



FOUNDED 1961

"Bunk"

"History is more or less bunk" - Henry Ford, Chicago Tribune, 1916

The story of the Titanic never fails to fascinate

On Thursday 23 August, local resident **Ross McBride** gave a talk on the construction and fateful first and only voyage of the Titanic. This year is the centenary of the sinking, and Ross said that although he had been researching the story of the Titanic for many years, he continues to find new information.

RMS Titanic was the largest ship afloat at the time of her voyage. She was one of three *Olympic* class ships built at the Harland and Wolff Shipyard in Belfast for the White Star Line. Under the command of Edward Smith, she carried some of the wealthiest people in the world among her approximately 1,317 passengers, (some bought tickets but never made it to the ship). Some of the better known names were John Jacob Astor IV and his wife, Benjamin Guggenheim, Macy's owner Isidor Straus and his wife and millionairess Margaret "Molly" Brown (the unsinkable Molly Brown). All perished with the exception of Molly Brown.

Titanic was the last word in luxury and technical excellence at the time of launching. However, the number of life boats she carried has always been regarded as critical. She

had 16 wooden boats and 4 "collapsibles", which although not enough to accommodate all the passengers and crew, exceeded Board of Trade requirements for ships over 10,000 tons.

Her last landfall before hitting the iceberg was at Queenstown in south-west Ireland. Despite warnings from other ships about drifting ice around Newfoundland, Captain Smith continued at full speed, and the ship was unable to avoid an iceberg, causing five of the watertight compartments to rupture. The ship could not survive.

The life boats could carry only half of those on board, and poor training of the crew and leadership by the officers resulted in many being launched barely half full. Most of the male passengers and crew were left aboard. Needless to say, a major enquiry was begun as a result of the disaster. A critical aspect was the role of SS California, which was in the area at the time of the sinking. The upshot was that the master of the California, Captain Stanley Lord, was found to have acted improperly in not responding to the Titanic's plight, although he protested his innocence to the end of his life.

The sinking of the Titanic has played a prominent



DIARY DATES 2012

Museum open 10 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday

Meetings at Museum

22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Thursday, 25 October
10 a.m. for 10.30 a.m.

General Meeting
Guest speaker

Angela Phippen
Chinese Market Gardens
Of Ryde

See this page

Wednesday 31 October
Sydney Conservatorium of

Music tour
11:20am
Cost \$10

See this page

Monday, 3 December
Christmas Banquet

7pm for 7:30pm
Grandview Restaurant

Chinese Market Gardens of Ryde

Chinese market gardens were scattered throughout Ryde in the early part of the 20th century. Where did these people come from? Why were they there? Where did they go?
Angela Phippen
Ryde Family History
Thursday 25 October
10am at the Museum

Conservatorium of Music Tour

Don't miss the tour of Sydney Conservatorium of Music at 11:20am on Wednesday 31 October, followed by a recital.

Phone the museum on 98799443 between 10am and 12 Monday to Friday and book your place.

role in popular culture. Quite a few films have been made, some good, some bad, as well as poetry and publications which largely relied on inaccurate press coverage.

The talk was very popular, showing that the story of the Titanic still has a hold on the public's imagination.

Left: Captain Edward Smith wouldn't slow down

Right: "The Unsinkable Molly Brown"

Have you renewed your annual membership? See the Membership Renewal form on the back page

HUNTERS HILL HISTORICAL

SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

Address mail to

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Editor: Ian Adair

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Email: ian.r.adair@hotmail.com

**Do you have any family
history or reminiscences
you'd like to share with
us?**

Let us know.

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Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc.

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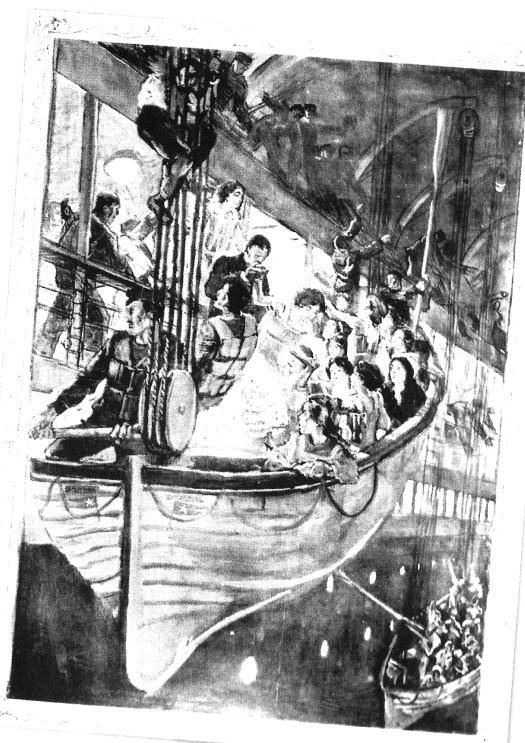
Carl Ryves,

John Rogers

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Volunteers

We need volunteers to help take research requests from people who visit the museum to enquire about people and places in our area. Two hours once a week would be nice, but any offers would be appreciated. **You don't have to know anything to start. We will show you how to take enquiries and pass them on to our Archivist.**

As you become more experienced, you might like to assist with research and help set up exhibitions.

If you are interested or know someone who could be, please phone Ian Adair on 98793725

Putney - that special place

Gregory Blaxell, historian and member of the Hunters Hill Historical Society, has produced a book on CD for the Putney and District Progress Association.

“Putney is a place of parks, backyards and gardens which the majority of people, irrespective of their background, want to call home.” You can obtain a copy of this e-book by visiting www.putneyprogress.com.au or phoning 0416234177

To: Tony Saunders
Hon. Secretary
Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc.
P. O. Box 98 Hunters Hill, 2110

Please find enclosed cheque for \$20 for annual subscription 2012-2013

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

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OPTION: Pay your membership by Direct Transfer from your bank.

Transfer the funds to Westpac Gladesville BSB 032-185 Account 50-1130

Hunters Hill Historical Society Inc and quote your name