

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

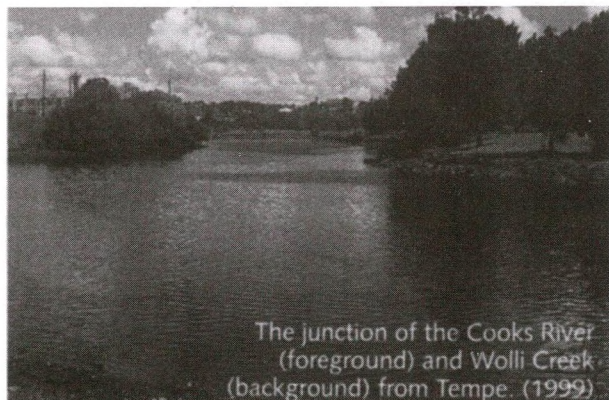
## OUR NEXT MEETING

*Bushplants of the Cooks River Valley*  
**Saturday 28 October**

**10.30 am talk** Doug Benson: Petersham Town Hall.  
**2-5 pm tour** with Danie Ondinea & Virginia Bear from Girrahween Park

(Attend for either half day or entire day. After talk a car convoy will leave town hall for lunch from 1 pm at Girrahween Park Earlwood picnic shelters. Phone Robert on 9568 3079 if you need a lift or have places in your car. Or, drive to the park for a 2 pm start. BYO lunch, drink, hat and suncream. Maps and details provided at talk or park. The book will be on sale.)

"The Cooks River Valley has more than just an ill-treated river running between parks and houses" according to the authors of *Missing Jigsaw Pieces: The Bushplants of the Cooks River Valley*. Come along for a journey of discovery with **Doug Benson**, senior plant ecologist, Royal Botanic Gardens and hear about the search for elusive remnants of original vegetation in the Cooks River Valley. Learn the well kept secrets of the valley's natural heritage.



The junction of the Cooks River (foreground) and Wolli Creek (background) from Tempe. (1999)

After lunch join the other two authors **Danie Ondinea** of MHS and illustrator **Virginia Bear**, on an informative tour around four of the valley's special natural areas, starting at Girrahween Park in the Wolli Creek Valley. Move into Gough Whitlam Park remnant in Undercliffe, then the Marrickville Golf Course remnants (off Beauchamp Street) and finish at the wonderful Campsie remnant of endangered Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest (approached via Second Avenue, Campsie).

Forgotten to pay your **annual fees**? Easily fixed by sending your cheque, or coming to our next meeting and paying then. Fees (including GST) are \$10 concession, \$16 individuals or joint concession, \$22 households or organisations. Queries re membership Diane 9588 4930.

## ONE DAY EDITING WORKSHOP

As outlined in August newsletter the Society will hold a one day Editing course on Saturday 11 November (10-5) at Petersham Town Hall. It will be conducted by consultant editor Robin Appleton who is also a MHS member. Nominal fee \$30 for members, \$40 non members. Prepayment required. BYO lunch. Send a cheque to the Society or phone Richard 9557 3823 for further information.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

A group of seven continues to meet once a month on the project. We have interviewed a number of people and transcribed the interviews. The group has now decided to narrow the focus of our interviews so that we are getting information on more specific topics. These topics are: Life – at work, at home and play. Of course, our area of interest is the Marrickville Local Government Area. So, if you want to tell us about your life in Marrickville under one or two or all of the above headings, we would be pleased to hear from you. We record our interviews and they last for approximately an hour.

New members to the Oral History Group are also most welcome. No previous experience is required as we are all feeling our way. If you are interested in being interviewed or in joining the Oral History Group, please phone Marilyn on 9569 0959.

**Marilyn Leeds, Convenor**

As publicised in September newsletter the **Eve Sharpe Reserve** in Liberty Street Stanmore will be officially opened at a ceremony at 2 pm on Saturday 14 October. All MHS members and friends welcome.

**History Week 2000** is 11-19 November. The theme *Connecting Country* is "about origins and destinations, our past and present. It unites the experiences of successive immigrants to Australia with Aboriginal people. It also bridges the vast distance between city and country, mountain and coast, plateau and plain." For information about events ring The History Council of NSW 9385 1070.

## NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

Following the success of the Marrickville Festival, we look forward to the Newtown Festival at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park on Sunday 12 November from 10 am. If you would like to donate stock for sale or assist on the day just come along. For collection phone Peter on 9550 3809.



## THE 2000 SYDNEY OLYMPICS

With the Olympic Games over, life has started getting back to normal, though the Olympic atmosphere will continue with the Paralympic Games. Who could have failed to enjoy the stupendous Opening and Closing Ceremonies? Only the truly mean-spirited failed to appreciate Cathy Freeman lighting the flame. Those who begrudged Cathy on the grounds that she had not yet won a Gold Medal, overlooked the fact that the 1956 flame lighter Ron Clarke had not even competed in the Games. (When he later did, he failed to win Gold, which of course Cathy famously did.)

Amongst our heroes were Russian-born Tatiana Grigoviera and her husband Viktor Chistiakov both jumping high for Australia in the pole vault; Jai Taurima, of Maori parentage, jumping long; and the talented and determined Jelena Docic; not to mention Cathy Freeman, Patrick Johnson and Nova Peris-Kneebone. Let us not overlook our up-and-coming but unheralded women table tennis players, Shirley Zhou and Miao Miao. All part of multicultural Australia in 2000.

What a fortnight of nerve-racking tension, drama, lows, highs, disappointments, exhilaration and joys not to mention the cheeky but uplifting satire of Roy and HG (with Fatso) demonstrating that we should not take ourselves **too** seriously! Many of us "medalled" in lounge lizardry with the smorgasbord of free entertainment on offer. The editor, initially going to nothing, ended up going to several events. Nothing can be added to the accolades already awarded for the superb organisation, the fantastic volunteers and the wonderful atmosphere at the venues and all over Sydney where so much was happening, culturally and socially as well as sporting. Wasn't it great to get politics and economics off the front page! Soon we will begin to forget much of who won or lost what, but there is no doubt this extraordinary time will be long remembered and cherished.

Richard Blair, Editor

## SPRING TRIVIA (NON) ANSWERS

So preoccupied were MHS members with the Games that virtually no answers were forthcoming to the trivia questions. We remain in the dark as to who carried the torch through Marrickville municipality prior to the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. The editor's research bore little fruit. Whilst the torch relay may have been publicised in the *Free Weekly* of the day, no copies of this seem extant – the State Library only holds the *Free Weekly* from October 1958. Perhaps someone has a relevant back copy! Daily newspapers gave the Torch Relay minimal coverage compared to 2000.

The 1956 torch relay travelled 4528 kilometres over 21 days by 3180 runners, all male, largely students and athletic club members, each running a mile in under six minutes. The torch was carried along Parramatta Road through Camperdown, Stanmore, Petersham and Lewisham between 10 and 10.30 pm on Sunday 18 November by runners as yet

unidentified. In 2000, the relay travelled 27,000 kilometres over 100 days by 10,000 male and female torchbearers. It passed circuitously through Marrickville LGA between 7.45 and 9.15 am on Thursday 14 September. Among local torchbearers were Jeff Fenech (boxing), Robyn Maher (basketball), Tom Maher (basketball coach), Richard Cashman (sports historian), Ken Finch (basketball) and Jane Flemming (athletics).

**OLYMPIANA** It was the Bishop of Pennsylvania in a sermon delivered at a special service honouring the athletes in St Paul's Cathedral 19 July 1908 who said during the London Games *The important thing in these Olympic Games is not so much to have been victorious as to have taken part.* Games founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin immortalised the words by quoting them in reply to a toast of "The Olympic Games" on 24 July.

## WARATAHS

Common name *waratah*, botanical name *Telopea speciosissima*; *Telopea* means "seen from afar" and *speciosissima* means "most beautiful". The name says it all! Waratah, the floral emblem of NSW, was described by early botanists as the most magnificent plant in New Holland. So it was totally appropriate that this gorgeous flower was so prominent in the Olympic Opening Ceremony and in the bouquets presented to Olympic medallists. Is there a waratah left in cultivation?

On Sunday 10 September MHS was fortunate to be invited by the Australiana Society to a special tour of the exciting exhibition *State of the Waratah* at the SH Ervin Gallery with curator **Rosie Nice** and decorative arts expert **Margaret Betteridge**. Also on hand were some of the collectors who have contributed to the great range of arts and crafts exhibited. Waratahs in early botanical drawings, in art and architecture, on ceramics, fabrics, glass, carved furniture, plaster ceiling motifs and ventilator covers (a Newtown manufacturer Tom Grounds) and ephemera of all kinds. It was easy to see why Nice is 'obsessed' – a self description.

We heard of two luminaries who more than any others were responsible for waratah mania in post Federation nationalistic fervour – Lucien Henry, whose designs for everyday objects became waratahs, and Richard Baker, author of *Australian Flora Applied to Art*. Their designs and illustrations are in the collection of the Powerhouse Museum. Look around. You're sure to find a waratah or two!

Shirley Hilyard

(Note An article on waratahs in the Marrickville LGA will feature in *Heritage* 11)

## LOCAL BREWERIES OF THE PAST

(Keith Deutscher *The Breweries of Australia: A History* Lothian, \$65)

James Squire owned Australia's first brewery in 1793 in Sydney. Emancipist Samuel Terry, the *Botany Bay Rothschild* opened the *Albion Brewery* in Elizabeth Street (near Central Railway) in 1827. It was later



owned for four years by his son-in-law John Terry Hughes who lived on the site in Albion House. Albion and Terry Streets, Surry Hills remember those associations. In 1874 the brewery was acquired by Tooheys Ltd (1869) which ran Tooheys Standard Brewery till 1978 when it moved to Auburn.

Australia's oldest operating brewery is the Cascade Brewery in Hobart (1832) followed by the 1835 Tooth's Brewery, Broadway (now owned by Fosters) the first to use the letter X to indicate the strength of its ales. The Resch brothers ran Waverley Brewery for over 80 years until 1983. However numerous small breweries proliferated from the 1880s with a booming economy and eager fortune seekers, but most only lasted a short time due to the difficulty in consistently brewing top quality beer and increasing competition from the large city breweries.

*Thirty-nine Pints of Beer Have No Apparent Effect*

That her husband James McDonald, could drink 39 pints of beer without its having any effect on him, was a statement made by Lily McDonald in the Newtown [Sydney] Police Court on 14th February, 1917.

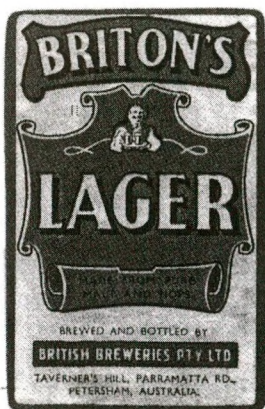
*Australian Brewers' Journal, February 1917*

Several local breweries were:

- John C Fletcher & Co corner Bailey Street and Enmore Road Newtown 1881-89.
- New York Brewery owned by Samuel Marks 22 King Street Newtown corner of Fitzroy Street 1887-1905, so named because Marks had been in the brewing business in New York for 15 years, though he sold English-style ales, porter and stout in quart bottles for six shillings per dozen (he previously owned Sydney Brewery in Harris Street Ultimo).
- Eagle Brewery Shepherd Street Marrickville established in 1887 by John Stevenson, followed by a succession of owners until Alfred Pond acquired it in 1890 changing the name to Continental Brewery until closing in 1898.
- Pond had also run Ponds Brewery on the corner of Maria and King Streets Newtown 1888-90.
- Christopher Bellett's Lion Brewery 553 King Street Newtown 1889-90.
- Arthur Howe ran a brewery at 8 George Street West Camperdown in 1889 for just one year, but it

was re-opened five years later by George Nicholls. In 1907 he shifted the brewery to Trafalgar Street Annandale, leased it to A Cross & Co and in 1913 the name was changed to Nicholls Tasmanian Dandelion Ale Co till it folded in 1915.

The best known local brewery was Miller's Brewery appropriately on Taverners Hill at



610 Parramatta Road Petersham, next to Fort Street High School. Opened in 1935 it traded as British Breweries Ltd. The licence was transferred in 1937 to chairman of directors Robert William Miller. The business traded as British Breweries Pty Ltd making Briton's Lager, but was changed to Miller's Brewery Pty Ltd around 1951. Business expanded rapidly despite the dominance of Tooths and Tooheys.



Millers closed in 1975 after being acquired by Tooheys' Ltd in 1967. The old brewery, with its imposing bas-relief figures, still stands "tall and stately . . . a reminder of the period when an independent brewery sought to challenge the might of Sydney's two powerful breweries." Deutscher has produced a wonderfully illustrated history.

**Richard Blair**

## AND WHAT'S BREWING NOW?

St Peters Brewery makes beers quaintly named *Blonde* and *Dark* at 15 May Street St Peters. In Camperdown Hahn Brewing Co. Pty Ltd makes popular beer at 101 Pyrmont Bridge Road. Next door at #99 is the Malt Shovel Brewery Ltd (1998) named in homage to the former brewery at Kissing Point owned by Australia's first commercial brewer James Squire. One of their ales is named after him. Sadly the Harbour Beer Company in Marrickville which produced Full Sail Amber Ale has gone down the gurgler.

## ONE SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

It was the best ever! What, the Sydney Olympics or the Australian medal tally? No, the **Marrickville Festival**, that **other** big event in September held on Sunday 10 September. MHS fielded two teams. The set-up and first lap was done by Joan Bruce, David Cass, Diane McCarthy, Angela Phippen, Mary Phippen and Peter Robertson who handed the baton over to the second team of Lorraine Beach, Deborah Edward, Scott MacArthur and Pat Mullen who took us over the finish line. Everybody has commented on the importance of volunteers in that **other** big September event; so too in this.

The race was scheduled to start at 11 am, but by 10 am some of the vast crowd had arrived and were keen to see great performances. The takings in our event broke many records. A successful race, however, is also due to the training and preparation. For this we had gold medal performances from several members who donated items such as jams, plants, bric-a-brac, household goods and books – June Cameron, David Cass, Fred and Joyce Ellis, Kevin Gully, Megan Hicks, Ellie McKenzie, Pat Mullen, Danie Ondinea, Allan Outlaw, Mary Phippen, Margaret Sinclair and Gwenda Welsh. This year's festival was busy, exciting and most of all fun and we don't have to wait four more years for the next one!

**Angela 'Juan' Phippen**



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

### SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

*Bushplants of the Cooks River Valley* talk by  
**Doug Benson & walk with Danie Ondinea**  
Details on front page

### SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

**Show and Tell**

### SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

**Pot Luck Xmas Dinner**

Details in November newsletter

## HUNTING HOUSE HISTORIES

As part of History Week, Marrickville Council Archival Reference Centre and the Local Studies Library will again conduct workshops designed to help trace property histories. This is a chance to see and use some rare and valuable resources. **Three workshops free of charge but numbers are limited and bookings essential.**

**When** Tuesday 14 November 6.30 to 8.30 pm  
Wednesday 15 November 6.30 to 8.30 pm  
Thursday 16 November 10 am to 12 noon

**Where** Archival Reference Centre 1st floor,  
Petersham Town Hall, 96 Crystal Street

**Bookings** Vivienne Larking 9335 2185 or  
Antoinette Buchanan 9335 2170 during working  
hours. Please advise in time if you have to cancel.

The School of Classics, History and Religion at the **University of New England** is offering external courses in local, family and applied history. Their Advanced Diploma is designed especially for people who have never done any university study whilst a Graduate Diploma is for those with a first degree in any discipline. For further information phone Janis Wilton 02 6773 2107 or John Ferry 6773 2106. email: [jwilton@metz.une.edu.au](mailto:jwilton@metz.une.edu.au)

Advertisements have been spotted for thirty apartments and nine town houses still to be completed at the **Old Sugar Mill** 2-4 Sugar House Road (off Hutton Street) Canterbury, at Cooks River. Whilst it is gratifying that this early 1840s building – originally known as the Sugarworks and on the Register of the National Estate – is being reused, we watch in the knowledge that this building has suffered extensive fire damage and undue neglect in recent years.

**PRESIDENT** Peter 9550 3809  
**MEMBERSHIP** Diane 9588 4930  
**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736  
**NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823

## TEMPE HOUSE UPDATE

After the Heritage Council recommended only minor changes, the revised DCP and LEP were passed unanimously by Rockdale Council at an extraordinary meeting on 20 September. Knowing the population was distracted by matters Olympic, Rockdale Council rushed through its revised DCP and LEP without community consultation or community groups being informed. The amended plans have been sent to the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning for ratification prior to a DA being submitted.

Meanwhile a swag of high profile citizens including Phillip Adams, John Birmingham, James Broadbent, Shirley Fitzgerald, Clive Lucas, Jack Munday, Leo Schofield, Harry Seidler, Tom Uren and actors John Bell, John Howard and Anna Volska has written to the state government urging it "take all necessary measures to prevent [Tempe House's] integrity and potential from being ruined by ill-considered high-rise development".

## JOSEPH GRAHAM'S RECORD TERM ECLIPSED BY BARRY COTTER

The Society congratulates Marrickville Mayor Barry Cotter on becoming Marrickville's longest serving mayor. Barry became mayor in 1991 and his period of service has been continuous, notwithstanding a sixth month period of leave in 1993-94 when Doug Pereira acted as mayor. Barry's family has long term local links. He grew up in Newtown and attended Enmore High School. He became a Labor councillor in 1987.

Barry broke a 110 year record held by Joseph Graham (1828-1894) who was elected Mayor of Marrickville nine times between 1870 and 1890 and was an alderman for 26 years. His 25 room mansion *Lilydale* (1850s) stood on a large estate where Marrickville Town Hall and Hospital were later built. Accounts of Graham and *Lilydale* are in Cashman & Meader's *Marrickville Rural Outpost to Inner City*.



*Lilydale* (from Matheson *Victorian Villas of Marrickville/Newtown*)

Graham's son-in-law Frank Broome Wright was Marrickville Mayor in 1932 and 1941 whilst his granddaughter (and Wright's daughter) Olwen Hanney served as Mayoress of Marrickville and wrote historical articles on the family and local area. Olwen and her niece Margaret Wright are long term MHS members. Graham Avenue with its stately Canary Island palms, Lilydale Street and Wrights Avenue recall the family associations.