



Newsletter

PO Box 97, Springwood.2777
DATE 13th November, 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/		
Research	Audrey King	4754 1491
Guest Speakers	Brian Meagher	
Members' Interest	Joan Edwards	
Web Master	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 27th November 2009 at the home of Ian Kendall, 97 Hall Parade, Hazelbrook.

First meeting 2010: 10 am, Fri., 12th February 2010 in the upstairs room, Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Guest Speaker for February: Helen Dixon, a NSW Lands Research Specialist, will be our Guest Speaker.

Next Social Outing: Thursday 26 November to Wiseman's Ferry and it's environs, a total of 200km taking around 8 hours. Members to assemble at Springwood Railway Station by 8.15 for 8.30 departure. Can pick up on Hawkesbury Rd by prior arrangement with Don. 4751 2991. Members to bring morning and afternoon tea, lunch, plenty of water, own thermos of coffee/tea. Eskies available, but label your water bottles, etc. Don has put together a 25+ page booklet for a cost of \$2.00. As there are only 2 cars going numbers are restricted to 9 members including the 2 drivers. Please indicate today whether you are interested in attending.

Diary Dates: Penrith City Council exhibition celebrating Penrith's 50th anniversary as a City. The exhibition has historical themes from 1789 to the present with information, photographs and objects. Where: Civic Centre Penrith, 601 High Street, until **22nd November 2009**. Mon to Fri (8.30 - 4 pm), Thur and Fri night (4pm - 8 pm), Sat (9 am - 5 pm), Sun (10am - 5 pm).

WELCOME to the last meeting for 2009 and our Annual General Meeting. At our last general meeting Andrew Tester from the Valley Heights Train Museum gave a very interesting talk on train history in the Blue Mountains.

Thought for the day: Whenever there's a will, you'll see an heirloom

November Birthdays: Happy Birthday wishes to Nola Jamsek. **December Birthdays:** Happy Birthday wishes to Eileen Millington and Anne Devrell

Birthdays:

Items of Interest to Members: The last committee meeting was held at the home of Pauline Gibson and these were discussed:

***Christmas Gathering 11th December 2009:** Once again our Christmas Social will be held at Brian Meagher's home **41 Springfield Crescent, Springwood** on the **11th December, 2008**. The Society hopes that many of our members will attend what, in the past, has been an extremely happy and social event. The cost for attending the party will be **\$5.00** that will cover the purchase of chicken and cold meats. This can be either paid at today's meeting or on the day. Like last year members are also asked to bring a plate. A sheet of paper headed "Christmas Party" will be on the Treasurer's desk for members wishing to attend to write down their names and the item they intend bringing. The entertainment will be a game of trivia; Ian will again provide a page of famous faces for identification.

***Christmas Raffle:** Tickets for our Christmas raffle are on sale at today's meeting and will also be on sale at our Christmas party and drawn at the end of the festivities. The Society will also be selling tickets at Winmalee Shopping Centre on **Friday, 4th December**. "Thank you" members for your donations".

***Australia Day 2010:** The Society has again booked a table for the Australia Day Fair at Glenbrook. Anyone who would like to volunteer an hour or two to help on the 26th January 2010 just turn up on the day and look for the Society's banner.

Research help at Springwood Library: As has been the practice in recent times there will be no volunteers rostered on to help with research at Springwood Library from **18th December, 2009** until **2nd February, 2010**.

***Membership:** The Society now has 114 financial members.

***Special Interest Groups** A small number, eight, attended the last meeting for 2009 at Lawson Bowling Club. Numerous topics were discussed ranging from the possibility of using a data projector as a group demonstration tool, to Q&As on how to knock down "Brick Walls". The discussions continued over a pleasant lunch at the club and all agreed that it was an enjoyable and productive day.

***BMCC Grant:** The first of these meetings was held at the Warrimoo Community Hall on the 12th Oct. 2009 and four members of the public attended which enabled them to have individual attention. The second such meeting was held at the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre on the 9th November and was better attended. As the venue was just across from the Library this enabled the volunteers to access our holdings to further the research help being given. The next meeting and the last for this year will be held on **Mon. 7th December 2009** at Leura Unitv Church 10.30-1.30pm

Some of the recent Books & CDs accessioned - CDs:

- *Index to Colonial Convict Movements 1827 to 1853
Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc.
- *Commissions of Peace (JP's Volume 2 1916-1935)
SRO NSW [7/7045]-[7/7065]
NRS13629 State Records NSW
Compiled by Kaye Vernon & Billie Jacobsen
- *Index to the Kiama Independent 1920-1973
Kiama Family History Centre

Books:

Donated by **Rhonda Flowers:**

- *They shaped a town called Cowra Volume 1
Cowra Family History Group Inc 2009
- *Irish Research Workshop
Terry Eakin 2009
- *Pioneers landowners in the Lane Cove District 1794-1796
Marjorie Lenehen

Some of the books donated by **Don Graham:**

- *That was before my time ...stories from the Weddin Mountains
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- *Strathalbyn: a walking tour of this historic town
Year 11 Students at Strathalbyn High School
- *Paddleship parade - Steve McNicol
- *Inland rivers revisited - Ronald Parsons
- *People of the Weddin Shire
Bruce Robinson & Gaynor England
- *Cornish communities in Australia-Biennial Seminar
Cornish Association of South Australia

Donated by **Sharon Philpott:**

Blue Mountains Certificates of Title
(Original certificates have been placed in Hall Cupboard clearly marked as 'Blue Mountains Certificates of Title'. These are available for viewing on request.)
A3 copies of the certificates have been placed in a blue A3 folder on the bottom shelf of the BMFHS collection and have been added to the BMFHS library catalogue.
Book donated by **Nola Jamsek:**
History of the Daydream Mine - Graeme Grose 2002.
As there were too many books to list in the Newsletter there is a list on the Treasurer's table for members to see today.

More Items of Interest to members:

General Meetings 2010: It has been decided to vary the format of our general meetings in the new year as follows:

1. There will be a guest speaker for the February meeting;
2. The March meeting will be for Special Interest Groups to get together; and
3. April will be a workshop where we will be discussing leisure and entertainment 1930-1970.

This will be the format for the year with different topics for our workshops.

***Last Social Outing:** This outing to May Gibbs's home "Nutcote" was very enjoyable for the four members of the Society who attended. It was a pleasant trip on the ferry to Neutral Bay and the views of the harbour from "Nutcote" were superb. To get to the actual house you entered via the shop containing lots of May Gibbs ephemera and where a good half hour was spent on the way out. There was a lovely garden walk down to "Nutcote". On arrival at the house we were shown two videos, one prepared by a Botanist explaining how May Gibbs came to incorporate her drawings of Australian Native flora into all her flower friends. The other was a short video by May Gibbs talking about her life. After lunch, which was eaten in the grounds taking in the lovely views, we were given a tour through the rooms of "Nutcote". It was then time to pay a visit to the shop finishing off with a visit to the Café underneath the shop. A day well spent in friendly camaraderie.

***Tour of State Records Kingswood:** A small group of six members travelled from Springwood to the Kingswood Archives. Here they were met by John and then taken on a tour to see where the Stacks and the boxes where files were held. Smaller boxes are now generally used as to Health & Safety issues, having reduced the weight by half, and the boxes are kept in tact much longer due to lighter handling. The unique air conditioning system that gets its coolness from using a form of a piped system into the ground was explained in detail. Old Colonial documents are kept in a concealed safe with its whereabouts secret from the public. Eventually everything will be digitalized and available in this form to the public. We were taken to an area where repairs were done to paper materials and Elizabeth demonstrated the process whereby they reinforced the destroyed parts with Japanese rice paper. For a fee Business and Doctors Files are also stored at the Archives for safekeeping. which can be called upon when required.

Websites of interest:

- *Archives Wales - click on family history link http://www.archiveswales.org.uk/?no_cache=1
- *Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society <http://www.lfhhs.org.uk/>
- *Second World War - online learning resource for Northern Ireland - <http://www.secondworldwarni.org/>
- *The Parish Clerk Index - <http://steve.pickthall.users.btopenworld.com/pci/index.html>
- *Australian Newspapers - <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>
- *Index of Miners listed in Baillier's Official Post Office Directory of 1867
http://www.ozhistorymine.com/assets/applets/N.S.W._Miners_1867.pdf
- *Scotsfind site - <http://www.scotsfind.org/>

Snippets: NSW Western Goldfields: For those members who had ancestors who went to the Western Goldfields to seek their fortune.

Ophir: This is the place where the first payable gold was found and gold rushes began. It is also the oldest continually worked goldfield in Australia. Hundreds of relics and historic sites relating to mining dating back to 1851 can be found within this reserve. Evidence of old alluvial, reef and deep lead mines is still visible today.

Hill End. The historic village of Hill End provides you with an idea of what the times were like in those early goldmining days. Many of the old buildings still stand today and where there is only vacant land these have been interspersed with photographs showing what once stood on that spot. These photographs were taken by the photographer "Beaufoy Merlin" in the 1870s but not discovered until the 1950s. The photographs were a wonderful discovery and have been put to good use as he photographed the whole town, scene by scene, building by building and many of its inhabitants. It is a wonderfully preserved look into the past.

Sofala, which is located on the banks of the Turon River, is reputed to be Australia's oldest surviving gold town. Gold was first discovered at Ophir near Orange and shortly after at Sofala. Many of the original buildings still stand today.

Wattle Flat: A quaint little village, once a bustling gold mining town but much quieter today. This village still retains some of the cottages and buildings from its hey-day. All these places can be visited on a drive through from Bathurst to Mudgee. To find out more about Beaufoy Merlin and see his photographs and those of other photographers for Hill End, Gulgong, Mudgee, etc. visit <http://www.photo-web.com.au/merlin/default.htm>