

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF



MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING SUMMER HILL WALK WITH CHRIS PRATTEN & BOB IRVING Saturday 27 November 9.45 for 10 am

Meet at former Summer Hill Post Office corner Smith & Moonbie Streets. Walk ending in Allman Park Ashfield for BYO lunch. Cost \$5; places limited. Bookings Deborah 9550 0184. Please advise if you have to cancel.

Originally the home of the Wanngal people, the Summer Hill area was later known as the Kangaroo Ground. In May 1793 the Colony's Chaplain Rev. Richard Johnson received the area's first land grant while Henry Kable later received grants south of Parramatta Road. After Ashfield Municipality was proclaimed in 1871, Summer Hill – originally called *Sunning Hill* after Nicholas Bayly's property – was first named in an 1876 subdivision though the suburb today has very old boundaries: Parramatta, Liverpool, Old Canterbury and Prospect Roads.



former Summer Hill Post Office (built 1900)

Summer Hill has a rich and varied architectural heritage reflected in the number of buildings and conservation areas listed in the Heritage Schedule of the 1998 amendment to the Ashfield LEP. Our walk will include interior inspections of domestic and ecclesiastical buildings. Tour leaders are the eminent **Chris Pratten**, secretary of Ashfield & District Historical Society, who has written numerous local history articles and books, and edited the recently published *Summer Hill* obtainable on the walk; and the highly-esteemed architectural historian and author **Bob Irving** who addressed MHS in August 1997 on *Sydney Now and Then*.

Come to the **NEWTOWN FESTIVAL** Camperdown Memorial Rest Park **Sunday 14 November** from 10 am. This is one of Sydney's largest and most colourful Spring Festivals. MHS will be there as usual promoting our heritage and ascertaining whether someone's grandparents are named in our publications. Bring bric-a-brac to sell on the day and buy our famous jam.

SHIRLEY HONOURED

Shirley Hilyard has achieved the unusual distinction of receiving **two** Certificates of Achievement from RAHS. The first was in 1993 while serving her second term as President of the Society. Unlike most former MHS presidents, Shirley has continued contributing in many facets of our work, not least of all in networking both within and beyond our organisation.

As reported by our President in his coverage of the 1999 RAHS annual conference (see page 2) Shirley was honoured again this year in October, after a recommendation by the executive committee. Of significance has been her outstanding contribution to heritage conservation. Well done Shirley!

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

Saturday 4 December

6.30 for 7 pm

So much did Peter enjoy holding last year's Pot Luck Dinner that he has again invited members and friends to this year's Dinner. Come and experience the ambience of his Newtown home and garden. As this is our final get-together for the year try and come to this informal evening. We particularly welcome **new Society members**. Please book with Angela or David (9280 2429) to get address and advise what food you will bring. BYO drinks. Dress casual.

MASTERTOUCH FOUNDERS DAY

MHS members are invited to the annual Founders Day at Mastertouch Piano Roll Company on **Sunday 14 November 11-3.30 pm**. This will probably be your last opportunity to see the 96 Crystal Street Petersham site (home of Mastertouch since 1975) before the entire operation moves to the nearby former Stanmore Fire Station corner Stanmore Road and Albert Street in early 2000. Both buildings will be open for inspection. The Crystal Street premises, built in the 1940s for the Christian Science Church, will ironically revert to having a religious use. The story of Mastertouch by long time owner and MHS member Barclay Wright is in *Heritage 10*.

PLAQUE CEREMONY AT SITE OF POCKET PLAYHOUSE SYDENHAM 20 NOVEMBER

Invitation on back page

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

1999 RAHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Marrickville Heritage Society was well represented at the annual Royal Australian Historical Society's Local History Conference 23-24 October at the University of Western Sydney Nepean-Parramatta Campus – the old Rydalmere Hospital and site of the historic Female Orphan School. The theme *Telling Stories: Making History* included from the Australian Storytelling Guild, Francis Firebrace and his Aboriginal Dreamtime stories, our committee member Deborah Edward's bloody story of Amy and Arthur Dacre's demise, an antipodean drama, and Richard Reid's *We have not forgotten* story of the Yass district's part in the Great War. At Saturday night's dinner, Geoff Ostling's story *Desperately Seeking Diana* – the history of Diana Pottery – was very well received.

Hazel Hawke, Chair of the Heritage Council, presented the 1999 Local History & Archives Grants, including a \$750 grant to MHS for *The War Memorials of St Peters* received by our president. Hazel also presented Shirley Hilyard with a Certificate of Achievement for her support, encouragement and inspiration to Society members, and particularly for her involvement with the heritage conservation activities of the Society.

Despite rain, I took the tour conducted by historian Carol Liston around the Orphan School buildings. Built in 1818 to a design by Elizabeth Macquarie, it was the first three storey brick building in NSW. Initially an orphanage for girls, boys were admitted in 1850; it became an asylum in 1888 before closing in 1976. (For me, this was a poignant moment, as it was at the orphanage that my great grandparents James Anderson and Mary Crowley, teachers there between 1859 and 1862, met. The building that James Anderson, as drill master, occupied still stands, although a burnt-out shell. After their marriage, James was licensee of the Terminus Inn, Newtown in 1863.)

Our publications sold well, bringing high praise from many delegates, and with a new member joining, a good weekend was had by Lorraine Beach, David Cass, Peter Cousens, Deborah Edward, Shirley Hilyard, Robert Hutchinson, Geoff Ostling and Angela Phippen.

Robert Hutchinson President

(Note: Spotted at the conference was member Andy Carr, formerly of Newtown now on the Central Coast. Congratulations Andy and Tracey on the recent arrival of Lewis.)

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PETERSHAM CEMETERY (Part 2)

Apropos John Blattman's *Remains of Petersham Cemetery* in our last newsletter, for a detailed history with maps and references we recommend Kevin Quinlan's *Petersham Cemetery: A History* (1999). Kevin (9642 2923) is a member of the Burwood-Drummoyne & Districts Family History Group (c/- Burwood Central Library, 4 Marmaduke Street Burwood 2134).

The Group has compiled an index of about 4400 burials at Petersham and of known reinterments at Rookwood Cemetery. Enquiries are invited though a small donation of \$10 for several names would be appreciated. Kevin writes "Your Society might like to consider the fact that apart from two broken headstones, there is no plaque or other public record of the cemetery or of the original burial place of Archbishop Polding on the site."

PETERSHAM CEMETERY (Part 3): SECOND HEADSTONE FOUND – THE SAD CASE OF CARUGATI

The MHS February 1998 newsletter described what was then the only known headstone (albeit incomplete) extant at the former Petersham Cemetery, that of Lawrence Sta—, confirmed as being Lawrence Stack who died 1 February 1870. John Blattman (whose article on Petersham Cemetery, in the grounds of the former Lewisham Hospital, appeared in the last newsletter) brought to my attention two additional adjacent headstones. One is blank apart from a cross on one side.

Kevin Quinlan (of the Burwood-Drummoyne & Districts Family History Group) says the other headstone was located last year while a drain was being dug near the entrance to the Catholic Weekly office, and moved to the garden area near the Stack headstone. The inscription reads – *To the memory of Albert Joseph infant son of Charles & Olivia Carugati Who departed this life November 20 1870 Aged 12 months -- weeks. Not lost but gone forever. Olivia C -- years Virginia G -- months Percy A E.* Kevin said Charles and Olivia Carugati lost at least seven children under the age of three between 1867 and 1881, four under ten months – Jemima, Amelia, Albert Joseph, Olivia, Gregory, Grace Virginia and Percy Archibald.

Charles Carugati (sometimes recorded as Carugate or Carrigate) owned a butcher shop in the 1860s and 1870s at 17 Parramatta Street (now on the site of UTS Broadway). He later had shops in George, Oxford and Bourke Streets, and South Head Road. The Carugatis had at least six other children including Daniel and William both Paddington butchers in the 1890s. Olivia died in 1898 and Charles died aged 73 in 1906 at Annandale. One wonders how many other headstones still lie below the surface of the former Petersham Cemetery at Lewisham!

Richard Blair

OUR LAST MEETING TOUR OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

There was something for everyone on the MHS tour of Government House on Saturday 23 October whether your persuasion be architecture, fine colonial furniture, interior decorative finishes and furnishings, the portraits and heraldic coats of arms of governors, or the history of the house. It was the third residence for governors of the colony if you count the portable canvas house that came with Captain Arthur Phillip in January 1788. A simple brick house quickly built and extended over the years was home to the first nine governors all complaining bitterly of its inadequacies.

While Macquarie commissioned Francis Greenway for a new Government House only the Stables were built. In 1834 English architect Edward Blore prepared plans and the work was modified and supervised by Colonial Architect, Mortimer Lewis. He reversed Blore's plans with entrance now on the south facade and the State Rooms given an easterly aspect overlooking the harbour and garden. Construction began in 1836 using locally quarried sandstone resulting in a gleaming white building so romantically depicted in Conrad Martens' painting *New Government House, 1841*.

The design of the house has been described as *superlatively castellated, crenellated, turretted and bedecked* and its style according to Apperly, Irving and Reynolds is *Old Colonial Gothick Picturesque*. Gothic Revival architecture from pattern books was all the rage in England fuelled by the cult of the Gothic novel especially the romantic novels of Walter Scott. The siting of Government House on Bennelong Point between the Stables and Fort Macquarie high on a harbour headland along with other Gothick houses on the harbour – Vaucluse, Carthona, Lindesay and Grantham – all contributed to the romantic Gothick Picturesque.

Our thanks to curator Robert Griffin who did not stint in time or detail in our tour of the State Rooms, upstairs quarters and The Chalet. The management of Government House by Historic Houses Trust of NSW is superb. I could fill this newsletter to describe what artisans have wrought here in 150 years history of the house. Go see for yourself if you missed the tour! Guided tours Friday Saturday and Sunday 10-3; garden and grounds open daily 10-4. Phone 9931 5200.

Shirley Hilyard

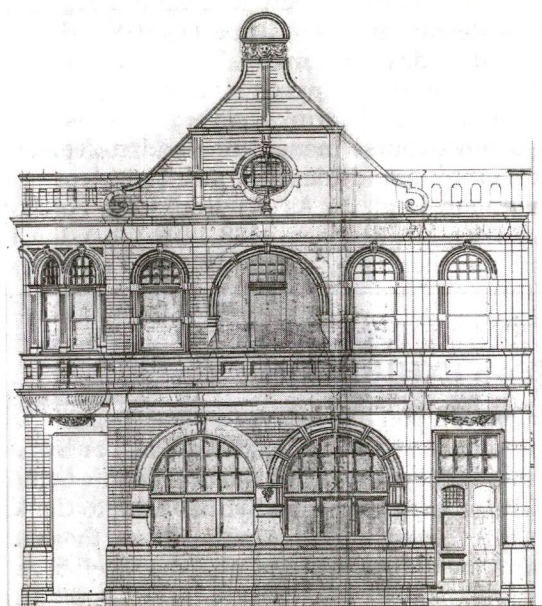
(Bouquets to Emily and Lucy Jones now three and a bit who accompanied parents Ed and Lesley. It was their first MHS excursion and they were delightful! – Editor)

No, we have not stopped having talks at Petersham Town Hall and our first meeting in 2000 will be there on 26 February.

NEWTOWN POST OFFICE CHANGES

There has been a mixed response by members to the insertion of three full-length windows in the ground floor front of the Queen Anne style 1892 Walter Liberty Vernon Newtown Post Office – some feel the changes are appalling. Though the work is unfinished, **the changes do not enhance the building's appearance**. However it is claimed that the window configuration has changed at least twice since it was built. Given that so many old post office buildings have been demolished or allowed to deteriorate, it's a wonder the building still functions as a post office – it is rented, but no longer owned, by Australia Post.

The building is heritage-listed with South Sydney Council, classified with the National Trust and is believed to be on the Register of the National Estate. MHS has written to South Sydney Council asking that the stone string courses of the brick pilasters be repaired and that the changes be reversible.



*Post & Telegraph Office Newtown:
original drawing of King Street front
(signed WL Vernon Govt Arch't 9/12/1891)*

HERITAGE WATCH

- * Marrickville Council has thanked MHS for **our submission on the Draft DCP**. Council seems to have adopted some of our (and the NSW Heritage Office's) recommendations.
- * Revised heritage assessment of the **Eversleigh Hospital** site Petersham available for inspection at Council.
- * Council has approved renovations (for conversion to a boarding house) with conditions, to rear of **Colchester Hall 11 Woodcourt Street Marrickville**, but has refused to consent to changes on the front (west) facade.
- * Society has written to Council complaining that enlarging the Music Block at **Newington College** would impinge on the view of the original Founder's Block.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER

**Summer Hill walk with
Chris Pratten & Bob Irving**
Details on front page

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

Pot Luck Christmas Dinner
Details on front page

Newington's annual Twilight Christmas Concert
Sunday 5 December at 4.30 pm Newington
College Chapel includes Corelli's *Christmas
Concerto* and Charpentier's *Midnight Mass*. BYO
picnic in the grounds. Tickets \$15, \$8 concession.

The Australiana Society invites MHS members
and friends to celebrate the (arguably) first
Australia Day of the new millennium at **Darling
Mills Restaurant 134 Glebe Point Road Glebe
on Wednesday 26 January**. Time and final price
to be determined – approximately \$75 per head to
include pre-lunch drinks, several choices from a
fixed three-course menu, wine and coffee. Guest
speaker antique dealer and past president of the
Australian Dealer's Association, John Hawkins.
Enquiries Ian Rumsey 9888 1409 (ah.). Ian is a
MHS member.

ALEXANDRA CANAL IDEAS EXHIBITION

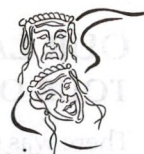
How would you like to have a picnic beside the
tranquil waters of the Alexandra Canal or live in
an apartment overlooking the canal and watch the
cyclists on their way from Sydney Park to Cooks
River? A fantasy now, but in the future, the area
around the old Alexandra Canal may well become
the place to live.

On Friday 22 October, Deputy Premier and
Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning The Hon.
Dr Andrew Refshauge, Minister of Energy The
Hon. Kim Yeadon, Mayors of Marrickville and
South Sydney, Deputy Mayor of Botany,
representatives from Sydney Water, Sydney
Airports Corporation, Departments of Land &
Water Conservation and Urban Affairs & Planning,
and from design firms who submitted entries,
were greeted with a song of welcome from a
descendant of the local Cadigal people.
Dr Refshauge congratulated the winning entrant,
Allen Jack & Cottier, architects for their
imaginative plan combining conservation and
development.

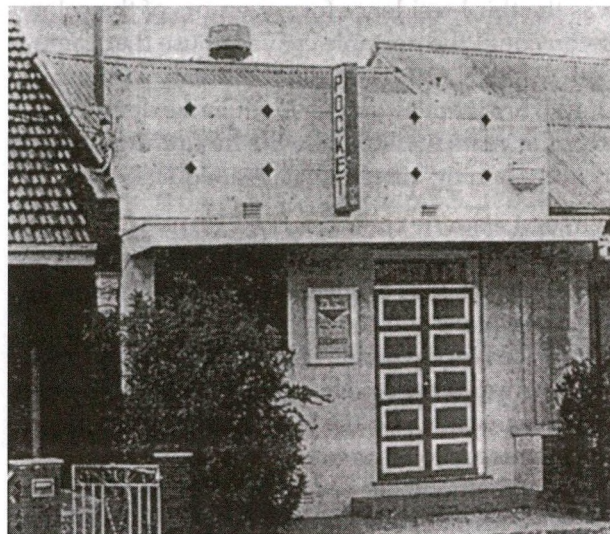
Although the master plan will take 25 years to
complete, subtle changes are already taking place.
The Alexandra Canal Master Plan was a design
competition for the remediation of the canal and
catchment area. The exhibition and entries to the
competition are on view every day 11-3 till
13 November at 9/24-26 Burrows Road St Peters.
It is well worth the visit.

Robert Hutchinson

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE AT POCKET PLAYHOUSE SITE



St Peters Community Players formed in
1947 and after finding a permanent home in
Sydenham became the Pocket Playhouse in 1957.
The theatre closed in November 1973. The building
was later demolished and replaced by a semi. An
article by Geoff Ostling on the history of the
theatre is in *Heritage* 6.



Pocket Playhouse in 1970

Marrickville Heritage Society has organised a
ceremony at **3 pm on Saturday 20 November** to
unveil a plaque at the site of this unique little
theatre 94 Terry Street Sydenham. **Norman
McVicker** the Pocket Playhouse's Founder and
Director, and MHS member will be present along
with several on-stage and backstage PP people,
many whose careers commenced there. There will
be refreshments at nearby St Peters Town Hall,
Unwins Bridge Road Sydenham after the ceremony.

**MHS invites members, local residents and
anyone associated with the theatre to attend.** If
you have relevant memorabilia bring it along.
Dress casual. For catering purposes RSVP by
18 November either in writing to the Society or
phone Richard 9557 3823.

NEW HERITAGE ARCHITECT

We welcome Council's new heritage architect
Catherine Macarthur (unrelated to Heritage Watch
Convenor Scott Macarthur though they attended
the same school). Council has unfortunately
reduced this position to three days a week.
Catherine's primary role will be implementation of
the Heritage Study Review, heritage promotions,
and heritage advice to planners and applicants.
Phone 9335 2114 Monday to Wednesday (message-
bank available when she's not).

PRESIDENT Robert 9568 3079

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

NEWSLETTER Richard 9557 3823