

MARRICKVILLE

HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

vol.1,no.7 february'85

Mark down in your calendar the 4th Saturday of each month which will be our regular meeting date from February to November, except for April when there will be a special Heritage Week programme: 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

Saturday, February 23 Anne Watson, from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, will speak on restoring your house interior

FUTURE PROGRAMME (to be confirmed)

Saturday March 23 Excursion to old Petersham Cemetery graves at Rookwood

April 14-21 Special Heritage Week programme (see inside)
No Saturday meeting

Saturday May 25 Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 22 Excursion to Mastertouch Piano Roll Company, Petersham

QUARTERLY EVENING MEETING (at 7.30 p.m.--regular venue)

Friday March 15 Researching your house, land, street, locality through Council Archives



HERITAGE WEEK IN MARRICKVILLE 14-21 April 1985

1. **Organ concerts.** Plans are well advanced for concerts on two historically outstanding organs--in Marrickville Town Hall and St Brigid's Church, Marrickville. Society members will be able to purchase tickets at a discount. Details will be provided in the next Newsletters.

2. **Walk through Newtown** (details next issue)

3. **House inspections in Stanmore** (details next issue)

4. **Library Displays** will be organised at all Branches and at the Administration Centre, 2 Fisher Street.

OUR LAST MEETING

Peter Arnett, Marrickville Council Chief Town Planner, informed us of Council plans to house and open its Archives, which he pointed out were one of the best collections outside the City of Sydney. Council, he added, had applied for a major grant from the Bicentennial Authority which would enable the Archives to be sorted, housed, microfilmed (where appropriate) and made more accessible to the public.

Some of the material from the Archives, now housed in various Town Hall rooms, attics and basements, was exhibited to provide some idea of the wide range of material included in the collection. This included information not only on the comings and goings of various civic dignitaries (minute books, letter books, and so forth) but also extensive input from local residents who wrote in (as they still do) with all manner of complaints; then there were records of societies, such as the Marrickville Municipal Orchestra which was prominent in the 1930s. There were unusual items such as an earth closet book of the 1870s, which registered regular charges for removal of night soil. Another interesting item was a dairy book which listed dairies in operation, their size, the numbers of cows and horses. Council also has a fair collection of dedications which provide interesting information, and posters about how estates were divided up in the late nineteenth century. For those exploring the history of their house and street the extensive collection of rate books are invaluable. They provide more reliable and detailed information about houses than you will find in **Sand's Directories**; listing the owner and tenant of each property and its assessment; sometimes there are even comments on the type of house.

We've come a long way since our first meeting on 28 April 1984 and our first Newsletter, June '84, which listed the eighteen founding members. We've now grown to 89 persons and many others read our regular literature. In 1984 we produced six editions of the Newsletter. Our Journal, **Heritage**, which appeared in December, was well received and is selling very well.

During 1984 we've been able to establish very good working relations with Marrickville Council and have begun to establish links with community groups and institutions in the area. This month, for instance, we welcome Newington College as a member of the Society.

All this expansion has only occurred, I believe, because the Society has struck a popular chord in Marrickville and will expand even further in 1985. It's hard to point to precise reasons because those involved in our society are a very diverse bunch of individuals. Some have a special interest in houses and even bricks; some are keen to pursue ancestors; some are researching pottery and industry; some are looking into railways and communications; some are long-term residents whereas others have come recently to the area. The one thing they appear to have in common is a keen interest in our area, and its rich and varied traditions, and an interest in communicating that interest.

The Society has embarked on a much more ambitious programme for 1985. The nine regular Saturday meetings will provide a varied programme of talks, discussions and outings. They will be supplemented by three to four quarterly meetings for those who find Saturday awkward. Then in April we will embark on a special and unique Heritage Week programme. The second issue of the **Heritage** will appear in December. So, why not join us?

The Editor

POSTPONED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive believe that it might be more appropriate for the AGM to be held in May, twelve months after the last elections, rather than in February as specified by the Constitution. Consequently they will move this way at our February meeting. The Executive will also recommend that notification of the AGM be either by 'letter posted' or by Newsletter. This change, if approved, will save the Society considerable expense.



International Fair and Market Day

The Rotary Club of Marrickville are organising Marrickville's First Annual International Fair and Market Day on 16 March 1985. There will be plenty of activities throughout the day--stalls, displays, bands, folk dancing and much else--and proceeds will go towards the Cot Death Syndrome Research Fund. Telephone 519 6927 for enquiries.

New Members

Julian Fagin, John and Margaret Fenton-Smith and family, Margaret Horn, Sister Maree Loadsman, Andrea Loder, Philip McCrea, Mary Munro, Newington College, Cheryl and Neville Pattison (and Sharyn and Kerrie), Gary and Maureen Sharpe, H.F. Stevenson, Tony Verzi, Alison Wall, Erich Weller. We now have 89 members.

Our New Treasurer

Welcome to our new Treasurer, Anne Cherry, who has taken over from Judy Mackinolty who has left for a trip overseas. Anne has already moved our account to a Building Society where it will accrue more interest and introduced the concept of 'rolling membership' so that members will be financial for the next twelve months from the date of joining.

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 pensioners and students. By joining the Society you are assisting Heritage in this area. In addition, you'll receive copies of our monthly Newsletter and **Heritage**, published in December. Post your subscription to Chrys at the above address. You don't have to wait to join until the AGM or the end of the financial year, our 'rolling membership' enables you to remain financial for twelve months from the time you join.

Editorial note:

There were so many announcements in this issue that there was no space left for regular historical features. The matter will be rectified in March which, among other things, will have a feature on 'the mystery of Fisher's Reserve'.