

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

vol. 1, no. 3

august '84

Mark down in your calendar the 4th Saturday of each month which will be our regular meeting date: 10.30 a.m. (finishing by 12.30 p.m.) in the Aldermen's Room, Petersham Town Hall. Our meetings are never formal: there is always plenty of discussion and a break in the middle for people to get to know each other.

OUR NEXT FUNCTION

August 25: A discussion of the 'Greek Experience' in Marrickville

Come and listen to several talks (and discussion) about what it was like to migrate to Marrickville in the 1950s and 1960s. Hear how this community settled in the area and the way it has contributed to our society since.



A QUARTERLY EVENING MEETING:

As some people can't attend on Saturday mornings, we've decided to have a quarterly evening meeting commencing on Friday September 28 at 7.30 p.m. at our usual meeting place. There will be a discussion on 'Resources for writing local history'.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

September 22

A visit to Vaucluse House (and picnic on the lawns)

October 27

Guest speaker-Nick Vine Hall from the Society of Australian Genealogists.

November 24

Finding out about our locality through Council Archives

A PERSONAL VIEWPOINT . . .

What is heritage anyway? And what is a heritage society really about?

Many see heritage people as kill-joys who want to restrict and even stop development thus interfering with people's rights.

Others think of us as sentimental hoarders of useless junk which should be sent to the tip.

Yet others see heritage as a great waste of money: doing up old buildings is very costly. Why not spend the money elsewhere, where it is more needed?

That's not what heritage is about in my opinion. Heritage is not anti-development; it favours sensible development which will fit in with what we've got and will protect and enhance the environment. Not everything that is old is worth preserving; we should pick out the best examples of our past for preservation.

Heritage can be costly, but it's sometimes cheaper to recycle old buildings rather than pull them down and put up new (and often inferior) ones.

Heritage means respecting the views of others in your street and community about the shape of the locality. Most importantly, heritage means resistance to wanton destruction of our inheritance; once it's destroyed, it can never be recovered.

What do you think?

The Editor

Our visit to Elizabeth Farm on July 28

Despite a three day deluge before Saturday and a petrol strike, more than 30 people (including 10 children- who are always welcome on our excursions) enjoyed a tour of the oldest building still standing in Australia (built in 1793) and original home of the Macarthur family. It's appropriately named after Elizabeth Macarthur because it was she who kept the place going when husband John was away for long periods (including an 8 year stay in England) and after John was certified insane in 1832.



What was Marrickville like before 1788?

Bob Thompson is interested in this question and he already knows a little about the tribe (the Eo-ra pronounced Eyora) who used to live here. Bob hopes to write up this story for one of our future Magazines. Why not join our Society to make sure you don't miss out on your copy?

FEATURES . . .

STREETS

FOWLER (Reserve & Street), Newtown. The Reserve was named after Mrs Lilian Fowler, Mayor of Newtown and M.L.A. Fowler Street was probably named after Robert Fowler, who was prominent politically. Robert Fowler was the son of Enoch Fowler of Fowler's Pottery Works. Our first issue of the Magazine will feature an article on Fowler's Pottery. Barbara Little, our President, has quite an extensive collection of Fowler Pottery which links up with her interest in the industrial history of Marrickville.

HOUSES

GLADSTONE HALL, 114 Ewart Street, Marrickville.

This charming stone house with wide verandahs and filigree posts was built about 1870 by William Starkey, a soft drink manufacturer. The property extended from Ewart Street to the banks of the Cook's River. It had previously belonged to Dr. Wardell and before that to Thomas Moore. There was a picnic site on the bank of the river near Garnet Street. It was purchased by the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association in 1958 and is now a hostel. It has been recorded by the National Trust and is kept as near as possible to its original state.

SUBURBS

The Greek connection with Marrickville is a very old one. The suburb, Tempe, derives its name from the vale of Tempe in classical Greece. The suburb was so named when prominent early resident, A.B. Spark, built his house.



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Can any senior citizens remember the old Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Station Street, Tempe which was demolished 70 years ago? Any photographs, such as a wedding picture which might feature the old stone church in the background, would be very much appreciated by Anne Carolan (406-4862).

Suzanne Manning (524-3059) is writing the history of the Quiney family who lived in 'Neville', Renwick Street, Marrickville, and would like to hear from any descendants.

DO YOU OWN A FEDERATION HOUSE?

Don't miss the Heritage Council Exhibition which will be based at the **Marrickville** Town Hall until August 24. The exhibition shows typical examples of Federation houses, provides information about the care and maintenance of Federation house (and gardens), and methods of restoring, renovating and extending them.

New Members

L. and B. Andersen, Andrew Blackensee, Mary Farey, Sue and Tony Miller, Dawn and Don Thompson. The Society now has 41 paid-up members.

Newsletter Committee-

Anne Carolan, Richard Cashman (Editor), Chrys Meader, Greg Robertson (Layout). Contact us through Chrys (569-1816) at Marrickville Library, Marrickville Town Hall.

How to join our Society

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for students and pensioners. By joining the Society you are assisting heritage in this area. In addition, you'll receive copies of our monthly 'Newsletter' and a copy of our occasional Magazine (the first issue is planned for next November). Post your subscription to Chrys at the above address.

