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MOSMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - October 2018

On 13th September, Margaret Szalay took members on a Memory Lane trip when she talked to us about the compilation of *Remember When: Memories and Reflections of Members of Mosman Probus*. Her anecdotes triggered warm memories for everyone, of Mosman shops and buildings, food and activities, long since gone.

The AGM was held before the speaker meeting. Minutes of the 2017 AGM were presented by the Secretary. President, Treasurer and membership annual reports were presented by the respective committee members. Audited financial statements were tabled by the Treasurer. New committee member, Edward Rodgers was welcomed.

NEXT SPEAKER MEETING and Christmas cheer
Wednesday 14th November at 7pm
Upstairs at Mosman Library

Most Mosman residents recall Oswald Brierly as the artist responsible for the magnificent 18x10 foot mural *HMS Rattlesnake in a Squall off the Island of Timor* which covered a wall in the gothic mansion, The Rangers. The 1848 artwork was lost to posterity when The Rangers, at what is now the corner of Brierley and Spofforth Streets, was demolished for subdivision in 1914.

Brierly's activities extended much further than the Rangers, however. *From Eden to Windsor Castle: the Amazing Life of Sir Oswald Brierly* is the subject of a talk by **Bob Lawrence**. It is an amazing story of adventure and accomplishment. See attached flyer.

Although it seems a little early to be talking Christmas, this will be the last speaker evening for 2018 so it is traditional for Mosman Historical Society members to celebrate afterwards with a little Christmas cake and wine, and good cheer.

Note that the November meeting will be held **upstairs** because of works to create a garden on the eastern side of the library.

POST BOX problems. Mosman's postmaster has assured us that the problem resulting in some mail being returned to sender has now been corrected, so mail addressed to MHS at PO Box 39 will be safely delivered.

DAYLIGHT SAVING HISTORY WALK AND SNAGS
Wednesday 21st November at 5pm
RAWSON PARK meet at the grandstand

Your guides will be committee members who know the stories behind the pavilion and oval, Bradley Bushland Reserve, Keith Anderson's memorial, the Scottish cairn, the drill hall etc. After an hour of slow and level walking, John Dansie will revive us with another of his famous sausage sizzles. See attached flyer.

Local Studies at BARRY O'KEEFE LIBRARY LEST WE FORGET - knitted poppies

Melbourne women, Lyn Berry and Margie Knight began knitting red poppies to honour their fathers. The idea evolved, culminating in the Australian War Memorial's field of 62,000 red knitted poppies to mark the centenary of the end of WWI. A group of Mosman women who met regularly at Mosman Community Garden, took up poppy knitting to contribute in memory of 1500 Mosman residents who fought in WWI. A moving presentation of their work is now on display.

HARNETT'S QUARRY, Mosman Bay Harnett Quarry Group's quest rewarded

On 27th September, a heritage interpretation sign was unveiled by Mosman Mayor Carolyn Corrigan in the presence of former Deputy PM Tim Fischer AC and others, marking the site of Harnett's quarry and inclined railway. It operated 1878-1889 in what is now Harnett Park, beyond Mosman Rowers. Walls of the quarry are visible in Boyle Street and Royalist Road. The quarry was a source of sandstone for Melbourne University and other buildings, sea walls etc. The plaque is the result of the efforts of the Harnett Quarry Group, a group of interested engineers, who were tireless in their quest to have the heritage site acknowledged and marked.

GEORGE MOSMAN (twin brother of Archibald) 150th ANNIVERSARY of his death 5th September 1868

Several MHS members and friends travelled to Raymond Terrace on 8th September for the unveiling of a plaque at the grave of George Mosman at The Pioneer Hill Historical Cemetery. The unveiling and commemoration afterwards at Brandon House were organized by member, Debbie Higginson, a direct descendent of George Mosman. George was important to the early development of the area and his plaque makes reference to his brother Archibald's importance to Mosman.



Photographer: Noela Gill

MOSMAN MUNICIPAL BAND

Band music was very popular in the early 1900s, with regular newspaper music columns advertising who was playing where. Mosman had no band of its own, but other suburban and military bands, and the St Clements Fife and Drum Band, provided music for events and processions. However in March 1903 the Mosman Mail reported that "a movement is on foot among local musicians to get up a local brass band". Led by trombonist Mr Bibb, amateur and professional musicians formed our first band which played regularly at Trafalgar Square (Spit Junction).

In 1912 Mosman Council agreed to sponsor a brass band when Mr F.J. Dansey approached it for financial assistance in running his Junior Cadet Band. Council Minutes report approval of a £25 subsidy, "the band to give performances for the Council when required", and being known thereafter as the Mosman Municipal Band. A sub-committee was formed to oversee Band affairs, putting it on a firmer footing, and in May 1912 it made its first public appearance at a sports carnival at Mosman Oval. Under the conductorship of Mr. G.W. Sattler the Band played at local events – opening of the dressing sheds at Edwards Beach, charity events, "welcome home" processions for soldiers back from war etc. It featured in a 1915 Mosman Musical Society production, and also a large patriotic service at Mosman Oval that year. During summer months it regularly performed at Balmoral Beach.

Fund raising was a constant necessity. The Council's small subsidy was insufficient to pay for the Band's music, instruments, and uniforms, which had cost £100. Apart from collecting donations at their Balmoral and other performances, balls, fetes and even an art union were held for their benefit. Attracting sufficient bandsmen was also a problem, but world events intervened. In August 1915 the Daily Telegraph reported that "owing to the war, the Mosman Band has been unable to maintain sufficient playing strength ... and the instruments have been stored away".

Not until 1924 did plans to revive the Mosman Municipal Band emerge. The Taronga Park Trust wanted the Band, which they would subsidise, to play at the Zoo on Sundays and public holidays. Council argued that if it was a Municipal Band, they should have final say on where and when it would perform. By Oct 1925 Council had decided to re-establish the Band. Some of the old instruments were eventually located, and new ones purchased after a plan to buy instruments, uniforms and music formerly used at Willoughby fell through.

Advertisements for musicians appeared in The Daily, practice began, and by Oct. 1926 the Mosman Municipal Band was back in action. Concerts were played around the streets, at the Oval and Town Hall, collections being made to cover costs, and Mayor Carter encouraged residents to support their local band.

The Mosman Municipal Band played regular performances around Sydney, at carnivals, sporting events, marches and civic functions, as well as providing

regular entertainment at the Zoo and particularly Balmoral Beach. In 1927 plans for the beautification of Balmoral began, including building of a band rotunda. Using State Government unemployment relief funds, the Balmoral Rotunda was completed by 1932 and was used regularly thereafter by the Mosman Municipal Band for Sunday afternoon and summer evening concerts.

During the Depression concern was expressed in The Mosman Daily and in Council about the cost of the Band. It played for free at many charitable events around Sydney, but the small Council subsidy of £80 for 80 concerts in 1932 did not even cover the players' tram fares. By 1935 the situation had improved and Mosman was seen as a model for municipal bands, having a Band Committee and providing seemingly strong financial support. However by late 1936 it became apparent that the annual £150 grant was not nearly sufficient. New uniforms and music were needed and instruments required refurbishment. With little remuneration for expenses, bandsmen were reluctant to attend practice, and the presence of a full complement of 24 players, or even a minimum of 20, could not be assured for performances. Though the Band was popular, people were now more cautious with their money, and donations previously made by shopkeepers and audiences decreased.

In early 1937, despite much effort to keep it afloat, Mosman Council disbanded the Mosman Municipal Band. It was cheaper, they said, to hire outside bands rather than to continue supporting their own at a loss. The Commandant of the North Sydney 17th Battalion offered to take over the Band, but was unable to commit to the required minimum number of public and official performances. Finally, in March 1938, the Daily reported the sale of the Band instruments, and music at the Rotunda and elsewhere in Mosman was thereafter performed by a variety of visiting bands.

*P.Morris. Mosman Historical Society
References available on request.*



*Mosman Municipal Band, 1930s?
(Mosman Local Studies Collection)*