

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS  
SYDENHAM & TEMPE

## Our next meeting

Saturday 25 February 10 for 10.30 am

**'By Muscle of Man & Horse: Building the Railway under Sydney 1916-1932' with Bill Phippen**  
**The Pavilion, Marrickville Library**  
**Corner Marrickville & Livingstone Roads, Marrickville**

In 1916 John Bradfield began building for Sydney one of the first underground railways in the world, and certainly the first in Australia. Although the technology of the railway itself was cutting edge for its time, the methods of tunnelling and construction were still ancient – the muscles of men and horses, only assisted at a single location by one large machine which we would recognise now as appropriate for the task.

This talk flows from the chance discovery by Sydney Trains staff in 2017 of a long-lost photo album during an office move. The missing album, eventually realised to be one of a series of five, led to the recognition that the other four were at NSW State Archives and their prompt scanning produced a set of 1,500 excellent images.



Image caption: 'Museum to St James station. Concrete arch construction North of Museum. 20.7.23.'

Civil engineer **Bill Phippen** OAM is deputy chairman of the Engineers Australia Sydney Division heritage committee and former manager of the Australian Railway Historical Society archives. His books include *The Hawkesbury River Railway Bridges* (2018) which received the 2019 Colin Crisp Award from Engineers Australia for documentation of engineering heritage; *By Muscle of Man & Horse – building the railway under Sydney 1916-1932* (2018); and *The Timber Truss Railway Bridges of New South Wales* (2020).

## Heritage Watch

### A new Inner West Local Environment Plan

Articles in our two most recent newsletters (Sept-Oct and Nov-Dec 2022) conveyed the Society's alarm and dismay at the Urban Design Studies and Heritage Study commissioned by Inner West Council as aids in developing the new Local Environment Plan – the first for Marrickville since 2011, and which will encompass the amalgamated Inner West LGA. We understand the reports are held over pending review by councillors and council staff. Meanwhile we watch and wait for further advice on what is proposed by IWC and what consultation our community can expect during this process, which will, as pointed out in Rod Aanensen's article, 'change Marrickville and the other areas forever'.

### Marrickville archives

Recently a concerned member contacted us saying:

researching history in Marrickville is pretty difficult at the moment. The Archives Reference Centre has closed and the archivist position has gone. It's still possible to access material but it's certainly not as easy or as freely available as it was. The plan to convert St Peters town hall into an archives centre for the Inner West has been abandoned. And it's no longer possible to even find what it holds. I'm interested in what Council's plans are – history seems so often to be the poor cousin compared to the arts in the Inner West.

We support our area embracing the arts. There is a symbiosis between heritage and the arts, with the latter often flourishing in those character-filled localities and buildings we seek to preserve.

IWC's last archivist (who was part time) left about three years ago. MHS can legitimately claim to be a 'stakeholder' in the future of our local archives. Not only are we often the 'first call' by those seeking historic information, but several MHS members devoted 3-5 years of their time as volunteers at Council, sorting, securing and cataloguing archival material. Archives are an irreplaceable, valuable resource and asset. We are endeavouring to find out what is proposed for the future, what is presently on offer to researchers, how to access it and what sort of assistance people can expect to be available.

**Scott MacArthur**

## 2022 Annual Pot Luck Dinner

Our first Pot Luck dinner in three years was held at the Marrickville home of 'Tricia Blombery and Stuart Grigg. It's ironical that this was the first Pot Luck Dinner of Marrickville Heritage Society in over 30 years ever to be held in Marrickville. As usual, a splendid array of culinary delights was brought by members and champagne was donated by member Lynne Greenwood, for whom this (usually) annual event is one of her year's highlights. Thanks to our hosts 'Tricia and Stuart and to Mary Oakenfull for capably coordinating the event.

### Annual Pot Luck Dinner: the future

The Pot Luck dinner has, since its inception in 1989, been a convivial end-of-year gathering at the house of a member (or members) where attendees bring a plate and their own drink, and which is usually held on a Saturday evening in early December. The Society organises crockery, glassware and cutlery.

The committee would like to know whether members would prefer:

- to retain Pot Luck dinners as an evening event
- to switch to a lunchtime event along similar lines
- to switch to a mid-afternoon event along similar lines
- some other arrangement.

Could feedback please be given by email to <marrickvilleheritagesociety@outlook.com>, by phone to Lorraine on 0416 224 472 or at our February meeting?

### More on King Tut furniture

A request for any knowledge or photos of King Tut furniture in the MHS November-December 2022 newsletter prompted an interesting response from MHS members **John McGrath** and his younger sister, **Anne**.

The family owns several pieces of furniture, purchased in about 1961-62 for their family home at 85 The Boulevarde, Dulwich Hill, including this dining room suite (pictured below), all resplendent in the King Tut ivory finish.



John says the finish has not faded or degraded over time, but he is unaware of the formula used. The furniture remained at this address until 2013.



Furniture with the 'King Tut Old Egyptian Ivory Finish'

Above: Cabinet from the dining room setting

Below: Dining table, chairs and mantel



Interestingly, the house at 85 The Boulevarde was built c. 1900 and occupied until c. 1910 by James Johnson, sole survivor of the *Dunbar* shipwreck in 1857 (see MHS May 2005 newsletter).

Thanks to John for his follow-up and for sending these photos, which are now a significant addition to the Society's archives.

Iain Carolin

### Webwise

**Rod Aanensen**, who monitors the website, looks after its visitors, and is our go-to research and heritage watch man, has penned yet another article—Marrickville Girl Guides 1922-2022. It's well worth a read, along with many other stories on the website. Go there and click on 'Stories'.



## Marseille roof tiles on a Sydenham house

In 1987 I bought a house in George Street, Sydenham. This tile (pictured) was one of approximately 400 on the house that fronted the street on a steep inverted 'V' roof.



Marseille roof tile (photo: Iain Carolin)

Some research on the manufacturer's name, Guichard Carvin & Co, and an embossed bee on the head of the tiles established the fact that they had been imported from Marseille, France before 1914. 'St André', also on the tile, is a western suburb of Marseille.

Due to persistent water leaks I replaced the roof with the same style of 'Marseille' tile. The contractor suggested the old tiles were secondhand which fits well considering the remnants of the original slate tiles that were discovered in the attic. Alarming, he also pointed out that the glaze had worn off and, therefore, every time it rained they had been slowly dissolving! The company name, location and the bee are clearly visible despite the over 100-year age of the tiles. Several other companies' manufacturing tiles in the Marseille area had their own symbols which included an anchor, a lion, a turtle and a Maltese Cross.

About 75 million Marseille tiles were imported into Australia between 1890 and 1914. Exported tiles were always red while the European French tile was a slate grey. The first major importer to Australia was WH Rocke in 1890. In 1908 this company merged with the Wunderlich Brothers in the formation of Wunderlich Limited and were the sole agents for importing the Marseille tile. The 1914 outbreak of the Great War saw the exporting of tiles to Australia cease and Wunderlich switched to local manufacture and sourcing of materials.

In 2017 a beautiful old heritage building was demolished in Beirut, Lebanon. The tiles that came off the roof were from Guichard Carvin & Co with

the embossed bee – the same tiles that I had replaced in 1988. The below link makes for some sad but interesting reading regarding the Beirut building. <[www.beirutreport.com/2017/09/one-of-beirut-oldest-blocks-demolished](http://www.beirutreport.com/2017/09/one-of-beirut-oldest-blocks-demolished)>

Iain Carolin

## Vale: Maureen Bailey

Maureen Bailey (nee Brown) of Newtown died on 13 November 2022 aged 81 after a short illness. Maureen grew up in Hurlstone Park and attended St Paul of the Cross Primary School in Dulwich Hill.

A great lover of animals, she was a member of the Guide Dogs Association and the Cat Protection Society. She donated to Guide Dogs to help fund their care and training, funding a kennel block there. She also made donations to the Sydney University Veterinary Science Faculty to fund research programs.

Maureen joined Marrickville Heritage Society in 2006 and especially enjoyed attending Pot Luck dinners. She had a strong interest in the preservation of old buildings and the history of the Sydney landscape. She was a member of the National Trust. Our condolences to Maureen's daughter Susie and son Geoff.



Maureen Bailey with her dog Cindy, and at a Gala Ball in 1959 (with thanks to Maureen's daughter Susie for the photos)

## Illawarra Road, Marrickville Walking Tour

In 2022 MHS was contacted by **Claudia Chidiac** and **Nick Wishart** seeking help with an audio project. With a grant from Inner West Council, Claudia and Nick created an audio walking tour of Illawarra Road from Chapel Street to Harnett Avenue. The tour includes historical facts, personal reminiscences of long-time residents, and stories of recent immigrant families and the businesses they opened. Go to <<http://www.nickwishart.com/illawarra-road/>> for information about the walk and for instructions on how to download the app.

Enjoy the walk!

Rod Aanensen

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## Show & Tell: 26 November 2022

At our second Show & Tell in 2022 members responded with enthusiasm, enterprise and, in some cases, delight.

As a curtain raiser an array of old photos was put on display. These photos were donated to the Society many years ago by the Russell family of Tempe and were probably taken by John Russell, a professional photographer. They mainly depict a flood in the Marrickville area which, according to historian Ian Tyrrell, may be that which occurred in February 1956; many of the photos are in Illawarra Road near Cooks River.



Hopefully the driver's seat stayed dry!

There are also some group shots of men, some identifiable, taken near Cooks River. They include Harry Russell, Bill Kendrick (Marrickville Mayor 1958) and the father of Laurel Horton who she recognised in this shot, having never seen the photo before.



One of the group shots at Tempe, with Cooks River and Princes Highway in the background. Laurel's father is standing in the middle with his arms folded.

Handwritten on the back of the photo is: 'Foundation members and committee Cooks River Bowling Club'.

**Scott MacArthur** got the ball rolling by producing a melted down piece of window glass found on the site of the Mt Stromlo Solar Observatory building in the ACT following the 2003 bushfire which severely damaged the observatory.



Melted window glass from the Mt Stromlo Solar Observatory (photo: Scott MacArthur)

**Lu Bell's** item was also of the 21st century – 2005. It was a souvenir plate of the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles. Lu asked what was unusual about the plate, but no one knew. As Lu explained, the plate showed the date as 8 April 2005; however, the wedding actually occurred the following day on 9 April 2005. The delay of one day was due to the attendance of Prince Charles at the funeral of Pope John Paul II in Rome on 8 April.

**Iain Carolin** produced a World War I medallion with an inscription and an engraving of the *Lusitania*. On 7 May 1915 the Cunard liner *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland. The medallion is a copy of the original German version and one of approximately 300,000 British-produced medallions sold to the public in an anti-German propaganda campaign. In another example of a recorded wrong date, the date inscribed on the medallion shows the sinking occurred on 5 May, two days before the actual sinking (an error by German designer Karl Goetz). Profits from the sales went towards support of the St Dunstan's Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Hostel.



World War I *Lusitania* medallion (photos: Iain Carolin)

**Joyce Roy** shared some family history from when her father migrated to Australia in 1939 settling initially in Orange, NSW. Joyce showed a well-compiled album of old postcards, greeting cards and family photographs.



**Gloria Muir** is clearly a bit of a scavenger and produced an old shoe she found under the floorboards of a house in Marrickville about 30 years ago. The shoe is believed to date from the 1930s Depression era.



Gloria Muir's liberated shoe; note the 'horseshoes' attached to the sole. Was this perhaps some kind of reinforcement to increase the life of the shoe?  
(photos: Richard Blair)

**Ros Torrent** has a rich family history and posed the question, 'What happened to her Great Uncle Forest Reeves?' It seems Forest left St Peters for America aged 20 around 1900, where he lived for close on 40 years. Little is known about his time there and on his return to Australia he may have become a swagman living around the Murrumburrah-Young district. Ros clearly has many questions still to be answered about her mystery uncle.

**Laurel and Bob Horton** reminded us about the book *Stanley: a young man's colonial experience – Rev. Stanley Howard writing to his family in England 1872-1878* (2005). Stanley was curate at St Peters Church Cooks River during the 1870s and Laurel edited the letters that comprise this work. Recently Laurel and Bob were given a box of original letters, documents and other artefacts relating to Stanley. They are a personal and social history, and the Hortons presented these documents by way of narration by Laurel and readings by Bob. Clearly, Stanley was a keen letter writer from childhood and the letters to home reveal much about his school days and about the times. He writes of being a naughty boy, eating a brace of mutton chops, having a catapult to drive away cats which scratch up the seeds, wanting to have a uniform, stamps, cricket (round arm bowling), hockey, marbles, football, charades and sending his brother a pair of red muffatees (fingerless gloves).

We learnt of a personal link between Stanley and Laurel's great great grandmother, Harriet Hoppitt,

who wrote a bereavement card to Stanley's widow Marian after Stanley died in September 1883 in Bowral from tuberculosis.

**Richard Blair** had a pot pourri of three unrelated miniature items. Firstly, a badge in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Marrickville Municipal Council 1861-1936.

Marrickville Municipal Council  
75th anniversary badge  
(photo: Richard Blair)



Secondly, a German token from a brewery named Glaabsbrau in Seligenstadt, near Frankfurt. It was given to Richard by the brewery manager during a visit there in 1971. On one side is an arrow containing the phrase 'er zahlt' which means 'he pays'. The idea is one spins the token around on a table and whoever the arrow points to on stopping, must (in Aussie lingo) 'shout'.



German brewery token (photo: Richard Blair)

The third item is also a token with words in German. One side depicts a beehive on a stone block surrounded by the words 'sich und andern nützlich' [useful to yourself and others] and the words 'zur nachahmung' [for imitation or emulation] and the year '1804' on the other side surrounded by a wreath of flowers.



German 'beehive' token (photo: Richard Blair)

**Gabby Richards** produced one of the day's standouts – an intact chimney pot made in the 1880s by Hart and Gallagher whose pottery was on New Canterbury Road at the corner of Union Street in Dulwich Hill. It was salvaged from the roof of the Marrickville Golf Club during renovations in the 1950s. Originally, the club house had been the home





of John Roseby who built the house and lived there during the 1880s until he was declared bankrupt.

Gabby Richards displays the chimney pot (photo: Scott MacArthur)

Below, the original house that John Roseby built shows the chimney pot (photographer and source unknown)



**Ann Petersen** has a keen eye for an antique and showed several 19th century items that had been passed down in her family. Ann showed an attractive Chelsea pattern tureen; a silver-plated food warmer bearing the number 37 in Roman numerals; a pewter beer mug and a pair of silver carving knife rests, with ivory inlays.



The tureen, part of a Ridgway Sparks Ridgway dinner service c. 1875-79 (photo: Richard Blair)

Pewter mug and knife rests (photo: Richard Blair)



Ann Petersen displays the silver-plated warming dish (photo: Richard Blair)

**Bruce Welch** reminded us of Mastertouch, that institution which produced pianola rolls in Sydney's inner west for nearly a century and operated in Petersham and Stanmore in its later years. Bruce showed some pianola and piano rolls (from his collection of over 7,000), spoke about the players, the boxes and Barclay Wright (a former MHS member who extended the life of Mastertouch long after its heyday). He also told of his Mastertouch website.



This image shows the Mastertouch logo at the top, Barclay Wright, the front of a pianola roll and the end labels of some pianola rolls (source: Bruce Welch Mastertouch Collection)

As a bonus, Bruce produced a late 1800s music box using metal discs and gave a musical demonstration.

Bruce Welch's music box and disc (photo: Scott MacArthur)



By audience acclaim, prizes were awarded to Gloria, Gabby, Bruce, and Laurel and Bob; but everyone was a winner. Thanks to Mary, Richard and MHS for donating prizes. I wonder what else members have stashed away for future showing and telling.

**Richard Blair**



## Family History Request from Ireland

**Kevin McSherry** came across the Marrickville Heritage Society website while researching his family tree. He lives in County Kerry, Ireland, but was originally from County Armagh (now in Northern Ireland). He would like to make contact with anyone who knows about the McSherrys of Enmore.

John McSherry married Margaret Kelso in 1855 and they left for Australia shortly afterwards. His family never knew what happened to them until Kevin recently discovered while searching the internet they had lived in NSW. The family lived in Charles Street, Enmore in the 1880s and at 77 Simmons Street, Enmore in the early 1900s. He ascertained from the Sisters of Mercy, Singleton that a daughter Elizabeth McSherry and a niece Lillian McSherry joined that order. At least six family members are buried at Rookwood.

Margaret and John's son William (1873-1914) seems to have been a well known artist, particularly of racehorses, including the 1890 Melbourne Cup winner Carbine. The 1903 electoral register shows that John McSherry and a son, also named John, were grooms living in Simmons Street. This may explain why William started painting racehorses. His father and brother both worked in stables. Kevin was born into a blacksmith household – his great grandfather, grandfather and uncles were all blacksmiths.

If anyone knows of the family or if any descendants are still around, perhaps they could email Kevin at <kevin.mcsherry@hotmail.com>. Kevin wrote that he 'would be delighted to hear from them'.

*Note: As we are not a family history society we don't usually run this sort of item, but we are making an exception in this case, partly given William McSherry was a recognised artist with a local connection.*



William McSherry's painting of La Carabine winning the Sydney Cup, Randwick, 16 April 1900. La Carabine was sired by the 1890 Melbourne Cup winner Carbine.

## A memory or wishful thinking?

While reading a recent MHS newsletter I remembered walking to Marrickville Post Office with my sister in the 1940s. We often visited our aunt, Alice Murray, at 20 South Street, in the school holidays. She was the

best aunt anyone could have. She always kept a supply of ice cream soda ingredients and frozen oranges as treats. She would ask us 'to go down the street' and get whatever or 'post this letter for me'. I still smile when I think of 'going down the street'. Was it Aunt's expression or a commonly used term way back then?

I remember going to Coles – it always had a fascinating display of trinkets and dishes. In my memory it wasn't far from the post office. But what crept into my mind was leaving the post office and walking onto Marrickville Road and seeing a horse trough on the footpath near the corner. Does anyone remember the horse troughs that were placed along the roads for the use of the stalwarts of our transport of the time? And, in particular, one outside the Marrickville Post Office?

**Wendy Valentine**

## Horse troughs are intriguing!

As Wendy mentions above, horse troughs in public places were an essential service in the days when horses, and bullocks teams, were the mainstay of our personal transport and road freight systems. Horse troughs and 'horses drinking' have been the subject of art through the ages, including in sculptures as early as China's Tang Dynasty (618 AD to 907 AD).



'Three members of the Temperance Society': Three Horses at a Drinking Trough. Painting by John Frederick Herring the elder (1795-1865) (source: National Trust UK)

In Australia the need for water troughs was taken up by George and Annis Bills, whose legacy was a trust set up in 1927 to build and install troughs 'wherever desirable for the relief of horses and other dumb animals'. About 700 Bills water troughs were installed in Australia, of which about 300 are catalogued as still remaining, and about 50 overseas. Aside from four known in England, we don't know the status of Bills troughs in other countries. Perhaps someone has a photo of Wendy's Post Office horse trough, which may or may not have been a Bills trough, and stories of others.

**Lorraine Beach**



## Calendar of MHS Events

### Saturday 25 February

By Muscle of Man & Horse: building the railway under Sydney

A talk with Bill Phippen—details on page 1

### Saturday 25 March

To be advised

### Saturday 22 April

Playground 'rockets' reflect the Space Race

A talk with Sue Jackson-Stepowski

### Saturday 27 May

Excursion to the State Library of NSW

### Saturday 24 June

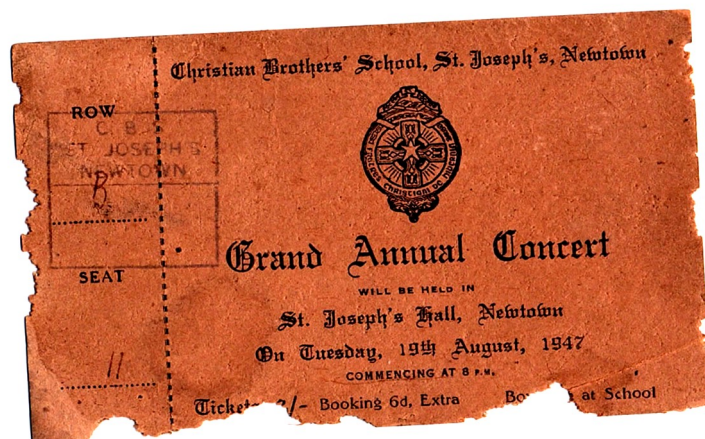
MHS Annual General Meeting

## Another little piece of history

On page 5 we showed Gloria Muir's find of a shoe under the floorboards of a Marrickville house, and here's another one, from a resident in St Peters who simply recognised that a find under the floorboards of her May Street house had significance and historic importance. (A memorable quote from colleague Rod Aanensen has stuck with me: 'There's no such thing as trivial; it's history!'). Our 'finder', Jacinta, wrote us this note:

I read in the paper once that there were not a lot of records available for Christian Brothers School, Newtown. I found this ticket for the Grand Annual Concert for Tuesday 19 August 1947, seat 11, in the floor during renovations at [...] May Street, St Peters. I've been meaning to post this for years. I've sold the house now. Final cleanup means posting this.  
Regards, Jacinta.

Thanks again, Jacinta, for taking the trouble to send us your find.



## Summer Trivia question



Where in the local area would you find this historic 19th century house and what is it? Contact Richard 0413 335 897 or MHS email at bottom of page.

## Send us your stories!

We love receiving contributions of memories and anecdotes from members that we may be able to use in the newsletter. You may think 'they're just my memories, they're not important'—but they are. If they're not recorded somewhere, they won't be remembered, and it's another small piece of history lost. Our newsletter is the perfect place to preserve those memories.

You can email us, or send your handwritten notes by post, or hand over notes at a meeting, or whatever works for you. Don't worry that they're not 'academically' written—between us we will gladly knock things into shape to fit the style of the newsletter and work out where and when we can use them. Please keep your notes, memories and stories coming!

## Another 'bumper' issue!

Once again we have too much to squeeze into our customary format, so it's another 8-page newsletter despite our claim that the last one was a 'one-off'. Let's see how we go for the next one!

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