

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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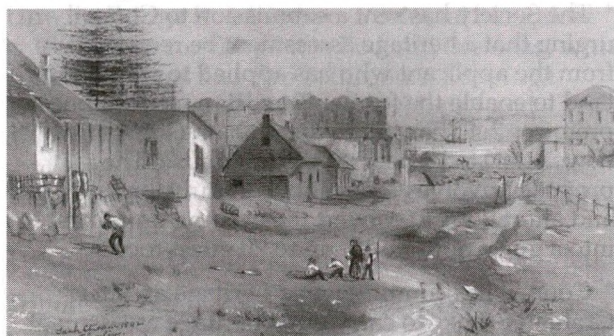
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

***The Tank Stream and Beyond Jon Breen  
& Sanitary Attractions Martha Sear  
Petersham Town Hall  
Saturday 28 August 10.30 am***

***The Tank Stream and Beyond*** The Tank Stream is the symbol of the Australian Water Industry embracing water, sewerage and drainage. The Tank Stream was Sydney's only water supply until 1837 and even today serves as a stormwater drain having been a sewer for part of its long history. As a source of water the Tank Stream was replaced by Busby's Bore and later the Botany Swamps. These systems were eventually replaced by the Upper Nepean Water Supply Scheme. Jon will tell us about the Bondi Sewer and yes, there is also a Marrickville connection.

**Jon Breen** Heritage Engineer with Sydney Water, has been involved with all aspects of the Australian Water Industry – construction, design and operation. He has a degree in civil engineering at UNSW and both sets of grandparents were Lachlan River irrigation farmers.



*The Tank Stream 1841 (Frederick Garling)*

***Sanitary Attractions: Health and hygiene at a Sydney museum 1880-1920*** The Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, or Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo was founded in 1880 as the Technological, Industrial and Sanitary Museum. Until the 1920s sanitary wares like pipes, traps and gullies were prominently displayed to educate the public about health and sanitation. Behind the scenes, curators laboured in the museum's laboratories to develop new antiseptics from Australian plants. Today the Powerhouse continues to contribute to public debate about health through its exhibitions and public programs.

**Martha Sear** (who spoke to us in 1995 on 19th century Australian women taxidermists) is Assistant Curator of Health & Medicine at the Powerhouse Museum. Martha presents new research into the museum's sanitary past for a forthcoming exhibition on public health in Australia.

## SYDENHAM GREEN

What can one say about the soon-to-open Sydenham Green? Undoubtedly it provides much needed green space with fresh tree plantings. Many of the park facilities – children's playground, dog exercise area, basketball court – are practical and beneficial. And the name itself? Sydenham Green was the name of the former nursery in Unwins Bridge Road owned by MHS member Maurie Milliner. Maurie, whose thriving business was ruined by the Sydenham debacle and who never received warranted compensation, generously allowed the name to be adopted for the park and has assisted in the tree planting.

But what of the curious built structure in the centre of Sydenham Green, soon no doubt to be covered in graffiti? This so-called "departure lounge" may offend some and won't be to everyone's taste. It is the designer's homage to aircraft noise – the alleged reason for the demolition of 100-120 houses in 1995-98, the denouement being last year's destruction of *Clarevill* in Railway Road.

This mass demolition was, of course, a federal government initiative. The house-owners may have been made generous offers, but did they really have any choice? As compensation Council received \$2 million to develop a park, though one still subject to aircraft noise. When I visit the area I think of the residents who once lived there, many for generations, and the lost houses – in an LGA where every encouragement is given to create more housing opportunities. Since then, flight paths have been varied to diffuse noise problems, which only accentuates the tragedy. But given that the decimation of Sydenham is old news, I applaud there being more local green space; and yes, I rather like the name Sydenham Green, but in my mind it will always be Sydenham's Shame.

**Richard Blair**

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jan Baker, Jennifer Kent & Bob Lollbach, Vivienne Larking all of Dulwich Hill; Lorraine Chantrill, Deborah Edward, both of Enmore; Lewisham Retirement Hostel, Lewisham; Lorraine Beach, Nancy MacAlpine, Kim Van Beelen, all of Marrickville; Kim Spinks & Andrew & Minnie Inwald, Newtown; Kathy Parker, Tempe; Sally Shand, Earlwood; Valmai Ormrod, Panania.

**FEES DUE:** concession \$10; individual or joint concession \$16; household or organisation \$22. Please send cheque or money order to treasurer.



## OUR LAST MEETING ULTIMO-PYRMONT WALK 24 JULY

Very little is left of the original Pyrmont-Ultimo peninsula. From the 1830s Sydney's traders and merchants began to develop the foreshores of what had been a curved peninsula. Wharves and jetties extended and altered its shape whilst quarrying sandstone for use in building helped reform its interior. Gradually workers and shop owners moved into the area. The Ultimo end, under the control of the Harris family, was slower to develop and it was only in the 1860s that Ultimo started to grow quickly. For most of this century the needs of the mainly working class population of Pyrmont and Ultimo have been mostly treated as secondary to the wants of developers.

Now picture, if you will, a quiet Ultimo back street, nearly empty of population. Suddenly the tranquillity is shattered unintentionally, by an alarm-blast from a portable loudspeaker whilst 40-50 inquisitive MHS members and guests spread along the footpath. Our guide, Margaret Wood (President of the Pyrmont-Ultimo Historical Society) points out the site of the recently demolished home of the remaining descendant of the Harris family; further up the road someone's attention is caught by a wonderful, colourfully painted cast iron balcony; we scatter when we hear Ted's warning "Car coming"!

Starting from the Powerhouse Museum, once the site of the Ultimo Power Station, we saw the original Sydney Technological College (now part of TAFE) in Mary Ann Street. Walking through Ultimo we saw how much of the area had been modified, refurbished or demolished to provide new buildings, more accommodation, or more space. The woolstores, quarries, saddleries, residences, shops, smithies, and masonries that gave Ultimo so much of its earlier character have now been adaptively re-used. Margaret's commentary was at one point enthusiastically augmented by an elderly Ultimo resident who showed us an early photograph and gave his comments on the area.

If our trip through Ultimo could be called the "Meriton Walk", Pyrmont could be named the "Lend Lease Tour" after the organisation redeveloping the huge CSR site and much of the Pyrmont foreshore. Our walk through Pyrmont took in the CSR development, the Cross Street heritage group, Ways Terrace, St Bedes church (1867), and the attractive 1891 former John Street school. At the end of this exhaustive and interesting tour we raffled Fitzgerald & Golder's *Pyrmont & Ultimo Under Siege* (won by Valerie McLeish) and Margaret presented the Society with Michael Matthew's *Pyrmont-Ultimo A History*. New president Robert Hutchinson presented Margaret with our celebrated Winged Victory spoon near Pyrmont's war memorial (designed by Gilbert Doble) in Union Square. Thanks to Margaret and to Richard Blair for his organisation.

Deborah Edward

## PART-TIME HERITAGE ARCHITECT

Following the resignation of Libby Maher as Marrickville Council's heritage architect the Society wrote to Council expressing concern over the apparent downgrading of the importance of heritage conservation by creating a new position for a part-time heritage architect (20 hours a week).

Council advised the position "will involve a more focussed range of tasks, with emphasis on assisting Council to implement the findings of the Heritage Study Review [as yet unfinished], commenting on development applications affecting items of the environmental heritage, and an ongoing role of promotion and education. ... the main promotional role of Libby's former position will be maintained, including the Heritage Promotions Committee." The position was advertised in the *Herald* on 31 July.

Perhaps it is simply "economic rationalisation", but it does suggest that Marrickville Council is denigrating the significance of "heritage". Will the new appointee be able to effectively handle the "more focussed range of tasks" in just 20 hours a week?

## HERITAGE WATCH

\* Marrickville Council has given conditional approval to conversion of **Nelson Lodge** in Tempe to a bed and breakfast accommodation containing four guest rooms and a caretaker's residence. Further documentation is required from the applicant before the NSW Heritage Office can consider approval of the proposed works.

\* The Society has sent a submission to Council urging that a heritage assessment be requested from the applicant who has applied to rezone the land to enable the former **Tresillian** nursing home premises 2-4 Shaw Street Petersham (see April 1998 newsletter) to be used as a guest house. The proposal involves renovations, refurbishment work and alterations to convert the existing buildings into a guest house with up to 70 guest rooms.

\* Council has commissioned heritage architect Graham Brooks to carry out a heritage assessment of the former **Eversleigh** site in Petersham as part of the redevelopment.

Shrubs & Tubs are again sponsoring this year's Spring Garden Competition which closes 3 September. Entry forms Council CSC, libraries and Shrubs & Tubs.

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## HERITAGE WATCH / CLASSIFICATIONS ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

I preface this report with a quote from the June newsletter "Heritage Watch is the most significant aspect of the Society's work. It's what distinguishes us from a purely historical society, as it enables us to play a watchdog role in the community" (Richard Blair). As a requirement of the Society's constitution we have turned those watchdog eyes on development activity within the Local Government Area. This year we have been inundated with Development Applications and the committee responded with submissions where relevant, again with a degree of success.

Some of those successful DAs were – again *Locke-Haven* Petersham and that porte-cochère, again refused; 50 Cary Street Marrickville, amended DA approved; 6 Stanley Street Tempe, for a two storey villa in a Grade A streetscape of like bungalows, refused; 94 Brighton Street Petersham, to demolish a house and erect a three storey boarding house of 27 rooms, that totally ignored the streetscape and heritage significance of the area, refused; 92-96 Percival Road Stanmore, for a mixed residential-commercial development, refused; then amended plans and especially those elevations, finally approved.

Submissions have been sent for the following DAs but have yet to be determined – a paint and tile shop to be inserted in the 1902 Dispensary Hall, Enmore; *Colchester Hall* 11-13 Woodcourt Street Marrickville, a fire damaged villa 1873, for additions to create residential units; *Nelson Lodge* Unwins Bridge Road Tempe, a colonial bungalow c. 1858, to be converted to a Bed and Breakfast with eight bedrooms and five bathrooms; *Eversleigh* Hospital site Petersham to be developed and although there is no DA as yet, the committee has sent two submissions to the draft LEP for this site; 11-23 Gordon Street Marrickville, the former Globe Woollen Mill 1921, to be adapted and used as 117 apartments, still to be decided – we supported.

Tribute should be paid to Scott MacArthur, a member of the committee, who undertook to write the bulk of the letters to Council and to liaise with Council officers. A natural history project has been initiated for Camperdown Cemetery to assess the remnant vegetation and significant tree register. Kangaroo grass, Plume grass and *Dianella*, all part of the understorey of the Turpentine-Ironbark Forest that once covered the Inner West, are to be protected.

The committee has had input into the King Street & Enmore Road Heritage & Urban Design DCP; Agenda 21, an environmental strategy from now into the 21st Century; Sydney Airport Environment Strategy; *Looking after Cemeteries* workshop at Penrith; O'Dea Reserve and its velodrome, Camperdown; and a visit to Michael Mobbs' sustainable house in Chippendale to see how a family has become self-sufficient making their own water and energy, and managing their own waste.

What of the Classifications arm of this committee? Whilst some have fretted over the fact that no submissions have been made to various Heritage Bodies for listing, we have been frustrated in this direction until Council's consultant, who is reviewing the Heritage Study, releases his report. Considerable efforts were made in submitting items for inclusion in the Study.

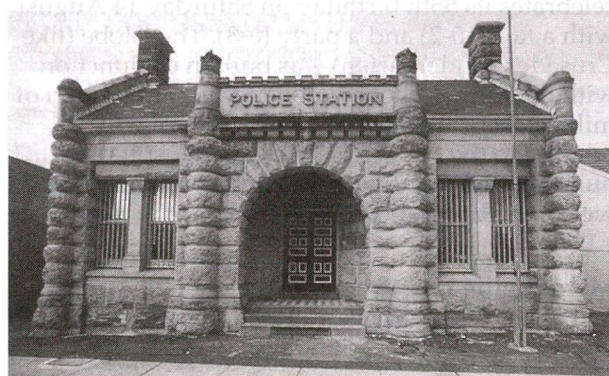
The essential buildings that have given the Marrickville area its charm and character for the last century are being removed by developers at a wholesale rate, as if newness and economics were the only considerations.

And who were the members of this committee who have had all the fun? Mark Maloney was convenor until February, David Cass secretary, Richard Blair, Paul Heath, Shirley Hilyard, Scott MacArthur, Mark Matheson, Danie Ondinea and Ian Phillips.

**Shirley Hilyard**

(After eleven continuous years on the Heritage Watch / Classifications Committee, Shirley has stepped down. The committee will miss her inspiration, experience and expertise, having assisted in writing countless submissions to Council. Shirley's commitment to heritage conservation has been both in the Marrickville area and elsewhere. **Editor**)

\* \* \*



**THE FEDERATION COMMUNITY PROJECTS PROGRAM** (resulting from the one-third sale of Telstra) will benefit seven local organisations – **Marrickville Community History Group** \$37,493: Marrickville Backyards cultural history project looking at ways different local ethnic groups use backyards; **May Murray Neighbourhood Centre** \$32,650: to restore the 1895 Walter Vernon former *Marrickville police station* (pictured above) in Gladstone Street; **Sidetrack Performance Group** \$29,730: the Flight Path Daze multi-arts installation focussing on migration and social change in the century of Federation; **Addison Road Community Centre** \$29,681: Marrickville Migration Museum to develop a history of Marrickville over the past 100 years; **Marrickville Council** \$25,000: Aboriginal sites survey of Cooks River Corridor; **Lewisham Public School** \$25,000: ongoing Lewisham Meeting Place on Cadigal Land project building; and **Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby** \$20,000: its history project (from *Glebe & Inner Western Weekly* 14 July).



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 28 AUGUST**

**Petersham Town Hall**

**Tank Stream and Beyond & Sanitary Attractions**

**Talks by Jon Breen & Martha Sear**

Details on front page

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**Walk around Abergeldie Estate with**

**Scott Robertson of Art Deco Society**

**SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER**

**Tour of Government House**

\* The Society regrets the passing of **Colin Mills** General Manager Marrickville Council (1990-97) who died on 24 July aged 52 from Motor Neurone Disease. He was a member of the State Library Council and the Heritage Council of NSW.

\* A bouquet to ten month old **Sven Carlsen** who didn't complain once during the four hour trek around Ultimo-Pyrmont. Parents Michele and Kurt said they discovered places they didn't know existed and will do another walk soon with the rest of the family. (No, he didn't **walk** it!)

\* **Globe Preschool** Perry Street Marrickville celebrates its 55th birthday on Saturday 14 August with a fair (10-2) and a party (6-8). The Globe (like Crusader Kindergarten) was built in conjunction with the former Globe Woollen Mill for children of mill workers and others. The preschool will relocate to the former Marrickville Hospital building early next year. Ex Globe preschoolers are welcome. Ring Sandra 9569 4943.

\* Learn more about the natural environment in **Marrickville Environment Week** (16-22 August) and at Steel Park Illawarra Road Marrickville for *Our Place By the River* Sunday 22 August 10-3.

\* Members are invited to hear choirs, orchestras and soloists from Newington College and MLC on Sunday 15 August 3 pm in a **concert in Newington College Chapel** including Haydn's *Mass for St Cecilia*. Tickets \$15, \$8 concession.

\* **Marrickville Festival** Sunday 19 September.

**THE NEW DRAFT MARRICKVILLE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN 1999** is on exhibition until 9 September at Council, Fisher Street Petersham and local libraries. The plan, to replace the Marrickville Planning Scheme Ordinance, "proposes to update the town planning controls for the entire Council area. It attempts to provide a more user-friendly format and style of document, and has eliminated a lot of the unnecessary and out-of-date provisions of the MPSO." New controls for Council's existing items of Environmental Heritage have been developed and objectives to Ecologically Sustainable Development added. Written submissions to Council accepted until 10 September. Enquiries Marcus Rowan 9335 2261.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES:

### 24 AUGUST 1986 – DAY OF SHAME

Ian Cugley's photostory depicts the illegal destruction of the 1885 **Rose's Emporium** (corner of Railway Street and Parramatta Road Petersham) described in the Society's September 1986 newsletter as "the best example of a two storey Italianate retail building remaining in Sydney". Despite there being a "no-demolition" order under Section 130 of the Heritage Act, demolition began around 4.15 am on Sunday 24 August. It was halted following swift action by Railway Street residents and the National Trust, but resumed later that day.



The following June, the 1886 **Brockleigh** Illawarra Road Marrickville was also illegally demolished. Representations by this Society led to a public meeting at Marrickville Town Hall on 13 September 1987 addressed by the Minister for Planning & Environment and Minister for Heritage Bob Carr, who stated that the only two breaches of the Heritage Act since 1977 happened in the Marrickville Municipality. He approved several "protective measures for Marrickville which will safeguard the historic character of the municipality" including the imposition of Section 130 "no-demolition" orders on 28 historic buildings.

**PRESIDENT** Robert 9568 3079

**TREASURER** Diane 9588 4930

**NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823