

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Aboriginal Cultural Harbour Cruise Saturday 22 November 12.40 for 1 pm

Departs from Eastern Pontoon, Circular Quay (between ferry wharves and Opera House). Length of cruise 1 hour 45 minutes. Cost: \$55 adults, \$45 concessions (incl. Seniors and children). Oct. newsletter has more info. Bookings essential: Ring Rob 9699 3491.

Ted Green's Walk Around Some Backstreets of North Sydney: Saturday 22 November (allow time to return to the Quay if also doing cruise)

Meet Milsons Point Wharf 9.45 am (ferry from Circular Quay or walk from Milsons Point Station). Walk alongside Luna Park to Wendy Whiteley's "secret garden" at Lavender Bay, then on to the endangered *Graythwaite* and grounds; stroll along quaint streets, hear stories of Billy Blue and visit less known streets where Henry Lawson and Harold Cazneaux lived, and the site of *Ivycliff*, where eccentric and sexual reformer, William Chidley was a tenant. Bring water and a snack. Coffee after in trendy Blues Point Road. No charge, no bookings; enquiries Ted 9405 5040.

Urgent help needed for MHS storage

Does anyone in our local area have any spare space where MHS could store our two filing cabinets and stocks of books? We could fit into a small area, say 2 metres x 2 metres, although a little bigger would be preferred. We need access without causing inconvenience to the owner – eg to get stocks for meetings and festivals, to count stock etc – and the area needs to be lockable to secure MHS assets. Alternatively, if anyone has a level area in their garden, with a solid base, where we could erect a small metal shed (our cost), that would do too. We could pay a small rent but obviously, as we are a non-profit organisation, we're trying to limit the expense as much as possible. If anyone can help, please phone Richard on 9557 3823.

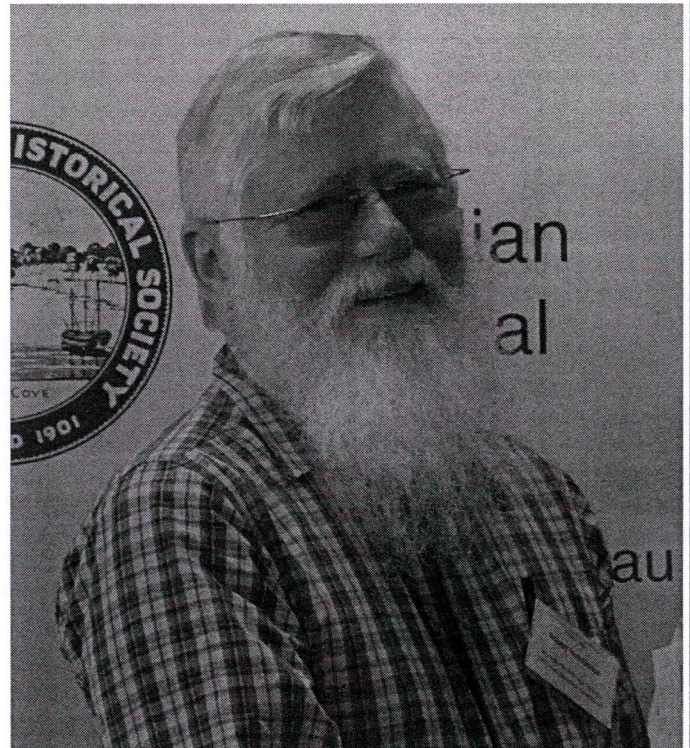
Thanks to Diane McCarthy for organising the attractive new plastic name badges which will be available at each meeting. These can either be returned to the box at the end of the meeting or taken home should members wish to take responsibility for them.

OUTSTANDING FEES

Should your 2008/09 MHS membership fees (due in June 2008) be outstanding you should receive a reminder slip with this newsletter. Fees still concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$20. Society's address below.

5 December International Volunteers Day

RAHS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED TO ROBERT HUTCHINSON



The Society congratulates Robert Hutchinson who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement at the annual RAHS conference in Forbes on 18-19 October following a nomination by MHS. The citation reads:

For his outstanding advocacy for heritage promotion at a local and broader level through publication, tours and exhibitions

Photo: Kylie Rees. Full report of conference inside.

Inappropriate development rally report on back page

ANNUAL POT LUCK XMAS DINNER Saturday 6 December 6 for 6.30 pm

It's back to Tempe for the annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner at Bob's charming Victorian house. Close to 422 and 425 buses and Sydenham Station with plenty of street parking. Book with Lorraine on 9550 6608 or by email lbeach@iprimus.com.au to obtain address, to advise what food you will bring and if you would like a lift. BYO drinks. Barbecue facilities also available.

OUR LAST MEETING

Allan Madden on the History and Cultural Aspects of the Aboriginal Peoples of this Area

Allan Madden, Cultural Educational Officer and Acting CEO of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council gave an informative and entertaining presentation to the Society on Saturday 25 October. Allan is a member of the Gadigal Clan and a respected elder of the Redfern community where he has lived for most of his life. For the past 15 years Allan has been a resident of Marrickville.

Allan spoke of historical and cultural aspects of his and neighbouring Clans. The boundaries of the Gadigal country includes the CBD, then south to Coogee, the Third Runway and Cooks River then up to the Iron Cove Bridge and back to the CBD. The Gadigal Clan is part of the Eora Nation which extends north west to Cessnock, then over to the Hawkesbury River, south to the Georges River and south west to the Colo River. Approximately 20,000-30,000 Aboriginal people live in the Eora Nation. Boundaries were usually identified by special features in the landscape including rivers, escarpments and estuaries. These were worked out over many thousands of years and the knowledge passed on by Clan elders.



Sonia Laverty and Allan Madden (photo: Lorraine Beach)

Clans consisted of extended family units and Allan emphasised that the people of the Gadigal Clan have always lived in the Sydney region and therefore are coastal people. The 'gal' on the end of 'Gadi' means 'of the sea' or 'salties'. Allan can trace his own history back to 'BC' (Before Cook) as he has a record of "a grandmother's" christening in 1814 when she was 74. This occurred in a small church/hut on the site where St Mary's Cathedral is now. She was described as 'Nanny, Black, of Sydney'.

The growth of white settlement brought dislocation and displacement of the Aboriginal peoples, but largely as a result of the knowledge gained from their elders, they were able to survive, adapt and gain the respect of their white neighbours. Allan was generous in his comments on the effects of white settlement but made the point that the land will always be Aboriginal land and new arrivals share the land with the Aboriginal peoples. He welcomes strategies that assist all of us to have a greater appreciation of history.

Leichhardt Local Government Area, with whom the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has a Memorandum of Understanding, now uses Aboriginal Clan names for their Ward names with Gadigal

being one of them. The project on geographical place names to be undertaken by Marrickville Heritage Society indicates there may be scope for introducing Aboriginal names into the LGA. Allan has offered to assist in compiling a list of names that could form the basis of any discussion on such a proposal.

Developing information on particular Aboriginal sites in the Gadigal country that could form the basis of an historical walk was proposed by a participant at the meeting and may also be an outcome of Allan's interesting account of his people's history. Researching and compiling information on place names including possible dual place names that could be discussed with Marrickville Council is a work in progress for MHS. Members wishing to be involved should contact Lorraine on 9550 6608.

Sonia Laverty

Notes: The names 'Gadigal' and 'Cadigal' are interchangeable. We thank Allan for his *Welcome to Country* and Ted Green who showered us with surplus DVDs of the marvellous SBS series, *First Australians*, courtesy of his local newsagent. – Editor

ABORIGINES AS CONSERVATIONISTS

Below is an excerpt from an article by Jack Brook Governor King, *Conservationist* from the Blacktown & District Historical Society Journal, Vol II No II, June 1981; reprinted in *The First Five Years* (2001). The article outlines King's abortive attempts to slow down the destruction of the environment by early settlers:

"Conservation today is a political 'hot potato' which many politicians should like to see buried under the coals. However, awareness of the ecology which is our natural heritage, and a concern for the damage which can occur from tampering with the natural state of things is not just a recent phenomenon."

"The Aborigines had an aptitude for conservation. Their presence did change the balance of nature, but they achieved a balance and maintained it. As SJ Hallan (*Fire and Earth*) says: 'The land the English settled was not as God made it. It was as the Aborigines made it.' The Aborigines did not remain long in one place and they did not hunt local animals to extinction, or devour local plant life to extinction. With an innate intelligence that even the present generation of Europeans does not show, they did not pollute natural watercourses."

SPRING TRIVIA ANSWER

To the question, what, of significance in Australian history, happened on 21 December 1817, the answer, according to Megan Hicks, was that this was when "Governor Lachlan Macquarie first used the word 'Australia' in official correspondence, thereby sanctioning a name that until then had only been used unofficially since the publication of Matthew Flinders' charts in 1814 revealed that Flinders had earlier coined the name."

Malcolm Ellis in his definitive biography, *Lachlan Macquarie His Life, Adventures and Times* (1947, p. 490) writes that Macquarie, in a despatch written on this date said "that Lieutenant PP King RN, had left in the *Mermaid* to survey the west coasts of the continent:

'I trust that in time (he) will be able to make important additions to the geographical knowledge already acquired of the coasts of the continent of *Australia*,

which I hope will be the name given to this country in future, instead of the very erroneous and misapplied name hitherto given it, of 'New Holland' which properly speaking only applies to a part of this immense continent.' "

Of course, the term 'Australia' was prevalent much before this time as *Australis* is the Latin for 'south'. In 1531 the French cartographer Oronce Fine coined the name *Terra Australis* for an imaginary southern continent. Later explorers and authors applied the name or variants of it and "in 1793 George Shaw & James Edward Smith published *The Zoology and Botany of New Holland and the Isles Adjacent* in which they referred to the continent as Australia" (David Colfelt in 'What's In a Name', *Sydney Afloat* February 1996). Flinders' *Voyage to Terra Australis* was the major influence in the later adoption of the name **Australia**.

Norman McVicker, who also answered correctly, points out that 1817 was a most interesting year: "On 8 April, Australia's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) opened for business in Mary Reibey's house in Macquarie Place. Then there were all the carry-ons and court cases between Samuel Marsden and JT Campbell, Macquarie's secretary; whilst on 16 December Macquarie gave a conditional pardon to the convict/architect Francis Greenway."

Thanks to **Megan** and **Norman** and other correct respondents, **Pam Burden**, **Audrey Furney**, **Shirley Hilyard** and **Diane McCarthy**.

Richard Blair

HERITAGE WATCH

Old Marrickville Town Hall

The Society has made a submission to Marrickville Council supporting both the demolition of the rear annexe and the building of a new rear extension to replace the demolished structure at the old Town Hall, 96 Illawarra Road Marrickville. The Society is gratified that the owners, architects and heritage consultants are demonstrating sensitivity to the importance of the original building in adhering to the 2005 Conservation Management Plan. They are all to be congratulated for the admirable progress made to date in preserving and restoring this 1879 building. We thank Council for providing the Society with the opportunity to comment on works proposed to this historic building.

Lorraine Beach

The Hub, Newtown DA Rejected

From *The Glebe* (16/10/08, p. 3): "Marrickville Council has unanimously rejected a \$3 million proposal to convert The Hub in Newtown into a retail space on the ground floor and two levels of commercial offices. The development committee voted against the development application because the proposal called for 'a substantial demolition' of the existing building, resulting in the loss of a 'significant social icon'."



Inside 100-year-old The Hub, prev. Clay's Bridge Theatre (www.realestateview.com.au/199712)

2008 RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE *History in the Heritage Landscape*

For urban dwellers, rural venues for the annual Royal Australian Historical Society Conference provide an ideal opportunity to explore a region of the state often beyond one's experience. For the Society's representatives, **Robert Hutchinson** and **Richard Blair**, it was their first visit to Forbes, with whom the name Ben Hall is synonymous. The focal part of the town seems to be its central park which is surrounded by most of the requisite civic buildings, mostly intact and well restored. However, not even Forbes is developer-free: developers have obtained council approval to demolish an old corner shop in Rankin Street with long-established historic associations with the Chinese community. The conference unanimously voted to canvass the local council to reverse the decision.

MHS was honoured in two ways: we received a Cultural Grant for our essay competition journal and **Robert Hutchinson** received a Certificate of Achievement for his extensive contributions over many years to the Society. Robert assisted in the running of the conference and has again been elected to the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committees. Other MHS members present were **Dorothy Blake** of Wellington, **Sue Jackson-Stepowski** (who gave a paper *Caring for Interwar Era & Art Deco Shop Fronts*), and **Lesley Muir** and **Brian Madden**, all representing other societies.

The conference enables members from many historical societies to mingle and sell their publications. Among the several enlightening talks, some had a practical focus. **Nicola Forbes** examined future management of Department of Lands records, which will make life much easier for the researcher. Now available is the Old Register (9 DVDs) documenting NSW's colonial history 1794 - 1824. RAHS Honorary Archivist **Kylie Rees** discussed *Archiving Your Digital Photos*; whilst **Ellen Forsyth** (State Library of NSW) gave an excellent paper on Web 2.0 defined as "the set of technologies which enable collaboration and sharing between Internet users." She described how blogs, Wikis, Facebook, RSS and other tools can relate to historical societies.

There was considerable rural content. RAHS President **Dr Ian Jack** gave the Keynote Address which examined the significance of Toorale Station, near Bourke, which is currently subject of a buyback by the federal Government to help return water to the Darling River. Here is one of the country's earliest woolsheds where Henry Lawson spent a month as a rouseabout in 1892. Other talks ranged from Rural Fences to Trig Stations to Colonial Commons. Two local talks addressed some bushranger history: Firstly, Escort Rock at Eugowra, site of Australia's largest gold robbery in 1862 involving Ben Hall and Frank Gardiner - the challenge is how to interpret an iconic site currently in private ownership; secondly, buried at Forbes is Kate Kelly, sister of Ned, and subject of the **Kate Kelly Project**, a music theatre work-in-progress.

The Forbes & District Historical Society hosted a welcome function in their excellent Forbes Museum and conducted a town walking tour. Fittingly, the conference concluded with talks on woolsheds, followed by visits to two outlying shearing sheds, Kaloola and Mylandra, sans sheep, but replete with the smell, the atmosphere and the 'sense of place'; seemingly awaiting the return of champion shearer, Jackie Howe!

Richard Blair

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 22 November

A walk through some backstreets of North Sydney with Ted Green (morning)

Saturday 22 November

Tribal Warrior Harbour Cruise (afternoon)

Saturday 6 December

Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

All details on front page

Meaty Questions: When did butcher shops stop covering the floor with sawdust and stop using old newspapers as part of the meat wrapping process?



From *National Trust News Australia* (November 2008, p. 30): "The Trust's *I love this place* 2008 photo exhibition supported by the NSW Architects Registration Board and ABC Local Radio, attracted 700 entries from across Australia, showing the incredible beauty and diversity of our built environments . . . 'Park in Tempe, Sydney' by Andrew Finlayson took out the cash prize of \$2000." One of the judges said "The *Park in Tempe* is a timeless image of the shelter but very modern and iconic too. Aesthetically there is a great balance of composition and colour values." For the record, the park is the Tempe Recreation Reserve. Some entries viewable at the National Trust website <www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au>.

VALE LORI SHORT

Lori Short who died aged 70 on 23 October was a well known community worker and activist in Tempe for a number of years. At the forefront of the Tempe Residents Action Group in the mid 1990s Lori campaigned to retain both the Bus & Truck Museum and the war memorial in Tempe when both were threatened with relocation. Lori was also instrumental in instituting the Dawn Service on Anzac Day at the Tempe Depot and organising the bugler. For many years Lori operated the Tempe Community Centre on Princes Highway which catered for the elderly and underprivileged. Our condolences to Lori's family.

RALLY AGAINST INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT

At a rally in Hyde Park, Sydney on Sunday 19 October a range of community and environmental groups protested against recent changes by the state government to planning laws designed to override council authority, community concerns and expert opinion, and to encourage developers. There were calls to change the new planning laws and to scrap Part 3A of the new planning legislation whereby the Minister for Planning has the power to arrest authority from councils.

It remains to be seen whether the switch in Planning Ministers will make any difference to the extraordinary changes brought about by former Planning Minister Frank Sartor. It seems ironical that whilst the new legislation has grossly reduced the potential impact of individuals, communities and councils in planning decisions in NSW, the federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, recently declared that engaging "the public's imagination on heritage is critical to building a sustainable future for communities" (*National Trust News Australia*, November 2008 p.4). Could there be something of a contradiction here between parties of the same colour at different levels?

The **Historic Houses Trust** was established by the NSW Government in 1980 to care for key historic buildings and sites of cultural significance across the State. Following the recent retirement after 27 years of founding director, Peter Watts AM (see August newsletter), Kate Clark has been appointed as the new Director. She "is an Australian who has nearly 26 years international experience in heritage, working in museums, the voluntary, educational and state sectors . . . She has written extensively about heritage management, historical archaeology and the wider value of heritage in the modern world [and] is acclaimed for her achievements in conservation policy and planning, largely in the UK."

Major George Johnston and his convict mistress (later wife) Esther Abrahams built *Annandale House*, in present day Macaulay Road Stanmore. The story of their colonial experiences is told in *Marine Officer, Convict Wife: The Johnstons of Annandale* by Alan Roberts (240 pp, 80+ ill, RRP \$29.95). Available at bookshops or by mail order from Annandale Urban Research Foundation on 9660 3468.

The annual **Back to Marrickville Road** is on Saturday 15 November in Alex Trevallion Plaza from 11 am to 3 pm. A highlight of the display will be a focus on the 50th anniversary of Youth Week in the Marrickville LGA. This Festival of Youth followed a riot by bodgies and widgies in Marrickville Road in January 1958.

St Peters Cooks River History Group website is:
<www.stpeterscooksriverhistory.wordpress.com>

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