

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**BRICKS & BRICKMAKERS OF THE  
MARRICKVILLE AREA – DR GEORGE  
GIBBONS & CHRYS MEADER**

**Saturday April 27, 10.30 am  
Petersham Town Hall**



*We have good clay for bricks but no chalk or limestone  
[for mortar] has yet been found – Phillip 1788.*

*An elegant brick house is built for the Governor –  
David Collins 1788.*

That was the beginning of brickmaking in the infant colony of Sydney Cove. Did James Blood(s)worth, the convict builder of First Government House use the 5000 bricks that were part of the cargo of the *Scarborough* or were they recently made from the local clay? A sample of this clay was sent by Governor Phillip to Josiah Wedgwood, the English potter, who declared it to be of good quality.

MHS member **Dr George Gibbons**, geologist and expert on building stone with the Department of Mineral Resources, will tell the story of the earliest bricks, sandstocks, and their manufacture in Sydney.

**Chrys Meader**, Co-ordinator Reader Services, Marrickville Library will take up the story to tell of the progress in the industry into the suburbs, in particular around Marrickville. Brickyards of the district made the bricks for Farmers (now Grace Bros), Central Station and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. (Chrys is well qualified having lived for most of her life on a filled-in brick pit that was Daley's Standsure Brick Co., now Henson Park.)



Bricks, the most basic of building material, have a fascinating history and give an insight into a vanished way of life in the inner city. If **you** have any unusual bricks bring them along!

[Hoffnung's *Bricklayer's Lament* playable on request!]

## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY MAY 25**

*A walk on the North Side – Historian Shirley Doolan's tour around historic North Sydney.*

**SATURDAY JUNE 22**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Council Archivist Cheri Lutz talks of her role  
& how to use the Archival Research Centre.**

## HERITAGE RETAIL AREAS

Marrickville Council has had the Heritage Retail Areas of the LGAs under scrutiny for some time and employed a consultant to prepare a Draft Development Plan. The plan is to assist owners who want to alter or extend or erect new buildings in those areas, i.e. the 'shopping centres' of Dulwich Hill, New Canterbury Road Petersham, Crystal Street/Stanmore Road Petersham, Percival Road Stanmore and the strip on Parramatta Road. Each of these retail centres with their significant streetscape contributes to a sense of identity for the residents who shop there.

The study sets out guidelines of how to retain heritage features whilst carrying out alterations and additions. Certain buildings were recommended for listing on the Marrickville Local Environment Plan as a heritage item – the Gladstone Hotel Dulwich Hill, National Bank Petersham, Cafe Floriade and two groups of shops all in Percival Road Stanmore. It is time to recognise the value these heritage shopping centres hold in our communities compared to the soulless, huge hypermarkets and malls. John Zinsmeester, Richard Blair and Shirley Hilyard attended the three workshops held in conjunction with this project.

**Shirley Hilyard**

## BOOKS & JOURNALS ON SALE

A reminder to members that the Society sells a range of discounted local history books which include publications on several inner city suburbs and the two volume *History of NSW From the Records* (covering 1783-1794). You can buy this for just \$45 (RRP \$100). Back copies of most journals (*Heritage*) are still available. Books can be obtained at our next meeting on 27/4/96 or by ringing Richard on 557 3823.



## INCENDIARY HERITAGE WATCH

**Colchester** built in 1873 for James Beaumont is described in the 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study as a large two storey (sandstock) villa with mid-Victorian detailing ... [which] formed part of one of the villa estates which were established in this area from the mid 19th century. It was part of the Woodcourt Estate and is at 11 Woodcourt Street, Marrickville. The February fire caused comprehensive damage particularly to the back of the building. Approval has been given for removal of burnt timber debris so that limited stabilisation of the dwelling may occur prior to approving the DA for the works. The owner has stated that the building is still structurally sound and would be rebuilt (quoted in *The Glebe* 25/3/96).



rear of Colchester 1995 (photo: Libby Maher)

\* \* \* \* \*

Canterbury Council's Heritage Architect Greg Ritchie says the sandstone external walls of the **Canterbury Sugar Works** are *structurally sound* (following the 13/2/96 fire reported in March newsletter) but that no amended plans have yet been lodged by the developer. In the wake of recent fires The Minister for Urban Affairs Craig Knowles and the Heritage Council of NSW have advocated measures for better protection of heritage items and the Minister has indicated that penalty provisions for people *who damage or neglect heritage items are inadequate and usually difficult to prosecute*.

Canterbury Mayor Kayee Griffin has issued a statement questioning whether buildings of such national importance should be privately owned at all ... given that private owners may be motivated by commercial considerations rather than those of a heritage nature. ... *If private ownership is unavoidable then incentives should be offered that will encourage private owners to act to prevent heritage buildings standing derelict, a target for vandals and arsonists and to convert them economically for a worthwhile use.* Her statement further suggests that both Federal and State Governments might explore the possibility of acquiring heritage buildings for public use, thereby spreading the burden of preserving them across the entire community. **Canterbury Council is commended for exhibiting such good sense and vision in heritage conservation.**

Richard Blair

## FORMER ST PETERS TOWN HALL – WELLS, BOOTS & BOTTLES

This town hall stood at 140 Princes Highway St Peters from 1878 to 1927 when it was demolished. Last July MHS alerted Marrickville Council to this site. Excavations revealed four wells (reported in MHS August and December newsletters) whose sub-surface archaeological remains were recorded and removed before the excavation was backfilled.

An archaeological assessment was that the remains are of low significance, however *the site retains some important historical associations as the site of the first St Peters Council Chambers*. Of the four wells, only one contained artefacts in a good state of preservation – bottles, boots, planks of wood, bolts, bucket handles and a horseshoe. The bottles and boots are among the relics to be displayed at St Peters Town Hall Library during Heritage Week.

## IRISH ORPHANS RE-ENACTMENT

MHS was invited to hold a stall at Hyde Park Barracks on Saturday 16 March for the *Pride of Erin Heritage Project* commemorating the 105 Irish orphan girls who arrived in Sydney in 1850 en route to Yass. The girls involved in the re-enactment were all from Yass. MHS sold potatoes (twenty cents apiece) to be handed to the orphan girls. Green snakes were also sold along with the Society's comprehensive range of books and other items raising funds for the Society. Thanks are due to Angela, Shirley, Richard, Carol, Robert, John and John.

## MUNRO'S DOG OVAL (PART 2)

I am the daughter of the late Mr John Alexander Munro who was the owner of the Talbot Street, St Peters property bought about 1910. Talbot Street ran off Princes Highway and through to Canal Road off Ricketty Street. There was a dog track, but only for a brief period in the latter part of his ownership.

Previously it was a very successful dairy property with Friesian Stud cattle that won many Championships at the Royal Easter Show. Also there was a model dairy on the premises, adjacent to the home called *Chelmsford* – a photo of this model dairy was displayed for many years in the St Peters Council chambers.

It was a football field for several years with about sixteen tennis courts alongside, two top class, where many *A Grade Badge* matches were played – this at the time when NSW competitions were played at Double Bay Courts, before they were moved to the present *White City*. The property was resumed by NSW Government Railways for a goods yard, for the low sum of 10,000 pounds or less when the Botany Railway was put through.

Mavis Judd

We sadly report the death of Jim Hucker of St Peters. The Society offers condolences to Jim's family and friends.



## OUR LAST MEETING

**PERUSING LA PEROUSE** was the theme of the Society's excursion on 23 March and peruse it we did! La Perouse is rich in Australian history for it was at Botany Bay that the First Fleet initially dropped anchor in the new colony in 1788, followed only six days later by a French scientific expedition led by Jean-François de Galaup, Count of Lapérouse.

On the headland, with its magnificent scenic views, sit some interesting monuments and the Old Cable Station, housing the Laperouse Museum, which displays antique maps, prints, portraits, copies of pages from Lapérouse's letters, old coins and early navigational instruments. We learnt much about the purpose and expectations of Lapérouse's expedition and the solving of its fate.

Bare Island Fort has a fascinating history. Built of concrete in 1885 as a fortification against potential invasion, it was found to be so poorly constructed as to be useless as a fortress. The ensuing kerfuffle resulted in NSW's first Royal Commission into building standards, and the architect and engineers were forced to resign in disgrace. In 1912 it was modified to house war veterans (until 1963) who had to withstand the rigours of winter in those small, windowless concrete cells with no electricity or heating.

After a picnic lunch and the marvellous discovery of the biggest and best icecreams in Sydney it was back onto the coach to visit other points of local interest including the monument to mark Phillip's landing place in Yarra Bay and the surprise our host Richard had promised us, but what he delivered was more of a shock! Stopping at a house in Little Bay we could only gape – a two storey red brick structure replete with a profusion of barley sugar columns, fountains, plaster goddesses and assorted garishly coloured statuary, it was truly a vulgarian's delight [*Italian idiosyncratic* or *Michelangelo meets Abba* (all bloody balustrades and arches)].

We then wandered through the Pioneer Memorial Park\* at Botany Cemetery which is now the repository of the headstones for a number of prominent colonial citizens, among them Thomas and Mary Reibey (of *Stanmore House*), Simeon Lord, John Cadman, Michael Gannon, Barnett Levey and Ellis Bent.

Our final port of call was a memorable one – the old Sir Joseph Banks Hotel (1840s) in Anniversary Street Botany. Time and neglect have taken their toll on this once magnificent hotel in the grand Victorian style, which though still intact, is in a very poor state of repair. Whilst the once extensive and exotic gardens have disappeared, Botany Council has created an attractive public park behind the hotel, sympathetic to period and style. Our thanks to Richard Blair and Shirley Hilyard for organising this varied and most stimulating outing.

Carol Phillips

\* *The Concise Oxford* says IHS on headstones is abbreviation of *Jesus*, from Greek IHΣ. Often taken as abbreviation of various Latin words, or *In His Service* (or schoolboy howler *I Hate School.*) **Editor**

## ST CLEMENTS MEMORIES & MUSIC

MHS member Mrs Lerro Smith (nee Smith) of Yagoona, has fond memories of St Clements Anglican Church in Marrickville as this is where she and her siblings were baptised, her sister was married (twice) and Lerro married Keith on 7 September 1940. Lerro (who I interviewed for *Marrickville Remembers*) clearly recalls the St Clements bells ringing the day war ended. But there is more. Lerro's parents married there on 3 April, 1913 and were apparently the first couple to be married on Easter Saturday anywhere in Australia. After that Easter Saturday became known as the *Bride's Day*. Such is Lerro's affection for the church that she has made a generous donation to the spire appeal and she believes *Marrickville would not be the same without the spire*.

On Saturday 30 March a number of MHS members attended the first of four concerts at the church. Musicians from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed music by Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Weber, Spohr and Brahms. We heard Roger Brooke on bassoon, Francesco Celata, clarinet, Jeanell Carrigan, piano (which once accompanied Dame Nellie Melba) and Susan Reppion-Brooke, contralto. It was a treat to hear such splendid music in an ecclesiastic setting by musicians who donated their time. The next concert (1 June) will feature the Concordia String Quartet. Funds from all concerts will go towards the Spire Conservation Appeal.

Richard Blair

Due to newsletter content overload, trivia answers to the **Dagmar Berne** connection and the naming of **Ricketty Street** will appear in the May newsletter. Contact the editor if you have any input.

## LOCAL FAUNA & FLORA STUDY

*Litoria aurea* (green and golden bell frog) come back to Dibble's Waterhole!

An exciting initiative has been undertaken by Marrickville Council to study the indigenous vegetation and significant wildlife within our local area. A plan to re-establish the native plant community will provide habitats for the animal and bird species and encourage their return. Brooke Cohen is the consultant on fauna and Danny Hirschfield on vegetation. Two MHS members attended the launch of the studies.

Shirley 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.



## HERITAGE WEEK APRIL 28 - MAY 5

**Interiors – Come inside and look at Marrickville's heritage** (no bookings – enquiries Libby Maher 335 2114)

**Saturday 27th 10.30 am**

**Petersham Town Hall**

**Bricks & brickmakers of the Marrickville area** – a Marrickville Heritage Society talk.

**Sunday 28th Petersham interiors – guided tours**

**10 am - 12 noon Petersham Town Hall**

Heritage Architect Libby Maher and Council Archivist Cheri Lutz present the history of the Petersham Town Halls including the archival centre.

**11 am - 1 pm Mastertouch Piano Roll Company**

96 Crystal St, Petersham – a working museum.

**1-3 pm Majestic Roller Rink**

49 New Canterbury Rd, Petersham – a rare interwar cinema interior with 1950s overlay.

**2-4 pm Egyptian Room of the Scottish Royal**

**Arch Temple** 25 New Canterbury Rd, Petersham.

**Monday 29th 6-8 pm**

**Marrickville Medal Awards presentation at Marrickville Town Hall** to encourage and reward the high quality conservation of buildings of heritage significance. Listen to the bells of St Clements begin the ceremony and a Theatre Organ Recital after the awards.

**Wednesday 1st 7-8.30 pm**

**Diana pottery and Fowlerware** – a talk at Marrickville Library.

**Thursday 2nd 6 pm**

**St Peters Town Hall tour** with Chrys Meader & Hector Abrahams including former St Peters Town Hall site and recently found relics.

**Saturday 4th 10 am - 12 noon**

**Tour of Enmore Road** and environs with Hector Abrahams who will talk about the important heritage interiors open for inspection. Meet at the former Enmore Post Office.

**Saturday 4th 1-2 pm**

**St Clements church, rectory and hall interiors** – a tour to assist fund raising to save the church spire.

**Exhibitions (all week)**

**Marrickville Library** – Fowlerware & Diana pottery.

**St Peters Town Hall Library** (1) relics found at the former St Peters Town Hall site. (2) The Sydenham Community Study.

**SUNDAY 28 APRIL 3 PM**

**Prescott Hall, Newington College**

The second in this year's Prescott Series of recitals *Ensemble of the Golden Age* (featuring baroque violinists Margaret Caley and Simon Musgrave) will explore the beautiful chamber works of Corelli and his contemporaries. \$15, \$10 concession.

**SUNDAY 5 MAY 2 PM**

**Marrickville Town Hall**

Come and hear distinguished organist Tony Fenelon (by courtesy of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia) officially re-open the mighty refurbished Marrickville Wurlitzer which graced the Prince Edward Theatre (1924 - 1965) before being relocated by agreement with Marrickville Council. (*Marrickville's World Famous Wurlitzer* featured in *Heritage 6*)

## REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

A remembrance ceremony will be held at the Petersham TAFE campus (formerly Petersham Public School) memorial in Gordon Street on Thursday 2 May at 12 noon to commemorate the anniversary of the deaths of Flight Lieutenant David Rochford of Oxford, England and Leading Aircraftsman Charles Boydell of Mosman, both 25, who were killed in the crash of a de Havilland *Mosquito* bomber on 2 May 1945. Relatives of David Rochford and hopefully some ex-pupils and residents will be present.

Parking available in student car park, West Street, Petersham. After the service light refreshments will be served at Petersham RSL in Regent Street. Ring 569 5160 after 7 pm if you want further details.

Lu Bell

## INTRODUCING CHERI LUTZ – COUNCIL ARCHIVIST

After four years with the NSW State Archives, Cheri (a qualified History Teacher with a Graduate Diploma in Library & Information Studies) became Marrickville Council's archivist late last year (following the resignation of Rhona Clement). Originally from Orange, she now lives in Stanmore. Cheri has a passion for family and local history and would love to hear from members either researching their home or local area. She is available each Tuesday 10-1 and 2-4, or by appointment (335 2185). Cheri will be guest speaker at our AGM in June.

**INFOLINE** Shirley 569 1768

**MEMBERSHIP** Harold 569 5183

**NEWSLETTER** Richard 557 3823

**HERITAGE WATCH** John 550 6447

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