

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

COVERING DULWICH HILL, ENMORE, LEWISHAM,
SYDENHAM, TEMPE, & PARTS OF NEWTOWN,

MARRICKVILLE, PETERSHAM, ST PETERS, STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN & HURLSTONE PARK



OUR NEXT MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Petersham Town Hall Amenities Room Saturday June 24 10.30 am

The outgoing executive committee invites all MHS members to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to hear what has been achieved in the past year and to have a say on future directions. Major reports on the Society's activities will be presented. It is the executive and the committees of the Society who plan the activities, write the letters, guard our heritage, keep you informed and document the history of the area.

Elections will be held for the 1995/96 executive committee. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations are called for president, senior vice-president, junior vice-president, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and four committee members. Other positions to be filled are Heritage & Classifications committee convenor, newsletter editor and journal editor. Nominations may be made in writing prior to the meeting or on the day.

After these formalities our guest speaker, Marrickville Council's heritage architect Libby Maher, will enlighten us about her position and how as individuals or as a Society we can utilise her skills. At about 12.30 pm, weather permitting, we will proceed to nearby Maundrell Park for the traditional Champagne lunch. Members are asked to bring some sandwiches; bubbly and soft drink will be provided. Hope you can make it!

VICTORIAN VILLAS VICTORY

A full Marrickville Council meeting rejected a proposal to demolish the two Victorian villas at 367 and 369 Marrickville Road and to erect a block of flats. The applicant was advised that a redesigned proposal could provide a similar amount of accommodation allowing the front section of the villas to be retained and the streetscape preserved, with the added bonus that a nine metre setback from the road would not be required. Whilst MHS would prefer to have these houses reinstated as *upmarket* single dwellings, the above would be an acceptable compromise. Full marks to the Council on this sensible decision.

John Zinsmeister

THE GATEPOSTS OF WOODCOURT WHERE ARE THEY?

Woodcourt Street (Marrickville) is named after the 1885 house of that name. From 1905-1935 *Woodcourt* served as a girls' Church of England school called *Woodcourt College*. Sixty years later the Old Girls' Union still meets every six months. The house was demolished in the 1950s for flats, but four sandstone gateposts (originally at the Wardell Road entrance) remained in Woodcourt Street. Two were badly damaged after being struck by trucks in the 1980s and removed. In 1988 consideration was being given by Marrickville Council to relocate the gateposts to protect them from further damage. The other two (one bearing the inscription *Woodcourt*) were still there in April 1990 when MHS visited the site during the Magical Mystery Tour.

Their significance lies partly in their association with the site, having a physical link with the origin of their name, but also as part of the social and educational history of Marrickville. Surprisingly, they are not listed in the Marrickville Heritage Study and there are no heritage orders on them. It is believed they were removed in 1992. Anyone know where they are?

Richard Blair



Woodcourt gateposts & two early palms (1985)
(Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection)

SUBSCRIPTION FEE INCREASE

Membership fees are due in July (though members joining after March are exempt from further payment till July 1996). In accordance with the Constitution, the executive committee has decided to increase fees by two dollars for each category to allow for rising costs. The last fee increase was in 1990.

MAJOR FUNDRAISER

A number of local businesses have come forward to sponsor and/or advertise in our annual journal *Heritage 9*. You too can be a sponsor by supporting the **MHS Raffle**.

Tickets with details will be available shortly. First prize is a pair of Baxter prints (artist JR Dicksee), *News from Home* (circa 1853) and *A Letter from Australia* (circa 1854). Named after George Baxter, who developed the oil colour printing process, these are delightful pieces of Australian history, with a valuation for insurance purposes of \$800 - \$1000 (the pair). These prints have been generously donated to the Society by one of our members. There will also be six mystery prizes. Harlow Printing is producing the raffle tickets free of charge.

SW

LUNA PARK UPS AND DOWNS

Many members will recall Sam Marshall's wonderful talk on Luna Park in October 1992 followed by the MHS visit to the site in March 1994. Sam's biography of the Park (which opened in October 1935) *Luna Park Just For Fun* was officially launched in Coney Island on 2 May. Shirley Hilyard, who attended the launch, is quoted in the book as being carried with her sister out of the two revolving Barrels of Fun. *We kept falling down with helpless laughter.* Michael Pearce recalled riding the Big Dipper 13 times without getting off. Sam's pictorial book, which also examines the history of worldwide Luna Parks, is a marvellous compilation of memories of this Sydney icon but can **only** be bought at Luna Park (\$24.95).



Luna Park (1935)

Following the Park's closure in 1979, in the wake of the ghost train accident, and brief periods of operation in the 1980s, Luna Park finally re-opened in January 1995. However on May 4 the State Government announced the Park's likely closure due to the outstanding debt and lack of financial backing from private sources. After a colourful protest march by Park employees and supporters on Parliament House, and intensive negotiations Luna Park gained a reprieve at least until the finalisation of the Big Dipper noise Supreme Court case. Apart from Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, Luna Park is believed to be the only amusement park in the world protected by legislation. Whilst one cannot be too optimistic about the future of Luna Park it is hoped its magnificent smile will continue to beam well into the 21st century!

Richard Blair

GONE TROUGH

Following the May newsletter story of the missing horse troughs one resident is convinced the trough formerly in Enmore Park ended up at the tip. Cr Jack Shanahan has confirmed the existence of two horse troughs along New Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill in the 1950s and maybe later. One stood outside the post office and the other between Cloutings garage and the Gladstone Hotel. He thinks they would have been removed by the Council.

The trough in Fowler Street Reserve, Camperdown Park bears the following inscription - *Sullivan RSPCA Memorial (front); To honour James Sullivan who lost his life on 23rd July, 1924 when trying to save his employer's horses from death by fire (identical plaques at each end).* The trough is in good condition, though a slab of concrete has been placed over it (probably to prevent rubbish accumulation). At either end is a dog trough, however the extent of canine intake is not known.

The Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection records the recollections of Mrs Milly Flynn, who in 1986 lived opposite the park - *I was a young girl at the time, the fire was in a carrying firm's premises located in a now non-existing lane behind the Camperdown Children's Hospital. The stables belonged to Farrell's or McFarlane's. The groom saved some horses but was burnt to death with the remaining horses that he tried to save. A big procession followed the dedication of the trough on its original site on Pyrmont Bridge Road near Parramatta Road, Camperdown (where there is now a service station). The trough was moved to its present site about 1971-72.*

Richard Blair

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS

Forty people have so far responded to our request to participate in our oral history project (part of *Australia Remembers*) which will record the memories of people who lived, worked or went to school in the Marrickville Municipality during 1939-1945. We expect this number to increase following further publicity, which we have tried to make as broad as possible to reach people no longer residing in the area.

The request for members of the MHS to be trained as interviewers has received a promising response. Several volunteers have had a training session, conducted by the Oral History Association of Australia at the State Library.

However it's not too late to be involved. We would still like to hear from anybody with memories of those years. Likewise, if you have returned the forms you should hear from a volunteer interviewer soon. If you have any questions ring Angela 564 6370 or Lesley 569 9281.

Angela Phippen

1945 PETERSHAM PLANE CRASH

On 2 May I was an official guest at a remembrance and wreath laying ceremony conducted by the NSW Branch and Petersham Sub-Branch of the RSL in the grounds of the former Petersham Public School, now part of Petersham TAFE, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the deaths of F/Lt David George Rochford and LAC Charles Broughton Boydell who were killed in the crash of a Mosquito Bomber on 2 May 1945.

The ceremony brought back many memories of that day as I was in Miss Webb's 5th class at the time. Following this mighty explosion a boot came through the window and landed in my classroom; all school children were filed out of the classrooms, past the parachute-covered body and dismissed home. The body of the other pilot was found in the nearby railway goods yards. This scene has remained with me ever since.

The site near where one of the bodies landed is marked by a round concrete block enclosing a four point red star upon a four point black star. Nearby an attractive garden plot contains a flagpole and two small metal plaques erected by Petersham Public School recording the deaths of the airmen.

John Kavanagh, now retired and living in Queensland, was in 6th class. Having frequently told his family of the crash, he was down with his wife on holidays and just thought he'd show her the spot. You can imagine his surprise when he saw a gathering and discovered it was fifty years before to the day that this incident had occurred.

Lu Bell

(MHS member Lu Bell really started something when she advised Column 8 in the Herald about the formal fiftieth anniversary ceremony on Tuesday 2 May. Over the ensuing weeks numerous stories and letters appeared in the Herald, not just about this crash and the one at Lewisham Hospital (1946), but about others throughout Sydney, mostly suppressed from publication during the security conscious war years. Editor)

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OUR LAST MEETING

MHS DOES MOS *SH*

On Saturday 27 May about 45 MHS members and friends were amongst the first visitors to the recently opened Museum of Sydney on the site of the First Government House. Built by Governor Phillip in 1788 and demolished nine governors later in 1846, the site had since remained virtually (and thankfully) undeveloped. In 1983 archaeologists unearthed the original footings (now partly visible) of the house and copious artefacts. Intensive public lobbying ensured preservation of the site.

After an introductory talk members made their own way around this interactive museum which successfully conveys life in the early days and where much is left to the imagination - here three screens with ever changing unconnected images of extraordinary clarity; there a suspended talking head (Eora, convict or soldier) tells stories of colonial days, and within a dark chamber images and sounds abound. See the huge *talking* showcase, Macquarie's chair and the collector's chests with self-closing drawers, many containing archaeological artefacts. One drawer houses W Scott's 1845 watercolour *Race Meeting at Petersham* (reproduced in Richard Cashman's article *Horseracing in mid 19th century Marrickville* in *Heritage* 5).

Linger amongst the fifty watercolours from the early Port Jackson painters (on loan from London's Natural History Museum - now what a nice gesture if they were to donate from their vast collection a few dozen paintings to this erstwhile outpost of empire!). This compact, innovative museum in its historic setting is not one to be rushed through and judging from promotional material, MOS will be ever changing, ever stimulating and often visited.

Richard Blair

HERITAGE RETAIL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN

On 24 May Marrickville Council's heritage consultants conducted a breakfast seminar attended by shopkeepers, businesspersons and professionals from identified shopping precincts in Stanmore, Petersham and Dulwich Hill. Three of the MHS Heritage Watch Committee also attended. Participants identified broad characteristics of each retail area and problems contributing to a significant reduction in business. Ways of promotion were examined such as greater dialogue between Council and business, Main Street programs, heritage colour schemes and publicising heritage areas. This workshop foreshadows a DCP being available for another seminar in July. For further information contact Libby Maher 335 2114.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY JUNE 24 10.30 AM

Annual General Meeting

Details on front page.

SATURDAY JULY 22

Francis Greenway in the country - a coach tour

Join us for a unique opportunity to hear Clive Lucas on Francis Greenway's architecture in Windsor (St Matthew's and the Court House) and Liverpool (St Luke's and the Old Hospital). Clive's detailed knowledge of Greenway's work and colonial history will be shared with members during the coach trip.

SATURDAY AUGUST 26 10.30 AM

Petersham Town Hall

Most curious and peculiar

Martha Sear tells us everything we always wanted to know about Australian 19th century women taxidermists.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

A wander around old Newtown with Bruce Baskerville

SATURDAY JUNE 24 2.30 PM

St Stephen's Church, Camperdown

Concert by the Leichhardt Council Celebrity Brass Band with organist Garry Rodgers. Admission \$10 or \$5 concession; proceeds to restoration of St Stephen's tower windows.

SUNDAY JUNE 25 4.30 PM

St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River

Quest finalist Andrea Lam on piano; Graham Powning on cor anglais (donation \$2 for St Peters Organ Restoration).

ST PETERS GRAVEYARD 1839 - 1896

Next year is the centenary of the closing of the graveyard at St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River. The church is publishing a book to celebrate this centenary and would like any information on people buried there. Please write to - The History Committee, St Peters Anglican Church, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters 2044.

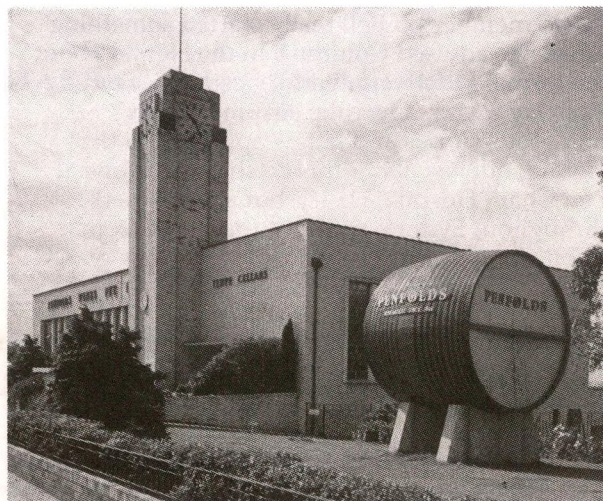
Laurel Horton

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

Mary Reibey and Henry Lawson are just two of our notable identities with local connections. From our ever growing array of currency notes can you name **two** others (past or present notes)? To preclude guessing, the correct answer will include appropriate substantiation. Coffee and cake at the Honeymoon Cafe to (non executive committee) correct respondents. Ring Richard 557 3823.

HERITAGE WATCH

- The Board of the ~~Historic~~ Commercial Vehicle Association is unanimous that the Bus & Truck Museum at the former **Tempe Tram Depot** would re-locate to Bankstown if the finance raised is sufficient to allow its Museum to be fully established at the new location. The new Government's intentions regarding the site remain unclear.
- The National Trust has provided information concerning **Stanmore House** in Enmore to the Australian Heritage Commission for consideration to formally place this item on the Register of the National Estate. **Stanmore House** was classified by the National Trust in 1982 and is subject of a Permanent Conservation Order.
- Whilst the owners of the former **325 King Street, Newtown** bank building have expressed their intentions to maintain the heritage integrity of the property, the whereabouts of the original Australian Cedar (*Toona australis*) doors remains a mystery.
- Marrickville Council has asked Australia Post to put back the metal lettering on the 1895 **Enmore Post Office** but this has not yet happened. The building goes under the auctioneer's hammer on June 13.
- The large imposing barrel which from 1959 graced the grounds of **Penfolds Wine Cellars** at 634 Princes Highway Tempe has been sadly demolished by the new owners. Whilst the *heritage* significance of this barrel may be debatable, it still represented a prominent local landmark and is now lost forever.



Former Penfolds Tempe Wine Cellars & barrel
(OL Ziegler *The Penfold story* 1975, p54
Marrickville Library Local Studies Collection)

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