

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

HERITAGE VOLUNTEER AWARD TO DR SCOTT MACARTHUR



MHS President Dr Scott MacArthur receives his award from Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally (photo: Michael Anderson, Paramount Studios)

The citation reads: "In recognition of his outstanding contribution to heritage conservation in New South Wales". The award from the Heritage Council of NSW was presented at the Museum of Sydney on Thursday 20 November for Built Heritage in the area of Heritage Promotion. The preamble stated:

"Nominated by the Marrickville Heritage Society and a member for the last 10 years, Dr Scott MacArthur was recently re-elected as its President for his third term. He is recognised as the Society's primary heritage spokesperson and is convenor of the Society's Heritage Watch committee. Though leading a fulltime professional life as a heritage architect and as a medical practitioner, Dr MacArthur still finds time for active and informed heritage promotion and conservation on behalf of the Society."

"Dr MacArthur's key role involves investigating, assessing and making representations on key heritage issues. His ability to articulate these issues in an authoritative and informed manner has been instrumental in ensuring many successful results. As part of his heritage advocacy, Dr MacArthur regularly contributes to the Society's newsletter, oversees various projects run by the Society and liaises with the media and government authorities. He frequently addresses Society members and other community groups on micro and macro heritage issues as well as attending heritage conferences and serving as an active member for many years of Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee."

The Society's nomination of Scott indicated that his advocacy for Built Heritage "has furthered the Society's public image and credibility with local government and other authorities as being proactive in heritage conservation and supportive of appropriate and sensitive development." More coverage next

The President, Scott MacArthur and the executive committee wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas & a Safe and Happy New Year.

CALENDAR OF 2009 EVENTS

Saturday 28 February
Lesley Muir's *Photographic Sydney in the 1860s & 1870s*

Saturday 14 March
Place Names Project Workshop*

Wednesday 25 March
Parliament House Dinner*

Saturday 28 March
To be advised

17-19 April
Braidwood Weekend*

Saturday 25 April
Barrie Dyster: *Grieving for Gallipoli*

* more details on back page

Vale to Danish architect **Joern Utzon**, designer of the Sydney Opera House. Died 29 November aged 90.

Marrickville Council grant for MHS: see inside

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Gayle Adams, Gavin Edwards & Roger Gazard, Anne & Liam Morgan (rejoined), Mary O'Sullivan, all of Dulwich Hill; Mary Cail, Peter & Karen Dixon, Judith Greathead, all of Marrickville; Laura Wright, Petersham; Robert & Vivien York, Tempe; Dr Elisabeth Richardson, Neutral Bay.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Ring Richard 9557 3823 for a brochure or further information. Membership includes monthly newsletter and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organization \$28. Membership valid until the end of May 2009.

OUR LAST MEETING

Ted Green's Walk around Lavender Bay and some Backstreets of North Sydney



Ted Green, an avid lifetime bushwalker, has effectively combined his love of the outdoors with a thirst for absorbing local history and a knack of presenting this information in an entertaining fashion. Nor does age weary him as on Saturday 22 November when he led a group from Luna Park around the shores of Lavender Bay. Among much trivia imparted was that the York Street timber escalators at Wynyard once serviced the previous Milsons Point Station when it was on the edge of Sydney Harbour. Along the attractive foreshores boardwalk, it is easy to miss the quaint Michael Leunig-designed sculpture by Peter Kingston in memory of the 1979 Ghost Train tragedy victims, and the several Kingston statuettes honouring the likes of Bib and Bub, Blinky Bill and Ginger Meggs. We saw where champion swimmer Dick Cavill perfected his freestyle stroke in the former Lavender Bay baths; and nearby, Wendy Whiteley's charming "secret garden" (on Railcorp land leased to the local council).

West of Blues Point Road, Ted regaled us with stories of the colourful ex convict Billy Blue whose 80 acre land grant made his descendants wealthy landowners. Ted gave insights into local residents such as Henry Lawson, who lived in various houses in Euroka Street; photographer, Harold Cazneaux; eccentric, William Chidley; and entrepreneur, Bernard Holtermann. The most poignant part of the walk was strolling in the grounds of the doomed historic *Graythwaite*, which the NSW Supreme Court has recently ruled be sold by the State Government despite a concerted campaign to keep it in public hands. Thanks Ted for leading another enjoyable guided perambulation.

Richard Blair

Irene Carder and **Barbara Forsyth** both enjoyed the **Tribal Warrior** cruise on 22 November and found it enhanced their knowledge of Aboriginal life around Sydney. They recommend the cruise.

SOCIETY RECEIVES FUNDING IN COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Society has been successful in its application under Marrickville Council's 2008 Community Grants Program and was presented at Petersham Town Hall with a grant on 25 November. The presentation was made by **Fiona Byrne**, Deputy Mayor and the ceremony was hosted by **Sharyn Coughlan**, Council's Manager, Community Development. The \$2600 grant for the Society's Essays on the History and Heritage of Marrickville was received on behalf of the Society by Essay Competition Convenor, **Keith Sutton**. MHS President, **Scott MacArthur** and Vice Presidents, **Lorraine Beach** and **Richard Blair** also attended.

Altogether 23 grants for new projects went to non-profit, community based organisations in funding totalling \$55,000 to benefit residents of the Marrickville Local Government Area. A spokesperson from each group spoke briefly about their project. Projects cater for a range of community groups such as the elderly, multicultural, disadvantaged, the arts, and other marginalised groups. More details on Council's website. The Society plans to publish a book containing the essays entered in the MHS 2008 Essay Competition.

COMMUNITY'S 'HERITAGE HEROES' RECOGNISED WITH NSW GOVERNMENT AWARDS

The outstanding work of volunteers in conserving NSW heritage was recognised at the NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards on 20 November at the Museum of Sydney. In presenting the 23 awards, **Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally** said the awards recognise the exceptional contribution to heritage conservation, management and promotion by some 'unsung heroes' in our community: "We have volunteers to thank for years of effort in protecting and conserving places that are a part of our history as a State. This year's recipients represent a cross-section of community-based organisations, heritage agencies and individuals from regional and metropolitan areas of NSW all who have given up their own time so the rest of us can enjoy and marvel at our proud history."

Ms Keneally said "volunteering continues to be a strong part of the Australian tradition and is a practical way to care for and serve the local community. Volunteering is a positive way to bring people together and to harness their skills and experience for the wellbeing of the broader community. At times it can be a thankless job, which is why it's important to regularly recognise the role played by volunteers and the awards recipients this year have done a fantastic job in protecting NSW heritage. **They share my view and the Government's view that heritage in NSW is not something locked in the past but something that needs to be continually maintained, promoted and protected for the future.**"

"The 2008 Heritage Volunteer Awards recipients have donated their time to heritage projects such as enhancing the visitor experience at museums and historic sites; running community campaigns; recording oral histories; promoting our mining and maritime heritage; conserving movable heritage; working for historical societies and preserving indigenous and multicultural heritage. The NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards program has seen more than 150 groups and individuals formally acknowledged for their work since the Awards' inception in 2002. I thank and congratulate all heritage volunteers for their contribution towards our State's 'living' heritage and hope that their passion for heritage items and places can be shared by many more in years to come."

(from Ministerial press release)

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Among the recipients were **Dr Jeannette Hope** and **Dr Peter Reynolds OAM** who were both nominated by the RAHS — Jeannette for Historical Research in the area of Archaeology in the Wentworth Shire; Peter for Historical Research in the area of Built Heritage, particularly in the Leichhardt LGA. Jeannette is a past member of MHS, at various times editing the newsletter and two journals, *Heritage 7* and *Heritage 8*.

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The award to **Scott MacArthur** tops off a successful year for MHS in the wake of the 2008 Marrickville Council Special Achievement Award to **Richard Blair** in April and the RAHS Certificate of Achievement to **Robert Hutchinson** in October. The Society was also successful in **two grant applications**, one from **RAHS** and the other from **Marrickville Council** (see report), both for the Essay Competition publication.

HERITAGE WATCH

105-107 Percival Road, Stanmore – Salisbury Service Station



Percival Road

While it is acknowledged that *this garage is a comparatively undistinguished example of this type of building, the contribution that it makes to the surrounding area is largely derived from its location. The simple parapeted form of the Percival Road elevation relates it to the commercial buildings within the precinct of a similar age; the curved awning of the garage highlights its corner location. It is surmised that the building has social and historic significance as a building that represents a functionalist service station, whose unique character contributes significantly to the integrity of the Stanmore precinct.*

(Photos and elevation from Council report)

Council has received an application to demolish the existing service station on the corner of Percival and Salisbury Roads in Stanmore, and erect a mixed use development containing 2 shops/commercial suites and 9 dwellings with off street car parking for 13 vehicles. When viewed from Salisbury Road, the building is 5 storeys high, with the ground floor featuring panels of louvered vents for the underground car park. **Council's officers have compiled a comprehensive analysis of the building and the numerous ways it does not comply with Council's policies and codes for this important heritage retail precinct**, including exceeding the maximum floor space ratio, impractical parking and poor urban design. The Council report notes that the proposal was subject to a formal pre-lodgement meeting and the issues raised by Council have not been satisfactorily addressed.

The heritage assessment provided as part of the application makes the following statement of significance:

No. 105-107 Percival Road, Stanmore has local historic significance as a small suburban garage and shop building of the interwar period, located within the commercial precinct that developed on the northern side of Stanmore Railway Station following the opening of Stanmore Railway Station and the subdivision and settlement of the South Annandale Estate from the 1880s onwards. The shop component of the existing building was constructed in the early 1920s and is typical of a modest single storey shop building of the early interwar period. The garage was constructed in 1934 and is similarly typical of a small local garage of this date.

The garage on the site has some significance as part of a new class of buildings that developed during the interwar period, the purpose built garage. Collectively, these buildings reflect the rise in private vehicle ownership and the services that emerged to cater for them.



Salisbury Road

This contribution was acknowledged by Council in its Development Control Plan No. 28 – Urban Design Guidelines for Business Centres that specifically states that **the retention of the garage at the corner of Salisbury Road in its present form, signs appropriate to their function, location and the architecture of buildings should be encouraged.**

Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor further notes that . . . *The proposal is considered to be an inappropriate infill development for the site, which results in awkward horizontal disjuncture between the proposed single storey corner and the four storey elements, particularly when viewed from Salisbury Road.*

The Society strongly supports the conclusion of the Council officer's report, that *the form of the subject garage should be maintained as a strong corner building and that the applicant is advised not to use any imitative period detailing, such as the pseudo-art deco parapet features and to scale down and simplify the design to more appropriately respond to the existing subject building, the adjoining commercial buildings along Percival Road and residential development along Salisbury Road.*

The application was recommended for refusal. The Society hopes that our new Councillors will enforce Council's codes and guidelines, and send the design back to the drawing board for a serious reassessment.

Scott MacArthur

Diane McCarthy has corrected an aspect of David Stratton's residency as reported in the July 2008 newsletter, and incorrectly asserted by David in his memoir *I Peed on Fellini*. The G&G store above which David and his family lived in 1963 was on the north east corner of New Canterbury Road and Gordon Street, Petersham, not the alleged intersection three blocks east.

PLACE NAMES PROJECT WORKSHOP

Short workshop to be conducted on **Saturday 14 March** at 10.30 am to start this worthwhile contribution to Marrickville's local heritage. Your participation can be as little or as much as you wish. Put the date in your diary and come along to the workshop to find out what's involved. More details in February newsletter. Contact Lorraine on 9550 6608 or on lbeach@iprimus.com.au.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE DINNER WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2009

Following successful MHS dinners at State Parliament House, the last in May 2001, MHS is holding a dinner hosted by Deputy Premier and local member **Carmel Tebbutt**. Details in February newsletter.

Historic Braidwood – Heritage Beauty & Country Charm 17-19 April 2009

Just after Easter we're planning a weekend away in historic Braidwood to enjoy fresh country air, congenial company and experience the area's great rural heritage. Departing Friday morning, returning Sunday afternoon, and offering guided inspections and interesting tours of this charming heritage locality, with time for browsing and relaxing. Members' friends are most welcome.

Including coach transport, accommodation, all meals and entries, our estimate is around \$400-450 per person, based on twin share accommodation; price to be confirmed in our February newsletter. If you have any queries or would like to express interest, contact Richard on 9557 3823 or blairitage@optusnet.com.au or Lorraine on 9550 6608 or lbeach@iprimus.com.au.

SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTION

Armenian-born **Vic Darchinyan**, who recently became the undisputed world boxing champion in the Superflyweight Division, trains in a Marrickville gym. The more famous **Jeff Fenech**, nicknamed the *Marrickville Mauler*, was born in Marrickville and grew up there and around Newtown. He won the world title in three different divisions.

Name any other boxer with local connections who achieved boxing fame. Contact Richard 9557 3823 or blairitage@optusnet.com.au.

PERSON SOUGHT The Essay Competition Publication committee is keen to make contact with Patricia Grimshaw who joined the Society in late 2007 and entered our Essay Competition. Her then postal address is no longer valid and we don't have any other contact details. It is believed she may reside, or have been residing, in Lord Street Newtown. Can anyone with information please contact Richard on 9557 3823?

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736
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Sydney's Mint Listed in Top 30 Ground-Breaking Buildings in the World

The Mint (HQ of the Historic Houses Trust) on Macquarie Street has been listed in the *Building Services Journal* as one of the 30 most ground-breaking international buildings that have reshaped the built environment over the past three decades, by a distinguished panel of engineering and construction sector leaders and academics appointed by the UK's Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers.

The recently retired Director of the Historic Houses Trust, Peter Watts AM (now Emeritus Director) said the listing of The Mint was "in recognition of The Mint's innovative conservation and redevelopment combining old and new. Tucked behind one of Sydney's oldest buildings, the redevelopment has created a multi-faceted site that has become a highly sought after state-of-the-art venue for a range of public events and corporate functions. The Mint has won 17 awards since its refurbishment in 2005."

Built in 1811 as Sydney Hospital, it was extended and adapted in 1854 as the Royal Mint. After closure in 1927, the buildings were used as government offices, law courts and a museum. MHS visited The Mint in September 2007.

Among the other world-renowned buildings on the list are the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, the British Library in London, the Reichstag in Berlin, Le Centre Pompidou in Paris, Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5 and 30 St Mary Axe in London, popularly known as the "Gherkin". Two other Australian buildings were listed – 30 The Bond in Millers Point, Sydney and Council House 2 in Melbourne.

(from Historic Houses Trust media release)

The **Newtown Festival** has become so popular that it is now virtually a traffic jam, so the MHS stall was again in the ambient grounds of St Stephens Anglican Church on Sunday 9 November, in earshot of, but away from the crush of the festival itself. Most book stock and T shirts were sold at half price along with marmalade made by Pam Burden. Thanks to Lorraine and Richard, who ran the stall and also Pam, Diane (jam labels), Tony and Anna (transport). Special thanks to Rev Peter and Marcelle Rodgers for accommodating the Society for the third year in a row. A donation was made to the church.

Twenty local community and environmental groups joined residents and government representatives at the **2008 Cooks River Forum** on Saturday 1 November at Mytilenian House, Campsie to discuss projects having a positive impact on Cooks River. Sharing their own work and hearing about the work of others inspired the presenters and gave attendees a greater understanding of the challenges and opportunities for the River in the future. Several MHS members participated. For further information check the Cooks River Valley Association website <www.crva.org.au>.

Congratulations to the **Wolli Creek Preservation Society** which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.