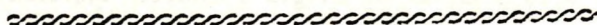


MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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march '84⁵



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 in Crystal Street). We also have a quarterly evening meeting. 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 March 15

Quarterly evening meeting (at 7.30 p.m. regular venue)

Researching your house, land, street, locality through Council Archives

Saturday March 23

Excursion to old Petersham Cemetery graves at Rookwood. Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 10.30 a.m. Ring Chrys if you need a lift.

FUTURE PROGRAMME (to be confirmed)

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



HERITAGE WEEK IN MARRICKVILLE 14-21 April 1985

1. ORGAN CONCERTS. Don't miss these concerts on two historically outstanding organs. Society members will be able to book tickets at a discount at both our March functions or through Chrys at the Library. The two concerts are on:

Sunday April 14 at 2 p.m. at Marrickville Town Hall in conjunction with the Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

Friday April 19 at 8.15 p.m. at St Brigid's Church, Marrickville in conjunction with the Organ Society of Sydney.

2. House inspections in Stanmore on Sunday April 21. Visit 8 Victorian and Federation houses, which are good examples of Stanmore architecture, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Tickets (\$3) can be purchased from Gallery One, behind Percival Road shops, Stanmore. Enquiries ring Jenny Hicks 569-8990.

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

OUR LAST MEETING

Due to the exercise of editorial license--a long article on his own street--there is no space left for details of the informative talk given by Anne Watson, from the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. This will be covered next month.

STREETS

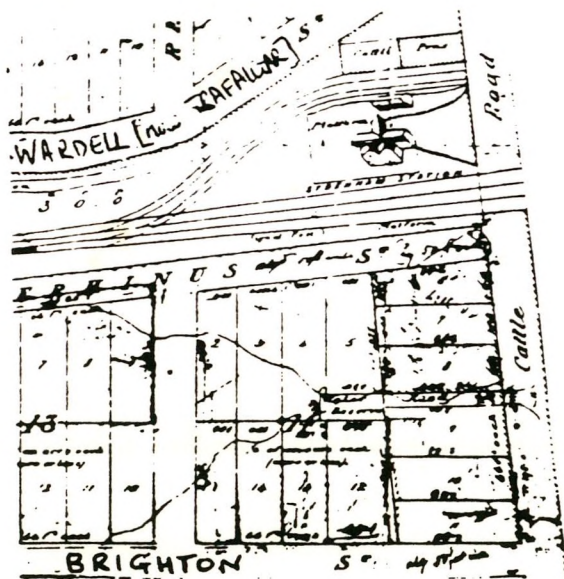
THE MYSTERY OF FISHER'S RESERVE, PETERSHAM

Residents of this small 'cul-de-sac' style street have often wondered how it came to get its name. Was it named after the same Fisher as Fisher Street, just over the line? Is there any reason why two streets in the same suburb should have virtually the same name so that the mail is incorrectly delivered quite frequently? And why should the street, without even a pocket park, be called a 'reserve'? Some residents talk of a small green block on an old Gregory's street map. So maybe there was a small park a long time ago or maybe Mr Gregory thought that a street, called a reserve, should have a little green area to justify its name.

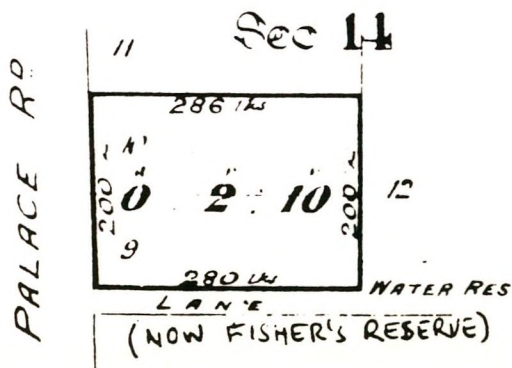
MORE OF THE MYSTERY

Having consulted some old maps and titles we can now unravel the mystery of Fisher's Reserve. The Fisher in this case was Thomas John Fisher, a solicitor, who owned the 'Fisher's Subdivision' which was part of the Petersham Estate. He was a different Fisher to the Fisher of Fisher Street, who was a niece of Dr Robert Wardell.

Fisher's Reserve was established in the early 1880s. Maps show that before then this part of the subdivision included a water reserve. In 1854 two creeks flowed into this reserve before proceeding into Brain Creek which flowed diagonally across the middle of what later became Petersham Park (not established until the 1890s). The water reserve was still there in 1873 when Fisher sold off one part of his property. It's not clear why there was a water reserve but it could have been used by the cattle. Yes, cattle! Palace Street from Brighton side to the station was then known as Cattle Road and it linked up with Petersham (then known as Sydenham) Station where there were cattle pens.



1854 MAP



1873 SUBDIVISION

Older residents of the street tell the story of another mystery. At the outbreak of World War II there was a Japanese club at No 18. When the war situation worsened the occupants decided to beat a hasty retreat but, before leaving, dug a huge hole in the front yard and then subsequently covered it up. The other residents were beside themselves with curiosity. Was it treasure? Secret documents? Contraband? It didn't take long before all and sundry attempted to dig up these Japanese secrets. They were rather crestfallen with what they found--a huge collection of rubbish!

Thanks

Our thanks the Rotary Club of Marrickville for a donation of \$40 to **Heritage, Journal of the Marrickville Heritage Society.**

International Fair and Market Day

Don't forget Marrickville's First Annual International Fair and Market Day on 16 March 1985 organised by the Rotary Club. 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

Gunnel Bellviken and household (Debby Atkinson, Goran Backlund, Roberto Hernandez), Mrs Broome-Norton, Ald. Pat Clarke, Marrickville High School, Tim and Olivia Robinson, Kate Sexton, Jack Walsh, Bruce Welch and Paula Gard. We've now scored a century in our first year: we are 100 not out. **Errata.** We regret that the name of a new member from last month, Julian Faigan, was misspelt.

Our new phone member

Please contact the Society through Chrys at 560-9333 ext 282. This replaces our previous number of 569-1816.

Newsletter Committee

Anne Carolan, Richard Cashman (Editor), Chrys Meader, Gregory Roberston (Layout)

HOW TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. In addition, you'll receive copies of the monthly Newsletter and **Heritage**, published in December. Additional copies of **Heritage** can be purchased at \$2 a copy--while they last. Post your subscriptions to Chrys at Marrickville Library, Marrickville Town Hall. 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.

