

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



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Our May Outing: Saturday 25 May Visit to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney and Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden

Meet 10.15 am in reception area of Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount Street, North Sydney. Entrance fee is \$8, payable on the day. Getting there: by car (but limited parking), train (alight North Sydney station) or bus. Book with Mary by phone 0407 487 157 or email <mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com>; flyer with more detailed info and a map available on request.

Mary MacKillop Place commemorates Australia's only Saint and consists of a museum, chapel with Mary's tomb and Alma Cottage where Mary lived. The museum has excellent pictures and explanatory notes and depicts many aspects of Australian life generally in the late 1800s.

Lunch can be arranged at the cafe; you can visit a local cafe on the way to Wendy Whiteley's Garden or bring your own to eat in the garden.

Wendy Whiteley transformed a neglected piece of land into a beautiful harbourside park. At 1.30 pm there will be a short talk about the garden after which you can explore it at your leisure before making your way home.

An inner city leadlight website

Check out this website <innerwestleadlight.com> which has been developed over the past two years. Colin Webb has ambitiously endeavoured to photograph every bit of leadlight he can see from the street in Ashbury, Ashfield, Dulwich Hill, Haberfield and Hurlstone Park. Summer Hill is almost ready; next will be Lewisham and Petersham. He tries to link photos to the heritage of the inner west: 5000 photos and c. 500,000 words together with every subdivision plan he can find! The quality of the shots is very good and the descriptions vividly expressed. He aims to build websites to make heritage more accessible.

Colin can be contacted either via his website or on <colinwebb1952@gmail.com>. These curved leadlight windows are on a house in Cobar Street, Dulwich Hill.



Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22 June 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd, Marrickville

Members are invited to the Society's 35th 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 2019-20 fees to stand for office or vote if required. Fees can be paid beforehand or on the day (see below). Stay on afterwards and mingle with fellow members over a light lunch.

MHS 2019-20 annual fees due

If your fees are due a green renewal slip accompanies this newsletter. Return slip intact with a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (address below), unless paying by direct deposit or cash, say at AGM. Fees still: concession \$12, individual/joint concession \$20, household/organisation \$28. You may pay for more than a year. Our fees are unchanged since 2003 but a donation towards postage and admin would be appreciated. Ring Treasurer Diane on 9588 4930 with any queries.

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]

Revamped MHS website

MHS has revamped and renamed its website. It is hoped to attract a new audience while maintaining the interest of society members. Besides information on meetings and excursions, a short article on local history — both built and lived — will be posted about every two weeks. To receive an email whenever a new post is made, click the 'Follow' button in the bottom right-hand corner of the website. After clicking on the 'Follow' button, a dialogue box will pop up asking for the email address where new blog posts can be sent.

Be sure to click on the confirmation link in the email sent to you. Until you've confirmed your subscription request, you won't receive email notifications for new posts and updates.

If you have any ideas for articles submit them using the 'Contact Us' page. I would love to hear from you. Website (on back page): <marrickvilleheritage.org.au>

Rod Aanensen

Our Last Outing: Saturday 23 March

Carrington Road, Marrickville – a 750-metre stretch of road with a history reflecting our changing industrial heritage. Local history researcher **Louisa King** brought this area to life as we walked along, learnt about work and life, listened to stories and looked at pictures. We began at the northern end near the 1890 pumping station and pumphouse. It is one of the oldest sewage pumping stations still in service and is technologically unique in having the dual function of carrying sewage and stormwater. It is one of only two pumping stations originally powered by steam. The pumping station drained the former Gumbramorra Swamp, which, in the 1920s, enabled General Motors to establish an industrial showpiece on the adjacent site.

In 1926 *The Sydney Morning Herald* labelled the General Motors (GM) plant a 'speedy construction' but it impressed: reinforced concrete floor, shadowless light, 1000 electrical points and a fancy office building and staff dining hall. Later GM paid £5,000 for the road to be constructed of concrete, with Canary Island date palms lining a grand industrial boulevard. By May 1927, the assembly lines produced a car every ten minutes; and on 23 August 1927, the plant celebrated its 10,000th car in just the first nine months. Then came the Depression and by 1930 demand for motor vehicles had plummeted. Many people lost their jobs; families were dependent on welfare. In 1931 this plant closed.

Spotting an opportunity GM on 1 March 1931 bought South Australia's Holden Body Builders for over £1,000,000 and a new automotive powerhouse was born: General Motors-Holden's Ltd. GMH had enough in reserve to carry them through the Depression and assembly lines restarted in 1934. Production bounced as cars were by now considered a necessity.

WWII changed all this. The automotive industry was redeployed across Australia. GM moved to bigger premises in Pagewood, making Beaufort Bombers, big guns, boats, and other vehicles for the armed forces. Duly & Hansford (bright yellow building) was one of the first factories to adapt their engineering and assembly line expertise to wartime munitions. Many extra buildings 'annexes' were constructed on Carrington Road to supply the war effort. Women were conscripted into these factories.

When WWII ended, Tecnico (a rebrand of ETC), like other factories, was left with material the government had stockpiled during the war. This created opportunity for mass-produced electrical goods, including radios, vacuum cleaners, floor polishers, electric shavers and lawn mowers. The assembly lines were soon filled with newly arrived migrants. The success of the company led it to be bought out by Pye. Televisions, stereos and turntables were added to the list, with marketing targeted at homemakers of the 1950s through to the 1970s. Thanks Louisa for your insightful tour and for sharing your notes.

Julie Bishop

Our April Meeting: 27 April – *Krait* and Operation Jaywick: talk by Mervyn Rosen

It's the height of irony that a Japanese fishing vessel, originally named *Kofuku Maru* (built in Japan in 1934 as a supply boat to the Japanese fishing fleet at Singapore), later took part in a major raid against Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour in 1943. Of

course, noted our speaker, **Mervyn Rosen** (a volunteer at the National Maritime Museum (ANMM), by that time it had been renamed *Krait* (pronounced as in 'fight'), after a deadly type of Asian snake.

HMS *Goulburn* intercepted *Kofuku Maru* in 1941 near Singapore and brought it to Australia, where it was fitted with a new engine (a Gardner) from Tasmania, renamed *Krait*, and chosen for Operation Jaywick. Jaywick was devised by British officer Captain (later Major) Ivan Lyon, and an Australian former mining engineer, Bill Reynolds. Lyon had escaped from Singapore and was on Churchill's Secret Operations Australia (SOA) – an Allied intelligence unit. Reynolds had possession of the *Kofuku Maru* (*Krait*). In June 1942 SOA established a commando arm, Z Special Unit. Jaywick was to attack Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour, using Z Unit commandos in 2-man folboats (collapsible canoes).

On 2 September 1943, MV *Krait* left Exmouth Gulf, WA. The team's safety depended on crews maintaining the disguise of Japanese fisherman, including dyeing their skin brown (with dye from Helena Rubenstein!) and wearing sarongs on deck. *Krait* arrived off Singapore on 24 September and six commandos in three folboats were launched. On the night of 26 September, they set limpet mines on Japanese ships. The hour-long raid sank or seriously damaged seven ships, totalling about 39,000 tons. The commandos escaped 80 km to Pompong Island; *Krait* and the crews returned to Exmouth. Afterwards *Krait* undertook various activities – including coastwatch. In 1945 it saw the Japanese surrender on Ambon.

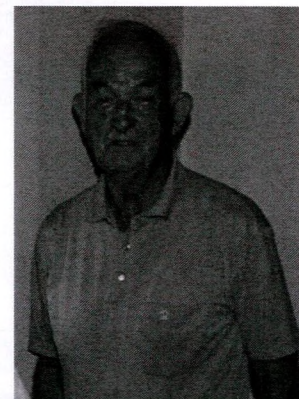
By 1964, *Krait* was dedicated as an Australian war memorial and later loaned to Sydney's ANMM, where it is now displayed and undergoing refurbishment. As a finale, Mervyn, noted that, in Exmouth, from where Operation Jaywick was launched, streets are named after members of the Operation.

Keith Sutton

Vale Geoffrey Thurston Francis

Geoff Francis died on 14 April 2019 aged 88. Geoff carved out a career of 26 years as a wood machinist with Kell & Rigby where he also became a manager. After conducting a milk run for five years with his wife Joan he joined Marrickville Council as their resident expert in timber restoration. Geoff and Joan enjoyed a marriage of 63 years and had two children. They joined the Society in 1985 and have regularly attended Society meetings and outings. On a MHS outing in September 2010, Joan and Geoff invited the tour group to have afternoon tea at their house (*Katoomba*) in Five Dock. They proved wonderful hosts. Geoff was an avid gardener, especially proud of his veggie patch. He enjoyed a good conversation. Our condolences to Joan and her family.

Geoff Francis in 2010
(photo: Lorraine Beach)



History Corner

Surprises always await us when each week we arrive at Marrickville Library to catalogue donated items. Recently, one of the biggest was to see a magnificent tapestry. It is a cotton canvas embroidered with 100% virgin wool and portrays a scene from the world famous series 'The Lady and the Unicorn' (on display at the AGNSW till 24 June). This tapestry was purchased by Marrickville Council in 1998 from the auctioneers James R Lawson, possibly in connection with a Portuguese Festival. It comes from the Marie L Kieken Tapestry Factory, Madeira, Portugal. Does anyone know anything about this purchase?



Another item is a large banner from the Sydney 2000 Olympics with a design in Olympic colours across the centre surrounded by the signatures of participants in swimming from many countries. It is a great reminder of that wonderful event.

One of the oldest items is a small booklet titled 'The Occurrence of a Submerged Forest with Remains of Dugong at Sheas Creek near Sydney'. This booklet was printed for the Royal Society in 1896 and contains a sketch of the Sheas Creek area and a drawing of the dugong skeleton. It is an item with very limited access but it is good to know that it is in safekeeping.

Mary Oakenfull & Vilma Bell

Members are warned against posting USB sticks without inserting them in the correct type of envelope/package. A committee member recently received a USB in an ordinary envelope which arrived in a mangled state. This led one quipper to speculate whether Australia Post has a Dead USB Stick Office!

Vale Alice Pauline Patterson

Pauline Patterson, who joined the Society in 1987 died on 8 March 2019 aged 88. It is believed Pauline attended Stanmore Primary and Petersham High schools and became a dental nurse. She married and had two sons. She was a lifelong friend of former member Tertia Jensen (who also went to Stanmore Primary) and had known member Lola Moate for c. 40 years. Pauline was an avid researcher – a regular visitor to the Uniting Church Archives in Parramatta and the Society of Australian Genealogists.

A clergyman's daughter in 1930s Petersham

Here's an interesting little book that has turned up. *Bacon for Breakfast: An Australian Childhood 1926-1947* is a self-published memoir written in 1993 by Nancy Hughes, the daughter of a clergyman. Born in Wales, and a stern father, Trevor Gwyllm Hughes began as a Methodist minister but, annoyed by the reduction of his stipend during the Depression, took examinations to become a Presbyterian minister. His family of five, including Nancy and her two brothers Russell and Ray, led a financially straitened and peripatetic life, moving from parish to parish in the country and suburbs. In 1935, when Nancy was in fourth class at school, they transferred from Gosford to Stanmore Presbyterian Church which at the time was in Stanmore Road, a few doors up from Middleton Street. Nancy writes:

Our next move of substantial length was to Stanmore. As was customary, my father and other applicant ministers each took a service there and the congregation voted for the minister they most liked. Dad's flair for preaching was well-known. Shortly afterwards he received a telegram *Stanmore is yours* from the Session Clerk and he was delighted. It meant being close to the city by train and tram and Ray would be able to go to Fort Street High School, considered to be a good school.

There were few suitable houses and no manse but we found half a house in Petersham and moved in. All the surrounding suburbs were congested even then. John Street, where we lived, was full of houses of various architectural styles, some of which suggested a past elegance, but had deteriorated [by 1935] and were often divided into flats for cheap renting. Apart from the treeless and cramped ugliness of the long street, its closeness to the church and shops made the choice inevitable. We were still without a car.

The house was small and mean and nearly every room doubled as something else. I slept in my father's study, Russell occupied a bed on the cramped back verandah, which was prone to flooding, and where the only lavatory accommodated us all. The kitchen was also a laundry, the humble little icechest had to stand stranded in the dining room. On the other side of the semi lived a tap dancing teacher who fascinated Ray and me. She was so different, almost like a Hollywood movie star . . . Through the thin meagre walls that separated us, the modern jazz tunes of the thirties were thumped out on her piano, and many young feet danced noisily in accord . . . While my father bent over his sermons and wrestled with the nature of man, Miss Jeffries' *Shuffle Off to Buffalo* and *We're in the Money* offered entertainment for depression-weary people. No complaints were ever made about the level of noise and Miss Jeffries never made Sundays profane.

Nancy went to Petersham School, where she was glad that Mr Clark, the mild tempered minister from the Petersham church, took the Scripture lessons for Presbyterians, rather than her severe and potentially embarrassing father. But the family only remained in Petersham for a few years.

I didn't get into Fort Street High. I was disappointed at first. Instead I was accepted by Ashfield High School. I loved travelling to school by train with friends and I felt much older. Before the year was out my father was talking about moving yet again. This time to Berry, a small town in a dairy farming district on the South Coast. 'This will be my fifth school, Mum! I don't want to go,' I protested.

A copy of this book is being donated to the Inner West Library history collection by Julian Holland from the library of his mother Dorothy Holland, a friend of the author, Nancy Rutherford, nee Hughes.

Megan Hicks

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 25 May

**Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney &
Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden**

Details on front page

Saturday 22 June

Annual General Meeting

Details on front page

Discover Marrickville's secret past with Gabby Richards
Thursday 20 June 7 pm. Hear fascinating untold stories
unearthed by Gabby about Marrickville Golf Club land
before and after it became a golf course. Marrickville
Golf & Community Club, Wharf St, Marrickville. Free
event; no booking required unless wanting a table: ring
9558 1876. Food & drink available. Near 423 bus route.

Election campaign material/ephemera

Following my donation of numerous historical items to
the National Library, the NL has written to me asking
for my help in obtaining material related to the 18 May
federal election. The NL's Ephemera Section is most
interested in obtaining that campaign material for its
social and political collection. Items of interest include
how to vote cards/pamphlets, brochures, posters
(including large ones that candidates have hammered
into telegraph poles), badges, stickers, etc.

NL also wants any other campaign material distributed
by lobby organisations, like GetUp, such as anti-Adani
propaganda. In addition, election material from other
electorates (i.e. apart from Grayndler) is most welcome.
I will undertake to convey the material to the NL.
Members may bring it to the next MHS meeting (AGM
late June) or drop it off/mail it to me at 8 Cary Street
Leichhardt 2040. Enquiries on 0408 169 721 or email
<keith.sutton7@gmail.com>.

Keith Sutton

Autumn Trivia Answer



**Kay Abrahams, Lu Bell, John Chappell, Peter
Chessell, Barbara Forsyth, Robert Hutchinson and
Ron Pollard** correctly identified this as the 1897
Petersham Post Office, sadly demolished to make way
for the nondescript building that replaced it in 1974 on
the corner of Audley and Fisher Streets, Petersham.

Though of similar vintage this is a different photo to
the one that accompanied this trivia question in March.
It was taken from what would have been a postcard
and was donated to the Society by Lyn Collingwood.

Heritage Watch: Huntsbury Hotel, Lewisham

The Society is pleased that the owners and designers of
the redevelopment of the historic Huntsbury Hotel in
Lewisham have responded positively to the criticisms
of their rejected 2017 scheme with a much improved
proposal (see May-June 2017 MHS newsletter). The
developers have sought expert advice from heritage
and engineering consultants, and have been able to
retain and adapt the historic interiors of the upper
floors of the hotel that were previously deemed to be
irretrievably damaged. Original Victorian and 1920s
features, including fireplaces, joinery and plaster
archways with decorative corbels will now be restored
and featured in new apartments. The distinctive
Interwar Free Classical street facades will be retained
and restored. The density of the whole development
has been scaled back, with the number of units, overall
floor space and new building height reduced to
comply with Council codes.

The Society does remain concerned that the new glass
and steel extension to the historic building along New
Canterbury Road and Hunter Street is unsympathetic
to the character of the classically rendered and painted
hotel. The extension has extensive floor to ceiling
glazing, with metal framing and cladding coloured in
the bleakly ubiquitous black/grey 'Monument'. The
original building is proposed to be repainted with
'Monument' highlights to match. The Society suggests
that the fenestration of the new building should be
more sympathetic to the heritage building, with a
higher proportion of solid wall to glazing.

The colour scheme of the hotel should be based on
research to determine what previous colours the
building was painted, and the new building's colour
and material palettes should be complementary to the
hotel's historic character. Of particular concern are the
large panels of carpark ventilation louvres on the
ground floor elevation of the New Canterbury Road
extension. The combination of metallic grey finishes
and out of scale openings makes this important
elevation particularly hostile, detracting from the
streetscape and the setting of the adjacent hotel.

The Society has requested that Council requires the
applicant to satisfactorily address these heritage and
design issues, prior to any approval being granted.

Scott MacArthur

The Glebe Society's 50th Anniversary exhibition in the old Tramsheds, Glebe 22-30 June

The Glebe Society was originally formed to save Glebe
from bulldozers planning to cut a freeway through the
suburb. They are holding a free weeklong exhibition
on the pre-1870 villas of Glebe and Forest Lodge with
many images never before seen by the public.

The Harold Park Community Hall, Tramsheds, Forest
Lodge is next to the Jubilee Oval light-rail stop. A
large café / restaurant precinct is within. Explore local
streets and foreshores of the bays. Plenty of parking.
For other activities go to their Festival website:
<glebesociety.org.au/50th_anniversary_festival>

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