

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

DOWN UNDER DOWN UNDER

Noleen Curran talks on adaptive reuse, decontamination and redevelopment of industrial heritage sites.

Saturday April 26 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall



Noleen writes:

As an archaeologist and heritage consultant, I am constantly reminded of the fragility of our heritage, particularly our industrial heritage. Today, as industrial sites are being decommissioned for redevelopment, the authorities are faced with how to deal with yet another part of our heritage which is being threatened with being lost forever.



Explore with me popular perceptions of industry and discover more about the rich industrial heritage that exists within Marrickville LGA. Archaeology can reveal remnants of past activities which have been lost through the demolition of structures and the redevelopment of a site. What drives archaeologists to rediscover that which has been lost and how can those found pieces be interpreted to enlighten our current knowledge of Australia's history?

HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW

Tropman & Tropman Architects are the consultants selected to undertake the Marrickville Heritage Study Review due for completion by November 1997. Historian Dr Ken Cable will be involved in assessing the social values of Marrickville and translating them into appropriate guidelines for heritage conservation. The Review steering committee comprises Barry Cotter, Carmel Tebbutt, Colin Mills, Peter Arnett, Libby Maher and Hector Abrahams. MHS was not asked to be represented on the committee, however as the only non Council participant, Hector, a heritage architect, is willing to receive input from MHS members. During working hours he can be phoned on 9357 4811 or faxed on 9357 4603.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY MAY 24

By coach to the Camden area into the world of John and Elizabeth Macarthur. Visit Belgenny Farm described as "Australia's most important group of colonial farm buildings" and the John Verge masterpiece *Camden Park*, the home of seven generations of Macarthurs. Details May newsletter.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY JULY 26

St Peters Historic Walk with Laurel Horton

SATURDAY AUGUST 23

Sydney Past and Present with Bob Irving

HONORARY AUDITOR

The Society has been fortunate to have an honorary auditor from amongst the membership. The need has arisen to seek one again. Would any member (or member's friend) prepared to offer his or her services, please contact me on 9569 5183 as soon as possible after 21 April?

Harold Welsh, Treasurer

The 1946 Lewisham plane crash memorial plaque ceremony will now be held Sunday 20 April at 2 pm. Contact Richard 9557 3823 for details.

WANT TO JOIN MHS?

Now is a great time to join the **Marrickville Heritage Society** as 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

OUR LAST MEETING THE TREASURES OF HUNTERS HILL

On sunny Saturday 22 March about 40 MHS members gathered near Lane Cove River at the site of one of the farms owned by Mary Reibey, well known to Marrickvillians. Our guide *bounding* Ted Green, told us that John Hunter's hills (named after Captain Hunter, later second Governor of NSW) originally referred to the North Shore from Manly to Ryde, and all points north. Today Hunters Hill refers to that magic peninsula surrounded by the sparkling waters of Tarban Creek and Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers.

The Reibey farm was sold to Frenchman Didier Joubert. The French built up a strong presence in the area, bought land and built homes there. The houses, some of timber, but most of locally quarried stone, give the area much of its character. Italian stonemasons were imported and they too settled on the peninsula.

We had a guided inspection of the National Trust owned cottage *Vienna* which has been preserved, as much as possible, as it was when purchased. Ted provided lashings of orange juice and cakes all intended to sustain us on an extended ramble through many leafy streets. Pausing at several residences, Ted gave potted histories including: *Merimbah* formerly *Merilbah* (1864), the widow of whose owner in 1898 moved next door, taking with her the *Merilbah* name; *Waiwera* and *St Claire* (1879-80), a large pair of attached houses, interestingly divided at 45 degrees so that each house faces a different street of a corner block; *Passy*, built

(c. 1858) for the French Consul; and *Cambridge* (also c. 1858) whose turreted archway (see photo below) in the garden, originally the central entrance gates for Thomas Holt's *The Warren* (1860s) in Marrickville was transferred in 1958 to its current location. The garage was built of stone from the original Sydney Stock Exchange and there is an obelisk mounting the supposed grave of John Oxley's horse.

In comparison with much of architect Horbury Hunt's work, the sandstone All Saints church (1895-98) is more restrained and conventional. Notable amongst the fine windows is a pair by Burne-Jones, the English Pre-Raphaelite artist.

Lunch was at Kelly's Bush, site of the world's first Green Ban (initiated by Jack Munday and the Unions in 1971) and where we met three of the *Battlers for Kelly's Bush*, Monica Sheehan, Kath Lehany and Chris Dawson. Whilst the original battle was won, clearing and levelling works by Council have increased water run-off, to the detriment of the native bush, though a regeneration scheme is already showing signs of success.

A feature of the day was the lions. Lions of stone, metal and terra cotta guarded entrances to flats, houses, driveways, and garages. Alas, none appeared to be fugitives from the old Marrickville Town Hall! Another sidelight was the number of front gates with *chien lunatique* signs clearly to warn off any French intruders who happen to be in the locality. Many thanks to Ted for organising this excellent outing.

Rob Allen & Peter Witt



OUR TURRETED ARCHWAY!

One of the highlights of the recent MHS day in Hunters Hill was seeing the magnificent turreted archway, which now graces the garden of the sandstone villa *Cambridge*. We thank the property owner for allowing us to view his treasure and for keeping it in such excellent condition. However some would argue it is enjoyed by few and should be returned to somewhere near its original setting. Now wouldn't that be a nice new millennium gesture! Those pictured – front row: Fred Ellis, Valerie Mcleish, Ted Green, Margaret Sinclair, June Cameron, Ken Turner, Janet

Currington, Richard Blair and Ken Sydam (both kneeling); second row: Barry & Lois Korendijk, Robert Hutchinson, John Waterstreet, Phyllis McCorquodale, Leslee Isted, Laurel Young, Tammy Telford, Peter Witt, Ray Young, Rob Allen; third row: Mark Matheson, Julie Drew, Anne Catton, Del Stone; back row clockwise: Ian Phillips, Shirley Hilyard, John Edwards, Pamela Stewart, Frances Muller (photo: Richard Blair). Those on walk but not pictured were Janet Aitkin, Jo Bustelli, Margaret Dortkamp, Joyce Ellis, Gwen Eyre, Daphne Grange and Fay Nash.

HOME OF HOPE

(Note: The MHS December 1996 newsletter mentioned a silver trowel (on display at the State Library exhibition *Stories in Silver*) which was presented on the occasion of laying the Memorial Stone of the Home of Hope Laundry, Newtown 28th Feb 1891. A query about the whereabouts of this laundry revealed that MHS member Shirley Doolan had written this article, reprinted here with the permission of the author and the Society of Australian Genealogists from its journal *Descent* June 1992.)

The Home of Hope was situated between Trade and Gilpin [formerly Stanley] Streets, Newtown. The building was demolished in the early 1980s and replaced with town houses.

The Home was run by The Sydney Rescue Work Society and was listed in Sands Directory in 1900. Mrs G.E. Ardill was the supervisor of all charitable institutions run by the Society. It became the South Sydney Women's Hospital in the first half of the twentieth century but was relocated at Joynton Avenue, Zetland.

The Mitchell Library holds a small file on the Society comprising five annual reports including the Home of Hope and photographs of the building, and babies and mothers in the care of the various homes. SAG microfilm reel 3393 contains Home of Hope baptisms for 1907-1909.

To quote from the Annual Report of the Sydney Rescue Work Society in 1892 –

The general work of the Home of Hope is the endeavour to rescue the fallen and aid the friendless and distressed.

The object of this institution is to provide a permanent home for fallen and unfortunate women (some of whom have infants) who are desirous of reforming and are capable of contributing to some extent, to the cost of their maintenance by their labour in the Home.

There is in addition to the Home itself a large laundry attached to the institution where these women who are not engaged at cleaning and housework are employed at laundry work from which the Sydney Rescue Work Society derives a portion of its revenue. A large part of the laundry work is done by tender for several shipping firms, in addition to several large companies in the city.

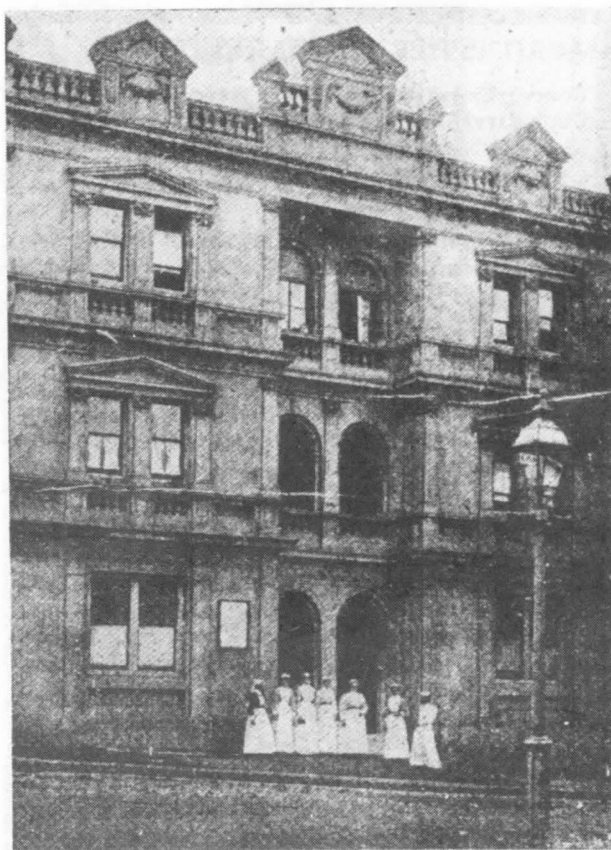
'Suitable employment' and domestic training is given the inmates while in the Home and situations are obtained for them.

The head office was at 376 Pitt Street, Sydney with a committee of clergymen from Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Baptist churches as well as prominent business men of the community.

Members of the Society attended court cases at Newtown District Court and in many instances took the offenders into care rather than the judge sentencing them to a term of imprisonment.

The current address for the Sydney Rescue Work Society is 21 Belmore Road, Burwood, NSW 2134.

Shirley Doolan (Member of the Society of Australian Genealogists, Shirley has recently completed her Diploma in Family Historical Studies conducted by the SAG.)



Home of Hope, Stanley Street Newtown, (now Gilpin Street Camperdown) 1901 (from "With Courage and Devotion: A History of Midwifery in New South Wales" 1984, p37)

COOKS RIVER CLEAN UP!

Oh yeah. Sound familiar? The Cooks River Foreshore Strategic Plan, recently launched in conjunction with Marrickville, Canterbury and Strathfield Councils, and community groups is aimed at preventing water pollution and upgrading foreshore open space. Past initiatives have met with limited success due to factors such as lack of funds, poor coordination, and winding down of schemes. Better community education and clean up campaigns should reduce litter.

Minister for the Environment Pam Allan has promised that thousands of Olympic Games visitors will see Cooks River after their arrival as a showcase of Sydney's natural heritage rather than an eyesore. The key is more government funds so who cares if these green Olympics is the catalyst for this!

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APRIL IS HERITAGE MONTH

Sunday 13 April 1 pm

Cook River Tour (Canterbury to Tempe) led by Mark Matheson for MHS. Meet opposite Canterbury Station.

Friday 18 April 7.30 pm

Back to Strollers Night at Marrickville Town Hall (sorry, fully booked).

Saturday 19 April 3-5 pm

Oral history workshop: How to design and run an oral history project with Diana Giese and the Friends of the Library at Marrickville Library. Free but bookings essential.
Ring Sophie Tsgoulis 9335 2162.

Monday 21 April 6-8 pm.

Marrickville Medal Award for conservation & inaugural High School Heritage Prize at Marrickville Town Hall. Music by Fort Street High School Concert Band.

Wednesday 23 April 6 pm

The History of The Warren area – talk by Chrys Meader and others at Ferncourt School, 74 Premier St, Marrickville.

Saturday 26 April 10.30 am.

Down Under Down Under. MHS talk by Noeleen Curran at Petersham Town Hall.
Details on front page.

Saturday 26 April throughout day.

The Kitchens & Pantries of Marrickville.

Experience the cultural diversity of food in a special footpath trading day at the Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Petersham shops.

Saturday 26 April 2-3.30 pm

Early Buildings of Dulwich Hill. Meet Gladstone Hotel for a walking tour with Hector Abrahams. This will finish in time for:

Saturday 26 April 3.30-5 pm

Abergeldie Estate tour at Dulwich Hill. Meet at corner Abergeldie Street & Old Canterbury Road for a tour of this 1930s heritage conservation area.

Details from Libby Maher, Marrickville Council 9335 2114 or Richard Blair 9557 3823.

A fond **farewell** to one of Sydney's great institutions, the Moore Park Royal Easter Show which closed its gates for the last time on Saturday 5 April 1997.

HOWARD'S GARAGES: POSTSCRIPT

The Editor

Dear Mr Blair,

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 1997. My father's garage was at the corner of Wardell Road and Ewart Street, Dulwich Hill. My father and two of his brothers also had another garage at the corner of Wardell Road and Permanent Avenue, Earlwood. With kind regards,

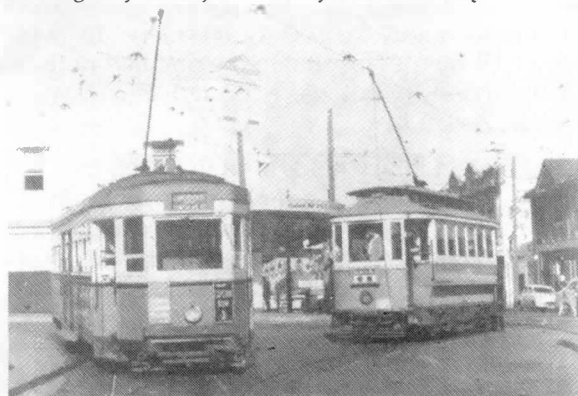
John Howard
25 February 1997

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWERS

The 1854 Newtown Steeplechase was a source of inspiration for Banjo Paterson's famous *Rio Grande* and several of his other stories and ballads. Some aspects of early Sydney horse racing are examined in Richard Cashman's article *Horse Racing in Mid-19th Century Marrickville – Petersham Racecourse, Newtown Steeplechase and Barwon Park Turf Club in Heritage 5*. (This question and answer appeared in the *Inner Western Suburbs Courier* on 30/9/96.)

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Whilst we look forward to the Central to Glebe light rail system starting in July, Ian MacCowan's *The Tramways of New South Wales* informs us that the **last trams to Dulwich Hill and to Cooks River** both ran on 28 September 1957. The last Dulwich Hill tram was R 1799 whilst O 1469 was the last car to Wolli Creek during a charter on that final day of south-western services. ... Thus another large chunk had been taken out of the tramways, including the first major closure of lines in the city.



Turning from Dulwich Hill terminus loop, R 1869 on left entering New Canterbury Road and C 12 entering Marrickville Road in 1957; Gladstone Hotel on right (photo: Leon Manny)

The most common tram was the O Class which entered service in 1908 with a seating capacity of 80. It had two open compartments at each end and four closed compartments in the centre. R Class trams, introduced in 1933, were the interior corridor type which seated 48. There were two saloons each with 16 tip-over upholstered seats at each end of the car plus timber benches for another 16 in a dropped centre section.

Incidentally, the first Sydney electric tram ran from Circular Quay to Pyrmont on 7 December 1899. The last Sydney trams ran on Saturday 26 February 1961. En route from La Perouse, R1 Class car 1995 dropped its last passengers at Kensington Junction, was shunted along the former Coogee line, and at 4.26 pm was the last tram to enter the Randwick workshops taking Sydney's old tramways into history.

Shirley Hilyard

19 WEST STREET PETERSHAM

The charming three storey terrace owned by Lesley & Ed Jones – venue for our MHS Xmas pot luck dinner in 1994 – is for sale. The house is very original in character and is currently furnished in Victorian style to suit the architectural environment. If anyone is interested in purchasing a property of this kind, phone Lesley or Ed for more information 9569 9281.

INFOLINE Ian 9558 2682

HERITAGE WATCH John 9550 6447

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823