

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



Our November Meeting

Discover Marrickville's secret past
with Gabby Richards

Saturday 23 November 10.15 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

In 1877 the Riverside Estate in Marrickville was subdivided and sold. The land adjoining Cooks River was bought in one piece and became a farm for the restaurant of Sydney's first celebrity chef. It transformed into a family estate, then a public park and now it is home to the Marrickville Golf Course.

In this presentation by MHS member and local history researcher **Gabby Richards** you will hear of the triumphs and tragedies of the families who lived at Riverside, how it became a golf course and how the conflict between the golfers, the council and the community has been raging for nearly 80 years.



Riverside Park, Marrickville in the 1920s
(Robert Hutchinson Collection)

The Society ran successful stalls at the **Dulwich Hill Fair** on Sunday 15 September and the **Marrickville Festival** on Sunday 20 October. Iain Carolin again did a sterling job coordinating both stalls. He was assisted by Lorraine, Lyndal, Trevor, Judy, Richard, Hillary, Gayle, Mary, Jan, Keith, Rod, Scott and Bill.

Welcome to new members

Janet & Stephen Stack, Dulwich Hill; Suzanne Holohan, Lewisham; Ron Brown, Emma Rowland, both of Marrickville; Mark Dunn, Newtown; Stephen Thomas, Petersham; Lewer family, Stanmore; Jason Chatwin, Ann Reynolds and Beverley Walsh, all of Annandale; Margaret Winton, Ermington; Lyn Waddell & Frank Hutchinson, Glebe; Gordon Hill, Haberfield; Peter Boorman, Lilyfield.

The President and his committee wish members a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2020.



Scott MacArthur proudly receives his Certificate of Achievement from RAHS President Christine Yeats at the RAHS conference in Tamworth on 15 September 2019 (photo: courtesy RAHS). Conference report inside.

The Society extends a belated special 90th birthday greeting to **Jack Munday** who reached that milestone on 17 October. Jack and Judy have been MHS members for many years in addition to the many other organisations and causes with which they have been associated.

Marrickville people & places (1994, p. 133) records that **Cecil Churm** was Chief Librarian of Marrickville Library from 1951 to 1955. He was awarded an OBE in 1979 for services to libraries. Now 93, as recently reported, he gives his spare time supporting research into motor neurone disease, having lost two family members and with a third diagnosed with MND.

Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 7 December 6 pm

June of Hurlstone Park enjoyed having the pot luck dinner at her abode so much last year that she has invited us back! It's in easy walking distance from Hurlstone Park station and New Canterbury Road (on 418, 428 and 445 bus routes). Ample street parking. Book with Lorraine on <lbeach@primus.com.au> or 0416 224 472 to advise what food you'd like to bring, and find out the address. BYO drink.

Our September Outing: New Marrickville Library

MHS members who have ever done any renovating or rebuilding will be aware of how difficult it is to get builders to reuse any of the old and original materials for the job. This was one of the main trials that faced heritage architect Anna Simanowsky when she and her associates were engaged to advise on the demolition of the old Marrickville Hospital in conjunction with the construction of the new Marrickville Library now standing resplendent on the corner of Marrickville and Livingstone Roads.

At the Society's outing on 28 September over 60 members and friends were given a very informative talk by Anna and shown images of the problems faced in trying to retain some of the original timbers, bricks and slates used when the hospital was built between 1897 and 1899 for a cost of £1000. Even though the journey to achieve the beautiful buildings we see today has been stressful most people would agree that it has all been worth it as the work seamlessly combines the old with the new.

Particular care has been taken both in sourcing new materials as close as possible to the original when sections of the old buildings had to be rebuilt and in retaining the old women's and men's wards (near Lilydale Street) of the hospital. The Inner West Council is hoping to lease these out in the future.

A look back at the past was given by Barbara Emslie who, as a young nurse trained at the hospital between 1968 and 1972. She showed photographs of her time at the hospital and told some amusing stories of life as an undergraduate nurse in Marrickville.

History and Heritage staff Amie Zar and Aleem Aleemullah showed members around the old and new buildings looking at the especially commissioned art works in the pleasant open spaces and through the three floors of library space which includes an area for the council's historic art book collection. This collection is once more accessible to the public and art books can be borrowed. Members were impressed by the elements of sustainable design, including natural light and ventilation, environmentally friendly warming and cooling arrangements and rain tanks.

As members walked through the spaces, which include quiet reading and study rooms equipped with free use of computers, or took a lift between floors it was evident that the new spaces were already being used and enjoyed by the public.

While Australia is seeing a resurgence in the use of public libraries with readers already making 114 million visits to borrow books each year it is evident that our new library in Marrickville will be a marvellous addition to the community.

Annette Robinson

Our October Meeting: 26 October

At our October meeting, our guest speakers **Bev Walsh** and **Ann Reynolds** from the Annandale Urban Research Association told us about the row of houses at the northern end of Johnston Street, Annandale, which are popularly known as 'The Witches Houses'. These houses, with their spires, elevated position and unusual architecture have fascinated me for many years, as they must have done to many of us, so it

was fascinating to hear about their history and to see early pictures of them.

There were eight houses in the group, but two have been demolished. The first house to be built was *Oybin* which is in the Italianate style. Early photographs show it with an open-sided roof over the top of its tower, a charming feature which has been lost. We were shown pictures of the poor state that *Oybin* was in due to neglect, vandalism and weathering before it was restored. Unfortunately, the ugly flats which were built in the 1970s on the site of *Roselle*, the next house in the row, remain, to spoil the streetscape provided by these houses.

The Abbey is the best known of these houses. We heard about how John Young is believed to have built it for his wife to encourage her to move from Melbourne, but she didn't like it and neither of them lived there. This house, too, has had a colourful history, having been a school, a rooming house and flats; it has 52 rooms, so lent itself to these uses. It too, happily, has been restored to a high standard.

Bev Walsh talked about the houses and their histories, while Ann Reynolds interspersed this talk with stories about the women associated with the houses, making a varied and interesting session.

Ken Swinbourne

Hinchcliff: Ghost signs

Members who read the article about Stanmore's *Hughenden Terrace* in the last issue of *Heritage* will know that wool brokers Andrew Hinchcliff and his son John had extensive property interests in Stanmore and Newtown as well as other parts of Sydney. Their mid-19th century stone wool stores are still standing in Circular Quay directly behind Customs House.

But currently this heritage-listed pair of buildings is almost hidden from view by high hoardings. It is in the midst of a vast redevelopment in Loftus and Young Streets called Quay Quarter which, according to the developer AMP Capital, will 'bring new life to one of Sydney's most historic precincts'. The Hinchcliff wool stores are destined to become a 'three storey shopping and dining precinct'.



For the first time in decades the south wall of the Hinchcliff building is visible now that the adjacent building has been pulled down. The best place to view it without being endangered by buses or construction zones is from the corner of Young and Bridge Streets. Clearly legible above the hoardings are the ghost signs 'Hinchcliff Wool Stores' and 'Wool Stores'.

Megan Hicks

Vale: Anne Carolan

Anne Carolan died on 13 October 2019 aged 92. Anne was a founding member of the Society and served on the MHS committee during the first five years of the Society from 1984 as well as various subcommittees. Among these was the publications subcommittee and she edited *Heritage* 6 (1990). She contributed several articles to the MHS journal in those early years.

Anne's great great grandfather was Michael Gannon, an early resident of Tempe and, as a child, her mother lived in *Hurlingham*, which was built by Frederick Gannon in 1876. *Hurlingham* in Union Street still stands. Anne did considerable research on the Winged Victory and its sculptor, Gilbert Doble. Her article 'The Winged Victory's Two Sculptors: Gilbert Doble and Alex Kolozsy' appeared in *Heritage* 5 (1989).

She played a significant role in the two Marrickville books, acknowledged in *Marrickville: rural outpost to inner city* (1990) that she 'has freely given of her time, pursuing many avenues of research and her eagle eye has been invaluable in minimising errors'. In 1994 She co-wrote with Chrys Meader and Richard Cashman *Marrickville: people and places*.

Anne was married to Peter Mabey, also a founding member, who died in 2009. Marrying later in life, they had no children. Although she had long lived outside the Marrickville area, Anne retained a keen interest in MHS and the history and heritage of the local area.

Richard Blair



Anne Carolan in 2001
(photo: Corrie Ancone
© Inner West Council)

Vale to two history and heritage stalwarts

Two giants in history and heritage conservation died recently: **Ian Jack** on 5 September aged 84; and **Peter Reynolds** on 14 September aged 87. Both had illustrious academic careers in history and architecture respectively and both served for a long time as RAHS councillors.

Ian was also RAHS President for a record eight years and a member of the NSW Heritage Council for six years. He was actively involved with various other societies, was Senior Fellow and archivist at St Andrew's College and an accomplished musician. He was an enthusiastic researcher who wrote and lectured extensively on late medieval European and Australian history and industrial archaeology.

Peter was a member of the Balmain Association from 1969. He was a meticulous researcher, editing the *Leichhardt Historical Journal* — an extensive street-by-street record of houses in Leichhardt — producing 25 journals between 1971 and 2007. In 1989 he founded the Horbury Hunt Club, 'a group interested in the history of architecture, landscaping and town planning'. He wrote or co-wrote several books.

Neither Ian nor Peter was ever a MHS member, but they were known to many members. No doubt the next issue of the RAHS magazine *History* will include extensive obituaries of these remarkable men.

Richard Blair

2019 RAHS Conference

The theme of the September 2019 RAHS Conference was 'Illuminating the Past', a nod to Tamworth's fame as the first Australian city to have its public areas lit by electric lights (52 altogether along 21 kilometres) on 9 November 1888. Today handsome replicas of those lights adorn the CBD. The representatives of MHS who attended the conference — Scott MacArthur, Robert Hutchinson and Jan Garaty — found the array of speakers kept the conference's two days interesting and informative, enjoyed in a congenial and informal atmosphere. Scott, attending his first conference in many years, found 'all talks were interesting at the least and absorbing or amazing at the best'.

The business session on Sunday morning with society practitioners sharing insights was of particular usefulness, the emphasis being on the need for volunteer-run societies like MHS to plan ahead both in the areas of ever-changing technology and succession planning. The discussion on social media reinforced all that our webmaster Rod has been saying about it being a very effective means of communication between members and those seeking information about people and places pertinent to the society and also grabbing and holding the attention of the eGeneration — our society's future.

The conference has developed from the first gathering of Affiliated Societies which took place at History House in Sydney in 1961 and has always provided an opportunity to network with people who have a common commitment to promote local and community history. I am presently on the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee which organises the annual conference, replacing Robert Hutchinson, who fulfilled this role for many years. As Scott commented, MHS was mentioned often from the podium as contributors to RAHS generally and specifically as contributors to the final raffle prize pool.

MHS President Scott MacArthur was delighted to be presented with his much deserved Certificate of Achievement, as nominated by MHS.

Jan Garaty

Donation of election material to the NLA

The National Library has been greatly appreciative of the contributions from MHS members and others who have provided material relating to the 2019 federal election. Batches of material have been sent. The letter addressed to our President, in part, stated:

Your support helped us capture an important 'snapshot' of all candidates, parties, issues and lobby groups involved in this very interesting election. The 2019 federal election materials will be available to readers and researchers at the NLA, forming the latest part of a fascinating and valuable record of Australian politics, which stretches back to 1901. Thank you too for the small amount of material from previous elections and other very interesting general ephemera enclosed.

The library's objective has been to collect material related to Australia's social fabric and our Society is now prominently in its mind. In the new year I will advise members of further ephemera the NLA will accept by donation.

Keith Sutton

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 23 November

**Discover Marrickville's secret past
with Gabby Richards**

Details on front page

Saturday 7 December

Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Details on front page

Saturday 22 February 2020

**Japanese submarines in Sydney Harbour
during WWII with Mervyn Rosen**

Spring Trivia Answer

My name was Elizabeth Lilian Fowler (1886-1954, nee Gill), known as Lilian, and I served on Newtown Council from 1928 to 1931 and from 1934 to 1948. When first elected to Newtown Council in 1928, I became the first woman in NSW to serve on a municipal council. When I was elected Newtown Mayor on 7 December 1937 I became the first female mayor in Australia and held that position until 1939. I was elected to the state seat of Newtown in 1944 and was only the third woman elected to the Legislative Assembly. I held that seat until 1950.



I was Mayor of Newtown when this photo of me appeared in May 1938 at a meeting where I was elected President of the newly formed RPA Hospital Ex Patients' Association. Lilian Fowler Reserve, Erskineville bears my name whilst Lilian Fowler Place, Marrickville is a thriving business hub. Check out my ADB entry: adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fowler-elizabeth-lilian-6222/text10705.

I was correctly identified by **Kay Abrahams, Audrey Furney and Diane McCarthy.**

Lilian Fowler, channelled by Richard Blair

Summer Trivia Question

The first set of operating traffic lights in Australia was at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets, Melbourne in 1928. The first in Sydney appeared at Market and Kent Streets in 1933. Where and when did traffic lights first appear in the former Marrickville LGA? Richard 9557 3823 or email MHS on <marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com>.

Newtown Jets soar!

The Newtown Jets are celebrating one of their most successful seasons in many years. They won the 2019 Canterbury Cup premiership title by defeating Wentworthville 20-15 on 29 September. On 6 October they came from behind to win the NRL State Championship title with a last-gasp try against the Queensland champions Burleigh Bears. Score 20-16.

Diane McCarthy

President Scott 0416 152 501

Heritage Watch Scott 0416 152 501

Treasurer Diane 9588 4930

Newsletter Richard 9557 3823

Heritage Watch

Marrickville Church of Christ

Council has received a DA to demolish the Federation period **Church of Christ and neighbouring house at 387-389 Illawarra Road** for a retail and residential development. Council's own officers and heritage consultants advise that: 'the former Church of Christ Marrickville building, including its interior, has heritage value for its aesthetic and social significance'. Until recently, and for many years, the church minister was Peter Dixon, and his father before him. Peter was a member of the Society, and was very prominent in the local community and Aboriginal groups. He is a past Marrickville Citizen of the Year. It is a sad loss to Marrickville that Peter and his wife Karen are now working in the Northern Territory.

The Society notes that the heritage report commissioned by the developer from GBA Heritage, finds that 'the house at 387 Illawarra Road is a representative example of restrained Federation Queen Anne style, small-scale residential development within the inner western suburb of Marrickville. The building's architecture exhibits a number of characteristics of the style. The subject property meets the threshold for LEP listing criteria [at a] local level'.

Accordingly, the Society has requested that Council reject the demolition of the church and house. The church should remain as a community resource, and if any development of the site is proposed, then community access should be maintained, and the significant elements of the buildings should be retained and incorporated into any new buildings. The Society notes that the church was recommended for inclusion as a heritage item in the revision and updating of the Marrickville LEP in 2015. It was withdrawn by the Administrator following an objection by the Church of Christ Property Trust, against the advice of Council staff and heritage consultants. The Society has requested that Council revisit this intervention, one of several by the Administrator which have resulted in the disfiguring or demolition of several potential heritage properties in the former Marrickville LGA.

Ferndale, 119 Addison Road, Marrickville

The developer of *Ferndale* returned to Council with another proposal to demolish this 1870 weatherboard cottage, after being recently rejected in the Land and Environment Court. The proposed replacement terraces were essentially unchanged from the previously rejected scheme, but were strangely supported by Inner West Council staff in their assessment report to the Local Planning Panel. The Society and local residents strongly objected to the proposed demolition and new development on heritage and neighbourhood amenity grounds. The Local Planning Panel concurred, rejecting the proposal. The developer now appears to have given up on the property, and has put it up for sale. Unfortunately, *Ferndale* is now derelict from deliberate neglect, and it is unlikely that a new owner would be willing to save it.

Scott MacArthur