

MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER – October 2014

UPCOMING MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS:

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 12th November at Mosman Library, at 7pm:

Speaker is Dr Perry McIntyre, on:

“Remembering the Great Irish Famine (1845-1850) in Australia”

Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Refreshments of tea, coffee, Christmas cake and wine will be available (last meeting of 2014).

DAYLIGHT SAVING EVENT:

Wednesday 19th November at 5.30pm:

HISTORY AND SNAGS AT THE SPIT: a historical tour of The Spit, followed by our famous Sausage Sizzle cooked by John Dansie.

Meet near Mosman Rowing Club in the Spit Reserve.

Please see the attached flyer for further information.

LIBRARY EVENTS:

Wednesday 5th November 2014 Mosman Library at 7pm:

Douglas Newton speaking on his book “Hell-Bent: Australia’s leap into the Great War”.

A critical look at Australia’s role during the international crisis of July and August 1914, providing a new approach to examining the events in Australia and Britain in the lead up to the Great War.

Free but bookings essential – contact Mosman Library on 9978 4091.

November 10th to 23rd November 2014 at Mosman Library:

An exhibition about “Collit’s Inn”

This popular musical has been performed around Australia by amateur musical societies, including Mosman Musical Society.

Composed and written by Mosman residents Varney Monk and Tom Gurr in 1931, this exhibition traces the history, people and the performers of Collit’s Inn, featuring rarely seen ephemera and photographs from the Mosman Local Studies Collection.

MOSMAN PARKS AND BUSHLAND ASSOCIATION:

We are invited to attend the 50th Year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 25th October.

It will begin at 4pm at the Drill Hall, Rawson Park, Cross Street commencing with a conducted walk around Bradley Bushland Reserve. At 5pm, Mayor Peter Abelson will introduce speakers including Robin Williams AM of the ABC Science Show.

RSVP Kate Eccles on 9968 1336 or Libby Manuel on 0418 401 238.

Flyer and invitation attached.

NATIONAL MUSEUM:

If you are planning to visit Canberra, you might like to include a viewing of the current special exhibition, ***“Spirited: Australia’s Horse Story”***, which will be on display until 9th March 2015.

It features 500 artifacts, horse drawn vehicles, riding equipment, trophies and old photographs.

More info on <http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/spirited>

SPECIAL HISTORY FEATURE:

WWI - How Mosman residents rallied support, August–December 1914

Upon the outbreak of war in August 1914, local communities began rallying to provide support for troops leaving for the war and their families at home. At a meeting in Sydney on 11th August, the Lady Mayoress Lady Cullen encouraged the lady mayoress of each municipality to make arrangements for the comfort and assistance of our men at war. A relief fund in Mosman had already collected £130 for the assistance of dependents of soldiers.

Members of the Red Cross League took the lead in these activities, in particular the preparation of kit bags containing a mix of necessities to supplement a soldier’s fighting kit. Sugar and flour bags were most suitable, and articles of clothing, gifts and toiletries were sought. So many women volunteered for working bees that confusion was arising so, at a meeting at Mosman Masonic Hall in early August, Lady Cullen, Mrs R. Arthur and Mrs Curlewis took charge, allocating work and giving direction to the many women who were anxious to assist. Already, with cloth given by Sargoods, and cutting done gratis, Mrs Cullen had a large parcel of pyjamas ready for machining. Every gift and article of clothing was to go to the Red Cross for distribution, with Mosman Town Hall nominated as a collection depot. Other items produced included shirts, woollen sweaters, socks, gloves, scarves, balaclavas, cholera belts etc. Requests were made for clean old underwear and rags to rub down the horses. Bandages were rolled by volunteer helpers.

A meeting on August 12th, addressed by Mosman Mayor Walker and Dr Arthur, decided to form an ambulance branch. Training to qualify for membership of the Red Cross was introduced, also basic nursing and first aid with the assistance of the St John’s Ambulance Brigade and local medical practitioners. By August 17th, first aid classes to be taught by Dr Tange, were being organised by Mrs Curlewis at her home, Avenal, in Warringah Road, and also by Miss Baird at Killarney School, Mosman. Soon after, further classes were arranged by Dr Phipps in Military Road, Dr Mason at Livingston School Room, Muston Street, Dr Holmes at St Luke’s School Room and Dr Doak at the Congregational Church School Room, Belmont Road.

Subscriptions and cash donations were used to buy more articles required for the Red Cross, and gifts of books, magazines, tobacco, stationery, records and gramophones were sought for the use of troops on the voyage. Drums of crude oil were donated to keep the soldiers' boots soft while on the march, also bales of wool etc. which were raffled to raise funds for, example, an ambulance horse to go with the troops. The Australian Picture Theatre at Mosman lent their premises to the Red Cross for a concert in December, also donating some of their takings, to pay for a travelling field kitchen. Businesses provided goods and services, and individuals lent cars and carts to transport goods.

On August 31st, a musical and dramatic programme, arranged under the patronage of Sir William and Lady Cullen and Mayor Walker, was held at Mosman Town Hall, directed by Mrs Ambrose Thompson and Miss Kathleen Darley:-

"The item The Absent-Minded Beggar was sung by five little girls in military uniform, who were bombarded with coins to the amount of £4/10/-. Miss Brady and a staff of young ladies raised £7/10/- by selling sweets during the evening. Mr Massey's orchestra, conducted by Miss Barling, and many well known comedy amateur players, assisted in a first class programme" [SMH 3/9/1914].

A total of £40 was raised in aid of the Red Cross League.

On a more serious note, a meeting on August 29 of North Shore chemists, being concerned about goods of German origin, decided to give preference in every way to British products, and then to those of Britain's allies.

(Compiled from articles published in The Sydney Morning Herald, Aug. to Dec. 1914, on Trove) – P.M.