

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

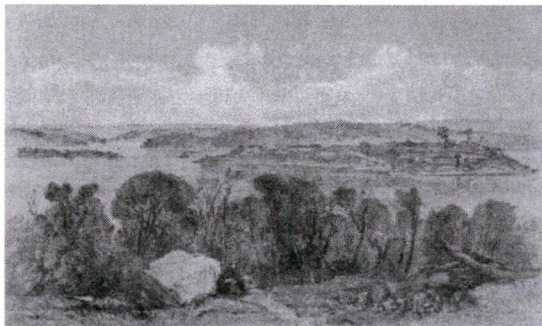


Our November Meeting

Sue Castrique discusses the convict history of Cockatoo Island

Saturday 28 November 10.15 for 10.30 am

MHS visited Cockatoo Island in 2005; now we'll hear a talk examining its convict history, the subject of Sue Castrique's new book: *Under the colony's eye: Gentlemen and convicts on Cockatoo Island 1839-1869*. Charles Ormsby was superintendent of Cockatoo Island from 1841 to 1859 when an investigation discovered that the island had become a secret fight club with its prize-fighting convicts as the main attraction. It is a true story of corruption, patronage and intrigue.



John Skinner Prout's 1843 painting of Cockatoo Island from Balmain shows the southern side of the island, with the last trees and the original topography before the dock was built (from p. 69 of the book)

Sue Castrique is a researcher and historian, based at the Addison Road Community Centre (see p. 3).

Sue will also screen a short DVD on the **Addison Road Talking History Project**. Sue's article 'The army at Addison Road' appeared in *Heritage* 14.

Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 5 December 6 for 6.30 pm

Last year's Pot Luck Dinner hosts Megan and Alan enjoyed having members so much they have again offered their Stanmore abode (south of railway line). A few minutes walk from Stanmore station and nearest bus stops (Enmore Road); some street parking. Book with Diane on 9588 4930 or email on <diane.mccarthy@optusnet.com.au> to advise what food you'll bring (nothing frozen, please) and to obtain address. BYO drinks.

Outstanding MHS fee reminders are going out later than usual this year, but we do encourage recalcitrant members to renew. Since 2003 our fees have stayed the same, unlike the cost of just about everything else! Please advise, though, if you'd rather not renew.

Dynamo garage St Peters at risk of demolition



The 1930s **Dynamo Auto Electrician Garage**, 316 Princes Highway, St Peters (near Canal Road) is to be demolished as part of the WestConnex M5 project. It has been in the same family for over 50 years, is a heritage-listed building and important part of the motor history of Australia. Few examples of this style of Spanish Mission garage still exist in Australia: now there will be one less, unless WestConnex sees fit to amend its plans. Express your opposition and write to Mr Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight; to sign the petition visit the garage, ring Pam Markellos on 0419 421 156 or contact this Society.

34 Belmore Street Enmore: IHO

At the request of the Society Marrickville Council has made an Interim Heritage Order (IHO) over 34 Belmore Street Enmore: 'The effect of the IHO is to prohibit demolition of the house for a period of 6 months taking effect on October 20th 2015. During that time Council will formally assess the heritage significance of the house. If within that time Council resolves to list the property in Schedule 5 of Marrickville Local Environment Plan 2011, the IHO may extend until the property becomes listed (up to a maximum period of 12 months). If Council does not resolve to list the property within 6 months the IHO will lapse. The preliminary heritage assessment concluded that the house meets the criteria for local heritage significance. The reason for making the IHO over the house is to protect it from demolition while its heritage significance is established.'

Although the house is unlisted, **Scott MacArthur** believes that this fine weatherboard house may be one of the oldest remaining houses in Enmore. Thanks to members **Ludmilla Robinson** (for alerting MHS to this DA) and **Graham Hunt**, Emeritus Surveyor (for his land title research of the property).

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The name of **Newington Inn** (established 1858 as the **Stanmore Hotel**) has been blandly renamed **Public House**. So far, the history of the LGA's oldest pub - also the site of the first Marrickville municipal elections in 1861 - has not been acknowledged by the owners. An article by **Judith Matheson** on this hotel is in *Heritage* 6.

Our September Meeting: Royal National Park

On a rather damp Saturday 26 September the Society touring party travelled by coach to Sydney's Royal National Park. The trip was led by MHS member, **Bruce Welch**, a speleologist and member of the Linnean Society which promotes natural science in all its forms. Bruce was involved in running a symposium with the Linnean Society on the Park resulting in a beautifully illustrated field guide designed by Bruce which was available for purchase on the day.

The RNP, traditionally owned by the Dharawal people, was gazetted as a National Park in 1879 but was renamed Royal National Park after Queen Elizabeth's 1954 visit to Australia when she went through the area by train catching glimpses, one can only imagine, of the natural beauty and vastness of the area. It is the world's second oldest national park behind Yosemite. Our visit came as a reminder that Sydneysiders have such a treasure in this park which covers 16,300 hectares and is a mere 29 kilometres south of the bustling city centre.

At every stop members of the public were making use of the park, visiting the beauty spots, sightseeing and picnicking. Our first stop was at Sublime Point for morning tea and a marvellous 180 degree view over the escarpment, rainforest and the 17 beaches along the coastline down to Wollongong. Then, down Bulli Pass and along Lawrence Hargrave Drive for a short stop to wander through the Scarborough-Wombarra Cemetery which is perched overlooking the coast with graves dating back to the early 1900s.

Through the seaside towns of Thirroul, Austinmer, Coledale, Wombarra, Scarborough and then over the impressive cantilevered Sea Cliff Bridge built in 2004 at a cost of \$52 million and which links the coastal villages of Coalcliff and Clifton. Lunch at Audley included an inspection of Varney's Bridge, the weir, the boatshed and the Dance Hall (now a café), built in 1949 as a gesture of goodwill from the army, which had trained in the park during both world wars. Refurbished in 2010, the hall can be hired for functions.

A call into Wattamolla, an Aboriginal word for running water, gave us a view of the famous waterfall and a look back into our earliest history. The area was 'discovered' by Matthew Flinders, George Bass and a boy, William Martin, when they were exploring the coast in a little boat called *Tom Thumb*. A southerly gale forced them to take shelter there in 1796 and they named it Providential Cove. Bruce led us down sandy bush tracks looking at delicate wildflowers, examples of typical heathland, rainforest environments and some wonderful red cedar (on the now-closed-to-traffic Lady Carrington Drive) before our pleasant drive back to Petersham. Many thanks, Bruce.

Annette Robinson

Vale Noel Bishop

MHS member Noel Bishop, late of Camperdown, died in early September. Formerly a schoolteacher he was Principal for 18 years at three schools including Sir Joseph Banks High and Strathfield Girls High. He co-wrote, with his wife Julie, the article in *Heritage* 14 titled *10-14 St Mary's Street Camperdown: history from 1788*. Our condolences go to Julie and her family.

Our October Meeting

Meeting attendees on 24 October were fortunate to receive an information packed and entertaining two-person show from members **Laurel** and **Bob Horton** on the Gannon family of Tempe. Many may know of the family from the articles of descendant, Anne Carolan, in *Heritage* 1-2, if not from the various street and location names in Tempe, St Peters, Bexley and Hurstville. Chrys Meader briefly spoke on Anne's behalf but we were also honoured to have two other descendants present: Sydneysider Patricia Steane and MHS member Irene Gannon, who had come up from Melbourne just for the talk.

Brothers Michael Gannon (armed robbery: life sentence) and James Gannon (forgery: 14 years) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1820. Both had been carpenters in Ireland and within a few short years had been able to engineer themselves into businesses and begin to build a new life for themselves and their families in NSW. Both were free men within 20 years and Michael went on to flourish as a carpenter, undertaker, auctioneer and finally, hotelier and landholder.

After some years conducting business at Sydney Cove and The Rocks (look for the Gannon name in Argyle Street today) Michael Gannon 'retired' with his family to the countryside at Tempe. The 1840s depression had bitten hard and Michael declared himself insolvent. However, the authorities were not convinced, and he was sentenced to nine months jail for fraud. There is no evidence that he ever served any jail time and by the end of that decade he was back in business.

He was involved in several public houses in the Cooks River area and was active in sporting activities, charitable works and politics. He was an alderman on St Peters Council and played a part in the development of St Peters municipality, as did one of his sons, Joseph Napoleon Gannon. Other children became solicitors and politicians. Michael died in 1881 aged 81, sadly five years before his son William's horse *Arsenal* won the Melbourne Cup in 1886. (James had died in 1871 in Paddington aged 68 leaving three children.) Like so many new Australians of his time, Michael was a 'wild colonial boy', a bit rough around the edges, who built a new life for himself and his family, becoming a respected member of the community he helped create. Thanks Laurel and Bob for your enjoyable presentation.

Rod Aanensen

Marrickville Festival: Sunday 18 October

The Society had another successful stall at this recent annual festival. As well as our usual role, we urged members of the public to sign a petition to try and save the Dynamo Auto Electrician Garage, 316 Princes Highway St Peters, under threat of demolition by the state government due to the WestConnex M5 Project. At day's end we had 740 signatories. We encourage members to take a look at this superb Spanish Mission style garage and write a submission to Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight to save the building (see front page story and photo).

Thanks to **Rod Aanensen, Iain Carolin, Deborah Lang, Robert Hutchinson, Ian Phillips** and **Maggie Bester** (Uni history student) for all their hard work on the day.

Iain Carolin

Spring visit to Capital country: 12-13 September

Sunny weather and wattle and cherry blossom in full bloom greeted 'Maverick' Heritage Society travellers on arriving in Canberra on Saturday 12 September. After a picnic lunch outside the Australian War Memorial most remained there for the rest of the day while a few checked out the first day of Floriade. Volunteer guides took us through the First World War galleries, pointing out interesting details, such as Anzac provision bags in George Lambert's painting of the climb up the Gallipoli hills – the white bags were perfect targets for Turkish snipers. Highlights included *son et lumière* shows of aerial battles in both global conflicts; *Mephisto*, the only surviving German A7V tank, on loan before its proposed return to the Queensland Museum; and, of course, Winged Victory. This Marrickville icon is on display in a glass case at eye level where the viewer can really appreciate the sculpture's beauty and craftsmanship.

Our party remained for the traditional Last Post ceremony marking the end of the day. At each ceremony the story is told of one of the 102,000 Australians listed in the Roll of Honour cloisters. This day's serviceman was Bill Armstrong, a Queensland teacher-turned-farmer killed in France. **Lorraine Beach** was among those who laid a wreath at the Pool of Reflection; after which she was advised to rejoin other members of the 'Maverick' Heritage Society.

Following dinner at the comfortable *Ibis Styles Canberra* we were treated to a presentation by film buff (and MHS member) **Ray Edmondson** who screened historical footage (the Federation ceremony in Centennial Park, *Ned Kelly*, *Kid Stakes*, *Smithy*) and the classic Aeroplane Jelly and Louie the Fly commercials (when the audience showed their age by singing the jingles). Hit of the evening was the 1942 British propaganda short *Lambeth Walk – Nazi Style* which was distributed to Allied newsreel companies and enraged Goebbels.

Sunday's activities began with a guided tour of Old Parliament House – cramped quarters in contrast to the new edifice – where 'press leaks' took on a whole new meaning! We then headed to Lerida Estate for a pre-noon wine tasting and lunch in the Glen Murcutt-designed winery fronting the now disappeared Lake George. Back at Petersham we all agreed it had been a Capital weekend. Hearty thanks to **Lorraine Beach** and **Mary Oakenfull** for their fantastic organising skills, and to **Richard Blair** for lining up Saturday's guest speaker. Ideas for future trips welcome!

Lyn Collingwood

Summer Trivia Question: Where in the LGA was this taken? Richard 9557 3823 or email back page.



RAHS Conference: 24-25 October

The conference this year on 'Migration Matters' was held at Bankstown, a suburb that is no stranger to decades of new immigrants starting a new life, and currently the home of a large Asian community. 'British Child Migrant Experiences' was the title of the annual Lesley Muir Address delivered by David Hill, who spoke of his own experience as a child migrant in 1959 under the Fairbridge Farm School Child Migrant Scheme. Some of the talks centred around the history of migration, the importance of oral history projects which so many immigrants are keen to participate in, and the recent development of educational programs to connect schools with their local historical societies.

Many talks were laced with humour, tears and audience disbelief at the migration schemes where so many children suffered abuse. Several afternoon tours included a food sampling tour of local delicacies not usually found outside of Sydney's immigrant enclaves. **Robert Hutchinson** and **Mary Oakenfull** also represented MHS.

Iain Carolin

The Society congratulates member **Sue Castrique** (our November guest speaker) who was presented with a **NSW Heritage Grant** at the RAHS conference by Mark Speakman, Minister for the Environment & Heritage. The grant is for her project 'A History of the Addison Road Community Centre'.

Sue is especially interested in stories or photographs from anyone who was involved in setting up the Addison Road Community Centre after 1975. She can be reached on <addisonhistory@inet.net.au> or ring 9569 7633 during business hours.

Spring Trivia Answer



From Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* in 1939 to the Pocket Playhouse, 94 Terry Street Sydenham on 22 October 1961, **Vivien Leigh** is escorted by **Norman McVicker**, founder-director of the Pocket to see Terrence Rattigan's play *The Sleeping Prince*, which starred **Noeline Brown**, **Marie Byron** and **Ron Farrow**. Vivien was accompanied by fellow actor and then partner **John Merivale**. The story of this visit and the Pocket Playhouse 1957-1973 is in **Geoff Ostling's** 1990 article in *Heritage* 6. A footpath plaque marks the spot of the once popular theatre.

Several members identified Vivien, though few could name the occasion and/or former MHS member, the late Norman McVicker. The first correct ID was by **Benjamin Summers**, helped by the Google family!

Richard Blair

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 28 November

Sue Castrique discusses the convict history of Cockatoo Island

Details on front page

Saturday 5 December

Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Details on front page

Saturday 27 February

Emma Dortins: Listing to conserve – working with Aboriginal Places

Tempe history walking tour (Marrickville Library)

Saturday 21 November 9.45 am to 12.30 pm

Meet Tempe Railway Station

Bookings & enquiries: 9335 2173

Public Forum: Fr Charles Jerger, WWI & conscription

Sunday 22 November 2-4 pm

St Brigid's Church Hall, Livingstone Rd Marrickville

Dr Jan Garaty: Fr Jerger, internment and deportation, in the context of WWI, conscription, sectarianism and free speech. **Douglas Newton** (historian): WWI, Australia's involvement and conscription. Q&A to follow. Co-hosts: Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign and St Brigid's parish.

Starr-Bowkett development, Newtown

The Society has been advised that a revised DA has been lodged for the **Starr-Bowkett development in Enmore Road, Newtown** that retains the facade of the existing building. The Society does not support this new proposal, as it still fails to provide a building that is sympathetic to the character of this important Conservation Area. The new building looms over the original facade, and overwhelms it with a confused composition of irregularly placed and oriented slot windows, cladding types, strip windows and balconies. The overall composition is jumbled and detracts greatly from the ordered simplicity of the retained facade, and the adjoining Victorian shopfronts. Council should not approve this development until there is a considered proposal that addresses the importance of this building and its heritage setting.

Scott MacArthur

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Very old pepper tree at Marrickville Oval

Like all councils, Marrickville regularly upgrades its parks, reserves and ovals. **Marrickville Oval** and **Park** have been under review, and it is proposed to demolish the grandstand (much less 'grand' than the one it replaced in 1987) and 'remove trees'. One tree which ought to be retained is the old **pepper tree** (*Schinus molle* var. *areira*) just east of the stand. As recorded in the February 2000 MHS newsletter by the late **Dorothy Gaston** (resident for around 80 years at 4 Porter Avenue Marrickville), her grandfather Alfred Gaston, founding member of Marrickville Cricket Club; owner of *Athelney*, 92 Pile Street from 1876; and builder of the adjacent tennis courts, 'transplanted a young pepper tree from his horse paddock to its current site in the early 1900s'.

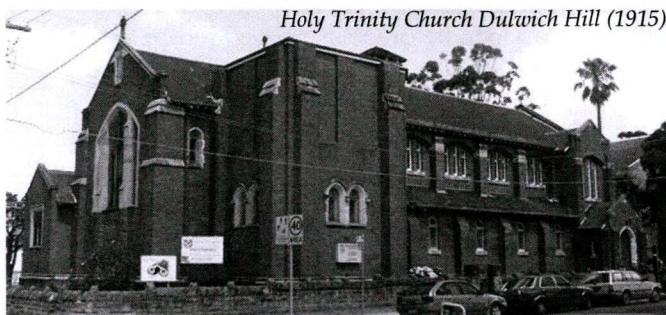
The Master Plan and Statement of Environmental Effects indicate this tree is safe, but the Heritage Assessment Report suggests a future possible tree replacement policy.

Richard Blair

A tale of three churches: good news, bad news

Three local church parishes, all dating back to the 1800s, are in the midst of contrasting circumstances.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Dulwich Hill was founded in 1886 and was based in a small church in Herbert Street. A growing congregation led to its replacement in 1915 by a church across the road, designed by prominent architect John Burcham Clamp. This church's centenary is to be celebrated at 9.15 am on **Sunday 6 December** in a Thanksgiving service, which will also celebrate the 25-year incumbency of the **Reverend David Smith**, popularly known as Fighting Father Dave, who has conducted a vibrant ministry.



Holy Trinity Church Dulwich Hill (1915)

The original church building (1886) was converted into the Parish Hall, which long served as a Sunday School and in many other ways until it was sadly destroyed by fire in April 2013. After the service a new honour board (replacing the two destroyed in the fire) recognising 41 2nd Dulwich Hill Queen's Scouts and Queen's Guides will be unveiled in the church. At 11.30 am the new **Holy Trinity Community Centre** will be opened on the site of the parish hall, followed by lunch. Recently launched was **John Coleman** and **Robert Irving's** finely produced *A church for our times: Holy Trinity Church Dulwich Hill 1886-2015* (on sale by MHS).

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Tempe Park Methodist Church, Sydenham, built 1884 (expanded 1901), thrived as a place of worship until 1969 when it was sold and reconsecrated as the **Coptic Orthodox St Mary and St Mina Church** – the first Coptic church built outside Egypt. It lasted just one generation when the church relocated to Bexley.

Acquired by the federal government, it was granted to Marrickville Council in 1996 'for community use'. Ever since, MHS has campaigned hard to save the building and has supported efforts for a suitable reuse. Whilst Council has been accommodating, the church will soon be demolished. Council is collecting church stories.

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Member **Mary Barthelmy** advises that the 1912 Catholic Church, **St Peter and St Paul, 630 Princes Highway Tempe** has closed and will be deconsecrated. This church replaced its forerunner, the 1858 church on Station Street Tempe land donated by Michael Gannon, who was also involved in construction of that church. Mary cowrote, with Michael Smith, *A history of Sts Peter & Paul: Cook's River Tempe 1858-2008*.

Richard Blair

President Ross 8021 2898

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501

Newsletter Richard 9557 3823