

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



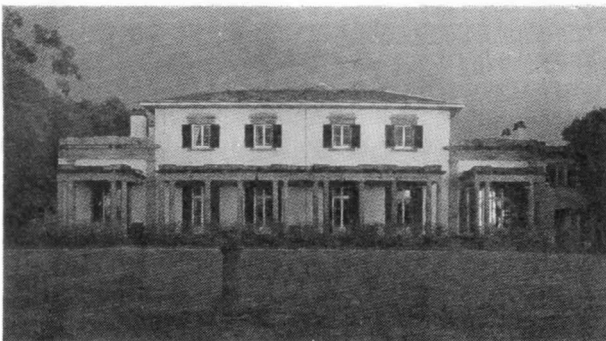
OUR NEXT MEETING

**CAMDEN PARK, MENANGLE &
BELGENNY FARM, CAMDEN**
Saturday 24 May 8.45 am

Meet at Petersham Town Hall at 8.45 am for 9 am (sharp) coach departure. Return about 5 pm. Cost \$28 (coach, both entrance fees and morning Devonshire tea). BYO lunch. Bookings: Shirley 9569 1768 or Richard 9557 3823. Please advise if you wish to cancel.

Belgenny Farm, part of the original Camden Park property of 2000 hectares (c. 5000 acres) has the most historic group of colonial farm buildings in Australia, and the cottage that was home to wool pioneers, **John and Elizabeth Macarthur** from 1820. Lord Camden, British Secretary for Colonies recommended that Macarthur receive this grant of the best land in the colony, known as the *Cowpastures*, to continue his work.

Belgenny became a thriving agricultural and pastoral property with vineyards, orchards, maize, wheat and sheep, horses, cattle and dairy cows. These rural buildings, remarkably intact and virtually unaltered, were purchased by the Department of Planning in 1976 and are now conserved as the birthplace of Australia's agriculture.



To Camden Park, home of the seventh generation of the Macarthur family and a unique opportunity for a guided tour of this marvellous house (pictured). John Macarthur had been gathering ideas for his house from English pattern books for years but finally the commission was given to **John Verge** (1782-1861). The Colonial Regency house, begun in 1831, is designed for a park setting with superb entrance and garden fronts.

As the house is open for inspection only once annually (on the last weekend of September), this tour arranged by MHS is not to be missed.

AGM COMING UP – NEW BLOOD NEEDED ON OUR COMMITTEE

We wish to remind members that the annual general meeting at which a new executive committee is elected will be held on 28 June. Several members of the present committee will not be seeking re-election. Over the past year the committee has continued administration of the Society under some difficulties. The president has been in hospital several times, whilst others have been faced with personal and family illness. The rest of the committee have had many calls on their time in addition to producing the newsletter and other publications.

It is now time for members to consider taking office to keep our great Society going. The work is not onerous if everyone takes a share. Outgoing office bearers will ensure that new ones are well briefed and helped in every possible way. It is now over to you, the great body of members, to become involved.

The Committee

The position of **honorary auditor** is still unfilled. Would a willing worker please contact Harold as soon as possible on 9569 5183?

STEEL PARK MARRICKVILLE

Adaptive reuse seems to be the current heritage catchphrase, but plans to redevelop Steel Park (established 1928) as a private sporting complex will reduce the amount of open space by about half and possibly have a negative environmental impact in terms of rubbish, river pollution, noise and traffic generation.

Marrickville People & Places (p 167) makes the point that *since the 1930s there have been few large parks created in the municipality*. Surely free public access to open space is more important now than ever before. The matter will be considered at the next full Marrickville Council meeting on Tuesday 20 May from 6.30 pm. Be there!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Christine & Helen Costello, Dulwich Hill; John & Astrid Sargeant, Enmore; Jacqueline Isles (rejoined), Lisa Clancy, Malcolm Thomson of Marrickville; Allan Rees & Robyn Stacey, Newtown; Ellen & Susan Howroyd, Sydenham; Garry & Julie Winter, Bondi Junction; Irene Upson, Cammeray; Ann Sheahan, Castlecrag; Kath Lehany Hunters Hill; Rod Cox, Leichhardt; Daphne Kingston, Penshurst.

OUR TWO PLANE CRASHES

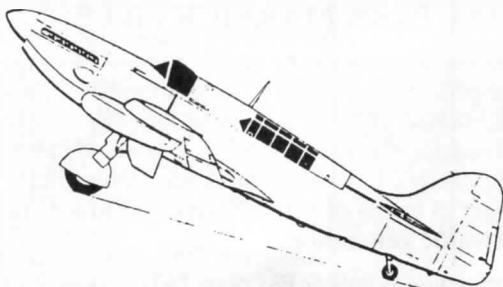
It's extraordinary that two fatal plane crashes involving service aircraft occurred within nine months of each other in 1945 and 1946 in Petersham and Lewisham just a few hundred metres apart. Ceremonies were recently conducted commemorating these crashes (both described in past newsletters).

At 11.45 am on 2 May 1945, a Mk VI Mosquito Bomber of RAF 618 Squadron based at Mascot exploded over Petersham. Killed were the pilot, Flt-Lt David George Rochford of Oxford, England and RAAF LAC Charles Broughton Boydell, of Mosman. Both were 25. Rochford's body fell into the playground of what was then Petersham Public School, and forms of remembrance have been in the grounds ever since.

A large gathering attended a remembrance ceremony at the school, now Petersham TAFE on Friday 2 May to mark the 52nd anniversary of the crash. Relatives (from England and Victoria) of both victims came along with numerous former pupils, RSL and MHS members including ex pupil Lu Bell who was largely instrumental in organising and publicising this event.

* * * * *

The crash into the former Lewisham Hospital happened at 9.30 am on Thursday 31 January 1946. Royal Navy Firefly Griffon Mark II Reconnaissance Fighter DK480 crashed and resulted in the deaths of hospital workers Iris May Thompson, 19 of Granville, and John Kevin Smith, 17 of Enfield, and a serviceman Petty Officer Edmund Mackenzie Butterworth, 25 of Knott-End-on-Sea, near Fleetwood, Lancashire, England. The pilot, who parachuted to safety, was exonerated of blame.



On Sunday 20 April in the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel courtyard a plaque was unveiled in memory of those killed. The President of the St Vincent de Paul Society (which owns the site) John Moore welcomed the gathering, Richard Blair spoke about the crash and Deputy Mayor Cr Carmel Tebbutt unveiled the plaque.

Almost half of the 70 who attended were relatives of Iris Thompson and Jack Smith. The sister and brother of Edmund Butterworth (living in England and Canada) were unable to come. The plaque and the event were organised by the Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee in conjunction with the Marrickville Heritage Society.

Richard Blair

WHERE IS THIS?



We believe this scene to be in the Marrickville district. Though this section of canal may no longer exist, the railway line, rail crossing, signage and houses are clues. If you have any ideas please ring Robert Hutchinson on 9568 3079.

FORMER ST AUGUSTINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH SITE STANMORE

A small victory for residents in April when Marrickville Council unanimously rejected for the second time a Development Application for the former site of St Augustine's Anglican Church in Albany Road Stanmore. Opposition to the DA had been continuous since 1994.

No objection had been made against the building of five town houses. However objections were raised when the applicant applied to have the zoning altered so as to accommodate the size and scale of the development for eight town houses. The proposed development contravened Council regulations for height, width and amount of outside space required. Some residents were denied access to view the plans for the site.

Residents expressed disappointment that the Council's heritage architect did not support their fight to retain the heritage aspect of the streetscape. Her support for the developer's *adaptive reuse* of the church building has puzzled residents: little or none of the church's original character would have been retained; it would be obscured by buildings in front of it, and it would have had no real heritage value. Had the development been allowed, a precedent would have been set for further unsuitable developments in the LGA.

Joyce Roy

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HERITAGE WEEK: APRIL 20-27

The President of the National Trust (NSW) Barry O'Keefe said on introducing Premier Bob Carr at the 1997 Heritage Lecture that for the National Trust *every day is a heritage day, every week a heritage week, but there is one week in the year in which all the Trusts of Australia join together to have a celebration of our heritage in all the forms – built, natural and cultural.* Over 320 statewide events comprised this annual feast of heritage activities whose theme was *Culture Down Under.*

Around Marrickville lot's was happening. MHS organised two events. Mark Matheson, armed with his detailed map took a group along **Cooks River** from Canterbury to Tempe and brought the colourful history of this river to life. Archaeology consultant **Noeleen Curran** spoke on the heritage of industrial sites (see separate report).

Perhaps the most stunning local event (Friday 18 April) was the long awaited **Back to Strollers Night 50-50 Dance at Marrickville Town Hall**, organised by Marrickville Council's Community Services Committee to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of Marrickville Town Hall. Ballroom dancing with a small dance band evoked many memories and was a delight to watch.



The Fort Street Concert Band provided a scintillating variety of music at the same venue on Monday 21 April for the third annual presentation of the Marrickville Medal and the inaugural High Schools Heritage Prize. There were nine entries for the **1997 Marrickville Medal** for the conservation of a house which was won by a carefully restored 1906 brick and slate cottage in Denison Street, Camperdown (design: David Bennett, architect).

Commendations were awarded to *Parklands*, Williams Parade, Dulwich Hill (design: Stephen Figgis, architect); *Fairview*, Herbert Street, Dulwich Hill (design: Greg Vickas, architect); and *Eden Cottage*, Station Street, Petersham (design: Peter McLaren, owner/architect). Mayor Barry Cotter presented the awards and Hector Abrahams compered the evening. The panel of judges comprised architect Matthew Devine (jury chairman), architect David Denne, Sydney editor *Home Beautiful* Judith Matheson, and lecturer in Social Planning UNSW Dr Susan Thomson.

The winners of the inaugural local High Schools **Heritage Prize** were Peter Corbett, Petros Macarounas, James Windon and Ben Wolrige from Newington College for the joint project *Newington College 1865-1956* including oral histories. A commendation was awarded to Daniel Fanous and Nathan Trepezanov, also from Newington for the joint project *Newington College 1950-1970*. Entries were also received from Dulwich High. The prizes were awarded by the judge Elsa Atkin, National Trust Executive Director. Thanks to Avril Chiswell and Donna Braye of the Heritage Promotion Committee who organised the competition.

The Friends of Marrickville Library conducted an **oral history workshop** conducted by local author and oral historian **Diana Giese**. Historic **Ferncourt Public School** hosted talks by **Colin Gale**, Chair of the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, on Aboriginal heritage, and historian **Chrys Meader** on the history of *The Warren* area including *Ferncourt*. Maybe one day Chrys' dreams of West Marrickville being renamed The Warren and the turreted archway currently in Hunters Hill being returned to its rightful location (see April newsletter) will come to fruition.

After a nibble in the **Kitchens and Pantries** of the area, heritage architect Hector Abrahams led a group on a tour of old **Dulwich Hill**, including the splendid Arts & Crafts style Gladstone Hotel, the 1920s Scout Hall in Lewisham Street built by the Dixon family (owners of *Abergeldie*), and some 19th century farmhouses in Constitution Road whose alterations had obscured their original appearance. Former Council archivist Rhona Clement showed us the *Abergeldie Estate*, with its unique well preserved collection of early 1930s houses.

The **Lewisham plaque ceremony** (reported separately) also occurred during this week and was one of many activities organised by the Heritage Promotion Committee whose members are Hector Abrahams, Richard Blair, Donna Braye, Avril Chiswell, Matthew Devine, Cr. Sylvia Hale, Robert Hutchinson, Cheri Lutz, Libby Maher, Mark Matheson, Anna Roache and Cr. Carmel Tebbutt. Special thanks to Libby Maher for all her efforts.

Beyond Marrickville I heard Premier Bob Carr give the annual National Trust Heritage Lecture at the State Library some of whose *treasures* were also on display at their excellent exhibition *Possessed*; accompanied Ross Pearson around parts of literary Sydney (one wondered which eminent writer had **not** visited Sydney!); joined the Water Board's Jon Breen along the route of Busby's Bore (Sydney's first piped water supply) from Hyde Park to Centennial Park; and visited the wonderfully restored John Verge designed Rose Bay Cottage (1834) described by conservation architect Alan Croker.

Heritage Week 1997 was rich, diverse and exhausting but no doubt I'll be back for more next year!

Richard Blair, Editor

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY MAY 24

By coach to *Camden Park & Belgenny Farm*.
Details on front page.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY JULY 26

St Peters Walk with Laurel Horton

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

Sydney Then and Now with Bob Irving

OUR LAST MEETING

DOWN UNDER DOWN UNDER ADAPTIVE REUSE, DECONTAMINATION & REDEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SITES

Archaeology and heritage consultant Noeleen Curran provided insights into the industrial heritage of the Marrickville LGA at our meeting on Saturday 26 April. Intensive industrialisation was encouraged in the Marrickville area with flourishing steel, automotive, woollen, pottery and flour industries. The former Crago and Waratah (Great Western) flour mills remain as significant industrial local landmarks.

Preserving our industrial heritage involves more than simply retaining an industrial facade, which is hardly an archaeological remnant – the tools, machines and other factory structures provide more meaningful information about historic enterprises. Protecting these defunct industrial sites can be complicated by conflicting social needs – some industrial sites have residual contamination from toxic substances used in production.

Furthermore there is often pressure to redevelop historic industrial buildings in ways which are not compatible with the heritage value of the site. Noeleen noted ideal situations where industrial remnants are interactive with the community, such as Sydney Park, formerly the site of brickworks in St Peters, and Hyde Park Barracks.

Noeleen raised interesting issues relating to the heritage value of local industrial *relics*. Retaining these *primary sources* provides data for further research and education about past lifestyles and history, and contributes to a fuller understanding of the social and economic context of the area. Thanks to Noeleen for such a stimulating talk.

Julie Drew

[MHS wit Ian Phillips quipped that Crago's flour was *plain*. No prize for guessing which form of transport had just roared by!]

The Society extends its best wishes to our president John Zinsmeester who has spent a lot of time recently in hospital. If anyone would like to send a greeting care of the Society, your message will be passed on to John.

PETERSHAM TOWN HALL FACELIFT OLD TIME DANCING IS BACK!

Marrickville Council is commended for the wonderful restoration to the interior of this fine building utilising the original colour scheme down to the gold leaf. The dance floor is still to be refurbished.

Go and see the hall or better still, grab your partner and go dancing there on May 10 (gala re-opening), 17 and 31 from 8 pm. You can pay at the door (\$12 includes supper) or if you wish to take a group ring Barbara or Ross on 9981 3009.

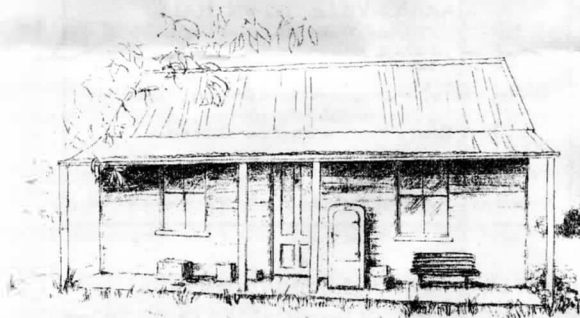
LETTER FROM A NEW MEMBER

Dear Marrickville Heritage Society,

I enjoyed the Dulwich Hill walks on Saturday [26 April] very much. Although I do not live in the municipality, I am interested in the district. I included some buildings in my *Sydney's Hidden Charms* (Kangaroo Press 1987).

I do hope Stanmore House will eventually be restored. My husband and I met at Marrickville Town Hall – have been married 45 years! With best wishes,

Daphne Kingston (of Penshurst)



This weatherboard cottage (c 1870s) at 128 Wardell Road Dulwich Hill set back from the street was part of a market garden and is now up for sale (sketch: Daphne Kingston p 73, Sydney's Hidden Charms)

Many members attended local Heritage Week activities. We were especially delighted to see at the Strollers Night and Ferncourt School one time resident Shirley Kirkman who has spent her married years living at West Wyalong.

Among those who were welcomed to the Ferncourt School evening were former pupils and MHS members Leslee Isted and Ken Turner.

INFOLINE Robert 9568 3079

MEMBERSHIP Harold 9569 5183

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823