

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



## Our February Meeting

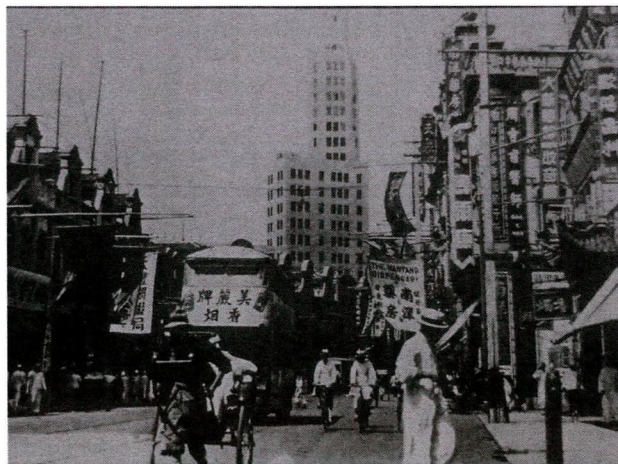
**The Aussies of East Nanjing Road  
talk by Scott MacArthur**

**Saturday 23 February 10.15 for 10.30 am**

**Herb Greedy Hall, 73 Petersham Rd, Marrickville**

Significant parts of Australian history and heritage were erased by fallout from the White Australia Policy. One such is the contribution made by Australians of Asian heritage to the Australian economy in the late 19th century, and to the development and modernisation of the Chinese economy at the end of the Qing Dynasty and later into the 20th century.

In this talk we will hear about how the descendants of Chinese peasants, who had fled to Australia from famine in southern China, established thriving businesses in Sydney, and then after Federation moved between Australia and China and established a number of business connections, including the first Chinese-owned department stores in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Some, like Ashfield's Mei Quong Tart, had deeper ties to Australia and chose to focus their energies here and foster cultural and business ties between their ancestral and adopted countries in the face of rising violence against foreigners. Quong Tart's death, after an attack by a 'dim-witted thug' in his tea rooms at the Queen Victoria Market Building, shocked Sydney.



East Nanjing Road, Shanghai c. 1936

Join **Scott MacArthur**, MHS President and a Shanghai Sinophile, as he reveals the intertwined histories and built heritage of Victorian Sydney's Haymarket and Shanghai's Art Deco golden age.

Members are invited to the **Carnival of Cultures** at Ashfield Park on Sunday 24 February from 10 am. Ashfield & District Historical Society will have a stall.

## LEP Heritage Review: member input

The Inner West Council is undertaking a review of the Local Environment Plan (LEP) Heritage List. The initial response of the Society to Council has been to suggest that a strategy of identifying broad objectives for the heritage LEP should be established, rather than a grab-bag wish list of scattered properties and zones that will get sidetracked by owner self-interest and developer greed.

This initial submission covers further points, such as greater heritage protection: (1) in the Sydney Metro corridor and Carrington Road Marrickville precincts, (2) in the area surrounding the new Marrickville Library site, corner of Livingstone and Marrickville Roads, and (3) for any unprotected items that are currently identified in non-statutory registers including those compiled by the National Trust and the Institute of Architects. A copy of our submission can be forwarded to any member upon request.

Members can notify us by **21 February** of potential heritage items and precincts in the Inner West Council area considered worthy of assessment for heritage protection under the LEP. These can be posted to The President, Marrickville Heritage Society, PO Box 415, Marrickville 1475 or forwarded by email to: <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au>.

**Scott MacArthur**

Submissions are now open for The **Sustainable Design Award**, recognising sustainable design works in the Inner West and The **Marrickville Medal for Conservation**, which recognises quality architecture and commitment to conserve the collective history and heritage of the Inner West Council area. Closing date **3 March**. For further information and entry forms check link below. Otherwise contact Amie Zar, Inner West Council on 9392 5817 or by email on <Amie.Zar@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>. Awards will be presented on Saturday 4 May.

[www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/whats-on/events-in-detail/built-environment-awards](http://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/whats-on/events-in-detail/built-environment-awards)

## Joining Marrickville Heritage Society is easy...

... Simply send a cheque made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below) with your name/s, address, phone and email; pay by direct debit; or by cash at one of our meetings. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for enquiries, a brochure or direct debit details; or email MHS (bottom back page). Join now and membership goes till June 2020. Fees: Concession \$12, Individual/Joint Concession \$20, Household/Organisation \$28.



## Our 24 November Meeting – Cycling communities: bicycle clubs in Australia with an emphasis on Sydney

**Marc Rerceretnam**, President of the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club – founded in 1908 by Charlie Paris and currently boasting over 500 members – presented a fascinating overview of the role of the bicycle in our society. He traced the origins of the bike from an 1817 Prussian wooden-framed design through to the modern style of 1885 onwards, incorporating a chain and pedals. Through his slides Marc showed us how bicycling was originally a pastime of the elite in the 1860s. Expensive imported bikes were superseded by cheaper locally mass-produced ones, so were available to the working classes by the early 1900s.

Bicycle clubs, often established by bike shop owners and dominated by men, flourished. Apart from competitive racing, Saturday trips to scenic picnic spots such as Bulli, Sans Souci and Wallacia were common. Clubs such as the Sydney Lady Bloomers coincided with the suffrage movement of the 1890s. Clara Maddock rode from Sydney to Melbourne in 1894 and the number of women cyclists doubled from 1896 to 1897. By WWI there were 100 bike clubs in NSW. Women struggled to be accepted as members who could compete in races due to the resistance of the NSW Amateur Cycling Union, despite the support of clubs such as Dulwich Hill. In the 1960s bike club membership began to decline with the advent of cheaper motorbikes and cars.

The Dulwich Hill Club had membership drives and continued its role mentoring children riders. By 2000, bikes were enjoying a new popularity as environmental issues increased. Sleek new bikes and fashionable riding outfits were advertised, and bike clubs gained new members who saw bicycling as a way to express their individuality and awareness, while keeping fit. Marc recently had 14 enquiries about the Dulwich Hill Club in a week. Thanks Marc for sharing your research on this interesting topic.

**Ann Fenton**

## Pot Luck Annual Dinner

**June Warren** was a most convivial host at our annual **Christmas Pot Luck Dinner** on Saturday 1 December at her Hurlstone Park home. Her deck was ideal for mingling. June turned on perfect weather, music that didn't cause eardrums to burst and she even managed



to get our president up for a dance, a feat not before achieved. June has a penchant for shoes as décor – they adorn her unit. Members provided the delectable repast (see June's pic). The Lucky Door prize (port and Xmas cake) was shared by Ian Phillips and Greg Strachan. I wonder where we'll link up next December!

**Richard Blair**

## History Corner

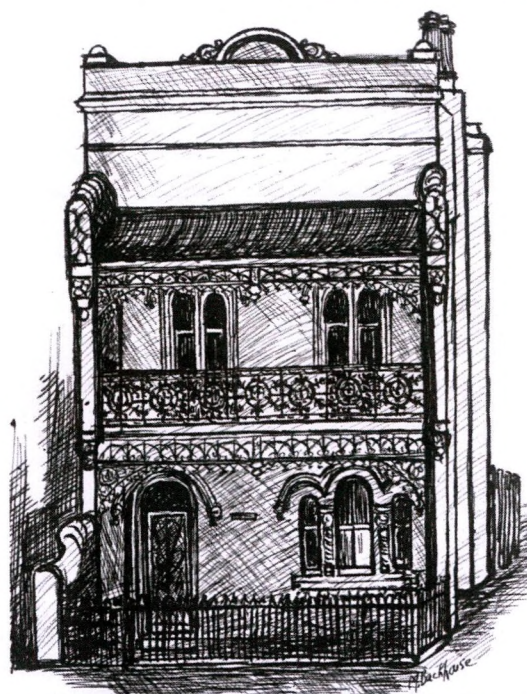
The Library & History Collection recently received a donation from Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. It consists of 49 issues of their magazine *Newtown Bridge* (September 1990–February 2001). These magazines provide interesting information for anyone interested in the Centre's history plus art, music and other cultural aspects of Newtown.

The value of the Library & History Collection is exemplified by a recent visit by members of Annette Kellerman's family who travelled from America especially to examine the collection. The visitors spent three days looking at items, including Annette's small black suitcase and a large, meticulously presented collection of the postcards she received as well as newspaper clippings and other memorabilia.



House renovators and anyone interested in our old homes will appreciate the item 'Architectural Styles'. It includes notes by Elizabeth Wolff relating to various architectural styles in the former Marrickville LGA plus stunning drawings by her (see above) and others of ironwork and balcony decorations on houses and other buildings in our area.

**Mary Oakenfull & Vilma Bell**



Mrs Murphy's house, Edinburgh Road Marrickville  
(Sketch: Margaret Backhouse)



## Vale Beverley Payne

We note the passing of **Beverley (Bev) Payne** on 5 May 2018. Bev joined the Society in February 1999 and lived in Frampton Avenue Marrickville. She was a parishioner at St Clement's Church and a volunteer at the church's Stepping Stones shop until it closed. Bev was a regular at our meetings and attended some of our outings with her late husband Bob.

Diane McCarthy

## Vale Anna Breinl

We were sorry to belatedly hear of the death of **Anna Breinl** on 5 June 2018 after a long illness. Anna and husband Tony joined the Society in 1999 and many will recall the Pot Luck Dinner they hosted in their splendid Wardell Road Dulwich Hill house in 2006. Anna and Tony had lovingly restored their house, but upon retirement from the health sector decided to downsize and relocated out of the area. They both volunteered as newsletter drivers and Anna enjoyed taking Ian around the district to drop off bundles of newsletters. We will miss her keen mind, her charm and good humour. Our condolences to Tony.

## Vale Raymond Young

**Laurel and Ray Young** joined the Society in 1996 – after sitting next to former MHS president John Zinsmeister at a Marrickville Town Hall concert – and for some years often attended meetings and outings though living in Padstow Heights. Ray died aged 89 on 8 November 2018 after 64 years of marriage. Ray was born in Marrickville and both their children were born at Bethesda Hospital, Marrickville. A skilled fitter and turner and toolmaker, Ray was for many years an engineering purchasing officer under Sir Richard Kirby. A lifelong mason, Ray became a Master Mason at Belmore Lodge and was In the Chair four times. Although Ray suffered a lot of ill health in his later years, Laurel said Ray was once an 'athletic man keen on long distance running, bushwalking and car racing'. Our condolences to Laurel and her family.

Richard Blair

## Rifle restored and returned to Camperdown

As reported in the Winter 2018 issue of the *Inner West Council News* the Australian Digger in the 1921 World War I Memorial in Camperdown Park has finally had his rifle returned to his care. It was removed some years ago due to damage. The marble statue stands on a block of sandstone upon a Bowral trachyte pedestal. The names of local soldiers who died through service in WWI are inscribed in gold gild on the base. The restoration cost \$36,000. This photo taken by Robert Irving features in the 2014 book *Sydney's hard rock story: The cultural heritage of trachyte* cowritten by Robert with Ron Powell and Noel Irving.



## Congratulations to centenarian Joy Lewis

Firstly, it was Margaret Sinclair in 2014; then last year it was Dot Sullivan – both still with us – and now, on 2 February, long term MHS member **Joy Lewis** turned 100. Joy was born and raised in the local area (Randall Street Marrickville) and is descended from local pioneers, some who were Elders in the Church of Christ. Her grandfather John Kingsbury owned shops in King Street Newtown and the Kingsbury name can still be seen on a King Street façade. Kingsbury was a close friend of retailer Marcus Clark (see item below), and Joy lost an aunt in childhood in a drowning tragedy at the Clark mansion *Sefton Hall* in 1906 (see August 2008 and August 2013 MHS newsletters). Her mother was an elocutionist which stimulated Joy's interest in theatre including involvement in the heady days of Norman McKivicker's Pocket Playhouse in Sydenham. She has lived on the Central Coast for many years, and inspired nephew Brett Johnston to join the Society. The attached photos (Sof Li) were taken in 2008. Congratulations Joy, and Long Life.

Richard Blair



**Note** Do let us know if there are any other centenarians amongst our members.



## Extreme Sydney heat in 1909

Bothered by the recent heatwave?

*Bound to Rise: Henry Marcus Clark and Sefton Hall* by Marcia Clark (1985) is an account of the life of retailer Henry Marcus Clark, one of whose department stores was in Newtown (next to Newtown Library) and who lived for many years at *Sefton Hall* in Dulwich Hill. Tragically, on 22 December 1908 his youngest brother Theodore was killed when he fell down a lift shaft of the Marcus Clark flat iron building (still standing) on the corner of George and Pitt Streets, Railway Square. He had been a company director there.

On 5 January 1909 Marcus wrote to his elder brother Fred in England, and in conclusion, gave this telling description of Sydney's extreme summer heat:

The weather as you will see by the newspapers has been dreadful. On Sunday last it was 114 degrees\* in the shade, the fruit is being boiled on the trees and the whole country is ablaze with bush fires. I'm afraid there is bad time before us.

\* 45.56 degrees Celsius



## Calendar of MHS events

**Saturday 23 February**

**The Aussies of East Nanjing Road:**

**talk by Scott MacArthur**

Details on front page

**Saturday 23 March**

**Exploring Marrickville's industrial heritage on Carrington Road: walk led by Louisa King**

Details in March-April newsletter

**Saturday 27 April**

**Story of the MV *Krait* and Operation Jaywick:**

**talk by Mervyn Rosen**

## New book on Broughton Hall

*Broughton Hall: Brought to Life* by Roslyn Burge for the Friends of Callan Park captures a sense of the early history of Broughton Hall – its development as a private estate, wartime conversion by the extraordinary efforts of the women of the Red Cross and local branches through to its development as a psychiatric clinic. Philanthropic threads and the therapeutic aspects of the greenery and gardens remain evident in its contemporary use. The book has wonderful photos including some not previously published.

Cost: \$20 + \$5 postage. Cheques to 'Friends of Callan Park', PO Box 238, Rozelle 2039; EFT: BSB 633 000, Account 142 343 243 (Friends of Callan Park); reference your surname + 'BH book'; email Friends of Callan Park - <focp.admin@gmail.com> with your address. Enquiries Cynthia 0413 733 219.

## Flu frenzy: taming the 1919 influenza pandemic

When the 'Spanish' flu hit Sydney in January 1919 it was another blow for a war-weary community. How did Sydney cope when influenza infected a third of the city's residents? Explore how local, family and medical records can help piece together the intimate impact of this deadly global disease.

RAHS and City of Sydney Council will co-host a seminar on Saturday 16 February 1-3 pm at History House, 133 Macquarie Street Sydney. Speakers: Dr Peter Hobbins (RAHS Councillor), Laila Ellmoos (City of Sydney Council), Dr Lisa Murray (City of Sydney Council) and Chrys Meader (Local Historian).

Cost \$10 members, \$15 friends. Bookings essential. Book online at <www.rahs.org.au/events> or ring 9247 8001 in working hours.

## Louisa Lawson's grave restored at Rookwood

The Friends of Rookwood advises that an interpretative plaque was unveiled at Louisa Lawson's restored grave on 29 September 2018. The restoration was paid for by donations made during the 2017 HIDDEN sculpture exhibition. A long time resident of Marrickville and mother of Henry Lawson, Louisa was a newspaper and magazine publisher and was at the forefront of the suffrage movement in Australia. (Thanks to members Lola Moate and Diane McCarthy for this notification.)

**President** Scott 0416 152 501

**Heritage Watch** Scott 0416 152 501

**Treasurer** Diane 9588 4930

**Newsletter** Richard 9557 3823

## Summer Trivia Answer



No one identified this attractive fountain – an Inner West charm, currently undergoing renovation – in front of the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel in the grounds of the former Lewisham Hospital. **Richard Amos**, Maintenance Coordinator, St Vincent de Paul Society, current owners of the site, wrote what follows:

This fountain was erected in honour of the Angel of Heartfelt Pity in 1926, a gift from Mrs Margaret Ludlow, whose name also adorns the principal statue of The Maternal Heart of Mary that she donated to the chapel. The Little Company of Mary (LCM) originally wanted to operate a cottage for blind children, but over the years, they expanded their apostolate in health care and enriched the lives of those who came within their influence and the broader Australian community.

Due to the rapid development of the Lewisham site, it seemed that the landscape was always changing except for the one little constant Angel of Heartfelt Pity fountain as it sat proudly hemmed in amongst the other buildings. According to Sr Pius (LCM): 'it was such a beautiful feature, and while we Sisters never really had time to enjoy it, our patients and their visitors certainly did!' In keeping with monastic tradition, many religious orders and congregations have a fountain in the cloister to reflect the mystery of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is also a reminder that in the religious life, the practice of the virtues in union with Christ would enable a return to the pristine innocence of Eden.

It is unclear as to how long the fountain was in operation and fully functioning. The Little Company of Mary vacated the site in 1986, and by that time the fountain pool was filled in with soil; the beautiful marble angel and the perimeter plinths had all been painted along with the sandstone courtyard and wall. It seemed that there had been an effort to transform the area into an ornamental garden. In 1987, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (St V de P) took ownership of the site. There was a renewed interest in the fountain when the St V de P moved into their new building site [off West Street] right in front of 'our Little Angel' in 2010.

Work was begun by Richard Amos and his friends with the blessing of the St V de P to restore this fountain to its original beauty and function in order to coincide with the opening of the new building. The Latin Mass Maternal Heart of Mary Community made a contribution to this worthy restoration project. In the course of restoration, it was discovered that the entire feature was carved from Carrara marble. Great care was taken to honour the heritage value of this fine piece of art, so much so that a decision was made to retain her historical character but also to reflect her true age and time-worn benevolence.