

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



Heritage Watch Carrington Road, Marrickville

The Inner West Council has received an unsolicited planning proposal from developer Mirvac for high rise residential development on the industrial properties to the east of Carrington Road, Marrickville. The previous and current Councils have for decades carefully avoided placing a heritage listing on these former heavy industry factories that are most famous for assembling Holden cars in the 1920s and 1930s. Most recently, Council, under its interim Administrator supported Mirvac's challenge to the recommendation of the South Marrickville Heritage Review that all of the 1920s buildings on the east of the road should be listed at least back to the first structural bay. This would not only protect the fine Neo-classical facades, but also the Art Deco administration lobbies and examples of the spacious saw tooth roofed factory spaces.

This proposed heritage listing acknowledged that the buildings now accommodated a thriving hub of small creative industries that employs a diverse group of over 1800 people. Any potential conflict of interest arising from Council's involvement with Mirvac on the old Marrickville Hospital site has not been acknowledged.

The current Council now faces the dilemma of whether they can negotiate a more appropriate development solution, without any real heritage or planning constraints, knowing that Mirvac can walk away at any time and get the state government to intervene on its behalf. As the current state government is threatening to rezone the whole area for high density residential development as part of the Sydenham-Bankstown Metro, it may not be until the next election that Carrington Road can be saved.

Scott MacArthur

MHS weekend in Carcoar!

The committee is in the process of organising a long-promised trip out west to Carcoar (and environs), so if you're interested in going, note in your calendar the trip is planned for 13-15 April 2018. Booking information will be in the February newsletter.

Heritage 15 is coming

It is anticipated that *Heritage 15*, the Society's next journal, will be launched in early 2018. This will be, by far, the largest journal produced by MHS. The journal is complimentary as part of membership, *so long as your fees are fully paid up*. Members still unfinancial will receive a reminder slip with this newsletter.

You can still become a sponsor for this journal, but you need to make your payment soon. Contact Diane for info about paying by direct debit. Sponsors will be named in the journal (unless anonymity is specified).

Our November Meeting

Sydney cemetery adventures with Lisa Murray
Saturday 25 November 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road Marrickville

Cemeteries are wonderful, quiet places for the living, according to Lisa Murray, author of *Sydney Cemeteries: a field guide* (NewSouthBooks, 2016, \$34.99). Whether you're interested in family history, exploring lesser known places or finding a beautiful spot for a picnic, this book contains entries for 101 cemeteries in greater Sydney including Newtown, St Peters, Ashfield, Canterbury, Haberfield, Leichhardt and Rookwood.



Waverley Cemetery (photo: Mark Dunn)

Dr Lisa Murray has 20 years experience in the field of public history and is passionate about making history accessible to the public. Lisa has written social and planning histories and is a regular contributor to debates around public history, including being a speaker at TEDxSydney 2013. She is currently preparing a new book on the history of Australian cemeteries for National Library of Australia Publishing. As City Historian at the City of Sydney Council, she recently curated for the 175th anniversary of this Council an exhibition (which finishes on 12 November in lower Sydney Town Hall).

Lisa will sign copies of this book which received a National Trust Heritage Award earlier this year

Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday 2 December 6 pm in Petersham

It's that time of year again for our annual social get together - Pot Luck dinner. As always, it's a casual affair to be held in the home of two of our long time members: easy walking from Petersham Station, Crystal Street and Parramatta Road. So start thinking about your favourite recipes and contact Lorraine on 0416 224 472 or <lbeach@iprimus.com.au>, tell her what you'd like to bring, and find out the address. BYO drink.

Coach trip to Lithgow: 23 September

What a surprise! The range of things to explore in Lithgow. We can't decide what we enjoyed most. Was it the stories about Lithgow shared by the ex-Lithgowians as we drove through the beautiful valleys that dominate the region? Was it the delicious, country-style mini pavlovas served with lunch?

We do know that it was a complete revelation to see the many different ways to shoot things. The (now-closed) Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum holds the largest collection of small arms in the southern hemisphere. The prize of the collection: the duelling pistols valued at \$50,000. Erected in 1912, at the urging of future Prime Minister of Australia Sir Joseph Cook (who lived in Lithgow), the government built the Small Arms Factory to produce weapons. Following Federation in 1901, Australia decided it would manufacture its own defence needs. It was the first modern manufacturing facility in Australia.

It is not well known that in peacetime the Small Arms Factory also manufactured other metal components for household items, such as sewing machines, as well as for golf clubs and handcuffs! The great contribution of women workers – at one time c. 2000 women were employed (see photo below) – is engagingly captured in the art works of Heliodore Hawthorne (1895-1977) on display there. Early on, working and living conditions were extremely harsh and industrial disputes were common. We saw the mean Duration cottages built for workers. In contrast, up on Commonwealth Avenue we saw the luxurious houses built for the managers towering over the factory.

Elsewhere, at Blast Furnace Park we viewed the extensive remains of Australia's first modern blast furnace, which gave us a fascinating insight into the workings of the furnace and into Lithgow's social life. We admired its environs and Lake Pillans, built to store cooling water for the adjacent blast furnace.

Other notable attractions were the Bowenfels gun Emplacements, experimental housing, such as Van-Dyke housing, the Lithgow Valley Pottery Kiln (1875), the court house – a fine brick building in the Arts & Crafts style – and The Zig Zag railway (though we did not visit as it's still closed following bushfires).

Our visit was enhanced by local guides **Donna and Kerry White**, who spoke to us at length over lunch and joined us on the coach. We thank **Judy O'Connor** and **Lorraine Beach** for organising the outing. We enjoyed colourful reminders of bygone times. Country roads meandered through the district and over every hill a new view awaited us as we travelled home.

Lyndal Gowland & Trevor McGuire



Our October meeting: 28 October

Anne Field on Moorefield Racecourse, Kogarah

They're off and racing!

And so, on the morning of Winx's third straight Cox Plate victory, **Anne Field** took us on an enchanting journey. Anne's book, *The history of Moorefield Racecourse, Kogarah (1888-1951)* notes that the racecourse had a 9-hole golf course (Kogarah Golf Club) in the middle.

In 1812 Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted 60 acres (about 24 ha) to Patrick Moore, who built a family home there. A descendant of Patrick Moore, Peter, developed the racecourse.

Moorefield held its first meeting on 13 October 1888. In the early years there were some 9-10 meetings a year later dwindling to about 4-5 meetings a year. As there were no horse floats until the late 1930s trainers walked their horses from such areas as Tempe, Banksia and Sans Souci to the racecourse. Kogarah Station was vital: horses were brought from the Mortuary Station at Central to the Kogarah platform siding. They were then walked down Montgomery Street or Gladstone Street. Patrons and jockeys also caught the train to Kogarah.

Moorefield won fame also because of its Melbourne Cup successes. Hiraji, trained by Moorefield's Jim McCurley, won the Cup in 1947, ridden by Jack Purtell (who also won the Cup in 1953 on Wodalla and in 1954 on Rising Fast). Anne located Jack in Queensland and was delighted that he was presented with a copy of her book, which features a photo of Jack on the front cover (Jack died in March). Three horses which won at Moorefield also won Melbourne Cups: Westcourt in 1917, Windbag in 1925 and Foxzami in 1949.

Some horses ran at Moorefield without success but won Melbourne Cups – Nightmarch in 1929; Old Rowley in 1940 (ridden by Moorefield jockey Andy Knox at the impressive odds of 100/1); and the splendid sequence of Russia in 1946, Hiraji in 1947 and Rimfire in 1948.

Famous jockeys who rode at Moorefield included Edgar Britt (later to become King George VI's jockey), who died this year aged 103, Ray Selkrig (Melbourne Cup winning jockey on Lord Fury in 1961), Arthur Podmore, George Podmore, Arthur Ward and Billy Cook.

Trainers were much of the Moorefield story including George Hanna, Bob Ryan, Mick Polson, George Halpin, Billy Childs, Neville Davis, Alf Widgery and Bob Mead.

By 1951 a declining number of race meetings plus the high costs of maintaining a racecourse led to inevitable pressure to close the course. The Sydney Turf Club, which bought Moorefield in 1945, wanted to build up both its Canterbury and Rosehill Racecourses. The NSW Education Department later built James Cook Boys High School and Moorefield Girls High School on the site. The remaining land (53 acres) was sold on 9 August 1955 for £118,500 for 270 home sites – the Moorefield Estate.

Moorefield's last meeting was on 14 July 1951. The meeting attracted no media attention. It was used as a training ground until 1955. And so Moorefield passed into history – but it's a credit to Anne Field that such history has not been lost.

Keith Sutton (erstwhile co-owner of racehorses)

Best Dressed on day: Well done **Gloria Muir** for donning the colourful threads and top hat. You so looked the part! – **Editor**

First Marrickville Town Hall

Members of MHS were among the many guests at a ceremony to commemorate the completion of the restoration of the first Marrickville Town Hall, and its rededication as a new and inclusive community and art centre. As acknowledgement of the many years of lobbying to save the building, MHS member and keen local historian Rod Aanensen (pictured at right) was invited to speak at the ceremony. He recounted how the building has had a strong community focus during its long history, as the first Marrickville Town Hall (from 1878), then as a staging post for the management of the response to the Spanish Influenza epidemic after World War I, then as part of the local public school after it was sold to the Department of Education in 1920 to fund the building of the new town hall on Marrickville Road.



After its transfer to the Department of Housing it fell into neglect and disrepair. Following years of lobbying by Marrickville Council and MHS, the building was sold in 2006 to the Greek Atlas League of NSW, who commenced the long and difficult task of restoration. The building work was mostly completed by 2012, and to such a high standard that it was awarded the Marrickville Medal for Conservation that year. Now that the fit out and landscaping are complete, its proud owners are inviting the community to once again share this important building as a social and cultural centre. It was fitting that long term members Bruce Welch and Paula Gard and former MHS president Judith Matheson, who were active in the campaign to save the building, were on hand to celebrate its rededication.

Scott MacArthur

Honour Roll for Peace in Marrickville

At the gates of Addison Road Community Centre are two low walls containing a range of small metal plaques recording 'the names of those who have resisted war or sought the just and peaceful resolution of conflict.' This is a well chosen location given the former army depot and it being the site of anti-conscription protests during the Vietnam War.



A plaque can be purchased (from \$50) to honour a person, group or organisation that has fought for peace. See <www.arcco.org.au/programs/the-living-museum/honour-roll-for-peace/> for details.

Dulwich Hill Fair & Marrickville Festival

These two recent annual events (DHF: 10 September & MF: 22 October), which bring the Society to public attention, were another huge success for MHS. On both occasions we were located near the children's stage away from the busy main festival area. This did not affect enquiries to the MHS volunteers, who we thank for their help. Our self-guided local history walks remain as popular as ever. One notable grievance from many people was the continued destruction of local 'iconic' heritage buildings such as the recent demolition of Sydenham's Coptic Church.

Iain Carolin

RAHS Conference 28-29 October 2017

The conference was held at Cowra in central NSW in Wiradjuri Country. On the banks of the Lachlan River (named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie) the area was first explored by George Evans, a surveyor, in 1815. The settlement was founded in 1844 as Coura Rocks and proclaimed the village of Cowra in 1849.

Friday evening preconference drinks were at the perfectly maintained 12-acre Japanese Gardens and Cultural Centre, designed by Ken Nakajima, a renowned Japanese landscape architect. The first stage opening in 1979 developed a relationship between the people of Cowra and Japan.

The address honouring Dr Lesley Muir was given by RAHS President Associate Professor Carol Liston, who spoke of the process of bringing Lesley's book - *Shady Acres* - to publication from a PhD thesis, and managing the legal issues surrounding copyright as, sadly, Lesley died before the book was published. The importance of land title research in any project was also highlighted. RAHS Senior Vice President Christine Yeats spoke of some of the questionable practices of the 1800s concerning the Illawarra Railway. *Shady Acres* was launched in April.

Other fascinating talks concerned the history of the migrant camp at Europa Park, Cowra in the 1950s, clever ideas to better use the Trove website, recent new history webpages and the lost sandstone inscriptions at the North Head Quarantine Station.

Many delegates toured the Prisoner of War camp on the outskirts of Cowra where on 5 August 1944 a mass breakout by Japanese prisoners took place. This resulted in 231 prisoners dying along with three Australian guards, including Pte Benjamin Hardy (son of a perfume manufacturer), who was born in Marrickville in 1898 and was posthumously awarded the George Cross for his bravery during the breakout.

Robert Hutchinson and Jan Garaty joined me in representing MHS. Next year's conference will be at Port Macquarie.

Iain Carolin

Certificate of Achievement for Mary Oakenfull

At the conference MHS secretary Mary Oakenfull was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for:

Her considerable contribution to the Society over many years as a member, and since 2012, a committee member. Mary has been particularly active in organising guest speakers and numerous outings with a wide variety of topics. Mary is a popular member and her work for the Society has been carried out efficiently and enthusiastically on its behalf; the RAHS acknowledges her involvement and dedication.



Mary Oakenfull was unable to attend the RAHS conference. This recent photo of Mary was taken in Petersham.

Calendar of 2018 MHS events

Saturday 25 November

Sydney cemetery adventures with Lisa Murray

Details on front page

Saturday 2 December

Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Details on front page

Saturday 24 February 2018

**George Hedgeland – the man who surveyed
Marrickville streets: talk by Angela Phippen**

One small world launched

In 2014, to mark (in part) the centenary of the opening of the Addison Road Marrickville army depot, the MHS journal *Heritage 14* carried an article by Sue Castrique about the history of the depot. On Saturday 21 October 2017 Sue's new book *One small world: the history of the Addison Road Community Centre* was launched at the Stirrup Gallery in the centre at 142 Addison Road Marrickville. ARCC General Manager Rosanna Barbero spoke about the vibrant centre, which was created in 1976; Sue told of some challenges the book presented and thanked numerous people; and psychologist Toni Ovadia formally launched Sue's publication. Toni was joined at the launch by others closely connected in the 1970s and beyond: Judy Finlason, Vivi Koutsounadis, Kathy Couttoupes and Margaret Helman.

Many others who helped Sue with the book attended, including MHS members and Darren Foster who had travelled from faraway Perth with his son. Darren is a descendant of John and Mary Purdy, who owned land and a market garden on the site in the 1800s. I am pleased to see the book includes some army memories of esteemed MHS member Fred Ellis.

This splendid book, which contains a comprehensive range of images, is on sale from MHS and ARCC for \$30.

Richard Blair

Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club research

Shortly after Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club in Garners Avenue closed in 2009 the building was demolished. Dr Lucas Jordan, historian and author of *Stealth raiders: a few daring men in 1918*, is seeking information about the history of the club and its role in initiating the first Anzac Day Dawn Service at Martin Place in 1928. He would like to talk to ex club members (or their relatives) and peruse any relevant papers. Lucas plans to write a book about the club and the Dawn Service as a sequel to *Stealth Raiders*, which features the daring First World War exploits of Marrickville men Jack Hayes and Albert 'Jerry' Fuller.

If you can help, contact <lucas.jordan@anu.edu.au> or phone 0468 330 895.

The Society mourns the loss of member **Arthur John Drabble** of Dulwich Hill who died on 5 September aged 97. Our condolences to John's daughter Karen.

President Scott 0416 152 501

Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Newsletter Richard 9557 3823

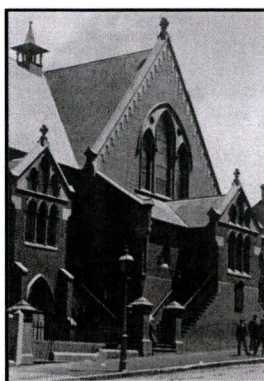
Spring Trivia Answer

This imposing two storey building is *Penston Hall* at 159 Livingstone Road Marrickville. It was built in 1910 as a residence 'for the Chown family of Chown Bros & Mulholland, galvanisers, tinsmiths, sheet ironworkers, japanners, and steel trunk manufacturers. Marrickville District Hospital purchased the building in 1929 for use as a nurses' home. It later became Marrickville Community Health Centre' (Cashman & Meader, *Marrickville: from rural outpost to inner city* 1990, p. 138). The building was sold in 2008 and is now Kidzville Early Learning Centre (long day care).



This 1994 photo (© Marrickville Library & History Services) was taken from the top of the recently demolished multistorey nurses' quarters in the grounds of the former hospital across the road. **Peter Chessell** recalls as a youngster regularly playing tennis with some of the nurses on the court that once stood at the rear of the house. I attended many meetings there in the 1970s and 1980s when it was a community health centre and always marvelled at its labyrinthine interior layout. **Heather Smallbone** and **Ian Phillips** also correctly identified the building.

Richard Blair



Summer Trivia Question

Where in the MHS area would you find this edifice and what is it called? Richard 9557 3823 or email as below.

Did you know that 31 October 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of priest and scholar **Martin Luther** approaching the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in Germany, and nailing a piece of paper to it containing the 95 revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation?

Welcome to new MHS members

Karen Shaw, Camperdown; Kerrie Lorimer, Dulwich Hill; Sally Taylor, Lewisham; Christopher Hartney & Zoe Alderton, Emily Saunders, all of Marrickville; Bill Dunbar, Stanmore; Patrick Callaghan, Balcolyn; Luke Barr, Broadway; Jill Miller, Burrawang; Margaret Warren, Goonengerry; Julie Lamont, Hurlstone Park; Anne Field, Kogarah; Cindy Perry & Yvonne Wilcox, Leichhardt.