

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE

## Our March Outing

**Lewisham Walking Tour with Mark Matheson**  
Saturday 28 March 10.00 for 10.30 am start

**Meet:** Taverners Hill Light Rail stop  
711 Parramatta Road (at the bottom of the hill  
where Parramatta Rd crosses Hawthorne Canal)

**Cost:** \$5 payable on the day

**Bookings:** Mark 0409 617 778 or email

<walla@iinet.net.au>

This walk takes about 2 hours, and concludes at a point halfway between the Taverners Hill Light Rail stop and Lewisham Railway Station. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your hat and drinking water.

**Mark Matheson** is the author of *Victorian Villas of Marrickville/Newtown* (Marrickville Council Library Services, 1996). Despite the praise that publication received, and its ongoing appeal, Mark tells us that 'it pretty much relied on secondhand information', and since then he has spent the better part of a decade scouring municipal records and other primary documents to find out who made the decisions which shaped the local area. He has led many local walking tours showing how the topography of a place can so often dictate that decision-making.

In the late 1800s, Lewisham and surrounding suburbs were desirable areas, but circumstance and political expediency rendered them less so during much of the ensuing century. This loop walk visits the most historically-interesting locations and houses in Lewisham. There is newly uncovered information about the people here including the successful convicts, the carcass butchers, the two women pioneers and the eight parliamentarians; and the failed Benedictine seminary, the 1870s 'garden suburb' and the 1948 'green belt'.



The Boulevarde in Lewisham was the first in Sydney  
(illustration: *The Australian Town and Country Journal*, May 1884)

## Our April Meeting

**By Muscle of Man & Horse – Building the Railway under Sydney 1916-1932**  
with Bill Phippen

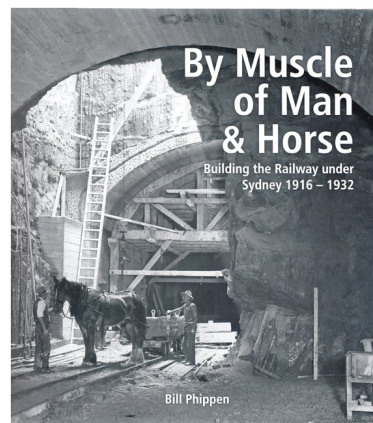
Saturday 25 April 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville

The chance finding of a long missing photo album in a Sydney Trains office in 2016 led **Bill Phippen** to a systematic survey of more than 1500 photos of the building of the first stages of Sydney's new city railway between 1916 and 1932. The newly found album was labelled number 4, and the rest of the broken set was located at NSW State Archives. The overwhelming realisation was that there were very few machines used and that most of the work was done by men, horses and a few tiny trucks.

Bill Phippen is a civil engineer, a builder, the former manager of the Railway Resource Centre within the Australian Railway Historical Society NSW, and has spent 40 years as a volunteer with Technical Aid for the Disabled. He was awarded the OAM in 2013 for service to people with disability and the community.

Bill's engineering expertise was vital in sorting, understanding and then captioning the 900 photos featured in his book, published in 2018 by the ARHS. The photos are in context of the 16-year-long first phase of the railway building works, and illustrate the great disruption to the city and its parklands for so long.



## Marrickville Medal 2020

Entries close on Sunday 8 March. Council's Awards event will be held on **Tuesday 5 May, 5-7 pm**, at Centenary Hall, Newington College. Check website <[innerwest.nsw.gov.au/BuiltEnvironmentAwards](http://innerwest.nsw.gov.au/BuiltEnvironmentAwards)> for booking details, unavailable at our print time.

## News of the Archival Reference Centre

**Anna-Bella Silva**, who, for some years, was in charge of the Archival Reference Centre, Inner West Council, and based in Petersham, has taken up a new full time position elsewhere. Anna-Bella had developed a comprehensive knowledge of the archive and was always prompt, obliging and helpful. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

It is not known if Anna-Bella will be replaced. Council archives were previously accessible on Wednesdays, but until further notice this has ceased and archival enquiries should be directed to Amie Zar, Community History & Heritage Coordinator, Inner West Council. Amie can be reached by phone on 9392 5817 or email <amie.zar@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>.

Other related contact names and phone numbers are:

Local History Librarian (Marrickville):

Aleem Aleemulah 9335 2167

Local History Officer (Leichhardt):

Aaron Fox 9392 5226

Local History Officer (Ashfield):

Carmel Andrews 9392 5108

History Events (all Inner West):

Shane Teehan 9392 5117

Richard Blair

## Demise of a comrade local history society

Late in 2019 we learned that **Canterbury & District Historical Society** will close after nearly 60 years of service to its district's local heritage and history.

The society has had many notable and active people amongst its ranks. In addition to their decades of work in advocating for local heritage, the society has provided a wealth of guest speakers and produced copious local history publications.

President **Kerin Wanstall** cited dwindling membership as the cause for their difficult decision to close down the society. In C&DHS's January-February newsletter, Kerin said: 'While the passion for local history is still there, it is no longer viable to continue to manage the society with a small number of members'. MHS's committee have offered to assist C&DHS in any way we can while they undergo this painful process.

Hearing this unhappy news, we think 'what if ...' and wonder who would champion our area's heritage and local history if our Society also ceased to exist.

Those who have worked on MHS's committee over the years appreciate the critical importance of our robust membership. Some of you we seldom or perhaps never see, but you support us anyway. Our members give the Society its voice, a presence in the community, and credibility when it's time to take a stand on things that matter – advocacy for local heritage and history, and thus the character, of our neighbourhoods.

It is abundantly clear from C&DHS's sad experience that without our members there would be no MHS. So thank you, to each and every one of you. You are the fabric of this Society, and it is your loyal support that keeps it going.

Lorraine Beach

## More about Council archives

Council's digitising of archives has been progressing and following is a list of what has been digitised and is 80% catalogued. The Library Management Systems should be complete in the near future.

### Rate Books

Annandale Council 1894-1920

Ashfield Council 1872-1984

Balmain Council 1908-1920

Camperdown Council 1885-1908

Leichhardt Council 1872-1920

Marrickville Council 1886-1984

Newtown Council 1866-1949

Petersham Council 1872-1948

St Peters Council 1884-1947

### Valuation Books

Ashfield Council 1872-1984

Camperdown Council 1885-1908

Marrickville Council 1886-1925 (1928-1960 in progress)

Petersham Council 1872-1948

St Peters Council 1884-1947

### Building and Subdivision Registers

Ashfield Council 1909-1980

Marrickville Council 1922-1957

Petersham Council 1911-1949

St Peters Council 1919-1948

Our thanks to **Amie Zar** at Inner West Council for providing this information – a valuable tool for local history researchers.

## Vale Dorothy Sullivan (30 Mar 1918 – 8 Feb 2020)



Dorothy (Dot) Sullivan  
photo: Lorraine Beach

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of **Dorothy (Dot) Jean Sullivan** aged 101, and regret we did not know in time to attend her funeral. Late of The Marion, Leichhardt, Dot lived in Stanmore for a long time. She joined MHS in 1998.

Dot was born in Kingston Road, Camperdown, and attended Stanmore Public School and Burwood Girls High. From 1964 to 2000, Dot was Secretary of Petersham RSL Women's Auxiliary, received the Certificate of Merit from RSL Australia in 1984 and the Australia Day Achievement Medal in 1988. Dot became a Life Member of Petersham RSL in 2000 for services rendered to Service personnel and civilians over many years. She had long associations with Petersham War Widow's Guild and Petersham Bowling Club. In 2009 she was honoured for service to the community by the National Council of Women at Parliament House, Sydney.

Dot's keen interest in genealogy enabled her to trace her family tree back to Richard Warren, a pilgrim on the *Mayflower* which arrived in America in 1620. This line of descent was through her great grandfather Prince (first name) Francis Little, who was the first officer in charge of the Water Police Station and Court (current site of the Justice & Police Museum) after it was erected in 1857.

Dot was married for 48 years to Patrick who died in 1998 and she had two children, Patricia and Peter (deceased). Our condolences to Patricia and all of Dot's family.

Richard Blair



## High hopes washed away

Along with many parts of our LGA, the intersection of Unwins Bridge and Bedwin Roads with Campbell and May Streets at St Peters has chronically flooded. The massive WestConnex project, in transforming this intersection, included measures to address flooding.

It is a prominent and significant corner. The **Town & Country Hotel** (venue for the launch of the Society's *Heritage 15* journal in March 2018) was established in 1881. We think it is the oldest continuously trading business in the 'St Peters triangle' and its owners, **Helen and Alex Filipopoulos**, Marrickville locals who grew up in the Warren, proudly recognise its heritage, its long 'pub' tradition and its connection with country singer the late Slim Dusty, who sang that he loved 'to have a beer with Duncan' there.

The present hotel, built in 1923, is heritage listed, as is the adjoining **Narara Terrace**, a group of eight Victorian houses built between 1880 and 1895 for the original owner of the hotel, **Henry A Crause**. Across the road is the Greenway Banks Estate, where **Waugh & Josephson** traded from 1895 to 1949. Diagonally opposite is the **Goodsell Estate Heritage Conservation Area**, encompassing Camdenville Park, formed in 1957 by filling part of the vast **Goodsell's brick pit**. At the south-western edge of the park is a remnant of the brick pit, now termed the Camdenville Basin, set aside as permanent and ephemeral wetlands – an important drainage point for stormwater.

Readers of **Merle Kavanagh's** essay 'By the Blue Lagoon – a family memoir' (*Marrickville – a past worth preserving*, MHS, 2011, pp. 13-22) will recall her father's whimsical naming of this 'waterfilled and debris littered former brickpit' for the benefit of his two young daughters, who found it magical and mysterious. From 1937 till the end of 1941, Merle's family lived in one of the eight 2-storey terraces on May Street that today back onto the park.

Enter WestConnex: for nearly two years locals have coped with noise, dirt, dust, vibration, disruption and for some, the heartbreak of acquisition and demolition of their homes. Campbell Street is unrecognisable.

WestConnex's drainage and stormwater work was touted to resolve the notorious flooding of the intersection. So when the downpour came in early February, all waited to see how it would perform. Not well, it seems.

The rain arrived, water levels rose, bow waves from vehicles flowed through the intersection and into the hotel, the cellar filled with water and floating kegs had to be mustered from the road and the footpath. Across the road, the wetlands once more became a lagoon: overflowing, not draining, not so magical.

Local talk and theories for the failure abound: inadequate design, poor execution of the works, a drainage grate to the wetlands covered over, pumps failed or not turned on. We are unlikely to ever know the reason, but we do hope to soon see the resolution.

Lorraine Beach

## Anatomy of a racing photo

Horses are embedded in the Australian psyche and while there are compelling arguments both for and against horse racing, it has been around in Australia since early colonial days. This montage of three race photos came from an unlikely source. It was the last remaining from several purchased at auction by **Richard Blair** in the mid-1980s. Richard doesn't recall why he bought them; he gave me this one as I wanted to research it.

The horse winning these three races is Latin Girl. Her breeding was: Latin Lover (GB)–Valtalina. Note, the sire is always cited first, the dam (mother) second, and GB indicates that Latin Lover was from Great Britain.



CJ Bickley & Son photos of Latin Girl  
(photo: Jamie McCarthy)

Latin Lover also sired the champion racehorse Rain Lover; he won back to back Melbourne Cups in 1968-69. Richard did not know this, or the owners, the trainer or the jockey.

So among likely reasons for Richard's quirky buy might have been the names of two of the races Latin Girl won in these photos, where she won them, or the names of other races taking place on the days she won them.

**Canterbury Wednesday 10.11.1976** – won 1<sup>st</sup> Marrickville Maiden Handicap. Other races that day were Croydon Novice Handicap, Ashbury Graduation Stakes, Earlwood Welter Handicap, Burwood Graduation Stakes and Lewisham Graduation Stakes.

**Canterbury Saturday 27.11.1976** – won Petersham Graduation Stakes. Other races that day were Miranda Graduation Stakes, Lakemba Handicap, Dulwich Hill Welter Handicap, Campsie Graduation Stakes and Clemton Park Flying Handicap.

The third win pictured was at Randwick – AJC Stakes.

The photos led to the photographers – CJ Bickley & Son. Cyrus Bickley and his son Ron dominated photography of Sydney racing of all kinds from 1946 until 1988.

Investigating the photographers led to a collection at the Museum of Applied Arts and Science, Sydney, of cameras used by CJ Bickley & Son. One camera in the collection is the Speed Graphic, 'a leading press camera of the mid-twentieth century', credited as the camera used for taking the photos that won the Pulitzer Prizes for photography for the years 1942-1954. More research, though, revealed that the 1954 Pulitzer Prize winning photo was actually taken with a Kodak Brownie.

The Australian Turf Club, Sydney, has welcomed donation of the montage for its archives.

Diane McCarthy

## Webwise

Digitised **MHS newsletters** are now on our website. Every newsletter (from Volume 1 Number 1, June 1984) until the end of 2018 is available to view and search. Go to the website, then 'Publications' and 'Newsletters'.

Rod Aanensen

## Calendar of MHS Events

**Saturday 28 March**  
**Lewisham Walk with Mark Matheson**  
Details on front page

**Saturday 25 April**  
**By Muscle of Man & Horse – Building the Railway under Sydney 1916-1932**  
**Talk with Bill Phippen**  
Details on front page

**Saturday 23 May**  
**Marrickville's 'Little Athens' Walk**  
Details in May-June newsletter

## An invitation from Ashfield & District Historical Society

**North Head & the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust – a talk with Barry and Marie McDonald**  
**Sunday 15 March, 1.45 for 2.00 pm**  
**St Patrick's Hall, Corner of Drynan Street & Prospect Road, Summer Hill. Entrance on Prospect Road.**

**Cost is a gold coin for A&DHS members, \$5 for non-members, to assist in covering room hire. RSVP for catering – Lois 9797 7004, email <adhs@tpg.com.au>.**

Our Ashfield friends and colleagues have invited MHS members to attend this presentation by **Barry and Marie McDonald**, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust volunteers. They will outline the history and the present status of two significant sites in the post-European history of North Head, Sydney: the 3rd Quarantine Cemetery and the area of the World War II military occupation.

Complementing Mervyn Rosen's talk on 22 February (report at right), Barry and Marie will also describe events leading up to and on the night of the Japanese midget submarine attack on Sydney in May 1942 – an event the defences at North Head were set up to stop. The presentation will be followed by afternoon tea.

## Some notable anniversaries coming up

**KU Crusader Preschool** (formerly Crusader Kindergarten), Malakoff Street, Marrickville – **75<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. Seeking stories of the school's link to the Australian Woollen Mills, or its early days. Megan Montgomery 9569 1940 or <ku.crusader@ku.com.au>.

**29 April – 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the landing of **Captain James Cook** at Botany Bay. Commemorations of this event evolve as we strive to come to terms with its consequences and our history.

**2 May – 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the mid-air explosion of a **RAF plane** above Petersham Public School in 1945. To be commemorated at Petersham Language High School, Gordon Street, on **Friday 1 May, 9.30 for 10 am**.

**26 May – MHS's 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. Maybe we should stop for cake on our 'Little Athens' walk on 23 May!

**Australian Heritage Festival 18 April to 19 May**  
Watch Council's website for details of local events  
<innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

## Our last meeting: 22 February Midget submarines in Sydney Harbour

**Mervyn Rosen**, a volunteer at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, told us that while for most Sydneysiders World War II seemed far away, it came to Sydney Harbour in May 1942. War news had been grim but there was an air of celebration in Sydney on the night of 31 May: the allies had won the Battle of the Coral Sea, and many warships were at anchor in the harbour, including USS *Chicago*, HMAS *Canberra* and HMAS *Adelaide*.

Harbour defences were incomplete, communication was difficult and warnings of Sydney's vulnerability to attack were not taken seriously. The naval officer-in-charge in Sydney, Rear Admiral Gerard Muirhead-Gould, Royal Navy, was attending a birthday party as the attack unfolded; he was dismissive and sarcastic about reports.

Three midget submarines entered the harbour. The first was caught in the anti-submarine net. The crew suicided. The second fired its two torpedoes at the USS *Chicago*, missing the target but sinking HMAS *Kuttubul*, killing 21 and wounding 10. USS *Chicago* fired back but could not depress its guns low enough to cause damage. It dived and disappeared. The third was damaged by depth charges and disabled. Its crew suicided.

The attack lasted for about nine hours and panic was widespread amid fears of an air raid or an invasion. It could have been much worse: thousands of men were on board the ships at anchor, major targets were not hit, and on shore damage might have been devastating.

The crews were hailed as heroes in Japan: they had died gloriously and with honour, fulfilling the *bushii* code of the Samurai. They were afforded a funeral with honours by the Navy in Sydney. The midget submarine that had disappeared was found by divers in December 2006 on the seabed off Sydney's northern beaches. The wreck site is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

**Joan Francis**



## Autumn Trivia question

What and where is this building in the former Marrickville LGA? Contact Richard 9557 3823 or <marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com>.

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