

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Rural fences: Australian settlement history and technology with Dr John Pickard
Saturday 22 August 10 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Rural fences are ubiquitous across Australia, but they are almost invisible and neglected as historic and heritage objects. They form an archive recording the settlement of Australia by Europeans, and provide vital clues and information on the way our landscape has been managed. Fences also record major technological changes from iron to steel, and in manufacturing development e.g., the establishment of wire netting manufacture in Australia.

Dr John Pickard will describe his research at over 5,000 sites across Australia, including several obsolete fences now of considerable heritage value, and will consider the historic information embodied in the fences. Some posts, droppers and wires will be displayed to illustrate some changes in fence technology since the 19th century.



John Pickard measuring wire diameters of a derelict fence on 'Old Kalpowar', Cape York Peninsula

After John started mapping vegetation in western NSW in 1969, he worked as Assistant Commissioner of the Western Lands Commission, then taught postgraduates at Macquarie University for 13 years. He has written several papers on the history and heritage of Australian rural fences. Currently he is preparing an *Illustrated glossary of Australian rural fence terms* that will be of interest to local historians.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Carole Adams, Valmai Bland, Peter Munro, Bob Payne, Fr John Pearce CP (St Brigid's Catholic Church), all of Marrickville; Clara Blazer, Newtown; Barry Korendijk, Blackheath; Peter & Caroline Lowry, Cremorne Point; Paul Jennings, Kiama; Beryl Smithson, Monterey.

Despite widespread public opposition and clear evidence of a recent surge in the local population, the state government sold the former 1887 **Enmore Public School, Metropolitan Road** to a developer on 7 July for what's considered a meagre \$2.8M.

HISTORY WEEK 5-13 SEPTEMBER
SCANDALS, CRIME AND CORRUPTION

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

COACH TRIP TO HISTORIC WALLSEND
Saturday 26 September 7.15 for 7.30 am departure



Wallsend Post Office 1882 (photo: Allan Eastham)

Further details in September newsletter, but we'll start taking bookings now. Early coach departure from Petersham Town Hall. **All inclusive cost \$50** (covers morning tea, lunch, tours and walks led by local heritage guides) **payable in advance**, including at our August meeting. **Bookings essential:** Diane 9588 4930 or email <diane.mccarthy@optusnet.com.au>.

LOCAL HERITAGE PROJECT GRANTS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT

- \$60,000 to the **Greek Atlas League** for building works at the old **Marrickville Town Hall, Illawarra Road Marrickville**
- \$30,000 pro rata grant for **St Luke's Anglican Church, Enmore** for conservation works to the 1883 Wordsworth & Maskell pipe organ
- \$30,000 dollar-for-dollar grant to **St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River** for stabilisation works

MARRICKVILLE MEANDER

Sunday 20 September 1.30 pm

Meet Marrickville Town Hall steps Marrickville Rd

This **National Trust-organised heritage walk** will be led by MHS member **Laurel Horton**. Cost includes a delicious afternoon tea and members of TOSA playing the Wurlitzer organ in the town hall. Cost \$30. Bookings essential. Ring Ron 0418 112 018; leave your name and phone number in message (Note: this is **not** a MHS-organised event).

OUR LAST MEETING

St Andrew's College tour with Dr Ian Jack

On Saturday 25 July around 30 MHS members gathered on a remarkably warm terrace in front of a fine old Pymont sandstone edifice, with the blue and white flag of St Andrew (representing Scotland) fluttering bravely above. Our gracious host was St Andrew's College Senior Fellow and Archivist **Dr Ian Jack**. The group headed through a war memorial foyer beneath the imposing tower of the main building to the old dining room, remarkable for its extensive collection of Scottish books and an interior beautifully restored in original colours. A section of an 1892 redecoration has also been thoughtfully revived, both



Lorraine Beach's group photo on the oval features Dr Ian Jack in the right foreground with the main college building behind to the right

We enjoyed morning tea at a very large dining table in the air-conditioned room while our guide gave an interesting and informative outline of the history of St Andrew's, an independent residential college of Sydney University on its own land and revelling in 133 years of tradition. The latter included somewhat barbaric freshman initiations, but the once Spartan residencies are these days more popular, and fully occupied with 250 happily co-ed and more civilised students (the college became co-ed in 2002).

The college was built, Dr Jack stressed, not thanks to any single wealthy sponsor, but from numerous, mostly five pound, donations from the nineteenth century NSW Presbyterian community. The college was essentially an all-northern affair, with architect, builder and interior decorators all proud Scots. Indeed Scottish themes are everywhere apparent and the college even has its own tartan, although Australian motifs also feature. The main building opened in 1876, with extensions completed in 1893 and 1914. A series of additional buildings were added later, the last only three years ago.

Refreshed and informed, we proceeded to the library above to inspect some of the college's magnificent collection of stained glass windows and an intriguing, silk-screened Lyon & Cottier ceiling. Then on to the smallish chapel and original kitchen, plus a unique if somewhat bizarre senior common room. The modern dining hall though was unreservedly appealing. Warm and substantial, and rich with fine polished wood, a baronial feel is preserved by many colourful giant wall hangings. The latter included the Lion Rampant emblem of Scotland placed centrally. I was overwhelmed by the direct thematic links with my recent novel *The Lion and the Covenant*, in which St Andrew's has several mentions.

Our party continued on across the grounds to examine later St Andrew's buildings, including a substantial brick Federation staff residence. We returned to an architectural triumph in the form of a very recent and most sympathetic bridging addition, which joins three buildings across the Carillon Avenue main entrance. In passing through this addition we accidentally set off a building alarm, and for added excitement witnessed a chopper descending onto an adjacent RPAH helipad. All up, a most enjoyable outing.

Bruce Preston

MEMBERS' LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Sometimes renewal fee payments are accompanied by donations (always most welcome) and/or letters of appreciation, such as these recent ones:

Dear Stuart

How I look forward to my bulletin — so great to read about Marrickville where I was born so many years ago. Old memories never die. Keep up the good work you are doing and all the best.

Jean Piper (of Taree)

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Dear Richard

You may wonder why someone from Hunters Hill continues to contribute to your Society. I still remember and appreciate the support you and your colleagues gave me as President of "The Battlers for Kelly's Bush" in 1996. Also I find it interesting to read about your achievements in keeping Marrickville the interesting town we all enjoy!

Interested, too, to see that one of your members (**Dot Sullivan** as reported in June 2009 newsletter) was honoured at the Jean Arnot Luncheon at Parliament House this year. I was present at the previous one last year when I turned 90 and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Monica Sheehan

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And among those who enjoyed our recent 25th birthday lunch was **Rosemary** whose letter was addressed to former president Scott MacArthur:

Thank you so much for a wonderful 25th Birthday lunch. It was such an enjoyable event — delicious food, good company, nice location and the little extra touches such as the champagne, the Birthday cake and the lucky door prize. I really appreciate the effort that was put into organising it all.

I might also add that it never ceases to amaze me at how interesting every meeting is — even things that I think I won't be interested in, turn out to be quite the opposite. Thank you for the time and effort that you and your committee contribute to make the Society so successful, as well as keeping us all well informed on threats and successes in heritage conservation.

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Such member feedback is most gratifying!

Essay Competition Publication Report

(Report presented at AGM)

At last year's AGM I referred to the results of the Society's inaugural essay competition and noted that the then incoming executive committee would be asked to endorse a proposal to publish the essays. That proposal was accepted by the incoming committee, that is, the outgoing committee of today, and we have kept members informed of developments during the year. I now want to bring you up to date on our progress.

A publishing sub-committee was formed consisting of Vice President Lorraine Beach, Vice President and newsletter Editor, Richard Blair, and myself, to prepare the essays and illustrations for publication in one volume. I might also record the Society's appreciation of two grants awarded for our publishing venture. One grant was from Marrickville Council, for \$2600. The other grant was from the Royal Australian Historical Society for \$1500, and we pay special tribute to both of them for their support.

In terms of the publication procedures, we've contacted authors to check on certain facts and ask for their clearance for matters we've picked up. As you'd realise it is diplomatic for us to correct relatively minor errors, such as spelling or grammar, before publication, because the last thing we want to do is embarrass authors were we to perpetuate those errors. As we all know, when we're writing we make errors and these things sometimes slip through.

We've been especially conscious not to 'rewrite' essays nor to change the style of the individual writers.

A word about illustrations. One of the difficulties we've faced is that a lot of illustrations, for example photos, can be very old and the quality may not be all that good. In reproducing those photos, we can't improve on the quality of the original. But in many cases we've still chosen to publish, because those illustrations are a record of the times: just like people's memories are, in terms of their written contributions.

I pay special tribute to the outstanding work of Lorraine and Richard. Lorraine has taken on the onerous task of re-keying many of the entries to get them into a consistent format suitable for publication — several thousand words, in fact. Nonetheless, we are grateful to those contributors who were able to provide their essays on disc to offset some of our formatting work. Lorraine is also handling much of the technical aspect of reproducing the many illustrations we're using.

Richard has also been a tower of strength in editing the entries, being the liaison person for contacting contributors, where necessary, and formally raising our editorial questions with authors for their clearance. Me, I've just provided the cheese and chutney sandwiches — and done a little bit of editing.

Many illustrations have been selected — but we still have much more work to do to finalise our selection of illustrations and then to present a sort of 'draft book' to potential printers to get firm quotes. The incoming executive committee will decide on the number of copies in the print run. Printers' quotes will go to the committee for its decision and then printing can take place.

I expect that the publication will be available before the end of this calendar year. You'll appreciate that we can't really be more specific than that. We do reiterate the judges' comments and pay tribute to the essay contributors for the diverse range and high quality of the essays, which, later down the track, have made our book preparations all that more enjoyable.

All in all, this is an exciting project and I, for one, can't wait to see our book in print.

Keith Sutton

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

Zoologist **Theodore Thomson Flynn MBE** was born in 1883 at Coraki in northern NSW. After moving to Sydney Theo was educated at Fort Street Model School from where he entered the pupil-teacher system. He was transferred to Stanmore Public on 21 June 1899 and lived with his brother John at 112 Alice Street Newtown. He remained at Stanmore until May 1901 when he was transferred to Camdenville Public in Laura Street, Newtown; after which he went to West Redfern Public. In 1904 he taught briefly at Marrickville and Kogarah schools while studying science at the University of Sydney.



By 1909 Theo had accepted a post as lecturer in biology at the University of Tasmania. He married Lily (known as Marelle) Young (descended from a *Bounty* midshipman who had accompanied Fletcher Christian to Pitcairn Island) in January 1909 at St John's Church of England, Balmain North and on 20 June 1909 their son was born in Hobart — **Errol Leslie Flynn**. Professor Flynn, who had an outstanding career in biology and zoology, sailed with Errol in his boat, managed Errol's Jamaican property and named a species of herring he discovered, *Gibbonsia eroli* in honour of his son. He outlived Errol by about nine years. The centenary of Errol's birth was recently recognised.

Much of the above information comes from **Lyn Col-lingwood**, who wrote the essay *Theo Flynn* for the MHS Essay Competition. Lyn's essay will appear in the Society's forthcoming publication of essays. Many thanks, Lyn. And well done to members **Rod Cox, Audrey Furney, Diane McCarthy and Bruce Preston** who, to coin a phrase, successfully went in like Flynn!

Richard Blair

TEMPE HOUSE OPEN DAYS

Several MHS members were among the more than 200 who attended the two popular Open Days at Tempe House and St Magdalen's Chapel on 7 and 8 July. This was the first time Tempe House and the chapel had been open to the public since acquired by the developer, Australand in 2002. The days were greatly enhanced by St Peters History Group stalwarts Laurel and Bob Horton, resplendent in their period costume, playing host and giving an excellent presentation on the history of the site.

It is understood the site will be transferred to a cooperative to run the site after which it is hoped open days will be more frequent. Many feel that Tempe House should be available to a range of community groups on a semi-permanent basis, though some cooperative members are said to be ambivalent about outside bodies regularly entering their property.



Hallway of Tempe House
(photographer unknown)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 22 August

Dr John Pickard on *Australian rural fences*

Details on front page

Saturday 26 September

Coach trip to Wallsend and environs

Details on front page

Saturday 24 October

David Levell on his book *Tour to Hell*

NEWTOWN GOSPEL WAGON FINDS NEW HOME IN POWERHOUSE



Gospel wagon at Reiby Hall Newtown
(photo: Richard Blair)

This gospel wagon/trolley, laden with bibles, hymn books and pamphlets trawled the streets of Newtown over several decades in the 20th century. On one side it bears the words "Believe on the **Lord Jesus Christ** and thou shalt be **saved**". On another side is written: "Reiby Gospel Hall Station Street Newtown". As reported in the MHS November 2007 newsletter, Reiby Hall at 37 Station Street was "built as a gospel hall on the last three lots of land subdivided from Mary Reibey's estate . . . the building continued as a gospel hall (affiliated with Emmaus College) until the 1980s." Reiby Hall is now owned and occupied by the Newtown RSL Sub Branch.

According to Wikipedia "the roots of Open Air Campaigners goes back to Australia [when] on 10 March 1892 the 'Coogee Open Air Mission' [was] founded". Retired Baptist minister, Bob Armstrong has written four pictorial books on gospel wagons and vans across all denominations in Australia.

Following representations by MHS, the trolley was recently donated by the Newtown RSL sub branch to the Powerhouse Museum. Social history curator Charles Pickett said 'it caused a bit of a stir while sitting in our loading dock'. The Powerhouse will eventually have an acquisition statement on its website.

Richard Blair

PRESIDENT Richard 9557 3823

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

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The Glebe and Marrickville Free Press

What started as *The Glebe* free weekly newspaper in 1970, had its final issue on 2 July 2009. For the record 22 October 1970–17 January 1979: *The Glebe Weekly*; 1979–25 May 1994: *The Glebe & Western Weekly*; 1994–16 October 1996: *The Glebe & Inner City News*; 1996–18 February 2004: *The Glebe & Inner Western Weekly*; 2004–2 July 2009: *The Glebe*. The *Inner West Courier*, with which *The Glebe* merged, now comes out twice weekly (Tuesday and Thursday).

Talking of weeklies, MHS member and former Marrickville resident **Wayne Le Clos**, now living in his aptly-named house *Marrickvilla* in Yorkeys Knob, North Queensland, recently sent two 1945 copies of the *Marrickville Free Press* dated Thursday 18 October (Vol. XXVII., No. 3) and Thursday 8 November. Larger than A3, but smaller than today's *Sydney Morning Herald*, the MFP was in a four page booklet format (like the MHS newsletter) and contained mostly advertising, including on the front page. Judging by the volume date, the MFP would have started in 1919. The MFP was superseded by the *Marrickville Free Weekly* (1947 to 1976) which merged with another long running weekly, becoming the *Leichhardt-Marrickville Weekly*; then the *Leichhardt-Inner Western Weekly*, until it folded in 1978. *Marrickville People & Places* (1994, pp. 47-51) chronicles other local newspapers.

One interesting report in the MFP (18/10/45) was of a Diamond Wedding celebration at Anzac Hall on 4 October 1945: "At St Clement's Church on October 4, 1880, the Rev. E. Wright joined in holy wedlock Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Blundell (now aged 83 and 79 respectively) of 147 Sydenham Road, Marrickville . . . It is claimed that Mr. and Mrs. Blundell are the longest-living residents in Marrickville, having been born and resided in the same locality. He has been a ratepayer for 65 years." (Note: given that the first recorded marriage in St Clements was not until May 1884, and that a diamond wedding celebrates 60 years, the Blundell marriage undoubtedly took place in 1885.)

In the same MFP: 'Hibiscus' writes as follows in the *Sydney 'Bulletin'* (3/10/45): — "I was giving a scripture lesson at a public school in a mining community and endeavouring to instil into juvenile minds the need for respect. I showed why the doctor, the banker, the schoolmaster and others to the fore in public life should be respected. Then I asked 'What am I?' expecting the answer, 'clergyman', 'minister' or 'rector'. An eight-year-old lass shot up her hand, replying: 'Please, sir, Daddy says you're a b _ _ _ _ parasite.' I couldn't blame the child, who intended no discourtesy. The adjective was common in her daily life and she didn't know what parasite meant. But worse was to come. I told my Bishop the story. He wasn't a bit shocked. 'Perhaps she was right, Rector, perhaps she was right,' was his only comment."

Finally, from MFP (8/11/45): "During the war residents of this and nearby suburbs had to endure, mainly during sleeping hours, the nuisance of low-flying aeroplanes. The practice, however, continues with no regard for the comfort of invalids, the aged, or shift workers. Perhaps the council could take the matter up, through our Federal members, to have this nuisance abated."

Ne plus change . . . !

Richard Blair