



PO Box 39, Mosman NSW 2088
mosmanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
<https://mosmanhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

Patron: Gavin SouterAO
Affiliate Member: Royal Australian Historical Society

Mosman Historical Society–Committee Members 2022-2023

President:	Debbie Higginson	Speakers:	Prof. David Carment AM	Other Committee members:
Vice-President:	Dr. Perry McIntyre AM	Newsletter:	Margaret Szalay	John Dansie
Acting Secretary:	Dr. Perry McIntyre AM	Membership:	Kay Halstead	Noela Gill
Acting Secretary:	Dr. Pam Lofthouse	Library Rep.:	Donna Braye (Ex officio)	Webmaster: Amanda Gosse
Treasurer:	Stephen Palmer		(Mosman Library's Local Studies Librarian)	(Ex officio)

MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER- April 2023

The Society's meetings are held on the second Wednesday in March, May, July, September & November

We look forward to seeing you at our Speaker evening on **Wednesday, 10th May** and afterwards at our social gathering for tea/coffee, biscuits & a chat.

Welcome to new MHS member....

Lynette Hilton

Members are encouraged to invite a friend or neighbour to join MHS each year to grow our membership and help preserve our heritage

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday, 3rd May, at 6.30pm

Mayor Carolyn Corrigan will launch the Society's new publication, *MOSMAN: Times Gone By*.

All welcome

(see next column and the order form attached – p.11)

Wednesday, 10th May, 7.00pm

Speaker: Stephen Palmer will discuss the history of *Mosman's Beauty Point Foreshore Walk & Bicentenary Trail* (see flyer attached – p.2)

Meetings are held at Mosman Library
605 Military Road, Mosman NSW

If you wish to attend, please contact David by the Monday prior at davidcarment@mac.com or 0418 857 182 (email preferred)

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Speaker presentation, 8th March 2023:

Ian Burnet spoke about "The Tasman Map", the subject of his book, which was available after the meeting.

Unveiling of Clifton Gardens Plaque, 15th March 2023

Mayor Carolyn Corrigan's unveiling ceremony on 15th March in Clifton Gardens was well-attended, followed by a short guided tour of the site, then a sausage sizzle. Enjoyed by all. The pillar on which the plaque was affixed, was made from some of the original bricks from the Clifton Gardens Hotel, preserved after its demolition in 1967.

A free E-book about the history of Clifton Gardens was also launched and will be on the Society's website shortly

<https://mosmanhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

LAUNCH OF OUR BOOK ON EARLY MOSMAN

AN INVITATION

MHS members, local residents and friends who are interested in our local Mosman history, are cordially invited to attend the official launch by Mayor Carolyn Corrigan, of our book, *MOSMAN: Times Gone By* on **Wednesday, 3rd May** at Mosman Library.

Usually costing \$30.00 each, the book can be purchased at a special 'launch' price of **\$25.00 (cash only)** on the night of the launch. However, there are ...

LIMITED PLACES, SO BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

Email: davidcarment@mac.com or call 0418 857 182

If you cannot attend the book launch, copies of the book can be purchased at the normal price at the MHS meeting on **10 May**, or by mail order – form **attached** (p.11). Contact details on the form.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE ON 1 JULY 2023

The Society's annual subscriptions have remained unchanged for many years.

Effective from 1 July 2023, subscriptions will be \$20.00 for 1 year, or \$50.00 for 3 years. However, if you renew your membership **BEFORE 30 JUNE**, you can pay at the old rate of \$15.00 for 1 year, or \$40.00 for 3 years.

If you have previously paid for multiple years, check with Kay, our membership coordinator (via the Society's email), to see when your subscriptions are due.

Subscriptions can be paid in cash at the MHS Speaker evenings, or by EFT into the Society's NAB account:

BSB: (082 299) A/c: 467 783 344

(Identify your deposit with **SUBS** and your **NAME**)

MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM ATTACHED

(page 10)

LOCAL STUDIES AT BARRY O'KEEFE LIBRARY

(see <https://events.mosman.nsw.gov.au/>)

Details attached – page 3

FEATURE ARTICLES

1. SHARP FAMILY OF MOSMAN by Elizabeth O'Connor, about her Sharp ancestors, residents in Mosman from the early 1900s. – page 4
2. WW1 kit bag of Victor Seymour Armstrong. – page 7
3. Unveiling of the Clifton Gardens plaque and launch of the E-book history of Clifton Gardens. – page 8



Presents

The Beauty Point Foreshore Walk and Bicentenary Trail *Stephen Palmer*



The former Balmain Ferry Company jetty viewed from the Beauty Point Foreshore Walk
(Stephen Palmer)

Stephen Palmer will discuss the history of Mosman's Beauty Point Foreshore Walk and Bicentenary Trail, one of many projects sponsored by volunteer community committees throughout Australia to commemorate the 1988 Bicentenary of European settlement. The Foreshore Walk was created by restoring and extending earlier trails through Quakers Hat Park to previously inaccessible areas and regenerating adjacent bushland using innovative techniques developed in Mosman. The completed walk joined the wheelchair accessible Bicentenary Trail in Spit West Reserve. Stephen will set the project in its historical context, describe its development and assess its enduring benefit and success.

Stephen is Mosman Historical Society's Treasurer and a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant. Since retiring from financial services, he has studied history and conservation management at the University of New England. He has over 30 years' heritage conservation experience in the New South Wales rail heritage sector.

Venue: Mosman Library.

Time and date: 7.00 pm, Wednesday 10 May 2023.

All those wishing to attend should contact David Carment,
davidcarment@mac.com (preferred) or 0418857182, before Monday 8 May 2023.

Refreshments will be served following the talk.

Members free
Visitors \$5 donation

For information tel. 0418857182

GUIDED WALK – ROSHERVILLE LIGHTHOUSE

Date: Thursday 1 June 2023

Place: Rosherville Light, 52 Parriwi Road, Mosman

Meeting points:

- **10-30am** at corner of Parriwi Rd and Spit Road (alight from bus at 7-11 Store near Warringah Road)
- At the Rosherville Light **10-45am** (north of Cyprian Street)

Walk is 1.68 km, all downhill at a steady gradient. Some uneven surfaces. No uphill walking required.

The design of the Rosherville Light and three other lighthouses around the harbour are credited to have been designed by Mr Maurice Festu. Only – he likely did not actually design them. The design of the lighthouses had been completed many years earlier when he was still a schoolboy in Belfast. The first of the three lighthouses was the Vaucluse Light erected in 1884. During this talk and walk, hear the full story of the light and its history, and the valuable work that Festu did in fact undertake. Our guest speaker, a published author on public transport, will tell us of the trams, the ferries and the rail plans of the Mosman district. What powered the trams? What were the gradients and where were the cuttings made to construct this network? What was the intricate design known as the Triangle that made the network run and provided it with flexibility? All sadly now well in the past (but also just recent enough for most of our demographic to remember).

Lunch afterwards will be at Middle Harbour 16 Foot Skiff Sailing Club, 237 Spit Road Mosman

Contact: Graham Laxen 0422 930 411 grahaml0011@gmail.com

MOSMAN LIBRARY – LOCAL STUDIES EVENTS FOR APRIL and MAY

Archibald Hugh Mosman 1799 to 1863: an exhibition

18 April to 14 May 2023

Merchant, whaler & pastoralist from Scotland, West Indies to Sydney. Mosman's namesake arrived in Sydney in 1828, applied for a Crown Grant of land in Great Sirius Cove and established a whaling station in 1832. In 1838 he transferred his holdings relocated to New England. This is his story.
Mosman Local Studies Library. Free event. Booking not required.

Linga Longa at Emoh Ruo. What's in a Name?

19 April 2023, 27 April 2023 and 9 May 2023. Times vary - see website

Before houses were numbered they were identified by a name. Have you ever wondered if your house had a name? The Mosman Local Studies Collection may have the answer. Give us 30 minutes and we may find the answer.
Bookings essential. Call (02) 9978 4101 to book a time.

The Barn and its history, presented by Colleen Godsell, custodian

Monday 1 May 2023 7pm

The Barn is the sole surviving building from the 1832 whaling station established by Archibald Mosman in Mosman Bay. It is a fine example of how a committed community has ensured this building continues to serve as a reminder of Mosman's maritime past. Colleen will share her story of saving The Barn.
Mosman Local Studies Library. Free event. Bookings essential trybooking.com/CEVUH

The Barn, Open House, 3C Avenue Road, Mosman Bay

Sunday 13 May 9am to 12 midday

Free event. Drop-in, booking not required. A rare opportunity to visit the last remaining sandstone structure from Archibald Mosman's 1832 whaling station.
Custodian Colleen Godsell will be on hand to share her stories of The Barn

SHARP FAMILY OF "YASMAR", 19 RAGLAN STREET, MOSMAN

An article by descendant, Elizabeth O'Connor (Ramsay Sharp)

In the 1970s, my father, Neville Arthur Ramsay Sharp unearthed some long-held family photos, dated 1902.

These photos are the only photographic record that we have of my great grand-parents, William Henry Sharp (1844-1929) and Eliza Alice Sharp (1851-1943) who lived at "Yasmar", Raglan Street, Mosman (now No. 19). "Yasmar" is Ramsay spelt backwards, the maiden name of Eliza who was very proud of her Scottish ancestry; she included her surname in her sons' names. The Sharps were from an old Dorset family.



*"Yasmar", 19 Raglan Street, Mosman, c.1902
(Ramsay Sharp family collection)*



*19 Raglan Street, Mosman, c.2022
(realestate.com.au)*

William was born in 1844 in London, the son of a minister, John Sharp and his wife Mary Roberts. He was educated at a public school and passed preliminary exams as a pupil/teacher. He was apprenticed to Eyre & Spottiswoode, government printers where he worked until 1873. William had married Eliza Alice Ramsay in 1869 in the parish of Islington.

They emigrated to America where William joined the Typographical Association in New York and worked in Boston and Chicago, returning to London in 1874; he was a member of London Society of Compositors for over 12 years.



*William & Eliza Sharp at "Yasmar", 1902
(Ramsay Sharp family collection)*



L-R: Arthur (son), possibly Bessie Ritchie (future wife of son Walter), unknown lady (possibly Lucy Isabel Scott, future wife of son Harold), son Walter, mother Eliza & father William. Photo possibly taken by son Harold at "Yasmar" in 1902

William and Eliza arrived in Australia in 1887, hoping to benefit his health, with their three sons, Walter, Harold and Arthur. Their first son, Alfred, had died in London aged 5. They initially settled at 83 Great

Buckingham Street & in William Street, Redfern and in 1901 moved to Raglan Street, Mosman. Their sons, Walter, Harold and Arthur all attended Cleveland Street Public School and later Sydney Boys High School.

William took work at the Government Printing Office and became a member of the Sydney Typographical Association. He was quickly promoted to its Board of Management, where he would remain for the next six years, becoming the association's delegate to the Trades & Labor Council of Sydney.

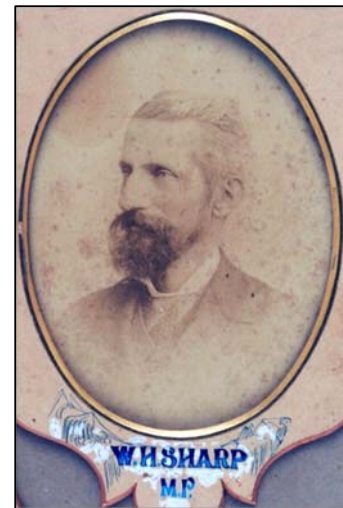
The TLC had been created in 1871 with the amalgamation of six trade unions. Within a couple of decades, the number of unions involved had tripled, and the membership was 35,000. The TLC of NSW was considered the most well-organised labour force in the world.

In August 1890, a dispute began on the Sydney docks over working conditions and pay. Industrial action quickly followed and spread. Within a month, 28,500 seamen, wharf labourers, gas stockers and coal miners were on strike. Armed troops were deployed in Sydney, Melbourne and Newcastle and the strike was soon broken. Though the workers were defeated, the dispute led to the formation of the Australian Labor Party.

In 1891, immediately after the strike, at the age of 47, William Henry was elected President of the TLC. Thus by default, he became a founding member of the Australian Labor Party.

He ran in the NSW state elections in June of that year on the Labor-Protectionist platform. He won the seat of Redfern which gave him a seat in the NSW Legislative Assembly which he held for the next three years.

In his maiden speech of 22nd July 1891, William passionately promoted the policy of "one man one vote". He also used the speech to call for the improvement of conditions for female railway workers. The British Typography Union had been one of the first unions in the world to allow female members and William would have been keenly aware of the difficulties women face in the workplace. As the first President of the Labor Electoral League, William presided by the first Labor Caucus meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).



Parliamentary Labor Party of NSW, 1891 (Mitchell Library, SLNSW)

Fighting to repeal the tariffs, in 1893, George Reid moved a censure motion against the Dibbs NSW Ministry on the ground that a vote could not be cast on the question of tariffs until the 'one man, one vote' question had been settled, and plural voting was abolished.

Although William Sharp was an Australian Labor Party founder, he was too much of an individualist to follow Caucus policy, which insisted that members vote along party lines. On account of this rule, he soon became disillusioned with the party. He also diverged from the party line by insisting that the party owed allegiance not only to workers but also to employers.

The Premier of the day, Sir George Dibbs, was the one of the two leaders of the NSW branch of the Protectionist Party. Along with seventeen other members of the Labor Party, William was expelled for voting with the Dibbs Government at the time of the Broken Hill strike. William did not give up his fight for equal representation and together with his friend, Sir George Grey, ex-Governor and at that time Premier of New Zealand, he toured NSW fighting for the One Man, One Vote principle.

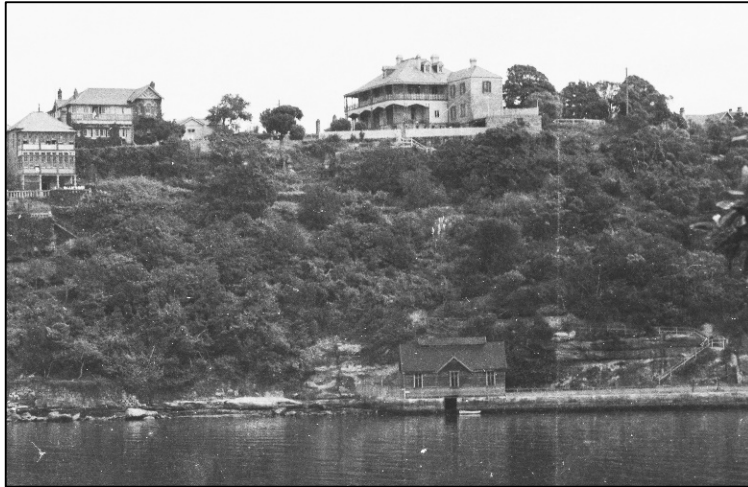
Meanwhile William and Eliza's sons pursued their careers. Walter graduated from Sydney University in 1902 as a Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery, and went on to become an Honorary Surgeon at Sydney Hospital. He was a sound surgeon and a good teacher. Apart from his work he had many interests. He was a founder of Cranbrook School and an alderman of the Vaucluse Council as well as a keen supporter of the United Australia Party. He inaugurated the William Henry and Eliza Alice Sharp Prize for Clinical Surgery at Sydney University in memory to his parents. He married Bessie Ritchie of Bega and they had five children, including twins. Harold became an accountant and business man, married Lucy Isabel Scott and they had two daughters. Arthur was a civil servant, a champion rower with Sydney Rowing Club. He married Olive Beatrice Barrow and had a son and a daughter.



In 1927, from their home which looked east to Bradley's Head, William and Eliza witnessed the devastating collision and sinking of the ferry *Greycliffe* when it was cut in half by the steamer *Tahiti*. Their grand-daughter, Betty Sharp, aged 15, was one of the 40 lives lost. This remains the worst maritime accident on Sydney Harbour. Betty was the daughter of Arthur and Olive Beatrice Sharp. She was my aunt.

William died at Mosman in 1929 and Eliza lived on at "Yasmar" until her death in 1943.

Today William and Eliza's descendants have followed the fields of medicine, business and industry, education, the arts and real estate. Their decision to emigrate to Australia in 1887 must be applauded by their descendants who have benefited from their foresight.



Abbotsford at 17 Raglan Street. Abbotsford is the last large house on the right and you can only see the trees in the garden of no. 19 (Advice from the Librarian, Mosman Local Studies Collection)



*19 Raglan Street, Mosman, c.2022
(realestate.com.au)*

Sources:

Archives of Cecile Ramsay Sharp,
Sharp family history draft by Andrew Sharp and Lowell Tarling.
The Jubilee Book of the Sydney Hospital Clinical School (1960)

World War I Kit bag of Victor Seymour Armstrong

Malcolm McFarlane recently sent information to the Mosman Historical Society about a WWI kit bag, which was owned by young journalist and Mosman resident, Victor Seymour Armstrong, who was killed in action at Lone Pine, Gallipoli on 6 August 1915. His kit bag was given to Malcolm by his grandmother and he is very keen to learn more about the man and wondered if there are any family members with whom he could make contact.

The old kit bag is a family treasure as it belonged to Malcolm's grandfather, John (Jack) McFarlane. When Malcolm left home to go to university in the early 1980s, his grandmother insisted he took the bag and use it. She felt that her husband (Malcolm's grandfather) who died aged in his eighties, would have wanted it to be used and he was very proud to do so.

His name and details were still stamped boldly in white on the outside of the grey canvas bag (pictured). However as the bag wore with use, these letters faded and below the name of Malcolm's grandfather, other letters became visible.

His bag now reveals the following:

PTE J MCFARLANE
41ST BATTN
AIF
NSW

VS ARMSTRONG
4TH BATTN
AIF



Malcolm has learned that recycling was very much a part of every war effort, including WWI. His grandfather had obviously used the same kit bag as Victor Seymour Armstrong. The bag was in Gallipoli with Victor until his death at twenty-six years old; then it was with Malcolm's grandfather on the Western Front and eventually in England for twelve months while he recovered from being gassed before returning to Ulmarra on the Clarence River.

Unlike his grandfather, Victor did not have the opportunity to return home and create a life and family of his own. Malcolm's research thus far has revealed the following family connections:

Father - Robert Mangan Armstrong
Mother - Isabel Eugenie Chemery
Brother - Eric Macdonald Armstrong (Architect)
Friend - Christina Weir

Malcolm also came across an item by David C. Armstrong Wilkins, great nephew of Robert Mangan Armstrong (and therefore presumably a nephew to Victor Seymour Armstrong). The Australian War Memorial website provided additional information that Victor's Service Number was 675 and he was a private in the 4th Australian Infantry Battalion. It confirms his date of death as 6 August 1915 on Gallipoli and that he is commemorated in panel 39 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Doing our Bit, Mosman 1914-1918 has more details about Victor Seymour Armstrong. For more poignant details at <https://mosman1914-1918.net/people/1745/> but in summary: Victor was born 6 February 1889 in London, England and enlisted in Sydney. His address on enlistment was 'Tegamai', 12 Cowles Road, Mosman. A brother, Alan Macdonald Armstrong, served in the 7th Australian Light Horse Regiment under the name Alan Seymour Armstrong and was with him the day before the fateful charge which killed Victor who was hit in the chest and died before he reached the dressing station. Despite information provided, his body was never located but he was buried with others at Lone Pine on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Malcolm would appreciate any leads on family contacts. This simple item is an important object in his family and his hope is that it may become the same for the Armstrong family. Malcolm McFarlane can be contacted on malmcfarlane1@gmail.com or 0427 515 200 (contacts provided with permission).

Article written by Dr. Perry McIntyre, MHS

CLIFTON GARDENS HOTEL BRICKS COME "HOME"

Pam Lofthouse and Perry McIntyre

The Clifton Gardens Hotel, built in 1885, was demolished in 1967. The hotel bricks were used to build a house in Warrawee, which itself was demolished in 2022. The developer kindly donated 150 bricks to the Mosman Historical Society. The Society used the bricks to build a pillar on the site of the old hotel, and fixed a plaque to explain its purpose.

On a beautiful sunny evening, the 15th of March 2023, Debbie Higginson, the Society President, welcomed members and guests to the unveiling of the plaque by the Mayor of Mosman, Carolyn Corrigan. Carolyn set the tone for a happy and relaxed occasion by sharing her initial reactions to what she thought might be an unveiling of a pile of bricks. She was pleased to find that it was a more formal structure!



(David Carment)



(Pam Lofthouse)

Following the unveiling, many people were thanked for their roles in the project: Sally Bell (née Morgan) alerted the Society to the demolition of her childhood home in Warrawee; Mosman Council provided a Community Grant; John He donated the bricks; Richard Brown constructed the pillar; Axtten Mison the Senior Designer at Mosman Council designed and prepared the plaque; Society Members, Ross and Therese Webb, donated the funds for the plaque; and Robert Ingham fixed the plaque and sealed the pillar. And of course, the support of the Mayor was very much appreciated. Margot and Russell Lander, the last residents in the Warrawee house before its recent demolition, have expressed great interest in the project, but were not able to attend the unveiling due to illness.

As part of the project, two historians on the Society's Committee researched and wrote a history of Clifton Gardens, covering the hotels, pleasure grounds, streets, subdivisions and more. Perry McIntyre, who worked with Pam Lofthouse in putting the information together, explained to the gathering that the document was in the form of an eBooklet which could be downloaded free from the Historical Society website. She then entertained the guests with some anecdotes from the book.

Click here to download the eBooklet called Clifton Gardens: A History.

www.mosmanhistoricalsociety.org.au

Then to enable everyone to work up an appetite before the sausage sizzle, David Carment led the group on a short walk to view where some of the iconic Clifton Gardens structures had once been. He provided a potted history of the hotels and pleasure grounds. The publican who built the Clifton Gardens Hotel in 1885 (when it was known as the Chowder Bay Marine Hotel) was David Thompson, a larger-than-life character whose establishment was a mecca for social events. The Society was pleased to welcome to the unveiling Lyn Thompson and Les Thompson, both descendants of David Thompson.



(Pam Lofthouse)

The evening concluded with another of the Society's legendary sausage sizzles. The attendees at the event were joined by several neighbours from nearby houses who had watched the pillar being built and were very curious about its purpose. Everyone agreed that it was a fitting celebration of the hotel bricks coming "home" to Clifton Gardens.



(Debbie Higginson)



PO Box 39, Mosman NSW 2088
Email: mosmanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
<https://mosmanhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

Patron: Gavin Souter AO

Affiliate Member: Royal Australian Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and APPLICATION FORM

Membership Year is July to June – Subscriptions are due 1 July

I/We

Name/s:.....

Address:

.....Phone:

Email Address

(For meeting notices and newsletter. If you don't have an email address, the meeting notices will be posted to you):

(No information collected about members will be provided to any third party)

I/We agree to be bound by the rules of the society:

.....Signature/s required).

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS – EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JULY

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: **\$20.00 per person**

3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: **\$50.00 per person**

“SPECIAL OFFER” FOR 2023 ONLY, IF PAID BY 30 JUNE

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: **\$15.00 per person**

3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP: **\$40.00 per person**

President: Debbie Higginson
Vice President: Dr Perry McIntyre
Acting Secretaries: Perry McIntyre & Pam Lofthouse
Hon Treasurer: Stephen Palmer
Membership Kay Halstead

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payment can be made **by cheque**,
posted to the above address with
this completed form

OR

By **EFT deposit** to this NAB account:

BSB: (082 299)

A/c: 467 783 344

(Identify your deposit with **SUBS**
and your **NAME**)

OR

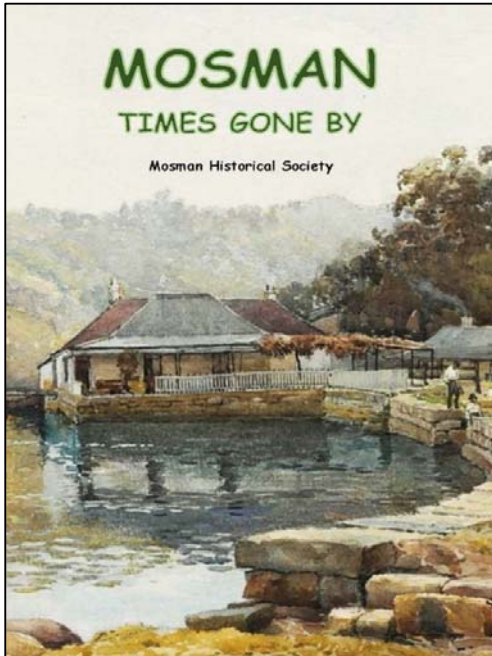
Pay CASH at the next meeting

Every person taking part in an activity of the Mosman Historical Society does so as a volunteer in all respects and as such the Society accepts NO responsibility for any injury sustained.

ABN 46 401 446 847

MOSMAN: Times Gone By

Mosman Historical Society



This book is a collection of researched articles on many aspects of the early settlement and development of Mosman on Sydney's Lower North Shore, as well as research on local historical homes, many now lost, and stories of life in Mosman from the 1800s, researched over many years by Society members.

Published by Mosman Historical Society.

Available from May, 2023

262 pages in paperback, with many colour images, maps and references.

Indexed.

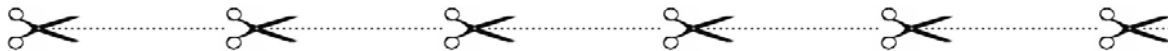
ISBN: [978-0-6455745-0-0](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9780645574500)

Price: \$30.00 (plus P&P)
(see below)

PURCHASE OPTIONS

- Payment in cash at an MHS Speaker evening in Mosman Library (*save on postage*)
- Payment by Cheque: payable to "Mosman Historical Society" - order form below - Post your order to: Mosman Historical Society, PO Box 39, Mosman NSW 2088
- Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer to: BSB:(082 299) A/c # 467 783 344
Include P&P Cost below (Identify your EFT payment with "Book & your Surname", then email (↓) to confirm the payment details and your postal address)

Enquiries: Email: cremorne1@gmail.com or Tel: 02-9904 1829



ORDER FORM - "Mosman: Times Gone by" (please detach and post with your cheque)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode/Zip _____

Email (for advice when posted): _____

No of copies requested: _____ Cheque enclosed for: AUD\$ _____ (include P&P)

AUD\$30.00 each - plus packaging & postage (P&P)

P&P options within Australia (*Australia Post charges*) to the one Australian address:

Small PO red satchel with protective cardboard: **\$10.00** for 1 book only OR

Medium PO red satchel with protective book wrap: **\$16.00** for 1 OR 2 books,

OVERSEAS ORDERS: *Postage cost obtained on an individual basis*

Post with cheque to: **Mosman Historical Society, PO Box 39, Mosman NSW 2088**