

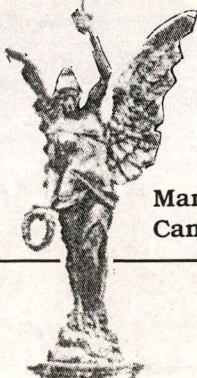
# MARRICKVILLE

## HERITAGE

## SOCIETY

Covering Dulwich Hill, Enmore, Lewisham,  
Sydenham, Tempe and parts of Newtown,

Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters, Stanmore,  
Camperdown and Hurlstone Park.



### OUR NEXT MEETING VISIT TO SUSANNAH PLACE SATURDAY JULY 24

Where can you still buy candle snuffers, Goanna Salve, dibblers, dolly pegs, feather dusters, fly paper, marbles, mushroom darners, milk churns, skipping ropes, scone cutters, suds makers and scrubbing brushes?

At the Susannah Place Shop, a former grocer's corner store, which has been reopened as part of the Susannah Place Museum, a joint project of the Historic Houses Trust and the Sydney Cove Authority.

Built in 1844, Susannah Place is a small terrace of four brick houses, including the corner store, located in the heart of The Rocks. It has never been substantially remodelled; it has never been converted into offices or degenerated into factories or warehouses. Rare in the city of Sydney,

it has a continuous history of domestic occupancy by working class families and demonstrates the ways these houses were lived in from the mid-1840s to the late 20th century.

**How to get there:** For our members without transport a small 22 seater bus will leave Petersham Town Hall at 10am sharp. Phone Shirley on 569 1768 for a seat. Or meet at Susannah Place 58-64 Gloucester St., The Rocks, at 10.30am. It is a short walk from Wynyard or Circular Quay railway stations. Admission \$3.

After our tour we will check out the architecture(?) of some of the pubs in **The Rocks: The Hero of Waterloo, The Lord Nelson, Mercantile Hotel** and others. Yes, it's a pub crawl.

### THE BAND PLAYED ON

Music was heard once again (albeit modern jazz) in the Petersham Park Rotunda after its official reopening on July 4.

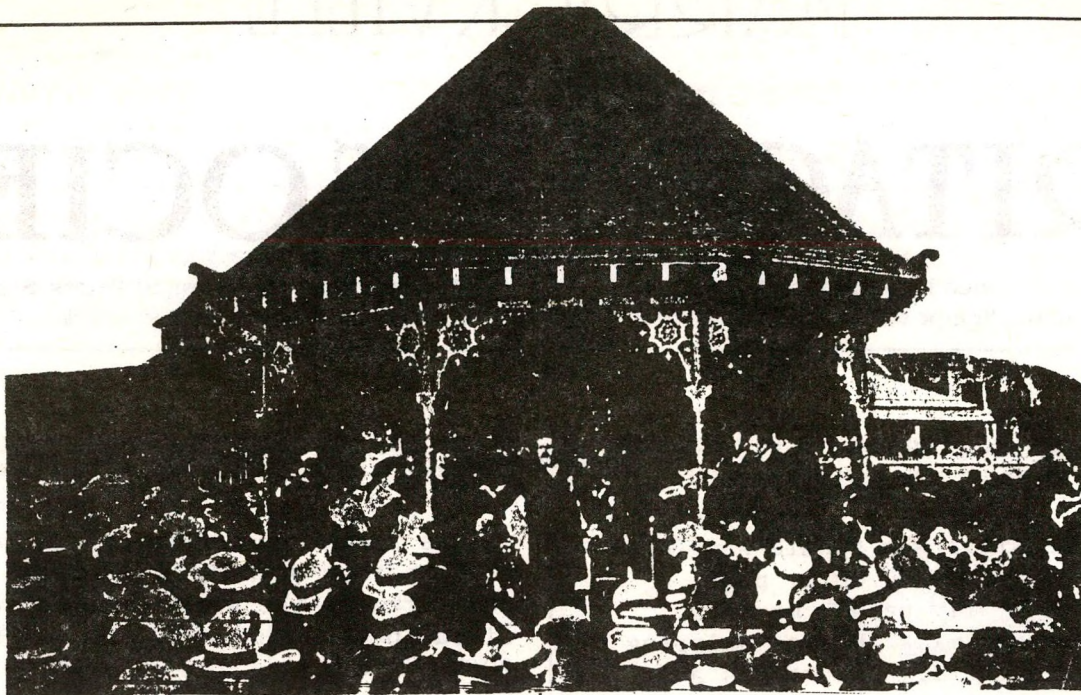
Marrickville Mayor Barry Cotter cut the ribbon to reopen the rotunda after an extensive restoration project jointly sponsored by the Council and the Department of Planning under the Heritage Assistance Program.

Council is to be commended for the fine restoration work. The project was managed by Robert Staas, conservation architect from Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners and Marrickville Council and built by Design Metal. Congratulations to all concerned.

The reopening of the rotunda, attended by about 100 people, was not nearly as grand an affair as its official opening on September 20, 1902 when 10,000 people turned out!. Here is a newspaper report of that occasion.







*His Excellency Sir Harry Rawson opening the band stand at Petersham in September 1902.*

#### The Governor at Petersham

On Saturday the State Governor Sir Harry Rawson KCB accompanied by Lady Rawson, Miss Rawson, and Major Holman, ADC, visited the borough of Petersham. The Mayor of Petersham (Alderman H. Davies) received the vice regal party. Refreshments having been partaken of, the party went in carriages to the Petersham Park, where about 10,000 adults and children had assembled. The coronation pavilion was designed by Alderman E.R. Halloran, the honorary architect, and bore tablets of an historical nature. His Excellency was presented by Alderman Halloran with a key with which he opened the gate leading into the pavilion. The Mayor expressed the thanks of the people of Petersham to Sir Harry Rawson and Lady Rawson for their attendance. He said that the building, beautiful as it was, had a significance and value far beyond its architectural importance. It was the people's building, erected by public subscription, and sprang from the spontaneous desire of the residents to commemorate in lasting fashion the coronation of King Edward VII.

His Excellency said the King had learned at his mother's feet how to govern his people. It was the King's profound sympathy for distress which was particularly gratifying to his subjects. He personally knew something of King Edward's quiet habits of benevolence, and knew the kind heart of the man. The Queen, too, had won all hearts by her qualities of heart and home.

The Petersham Borough and District brass bands rendered selections, while the party walked through the ranks of soldiers to the cricket pavilion overlooking the oval. This was prettily decorated, and afforded an excellent view of the proceedings which were next on the programme. Arranged over the ground were orderly ranks of the boys and girls of the Petersham Superior Public School under their teachers. Their display was a very fine one, the various squads moving into place rapidly, the whole scene proving one of vivid human interest and spectacular effect. Miss Hicks conducted a maypole dance by children in costume with fairy leaders, the evolutions being carried out without a hitch. Prolonged applause was evoked by the children's display then and subsequently, and the vice regal party joined in the applause. Miss Ryan and Miss Fitzgerald conducted a flag march by a number of tiny folk in costume, precision marking the display. Mr Larcombe put a squad of boys and girls through free exercises, and Mr Kennedy controlled an effective series of rifle exercises. Miss Lapish conducted dumbbell drill and Misses Toms and McAuley wand drill by the girls. The whole was under the efficient control of Mr James Rickard, headmaster, and Misses Collins and Coghlan, who were afterwards presented to his Excellency and Lady Rawson, and thanked heartily for the children's performance. Sir Harry Rawson, Lady Rawson, and Miss Rawson afterwards went amongst the children, and gave them a few words of congratulation for their clever work. The Scottish Rifles having given a display the proceedings terminated.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1992/93

These are the ninth Annual Reports of the Marrickville Heritage Society, reports which I hope will give an insight into the work done to protect and conserve our heritage, natural, built and cultural, and our hopes and aspirations for our community.

Our immediate past president Judith Matheson, prefaced her annual report a year ago by saying "heritage is a buzzword". That notion has grown apace and almost daily we hear and see in the media of issues involving our need to preserve - a question that can polarise the community.

Some of Marrickville's heritage listed buildings, whose fate is still unresolved, seem to be perennial items in the newsletter - the former National Bank (formerly CBC Bank) at 325 King St, Newtown, designed by William Wardell 1885, still stands as a reminder of illegal work; the Health Department has just completed a conservation study on the Marrickville Hospital and we await its findings; however, old Marrickville Town Hall may soon have a happy outcome and be in use once again. The Petersham Station Footbridge, nearing completion of its refurbishment, has been the subject of many letters and discussion with the Society and City Rail and we are encouraged by certain concessions gained. Getting the details right is of utmost importance in items of such high significance.

This aspect of what we do in the Marrickville Heritage Society is in my view our reason for existence. A report from the Heritage Watch and Classifications Committee to follow, will tell of the lobbying and avalanche of letters sent. It was particularly marvellous to hear Judith Matheson, co-chairperson of that committee say recently that she likes writing these letters!

The program of members' activities and events this year has been varied. Our excursions took us on foot along the course of the Cooks River in Marrickville with Mark Matheson recounting its history; to the Art Deco pub, the Golden Barley in Enmore to launch the journal *Heritage 7* and to celebrate the New Year we sailed the Harbour and had an evening picnic on Clark Island - the sixth such annual event arranged by Anne Carolan; and Lindsay and Mabelle Smyth took us to the movies to see *Strictly Ballroom*. Brian Nugent and team put together the very successful Pot Luck Christmas Dinner at Elizabeth Lloyd's home in Petersham.

We have been outside our municipal boundaries on occasion but mostly have found connections with Marrickville - in fact it now seems mandatory to do so! On the tour of Rookwood Cemetery in springtime we found the headstones that were moved from St Thomas Churchyard, Lewisham and Jack Gibbs of HMAS Kuttabul led a large contingent around the villas of Woolloomooloo Hill, now Potts Point. Bomera, Tarana and Jenner held special fascination, enhanced by Peter McLaren's detailed knowledge of these Victorian residences - remnants of a once elite area. Recently, Geoff Ostling organised a day trip to the beautiful Hunter Valley to visit a National Trust property, Grossman House, two very different churches and after sampling wines at four vineyards we were replete.

Saturday morning talks on a wide variety of subjects have been well attended. Lesley Muir and Brian Madden told us all about our neighbours in Canterbury; Sam Marshall, the authority on Luna Park, had all members wanting to recount their memories of the fun they had on the Big Dipper, the Rotor and Coney Island. Joan Kerr, an expert on the architect Edmund Blacket, gave us an insight into his masterpiece, St Stephens Newtown. A post card from Peter McLaren while working on Norfolk Island, to the Newsletter Editor, gave rise to his talk about Norfolk, its history and its connections with Petersham, Stanmore and Camperdown. Peter Reynolds, master of the Horbury Hunt Club gave a talk on architect John Horbury Hunt whose work "accelerated and stiffened the backbone of Australian architecture in the late 19th century".

The annual Heritage concert at Newington College Chapel this year delighted all who attended and raised funds for Spinecare. Peter Swain, Michael Hissey and Sue Miller and of course the youthful performers are to be congratulated.

It is people who make a Society and I thank all members who have given their time and skills during the year, many not on the various committees, but always ready to help when needed. In particular, I thank the executive committee of the Society - vice presidents Jeannette Hope and Pamela Stewart, treasurer Lindsay Smyth, secretary Sue Miller, assistant secretary Mabelle Smyth, three committee members Peter Swain, Brian Nugent and Geoff Ostling, membership secretary Mary Tait and our Patron Eve Sharpe for her support and advice. To Brad Robinson auditor and Richard Hughes solicitor - thank you.



I thank the editor of both the newsletter and the journal Jeannette Hope and her committee for publications, Judith Matheson, David Hilyard and Geoff Ostling. The newsletter is of course the voice of the society and Jeannette has produced that for two years in her busy schedule of interstate trips. We are grateful to the old firm of Judith Matheson and company who did the newsletter on two occasions, to Lindsay and Mabelle Smyth and all the runners who distribute it.

Thank you also to the Heritage Watch and Classifications co-chairpersons Judith Matheson and David Hilyard and their committee Barbara Gibbons, Rob Muir, Peter McLaren, Bruce Welch and Shirley Hilyard whose work I have already mentioned. We are grateful to Marrickville Council for its support - the free use of this meeting room and more tangibly as sponsor of the journal and other projects.

I won't make any claims as to our success or otherwise for the Marrickville Heritage Society's year about to end, but let these reports speak for themselves. I thank you for your support during my year as your President.

Shirley Hilyard.



## OUR LAST MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 40 members including our patron Eve Sharpe attended our Annual General Meeting on Saturday June 26. Outgoing president Shirley Hilyard presented the ninth annual President's Report in which she outlined this year's efforts to protect and conserve our heritage. Her report is published in full in this issue. Reports from the Treasurer, Publications Committee and Heritage Watch and Classifications Committee were also presented and these will be published in coming issues.

The elections followed, conducted by returning officer Geoff Ostling. The new executive of the Society is: President, Shirley Hilyard; Senior Vice President, Geoff Ostling; Junior Vice President, Pamela Stewart; Treasurer, Lindsay Smyth; Secretary, Sue Miller; Assistant Secretary, Shared by Sue Miller and Pamela Stewart; Committee Members, Brian Nugent, Mabelle Smyth, Richard Hughes, Richard Blair

Other positions accepted were Membership Secretary Mary Tait; Chairperson Publications Committee Jeannette Hope; Chairperson Heritage Watch/Classifications Rob Muir; Newsletter Editor Judith Matheson; Journal Editor Jeannette Hope; Auditor Brad Robinson; Solicitor Richard Hughes.

Our guest speaker Mandy Jean, Heritage Advisor to Marrickville Council, gave us an insight into her role as heritage advisor and outlined some of the issues that have concerned her during her time in Marrickville. She invited all members of the society to discuss heritage matters with her and keep her informed on heritage activities (good or bad) within the municipality.

The meeting concluded and members were invited to join the new executive for champagne and sandwiches in Maundrell Park.

## PRESCOTT CONCERT GIVEAWAY

President Shirley Hilyard has four tickets for Recital 3 in Newington College's Prescott Series of concerts. The first people to call Shirley on 569 1768 will receive tickets for Recital 3: Florilegium of London and friends, Sydney Singers and John Grundy. Newington College Chapel, Sunday August 8, 3pm.

## BOUQUETS TO...

The Society congratulates Sydney Morning Herald journalist Geraldine O'Brien who received the President's Award at the 1993 Royal Australian Institute of Architects Architecture Awards. President John Richardson said O'Brien had "consistently championed the conservation of our built heritage in a loving yet balanced and sensible way." Members will remember O'Brien's feature on the disappearance of the lions from the old Marrickville Town Hall in 1990.



## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

As your new (or perhaps recycled) newsletter editor I am taking up the reins again after a two year break. It has been terrific to see the number of contributions from members in the newsletter encouraged by my predecessor Jeannette Hope. I would like to reiterate Jeannette's comments in the last newsletter. All contributions are welcome, be they news items, opinions, or reminiscences. Does anyone perhaps remember other grand occasions at Petersham Park Rotunda like the events described in this issue. Please send all contributions to PO Box 415 Marrickville

Judith Matheson.

## SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 Canterbury Road  
Petersham • Tel: 560 3884

## LEICHHARDT GARDEN CENTRE

346-350 Norton Street, Leichhardt  
(Lilyfield Road end of Norton St)  
Tel: 560 0889



Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses  
Cottage Garden Plants  
Camellias, Azaleas  
All Herbs  
Terracotta Pots, Lattice  
Everything to keep your garden healthy