

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**HATCHED, MATCHED &  
DESPATCHED -**

### HUMOUR IN THE REGISTERS

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 10.30 AM**

**AMENITIES ROOM, PETERSHAM TOWN  
HALL**

Registration of births, deaths and marriages became compulsory in New South Wales on 1 March 1856, but how were they recorded prior to that date? Indeed, were they recorded at all? This is a light-hearted look at some of the humorous and unusual entries to be found on the microfilms of the early records. CS Forester may have invented the fictitious character Horatio Hornblower, but did you know that we have our own military man Thomas Hornblower buried in the Camperdown Cemetery? Or that Newtown was once considered to be *out in the country*? When did official registration of personal events commence in Great Britain, Brazil or South Africa? Where were the unusually named places in New South Wales - Frog's Hollow, Murdering Swamp and Bedlam Ferry? How did the British pop group UB40 get its name?

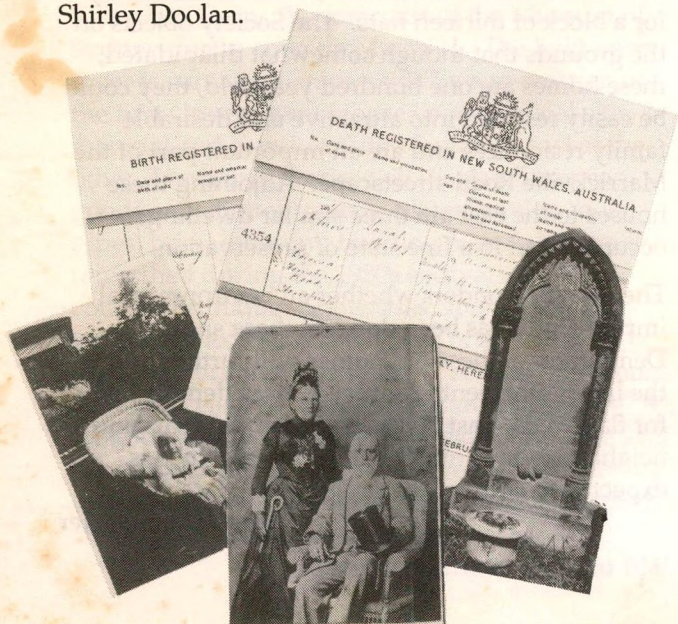
These and many other strange and unusual facts will all be revealed by historian and MHS member Shirley Doolan.

## STANMORE HOUSE



The development application on the site between Stanmore House and Enmore Theatre is still under consideration with Marrickville Council, but the recent publicity and attention to the saving of the house by prominent persons and organisations has been most encouraging. The Minister for Planning & Housing Robert Webster's Heritage Branch has written to Marrickville Council emphasising the need to give careful consideration to the heritage significance of Stanmore House in assessing any development application. Mayor Barry Cotter has expressed his wish to have the house restored and State Member for Marrickville Dr Andrew Refshauge has indicated *he would push for State Assistance when Parliament resumed after the March elections* (Inner Western Suburbs Courier 16/1/95). Marrickville Council has received strong letters of protest against the DA from the National Trust, The Heritage Council of NSW and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Such has been the decline of Stanmore House throughout this century that till recently most people were unaware of its existence let alone the fact that this is a building of such **national significance**. Of most significance Mary Reibey built the house for her daughter Elizabeth who was married to Joseph Long Innes; Clive Lucas' 14/1/95 letter to the Sydney Morning Herald discussed the illustrious Long Innes family association; a long-time early owner of the house was James Pemell, a prominent Sydney flourmiller who was also a member of the first reformed





parliament in 1859 and MLA for Canterbury (which covered part of the Marrickville area) in the late 1860s; the house is attributed to Henry Robertson, a highly regarded architect of the mid 1800s and this is his only known remaining dwelling.

Mary Reibey's son Thomas and grandson Thomas, Premier of Tasmania in 1876, both in turn owned Entally House, near Launceston. Entally House was acquired by the Tasmanian Government in 1950 for preservation and is one of Australia's most visited historic properties. As Stanmore House was built for Mary's youngest but longest surviving child Elizabeth, it is of equal importance to Entally House.

## STOP PRESS

*On Tuesday 7th February, Marrickville Council rejected the development application for the property next door to Stanmore House.*

**Richard Blair, Editor**

## STANMORE HOUSE - A REMINISCENCE

Mark J Hammond (1843-1908) wrote his memoir *Remembered with Pride - Recollections of an Australian Gold-digger* (available at Ashfield Library) between 1903 and 1908. Hammond's goldmining career began at the age of nine and lasted twenty years before he entered public life serving as Mayor of Ashfield (1882-84) and becoming a leader in the New South Wales movement for Federation. In 1988 historian Brian Hodge was instrumental in having this autobiographical work published. What follows are extracts from Hammond's early life (pp27-30):

*When I was but four years of age my mother died (1848)...[soon after which]...my father found employment in Sydney and we were removed from Pitt Town to the city. I remember the trip down on a cart loaded with household requisites. Our next home was on the Reiby Estate, Newtown.*

*We now had a stepmother. From here my brother and I went to Dunlop's School on the Newtown Road (now King Street) and to Sunday School to the church on the opposite side of the road. Reiby's house is still standing (1907)\*. New buildings at the corner of Station Street and the Enmore Road occupy the site of Mrs Reiby's stables. Stanmore House to the west facing the Enmore Road was then in the course of erection. As boys we delighted in playing through the new building and listening to the echo of our voices. I remember Mrs. Reiby well; but I have cause to remember her kitchen fire better. One night I was looking into the stove. It was the first coal fire I had seen (firewood was the fuel commonly used in those days), when a spark flew out and struck me in the eye, causing much pain and giving me good reason to remember a coal fire. Newtown was but little built on at that time. From Reiby up to the Newtown School was vacant land, over which we walked every day to school.*

*In June 1851, whilst we were still at Mrs Reiby's came the report of the discovery of gold by Edward Hargraves at Ophir in the Western District.*

*\* Reiby House was demolished in July 1964 for a large block of flats completed in November 1965 and named Reiby Court.*

## MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

Marrickville Council is pleased to announce this inaugural award to be known as the Marrickville Medal to be presented in Heritage Week each year. The award is to encourage and reward high quality restoration of, or skilled addition to old buildings of heritage significance, as well as the erection of new buildings or very substantial additions to an existing building that add to the cultural heritage of the Marrickville municipality.

To qualify, the building works must have been completed in the three preceding calendar years, that is 1992-1994. Nominations to reach Council by 1 March 1995. The award will be presented during the week April 2-9 with a selection of the entries displayed. The Medal is intended to be attached to the winning building and citations will be presented to the building owners and/or designers.

The award jury will comprise Trevor Howells, Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Sydney (Chair), Geraldine O'Brien, Heritage Writer at the Sydney Morning Herald and David Latta, author of *Early Australian Architecture* and *Lost Glories: A memorial to forgotten buildings*. For further information contact Council's Heritage Architect Libby Maher on 335 2114.

**Libby Maher**

## 367-369 MARRICKVILLE ROAD, MARRICKVILLE

Marrickville Heritage Society has lodged an objection at Marrickville Council about the proposed demolition of two 1890s villas at 367 - 369 Marrickville Road, Marrickville to make way for a block of thirteen flats. The Society objects on the grounds that though somewhat dilapidated, these homes are one hundred years old, they could be easily restored into attractive and desirable family residences and are an important part of the Marrickville Road streetscape. Adjoining these houses to the east are three similar dwellings, occupied and in a fine state of preservation.

The Society wonders whether an environmental impact study has been done on these sites. Demolition of these old homes will further add to the list of nineteenth century houses demolished for flats in the past 30 years. Some residents and neighbours have objected to Council which is expected to address the proposal in March.

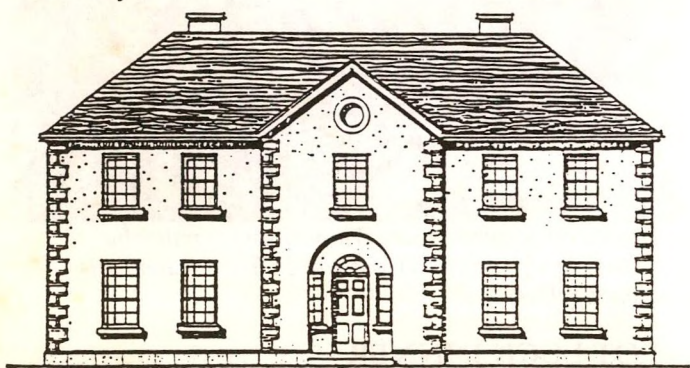
**John Zinsmeister**



## THE MUSEUM OF SYDNEY ON THE SITE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE

On Australia Day several members of the Society attended the official opening of **First Government House Place**, on the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets. The short ceremony was heralded by a stunning dance drama *A World Turning Rite (deadly, eh)* performed by students from Sarah Redfern High School at Minto. Helen Coonan, Chairperson of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW spoke of the background of the plaza and introduced Peter Collins, Minister for the Arts who performed the official opening.

Arthur Phillip built the first Government House on this site in 1788 and here the affairs of state of the first nine Governors of NSW were conducted until the building's demolition in 1846. In 1983 archeologists exposed its remains. A section of the original 1788 foundations can be viewed through a panel. Paving patterns on the granite floor outline the plans of the original buildings. On the western side of the plaza stands a sculptural installation *Edge of the Trees*, a forest of 29 massive wood, sandstone and steel pillars of up to nine metres tall, a cultural mix of British and Aboriginal history.



*Old Government House, Sydney*  
(Morton Herman, *Early Australian Architects and their Work*, 1973, p13)

This plaza forms the forecourt of the Museum of Sydney due to open on March 11. The light open foyer is contained on one side by a re-creation of the first Government House using original site material and 'windows' into Sydney's past at the other. Upstairs galleries will display European goods and chattels such as plates, bottles, tools, pipes, bric-a-brac and building materials, largely unearthed during the 1980s excavations. The concept is unique. Showcases, sound, text and temporary exhibitions tell tales of the Eora (Sydney's original inhabitants), settlers, governors, convicts, celebrations, conflict and community. A lookout, all glass, overlooking the historic site and the harbour city prompts us to reflect not only on our inheritance but also on what to keep, discard, change and make for our future.

**Marilyn Kelly & Richard Blair**

## MASTERTOUCH ROLLS OUT 75TH

On Sunday November 20 the Mastertouch Piano Roll Company in Petersham celebrated its 75th birthday at Petersham Town Hall with a lively party refreshments being served by elegantly attired waitpersons, foot-tapping music played by the Yellow Rolls Royce Group and expert dancers who all created a continual floorshow. A film featuring Lettie Keyes showed the technique and musical charm of the lady who for many years played the music for the piano rolls.

The owner Mr Barclay-Wright spoke of the successes of the Company and looking to the future described an innovation whereby computer interface technology will add orchestral effects to the piano rolls. All in all, a wonderful tribute to a great Australian company.

**Pat Mullen**

## WANTED - LONG MEMORIES

*HERITAGE 9* Journal editors Mark Matheson and Geoff Ostling are still keen to hear from folk with long memories in the interests of posterity. You may have recollections or memorabilia of local aircrashes, suburban dairies, the GMH factory, old Abergeldie House, the Dixon family, Lilian Fowler, old Cooks River, to name a few. You may ring Mark on 559 5502 or Geoff 568 3029; they will also be at the February 25 meeting. Meanwhile *HERITAGE 9* is on target for June publication.

## MARRICKVILLE: PEOPLE & PLACES

Chrys Meader, Richard Cashman & Ann Carolan

The long-awaited launch of this volume took place before a large gathering at Marrickville Library on the evening of Friday, December 16. Following introductory remarks by Colin Mills and Michael Refshauge from Marrickville Council, Jeannette McHugh, MHR wet the baby's head and Chrys responded with the story behind this social history. After a little champagne persuasion a large number of signed copies of the book were purchased. Copies are available through the Society.

**Richard Blair**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 10.30 AM HATCHED, MATCHED & DESPATCHED**

Shirley Doolan looks at humour in researching the Birth, Death & Marriage Registers (see front page).

### **SATURDAY MARCH 11, 11 AM MUSEUM OF SYDNEY ON THE SITE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE CORNER PHILLIP & BRIDGE STREETS**

Official opening of the Museum (see separate story).

### **SATURDAY MARCH 18, 10.30 AM GOVERNOR'S DAIRY PRECINCT - VISIT TO PARRAMATTA PARK**

Last August we had the talk. Now we can inspect this precinct of three cottages whose origins date back to the 1790s. (note meeting a week earlier than usual due to State Election).

### **SUNDAY MARCH 19 FROM 10 AM COOKS RIVER FESTIVAL TEMPE RESERVE, HOLBEACH AVENUE**

### **THURSDAY APRIL 6, 7-8.30 PM RAY SOWDEN SERIES MARRICKVILLE LIBRARY**

Cheryl Flynn, Local Studies Librarian, welcomes Society members to come and view the collection (see December Newsletter).

### **SATURDAY APRIL 22, 10.30 AM MARY REIBEY - LIFE AND TIMES PRESENTED BY NANCE IRVINE**

Historian and author Nance Irvine will enlighten us about the Woman on the Twenty Dollar Note who in the 1840s built Stanmore House.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Cheerio to Pat Mullen, who has been a most enthusiastic and capable secretary since July and is moving to Adelaide. Mabelle Smyth has also resigned. We welcome Norma Hayman to the executive committee and John Zinsmeester who is chairing the Heritage Watch Committee.

### **OBITUARY**

We record with sadness the recent death of our member, Margaret Phillips of Marrickville and Bateau Bay after a long illness. Our condolences to her family - two of Margaret's sons, Ian and Ross, are members of the Society. Some of Margaret's recollections will feature in *HERITAGE* 9.

## STANLEY STREET, TEMPE SUCCESS

All those concerned with the retention of heritage buildings in the Marrickville area can take heart from the recent decision by Marrickville Council to reject an application for the demolition of a house in Stanley Street at Tempe. It is one of a group recognised in the Local Environment Plan, as being *an excellent group of mid 1930s bungalows which retain most of their original detailing and which create a well maintained and attractive streetscape of the period.*

Representation by various individuals and groups including the MHS Heritage Watch may well have influenced the Council's decision and demonstrates the importance of vigilance in our efforts to retain buildings of heritage significance. Marrickville Council staff and councillors are to be congratulated for making a decision which will please many residents not only of Tempe, but throughout the rest of the municipality.

Bob Horton



*Houses on Stanley Street, Tempe linked together by colour, style, set-back, original brick fencing and half-hipped gables.*

### **POT LUCK DINNER**

For the forty or so Society members and friends who gathered together on Saturday December 10 in the beautifully restored Victorian terrace of Lesley and Ed Jones in Petersham, it was a night of splendid food, convivial company, sparkling conversation, not exclusively heritage and aircraft noise. Lesley, resplendent in her apron and Ed were congenial hosts, ably assisted by head waiter Harold and the regular MHS helpers. Special thanks to Angela Phippen and Gwenda

Welsh for their organisation.

Richard Blair

**CONGRATULATIONS** to member Shirley Cassidy for identifying in writing Mary Reibey, on whose life and times the novel *Sara Dane* was loosely based.

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