



Peninsula Historian

Newsletter of the Manly, Warringah &
Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Last issue, and again in this one, Phil Colman our new President has explained how he is still finding his feet. A Past-President sent me the following in response to Phil's earlier lament:

As the last of the pre-1990 Presidents of our Society still alive (well nearly), I would like to wish our much respected Phil well in his new office. Although we still have our old 1997 rule book to guide our administration, it's always been left to each President to present his own style of leadership. In most instances this system has worked well. If Phil continues to drive on the correct side of the road, I'm sure all will be well and he'll enjoy the experience.

George Champion

Thank you to George for this kind encouragement and thank you also to Bob Pauling for a wonderfully-illustrated article on the burial place of Captain Arthur Phillip, including a connection of the Society to it, and to Clive Halnan, Jim Boyce and Phil for reports on their various activities on our behalf.

Happy Christmas to all readers and I trust that you will enjoy the New Year. Annual membership is due 1 January (please see the form on the last page)..

Richard Michell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This will be a short one! The year seemed to turn upside-down when in June our long-serving president, Jim Boyce, stepped down for various reasons and I became a (rather reluctant) successor. Stepping into Jim's shoes has been no easy task, which I learnt to my embarrassment when in late October I realised that the Christmas Party, which Jim had taken in his stride over the years, meant more than just picking a date. I found it meant sending out invitations to all sorts of people I'd not thought of, and arranging venues, food, drink etc.

Late October was itself far too late to start doing this. So I reluctantly called it off, but will be discussing the necessity of arranging protocols for such events in the future, be it Christmas Parties, or Newsletters, or possible

book launches, or those things that perhaps are not on our normal timetable but might crop up. So I take full responsibility for not having a party and it won't happen again.

Thank you Jim for what you've done in the past and I warn you that I'll still keep using you.

Phil Colman

NEWS AND VIEWS

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Saturday 12 November, 2016

Gretchen Poiner: "Gardens of History and Imagination – Growing New South Wales"

The poor old earth. We humans just love to modify it to suit our fancy. That modification might be, as the Australian aborigines did, with fire-stick maintenance, to produce a land more suited for hunting, etc. Or it might follow the "western world" where plants (and animals) had to be nursed and controlled to please our aesthetic

DIARY

Monthly meeting at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr. Griffin and Abbott Roads

14 January, 2017

2.00 pm

Open Forum

Open forum to discuss the results of the Member Survey earlier this year, to get more thoughts, concerns and suggestions from our Members and to make some decisions for our future

(Note: no meeting in December)

tastes of the day. Sometimes the land was designed purely to satisfy our gastronomic needs such as vegetable gardens. And these days we feel Nature should be given a chance to display to us her own feelings, as in National Parks.

Our November speaker, Gretchen Poiner (Hon. Associate, Department of Anthropology, Sydney University), talked of the recently launched *'Gardens of History and Imagination – Growing New South Wales'*, launched to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Botanic Gardens. She talked through this well-illustrated book to map the gardens, from the substantial grand country estates to the sometimes minute veggie patches of suburban and even slum dwellers.

Gretchen co-edited this very impressive book with colleague Sybil Jack. The inside front and back cover, with an unsigned and un-dated (ca. 1806) watercolour of a massive tree-denuded Castle Hill, with tree stumps dominating, contrasts with the impressive 'Rosebank' opulent 1840s Woolloomooloo garden of James Laidley – both indicate the depth and meaning of the book, and Gretchen's delightful and thought-provoking talk.

Following the talk those present enjoyed some festive cheer.

Phil Colman

NEXT MEETING, JANUARY

Remember earlier in the year we organised a survey of members to try to reinvigorate the Society and present a future in which all of us can feel that this Society is ours, not only those of the executive? A few of us got together again the other day to address the results of that survey and we've decided that, come January, we'll throw the whole meeting over to ask for suggestions from all of you. Please put the date, 14th January - the second Saturday - in your diary and make our future yours! We'll even bring forward that cup of tea during the meeting so we can think and discuss without a parched throat. Remember how Nan Bosler opened us all up when she talked in November. We want you to do it again in January.

There will be no December meeting because of the busyness of this time of year.

Phil Colman

MEMBERS

Some sad news. Since the last issue we have lost two stalwarts of the Society, Ken Gardner and Gloria Carroll.

Ken was a most active contributor, researching topics, contributing to publications and participating on stalls and other activities. He did a great deal of hard fieldwork transcribing inscriptions on headstones in old cemeteries.

Gloria would be known to anyone who attended a monthly meeting. She was the driving force behind the provision of the

post-meeting cup of tea. She contributed greatly to the cohesion of the Society.

Our sympathy to their family and friends.

50 YEAR CELEBRATION OF WARRINGAH LIBRARY

Northern Beaches Council held a substantial celebration on Saturday 19th November to mark the 50th Anniversary of the construction and opening of the wonderful library which sits adjacent to the Civic Centre at Dee Why. It was organised by the Council's Local Studies Historian Michelle Richmond and one of our members, Keith Amos, researched and wrote a brief but comprehensive history, particularly of the Library's genesis and construction. Copies of the history are available from the Northern Beaches Council.

NEW COUNCIL STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUPS (SRGs)

Northern Beaches Council SRG - Art, Culture and Heritage

The Art, Culture and Heritage SRG met for the first time on Thursday, 10 November from 5 to 7 pm. This SRG is planned to meet on three more occasions (February, April and June) when there will be a Review as to how they should continue. The recommendations of the SRG are to go to the Local Representative Council, composed of ex-councillors from the three previous councils. These recommendations are reviewed by them and then forwarded to the Administrator and the General Manager for implementation, with appropriate advice on these submissions coming back to the SRG. The fact that there is a three month gap between the first meeting and the second is not ideal but the Group did give the staff plenty to prepare prior to that meeting. Hopefully it will be provided by email some weeks prior.

The Art Culture and Heritage SRG is chaired by the ex-Mayor of Warringah, Michael Regan and the staff executive is Mick Darda, who is responsible for Place Management within the NB Council's Planning and Community Division. Mick Darda was not available for the November SRG and Michael McDermid, Corporate Planning and Strategy, deputised for him. The only other staff member present at the SRG was the minute taker. Owing to the time of the meeting, sandwiches and soft drinks were provided.

From my own point of view, I thought the name of the committee was confusing and did suggest "Cultural Affairs" might be better. There was some discussion of this and the meeting seemed to agree on the name being "The Arts" but I would like to see that confirmed in the minutes. As the Commonwealth and NSW choose to call their departments responsible for these activities "The Arts", I think the NBC should follow suit. I also think the Terms of Reference for this SRG should be a lot clearer but this will have to wait to a later date. My major concern was with the use of the word "Heritage" in the name and this is expanded upon in the presentation I was asked to

give on this subject and which accompanies this report to the members of the Historical Society (*see following, Ed.*).

The meeting itself started with the obligatory intros of the various members numbering 11. Unfortunately there were four apologies. I hope the minutes convey the detail of these bios and their particular interest in The Arts. I had hoped this could all be done by email but this was not to be. If the minute taker was able to catch this detail she is special. The membership of the Group seems much more about the geographical representation rather than a coverage of The Arts. For instance there seems no representation from architecture or landscape design.

The meeting was then given an overview of the role of the SRG but little about the scope of its interest in The Arts. We were then given a profile of the Northern Beaches Local Government Area, its demography and its characteristics. Following that, we had an overview of the corporate planning instruments including the Strategic Plan. There was also an expansion on the Integrated Planning and Reporting Processes. While this was appreciated, the Group was champing at the bit.

Members of the Group were anxious to clarify what already existed in the previous three councils, and how that could better define what was in The Arts, and what already existed in terms of policy and operations. Prior to the next meeting, the group requested a summary of previous Cultural Plans issued by the three councils. This would include a list of venues, events and cultural organisations on the Northern Beaches. The details of already committed expenditure on The Arts was left to a later meaning. Unless there is tabled a clear outline of expenditure on The Arts, past and budgeted, it will be difficult to make recommendations that can slot into an existing structure.

Although the subject of History and Heritage was raised in general, the details of heritage items was left to a later date. It is known that the three councils did have differing views on the items qualifying for heritage, most specifically relating to the natural environment. Manly Council heritage-listed its entire shoreline, both harbour and coastal, which was not the case with the other councils. As to the communication of history - through the use of brochures etc., the NBC website, apps, plaques and signs - this was not addressed and awaits the next meeting. For these subjects to be addressed properly there needs to be considerable information prepared by the NBC staff prior to the February meeting.

To be fair, the Northern Beaches Council is undergoing an enormous institutional change. While there has been some clarification of the duties at the upper levels, lower levels of the three councils are endeavouring to do their best while not absolutely sure they will have a job at the end of this three year period.

Meanwhile the SRG meets again in three months. It is a difficult job for the 15 members of this group to feel their

opinions are being heard and then report back to their various community groups. We are all on a bit of a learning curve.

Jim Boyce

Northern Beaches Council SRG - Natural Environment

Elsewhere Jim has made a lengthy comment on the first meeting of his SRG – Art, Culture and Heritage. I participate in another SRG – Natural Environment – and report very briefly on our first meeting. Our panel of 15 members represented a wide swathe of issues, from bush regeneration, to waste disposal, to road kill, etc.. We were all given a few minutes to try to cover our particular interest, and I tried to emphasise the importance of the marine environment in our northern beaches. At this meeting, and in future, I'll be discussing the amalgamation of the highly successful Cabbage Tree Bay reserve in Manly; the highly successful Coastal Environment Centre at Narrabeen, talking mostly to schools, and we have Long Reef, an extremely rich, highly biodiverse, intertidal rock platform, virtually on the doorstep of Australia's biggest city, and these - together with our lagoons - present a perfect opportunity to emphasise that marine environment to the world; be it tourism, or environment education, etc. Our new Council now encompasses such diverse areas as the mangroves, seagrasses and mudflats of Pittwater, the richness of the open coastal platforms and beaches, the embayments such as Cabbage Tree Bay, or lagoons, even the estuarine reaches of Sydney Harbour seen at Bantry Bay and the shores west of the Roseville Bridge.

Phil Colman

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Firstly, it should be said that History and Heritage are part of "The Arts". It is recognised as such by the Commonwealth Department Communication and the Arts and the NSW Ministry of the Arts. The three previous councils that now comprise the Northern Beaches Council all recognised the position of History and Heritage as part of the Arts in their various Cultural Plans.

The second thing is that Heritage is very often used as synonymous with culture, i.e. having the same meaning. The Macquarie Dictionary, in its two main definitions, states:

- 1 Something that comes or belongs to one by reason of birth; an inherited lot or portion.
- 2 The culture, traditions and national assets preserved from one generation to another.

In governmental use, there is a much more limited definition:

"Heritage are those physical items of historical significance that have survived from the past". Thus the Strategic Reference Group operates within that definition. Many countries recognise Intangible Heritage but Australia does

not - i.e. If it is not physically identifiable, it is not heritage but it could be history.

We then see Heritage as sitting within History and that many items of historical significance are no longer present - e.g. Bora Rings – Aboriginal History. A definition of History for the Northern Beaches should read:

“The History of the Northern Beaches is the story of the past, the people, places, activities and organisations within the Northern Beaches area.”

History is a reflection of the time it is written. The compiling of history is an evolving discipline and, as many subjects change in importance according to the mores of the age, there is a change of emphasis, while the chronological facts remain the same but are always being reviewed as to their significance.

Thus we have an overarching discipline of history within which Heritage sits. The identification of physical Heritage is subject to technology, as has been apparent in marine archaeology and the use of satellite imagery in the determination of the expansion of such sites as Stonehenge.

Regarding Heritage, all three previous councils recognised six different types of Heritage to which they relate:

1. The Natural Environment incl. Marine
2. Aboriginal Life
3. Built Structures
4. Parks and Gardens
5. Marine Structures
6. Moveable Heritage

Each of these six types, lie within the responsibility of different departments and, at this time, within the previous three council structures. A degree of uniformity is being sought but this will take some time to achieve.

With regard to History, where the physical evidence is no longer present this is acknowledged through various channels of communication by the Northern Beaches Council. In the past, the major method of communication has been through printed material encompassing books, brochures and pamphlets, and some of these are now available on the website of the Northern Beaches Council. The website, to varying degrees, has historical information on people, places, activities and organisations. There is an increasing amount of information on apps that can be accessed on site. There are plaques, cairns and signs informing the public of the historical significance of a site. At this moment in time, the Northern Beaches Council is in the process of obtaining uniformity in these areas of communication.

It should not be forgotten that the individual clubs and associations on the Northern Beaches have recorded their own histories and have assembled their collections of moveable heritage e.g. surf clubs. There is an on-going

issue here of assistance in maintaining security and care of these items.

While the Northern Beaches Council is at the governmental head of the hierarchy of these History and Heritage activities, each one of these organisations has an affiliation to a NSW and Commonwealth institution. This is important in the state and national context of the history of those activities and to some degree provides opportunities for research assistance and funding of the history of the local government area in which we live.

Thank you for your patience as “The Arts” encompasses so many different disciplines of which History is but one. Each one of those disciplines has an aesthetic, social, historic and technological dimension with in it. I look forward to an agreement on the various cultural activities that comprise “The Arts”.

Jim Boyce

POT POURRI

Remembrance Day 2016

Manly War Memorial on the Corso is centre for the Remembrance Ceremonies in the district ranking first mention in the “Daily”; see later. There are four annual celebrations in Manly District and Remembrance comes last in the calendar year. The prime Australian ceremony Anzac Day overshadows all, Australia Day in different hue is first in January, whilst very local Warringah Australia Remembers initiated by Tony Abbott at North Head centres upon the Submarine attack on Sydney Harbour linked closely to nearby Paved Memorial Walk to the Australian forces visited in all the wars.

On this day the Society is one of many local organisations invited to attend as Guest to lay wreath or book at the Ceremony. The invitation is an ever-present token of the close relations MWPHS has with Manly Council; our home for archives by deed in the Library.

This is long time tradition since before the end of the Great War indeed this year is the Centenary of the first occasion for the impressive Manly Monument for which dedication took place 16 October 1916. It was the gift by Mark Mitchell whose son Alan was among the first to die in that war to end all wars. Dedicated by the Governor Sir Ronald Ferguson it had been designed by Burcham Clamp. The story of the mate-



Remembrance monument,
Manly

rial is rare - the stone is Trachyte - on record by Jim Boyce, a story of its own.

Today it is marked as one-minute silence 11.11.11 started by Edward Honey, a Melbourne Journalist, in 1919. King George V took up the proposal in proclamation for a two-minute silence on Armistice Day. Poppies were first worn at the instigation of the British Legion in 1921 and the day has a nickname Poppy day.

Armistice day was the proper name until following the Second Great War it was agreed to change the name to Remembrance Day; for the fallen in all conflicts. The Commemoration is one of the most world wide recognised days of reflection across nations: Great Britain, Canada former colonies, in Europe as France Belgium Holland and more. National Monuments today have at their centre the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The remains of an unidentified soldier from a battle site returned and buried at the national memorial of the country. For Australia this was late in coming as in 1993 the remains of an unidentified soldier from Villiers Brettonneux were entombed at Australian War Memorial in Canberra when the Ceremony was led by Eulogy given by the Prime Minister Paul Keating. The Governor General Sir William Deane proclaimed the Official recognition of the day as Remembrance Day in 1997.

Every year Manly Council, the elected local council, has arranged and conducted the Ceremony where the invitation was personal by the Mayor of Manly, most recently Jean Hay. The neighbouring Councils, Warringah and Pittwater held like events at their chosen centres. The invitation was for a leader of the local organisation to lay a wreath or book to the memory of the fallen. Those guests were kindly invited to morning tea afterwards an opportunity to reinforce their loyal sentiments each to the other. There was something special about the collective gathering being local, personal and familiar among the wreath layers to gather in Council chambers afterwards.

This year was a mite different for, instead of the personal closeness where the elected leader of the local smaller community district hosted the gathering, now the new Northern Beaches Council (NBC) is keeping up tradition for the now greater beaches community. It is one of the products of what seem like good ideas, that amalgamation of administration is prone to take away the precious identity of groups of people; people who know each other in closer intimacy either knowing the fallen, families or their descendants. The intent and purpose of the NBC approach to this special day and later others are left to surmise.

In the interest of the objects of MWPHS fair comment is to note the change in community this year arising out of the amalgamation of the smaller Local Councils by the State Government in May. It seemed not quite to bear the feeling formerly out of individual Councils officers responsible for each of the events and other staff long used to details. The plan for the future must have taken for granted tradition

would meet the occasion. As so often the good citizens overcome the effect of change in their being part of the common practice.

At Manly the guests reflected leading organisations of the community as Ex Service, RSL Clubs, Rotary, Air League, Navy. Numerous others led by public figures as NSW Premier Mike Baird represented by Adele Heasman former Deputy Mayor, Tony Abbott represented by Graham Moore, Jean Hay Former Mayor, Beth Lawson Deputy General Manager Northern Beaches Council. There were too of truly precious value students from the nearby Schools. For the future it matters so much these students genuinely attend to be aware of the history, tradition, why the heroes fought, what for and how to sustain those ideals forever.

On this day the Manly Daily report noted Ceremonies along the Northern Beaches at other memorials Manly Dam, Ivanhoe Park Manly by Raglan St, Jacka Park Freshwater where this year Tony Abbott unveiled a plaque to L/C Horace Logan. Other ceremonies were held at RSL Clubs and Beacon Hill School that has a memorial garden (quotes from the Daily worth note as we seem to take so much for granted).

The Sydney Morning Herald weekend notes the day at the sixteenth page with pictures of a veteran at the Cenotaph Martin Place and the participants at Ceremony at the National Memorial in Canberra laying wreaths were the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten. The limited comment on the meaning and importance was salutary for Modern Day Call to arms by Beyondblue Chairman Geoff Kennett's exhorting to support the returned servicemen coping with the memories of conflict and searching for a meaningful participation in life at home. This so like the view adopted in Canadian notes on the Day of Remembrance, pointing out that far more than Stone Memorials the most substantial token is how we treat with each other, live our lives, conduct our affairs between us – that before all is the key that is our future their true, lasting and real monument in Australian culture epitomised by 'Fair Go'.

In signing off this reflection on the Story of Remembrance it is noted the story has borrowed from the World Wide Web, sites of numerous history reviews, Wiki, Google – so saying not to steal from the fine notes of others but to reflect them as History tries to do.

Manly can claim to have pride of place for its part in the Formation of the Colony – a sporting bay for Governor Philip, where he was wounded in a chance misunderstanding.

To conclude there is room to exhort: - For this part it is of a vibrant living memorial as seen in Canada: - in trade, practice, in everyday life to enhance the ideals for which the wars were fought – respect, affection, consideration, reasonably always to strive to achieve a Fair Go.

Clive Halnan

ARTICLE

Arthur Phillip

The 11th October 2016 dawned as a bright autumn day in South-East England, weather which I was fortunate enough to have almost every day of my month of travels in UK. As it was Arthur Phillip's birthday it seemed to be an appropriate day to visit his burial place at Bathampton.

As with most rail journeys in England I found it to an interesting trip of 90 minutes from London Paddington to Bath Spa; the station at Bathampton having closed some years ago in a rail rationalisation. Advice about the bus to Bathampton seemed confusing and the 3 km walk should take only 40 minutes. However there is a lot to see on the way so it took me longer.

The path is alongside the Kennet & Avon Canal which rises from the Avon River, not far from the train station, through a series of six locks, the deepest of which is 5.92 metres making it the second deepest in Britain. The canal was completed in 1810 but had fallen into disrepair after the railway came through and took a lot of the freight traffic. Restoration work, done largely by volunteer labour, was undertaken here in 1968 and again in 1976. Lock keepers and towpath workers include many volunteers today. There were a number of canal boats and other vessels passing through the locks so I stopped for a look.

Moving on there is a chimney from a disused pumping station once used to bring water up from the Avon River. Above the locks the canal passes through Sydney Gardens in a wider section with many canal boats moored. With a quick search I couldn't find any connection with Sydney, Australia. Here are two tunnels and two cast iron footbridges dating from 1800. A little further on is a section of canal which had to be rerouted to make way for the Great Western Railway which opened in 1841 and eventually took over operation of the canal.

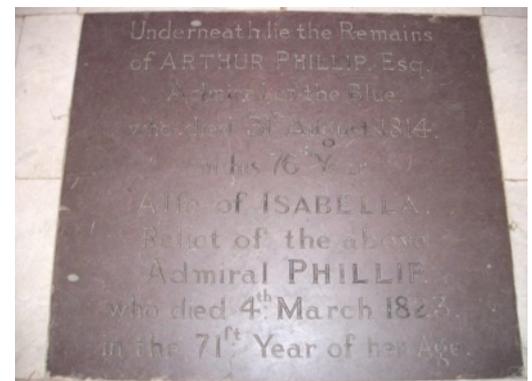
Bathampton Angling Association controls fishing rights in the canal where the catch can include carp, perch, bream and eels. The path continued and finally I reached Bathampton with a view of St Nicholas Church in Mill Lane on the left, surrounded by its graveyard.

There has been a Christian church on the site since Norman times and the present building goes back to the 18th century. The small church is dominated by Arthur Phillip and Australia, which is appropriate because of his importance in establishing one of the most successful British colonies. Inside the church, in addition to his grave, there are the Australia Chapel and an exhibition area in the base of the tower which includes information about the birth of Australia. Outside, the Australian flag flies solely on the tower. Phillip's grave was originally in the south porch but an 1882 extension saw it inside the church and visitors are greeted by the gravestone as they enter.

The Australia Chapel floor is Australian Wombeyan marble donated by the Hammerson Group and transported free from Australia by P&O. The woodwork is Australian Blackbean timber donated by Consolidated Goldfields and Rio Tinto-Zinc.



St. Nicholas' Church, Bathampton,
(All photos by Bob Pauling unless indicated otherwise)



Phillip's gravestone

Up to the time of the 1975 chapel dedication there were donations of fourteen chapel chairs made to the design of Coventry Cathedral. MWPHS gave two chairs as did the Pioneer Women's Society of Australia. Other donors of a chair included the Commonwealth Bank, Royal Australian Navy, the People of Manly & Warringah, Alexander Downer Snr, who was High Commissioner to the UK until 1972, and another from Lady Downer.

The Australian Government donated the Altar Cross and candlesticks designed by Australian-born silversmith Stuart Devlin, six Australian States gave the windows with Coats-of-Arms and Fellowship of First Fleeters gave the Phillip Memorial in the wall. News International Ltd donated £5,000.

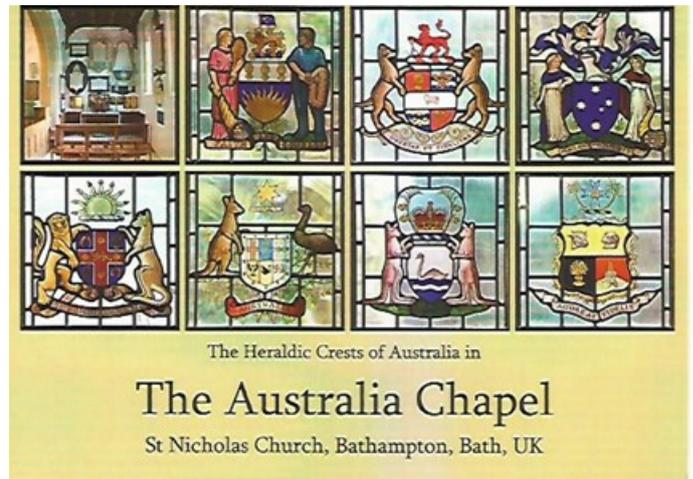
Phillip was living in Bath at the time of his death in 1814 which was due to a fall from the third floor window of his house. There has been speculation as to whether or not this was an accident. His health had not been good when he left Sydney in 1792, including pain in his side, but by 1796 he had been able to resume active naval duty.

The St Nicholas brochure about Arthur Phillip says, *The choice of Bathampton for his burial can also seem strange, but in Phillip's day it was a mark of status to be buried in one of the outlying country churches, rather than in a city that was being redesigned and rebuilt. Another mark of status is shown in the position of Phillip's grave, which is where the*

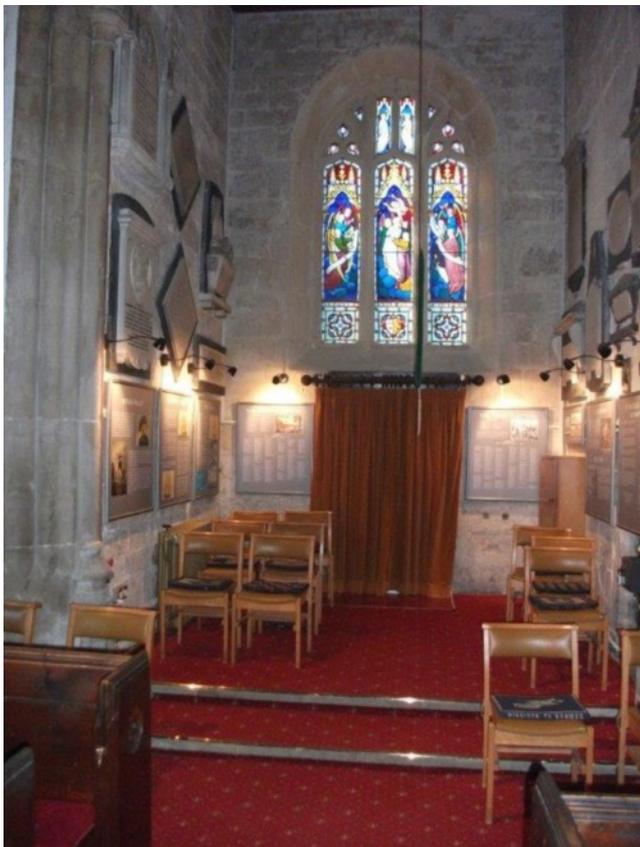
church porch used to be. A burial in such a place was thought to ensure that everyone coming into church would remember this important man.

Arthur Phillip permeates the work at St Nicholas. A small booklet designed to encourage church membership concludes: *Arthur Phillip lived a long time ago and his world seems far removed from ours in so many ways. In this booklet, our Youth Worker Dan Mak draws some comparisons with our own spiritual situation today, reflecting on lessons of eternal significance for all of us.*

The locations of other UK memorials to Arthur Phillip include Bath Abbey, Westminster Abbey, the London church of St Mary-



Postcard of Australia Chapel



Australia Chapel (note the chairs)



One of "our" chairs

le-Bow and at the west end of Watling Street in London, close to his birthplace.

Across Mill Lane, beside the canal, is The George Inn which was once a 13th century monastery but today is a heritage-listed ivy-clad country pub which was doing brisk trade for a weekday lunchtime, serving food both inside and on the terrace outside. I enjoyed an English ale with a hearty lunch of bangers and mash.

As well as St Nicholas another connection with Australia came when I was invited to the reception hosted by the National Gallery of Australia to celebrate the inclusion of Jackson Pollock's *Blue Poles* in the *Abstract Expressionism* London exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts. This is only the second time the painting has left Australia since our National Gallery controversially bought it in 1974.

Not being a fan of abstract art I was pleased to be able to have a look at the exhibition without having to pay. I could see why the Royal Academy wanted to include *Blue Poles* as it did stand out. They used it in their advertising posters in the Underground stations.

Bob Pauling



Phillip memorial in Watling Street, London, Courtesy Michelle Richmond



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Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

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