

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE  
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE

LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS  
SYDENHAM & TEMPE



**Celebrating 40 years**

**1984-2024**

## Our February Meeting

**Saturday 24 February 10 for 10.30 am**

**The Pavilion, Marrickville Library**

**Corner Marrickville & Livingstone Roads**

**Reds, reformers & ratbags: New Theatre's**

**radical past – a presentation by**

**Lyn Collingwood and Kim Knuckey**

A product of the Great Depression, New Theatre was founded as the Workers' Art Club in 1932. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Australia kept a watchful eye on its activities, as did officers of the Commonwealth Investigation Branch. The talk focuses on the New's early history and its members: political activists, gifted creatives, and oddbods of varying degrees of eccentricity.



**Lyn Collingwood** became a professional actor in 1975, working in several formats. Her longest engagement was as the resident gossip in *Home and Away* spanning episodes 36 to 5,523. She left the show at her own request to concentrate on writing and directing. Since 2009 she has organised Players in the

Pub in Glebe. A former resident of Enmore, Lyn joined New Theatre in 1980 and once she became the theatre's archivist she began researching its long history. Apart from acting and directing, she has been the theatre's Secretary, Social Secretary, and a Playreader. A Life Member, Lyn compiled the theatre's history, launched as a website in 2017. She has also worked as a high school teacher, encyclopedist, book editor and short film festival organiser.

**Kim Knuckey** has been acting in Sydney for the past 40 years. He started at New Theatre in 1982 in *The Jail Diary of Albie Sachs*, a play exposing the evils of apartheid. He has gone on to have a successful career in film and television both in Australia and in the United Kingdom. Kim and Lyn have collaborated on a number of New Theatre presentations and, for The Glebe Society, *The Mayoral Procession*, an overview of the holders of the City of Sydney's top job since 1842 (including Joshua Josephson, mayor in 1848, nicknamed the 'Squire of Newtown', owner of *Enmore House*.) Kim has also been a core participant in Players in the Pub since its inception.

If you are enjoying this newsletter, enjoy and care about the character and heritage of our local area, but are not a member, why not consider joining?

## Joining Marrickville Heritage Society is easy!

Take part in as much or as little as you wish; receive the newsletter directly and a *Heritage* journal (illustrated 100+ pages of local history articles) whenever one is produced. See 'Publications' on the website for details of our 16 *Heritage* journals.

Download a membership form from our website, pay by direct debit or cash at a meeting. Email MHS for account details or talk to our Treasurer, Stuart, for other ways to pay. All our contacts are at the bottom of page 8. Join now and membership goes till May 2025. Fees haven't changed for decades: Concession \$12, Individual/Joint membership \$20, Household/Organisation \$28.

*If you've overlooked paying to renew your membership, please do it so we don't lose you as a member. Every voice counts with heritage under threat in the current mood of 'develop at any cost'.*

## Our November 2023 meeting

### The future of heritage – managing change at the Sydney Opera House with Alan Croker (Saturday 25 November)

Alan Croker's talk marked 50 years of the opening of the Sydney Opera House. His talk reflected his close connection with the building and its preservation and updating to meet contemporary standards and expectations of such a performance space. He brought to bear many considerations relating to recycling materials – not only regarding the Opera House but society and development in general. Alan's presentation was most engaging, and well illustrated with his exceptional images. It ended on a triumphant note, the successful replacement of the acoustic reflectors – the iconic 'doughnuts' – in the Concert Hall.

Alan described what happened 50 years ago with developments in the heritage world as Australia gained confidence in its own identity. *The National Estate Report* released by the Federal Government on 25 April 1974 was instrumental in this field. The intention was to preserve the National Estate and for development to be regulated accordingly. It was a landmark report even by today's standards. In terms of contemporary Australian heritage conservation, matters have arguably gone backwards rather than forwards.

One example of the benefit of the report was the preservation of suburbs from the destruction required to build freeways. The positive effect of union green bans was a contributing factor. As a result roadways have now largely been built in underground tunnels rather than overland through suburbs – the new Rozelle interchange is one example.

Where is heritage placed today? Alan answered the question by pointing to the National Construction Code – a very large document now online. The regulations contained within this building code are constantly changing. Unfortunately, little attention has been paid to the value of preserving perfectly good buildings or associated materials that could have been upgraded; there has been a loss of traditional skills and trades; and TAFE training in the practical elements of trades has been almost destroyed. Construction is not what it was.

The challenge is how to produce contemporary design and also conserve a building. Too many owners demolish rather than change as it is easier in the short term. We are at a crisis point – climate change, sustainability, global warming – where action must be taken to address wasteful and destructive practices. Materials such as old timber joinery and stone, that can be reused and last

another hundred years or more, are dumped or end up in landfill, and old growth forests are destroyed to supply unnecessary replacements. This is a phenomenon across the world, not just in Australia. Change is needed in the way we work with existing buildings. In the development application process a sound argument should have to be advanced to justify demolition rather than conservation. We should adapt and reuse – changing the minimal amount of existing buildings.

An example Alan provided was the work of two French architects who extended an existing social housing apartment building by adding an external 'skin'. The building did not need to be demolished to achieve a complete transformation in the building to meet current living needs. The architects, Lacaton and Vassal, won the 2023 Soane Medal for architecture. Such achievements require governments to change their approach to the crisis.

Following this overview Alan turned to the Opera House and its development over the years and the various issues that arose with its construction as well as with the architect Jorn Utzon. It was clear as the talk developed that the earlier discussion was vital to understanding the concerns underpinning the renovations at the Opera House.

Utzon left the project about halfway through and it was then that Peter Hall, and his partners at Hall, Todd and Littlemore, were appointed to bring the vision to reality.

Alan Croker became involved with the Opera House in 1998. In 2004 he was appointed as its Heritage Architect and has been instrumental in several projects, including authoring the Opera House's fourth (current) Conservation Management Plan.



Alan Croker explains challenges to updating the Concert Hall. The 'doughnuts' are in the background of this photo; a clear image of the new acoustic 'petals' is on page 1 of the November-December 2023 newsletter.

(Photo: Lorraine Beach)



As the Opera House approached 50 it needed renewal. Changes to the building are governed by: 1) Utzon's Design Principles Plan – Vision; and 2) the Conservation Management Plan – Method. Alan described a number of issues in relation to the renewal projects, a major one being accessibility to the performance spaces. Detailed discussion and knowledge of the building's physical construction and its practical and visual goals were required to find solutions; creative structural engineering enabled the provision of escalators and internal lifts while retaining and enhancing the existing structure and appearance of the building.

The biggest visible change within the Concert Hall was replacement of the acoustic reflectors, the iconic 'doughnuts'. This required an understanding of why they were selected in the first place, the process involved in their installation, and the material constraints of the time. To upgrade and enhance the acoustics required research and experimentation by acoustics engineers and others to find the best outcome possible while respecting the original intentions of the architects, in particular Peter Hall, who had the responsibility for making the building viable. While the new 'petals' somewhat obstruct the view of the organ, they have been a huge success, acoustically, with musicians and concertgoers.

We were a privileged audience that day. Alan Croker's insider knowledge of the Opera House, along with his enthusiasm, energy and presentation of exclusive images, captivated his audience. We thank him for his generosity.

**Mary Barthelemy**

## Pot Luck Christmas dinner

The Society's customary Christmas social occasion returned to its best in 2023. Over the years, many members have generously invited us to their homes for this celebration and, on Saturday 2 December, members **Joanne and John McGrath** welcomed us to their beautifully restored house in Marrickville.

Pot Luck 2023 was a resounding success, due not only to the splendid venue and setup provided by Joanne and John, but also the obvious care everyone took to bring along a special dish for sharing.

It was great to see such a good rollup – some new members, some longtime members who hadn't previously attended a Pot Luck, and a couple of overseas visitors. Conversation was lively, new connections made, and our unreliable weather's threatening storm held off long enough for most of us to get home before being drenched by the downpour!

Special mention is warranted for two members who always contribute above and beyond to Pot Luck's



Members **Christine and Peter Dadak**, left, with hosts **John and Joanne McGrath**. Christine and Peter won the traditional 'lucky door prize', a bottle of port and Christmas treats. First number drawn couldn't be found, though Lyndal Gowland thought it was hers; she found it when she got home!

(Photo: Scott MacArthur)

success: **Hillary Goldsmith**, who never fails to roll up her sleeves and rally helpers to attack the inevitable dishwashing at the end of proceedings; and **Lynne Greenwood**, who again provided a ham and several bottles of bubbles for the occasion.

Our sincere thanks to Joanne and John for their wonderful hospitality, and to all who attended for their company, conviviality and delicious food.

**Lorraine Beach**

## Record Addi Road Hampers of Hope

Still on the subject of Christmas 2023, MHS's friends at Addison Road Community Organisation advised that, with the help of the community, 46 recipient partner organisations, supporters, donors and 320 volunteers, a record number of festive gifts were produced – 1,850 Hampers of Hope; 400 pet hampers; 600 wrapped gifts for children; and 230 wrapped gifts for women. The Addi Road team work year round helping people who need a hand, and it's never more needed than at Christmas time when life can be financially and emotionally challenging for many.

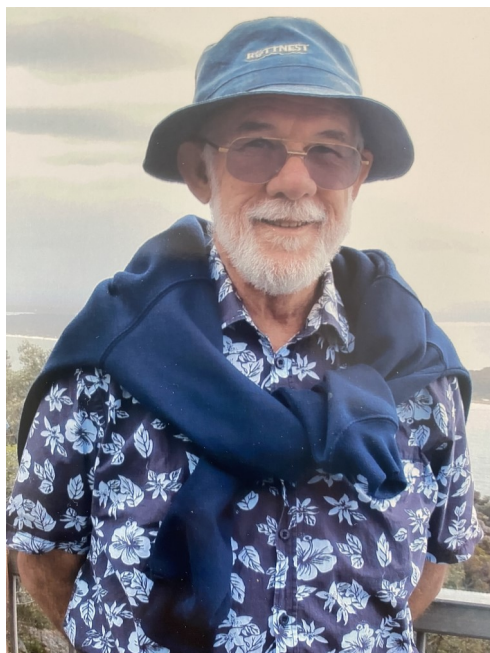
Late in 2023 the Society received a \$20 payment from **Peter Scotton**. We are unable to ascertain if this is for a new membership as no 'member application form' was received, or a donation or payment for something or someone else. Can anyone throw light on this mystery? Contact Treasurer Stuart (details back page).



## Vale: Rob Allen

Born in 1948 **Robert Leslie Allen** grew up in Epping and attended Epping Boys High. He was a clerk with the Department of Fisheries for most of his working life. Partner to **Peter Witt**, these two dapper gents lived a full and loving life together in Peter's Croydon Victorian terrace for 44 years. Both avid movie buffs, Peter and Rob were long term students of David Stratton's 'A History of World Cinema' course at Sydney University's Centre for Continuing Education and regular cinema goers.

Rob was an absolute history fanatic, focussing on Australian, maritime and war history with books from floor to ceiling on these topics and many, many more. Art was a shared love of both Pete and Rob, and Pete's terrace is a visual feast, a true celebration of Art Nouveau and lives lived filled with art, design and architecture. Rob was also a huge Gilbert and Sullivan fan, and both men shared a passion for music, including more contemporary tastes such as Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Madeleine Peyroux. Their 44 years together were rich in both care for one another and their common interests of bushwalking, films, history and, of course, heritage. They joined Marrickville Heritage Society in 1994 and contributed some meeting and outing reports to the newsletter. They were avid members of the (now defunct) Horbury Hunt Club.



Rob Allen (Photo courtesy Caz Prescott)

Sadly, Rob left us due to post-operative complications after bowel cancer surgery, on 10 April 2023. Pete was in Concord Hospital himself at the time, after a fall, and he and Rob would visit each other in their respective wards in the weeks leading up to Rob's devastating passing. Pete has since moved into local aged care where he is being lovingly looked after

by his extended family and the wonderful orderly, administrative and nursing staff. He is content and settled now and enjoying the odd outing, an onsite cinema and absolutely blitzing it in bingo!

**Caz Prescott and Peter Witt**

## Vale: June Cameron

We were sorry to hear that long term Marrickville resident and MHS member **Edna June Cameron** (known as June) died on 19 December 2023 aged 94. June had spent most of her adult life in Thornley Street, Marrickville. Her husband Eric died in 1987. June joined MHS in 1994 along with her longtime companion Ken Turner, who lived nearby. June continued living in Marrickville until relocating to an aged care centre on the Central Coast a couple of years ago.



June Cameron

June and Ken regularly attended Society meetings and outings and were newsletter runners for many years. They both took the MHS trip to Norfolk Island in 1998. June and Ken went on several journeys on the Indian Pacific to Perth and travelled to many other places in Australia; later, they were regulars at a holiday home in Mollymook on the South Coast.

June was someone who spoke her mind, especially on heritage matters of concern, and attended several anti-development protest rallies with Ken. She had a keen interest in the history of her local area and matters relating to Cooks River. She was a gentle soul who tended to call everyone 'dear', but in June's case, no one seemed to mind.

Sadly, June's son Scott has since died as well. Our condolences to Ken and to June's daughter Narelle and son Brian and their families.

**Richard Blair**



## Vale: James Norman McCarthy

Most members probably never met **Jamie McCarthy** but those of us who did felt an instant rapport with him. Jamie and **Diane McCarthy** – who was, between 1998 and 2022, variously a two-term President, long term Treasurer and a committee member of MHS – celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently.

Known to us as Jamie and to many others as Jim or Jimmy, he was born and grew up in Tempe, lived for some time in Marrickville and was employed by Marrickville Council for many years. In retirement, Jamie rarely sat still. He played golf once or twice a week at Marrickville; in the street where he and Diane lived he mowed his own and various neighbours' lawns; cared for their gardens; helped anyone who needed a hand; and kept everything shipshape. He was still mowing lawns and playing golf early this year. He loved rugby league, cricket and horse racing, a punt, a beer and a good chat. We are very sad to report that Jamie lost his battle with cancer on 26 January, aged 80. Our heartfelt sympathies are with Diane, daughter Lisa and her husband David, and Jamie and Diane's grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Lorraine Beach  
& Richard Blair**

## New Books

### Launch of Palace Street Petersham book

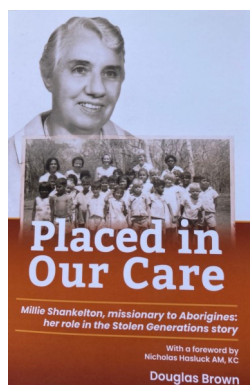
Details about this project and how to subscribe for the book were in the November-December 2023 newsletter. MHS has subscribed.

This work, titled *Open house at the Palace: an Australian street* by **Gerard Windsor**, will be launched at a function at Petersham Bowlo, 77 Brighton Street (corner The Avenue), Petersham on **Saturday 13 April, 2-4 pm**. Book through Humanitix.

A second launch event will be conducted by Marrickville Library during the annual Heritage Festival (18 April to 19 May 2024). Gerard will give a talk on **Tuesday 30 April, 6.30-7.30 pm**. Bookings for Library events are usually through Eventbrite, so check Council's website.

### *Placed in Our Care* by **Douglas Brown**

Biography of Amelia (Millie) Shankelton, evangelical Christian and Aborigines Inland Mission missionary in the Northern Territory from 1927 to 1984. Millie's family lived in Marrickville, she attended Petersham Public School and the family were associated with St Mark's Anglican



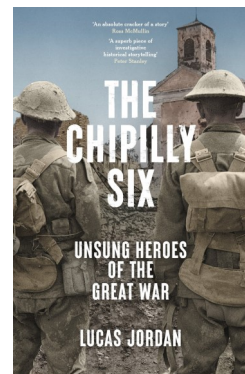
Church, West Marrickville. The book examines Millie's role in the Stolen Generations.

Illustrated paperback; 424 pages; available through Eider Books website. \$30 plus \$10 postage.

*Editor: MHS has a copy of the book, courtesy of the author. Contact Mary Oakenfull (mary.oakenfull@bigpond.com) if you'd like to borrow it.*

### *The Chipilly Six: unsung heroes of the Great War* by **Lucas Jordan**

In this sequel to his book *Stealth soldiers: a few daring men in 1918* (2017), historian Lucas Jordan, a one time MHS member, examines the lives and times, and the extraordinary wartime feats, of the 'Chipilly six' diggers in northern France. The 'unsung heroes' included two local men: Jack Hayes from Marrickville and Jerry Fuller from Arncliffe. Both were for decades associated with Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club. This is a remarkable investigation of historic events with insights into local and Australian history and society before, during and after the war.



NewSouth Publishing, paperback, 320 pages, available from various online sources for \$26.90 to \$34.95 or digital (Kindle) \$8.60.

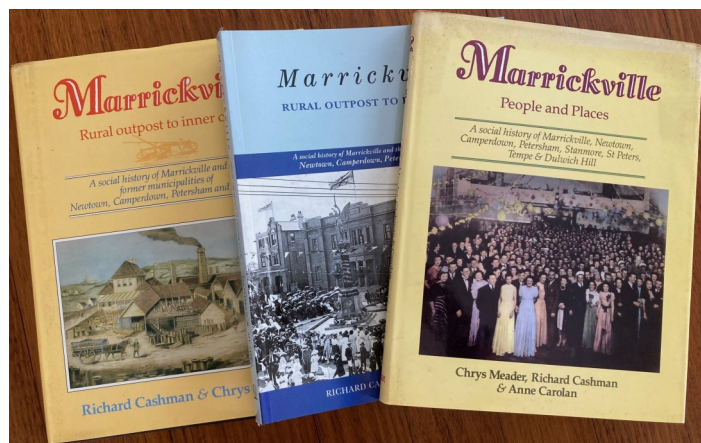
\*\*\*\*\*

### **People and places: Chrys Meader's history of Marrickville**

*Chrys Meader died in November 2022. Historian and MHS member **Sue Castrique** wrote this article, published online at Inner West Council's 'Local Notes', to honour Chrys's work. We are publishing it below with some amendments, with Sue's permission.*

It took several readings before I came to understand the significance of the cover of *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city*. The photograph shows Marrickville Town Hall being opened in 1922. On first glance it perfectly captures the book's subject, but while the new town hall is imposing, within the ring of bunting and onlookers stands Winged Victory, her pedestal wreathed in garlands, her sword lifted to the air. This was the statue Chrys Meader tried so hard to save.<sup>1</sup>

Chrys Meader and Richard Cashman wrote *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city* in 1990. Its companion *Marrickville: People and Places* was published four years later in 1994 with a third author, Anne Carolan. Originally conceived as a single volume, they were split into two to make it



Left to right: The first printing (1990), hardcover, of *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city* with Fowler's Pottery Camperdown 1864 on the cover; the second printing of the same book (1997), soft cover, with photo of the opening of Marrickville Town Hall in 1922; the second book, *Marrickville: People and Places* (1994).

easy for publication and readers. They have been essential local histories ever since.<sup>2</sup>

In significant ways Marrickville Council housed, defined and nurtured this history. Richard Cashman was a Marrickville councillor from 1980 to 1982 and Chrys Meader a council librarian from 1970. They drew on an archive created over decades by Frances Charteris, the Chief Librarian at Marrickville Council from 1955. Frances had a keen historical consciousness and created the Local Studies Collection with community donations, records and photographs. That was extended in 1987 by archivist Rhona Clement who created the Archival Reference Centre in Petersham from council's original unpublished records, retrieving valuable council documents from storage rooms, lofts and the 'rat poison room'. Chrys continued to care for the collections, each one a small gold mine bursting with the fine necessary details that are the backbone to historical research.<sup>3</sup>

There were not just printed documents. The library was a community hub for people and stories. As Diane McCarthy remembers, people dropped into the library to borrow books, but then stayed to talk, sharing memories and telling stories about where they lived and how they came to be here. This was a local history created from local archives and memory.<sup>4</sup>

Marrickville was defined in Cashman and Meader's history by its political boundaries. They set their work within the local council of Marrickville which by 1990 had expanded to include the former council areas of Camperdown, Newtown, Petersham and St Peters, creating a sprawling local government area that stretched from Cooks River to Annandale.

As Chrys was aware, it was a place with a million local stories. The task was how to corral this expansive and unruly material between the covers of a book. Marrickville Council had produced a Jubilee

history in 1911: a celebratory tale of civic progress and achievement largely republished in 1922 in *The Daily Telegraph*. Cashman and Meader shifted the list of mayors and aldermen to the appendix at the back and created a local history to answer new concerns.<sup>5</sup>

The two volumes were loosely structured. The first dealt with early colonial settlement and how large estates turned into suburbs. The second explored stories of local people, then tracked the concrete markers of place in roads, bridges, schools, churches, parks, and pubs. The persistent theme was urbanisation and how the rural margins became the inner city. The picture of market gardens in Dulwich Hill on the back cover of *Rural Outpost* was a life now almost unimaginable.

Marrickville was changing in the late 1970s and 1980s. As Cashman wrote, there was 'the rediscovery of the inner-city, the decline of industry in the area, gentrification in some parts along with an ever-changing migrant population - as some migrant groups moved in others moved out.' Developers had also moved into Marrickville and were having an impact. Familiar landmarks might be gone overnight. The landscape of the past seemed to be quickly disappearing.<sup>6</sup>

The focus was on housing and heritage. Backed by new federal and state heritage legislation the Department of Environment and Planning funded a heritage survey in 1984 by Fox & Associates, the first comprehensive assessment of historical buildings in Marrickville. But Council was in turmoil over zoning and development. Councillors had been threatened and bashed, ALP branches were in disarray, even a librarian might find her car had been tampered with after a council meeting. Council was dismissed and Alex Trevallion appointed as administrator.<sup>7</sup>

Outside of Council, community action groups were tackling issues like the third runway, pollution, and traffic management. Concerned that some Council aldermen and staff were unsympathetic to heritage, Peter Arnett, the Council's Chief Town Planner, suggested residents should form the Marrickville Heritage Society. It filled the gap left after the previous historical society folded in 1981. The new group galvanised support for the heritage plan and began to document the history of the area by starting a journal. Articles written by Meader, Cashman and Carolan and published in the journal became the first drafts of the book. With the adrenalin hit of Bicentennial funding in 1988, publication became possible.<sup>8</sup>

Out of the upheaval grew a belief that there was a distinct Marrickville identity that deserves our attention. Chrys had a long personal connection to Marrickville and its Council; it was part of her DNA. Her grandfather Oliver Meader worked in the Daley brick pit on Sydenham Road. Chrys and her father Charlie Meader were born in Marrickville and both



worked for Marrickville Council. When Chrys's mother died, Council generously supported the family by providing a house and the job of groundsman at Henson Park for her father who became Council's longest serving employee.

I became acutely aware of those ties when I gave Chrys a draft of my history of the Addison Road Community Centre, *One Small World*, and asked for her feedback. She was generous with her comments but had one problem. In the 1950s both local federal MP Fred Daly and Marrickville Council wanted to clear Marrickville of its 'slums' and convert the army site on Addison Road into housing. Chrys wanted the word 'slum' removed. I found that difficult because it was a word both Fred Daly and Council had used, and which I was quoting. Chrys simply disagreed: Daly, she said, was wrong and I am sure she would have argued with him too.

Chrys was a fierce defender of Marrickville. She was not interested in historical labels or abstractions. She wrote within and for the local community, which meant work, family, church, the Labor Party and rugby league. Chrys's method was empirical and profoundly humble, proceeding by the slow patient accumulation of detail: every street, every house might be known. The best example of Chrys's writing is her entry on Sydenham for the Dictionary of Sydney. It is as if she was writing about well-loved neighbours: that 'small community with a big heart'.<sup>9</sup>

The last two decades have seen a digital revolution that has changed historical research profoundly. Newspapers that were once held on microfilm in library basements and cranked forward one page at a time can now be searched instantly. Sands directories, once on fiche, are now in databases. For all its wonders, Chrys was acutely aware that few people understood the hard slog of research, the long hours needed before any of it might make sense. She worried that the work that went into the Marrickville volumes would not be appreciated.

But publication was only one of the host of projects Chrys Meader was involved with that expanded the historical consciousness of Marrickville. She assisted the Aboriginal History Project for MACC (Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee) in 2005; spoke extensively about everything from Wardell's murder in 1834 to the influenza epidemic of 1919 and with characteristic fierceness argued against Winged Victory being removed from Marrickville to the Australian War Memorial: a struggle she ultimately lost. But Chrys was probably best known for her walking tours where she shined, bringing energy, enthusiasm and boundless knowledge.

The two-volume history of Marrickville in *Rural Outpost* and *People and Places* remain landmark historical works. They broke new ground in offering

an expansive and systematic history, drawing together stories and sources into a single indispensable reference. They have been constantly relied on and referenced by heritage reports and conservation management plans about Marrickville ever since. There is no doubt they will be debated, argued with, and augmented by writers and researchers to come. But Meader, Cashman and Carolan made readers aware that the past is a powerful force that lives on and shapes the present. Their work helped create a sense of place and remains a compass point for Marrickville.



Chrys Meader in 2021, when she was awarded Citizen of the Year by Inner West Council (Photo: IWC)

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> My thanks to Richard Blair who pointed out that the cover image on the original hardcover (1990) was of Fowler's Pottery in Camperdown in 1864. My paperback with its image of the town hall was printed in 1997.

<sup>2</sup> R. Cashman & C. Meader, *Marrickville: rural outpost to inner city*, Hale & Iremonger, Alexandria, 1990. C. Meader, R. Cashman & A. Carolan, *Marrickville: people and places*, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1994.

<sup>3</sup> C. Meader, 'The world is made up of a million local histories', *Heritage: Journal of Marrickville Heritage Society*, *Heritage* 6, 1990, pp 47-9. R. Clement, 'Marrickville Municipal Council: Archival Reference Centre: the first archivist', *Heritage* 5, 1989, pp 46-8.

<sup>4</sup> Diane McCarthy, Interview with Sue Castrique, 9 December 2022.

<sup>5</sup> *50th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Municipality of Marrickville, 1861-1911*, nd. *Diamond Jubilee Souvenir of Marrickville*, Marrickville Municipal Council, 1922, Inner West Archives. *The Daily Telegraph*, 10 February 1922, p 4.

<sup>6</sup> R. Cashman, 'A community heritage group: Marrickville', in P. O'Farrell & L. McCarthy (eds), *Community in Australia*, UNSW, Sydney, 1994, p 51.

<sup>7</sup> Fox & Associates, *Marrickville Heritage Study*, 1986. G. Richardson, Commonwealth of Australia, Senate, Hansard, 28 Feb 1984, pp 59-64.

<sup>8</sup> Marrickville Heritage Society, Newsletter, vol 36, no 4, Jan 2020.

<sup>9</sup> C. Meader, *Sydenham, Dictionary of Sydney*, 2008, <<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/sydenham>>.

**Sue Castrique**

*Editor's note: In May 2023 Inner West Council held a special event, attended by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and IWC Mayor Darcy Byrne, to name the auditorium at the landmark Marrickville Library the Chrys Meader Auditorium.*

## Calendar of MHS Events

### Saturday 24 February

Reds, Reformers and Ratbags: New Theatre's radical past. A presentation by Lyn Collingwood and Kim Knuckey. Details on front page.

### Saturday 23 March

Cooks River Walk, guided by Ian Tyrrell. Details in March-April newsletter.

### Saturday 27 April

Kathleen Muriel Butler, Confidential Secretary to John Bradfield during the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. A talk with Bill Phippen. Details in March-April newsletter.

## Celebrating the Society's 40th anniversary

Sue Castrique's article on page 5 is a wonderful tribute to **Chrys Meader** and her achievements advancing local history in the Marrickville district. It is also timely, as Marrickville Heritage Society this year is celebrating 40 years since its foundation. Chrys played a leading role in forming the Society in 1984 and throughout its first 5 years, and was inducted as a Life Member in 2000.

A celebration of the Society's anniversary was proposed for March 2024; it has been deferred and planning is underway for a special event to be announced for a date later in the year.

## A little follow-up

In the Jan-Feb 2023 newsletter (p 7) we passed on a request for help from Kevin McSherry, Ireland, in tracing his family, early 1900s, in Enmore. Kevin had some limited success, only to learn that 'they are all gone now'. He wrote again to let us know and to thank **Richard Blair** for his help.

## Webwise [www.marrickvilleheritage.org.au](http://www.marrickvilleheritage.org.au)

Check out MHS's website. Recent stories include 'Heritage Lost: Brockleigh, Marrickville' and 'Alice Cashin – the Queen of Marrickville'.

Most recently, 'Purple Reign', a fascinating look at botanists, gardeners and gardening inspired by the jacaranda season. Many local connections are highlighted – just the thing for inspiring summer reading.

While you're at it, how about looking at the Facebook page too. Catch up with local news and heritage issues. Committee member **Rod Aanensen** is the MHS webmaster.



## Summer Trivia Answer

This photo was correctly identified by member **Andrew Burns**, who wrote that it 'was taken by the famous Sam Hood (1872–1953) in 1938 outside the Hoyts cinema on Enmore Road'.

Better known now as the Enmore Theatre, this photo was taken for the matinee on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1938 (SLNSW Image ID:DY0G21).

Note the sign on the shop canopy behind for 'Shelley's Famous Drinks'. The deliveries didn't have to go far as Shelley's soft drinks were long brewed in Marrickville near today's Marrickville Metro. Shelleys Lane which runs off Llewellyn Street denotes the area.



1920s photo of the Enmore Theatre (Sam Hood Collection, State Library of New South Wales)

**Richard Blair**

## President & Heritage Watch

Scott 0416 152 501 | [sbtarmac@gmail.com](mailto:sbtarmac@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

Stuart 0414 620 519 | [stuartgrigg2@gmail.com](mailto:stuartgrigg2@gmail.com)

## Newsletter

Lorraine 0416 224 472 | [lbeach@iprimus.com.au](mailto:lbeach@iprimus.com.au)

## Webmaster

Rod 0431 487 375 | [mhsweb@exemail.com.au](mailto:mhsweb@exemail.com.au)