

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC

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NEWTOWN PETERSHAM STANMORE



LEWISHAM MARRICKVILLE ST PETERS
SYDENHAM & TEMPE

Special message from MHS President: Meetings at Marrickville Library in 2026

Every year in October MHS must submit preferred meeting times to request allocation of Council venues for the coming year. While paperwork is increasingly cumbersome, MHS has generally, with rare exceptions, been granted our preferred times and venues, at no cost to the Society. In December of last year we were advised by Council that not all of our dates could be accommodated at either the Library's Pavilion or Herby Greedy Hall, and that we might have to pay for any other venues still available.

Much negotiation between our **Rod Aanensen** and Council's **Mary Chan** has secured our venues for the year. Most dates are for the usual fourth Saturday of the month (including our first meeting in February), but April and October are not. April meeting will be on 11 April, the second Saturday, and October on the fifth Saturday. As no Council venue was available for the fourth Saturday in June, the traditional day for the AGM, **Laurel Horton** has made available St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River for this event. Outings and walks in alternate months will remain fixed – the fourth Saturday of each month.

Dates and venues for all 2026 'indoor' meetings are listed below:

28 February	Learning Rooms 1.1 & 1.2 Pavilion
11 April	Learning Rooms 1.1 & 1.2 Pavilion
27 June – AGM	St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River
22 August	Pavilion Hall (Ground floor)
31 October	Pavilion Hall (Ground floor)
28 November	Pavilion Hall (Ground floor)

Learning Rooms open to one space and are on Level 1 of the Pavilion building, accessed by either the lift or stairs from ground level. We will, as always, confirm times, dates and venues in meeting announcements in the newsletter. In spite of the different venues and times, our guest speakers are of the same high calibre and we look forward to seeing you at the Marrickville Library Pavilion in 2026.

Scott MacArthur

Our next meeting

Saturday 28 February 10.00 for 10.30 am

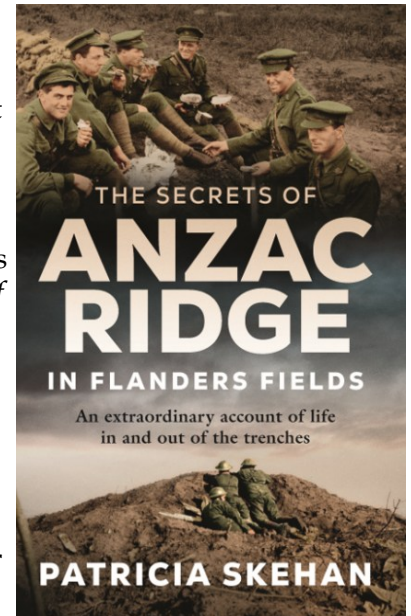
Secrets of Anzac Ridge: a talk with Patricia Skehan
Learning Rooms, Level 1, Marrickville Library Pavilion
Cnr Marrickville & Livingstone Roads

What do letters, dated 1919, from Ethel Turner's daughter Jean, a young nurse at Rivendell Emergency Hospital in Concord, and the unpublished diary for the

last surviving WWI war veteran on the Central Coast, have to do with Sir John Monash's secret headquarters at Anzac Ridge in Flanders 1917?

This amazing story is told in **Patricia Skehan's** latest book, *The Secrets of Anzac Ridge in Flanders Fields*, shortlisted by the National Trust in 2025 for Heritage Book of the Year.

Patricia Skehan is an author and historian, and a founding member of Concord Heritage Society. Join us for the presentation about her book to be accompanied by war posters and a photographic display.



Pot Luck end of year celebration Saturday 6 December 2025

This has been a long tradition for our Christmas get together and despite a number of half-hearted efforts at changing it to lunch, or mid-year, or something else, that's always fallen flat and so it has remained the first Saturday evening in December. Some folks we don't see all through the year roll up without fail to Pot Luck, some because it's their first social event with the group and some just because we try not to miss this convivial event we can enjoy together.

This year **Ian Tyrrell** welcomed us to his lovely house, fittingly located in a Heritage Conservation Area, a tree-lined Marrickville street of Federation houses. On a beautiful balmy evening we sat about with tables and chairs set up in the garden and tucked into delicious food: so many different dishes – hot, cold, appetisers and desserts – all thoughtfully procured or prepared and brought along for sharing.

It's always informal, casual and relaxed, often with a Christmas-themed lucky door prize – this year a bottle of port and a Christmas pudding – deservedly won by our generous host Ian Tyrrell. Many thanks to Ian for opening his home to us, and to **Joanne and John McGrath, Hillary Goldsmith and Iain Carolin** for their terrific work to ensure our evening ran smoothly.

Lorraine Beach

Show & Tell Saturday 22 November 2025

The Antiques Road Show it was not. For one thing we didn't have a stately home and its grounds; nor did we have experts to assess and give a monetary value to items on show; plus Fiona Bruce was unavailable. In the modest setting of The Pavilion at Marrickville Library we did have our fearless president **Scott MacArthur** to host proceedings and time warden **Rod Aanensen** and his trusty bell to ensure that no one outstayed their welcome.



Diane McCarthy got the ball rolling by showing some hessian carry bags that were made for the 2002 Marrickville Festival. One was painted by her daughter Lisa. There was also a tea towel painted by local artist and ex-member Nancy McAlpine.

Iain Carolin produced a 1950s 1-quart glass Laurel Kerosene Vacuum Oil Co bottle, found under his floorboards. We learnt that The Vacuum Oil Co, established in 1895, was the first oil company in Australia. More unusual was a long metal rod used to open windows above internal doorways. It was made by the Payson Manufacturing Company, Chicago, dating from c. 1904.



Rod Aanensen shared the sheet music for 'Night' by Davis and Simons, a hit song from 1922. The Australian imprint was by the renowned J. Albert & Son (whose empire began in King Street, Newtown, where Jacques Albert set up a watch, clock, and instrument repair shop). The sheet music also had a

photograph of the Bert Gibbs band, 'The Strollers,' taken on Marrickville Town Hall stage.

Richard Blair produced the original 4-page issue of *The Newtown Daily* dated 22 May 1924 (see article on page 6: 'Newtown Council welcomes Olive Buzacott').

We saw one of **Lyn Collingwood's** wedding gifts from 1965: 'A Sunbeam frypan, which still works as new. My second Sunbeam appliance was a Mixmaster which worked beautifully until I lent it for the New Theatre production of *The Season at Sarsaparilla* when a crew member dropped it such that it smashed beyond repair. When I made a good living from TV ads, playing yet another suburban housewife, I extolled the virtues of the Sunbeam Steam-and-Dry Iron. Today, small electric appliances remain Sunbeam's core business – a far cry from its beginnings as the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company.'

Also with a local theme were **John McGrath's** six ceramic tile coasters celebrating Dulwich Hill. They feature street maps, street signs and historical street scenes, trams and buildings such as the Post Office and Waratah Flour Mill. We think the coasters were made by former MHS member and committee member Deborah O'Donnell for an Open Day at Tempe House.



Andrew Burns showed a large undated Robinson's map (possibly from the 1940s) of Sydney Harbour and environs. Depicted were Drummoyne, comprising several smaller suburbs whose names have now gone; the old tram routes, including that which wound down to Balmoral Beach; an 'Artillery Practise Area' across Sydney Heads; and the myriad lost finger wharves of Sydney's 'working harbour'.



Joyce Roy: 'Helsinki early 1988 – snow, frozen rivers. Tourist bus to Leningrad, confronting many stops, armed guards searching all, some taken away. Same on return. Hotel basic, food awful. Terrible apartment blocks. Few shops, not allowed in, directed to government shop with alcohol, cigarettes, cheap souvenirs. Shown former Czar buildings, Hermitage museum. No Bolshevik buildings. Photos not allowed. Many beggars. Went to Kirov ballet; impressive metro rail.' Joyce showed assorted souvenirs, this Russian dish being one.



Show & Tell attracts family memorabilia and **Stephanie Allen** read 'a 1929 letter sent from Mrs L Russell of 88 Railway Avenue, Stanmore, to my great aunt Mae (then Miss Hooper of Paddington) confirming the details for a debutante rehearsal held at Empire House, Castlereagh Street on 10 August 1929. Requiring a white dress, white or silver shoes, stockings and no gloves for the Orange Ball held at Sydney Town Hall Monday 26 August 1929. The Ball was reported in some detail the next day in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.'



Stephen Goldberg: 'My great-grandfather, Joe Levy managed The Hotel Francais (built 1850s) next to Wynyard Station from 1928 till its demolition in 1936. During this time, he kept a diary documenting the day to day running of such an establishment and the shenanigans that went on. Closer reading of his handwritten entries in copperplate captures a feel for Sydney in the 1920s. My dad rescued the diary and other items from his grandmother's house in Stanmore in the mid 1970s.'

Ros Torrent is passionate about her Reeves family tree and brought along her great-great-great-grandfather John Reeves's 1799 journal which records names, places and information which helped corroborate her family tree. The journal was brought to Australia by Ros's great grandfather, Robert Hill Reeves, who was born in 1847 at Draycott, a village near Cheddar, Somerset. He died at 21 Terry Street, Tempe.

Scott MacArthur's paternal grandfather was born a Protestant in 1908 in County Donegal, Ireland. He emigrated to Australia and became a shearer. Eventually he set up a freezing works in Oberon, and in 1956 he sought admission to the local order of the Masons. The satchel contains the minutes of that meeting and two Masonic aprons, one in fabric and one in leather. The suggestion of members present was that the leather apron was worn by a higher level of Masons than Scott's grandfather may have achieved. Scott plans to donate the satchel and contents to the Sydney Masonic Lodge.

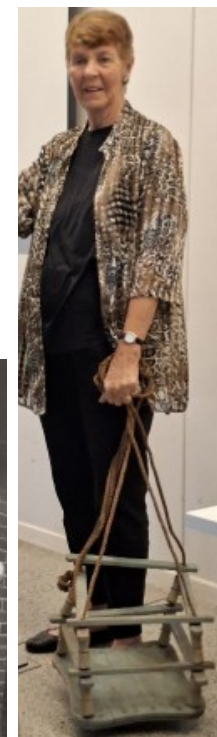


Heather Smallbone's items were even more exotic. The horse straps were purchased along the Silk Road in 2000. The hat was made by ladies sitting outside their homes in the old city of Kashgar. The skirt bought in London and was worn at the Royal Festival Hall for a concert. The trip was based on Heather's love of embroidery.

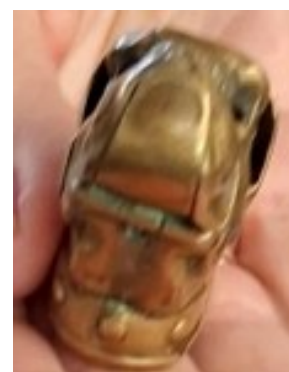


Finally three charming items.

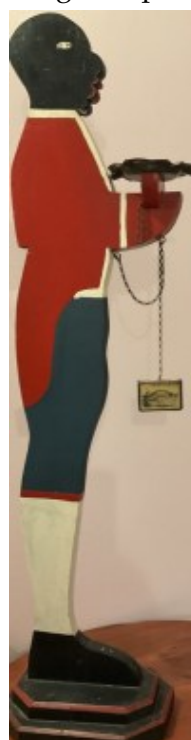
Laurel Horton's baby swing which she once occupied, and a photo of herself seated in the swing as a toddler.



Alex Oonagh Redmond's miniature brass bulldog head with opening jaw, a little brass pipe and a tobacco stuffer in the shape of a man. Alex sought help from the



gathering as to the use of these exhibits, if any.



Carole Allen's near life-size timber statue was made by her grandfather for Carole's mother. On arriving home on 19 March 1932, the day the Sydney Harbour Bridge opened, her mother asked, 'where will I put this souvenir Sydney Harbour Bridge matchbox holder'?

Richard Blair

All colour photos: Richard Blair

Talk on wills and bequests Saturday 22 November 2025

We were fortunate to have **Emily Lane** of Lane & O'Rourke Solicitors in Earlwood talk to us about setting up a will so that our wishes are legally clear.

The session was inspired by the desire to ensure cherished collections and memorabilia are protected. Emily's talk also addressed the more common issues around wills in a clear and easy to understand way.

The key points covered were:

- What constitutes a valid will
- The value of having it prepared by a solicitor
- What happens when there is no will
- Appointing the right person as executor
- Considering the right beneficiary and the pitfalls that may arise
- How to describe items so they are not confused with other items
- What happens when items are not mentioned
- A warning against making notes at home as this could result in the will being treated as informal
- An informal will must be disclosed to the Court and notice must be served upon every beneficiary named in the document and the will. An expensive and time consuming process!
- Funeral arrangements can be included in a will; however, they are not legally binding. Instead, it serves as showing the will maker's wishes. It's important that loved ones know the will includes this information so it is read before the funeral is planned.

Emily's presentation was engaging and thorough. A lively Q & A followed that enabled Emily to expand on some of the key points and helped members contextualise to their own situations.

We extend our thanks to Emily for her time and clear advice. Thanks also to **Lyndal Gowland** for organising the event.



Scott MacArthur, Emily Lane and Lyndal Gowland
(Photo: Lorraine Beach)

Caite Adamek

KU Crusader 80th Anniversary

On 2 December 2025 KU Crusader preschool, Malakoff Street, Marrickville celebrated its 80th birthday and MHS was there along with local state MP, **Jo Haylen** and KU Children's Services CEO, **Christine Legg**. (Originally

the Kindergarten Union of NSW, the name became known simply as 'KU'). The Society had been contacted in 2020 by the preschool's director, **Megan Montgomery**, seeking assistance in preparing a historical background for its planned 75th anniversary.

Like so much else the COVID pandemic put a stop to that. However, we did get an opportunity this year and not only did we provide storyboards covering the preschool's origins and development but we were also able to provide an 'old boy'.

MHS committee member **Richard Blair** attended KU Crusader only a few years after it first opened. Both the boards and the boy were big hits at the commemoration party attended by parents, grandparents and former educators.



Richard Blair (MHS), Christine Legg (KU Children's Services)
and Rod Aanensen (MHS)

(Photo: Cassandra Mezups, courtesy of KU Children's Services)

Intriguingly, the history of KU Children's Services is closely tied to our area. An early meeting of the Kindergarten Union of NSW took place in the Loong Shan Tea Rooms, King Street, Sydney. The rooms were owned by Inner West (Ashfield) local Quong Tart.

The Union's first Vice-President was Marrickville local Maybanke Wolstenholme (later Anderson). Maybanke's house, once a school and kindergarten, still stands at 80 Wardell Road. Today it caters to people at the other end of life as the Maybanke Aged Care Centre.

The first KU free kindergarten opened in 1896 in Woolloomooloo and the second on Bligh Street (now Carillon Avenue) Newtown. It was officially opened in 1898 by none other than Mr Quong Tart.

It was WW2 that led to the creation of the Marrickville preschool. With many of the male workforce in the army, another 'army' of women was needed to keep the country running. Many women were keen to work but motherhood limited the number who could seek employment.

Kindergartens or preschools were seen as a way to alleviate this issue and local government got involved. In 1944 Marrickville Council had three kindergartens built in Marrickville: KU Globe on Perry Street (now Globe Preschool on Macrae Street), KU Crusader on Malakoff Street and SDN kindergarten on Illawarra Road.

KU was a charity-based volunteer organisation then and provided funds and staff to run the kindergarten. A local committee raised funds through galas and collection

drives for the operation of the school. Approached by Marrickville Mayor **William Murray**, Australian Woollen Mills (AWM) 'adopted' the Malakoff Street kindergarten and were offered naming rights. Globe Woollen Mills had done the same for Perry Street.

AWM made an initial donation of about 750 pounds to the Malakoff Street kindergarten. Opened in April 1909 and closing in 1972, AWM stood on the site of present day Wilkins Public School. It manufactured worsted and serge woollen fabrics of the highest quality and one of these was branded 'Crusader'.

By the 1930s AWM employed over 900 people, 75% of whom were women. Expected to work nine-hour days spinning, weaving and mending, the preschools were a boon to these workers. KU Crusader officially opened in 1945 with 60 children attending. Currently there are about 40 children at the preschool, managed by Ms Megan Montgomery.

Note: Committee member **John McGrath** and his wife **Joanne** are 'old parents' as their two children attended KU Crusader. We have very strong links to the preschool.

Rod Aanensen

Heritage Watch

QVB managers withdraw application to remove stained glass windows

The shopping centre managers of the State Heritage listed Queen Victoria Building have withdrawn a shocking proposal to remove the multicoloured stained glass windows at the northern (Market Street) end of the building. This was apparently to increase the visibility and financial viability of the tenancies.

The limp Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) prepared for the proposal attempted to explain that the coloured glass windows could be removed as they are not original. These windows are part of the 1980s reconstruction of the QVB and are not as significant as the rest of the original building, according to the building's Conservation Management Plan. The coloured windows were not part of the main building facade, but were part of an early street awning seen in this 1909 photo.



Queen Victoria Building, corner of George and Market Streets, Sydney, c. 1909 (Photo: State Library of NSW)

However, the SoHI makes a poor case for justifying the removal and poorly assesses the degree of adverse impacts on the heritage significance of the QVB. After

hundreds of submissions from people who were furious with the proposed demolition of an important part of the public face of one of our grandest Victorian buildings, the managers withdrew the application. A win for Sydney (and NSW) heritage!

Scott MacArthur

Vale Sue Miller

Sue and Tony Miller joined the Society in 1984. They lived in Roberts Street, Camperdown from that time until Sue relocated to an aged care facility in Mosman in 2017.

Sue was born in Sydney and travelled to Canada and the UK in her 20s where she met Tony Miller. They had an antique shop in Hampstead, London, and sold in many markets around the UK. They relocated to Australia in 1983 and had a shop in King Street, Newtown called Odds and Sods which they ran until 1990.

I first met Sue and Tony in the mid-1980s as we were all members of the Concerned Citizens of Newtown, a residents' community action group in south Newtown during that decade. Sue was an active member of the Society from the early 1990s, regularly attending



Sue Miller, 2006
(Photo: MHS archive)

meetings, helping on MHS stalls at festivals and being a valued committee member from 1991 to the end of 1993 and again from 2005 to 2011. Sue was secretary from 1992 till the end of 1993.

In retirement Sue studied horticulture at Ryde TAFE and volunteered at the Royal Botanic Garden. Sue made several friends with Society members and in her local area around Camperdown

Memorial Rest Park where she regularly walked her dogs. Once Sue moved to Mosman she found she could no longer attend meetings but continued to enjoy receiving the newsletter. Sue died on 16 October 2025. Tony died in 2009.

Richard Blair

Vale John Atkinson (1940-2025)

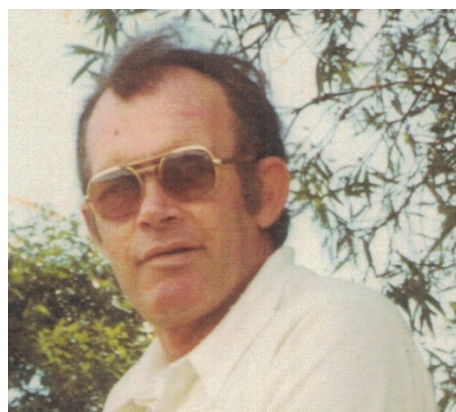
Bernard John Atkinson was born and raised in Bankstown for which he had a lifelong attachment. When John was a child, his father managed Bankstown Swimming Pool for many years, and this inspired John to obtain a Bronze Medallion in lifesaving and cultivate a keen interest in first aid. He later managed swimming pools at Hay and North Sydney and taught swimming and lifesaving.

John is remembered for a lifetime of dedication to the NSW Ambulance Service. He was an ambulance officer between 1959 and 1983, firstly as a volunteer at Hay and Deniliquin at a time when rural ambulance officers were unpaid; and later, full time at Tamworth, Bankstown and Central Sydney (near Central railway station), by which time he was a paid paramedic. After he retired from service he retained a strong interest in the ambulance network and its history both in NSW and Victoria.

He collected ambulance-related memorabilia and photos and was among a group of hardy enthusiasts in establishing the Temora Ambulance Museum in south western NSW. Though always residing in NSW he was a longstanding member of the Victorian Ambulance Museum and received a Lifetime Membership Award. John was a mentor and inspiration for upcoming paramedics.

About ten years ago he sent a stash of photographs to MHS and arising from that I collaborated with John to write an article for *Heritage 16* (2022) titled 'A pictorial history of the ambulance service in Newtown and Marrickville'. John joined MHS in 2016.

John was a volunteer attached to Villawood Detention Centre where he taught English and mentored a number of new arrivals. In later years he billeted overseas university students. Such was his enthusiasm for volunteering he worked for 40 years at community radio



John Atkinson (photographer unknown)

station 2NBC (formed in 1974 by local residents and the Narwee Baptist Church) based in Kogarah. He was a keen traveller and lover of poetry. He died on 17 November 2025 after a long illness.

Richard Blair

Donation from Darren Martin

Our November-December 2025 newsletter contained obituaries for sisters **Shirley Kirkman** and **Beverley Martin**, who grew up in Marrickville and whose maiden name was Maclean.

Beverley's son **Darren** recently returned to the Society a number of MHS journals and other MHS publications. These have found new homes.

At right is a screenshot from the MHS newsletter of October 2006 showing a very dapper postman on his rounds and outside one of the houses where the sisters grew up.

Newtown Council welcomes Olive Buzacott into the world



Nicholas Buzacott MLC
(Photo: NSW Parliament website)

Question: Who was mayor of Newtown in 1924? If you answered **NJ Buzacott** I would bet London to a brick that you looked it up. That's fine. So did I!

Born in Clare, South Australia, in 1866 Nicholas James Buzacott moved around 1888 to Broken Hill where he worked as a wheelwright and coach builder. He was an alderman with Broken Hill

1930s POSTIE IN MARRICKVILLE



Dapper postman of the mid 1930s outside 39 Pine Avenue Marrickville where MHS member **Shirley Kirkman (née Maclean)** lived in her early years. Shirley's mother took the photo during a birthday party which explains why the smiling postie is wearing a fancy hat while his own hat is perched on top of the picket fence. The house, which was owned by her grandfather, is still standing, but has been altered beyond recognition. The (hard to read) house name has disappeared. Pine Avenue has been absorbed into the eastern end of Pine Street. When her grandfather died, the family moved to 228 Livingstone Road. She attended Marrickville West and later Stanmore School. At 17, she went to West Wyalong for a holiday, met Allan, got married and has lived there since. Shirley is involved with the local historical museum.

Municipal Council from 1898 to 1899 and was a member of the Australasian Miners' Association. He became a Labor MLC with the NSW state parliament in 1899 but later joined the National Party. He was still an MLC when he died.

He relocated to Newtown in 1906 where he opened a real estate agency. He married **Catherine Casella** in 1915, and they had four children. He served on Newtown Municipal Council from 1919 to 1928 and was mayor in 1924-5; later he served on Canterbury Municipal Council from 1928 to 1931. He was very involved in the business communities of Newtown and Canterbury. He died aged 67 in 1933 leaving a widow and two daughters, **Norma May** and **Olive Ruth**.

Olive was born on 8 April 1924. *The Newtown Daily* (Thursday, 22 May 1924) reported that:

Ald. Buzacott, Mayor of Newtown, received a pleasant surprise at the council meeting last Tuesday night. It appeared that the Stork had recently visited the Mayor's abode, the result being a baby-girl, bringing the family up to four (three girls and a boy). His brother-aldermen decided to honor the occasion, and their little scheme was kept secret from the Mayor.

He was presented with a silver mug, 'of chaste design' with the inscription, 'Presented to the Hon. Mr N. J. Buzacott, MLC, Mayor, by the aldermen and staff of the Newtown Municipal Council, on the occasion of the birth of his daughter, Olive Ruth - 8/4/24.'

Hard to imagine this quaint and homely ceremony occurring at a council meeting these days, 100 years down the track.

Remaining single and sharing a flat in Epping, Norma and Olive Buzacott joined the Society in June 2000. They remained members until Norma died in 2007 and Olive in 2015 aged 91. They had both lived in Petersham as children when their father served on Newtown Council.

Richard Hansford (a Newington boy) handled the legal affairs of the Buzacott siblings for many years while employed as a solicitor with the law firm McCoy, Grove & Atkinson which was established in 1887 in Marrickville by **Richard McCoy** but later relocated to the city. McCoy was an alderman on Marrickville Council from 1894 to 1897 serving as Mayor of Marrickville for one year. The firm closed in 2014 which is when Richard Hansford retired. Richard became a MHS member because of this family connection, local associations and enjoyment of the newsletter.

Richard has previously donated items once owned by the Buzacott family to the Society. Recently he donated original editions of *The Newtown Daily*, *The Boomerang*, and *The Evening News*, all from May 1924; a very fragile 1841 Plan of the Village of Enmore; and a pictorial book titled *Under the Southern Cross: Souvenir for the United States Navy August-September 1908*. This work presumably coincided with the arrival of The Great White Fleet that year.

Richard Blair

Certificate of Appreciation

Ann O'Connell was awarded a 2025 Certificate of Appreciation in her capacity as a Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) volunteer at the Collections and Community: Trove and NSW Historical Societies seminar held at History House on 11 November 2025:



'Ann's hard work, attention to detail and enthusiasm in carrying out a variety of library projects are greatly appreciated, as is her flexibility and willingness to help out wherever she is needed. In particular, this year [2025] she has diligently reviewed, sorted, and catalogued over 7,200 items

From left: Lesley Hughes, Annet Latham (Ku-ring-gai HS), Ann O'Connell, Christine Yeats (Senior Vice President, RAHS) and Pamela Lofthouse (Mosman HS) (photo © RAHS)

in the RAHS Vertical File collection. Ann is also a long-term dedicated member of the Ashfield and District Historical Society. RAHS acknowledges and appreciates Ann's achievements as an invaluable RAHS volunteer and long-standing member.'

Congratulations to Ann who is also a long-term MHS member.

Certificate of Achievement

Nominated by the Australian Catholic Historical Society (ACHS), **Lesley Hughes** at the same seminar as Ann was awarded a Certificate of Achievement: 'For her invaluable contribution to the Society (ACHS) since 2004.'

Lesley has had several positions on the ACHS Council, including Secretary, Treasurer and currently Vice President.

Currently involved in writing the Society's history, she co-developed with Geoffrey Hogan the Society's New Constitution and undertook the administration of the James MacGinley History Award. She has a significant publication record in the area of Catholic Welfare work. Lesley's wisdom, experience and support of the Society have been consistent throughout her long service.

Congratulations to Lesley who is also an MHS member.

2026 Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division: Lyn Collingwood

'For service to community history, and to the Arts.'



Lyn Collingwood
Photo: © The Glebe Society)

Our warmest congratulations to **Lyn Collingwood** for this acknowledgement of her past and ongoing contributions and achievements over many years, including:

- Professional actor from 1975 and co-starred in TV's 'Home and Away' for many years as Colleen Smart
- A continuous and highly significant association with the community-based New Theatre in Newtown since 1980
- Founding the still-going Players in the Pub in Glebe in 2009
- Highly significant contribution to the Glebe Society since 2004
- Valued member of Marrickville Heritage Society since 2006
- Researcher and author of multiple articles
- Author of *Camdenville 1882-1982* and producer of oral histories to mark 100th anniversary of Camdenville Public School; *The story of a school: Glenmore Road Public School, 1883-1993*; and *Glebe Public: The story of a school*
- Editorial and research work with *The New Age Encyclopaedia*, *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* and *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Australia* in the 1980s and 1990s
- and more.

Calendar of MHS 2026 Events

Saturday 28 February

The Secrets of Anzac Ridge in Flanders Fields
Patricia Skehan talks about her book
Details page 1

Saturday 28 March

Middle Cooks River tour—a walk with
Ian Tyrrell
Details in March-April newsletter

Saturday 11 April (note 2nd Saturday of month)

The Grosvenor Theatre, Summer Hill, and other
lost cinemas—a talk with Paul Brennan
Details in March-April newsletter

Summer Trivia Answer

Congratulations to **Ben Summers** and **Kay Abrahams** who correctly identified the 1971 photo as the Elizabethan Theatre that used to be on the corner of Wilson Street and Erskineville Road, Newtown

Appearances are deceptive. Looking at this photo it's hard to believe this grand-looking building once graced this Newtown site. Inside it seemed quite spacious.

I recall seeing an opera there (can't recall what) in the late 1960s whilst in 1975 I saw the Royal Shakespeare Company starring Glenda Jackson, Jenny Linden (who featured with Jackson in the movie *Women in Love* in 1969), and Timothy West perform there in Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. It was directed by Trevor Nunn.

The theatre dated from 1917 when it was called Fuller's Majestic Theatre. It originally seated nearly 2,000 people but the seating was later reduced to c. 1,700. It mainly showed movies but was sometimes used as a boxing venue.

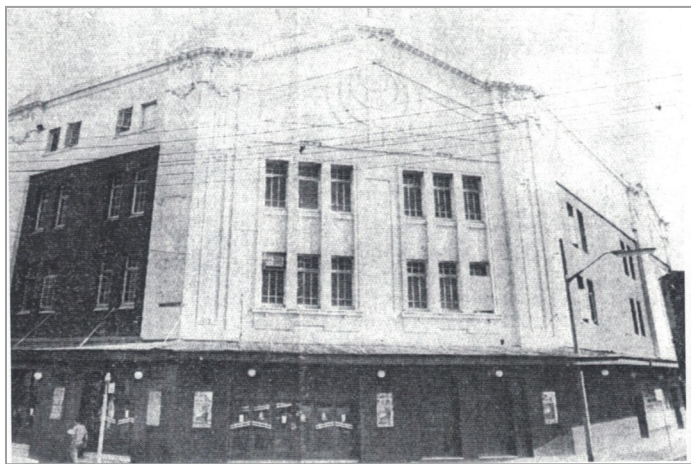


Photo: Robert Parkinson, *Picture Shows in the Marrickville and Newtown Districts 1898-2012* (self-published, 2012), p 82.
His source was *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 April 1971.

After the Elizabethan Theatre Trust was formed in 1954, the theatre was acquired and renamed the Elizabethan with its first play, *The Sleeping Prince*, opening on 27 July 1955 and starring Sir Ralph Richardson, Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson. In the following year *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* was performed there. In 1957, May Hollinworth, a Stanmore resident, produced *The Shifting Heart*.

The Elizabethan was one of Sydney's most thriving theatres for 25 years but sadly on the night of 19 January 1980 the theatre was completely destroyed by fire. The theatre was replaced by an office complex.

Richard Blair



Marrickville connection in Richmond, Melbourne

Spotted on a recent visit to Melbourne, on the corner of Bridge Road and Burnley Street, Richmond, a bizarre anomaly on the façade of a branch of the clothing store Industrie. Above the name on the building is 'Est. 1999 Marrickville'. Enquiries have since revealed this widespread menswear brand with over 100 outlets nationwide and in New Zealand originated in Marrickville. Clothing for sale is manufactured offshore.

(Photos: Richard Blair)

President & Heritage Watch

Scott 0416 152 501 | sbtarmac@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stuart 0414 620 519 | stuartgrigg2@gmail.com

Newsletter

Mary 0400 385 362 | maryangela@bigpond.com

Webmaster

Rod 0431 487 375 | mhsweb@exemail.com.au

Publication sales

Iain 0400 473 252 | cariaa07@hotmail.com