

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PETERSHAM TOWN HALL Saturday June 28 10.30 am

The executive committee invites all members to the Society's thirteenth Annual General Meeting to receive a report on behalf of the president John Zinsmeester who is very ill, and the reports of the treasurer, Heritage Watch and publications committees and assistant secretary.

Elections for all executive positions for the coming year will be held. Nominations are called for president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, and four committee members. Other positions to be filled are Heritage Watch and Classifications convenor, newsletter editor, journal editor, and membership secretary. Nominations may be made in writing to the Society or on the day.

Formalities will be dispensed with quickly to hear from our guest speakers – **Dr Ken Cable** and **Lester Tropman**, both appointed to review the Marrickville Heritage Study. At 12.30 pm join the new executive for lunch in nearby Maundrell Park (weather permitting). Bring a sandwich to share and we will provide the champagne and fruit juice. We look forward to a good roll-up.

THE BATTLE FOR STEEL PARK

Full marks to Marrickville Councillors for unanimously rejecting the application to develop a large part of Steel Park, Marrickville into a major sporting complex. It was a tremendous victory for the local residents who in the space of a few weeks mobilised an extraordinary campaign involving consolidated networking, rallies and about 2000 letter box drops opposing the David Lloyd Leisure Australia proposal.

A working party will be formed involving Councillors, Council staff and community representatives to develop options for community, cultural and sporting use of the area and a survey will be conducted on recreational needs.

**REMEMBER: JULY IS THE TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MHS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP. YOU
MAY PAY HAROLD AT THE AGM!**

OBITUARY – MARY TAIT

Mart Tait, who died on 8 May at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from leukaemia, had lived all her life in Malakoff Street, Marrickville.

Members of MHS attended a service of thanksgiving for her life at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

Others will write of her work in the community – of her remedial reading with children of Marrickville West Primary School and as a volunteer at Eversleigh Palliative Care Unit. For this Mary was honoured as a Rotary Club Citizen of the Year in 1991.



Mary Tait enjoying herself at dinner during the 1989 MHS Mudjee trip (photo: Geoff Ostling)

But we can write of Mary as a dedicated member of the Marrickville Heritage Society since its inception in 1984, with the June 1991 AGM conferring life membership. In 1992 Mary became membership secretary of the Society. This was in addition to her role as a runner, delivering the newsletter near her home, and enveloping and posting it to the many members living outside the Marrickville area. Mary was always on hand to help on MHS stalls at festivals in all weathers and donated many a posy of lavender from her garden. She genuinely enjoyed her involvement with the Society. Not only was she admired, she was loved by those who knew her.

We extend our condolences to Mary's family who were a very special part of her life and to those in the Society who called her a friend.

Shirley Hilyard

(A donation in memory of Mary Tait can be made to the Leukaemia Research Fund (Laltham) c/- Professor John Gibson, Institute of Haematology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, NSW 2050.)

9 MIDDLETON STREET STANMORE

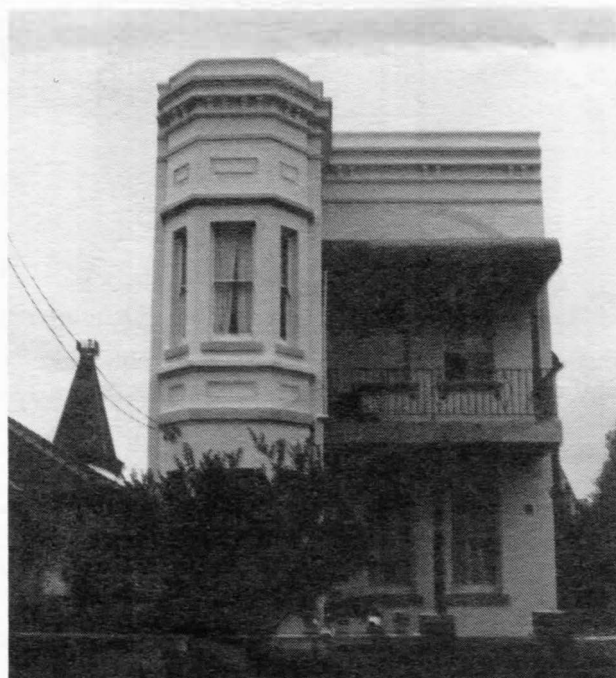
Members may be interested to know some details about an 1881 two storey building at 9 Middleton Street, Stanmore, which appears to be divided into units. Externally it is well preserved and easily recognised from the original finely detailed plans.

The contract for the construction of this *villa residence*, describes its situation as being at *the rear of the new Wesleyan College* (Newington). The architect was Edmund Cooper Manfred of Goulburn. The builder was James Welsby of Goodlet and Cleveland Streets, Sydney and the owner Thomas Felton, then of Liverpool.

The agreement was entered into on 24 December 1880, for the cost of 1175 pounds: *The whole of the works to be completed within five months, subject to a three pound a week forfeit if in excess of that time.*

E.C. Manfred (1856-1941) was a prominent Goulburn and southern district architect. As a junior he was professionally associated with the *great ecclesiastical and former Colonial architect E.T. Blacket*. In 1879 he went to Goulburn with the illustrious Blackets to work on St Saviour's Cathedral and decided to stay there.

Manfred's work included a church, hotel, hospital, Goulburn City Hall, and many prominent town and country residences; even extending as far afield as Stanmore! Furthermore, his second wife Eleanor Bugle came from Stanmore.



9 Middleton St Stanmore (photo: Jane Woolley)

My father John Woolley wrote an article on Manfred published in 1973 by the Goulburn & District Historical Society. If any member would like a copy of this article or more detailed information on this building (whose specifications of 25 hand written pages make interesting reading) give me a ring on 9516 3337.

Jane Woolley

TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES – TEMPE DOG TRACK

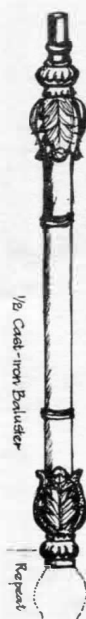
Members may recall the articles on Munro's Dog Oval which was east of the Princes Highway about midway between Canal Road and the goods railway line in St Peters (see February & April 1996 newsletters). Council Archivist Cheri Lutz has located correspondence which adds to this story.

In March 1938 Alex Wennerborn of 32 Edith Street, St Peters wrote to St Peters Council in his capacity as Secretary, Munro Park Greyhound Racing Club Ltd. seeking approval for a **second** greyhound racing license to conduct dog races *on the property now known as Munro's Sports Ground*.

In May 1939 E.L. Stephens of Five Dock wrote to St Peters Council about having a separate *dog trialling track up to the latest Electric Standards and conforming with size to the latest track to be licensed*. In June he applied to have the track located on the property owned by Mr Robinson between South Street and Swamp Road, Tempe. He assured the Town Clerk that *no breach of the laws and regulations, that would tend to cause any disfavour to either the Council or Police will be tolerated at any time*.

This application was obviously successful. In March 1940 two Wentworth Street, Tempe residents wrote complaining of the terrible noise at the end of Wentworth Street caused by the barking and howling of dogs, people shouting, bad language, car doors slamming and the noise of the engine running the hare, all making it unbearable to live there. So much for the applicant's assurances! This was happening every day from 5.30 am and plans were under way to light the course for night use. The residents wondered why a second dog track was needed when Munro's Dog Oval in St Peters was nearby. It is not clear how long the Tempe track lasted but MHS member Ron Smith recalls the Tempe dog track going well into the 1940s. Both Munro's & Tempe tracks are long since (dog)gone!

Richard Blair



A BALUSTER FOUND lying on the ground in Petersham Park by one of our heritage-minded members is part of the historic Petersham Park bandstand. The member did the correct thing in a) taking the cast-iron baluster home, and b) contacting Marrickville Council (twice) to come and collect it.

It is not known why the Council did not collect it as (twice) promised. Two adjoining balusters were missing on recent inspection. Hopefully replicas can be made from this original and all be reinstated. The baluster has been handed in to the heritage architect (drawing: Shirley Hilyard).

OUR LAST MEETING BELGENNY FARM & CAMDEN PARK

Despite the forecast of rain, the sun shone on us for our delightful visit on 24 May to *Belgenny Farm*, Camden and *Camden Park*, Menangle built by John and Elizabeth Macarthur. At Belgenny Farm a delicious morning tea served in the old granary was followed by a display of sheep dogs working with descendants of the original Macarthur flock. The buildings, close to Belgenny Cottage (designed by Greenway's rival Henry Kitchen) reveal the diversity of the farm.

The layout is impressive – mill, granary, engine room, sheepshed, slaughterhouse, piggery, carpenter's shop and blacksmith's shop with its enormous bellows, all close together. Great consideration was given to the stables with horses on one side; bays for drays, sleds and other horse drawn vehicles on the other. The buildings are of a high quality and have weathered remarkably well. With the slight permeation of farm odours remaining, we could imagine ourselves back in what must have been a model working farm developed on the time and motion principle lines. The Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute has developed the farm as an educational centre showing all facets of early farming and presenting the cultural, social and economic aspects of colonial times.

After a visit to the Macarthur family cemetery we reached Camden Park, built 1831-35 and continuously occupied by members of the Macarthur family since. Elegant in the Regency style with pavilions on either side of a central two-storeyed block with entire front colonnaded, local Hawkesbury sandstone was used extensively and the stuccoed brick exterior gives a pleasant appearance. Situated on a rise we lunched in the gardens (amid the roses and the first camellia *Camden Park* grown here) with a wonderful panorama of the surrounding area.

The house (in which parts of *My Brilliant Career* was filmed) reveals a smorgasbord of treasure – paintings, books, furniture, whale oil lamps, an early Macarthur dinner service and old appliances in the original kitchen. The cellars contain remnants of wine from the old vineyard.

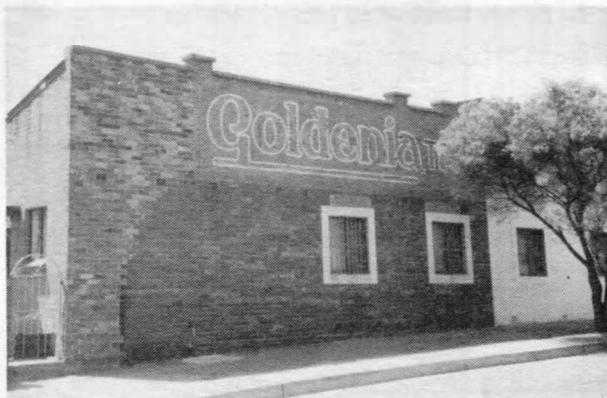
We enjoyed the privilege of seeing these two properties which are a complete contrast and have been so caringly retained. Special thanks to *The Friends of Belgenny* guides Michael, Noel and Sylvia; sheepdogs Ruby and Knucklehead ('Ed for short), and their wrangler; our hosts and guides at Camden Park, John and Edwina Macarthur-Stanham; and to Shirley Hilyard for organising this wonderful day.

Phyllis & Wal McCorquodale

SHIRLEY'S CAMDEN PARK POSTSCRIPT: Guided through the house we marvelled at the interiors – the entrance hall, dining room, and the library all relying on elegant proportions, superb joinery on classical lines, vistas along passages, portraits and fine Australian furniture. With one omission – three architects in our group could have pointed out some of the elements of the exterior that mark Camden Park as a Colonial Regency house, however time passed all too quickly. We will have to go to Menangle again! The annual Open Weekend is 20-21 September (Saturday 12-4, Sunday 10-4; adults \$8, family \$25).

GOODBYE GOLDENIA!

Among our disappearing heritage, once so commonplace, is painted wall advertising. On the last day of autumn the new owner of the 1920s shop on the corner of Unwins Bridge Road and Collins Street, Tempe painted over the old Goldenia Tea sign (blue lettering, orange background), a longtime local landmark (pictured below).



This was despite efforts by MHS member Geoff Croft who had urged the owner not to proceed with painting over the sign. Geoff pointed out the heritage significance of the sign, and the property enhancement value to the building, especially as the owner (ironically) runs a signwriting business! Council advised that they have no authority to prevent obliteration of such painted signage – surely a policy that should be reviewed. A sign of the times: scant respect for the signs of yesteryear!

Richard Blair

Note: Another *Goldenia Tea* wall ad (in poorer condition than the one just lost) can still be seen in Henry Street, St Peters.

NEWTOWN SQUARE MOSAIC

Commissioned by Marrickville Council for inclusion in Stage Two of Newtown Square, the Newtown Square Mosaic Project is well under way. The Mosaic is designed to reflect the political and social history of Newtown in the form of a 27.5 square metre mosaic using bluestone tiles. Artwork is being organised by the Community Arts Workshop.

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Annual General Meeting.

Dr Ken Cable & Lester Tropman to talk on Marrickville Heritage Study Review.

Details of front page.

SATURDAY JULY 26

St Peters Walk with Laurel Horton

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

Sydney Then and Now with Bob Irving

OLD TOWN HALL VINTAGE SEATS

Pictured below is one of two old wooden seats long domiciled in the Marrickville Town Hall cloakrooms. Our president, the ever vigilant John Zinsmeester, who spotted them some time ago, believes they could date from the 1880s and are remnants from the old Marrickville Town Hall in Illawarra Road which ceased to have that function when the current town hall opened in 1922. It is believed Council's Local Studies Collection has a photograph depicting the seats at the old town hall. The seats have turned front legs and a slatted seat and the back has a pierced decorative pattern.



1880s seat in Gents cloakroom at Marrickville Town Hall (photo: Richard Blair)

I have not been privy to a visit to the Ladies cloakroom at the town hall, but a lady member assures me that the pair are identical. Perhaps these fascinating pieces of Council furniture originally stood together in an atmosphere of greater nobility, but their ignominious relegation to the cloakrooms has ironically assured their preservation. They are possibly the only remaining artefacts from that municipal era and should be considered as items of *movable heritage* in the forthcoming Heritage Study Review.

Richard Blair

Into History has been published in three editions since 1988. It is now available in two parts: Part 1, *The Australian Historical Directory* (1996) contains over 4000 entries and includes all groups, individuals and activities with an historic focus (cost \$33). Part 2, *Guide to the Societies* (1997) is aimed at users wanting an in-depth guide (cost \$21). If you want to buy a copy ring Ralph Reid on 9888 1995.

HERITAGE WATCH IN BRIEF

The Marrickville **Agenda 21** Environment Strategy was launched on World Environment Day on 5 June at Marrickville Council Chambers. Scaffolding has gone up and work has commenced on restoring the **St Clements spire**. Does anyone know what is being planned for the old **Marrickville Town Hall**, recently resumed by the Department of Housing after the Jessie Street National Women's Library could not proceed through lack of funds?

The historic **Sir Joseph Banks Hotel** in Botany is soon to go under the auctioneer's hammer. It appears the NSW Heritage Council will begin proceedings for wilful neglect against Nick Scali, owner of the historic **Canterbury Sugar Works**. A petition to preserve the mill has been circulating. To find out more about the **1997 Marrickville Heritage Study Review** come to our AGM on 28 June and hear from the experts (details on front page).

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. What is the smallest house in the Marrickville LGA and what is its size? And the second smallest?
2. What well-known poets have lived in the Marrickville LGA? Where and when did they live there?
3. (Nothing to do with heritage but) We had the eighties and we're well into the nineties, what will we call the decade beginning 1 January 2001? And the one after that?

(Write or ring Richard 9557 3823)

Join the Marrickville Heritage Society

in June 1997 and your membership will be paid till the end of June 1998.

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

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

Write to PO Box 415 Marrickville 2204
or ring Harold 9569 5183

INFOLINE Robert 9568 3079

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