

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



## Church of Christ - a win for heritage

The Society has thanked Inner West Councillors, who voted unanimously to list the Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville as a local heritage item. Under the Interim Heritage Order imposed by Council in January 2020, an independent expert heritage report was prepared by Hector Abrahams Architects that concluded:

The Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville is of significance to Marrickville for its historic and aesthetic values, and in the Inner West as one of a group of Church of Christ congregations and buildings, of which it is the most prominent. It is also significant for its rarity and representative values. It is locally significant to Marrickville and the Inner West more broadly, and therefore does warrant being listed as a heritage item in the Marrickville Local Environmental Plan (2011).

The report identified some aspects of the aesthetic and historical significance of the building that other reports had omitted. The church has landmark qualities, being sited facing up Greenbank Street, as well as forming a block of highly intact Edwardian buildings with the adjoining houses and shop-top buildings that make a positive contribution to the streetscape of Illawarra Road. It is also a good example of the work of Alfred G Newman, architect, a notable designer of protestant churches over a long career. At least six of his churches are listed as local heritage items in NSW.

We note the church was among properties recommended for inclusion as heritage items in the revision and update of the Marrickville LEP in 2015. They were withdrawn by Council's Administrator after objections by owners. Several of the properties have since been disfigured or demolished, and the remainder are under threat of inappropriate development. We again call on Council to revisit the interventions by the Administrator, to prevent further loss of our precious built heritage.

**Scott MacArthur**



'The above view of the church, looking east along Greenbank Street, shows it as a landmark. This is the most significant view of the church.'  
*Significance Assessment, Hector Abrahams Architects, May 2020)*

## Otaki, 436 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

A developer has lodged a DA with Council to demolish the house and construct five three-storey townhouses with basement parking and associated landscaping. The Society does not support the application, and has asked Council to reject it.



Otaki, 436 Marrickville Road (Photo: Devine Real Estate)

Otaki is a largely intact late Victorian/Federation villa, prominently located on the corner with South Street, that should be heritage listed and retained. Council should impose an Interim Heritage Order to allow for a proper heritage evaluation.

Our research indicates that the land occupied by the house was, from the 1870s to 1890, the market garden known as Orange Grove. It was owned and operated by John Henry Teague, who lived at Kiel Cottage, later worked by a man called Ah Say, then subdivided around 1890-91. We believe the house was built about this time.

The house was initially occupied by John Wise, who named it *Glendinning*, then by AP Fletcher, who named it *Braeside*. When Charles Scales moved in at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he called it *Albermarle*. Then in 1905 it was occupied by an illustrious owner, John McFarlane and his wife Ellen.

John McFarlane (1854-1915) was the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the electorate of Clarence in northern NSW for 28 years. While not a local resident, he was held in considerable regard by his electorate – the McFarlane Bridge at Maclean on the Clarence River is named after him. He died at *Albermarle* while in office. Ellen McFarlane remained in residence until 1922 when the house was sold to John Adair. It seems he may have given the house its current name *Otaki* (which is also a town in the North Island of New Zealand). More research on a local connection is needed.

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The property is listed from 1927 until 1932-33 in Sands as occupied by Dr LJ Shortland (BB, MB, ChM), physician and surgeon. Shortland and his wife and daughter were apparently very socially active, appearing in social pages quite often as bridge players, members of the Highland Society and various charities.

Otaki became a part of the 'medical precinct of doctors' surgeries and homes, housed in substantial Victorian and Federation villas that surrounded the former Marrickville Cottage Hospital on Marrickville and Livingstone Roads. Many of these houses have been removed or extensively remodelled over the years, and the remaining villas require heritage protection to preserve them.

**Scott MacArthur and Rod Aanensen**

## Meetings and Newsletter

We continue to tread carefully with consideration of a return to meetings, outings, events and resumption of newsletter deliveries via our network of 'runners'. This month, everyone for whom we have an email address will receive a digital (PDF) newsletter.

There are a number of reasons. The first is postage costs. The last newsletter was mailed, because our runners are 'on hold', at a cost of \$420 – this was \$240 more than we would usually spend on postage. The second reason is that some members have indicated a preference to receive a PDF – it saves paper, can be easily stored (and 'searched') for future reference, and it's harder to misplace. The third reason is that newsletters can be delivered sooner, and we'll enhance them by introducing more colour wherever we can.

If you do not want to receive your future newsletters by email after we resume 'normal' routines, please tell us. If you have received your newsletter by post, but would like to receive it by email, please contact us with your email address. Also let us know if you have more than one person in your membership, and want to add email addresses to receive newsletters.

We will still produce printed newsletters, available at future meetings for members who would like one in addition to the PDF they have received.

This is not merely a campaign to 'go digital' at this time – although we concede that we must prepare for that. At present we are trying to manage the situation during the COVID crisis. We accept and will honour all preferences to return to paper copies in future – just tell us what you would like. All our contacts are on the back page of this newsletter.

**Lorraine Beach**

## A message from the Treasurer

Treasurer **Diane McCarthy** thanks members for the good response to renewal notices and for donations and notes of appreciation sent with renewals. A mystery payment was made on 14 May: Teachers' Mutual Bank for \$60; alas, no name – any takers? If yet to renew, check May newsletter for details, or contact Diane – <diane.mccarthy@optusnet.com.au> phone 9588 4930.

## Neglected local historic signs

In 2014 Marrickville Council created and erected 18 metal signs reflecting aspects of local history throughout the former Marrickville municipality – the suburbs listed on this newsletter's masthead. It was a commendable project, the result of considerable planning.

An article in MHS's October-November 2014 newsletter described the formal unveiling of these signs attended by the mayor, some councillors and MHS members. A short walk encompassed some of the signs, including one at Maundrell Park and another in Audley Street, both in Petersham.

Whilst a comprehensive survey has not been done, there are certainly two such signs which have not fared well since. One stands outside 158 Enmore Road, Enmore, near the site of the former *Enmore House*, from which the suburb of Enmore derived its name. The sign, now totally obscured by graffiti and countless layers of posters, gave some history of *Enmore House* with associated images.



Historic sign at 158 Enmore Road, Enmore (photo: Richard Blair)



Historic sign near Marrickville Road's Post Office building (photo: Richard Blair)

The second sign, near the former Post Office on Marrickville Road, conveys the condition such signage is left in once posters have been removed. Little of the history information can now be seen.

This damage and neglect demonstrates a disdain for local history by some citizens. The signs should be restored but perhaps Inner West Council is

reluctant to do so because they may eventually sustain the same damage. If this is the case, the signs should be removed as they have become an eyesore.

The disfigurement of such historic signage demonstrates that these are the wrong types of signs and in the wrong places. A more viable alternative would be solid metal plaques affixed to buildings.

There are two local examples of plaques which have not attracted posters and graffiti. One is the excerpt from the Henry Lawson poem 'Faces in the Street' on Petersham Station; the other is on the wall of *Websters Bar* (formerly *Zanzibar* and allegedly the site of the 1832 New Town Store) at the corner of Eliza and King Streets, Newtown.

**Richard Blair**

## Thank you to World of Print

World of Print at Broadway has printed our newsletters for the past 17 years. We are grateful for their terrific service, even in these difficult times, for containing our costs and never letting us down. Many thanks to Ali and En.



## Vale Jack Munday



**Jack Munday** died on 10 May at the age of 90 after a long illness. Proud of being known as an ecological socialist, Jack's impact on the preservation of much of what may have been lost in Sydney would arguably make him, in heritage terms, 'the person of the last 50 years in Sydney'.

Jack Munday at 87, still championing heritage preservation, Sirius Building, Cumberland Street, Sydney (photo: Jessica Hromas, SMH, 11 May 2020)

Among Jack's numerous causes was a local one when, in 1995, he added his voice to the saving of Stanmore House, built in the 1840s by Mary Reibey for her daughter Elizabeth. This house off Enmore Road was saved after a campaign led by Marrickville Heritage Society. In October 1995 Jack addressed 70 members of MHS at Petersham Town Hall. Here are some excerpts from my report of that talk in the November 1995 MHS newsletter:

'Historic Houses Trust chairman Jack Munday traced the history of the Builders Labourers Federation, a radical group with socialist beliefs, which attracted conservative groups in the name of preservation because of common goals. Unlike black bans, which stopped work for better working conditions, green bans were selfless, more noble actions designed to prevent wanton destruction of public property and historic sites. Among the numerous green bans successes were Eastlakes, Kelly's Bush in Hunters Hill and the working class housing areas of The Rocks and Woolloomooloo. Resident action groups sprang up and governments were forced to take notice and often back down.

'In 1972 *The Sydney Morning Herald* received more letters about three old endangered fig trees in the Domain than any other issue, and the Governor of NSW Sir Roden Cutler declared, 'thank God for the Builders Labourers!' The trees were saved. What irony when Munday, atheist and Marxist, wanted to save the Pitt Street Congregational Church whilst its Minister, Gordon Bryant, wanted it to come down! The church is still there.

'In the wake of the green bans, resident action and environmental groups, Labor Premier Neville Wran in 1977 introduced the Heritage Act and later, the Land & Environment Court. However, Jack now says the funds allocated to heritage are still grossly inadequate. He feels the future is dubious if there is no respect for the past and he maintains the environmental and ecological movement is the most important movement of our time. Those who look upon the economic position as being separate must change their position because if humanity is going to have a future it seems that the ecological and the economic position must be entwined.'

Members still remember that talk. Jack and Judy joined MHS soon after and remained members. Jack had the common touch but articulated the heritage cause with passion and conviction. He has richly deserved every accolade that has gone his way. Our condolences to Judy.

**Richard Blair**

## Vale Fred Ellis

With much sadness we say goodbye to **Frederick Arthur ('Fred') Ellis**, who died peacefully on 14 May. Fred's family held a private funeral service and, due to current restrictions, attendance was limited. Fred's long time good friend, **Ian Phillips**, was honoured to be included among those able to attend, also affording tacit MHS presence. Ian conveyed condolences on behalf of the Society to **Betty and Alex Healey**, Fred's daughter and her husband.

Fred was a true local; he grew up in Lord Street, St Peters, worked at Arncliffe and later, with his wife Joyce, lived in Tamar Street, Marrickville. Involved in their local community, Joyce and Fred joined MHS in 1988. Fred was a newsletter runner for 20 years; he was a keen cricketer; and he was a much loved volunteer for remedial reading classes at Marrickville West Public School. Joyce died in 2002.

Valiant in defiance of his failing eyesight, Fred would walk to MHS meetings, always maintaining his erect posture and military gait, perhaps a legacy of his army days; he served in New Guinea during WWII. Fred was a steadfast supporter of MHS, and rarely missed a meeting, outing, trip away or event. After he moved from Tamar Street to Juliana Village at Miranda five years ago, family helped out with transport to and from the wharf so he could join our cruise on Port Hacking, his final outing with MHS. In our last newsletter we said Fred was 99 – we unintentionally fudged; he missed that birthday by one week.

In telling us of Fred's death, Ian Phillips described him as 'a great bloke, universally regarded as a gentle gentleman'. Perhaps our memories of him are best expressed by **Chrys Meader**, who, on hearing of his death, said:



Fred Ellis in 2014  
(photo: Lorraine Beach)

'Fred was truly one of nature's own gentlemen. In the many years I knew Fred, I do not recall one bad word about a single person and not one bad moment spent in his company'.

Fred is missed by all of us. We offer our condolences to Betty and Alex, Cheryl, John and all of his family.

**Lorraine Beach**

## Webwise

marrickvilleheritage.org.au

Recently, people became tired of hearing politicians, pundits and others telling us that the coronavirus pandemic was unprecedented. The latest story posted to our website takes a look at the precedent for our current situation, what happened and how Marrickville responded to the pneumonic ('Spanish flu') pandemic of 1918-20. The similarities are striking. Times may change rapidly but human behaviour can be a little slower.

Rod Aanensen

## Is radio part of your 'stay at home' day?

Member **Mark Marusic** alerted us to a radio segment – Dictionary of Sydney, presenter often **Lisa Murray** (MHS member), on community radio station 2SER every Wednesday at 8.15 am. Mark said our inner west occasionally features: a recent story was on the murder of Robert Wardell. 2SER is at 107.3 FM and they also offer podcasts on their website.

## 'Op Shop' a casualty of COVID-19

The **Cat Protection Society's** 'Op Shop' at 85 Enmore Road, a Newtown institution since the 1970s, has closed. Citing inability to achieve social distancing while maintaining operations in their adoption and shelter premises at 103 Enmore Road (opposite Enmore Theatre), the former op shop will become their welfare and retail premises. CEO **Kristina Vesik** said the op shop has been a major contributor to CPS fundraising and 'a community hub advocating the virtues of re-use and recycle long before it was fashionable.' **Richard Blair** notes this stretch of Enmore Road once had three op shops; now it has none.

## Marrickville Medal 2020 – an oversight

Our last newsletter announced the Marrickville Medal results but we overlooked mentioning **16 Balfour Street, Dulwich Hill**, a c.1914 timber house commended for conservation and new additions. Works included removal of fibro cladding, new timber windows replacing aluminium, a new picket fence and a bullnose verandah taking its cue from nearby houses. The owners and designers reinstated the house's contribution to its period



streetscape, adapting and modestly extending it for contemporary living while retaining the open space of the backyard. We offer congratulations to all.

(photo: Paul Toni, courtesy of Inner West Council)

## More about ephemera for the Library

Both the State Library and the National Library have requested COVID-19 ephemera. Both want leaflets and flyers; information bulletins from department stores, supermarkets and other retail outlets; council notices from urban, rural and regional areas; and material in languages other than English. **Keith Sutton** has offered to collect material and deliver it to the State Library; duplicates to go to NLA. Material may be brought to our next meeting (to be announced), or sent to Keith. Contact: <keith.sutton7@gmail> or 0408 169 721.

## Winter Trivia Answer



Photo: Megan Hicks

The 'Municipality of Petersham' sign is set in the footpath where Parramatta Road crosses over Johnstons Creek canal, near the Stanmore McDonald's.

I'm disappointed but not surprised that most MHS members did not recognise it because these days this stretch of pavement is infrequently used by pedestrians. This municipality boundary sign is a more elaborate version of the many embedded street names

in our area, which were most likely put in place during the 1930s, when Petersham Council concreted its streets in a project to provide employment during the Great Depression.

Since the early days of the colony Johnstons Creek has been used as a boundary marker between land grants, between suburbs and, through a number of mergers and demergers, between local councils. However, not so long ago the boundary in the vicinity of Parramatta Road was moved east so that, instead of Johnstons Creek, Mallett and Booth Streets now divide Annandale from Camperdown; while the boundary between Stanmore and Camperdown deviates from Johnstons Creek (at Parramatta Road) to Cardigan Lane then Cardigan Street and then it gets complicated.

Congratulations to **Monica Oppen** who found the sign in Parramatta Road after she had found a similar one where Salisbury Road crosses over Johnstons Creek canal at the former boundary between Stanmore and Camperdown. And **Lorraine Beach** found a 'Municipality of Ashfield' sign in the footpath where Marion Street crosses Hawthorne Canal at the border between Leichhardt and Haberfield.

Megan Hicks

Editor's note: Richard Blair traditionally hosts 'Trivia' but member Megan Hicks provided both question and answer for this one. Megan's blog, *Pavement Graffiti and other urban exhibits* is well worth a look – <meganix.net/pavement>.

## Welcome to New Members

Bridget Cleaver, Janet Egan, both from Dulwich Hill; Grace Lech, Enmore; Clare Graham, Leichhardt; Linda Dunlea, Anand Gururajan, Kate Minnett, all from Marrickville; Rosemary & Hugh Isaacs, Petersham.

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