

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Petersham Town Hall

**23 June 2001 10.30 am**

All members are invited to attend the 17th AGM of the Marrickville Heritage Society. Reports will be presented by the president, acting treasurer, publication editors, and committee convenors for heritage watch, war memorials and oral history. All committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations are called for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, five committee members, heritage watch convenor and membership secretary. Nominations may be made in writing to the Society or on the day.

An Australian flag will be presented to the Society by **Anthony Albanese MP**.

Formalities will be followed by a short walk to the home of Keith Sutton in Terminus Street Petersham to inspect his remarkable **1885 Sudan War murals**. These were subject of an article by Keith in the February newsletter and a longer article to appear in *Heritage* 12. Bruce Woodhouse will also show us the Sudan War medals of his great grandfather Richard Addison who lived in Gordon Street Marrickville. Our traditional **post AGM picnic lunch** will then take place in nearby **Petersham Park**, so bring some sandwiches to share. The Society will provide champagne and orange juice.

Frankly, the Rolling Stones might have sung *We can't get no Sartor faction* apropos moves to pull down the MCA building at Circular Quay.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Simmons & Sean Miller, Lewisham; John Piggott, Marrickville; Aron Klein (Pine & Co P/L), Sally Stock, Newtown; Ada Boes, Petersham; Tricia Blombery, Wendy Fraser, Kathleen Peterson all of Stanmore; Cathy Boland, Kingsford; Leesha Payor, Kogarah Bay; Owen Loney, Roselands; Ruth Brown, Summer Hill; John & Sandra Vicars, Thornleigh; Ralph Coghill, Williamstown, Victoria.

## ANNUAL DUES NOW DUE

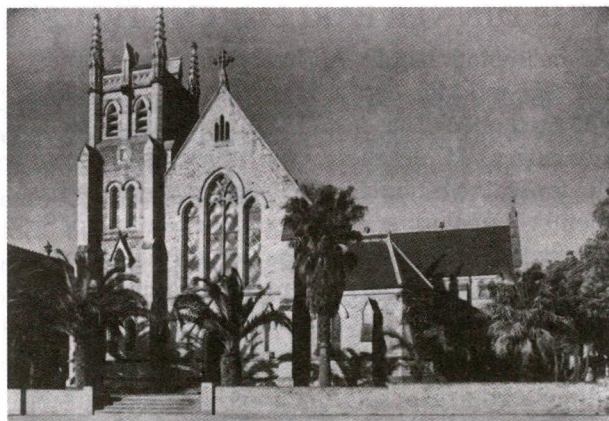
Concession \$10, Individual & Joint Concession \$16, Household & Organisations \$22. Pay at AGM or by cheque/money order to Marrickville Heritage Society, address below. To join Society contact acting treasurer Diane 9588 4930 for membership form.

## STEEL PARK MARRICKVILLE

A proposed 800 seat stadium, subject of Marrickville Council's draft management plan for Steel Park, was resoundingly opposed at a public meeting of over 100 residents on 22 May for being flawed and providing insufficient documentation about bulk, height, scale, visual impact and parking requirements. The meeting questioned the inadequate level of community consultation and sudden urgency to get this approved after years of inactivity. A petition with over 1000 signatures and numerous submissions opposing the draft plan have been placed before Council. In the wake of the lack of notice taken by Council of public support for retention of the velodrome at O'Dea Reserve, Camperdown, one wonders about the efficacy of community consultation.

## ST THOMAS CHURCH LEWISHAM 150

The 150th anniversary of the parish of St Thomas Becket Church Lewisham was marked on 20 May by a mass celebrated by the new Archbishop of Sydney George Pell. The foundation stone of the original church was laid on 19 May 1851 and dedicated to Saint Thomas Becket of Canterbury. The Lewisham site was chosen because this part of Sydney was then called Canterbury. When completed in 1860 it was the only Catholic church between Sydney and Concord. The present white freestone church (pictured below) was built in 1887 when the original stone church became St Thomas' School until its demolition in 1939. Stones from the old church were used for the wall around the school.



Congratulations to MHS member **Bob Horton** for winning the Marrickville Library Short Story Competition (adult award) for the second year running with *Diverse Unity*. **Laurel Horton** received a commendation for her story on Sydenham Green. In three categories there were nearly 60 entries reflecting our diverse multicultural community.



## OUR LAST MEETING

### LYNDHURST RESEARCH LIBRARY VISIT

The Historic Houses Trust established this library as a reference for its house restorations and as a record of housekeeping styles and skills. On 26 May Senior Librarian Megan Martin ushered a group of MHS members into the drawing room of *Lyndhurst* in Glebe to show some of the ephemeral documents collected to illustrate how people lived and decorated their homes. For example there were servants manuals from the 1840s (containing detailed instructions for correct table settings etc.) recipes for paint colours, and architectural pattern books of late 18th to early 19th century brought out by colonists to help architects plan buildings.

We were fascinated by the extensive collection of linoleum patterns and the variety of designs available. This industry, centred mainly in Scotland, evolved from oilcloth floor coverings and became so popular that a factory was established at Auburn. Some of the designs imitated carpet or tiles. The many trade catalogues included one from a Glasgow iron works showing 1869-1914 styles and an 1886 USA illustrated hardware order book. We admired a rare 1867 stained glass design book from Birmingham and an 1880s pattern book with 412 designs for encaustic floor tiles.

There were also interesting subdivision maps of Sydney such as an 1886 plan of Lisgar Estate at Granville, for which a special free train took prospective customers from Redfern. We were all familiar with Hudson Homes plans from the 1950s. After the meeting members lunched in the grounds. President Peter Cousens thanked Megan for a stimulating presentation and made a donation to the HHT on behalf of the Society.

Robyn Johnson

### MHS DINNER PARLIAMENT HOUSE

At the invitation of Dr Andrew Refshauge Deputy Premier and Member for Marrickville, 35 members gathered on Wednesday 30 May to celebrate the Centenary of Federation. After a promenade around the fountain vestibule, with its fine portraits of past members (including an outstanding painting of Sir Henry Parkes by Tom Roberts) we sat down for dinner in the Strangers Dining Room, with a menu specially designed for MHS.

Dr Refshauge's urbanity was most evident as he "dined a course" at each table, exchanging amusing and interesting anecdotes with his guests. After a very pleasant dinner, we adjourned to the Lower House to see the Government in session. The atmosphere was very restrained, however more impressive than watching it on television. We all voted it a most enjoyable evening and our thanks to Shirley Hilyard and Pat Clarke, Dr Refshauge's secretary, for arranging our visit.

Susan O'Connor

## WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION



Who painted the now-famous *I Have a Dream* mural in King Street Newtown and when?

(Richard 9557 3823)

### NANCY DE PAUL RECALLS

(Norman McVicker's recollections *The Talent of Foreman Street* in the December 2000 newsletter prompted a response from Nancy Clark/De Paul, sister of Helen De Paul Noble. Nancy is married to Joe Clark who was Tommy Trinder's drummer.)

The McGoulrick and De Paul families lived at 27 Foreman Street Tempe from the early 1920s till the late 1930s. With encouragement from the Wirth family of Wirth Bros. Circus, Shirley De Paul formed an acrobatic act in 1932 known as "The Seven De Pauls" comprising seven females. Shirley's sister Nellie was a member of the act as was Shirley's nine year old niece Nancy.

After three years with Wirth's Circus the act joined travelling shows and during this time Nancy's sister Joan, who was just eight years of age, joined the act. Though our Aunt Nell sadly passed away aged 26 and our Aunt Shirley retired, we kept the act going and appeared in many Tivoli Theatre and other shows in Australia and New Zealand. Joan married and stayed in Sydney and conducted our acrobatic school while Nancy took the act, now known as "The Flying De Pauls" to Europe in 1954 for a six year world tour. The six members in the troupe were all females and all Australians.

The act was a huge success appearing in all major theatrical arenas in the British Isles, Europe and the USA, and had several television appearances in seven countries. The highlight of Nancy's career was in 1955 when she became a Royal Command Performer. The Flying De Pauls appeared in a Royal Variety Show at the Opera House, Blackpool before Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. Not bad for a little nine year old girl from 27 Foreman Street Tempe!

Nancy Clark/De Paul (nee McGoulrick)

### SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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## MHS WEEKEND IN MUDGEES (4-6 MAY)

27 MHS members travelled by coach to Mudgee staying at the very comfortable Winning Post Motel. After our "breakfast of champions" and a visit to local markets, we called at the "Heart Of Mudgee", oldest house in town (c. 1842) for jam and mustard tasting and to Honey Heaven for honey and mead tasting before reaching Gulgong, which has 130 buildings with National Trust classification. Armed with our Gulgong Town Trail we set off to see the Gulgong Pioneers Museum, which was once The Times Bakery where Henry Lawson's Aunt Phoebe lived; the Henry Lawson Centre in an old church hall; the Prince of Wales Opera House (1871); the Edmund Blackett designed Anglican Church of St Luke; and many wonderful old pubs, shops and cafes.

Along the Henry Lawson Drive past Eurunderee School, site of "The Old Bark School" attended by Lawson in 1876 and the ruins of the family house built by his father Peter. Poet's Corner (also featuring Craigmoor & Montrose labels) is perhaps the biggest winery around Mudgee and even boasts a village green where a cricket match was in progress. On Saturday evening our dinner guest was MHS member and local resident Norman McVicker, who gave an entertaining talk about Henry Lawson and his family with reference to the Marrickville Lawson connection. Norman read a favourite Lawson poem *Sayonara*. A memorable evening.

We returned home via historic Rylstone (walking tour), Kandos (the 'cement town') and the remote Mountilford Winery (altitude nearly 1000 metres) where the cold enhances winetasting. In Blackheath a coffee stop and an unscheduled visit to the abode of Robert and John to view their country collection of Australiana. A truly magical historical weekend thanks to the tremendous efforts of Lorraine Beach.

**Diane McCarthy**



*From left at Rylstone's Catholic Church: Robert Hutchinson, Elva Blair, Anne Walter, David Blair, Lorraine Beach, Sasha Laurenson, Caroll Phillips, Susan Hicks, Ken Turner, June Cameron, Ted Green, Pamela Stewart, Bob Payne, Bev Payne, Pat Mullen, Diane McCarthy, Joyce Beach, Richard Blair, Geoff Francis. Eight others obscured or camera-shy.*

(photo: Roy Medhurst)

## HERITAGE WATCH

A loophole in Council's heritage LEP was exposed when the Society and a local resident started to investigate the history of the cottage next to Tempe railway station. The cottage is on a small site squeezed between Griffith Street and Platform 1. A DA now before Council proposes to subdivide the site and construct several two-storey townhouses. It transpires that this freestanding cottage is **the former station-master's house for Tempe Railway Station**. The station is listed on the State Heritage Register and the cottage lies within its curtilage. However, neither the station nor the cottage are listed in Council's Heritage LEP, and when the DA was initially assessed by Marrickville Council it was not processed as a heritage item. Neither the usual heritage bodies that should be notified of the DA nor the Society were aware of the development proposal.

The listing notes that Tempe is a good example of early standard station buildings which form part of a group of early stations on the line from St Peters that represent the major period of 1880s railway construction. The platform buildings date from 1884, and the station-master's house probably dates from the same period. **Tempe Station is a rare, intact collection of railway buildings from the late 19th century that has been recognised as being of State significance by the Heritage Council of NSW, and as such, the proposed development must be subject to the full scrutiny of the heritage approval process as defined in the Heritage Act.**

The Society has referred the development to the Heritage Office and urges Council to protect this important part of our transport heritage from inappropriate development and renovation. The proposal will adversely impact on the heritage significance of the property and of Tempe Railway Station. A less intense development that acknowledges the existing form and setting of the cottage should be encouraged.

\* \* \* \* \*

Council has notified the Society of a proposal to redevelop the mid 20th century **former Penfolds Tempe Wine Cellars** on the Princes Highway as a retail car showroom. For many years the building's clock tower and monumental wine cask on the front lawn (see June 1995 newsletter) were local prominent landmarks. The cask was removed in 1995 after Penfolds left, but the building is otherwise intact. The proposal would see the original window framing and brick sills removed for large display windows, along with a new interior fit out. As the building is listed on Council's Heritage LEP, the developers have been asked to provide a Heritage Impact Statement, which the Society has asked to review when available. The remains of Bayview House (c1840) at the rear of the property appear to be unaffected by the proposal.

**Scott MacArthur**



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 23 JUNE**

**Annual General Meeting**

Details on front page

**SATURDAY 28 JULY (afternoon)**

**Haberfield walk with Vincent Crow**

## WWI RICHMOND AIRMEN

MHS member **Susan Pinson** has advised that **Neville Hayes** from the Australian WWI Aero Historians is researching men who trained at Richmond Aviation School 1916-18. Neville (76 Oswald Court, Portland, Victoria 3305 ph/fax 03 5523 1753) would like to hear from anyone with information about the following with local connections:

Norman Clark born Enmore 1891; William Douglas Cullam born Newtown 1894; Russell Isaacs Edgell Warren Road Marrickville; Edwin Lindsay Rose 5 Gould Avenue, Petersham (commercial artist for Anthony Hordern's annual catalogues); Leslie Moore Sampson engineer, born 1890 Petersham; Hector Kingsley Portus Tiddy born Petersham 1891 (killed testing 26/7/17 Belgium); John Henry Weingarh born Marrickville 7/5/1892 (killed accident UK 4/2/19).

Montague Arthur Watts born c. 1894, 1920 at 104 Enmore Road Marrickville (a motor mechanic who ran his own motor/hire car business; his uncle was Alexander D Scouller Marrickville Council alderman 1913-22); George Viner Wicks born 8/10/1892 Marrickville. His father was William Henry Wicks of *Caversham* 3 Anderton Street Marrickville. He was a long time Marrickville Council alderman and Mayor of Marrickville in 1925. Wicks Park (1922) on corner of Victoria & Sydenham Roads, is named after him. (Also listed is Lionel Lawson, concert violinist, Neutral Bay (1898-1950) married to Queenie Ashton.)

## NEWINGTON 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

**Sunday 24 June 2.30 pm Prescott Hall**

Choral & Instrumental Music featuring past students & Newington College Chamber Orchestra  
(Director: Anthony Clarke)

Official Opening Concert of new Heissler Chamber Organ (Organist: Christopher Wagstaff)  
Music by Bach, Handel and others  
\$20, \$15 concession.

**PRESIDENT** Peter 9550 3809

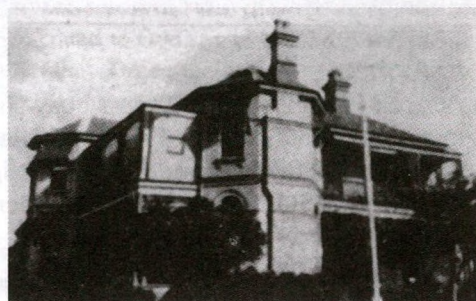
**MEMBERSHIP** Diane 9588 4930

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

## TWO BOOK LAUNCHES A REJECTED CHILDHOOD

"When I was only two years old my father placed me in a Christian children's home. Some homes are good and some are not so good. I experienced both. The first home was Lisgar at Marrickville, and when it fell into disrepair we were relocated to Agincourt, the former home of Washington Soul, at Strathfield."



Up to 1928 **Win Evans** spent several years at Lisgar Children's Home (pictured above) in Harrison Street Marrickville before demolition. Her self-published *A Rejected Childhood* reveals the negative impact such an upbringing had on her life. Launch: Friday 29 June 10 am Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street. RSVP 9529 7149.

## A SAUCEPAN IN THE SKY

Those who enjoyed JD Salinger's American classic *The Catcher in the Rye* should find *A Saucepan in the Sky* a gem, and all the more appealing by being based on fact and set in 1940s Petersham. In recalling a magical period of his early life, **Brian Nicholls** (born 1938) tells his story through childhood eyes where 'family' was everything. He lived in [the still standing] Olivia Terrace, "an old two-storey house with a wrought-iron balcony in Brighton Street . . . In the backyard there's a corrugated-iron shed with a copper for boiling clothes over an open fire, and a big metal tub for rinsing. The lavatory is in a corner of the yard, near a gate to the side lane."

This lavatory features prominently, as does the Carrington Hotel (now the White Cockatoo), Petersham Park and station and Lewisham Hospital. Brian's extended family includes various uncles, who were a major influence - "Uncles are good. They can teach you lots of things. It's not good for a boy to be too good. That's what my uncles taught me. Your mother and father wouldn't teach you that." The book is full of memory joggers and homespun philosophy, acute (and cute) observations and anecdotes such as an hilarious tale about a pet cocky and some hidden money.

It was a time when you could go rabbit shooting in the Campbelltown bush or buy them from "a good rabbit in Newtown" and salami was described by one uncle as "sort of a sausage the foreign blokes at work eat". *A Saucepan in the Sky* (\$29.95) will be launched by John Doyle at Shearer's Bookshop, 99 Norton Street, Leichhardt **Thursday 28 June** at 6 pm. RSVP Sarah, Hale & Iremonger 9565 1955.

**Richard Blair**