <http://www.mayshillcemetery.org/>; **New Zealand Family Research** - Dictionary of New Zealand Biography <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies>; Papers Past <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>; New Zealand Bound (Passenger lists) <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/index.htm>; Free Family Tree Templates [http://obituarieshelp.org/free\\_printable\\_blank\\_family\\_tree.html](http://obituarieshelp.org/free_printable_blank_family_tree.html); New Zealand Irish Connection <http://www.otago.ac.nz/historyarthistory/nzic/>; **Tasmanian Research** - Tasmania's Heritage <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au/menu.aspx?search=8>; **Mailing Lists** which can be found at **Rootsweb** are a great help in your research in connecting with someone with the same interests <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> (free)

