

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

**Demolished houses of the
Parramatta River with Angela Phippen
Saturday 27 February 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville**

Take an armchair trip with **Angela Phippen** along the Parramatta River and see the magnificent houses that once adorned its banks including *Dudhope* and *Cleves* (both in Putney), *Helenie* and *Glendower* (both in Meadowbank), *Lauriston* (Ryde) and *Ermington Park* (Melrose Park). Hear the stories of the buildings and their builders; their owners and occupiers.



'Lauriston' built early 1880s; demolished 1959
(courtesy of Ryde Library Services)

Angela Phippen is the Local Studies and Family History Librarian at Ryde Library. She was previously Librarian at the Society of Australian Genealogists. Angela was an active committee member of MHS for many years including six months as acting president and conducted a local oral history project resulting in *Marrickville Remembers 1939-1945* (1997). Her research on local war memorials resulted in *The war memorials of St Peters Municipality Sydney, New South Wales* (2002). Both works were published by MHS.

Note: Due to another commitment heritage architect **Alan Croker's** proposed talk *Joinery* has been rescheduled for later in the year.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your name(s), address, phone number(s) and email. Address is below. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Membership includes monthly newsletter and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Membership renewable on 1 June 2010.

WINGED VICTORY UPDATE

It is now almost ten months since the Winged Victory was removed from its pedestal outside Marrickville Town Hall for remediation work. The bad news is that it's unlikely the statue will be reinstated by Anzac Day. The better news is that a few weeks ago the Society was formally advised by Council that "following a quotation process, Council engaged the services of a Conservator to conduct non destructive testing and investigation. Council is currently waiting for the Conservator to provide work method statements and notify the proposed date for transporting the statue for the testing. The testing will allow Council to determine the extent of work required, obtain quotes and complete the work." Watch this space.

2010 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

From 9 to 24 April, the National Trust Heritage Festival *The Making of Our Nation* will celebrate the bicentenary of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and the inception of Sydney's architectural heritage. As one of the Festival events, Marrickville Council will be awarding the Marrickville Medal for outstanding architectural work in conservation or restoration. Anyone who has carried out quality architectural, conservation or restoration works in the past three years is warmly invited to nominate their property, regardless of the magnitude of their project.

The ceremony will be held on Wednesday 14 April at 6 pm at Petersham Town Hall and will include the presentation of a People's Choice Award, and a Special Achievement Award for an individual who has made substantial contributions to the promotion of history and heritage in the Marrickville LGA.

Nomination forms for the Marrickville Medal and the Special Achievement Award can be found at: www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au > heritage > Marrickville Medal. **Nomination forms must be submitted by Friday 26 February.** Online voting for the People's Choice Award will be available in the week prior to the ceremony. Call Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor Kate Napier on 9335-2114 if you have any questions or would like a nomination form sent.

BRAVO TO MURRAY COOK AM

The Society congratulates MHS member **Murray Cook** who was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) "for service to the arts, particularly children's entertainment, and to the community as a benefactor and supporter of a range of charities". Murray is better known as the **Red Wiggle** who plays guitar and sings and is credited with inventing the "signature index finger wagging move".

MORE PLAQUES FOR MARRICKVILLE!

Many, many years ago, I spent a year in England, living and working in London. During time spent roaming about and seeing the sights, one couldn't but notice that many of the houses and buildings displayed small signs informing those passing by that someone famous (or even infamous) had spent time living or working in this particular building.

I have lived a lot of my life in Newtown, Marrickville and now Stanmore but never realised that Joe Cahill, who was the Premier of New South Wales in the 1950s, had also spent most of his life nearby!

Whilst enjoying the excellent talk by Peter Golding on Saturday 28 November, it occurred to me that our local history is a little bit deficient in this regard. Who should we approach with the idea of installing plaques similar to the English idea throughout our suburb and city where applicable? Perhaps small plaques inserted in footpaths in front of houses, shops, etc to notify passers-by that they are on 'hallowed' ground, even if the building has been demolished and removed, could be acceptable.

The pathways around Circular Quay and the QVB tell us a little history, why not our suburbs? Would any other MHS members agree?

Kate Dunbar

SOME PLAQUING BACKGROUND

Notable people are remembered in names of streets, plazas, parks, swimming pools and the like but plaques can convey some background data. Apart from the types of signs in London described by Kate, Canterbury City Council in Sydney has long had an active program in conjunction with Canterbury & District Historical Society to install heritage panels and as many as 38 such panels have been erected in Canterbury City Council area since 1993.

In 1988 under a bicentennial grant, Marrickville Council placed 22 historic plaques throughout the LGA including seven relating to first land grants. A list of these plaques is on p. 211 of Cashman & Meader's *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city* (1990). Council's plaque placements since have been spasmodic, but it is understood Marrickville Council has a plaques program whereby several significant sites and notable local people have been identified, although curiously, Joseph Cahill is not among them. Hopefully, with the publication of the Golding biography this can be rectified. Council installed two recent plaques: in 2007, a plaque for Henry Lawson placed on Petersham Station platform building; and in 2008, another affixed to the Zanzibar Hotel (site of the original New Town store; later the Oxford Hotel) Newtown.

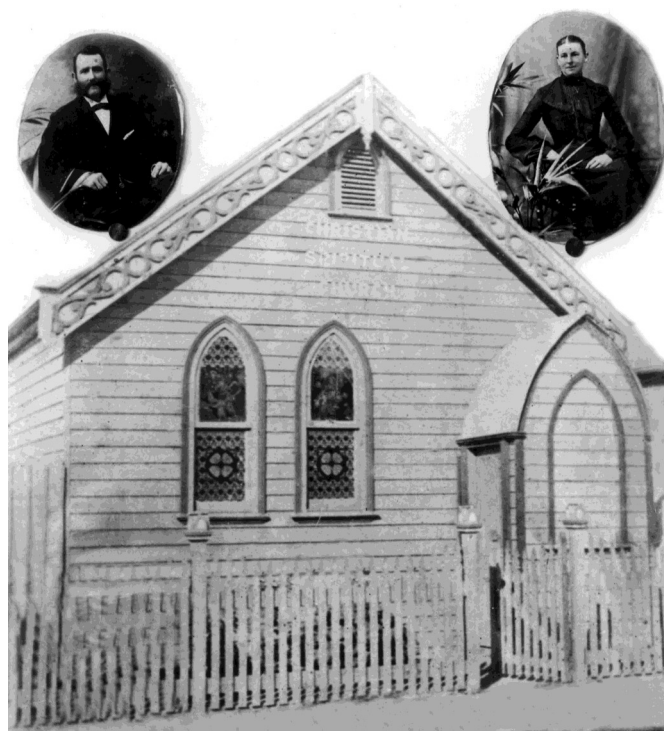
MHS has been instrumental in three plaque installations: a) in 1997, for the 1946 Lewisham Hospital Air Crash victims at the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel courtyard, Lewisham (plaque inspired by MHS, organised by Marrickville Council); b) in 1999, for the Pocket Playhouse in Terry Street Sydenham (financed by Norman McVicker, organised by MHS); and c) in 2002, for the late John Zinsmeister, at St Clements Church, Marrickville (organised by MHS in conjunction with St Clements). John had been instrumental in the community campaign to save the church spire. Member feedback, as invited by Kate, is welcome.

Richard Blair

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL CHURCH AT 28 PETERSHAM ROAD MARRICKVILLE

The site of the demolished former Town Hall Milk Bar on the corner of Petersham and Marrickville Roads continues to be vacant, except for the ruin with its advertising for Albert Berriman's livery stables. The article *Demolition Reveals History* (MHS November 2005 newsletter) gave some background information on Albert Berriman whose various business enterprises were in Arthur Street Marrickville and who lived on a separate block at 13 Arthur Street. This article also cited an AE Berriman of Graham Avenue and a Mrs A Berriman of 30 Petersham Road.

Independent family history research by Diane McCarthy (who co-incidentally grew up in Petersham Road) led to Kevin Berriman, whose grandparents were Andrew John (1860-1916) and Amelia Caroline (nee King, 1861-1922) Berriman. After they married in 1883, they built their house at 30 Petersham Road which they named *Mogo* (after the southern NSW town where Andrew once lived) and from his stables and workshop at the rear, he conducted his plumbing business. Around 1890 they built a Christian Spiritual Church at 28 Petersham Road. As a lay preacher and leader of the church, Amelia conducted services, played the treadle organ (still in Kevin's possession) and using a crystal ball, did consultations, for which she had a loyal following. The church probably closed upon Amelia's death in 1922.



Christian Spiritual Church 28 Petersham Rd Marrickville in 1900 with insets of Andrew & Amelia Berriman; the church name is faintly visible below the vent (courtesy Kevin Berriman)

They had 12 children all whose first names started with 'A'. Kevin's father was Archibald. Five generations from Andrew to Kevin's grandson became plumbers. Andrew's father John was a blacksmith. It has not been established whether Andrew John and Albert Berriman of Arthur Street are related. Both buildings remain. Number 28 has lost its charming windows and porch, but otherwise looks much the same. It has recently sold, and whilst somewhat rundown, could easily be restored.

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS

1) The "B" stands for **Brennan's** Department Store of Newtown. Frances Pollon in her *Shopkeepers and Shoppers: A social history of retailing in New South Wales from 1788* (1989, p. 219) writes: "Before World War I the family stores of Sweet Brothers, Hatte's and Brennan's were established [in Newtown]. Sweet Brothers premises were eventually to be destroyed by fire, Hatte's closed as a result of the family members joining the fighting forces in Gallipoli . . . Brennan's Limited still remains in King Street, Newtown, a store established by the father of an only son, James Brennan, and several daughters. All the family worked to establish a comprehensive department store, with a wide range of goods, catering for all classes of customer and for all



tastes. Of all the early family stores in Newtown this one still maintains its reputation, the only changes being modernisation of store style and selling techniques." Charles Pollon, possibly Frances's father, was the store's manager of dress materials.

It is likely the store once occupied two sites: one, the building with the decorative facade, facing Wilson Street which for decades has had other tenants; the other,

opposite and circumscribed by Wilson and King Streets, where Brennan's still operated until around 1990. Despite Pollon's claims of modernisation Brennan's continued to handle financial transactions by the cash railway system, with money placed in a capsule and sent to a central finance office.

Diane McCarthy mooted the "B" was for Bush's Meats (AJ Bush & Sons) founded 1911, and once with an outlet in Railway Parade Marrickville. Thanks to **Susan Pinson** for sending material from the Pollon book.

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2) **"To offer any criticism of the work of such a writer would be impertinence; to offer praise would be superfluous.** But I can join with the many readers who are sure to delight in the intensely characteristic comments of one who loved cricket both for the pleasure it gave him and the lessons it has to teach. My memories of JM Barrie are vivid. As a youth of twenty summers I first listened to his stories. My favourite was the one in which, describing his bowling, he told how, after delivering the ball, he would go and sit on the turf at mid off, and wait for it to reach the other end — 'which it sometimes did'."

This was part of **Sir Donald Bradman's** foreword to **Sir James Barrie's** *Allahakbarries CC 1899* (1950). This cricket club's name was derived from the Arabic 'Allah akbar' meaning 'God is great', though Barrie believed it to mean 'Heaven help us'. Club members were mainly artists and literary men including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Hesketh Pritchard, AEW Mason, Augustine Birrell and various *Punch* artists. This little book relates a match played in Broadway, Worcestershire in 1899, three years prior to the first appearance of *Peter Pan*.

Richard Blair

SUMMER READING & OTHER TRIVIA

Free of newsletter editor obligations (apropos the combined December-January newsletter) the editor indulged during the break in some reading of a non-heritage nature. I finished the superb *Millennium* trilogy by the late Swedish author, Stieg Larsson, which must rank among the unputdownable crime fiction books of this century. I also read my book club February choice, *Endurance: Shackleton's incredible voyage*, Alfred Lansing's 1959 inspiring account of the 1914-16 epic Antarctic journey by Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team. Also the name of Shackleton's ship, *Endurance* admirably describes this extraordinary journey. Based on diaries and first hand interviews with surviving members of the expedition, Lansing's account is matter-of-fact and free of hyperbole.

Traditionally the season of cricket, tennis, non ratings, reruns and rubbish, there was little of appeal on free-to-air TV. However I persevered with the miniseries on SBS, *John Adams*, starring Paul Giamatti with Laura Linney as his wife Abigail. Though sometimes slow (and not without historical inaccuracies), *John Adams* was rewarding and informative, ending with the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the second and third US presidents respectively. Incredibly these men, at the forefront in writing the Declaration of Independence, died within hours of each other on 4 July 1826. Even more remarkably, this was 50 years to the day after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Now there's one for trivia buffs!

The Editor

VALE

Dr Richard Meale MBE AM died on 23 November 2009 aged 77. He was the grandson of former Marrickville mayor Benjamin Richards, who laid the foundation stone of Marrickville Town Hall. He was born in Marrickville and lived with his family at 67 Warren Road, next door to former Marrickville Library Chief Librarian, Frances Schmitt-Charteris, a long term MHS member.

From *Marrickville People & Places* (1994; pp. 136-7) Meale "attended Marrickville West Primary, Erskineville Opportunity, and Canterbury Boys High schools. He was a foundation member of the Recorded Music Group at Marrickville Municipal Library and was lecturing the group at the age of 15. He completed his education at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music. Meale is an accomplished pianist and conductor but is best known as a composer whose contributions to Australian musical life have been substantial and influential. He has played an important role in propagating new music in Australia. His best known work is the opera *Voss*, based on a novel by Patrick White. He has achieved international recognition."

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We note the death on 5 January of **Robert Stanley Johnston** NX31214 2-107 Australian General Transport Company aged 91 of Burwood. The (Herald) death notice indicated he was the great grandson of Lieut. Col. George Johnston - First Fleet. Apart from George Johnston's military and political fame, he built Annandale House, which stood in present day Stanmore; Johnston Street was named after

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 27 February
Demolished houses of the Parramatta River with Angela Phippen
 Details on front page

Saturday 27 March
Parramatta Female Factory Precinct et al

Saturday 24 April
Grace Karskens What sort of colony?

The Society congratulates **TOSA (Theatre Organ Society of Australia) NSW Division** on its **50th anniversary** in March. Celebration concerts at Marrickville Town Hall Saturday 13 March at 2 pm and the Orion Centre Campsie Sunday 14 March at 2 pm. Ring Kath on 9629 2257 or check website <www.tosa.net.au>.

City of Sydney Historical Association

Saturday 13 March 2 pm

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts

280 Pitt Street Sydney

Reading photographs of Sydney – every picture tells a story with Robert Hutchinson

Robert Hutchinson will talk about how to read old photographs to discover information about the people, the reason for the photo, and how to recreate historical events from the background and other details. Cost: \$2. No bookings required.

Petersham Promenade with Geoff Ostling

The **National Trust** will conduct an extensive walk in Petersham north led by MHS member **Geoff Ostling** on **Sunday 11 April**. Meet Petersham Town Hall 1.15 for 1.30 pm start. Tour (including afternoon tea and a brief musical recital) \$30. Bookings essential 9363 2401 (working hours) with ticketing secretary; enquiries Ron 0418 112 018. This is a fundraiser for the National Trust. (Note: this is not an MHS event.)

1958 PROCESSION IN MARRICKVILLE



These photos were sent by **Wayne Le Clos**, an MHS member living in Cairns, who lived all his life in Marrickville until the late 1990s. Wayne's mother Beryl took the photos and their quality is not too bad given they were taken on her Brownie Box camera and the vehicles were in motion. The procession is passing Marrickville Post Office in Marrickville Road.

Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader believes this was probably the 1958 Youth Festival procession. The army float was listed in the procession running sheet and featured in an exhibition when the procession arrived at Henson Park. Wayne's family were connected with both floats: His brother Noel was in the Army Reserve at Addison Road Barracks; and Beryl worked at Marrickville Knitting Mills on the corner of Chapel Street and Chalder Avenue.



Enmore TAFE Design Centre's 2009 creation of a futuristic, fortified city; in stark contrast to 'Little Venice' (2007) and the 'Tudor Gothic Village' (2008) as depicted in April 2008 and February-March 2009 newsletters respectively (photo: Richard Blair)

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