

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE



MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE

Saturday 28 April 9.45 for 10 am sharp
Bookings & prepayment to MHS essential

Ferry leaves Man O'War Steps east of Sydney Opera House. Returning around 2 pm. Cost \$35 per person (MHS members and guests). **Bookings essential: ring Lorraine 8565 6511** in working hours (there is an after hours message service, but leave your name and contact phone number). Prepayment must be received no later than Thursday 26 April.

As last year we have a private charter aboard the *James McCabe* which includes a 4-hour cruise east of the Harbour Bridge and parts of Middle Harbour. Expert commentary from tour guide and MHS member **Keith Robinson**. Cost includes morning tea or coffee and a delicious barbecue lunch. Wine and other beverages available on board at modest prices.

Cooks River Sustainability & Arts Festival

Sunday 15 April 11 am-4 pm

Steel Park, Illawarra Road, Marrickville South

The Society will again have a stall at the **Cooks River Festival**. The festival will feature a Sustainable Water Showcase, a Sustainable Artists Gallery and will bring together environmental groups, community volunteers, local indigenous communities and the broader community. There will be interactive workshops and demonstrations, kids art activities, informative displays and talks, local action group showcases, music, roving performers and stalls specialising in organic and natural or recycled products. Come along!

MARRICKVILLE MEDAL 2007 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LAUREL HORTON

*MHS member Laurel Horton
with Marrickville Mayor Morris
Hanna and State Member for
Marrickville Carmel Tebbutt.*

*Laurel was presented with the
Special Achievement Award "for
outstanding contributions to the
promotion of heritage and history
in the Marrickville area".*

Congratulations Laurel!

*(photo: Corrie Ancone,
courtesy Marrickville Council
History Centre)*



HARBOURSIDE WALK WITH TED

Thursday 17 May

**Meet Wharf 2 Circular Quay at 10 am
for 10.15 am sharp departure**

Rain, hail or shine, **Ted Green** is leading a leisurely midweek harbourside walk from Taronga Zoo Wharf via Sirius Cove and Mosman Bay to Cremorne Wharf. Easy walk, but with a few steps. Walkers can return from either Mosman Wharf or Cremorne Wharf. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen and walking shoes. Expected time 3-4 hours. No bookings. Enquiries ring Richard 9557 3823.

2007 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The Marrickville Medal and several other awards were presented at Petersham Town Hall on Wednesday 7 March. MC was Deputy Mayor **Clr Peter Olive**. Special guest speaker was **Jack Munday AO** who spoke from personal experience about the effectiveness of grass roots activism in relation to heritage buildings and environmental conservation. More than ever is there a need for public participation. The judges commented on each entry in an audio-visual display. Mayor **Clr Morris Hanna OAM** made the presentations. Award details to follow.

The judges had to decide from among ten houses and five commercial/community/public buildings. Houses rarely seem to win with such competition especially where restoration costs are nowhere near comparable. A biennial judging system with the two categories alternating seems more equitable. Nevertheless, the standard of all entries was high, which is reflected in the range of awards. Congratulations to the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee.

2007 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been won by **All Saints Church in Petersham** for the extensive sound proofing and structural upgrading works that were so sensitively executed that the building's heritage values have been maintained and enhanced. The award was presented by environmentalist and conservationist **Jack Munday** AO and Mayor of Marrickville **Morris Hanna** OAM at a ceremony at Petersham Town Hall on Wednesday 7 March.

The presentation was made as part of the National Trust Heritage Week celebrations. There were 19 entries with a record 15 finalists selected by the judges. The Marrickville Medal recognises the importance of preserving the architectural heritage of the Marrickville area through quality conservation and restoration work. The judges, **Scott MacArthur**, **Catherine Macarthur** (Council's former heritage architect) and Petersham resident, **Di Beckett**, were very impressed with the extremely high quality of all of the entrants.



Photo: Vanessa Holtham

All Saints Petersham (Minister, Antony Barraclough; builder/engineers, Axis Group in conjunction with United KG) underwent a significant amount of structural reinforcement after an additional 30 tonnes of weight was added to the roof of the building as part of the sound proofing works that were instigated by the Federal Government. Structural reinforcement was carried out without any impact on the heritage significance of the building with new steel brackets bracing the existing internal arches. Air conditioning was installed under the existing stepped flooring of the building, and soundproofing glass was added to the stained glass windows without reducing their glorious colouring. The care taken to remove, salvage and reinstall the original slate roofing tiles in their banded diamond pattern on the side of the roof facing Stanmore Road exemplified the sensitivity and attention to detail that these works entailed.

There were **three Highly Commended** projects:

6 Don Street Newtown (Darlene Van der Breggen, owner/architect; builder, Albert di Paoli, Alpil Holdings) is a small terrace house that has had some of its worst "modernisations" reversed, and a carefully designed contemporary rear extension added to create a delightful home. The large single sliding aluminium window to the front façade was removed, a pair of timber casement window frames matching the original reconstructed arch-headed openings were installed and the bull-nose verandah

was reconstructed. Inside, timber panelling and a plaster cornice were removed to restore the original decorative plaster archway in the hall. The natural fall in the site allowed the owner/architect to create a split-level space in the rear extension that draws natural light and ventilation into the new living spaces without impinging on neighbours' solar access and views.

Guthrie House, 10-14 Sebastopol Street, Enmore (Fiona Hastings; designer, Jeff Maitland; builder, John Hills), previously known as **Newington Manor**, is now a home for women in need of temporary accommodation. The house has been upgraded and restored to cater for a greater demand for this kind of accommodation in the Inner West. The works included the repair of the original slate roof, reconstruction of internal and external patterned tiles and the repair and reconstruction of the gables and fretwork, under the guidance of a Conservation Management Plan. A new accommodation wing has been constructed to the rear of the house, that is sympathetic in design to the remaining stable outbuildings on the site.

Mill House, 34 Victoria Road Marrickville (Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre; designer, Graeme Brooks and Associates; builder, Blackrock Joinery), the former superintendent's house for Vicars Mills has been restored by the owners of the Metro. Original fabric has been retained and repaired in an appropriate manner as management offices. The works are an excellent example of current conservation philosophy – doing "as much as necessary but as little as possible". The curtilage of the house, and its identity independent of the shopping centre, has been defined and enhanced through low key landscaping.

The **People's Choice Award** went to **5 Wilga Avenue, Dulwich Hill**. The traditional Federation style dwelling had undergone a second storey addition, which created additional living space, whilst respecting the existing character of the house and the street.

A **Special Achievement Award** was presented to MHS member **Laurel Horton**, who has been involved with the history of the St Peters and Tempe area, particularly St Peters Anglican Church, for over 25 years.

Scott MacArthur

John Vicars' pre-Medal ceremony talk was *Marrickville Tweeds & Moreton Bay Figs: A History of Vicars Woollen Mills*. John's forebear John Vicars migrated to Australia in 1863, joined Barker's Mill in 1871 as manager and effectively started John Vicars and Co. in 1873. Production at the Marrickville Mill began in 1894. Vicars supplied to Fletcher Jones and the wool on the seats at Sydney Opera House, and provided significant employment. Just after the company's centenary, it folded in 1976 due to lower tariffs and cheaper imports. The site became Marrickville Metro in 1987 and elements of the building were retained.

Ironically the 1860s Mill House, once owned by the Vicars family, won a High Commendation at the Marrickville Medal presentations. An exhibition on the Vicars Mill was on display, organised by Marrickville Council History Centre, with some material provided by the Vicars family. Several members of the Vicars extended family were present for the talk. John and Sandra Vicars are long term MHS members.

KILLED AT GALLIPOLI/BURIED LONE PINE

1) OSCAR ALLAN RAINBOW: PUTTING THE LIFE STORY TO A NAME

The name OA Rainbow is one of many names on the Marrickville War Memorial located outside Marrickville Town Hall. According to the information in his Roll of Honour held at the Australian War Memorial, L/Sgt Oscar Allan Rainbow is believed to have been the first man from Marrickville to die at Gallipoli. Oscar died at the Dardanelles on 4 May 1915 and is buried at Lone Pine. The exact details of Oscar's death are not known but the story is that Oscar died from gunshot wounds he sustained when he stood up to throw clear a live shell that had landed in the trench. Oscar was 25 years old. Two stained glass memorial windows on the Marrickville Road side of St Clements Anglican Church, Marrickville, where his family were parishioners, are dedicated to his memory. The windows show Oscar, dressed as St George, slaying a dragon.*

Oscar was born at home in Good Hope (sic) Street, Paddington on 28 April 1890 to William Joseph and Arriette Rainbow. William was born in Yorkshire, England in 1856 and emigrated with his parents and siblings to New Zealand in 1873. William moved to Sydney in 1883 and married Arriette Dainty, originally of England, but more recently of New Zealand, on 22 January 1885 at the Church of St John, Balmain. At the time of his marriage, William's address was 130 Bourke Street but the newly married couple moved to Paddington soon after, and by 1903 were living in Day Street, Marrickville. Oscar was the third of the couple's five sons, two of whom died in infancy.

Oscar attended Sydney High School where he was a member of the cadets. His name appears on the Honour Board at Sydney Boys High School. He worked as a public accountant and auditor until his enlistment at Marrickville on 17 September 1914 and was a member of the 13th Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, 1st AIF. He sailed from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Ulysses* on 22 December 1914. Less than five months later he was dead.

At the time of Oscar's enlistment, the Rainbow family still lived in Day Street, Marrickville but it appears his parents moved to 45 Harrow Road, Stanmore sometime thereafter. The move may have been precipitated by Arriette's declining health exacerbated by grief at her son's death. A copy of a letter survives requesting that all correspondence regarding Oscar be sent to the Australian Museum where his father and eldest brother, Alfred worked, due to concerns over the impact of any material on Arriette's fragile health. Arriette died in June 1917. William died in 1919 shortly before another son, Eric, who had enlisted in May 1918, returned from military duties overseas.

Rowena Ward (committee member who is distantly related to the Rainbows)

* Oscar's death date is confirmed in military records; *The Parish of St Clement Marrickville Centenary History 1886-1986* and Geoffrey Ostling *The Great War 1914-1918: A look at Marrickville through the St Clement's Parish Notes, Heritage 3*, 1987, p. 33, both give 24 May. Other information about how Oscar died and the church windows are in the Ostling article, pp. 33-34. Describing his heroism, the St Clements Church rector wrote: "Deeds less brave have won the V.C."

The Sydney Harbour Bridge Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour has "a stunning series of black and white photographs which convey moments and memorabilia from this special landmark in Sydney's memory". Daily 9.30 am-5 pm until 24 June. Free.

2) PTE IVOR JONES OF STANMORE

MHS member Susan Pinson has sent a cutting from the *Manly Daily* dated 8 July 2006 showing George Champion holding a timber plaque with decorative surrounds. Headed "Plaque honours hero", the cutting reads:

"Forestville RSL Club will be presented with a plaque honouring a former worker at the Bantry Bay explosives depot who was killed at Gallipoli in August 1915. The timber plaque was rescued by workers demolishing the men's quarters at Bantry Bay in the mid-1970s and given to Killarney Heights historian George Champion, who was a trustee of the Davidson State Recreation Area at the time. The Davidson SRA included the Bantry Bay complex, which was operated by the Explosives Department. Bantry Bay is now part of Garigal National Park.

'I was there while they were demolishing it and I asked them to keep an eye out for anything of historical value,' Mr Champion said. 'A young bloke came out a bit later with a lovely little timber war memorial in honour of Pte Ivor Jones, who worked at Bantry Bay.'

Research by Mr Champion revealed Pte Jones enlisted in the AIF and served with the 2nd Battalion. He was the son of Richard and Elizabeth Jones, of Stanmore, and was killed at Lone Pine at Gallipoli, August 6-9, 1915."

Update The MD photo was unsuitable for reproduction in newsletter, however, George Champion advises the plaque has been handsomely restored and is on display at Forestville RSL Club. Military records reveal Ivor was born in 1893 (reg'd at Petersham). He enlisted at Epping and embarked from Sydney on 10 April 1915 on HMAT *Argyllshire*.

THREAT TO DULWICH HILL TERMINUS

A Dulwich Hill member has received a letter from Marrickville Council advising the proposed sale of State Transit Land, i.e. Dulwich Hill Bus Terminus on the corner of Dulwich Street and New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill. The letter indicated that "If State Transit was to dispose of the property, buses would be required to use local streets in order to 'layover' and turn around. The route which is proposed would be New Canterbury Road, right Constitution Road, right Denison Road, right Dulwich Street."

In pointing out various implications of this in terms of narrow streets, difficulty of manoeuvring buses around corners, and safety concerns, the member adds, "this part of Dulwich Hill has always played a large part in the area's development."

Clearly State Transit sees this sell-off as a means to fill the coffers, but it would mean the end of a turning circle site used by buses and trams for over a century, as well as divesting the Mallam Reserve, named in honour of former long-serving local Labor MP, Cliff Mallam. The terminus is adjacent to the recently demolished 1906 former bank building on New Canterbury Road. The demolition revealed this old signage on the adjoining building: "MUFLERS / 2, SUPERIOR / BY ALCOCK &" Perhaps someone can research this and fill in the blanks.

Local resident **Tim Alderman** enterprisingly photographed the signage before the building (with the signage) was also demolished. Looks like it won't be long before the whole

block has gone, after which we can expect a DA for some huge apartment block plumb in the middle of Dulwich Hill. Members are urged to write to Marrickville Council and the local state MP.



CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 28 April

Harbour Cruise – see front page

Thursday 17 May

Harbourside Walk with Ted Green

Saturday 26 May

Written on the Road with Megan Hicks

Saturday 23 June

Annual General Meeting

Due to the vagaries of the Publisher program which is used to produce this newsletter, occasionally a line of print goes into the ether. This can occur with the slightest adjustment, just before printing. A casualty of this in the March newsletter was the final line of the third verse in the Henry Lawson poem, *Faces in the Street*. Sorry Henry, but here we go again.

*In hours before the dawning dims the starlight in the sky
The wan and weary faces first begin to trickle by,
Increasing as the moments hurry on with morning feet,
Till like a pallid river flow the faces in the street –*

Flowing in, flowing in,

To the beat of hurried feet –

Ah! I sorrow for the owners of those faces in the street.

NORMAN MCVICKER HONOURED

At Sydney Town Hall on Monday 12 March MHS member **Norman McVicker OAM** was among 60 recipients awarded a 2007 NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award in the category of Education and Lifelong Learning. Premier Morris Iemma addressed the gathering, with vocalist Toni Lamond and quadriplegic singer Tim McCallum among the entertainers. Norman's citation reads: "Norman McVicker has volunteered in his local community for most of his life and is well known for his initiative and enthusiasm. He has written about local and Australian history for the *Mudgee Guardian* for 17 years and has recently written his 900th article for the newspaper. Norman also founded the Pocket Playhouse Children's Theatre in 1961 to encourage young people in the theatre." (Also, of course, Norman founded the Pocket Playhouse for everyone, in Sydenham!)

Norman said "I've had some sensational experiences in the theatre, but that one just about caps it." Well done Norman!



Photo: Sofianto Lee

OUR LAST MEETING: 17 MARCH

Cast Iron in Old O'Connell Town

It was fitting that our Heritage Week walk around Old O'Connell Town started in the grounds of St Stephens Church graveyard, for it was here that Sir Maurice O'Connell was reinterred from Devonshire Street Cemetery in 1848 as the first burial in Camperdown Cemetery. The grounds of the church and cemetery along with the district known as O'Connell Town in North Newtown had been part of the land grant bestowed on Gov. William Bligh by his predecessor Gov. Phillip King. Bligh's grant passed to his daughter, Mary Putland, wife of O'Connell.

From the cemetery, tour leader **Robert Hutchinson** guided us along streets of Old O'Connell Town (Church, Raper, O'Connell, Prospect and Hordern Streets) during which our brief was to look upwards at the numerous examples of cast iron in the mostly terrace residences. The cast iron lacework was designed to add an elegance above the ordinary, partly as means to make them more saleable. Cast iron was initially brought out from England as ballast, but imports waned as it was found to be too brittle, and as the century progressed, more local material was used. Robert explained the processes for manufacturing cast iron and how it differs from wrought iron. Examples of both cast and wrought iron were shown along with reproduction "cast iron" in aluminium.

We saw cast iron balustrades of balconies, brackets, valances, friezes, finials and columns. Though identical patterns were used in some rows of terraces, there was tremendous variety in the designs though Robert pointed out these are only a fraction of examples found elsewhere. Often more than one design was used on a house. The best example was our final stop – the marvellous pair of two storey wooden terraces on the corner of Hordern and Victoria Streets which have no less than five distinct designs!

All in all a fascinating insight into this significant aspect of inner city housing. Thanks to **Robert** ably assisted by **Scott MacArthur**.

Richard Blair (with reference to source material compiled by **Robert Hutchinson**)

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 24 May 6-8 pm

**Marrickville Council Administration Building
2-14 Fisher Street Petersham**

Come and learn about Council's volunteer opportunities within council services and programs: Marrickville Library, Tom Foster Community Support Program, Meals on Wheels, Landcare, Friends of the Cooks River Valley Garden, Marrickville Community Nursery and The Watershed. Light refreshments. All welcome. Booking essential on 9335 2222.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823