

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

History of flooding in Marrickville Valley and Cooks River

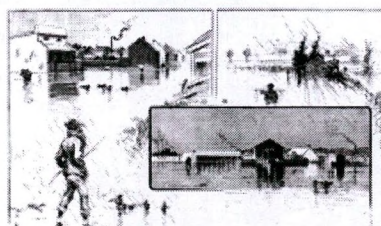
Dr Denise Tolhurst and Bob Baker

Saturday 26 April 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Marrickville valley has a long and 'stormy' history of flooding. In our quest to better understand and plan for flooding in the Marrickville LGA Denise and Bob have been taken on a journey that included geography, modelling and the history of Cooks River and Marrickville valleys. They explored swamps, unnamed creeks and waterholes, old brick pits, channels, detention basins and dams. They also explored newspaper accounts, official records and numerous detailed flood studies and models.

In this talk they will share their discoveries and attempt to relate these to the situation now, concluding with an overview of what all this means for the residents of Marrickville and how we can best prepare for floods, storms and tsunamis.



Victoria Road
Marrickville Illustrated
Sydney News 1887

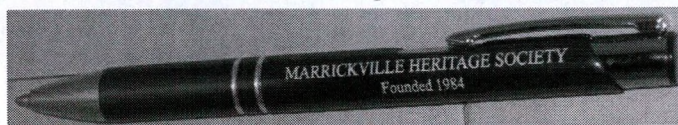
Illawarra Road
Marrickville 2011
(all images
© Marrickville
Council)



Dr Denise Tolhurst and Bob Baker are planning officers with Marrickville SES (State Emergency Service) who have a responsibility for flood planning in the Marrickville LGA. They have been teachers at high school and university, but since retiring have become active volunteer members of Marrickville SES.

MHS 30th Anniversary pen

This red ballpoint black ink pen was an anniversary gift to all at our recent picnic. It is now selling for \$4 to members and \$5 to non members. Many thanks to Vice President Iain Carolin, who organised the pens.



National Trust Heritage Festival from 12 April
Marrickville Medal: Wednesday 14 May 6 pm

Happy 100th Birthday, Margaret!

Margaret Sinclair, who, until recently, had lived in Petersham for almost 70 years, turned 100 on 14 March. Two days later, some MHS members joined Margaret's family and other friends for a celebration in Homebush. Her son Michael read out letters of congratulations from the Queen, Governor General, Prime Minister, NSW Governor, NSW Premier and others. Margaret was also toasted at the Society's 30th Anniversary and had the honour of cutting the cake. Margaret joined the Society in 1987 after seeing 'a notice in a shop window' and was made a Life Member in September 2008.

See inside for coverage of the 30th anniversary event.

Light Rail extension to Dulwich Hill opens

The Society welcomes the opening on 27 March of the Light Rail service to Dulwich Hill which links up via Lewisham with the Lilyfield line from Central. From 1922 this was the Metropolitan Goods railway line. By the 1990s this goods line was hardly used and closed completely in 2009 when Mungo Scott's Flour Mill in Summer Hill was relocated.

This additional transport option should marginally reduce motor traffic in our increasingly motor-congested city. However, it was shameful and mean-spirited for the state government in 2011 to cut costs by scrapping the adjacent Greenway cycle and walking path which was part of the original scheme.

Winged Victory relocation to AWM

Public information session & presentation with Tim Sullivan (Assistant Director, Branch Head National Collection, Australian War Memorial) & Marrickville Mayor Jo Haylen

Thursday 1 May 6-7 pm

Marrickville Council Function Room
Level 3, 12-14 Fisher Street, Petersham

All interested MHS members welcome.

How to join Marrickville Heritage Society

Send cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone/s, or pay by direct debit. Our next journal included in membership. For enquiries, brochure or direct debit details ring Diane 9588 4930. Fees: Concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28.

Note Renewal slips with May newsletter.

Marrickville Heritage Society 30th Anniversary in Petersham Park 22 March 2014



Photographs and collage by Scott MacArthur

MHS celebrates 30th Anniversary in style

The weather gods looked kindly upon the Society's 30th Anniversary celebrations at the Petersham Park rotunda on Saturday 22 March when well over 100 members and guests turned out. It was actually quite a warm mid-autumnal day but having a marquee and ample chairs ensured everyone was comfortable. On arrival each attendee received a complimentary pen (see front page). The event was hosted by MHS President Geoff Ostling, who welcomed special guests Professor Ross Griffith, Deputy President, National Trust (NSW), and his wife (artist) Pamela Griffith; Marrickville Cllr David Leary; centenarian Margaret Sinclair; most past Presidents and Life Members of the Society; and members and friends.

We were entertained by the Fort Street Madrigal Society consisting of Rose Cousins, Lauren White, Sefa Laa'aia and Marlowe Fitzpatrick who delighted us with some splendid harmony. Later, over lunch, keyboard player Roshan Kumarage and tenor saxophonist Marlowe Fitzpatrick played jazz which was perfect for this park setting. The Society was pleased to make a donation to Fort Street High's Instrumental Music Program and we thank its Coordinator, Matthew Manchester. Thanks also to Paul Campbell, who lent his generator for the keyboard and amplifier.

Geoff wrote the script for the chronological Historical Notes on Petersham Park since 1793 and each segment was read by a member of the committee, along with stalwart MHS member Lu Bell, a Petersham resident all her life. There would be few parks in the land with such a diverse and colourful history.

This proved an ideal curtain-raiser to guest speaker Andrew Tink (who addressed the Society a year ago on Lord Sydney). Deborah Lang's account of Andrew's enlivening talk is on the right.

We were pleased to have Andrew stay for lunch (meats and salads) which was then served, accompanied by a beverage of choice, and most seemed to opt for champagne. Geoff proposed toasts to the Society's 30 years and to Margaret Sinclair, who now shares with Sir Donald Bradman the distinction of celebrating their first Sydney century at Petersham Park. Margaret cut the cake (made and iced by Robert Hutchinson) which was passed around.

This was a convivial and well-organised event which participants should remember for some time. So here's to the next 30 years!

Richard Blair

For the record: After the Marrickville Historical Society (founded 1966) folded in about 1982, the inaugural meeting of Marrickville Heritage Society occurred at Petersham Town Hall on 28 April 1984 and was chaired by Peter Arnett, Chief Town Planner, Marrickville Council. Seven people at our recent celebration attended that 1984 meeting (Peter Arnett, Lu Bell, Richard Cashman, Barbara Le Maistre, Chrys Meader, Bob Thompson and Ian Tyrrell), six of whom remain members of the Society. Four other current members at that inaugural meeting, but absent from this event, were: Maree and Terry Blanchard, Anne Carolan and Lyn Collingwood. The first MHS newsletter appeared in June 1984. – Editor.

Our Last Meeting guest speaker Andrew Tink on William Charles Wentworth

The Society has thrice paid homage to **William Charles Wentworth** in the past year with: our visit to Vaucluse House last May; Christine Yeats's talk in October on the 1813 Blue Mountains crossing by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth; and on 22 March, **Andrew Tink's** talk, as part of the Society's 30th Anniversary and on land once owned by Wentworth. Andrew described Wentworth as (in agreement with Manning Clark) 'Australia's greatest native son'. Tink credits many of our political freedoms to Wentworth claiming he was instrumental in bringing governmental changes to NSW which, in turn, were taken up by the other colonies, and then adopted into our Australian laws.

As a young man, Wentworth was sent to England by his father D'Arcy to train in law. After his return to Australia he established, in 1824, with barrister Robert Wardell, the *Australian* free press newspaper. They used it as a platform to demand constitutional rights for ex-convicts and to see the implementation of trial by jury and elected parliaments. Henry Parkes even claimed that his model for federation was sparked by the ideas of Wentworth.

Wentworth stood at around 6 foot 5 (195.6 cm), had red hair and a temper to match. His fellow barristers described him as being a quick thinker with high intelligence and a booming voice. He was a rabble-rouser who suggested that rum kegs would be fitting for our coat of arms! He was the barrister to go to if in real trouble as he knew the law and was fearless of all authority. Francis Cox and his daughter Sarah engaged Wentworth to seek damages against John Payne (Sarah's ex-fiancé), a known womaniser. During the trial, Wentworth and Sarah began an affair, and later moved to Petersham where their first daughter Thomasine was born out of wedlock.

Andrew gave an interesting account of Wentworth buying the South Island of New Zealand! During the Maori Wars many Maoris traded land for guns and ammunition. In 1840 the British proposed the signing of the Waitangi Treaty with Maori chiefs to bring them under the protection of Queen Victoria and to recognise their land rights. The South Island chiefs refused to travel to the North Island to sign so it was organised that the signing of the treaty would take place in Sydney. The ship that brought these chiefs over was owned by John Jones, a client of Wentworth. Jones introduced the chiefs to Wentworth, who engineered an agreement to purchase the South Island for a better deal than was being offered by the British. Governor Gipps was furious that Wentworth had bought the island 'at the rate of four hundred acres for a penny' and rammed legislation through his hand-picked Legislative Council to invalidate this massive land grab.

Our thanks to Andrew Tink for his comprehensive talk, but to find out more about his research and findings why not purchase his book, *William Charles Wentworth: Australia's greatest native son* (2009).

Deborah Lang

Note: A PDF of this newsletter (photos in colour) or individual photos can be emailed on request.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 26 April
History of flooding in Marrickville Valley and Cooks River

Details on front page

Saturday 24 May
Addison Road (former) Army Camp tour

Saturday 28 June
Annual General Meeting

Letter from President RAHS to Geoff Ostling

'Congratulations to Marrickville Heritage Society on celebrating 30 years of successful voluntary work and campaigning on heritage and history issues . . . You have become one of the state's largest and most active heritage societies, for which you should all be very proud.' (extract from letter read out at anniversary)

Sands Directory now available free online

From City of Sydney website: 'Until now Sands Directory (1858-1933) has usually been accessed through a microfiche edition made by WF Pascoe Ltd which is available at many public libraries. The City of Sydney has now obtained a complete digital edition of the directory from WF Pascoe, scanned from the microfiche, and is **making it available for public access through this website**. This is the first time a complete set of the Sands Sydney, Suburban and Country Commercial Directory has been made available online. This complete digital directory offers researchers easier and more convenient access. It includes search capability that is not available when using the microfiche . . . We have found the keyword search is more than 98% accurate.'

Cautionary note: Each download is up to 20 MB in file size (PDF), so ensure you have ample capacity first.

Bum deal for the famed Bum Tree of Gerroa

Marrickville Council's program to remove over 100 trees across Marrickville LGA for reasons of risk, and to replace them, is being met with mixed reactions.

But there was outrage against Shoalhaven Council which recently removed a number of majestic trees along Gerroa Road, including a famous blackbutt, the much loved 'Bum Tree'. As one local source put it, they chose 'to cut trees rather than the 100 kilometre per hour limit.' (photo: online source)



Autumn Trivia Answers

1) St Aidan's Anglican Church, Bedford Crescent, Dulwich Hill, was, from the 1920s, one of two branch churches of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Dulwich Hill. Identified by **Bob Irving**, it was designed by architect John Burcham Clamp (who also designed Holy Trinity) in 1928. After being decommissioned due to declining parish numbers, St Aidan's was sold, then redeveloped by architect Beverly Garlick as a residence.



2) Former MHS President and one time Newtown resident **Peter Cousens** writes: 'The wheat sheaf motif has historically been used as a symbol of a successful harvest, guaranteeing a plentiful supply of bread, and associated with all that was nourishing and life-affirming. The beautifully-carved sandstone sheaf and plinth were incorporated by the building's architect, James Nangle, to announce and decorate Louis Friedenreich's new bakery, which was opened on the corner of Bedford and Wellington (now Chelmsford) Streets, Newtown on 5 August 1897 in the presence



of the Newtown mayor, local politicians, and men from the milling and bakery trade. The new bakery was conveniently located over the railway line from Crago's new flour mills. The 1887 date on the plinth is when Friedenreich started his bakery ten years before at 11 Trade Street Newtown.'

(photos: Richard Blair)

Recently demolished: For the record, efforts by MHS to save 'Silverdale' Art Deco flats in Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill, and the nearby 'Cooperage' were in vain. So, another two bite the dust!



We belatedly learnt of the death of member **Jocelyn Mary (Joy) Cahill** on 26 August 2013 aged 76 at Fingal Bay. What little we know about Joy stems from when she joined MHS in 2010, she wrote: 'My husband, who passed away six months ago, was from an old Marrickville family. Indeed, we met at the Strollers Dance at Marrickville Town Hall in 1954.' It is likely this was a branch of the family of NSW Premier Joseph Cahill, but this has not been verified. Joy (Pinkerton) married Ernest John Cahill in 1957.

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