



Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc.

Newsletter

DATE: September 2026

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Blue Mountains

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Hello everyone,

Our next meeting of the Family History Society is on **Friday, 11 September, 2026 at 10am** in the small hall behind the Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Members and visitors will be warmly welcomed. Morning tea is available for \$2 for tea/coffee and a biscuit.

Vicki Edmunds of the Blue Mountains Library will be presenting the Bob Howard and Coolgardie Safe Awards for 2025 which will be followed by a talk presented by our President, Ann Krasny, on 'My Constable Connection'.

Trade table

Our trade table will be operating again this month, so please donate any unwanted good quality items to the table display. To purchase items, please drop some cash in the Society's moneybox, then take it. Remember that if your donated items don't sell, you'll need to take them home.

Street stall

A street stall will be held on **Saturday, 12 September** in front of the Springwood Presbyterian Church at which the framed photo of the Grose Valley, kindly donated by Kate Doyle, will be raffled.



Donations for the street stall can be brought to the meeting on **11 September** or on the morning of **12 September**. Assistance to set up on the day of the street stall will be appreciated. Please support this valuable source of funds for our Society. Weather's looking to be a beautiful mountains' spring day.

Our 9 October meeting topic

Ian Kendall will be presenting a talk on 'Using Wiki-Tree'.

The next issue of *The Explorers' Tree* will be ready for the October meeting.

Blue Mountains Family History Society Inc. PO BOX 97 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777

Website: <https://bmfhs.com> Email: xploretree@yahoo.com.au Dropbox: www.tinyurl.com/bmfhslink

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsFamilyHistorySociety>

Woodford Academy Open Day

On 17 October, the Society will have an information table at the Open Day. We are asking for a few volunteers to help on the day, and Ian will be giving a presentation on the BMFHS following their own speaker at 1pm. A wonderful opportunity to promote the Blue Mountains Family History Society.

Blue Mountains Writers' Festival Family History Workshop

'Writing family history' will be run by Cynthia Banham on Friday, 30 October from 9.30am-12.30pm at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, 30 Parke St, Katoomba.

- Do you have a story lurking in your family history that won't let you go? Join author, journalist and lawyer **Cynthia Banham** to learn how to turn those unearthed family secrets into a story that will thrill readers and expand your own understanding of your past.
- Where do you start? How do you write honestly even when the subject matter is difficult? And what happens if the story you think you're looking for turns out not to be the one you find? This hands-on workshop explores the unexpected joys and challenges of a well-researched memoir, and the pitfalls to watch for along the way.
- **Cynthia Banham** is a writer, journalist and lawyer. She's the author *A Certain Light: A Memoir of Family* and *Loss and Hope*. Her most recent book is *Mother Shadow: A Meditation on Maternal Inheritance*.

To book: <https://www.bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au/workshops>

Irish Convict Records

Information from John Gordon:

'If your family tree reaches back to Ireland and our convict past, explore newly digitised Irish convict records in Trove. The lists of Irish free settlers are a glimpse into the lives of people seeking free passage to Australia to reunite with transported relatives: <https://brnw.ch/21x4XAB>

Compiled from the prisoner appeals papers held in the State Paper Office Dublin, more of these records will be coming to Trove soon. We are grateful for the support of Christopher Edye in making this collection available online.'

Library news

Our volunteers are available to assist with your family history research:

**Springwood Library on Thursdays
from 10am to 1pm**

and

**Katoomba Library on the second and fourth Tuesday
from 10am to 12 noon**

To wrap up this month's Newsletter:

The end of year lunch has been booked for **Friday, 11 December** at the Alexandra Hotel in Leura.