

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

**The Shire: a journey through time -
Illustrated talk with Bruce Watt**

**Saturday 27 September 10.15 for 10.30 am
St Peters Anglican Church Hall, 187 Princes
Highway, St Peters (parking in church grounds)
(Note: Enmore walk postponed till May 2015; change
in venue as council halls were already booked)**

Bruce Watt's recently published *The Shire: a journey through time* sets a new benchmark in the study of local history. It is a history and genealogy, a portrait and a sociological sketch that raises issues and includes 'warts' and criticisms where justified. The Shire's brief connection with white settlement allows the story to be told on a broader scale, from a global, Australian and local perspective. Bruce will discuss:

- traditional and contemporary Dharawal story
- European origin story - Cook and the First Fleet
- nineteenth century - Thomas Holt, the National Park and the coming of the railway
- Heroes and villains
- WWI and WWII, the Depression and 'Fortress Shire'
- post war boom, surfing, Bali bombings, Cronulla riots



Growing up in the 1950s: life was simple then

Bruce Watt is the president of the Sutherland Shire Historical Society and a former History and Economics Head Teacher. He brings a sensitive understanding to the Shire's development and places events within the broader sweep of Australian and global events. His book contains many never before seen images and will be on sale at the discount rate of \$40.

An **Overdue Fee Reminder** slip will accompany newsletters where fees are as yet unpaid. Should you have a query or require direct debit details ring Diane on 9588 4930 or email MHS (foot of back page).

Dulwich Hill Fair: 14 September: details back page

Heritage Watch

Newington College: Heritage at risk

Newington College is proposing an unprecedented building program on its two Stanmore campuses that will involve the demolition of a dozen buildings and dozens of trees. The Society does not believe that the developments are appropriate for such prominent heritage listed sites.

On the main Stanmore Road campus, the College has submitted Development Applications for a new Year 7 Learning Centre near the 1874 Old Chapel building in the north-east corner of the site and redevelopment of the whole eastern half of the campus as a sports centre. The new Learning Centre will require the demolition of a quaint annex to the Old Chapel, the western wings of the 1950s Le Couteur building, and 22 'important' trees (as assessed by the College's arborist). The proposed new building is squeezed into the resulting site, close to the Old Chapel. While the ridge heights of the new and old buildings are comparable, the low roof pitch means that the walls of the new building are twice as high as the adjacent Old Chapel, and due to its proximity, it will dwarf the heritage building.

The redevelopment of the eastern side of the site will provide for an enormous 'Old Boys Sporting Complex', with an underground carpark below elevated sports ovals and a tennis centre. The proposed new buildings will require the demolition of two buildings that have contributed to the amenity and character of the College over the last 60-80 years, and other 'important' trees. While the 1953 Chaplain's Residence is a relatively recent introduction to the College, it is complementary in form and materials to important heritage buildings on the site. Its loss, and replacement with a nondescript new Tennis Pavilion detracts from the distinctive character of the site.

The demolition of the 1934 Glasston Pavilion for the Sporting Complex would be particularly unfortunate. This building has had a long association with the College's sporting life, and is closely associated with its benefactor and Old Newingtonian WR Glasston and his family. While the new facilities should offer enhanced sporting opportunities to students, the loss of such an important building from the sporting and cultural life of the College is to be lamented. The Society notes that providing modern sporting amenity and retaining heritage buildings are not mutually exclusive, as has been dramatically demonstrated with the opening of the new Bradman and Noble stands, adjoining the Members Pavilion, at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

(Cont'd on p. 3)

Our Last Meeting: 23 August Woollarawarre Bennelong, James Squire and Kissing Point with Dr Peter Mitchell

Dr Peter Mitchell's enthralling presentation was in his words: 'a bit of a ramble about several people who lived around Kissing Point', which is located on Parramatta River at Putney in the City of Ryde. He began with the story of Bennelong, who was born around 1764 in the country of the Wangal clan on the southern side of Parramatta River. Bennelong was about 25 years old and a clan elder when he and Colebee, the chief of the Cadigal (the harbour dwelling people), were abducted at Manly Cove in November 1789 on the order of Governor Phillip. It was mere coincidence that the two most important Aboriginals in the area had been taken. Although Colebee escaped two weeks later, Phillip and Bennelong developed a respectful father-son relationship and Bennelong accompanied Phillip on his return to England in 1792. He would not return to his own people until September 1795. His health had been badly affected by the English climate and by the 18 months he spent on board ship either at sea or waiting at the dock.

Bennelong died as the chief of a clan of about 100 people who lived on land owned by James Squire at Kissing Point. It appears Bennelong, his clan and Squire enjoyed quite friendly relations. Squire, a First Fleet convict of Romany origin, had acquired over 800 acres of land (as far as the Field of Mars); his wealth earned by the brewery and the Malting Shovel Inn he had established at the midway point along the river between Sydney Town and Parramatta. By 1820 his annual output was 450,000 litres of beer, sold at four pence a pint. In 1930 all the buildings of James Squire's enterprise were still standing but by the end of that decade, the buildings were demolished when the boat-building Halvorsen family built a large boatshed on Kissing Point. At this boatshed over 250 military craft had been built by the end of WWII. Gretel, the losing contender in the 1962 America's Cup, was also built there. There are now plans to redevelop this large area.

From contemporary accounts it is known that Bennelong, who died on 2 January 1813, was buried in James Squire's orchard along with his last wife (possibly called Boorong). In 1821, Nanbarry, the nephew of Colebee, was also buried there. A descendant of James Squire (who had four wives and eleven children), Charles Cobham Watson, claimed in 1927, that Bennelong's grave was in front of his own house, and there was new interest in locating the site. With painstaking and thorough research using old maps, written accounts and modern technology, Dr Mitchell, who is a member of Ryde Council's Heritage Advisory Committee, has located evidence of ground disturbance, its dimensions consistent with a grave, on the corner of 25 Watson Street and Hordern Avenue, Putney. In spite of claims by SMH journalist Eamonn Duff in March 2011 that the grave had been discovered, Dr Mitchell emphasised that 'we think we have located the site; we still haven't found the grave'. As the site is not under threat, further investigation has been banned by the NSW Heritage Office. President Geoff Ostling spoke for the large audience (of over 70) when he thanked Dr Mitchell for his fascinating talk, 'one of the best ever' the Society has had.

Jan Garaty

Oral History Project Launch

In the 1990s Angela Phippen conducted the Society's *Marrickville Remembers* project with over 100 oral history tape recordings of life in the Marrickville area during World War II. The publication *Marrickville Remembers* was launched in 1998. Inspired by this, a subcommittee – comprising Jan Armstrong, Richard Blair, Marilyn Leeds, Caroll Phillips, Ian Phillips, Angela Phippen and Pippa Preston – met between 1999 and 2001 with the objective of recording the broader memories of local residents. They worked out the logistics of the project including the nature of the questions which would be put to those interviewed.

A grant was sought and obtained from Marrickville Council towards equipment and their assistance has been duly acknowledged. Interviews were recorded (2000-02) and transcribed. Thirteen interviews, including three which were outside the project, were recorded. Two were by MHS members Tricia Kennedy and 'Tricia Blombery'; in the third, done in 1989, Olga Tatrai interviewed Dot Chalker, one of the first female union secretaries in the country.

In 2002 the oral history group gave a presentation to a MHS meeting and five of those interviewed were present. The Harry Stone interview was reproduced with images in the Society's 2010 journal *Heritage* 13.

In 2012 on the suggestion of Ian Phillips, Laurel and Bob Horton agreed to transfer the tapes to CD. This had logistical problems due to outmoded techniques, and some transcriptions had to be redone. By 2013 Laurel and Bob had successfully transferred all the audios and scripts to CD and we are indebted to Bob and Laurel for their efforts. We also thank Geoff Croft, who did the calligraphy on each CD. Details are:

Interviewee	Interviewer
Stan Bales	Jan Armstrong
Lu (Florence) Bell	Richard Blair
Ada Boes	Caroll Phillips
Pat (Patricia) Bruner	Angela Phippen
Dot (Dorothy) Chalker	Olga Tatrai
Les (Leslie) Fairbairn	Richard Blair
Dorothy Gaston	Pippa Preston
Jack Gunning	Tricia Kennedy
Merle Manning	Jan Armstrong
Molly (Mary) Mitchell	Pippa Preston
Harry (Henry) Stone	Ian Phillips
Dot (Dorothy) Sullivan	'Tricia Blombery
Thelma White	Jan Armstrong

A set of CDs was given to Marrickville Library & History Services to be accessible to researchers and the public. A second set remains with the Society. A copy of each CD is going to participants or their families.

The launch was on Saturday 23 August following our guest speaker. Some interview excerpts were played. We were honoured to have present Lu Bell; Bruce Boes, son of Ada; Laurel and Bob Horton; and from Council, Ken Cullen; also, interviewers Richard Blair, 'Tricia Blombery, Caroll Phillips, Ian Phillips and Angela Phippen. Formalities were followed by a fine repast organised by the committee. Many thanks to all who assisted with the launch.

Richard Blair

Note: Future oral history interviews are subject to availability of interviewers and updated equipment.

Newington College: Heritage at risk (from p. 1)

On the nearby Wyvern Preparatory Campus, a similarly dramatic development is proposed by the College. The Wyvern Campus is located between Cambridge Street and Trafalgar Road, within the South Kingston Heritage Conservation Area and includes the former Braeside Private Hospital buildings, and several significant late Victorian villas with varying degrees of integrity, including 'Humberstone', 'Pendower' and 'Horaceville'. The College is proposing to demolish the former private hospital buildings, including the former Mary Andrews College, and what is described in the application as 'the former Mortuary/Laundry'. These period buildings are to be replaced with an enormous new Early Learning Centre, with an underground carpark.

The proposed demolition of the Mary Andrews College building cannot be supported due to its high heritage and architectural qualities. The building has a rich and diverse social and architectural history that is largely ignored by the Heritage Impact Statement included in the DA. The earliest portion of this building incorporates intact remnants of the 1880s Victorian villa 'Humberstone', residence from 1907 of Thomas H Nesbitt (1853-1935), town clerk, Sydney Municipal Council (1902-24). The villa was converted to Braeside Private Hospital c. 1914; when it became Braeside Anglican Hospital in 1946, major extensions were constructed to designs by the renowned architect Professor Leslie Wilkinson. Wilkinson's design not only retained the main features of 'Humberstone', but created an imposing and handsome masonry building that is an important contributor to the built character of this part of the Kingston South Heritage Conservation Area. The case for demolition rather than conservation and adaptive re-use of the building, particularly of the former villa, seems to be driven by the requirement to excavate the site for an extensive underground carpark.

MHS is also concerned that the selection of materials and building forms for the new Early Learning Centre facing Cambridge Street are not complementary with the built character of the Heritage Conservation Area. Particularly, the use of polished concrete block and large feature sandstone panels in regular rectangular block elevational forms, is out of place in a streetscape dominated by face brick and painted rendered villas, articulated with pitched roofs and faceted facades.

The proposed demolition of the Former Mortuary/Laundry is concerning as it is incorrectly described as a 1940s era brick building associated with the Hospital. However, the building is shown on 1930 Sydney Water Plans. With its decorative fascia board and brick detailing, this places the building as an early Federation era residential building. Clearly, more research is required into the history of this intriguing building, before it can be allowed to be demolished with a spurious dismissal of its significance.

The Society is also concerned that these buildings will require the removal of dozens of existing trees across both campuses. Many of these trees have been identified as being 'important' by the College's own arborist. The replacement trees are proposed to be 'appropriate compensation', but these new trees will take decades to regain the sheltering canopy that the lost trees provided.

The Society is disappointed **Newington College seems to have disregarded its responsibility to respect and maintain important aspects of the heritage values of their Stanmore campuses with these proposed developments.** It is indeed lucky that MHS had a recent tour of the College, because within a short time, these campuses will be almost unrecognisable.

Scott MacArthur

'Holey dollar' stolen from State Library

An 1813 'Holey Dollar' and other coins were stolen from a display at State Library of NSW on 6 August. Police are investigating the theft of 12 coins dating from 1850s to 1920s. Police say the coins were in a steel framed glass cabinet with heavy and armoured locks. State Librarian Dr Alex Byrne said that they knew the value of the coins financially and historically. Jim Noble, managing director of Noble Numismatics and official valuer for the SLNSW stated that sale prices of 'Holey Dollars' have ranged from \$70,000 to \$400,000. (As reported in MHS September 2013 newsletter) The 'Holey Dollar' was minted in the Lima Mint in Peru and was the start of currency in Australia. Governor Lachlan Macquarie bought 40,000 Spanish silver dollar coins to resolve the colony's currency shortage. A hole was punched in the centre to produce two coins - the larger donut outer ring and the smaller coin, the Colonial Dump. (Source: *Australian Financial Review* 9-10 August 2014, p.2.)



MHS President Geoff Ostling (left) with Oral History Project participants: Caroll Phillips, Bob Horton, Lu Bell, Laurel Horton, Tricia Blombery, Richard Blair, Angela Phippen and Ian Phillips (photo: Deborah O'Donnell)

Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 27 September
Bruce Watt on The Shire
 Details on front page

Saturday 25 October
Matt Murphy on Newtown Ejectment Case

Saturday 22 November
Tour of Callan Park

2014 Cooks River Catchment Community Forum
Saturday 13 September 12 noon - 4 pm
Canterbury Public School, Church St Canterbury

Coordinated by the Cooks River Alliance with input from the Cooks River Valley Association, this forum will have presentations on many exciting developments along the river, plus film, drama workshops and lots more. Limited parking; venue near Canterbury Station and bus routes. Enquiries 9748 9644.

RSVP at <cooksriverforum.eventbrite.com.au>.

Marrickville History Services presents:
Walking tour of Marrickville

Saturday 11 October 9:45 for 10 am start (expected to end by 12:30 pm) from Marrickville Public School, 102 Chapel Street, Marrickville

Bookings essential: Ring 9335 2173; text 0401 957 409; email <aleem.aleemullah@marrickville.nsw.gov.au>; book online <marrickvillelibrary.eventbrite.com.au>.

Travel back to when Marrickville was referred to as Wardell's bushland with timber, dairy farms and market gardens dotting the landscape to the site where council had its first meeting. Tour will visit the first Marrickville Town Hall, Old Police Station, site of former Marrickville RSL and fine houses, or their former sites, like Llewellyn, Lilydale, Neston, Montrose, Gunyah, Gatshead and many more.

Dulwich Hill Fair: Sunday 14 September

After several years in absentia the Society will have a stall at the Dulwich Hill Fair. This is largely because this lively street fair has been brought forward from December when it clashed with so much else. Our stall will be on Marrickville Road about midway between Seaview Street and New Canterbury Road. We always like to see members drop by so if you can spare some time to help out and chat to interested members of the public, or for further information, ring Iain after 6 pm on weeknights or on the weekend on 0400 473 252.

The Marrickville Festival is on Sunday 19 October.

Iain Carolin



Honorary Editor for monthly MHS newsletter
 On the job training with full support of retiring editor
 Join a multi-talented, vibrant committee
 Contact now acting editor 9557 3823 or email below

Vale Clr Emanuel Tsardoulis

The Society was saddened to hear of the premature death of Clr Emanuel Tsardoulis on 16 August aged 38 leaving behind his wife Zoi and twin toddlers Dimitri and Stephen. Emanuel grew up locally and attended Dulwich High School. He had been a Labor Marrickville Councillor (West Ward: Burrage) since 2008 and served as Deputy Mayor in 2012-13. He was described by Mayor Jo Haylen as someone who 'always brought boundless energy and a youthful exuberance to everything he did, and shared his everlasting optimism with everyone he met'. Our condolences to Emanuel's family.

Relatives sought for RAAF WWII airman

Sgt Allen Richard Eather, b. 27/12/1921, was the son of Charles and Alice Eather of Enmore. He was a crew member on RAAF Catalina A24-25 which was lost on 28 February 1943. This aircraft has most probably been found at sea SE of Cairns. Members of the Eather family are sought. If you can help, contact Pete Illidge, Heritage Officer, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, who is coordinating the operation, at <pete.illidge@brmpa.gov.au> or 0407 930 412.

Volunteers needed for 'Sydney Open'

MHS member **Wendy Dyson** has advised that over 300 volunteers are required for the biennial 'Sydney Open' on **Sunday 2 November** with 50 of Sydney's best-loved buildings open to the public. A number of volunteer site supervisors are also needed to assist at this cultural event, presented by Sydney Living Museums (formerly Historic Houses Trust). Check SLM website and apply online.

Pictorial History of Newtown (1999) by Alan Sharpe was revised in 2013 with new content. The Society sells it below RRP for \$22, along with other pictorial histories including for Marrickville and South Sydney.

Spring Trivia Question

Identify this building in Marrickville LGA.
 Richard 9557 3823 or email below.



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