

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



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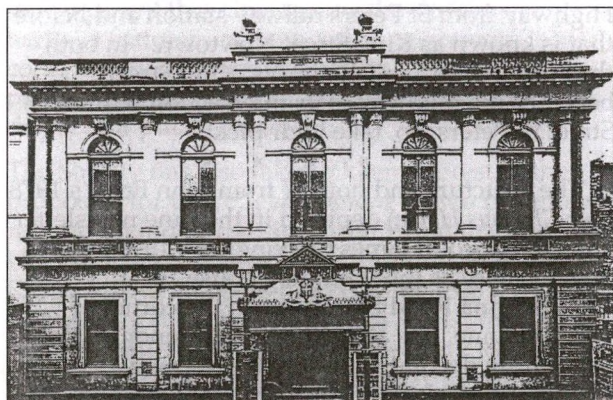
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

SYDNEY SCHOOL OF ARTS & TOWN HALL  
TOUR WITH TANNER & ASSOCIATES  
Saturday 22 July 9.45 am for 10 am

(Meet 9.45 am for prompt 10 am start outside School of Arts 275 Pitt Street next to Hilton Hotel. Bookings Lorraine 9590 3309. No charge to MHS members.)

The Sydney School of Arts stunningly restored by Tanner & Associates as part of the Citigroup tower and plaza development, has undergone many changes in its 170 year history. A John Verge designed Independent Chapel (1830) and the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts building (1835) were incorporated in 1860 into a new single extended structure with a handsome sandstone facade designed by John Bibb (who also designed the nearby Pitt Street Congregational Church). Parts of the Verge chapel fabric and structure are still extant.



The School of Arts was used as a library, reading room and lecture venue until the early 1900s when the need for trade-based institutions declined and the building was subdivided into numerous small shops and businesses. During the 1900s the building underwent much transformation until the latter decades when it languished on a pillar of rock next to one of Sydney's notorious "black holes" (Waltons).

This fascinating building with its beautiful painted stencil work, decorative painted glass skylights and glass block floor lights has now been restored whilst the sandstone facade has been repaired and rebuilt to Bibb's original design. Our guide Megan Jones heritage architect for its conservation, will relate many stories about its history and the challenges and surprises of working on this interesting project. Heritage architect Scott MacArthur will then take us up the newly-refurbished Grand Staircase of Sydney Town Hall with its elaborately stencilled and tiled walls restored to their 1860s splendour.

## OUR LAST MEETING

### WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

Almost 50 members attended our 16th Annual General Meeting at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 24 June. We welcomed Council's Community Services Director Nicole Mahony. Annual reports were presented by the president Robert Hutchinson, treasurer Diane McCarthy, committee convenors, Scott MacArthur Heritage Watch, Angela Phippen War Memorials Project, Marilyn Leeds Oral History Project, newsletter editor Richard Blair and journal editor Mark Matheson.

Robert announced he would not be standing again as president, but would remain on the committee as immediate past president. He was returning officer for the annual election. The new executive committee is president Peter Cousens, vice presidents Lorraine Beach and Diane McCarthy, secretary Joyce Roy, committee members Angela Phippen, Deborah Edward, Peter Robertson, Robyn Johnson and Pat Mullen, Heritage Watch committee convenor Scott MacArthur, newsletter editor & distributor Richard Blair, journal editor Mark Matheson and membership secretary Pamela Stewart. **The important position of treasurer was not filled** (see back page).

Robert had the honour of presenting Life Membership of MHS to Chrys Meader and Shirley Hilyard (see separate report). Presentations were made to Robert in appreciation for his work as president, Diane outgoing treasurer, Barry Simmons our new auditor, Pamela Stewart membership secretary and Ted Green for unstinting assistance at Saturday meetings.

Guest speaker Council Archivist Vivienne Larking, told us the Archival Reference Centre started in 1988 with a bicentennial grant and restoration of the former Petersham Council chambers which were inspected at the end of the talk. Vivienne outlined the multi media resources available on CDROM and microfiche, and works in progress. Details of old minute, rate and valuation books from former local councils and accession lists were given. Vivienne is setting up a four level Tabularium to facilitate the search process. Following the meeting we picnicked in Maundrell Park to toast the new committee.

### MHS FEES NOW DUE - NO GST

Please send cheque or money order (with questionnaire in envelope supplied in June) to MHS PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475.

\$10 concession, \$16 individuals or joint concession, \$22 households or organisations. New members most welcome. Enquiries and brochure ring Diane 9588 4930.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1999-2000

It is hard to believe that another year has passed, but on reflection, a lot has happened. During the past twelve months, we have walked the streets of Summer Hill, the Abergeldie Estate and Ultimo/Pyrmont where we saw the Meriton influence. We visited Government House Sydney and the Buddhist Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong. We heard about divorce Victorian style, our water industry and sanitary history, and the importance of Mark Foy's on our City. Our sporting heritage became known during Heritage Week, when we heard the history of the Newtown Jets, the mighty *Bluebags*, playing at Henson Park, a disused brick pit.

At the Royal Australian Historical Society's annual conference, we received a Heritage Grant for the Society's War Memorials of St Peters Project convened by Angela Phippen, and Shirley Hilyard received a Certificate of Achievement for her dedicated work for our Society. Well done Shirley! Stalls at both the Marrickville and Newtown Festival gave the public greater awareness of us, and attracted new members. I'm happy to say that membership has increased in the past year.

One unusual happening was the unveiling of a plaque to the Pocket Playhouse in Sydenham by Norman McVicker, its founder, with many who were part of that lost institution, the small theatre, attending. We thank Richard Blair for his hard work in seeing this to its final curtain. Then there was the Pot Luck Dinner and our pre GST book sale – thank you ace purchasers Barbara and Ted.

I would like to thank the Heritage Watch committee, under Scott MacArthur, always with sharp eyes open helping to keep our heritage intact, and thanks to the Oral History group recording "every day" history – a huge task. I would also like to thank the committee – vice president Peter Cousens, who stood in when I was unavailable, Joyce Roy secretary, Diane McCarthy treasurer, Richard Blair, newsletter editor, Mark Matheson journal editor, and committee members Lorraine Beach, Deborah Edward, Scott MacArthur, Angela Phippen and Peter Robertson, all of whom worked above and beyond the call of duty.

A big thank you to Ted Green our own *chairman\**, my friend John Waterstreet, my sounding board and shoulder – it's not easy living with a president – and to Gwenda and Harold Welsh for their support and encouragement; not forgetting the runners – those fit people who deliver the newsletter each month. But mostly my thanks goes to you the members, for without you there would be no Marrickville Heritage Society.

**Robert Hutchinson**

\* Ted is amongst the first to arrive at our talks to carry and set up chairs etc.

At our AGM convenor **Marilyn Leeds** thanked all Oral History Project members – Jan Armstrong, Richard Blair, Carol Phillips, Ian Phillips, Angela Phippen and Pippa Preston – and welcomed prospective participants.

## AND THE NEW PRESIDENT IS ...



*Peter Cousens congratulated by Robert Hutchinson*

## WINTER TRIVIA ANSWERS

a) According to *200 Facts About Historic Illawarra* (1970) "on October 19th 1920 the road linking Sydney with Melbourne by the coast was named Prince's Highway at a ceremony at the Bulli Lookout by the Minister for Local Government Hon. TD Mutch MLA. It was named after the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) who visited the State shortly before".

*Marrickville People and Places* says **Princes Highway** was proclaimed in 1928. It is ambiguous as to where the highway begins: "the route extending from... the corner of Cleveland Street and City Road via Newtown, St Peters and Tempe to the Victorian border. The road is known as Princes Highway from St Peters railway station and before that is known as King Street Newtown." In both the current UBD and Gregory's, King Street becomes the highway at its intersection with May Street St Peters. So, take your pick!

\* \* \* \* \*

b) The structure and house (from John Belot's 1978 *Our Glorious Home*) depicted in the June newsletter and described in James Cockington's 1999 book *Secret Sydney* as the "chimney house" is at **125 Corunna Road Stanmore** on the corner of Percival Lane. It is actually not a chimney, but a beautifully decorated red brick sewerage ventilation stack (1900) built to allow gas to escape from the underground sewer and belonging to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply & Sewerage. According to the 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study the "vent is linked to one of the major sewerage lines in the Western Suburbs Sewerage Scheme. It forms an unusual landmark within a residential district, and is one of four brick vents built in the municipality around the turn of the century." It adjoins a late Edwardian red brick cottage.

The other three local ventilation stacks are i) at the north eastern end of Carrington Road Marrickville (1897) linked with a brick pumping station and a two storey Edwardian house; ii) 24-26 Premier Street Marrickville (1898) flanked by a symmetrical pair of Federation cottages for employees; and iii) on the corner of The Boulevard and Hunter Street Lewisham (1909), with red and cream patterned bricks. All vents are Classified by the National Trust and have both local and state heritage significance.

**Richard Blair** (Thanks to Diane McCarthy, Graham Hunt and Shirley Hilyard for their responses.)



## HERITAGE WATCH CLASSIFICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 1999/2000

The Heritage Watch committee has been quite active this year. We have an excellent working relationship with Marrickville Council's new Heritage Architect Catherine Macarthur – no relation! Unfortunately Catherine is only a part time Council officer which restricts her ability to comment on heritage matters due to limited time and policy decisions by her superiors.

Our Society is generally advised by Council of any developments that affect sites listed in the Marrickville Heritage LEP. However, there are many other unlisted buildings and places of heritage interest and threatened with development that Council does not formally notify us about. We then rely on our members, neighbours and other concerned citizens to alert us to these developments.

Among the developments and issues our committee has dealt with this year (many others reported in newsletter) is the former Eversleigh Hospital site Petersham. What started as a very confrontational and acrimonious redevelopment proposal for this large and interesting site has become a model for future heritage site management in our area. A change of developer and architect, and a flexible attitude by Council has resulted in a thorough community consultation process that has produced a preliminary design for a new residential development that aims to save the site's major heritage features and respond to neighbours' concerns about issues of amenity – traffic, parking, privacy and density. The application has been on display for public comment.

The Society has also taken a keen interest in the proposals for the redevelopment of two prominent redundant industrial sites – the Waratah (Dulwich Hill) and Crago (Newtown) flour mill sites. The Crago Mill developers have commenced a community consultation process whilst the Waratah Mill developers are proposing to retain the silos and convert them into apartments. We are in discussion with Council to help devise appropriate guidelines for the proposed new buildings, given that there are significant amenity issues for the neighbours.

The reluctance of some Council planners to consult with either the community, the Society or their own heritage architect appears to be the reason for two very poor development proposals in the last year at St Maroun' School (Dulwich Hill) and the Tempe Hotel. In both cases, the developers had discussions with Council officers who suggested design proposals and modifications that were inappropriate for the sites. Now that the community, the Society and Council's heritage architect are aware of these proposals and have lodged objections to Council, it is unlikely they will proceed as currently proposed.

Danie Ondinea and Mark Matheson have been actively responding to Council's landscape master plan proposals for the Marrickville Golf Course

and the Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. Danie has also been lobbying the Camperdown Cemetery Trust to protect their endangered fragment of remnant native vegetation, and this finally appears to be proceeding after many futile years of trying.

We anticipate that with the completion of the Revised Marrickville Heritage Study, the Classifications arm of our Committee can focus on unearthing and documenting items overlooked by the Study for inclusion in local and state heritage lists. Thanks also to Lorraine Beach and John Waterstreet for their contribution. The committee is always after new members so if researching heritage or fighting developers is your interest, please contact us.

**Scott MacArthur** Convenor

## LITERARY SYDNEY

*Literary Sydney: A walking guide to writers' haunts and other bookish and bohemian places* (UQP \$19.95) is a book that has been waiting to be written. It contains nine walking tours in and around the city including Newtown. Each walk is accompanied by a map and directions, but because these are set walks, some notable writers are bound to have been omitted. Despite the authors' penchant for citing past residences of obscure poets, Jill Dimond and Peter Fitzpatrick have compiled a gem packed with a phenomenal amount of diverse information and lashings of quotations.

Famous literary visitors – Conrad, Stevenson and Lawrence – rub shoulders with prominent past and present Australian writers. In Newtown we learn that 124 Chelmsford Street "is the only surviving house of a number in the area in which Henry Kendall lived" whilst two Probert Street cottages associated with Henry Lawson are still standing: "Early in 1896 Lawson courted Bertha Bredt from number 152, where she was staying in the home of Mrs FJ Schabell. They originally planned to marry at St Stephens Church, but his mother and her family were opposed, and instead they were secretly married in a matrimonial agency in Phillip Street in the city. The Lawsons lived next door at 154 Probert Street for a few months in 1898. During this period Henry had a rare bout of regular employment at the government statistician's office."

Other Newtown Enmore Camperdown associations include Rolf Boldrewood, Eliza Donnithorne, Ethel Turner, Martin Johnston, Nadia Wheatley, David Malouf, Drusilla Modjeska, Colleen Burke and poet Minnie Agnes Filson alias *Ricketty Kate* who lived at 26 King Street (now part of the Safari Restaurant) early this century. One of her verses starts *Over my fences and over my shed/The Choko her ample form has spread ...*

**Richard Blair**

Peter Buchan's late mother Teresa Buchan (nee Fallon) of Newtown and Campsie, belonged to a film/camera club which regularly met at Petersham Town Hall at least until 1974 when Teresa died. Peter recently transferred to video (34 minutes) a home movie made by Teresa in the early 1960s. It includes scenes from the 1961 Royal Easter Show. He would like to hear from anyone associated with this club (9596 1277).



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 22 JULY**

**Sydney School of Arts & Town Hall**

**with Tanner & Associates**

Details on front page

**SATURDAY 26 AUGUST**

**Lesley Muir:** *Why Garden Palace burnt down &*

**Peter Cousens:** *After the fire – a site of significance*

## SHIRLEY HILYARD & CHRYS MEADER BECOME MHS LIFE MEMBERS

At our AGM on 24 June outgoing president Robert Hutchinson presented two esteemed MHS members – Chrys Meader and Shirley Hilyard – with Life Membership of the Society. Chrys' citation read "In recognition of her significant contributions to the establishment, betterment and promotion of the Society". Apart from being a founding MHS member in April 1984 and serving for some years as the Society's secretary, Chrys was closely involved with Society publications, with projects such as the re-erection of the Winged Victory outside Marrickville Town Hall and the Amy Needham Prize, and – through her infectious zeal for imparting her vast local history knowledge – with the promotion of both the Society and history of the district.



*New Life Members Chrys Meader & Shirley Hilyard*

Shirley's citation read "In recognition of her enthusiastic, inspiring and outstanding contributions to the Society". Soon after she joined the Society in 1985 Shirley became an active member of the Heritage Watch/Classifications committee displaying an informed and inspiring approach to heritage conservation, was vice president for three years and president for two (1992-94). With her excellent networking skills Shirley organised numerous outings and talks and has been at the forefront of a host of other activities. Congratulations Chrys and Shirley.

**PRESIDENT** Peter 9550 3809

**MEMBERSHIP** Diane 9588 4930

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**WAR MEMORIALS** Angela 9280 2429

**ORAL HISTORY** Marilyn 9569 0959

**HERITAGE 11** Mark 9559 5502

**NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823

## HERITAGE WATCH

\* The developers of the **Goodman Fielder (former Waratah) Flour Mill Dulwich Hill** (visited in May 2000 while still in operation by MHS) are proposing to retain the main wheat processing building and convert the silos for apartments. They propose a new building the same height as the silos which is problematical due to its proximity to the heritage buildings and its detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties. We are recommending modifications to the massing and fenestration of this new building that may address some of these concerns.

\* The Society attended the Council's recent site inspection of **94 Brighton Street Petersham** where the owner is proposing to demolish the existing house and build a two storey boarding house (reduced from the three storeys proposed in 1999 opposed by MHS). While the house has lost many of its original features and is in only fair condition, its prominent position on a corner opposite Petersham Park means that a more sympathetic solution that enhances the heritage values of the area is required.

\* It's taken a while but repairs to the severed string course of heritage-listed **Newtown Post Office** in King Street have finally been completed. Why the changes were made remains puzzling when all that is revealed are unsightly stacks of stationery!

## PICTORIAL TILES SOUGHT

Willem Irik, a member of the England-based *Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society*, is researching ceramic tile installations on the exterior of Victorian and Federation houses such as next to entrance doors, between bay windows and on stair risers. The TACS magazine *Glazed Expressions* recently featured Willem's article *Tiles in Australian Cottages* with examples from Lewisham, Petersham and Dulwich Hill. If you know of any interesting or unusual tiles (pictorial scenes are preferred to floral patterns and designs) please contact MHS member **Guy Attewell** 9569 5642.

## WE STILL NEED A TREASURER!

No accounting degree required, but you should know something about simple bookkeeping and enjoy working with a proactive committee. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for more information.

## MILLENNIUM CONCERT

**St Mary's Cathedral  
Sunday 30 July 3 pm**



Come and hear a 500 voice choir and an orchestra of 100 from 18 of Sydney's finest schools and colleges perform *Mass in C* (Beethoven), *Organ Symphony* (Saint-Saens), *I Was Glad* (Parry) and the world premiere of *Eternity* by young Sydney composer Matthew Orlovich. \$20, \$15 concession, children free. Reservations 9568 9395.