

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



2012

International Year of Sustainable Energy for All  
& National Year of Reading

The President Sonia Laverty and the executive committee wish members and their families a Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year.

## Marrickville a past worth preserving



A collection of local history essays

*Marrickville: a past worth preserving* was launched at our meeting on Saturday 26 November at Herb Greedy Hall. Among the 80 present, we were honoured to have ten of the authors along with Maria Walsh, CEO, RAHS who launched the book, Marrickville Mayor Morris Hanna and many members. MC was vice president Silas Clifford-Smith. Maria spoke about the RAHS and the importance of recording local history. The three editors — Keith Sutton, Richard Blair and Lorraine Beach — spoke about the book, which resulted from the essay competition the Society held in 2007-08; the authors; and the high standard of the essays, with some excerpts being read out. Some funding derived from grant money from both RAHS and Marrickville Council. A catered buffet lunch followed. The Contents list, an author photo, postal details and some authors' comments are inside. RRP \$35.





*Ten of the authors from 'Marrickville: a past worth preserving' at the launch. From left in front row: Patricia Steane, Rosalind Torrent, Merle Kavanagh, Mary Cleghorn, Lyn Collingwood, Kate Dunbar; back row: Robert Parkinson, Laurel Horton, Chrys Meader, Robert Horton (photo: Marilyn Jolly)*

### ***Marrickville: a past worth preserving – a collection of local history essays***

The essays appear by title in alphabetical order as follows:

A fresh look at 19th century St Peters  
 A St Peters family  
 By the Blue Lagoon – a family memoir  
 Charles Abel and his food empire  
 Employment of children  
 Family life at the rectory: St Peters Church Cooks River  
 Forgotten memories: Marrickville Road in the 1960s  
 Henry, his roses, four siblings and their Francophile brother – a memoir on the Quinns' 52-year residency in Petersham  
 James Conley and family of Kingston  
 Marrickville Municipal Symphony Orchestra (1930-1953)  
 Marrickville: my 'Shangri-La'  
 Memories of 'my' Newtown  
 My memories of Livingstone Park  
 Stories behind the names  
 St Peters: connecting with a written past  
 The Bible bashers: the Churches of Christ in the Marrickville area  
 The Marrickville Horticultural Society: a blooming history  
 The stained glass windows of St Peters Church Cooks River  
 Theo Flynn  
 Two Newtown identities  
 Whatever happened to Emanuel Brace?  
 World sport comes to Marrickville

Robert Horton  
 Laurel Horton  
 Merle Kavanagh  
 Lyn Collingwood  
 Laurel Horton  
 Rosalind Torrent  
 Chrys Meader

John Chappell  
 Patricia Steane  
 Robert Parkinson  
 Mary Cleghorn  
 Betty Biffin  
 Peter Chinn  
 Laurel Horton  
 Robert Horton  
 Lyn Collingwood  
 Peter Cousins  
 Laurel Horton  
 Lyn Collingwood  
 Fred Sinfield  
 Kate Dunbar  
 Shirley Doolan

In his speech, editor **Keith Sutton** traced the history of the competition which resulted in the publication. He said 'the book is the culmination of a massive commitment and effort by the Society over several years' and that 'this is by far the most substantial commitment of funds to a single project by our Society since its foundation.' Keith paid special tribute to both the authors and co-editors. He suggested that the book should place MHS at the forefront of heritage and historical societies throughout the state.

### ***A past worth preserving postal charges***

Book is \$35. Post, packaging and handling charge for Sydney is \$10, NSW country & ACT \$11; Vic. & Qld \$13; SA \$13.50; Tas. \$14.50; WA \$15. To ascertain direct deposit information or the charge for extra copies, ring treasurer Diane (02) 9588 4930 or email <diane.mccarthy@optusnet.com.au>. To save postage we can also arrange free home delivery for local residents on request. Cheques and money orders to Marrickville Heritage Society.

## How Kate Dunbar came to write her essay

**Kate Dunbar** (*Whatever happened to Emanuel Brace?*) emailed: 'I was so thrilled to be at the launch. Congratulations to all and I'm really enjoying reading the other stories. This is how I came to write my entry:

'I really don't regard myself as a writer or an historian although I'm really keen on Aussie history and the preservation of it. When I decided to enter the competition, my first interest was to write about Dr Robert Wardell and I began to research the subject. I found several good articles on the subject but I soon began to wonder what happened to the three convicts who committed the crime, because they were **so** young. That was how I decided to research what happened to the 16-year-old, Emanuel Brace. So I went to the State Library and the trail led me to various government records. When I found the trial relating to the murder of Emanuel's wife, well! -- I was hooked and couldn't resist jotting it all down. As it turned out, Brace was much more interesting than the other two (Jenkins and Tattersdale), although still a very bad person. However, who knows what mischief the others might have perpetrated had they lived a few years longer.'

## Impressions from some other authors:

**John Chappell** (*Henry's Roses*) wrote to advise 'a pre-booked tour will prevent us from being present for the long-awaited launch of the book chronicling parts of your municipality's history for future generations. Please convey our congratulations to all who have laboured long and most competently on this project.'

Foul weather on the day of the launch prevented contributor **Peter Chinn** (*My memories of Livingstone Park*) from driving down from the Blue Mountains. Peter emailed: 'I had prepared a small speech drawing on the fact of my birth on that day 75 years ago at Bethesda Hospital in Victoria Road [Marrickville]. I had a look at my birthplace last year but since it ceased being an aged care facility, it has become somewhat derelict and I suspect a potential plum for developers.' Spot-on, Peter!

**Mary Cleghorn** (*Marrickville: my 'Shangri-La'*) wrote to say she was thrilled with the book. Mary's memories culminate in the Back to Strollers Night she organised in 1997. Mary's card enclosed a cutting from *The Senior* about singer Edwin Duff, described as 'the most flamboyant entertainer we'd ever seen'. He regularly sang at the Strollers dances at Marrickville Town Hall.

**Ros Torrent** (*Family life at the rectory: St Peters Church Cooks River*) emailed positively about the book: 'In 2011 I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to look inside the newly painted 'old' rectory (subject of her essay) and it was amazing to speculate which was my father's bedroom, and which was the window the children climbed out of for their ghostly escapades.'

MHS member nonagenarian **Joy Lewis** was not a contributor, however her parents are cited in **Lyn Collingwood's** essay *The Bible bashers: the Churches of Christ in the Marrickville area*: 'Secretary William Lewis, a schoolteacher, and his wife Valerie nee Kingsbury (Joseph Kingsbury's granddaughter) were at *Moeraki* in Randall Street Marrickville' (p. 116).

## 2011 RAHS Conference at Maitland

The theme of the conference on 29-30 October was *Of Droughts and Flooding Rains* and it was held in the historic town of Maitland, itself no stranger to many floods, the most recent major one in 2007. However, we learnt that disasters come in many other shapes and forms, from international disasters like wars; national ones, such as devastating bushfires, cyclones, the occasional earthquake, epidemics and shipping and mining disasters; to disasters of a more localised nature. These might involve the loss of historic records and inadequate recordkeeping, where a CD, for example, can no longer be read because of the onward march of technology; the loss of family papers and photo albums; and finally, having a guest speaker invited to a meeting but not showing up!

The 14 papers presented covered these subjects as well as ways of researching, recording, and preserving records and of preventing damage to records. In a disaster that could befall any society, in 2010, a fire caused the Inverell District Family History Group to lose 80% of its library. This raised the importance of having a disaster management plan in place.

Perhaps the most moving talk of all was that of **Tim Whitford** who gave an account of a four-year search for the lost soldiers of the 1916 Battle of Fromelles in France. Tim's great uncle Harry was identified by DNA analysis as one of the bodies recovered.

Despite the hot weather there was a good turnout for an afternoon walk (led by **Hector Abrahams**) along the south bank of the Hunter River which gave us an insight into the flood problems of the local area and the measures in place to prevent further catastrophes.

In recognition of many years of outstanding service to Marrickville Heritage Society, long time member, **Ted Green** was awarded a RAHS Certificate of Achievement (see photo below).

Overall the conference has been described as one of the best ever!

Iain Carolin



*Ted Green receives his RAHS Certificate of Achievement from President Professor David Carment at the annual conference. The citation reads: 'For his outstanding participation as an active member of Marrickville Heritage Society over 16 years'.*  
(photo: Iain Carolin)



## Calendar of 2012 Events

**Saturday 25 February**  
**Show & Tell**

**Saturday 24 March**  
**Visit to Mechanical Music Museum**

**Saturday 21 April**  
**Larry Writer talk on *Bumper Farrell***  
(meeting a week earlier than usual)

## Summer Trivia Question

Name the street in Marrickville LGA which has the most MHS memberships. Ring Richard 9557 3823 or <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

## Welcome to New Members

Beth Goodwin, Keith & Lila Levitt, Janice Schubach, all of Marrickville; Vilma Bell, Patricia Buick, Tyrrell & Jim Hyman, Bruce Lay, Darlene van der Breggen, all of Newtown; Charles Cox, Steph Jones, both of Petersham; Kass Finlay McAuliffe, Sydenham; Lindsey Reynolds, Alexandria; Doug Barr, Broadway; Narelle Sisa, Earlwood; John Murphy, Manly; Mick Timmings (rejoined), Ulladulla; Trevor Forrester, Undercliffe.

## Annette Kellerman panels unveiled

At a low-key ceremony on Wednesday 16 November at the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre in Enmore Park, a series of seven panels depicting the life, times and swimming costumes of this famous swimmer were unveiled by Marrickville Mayor Morris Hanna.



Well designed, the panels balance narrative with images representing the stages of AK's extraordinary life, including childhood days in Marrickville. Words and concept by Elizabeth Heath from Marrickville Council. (Photos: Richard Blair)



## Marrickville Heritage Society wins a 2011 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award

Marrickville Heritage Society is to receive a NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award from the NSW Government: Heritage Council of New South Wales. The notification indicated that the Society was 'nominated in recognition of your contribution towards heritage advocacy in your local area. The NSW Government is grateful to those members of the community who have voluntarily given their time to protect and conserve our State's heritage.'

'The Hon. Robyn Parker, Minister for Heritage and the Heritage Council of NSW would like to formally acknowledge your contribution at an awards presentation ceremony to be held in Parramatta next month.'

The award will be presented on 9 December. MHS was nominated for this award by Marrickville Council.

## Marcus Clark & Co building in Newtown



The ever-alert **Wendy Dyson** recently drew attention to The Pie Tin café, 1 Brown Street Newtown on the corner of Brown Lane in the City of Sydney LGA. On the building is an attractive plaque showing how the building looked around 1912 when it was a warehouse for Marcus Clark & Co Ltd. Although the building was extended, it has otherwise not been altered too much. The plaque describes it as a 'two storey building, with its utilitarian character, decorative brick cornice and splayed corner; a good example of a modest Federation commercial warehouse.' It conveys the building's significance in the context of the eight Marcus Clark stores which included the main store in Railway Square and the imposing Newtown store over the road in Brown Street. The building has also housed a boot manufacturing operation, a millinery, and a modern fashion clothing store (top photo: Richard Blair; lower photo from c. 1912: © City of Sydney Archives).



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