

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Coach Tour of the Hills District

Saturday 23 July 8.45 for 9 am sharp departure

Meet at 8.45 am opp. Petersham Town Hall. Cost \$40 (covers coach, entries and morning tea). BYO lunch and drinks. Prepayment (cheque to address below) & bookings essential. Ring Diane 9588 4930. Advise if you have to cancel.

Governor King established a government farm at Castle Hill in 1801. By 1804 some 300 convicts were employed and many stone buildings erected there.



The Hermitage (sketch: Daphne Kingston)

Castle Hill Heritage Park opened in 2004 to commemorate the first European rebellion in Australia. Outing includes a tour of the convict farm, which closed in 1811, and *The*

Hermitage (1802, restored 2001), which was the first house built in the area by a free settler, Verincourt de Clambe. Historian Ralph Hawkins believes it is one of the state's oldest slab dwellings.

First stop is Hills District Historical Society Museum (opened late 2010) in the William Thompson Masonic Schools. The museum features farming, woodworking, household and school artefacts. We will visit another early house yet to be revealed. Our guide is Pam Wilson, Secretary of Hills District Historical Society.

Life membership for Richard Blair

Life Membership of the Society was conferred on Richard Blair at the 25 June AGM. The citation reads: 'In recognition and appreciation of his resolute commitment to the Society's objectives since 1985, his work in the roles of President, Vice President and committee member, and his relentless dedication as Editor of the Society's Newsletter since 1994.'

(photo: H Goldsmith)
More on page 3



Census Night 9 August 2011

National Family History Week 29 July-8 August
See back page for Marrickville Council events

OUR LAST MEETING: AGM WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

President **Sonia Lavery** welcomed members to the Society's 27th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 25 June at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville. Sonia read the president's report (see inside), **Diane McCarthy** presented the treasurer's report and **Richard Blair** gave the publications report.

After questions, presentations were made to **Fred Ellis** in recognition of over 20 years as a newsletter runner and **Graeme Napier** for examining the books; **Richard Blair** was presented with a certificate for Life Membership of the Society. We welcomed **Clinton Johnston**, Coordinator History Services (Marrickville Library & History Services) who spoke briefly about his role and available services; and new member, **Ron Ringer**, who is seeking support for Sydney Park's chimney stacks, currently under threat by the City of Sydney Council's plan to install a City Farm.

Returning Officer **Graeme Napier** declared all positions vacant. Elected were: president, **Sonia Lavery**; vice presidents, **Silas Clifford-Smith** and **Robert Hutchinson**; treasurer, **Diane McCarthy**; secretary, **Vivien Wherry**; assistant secretary, **Lorraine Beach**; committee members, **Richard Blair**, **Iain Carolin**, **Nancy MacAlpine**, **Ian Phillips**, **Pamela Stewart** and **Rosemary Wood**. We welcome Nancy back to the committee, having served as secretary in 2007-08. Long term member **Sue Miller** stepped aside having served on the committee since 2005. The committee endorsed **Diane McCarthy** continuing as Public Officer.

Members stayed on for the traditional light lunch prepared by Lorraine, Sonia and Robert. Thanks to all those who assisted.

Richard Blair

HERITAGESPACE is a National Trust advocacy initiative 'allowing anyone in the community to post heritage issues <www.heritagespace.com.au>. It has grant funding assistance from the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning.

On 20 June and on 23 June two amounts of \$20 were credited to MHS for renewal of fees from ING Direct. However no member names were given. Should you not receive a receipt and feel this may apply to you please ring Diane (Treasurer) on 9588 4930.

President's Report for the 27th AGM 25 June 2011

The challenge for any president faced with presenting the annual report is how to be inclusive, interesting and short. With this in mind I have selected four key headings to guide me, which I think represent the core business of the Society, each of which has kept us very busy over the past 12 months.

The first challenge is where we live. Marrickville LGA is a large and dynamic metropolitan area of mid to late 19th century origin and a popular location for its proximity to the CBD. These factors mean that Marrickville Council's Planning Department is busy with Development Applications (DAs) many of which concern us because of their possible impact on heritage. Over the past year, 16 detailed written submissions have been made to Council in response to DAs. An additional 20 or so were considered by the committee with 'No Objection' notified to Council. Among the DAs we responded to were Brook Lodge and Hoskins Park (Dulwich Hill), the Coptic Church (Sydenham), pew removal in St Clements Church (Marrickville), Station Masters Cottage (Sydenham) and some relating to Newington College (Stanmore). Heritage Watch is the item on the committee's agenda each month where DAs are discussed and action planned. I especially want to acknowledge and thank Lorraine and Richard for taking on much of the work that is required in this regard.

Responding to the draft Heritage LEP/DCP was a major undertaking. Finding the time to look at the documents, understand the proposed changes and their implications, and then write the submission, was a considerable challenge. We are indebted to our member, Bob Irving, for the enormous help he gave in preparing our submission. We greatly appreciate Bob's experience as a heritage architect, his understanding of planning issues and his availability to teach and guide with great patience. Our sincere thanks to you Bob for all your help over the year. Of course, in the quiet times, there is always the Winged Victory to enquire after!

We maintained membership on the Council's Heritage Promotions Committee, with myself as MHS representative; and participated on the panel of judges for the Marrickville Medal through our member, Peter McLaren.

The second element of core business that I report on is concerned with the way in which the Society informs and educates itself to be responsive to our heritage and contribute to its guardianship. I refer to the outings that are a significant part of what the society does, and of the program of speakers who give up their Saturday mornings to inform us of sometimes the finest details that enhance our understanding of heritage. The outings, carefully researched and thought out are an excellent way to have some fun, get to know each other and deepen our appreciation of heritage. We have had four outings and five speakers over the past year. These events contribute greatly to the ongoing success of the Society and I thank all those involved both as speakers and organisers of the outings.

There is always considerable collaboration within MHS to achieve the results that we enjoy but some members take on more responsibilities. In particular I thank Deborah Beck and Jim Croke for offering their home for the Pot Luck Christmas dinner; Lorraine for being the 'coach queen' and organiser *par excellence*; Diane for ensuring that all expenses are covered and bookings managed efficiently; Ian Philips for attending to the PA systems, hanging the black curtains and generally being useful; Ted Green for always being a wonderful source of information on outings; Diane and Robert for the morning tea on talk days; and numerous members who come early to help set up the hall and then put it all back again.

The successful launch of the journal *Heritage 13* at Vic on the Park Hotel in October 2010 was a great event and sits with the activities that we engage in to promote heritage and involvement in its protection. Particular thanks go to Yvonne Preston for editing the journal and Madeline Preston for her art work, to Shirley Hilyard for organising the advertisements, and to Richard and Lorraine for ensuring completion of the task.

My third point reflects on the very core of MHS — its members. There is no doubt that you are a very responsive group which I can assure you is most gratifying and much appreciated by the committee. Attendance at meetings is high with an average of 45 members at each meeting, and with a significant number of new members joining each year. Membership at a recent count was 423. The interest and expertise that is represented in the membership continues to challenge the Society and ensures its continued relevancy.

But, as a non government organisation our resources are limited. Our strength is in you the membership to maintain a watching brief, to raise the alarm and take action if necessary. Challenges are going to multiply as even greater pressure results from 'urban development', rather than 'urban sprawl' and the effect of recent changes to planning laws in NSW have embedded problems. The proposed coal seam gas mining that will begin in December in St Peters poses, I believe, a significant threat on a number of fronts.

Fourthly, I turn to the committee. If I were to list all the tasks undertaken by the committee it would take a very long time indeed. Some of these I have mentioned above. I would now like to thank Lorraine for all her work as minute secretary, writing submissions and for being the resourceful person that she is; Richard for all his work and commitment as editor and distributor of the newsletter and for all the organising that that entails, for his experience and expertise and generosity in time and commitment; Robert and Silas for their experience and special contributions; Diane for her diligence as treasurer, in maintaining membership records, looking after our stock of publications, going to conferences and maintaining networks; Vivienne for being a successful liaison person with Marrickville Council, attending to the mail box and being an excellent secretary; Ian Philips for being everywhere when you need him; Sue for always being ready to help out when necessary; and to Iain, Rosemary and Pamela for stepping up to challenges, as new members of the committee.

It has been my great pleasure to work with all of you over the past 12 months and to carry out the work of President of MHS. My sincere thanks for your interest and generosity in time and effort in maintaining a high standard in promoting and protecting the heritage of our great area.

Sonia Laverty

Richard life-membered!

At the 27th AGM **Richard Blair** was awarded Life Membership of MHS with the unanimous acclaim of our members. Among much else, Richard has lined up speakers for meetings, done 'reccies' for proposed outings, mastered 'desktop publishing', diligently and zealously researched items with his erudite memory for names and facts. He also has arranged the printing, bundling and distribution of the widely esteemed newsletter and when a car owner, drove around the district delivering.

In the adroit words of our Spike Milligan when receiving his lifetime achievement award for comedy in 1994, 'It's about bl**dy time'. Thank you, Richard.

Ian Phillips et al

Governor visits Tempe House

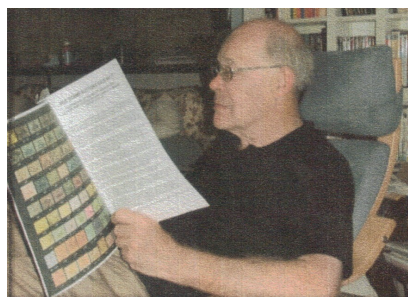
On Saturday 25 June, descendants of AB Spark gathered at Tempe House, built by their ancestor in 1836. Among others in attendance was the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir and three Sisters of the Good Samaritan, one of whom had lived in Tempe House during their occupancy of the property. A display in the parlour covered the history of the house and contained some Spark family treasures which included the tea urn presented to Spark by James Mudie (author of *The Felonry of New South Wales*). The group were taken on a conducted tour of the house and a walk around Mt Olympus. Following afternoon tea St Magdalene's Chapel was inspected.

Members of the family then went to St Peters Church, of which Spark was one of the first trustees. The governor had an evening engagement and couldn't visit the church but mentioned that she had purchased a pew from the church which was now in her library.

Laurel Horton

Vale Michael Haden

MHS member Michael Haden died on 2 June aged 67. His family had a long association with the Taree area, his grandfather and father having started Haden's Foundry and Engineering Company to service the marine engineering needs of the coastal shipping trade and Manning River boating. After spending most of his working life with the family company Michael retired to Newtown pursuing his lifelong



(Photo: Vilma Bell)

passion for philately — where he was an expert in pre-1850 stamps from Australian states and New Zealand — and early Australian history. He drew my attention to a mid-19th century

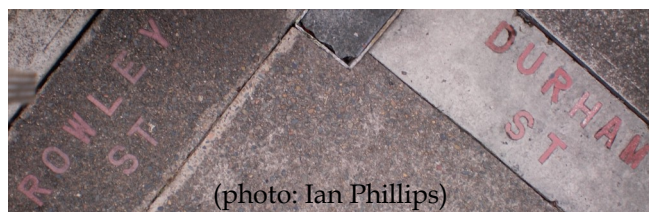
envelope addressed to 'Miss

Donnithorne Newtown' up for auction. Michael was a man of integrity, with a gentle and generous spirit, a quirky sense of humour, a whimsical observer of people and held in high affection by all who knew him. Our condolences go to his long term partner Vilma and his family.

Richard Blair

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

Rowley Street Stanmore previously ran between Warwick Street Stanmore and St Mary Street Camperdown, intersecting Cardigan Street. In the early 1960s, the name of Rowley Street, west of Cardigan Street, was changed to Rosevear Street (Cardigan Street was blocked off in the 1990s at this intersection, such that it ceased to be continuous). However, the name 'Rowley Street' remains embedded in red cement on no less than 11 corners along Rosevear Street and most of these examples remain in good condition — on the corners of Cardigan, Stafford, Lincoln, Durham and Warwick Streets. It is to the credit of Marrickville Council that the name 'Rowley' has been retained and it is hoped this continues for as long as possible.



(photo: Ian Phillips)

Rowley Street is named after Thomas Rowley, a lieutenant with the NSW Corps who acquired land grants in the district in 1793-94. Rosevear Street is named after John Solomon Rosevear MHR for Dalley (1931-53) and Speaker of the House of Representatives (1943-49). I thank **Bruce Preston** for suggesting this anomaly as a trivia question and congratulate **Ian Phillips** who correctly identified it.

Shirley Hilyard reported a second instance. Hunter Street Lewisham was originally called Frazers (*sic*) Road (named after the family of Margaret Frazer, one of Robert Wardell's three sisters). The name was shortened to Frazer Road and still had that name in Wilson's 1931 Street Directory. However an ad in *The Sydney Morning Herald* (20/1/1932, p. 20) indicates the name was changed to Hunter Street in 1931. This possibly happened to avoid confusion with Fraser (or Frazer) Street near Marrickville Park. It is not known who Hunter Street is named after.

The photo below (the southeast corner footpath of Hunter Street and The Boulevarde) shows how the red lettering conveys a previous name by use of the word 'late', though unfortunately the former name of 'Frazer' has disappeared. However, validation of the former street name exists with Frazer Lane which runs between Hunter Street behind the Huntsbury (previously Masonic) Hotel and New Canterbury Road, though it's more of a passageway than a lane.

Richard Blair



The 1895 sandstone **Marrickville Police Station** (designed by Walter Liberty Vernon and known as the lock-up) in Gladstone Street has been sold to a commercial buyer for over \$1 million. It served as a police station until 1997 when May Murray Neighbourhood Centre moved in.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 23 July

Coach tour of Hills District

Details on front page

Saturday 27 August

Ian Hoskins — Sydney Harbour: a history

The Amazing Wolli Creek Valley exhibition & talk by Judy Finlason on 27 July

Marrickville Library will hold a 2-3 week exhibition from **25 July** on the historical and natural heritage of the Wolli Valley. This is a project of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society. On **Wednesday 27 July at 6 pm**, founding WCPS member, **Judy Finlason** will talk on the exhibition and provide some fascinating insights into the history of the valley, its settlement and the fight to preserve it, including early photographs. Bookings for talk 9335 2173.

* * * *

MHS congratulates WCPS treasurer **Peter Stevens**, on winning the 2011 Westpac Community Treasurers Award in the Small Organisations category. Peter was awarded \$5000 for the WCPS and another \$5000 for training and tools. His work for the Society extends far beyond being treasurer in ensuring 'Wolli Creek Valley retains and enhances its amazing bushland for generations'. WCPS is a member organisation of MHS.

Family History Week talks by Joan Baggs

Marrickville Library & History Services has two talks in Family History Week by local family historian **Joan Baggs**, who incorporates interesting social history background into the stories of her own family.

Sydney Baggs: metalworker extraordinaire

Wednesday 3 August 10.30-12.30

Marrickville Library

The two wealthiest spinsters in Australia (Dame Eadith Walker and Miss Edith Hill) and my grandmother (Minnie Evans) with Joan Baggs

Friday 5 August 10.30-12.30

Stanmore Library

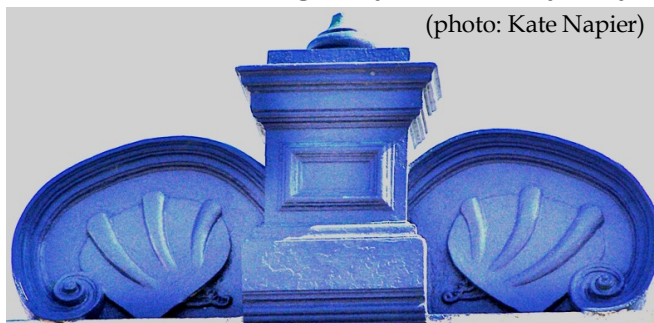
Scott's Last Expedition Maritime Museum until 16 October

A hundred years after its tragic end, the definitive story of British explorer Captain Robert Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition to Antarctica is told in this exhibition, reuniting artefacts used by Scott and his team with scientific specimens collected during the 1910-13 expedition for the first time since their use in Antarctica.

Corrigendum: The Dendroglyphs facsimile

The facsimile reproduction of *The Dendroglyphs* or 'Carved Trees' of New South Wales advertised in the June newsletter, was handled by **Bruce Welch** (not Preston). Copies of the work can be obtained from Bruce on <adjutor@ozemail.com.au> or via Sydney University Press for \$60 (still excellent value for the quality of the reproduction).

Another Princes Highway parapet mystery!



(photo: Kate Napier)

This device, described by **Bob Irving** as a 'parapet crest', sits on top of the building at 81 Princes Highway St Peters, on the corner of Short Street. The mystery has been posed by Council's Heritage Advisor **Kate Napier** who ascertained from council records that the building was a chemist shop owned by chemist James Bowen from c. 1888 until 1925. It's anyone's guess what kind of pharmacological parapet devices they might be, but as a result of her research Kate believes they may represent 'spatulas with an ointment slab/paper for wrapping powders . . . the central missing piece may have been a representation of a "Show Globe" or a "Specie Jar".'

Bob explains: 'this parapet crest consists of a classical pedestal which originally evidently supported an urn or a ball. Its supports are odd versions of scrolls, each forming a kind of cartouche bearing that curious plant-like form. The scrolls are odd because they are not uniform arcs and spirals as would be expected, being almost elliptical in shape. They would be described as simply crude, but yet they are carefully-formed mirror-images; quite purposeful.'

Perhaps a member may have some idea!



*It was a full History House on 29 June to farewell **Mari Metzke** who has retired after 21 years as RAHS Manager/Outreach. Carol Liston spoke eloquently of Mari's achievements and contributions. Mari reflected on the pleasures of roaming the state networking with affiliated societies, organising conferences and coping with a hectic schedule. (photo: Richard Blair)*

PRESIDENT Sonia 9519 3137

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

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NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823