

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

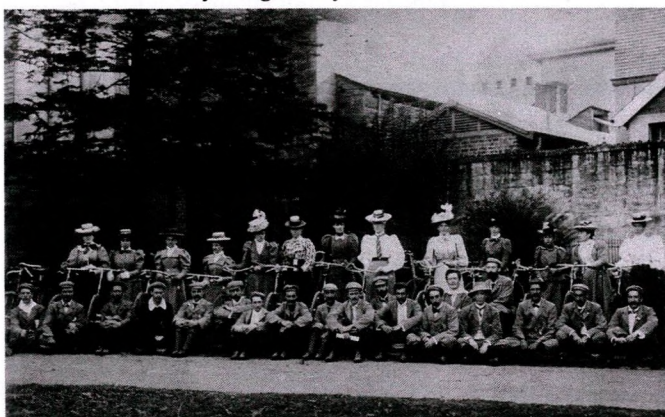
LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



Our November Meeting

Cycling communities: Bicycle clubs in Australia with an emphasis on Sydney
Saturday 24 November 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 73 Petersham Rd Marrickville

The formation and popularity of bicycle clubs in Australia closely reflects the costs of purchasing a bicycle. In the 1860s it was largely a pastime for the rich and affluent, and by the 1890s it widened to include the middle classes. However, by the turn of the 20th century, opportunities to own a bicycle opened up for the first time to the working classes. As a result bicycle clubs flourished throughout Australia. The decades after World War II saw a growth in wealth and the increasing affordability of the motor car. By the 1970s, bicycle users had turned away from the low tech bicycle towards the now affordable car. However, by c. 2000 the bicycle acquired new meanings and practicalities and the charm of bicycles was discovered yet again by new affluent classes.



Petersham Waratah Rovers (1896)

Marc Rerceretnam is a Sydney-based researcher and heads the research consultancy Yesteryear Heritage Researchers. A published author and social historian, he has a PhD (Economic History) from Sydney University and a special interest in social and political trends and movements in colonial and present-day Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. He is president of the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club and co-organiser of the annual Sydney Classic Bicycle Show.

Welcome to new members

Lyndal Gowland, Dulwich Hill; Leo Clayton, Lewisham; Deborah Bourke, Scott Brunson, Margaret Macauley, Nerida Phelps, all of Marrickville; Anne McGrath, Croydon Park; Christopher Dellit, Earlwood; Vanessa Berry, Paul Irish, Richard Whitaker, all of Sydney; Maurene Plater, Woollooware; Don Doherty, Mooloolaba, Qld.

The President and committee members wish members a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 23 February
The Aussies of East Nanjing Road:
talk by Scott MacArthur
Saturday 23 March
Exploring Marrickville's industrial heritage on
Carrington Road: walk led by Louisa King
Saturday 27 April
Story of the MV *Krait* and Operation Jaywick:
talk by Mervyn Rosen

Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday 1 December 6 pm

For the first time our annual Pot Luck Dinner will be held in an abode in Hurlstone Park. It's in easy walking distance from Hurlstone Park station and New Canterbury Road (418, 428 and 445 bus routes). Ample street parking. Book with Lorraine on <lbeach@iprimus.com.au> or 0416 224 472 to advise what food you'd like to bring, and find out the address. BYO drink.

The *Inner West Courier* has organised four local history groups to write articles for its weekly rag in a column called *Times Past*. The groups are: Ashfield & District Historical Society, City of Canada Bay Heritage Society, Marrickville Heritage Society and The Glebe Society. Look beyond page 20. The first MHS entry, expected to run in mid November, will commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day 1918.

Clearly fewer Christmas cards are sent these days, but once taken down, rather than put in the recycling, why not cut off the front and donate to a pre-school where kids can find a creative use for them! For further information contact Richard c/- MHS.

How to join Marrickville Heritage Society

Marrickville Heritage Society monitors our built and environmental heritage, and promotes our history. To join, send a cheque made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone/s and email, or pay by direct debit. By joining now membership goes up to June 2020. Contact Diane 9588 4930 or email address at foot of back page for enquiries, a brochure or direct debit details. Fees (unchanged since 2003): Concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28.

2018 MHS Publications Report

We were pleased to bring out the latest MHS journal *Heritage* 15 in March and have it memorably launched at the Town & Country Hotel in St Peters. This is by far the largest journal the Society has produced and compensates somewhat for the fact that our journals do not appear as frequently as desirable. But journals don't write themselves and we receive less copy than we once did. I would like to again thank those who contributed articles and for their cooperation during the compilation phase. As editor, my role was facilitated enormously by Lorraine Beach, who not only did a splendid job with layout and design, but was a sounding board and a clarifier with a host of ideas.

Among other innovations in this journal were the listing of MHS presidents, past and present life members, and dispensing of advertising which we had found very labour intensive for the return involved and which allowed more space for articles. As always, the journal is distributed free of charge to current members at the time of publication; but the committee also decided to keep the sale price to only marginally above cost. As such, \$15 is most reasonable for a journal of this size (92 pp) with colour images throughout. We encourage members to purchase extra copies for friends and family. Of course, a larger journal means postage costs more, but we were able to get a significant number home-delivered, thanks largely to our loyal runners; whilst there were further savings by posting the journal with the May newsletter.

Talking of runners, I thank our regulars – Rod Aanensen, Mary Barthelmy, Lu Bell, Richard Blair, '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 – and those who deputised. Thanks also to our drivers who escort Ian Phillips in delivering newsletters to runners: Anna Breinl, Lucille Dunstan, John Mara and Graeme Napier.

Special mention is made of: Pamela Stewart, who has notched up over 20 years as postal secretary; Ian Phillips, who keeps us all amused; Diane McCarthy, who unfailingly produces the labels for envelopes, delivers to St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe runners and does special deliveries in the district as required; and Hillary Goldsmith for her reliable and incisive proofreading.

Throughout my 24 years as editor my final thanks was invariably to Shirley Hilyard, a long term Society stalwart who was an invaluable asset to the quality of the newsletter. Shirley is still with us, but has been in a nursing home now for some time, largely oblivious to the world around her. I miss Shirley's commitment and expertise. My final thanks go to the rest of the committee, and not least of all, to our president Scott MacArthur, who both inspires us and leads the way in our efforts towards heritage conservation.

Richard Blair

The **Dulwich Hill Fair** on 16 September and the **Marrickville Festival** on 21 October were a huge success with good sales, and festivalgoers more than ever interested in the history of their property and aware of the gradual destruction of local heritage. We also gained new members. Thanks to Lorraine, Rod, Diane, Jan, Pamela, Scott, Gayle, Nick, Ian, Jocelyn and Imogen for their assistance at both events.

Iain Carolin

2018 RAHS Conference at Port Macquarie

The Royal Australian Historical Society, with which Marrickville Heritage Society is affiliated, held its annual conference on 20-21 October at Port Macquarie. The society was represented by **Robert Hutchinson, Pamela Stewart and Jan Garaty**. It is 200 years since John Oxley's expedition travelled to the mouth of the Hastings River and the name Port Macquarie was recorded. Oxley was Surveyor General and many of the presentations were based on the conference theme of 'Surveying the Past, Mapping the Present'. The commemoration next year of the 1919 Spanish Flu pandemic also led to interesting presentations and a Monday morning workshop conducted by Dr Peter Hobbins at the spacious modern town library.

The weekend was most productive and all papers allowed time for questions and discussion. The hospitality of the Port Macquarie Historical Society was outstanding and their Friday night welcome at their excellent museum, which Robert had helped to set up, was most enjoyable. One presentation, in particular, was thought provoking as it was from the point of view of those who saw Oxley as the invader of the lands and fishing places they knew so well. Of the few colonial era buildings that remain in the town, a memorable one is St Thomas's Church (1824) which closely resembles St Matthew's, Windsor. Robert was resplendent in his kilt at the dinner.

Pamela Stewart as the MHS nominee was presented with a **Certificate of Achievement** by RAHS President Christine Yeats (see below). Part of her citation reads: she 'has always been valued for her practical suggestions and assistance . . . [and] is a quiet achiever . . .'

Jan Garaty



Our 22 September outing – Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney and Conservatorium of Music

'There is one advantage which the town enjoys in the number of pleasant walks in the Botanic Gardens and the Government Domain' (Charles Darwin, 1836).

And so began a tour at Farm Cove of Australia's oldest scientific institution, established by Governor Phillip as the first farm by European settlers on the Australian continent in 1788 and cultivated ever since. A plaque marks this site, chosen for the creek that roughly follows the same course of 1788 in this first attempt to grow crops. The original occupiers of the area, the Cadigal people, put their unique knowledge of the local flora to good use as a food source and manufacture of various implements such as fishing hooks, bags and glue which set like cement. Many trees were planted in the early 1800s. Signs explain the history and benefits of plants, some commemorate notable scientists and, sadly, others warn of the consequences of the theft of plants.

John Carne Bidwell (1815-1853), first director of the Gardens in 1847, is credited with the discovery of *Agathis robusta*, the Queensland Kauri Pine, a specimen of which was planted in 1853 and is now one of the tallest trees in the Gardens. Also of interest were a Macadamia tree in flower; the site of the first Wishing Tree planted in 1818, but removed in 1945 due to rot; the endangered tropical tree *Chrysophyllum imperiale*, native to Rio de Janeiro, planted by Prince Alfred, the first British Royal visitor to Australia, in 1868; and the Wollemi Pine, a relic of an 'ancient past', discovered in 1994. Our thanks to guides **Paul Nicholson** and **Phillip Armstrong** for imparting their extensive knowledge of the gardens.

Iain Carolin

Next to the Gardens, the **Conservatorium of Music** is one of Australia's oldest music schools. The original building, a stable, was built by Governor Macquarie (without authority) for the proposed Government House. It is the only extant building in the Gothic Picturesque style designed by colonial architect Francis Greenway, although some of the design may be attributed to Elizabeth Macquarie. Its cost and extravagance was one of the reasons Macquarie was recalled to England. By the 1840s, with the completion of Government House, the stable was fully functional, accommodating the Governor's horses and servants, and remained in active use until the advent of the car around 1900. After falling into disrepair, the stable was converted into a music school in 1915, among its modifications the construction of the Verbrugghen Hall (named after the school's first director, Henri Verbrugghen). Over the next 80 years, the former stables were modified and extended, but by the mid 1990s, the government recognised that the building required a full renovation, with restoration of the stables. The extensive demolition, excavation and construction works resulted in the discovery of a vast amount of archaeological material. Many of the artefacts recovered from wells and garbage pits around the former stables and some areas of in situ archaeology (including Colonial brick dish and box drains, cisterns and sandstone paving) are on display in the main foyer. The foundations of Palmer's bakehouse and a 1790s well can be seen under the renovated Verbrugghen Hall. To stop the intrusion of city noise, including helicopters and a train tunnel just metres under the building, special concrete roofs and rubber acoustic isolation pad footings were constructed. Thanks to our guide **Scott MacArthur** who arranged access (via a men's toilet) to the archaeological remains.

Iain Carolin & Scott MacArthur

Vale Verona Rothwell (nee Needham)

Verona Rothwell died on 11 September aged 97. Verona was a founding MHS member who served on various Society committees in the 1980s. Her mother Amy Needham came from a pioneering Marrickville family and after her death in 1991 (aged 101), Verona set up a fund for what became known as the Amy Needham Award. She helped facilitate this award for the benefit of primary school students.

Verona was a childhood friend of fellow member Joy Lewis, whose mother was an elocution teacher. Verona's daughter Sandra said: "As a child living in [Randall Street] Marrickville, Verona had a stutter so her Mum sent her around to Mrs Lewis's home for elocution lessons. Verona would stand at the front door saying 'goo goo good morn morning M m Mrs Le Le Lewis'. Mrs Lewis would say 'Verona, just stand quietly and say good morning Mrs Lewis', which Mum instantly did."

She later studied singing at The Con, sang in various choirs and choral groups, and during WWII, sang at the Stage Door Canteen in the city where the stars of stage and radio entertained the troops. In the 1950s she was a member of and performer in Rowe Street Musicals. She and her husband Albert were active in Blackheath Red Cross, The Rhododendron Society, The Theatre Organ Society and other organisations.

Verona, who spent most of her adult life living in the Sutherland Shire, led a full and fulfilling life, was always bright and cheerful and willing to help others. Our condolences to Sandra and other family members.

Richard Blair

Our October meeting: Saturday 27 October Vanessa Berry's *Mirror Sydney*

Thank you to writer, artist and blogger **Vanessa Berry** who eloquently shared her observations in an enjoyable and informative talk. *Mirror Sydney* is based on the blog she started in 2012 – a reflective atlas of unpredictable Sydney suburbs, including our local area. There were engrossing stories of shops as expressions of their character owners, such as the pink and mauve facade with curved windows of the former Marie-Louise hairdressing salon on Enmore Road, Enmore. Owned by sibling hairdressers George and Nola Mezher, they used their 1982 first prize lottery win (using numbers from Saints' birthdays) to start Our Lady of Snows charity with a soup kitchen near Central Railway Station. After Nola died in 2009 the hairdressing salon remained long closed, but once sold, the new owners (Stanbuli, a restaurant) were obliged to retain the unique facade.

Another memorial shop, also with curved windows, was Koles Foto on Liverpool Road, Ashfield. It incorporated two stores – manchester and photo equipment. Vanessa had interviewed Mr Koles and learnt that this Russian couple journeyed from Harbin, China, to Australia after WWII. Their Anglicized surname sign was in yellow and red, not unlike the Kodak theme. Some of the old photo gear is now housed at Sydney Super 8 on King Street, south Newtown. Another gem was Knispel Hardware on Parramatta Road, Leichhardt, which has also closed with the building now boarded up.

Elsewhere in Sydney we saw Sydney Harbour Bridge replicas, including one as a war memorial in Callan Park, and the 30 metre long bridge added in 1988 at Peter Warren's car dealership on the Hume Highway, Warwick Farm. The actual Harbour Bridge south-east Pylon Lookout display is now a museum rather than the tourist attraction it was before and after WWII which housed tea rooms, a post office, model railway, white cats and the infamous 'pashometer', which purported to measure sex appeal! Eiffel tower-like structures were noted – the TV towers at Artarmon and the city's AWA House, once the tallest building in Sydney – as well as the Domain Express Footway (1961) under St James station with a newspaper report that the footway 'ate' a man's trousers! Another overlooked landmark is the colourful mural on our meeting place, Herb Greedy Hall.

Much more can be enjoyed in Vanessa Berry's book *Mirror Sydney* (Giromondo, 304 pp, 2017, \$40).

Pamela Stewart



History Corner

As usual, the items processed during recent sessions at Marrickville Library were numerous and varied, mostly recording our local history but also including some exotic items from around the world. One of the most exquisite items was a folder of folk paintings from Dong Ho Village (Lang Tranh Dong Ho) in Vietnam. There are 40 beautiful pictures depicting people, animals and scenes handpainted on silk paper using watercolour and fruit dye. This village is renowned for this type of art and these must surely be amongst its best examples.

Nearer to home, Marrickville Library received a large donation of memorabilia related to local identity, the late Mick Mazza, who was a cycling champion and ran a bicycle business in Marrickville for many years. The items include trophies, numerous awards, prizes, scrap books (including two described 'Jeff Fenech fan') and photos of Mick's shops.

Correction to last newsletter report: We incorrectly cited the donation of surgical instruments once owned by Dr John Kennedy-Gould. Member Margie Kennedy-Gould has advised these instruments correctly:

belonged to **Dr John Araluen Kennedy** who established his medical practice in 1920, initially in Dulwich Hill and from 1924 at the Kennedy family home in Marrickville on the corner of Marrickville and Livingstone Roads [which was recently sold]. The practice was taken on by his son **Dr John Anthony Kennedy** in 1954 until his retirement in 1995, and was continued by his son (and my brother) **Dr John Patrick Kennedy** until the present day. The practice relocated in 1982 to South Street Marrickville. So, three generations of Dr John Kennedys!

To add to the mix, Margie Kennedy married Dr John Kennedy-Gould, who are both members of the society.

Mary Oakenfull

Summer Trivia Question

Where do we find this attractive fountain in the area covered by former Marrickville LGA? Contact Richard 9557 3823 or via the email at the foot of this page.



One of our members advises that another group she belongs to (a registered charity) recently decided to close its PO Box in the CBD as it had gone up to \$305 pa. Enquiring about a three-month redirection notice, she found it was \$297! Understandably, they opted for a compromise: a month's redirection at \$96.

Heritage Watch: Brick paving in Canonbury Grove, Dulwich Hill

MHS members Ruth Olip and John Shreeve have brought to the Society's attention the shameful actions of the NBN contractor working in their street, Canonbury Grove in Dulwich Hill, which is part of the South Dulwich Hill Heritage Conservation Area. The contractors installing NBN pits have destroyed sections of the brick footpaths with bricks removed for the pit construction, and concrete poured over the remaining bricks.

Ruth points out that she and her neighbours fought very hard in the 1980s to retain the footpaths when council was in the process of removing the bricks from the north side of Canonbury Grove. Council's heritage listing describes these brick footpaths as being Depression-era unemployment relief works and an important feature of this conservation area. The Society has asked Council to require that the NBN contractors rectify these damaged footpaths, and establish guidelines to protect other brick footpaths and kerbs throughout our area.

Scott MacArthur

Spring Trivia Answer

This one stumped the membership! The creator's name probably won't mean much, but anyone (over a certain age!) will remember the comic strip *Boofhead*.



Diane McCarthy takes up the story:

Robert (Bob) Bruce Clarke was born in c. 1910 and by the 1940s lived with his wife Melva (nee Fallick) and family at 18 Brereton Avenue Marrickville, next door to my friend Yvonne Smith and around the corner from me. They continued living there throughout the 1950s. His occupation was textile worker, but it was as a cartoonist where he made his name. He created *Boofhead* in 1939 and the comic strip ran in Sydney's *Daily Mirror* from 12 May 1941 ending on 25 July 1970 following Clarke's death. Several *Boofhead* annuals also appeared. Clarke was a gentle, quiet man who gave thousands of his original drawings to the Spastic Centre for the children to use in colour exercise. When he died he was living at 8 Coonong Road, Concord West, and his occupation was given as draughtsman. His nephew was long time journalist the late Mike Gibson.

Thanks to Diane for her question/answer and **Anna-Bella Silva** for advising Clarke's Marrickville address.

Rod Cox and **Megan Hicks** indicated that the creator of *Ginger Meggs*, Jimmy Bancks, was born in 1889 in Enmore. Sands Directory shows his family lived for about four years in lower Metropolitan Road Enmore.

Richard Blair

President Scott 0416 152 501
Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501
Treasurer Diane 9588 4930
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