



# Peninsula Historian

Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah &  
Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The eagle eyed among our readers will have noticed that we now have two ISSN numbers, one for the print version of the newsletter and one for the electronic one. An International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is an internationally-accepted code which identifies the title of a serial publication such as this Newsletter. It is an eight digit number consisting of seven digits, plus a check digit which enables a computer to recognise when the number is incorrectly cited.

Copies of all publications produced in Australia for public distribution must be lodged with the National Library. Previously we have sent a physical copy of each issue of the *Historian* as it is published. We have now set up to lodge electronically and, as part of that process, we have been issued with a new ISSN for the electronic version. Probably more information than you needed!

This is a shorter newsletter than normal. Our next meeting will be our AGM and a prime purpose of this issue is to give the appropriate notice for it. There was a preliminary notice last issue and the final notice is on this page.

However the issue is not all business and there are a few items which you will hopefully find of interest, albeit involving a little recycling from previous issues.

*Richard Michell*

## DIARY

**Annual General Meeting at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr. Griffin and Abbott Roads**

10 June, 2017                      2.00 pm

Plus a short 1956 documentary film centred on Newport

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

This is now overdue. There is a renewal form on the last page if you are not yet financial. Thank you to all who are.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### NEXT MEETING, 10 JUNE

#### **Annual General Meeting**

This is formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr Griffin and Abbott Roads (enter off Abott Road). The starting time will be 2pm.

All Executive positions will become vacant at the AGM and the election of Office Bearers will be held. If you would like to nominate either yourself or another Member for one of them, there is a nomination form in this issue. It also lists the positions.

The meeting will not be all business as it will be followed by the screening of a short documentary that was filmed in 1956. It is based around Newport and was made in full Technicolor by the Commonwealth Film Unit. There will also be the usual excellent afternoon tea. So please come along.

### MONTHLY MEETING REPORT, Saturday 13 May, 2017

Hastings Pawsey gave a wonderful presentation, complete with spectacular images, of his recent trip to Antarctica. He regaled us with many photos, a short video, and a most entertaining patter. But the highlight was surely his demonstration of the walking gaits of the various species of penguins that he encountered.

Whilst always entertaining the talk was also thought provoking, both from the historical and the future of the planet perspectives.

## POT POURRI

### **Endangered pines**

Readers of the Manly Daily and some metropolitan newspapers may be aware of the campaign to stop the proposed felling of a stand of 75 year old Norfolk Island Pine trees at North Narrabeen. A group of local residents is campaigning to have them heritage listed. One of our members, Michael

Morris, is a leading light in the campaign and he has sent me some interesting historical photos and items, courtesy of Northern Beaches Council's Local Studies unit. If you would like to learn more please contact Michael on 0403 023 848.



The first development on the site (1a Narrabeen Park Parade, located immediately to the north of the bridge over the entrance to Narrabeen Lagoon) was Arch and Norma McKinnon's general store and associated residence, built in 1941. This is the view looking east. The Lagoon bridge is to the right.



View looking from the south west, having just come over the bridge when heading north. The ocean and Narrabeen Baths are to the right.



View looking east today. The original shop is still largely extant. The pines that are in danger are clearly visible.



Another view of the pines. Although they are on public land it is proposed that they be removed as part of the redevelopment of the shop/dwelling site.

**Tree-planting**  
 39. A. W. McKinnon, 11/8/41, requesting permission to plant half a dozen ornamental trees on the southern side of his shop premises facing the lake at North Narrabeen, also requesting advice as to the most suitable type of tree, and Council's assistance in regard to the erection of some means of protection for them. Resolved - That the Works Committee inspect and report. (Cys. Nicholas, Green)

Contact of the McKinnons with Warringah Council in 1941 seeking permission and advice re the planting of the trees in question

## ARTICLE

### Viceroy's House

Possibly (and hopefully!) most reader's will be aware of the film *Viceroy's House* which has been showing locally. It is a re-enactment of the last days of British colonial rule over India, and its partition, ostensibly on the grounds of religion, into the independent nations of India and Pakistan. The Viceroy of the title was Lord Louis Mountbatten who was handed the somewhat poisoned chalice of being the final Viceroy of India, tasked with overseeing the transition to independence. Lord Mountbatten was accompanied to India by his wife Lady Edwina and 17 year old daughter, Pamela, arriving in February 1947. All three are "in" the film.

It may be of interest to remind readers that there is a connection between Lady Pamela and the Peninsula. Pamela was related to Prince Phillip via her father (she was a great-great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria) and she was of a similar age to Princess Elizabeth (almost exactly three years her younger). They knew each other well. (Please note that I am using the past tense as the events were in the past. However the connections obviously still exist today and both Elizabeth and Pamela - now Lady Pamela Hicks - are still alive).

In November 1947, Lady Pamela flew back from India - with the often-violent process of Partition in full swing - to act as a bridesmaid to Princess Elizabeth at her wedding. Her connection to Elizabeth continued beyond the wedding. On returning from India she became one of her ladies-in-waiting and was with her and the Duke of Edinburgh in Kenya when King George VI died on 6 February 1952 and Elizabeth became Queen. In late 1953 and early 1954, she accompanied the Queen on the royal tour to Jamaica, Panama, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, Ceylon, Aden, Libya, Malta and Gibraltar. It was during that tour that the Peninsula connection was made.



Pamela Mountbatten with Jawaharlal Nehru as she was about to leave India in June 1948.

As reported in the Sydney Morning Herald of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 1954:

"Cars containing the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting confused crowds yesterday who rushed to see the Queen pass. The people thought their Queen would be in the cars.

The Ladies-in-Waiting are Lady Pamela Mountbatten and Lady Alice Egerton. Both went driving - Lady Pamela to Narrabeen Lake to water-ski and Lady Alice to Palm Beach.

Hundreds thought Lady Pamela was the Queen when they saw her driving to Narrabeen Lake. She drove to the lake in a Royal tour Daimler.

Two men went with her to the lake and also Miss Elizabeth Northcott, daughter of the Governor of N.S.W., Sir John Northcott.

#### ARMY DRIVERS

The party used two cars driven by Army personnel.

Crowds rushed to the roadside, waving flags and cheering when they saw the two cars approaching. Both cars were black and both bore silver crowns.

About 150 people were waiting outside Dalwood Homes, in Wakehurst Parkway, in case the Queen passed. They groaned with disappointment when they saw that neither the Queen nor the Duke of Edinburgh was in the cars.

Groups of people further along the road caught only a glimpse of the occupants and thought they had seen the Queen. When told they had not seen the Queen they decided to wait in case she also passed.

Mr. W. Ledsan, president of the Dolphin Water Ski Club, met the party at the lake. Lady Mountbatten then changed from a light cotton print frock into a white swimming costume and she and Miss Northcott climbed into a motor boat.

Mr. Ledsan drove the motor boat to the end of the lake, where the water was calm. Half an hour later the boat returned towing Lady Pamela on water-skis. Water-ski experts, among a crowd of 200 who watched, said Lady Pamela was a proficient water-skier. She was on the lake for nearly an hour.

#### PALM BEACH TRIP

Lady Alice Egerton, meanwhile, was in a party of two Royal cars that went to Palm Beach. With her were the Queen's secretary, Sir Michael Ademe, her assistant secretary, Colonel Martin Charteris, the Minister in charge of the Royal tour, Mr. Eric Harrison, and the Commonwealth Director, Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Berryman.

Crowds cheered, waved, and tooted motor horns as the cars passed them on the way to Palm Beach. When they saw the Queen was not in the cars they also decided to wait for her. A rumour spread that the Queen's car would come next.

At Palm Beach the party went to the home of Mr. Sam Walder. All the party surfed later except Lady Alice, who sat on the beach. Mr. Walder's home is near the home of Mr. J. Carroll, where it was rumoured last week that the Queen and Duke would rest."

Imagine the frenzy if one of the current crop of young female royals went water skiing on Narrabeen Lake (Lagoon) today.

While this link to the Royal Tour of 1954 may be considered to be rather light, there is, I believe, another one that cements the relationship. It is rumoured, on good authority, that during the Tour the Queen was presented with a (empty) nest of a Tailor Bird (Golden-headed Cisticola). The nest was collected at Dee Why Lagoon.

*Richard Michell*



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**MANLY, WARRINGAH AND PITTWATER HISORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**NOMINATION FORM**

I nominate ..... for the position of .....

Name of nominator .....

Signature .....

Date.....

I agree to the nomination.

Name of nominee .....

Signature .....

Date.....

**Positions open for election**

President

Senior Vice President

Vice President (2)

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Minute Secretary

Treasurer

Editor

Archivist

*Please consult a current office bearer  
for more details of the duties involved  
with each position*

# Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

## Membership Application Form - 2017

Title: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (please circle)

Name:

Age group (please tick):  10 – 18  19 – 50  51 – 70  71 – 85  86 – 95

[Note: this information is required for insurance purposes; if two persons included in this application fall into different age bands please tick both boxes]

Address:

State

Postcode

Phone: (Home)

(Bus.)

(Mobile)

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$20 Single	\$25 Household (2 persons) or Organisation
SUBSCRIPTION:	\$.....	including emailed copy of the Peninsula Historian
	\$12.00.....	If you require Peninsula Historian by post.
DONATION:	\$.....	
TOTAL:	<u>\$.....</u>	Do you require a receipt? Yes/No

### PAYMENT METHODS

- **By cheque or money order**

Please make payable to 'MWP Historical Society Inc' and mail with the completed Renewal Form to:

The Treasurer  
Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc  
PO Box 695  
MANLY, NSW 1655

**[DO NOT MAIL CASH. If paying in person place cash, cheque or money order in an envelope together with the completed Renewal Form]**

- **By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

Account Details:	Commonwealth Bank, Manly
Account Name:	MWP Historical Society
BSB Number:	062-197
Account Number:	00907384

**[If paying by EFT** please ensure that you enter your name in the 'to account description' box and confirm your payment by sending an email to the Treasurer at [treasurer@mwphs.com](mailto:treasurer@mwphs.com). This is essential for your correct identification and is particularly important if your payment is made through a Credit Union)