

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Saturday 24 May 10.30am**

**Essay Competition Award Ceremony**

**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville**

**Note:** This meeting will not be preceded by morning tea but we cordially invite you to stay for a light lunch after the award ceremony.

Essay Competition Convenor and Society vice president, **Keith Sutton**, will announce the winners of the Society's inaugural Essay Competition. As mentioned at our last meeting, 23 entries were received. Judges have noted that the entries received were, in their opinion, of a very high standard. The names of each entrant, the title of each essay, and a very short summary of the essay subject will be read out before the winners of the awards are announced.

**A Wander through Historic North Sydney with Ted Green on Thursday 15 May at 9.30am** in Blue Street outside North Sydney Station. Walk "easy-medium". Duration incl. lunch about four hours. BYO lunch and water. No bookings. Enquiries Ted 9405 5040.

## MARRICKVILLE MEDAL 2008

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded on an annual basis since 1995 as part of the Marrickville Heritage Festival. This year there were over 30 entries, which is the most ever. The judges were Antony Barraclough, minister of All Saints Petersham, the winner of last year's Marrickville Medal; MHS President Scott MacArthur and Julie Mackenzie, an architect with Tonkin Zulaikha Greer and a winner of the National Trust (NSW) prestigious Cathy Donnelly Memorial Award as a female architect leading the way in conservation and adaptive reuse in NSW.

The judges were very impressed with the high

(continued pp. 2-3)



227 Australia St Newtown: Marrickville Medal winner

## 2008 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Our newsletter editor and executive committee member, **Richard Blair**, has been awarded Marrickville Council's Special Achievement Award for 2008. Richard was presented with his award by Deputy Mayor, Peter Olive at the Marrickville Medal ceremony at Petersham Town Hall on 16 April. The citation stated, "Richard Blair has been a guiding force in mustering and focusing community interest in the heritage values of the Marrickville Local Government Area for most of his life. As a past president and editor of the Marrickville Heritage Society newsletter for the last 14 years, Richard has always taken an active role in supporting and promoting the importance of history and heritage in the local area."



Photo:  
Nick Murphie

In his acceptance speech Richard paid tribute to Marrickville Council for being a pioneer in heritage conservation: the 1984-86 Fox Heritage Study was the first such study by any council in NSW and in 1995 Council inaugurated the Marrickville Medal. Richard noted that Council established the Special Achievement Award two years ago and he acknowledged the previous well-deserved winners, Lu Bell and Laurel Horton, both of whom are Marrickville Heritage Society members and stalwarts of the Society.

'There is a long established and close link between Marrickville Council and Marrickville Heritage Society. Council's former Strategic Planning Manager, Peter Arnett prompted the formation of the Society in 1984 whilst Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader also played a prominent role. Council has generously allowed us free use of a room for our public meetings every two months and since 1997, a room for our monthly executive meetings', Richard said.

(overleaf)

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (CONT'D)

However, Richard issued a challenge to Marrickville Council to provide the Society with its own permanent space, citing neighbouring historical societies such as Ashfield, Canterbury and Randwick as having rooms provided by their respective councils for essentially peppercorn rents.

Richard noted that the Society and Council had not always been 'happy bedfellows' in that the Society had often been critical of Council for its position on heritage conservation in relation to particular buildings and sites, whilst it was appalled by Council's 2003 scrapping of the Tropman & Tropman Heritage Study, that cost \$100,000, which had the effect of leaving most of Marrickville LGA without heritage protection. 'One of the roles of our heritage society is to keep a watching brief on buildings and precincts in relation to Council and higher levels of government. We scrutinise and monitor and encourage council personnel to lift their game in relation to heritage conservation. We are **not**, however, anti-development; we are **pro good** development and **proper** assessment. We give credit to council when it makes a good decision.'

Largely through the newsletter, Richard noted that the Society has promoted the Marrickville area as a worthwhile and wonderful place in which to live. The recording of our history in both the newsletter and our many journals produced over the last 24 years is a large part of that. Richard acknowledged the contributions from a wide range of people over the past 14 years, but noted the unparalleled contribution from past president, Shirley Hilyard, who has been Richard's sub-editor throughout this time and has never missed a proofreading session.

Richard concluded by thanking the Marrickville Heritage Society Executive Committee and Marrickville Council's Historian, Chrys Meader, for their nominations; and Marrickville Council for bestowing on him 'this award which I will always cherish.'

**Keith Sutton**

## OUR LAST MEETING

### *A History of Place Names of New South Wales*

**Dr Peter Orlovich**, the highly regarded archivist and educator, brought much information and a great challenge to our meeting on 26 April. As a Counsellor of the Geographical Names Board of NSW, where he has been a Member for over 40 years, Peter told us much about the history and processes of the official naming of places in NSW. He quoted Surveyor Audley's 1866 explanation of the six sources for the place names of NSW: native languages; colonists; fishermen and 'coasters'; maritime surveyors; land surveyors (whom Audley credited with increasing the confusion); and men in authority, who name places after themselves and their friends. But today there exists a seventh source for place names and information on their origin and meaning: **us!**

There are approximately 88,000 places on the GNB register, 108 of them in the Marrickville LGA. Of these, only ten are accompanied by information on the origin, form, spelling, variations, meaning or history of the name, and there are notable absences, such as Cooks River, names of other waterways and Aboriginal place names. The board's resources are not adequate for it to 'chase' names or research their

histories, and, as Peter explained, local people generally have a lot more to offer in this regard than is available in maps or history books. By recording such information geographically, the register has the potential to record local history in a fascinating and accessible way, free from the constraints of traditional chronological history-telling.

Peter generously provided attendees with a folder of literature about the board, including place name nomination forms and a print-out of Marrickville geographical names from the GNB Register. Anyone may propose a place name for registration by the board, provide information about a name or propose that a feature be named after a prominent personage (preferably deceased), but Peter encouraged us to follow the lead taken by the Botany Bay Historical Trust, which formed a committee to compile a list of local place names with accompanying information on their history and meaning. This is now linked to the GNB website, [www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au).

As Lorraine Beach thanked Peter, she suggested MHS would rise to the challenge, and could co-ordinate our contributions to the register in order to avoid duplication of information and effort.

**Minnie Bui Jones**

**Note:** Apropos Peter's recommendation re the 108 locally listed place names and as foreshadowed in Minnie's report, the Society plans to enlist the support of members and coordinate a project on a formal basis following consultation with Council's Local Studies. More in future newsletters.

## MARRICKVILLE MEDAL 2008 (rpt cont'd)



standard of entries this year, particularly in the residential alterations and additions field, that made up the bulk of the entries. The passion and pride that all of the entrants had in their houses and projects were wonderful to see, and it translated into many sensitive and imaginative solutions for bringing the ageing building stock of our LGA into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The **winner of the Medal** was a sandstone guest house at **227 Australia Street, Newtown**. The new owners of this property bought probably the worst house in the street (pictured above). As they removed layers of ugly additions they started a process of research and discovery that finally revealed an early Victorian sandstone cottage. Some of the many changes this building has gone through have been carefully left on display, and the end result is a comfortable cottage that is a true asset to its street and neighbourhood.

The judges noted that "the building is used as a guest-house, often hosting grandparents of students at the neighbouring Infants School. This use ensures a wider audience appreciate the building and makes a valuable contribution to the Newtown community as a whole. Congratulations are well deserved for this year's Marrickville Medal winners."



**There were two Highly Commended citations** (in recognition of outstanding achievements for alterations and additions and restoration).

The Victorian house at **1 Surrey Street Stanmore** "stood apart from all of the excellent alteration and addition nominations because of the clarity of the junction between the old and new. The streetscape and conservation area context are respected by retaining the front portion of the house relatively unchanged. The contemporary extension to the rear makes excellent use of the unusual triangular site; the new



additions read as pavilions in a garden context." The new work also demonstrates a good application of Environmentally Sustainable Design principles through the choice of materials, 'grey water' recycling, solar hot water, cross ventilation and passive solar design, which in a conservation context is the way of the future.

The judges were also very excited by the faithful restoration of the Art Deco apartment block at **44 Herbert Street Dulwich Hill**. The project represented "a family effort where no compromise impinged on the final outcome. The original features, restored to a fine level of detail, include the timber joinery, stair, mosaic tiles, rear stairway and pipe rail balustrade." Although a heritage architect was not involved, the best heritage principals of doing as little as possible and as much as necessary have been adhered to. This is a shining example of what restoration that respects the original spirit of the building can achieve. The judges said that "the family is to be commended for resisting the temptation to render and paint the face brick facades that have scarred so much of Marrickville's Heritage building stock."

(All photos by Vanessa Holtham)

44 Herbert Street



**Four other projects received Commendations.**

**25 Constitution Road Dulwich Hill** (Alterations and Additions) This delightful family home has successfully incorporated many of the original rooms and features into a spacious, light filled extension that respects the amenity and privacy of neighbours and is not visible from the street. It achieved "sensitive solutions to providing contemporary accommodation for a growing family. The curious, yet successful design of the rear addition is focused around the original pantry making it unique. The use of Environmentally Sustainable Design principles is also commended, with a 'Sun Lizard' that uses natural air movements and solar energy to heat and cool the house."

**23 Osgood Road Dulwich Hill** (Alterations and Additions) This is a fascinating high quality contemporary extension to a single storey Federation semi-detached house, that preserves the streetfront appearance and many original features of the house, while providing a delightful and spacious contemporary family home. "The distinctive modern rear addition and deck feature clever window and door joinery that provide both climate control and security. The sensitively landscaped garden completes the project."

**16 Station Street Petersham** (Alterations and Additions) The original house has been retained and many original features restored. Relatives of previous owners were able to describe what the house had originally looked like, and original features like tessellated tiles, and timber windows and doors were reinstated. The new contemporary rear extension is a wonderful series of spaces and rooms with ponds, a small waterfall and abundant natural light and ventilation.

**276 Marrickville Road Marrickville** (Contemporary Infill) This new 'shop top' residential development, next to Alex Trevallion Plaza is an interesting solution to the pressures that are facing our retail conservation precincts for redevelopment and increased density. The development required the demolition of the former corner bank building and Federation era delicatessen. The original design challenged many of Council's codes and controls, and this successful outcome was the result of an involved design review process.

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The **People's Choice award** was won by the new owners of **Gladstone Hall 114 Ewart Street Dulwich Hill** (pictured below). This important house (built about 1870 for William Starkey) has had a chequered and controversial past, due to the redevelopment of the site around the building and ill-considered 'restoration' works by a previous owner. The new owners have reinstated internal features such as decorative ceilings, fireplaces and timber floors, and repaired and revitalised the sandstone fabric. They have regained the original character of the building.

Scott MacArthur





## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 24 May**

**Essay Competition Award Ceremony**

Details on front page

**Saturday 28 June**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Jazz Concert – Marshall Ballantine-Jones and friends**  
**Sunday 1 June 4.30pm**

**St Peters Church**

187 Princes Highway St Peters (opposite McDonald's)

Entry by donation. Home-made soups to be served at interval with coffee after concert (approx 7pm).

Contact number: 9557 3795 (AH)

The Launch of the **Camperdown Cemetery Restoration Strategy 2007-2011** was on Sunday 4 May in the cemetery grounds behind St. Stephens Church Newtown. This was also a celebration of the achievements of the Friends of Camperdown Cemetery who have been working to restore the Kangaroo Grass and Heritage Grave Plantings since the beginning of the project in 2002. The project recently received a positive report from the NSW Environmental Trust. To get involved in this important ongoing project contact Nell Graham at Marrickville Council on 9335 2197 in office

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to the **Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club** which celebrated its 100th birthday on 8 April. Along with Marrickville Bicycle Club (founded 1903, but which later merged with the Dulwich Hill club), it "designed and operated a velodrome at Henson Park from 1937 to the late 1970s which was also used to host the cycling events for the Empire Games in 1938." The club now uses the Canterbury Velodrome in Undercliffe. In recent years there has been a surge in membership (website: [www.dhbc.org.au](http://www.dhbc.org.au)).

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We also congratulate actress and MHS member **Noeline Brown** who has been appointed Australia's first Ambassador for Ageing which is aimed "to ensure that older Australians have a strong voice, a direct link into Government and a person to promote positive and active ageing." Noeline grew up and had her first theatrical experiences in the Marrickville area.

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No specific local connection except for those radio listeners to *Music for Pleasure* and *Singers of Renown* on Radio National. The final session of the latter show (for the record, session number 2124) after 42 years was on Saturday 26 April. The show's presenter, the iconic **John Cargher**, AM, died just days later on 30 April aged 89. An accomplished man, John was noted for his distinctive voice, entertaining style and encyclopaedic knowledge of classical music. Repeat programs are being broadcast in forthcoming weeks.

**PRESIDENT** Scott 9559 5736

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

## LEARNING ABOUT HERITAGE

The Year 1 & 2 students (6 to 8 year olds) at Australia Street Infants School have enjoyed studying the topic *Families Past and Present: Stories and Histories* as part of their *Human Society and Its Environment* (HSIE) curriculum. The children have discussed, examined and written about artifacts that people have kept in their families from past times. They have gained insights into the technology and lifestyles of people from the past. Thank you to the members of the Marrickville Heritage Society who lent us items for this unit of work, especially **Bob Parkinson** for his fountain pen and ink donation and **Pat Mullen**, who came to talk to the Year 2 students about her experiences growing up in Newtown.



Pat Mullen with students (photo: Michele Carton)

In my preparation, I began to wonder if MHS members might like to put together a tub of resources to support the teaching of this unit that is recommended by the NSW Board of Studies. The MHS committee has endorsed this project. Members may wish to donate an item from the list below for a tub of resources to be available to all schools in the Marrickville LGA.

Donors should label their item with their name (optional), a brief description and history of the object of the object before leaving the objects at the **Australia Street Infants School front office, 229 Australia Street, Newtown during school hours. Suggested items** (please, nothing breakable, too large, cumbersome or dangerous) – flat iron, old style phone, laundry washboard, old radio, old fire kettle, kitchen implements (mincer, egg beater etc), old tools (hand drill, plane, etc), record player, old camera, old toys.

The unit also asks for people to talk to the students about using the artifacts. Once there are a dozen or so objects, I will write to all the local schools to let them know that the tub of artifacts and list of speakers are available. By teaching young students about the value of the past we can promote an appreciation of history and heritage.

If you have any questions about the suitability of an object or are interested and available during school hours email me at [grwindon@optusnet.com.au](mailto:grwindon@optusnet.com.au) or phone me at Australia Street Infants School on 9557 5377 after 2.30pm on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

**Michele Carton** (MHS member and teacher, Australia Street Infants School)