

## Report on August Meeting

**Speaker:** Frank Osborne.

**Topic:** Book launch of "Boat People of the 1830s"

Due to the clashing with the Mt Kembla Mine Disaster Candle Ceremony Frank was approached to launch his latest book about the 1830s.

"Boat People of the 1830s" is the latest contribution by Frank Osborne to be published by the Illawarra Historical Society. The book is a sequel to his previously published *Alick Osborne and The Adam Lodge* dealing with emigration during the 1830's.

The "Boat People" of the 19th century were not quite the same type of person encountered in the late 20th and 21st century, nevertheless they too had to pay their passage, though only a minimal amount, as most were assisted to come to the Colony of New South Wales. Not all emigrants at that time were assisted. Others came here under other schemes set up by altruists or philanthropists and not forgetting profiteers, such as agents and even captains who owned their own ships. These would have been closer to the present day 'boat people' as far as fares and conditions were concerned. Frank discusses the conditions on various vessels. Again, comparing those conditions during the long haul from England with today's boat people from nearby Indonesia the earlier arrivals some 170 years ago were only slightly better off. Frank discusses the types of person who came out during that time. He divides them roughly in three categories, convicts, military and free settlers. I'd go further and divide them into tradesmen, merchants and riff-raff. Later in the 1830s, when it was realised that Australia could be a new beginning, small and large family groups came out. So many people had come out by 1841 and were still arriving that a depression befell the colony. It would be interesting to read about that time when most of the 1830 immigrants had settled down and how they coped.

All in all Frank Osborne has done a lot of research for the books written about the 1830s and he should be commended for giving us an overall view of Australia being settled.

Frank's books are available from the Illawarra Historical Society or call in at the Museum at Market Street, Wollongong during opening hours. (see back page)

JH