

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Our February Meeting

Saturday 25 February 10.15 for 10.30 am

Ian Tyrrell: Cooks River—An Unnatural History
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

It has been said that a river is just water moving downhill. In this illustrated talk **Ian Tyrrell** argues that Cooks River is much more than that. As one of Australia's most altered rivers, it has been a site for many understandable but often wrongheaded human dreams to transform it. The history of the great personalities who were connected with the river is well known—AB Spark, Thomas Holt, Robert Wardell, Varney Parkes (son of Sir Henry), Premier Joe Cahill and so on. The social history of the river—Chinese gardeners, nude swimmers, bushrangers, murderers, famous sportsmen and women, and painters—will be noted. But less known is how humans and the natural world interacted to produce today's river, the site of many schemes and dreams for improvement and rehabilitation.

This talk looks at those dreams and their 'unnatural history'. As part of 'dreams' for the river's future, Ian discusses the engineering of the river from 1938 to 1970 and illustrate how it paralleled the history of the Los Angeles River, and demonstrated shared aspirations for controlling flood prone rivers. The talk ends by mentioning that the river faces a threat equal to the long river modification inflicted upon it since 1839—the impacts of the current 'valley modification': an intensification of urban development without regard to the carrying capacity of the valley's ecosystems, and without regard to the limited recreational space available along the valley's 'green' corridor.



Cooks River, Marrickville (from Les Logan collection)

Ian Tyrrell is a retired academic with interests in American history and environmental history. He taught at UNSW for 38 years and is now an Emeritus Professor there. Ian is a founding member of the Society and was a member of its inaugural committee. He was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to the study of history.

Our March Meeting

Saturday 25 March

Port Hacking, Hacking River & Bate Bay cruise
on *Tom Thumb* III: Discover in 3 hours what
Bass and Flinders discovered in 3 days

Meet 10.15 for 10.30 am departure at Tonkin Street wharf, Gunnamatta Bay, Cronulla: 200 metres from Cronulla station—turn left, walk down the hill, go under railway line (via tunnel), left for about 50m; the wharf is over to the right. Car parking nearby. Cruise includes full commentary, morning tea and light lunch. Bar on board. Return 1.30 pm. Cost: \$40, pay on day. Please advise if you need to cancel. Bookings: Lorraine 0416 224 472 and 9550 6608 or <lbeach@iprimus.com.au>.

In 1796 Bass and Flinders discovered Port Hacking in the *Tom Thumb* II, a small 8ft long rowing boat, and spent three days exploring and mapping Port Hacking. In three hours, cruising in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the *MV Tom Thumb* III, you will enjoy exploring the upper reaches of the Hacking River, one of Sydney's most unspoiled waterways, with its many bays and inlets, down to the open expanses of Port Hacking and Bate Bay.

You will see breathtaking views of the Royal National Park, which borders the whole southern shoreline. Learn about the early explorers of the district, historic settlements, deer farming in the park and the state's first fish hatchery. Pass by Aboriginal sites whilst discovering their names and meanings, and some of Sydney's most magnificent waterfront properties.

Inner West Built Environment Awards 2017

Submissions to enter online close Sunday 5 March for the Marrickville Medal, Sustainable Building Award and the Urban Photography Competition. The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded annually since 1995; the Sustainable Building Award is fairly recent; whilst the Urban Photography Competition has been going for some years. Details about criteria for each category are on Council's website. Submissions should be made online. For more info contact 9335 2281 on weekdays or go to <builtenvironmentawards@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>.

The finalists will be exhibited and the winners announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 3 May 6-8 pm at Marrickville Town Hall. More anon.

Addison Road Community Centre needs volunteers to help with transcribing and proofreading oral history interviews that form part of the Addison Road Community Centre's *Living Museum* project. If you are interested, please contact Mina on 9569 7633 (Monday or Friday) or <museum@arcco.org.au>.

Our November Meeting: Saturday 26 November *Lymerston*, Tempe and the Way family

At our last meeting a lively crowd was treated to an illustrated presentation about *Lymerston* (22 Hillcrest Street, Tempe), the home of Richard Henry and Anna Maria Way. Way named the house after the village of Lymerston in the Isle of Wight, his ancestral home.

Laurel Horton narrated the story whilst **Bob Horton** read excerpts from the press and other sources. They told of Richard Way arriving in Australia in 1833, initially working as a chronometer, clock and watch maker. In 1835 he was made Superintendent of Government Clocks, a position he held until 1838 when he became a solicitor. The Ways attended balls at Government House, Sydney, and socialised with their neighbours: the Unwin family, the Brodie Spark family, and Joseph Frey Josephson of Enmore House.

Nevertheless, Richard and his sons suffered the vagaries of life, at times becoming insolvent when the Tempe and other family properties were put up for sale. Still familiar real estate companies Richardson & Wrench and Raine & Horne advertised these auctions. Hard now to imagine 24 acres of land, colonial cottage or late Victorian Italianate dwelling, outbuildings, stables and orchards in Tempe. In 1915 the house was sold to the Sisters of Mercy, who converted it to a convent. Since 1982 it has been privately owned.

Architect/planner **Bruce Lay** looked at the three distinct phases in the history of the house from 1846 when *Lymerston* was built. Bruce was employed as a heritage consultant to oversee renovations to the house. This comprised dividing the house into four apartments on two levels. In addition, four terrace styled houses were built and are accessed from Way Street. This development was sympathetic to the original house and was awarded a Commended Citation in the 2016 Marrickville Medal.

Our thanks to Laurel and Bob Horton and Bruce Lay for their illuminating presentations.

Diane McCarthy

Historic V Historical

It's common for people to mix these two words up. According to the Oxford Dictionary **historic** and **historical** are used in slightly different ways. **Historic** means 'famous or important in history, or potentially so', as in a(n) **historic** occasion; whereas **historical** means 'concerning history, or belonging to or set in the past', as in **historical** evidence. Thus a(n) **historic** event is one that was very important; whereas a(n) **historical** event is something that happened in the past.

On the website <QuickAndDirtyTips.com> Grammar Girl cites author William Safire, who suggested a way to help remember the difference: 'Any past event is historical, but only the most memorable ones are historic'. Grammar Girl has devised this memory trick: You can differentiate these two words by thinking that 'ic' is 'important', and they both start with i; and 'al' is 'all in the past', and they both start with a.

Try using quote marks to google 'historic society' and 'historical society' and the results are identical: over 11 million hits; but then, no 'historic society' as such seems to exist. Google 'history society': 1,720,000 hits; 'heritage society': 518,000; and finally, 'hysterical society': 8460. You read it here first!

Richard Blair

Summer Trivia Answer

This two storey semi-detached house stands at **155 Trafalgar Street, Stanmore** facing the railway line. Known as *Avon*, it was the last residence of notable organbuilder **Charles Richardson** (CR) (1847-1926),



who lived there from 1923 to 1926. In the late 1980s a shed in the yard was believed to have been his workshop. Whether it is still there is not known. CR lived for the previous ten years at 5 Trafalgar Street, Enmore and ran his business in later years at 47 Crystal Street, Petersham. He was earlier based in Paddington and the city of Sydney. Historic organ authority Graeme

Rushworth says 'the importance of Charles Richardson to the organ history of New South Wales cannot be overstated.' In his ADB account Rushworth describes Richardson as having been an 'artist of integrity – educated, articulate and gentlemanly;' and, 'The physical construction, tonal design and finishing of Richardson's organs was usually of a high order and his instruments proved durable.'

He was the son of organbuilder William Ebenezer Richardson (who sent many organs to Australia). Born in England, Charles migrated with his wife and daughter, both named Mary, in 1882. In developing his business he employed a number of organ builders, who later established their own successful organ-building businesses. He is believed to have built at least 45 organs, only some of which remain; most of the rest having been rebuilt or broken up, including an organ for the former St Enoch's, Newtown (1898). Rushworth tells us: 'He also rebuilt or enlarged many existing instruments, erected imported organs and established an extensive tuning and maintenance business.' These included organs at: Christ Church, St Laurence, Sydney (1886); Methodist Church, Stanmore (1889); St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney (1893); German Lutheran Church, Goulburn Street, Sydney (1894), later relocated to St John's, Young; St Clement's, Mosman (1897); St Paul's, Redfern (1901); Holy Trinity, Dulwich Hill (1902); Sydney Town Hall (1904); St Brigid's Church, Marrickville (1921); and the Great Hall, Sydney University (early 1920s). He also did work in several NSW rural churches and in Brisbane.

Despite the extent of his output and contract work he had trouble eking out a living from his profession. He experienced many difficulties by way of adverse economic conditions, bureaucracy, government indifference to local industry, prejudice against locally built organs, and overseas and interstate competition. Nevertheless, he remained one of the state's leading organmakers.

Congratulations to **Robert Hutchinson**, the only member to correctly identify the house.

Photo: R Blair. References: ADB entry (1988) by Graeme Rushworth; Graeme Rushworth *Historic organs of New South Wales* (Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1988)

Richard Blair

Congratulations to Carol Liston AO

In the Australia Day 2017 Honours list, the Society congratulates RAHS President, Associate Professor **Carol Liston** on the award 'Officer (AO) in General Division of the Order Of Australia, for distinguished service to the preservation and documentation of Australian history and heritage, to professional societies, and to education as a teacher and mentor.'

Australia Day at History House

Several MHS members attended History House on 26 January to hear a range of speakers give short presentations on a range of topics. The editor heard the three morning talks: a) **Judith Dunn** gave an enlivening illustrated talk on the building uses of iron from her travels around the country; b) **Carol Liston** revealed fresh insights into convict women transported to NSW 1810-35 based on a study by Kathrine Reynolds and herself; and c) **Ian Jack** shared his mystery findings relating to Georgian silver at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor, which is celebrating its bicentenary this year. Talks were also given by these and other speakers in the afternoon.

The MC was **Christine Yeats**. RAHS is commended for having conducted these Australia Day Open Days for some years – free of charge, with the added opportunity to purchase bargain historical books.

Works at St Peters Church, Cooks River

Restoration work was undertaken during 2016. The old carpet was removed, the 1840s floorboards were polished, new carpet was laid in the centre section of the church between the pillars, and chairs were upholstered to match the carpet. Two pillars under the gallery were stripped of paint and polished, revealing the timber they are made of. A section of wall has been left unplastered to show the brick construction of the building. The newly painted ceiling has been highlighted by new uplighting.

Come and see for yourself on the first Saturday of each month between 1.30 and 4 pm; otherwise go to <stpetersatstpeters.org.au> and click on the Facebook page link to see some photos. As you drive along Princes Highway check out the new picket fence.

• 'Voices from the Graveyard'

An audio project produced by the St Peters Cooks River History Group gives access to the stories of those interred at St Peters Church graveyard and how they died. Using information from newspapers and diaries this presentation uses voices of members of Marrickville Heritage Society and St Peters Church congregation with music played on the church's 1880 Brindley and Foster organ.

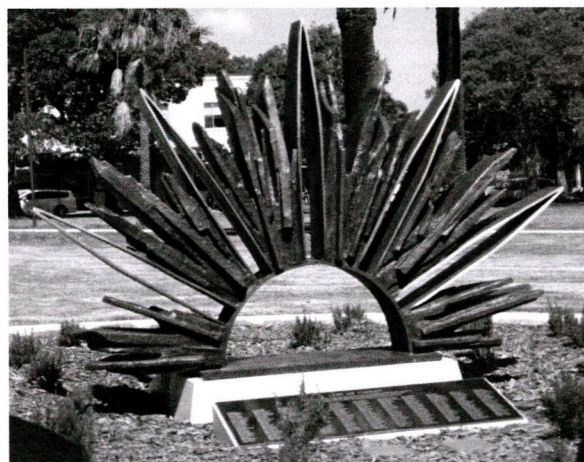
Certain graves have been numbered so that while wandering around the graveyard you can use your mobile device to click onto the History Group's Website: choose 'Voices from the Graveyard' in the menu. Select a number and enjoy listening. Alternatively, you can tune in and listen at home at: <www.stpeterscooksriverhistory.wordpress.com>.

Laurel Horton

We thank members who have donated back to the Society MHS publications no longer needed. They will be on sold or passed on depending on their condition.

Marrickville Park

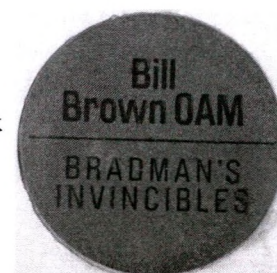
In a \$2.7m upgrade of **Marrickville Park**, a new playground, picnic area and fitness equipment have been installed. In addition, the Inner West Council unveiled a memorial sculpture with the work completed in time for a Remembrance Day ceremony in November. The striking WWII memorial by Andrew Poppleton is inspired by the Australian Rising Sun badge – the symbol featuring bayonets around a crown, commonly identified with the spirit of Anzac.



Another new feature in the park is the Sports Walk of Honour – a long path of notable local sporting identities, who were nominated by members of the public. Each figure has a circular stone embedded in the path simply giving their name and sport. Cricketers predominate. It is remarkable that Sid Barnes, Bill Brown, Ron Sagers and Ernie Toshack were all local cricketers, who were part of Don Bradman's famous 'Invincibles', who toured England in 1948 without a loss. In addition, the path honours Tommy Andrews, who played 16 Tests for Australia in the 1920s; and Bobby Simpson, who had a phenomenal career as a Test player (and captain), coach and mentor spanning decades.

Also honoured are Wally Carr (boxing), Colin Dibley (tennis), Frank *Bumper* Farrell (rugby league), Annette Kellerman (swimming), Peter Landrebe (croquet), Rosemary Landrebe (croquet), Tom Phillis (motor cycle racing) and Claude Williams (basketball). Additional names are to be added.

Richard Blair



The Petersham abode of **Sylvia Hale** was the perfect setting for our annual **Pot Luck Christmas Dinner** on Saturday 3 December. **Mary Oakenfull** coordinated culinary and other aspects and was ably assisted on the night by **Hillary Goldsmith**, **Diane McCarthy**, and other committee members. **Robert Hutchinson** made his customary Christmas cake, which was won by **Keith Anderson** in the Lucky Door prize.

Sylvia spoke eloquently about the history of her house and generously presented attendees with coloured prints by well known Australian artists. Thank you Sylvia and all those members who came along to support this time-honoured annual event.

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 25 February

Ian Tyrrell: Cooks River - An 'unnatural history'

Details on front page

Saturday 25 March

Port Hacking, Hacking River & Bate Bay cruise

Details on front page

Saturday 22 April

Noel Elliot: History of Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney

***Shady Acres: Politicians, Developers and Sydney's Public Transport Scandals 1872-1895* by Lesley Muir**

The Royal Australian Historical Society, the Madden Family and Halstead Press are pleased to announce the long awaited publication of the late Lesley Muir's investigation into political corruption, developer donations and the impact of powerful lobby groups on the design and construction of Sydney's metropolitan railway and tramway network in the 19th century. With an introduction by Elizabeth Farrelly, edited and produced by Joy Hughes, *Shady Acres* foreshadows the transport shortcomings that the city and its suburbs endure today.

Hardback, 25.5 x 19 cm, 320 pages, 92 illustrations (some colour), 39 maps and plans, comprehensive reference notes and index. Special offer price of \$45 has been extended if the book is purchased from RAHS, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney (Tuesday to Friday). There's an additional handling charge of \$13 for the book to be posted. Otherwise \$49.95 at bookshops. RAHS 9247 8001.

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City of Sydney historian **Lisa Murray** has written ***Sydney Cemeteries: A field guide*** (UNSW Press, Sydney, 2016, \$34.99) which contains individual entries for 101 cemeteries in the greater Sydney area, up-to-date colour photos for each entry and fascinating background essays. Paperback, c. 400 pp., index; all photos by Mark Dunn. It is beautifully produced.

Among the Inner West and West cemeteries covered are St Peters Church Cooks River; Camperdown Cemetery, Newtown; Pioneer Memorial Park, Leichhardt; St David's, Haberfield; St John's, Ashfield; St Thomas', Enfield; St Paul's, Canterbury; Moorefields, Kingsgrove; St Saviour's, Punchbowl; and Rookwood.

Lisa will discuss her book at the MHS meeting on Saturday 25 November when copies will be on sale. That may seem a long way off, but it will come round soon enough.

Looking for midweek theatre appreciation with like-minded people? Come and meet with Charlie and Abbie in Summer Hill every second Tuesday 1-3 pm from 14 February in the upstairs hall of Summer Hill Church (better known as St Andrew's), corner of Smith and Henson Streets. About 5-8 minute walk from the station. Cost of \$12 includes afternoon tea, news of the theatre and cinema world, and a stimulating thespian talk. Access to group theatre bookings. For further information ring 9557 3823.

Vale: Nora Salter 1927-2017

We mourn the death of MHS member **Nora Salter** of Newtown on 2 January after a long illness. Nora was a 'long-term resident of Newtown, earlier Westmead. Energetic, engaged and generous local personality. Matriarch and business woman.' It was a full house at Reiby Hall, Newtown on Sunday 22 January for a memorial service held in her honour. Numerous tributes were paid by her seven children and other relatives. Her husband of 65 years, Frank, died in 2012. Our condolences to MHS members Tyrrell and Jim Hyman and the rest of Nora's family.

Nora in 2015
(© Domain Group)



Historian **Ron Ringer** would like to hear from anyone with knowledge of the land granted to **James Bloodworth** in Dulwich Hill circa 1794. Some readers will already be aware that Bloodworth was a convict, a builder and one of the colony's first brickmakers. Time spent in the colonies turned in his favour, for Bloodworth's passing was mourned by many, including people and government, all who recognised his enormous contribution. It is also possible that Bloodworth may have fired a primitive clamp kiln in the vicinity of Arlington Oval.

If you can help, please contact Ron on 0412 560 151 or <ron@syntaxwriting.com.au>.

Member **Ken Turner** has lived in Marrickville for all of his 80+ years and is pleased with the recent restoration of Marrickville Station and environs. It prompted him to recall a memorial rose garden which was in Station Street, Marrickville near the station in his youth. He feels it was possibly created in the wake of World War I. It was later replaced by carparking.

Ken would like to know if there are any photos or old postcards of this memorial garden and when the garden was removed. Council has deflected our enquiry to the Australian History Railway Society as it seems the land was railway-owned. Can anyone recall the garden or offer information? Ring Richard 9557 3823 or email the Society (address below).

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