



Presents

***FLANDERS IN AUSTRALIA: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF  
WOOL AND WAR***

*by*

***Jacqueline Dwyer***



***Jacques Playoust outside his dug-out, c. 1916***

From the late 19th century to the 1950s, many wool buyers from the Flanders region of France and Belgium emigrated to Australia with their families to establish careers as buyers for the woollen mills of Europe. Although they originally had no intention of remaining here permanently, many stayed, including a number in Mosman. They established a prosperous and vibrant French community. A peaceful period of business building ended suddenly in 1914 when the Flanders men of Australia returned to the defence of their homeland. Their villages, towns and fields became the site of some of the First World War's worst killing. They fought and died in battles all along the Western Front. Jacqueline Dwyer's grandfather came to Australia in 1889 and her father, Jacques, saw action with both French and Australian units. Through the life of this family a story of immigration, commerce and war is brought vividly to life.

A former personnel officer and librarian, Mosman resident Jacqueline Dwyer has a Master of Philosophy degree in History from the Australian National University. The talk is based on her book with the same title that was republished as a revised edition in 2017.

**Venue:** Mosman Library (doors open 6.45 to 7.15 PM)

**Date:** Wednesday 14 March 2018

**Time:** 7.00 PM

Members free  
Visitors \$5 donation

Tea, coffee provided  
For information tel. 0418857182