

# 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 28 June 10.15 for 10.30 am**

**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville**

The President invites members to the Society's 30th 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 or with any queries can ring Mary on 9560 6409.

Members must have paid their 2014-15 membership fees to stand for office, or vote if required. Fees can be paid beforehand or on the day. Stay afterwards and mingle with fellow members over a light lunch.

## Launch of MHS journal *Heritage* 14

Members are invited to **meet the authors** on **Tuesday 17 June at 6 pm** at **The Henson, 91 Illawarra Road Marrickville** (formerly the Henson Park Hotel). Street parking; close to 423, 426, 428 and Metro 30 bus routes. Members may collect their free journal (included in MHS membership). Extra copies \$10 each. Other member copies can be collected at AGM or will be delivered with next newsletter. RSVP Richard for catering purposes by 15 June on 9557 3823 or email <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

**Articles:** Addison Road Army Depot, Newington College, local artist David G Reid, a Camperdown house history, Sullivan horse trough, Kate Dunbar's childhood memories and the connections between a silver trowel and a demolished church. See you there!

Members may still send us recommended heritage items in the **Southern Areas Heritage Study** (see May newsletter and MHS emails) to <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au> or by writing to MHS, PO Box 415, Marrickville 1475; but hurry, as our deadline is **12 June**.

## Council's 2014 Special Achievement Award

This year's award, presented by Mayor Clr Jo Haylen at the Marrickville Medal event (report inside) on 14 May, went to a most worthy recipient **Robert (Bob) Horton** who joined MHS in the 1980s. Bob is best known for his work with the St Peters Church History Group and his citation reads:

Presented to a highly-deserving candidate who has worked tirelessly for over 20 years expanding the archival record and conserving the built heritage of a very valuable State-significant heritage site: St Peters Church Cooks River. Robert has also documented and shared much of the early social history of Tempe, St Peters and Sydenham.

Bob's activities include: involvement in expanding the archival resources of St Peters Church by collecting and preserving photos, documents, maps and newspaper articles; recording gravestone inscriptions in St Peters historic graveyard; co-establishing a computer database of church records 1838-1920; producing DVDs on church and local history; transferring oral history tapes to CD for MHS; writing local history articles; co-conducting local history walks and talks and graveyard tours. Bob's wife Laurel received Council's Special Achievement Award in 2007.



Clockwise from left: Marrickville Medal winner 'The Gantry', Camperdown; Robert Horton receiving SAA from Marrickville Mayor Clr Jo Haylen; Photo Competition Open winner (Jo Wallace): 'Journeys Through Time'. © Marrickville Council. Reports above and inside.

## OUR LAST MEETING

### Addison Road Army Camp walk with Sue Castrique and Graham Chalcraft

The ARC website claims that the Addison Road Community Centre (ARC) is: 'Australia's first, largest and longest running community centre. Since 1976, ARC has developed a level of economic sustainability sufficient to provide accessible and affordable spaces for community organisations, disadvantaged groups, local artists and cultural associations.'

On Saturday 24 May, in Sydney's warmest late autumn weather in memory, over 40 MHS members and friends gained an insight into the history of the grounds before the mid-1970s. Environmental artist **Graham Chalcraft** outlined the historical geography, topography and vegetation of the site (some Ironbark trees have survived). A creek ran through linking up with the Gumbramorra Swamp (in one Aboriginal dialect Gumbramorra means 'eternal flower'). Resident writer and researcher **Sue Castrique** told how John and Mary Ann Purdy owned and occupied the property from the 1850s with garden produce, animals and brickmaking among their enterprises.

With war looming and an expanding military force the commonwealth government acquired this eight acre site in Marrickville and established an army camp in 1913. They built a drill hall and other buildings to serve the army's needs. Whilst the camp was built to service the war, it was shaped by peace and between the wars became an assembly ground for army brigades and militia, a training ground for horses and a centre for sport and social life with gymkhanas, military displays and regimental balls, always working closely with the local community.

Addison Road Army Camp played pivotal roles in World War II (when up to 20,000 army personnel passed through in *some* months), the Korean War and the Vietnam War when conscription was reintroduced into Australia. We heard about protest groups (Save Our Sons) in the 1960s-70s, undercover operations recorded in ASIO files, foiled attempts by politicians to sell off the site for housing, and accounts from ex-soldiers who had served at the Addison Road Depot.

**Sue Castrique** has written comprehensively about this army history in her article, 'The army at Addison Road' which appears in *Heritage* 14, fortuitously to be launched this month (see front page). We thank **Sue** and **Graham** for bringing this history so vividly alive on location and with the aid of illustrative handouts; thanks also to **Ian Phillips** for his audio backup and **Keith Sutton** for his help on the day.

**Richard Blair**

**Note:** Among those on the walk were former veterans **Michael Skennar** and **Brian Martin** who had passed through Addison Road Depot. **Beverley Martin** wrote to MHS in appreciation of the walk pointing out that she and Brian arrived an hour early with Brian recalling old times and various buildings. He couldn't get over the parade ground now being a car park. Brian was involved in several parades and regarded them as a 'great honour'. The only downside to their great day was the bumper-to-bumper traffic along Parramatta Road on their way home!

## Who was May Murray?

Due to federal funding cutbacks Community and Cultural Connections is under threat of closure. This organisation: 'provides information, advocacy, support, referrals and two home and community care programs, mainly for Arabic and Vietnamese-speaking people'. Hopefully some rescue strategy will emerge, but who knows of this service with its rather nebulous name? Well, from 1977 until recently it was called the May Murray Neighbourhood Centre, Marrickville. Now that May Murray's name has been cast into the dustbin of history, it seems timely to record what little is known about May and how the centre was established.

In the early 1970s a group of young mothers in the area started a support group with a child minding roster and a program of varied activities. They called themselves the Marrickville Young Mothers Group. It was described as the 'brainchild' of May Murray (nee Boyle, 1893-1974), wife of William Murray, who was Mayor of Marrickville (1945-46, 1954) and MLC (1952-76). The May Murray Neighbourhood Centre opened in 1977 in a house at 35 Premier Street, Marrickville, which was renovated by Marrickville Council. It was initially called the South Marrickville Neighbourhood Centre, later May Murray Neighbourhood Centre, and when it relocated in 1983 the site in Premier Street became the May Murray Child Care Centre. The MMNC later underwent several relocations.

(Sources: Diane McCarthy and Annual Report 2012-13 Community and Cultural Connections)

### Marrickville: a past worth preserving update

In collaboration with Marrickville Library & History Services (which paid for the copies) a copy of the MHS publication *Marrickville: a past worth preserving* has been donated to each high school library in the LGA. Most donations were made at school assemblies and we thank all those article authors and members who assisted — **Keith Sutton** (who masterminded the competition that resulted in *MAPWP*): Dulwich High; **Ros Torrent**: St Maroun's School, Dulwich Hill; **Kate Dunbar**: Christian Brothers, Lewisham; **Geoff Ostling**: The John Berne School, Lewisham; **Diane McCarthy**: Casimir College, Marrickville; **Chrys Meader**: Marrickville High; **Richard Blair**: Fort Street High, Petersham and Newtown High School of the Performing Arts; **Bob Parkinson**: Newington College, Stanmore; and **Kim Salisbury**: Tempe High School.

**Kate Dunbar** told the Christian Bros boys that 'history wasn't just the Battle of Waterloo but what was happening today, what they ate, what they wore etc. I encouraged them to get their parents to join MHS.'

In response to its presentation, **Brother Mark Paul**, Principal of The John Berne School, wrote to MHS:

We appreciate your efforts in keeping history alive in the Marrickville area! Your consideration of providing us with a copy of the book is a wonderful contribution to education.

It has been suggested that this gesture be extended to local primary school libraries. Good idea! Members can purchase *MAPWP* for the discount price of \$30; free home delivery within the LGA can be arranged.



## 20th Anniversary Marrickville Medal 2014

The 20th anniversary of the Marrickville Medal was at Marrickville Town Hall on 14 May. The evening was compered by MHS President **Geoff Ostling**; Acknowledgement of Country: **Bobby Carroll**; guest speaker: **Dr Caroline Butler-Bowdon**, Assistant Director, Creative Services, Sydney Living Museums; and the awards were presented by Marrickville Mayor **Clr Jo Haylen**. The Special Achievement Award was presented to **Bob Horton** (see report front page). **Lisa Coleman**, Lecturer in Photography and Design, Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW reviewed key entries in the Marrickville Urban Photography Competition. There were ten awards but the winner of the Open section was **Jo Wallace** for her evocative photo *Journeys Through Time* (on front page).

The judges for the Marrickville Medal were architect and conservation specialist with the Government Architect's Office **Darlene Van Der Breggen**, heritage architect **William Blackledge** and 2013 Medal winner **Fiona Paul**. The Marrickville Medal was won by **The Gantry, 139-143 Parramatta Road, Camperdown** (photo front page), on the site of the original Fowler's Pottery. The judges noted: 'high levels of community benefit in restoration, streetscape value, historic recording and public access'. The development was praised 'for its repetitive pattern of gabled parapets and semicircular timber louvred vents'.



Carl & Jenifer's Victorian semi in **Station Street, Petersham** (at left) won a High Commendation 'for a modest, exceptionally thoughtful and well crafted addition (Architects: Panov Scott). Stephanie and Paul won a Commendation for the 'beautifully elegant and client centred additions' to their **Wentworth Street, Petersham** house (below; Sam Crawford Architects).



Council's Heritage Promotions Committee again staged a most successful event with displays of all Medal and Photographic Competition entrants. Council is congratulated for successfully conducting the Marrickville Medal every year since its inception in 1995 and there is no reason why this prestigious award should not continue for another 20 years. MHS has played a significant role throughout this time with members on every Heritage Promotions Committee and newsletter coverage of every Medal event.

**Richard Blair**

(photos © Marrickville Council)

## Dulwich Hill Scottish Pipe Band

Recently, while visiting my old friend Peter Gorry – an inveterate scavenger – down the south coast, he gave me an old leather cross belt, with a decorative metal buckle and plate, inscribed with a thistle and 'Dulwich Hill Scottish Pipe Band'.

My investigations led me to Shirley Germain, whose late husband John Germain AM (1930-2003), a baritone with the Australian Opera Company, had once played in this pipe band. This fuzzy photo shows John as a dapper young piper in highland dress with cross belt worn diagonally over the shoulder. It harks back to the days when army pipers wore a broadsword.



It has not yet been established when the Dulwich Hill Scottish Pipe Band (and associated Junior Pipe Band) was formed, but its peak period was from the 1930s to the 1950s. Shirley believes it was eventually absorbed into another pipe band.

Trove reveals numerous newspaper references to the band, mainly in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The band practised for many years in Oakley Hall, 32 Wardell Road, Petersham; an extant building since converted into a dwelling. The band also used the Dulwich Hill Holy Trinity Parish Hall, destroyed in 2013 by fire.

**Richard Blair**

## PM Harold Holt born in Stanmore

Did you know that ill-fated Australian Prime Minister **Harold Holt** (1908-67) was born in Stanmore? Kate Dunbar advises that in Tom Frame's *The life and death of Harold Holt* (Allen & Unwin, 2005, p. 4): 'Harold was born at the family home, 58 Cavendish Street, Stanmore on 5 August 1908'. According to the 1909 *Sands Directory* (Harold's father) Thomas Holt lived there in 1908-09, although no later listing there occurs. In 1915-16 the street numbers changed: no. 58 became 99 Cavendish Street, two doors west of Merchant Street; it is one of eight Federation terraces.

Harold's early years were unsettled and his family often moved, but by age 11 he was attending school in Melbourne. He had a distinguished career in public life and politics, succeeding Sir Robert Menzies as PM (Liberal, 1966-67). Sadly, Harold is remembered more for the mysterious way he died at Cheviot Beach, Victoria, than for the significant life he lived.

## Calendar of Events

**Tuesday 17 June**

**Launch of *Heritage 14***

**The Henson**

Details on front page

**Saturday 28 June**

**Annual General Meeting**

Details on front page

**Saturday 26 July**

**Newington College walking tour**

**Saturday 23 August**

**Dr Peter Mitchell on Bennelong's remains**

**'Musical Memories': Movie themes played on the grand piano**

**Saturday 5 July 3 pm**

**St Peters Church, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters**

Free. Refreshments served afterwards.

Children welcome: child care available.

Enquiries: 9558 7504

**Renaissance Players: 36th Runnymede Pop Festival**  
**Great Hall, Sydney University**

**Saturday 28 June 7 pm**

**Sunday 29 June 3 pm**

Tickets \$35 at door; or \$30 if you join the party organised by Richard 9557 3823 or by email at bottom of page. Ticket will be issued once payment received.

Director: **Winsome Evans** BEM OAM & MHS member. Concerts of the Renaissance Players (founded 1966) are a unique celebration of medieval European music and poetry presented in the Great Hall's banner-decorated Gothic splendour by brightly costumed minstrels singing and playing on medieval instruments.

## The 20<sup>th</sup> National Trust Heritage Awards

Among the winners of this year's awards presented on 14 May was the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) with an award in the Education & Interpretation Community/Individual category for the Western Crossings Project commemorating the crossings of the Blue Mountains. This is the first National Trust Heritage Award received by RAHS.

Among other winners was MHS member Robert (Bob) Irving, a Past President and Fellow of RAHS, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award; and Robert Irving, Ron Powell and Noel Irving for *Sydney's hard rock story: the cultural heritage of trachyte*, winners of the Research and Investigation Award.

Congratulations to RAHS and Bob Irving.

**Australia Street Infants School, Newtown** is

celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Michele Carton, MHS member and history teacher, is writing a unit of work on the school's history, and developing a timeline of the establishment of the school, preschool and Lennox House to share with the children. The school grounds have been expanded to include part of Kent Lane, three terrace houses, a petrol station and the former church opposite (196 Australia Street).

Can any MHS members with stories, information or photos of the school or site over the years, contact Michele on <michele.carton@det.nsw.edu.au> or c/- the school at 229 Australia Street, Newtown 2042.

The **Winged Victory** statue has finally been taken from St Peters Council depot for conservation work before its installation in the WWI galleries at the Australian War Memorial later this year.

## Fee renewal mail from members

**Joy Lewis** said re emails that: 'at 95, these marvellous technical things are beyond me, but I so like getting the monthly newsletter. I enjoy every new day and life in this (Woy Woy) village is anything but boring!'

**Maureen Bailey**, who has had a long association with Guide Dogs NSW apologised that her returned fee renewal slip was damaged because her 'precious little cat *Nanoo* chews papers'.

In another 'dog ate my homework' type event, **Ken Swinbourne** apologised for snails in his letterbox which fed on his slip, but thanked the committee for 'the excellent MHS birthday party in Petersham Park. It was a great success and I enjoyed it very much.'

**Peter McLaren** was the most creative. In belatedly renewing his 2013 fees some time ago he excused himself on the basis of his 'great age' and cited Dame Mary Gilmore's description of early white settlers: 'Their backs are bent / and their youth is spent / and the snow is in their hair.' Peter waxed on: 'Therewith my excuse - pathetic, but poetic, I hope.' We await, with anticipation, Peter's 2014 justification.

**Vice President** Iain 0400 473 252  
**Treasurer** Diane 9588 4930  
**Heritage Watch** Scott 0416 152 501  
**Newsletter Editor** Richard 9557 3823

## Winter Trivia Questions

- 1) Where in the LGA is this outdoor sculpture, what is it and who created it?
- 2) What was unusual about the front page of *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Monday 14 April 1997?

Contact Richard on 9557 3823 or MHS email below.

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Below: Part of Fowler pottery display at 'The Gantry', Marrickville Medal winner



(Photos: Richard Blair)

