

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Saturday 28 June 10.15 for 10.30am**

### Annual General Meeting

**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road Marrickville**

The president invites all members to our 24th Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past year will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day. Committee meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (bar January). For more information about committee or meeting requirements ring Lorraine on 9550 6608 after 6.30pm or on weekends.

Members are reminded that they must have paid their 2008-09 membership fees to stand for office, to nominate or second a candidate, or to vote at the AGM. Fees payable on the day. Again the AGM will be followed by a light lunch consisting of soup and bread, cake, tea and coffee. Stay and mingle with fellow members and the new committee.

## MHS ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE

Fees for 2008-09 fell due on 1 June and most members should receive a **renewal slip** (organisations an invoice) with their June newsletter. Non-receipt of a slip means either you have joined recently, paid ahead, or your slip was lost in transit. Please advise on slip if details are incorrect and ignore if fees have been paid in the interim. You may either pay at the AGM, or send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your slip to MHS PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Fees are unchanged – concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

The renewal slip also asks for members' email address to be added to the list for global notifications, should you not receive these already. Please indicate if your email address has recently changed.

Back page for Heritage Watch report on Initial Design Concept for the New Aquatics Complex Enmore Park

Winter Trivia Question held over until July

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Michael Haden, Sonia Laverty, both of Newtown; Trina and Jan Supit (rejoined), Stanmore; Robyn Godfrey, Sydenham; Lyn Collingwood, Glebe; Janice Baigent, Mortdale; Betty Biffin, St Johns Park; Merle Kavanagh, Sutherland; John Chappell, Toowoomba, Qld.

## ESSAY COMPETITION RESULTS

It was almost perfect symmetry at Herb Greedy Hall at our award ceremony for the Marrickville Heritage Society's inaugural essay competition. The Society has just turned 24, the event was on 24 May and the number of entries was 23! This much higher than expected level of entries in itself underpinned the success of this competition, but as Vice President and Convenor, **Keith Sutton** pointed out in his address, the overall quality of the essays was particularly high. This competition was a landmark event for MHS and as such it has been decided to devote much of this newsletter to the competition with Keith's presentation and some details of every essay.

The winner (\$1000) was **Peter Cousens** for his essay *Marrickville Horticultural Society – a blooming history* which details the formation and operation of the horticultural society in the times when flower and plant shows were popular cultural and social events in Sydney in general and Marrickville local government area in particular. The judges described Peter's winning essay as 'outstanding', noting that it was a comprehensive study of an organisation rarely examined and that the research had been exemplary.



Convenor, Keith Sutton, winner, Peter Cousens & co-presenter Lorraine Beach (photo: Scott MacArthur)

Second prize (\$500) was awarded to **Lyn Collingwood** for her essay *Charles Abel and his food empire*. Third prize (\$250) was awarded to **Merle Kavanagh** for *By the Blue Lagoon – a family memoir*. Highly Commended Certificates were awarded to **Shirley Doolan** for *World sport comes to Marrickville* and to **Robert Parkinson** for *Marrickville Municipal Symphony Orchestra 1930-1953*. More details about these entries overleaf.

Most entrants attended along with their guests plus a good roll up of members. After the formalities the Society provided a delicious lunch, for which special thanks go to Lorraine Beach, Audrey Furney, Daphne Grange, Ted Green, Robert Hutchinson, Corinne O'Loughlin and Pamela Stewart.

(see inside)

## OUR LAST MEETING – 24 MAY

### Marrickville Heritage Society Essay Competition Presentation Notes by Convenor, Keith Sutton

Good morning members and guests. On behalf of the Society's Executive Committee, the Essay Competition sub-committee (**Lorraine Beach** and **Richard Blair**) and the Essay Competition judging panel (whose names shall not be disclosed), I have pleasure in reporting on the results of our inaugural Essay Competition. Indeed it turns out to be most appropriate for today to be the day of our presentations, because today happily occurs during Writers' Week in Sydney.

I am indebted to the Society's Executive Committee, which took on this proposal for an essay competition and supported it unanimously. It was a proposal that could easily have been put in the 'too hard' basket. I pay particular tribute to Lorraine and Richard for their tireless work in undertaking the administrative arrangements for the competition. As we all understand, it is the efficient management of such arrangements that can make or break a competition such as this. Lorraine's and Richard's exemplary efforts and their sound advice have allowed the competition procedures to run smoothly and efficiently.

I share the Society's gratitude to the judges, who handled, as you would expect, this exacting task with enthusiasm and good humour. It's no small feat to examine such a large number of entries and then adjudicate on the qualities of all of them. My special thanks to them for their wisdom and commitment. I might add that particular care was taken to ensure that the judges were unaware of the identities of the entrants, or that multiple entries had been received. Essays were presented in random order to the judges and all forms of identification on the essays were removed.

I've referred before to the astonishment and delight of the Society and the judging panel, that 23 entries were received – we had expected perhaps eight or ten. Broadly, the themes of the essays were biography (7), memories ('personal reminiscences') (6), histories (6) and companies/organisations (4) – although naturally there was some overlap between those categories.

Given that at least six of the entries were what we might describe as 'personal reminiscences' or 'trips down memory lane', the judges have asked me to recommend to the Society's Executive Committee that more weight be given to this type of entry in future essay competitions. The reason for that recommendation is that a principal condition of this inaugural competition was that 'research' (however that is defined) carried a 40% weighting. In personal reminiscences usually there is much research done but it tends to be difficult to verify and cannot necessarily be displayed in an 'academic' manner. The judges have asked me to convey their view that those personal reminiscences may later become principal research documents, containing the **only information available** on a particular subject.

All of the entries provided conclusive evidence that each entrant took her or his subject matter, and the competition itself, very seriously. The overall standard of entries was very high, both in terms of readability and research. Some essays portrayed the wry humour that can attend some circumstances and some essays posed provocative questions for readers. **All of the essays provided evidence of the effort and time that has gone into the entries and the judges and the**



Keith Sutton & Lyn Collingwood (photo: Scott MacArthur)

### **Society are extremely pleased to be able to recognise that commitment.**

Given the overall standard, judges had to treat each entry very critically – there are only three prizes; and it is with considerable regret that the judges report that several extremely well researched, well written and well presented essays have not won a prize. So in view of the very high standard of the essays, the judging panel decided to recommend, and the Executive Committee has accepted, a proposal to award 'Highly Commended' Certificates to two entrants whose essays were close to the standard of the winning entries.

The judges note that **by no means** should writers of essays who do not win a prize be discouraged from continuing their literary efforts. Indeed, the judges would be disappointed if future essay competitions do not attract as good or even better standards. **It is crystal clear from this inaugural competition that MHS members, and entrants who were/are not MHS members, have a wealth of information about our local government area and have the ability to impart that knowledge with great effect.** Five then non-members entered the competition, and three of those people have since joined our Society.

### **The Society expects to publish the essays in its Journals or possibly in a special edition.**

I will now list the authors, entries received, and a short summary of each. Note that the rules clearly stated that multiple entries were allowable.

#### **Betty Biffin – Memories of 'my' Newtown**

A pleasant trip down memory lane, including an interesting story of wartime experiences. It covers the author's life in three different residences in Newtown, the businesses that operated locally from the 1930s, (for example in King Street) and the personalities that made up so much of the character of the suburb.

#### **John Chappell – Henry, his roses, four siblings and their Francophil brother: a memoir on the Quinns' 52-year residency in Petersham**

This is an extended family history. Among other places, the family lived variously in Glebe and Petersham. The roses are a reference to Henry Quinn's roses climbing all over a trellis; and one example of the 'Francophil' brother, Jack, was when Jack bought a French car rather than an American one.

#### **Peter Chinn – My memories of Livingstone Park**

A gentle trip down memory lane, covering, among other things, the author's life in Marrickville, Dulwich Hill and Petersham. Livingstone Park was his playground, and when he returns to the park those childhood memories and associations are rekindled.

**Mary Cleghorn - Marrickville: 'my Shangri-La'**

This is a gentle look at past years in Marrickville. The author has made a great effort to remember an era that was much less complicated than today and she details many snippets from her childhood.

**Lyn Collingwood - Theo Flynn**

As well as being Aussie film star Errol Flynn's father, Theo Flynn worked as a pupil-teacher at Stanmore, Camdenville and Marrickville public schools before becoming a professor of biology. This essay studies Theo's life, particularly his abiding interest in biology and its associated subjects.

**Lyn Collingwood - The Bible bashers**

This essay begins with a very solid look at the Churches of Christ in Enmore, Newtown, Stanmore, Petersham, Marrickville, etc. It notes the activities of the religious enthusiasts in the Marrickville area and the visit by the American evangelist Dr Chapman, who drew enthusiastic audiences in the Sydney Town Hall in 1909.

**Lyn Collingwood - Charles Abel and his food empire (2nd Prize)**

A comprehensive look at a major Marrickville industrial organisation known as Marrickville Margarine, located in Edinburgh Road, Marrickville. 'I can't believe it's not butter!' was a well-known advertising slogan, when the company was fighting the dairy industry. This battle between butter and margarine reached as far as the High Court in 1955. Numerous products and brands were produced, including Eta peanut butter.



(Clockwise from above)  
Merle Kavanagh, Shirley Doolan  
& Robert Parkinson  
(photos: Scott MacArthur)

**Shirley Doolan - World sport comes to Marrickville (Highly Commended)**

A first class look at a rarely examined subject, namely, how some events of the 1938 British Empire Games came to be held at Henson Park, Marrickville. Some 40 000 people crammed into Henson Park for two days of cycling and for the closing ceremony. During these Games, Australia won 24 first places, including two in cycling events.

**Kate Dunbar - Whatever happened to Emanuel Brace?**

Emanuel Brace was one of three men implicated in the death of Robert Wardell in September 1834. The other two, Jenkins and Tattersdale, were hanged, but Brace escaped this fate by informing on the other two. This was an unusual topic, given that most writers concentrate on Wardell himself.

**Patricia Grimshaw - Cry God for Harry, England and St George!**

The author describes her early life in Marrickville and her wartime employment at the local woollen mills. The essay has dry humour and astute observations of human behaviour in general and the 'factory' lives of women in particular.

**Laurel Horton - Stories behind the names**

A story of the 'occupants' of St Peters (Church) cemetery. This is a topic not commonly researched and recorded. The author raises intriguing questions about some of the burials in the cemetery and notes the colorful people who provided those 'stories behind the names'.

**Laurel Horton - A St Peters family**

The story of the Hoppitt family, who settled in the St Peters area in the 1850s. Seven generations of the Hoppitt family have lived or still live in the area and the author painstakingly studies the family membership and their lives.

**Laurel Horton - The stained glass windows of St Peters Church, Cooks River**

A descriptive look at a rather uncommon subject, which has been comprehensively dealt with, especially the stories of the window donors: 'in memory of . . .' The essay is accompanied by numerous photos, which allow the reader to follow the narrative.

**Laurel Horton - Employment of children**

A look at the employment of children as young as nine in local brick pits. The issue was raised in a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald in 1875, and subsequently there was a select committee appointed by the NSW Parliament to investigate this appalling problem. The essay examines the committee's work and follows through until the Public Instruction Act of 1880 that effectively stopped the practice by requiring children up until age 13 to attend schools.

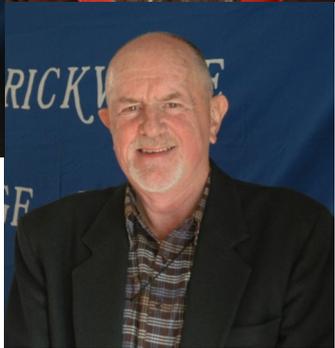
**Robert Horton - St Peters: connecting with a written past**

An interesting perspective on history, drawing on people's letters and notes about various places, churches, and other landmarks. The essay also traces family histories including the family of well known historian Manning Clark, among others.



**Robert Horton - A fresh look at 19th century St Peters**

This essay raises questions rather than forcing readers into 'opinions'. It invites readers to continue their own studies of the 'gentlemen' of the area. There is also an unusual look at death statistics for this type of subject (for instance, graphs) to back up the essay's main points.



**Merle Kavanagh - By the Blue Lagoon: a family memoir (3rd Prize)**

A 'family memoir', which links the family history to the history of St Peters. Among other things, the essay deals with her early childhood in St Peters, where her home was near what her father coined 'The Blue Lagoon' - a romantic name for a water-filled and debris-littered brick pit owned by Goodsells, off May Street, St Peters.

**Chrys Meader - Forgotten memories: Marrickville Road in the 1960s** A study of the author's life and times, with a focus on the Marrickville Road shops and their owners. Covers the author's childhood experiences, some good, some bad, such as the dreaded Salk polio vaccine immunisation injections.

**Robert Parkinson - Marrickville Municipal Symphony Orchestra (1930-1953) (Highly Commended)**

A study of a major organisation in Marrickville's history and details the works of the main conductors of the orchestra, Fred Hanney and Haydn Beck. Each conductor had different approaches to the work of the Orchestra and its changing personnel. The essay links the local story to a wider NSW context by extensive footnoting.

**Fred Sinfield - Two Newtown identities** A look at two Newtown personalities involved in the jewellery trade - William Trantum and William Pritchard. There were 15 watchmakers, jewellers and opticians along King Street, Newtown in the 1920s. Trantum was involved in a major strike in the sense that he made medallions for the strikers.

**Patricia Steane - James Conley and family of Kingston** A study of Kingston, an area subdivided from farming land near Australia Street, Newtown. James Conley became a prominent personality of the area, and ran the Kingston Lodge Hotel from the 1850s until his death in 1876. In 1862 James was one of more than 200 residents who petitioned the Government to form a municipality for the area.

**Rosalind Torrent - Family life at the rectory: St Peters Cooks River 1920-1933** A family history, with family tree and numerous photos. Research has concentrated on the 'personal' aspect (rather than 'academic'). A fascinating glimpse of family life in a 'church' environment, especially the life of the author's grandfather, Rev Arthur Reeves, her father, Frank, and her mother, Dulcie.

## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 28 June**

**Annual General Meeting**

Details on front page

**Saturday 26 July**

**Winter, Wilberforce & a Winery by coach**

**Saturday 23 August**

**Stephen Szabo on Heraldry in Australia, with examples from the Marrickville LGA**

**Saturday 27 September**

**Wolli Creek Walk**

**170th Anniversary Celebration of the Laying of the Foundation Stone, St Peters Church, Cooks River  
Sunday 13 July 10am**

**St Peters Church 187 Princes Highway St Peters**

A special service will be followed by an historical presentation *Presenting Events and People, Significant and Insignificant, in the Founding of St Peters Church, Cooks River* by Bob and Laurel Horton. Followed by light luncheon. All welcome. Enquiries 9558 7504.

MHS member **Margaret Sinclair** would like to thank all those who have been donating used postage stamps, proceeds from which go to worthy causes. Margaret is happy to receive more!

## Heritage Watch – Initial Design Concept for the New Aquatics Complex, Enmore Park

The Society (MHS) believes that the special heritage and environmental values of Enmore Park warrant the recognition and protection that has been granted by its identification as an item of environmental heritage under Marrickville LEP 2001 and inclusion as part of the Enmore Draft Conservation Area. Council has correctly commissioned a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) from a suitably qualified heritage specialist that has investigated and analysed the history and fabric of the park to generate guidelines for the future management and development of the park.

MHS strongly believes that all proposals for change and development of the park must be guided by, and consistent with, this CMS. The General Statement of Conservation Approach from the CMS states:

**“Council should continue to maintain the Park as an important example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century park established in response to petitioning by local residents inspired by the public parks movement of the 1880s. It should respect the Park’s traditional pathway layout and boundary plantings, and its role as a place for relaxing, children’s play and passive recreation.”**

The present proposed design conflicts with several key guidelines of the CMS. Most notably, the CMS notes that the pathway layout is one of the aspects that ‘have the highest level of significance within Enmore Park, and which warrant conservation’. The present design removes the path connecting Black Street to the central rondel, blocking off the vista along the Park’s major east-west tree-lined axis.

The essential character of the park as ‘generous green open space (CMS)’ is at odds with the requirements of a modern, year round pool and recreation facility, that requires an extensive weather-proof envelope and dedicated open space segregated from the rest of the Park and secured with a perimeter fence.

The design of the building envelope is extremely unsympathetic to the established late Victorian character of the Park and the surrounding housing stock, whose special qualities are acknowledged by their inclusion in Council’s Enmore Draft Conservation Area. The height, and industrial aesthetic of the building, with extensive use of glass and saw-tooth roofs, conflicts with the surrounding single storey houses with face brick walls and tiled roofs.

The proposed building will also require the removal of an unconfirmed number of mature trees around the pathways and boundary. The trees are not identified as being of high heritage significance, but are still important in establishing the character of the park and provide important amenity for park users.

The Society believes that these are the heritage issues arising from any proposal for development in Enmore Park, and that these issues need to be systematically analysed in the context of the Conservation Management Strategy (2007), the heritage provisions of Marrickville LEP 2001, and the Enmore Draft Conservation Area.

**Scott MacArthur, President**



Official Centenary Dinner of the Newtown Rugby League Football Club, aka the *Bluebags* and the *Jets* to be held on Saturday 5 July at Petersham Town Hall. Details [www.newtownjets.com](http://www.newtownjets.com) or phone 1300 363690.

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