

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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 through Chrys at the Library. The prices listed below are for Society members only. 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. Adults \$6; Pensioners, children \$4.

Friday April 19 at 8.15 p.m. at St Brigid's Church, Marrickville, in conjunction with the Organ Society of Sydney. Adults \$5; Pensioners, students \$3; Family tickets (two adults, two children) \$10.

Read more details about the concerts on the inside page.

2. HOUSE INSPECTIONS IN STANMORE on SUNDAY APRIL 21 Visit 8 Victorian and Federation houses which are good examples of Stanmore architecture: 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. Tickets (\$3) can be purchased from Gallery One, behind Percival Road shops, Stanmore. Enquiries -- Jenny Hicks 569-8990.

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

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Saturday May 25 Annual General Meeting
Aldermen's Room, Petersham Town Hall in Crystal Street

Saturday June 22 Excursion to Mastertouch Piano Roll Company,
Petersham

MORE DETAILS ON THE ORGAN CONCERTS

(1) The Marrickville Theatre organ, a wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, is considered one of the best organs for its size in the country. This historic organ was originally installed in the old Prince Edward Theatre in Castlereagh Street in 1924. It was relocated in Marrickville in 1968 prior to the demolition of the Prince Edward Theatre. All the various percussion sounds made on this organ are real and are not electronic imitations.

Candi Carley, has been brought to Australia from the United States as the special guest artist for the National Convention of the Theatre Organ Society. This talented artist is only 29 and has been blind from birth. She will play on an organ which has 80 to 90 stops and has performed on larger organs which can have as many as 150 stops. She has a special love for blues and jazz, making the theatre organ 'wail' and 'talk'.

The concert on April 14 will include a medley of popular music of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s; some modern show tunes and some up-tempo versions of contemporary songs.

(2) The pipe organ at St Brigid's Church has been described as a 'splendid old English instrument'. It was built by Henry Bryceson in London in 1865 and purchased from the estate of William McQuade, whose brother also bought an organ in England and presented it to the Windsor Catholic Church.

The organist for the concert, Mark Quamby, is on the music staff at Newington College. After graduating from the N.S.W. Conservatorium of Music, he pursued post-graduate studies for three years in Vienna, Italy and with Gillian Weir in England. He has played on numerous occasions as a recitalist and in performances of Handel's **Messiah**, **Saul** and **Alexander's Feast**; Vivaldi's **Gloria**, and Brahms's **German Requiem**.

There are many other artists who will appear in a varied programme: the Tongan Choir of St Brigid's Church; Beryl Brownlee, Soprano; Dan Prior, Tenor; Noreen Coleman, Celtic Harp; the Percussion Group of Our Lady of Lourdes, Earlwood; St Brigid's Ensemble and Massed Choir.

OUR EXCURSION TO THE PETERSHAM GRAVES, ROOKWOOD CEMETERY

More than 20 adults and about a dozen children clambered round this special rather secluded and peaceful part of Rookwood devoted to Petersham. While some of the graves were in good condition others were rather dilapidated and the inscriptions difficult to decipher. We also found that 'rubbing' gravestones to decipher words was not easy, and much more dirty than it looked.

The excursion proved a useful educational exercise for the children who grilled the adults with an unending series of questions about cemeteries: graves, wills, mausoleums, ghosts and various funeral customs.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Anne Watson, from the Power House Museum, told us of the extensive work being done to collect and illustrate changes in domestic architecture, both interior and exterior.

The Museum is collecting a very wide range of artifacts including lead light and stain glass, roof crestings, decorative tiles, tessellated paving tiles, doors, fire surrounds, cast iron work, verandah posts, samples of wall paper and linoleum, lightfittings, decorative plaster, ceiling cornices, holland blinds and just about every other item pertinent to the Australian home particularly in the 1840-1940 period.

In order to arrange and interpret this material the Museum is also collecting old photos, examining paintings, collecting trade directories and pattern books so that they can establish how particular homes looked at various periods in our history.

The immediate object is to mount an exhibition in 1988 on 'Decorating the Australian House' which will not only include a series of pictures and photos of various house styles and interiors but will also recreate to scale a series of outdoor settings, such as a verandah front, and interior designs.

The Museum also has plans to show what business establishments looked like. When the Wunderlich factory (which specialised in roofing materials and terracotta among other things) closed down some five years ago the Museum was able to acquire considerable material which will enable it to set up an exhibition of a section of the showroom.

The Museum has undertaken some quite ingenious research about wallpaper, which was used extensively in Australian homes from the 1860s to the 1920s after which paint became more popular. Recently they discovered a partition wall in a manse which had not been touched since the 1930s and had ten carefully preserved layers of wallpaper which date back to the 1860s. By the use of an industrial steamer they were able to 'excavate' each layer and work out the history of wallpaper in this home: how often the walls were redecorated with a new pattern and the changing taste in design.

Wallpaper, which actually dates as far back as the 14th century, became much more accessible to the general public by the middle of the 19th century with the invention of machines which consisted of cylinders attached to a large drum.

Linoleum, like wallpaper, has now gone out of fashion but was a very important part of the Australian house for many decades and there was a great range of local design.

A Series on Suburbs and Stations and more Streets

The next few issues will include features to recognise various railway station centenaries some of which have already passed. Did anyone notice that the 15 October 1984 marked the centenary of the Sydenham and the Cook's River [now Tempe] stations? 1985 marks the centenary of the old station at Petersham and 1986 marks the centenary of Lewisham Station.

Now that we've cleared up the mystery of Fisher's Reserve, Petersham, we will follow this up with a story on 'The Romance of Liberty Street: the Freedom-runners of Stanmore'.

More Errata

Did you notice our mistake? I've heard of people forgetting to adjust their clocks when daylight saving ends but being a year behind time is a bit ridiculous. Maybe historians shouldn't be on the Newsletter Committee. Our last Newsletter was headed March '84 instead of March '85.

New Members

Barbara and Richard Appleton, Richard Blair, Betty and John Blattmann, Glynis Burnett and Helen Richards, Max Crago, Bill Cudal, Leon and Joan Ellis and family, Jeffrey and Barbara Matchett, Matthew and Josephine O'Neill and family, Mr H.F.W. Parker (of Templestowe, Victoria--our first interstate member), David Pitt-Owen, Barrie Royston and family, Dorothy Sutherland, Lionel C. Swift. Our membership total is now 120.

Newsletter Committee

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

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. In addition, you will 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, 2204. (Phone 560-9333 Ext 282). You don't have to wait 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.

