

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

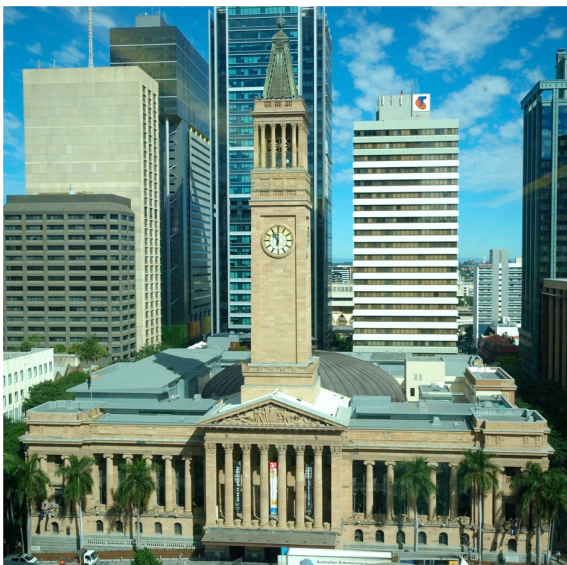


Our February Meeting

What Marrickville Council could learn from the Brisbane City Hall Restoration Project: talk by Dr Scott MacArthur
Saturday 28 February 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Petersham

The Brisbane City Hall was opened in 1931 and soon became known as the 'People's Place' because of its importance in the cultural and civic life of Brisbane. However, decades of neglect and modifications had left the building as a structurally unstable firetrap. To save the building, Brisbane City Council commissioned Australia's largest conservation project.

Scott MacArthur was the heritage and site architect for the project that took four years and over \$200 million to complete. The project is a fascinating case study of conservation on a grand scale and demonstrates the critical role that local government has in providing the sort of civic infrastructure that becomes the centre of community life. Since 1999 Scott has been this Society's main advocate on heritage watch matters and was MHS president from 2006 to 2009 (photo: Scott MacArthur).



Is WestConnex really necessary?

Yes, according to the state government which recently notified 41 St Peters households of compulsory acquisition with a view to demolition. There are also serious concerns about the impact upon Petersham Park, Sydney Park, Tempe Wetlands, Wolli Creek Valley, King Street Newtown retail precinct and the resulting likely heavy increase in local traffic. When will we see the Environmental Impact Statement? The project is opposed by Canterbury City, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils. To provide feedback check <www.westconnex.com.au> and click 'Get involved'.

Our March Meeting

Talk the walk:
Richardsons Lookout and Cooks River
Saturday 21 March 10 for 10.15 am

Meet outside Steel Park cafe in the Debbie & Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre near corner of Illawarra Road and Thornley Street, Marrickville. Parking at Steel Park and surrounds; 423 bus stops at Steel Park in both directions. Wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen, and bring water for the walk. Cost \$5 (includes lunch). Bookings by Wednesday 18 March (for catering) to Mary <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com> or phone 9560 6409.

A week earlier than usual to avoid a clash with the State election, join us for a different view from Richardsons Lookout. **John Butcher**, an advocate for community and environmental groups – including Cooks River Valley Association (of which he is President), Mudcrabs and the Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign – will share his insights into this diverse part of our area. After an introduction at Steel Park, enjoy the walk up Thornley Street to the lookout for the talk; then walk back along the river to Steel Park. For those who find the walk up Thornley Street to the lookout too strenuous, stroll instead along the flat river bank, link up with the rest, then head back to Steel Park for a 12 noon BBQ snack and a cool drink.

182-186 Livingstone Road: houses at risk

Marrickville Council has submitted two DAs (to itself) for the demolition of the **three heritage-listed Victorian villas at 182-186 Livingstone Road Marrickville, the pathology building and trees** on the former Marrickville Hospital site, as enabling works for the new Marrickville Library and Civic Centre project. The DAs do not include any new works. **The Society is appalled by the proposed demolition, particularly of the Victorian villas.** The proposal is completely at odds with previous commitments from Council given to the Society and the community about the fate of the villas. The previous Masterplan, supported by a Conservation Management Plan (CMP), identified these buildings as being of HIGH heritage significance, and they were to be retained and adaptively reused. **In fact, the CMP has a specific policy that requires that these buildings are retained.**

It appears that since these documents were prepared and endorsed by Council on behalf of the community, two devious bureaucratic manoeuvres have been propounded by Council to facilitate the demolition of the villas. Firstly, the Masterplan for the site is being changed to require the demolition of the three villas to

(continued overleaf)

guarantee the commercial viability of the whole project. Secondly, the individual heritage listing of the villas under the LEP has been removed, and they are now part of the group of heritage items within the Marrickville hospital listing. The Heritage Impact Statement that accompanies the application for the demolition of the villas can now make the risible claim that the demolition is supportable as it only 'represents partial demolition of the overall listed heritage item' and 'is required [by the new Masterplan] to generate sufficient revenue to ensure the conservation of the retained hospital buildings (Buildings 1 and 4)'.

It is extraordinary that Council has requested consent for demolition of buildings and trees on the site when this new Masterplan has not yet been endorsed by Council. The Society notes that the new Masterplan still requires that the management of the heritage items within the site 'is to be generally in accordance with the CMP'. Demolition of the three villas, in contravention of the CMP's policies, is demonstrably not in accordance with the CMP.

The Society notes that it is poor planning practice to approve demolition of any building or trees, and particularly a heritage building, without a commitment from the proponent as to the replacement development being included in the same application. This prevents speculative demolition, and the all too common situation of a poor quality replacement being offered once the demolition is effected. The HIS helpfully offers that any replacement building on the site 'is expected to be of a high quality design'. The Society believes that Council must commit to the design and construction of the new development prior to any further demolition on the site.

There are also scenarios where these buildings could be demolished under the guise of achieving viability of the new development, and that development not proceeding. If, for any reason, the civic centre development did not proceed (e.g., Council's financial situation deteriorates or a forced Council merger makes the civic centre redundant), then the community has lost these heritage buildings for no return.

More ominously, should Council obtain consent for the removal of all of the existing building stock on the Livingstone Road side of the site, it could be lucratively disposed of to a commercial developer, completely unencumbered by pesky buildings and heritage listings.

Finally, the Society is angered that these important applications for demolition of the buildings and trees on the site, and the changes to the Masterplan were released for comment during the Christmas holiday period. This is a typical tactic of any organisation trying to minimise awareness and criticism of a controversial proposal, and surely shows that Council has something to hide.

The Society calls on Council to retain the three Victorian villas in accordance with the CMP and existing Masterplan. The applications for the demolition of the buildings and trees on the site should be withdrawn until such time as the design for the civic centre is approved by Council on behalf of our community.

Scott MacArthur

Winged Victory at Australian War Memorial

Organised by Marrickville Council, on Friday 5 December a coachload of local residents, including council staff, MHS members and RSL representatives, travelled to Canberra to view the newly-installed relocated Winged Victory in the revamped World War I galleries at the AWM.

After lunch and brief speeches by History Services Coordinator Clinton Johnston, Marrickville Mayor Mark Gardiner and Assistant Director, Branch Head National Collection, AWM Tim Sullivan, visitors toured the WWI galleries in guided groups with the Winged Victory a fitting climax. The mounted statue is in a room on its own and can be viewed at eye level, which was never possible in its original position outside Marrickville Town Hall. It is accompanied by succinct narrative. Height limitations prevented the statue from being displayed in full, but the AWM is commended for its thoughtful presentation. Gilbert Doble's 1919 marvellous creation will be viewed by countless thousands in the years to come.

The permanent exhibition *First World War: Australia in the Great War* (in which the Winged Victory is an exhibit) will be officially opened by the Governor General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove in the AWM Forecourt on Sunday 22 February with the keynote address by Les Carlyon. The Society will be formally represented.

Marrickville's new Winged Victory will be unveiled during *Marrickville Remembers* commemorations on Sunday 19 April. More details in April newsletter.

Richard Blair

Note Day impressively filmed by Marrickville Council. Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgOAfY27vs&feature=youtu.be

The DA to demolish two Victorian villas at **380-382 Illawarra Road (along Church Street) Marrickville** for a 6-storey development was refused, 'having regard to the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, Council's codes and policies, the interests of the community at large and the reasonable expectations of the applicant'. MHS lodged a submission opposing demolition last May.



Clockwise from top left: 182, 184, 186 Livingstone Road Marrickville, all which Council wants to demolish (photos by Diane McCarthy)

**Vale: Dr Paul Roy BM BS BSc (Med) MD
MRACP FRACP**

At the funeral of **Emeritus Professor L Paul Roy** of Stanmore, who died aged 75 on 10 December, his son Simon recalled a time when in his teens, his father, whilst driving him home from a football match, stopped the car in Darling Street Rozelle, where a man in the middle of the road was brandishing a knife and had already caused himself harm. Paul calmly went to the man and spoke to him, persuading him to walk to the footpath and hand the knife over. Paul asked Simon to ring for an ambulance which quickly arrived and took the man away. Simon's mother Joyce only heard this story for the first time after Paul's death.

This act typified Paul, who, with Joyce (MHS Secretary 1997-2002) had been a MHS member since 1993, regularly attended MHS functions and related well to everyone. Highly regarded in the medical profession, here are some excerpts from Paul's obituary which appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* (27/12/14):

'At a time when specialist paediatrics barely existed in Australia, and overcoming strong opposition from the medical establishment and government, Professor Paul Roy founded the first children's renal unit in 1978, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (RAHC) in Camperdown. The unit relocated to the Children's Hospital at Westmead in 1995. Today the renal unit is a world class facility, which provides a full range of services for children with diseases of the kidney and urinary tract, including kidney dialysis treatment and kidney transplantation. The unit has supervised kidney transplants in over 150 children, and each year its Renal Treatment Centre provides over 1500 dialysis treatments. It is active in clinical and basic research, and has trained paediatric nephrologists who now practise in Australia and around the world.

'A direct descendant of First Fleet convict John Nichols (whose 1784 trial was the first trial by jury in London), Paul was born in Rockdale on 15 April 1939. He graduated from the University of Sydney as a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Medical Science. With his commitment to research he published over 100 articles and papers on paediatric nephrology and associated areas, including articles in *The Lancet*, *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Medical Journal of Australia*. He received several awards and honours, including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Medal. In 2005, Paul was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine by Sydney University, the highest degree offered by the medical faculty, for lifetime contribution to research. After retirement, he remained a senior examiner with the Australian Medical Council and continued teaching at Sydney University until ill health in 2012 prevented him from continuing. While he primarily focused on medicine, Paul was interested in all aspects of science and the humanities, gardening, sports and, when younger, loved long-distance running and marathons.

'Joyce says that Paul spent his life committed to improving the lives of children, and that he leaves a profound legacy of professional courage and kindness, that helped create the wonderful tradition of paediatric renal care we all take for granted today.'

Our condolences go to Joyce, their children Simon and Jane, and their families.

Vale: Brian Madden OAM FRAHS BA

When Robert Hutchinson rang me to advise of the death of **Brian Madden** he noted that with the loss of Madden and Muir, a valuable source of Sydney's local history knowledge was now gone, as this couple had been synonymous with our local history for decades, especially in the southern and western parts of Sydney. Dr Lesley Muir OAM died in May 2012 (obituary in MHS June 2012 newsletter) and her husband Brian Madden died 14 January aged 85. They lived in Kingsgrove and joined MHS in 1991. Their legacy is immense in the numerous articles and books they published individually, together or with others.

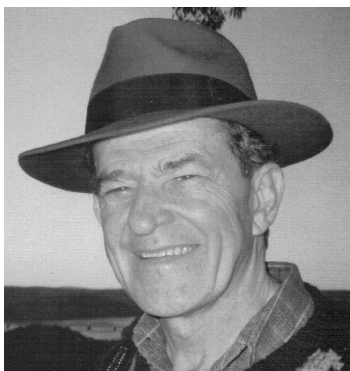
Brian and Lesley first addressed MHS in August 1992 with 'Canterbury Tales' and Brian ably assisted Lesley in later talks and walks she undertook for MHS. This was just the tip of the iceberg as Brian had been a member of Canterbury & District Historical Society since 1974, had served as president and on committees for years and was a Life Member. With Lesley he wrote a number of articles and publications on Canterbury, Canterbury Farm, Campsie, Earlwood and Wolli Creek Valley; they co-wrote *The pictorial history of Canterbury Bankstown* (Kingsclear Books, 1999) with Joan Lawrence. Brian independently wrote *Hernia Bay: Sydney's wartime hospitals at Riverwood* (2001), and with Ron Hill, *Kingsgrove: the first two hundred years* (2004). Brian and Lesley prepared historical notes for nearly 200 individual and group heritage items in the Canterbury district where their words appear on numerous history panels.

Prior to 1990 Brian had been a member of Hurstville Historical Society writing several publications including *Tempe-East Hills Railway* (1981) and other works relating to the St George area. He had a lengthy involvement with RAHS serving as a Councillor (1990-95) and being made a RAHS Fellow. He served on various RAHS committees and was involved in many annual RAHS conferences. An active member of the Horbury Hunt Club, Brian and Lesley also served as office bearers and co-organised trips for members. I last saw Brian on Bob Irving's trachyte walk in the city in October when Brian seemed in good spirits.

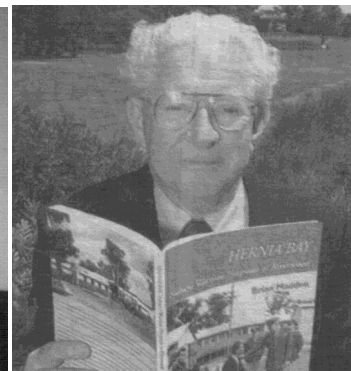
Brian was a Bachelor of Arts with majors in History and Economics, and worked as a tertiary education administrator. Brian and Lesley received the Order of Australia in 2007 in recognition of their contribution in documenting historical events. Chris Pratten described Brian as nature's gentleman; he will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Brian's family.

Richard Blair

Paul Roy



Brian Madden



Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 28 February

What Marrickville Council could learn from the Brisbane City Hall Restoration Project

Saturday 21 March

Richardsons Lookout & Cooks River

Details of both activities on front page

Saturday 25 April - Talk: to be advised



Nancy MacAlpine's painting of Dynamo garage, St Peters: one of a series of watercolours of Sydney's old motor garages

Other upcoming local events

11-12 April: Tempe House Open Weekend

Sunday 19 April: Marrickville Remembers procession and unveiling of new Winged Victory

Saturday 2 May: Tails from the Past: Addison Road Community Centre Centenary event

Author and journalist **Sandra Lee** is working on a biography of **Doctor Frank Harland Mills** (1910-2008) AO, a pioneering cardiac surgeon and distinguished general surgeon. Sandra is after information about his time as medical superintendent at Marrickville District Hospital (1936-37) and honorary surgeon there after the war. 0410 499 705; <tabloidbaby@mac.com>; PO Box 722, Potts Point NSW 1335; <www.sandrale.com.au>.

Wet weather failed to hamper a successful **Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner** held at the charming Stanmore home of **Megan, Alan and Ursula Hicks** on Saturday 6 December. Megan gave a fine rendition of some of her humorous verse. **Scott MacArthur** again won the lucky door prize (donated by **Lorraine Beach** and **Robert Hutchinson**). Thanks to **Megan, Alan and Ursula** for being splendid hosts and **Lorraine** for her usual seamless organisation.

The Society congratulates **Laurel Horton** who became **Marrickville Council's 2015 Senior Citizen of the Year** on Australia Day in recognition of her advocacy for Tempe, her close involvement with St Peters Cooks River History Group and as an active member of Marrickville Heritage Society. Laurel has co-written several books and articles on the history of the area, leads history tours and: 'energetically and actively supports a number of elderly people. She is an inspiration for preserving and transmitting the past.'

Vale: Phyllis McCorquodale

We mourn the passing of **Phyllis McCorquodale**, of Beverly Hills, who died on 22 December aged 90. In February 1988 Phyllis addressed the Society on the history of popular dance in Australia. Phyllis was well-informed, having been a ballroom dancer and written a thesis on ballroom dancing in Australia in the inter-war years as part of a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree at UNSW. Her article 'Ballroom dancing 1920-1950' appeared in *Heritage* 5 in 1989.

She joined MHS in 1990. Last year Phyllis and her husband Wallace celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. Our condolences to Wal and his family.

Richard Blair

For information about the **Marrickville Medal** and the **Urban Photography competition** and how to enter ring Marrickville Council on 9335 2222 or go to: <marrickville.nsw.gov.au/marrickvillemedal>.

Entries close 8 March. The Marrickville Medal and photography awards will be presented on 6 May.

Summer Trivia Answer

The wood, coal and coke sign appears on the building below at 22-22a Llewellyn Street Enmore on the corner of Shelleys Lane and diagonally opposite the Golden Barley Hotel. The building and probably the sign date from the early 1920s. Anna-Bella Silva, Archivist, Marrickville Library & History Services, has advised that the building was owned by Charles A Green and his estate from 1916 until the late 1950s. A brick produce store operated from there until 1926 but occupancy details after that time are not recorded in rates and valuation records. Anna-Bella also advised that street numbers changed to the current numbering system in that street in 1925.

Member **Murray Sinclair** identified the sign and for good reason as he conducted a French polishing business at 22a from 1990 to 1997. He said the old painted sign was then covered by a metal Shelley's soft drink sign, reflecting the Shelley's factory nearby.

The owners have a DA to develop the building. The heritage officer at Council has recommended to the assessing officer that the wood, coal and coke sign be retained and has conveyed 'general concerns with the whole proposal' (photos: R Blair - x marks the spot).

Richard Blair



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