

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27 June 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville

Members are invited to the Society's 31st AGM when annual reports will be presented. All committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance or on the day. MHS Secretary Mary can field any queries on 9560 6409.

Members must have paid their 2015-16 membership fees to stand for office, or vote if required. Fees can be paid beforehand or on the day. Stay afterwards and mingle with fellow members over a light lunch.

MHS annual fees now due

Members should find with their June newsletter a *mauve* renewal slip to return *intact* with a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society, unless you're: a) paying by direct deposit (see below); or b) already paid up (in which case no slip should have been issued). You may pay at AGM.

Fees (unchanged since 2003) are concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Members may pay for more than one year; donations help cover increasing postage costs. Ring treasurer Diane 9588 4930 if you have a query. For renewal by direct deposit to MHS bank account:

Bank name: Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802 084)

Account name: Marrickville Heritage Society

Account Number: 85663

Reference: 'Fees' + [your surname/s and initials]

2015 Special Achievement Award

The Marrickville Council 2015 Heritage Promotions Committee's Special Achievement Award in the Marrickville Medal went to **Dr Scott MacArthur** who: 'since 1999, on behalf of Marrickville Heritage Society, has been at the forefront of heritage conservation, promotion and advocacy in the Marrickville Local Government Area'. Well done, Scott! (photo: Richard Blair)



Winged Victory, 2015 outside Marrickville Town Hall unveiled on 19 April juxtaposed with original Gilbert Doble Winged Victory at top, which will remain the MHS logo. Report on 'Marrickville Remembers' on back page.

Winged Victories: a National Trust winner

At the 21st annual National Trust Heritage Award ceremony on 13 May at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont in the category *Conservation - Objects and Interiors* one of two awards went to Marrickville Council, Australian War Memorial and International Conservation Services. The award citation reads:

The work to this 1919 war memorial is painstaking and restores the centrepiece of the Marrickville WWI memorial.

The National Trust said: 'Marrickville Council and the Australian War Memorial recognise the importance of the Marrickville Soldiers Memorial as a significant example of the rich tradition of Australian war memorials, and a reflection of the Marrickville community's experience of the First World War. This project involved the restoration of the Memorial, installation of a new sculpture, Winged Victory, 2015, and the conservation of the original sculpture by International Conservation Services and the Australian War Memorial which is now a centrepiece of the refurbished First World War galleries in Canberra.'

The next newsletter will be for July-August

Our April Meeting: Saturday 25 April Tony Griffiths' talk on Douglas Grant

At St Peters Anglican Church Hall on this 100th Anniversary of the Anzac commemoration **Tony Griffiths** related the story of Douglas Grant, a pure blood Ngadjonji Aborigine from north Queensland, rescued as an infant and raised as a Scots foster child by the Grant family from Lithgow.

It's a story that, on the one hand is inspiring, but at the same time, sad. Inspiring because he was reared by his foster family to see himself as a Scotsman who happened to be black, and he was encouraged to realise his potential through education; as a qualified draughtsman at Mort's Dock; through World War I service as a Digger in the AIF 13th Battalion, and POW in various camps, finally in Zossen, Germany. There, as President of the British Help Committee, he obtained everything from basic bread and biscuits to curry powder and castor oil capsules for his fellow prisoners. Socially he was loved and respected for his sporting prowess, his self-deprecating sense of humour and his close ties with family and friends.

His story is sad because the cultural environment of the time was often confusing and demeaning. He was well educated, confident and articulate and, for no other reason than that of official apprehension of public disapproval, it seems he was quietly transferred from the 34th Battalion to the 13th Battalion and denied the status of sergeant (which his foster father had proudly commented on in a report in the *Lithgow Mercury*) before he left Australia. This was the first of many such racial distinctions. Some were reported by Douglas himself in self-deprecating terms such as a reference to him being described as possibly better suited to the Black Watch Regiment than the AIF.

After the war and he was active in the Lithgow RSL and other community affairs, including delegations to argue against retrenchments at Lithgow's Small Arms Factory and outline the plight of Aborigines in widely reported press articles. Sadly, a growing reliance on alcohol and increasing incidents of discrimination occurred as memories of his war service faded. Severe stress and depression led to his stay in Callan Park Military Hospital and finally to the Bare Island War Veteran's Home where he died in 1951.

Tony's meticulous documentation highlights Douglas's many achievements and underlines the sad consequences of his isolation from aboriginal culture. Mostly, he ignored racial discrimination, but later in life he suffered mightily from its physical and mental impact. For those wanting more details I can highly recommend Tony's book, *Douglas Grant: that Black Digger from the Scottish Mob* (2014; 02 9450 1693 or <tgriff@bigpond.com>). A fabulous presentation and warmly received by MHS members.

Vilma Bell

MHS was again invited to set up a publications stall at the **Tempe House Open Weekend on 11-12 April**. Most visitors said they were experiencing this historic house and surroundings for the first time, unknown to most and hidden as it is behind the high rise residential units of Discovery Point, Wolli Creek. Thanks to Diane, Iain, Jan, Lorraine, Ross and Scott.

Autumn Trivia Answer

The 1930s Sam Hood photo (below left) reveals that this well known Petersham watering hole, now called the Huntsbury Hotel, derived its name from its corner site of New Canterbury Road and Hunter Street. The building is even more architecturally interesting when viewed facing the corner (below right). Built in 1884 as the Masonic Hotel, its first Sands Directory listing was in 1888. The *Balmain Observer and Western Suburbs Advertiser* (18 June 1887, p. 5) reports: 'The usual weekly meeting [of the May Tree Lodge No. 9] was held at Host May's Masonic Hotel on Wednesday . . . This lodge though new is making good progress, and cordially invites stray Buffs.' Hunter Street was then called Frazer Road until changed in the early 1930s.

Substantial alterations, including the new neoclassical façade, were undertaken in 1926 in a style described by heritage consultant Paul Davies as Inter War Free Classical. It remained the Masonic Hotel until the late 1990s. MHS member **Peter Chessell** recalls sampling many an ale there in his years working at the family business of Beynon & Hayward removalists, formerly in Petersham. **John Chappell**, who grew up in Livingstone Road Petersham, also identified the pub. Thanks to **Iain Carolin** for locating the photos.

Richard Blair



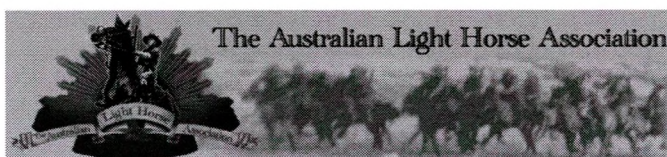
Vale: Dorothy Cahill (1921-2014)

Born Dorothy Ethel Keeley in Newtown, **Dorothy Cahill** grew up at 14 Rickard Street Marrickville which later became 96 Thornley Street. Schooled at Ferncourt Infants, Tempe Public and Arncliffe Domestic Science, she worked as a shop assistant at Coles, Marrickville before marrying Stan Cahill at St Clements Church Marrickville in 1943; they had two children, John and Pamela, a MHS member.

After Stan died, Dorothy moved to Guildford in 1978, but Marrickville remained close to her heart. Pam described her as 'a homemaker who liked nothing more than doing embroidery and knitting. Many long winters I was kept warm by her lovingly hand-knitted jumpers and cardigans.' She worked as a volunteer with the War Widows Guild and Legacy; she joined MHS in 1989. John died in 2013. Dorothy died on 11 December. Our condolences go to Pam and family.

Tails from the Past: Addison Road Community Centre Centenary event

On Saturday 2 May, MHS attended this wonderful celebration of the Australian Light Horse regiments. A Light Horse unit was based at Addison Road from the early days of WWI and remained a part of daily life there until its departure in 1939. Australia sent Light Horse regiments to the Sudan (1885) and the Second Boer War (South Africa, 1899-1902); but by far its greatest contribution, of men and horses, was to World War I (1914-18). From 1914 to 1917, Australia sent around 136,000 horses to the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine – but only one horse came home (Chris Coulthard-Clark, 'One came home', *Wartime: official magazine on the Australian War Memorial* 19, 2002: 37-39). The Australian Light Horse Association continues to honour and preserve the history and traditions of these men and horses, some of whom returned to Marrickville for the day. Horses were petted, patted and admired all day long, and their riders, in full military regalia, shared knowledge and stories and demonstrated some skills of these regiments. The day was a WWI era fete, with goods, crafts, foods, demonstrations and entertainment.



Congratulations to Rosanna Barbero and her team, for the great job they did celebrating the 'Light Horse', and many thanks for including MHS and providing us with a stall free of charge. Thanks also to Sue Castrique for organising history talks and a 'talking history' film. Sue's article 'The army at Addison Road' appears in MHS journal *Heritage* 14 (2014).

Lorraine Beach

Marrickville Medal 2015: Wednesday 6 May

The 2015 Medal ceremony was held at Marrickville Town Hall with Welcome to Country by **Aunty Esther Carroll, Ross Berry** as MC, **Dr John Yu** guest speaker, **Clr Vic Macri** presenting awards. The Medal went to 'a freestanding Federation bungalow that was transformed into three contemporary residences' at **Stanley and Lilydale Streets Marrickville** (photo below). It had 'good modern design with a sense of innovation combined with respect for the context and heritage aspects of the site'. **Heritage works at Camperdown Cemetery** Highly Commended.

Other entries included **Winged Victory 2015**, the refurbished original Winged Victory relocated to the AWM, Stanmore Public Library, the adaptively reused **Enmore Box Factory** (Editor's pick) and **Peter McLaren's** restored Petersham house using key features of the Burra Charter. Judges were architects **Fleur Mellor, Kate Mountstephens** and **Otto Cserhalmi**.

The winner of the Marrickville Urban Photography Competition (Open Section) was **Amrish Maharaj** for his 'whimsical photo of the rocket in the children's playground at Johnson Park in Dulwich Hill'. Further details of all awards on Council's website.



Photo © Marrickville Council

Our May Meeting: coach trip to Macarthur Country - Saturday 23 May

A band of intrepid adventurers boarded the coach, destination: Macarthur Country. We made great time to St James' Anglican Church, Menangle where we were given a brief history of this beautiful church and parish, which has close associations with the Macarthur family. Those brave enough to negotiate the narrow winding staircase to the bell tower were treated to a demonstration of ringing. The eight bells in the tower were mostly sourced from disused bell towers in the UK and tuned before the first six were installed in 2004. After that we were entertained by some would-be engineers and the bus driver trying to move the bus from the gutter where it was wedged on arrival.

We then made our way to Mickey and Larry Robertson's beautifully restored 1840 Glenmore House. They purchased it from descendants of the original owners in 1988 when it was little more than an overgrown parcel of land with a group of dilapidated colonial buildings. After many weekend visits they relocated there and removed some older superfluous buildings, and recycled timber and stones to make usable areas such as a hay shed and potting shed. The main sandstone building was renovated with bay windows added on the top floor. The weather was perfect and everyone lingered over their scrumptious morning tea while looking out over the lovely gardens. The high road took us up to the Burragorang Lookout and picnic area with stunning views over Lake Burragorang. We even had the luck of watching a huge bird of prey soar above us. Those not too full from morning tea had lunch and there was time for the short walk to another lookout from where we could see the Cocks River and escarpments of the Blue Mountains. Here was a monument to the men who had worked in the nearby coal mines.

At Mt Annan Botanical Gardens we wandered around the grounds outside the PlantBank building, which was closed, but we enjoyed the informative signage, plant beds and architecture. PlantBank is a science, research and educational facility which stores, in perpetuity, plant samples and seeds from across NSW. Some keen walkers followed the discovery path to see some thriving examples of the Wollemi Pine. Thanks to John Sawyer for his commentary and enthusiastic planning of this enjoyable outing, assisted by Geoff Ostling, Lorraine Beach and Richard Blair. Thanks also to Ted Green for his generous supply of energy-boosting sweets.

Deborah O'Donnell

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 27 June: Annual General Meeting

Details on front page

Saturday 25 July

To be advised at AGM and in next newsletter

Saturday 22 August

Sylvia Hale reflects on living and working in Marrickville

Weekend 12-13 September

Spring visit to Capital Country

Details below

Council's south Marrickville walking tour

Saturday 20 June 9.45 am-12.30 pm

This Marrickville Library free walking tour includes a midden used by generations of Aborigines, the Gumbramorra Swamp, Schwebel Quarry, the Burial Vault and grand colonial homesteads such as The Warren, Jesmont and Myrtle Grove, and a large Victorian villa representing the boom of the 1870s.

Meet: Marrickville Golf Club, corner of Wharf and Beauchamp Streets, Marrickville

Booking essential. Phone 9335 2167 or 9335 2173; email <aleem.aleemullah@marrickville.nsw.gov.au>; or online <marrickvillelibrary.eventbrite.com.au>.

Spring visit to Capital Country

12 & 13 September 2015 will be our next legendary weekend away coach trip. Join our promised visit to **Winged Victory** in her new home at the **Australian War Memorial** in Canberra, with an exclusive guided tour arranged by AWM curators. We spend the afternoon there and conclude our visit with the Last Post ceremony at the close of day. Alternatively, you can visit **Floriade** (which opens that weekend) or other Canberra sites and attractions: public buses leave and return to AWM hourly on Saturdays. Our coach leaves AWM at 5.20 pm, after the Last Post, to check in to our accommodation: *Ibis Styles Canberra* (Narrabundah).

Buffet Dinner at our hotel, with a guest speaker. After Sunday Buffet Breakfast, guided tour at Old Parliament House, now the Museum of Australian Democracy, to include the chambers and Prime Minister's suite. En route home a vineyard visit to Lerida Estate, Lake George includes a winemaker's tour, wine tasting and delicious light lunch with a glass of Lerida's wine.

Cost is \$260 per person (based on twin share: \$70 single supplement) which includes transport, coffee/tea at a pit stop on Saturday; picnic lunch and buffet dinner Saturday; buffet breakfast and lunch Sunday, entry fees, tours and accommodation. It excludes your drinks on Saturday night.

Depart Petersham 8.30 am Saturday 12 September
Return Sunday at c. 5 pm

Bookings: Mary Oakenfull phone 9560 6409 or email <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com>

We are strictly limited to 46 people so book asap

Payment: Please pay a deposit of \$50 by 30 June to Treasurer Diane McCarthy c/-Society. Payment in full due by 31 August.

Marrickville Remembers commemorations and unveiling of Winged Victory, 2015

The Commonwealth government was generous in its funding of the commemoration of the centenary of Australian soldiers landing at Gallipoli. Marrickville Council is highly commended for how it used its allocation. An exhibition titled *Marrickville Soldiers* in Marrickville Town Hall (still on display in Marrickville Library) examining the lives of local soldiers who served in World War One was complemented by several talks on aspects of WWI and the original and new Winged Victories.



On Sunday 19 April there was an impressive parade along Marrickville Road to the town hall (see photos below) featuring a range of community groups (including MHS), RSL members, the police, school groups, brass and military bands, vintage cars, a double decker bus, soldiers on horseback and, perhaps for the first time in our midst, mounted camels.

Outside Marrickville Town Hall a mini stadium had been erected for public use for a commemorative Anzac service with MC actor John Wood, national anthems of both New Zealand and Australia, a range of formalities officiated by Mayor Cllr Mark Gardiner, bands, choirs, laying of wreaths and the playing of the Last Post, all befitting this occasion.

The newly installed Winged Victory, 2015 with its handsomely restored base was officially unveiled. The new statue was the creation of artists Peter Corlett and Darien Pullen, in partnership with the Meridian Sculpture foundry. The exhibition was opened and many of the large gathering readily partook of the Victory Ale specially prepared by local brewer Young Henrys. All in all a most memorable occasion.

Richard Blair

Note \$200 payment from Council to MHS was donated to Legacy



'Marrickville Remembers' parade
19 April 2015
(photos: R Blair)

President Geoff 9568 3029

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501

Newsletter Richard 9557 3823