



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 14th March 2014

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WELCOME members to the Society's second meeting of 2014.

Today's guest speaker is Bob Maynard, one of our members. Bob will present a talk on the 1842 UK Royal Commission into the Employment of Women and Children in the Mines, covering the living and working conditions of women and children in mining communities in the UK before 1842.

Next meeting: The next general meeting of the Society will be held at the Presbyterian Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood at **10am** on 11th April **2014**. The guest speaker for that meeting will be Lorraine Purcell. Lorraine was a guest speaker at one of our meetings last year when she gave an interesting insight into the history of Hill End and Tambaroora. At the April meeting Lorraine will be introducing a very necessary topic for those researching their family history - The importance of getting all the family history research out of the shoebox (or computer) and into some form of sharable resource for future generations.

Items of Interest to Members:

As the Society is hoping to make 2014 a year to further members' family research and perhaps break down some "brick walls", at the last committee meeting on the 28th February 2014 the following was discussed:

***Mentoring:** This was mentioned in the last Newsletter and at the February general meeting - the institution of a mentoring system to help members with their research. It is hoped that all members will eventually take this up. To start this process the committee members have each filled out a Mentoring form (which can be found on the Society's website). These completed forms will be available today and placed on the table where members sign in and can be looked at either before the meeting or during morning tea. If you see an area of research in which you are interested please feel free to approach the member whose name appears on the form with a view to seeking help or information. We hope that all our members will embrace this idea of writing down an area of research where they may be able to assist another member who may be seeking research advice.

***Key areas of research interest:** Members are also being asked to take the time to write down what areas they are particularly interested in and where they need help, whether it is here in Australia or overseas. If these can be written up and brought to a general meeting, they can then be taken to the next committee meeting for discussion as to what avenues of help would be available.

***Suggestion box:** As mentioned at the last meeting we now have a Suggestion Box for members to avail themselves of. **Who will be the first to put in a suggestion?** It is anonymous, no names needed and has only been instituted to give members a say in the running of the Society. You may wish to mention someone you would like to have as a guest speaker - you may have been to a meeting where you heard a particular guest speaker who you think our members would be interested in hearing or you may like to suggest an outing that might interest members; suggest an interesting website for the Newsletter or there may be something you might like included in the Newsletter, the list is endless. Let your Society work for you!!!

Fees - A further reminder that membership fees are now due, \$30.00 for single membership and \$40.00 per couple and an additional \$7.50 if the Explorers' Tree is to be posted. Members have up until the 31st March 2014 to pay their fees before they become unfinancial.

Raffle - For the months of March and April the Society will be raffling a book entitled "For the Love of Will" which is an interesting look into the life of a soldier, William Husten McNeice, serving overseas during WWI. While it contains personal letters to his wife, it also contains many letters detailing the life and conditions of our soldiers serving overseas at this time in our Country's history. Tickets will be sold at \$1.00 each.

Do you know this man - John King? Bruce Cameron is currently re-writing a book he first released in 1992 titled 'A history of the Blue Labyrinth'. The book contains a number of people associated with the Blue Labyrinth over many years.

One person in particular he would like to ascertain biographical details on is **John King**. After much searching and assistance from John Merriman Bruce cannot find John King's birth date or his date of death...if in fact he has passed away. It would appear from Bruce's limited information that John King lived in the lower mountains, was a friend of Perce Thomas of Springwood and that Perce named the track known as The Kings Link Track at Springwood after his friend King. Could any member with knowledge or information on John King (1925-?) contact Bruce Cameron on 0438826733

Sydney Morning Herald - The Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc has a collection of bound copies of the Sydney Morning Herald's from 1880 to 1898 that they no longer want due to lack of space and the advent of Trove.

The Society would like to find a new home for them, rather than consign them to the local recycling centre. Anyone interested in acquiring this collection please contact The Secretary, PO Box 516, Lithgow or ldfhs@lisp.com.au

What's On:

Living history convict play in Dharug National Park. **Convict Footprints on the Old Great North Road** returns in April 2014 (5th, 6th, 12th and 13th). This immersive, informative, heart wrenching and humorous play portrays the lives of the convicts and officials who built the Old Great North Road. The Old Great North Road is one of 11 historic places that form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property. Tickets at www.ticketbooth.com.au and search for a convict.

What's on cont'd:

Our Correspondence Secretary received the following email from Russell Kilbey.

"We are launching our feature documentary **The Man from Coxs River** at the **Chauvel Cinema Paddington March 25th @ 6.30**

We think it is a very important film that will be of great interest to your members.

It features some great history of the Blue Mountains area and early bushwalking movement.

We would love some of your people to attend. Please let us know if you'd like some complimentary tickets."

Any member who might be interested please see Yvonne after the general meeting.

BMACHO (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations) are holding a History Conference "Opening up the Route to the West - Architecture and the Railway" Sat. 10th May 2014 at the Carrington Hotel, Katoomba Street, Katoomba. Cost \$50.00 for conference including lunch and as an extra \$10 for afternoon tea at the Paragon followed by a tour of the Paragon. For more information see <http://www.rahs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/BMACHO-Program-Registration-Form-Conf-2014-1.pdf> RSVP by Wednesday, 30 April 2014.

Taree Family History Inc. "Larrikins & Leg Irons" Family History Fair, Sunday 25th May 2014 - 10am to 4pm. Taree RSL Function Rooms.

Kiama Family History Centre's 25th Anniversary Family, Social & Local History Expo; Sat 12th April 2014 at Kiama Pavilion - Bong Bong Street, 9.30am to 4.00pm - Cost: Free.

From the National Trust: Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries costume exhibition at Old Government House, Parramatta 1 March until 1 June 2014. The exhibition will showcase more than 40 outfits worn by Phryne Fisher (Essie Davis) and her cohorts; including Detective Inspector Jack Robinson (Nathan Page) and Aunt Prudence (Miriam Margolyes) The costumes have been generously made available by Marion Boyce, costume designer for the ABC1 hit TV series, who recently won the AACTA Award for Best Costume Design on Television. Marion will also headline guest two guided tours as part of the exhibition events. Tickets for the exhibition are on sale via the website

www.nationaltrust.org.au/nsw/mfmm.

Websites: NSW-National Boer War Association Newsletter

http://www.bwm.org.au/documents/NSW_Newsletter_201403.pdf; Information for Digging up your Roots in Wales

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/wales.html>; Dictionary of Victorian London <http://www.victorianlondon.org/>

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