

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS
SYDENHAM & TEMPE



President's Message

As we near the end of our second year of COVID-19 disruption, it is interesting to reflect again on the forgotten lessons of history.

The so-called 'Spanish flu' or the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 was not a single surge of contagion, but waves of infections that moved around the world, leaving Australia largely unaffected until 1919 when a maritime quarantine was lifted.

Like many, when I signed off on 2020 in our Christmas newsletter last year, I was hopeful we had escaped the historical and virological imperatives of pandemics. Sadly, that was mistakenly optimistic and the 'Delta wave' sent Australia back into lockdown. Our meetings and outings were again cancelled. But our Society has proven to be very resilient, and surprisingly adept, at shifting to a virtual reality, with amazing support from our members.

We successfully conducted a deferred online AGM, allowing our Executive Committee to be refreshed with both new and experienced faces. Two guest speakers finish the year for us with online talks. See report below of **Mark Sabolch's** talk, and historian **Dr Peter Hobbins** will present a talk on Saturday 27 November, details to be advised by email.

Our newsletter continues to inform, delight and provoke, and our website and Facebook pages are increasingly popular.

In the new year, should it be safe to do so, we will be returning to 'live' meetings and outings. But be assured that, should there be another COVID wave, the Society will be able to continue providing our members with heritage information and advocating for the protection of the heritage values of our local area.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all good health, a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2022.

Scott MacArthur

Zoom talk by Mark Sabolch

**How Italianate arrived in Sydney's Inner West
Saturday 30 October 2021**

For the Society's first Zoom presentation, about 35 tuned in for a most informative illustrated talk by **Mark Sabolch**, President of the Ashfield & District Historical Society.

Key features of Italianate architecture:

- buildings asymmetrical in form
- scenographic role of a building in the landscape
- classical architectural vocabulary.

The Italianate style originated in England and Wales before being adopted in Australia. The Rev William Gilpin was a late eighteenth century schoolteacher, artist, author and traveller who formulated ideas about what constitutes a 'picturesque' scene and published several books using his own pictures. His books became influential and gave rise to nature tourism both as a pastime and an industry. His chief legacy was the notion that buildings should be an integral part of the landscape.

Publications by Sir Uverdale Price, Richard Payne Knight and Humphrey Repton were significant in demonstrating how the 'picturesque' is distinct from 'beauty'. In 1802 Price approached John Nash (one of the age's most prominent architects) to create a building with enhanced views to the coast and headland. In Shropshire, Nash created the stuccoed, picturesquely asymmetrical *Cronkhill*, regarded as the first Italianate style building in England.



Cronkhill, designed by John Nash, in National Trust UK's Attingham Park Estate, Shropshire, England (photo: nationaltrust.org.uk)

It is not known who coined the term Italianate; however, it was after the emergence of pattern books in 1835 and the building of *Osborne House* for Queen Victoria on the Isle of Wight in the mid-1840s that Italianate gained legitimacy.

The first Italianate buildings in Australia were in Tasmania, most notably *Rosedale* at Campbell Town, designed by ex-convict James Blackburn in 1848. The grandest early Italianate building was

Victoria's Government House in Melbourne (1872-76) designed by William Wardell. This building set the tone for the establishment of the Italianate style in Australia.

In Sydney, *Yaralla* in Concord was built for the Walker family in the 1860s to the Italianate design of Edmund Blacket. *Yaralla* is a substantial double storey asymmetrical building with a high tower, octagonal towers to the side, bracketed eaves, colonnades, verandahs and projecting bay windows.



A fine Stanmore example of a two-storey Italianate house
(photo: domain.com.au)

In Sydney's Inner West stands *Glentworth House* (1886) in Victoria Street, Ashfield which was built for the Clissold family and was designed by Morell and Kemp. Among its features are a prominent tower with classical motifs, arcaded verandahs, bracketed eaves and a faceted bay.

Mark showed an impressive array of single and two-storey Italianate houses in Ashfield, Summer Hill, Dulwich Hill, Petersham, Stanmore and Annandale together with the imposing two-storey Sydney University caretaker's cottage in City Road, Darlington. He pointed out the broad range of features typical in Italianate architecture.

It is gratifying that so many of these gems have survived. Thank you Mark for such a stimulating talk, and we were delighted to have been joined by several members of Ashfield & District Historical Society.

Hillary Goldsmith and Richard Blair

Pubs, ladies lounges and 'women's lib'

It's always rewarding to receive feedback from members about particular articles. We seem to like pub stories, or perhaps we just like pubs. After all, we do have plenty of them in our area, mostly dating from the time of our working class history. The 'pub names' article by **Richard Blair** in the July-August newsletter was popular, and **Megan Hicks's** account of actions by women at the Petersham Inn in 1970

stirred some memories. Member **Irene Gannon** (of the Gannon family mentioned in another story on page 3) wrote from Victoria:

I remember way back in 1973, my former husband worked at the local Croydon Hotel. The concreters had just finished concreting the driveway and headed off to 'the Croydon' for a drink. My then 15 months old daughter decided to get out and ran along the driveway leaving her footprints in the fresh concrete. I gasped and packed her into the car and drove up to the hotel to tell my husband what she had done and could the guys come back and smooth the concrete. (I wish now that I had left those footprints marked). When I arrived at the hotel, I walked into the Bar and it was filled with men (of course) who all told me to get out and go into the "Ladies Lounge". I was in no mood to take that (being a Women's Libber myself) and I told them where to go! My husband told me I should have not come in and I told him where to go as well, I wasn't having any of that. The concreters were very happy to comply with my request and thought it was quite funny.

Member **Joyce Roy** also sent us some recollections:

When I left school in 1958 and came to live in Sydney to go to university and find some work, for the most part it was not considered right for women to frequent pubs, certainly not to enter the main bar which would be full of men and out of bounds to women. They could go into the 'Ladies Parlour', usually a shabby little room where their husbands would bring them a shandy – half beer and half lemonade – or take it to their car or a bench outside the pub. In the pubs around Sydney University many local women would go to the ladies parlour in the afternoon and take a bag with vegetables and would sit with their shandy and prepare them to take home for dinner, shelling peas, stringing beans, etc.

Some male colleagues from Sydney University would take us women into a pub but we would never enter one without them. It just was not done and one was likely threatened for doing so. Our friends continued to take us from time to time but it was confronting and the men so disapproving. I am sure the male students did it deliberately to provoke regulars and to try and open things up for us but none of us went on our own.

Imagine the outrage today. It was at the time widely held that 'ladies' shouldn't be faced with the 'indelicacy' of public bars, 'for their own good' being a justification much used for discriminations of many kinds. Attitudes, expectations and the demands of society, and eventually legislation, have been changed by people doing the hard yards against discrimination. Women in pubs was, of course, merely the tip of the discrimination iceberg, but that is another story, and these stories were only about pubs.

Lorraine Beach

A Tempe tale

As is the way with writers, much time is spent searching for original source material, often finding unexpected treasures during the process.

Committee member **Mary Barthelemy** turned up this article on Trove, from *The Sun* (Sydney), Sunday 3 May 1936, page 15:

Legend Of Tempe's Old Haunted Tree

"The haunted tree" of Tempe, around which strange legends have been woven, is at least 140 years old. But that is not the whole story. Two men have hanged themselves from the limbs of the ancient tree, according to local history. But Mr. Les. Gannon, one of the oldest practising solicitors in the State, whose grandfather built his home on the site of the present Tempe tram depot, tells an interesting story of how the haunted tree story grew. The tree stands near the banks of the Cook's River, and this part was once the best prawning ground in the district. Following one of these hangings, a man called "Joe, the Basket-maker", spread the story that the tree was haunted, and that the ghost of the dead man walked the river banks at night. Joe, from then on, had the prawning ground to himself.



Tempe on the Cooks River 1840s, James Clarke
(National Library of Australia [nla.pic-an5202435])

The Sun item gives us more questions than answers. Which tree was it? Could it possibly still be there? Where was that best prawning ground?

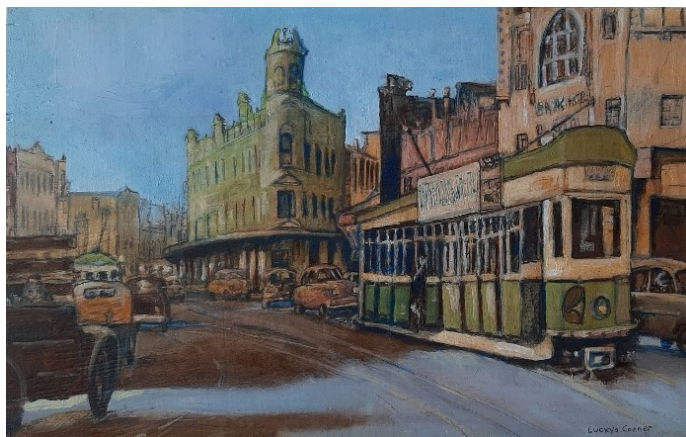
The above painting, one of many of its time of this picturesque location, shows that both the tree and the prawning ground might have been anywhere!

Mary tells us that Les Gannon in this story was the grandson of Michael Gannon, who settled in Tempe in 1845. Les's granddaughter, Anne Carolan, who died in 2019 aged 92, was a founding member and committee member of our Society. For more about Michael Gannon, the Gannon family's connection with Tempe, and Anne Carolan, go to our website—find Newsletters under Publications, and a searchable index will take you to many articles.

As with Mary's Trove search, sometimes you just scratch the surface, then find an unexpected story.

Lucky Corner

Some time ago I bought this painting from MHS member **Murray Sinclair** depicting the intersection of Wilson and King Streets, Newtown, looking roughly east.



Painting 'Lucky Corner', Murray Sinclair (image provide by Richard Blair)

Murray had painted it from a photo on page 109 in *Pictorial History South Sydney* (2002). The photo was taken in 1957 and as well as featuring a tram (in its final years) and the Bank Hotel on the right, it depicts stores of the day such as Brennan's Department Store and RH Gordon's Home Furnishing Store.

Given how long ago the photo was taken, remarkably, all the buildings in the painting appear to remain standing.

Adapting the corner name (Lucky Corner) cited in the photo caption, Murray titled his painting Lucky's Corner. When quizzed about the origins of the name, he was stumped. However, trusty Trove came to the rescue. An article in *The Sun* (31 May 1948, p. 5), reveals how Miss Prendergast, 'one of three maiden sisters who own a Newtown newsagency', had won £6000 in the lottery that day. She revealed that numerous tickets sold from that newsagency had won prizes, including 12 firsts.

Seems the name stuck for quite a time. I suspect it's the newsagency that was two doors from the corner and only folded a year or two ago.

Richard Blair

Thank you!

The committee want to say a big 'thank you' to all our members. You've supported us through an unprecedented and horrible time for all, many of you sending messages of support as we've tried to get on with running the Society's main job—to advocate for local heritage. We know you've missed out on a lot in the last almost two years, and we have plans for exciting and varied events in the year ahead. We hope to make up for what we've all missed. Stay well, and see you soon.

Webwise

The website has had another strong year with interest shown from many quarters. Our Facebook page continues to grow in popularity too. It has been very exciting to receive messages from descendants of 'pioneering' Marrickville families in response to articles we have published, and interesting to note responses of visitors to some of our stories.

During this year's lockdown a lot of people returned to our story on the 'Spanish' 'Flu (Pneumonic-19) first published during last year's lockdown. An article on brickmaking in Marrickville, which I'd worried might not be seen as very interesting, was a surprise hit.

We hope to bring many new and interesting stories to you in the new year. Enjoy the summer.

Rod Aanensen

RAHS special online event

The annual RAHS conference, scheduled to be held last year in Bathurst, was postponed then, and again this year, due to COVID. However, RAHS continues its consistent, energetic offerings of stimulating online events to fill the void.

An event titled *Exciting New World: Australian Life in the 1920s and 1930s* is to be held via Zoom on **Saturday 6 November**. Promotion for the event says in part: 'The interwar years were decades of great change for Australia as people adjusted to a new way of life in a post-pandemic world. 100 years later, we are still in the midst of our own pandemic. Who knows what *exciting new world* lies in wait?'

It is a particularly exciting event for MHS—our President, **Scott MacArthur**, will be one of the guest speakers during the morning session (10.30 am to 12.30 pm). Certificates of Achievement, for which MHS has nominated a member, will be awarded during the afternoon session (4.00 pm to 6.00 pm). All details are available from RAHS: book via their website by going to 'Events Calendar'. There is a fee to attend the online event; fees differ if you choose one or both sessions.

Seasons Greetings



From the President and Committee, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday time, and we'll see you in the New Year!

"A Gentle Reminder"

Did you forget?

MHS fees are due on 1 June each year. Contact Diane (details in box at right) to check if you're paid up, for 'how to' help, or MHS account information.

Spring Trivia Answer

This plaque sits on a plinth on the north side of Gordon Street, Marrickville, adjacent to units in which building was the former Globe Woollen Mills.



(photos: Lorraine Beach)

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 in London and their work began in Australia (Adelaide) in 1880. The movement began in Marrickville on 23 July 1884 'when Captain Nellie Bridges, an 18-year-old, was appointed to Marrickville, which became Corps 69 of the Salvation Army in the Province of Australia'.

The plinth marks the location of a hall where the Corps was based for 36 years. The hall was: 'a wooden building with a gabled tin roof. Two windows in front on either side of a double door opening. Six steps from door to ground, grey blue in colour and timbers slightly warped and weather exposed.' In 1920 a Citadel and Young People's Hall was opened in nearby Wemyss Street, Marrickville.

Other local Corps established were Newtown (1883), Petersham (1885) and Dulwich Hill (1887), although an Outpost (known as the 'Pill Box' because of its small size) began there shortly after the Corps was established in Marrickville.

Congratulations to Peter Hobbins for his correct identification. Honourable mentions to Keith Anderson, Ralph Coghill and Ian Phillips whose educated guesses were incorrect, though sound.

(Source: Souvenir Brochure, *The Marrickville Salvation Army Centenary Celebrations*, 1984. This brochure is actually a 16-page booklet.)

Richard Blair

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