

MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

November speaker meeting

The next speaker meeting will be at 7pm Wednesday 9th November, downstairs at the library. The talk will be on Sydney's Aboriginal Heritage with emphasis on Mosman. The speaker is Dr Val Attenbrow. *See attached poster...(Presents.)*

As this will be our last meeting of the year we will be celebrating with a glass of wine and Christmas cake after the talk.

Bus tour of local tram routes

The coach has been fully booked. All members and friends who secured a seat will receive confirmation with parking and lunch suggestions separately.

New members

We welcome 3 new members to Mosman Historical Society:

Peter John Alderson

John Bagnall

Damien Stapleton

Membership renewals for 2011-2012

Membership renewals became due at the end of June and are still \$15 a year or \$40 for 3 years.

See attached membership renewal form.

As we rely on cash or cheque payment you might find it easier to pay at the meeting on 9th October.

Receipts are always created for fees and can be collected at the meetings.

Transport to meetings

If you would love to come to meetings but are prevented by transport problems we would like to hear from you.

It is possible that a committee member, or perhaps another member who regularly attends meetings, lives close by and drives to the library and would be happy to bring you. Please let us know.

Festival of Mosman - Bradleys Head historical walk

Our President, David Carment will be the guide for this walk starting at Athol Hall car park on Bradleys Head Road on Monday 31st October, 2-4pm. The area is rich in history associated with Aborigines, explorers, artists, fishermen, soldiers, sailors, the zoo and conversationists. It is a free event. Enquiries 0418 857 182

Local Studies at the library - workshops

Donna Braye is organising two free workshops for November - bookings are essential on 9978 4090:

1. *Finding Margaret* to be held on 17th November 2011 from 10am to midday. Margaret's obituary in a 19th century copy of the Sydney Morning Herald told of a sad and tragic death. Lorraine Purcell, historian and genealogist, was intrigued and set about finding out more. How she pieced together the story is fascinating and will be of interest to both family historians and those who like a good story.
2. *Researching Genealogy on Line* to be held on 23rd November 2011 from 10am to 12.30pm.

This is a workshop with Kerry Farmer on how to use *Findmypast* and *Ancestry.com*

North Shore Historical Society Prize

This is a biennial competition with prizes of \$3000 and \$1500. It was established to encourage historical research at the community level and to seek out non-professional history enthusiasts with a story to tell, the emphasis being on North Sydney or the Lower North Shore. The deadline for a written precis is 31 May 2012, and for the completed submission 31 May 2013.

More info is attached (*NSHS....*) or can be requested from the society's Secretary at northshorehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.au

RAHS: Transformation in the city, Sydney's 19th century suburban expansion

In the 1880s, a speculative real estate boom changed the city's appearance forever. The Garden Palace exhibition of 1879 was the catalyst for improvements in public transport which allowed workers to move out of the overcrowded Darling Harbour alleyways into new tramway suburbs, Paddington, Glebe, Newtown and beyond. But why did the politicians favour trams over railways?

This talk is one of a RAHS/WEA series and will be presented by Lesley Muir who has a PhD in Historical Geography and an interest in the development of Sydney, particularly in the late Victorian era. Cost is \$29, phone WEA on 9264 2781

The Royal Australian Historical Society holds many events at History House in Macquarie Street, all listed on the RAHS web site.

WWI hospital at Georges Heights

If you have items or old photographs which you could contribute for display, please contact our member, Libby Manuel on em_brownemagement@bigpond.com or 0418 401 238

Are you a Boer War descendent?

The National Boer War Memorial Association is interested in compiling a register of Boer War descendents. If you are one and wish to register, Noela can give you more details and send you a form. Contact her on noela.mhs@gmail.com

Bunkers Hill

A question arose at the September meeting as to the location of Bunkers Hill which featured on the flyer. No one knew.

The exact location is still a mystery but Noela found a reference to it in www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition which says:

This hill was a desirable residential area in the 1820s where the wealthy built their homes to overlook the harbour. It was named after Ebenezer (Eber) Bunker, captain of the first whaling expedition from Sydney Cove.

Peggy's Rocks

The rocky outcrop near Raglan Street, Balmoral, is named as Peggy's Rocks in many Sydney street directories and Libby Manuel has enquired about the origin of the name. The explanation given in [Streets of Mosman](#) p.7, published 1948, is that *Peggy was an old identity of the then small fishing village and these rocks were her favourite viewing point.* Does anyone have further information?

Quiz question

The AUGUST quiz question was:-

In 1959, Civil and Civic lodged a building application for a 15 storey block of 111 home units to be built on a prominent Mosman site. When council approval was not forthcoming, they appealed to the Land and Valuation Court but were rejected in 1960. Instead, four three-storey unit blocks were built. Where is this site?

Answer: Corner of the Esplanade and Botanic Road at Balmoral. Gavin Souter's discussion in the chapter entitled Upheavals; High Rise on page 267 of his invaluable book Mosman: A History is fascinating reading.

Brian Wilder, our inaugural past President, has found a photograph of the original architect's model of the proposed building. It was published in The Telegraph in 1959 and can be viewed on the attached file (*Balmoral....*). The attachment includes quotes from The Daily and The Sydney Morning Herald of 1959.

Incidentally, if you do not have a copy of Gavin's book, there is a limited number for sale at the library.

The NOVEMBER quiz question is:-

In 1893 a tram service to Spit Junction from North Sydney commenced. In 1897 it was extended to Mosman Wharf. In 1900 a branch opened to The Spit. In 1902 an application was made to the Minister for Public Works for an extension to Balmoral. When did a Balmoral line open?