



MEDIA ALERT

22 October 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Dictionary of Sydney launches Georges River Project

The Dictionary of Sydney is proud to launch eighteen new online entries on the history of the Georges River on the Dictionary of Sydney website:

http://dictionaryofsydney.org/contributor/your_community_heritage_grant_-_the_georges_river_project

Funded by the Federal Government's Your Community Heritage grant scheme, the new entries are laced with colourful characters and curious facts with stories of publicans and mill owners, encounters with sharks and cockatoos, and tragedies caused by flood.

Local historian Beverley Donaldson explores life in the internment camps at Holsworthy and Liverpool during World Wars I and II.

Eminent historians Heather Goodall and Allison Cadzow look at Aboriginal communities along the Georges River from the 1820s, with fascinating profiles of Bidy Giles, Lucy Leane, Gogi and Ellen Anderson.

Roger Robertson and Andrew Allen follow early attempts at farming and industry; from the ill-fated attempts of wine grower Georges Frere to the thriving oyster farms of Oatley's Neverfail Bay.

Gary Darby and Rodger Robertson examine the history of swimming baths at Sans Souci and Jew Fish Bay and Oatley Park.

Catie Gilchrist traces the transformation of the Casula Powerhouse from picnic pleasure ground to industrial landscape to thriving centre for arts and culture in western Sydney.

Greg Jackson, Pam Forbes and Brad Duncan took to the water in nineteenth century rivercraft to explore how the maritime landscape of the river and its tributaries sustained the transport of wheat, flour and manpower between the Woronora and Brisbane Water mills.

Karen Pentland traces the lives and legacy of the many publicans who ran the now demolished Prince of Wales Hotel on Sandringham Point.



MEDIA ALERT: Dictionary of Sydney *Georges River Project Launch*

Then there is the extraordinary story of 'Cocky Bennett', a legendary cockatoo whose long life at sea was followed by many years on the bar of the Sea Breeze Hotel at Tom Ugly's Point entertaining locals and raising money for charity.

River advocate Sharyn Cullis looks at the history of encounters between swimmers and sharks in the river from the early days of the colony, as well as examining the consequences of urbanisation alongside one of the most flood-prone rivers in NSW.

The Georges River Project places these histories within the wider picture of Sydney's past. Both familiar and unexpected, they enrich our understanding of Sydney as both a place and a community.

For more information about the project, go to:

http://dictionaryofsydney.org/contributor/your_community_heritage_grant_-_the_georges_river_project

Images

Free high res promotional image of Cocky Bennett is here:

<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/80119>

Required image credit:

State Library of Victoria Acc no: H23120,

http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/the_cocky_bennett_story

Further information:

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ABOUT THE DICTIONARY

The Dictionary of Sydney is a not-for-profit community digital history project. Through links and connections, visitors to the Dictionary build their own experience of history. The Dictionary's key funding partner is the City of Sydney. The Georges River project is funded through the Federal Government's Your Community Heritage grant scheme.

The Dictionary of Sydney is like no other city encyclopedia in the world. Based on a permanent historical digital repository, the Dictionary aims to gather resources on every aspect of human habitation in the greater Sydney area from the first arrival of people to the present.

Launched in November 2009 and built through community collaboration, it's an ever-growing resource you can trust: www.dictionaryofsydney.org