

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22 June 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville

The President invites members to the Society's 29th AGM when reports on the progress of the Society will be presented and all committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance or on the day. Anyone interested can ring Lorraine on 8565 6511.

Members must have paid their 2013-14 membership fees to stand for office, or vote if required. Fees can be paid on the day (see below). Stay afterwards and mingle with fellow members over a light lunch.

Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill Parish Hall fire

As reported in the May newsletter this 1886 parish hall in Herbert Street went up in flames on 21 April in a suspected act of arson. I only became aware of this sad loss three weeks later as I had been travelling in France and not checking my emails. There I was, on a regular basis, visiting medieval churches and yet, all those ancient edifices mean less to me than this humble hall, which ceased to be a church in 1915.

The reason is simple. Whilst growing up, apart from my childhood home and my schools, I spent more time in this building than in any other for it was there I attended Sunday School, as well as Cub and Scout meetings as a member of 2nd Dulwich Hill. Rarely did a week go by when I didn't enter those doors. The same can be said for my three siblings. Although parts of the hall's shell remain intact, I am told everything within was destroyed, including two honour boards naming (between 1953 and 1976) 15 Queen's Scouts, 26 Queen's Guides and Gladys Moir, Pioneer Guider (from 1922 to 1975). The old timber Jennifer Russell Hall at the rear was saved. This photo was taken by my brother David in Heritage Week 1996 from the widow's walk on top of the rectory over the road.

Richard Blair



2013 Special Achievement Award

Barely a month after joining MHS in 1999, **Lorraine Beach** was elected to the committee and has since been actively involved in defending and protecting both the built and the natural environment on behalf of MHS and community members. Lorraine was MHS president for two years (2004-06) and has been one of the two vice presidents for another eight years. She has played a pivotal role in chairing monthly meetings of the Society and in organising historical day trips and weekends away. Lorraine did a splendid job with the layout for the Society's recent publication, *Marrickville: a past worth preserving*.



Courtesy of
Marrickville Council

The Council submission recommending Lorraine's award cited the words of previous MHS presidents, **Sonia Laverty and Richard Blair**:

Any organisation with Lorraine involved would be the richer for it in terms of her organisational and natural leadership; her propensity to make new members feel welcome and established members feel valued; and above all, her ability to impart enthusiasm for the history and heritage conservation of the area.

On 8 May at Marrickville Town Hall as part of the Marrickville Medal award ceremony (report inside), Mayor **Victor Macri** presented **Lorraine Beach** with Marrickville Council's 2013 Special Achievement Award. Lorraine is a most worthy recipient.

Geoff Ostling, President

MHS annual fees due on 1 June

Members should find with their June newsletter a blue renewal slip to return intact with a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society, unless you're: a) paying by cash at the AGM; b) paying by direct deposit (see below); or c) paid up (in which case no slip should have been issued).

Fees (unchanged since 2003) are: concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Members may pay for more than one year and donations are appreciated. Any queries ring treasurer Diane 9588 4930.

For renewal by direct deposit to MHS bank account:

Bank name: Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802 084)

Account name: Marrickville Heritage Society

Account Number: 85663

Reference: 'Fees' + [your surname/s and initials]

OUR LAST MEETING

Coach tour to Vacluse House & Kincoppal

It was indeed timely for Society members to explore connections to William Charles Wentworth, given Saturday 25 May was the date chosen to officially celebrate the bicentenary of the first European crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson (see May newsletter). Our first stop was at Petersham Park, possibly the site where WC Wentworth (1790-1872) lived with his then mistress Sarah Cox and children before they moved into Vacluse House in 1829. Tour leader **Geoff Ostling** presented some illustrated background on the early life of Wentworth.

On our way to Vacluse House we passed through Woollahra and Double Bay where we glimpsed many fine old houses and mansions. We were fortunate to be able to visit the Chapel at Kincoppal-Rose Bay School of the Sacred Heart which was an imposing sight on approach. The convent was founded in 1882. Architect John Horbury Hunt, a Canadian born Protestant, was commissioned to design the convent and chapel, which was made from locally quarried sandstone, and a lasting friendship developed between the architect and the nuns. This beautiful chapel — 'deemed the supreme example of Hunt's expertise in grouping different elements into a complex, yet never complicated, whole' — with its vaulted ceiling, was dedicated in 1900. Chapel historian **Patricia Horsley** gave a fascinating talk on its history and collection of furniture and memorabilia. A special feature is the 1890 Puget Organ which was gifted from Bordeaux and installed in 1906.

Arriving at Vacluse House we were treated to Devonshire Tea, then we wandered through the old stables and the re-created vegetable garden with its colourful spinaches, rosella plants and 'holey' cabbages. The prickly pear plants were needed because of the cochineal beetles which gave the red dye for the soldiers' coats.

Vacluse House was built by Sir Henry Browne Hayes in 1803-04 and bought in 1827 by Wentworth, who moved in with his family from Petersham in 1829. The Wentworths were financially well off but our guide explained the impact of the social unacceptability of Charles's wife Sarah due to her convict parentage. The drawing room was lavishly decorated to impress suitors for the Wentworth daughters. There was an ottoman in red brocade on which the ladies could sit, in order to show off their gowns to best advantage.

Wentworth and his family lived at Vacluse House for the remainder of Wentworth's life, although he and Sarah spent much of their later life in England where he died in 1872. (The house remained in the family until the new century.) Wentworth wanted to be buried near the rock on his estate from which he would often sit and view the harbour. Some of his remains were returned from England and his funeral procession in 1873 was a hugely attended occasion. It led to the mausoleum where more of the Wentworth family were later buried. Land above the mausoleum was donated by the family where, as specified, a

modern-style memorial church was eventually built in 1963, but which, unfortunately, is not in current use. Afternoon tea was enjoyed at The Gap, Watsons Bay before we drove past where the *Dunbar* sank in 1857 with the loss of 121 lives, and South Head Cemetery.

Our thanks go to **Patricia** and **Maureen** at Kincoppal, Vacluse House guides **Darby** and **Anthony**, **Diane McCarthy** for her ever-reliable behind-the-scenes backup, and especially our President **Geoff Ostling** for organising such an interesting day in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.

Ros Torrent

Note Whilst the precise whereabouts of Wentworth's Petersham house remains unclear, he is recognised locally by Wentworth Street and the house at 99 Brighton Street, which is named *Wentworth*.



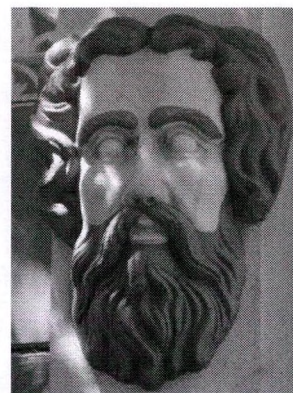
Members in grounds of Kincoppal (photo: Hillary Goldsmith)

Hazel Hawke AO, who died on 23 May, is fondly remembered by most, regardless of their political persuasion. As well as other non-political affiliations, Hazel served as Chair of the NSW Heritage Council from 1997. She officiated at the RAHS conference that year in Camperdown where she presented a Certificate of Achievement honouring the late John Zinsmeester (award received by John's sister Ellie, still a MHS member); and in 1999 at Rydalmere when she presented Shirley Hilyard with this award. Hazel's photo appeared in the newsletter both years.

The Society welcomes Marrickville Council's new General Manager **Brian Barrett**, who had been acting in the role since January. Brian had been Council's Director of Corporate Services since 2003. Brian replaced **Ken Gainger** who resigned in January after three years in the role to become General Manager of Byron Shire Council.

Winter Trivia Question

Know your Marrickville!
The carved stone creation of this hirsute fellow graces the front of a residence in Marrickville LGA. Where? The questioner would love to know who this bloke was. Richard 9557 3823 or MHS email bottom of back page.



2013 Marrickville Medal

On the evening of 8 May a large crowd attended Marrickville Town Hall to celebrate the 19th award of the highly prized Marrickville Medal. Since 1995 the Medal has recognised outstanding built conservation works and each year we are treated to a showcase of the outcomes of the commitment, investment and hard work of people who have preserved, rebuilt or restored their buildings.

Marrickville Mayor **Victor Macri** presided and Master of Ceremonies MHS President **Geoff Ostling** kept the evening moving in style. The judges – conservation architect **Julie Mackenzie**, architect and historian **Bob Irving**, also a MHS member, and **Michael Kotis**, on behalf of the 2012 Medal winner – had an unenviable task: 13 nominations, all of outstanding merit.

The Medal was awarded to a charming 19th century stone cottage in Collins Street Tempe, the result of painstaking restoration and sympathetic new works to ensure its ongoing career as a comfortable modern lifestyle home.

Also nominated were: five other fine houses including Wilga Street Dulwich Hill (Commended); the former Majestic Roller Rink/cinema at Petersham (Highly Commended); St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River (Commended); the former Marrickville police station; Marrickville Town Hall; and redevelopments for apartments of the former Enmore Public School (Highly Commended), the *Stead House & Bethesda* Hospital site, and a Camperdown industrial site.



Collins Street Tempe
(courtesy of Marrickville Council)

The 2013 Urban Photography Competition was won by Jenna Hore for her entry *Tunnel Vision*. Deborah Kent and Carolyn Murphy were both Highly Commended.

Guest speaker **Robin Walsh** gave an absorbing insight into the life of Elizabeth Macquarie (1778-1835), second wife of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Robin is curator of the Lachlan Macquarie Room – the original parlour from Macquarie's home on the Isle of Mull, Scotland, reassembled inside Macquarie University's library.

It is a tribute to our community's understanding and appreciation of local heritage that the annual award of the Marrickville Medal continues to flourish, and a credit to Council's Heritage Promotions Committee for organising such a splendid event.

Lorraine Beach

St Peters Anglican Church celebrates

May was a memorable month for St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River (1838). This year is the 175th anniversary of the Thomas Bird designed church and on Sunday 12 May it was standing room only at a Thanksgiving Service held to mark the occasion. Attended by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev. Dr Peter Jensen and his wife Christine, the service celebrated the church's history and particularly that it has been a place of worship continuously since 1837, the year before the foundation stone for the present building was laid.

Earlier that week, resident historian **Laurel Horton** and **Rev. Andrew Bruce** accepted a Commended award at the Marrickville Medal evening. In their citation, the judges acknowledged the ongoing works to the church, including stabilising the building's walls (it is built on clay) and reconstruction of the Leslie Wilkinson designed church hall from original drawings and early photographs.

The years of hard work restoring the church are very much in evidence with the restored rectory, the rebuilt church hall and a fresh new paint scheme. The graveyard is tremendously interesting, as are the histories of the church's stained glass windows. St Peters Church makes a wonderful contribution to the history and heritage of our local area.

Lorraine Beach

From the MHS blog

This posting recently appeared on the MHS blog (address at foot of back page) under the heading 'In the news 100 years ago today: Enmore Balloon': *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Friday 9 May 1913 p. 9.

AIRSHIP MYSTERY.

LARGE MODEL BALLOON.

The object which was supposed to have been an airship last Saturday by so many interested spectators turns out to have been a large model balloon. It was liberated at Enmore by Mr. Alban Roberts, the wireless torpedo inventor. It was the largest balloon yet made in these parts, being 20 feet long. It soared to a great height as it made seawards, passing over Manly, and then disappearing out of sight. The matter was explained yesterday by Mr. Taylor, president of the Aerial League, who pointed out that balloons of that sort probably often accounted for many of the airship scares. The lights seen at night were, he said, often from lanterns attached to kites, sent up by experimentalists, assisted by a little imagination on the part of the onlookers. It is stated that the Enmore balloon was cinematographed as it rose, and passed beyond the reach of the camera. Asked as to how far it might travel to sea, Mr. Taylor said it was impossible to say, but that it might live over a great distance.

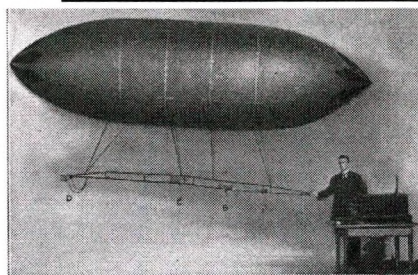


FIG. 43.
Roberts's (Australia) wirelessly directed airship exhibited in 1912.

(Image source:
Cybernetic Zoo)

Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 22 June

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27 July

Dulwich Hill walk with Chrys Meader

Saturday 24 August

Ron Ringer on History of Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation

Saturday 28 September

'Touring the Past' exhibition and talk by Richard White at Macleay Museum

Upcoming Marrickville Library events

Tuesday 18 June 10 am - 12 noon

Marrickville Library (Family History Group)

Emily Hannah, Senior Archivist, State Records NSW

Using shipping records to the utmost

Thursday 20 June 11 am - 12.30 pm

Enmore walking tour with Clinton Johnston

From the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, Enmore Park to Newtown Station. Named after *Enmore House* (1835), the suburb of Enmore contained a number of grand colonial houses including *Reiby House*, *Stanmore House* and *Thurnby*.

Thursday 11 July 11 am - 12.30 pm

Marrickville's sites of connection - walking tour

Marrickville Library and History Services is working on a research project on the role of churches, synagogues, mosques, and associated sites in the formation of our communities. This tour from Marrickville Library will focus on St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, St Brigids Catholic Church and the Lien Hao Temple.

Bookings for walks required: 9335 2173

Tempe Walk

Saturday 15 June 2 pm

Learn the story of the places and people of this overlooked historic suburb on walk led by the St Peters Cooks River History Group. Meet at Tempe Railway Station. Free, but numbers limited. Bookings 9558 7504.

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St Peters Church Cooks River Community Day

187 Princes Highway St Peters

Saturday 6 July 1.30pm-4.30pm

Members are invited to further celebrate this church's 175th anniversary. Included are a self-guided historic graveyard walk, historical presentation (2 pm) and a recital (3 pm) by noted organist Col Adamson playing classical and popular music on the 1880 Brindley and Foster pipe organ. Also children's games, sausage sizzle and afternoon tea. Enquiries 9558 7504.

St George Art Society invites all to its art exhibition at **Tempe House** 13-19 July, 10 am - 4 pm. Free.

Museum of Sydney, Phillip & Bridge Streets Public Sydney: stop, look, live exhibition celebrates unusual stories of the city. Until 8 September.

Council amalgamations! Have your say

The Independent Local Government Review Panel has recommended major local government reforms, including proposals for council amalgamations. Marrickville Council invites residents to express their views on the proposals. Should you think this to be Hobson's Choice (all three options unacceptable), there are two additional alternatives: a) an option of your own formulation; or b) rejection of amalgamation. Have your say by **Friday 14 June** on Council's website.

On Friday 10 May, by invitation, MHS President **Geoff Ostling** and **Robert Hutchinson** represented MHS at the Waverley Historical Society dinner in Bondi Junction to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Guest speaker was former Justice of the High Court of Australia the **Hon. Michael Kirby AC, CMG**, who spoke eloquently on 'History and the Law'.

'The famed garden of the Tempe Estate' plaque

As reported in our May newsletter art, history and heritage were all on display on 13-14 April at Tempe House. Launched was the Discovery Point Heritage Walk which comprises 12 sponsored heritage plaques (masterminded by Ross Berry, Tempe House's honorary historian) scattered around the Tempe Estate. In addition to the title, accreditation and MHS logo, the words on the MHS-sponsored plaque are:

In 1826 Alexander Brodie Spark purchased 110 acres of land on the southern bank of the Cooks River, where he established a pleasure garden and orchard intersected by wide vine trellis walks. With English-born gardener, Thomas Birkby, and thirteen convict labourers Spark's garden became famed throughout the colony.

Planted were dragon trees, rose, olive, passionflower and angel's trumpet, which were supplied by the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Also limes, vines, coral trees, Indian rubber trees and numerous ornamental shrubs, for many of which AB Spark won awards at the Floral and Horticultural Society exhibitions.

In addition crocus, snowdrops, tulips, tiger lilies, narcissus, daffodils, and ranunculus were ordered from English suppliers. Further awards were won for pomegranates, heath, proteas, peonies and rare cacti.



↑ marks spot of MHS-sponsored plaque: on eastern side of Tempe House, Mt Olympus behind (photo: Lorraine Beach)

Vice President Iain 0400 473 252

Vice Pres / Heritage Watch Lorraine 8565 6511

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Newsletter Editor Richard 9557 3823