

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS
SYDENHAM & TEMPE

Our September outing

Saturday 23 September 9.45 for 10.00 am

The making of Marrickville: a walk along Illawarra Road with Rod Aanensen

Where: Meet at the intersection of Chapel Street and Illawarra Road, opposite 'The Henson' (formerly the Henson Park Hotel)

Cost: Free

Booking: Numbers are limited to 30 – book with Lorraine at lbeach@iprimus.com.au or 0416 224 472

A story of Marrickville can be told by a simple stroll along Illawarra Road. Join MHS committee member **Rod Aanensen** to explore that story from the beginnings of the suburb. Who were the people who helped build Marrickville? How did they do it and what did they believe?



Marrickville's first town hall on Illawarra Road
(photo: Stewart Watters—© State of New South Wales and Office of Environment and Heritage 2019)

All these things will be revealed by looking at some of the buildings that they created. These buildings can tell us so much about our past and our present if we take the time to listen.

Rod is renowned for his relentless digging into historic records to unearth 'the facts'. We can expect pauses for his commentary and insights into Marrickville's beginnings. This is an easy stroll of about 1½ to 2 hours at a gentle pace with no strenuous sections. The walk ends at Marrickville Road, where there are plenty of options for refreshments and access to transport.

Our October meeting

Saturday 28 October 10.00 for 10.30 am

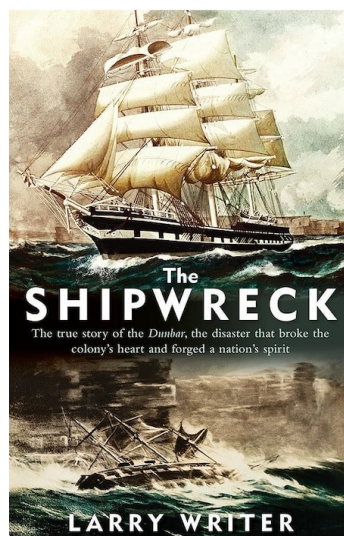
**The Pavilion, Marrickville Library
Corner Marrickville & Livingstone Roads
The Shipwreck: the true story of the *Dunbar*
A talk with Larry Writer**

The *Dunbar* was one of the most advanced and celebrated sailing ships of the mid-19th century. Built to carry well-to-do passengers and civilising luxuries from Britain to Australia, it was the *Titanic* of its day. Around midnight on 20 August 1857, after an 81-day voyage from Plymouth, the *Dunbar* was caught by massive waves and storm-force winds near the cliffs of The Gap at Sydney's South Head and smashed to pieces on the rocks. All but one of the 123 crew and passengers perished: drowned, broken on the cliff face, or mauled by sharks. The catastrophe was one of the worst in Australia's history. Bodies and wreckage swept through the Heads and washed up on the harbour's beaches for days. Sydney stopped for the mass funeral.

The tragedy demonstrated the precariousness of the colony's link to the Mother Country and devastated the city. Its aftermath saw enormous, and desperately needed, changes to navigation and marine safety.

Larry Writer is a Sydney-based author whose latest book is *The Shipwreck*, the *Dunbar* story. Larry wrote the award-winning bestseller *Razor*, the saga of Kate Leigh and Tilly Devine; *Dangerous Games: Australia at the 1936 Nazi Olympics*; *Pitched Battle*, the anti-apartheid demonstrations that disrupted the 1971 Springbok

rugby tour; and *Never Before, Never Again*, the reign of St George rugby league team, 1956-1966. Larry talked to MHS in 2012 about *Bumper*, his biography of Sydney policeman Frank 'Bumper' Farrell. He also wrote the biography of Olympian and WWI hero Cecil Healy, awarded the NIB Military History Prize in 2019.



Heritage and the housing crisis: higher density must respect amenity

The housing situation in Australia is currently foremost in the media and in politics, and is an everyday crisis for many. The waiting list for social housing in NSW was in excess of 57,000 applicants in June 2022. The terms NIMBY (not in my back yard) and now YIMBY (yes in my back yard) have become part of our vocabulary. YIMBYs are vocal in targeting the inner west and its heritage protections, with media articles in particular highlighting heritage protection in Marrickville and Dulwich Hill as a roadblock to their vision of high-density development. The camps are polarised, but there is some common ground.

The YIMBYs website says this:

‘Do you want more affordable housing? Do you support cycleways and an active walking and cycling network? Are you up for living in a buzzy city with nightlife and outdoor dining? Do you welcome new business and new residents in your neighbourhood? Do you back funding and spaces for arts and culture? Do you say yes to tangible action on climate change, like rain gardens and trees rather than car parks?’ And: ‘The things that make city living attractive – convenient access to jobs, amenities, goods and services – is [*sic*] made possible by density.’

High property values

It wasn't always so, but this century the inner west, particularly the Marrickville area and surrounding suburbs, has become a highly desirable location to live in. It is a classic example of a historic urban landscape. There are walkable streets, plenty of green space, cycle pathways, walking pathways, a multicultural population, loads of history to be appreciated by those interested, quirky lanes and many odd and old buildings given new life to support a vibrant mix of businesses – pubs, clubs, restaurants, galleries, artisan workshops, cafes, boutique breweries, to mention just some. You name it, you can probably find it in Marrickville. Add its proximity to the city, good transport connections and its rating as ‘the tenth coolest neighbourhood in the world’ in 2020 because it already offers all the benefits cited in the YIMBY mantra above, it should be no surprise that it's a target for demanding increased living options. Another YIMBY quote: ‘I want to be able to live near where I want to spend my time’.

Gentrification has occurred gradually as people gravitated to this area for all the reasons already described. Most people criticised as ‘NIMBY elitists intent on protecting their property values’ did nothing to cause the escalation of values except buy their homes when the area was undesirable (cheap) and then continue to live in, appreciate, embrace and encourage a growing, changing and multicultural neighbourhood.

The area is the product of successive councils who have striven to retain and celebrate its special character, listened to some heritage concerns and

implemented protections, while still accommodating numerous residential developments towards achieving targets of increased density.

No density without amenity

MHS President **Scott MacArthur**, an accomplished architect who works in urban design, is a committed heritage advocate. In response to media approaches, Scott has provided lengthy explanations about the Society's position on the present thrust for higher density and removal of heritage protections. He notes we are losing our dwindling stock of important heritage properties: *Otaki* (a prominent Federation villa on Marrickville Road), the three Victorian villas on the old Marrickville Hospital site, much of Illawarra Road, and the Church of Christ to name the more prominent sacrifices to development.

Scott says that media comment and subsequent debate over the ‘heritage vs affordable housing’ duality was the very premise that made Inner West Council refuse to heritage list and protect the Church of Christ on Illawarra Road at Marrickville contrary to the recommendations of the heritage study the Council had commissioned. It was a particularly bruising debate. The loss of the Church of Christ building was keenly felt by our Society and the wider community that values heritage *and* the amenity of our built environment. We are not elitist NIMBYs trying to lock down our suburbs and turn them into museums, but concerned residents and business people who do not want to sacrifice the already pressured amenity of our area for illusory cheap housing solutions. We support measures that will retain the social and cultural heterogeneity of our suburbs, but heritage and new residential opportunities are *not* mutually exclusive.

Scott explained that his comment in relation to *illusory cheap housing* relates to how vague this term is and how ill-defined is the desired outcome of the YIMBY movement. By cheap housing, are the pro-developers looking for 'build to rent', social housing, affordable housing, boarding houses, or just an apartment in Marrickville they can afford? How cheap is cheap? And can anyone say how many new buildings that would be? Are we supposed to support building enough new houses, apartments or granny flats to roll back 20 years of real estate price escalation?

The role of heritage protection

Scott said that MHS is very supportive of Inner West Council's proposal to consult the community about expanding protection of our environmental heritage with new and enlarged Heritage Conservation Areas. Heritage protection does not seek to stop change, or to turn our suburbs into museums – it rather aims to manage change. Heritage listing can help prevent the worst excesses of over-development, while the essential fabric and character of the environment are retained. The process to establish heritage protections is exhaustive – years of research and community consultation are undertaken, and all levels of local and State government

are required to agree on the extent and type of protections that are involved.

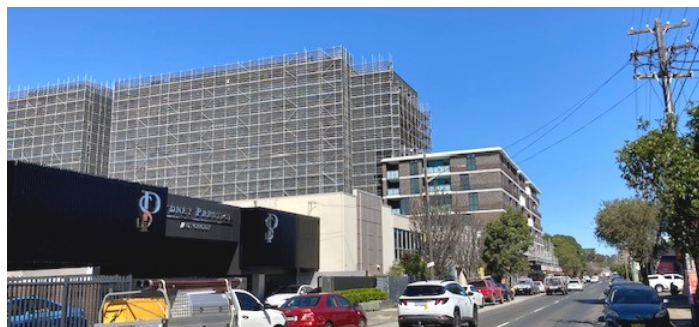
A critical part of protection is providing a framework that allows the heritage environment to be conserved, adapted and modified to ensure that it retains its heritage values and vitality. Heritage places need viable and sympathetic uses for their preservation – whether this is their original and ongoing use, or a compatible new use. Established buildings that have outlasted their original uses have been adapted and repurposed for new uses for millennia. Specifically, in our locality, over the last century, old Federation mansions and Victorian villas have been converted to flats and boarding houses, contributing to our LGA already having the second highest proportion of 'affordable housing' in the State!* Competent architects working with experienced heritage professionals and enterprising developers have demonstrated that heritage does not stop affordable housing – it enriches it.

Supporting Scott's comments, there are numerous examples in our immediate vicinity of higher density housing and heritage working well – for one, the outcomes achieved by the Marrickville Library project that harmoniously included the former hospital's heritage buildings and 250 apartments, 9 of them affordable housing.

Over-development is not a solution

It is naive to imagine that if developers are allowed to produce enough apartments to saturate the place it will counteract high property prices. Real estate values don't work that way, and it is not the role of developers to solve the problem of a shortage of housing.

The YIMBYs want to stop all heritage listings so that they can seemingly build 'enough' new housing to solve the housing crisis. As hundreds of new dwellings and apartments built in Marrickville over the last decade attest, more dwellings does not mean cheaper housing! The Victoria Road Precinct, for instance, covers 18 hectares and will provide up to 1,100 apartments. The first buildings, containing 272 apartments, are nearing completion. The 1-bedroom units start at \$745,000, 2-bedroom at \$1.06 million and 3-bedroom units are sold out. As for affordable housing, we understand the proposed contribution is 3% of the stock to be built.



First stage, Victoria Road Precinct (photo: Lorraine Beach)

The housing crisis is full of complexities. It is far more than being able to afford to rent or buy in the desirable area you want to live in. The difference between 'cheap

housing' and affordable housing or social housing is vast and it is apparently easy to lose sight of the real crisis – to provide enough housing for the 57,000 who are looking at a possible 10-year wait on a list that gets longer rather than shorter.

Heritage is a soft target, but not the culprit

As for the debate over 'get rid of heritage protections and build more highrise', 'heritage' is a soft target and easy to blame. The reality, though, is that a battle between heritage and YIMBYs makes no progress in addressing the real issues that have created a housing crisis and neither will it help to solve it.

Our Society has the view that change is inevitable, and we are not opposed to change or development. There is, however, a critical need for balance so that development is guided by planning professionals and sensitive designers, producing good long term solutions. If we make mistakes now, and destroy what everyone values and enjoys in our historic urban neighbourhoods, they will lose their people, their quiriness, the businesses that thrive here and, ultimately, their appeal and liveability.

* For more understanding of boarding houses in Marrickville, Society member **Gabby Richards** has done a deep analysis of low-cost housing, and where it is most prevalent, on her website *Marrickville Unearthed*. The story about 387 Illawarra Road is highly recommended. Alarming, Gabby's analysis reveals the reality of new boarding houses: they are not delivering the diversity of accommodation needs that the Department of Planning intended. 'Ten-year population projections show limited growth in the Inner West with an average household size that can't be homed in boarding house style accommodation. As far as social housing is concerned, the Inner West provides 194 boarding houses, a ratio of one boarding house per less than 1,000 people in the LGA. This is second to only the City of Sydney. Marrickville is contributing well above what could be expected from an LGA with a population of 182,000. All 23 boarding houses in the suburb of Marrickville are traditional style boarding houses that better meet the needs of the marginalised and dispossessed.'

For more examples of the architectural design of social housing in a heritage context, the Australian Institute of Architects has excellent articles on its website.

For more background on the loss of *Otaki* and the Church of Christ, visit 'Heritage Watch' on our website.

Lorraine Beach



25 October 2023

Sydney Opera House 50th Birthday Festival

See Opera House website for events and don't miss Alan Croker's talk to MHS on 25 November

Vale: Shirley Hilyard 1929-2023

Although I vaguely knew **Shirley Hilyard** in the 1980s when I attended an occasional MHS meeting, I only got to know her in 1993 when I joined the MHS committee at Shirley's invitation while she was President.

The following year I became editor of the MHS newsletter and immediately Shirley offered her services as proofreader. Despite my growing up and working in the Marrickville area and having the sort of fondness we all feel about our home town, my knowledge of its local history was rather patchy. That soon changed and to say I was inspired by Shirley is an understatement. She became my mentor as she was well versed in the history of the area and the culture of the Society as well as being au fait with entities like the History Council, Historic Houses Trust, National Trust and its Register, State Heritage Register, Register of the National Estate, Local Heritage studies and registers, Heritage Conservation Areas, DAs, LEPs, DCPs, Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), History House and the RAHS annual conference. It was initially all rather mind boggling.



Shirley Hilyard and Richard Blair, 1990s, at a dinner hosted by Robert Hutchinson (photo: Robert Hutchinson)

Shirley was an architect and had practised for a time after graduation. Among her projects was an extension to the Petersham RSL club in the 1950s. When it came to architectural terminology, Shirley was in her own element, and, at times, a pedant. She would shudder at the use of the word 'wood' in favour of 'timber'.

Conversely, family history was anathema to her, and she took little interest in it, except, of course, in her own; though I think we're all a bit guilty of that. She had her pet hates. She used to recall how the Society's only patron **Eve Sharpe** – a neighbour, a

former Marrickville alderman and an early MHS vice president – often used the phrase 'snippety bits' to go in the newsletter; it was a term she deplored.

For over 20 years Shirley proved to be a very diligent proofreader, but she was much more than that, often suggesting better phraseology. Shirley never missed a proofreading session, even when in hospital or interstate. While visiting her sister Ruth in Queensland, she faxed me her proofed sheets. We did a session at RPA and a couple at Balmain Hospital. Though we mostly met at my Newtown abode, we also had sessions at Central Railway bistro, other cafés and at a park in The Rocks.

When she was President, she was inspiring and generous. A competent MC, she would hand out little gifts to people departing the committee. When she went away, a postcard always arrived written in her immaculate copperplate hand. I don't know of anyone with a more beautiful style of handwriting.

When anything had to be handwritten, it was Shirley's graceful, elegant style we called upon

Shirley joined MHS in 1985. Whilst serving on several MHS committees, including the Heritage Watch committee, she wrote submissions to the National Trust for heritage buildings to be classified, applications for grants, heritage conservation submissions to Council, multiple articles for the newsletter and was a proud newsletter runner in Stanmore north for over 20 years. She proofread several MHS journals.

Whilst raising a family in the Lane Cove area, Shirley and her ex-husband became involved in Scouting where she held a warrant. For several years Shirley was a volunteer with Historic Houses Trust in the city. She belonged to and regularly attended meetings at the Garden History Society, the Horbury Hunt Club, Ashfield and District Historical Society (ADHS), and the Stanmore Society.

It's ironic that Shirley and **Chrys Meader** were presented with their Life Membership certificates at the same AGM in June 2000, and died within nine months of each other. The citation on Shirley's certificate read: 'In recognition of her enthusiastic, inspiring and outstanding contributions to the Society'. The report recommending this award indicated that she 'displayed an informed and inspiring approach to heritage conservation, was vice president for three years and president for two. With her excellent networking skills she organised numerous outings and talks and had been at the

forefront of a host of other activities.'

She received a RAHS Certificate of Achievement not once, but twice, in 1993 and 1999. In 2003 she was honoured with a Centenary Medal (along with seven other MHS members) for her 'contribution to Australian society and government in 2001, the 100th year of Federation'. Shirley's award was for 'service to heritage conservation'.

Pamela Stewart, a good friend of Shirley, recently reminded me of Shirley's love of trivia quizzes and how she became a regular on Tony Delroy's midnight trivia quiz on the show Nightlife (ABC Radio 702, formerly 2BL) and often won it, using the pseudonym Kookaburra – probably inspired by another quiz regular who called herself Magpie.

Shirley Irene Hilyard (nee Brettell) grew up in Bondi and Beverly Hills and attended St George Girls High School. She lived in Dulwich Hill for a time after she married and later lived in Cavendish Street, Stanmore for over 30 years. With her health in decline for some years, Shirley died on 7 August 2023. I will certainly miss her. Our condolences to Shirley's family.



Shirley Hilyard 1929-2023
(photo: Lorraine Beach)

Tributes about Shirley Hilyard from other MHS members

Scott MacArthur: 'This is such sad news! It must have been so hard for her family, and you Richard, to watch this wonderful woman fade from the world. I would be honoured to attend her memorial gathering.'

Joyce Roy: 'Such a lovely woman who was greatly missed when she was no longer able to attend MHS meetings.'

Colin Hesse: 'Shirley's passing reminds us what a powerhouse she was in her prime.'

Mark Maloney: 'Very saddened and sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. She was an inspiring woman, knowledgeable, kind, wise, and a wonderful support to me when my mother died.'

Sylvia Hale: 'I always valued her opinion and warm friendship.'

Bill Tarrant: 'What an impressive person she was!'

Lorraine Beach: 'Shirley was an awesome woman in her time, a force and an inspiration.'

Bob Thompson: 'A lovely lady and a great support to me in my term as President.'

Diane McCarthy: 'So sad to hear of the death of Shirley. A formidable woman whom I admired. She was so talented with her handwriting and drawings. Shirley was proud of her family.'

Ann O'Connell (ADHS): 'She was a lovely woman - always cheerful and very much involved in local history . . . attended a lot of our functions.'

Richard Blair

Our August meeting

A good crowd attended **Ron Ringer's** entertaining and enlightening talk on Saturday 26 August titled '**George Foster and his blueprints**' and it was much more interesting than the title suggests! Ron told us about George Foster & Sons, Founders, Engineers, at 1-29 Princes Highway, St Peters. Regrettably, the buildings are long gone. George Foster's business designed, built, and serviced every kind of machinery and equipment used in the brickmaking industry. His foundry and workshops, with offices, design and draughting areas in a light-filled first floor, were literally across the road from several major brickpits.

From 1890 to the 1970s, brickmaking dominated the Princes Highway from St Peters to Tempe, the so-called 'Golden Mile'. Aerial photos revealed their number and extent, and Ron described the different processes, and equipment used, in brickmaking – and that every piece of machinery and equipment needed was turned out by George Foster's foundry and engineering workshops.

Most items made start with a drawing and multiple copies are usually needed. In about 1890 a process was invented to copy a drawing: put a sheet of paper over the original, add chemicals, add light, and you get a dark blue background with white lines – a blueprint. The process was superseded in about 1940 and thousands would've existed, but where have they all gone? Ron was delighted to be able to rescue some, destined for landfill, from George Foster & Sons and we were fortunate to be able to view them. We look forward to Ron's next talk!

Diane McCarthy

History Week – 2 to 10 September

Who slept in your house, lived in your street or contributed to our community? Who merits a Blue Plaque?

Blue Plaques are history markers that identify or commemorate a person, event or building associated with a particular location. England is generally credited with creating the first such plaque in 1866, and it became the model and inspiration for many similar schemes around the world. The plaques are not always blue, not always round, and may be made of various materials, but they're still generally referred to as 'blue plaques'.



The first of the Blue Plaques in NSW honours author May Gibbs.

Installed in 2021, it is located at 5 Wallaringa Avenue, Neutral Bay

The NSW Blue Plaques program was initiated in 2021 with a \$5 million budget managed by Heritage NSW. Initially, 18 plaques were installed across the state and another 12 were scheduled for completion during August 2023. Subjects are 'nominated by the people of NSW'. MHS was invited to submit nominees and we have done so twice. None has yet been favoured with selection. The closest to 'home' so far is a plaque for Quong Tart, installed in Ashfield in July 2023.

Your support for the installation of Blue Plaques would be invaluable. More information is available from the website (blueplaques.nsw.gov.au) including how to submit a potential nomination. Alternatively you can send to MHS to consider for inclusion in its next submission.

To mark History Week, our list of potential 'Blue Plaques' is presented below, sorted alphabetically, with suggested sites for their installation. We include notable residents who contributed to the local and wider community, mainly in the suburbs of the former Marrickville LGA named in the logo of this newsletter on the front page, which remain the focus of the Society.

This list would make a good self-guided walking tour, because many places associated with the names still exist. Any volunteers to produce one?

Mary Barthelemy

MAYBANKE ANDERSON (1845-1927)

President of the Womanhood Suffrage League and editor of *Woman's Voice* magazine, operated a school from her house, *Maybanke*, here in the 1880s and 1890s.

Site: The original gates of *Maybanke*, now Booth House, corner Frazer Street and Wardell Road, Marrickville

ALICE CASHIN (1870-1939)

Decorated WWI Nursing Matron, voted 'Queen of Marrickville' in a fundraiser for the local ANZAC Memorial Club

Site: 348A Victoria Road, Marrickville (her last home) or 290 Marrickville Road (site of her stationer's shop)

THOMAS CHALDER (c. 1812-1894)

Landowner and philanthropist in St Peters, Tempe and Marrickville (the former Marrick Estate named after his home village in Yorkshire). Gave land for the first Marrickville Public School and Council Chambers in Chapel Street.

Site: Chapel Street, Marrickville

CAROLINE CHISHOLM (1808-1877)

Humanitarian who encouraged female emigrants from England as a civilising influence on the colony. Lived and conducted a school here 1862-1863. Later moved to *Greenbank*, also known as *Tempe House*.

Site: Corner Stanmore Road and Tupper Street, Stanmore

JOSEPH COOK (1860-1947)

Australia's fourth Prime Minister, born in England, pledged Australia's commitment to the Empire in World War I, lived here in the 1900s.

Site: 13 Francis Street, Marrickville

SIR HUGH DIXSON (1841-1926)

Tobacco manufacturer, businessman, horticulturalist and philanthropist. Site of his *Abergeldie House* and its 30-acre garden estate featuring many rare and exotic plants.

Site: Corner of Old Canterbury Road and Arlington Streets, Dulwich Hill

SARAH FRANCES (FANNY) DURACK (1889-1956)

The first female gold medallist in the history of Olympic swimming. Between 1912 and 1926 she held every world freestyle record from 100 yards to one mile and in 1916 and 1917, she held all records simultaneously. She lived here.

Site: 80 Douglas Street, Stanmore

CATHERINE (KATE) DWYER (1861-1949)

School teacher, feminist, trade unionist. Member of the Womanhood Suffrage League with Maybanke Anderson and Louisa Lawson and formed the Women's Progressive Association in 1901'

Site: 79 Annandale Street, Annandale

JUDY FINLASON (1931-2023)

Prominent in establishing the Addison Road Community Centre, championed numerous children's and community services, and a leading force in protecting the environments of Cooks River and Wolli Creek.

Site: Addison Road, Marrickville at the Addison Road Community Organisation entrance.

FOWLERS POTTERY

One of Sydney's biggest potters, commenced in Sydney in 1837 and operated here on 17 acres from 1914 to 1982.

Site: Corner Edinburgh Road and Fitzroy Street, Marrickville

GENTLE, GOODSSELL, TYE

The Brickfields – St Peters

The brickmakers around here – including the Gentle, Goodsell and Tye families – were among the most active and innovative in 19th century Sydney.

Site: Camdenville Park, May Street, St Peters

DAME MARY GILMORE (1865-1962)

Born near Crookwell NSW, a plain-speaking writer of poetry and prose. Took on the mantle of social conscience during the 20th century and became a national icon. She taught at this school in the 1880s.

Site: Stanmore Public School, 102 Cambridge Street

ANNIE AND ISABELLA (BELLE) GOLDING

With sister Kate Dwyer fought for women's right to vote from the 1880s.

Site: 75 Annandale Street, Annandale

JOSEPH GRAHAM (1828-1894)

Local politician and nurseryman, established Lilydale Nursery on this land. Treasurer of the Royal Horticultural Society of NSW, alderman and Mayor of Marrickville Council, foundation member of the National Parks and Wildlife Trust and the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

Site: Lilydale Street near Marrickville Library

JOHN (JACK) THOMAS LANG (1876-1975)

Labor Premier who implemented many social policies and programs including child endowment and workers compensation schemes. His second term during the 1930s depression was controversial, leading to his dismissal by the Governor of NSW. He lived here at the beginning of the 20th century.

Site: 38 Dulwich Street, Dulwich Hill

HENRY LAWSON (1867-1922)

Short story writer and balladist who captured – or created – a mythic Australian ideal, lived here in the early 1890s.

Site: 156 Probert Street, Newtown

(In 1896 JT Lang and Henry Lawson married sisters, Hilda and Bertha Bredt. From 1899 to 1902 they all lived together in Dulwich Street, Dulwich Hill)

THOMAS ‘PEERLESS’ MALONE (1857-1919)

Born in Ireland, came to Australia in 1882, a champion sportsman and athlete, a record breaking runner. Publican of the Gladstone Hotel near Cooks River.

Site: 105 Silver Street, Marrickville, his final home

JAMES SINCLAIR TAYLOR McGOWEN (1855-1922)

Boilermaker, trade unionist and first Labor Premier of New South Wales, lived here in his last decade.

Site: corner of Palace and Fort Streets, Petersham

MR & MRS MINH

Academics who arrived in Australia from Vietnam as ‘boat people’ and began this place as a modest restaurant, eventually buying the premises. They epitomised the ethnic dynamism of this area.

Site: Minh Restaurant, 506 Marrickville Road, Dulwich Hill

MOGO GAR

Mogo, a Bundjalung man, was convicted of murder and hanged at Darlinghurst Gaol on 5 November 1850. He is buried here.

Site: Camperdown Rest Park, near Lennox Street, Newtown

WILLIAM HENRY PALING (1825-1895)

Businessman, musician and philanthropist. In 1870s opened WH Paling & Co., selling sheet music, musical instruments, phonographs and recordings. Alderman of Petersham Council from 1876 to 1889 and Mayor 1881 to 1882. Lived in the house at this address for his last two decades.

Site: Entrance to *Montague Gardens*, Cambridge Street, Stanmore

WILLIAM CHARLES PIGUENIT (1836-1915)

The first Australian-born painter to capture the Australian landscape in the classical style. Amateur photographer, draughtsman and explorer, he lived here from 1880 to 1882.

Site: Louisa Lawson Reserve, Roach Street, South Marrickville

MARY REIBEY (1777-1855)

Convicted of horse stealing in Stafford, England in 1790, aged 13, transported to the colony. Became Sydney's first businesswoman, with extensive shipping, trading and property interests. Lived her last 15 years here.

Site: In front of Reiby Court, Station Street, Newtown

SIR ALEXANDER STUART (1824-1886)

Premier in 1883-1885, rival to Sir Henry Parkes, and a Director of the Bank of New South Wales, lived here in the last decade of his life.

Site: *The Lodge*, 95 Cambridge Street, Stanmore

WILLIAM CHARLES WENTWORTH (1793-1873)

Explorer, barrister, statesman and initiator of the colonial New South Wales Constitution Act 1855, lived in *Petersham House* here in 1828.

Site: Corner Railway Terrace and West Street, Petersham

Our July outing

Johnstons Creek is an urban gully, a natural catchment for stormwater from the surrounding area from Petersham to where it spills out into the bay at Rozelle.

Our wonderful walk followed Johnstons Creek, now partly underground and partly in a canal, from our starting point at Stanmore Station to The Tramsheds at Forest Lodge. **Megan Hicks** was our guide, with technical support (and sweets) ably provided by her daughter **Astred Hicks**. We were tasked with counting bridges.

We traced the hidden creek along Salisbury Road noting urban landscapes along the way – a kookaburra mosaic, a Thomasson step leading to a non-existent doorway, street names stamped into concrete footpaths as part of a 1930s depression relief scheme, and where George Johnston's house stood near what is now Northumberland Avenue.

The creek emerged just past Bridge Road, joined by another flowing from Liberty Street. A couple of side trips gave clear views of the creek, contained within an 1890s-built concrete canal. We spotted our first bridge across the creek in Cruikshank Street. Across Parramatta Road, a sandstone bridge crosses the creek and in McCarthy Lane we walked alongside the creek for the first time. A 19th century watering point for horses is at the end of Water Street. Steep gullies lead to the creek, and walking down into Douglas Grant Park an interpretive panel telling the tragic story of this man. And we spotted our third bridge.



In the Venice quarter of Stanmore. Megan (red hat), with Johnstons Creek canal behind her, shows MHS members how water runs downhill! (photo: Astred Hicks)

At Booth Street is the heritage-listed Pumping Station, part of a system built in 1902 to 1904 to divert sewage away from the harbour and into the ocean. [Ed: And the Fez Café!] Orphan School Creek joins the stream, seen by standing on bridge number four. Two more bridges and the heritage-listed aqueduct crossed the creek as we wandered its length and under The Crescent, simply a tramline until 1958. This part of the creek is tidal, a saltmarsh area, where concrete canal banks have been replaced by more natural sandstone blocks. Reaching The Tramsheds we were faced with three more bridges plus a viaduct, the old goods line to Darling Harbour, closed in 1966. Ahead of us is Jubilee Park and Megan finished up the walk here with stories of a shark in the creek, shootings, murders and mayhem. She had found no stories about aboriginal history in the area, which is not to say the area was uninhabited, just that the colonial history has not revealed its past.

A thoroughly enjoyable walk and fantastic commentary by Megan along the way, with maps and photographs to bring the history to life. The final count, I believe, was 10 bridges plus a viaduct and an aqueduct.

Gabby Richards

2023 Calendar of MHS Events

Saturday 9 September

History Week special event

How to research the history of your house—A talk with Gabby Richards (booked out)

Saturday 23 September

The making of Marrickville: a walk along Illawarra Road with Rod Aanensen

Details on front page

Saturday 28 October

The Shipwreck: the true story of the Dunbar

A talk with Larry Writer

Details on front page

Saturday 25 November

The future of heritage - managing change at the Opera House

A talk with Alan Croker

Details in November-December newsletter

Saturday 2 December

Pot Luck Dinner—6 pm

Details in November-December newsletter

Winter Trivia Answer



This memorial stone is set into the front of St Peters Town Hall on Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham and bears the names of the aldermen then in office.

The stone was laid by Deputy Mayor EJ Burrows (Mayor of St Peters 1924-1926 and 1928) in 1927. Several of the aldermen named served as mayor around that time.

As pointed out by **Ian Phillips**, who supplied the image, the range of years of service extends beyond the date of the stone laying ceremony. Clearly an optimistic outlook! St Peters Council operated from 1871 to 1948 before amalgamating with Marrickville Council. So how come this stone was only laid in the late 1920s? This was the new town hall, replacing an earlier one, demolished, on Princes Highway. The highway was being widened but the relocation also reflected the shift in the centre of activity in the district.

Guernseys to **Andrew Burns**, **Mary Barthelemy** and **Diane McCarthy** for identifying this tablet. Additional information provided reveals that descendants of Mayor Rowsell continue to live locally and the Rowsell Playground in Mary Street, St Peters further perpetuates his name. Not to be outdone, there is a Burrows Avenue and a Burrows Road in the area, which may well be named for EJ Burrows Esq. JP who laid the stone. For further history of the St Peters-Sydenham-Tempe area see St Peters Cooks River History Group's website.

Richard Blair

Spring Trivia question

This portion of a c. 1910 photo shows an event at a local oval. Three questions:

- Which oval?
- What is the event?
- Who is the photographer?

Contact Richard 0413 335 897 or Society's email address at the bottom of this page.



Two local clubs celebrating anniversaries

Marrickville Tennis Club, on Livingstone Road, will have its 70th anniversary in 2025. They are seeking material about tennis, or Marrickville generally, that would be suitable for display at their celebratory event. Plenty of notice, so we hope we can assist.

Contact Joseph Lee <diggler2002@hotmail.com>.

Marrickville Croquet Club

Member **Mary Oakenfull** tells us that the club's building has occupied a corner of Marrickville Park since 1926. In 2026 the club will celebrate its centenary. Members are seeking information, memories, memorabilia and photos relating to the club, especially its early days.

Contact the club at mvcroquet@gmail.com, or Mary at raindrops12@bigpond.com or 0407 487 157.

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