

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Our Next Meeting

Colonial era Newtown and the
Ejectment case with Matt Murphy
Saturday 25 October 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Newtown, with its heritage-listed King Street and popularity as an entertainment precinct, has had perhaps more than its fair share of history and photos reproduced in book and online. But what about Newtown *before* it became Newtown?

Matt Murphy's book *Weight of Evidence* deals primarily with the Newtown Ejectment Case and a story that starts with the arrival of the Second Fleet and the earliest land grants in the area. Apart from the Newtown Ejectment Case, Matt has many other anecdotes from in and around Newtown; he will also challenge some well-established stories relating to his home town and its history.

An intriguing tale from the early history of Sydney wherein is unearthed the **DASTARDLY** doings of **SHADY** convicts, **LAZY** bureaucrats, **DISREPUTABLE** lawyers, **TROUBLED** governors, **SCHEMING** businessmen, **MANIPULATIVE** brides and other **SCURRILOUS** and **DECEITFUL** rogues to document the unfolding drama of what was the **LONGEST AND MOST EXPENSIVE COURT CASE IN AUSTRALIA** regarding that fertile valley of 210 acres which now contain much of the suburbs of **NEWTOWN** and **ERSKINEVILLE**, known as **THE NEWTOWN EJECTMENT CASE**

From book cover;
John Devine's house
(cnr John and Albert Sts
Erskineville) in 1912,
demolished in 1980s.



Matt Murphy hated history at school and failed English. His love of history came when he moved to Newtown and became so fascinated in the area's rich past that it led him to complete a degree in Australian History. Apart from reading, writing and researching, Matt has been a fireman for the last 26 years and is currently proud to be Newtown's fire chief.
(Book on sale at meeting for discounted price of \$25)

Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 6 December 6 for 6.30 pm

Stanmore (south of railway) is this year's Pot Luck destination. Few minutes walk from Stanmore station and nearest bus stops (Enmore Road). Ample parking nearby. Book with Lorraine on 9550 6608 (after hours) or email <lbeach@iprimus.com.au> to advise food you'll bring (nothing frozen please) and to obtain address. BYO drinks.

Our November meeting

Tour of Callan Park, Rozelle
Saturday 22 November 10.15 for 10.30 am

Meet inside main gate on Balmain Rd Rozelle opp. Cecily St. Wear sturdy shoes. Cost \$10 (pay on day). Bookings Mary 9560 6409. Hosts: Friends of Callan Park; guides: Roslyn Burge and Hall Greenland. Transport: 445 Campsie bus to Balmain via Dulwich Hill shops and Petersham Station; 440 city bus to Rozelle; Lilyfield Light Rail stop 10-15 minutes walk; parking on Balmain Rd west of Cecily St. Please advise if you have to cancel.

From Friends of Callan Park website: Callan Park was a combination of purchases by Crown Solicitor and Police Magistrate John Ryan Brenan, who in 1839 bought what he named the Garry Owen estate. His residence, Garry Owen House, possibly designed by Colonial Architect Mortimer Lewis, overlooked Parramatta River. Brenan later bought an additional three acres and built Broughton House. In 1864 Brenan sold his estate to John Gordon, who renamed the property Callan Park. The Colonial Government bought the entire 104.5 acres as a site for a new lunatic asylum to be designed according to the enlightened views of the American Dr Thomas Kirkbride.

Colonial Architect James Barnett collaborated with Inspector of the Insane Dr Frederick Norton Manning to produce a group of some 20 neo-classical buildings, completed in 1885 and subsequently named the Kirkbride Block, offering progressive patient care. The Kirkbride complex was used for patients until 1994. After massive renovations, the Sydney College of the Arts (University of Sydney) took possession in 1996.

To find out more why not join the tour!

How to join Marrickville Heritage Society

Marrickville Heritage Society monitors our built and environmental heritage, and promotes our history. To join, send a cheque made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone/s and email, or pay by direct debit. By joining now membership will extend until June 2016. Diane 9588 4930 for enquiries, a brochure or direct debit details; or email address at foot of back page. Fees (unchanged since 2003): Concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28.

Nota Bene: Don't discard or give away this newsletter just yet as the newsletter will appear **every two months** until a replacement editor is found. It is hoped to eventually revert to a monthly newsletter.

Our Last Meeting: Bruce Watt on The Shire

On Saturday 27 September **Bruce Watt** took us on a journey through time. St Peters Anglican Church hall seemed an appropriate venue as its church is one of the oldest in Australia. Bruce spoke of the Aboriginal people, who lived in the Shire for over 18,000 years or 400 generations; c. 250 million years ago the Sydney basin was a shallow sea, with many changes in climate, including ice ages, which resulted in the very sandy soil in the Shire. The lack of good farming soil and fresh water were vital factors in the decision to locate the First Fleet to Sydney Cove in Port Jackson, not at Botany Bay as suggested by Captain Cook. The Shire was isolated for many years. Timber cutters exploited the forests for building materials and the Aboriginal middens were ground into lime for cement-making.

Thomas Holt was a land speculator who acquired land across Sydney (including in Marrickville where he built *The Warren*); he owned most of the future Shire land and was a major player in events there. The coming of the Illawarra Railway line, which crossed the Georges River at Como in 1884 provided easy access to the Shire, and by 1888 trains were running to Wollongong; communities began to be established at Heathcote, Cronulla, Kurnell, Sylvania, Miranda and Sutherland. The National Park was proclaimed in 1879, the second oldest in the world.

The latter part of the twentieth century saw an enormous growth in population in the Shire and the arrival of high rise units. The harsh reality of some much publicised incidents – the Wanda Beach murders and the Cronulla riots – are all part of a modern multicultural society that the residents of the Shire have managed to overcome, and today the Shire is still a working man's paradise. Long may this remain as residents of the Shire continue their journey.

Shirley Maguire

Booknote: Bruce's book *The Shire: a journey through time* (2014) is \$40. Book layout by MHS member Bruce Welch, who recommended Bruce Watt as guest speaker.

Old School: a history of Marrickville Public School 1864 to 2014

To mark **Marrickville Public School's** sesquicentenary celebrations the school brought out the well-produced publication *Old School: a history of Marrickville Public School 1864 to 2014*, whose main compiler was school parent and MHS member Rod Aanensen. The book includes recollections by former students including MHS members Lois Korendijk (nee Sprague), Shirley Maguire (nee Ryan), Diane McCarthy (nee Langley), Annette Robinson (nee Robinson).

The book describes some notable people who attended the school: Charles Haddon Spurgeon Chambers (dramatist), Isola Thompson (pioneering scholar), Sir Ivan Dougherty (war hero), John Metcalfe (champion of public libraries), Joseph Clark (politician), Sir James Kirby (industrialist and philanthropist), Sir Kenneth Starr (pioneering surgeon), Sandra Morgan and Ilsa Konrads (champion swimmers). Germaine Greer (author and feminist icon) was briefly a teacher at Marrickville Intermediate Girls High School.

Old School is available from the school and MHS for \$10.

Heritage Watch in brief

Should we be concerned about *another* recent mystery fire in the heritage-listed former **Tresillian Hospital, corner Addison Road and Shaw Street, Petersham**, built c. 1900 for timber merchant Frederick Langdon? Definitely. For many years a boarding house, this fine building deserves far better.

* * *

In the 1980s when the Marrickville's first heritage study was undertaken, one listing was for **Doumany & Sons, Draper & Mercer, 555 King Street Newtown**, in particular its original counters dating from the 1920s. The Doumany family came from Syria in 1922 and were still living there and running the business. It is not clear when Doumany's closed, but recently, new owners illegally destroyed the old counters thereby further eroding our heritage. Shame on them!

* * *

Once demolition was approved for (a) **Homersfield** (1888) at **2 St John St Lewisham** (see August 2013 and March 2014 newsletters); and (b) **Mandalong** (later, *The Fold*, then *Sunset Lodge* when owned by the Salvation Army, **27 George Street Marrickville** (October 2013, February 2014 newsletters), it was only a matter of time before they bit the dust.

* * *

Members may recall the article in the September 2013 newsletter about the **Marrickville-Sydenham Industrial Area: Victoria Road Precinct** which first went before Council in May 2012. On 2 September 2014 Council voted (6 votes to 5) to amend the LEP by referring this proposal to rezone 18 hectares on either side of Victoria Road between Sydenham Road and up to Enmore Park to the Dept. of Planning's Gateway process. This is potentially the largest redevelopment proposal ever in the LGA. One to watch!

* * *

The good news was the decision on 2 September by Council to give heritage status to the 1886 **Beynon & Hayward building, 6 Livingstone Road Petersham** after a successful rescission motion and a petition signed by over 5000 people for heritage protection. As reported in the August newsletter the Society wrote to Council in strong support of listing this building.

Richard Blair



Pre-loved MHS journals and newsletters

It has come to the attention of the committee that due to moving house, downsizing or having a cleanout, some members have disposed of unwanted Society journals and other MHS publications. If you find you're in this position we would welcome these items be returned for redistribution. The same applies to bundles of old newsletters. Pickup can be arranged. Call Iain on 0400 473 252 or email MHS (back page).

Iain Carolin

John Purdy of Yorkshire and Marrickville, and family

The Society has been contacted by **Darren Foster** of Perth, WA, whose great aunt Janet Leckie Irene Perrottet (nee Purdy) died in June 2014 aged 100. He wrote: 'She was a great granddaughter of the Marrickville pioneer John Purdy (1800-1891), and a granddaughter of his son, Marrickville carpenter John Purdy (1843-1933).'

Darren said the Dictionary of Sydney entry on Marrickville history incorrectly states John Purdy Snr was from Scotland, when he was from Dewsbury, Yorkshire. Darren forwarded the following extract (from the *Rochdale Times*, 28 January 1882) sent to him by a UK Purdy researcher about a visit John Purdy paid to his native place:

'VISIT OF AN OLD COLONIAL TO ROCHDALE

Another proof of the affection with which the colonies regard their mother country has been given in a striking manner within the last few days, by the visit to England, and among other places to Rochdale, from the far distant shores of Australia, of an old gentleman named Mr. John Purdy, who has attained the venerable age of 83 years. Mr. Purdy is a Yorkshireman, hailing from the neighbourhood of Dewsbury. He left England for the Antipodes 66 years ago, and 39 years later returned on a visit. He is by trade a market gardener, and has been successful in amassing a considerable fortune. A few months ago he felt a strong desire to once more visit his native land, and he safely performed the journey in 15 weeks. While in England he has stayed, among other places, with a nephew and niece in Regent-street, and has displayed remarkable activity and physical strength. His respect for Australia is boundless, and he is determined to return there, to the bosom of his numerous family. The fogginess and dampness of our climate, he says, does not agree with him.'



Darren went on: 'John Purdy Snr married Mary Anne Tighe (from Ballybrogan, Roscommon, Ireland) and they had five children: John (1843-1933), James (1844-1848), Jonas (1847-1910), Joseph (1849-1938) and Sarah Anne (1851-1926). John and Mary Purdy established a successful market garden in Addison Road Marrickville' (which later became the site of Addison Road Army Depot and in the 1970s the Addison Road Community Centre, which is still going strong).

'John Purdy Jnr was a carpenter, who married Janet Leckie Elphinstone(e), daughter of prominent Glebe builder William Elphinstone(e); they lived at Agar Street Marrickville. John Jnr had a daughter Florence May Purdy (1876-1954), who started as a pupil teacher in 1890, aged 13. Her first posting was Alexandria Public School, followed by Marrickville Public Infants, Harben Vale PS, Matraville PS and then Marrickville again by 1908 where she appeared to still be teaching in 1928 and possibly beyond. She lived at 150 Sydenham Road Marrickville [until] 1949, but died in Wentworthville spending her final years living with her nephew Rockley Purdy.'

Darren sent some photos which he is happy to go to Marrickville Library and researchers. We thank Darren for expanding our knowledge on this pioneer family.

(Photos, clockwise from top: John Purdy Jnr; Stanmore Hotel, now Newington Inn, Stanmore Road Petersham; John Purdy Jnr said to be first on right of the horse trough – now situated around the corner; Florence May Purdy.)

Historic Signs in Marrickville LGA

A project to install 18 historic signs in the LGA was launched by Council on Thursday 2 October at Maundrell Park, Petersham with councillors, council staff and MHS members present (including MHS President, Geoff Ostling). Following brief speeches by Mayor Cllr Mark Gardiner and History Services Coordinator Clinton Johnston, Clinton led the group to inspect four signs – 'Norwood Subdivision' in Maundrell Park; Petersham Town Hall; Petersham Railway Station (south side of line); and 'Crystal and Palace Streets' in Audley Street. Other signs are:

1) Alex Trevallion Plaza; 2) Lasse Shopfront, near 250 Marrickville Road; 3) Meeks Family, Illawarra Road (near Warren Road; 4) Addison Road Army Depot; 5) St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River; 6) Dulwich Hill Tram Terminus; 7) Johnston Estate, Stanmore; 8) Enmore House (near 158 Enmore Road); 9) Enmore Park (Victoria Road); 10) Unwins Bridge Road (corner Gleeson Avenue); 11) Cooks River Dam (Kendrick



Petersham Town Hall historic sign flanked by, from left: Ian Phillips, Cllr Max Phillips, Mayor Cllr Mark Gardiner, Cllr Jo Haylen, Clinton Johnston (photo: Richard Blair)

Park); 12) Petersham Cemetery (West Street); 13) Pemulwuy and John McIntyre (Cooks River); 14) The Warren, Marrickville.

Further signs are planned.

Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 25 October*

**Colonial era Newtown and the
Ejectment case with Matt Murphy**

**Saturday 15 November 9.45 for 10 am
Marrickville Library's *Heritage*
exhibition launch:** Details below

Saturday 22 November*

Tour of Callan Park

Saturday 6 December*

Annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

* Details on front page

Launch of the Marrickville Library *Heritage* exhibition in the library

Saturday 15 November 9.45 for 10 am

In June 2014 the Society launched its latest journal *Heritage* 14. Members are now invited to the launch of the Marrickville Library exhibition which will showcase the journal articles. Many of the article authors will speak. The exhibition runs until January 2015.

The 175th Anniversary of the completion and licensing of **St Peters Church, Cooks River**, will be celebrated on Sunday 23 November at 10 am. MHS members and friends are invited. Morning tea after the service.

St Peters Anglican Church 187 Princes H'way, St Peters
Enquiries: <lrhorton@optusnet.com.au> or 9558 7504.

The Society congratulates the **Horbury Hunt Club** which recently celebrated its **25th Anniversary**. Some MHS members also belong to the HHC.

To find out more about the club contact Thelma on <arrabella@westnet.com.au> or 9773 4162. Thelma also taking bookings (cost \$10) for a **Trachyte in the City walk** by Bob and Noel Irving on Saturday 8 November at 10 am (if sufficient bookings), based on their *Sydney's Hard Rock Story: the cultural heritage of trachyte* (2014).

Spring Trivia Answer

Dulwich Hill Post Office, on the corner of New Canterbury Road and Lewisham Street, was opened in 1900. It was designed by the Government Architect; the contractor was Mr F Thornton. It served the community until demolished in 1976 and replaced by an undistinguished building. The *Australian Town and Country Journal* (6/10/1900) reported how Governor Lord Beauchamp, in front of a large gathering, sent the first message: 'Congratulate you on the opening of a Government post office at Dulwich Hill which I hope will conduce to the comfort and prosperity of the district.' Marcus Clark's nearby mansion *Sefton Hall* hosted some of the afternoon's festivities.

Peter Chessell, Barbara Forsyth, Shirley Hilyard and Diane McCarthy identified the post office, the first three and I having regularly used it. (postcard © Les Logan estate)

Richard Blair



Dulwich Hill Fair: Sunday 14 September

The community turned out in fine weather for this annual fair along Marrickville Road and we are now managing to increase our sales at these events. A thank you to Deborah, Diane, Iain, Ian, Jan, Lorraine, Pamela, Richard and Ross who assisted and fielded many enquiries, especially on how home owners should go about researching their house history.

Our stall at the **Marrickville Festival on 19 October** will again be on Marrickville Road near Frampton Avenue. We look forward to seeing members drop by, lend a hand and suggest how we might do things better.

Iain Carolin

Jan Garaty & Iain Carolin at DH fair



Treasurer **Diane McCarthy** notes a *slow response* to the pink fee reminder slips issued with last newsletter. In July newsletter a request was made for the member who paid by direct deposit on 21 May ('SGE Ref: Membership and \$8') to get in touch. On 16 September a member made an over the counter cash payment of \$28 into MHS account but provided no name. If either of these is you please ring Diane on 9588 4930 or email Society (address below) to clarify.

RAHS Annual Conference at Mittagong on
25-26 October. Bookings: RAHS 9247 8001.

President Geoff 9568 3029
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