

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



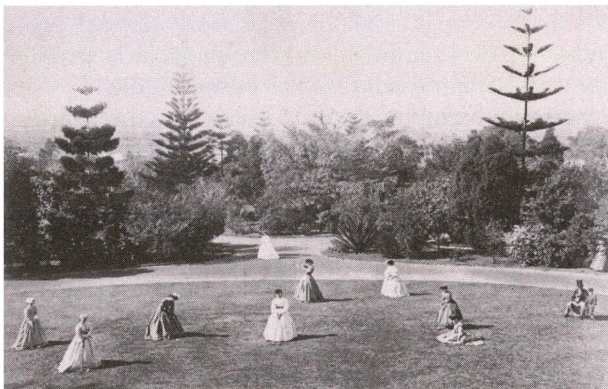
OUR NEXT MEETING

ELSIE RITCHIE ON THE JOSEPHSONS' INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARRICKVILLE AREA

Petersham Town Hall

Saturday 28 November 10.30 am

The story of the Josephson family is a wonderful example of Australia as the Land of Opportunity. The photo below (from the National Gallery of Australia) shows Joshua, the distinguished judge and his nine daughters on the garden lawn of their Enmore estate in about 1860. Enmore House was the largest in the area, designed by John Verge to sit on a hill with the healthy breezes from Botany Bay. Judge Josephson, an Anglican, was a barrister, MLA, and Lord Mayor of Sydney in 1848.



Yet much of his wealth came from his father Jacob, who fled the ghettos of Poland after the Napoleonic wars, was convicted of passing fraudulent money near London, and was transported here in 1818. This wily jeweller-trader-pawnbroker was involved in legal stoushes throughout his business career and with the help of William Charles Wentworth, escaped the Debtors Gaol, bought the house at Enmore and, when he died in 1845, was described by his envious colleagues as *almost a millionaire*.

His other local property *Lewisham* may have been so named to commemorate his lost son Lewis. **Elsie Ritchie**, author of a *Heritage 10* article on Jacob Josephson and of the book *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Sailor* tells the story of this remarkable family and also how this gave rise to Newtown's connection to a still famous Sydney character. **Gabby Greyem** will give a short presentation on plans to revitalise Newtown's Trocadero (see *Heritage Watch*). Special guests will be **Peter and Leda Arnett**. Peter will receive his Certificate for Life Membership of the Society.

LAUNCH OF *HERITAGE 10* White Cockatoo Hotel

**Terminus Street Petersham (opp station)
Wednesday 18 November 6.30-8.00 pm**

All members, authors and advertisers are invited to attend the long-awaited launch of the MHS journal *Heritage 10*. Editor Mark Matheson will introduce some of the authors who will speak briefly about their articles. As well as a complimentary drink, you can pick up your free copy of the journal included in your membership fee. Please book by Monday 16 November either with Shirley 9569 1768 or Peter 9550 3809.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER Saturday 5 December 6.30 for 7 pm



Our annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner will be at the Newtown home of committee member Peter Cousens. Please book with Angela on 9564 6370 who will give the address and ask what food you intend to bring so we don't end up with 16 salads and 11 cheese plates. BYO drinks. Dress casual.

MHS RAFFLE

With our season of forthcoming events, MHS is holding a raffle. The major prize is a set of three polka dot *Diana* jugs with label intact. Two other prizes are a set of twelve National Trust prints of the Australian Territories and a year's subscription to *Choice* magazine. Tickets (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) can be bought by sending your cheque or at the journal launch, our next meeting or the Pot Luck dinner when the raffle will be drawn.

STILL OUTSTANDING FEES

Apropos the reminder slip accompanying the last newsletter of those outstanding, one member made a valid point by writing "forgetful people like me who forget to pay their subs also need to be reminded on their reminder notices how much they need to pay". For members still looking for their chequebook, fees are \$8 concession, \$14 ordinary or joint concession and \$20 household or organisation.

The executive committee feels that, in view of the delay in the journal's publication, members with fees paid up to June 1998 should still get their complimentary copy of the journal, even if they have not renewed. Nevertheless, late fees are still more than welcome. Enquiries ring treasurer Diane 9588 4930.

OUR LAST MEETING VINCENT CROW'S HABERFIELD

Slumless, laneless and publess! In all the advertisements for a *dwelling* in the new Haberfield Estate (1901) by real estate agent turned property developer Richard Stanton, the word *Federation* is not used to describe the style of these houses. They are called *cottages*, *villas* or *homes* and sometimes *beautiful homes*. Indeed it was Bernard and Kate Smith in their book *The Architectural Character of Glebe* who, as recently as 1973, coined the term. (Stanton would be amazed to see the *Federation Revival* spread like a rash across Sydney in the last decade, mostly gimcrack and unlike the real thing!)

At our 24 October meeting Vincent Crow showed in his illustrated talk the influences that gave us this unique Garden Suburb. Gone were the excesses of the Victorian period and with emerging nationalism a new architecture was needed: Queen Anne Revival, Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts from England, and the Shingle Style of America all contributing to our distinctly Australian domestic architecture. It was towards the environment that Haberfield's architect John Spencer-Stansfield turned – large garden blocks, tree lined streets, sun control, and light and airy interiors.

And so street after street and slide after slide we were fascinated by these *beautiful homes* (over one thousand individual designs) and came to realise that nobody knows or has fought for Haberfield like Vincent Crow. It is a model for heritage conservation and richly deserves its place on the Register of the National Estate (1990).

Shirley Hilyard

(Vincent Crow *Haberfield: Distinctly Australian* 1998 \$12.50; phone 9798 3835)

POSTCARDS FROM ABROAD

Former assistant secretary and treasurer **Gwenda and Harold Welsh** have sent postcards to several MHS members from various European climes. In the Orkneys they report on a Cook connection: "After Hawaii, [Lieut.] King brought the ships back to Orkney to be sold off. There the owner of Skaill House (a fine 17th century country house) bought Cook's dinner service, now on display in one of the rooms."

Meanwhile membership secretary **Pamela Stewart**, whilst studying Italian language and culture at Perugia University has made forays into surrounding cities always on the lookout for a Marrickville connection. Florence, Spoleto, Gubbio, Spello and Orvieto revealed no local connection. However at the Tivoli Gardens Villa D'Este she found a Terrace of **Tempe** named after the Greek Valley where Daphne escaped the amorous Apollo by becoming a laurel tree.

WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT* WHERE ARE THE BOARDS?

On 21 November 1920 six timber honour boards were unveiled in Newtown Town Hall. They contained the 3,000 names of the men who had enlisted from Newtown Municipality in World War One. We know a lot about these boards. They were made from polished maple by Henry Elvy and cost £50:10:0. Mr Wedderspoon inscribed the names on them but there was a delay in this being completed as alterations had to be made and extra names added as returned soldiers applied to Council to receive their illustrated certificates. Four of the boards were placed "over the existing mirrors" and two at the rear of the hall.

At the unveiling ceremony, the proceedings were opened with the singing of *The Old Hundredth*. Little Miss Hazel Pritchard presented a bouquet to the Governor's wife, Lady Davidson, conveying the greetings of Marrickville. The mayor mentioned that Newtown had the proud record of sending 10% of its population of 28,000 to fight for the world's freedom. By 1936 Council was considering a letter from the Newtown Branch of the Returned Soldiers & Sailors Imperial League of Australia recommending the boards be reconditioned. Council was happy for the work to proceed, but not at their expense.

What we don't know about these boards is where they are! The town hall is now used by the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. Are the boards in a room or basement not accessible to the public? Were they moved – if so, where to? Were they destroyed? If so, was a record made of the names?

As November is the 80th anniversary of the World War One Armistice, it would be an achievement to establish whether the boards still exist, or if not, to locate a photograph of them for our War Memorials Project. If anyone has any memories or information please contact me.

Angela Phippen Coordinator (9564 6370)

* Project outlined in August newsletter

WELCOME BACK PAT MULLEN

While munching on a hot dog at the 1994 Newtown Festival, our (then) MHS secretary, was chatting with Jeanette McHugh, then federal MP for Grayndler. Jeanette asked whether the Society had applied for an Australia Remembers Project grant. MHS succeeded in getting a grant which led to our oral history project and publication *Marrickville Remembers*. The hot dog-eating member was Pat Mullen, who shortly after moved to Adelaide, retaining her Society membership. Pat has now returned, moved to Hurlstone Park and came to our last meeting. Welcome back Pat and who knows what other polities-bearing-grants you may encounter!

HERITAGE WATCH

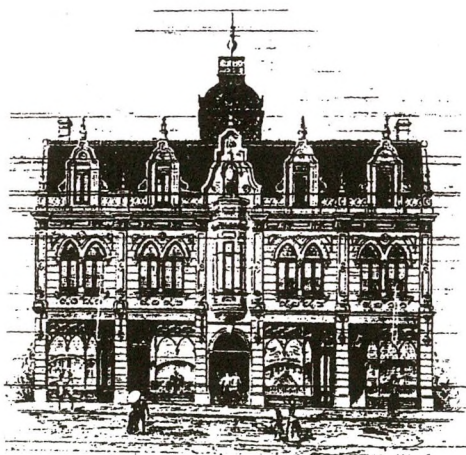
A vociferous group of about 150 residents attended a community consultation meeting at Camperdown Bowling Club on 14 October to examine the future of **O'Dea Reserve and its velodrome at Camperdown**. Landscape architects Mather & Associates have been commissioned by Marrickville Council to prepare a master plan for the reserve, once part of Fowler's Pottery.

An issue central to the planning is the fate of the 30 year old velodrome. The residents voted unanimously in favour of preserving and upgrading the velodrome and a group called VeloCity has formulated a plan for a multi-purpose facility including a bike workshop, bike recycling scheme, youth and child facilities, permaculture area, and solar-powered lighting. Residents offered considerable input towards the reserve's overall design concept. A further public meeting will assess this.

* * * * *

Whilst expressing concerns about some choice of materials, colour schemes and overshadowing, the Society has written in support of the amended DA for redevelopment of **92-96 Percival Road Stanmore**. We stated that "the elevations to Percival Road and Myrtle Street represent a substantial improvement on the original [DA]" and that "any precedent set by [this] proposal incorporates high quality design and construction which become the standard bearer for other developments within the centre."

* * * * *



Our August 1995 newsletter advised that the 1889 **Trocadero 69-77 King Street Newtown** (pictured) had been listed on the Register of the National Estate. A conservation plan, commissioned by owners Moore Theological College, was completed by Alan Croker of Design 5. On 13 October 1998 three MHS members attended the launch of a fundraising campaign by The Trocadero Community Trust to revitalise this wonderful, though deteriorating building and "restore its former glory. Its reinvention will showcase environmental and heritage conservation using leading edge ecologically sustainable design features". Project manager Gabby Greyem will talk briefly at our next meeting about this exciting project.

PRATTEN ON JOURNAL HERITAGE

Ashfield historian and author Chris Pratten at the 1996 RAHS annual conference had this to say about the MHS journal Heritage:

I could give guernseys to a lot of publications but one particular journal that has interested me for years is the Marrickville journal because even though I don't live in Marrickville – they've just managed to talk me into membership – for years I've bought the journal, read it, and enjoyed every article in it. I think that journal has succeeded. I'm sure local people enjoy it because you can see by the quality of the publication it's well supported. ... I think the aim of a local history journal is that if we can get other people with no particular interest in our area to pick it up and get something out of it, we've succeeded.

(Mr Pratten will get his complimentary copy like every other paid-up MHS member! – Editor)

RAHS GRANT FOR JOHN EDWARDS

The Society congratulates MHS member John Edwards for receiving a \$200 RAHS grant towards research for a book on Edward Baker Boulton (1812-1895), a forgotten colonial painter. Boulton travelled extensively overseas, lived at *Lindesay*, Darling Point, married a woman from *Henrietta Villa*, Point Piper, and was a squatter near Wellington and later at Walcha. One of his paintings was hung in the NSW Art Gallery when it opened in 1897. John recently had an article on Boulton published in the English serial *Mixed Moss: Journal of the Arthur Ransome Society*. Another article by John *From bush to sawmill to school* appears in *Heritage* 10 covering some of Dulwich Hill's history.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Swinbourne, Dulwich Hill; Peter Riley, Lewisham; David Barnes & Christine Burrows, Marrickville; Liza Heslop, Graeme Napier, both of Petersham; Alison Wright & Chris Gibson, Sydenham; Denys Tanner, Monterey.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTORS IN SYDNEY

One of our members would appreciate any information on this esoteric subject she is researching. No need to spend a penny, just give Jan a call on 9557 1655.

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MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

HERITAGE

The President and Executive take pleasure in inviting you
to the launch of our journal

Heritage 10

at the White Cockatoo Hotel

30 Terminus Street Petersham opposite the railway station

on Wednesday 18 November 1998

from 6.30 to 8pm

Please book by Monday 16th; Shirley or Peter, phone 9569 1768 or 9550 3809

You may wish to stay on with us for dinner at the Bistro

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Launch of *Heritage 10*

Details on front page

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Elsie Ritchie on the influence of Josephson family on the development of Marrickville

Details on front page

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

Pot Luck Xmas Dinner

Details on front page

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

* **Abergeldie Estate Discovery Walk** in Dulwich Hill conducted by Art Deco Society of NSW on Sunday 15 November at 11 am. Meet in Hugh Avenue Dulwich Hill. Cost \$10. Bookings are essential (9319 1122).

* **Book Launch** of MHS member Paul Fitzgerald's *The Sydney Airport Fiasco* at St Peters Town Hall 15 November 2 pm. This account of how Australia's major airport got its third runway in the face of broken promises and cross party alliances is fittingly dedicated to *the residents of Sydenham, past, present and future*.

* **Cooks River tunnel crossing & Wolli Creek Station inspection** Sunday 13 December 10 am-4 pm. Bookings essential Belinda 9384 1000. To be held in conjunction with **Cooks River Festival** at Kendrick Reserve, Tempe.

* Christmas concert Handel's *Messiah* Sunday 13 December at 4.30 pm in the **Newington College Chapel**. Tickets at door \$20, 15.

COUNCIL MEETING TIME CHANGES

Marrickville Council recently resolved to change Council Meeting days from Tuesdays to Mondays, except where it is a public holiday when they will be held on the Tuesday. Other details in *The Glebe* or by ringing Council.

PETER ARNETT

Following his recent retirement from Marrickville Council and in recognition of his contribution in the formation of the Marrickville Heritage Society in 1984, Peter Arnett has accepted our offer for life membership of the Society and will receive his certificate at our 28 November meeting.

ARCHIVES TURNS TEN

MHS congratulates Marrickville Council's Archival Reference Centre on its tenth anniversary, celebrated in style on 5 November.

CROQUET, ANYONE?

The 1911 Dictionary of Phrase and Fable describes croquet as *a game played with a sort of bandy stick . . . The art of the game is to strike your balls through very small hoops arranged in a given order*.

Whilst croquet was first formally played in 1857 in England, the first international contest was not till 1925 when England beat Australia. In the following year the Marrickville Croquet Club in Marrickville Park was formed.

The ten MHS members, all novices, who played there on Sunday 11 October found the game is much more than simply hitting balls through hoops, which in itself is harder than it looks. Coached by several club members, we discovered croquet is largely to do with disadvantaging your opponent's position by hitting **his** ball. The game is complete when a player, having hit his own ball through all six hoops twice in the correct order, hits the peg in the centre or "pegs out". In this trial session, no player "pegged out", in either sense of the phrase!



Robert Hutchinson & John Waterstreet

Why this game is not more popular is a mystery? It combines skill, tactics, and occasionally some brute force, and though not strenuous, an average game involves walking three kilometres. It's also inexpensive. Our four hour session including afternoon tea, cost only \$2. To join the Marrickville Club costs \$60, but you can play as often as you wish for \$2 a session. Five lessons cost \$10, deductible if you join. The club has three grades and the game can be played day or night (under lights). Thanks to Daphne Grange, both a MHS and MCC member, for organising this tremendous afternoon. For further information on the club ring Rene on 9569 8467.

Richard Blair

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard Blair 9557 3823
JOURNAL HERITAGE 10 Mark Matheson 9559 5502
HERITAGE WATCH Mark Maloney 9516 2788
TREASURER Diane McCarthy 9588 4930