

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**NAN TIEN TEMPLE BERKELEY & MUSEUMS OF ILLAWARRA AREA**

**Saturday 29 April 8.30 am sharp**

(Note: on fifth Saturday to avoid Easter)

Meet Petersham Town Hall 8.15 for 8.30 am coach departure. Cost \$30 includes coach, guided tour, lunch & museum entries. Please advise in time if you have to cancel. Bookings Peter 9550 3809. Please note inside the shrines at temple shoes and hats are not to be worn and photographs not to be taken.

The Fo Kuang Shan Nan Tien Temple in Berkeley, Wollongong was opened in October 1995 and is said to be the largest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere. *Nan Tien* is Chinese for *Paradise of the South*. The Great Hero Hall enshrines five majestic Buddha statues and 8000 niches of smaller Buddha images. Along with a seven storey pagoda the majestic Tunhuang architecture of ancient China is revived. A guided tour of the temple will include the two shrines and museum. Vegetarian lunch will be provided.



Built as a post office in 1882 the **Illawarra Museum** in Wollongong features the history of the Wollongong area. On to Bulli and the **Black Diamond Heritage Centre**. This museum is on the restored 1887 Bulli Railway Station and focuses on the coal and railway history of the district. If time permits we may visit the **Wollongong Art Gallery**.

## REDISCOVER ST PETERS

If you were baptised, married or ever worshipped at **St Peters Anglican Church** or have an ancestral connection or any other interest there, you are invited to attend the 160th anniversary of the consecration of the church on Sunday 23 April at 10 am. After the service morning tea and a chance to view the historical display. 187 Princes Highway St Peters. Information 9557 2332.

## STOP PRESS

### 2000 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL WINNER

The winner of the 2000 Marrickville Medal Award for a commercial or public building was the **Mocha Cafe 349 King Street connected to 16 Enmore Road Newtown**. The sixth annual Medal was presented by Deputy Premier & Member for Marrickville Dr Andrew Refshauge on Sunday 2 April at the Herb Greedy Hall Marrickville. Four commendation certificates were also awarded from a record 15 entries. Dr Refshauge also opened the *Sport & Leisure in Marrickville Exhibition*. Full details in May newsletter.

## BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE AWARD

Approved under delegated authority by Marrickville Council, the upper floor additions to the cottage at **378 Livingstone Road Marrickville** resemble a pair of large brown packing cases – a prominent, ugly addition and not at all in keeping with the original house or the streetscape. Let's hope this does not become the norm. It will certainly not enhance planner reputations at Council. In contrast the upper floor addition at nearby 295 Livingstone Road blends well with the existing house and streetscape.

## MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY BECOME A MEMBER NOW ...

... and you won't have to renew till July 2001. Ring treasurer Diane 9588 4930 for information or a brochure, or simply send a cheque or money order with name/s, address & phone number to Marrickville Heritage Society PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475.

Annual membership only \$10 concession \$16 individuals or joint concession and \$22 households or organisations includes a monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage*, and monthly talk or outing. We are a thriving, proactive organisation keeping watch on the built and natural heritage of the Marrickville LGA.

The **Enmore Box & Case Factory** in Marrickville is still going strong after 80 years. See back page. The editor would like to hear of any other old local businesses (9557 3823).



## OUR LAST MEETING

### CHRY'S MEADER ON HENSON PARK & GLEN DWYER ON NEWTOWN RLFC

On 25 March as a prelude to the National Trust Heritage Festival theme *Our Sporting Heritage* two speakers focused on interrelated aspects of Marrickville's sporting history. **Chrys Meader** gave a colourful talk on the history of Henson Park, using slides to illustrate the uses and abuses of the site where from 1886 to 1924 stood Thomas Daley's Standsure Brickworks, serving the building trade with 100 000 bricks per week. By the Depression the former brickpit was perpetually filled with water (the *Blue Hole*) and locals used it to dump dead livestock and pets.

Named for two Marrickville Council aldermen – William Thomas Henson and his son Alfred Arthur – Henson Park was opened as a sporting facility in 1933 with a cricket match featuring Sir Donald Bradman. Henson Park has had many uses notably cycling, motor racing, athletics and various football codes. Today it is used by Marrickville Olympic Soccer Club and by the Sydney Roosters junior rugby league teams. Henson Park is best remembered as venue of the cycling events and closing ceremony of the 1938 Empire Games, and as the home ground until 1983 of the Newtown Rugby League Football Club (RLFC), affectionately known as the *Bluebags* and later the *Jets*.

**Glen Bumper Dwyer**, a Newtown RLFC director, spoke of the history of the club formed in 1908, and its relationship to the local community: the club was a focal point and uniting force for the people of the Marrickville/Newtown district. While there is debate as to whether or not Newtown was the first rugby league club in Australia, there is no doubt that Newtown is the oldest surviving club. Glen recalled some of its more famous players – Frank *Bumper* Farrell, the Farnsworth brothers, Brian *Chicka* Moore and the incomparable Johnny Raper – who wore both the *royal blue* of Newtown and the *green and gold* of their country.

By the 1980s the Jets were unable to attract crowds and retain their best players leading to their withdrawal from the NSWRL at the end of the 1983 season. However contrary to popular belief, the Newtown RLFC is still very much alive, winning the Metropolitan Cup four times since 1991. Now based at Redfern Oval, the Jets in 2000 have been elevated to play in the NSWRL 1st Division, their ranks bolstered by surplus Auckland Warriors players. Henson Park and Newtown RLFC are both worthy of our continued support and further study. Thank you Chrys and Glen and Robert Hutchinson for arranging the talks.

Andy Carr

**Notes** 1. Andy's article on the social history of the Newtown Jets will appear in *Heritage* 11. 2. Former notable players will be present at *Back to Henson Park Day* 3 pm 29 April. Details Glen 9557 2104. 3. See Trivia Answer #1.

## AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The **socks** worn by the 1970s Paul Hogan *Ocker* character were blue and white, the colour of the Newtown Rugby League Football Club. From Terry Williams' 1993 *Out of the Blue: The history of the Newtown RLFC* "it was no accident that Paul Hogan's classic parody of the archetypal working class *Ocker* wore Newtown socks. There is something fundamentally Australian about the place." (p 9). See Andy's report.

\* \* \* \* \*

2. Interested in more unusual local sports?

a) A **Petanque** rink laid in the Common Ground in 1993 at Stanmore Public School is available to the public. The 1997 Macquarie Dictionary defines Petanque as "a form of lawn bowls originating in France, usually played on dirt using steel balls. French bowls: from Provençal *pé* (foot) + *tanco* (post), so called because the feet are firmly placed on the ground when the ball is released." It is similar to *boule* (also French) and *bocce* (Italian, where the ball is larger). Does anyone know if these games are played locally elsewhere?

b) The Concordia Club (in Sydney since 1882 and at the present site since 1952) 231 Stanmore Road Stanmore has **two automatic indoor ninepin bowling alleys** over 40 years old believed to be the only such ones in Sydney and possibly Australia. Club members call the game *skittles* or its German name *kegel*. The alleys are narrower and shorter than a tenpin bowling alley. The skittles are raised by cords and like tenpin bowling the bowls have finger holes. At the flick of a dial four or five types of game can be played. Outsiders may play on request for a small charge (9569 5911).

(Dr Rudolph Brasch's illuminating 1971 book *How Did Sports Begin?* gives the history of ninepin and tenpin bowling. The first indoor bowling alley was built in London in 1455 whilst in Germany Martin Luther may have standardised the number of pins as nine. Tenpin bowling was introduced in the late 1800s in USA to circumvent laws banning ninepin bowling which was seen as gambling. In Australia ninepin bowling is over 150 years old. After a short-lived tenpin bowling alley in a Pitt Street basement in 1937, tenpin bowling officially commenced in May 1960 in Glenelg, Adelaide. The first fully automated tenpin bowling centre opened in Hurstville in October 1960.)

c) According to a leaflet "**Capoeira** was created by African slaves in Brazil approximately 400 years ago as a martial art. Capoeira possesses a very unique style that brings together beauty and power, developing mental balance, physical conditioning, self defence, music and a profound sense of art, all at once. Capoeira can be done by anyone of any age." If you missed the demonstration at the Brazil Festival at Addison Road Community Centre on 9 April, you can attend a class at 695A Princes Highway Tempe. For more information ring 0412 071 319.

**Richard Blair** (only associate editor Shirley Hilyard answered all questions correctly)



## HERITAGE WATCH

\* The Society has written to Council strenuously opposing the DA to demolish the **St Luke's Church rectory at 11 Stanmore Road Enmore** and erect a two storey dwelling. The proposal is unacceptable because the rectory is part of the curtilage of the Anglican Church, the Hall (designed by Prof. Leslie Wilkinson) and Rectory forming a precinct that is listed as an item of environmental heritage in Council's LEP. It is also listed on the State Heritage Inventory and is classified by the National Trust. The proposed brick veneer house by Huxley Homes with its poor detailing is not a worthy replacement and is unsympathetic to this precinct. Article on church *When Stones Speak* in *Heritage* 4.

\* As reported in the March RAHS *History* magazine **restoration of the 1880s Petersham Station** has begun. Described as "the largest and grandest of the surviving 19th century suburban railway stations" the brief of heritage specialists CMR "is to restore the building as close as possible to its original appearance and condition." Perhaps State Rail has heeded Peter McLaren's plea in *Heritage* 8 to end "the philistine post-war era of destruction of historic railway fabric" and implement "a consistent policy of proper conservation of the heritage places for which they are responsible" (*The Petersham Footbridge: From Grime to Glory?*).



*Petersham Railway Station 1880s*

\* The **1880s Trocadero King Street Newtown** (which has received broad coverage in this newsletter) was recently listed on the State Heritage Register thanks largely to efforts by the South Sydney Heritage Society. Built as a skating rink, it was used as a theatre, cinema, boxing stadium, motor garage and furniture outlet. It is also Listed on the draft South Sydney LEP, with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the Register of the National Estate.

In a recent press release Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning and local State Member Dr Andrew Refshauge described the Trocadero as "a rare Sydney example of a Victorian Flemish style commercial building with Gothic detailing". Dr Refshauge said "we want the State Heritage Register to be a comprehensive list of all places that are important to the people of NSW. It is vital to protect the history of our city and the many wonderful buildings that bring our past alive."

## HURLSTONE PARK ANOMALIES

If you dare to stand at the intersection of Canterbury, New Canterbury and Old Canterbury Roads, formerly called Wattle Hill, you are on the border of three local government areas – Ashfield, Canterbury and Marrickville. Throw four stones in different directions and they land in Hurlstone Park, Dulwich Hill, Ashfield and Ashbury. Throw a fifth one harder and it lands in Summer Hill; a sixth stone thrown very hard (say by Ricky Ponting) will reach Canterbury.

Now let's leave this hazardous spot and stroll down New Canterbury Road. You're now clearly in Hurlstone Park. Any shopkeeper on either side will tell you. But are you? On the left side only a few metres from the three Canterbury Roads intersection is a large sign saying "Dulwich Hill". The right hand side of the road is in Canterbury LGA and Garnet Street marks the border on that side between two municipalities. The left hand side is in the Marrickville LGA. The streets running into New Canterbury Road on the left (Ross, Clargo and Kroombit) are all in Dulwich Hill. When you reach the end of the shops on the left is another sign indicating "Dulwich Hill". Confusing? So where does Dulwich Hill actually start?

Walking along that forlorn stretch one clearly gets the impression that neither Marrickville nor Canterbury Councils care much about this strip. Note the many closed shops, note the uninspiring look of others, note the antiquated metal sign for the defunct Dulwich Hill Rotary Club which says it meets at a defunct restaurant in Petersham. Couple all this with the confusion over signage. Logically the left side of New Canterbury Road should be Hurlstone Park and should fall under Canterbury Council.

Then I look at the masthead of this newsletter and see that "parts" of Hurlstone Park are in Marrickville LGA. Having long been puzzled by which "parts", I now discover it is this solitary stretch of about 300 metres of (east) New Canterbury Road Hurlstone Park which is in Marrickville LGA. But let's just leave things as they are. Sentiment has got the better of me, besides, we've just printed new stationery!

**Richard Blair**

Another **Tempe** connection! Not a place, *Tempe* is the short name of Kathy Reichs' anthropological forensic heroine Dr Temperance Brennan in *Déjà Dead* and *Death du Jour* set in Montreal. Good reading!

## SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 29 APRIL**

**Coach to Nan Tien Buddhist Temple Berkeley & museums of the Illawarra**  
Details on front page

**SATURDAY 27 MAY**

**Francis Foy on Mark Foy's *The Store Beautiful***

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

**Annual General Meeting**

The South Sydney Heritage Society (Newtown-Erskineville Group) meeting Saturday 6 May at 2 pm Newtown Library, Brown Street Newtown features Robert Hutchinson's Postcards of Newtown, Camperdown, Erskineville and Redfern.

## POSTCARD FROM DULWICH ENGLAND

The Society has received a postcard from MHS member Ken Swinbourne on a year's exchange teaching at Dulwich College, England. In Sydney Ken lives at Dulwich Hill!

"Dear Robert and everyone – Dulwich College is a splendid place. I've enjoyed the couple of months I've spent here so far and am looking forward to the rest of the year. Dulwich itself is a pocket of open fields, trees and some fine Georgian houses in amongst SE London. This is thanks to the original foundation which still controls large areas. All around are familiar names: Croydon, Sydenham, Lewisham. Best wishes, Ken."

## ENMORE BOX & CASE FACTORY



**The Enmore Box & Case Factory :: Cowper-st., Marrickville**  
Tel. Pet 1265 General Dealers in Cases, Bags, Zinc, Lead, Oil, Drums, etc.

One of the oldest businesses in the Marrickville LGA is The Enmore Box & Case Factory Pty Ltd in Marrickville. The current manager says there have been four owners during its 80 year history. The above picture from the 1922 *Official Souvenir Marrickville Municipality Diamond Jubilee* shows their truck outside the premises still in Cowper Street. The business also still operates from a building on the corner of Shelleys and Empire Lanes near Marrickville Metro. The name of the factory with "Pet" and two faint original phone numbers are still visible on the building's solid old wooden gates.

## PARK WATCH

### • RICHARDSONS LOOKOUT RENAMING\*

Few would argue with the 21 March Council meeting motion adopted to rename Richardsons Lookout Marrickville, which overlooks Cooks River, *Cadigal Lookout* in honour of the original inhabitants of much of the Sydney basin. If this motion is supported by the Aboriginal Consultative Committee, it will be submitted for renaming to the Geographical Names Board.

After the former Warren Mansion was resumed by the government in 1919 a housing estate for returned soldiers was built and the area called The Lookout Reserve. It was renamed Richardsons Lookout on 4 May 1936 in honour of Warren Cook Richardson, a Marrickville alderman who had led a campaign to clean up the park, then a popular area for dumped rubbish (*Marrickville People & Places*).

The park contains two original sandstone towers to Thomas Holt's mansion *The Warren* which were installed at Richardsons Lookout in the 1960s (Heritage Trail Plaque #1 marks this spot. Two other towers at a private home in Hunters Hill were inspected by MHS members in March 1997; photograph in April 1997 newsletter.) The lookout was the venue for the MHS Bicentennial Pioneers and Residents Picnic on Sunday 6 March 1988 attended by, amongst others, Bloodworth, Richardson, Holt, Meek, Needham and Donney descendants, MHS members and Mum Shirl Smith, a local resident and a guest speaker.

### • JOHNSON PARK REFURBISHED\*

Johnson Park in Constitution Road Dulwich Hill has been attractively refurbished. The park, named after Joseph Johnson, thrice mayor and a Petersham Council alderman (1914-41), contains Heritage Trail Plaque #19 which states: "In 1794 James Bloodworth, an emancipated convict of the First Fleet was granted 70 acres in this vicinity. He was master bricklayer and builder of the colony of NSW."

### • O'DEA RESERVE CAMPERDOWN

Due to a HLA envirosiences report of soil-contamination and its potential "significant risk to human health", O'Dea Reserve and the cycling velodrome have been temporarily closed. A remediation action plan is likely to be prepared.

\* Recent works nominated for Marrickville Medal

**Next Newington concert** Friday 5 May 7.30 pm in The Prescott Hall features the Trio Chardin Amsterdam playing 18th century chamber music. \$15, \$8 concession.

**PRESIDENT** Robert 9568 3079

**TREASURER** Diane 9588 4930

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