



HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

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Newsletter November 2005

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

The year is rapidly drawing to a close and your committee has been planning activities for the first part of 2006. There is still one event scheduled for this centennial year of North Melbourne's incorporation into the City of Melbourne, however. You will have to hurry to buy tickets if you wish to be part of this exciting theatrical event.

Billy Maloney – 5 -10 December

Billy Maloney is the title of a play by Bill Garner and Sue Gore, which celebrates the life of Dr William Maloney who represented the North & West Melbourne area in the Victorian State Parliament, and after federation, in the Commonwealth Parliament, for over fifty years.

Billy Maloney will be held at the North Melbourne Town Hall, the scene of many of Dr Maloney's speeches. There are 8 performances only, commencing at 8.00 pm on Monday 5 December to Saturday 10 December. There are two matinees on Wednesday 7 and Saturday 10 December at 2.00 pm. Bookings on 9534 5984,

Tickets: \$25/\$20.

Hotham History dates for 2006

Committee Meetings for 2006

Committee meetings of the Hotham History Project will be held bi-monthly at the North Melbourne Library on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Dates for meetings are: 24 January, 28 March, 23 May, 25 July, 26 September and 28 November. The meeting on 23 May will be at 6.00 pm to be followed by a talk by Bill Hannan on the history of the North Melbourne Town Hall

On the alternate 4th Tuesdays, we will be having a series of speakers, public meetings or information sessions. The exception to the 4th Tuesday is 25 April, Anzac Day. Instead of meeting on a public holiday when some of you may be away, we have arranged a very interesting talk by Lenore Frost from the Essendon Historical Society for the following Tuesday.

Evening events will be held at the North Melbourne Library at 7.30 pm. Events organised for 2006 are as follows:

Sunday 5 February at 5.00 pm – West Melbourne Discovery Walk

Members of the Hotham History Project Committee are planning a summer's afternoon wander around West Melbourne to identify places of interest that could be the subject of a future walk. This is very much a preliminary exploration, but we invite members to join us who have an interest in West Melbourne and wish to show us some of their favourite places.

We will meet at the corner of Errol & Victoria Streets outside the Three Crowns Hotel.

Tuesday 28 February at 7.30 pm, North Melbourne Library – West Melbourne Project

Some of the oral histories in our collection convey a vivid picture of growing up in North & West Melbourne in the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The Committee has been intending for some time to incorporate some of these memories into a volume on West Melbourne that will also include the workplaces, buildings and institutions that make up

West Melbourne. We intend to hold a meeting early in the New Year so that we can start organising our material and identifying further areas of research. We encourage anyone interested in being involved in this important project to make sure they attend this meeting. If you can't come to the meeting please contact Lorraine Siska (9328 1621, lsiska@bigpond.net.au) or Mary Kehoe (9329 5814, mekehoe@iprimus.com.au) to discuss ways in which you can become involved.

Saturday 29 April at 2.00 pm – A walk based on *R-Rated Real Estate Belonging to North & West Melbourne*.

Lorraine Siska will be conducting another of her fascinating walks based on her research for the book she produced with Alan Ashley in 2004. The walk will take you past some of the historic buildings, or sites of early buildings, that Lorraine chose because they illustrate the changes, both good and bad, to the historic building fabric of North & West Melbourne. Meeting place still to be decided.

Tuesday 2 May at 7.30 pm, North Melbourne Library – Dating Family Photographs

Lenore Frost of the Essendon Historical Society has kindly agreed to share her tips and tricks on dating family photographs. This should be an entertaining and informative evening. Lenore has written extensively on local history and there will be an opportunity to purchase some of her books.

Tuesday 23 May at 7.30 pm, North Melbourne Library – Talk by Bill Hannan on his history of the North Melbourne Town Hall.

Bill has spent many hours over the past few years researching and writing this finely crafted, detailed and erudite history, titled *The Pride of Hotham: the History of North Melbourne's Most Prominent Landmark*. Come along and learn of his experiences in writing the book, which we hope will be launched the following month.

Tuesday 27 June, North Melbourne Town Hall – Launch of *The Pride of Hotham*

North Melbourne celebrated the opening of its grand, new Town Hall on 27 June 1876. It therefore seems appropriate that the first comprehensive history of the Town Hall and its architect, George Johnson, should be launched on the 130th anniversary of this date and we will be working hard to ensure this happens. Details later.

Tuesday 22 August at 7.30 pm, North Melbourne Library – A Guide to North Melbourne Library's Local History Collection

Our wonderful Local History Librarian, Heather McKay, and the Local History Coordinator for Yarra/Melbourne Libraries go to a lot of trouble to collect material to add to our extensive Local History Collection. Come and learn about all the wonderful resources in your local library. This session will be held in meeting room 2 and space will be limited. Bookings Mary Kehoe (9329 5814, mekehoe@iprimus.com.au)

Membership fees

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership and a reminder to those who would still like to be involved in our activities but have yet to pay their subscriptions. Membership fees remain at \$10 for 2005-06, but at the AGM next year we propose to increase it to \$15 for an individual membership and \$20.00 for a family membership. To continue to run our activities, the group has been obliged to take out public liability insurance and the costs, per member, are almost equivalent to our current subscription.

We would like to wish all our members a very happy festive season. We look forward to meeting you at some of our meetings and events in 2006.