

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING SHOW AND TELL & XMAS PICNIC Petersham Park Rotunda Saturday November 25 10.30 am

Following the past success of these occasions the Society's final monthly meeting for the year will be **your** chance to participate and share with other members some piece of your memorabilia, family history or personal history. You may have an old clock, chinaware, silver, cutlery, bricks, wearing apparel, pictures, letters, kitchenware, a small item of furniture or simply a *whatsit*, whose use may be uncertain. It need not be valuable, but may be curious, unusual, esoteric or just a fun thing. Tell us (briefly) how you came by it, what it was used for and/or what special significance it has for you. Gwenda Welsh will keep the ball rolling (MHS bears no responsibility for loss or damage to items presented).

We will then be entertained by a Newington string quartet (violins, viola and cello) playing Mozart and Haydn, while we have our traditional **Christmas picnic**, so please bring your own tucker and drinks. Heritage publications will be on sale. We look forward to seeing you at the Rotunda on this festive occasion.



POT LUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER Saturday December 9 7 pm

For the first time in seven years our members' annual pot luck dinner leaves Petersham/Lewisham and enters the Stanmore precincts of Gwenda and Harold. All members are welcome, but please book with them on 569 5183 or Angela on 564 6370 and indicate what plate you will bring. A leg of ham and fruit punch will be provided, but please BYO drinks.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 1995/96

For \$14 a year, MHS membership must be one of the best values around as it includes eleven monthly newsletters delivered free, an annual journal over fifty pages long and regular activities with either no or only a nominal financial outlay. Concession membership is only \$8 and Household \$20. This is our final reminder and members not paid up by **November 30** will receive no further newsletters after December.

OUR LAST MEETING JACK MUNDEY ON HERITAGE

What did Patrick White, Harry M Miller, Neville Wran, Pat Hills, the Captain of Sydney Girls High (Ann Kratzman), Noel Ferrier and Kylie Tennant have in common? They all stood on the same platform with Jack Munday (in 1972) and spoke against Centennial Park becoming the site for the proposed 1988 Olympics. This was just one of the numerous causes pursued by Munday in the 1970s.

At Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 28 October Heritage Houses Trust chairman Jack addressed a gathering of 70 and traced the history of the Builders Labourers Union, a radical group with socialist beliefs, which attracted conservative groups in the name of preservation because of common goals. Unlike *black bans* which stopped work for better working conditions, *green bans* were selfless, more noble actions designed to prevent wanton destruction of public property and historic sites. Among the numerous green bans successes were Eastlakes, Kellys Bush in Hunters Hill and the working class housing areas of The Rocks and Woolloomooloo. Resident action groups sprang up and governments were forced to take notice and often back down.

In 1972 the Sydney Morning Herald received more letters about the three old fig trees at risk in the Domain than any other issue, and the Governor of NSW Sir Roden Cutler declared *thank God for the Builders Labourers!* The trees were saved. What irony when Munday, atheist and Marxist, wanted to **save** the Pitt Street Congregational Church whilst its Minister, Gordon Bryant wanted it **torn down!** The church is still there.

In the wake of the green bans, resident action and environmental groups – *the actions of united ordinary people, fighting together* – Labor Premier Wran in 1977 introduced the Heritage Act and later the Land & Environment Board. However 20 years later Jack believes the funds allocated to heritage are still grossly inadequate. He feels the future is dubious if there is no respect for the past and he believes *the environmental and ecological movement is the most important movement of our time. Those who look upon the economic position as being separate must change their position because if humanity is going to have a future—and I put it as high as that—it seems that the ecological and the economic position must be entwined.*

Richard Blair

(We thank Richard for arranging this outstanding meeting – President)

SYDENHAM DEMOLITION

Who can condone the Commonwealth Government's **bizarre** demolition of 112 houses in the very heart of a community? Bizarre in the illogicality of adjacent houses suffering different fates; bizarre in the fact that totally usable houses are being demolished, and bizarre over the absence of information being imparted about the future of this zone. **David Hilyard's** photostory follows:



Partial demolition of a house in George Street, Sydenham. Demolition has commenced before all residents have sold and moved out of the area.

HERITAGE JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Society has only a few sets of MHS Journals 1-8 plus Index left (note that *Heritage* 1 and 2 reissued in the one volume) available to **members only** for \$60 a set. Old journals can be purchased for \$10 each except for Nos. 3 and 5, which have sold out; Journal Index is only \$2.

We have a wide range of heritage books and other publications at mostly discounted prices available at Petersham-based meetings, our festival stalls or on request (to John 550 6447). Most of our books are obtained from Hale & Iremonger and several new titles have been added to our stock including *Foundations of Identity: Building early Sydney 1788-1822*; *From Parchments to Passwords, A History of the land Titles Office of NSW* and bargains about James Barnet, colonial architect, historic court houses, and the Domain plus many other publications on adjoining suburbs. Bruce Baskerville's *Newtown Heritage Walk* is a mere \$2 a copy.

INFOLINE

The newsletter now features a back page box containing phone numbers to facilitate contact. Ring **Infoline** for any general enquiry about the Marrickville Heritage Society. The contact person will be rotated and is currently Ed Jones, one of our two vice-Presidents. Other contact numbers are for the Newsletter (Richard Blair), Heritage Watch (John Zinsmeester) and *Marrickville Remembers* (Angela Phippen).



Henry Street houses in Sydenham bought by the Commonwealth Government for demolition which are part of a row of ten matching Federation semis forming an attractive streetscape.



Plane inbound over Rowe Street, Sydenham. The 40 ANEF countour falls between the two gabled roofs of adjoining houses on the left half of the photo. Houses to the right will be demolished; those to the left will not be bought, and the residents offered insulation.

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE QUIZ

What stopped the traffic in Swanston Street, Melbourne in 1928? What appeared for the first time on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald in 1944? Give up? Most of the participants at the National Trust's Heritage Quiz did too. The answers later.

This year MHS fielded two tables of competitors at the annual fundraiser held on October 10 at the S.H.Ervin Gallery. The quiz is always hotly contested and this year was no exception. 27 tables of avid trivia buffs tackled six rounds of eleven questions each. Predictable winner was the History Teachers Association.

The MHS A Team led by John Zinsmeester, shot to the front in the first two rounds with an almost perfect score, but their hopes were dashed as the night wore on. They strenuously denied the suggestion of host Philip Clark that they had been *crippled by drink*, and finished equal eighth. Shirley Hilyard's B Team were not disgraced. After a shaky start, they hit their stride and finished a respectable tenth, only one point behind the A Team.

So what stopped the traffic? The first traffic lights in Australia, of course. And believe it or not, *news* appeared for the first time on the SMH's front page.

Judith Matheson (B Team, and immediate past newsletter editor)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 10.30 AM

Petersham Park Rotunda

Show and Tell followed by annual Christmas picnic and a Newington string quartet.

Details on front page.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 7 PM

Members' Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

Details on front page.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 10.30 AM

Petersham Town Hall

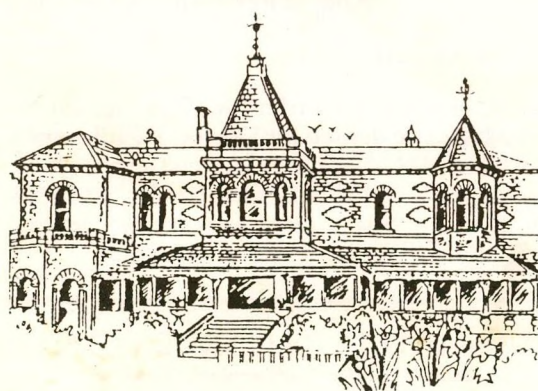
Dr Kenneth Cable presents the history of the Sydenham Village Area and its people.

SATURDAY MARCH 23

La Perouse Museum & Bare Island Fort and Pioneer Memorial Park, Botany Cemetery.

THE SAVING OF RIPPON LEA

On a recent trip to Melbourne I visited *Rippon Lea* in Elsternwick, a Lombardic Romanesque house dating from 1868 with a garden of international significance. Rippon Lea's importance lies partly in being the last of the great privately owned 19th century suburban estates in Australia to survive largely intact, but also because it twice survived 20th century *progress*. Firstly, Sir Thomas Bent, second owner of Rippon Lea (1904-09), Premier of Victoria and notorious for unscrupulous land deals and electoral rigging, died before he could subdivide and sell too much. Then in the 1960s when its last private owner Louisa Jones (assisted by the National Trust) led and eventually won a ten year fight against compulsory acquisition by the Commonwealth government of the most important part of the garden. Upon her death in 1972 the house was left to the National Trust.



Rippon Lea, Elsternwick, Melbourne

Thanks to the vision and determination of Louisa Jones, the house museum and historic garden of Rippon Lea were preserved. I could not help but think that *Stanmore House*, though considerably smaller and less grand, is both older and has more historic links, and perhaps one day will become Sydney's public memorial to its founder, the remarkable Mary Reibey.

Richard Blair

RAFFLE WINNERS

Deemed impracticable to draw the raffle during the Newtown Walk, it was postponed until the Saturday 28 October meeting. The winners of the major and six mystery prizes were:-

Ann Francis-The 2 Baxter prints; Bill Wenham-2 bottles of Aussie champagne; Ed Jones-2 tickets to the Bangarra Dance Theatre (*Ochres*) at the Enmore Theatre; Sylvia Hale-Paddington chocolates; Avril Chiswell-6 blue & white Chinese style dinner plates; John Fox-dinner for 2 at *Aberdour*; and Jeremy Glass-a pair of hand worked bath towels.

Thanks to all who either sold or bought tickets or made a donation towards the raffle which netted \$1858 for the Society. We also thank anonymous members for the prints, plates, towels and the *Aberdour* dinner, the Enmore Theatre for the theatre tickets and Harlow Printing for printing the raffle tickets. All these were donated. Thanks also to Jack Munday who drew the raffle, even though he managed to overlook my tickets in the excitement. Ah well, better luck next time!

Gwenda Welsh

MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL

On a wet, dismal Saturday October 21 a hardy band of Society members braved the elements to run the MHS stall. Goldfish (lovingly raised by Anne and Ian) proved to be our best seller while the classic Sinclair *Heritage* marmalade, the Welsh country marmalade and a Stanmore house lemon butter were snapped up. Our petition to save St Clements spire attracted several hundred signatures and many people showed an interest in MHS. Thanks go to Harold, Gwenda, Angela, David, John, Avril, Richard, Shirley, Virginia, Mary, Anne, Ian and Margaret.

OBITUARY - IAN ROUSE

Ian Rouse, a member of the Society and formerly of Camperdown, died on September 28. A descendant of the Rouse family of Rouse Hill House, Ian organised a tour for the Society to this outstanding colonial property in July 1991 prior to its opening to the public. He served on the MHS executive committee for two years before moving to Bilpin. Our condolences to member Barry Enkelmann and Ian's family.

STOP PRESS - HERITAGE No. 9

Heritage No. 9 will be out in December. Members will be advised of launch details by mail.

INFOLINE Ed 569 9281

NEWSLETTER Richard 557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH John 550 6447

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS Angela 564 6370

MHS newsletter is printed by
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HERITAGE WATCH

- A development application for the demolition of **St Clements spire** has been received by Marrickville Council. As reported in our May newsletter, MHS strongly opposes this demolition. Whilst the zinc cladding may be unsafe, it is disturbing and shortsighted from a heritage viewpoint for the Anglican Church diocese to favour demolition because of a shortfall of \$60,000. The October *Marrickville Matters* depicts how St Clements, Marrickville would look without the spire. It also shows St Peters Church before and after spire removal. A MHS petition with almost a thousand signatures has been given to Council as well as our letter of opposition. Members are urged to individually write to Council in protest.
- The 1895 Queen Anne style (Vernon designed) former **Enmore Post Office** (which is National Trust classified) has been bought by Our Lady of Snows charity. The new owners have given an assurance the premises will be kept in its original state. Unfortunately the metal lettering was damaged during removal and destroyed by Australia Post – an act which does them no credit.
- On October 5 an RSVP query about the whereabouts of the **Woodcourt College sandstone gateposts** appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald – a query posed by a pupil of Woodcourt School which closed in 1935 (Woodcourt Old Girls Union recently met for their bi-annual meeting). Fabos Real Estate, Dulwich Hill which manages the block of flats at 51 Woodcourt Street, Marrickville has advised that the Woodcourt College gateposts (see June newsletter) were removed by Marrickville Council at their request about three to four years ago. Approaches to Marrickville Council have failed to reveal their fate. This does not reflect well on a Council whose banner headline in the July 1995 *Marrickville Matters* was *Heritage Issues High on Council's Agenda*. These gateposts were the last material vestige of Woodcourt and will probably never be seen again.
- Plans for relocation of the **Bus and Truck Museum** to Bankstown have fallen through and it will stay at Tempe.
- Marrickville Council has voted to do its best to save the **David Street, Marrickville camphor laurel trees** (see October newsletter). The Council will repair the gutters and develop a master plan in consultation with residents.
- The Stanmore Society began in 1977 at a public meeting in St Augustines church hall. Following declining congregations, the former 1911 **St Augustines Anglican Church** in Stanmore has been deconsecrated and the site sold to a developer – fate unknown! With the sale proceeds St Lukes, Enmore has a DA before Council for alterations and additions.

RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the weekend of October 7-8 our President John Zinsmeister (who gratefully accepted a cheque for \$500 from the Minister for the Arts towards *Heritage 10*) and I, on behalf of MHS, attended the annual RAHS conference at the University of Wollongong. The theme was *Visualising history: new tools for old tasks*. It was an extremely rewarding conference because it exemplified very clearly the advances in technology that will become more and more a part of our lives but also the responsibilities that these new technologies impose on institutions and individuals.

Two papers typified this theme. The first by Alan Ventress, Mitchell Librarian, was *Breaking down the walls: moving the Mitchell Library into the 21st Century*. He demonstrated the (as yet unreleased) CD-ROM of the Sir Joseph Banks' papers that left the delegates speechless! A document can be not only viewed but the contrast between background and handwriting varied, and individual words focused upon. The second paper by Alan Howell, State Library Manager of Preservation was *Keeping ahead of the Joneses: preservation of Library material in digital format* and brought home the obligations that come with advances in technology. Institutions such as the State Library have to continually *migrate* the digital information they store to the newest format, and with the speed of technological change, it is possible that records could be stored in a format for which there is no longer a machine.

There were many fine thought-provoking papers given but these two summarised the dilemma. In summing up the weekend, Carol Liston posed a rhetorical question about the relevance of all those technological issues when many Societies probably don't have enough money to buy a filing cabinet! Societies face many other issues: not everything is solved by *surfing the Internet*, but nothing is gained by ignoring it.

Angela Phippen, Vice President

LESLEY MUIR PhD

Congratulations are in order for MHS member Lesley Muir. The degree for Doctor of Philosophy (Department of Geography) was conferred at the University of Sydney on 27 October for her thesis *Shady Acres, Politicians, Developers and the Design of Sydney's Public Transport System 1873-1891*.

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