



MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE
ST PETERS SYDENHAM & TEMPE



Our November Meeting: Show & Tell
Saturday 26 November 10 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville

The Show & Tell meeting we held in April was so successful we decided to have another one, so time to check your cupboards, that box of bits on top of your wardrobe, trophies in the pool room, long forgotten gems in your garage and prized paraphernalia in some special place.

Dig it out, dust it off, bring it along and share with us how you acquired it and what it means to you. It may not be quite the value of treasures from the Antique Road Show, but going by past such days, it will almost certainly be of interest to fellow members. Prizes to be awarded.



Pot Luck Xmas Dinner
Saturday 3 December 6 pm

We lucked out in the last two years, but we're back, this time in Marrickville north at the home of two well known members. Book with **Mary Oakenfull** on <raindrops12@bigpond.com> or 0407 487 157 for the address and to advise what food you will bring. Bring your own drink. A fun way to enjoy our final activity of 2022.

Special presentation to Diane McCarthy

At our meeting on 22 October **Diane McCarthy**, former treasurer, Public Officer and sunshine secretary was presented with an inscribed crystal trophy recognising her many years of sterling service to the Society. Below is Diane with MHS president Scott MacArthur. (photo: Richard Blair)



Chrys Meader (1951-2022)

We are very saddened by the death of **Chrys Meader**, Local Historian Extraordinaire, who died on 4 November. On page 6 are some reflections on her. *Chrys in 2000* (photo: R Blair)



New Council heritage study is essential

As part of Inner West Council's plan to consolidate the separate Local Environment Plans of its amalgamated former municipalities, council engaged consultants to develop Housing Studies including an Urban Plan and a Heritage Study. The plans and studies supported large increases in urban density in Marrickville, Dulwich Hill and North Ashfield (see Rod Aanensen's excellent article in our last newsletter). The studies have been received with such community outrage, that they have been withdrawn from consultation.

IWC councillors were not consulted about the development and release of the reports, and all of the reports have been 'put on hold' pending a review by councillors and council staff as to how the new LEP and DCP should be developed. At a well-attended community meeting convened by Save Marrickville, Mayor Darcy Byrne and two councillors present were emphatically told that residents expect there will be wide community consultation before any further rezoning or urban planning studies are commissioned by council.

The Society is particularly concerned that the Heritage Study was seemingly guided and constrained by council staff to avoid establishing Conservation Areas in precincts proposed for intensive urban development. **A new heritage study must be commissioned in consultation with our local community, so that the heritage that we all value can be protected from over-zealous developers.**

Scott MacArthur

Note: This 8-page bumper newsletter is a one-off, but includes 5 obituaries and several member contributions which often miss the cut for publication due to more pressing matters.

Fees-ability Study! Members with fees still to be paid should receive a reminder notice with this newsletter. Bank details are on the reminder for direct transfer. If you have a query, contact Stuart on 0414 620 519 or <stuartgrigg2@gmail.com>.

Ravenscroft's cake shop in Enmore

After reading in the *Sydney Morning Herald* about reception rooms and their popularity, I remember going with Mum to small parties at Ravenscroft's cake shop in Enmore Road, Enmore, in the 1940s. There was a big display of goodies on the left hand side as you walked in and a well-lit reception room at the back. Miss Kilkeary (Aunty Ail) was, I think, in charge of it. Aunty Ail was a very good manager and far ahead of her time in taking on such responsibility.

I'm not sure what part Mum played – maybe helping out occasionally – but she was quite close to the Ravenscrofts. They gave her a teaset for her wedding and I wore their daughter's tie when I went to Fort Street Girls High School. Mona became a respected academic (I think at ANU). The shop played a big part in bringing good food and attractive shopping to Enmore from about the 1920s to the 1950s.

Joan Francis

Editor: The above was recently received from Joan, fondly recalling this cake shop from her childhood. Joan wrote the article below which appeared in the MHS newsletter in May 1993.

Food, Glorious Food (apologies to David Jones and *Oliver!*)

For over 40 years, Ravenscroft's cake shop at 147 Enmore Road, Enmore, sold mouth-watering cakes and served delicious morning and afternoon teas. It was here in 1920 that my mother, Florence May Gosper, came to work after my grandfather retired and leased the family bakery in Mascot.

I don't remember ever meeting the Ravenscrofts or their daughter Mona, but I was given the privilege of wearing Mona's tie and hat badge when I went to Fort Street in 1945. The senior shop assistant was Miss Aileen Kilkeary, who lived at 60 Miller Street, Petersham, with her mother and sister Tress. Miss Kilkeary (whom I called 'Aunty Ail') was a very gracious lady (in every sense of the word), quiet and gentle, a good manager, and devoted to her family and church. Despite their close lifelong friendship, my mother never called her anything except 'Miss Kilkeary', and she only referred to my mother as 'Miss Gosper'.

Aunty Ail was the first person I knew who had a David Jones charge account. I was very impressed. Every birthday and Christmas time, David Jones' truck would deliver to us a parcel of beautiful, well-chosen gifts – lovely underwear, kid gloves, expensive powder compacts and china.

My mother worked at Ravenscrofts until her marriage in 1931. She was thought of as a friend, not just an employee, and her wedding present was a beautiful black-and-white Shelley tea set (this was in the middle of the Great Depression!). It may not have been very practical, but it was a gift which my mother treasured all her life.

Mum still kept in touch with Aunty Ail and the Ravenscrofts after her marriage and saw them often. Sometimes she went alone, travelling from

Abbotsford by tram to Broadway, and then changing trams for Enmore. Sometimes I went too.

The visits were a delightful experience for a child. I remember the window filled with luscious cakes on silver stands covered with white paper lace doilies, sparkling glass-fronted cabinets with highly polished dark wooden tops, the smell of tea and freshly baked cakes and the friendly welcome.

At the back of the shop was a small tea-room – Mum and I always had afternoon tea there when we visited the shop. It was a great treat. Pots of hot, strong tea, petits-fours, lady fingers, dainty asparagus rolls, monte carlos and fluffy sponge cakes filled with raspberry jam and whipped cream and dusted with icing sugar filled the table. The very thought of them still makes my mouth water!

The cakeshop, as I remember it, is no more. The Ravenscrofts sold the business, although Aunty Ail worked there until she retired. She died in 1967 aged 79 and is buried in the Old Catholic Section of Rookwood Cemetery. A tiny part of Enmore's social history died with her.

Joan Francis

Note The culinary tradition continues, however. The site of Ravenscroft's cake shop in Enmore Road is now a Greek Bakery. Ed., 1993.

* * * *

Note (2022) International cuisine continued to be served at this location, although the shop is currently up for lease. Next door Kafenes Greek restaurant has operated for about 20 years. Ed.

Spring Trivia Answer

This group of rather refined ladies and a gentleman is posing in front of Stanmore House which still stands on Enmore Road, Newtown. The 1901 photo is part of the Foster Collection of photographs held by the Royal Australian Historical Society. Built for Mary Reibey's daughter Elizabeth, the 1840s mansion was long owned and occupied by the family of James Pemell, although the identity of this group is unknown. An article on Stanmore House by Elisha Long is in MHS journal *Heritage* 9 (1995).

Correctly identified by members **Kay Abrahams** and **Mary Clancy**. Both once lived near Stanmore House; and for Kay, investigating the house, many moons ago, was her first local history project.

Richard Blair

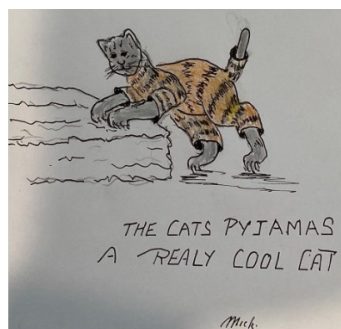


Mick Timmings revisited

Some members may recall contributions in the newsletter years ago from **Mick Timmings** of the Ulladulla area. We recently heard from Mick who has moved into a retirement village of his 'own accord'. Mick, 95, and a proud Marrickville native son, wishes to be remembered to all the folk in Marrickville. A patron of his local Ex Servos club, Mick recently had a selfie



taken with prime minister-to-be, Anthony Albanese, 'another Marrickville boy'. Here he is on Anzac Day 2017 (source: *Milton Ulladulla Times*, 20 April 2018). Mick enjoys drawing cats, like these below.



'A cat minus pyjamas'

Kass's metal plate

From **Kass Finlay McAuliffe**: A new neighbour in Railway Road, Sydenham, has been doing extensive diggings and unearthed the item in her photo below. Do you know what it is?



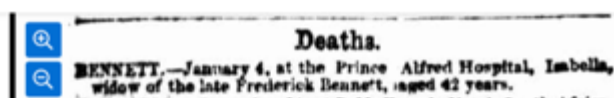
In response, ground surface specialist **Megan Hicks** offered this: 'The W stands for water, and covers like this are a very common piece of streetware. Technically, it is called a 'cast iron valve cover'. In this case it is a cover for a *water* valve, and it would be used to both protect a water valve and identify its location beneath the surface of the pavement. The valve, or stopcock, would be for turning off the water supply, for example to a private property. 'There are other sorts of cast iron valve covers (square, rectangular and round ones) set into the pavement all over the place; for instance, fire hydrant covers (FH) or gas valve covers (G).'

Mystery probably solved: portion of headstone

I have received an email from (walking tour guide and former MHS member) **Mark Matheson** which included a likely resolution to 'the mystery of the missing gravestone'. Mark refers to the piece which appeared in Newsletter Vol. 12, No. 6, December 1995-January 1996. It reported, in part, that:

The first call received by Ed Jones at our Infoline was from a [Leichhardt] resident who, excavating in his yard, discovered the lower section of a headstone with this inscription – *wife of the above who departed this life 4th January 1886 aged 42 years*. It seems the headstone was once taken from a nearby cemetery, however the resident (who wishes to remain anonymous) is not planning to dig up his yard for other fragments.

Mark has found the following on Trove from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 January 1886, page 1:



The similarities are telling. A woman with predeceased husband, died 4 January 1886, and aged 42 years. I reckon that is almost a direct hit. Mark doesn't know where Isabella and Frederick Bennett were buried as he cannot find anything else. Were they Roman Catholic or from a Protestant church? This may affect which churchyard they were buried in. Anyway, an excellent turn up.

Rod Aanensen

King Tut remembered

November 2022 marks the centenary of the discovery of the intact tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Tutankhamun, in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor, Egypt.

In the 1950s, a busy shop at 457 Marrickville Road, Dulwich Hill, owned by Edward Withers (who lived next door), reconditioned clients' antique furniture and sold furniture bought at auction after treating it with his own registered 'King Tut Old Egyptian Ivory Finish', whose process is 'a secret one'. The Ivory Finish was sprayed on after stripping the polish off furniture made from such timbers such as cedar, jarrah and cherrywood. It was also applied to Plaster of Paris and antique brass. Withers claimed his treated furniture never chipped or needed dusting. Even his stair railing has been treated.

The business seems to have closed in the mid-1960s. If any reader knows of the existence of any King Tut furniture the society would be interested to have any photos for its archives. (Ad from *Truth*, 18/10/1953)

Iain Carolin

FURNITURE REMODELLED

TREATED WITH OUR REGISTERED

"KING TUT" Old Egyptian Ivory Finish

Its most delightful and pleasing. Something to be enjoyed by every Home Lover.

Its what you want. Something different. Carving can be added if desired.

OUR PRICES ARE MODERATE.

Country Visitors to Sydney cordially invited to visit our Antique Showrooms and be convinced.

E. C. WITHERS

463 - 457 MARRICKVILLE RD., DULWICH HILL. PHONE LM4398

They Shall Grow Not Old

These familiar words are the title of a book, whose subtitle is *The lives of the servicemen memorialised at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Dulwich Hill, New South Wales*, An Encomium by John Coleman (2021). A copy was presented to the Society by Robert Irving, who cowrote with John Coleman *A Church for our Times: Holy Trinity Church Dulwich Hill 1886-2015* to mark the centenary of the current church.

This church has inscribed on honour boards 276 names of men who served in World War I; of these, over 50 never returned home. The 276 fought in campaigns and engagements at Gallipoli, Fromelles, Pozières, Bullecourt, Beersheba, Passchendaele, Ypres and the Hindenburg Line, among others.

One name stands out for me. While I lived in Marrickville, my family related mainly to Dulwich Hill where we shopped, attended primary school, 2nd Dulwich Hill Scouts and Guides, and Holy Trinity Church. A name synonymous with the Brownies, Girl Guides, Rangers and Holy Trinity Sunday School was Miss Gladys Moir, who was the leading light in those three institutions for over 50 years. She was the Number One Warrant Holder for Girl Guides in NSW.

Gladys was engaged to Allan Ernest Rostron who was raised in Lawson in the Blue Mountains, where Gladys' family had a holiday home and where she and Allan presumably met. Rostron enlisted in August 1915 aged 17 and became a member of the 1st Battalion, with whom he served for nearly three years of very heavy fighting. During that time he was buried twice by shellfire and survived, even though his helmet was hit by shrapnel on a number of occasions; he was badly gassed and sent to England to recover; he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery and gallantry, greatly assisting the capture of some posts and their garrisons.

In September 1918 near Hargicourt on the Somme, at the Battle of Epéhy, part of a large attack on the Hindenburg Line, 'he was shot in the stomach and groin by a sniper and died within minutes'. His name is recorded on the huge Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. Rostron died just seven weeks before the war's end at age 21.

Gladys Moir, of Hill Street, Dulwich Hill, placed this In Memoriam notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald*:

In loving memory of my dearest friend, Allan, killed in action in France, September 18, 1918. Till the day break, inserted by his ever loving friend, Gladys.

From then on, Gladys devoted herself to her various altruistic endeavours.

An interesting sidelight is that Rostron's grandfather, Duncan Allan, enlisted at the same time as Allan, giving his age as 43 when he was actually almost 65. Coleman writes that 'in AIF records, he is reputedly the oldest man to enlist in the Australian forces during World War One.' However, once his age and poor physical condition were discovered he was given light duties and repatriated back to Australia.

They Shall Grow Not Old is well-researched and a fine account, though only 100 copies were printed 'as a donative to parishioners of Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill and a number of library and community collections.'

Richard Blair

2022 Marrickville Medal for Conservation

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded annually since 1995 and was one of the first of its kind in New South Wales. It celebrates built conservation works that contribute to the understanding and preservation of the Inner West's rich cultural and architectural heritage. As the Medal was established by the late Libby Maher when she was Marrickville Council's heritage advisor, it is fitting that this year, the awards were presented by her husband, architect Ken Maher AO.

Both Inner West Council's Built Environment Awards and Photographic Competition winners were presented at the former Camperdown Bowling Club, now repurposed as a locavore restaurant. Entries ranged from pure building conservation works to residential adaptive reuse, from both the public and private sectors. The judges were impressed with the high standard of the entries, and the pride with which the owners and designers presented their projects.

The restoration, alterations and additions to a Federation cottage at **29 Kingston Street, Haberfield** won the Medal (Designer: Andrew Burns Architecture; photos: Michael Anderson).



Ken Maher (centre) with designer builders Christian Grennan and Chris Kreis (photo: Scott MacArthur)

A Commendation for Conservation was presented to the restoration of the **Callan Park Gates, Balmain Road, Lilyfield** (Designer: Greater Sydney Parklands and Minister's Stonework Program) and a Commendation for Commercial Adaptive Reuse went to the conservation of the period corner store at **94 Illawarra Road, Marrickville** (Designer: Kreis Grennan Architecture). The renovation of the **Enmore Theatre** (by designers Kat Everett and Daniel Guida) was a popular winner of a Commendation for Interior Adaptation, and the restoration of the Blacket-designed former **St Columbs Church in Dickson Street, Newtown** by Hector Abrahams Architects received a Commendation for a Community Project.

The Urban Photography Awards encourage residents to engage with Inner West Council's urban landscape, and again, there were many submissions on the theme of Curiosity in and about the Built Environment. **Julie Gabriel** won the General category with 'Petersham Noon' – sunlit photo of Victorian commercial buildings. The Secondary School category winner was **Evan Black** for his dark study, 'Down the Rabbit Hole' (reprising his win from last year!). And with a sharp photo of the Tempe water tower, **Sophie Dowd** won the Primary School category, 'Tower Power'.

Scott MacArthur

Our October Meeting: 22 October

The Many Lives of Ferncourt: Home, Hospital, School with Rebecca Jones

Polish artist Gracius Broinowski would have been impressed. 136 years after he built *Prosna*, his family home in Marrickville, here was the author of the book with the above title presenting the story of his home and its heritage; whilst 6 of his descendants were present to hear the saga unfold.

A distinguished artist, Broinowski was best known for his six-volume *Birds of Australia* (1887-91). *Prosna* was built in 1886 next door to *The Warren* and was named after the river of his homeland. He and his family were only to live there for a short time, largely for financial reasons. There were various occupants during the 1890s with the name changed to *Jesmont* (or *Jessmont*).

From 1902 to 1907 it became the first registered addiction treatment centre in NSW, run by the Central Methodist Mission and called *The Retreat*. In 1911 the name was changed to *Ferncourt* before opening as a public school in 1922. This brief account hardly does justice to Rebecca's fine book which you can purchase from the author for \$35.

Richard Blair

Leuralla Toy and Railway Museum

In May 2016 a contingent from the society visited this museum during one of our outings to the Blue Mountains. Founded in 1983 by Clive and Elizabeth Evatt, they travelled worldwide sourcing antiques for what was eventually one of the most important collections of 20th century toys housed under one roof anywhere in the world.

Sadly, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, floods and fire, the museum closed last May and more than 1,500 items were dispersed by several auctions to the public. Another piece of our heritage now lost.

Iain Carolin

Welcome to new members

Gowland Legal, Peter Hobbins, both of Dulwich Hill; Alana Wulff & Duncan Jones, Enmore; Addison Road Community Organisation, Pip Hyde, Rebecca Jones, James Robinson, Jennifer Sellen, all of Marrickville; Chris Rudge, Newtown; Gordon Nurse, Kate Smith, both of Tempe; Janet Broadhead, Earlwood; Annemarie Limacher, Lake Munmorah; Kerrie Davies, Leichhardt; Ken Thompson, West Bathurst.

MHS Trip to Mt Wilson: Saturday 24 September

We were only able to muster 19 for our first bus outing in years which was to Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains. This number included our driver, MHS stalwart Ian Phillips, and because it was a self-drive bus, expenses were kept to a minimum.

The highlight of the tour was our visit to the restored Italianate Turkish Bath House (c. 1892), where our host was curator Des Barrett, from the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Historical Society. Des has been involved with the bath house since 1995 when it was leased by covenant for 50 years by Jane Smart, great granddaughter of original owner Richard Wynne (after whom the Wynne Prize is named). Des told us about the Wynnes. The bath house features beautiful brickwork, stunning stained glass windows and remnant steam works in the basement.

After lunch, we inspected the cemetery and the attractive 1916 St George Anglican Church, built by the family of retailer Marcus Clark in his honour. Here our hosts were local wardens Robyne and Allen Hyde. Our remaining time was spent at *Bebeah* Gardens with its sprawling scenic layout, flourishing, colourful azaleas, statues and ponds (photo below). Built by Edward Cox *Bebeah* dates from 1880. By the mid-1980s it had fallen into disrepair but Barry Byrne and Miguel Alvarez restored the 5-hectare property to its current superb state.

Returning the way we came, via Bells Line of Road, we had a refreshment stop near Bilpin, purchased local jams and ciders, and arrived back in Petersham with batteries fully recharged. Special thanks to our chauffeur Ian for safely negotiating all potholes and regaling his party with groan-inducing anecdotes.

Richard Blair



Webwise

The website has just published its second story on Marrickville Town Hall to celebrate its centenary. This story is about the Strollers band and the wonderful dance nights and competitions held at the town hall for several decades. Perhaps members of your family frequented these events or you attended the 'Return to Strollers Dance' to celebrate the hall's 75th Year Jubilee in 1997. This story has helped the site reach almost 10,000 visitors so far this year.

Rod Aanensen

Editor's note: Regarding the 1997 Back to Strollers Dance, see obituary for Mary Cleghorn (on page 7).

Vale Chrystine (known as Chrys) May Meader
(1951-2022)

Richard Cashman

I enjoyed working with Chrys on many projects over 50 years. We were both members of the first MHS executive and collaborated closely on the histories of Marrickville. Chrys was a passionate advocate of Marrickville, where her family has lived for some 150 years. She was a great storyteller and communicated effectively with audiences from schoolchildren to seniors. When in full flight she spoke without notes and hardly a pause for breath. She also had a great sense of humour.

Her life was never easy as regular bouts of asthma resulted in many days in hospital which Chrys accepted stoically. In recent years she has immersed herself in more projects with the former Vicars woollen mills, the Dictionary of Sydney and board membership of the Petersham RSL. Chrys loved her family and her community. We will all be the poorer with her death.

Diane McCarthy

I first met Chrys in 1971 when I started working at Marrickville Library; she was at Newtown Library and came to Marrickville each week to work on local studies. I learned so much from her about Marrickville, how to archive and value all material to keep Marrickville history alive. We soon became friends.

Chrys had a unique way of writing and talking about local history. She was an educator, passing her knowledge on to so many from all walks of life. Henson Park and the Newtown Jets were two of her passions. Others will speak of her dedication to work, accomplishments, and awards. I'll remember Chrys for her friendship and love of family.



Richard Blair

With generations of her family living in Marrickville and her father Charlie long term curator at Henson Park, it was no wonder that when Chrys started working at Marrickville Library, she would be at the forefront of local history, especially with Frances Charteris there to encourage her. I heard Chrys speak on local history and lead walks numerous times, whilst there is probably not a school in the former Marrickville LGA which she didn't visit; as well as heritage groups (some outside the LGA), Probus, RSL and Service clubs, and more. Her local history knowledge was prodigious; she had the knack of making stories engrossing and entertaining, even if she sometimes embellished the facts a little.

Chrys was at the forefront when MHS was founded in 1984, was a mainstay in the Society's early years and wrote several informative articles in the MHS journal *Heritage* (as well as her more notable publications). She became a MHS Life member in 2000 and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 for 'services to history'. She served on the committee of Marrickville Rotary. How fitting was the Inner West Council's dubbing her the 2021 Citizen of the Year. The irreplaceable Chrys!

Among the many tributes from MHS members, one wrote, 'if anyone deserves the equivalent of a state funeral in our local area, I reckon Chrys does'.

Photo: Chrys Meader in 2021 © Inner West Council

Rod Aanensen

I first encountered Chrys before I met her. Like many others I read the books on Marrickville Chrys had written with Richard Cashman and Anne Carolan. This was while I was researching a history of Marrickville Public School. While talking to staff at the school I was often told of Chrys's visits to talk to the children about Marrickville. Chrys was the great chronicler of Marrickville history, but she was also a wonderful communicator of that history. Chrys had an easy rapport with people and a warm way of communicating stories and events.

When we finally met, Chrys enjoyed a chat and often dropped historical tidbits into the conversation, something I loved. Marrickville has lost a great storehouse of knowledge which Chrys was always happy to share and those close to her have lost a kind, generous and cheery soul.

John Vicars

Chrys Meader was a kind and generous friend. She was an exceptional historian. For me, 'Marrickville' has been our family Woollen Mill AND Chrys Meader, the Marrickville Historian. We worked together to incorporate our mill history into the Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre when renovations were taking place there. We arranged with the State Library for the safe-keeping of our historical mill documents, photos and letters.

Chrys has assisted countless people, businesses and organisations with their projects. She was a very private and strongly independent person with a great love for her family, and the Newtown Jets. Chrys is an enormous loss to Marrickville.

Barbara LeMaistre

(Inaugural MHS President)

Chrys was a MHS Foundation member who supported the Society's sound establishment and, over the years, ensured its longevity and heritage interests. She was an early hard working and very effective Society Secretary who believed that Marrickville outshone any other place. Chrys avidly defended Marrickville's historic significance and worked for wider knowledge of it in NSW and the UK.

She was knowledgeable, committed to recognising Marrickville's social, political and military histories and retention of as much historic built environment as possible. An outstanding historian with very high standards in local historic research, she loved to tell an exciting historical story with gusto and organise an event honouring Marrickville's history. She keenly helped others undertaking research.

She was an activist on the Marrickville Bicentenary Committee for the restoration of the Winged Victory statue when it lay in a council yard in pieces. She was a regretful observer when the original restored statue went to the War Museum in Canberra. She was also active in the retention of, and public access to, Marrickville Council Archives that were stored in the loft at St Peters Town Hall. She then used them in her research for 30 years, after they were moved to Petersham Town Hall. She was honoured by council last year for her local history work. Chrys was a force to be reckoned with who will be sadly missed but whose work is greatly respected.

Obituary: Margaret Sinclair

Margaret Sinclair (nee Kelso) died on 13 September 2022 aged 108 (and a half). She was born before the outbreak of World War I on a small orchard at Thurgoona near Albury, the eldest of 5 children. At high school in Albury there was no school bus, so she rode her horse Blackie 12 kilometres to and from



school. She worked as a receptionist in Albury and Melbourne before the family moved to Sydney where she taught at St Canice's, Elizabeth Bay.

Her future husband Ralph Sartori was a prisoner of the Nazis at Buchenwald Concentration Camp, but was released with 800

political prisoners and migrated to

Australia. She met Ralph and they married in 1941. They couldn't marry in front of a Catholic altar as Ralph was a Lutheran.

Astonishingly, she lost her Australian citizenship because she married a Subject of a State of War with His Majesty. She was renaturalised in 1941. They lived in Glebe then in 1948 moved to Oxford Street, Petersham, where Margaret remained until 2013. Ralph and Margaret had 4 boys. Ralph and she travelled extensively across the world before her mother died aged 101 and Ralph in 1986. Sadly she outlived 3 of her sons, but her strength and faith always helped her through difficult times.



Margaret joined MHS in 1987 and became a regular attendee at meetings and outings. She was renowned for her warmth and for her Heritage Marmalade which she always produced in time for the local annual festivals. She was made a MHS Life Member and into her late 90s still read the classics (Anthony Trollope was a favourite) and enjoyed a glass of wine. Several members were delighted to be present for her 100th birthday celebration. Around that time she relocated to Rosary Village in western Sydney. A treasure of a lady.

Our condolences to Michael and to Margaret's six grandchildren and other family members. Special thanks for provision of Margaret's eulogy and photos by Michael Sinclair.

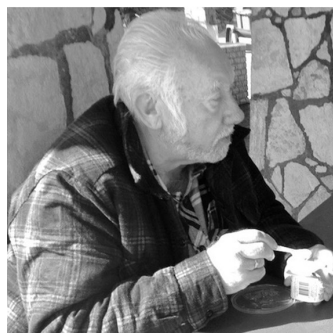
Obituary: Bob York

Robert (known as Bob) York died suddenly on 22 October aged 80. Bob lived for most of his life in Marrickville and worked for some 35 years at the Redfern Mail Exchange where he met his wife Vivien (died 2012). Both joined MHS in 2008. Bob's mother Hilda York was a MHS member before Bob.

He often attended meetings and was actively involved in a seniors' group run by Laurel and Bob Horton. For many years he had enjoyed coaching young rugby league teams and was a keen South Sydney Rabbitohs supporter.

Bob York

(photo: Laurel Horton)



Obituary: Hazel Blair

We only recently learnt of the death of Hazel Blair (nee Gibson), who died on 22 April 2022. Hazel had been a MHS member since 1993. Though she had lived in Hurstville for many years, she grew up in Australia Street, Newtown, and attended Australia Street and Newtown Public Schools. She worked at the Marcus Clark store in Railway Square and later as a typist with Frank & Bryce Bentley in Victoria Road, Marrickville. She undertook nurse training at St George Hospital, leaving it to raise her children.

She was a founding member of Hurstville Historical Society and helped establish the Centennial Bakery Museum in Hurstville in 1988. Both have since folded. Hazel cowrote with June Lane *The Royal Australian Engineers in Oatley Park, 1942 to 1943* (1992). She had a strong interest in family history. Our condolences to Hazel's family.

Obituary: Mary Cleghorn

Mary Cleghorn (nee Matthews) died on 8 July 2022 aged 90. Mary grew up in Victoria Road and Schwebel Street, Marrickville, and had a lifelong love of this suburb as

expressed in her essay, 'Marrickville: My Shangri-La!', which featured in *Marrickville: a past worth preserving* (2011). Mary's trip down memory lane was typical of many folk of her generation. She went to Marrickville Public school, sang in St Clements Church choir and worked at the Australian Woollen Mills in Sydenham Road.

Mary especially remembered the Marrickville Stroller's dances, such that she was instrumental in organising the Back to the Strollers Dance which took place in May 1997 at Marrickville Town Hall. She recalled it as one of the highlights of her life.

She married at St Clements Church in 1952 moving to Guildford and in the 1970s to Lake Conjola; she later moved to the Ulladulla area. She had 4 children.

Mary's daughter Alayne wrote that: 'My mother loved people and especially if she met someone from

Marrickville, they were kindred spirits and she would enjoy reminiscing about The Strollers.'

Mary had been a MHS member since 2002. Our condolences to Mary's family.



Alayne and Mary at the 1997 Back to the Strollers Dance. Below: Mary, more recently.



All obituaries by **Richard Blair**.
Hazel Blair was not related.

Calendar of MHS events

Saturday 26 November

Show & Tell: Details on front page

Saturday 3 December

Pot Luck Xmas Dinner: Details on front page

Saturday 25 February 2023

Bill Phippen: Sydney's Underground Railways

Saturday 25 March 2023

To be advised

Saturday 22 April 2023

Ron Ringer: George Foster's mystery blueprints



Mallet used to lay foundation stone for Wesleyan chapel in Newtown, 1859

MHS member **Jennifer O'Callaghan** has advised that the State Library of NSW holds the diaries and family material belonging to George Allen, founder of Australia's oldest law firm in 1822. This firm, which became Allen, Allen & Hemsley, is now Allens & Linklaters. From the firm's website:

'George Allen, founder of Australia's oldest legal firm, laid the foundation stone for a new Wesleyan chapel in King Street, Newtown, in 1859. Allen was known for his charitable pursuits and was active in the Wesleyan Missionary Society, holding the position of treasurer for 50 years.

'From around 1840, church services were held in small cottages in Newtown but on 30 August 1859 the first stone was laid for the construction of a new chapel on nearby King Street to accommodate the growing congregation. Allen was given the honour of laying the first stone.

'A bottle was deposited underneath the stone bearing copies of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Empire* newspapers from the day, along with a copy of the *Wesley Record* and a document outlining the proceedings of the day, a list of attendees and details of the parish. It is assumed the bottle still lies beneath the foundation stone.



'At the end of the formalities the mallet used in the proceedings was presented to George Allen; and is still held by the legal firm today.'

Photo of mallet (above) and a 1907 photo of the Wesleyan Church, renamed Newtown Methodist Church (courtesy SLNSW)



Just in time for Christmas!

From **Mary Barthelemy**: In 1930 a Tempe woman won the Pictorial 'Xmas Menu' prize. The *Daily Pictorial* announced the competition winner – Mrs Howarth of 119 Unwins Bridge Road – in its Sunday 14 December issue (page 24). Her prize for the 'sensible hot-weather dinner' was £1/1 (approximately \$100 today). Considered suitable to the season but not too elaborate, 92 years later it holds up pretty well.



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS MENU

Cream of celery

Cold duck, apple rings, cold ham,

Green peas, new potatoes, tomato
savory.

Australian Christmas pudding,
with sauce.

Fruit, raisins, nuts, sweets.

Cordials,

Coffee.



The Society has recently been involved in the creation of a self-guided walking tour app for Illawarra Road, Marrickville. Creators **Claudia Chidiac** and **Nick Wishart** have talked to business owners, residents and the Society to create a guide you can have on your phone. The tour runs from Addison Road to Cooks River with stops along the way highlighted by the voices of people who have some connection to the space or know some of its history. Look out for its launch very soon.

Marrickville local **Theodora Gianniotis** from the University of Sydney has contacted the society for assistance in a project. Theodora works with the Australian Archaeological Institute of Athens (AAIA) and they are looking for information on Anzacs from Marrickville and surrounds who fought in the Greek campaigns (including Crete) during WW2. The AAIA hopes to build an archive of participants to this very significant area of WW2. If you know anyone who might fit this criteria and would like to help contact Theodora on <theodora.gianniotis@sydney.edu.au>.

Joining Marrickville Heritage Society is easy . . .

. . . Send a cheque made out to Marrickville Heritage Society (postal address front page) + your name/s, address, phone and email; pay by direct debit; or by cash at one of our meetings. Join now and membership goes till May 2024. Ring Stuart for enquiries or direct debit details; or email MHS (contacts below). Fees: Concession \$12, Individual/Joint Concession \$20, Household/Organisation \$28.

President & Heritage Watch

Scott 0416 152 501 | sbtarmac@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stuart 0414 620 519 | stuartgrigg2@gmail.com

Newsletter (Acting)

Richard 0413 335 897 | blairitage@optusnet.com.au

Webmaster & Facebook

Rod 0431 224 472 | mhsweb@exemail.com.au