

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

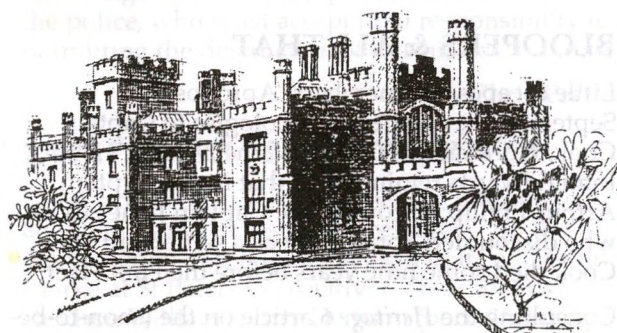
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING TOUR OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE Saturday 23 October 9.45 for 10 am

(Meet entrance gate police box down from Conservatorium 9.45 for 10 am start. \$5, \$2 child. Bookings Mark 9559 5502. Please advise if you have to cancel.)

In 1834 plans for a new Government House in Sydney were commissioned from Edward Blore, "Special Architect" to King William IV. Blore's plans were modified in Sydney by the colonial architect Mortimer Lewis and the building was constructed between 1837 and 1845. It is the state's most significant example of a Gothic Revival building, with crenellated battlements, turrets and detailed interiors. The joinery is unpainted cedar.



The ground floor State rooms include dining room, drawing room and ballroom. These contain an outstanding collection of 19th century and early 20th century furnishings and decoration that reflect the changes of style and the differing tastes of the Governors and their wives. The original stencilled ceiling decoration survives in some rooms. The historic gardens are the largest surviving of the 19th century harbour foreshore gardens. Government House is still used by the Governor for official receptions, dinners and investitures and is managed by the **Historic Houses Trust** whose curators **Robert Griffin** and **Ann Toy** will be our guides.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Anna & Tony Breinl, Angel Ioannou, all of Dulwich Hill; Barbara Forsyth, Caroline Lawrance, Mary Nikolakoulos, all of Marrickville; Mary-Jane Brodribb, Newtown; Pat Jessop & Pat Kain, Margaret Penson, all of Petersham; Paul Mortimer, Stanmore; Marjorie Hockey, Jon Southerly, both of Tempe; Mary Armstrong, Brighton-Le-Sands; Margaret McArthur, Kogarah; Ian Rumsey, Ryde.

TROCADERO PLANS FALL THROUGH

Amidst much fanfare the Trocadero Community Trust launched an appeal in October 1998 to raise money for a feasibility study to restore this fine old King Street Newtown building and turn it into a community centre. High profile people attended the launch at St Georges Hall and spokesperson Gabby Greyem addressed our MHS meeting in November. The Society donated \$100.

Nothing further was heard about the project. An article in the August *New Town Times* wrongly inferred the Trocadero (owned by Moore Theological College) had been demolished. I wrote to the *New Town Times* refuting this and asked if the status of the project could be ascertained. *New Town Times* found that what little was raised was spent on the launch and brochures. Why the project was abandoned is still unclear. Needless to say, MHS and other donors have *done their dough*.

This is disappointing for the organisers who had such commendable aspirations, for the community and for this distinguished heritage-listed building. It implies over-ambitious planning on the part of the Trocadero Community Trust. The failure of the Trust to notify donors of the negative outcome is regrettable and will make potential donors wary of donating to similar such causes. Meanwhile the fabric of the Trocadero, like the old Illawarra Road Marrickville Town Hall, continues to deteriorate while awaiting a suitable rebirth.

Richard Blair

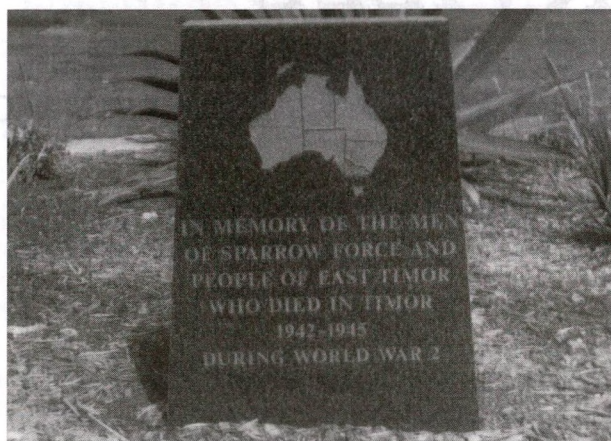
THIS THE MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL?

The sky was brilliant blue, the sun was warm, there were no threatening rain clouds, no driving rain and no biting winds. And this was the day of the Marrickville Festival! How could that be? The festival is synonymous with torrential downpours, icy winds, and any other possible negative weather conditions. Sunday 19 September was the exception to the rule and our Society benefitted from this.

We had a variety of publications, jams, plants and bric-a-brac and many festival-goers were interested in their house history and the Society's work. Thanks to Lorraine Beach, Richard Blair, David Cass, Deborah Edward, Shirley Hilyard, Diane McCarthy and Angela Phippen for manning the stall; to jam makers Gwenda Welsh and Pippa Preston (helped by some of Margaret Sinclair's famous Seville oranges); and to plant donors Peter Cousens and Fred and Joyce Ellis. Everybody's efforts made this a successful and enjoyable day.

Angela Phippen

EAST TIMOR MEMORIAL



In the light of recent traumatic events in East Timor this 1994 memorial in Marrickville Park near Frazer Street has a certain poignancy. Does anyone know whether Sparrow Force has a local significance?

OUR LAST MEETING ABERGELDIE ESTATE WALK

Threatening rain on Saturday 25 September did not deter 35 MHS and Art Deco Society members and friends from joining architect Scott Robertson on a walk around the Abergeldie Estate, Dulwich Hill. Following the 1926 demolition of the 1880s mansion *Abergeldie* (named after a royal hunting lodge in Scotland) owned from 1885 by tobacco merchant and philanthropist Sir Hugh Dixson, the estate was subdivided and sold as residential allotments in 1928. Considered "an intact example of well-built suburban housing maintained to a good standard" the estate was classified by the National Trust in 1986.

We marvelled at the stunning leadlight windows and doors, terrazzo paths, variegated roof tiles and bricks, original barley twist columns, incorporation of sandstone, herringbone brick patterns, the use of dark brick and hipped roofs, and the front fences designed to complement the style of the house. Nowhere was the Art Deco influence more evident than in the geometric leadlights and in one case a kookaburra window. Neo Georgian, Art Moderne and Queen Anne features were often incorporated, whilst one economical rear addition was described as *Sally Anne* style!

Hugh Avenue contains two atypical estate houses, both two storeyed, one (late 1940s) built in Ocean Liner style and the other in the *Interwar Mediterranean* style with *Georgian Revival* fanlights. Nearby we inspected a house (runner-up for 1999 Marrickville Medal) which has retained much of its beautiful original detail, and incorporated contemporary, but sympathetic renovations and extensions to the rear, with Edna Walling-inspired landscaping. Many thanks to Taimi and Juhan for showing us their home and Scott Robertson from the Art Deco Society for interpreting this unique estate, whose character is protected by a Council draft DCP.

Richard Blair

SPRING TRIVIA ANSWER

The milestone pictured in September newsletter is actually an obelisk – marking the end of the eight mile long Old South Head Road – which sits at the edge of Robertson Park, near the baths at Watson's Bay. In Joan Lawrence's *Eastern Suburbs Walks* (p105-6) "completion of the road meant that the citizens of Sydney could more easily reach Watson's Bay to collect merchandise or news from England from the incoming ships detained at the bay for inspection of papers and a berth in Sydney. ... The Regiment followed a footpath which had been cleared in 1803 and enlarged it for wheeled vehicles following the crests of hills and bypassing the harbour swamps."

Whilst some wrongly assumed the milestone was somewhere out west, Peter McLaren and June Blackburn correctly identified the stone's location, Peter remarking on the speed of the project. Graham Hunt alluded to *The Sydney Gazette* of Saturday 1 June 1811 report that the following Tuesday was to be observed as a holiday in honour of George III's birthday, coincidentally ten weeks after 25 March, when the road project began. The 73rd Regiment was Macquarie's own. Thank you Ron Smith for contributing this fascinating photographic trivia.

BLOOPERS & ALL THAT

Little escapes our members! Apropos our September newsletter, we apologise to Captain Cook, Norman McVicker and the Dunbar victims. John Edwards reminded us that it was Captain Arthur Phillip, of course, not Captain James Cook, who discounted Botany Bay as a settlement site. Cook died some nine years before the First Fleet.

Consulting the *Heritage* 6 article on the (soon-to-be-honoured) Pocket Playhouse Sydenham, the sub-editor cited the title of its final production in 1973 as *Tea and Damper* which wrongly appeared in the September newsletter as *Tea and Hamper*. To add insult to injury Norman says the play was actually called *Damper and Tea*! Norman was amused by another mistake, overlooked by the writer, editor and sub-editor, in our report on the recent Dunbar commemoration. We indicated that the funeral procession gathered at St Stephens churchyard for the "internment" of the drowned Dunbar victims. We can confirm "burial" did take place and there the matter will rest.

Editor

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 New Canterbury Road Petersham • Tel 9560 3884



Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses, Cottage Garden Plants, Camellias, Azaleas, All Herbs, Terracotta Pots, Lattice. Everything to keep your garden healthy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

1. ROSE'S EMPORIUM

Dear Richard,

The photographs of the 1986 demolition of Rose's Emporium in Parramatta Road Petersham reproduced in the August newsletter, brought back sad memories for me. When I was a kid in the 1940s, Rose's was owned and managed by my mother's best friend, "Aunty" Doris Otter (nee Rose) of Ashfield. At the time of the demolition, I was working for the National Trust and I was called early on that drizzly Sunday morning by local residents and I came down to help them oppose the demolition. The building at this stage was savable.

I remember driving Denis McManus of the Heritage Branch, Department of Environment & Planning, into his Liverpool Street office to get copies of the S 130 order to show Petersham police. The officer-in-charge accepted our assurance that the building was indeed protected under the Heritage Act, and that the demolition was illegal. When the police shift changed, the new officer-in-charge sided with the demolisher and rejected the word and evidence provided by officers of the National Trust and the Heritage Council, permitting demolition to recommence. The Trust later lodged a formal complaint about the action of the police, who must accept final responsibility for permitting the destruction of this historic building.

Yours Chris Pratten

2. HAPPY VALLEY COOKS RIVER

Lawrence Cook of Oatley is seeking information about an aspect of his family research: "on the 7th September 1858 John Denison married Matilda Clarke at St Peters Cooks River. Their first two children William Henry Denison (born 25 July 1861) and Ann Elizabeth Maria Denison (born 9 October 1863) are recorded in the family Bible as being born at Happy Valley Cooks River. Marrickville Council are not certain but suggest Happy Valley may include Beauchamp Street, originally Terrace Road Marrickville".

Does anyone know of this Happy Valley? Lawrence mentions that William and his brother James were washed off the rocks at La Perouse in 1897 and drowned. Of interest, John Denison's sister Margaret Ann married and was deserted by William Adams Junior. The Tattersalls fortune was left to their son.

3. TEMPE, ARIZONA

Probably everyone knows the difference between Paris Texas and Paris France, but what about the difference between Tempe Arizona and Tempe New South Wales?

On my recent travels in the USA and always on the lookout for "Marrickville connections", I visited Tempe (Arizona), a city near Phoenix. Set in a green valley surrounded by mountains and the Arizona desert, the early settlers took the name *Tempe* from

the *Vale of Tempe* below Mount Olympus, known in ancient Greece as *the playground of the gods* – as did Alexander Brodie Spark, who also named his property on the banks of Cooks River, *Tempe* in the 1830s. This became the name of the Sydney suburb.

But the name is not the only Australian connection. The University of Arizona, in Tempe, is famous for its architecture, some designed by Frank Lloyd Wright (1861-1959), arguably the greatest American architect of the twentieth century. In 1937 Wright acquired land in Scottsdale, near Tempe, and built his winter home *Taliesin West* – which I visited – as a series of canvas-roofed pavilions. Here he developed his desert school of architecture, which like all great architecture, has a timeless quality. He was mentor to Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney, co-designers of the city of Canberra, and the suburb and many houses of Castlecrag.

Geoff Ostling

(Editor's note: Pamela Stewart found a Terrace of Tempe in Italy – see November 1998 newsletter. And has anyone been to Tempe, near Bloemfontein, South Africa? We await a postcard!)

LOCAL WARATAH SEARCH

Waratahs, mentioned in the reminiscences of early visitors, were the first native Australian plant popularly appreciated. The symbol – representing the state and a new nation – is used in a company crest, calligraphy and an illuminated manuscript. The name is often used for a house or sporting club whilst their shapes and colours are portrayed in porcelain, terracotta, stone, stucco and stained glass. Waratahs will be the official flower for bouquets at the Sydney Olympics.



(from Jubilee of Municipality of Marrickville souvenir November 5th 1911)

I am preparing an illustrated survey for our next journal *Heritage 11*, concentrating on samples connected to the Marrickville LGA. Our last newsletter appeal brought a good response. We know of over 25 local examples, but if you know of any more, please contact me at a meeting or on 9559 5502.

Mark Matheson

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL is on Sunday 14 November at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. Donations of saleable items (eg jams, chutneys, toffees, small pot plants, bric-a-brac) for our stall would be appreciated. Please bring on day or ring Peter 9550 3809 for collection.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER

Tour of Government House

Details on front page

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Summer Hill walk with Chris Pratten

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

Details November newsletter

* Members are invited to a **violin (David Saffir) and piano recital** Prescott Hall Newington College Sunday 31 October 3 pm. Tickets \$15, \$8 conc.

* If you missed **Angela Phippen's talk on local war memorials** at our AGM you can catch it at Newtown Library Brown Street on Saturday 6 November 10.30 am for South Sydney Heritage Society.

* MHS sends best wishes to two more departing Marrickville Council stalwarts: **Cheryl Flynn** who acted as Local Studies Librarian before running the King Street Mainstreet Program; Cheryl is off to Hurstville Council to coordinate a similar project; and **Stefanie Pillora** Manager Environmental Services for the past five years, who has taken up a comparable position at Sydney City Council.

* Our June newsletter noted the fading **TJ Andrews Funeral Directors** sign still visible on the side of the shop, 206 Marrickville Road Marrickville adjacent to the former Bi-Lo building on the corner of Victoria Road. An ad for TJ Andrews Newtown in the 1922 Newtown Diamond Jubilee book indicates branches at Bankstown, Campsie, Cremorne, Haberfield, Lakemba, Marrickville and Petersham. Rob Allison, now of Melbourne, married into the firm of TJ Andrews and has had a long association with the company. Whilst unaware of a former Marrickville branch as such, he says florists were often used as branches for funeral parlours. The Sands Directory of the period indicates a florist at 206 Marrickville Road, which substantiates Rob's theory.

* The Society regrets the passing on 7 September of **Ron Horan** aged 75. Ron had a distinguished 50 year association with Fort Street High as student, language teacher and master, deputy principal, archivist, and author of textbooks and of two books on the school's history *Fort Street: The School* and *Maroon & Silver* recently published to coincide with the school's sesquicentenary.

* Talking of Fort Street, its sesquicentenary is honoured in an ABC station identification featuring student-trombonist **Chela Weitzel** daughter of members Ingrid and Peter.

REMAINS OF PETERSHAM CEMETERY (Part I)

In the grounds of St Thomas primary school, Lewisham is an area of green grass which covers the graves of 22 priests and brothers who served the Diocese of Sydney in the second half of the 19th century. Although it was never part of the

Petersham Catholic Cemetery, it is a reminder that such a place existed. The cemetery was the principal burial place for Catholics from 1866 to 1886.

The foundation stone of the first St Thomas Church was laid in 1848. Shortly before, the parish priest, Dean Sheridan, had bought two acres of land from a Mr Sadler who offered to donate two acres if the church would buy his remaining 15 acres. After the offer was approved by Archbishop Polding, approximately four and a half acres were set aside for a cemetery. There were about 4000 interments before it was closed by Petersham Council in December 1884, except for burials in vaults.

However several families had relatives buried there, even after 1900, without Council permission.

In 1884 Cardinal Moran invited the Little Company of Mary (the Blue Nuns) to come to Sydney. He offered them part of the church land at Petersham. By 1889 they had opened a small hospital for children. From this developed the Lewisham Hospital complex which continued until 1987 when it was closed and the site sold to the St Vincent De Paul Society.

The first hospital building on cemetery land was the outpatient's department, opened in 1917 on the West Street frontage. In 1934/35 a large novitiate was built near the centre of the cemetery as well as ancillary buildings such as the laundry and the boiler house. An area with graves was left fenced off and untouched until the 1960s when a regional boys high school was built, opening in 1966 and extended in 1980/82. It has recently closed.

In 1891 some land was taken from the cemetery when the railway was widened to four tracks. In 1925 the Lewisham Cemetery Act provided the extension of the railway line to six tracks and the realignment of the West Street bridge. In 1928 a further strip alongside the railway line was dedicated to Petersham Council as a pedestrian right-of-way. Many of the remains and headstones were removed to Rookwood and may be seen in the Lewisham/Petersham group in Catholic Mortuary 3. Only two visible headstones remain on the original site, in the corner of the grounds formerly used for recreation by the nuns.

In the early 1900s when the primary school was built a concrete memorial listing the names of the 22 priests and brothers was made. As this is now showing signs of wear and some of the dates are almost unreadable, a monumental mason has recommended this memorial be left to weather and a new one made. When completed there will be a dedication ceremony to which members of the Society will be invited.

John Blattman (compiled by member John for Catholic Historical Society with reference to Burwood-Drummoyne & Districts Family History Group)

MHS fees \$10 concession \$16 individuals or joint concession & \$22 households or organisations

PRESIDENT Robert 9568 3079

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823