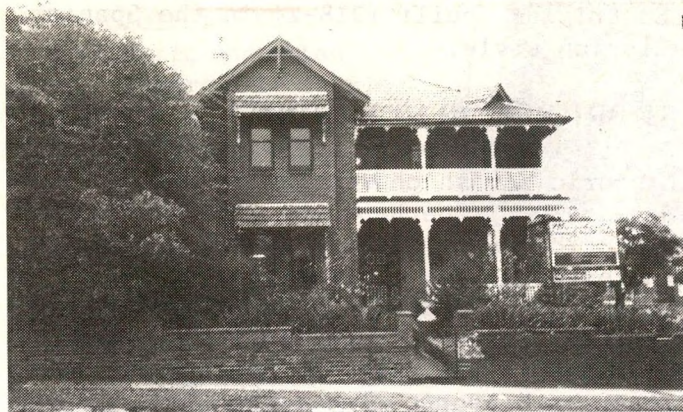
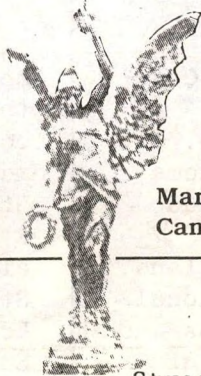


# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



*The grand Federation home Penston Hall in  
Livingstone Rd, Marrickville was built in 1910.*

## OUR NEXT MEETING FEDERATION HOUSES WALK

**SATURDAY MAY 28 1994,  
DEPARTING 10.30AM**

**MEET AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL STEPS,  
MARRICKVILLE RD, MARRICKVILLE.**

Trevor Howells, co-author of *Towards the Dawn*, an authoritative survey of Federation architecture, will lead an easy walking tour around Marrickville's Federation houses, including a look at two interiors.

With Federation in 1901 came an intense nationalistic fervour for things Australian - in writing, painting, decorative arts and in building. New suburbs, some of them garden suburbs, with easy access to rail and tram systems, led to a style of building in marked contrast to most development in Australian cities of the late nineteenth century. Haberfield, Burwood, and Croydon are outstanding Federation garden suburbs; Cremorne and Mosman, harbourside Federation; and Warrawee and Turramurra, Federation in the bush.

In Marrickville, a precinct bounded by Hastings, Livingstone, Anderton and David

Streets has some marvellous Federation gems. Trevor Howells, who also teaches building conservation at the University of Sydney, will tell us of the influences that led to this distinctive architecture.

## COMING EVENTS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY JUNE 25 10.30AM**

**PETERSHAM TOWN HALL**

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting. This is your chance to have a say in the direction of our Society and to hear what has been achieved during the year. Outgoing president Shirley Hilyard will present a report of the year's activities as well as other reports on the society's work. Elections will be held for the executive for the coming year. Elected positions are President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and three executive members. Nominations are called for all positions and may be submitted in writing prior to the meeting or on the day.

### FRANCIS GREENWAY'S CITY BUILDINGS

**SATURDAY JULY 23**

A walking tour led by Clive Lucas, Sydney's leading conservation architect.

### CONCERTS AT NEWINGTON

The next concert in the continuing Prescott series will be held on Sunday May 15 at 3pm in Prescott Hall, Newington college and will feature Music of the French Masters. The Newington Music Scholars Concert - solos and ensembles - will be held on Friday May 27 at 8pm. Another special concert in Newington Chapel is the Sydney Chamber Choir presenting Mystic Canon on Saturday June 11 at 8pm.



## NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE QUIZ WE WUZ ROBBED!

The Heritage Society's "Brains Trust" put in a very creditable performance at the National Trust's Heritage Week Quiz fundraiser held in the majestic surroundings of the Sydney Town Hall. Our team of 10 came in fourth, against some very stiff competition from the 30-odd other tables present. While it was intended as a light-hearted evening (and, indeed, was very enjoyable) the National Trust needs to research its questions and answers more thoroughly as a number of errors were made on the night.

Edmund Barton was our first Australian-born Prime Minister, not Scullin as the Trust claimed. Likewise it was Malcolm Fraser to which Gough Whitlam referred as 'Kerr's Cur' on the steps of Parliament House in 1975, not David Smith. The Trust found it difficult to capitulate on this one after Margaret Whitlam, who was in the audience, called Gough on a mobile phone to check and he also gave the answer of Smith! Meanwhile, we are still arguing over Cowabunga! Is it an old Australian surfing term, as the Trust claimed, or is it the creation of those Mutant Ninja Turtles?

The MHS team was Betty Langshaw, Brian Madden, Lesley Muir, Peter McLaren, Lindsay Smyth, Judith Matheson, David Hilyard, Richard Cashman, Geoff Ostling and Shirley Hilyard.

- Judith Matheson

### CORRECTION

The Address given for Mrs Top's restaurant in the last newsletter was incorrect. The address is 395 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville. Phone 558 3211

### 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

## HOLY HERITAGE!

The preservation and restoration of our historic churches is a hot topic this month. We have received three letters to the editor regarding three important ecclesiastical landmarks in the municipality: St Peters Anglican Church, St Peters, designed by architect Thomas Bird and built 1838-39 with later alterations by Edmund Blacket; St Stephens Church, Newtown, designed by Edmund Blacket and built in 1871-74; and St Brigids built 1918-21 in the Spanish Mission style.

### ST BRIGIDS OR ST BARDOT?

St Brigid's Retreat, comprising the historic parish church and Passionist Monastery, is perhaps the most well-known historical site in Marrickville. Both the exterior and the interior of the church would peacefully nestle in any Italian, French or Spanish town. Few churches in the southern hemisphere can boast an historic pipe organ, bell tower, rose window and *baldacchino* all under one roof.

Regrettably, in the last few decades some features of the church's interior have fallen victim to the whims of pastors. For instance, the high altar was shifted from its original place and the historic organ's mechanical action was sacrificed for an electrical action, which is already in a terminal state. Furthermore, the Lady chapel has had its stone floor covered in carpet, and its wooden pews discarded in favour of vinyl seats.

While the passionist fathers have tossed away their habits and breviaries in favour of a more liberal theology, the structure of St Brigid's remains as a vivid reminder of centuries-old Catholic tradition, and also of the early Marrickville community that built this magnificent edifice. Many locals are fearful of plans to further compromise the aesthetic and historical value of this landmark, in particular the sanctuary's altar and *baldacchino*.

Perhaps it is time for a reassessment. while some would like St Brigids to become St Bardot, I opine that a St Brigids in its original splendour is the way to go.

- Aniello Iannuzzi, Earlwood.



## THE RESTORATION OF ST STEPHENS - PROGRESS REPORT

The Anglican Church of St Stephens, Newtown, one of Edmund Blacket's finest works, has received a major grant from the heritage assistance program for 1994-95. The work is proceeding well. Currently the tower is swathed in scaffold and green cloth while enthusiastic Rumanian stone conservator Gabriel Popian rakes out and replaces the decaying mortar. His wife Lucia, also a heritage conservator, then meticulously works over every inch of mortar and colours it to match the stone.

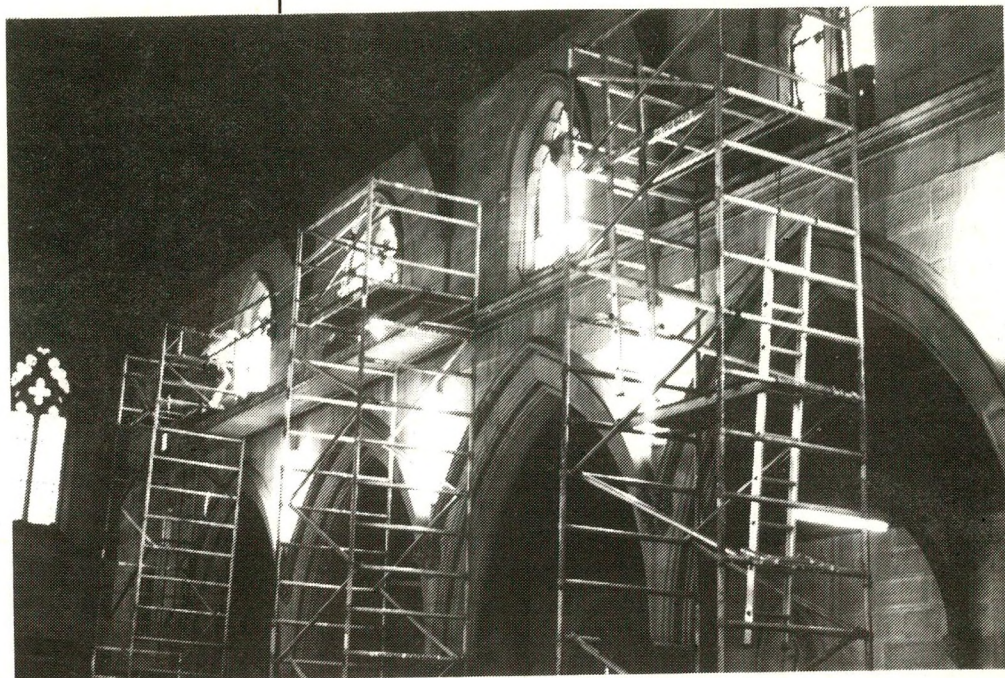
Meanwhile, overlooked by the currawongs, Manfred Raabe of Classic Roofing is perched high on the roof, renewing the cracked lead which caps the ridge. Well known stained glass artist and restorer Kevin Little is the consultant for Rick. Alan and his team from Heritage Decorative Glass, who have removed nine of the ten upper windows which have been shattered by vandals. More than half the diamond panes must be replaced. Kevin and Rick are at present working on the right technique to reproduce the painted and fired glass.

You can help! The parish is now trying to raise the \$35,000 needed to get the full grant of \$50,000 for 1995. This money will go mainly to the restoration of the spire. Donations to *The National Trust St Stephens Anglican Church Newtown Restoration Appeal* are tax deductible.

- Tamsyn Taylor

## CONCERT FUNDRAISER AT ST PETERS

The Sydney Male Choir will perform in concert at St Peters Anglican Church, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters on Saturday May 28 at 7.30pm in the church. Proceeds from the concert will start a restoration fund for the historically significant Brindley and Foster (1880) Pipe Organ in the church. Cost is \$10 and \$8 concession which includes supper at interval. Parking is available in the grounds.  
-Joanna Warren.



*Removing the clerestory windows at St Stephens for restoration.*

## DINNER AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The miserable weather outside in Macquarie Street did not dampen the spirits of Marrickville Heritage Society members inside State Parliament House at a dinner hosted by the Member for Marrickville Dr Andrew Refshauge, on Wednesday April 13.

As a pre-dinner aperitif, the 35 people who attended the dinner enjoyed a "potted" history of the Upper House chamber of the NSW Parliament with our resident historian Geoff Ostling, aided by the Parliament House steward.

The Parliamentary Dining Room overlooks the Domain and Woolloomooloo Bay and, even though the lights were hazy through the misty rain, it was delightful to sit back and relax in the comfortable, elegant room, enjoying our meal, fine wines, pleasant company and interesting conversation.

-Marilyn Kelly

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Cornwall, Glebe; Beverley Percival, Croydon Park; Alma Swanson, Hazelbrook; Pamela Payne; Marrickville; Loretta Weir, Marrickville; Noreen and Rosemary Dunworth, Alexandria; Leonard Janiszewski, Petersham; Gwenda and Harold Welsh, Stanmore; and Jeannette McHugh, Marrickville.



## OUR LAST MEETING

### HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY MHS

An impressive crowd turned out at the magnificent Trethaway Gardens in Petersham on Sunday April 24 to celebrate 10 years of Marrickville Heritage Society. The big turnout was testament to the society's success over the years and the conversation really buzzed as old acquaintances were renewed and new ones forged. Our guests included Eve Sharpe, society patron and life member; Peter Arnett, planner for Marrickville and the moving force behind the formation of the society in 1984; Jeannette McHugh, member for Grayndler; Mayor Doug Pereira and MHS member; Stephen Davies from the National Trust and Brian Madden from Royal Australian Historical Society. There were about 11 foundation members present, including Chrys Meader, who was secretary for many years; and all former presidents with the exception of Bob Thompson. Those present were foundation president Barbara Le Maistre, as well as Richard Cashman, Geoff Ostling and Judith Matheson.

The weather was great, the house looked gorgeous, and the fountain played. Did you see three huge crates of croissants arriving at Trethaway by bicycle - delivered by Ian Phillips? Joyce Ellis iced the birthday cake and members provided a marvellous spread for brunch. The usual team who made it all work on the day deserve much thanks. Here's to the next decade.

-Shirley Hilyard.

### HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$12 for individuals, \$18 for households and \$6 for pensioners. You will receive a monthly newsletter (except in January) and the Society's annual Journal Heritage. Subscriptions are valid for the Society year starting July 1. Regular meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Write to P.O. Box 415 Marrickville.

*A report of our 10th birthday bash appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald on Monday April 25.*

# A decade of victories and mighty failures

By GERALDINE O'BRIEN  
Heritage Writer

It was NSW Heritage Week 10 years ago when Mr Peter Arnett, a planner at Marrickville Council, suggested to a small group of residents they mark the week in a practical way by forming a society to promote the area's heritage and to serve as its watchdog.

Yesterday, Mr Arnett and many of the Marrickville Heritage Society's 350 members met at Trethaway Gardens, a lavish Italianate mansion built at Petersham in the 1880s, to celebrate the anniversary.

The society's president, Mrs Shirley Hilyard, said it had been a decade of some "mighty failures", as well as some satisfying victories.

In August 1986, two years after the society was formed, the historic Rose's Emporium on Parramatta Road at Petersham bit the dust in an infamous "dawn demolition" which defied a Heritage Council conservation order.

The following year, Brockleigh, the 1886 mansion built by the Clarke retailing family (of Marcus Clarke fame) and also under a heritage order,

was two-thirds demolished before police were able to halt the work.

Although the owners of the two historic buildings were prosecuted and were unable to build on the sites for some years, the buildings were irretrievably lost.

But Mrs Hilyard believes the society has had a significant victory in establishing itself as the voice for heritage in the municipality.

With 350 members of all ages, the society is one of the strongest and most active in NSW. Its membership includes people who no longer live in Marrickville but have joined the society as a means of retaining links with the area.

The society has access on a regular basis to the council, which also calls on it for advice on heritage matters.

"We like to think our lobbying keeps heritage issues alive among the decision-makers," Mrs Hilyard said.

And the suburbs around Marrickville, with their layers of settlement from rural hamlets to industrial suburbs to migrant enclaves to gentrification, are a rich repository of Sydney's history and heritage.



Mrs Hilyard, Mr Don Monk and some young society members.