



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc

Newsletter

PO Box 97, Springwood 2777
DATE 9th October, 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 **23 Oct 2009** at home of Pauline Gibson, 10 Shamrock Close, Winmalee.

Next Meeting: 10 am, Fri., 13th November, 2009 in the upstairs room, Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood. For all new members this is our Annual General Meeting when members vote for next year's committee.

Guest Speaker for November: As this is our Annual General Meeting there will be no speaker or workshop.

Next Social Outing: NOTE: There has been a change of date for our October outing and it will now take place on **Thursday, 22nd October 2009**. For those members interested in visiting Nutcote, the home of May Gibbs the author of "Bib & Bub". Travel will be by train from Katoomba 8.25 am, Springwood 9.07am to Circular Quay, then by ferry to Neutral Bay. Entrance fee \$7.00 concession \$5.00. Take a picnic lunch or lunch can be bought at Nutcote.

May Gibbs 1877-1969. May was born in Sydenham UK and came to Australia at the age of 4. Firstly living in SA, then WA. After studying in formal art in London, she finally moved to Neutral Bay in 1913. For the full story on May Gibbs visit: <http://www.maygibbs.com.au/>

WELCOME to the ninth meeting for 2009. At our last general meeting Ken Black and Les Edwards gave an extremely interesting talk on Morse Code and the set up of telecommunications within Australia and overseas.

Today Andrew Tester from the Valley Heights Train Museum will give us a talk on train history in the Blue Mountains.

Thought for the day: If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance. (George Bernard Shaw)

Birthdays:



Happy Birthday wishes to William Reidy,
Dorothy Bulloch and, Ann Krasny.

Items of Interest to Members: The last committee meeting was held at the home of Rhonda and Terry Flowers and the following items were discussed:

***Publishing:** The Mt York cemetery book was printed in time for the State Conference and a number of copies were sold. Joan advised she has two more books in the pipeline.

***Membership:** The Society now has 112 financial members.

***Workshop on shopping:** The reports from the shopping workshop are slowly coming in. Ian is hoping to have all the present publications completed by the end of the year, and would like more photos from members. Any member wishing to have their story included in the Workshop booklet could you please email it as soon as possible, leave at Springwood Library or bring to the next meeting and any photos you might have would be greatly appreciated in helping to make a worthwhile publication.

***BMCC Grant:** As mentioned in the last Newsletter the Society has again been given a grant from the Blue Mountains City Council to introduce help with family research to those people living in the Blue Mountains. There will be four sessions the first to be held **12th October 2009** at the Warrimoo Community held, the next in Springwood, possibly the Springwood Sports Club in November and the Blackheath Community Hall in early December. The final session will be held at the Lawson Bowling Club in February. Members of the Society will also be welcome to attend all or any of the sessions.

***State Conference at Wyong:** Five members of our society attended and enjoyed this year's Conference. The 2010 Conference, to be hosted by Shoalhaven, will be spread over 4 days. The Friday will be basically the "famous" Shoalhaven Trade Fair, the next two days will be conference, and the Monday will be for trade tables of participating societies. At the delegates meeting our Society was nominated to be on the committee of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. There are three committee meetings a year, and our Secretary, Jan, will be representing us.

***November Annual General Meeting:** Nomination forms for the AGM will go out in the October edition of *The Explorers' Tree* magazine. Nominations for committee membership are required days prior to the AGM. As some members on the current committee are thinking of standing down, this might be the time for members to consider whether they would like to become a committee member. Being on the committee involves attending a monthly meeting at someone's home on a rotating basis. After the Society's business has been attended to, these meetings usually become a social event with everyone taking a plate.

Diary Dates to Remember:

Sun, 11th October 8th and 22nd November 2009 –

Open Day, Valley Heights Depot Museum.

Sunday 25th October - 10am-3pm Rookwood Cemetery

Open Day. Entry is free. There will be garden and crematorium tours, photographic and hearse displays.

BBQ and refreshments will be available.

Sat. 7th November 2009 - Blue Mountains Historical Society - Meeting - Speaker: Martin Thomas on R H Mathews, Anthropologist and the Burragarong Valley.

***Borrowing Magazines & Books:** The borrowing of magazines and books has been discussed by the Committee and at today's meeting a new "trial" loans register for borrowing our magazines and books from BMFHS library will be introduced. An instruction sheet has been drawn up for members to follow when borrowing these items and will be available at today's meeting or forwarded by email with the Newsletter.

Interesting Websites:

Sydney Benevolent Society 1857-1900 - Searchable Index to Admissions and Discharges

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

City of Sydney Archives - Historical Atlas of Sydney

<http://www2.photosau.com/CosMaps/scripts/home.asp>

Moreton Bay Region Cemeteries Database

<http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/app/cemeteries/>

Braidwood NSW Gaol Entrance Book 1856-1899

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/braidwood.htm>

Burial Registers - City of London

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Community_and_living/Deaths_funerals_and_cremations/burial_registers.htm

Snippet: Emigration to Australia - Maria S Rye, a feminist and philanthropist devoted her life to the migration of women and girls out of England. Between 1861 and 1896 she sent many hundreds of women to Australia, NZ and South Africa and 4,000 children to Canada all with the promise of a better life than they could expect at home in England. An excerpt from a British Newspaper is as follows: "*Assisted Female Emigration from England to Australia - The project of Miss Maria Rye for promoting the emigration of women to the Australian colonies, is taking definite shape in England. At a recent meeting held in London, it was said, on behalf of Miss Rye, that she herself was about to make the voyage in charge of 100 women, of whom 8 were governesses, 30 factory operatives and the remaining 62 domestic servants. She would thus be enabled to ascertain the organization necessary to secure female comfort and morality on board of the emigrant ships and when she landed would form local committees of ladies, who would receive future emigrants upon their landing, and keep them until they got provided with employment. She had already, by imparting trustworthy information from the colonies, and by making pecuniary advances, assisted 280 other women to emigrate.*" More information on this remarkable woman can be found in the Dictionary of NZ Biography

http://www.dnz.govt.nz/DNZB/alt_essayBody.asp?essayID=1R22

More Items of Interest to members:

***Christmas Gathering - 11th December 2009:** Brian and Nola Meagher have kindly offered their home for the Christmas gathering this year, as they have for the past two years, an offer that was gratefully accepted. Further information for this last social event of the year will appear in the next Newsletter.

***Christmas Raffle:** Our last fundraiser for the year is our Christmas raffle. Again we are looking to members to help us put together a really good prize. Donations of Christmas fare such as nuts, wine, bon-bons, serviettes, chocolates, etc. can be delivered to our library volunteers at Springwood Library. All donations gratefully accepted. Tickets for our Christmas raffle will go on sale at our AGM and hopefully, as has been the practice in the past, will also be sold at Winmalee Shopping Centre. The prizes will be drawn at our Christmas party. We hope this year's raffle will be bigger and better than ever.

***Last Social Outing:** Six members of BMFHS participated in a very enjoyable and informative outing to Camden on September 17 to visit the Camden Museum. As they arrived a little early for their visit to the Museum after being fortified with refreshments some members took a walk up to the St John's Anglican Church and then on to St John's Rectory which was built in 1850 from land granted by the Macarthurs before returning to the Museum. Once there the members were given a talk on the exhibits after which they wandered around the two floors of exhibits. These exhibits held many artefacts donated by the descendants of families who had lived in the area for many years. There were exhibits on wine growing in the area, the Chinese community and their market gardens plus much more. Moving on from the Museum the group lunched in Bicentennial Park and then travelled on to Wollondilly Heritage Centre. Again they were given a talk on the Centre and previous exhibitions that had been held there. A work in progress is an exhibition on the children who were brought out to one of the Barnardo's Homes that had been built in that district. A lot of the material gathered for that exhibition will consist of photos and stories of the many inmates who eventually settled in the area. This exhibition opens in 2010. The Heritage Centre also has many interesting exhibits and has a special schoolroom of yesteryear set up with the old desks that contained inkwells, blackboard, slates, old School Magazines etc. The Heritage Museum and this room in particular is very popular with visiting schools, where children come and spend almost a whole day there. A visit to the Camden Museum and, if you want a dose of nostalgia, the Wollondilly Heritage Centre, are both highly recommended.

***Special Interest Groups:** About 13 members attended the October meeting of the Special Interest Groups with apologies from quite a few members. Those who did attend though found the topics covered, i.e. Shipping; Copyright and Convicts very helpful. The last meeting for the year is at Lawson BC on **4th November 2009**.

***Tour of State Records Kingswood:** Again a reminder of the tour of Kingswood State Records to be held **MONDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2009** commencing **10am**. Those attending will be shown around the storage unit of the Archives, followed by a talk on exactly what is held there. A list was compiled last general meeting but if anyone else would like to attend please add your name to this list today. The group will meet at Springwood Station Car park at **9.15am** where car-pooling can be sorted out. Brian Meagher will be standing in for Pauline on this outing. Provided there are not more than 15 members attending on the day, you will be free to carry out research afterwards.

