

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

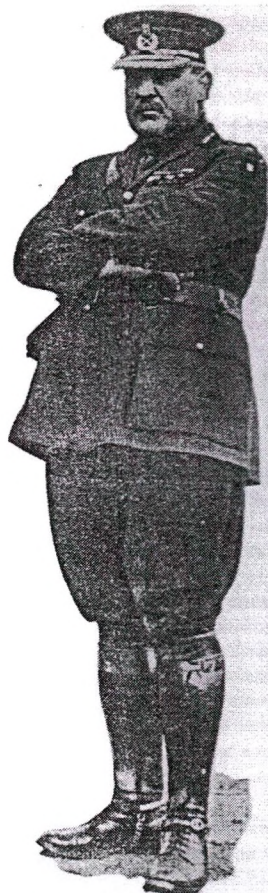
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Robert Darroch on Sir Charles Rosenthal
Saturday 23 October 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Robert Darroch is a former journalist who now runs an Internet company. His other main interests are history and literature. He co-founded the Glebe



Sir Charles Rosenthal
(photo: Warren Perry)

Society, the third inner city preservation society in Sydney. He is an expert on Australian secret armies and DH Lawrence's 1923 Australian novel *Kangaroo* (which is about an English author coming to Sydney and encountering a secret army of "Diggers" and "Maggies"). He has identified one of the "real-life" characters in the novel as **Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal** (1875-1954) whom (Darroch maintains) is the model for the "fictional" secret army character, Benjamin Cooley. He is author of *DH Lawrence in Australia* (1981) and vice-president of the DH Lawrence Society of Australia. Currently he is researching the life of the New Guard leader, Colonel Eric Campbell.

Of Danish ancestry and an architect by profession, Rosenthal had a strong connection with Dulwich Hill. He designed Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and was choirmaster at the church. (He was a notable bass singer.) He

was an immensely powerful man physically, who played a leading role in the First AIF, rising to command the 2nd Division in France. After the war he became involved in NSW politics on the Nationalist (Conservative) side, becoming an alderman of Sydney Municipal Council, and an MLA. He played a leading role in many anti-Labor organisations, and was an ardent Protestant (though a Methodist rather than an Anglican). During WW2, he was Administrator of Norfolk Island. However, he is most famous as the probable model of the main character in *Kangaroo*. Robert Darroch will relate how this came about, and what its literary, historical and political ramifications were.

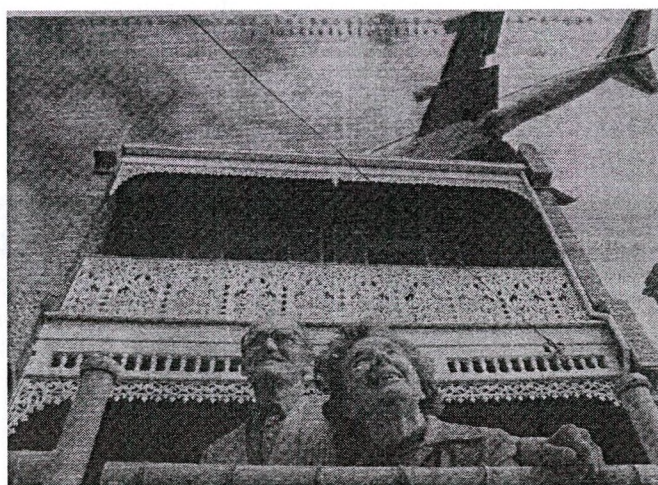
2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity

Launch of MHS journal *Heritage* 13

Members, authors and advertisers are invited to the launch of *Heritage* 13 on Tuesday 19 October at 6 pm at the Vic on the Park Hotel, corner of Enmore and Addison Roads Marrickville. This is opposite Enmore Park and right on the 423, 426, 428 and Metro 30 from Sydenham bus routes. The launch, to be chaired by MHS president Dr Sonia Laverty, should last about an hour. There will be finger food and a complimentary drink for each attendee. Members will be able to collect their free copy of the journal, which is included in MHS membership. For catering purposes RSVP to Lorraine by Saturday 16 October on 9550 6608 (h), 8565 6511 (w), 0416 224 472 or by email on <lbeach@iprimus.com.au>.

Articles are John Vicars' history of Vicars Woollen Mills (now the site of Marrickville Metro), Wendy Dyson's account of the Green Man in the LGA, Les Tod on 'Hoyts' Marrickville, oral histories of Harry Stone and Evelyn Broadfield, Bruce Woodhouse on his forebear's Sudan War Medals, Yvonne Preston's account of a siege in Newtown in the 1930s, Silas Clifford-Smith's biography of artist Violet Davies of Stanmore, and the story behind a photographic Newtown gem from the 1890s by Ann O'Connell.

See you at the launch.



Featured in *Heritage* 13 is 'Harry Stone's Sydenham', an oral history recorded by Ian Phillips in 2001 in the wake of the mass demolition of houses in Sydenham when Harry and his wife Del defiantly refused to budge. They remain.
(photo: *The Glebe* 20/8/97)

Marrickville Festival is on Sunday 24 October. Stall assistants welcome: ring Vivien on 0431 222 761.

OUR LAST MEETING Yaralla and yonder

On Saturday 25 September, a sparkling spring morning, MHS members left Petersham by coach to Concord West where we visited the Yaralla Estate, part of the Walker Estate on the Parramatta River, in turn, part of a 1797 land grant to Isaac Nicholls. Yaralla mansion, built by Edmund Blackett for Thomas Walker, was substantially altered and added to by John Sulman for Thomas's daughter, Dame Eadith Walker. This enormous mansion is now sadly unused and entry was not possible, but we could appreciate it in all its grandeur from the outside.

A delicious Devonshire Tea was enjoyed in the Dairy, part of a working Estate, and was worked off on a tour of the Estate. Our group split into two with guides Ann and my guide Sandra, who led the larger tour around the grounds showing natural features and sites of bygone structures such as the boathouse, swimming pool and tennis court. Sandra revealed a 'lifestyle of the rich and famous' in a comprehensive photographic display, a squash court (1920, believed to be the first in Australia) built for, but not necessarily used by, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) and garages which included a service pit for the Rolls Royces. The ornate tiled stables and coach house (designed by Sulman) demonstrated how well the horses were looked after.

A short drive to the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway where we had lunch. This walkway through trees and along the waterfront is a beautifully designed and constructed tribute to our soldiers who fought in New Guinea during WWII. It promotes peaceful reflection while telling the story of this terrible time. Then on to Mortlake where we boarded the Putney punt, operating since 1925, for the short trip across the river and back – a first for most of us.

At the City of Canada Bay Museum in Concord members were enchanted by beautifully arranged displays with examples of many items we grew up with including Victrola lawn mowers, Sunbeam mixers, beautiful china, toys, office equipment and Arnott's Sao biscuits. The displays evoked many fond memories of our younger days.

At St Albans Anglican Church, Five Dock we were met by members Joan and Geoff Francis. Joan gave an informative and entertaining talk on the history of the 1924 church* and 1885 rectory including the story of the rector who covered the cedar staircase with Silver Frost. The stained glass windows in the church were especially admired.

Our final stop was *Katoomba* (1917) in Wareemba, the home of Joan and Geoff for afternoon tea (organised by the Society). Joan shared her many scrapbooks of photos, a range of memorabilia and some house history. As well as preserving the character of the house (in Joan's family for nearly 100 years), they paid tribute to the market garden heritage of the area.

Thanks to Richard and Diane for organising a day full of variety and information, in conjunction with Sandra Elliott and her team from Concord Heritage Society, Lois (museum), Joan and Geoff, Lorraine, and Ted for his generous gifts (lucky seat prizes). The day showed in part that, despite 'progress', we have retained some wonderful parts of Sydney's history.

Mary Oakenfull

* Joan showed us the memorial tablet to Lt. Frederick Smith (36th Battalion) of Five Dock, who on 8/7/42 at a Port Moresby battlefield, when a grenade was thrown into the doorway of a tent, grabbed the grenade, raced outside and was blown up, but by his action saved the rest of the men.



Joan Francis shares a laugh with her MHS guests as she reaches for her thank you bottle of bubbly (photo: Lorraine Beach)



MHS members and friends at the old stables of Yaralla on 25 September. From left: Charles Cox, Bob Irving, Ron Job, Barbara Cox, Kathleen Gurran, Noel Irving (obscured, wearing hat), Graeme Napier, Mary Foley, Pat Jessop, Ann Fenton, Mary Oakenfull (obscured), Ros Torrent, Jennifer Kent (obscured), Shirley Doolan, Iain Carolin, Barbara Forsyth, John Waterstreet, Irene Carder, Robert Hutchinson, Diane McCarthy, Ted Green, Judith Greathead (obscured), Daphne Grange, Sue Miller, Hillary Goldsmith, Richard Blair, Chris King, Lorraine Beach, Geoff Ostling (photo: Sandra Elliott)

For the record: \$10,000 grant promise!

Of interest to local historical groups and heritage societies is a pre-election promise made by the Coalition which is worth recording for posterity (from a Liberal Party press release dated 18 August 2010):

"A Coalition Government would help Australia's many local historical groups to preserve our heritage with a new \$1 million grant support program. These groups are the custodians of vast amounts of heritage items. The volunteers often work tirelessly to save and share this material for future generations. Under the Community Heritage Support Grants Scheme heritage and historical groups could receive grants of up to \$10,000 to secure the future of this important work.

Community heritage groups around Australia play an important role in collecting, researching and recording our heritage. Members of such organisations contribute enormous hours into the preservation and communication of local, state and national history. This can be an expensive exercise, particularly when it comes to the need for scanners, computers and other equipment needed for digital recording and careful storing and cataloguing work.

The grants would help to meet some of the costs of ensuring we preserve our heritage for the generations ahead. The funding support would strengthen support and help to encourage the saving of Australia's history and heritage. Many of these groups hold exhibitions of their documents, images, artefacts and other objects. The grants could assist in bringing these and new exhibitions to more people to share in this knowledge and history in the years ahead."

Too good to be true? Bear in mind this was a pre-election promise by a party that just failed to win office. However the promise acknowledges the significance of local history groups and invokes such questions as: 1) Under the new so-called paradigm in federal politics, might this present an opportunity for a private member's bill? 2) Can this promise be matched by other political parties at both federal and state levels? 3) Can we as non-aligned heritage/local history society members hold our politicians to account?

Considering the extraordinary political events of late, surely anything is now possible.

Richard Blair



MHS tour group at the John Sulman designed Yaralla stables and coach house (photo: Lorraine Beach)

Honouring early brickmakers of Sydney

The early brickmakers of Sydney was the subject of a meeting organised by the Tye Family Group at St Peters Cooks River Anglican Church hall on Saturday 11 September. Close to 70 attended, consisting of owners, management and employees involved in brickmaking, and those with ancestors employed in or who owned brickworks. They represented both city and country. Many expressed concern that the history of brickmaking should not be lost, and that the early brickmakers, substantially convicts, who are recorded in the 1828 census, should not be forgotten.

Ron Ringer, author of *The Brickmasters 1788 -2008* (published to mark the centenary of the founding of the Austral Brick Company) suggested that the meeting should think beyond memorial plaques and attempt some form of living museum to the brick-makers. St Peters Church (1838) was built from sun dried brick, and is near Sydney Park, whose most dominant features are the former brickwork chimneys, kilns and machinery. Sadly there is not the slightest explanation at the site as to how these magnificently preserved historic artifacts were ever used. Ron's phrase, "the brick mile", describes the Princes Highway between Tempe and St Peters.

It was suggested that the covered space within a kiln could be shared by commercial business and a museum. Stories were shared which gave an insight into the diverse geography of brickmaking and its historical importance in the development of the nation. On display were articles on early brickmaking, varieties of bricks and relevant books. A slide show of brickyard sites in the Sydney metropolitan area, made by the son of a retired brickmaker, showed some imaginative reuse of the sites; but alas no museum.

The legacy of the brickyards in the St Peters area is that where there is a park there lies a former brickyard. A committee was established to pursue the range of options presented. Anyone seeking further information may contact us on 9558 7504.

Laurel & Bob Horton

Another slice of local sports history from *The Fitz Files*: 'Let's hear it for Petersham-Leichhardt, "Australia's oldest continuously operating baseball club" as they call themselves. They will be celebrating their 110-year anniversary dinner at Novotel Sydney Olympic Park on September 18. If you can believe it, baseball has been played on Petersham Oval for 110 years, eight years before rugby league came out of left field' (Peter Fitzsimons, *The Fitz Files*, SMH 4/9/10).

Seems depending on which competition is being played, this is identical with Petersham Baseball Club which, according to Meader, Cashman & Carolan's *Marrickville People & Places* (1994, p. 180) was founded in the 1890s and won its initial first grade premiership in 1899. Furthermore, as reported in the July and August 1997 MHS newsletters, a Family Fun Day involving Petersham-Leichhardt Baseball Club was held at Petersham Oval on 3/8/97 "to celebrate 100 years of local baseball". MHS attended with a stall. So, to set the record straight, baseball has been played here for at least 113 years.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 23 October

Robert Darroch on Sir Charles Rosenthal

Details on front page

Saturday 27 November

Silas Clifford-Smith on Percy Lindsay

Saturday 4 December

Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

Marrickville Symphony Orchestra

Marrickville Town Hall

Thursday 14 October 7.30 pm

Bookings www.mvso.org.au or ring 0416 201 771

Tickets are \$20 A Reserve incl. glass of champagne, or free in B Reserve, but bookings essential

Renaissance Players with Winsome Evans

Great Hall University of Sydney

Wednesday 20 October at 7 pm

Bookings 1300 306 776 or pay at door

\$35 (including program). Seats still available for group booking: \$25. Ring Richard 9557 3823.

Swimming pools, facts and names

With the rebuilt **Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre** in Enmore Park to be opened soon it is hoped that in any official blurb at the centre, the popular myth that **Annette Kellerman (AK)** was born in Marrickville is not perpetuated. Whilst this misinformation on AK appears in the ADB entry and on Wikipedia, according to her birth certificate she was born in 1886 at 101 Victoria Street Darlinghurst. The Kellerman family did reside at 128 Silver Street (corner of Calvert Street) Marrickville for about three years from 1889, a fact totally overlooked in Emily Gibson's 2005 biography, *The original million dollar mermaid: the Annette Kellerman story*, but outlined in the August 2005 MHS newsletter.

As reported in the MHS October 2004 newsletter, Australia's other early great female swimmer (and our first swimming Gold Medallist, Stockholm Games, 1912), **Fanny Durack**, also lived in Marrickville as a child, and in later life, for many years, in Stanmore. It is to Marrickville Council's credit that it named the pool in Petersham after Fanny, by which name she was always known, rather than her birth name, Sarah. Unlike whoever decided, leading up to the 2000 Olympics, to name a street at Olympic Park, Sarah Durack Avenue. Such apparent squeamishness!

Spring Trivia Question

I grew up in Marrickville LGA, enjoyed brief fame as an entertainer but was less known than my illustrious namesake. Who am/was I? Ring Richard 9557 3823 or email <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

PRESIDENT Sonia 9519 3137

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

HERITAGE WATCH Lorraine 9550 6608

NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

Marrickville's first female mayor

As Marrickville Council enters its 150th year, it is quite an honour for **Clr Fiona Byrne** (Greens, pictured) to become Marrickville Council's first female mayor. After a tied vote her name was drawn out of a hat, as has become common practice in recent years. **Clr Byrne** has been a councillor for six years and was deputy mayor for the past year. So congratulations Fiona! (The new deputy mayor is **Clr Sam Iskandar** (ALP) who was mayor for the past two years.)



Until the early 1990s Marrickville Council had only had eight female councillors in its 130-year history. They included the late **Eve Sharpe** (ALP, 1969-77; deputy mayor (1976-77). Eve was vice-president of MHS (1984-89) and the Society's patron (1989-99). **Dr Sonia Lavery** was a councillor (Community Independent, 1991-95) and is the current MHS president. Thereafter, **Carmel Tebbutt** (ALP) filled a vacancy on Marrickville Council in 1993, and became deputy mayor in 1995; she was appointed as an MLC in 1998, became MLA for Marrickville in 2005 and is now deputy premier of NSW. **Rebecca Kaiser** (ALP, 1995-2004 and sometime deputy mayor) and **Sylvia Hale** (No Aircraft Noise and later, Greens, 1995-2004) were both councillors; Sylvia served as an MLC in the state government (2003-10) until her recent retirement. Since the late 1990s there have been several female councillors who have joined these ranks and five of today's 12 councillors are female.

Talking of firsts, we also recall **Lilian Fowler** (ALP) who, in 1928 became the first female alderman in NSW. On 7/12/37 Lilian became the first female mayor in Australia when she was elected Mayor of Newtown.

AFTER THE THEATRE...
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At Missenden Rd. Corner

Anyone ever have an espresso coffee at the Astoria?
This ad appeared in a 1957 program for 'The Shifting Heart', produced by May Hollinworth at the Elizabethan Theatre Newtown, season commencing 4/10/57.