

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



Our July Meeting

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum,
The Oaks & NSW Rail Museum, Thirlmere
Saturday 21 July 8.45 for 9 am sharp departure
Note: Excursion a week earlier than usual

Cost \$60 includes coach, Devonshire Tea (or coffee) on arrival at The Oaks, museum entry fees incl. guides and tours, lunch (sandwiches and a sweet treat) at the Rail Museum, tea/coffee before homeward journey.

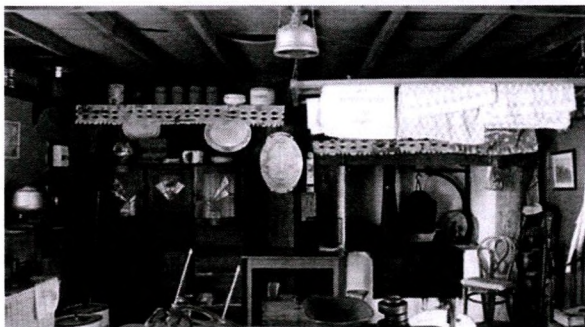
Meet opposite Petersham Town Hall

Pay on the day (or in advance to MHS account)

Expected return by 5 pm at Petersham

Bookings: Judy - <judithoc@bigpond.net.au> or 0419 414 361. Please advise if you have to cancel

These two towns, close together in the Wollondilly Shire, hold a wealth of history in their two major museums. The **Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum** has extensive photographic records, family and local history, as well as specialist collections such as Burratorang, Yerranderie, coal mining and Indigenous history. It is home to The Oaks Historical Society, of which MHS is a member, courtesy of one of our own members (photo: from Centre's website).



NSW Rail Museum with state-of-the-art facilities, houses Australia's largest collection of rail exhibits. It includes a Governor General's carriage, a prison van (whose like operated for nearly a century), a steam machine, a mail van typifying travelling post offices, a luxury dining car, and several steam locomotives, among them the first one to cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the 6040 Garratt, 'the heaviest and most powerful steam locomotive to ever turn a wheel in Australia'. Being a Saturday there will be no train ride.

Treasurer **Diane McCarthy** reports a good response from renewal notices and thanks members who have made donations and/or expressed appreciation of the Society in notes forwarded with renewals. A query relates to a direct deposit made 22 May Reference: 'Membership Subs \$20', but no name given. If you think this is yours and have yet to get a receipt please ring Diane 9588 4930 after 11 July. Thank you.

Our August Meeting

Hidden in Plain View: The Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney with Dr Paul Irish
Saturday 25 August 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville

In his talk **Paul Irish** will explore the unexpected and rich history of the continuing Aboriginal use of coastal Sydney throughout the nineteenth century. Contrary to what you may think, local Aboriginal people did not lose their culture and die out within decades of Governor Phillip's arrival in Sydney in 1788. Based on his recent book *Hidden in Plain View: the Aboriginal People of Coastal Sydney*, Paul will discuss what happened to Sydney's Aboriginal people between the devastating impact of white settlement and increased government intervention a century later.

Paul Irish is a Sydneysider who works as an historian and archaeologist with Coast History & Heritage. For over ten years he has been piecing together the Aboriginal history of coastal Sydney with researchers from the La Perouse Aboriginal community.

Our Annual General Meeting: 23 June Who's who on the new committee

President **Scott MacArthur** welcomed members to the 34th Annual General Meeting at Herb Greedy Hall. Secretary **Mary Oakenfull** read the minutes of the 2017 AGM; Scott presented the president's report which included a review of Heritage Watch; treasurer **Diane McCarthy** and publications editor **Richard Blair** presented their reports.

All committee positions were declared vacant and **Bill Tarrant** presided as Returning Officer. With 12 nominations for 12 positions and no nominations from the floor, the following were elected: president, **Scott MacArthur**; vice presidents, **Iain Carolin** and **Ian Phillips**; treasurer, **Diane McCarthy**; secretary, **Mary Oakenfull**; assistant secretary, **Lorraine Beach**; committee members: **Rod Aanensen**, **Gayle Adams**, **Richard Blair**, **Jan Garaty**, **Robert Hutchinson** and **Judy O'Connor**.

After some announcements, members then tucked into a hearty lunch provided by **Lorraine, Mary, Judy, Gayle, Robert, Diane** and **Lynne (Gowland)**.

Richard Blair

Note: In the wake of the AGM this email was received: 'As a reasonably new member of MHS, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire committee for all their hard work and their time given freely to our wonderful Society. It is much appreciated.'

June Warren

Marrickville Medal 2018

The 2018 Built Environment Awards were presented on Saturday 5 May at the Kirkbride Theatre, Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle, which included the presentation of the Marrickville Medal for Conservation. MHS President **Scott MacArthur** was a member of the judging panel. The guest speaker was author and architecture critic **Dr Elizabeth Farrelly**, who provided her typically drolle and passionate observations in her address – 'Inner West: creating sustainable density'. She said:

The inner west – what I think of as the 'inner left' – offers a natural home to Sydney's creative energies. Its convoluted history and complex footprint, its terrace houses and warehouses easily accommodate the life of the mind. This is an aesthetic quality, as much as a question of physics, and there is a real danger that let-rip high-rise redevelopment will destroy the very flavours people love.

The Marrickville Medal was won by the conservation and sensitive extension of *Elerslie*, an historic Victorian villa at **40 Thornley Street Marrickville**. Originally built for local coachmaker Alexander Stephens, over the years it had been so heavily altered that it was unrecognisable as a Victorian era building. Architect-owners **Heidi Pronk** and **Neil Mackenzie** removed all the intrusive insertions, restored the facade and balcony, and crafted a beautiful and functional extension for their family home (see images below).

Because of the high quality of entries, other commendable projects were acknowledged with the following awards:

Highly Commended

- **65 Reynolds Street Balmain**: conservation of an historic Victorian semi, with a contemporary addition of an off-axis 'peekaboo' window with views to nearby Punch Park;
- **102 Beattie Street Balmain**: a warehouse conservation and adaptive reuse as apartments;
- **203 Nelson Street Annandale**: a smart conservation and extension of a weatherboard cottage as a stylish family home.

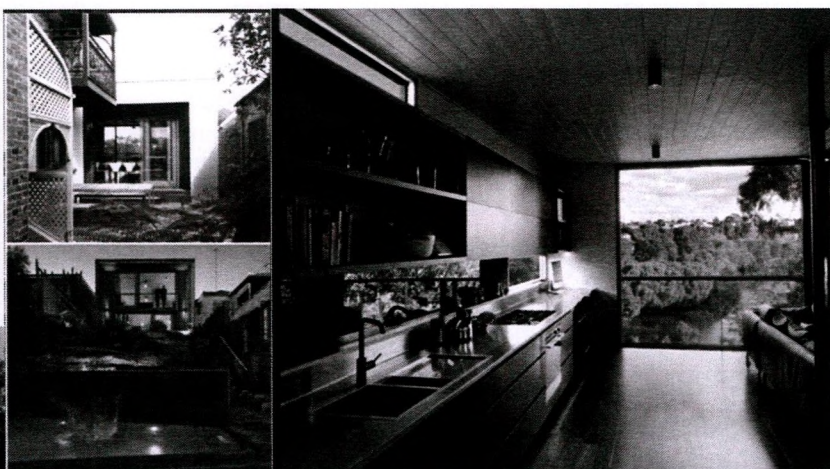
An **Encouragement Award** went to **3 Jersey Street Marrickville**: a 20-year labour of love to return a blitzed Federation villa to its original appearance, and provide the neighbourhood with a new heritage landmark.

The **Inner West Urban Photography Competition** encourages residents to engage with the Inner West Council urban landscape, this year's theme being Recognition and Repurpose. The winners were –

- Open category: Julie Gabriel with 'New Canterbury Road';
- Secondary school category: Evan Black with 'Two Faced'; and
- Primary school category: Charlie Moore with 'Pidge-on-Ridge'.

The **Inner West Sustainability Award** recognises the contribution sustainable architecture and building works make to our community. There was no winner but the warehouse conversion at **102 Beattie Street Balmain** was Commended (Designer: Carter Williamson).

Scott MacArthur



40 Thornley St Marrickville before and after shots and other exteriors; at right: kitchen looking towards Cooks River (courtesy Inner West Council)

Our May Outing (26 May)

La Perouse, Kamay Botany Bay National Park

Tours of historic La Perouse and the fort on nearby Bare Island (named by Captain Cook) gave us some vivid glimpses of indigenous and early European life. In April 1770, the Goorawal/Gweagal people got their first glimpse of Europeans when Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay. The longboat that went ashore was met by two warriors who held their ground until one took a musket shot to the leg. No further encounters are recorded. Cook left eight days later but would have seen humpies on the shore, smoke from cooking fires, perhaps even fires onboard canoes fishing at night. He might have noticed people in possum skin coats which, our guide told us, were sewn with needles fashioned from echidna quills.

18 years on, local people would have seen the First Fleet stop over briefly before relocating to Port Jackson. Coincidentally, La Perouse also arrived then, by way of Samoa, at the head of a French scientific expedition. He stayed for six weeks to make astronomical observations, collect scientific specimens and build longboats. The locals must have rubbed up against the Frenchmen because there are records of La Perouse's men firing on them.

A century later it was the colonists who had cause to fear invasion so Botany Bay, the 'backdoor' to Sydney, was fortified, in line with Sydney Harbour. The construction of Bare Island Fort was completed in 1885. The garrison of up to 77 soldiers initially lived there in tents and then in barracks. Our tour group, standing on their parade ground and walking through the tunnels to their magazine stores and gun placements could experience a virtual walk back in time.

Little has changed on the island except for the removal of some of the guns and the necessary conservation against the salt air of the two cannons remaining. Most of the guns faced out to the bay but one was trained on the adjacent beach in case of invasion from over the sandhills to the north! The fort became a home for war veterans (a first) in 1911.

Visiting the adjacent Cable Station Museum also aided our appreciation of this historic site and its well preserved layers of occupation as did a beautiful autumn day with sparkling seas. Thanks to **Mary Oakenfull** for organising this very stimulating day.

Gayle Adams & Jan Garaty

President's Annual Report 2017-18

This is my sixth year as president of the Society and I want to thank all our members for their contributions to making this such a successful year. We continue to attract new members, and have great turnouts for our talks and outings. The highlight of the year was the launch of our journal, *Heritage* 15, our biggest, and perhaps, best journal yet. This high quality publication is a credit to all of its authors, and reflects the time, dedication and sheer hard work that Richard and Lorraine invested in its creation. Another highlight was the long weekend coach trip to Carcoar that introduced many of our members to the delightful Bathurst-Blayney region. Vice president Rod Aanensen and I were pleased to represent the Society at the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on the former Studio Anna pottery in Shepherd Street Marrickville, realising author Dorothy Johnston's long term promise to the late potter, sculptor and artist Karel Jungvirt. Rod was also a guest speaker at the rededication of the first Marrickville Town Hall as the Atlas Community Centre. And of course, our annual potluck dinner, hosted by John and Louise in their lovely Petersham abode, was a convivial evening.

Successful bus trips were arranged to the former munitions factory in Lithgow and to La Perouse (report opposite). Closer to home, we teamed up with Ashfield and District Historical Society for a very interesting walking tour along the Hawthorne Canal, which thankfully has been rehabilitated from its former state as an open sewer for the industries on its banks. Last July, we also had an enjoyable walking tour of Leichhardt with Patrick Callahan that revealed traces of the suburb's lost industries and competition between the major churches and business for prime real estate and cemeteries!

We were entertained and enlightened by an eclectic collection of guest speakers. Richard Whitaker showed how the replacement of working horses with motor cars between the arrival of the Model T Ford and World War II changed Sydney roads, bridges and planning dramatically. Anne Field related some of the stories behind her 20 years of research into Moorfield Racecourse in Sydney's south which in its heyday hosted Melbourne Cup winners, but is now a housing estate with a high school and TAFE. Angela Phippen revealed that a prolific surveyor of the district's streets and properties, George Hedgeland, was a stained glass craftsman in England before he emigrated to Australia. There is no evidence that he ever practiced that craft in Australia, but his legacy of meticulous site survey notebooks is preserved in State Archives. Deborah Beck's talk on Rayner Hoff provided a glimpse of his stellar career and family life, set against the exotic backdrop of the Sydney College of the Arts in the 1920s and 1930s. While his many glorious sculptures are a wonderful part of our cultural life, one wonders what he would have achieved if not for his premature death aged 42. Lisa Murray encouraged us all to spend our weekends visiting Sydney's fascinating cemeteries – perhaps not to write a field guide as she did, but to savour the history, architecture and serenity of these sacred spaces.

In Heritage Watch matters, the past year has been dominated by the development pressures arising from the Sydenham-Bankstown Metro, with property

developers large and small swooping on residential and industrial sites in our area, looking to take advantage of the State Government's plans to increase residential density. The proposed overdevelopment of East Carrington Road (including the former General Motors Holden factory) in Marrickville was withdrawn after strident objections from the community, and is being replanned with input from a community advisory panel. In Dulwich Hill, the proposed demolition of a fine California bungalow in The Boulevarde for an apartment building was halted (at least temporarily) by Council intervening and establishing an Interim Heritage Order on the property. The Society hopes that this will eventually protect the building with a heritage listing. Building works for the new library and apartments are under way at the former Marrickville Hospital site, following the earlier demolition of the three Livingstone Road Victorian villas, which we had tried hard to save. Council is consulting with the Society about the historical interpretation of the hospital site, but they are remaining tight-lipped about the future of the Local Studies collection and MHS getting a room.

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their contributions of time, hard work and good cheer that make our Society the envy of many. With some committee members having serious health issues through the year, we are relieved that you are on the mend, and grateful that you have agreed to continue on the committee for another year.

Scott MacArthur

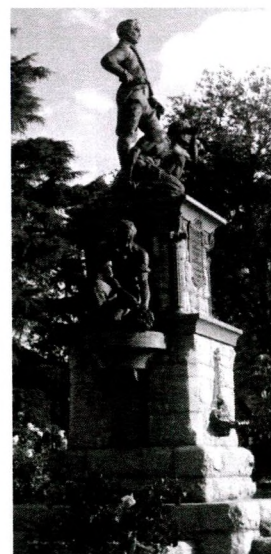
Gilbert Doble statues in Bathurst

On the Society's recent stopover in Bathurst en route to Carcoar, I spotted a couple of two statues in the main park designed by Gilbert Doble. The Evans Memorial (pictured below) depicts surveyor George Evans with a crouching naked Wiradjuri man, both looking westward. Doble, after winning a design competition in 1915, created it in 1916. It was unveiled in 1920 by the NSW Governor Sir Walter Davidson.

Nearby is the arched Boer War Memorial (designed by John Copeman) inside which is a statue of a life size soldier, which was designed by Doble in 1909. Doble based the figure on a photo of Lt. Col. John Hawkey MC, but the live model was John Oscar Jackson, who lived near Doble's studio in Marrickville. Unveiled in 1910, the signage indicates this war memorial was unusual as 'Doble was a staunch anti-war and anti-conscription supporter [who] after World War One, abandoned references to modern warfare in his war memorials, instead depicting women in mourning or representations of victory' (later exemplified in his Winged Victory, recently relocated to the AWM).

In 1994 'the original electroplated copper statue was restored and is now located in the Bathurst RSL, with a solid silica replica in its place'.

Richard Blair



Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 21 July (a week earlier than usual)
Bus trip to The Oaks & Rail Museum, Thirlmere
 Details on front page

Saturday 25 August
Paul Irish: *Hidden in Plain View*
 Details on front page

Saturday 22 September
Tours of Sydney Botanic Gardens & The Con

Sunday 15 July Historical Festival and Open Day at
 The Arms of Australia Inn Museum, Cnr Great
 Western Highway & Gardenia Avenue, Emu Plains

MHS member **David Bowron** is also a member of the **Victoria Barracks Corps of Guides**. He wishes to let other MHS members know that free guided tours of Victoria Barracks are conducted Thursday mornings at 10 am. Entry to the Barracks is via the Pass Office on Moore Park Road, east of Greens Road. Visitors should arrive about 9.30 am, 'ready to be processed'. As this is a working Army Base, photographic ID is compulsory. The Barracks were built by Maj. Gen. George Barney, a commanding Royal Engineer, 1841-48, and have a classification 'A' by the National Trust. Entry to the Army Museum in the grounds is \$5 an adult and \$2 a child. Bookings to the museum only can be made on 8335 5330. For further info on the free guided tours, ring David 0447 600 966, and he will be pleased to give.

Archive Corner

For 1-2 two years a small band of volunteers (mostly MHS members) have been putting in a few hours each week at Marrickville Library & History Services cataloguing donated material from across the Inner West LGA. Items range from photographs in a range of formats, CDs, diaries, manuscripts, records of clubs, organisations and events, silver trowels, shields, trophies, plaques, a wedding dress, bricks and a vast range of other paraphernalia. In future newsletters, we will specify some of this interesting trove, which is accessible by staff and the public for research.

Mary Oakenfull & Richard Blair

Winter Trivia Question

Not surprisingly, this mansion in the area covered by the former Marrickville LGA no longer exists. What was its name, where was it and who may have lived there? Richard 9557 3823 or c/- email address below.



Time capsule at Marrickville Hospital!

In October 2012, member Barbara Burnett, advised me that when working at Marrickville Hospital several years ago a time capsule was placed on the site, she thinks in recognition of new works. In an email, Barbara revealed there were:

double green doors at the entrance to an emergency room where the builder put the capsule under the floor when the room was built. I left the hospital in February 1982 but I think the room was built in the late 1970s. The spot where it was placed was said to be marked with an arrow in the cement. See my recent photo.

I passed this information on to Kate Napier, Heritage & Urban Advisor, Marrickville Council. Kate notified William Blunt, Executive Manager Major Projects, who emailed me to say that the building with the double green doors was not being demolished as part of the Early Works. He said it would be sussed out; however, I never heard any more about it, and Kate and William are no longer attached to the current council.

In early June 2018, in the presence of our committee, I asked Caroline McLeod, Group Manager Library & History Services, and Amie Zar, Community History & Heritage Coordinator, about the time capsule. Neither was aware of it. I later referred the relevant emails and photo to them. They said they would follow it up, but *importantly, the public needs to know if this building is still there, and if it is, why the capsule can't be located asap.*

It's a worry when such information is lost amidst an environment of regular changes to the system (merging of councils), to personnel (ongoing) and plans (ever-evolving). Why was this information not recorded anywhere? Why was it not passed on? Can we be sure the matter will be followed up or will this time capsule subterraneously remain for all time?

Richard Blair

Barbara Burnett's 2012 photo (blurred, as taken through barriers) of the building said to contain a time capsule, at the former Marrickville Hospital site. Arrow indicates relevant building.



Some members may be interested in the newly formed **Probus Club of Marrickville**. This is a chance to meet other retirees (although one doesn't have to be retired to join), listen to interesting speakers and take part in activities. The venue is Marrickville Golf Club, Wharf Street Marrickville and they meet at 10 am on the third Monday each month. To register your interest, email Heather on <heather.smallbone@gmail.com> or ring her on 0411 359 875.

Correction re the late Harold Welsh: In sending MHS a card of appreciation following the obituary on Harold in our May-June newsletter, Gwenda Welsh pointed out that Harold was no engineer, but worked for the CSIRO for 40 years as a research chemist.

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