

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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

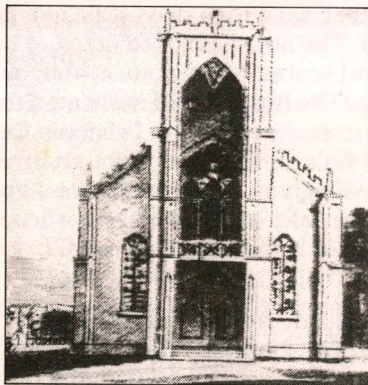


ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH COOKS RIVER PROJECT HOME

The April 1995 MHS Newsletter reported that the Heritage Council of NSW was considering a Development Application from St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River to erect a new rectory in the grounds. This house was the subject of a previous DA submitted in 1993 by the church to Marrickville Council but later withdrawn.

In accordance with the Heritage Act 1977, the Heritage Council stated in an advertisement in the 13/3/95 *Inner Western Suburbs Courier* that the development would in their opinion, *if approved, materially affect the significance of the subject site as an item of the environmental heritage*. Written representations regarding the proposal were invited. MHS responded with our objections.

A heritage conservation consultant *recommended that the detailed design of the new building be undertaken by an experienced conservation architect to ensure a result that will be acceptable to all parties*. This did not occur.



(adapted from Joseph Fowles' 1842-45 watercolour)

St Peter's Anglican Church Cooks River, designed by Thomas Bird (1838) with alterations carried out in 1875 by Edmund Blacket, is listed as an item of Environmental Heritage in the Marrickville Planning Scheme Ordinance. As well as being classified by the National Trust, the church and graveyard have the highest heritage listing possible as part of the National Estate, and the site as a whole is protected by a Permanent Conservation Order. These listings were justified when one considers the historical context. St Peter's was probably the first Gothic Revival style church in Australia and the first to be built using free labour. The cemetery includes a number of neo-classical monuments and is the burial place of early pioneers of our area. The church's great significance lies in its important architectural quality in its setting together with historic connections as a focus for both the early village of St Peter's and the surrounding villa estates which make this site one of outstanding importance that cannot be overstated.

1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 10.30 AM
Petersham Town Hall

Dr Ken Cable talks on the development of a sense of community in Sydenham from the 1880s.

SATURDAY MARCH 23
La Perouse Museum & Bare Island Fort and Pioneer Memorial Park, Botany Cemetery.

SATURDAY APRIL 27
Petersham Town Hall
Dr George Gibbons & Chrys Meader talk on bricks and brickmakers of the Marrickville district.

SATURDAY MAY 25
A walk on the North Side - Shirley Doolan's tour around historic North Sydney.

SATURDAY JUNE 22
Annual General Meeting

LAUNCH OF HERITAGE 9 WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 6.30 PM

Heritage 9 will be launched at the Victoria on the Park Hotel, corner of Addison and Victoria Roads, Marrickville in the Park Restaurant. Invitations have been sent to all members. Feature story inside.

The Heritage Council eventually reviewed a version of the house in 1995 before finally granting its approval. Marrickville Council's Aircraft Noise Policy was known to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning at the time. (The proposal for the new residence is in an area where the aircraft noise level exceeds the 25 contour and hence is prohibited under Council's policy). This policy was rejected.

In the opinion of MHS the design and siting of this proposed new rectory, which is a project home, has been found wanting. The recommendation by Marrickville Council's Heritage Architect was for *refusal of the application in the current form, for reasons of siting and inappropriate bulk which impinges upon the setting of the St Peter's Church in contradiction of the recommendation of the Heritage Assessment of the consultants*. In spite of this, the application was passed at a full Council meeting on 14 November, however a rescission motion has been lodged.

Shirley Hilyard

EDITORIAL – LIVING HERITAGE?

What does this phrase mean? The editor asked about 20 people and got as many different answers. However some supporters of the new building planned for St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River are bandying this nebulous phrase about as part justification for its siting of the house application approved by Marrickville Council on 14 November.

If *living heritage* means more people are residing on the grounds or there is greater community use of the church and surrounds, the **MHS does not oppose this notion**. Our prime objection to the proposal is the **siting** which we believe should be to the **rear** of the current rectory. May the shades of Bird and Blacket be allowed to rest in peace!

Contrary to intention we have produced another bumper end-of-year six page newsletter. The editor joins the president and executive committee in wishing all Society members the very best for Christmas and the New Year, whatever your views on *living heritage* are.

Richard Blair, Editor

BEEHIVE WELL IN ST PETERS

The August 1995 Newsletter noted MHS's report to Marrickville Council of a partially uncovered brick beehive well on the former Shell site at 140 Princes Highway, St Peters. Marrickville Council accepted the recommendation by its heritage architect Libby Maher that the former St Peters Town Hall site be included as a **potential archaeological site in the draft heritage LEP**. The Heritage Council seems to believe the beehive well is of little statewide significance, nevertheless it remains the **only extant local** one known. Libby is awaiting a copy of the archaeologist's report to Shell. A commemorative marker should be located at the site destined for redevelopment.



Beehive well (photo: Richard Blair)

SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTION

Among the Sam Hood collection of photographs at Mitchell Library is a series of rather nondescript pictures of Monro's Dog Oval, St Peters taken in the 1940s. There is not a dog in sight, although curiously a horse appears in some. Where was this oval? The editor has no idea so please ring Richard on 557 3823.

FERNDALE CLASSIFIED

A submission from the Society's Classifications/Heritage Watch Committee has been successful in having *Ferndale*, 31 Camden Street, Newtown Classified by the National Trust Of Australia (NSW) and included in its Register. This building is possibly the remnant villa of the Ferndale Estate subdivision on 20 March 1886 and may have been a teacher's residence for the nearby former Camden College, itself the subject of subdivision in 1888. The first listing for Ferndale appears in the Sands Sydney Directory in 1869, the occupant William Coates.



Ferndale (photo: David Hilyard)

Ferndale is a modest, single storey Victorian villa facing on to Kent Lane having lost its frontage to Camden Street, save for a driveway, in a later subdivision. The house is constructed of brick, rendered and scored to replicate ashlar, on stone foundations. The hipped roof is sheeted in corrugated iron. A resident of Ferndale for forty years (late 1920s-1960s) lived through three roofs – one slate, two galvanised iron. On the Kent Lane facade, a classically-styled timber portico of great charm, surrounds the original central front door (with side lights).

The garden facade features a bay window containing three round-headed windows, flanked by verandahs with sandstone flagging. French doors open on to these verandahs. Internally, a substantial proportion of original detailing survives. The house, devoid of ornamentation, relies on good proportion and a good state of preservation for its distinction.

National Trust's Statement of Significance reads – *Ferndale*, 31 Camden Street, Newtown, erected circa 1869, has historic significance as a remnant villa formerly occupying a large acreage before the Ferndale Subdivision of 1886 and subsequent medium-density development of the district. The original horse stables that were part of this property now form part of a separate subdivision.

The building has aesthetic significance as a simple Victorian residence, largely devoid of ornamentation. The classically-inspired portico provides isolated yet joyous visual relief; a striking decorative element.

Shirley Hilyard

VICTORIAN VILLAS APPEAL

In May 1995 Marrickville Council rejected an application to demolish the Victorian villas at 367 and 369 Marrickville Road, Marrickville to make way for flats as the development proposed would be *too bulky, dominant and intrusive in the streetscape* (see June 1995 Newsletter).

The developer appealed to the Land & Environment Court to have this decision overturned. On November 6 and 7 the Court heard evidence on behalf of Council from Avril Chiswell, John Zinsmeister and Libby Maher (Council's Heritage Architect). The appeal was dismissed with the opinion that *the application should fail as the proposal is not worthy of replacement of the two Victorian villas and would further degrade the streetscape. The proposal to landscape the setbacks would not be sufficient to overcome the deficiencies of the design.*

Many thanks to the residents of Marrickville Road, David and Robert Streets, the Dulwich Hill residents, Libby Maher, John Zinsmeister and the MHS for their encouragement and support, and especially to Bruce Welch for his enthusiasm and guidance.

Avril Chiswell

PUB NAME CHANGES

Are old pub names sacrosanct? There seems to be an epidemic to change the names of century-old pubs. First the *Carrington* in Petersham became the *White Cockatoo*; then the *Grose Farm* in Missenden Road, Camperdown was changed to *The Alfred*; now the *Shakespeare* in King Street, Newtown is called the *Coopers Arms*. There is nothing necessarily wrong with the new names but why **change** the old?

No doubt the new owners have their reasons but the *White Cockatoo* name seems to have no relation to Petersham, apart from which the *Carrington*, originally the *Lord Carrington*, dates from 1886. The *Alfred* acknowledges its proximity to the nearby hospital but the *Grose Farm* had historical roots as it was Lieutenant-Governor Major Francis Grose, who administered the colony for two years after Captain Phillip's departure in 1792, who owned the land upon which much of Camperdown and Sydney University now stand.

For a pub to change its name it applies to the Business Name Registration section of the Department of Consumer Affairs and pays a fee of \$100. Usually the name is changed before anyone knows about it, but surely there could be some mechanism to better scrutinise this practice, similar to the way objections may be lodged when a development application is made to Council. If anyone wants to discuss this I will probably be having a *quiet one* at the *Carrington* (members are referred to Chrys Meader's article *Pubs in Heritage 2*).

Richard Blair

CORRECTION Apropos the November Newsletter, whilst Jack Munday addressed us recently about saving our **heritage**, he is chairman of the **Historic Houses Trust**.

ST CLEMENTS CHURCH SPIRE RESTORATION APPEAL

In the wake of extensive publicity and concern over the application (currently on hold) of St Clements Anglican Church to Marrickville Council for demolition of its spire – concern expressed in over a thousand signatures obtained in the MHS organised petition opposing the spire demolition – the National Trust is about to establish a fund to allow people and businesses to give tax-free donations to the spire restoration appeal.

A public appeal will soon be launched jointly by Mayor Barry Cotter and the Reverend Chris Clerke with the view to collecting the necessary funds to save this Marrickville landmark. According to St Clements Heritage Architect Paul Davies, the church requires \$150,000 for complete restoration or \$130,000 for a basic restoration (no trims and decorative windows). It already has \$60,000 towards the project, so at least \$70,000 is still needed.

MARRICKVILLE – PEOPLE & PLACES HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR (DISCOUNTED) \$30 COPY?



Authors Anne Carolyn, Chrys Meader & Richard Cashman (photo: Mark Matheson)

PART OF HEADSTONE UNCOVERED

The first call received by Ed Jones at our **Infoline** was from a resident who, excavating in his yard, discovered the lower section of a headstone with this inscription – *wife of the above who departed this life 4th January 1886 aged 42 years*. It seems the headstone was once taken from a nearby cemetery, however the resident (who wishes to remain anonymous) is not planning to dig up his yard for other fragments.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ann Chessell, Dulwich Hill; Colette Hoebe, Gillian McAllister & John Anning, Sydney College of Performing Arts, all of Marrickville; Peter Cousens, Patricia Matka, Blake & Catherine Maguire, all of Newtown; Paul Fitzgerald, Robin Johnson, Gloria Pasic-Williams, all of Petersham; Gweneth Brown, Bardwell Park; Tony Blair, Hunters Hill; Ina Penning, Telopea; Ted Green, Willoughby.

OUR LAST MEETING SHOW AND TELL & XMAS PICNIC

On Saturday November 25 the Society gathered at Petersham Park Rotunda for *Show and Tell* and our annual Christmas picnic. What a varied collection—necklaces, scent bottles, jewel cases, candlesticks, old coins, a prayer book in a carrying cover, an 1896 fireman's brass helmet and a wooden nut bowl from the scrapped WWI cruiser *Encounter*! Also from WWI was a paybook and a letter from the battlefield. One valued possession was (a photocopy of) an illuminated address presented to June Cameron's uncle who walked from Sydney to Perth and back in the early 1930s in under three months.

Of local interest was a photograph of a section of the former Petersham station footbridge that is now in a member's garden, an old Peacock Jam Company Newtown bottle and an (1820s) almanac inscribed by brothers Robert and William Campbell (Robert donated the land on which St Peters church and cemetery stand). Among the weird and unusual were a belt made from cigarette papers fashioned by Italians in the Cowra prisoner-of-war camp, a large collection of 1950s bus tickets, an original Pro Hart on the back of a religious booklet and a stuffed pheasant named *Harold* which was perched on the side of the rotunda. Perhaps the most mysterious item was a gadget used by ladies to lift their long skirts up out of the dirt and to show a shapely ankle! But Angela Phippen upstaged everyone with *her* family heirloom – a grotesque table lamp mounted on top of a shark shaped from cowhorn.

We were then entertained by a talented string quartet from Newington College (Oliver Hookins and Nicholas Russell, violins, Bradley Sutton, viola, and Alex Wregg, cello) playing Haydn, Handel and Mozart. Thanks to the Newington Quartet and to Gwenda Welsh for being our breezy host and who, along with Harold Welsh and Richard Blair organised this enjoyable occasion.

Frances Muller

CURIOSITY OF THE YEAR – THE DUNNIES OF HOBARTVILLE



A highlight of July outing 'Greenway in the country' – three other dunnies not in picture. Architect unknown (photo: Fred Ellis)

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

On November 5 All Saints Anglican Church in Stanmore Road, Stanmore celebrated its 125th anniversary of the laying of the historic two tonne stone which has disappeared along with time capsule beneath more than a century of building and earthworks.

Funeral Director TJ Andrews of Enmore had its centenary celebrations with a thanksgiving service in St Stephens Church, Newtown (family connections with burials in the inner west date back to the mid 1800s).

Crusader Kindergarten in Malakoff Street, Marrickville turned 50. Built by Marrickville Council in 1945 Crusader was named after the famous brand of cloth made by the Australian Woollen Mill, formerly in Sydenham Road, Marrickville, because many of its employees' children attended (note – the editor was a 1950 Crusader graduate).

On a more personal note **Gwenda and Harold Welsh**, our assistant secretary and treasurer respectively (and Pot Luck Xmas Dinner hosts) celebrated 45 years of marriage in style in the charming atmosphere of *Aberdour*.

PLEA ON HERITAGE SITES

A Federal Government-appointed review committee has been established to identify federally owned heritage properties and make recommendations for their maintenance, use or disposal. Alex Tzannes, a Sydney architect and member of the committee has asked the Federal Government to take more account of the historic and social values of its heritage properties, rather than just the balance sheet, in its drive to corporatise government departments.

Mr Tzannes believes some heritage buildings such as the GPO should be sacrosanct, and should not be redeveloped with a large office tower rising behind it. Likewise Cockatoo Island was being regarded by some on the committee for its potential as a housing site, rather than as a park. Buildings and sites of major public significance such as the Defence Department's at Middle Head were valued as if they were available for redevelopment without heritage and social values being written into the equation. The committee is taking submissions from heritage groups and individuals.

(extracted from a SMH article
by **Geraldine O'Brien**)

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 on the fourth Saturday of each month.

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

HERITAGE 9 FEATURING MARY REIBEY & STANMORE HOUSE

Some of the fascinating mysteries surrounding *Stanmore House* (late 1840s) include exactly when and for whom it was built, who was the architect, why it was so called, when did this name take effect and who actually resided there prior to 1861. Its name is fascinating because it is actually in Enmore. The suburb of Stanmore took its name from John Jones' Middlesex birthplace, but there is no apparent connection between Jones & Stanmore House and Jones died in 1848 while Stanmore House was probably still being built.

It was Mary Reibey who had Stanmore House built on her *Pencilville* estate, near *Reibey House* in Station Street, Newtown, where she spent the last thirteen years of her illustrious life. Little was written about Reibey till recent years and much of this was incorrect or fallacious. Mary helped create her own myth by falsely stating in the 1828 census that she came to Australia a free woman on board the *Mariner* in 1821. Initially she was transported for horse-stealing *beyond the seas* in 1792 on the *Royal Admiral*. It seems she even successfully hid the truth from her children.

Her *manacles-to-millionaires* story was told by historian Nance Irvine at our April meeting. Nance has now written an account of Mary's commercial career culminating in a large extract from her 1845 letter, written from *New Town*. This story complements Elisha Long's conservation study of Stanmore House in which some light is thrown upon the above mentioned mysteries and an appreciation of this fine early Colonial (Georgian) villa is presented.

These are among the many articles to feature in our annual journal *Heritage 9* (whose striking cover depicts images of Stanmore House and Mary Reibey) to be officially launched at 6.30 pm on Wednesday December 13 at the Victoria on the Park Hotel, corner of Addison and Victoria Roads, Marrickville (on 423, 426 and 428 bus routes). Invitations have been sent to all members. Editor Mark Matheson will introduce the authors and Nance Irvine will *cut the ribbon*. Members are reminded they will receive a complimentary copy of *Heritage 9*; otherwise the journal will sell for \$10 a copy.

Richard Blair

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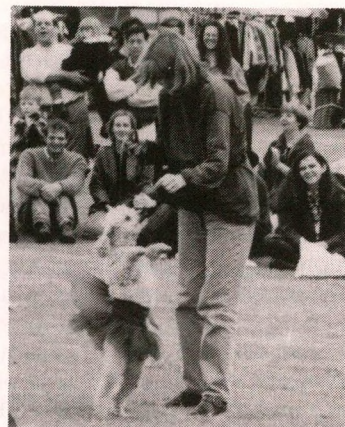
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NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

The MHS stall at Camperdown Memorial Park on Sunday November 12 was a great success in promoting the Society despite the initial cold, blustery winds and showers, which cleared up as the day progressed. The early foul weather did not bother *Pepe* who outclassed all rivals in the *Dog as Art* category of canine events doing its owners Lesley and Ed proud. Thanks to all those who donated goods (especially Anne Walter for her lovely decorative pots) or helped with the stall – Margaret, Gwen, Angela, David, Richard, John, Ina, Carol, Harold, Gwenda, Ed, Anne, Shirley and Shirley.



Lesley Jones & Pepe in tutu (photo: Denise Prideaux)

INFORMATION RADIO 1224 2RPH

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MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

Nominations for this award will close on 15 March 1996 and the second Marrickville Medal will be presented in Heritage Week (28 April-5 May). Once again the aim of 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 LGA. The convenor of the award jury will be heritage architect and MHS member Alan Croker. Further details can be obtained from Council's heritage architect Libby Maher on 335 2114.

THE PASSING OF WOODCOURT SCHOOL (1905-1935)

(Woodcourt Girls School closed in April 1935. This delightful piece, contributed by Old Girl Gweneth Brown, was written by Canon W.J.Cakebread after the auction.)

"Going, going at 5/- any advance on 5/- for this table – first time, second time, third time, and last time – 5/- to that lady over there." The auctioneer was selling Woodcourt School, Dulwich Hill. I had wandered through the school the day before. All was quiet. There was a hush over the place where the shouts and laughter of happy girls had filled the air.

Woodcourt which made such a name for itself in the Western Suburbs. Woodcourt which had appeared in the papers with long lists of girls who had passed the Intermediate and the Leaving Certificate. Yes–Leaving Certificate–for the school had once had 150 girls. Woodcourt that had held its name high in matches against other schools! I wandered round the building so sadly in need of repair, and tried to picture it with the girls running up and down the stairs or calling to one another outside, the hush of school-time when heads were bent over lesson books till the clock in the hall with its lovely chime struck the hour for school to end, then the happy time in the playground or the tennis matches when the girls in their neat school uniform went out to play for the honour of the school. "Going", said the auctioneer, "any advance on seven and sixpence for this picture, any advance–gone. The picture is yours, madam."

A pile of hymn books – 47 of them, almost new and marked inside 4/6 each – went for 4/-. No one in the crowd wanted hymn books, but I could hear sweet girlish voices singing the old church hymns from those books, and see pretty heads bowed in prayer. Girls with all their romance, their dreams of the future, their hopes, and ambitions. Girls who had felt the thrill of seeing their names in the paper as having passed the Intermediate or Leaving Examination. Girls who had walked up the long aisle on Speech Day amid the clapping of their school mates to take their prizes. Where were they now? All gone. Some to other schools, many out in the great world to cling desperately amid many disillusionments to the ideals and dreams and enthusiasms of school days. The school hymn came to my mind:

*Let Thy Father hand be shielding all who here shall meet no more;
May their seed-time past be yielding year by year a richer store.
Those returning, those returning, make more faithful then before.*

WOODCOURT REUNION

20 members (aged from 72 to 88) of the Woodcourt Old Girls Union got together on November 9 for our bi-annual luncheon (plus 25 apologies). They came from Canberra, Port Macquarie, Katoomba and Springwood whilst the rest were *just suburbanites*. Pretty good roll up for a school that closed 60 years ago!

One of Woodcourt's Old Girls is swimmer Bess Barrie, now of Laurieton who recently won six gold medals at the fifth Australian Masters Games in Melbourne. She now holds six world records in swimming events – not bad for an eighty year old. She has been the fastest breaststroke swimmer in the world of her age for the past 20 years since the first world masters in America in 1974.

Gweneth Brown (Also MHS member and daughter of Rev. John Bidwell, once a curate at St Clements, Marrickville and rector of St Stephens, Newtown)

But there were none returning. "Going", said the auctioneer in his raucous voice, "for the last time–gone." Yes, Woodcourt had "gone". It was to be in the future just a name, a memory, but a lovely memory – because I felt that here a dream had come true for a little while. What expenditure of time and effort on the part of the headmistress and her staff. How she must have planned for the school, and given her very life's blood for its success and her staff, too. The joys and sorrows, the hopes and fears, the wonders of success, when the long lists in the paper made the heart beat quicker, and made the Head so proud of her girls. "Going", said the auctioneer, "going, gone."

A lady passed me with a bundle of pictures in her arms, quite good ones, too. "I bought them for my girls," she said. "They were here, and they wanted those pictures for our home." Something in a school, I thought, when girls wanted to keep some of the pictures associated with their school days. Two sets of lockers were knocked down to a very low figure to be taken off to another school, where other girls would put their books and things into them.

Meanwhile in the hall the lovely clock chimed the quarters. Presented to Woodcourt School by the Old Girls' Union was the silver plate inscription. The auctioneer reached it at last. It had been a lovely and thoughtful gift, so much appreciated, and week in and week out it had chimed school hours and play hours, getting up time, and bed time. It was "going" too. But Old Girls had gathered round it. No outsider would be allowed to get it–the bidding went on – £3 – £3/10/- – £4 – £4/10/- – and an Old Girl had secured the old clock. "Going", said the auctioneer, "going, gone." And the old clock was removed to chime in another home and to remind a school girl growing into womanhood of happy days that could never come again.

I turned away, there was a lump in my throat and the tears were in my eyes. What tragedy was it that had brought this school to an end? Why had it been allowed to go? The crowd was thinning. Already many of the purchases were being carted away. The old building stood, lonely in its fine grounds, like a mother who had lost all her children. The evening shadows were drawing in, but somehow it seemed to me I could see girlish forms flit among the trees and scamper up the stairs. "Going–going–gone."



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NEWSLETTER Richard 557 3823

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MHS newsletter is printed by
Harlow Printing tel 559 5660 fax 558 6569