

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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

OUR NEXT MEETING

SYDNEY'S HERITAGE IN SANDSTONE

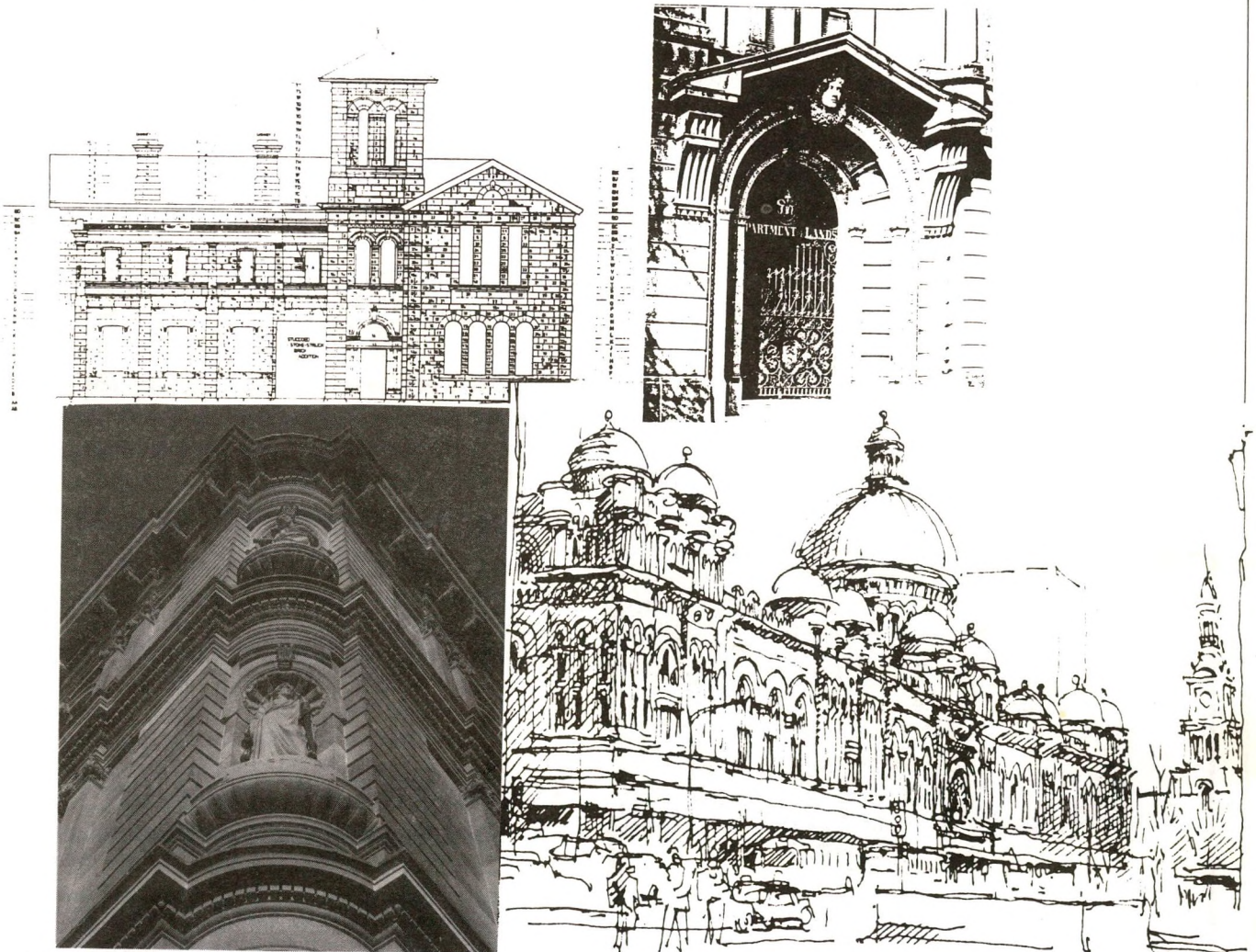
SATURDAY OCTOBER 22, 10.30 am

AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN HALL

George Proudman, Master Mason and now Consultant to the Stonework Program of the Public Works Heritage Group, together with Anne Morris, the Stonework Coordinator, will give a talk with slides on the history of masonry in buildings from colonial days when the first Government quarry was opened in 1810. This was on the northern side of Fort Phillip Hill and eventually formed Argyle Place.

They will tell of the award-winning work undertaken to conserve the glory of sandstone buildings in Sydney and throughout the state. The jury of the prestigious awards stated that *"no material has a more important role in engineering the visual appeal and sense of place than Sydney's golden hued sandstone"*. Perhaps only people of Sydney would understand this romance with our stone that evokes our particular spirit of place like no other.

You will be fascinated to hear of the technological advances in the mason's craft in working the stone and conserving it.



Some typical examples of Sydney Sandstone



OUR LAST MEETING - MAY GIBBS' NUTCOTE

On Saturday September 24 in perfect weather 36 members and friends enjoyed the ferry ride to Neutral Bay before strolling along to Nutcote, home of May Gibbs.

Nutcote is a compact, charming cottage which has been beautifully restored in the style of the 1930s. It has jarrah floorboards, dark wood panelling and built-ins of either Californian redwood or cedar. The sitting room is in the centre of the cottage but the feature room is the studio with its splendid views of the harbour. The kitchen is tiny but practical while all the plates are on display in the dining room.

The tour included slides and 2 videos, one with May's narration accompanying her illustrations cleverly inserted to match the dialogue. She revealed her return to Australia in 1913 from England was for fear of getting consumption. Inspired by her love of Australian flora she adapted the Western Australian banksia whose facial features were evident after a bushfire. She believed the fear engendered by the "*ugly Banksia men strengthened children*".

May had no pretensions about the quality of her work but experts have noted the botanical accuracy of her flowers. Snugglepoot and Cuddlepie were actually "*fertilised capsules of eucalypts*". May's output was prolific and most of us (spanning 2 or 3 generations) had grown up with Bib and Bub. Our guide said that for about 30 years she was paid the equivalent of \$13 a week without increments, whilst her contemporary Jim Bancks, creator of Ginger Meggs, frequently got a pay rise. At 89 she was given a government grant, but 4 months later failing health forced her to retire Bib and Bub.

We partook of morning tea overlooking the cottage garden (being redeveloped), Nutcote and the harbour before ferrying our way back to the Quay.

Richard Blair

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"1794" COMMEMORATION TRIVIA QUIZ

What is the oldest surviving Gothic Revival church in Sydney? Give yourself a mark if you answered St. Peters Anglican Church, Cooks River.

Following the September Newsletter's report on the commemoration here are some trivia questions:

Who was born at Thetford, Norfolk in 1737?

Who had 120 acres at Bullanaming and died at Parramatta in 1737 aged 97?

Who wrote *Songs of Experience*?

Who wrote *The Mysteries of Udolpho*?

Send your answers to Trivia, c/o History Committee, St Peters Anglican Church, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters 2044. The first correct entry received by November 1 will be sent a copy of the books *St Peters Cooks River 1838-1988* and *Life and Other Trivial Pursuits*. Answers will appear in the November Newsletter.

Bob Horton



On Sunday November 23 at 10am as part of Family Week the church is holding Reunion Sunday, a special service for all those who have personal and family connections with the church (tel 557 2332).

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Roger Parris, Dulwich Hill; Jim Hucker, St Peters; Margaret Dortkamp, Marrickville; Julie Drew, Newtown; Rod Byatt, Tempe; Michael Johnson, Summer Hill; Ken & Jan Reid, Northmead; Peter Witt & Rob Allen, Croydon; Andy Carr, Newtown.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL REMINDER

Some of our members have had an extensive holiday, a temporary loss of income or perhaps a slight lapse of memory. We have since July 1 continued to send the newsletter, but our Treasurer (**Harold Welsh**) would love to hear from you with your remittance either at a meeting or care of Box 415 PO Marrickville 2204.

LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN

Chrys Meader, well known Local Studies Librarian is now Coordinator Reader Services. Acting in the position until early 1995 is **Cheryl Flynn**, who has broad experience in community and local information provision at Marrickville Library and is a MHS member. Cheryl welcomes member's enquiries. Weekdays 335 2170.

TEMPE TRAM DEPOT WAR MEMORIAL – LIEUTENANT JOHN LYONS

Following press reports in July 1994 concerning the threatened removal of this war memorial by the STA (September Newsletter) a family in Griffith wrote to Lori Short (Tempe Community Centre.) The letter concerned one of their forebears whose name is the first inscribed on the memorial. With the family's permission much of this letter is reproduced.

* * * * *

John Maher Lyons (Jack) was only in his teens when his mother died and not wishing to be dependent on relatives, he found work breaking horses at Glen Innes. At 17 he rode his horse to Sydney where he took up residency at 539 Princes Highway (then King Street), Tempe. He became a tram conductor at Tempe and it was there that his extraordinary physique showed to advantage. He entered the annual three mile road race, contested by department athletes many who were virtually semi-professionals having trained for months. Jack, wearing long trousers, knew nothing of the technique of long distance running, so he just ran 'flat out' all the way. He won by so much that none of the other contestants were in sight at the finish.

When war broke out in 1914, he immediately enlisted, being one of the first 9 men to do so in Sydney. He was sent to New Guinea with a force to resist an expected occupation by the Germans. In 1915 he joined the 17th Battalion, 2nd Division AIF and in August his battalion landed at Gallipoli. Jack was promoted to Sergeant and placed in temporary command of the newly formed Bombing Platoon. His 'perfect' physique - over 6 feet tall and 17 stone (108 kilos) - made him the ideal bomber.

The battalion embarked for France in March 1916 and took part in several battles of the Somme for which Jack was decorated with both the Meritorious Service and the Military Medal. Before Pozieres he received his commission and was made 2nd-Lieutenant. He distinguished himself in the famous attack on Layton Alley. Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie's *Story of the 17th Battalion AIF*: "It was known that the Germans were holding Layton Alley in some strength. On the night of 2nd March, 2nd-Lieutenant Lyons advanced up the Alley under a supporting barrage of Mills bombs and completely surprised the enemy guarding the barricade set across that trench...." Early on the 3rd, he was wounded during a heavy enemy artillery barrage, but the Germans had by now retreated.

Later, after Company B had lost all its officers Jack and another man (Allen) took it under their care. They advanced so far but came under heavy fire

from a fortified farmhouse. "Lyons collected 15 men and led them on a headlong charge on the place. So sudden and determined was the attack that the garrison barely resisted, several being killed and 14 taken prisoner. Unfortunately, later in the day, when the enemy counter-attacked, Lyons was seen to fall severely wounded. A subsequent search for him and his companions proved fruitless" (Mackenzie).

Lyons was awarded the Military Cross. Thus he received 3 decorations for bravery, more than any other member of the battalion. Old comrades all agreed Jack was "the bravest man we ever knew".

A DAY AT THE RACES

On Saturday September 17, twenty members of the Society went to Rosehill Racecourse for a most enjoyable day, on the occasion of the annual Heritage Stakes. We had lunch in the Ascot Room which overlooks the racetrack from high in the grandstand.

Some people chose their lucky numbers, some liked the name of a horse or jockey whilst others actually knew something about racing. Punter of the day was Shirley Hilyard who had quite a few winning horses and tips for other racegoers.

Thanks to Brian Nugent for again organising such a wonderful day.

Lesley Jones

Our roving reporter tells me that in the fashion stakes Lesley and Ed Jones won by a long length.

Editor



MHS punters at Rosehill left to right: Ed Jones, Brian Nugent, Shirley Hilyard, Mary Eyles, Margaret Sinclair, Gwenda Welsh, Harold Welsh, Joyce Ellis. (photo by Fred Ellis)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 14, 8PM SHARP
AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN PIANO MUSIC
Denis Condon and his reproducing pianos

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13
ANNUAL NEWTOWN FESTIVAL
CAMPERDOWN MEMORIAL REST PARK
The Society will run its usual stall selling *Heritage* journals and other publications along with plants and jams. **Pat** (559 4771) would like to hear from anyone with donations as well as members wishing to give a couple of hours of their time on the day.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26
The annual Christmas picnic will be held in the Petersham Park Rotunda with a mystery guest! (such a mystery that even the editor is in the dark).

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10
POT LUCK DINNER
Last year's occasion broke with tradition by being held in nearby Lewisham but never fear, this year it returns to Petersham chez **Lesley** and **Ed Jones**

PLAQUE UNVEILING OF 2 RAILWAY WHIPPLE TRUSSES

This ceremony will be held on Sunday October 23 at 2 pm at the reserve on the north side of the viaduct off Grosvenor Crescent, west of Lewisham Station. It commemorates an important item of railway heritage and celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Institute of Engineers of Australia.

RETAINING WALL RETAINED

The March Newsletter reported on work to be carried out by State Rail to the brick wall of Stanmore Station along Trafalgar Street which was leaning outwards. The Society's submission to both Marrickville Council and the Heritage Council of NSW argued in favour of the wall being rebuilt to match the original design.

Stanmore Station is included in the Marrickville Heritage Study. The station buildings were constructed in 1886. The subway and associated brickwork and the retaining wall were constructed at the turn of the century.

In a happy outcome to the negotiations the wall was demolished and rebuilt to the previous details. We congratulate State Rail for making efforts to retain this extremely important element of the Stanmore Station precinct.

Shirley Hilyard

ST STEPHEN'S RESTORATION UPDATE

Architect **Clive Lucas** and **John Diesendorf**, parish project manager addressed the Friends of St Stephens on September 24 on the techniques of restoration and some associated discoveries. Whilst architect Edmund

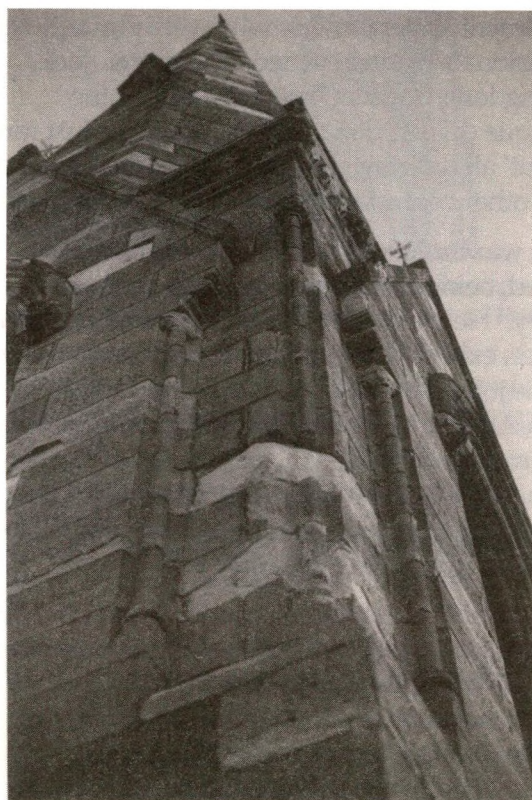
Blacket's skill as a designer of churches was never better displayed than at Newtown, the workmanship, though superficially beautiful, sometimes left much to be desired below the surface.

Problems relating to mortar in the tower and slating of the roof since Blackett's time have been skilfully corrected by conscientious conservators (**Gabriel** and **Lucia Popian** and roofer **Manfred Raabe**). Lucia's meticulous colouring of the mortar makes it hard to see where much of the restoration has taken place.

The parish is delighted with the restoration of the clerestory windows, previously smashed by vandals. Not only has the restorer **Rick Allan** carefully matched the old glass but has also repaired the mechanism that opens and shuts the windows which, according to **Clive** is possibly the only such mechanism in any of Blacket's churches which is still operational.

Tamsyn Taylor

This report follows Tamsyn's earlier one in the May *Newsletter*. She will examine the work still to be done next issue. **Editor**



The challenge of restoring the spire still remains
(photo by **John Diesendorf**)

HERITAGE CONCERT AT ST STEPHENS

Towards the restoration, the Friends of St Stephens have organised a concert at the church for the evening of the Newtown Festival on Sunday November 13 at 5.30pm. Included are works by Bach, Mozart, Handel and Debussy performed by flautist **Roberta Hamilton**, baritone **Joseph Kinsela**, organist **Garry Rodgers** and vocal and orchestral ensembles from the Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. \$10, \$5 concession