

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



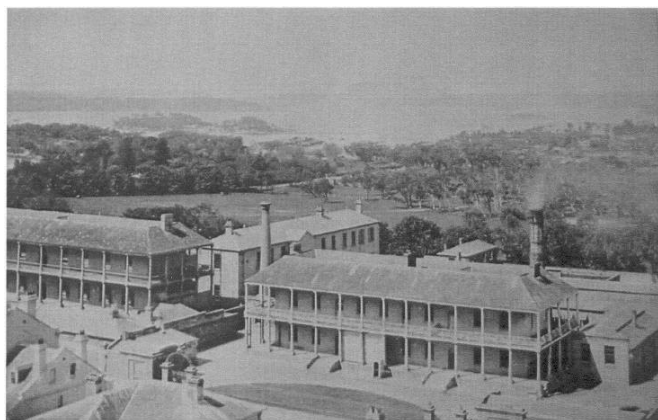
## OUR NEXT MEETING

The Mint with Robert Griffin

Saturday 22 September 10 am sharp \$5

Meet at gates 10 Macquarie Street Sydney

In 1811 Lachlan Macquarie's first major public building was the colony's much needed new hospital. Built in 1811-1816 on the eastern edge of the town the architect is unknown while the construction was by private contractors in exchange for a monopoly on the importation of rum—hence the buildings, three colonnaded structures, became known as the *Rum Hospital*. The South Wing, we still call The Mint, will be our tour with curator Robert Griffin revealing its changing use until 1854, when Joseph Trickett arrived in Sydney to choose a site for a mint, a branch of the Royal Mint, in England, now that gold had been discovered in NSW.



*Sydney Mint and Hospital c. 1865*  
(Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

We will see that industrial coining factory prefabricated in England and erected behind the Mint building. Much of the cast iron structure of columns and roof girders can be seen in the refurbished buildings today. The Sydney Mint opened on 4 May 1855 and within a few months it was "going at a rattling pace" (William Stanley Jevons). However it was finally closed in 1926 as mints were operating in Perth and Melbourne. The use was then for law courts and offices. Today's tour will bring us to the present and the major conservation and redevelopment program that has attracted many awards, to establish the head office of Historic Houses Trust.

## TASMANIA TOUR IN DOUBT

The response to our tour has been disappointing and we are far from reaching the minimum required number. Whilst we have extended the due date for deposits to 17 September, if you intend to go could you please advise Keith as soon as possible on 9564 6948?

**Marrickville Festival 9 September all day**  
**Marrickville Road. MHS has a stall.**

## ESSAY COMPETITION IS ANNOUNCED

The Society is running an essay competition to nurture research into local heritage and history by offering significant incentives, to unearth new material, and to increase awareness of MHS. Our essay competition is now officially announced, and we are keenly looking forward to a wide variety of entries. **An entry form will be enclosed with this newsletter.** First prize is \$1000, second is \$500 and third is \$250.

Any person (except competition judges or members of the Society's current Executive Committee) may enter. There is no entry fee and more than one essay may be submitted. At the Society's discretion, winning essays may be published in the Society's annual Journal. For reasons of transparency, the judges' names (two eminent historians and a professional editor) will not be advertised.

Essays should be around 1500-5000 words and must be non-fiction, focus on heritage or historical subjects, and **generally relate to Marrickville Local Government Area**. Topics may cover a wide range of topics; for example, heritage items, biographies, history of areas/streets, buildings, social connections (e.g. a music group), family histories, etc.

Judging criteria are—

- readability/general interest, plus presentation (spelling, grammar, etc.): 60%
- research (formal or personal, incl. referencing): 40%

Essays must be typewritten on A4 white paper. If an essay can be submitted on computer disc in Word format, that would be most welcome, but entrants unable to comply with this request will not be disadvantaged. Pictures and/or illustrations are welcome, but will not of themselves be a major factor in deciding winning entries. Please *do not* send original photos or illustrations, as entries will not be returned.

For further enquiries or additional entry forms (which include competition rules), please contact our competition convenor, and Society vice president, Keith Sutton on 9564 6948 or mobile 0408 169 721 or by email on ksconsulting@optusnet.com.au

Entries must be addressed to the Essay Competition, Marrickville Heritage Society, PO Box 415, Marrickville NSW 1475. Competition closes at 5 pm on **Friday 29 February 2008.**

There has been a changing of the guard with our Public Officer. Details on back page.

## OUR LAST MEETING

### **Words can be Bullets: A Political History of New Theatre with Lyn Collingwood**

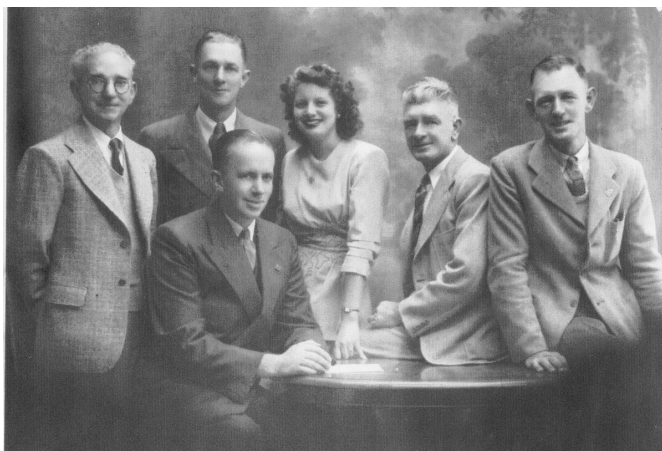
The meeting on 25 August was a thoroughly enjoyable and humorous presentation by **Lyn Collingwood** on the first 75 years of the New Theatre. The theatre company, housed on King Street, Newtown since 1973, but before that in the city and Darlinghurst, has been continuously producing plays since 1932. As Lyn's presentation highlighted, the New Theatre has always been associated with the left side of politics and this political philosophy not only influenced the plays that it produced but did not always sit well with the views of conservative critics or foreign consular personnel.

Lyn's presentation included references to raids by police and surveillance by ASIO. Not bad for a small theatre company run by volunteers! A highlight of the talk was illustrations from program covers over the years. These showed the diversity of the plays that have been produced as well as how a good tongue-in-cheek play title can still draw laughs many years later. The theatre does not receive government funding but hopefully it will continue to attract an audience for many years to come.

**Rowena Ward**

**Note:** The official 75th anniversary is in October. Anyone with information on the New Theatre for Lyn's historical work-in-progress can advise Richard (9557 3823 or by email) who will pass on info.

\* \* \* \* \*



*The Warrigals – FW Johnson's "Champion of Champions" Bread Salesmanship Team 1946-47: C Matthews, T Walker, Miss G West (Office Staff), W Smith, V Smith, WF Johnson (at front, Supervisor). FW Johnson's was a flourishing bakery in the Marrickville area for over a century. (Photo: Frank Paine, Enmore; photo given by Laurel Horton on behalf of the late Norma George, daughter of W Smith and former Tempe resident.)*

## DAYTIME BOOKCLUB AT MARRICKVILLE LIBRARY

### **Seeking new Members**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the Month

2 pm to 3.30 pm (meeting time could be altered)

We prefer prize-winning novels, Australian writing and classics, but prefer not to read best sellers.

Contact Paula 9569 9928



## SPRING TRIVIA A & Q

**Answer** Saturday 7 June 1986

**Question** Give the date of NSW's last Cracker Night?

**Source** Shirley Doolan, Luke Folkard, Scott MacArthur, Ann Petersen, Angela Phippen and Anthony Barker's *What Happened When?* (2001)

I emailed this question to MHS members and was regaled with facts and memories. I was surprised to learn it's only 20 years since fireworks were legally banned in NSW. Cracker Night celebrations were originally on 24 May (in honour of Queen Victoria's Birthday, Empire Day, renamed Commonwealth Day) before relocation to the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June, and were no doubt similar in suburbs and towns across the state. **Ros Torrent** recalled her Gynea experience "with a metres high bonfire on the local oval – sky rockets and golden rains placed in bottles or sand, spinning Catherine wheels nailed to a post, and sparklers to wave about. Older kids had double bungers, younger ones had tom thumbs. For us children it was the social night of the year."

**Dianne Galofaro** recalled street parties (especially in pre-television days) "with tyre bonfires in Jarvie Park [Marrickville] – everyone's rubbish on it and the smell of burnt rubber the next day." **Carol Phillips** wryly remarked "nothing like a kid losing an eye or a couple of fingers due to a delayed bunger or skyrocket" and another member (no names) confessed to blowing up a neighbour's letterbox! **Howard Grace** in his "recollections of a misspent youth" indicated a staged ban on fireworks with the most dangerous ones like thunder bungers, pohars and ball shooters being withdrawn from sale first, maybe around 1980. **Ralph** and **Virginia Coghill** still have a cracker night each year, on the ocean front at Ohope in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, New Zealand where they celebrate Guy Fawkes on the first Saturday in November.

Historian **Richard White** (who says fireworks are still on sale legally in Canberra) wrote "there was something anarchic and uncontrolled about Cracker Night as a community event. The gradual NSW government campaign to destroy it with increasing prohibitions on fireworks from 1971 to 1987, found no effective opposition, because there was no longer any ideological content to it." Even when it was part of Empire or Commonwealth Day, no one thought about Empire!

The question arose from my proofreading an anthology of short stories written in the 1930s-1950s. One such story, *Please To Remember* (1948) is set in Port Augusta, South Australia in 1910, and focuses on Guy Fawkes Day, when in SA, Cracker Night used to occur. The story is one of 57, written by my late father **Jim Blair** (most originally published in *The Bulletin*) and soon to be available in a book edited by **David Blair** (my brother and also a MHS member) on a non-commercial subscription basis. Seven stories are set in Marrickville. For more information ring me (9557 3823) or check the website [www.jimblairfiction.com](http://www.jimblairfiction.com).

**Richard Blair**

## 2007 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORT

I'm a believer in giving credit where it's due and this means naming names. I especially appreciate people who write up 'Our Last Meeting' – in the past year they have been Vivien Wherry, Scott MacArthur, Corinne O'Loughlin, Lorraine Beach, Alma Roberts (twice), Gloria Muir, Shirley Hilyard,



Richard Blair (twice) and Geoff Ostling. I'd like to make special mention of Rod Cox who has supplied Births, Deaths & Marriage information at various times; and of our current president, Scott MacArthur, who, despite being totally deflated, as many of us were last year, by the scuttling of the near 200 items in the 2001 Heritage Study Review by Marrickville Council, continues to provide regular heritage watch reports to the newsletter which invariably keep us up to speed on heritage watch issues.

During the year I've received dozens of contributions so I thank, in no particular order, the following, and not all MHS members – Graham Hunt, Susan Pinson, George Champion, Diane McCarthy, Joyce Murgatroyd, Chrys Meader, Glenn Wardman, Shirley Hilyard, Laurel Horton, Richard Snedden, Bill Dobbie, Gayle Blayney, Rowena Ward, Silas Clifford-Smith, Ann Fenton, Bob Thompson, Shirley Doolan, David Buick, Iain Carolin, Ken Swinbourne, Shirley Kirkman, Norman McVicker, Ron Smith, Joan Francis, Vanessa Holtham, Geoff Ostling, Bob Parkinson, Mark Matheson, Tony Breinl, Ted Green, Keith Sutton, Tim Alderman, Robert Hutchinson, Sue Miller, Lorraine Beach, Pamela Stewart, Megan Hicks and Mary Cleghorn. If your name wasn't mentioned, send me a contribution and you might get a guernsey next year!

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing printing of the newsletter by the World of Print in Broadway who continue to charge us the minimum amount and do other print jobs for us most economically. Twice we have distributed leaflets for the Australian Heritage Magazine, thereby subsidising newsletter costs. We have sent regular emails to over 100 members which consist of National Trust advices, plugs for various exhibitions and events, and reminders about our society's forthcoming activities. This costs no one anything and I urge other members to get on the list.

Now to more thank yous. Our pool of drivers to handle newsletter deliveries to runners has remained at five with each doing, on average, two or three drives a year, so thank you Tony Breinl, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Pamela Stewart and Keith Sutton. Not a huge commitment for anyone, but again an arrangement whereby we are never left in the lurch. The driver is accompanied, without fail, by the ever cheerful Ian Phillips who continues to deliver to the runners, make constructive suggestions and assist in various other tasks in the delivery operation. So thank you all.

Since Diane McCarthy stepped down from the committee last year I have more than ably been supported by Lorraine Beach in providing transport, labels for newsletters, and assisting in IT and general operational matters. Lorraine is good humoured and generosity personified in many ways, not least in terms of her time. Shirley Hilyard is another who is always available for proofreading, advice and fine-tuning. Thank you Lorraine and Shirley.

I'd like to also thank the newsletter runners. Thank you Lu Bell, Richard Blair, Maree Blanchard, John Blattmann, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Joanna Fielding, Audrey Furney, Barbara Gibbons, Shirley Hilyard, Peter James & Joan Sinclair, Mark Matheson, Hillary Morrissey, Pat Mullen, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart, Ken Swinbourne and Ken Turner; and also to Barrie Dyster, Sue Miller, Corinne O'Loughlin, Keith Sutton and Coralie Wickers for filling-in at times.

My annual editor's award is to a runner, who does much more than this for the society. As membership secretary Pamela Stewart also posts out newsletters that go to members and organisations outside our area, and maintains membership records. She has done this for over ten years. Thank you Pamela.

**Richard Blair**

## IN MEMORIAM

The Society extends its condolences to the families of three long term members:

**Peter Riley** of Earlwood, who died on 9 August aged 72. Having spent his working life on the railways

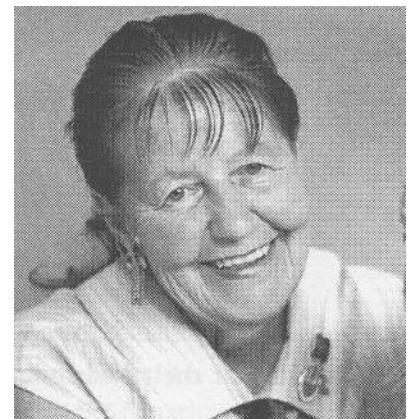


Peter was a keen member of the Railway Historical Society and held a Gold Railway Pass which enabled him to travel broadly on excursions and to museums. Peter belonged to an untold number of societies and was known to many people. He regularly

attended our meetings and outings, was always up for a chat and his friendly nature made him very popular. There will be a Memorial Service at the Roseby Uniting Church, 388 Illawarra Road Marrickville on Thursday 13 September at 10.30 am.

**Win Evans**, OAM, formerly of Sans Souci and Annandale, who died on 28 July aged 87. After the early death of her mother, Win spent 13 years of her childhood in care, a story she told in her 2001 autobiography *A Rejected Childhood* (see June 2001 newsletter). Part of this

time was spent in Lisgar, a children's home in Harrison Street, Marrickville. Win subsequently married and in later life was active in community service in Sydney's southern suburbs and was awarded the OAM in 1995. Her daughter, Associate Professor Winsome



Evans, also a MHS member, is the co-founder and long time director of the Renaissance Players.

**Norma Buzacott** who died on 11 June formerly of Epping and West Pennant Hills. Her father Nicholas James Buzacott was Mayor of Newtown in 1924. Norma is survived by her sister Olive with whom she lived for a long time, and is still a MHS member.

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*The Thin Red and Blue Lines: A History of the Military and Police presence in the Blue Mountains between the Nepean and Cox's River 1814-2005* by **Peter Chinn** is available from the Springwood Historical Society, PO Box 387, Springwood 2777. Cost \$30 plus \$7 postage.

Peter's "well-produced and meticulously researched" book traces the history of the early military presence in the region with the later development of police stations from Emu Plains to Hartley. After a career with the Australian Customs Service, Peter became History Officer of that agency and Publications Officer for Springwood Historical Society. An MHS member who grew up in Marrickville, Peter's article *Hawkers & Street Vendors of Yesteryear* appeared in *Heritage* 12.

## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 22 September**

**Tour of The Mint with Robert Griffin**

Details on front page

**Saturday 27 October**

**Resurrect the dead: Recent archaeology at Camperdown Mem. Rest Park: Denis Gojak**

If you can survive APEC, you can participate in the 11th annual **History Week 15-23 September** with its theme *Legacies: Find your place in history*, honouring the centenary of David Scott Mitchell's bequest to the State Library. Information History Council 9252 8715.

### RIVERLIFE COOKS RIVER TOURS

Free but limited spaces. Bookings essential.  
Marrickville Council 9335 2222 for venue.

**Saturday 15 September 1.30-3 pm &**

**Saturday 3 November 1.30-3 pm**

***Sport On The River***

Games played by Cooks River past and present

**Sunday 16 September 9.30am-12.30 pm**

***Discovering Your Neighbourhood***

Exploratory loop tour from Tempe to Undercliffe and back via Wolli Creek including part of bush track

**Saturday 20 October 1.30-3 pm &**

**Saturday 24 November 1.30-3 pm**

***Bridge To Bridge***

The history and importance of river parks and bridges

**Sunday 21 October 10 am-12 noon**

***Sweet & Sour History & Photo Tour***

Old photographs compared with current locations

***James King's Irrawang Pottery***

***Manufactory near Raymond Terrace***

**Nicholson Museum, Sydney University**

**16 September-9 December Mon-Fri 10-4.30, Sun 12-4**

Excavations by the University of Sydney at the site represent the first formal historical archaeological excavation in Australia. Exhibition will explore the pioneering spirit of both colonial potters and Australian archaeologists.

### SOCIETY'S NEW PUBLIC OFFICER

Former treasurer **Harold Welsh** initiated steps towards the Society's incorporation. On 25 October 1997 MHS members voted for MHS to become incorporated. This became official on 5 November 1997, with **Harold** appointed first Public Officer. He was succeeded in June 2001 by **Diane McCarthy** who continued until July 2007 (as well as her various other functions). We thank Diane for her ever-reliable contributions. The committee has now appointed our new Public Officer, committee member, **Rowena Ward**, whom the Society welcomes.

**PRESIDENT** Scott 9559 5736

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

## WRECK OF THE DUNBAR 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

Weatherwise, it could hardly have been a worse day for the 150th Anniversary *Dunbar* Commemorations, but perhaps it was befitting to the occasion. St Stephens Church Newtown was packed on Sunday 19 August and the day was enhanced by the presence of the Her Excellency the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir and her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie along with the Mayor of Marrickville, Morris Hanna and his wife Margaret. The service featured interviews with *Dunbar* authority Kieran Hosty and former State Coroner, Kevin Waller, among whose forebears were several of the *Dunbar* victims.

The rain abated during the wreath-laying and reading of names ceremonies, while a bell tolled once for each victim. The *Dunbar folk opera* was beautifully performed, folklorist Warren Fahey sang, Kieran Hosty spoke again, *Dunbar* artefacts were shown by slides and on display, including the original *Dunbar* Bible, now owned by the church. The atmosphere was convivial despite the sombreness of the occasion. Several MHS members attended and the Society ran a stall (thanks to Sue and Rowena). The church people are to be commended for organising a most memorable day.

### DUNBAR THE STAMP THE CD & THE BOOKS



Australia Post has issued the Historic Shipwrecks Stamp Pack \$3.95. Individually: *Admella* 50c, *Loch Ard* \$1 and *Dunbar* \$2.

Detail from *Bradshaw's Views of The Dunbar*, Australian National Maritime Museum; design by Sally Piskuric.

### CD OF DUNBAR A FOLK OPERA

Several MHS members saw *Dunbar A Folk Opera* performed on Friday 17 August at Maritime Museum or on Sunday 19 August at St Stephens Church, Newtown. Both performances were well staged although the acoustics at the church were superior. If you missed the live show, you can buy the CD for \$15 plus postage - music by Christopher Purcell, with excerpts from Edward Elgar's *Sea Pictures* Op. 37, libretto by Jim Scanlan; performed by the Shipshape Theatre Company from Armidale. Orders: email [dunbar@xyon.com.au](mailto:dunbar@xyon.com.au) or ring Jim on 02 6771 2792.

### DUNBAR BOOKS

*A Short History of The Dunbar and Catherine Adamson Memorial in the grounds of St Stephen's Anglican Church Newtown NSW* compiled by Shirley Doolan is available (\$5 +\$1 postage). Profits to Camperdown Cemetery Trust. Ring Marcelle, St Stephens 9557 2043.

Publication of Kieran Hosty's Maritime Museum book *Dunbar 1857: Disaster on our Doorstep* is delayed.