



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

PO Box 97, Springwood.2777
DATE 12th June, 2009

Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs

Patrons

Mayor, City of The Blue Mountains

Councillor, Adam Searle

Federal Member for Macquarie

The Hon. Mr Bob Debus, MHR

State Member for The Blue Mountains

The Hon, Phil Koperberg, MLA

Committee

President	Joan Edwards	4757 2317
V-President	Terry Flowers	4758 9559
Secretary	Jan Koperberg	4754 1544
Treasurer	Ian Kendall	4758 7679
Committee	Rhonda Flowers	
	Pauline Gibson	
	Maureen Ingram	
	Nola Jamsek	
	Audrey King	
	Brian Meagher	4751 7047
	Rosemary Phillips	

Sub-Committees

Magazine	Suzanne Newbury	
Membership and Research	Audrey King	4754 1491
Guest Speakers	Brian Meagher	
Members' Interest	Joan Edwards	
Web Master/ Indexer	Ian Kendall	
Librarian	Rhonda Flowers	
Social Organiser	Don Graham	4751 2991
Purchasing	Nola Jamsek & Ors.	
Publicity	Rosemary Phillips	
Editor Newsletter	Pauline Gibson	4754 4495

Next Committee Meeting: To be held at the home of Ian Kendall, 97 Hall Pde, Hazelbrook on June 26, 2009.

Next General Meeting: 10 am, Fri., July 2009 in the upstairs room, Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Guest Speaker: This meeting will be a workshop and Ian Kendall will give a presentation/demonstration on using the Internet as a research tool – not the be all and end all.

Next Social Outing: Thursday, 18th June 2009 this will be a trip to the State/Mitchell Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney travelling by train **9.07 am** from Springwood, **8.26 am** from Katoomba. You can either take your lunch or buy lunch from the Café attached to the State Library.

July Outing: Proposed tour of Penrith Museum of Fire followed by a guided tour of Penrith Library - Family History Research. The date is yet to be fixed. Full details in the July Newsletter.

WELCOME to the fifth meeting for 2009. Last meeting the members got together in groups of their special interest and worked on what they would like to know and where they would like to meet - everyone seems very positive about these groups.

Today we have Chris Gorman as our guest speaker and he will be talking about his time in Antarctica and showing us some of his slides taken at the time.

Thought for the day: A will is a dead giveaway!

Birthdays:



Happy Birthday to our members Maureen Ingram and Margaret Little.

Items of Interest to Members:

The last committee meeting was held at the home of Brian Meagher and the following items were discussed:

***Special Interest Groups:** Following on from the May workshop Special Interest Groups, Terry reported great enthusiasm by each of the groups. Terry provided a summary of opinions as to the make up of these groups. The preferred venues for meetings were the Bowling Club or Guides Hall at Lawson; the Springwood library conference section or Braemar conference room; and the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre. Terry will be looking into the hire and use of these locations. These meetings will be held during the day, as no one was interested in meeting at night. It has been suggested that the group meeting times be staggered so that we all meet on the same day and at the same venue, this will enable members to attend as many groups as they prefer without having to go out on different days.

***Website:** Both Ian and Joan have done a lot of work on the Society's website so members be sure to visit the site <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswbmfhs> and help boost our ratings. Don't forget to give Joan your research interests so these can be entered on the website. You never know who might visit the site checking out research names and discover your ancestor!

***Social Outing for June:** On the 18th June 2009 we are off for the State/Mitchell Library to further our research. What can be found at the State Library? Besides reels of the Sydney Morning Herald (which are also available in the Penrith Library) the State Library holds reels of many other Newspapers including early Sydney Newspapers. It has microfiche of the St Catherine's Index (the Index for English Births, Deaths & Marriages), information on researching ancestors from the various countries, information on convicts and much more. The Mitchell Library Reading Room, located in the historic Mitchell Wing, contains the internationally renowned research collections relating to Australia and the south-west Pacific, with special emphasis on the state of New South Wales. The collections include printed books, ephemera, journals and original materials including pictures, manuscripts and maps. To make use of some items in the Library it is necessary to obtain a Reader's Card. While it doesn't take long to join on the day, you can save time by joining online at:

<http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/using/membership/index.html>.

Once you have a Library card you will be able to access some holdings from your home computer including overseas Newspapers.

<http://www.records.nsw> Enquiries contact Pauline 4754 4495

Diary Dates to remember:

Sun. 14th & 28th June 2009 Valley Heights Loco Depot Museum.

Fri. 19th June 2009 Springwood Historical Society meeting

Sun. 21st June 2009: Open Day Turkish Bath Museum, Mt Wilson

Sat. 4th July 2009: Blue Mountains Historical Society meeting. Speaker: John Low "You can take a horse to water".

NSW & ACT State Conference hosted by Wyong Family History Group Inc **18th, 19th & 20th September, 2009** "From Home to the Hinterland" Cost: Early Bird registration \$140.00 by 31.07.09 after that \$150.00. See Library for details or website

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswfhg>

Latest Library Acquisitions now on the shelves:**Book:**

The History of Day Dream Mine. (The Day Dream Mine is located northwest of Silverton and about 20 kilometres outside of Broken Hill. Established in 1882, the mine attracted a sizeable settlement, which, while short-lived, boasted 500-odd residents at its peak, as well as the district's first smelters)

Interesting Websites:

Ancestors from the Cotswolds? History, Castles, Stately Homes, Famous People, Pictures – visit

<http://www.cotswolds.info/castles-romans-shakespeare-blenheim.shtml>

Scottish Ancestors visit Balmoral Castle for searchable Coats of Arms and Surname History

http://www.balmoralcastle.com/balmoral_names.htm

Orkney Ancestors? Visit Orkneyjar

<http://www.orkneyjar.com/index.html>

Visit National Library of Scotland for maps of many Scottish Parishes - takes a while to get into but a great site

<http://www.nls.uk/maps/atlas/thomson/index.html>

Free searchable database for the much talked about Griffith's Valuation:

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au:80/>

Australian sites:

NSWrail.net - Names of Railway Stations in New South Wales. With their Meaning and Origin and much more:

http://www.nswrail.net/library/station_names.php#

Milton-Ulladulla Pioneer Deaths and Burials

<http://www.shoalhaven.net.au/~cathyd/pioneers/1902.html>

Milton-Ulladulla Historical Indexes on line. (A great site!)

<http://www.ulladulla.info/history/>

Parish of St Agnes, Port Macquarie

<http://www.cathchurch.net/nsw/parish/Portmac.htm>

Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters

<http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/>

Victorian Government Gazettes. Online Archive 1836-1997

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au:80/>

Snippet: Some Old Occupations

Ankle Beater. An ankle beater was a youth employed to assist a drover herd cattle.

Combere - Wool comber.

Perukemaker - Wig maker.

Beetler: Cloth Mill worker operating a beetling machine to emboss fabric.

Cordiner/Cordwainer: Maker of leather shoes & boots.

More Items of Interest to members:

***Membership:** The Society now has 98 financial members.

***Last Social Outing:** 9 members of the Society visited the State Archives at Kingswood last month. Those members who were visiting the Archives for the first time made some wonderful discoveries and even those members who had been before discovered some new research. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

***Seminar:** In recent Newsletters members were advised the Seminar would be called "Currency Lassies and Beyond" a secondary title has now been added. The full title is now "Currency Lassies and Beyond - Women of Australia's Past". Jan has now put together the Agenda for the Seminar with Joan doing the "Welcome", Ian talking about Currency Lassies; Suzanne talking about the Convicts on the ship "Elizabeth" and Joan topic: London Immigration Committee's female immigration of the 1830s. Invited guests are Rachel Hollis Archivist Kingswood topic "The sources available for researching the work and roles of women from early 19th century and beyond"; Helen Sider topic "Immigration from late 19th century/early 20th century – the affects on women and how they assimilated"; John Elkusch, Past President Springwood RSL Sub-Branch topic Women in the Armed Forces since Federation. After lunch entertainment: Terry Regan, Bush Poet "Australian Bush Poetry". As you can see we have a very interesting programme.

***Raffle:** The Society is hoping to start selling tickets for the raffle at our July meeting but members can still bring in donations of goods as we are still in need of items for lucky door prizes.

***Volunteers:** The Society will need volunteers to help on the day either with setting up, catering, selling raffle tickets and clearing up at the end of the day. At the July meeting there will be a list of jobs requiring volunteers for those members who would like to assist.

STRANGERS IN THE BOX

Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, and serene.

I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories,
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,
To tell, who, what, where, and when,
These faces of my heritage,
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate,
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories,
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours,
Could be strangers in the box.

Poem supplied by Audrey King