

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

CAMPERDOWN DULWICH HILL ENMORE
NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS
SYDENHAM & TEMPE

Where it began . . .

Round 1982, the Marrickville Historical Society folded. Two years later, the gap was filled by the formation of Marrickville Heritage Society (MHS).

Today's members will be interested to know that MHS was actually formed at the instigation of Marrickville Council. The first meeting of the Society was chaired by Peter Arnett, Council's Chief Town Planner. A subsequent meeting elected the first President, Barbara Le Maistre (then Little), and the first committee. Surviving members of that committee that are still MHS members include Ian Tyrrell and Richard Cashman.

Council had commissioned its first Heritage Study under the NSW Heritage Act, which had come into law seven years earlier, and arising out of that exercise, Council formed the opinion that in order to properly carry out its functions under the Act, it needed community input. Hence it fostered the creation of MHS.

It is a testament to the dedication and dogged hard work of MHS Members and its committees over the years that Council has never ceased to regret its decision.

Let's make sure they never do cease to regret it.

Scott MacArthur
President MHS



(Photo: courtesy Richard Cashman)

Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment, also Heritage, visited the municipality on 13 September 1987; seen with MHS President Richard Cashman as he announced a conservation package for Marrickville at the town hall.

Our Next Meeting

Saturday 23 November 10.15 for 10.30 am
'Mascot's miracle: the 1971 airliner collision that nearly took 240 lives' with Peter Hobbins
Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd, Marrickville

In 1971 two jet airliners collided at Kingsford Smith Airport in Mascot. They came within 3 metres of a major impact that threatened the lives of all 240 people aboard the TAA Boeing 727 and CP Air McDonnell Douglas DC-8. Two further accidents were also only narrowly avoided in the next 5 minutes. How could this happen at Australia's main airport and who was to blame? And what did it have to do with Marrickville, or the adoption of the 'black boxes' that now routinely assist with accident investigations? This story shows how local history can have international consequences.

Some air travel memorabilia will be on display.



(Images: Peter Hobbins)

Dr Peter Hobbins leads the curatorial, library and publications teams at the Australian National Maritime Museum. He is a historian of science, technology and medicine who studies calamities such as pandemics, shipwrecks and aircraft accidents. Peter is also a passionate advocate for community history, jointly winning Bayside Council's 2023 Ron Rathbone Local History Competition with his account of the 1971 airliner collision.

Our Last Meeting Norwood walk, Petersham with Mark Matheson

On Saturday 28 September 2024 local historian **Mark Matheson** was our tour guide for a walk through the area in Petersham once known as Norwood. We commenced on the footbridge at Petersham Railway Station with its grand 1886 railway station building in the Victorian Classical Style.



Ortonville today (Photo: courtesy realestate.com.au)

A poorly maintained track, following Indigenous trails, was the main link to Sydney. This land was gradually cleared and developed as farmland. From the 1790s, land we now know as Petersham was home to the Norwood village estate, just south of the station stretching down to Addison Road. This idyllic and picturesque rural scene was to last until 1855 when the Sydney to Parramatta railway line was opened. A subdivision of over 200 farms followed with the opening up of streets with British names such as Oxford, Belgrave, St James, Albert and Victoria (later renamed Shaw Street after a local mayor).

The land rose to a hill (next to New Canterbury Road) whose highest point in Sydney's Inner West is c. 52 metres above sea level (c. 170 feet). In 1888 Petersham underground reservoir was built on this hill and was replaced in 1965 by an elevated massive steel and concrete tower which has since dominated the area. It is heritage-listed.

As Norwood expanded a Victorian-style post office was erected on the corner of Palace (now Audley) and Fisher Streets in 1897. This suffered the fate of numerous such post offices being replaced by a nondescript building in 1974. Petersham Town Hall on Crystal Street is a landmark 1937 Rudder & Grout building with its central art deco style clock tower. It replaced the 1882 town hall once it became too small. The 1880 Victorian Italianate police station has long fallen into disuse but remains in reasonable condition.

Further subdivisions from the 1890s led to the rise of smaller cottages and blocks of units with substantial gardens long gone. Some of the 19th century mansions have been demolished while others still stand in various states of repair. Commonly featured in these early houses were high ceilings as ventilation was considered a healthy element. The garden and driveway of one of these stately homes at 26 Chester Street, *Buena Vista* (originally *Bona Vista*), now lies under the Marr Playground on Albert Street. Some mansions have been restored to their former glory including *Warminster* built in 1877 at 60 New Canterbury Road. From the 1890s to 1968 it was occupied by doctors and today is the Locke Haven aged care facility.

Many sturdy large homes remain in Shaw Street including *Ortonville* where the Anderson family lived for several decades and *Tresillian* (c. 1900), on the corner of Shaw Street and Addison Road, which has been restored with 40 rental studios. Between 1921 and 1997 it was occupied by the Royal Society for Mothers and Babies. *Te Whare* built in 1898 at 18 Shaw Street appears to be unoccupied and in need of renovation; however, not long ago was a reception centre named *Trethaway* (and venue of the 10th anniversary celebration of MHS in 1994).

Thank you to Mark Matheson for this informative tour enhanced by his large collection of maps and photos.

Iain Carolin



Pot Luck Christmas Get Together

Saturday 7 December — 6 pm

Members are warmly invited to attend
this annual gathering.

A member invites us to his or her home for a celebratory gathering and we each bring a favourite starter, main, side dish, salad or dessert for sharing.

A casual event, not a late night. An evening to socialise and chat. The venue is just metres from bus stops on Marrickville Road.

**Bookings Elda 0417 343 855
or by email: elda.ribeiro@hotmail.com**

Ghost signs in Petbarn

It all began with our eagle-eyed MHS Secretary, Iain Carolin, in January 2022. The old Coles store on the corner of Gladstone Street and Marrickville Road was being gutted after being empty for several years. Iain spied some 'ghost signs' on the wall and told me about them. I set about trying to photograph them before – or if – they were destroyed in any refit.



Preserved signs for Excelsior and Holbrooks at Petbarn (Photos: Rod Aanensen)

Marrickville Heritage Society



From 1928 until 1939, Farr's Markets cash and carry occupied this site, selling groceries. In 1928 there were over 90 grocers in Marrickville.

Excelsior Coffee Essence was one of the best-selling coffee preparations of the time.

People could simply add the essence to boiling water with milk to make a cup of coffee.

These signs – dating from the 1920s – known as 'ghost signs' promoted Farr's products. The tobacco sign is missing, appropriately hidden today.

Holbrooks is an English company still making Worcestershire sauce today.

'Goldenia Tea', first produced in 1888 by James Inglis & Co. along with 'Billy Tea' became very popular with Australians.

The partial figure at the end is 'Host Holbrook', dressed in 18th century clothing; a familiar figure in Australia at the time, he is still used in advertising.

History of the signs and the products with acknowledgement of the Society. Photo of plaque is reproduced incomplete as the lower portion of the text is tiny.

Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful and so a waiting game ensued. In September 2023 the building was being prepared for a refit and the door was open. I managed to get access and took many photos of the signs.

Welcome to New Members

Steve Goldberg & Pamela Smith, Dulwich Hill; Kaitlin Moore, Greig Tillotson, Patrick Tooth, Anne Walter (rejoined), all of Marrickville; Allison O'Sullivan & Chris Mitchenson, Newtown; Julie Olston, St Peters; Linda West (rejoined), Stanmore; Lloyd Grigg, Sydenham; Margaret Heys, Rochelle Pudney, both of Tempe; Joanne Lewthwaite, Ashfield; Caite Adamek, Chatswood; Irene Bulmer, Double Bay; Jane Welman, Earlwood; Virginia Hilyard, Hurlstone Park; Olga Sedneva, Riverwood; Dorothy Blake (rejoined), Wellington, NSW.

This year we were contacted by representatives of the new occupants, Petbarn, who wished to preserve the wall paintings and intended to put up signage to tell their story. Would we help? Of course, we were delighted, and the result is two signs telling people a little about the advertisements they can see on the wall.

We thank Petbarn for their interest in preserving a little of our past and for wishing to inform people of it. Their incorporation of the ghost signs has created a unique interior for their Marrickville store and provided a link to the retail world of nearly 100 years ago. Petbarn's public recognition of Marrickville Heritage Society's contribution is also much appreciated.

A story about the company that created the signs, Farr's Market, an early example of a self-service grocery, will appear on our website soon.

Rod Aanensen



FRIENDS OF CALLAN PARK

CALLAN PARK'S VETERANS : A CENTURY OF CONNECTIONS

HISTORIC EXHIBITION ABOUT CALLAN PARK'S
VETERANS AND ITS TWO REMARKABLE WAR MEMORIALS

AT LEICHHARDT LIBRARY
2-28 November 2024

Leichhardt Library, The Forum, Norton Street, Leichhardt
M-Th 9-7.30 / F 9-5.30 / Sat & Sun 10-5

Certificate of Achievement for Ian Tyrrell

Society member **Ian Tyrrell** attended the RAHS Conference at Campbelltown on Sunday 27 October where he was presented with a Certificate of Achievement.

His citation reads:

For his many achievements to the built and environmental heritage of Marrickville. Ian was a founding member of the Society in 1984 and is currently a Committee Member. Through his research, publications, talks and tours he has been a strong advocate for the local heritage, environment and changes of the Marrickville and Cooks River area. The Society and the community recognise and appreciate Ian's worthwhile contributions.

Well done, Ian.



Ian Tyrrell with Christine Yeats at the RAHS Conference
(Photo: courtesy RAHS)

Vale: Alf Rankin (1928–2024)

We only recently heard of the death of **Alfred (Alf) Alexander Rankin** of Tempe on 17 January 2024 aged 96. Alf joined the Society in 2010 but kept a low profile.

In his *Sydney Morning Herald* death notice he was described as 'a staunch and loyal friend to many, he was a working class champion who spent his life fighting for social justice and equality. Solidarity forever.'

Alf was an ardent union official with the OPDU (Operative Painters & Decorators Union) of which he was NSW Secretary for a time.

Our condolences to Alf's children Cary and Kyle and their families.

Richard Blair

Vale: Mick Timmings (1927–2024)

Francis Michael (Mick) Timmings, late of Ulladulla and Mollymook, died on 19 April 2024 aged 96. His wife Aileen pre-deceased him; he left three children, and multiple descendants. Mick was born in Tamar Street, Marrickville and was raised at 12 Harnett Avenue, Marrickville. His grandfather



Mick Timmings in WWII
(Photographer unknown)

Harry Timmings owned a factory in Marrickville Avenue, Marrickville. Harry's niece was Jean Moncur, a former MHS member and from a pioneering family.

Mick joined the RAAF in 1945 and served in New Guinea for 18 months. He worked as a spray painter and as a linesman for the PMG for 38 years and often

found himself in the city tunnels such that you could walk to Newtown underground.

He was married in St Clements Church, Marrickville to Aileen in 1948 when they lived in Arthur Street, Marrickville. On retirement in 1984 they relocated to the Ulladulla area where Mick became active with the local RSL eventually being made a life member.

He joined MHS in 1998, after which he would often write to the editor or treasurer. He had a tremendous fondness for Marrickville and would often convey snippets of information from his recollections such as:

- Mrs Yates's grocery store in Livingstone Road between Warren Road and Renwick Street
- a grocery store on the corner of Cary Street owned by Mr Litchfield, who gave out a little bag of boiled lollies at the end of the week if the bill was paid
- a dairy at 18 Harnett Avenue from where you could get milk in a billycan
- a fruit shop owned by Mr Vergona on one corner of Illawarra and Warren Roads, a wine bar on another corner and a horse trough outside the church in Warren Road on another corner
- a blacksmith's shop on the [northern] corner of Arthur Street and Illawarra Road near where the original Marrickville RSL Club was (opposite where the later RSL club was built)
- the big fire at Seymour's store in about 1940
- the roof collapsing in the Royal Exchange Hotel in Marrickville Road
- the Coles store opening ('Nothing over 2/6' was their catch cry)

- the Salvation Army band playing each Friday night
- Fays hotel on the corner of Marrickville and Illawarra Roads which boasted having the longest bar in the southern hemisphere ('true or not I do not know; however, it was a big bar')
- Cooks River flooding because the flood gates weren't open
- the area in Illawarra Road near the intersection of Greenbank and Schwebel Streets was called



Mick Timmings
(courtesy his family)

'the loop'. This was before the line was extended to Undercliffe and Earlwood.

I never met Mick, but it seemed as though I had. He enjoyed sketching and our newsletter of November-December 2022 carried a couple of his sketches. He was clearly a character and a valued member of the Ulladulla community.

Richard Blair

Vale: Margaret Wright (1953–2024)

Margaret Elizabeth Wright, of Enmore, died on 23 June 2024 after a long illness. Margaret lived with her parents in Riverwood and Tahmoor before taking up residence at the home of her aunt Olwen Hanney and her husband Fred in order to attend Marrickville Girls Junior High School. In school holidays she worked at Marrickville Library where she met Diane McCarthy and the late Chrys Meader, with whom she remained friends, later travelling together to Britain on a holiday.

Margaret's passion was costume design and after excelling at TAFE, in the 1970s she obtained employment with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust in Newtown as a dressmaker. The Trust became Opera Australia and in 1984 moved to premises in Surry Hills. She remained with Opera Australia until she retired, but also did outside jobs like wedding dresses, concert frocks for celebrities, and costume design for films, including *Moulin Rouge*. Never idle, Margaret excelled in knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting and weaving; her quilting frame at home was permanently available. She also went through a phase of folk art and jewellery making.

Margaret was an enthusiastic historian of the Graham, Wright and Hanney families who had been active in Marrickville civic affairs and music

for generations. Her great grandfather was James Graham – nine times Marrickville Mayor – who owned a substantial market garden business, built *Lilydale* (a grand mansion on whose grounds Marrickville Hospital was built; recently replaced by Marrickville Library) and was a foundation member of the National Parks and Wildlife Trust and the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. He was also treasurer of the Royal Horticultural Society of New South Wales.

Her grandfather Frank Wright, a local school teacher, was twice Marrickville Mayor and was prominent in a number of cultural and musical organisations. Frank's daughter Olwen, Margaret's aunt, was married to Fred Hanney, conductor of the Marrickville Municipal Orchestra. Olwen was a prominent member of the Marrickville Historical Society where she was a regular speaker and author of historical articles. Olwen had a weekly history column in a local newspaper.

Margaret gave a collection of family memorabilia on permanent loan to the Marrickville Library

Community History Collection. Margaret joined MHS in 1987. In 2004, Margaret co-presented with Chrys Meader and Mark Matheson to the Society about her family heritage.



(Courtesy Phillip Moore)

She was an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church, treasurer of Scots Church Sydney for about 15 years and active in the Women's Fellowship there. Later, at Northbridge Uniting Church, she was treasurer of the Women's Fellowship.

There were other facets to Margaret's life beyond the scope of this obituary (including three successful City to Surf runs). She was a selfless and generous individual who was highly regarded. After she died, evidence was found of regular donations to no fewer than 36 charities.

The Society sends its condolences to her long term partner Phillip Moore who provided much of the material in this tribute.

Richard Blair

(A full transcript of Phillip's eulogy is available on request.)

Life Membership for Mary Oakenfull

At our 40th anniversary lunch on 27 October 2024 President **Scott MacArthur** presented former long term MHS secretary and committee member **Mary Oakenfull** with a Certificate of Life Membership.

Her citation reads:

In appreciation and recognition of her outstanding work for the Society, especially in organising a range of outings, liaising with Council, capably handling the Society's correspondence and in many other ways over many years.

Congratulations Mary.



Scott MacArthur presenting Mary Oakenfull with her well-deserved Life Membership certificate
(Photo: Hillary Goldsmith)

Ron Rathbone Local History Competition

The winner of the Open Category of this annual event was announced at a ceremony at the historic Lydham Hall on 26 October. MHS congratulates new member **Olga Sedneva** who received the \$5,000 prize for her study *Tempe House: change of landscape, change of purpose* (available online).

The work looks at 'a new perspective of Tempe House, taking readers through the history of its owner, builder and the artworks associated with this historic house. Olga followed the change in the house through time by looking at sketches, watercolours and paintings, along with written accounts and influences of the time.'

40th Anniversary celebration of Marrickville Heritage Society

Formal recognition

State Labor Member for Summer Hill, **Jo Haylen**, emailed Marrickville Heritage Society her congratulations on our 40th anniversary. She also cited the Society in a sitting of state parliament on 8 August 2024. This is the transcript from Hansard:

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill – Minister for Transport) – *Congratulations to the dedicated past and current members of Marrickville Historical Society [sic, MHS] on reaching the Society's 40th anniversary in 2024. Established in 1984, the founding principle of MHS was to promote the study, research and documentation of the heritage, history, and environment of our locality and to encourage an appreciation of our diverse cultural inheritance.*

At the time, 'our locality' meant the area under the Marrickville Municipal Council Local Government Area. This included the suburbs of Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Lewisham, Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore, Sydenham, Tempe, parts of Camperdown, and Newtown. MHS continues to remain dedicated to the areas it covered at its formation and has created a profound legacy for our community acknowledging, documenting and sharing our history.

Dedicated volunteers are the lifeblood of organisations such as MHS and I wish to recognise the contribution of so many people over these forty years to the enduring legacy of MHS; President Scott MacArthur and other current office holders Mary Barthelemy, Lyndal Gowland, Stuart Grigg, Iain Carolin, Lorraine Beach, Rod Aanensen, Richard Blair, John McGrath, Elda Ribeiro and Ian Tyrrell. Congratulations all!

The Society also received an email of congratulations from Greens Member for Newtown, **Jenny Leong**, who is proposing to also recognise MHS's achievement in state parliament in November 2024.



40th anniversary cake

The day of celebration

Over 60 MHS members turned out to celebrate the 40th anniversary of MHS on Sunday 27 October 2024. Our host was St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River and to put us in a celebratory frame of mind, inside the church, local historians **Laurel and Bob Horton**, stylishly clothed in 1930s period dress, shared with members the illustrated social history of St Peters and Tempe.

By way of the diaries of Alexander Brodie Spark and multiple other sources, we learnt about the John Verge-designed Tempe House, which was owned and occupied by Spark, and how St Peters Church was built in the 1830s at a time when the local area was largely populated by the landed gentry and their estates, farmers and scattered residents.

The suburbs of St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe gradually evolved once the grand estates started being sold to developers and speculators who subdivided the land. From this they made huge profits, but the sales resulted in a gradual increase in the population. Like towns and suburbs everywhere, schools, churches, parks, shops, businesses, small industries and all manner of enterprises emerged to service an ever-expanding community.

Laurel and Bob clearly did a prodigious amount of research in preparation for this illustrated presentation with Laurel narrating and Bob recreating speeches and reading newspaper and diary excerpts.

Some members had not visited St Peters Church before and marvelled at the simplicity of this historic local place of worship where the names of every minister are carved into the timber pillars inside the church. This was a good opportunity to explore the museum housed in a designated area of the church.

Our catered lunch followed, in the adjacent Leslie Wilkinson-designed hall. We were entertained by live music from the **Jazz West Combo**, an accomplished locally based quartet comprising **Graham and Jenny Griffith, Tony Burkys and Ed Rapo**.

Our caterers served a variety of delectable meat dishes, salads and potatoes while **John and Joanne McGrath** capably looked after the bar. A lucky few sampled a limited serving of pavlova before our anniversary (chocolate) cake was cut, with more than enough to go around.

We were delighted to have former presidents **Richard Cashman, Geoff Ostling, Judith Matheson, Lindsay Smyth, Richard Blair and Diane McCarthy** in attendance together with current president **Scott MacArthur** who (with **Bill Tarrant**) welcomed the gathering. **Virginia Hilyard**

joined us in memory of her late mother Shirley, a long time MHS stalwart; together with **Cheryl Pattison**, beloved sister of the late **Chrys Meader** who was so prominent both in MHS and promoting the history of Marrickville in general. Their cousin **Sherryl Barnes** also joined us.

Scott MacArthur told the gathering that **Ian Tyrrell** had that morning received his Certificate of Achievement from the RAHS at its annual conference in Campbelltown; Scott then presented **Mary Oakenfull** with Life Membership to the Society (see separate reports).

Among the founding and early MHS members present were **Richard Cashman, Ian Tyrrell, Laurel Horton, Richard Blair, Geoff Ostling, Florence (Lu) Bell, Bruce Welch, Judith Matheson and Lyn Collingwood**.

It was pleasing to have with us new members **Greig Tillotson, Olga Sedneva, Patrick Tooth**, and **Allison O'Sullivan** and **Chris Mitchenson** with their 5-year-old son Henry.

The Society has celebrated each of its decades (and its 25th) with a lunch at different styles of venues.

- 10th anniversary in the historic *Trethaway* in Shaw Street, Petersham
- 20th at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville
- 25th at the Petersham Bowling Club
- 30th in Petersham Park.

Only **Lu Bell, Richard Blair, Richard Cashman, Geoff Ostling** and **Ian Phillips** have attended all five events; the **Hortons, Scott MacArthur, Judith Matheson, Joyce Roy, Lindsay Smyth** and **Ros Torrent** have attended four.

The committee had decided to make this a low-key event with minimal formalities. Special thanks to committee member **Lorraine Beach**, (who was away) for her work behind the scenes. Particular thanks go to **Laurel and Bob Horton** who not only entertained the gathering with their journey back through time, but hosted this momentous occasion on behalf of St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River.

Richard Blair

Some member feedback

Tim & Marj McMullen: Congratulations to the committee and volunteers on providing a very enjoyable event to commemorate the 40th Anniversary. The overview of St Peters society provided by Laurel and Bob was interesting and entertaining. Lunch was delicious, as was the wine. Quite a feat, feeding and entertaining so many people. Looking forward to the 50th, if we make it.

Virginia Hilyard: A special day for MHS yesterday and very enjoyable. Good to see those who knew mum and to catch up with Judith [Matheson]. Page 7

Joyce Roy: Thank you to the committee for an enjoyable afternoon lunch and talk by Laurel and Bob Horton. St Peters church is a most attractive building with its internal simplicity.

Allison O'Sullivan: Thank you to the team for a very interesting afternoon.

Richard Cashman: Congratulations on a great celebration of the 40th anniversary of MHS. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Lu Bell phoned with her congratulations on a great event.

Greg Strahan: What a great event was last Sunday. Thanks very much to all involved.

Ken Swinburne: A huge success. Agreed with a fellow diner 's view the Society provides interesting and informative events. Thank you for a special day to mark the Society's anniversary. Others expressed their appreciation on the day.



Laurel and Bob Horton started the day with their presentation on local social history
(Photos Scott MacArthur)



MHS members with anniversary cake
(Photo: Hillary Goldsmith)

More photos overleaf



Top left: Joanne and John McGrath had a busy time serving the members lining up for the bar; top right – Jazz West Combo; bottom left – Lyndal Gowland (Vice President, MHS), Gabby Richards, Sue Castrique; bottom right – another view of the group (photo Bill Tarrant) (All other photos: Scott MacArthur).

Spring Trivia Answer



Reiby House (Photo: source unknown)

These photos are of Reiby House which stood in Station Street, Newtown, just south of Enmore Road. Reiby House was built for pioneer businesswoman **Mary Reibey** in the 1840s and she named it *Pencilville* after the estate on which it stood.

In the last known letter to have been written by Mary Reibey (21 June 1845, to her cousin David Hope), she wrote that 'it was a beautiful spot we have a pleasant [*sic*] view of Botany Bay Heads and

the sea and I am making a great improvement on it / there is 21 acres of all pretty good land I have an excellent garden on it which I re-made myself / it was all bush and trees when I purchased it with the exception of a small patch about the house.' (*Dear Cousin: the Reibey letters*, edited by Nance Irvine, Hale & Iremonger, 1995, pp 126-9.)



Another view of Reiby House, probably earlier (Source: City of Sydney Council archive)

It was her residence until she died in 1855 aged 78. The house was sold soon after Mary's death and had various owners and uses until in c. 1966 when it was bought by Sydney City Council, demolished and replaced by a block of high-rise home units for low income earners. Reiby Hall stands adjacent to where Reiby House was. A mere 100 metres or so west, near Reiby Street, Stanmore House – built in the late 1840s for Eliza, one of Mary Reibey's daughters – still stands, is privately owned and operates as rental accommodation.

Well done, member **Kay Abrahams**, who correctly identified Reiby House.

Marrickville: rural outpost to inner city by Richard Cashman & Chrys Meader (Hale & Iremonger, 1990) has further information about Reiby House. The MHS journal *Heritage* 9 (1995) contains articles about Mary Reibey and Stanmore House.

2024 Marrickville Medal report

The Marrickville Medal for Conservation has been awarded annually since 1995 and was one of the first of its kind in New South Wales. It celebrates built conservation works that contribute to the understanding and preservation of the Inner West's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

As part of Inner West Council's Built Environment Awards, the Marrickville Medal for Conservation was judged by MHS President **Scott MacArthur**, heritage architect **Matthew Devine**, and **Sinclair Croft** from Inner West Council's heritage team. It is a credit to Council that this acknowledgement of our local heritage environment is actively supported by Council in these challenging times of environmental, housing and sustainability crises. Entries this year ranged from pure building conservation works to residential adaptive reuse, from both the public and private sectors. The judges were impressed with the high standard of the entries, and the pride with which the owners, builders and designers presented their projects.

The Medal was won this year by the conservation, alterations and additions to **9 Tamar Street, Marrickville**.

9 Tamar Street, Marrickville – Winner of the 2024 Marrickville Medal

This Federation home is located within the South Dulwich Hill Heritage Conservation Area, with the works approved under delegated authority. This house has been in the same family for 50 years. The works were designed by Potter & Wilson and included restoration of the house, including the reinstatement of the slate roof, repairs to the front façade, removal of previous additions and a rear addition and associated landscaping.

The house needed a refresh and included restoration to the front of the house and reconstruction of front brick fence. This is a very good restoration to the front of the house with impeccable detailing. Windows were retained and repaired by sash window specialist Simon Free. Ceilings and mantelpieces are original. New rooms have been designed within previously modified rooms. Non-original elements were removed.



The judges unanimously agreed this is a beautiful restoration of the front portion of the house with an elegant, recessive, addition to the rear. This is an impressive circumscribed project and is such a replicable approach. Slate tiles were reinstated to the main roof of the house, based on evidence of old slate tiles found within the roof space. The tuckpointing to the front façade was carried out as part of the works. Highly skilled joinery work (including a doorway concealed behind a bookcase) was completed by Nu Space Joinery.

The rear extension is a new low scale addition with a Colorbond 'Wallaby' roof that complements the original slate roof. A very functional basement store accessed via a narrow stair is beneath the rear addition. The new garden office is detached from the rear addition and located next to a the brick footings of an old garden shed or animal pen. Landscaping was by Dangar Barin Smith.

54 Birchgrove Road, Balmain – High Commendation

Lillywill, including interiors, is listed as a local heritage item and is located within the Iron Cove Heritage Conservation Area. The rear extension was designed by Sam Crawford Architects. The terrace has been owned by the current owners for 18 years. Works included alterations and additions to the existing terrace, including part demolition of earlier additions to the rear and were approved under delegated authority. Reconstruction of the balcony, including replacement of aluminum balustrade and frieze with traditional cast iron balustrade and removal of infill storage cupboards were undertaken as part of a heritage exemption.



The judges thought this was an incredibly clever design for what was essentially a rear balcony and has made the terrace more livable. Wet areas and ancillary spaces located within rear addition, outside the main rooms of the terrace is a clever and sympathetic approach to a confined site. Salvaged fabric was bought in to the building as part of the works. Colours for rear addition were inspired by the grevillea flowers adjacent. Oil based pigment emulsion was used on the timber blinds so that as the paint weathered, no toxic chemicals would shed into the environment.

The balcony to the front façade was reconstructed with hardwood and the ironwork from Wagga Iron Foundry. The design was based on an original balcony nearby. The Lilly pattern for the fret work was used because of the name of the terrace, *Lillywill*. A balcony is visible in the 1943 aerial photo, though it is not known if a balcony was constructed as part of the original terrace. Tallowwood was used for the flooring and the iron balustrading was installed by the owner. The house is a delightful and eclectic mix of treasures, found and salvaged by the current and previous owners.

492-494 Marrickville Road, Dulwich Hill - Commendation

Located within the Dulwich Hill Commercial Precinct Heritage Conservation Area, a cleverly designed infill building by Kreis Grennan Architecture that was a 'Build to Rent' project.

The development includes a 4 storey building with commercial spaces at ground level to Marrickville Road, 6 apartments, roof top terrace, parking and new courtyard entry to the residential component accessed from Durham Lane to the rear, which is not typical (Council usually prefers entrance from the high street but this can be disruptive of the continuity of the retail facades). The works included demolition of buildings at Nos. 492 and 494,

excluding the contributory façade and window at No. 494 (retained and restored) as interiors were heavily modified. External paint colours were selected to complement the heritage streetscape.

Clever building detailing has been implemented to the new face brick façade at No. 492 inspired by the neighbouring building at No. 494 and the streetscape character. The building contains a multi-stepped façade with generous balconies. Recesses in the façade have been included to reference the original separation of the 2 blocks. The development captures natural light and is not as big as it could have been. It is set back from the side boundary to allow solar access for the adjoining property, with face brick at rear elevation and brick detailing that is very well done. An open lift and stairs are at the centre of the development. Challenges included the builder going bankrupt during construction which drove costs at least 30% over budget. It is an excellent exemplar for denser residential development in the Inner West during the present affordable housing crisis.

39 Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham - Commendation

St Peters Town Hall, including interiors, is listed as a local heritage item. The project designed by Hector Abrahams Architects, designer Brianna Jessup.



This is a careful, effective, project that was elegantly implemented and included the conservation and restoration work to St Peters Town Hall including repairs to the façade, brickwork conservation, repainting and a new access ramp. The ramp ensures the main entry to the hall is retained at the front portico. The curve of the ramp softens the approach and results in an engaging journey. It includes a suspended bridge over the existing stairs to avoid a junction to the portico. A new landing level is raised in an appropriate way to the same level of the threshold and covers the existing landing with the original tiles retained below. Lights to the ramp are cleverly concealed within the handrail. The patterned porch tiles are smaller than original design to meet access visibility requirements. Similar toned bricks have been used in the ramp to complement the existing.

Exterior conservation works to the façade included regilding of the plaques and replacing the heavy grills to the windows with a finer wire mesh by Rick Allan. The soffit and ceiling to the portico were painted in an introduced blue and 2 new street trees were planted in front of the building.

65 Grove Street, Lilyfield – Commendation

This project was undertaken as part of a Complying Development Certificate (a process that rarely provides good design outcomes) and designed by owner / architect Charmaine Pang Architect. Works included alterations and additions to the existing house, with restoration to the front façade and removal of vinyl cladding.

The judges found this a delightful and clever project that is a very carefully resolved small addition of a bedroom and study that has had a huge impact on the functionality of a small house with very good detailing and execution.

The addition respects the cottage with the extension sitting below the existing gutter to the main roof and a new corridor added to access the extension. It is constructed on a suspended concrete slab with hardwood floorboards. An insulation board is stapled to the suspended slab soffit (so in-slab heating is not required), and raised to sit above the required floor level for flooding. Energy consumption of the dwelling has decreased after the completion of the addition, even with an additional room. Oiled vertical hardwood boards were applied to the external walls, matching the new timber front fence, and all will weather to a gentle silver grey.

All new windows, including bay window to the bedroom, are double glazed. Joinery was made by Mitch Turner from Siella Joinery Design, with landscaping by Myles Baldwin. The original stone foundations of the house and fence in the front yard were retained, cleaned and repointed. Works to the rear of the house are to be completed later.

Scott MacArthur

(Photos extracted from Inner West Council website)

Urban Photography Awards

The Urban Photography Awards encourage residents to engage with the Inner West Council urban landscape, and again this year, this was a popular competition, with many submissions across the three categories.

Daniel James won in the General category for his retro-tastic work, 'Classic Terrazzo Stairwell'. The winner of the High School category was **Rhys Miers** for his White Bay Power Station study, 'Two Tall Boys'.

And with a strongly geometric photo of the Marrickville Library ceiling, the winner of the Primary School category was **Richard (Rory) Miller's** 'Concrete Folds'. For more details and pictures in addition to these, see Council's website: <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/whats-on/annual-events/built-environment-awards>

Scott MacArthur

Calendar of MHS Events 2024-25

Saturday 23 November

Mascot's miracle: talk by Peter Hobbins
Details on front page

Saturday 7 December

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner
Details on page 2

Saturday 22 February 2025

The changeable symbols of Australia:
talk by **Richard White**
Details in next newsletter

Thursday 27 March

Guided tour of Garden Island by the
Naval Historical Society of Australia

Saturday 26 April

Show & Tell

Local YouTube Channel

Benjamin Summers is MHS member and a local transport and history enthusiast who resides in Sydney.

He has a YouTube channel, which he has asked to promote in this newsletter. Videos cover a range of different subjects, mostly history, transport and engineering.

Well worth a look

His channel can be found at:

www.youtube.com/@MorrisHillmanProductions

Webwise and Facebook

Read the latest stories on the MHS website at www.marrickvilleheritage.org.au.

Coming – an article on Farr's market retail store (see Petbarn p 3) and just posted, a story on the early days of Marrickville Heritage Society.

Add your comments when you check out the Marrickville Heritage Society **Facebook** page.

Rod Aanensen

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