

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Dulwich Hill walk with Chrys Meader
Saturday 27 July 9.45 for 10 am

Meet Dulwich Hill Library, Seaview Street (next to the Council carpark). Two hours round walk. Bookings Mary 9560 6409: Cost \$5, pay MHS on day.

A great chance to see some charming remnants of the late 19th century in this small, but stylish, suburb and experience the wave of change which is mounting, but not overwhelming the locality. Starting in the historic precinct of Seaview Street, points of interest include:

- Dulwich Hill Library, built as a private residence in the 1880s, becoming a School of Arts, then in 1949 the first public library of Marrickville Municipality
- Dulwich High School (built 1885-1893)
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1915) - the second one; not the original 1886 building which recently burnt down!

The tour will encompass the impressive Scout Hall of 1st Dulwich Hill Scouts (Dame Emma Dixon's Own); a number of interesting buildings, both old and new, including the Gladstone Hotel; and, although long gone, the site of Henry Marcus Clark's *Sefton Hall*. Through the commercial district of New Canterbury and Marrickville Roads, we'll see how the early 20th century meets the teenage 21st century.

Founding MHS and life member **Chrys Meader** will share her encyclopaedic local history knowledge with her distinct brand of effervescence.



*New MHS Life Member
Diane McCarthy: story inside
(photo: Richard Blair)*

OUR LAST MEETING: AGM 22 June

Who's who on the new committee

For some years now, following the AGM, there has been a fine repast of soups, bread and pat . After the AGM held on a rather wet Saturday in Herb Greedy Hall this proved to be no exception and attendees were treated to pumpkin soup, minestrone, French bread, pat , clementine cake and cream (all for which thanks go to **Lorraine, Clara and Robert**). Some regard this luncheon as the highlight of the AGM, although, few would admit it.

Departing from usual practice, technology was on display for two of our reports. MHS president, **Geoff Ostling**, holidaying in the US state of Georgia, by the wonders of Skype, was able to join us. Geoff told travellers' tales (including his visit to George Vanderbilt's 250-room 1895 chateau *Biltmore* in North Carolina), before presenting the president's annual report.* **Deborah Lang** gave a live demonstration of the MHS blog, which is an eye-opener to the uninitiated. Many more people can now access stories about Marrickville's history and heritage. Reverting to the more traditional mode, **Diane McCarthy** presented her treasurer's report, which was followed by **Richard Blair's** publications report. As endorsed by the committee, **Diane McCarthy** was presented with a certificate of Life Membership of the Society (report inside).

All committee positions were declared vacant and **Ross Phillips** took the chair as Returning Officer. Elected were: president, **Geoff Ostling**; vice presidents, **Lorraine Beach** and **Iain Carolin**; treasurer, **Diane McCarthy**; secretary, **Mary Oakenfull**; assistant secretary, **Deborah Lang**; committee members, **Richard Blair, Jim Gainsford, Jan Garaty, Robert Hutchinson, Ian Phillips** and **Rosemary Wood**. We welcome Jim and Jan to the new committee. We thank **Vivien Wherry** and **Pamela Stewart**, who both stood down after Vivien had served five years as secretary and committee member, and Pamela, three years on the committee.

Richard Blair

* **Note:** Due to the importance of the MHS submission on the White Paper, it has been reproduced inside; the President's report will be in the August newsletter.

The Society has eight Life Members, chronologically: Peter Arnett (1998), Shirley Hilyard (2000), Chrys Meader (2000), Margaret Sinclair (2008), Robert Thompson (2009), Richard Blair (2011), Robert Hutchinson (2012) and Diane McCarthy (2013).

The Society's submission to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure re White Paper – A new planning system for NSW

(Submission from Marrickville Heritage Society sent 27 June 2013)

Marrickville Heritage Society is a not for profit group of approximately 450 members, based in the Marrickville Local Government Area. Established in 1984, we are affiliated with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and with the Royal Australian Historical Society.

At the outset, may we state that the Society acknowledges the need for change to the present planning system. We would be supportive of an innovative planning system designed to achieve desirable state and local community goals. We are not opposed to development, and can cite many examples within our LGA where development and heritage have worked together, resulting in outstanding developments that have acknowledged, preserved and showcased the heritage values of their sites.

Such developments have of course taken place within the existing framework of local heritage protections that come with the present planning controls, and therein lie our serious concerns with the Government's White Paper. **We summarise our concerns as follows:**

1. The White Paper contains no initiatives or mechanisms for the protection of heritage.

The White Paper fails to deal with 'heritage' in any way. It seeks to dismantle the current system, where all local heritage in NSW is dealt with under LEPs as required by existing planning legislation, and offers no statutory alternative.

In Marrickville LGA, as in countless other areas around the state, many families, individuals and businesses have committed significant investments in the acquisition, restoration, innovative adaptive re-use and renovation of historically and architecturally significant buildings. They have done so relying on the LEP, Heritage Conservation Areas and the DCP to protect the community's unique qualities and their own investments.

Heritage should be a distinct NSW Planning Policy that can seamlessly integrate with other planning objectives. While acknowledging that the policies already proposed – housing supply and affordability, employment and economic growth, agricultural and rural resources, bushfire and flooding and coastal hazards and environment/conservation – are all worthy heads of consideration, the other 98% of heritage at the local and regional level must also be recognised.

We request that proposed legislation should make explicit reference to heritage including a separate Heritage State Planning Policy.

2. The proposal will diminish the Heritage Council's role in protecting items listed on the State Heritage Register.

Under the changes, the Heritage Council would lose its final say to the Planning Department on developments affecting state heritage items. With respect, we doubt that the same level of heritage expertise or commitment exists within the Planning Department as is inherent in members of the Heritage Council.

We request that the role and powers of the Heritage Council and the legal effect of the Heritage Act be reinstated.

3. Community consultation

There are many reasons this process often fails to achieve its altruistic aims, but it is nevertheless true that most of the people affected by a particular development proposal will have had no involvement in creating the planning controls in place for the site. At present it is during the DA stage when those people most affected by the development expect and need to be involved. The proposed rules described in the White Paper appear designed to prevent this from occurring.

It is suggested, and in our opinion highly desirable, that local Councils be the first point in establishing how we want our communities to look, what we want to preserve, and how we can plan future growth to meet strategic goals. It is also clear that 'Planning' is a highly specialised discipline, requiring expertise, creativity and vision to masterplan the future of any locality. What remains unclear is how the resources will be provided, or found locally, to conduct effective community consultation pitched at producing meaningful engagement and feedback. This will be highly important to an LGA such as Marrickville where established suburbs will seek to ensure that heritage values and neighbourhood character are preserved and enhanced as urban consolidation proceeds.

Conclusion

We believe the White Paper lacks detail on many complicated issues, especially in terms of how the existing planning controls will transfer across into form-based development codes. We earnestly urge the Government to seek the involvement of professional heritage proponents, whether via the Heritage Council, the National Trust or other expert bodies, to ensure that these issues are addressed. Heritage is not merely an emotive issue; it is a living and vital part of very many communities across NSW, shaping our streetscapes and contributing silently to our local lifestyles. It is a very important issue for a very great number of citizens.

LEP: Local Environment Plan
DCP: Development Control Plan

Lorraine Beach
Vice President

New MHS Life Member: Diane McCarthy

At the AGM Diane McCarthy was presented Life Membership of the Society. The citation reads:

In appreciation and recognition of her constant support of the Society since 1997, her tireless dedication to committee work and countless tasks behind the scenes, and her endless energy in promoting the Society's values and local heritage.

Richard Blair said: Since Diane McCarthy joined the Society in 1997, she has been a runner, a driver, a tour organiser, a committee member, a vice president, a president (for two years), treasurer of the Society for a number of years, as well as being the Society's Public Officer. In fact there's little Diane has not done.

Whilst she has always conducted herself with grace and distinction in the Society, it is also for a range of peripheral things she has done that we honour Diane. She has a warm, breezy manner and an uncanny knack of remembering a name after one meeting; readily sends out Get Well cards to ailing members; has contributed numerous items to or research material for the newsletter; delivers publications to local members' homes; provides lifts to members; oversights the book stocks for sale; and readily answers emails. All this mostly happens in the background, without fuss, and without seeking accolades.

In 2010 Diane received a Certificate of Achievement at the annual RAHS conference. It is the unanimous view of the committee that Life Membership of the Society be conferred upon Diane McCarthy.



Marie-Louise Salon, Enmore on the market

This hairdressing salon (classified by the National Trust in 1992: see August 1992 MHS newsletter) is for sale. It's 'a rare example of Moderne Style with strong Art Deco elements', which has graced 135 Enmore Road, Enmore for decades. With its 'enamelled metal panels in vivid pink and mauve; the asymmetrical curved design with curved glass windows and chrome trim, it must be one of the most unusual and arresting shop-fronts in Sydney' (*Heritage* 7, 1992, p. 6). The plate of the designer, H&E Sidgreaves (established 1917 and still in operation) remains visible at the front. Will this salon remain a clip joint or become yet another boutique Enmore Road bar? (photos: Richard Blair)



Heritage Watch

There is a strange irony that Trinity Grammar School celebrates its centenary this year, having, for some months in 1913, occupied the **Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Dulwich Hill**, which burnt down in April. Given the extent of fire damage, the hall has been demolished along with the timber hall at the rear. The rear hall had not been fire-damaged, but was apparently full of asbestos.

The sorry saga of the **Winged Victory** – taken down in 2009 for safety reasons – drags on, cloaked in more mystery than Conan Doyle could conceive. Council has allocated \$200,000 in its budget for a new Winged Victory statue. New is the operative word as it will *not* include any part of the original 1919 Gilbert Doble memorial (restored by Alex Kolozsy in 1988), and the cost of replication is said to be so prohibitive that it won't even be a replica of the original.

The original statue will be decommissioned and may well leave Marrickville forever, but this is yet to be confirmed. MHS has been a stakeholder, although has only been kept informed in a piecemeal fashion and has been excluded from most deliberations, whilst our recommendations have been largely ignored. Council's two prime considerations are safety and cost. Hard to argue against these, but Marrickville looks set to lose its most famous female figure.

Only recently has MHS become aware that a DA was lodged in late April 2013 with the City of Sydney Council for:

'Alterations to Newtown Post Office including internal demolition, new staff facilities on first floor; demolition of existing structures and a new 5 storey building at rear (corner of Wilson St and Erskineville Rd); loading dock and cafe at ground floor; 10 residential units on upper levels; heritage restoration of facade and repair of clock tower.'

In 1999 Australia Post sold the post office building, but continued to operate there on a rental basis. The new owners made alterations to the front of the 1892 heritage-listed Walter Liberty Vernon post office by inserting three full length windows. Given the comment in the December 1999 newsletter that all the windows revealed were stacks of paper, it now makes sense. Whilst the post office has continued to operate with a large clientele since, it seems that this was only ever intended as a stopgap measure.

As for Newtown needing yet another café, whether there will still be a post office in Newtown, allowing the gross overdevelopment of a 5-storey building in that confined rear space, let alone how the heritage aspects of this fine building will be respected, are all questions yet to be answered. Another grim, though perhaps inevitable, chapter in Australia Post's lamentable record on retaining post offices in their original buildings. Meanwhile, what lies ahead for the forlorn 1895 Queen Anne style former **Enmore Post Office** (which was sold in the mid-1990s)?

The good news is that the closed down **Henson Park Hotel** at 91 Illawarra Road Marrickville is to reopen as a restaurant called **The Henson**.

Richard Blair

Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 27 July

Dulwich Hill walk with Chrys Meader

Details on front page

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**

Saturday 26 October

To be advised

Saturday 23 November

Ross Berry: The works of John Verge

History Celebratour: Addison Road barracks

On 12 July 1913 the Commonwealth Government acquired the site that is now the **Addison Road Community Centre**. Learn about its history on one of two walking tours (about an hour long) with Sue Castrique and Graham Chalcraft. Meet inside front gate, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. No bookings.

Friday 12 July at 12.30 pm

Sunday 14 July at 3 pm

Note: An article on Addison Road Army Barracks is to appear in the Society's next journal, *Heritage* 14.

Marrickville Library

Kim Phillips on how to use Defence Records

Tuesday 16 July 10 am - 12 noon. Free.

The Cameraman (1928) starring Buster Keaton
Silent movie with David Bailey on Wurlitzer organ
Marrickville Town Hall **Saturday 27 July 7.30 pm**

Members/Seniors \$20; Non members \$25; Students free
(on confirmation of student status)

Enquiries/bookings: Theo 0410 626 131 or pay at door

Online booking: www.tosa.net.au

Moore College Library Day 2013: Launching Marsden's mission

Saturday 27 July 10 am - 4 pm

Moore College, 15 King Street, Newtown

Celebrates the start of Rev. Samuel Marsden's mission in 1813 to New Zealand from the NSW perspective. Speakers will examine aspects of Marsden and Richard Johnson as Australia's first missionaries, Marsden's attitudes to indigenous people and why the mission was delayed. Library treasures will be on display, including original sermon transcripts. For further details see www.gospel2014.org/history/.

Registration is \$35. To register or for more details about the event, visit www.library.moore.edu.au/Pages/Library-Day-2013.aspx or ring Julie on 9577 9897.

Members are invited to the art exhibition of **St George Art Society** at **Tempe House** 13-19 July, 10 am - 4 pm.

Tempe Public School invites former students and staff to attend its 150th anniversary **Reunion Dinner** on the evening of **Friday 30 August**; and its **Birthday Bash** on **Saturday 7 September 11 am - 4 pm**. To book for the dinner or for further information ring 9558 3780 or email school on [<tempe-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au>](mailto:tempe-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

Note: There's some dispute as to when the school began. According to Meader, Cashman and Carolan's *Marrickville: People & Places* (1994, p. 115), a school opened in 1863 but closed soon after. The current school opened in 1874. MHS is staying clear of this debate, but is happy to advertise the celebrations.

Winter Trivia Question

The carving of the man's head is on the pilaster at the front of **43 Perry Street Marrickville**, adjoining number 45: two terraces believed to date from the 1890s, which were originally numbered 15 and 13 respectively. The numbers were changed in 1923. A second carving below depicts a lion, also with a hairy mane, so perhaps the architect or builder was simply being playful rather than trying to depict a particular person (or lion, for that matter). Shirley Hilyard thinks the motifs may be from a pattern book.

Two deaths were recorded from 15 or 43 Perry Street Marrickville: James Holman of *Cheshunt*, 15 Perry Street, drowned at Curl Curl on 24 October 1914 (SMH, 31/10/1914, p. 12); and Captain Thomas Frost, 'who was well known in shipping circles in Sydney', died on 24 January 1930 at 43 Perry Street (SMH, 28/1/30, p. 12).

Thanks to Trove, and research by Ben Arnfield (Marrickville Council Archivist) and Diane McCarthy.
Richard Blair



Council is conducting a **plaques project** to recognise significant local historic sites. More next newsletter.

Treasurer **Diane McCarthy** reports a good response from renewal notices. She thanks members who have made donations and/or expressed appreciation of the Society in notes forwarded with renewals.

One member who paid via direct deposit QUAY/CU on 25 June failed to give a name. If this is your payment please ring Diane on 9588 4930 or email Society (address below) to clarify.

Vice President Iain 0400 473 252

Vice Pres / Heritage Watch Lorraine 8565 6511

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Newsletter Editor Richard 9557 3823