

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



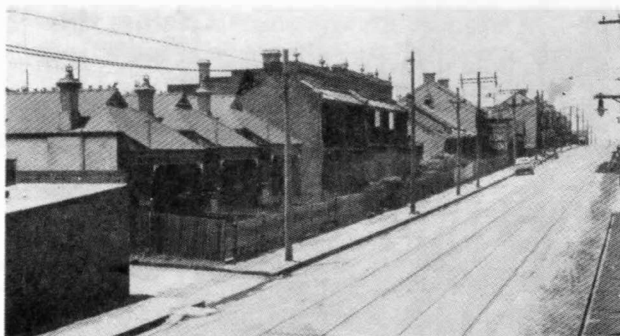
OUR NEXT MEETING

SO LONG SYDENHAM!

A walk around (what's left of) historic Sydenham led by heritage architect Peter McLaren & others on Saturday 27 July 10.30 am sharp

Meet at St Peters Town Hall, Unwins Bridge Road Sydenham (near Sydenham Station).

The vexed question of increased aircraft noise from Kingsford Smith Airport is well known to Society members. Nowhere is the issue more critical than in Sydenham, the suburb closest to the airport and subject to the highest level of aircraft noise. Hence certain areas of Sydenham have been deemed uninhabitable, with houses now being either acquired and demolished, or insulated by the Commonwealth Government.



Railway Road Sydenham 1939 (Government Printer in Cashman & Meader's *Marrickville* p 56)

However in the affected area some significant heritage buildings will survive and be given a new use – the Coptic (formerly Methodist) Church, the gem *Clarevill* and a fine stone house perhaps built as a bordello! A chance to see these interiors and much more including an old intact wire weaving factory with an incredible 70 year old steel cropper resembling something out of a Heath Robinson cartoon.

The social history of Sydenham (named in 1895 after a London suburb) was discussed by Dr Ken Cable at our February meeting. Now members can assess the effects of the Commonwealth policies. Surely this social vandalism is a requiem for democracy and its human cost.

WANTED – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

At the recent AGM the Society was unable to fill the position of Secretary on the executive so we are appealing to our broader membership for anyone who may be able to undertake this role. The position entails minute-taking at monthly executive meetings (first Monday evening of each month) and some letter writing. If interested please contact John on 550 6447.

OUR LAST MEETING

WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

About 50 members including our patron Eve Sharpe attended the twelfth Annual General Meeting at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 22 June. President John Zinsmeester presented the annual report which was followed by reports from the treasurer, the Heritage Watch, *Marrickville Remembers* and Amy Needham Prize committees, the journal and newsletter editors, and the assistant secretary.

The elections followed conducted by (MHS member and the recently retired Australian Electoral Officer for NSW) Brian Nugent. The new executive committee consists of: pro tem president John Zinsmeester, vice presidents Angela Phippen and Ed Jones, treasurer Harold Welsh, assistant secretary Gwenda Welsh, committee members Robert Hutchinson, John Edwards, Chrys Meader and Ian Phillips. Other positions accepted were Heritage Watch/Classifications convenor John Zinsmeester, *Heritage* editor Mark Matheson, newsletter editor Richard Blair, and membership secretary Mary Tait. Angela Collins will continue as honorary auditor and Richard Hughes as honorary solicitor. John Zinsmeester expressed his wish to stand down but agreed to continue as pro tem president until this position can be filled.

Guest speaker Council archivist Cheri Lutz demonstrated how our archives are a window to the past containing valuable resource information concerning one's home, land or past. Using overheads she showed us a copy of the original letter (1 May 1861) from our first mayor Gerald Halligan to have Marrickville made a Municipality. Cheri traced the history of the Victorian villa *Woodbury* (1880s) in Harrison Street Marrickville which became a private hospital then a children's home administered by the Lisgar Trust before being demolished in 1929. Members repaired to Maundrell Park for lunch and champers where the new committee was toasted in the traditional manner.

Richard Blair

THE WHOLE WORLD'S TALKING ABOUT THE JONES GIRLS!

MHS vice-president and publications printer Ed Jones is going to have more than printer's ink on his hands from now on! Lesley gave birth to Emily Jemima and Lucy May at the *Mater* on Saturday 29 June at 7 pm. Is it just a coincidence that E is for Ed and Emily whilst L is for Lesley and Lucy? The Society extends its best wishes to the proud parents.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1995-96

During the past year MHS has provided many activities. Our outings consisted of Clive Lucas' *Francis Greenway in the Country* where we saw Greenway's work in Liverpool and Windsor and also *Hobartville*; Bruce Baskerville led us on a *walk around Old Newtown*; Show & Tell at Petersham Park; Richard Blair's *Perusing La Perouse* took in the marvellous museum and Bare Island; and Shirley Doolan's *Walk on the North Side* visiting historic parts of North Sydney. Guest speakers were Martha Sear on women taxidermists, Jack Munday on the BLF and the green bans, Dr Ken Cable on Sydenham and the development of its community, and Dr George Gibbons & Chrys Meader on bricks and brickmakers of the Marrickville area. Today Cheri Lutz will tell us how a Council archivist operates.

Other events were our annual Pot Luck Dinner hosted by Gwenda and Harold Welsh, the National Trust Heritage Quiz where we fielded two tables and had great fun, the launch of *Heritage 9* at Victoria on the Park, and a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Lewisham plane crash and the hope for a plaque on the site by Council. I would like to especially thank Shirley Hilyard, Richard Blair, Gwenda and Harold Welsh for organising most of these activities.

We had five stalls at the Marrickville and Newtown Spring Festivals, St Clements Church on Election Day, and twice at Hyde Park Barracks. Here we could publicise the Society as well as sell our broad range of publications at very reasonable prices which are also on sale at our meetings.

The newsletter by Richard Blair assisted by Shirley Hilyard never ceases to amaze me, surely the best newsletter of its kind published anywhere. The year also saw the launch of *Heritage 9* edited by Mark Matheson and his editorial committee Shirley Hilyard and Richard Blair. At the National Trust Heritage Awards in May MHS was commended for the 1995 newsletters, *Heritage 9* and the journal *Index*. The Society is looking at Incorporation using model rules but including the goals and objectives of our existing Constitution.

I thank my hardworking executive – vice presidents Angela Phippen and Ed Jones, treasurer Harold Welsh, secretary Anne Walter, assistant secretary Gwenda Welsh, and committee members Shirley Doolan, Carol Phillips, Avril Chiswell, Robert Hutchinson and special thanks to Shirley Hilyard, who is stepping down after seven years on the committee, for her contributions everywhere. Others whose work is invaluable are membership secretary Mary Tait and Richard Hughes who continues to allow use of his home for executive meetings. I have been president for a year and this has been a daunting task partly due to my inexperience. For personal reasons I shall not be standing again for this position. I bid the incoming executive and the Society well.

John Zinsmeister

RETURN TO KELLY'S BUSH

A small but enthusiastic contingent from MHS went to Kelly's Bush on Sunday 16 June to celebrate and pay tribute to the Battlers for Kelly's Bush, unionists and all who fought to save this piece of native bushland at Hunters Hill. The day marked the 25th anniversary of the World's First Green Ban.

The weather and conditions underfoot only underscored the adversities this band had to endure throughout their long struggle. We stood in intermittent rain to hear from environmentalist Jack Munday who launched the book of the battle and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the day. Ten of the remaining thirteen Battlers (described by the unionists as those *middle class matrons*) recalled their roles in the fight. 25 years on they are still passionate.

Former MLA Rod Cavalier, who played a vital part, spoke followed by Neville Wran, Premier in 1983 when his Government bought the Bush. He concluded by reading the words of Kylie Tennant – *If Kelly's Bush and all the other harmless and beautiful places go, you have done something sinister. The only people who have a right to be proud are those who exerted their utmost efforts to see that it should remain.* But people of Sydney have a right to be very proud of those people. We salute you!

Shirley Hilyard

(Profits from the book *The Battlers for Kelly's Bush* go to the Kelly's Bush Regeneration Program. To obtain a copy send a \$12 cheque (includes postage) to Battlers Book PO Box 85 Hunters Hill 2010.)

ANOTHER WINGED VICTORY!

Roving reporters Gwenda and Harold Welsh recently spotted this war memorial in Maryborough, Queensland. Unlike *Nike* who stands watch outside Marrickville Town Hall (as

well as being the MHS logo and newsletter masthead) her Queensland counterpart is right-handed.

Maryborough City Council has advised this war memorial was designed by P.O.E. Hawkes, was unveiled in 1922 and is the only one of its type in Queensland and probably in Australia. The rough axed granite buttresses and obelisk highlight the five fine Italian white Carrara marble statues. The shaft is surmounted by a winged figure of Victory mounted on a sphere.

Richard Blair

Maryborough War Memorial
(photo: Gwenda Welsh)



HERITAGE WATCH

- We may never know whether a letter from the **National Trust** dated 12 June 1996 reached Marrickville Council in time for the 18 June Council meeting which voted to demolish the two houses at **367-369 Marrickville Road Marrickville**. As well as urging Council to refuse the DA, the Trust recommended the houses be listed as individual items on its LEP, and the boundary of its Urban Conservation Area be extended to include that part of Marrickville Road. MHS is appalled by the Council's decision particularly in the wake of last November's Land & Environment Court ruling that the houses were worthy of retention and restoration. The future looks bleak in Marrickville LGA for any unlisted dwelling acquired by developers.
- Shame on the Council's use of bitumen to repair the marvellous brick footpaths of **Hillcrest Street Tempe**. Not only should this be remedied forthwith but steps should be taken to have this street and nearby Wells Avenue classified by the National Trust as the only two local streets to be fully paved and kerbed with bricks (see separate article).
- **Colchester** (1873) in Marrickville, badly burnt in the February fire has been stabilised and if the owner is as sincere as she purports the damage will be rebuilt.
- What is the justification for the proposal to convert the front of **Marrickville Post Office** into shops when according to Cr Morris Hanna *there are 26 shops empty on Marrickville and Illawarra Roads* (the *Glebe* 26/6/96)?
- It is rather ironic that the remaining stock of MHS member Maurice Milliner's nursery *Sydenham Green* was auctioned on 6 July whilst the greening of the demolition sites of *Sydenham* is being rapidly effected by federal government bulldozers decimating the houses in that suburb's centre.
- Having discarded the inoffensive Lord's Prayer at Marrickville Council meetings can't a ban be imposed on elected councillors chewing gum during proceedings? It really sticks in the craw *Gumbo!*

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER #1 – OUR BRICK FOOTPATHS

Even though the 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study identifies only eight brick-paved streets in Marrickville LGA, there are many more. Marrickville has at least 24, Dulwich Hill 9, Tempe 4, Enmore and St Peters 1 each. About 13 streets are paved on both sides. In Tempe Hillcrest Street and Wells Avenue also have brick bullnose kerbing dating from the 1940s and are among the few remaining examples of work undertaken by the old St Peters Council. Bridge Street Tempe has brick kerbing only.

The Marrickville Heritage Study describes Hillcrest Street as *possibly the best example of brick paving and kerbing remaining in the Municipality*. Repairs have recently been done using bitumen which is unfortunate as this street surely warrants National Trust classification. Victoria Street, St Peters is

described in the Study as *an extremely good example of an early road complex comprising brick pavements, sandstone guttering and brick road surface*. No other examples of brick road paving have been identified in the Municipality. The little remaining of Victoria Street runs alongside the site of the original St Peters Town Hall.



Hillcrest Street Tempe (Marrickville Heritage Study)

Bourne Street and Juliett Street, both classified by the National Trust in the mid 1980s, are paved with high quality hard baked bricks in a stepped pattern dating from the 1930s as part of a depression employment scheme. Marrickville Council agreed to a request from the National Trust for them to be preserved. The Central Brick and Tile Company of St Peters supplied most of the local brick pavers.

Marrickville's brick-paved streets (etc) are Albermarle, Anderton, Beauchamp, Bourne*, Cecilia, Darley, Enmore*, Graham, Harney, Harrison, Hastings, Kays, Juliett*, Livingstone, Llewellyn*, Lynch, Pine, South, Tamar, Victoria*, Wallace, William, Woodbury, and Wrights. Dulwich Hill has Barnsbury, Blackwood, Canonbury, Challis, Garnet, Kays, Keith, Margaret, and Ness. Tempe has Hillcrest*, Collins* & Nicholson Streets, and Wells Avenue. St Peters has Victoria Street*, and Enmore has Juliett Street*.

Thanks to members Edna Andrews, Fred Ellis, Leslie Fairbairn, Alexandra Loveridge, Chrys Meader and Ian Phillips who responded. Are there any in Newtown, Camperdown, Sydenham, Stanmore, Petersham, Lewisham, or Hurlstone Park? Let me know.

Richard Blair

* named in 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY JULY 27 10.30 am

So long Sydenham!

Details on front page.

SATURDAY AUGUST 24 10.30 am

Petersham Town Hall

Botanic Gardens plant ecologist Doug Benson talks on the bushland of Sydney especially around Marrickville.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

Cooks River Tour led by Mark Matheson.

MIDWINTER CONCERTS

SATURDAY 20 JULY 7.30 PM

Centenary Hall Newington College

Magnificent Mozart. The SBS Youth Orchestra, a combined choir of 200 voices and distinguished soloists will perform Mozart's Requiem K626. His Piano Concerto No 19 in F Major with soloist Kyunghye Lee will also be performed. \$20, \$15 concession.

SUNDAY 28 JULY 3 PM

Prescott Hall, Newington College

Intermezzo. Violinist David Saffir and pianist Gerard Willems perform best loved works from the Romantic repertoire including the wonderful Respighi Sonata. \$15, \$10 concession.

SUNDAY 28 JULY 4.30 PM

St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River

Ray Holland will play music of Bach, Purcell, Mozart and Grieg on the historic organ. Entry by donation.

GRAVE REFLECTIONS

To celebrate the centenary of the closing of the St Peters Anglican Church graveyard Laurel Horton, with the help of members of the congregation has written *Grave Reflections – The Story of St Peters Graveyard Cooks River*. It includes the story of the graveyard, biographical notes on over 250 families and a complete burial list. This publication will be launched by Professor Edwin Judge, School of History, Philosophy & Politics, Macquarie University on Sunday 11 August at 10 am at the church, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters. MHS members welcome.

Ring 557 2332 for further details.

ARTY APPETITES

Come to St Peters for *Arty Appetites*, an art show of paintings, lithographs, sculpture, and the stunning *Kaiser* baskets made from natural fibres, on Saturday 13 July 3-6 pm and Sunday 14 July 11-5 at the Mary Street Artists Studios in the former Taubmans Paint Factory (2nd floor, Factory 1, Building 2) 75 Mary Street, St Peters.

Ring 517 2060 for more details.

MARRICKVILLE – THE MOVIE CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA?

Recent filming of scenes for Bruce Beresford's *Paradise Road* saw the most elegant group of people ever to grace Marrickville Town Hall. The real Raffles Hotel probably never looked this good! However the Marrickville area has a had long association with films. Marrickville High featured in the now defunct teenage soapie *Heartbreak High*. The rooftop dance scene from *Strictly Ballroom* took place on the corner of Victoria and Marrickville Roads. You can still see the tilting Hills Hoist clothes line. Petersham and Marrickville Town Halls were both dressed up as the dance halls.

However some forgotten moments of memorable screen time are worth attention. In the 1930s one of Australia's pioneer filmmaking teams, Charles and Elsa Chauvel shot scenes in and around Marrickville. One of his first movies *Heritage* was filmed along Cooks River. Local woman Thelma Price lent her horses for the movie. Parts of *Jedda* were filmed in Wolli Creek. These movies are now on video and will soon be available from Marrickville Library along with educational and children's videos.

Other movies and television series include – *Phar Lap* (Australia Street Newtown); *The First Kangaroos* (Arlington Oval grandstand and Henson Park); *Five Times Dizzy* (Albermarle Street, Newtown); *The Girl From Peking* (Alexandra Canal, Tempe pretended to be Hong Kong); *G. P.* (Petersham); and *You Can't See Around Corners*. This was a late 1960s classic featuring Rowena Wallace. The night her character (as the media frenzy put it) "lost her innocence" in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park was one of the highest ratings in Australian television to that time. This is not a definitive list. There are more. The movie (and also the literary) connections of Marrickville are numerous.

Chrys Meader

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Membership is \$8 for concession & seniors, \$14 for individuals & joint concession, and \$20 for households & organisations.

Subscriptions renewable in July. Members receive a monthly newsletter and the annual journal *Heritage*. Meetings/outings on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204
or ring Harold 569 5183

INFOLINE Mark 559 5502

NEWSLETTER Richard 557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH John 550 6447

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