

# Newsletter

JUNE 2021 | SERIES 5 | NO. 2

## President's message

What makes History so interesting is that it helps us understand the decisions made by people in the past, shaping our present.

As this newsletter is being produced, Sydney-siders are being subject to renewed lockdown as a result of fresh community transmission of the Covid virus around NSW. From this perspective, we are grateful for the freedoms we experienced not so long ago, earlier in the year.

In June ADHS members and friends heard from Patricia Skehan who presented a talk about the 1919 pandemic. We have learned that the current virus impacts in Sydney are not as severe in their impacts as the events of a hundred years ago. So perhaps, as a society, we are better prepared.

In May ADHS members and friends heard from a panel of speakers about the value of heritage, and the role of the Burra Charter.

What impressed me most from this session was Alan Croker's study of the Kinchela Boys Home. In order to assess its heritage, Alan gleaned valuable history from former boys of the home, now grown men.

The oral history from these men proved to be far more valuable in understanding the place than the formal documented history present in the government archives.

These sessions reminded me that a good understanding of history not only helps us to understand our world, it is a necessary prerequisite to value the heritage around us. On that note I hope all our members and friends remain safe, till we meet again.

**Mark Sabolch**

## Upcoming events

~~Thursday 22 July 2021~~

### Visit to Caroline Simpson Library

**CANCELLED**

The Society had organised a special Guided Visit to Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection.

The Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection, established in 1984, is part of Sydney Living Museums. It sits in a beautiful spot behind the Mint in Macquarie Street. It is a rich resource for specialists and students of the history of house and garden design and interior furnishing in NSW.

In the mean time, have a look at the website, which includes their catalogue:

[Caroline Simpson Library](#).

*This event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown, another date will be booked for later in the year*

### 22 August 2021 2pm Inspection of *Ambleside* 130 Queen Street Ashfield

**FULLY BOOKED**

We would also like to remind members that the *Ambleside* house tour, will take place on 22 August 2021. Arrive 1.50pm for 2pm start.

This is a **members-only event** and priority was given to members who have not visited *Ambleside* before. If you have registered but are not able to attend, please advise us so that we can give those next on the waiting list the opportunity to attend.

The inspection will reveal the incredible amount of work that the current owners have done to restore this unique house and its heritage.



*Ambleside, Queen Street Ashfield*

*Source: Colin Webb*

### 19 September 2021 1.30pm to 3pm Victoria Street Ashfield Walk Part II: *Glentworth* to Old Canterbury Road

In April this year we held Part I of the Victoria Street Walk. Part II completes the journey along this fabulous palm tree-lined boulevard, up to the intersection with Old Canterbury Road.



*Glentworth, Victoria Street*



*The rotunda in Yeo Park*

*Source: Lois Gray*

Meeting point: In front of *Glentworth* (corner Seaview Street).

Cost: \$5 Members; \$10 Non-Members.

Numbers are limited to 25.

**Registration is essential on our website:**

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event>

**by 17 September 2021.**

## Upcoming events

### 17 October 2021 2pm to 4pm 'Who's Who' at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Cemetery A guided tour

We have organised a tour of the St John's Cemetery in Alt St Ashfield on Sunday 17 October 2021. Join us for a guided tour through this historic site, led by members of the Society.

Etched into our local history, the church is the oldest surviving building in Ashfield. It was founded in 1840 and built on land donated by Elizabeth Underwood.

Many early and notable local residents are buried in its cemetery, including the First Fleeter John Limeburner. Our guides will point out and provide commentary on the historic graves and the varied aspects of their artistry and design will also be discussed.

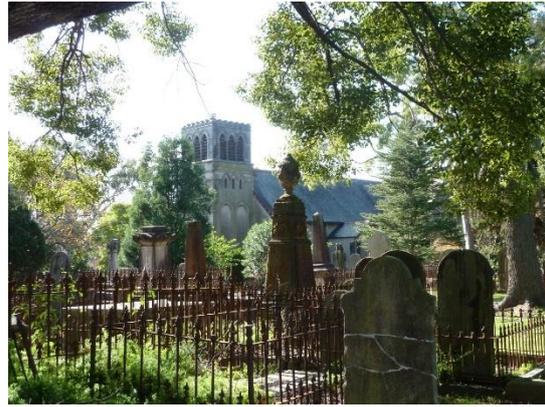
Meeting place: War Memorial monument in the church grounds, Alt Street entrance. Access and parking is available at Alt Street. Arrive 1.50pm for 2pm start.



The meeting point at St John's



Source: ADHS Collection



Source: Lois Gray

The tour will be followed by afternoon tea in the Church grounds. Please bring your own afternoon tea or contribution to share.

**Registration is essential on our website:**

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event>

**by 17 October 2021.**

*Please visit our website for full details of our future events and to register to attend:*

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event>

### Summer Hill Flour Mill Markets stall

Come visit us at the Flour Mill at Summer Hill. ADHS has a book stall in the market on the first Sunday of each month. However, there will be no markets until the current COVID -19 restrictions are lifted.



Source: Flour Mill of Summer Hill Market website:

<https://www.flourmillcommunity.com.au/flour-mill-markets>

## Recent events

### **The Other Pandemic: the Spanish Flu in the Inner West**

#### **Talk by Patricia Skehan**

**Bernadette Williamson** reviews the recent event held by the Society at the Pratten Park Community and Bowling Club on Sunday 20 June 2021.

Having read Patricia Skehan's 2020 book, *Frontline of the Pandemic: Australia 1919*, I was looking forward to hearing her talk. Patricia is a founding member of the Canada Bay Heritage Society and a guide to the historic Thomas Walker Hospital on the banks of the Parramatta River in Concord. She told us how her research journey began with a chat with a guest on one of her guided tours of the hospital. That guest turned out to be Jean Curlewis' elderly niece, who later invited Patricia to transcribe Jean's extensive letters from her time as a World War I Volunteer Aide (VA) in 1919.

'Spanish flu' (pneumonic influenza) was contagious, with victims suffering a high fatality rate. It first hit troops in France and Belgium at the end of the Great War and entered Sydney on a troopship from New Zealand. It spread despite strenuous efforts from medical and government authorities. Emergency hospitals, including the Walker Emergency Hospital at Concord, were set up and volunteers called for.

Trish's selection of illustrations was brilliant, including newspaper cartoons, headstone inscriptions, portraits and photos of medical and nursing staff, patients, all kinds of formal and makeshift hospitals.

Of great interest were the comparisons between the 1919 Spanish Flu and the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020. Transmission, treatment and methods of prevention, including mask-wearing, temporary closure of schools, churches and state borders, were very similar of those of today.

Tragically, the mortality in 1919 was very much higher: 15,000 in Australia and an estimated 50 to 100 million worldwide.

Trish also told us about her forthcoming book about the late World War I Flanders campaigns, sparked by the diaries of Major Jim Armitage of the Australian Veterinary Corps.

Following a lively question time, Ann O'Connell presented a gift from the Society and expressed our appreciation for her extensive research and travelling from her home on the Central Coast to speak to us. The audience applauded with enthusiasm.

#### **David Morgan** adds:

The first hand accounts from the time which Patricia unearthed include previously unknown letters of Jean Curlewis (daughter of Ethel Turner, author of *Seven Little Australians*), and the tragic stories of the quarantine nurses Annie Egan at the North Head Quarantine Station and Sister Rosa O`Kane in Fremantle. She also depicted scenes of state border closures which seem very familiar!

#### ***Frontline of the Pandemic: Australia 1919***

by Patricia Skehan and Lois Michel  
Foreword by Professor Dame Marie Bashir  
P. Skehan Publishing, 2020. 168 pp.  
illustrated. Available:

[www.frontlineofthepandemic.com](http://www.frontlineofthepandemic.com)

RRP \$19.95



**Patricia's presentation to the Society**

Source: Colin Webb

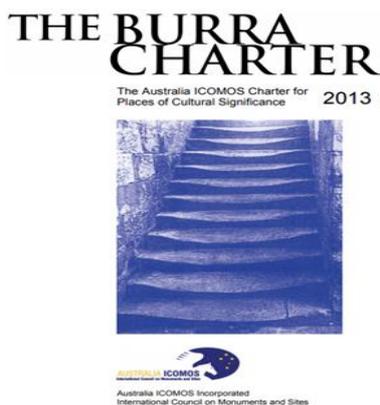
## Recent events

16 May 2021

### Managing Local Heritage Applying the Burra Charter

*An event held by the ADHS in conjunction with the Haberfield Association as part of the Australian Heritage Festival*

Clare Herscovitch and Colin Webb provide a rundown of the recent well-attended afternoon event *Burra Charter* event.



The *Burra Charter* is a set of principles for guiding the conservation and management of heritage places.

It is an interesting and important document and can be read and downloaded [here](#).



Mark Sabolch introduced the event

Three speakers presented on the principles of the Burra Charter, applying these principles to specific sites, and the issues for decision makers at local government level.

The President of the Society introduced the event and **Susan Thompson** facilitated the panel discussion and the concluding question and answer session.



Susan Thompson



Speaker 1:  
Sue Jackson-Stepowski

**Sue Jackson-Stepowski**, a member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), outlined the background to the Charter, and the heritage principles it contains. She stressed that it should be read as a whole document rather than ‘cherry-picking’ sections of it. As a living document, the charter has been revised periodically.

*Sue summarised the three steps in the process of planning and managing a place of significance: Investigation, Assessment, and Management.*

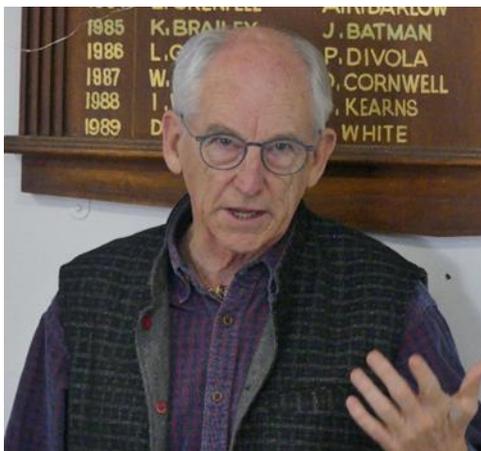
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A place can be a town, a building, a tree, even a view or object, with cultural significance – that is, its historic, aesthetic, social, spiritual or scientific value.

**Alan Croker** is the Principal of Design 5 Architects, a firm of architects that works from a thorough understanding of the place and its context. Alan stressed the need for research to understand a place and its context. One of the many examples Alan used was the Kinchela Boys Home. Kinchela had been a training home for Aboriginal boys who had been removed from their homes.

It wasn't until Alan spoke to some of the old 'uncles' who had been residents of Kinchela that he was able to develop an understanding of the place. It was through the oral histories of the uncles that they were able to reclaim the stories of the place and reveal the truth about what had happened there. The previously written history was not the lived experience of the uncles.

Alan emphasised that constructive change requires good design and a good understanding of history and heritage.



Speaker 2: Heritage architect Alan Croker

**Alex Lofts** a former councillor of Ashfield Municipal Council gave the final presentation, using examples of buildings and places in the Ashfield area that were classified as having heritage value.

*All images: Colin Webb*

Alex used the notion of private and public property in the context of 'heritage.'



Speaker 3: A local perspective from Alex Lofts

As a councillor he had experienced the objections that some people voiced when their property was determined to have heritage values. This was often because it was perceived as an impediment to their freedom to do what they wanted to do on their home. It was also perceived that having a home listed would reduce the financial value of their home.

Alex asked the audience to raise their hands if they thought the examples he displayed were heritage listed on the LEP. The resulting discussion was both informative and amusing.

**Vince Crow**, President of the Haberfield Association, discussed how some of the developments in Haberfield could be viewed through the perspective of the Burra Charter.

A lively question and answer session followed and the event concluded with a fabulous afternoon tea.

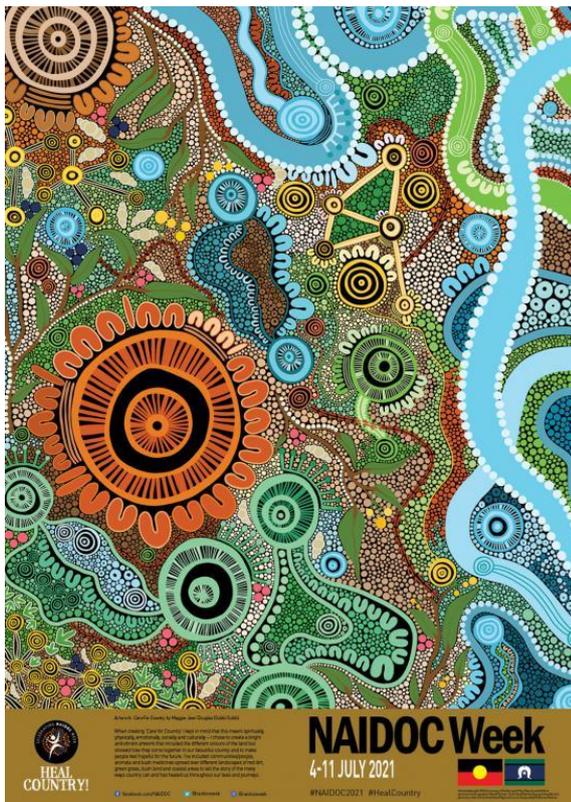


The Haberfield perspective from Vince Crow

## NAIDOC Week:

4-11 July 2021

The theme of NAIDOC Week 'Heal Country' calls for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. The Inner West Council had an interesting range of NAIDOC week events planned, that unfortunately had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 restrictions.



Source: [NAIDOC Week website: NAIDOC Week Events | NAIDOC](#)

Of interest to Members who visit the nearby Cooks River open space asset for recreation will be a link on Council's website to a series of oral histories by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who shared their stories on what the **Cooks River** meant to them.

See: [Cooks River Oral Histories Project - Cooks River Alliance](#)

## Heritage Report

### David Rollinson reports on the latest development applications lodged with Inner West Council

I submitted on ADHS behalf an objection to the DA for proposed second storey additions to the intact Californian bungalow at 12 Ranger Road Croydon, which is within a heritage conservation area. On this occasion Council's staff under delegation refused the DA, an appropriate response.

A preliminary proposal has been submitted for advice from Council staff for a new two storey dwelling at 6 Victoria Square, Ashfield. This will require close attention if it proceeds to a formal DA in its current form.

Meanwhile, another preliminary proposal to demolish the former nursing home at 102 Prospect Road Summer Hill (opposite Clissold Street), subdivide and build a series of dual occupancy dwellings, has now been submitted as a DA. The heritage impact assessment establishes that (regrettably) little of the built form of the original Edwardian dwelling remains.

DAs for house alterations/additions in the area have declined recently, except for a steady flow in Haberfield (which the Society leaves to The Haberfield Association to comment on). What has increased however is the number of tree removal applications across the whole LGA.

Unfortunately a very wet night deterred many from attending the talk on 10 June by **Andrew Nimmo**, the local architect for the recently completed pavilion addition to and renovation of the Haberfield School of Arts/Library. Andrew stated that he does not profess to be a 'heritage architect' but having an understanding of the Burra Charter; he felt that his design approach was appropriate for the on-going use of the building and to the streetscape. This prompted a lively Q&A session that was certainly informative!

## *Ambleside*

### Postscript I

#### The missing chapter

As a preview to the up-coming visit, **Bernadette Williamson** provides an update to her article about *Ambleside*, aka Ashfield Castle, which was published in the *Houses of the Ashfield District Journal* No 21.

When I wrote that Henry and Grace Griffin bought *Ambleside* in 1940 and sold it in 1954 - that was the only fact I could verify. Imagine my excitement when Maria Armenis, current owner of *Ambleside*, rang to tell me a daughter and granddaughter of the Griffins had just turned up at the house on spec. Marjorie (nee Griffin), now in her nineties, had wanted to see the house where she grew up and her daughter obliged by taking her to Queen Street.

I was lucky to meet Marjorie on a subsequent visit to her old home and enjoyed her stories of war-time parties where American and British officers were entertained by her officer father, to the delight of his two teenage daughters. Marjorie lent AHDS several photos, possibly the only ones that exist from this period.

They include a shot of the family's Rolls Royce motor car parked at the front (below) and what may be a unique shot of the inside of the kitchen pantry.



Source: ADHS collection

We are most grateful for these, which have now been scanned and stored in our collection. I look forward to filling in this missing chapter for the next volume on the houses of our district, now in development.

## *Ambleside*

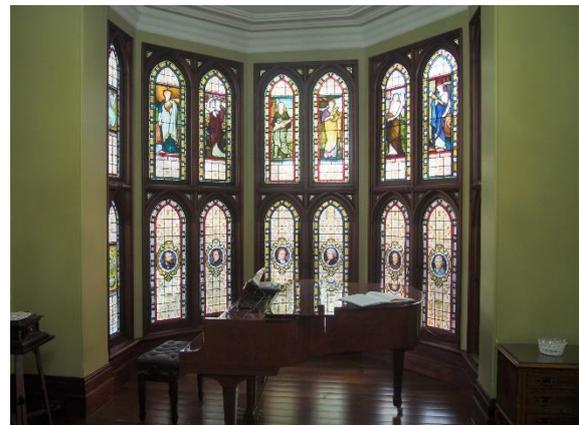
### Postscript II

#### The stained glass windows

In May, **Lois Gray** and **Ann O'Connell** were hosting the Rooms Open Day, when **Dr Andrew Montana** visited. Dr Montana had contributed to the writing of a book on **Daniel Cottier**. Andrew writes:

Andrew has now identified the Sydney decorating firm **Lyon, Cottier & Co.** as the designers of the superb stained glass windows at *Ambleside* (Ashfield Castle).

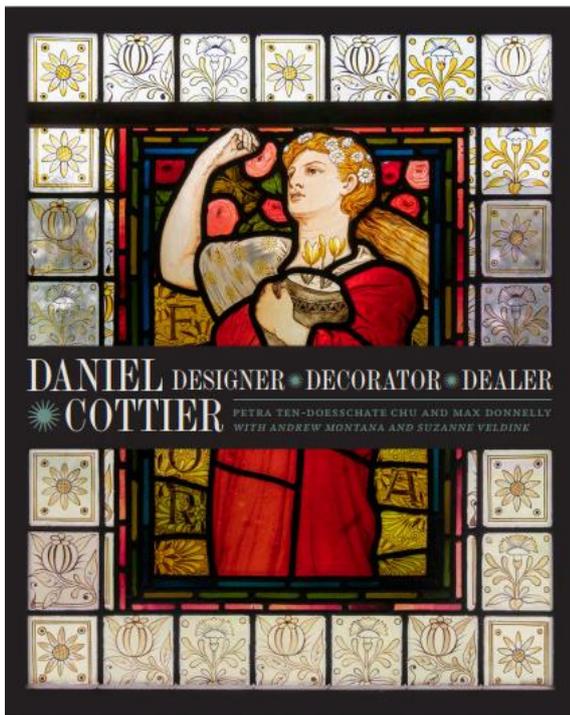
He has written two chapters on Lyon, Cottier & Co. for the recent book published with Yale University Press through the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, 2021 titled *Daniel Cottier: Designer, Decorator, Dealer* edited by Curator Max Donnelly from the Victoria & Albert Museum London and Professor Petra Ten-Doesschate Chu from the United States.



Stained glass windows in the *Ambleside* piano room  
Source: Colin Webb

Continued over

For those of you who would like to know about the global reach of Cottier's glass, furniture and decorating firms in Britain, Australia and North America in the late nineteenth century, this superbly illustrated and scholarly book will provide visual delight and much contextual information.



Source: Dr Andrew Montana

As Andrew tells us, Lyon, Cottier & Co. was also responsible for the stained glass and decorative painting of St John's Anglican Church, Ashfield, during the 1880s.

A must have, this book can be ordered through your specialist bookstore from June this year.

ISBN: 9781913107185

Publication Date: June 22, 2021

Publishing Partner: Distributed for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

## Is this Ashfield's oldest chair?

**Colin Webb** from Ashfield writes:

Several years ago a good friend inherited a collection of furniture from his uncle in Wales. The furniture was brought to Australia and remained in storage for over a decade. Some of it was considered good enough to be used inside the house but this chair, with others, was left out in the weather on the veranda.



His daughter had become so annoyed with what she considered to be old furniture cluttering up the verandah she arranged for the council to collect it.

When we visited we saw the chairs for the first time and thought they showed considerable age and were shocked to find they were destined for the tip! There were seven chairs in all but this one was magnificent. We couldn't let them be consigned to the tip and offered to pay for them but the deal was that we could have them if we could take them away. It is amazing how many chairs you can fit in a Kia Rio!

*Continued over*

The chair is a Wainscot chair. The word "wainscot" is derived from the Dutch "wagenschot," literally a wagon partition, referring to the best oak timber, well grained and without knots, such as was used in the best coaches of the period.

*We had no idea what this chair was. It was old, heavy, had had the seat replaced with particle board and upholstery which had rotted.*

*Thank goodness for Google and image search.*

These chairs were massively built and are typically characterized by flat wooden seats with moulded edges, a beautifully carved seat rail and legs joined by low straight stretchers. The backs were framed and panelled, and all joints were mortised and tenoned, fastened with draw-bore pins.

The wainscot chairs usually come with shaped front legs and square sectioned back legs. The seats were of oak slabs and were made more comfortable with cushions. This particular chair is beautifully carved.

And how old is it?

From what we have found out the chair can be dated from the Elizabethan period circa. 1600 to the Restoration period of 1660. So, the chair is somewhere between 350 and 400 years old!

A similar Wainscot armchair in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is dated ca. 1600.

*All images: Colin Webb*



The drawing below has the description 'Elizabethan Wood Seat Chair Inlaid, Carved, 16th Century' and is remarkably similar to the one we have.



Considering its age, the chair is remarkably firm with no movement in the joints. It has been very carefully cleaned, and its finish restored. It now has a new oak seat and a cushion.

*So, is this the oldest chair in Ashfield?*

## Philip Lingard

### Recognition of service to the ADHS Committee

At the ADHS Committee Meeting held in April 2009, there was much discussion about buying a new computer for our research rooms and the incumbent president was given the task and to report back, which he did to the July meeting. \$2000 was allocated and a standalone computer was bought. The Committee were reminded that we did not have virus protection and it was not connected to the internet, so any incoming disks or CDs needed to be checked before using it. It was prehistoric but nevertheless, the Society had put its toes in the IT pool.

### *Ann O'Connell pays tribute on behalf of the Committee and the Society to Philip Lingard's work on the ADHS Committee*

Discussion about the internet connection to *Thirning Villa* (a council-owned property) went round and around until at the AGM held 23 February 2013, Philip Lingard was nominated and accepted onto the Committee. From that time, Philip moved things along in IT land at the rooms, looking at options for internet connection, and ISP etc. with the help of Mandy Keevil, Robyn Conroy and Heather Warton. Heather lodged a grant application with Clubs Australia for computers, website design and internet connection in May 2013 which unfortunately was unsuccessful, however the Society's purse was reasonable and it was decided that the outlay was needed.

A sub-committee met twice in October 2013 and early in 2014, Philip outlined plans for the internet line to the Rooms and costs of equipment and service by TPG.

He also provided prices for various computers and other equipment, all of which was accepted by the Committee with confidence. Philip set up the new computers on his home kitchen benches and laboriously loaded operating systems and programs and created a network to link them and in April they were in use at the Rooms. On a regular basis since then, he has checked their operation, maintained currency of programs and virus protection and carried out updates. None of us will ever forget how Philip persisted for over a year of frustrating negotiations in his endeavour to get the NBN connected to our Rooms!

Since 2013 until now in 2021, Philip has undertaken the role of ADHS IT Officer and we thank him for his diligence and knowledge in this behind-the-scenes role. It is often a singular and thankless task as rarely it is noticed until something goes wrong.

### *Thank you Philip!*



Philip received an Australia Day Award in 2015  
Source: Clive Yeend

# Grosvenor Crescent Summer Hill

## A historical insight into the large houses by Ann O'Connell

Below is a snippet taken from a photograph published in the *Sydney Mail & NSW Advertiser*, 8 March 1905. This photograph, taken from the steeple of St Andrew's Church in Smith Street Summer Hill, shows five large two-storey Victorian Villas facing Grosvenor Crescent and the Western Railway Line.



*Old photographs, waterboard plans and the Sands Directories are just some of the historical resources that can help when researching houses*

*Visit the ADHS Research Room to obtain assistance in researching your home*

House names:

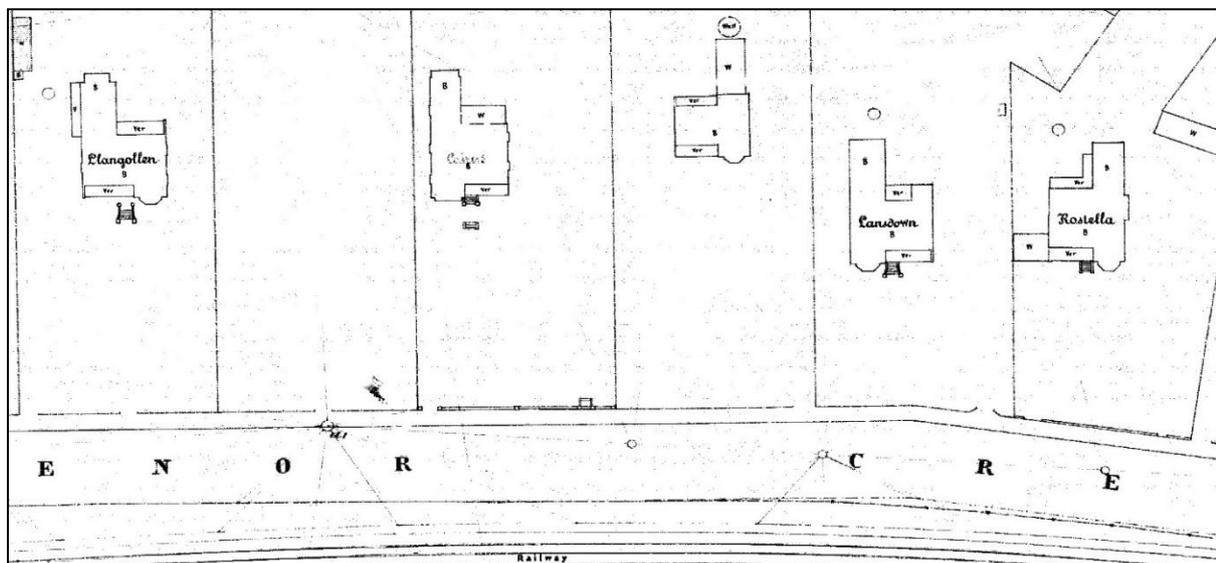
***Llangollen***

***Calrus***

***unnamed***

***Lansdown***

***Rostella***



The plan above is a snippet of a Water Board map from 1890 which is enlarged to line up with the photograph above and some houses are identified by name.

They are useful in historical research and from year to year the Sands will show the appearance of newly-built homes between the older ones and therefore give an understanding of the changing nature of a suburb in its development.

Sands Post Office Directories provide information on the occupants of houses each year and often show house names.

*Continued over*

In 1891, the 'Sands' indicate that the unnamed house shown on the above plan was named *Bromley House*, and that **Mrs Maria Dransfield** lived there.

By 1906, the house previously named *Lansdown*, was named *Lyn Regis* and was occupied by the **Lumsden family**. Also, in 1906, Rostella could boast prominent residents, **Sir Arthur Renwick** J.P., Kt. B., B.A., M.D., M.L.C. and **Lady Renwick**.

## The Story of 55-63 Smith Street Summer Hill

**Mark Sabolch** writes about a prominent site in Summer Hill, currently the subject of a DA to be determined by the Inner West Local Planning Panel for a multi-storey boarding house development.

### *55-63 Smith Street, Summer Hill is no ordinary property.*

This subdivision first went to the market as 'The Underwood Estate' on 23 September 1878, being 121 acres in total and spanning both sides of the Sydney-Parramatta railway line.

Lots 59, 60, 61 of the subdivision was purchased by **George Woolnough** in April 1880.

Mr Woolnough's occupation was given as a Clerk in Holy Orders and may well have been related to the **Reverend J. Woolnough** who delivered church services at the Wesleyan Church in Moonbie Summer Hill, now the Summer Hill Childcare Centre (Reference SMH, 19 February 1899).

The original urban development that stretched from Smith Street through to Parramatta Road was subdivided by a consortium of gentlemen, who were the trustees of the Underwood Estate, namely **William George Perminton, William Henry Mackenzie, Senior, John Piper MacKenzie, Robert John King and Charles Wye Weeks** all of the City of Sydney.

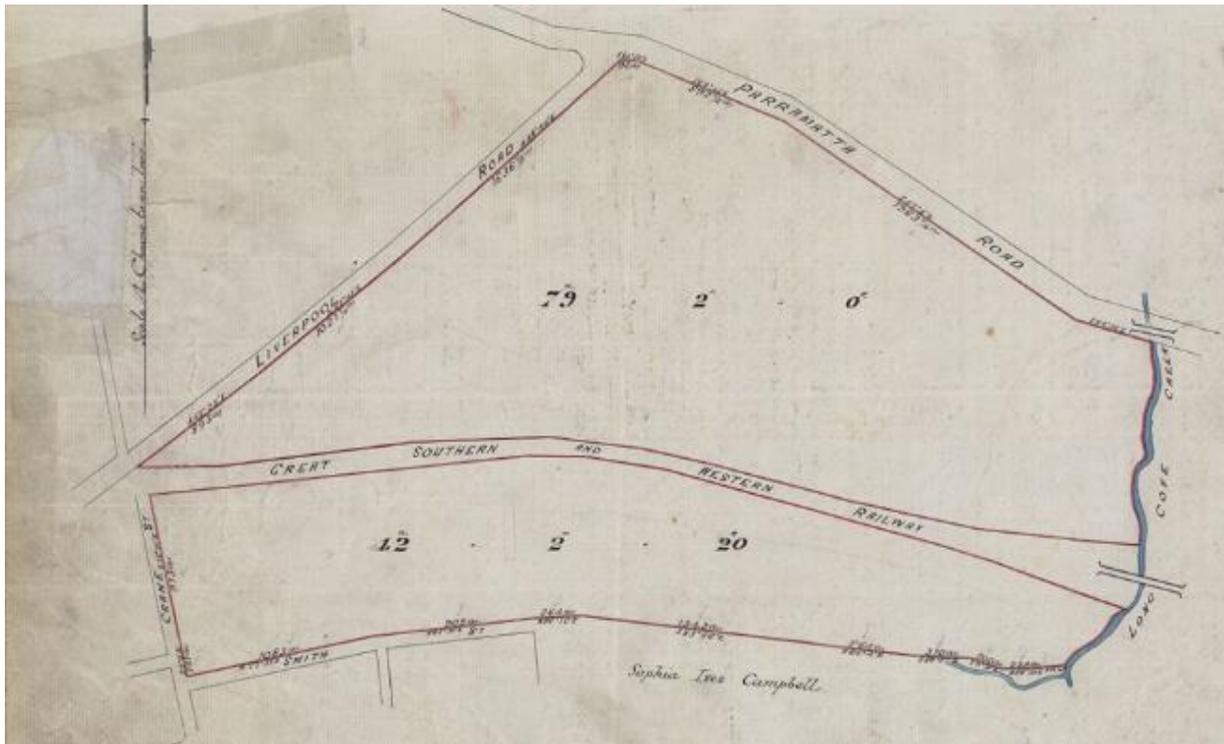
These lots changed hands a few times in quick succession, but the next notable owner was **Joseph Schimel**, a coachbuilder. Not much is known about his coach building career, but according to the local paper, he was a great cricketer! In the 1890s Summer Hill had many cricket clubs, and Schimel was the captain of the Cambridge CC, and was an especially good bowler.

However, the next significant landowner of these lots was **Samuel Lownds**, who bought in March 1920. Mr Lownds had a coach building business on the corner of Carrington and Smith Street, Summer Hill, and was very successful.

A detailed newspaper article in 1921 (the *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List*, Wed 31 August 1921, page 11) describes that Lownds business expanded from initially employing "four men and a boy" to several times that number and purchasing neighbouring properties across Smith Street.

In 1924 Samuel Lowndes wrote to the Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* to show that the current model of motor coaches which were built at his factory in Smith Street were a great advance on the first motor coach built by his father some two decades before.

Lownds, in his capacity as President of the Motor Trades Employers' Association, led a 1926 pay resolution with the Disputes Committee of the Trade and Labor Council. No doubt this led to Mr Lownds being regarded as a successful negotiator.



### The Underwood Estate

By 1930 Samuel Lownds was elected President of the Motor Traders Association (MTA) of NSW. In that capacity he spoke confidently about the future of the motor lorry business. In his interviews Mr Lownds espouses the value of lorry transport over railway transport and yet acknowledges the challenges of working in competition with the Railways.

Samuel Lownds also developed innovations in his truck body building business, such as detachable bodies, something that has become commonplace with the use of containerisation today.

Also in his capacity as MTA President he donated significant money to charity, namely the Deaf and Blind Association.

Mr Samuel Lownds retired from his business and died at his home in Victoria Street, Ashfield, September 1953.

The titles to the business properties were transferred in 1949 to **Louis Fitch** (L.S.Fitch and Sons Pty Ltd), another coach builder.

A different business took over the lease of the property from December 1967, being Sunlight Industries. The Director of Sunlight was **Thomas Cavill**, Mayor of Ashfield Council in 1936-38 and 1945-46. Sunlight Industries occupied many properties, including those at the rear of the Lackey Street shops in Summer Hill.

The lease later went to the Travelodge Linen Service with an option to purchase, in September 1972.

(See the ADHS publication *Summer Hill*, article *The Federal Coach and Motor Works*).



Source: Mark Sabolch

Continued over

The property has:

- played an important role in the coachbuilding industry in New South Wales, particularly in the formative years when motor lorries were starting to transport goods and services that previously had been the domain of the railways
- been a factory that employed dozens of motor building trades, and also been at the centre of a resolution of workers' conditions during the 1926 union dispute
- been involved with a successful business run by Samuel Lownds, a generous local business man who gave largely to local charities and led the Motor Trades Association
- been involved in the significant laundry and linen business, namely the Sunlight Industries business that ran over many properties, whose director was Thomas Cavill, a Mayor of Ashfield Council during the years 1936-38 and 1945-46.

*The property at 55-63 Smith Street is no ordinary property. Over its life it has played a significant role in the character development of Summer Hill*

The property is not listed as a heritage item in Council's LEP, but nevertheless it has heritage value. It is a reminder that industry played an important part of Summer Hill Society.

It is recommended that the current owners incorporate the existing building into the proposed redevelopment.

## Book review

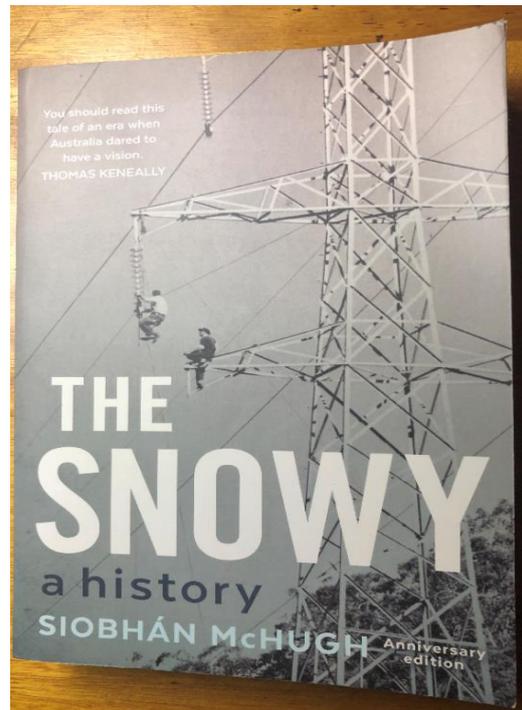
### *The Snowy: a History*

**Murray Cleaver** has been reading a book by **Siobhan McHugh-**

#### *The Snowy: a history*

NewSouth Publishing 2019.

This is a wonderful read about an enormous project that had, and continues to have, an enormous impact on Australian history.



The anniversary publication is a reprint of the original book which was published in 1989. The original book was an oral history of the project and it includes interviews with many of the people who were part of The Snowy, from its conception, through its official opening by Ben Chifley in 1949, to the completion of sixteen dams that make up the scheme today.

There are many human stories of the migrant workers, the politicians, the locals and many of the technical people who were part of the project.

*Continued over*

There is discussion of the occupational health and safety aspects of the project and there is even a story about the fight to memorialise those who died during construction. The book also provides an addition to the earlier printing in the form of small commentaries on such matters as the fight to reclaim the Snowy River, the environmental impact of the project and the social outcomes of the multicultural experiment that it was.

There is even a claim in the book that Australia is regarded as one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world, with The Snowy being where it all started.

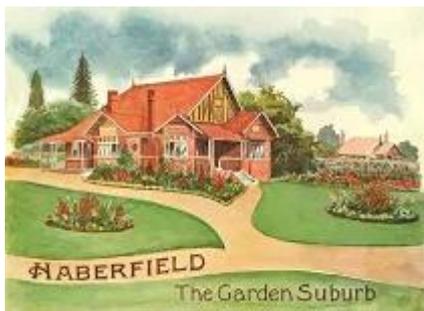
I commend the book to you.

## Support for Haberfield to be listed on the State Heritage Register

The Society has registered its support for the proposal by Inner West Council to nominate Haberfield for listing on the State Heritage Register.

**The Haberfield Association** has long been campaigning for this higher order recognition, as Haberfield is of heritage significance to the State, in addition to its local listing as a Heritage Item.

See <https://haberfield.asn.au/state-heritage-register/>



Source: Inner West Council Website

## Research Rooms

The Society's Rooms at *Thirning Villa*, Pratten Park in Arthur Street Ashfield are in 'normal times' usually open to visitors for research purposes on our open days: the **second and last Saturdays of each month between 11am and 4pm.**

*For the duration of the lockdown the Rooms are closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 restrictions.*

## Membership

Please visit our website to renew your membership for 2021:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/membership-application/>

## Contact the Society

**Postal address:** PO Box 20 ASHFIELD 1800

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Designed and edited by Heather Warton.