

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



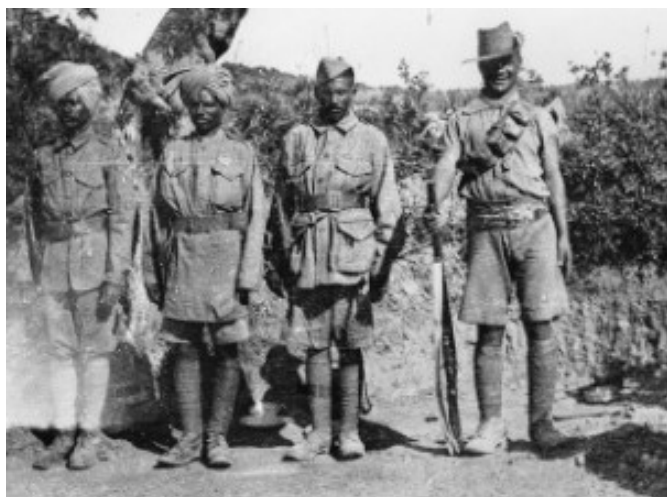
OUR NEXT MEETING

25 April 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Barrie Dyster *Grieving for Gallipoli: Aleppo Annandale Algiers Amritsar Auckland...*

This talk raises three questions, which should spur general discussion. Have there been distinctly Australian ways of remembering Anzac and the Great War? How have those ways changed over 90 years? Given that Australians comprised only a small fraction of the soldiers who died at Gallipoli, how have families grieved in the dozen or so other countries who lost young men there in 1915?



Two Sikhs, an Indian (wearing an Australian jacket) and a Gurkha (far right) at Walden Grove, Gallipoli Peninsula on 25/4/1915 (AWM C00370)

Barrie Dyster, a MHS member for almost ten years, is a historian at the University of New South Wales, where he teaches a subject that explores the long-run causes of the current global carbon and economic crises. Most of his publications (which include *Servant & master: building and running the grand houses of Sydney 1788-1850*, 1989) deal with 19th century Australia.

As a prelude to the talk **Robert Hutchinson** will present some postcards, in keeping with the occasion. Members are invited to arrive around 10 am to partake of morning tea featuring **Robert's** Anzac biscuits.

COOKS RIVER FESTIVAL

Steel Park, Illawarra Rd Marrickville

Sunday 19 April 11 am-4 pm

Eco-themed information stalls, sustainable workshops, arts, free entertainment and walks along Cooks River. MHS will have a stall at this growing festival.

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL 4-19 APRIL

MHS TURNS 25

On 28 April 1984 about 45 residents met to form the Marrickville Heritage Society; this was formalised on 26 May when the Constitution was adopted. Our first Saturday meeting was 23 June at the Alderman's Room, Petersham Town Hall when Chrys Meader presented *Our Local History Collection and You*.

On 24 April 1994 we celebrated our 10th anniversary at Trethaway Gardens, Shaw Street, Petersham. On 24 April 2004 we celebrated our 20th anniversary at Herb Greedy Hall. Remember Robert's superb cake! On 23 May we are planning a 25th anniversary Pot Luck Picnic. Details will be in our May newsletter. Meanwhile Happy 25th Anniversary MHS!

Sydney Bus and Truck Museum, Tempe

The Sydney Bus and Truck Museum advises that as it cannot ensure the safety of the general public in the event of fire in the museum building, they have had to close the museum to the public for about six months. However the Bus Shop will remain open to the public on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 3 pm whilst the vintage bus rides will continue.

During this closure the museum volunteers will be busy with restoration work and maintaining the collection. The date of reopening will depend on negotiations with the landlord, the STA, about bringing the building up to date. Enquiries 9558 1234 or the website <www.sydneybusmuseum.com>.

The 2009 Marrickville Medal presentation

ceremony will be on Wednesday 15 April from 6 pm at Petersham Town Hall. Anyone wishing to vote in the Peoples Choice Award can go to Council's website <www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au>. The guest speaker is **Caroline Pidcock**, an architect with genuine interest and experience in sustainable built environments, Industry Representative of the Australian Building Codes Board, Member of Bicycle NSW Board and AI Gore trainee. Caroline is a past President of the Australian Institute of Architects NSW, Member of Architects NSW Registration Board and adjunct professor/lecturer various universities in NSW. All members and friends welcome.

As the Society's storage arrangements with Reiby Hall are no longer viable we have had to put our records and stock into expensive storage. We are continuing to explore other avenues for a permanent and suitable home with significantly cheaper overheads. Do let us know if you have any ideas.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Sydney in the 1860s and 1870s—pictures from the State Library: A Pictorial tour with Lesley Muir

On Saturday 28 February MHS members enjoyed an entertaining pictorial tour of old Sydney with high quality photography by the likes of Charles Bayliss, Beaufoy Merlin and Charles Pickering. Our guide **Dr Lesley Muir** related how many of the negatives were found in the possession of Bernard Holtermann's descendants in 1953.

We saw the Tower of Government House (1868), Fort Denison (1857)—Quarantine Station for the occupants of infected ships on arrival in Sydney—and Admiralty House (1885), then built to the second level. The tour moved to Circular Quay (1868) and took us to the Paragon Hotel (now McDonalds) and paddle steamers; the Battery at Dawes Point, where Robert Campbell organised imports and exports, and Mort's Wool Store built in 1869 (on the site of the AMP building) which introduced the sawtooth roof.

Moving to The Rocks we saw Cadman's Cottage and the Seamen's Mission. In Kent Street, the Australasia Steam Company designed accommodation for deliveries and those buildings later became warehouses. Bridge Street saw the arrival of and housed the Colonial Secretary of Public Works Dept (1873).

In 1868 the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Sydney and an arch was built in his honour next to the Paragon Hotel. Elizabeth Street was an affluent area where town houses were built. In 1866 the statue of Albert the Good was erected. In College Street the new St Mary's Cathedral was built, designed with large windows which made the interior hot from the sun. Other highlights were of St James's prior to any changes, and the Mint and Infirmary (1813) – the old Colonial Hospital.

The picture of Domain Terrace showed us the 'Avenue of Oaks' which was a popular area along which people enjoyed walking. Macquarie Street sited some elaborate town houses of which two remain. Architect John Horbury Hunt's Victoria House Emporium (Farmers), known as the 'The Red Barn', was built of red brick as well as tile and stone. The arcade was contained within a row of arches so ladies did not get their skirts dirty whilst peering into the windows.

Temperance Hall built in 1870 housed a refined dining room in which tea and coffee could be taken, together with a separate dining room for the ladies. A strict 'no alcohol' rule was maintained. The pictures of Darling Harbour revealed the slums before the building boom, including a very tiny old tenement in Shaw's Court which had housed a man and his family.

Further photos showed Sussex Street with probably one of the first 'alternative' therapies in the form of an Electro-Chemical bath described as a 'natural cure'; the rail extension which reached Darling Harbour, Sydney University on the Parramatta Road and the Fish Market with its weathervane 'Fish' in Woolloomooloo; and locally, Stanmore Road.

These photos are all in the Picman Catalogue at the State Library of NSW. Thank you Lesley for taking us back in time on this memorable, informative and well presented tour.

Vivien Wherry

OUR LAST MEETING

TEMPE HOUSE & ENVIRONS WITH SCOTT MACARTHUR

Our tour on Saturday 28 March sparked sufficient interest to attract over 50 members and friends, despite the owners (Australand & Landcom) refusing to allow weekend access into John Verge's gem and the adjoining neo-Gothic style St Magdalen's Chapel now deconsecrated. Tour leader **Scott MacArthur**, site architect for the conservation works, was well prepared, outlining both the history of occupancy and the scope of the conservation project. Using maps, old photographs and large coloured photographs of aspects of the works, he showed how these buildings were transformed, as much as possible, to their original state.

From the glory days of Alexander Brodie Spark, merchant and businessman, who had commissioned Verge in 1836 through to his years of insolvency; the brief period (1863-65) when social reformer, Caroline Chisholm, conducted the girls school *Greenbank*; to 1885 when Tempe House was sold to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of St Benedict, who ran a refuge for women and adolescent girls until 1983. The property was sold to Qantas and on sold to developers. The Sisters both built the beautiful St Magdalen's Chapel (attributed to firm of Sheerin and Hennessy, 1888) and modified Tempe House, making extensive additions to suit their noble purposes. (Fortuitously we were joined on the day by a great great granddaughter of Spark as well as a member who had lived at the refuge for 18 months around 1970; in conversation these two women discovered their respective forebears, Spark and Campbell, were associates.)

Members will recall the restoration of Tempe House came at a cost, namely having the substantial Discovery Point apartments built directly behind when facing Cooks River. How this is regarded is matter of individual taste, nevertheless, it seems ample curtilage has been left around Tempe House and the chapel. Another casualty of the apartment development was the decimation of Mt Olympus, but what remains has been attractively landscaped affording a buffer between Tempe House and the highway. Once ownership of the buildings passes into the hands of the complex's body corporate, entry into the buildings should be more feasible. Many thanks Scott, for your fascinating tour of John Verge's restored world.

Richard Blair



Members at Tempe House (photo: Lorraine Beach)

WHAT SOME MEMBERS ARE UP TO ...

Firstly we thank ex MHS president **Peter Cousens** for generously allowing the Society free garage space for storage over many years. It has been most appreciated!

Joan Francis has items of her family memorabilia on display in *Faces of Canada Bay* at Five Dock Library in Garfield Street until 28 April. These include some of her parent's letters and photos from WW1, auto-graphed books (presented at the February 2008 MHS Show & Tell), and a beautiful handpainted satin handkerchief case still with the handpainted silk hankies and a perfume sachet inside. Printed on the outside are the words "to my sweetheart Florrie".

Shirley Kirkman, our member in West Wyalong, writes that she continues her long involvement with the West Wyalong Museum (established 1965) run by the Bland District Historical Society.

Congratulations to **Norman McVicker** of Mudgee on three counts: a) for completing his 1000th newspaper column with the *Mudgee Guardian* on 10 November 2008; b) for setting up his Wallaby Track website <www.budgeebudgee.com>; and c) for publishing his book, *Tales from along the Wallaby Track*. The 64 tales, which have all appeared in Norman's *Mudgee Guardian* column, relate to Mudgee, Henry Lawson and family, Norman's theatre memories, significant men and women, and convict and colonial times. In both book and website Norman is indebted to Sofianto Lee. The book is \$30 (plus p&p \$7.50; see website for details or ring the MHS editor).

Anatomy (premiered at the 2008 Sydney Film Festival) is an Australian documentary series comprised of three unusual and compelling stories – *Skin*, *Heart* and *Muscle* – which all touch upon a wide range of human experience and emotion well beyond the boundaries of traditional arts documentaries. *Skin*, directed by Rhys Graham, examines the 20-year collaboration between tattooist/artist eX de Medici and her subject **Geoff Ostling** as they negotiate the possibility of bequeathing Geoff's tattooed skin as an artwork when he dies. *Skin*, which has just been invited to the TriBeCa Film Festival in New York, will be shown on *Artscape* on ABC1 on Tuesday 14 April at 10.05 pm.

Dan Young has family in both Sydney and Los Angeles and bides his time between the two. As well as being a MHS member he is a member of the Highland Park Heritage Trust which covers the Arroyo Seco communities in LA and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007. In its impressive brochure the HPHT claims to have "served as one of the most effective preservation organisations in the city of Los Angeles and the State."

We welcome **Hilda York** back to the Marrickville area after living in The Rocks for several years. Hilda was born in Marrickville in 1915 and spent most of her life in the local area growing up in Agar Street and moving to Petersham Road. Some of Hilda's memoirs appeared in *Heritage* 9 (1995). Hilda's brother William Hamnett, was also a MHS member who died in 2006 aged 100. Hilda's son **Robert** and his wife **Vivien** have recently joined the Society. Robert has lived in the LGA all his life.

Finally, we congratulate **Margaret Sinclair** whose family recently hosted a surprise 95th birthday party. Many Happy Returns to our Life Member Margaret!

MARRICKVILLE ANZAC CLUB CLOSES

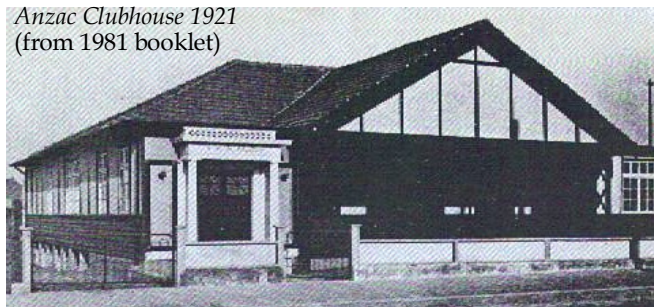
The closure of **Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club** was virtually inevitable given the parlous financial state the club was in (see MHS newsletter March 2008) and the club going into liquidation in July 2008 after being under voluntary administration for six months. Once merger talks and alternate loan arrangements had fallen through, it was sold to a developer at auction for \$2.55 million and the Australian flag was lowered for the final time on 22 March 2009.

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OLDEST EX-SERVICES CLUB?

The *History of Marrickville 1861-1936* (p. 63) credits businessman HT Seymour with being responsible for "creating probably the first Soldiers' Club in Sydney". Seymour was the first president of the Marrickville Sub-Branch of the RS & SILA (forerunner to the RSL) formed in October 1919 and building commenced in 1920. The club opened in Garners Avenue Marrickville on 30 July 1921. Meader, Cashman & Carolan *Marrickville People & Places* 1994 (p. 160) indicates the "club claims to being the oldest ex-servicemen's club to be established in New South Wales". Curiously no such claim is made in *60 Years of proud achievement 1921-1981*, a souvenir booklet prepared for the 4 November 1981 official opening of the club's new premises. Maybe they saw no need to make such a claim. Are there any other claimants?

Anzac Clubhouse 1921
(from 1981 booklet)



The date such an organisation begins depends largely on the yardstick used. Is it when the germ of an idea develops, when the first committee meeting is held, when the constitution takes effect, when the fundraising starts, when the foundation stone is laid or when the first permanent premises open? Take the case of the still thriving **Petersham RSL**. In 1919 a public meeting resulted in a committee being formed to begin fundraising towards erecting a memorial hall for those who served in the First World War. Whilst the foundation stone was laid on 8 November 1924 and the **Petersham Soldiers Memorial Hall** opened at 9 Canterbury Road Petersham on 6 March 1925, Petersham RSL regards 1919 as its establishment year (*50th Anniversary Supplement Petersham RSL* 1969). In which case the Anzac Club claim of being the oldest or first is seriously challenged.

Originally known as the Petersham-Marrickville RSL Sub-Branch, Marrickville separated from Petersham in 1951 and in 1961 the Petersham RSL Sub-Branch moved into its current location in Regent Street Petersham. By the 1990s this forlorn hall was being used for storage, and last year it was sold. Funny that, as the *50th Anniversary Supplement* states "as a gift from the citizens of Petersham, it can never be sold". Clearly, in the 21st century, nothing is sacred!

Richard Blair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday 17– Sunday 19 April
Braidwood Weekend (see below)

Saturday 25 April
Barrie Dyster: *Grieving for Gallipoli*
Details on front page

Saturday 23 May
MHS 25th Anniversary Pot Luck Picnic

Saturday 27 June
Annual General Meeting

Braidwood Weekend **Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April**

Meet opposite Petersham Town Hall, Crystal Street on Friday 17 April at 9 for 9.15 am sharp departure. We're travelling in just one 34 seater luxury coach; please limit luggage, but be sure to bring a warm jacket as nights will be cold. Expected return time to Petersham is 4-5 pm Sunday. Any questions, contact Lorraine at lbeach@iprimus.com.au or 9550 6608 or 0416 224 472.

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

What mayors (if any) of Camperdown, Marrickville, Newtown, Petersham and St Peters municipalities have achieved fame in an area unrelated to local government or politics; and how? Richard 9557 3823.



This plaque is on the Eliza Street frontage (near King Street) Newtown of the Zanzibar Hotel. The New Town store was replaced by the Daniel Webster Hotel in 1863 and became the Oxford Hotel in 1875. In the 1980s the name was varied to the Oxford Tavern. It has been the Zanzibar since 2001.
(photo: Richard Blair)

PLACE NAMES PROJECT

Chaired by Coordinator, **Rowena Ward**, a workshop for the Place Names Project was held on Saturday 14 March. Our thanks to members who attended – Di Beckett, Iain Carolin, Jan Garaty, Chris King, Sonia Lavery, Scott MacArthur, Diane McCarthy and Sue Miller – and enthusiastically embraced this project. The task is to research and provide descriptions of nearly 100 places on the NSW Geographical Names Board's list of names for Marrickville LGA. The response of the Names Project team members exceeded our expectations, with about 80 of the entries allocated. It's not too late to join in; there are still interesting places on our list needing a researcher. Contact Lorraine lbeach@iprimus.com.au or 0416 224 472 or 9550 6608. Special thanks to Di Beckett for hosting our inaugural meeting.

Lorraine Beach (Convenor)

VALE

Frances Muller, formerly of Earlwood and Wyong, who died on 26 January aged 94, was a long term MHS member, and active in Canterbury & District Historical Society and in the Earlwood area, contributing many historical articles to the *Earlwood Community News*.

Sheila Swain, who died on 21 February aged 88, joined MHS in 1997. A resident of Hunters Hill, Sheila was a councillor there for 20 years and mayor for four years in the 1980s. For over 40 years Sheila was very involved in heritage and environmental matters including Save the Lane Cove Valley Group and the saving of Vienna Cottage (now held by the National Trust) and stayed involved with running Vienna Cottage. A former member of the NSW Heritage Council, her accomplishments were numerous. In 1986 she was named Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women and in 1987 was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

We also note the deaths of:

John Dortkamp, late of Queensland and Cronulla, who died on 18 December aged 81. John grew up in Thornley Street Marrickville with his sister, the late Margaret Dortkamp, a MHS member. Some of John's wartime recollections were recalled in *Marrickville Remembers 1939-1945* (1997) and in his short memoir *In, and Out of, Uniform* (1995) which traces his early years around Marrickville.

Les Saxby, a respected member of the Aboriginal community, who died on 8 February aged 37. Les was a professional artist and a talented performer, who in 1992 founded the acclaimed Yidaki Didg and Dance. He often performed *Welcome to Country* at community functions, festivals and other events.

Peter Wherrett, on 23 March aged 72, notable motor-journalist, who was born in Marrickville.

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