

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

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

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



OUR NEXT MEETING

GOAT ISLAND GUIDED TOUR

Saturday 27 September 9.45 am

Meet at Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre (Cadmans Cottage 110 George Street North) at 9.45 am for 10 am (sharp) ferry departure. BYO picnic lunch and wear comfortable footwear. Return by 3 pm. Cost \$18, \$16.50 concession. Please advise at least three days prior if cancelling [note: disregard previously advised maximum of 30].

Bookings Anne 9517 2925.

Today most people know Goat Island (pictured below in 1857) as the site where *Water Rats* is filmed, yet it has a colourful and interesting history. Originally the home of the Bennelong's Wangal Clan, the island's first European use was as a site to deposit human waste from the convict hulk *Phoenix*. During the 1830s convicts constructed the still extant Gunpowder Magazine Complex and the first Sydney Water Police building, designed by Mortimer Lewis. In the 1850s a Colonial Magazine was built for the storage of gunpowder.



In 1900, when the bubonic plague reached Sydney, Goat Island was declared a quarantine zone for the creation of a bacteriological station to investigate the disease. The plague was a major incentive in the creation of the Sydney Harbour Trust, replaced in 1936 by the Maritime Services Board. By the 1940s the island had become home to a small community and a popular social dance venue. In recognition of Goat Island's immense cultural heritage the site was transferred in 1994 to the National Parks and Wildlife Service which will conduct our tour.

Yes, we are still accepting membership renewals!

INCORPORATION OF SOCIETY

As foreshadowed in last December's newsletter it is proposed that the Society should become incorporated. There are two main benefits. One is to limit the individual liability of office bearers and members in the case of any legal action against the Society. The second is that the Society undertakes to act in accordance with rules adopted by its membership and approved by the Department of Fair Trading, including annual returns to that Department. A set of draft rules has been prepared by the committee. The decision for incorporation requires a majority vote of three quarters of the members present at a meeting for which 21 days notice has been given.

Notice is hereby given that the recommendation of the committee for incorporation of the Society will be put to a **special general meeting at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 23 October 1997 commencing at 10.30 am sharp**. This will be the only business at this special meeting, which will be followed by the normal monthly meeting of the Society.

Harold Welsh, Public Officer

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS

The Society's publication *Marrickville Remembers* recording extracts from the oral histories of Marrickville residents during the Second World War will soon be with the printers. It has over 90 pages of reminiscences and photographs. The editors have included a variety of stories including both tragic and funny, with many honest and acute observations. In some cases there is complete contradiction between two people's memories of an event – who would be an historian!

For contributors and anyone interested in the Marrickville area or broader social effects of the War on a local population, this publication will be fascinating reading. More details in next newsletter.

Angela Phippen

If you have an hour to spare on Saturday 20 September from 12noon, come and visit the MHS stall at the **Marrickville Festival** in Marrickville Road. Bring friends and buy something and you never know, we might even ask you to help. We'd love donations of jam, lollies, small pot plants etc or something novel – like goldfish! Ring Angela 9564 6370 if you want things collected.

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1996/97 NEWSLETTER REPORT *

A Society member recently informed me he did not keep his newsletters – a fact that did not bother me as the very nature of newsletters, like newspapers, is that they are ephemeral. I happen to have all 141 MHS newsletters produced since 1984 to June 1997 which is partly indicative of my hoarding instincts, but it also serves as a useful archive. As editor I endeavour to ensure that the newsletter informs, stimulates, entertains, is critical where necessary, and maintains a high standard. Beyond that, I just hope it gets to members quickly and is read.

The newsletter is predominantly written by its members, and the past year has been particularly fruitful in member contributions, which generally require only minimal editing. One of the joys of editorship is the sense of discovery, or to be more precise, of rediscovery. In the past year we learnt about the DH Lawrence-Camperdown connection; John Edwards threw light on the much travelled remains of Dr Robert Wardell; Susan Pinson located an old horse trough at St Ives Showground that had been made in Marrickville; John Zinsmeester speculated on the Marrickville Town Hall vintage cloakroom seats; whilst on Ted Green's tour of Hunters Hill, Mark Matheson facilitated a visit to The Warren's (borrowed) turreted archway, under which a bevy of MHS members was photographed.

Perhaps most satisfying was when Sister Maree Loadsman drew my attention to an article in the local rag about the State Library exhibition *Stories in Silver*. Featured was a trowel presented when the Home of Hope Laundry Memorial Stone in Newtown was laid in 1891. Where was this Home? Little did I realise when posing this question in December that Shirley Doolan had written an article in 1992 for *Descent* on this very establishment. We later reproduced Shirley's article.

As for the whereabouts of the mystery canal in Robert Hutchinson's postcard – keep reading your newsletter! The seasonal trivia questions have been so popular that Prime Minister Howard even found time to pen a few lines about his father's motor garage. Brick footpaths, our shortest street and the memorials to the Aborigine Mogo sparked the most interest, though we still know little about Mogo's life.

I have received great support from the committee, all who contributed to the newsletter. Despite John Zinsmeester's declining health he still *stirred the possum* and remained an inspiration. Gwenda and Harold Welsh have continued to deliver the newsletters promptly and efficiently, which is especially commendable given their difficult circumstances in the death of their daughter Lynsey, coupled with the later sad loss of Mary Tait, who for years did a wonderful job as membership secretary.

There are members whose ongoing input to the newsletter I'd especially like to mention – Andy

Carr, Shirley Doolan, Julie Drew and Ian Phillips. Key Council staff like Donna Braye, Cheri Lutz, Libby Maher and Chrys Meader are always obliging, and their interest in the Society extends well beyond the newsletter. Shirley Hilyard continues to be of tremendous assistance with pars and proofreading, suggesting diverse slants, angles and touches, and in accessing data from her private archive, itself a sometimes daunting task. Shirley's drawing of the Petersham Park rotunda renegade baluster depicted in the June newsletter was superb.

Of course the actual drawing was one thing, but to have it faithfully reproduced by the printer was another and here I pay tribute to Kelly Cook at Harlow Printing. To get such fine detail in the baluster involved blowing the picture right up and taking out the unnecessary bits. Thanks both to Kelly for her overall desktop wizardry, and to her boss Ed Jones who, despite his twin distractions on the home front, usually accommodates my finicky requirements.

I have about one year left in me as editor so I trust members will keep contributing and responding, especially when I put the hard word on them to report on *Our Last Meeting*. Meanwhile, should you not preserve your ephemeral newsletter, dispose of it thoughtfully and however you wish, but at least read the damn thing first!

Richard Blair, Editor

* Read at June AGM

GWENDA THANKS THE RUNNERS

The main job of Assistant Secretary Gwenda Welsh is to ensure members get their newsletters. Apart from newsletters posted free of charge, newsletters to local members are batched and delivered to the so-called runners who (we must confess) merely perambulate to your letter box. The 1996/97 runners were Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattman, Iain Carolin, Mary Curcio, Shirley Doolan, Fred Ellis, Barbara Gibbons, Shirley Hilyard, Zena Hodges, Valerie McLeish, Brian Nugent, Angela Phippen, Pamela Stewart, Mary Tait, Anne Walter, Harold Welsh and John Zinsmeester.

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THE AMY NEEDHAM AWARD

This award for a school local history project is in memory of Amy Needham, who was a life member of the Society. Amy was born in Maria Street, Petersham and lived most of her long life in the Marrickville area which was very dear to her. After Amy died in 1991 aged 101, her daughter Verona Rothwell, a founding MHS member, gave money to the Society to be used in this way.

Local primary schools were targeted. Ferncourt, Petersham and Wilkins primary schools submitted projects and all three assessors felt the standard was very high. It was decided to present each school with a cheque and students with a certificate. On Tuesday 19 August Verona, Chrys Meader and I attended an assembly at Wilkins Public School to present a cheque for the library and a certificate *For an outstanding local history project* which featured the Winged Victory statue outside Marrickville Town Hall. This award was accepted on behalf of the school by Oliver Burnett, Cameron Fong and Ross Goulimis who, with Phoebe Ford had done much of the work.

On Friday 29 August we presented Petersham Primary School with a cheque and awarded Jack Dunbar, aged eight, a certificate and a Marrickville spoon for a splendid project on his Lewisham home, built in the late Victorian era. The final ceremony will take place at Ferncourt Public School in September when 14 pupils will receive certificates for individual projects covering heritage aspects and the changing face of our most interesting LGA. Good work indeed from all concerned.

Gwenda Welsh (Convenor Amy Needham Award Committee)

HERITAGE WATCH

The Society has written to Council opposing a DA to erect a *porte cochere* in front of the Victorian villa **Locke-Haven** at 60 New Canterbury Road, Petersham on the grounds of its scale and the extent to which it would *severely compromise the architectural integrity of the entire frontage of the property*. Mark Maloney will convene his first Heritage Watch committee meeting on Tuesday 23 September at 7.30 pm.

Congratulations to Ken Turner who will represent both MHS and his local seniors in the **Steel Park Future Uses Working Party** along with five other community members, three Council staff and two Councillors.

Anyone wanting input into the **Lewisham Public School Meeting Place Project** to redesign the school grounds for use by the school and community should ring 9569 4536.

Get your **Marrickville Heritage Study Review questionnaire** to Libby Maher by 30 September. In addition to the questionnaire, remember to list as many items as you wish for consideration by the study team.

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. **Petersham's most famous paperboy** went on to achieve fame and fortune. Who and how?
2. **Rita's Restaurant** is in the Oxford Tavern on the corner of New Canterbury Road and Crystal Street Petersham. Who or what inspired a former owner to so name this eating house?



3. According to Cooper & Beatty *Old Sydney* (Horwitz Publications 1970), Australia had three shot towers – Hobart, believed to be still standing, Perth, and the **Camperdown shot tower**, drawn by Ashley Cooper in the 1920s. Where was this tower and when was it demolished? [A bottle of wine for first correct answer to Q3]

(Write or ring Richard 9557 3823)

OUR LAST MEETING

BOB IRVING'S SYDNEY THEN & NOW

About 70 members and visitors gathered on Saturday 23 August to hear Bob Irving, author and architect, share his unique collection of photographic slides showing how Sydney city scenes of yesterday and some of the more recent buildings, that we thought were fairly permanent, are now being replaced with something else.

With the advantage of double images from two slide projectors, Bob transported his audience back to an earlier Sydney. Part of this journey covered Moore Street that became Martin Place, with spectacular photographs of the Sydney General Post Office, now in 1997 shrouded in a mysterious future. Circular Quay, with many and varied changes, and why this area was the focus of trade for over 150 years, was vividly illustrated.

Historic events that took place in our city streets, such as the departure of troops to the Sudan war and the celebration of Federation were also depicted. Photographs of Macquarie Street historic buildings and the dazzling ill-fated Garden Palace were viewed with great interest. Many thanks to Bob Irving for a most entertaining and nostalgic trip into Sydney's history.

Shirley Doolan

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Goat Island tour

Details on front page

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25

Bronwyn Layton on Tradesmen's bills of the St Josephs Building & Investment Society.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22

Anne Warr talks on the absolutely riveting ups and downs of corrugated iron!

EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

South Sydney Heritage Society invites MHS members: 1) to tour **Blacket's St Stephens Church, Newtown and the historic Camperdown Cemetery** with Hector Abrahams on Saturday 13 September. Meet at noon at the Church Street gates and bring a picnic lunch; 2) to a **walk around Erskineville** with Shirley Doolan on Saturday 4 October starting Newtown Library at 10.30 am.

St Clements Spire concert Saturday night 13 September includes Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

The **Friends of Mastertouch** invite Society members and friends to a sausage sizzle on Sunday 21 September between noon and 3.30 pm. A good chance to see the former Stanmore Fire Station, corner of Stanmore Road and Albert Street, Petersham in transition prior to opening early next year as the Mastertouch working museum. RSVP on 9569 5128.

Newington College's final three **Prescott Series 1997 Sunday concerts** are *Spring Fireworks* on 21 September at 3 pm, *20th Century Romantics* on 2 November at 3 pm and *Twilight Christmas Concert* on 7 December at 4.30 pm. Bookings 9560 5355 or at door.

As part of NSW History Week (21-28 September) here's another chance to do **Mark Matheson's Cooks River walk** Sunday 28 September 2 pm Canterbury Railway Station finishing in Tempe around 5.30. Small charge includes map. Details: Mark 9559 5502.

Putting History Back into the Community is the theme for the **1997 RAHS Local History Conference** to be held in Camperdown 11-12 October. The conference will feature a comprehensive range of speakers, the dinner, an historic walk led by Bruce Baskerville, and a tour of Camperdown Cemetery led by Chrys Meader. Bookings: Mari Metzke RAHS 9247 8001.

On Monday 25 August food, wine and a live big swing band helped celebrate the splendidly **refurbished Petersham Town Hall**. After a display of old-time ballroom dancing by Barbara and Ross Fludder (sans son Baz Luhrmann) who have brought ballroom dancing back to Petersham, Mayor Barry Cotter officiated before a huge cluster of balloons descended to the floor.

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH - BOB CARR VISITS MARRICKVILLE

The only two breaches of the 1977 Heritage Act in its first ten years both occurred in Marrickville LGA. These dark moments were the illegal demolitions of *Rose's Emporium* Parramatta Road, Petersham (pictured below; an excellent example of a two storey Italianate retail building) on 24 August 1986, and the villa *Brockleigh* 86 Illawarra Road, Marrickville on 13-15 June 1987.

In August 1987 a Society delegation (Richard Cashman, Gary Nicholls and Bruce Welch) accompanied by local state member Andrew Refshauge visited the then Minister for Planning & Environment and Minister for Heritage Bob Carr conveying *widespread community concern about flagrant breaches of the Heritage Act and fears that penalties would not be applied*.



As a result on Sunday 13 September 1987, Minister Carr visited the demolition and other heritage sites and addressed a public meeting of about 200 at Marrickville Town Hall. He urged the saving of *not just isolated buildings, but whole precincts with historic character* and announced a stringent conservation package for Marrickville which among other things resulted in Marrickville Council adopting a Local Environment Plan to conserve items of environmental heritage.

Those responsible for recklessly demolishing two precious buildings in the face of Section 130 Orders were prosecuted by fines. The building which replaced Rose's is a very poor successor; Brockleigh remains a vacant site. However the strident efforts of MHS members in 1986/87 helped lead to tighter controls regarding the destruction of heritage items.

Richard Blair

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

TREASURER Fay 9519 6531

INFOLINE Harold /Gwenda 9569 5183