

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF



MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

PAM'S POSTCARDS

PAM LIELL'S 100 YEARS

OF POSTCARD MESSAGES

Saturday 27 February 10.30 am

Petersham Town Hall

At the turn of the century, before getting the phone on, people used to send postcards, which were both quicker to write and cheaper than a letter. Mail deliveries were very frequent. It was possible to write *Will you come for a ride this afternoon?* which was sent to Miss Jacobs of Sloane Street, Summer Hill in 1905. Our phone calls of last week are forgotten, but our great-grandparents' messages of 90 years ago are on the cards and give funny, sad and revealing glimpses of life in Edwardian days.



North Newtown crowd at an office picnic at Cronulla, about 1919 (from *Before the Phone*)

Oral historian Pam Liell is a postcard collector, interested in the messages on the back rather than the pictures on the front. Pam has self-published the book *Before the Phone: 100 Years of Postcard Messages* (\$20) illustrated with pictures from her card collection. Pam transcribed the cards, arranged them into chapters such as romance, work, sickness, and family life, and introduced each chapter and card. There is an index so that family historians can look up names and addresses. Many of the cards were written in the inner western suburbs of Sydney and these messages from the past give a picture of bygone times.

STAN & PHOEBE BALES' 60TH

The Society extends hearty congratulations to members **Stan and Phoebe Bales** who celebrated 60 years of marriage on 24 December. Stan and Phoebe have lived in Middleton Street Petersham since 1939 and are well known statewide in Scouting and Rover circles. Stan was awarded an MBE in 1976 and his story of the Appa Teeza Hamburger Shop, Enmore 1939-1946 is in *Heritage* 5.

TEMPE LAND REDEVELOPMENT

A large contingent of residents attended the Marrickville Council meeting of 14 December 1998 to voice opposition to Council plans to redevelop the former Tempe tip (classified as contaminated land) into a Waste Recycling Park, with recreation space and restoration of natural habitat. In this joint venture with Waste Service of NSW, Council is undertaking extensive community consultation and has letterboxed the community with leaflets. Ring 1800 632162 to get information or record comments and suggestions.

The Tempe Residents Group Inc. together with the St Peters / Sydenham / Tempe Neighbourhood Centre is leading the way in opposing the proposed redevelopment on such grounds as increased traffic, noise, pollution and congestion. Ring 9559 5557 for further information.

LIBRARY ACQUIRES

ILLUMINATED PRESENTATION

Thanks to the vigilance of Harold Welsh, Robert Hutchinson and many kind members of the public who contacted me, I was able to acquire for the Local Studies Collection a valuable historical document. This document – a leather bound presentation folder – was given to *Robert Pfoeffler Esquire on the occasion of the opening of the enlarged Congregational Church, Marrickville, February 1884.* The presentation is a beautifully crafted document incorporating intricate designs, a detailed drawing of the church and elegant handwritten text.

Robert Pfoeffler was a local market gardener* and a Mayor of Marrickville (1877-78).

The purchase of this item for the collection ensures that it remains within the community to which it has value and relevance. It will be on public display during March and April in the Local Studies room at Marrickville Library. This display will also include the latest pieces of Diana Pottery that have been purchased for the collection.

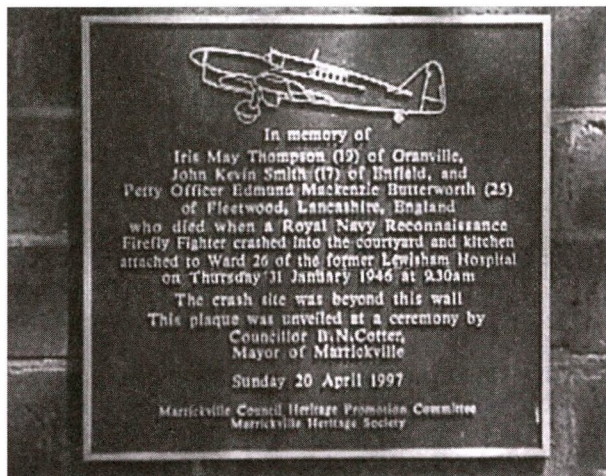
Donna Bray (Local Studies Librarian, Marrickville Library Services)

* Robert Street Marrickville on the site of his market garden, was originally called Pfoeffler Street. Congregational services were previously held in the homes of Pfoeffler and James Meek. This church is now called the Roseby Memorial Church.

Heritage 10 is \$10 a copy. Pick one up at our meetings or ring Richard on 9557 3823. Send the Society a cheque for \$11.25 if you'd like a copy posted (\$11.50 interstate).

LEWISHAM PLAQUE IN PLACE

Following a ceremony organised by MHS on 31 January 1996 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the fatal air crash into Lewisham Hospital, the Marrickville Council Heritage Promotion Committee in conjunction with MHS arranged a plaque in memory of the three people killed – two hospital workers and a British service airman. The plaque was unveiled by then Deputy Mayor Carmel Tebbutt (on behalf of the mayor) on Sunday 20 April 1997 at a ceremony attended by over 70 people including many relatives of Iris Thompson and Jack Smith (described in May 1997 newsletter).



After an inexplicably long delay the plaque was finally mounted in September 1998. The well-designed plaque is affixed to a wall in the pleasant courtyard of the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel. As the gate is usually locked check with the office of The St. Vincent de Paul Society who own the site.

Richard Blair

TEST CRICKETER HAZEL PRITCHARD

When Angela Phippen gets her teeth into a project, there's no stopping her. Her quest for war memorials and honour boards has yielded much fruit and she will happily enlighten anyone wanting an update. Angela's November story on the unveiling of the Newtown Town Hall honour boards in 1920, mentions the presentation of a bouquet to Lady Davidson, the Governor's wife by "little Miss Hazel Pritchard". Hazel's father was a prominent Councillor and Mayor of Newtown 1922-23. Angela has since discovered that Hazel Doreen Pritchard (later Scanlon 1913-1967) came from a sporting family, represented NSW at basketball and played test cricket for Australia.

The Oxford Book of Australian Cricket describes Hazel as "a neat player who timed the ball well and was one of the most stylish and graceful players of the 1930s". She played for Australia in 1934/35 performing with little merit, but on the 1937 tour of England she scored 306 runs in three tests averaging 51, with scores of 87, 67 and "an elegant 66 runs in just 70 minutes (with 10 fours) in the final Test". An English writer described her as the "Australian lady Bradman, who batted with joyous abandon". Soon after this tour she married and retired from cricket.

THE MAN FROM KANGAROO RIDES AGAIN

A friend and I recently went to see Snowy Baker in *The Man from Kangaroo*. Though not normally a fan of westerns, I really enjoyed this Australian/US film set in outback Australia (though largely filmed in Kangaroo Valley). It had all the elements – big skies, outback settings, action, comedy, romance and good triumphing over evil. It was an enthusiastic audience. We booed the baddies, cheered the hero and *aaahhed* as the heroine finally sank into his arms. A great evening's movie-going at an affordable price that included drinks, nibbles and Jaffas.

The Man from Kangaroo? Snowy Baker? No, you won't see this film playing at the big cinema complexes. It's a silent film, you see, made in 1920 and still entertaining. Live musical accompaniment, courtesy of organist Peter Seward added to the mood and the fun.

The Friends of Mastertouch have hit on a great fundraising idea. To raise cash for the restoration of the former Stanmore Fire Station in Petersham, more silent film nights are planned and a theatrette (with seats from the old Mayfair cinema) is being built upstairs. This is a fun night out and helps a worthwhile heritage cause. To become a Friend of Mastertouch or find out more about film nights ring Judith 9569 5128.

Caroll Phillips

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS

It seems that during the summer, thoughts have not been centred on "heritage" or at least the trivia associated with the last newsletter. Only one correct response – from Graeme Napier of Petersham – came regarding the whereabouts of the **sailor on the boat stern projecting from the rear of a shop** along a prominent local thoroughfare. Too late to win a Mars Bar, but a clue: a lane behind Enmore Road north.

Sub-editor Shirley Hilyard was the only respondent who saw the light in relation to the **significant event that happened on the corner of Liberty Street and Stanmore Road on 28 August 1878** – notably the installation of the first public gas lamp in the Petersham municipality by the Australian Gas Light Company [*Marrickville People & Places* p 61].

Some anonymous person wrote to advise that in about 1951 the **Bank of Australasia** merged with the Union Bank to become the ANZ. Although a different building, the ANZ Bank still operates on the corner of Silver Street and Marrickville Road Marrickville.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

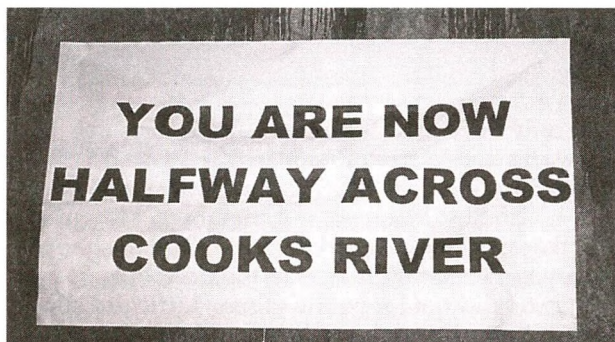
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COOKS RIVER TUNNEL WALK

On a hot Sunday 13 December several MHS members joined thousands of others in a one-off two kilometre walk through the southern railway tunnel from the Wolli Creek Interchange Station at North Arncliffe to the International Terminal Station at Sydney Airport. Leaving at ten minute intervals, a guide led each group of 50-80 along the tunnel under Cooks River. Some guides gave a detailed commentary, others hardly any, although this was supplemented by descriptive displays en route.



Graham Hunt's photo of the halfway point attests to his crossing. Double decker buses from the Tempe Bus and Truck Museum took walkers back to Kendrick Reserve for the Cooks River Festival. The tunnel is an engineering marvel, and this was the only chance to see inside the tunnel before the planned railway opening in May 2000.

HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW UPDATE

Over the past two years with the assistance of Consultants Tropman and Tropman and in conjunction with a Steering Committee, Marrickville Council has been conducting a Heritage Study Review to **"expand upon the original heritage study of 1986 with an increased focus on the social significance of Marrickville as a place of cultural diversity"**.

Following community consultation in 1997 with considerable input from MHS and a range of special cultural groups, in 1998 the research material was analysed and the most appropriate conservation management strategies developed.

The 14 December Marrickville Council meeting approved the recommendation that the Heritage Study Review be released in stages because the review "is such a large body of work, it would be unfair to submit the whole study to the Council for appraisal without Councillors being made fully aware of its content and the process that has taken place between the consultants, officers and the community". Some 52 draft conservation areas have been identified as having significance in revealing the cultural heritage of the Marrickville LGA of which 40 have been ranked as significant or highly significant. It is unlikely the review will be completed before the end of 1999.



Dorothy Blyth and Margaret Sinclair at our Pot Luck Xmas dinner in December

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN POTTERY, WODONGA

Anyone travelling to Melbourne on the Hume Highway via Albury is urged to detour to Wodonga across the Murray to see this wonderful collection of Australian pottery dating from the 1820s. The collection contains about 600 pieces from 72 companies established between 1819 and 1918. The museum is attached to the home of Geoff and Kerrie Ford at 66 South Street. As the museum is not open every day it is best to ring first and make an appointment (03-6056 3152); otherwise take a punt and just roll up. Entry \$3.

The collection is fully catalogued by state, potter's name and date. Our local pottery works are well represented including Fowlers, Bakewell Brothers, Gilbert McArthur, Thomas Field, Baldock Brothers, Hart & Gallagher, Sydenham Pottery Company and Alfred Dawes & Co. As the collection continues to grow, Geoff has approached his local authorities to help find a larger and more central museum space.

Geoff has written two authoritative books, indispensable to the ardent collector: 1) *Australian Pottery: The First 100 Years* costs \$145 plus postage (Marrickville Library has a copy); and 2) *Encyclopaedia of Australian Potter's Marks* 1st edition is \$35. Geoff plans to bring out a second edition and welcomes fresh information concerning potter's marks not in the first edition.

Richard Blair

VALHALLA'S LAST PICTURE SHOW!

With the proliferation of large cinema complexes, small independent movie houses have difficulty getting distribution which has led to the closure of the current incarnation of the old Valhalla in Glebe on Sunday 28 February. The Valhalla will go out with a bang showing double features over the final two weeks. What happens then? It seems the new owners may use the main cinema for Theatresports and show movies in the upstairs cinema. We can only hope that Sydney's best choctops will still be available!

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall
Pam's Postcards - 100 Years of postcard
messages with Pam Liell
 Details on front page

SATURDAY 20 MARCH
David McBeath's Eveleigh Technology Park
 (Note: Meeting a week earlier than usual due to State election)

SATURDAY 24 APRIL
Places of Memory: Sydney Home Movies
 by Virginia Hilyard

MHS members are invited to **South Sydney Heritage Society's** next meeting at Lyndhurst 61 Darghan Street Glebe at 10.30 am on Saturday 6 March. Guest speaker Megan Martin, senior librarian of the Historic Houses Trust, will talk on domestic designs, interiors and gardens of the 19th century.

THOUSAND YEAR SPELLING TEST

As we're into the final year of what is popularly (though incorrectly) regarded as the last year of the twentieth century, ask yourself and others how to spell the forthcoming thousand year period, whose first three letters are "MIL" and last letter is "M". Then check it out. Well?

Incidentally a cricketer who hits a hundred runs, scores a "century". In the unlikely scoring of a thousand runs, perhaps this would be a "millury" or maybe "decaton"?

* * * * *

- **Brook Lodge** 174 Denison Road Dulwich Hill was **not** sold as indicated in December newsletter and is apparently still on the market. The DA is relation to **26 Stanley Street Tempe** has been refused.
- Member **Mignon Wegner's husband John** had no sooner recovered from a strenuous season in Adelaide singing the part of Wotan in Wagner's epic *Ring* cycle than he entered the bullfighting ring of Sydney's Domain as Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*.
- **Carol Papps** (nee Diserens) who grew up above Emery's cake shop in Dulwich Hill shopping centre, is after 1940s and 1950s photos of New Canterbury and Marrickville Roads. If anyone can help please ring Carol on 9740 5062.
- **Adrian Haydock** of Broome was recently in town and assisted by Harold Welsh purchased publications from MHS pertaining to Mary Reibey. So? Well, Mary's maiden name was also Haydock!

ILLAWARRA ROAD IN THE 1930s

1. MARGARET OF MARRICKVILLE



Not only does this 1936 photo of the corner of Illawarra and Warren Roads in The Warren (page 42 of *Heritage* 10) wonderfully capture the era, it also depicts one of our members, Margaret Dortkamp. She is the girl second from left shading her eyes. Her father is next to the post, but Margaret did not know the others. Little did she realise that over sixty years later this picture would feature in a heritage journal. Keen observer Mick Timmings (now of Ulladulla) wrote that he knew Margaret's brother John and identified virtually every shop in the picture.

2. FROM THE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES



Swirling floodwaters, caused by the heaviest rain in Sydney for more than 20 years, have inundated many suburban thoroughfares. A PMG van churning up a muddy bow-wave as it passed through Undercliffe yesterday, while bare-legged pedestrians wade along the submerged footpaths
 (Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday 1/2/1938)

In the wake of recent downpours Ian Phillips has submitted this picture (from a folded cutting) taken in Illawarra Road but now in Marrickville. Ian is certain the vehicle is travelling away from Cooks River. The background house and shops (one possibly showing part of a Kinkara Tea sign) on the Steel Park side, are no longer there.

PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER Richard Blair 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH Mark Maloney 9516 2788

TREASURER Diane McCarthy 9588 4930