



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

DATE 13th September 2013

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WELCOME to this month's meeting of the Society. The August guest speaker, Lorraine Purcell, was an excellent speaker giving members an insight into the early days of the gold mining town of Hill End

Today's guest speaker is Lorraine Turtle, an authorised Transcription Agent from Turtle Consolidated Services. Lorraine's topic will be Probates and Deceased Estates.

Note regarding guest speakers: So as not to interrupt a speaker's train of thought, could members please leave questions for the speaker until the end of the presentation unless the speaker invites the audience to take part.

Next meeting: This will be held at 10am on the 11th October 2013 in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Our guest speaker will be Yvonne Stewart from the Benevolent Society

Items of Interest to Members:

Christmas Party:

Following a recent discussion with the proprietor of the Lawson Hotel and due to the number of members who will be attending, it has been decided that instead of a buffet lunch it will be a sit down meal. Everything else will remain the same including the cost of \$25.00 per person. For any member who has not indicated they would like to attend the Christmas party list will be on Ian's table. A reminder that spouses are also welcome to attend.

For the purposes of the dessert could any member on a gluten free diet please indicate this against your name on the list. Final arrangements regarding the menu will be organised after the end of September. The next Newsletter will advise the time and date for payment.

November Stall:

At the last committee meeting it was proposed that the Society go ahead with the plans to hold a stall at the end of November. The Society has had quite a bit to outlay recently and little money coming in due to lack of any new publications to sell. Raising membership fees was discussed but discounted for this year and in lieu of this, it was agreed that a holding a stall would provide the Society with some additional funds. The stall will be held in the grounds of the Presbyterian Church on **Friday, 29th November 2013 from 9.00am to 12.30pm**. To make this a successful money-earner we need members willing to contribute goods, such as craft items, jams, pickles, cakes, plants and books. If you can help in any way, please add your name to the list, which will be on Ian's table.

State Records Kingswood Open Day - 30th August 2013.

Quite a few of our members attended State Records Open Day, as did many other people. The talks were extremely interesting with a good range of topics all centred around travel - Convict transports and all they entailed not only on the trip out to Australia but the perilous return trip to England; Rail journeys - Sydney to Brisbane and into the Blue Mountains to name but a few. There was also quite number of Family History stalls and an exhibition of Treasures held by the Archives. Well worth attending next year.

Family History Month:

A big thank you to our BMFHS volunteers who conducted Introduction Sessions in the library during Family History Month. The sessions took place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and two Saturdays during August. In total 26 people visited the Family History section in Springwood Library. All seemed to enjoy finding out what was available to help them with their research. The visitors received notes about the resources in the section, were advised about volunteer hours, told about our monthly meetings and were given membership forms, some joining on the day. Well done to our volunteers.

Irish Roots Magazine:

There is a great selection of Irish Roots magazine back copies available now from our online store at: - <http://irish-roots-magazine.myshopify.com/>.

News from SAG: Whroo Cemetery: An index of burials to Whroo cemetery in Victoria has been published online at www.whroocemeteryinterments.weebly.com. The index was first published in hard copy in 1996 and has now been updated and revised before being published online. Also on the site is a brief history of the cemetery, photographs of some headstones and a plan of the cemetery.

Recently digitised Tasmanian records: The Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office have an ongoing project with FamilySearch whereby the entire Tasmanian birth, death and marriage records to 1899 have been digitised from microfilm and are being made available online. At present only the digitised images are available but the long-term plan is to provide an index to the record. Images for births are currently available on the Tasmanian Archives website while all birth, death and marriage images are available on FamilySearch. Other records available from the TAHO include Lower Court Records (Magistrates Court), Hobart Public Cemetery and the Weekly Courier newspaper.

New Publication: Title: Emu Plains to Bathurst - the Great Inns and Hotels. Researched and Compiled by Sharon L. Cross. Cost: \$15
Contact: shazbell38@gmail.com

What's on:

Parramatta Historical Society Spring Fair Saturday 14th September Hambledon Cottage cnr Hassall St & Gregory Pl Parramatta - Antique Valuations \$5.00 first item \$4.00 each additional; Art Exhibition and Plenty of stalls.

Mt Druitt Historical Society Open Day, The Manse, The Avenue, Mt Druitt, Saturday, 14th September, 10am. For information and booking contact Hazel on (02) 8807-0169.

Springwood Historical Society meeting Friday 20th September, Guest Speaker: Dr Tracy Bradford from the Mitchell Library, Topic "William Lawson"

Glenbrook & District Historical Society: Saturday 21st September, a walk to "Dunn's Sawmill site: - earth dam, Brookside Creed, Lennox Bridge and old stone Quarry. Contact: Doug Knowles 4751 3275/Tim Miers 4739 2384

Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum Open Day Sunday 22nd September

RAHS:

The Royal Australian Historical Society has created a website featuring 300 photographs from their library collection to commemorate the bicentenary in May 2013 of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth. At the time of the centenary of the crossing in 1913, Frank Walker (1861-1948) was President of the RAHS and a passionate supporter of local history whose personal archive is now held by the Royal Australian Historical Society. As well as glass lantern slides, it includes scrap albums and booklets of news cuttings, photographs and ephemera. The Frank Walker Crossings Collection provides access to a selection of this material to honour both his contribution to preserving historical records about the original expedition, and the bicentenary of 2013 that are now readily available worldwide. To see the collection visit <http://www.rahs.org.au/western-crossings/frank-walker/>

Ancestry.co.uk:

Free access to England & Wales 1911 Census from Ancestry.co.uk until 14 October 2013.

Websites: First World War Centenary News: the wills of 280,000 British WWI soldiers <http://www.centenarynews.com/article?id=1080>; **Queensland Government Gazettes, 1859-1900.** Digitised and free to look at - <http://www.textqueensland.com.au/gazette> <http://www.facebook.com/l/6AQEvZ_rV/www.textqueensland.com.au/gazette; **Cornish Obituaries** <http://www.cornwall-opc.org/Resc/obituaries.php>

