

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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SYDENHAM, TEMPE & PARTS OF NEWTOWN,

MARRICKVILLE, PETERSHAM, ST PETERS, STANMORE
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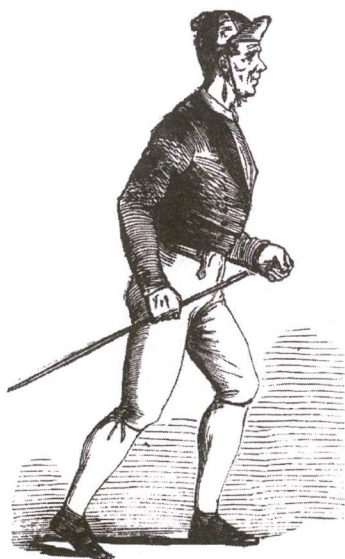
OUR NEXT MEETING

**RICHARD CASHMAN ON
SPORTING CHARACTERS OF THE
MARRICKVILLE/PETERSHAM AREA
Saturday 28 February 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall**

Who was the Flying Pieman? If you had lived near Parramatta Road in the 1840s you would undoubtedly have witnessed some of the bizarre feats of this eccentric character (pictured in full sporting gear). Who was the famous Marrickville swimmer who pioneered synchronised swimming, aquatic entertainment and marathon swimming? Which Marrickville cricketer earned the name as a 'wild man' of cricket? Why has Marrickville become home for some talented country cricketers?

Richard Cashman, a MHS founding member and our third president, is not only Associate Professor

of History at UNSW, he is also co-author of the two Marrickville books (Volume 1 just reprinted) and notable author of several books on cricket and other sports. Drawing on a number of interviews with some past sports people, mainly cricketers, Richard will tell a number of anecdotes about some of our local sporting characters.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Diana Shipperbottom, Dulwich Hill; Jean Hartman (rejoined), Ann Watson, Marrickville; Jennifer Sampson, Helen Ward, Petersham; Eva Lederhilger, Stanmore; Scott Macarthur, Bill Tarrant, Tempe; Joan Bruce, Roselands; Peter Chinn, John McGlenchy, Springwood; Mick Timmings, Ulladulla.

WHO WAS LAWRENCE STA?

Find out in back page article "Petersham Cemetery"

MARRICKVILLE REMEMBERS 1939-1945

*Extracts from the oral and written
histories of Marrickville residents*



This WWII photo of members of the Marrickville National Emergency Service appears on the cover of this new MHS publication edited by Angela Phippen and Harold Welsh. It contains only a fraction of the vast amount of taped and written material collected, which will be deposited at Marrickville Library.

Congratulations to Angela and her team for producing this excellent monograph which, though depicting the World War II years through the eyes of a particular community, is representative of the views of an urban 'working class' area. Special thanks to former secretary and ongoing MHS member Patricia Mullen, now of Adelaide, who originally suggested we apply for the grant (provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as part of the Australia Remembers celebrations).

We plan to have a *Marrickville Remembers* reunion picnic during the year, details of which will be advised later. The Society has given a complimentary copy to participants. Copies are \$10 each plus \$2 postage where applicable. Send a cheque to the Society or pick up a book at our next meeting. Ring Angela 9564 6370 after 6 pm for further information.

Whilst we have our quota for the **Norfolk Island trip** (May 6-13) we could still squeeze in more. If you are interested ring Peter 9569 2460 (home) or 9207 6724 (work).

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS

Our December newsletter contained a **photo-puzzle of a famous clock** in its current location. Where was it and where is it now? In 1960 State MP Dan Minogue asked the Postmaster-General in Parliament: *Does the Minister consider the only proper site for a clock in the second largest city of the Commonwealth of Nations is on top of the men's convenience?*

He was referring to the clock that stood over the **men's underground toilet in Martin Place** and agitating for the Sydney GPO clock tower (dismantled in 1942 as a safety precaution and put into storage during the war; the bells being stored at Sydenham) to be rebuilt. After restoration the GPO clock chimed once again at the Anzac Day Dawn Service in 1964.



Martin Place toilet clock (photo: Douglass Baglin Ladies and Gentlemen 1966)

Ruth Park reminds us that the Martin Place Gent's clock, one of the most reliable in Sydney, was commonly known as *The Watch on the U-Rhine!* And its fate? No longer required, it was dismantled in April 1969, acquired by Warringah Mall, Brookvale, and placed in a pleasant courtyard in this busy shopping centre. A plaque, unveiled on 1 April 1970, observes that the clock had been *erected in Martin Place as a convenience to the citizens of Sydney town.*

MHS member Michael Pearce knew it was the Martin Place loo clock, but Susan Pinson of Manly Vale not only knew its present location, but had researched it for a diploma assignment. Others mused *I know that clock...*

Shirley Hilyard

* * * * *

As for the **famous local cricketers who also played for Australia**, come along to our February 28 meeting and hear from the expert Richard Cashman. Details front page.

DENIS CONDON PRESENTS FAMOUS PIANO MUSIC

On Friday evening 5 December, a group of MHS members and friends, gathered at the Gold Salon of Ampico Towers, for a special musical soirée. At 7.30 precisely, under the direction of Denis Condon esquire, Wilhelm Backhaus played a Schubert military march on piano. No ordinary piano this; it was a Welte-Mignon reproducing piano (c. 1913), and without a keyboard, and Herr Backhaus was playing via a roll "recording" made many many years ago.

Then Vladimir de Pachmann played the quartet from *Rigoletto* by Verdi arranged by Liszt, on a more conventional Welte-Vorsetzer reproducing piano. Everybody was enthralled when Grainger played Grainger and Rachmaninoff played Rachmaninoff. Before breaking for supper Victor Arden and Adam Carroll played Gershwin's *Strike up the Band* on a Duo-Art piano.

After champagne supper, and a look at the storeroom of over 8,000 rolls, the evening concluded with requests and a jolly singalong. When carriages were called, we ended with Liszt's *A Sigh*, a concert study in D flat, played by Frederick Lamond. For us, the most interesting item was the *Turkish Rondo*, played by Carl Reinecke born 1824, recorded 1905, and heard 1997. Talk about Shine!

We wish to thank organiser Richard Blair, booking agent and supper coordinator Angela Phippen, mood lighting Shirley Hilyard, catering all who came, co-host Robert McGregor, and last, but not least musical director and host Denis Condon.

Robert Hutchinson & John Waterstreet

MARY REIBEY CONNECTIONS

* The State Library currently has a small exhibition **Keystones of Architecture** in which are featured the keystones of houses owned by Sydney's first postmaster, Isaac Nichols (dated 1808) and our first successful businesswoman Mary Reibey (dated 1812, the year after husband Thomas died). Inscribed simply "MR 1812", it was from her house in Reiby Place.

* On a recent holiday in Tasmania the editor visited **Entally House**, Hadspen near Launceston, the splendidly restored house built about 1819 by Mary's eldest son Thomas. Entally stayed in the extended Reibey family for over 100 years and became an historic site in 1948. Open to the public since 1950, Entally, with its interesting collection of furniture, its magnificent grounds and gardens, is one of the most visited colonial homes in Tasmania.

Condolences to members Maree and Terry Blanchard on the death of Maree's mother, Betty Viazim, 88, renowned milliner, long time local resident & once our guest speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE SYDNEY

Whilst there were widespread protests against last year's decision to banish the state governor from his traditional place of residence in Government House, the upside is that this wonderful Gothic Revival early 1840s building (designed by Edward Blore) and its delightful grounds are now open to the public several days a week all year round. This has added substantially to the green sward in the city stretching from Hyde Park, through the Domain, and Royal Botanic Gardens down to the harbour.



Government House is still used each week for special functions presided over by the Governor, Gordon Samuels. The Royal Botanic Gardens maintains the grounds whose gardens are lush and much of whose 19th century character remains. During January the spectacular glass installations of American glass artist Dale Chihuly were on display and blended well with the stunning garden setting and magnificent trees. If you haven't been, go along. The House and grounds are open Thursday to Sunday, when guided House tours are conducted, but ring 9931 5222 for further details.

Richard Blair

1998 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Shirley Smith (Mum Shirl) who has been named Marrickville Citizen of the Year. Mum Shirl has had a distinguished career working with disadvantaged Aboriginal people and fostering over 5,000 children. She has also been included among Australia's 100 National Living Treasures. We also congratulate Young Citizen of the Year, Gene Kellaher, who does traditional dancing and plays the didgeridoo. He attends Newtown School of the Performing Arts.

LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS

Under the 1997/98 NSW Heritage Assistance Program three local projects received grants: Marrickville Council \$21,000 (dollar for dollar) for multi-media project on Aboriginal history and contemporary issues in Marrickville; Historic Commercial Vehicle Co-op Ltd \$2,400 (dollar for dollar) to restore a 1929 White motor bus at the Tempe Bus and Truck Museum; Mastertouch Piano Roll Company \$100,000 towards purchase of the former Stanmore Fire Station.

BRADMAN'S FIRST SYDNEY CENTURY AT PETERSHAM

Roland Perry's biography *The Don* (1996) gives the following account of Sir Donald Bradman's first Sydney century which happened at Petersham Oval on Saturday 27 November 1926 when The Don was 18. Bradman had just played five games in five days during Country Week not failing in any innings. He accepted an invitation to play for the St George first grade team.

The club game was against Petersham on its home ground. The opposition had perhaps the strongest bowling line-up in the competition and this first chance at Sydney club level promised to be exacting ...

Bradman batted at the fall of the third wicket and the atmosphere drew more out of him than in the Country Week games. It was the moment to take calculated risks against Petersham's international bowlers, such as Sam Everett and Tommy Andrews. Already more comfortable on turf, Bradman bolted out of the blocks with a variety of cuts, hooks and pulls. He survived a near run-out and a few other anxious moments, which was only to be expected when a player was scoring at a run-a-minute.

His first fifty took an hour, and he reached 98 in 97 minutes. On that score he broke his bat, the one his mother had given him. He brought up his century with his next shot and was finally run out for 110, in 110 minutes. There had probably never been a more auspicious debut in Australian club cricket, considering the rapid rate of scoring and the strength of the opposition.

Bradman also had the team's best bowling figures (3/26). Two days after this century, he played at the Sydney Cricket Ground for a Country XI where he scored 98 out of 7/171 against a City XI captained by the great Charlie Macartney. Before long he was the best known player in the game.

Richard Blair

1 MYRTLE STREET MARRICKVILLE

Council has received a DA to alter this 1870s stone house (item 4.5 in 1986 Marrickville Heritage Study) for clothing manufacturing. Built by the Meek family and called *Loch Lomond* this is the largest rockfaced sandstone house in the area. This DA should receive close scrutiny.

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

Richard Cashman talks on sporting characters of the Marrickville area
Details on front page

SATURDAY MARCH 28

Coach to Victoria Barracks & Garden Island with conservation architect Trevor Waters
(enquiries: Richard 9557 3823)

SATURDAY MAY 2

(In lieu of April 25 Anzac Day meeting)
Conservator David McBeath talks on traditional methods of brickmaking and tilemaking

SATURDAY MAY 23

Stanmore walk with Mark Maloney

SATURDAY JUNE 27

Annual General Meeting

PETERSHAM CEMETERY

In 1852 Archbishop Polding bought 12 acres of land in the Petersham (now Lewisham) area bounded by West and Thomas Streets and the railway line, and the original St Thomas' church was built. After setting aside almost five acres as a Catholic cemetery, about 4000 burials took place in Petersham Cemetery mostly between 1863 and 1886. Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney, was buried there in 1877, though his remains were later moved to St Mary's Cathedral. In 1884 Petersham Council passed a by-law effectively closing the cemetery to most burials. In 1925-34 about 500 remains were moved to Rookwood, and by 1955 there were few graves left intact.

At Lewisham today there is no plaque or monument to record the location of this important part of Sydney's Catholic history. There is a small area with the graves of 22 priests and religious brothers, but this was not part of the cemetery. However, one solitary, obscure, incomplete headstone remains which reads *Sacred to the Memory / Lawrence Sta / Native of Ennist / County Clare Irel / who departed this / February 1st / aged 70 years / Requiescat in pace.*

The Burwood-Drummoyne & Districts Family History Group has compiled an index of burials at Petersham and of known reinterments at Rookwood Cemetery. A detailed history with maps of Petersham and Rookwood Cemeteries, will be soon available. The Group will reply to any enquiries regarding the cemetery for a small donation of \$10. Ring Kevin Quinlan 9642 2923 or write to him c/- Burwood Central Library, 4 Marmaduke Street, Burwood 2134. As for Lawrence Sta-, Kevin kindly advised he was Lawrence Stack who died 1 February 1870. He alone rests peacefully at Lewisham.

Richard Blair

AMY NEEDHAM AWARD

In 1997 all primary schools in the Marrickville LGA were invited to enter for the Amy Needham Award. Three schools produced local heritage projects considered by the judges to be of high quality. The pupils were rewarded with certificates as well as in some cases commemorative spoons, while the schools received cheques to expand their libraries. Award ceremonies took place last August at Petersham and Wilkins primary schools (see September newsletter).

Ferncourt Public School submitted projects on a wide range of subjects – Marrickville Town Hall, the Winged Victory, Roseby Church, Thomas Holt, The Warren, and oral histories with former pupils. On 1 December 1997 Amy Needham's daughter Verona Rothwell presented 14 certificates. The children were full of questions which was particularly rewarding for Verona who told them what she and her friends had done when they were the same age and attending school in Marrickville.

The recipients were Rochele Berwick, Alisha Hill, Stacey Kladis, Michael Koulias, Anh Tu Nguyen, Gayathri Pillai, Michael Samperi and Michael Soleiman, while Irene Bonatakis, Shobna Devi, Rosemarie Kinnas, Voula Moutopoulos, Pia Watson and Kristie Webster also received Marrickville spoons.



Verona Rothwell with Ferncourt pupils holding their Amy Needham Award certificates (with permission of school principal, photo: Helen Cooper)

I thank my committee members Shirley Doolan and Carol Phillips. Thanks to Chrys Meader, and her organising ability and school liaison, and Verona and her charm, these presentations were very happy occasions for all who participated. We look forward to even more entries in 1998.

Gwenda Welsh
(Convenor Amy Needham Award Committee)

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark 9516 2788

TREASURER Harold 9569 5183

INFOLINE Anne 9517 2925