

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

FRANCIS GREENWAY GOES WEST – A GUIDED BUS TOUR TO LIVERPOOL & WINDSOR WITH CLIVE LUCAS

Saturday July 22, 9.15 am

Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 9.15 am
for 9.30 am (sharp) bus departure.
Anticipated return 4.30 pm in
Petersham. Cost \$12, \$10 concession.
Bring your own lunch. Bookings
essential Shirley 569 1768. (please
advise if wishing to cancel).

M H Ellis (*Francis Greenway* 1949)
writes of Macquarie's Sydney of
1814...*In all of the array of the talents
there was one strange and important
gap. Bankers, burglars and King's
officers...scholars from Oxford...Irish
parsons and seducing baronets, sprigs
of the peerage...ironworkers and
plasterers, masons and carpenters - all
were represented. The patronage of
Governor Macquarie was enjoyed by
aspiring poets, painters and engravers.*



*But, amid all the mass of enterprise and ability
which the colony boasted, it was to be noted, to the
shame of the whole profession, that until the "General
Hewitt" sailed in on February 7, 1814, the great
criminal class of Great Britain had not been able to
throw up a single architect!*

Francis Howard Greenway of Bristol
landed with a letter from Governor
Phillip to Governor Macquarie
(whose joy was only surpassed by
that of his wife, Elizabeth) to look
favourably on the new arrival and
give him his protection. And so
they set out to transform the
shoddy little settlement. How
they did it is history.

In July 1994 Clive Lucas, heritage
architect, guided MHS members
on a walking tour of Greenway's
buildings that ornament our city.
Now we have a unique opportunity
to hear Clive on Greenway's buildings
in the country at Liverpool and Windsor
(and perhaps a surprise).



NEW THREAT TO STANMORE HOUSE

A fresh development application (DA 237/95) has
been submitted to Marrickville Council for 112-116
Enmore Road Enmore, the site adjoining Stanmore
House. Following examination of the plans and
documentation of this DA, Marrickville Heritage
Society believes it is as unacceptable as the
previous DA of that site, as it fails to recognise that
Stanmore House is the most important building in
the Marrickville Local Government Area. The
significance of Stanmore House has been well
documented in previous newsletters and a
condensed conservation study will feature in our
next journal *Heritage* 9.

Apart from being the only remaining building in
Sydney connected with Mary Reibey, who built it in
about 1847, it is thought to be the only house extant
of the eminent mid nineteenth century architect
Henry Robertson. As well as its historic importance
it is a very special example of Australian colonial
architecture, being distinguished by a central
pediment above a handsome fan-lit door in the
manner of our long demolished First Government

House. It is protected by a Permanent Conservation
Order under the New South Wales Heritage Act
1977 and is classified by the National Trust (1982).
An assessment for entry of the house in the Register
of the National Estate is under way. Stanmore
House can be compared to Lyndhurst at Glebe
which was originally in similar condition but has
now been restored and is recognised and valued in
the community.

Further opportunities to restore and interpret
Stanmore House will be seriously compromised
and limited if the present proposal for
development is allowed to proceed. A recent letter
has been received from Senator John Faulkner,
Minister for Environment Sport and Tourism,
(replying on behalf of the Prime Minister)
commending our Society for its efforts to have
Stanmore House restored and its setting kept free
of inappropriate development. As we regard this
present development application as **totally**
inappropriate, we urge members to write to
Marrickville Council in protest.

John Zinsmeister and Shirley Hilyard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1994/95

In 1994/95 Marrickville Heritage Society has provided a wide variety of activities for members. We have had tours of Greenway's Sydney conducted by Clive Lucas, *Nutcote*, (the home of author May Gibbs), the Dairy Precinct and Old Government House at Parramatta Park, and the newly-opened Museum Of Sydney on the site of First Government House. Guest speakers were Alan Croker and Kylie Winkworth on the Parramatta Dairy Precinct, George Proudman and Anne Morris on Sydney's sandstone heritage, Shirley Doolan on humour in the registers and Nance Irvine on the life of Mary Reibey. Today Libby Maher will discuss her role as heritage architect with Marrickville Council.

Other events included the Heritage Stakes race meeting at Rosehill, an evening of Russian piano music with Denis Condon, our Christmas picnic in Petersham Park where we were entertained by folk singer John Dengate and the Fort Street High School Concert Band, the Pot Luck Christmas dinner at the home of Ed and Lesley Jones, a theatre party to the play *Portrait of an Artist* (William Dobell) at the New Theatre in Newtown, and dinner at the *Mrs Top* restaurant. As part of Heritage Week the Society organised a walking tour of Petersham North led by former president Geoff Ostling and a visit to Marrickville Library to view the Ray Sowden Series.

All of these events were reported in the MHS newsletter which was published eleven times in the past year. There will be separate reports from the publication editors, the Treasurer, the Heritage Watch and Marrickville Remembers Committee convenors.

All of this activity would not have happened without the hard work and time of many MHS members: Pamela Stewart, Vice President, Harold Welsh, Treasurer, Pat Mullen, Secretary (till February), Gwenda Welsh, Assistant Secretary and acting Secretary (from February); Committee members Shirley Hilyard, Ed Jones, Lesley Jones, Angela Phippen, Mabelle Smyth and Norma Hayman; Newsletter Editor Richard Blair, Journal Editors Mark Matheson and Geoff Ostling; Heritage Watch Committee, John Zinsmeester (convenor), Shirley Hilyard, Richard Blair, Shirley Doolan, Anne Walter, Ian Walter, Mark Matheson, Geoff Ostling and Rhoda Sutton; Membership Secretary Mary Tait, Auditor Brad Robinson and Solicitor Richard Hughes, who also kindly allowed us the use of his home for monthly executive meetings. To these members and others who have contributed, I offer my sincere thanks.

After two years as Treasurer and one as President, I will not be standing for election to the Committee this year. We have seen new members of the Committee bring fresh enthusiasm and ideas, and this must continue if the Society is to maintain its strength in the coming year.

Lindsay Smyth

OUR LAST MEETING WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

Almost 60 members, including our patron Eve Sharpe, attended the Annual General Meeting at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday June 24. Outgoing President Lindsay Smyth presented the eleventh annual report which was followed by reports from the Treasurer, the convenors of the Heritage Watch and Marrickville Remembers committees, and the editors of the Newsletter and the Journal.

The elections followed conducted by returning officer Lindsay Smyth. The new executive is:

President John Zinsmeester, Vice Presidents Ed Jones and Angela Phippen, Treasurer Harold Welsh, Secretary Anne Walter, Assistant Secretary Gwenda Welsh, Committee members Shirley Doolan, Avril Chiswell, Carol Phillips and Shirley Hilyard.

Other positions accepted were Membership Secretary Mary Tait, Heritage Watch/Classifications Convenor John Zinsmeester, Newsletter Editor Richard Blair, Journal Editor Mark Matheson; Angela Phippen will continue as Convenor of the Marrickville Remembers committee.

The formalities over, Marrickville Council heritage architect Libby Maher showed a splendid selection of slides depicting the abundance of heritage buildings in the Marrickville area.

Managing change for the

future is just as important as preserving the past as demonstrated by the new additions around St Clements Church and in the *recycling* of Marrickville Hospital for future use by the Council. A good example of community consultation was the Stanmore Public School Common Ground and similar consultation will be fundamental to the Urban Design Study on King Street and Enmore Road recognising the unique character of these areas. Vigilance over inappropriate treatments such as appalling extensions which mar streetscapes is also important. Thanks to Libby for an elucidating presentation.

Members then went to Maundrell Park for the traditional champagne and sandwiches with the new executive where a toast was proposed to our new President, John Zinsmeester.

Richard Blair



John Zinsmeester, our new President, beside the historic postbox at Newtown Station (Western Suburbs Courier 10/8/93)

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AIRCRAFT NOISE IN SYDNEY - OUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD!

Marrickville Heritage Society has made another submission on the impact of the third runway operations. The key points made on behalf of those members so adversely affected were:

- since the opening of the third runway in November the doubling of aircraft with its associated noise, pollution and risk has become unbearable.
- loss of quality of life: outside activities in residents' backyards cannot be compensated for by noise insulation.
- of major concern for a Heritage Society are the items of environmental heritage significance. The Marrickville LGA has a wealth of such items (which were given scant consideration in the Draft EIS) all documented in the Marrickville Heritage Study, 1986 and subsequently adopted by Marrickville Council as Local Environment Plan 50. Environmental heritage significance is defined as *those buildings, works, relics or places of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance for the state.*
- the major natural feature of the region, Botany Bay has great significance to the area both naturally and historically. It has been seriously degraded over the years by the expansion of the airport.
- items of the built environment will suffer from the decline of residential land use as people move away because of the airport and unacceptable noise. Our experience shows that historically significant public buildings are at risk of serious damage by vandalism and neglect if left unused.

It may be difficult to assess the long term effects of noise and air pollution, traffic congestion and the degradation of our heritage but these issues are no less important than the economic factors. Those members of Marrickville Heritage Society whose amenity is so seriously affected by airport noise and other factors set out herein urge the Senate Select Committee to properly address these concerns as it is both legally and morally obliged to do.

Shirley Hilyard and David Hilyard

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 New Canterbury Road Petersham • Tel. 560 3884

LEICHHARDT GARDEN CENTRE

346-350 Norton St, Leichhardt (Lilyfield Rd. end of Norton St.) • Tel. 560 0889



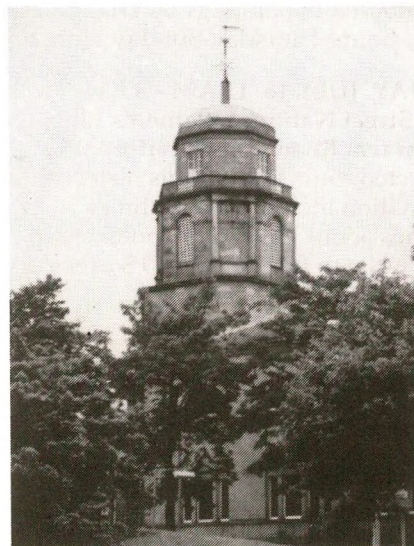
Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses; Cottage Garden Plants; Camellias, Azaleas, All Herbs; Terracotta Pots, Lattice. Everything to keep your garden healthy

LESLEY & ED DO BLACKBURN

What you may wonder do Lesley Jones and Mary Reibey (nee Molly Haydock) have in common? Apart from anything else, they were both born, almost two centuries apart in Lancashire; Lesley in Blackburn and Molly/Mary in nearby Bury though Molly spent much of her childhood around Blackburn. She saw the first stone of St John's Church being laid as a child in September 1790. Lesley and Ed recently went over for a visit and Lesley discovered that a *Haydock* had married a *Walmsley* ancestor of hers in 1759. In Mary Reibey's earliest extant letter (1792), reference is made to her *aunt Wamsley* (sic). We await outcome of further research.

Enquiries at the Blackburn museum revealed nothing about Mary Haydock/Reibey. Having gained, 140 years after her death, the recognition she deserves in Australia, Mary may still be unacknowledged in the area of her birth and early life even though there continue to be numerous Haydocks, Walmsleys and Hopes around Blackburn. Given the strong association between Mary and the Newtown/Enmore/St Peters area, is there no reason why Newtown/Marrickville could not be linked with Blackburn/Bury by some sort of sistership?

Richard Blair



St. John's Church Blackburn, 1995 (Photo: Ed Jones)

ADIEU RHONA CLEMENT

About seven years ago Rhona Clement took on the awesome task of organising Marrickville Council's archives and in that time she has not only established an excellent facility, but has acquired an encyclopedic knowledge of the area. Now regrettably (for us) she is leaving. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

MHS RAFFLE

Members will receive a book of ten tickets (\$1 each) to sell to family and friends. As well as sponsoring the Society's journal, you have the chance of winning two mid 19th century prints worth around \$1,000 plus six mystery prizes. For more tickets please ring Harold on 569 5183.

JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY



invites you to an
OPEN DAY AT THE LIBRARY'S FUTURE HOME
at

96-106 Illawarra Road, Marrickville
The Old Marrickville Town Hall
(corner of Illawarra Road and Council Street)
Sunday, 16 July 1995 11 am till 3 pm.
DONATION \$5

- Do you live in the vicinity? Are you part of the Marrickville community?
- Are you interested in heritage buildings?
- Are you an ex-student of Marrickville School, which was once housed in this building?
- Have any of your family worked for the Council in this building?
- Are you interested in the future home of Australia's national women's library?

THEN LET US SHOW YOU OVER THIS HERITAGE BUILDING
SEE IT AS IT IS NOW LEARN HOW IT WILL BE RESTORED AND USED

HAVE A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE

EVERYBODY WELCOME

**For more information about Jessie Street National Women's Library write
to us at: GPO Box 2656 Sydney 2001 or phone us on 555 9376.**

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY JULY 22 9.15 AM

Francis Greenway goes west

Details on front page

SATURDAY AUGUST 26 10.30 AM

Petersham Town Hall

Most curious and peculiar

Martha Sear gives us a preview of the 1996 exhibition on 19th century Australian women taxidermists and their work.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Bruce Baskerville conducts a heritage walk around old Newtown

THROUGHOUT JULY

Eaglehawk Galleries

(prev. Mary Reibey Gallery)

238-240 Enmore Road, Enmore

"The Mary Reibey Series"

and recent works on canvas and paper

An exhibition of paintings by **Diana Cole**

Gallery hours Thursday-Sunday 11am to 6 pm.

SUNDAY JULY 16 11 AM - 3 PM

Jessie Street National Women's Library

96 Illawarra Road Marrickville

Conducted tours around this historic building (\$5 donation including refreshments). For enquiries about JSNWL or sponsorship please write to Box 2656 GPO Sydney 2001 or ring 555 9376.

SUNDAY JULY 23 4.30 PM

St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River

Michael Deasey on organ; string quartet lead by Brian Strong; Grahame Powning on oboe (donation \$2 for pipe organ restoration)

SUNDAY JULY 30 3.00 PM

Prescott Hall, Newington College

For nostalgia buffs come along and hear a program of ballads and sentimental songs performed by Robert Boyd, Michael Dale, Wendy Dickson and Margretta Sculthorp accompanied by Mary-Leigh Hand on piano.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

June Cameron, Ken Turner & Betty Sheehan of Marrickville; John & Ruth Edwards, Kevin Gully & Irene Blackburn of Dulwich Hill; Michael & Alma Roberts, Petersham; John Wright, Newtown; Mark Maloney, Stanmore; Ruth McGann, Summer Hill; Jessie Street National Women's Library, Rozelle; John Hannan, Alexandria; Sue Wilson, Underwood, Tasmania.

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWERS - LOCAL NOTABLES

Mary Reibey is not the only new *currency lass* with a local connection. The woman on the current ten dollar note, Mary Cameron was one of the best known teachers at Stanmore Public School where she was a teacher's assistant from 1891 to 1895 when she resigned to join the New Australia movement (which sailed to Paraguay to establish a utopian community under the leadership of William Lane). She was better known as **Dame Mary Gilmore** [Marrickville People & Places, p 122].

On the old crimson five dollar note was **Caroline Chisholm** described by Margaret Kiddle (1969) as *the greatest of women pioneers in the history of Australia, and all the greater because she did not look for material reward or public position*. By the early 1860s ill health and limited means caused her to withdraw somewhat from public life but in July 1862 she opened a girls' school (or rather an *educational establishment for young ladies*) at Rathbone House, Fotheringham Street, Stanmore (now part of Marrickville). Though a large and comfortable house, in May 1863, in order to take more boarders, she moved the school to *Greenbank*, Tempe on the banks of Cooks River (formerly *Tempe House* of A B Sparks; this house is now owned by Qantas and in the Arncliffe area). It is not clear when the school closed but it is not mentioned after 1864 either in the press or the Sand's Directory and Caroline returned to England for the last time in June 1866.

MHS member Shirley Cassidy submitted the following: *Banksia*, named after Sir Joseph Banks (old \$5 note) is all over the area; Lawrence Hargrave, aeronautical pioneer, inventor and explorer (old \$20) - MHS member Nigel Butterley of Stanmore wrote an opera named *Lawrence Hargrave Flying Alone*; at time of writing, Shirley was wearing a woollen jumper from a sheep or lamb descended from the original flock of merinos introduced by John Macarthur (old \$2); Kingsford Smith (old \$20), pioneer of the air gave his name to the airport that so adversely affects the lives of those in Marrickville LGA. Nice try Shirley!

Richard Blair

* * * * *

A friend of the editor has named her dog *Chirac* because it does its dirty business in other people's backyards!

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS DUE

As reported in June newsletter subscriptions have been increased by \$2 to allow for escalating costs (first rise since 1990). New fees are now \$8 for seniors, pensioners and students; \$14 for individuals and \$20 for households and organisations. Those wishing to join can write to Box 415 PO Marrickville 2204 or ring Harold 569 5183.

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