



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 14th June, 2013

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Pauline Gibson

WELCOME to the fifth meeting of the Society for 2013. What an interesting guest speaker we had last month. Patricia Skene from the Canada Bay Historical Museum gave a talk on the Canada Bay Exiles. Patricia was assisted by our member Colin Brest who portrayed one of the exiles and answered questions from the Journal he had secretly written during the term of his imprisonment. These exiles were French Canadian farmers sent to Australia by the British in 1840. After the British lost the American War of Independence they moved into Canada, changed the official religion from Roman Catholic to Church of England, charged rates at 600% and evicted 120 settlers from their homes. It was following a riot by the farmers against such injustices that they were taken prisoner, tried and 58 of them transported to Australia on board the "Buffalo". These prisoners were to spend the next two years at Longbottom, Concord, now known as Canada Bay. After two years they were given Tickets of Leave but it took a further five years before they returned to their homeland leaving behind what they termed as the "Land of a Thousand Sorrows".

Today's guest speaker is Ken Goodlet. Ken is a local historian and author. The NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, recently launched his latest book "Blue Mountains Journeys" at Blaxland. Ken's talk will be centred on his own family history, Gregory Blaxland's life and his latest book.

Next meeting: 12th July 2013. We were to have Yvonne Stewart from the Benevolent Society speak to us at this meeting but unfortunately she is unable to attend. Her talk has been postponed until 11th October 2013. Our guest speaker for this meeting will now be Kaye Vernon from Teapot Genealogy. Kaye's topic will be touching on the Irish famine and the plight of children in the 19th Century.

Items of Interest to Members:

The Society has now taken over the storage unit in Springwood that Jan Koperberg had used in her recent move and where she had been holding various items for the Society as well as her own property. The cost to the Society for a 12-month Lease was \$509 that has been paid. The lease can be cancelled at any time without penalty if alternative arrangements are found. Now that the problem of storage has been found the items that were stored in the shed in Rosie's garage have now been removed and installed in their new home. We thank those involved in the removal of these items Terry & Rhonda Flowers, Colin Brest, Brian and Jan Koperberg and a thank you to Jan for setting up the new storage facility. The Society would also like to thank Rosie for allowing it to have the use of her garage for a good number of years.

Awards. Vicki Edmunds, the Springwood Librarian, will be presenting the 2013 Bob Howard Memorial Award and the Coolgardie Safe Award at today's meeting. Could all members who contributed a story to the Explorer's Tree last year try to attend this month's meeting.

Morning tea: In an effort to save the Society money and at Pauline Hincksman's suggestion, the committee has agreed that at our future meetings we make use of the china cups available in the hall. This would eliminate the need to spend money on the foam cups we are now using but would mean they would have to be washed up. Pauline Hincksman has volunteered to do this and no doubt there will be plenty of offers to help.

Surveys: The survey of members, at the last general meeting, about proposed fundraising ideas found the stall in Springwood to be the most popular. To pursue this matter a little further and establish the viability of such a stall could all those interested in supplying items indicate what they would be prepared to contribute.

Members' Interests: Work will soon commence on inserting Members' Interests onto our website. As some members find this a difficult form to complete, could we have some volunteers who would offer to help someone having difficulties? Volunteers might see Joan Edwards at today's meeting.

Library news:

Books donated by Margaret Allen now accessioned:

Tasmania's Convicts - How Felons Built a Free Society.

'Squatting' on Crown Lands in New South Wales.

Kelso Village - Book 1

Winmalee High School - The Pioneer Years 1984-1990.

Returning Magazines: Magazines are on loan for one month only. When returning magazines to the Library could you please put the name of the returnee and record borrowed magazine on your sheet by month, year and title as displayed on the cover sticker. If unsure what to record please ask.

Blue Mountains Family History Society on Facebook. This has been mentioned in a Newsletter but only briefly touched on. There is quite a lot of interesting and helpful information posted on this site. Inside History has a weekly Q&A on a Thursday night with specialist genealogists on specific topics. There are also interesting photos and a link to a video on how to get more out of Trove. Anyone can read current and former posts; those with FaceBook accounts can take part. <http://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsFamilyHistorySociety?ref=hl>

New on Trove: The Blue Mountains Echo 1909-1928.

Forces War Records is pleased to announce that we are now able to offer a range of official military replacement medals from World War I and World War II. Visit the [Forces War Records Campaign Medals Section](#) to see what medals were issued during various military campaigns and which can be purchased.

What's on in Family History:

Female Factory Tour Walk in the footsteps of female convicts as you visit their place of incarceration. Initiated by Governor Macquarie and designed by Frances Greenway. A powerful story of women's place in history. **When:** Sunday 16th June 2013, 2-3.30pm. Cost \$12.00. **Meet:** At the entrance to Cumberland Hospital in Fleet Street nth Parramatta. **Bookings:** Call Judith Dunn 9686-6861.

State Records NSW is planning an Open Day at the Western Sydney Records Centre **Friday 30 August 2013, 10am-4pm**. The theme is Transport. As well as a number of guest speakers, the Open Day will include tours of the facility, conservation clinics, small exhibitions, and a 'treasures of the archives' display. There will also be a display of vintage military vehicles.

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum. Open Day Sunday 23rd June 2013

Glenbrook Historical Society Walk: "*The Mountain Murders*" - Lee Weller's grave. **Saturday 29th June 2013** - Contact: Doug Knowles: 4751 3275; Tim Miers: 4739 2384

Springwood Library - 3rd-14th June 2013 Crossings Exhibition.

Katoomba City Library - 17th-28th June Crossings Exhibition

Parramatta & District Historical Society coming Thursday Talks given by Trevor Patrick - **June 20th 2013** Parramatta & District Heritage Coach Tour of Narellan discovering the district's Wool Heritage, Aboriginal leader of Burragorang tribe, St Thomas Chapel and 'The Pansy' steam train - **June 27th, 2013** St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Beautiful art design following the 1996 fire. **Contact:** Ken 9871-4155, Cottage 9635-6924. Hambledon Cottage, Gregory Place, Parramatta. . Parking in the grounds.

The City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum, Sat. 29th June 2013 Sir Joseph & Dame Mary Cook Seminar, 2-4pm at Lithgow Workman's Club celebrating centenary of Lithgow's own Prime Minister. Bookings Cassandra Coleman 0429234163

Websites: Ireland Old News <http://www.irelandoldnews.com/index.html>; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland searchable database <http://www.proni.gov.uk/index.htm>; The History Detective <http://www.carolbaxter.com/newsletter-1.html>; Federation of Australian Historical Societies containing various links <http://www.history.org.au/>; Australian Boer War Memorial <http://www.bwm.org.au/site/Home.asp> Tasmanian Government Linc research convicts, family history & more <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>