

## **MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY – APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER**

### **Recently.....**

On 13<sup>th</sup> March, Denise Thomas' talk called *EARLY GIRLS' SCHOOLS ON SYDNEY'S LOWER NORTH SHORE* attracted an enthusiastic audience, some even sporting their old school badge. She presented an interesting overview of the prevailing attitudes towards education for women at the end of the nineteenth century when there was a burgeoning of private schools in our region, the oldest surviving being Monte St Angelo. Queenwood was the most recently established.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, the *TUNNELS, FORTS & SAUSAGES* tour at Middle Head took place. We were guided by Mel, our local National Parks and Wildlife Services ranger, and were able to meet some of the volunteer excavators and inspect underground facilities including one used for torture training. John Dansie's barbequed sausages were a huge success. Donations came to \$151 which we will increase to \$200 to help the NPWS continue its good work.

### **May speaker meeting**

The next meeting will be at 7pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, downstairs at the library. The presentation will be given by John Hiscox and is entitled *WRITING THE MOSMAN CRICKET CLUB'S HISTORY*. It is about his experiences writing the recently published history of the club after its centenary in 2008. *See attached flyer.....*

### **New members**

We welcome 6 new members to Mosman Historical Society:-

Joan Barnes

Julie Campbell

Warren Nutt

Rachel and David Sowden

Jennifer Wigan

### **Local Studies at Mosman Library**

1. Don't miss the wonderful exhibition of bird paintings by Neville Henry Cayley and his son Neville William Cayley, which closes on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The works, dating from the 1890s, are from various private collections and have not been publicly exhibited previously. The range includes blue wrens, magpies, finches, parrots etc and the kookaburra, which they depict lovingly, intricately and with humour.
2. 2014 and the centenary of the start of WWI is getting closer. As part of the *Doing Our Bit* project,

there is to be a function on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm to launch the book by George Franki and website dedicated to WWI servicemen and women. The function will include performances of stories, song and poetry capturing the spirit of the time. *Bookings essential 9978 4091 or [www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/events)*

### **Carrara/Strickland House**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 4pm, the Woollahra History and Heritage Society will be opening this historic house to the public to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NSW Government approval of the purchase of the land for Nielson Park as part of a drive for public access to harbour foreshores. There will be talks and guided walks at 11am and 2pm. Admission to the house and walk is \$4, children free. Address is 52 Vaucluse Road, Vaucluse.

### **Canberra – Design 29: creating a Capital**

Canberra is also celebrating a centenary and if you plan to be there before September, you might be able to include a visit to the National Archives of Australia at Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes ACT, to view the original plans and artworks by the finalists in the 1911 competition for the design of our new capital city. The display includes entry number 29 – Walter Burley Griffin's. It is a rare opportunity to see what might have been and learn some of what went on behind the scenes.

### **Talks at Willoughby Public Library**

We have been advised of free talks being held as part of the WWI centenary. Each talk will take place downstairs at the Willoughby Library in Chatswood shopping centre, starting time 12.30pm. *Bookings can be made by phone on 9777 7900 or online at [Talks@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library](mailto:Talks@Willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library)*

1. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Susanna de Vries will talk about her book, *Australian Heroines of World War One*.
2. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. *A Voice from the Front* - a presentation of photographs and diary excerpts of a Willoughby man, Frank Chapman, who saw frontline service in France and Belgium in WWI.
3. Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Andrew Tink will talk about his book, *Air Disaster Canberra: the plane crash that destroyed a government*. It occurred in 1940 and key members of the Menzies government were killed.

### **National Trust Heritage Festival 18 April to 31 May**

North Sydney Council is offering guided walks, each 2-3 hours duration, focusing on our cultural heritage. *Bookings are essential – phone the library on 9936 8400, requesting the information extension.*

1. 5th May. Cremorne Point
2. 9th May. The North Sydney 'working waterfront' from McMahons Point

3. 29th May. The Berry estate starting at Don Bank Cottage and finishing at Waverton Station

### **Bicentennial of the crossing of the Blue Mountains**

On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 it will be exactly 200 years since Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth set out from South Creek accompanied by 4 servants, 5 dogs and 4 horses. They walked for 17 days through the bush marking the bark of trees to trace their steps.

This year, a 21-day authentic re-enactment called *Blue Mountains Blue Wave* will take place from 11 May to 1 June. The main celebrations will be on 25<sup>th</sup> May at Wentworth Falls Lake and include a flyover of vintage planes. *Check the official website*

[http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings\\_BiCentenary/index.cfm](http://www.hyperhub.com.au/forto/Crossings_BiCentenary/index.cfm)

In **Penrith**, Australian film legend Jack Thompson will be the face of many of the commemorative events, which will include an historical exhibition, breakfast launch of re-enactment treks, family camp out - a night under the stars, festival at Mamre Homestead and 'Back to Emu Plains' weekend. *Information from the Penrith Visitor Information Centre ph. 1300 736 836 or [pentour@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pentour@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)*

### **Great Irish Famine commemoration 23-25<sup>th</sup> August**

The annual gathering of friends and descendents at the Australian Famine Monument (Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street) will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August. There will also be a dinner in the Stranger's Dining Room at NSW Parliament house on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a seminar in the theatrette on 24<sup>th</sup>. *Further information from Perry on [contact@irishfaminememorial.org](mailto:contact@irishfaminememorial.org) or ring Tom 9417 4193 after 20<sup>th</sup> May.*

### **Help regarding 'Chislehurst'**

Thanks to Philippa Peterson who responded to our call for help regarding a house which was demolished in 1969. It was named "Chislehurst" when built c1905 at 4 Mandolong Road, Mosman. Philippa was born there in the 1940s during the building's life as 'Lauriston Private Hospital' and was able to produce a photograph.

K.H.