

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Our September Meeting

Coach trip to Lithgow: 23 September 7.45 for 8 am
Lithgow - much more than a coal mining town

Meet at Petersham Town Hall. Cost \$55 (pay on day) includes coach, lunch, museum entry fee, guides and afternoon snack (return about 5.30 pm). Book soon as coach is filling up: Judy 0419 414 361 or <judithoc@bigpond.net.au>. Please advise if you need to cancel as there may be a waiting list.

Trip includes a tour of Lithgow's Small Arms Factory Museum and a guided tour on the coach to view some of Lithgow's historic sites and social history. For full details check your July-August newsletter.

Heritage Watch

Sydenham to Bankstown Metro corridor

The Department of Planning has revised the plans for the rezoning of the suburbs around the new Metro train line after the strong community backlash to the initial proposals. Unfortunately, the government is still proposing to allow high density residential buildings in sensitive heritage precincts throughout Dulwich Hill and Marrickville. Of particular concern are the proposals for high rise residential buildings along Constitution Avenue and The Parade in Dulwich Hill, and on both sides of Carrington Road in Marrickville. The Heritage Society is very concerned that promised heritage assessments have not been done of the areas that are to be impacted by the rezoning proposed for the Metro corridor. Council declined to carry out a Dulwich Hill heritage assessment because they said the Department of Planning was conducting one.

Now that the survey has been shown to be inadequate, a thorough heritage assessment **must** be undertaken. Furthermore, this rezoning proposal is effectively a new Master Plan for our area, and a comprehensive Statement of Environmental and Heritage Impacts must be undertaken. This should identify adverse impacts, like overloading existing infrastructure and razing heritage neighbourhoods; but what are the mitigating measures that the government must commit to, in order to prevent a social, urban and heritage disaster? If the government cannot demonstrate that it is creating a stable, desirable urban precinct in the Metro corridor, then it will be seen as the grubby, shortsighted developer-led land grab that it is.

The Sirius building in The Rocks has been saved, for now, in a win for heritage and the community after the Land & Environment Court ruled against the NSW Government's refusal to impose a heritage listing on the building. Unfortunately, the legal wrangle will continue as the government is appealing the court's decision.

Scott MacArthur (more on back page)

History Week 2-10 September

Al Gore ends his film *The Inconvenient Sequel* by citing American poet **Wallace Stevens** (1879-1955): 'After the final no there comes a yes and on that yes the future of the world hangs.'

Our October Meeting

History of Moorefield Racecourse: Anne Field
Saturday 28 October 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Anne Field's book *The history of Moorefield Racecourse, Kogarah (1888-1951)* (2016) is the result of over 20 years of research, instigated from a chance meeting with a former Moorefield Racecourse groundsman in mid-1992. The racecourse land was originally granted to Patrick Moore on 25 August 1812 by Gov. Lachlan Macquarie. A descendant, Peter Moore, established the racecourse and its first meeting was held in 1888. Moorefield was not just a racecourse: Kogarah Golf Club was located in the middle of the course.

Anne will also discuss some of the personalities - jockeys, trainers, racehorse owners, golfers, SP bookies and punters -, how it came to be called the 'Goat Track' and some racehorses that competed there including Melbourne Cup winners.



1937 aerial shot of Moorefield Racecourse

Anne Field taught Legal Studies, Commerce and Geography at St George Girls High School for 35 years. She served on Rockdale and Kogarah Councils for 17 years and did extensive community work. She is now writing a children's book.

Dulwich Hill Fair: Sunday 10 September
Marrickville Festival: Sunday 22 October

The Society will have a stall at both events. Contact Iain on 0400 473 252 after 6 pm weekdays if you would like to help on either day; or just roll up.

Sydney Water grant to MHS: details inside

Our July meeting: Saturday 22 July Cemeteries and Factories – a walk through Leichhardt's past with Patrick Callaghan

Many visitors to the 11-acre Pioneers Memorial Park in Leichhardt would be unaware they are walking on the graves of over 10,000 people in the former Balmain Cemetery. Founded on part of a land grant to Hugh Piper in 1811, burials took place from 1869 to 1912.

Among the prominent citizens interred there were the colonial architect Edmund Blacket and his wife Sarah, whose memorial stone was re-erected at Camperdown Cemetery. In 1940 the derelict cemetery was converted into a public park and many gravestones were reused to build the perimeter fence.

Catholic burials took place at the nearby Balmain Catholic Cemetery off Elswick Street on four acres of land acquired by Father John Joseph Therry. About 1200 people were interred (1868–1912). This cemetery is now the site of the St Columba's Catholic School.

Many Leichhardt streets retain the names of former estates and past identities. In the 1880s semi-rural Leichhardt had many dairies (including Lyall's) dotting the landscape, along with grand homes.

Leichhardt's past is still evident in the abundance of workers cottages, factories, warehouses and corner shops, some that have been converted to apartments and cafés. Former factories include Roebucks, which made handcrafted rocking horses and other wooden toys from 1900 to 1972 at 256 Norton Street; Cyclops Toy factory, which in 1913 started making pedal cars, prams and other tin toys in Hay Street, later moving to the corner of Francis and William Streets where the original building still prominently displays Cyclops signage; Alex Grahame, the Lawn Mower King, who produced machines used on the Sydney Cricket Ground; and Robins Shoes, which once made 30,000 slippers a month, but folded in 1982: public housing is now on the site. John Heine's large factory had sheet metalworking machinery producing food cans. Perhaps not so savoury was the local production of tripe and rabbit meat sold as 'underground mutton'!

Thanks to our knowledgeable tour guide **Patrick Callaghan** – a Leichhardt resident from 1938 to 1969 who attended St Colomba's School – and his daughter Sarah and granddaughter Isabella, who assisted.

Iain Carolin

Clarissa Kaye (1931-1994) of Marrickville

Born Clarice Grace Knipe in Marrickville, Clarissa grew up with her parents at 1 England Avenue Marrickville. She studied dancing as a child and by 21 worked in the ballet at Chequers and The Roosevelt. After meeting Hayes Gordon, she turned to acting and appeared in many productions at the Ensemble Theatre, Kirribilli, in its early years. Her film career began in 1969 when she met British actor James Mason on the set of *Age of Consent*. Having both married before, they wed in 1971 settling in Switzerland. Clarissa featured in several movies and TV series, the last being *Bangkok Hilton* in 1989. Mason died in 1984. My husband Jamie met James Mason at Henson Park Hotel – during a visit to Clarissa's family in the 1970s – through a mutual friend Arthur Johnson, who also lived at 1 England Avenue and was probably a relative.

Diane McCarthy

Our August meeting: 26 August Rayner Hoff: a sculptor's life revealed – an illustrated talk by Deborah Beck

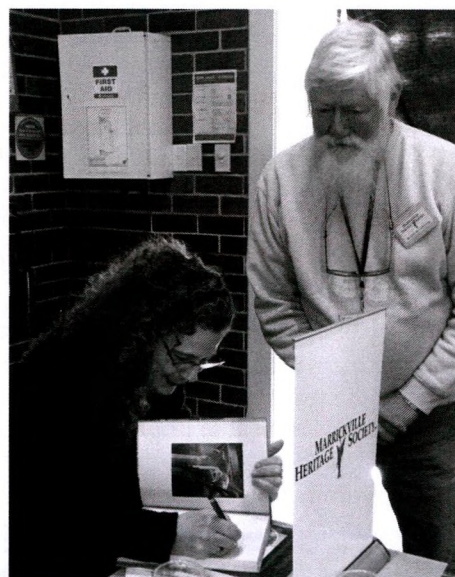
Sculpture as an integral part of architecture was a recurrent theme running through Deborah Beck's talk on the life of Rayner Hoff. Born on the Isle of Man and raised in Nottingham, Hoff became a brilliant student at the Royal College of Art, London. Shortly after he graduated in 1922 he was invited to apply for a post in the art department of Sydney Technical College in Darlinghurst. There he revolutionised the teaching of sculpture in Australia while taking commissions for sculptural works. His ideas on sculpture and architecture would have formed while he was apprenticed to his stonemason father, and were borne out in his collaboration with architect Bruce Dellit on the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. Many believe that *The Sacrifice* (1934), the centrepiece of the Anzac Memorial, is Australia's greatest sculpture.

Deborah Beck's talk revealed not only the unfolding life and untimely death of Rayner Hoff, but the diligence with which she had researched his story. An artist, a lecturer and collections manager at the National Art School, Darlinghurst, Deborah visited all the places where Hoff had worked and lived, not only in Australia but in Italy and the United Kingdom, interviewing members of Hoff's family and the families of people who had known him, and poring over files, letters and newspaper articles. Her research uncovered many photos never before seen but now included in her biography, *Rayner Hoff: the life of a sculptor*, published by NewSouth Books earlier this year.

Deborah's presentation was enlivened by a selection of these images, which ranged from family snapshots of Hoff as a child to pictures by Harold Cazneaux and Hoff's wife Annis, herself an accomplished artist and photographer. Hoff's students, several of whom went on to become recognised sculptors, were paid to assist with his larger commissions. It was fascinating to see the photographs Deborah showed of Hoff and his crew working in the NAS studio on the models and maquettes for works that would become iconic sculptural pieces. A local connection was Hoff's magnificent Egyptian Room, originally commissioned in 1927 for the Royal Arch Masonic Temple in College Street Sydney, but relocated to the Petersham Masonic Temple in 1977. Thanks Deborah for your engrossing talk.

Megan Hicks

Deborah Beck
autographs a
copy of her
Rayner Hoff
book for Robert
Hutchinson
(photo: Scott
MacArthur)



2016-17 MHS Publications Report

I'll start by thanking those who helped as newsletter runners in the past year: Rod Aanensen, Mary Barthelmy, Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, Tricia Blombery & Stuart Grigg, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Lucille Dunstan, Michael Egan, Rosemary Fallon, Ann Fenton, Audrey Furney, Roger Gazard, Colin Hesse, Marg Ludlow, John Mara, Ruth Olip, Monica Oppen, Allen Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Greg Ryan, Pamela Stewart and Ken Turner. Special mention goes to John Blattman, who was a runner in northern Petersham for many years. Thank you, John. Filling in when runners were away were: Shirley Hesse, Chris King, Margaret Newman, Corinne O'Loughlin and Ian Tyrrell. Thanks to our drivers Anna Breinl, John Mara, Diane McCarthy and Ken Turner who have escorted Ian Phillips to deliver bundles of newsletter to runners.

I thank our committee for their ongoing support and the rest of the newsletter team: Hillary Goldsmith, who casts an eagle eye over each newsletter; Pamela Stewart, who continues to send out the postal newsletters; Ian Phillips, who provides his ever reliable skills and time in getting the newsletter to runners; and Diane McCarthy, who continues to prepare envelope labels, membership renewal and fee reminder forms, and assists in a variety of other ways. For the first time during my 23-year editorship I omit the name of Shirley Hilyard, who has thoroughly earned her retirement. Shirley no longer enjoys the best of health and lacks the mobility to attend meetings, but remains very interested in the Society.

I thank all those folks who have contributed to the newsletter especially in the write-up of Our Last Meeting. Many contributors over the years have told me they can't write, but once they get into write-up mode find they can. Thank you Scott MacArthur for your readable and concise heritage watch reports. It's a really hard time at present for heritage conservation and the immediate future does not look too bright with developers more and more getting what they want, and governments of all persuasions making it easier for development applications to be approved. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but the loss of fine housing such as *Glenrock* in George Street Marrickville is lamentable. On the plus side we are encouraged by members alerting us to buildings at risk. This is, indeed, one of the strengths of this Society: our ability to rely upon member vigilance and concern.

Our next journal *Heritage 15* is well under way with over half the articles in hand. Publication should occur either later this year or early next with the journal likely to be larger than usual. By way of a reminder the journal is free to Society members whose fees are current. Articles include: a factory owner whose business was on the site of Marrickville Metro before the long occupation by John Vicars Woollen Mill; a nurse who lived in historic *Muirshade* in Stanmore and went to South Africa to serve during the Boer War; the role of Marrickville pioneer William Dean in the naming of Marrickville; the religious significance of Fatima Island; and some World War I letters sent to an address in Enmore by two diggers serving overseas. We will conclude our ongoing saga of the Winged Victory. And much more.

I am pleased that Lorraine Beach will again be handling the layout and design. Thank you to those who have already sponsored the journal and I invite anyone else who would like to assist in this way to do so. As well as contributing directly, names of sponsors are listed in the journal. We will not be running journal ads this time mainly because this process is very time consuming.

Richard Blair

Sydney Water Local Community Grant



Rod Aanensen and Richard Blair receive MHS cheque
(photo: Jack Glenn, Sydney Water)

MHS has received a generous grant from the Sydney Water Local Community Grant program. This it will use to digitise much of its archival material with the view to display on our website, undergoing a revamp. The funding will help make more material available to members and the general community. We thank Sydney Water for its support and generosity.

The overlooked 'Boy Martin'

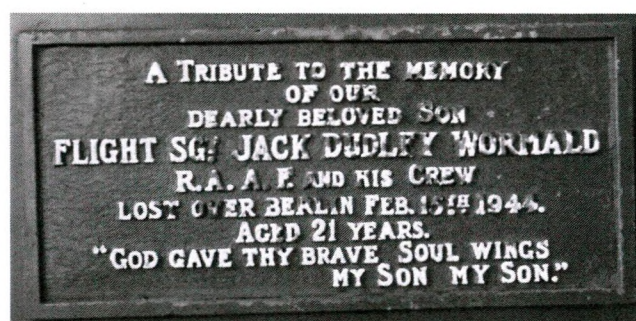
In the wake of the MHS cruise around Port Hacking last March, attention is drawn to a 1948 monument which commemorates explorers George Bass, Matthew Flinders and the boy William Martin. Bass and Flinders explored and mapped the coastline and Port Hacking estuary in 1796 and the southernmost point of Cronulla is named Bass and Flinders Point in their honour. Flinders undertook his first voyage of discovery with Bass, with whom he had struck up a friendship on the way to Australia on the *Reliance* in 1795. At this time Bass was 24 and Flinders 21. They sailed out of Sydney Heads in the *Tom Thumb*, a boat with keel length of 2.5 metres, only a month after their arrival in Sydney.

Rarely mentioned is Bass's personal assistant, the boy William Martin (born 1781), who was on board with them when they reached Botany Bay. They travelled 32 kilometres further up Georges River than any previous explorer. Martin also travelled with Bass and Flinders on the second *Tom Thumb* expedition to Lake Illawarra, and seems to have been a competent sailor. He is the youngest explorer of Australia's early colonial history.

Richard Blair

Flight Sgt Jack Wormald 1922-1944

This memorial in Alison Playground, Terrace Road, Dulwich Hill stood in the garden of Jack's parents in Terrace Road for several decades. Jack and the crew of Halifax HX293 were on a mission to Berlin when their plane crashed on 15 February 1944. They all died in Holland where they were buried. A detailed item that was on the MHS blog will be accessible once the new MHS website is established. Photo: Ian Phillips.



Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 23 September

Lithgow: much more than a coal mining town

Details on front page (bookings essential)

Saturday 28 October

History of Moorefield Racecourse: Anne Field

Details on front page

Saturday 25 November

Sydney cemeteries – talk by Lisa Murray

Launch of *One Small World: The History of the Addison Road Community Centre* by Sue Castrique Saturday 21 October at 4 pm in the Stirrup Gallery, Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. All welcome. For more info: <museum@arcco.org.au>.

Vale Kate Dunbar OAM (1923-2017)

Born in Manchester, Kate Dunbar (nee Kelly), who died on 10 July, spent much of her life living in Newtown, Marrickville and Stanmore. Kate's early years were described in her memoir article in *Heritage* 14 (2014), including living in Premier Street Marrickville just a few doors from famed footballer and policeman Bumper Farrell; along with memories of St Pius' Catholic School Enmore, Newtown and Erskineville Public Schools.

After learning piano and studying singing at the NSW Conservatorium of Music, she became one of Australia's best known jazz singers performing from the early 1950s



with many of the country's finest. Even into her 90s, I saw her sing with a band in a pub in The Rocks. During her long association with the Sydney Jazz Club she was president for 14 years, a committee member for many more, and was long time editor of their publications. She had a radio show and established a singers workshop in 1987, tutoring and mentoring

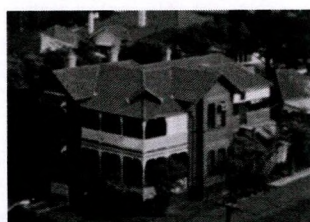
numerous female vocalists. Her OAM in 1994 recognised 'her service to music, particularly Australian jazz, and to the community'.

A MHS member since 1997, Kate's essay on Emanuel Brace, Robert Wardell's co-assassin (who survived the noose after turning King's Evidence), appeared in *Marrickville: a past worth preserving*. I enjoyed some cups of coffee in the presence of this remarkable woman in Kate's modest Stanmore flatette (behind her son and family's residence). Gracing its walls were four lifesize photos of famous women jazz and blues singers. Kate could easily belong to this immortal pantheon. (photo from <bridgcityjazzband.blogspot.com/2011>)

Richard Blair

Spring Trivia Question

Where in the MHS area is this building? Call Richard 9557 3823 or email as below.



Winter Trivia Answer

Question: How is Aeroplane Jelly connected to the area covered by MHS?

Member **Kay Abrahams** wrote:

By an amazing coincidence, I'd made an Aeroplane Jelly today (lime). I immediately thought there had to be a clue on the packet; and so it was: Adolphus Herbert Frederick Norman Appleroth moved his jelly company from Sussex Street in the city to Alice Street, Newtown in 1927. The Australian Dictionary of Biography tells me that 'inspired by feats in aviation, that year Appleroth named his product Aeroplane Jelly'. It's still the best jelly, too!

Spot on, Kay. But wait, there's more. Both **Audrey Furney** and **Diane McCarthy** knew that the composer of the Aeroplane Jelly jingle Frank Leonard had lived at 284 Victoria Road Marrickville. Delving into the newsletter archive, our December 2010 issue reveals that the famous jingle was written in 1930 and that Leonard's 'name was an alias of Albert Francis Lenertz (1891-1943), a composer, and managing director of Traders Ltd, based in Alice Street Newtown which produced Aeroplane Jelly. Lenertz was the business partner of the jelly creator Bert Appleroth. Lenertz also composed *Newtown is an old town that I love*.'

Laurel and Ray Young expressed another view about the composer of this jingle. They had been told many years ago by their friend Bill Surene, a commercial artist, that he had composed the Aeroplane Jelly music and lyrics, and drawn some of the associated cartoons. Despite the Youngs' strong conviction, nothing has been found to substantiate this claim.

Richard Blair

Heritage Watch

Old Marrickville Hospital site

The long running saga of the redevelopment of the former Marrickville Hospital site is drawing to a close with final approval of the Community Hub and Mirvac apartments being given by the Sydney Central Planning Panel. There will be 250 apartments built in three buildings on the northern part of the site, with the old nurses quarters in 'Lilydale' also being restored for apartments. Community concerns about the height and density of the new buildings, and overshadowing of the new public park on the corner of Livingstone and Marrickville Roads were dismissed by the Planning Panel. In relation to the new library, the Society has long been lobbying Council for better local history and archive facilities, but with new Inner West Council Libraries management teams still being established, there is no guarantee the new regime will view our requests favourably.

Scott MacArthur

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