



## Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

# Newsletter

DATE 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

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Pauline Gibson

**May meeting:** Our meeting this month will be held on **12<sup>th</sup> May 2017** in our new meeting place, the small hall of the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood commencing at 10am and finishing around 12 noon.

**Guest Speaker for May meeting:** Trish Skehan who is a bit of a regular and interesting speaker will be giving a talk on her book "A Gleam of Gold" and what went on at the Northern Goldfields, particularly at Stewart's Brook. It is about floods, fire, famine and murder and mayhem. To use Trish's words "It's a WOW of a story".

**Committee Meeting:** The committee met on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and the following discussions followed:

**The Society's Constitution:** There are to be some minor amendments made to the Society's Constitution in accordance with the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading's new Model Constitution and amendment to the Act for Incorporated Associations. Ian and Joan are undertaking this review and will report back soon.

**Library Roster:** Many of the usual volunteers are away on travel this year and completing the roster, as usual, isn't easy. Further assistance in the Library is essential if we are to meet our commitment. Generally, we are able to provide one volunteer each Tuesday and Thursday and thus are looking for others who would be able to assist. You would not be on your own as a regular volunteer will be on duty for guidance. Please let Ian know if you can assist.

Email: [ike13024@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ike13024@bigpond.net.au)

**September Seminar:** Planning for the Seminar in September is progressing well with almost all the guest speakers arranged. The venue, the Baptist Church Hall in Macquarie Road has been secured and morning tea and lunch are being arranged. Publicity and application forms will be sent out shortly. An advertisement in the *Australian Family Tree Connection* (AFTC) magazine is being submitted.

After lunch entertainment has also been secured and I'm sure this will be very well received.

There will be a raffle at the Seminar and the Committee is seeking a suitable prize.

**Excursions:** Our Excursion Coordinator, Ann, is planning for three possible excursions this year.

1. Blackheath – including lunch
2. ABC Studios Ultimo tour - \$9.00 per person (\$8.00 Concession)
3. Female Factory, Parramatta & St John's Cemetery

Expressions of interest for these will be sought with dates, times and travel details provided. For the ABC tour payment must be in advance with no refund.

**Raffle:** Tickets in our first small raffle of the year sold at the March meeting will also be sold at the May meeting and then drawn with the winner announced after the guest speaker has spoken.

## What's on - Upcoming events:

### Glenbrook & District Historical Society –

Saturday, 10 June - Walk: “*The Mountains Murders*” –  
*Captain Lee Weller's murder site and Grave* –  
Doug Knowles 4751 3275

### Woodford Academy Exhibition - A 2017 Australian

**Heritage Event:** “If These Walls Could Speak” –  
Heritage, Art, Poetry, **15<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017,**  
**10am-4pm.** Museum Entry & Exhibition Adults \$6,  
Concession/Child \$4, Family \$15. Guided Tours \$2 pp

**The Explorers' Tree:** The next edition of “*The Explorers' Tree*” will be available at the June meeting. As you know Rhonda is always looking for articles or anecdotes to continue to make it the great magazine that it is. So keep those stories or interesting snippets coming, by emailing them to Rhonda at [rwflowers@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rwflowers@optusnet.com.au).

**Salvation Army Men's Club, Springwood:** On the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> May Ian attended their dinner meeting and was privileged to be their guest speaker. Ian spoke about Family History and the difference between family history and genealogy. He also spoke of the ways and means, websites and archives, software and resources that can be used to develop a family history. Ian sprinkled the talk with lots of examples from his own family history research and concluded with an invitation to seek out and join the BMFHS and attend our meetings and use our resources at the Library. He feels his talk was well received.

**BMFHS Website Research Assistance:** This month Ian has been able to assist the following queries:

Kevin O'Duffy (resident of Ireland) – seeking details of the gravesite for his father who left Ireland when he was 2 yo and his stepmother. I was able to provide details of their burial in *Wood Coffill Vol1* and a photograph of their home on Old Bathurst Road, Blaxland with information from the *Electoral Roll*.

James Cattlin – seeking information about James Sloper Hill and Mary Hill, his wife who lived in Mt Victoria and was a licensee of a hotel in Mt Victoria. Using *Wood Coffill Vol2* I was able to inform him of their burial details and location in Blackheath Cemetery. I referred him to the Mt Victoria Historical Society for details regarding the hotel licence.

## 5 Photos You Should Take at the Cemetery

It's sad — and rather frustrating — to go to a cemetery, take some photos, and realize when you get home that those photos don't really help you. (It's especially frustrating when you're not able to get back to take more photos.) To help ease the frustration, here are 5 cemetery photos that you should get in the habit of taking every time:

### 1. The Cemetery Sign

The cemetery sign should be the first photo you take each time you go to the cemetery. I know it feels a little strange to take a picture before you even get into the cemetery. When you go to several cemeteries, you can lose track of which one was which. Having the sign as the first photo for that cemetery, you never have to wonder later, “Which cemetery was this?” All you need to do is scroll back through your photos until you get to the cemetery sign.

### 2. The Entire Tombstone

I like to get a picture of the entire tombstone, even if I can't read all of the details. You wouldn't photocopy just one paragraph of an ancestor's will. Treat the tombstone the same way: as a document. Get a photo showing the whole thing.

### 3. Close-up Details

There are often details that aren't legible in the photo of the entire tombstone. That's when you want to take close-up shots. Take photos of the name and dates, the epitaph, symbols, and other details. (Take them from several angles to improve your odds of reading them later.)

### 4. The Wider Shot

If you want to have some hope of finding that tombstone again, take several steps back and get a photo of the tombstone and the stones around it. This helps give you landmarks for finding it again.

### 5. The Neighbours

Our ancestors are often buried near other relatives. Get photos of the surrounding tombstones (including close-ups of the inscriptions). Even if you don't know how (or even if) those people are related now, you'll have the information for when you do more research on the family later.

<http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/>

[5 Photos You Should Take at the Cemetery \(Edited\)](#)

## Interesting Websites: ARCHIVES

[Australian Trade Union Archives](#) - This site is a gateway for researchers and scholars of labour history.

[State Library of Western Australia](#) - Guides to Family History - Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP)

[ArchiveGrid](#) - includes over three million records describing archival materials

[Australian War Memorial](#) -, This extensive site is a must for family history research

[National Film and Sound Archive](#) - This archive collects, preserves and shares our rich audiovisual heritage.

[National Archives of Australia](#) - The Archives holds Australian government records from 1901

[National Library of Australia](#) - Australian Joint Copying Project

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