

MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY - AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

September speaker meeting

The next speaker meeting will be at 7pm Wednesday 14th September, downstairs at the library. The talk is entitled 'What was Mrs Macquarie Thinking?' and our speaker will be Marianne Rhydderch, a guide with the Historic Houses Trust, who argues that behind this question lurks a much bigger one can we really know about the lives of colonial women when all the evidence comes through the male lens of assessment?

Her talk challenges us to consider how a number of Sydney's important colonial buildings can be read as texts for women's lives. *See attached poster.*

The Annual General Meeting for the Society will be held before the speaker meeting at 6.45pm. Everyone is welcome. If you would like a copy of the annual reports before the meeting, please let me know.

Attached are proxy form and AGM form.

Bus tour of local tram routes

In the pipeline for the week commencing 24th October.....

Bus tour with commentary by an authority from the Sydney Tramways Museum with lunch break at Balmoral.

More information will be sent when planning is consolidated.....

New members

We welcome 4 new members to Mosman Historical Society:

Roger and Judy Kirby

Bernard Ryan

Margaret Szalay

Membership Renewals for 2011-2012

MHS membership fees became due at the end of June and are still \$15 per year or \$40 for three years.

See attached membership renewal form.

As we do not have a BPAY facility and rely on cheque or cash, you might find it easier to pay at the next meeting.

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

History Week 3rd - 11th September

The theme of History Week 2011 is food.

There will be an exhibition of photos from the Local Studies Collection on view at Mosman Library.

Included will be some great images of the Lopez fruit shop in the 1950s and 1960s, picnics at Balmoral in 1900 and much more.

A large number of special events with a food history theme have been organised by the History Council of NSW.

They can be perused on www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week

Historic Houses Trust

A fair with 1950s theme is being held at Rose Seidler House on Sunday 21st August.

The address is 71 Clissold Rd Wahroonga More info from www.hht.net.au/whats_on/event/no-presale/fifties_fair

Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority

On 21st August the SHFA will be conducting a tour of Macquarie Lighthouse between 10am and 4pm to celebrate International Lighthouse Day.

Macquarie Lighthouse in Vaucluse is Australia's first and longest operating navigational light.

It was designed by convict architect Francis Greenway, was originally built in 1818 and is still used to guide sailors into Sydney Harbour's entrance.

Cost: \$5 adult, \$3 child/concession, \$13 family

Bookings essential: Call 02 8969 2100

Other SHFA activities include torchlight tours on Cockatoo Island between 6 and 8pm each Friday night in

August, with entertaining stories of the characters who have resided there.
Cockatoo Island is also a great place to celebrate on New Years Eve - bookings open 18th August.
The SHFA also have Middle Head parklands buildings for lease.
Further details are on www.harbourtrust.gov.au

Fathers Day foreshore walk for SIMS

Did you know there are more than 570 fish species living in Sydney Harbour?
This walk is a great idea for the family on Sunday 4th September.
It is an easy 11km walk from under the Sydney Harbour Bridge at Kirribilli, along harbour foreshore paths to Clifton Gardens Reserve where there will be live entertainment, seafood and Kids' activities.
The walk is being organized as a fundraiser by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) to help with their research and education activities.
Registrations are now open at www.harbourhike.com

Information about Roger Nicolson?

Can anyone help Martin Day who sent this request:-

My name is Martin Day and I live in Kent in the UK. I have recently been working with Donna Braye from the Mosman library trying to track down a man by the name of Roger Nicolson who lived at 5/15 Bradleys Head Road, Mosman in 1972. He was my father's best man at their wedding and school friend but they lost contact after he left the UK. Roger was English, a white male and would have been in his mid-twenties in the 70's. He worked for an oil company I believe. Ms. Braye was unable to trace Roger and could find no record of his death. She suggested as a further line of enquiry that I should contact you for possible help. Her idea was that your members may be able to help or that you may be able to place a notice in your newsletter requesting help in locating Mr Nicolson.
martin.day@live.co.uk

Quiz question

JUNE's quiz question was:- *What was the original name of Belmont Road?*

You possibly thought this was too easy - just look it up in '*The Streets of Mosman*' which will tell you that it is one of Mosman's oldest street dating from 1888 and was known as Turkey Street.

Not so easy at all.....Pam Lofthouse contacted us from her academic retreat in Yorkshire with this:-

'On the early lands department deposited plans which show Belmont Road, it is named Government Road, which means that it was planned and built by the government, not by Harnett or any of the others who subdivided the land along it (unlike say Harbour Street which was created and named by Harnett).

In the Harbour View Estate subdivision of 1883, both Belmont and Cowles Roads are both still called Government Roads. Later it was called Belmont Street on the lands department documents, and for reasons unknown to me it then became Belmont Road.

I haven't been able to find any documentation about the origin of Belmont, but given the many other Mosman streets named after wars, and the fact that we also have a Methuen Street, my theory is that it was named after the Battle of Belmont where on 23 November 1899 Lord Methuen led the British into battle against the Boers at the town of Belmont.

However, the answer you receive will probably be Turkey Street. When Harnett (and his surveyor Brownrigg) were laying out his planned village of Balaklava, most of the street names were based on people and places from the Crimean War. It was Turkey who declared war on Russia and started the Crimean War, and after Britain and France joined up with Turkey against the Russians, they had many battles, including the Battle of Balaklava (October 1854).

In 'The Streets of Mosman', it says that Belmont Road was previously Turkey Street, and the only source for that seems to be the sketch of the Balaklava village in the book. The library does not have the original sketch of Balaklava. The centre section of Belmont Road east of Cowles Road was surveyed long before it was extended further east through Charles Cowles estate to Military Road. And it is quite a bit north of where Balaklava was planned, which was around Mosman Junction. So there might have been a Turkey Street on Harnett's sketch, but I have my doubts that it was the street which eventually became Belmont Road.

Maybe someone will know where the original Balaklava sketch is and we can solve the mystery!'

AUGUST's quiz question is:-

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 given in the next newsletter.