



PO Box 39, Mosman NSW 2088  
[mosmanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mosmanhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)  
<https://mosmanhistoricalsociety.org.au/>

**Patron: Gavin Souter AO**

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 Local Studies Librarian)	(Ex officio)

## MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER- February 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 next Speaker evening on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March** and afterwards at our social gathering for tea/coffee, biscuits & a chat.

### Welcome to new MHS members....

**Richard Ouvrier & Helen Wane**

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, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm**

**Speaker: Ian Burnett** will talk about his book, **"The Tasman Map"**  
(Details in the attached flyer 1)

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, at 5.00pm**

Unveiling by Mayor Carolyn Corrigan of the Clifton Gardens Hotel brick pillar & plaque in Clifton Gardens, followed by a sausage sizzle. All welcome.  
(see flyer 2 attached for details)

**Wednesday, 3 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 flyer 3 attached)

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 7.00pm**

**Speaker:** *To be advised 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](mailto:davidcarment@mac.com)  
Or 0418857182 (email preferred)

### Previous Activities

#### **Speaker Presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022:**

Kevin O'Brien spoke about "Defending Middle Head: A Short History"

#### **History & Franks Walk, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Our annual guided walk was organized around the Brady Estate, followed by frankfurters in Reservoir Park off Brady Street.

### HISTORY PRIZE AT MOSMAN HIGH SCHOOL

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022, our President, Debbie Higginson, attended the Mosman High School Years 9-11 Presentation Night with MHS member, Julie Goodsir to present her late husband Don Goodsir's Memorial Award for History to two high achieving history students, Robert Fray from Year 12 & Orlando Tribe Aviles from Year 10. These annual awards were in the form of two Oracle Bookshop Vouchers (\$100 each).

### LAUNCH OF OUR BOOK ON EARLY MOSMAN

Our 260-page book of 86 researched articles on early Mosman is now being published with much appreciated financial support from the Create NSW Cultural Grants, through the Royal Australian Historical Society and from members, Ross and Therese Webb. The book will be launched by the Mayor on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May** at Mosman Library at 6.30pm. (see flyer 3 attached)

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL – only 100 places available**

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.

### INVITATION TO CANDIDATES' FORUM

Invitation attached (flyer 4) to attend the Candidates' Forum on 20 February leading up to the NSW Elections.

### LOCAL STUDIES AT BARRY O'KEEFE LIBRARY

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

Out of the Archive: an exhibition featuring rarely seen historical items from the Mosman Local Studies Collection on view at the Barry O'Keefe Library. 20 February to 20 March 2023.

*Film screening Cherry Season, Joy Boy, Tomgirl*

A night celebrating the creativity and diversity of the LGBT+ community. Three short films showcasing themes of identity, culture, sexuality and community followed by a Q&A session with the Director and Writer of *Cherry Season*, 23 March, Mosman Youth Centre, 6-7:30pm for 15 – 24 year olds.

### FEATURE ARTICLE ... overleaf

The following feature article explores the work of Edward Skelton Garton, Mosman Architect and Councillor, and the designer and builder of many residential homes and historic residences on the Lower North Shore.

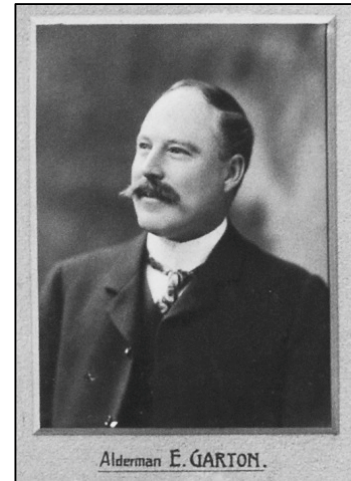
**EDWARD SKELTON GARTON (1864-1935)**  
**Mosman Architect, Alderman and Developer**

Published with permission from the Harrison Precinct and Cremorne Conservation Group. Presented at Mosman Library in May 2022 for the 2022 National Trust Heritage Festival

As part of research to support a heritage submission to North Sydney Council, members of the Harrison Precinct uncovered the involvement of architect, E.S. Garton, in two dwellings in Holt Avenue, whilst seeking historical information about a row of Federation cottages in Holt Avenue, Cremorne. These cottages have been purchased by a developer and are destined for demolition. Their research revealed the wider involvement of E.S. Garton in the design and construction of many of the heritage and historical buildings around Sydney, Mosman, Cremorne and Neutral Bay.

Edward Skelton Garton was born in New Zealand in 1864, one of nine children of William and Emma Garton (née Skelton). He is thought to have travelled to Sydney in the late 1800s. During the period of the early development of lower Musgrave Street (c1895-1908), Garton lived in Boyle Street, Mosman at the head of Mosman Bay. Recorded as a builder at this time he was declared bankrupt in 1895. However, in 1898, he was still advertising for tradesmen and offering villas for sale. By 1900, soon after his discharge from bankruptcy, he is recorded as an Architect.

Garton was active in the Mosman community. In 1892 he was one of the signatories to the successful petition to the Governor seeking to have the Borough of Mosman separated from North Sydney, which occurred in 1893. He was an Alderman on Mosman Council from February 1904 until April 1907.



*"Monterey", 1 Avenue Road, Mosman*

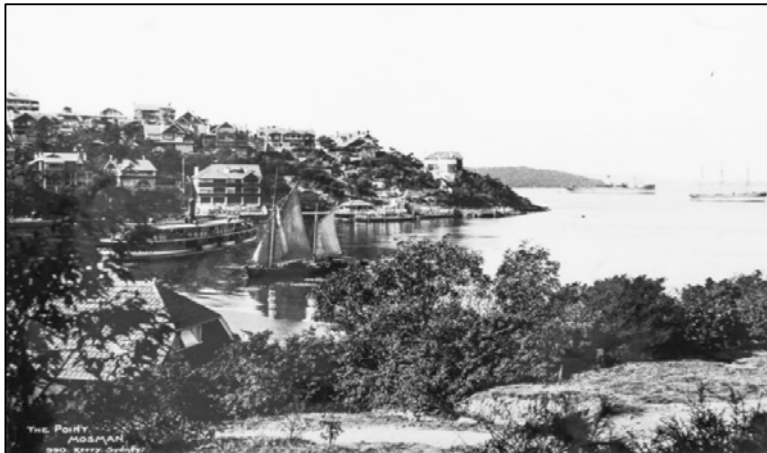
From the late 1890s, Garton was involved in building and selling houses in Mosman, including residences close to the wharf at the end of Musgrave Street. Three were built before the end of 1899, and one as late as 1908.

There is evidence that one of these early homes was "Monterey", 1 Avenue Road, Mosman, built c1905, as Garton's association was identified from newspaper articles. This building received both State and Local Heritage listing in the 1980s, with no architect named.

A newspaper report from 20 August 1904, in the *Mosman, Neutral and Middle Harbour Resident*, page 6, states: *"Tenders are being called for the erection of what will be the largest house in Mosman. The building is intended for a boarding house, and will be erected just above the tram circle at the main wharf, Mosman. Mr Garton has prepared the plans. A billiard room is included in the building."*

From 1905 onwards, numerous advertisements began to appear in the papers for a new boarding house above Mosman Bay, "one minute from the ferry, with a billiard room", indicating that this was the boarding house designed by Garton. The building was identified in its advertising as "Branxholme" which was the original name for the building. From 1932 to the early 1950s, it operated as a guest house under the name "Monterey". The building is now residential apartments.

From about 1901, Edward seems to have joined his brother, George Garton, also practising as an architect and builder, in a partnership listed as Garton & Garton, located at 113 Pitt Street, Sydney. The company was bankrupted in 1925, after E.S. Garton had moved to Papua New Guinea.



*Curraghbeena Point, Mosman, c.1900 (Mosman Library)*

In August 1904, the *Mosman, Neutral and Middle Harbour Resident* stated that “Alderman E.S. Garton, Architect, has a number of new buildings in hand. Besides the proposed boarding house at Mosman Wharf [1 Avenue Road], he has in hand about twelve cottages and villas in various parts of Mosman and Neutral.... The new residence near the point wharf is being built upon his specifications. In fact, almost all the buildings on that point [Curraghbeena Point] are his work. Mr Garton endeavours always to make some dissimilarity in the style between various buildings”.



*(Mosman Library)*

So it seems most likely that Garton was the architect of “Koorawatha”, 9-11 Musgrave Street.



*“Leesthorpe”, 20 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman*

“Leesthorpe” is another property specifically identified as a Garton design, as recorded on the Significant Building Register of the NSW Institute of Architects. “Leesthorpe” is also registered on the State and Mosman Local Heritage lists.

E.S. Garton was the mentor of Australia’s first female architect, Florence Taylor (née Parsons) (1879-1969) who was articled to Garton from 1900 until 1905, when she left to work for John Burcham Clamp (1869-1931), a well-known Sydney architect, who partnered briefly with Walter Burley Griffin.



*Florence Taylor (SLNSW)*

After some rejections, she was finally accepted as a member of the Institute of Architects in 1920. In 1907, Florence married George Taylor and they established a publishing company, specialising in building industry journals, which influenced construction methods and focused on the need for urban planning. For some years after their marriage, they lived in “Blair Athol”, at 6 Bannerman Street, Cremorne. She is remembered as the First Woman to fly in Australia, First Female Australian Architect, Engineer - A Women's Champion.

In 1909, E.S. Garton over-specified on his property developments and was bankrupted in a court case involving a dispute with his builder, Richard Henry Pearce. In this 1909 insolvency case, it was reported in the *Evening News*, on 23 February, 1909 that there were eight newly-built houses in dispute with his builder, Pearce. It also stated that Garton held another 20 allotments in different parts of Mosman, which he had bought from Rd. Harnett Jnr and Company, in 1902. So there may well be many more homes designed by Garton which have yet to be identified.

Here are some other examples of E.S. Garton's architecture on the Lower North Shore (some featuring his distinctive "Catslide" design<sup>1</sup>). He and his brother, George, also designed and constructed many residences in the Eastern Suburbs from 1900, as well as the Toxteth Park Hotel, Forest Lodge in 1906, and the Marlborough Hotel, corner of King Street and Missenden Road, Newtown in 1909.



*6 Spofforth Street, Cremorne*



*123 Holt Avenue, Cremorne*



*8 Spofforth Street, Cremorne*



*125 Holt Avenue, Cremorne*



*10 Spofforth Street, Cremorne*



*119 Holt Avenue, Cremorne*

A 2022 heritage report prepared by GML for North Sydney Council revealed that E.S. Garton was also likely to be the architect for Nos. 115, 117, 119 & 121 Holt Avenue, in addition to Nos. 123 and 125.

<sup>1</sup> A catslide roof is a pitched roof extended more to one side. It is used to create more space in the house without increasing the height of the building.

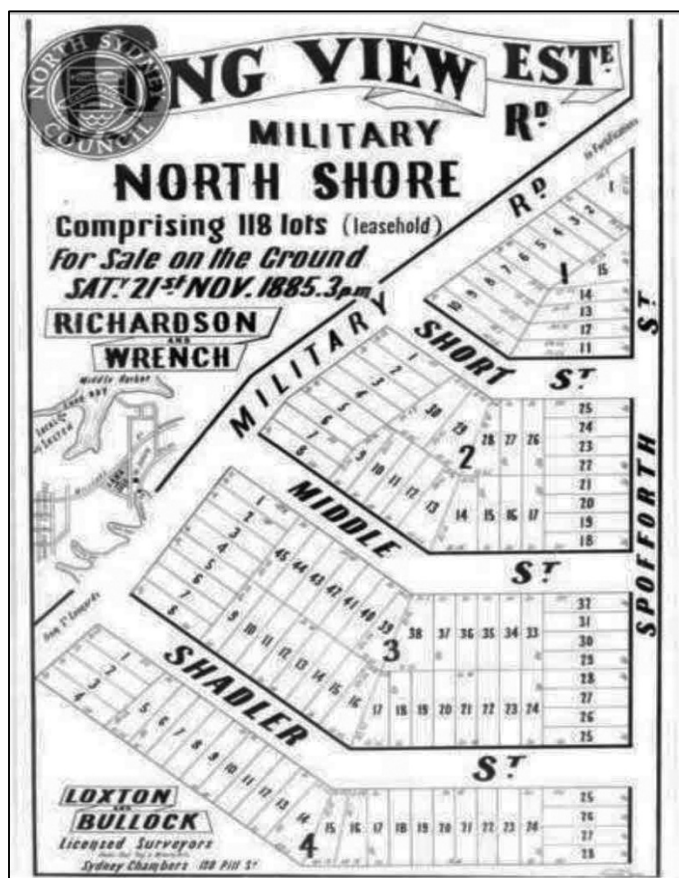
E.S. Garton was also a poet, whose works were published in 1885 in a volume entitled "Lays of Northern Zealandia".

He married Helen Buckman in Sydney in 1887, and they had three children, Cyril (born in Paddington in 1888), Vivian Arthur Zealand (born in 1890), and Enid (born in Mosman in 1894)<sup>2</sup>. Enid married a son of John Job Crew Bradfield, the chief designer and engineer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the City Circle railway.

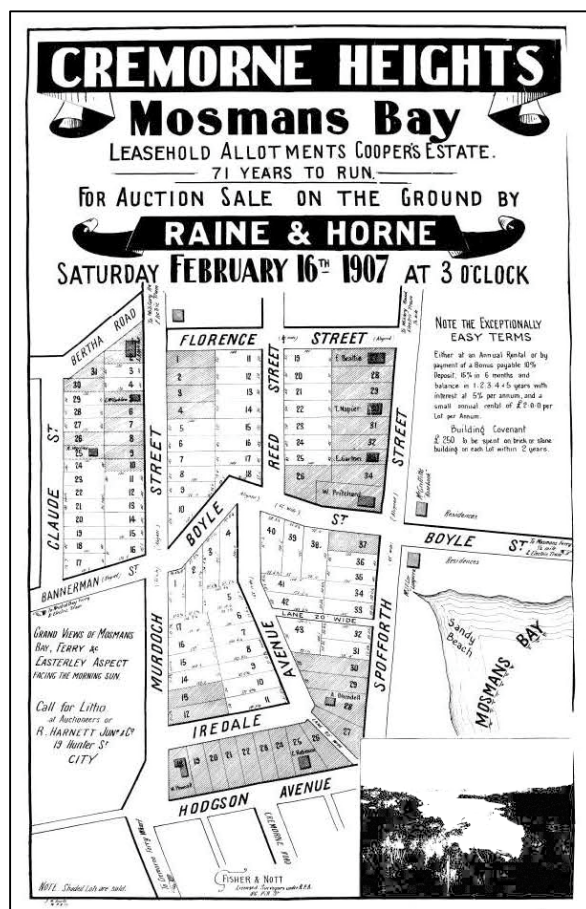
At the outbreak of the First World War, Edward enlisted whilst living at "Kelvin" in Bertha Street, Cremorne (putting his aged down to 45). He embarked on 2 October 1918 on the SS Melusia as part of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force reinforcements.

In 1922, he and his wife moved to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, where he had been appointed Chief Government Architect. Florence Taylor visited him there in 1934, the year before his death. He is buried in Rabaul. His wife stayed in Rabaul and established Tea Rooms in their home, which was destroyed by a volcano in 1937. She died in Auburn in Sydney NSW in 1945.

Posters for housing developments in Mosman in which E.S. Garton was involved as builder and/or architect:



Long View Estate, Cremorne, 1885  
 [Short Street is now Cabramatta Road;  
 Middle Street is now Spencer Road;  
 Shadler Street is now Holt Avenue]



Cremorne Heights subdivision, 1907

The sub-division plans for these developments, and many others, are held in the State Library of NSW  
<https://content-lists.sl.nsw.gov.au/tabular-list/cremorne-subdivision-plans>

<sup>2</sup> NSW BDMs online - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search>