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## MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - February 2017

Our last speaker meeting was the final one for 2016 so was combined with Christmas drinks and goodies. It was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November when we digressed from the usual format and screened the film ***Celebrate Mosman – Then and Now***, followed by 3 short illustrated talks on 3 of the landmarks featured in ***Lost Mosman***, presented by the authors of those articles, David Carment, Pam Lofthouse and Phillipa Morris.

The MHS committee members invest a lot of time researching structures of historical interest in Mosman which have been, or are currently destined to be, demolished. Their research is recorded as entries to the web site ***Lost Mosman***.

The meeting was very popular, reflected in the number of requests to repeat the short talk format.

***History and Snags at Allan Border Oval and Nearby*** took place the following week, 16<sup>th</sup> November, with lots of historical information and great Dansie sausages.

**NEXT SPEAKER MEETING**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm**  
**Downstairs at Mosman Library**

Mike Dorahy will be travelling up from Melbourne to speak to us. He is from the Burke and Wills Historical Society and his topic is ***Epic Journeys: Cross-Continental Expeditions in Australia and the USA***.

Two years ago Mike's fascination and enthusiasm lead to his personal epic journey retracing the original track from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He will be reviewing the parallels between the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition in Australia with that of Lewis and Clark in the US, and telling us about some of the incredible events that occurred. *See attached flyer.*

**Local Studies at MOSMAN LIBRARY**  
**Exhibition - Portraits of War**

An extraordinary collection of 80 portraits of First World War soldiers dating from 1918 is now being hosted at Mosman Library. It is a travelling exhibition limited to 2 weeks at Mosman and will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

In 1918 soldiers across NSW were invited to have their portraits taken by photographic studio, Crown Studios, before embarking overseas. The result was a collection of over 1600 photographs. Fire damaged the studio in December 1918 and the project was never completed. Luckily, copies of the portraits were stored in a fireproof safe and William Ifould, the Principal Librarian for the Mitchell Library at the time, had the foresight to secure the collection for the library.

In some cases these portraits are the only photographs families had of their sons, brothers or uncles. The information on the back of each print is as moving as the portraits themselves with personal details including whether soldiers made it home or not.

The other portraits held by the State Library of NSW can be viewed via web site *flickr* and if a Mosman resident discovers a family member there they can obtain a digital file of the portrait free of charge.

**Twin brothers - Archibald and George Mosman.**  
**Brass plaques for their graves.**

When John Dansie located the grave of George, Archibald Mosman's twin brother, in the Raymond Terrace Pioneers' Cemetery, he was inspired to find a way to link it with his brother Archibald's grave at Randwick. The Society has worked hard to get permission from all the authorities involved to create this linkage. We have just received a fine brass plaque, generously funded by Mosman Council, to be installed at Randwick. A similar one for Raymond Terrace is not yet ready.

A possible installation ceremony is being considered. The plaque can be viewed at the next meeting.

**Don Goodsir award**

You might not be aware that The Society funds a special history prize for a student at Mosman High School, presented at their annual speech day in December. Don Goodsir was a passionate advocate of Mosman's history and instigated the prize during his many years as president of The Society.

The Goodsir family are very supportive of Don's legacy and will generously contribute to this prize. The award was presented in 2016 by Julie Goodsir, a current MHS member.

**Dictionary of Sydney on radio**

The Dictionary of Sydney is a wonderful online source of historical information about Sydney. They now present a segment on 2SER, 107.3FM breakfast (6-8.30AM) every Wednesday morning in which regular presenters are Lisa Murray and Nicole Cama who share intriguing and entertaining stories with listeners.

Dr Lisa Murray, City of Sydney Historian, is also the author of the 2016 book, ***Sydney Cemeteries: A Field Guide***. It is full of information including notable burials, symbolism, interesting epithets etc, even a guide to the best cemeteries for a picnic.

## MOSMAN SALUTES THOSE MAGNIFICENT AVIATORS June 1928

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1928 Charles Kingsford Smith, Charles Ulm and two American crewmen landed safely at Brisbane, in their plane the *Southern Cross*, having made the first Trans Pacific flight to Australia from California. The two Australians were greeted as heroes, and a series of civic welcomes was held to celebrate their achievement. Mosman was no exception, with a parade and reception planned for Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 1928, just one of 57 such events they were to attend across the country.

Mosman however had a special connection with the aviators, as Ulm in particular was a local boy. Though born in Melbourne, his family had lived in Mosman for many years, firstly at Keston Avenue in 1914, and by 1918 at 35 Prince Street. Kingsford Smith's family lived close by, in Yeo Street Neutral Bay, but also had Mosman connections – two of his brothers married Mosman girls, and Smithy is said to have played tennis with friends in Mosman. He was also infamous in his teens for roaring around Mosman streets on his noisy motorbike. Both men were therefore returning to familiar territory for this celebration.

Preparation for the aviators' Mosman visit started weeks in advance. A subscription fund was established to collect donations to aid the fliers in their future ventures. A "Pacific Fliers' Ball" was held on 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Anzac Memorial Hall (now Country Road) in aid of the Mosman Navy League. The hall was decorated with streamers of red and gold, the colours of the branch, with several miniature planes suspended from the ceiling. Kingsford Smith, Ulm and their families were guests of honour. It was a sell-out.

Organisers of the upcoming parade advertised in *The Daily* requesting that all Mosman-Cremorne returned soldiers "honour our fliers by participating in the march". (*Daily*, 27/6/1928). A gala reception was to follow that evening.

The response was tremendous. On the day of the parade between 6000 and 7000 residents turned out to give a rousing welcome to Kingsford Smith and Ulm. The procession assembled at Buena Vista Square for departure at 4pm. The official car carrying the aviators was followed by another carrying Mrs Charles Ulm and Kingsford Smith's parents. Led by the Mosman Municipal Band, returned soldiers, and members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Sea Cadets, the procession moved along Military Road to the Anzac Hall. Here they paused while the fliers laid a wreath on the memorial tablet and a bugler sounded the Last Post. They then proceeded past the Town Hall to the new Soldiers' Memorial at Mosman Park. From motor

lorries decked in flags, speeches of welcome and responses were made, while a squadron from the Aero Club flew overhead. During the proceedings an illuminated address was presented to Ulm on behalf of the Municipality, for his flying achievements and as a returned soldier of Mosman. Mayor Carter had difficulty remembering C.T.P Ulm's initials, so Smith suggested he just call him "Alphabet Ulm".

After dining with the Mayor and aldermen at the Hotel Mosman, the fliers attended a Gala Night at the Australian Picture Theatre at Spit Junction. The special programme included a film of parts of the flight of the *Southern Cross*, with more speeches and the presentation of a cheque for £250, comprising the donations received, profits from other events, and £50 from Mosman Council.

The party was over, and Kingsford Smith and Ulm soon moved on to their next welcome, at Marrickville. Mosman had celebrated a triumphant day, to be remembered for many years to come.

Ulm and Kingsford Smith both lost their lives during pioneering flights in the 1930s.

Although the Ulms have moved on, there are still Kingsford Smith families in Mosman to this day.

P. Morris.

*Mosman Daily*. Articles from June and July 1928.  
*Fitzsimons, Peter*. *Charles Kingsford Smith*. Sydney, Harper Collins, 2009.  
*Rogers, Ellen*. *Faith in Australia: Charles Ulm*. Sydney, Book Publishing, 1987



*Ulm and Smith in Sydney, June 1928. (NAA).*