

HISTORY OF NORTH SYDNEY & SURROUNDS – DR. IAN HOSKINS

By John Hancox



Dr. Ian Hoskins, who spoke to us early in 2015, again entertained 40 Members and guests on Wednesday 23 August with a fascinating and interesting presentation on the history of North Sydney, covering all areas from Mosman to Wollstonecraft and St Leonards. Interest in his talk was such that two Members drove all the way from the Hunter Valley to attend!

He highlighted some current developments where historical features have been retained and made available for public enjoyment, such as the old Coal Loader site at Ball's Head which includes sustainability demonstration features and large areas for public gathering. Another very significant historical area is Berry's Bay which is possibly the last remaining original waterfront site in Sydney and which has been the subject of at least two large (and unsuccessful) marina developments applications.

Ian has worked as an academic historian, a curator and a professional historian in Sydney for 25 years. His interest began with his Doctoral work at Sydney University — a study of public parks and gardens in Sydney and the development of floral nationalism in the town planning movement. It was here he came to understand that places, plants and buildings could be invested with meanings beyond the obvious. He is currently working full-time as the Historian for the North Sydney Council where he researches and interprets the local area. Ian has authored two books: Sydney Harbour (2009) and New South Wales Coast (2013).

Next Cruising Division meeting:

Presentation 27 September

'Wartime story of the Krait' by Noel Phelan of the National Maritime Museum