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

Patron: Gavin Souter AO

Affiliate Member: Royal Australian Historical Society

Mosman Historical Society—Committee Members 2023-2024

President: Debbie Higginson	Newsletter: Margaret Szalay	<u>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS</u>
Vice-President: Stephen Palmer	Membership: Margaret Szalay	Library Rep. Donna Braye
Assistant Secretary: Dr Pam Lofthouse	<u>Other Committee members:</u>	(Mosman Library Local
Acting Secretary: Prof. David Carment AM	Robert Clark	Studies Librarian)
Treasurer: Stephen Palmer	Gail Fitzhardinge	Webmaster: Amanda Gosse
Speakers: Prof. David Carment AM	Lyn Tanner	

MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - February 2024

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

Best wishes for 2024. We look forward to seeing you at our next Speaker evening on **Wednesday, 13th March** and afterwards for tea/coffee & a chat to get to know other Society members.

Welcome to new MHS member....

Elizabeth O'Connor

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday, 13th March 2024, 7.00pm

Speaker: Dr Peter Hobbins, ANMMuseum

"Strung Out or Seduced? Exploring the scandalous 'Queen of Nations' shipwreck"
(Details in the attached flyer)

Wednesday, 8th May 2024, 7.00pm

Speaker: Dr Ian Hoskins, on the Orpheum Theatres in Cremorne and North Sydney
(Details in the next newsletter)

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)

CONGRATULATIONS to our November speaker, local Scout leader Matthew Brownlie (below), on his Australia Day award of **2024 Mosman Citizen of the Year ...**
<https://mosman.nsw.gov.au/news/citizen-year-2024>

PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, 8th November 2023

Members enjoyed Matthew's Brownlie's talk on *Scouting in Mosman 1908-2023*. We were delighted to welcome 9 visitors to the meeting. The 1st Mosman Scouts troop still meets in The Barn on Mosman Bay.

Many members and visitors stayed after the meeting to enjoy Christmas drinks and nibbles.

A feature article on The Barn by Colleen Godsell was included in our August 2023 newsletter.

See our **SOCIETY NEWS** overleaf (Page 2).

LOCAL STUDIES AT BARRY O'KEEFE LIBRARY

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

SYDNEY HARBOUR, 1942 - NIGHT ATTACK!

Come along to our author talk, short film, exhibitions, and a showing of selected Ken Done paintings!

Join author Peter Grose and designer Gary Jackson for a thrilling account of events May 31- June 1, 1942.

Enjoy dramatic displays and book signing with wine and nibbles.

Monday MARCH 4TH 2024 7pm Free event. Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/COLGH>

"MOSMAN: Times Gone By"

The committee is pleased to announce that all copies of our book were sold in the lead-up to Christmas. It is now being reprinted, available in March.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Telephone Margaret on 02-9904 1829

FEATURE ARTICLES (Pages 3-7)

Our first article this month is "**MEMORIES OF MOSMAN PREP, 1956-1959**" by Society Committee member, Prof. David Carment.

Our second article is "**FAMILY RECOLLECTIONS OF ARTHUR MUSTON (1856-1948)**", by his great granddaughter, Jacqueline Morgan (née Muston).

As background, the MHS's previously published article on "**Muston's Model Township**", built in Mosman in the 1880s, is also included.

HISTORY WALK IN RANGERS ESTATE

MONDAY, 4TH MARCH (Flyer attached)

A history walk (all downhill, some stairs) in the Rangers Estate will be led by Dr. Pam Lofthouse, departing from the roundabout at Spofforth St and Rangers Ave at 5.00pm. A sausage sizzle will be held at the end of the walk at Reid Park.

SOCIETY NEWS

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2023



Our Vice-President, Stephen Palmer, represented the Mosman Historical Society, laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Mosman War Memorial on Saturday, 11 November last year.

The wreath had been prepared by our President, Debbie Higginson, using plants taken from her Beauty Point garden - rosemary, camellia leaves, Christmas Bush & white hydrangeas. Stephen was accompanied at the ceremony by Society members, Julie Goodsir and John Dansie.



CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FOR NEW AND RECENTLY RETIRED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A gathering of the Society's Committee members was held in late November to express the Society's appreciation and gratitude for the contributions made by both new and recently retired members of the committee, and by the Society's benefactors, Therese and Ross Webb.

The Society's AGM meeting in September saw the resignations of several long-serving committee members, Noela Gill (our President for many years), John Dansie (always with BBQ ready at the end of the Society's annual walks), Kay Halstead (our membership officer and newsletter coordinator for many years), Perry McIntyre (an active researcher who, together with Pam Lofthouse, answers – or redirects - enquiries received from the public), and Brian Halstead (our former long-serving Treasurer and now our Auditor).

The Society welcomed members, Gail Fitzhardinge, Robert Clark (down with COVID and unable to attend), and Lyn Tanner, who stepped forward at the AGM to serve on the committee, supporting our work into the future. It was a lovely evening enjoyed by all who could attend.



MEMORIES OF MOSMAN PREP 1956-1959

David Carment, 2024

I entered Mosman Church of England Preparatory School, better known as Mosman Prep, as a six-year-old in 1956 and left at the end of 1959 to go on to Shore (Sydney Church of England Grammar School) in North Sydney, where I stayed until 1967. Mosman Prep was then a much smaller and less prosperous school than it is now.



Mosman Prep 1958 school photo. David Carment is fourth from the left in the third row from the bottom. Adults near the centre are, left to right: Mrs Kennedy (teacher), Mr Bradley (teacher), Mr Dillon (minister at St Clement's Church), Mr MacDougall (Headmaster), Mr Yarnold (former Headmaster), Mr Duffett (teacher), Mr Moriarty (teacher), Mrs MacDougall (teacher).

I lived with the rest of my family at Iluka Road, Clifton Gardens, and for much of the time I was at the Prep, I walked to and from school, something that most parents would probably not permit these days but was common during the 1950s.

As teachers, I had Mrs. MacDougall, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr Moriarty and Mr Duffett. We never used their forenames, and in most instances did not know them. The first two were the wife and sister of the Headmaster, Mr MacDougall, and the daughters of the first Headmaster, Mr Yarnold. They were kindly and well-liked. Mr Moriarty was less popular. A stern disciplinarian, he punished boys by hitting them with a ruler that he described as his 'slapper'. Mr Duffett, who became Headmaster in 1959, was an excellent teacher, and I enjoyed his classes. He took us on a wonderful excursion to Thirroul on the south coast. He had a great sense of humour. All the teachers, including the women, were addressed as 'Sir'.

Other recollections include the rather run-down class rooms, assemblies, films and plays in the school hall, playing sport at Rawson Oval and Primrose Park, learning how to box, lusty singing of the school song which began 'Boys of Mosman Prep, let us keep in step', playing cowboys and Indians in the main playground, the different classes competing with one another for the largest collections at the weekly chapel services at St Clement's Church (now Mosman Village Church), and eating lunches prepared by volunteer mothers.

I remember some of my friends: Jamie Rae (with whom I usually walked to and from school), Ian Finlay, Peter Givorshner, Peter Church and Peter Swire are names that come to mind. I keep in touch with a few of them. I regularly attended birthday parties of school friends and went to their homes on other occasions. Jamie Rae and I used to play with toy soldiers. In 2023 I was at an interesting reunion with some of my Mosman Prep classmates that Peter Church and Peter Givorshner organised.

I did not shine academically or in any other way at Mosman Prep. When I went on to Shore, though, I found that in my first year I came close to the top of my class without working especially hard and played in the A Rugby side for my year. Mosman Prep had prepared me well in both areas. My second year at Shore was much less successful, as I did not do the work necessary to sustain such performances.

My bother Tom followed me at Mosman Prep and enjoyed his time there.

FAMILY RECOLLECTIONS OF ARTHUR MUSTON (1856-1948)

by his great granddaughter, Jacqueline Morgan (née MUSTON) AM, MBBS, MSc.Soc, LLB.

Arthur Muston was born in North Sydney in 1856, and died in Sydney on 21 November 1948, aged 92 years. He and other family members are buried in St Thomas' Rest Park in Crows Nest.

Jacqueline here shares her recollections of Arthur Muston and the Muston family...

I went with my mother, Grace, and father, John, known as Jack, to Arthur's 85th birthday party at his home, "Notsuma" (on Wunulla Road on the shore of Felix Bay) in Point Piper in 1941. I would have been 9 years old. My father was one of his grandsons.

Many family members were at the party. The catering included an ice-cream cake. Such cakes had only recently come on the market, so it was not known that the cake had to be taken out of the refrigerator some time before 'cutting time'.

Attempts to cut the cake with a knife failed. Another grandson, my father's cousin, Tony Muston, was present, dressed in an Australian Army Officer's uniform. He was called upon to cut the cake and pulled his officer's sword from its scabbard and used it to successfully cut the cake.

This is my earliest recollection of contact with my great grandfather.

At an earlier time in his life, one of Arthur Muston's enterprises was the development of "salt harvesting". This was done by the evaporation of fluid from large lakes filled with salt water on Kangaroo Island¹. Arthur became known as a Salt Merchant.

The need for salt in society was well-recognised for food preservation, especially meat, as it was before the days of convenient refrigeration. The salt was collected and then shipped by sailing boats, up the east coast of Tasmania, Victoria and finally New South Wales to Sydney. Many people were employed on Kangaroo Island for this activity.

Arthur Muston organized for houses to be built for the workers and their families, and schools were built for their children. There is now a municipal area known as MUSTON on Kangaroo Island. I think that this successful enterprise must have given Arthur Muston encouragement and confidence to plan and develop Muston's Model Township with the purchase of land in Mosman and then the building of houses on the land.

He lived in Mosman for many years² and later his sons and their families also did so. He eventually moved from Mosman to Point Piper where he was able to pursue his well-earned hobby of yacht sailing and racing³. His Point Piper home still has its name, "Notsuma", on the front gate pillar⁴. "Notsuma" is A. Muston spelt backwards.

His commitment to yacht sailing in his later life was also taken up by family members, sons and grandsons, who became very successful and keen yacht and skiff sailors.

The Muston pedigree was male-dominated. Arthur had three sons (one died as an infant), and the two surviving sons each had two sons. I was the first female to be born in a Muston household for quite a while.

Whenever I saw Arthur ("Fanfa"), he would sit and talk to me, telling me all sorts of tales as if he had lots of time to chat. I always felt that I got special attention. He sent me a letter when I was approaching my 12th birthday, telling me that he was sending me a piano for my birthday present. He wrote that he was looking forward to hearing me play for him. Unfortunately, I was never a great pianist, but it was a challenge which I accepted.

His life of challenges and achievements was a wonderful model for me.

¹ Kangaroo Island Pioneer Association – "During the early 1800s, at the time of unofficial settlement at Kangaroo Island, salt was scraped from the surfaces of **Muston Lake**, White Lagoon, Salt Lagoon and some smaller ones near Kingscote."

² Recorded living at "Terralta", Prince Albert Rd, Mosman (from 1894) and at "Blakesley", 84 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman (1880s, now demolished).

³ Arthur Muston is recorded as the Founder of the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club on Felix Bay, Point Piper, founded in 1922.

⁴ "Notsuma" is still owned by the Muston family.



"Blakesley", 84 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman – the Muston family home, 1880s (now demolished)

A short autobiography by Jacqueline April Morgan (née Muston)

I was born in Mosman at a small private hospital on the corner of Raglan and Clanalpine Streets, in 1932. I then lived in Mosman until I was married to Graeme Morgan, also a Mosman resident, on 28th January 1956, at St Clements Church, Raglan Street, Mosman. Both my maternal and paternal grandparents lived in Mosman in Bradleys Head Road during my childhood and early adulthood.

I also started school in Bradleys Head Road at ORANA School. When World War II started, and then with the threat of a Pacific War, many families of the pupils at ORANA moved from Sydney to what was considered to be a safer area. The school, without enough pupils, finally closed and never reopened. So my own schooling also moved away from Mosman in 1942. I still have friends and certainly lots of memories to enjoy of Mosman.

MUSTON PLACE NAMES

- The town of Muston and Muston Lake on Kangaroo Island SA are named after Arthur Muston.
- In Mosman, we have Muston Street which runs between Melaleuca Lane, across Raglan Street to Middle Head Road.
- There is also a Muston Park on Boundary Road, Chatswood & a Muston St, in Port Macquarie.

An earlier MHS article is included overleaf on Muston's Model Township in Mosman, which was developed by Arthur Muston in the 1880s.



On moving to live in Point Piper, Arthur Muston founded the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club, as a private club in 1922, where he became Rear Commodore. He owned the cutter, *Windward*.

Portrait of Arthur Muston:

From the collection of descendant, Sandy Muston
(sourced by Debbie Higginson)

For information on the history of the Yacht Club –
<https://www.rpeyc.com.au/history-heritage/>

Muston's Model Township

Pam Lofthouse & Phillipa Morris

MHS newsletter, February 2016

(included in "MOSMAN: Times Gone By", 2023)

In a campaign which began in Victorian England, attempts were made to improve the living conditions of workers by building model townships, comprised of dwellings of a standard to allow for the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants. The concept spread to the colonies where, in Sydney, the first houses in an estate were often built by a developer, as an example to potential buyers of what sort of housing was appropriate. Richard Harnett, Mosman's original real estate entrepreneur, built his home *Buena Vista* at Mosman Junction as just such a model dwelling as he envisaged for his new village.

In 1882, Arthur Muston, a bank manager and merchant who had been born in North Sydney and spent all his life in the area, bought several portions of Harnett's sub-divided Mosman Bay land, as well as parts of the Silex Estate. Muston's approach to the further sub-division and sale of his land was to build a Model Township, initially consisting of eleven examples of the type of dwelling he wanted on his estate, suitable for the skilled workers and middle-class residents he hoped to attract to the area.

The Mossman's Bay Model Township sub-division (later known as Muston's Model Township) consisted of 96 building sites, and Muston chose for his initial eleven houses an area behind the public school (now Mosman High School), in Keston Avenue (4 semis at nos 23-29), Gladstone Avenue, and two adjacent blocks in Avenue Road (see sub-division plan). Muston's architect was his brother-in-law Thomas Wilson Hodgson, a young Englishman who had arrived in Sydney c1887. In March 1889 T.W. Hodgson, Architect, of Mount Street St Leonards, advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald to builders and contractors:

"Tenders are invited for four detached and two pairs of semi-detached cottage residences, the first portion of the Mossman's Bay Model Township". These appear to have been completed by December that year when Arthur Muston began advertising them for let or sale:

"Cottages of 4 and 6 rooms, bathroom, kitchen, pantry, laundry (with copper, tubs &c), marble mantels and fenders, tiled hearths and tiled grates, gas, good views and near ferry; terms to suit purchasers; rents £1 and £1/5s per week."

By 1891 the detached villas were being advertised, descriptions similar to the previous cottages but on large allotments, having 7 and 8 rooms and all modern requisites. They were built in the popular Victorian Italianate style. Sales were slow, however, as the development coincided with the start of an economic depression in the eastern states. Instead of building more himself, from 1893, when Mosman became a municipality and the electric tram arrived, Muston began auctioning unsold lots in the Model Township estate. Despite the size and quality of the dwellings built by Muston, they were not duplicated, as he had hoped, by the investors and speculators who later purchased lots in the sub-division. When development commenced in earnest in Mosman the early twentieth century, the two-bedroom Federation style semi was the dwelling of choice for the speculative builder targeting lower middle-class renters in the area, and the later detached houses are also in the Federation style. Some of the property remained unsold and in Muston family ownership until 1950, when Arthur's estate was finalised following his death, aged 97, in 1948.

When Arthur Muston unsuccessfully stood for election to Mosman Council 1898, he highlighted his contribution, over sixteen years, to the development of the suburb, "having spent more money, built more houses and paid more taxes than any other man in the Borough". Every new house and new resident made the community stronger, he said, resulting in improved transport and amenities. He had built for himself a large home named *Blakesley*, next to the now Warringah Bowling Club in Bradley's Head Road, and another large family home, *Terralta*, nearby in Prince Albert Street. Unlike Muston's Model Township, neither of these survive. Despite some attempts at demolition, most of Muston's eleven model dwellings remain and have been restored as attractive homes.

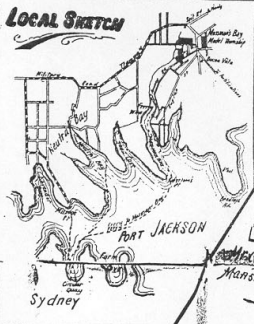
MOSSMAN'S BAY

MODEL TOWNSHIP

FOR POSITIVE SALE BY AUCTION ON THE GROUND ON
SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER 1893 AT 3·P·M· by

RICHARDSON & WRENCH LTD

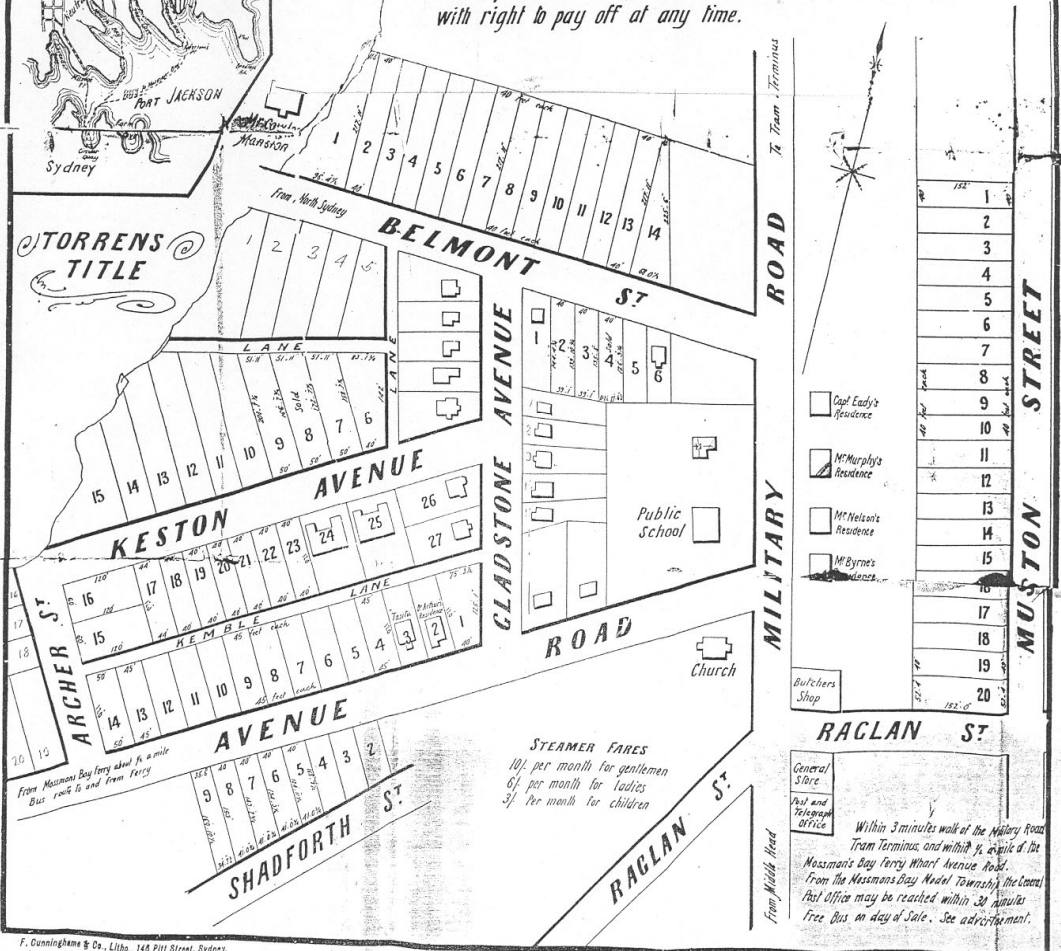
AUCTIONEERS, PITT ST



TERMS

10 per cent deposit. Balance by quarterly Pro-Notes extending over a period of five years, with interest at 6% per annum added with right to pay off at any time.

TORRENS TITLE



From Mossman Bay ferry about 1/2 a mile
 Bus route to and from Ferry

STEAMER FARES
 10/- per month for gentlemen
 6/- per month for ladies
 3/- per month for children

- Capt. Eady's Residence
- Mr. Murphy's Residence
- Mr. Nelson's Residence
- Mr. Byrne's Residence

General Store
 Post and Telegraph Office

Within 3 minutes walk of the Military Road
 From Terminus, and within 1/2 mile of the
 Mossman's Bay Ferry Wharf Avenue Road.
 From the Mossman's Bay Model Township the Local
 Post Office may be reached within 20 minutes
 Free Bus on day of Sale. See advertisement.

F. Cunningham & Co., Litho., 148 Pitt Street, Sydney.