

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE

## Saturday 27 July: Johnstons Creek Parklands, Annandale walking tour with Jason Chatwin

Meet at 10 am at the Rozelle Bay Light Rail stop on Bayview Crescent; 433 bus stops on The Crescent are nearby. Public transport recommended due to local parking restrictions, although Railway Parade has unrestricted parking. No charge. Bookings Richard <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au> or ring 9557 3823, but advise if you need to cancel.

This walking tour is designed to tell a story of the intertwining layers of reclamation, recreation, transportation and transformation of the area we now know as The Glebe Foreshore Parklands. We will stroll around the former high tide shoreline of Rozelle Bay, now known as The Glebe Parklands, stopping at significant points of interest, some obvious, some not. The final leg will follow the present day foreshore back to the tour start. Large historic photos will help give tour participants a visual appreciation of changes over the years. Born and raised in Annandale, tour leader **Jason Chatwin** has a long held interest in the history of the area.

## Our Annual General Meeting: 22 June Who's who on the new committee

President **Scott MacArthur** welcomed members to the 35th AGM at Herb Greedy Hall. Secretary **Mary Oakenfull** read the minutes of the 2018 AGM; annual reports were presented by Scott (President & Heritage Watch), **Diane McCarthy** (Treasurer), **Rod Aanensen** (revamped website) and **Richard Blair** (newsletter).

All committee positions were declared vacant and **Bill Tarrant** presided as Returning Officer. There were two resignations and we welcomed two newcomers. Elected: president, **Scott MacArthur**; vice presidents, **Lyndal Gowland** and **Ian Phillips**; treasurer, **Diane McCarthy**; secretary, **Mary Oakenfull**; assistant secretary, **Lorraine Beach**; committee members, **Rod Aanensen**, **Gayle Adams**, **Richard Blair**, **Jan Garaty**, **Trevor McGuire** and **Judy O'Connor**.

Retiring were **Iain Carolin** after nine years committee service. Iain will continue to look after MHS records and coordinate our bookstalls. **Robert Hutchinson** had served on the committee since 1996 and was given a gift and card. Long term member **Florence** (known as **Lu**) **Bell** received Life Membership in appreciation of her 30+ years as a newsletter runner and for her enthusiastic advocacy for the Society. Members enjoyed lunch provided by the committee and a beverage to thank Robert for his sterling service.

**Richard Blair**

**New Marrickville Library opening soon!**

## Our August Meeting

*Abergeldie* and the Dixon Family Legacy:  
talk by **Mark Sabolch**

Combined meeting with Ashfield DHS

Saturday 24 August 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd, Marrickville  
Talk to be followed by a light lunch

*Abergeldie*, located on Old Canterbury Road, was an extraordinary property owned by Sir Hugh Dixon from 1884 until his death in 1926. Today, although this part of Dulwich Hill was redeveloped into 157 residential lots in 1928, the area continues to have significant heritage value.

**Mark Sabolch** shares his research into the obsessions of Sir Hugh and Lady Elizabeth Dixon, and their legacy. Mark's article on *Abergeldie* is in the ADHS publication *Houses of the Ashfield District* (2018). His presentation exposes the cross municipal wrangling for the property after Sir Hugh's death by local political leaders, a feature as common today as it was in the 1920s. Hear how Sir Hugh's son, William, generously donated significant cultural material to the Public (now State) Library of NSW after the *Abergeldie* Estate was sold. The talk will provide another insight into how events in local history have shaped our area and social environment.

**Mark Sabolch** is an environmental practitioner in private industry. His interest in local history was ignited during research for his work as author of *Hawthorne Canal: The History of Long Cove Creek* (2006). He is currently the President of Ashfield and District Historical Society.



## Welcome to new members

Lisa D'Ambra & Kerry Murphy, Hadrian Judge, Peter McMinn, Ned Ozorio, Gabby Richards, all of Marrickville; Trina Supit (rejoined), Stanmore; Gerard Horton, Tempe; Marc Recerethnam, Ashbury; Sandra Davidson, Burraneer; Pamela Cranley, Burwood; Cynthia Dragovic, Enfield; Patricia O'Brien, Five Dock; Jan O'Reilly, Randwick.



## President's Report 2019

This was the sixth time I had been President. I should like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the current Executive Committee who have helped keep the Society on track in a busy and rewarding year.

A special thanks goes to Robert Hutchinson who has been on the committee for 23 years, and is now stepping down to allow some new faces to have their time in the sun. Robert's contribution to the committee over these many years has been enormous, including his association with the Royal Australian Historical Society where he long served on the Affiliated Societies Committee. His gentle good humour will be sadly missed from our committee meetings. Robert is on a promise to keep the Society updated on new items in his postcard collection, and provide occasional servings of his famous paté and Christmas cake!

Iain Carolin is also retiring from the committee this year, having been a committee member since 2010, and serving as a Vice-President this year. Iain wants to focus on organising the Society's archives and book stocks, mammoth tasks he has undertaken with great determination. Iain will also continue to lead our sales teams at local festivals and at our meetings, where he sells up a storm.

It has been another fascinating year of terrific excursions and walks, including our visit to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney and Wendy Whitely's Secret Garden; our walking tour of Carrington Road with Louisa King; our guided tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Conservatorium of Music; and a bus trip to The Oaks and the NSW Rail Museum at Thirlmere. Our Pot Luck Dinner was a delightful evening at the Hurlstone Park home of June Warren.

We were also favoured with some very interesting talks, including 'Krait and Operation Jaywick' with retired engineer Mervyn Rosen; and the history of bicycle clubs in Australia by Mark Receretrnam, President of the Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club (110 years old and 500 members strong!). Vanessa Berry presented her book 'Mirror Sydney' with a special focus on the quirky remnant buildings, monuments and signs of our area, and the stories of the people who created them. I discussed the cultural and architectural connections between Sydney's Chinese Australians and Shanghai in 'The Aussies of East Nanjing Road'. Our most confronting and well-attended talk was by Dr Paul Irish presenting his research on the Aboriginal people of the Sydney Area, 'Hidden in Plain View'. This important book demonstrates that in spite of the devastating effects of white settlement, Aboriginal people retained a continuous presence in the Sydney basin that present descendants draw strength from in their ongoing struggle for recognition and respect.

Several members of the committee were invited by Council to advise on the design of the interpretation artwork and signage for the new Marrickville Library on the site of the former Marrickville Hospital. Interestingly, not only the hospital period will be commemorated, but also the desperate lives of the children and adults who worked in horrible conditions in the brickpits of the area, and the important few benefactors who brought them education and improved living and working conditions.

Rod Aanensen has successfully resurrected the MHS website. Rod is diligently keeping it fresh with frequent updates of local history and notices of upcoming events. We welcome contributions from members.

It was a busy year for Heritage Watch issues, with continuing pressure from government and developers for increased residential density in our area. The higher residential density rezonings that the state government was threatening around the new Bankstown Metro line in Marrickville and Dulwich Hill seem to have been withdrawn and final planning control will return to Inner West Council, where hopefully the special character of our area and the concerns of local residents will be more carefully considered. For one of the biggest redevelopment sites, the Society continues to participate in the Community Reference Group established by the owners of the East Carrington Road precinct to advise on their redesign of their mixed residential development, after their initial proposals were withdrawn due to widespread outrage.

The battle to save the very fine California bungalows in The Boulevarde, Dulwich Hill continues, with the developer challenging Council's heritage listing of the buildings in the Land and Environment Court. While the court assisted with a good outcome for the proposed alterations and additions to historic 'Gateshead' in the David Street Conservation Area in Marrickville, it permitted the demolition of the former SES Headquarters (and Marrickville Girls Club) in Livingstone Road, for a new backpacking hostel. The Society was also active in encouraging Council to take a stronger stance against the National Broadband Network contractors that were destroying the heritage listed brick footpaths of Canonbury Grove.

I would like to thank all of our members for their support in the past year. I would especially like to acknowledge those members that contribute to the vigour and variety of the Society by attending our meetings and excursions, and the many members that send us letters, emails and articles. I encourage all of our members to be watchful stewards of our area's special character in the face of development pressure. While 'change' is inevitable, with knowledge and action, we can change 'change' for the better.

Scott MacArthur

### Winter Trivia Question

What were Brown & Kidd makers of and where were they located in Petersham?  
Richard 9557 3823 or email:  
see bottom of back page.

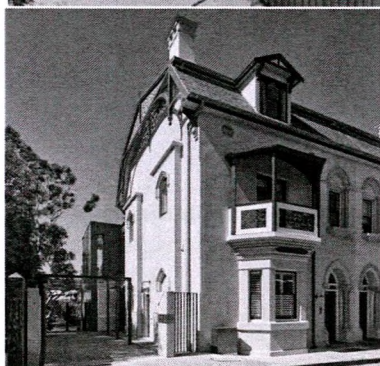
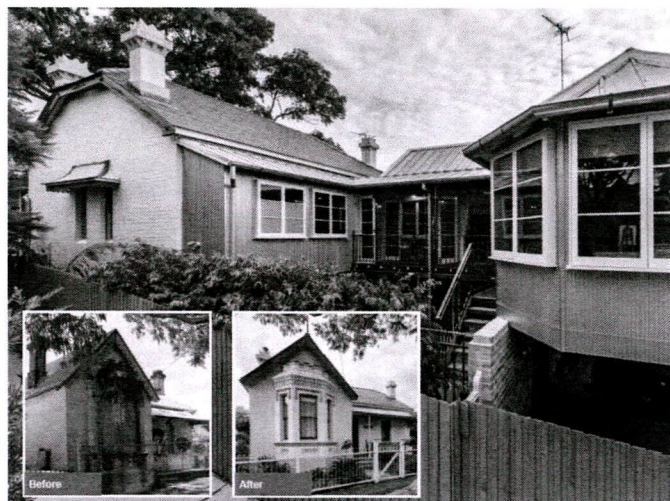


The fine sandstone **St Joseph's Church** on the corner of Lennox and Station Streets Newtown celebrated its 150th anniversary on 26 May 2019 with Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher conducting mass. The colony's first Catholic Archbishop, Bede Polding, blessed the church in 1869.



## IWC Built Environment Awards 2019

As part of Inner West Council's Built Environment Awards, the Marrickville Medal for Conservation was presented at a reception at Kirkbride Theatre, Sydney College of the Arts, Rozelle, on Saturday 4 May. The Medal has been awarded annually since 1995, and it is a relief that this acknowledgement of our local heritage is still supported by Council in these times of redevelopment hyper-pressure. Entries ranged from a small terrace house renovation in Newtown to a Birchgrove harbourside mansion, and the standard of conservation works was generally high.



The Medal was won by *Victoria Cottage* (pictured above, © Inner West Council), a Victorian Italianate double-fronted cottage in Thornley Street, Leichhardt. Prior to the conservation work, *Victoria Cottage*, a four room cottage, was

in a derelict condition and had been unlivd in for 32 years. The conservation and new sympathetic additions to the original house are a relatively modest project that has transformed a neighbourhood eyesore into a delightful family home. The citation from the judges observed that the project demonstrated a: strong grasp of conservation principles . . . and a very strong conservation ethic . . . nicely scaled and knitted cleverly into the old building, highlighting historic fabric where possible.' The project design team was from Hector Abrahams Architects.

On a grander scale, the restoration and extension of historic *Maybanke* (lower photo above, © Allen, Jack + Cottier) was Highly Commended by the judges. This heritage-listed Birchgrove Victorian Gothic townhouse was named after Maybanke Anderson, an influential figure in both the women's movement and education. Originally built as a private residence, it was progressively modified over the years for boarders and rental accommodation, losing many of its original decorative features, and little of its period character remained. The architects (Design 5 - Architects) designed a more contemporary harbour facade while reinstating 'the street façade as a major contribution to the conversation of historical fabric'.

The Sustainable Design Award recognises the contribution sustainable architecture and building works make to our community. While no award was given this year, two projects were Commended: a light-filled shop to home conversion at 203 Lilyfield Road, Lilyfield; and a new block of flats at 114-116 The Boulevarde, Dulwich Hill.

The Urban Photography Awards encourages residents to engage with the Inner West Council urban landscape, and again this year, this was a popular competition, with many submissions across the three categories. Jessica Lee won in the Open category for her evocative work, *Iron Cove Passage*. The winner of the Secondary School category was Tabatha Azuma-Proctor for her watery photo, *Damp*. And with a moody sunset photo of our 'Winged Victory', the winner of the Primary School category was Eden Roberts, with *Winged Watcher*.

Scott MacArthur

## History Corner

We thank members for their interest in and feedback on our History Corner items. We have nearly finished our input into the cataloguing process and feel it would be good to close by providing members who have not already accessed the database with basic instructions. You will have gained an idea of the wide range of items and subjects encompassed by the name 'Inner West Council Library and History Collection' and we urge you to simply look on the website if you are wondering about a local event, place or item.

With the merging of eight libraries of the Inner West Council a new Library Management System called Spydus/CIVICA has recently been implemented. One can search the library's catalogue for any local history item. As an example, to search for Margaret Meek's *Wedding Ribbon*, enter 'Marrickville Library' into your browser, click on 'Search the Catalogue' and enter 'Meek Wedding Ribbon' in the 'Search for Keywords' bar. Click on the title beside the purple title box to see details of the item. Likewise, 'Marrickville Architecture' will produce details of notes and drawings held by the library.

You can check what information the library has regarding your area of interest and we can assure you that Aleem and the Library & History staff will be happy to help. The telephone number is 9335 2167.

Mary Oakenfull & Vilma Bell

May outing report to be in Sept-Oct newsletter

## Vale Bernard Sargeant

MHS has learnt of the death of Bernard Sargeant, of Sutherland, on 25 May 2019 aged 86. Bernie became Chief Librarian of Marrickville Library in 1983 and was responsible for the computerisation of the library system which was completed in 1986. He left the library in 1992. Bernie was well known in the wider library community and was a MHS member for a time.

Chrys Meader & Diane McCarthy

## Vale Don Bryson-Taylor 1943-2019

We note the passing of MHS member Don Bryson-Taylor of Marrickville who died in June. He was highly regarded by all who knew him. Our sympathies to Don's partner Judie and her family.



## Calendar of MHS events

**Saturday 27 July**

**Johnstons Creek Parklands Annandale walking tour with Jason Chatwin**

Details on front page

**Saturday 24 August**

**Abergeldie and the Dixon Family Legacy with Mark Sabolch (joint meeting with ADHS)**

Details on front page

**Historic Houses Association presents Living**

**Heritage Festival: Sunday 4 August, 10 am-4 pm**  
**Tempe House, Cooks River (by Wolli Creek Station)**

Exhibitions & Demonstrations – Pop Up Presentations  
– History Talks – Heritage & Craft Workshops –  
Stalls & Performances – Ruff Parade – Tickets \$10  
(kids under 13 free) – <www.hha.net.au/festival>.

**Tour & Forum: Lost Waterways of the Inner West with**  
**Sue Castrique, Graham Chalcroft & Alexander Wells**  
**Sunday 8 September 11 am-1 pm (in History Week)**  
**Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road**  
**Enquiries Mina <programs@addiroad.org.au>**

One of the articles in the Society's journal *Heritage* 15 (2018) was "Just a few lines': World War I letters from two servicemen abroad to Eric McGlinchey of Enmore." These letters had been donated to MHS by Sandra Elliott, granddaughter of Eric McGlinchey and were to be donated to the Australian War Memorial. However, the AWM later declined the offer. The folio of letters has now been gratefully accepted by the State Library of New South Wales.

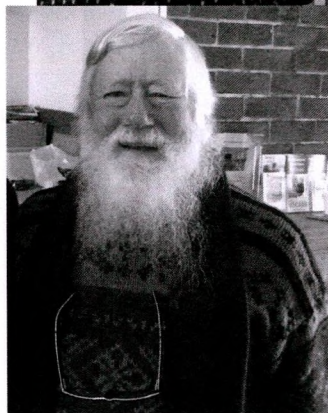
### **'Memberships' from long term member Keith Lawson:**

I grew up in Renwick Street, Marrickville. I received my motor bike license in 1941 and recently renewed it at age 94. I've had 14 bikes, but now have just two, and belong to a classic bike club in Wollongong, riding with them regularly. I served in the RAAF (1942-46) in 7 and 99 Squadrons and did active service in New Guinea. In 1948 I married Norma Moncur, granddaughter of Thomas Moncur, who had vegetable market gardens in Marrickville, bordered by the railway, Illawarra and Livingstone Roads and Moncur Street.

### **(Local) National Trust Heritage Awards 2019**

- **Heritage Events, Exhibitions & Tours category – Highly Commended to Inner West Council for the Built Environment Awards 'that contribute to the understanding and preservation of the area's rich cultural and architectural heritage'.**
- **Heritage Resources category: Highly Commended to Addison Road Community Centre Conservation Management Plan to the ARCC and Phillips Marler.**

From Treasurer **Diane McCarthy**: A good response from renewal notices and thanks to members who have made donations and/or expressed appreciation of MHS in notes sent with renewals. A mystery payment was made 28/6/19 GCB for \$20. Is there a taker? If yet to renew, check May newsletter for details, email me on <diane.mccarthy@optusnet.com.au> or ring 9588 4930.



At the AGM on 22 June Lu Bell is awarded Life Membership by President Scott MacArthur; and Robert Hutchinson beams, having served 23 meritorious years on the MHS committee (photos: Lorraine Beach)

### **Lifetime Achievement Award from National Trust to MHS member Dr George Gibbons**

From the National Trust website:

Geologist **Dr George Gibbons** is recognised for his 32 years of service to the National Trust and his work conserving and preserving cemetery monuments. For eight years, Dr Gibbons advised seven religious trusts at Rookwood Cemetery and has worked as both a Trustee of Crown Land cemeteries and an active member of the Trust's Cemeteries Committee for more than 27 years. Dr Gibbons is considered a walking encyclopaedia in matters relating to the conservation and preservation of the fabric of the cemeteries that form a valuable part of our national history. With his wealth of experience, Dr Gibbons has made an invaluable contribution in the drafting of National Trust policies and guidelines as well as draft heritage listings. (Photo from NT website.)



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