

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Access Marrickville's Past:**

**Items from Marrickville History Collection and Archives with Clinton Johnston**

**Saturday 27 April 10.15 for 10.30 am**

**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville**

Marrickville Library and History Services collect, manage and provide access to a broad range of cultural heritage detailing the history of Marrickville. The Marrickville History Collection contains items relating to the social, civic and built history of Marrickville including artefacts, photographs, ephemera, ceramics, posters and oral histories. Marrickville Council Archives represents the pre-amalgamation administrative histories of Marrickville, Petersham and St Peters Councils. With archives covering rate, valuation and minute books, and correspondence it provides key insights into Marrickville's past.



*'Athelney', 96 Pile Street Marrickville in the 1890s*

Clinton Johnston, Coordinator History Services, will discuss items in the care of Marrickville Library and History Services, including the Henry Terbutt Brown family photograph album (Terbutt was Town Clerk of Marrickville from 1898 to his death in 1918), Thomas Severne's ceremonial trowel, recent acquisitions (including 1890s images of Pile Street, Marrickville) and select items from Marrickville Council Archives.

## How to Join the Marrickville Heritage Society

Should you value Marrickville's heritage and history and want to find out more, why not join MHS? Just send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone/s and email; or pay by direct debit. Join now and be paid up until June 2014. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for enquiries or a brochure. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

**National Trust Heritage Festival**  
**Community Milestones: 18 April-31 May**  
See back page for details of events

## Tempe House Open Weekend

**Brodie Spark Drive Wolli Creek**  
**13-14 April 10 am-4 pm**

Organised by MHS member and founder of The Friends of Tempe House, Ross Berry, in conjunction with site owners, Australand, this is a rare chance to see inside and around historic *Tempe House* (1836). On Saturday 13 April at about 10.30 am Dr Robert Brodie Spark (great great grandson of AB Spark) will open the *Tempe House* museum which will include house items from the estate, some Spark family treasures, and pictures from the Art Gallery of NSW, Mitchell Library and the Society of Australian Genealogists.

This will be followed by the launch of the Discovery Point Heritage Walk comprising eleven sponsored heritage plaques each giving a chapter of the history of the Tempe Estate. They include a plaque sponsored by Marrickville Heritage Society, 'The famed garden of the Tempe Estate'. Also featured over the weekend:

- An exhibition and sale of artworks by distinguished natural history and landscape artist Pamela Griffith
- A talk, 'History of Tempe House' (3 times a day) by St George Historical Society in St Magdalene Chapel
- Generic displays on Cooks River and environs, and other items of local historical interest by Marrickville Heritage Society. MHS will sell books and have promotional information.

## Better Planning Network (BPN) update

Further to our February 2013 newsletter coverage:

- Around 420 community groups statewide are now affiliated with the BPN
- Petitions containing more than 3,300 signatures standing for a fair NSW Planning System were handed to Jamie Parker MP on 28 March
- The White Paper is due for release in April 2013
- The BPN Community Planning Forum will be on Monday 22 April, 10 am-3.30 pm at the NSW Parliament Theatre. It will be hosted by ABC journalist, Quentin Dempster; opened by Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, The Hon. Brad Hazzard; and co-hosted by The Hon. Luke Foley, MLC; Mr David Shoebridge, MLC; Mr Alex Greenwich, MP for Sydney; and The Hon. Reverend Fred Nile, MLC. To attend registration is required (details not yet known).
- website <<http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/>>



## OUR LAST MEETING

### Coach trip to Rookwood Necropolis, Gallipoli Mosque & Auburn Botanic Gardens: 23 March

In glorious autumn weather our group were met at Rookwood by our knowledgeable guide, **Eric Sinfield** (from the Friends of Rookwood) who explained the history of Sydney's cemeteries leading to the opening of Rookwood Necropolis in 1868. First stop the sacred Sydney War Cemetery, founded in 1942, which honours some 734 servicemen who mostly died of their wounds in what was Concord Military Hospital. Sadly, a new interment – 32-year-old Sgt Brett Wood, a casualty of the Afghanistan war who died on 23 May 2011, reminds us of the futility of war.

Adjacent, the beautifully maintained NSW Garden of Remembrance, which was constructed in the 1960s but was later expanded. It ominously has provision for 100,000 plaques. Inside the Office of War Graves I observed, with respect, the photo of VC recipient John Mackey, an ex student of Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham, who joined the AIF by raising his age, and was killed in Borneo in 1945.

Our next stop was at 'the Lewisham stones'. \* These are some of the headstones removed from the old Petersham cemetery located in the grounds of St Thomas' Church, Lewisham, which contained about 4400 interments. The first recorded interment was on 21 May 1865 prior to the opening of Rookwood Cemetery. After the cemetery's closure in 1885 by Petersham Council and resumption of cemetery land for railway, parish and hospital purposes, many of these old headstones were moved to Rookwood.

We then drove past various sections and memorials, vaults, pauper burial plots and the Bea Miles family monument. Of particular interest was the damaged and empty stone gothic Frazer Mausoleum built in 1894 costing £5000. At the site of the former Mortuary Station No. 1 we saw nothing of relevance remains of the railway or the beautiful station which was closed in 1948. After falling into disrepair through theft, fire and vandalism, what remained was sold for £100 in 1957 and re-erected as All Saints Anglican Church at North Ainsley, ACT. We had lunch alongside the 1880s Serpentine drain near many beautiful Victorian style and heritage monuments and headstones.

On arrival at the Auburn Gallipoli Mosque a funeral was in progress. Our Turkish guide, **Ergun Genel**, welcomed us and explained the funeral ceremony, the burial ritual and the reason for the separation of genders in their Islamic religious practice. The mosque was established in 1979 in four old houses. The present mosque was opened in 1987 and is being extended. The mosque is a miniature version of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul. The two minarets are only permitted to be used once a year on Open Day. On Fridays, 2000 Muslims attend and during Ramadan this increases to 5000. We removed our shoes and entered the mosque, with its beautiful interior. Ergun answered our many questions in a friendly and open manner. We learnt, among much else, that mourners are not necessarily known to the deceased, and that passages from the Holy Koran are in Arabic which Turkish and other followers tend not to understand.

Following afternoon snacks (including Turkish Delight), we strolled around the **Auburn Botanic Gardens** which opened in 1977 on the site of a garbage tip. It was a perfect time to enjoy the Japanese gardens, walkways and lake with its peaceful, reflective beauty. The Avenue of Remembrance struck a chord with our Rookwood tour. The adjoining fauna reserve contained wallabies, kangaroos, wombats and emus all in attractive bushlike enclosures together with native birds and lizards attracted to the area. The serene and restful atmosphere of the gardens was a fitting note on which to end our day's excursion.

Thank you **Mary Oakenfull** and her team for organising this most enjoyable and stimulating day.

**John Mara**

\* An article by **Chrys Meader** on Petersham Cemetery (together with Camperdown Cemetery) was in the first MHS journal, *Heritage* 1 (1984, reprinted 1992). There seems to be no recognition by way of a plaque in either the former cemetery grounds at Lewisham or on the site of the relocated stones at Rookwood. This is surely cause for concern. **Editor**

Thanks to *Insites* (HHT publication) we can belatedly congratulate the **Volunteers of Historic Houses Trust** for their **NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award** last December for their 'contribution, as a volunteer organisation and registered charity, to the interpretation of our built heritage'. The February 2013 newsletter covered some other recipients.

### Cooks River stories: Joan Giles, Campsie Memories of swimming and playing there

When Joan was a kid growing up in Campsie in the 1930s she hung out with the Bellomby Street 'gang' in Campsie. Come the summer holidays all the kids played together in a park near Cooks River. Of course, she had been warned by her mum to stay away from the river and make sure she didn't go any further than the railway line. But Joan was an independent adventurer and sometimes, together with the older kids, she 'accidentally' fell into the river and had a swim. Her mum never asked why she came home with wet clothes. Maybe she knew. All the kids could swim and there were no swimming pools in the district. Some of the older kids made rafts out of empty 4-gallon tin boxes they got from Hutton's Smallgoods factory in the old sugar mill. They lashed them together and paddled backwards and forwards across the river.

Joan remembers it was pleasant to swim in the river. Though the water seemed to flow more swiftly, it was a lot deeper than it is now and the banks were quite steep but there were ropes and planks to make access easier. Occasionally dogs did accidentally fall into the river and had to be rescued whilst at times animal carcasses had to be avoided. Cooks River was a marvellous playground. Kids disappeared from home after breakfast. 'Make sure you're back by teatime' they were told. That left the whole day for play.

(From an interview with **Joan Giles** prepared by **Gayle Adams** in November 2012. Bellomby St is just west of Cooks River opposite Canterbury Racecourse. Further such stories to appear in future newsletters.)



## Autumn Trivia Answer

Some time ago **Peter Cousens** took this photo of **Jimmy's Brake Service** (107 Illawarra Road Marrickville); **Shirley Hilyard**, using lateral thinking, rang the business to ascertain its original use. **Wayne Le Clos** (now living in North Queensland) knew the answer as he used to live nearby in Illawarra Road Marrickville. MHS member **Bruce Welch** wrote:



'This is located in Illawarra Road on the corner of King Street, just behind our house. Some years ago the side walls of the hall were sandblasted, much to the detriment of the 'sandstock' bricks. More recently these same walls were rough-rendered. The poor old hall has had a rather tough life. It was the church hall to a church which was on the northern corner of Illawarra Road and King Street. The church was demolished many years ago.'

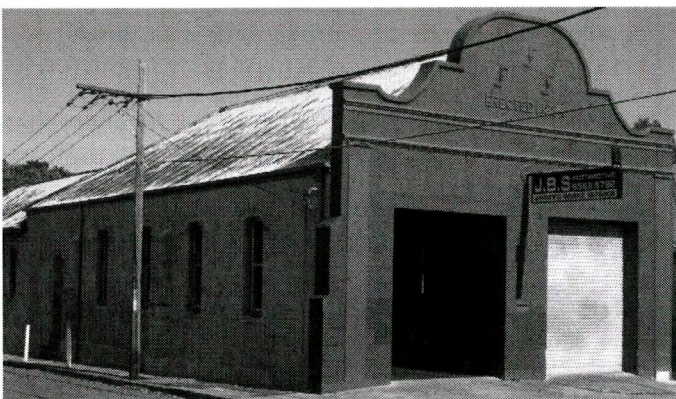


*Methodist Church on corner of King St and Illawarra Rd c. 1936 (from Marrickville: 75 years of progress 1861-1936)*

The Primitive Methodist Church occupied a wooden building in Chapel Street before amalgamating with the Wesleyan Church to become the Methodist Church across from the old town hall. The foundation stone of this church, which was set back from Illawarra Road, was laid in March 1884. It has not yet been ascertained when the church closed and was demolished.

The foundation stone (pictured at right) for the church hall (on south side of King Street) was laid on 30 August 1884. Initially called **Protestant Hall**, after Federation, the name was changed to **Federal Hall**. It was a community hall and Sunday School, but was later used for primary school and kindergarten classes. By the late 1920s it was revamped as a service station which it remained until recently.

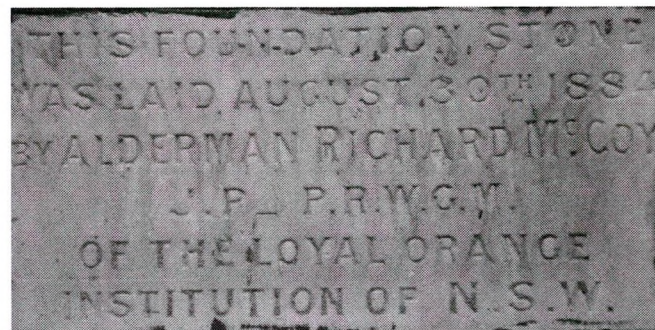
The maternal grandfather of MHS member, **Jean Young**, Alfred Allen Young, owned the block and built Federal Hall, the adjacent cottage, *Yarra Glen*, and 23 Thompson Street around the corner. Jean's mother, Edith, taught primary school students in Federal Hall.



The Federal Hall foundation stone (photos below and as indicated at foot of page), was laid by Richard McCoy, boot manufacturer, Past Grand Master of the Orange Institution, and Marrickville Council alderman (1883-90). His son, Richard WW McCoy, was also a Marrickville alderman (1894-97), Marrickville Mayor (1896) and MLA for Marrickville (1901-10). A solicitor, he founded his practice in Marrickville in 1887 which continues to thrive in the city as McCoy, Grove and Atkinson. (Richard WW's great granddaughter, Barbara, is married to MHS member Richard Hansford, a recently retired solicitor from this firm.) The McCoys lived in *Ricarda*, Mordialloc Street (which was absorbed by the Australian Woollen Mills) off Park Road; and *Ardath*, 6 Hastings Street Marrickville.

Thanks to **Diane McCarthy** for her research assistance.

**Richard Blair**



*Federal Hall foundation stone (photo: Ian Phillips)*



*26 cm high cast cement decoration found by Bruce Welch while digging in his garden. Bruce also found several other sandstone pieces from the church.*

## History of Marrickville Golf Club

At a fundraiser at the golf club for Marrickville Rotary, on Monday 11 March, former Marrickville Historian, Rotary Club member and MHS life member, **Chrys Meader**, addressed members of Marrickville Rotary, Marrickville Golf Club (including descendants of some early club presidents) and MHS. Before being served a tasty buffet, we were served with some local history, events leading to the creation of the golf course, the formation of the club in 1940, its transition from 9 to 18 holes in 1954 and stories about some club personalities. Growing up in nearby Riverside Crescent, Chrys collected golf balls for pocket money; her father, Charlie Meader, worked as a greenkeeper there for 20 years before becoming groundsman at Henson Park. On show were old photos, membership books, newspaper cuttings, programs and related memorabilia.

The club has been under threat of reduction from an 18- to a 9-hole course, but membership numbers are high and fees reasonable. Chrys's knack of making history both digestible and entertaining was evident. Here's to the next 63 years of Marrickville Golf Club.

**Norm Nagle**

*Former Federal Hall now Jimmy's Brake Service  
← foundation stone (photo: Richard Blair)*



## Calendar of MHS Events

**Saturday 27 April**

**Access Marrickville's Past: Items from Marrickville History Collection and Archives with Clinton Johnston**

Details on front page

**Saturday 25 May**

**Vaughan House and environs tour**

**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**

## National Trust Heritage Festival events

*At Marrickville Library:*

**Monday 8 April 11 am-12 noon**

**Out of the Vaults**

Further items revealed from the Marrickville collection

**Tuesday 16 April 10 am -12 noon**

**Family History Group looks at UK records including 'Ancestry', 'Find My Past', 'Family Search'**

**16 April - 3 May**

**'Community milestones of Marrickville' exhibition**

**Monday 29 April 6 pm**

**Tempe House talk**

Historian **Ross Berry** delves into one of the most important historic houses in Sydney (1835-36), designed by architect John Verge for the Sydney merchant Alexander Brodie Spark.

*At St Peters Church, Cooks River St Peters:*

**Wednesday 24 April 11 am-12.30 pm**

**Tour this historic church at 187 Princes Hwy, St Peters**  
St Peters Church, Cooks River, the oldest building in the Marrickville LGA, and the church which gave its name to a suburb, celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. Hear the story of the church, inspect the historic building with its stained glass windows and discover who is buried in the adjoining graveyard.

*At Camperdown Cemetery 189 Church St Newtown:*

**Saturday 20 April 10 am-12 noon**

**Camperdown Cemetery Trust**

Demonstration of the Waller monument being recoated in traditional lime wash which will stabilise some of the weathering of its stone and highlight the features of the tomb. Wear closed shoes. Bookings: 0421 183 225 or <library@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au>. Adult \$15; National Trust member \$10.

**President Geoff 9568 3029**

**Treasurer Diane 9588 4930**

**May Newsletter Editor Lorraine 8565 6511**

## Marrickville Medal Awards

**Marrickville Town Hall**

**Wednesday 8 May 6-8 pm**

Presented since 1995 by the Marrickville Council Heritage Promotions Committee, medal entries will be exhibited and the winner announced, along with other award winners. MC is MHS President, **Geoff Ostling**. Guest speaker is historical researcher and author, **Robin Walsh**, a noted authority on Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie. Bookings 9335 2222.

**St Peters Church, Cooks River** celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. All are invited to the celebrations. For further info ring 9558 7504 or email <lrhorton@optusnet.com.au>.

**Sunday 12 May 10 am**

**Thanksgiving Service with Archbishop Peter Jensen**

**Saturday 6 July 2 pm**

**Community day:** an historical presentation, organ recital, graveyard walk, kids activities, sausage sizzle and afternoon tea.

**PARISH OF COOKS RIVER  
NAMED-APRIL 12. 1838-  
AFTER  
CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.R.N  
DISCOVERER OF AUSTRALIA 1770  
UNVEILED ON 7. JULY 1934  
BY.CAPTAIN C.J.POPE.R.A.N**

*This marble commemorative stone, laid in 1934 on a brick cairn outside the front of St Peters Church, Cooks River, celebrates the formation of the Parish of Cooks River on 12 April 1838 prior to the foundation stone being laid on 9 July 1838. The cairn was later removed; the above stone has been reinstated near the entrance to the church hall. A dubious claim re Captain Cook whilst it's curious that the church did not wait another four years until the centenary!*  
(Photo: Laurel Horton)

**The Holtermann Exhibition** ('The Greatest Wonder of the World') is at the **State Library of NSW** until 12 May, daily till 5 pm, Tuesdays till 8 pm. Volunteer-led tours: Tues and Thurs 11.30 am (free, no bookings).

Commissioned by **Bernhardt Holtermann**, 19th century photographers **Beaufort Merlin** and **Charles Bayliss**: 'captured the pop-up towns of the NSW gold-fields, growing Sydney and other localities in amazing detail, achieving resolution that is exceptional even today'. The collection of 3500 glass plate negatives, left undisturbed in a Chatswood garden shed for 80 years, was rediscovered in 1951 and acquired by the State Library. They have been conserved and now digitised. This free exhibition displays a goodly number of the photographs. This thumbnail photo depicts a youngish **Louisa Lawson** in **Gulgong**, but you'll need to visit the exhibition to see how Louisa looked back then!

