

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



2001 CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Deborah Edward Amy & Arthur Dacre:
A bloody dramatic tragedy

SATURDAY 24 MARCH

Glenleigh & the Penrith district by coach

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

Robert Hutchinson *From Federation to Great War*
through postcards of the Marrickville district

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR 4-6 MAY

MHS is planning an autumn visit to the historic towns of **Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone/Kandos**, leaving Petersham Friday lunchtime, returning late Sunday afternoon. Package to include coach, accommodation, visits to places of interest, and Saturday night group dinner. No cost estimate as yet, but we're aiming at a modest budget. We'll enjoy a few days in lush, peaceful countryside – home to historic buildings, wonderful sights, natural heritage, vineyards, gourmet food and country hospitality. If you'd like to join the tour and to give us an idea of numbers phone Lorraine Beach on 9590 3309. No commitment at this stage, but 2-3 months pre-payment will be required.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter in 2001 either with a short article or to write up an *Our Last Meeting* please contact the editor on 9557 3823.

THIS IS THE FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR UNPAID MEMBERS who should have received a yellow reminder slip with November newsletter. Why not pay till mid 2002? Fees in box below.

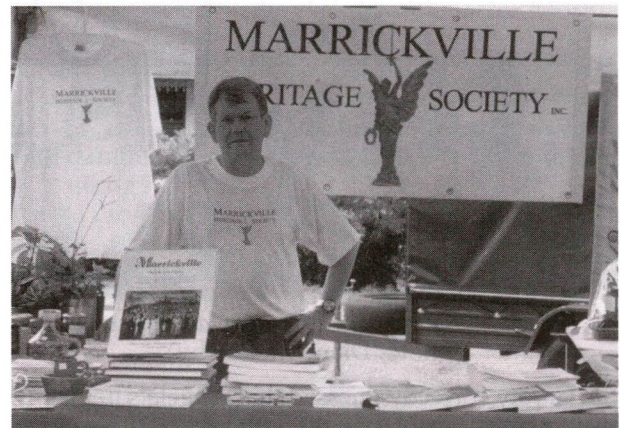
HOW TO JOIN MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Ring 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. As well as a monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage*, monthly talk/outing and other activities, we keep watch on the built and natural heritage of the Marrickville LGA.

I January 2001 will be Australia's 100th birthday as a Federation and the beginning of a year of celebrations. With the first year of the trial beginning of the new millennium almost finished, we can now celebrate the **true** beginning of the new millennium. MHS wishes everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Millennium!

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

Despite one major gripe (see page 4 article) the MHS stall attracted a lot of attention at the festival on Sunday 12 November at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park with numerous newly-arrived residents wanting to know how to research their house history! The stall featured our new MHS T-shirt. Many thanks to contributors David Cass, Ted Green, Sue Miller, Pat Mullen, Pip Preston, Joyce & Paul Roy; and to stall helpers Lorraine Beach, Richard Blair, Peter Cousens, Susan Hicks, Shirley Hilyard, Robert Hutchinson, Gwenda and Harold Welsh.



Peter Cousens on MHS stall at Newtown Festival
(photo: Robert Hutchinson)

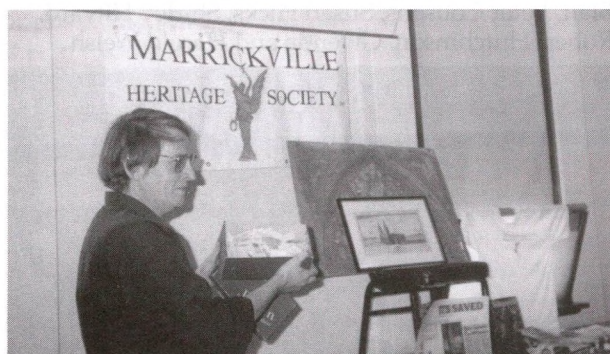
MHS PUBLICATIONS

In 2001 we expect to see publication of both *Heritage* 11 and the Marrickville Potteries book. The committee has also started planning *Heritage* 12 and publications focusing on single suburbs drawing largely from existing journal and newsletter articles. President Peter Cousens is contacting those who expressed interest in the recent questionnaire in journal involvement. A publications subcommittee is being formed and will meet on 22 January at 7 pm. If you would like to be involved or contribute an article, ring Peter 9550 3809. Mark Matheson has indicated he will not be editor for *Heritage* 12, though will stay involved with MHS publications.

OUR LAST MEETING SHOW & TELL

After moving in to our Petersham home [Keith Sutton told our meeting on 25 November] we found in the back shed this hand-carved chest inscribed "carved by A T Corbell, Nhill" featuring this galleon, horse, jockey and cap. Joan Francis' lovely old lace collar was made more poignant when Joan produced a 19th century photograph of her forebear wearing it. Robert Hutchinson's illuminated address of the 1928 winner of the Newtown-Marrickville Ambulance Most Popular Girl Contest, though in poor nick, made us wonder who the attractive Maud Dixon was and what may have become of her.

Moderator Angela Phippen set the tone for *Show and Tell* by holding up a plate and a piece of wooden furniture and asking from which local building these two items had come. The diversity was amazing: Melba's Gift Book to a scrap recipe book, an old pair of spectacles to a candle snuffer, a Sydney Parkinson botanical engraving to a framed family crest, a Diana pottery mixing bowl to a set of kookaburra jugs – something to suit every taste! Chris Clerke's decorative panel – one of eight from St Clements Church spire before restoration – created enormous interest. Only two are still with the church and Chris was strongly urged to retain them for posterity.



Richard Blair's famous box of old bus tickets
(photo: Diane McCarthy)

Jan Garaty correctly guessed that Angela's items were a prayer stool (bought with several others for a dollar each at a St Brigid's Church fete) and small plate believed to be from the former Carmelite Monastery in Dulwich Hill. President Peter Cousens awarded several prizes and thanked Angela and all those members who had contributed. Over morning tea, members mingled and discussed the wondrous assortment of bric-a-brac, much of which will be returned to cupboards and attics – Shirley's bizarre glove to clean venetian blinds, Ian's donkey steam engine and Richard's collection of threepenny bus tickets – until our next *Show & Tell*!

Christie Sotheby

OUR EDITING WORKSHOP

Anyone who thought there was nothing much to editing might have thought differently after attending our editing workshop on 11 November and grappling with parentheses, ellipses, bureaucratese, irregular nouns, em (mutton) and

en (nut) dashes, hyphens, carets, editorial marks, intellectual property, plagiarism, copyright, joys of 'which' and 'that', not to mention 'fanboys' and the dreaded dangling modifiers. To think this was just the introductory workshop! Course presenter Robin Appleton with 40 years in publishing behind her, knows her stuff for editing is a most exact science. All participants found the day both illuminating and enjoyable, and a follow-up workshop may follow. Incidentally, if you come across Peter Cousens please don't ask him how he's coping with his dangling modifiers!

HERITAGE NIGHT AT FERNCOURT

On Wednesday 15 November Ferncourt Public School held its annual Heritage Night with guest-of-honour Minister for Education The Hon. Mr John Aquilina. A one time history teacher, the Minister had done his homework and spoke authoritatively about the history of 1880s *Ferncourt* which became a school in 1922 and is one of our most significant local buildings. He officially opened the Heritage Rose Garden at the front of the school.

Principal Darelle Duncan fosters a strong interest in the history of the building and local area with pupils encouraged to write projects on these themes. In 1998 several Ferncourt students were the district's sole recipients of the Amy Needham Award presented by the Society. Amy's daughter and MHS member Verona Rothwell, whose husband was a pupil, continues to encourage the students. Verona was present along with the president Peter Cousens and other Society members.

MASTERTOUCH UPDATE

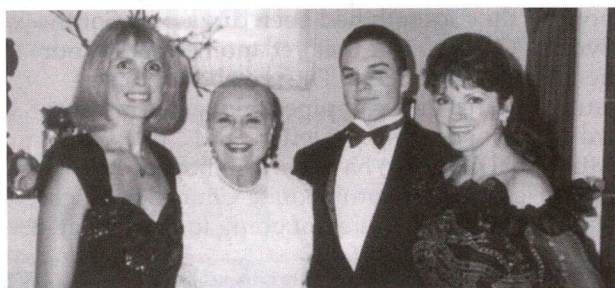
Since the Mastertouch Piano Roll Company moved from its former location in Crystal Street early this year, things have been humming along at the new home, the former fire station in Stanmore Road, Petersham. This resilient business has had a remarkable history and still thrives over six decades after the sales of piano rolls in Australia reached their peak. This is due to the dedication and determination of Barclay Wright who acquired the business in 1961 from George Horton who founded Mastertouch in 1919. The business moved to Petersham in 1975 and we are fortunate to still have this unique enterprise in the Marrickville LGA.

Mastertouch has an impressive backlist of piano roll titles, but new rolls continue to be made and supplied to aficionados across the country. The backbone of the company is now boxmaking. The building houses many old player pianos, and a theatre seating 70 is being constructed using seating from the old Mayfair Theatre and installations and mouldings from the former Roxy Theatre, Parramatta. The transformation of this edifice, mostly by the Friends of Mastertouch, has been amazing and should be completed by mid 2001. Barclay's story of Mastertouch appeared in *Heritage 10* and an expanded version in booklet form will soon be available.

Richard Blair

THE TALENT OF FOREMAN STREET

In the 1920s and early 1930s there must have been something in the air around Foreman Street, Tempe that promoted artistic talent. These were the early days of wireless when crystal sets were all the vogue and backyard concerts seemed to be the *in* thing. This tiny area of Tempe produced some amazing performers over a very short period. Probably the best known were Helen and Nancy McGoldrick who became part of an acrobatic team known as "The Flying de Pauls". Professionally they appeared with Wirths Circus, on the Tivoli vaudeville circuit and eventually at a Royal Command Performance in London. Helen – she was always Nellie to us kids – married comedian Buster Noble. They had two daughters, the eldest appeared first as a singer on television and stage in Australia as Patsy Ann Noble, and later in the United States as an actress Trisha Noble. The younger daughter Amanda appeared on television and on stage with her father.



*Amanda, Helen de Paul, Patrick (Trisha's son)
& Trisha Noble in 1994*

Before the advent of "The Flying de Pauls", the McGoldrick's aunts, Shirley and Nancy de Paul (who lived in the same house) taught dancing and acrobatics. Once a year they put on a show with their students at St Georges Hall Newtown featuring an array of local dancers, acrobatic tumblers and contortionists. Foreman Street attended in full force. In the 1960s and 1970s Helen (who by this time was a well known dancing teacher with a studio at Carlton in Sydney) taught actors and actresses (who had a few dancing skills) their dance routines for the Pocket Playhouse Children's Theatre. The wheel had taken a full turn.

At the rear of the McVicker house in Foreman Street lived Bonnie and Graham Wicker. Bonnie was a talented singer and dancer but it was her younger brother who made a name for himself as a singer-yodeller, playing his own accompaniments on guitar. Later he changed his name to Grade Wicker before finally fading from the musical scene. Jack Allen, the jazz pianist lived in Foreman Street for many years as a schoolboy, later appearing on television and in films as a character actor. A few houses away Mavis Wall was limbering up both as a tap and classical dancer. She retired prematurely when she married another local, Gerald Fitzgerald.

There were two drummers and percussionists in Foreman Street. Jack Rowe who played for local dances, was also a member of the Tempe Tramway Band. Later Ken Holt became a respected drummer in a dance band. He was the first

"sound" man for St Peters Community Players in 1948. Ken still lives in Foreman Street and was a Marrickville alderman for a number of years. Radio actor Ray Hartley (from McCackie Mansions) lived close to Foreman Street. The talent was never wasted. Neil (Sandy) McNeil, a teacher at Tempe Public School (he played the clarinet for singing classes) encouraged the arts and the class presented original play scripts.

About 1937 members of the Sts Peter and Paul Church Tempe Younger Set staged *Cinderella* on a stage on the top floor of the Tempe Convent School in Hillcrest Street. I had written the script. Harald Dillner (my oldest friend) from New Zealand tap danced with Mavis Wall who also sang and danced *Deep Purple* with Gerald Fitzgerald. The big hit of the night was a "boys" ballet dressed in crepe paper ballerina costumes made for us by Mrs Wall (Mavis' mother). Bernie Wood, Ed Warham, Vince Kelly, Jack Davis, Terry Monaghan and myself were the dancers. We also played various roles in *Cinderella*. Mary Cunningham and Nellie Kerwick were the ugly sisters. Ed Warham stole the show by wearing a pair of his mother's long white bloomers and allowing the legs to slide down under his tutu and hitching them back up. Not rehearsed, but it brought the house down.

Meanwhile in 1937, my first two radio plays were performed on Radio Station 2SM. I started writing radio serials for the 2UW Children's Session and became part of the show. Other scripts followed. In 1951 two scripts were accepted for the *Rola Show: Actor's Choice*. Alan White, a talented radio actor, was awarded second prize for his work in the first play *They Gave Him A Gun*, a drama about a young black-marketeer turned gunman. In 1948 the St Peters Community Players evolved and in 1957 became the Pocket Playhouse in Sydenham, but that story has already been told.*

* see *Heritage* 6

Norman McVicker

2001 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The Marrickville Medal is awarded annually by Council's Heritage Promotions Committee to recent building or conservation works which contribute to the cultural heritage of Marrickville. Eligible works for the 2001 Medal must be in the Marrickville LGA, residential or domestic in scale, single buildings or groups, or may be completely new building projects. They may be houses (and their gardens) that have been restored, conserved or renovated during the last three years – either adaptive reuse projects or residences that have undergone minor or substantial alterations. Public and commercial projects are not eligible for the 2001 award, but will be in 2002.

Anyone may nominate a project but the owner must give written permission. **Nominations close Friday 23 March.** The Medal will be presented on 22 April. For nomination forms and further information contact Council's Heritage Architect Catherine Macarthur 9335 2114.

HERITAGE WATCH

• **Tempe House** The North Arncliffe LEP, that includes the proposed redevelopment around Tempe House, has been approved for gazetting by the Minister (Dr Andrew Refshauge). The DA for the conservation works to Tempe House and the surrounding estate (including the original outbuildings, Chapel and Cooks River foreshore) has been submitted to Rockdale Council. The DA for the master plan of the surrounding development will be lodged soon. Both DAs will be available for public examination and comment during the advertising period. The Society was represented at a forum sponsored by the National Trust on 7 December to discuss the proposed development, but the outcomes missed the newsletter deadline.

• **Eversleigh Hospital** Marrickville Council has given effective approval to the proposed development for residential apartments, pending endorsement of the new LEP for the precinct by the Department for Urban Affairs and Planning. The scheme will retain the principal heritage buildings on the site and most of the significant open space to Addison Road. Some local traffic issues have yet to be resolved.

• **Camperdown Cemetery** The trial "no mow" area of remnant native vegetation in the cemetery has started and will be reviewed after six months to determine if there are any viable native plant specimens in the zone. Camperdown Cemetery Trust has launched a self-guided tour of the significant graves and monuments in the cemetery. The guide brochure is available from the Church Street gate, and makes a walk through the cemetery enlightening. Unfortunately, there is no mention in the guide of the remnant native vegetation, in spite of all the Society's correspondence with the Trust over the years.

• **The Tempe Park Methodist Church** operated in Railway Road Sydenham from 1884 until 1969 when it was sold to the **Egyptian Coptic Church** (see March 1996 newsletter). The Coptic Church has sold the site to the Commonwealth Government which, according to the 2/11/00 Cooks River Valley Times, has "notified Marrickville Council that the Coptic Church will be handed over to council early next year ... for community use." It is not known what is meant by "handed over" or "community use". In view of the mid 1990s elimination of numerous nearby Sydenham houses, we will watch this building with a degree of cynicism.

The Society congratulates **Gwenda and Harold Welsh** on their 50th wedding anniversary (17 November). Former assistant secretary Gwenda and former treasurer Harold celebrated by throwing lunch for 50 long time friends.

MHS T-SHIRT

First the famous MHS spoon, now the MHS T-shirt with the Society's name proudly emblazoned in maroon on a white background. Organised by vice president Lorraine Beach, they are available in two sizes for a modest \$15. Available at meetings or by post (+ handling).

PUB STORY #1

VIC ON THE PARK HOTEL

The Vic on the Park Hotel stands opposite the LGA's first park. Originally called Marrickville Park when proclaimed on 4 May 1886, it was Enmore Park by 1922 and was later named in honour of Labor Alderman DV Cochrane. The name was changed back to Enmore Park in 1959 after Cochrane's fall from grace.

A pub has stood on the corner of Addison and Enmore Roads, Marrickville since July 1878 when James Dive Snr. was granted a license calling it Dive's Hotel. It changed licensee and names a few times before George Smith called it the Victoria Hotel in 1884, possibly in honour of the reigning monarch or because of its proximity to Victoria Road. However an undated subdivision plan of the Llewellyn [sic] Estate shows Enmore Park as Victoria Park. Was the pub named for the park which was never so named? Certainly Samuel Cook's campaign to have a park for Marrickville was contemporaneous with the naming of the Victoria Hotel. It is possible that Cook intended the park to be called Victoria and that it never came to pass.



Victoria Hotel (from 1936 History of the Municipality of Marrickville)

A significant factor for the *Victoria's* success was the opening of the tramline between Marrickville and Newtown in 1881 later linked with the city line. The tram stopped opposite the pub. The *Victoria* was ideally placed to service the new working class residential areas (such as the nearby Tramvale estate auctioned for residential building in November 1881) and major industry, as well as park users. The current building was erected in the 1920s and was described in the 1936 History of Marrickville as "another of the well-built and well-kept hostelrys for which the district is famous" [p183]. The name was varied to the more trendy Vic on the Park in the mid 1990s.

Antoinette Buchanan (Local Studies Librarian)

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL BRICKBAT

Whilst we commend the organisers for staging this big event, we felt aggrieved at having paid \$148.50 for a covered stall only to find we were unable to use the two side counters because adjoining stalls were allotted space abutting our sides. Further, these stalls had a wider frontage than ours at about half the cost. This is surely money taken under false pretences. The Society has sent a letter of protest to the festival organisers. The high cost of stall-hiring deters many small, non-profit making community groups from participating in these festivals, and gives the festival less local identity.

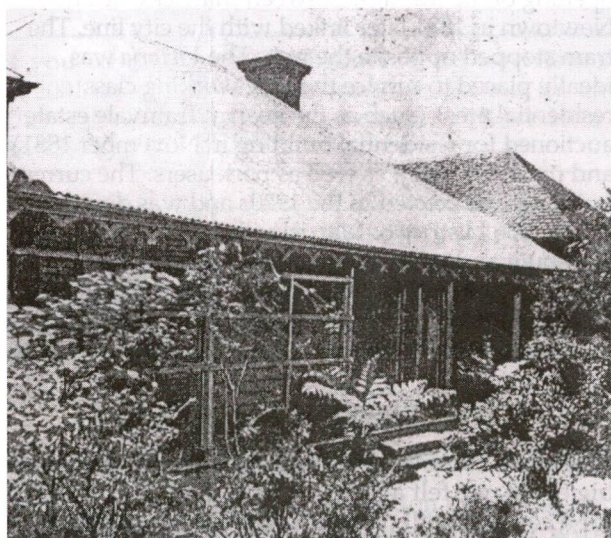
PUB STORY #2 FROM THE ARCHIVES: NEWTOWN'S WHITE HORSE

(Here follows excerpts from an evocative 27 March 1914 Sydney Morning Herald article unearthed by member **Anne Walter**, about an 1840s Newtown historic hotel being demolished. Whitehorse Street off King Street recalls its existence.)

The old White Horse, silent witness of much history, is being pulled down at the present time, and soon it will be but a name and a memory. It stands, this ancient hostelry (what is left of it) on Cook's River-road, just beyond the Newtown Congregational Church, set back a little from the roadway, with some ornamental trees in front of it. But three quarters of a century ago, when it was built, there were no trees in front of it; neither was the solid cemented wall there, which fences it off from the roadway.

Three quarters of a century ago that part of Newtown was heavy bush, but it had been cleared around the hotel, and there was the old-style drive in front, and the swinging signboard, and the horse-trough hollowed out of the trunk of a tree, with a well close by, from which the water for filling the trough was drawn. You may see today the spot where the old well was. The remains of an old box-pump are standing on the spot.

The White Horse, which is said to have been the oldest hotel in Newtown, of late years it had been used as a private residence. It was of the old cottage lath-and-plaster type of hotel, and it was worth inspection, if only to see how they built houses in those days, and also as showing the wonderful preservation of the timber. Carpentry was not then the fine art in Australia that it is now, and some of the under-beams are simply great logs, trimmed slightly on the top, but nowhere else.



It was built on part of the famous Devine grant, years before the railway went through. Practically the only other places close to it then were the bark huts occupied by the brickmakers who laboured at Garseds' (afterwards Eggleton's) brickyards, situated just at the rear. It was a regular place of call for the mail-coaches. Travellers to and from the South Coast, timber-getters and gardeners employed between Cook's and George's Rivers,

always "looked in" at the White Horse. Here was the starting place for the 'buses which ran to and from Sydney.

The place marks an era of progress in this district, for soon after it was built many other places went up, among them being Reiby House, a famous mansion in those days, Stanmore House, where Judge Innes lived, Camden College (erected by Mr Thomas Holt), and Camden Terrace, and many other fine buildings. Here, in Newtown were many of the "country residences" of city gentlemen.

In the mid 'Sixties, the old White Horse was closed ... [and] in 1870 the property was bought by Mr John Smith, builder, of Newtown, and it has remained in the possession of the family ever since. It has a frontage to the main road of nearly 200 feet. It is now going the way of most properties – it is to be sub-divided and sold. As illustrating the growth of Newtown, it may be stated that the property was bought in 1870 for £4 a foot, and it is now valued by the owners at £50 a foot.

SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTIONS

(Write or ring Richard 9557 3823)

- Name the horse Dr Robert Wardell was riding when murdered in 1834.
- What have PMU and Woody Allen in common?
- What's the significance of ABC's PO Box: 9994?

The Society regrets the passing of **Charles Meader** on 6 November aged 74 after a short illness. Charlie worked for a record 53 years with Marrickville Council and was groundsman-caretaker of Henson Park for 30 years from 1964. His daughter local historian Chrys Meader said in her eulogy at St. Clements Church that Charlie knew more than anyone about local history. At a recent Henson Park football game someone remarked 'Charlie's lines are a bit crooked these days' before learning that Charlie was long retired. Our condolences to Chrys and her family.

If facing west, you drive left from Trafalgar Street Petersham into Crystal Street a sign requests you to watch out for "pedestrains". In view of its proximity to Petersham Railway Station, perhaps we have a new word meaning something like "people running for the train"!

CITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WHO:

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Email mstevens@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street, Sydney

SYDNEY-PARRAMATTA MILESTONES

One of Sydney's most important landmarks is the Obelisk designed by Francis Greenway. Its inscription reads: *This Obelisk was erected in Macquarie Place AD 1818 to record that all the Public Roads Leading to the interior of the colony are measured from it L Macquarie Esq Governor.* The other side records the extent of roadworks that year. The Obelisk was erected by Edward Cureton who had laid milestones along Parramatta, Liverpool and South Head Roads between 1814 and 1816.

According to the 1999 Sydney Region Heritage Milestones Conservation Study, which examines all Sydney milestones, virtually none of the original Sydney to Parramatta milestones remain in situ. Many of the original stones were replaced in the 1840s when measurements were transferred from the Obelisk to the GPO. With the exception of Milestone I all milestones were placed 2000 feet west of their prior position in relation to the Obelisk, though in 1934 the authorities reintroduced the Obelisk as the measuring point for distances.

None of the first six milestones are in their original positions. Milestone I (believed to be the only extant 1814-16 milestone) has been restored and is somewhere in storage. It may eventually be reinstated to the corner of George and Liverpool Streets. Milestone II (brought to my attention by the ever-alert Ian Phillips) is on Science Road opposite the Macleay Building, Sydney University. It is in excellent condition and reads "Parramatta XIII Sydney II". Because of the gradual widening of Parramatta Road, it is unclear just where Milestone II was previously located and when it came to rest in Science Road.

Milestone III disappeared from its location on Parramatta Road Stanmore opposite Nelson Street in the mid 1990s after being hit by a vehicle (see April 1999 newsletter). It was listed in the 1984 Marrickville Heritage Study. Milestone IV was recorded in situ on Taverners Hill in about 1940 (although according to *Marrickville People & Places* it was removed in the 1970s by the RTA from outside the Petersham Inn). Milestone V is in the north east corner of Ashfield Park, having previously been at the junction of the Great Western and Hume Highways.

The SRHMCS lists locations of many milestones, but some of the information is unreliable, such as with Milestone III and Milestone VI which is said to be on the south side of Parramatta Road, Ashfield, west of Page Street, east of Iron Cove Creek, but has actually been missing for some time. Other Sydney to Parramatta milestones have either been stolen, relocated, replaced with concrete ones or had their indented destination deleted – apparently done during World War II in case of Japanese invasion. In the 1970s the Department of Main Roads decided to retain the old milestones for their historical significance.

The RTA is now transferring responsibility for most milestones to local councils, but will still make funding available. IMROC (Inner Metropolitan Regional Organisation of Councils) is after funding

to establish a "Road to Parramatta Heritage Trail", which involves identifying major heritage sites – buildings, milestones, historic places, bridges, natural and aboriginal heritage. Helen Hillier is the new Place Manager at IMROC (9265 9558) for any group wishing to register interest in this project. The Heritage Office of NSW is also involved. (IMROC is in fact working with many other bodies looking at the much broader program of revitalising Parramatta Road.) Though the future of the Sydney to Parramatta milestones remains uncertain, with the Olympics over, more funding for such projects should become available and these important items of our early heritage might be preserved.

Richard Blair

METAL BOX DRAIN ENCASEMENTS

You could say **Megan Hicks** MHS member and a curator at the Powerhouse Museum, looks down on the world! Looking down recently on King Street, Newtown footpaths, kerbs and gutters she noticed the footpath had been dug up by South Sydney Council and that yet another part of our heritage had been lost. The metal drain boxes (surrounding the drainpipes taking stormwater from shops) bearing the letters NMC (Newtown Municipal Council) have been removed. After enquiries with a South Sydney Council engineer she was told they were not going to be reinstated.



After Newtown Council was incorporated in 1862, it amalgamated with the City of Sydney on 1 January 1949, and in 1968 much of the old Newtown Council area was relocated to Marrickville Council. As one of the few visible reminders of this local council heritage, surely this is all the more reason to retain these items. It is to Marrickville Council's credit that many of these have been retained along King Street and Enmore Road.

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