

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

A WALK AROUND OLD NEWTOWN LED BY BRUCE BASKERVILLE Saturday September 23, 10.15 am

Meet at corner of Wilson Street and Erskineville Road, Newtown (down from post office). Walk will commence at 10.30 am heading along Wilson Street and terminating in Newtown Square about 12.30 pm. Cost \$2 includes booklet.

Highlights will include – Newtown's second railway station...Vernon's 1892 Anglo-Dutch post office... High Hat Cafe (1940s)...Alba the old 1888 Oddfellows Hall...Henry Hennings' Bakery – the popular baker...the rabbi, the reverend & the kosher butchery...Eliza Donnithorne/Miss Haversham connection...Vis Unita Fortior terraces in Georgina Street...Arcadia open-air picture theatre... Newtown's skating rink (alias *The Trocadero*)... mansard terraces of Campbell Street...St Stephen's Grammar School...NSW Railway & Tramway Recreation Club...Blacket's superb neo Gothic St Stephen's church...1850s Hordern Street terraces... Crooks Lane (beware of nightsoil!)... missing flower terrace...how the name *New Town* came about... Australia Street federation free classical buildings... 1865 town hall & first municipal library in NSW...

Newtown Municipal
Council seal



Bruce Baskerville, who is Secretary of the South Sydney Heritage Society, is doing a PhD at Macquarie University on *contested heritage sites and their significance in late 20th century Australia*. He has a long standing involvement in the nature conservation movement and delivered a paper on *The commons of colonial NSW* at the 1994 RAHS Annual Conference.

RAFFLE DRAW DEFERRED

As the September 23 meeting is a walk we are deferring the raffle draw till our October 28 meeting at Petersham Town Hall – more time to sell and return your tickets!

DEMOLITION OF SYDENHAM?

See Naples and die perhaps, but see Sydenham before it is little more than a railway station.

Whilst we as a Society take great pains to save one building or even a feature of it, here we have the heart of an entire suburb likely to be removed from our midst forever. The acquisition area consists of 112 houses in these 40 ANEF zone Sydenham streets – Park Road, Railway Road, Reilly Lane, George Street, Henry Street, Rowe Street and Unwins Bridge Road. So far 40-50 houses have been bought by the Commonwealth Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and boarded up, and a further score are about to be acquired. An additional 40-50 are earmarked. Many residents in the acquisition area have spent most of their lives there and owner-occupancy amounts to an estimated 80-90%. Apart from the choking of most local businesses and the upheaval imposed on the lives of long term residents, several buildings of heritage significance are under threat (eg, *Clarevill House* at 47 Railway Road, 19 Railway Road, the 1901 Coptic (former Methodist) church in Railway Road, 3 Park Road, and the charming pair of houses opposite St Peters Town Hall). One George Street resident, whose two storey house was built in 1899 by his grandfather, has vowed he will never move.

Whilst DAS has not committed itself over its intentions regarding demolition of these houses and future land use, how can one conclude anything else? *Demolition from within* is a likely initial strategy but it would be deplorable if internal and external heritage fittings of acquired houses were to be stripped and disposed of by public auction. To minimize the trauma and extent of destruction to this neighbourhood, these items should be offered to remaining local homeowners at a nominal sum. As to future land use, surely local residents have a right to be consulted and to know in advance what is intended.

Richard Blair, Editor

1995 COUNCIL ELECTIONS QUESTIONNAIRE TO CANDIDATES

As has been past practice MHS canvassed all 68 candidates in the Marrickville LGA prior to the local government elections on September 9 for their position on heritage issues. 33 responses were received and the results of the survey were delivered to local Society members well before polling day.

HERITAGE WATCH/CLASSIFICATIONS COMMITTEE CONVENOR'S REPORT 1994-95

The main achievement of the year was to help retain the vacant site of the former mansion *Cronulla* next door to *Stanmore House* which involved a long concerted campaign by the Society to muster support. So far so good, only now there is a new DA to Council of the site. We do not believe any building is suitable for this site and that it must be retained as vacant, and acquired as open space. I take this opportunity to ask all members to put pen to paper and to appeal to councillors and politicians to acquire the site as open space so that at some time in the future *Stanmore House* will be restored together with part of its garden. In the last week a Society committee met with Jack Munday on the site where he gave some sound advice and we thank him for his interest.

We successfully advocated against the demolition of two villas in Marrickville Road and were also recently involved in opposing a Building Application for a carport in a front garden in the *Abergeldie Estate* in Dulwich Hill. I addressed Council twice on this matter and the BA was unanimously refused. The Council must now review and tighten up the *Abergeldie Development Control Plan*.

We assisted in stopping the demolition of a cottage in Stanley Street, Tempe and opposed removal of the War Memorial at Tempe Depot to Randwick. Of course it should stay! We also actively supported the retention of the Tempe Tram Depot building (which houses the Bus & Truck Museum). *Ferndale*, a lovely old 1860s bungalow of considerable architectural worth in Camden Street, Newtown has been submitted to the National Trust for classification.

I thank all members of my committee for their assistance and advice – Shirley Hilyard, Shirley Doolan, Ian Walter, Anne Walter, Rhoda Sutton, Richard Blair, Mark Matheson, Geoff Ostling and Lindsay Smyth. Rhoda Sutton is especially commended for being a member of the Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee, and her work in relation to the Marrickville Medal.

I thank Libby Maher, Council heritage architect; Clive Lucas for speaking on the Society's behalf when the matter of *Stanmore House* came up before Council early this year; Stephen Davies and the National Trust, and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. I thank the *Inner Western Suburbs Courier*, *The Glebe & Inner City News*, plus *The Newtown Bridge*, that great little community paper, for their valuable publicity; also Geraldine O'Brien, heritage writer with the *Sydney Morning Herald* for her wonderful article on *Stanmore House*. Thank you all for making this a successful year.

John Zinsmeister (presented at AGM 24/6/95)

INAUGURAL AMY NEEDHAM LOCAL HISTORY AWARD

Amy Needham was born in Maria Street, Petersham and lived in Livingstone Road, Marrickville for 74 years. She was a longtime Sydney City Mission volunteer, well known at St Clements Church, Marrickville and a life member of the Marrickville Heritage Society. Such was her love for the history and heritage of the area, after she died in 1991 (aged 101) her daughter, Verona Rothwell, donated money to the MHS for this annual award.



Amy Needham on her 100th birthday
(photo: Peg Simpson)

A letter has been sent to relevant high school principals inviting students in Years 7-10 to undertake an individual school project based on student's own research covering any aspect of the history and heritage of the Marrickville Local Government Area. The project has the support of the Marrickville Library Local Studies Section where excellent resource material is available. The award will be given in two age groups – Years 7 and 8 (up to 1500 words); and Years 9 and 10 (up to 2000 words). Each winner will receive a cash prize of \$100. Entries close Friday 3 November. Winners will be announced late November and the winning entries will be published in our annual journal *Heritage* in 1996. For further information contact Shirley 516 2123, Carol 550 3741 or Gwenda 569 5183; or speak to the appropriate principal or history teacher.

Gwenda Welsh

POSTCARD FROM MARRICK, UK

The editor has received a postcard from MHS members Bob and Laurel Horton at Marrick Priory (from where Marrickville got its name), Swaledale, North Yorkshire:.... *trip going well, weather very warm...took a detour to see Marrick, which was quite an experience – the landscape around it is wonderful.*

SYDENHAM ACQUISITION AREA HISTORICAL PROJECT

Tropman & Tropman Architects have been commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Transport to undertake *as part of the measures to reduce the effects of airport noise a community study of the Sydenham Village Area...* [which] will attempt to record the history of the Sydenham Village Area and its people. The SVA refers **only** to the acquisition area. The project architect is Jillian Lye who is surveying affected buildings and historian Dr Kenneth Cable who is doing an oral history of SVA residents. The results will be available soon.

NOTABLE NEWINGTONIANS

Sir Ian Clunies Ross (1899-1959) on the \$50 note was a pupil at Newington College from 1912 to 1916. After graduating in Veterinary Science at Sydney University he became an expert in parasitology, especially in sheep and wool research. In 1940 he was appointed Professor of Veterinary Science at Sydney University and in 1946 helped develop the CSIRO, becoming its first Chairman for ten years from 1949. He was one of Australia's top scientists and was influential in international affairs.

Peter Swain

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Another Newingtonian, William Hardy Wilson (1881-1955) gained prominence in architecture, art and culture. Among his extant architectural achievements are the former Peapes store near Wynyard, the War Memorial at Newington, and the Kuring-gai Council chambers and Eryldene (built for the Waterhouse family) both in Gordon. Hardy Wilson is also remembered for the beautiful drawings in his monumental work *Old Colonial Architecture in New South Wales and Tasmania*. An article on him by Peter Swain, Senior Chaplain and archivist at Newington, will appear in the forthcoming MHS journal *Heritage* 9.

Editor

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

Who were Meleager, Imhotep and Captain James Cook and how are they associated with our local area? No prize, just glory! Ring Richard 557 3823.

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NEWTOWN [CITADEL] LIBRARY

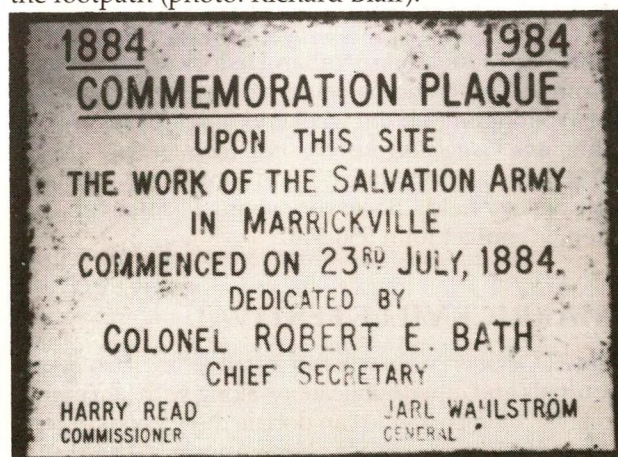
The former Salvation Army Newtown Citadel has been handsomely restored and recycled as the new Newtown Library. A spruced up memorial tablet affixed to the building in Brown Street, Newtown reads:

Newtown Barracks Memorial Stone Laid by J Mitchell Esq. MLA December 22 1883 W Booth General.

For about 40 years till the mid 1980s Newtown Library was housed in the old Newtown Town Hall. Then after a decade in the inadequate upstairs section of Burland Hall, the new library was officially opened on 5 August by Mayors Vic Smith (South Sydney Council) and Barry Cotter (Marrickville Council). Though this is a *joint venture* by the two councils initiated in January 1994, there are no reciprocal borrowing rights. Marrickville LGA residents may borrow, but are required to pay two dollars upfront for the privilege (unless living in Newtown itself) – not a lot, but it is still discrimination when the library was once located in Marrickville LGA and Marrickville ratepayers' money is being used to subsidize the library.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Another Salvation Army building, a small wooden meeting hall, stood in Gordon Street, Marrickville on the site of the former Globe Woollen Mills till 1920 when the Marrickville Corps moved to Wemyss Street, Marrickville. Pictured below is a commemoration plaque set in the footpath (photo: Richard Blair).



Richard Blair

OBITUARIES

Our condolences go to the family of MHS member **Olive Stevens** (formerly Erskine, nee Smith) of Kingsgrove who died on July 27. Olive was born in Marrickville and grew up in the Marrickville/Petersham area. Her husband William, known as Benny, died in January.

Members will be saddened to hear of the death on 19 August of MHS member **Carolyn Watkins** (1952-1995) of Summer Hill. Her husband John Watkins was honorary auditor to the Society for three years until 1991. Carolyn was a rock to her family and an inspiration to us all as she so bravely fought an illness for so many years. Our condolences to John, John Jnr. and Anwyn.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 10.15 AM

A walk around old Newtown

Details on front page

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 10.30 AM

Petersham Town Hall

Environmental activist **Jack Munday** will talk about the protection and conservation of our built and natural environment and his role as Chairman of the Historic Houses Trust.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17 3 PM

Newington College Chapel

The 1995 Prescott Series concludes with the **Baroque Spectacular Concert** and the last under the baton of Elizabeth Swain OAM as the College's Director of Music. Newington College Choirs and Baroque Orchestra Soloists will perform Bach's Cantata BWV 80; Bach's Suite No. 2 in B Minor for Flute, Strings & Continuo; and Vivaldi's Concerto in D Major for Guitar & Orchestra, *Gloria*. (\$20, \$12 concession, children accompanied by an adult free).

RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1995

This year's Royal Australian Historical Society's Annual Conference is being held at the University of Wollongong on the weekend of 7-8 October. The theme is *Visualising history: new tools for old tasks* and deals with the latest trends and innovations in the history field. Book very soon. For further details contact John 550 6447.

MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL

On 21 October MHS will run a stall selling *Heritage* journals and other publications along with jam and plants. Members who can donate these goods or lend a hand on the day please phone Angela 564 6370.

NEW LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIAN

We welcome Melbourne librarian Judy Bell who has been appointed to this permanent position at Marrickville Library. Judy is experienced in local studies and is looking forward to meeting MHS members. We thank Cheryl Flynn, who was acting in this position, for her untiring assistance to the Society.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Coralie Wickers, Dulwich Hill; Constance Torbett, Cremorne; Laura Paxton-Baines, Lyn Perkin, Lina Lockhart, Narife Bashan, Enmore; Robyn Heslop, Maroubra; Keith Lawson, Vaucluse; Ron Smith, Rydalmere; Lerro Smith, Yagoona.

OUR LAST MEETING

19TH CENTURY AUSTRALIAN WOMEN TAXIDERMISTS

Stuffing birds! I thought Martha had found her *Mrs Beeton's* and we were going to hear how to prepare our Christmas dinner. Boy, did I get that wrong! On Saturday 26 August **Martha Sear** took a gathering of 57 through the fascinating lives of Jane Tost (nee Ward) and her daughter Ada. Jane's brother Henry worked with American naturalist Audobon and was taxidermist to Queen Victoria. Jane, with husband Charles and family, arrived in Hobart in 1856 and worked at a Hobart museum, mounting their natural history displays. They moved to Sydney in 1860, where Jane became the first woman employed at the Australian Museum in William Street and was paid the same as a man doing the same job – early equality! Charles made the display cases, but after some petty jealousies, he left the colony.

Jane and daughter Ada set up their own taxidermy business in 1872 at 60 William Street, just down the road from the museum. Later *Tost & Rohu* added Island curios to their stock of *Berlin work* (wool embroidery), natural history objects, glass domes and animal furniture. They also made and altered fashion furs for the fashionable women of Sydney. They won many medals, both here and at international exhibitions. Other women too set up taxidermy businesses (such as Mrs J Palmer, and Mrs Winette, wife of a travelling dentist and taxidermist). In 1924 Tyrells Bookshop bought the business which was advertised as the *Queerest shop in Sydney* and trading continued till 1933. Of local interest, Tost & Rohu's warehouse was situated in Trafalgar Street, Newtown while Ada's son Henry Rohu had a shop in Enmore Road early this century. I wonder where exactly?

Martha will curate an exhibition at the Macleay Museum opening in February 1996 which will show all aspects of Tost & Rohu's *most curious and peculiar* business. Our thanks to Martha, and to Gwenda Welsh and Richard Blair for organising this fascinating talk.

Robert Hutchinson

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$8 for concession & seniors, \$14 for individuals & joint concession and \$20 for households & organisations. Subscriptions renewable each July. Members receive a monthly newsletter and the annual journal *Heritage*. Meetings are on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204 or telephone Harold on 569 5183.

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