

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

25TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCH

Saturday 30 May 12.30 for 1 pm

The Petersham Bowling Club

77 Brighton St Petersham (cnr The Avenue)
(in lieu of our usual fourth Saturday meeting)

Marrickville Heritage Society is 25 years old and the committee invites all members to attend our Birthday Lunch to celebrate this significant occasion. The Petersham Bowling Club, part of inner west life since 1896, provides a refreshing community-focused "pokie free" environment. We have planned an informal gathering, conducive to relaxing, socialising with fellow members or even trying your hand at barefoot outdoor bowls. From the club's tempting menus, we have selected a Buffet Lunch, including dessert. The Society will pay for members' lunch. Drinks will be at your own cost from the bar at the club's reasonable prices.

Cost: members no charge; members' guests \$25. Bookings are essential, no later than 25 May. If you have to cancel, please let us know as soon as you can as once we advise numbers we're committed to paying. On-street parking; Petersham railway station and 412, 413, 445 and Parramatta Road bus routes are close by. If you would like to attend but have transport difficulties, let us know as we can often assist. Old MHS-related photos and memorabilia on the day are welcome. For enquiries and bookings contact Richard on 9557 3823 (d/n) or blairitage@optusnet.com.au.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK

11-17 MAY 2009

WINGED VICTORY TAKES FLIGHT

As foreshadowed in our February/March newsletter, the Winged Victory statue was taken down by Marrickville Council on 24 April – not ideal timing on the eve of Anzac Day. It is hoped that the requisite funding can be quickly made available so that the restoration can proceed and the iconic statue reinstated. The Society urges Council to consult restoration sculptor Alex Kolozsy in the process. Updated information will be provided to members as it comes to hand. Meanwhile continue to appreciate our MHS logo!



Winged Victory monument
on Anzac Day 2009
(photo: Lorraine Beach)

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL'S 2009 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Marrickville Council presented two Special Achievement Awards at the Marrickville Medal Award night on Wednesday 15 April at Petersham Town Hall. The awards were presented by Marrickville Mayor Sam Iskander.

One award went to popular MHS member **Robert Hutchinson**: "As a local resident and member of the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee, Robert has continued to promote history and heritage in the area particularly through his contributions to the Local Historic Photographic database."

The other award went to **Helen Cooper**: "Helen has promoted history and heritage through her former role as a teacher at Ferncourt Primary School and on a voluntary basis."

The Society congratulates Robert and Helen.
(photos courtesy of Marrickville Council)



See inside for photos and Scott MacArthur's report on 2009 Marrickville Medal award winners

The Autumn Trivia answers will appear in the June newsletter. So more time to respond!

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

Marrickville Medal 2009

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded on an annual basis since 1995 as part of the Marrickville Heritage Festival and the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Festival. This year there were over 20 entries, which in the present economic climate is exciting. The judges were **Michael Funston**, whose house in Dulwich Hill was Commended in last year's Marrickville Medal; MHS President **Scott MacArthur** and **Julie Mackenzie**, an architect at Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects that worked on the multi-award winning Carriageworks conservation project in Redfern.

The judges reported that they were again very impressed with the high standard of entries this year, particularly in the residential alterations and additions field, that made up the bulk of the entries. The heritage consultants that Council has engaged to advise on the new LEP conservation areas attended the presentation ceremony on 15 April, and they commented that they were delighted that so many of the entries were demonstrating the principles that they were proposing – consideration of streetscape and deferential rear additions.

The judges awarded one **Highly Commended citation** in recognition of the outstanding alterations, additions, and restoration of **22 Dixon Street in Dulwich Hill**, designed by Emily Knight Design. Located in the Abergeldie Estate Conservation Area, this interwar house has been faithfully restored. The original formal lounge room has been extended using the original glass doors to create a larger and more flexible space. A sympathetic yet distinctly contemporary addition to the rear is oriented to the north and the garden has been added. The addition provides a light-filled kitchen, dining and living space with a separate 'granny flat' to the rear. The use of timber responds sympathetically to the detailing of the original house and has a handcrafted feel. Overall the judges were impressed with "the well resolved design that created an intimate garden setting and flexible contemporary home for an extended family, while maintaining the essential heritage character of the house in its setting" (photo below courtesy Marrickville Council).



The judges singled out two other projects for **Commendations**: a) **27 Blairgowrie Street, Dulwich Hill** (Restoration): This project involved removing unsightly alterations from the exterior of this detached Victorian villa and carefully considered restoration works, so that it once again matched its grand neighbour just down the street. The front verandah was faithfully restored, with the existing pebblecrete replaced with tessellated tiles and the skillion roof with a curved profiled roof to match the original. The

Winner of the Marrickville Medal

The Medal was won by the adaptive reuse of the **Gladstone Street (formerly Crago) Flour Mills in Newtown**, designed by Allen Jack + Cottier Architects. The semi-derelict former flour mill and artists studios were converted into 47 small, yet exciting, commercial suites aimed at 'creative' businesses. Original artefacts including line shafting and drive belts have been retained and restored, conserving an idea of how the mill originally functioned. This history is further interpreted by means of graphic panels. There is a clear distinction between old and new building fabric. The partitions and insertions are essentially reversible in line with good conservation practice and the Burra Charter. New services are exposed. On the ground floor a vibrant cafe ensures a wider audience appreciate the building. The judges noted that, "this was a most stimulating and exciting project that makes a valuable contribution to the Newtown community as a whole." Interestingly, the conversion of the eastern end of the building for apartments won the Marrickville Medal in 2006.



front garden was landscaped with a new entry path and appropriate gates and fence. The judges felt that "the streetscape has been markedly improved by the restoration of original features, and hopefully it will encourage others in the community to do the same."

b) **26 Fairmount Street Dulwich Hill** (Alterations and Additions): The restoration of this original and highly intact Federation style dwelling was complimented by a two-storey addition at the rear, designed by RedShift Architecture. Sensitive solutions to providing contemporary accommodation for family living, combined with a respect for the existing streetscape were the hallmarks of this project. The judges were particularly impressed at the effort the owners had gone to involve neighbouring properties in their project. Working with the owners of the adjoining semi, the roof was sympathetically replaced and front stained glass windows were added to match those from the adjacent Federation semi. This has had a positive impact on the streetscape and the judges hope that this "encourages other property owners to see the value of the restoration of original features".

Five other finalists were: **51 Cardigan Street, Stanmore** (Alterations & additions to a Federation villa); **5 Railway Ave, Stanmore** (Alterations & Additions/Restoration of a Federation villa and stables); **3 Gould Avenue, Lewisham** (Alterations & additions to a Federation villa); **11 Swain Street, Sydenham** (Restoration of shopfront awning); **40 Myrtle Street, Stanmore** (Alterations & additions/Restoration to a Victorian villa). The **People's Choice award** was won by the owners of **15 Oxford Street, Petersham**, for their restoration and alterations to this grand two-storey Victorian Filigree detached terrace.

Scott MacArthur

OUR LAST MEETING GRIEVING FOR GALLIPOLI WITH BARRIE DYSTER

On the morning of 25 April, Anzac Day, our talk was preceded by two members who set the scene: **Robyn Johnson** with memories of her father, Warrant Officer Roy Johnson who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front; and **Robert Hutchinson** with relevant post-cards, some depicting the Winged Victory monument by Gilbert Doble erected outside Marrickville Town Hall in 1919. Ironically the crowning figure on the column was removed for repairs the day before our talk!

Barrie Dyster, a MHS member and historian at UNSW, took us on a journey of the Gallipoli campaign. It was a revelation to hear the roll call of the countries that were there (of course, I should have remembered how vast the British Empire was!). And so for King and Country, off the ships at dawn they came: English, Indians, Sikhs – a mounted battery from Amritsar under constant fire, hauling howitzers through the surf. For King and Country, they came from Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) where 18 tea plantation workers formed a bodyguard for Lt General Sir William Birdwood; from Ireland, South Wales, Annandale in Dumfriesshire, Scotland – or was that **our** Annandale and George Johnston's descendants? – and the Lancashire Fusiliers came to fight. At the mention of the little village of Marrick in North Yorkshire, that sent men, there was a ripple of recognition among Barrie's audience – the origin of the name 'Marrickville'. On the third landing at Canakkale, near Troy, were mostly young men from France's 11 African colonies, including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, and members of the French Foreign Legion. At Cape Helles there were six Victoria Crosses that morning.

The physical evidence of our remembrance are the many memorials and monuments with Balmain the first (1916). They took many forms: a triumphal arch in Burwood Park; the 'white Digger' in Camperdown Park and Bus/Tram Depot in Tempe. The Cenotaph, Martin Place and the War Memorial, Hyde Park are the focus of gatherings in Sydney. Not forgetting that the most poignant and moving of all are the marches of the returned service personnel following the Dawn Services all over Australia on Anzac Day. In a tangible way those soldiers who returned were remembered by Soldier Settlement with 40,000 farms; the Repatriation Department 1918, a welfare scheme and War Service Homes whereby a house could be purchased at very low repayments. But Legacy, first in Hobart, was to support widows and children.

The casualties, a euphemism for the death of young men – 'the flower of their nations' – was horrific with the Ottoman troops sustaining the most losses. The enlightened President Kemal Ataturk's address in the Turkish Parliament offered solace to the grieving when he said – "You, the mothers, who sent your sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

We thank **Barrie Dyster** for a marvellous address that conveyed much more about Gallipoli and its aftermath that was perhaps beyond our understanding.

Shirley Hilyard

ORIGINS OF THE DAWN SERVICE

"On returning from a function in the early hours of one morning in 1927, five members of the Association of Returned Sailors and Soldiers Clubs (later to become known as the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Clubs) saw an old lady with a bunch of flowers proceed to the Cenotaph. Mr G Patterson spoke to her and asked if they could be of any help, and as the lady placed the flowers on the Cenotaph they bowed their heads and said a prayer. They then proceeded home. Those five men were Messrs Jim Davidson of the Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club, Ernie Rushbrook, G Patterson, LA Stickler and W Gamble.

At a delegates meeting of the Association of Returned Sailors & Soldiers Clubs (not the RSL) a motion was introduced by Ernie Rushbrook and endorsed by the executive 'that a wreath be placed on the Cenotaph at Dawn, 4.30 am on 25th April, 1928.' Thus began the Dawn Service tradition in Martin Place" (from Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club Special Souvenir booklet *60 Years of Proud Achievement 1921-1981*).

Other sources claim the first official Dawn Service was at The Cenotaph in 1927. However a plaque next to a gravesite in Herberton, Queensland claims the first Dawn Service was held in Albany, WA in 1923.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: REGIMENT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY (from June 1991 MHS newsletter)

"March 1991 marked the 75th anniversary of the formation of the 7th Field Regiment at 'The Warren' in Marrickville. Laurie Hindmarsh of the Royal Australian Artillery Association reports that the occasion was celebrated in grand style with a commemorative service at the Garrison Church, The Rocks, during which a memorial tablet was unveiled. The tablet mentions 'The Warren'. Following the service the regiment fired a *feu de joie* at Dawes Point and then hosted a luncheon at the Artillery Centre, North Head, Manly."

"Laurie writes: 'The original enlistments at 'The Warren' in 1916 established a record second to none as evidenced by the award of 128 decorations for valour in the 1914-1918 war. The price paid to establish that record was 132 deaths and 578 wounded or gassed. The 7th today is alive and well and is justifiably proud of its contribution to this country's history.'"

Note: The 7th Field Regiment RAA Association is now based at Pymble.

Apropos the article in the April newsletter regarding old local service clubs the editor has been reliably informed that the proceeds from the sale of the old Petersham Soldiers Memorial Hall **will** revert to the local community as per the original proviso. However details cannot be revealed until certain bureaucratic and legal issues have been resolved. Watch this space!

Congratulations to Marrickville Council for distributing to all local residents free stickers for letter boxes stating "No Advertising Material". Whilst some residents appreciate this material, delivery of which provides some employment, it adds substantially to the amount of paper going to waste and much of it ends up as street litter and in drains.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 30 May

MHS 25th Birthday Celebration Lunch

Details on front page

Saturday 27 June

Annual General Meeting

Historical Walking Tour of the Tempe Area Monday 8 June (Queen's Birthday Holiday) 2 pm

Run by the St Peters Cooks River History Group. Meet at Tempe Station, Griffiths Street Tempe. Free, but limited numbers. For enquiries or bookings ring 9558 7504 or email history@cooksriver.net.

VALE TO THREE MEMBERS

Joan Carey of Newtown died on 14 April aged 86 and had been a member since 1999. Born in WA, Joan had three children, Catherine, Gabrielle and Russell and had been well known in the Sutherland area as a community nurse, a peace activist and a campaigner for social justice. She became actively involved with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and People for Nuclear Disarmament. Gabrielle, co-author of *Puberty Blues*, recently published *Waiting Room: A Memoir*, a tribute to her mother Joan's life.

Tony Miller of Newtown died on 14 April aged 80 and had joined the Society with his wife Sue in 1984. Born in London, Tony and Sue owned antique shops in Paddington and Kilburn, London before migrating to Australia in 1983 when they opened *Odds & Sods* in King Street Newtown which they successfully ran until 1990. Tony was actively involved in the campaign opposing the Third Runway in the 1990s.

Mary (known as Molly) Mitchell of Dulwich Hill died on 15 April aged 92 and joined MHS in 2002. Most of her life was spent in Dulwich Hill and she was very active in the Presbyterian Church as the Sunday School secretary and Superintendent. Molly participated in the Society's Oral History Project in the late 1990s. She had two daughters Susan (married to fellow member, Graeme Napier) and Margaret.

Our condolences to all these grieving families.

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MHS WEEKEND IN BRAIDWOOD

"There's much more to see and do in Goulburn than in Braidwood," I was informed during our tour of Goulburn on Friday 17 April. Perhaps so, but in few towns in this state would one find such charm, such history and such a sense of, well, the 19th century, as in Braidwood, as well as the fact that it is the only NSW town that has been heritage-listed. So what was the first thing, after breakfast, that our heritage-minded travellers did on the Saturday morning? Visited the monthly local market of course, in search of trash, treasure and Diana Pottery. Organiser **Lorraine Beach** had structured the weekend to allow ample time to shop, visit the museum and undertake the comprehensive self-guided tour of the town sights.

Apropos all best laid plans, our visit to the Monga Rainforest was stymied by our coach getting stuck on a back country road requiring the assistance of country folk, ever willing to assist in a crisis. Our stoic bunch made the most of the situation, partaking of our takeaway lunch of wraps in a bush setting accompanied by assorted canines, attached to a nearby homestead.

Who said you can't get a decent meal in the bush? Well, no one complained about our substantial breakfasts at Shirly's Cafe, whilst our dinners at the Albion Cafe (Friday) and the Reidsdale Old Cheese Factory (Saturday) would match the cuisine of most city restaurants. Our Friday night guest, **Antony Davies**, notable antique and fine arts expert, gave the history of the area; while at Reidsdale, local farmer **Martin Royds** shared his passion for putting carbon back into the soil. Martin has spurned the use of chemicals for more progressive and innovative techniques largely inspired by conservation guru Peter Andrews.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was our visit to the 1836 Georgian house **Bedervale**, architect John Verge, containing furniture owned by the National Trust. The house is still occupied by the owners, the Royds family, who accompanied us on guided tours of this marvellous house. They gave us morning tea in the courtyard before our departure for Sydney.

On the Friday in Goulburn we lunched at the Paragon Cafe and visited the magnificent St Saviours Anglican Cathedral, architect Edmund Blacket. The Goulburn Heritage Group has offered to host a visit to their area (duly noted).

Special thanks to all those who facilitated our visit, but most of all to tour organiser, **Lorraine Beach** who did an exceptional job. So, where to next?

Richard Blair

Note: The Collectors program (ABC1 Fridays 8 pm) on 5 June will feature *Bedervale* and Antony Davies' property.

The Braidwood Bunch at Bedervale
(photo Lorraine Beach)

