

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

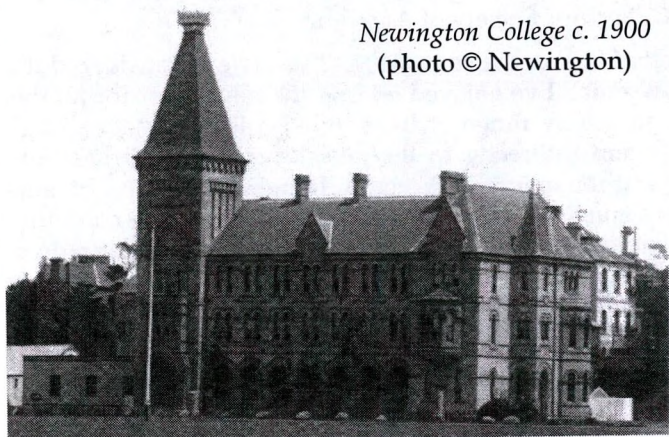


OUR NEXT MEETING

Newington College tour with David Roberts
Saturday 26 July 9.45 for 10 am

Meet Stanmore Road west gate. Walk to top of Holt Street from Stanmore station. Due to school sport, parking *outside* of grounds is recommended. BYO drink. Toilets on site. Tour duration 1½-2 hours. Enquiries Richard 9557 3823.

Newington College, which last year celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding, has had its home at Stanmore since 1880. Tour guide **David Roberts** wrote the Newington article in the MHS journal *Heritage* 14.



Newington College c. 1900
(photo © Newington)

Our walking tour will explore the major stages of the College's history through its buildings and grounds. This will include the original Gothic Revival College building, now called the Founders Building, with its distinctive lopsided form – the result of insufficient funds to complete the original plan – and the Le Couteur Building, whose construction changed the College's fortunes during the Great Depression. Along the way, we will stop off at the Chaplain Peter Swain Archives Exhibition Room to explore displays on a range of themes from the Newington story.

David Roberts is the inaugural Professional Archivist at Newington College. From 1998 to 2008 he was the Director of the State Records Authority of New South Wales and is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Archivists.

Treasurer **Diane McCarthy** reports a good response from renewal notices and 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 ('SGE Ref: Membership and \$8') on 21 May, failed to give a name. If this is your payment and you've not got a receipt please ring Diane on 9588 4930 or email Society (address bottom back page) to clarify.

19 July 1814: **Matthew Flinders** died
31 August 1814: **Capt Arthur Phillip** died

OUR LAST MEETING: AGM 28 June Who's who on the new committee

Having last year sent his president's annual report via Skype, **Geoff Ostling** arrived home from an overseas trip in time to attend the AGM. Geoff shared some of his travels before presenting his report (to appear in August newsletter). This was followed by treasurer **Diane McCarthy's** report which showed that the Society is in a healthy financial state, although the journal costs won't appear until next year's report. Diane thanked **Graeme Napier** for his customary audit. **Richard Blair** reported on the successful launch of *Heritage* 14 (see report inside) and announced his intention to step down after 20 years as newsletter editor following the August newsletter (see below and report overleaf). **Deborah O'Donnell** spoke about the MHS blog and the high number of hits the blog has attracted in the past year.

As recommended by the committee, **Geoff Ostling** 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, **Ross Berry** and **Iain Carolin**; treasurer, **Diane McCarthy**; secretary, **Mary Oakenfull**; assistant secretary, **Deborah O'Donnell** (nee Lang); committee members, **Lorraine Beach**, **Richard Blair**, **Jan Garaty**, **Robert Hutchinson**, **Scott MacArthur** and **Ian Phillips**. We welcome **Ross Berry** to the new committee, although he has been attending meetings for some months. We thank **Rosemary Wood**, who stood down after four years on the committee.

We welcomed to the AGM, members who we haven't seen for a while: **Shirley Doolan**, **Mary Harte**, **Keith** and **Norma Lawson**, and **Bruce Welch**. Members were treated to a light lunch, provided and organised by committee members **Deborah**, **Diane**, **Mary**, **Rosemary**, **Ross** and **Scott**.

Richard Blair

New MHS newsletter editor sought

The Society seeks a new honorary newsletter editor given **Richard Blair** will step down following the August newsletter after 20 years in that role. Maximal support will be available if required. Enquiries Richard 9557 3823 or MHS email.

2014 MHS Publications Report

Lorraine Beach and I were delighted to be able to complete the latest journal *Heritage 14* more or less on schedule for our launch at The Henson, Marrickville on Tuesday 17 June which around 50 members attended. A member emailed me the next day in congratulations commenting that this journal was only four years in gestation (compared to the previous one which was six). This was both true and untrue. Certainly, the previous journal appeared in late 2010, but, apart from one article which had been in the kitty for some years, articles for *Heritage 14* only started reaching me last June, so conception was just one year. Besides, in late 2011 the Society published *Marrickville: a past worth preserving*, whose production involved the two main people who worked on *Heritage 14*. Those yet to receive *Heritage 14* will do so when the July newsletter is despatched (one journal per membership). At the launch I thanked all involved – authors, advertisers, sponsors; Pamela Stewart, who handled most of the advertising; head proofreader Hillary Goldsmith; and Lorraine Beach, who handled the design and layout with her usual flair and attention to detail (and without payment, as was the case in four of the past five journals). Hopefully, we can both be involved in producing *Heritage 15*, although work on that won't start immediately.

Talking of *Marrickville: a past worth preserving*, as reported in the June newsletter, we have now donated a copy to each local high school, so children of the district in that age group can access that diverse set of articles via their school libraries. We may organise a similar program to get a copy into each local primary school library.

The newsletter has continued to come out on time each month and be delivered to our 440 or so members. I became newsletter editor in 1994 after my predecessor, Judith Matheson, stepped down to concentrate on studies and her journalistic career. At the time I merely said 'I'd help', but no one else put up their hand, so I got the gig. My first newsletter as editor was in August 1994, so this August will be 20 years of continuous editorship. I recently told the committee that I have decided to step down as newsletter editor after the August newsletter as I feel 20 years is long enough and it's time to hand over the reins. Over the past year I've been trying to balance editing three regular publications simultaneously and it's really too much given it is all voluntary, and on top of the range of other things I do for both MHS and the Book Collectors' Society of Australia.

Giving up the editorship has nothing to do with being sick of it – on the contrary, as I've always considered it a great privilege. Anyway, I'm not going to go on about how much I've enjoyed editing the newsletter for all this time and what a wonderful Society MHS is and the extraordinary range of likeminded folk I've met through MHS and who, over the years, have contributed directly and indirectly to the newsletter. Had all these self evident truths not applied I'm sure I wouldn't have stuck at it for so long. I do recall though that when I became editor in 1994 I didn't even own a computer, let alone know much about using one. Initially, I used the computer of my good friend Julie Drew, who remains a MHS member, and Julie taught me the basic tricks of the trade of word processing. However it wasn't long before she realised what a drag it was having me monopolise her computer, which she needed for post grad studies such that I bought my own computer, albeit a second hand one from another friend, who was upgrading her system. I've since almost worn out my fourth computer.

The Society was also blessed in 1994 by the fact that our then printer Ed Jones was, for a year, a vice president of MHS. Ed and his Gopher Graphics team were most accommodating. Since 2003 the newsletter has been printed by the World of Print, Broadway which prints the newsletter much more cheaply and has not raised its costs.

Were I to name all who have assisted me over 20 years we'd be here for a long time, besides which, every annual newsletter report since 1995 has done just that – thank the helpers. I have had supportive committees and Geoff's committee has been no exception. The runners and drivers are listed below but today I will just single out a select few – Shirley Hilyard, Scott MacArthur, Diane McCarthy, Ian Phillips and Pamela Stewart – who have all been at the forefront of assistance for most of that time. Diane, Ian and Pamela have had major roles in distributing the newsletter whilst Scott has been a major voice in articulately advocating in the newsletter on behalf of heritage watch issues; Shirley, as subeditor, has had invaluable input into all 220 (or so) newsletters I've produced since 1994.

As much as possible in the newsletter I endeavoured to retain existing practices such as 'Our Next Meeting' and 'Our Last Meeting' as well as the overall format of four pages on an A3 sheet. I've always tried to recruit others to write up 'Our Last Meeting' and I'm sure over those 20 years, there have been over 100 different scribes, although I've not done an actual count. I've introduced various innovations such as the seasonal trivia question, which has often attracted more attention than anything else. The newsletter has reported on all manner of matters and members are not only always on the lookout for Marrickville connections but also bring them to my attention.

There'll be an item in the July newsletter calling for expressions of interest to take over the newsletter editorship, so if anyone is interested, or knows of anyone who is interested, please let me know.

2013-14 runners: Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, 'Tricia Blombery & Stuart Grigg, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron & Ken Turner, Iain Carolin, Lucille Dunstan, Rosemary Fallon, Ann Fenton, Audrey Furney, Jean Hartman, Colin Hesse, Shirley Hilyard, Marg Ludlow, Ruth Olip, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Jan Pickering, Peter Robertson, Greg Ryan, Pamela Stewart and Vivien Wherry.

Back up runners: Roger Gazard, Natalie Hitoun, Pat Jessop, Chris King, Diane McCarthy, Mary Oakenfull, Corinne O'Loughlin, Ann Petersen, Frank Smith and Bob York.

Drivers: Anna Breinl, John Mara, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Pamela Stewart, Keith Sutton and Ken Turner.

At Marrickville Library: Clinton Johnston and his team ensured newsletters were delivered to key council staff, and some put on display in the library. Runners deliver to other branch libraries.

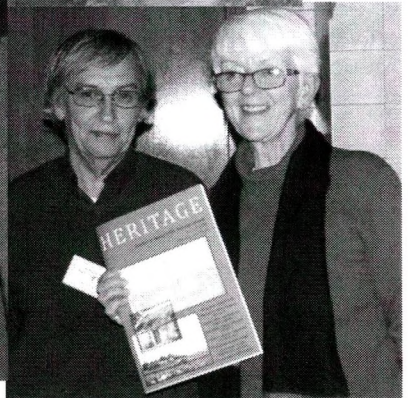
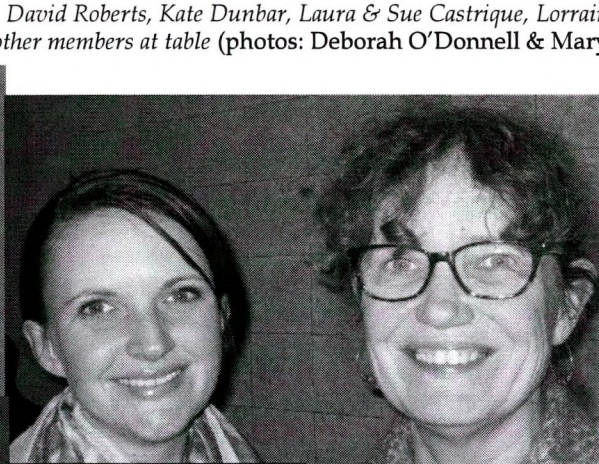
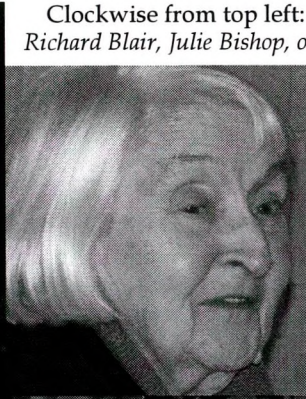
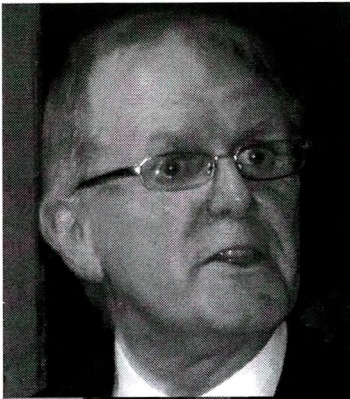
Richard Blair

Heritage 14 launched on 17 June at The Henson, Marrickville

The launch of a Marrickville Heritage Society journal is always a landmark occasion and on Tuesday 17 June about 50 members and friends gathered at The Henson to meet with some of the authors and those who produced it. The Henson was chosen as the venue both as one of the journal advertisers, and, in its refurbished state, as a local venue worth supporting. The Society's commitment to its members was demonstrated by the fact that it catered for the event and continues to provide each membership of the Society with a complimentary copy of the journal. Other members should receive their copy with the July newsletter. Extra copies are \$10 each.

Journal editor **Richard Blair** reflected on how the aims of this journal are no different from the aims of the Society's first journal in 1984 *Heritage 1*, namely 'to create a much greater community awareness, both within and outside Marrickville, of the rich cultural heritage of this area'. Richard thanked his collaborator **Lorraine Beach** for her outstanding layout and design; **Hillary Goldsmith** for her assiduous proofreading over several drafts; **Pamela Stewart** for facilitating most of the advertising, which together with sponsorship covered the production costs of the journal; and all **advertisers and sponsors**.

Authors present spoke briefly: **Sue Castrique** on the Addison Road army camp; **Julie Bishop**, who with her husband **Noel** wrote of their Camperdown house history; **Kate Dunbar**, who recalled her tough Newtown and Marrickville childhood; and archivist **David Roberts**, who wrote about Newington College's 150 years. Lorraine thanked the printers (who attended the launch) and Richard for bringing the journal so seamlessly together.



Life Membership awarded to Geoff Ostling

Long overdue was the presentation at the AGM of MHS Life Membership to Geoff Ostling. The mere holding of executive or other positions is not in itself sufficient to warrant such recognition, unless that role is carried out with some distinction. Geoff has always displayed a strong commitment to the Society's aims which is reflected in the citation words: 'For his unstinting and enthusiastic promotion of the history and heritage of the Marrickville local government area over the past 30 years'.

Since joining the Society in 1985 Geoff has been an active member having served on several committees, including a term as Junior Vice President, four terms as President (and now into his fifth term!), journal editor (*Heritage 4*), author of several journal articles, regular newsletter contributor, staunch heritage watch proponent, organiser of many weekends away, local walking tours and social events for MHS, and founder of the Society's annual pot luck dinner and attendance book (both in 1989).

Diane McCarthy presents Geoff Ostling with his certificate of MHS Life Membership (photo: Deborah O'Donnell)



Calendar of Events

Saturday 26 July
Newington College walking tour
Details on front page

Saturday 23 August
Dr Peter Mitchell on Bennelong's remains

'Tree-mendous Wolli'

Sunday 20 July from 10 am to 1.30 pm

With the threat of destruction to bushland by the WestConnex motorway project, the **Wolli Creek Preservation Society** is holding this important event in the western (Bexley North) end of the Wolli Creek Valley in the lead up to National Tree Day (27 July). A ten-minute bushwalk through the threatened area will be accompanied by music, artworks, artists and bush regenerators. At the end of the walk, in Illoura Reserve there will be refreshments, information stalls, music, kids' activities, and a chance for an informal picnic. All welcome; no bookings. For more information email <info@wollicreek.org.au> or check the WCPS website <www.wollicreek.org.au>.

Marrickville Town Hall forecourt

Marrickville Council has announced plans to upgrade the forecourt of Marrickville Town Hall in conjunction with the installation of a new Winged Victory statue in time for Gallipoli Centenary commemorations in April 2015. On 12 June Council hosted a display presentation and concept plans have been accessible via Council's website. The forecourt will have greater accessibility and the plinth and monument base will be restored. Barriers have been erected and work has commenced to clean up the site. A DA has been lodged. Meanwhile, Meridian - 'Australia's premier fine art foundry' - has been commissioned to design and create the new statue.

Mary Oakenfull

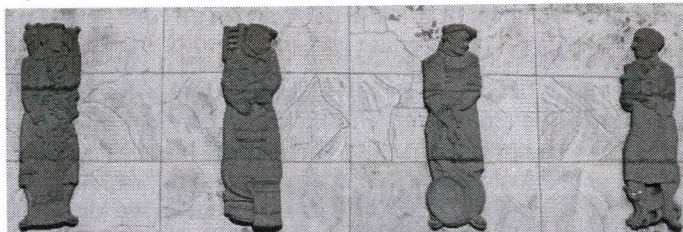
Southern Areas Heritage Study Review

The Society commends **Scott MacArthur** for assembling the Society's review submission to Council which recommended 140 new items and seven new and extended Heritage Conservation Areas. The Society's 'nominations are based on information received from our members, site visits and archival research. Collation of this information has revealed the wealth of significant heritage properties in the southern part of our LGA, reinforcing how important it is that the heritage values of this area are more fully protected.

'It is admirable that Council has commissioned this Review with the intention of protecting more period buildings by individual and conservation area listings. However, the Society is very concerned about the continuing threat of defacement posed to unlisted period buildings from Exempt Works under the current Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Exempt Works can include painting and rendering of tuck-pointed face brickwork, and replacement of original timber framed doors and windows with aluminium, effectively 'irreversibly eroding' the heritage values of these buildings. The Society hopes that this Review will provide strategies for mitigating this risk.'

Winter Trivia Answers

Anyone attending Fort Street High School from 1954 should have answered this as the far right sculpture below (shown in June newsletter) is one of four which grace the front of Kennard's Self Storage building at 606 Parramatta Road, Petersham, next to and east of Fort Street High. When the sculptures were installed the building was Miller's Brewery and in the late 1950s and 1960s, the unpleasant odour of yeast would waft forth, potentially turning students off beer for life! Thousands of vehicles pass by this edifice daily, and yet few get to view these large landmark sculptures.



A sign on the building reads: 'These concrete sculptures were created by **Professor Paul Beadle** in 1954 and have been retained by Kennards as their contribution to the Heritage of the Area'. Born in England, Paul Beadle (1917-92) was an influential sculptor, printmaker, cartoonist and art teacher who taught in Australia in the 1940s and 1950s before moving to New Zealand in 1960 where he became Professor of Fine Arts at Auckland University. He also designed the eagle on top of the imposing 73-metre high Australian-American Memorial in Canberra which was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954.

Identifiers were Fortians **Peter Dixon** and **Graeme Napier**, plus **Elva Blair** and **Monica Oppen**.

* * * *



The top of the front page of *The Sydney Morning Herald* on Monday 14 April 1997 omitted the day, date and number of newspaper. Among the unconnected folk pictured on that page were Margaret Throsby, Tiger Woods, Pope John Paul II and Mal Colston. Remember him! Well researched, **Ian Phillips**.

Richard Blair

Congratulations to member **Peter Dunphy** who in the Queen's Birthday Honours was awarded the Public Service Medal: 'For outstanding public service in the improvement of health and safety conditions for employees, particularly for asbestos-related diseases'.

The Society notes the recent passing of MHS members **Charles Cox**, Petersham and **Bob Payne**, Marrickville. Our condolences to Barbara Cox and Beverley Payne and their families.

President Geoff 9568 3029
Treasurer Diane 9588 4930
Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501
Newsletter Editor Richard 9557 3823