

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 24 June 10 for 10.30 am**  
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

The president invites all members to our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past year will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and six committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day. Committee meetings are held on the first Monday evening of most months. For more information about committee or meeting requirements ring Lorraine on 8565 6511 (weekdays).

Members are reminded that they must have paid their 2006-07 membership fees to stand for office, to nominate or second a candidate, or to vote at the AGM. Fees payable on the day. As last year, the AGM will be followed by a **Winter Warmer** consisting of soups and breads, cake, tea and coffee. Stay and mingle with fellow members and the new committee.

### MHS ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE

Most members should receive a renewal slip or invoice with their June newsletter. Non-receipt of a slip means either you have paid ahead, have joined recently, or your slip was lost in transit. Please advise if details on slip are incorrect. You may pay at AGM or send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your slip to PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE

Members will note on their renewal slip a request for an email address. This is optional, but it is another way of maintaining contact with members should there be an urgent notification about initiatives or projects like urban strategies, or about forthcoming events of general interest. These will be sent only occasionally and with discretion. Please write clearly your email address on renewal slip or email the society at [marrickvilleheritagesociety@hotmail.com](mailto:marrickvilleheritagesociety@hotmail.com)

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Melba Gerke, Kathleen Gurrin, Erica Jurd, Corinne O'Loughlin, all of Marrickville; Nancy Cheng, Stanmore; Noeline Brown, Bowral; Richard Snedden, Charlestown; Jack & Judy Munday, Croydon Park.

## NEW SECRETARY NEEDED

As the AGM approaches some members might like to get more involved in the running of the society and join the executive committee. Some of our experienced hands are leaving and new blood is sought. In particular, we are looking for a new secretary.

One thing our current secretary does **not do** is take minutes at meetings. Our secretary collects, distributes and handles the mail, ensuring it gets followed up appropriately. It involves answering general queries and posting requested publications, making hall bookings and liaising with the president, treasurer and heritage watch coordinator. For further information ring president Lorraine Beach on 8565 6511.

## WILLIAM HAMNETT, CENTENARIAN



*Bill Hamnett on his 95th birthday (photo: unknown)*

**William (Bill) Hamnett** was born in Forbes on 24 April 1906. His uncle James Murrin was killed in the Somme in WWI and his name appears on Marrickville's Winged Victory memorial. Bill's father died when he was nine and the family moved to 40 Agar Street Marrickville where his sister **Hilda York** (also a MHS member) was born. They later lived in Sydenham and Petersham Roads. Leaving school early to help support his family, Bill worked with the Australian Woollen Mills in Sydenham Road, Malleable Castings, Victoria Road Mar-

rickville and in the State Brick Works at Blackwattle Bay. After various other positions and excelling in accountancy exams, he became accountant and company secretary for Cyclone Co. of Australia Ltd.

Part of his working life was spent in Lithgow and Melbourne, but in the 1950s Bill built in Warriewood where he and his family lived for 40 years. Bill was a keen bowler until his wife took ill 8-9 years ago and died after 70 years of marriage. Bill has two great great grandchildren. He has a lucid memory and says his only health concern is a slight loss of hearing. Hilda, who has just reached 91, gave Bill a gift MHS membership in 2002. Congratulations Bill for your first hundred!



## OUR LAST MEETING

### Darlinghurst Gaol/National Art School (NAS) & St John's Anglican Church Darlinghurst

On an overcast and chilly day (Saturday 27 May) we made our way through the Burton Street gates to the former Darlinghurst Gaol. Our guide was **Deborah Beck** (artist, NAS drawing lecturer, MHS member and author of *Hope in Hell: A History of Darlinghurst Gaol and the National Art School*). Both the morning and afternoon groups combined for a comprehensive slide presentation on the history of the gaol and NAS.

Darlinghurst Gaol housed inmates from 1840 to 1912, when prisoners were transferred to Long Bay by prison tram. The gaol's imposing sandstone buildings housed some of the most notorious criminals in Australia's history, including Captain Moonlight, the Clarke Brothers, the Mount Rennie boys and Aboriginal outlaw, Jimmy Governor, whose story was told in the book and film *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith*. The



*Deborah does Darlo!*  
(photo: Scott MacArthur)

prison tram was used for over 40 years for transport between Long Bay Gaol and Darlinghurst Court-house and is now on exhibition at the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus. Darcy Dugan escaped from this tram in 1946 in the Moore Park area.

The former gaol complex has housed the National Art School since 1922 and has embraced the talents of Rayner Hoff, William Dobell and Margaret Olley. The NAS, currently struggling to remain on the site, has 400 full time and around 800 short-course students a year.† We saw the impressive new art gallery and the ongoing upgrade of the new Cell Block Theatre; which once again promises to be an impressive venue for Sydney theatregoers.

I have a personal interest in the gaol as my paternal great grandfather Thomas Berry was responsible for providing information to the police in April 1867 that led to the capture, at Berry's hut, of brothers Thomas and John Clarke, bushrangers in the Braidwood district. They were hanged in Darlinghurst Gaol on 25 June 1867. In retaliation, Tom Clarke's father-in-law in 1874 reported Berry to the police for cattle stealing, resulting in Berry's imprisonment in Darlinghurst Gaol from July 1874 to 1878. In April 1878, five months before Berry was released, my grandmother was born, so he is not actually my great grandfather. Three days after his release, he had her birth certificate amended. After collecting the reward money, he was forced to leave Braidwood for safety reasons.

The day also included a visit to the Gothic style **St John's Anglican Church**. Goold & Hilling designed the nave and aisles in 1858; Edmund Blacket added the tower, transepts and chancel, 1871-74.

Our guide, verger **Laurie Alexander**, told of the church's history and pointed out the still-used *Dunbar* bell, the marble *Dunbar* memorial tablet to the three Logan children and a seaman's chest from the ill-fated vessel. MHS member **Robert Parkinson** discussed and played the 1886 organ made by Hill & Son, who also built the organ (1879) recently destroyed in the tragic St Barnabas Church Broadway fire and the Sydney Town Hall organ (1886-89).

Thanks to **Deborah Beck** for conducting both gaol tours, to **Ian Rumsey** for organising the church tours and refreshments, and to **Richard Blair** for his overall facilitation. *Hope in Hell* (\$40) is available from the NAS (9339 8744) – whence goes half the proceeds.

**Frank Smith**

**Notes:** Inmates of the debtor's prison included founders of *The Bulletin*, Jules F Archibald and John Haynes, and later Henry Lawson. First governor of the gaol was the colourful Henry Keck, who died in 1863 and was buried in Camperdown Cemetery.

St John's Church was where nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu converted to Christianity before his 1986 imprisonment in Israel. Though released in 2004, he is still forbidden to leave Israel. **Editor**

† Forthcoming NAS short courses include:

- Winter School 3-7 July: Dynamic workshops in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, digital and photography
  - Evening & Saturday courses (beginners to masters) from 24 July: 4-10 sessions
  - *Outback Australia Through Artists' Eyes* 30 Aug-7 Sep: painting and drawing in the Red Centre
- Phone NAS Darlinghurst 9339 8745 for fees, brochure or to go on mailing list, fax 9339 8740 [www.nas.edu.au](http://www.nas.edu.au)

### JOHN LANG & WILLIAM WENTWORTH

According to **Victor Crittenden**, John Lang was the first Australian born novelist (*Third Time Proves It!* *John's Lang's First Novel 'Biblionews'*, The Book Collectors' Society of Australia, December 2005). Lang's novel *Violet the Danseuse: A Portraiture of Life and Human Passion* was published in England in 1836 and went on to become a bestseller over the next 20 years.

Crittenden "came to the conclusion that the hero of the story named D'Arcy could have been based on William Charles Wentworth whose father was called D'Arcy Wentworth. The novel had the hero seduce the young dancer and persuaded her to come and live with him. He as a gentlemen could not marry her of course. Lang would have known that Wentworth had a young woman live with him at a house in Petersham next door to Lang's mother's property at Ashfield".

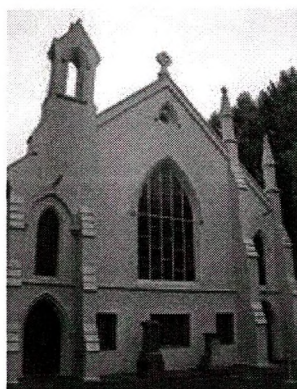
Lang worked for Wentworth as a clerk and feared a libel action against him if he claimed authorship. Lang went off to London in 1837 to study law. Crittenden had previously claimed that Lang's *The Legends of Australia* (1842) and the short novella *Raymond* (1840) were candidates for Lang's first novel. Crittenden edits the magazine *Margin: Life and Letters of Early Australia*; his biography on Lang is available from The Mulini Press.

**Richard Blair**



## ST BARNABAS CHURCH FIRE

Dating from 1858, St Barnabas Anglican Church in Broadway, which was gutted by fire in the early hours of 10 May, was regarded by many as neither "remarkable nor beautiful". The Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Peter Jensen, who began his clerical career there, regarded it as a "working man's church". The church has been associated with Canon RB Hammond, Arthur Stace (*Eternity* fame) and more recently the often witty interplay of signs between the church and the Broadway Hotel opposite resulting in a book, *The Publican and the Priest*. The priest was Robert Forsyth, now Bishop of South Sydney, and the publican, Arthur Elliot.



Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

MHS member Mark

Matheson went to St Barnabas for the first time on Good Friday. It was packed, with extra chairs in the aisle and the organ loft, and people standing at the back. Mark was after any evidence of Amelia Pemell being a Sunday school teacher there in the 1850s or 1860s. After the service he spotted on the east wall a memorial in large letters, honouring pottery founder, Enoch Fowler. The hot cross bun-eating congregation prevented him from getting close, but he resolved to return another day to read the inscription!

It is believed no church history was written; but it is hoped the church has a record of its memorials, now probably lost, along with the largely original 1879 Hill & Son organ, the fine stained glass altar windows, the pulpit, other furniture and 150 years of church records. Only part of the church fabric is left; but Bishop Forsyth says St Barnabas will be rebuilt.

Richard Blair

## CRICKET MEMORABILIA SOUGHT

Of the iconic Australia cricket players who went to England in 1948, often called *The Invincibles*, no less than four of them – Sid Barnes, Bill Brown, Ron Saggars and Ernie Toshack – had played grade cricket for Petersham or Marrickville. These two teams merged in 1950 as Petersham-Marrickville, and in 2000 this club merged with Randwick.

Now the Randwick Petersham Cricket Club is planning a museum to be based at Petersham Oval. If you wish to donate relevant old photos, pins, badges, blazers, bats, old trophies and the like, contact Bobby Barter on 0419 498 846, 9533 1062 or by email to [bartman@rivernet.com.au](mailto:bartman@rivernet.com.au)

## WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

When did electric street lighting first come to the suburbs of Marrickville LGA? Richard 9557 3823 or [pemell@tpg.com.au](mailto:pemell@tpg.com.au)

## The Upper Face Of Historic Suburbs, or The Beauty Of Looking Up

When we walk around our districts we tend not to look up much. That's understandable as we don't want to collide with other pedestrians or get knocked down crossing the road! Much of the time we're also distracted by street level sights of every sort, ranging from the fascinating world of shop windows to the very real need to avoid stepping into it.

Yet if we remain transfixed by what's going on at ground level we can miss the immense riches of our Australian architectural heritage abiding unobserved just a short distance above our heads – for example, the splendid detail characterising many older structures, or the striking forms of the better of our newer buildings.

Check out a project which aims to correct that imbalance by presenting a collection of views of the upper face of the historic suburbs of the Inner West of Sydney. I'm keen to receive information about the pictures (where people are sure of their facts), so that the project can build towards an illustrated storehouse of salient knowledge about many local buildings.

Browser note: This project is optimised for Mozilla-based browsers such as Firefox and Netscape. Some Internet Explorer users have reported occasional problems. If you encounter a problem in IE (or any browser), try clicking your Refresh button. If you experience problems within the site's IE e-book viewer, log away from the site & return direct to [www.e-book.com.au/upperface.htm](http://www.e-book.com.au/upperface.htm)

If problems persist, use any other browser. My email address is [<wisebook@acn.com.au>](mailto:wisebook@acn.com.au).

Bruce Preston

## NICHOLAS GEORGE KOOREY

We sometimes forget that many Australians, whose parents were born overseas, served and died for Australia at War. Paul Convy, secretary/treasurer of the Australian Lebanese Historical Society Inc. advises that **Bombardier Nicholas George Koorey** "was the first Australian casualty of the *Syrian Campaign* which for the Australians happened mostly in what is now Lebanon. I think he and his brothers operated a drapery shop in Queanbeyan, but closed because the four brothers all decided to join the services. Their parents, George and Mary Koorey, apparently lived at 68 Cardigan Street Stanmore."

"George junior was born at Ballina on 4 May 1915 and he worked as a mercer and hatter before enlisting at Queanbeyan on 5 June 1940. He served with the 2/6 Field Regiment RAA and died 'due to wound' on 20 June 1941. He is buried in the Beirut British War Cemetery Grave 2.G.1. Three brothers also served: Richmond Dan Koorey, C. Coy, 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion AIF; Pte Kelvin Norman Koorey, 2/1 Australian Pioneer Battalion; and Cpl. Albert Joseph Koorey, B. Coy. 2/3 Battalion, AIF."



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 24 June**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 22 July**  
**Burwood tour & Chullora Wetlands**

### SILVER TROWEL ON DISPLAY

From July 2006 a new item to be shown in the Nelson Meers Foundation Heritage Collection in the Mitchell Wing of The State Library of NSW is a diamond-shaped silver trowel "presented to Louis Phillips Esq. on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the first patent bread making plant in Australia 26th August 1903". This plant was at Abel & Company in King Street Newtown. As well as being a pioneer in bread making, Charles Baldry Abel also founded Marrickville Margarine in 1908 and Nut Foods of Australia. Born in England, Abel died in Australia in 1930. Louis Phillips came to Australia about 1855 and became senior partner with Moses Moss & Co., Merchants. He was a prominent member of Sydney's commercial and Jewish communities (source: State Library, and curator & MHS member Jennifer O'Callaghan; photo of CB Abel from *Jubilee Souvenir of the Municipality of Newtown* 1912).



The Society welcomes news that on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of NSW, the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Frank Sartor has listed **Braidwood** and its setting on the **State Heritage Register**, gazetted on 3 April 2006. It was listed "due to its heritage significance to the people of the State of New South Wales". Details on the Heritage Office website at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au)

### VALE GWEN EYRE

We regret the passing of MHS member Gwen Eyre, late of Earlwood, who died on 5 May aged 90. Gwen was born at Hill End and grew up in the Royal Hotel where her grandfather held the license from 1897 and other family members until about 1967. She knew most of the artists there and a credit is given to Gwen in Donald Friend's book *Hillendiana*. She was a driver in the WAAF during World War II and later worked with the Blood Bank. Gwen was



closely involved with the Canterbury Earlwood Caring Association Ltd and wrote the *Daffy Jane* column for *Earlwood Caring News* as well as being a regular contributor to the newsletter of Canterbury & District Historical Society. Gwen joined MHS in 1990.

*Gwen Eyre at Maitland May 1993  
with Paula Gard & Sue Miller (photo: Geoff Ostling)*

## FRANK FORREST COLLECTION

MHS member **Graham Hunt** has sent an article by **Richard Stone**, *Both Sides of the Footlights: personal and family narratives revealed through collections of theatre programs*, published by the National Library of Australia in October 2003. Included is the collection of **Frank Forrest**, who documented his career by keeping programs, clippings and certificates and recorded an oral history interview. It is part of the National Library's collection of Australian performing arts programs and ephemera known as the PROMPT collection.

Frank Forrest was born in St Peters in 1902, and as a teenage tenor he sang with glee clubs and at the Tempe Park Methodist Church (later the Coptic Church) in Railway Road Sydenham. After taking singing lessons at the Conservatorium of Music he was appointed tenor soloist in 1926 at the Sydney Central Methodist Mission, a position he held for 27 years. Though occasionally paid, he was basically an amateur performer who sang with suburban choirs and choral groups, at churches and Masonic lodges, clubs and societies, Conservatorium and community concerts, concerts staged with films and public events. Much of this was in Tempe, Marrickville, Hurlstone Park and Earlwood.

He appeared on radio in the 1930s as a member of the General Motors Octette, the ABC Male Quartette and the Radio Revellers. His repertoire consisted of ballads and songs mainly from the Victorian and Edwardian eras and some operatic arias. He was a tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Stainer's *Crucifixion* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. In *The Messiah* he appeared with the Hurlstone Park Choral Society along with the Marrickville Municipal Symphony Orchestra at Marrickville Town Hall on 21 December 1931. Frank qualified as a fitter and turner in 1921, and worked with the engineering firm WB Eastaway for 47 years. He was married for over 60 years to Merle Roberts.

*Silver Screen in the Shoalhaven* is a history of motion picture exhibition and cinemas in the City of Shoalhaven by MHS member **Robert Parkinson**. Contains colour photos, notes and index. \$15 incl. postage to PO Box 961 Strawberry Hills 2012 or \$12 at meetings.

\* \* \* \*

**Ron Buttrey's** *A Short History of the Life of Gregory Blaxland* (Brush Farm Historical Society 2006; editor **Gregory Blaxell**) marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blaxland's arrival in NSW. Blaxland was significant as a pioneer, explorer (along with Wentworth and Lawson, the first to officially cross the Blue Mountains), vigneron, agriculturalist and in commerce. His 1819-20 *Brush Farm House* in Eastwood is being restored. Cost \$25 includes postage. Ring Greg 9874 2266.

**PRESIDENT** Lorraine 8565 6511  
**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070 (after 22/6)  
**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823