

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



Our May Meeting

Coach trip to La Perouse

Saturday 26 May 8.45 for 9 am coach departure from Petersham Town Hall for La Perouse

The cost (including return coach and two guided tours) \$40. To book, leave your name and contact number with Mary Oakenfull on 0407 487 157 or email <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com>. Pay on the day but please advise if you have to cancel.

On arrival we will divide into two groups for two x 1½-hour guided tours as outlined below. After each tour we will swap guides and groups.

Bare Island Tour: Hear about the unpredictable history of Bare Island Fort. Access by the 130-year-old timber bridge to enter a world of fine engineering and great deception. In 1885 concerned British colonists thought an invasion by Russia was imminent. To ease their fears, they built Bare Island Fort to protect Botany Bay (then known as 'Sydney's back door').

Bush Tucker Tour: Learn about Aboriginal culture of the La Perouse area, how local Aboriginal people used the environment to survive, the foods they gathered and ate, medicinal plants and how they lived on the shores of Botany Bay.

You will then be at leisure until departure. You can bring your own lunch or frequent the selection of cafés and take-away shops. Relax in the pleasant picnic area or on the nearby beach. Feel free to visit the La Perouse Museum in the historic Cable Station building (at right) which documents the 1787-88

expedition of French explorer Comte de Laprouse and tells stories of the local area, including Aboriginal

stories. Museum entry is free and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

The coach will leave at 3 pm to return to Petersham.



Our June Meeting

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 June 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville

Members are invited to the Society's 34th 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. Secretary Mary (0407 487 157) can field queries including what is involved in being a committee member.

Members must have paid their 2018-19 fees to stand for office or vote if required. Fees can be paid beforehand or on the day (see below). Stay afterwards and mingle with fellow members over a light lunch.

MHS 2018-19 annual fees due

If your fees are due a gold renewal slip accompanies this newsletter. Please return slip intact with a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below), unless you're paying by direct deposit. You may renew at AGM. Fees remain: concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28. You may pay for more than one year. Our fees have not increased since 2003 but a small donation towards postage and admin would be appreciated. Should you have a query ring Treasurer Diane on 9588 4930.

Direct deposit to MHS bank account details:

Bank name: Sydney Credit Union (BSB 802 084)

Account name: Marrickville Heritage Society

Account number: 85663

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



The Society congratulates long standing MHS member **Dorothy (Dot) Sullivan** who turned 100 in March. Dot has lived most of her life locally and when seen recently said she'd been celebrating her 100th every day since.

Lorraine Beach's glowing photo was taken in 2009.

Welcome to New Members

Don Bryson-Taylor, Roberta Flint & Charles Britton, Louisa Mamoumey, Terry Petry & Jean Gordon, all of Marrickville; Lucas Jordan, Lara, Victoria; Carole Allen, Leichhardt; Lesley Hughes, Lilyfield; Lynette Styles, Parma; Mark Sabolch, Summer Hill; Lisa Murray, Angela Phippen (rejoined), both of Sydney; Patricia Bethune, Tahmoor.

Historic walk along Hawthorne Canal

Society members were treated to an historic walk along Hawthorne Canal on Saturday 24 March led by **Mark Sabolch**. Many of us purchased Mark's discounted 2006 book *Hawthorne Canal: The History of Long Cove Creek*. The creek was the boundary between the Cadigal and Wangal Aboriginal group lands. Starting at Lewisham West Light Rail stop we walked along the GreenWay via the railway viaduct to where the canal enters the Parramatta River at Iron Cove. Mark outlined many interesting facts such as:

- 1855: The stone 8-arched Long Cove Creek viaduct was built for the Sydney-Parramatta railway and was replaced by the Whipple Truss bridge in 1886. In 1993 remnants of this bridge were donated to Marrickville Council and lie beneath the bridge that superseded the Whipple Truss.
- 1908-09: The port of Pyrmont was so busy that there was a backlog of trains containing wool and wheat waiting to unload at the port. In 1910 they began building the 'Goods Line' as a back way to Pyrmont via the Bankstown Line.
- 1922: Mungo Scott bought land and built the flour mills at Lewisham/Summer Hill so that grain could be stored for transport. The line was built over the creek, along Long Cove valley.
- Although the name Hawthorne Canal was not officially gazetted until 1974, it had long been called that. It was named after local MP John Hawthorne.
- The 1910 ovoid-shaped sewer viaduct, designed to be self-cleaning (like the Tank Stream), is the only steel and rivetted viaduct in Sydney with a pin joint that expands and contracts with the weather. Surprisingly, the sandstone pylons are concrete inside with a sandstone veneer.
- Battle Bridge: one of the earliest bridges in Sydney — so named because the area was popular for bare-fisted fighting. Parts of this bridge fabric remain in the Parramatta Road bridge over Long Cove Creek.
- The pedestrian tunnel near Lords Road, Leichhardt with its walls attractively transformed by the community using nearly half a million mosaic tiles.

The walk ended in the garden suburb of Haberfield with refreshments at Café Bones, affectionately known as the Doggie café. Thanks to Mark Sabolch for conducting this walk at short notice and for sharing his extensive knowledge of this local waterway and surroundings.

Julie Bishop

Autumn Trivia Answer



This attractive King Street Newtown streetscape is on the inside back cover of MHS journal *Heritage* 15. Most of these shops are still standing. One shop sign shows The Post Card King – was this postcard bought there?

The scene was identified by Kay Abrahams, Rod Cox and Robert Hutchinson all pre-*Heritage* 15 publication.

Heritage 15 launched at the Town & Country

There was a very good roll-up for the journal launch on Wednesday 21 March at the Town & Country Hotel, St Peters. The Society treated its members to beverages and delicious finger food. Our President **Scott MacArthur** was MC, journal editor **Richard Blair** introduced the authors present to say a few words — **Rod Aanensen**, **Mary Barthelemy**, **Jan Garaty** and **Megan Hicks** — and **Chris Pratten** had the honour of declaring *Heritage* 15 officially launched. **Amie Zar**, Community History & Heritage Coordinator, Inner West Council, also came. Special thanks to **Lorraine Beach**, not only for her journal design and layout, but for organising this event.

I also thank the runners who delivered *Heritage* 15 to local members. Many journals were hand-delivered to non-local members: a great saving on postage. Other members should receive their journal with the May newsletter.

An additional copy of the journal is \$15 which is not bad value considering it's twice the usual size, the generous use of colour and overall article quality. If you have an idea for an article in our next issue, get in touch.

Richard Blair



In the bar of the Town & Country Hotel, St Peters, on 21 March at the launch of *Heritage* 15; from left: Lorraine Beach, Megan Hicks, Richard Blair, Jan Garaty, Rod Aanensen, Mary Barthelemy, Chris Pratten (seated) (photo: Scott MacArthur)

Our April Meeting: Saturday 28 April Cruising about Sydney: a history of the motor car in Sydney – illustrated talk by Richard Whitaker

Richard Whitaker had chosen a topic for his talk which was of interest to me as a lifelong enthusiast for old cars, but the questions, comments and memories it generated proved that the topic was interesting to other members at the meeting as well. Many comments showed that people had been reminded of cars from their childhood or youth, and questions asked showed a keenness to know more.

The highlight of the talk was the excellent collection of old photographs which Richard showed. These were in chronological order, starting from 1900 with a 3½ h.p. de Dion Bouton car in which the driver and the passengers sat facing each other. Richard told us that when the owner, a Dr Elliot, wanted to sell the car, the prospective buyer asked that the car prove itself by climbing Pymble Hill. Cars being such a novelty, a crowd gathered to watch the trial.

Other fascinating pre-First World War photographs included a Leyland garbage truck, with solid rubber tyres and no driver's cabin, looking very substantial and heavy; and views of the city streets with more horse-drawn vehicles than cars. As the pictures progressed through time, the increase in the numbers of motor vehicles and the decrease in the number of horses was dramatic, with post-Second World War scenes showing queues at peak hour on the approaches to the Harbour Bridge.

It is always fun to look at old photographs and recognise buildings, streets and other landmarks that one knows, and old motor-cars are fascinating to look at too, either those that are old and quaint, or those we ourselves knew in the past. Richard's agreeable slideshow provided us with this enjoyable experience.

Ken Swinbourne

St George Historical Society Mini-Conference

The splendid 1888 Magdalene Chapel beside Tempe House on the banks of Cooks River was the site for a mini conference hosted by the St. George Historical Society on 18 March. Topics included the importance of a heritage/historical society keeping its constitution up to date with the roles of an incorporated society to be clearly understood, delegating how societies' funds are spent, the length of time office bearers can serve, winding-up clauses in the event of a society ceasing to exist, and a register of a society's assets.

Another important issue was authors assigning the rights to their research manuscripts in their wills to one person to avoid lengthy legal disputes. Speakers were Carol Liston AO, RAHS President; Christine Yeats, RAHS Senior Vice President; and Aleema Ash, Public Programs Officer with Sydney Living Museums, who discussed public programming for museums run by volunteers.

Ross Berry, Honorary Historian of the Tempe House Estate, conducted a tour of Tempe House afterwards. Next Tempe House Open Day: 4 August, 10 am-3 pm.

Iain Carolin

Coach trip to Carcoar and environs

How ironical that Kurt Fearnley won a Gold Medal in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games marathon on the same weekend as 40 members and friends of Marrickville Heritage Society visited Kurt's home town of Carcoar — in fact, our coach parked opposite Kurt Fearnley Park while we visited the courthouse in the centre of town. The James Barnett-designed courthouse, built in 1882, tried many a felon before its final trial in the 1950s. President of the Carcoar and District Historical Society Brian Griffiths regaled us with stories of the history of Carcoar — the third oldest settlement west of the Blue Mountains — before escorting us on the coach around the village which has been dubbed 'the town time forgot'.

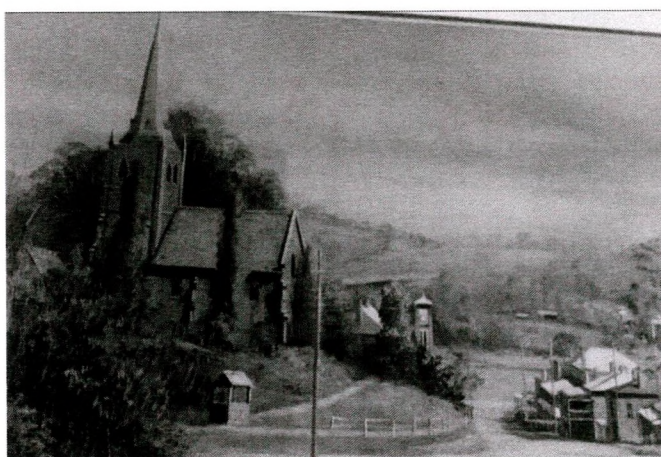
Carcoar is a town the Society had long considered visiting and it was thanks to the planning and organisation of Lorraine Beach that the weekend coach trip (13-15 April) finally took place. En route was a visit to Ben Chifley House in Bathurst. Whilst Ben Chifley — ALP Prime Minister in the mid to late 1940s after the death of John Curtin — is remembered for his famous Light on the Hill speech, history records him as an innovator in many respects. He had worked on the railways and this modest house has been conserved much as it was when Ben and Elizabeth Chifley occupied it. A sandwich lunch followed in the attractive McHattie Park with ample time for a self-guided walking tour of Bathurst city centre.

Given the scarcity of accommodation in Carcoar we stayed at a comfortable motel in Blayney where members enjoyed both evening meals. Friday: a memorable Chinese meal (good food, poor service) in a restaurant owned by the same family for 60 years; Saturday: roast dinner and dessert at the motel. Over dinner our guests Margaret and Greg Hahn entertained us with glimpses into their lives: Greg's forebears moved into the district about 150 years ago. Our homeward journey was via Millthorpe — a town of 1100 which houses arguably the state's finest rural museum spread over nine buildings — and Bilpin, where we were treated to a cider tasting and lunch in a basket culminating in apple pie with fresh cream.

Carcoar was memorable for: delicious pumpkin soup in the Teapots Café; seeing the Commercial Bank where the country's first daytime bank robbery took place; visiting the church where *Brides of Christ* was filmed (never mind it's an Anglican Church dressed up for the occasion); the Stoke Stable housing the Carcoar museum replete with farm apparatus and obsolete home appliances; the fine Carcoar Hospital Museum; the forlorn railway station, unlikely to reopen; and quaffing ale at the town's sole pub.

Mudgee/Gulgong (2001), Braidwood (2009), Canberra (2015), Carcoar/Blayney (2018). Whence next, Lorraine? Can't wait!

Richard Blair



Carcoar scene (artist: John Vander; Rod Cox collection)

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 26 May
Coach trip to La Perouse

Saturday 23 June
Annual General Meeting

Studio Anna plaque

Dorothy Johnston made a commitment many years ago and she was recently able to fulfil her promise. Dorothy had befriended potter Karel Jungvirt while researching her book *The People's Potteries*, a review of post-WWII Australian potteries.

Karel, a refugee from communist Czechoslovakia, had started his own pottery, 'Studio Anna', with his wife Toni Coles in 1953. After its move to 23-27 Shepherd Street, Marrickville, in 1954, Studio Anna became 'one of the largest, most efficient potteries in Sydney and probably Australia . . . for the next (almost) fifty years.'

The studio produced souvenirs and Karel laid claim to introducing the term *Australiana* into our vocabulary. At its peak the studio employed 16 artists. The quality of the studio's output was always outstanding. It won first prize and a gold medal for a vase and fruit bowl set at the International Ceramics Exhibition, Cannes, France, in 1955. Ill health caused Karel to sell his business and return to Czechoslovakia in 1999. He died the following year. Donna Braye's article on Studio Anna is in the MHS publication *3 Marrickville Potteries* (2005).

With the generous support of the building's current owner, a small ceremony on 9 March to attach a plaque to the building (see photo) was attended by Dorothy, her family, friends, MHS president Scott MacArthur and vice president Rod Aanensen.

Rod Aanensen

Heritage Watch: 73 The Boulevard, Dulwich Hill

The developer applied for a demolition certificate from a private certifier to pre-empt consideration of the DA for demolition and redevelopment of this California bungalow as apartments. Inner West Council has been pushed into imposing an Interim Heritage Order, which will last six months. Council will get a heritage assessment done, hopefully with a view to heritage listing to permanently protect the house.

Scott MacArthur

2018 Ron Rathbone Local History Prize (\$5000) to be awarded to the author of the best piece of original research on the history of Bayside Council area. Entrants need not live in Bayside area. Entry forms & guidelines: <www.bayside.nsw.gov.au> or ring Kirsten 9562 1821 or Jenny 8338 0313. Entries close 27 July.

A house in Thornley Street, Marrickville won the Marrickville Medal on 5 May. Full report next newsletter.

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

SITE OF
"STUDIO ANNA"
1954 - 1999
THE POTTERY OPERATED BY
SCULPTOR AND ARTIST
KAREL JUNGVRT

Vale Harold Welsh

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Harold Kirkland Welsh** on 6 April 2018 aged 92. When residents of Corunna Road, Stanmore, Harold and his wife Gwenda belonged to the Stanmore Society before joining MHS in 1994. Harold was MHS Treasurer from 1994 to 1998 and was the first MHS Public Officer from 1997 (until 2001) during which time he oversaw revision of the constitution of the Society prior to MHS becoming incorporated. In the mid to late 1990s Harold and Gwenda coordinated newsletter deliveries and were runners. Harold assisted Angela Phippen in the project *Marrickville Remembers* (involving over 100 taped interviews of people recalling life in Marrickville during WWII). Angela and Harold were co-authors of the resulting 1998 book.

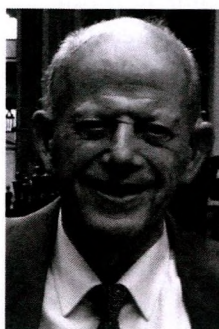


Harold was an engineer by profession. In 2001 they relocated to a retirement village on the central coast. Harold became active in his local Landcare group. He was highly regarded and well-liked by all. Our condolences to Gwenda and her family.

Richard Blair

Vale Keith Levitt

For **Keith Robert Levitt**, April was the month in which he was born, got married and died (on the 29th). Born in 1923, he lived in his Jersey Street Marrickville house for his entire life until he and his wife Lila moved into a Marrickville nursing home about six months ago. He and Lila were married in 1953 and had one child, Michelle. After war service he got a job as a 'temporary clerk' with the Dept of Repatriation (now Veterans Affairs) and found himself still there 37 years later.



Foremost among his hobbies, he was a handy woodworker turning out bookshelves, cabinets, carved serving platters, jewel boxes etc. They were MHS members along with Michelle, son-in-law Ross Phillips and Ross's brother Ian.

Enlisting with the RAAF in 1942, Keith in 1943 transferred to the RAF

where his squadron 'was involved in "Top Secret" activities that were to jam radio and radar and create misleading information, like

dropping metal ribbons that would give a radar impression of aircrafts in one place to draw the Luftwaffe there while the real bombers went another way.' As reported in the July-August 2015 newsletter in 2014 he was awarded the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) at the War Memorial in Hyde Park, Sydney. In honour of 65 years of marriage Keith and Lila received greetings from the Queen and others whilst Keith was formally recognised by the PM and others for turning 95. Our condolences to Lila and her family. (Information and photos provided by Ross Phillips.)

