

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

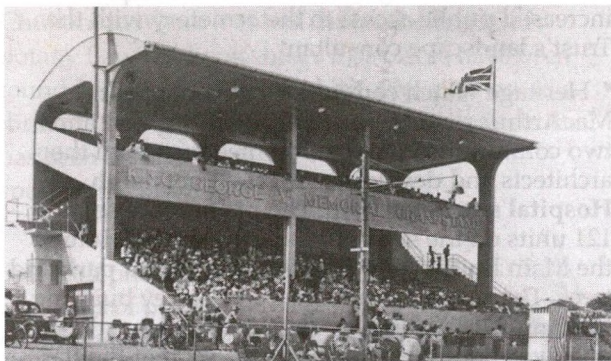
## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Chrys Meader on history of Henson Park  
& Glen Bumper Dwyer on Newtown Jets**  
(MHS prelude to 2000 Heritage Festival)

**Petersham Town Hall**

**Saturday 25 March 10.30 am**

Henson Park became famous in February 1938 as the site of cycling, the final event of the Empire Games, and the Games Closing Ceremony, with record crowds of over 30,000 attending. But what was there before?



*King George V Memorial Grandstand  
Henson Park Marrickville 1937*

**Chrys Meader**, local historian, Manager Marrickville Library Services and whose family has had a long association with Marrickville and the Henson Park site, will relate the history of Thomas Daleys' Standure Brickworks, which operated on the site from 1886 till the 1920s when the brick pit became a rubbish tip. Marrickville Council purchased the site and constructed a playing field and cycle track, opening in 1933. The grounds were named after William Henson, who was four times mayor and an alderman with Marrickville Council from 1897 to 1917.

Henson Park was the home ground of the Newtown Jets Rugby League Football Club, affectionately known as the Bluebags, for nearly 50 years to 1983. Club Director & Media Liaison Officer **Glen Bumper Dwyer** will tell us the history of the Jets, the first rugby league football club in Sydney, established on 8 January 1908, and its association with the area.

**Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee** is a venture of Marrickville Council established in 1993 to promote heritage in the LGA. It comprises residents, local councillors, and representatives from Council and Marrickville Heritage Society. Its major activities are the coordination of local events during the annual April National Trust Heritage Festival, including the Marrickville Medal awards, and other promotional activities during the year. Contact person is Catherine Macarthur 9335 2114.

## MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2000

(Everyone welcome & all activities free)

**Saturday 25 March 10.30 am**

Marrickville Heritage Society presents talks on Henson Park & The Newtown Jets

**Sunday 2 April 3-5.30 pm**

**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville**  
Marrickville Medal Award Ceremony & Opening of *Sport & Leisure in Marrickville* Exhibition

**Monday-Wednesday 3-5 April 8.30 am to 5 pm**

Exhibition: Citizens' Service Centre Fisher Street Petersham

**Thursday-Saturday 6-8 April**

Exhibition: Marrickville Metro Marrickville

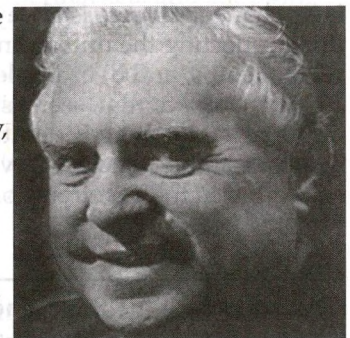
**Sunday 9 April 1-4.30 pm**

**PE Centre Newington College, Stanmore**

1 pm guided tour of college campus; 2 pm historic sports compilation video; talks by sports historian **Richard Cashman** on historical overview of sport and leisure in Marrickville & former local swimmer and Olympic gold medallist **Kevin Berry** OAM on his sporting experiences. Details below.

Educated at De La Salle College Marrickville

**Kevin Berry** learnt to swim in Botany Bay. Specialising in butterfly, he was selected for the 1960 Australian Olympic Team and at 15 swam in the 200 metre butterfly final in Rome. In 1962 he broke 12 world records and won three gold medals



at the Perth Commonwealth Games. In 1964 Kevin won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 200 metre butterfly at Tokyo in world record time. He has since worked as a photo-journalist and head of ABC Sport, managed the swim team at the Atlanta Olympics, writes a weekly column for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and wrote the book *2000 Things You Didn't Know About the Olympic Games*.

Kevin will be introduced by **Richard Cashman**, senior lecturer in history at UNSW and author of numerous articles and books on sports history as well as co-author of two authoritative books on Marrickville. His article on Fanny Durack appeared in *Heritage* 4. Richard has lived locally since 1972, was a councillor with Marrickville Council in the early eighties and third president of Marrickville Heritage Society (1987-89).



## OUR LAST MEETING

### TALES FROM THE NSW DIVORCE COURT 1873-1920 WITH ANGELA PHIPPEN

Births, marriages and deaths – the hatched, matched and dispatched – recorded in personal notices in our newspapers, are part of the record of the social fabric of families. But what of the mismatches or the marriages which fail and may sometimes be dissolved by the procedures of our divorce courts?

A century and more ago the stigma attached to divorce was such that it was a topic not freely discussed. As generations pass, a divorce could become barely discernible in family lore. Fortunately for those interested in the shadowy clues, the law reports published then in major newspapers may provide confirmation and some insight into events through their readily accessible record of formal proceedings.

These records reflect too the impact of great changes in the laws which occurred between 1870 and 1900, with NSW a leader in reform, and which led to increases in frequency. In 1873, it was possible for a husband to divorce a wife for adultery but not the reverse, a situation rectified in 1880. Other grounds were included, in particular in 1892 when cruelty by a husband was added. A major rationalisation of NSW law was effected in 1899, but legislation uniform across all states waited until 1950. Comments by some judges were often influential in showing the way, especially for equalising the rights of women, as well as determining the level of proof required.

Angela's talk on 26 February was well illustrated by drawing on a) personal experience of family history demonstrating that, no matter how much laws change, divorce is always a very personal thing reflecting the unhappiness that can occur in relationships; and b) examples such as the great 1900 divorce scandal, seen as much more important than mere Federation! Protestant was set against Catholic, and false evidence shown and subverted in the best traditions of any spy story.

Harold Welsh

Did you know the **State Theatre** in Market Street Sydney is available for self-guided walking tours through the main areas of the buildings on most Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 am-4 pm \$12 adults, \$8 concession and students? Ring 9373 6655 to ensure there is a tour on the day of your visit.

### SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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## HERITAGE WATCH

\* A DA to demolish the mid Victorian building at the back of **Tempe Hotel** 745 Princes Highway and to add another floor to the main building containing 14 rooms has been submitted to Council. **It is absolutely unacceptable.** According to Chrys Meader (*Heritage 2 & Marrickville People & Places*) Tempe Hotel is (along with Oxford Tavern Petersham) the oldest continuing hotel in the LGA – Gannon's Inn (c1840s) was rebuilt as the Pulteney Hotel in the 1850s. The Society calls for Council to list the Tempe Hotel in the new Heritage LEP.

\* A second community consultation meeting was held 15 January during the development of the Plan of Management/Landscape Master Plan for **Camperdown Memorial Rest Park**. Camperdown Cemetery Trust acknowledged the existence of remnant vegetation within the cemetery and stated the stone perimeter wall belongs to the Trust. The Landscape Master Plan proposes to build gates in the cemetery wall at Council's expense. The Society will approach Council to recommend that there be further negotiation about the impact of increased public access to the cemetery with the Trust's landscape consultant.

\* Heritage Watch committee convenor Scott MacArthur reports positively on a site visit and two community consultation meetings with the architects and developers for the **Eversleigh Hospital site** Petersham. The plans propose 121 units on the site retaining the Nurses Home, the Main Building and the Addison Road park and trees. The scheme proposes a five storey building fronting Addison Road. The Society is mostly positive about the proposal but asks that the flat roofs of all new buildings and the fenestration and massing of the five storey building be made more sympathetic. There will be the usual opportunity for community comment after the new DA is submitted to Council.

\* A fresh DA has been submitted to demolish the **Brighton & Wentworth Streets Petersham corner house** for a two storey boarding house. ... Conversion of **Tresillian, Petersham** has been deferred. ... The **former St Augustines Church Albany Road Stanmore** (1912) is being adaptively reused as part of a unit development. Local residents fought long and hard over this site. ... Meanwhile work will shortly commence to convert the former **Smalls Chocolate Factory Corunna Road Stanmore** (1928) into what are being advertised as "The Sweetest Apartments in Town".

\* The Society strongly supports the return of land at **Riverside Park** from sectional interests (Marrickville Golf Course) back to public use. At least ten other positive letters of support have been sent to Council. ... In **Camperdown Park** near Australia Street the Portuguese Olympic Committee has submitted a DA for a **temporary pavilion**. Question is "how temporary?"

\* **Stephen Davies** has stepped down after ten years as head of conservation for the National Trust to become a private consultant. A hard act to follow!

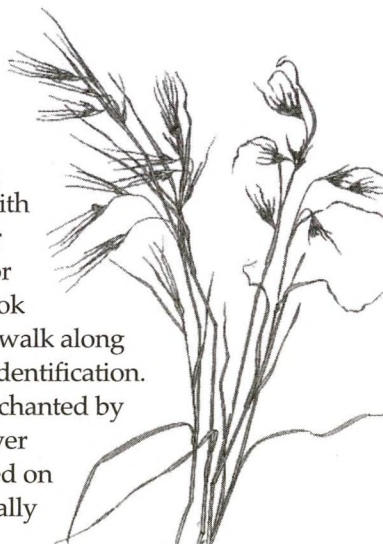


## MISSING JIGSAW PIECES: THE BUSH-PLANTS OF THE COOKS RIVER VALLEY

This compact book is by three people whose love of indigenous plants shines through every page. At the launch at Ford Park, Enfield on 15 December 1999 by Jeff Angel of the Total Environment Centre, authors Doug Benson, Senior Plant Ecologist, Royal Botanic Gardens, Danie Ondinea\* wildlife habitat advisor, and illustrator Virginia Bear spoke with enthusiasm for the task. The book's good look is due to layout and design by Mark Matheson.\*

The Valley comprised pieces of a "jigsaw puzzle" made up of plants according to geology and landscape. However with European settlement, pieces of the puzzle went missing while others were lost irretrievably when wholesale clearing took place for timber and grazing of animals. The cross-section diagrams are especially helpful in trying to imagine the landscape along the length of the Valley from upper catchment of this small river at still unnamed Chullora to where it enters the northern side of Botany Bay. The book shows that pieces have been found and are documented here. (We all know the thrill of finding that piece of your jigsaw puzzle that has been missing and spoiling the finished picture!)

Splendid photographs, drawings of plant communities and more than 60 native plants with descriptions written for you and me (and not for botanists) make this book invaluable to take on a walk along the River to help with identification. Who could fail to be enchanted by the swathe of Rice Flower (*Pimelia linifolia*) pictured on the first page? Is this really the Inner West?



Kangaroo Grass  
(*Themeda australis*)

There is a list of over 500 species (with locations) surviving in the Cooks River Valley that need protection. This information can be used in recovery plans by Councils and staff, bush regenerators and locals, and for creation of wildlife habitat. The book outlines, in a tangible way, treatments for particular sites to re-create this habitat. It is a book full of hope for the Cooks River Valley. (\$10 at MHS meetings or RRP \$11.95 at Marrickville Library, Royal Botanic Gardens Bookshop and UTS Coop Bookshop Broadway).

Shirley Hilyard

\* Both MHS Heritage Watch committee members.

## GETTING SERIOUS ON COOKS RIVER!

A report in the June 1987 MHS newsletter said "pollution problems [in Cooks River] began in 1848 when an Act of Parliament was passed banning noxious trades such as wool washing, tanneries and boiling-down works. In November 1986 the State Pollution Control Commission launched a *Clean Up Cooks River Campaign*." *The Glebe* editorial of 19 March 1997 *Get serious on Cooks River* said "It's hard not to get cynical. Another year, another plan/proposal/effort to clean up Cooks River. Three local councils have joined with the state government to prepare the latest plan."

Sound familiar? Well, don't despair! Project Coordinator of the well-advanced Cooks River Environmental Assessment & Education Project Peter Salier, who described Cooks River as "the most degraded river in Australia", is helping bring Cooks River back to life. According to the 10/2/00 *Cooks River Valley Times* this project "is an extensive education project for industry, schools and the community which aims to stop pollution at its source". The project, which ends in June, is coordinated by Canterbury Council on behalf of the Cooks River Association of [13] Councils and funded by the NSW Stormwater Trust with \$1.3 million.

National Clean-up days such as 5 March show how polluted Cooks River and other public waterways continue to be. Project officers are said to be visiting 2000 industrial premises and schools with the view to educating the public. This is admirable, but will the message be heeded by irresponsible offenders? Can the public be held accountable for inadequate street cleaning and unclogging of drains that is the responsibility of Councils? Should not supermarkets and shopping malls also be targetted?

Whilst we don't seriously anticipate a return to the halcyon days of the 1890s when Sydney Long depicted several naked boys bathing in Cooks River in *By Tranquil Waters*, any endeavour to clean up Cooks River is to be applauded. We wish the EA&E project well!\*

Richard Blair

\* Danie Ondinea to address EA&E Project on Cooks River vegetation 8 pm 20 March Galaxy Room, Canterbury Racecourse. Chrys Meader also talking on River history.

## AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- What is the significance of the pair of socks worn by Paul Hogan in his portrayal of the Ocker character he made famous on television in the 1970s and 1980s?
- Where in the Marrickville LGA would one participate in the following sports: i) Petanque ii) Indoor Ninepins iii) Capoeira?

(Ring Richard 9557 3823)



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 25 MARCH**

**Chrys Meader on history of Henson Park & Glen Dwyer on history of the Newtown Jets**  
Details on front page

**SATURDAY 29 APRIL**

**Bus to the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple Berkeley & parts of Wollongong** (on fifth Saturday to avoid Easter)

## PLAQUE WATCH

\* In the wake of last November's Pocket Playhouse plaque-laying in Tempe, members have suggested several local potential plaque locations. **David Blair** compiled a two page list including sites of former brick pits, pottery-making factories, picture theatres, churches, factories, tram terminuses, Scout and Guide groups, Reiby House, Eliza Donnithorne's home and the original Trinity Grammar School. In a joint 1988 Bicentennial project Marrickville Council and the State Government laid a trail of 22 plaques around the district. A similar project could be viable for a Centenary of Federation 2001 grant.

\* **Canterbury Council** has unveiled four plaques at Earlwood Library for local writers – Nadia Wheatley, Debra Adelaide, Joan Dugdale and Leslie Haylen. **Les Haylen** (1898-1977) was a politician, journalist, novelist and playwright. He was Federal Labor member for the electorate of Parkes 1943-63 which covered much of the Canterbury district and parts of Marrickville municipality.

## NEWINGTON CONCERT TICKETS

Newington College has a strong musical tradition and since 1992 its Association of the Arts has had an annual season of recitals. Each year Artistic Director Michael Hissey sends MHS several complimentary gold passes which are distributed to members involved in running the Society such as committee members, newsletter runners and festival contributors. Shirley Hilyard is custodian of these tickets. In return we publicise these reasonably priced and excellent concerts. Children accompanied by an adult are admitted free.

• **Next season concert** Makin Organ Recital Friday 24 March 7.30 pm Centenary Hall. \$15 & \$8 concession.

• **Free concert** Scholars Concert Wednesday 22 March 7.30 pm Prescott Hall – the best of the College's young talent *presenting virtuosic programs.*

MHS URGES MEMBERS ATTEND SOME HERITAGE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES 1-9 APRIL. NUMEROUS EVENTS IN SYDNEY & BEYOND. NATIONAL TRUST WILL SEND A BOOKLET ON REQUEST 9258 0123.

## SWIMMING LEGENDS ANNETTE & FANNY

In **Esther Williams'** recent autobiography *Million Dollar Mermaid* she tells of her meeting with Marrickville-born Annette Kellerman during the 1952 filming of the movie of that name. Esther asked Annette, then 65 and without a wrinkle how she felt about her playing Annette's life. After an awkward silence Esther asked whether she had a problem with that question. Annette replied in a pronounced Down Under accent "It's not that. It's just that I wish you were Australian." Esther responded by saying she was the only swimmer in the movies: "I'm all you've got."



*Esther Williams & Annette Kellerman on set of Million Dollar Mermaid 1952*

A September 1994 MHS newsletter article revealed that Enmore Pool was renamed the **Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre** on 6 August 1994 following a project by a Year 8 class at Dulwich High School and a letter of recommendation from that class to Council.

Fellow legend **Fanny Durack**, first female swimmer to win an Olympic gold medal, was recently honoured not only by having Petersham Pool named after her, but also by an avenue in the Olympic village. Curiously it has been named Sarah Durack Avenue, using Fanny's birth name. Many might ask Sarah who? Are the authorities squeamish about the name *Fanny*? Fanny obviously wasn't, nor was Fanny Blankers-Koen. If they are going to insist on birth names, Herb Elliott Avenue should be renamed Herbert Elliott Avenue!

**Richard Blair**

**WE NOW HAVE A NEW AUDITOR:** Barry Simmons has taken over as the Society's honorary auditor. Barry replaces Angela Collins. Thank you Angela for your enormous assistance over the past four to five years. **BUT WE'LL SOON NEED A NEW TREASURER:** In June our treasurer for the past two years Diane McCarthy will be regrettably stepping down, though will still help run the Society. Anyone interested in taking on this vital role or wanting further information please ring Diane 9588 4930.

**PRESIDENT** Robert 9568 3079

**TREASURER** Diane 9588 4930

**NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823