

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



## Heritage Watch

### Church of Christ, Illawarra Road, Marrickville

As expected, the Land and Environment Court has approved the demolition and new 'low cost' residential development on the site of the **Church of Christ** after Inner West Council had refused to heritage list the building to protect it. Council's other planning code objections to the building were over-ruled by the court.

Interestingly, the developer has apparently requested two consent conditions to be included by Council to 'ensure a connection with the *intangible* heritage of the site as a place where, historically, support and services to the community have been provided'. The developers have absolved themselves from retaining the 'tangible' heritage of the site (the church building and adjacent Queen Anne style house), but will erect 'interpretation' of its social history. The Society will gracefully recant if anything more than a plaque is provided in the final development.

### Otaki, 436 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

Under the Interim Heritage Order (IHO) imposed by Council which halted the demolition of this grand late Victorian/Federation villa, an independent heritage assessment was carried out. The assessment determined that 'while the site is a good example of a Victorian Italianate free-standing house and would make a positive contribution to a heritage conservation area, it is less intact than comparative heritage items and does not meet enough criteria for listing as an individual heritage item'.

Council therefore revoked the IHO in early November, and *Otaki* was demolished within the month. Council is still assessing the proposed development, but all that remains of the house is its palisade fence, and the *Otaki* nameplate (below) salvaged by our intrepid 'heritage crime scene' reporter, **Rod Aanensen**.



### 315-321 Illawarra Road, Marrickville

The two pairs of semi-detached Federation era houses proposed for demolition for a new six-storey shop-top residential development have been saved from demolition by the Inner West Local Planning Panel. The proposed development was rejected unanimously by the panel, as it was non-compliant with many of Council's development codes. Unfortunately, the destruction of these period character buildings within the Marrickville Commercial Precinct was not acknowledged by the Panel as a reason for rejecting the development.

The Society anticipates that the developers will return with a slimmed-down development that will still sacrifice these under-valued remnants of Marrickville's eclectic residential, professional and commercial development history.

**Scott MacArthur**

## COVID curtailment continues

We are keen to resume the calendar of MHS events, but our conservative approach to 'in person' meetings, talks, or group activities will continue until we are out of the woods with the pandemic, and health authorities have no qualms about non-essential gatherings. No meetings are scheduled yet.

It is hoped restrictions may soon be lifted and we can hold our AGM. In the meantime, committee members have all remained on the job, carrying on MHS's core business of heritage advocacy. We repeat previous advice that the 2019-20 financial report has been completed and audited should members want access to this information.

### MHS email address

Members are advised that our former email address <heritagesociety@optusnet.com.au> is obsolete. MHS's email address is now <marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com> and it always appears at the foot of the back page of the newsletter along with our website address <marrickvilleheritage.org.au>. Emails to MHS can be sent directly to our current email address, or via our website, using the 'Contact us' button.



## 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lewisham plane crash

Around 9.30 am on Thursday 31 January 1946 the rudder mechanism of a Royal Navy Reconnaissance Firefly Fighter DK480 failed, resulting in the plane going into a spin, plunging, glancing off the belltower at Lewisham Hospital, crashing into the courtyard and kitchen attached to Ward 26 and bursting into flames, killing three people.

According to *The Sydney Morning Herald* (1 February 1946):

When the aircraft was at a low altitude the pilot parachuted to safety, but his observer was trapped in the aircraft and was burned to death. The other two persons killed were kitchen hands at the hospital.



'Scene of fatal plane crash on Lewisham Hospital'  
*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February 1946, page 1

Those who died were Petty Officer (Airman) RN Edmund Mackenzie Butterworth, 25, of Knott End-on-Sea, Lancashire; Iris May Thompson, 19, of Granville; and John Kevin (Jack) Smith, 17, of Enfield. Four people were injured, including Mrs Trussell and John Cowlshaw, 32, both of Lewisham. The pilot was Sub-Lieutenant Colin Brittain Ratcliffe, 21, of Leeds, England.

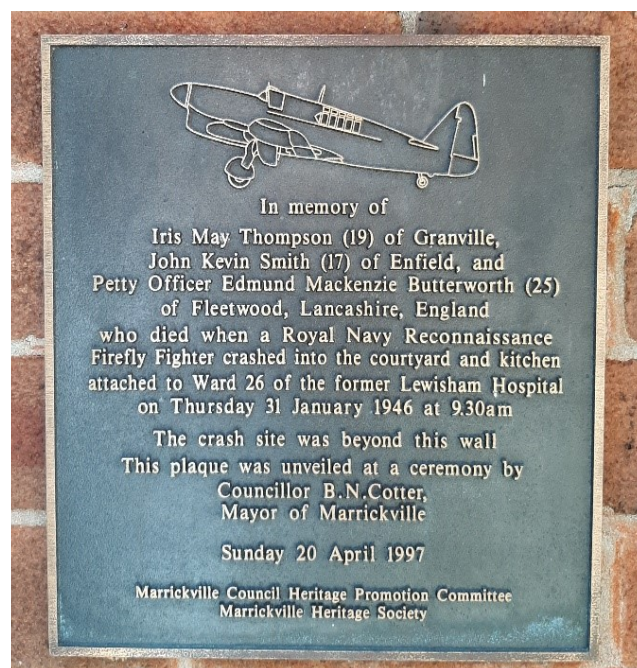
The hospital diary recorded:

The pilot had parachuted and hit the electric train wires at Lewisham, but the station master had seen him parachuting and turned off the current. He later staggered into the hospital quite stunned . . . The blast was so severe that hospital windows were smashed, walls and ceilings cracked in many parts of the buildings.

Not only was the crash just nine months after the one over Petersham Public School, but the two sites are only a few hundred metres apart (though separated by railway lines) and both were British planes.

A ceremony, organised by MHS, was conducted at 9.30 am on 31 January 1996, at the former Lewisham Hospital crash site near the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. Among those who attended were three sisters of Iris Thompson: Joyce Smith, Lorna Aldridge and Bev O'Brien. A report of this ceremony by Mary Tait appeared in the March 1996 MHS newsletter. (Past newsletters are accessible on our website.)

Marrickville Council was approached advocating a commemorative plaque be placed near the crash site. This was approved and arranged by Council and on 20 April 1997 a plaque in memory of those killed was unveiled at a well-attended ceremony in the above-mentioned courtyard. The President of the St Vincent de Paul Society (which owned the site) John Moore welcomed the gathering and Deputy Mayor Cr Carmel Tebbutt unveiled the plaque (notwithstanding credit on the plaque for its unveiling being given to Cr Barry Cotter, Mayor of Marrickville).



The plaque erected in 1997 in memory of the three killed as a result of the crash (photo: Richard Blair)

Almost half of the 70 who attended were relatives of Iris Thompson and Jack Smith. The sister and brother of Edmund Butterworth (living in England and Canada) were unable to come.

The plaque and the event were organised by Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee in conjunction with Marrickville Heritage Society.

**Richard Blair**



## National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards 2020

Usually held during the Australian Heritage Festival around April or May each year, but postponed due to COVID restrictions, the 26<sup>th</sup> Awards ceremony was a 'virtual' occasion, streamed live, from *Lindesay* at Darling Point, on YouTube on 12 November 2020. The Trust reports that despite a calamitous year, the Awards attracted a record 131 nominations in 12 categories. Four of the awards are close to home for our Society.

**Alan Croker** received the Lifetime Achievement Award, an accolade that recognises special and significant contribution to heritage conservation. 2020 was Alan's 50th year of architectural practice, more than 40 of those years dedicated to heritage conservation. Aside from his decades of work in Australia, in particular in Sydney, including the new conservation management plan for Sydney Opera House, Alan's career has taken him all over the world to work on conservation projects as diverse as 15th and 16th century buildings in Bath, England, a temple in Fiji, and projects in India. Acknowledged for his profound impact on the profession, he was praised for his expertise, influence, leadership, teaching and commitment to heritage conservation.



We are proud that Alan is a long term member of the Society, and we've appreciated his generosity in presenting talks to our groups over the years. We offer our congratulations for this award – due recognition of a true heritage champion.

Alan Croker  
(photo: Sydney Opera House website)

The Judges' Choice Award, described as the 'showstopper', was bestowed on **Marrickville Library and Pavilion**. The judging panel determined that this project represents all that the National Trust seeks for its awards – 'it involves community, it involves restoration and building, and most importantly it is really loved by the people using it now'. The Library and Pavilion received two more awards: one for Adaptive Re-use and another for Education & Interpretation.

Last but not least, **Leichhardt Town Hall** received an award for Conservation Built Heritage. Major restoration works were undertaken to the exterior of the grand Victorian Italianate building by Hector Abrahams Architects on behalf of Inner West

Council. The project included repair and conservation of the southern façade, the clock and clocktower, a new colour scheme, lighting and landscaping. The landmark building is once more resplendent following this major restoration project.

The award ceremony can be viewed in full on YouTube; it is well worth a look for the wealth and variety of projects undertaken by award recipients. Further information and images are also on the Trust's website.

**Lorraine Beach**

## 2021 Marrickville Medal

Inner West Council's Built Environment Awards are held annually during the National Trust Heritage Festival – usually in April-May. The Awards continue tradition with inclusion of the Marrickville Medal for Conservation, which has been awarded every year since 1995.



The Marrickville Medal is a splendid plaque presented to the owners for display on the winning building  
(photo: Hector Abrahams Architects, Project Architects for the 2019 winner)

Judged by a panel of experts, the Medal is awarded for building works completed in the past three years, demonstrating positive conservation outcomes.

The popular Inner West Urban Photography competition is also part of the Awards, inviting entries from photographers of all ages and abilities.

Detailed information for both competitions is on Council's website, including application forms that can be completed and submitted online.

## Royal Australian Historical Society events

The RAHS has admirably risen to the challenges of our many months of enforced COVID restrictions. Customary excellent communication continues for members and affiliated societies (MHS is both), and activities available online have been expanded to fill the void of the shutdown of 'in person' events.

We encourage you to visit their website: there are interesting articles, an 'online calendar of events' where you can view and register for day lectures, workshops and special events offered via Zoom. Many are free, some have a fee.

## Webwise

[marrickvilleheritage.org.au](http://marrickvilleheritage.org.au)

The website continues to enjoy a high volume of visits and webmaster **Rod Aanensen** continues to field queries, questions and enquiries. A reminder that if you'd like to help with answering the variety of enquiries, talk to Rod, or send him an email (contacts below right) to let him know of your area of interest.

There's no doubting the popularity of social media, evidenced by the growing number of our 'Facebook members'. This is a place where people can share local history stories, snippets, anecdotes or photos. Part of the Society's charter is to 'record local history'; Facebook is a way to share short bits of interesting and pertinent information. If you haven't visited Facebook yet, take a look at our page.

**Lorraine Beach**

## Are letters and postcards gone forever?

Members continue to keep in touch with us, often via a letter or card, and many mention missing contact with family and friends during COVID lockdowns of varying severity. One lamented the decline of letter writing, reminiscing about the excitement of receiving a letter from home, or from a loved one abroad, or a postcard during someone's travels. Emails and instant messaging on smart phones are now the order of the day, but as one member pointed out, they'll be deleted eventually, and the memories too. Researchers will confirm what a great resource old letters are. Worth thinking about, because it seems unlikely there will be any cache of old emails or text messages.

## Quirky front gardens



Who remembers this? Snapped on one of our MHS walks – not quite a front garden, but quite a display of gnomes, wombats, pigs and others. It's gone now. A 'scratchie' for the first to tell us where it was.

### A competition

Find and photograph the quirkiest, most whimsical garden in our local government area and send it to us – email addresses to the right and below, or postal address at foot of front page. *Entries close 31 March.*

Just one rule: You must have the garden owner's permission for us to publish the photo (but not the address) in our newsletter. We strongly suggest you ask the owner before photographing their garden!

The prize: Lunch for two at *Petty Cash Café* (near Enmore Park).

**Lorraine Beach**

## Summer Trivia Answer

Eva Ensley Mary Jagger (nee Scutts) was born in Petersham in 1913. (Some sources claim she was born in Marrickville, but this probably stems from her birth being registered in Marrickville.)

Eva lived with her family in the Marrickville area before her mother returned to England in 1917 with Eva and her four siblings. Eva trained and worked as a hairdresser and married Basil Fanshawe ('Joe') Jagger in 1940. They had two sons, Mick and Chris, both musicians. Mick, now Sir Michael Jagger, famously became the lead singer of the enduring Rolling Stones. During their 2003 tour of Australia, the Stones performed at the Enmore Theatre, reportedly chosen as a venue by Mick Jagger because of his mother's connection to the area. Eva died in London, aged 87, in 2000. Some of Eva's siblings returned to Australia, and there are many (Scutts) relatives living here.

Well done to Kay Abrahams, Natalie Hitoun, Diane McCarthy and Elda Ribeiro who established the link.



Eva Jagger and her son Mick

(photo: twitter.com—date and photographer unknown)

**Richard Blair**

## Midsummer Trivia Question



This tiled sign is a reminder of a bygone time. It can still be seen on a shopfront in the greater Marrickville area. Where is it? Contact Richard 0413 335 897 or <[marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com](mailto:marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com)>.

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