



"Bunk"

"History is more or less bunk".
HENRY FORD, Chicago Tribune, 1916

Diary Dates 2015

Museum Open
10am to noon
Monday to Friday

Meetings At Museum
22 Alexandra Street
Hunters Hill

Wednesday
22 April

Visit To Rouse Hill House

See this page

Thursday 30 April
10am for 10:30
General Meeting

This is the 5th Thursday

Guest Speaker:
Trish Skehan

THE WALKERS OF YARALLA
This magnificent stately
mansion on the side of the
Parramatta River now
owned by the people of
NSW was once the hub of
Sydney Society.

Come along and listen to
the fascinating history of
the building and its owners,
the Walkers.

There are family
connections to HM
Elizabeth, the Queen
Mother, Lords of Lyon and
Glamis and even Robert
The Bruce of Scotland.

Trish Skehan is Publicity
Officer of the City of
Canada Bay Heritage
Society, and has extensively
researched and written on
the Walker family.

A presentation not to be
missed.

How the Marists came to Hunters Hill

The Marist Fathers were approved as an official religious order within the Catholic Church in 1836; the order had its origins in the area around Lyons in France.

There is sometimes confusion about the Marist Fathers, the Marist Brothers, the Marist Sisters, and the Marist Missionary Sisters. Each of those groups is a separate, independent religious congregation within the wider Catholic Church structure.

The Marist Fathers branch was formally approved in 1836. It was commissioned by Rome to establish

missions in the Pacific. Numbering only 20 priests in 1836, their area of responsibility included New Zealand, New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Tonga and Samoa.

It became obvious to Marist administrators in France that some

sort of supply base and administrative headquarters was needed in the Pacific with access to shipping and mail routes from Europe. So in 1845, eight years after the Marists came to the Pacific area, two priests and a brother arrived in Sydney to establish a Marist base. In 1847, the Marists bought a property at Hunters Hill, on Tarban Creek, near the Gladesville Hospital site. There they established their first Villa Maria monastery. By the early 1860s they had decided that the original Villa Maria site had major limitations: the soil was not as productive as they had hoped, the water access was tidal and unreliable, and the Gladesville Hospital was too close for comfort. It had operated as a convent and



Top: Arthur Boyd, Tony Saunders of the Historical Society and Fr Peter McMurrich at the talk. Bottom: Villa Maria Church in 1870

also as the first site for Villa Maria primary school. It was sold to Thomas Salter in 1876, who renamed it "The Priory". Later, the site
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Join us for a tour of historic ROUSE HILL HOUSE & FARM

Wednesday 22 April

A time warp, built in 1813 by Richard Rouse, it is now run by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. The tour includes the residence, school house, stables and what is reputed to be Australia's oldest farm garden on 32 acres. Our tour leaves on the Hunters Hill Community bus from the museum at 9.15 am, and we expect to be back around 1.00 to 1.30 pm.

On arrival we have morning tea, followed by a guided tour of the house and surrounds. We have been advised that it is easy level walking. Cost including bus, morning tea and tour is \$25.

Please make all bookings with our Hon. Secretary, Tony Saunders on 9817 1432.

Tour limited to 20 due to bus size.

HUNTERS HILL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC

ABN 72012103152

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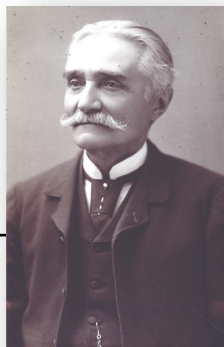
**STATE GOVERNOR TO OFFICIATE
AT HUNTERS HILL ANZAC DAY
CEREMONY**

His Excellency General
The Honourable David
Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd),

**Governor of New South Wales, will
be the guest speaker at the 92nd
Combined Hunters Hill Council –
Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch Com-
memorative Service to be held on
Friday 24 April 2015.**

The march will gather at the end of
Alexandra Street, just past the RSL
Sub-Branch Hall at 6.40pm, to step
out at 7.00pm and arrive at the
Hunters Hill Town Hall to commemo-
rate and recognise the 100th Anni-
versary of Anzac.

Members of the community are
invited to wear medals or join the
march in a symbolic gesture to
acknowledge those who made the
supreme sacrifice, or otherwise
suffered for their country.



This is an
excerpt
from a copy
made

excerpt
of a letter
available

to the Society by **Beverley Sherry**. The origi-
nal is held by **Peter and Kay Hendley**, who
is a great-grand-daughter of Jules Joubert.

(Continued from page 1)

became part of the Gladesville Hospital. Since
the closure of the hospital, Hunters Hill
Council has been given care of the site for
public use.

In 1865, the Marists moved to the Hunters
Hill side of Tarban Creek where they con-
structed the second "Villa Maria Monastery",
between 1863-65. Those buildings, including
Villa Maria Church, are still used today.
As a secondary role to the Pacific Missions,
the French priests at Villa Maria provided the
local parish clergy. Originally it was the par-
ish of Ryde, which included Gladesville and
Hunters Hill. Then from 1890, when the par-
ish was divided, the Marists cared for the
Hunters Hill parish, which they still do today.
They built three significant sandstone church-
es in the 19th century; St Charles, Ryde in
1856, Holy Name of Mary at Villa Maria in
1871 (initially built as the monastery chapel),
and St Peter Chanel at Woolwich, built be-
tween 1892 and 1901. Those churches are all
still standing, although St Charles was rebuilt
and enlarged in the 1930s.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries there was a
certain timelessness about Villa Maria – the
functions and the French nationality of the
Marists there remained the same for many
years. But in 1926 a significant change came
about in the Marist internal structure which
saw the New Zealand Province of the Marist
Fathers take over the running of Hunters Hill
parish. In 1971 the Pacific Missions Province
relocated its headquarters from Sydney to
Suva in Fiji, and the monastery and grounds
were sold to the Marists' Australian Province,
which had come into existence in 1938.

From 1974 to 93, Villa Maria functioned as a
seminary for the training of Australian Mar-
ists, but is now essentially a retirement com-
munity for older Marists.

***At the Historical Society's February meet-
ing, Father Peter McMurrich, vicar-
provincial of the Marist Fathers in Aus-
tralia, gave a talk on the history of the
Marists in Australia. We are indebted to
Father McMurrich for the information for
this article.***

The private letters of Jules Joubert

In 1849, Jules Joubert took
his wife Florence and their
infant daughter to Adelaide,
in search of copper. In February
1850 his daughter died, followed
by Florence and their three-week-
old son in April of typhoid fever.
The next year he was imprisoned
for debt. In 1852 he went to the
Mount Alexander goldfields in
Victoria, was contracted to build
government quarters and then
ran a store at Sawpit Gully, now
Elphinstone, Victoria.

**On 8 August 1852 he wrote to his
new sweetheart Adelaide Levi:**

'My Dear Adelaide,
....When I arrived here, as I left, pen-
niless, I, like thousands bent my steps
to the gold fields. I worked there for
two months, with pick and shovel,
like a labourer, aye harder than many
– my luck was a poor one, but howev-
er I managed to save enough to pay
all expenses, and also settle some of
my smaller debts. I then returned to
Melbourne and purchased some
goods which I carried to the Diggings
and sold well. This business would
soon have set me up again, had not
the Winter set in and the roads be-
come impracticable. On my last trip
to town my poor old and faithful
servant fell very ill, and what with my
own expenses and the taking care of
him, I again became a poor penniless
beggar. My last five pound note I
spent to pay Winsor's passage to Syd-
ney.

When I was sitting in my room cogi-
tating what to do, a person came in
and told me that the contractor for
the Government buildings at the Gold
Fields wanted a confidential man to
act as manager of the works and
draftsman. I applied and the next day
I was in his employ with a guinea a
day, a house and a servant found me,
besides all my expenses paid. I am
now writing this in a slab hut on one
of the out-stations on the Mount. You
have read Robinson Crusoe, well my
house is like his. I built it myself, and
rough as it is I can assure you it is
comfortable.

I am very soon going to open a store
and other paying establishments in
the new township which is forming
here; when I am once started in a fair
way of being comfortable I must have
someone here to cheer my life, and
make me (in a snug, though humble
home) forget the poverty and misery I
have undergone for the last few years.
Who could I have better than the only
one I am attached to in this world?
But what if she has forgot me?....'