

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



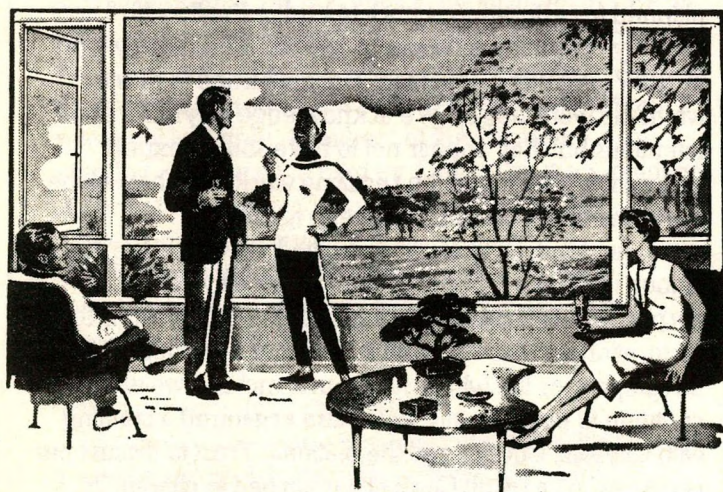
OUR NEXT MEETING THE '50S REVISITED - OUR RECENT PAST

SATURDAY AUGUST 28, 10.30AM
AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN HALL.

The 1950s, a decade much maligned for its design, conjures up images of hula hoops, bobbysox and the FJ Holden. It was a decade which ushered in modernity and materialism, but is now more often remembered for kitsch than for classics.

To give us a more balanced perspective on the 1950s, Judith O'Callaghan, senior curator of arts and design at the Powerhouse Museum, will present a talk and slides on '50s design at our next meeting. Judith is also editor and a contributor to the book *The Australian Dream - Design in the Fifties*, published in conjunction with the current Powerhouse exhibition about the Australian dream home and its interiors in the 1950s.

We will hear about and see some '50s classics (of which our President Shirley Hilyard assures us there are many) and learn about the "contemporary" style that dominated the decade.



BRING ALONG A '50S FAVOURITE

Whether it is kitsch or a classic, bring your favourite 1950s treasure to show, be it a vase, black lady lamp, jewellery, or perhaps something in Laminex? Judith will cast her expert eye over it all.

CALENDER OF EVENTS 1993

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25

SPRING GARDEN TOUR

A bus tour of our area to look at grand gardens, small gardens, heritage rose gardens and the newly restored Dibble Avenue duck pond. Details next newsletter.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23

GUEST SPEAKER PHILLIP DAVIS

Collector of 19th century porcelain tea services.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28

GUEST SPEAKER CHRYS MEADER

Local Studies Librarian on Marrickville followed by

CHRISTMAS PICNIC

At newly restored Petersham Park Rotunda

DECEMBER (Date and venue to be decided)

Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29

ANNUAL HARBOUR CRUISE

Cruise yacht Silver Spray needs a crew of 35 to sail the harbour with evening picnic on Clark Island.

A DAY AT THE RACES

For a different slant on heritage, grab the form guide and join members of the executive for a day at the Rosehill races in September. Dates under consideration are Sept 11 or 18. Interested members phone Shirley on 569 1768.

PRESCOTT SERIES CONCERT

The final concert in Newington College's Prescott Series is Spring Surprises on Sunday September 19 at 3pm in Prescott Hall, Newington College. Artists are David Saffir - Violin and other guests. The program will feature chamber music gems from France and works by Beethoven and Mozart.

MEMORIES OF LUNA PARK

Architect Sam Marshall, who spoke to the society last year about the restoration of Luna Park has once again called for personal memories, regardless of how trivial, and any memorabilia sought for his forthcoming book on Luna Park. Contact Sam Marshall, PO Box 780 Darlinghurst 2010.

OUR LAST MEETING LIFE IN SYDNEY IN THE 1840S

At our last meeting members and friends stepped back about 150 years to discover Sydney in the 1840s. Our walking tour of The Rocks, led by Geoff Ostling, took in a general store, a row of terraces, a church and two public houses, all built in the 1840s.

Our first stop was Susannah Place, a terrace built in 1844. Now owned by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Susannah Place is a museum in the making. The 150 years of continuous occupancy by working class families is revealed through many layers. An entertaining video gave us the histories of the families that had lived at Susannah Place. We walked on to the Glenmore Hotel, a 1921 pub with spectacular views of Circular Quay. Next we visited the Garrison Church, foundation stone laid 1840, and discovered a Marrickville connection in the form of a plaque to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the 7th Australian Field Artillery Brigade AIF at "The Warren" Marrickville on 17th March 1916.



At the Hero of Waterloo Hotel, built 1843, we inspected the sandstone cellars, which contain the entrance to a tunnel that once led down to the harbour, and then lunched on damper, roast and salad. On the way to the Lord Nelson Hotel, Sydney's oldest continually licensed hotel, we admired the impressive group of terraces and town houses in Argyle Place. The Lord Nelson now serves its own boutique beers including Trafalgar Pale Ale, Old Admiral, Victory Bitter and Three Sheets.

Tour leader Geoff Ostling kept participants on their toes with a history quiz and the promise of a "fabulous prize" for the neatest correct entry. Surprise, surprise, it was President Shirley Hilyard who came up trumps, although she admits to some help from member Peter McLaren. Shirley's fabulous(?) prize is a genuine flypaper from the Susannah Place shop.

Judith Matheson

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Send newsletter contributions to The Editor, PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204. Letters, suggestions, opinions, reminiscences, drawings, photos, cartoons, newspaper cuttings, coming events all welcome.

HERITAGE WATCH AND CLASSIFICATIONS REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

During 1992/93 the activities of the Heritage Watch and Classifications Committees were combined. The committees were chaired jointly by David Hilyard and myself (Judith Matheson). Other members were Shirley Hilyard, Peter McLaren, Rob Muir, Barbara Gibbons and Bruce Welch. Throughout the year we held seven committee meetings and five excursions.

Firstly I would like to mention a couple of individual efforts. Vice President Jeannette Hope was co-opted to write an authoritative and comprehensive submission to the Heritage System Review and we appreciate her efforts. Peter McLaren took on much of the hard slog of dealing with CityRail and Council over the restoration of the Petersham Railway Footbridge and Ald Bruce Welch kept us informed of council business over the year. I would also like to thank Mandy Jean, Council's Heritage Advisor who attended one of our meetings to outline her plans for heritage review in Marrickville.

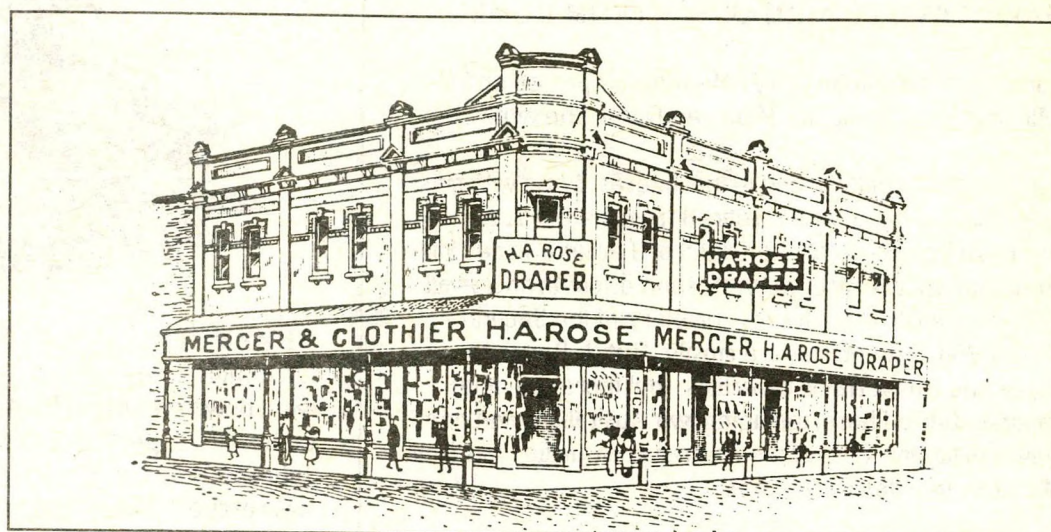
HERITAGE WATCH

Our first skirmish of the year was the old bank building at 325 King Street, Newtown. The owner began a partial demolition of the heritage listed building. Council stepped in and stopped the work, but subsequently approved a development application which would substantially alter the fabric of the building. MHS protested, claiming it was the thin end of the wedge, which would allow developers to push through unsympathetic alterations. To date the building remains partly demolished and boarded up.

This year's cautionary tale is the story of the Petersham Railway Footbridge. When we first heard that CityRail planned to restore this important bridge (built in 1878 and the only remaining example of "classic" iron railway work in NSW), we were delighted. Delight turned to dismay when the work began. We acknowledge CityRail's good intentions but they appear not to have sought expert restoration advice and the resulting work falls short of the mark. Important detailing has been ignored, misunderstood, or wrongly reinstated. As well, a heritage colour scheme has been combined with CityRail's corporate red! Among Peter McLaren's suggestions for restoration was the suggestion that a conservation plan be developed for the whole station precinct and we will continue to push for this. Peter also organised a meeting with CityRail, Council and the National Trust to discuss our concerns. As a result CityRail has agreed to change its approach to the third and final section of bridge restoration as well as making some other concessions.

Good news for the old town hall in Illawarra Road, Marrickville. MHS has lobbied for many years for the restoration of this historically significant building but one of the major stumbling blocks was finding a suitable use or occupant for the building. The Department of Housing put

Rose's Emporium, which stood on Parramatta Road, Petersham, was illegally demolished in 1986. Now the site is to be redeveloped.



the building up for sale by tender but subsequently ruled all tenders, including one from Marrickville Council, non-conforming. In May the Jessie Street Womens Library, which is devoted to women's writings, put forward a proposal to take over the building as its base. MHS supports this use and wishes the Jessie Street Library well.

And finally, Council has approved a development application for the old Rose's Emporium site on Parramatta Road, Petersham. Many will remember this lovely old retail building was illegally demolished in 1986. The site has been vacant since. MHS believes the site should continue to be treated as one of heritage significance and the most stringent conditions should apply for redevelopment. We have written to all bodies concerned expressing this view.

CLASSIFICATIONS

This year started well with a whole swag of MHS recommendations for buildings to be included in LEP 50 being adopted by Marrickville Council. We also had discussions with Mandy Jean about refocussing classifications on precincts or streetscapes rather than individual buildings. Members of the committee also attended a conference held by Council on the promotion of heritage conservation in the municipality. The suggestions put forward by Mandy Jean were comprehensive and wide ranging and we have volunteered to be involved in a working advisory committee to be set up by council.

Our excursions this year were to:

- *Marrickville Hospital, where we concluded that most of the buildings on the site, with a couple of notable exceptions, had little architectural merit. The significance of the site lies in its history and use as a hospital which should be fully documented.
- *The Art Deco Golden Barley Hotel, Enmore, for which we have prepared a Classification submission; Enmore Park, currently under redevelopment; and the "teacher's house" off Camden Street, Enmore, which continues to confound us. Some say it is the oldest house in the

municipality but the evidence is scant and inconclusive.

- *The shopping precinct of New Canterbury Road, Petersham, which has some fine examples of retail architecture from the 1880s to the 1920s. We would recommend this precinct be classified as a whole.
- *Dibble Avenue duckpond, Dulwich Hill, for which council has received a grant for restoration.
- *Petersham Railway Footbridge, Petersham Park Rotunda, which has recently been restored, and Lewisham Hospital, where major redevelopment is occurring.

CONCLUSION

Heritage Watch and Classifications can be some of the most frustrating work of MHS. It often seems we take one step forward and two steps back. I would like to thank committee members for their support and hard work.

Judith Matheson.

RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Royal Australian Historical Society's Annual Conference will be held on October 9-10 at the NSW Police Academy, McDermott Drive, Goulburn. This year's theme is "Giving History the Justice it Deserves". Speakers and topics include David Huggonson, Aboriginal Military Service and the Struggle for Civil Rights; Prof Peter Dennis, Call up an ANZAC; Dr Richard Reid, Barracks Girls; Dr James Jupp, Away from the Mainstream: Ethnic Minority History in Australia; Ann-Mari Jordens, From Alien to Australian: the Integration of Non-British Migrants into Australian Society 1945-1975; Hilary Golder, The Justices they Deserved: Magistrates and their Communities 1856-1895; Stephen Garton, Deserving Justice: Social Outcasts and Australian History; Baiba Berzins, Women in the Hotel Trade: The North Coast Experience; Michael Saclier, Justice for All; Carol Liston, Carrying the Message Home. There will also be a conference dinner and tour of Goulburn. Inquiries to Shirley on 569 1768.

MARRICKVILLE AIRMAN FAR FROM HOME

Local studies librarian Chrys Meader has passed on the following letter from Mrs Maureen Diehl. She writes:

I am a British woman living in the Azores, along with my American husband, who is retired from the U.S.A.F.. We have lived here on the Island of Terceira since 1984. Upon our arrival here, we very soon discovered a small Commonwealth War Graves cemetery of the Second World War. The graves are mostly British Royal Air Force and Royal Naval casualties - but there are other nationals buried here, including two Australians and one New Zealander. One of the Australian casualties was from Marrickville - details enclosed:

RYAN, Wt. Offr. Neville Vincent, 422812 R.A.A.F. 8th March 1945. Age 20. Son of Thomas V. Ryan and Amy Z. Ryan, of Marrickville, New South Wales, Australia. Row B. Grave 10.

It is concerning this young man, that I write to you. I have cared for all these graves, since living here, during the first six years as a private person, simply because I cared. My father served with the British 8th Army in North Africa and Italy. Then, eighteen months ago, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in England asked me to assume responsibility as their Honorary Supervisor for War Graves in the Azores. (There are other graves on two other Azorean Islands.)

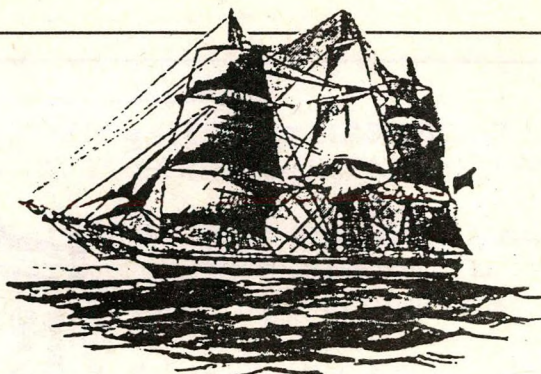


Whilst serving in this capacity, I have been privileged to meet relatives and former comrades of some of those men buried here. Many have donated photos of their loved ones, and memorabilia of events of the war years. These contributions have inspired me to assemble a reference book (other than the official cemetery register) which visitors find interesting.

Although I recognise that the span of 50 years may have removed all possibility I should be very interested to hear from anyone who may have known this young Australian buried so far from his homeland, and who may be able and willing to provide a photo/photos of him/his home town/R.A.A.F. or anything relevant. His epitaph reads: God has him in His keeping. We have him in our hearts.

Very sincerely,
Maureen Diehl (Mrs) Hon Sup War Graves. Azores (Portugal).

Would anyone with photos or information about Wt Officer Ryan write to Mrs Diehl, c/o The Editor, Marrickville Heritage Society, P.O. Box 415 Marrickville 2204.



REMEMBERING THE DUNBAR

On a wild stormy night in August 1857, the ship *Dunbar* went down off South Head with 120 passengers and crew on board. All perished, except one, able seaman James Johnson, who clung to the rocks for 36 hours before he was rescued. Those bodies that were recovered were interred in Camperdown Cemetery where, for many years, an annual ceremony was held to commemorate the tragic loss of life.

Another survivor of the *Dunbar* wreck was the ship's leather bound Bible, which floated. On Saturday August 21 at 2pm the Rev Don Saines of St Stephens Church, will read from the *Dunbar* Bible at a Commemorative Service in Camperdown Cemetery near the *Dunbar* Tomb. A picnic will be held in the cemetery from 1pm and a tour will be conducted after the service. The carillon of St Stephens will also be played. Church and cemetery are at 189 Church St, Newtown.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$12 for individuals, \$18 for households and \$6 for students and pensioners. You will receive a monthly Newsletter (except in January) and the Society's journal *Heritage*. Subscriptions are valid for the Society year starting July 1. Regular meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month. Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204.

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