

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS
SYDENHAM & TEMPE

Our July meetings

Saturday 9 July: 10.00 for 10.30 am start
Launch of Society's journal *Heritage* 16

Location: Town & Country Hotel, corner Campbell Street & Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters

Bookings are essential – Richard 0413 335 897 or email marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com

Please book by no later than Sunday 3 July

Cost: Free for members

Heritage 16 contains over 100 pages of local history articles, all illustrated, and its launch is an exciting event for the Society, after 2 years without our usual social gatherings. All members are invited to attend but you *must* book (for catering). Meet and chat with some of our authors, catch up with fellow members, collect your complimentary copy of the journal, then join us for a light lunch and a celebratory beverage at this heritage listed local hotel.

Options for journal delivery are: collect at the launch; locally delivered by hand (our trusty runners); access as a PDF; ask us to hold till you attend a meeting; or mailed to you. We'd like to minimise mailing where possible, so please advise Richard (contacts above) if we should hold your copy or if you'd prefer a PDF.

Saturday 23 July: 10.00 for 10.30 am start
'Colonial Ladies – Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose' – a talk with Judith Dunn
Marrickville Town Hall, Marrickville Road

A lively, interesting talk revealing the spirited nature of convict pioneer women, noted in official records as 'the very dregs of society'. Crime reports from the *Sydney Herald* illustrate the



Susannah Watson - sentenced to 14 years for shop robbery

larrikinism and inner strength which allowed the convict women to survive. Far from just stealing a loaf of bread, these feisty women were up to all sorts of mischief: amorous adventures with men, drunkenness, absconding, violent and riotous behaviour and much more.

All stories relate to crimes committed after arrival in

the colony and show why they were incarcerated in the Female Factory or Convict Women's Gaol. Although humorous, this is also a thought provoking talk describing the transport and gaol system endured by these women and how they survived it.

Judith Dunn has a Fellowship in Colonial History, an Order of Australia and numerous awards for her contributions to heritage and history and is a RAHS Councillor. The author of 5 books about the oldest cemeteries in Australia, and her publication with the title of this talk, Judith also has her own tour business.

Our August meeting

Saturday 27 August: 10.00 for 10.30 am start
'Gumbramorra Swamp and Tramvale' – a talk with Sue Castrique

Marrickville Town Hall, Marrickville Road

Gumbramorra Swamp was a wetland in Marrickville Valley. Fed by creeks running into a series of water-holes, it drained into Cooks River near Tempe railway station. In 1882 developers subdivided the northern part of the swamp and sold it as the Tramvale Estate. Unsuspecting buyers, lured in a dry season, were repeatedly flooded in the wet. The major flood of 1889 caused chaos and distress. It also marked the moment when the NSW government stepped in to start the significant infrastructure which would eventually eliminate the wetland from sight.



Flooding in Tramvale, 1932 (*Daily Telegraph*, 23 September 1932)

This talk debunks a number of myths about Tramvale and the settlement of Marrickville. It takes a look at the people who sold the swamp and those who lived with the regular misery of flooding. We look at just what happened to the major waterhole at the centre of the swamp and where it's located now, and reveal the history of the powerful waterways that still exist beneath our feet.

Sue Castrique is a writer, researcher and editor. She is the author of *Under the Colony's Eye: Gentlemen and*

Convicts on Cockatoo Island (2014), winner of the Kay Daniels award; and *One Small World: The History of the Addison Road Community Centre* (2017). Her essay *On the Margins of the Good Swamp* won the Nature Writing prize (2019).

Our 28 May meeting: Australian National Maritime Museum

The Marrickville Maritime Museum? No, there isn't really a maritime museum in Marrickville, but MHS members are more than welcome to undertake research or hold events at the ANMM in Darling Harbour.

On 28 May, 23 members enjoyed an excursion led by the museum's Head of Knowledge, MHS member **Dr Peter Hobbins**, and curator **Dr Roland Leikauf**. The tour included some highlights of the exhibitions in the main building, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour in the adjacent Wharf 7 building. This included the object stores, which hold everything from kayaks and Aboriginal watercraft to missiles and a pulpit shaped like a ship's bow. We saw the art store, conservation lab, preparation and shipwright's areas – sections normally closed to the public.

The tour concluded in the museum's Vaughan Evans Library, located on level 2 of the Wharf 7 building. It is open to the public, but appointments are requested to ensure that materials to help with enquiries are prepared in advance. Book by contacting the specialist librarians on library@sea.museum or 02 9298 3731.



MHS tour group in the Vaughan Evans Library, Wharf 7 building, Australian National Maritime Museum
(photo: Peter Hobbins)

The maritime museum's library has a wide range of printed and electronic resources relevant to family and local history, as well as maritime topics. Some of its features are:

- Numerous shipping records to track down movement of people and vessels in and out of Australia's waters over the last 250 years such as *Lloyd's List*, *Lloyd's Captains Register* and *Register Veritas* for non-British vessels.
- Rare, out-of-print and hard-to-find works about maritime communities, people, vessels, events, organisations, technologies, sports and art.
- Standard reference books and specialist works on maritime history, archaeology, conservation and restoration. These invaluable sources include *Log of*

Logs, Shipping Arrivals and Departures, *Royal Australian Navy List*, *Register of British Ships*, *Australian Ports* and many shipping company histories.

- An impressive collection of journals and magazines containing a wealth of news, techniques, plans and photographs of shipbuilding, yachting and surfing. Transcripts of many of the original diaries, journals, logs and letters held by the museum.
- Access to subscription-only library and genealogy databases.
- Hard copies of the museum's globally recognised magazine, *Signals*.

The Library's catalogue can be searched at <https://www.sea.museum/collections/library> and most books are available for borrowing via interlibrary loan; delivery can be arranged to Marrickville Library.

Editor: We are grateful to Dr Peter Hobbins for providing these notes and for hosting, with his colleague Dr Roland Leikauf, our wonderful 'insiders' tour.

MHS Annual General Meeting

At our first 'in person' AGM since the onset of COVID in 2020 the outgoing committee and office bearers presented their reports for the past year to a gathering of 40 members at Marrickville Town Hall on Saturday 25 June.

Highlights of reports included: President – Scott MacArthur provided a roundup of the past year, curtailed by COVID restrictions, but now carefully resuming regular activities. Financial – the Society remains financially healthy, report available for members to view; Heritage Watch – we continue to monitor developments impacting local heritage, with inevitable wins and losses, while maintaining an overall good relationship with Council's heritage advisers; Publications – the journal *Heritage* 16 is nearing completion and will be launched on 9 July (see page 1); Newsletter – contributions of members' stories always welcome for the newsletter; Website and Facebook – visits to both have increased enormously following a renovation of our social media pages and we are encouraged by the level of interest in local heritage generated by both.

President **Scott MacArthur** warmly thanked 2 long serving office bearers who are not seeking re-election to their positions this year: **Diane McCarthy**, Treasurer and Public Officer; and **Mary Oakenfull**, Secretary. Returning Officer, **Bill Tarrant**, then took control, declaring all committee positions vacant and overseeing election of office bearers and committee for 2022-23. They are – President: **Scott MacArthur**; Vice Presidents: **Lyndal Gowland**, **Mary Barthelemy**; Treasurer: **Stuart Grigg**; Secretary: **Marg Ludlow**; Assistant Secretary: **Elda Ribeiro**. Committee members – **Rod Aanensen**, **Lorraine Beach**, **Richard Blair**, **Iain Carolin**, **Rebecca Jones** and **Mary Oakenfull**.

Life Membership for Iain Carolin

Iain Carolin, a member of the Society since 1991, is one of many 'behind the front line' people who work tirelessly to get things done. Iain spent several years as a committee member then took a 2-year sabbatical to direct his energies to sorting and organising MHS archives – a mammoth task. He returned to a committee role last year after he was satisfied the archives were in decent shape. With no premises for MHS, the archives are in residence in Iain's house!

At the AGM Iain was awarded Life Membership:

'In appreciation and recognition of his outstanding work for the Society, especially in organising and overseeing the archives of the Society and in coordinating its book stall at meetings, festivals and fairs over many years.'

Congratulations to Iain – due recognition of a hardworking quiet achiever.



Iain Carolin with his certificate of Life Membership, presented by President Scott MacArthur at the AGM (photo: Lorraine Beach)

Vale Keith Lawson

A member since 1995, **Keith Lawson** grew up in Renwick Street, Marrickville. He was one of the first to respond when, earlier this year, **Rebecca Jones** was seeking former students of Ferncourt School for her book on the school's history, and 'the older the better'. Keith phoned to say he thought he qualified. He was born in 1924; he died on 11 May, aged 97.

Keith lived and worked in Marrickville until joining the RAAF in 1942, with 'active service' overseas for 3 years during WW2. He was discharged in 1946. He and his wife Norma lived in Kiama for many years, but both had a strong connection to Marrickville. Norma's mother Jean Moncur was from a pioneering family and an article about her appeared in the journal *Heritage* 2. Moncur Street in Marrickville is named after the family.

Keith was a staunch supporter of MHS, keenly interested in the Society's work, and an avid reader of our newsletter. We had not seen him for a few years, but he always remained in touch. Our condolences to Norma and their family.

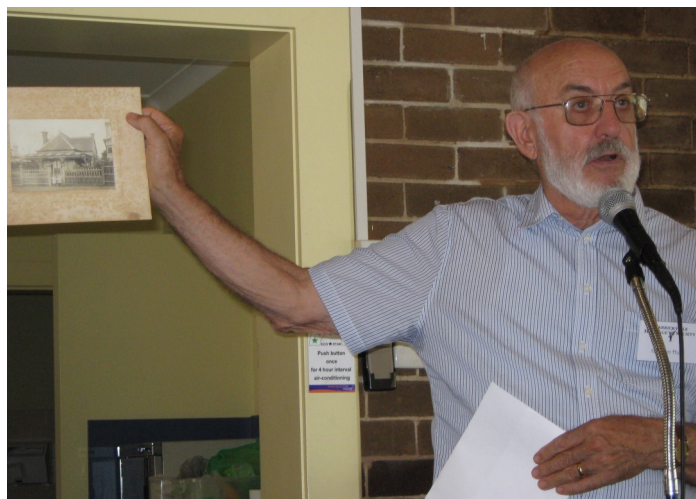


Keith and Norma Lawson—intently listening to a MHS talk (photo: Richard Blair)

Vale Graham Hunt

Graham Hunt, of Miranda and Caringbah, died aged 83 on 10 June after a long illness. A retired surveyor, Graham had genealogical links with the Marrickville area and *Ourimbah* (1889, 49 Garners Avenue, Marrickville) was one ancestral home.

Graham joined MHS in 1996 and regularly attended meetings and outings, often with his wife Roslyn. He made several contributions to the newsletter, took an interest in local heritage watch matters, eager to assist with property researches, and sometimes presented at our periodical Show & Tell.



Graham Hunt, with a photo of *Ourimbah*, at 'Show & Tell' (photo: Diane McCarthy)

Graham was also an active member and committee member of Ashfield and District Historical Society for some years and an archivist at Ashfield Council for probably a decade. His comprehensive article 'Milton Kent, Aerial & Commercial Photographer, 1888-1965' appeared in *Men of Mark*, Ashfield History journal No. 16 (2006).

In Graham's death notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (18/6/22) were the words, 'A life well mapped'. Our condolences to Roslyn and their family.

Richard Blair

Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 9 July

Launch of journal *Heritage 16* – details page 1

Saturday 23 July

Lovely, Lively and Lamentably Loose: a talk with Judith Dunn – details page 1

Saturday 23 August

Gumbramorra Swamp and Tramvale: a talk with Sue Castrique – details page 1

Saturday 24 September – TBA

Winter Trivia Answer

The response to this question as to the whereabouts of 3 mechanical canines on guard at 3 locations in the former Marrickville LGA was disappointing given the local popularity of dogs and the fact that most of us would have passed these installations on countless occasions.

Elda Ribeiro alone correctly identified them as being poster bollards in Newtown Square outside Newtown Neighbourhood Centre; the intersection of Enmore Road and Stanmore Road, outside the former Enmore Post Office; and where King Street becomes Princes Highway near St Peters Station. Elda wrote that: 'these are the 3 Guardian Dogs of Newtown located at the gateways to Newtown, and named something like Walking Dog, Sitting Dog and Standing Dog.'

Megan Hicks (who supplied the question and answer) writes that these poster bollards are cast in aluminium,



The poster bollard at St Peters station (photo: Megan Hicks)

were commissioned by the former Marrickville Council to mark the 'gateways' to Newtown's arts and entertainment precinct and were installed in 2005.

Megan continues: 'When calling for tenders for the 3 bollards Council specified that they should represent Newtown's dog friendly culture. Artist Richard Byrne tells me that he won the tender by proposing the kind of mechanical dogs that he often uses in his own sculptures. Richard points out that each sculpture has features particular to its location. The Newtown Square sculpture, for example, includes a ball

and cornice capital reflecting the late 19th century architecture of many of the surrounding buildings.

'Advertising columns were first seen in the 1850s in Berlin (where they are called *Litfaßsäulen*) and Paris (*colonnes Morris*). They were installed to combat rampant fly posting. It was for this same reason – to shift advertising posters from the walls of Newtown's buildings – that Marrickville Council hit upon the idea of erecting poster bollards in the early 2000s. Over the years bill posters have certainly taken advantage of them, but it looks as if they use them as additional sites for their notices rather than the alternative they were meant to be.'

Richard Blair

The 100 Project

The young need to hear from the old. A unique project is underway to enable families to record their elders for posterity. We learned of this project from Amie Zar at Inner West Council, who told us: 'We have an exciting filming oral history event coming up at Marrickville Library run by John Winter, the Producer of *Rabbit Proof Fence*'. The website <https://www.the100project.com> provides tutorials on how to film and record elders telling their story. The project is focusing on centenarians but is a valuable tool for all families.

You do the recording after watching tutorials guided by filmmakers John Winter and Ros Walker. You can then send the recordings to John and Ros who will professionally edit them and post them to the website and YouTube. Your family will also get a copy. Visit <https://www.the100project.com> for details.

Richard Cashman: a new book

Dr Richard Cashman is a founding MHS member, Life Member, the Society's 3rd President, and co-author with **Chrys Meader** and **Anne Carolan** of *Marrickville: from rural outpost to inner city* and *Marrickville: people & places*, both published in the 1990s. Richard has written many other books, mainly on sport, cricket, in particular, and in June launched his new book titled *Cackyhanders: writing about cricket, sports in general and the Olympic Games*. The book is 196 pages, illustrated in colour and B&W. Check your preferred bookseller for stock and cost.

President & Heritage Watch

Scott 0416 152 501 | sbtarmac@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stuart 0414 620 519 | stuartgrigg2@gmail.com

Newsletter

Lorraine 0416 224 472 | lbeach@iprimus.com.au

Webmaster

Rod 0431 487 375 | mhsweb@exemail.com.au