

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

vol.1,no.4 september '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 FUNCTIONS



Friday, September 28 at 7.30 p.m. OUR FIRST QUARTERLY EVENING MEETING

As some people can't attend on Saturday mornings, we've decided to have a quarterly evening meeting at our usual meeting place. There will be a discussion on 'Resources For Writing Local History'.

Saturday, September 29 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM SEPT 22 BECAUSE OF COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MARRICKVILLE)

A visit to Vacluse House in Wentworth Road, Vacluse followed by a picnic on the lawns. The grounds consist of 27 acres and there is plenty of parking available for those coming by car. We will leave from Petersham Town Hall at 10.30 a.m. Please contact Chrys (569-1816) if you need a lift. Entry costs at Vacluse House are adults \$1.50 and children 50 cents. Please bring your own food and drink as the kiosk at Vacluse House will not be open. If it's a warm day and you are adventurous, you might like to bring your swimming costume as Neilsen Park is close by.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

October 27 Interested in family history? Write your own- Nick Vine Hall will tell you how. There will be question time too, or members may like to send questions C/- Chrys Meader.

November 24 Finding out about our locality through Council Archives

December-January There will be no meetings

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

We are lucky in Marrickville that we can still actually see so much of our past. Some of our buildings have been sadly neglected, even damaged, but our smallest and grandest taken together make us one of Sydney's most historic areas. How is our value recognized? Partly by listings by the National Trust of Australia. St. Peter's Church and it's graveyard have been classified because of their importance in N.S.W.'s history. Petersham North Conservation area has so many 19th and early 20th century houses remaining that the whole area, rather than individual houses, has been declared historic. Our Federal and State governments have also passed legislation and set up bodies to actively encourage preservation and recognition of past relics. The Heritage Council of N.S.W. and the Heritage Commission of Australia also list buildings. Recently the Heritage Council passed an order on 'Grasmere' in Stanmore Road and the Heritage Commission of Australia has listed the whole of King Street, Newtown, for its retail premises.

But what of the fate of buildings that are typical rather than outstanding, and those not recognized? One of the jobs of this Society is to spread knowledge and to direct others toward assistance from the National Trust and the Heritage Council when they want to expand or renovate their building.

In preservation of historic areas there is another important influence. Our Society's strength and the fate of our buildings are strongly linked with Marrickville Municipal Council. We need the patronage and encouragement of our Council which already helps us in a great many ways such as the use of our meeting room and the provision of a bus for outings. The Town Planning Department and building inspectors play an important role in persuading residents, in thousands of houses in this historic area, to retain what is of value and to maintain our unique Municipality. Our Aldermen could do a great deal to encourage restoration in their wards and to assist their professional officers to do their work.

Our incoming Council will have many important decisions to make. It will receive the report of the Heritage Study presently underway. It will decide how we will celebrate Australia's Bicentennary. We hope it will finally establish Marrickville Municipal Archives as the first suburban archives and lead the way for other areas. We would like to see Marrickville known for its outstanding place in our past and take pride in it.



OUR LAST MEETING . . .

Dorothy Petrides, schoolteacher at Stanmore Public School, and Ari Giovanis, our Assistant Secretary, discussed the changing role of the Greek community in Marrickville.

Many Greeks, they pointed out, came to Australia in the 1950s believing that they would just stay here for a short time, make a lot of money, and return to Greece. However, life in this supposed 'land of milk and honey' proved not so easy for many migrants of the 1950s who had to struggle to establish themselves and their families. Through this struggle they developed an attachment to Marrickville and came to value institutions here, such as the education system.

The vast majority of Greek migrants who came to Marrickville have now settled in Australia though revisiting their home country is a popular custom. In fact one recent publication claimed that money from Marrickville was now the third 'industry' in Greece after the fishing industry and agriculture. We can't vouch for the authenticity of this statement.

Long-established Australians, Dorothy pointed out, tend to stereotype Greek Australians without realising the great diversity of their community (or communities). Within Marrickville there are five Greek associations: Cretan, Cretan United, Iprotian, Macedonian and Mesologian. There are also two Greek Churches: the Greek Orthodox Church and the Independent Greek Orthodox Church.

Marrickville is also very well known in Greece and a lot, mostly favourable, has been written about the area. Those who now settle in the area can read a Greek newspaper, make use of Greek interpreters at the hospital and social security offices, and participate in bilingual education at a number of schools in the area. English-speaking students also have the opportunity to study Greek.

We look forward to reading more about our Greek community here in an article which Dorothy and Ari will prepare for our Magazine.



FEATURE . . .

STREETS . . .

HORDERN STREET (NEWTOWN) and AVENUE (PETERSHAM).

The Newtown street is named after John L. and Henry Hordern of Hordern Brothers. The Horderns (members of the Anthony Hordern family) started their drapery business in Newtown. They owned considerable property there and had a home in Petersham. Percy G. Hordern was one of the first Mayors of Petersham. There are quite a few links between prominent business families and the suburbs of Marrickville in the late 19th century. (Parts of Marrickville were much more exclusive and sought after then than later in their history). W.H.Paling (in the music business) was the first Mayor of Petersham (though no street was named after him) and it's **believed** that one of the David Lloyd Jones family was married in the Congregational Church at Petersham.

NEW MEMBERS

Nazife Bashar, Val Douglas, Lina Lockhardt, Elsie March, Tania & Alan Patterson, Phyllis Ryder, Stuart Tredinnick, Mike Walsh. The Society now has 50 paid-up members. Can we reach the century mark?

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Anne Carolan, Richard Cashman (Editor), Chrys Meader, Gregory 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.

