

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

Marrickville District from Federation to the Great War with Robert Hutchinson
Saturday 28 April 10.30 am
Petersham Town Hall

Through Robert Hutchinson's ever-growing post card collection, we will see some of the changes that occurred in the Marrickville area in the early 1900s. As part of the Heritage Festival 2001 Robert will show us where people lived, shopped and worked, where they were educated, and how they were entertained and enjoyed themselves. We will also see products of a famous Redfern factory and houses at Fernhill! Many of these Federation treasures can still be seen today. Our heritage indeed!



*Public School, Crystal Street, Petersham (1902)
later West Sydney Tech now Petersham TAFE College
(Robert Hutchinson's post card collection)*

CALL FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have an article published in our highly regarded journal? With *Heritage* 11 nearing completion, a new committee has been formed to organise *Heritage* 12. We are particularly looking for articles on the themes of home, work and entertainment in the Marrickville LGA. Can you help inform and entertain readers with stories regarding the remarkable events or changes that have taken place in your home or working life, or how the Marrickville area has evolved?

You may, however, have a project that falls outside the above criteria such as a local history assignment that can be expanded for wider interest. You may have ideas on what you want to do, but need help in getting started or preparing it for publication. Articles can be from 200 to 5000 words, or more. Please send an outline of your article to the Society or discuss your ideas with me on 9550 3809.

Peter Cousens

2001 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL AWARD & EXHIBITION OPENING

Sunday 22 April 3-5.30 pm

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Mville

Members are invited to attend the annual presentation of the Marrickville Medal Award for Built Heritage with focus on residential and domestic works. There will be a photographic display of all entries plus champagne and refreshments.

A photographic exhibition of Marrickville's Industrial Heritage will be launched and will be on display at the Council Citizens Service Centre, Fisher Street Petersham Monday 23 to Friday 27 April and at Marrickville Metro Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 April. All organised by Council's Heritage Promotions Committee.

HOUSE DECORATIONS INSPECTION

Saturday 21 April 2 pm

Robin Appleton has kindly invited MHS members to look at the painted decorations in her 1874 home, which from 1889 to 1929 belonged to Frederick Atterton, glass embosser, painter and decorator. He decorated his walls and ceilings in a variety of ways including a replica of a Raphael painting from the Vatican. Conservators believe Atterton's decorations were samplers to get work. In this work-in-progress conservation has involved removing overpaint. Meet on **corner of Crystal and Trafalgar Streets Petersham** for Robin's guided tours from 2pm.

Heritage aficionados are familiar with the scenario: mansions, banks, post offices and cinemas demolished for service stations, car parks and office blocks, only to be replaced when their use becomes obsolete. In 1969 the 1862 mansion *Llewellyn* built by Benjamin Yabsley in Petersham Road, Marrickville was demolished to make way for **Marrickville High School** which opened in 1977. Now with Marrickville's declining population after a mere 24 years, its doors seem soon to close. And so it goes!

NEW TREASURER WANTED

From June the Society will need a new treasurer. Basic knowledge of bookkeeping and banking procedures plus some spare time are all that is required. Every assistance will be given by the acting treasurer and committee members to ease a willing volunteer into this important post. It's also a chance to become part of an active, vibrant committee and help in the running of the Society. For further information ring Diane McCarthy 9588 4930.

OUR LAST MEETING (24 MARCH) GEMS OF THE MULGOA VALLEY

By the bye, I have not told you about our expedition to Sir John Jamison's [Regentville] – some part of the scenery in his neighbourhood is most beautiful. I had no idea that Sydney could boast of such lovely & romantic views – Sir Js' house is a very handsome one, by far the best in the Colony & it is very tastefully & expensively furnished – He did me the honor to request me to become the Mistress of it ... So wrote Frances Leonora Macleay of Elizabeth Bay House in 1826 to her brother William Sharp Macleay in Cuba (published in 1993 as *Fanny to William, Letters 1812-36*). She declined and later wrote that she detested Sir JJ! And so 175 years on we journeyed to the site of *Regentville* overlooking the Nepean, and could only imagine the grand house, the lavish balls and pleasure grounds, now a sea of paspalum.

Glenleigh revealed its unique painted interior decorations. Cameos of hare, fish and partridges on the dining room ceiling, musicians in the music room and writers in the library. This was James Ewan's Scottish Baronial style 'weekender' (1880s) with its distinctive crow-stepped gables. Built of hard white furnace bricks with red brick lintels and string courses, the house is set in fine restored gardens.

St. Thomas' Mulgoa, of golden sandstone, sits on the top of a little hill. Built of stone quarried on the Fernhill property, its design is basically Picturesque Gothic. Its setting among trees is truly wonderful. The simple interior is well preserved and is distinguished by an open hammer-beam roof and an east window of timber tracery. The Cox family and other pioneers of the Mulgoa Valley lie in the church graveyard.



Members Joyce & Paul Roy return to the scene of their 1963 marriage at St Thomas (photo: Anne Walter)

Our great good fortune at *The Cottage* was to have Dr James Broadbent tell us of the early history and construction of his house and of his methods of preserving its 190 year old fabric. Everywhere at *The Cottage*, its exterior and interior, show its "honest age" with no attempt to tart it up. Built by William Cox, senior, for his sons George, Henry and Edward this simple Australian Colonial Bungalow is beautifully sited on a rise above Mulgoa Creek. Because it is such an important house this philosophy of conservation is surely the way to go. The arch of the entrance hall is the one architectural feature in the house and adds great charm among the finishes that "are worn, discoloured, tatty and

fragmentary". Our visit to *The Cottage* was the highlight of the day.

Our last destination *Glenmore* was the home of Henry Cox. Now the golf clubhouse, internally its distinction is hard to find. However its setting in the landscape and magnificent trees are especially fine. An excellent day thanks to the organisation of Richard Blair.

Shirley Hilyard

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF NEWTOWN

The Concerned Citizens of Newtown (CCN) was formed at a public meeting at Burland Hall, Newtown in February 1981 with aims to improve the quality of life in Newtown, to improve local facilities via Government bodies and to preserve the heritage of Newtown. It opposed demolition of the former IXL Jam Factory in Camden Street and closure of Newtown Library in old Newtown Town Hall. CCN was active in formulating ideas for the Sydney Park Plan of Management, traffic management issues in Enmore Ward, street planting, street closures, upgrading of parks, and pollution. It also produced a newsletter *Newtown News*.

One of CCN's earliest campaigns was in 1981-82 opposing a mammoth shopping complex proposed by New World Properties Pty Ltd on the site bounded by Alice, King and Camden Streets. CCN delivered to Marrickville Council an overwhelming 174 letters and a tape recording of objections. In all, Council received 241 letters against the development and a petition with 56 signatures, the greatest response Council had ever received to a development proposal. Residents specified 73 different objections. The DA was rejected – proof that citizens' action groups can be effective.

Among its participants were Dr Andrew Refshauge (before becoming a MLA), Meira Kurfurst and Pat Clarke, both later Marrickville Councillors. Gradually CCN disbanded and the final meeting took place on 19 November 1996. In February 2001 with increased bank fees, the balance of around \$2200 was donated to four local community groups – the New Theatre, Marrickville Heritage Society, Inner West Cultural Services (formerly Kids Activities Newtown) and the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre for its Boarding House Project.

Richard Blair

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In this year commemorating the Centenary of Federation it was fitting that on 8 March Marrickville Council held a *Gathering of Women* hosted by the Deputy Mayor **Rebecca Kaiser** at the Louisa Lawson Reserve to honour those women who struggled to obtain for their fellow women so many of the rights we take for granted today:

The right to own land and manage our own financial matters; the right to attend university and to practice the professions for which we qualify; the right to seek employment outside the home other than domestic work and to join and partake in all aspects of the union movement; the right to expect a reasonable wage even if equal pay is not always forthcoming, to have our contribution to society fully recognised, to expect that our children should receive a good education and necessary health services and above all the Right to Vote, to enter into all levels of government and not be discriminated against because of our sex.

The **Hon. Carmel Tebbutt** MLC Minister for Juvenile Justice covered many of these points in her keynote address. She reminded us of the women of Marrickville who achieved so much and influenced public opinion – Louisa Lawson, Maybanke Wolstenholme*, Lilian Fowler and our late Patron Eve Sharpe. Ms Tebbutt reminded us that it is not only the leaders we should remember, but also the quiet unsung workers without whom little would be achieved.



*Mayor of Newtown Lilian Fowler in May 1938
on being elected President of the newly-formed
RPA Hospital Ex Patients' Association*

The Gathering was then introduced to **Chrisanthi Giotis**, Marrickville Young Citizen of the Year 2001. Chrisanthi spoke warmly and with pride of her Hellenic heritage, her growing up and education in the area and of the inspiration and encouragement she has received from various strong women in her almost 20 years. A presentation was made to **Janet Loughman** to mark her achievement as Children's Solicitor of the

Year 2000. Janet, born in Marrickville, worked for many years with the Marrickville Legal Service.

There was a splendid photographic exhibition and leaflet, organised by **Chrys Meader** and her library staff, depicting *A Century of Women* in the Marrickville area.** With a quartet from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts playing background music, Council providing a sumptuous brunch and a presentation to each guest of a 'Federation Stars' Flannel Flower, proceedings were brought to a joyful conclusion.

Gwenda Welsh

* Born Maybanke Selfe, she became Maybanke Wolstenholme on marriage in 1867. She was deserted in 1885 while living at *Maybanke* corner Frazer Street and Wardell Road, Marrickville. Just after legislation was introduced allowing women to petition for divorce, she gained her divorce in 1893. Her second marriage was to Professor Francis Anderson in 1899 and she is usually remembered as Maybanke Anderson.

** Chrys pointed out that in the 140 year history of Marrickville Council there have been 636 male councillors and only 10 female, most of these in the past 15 years.

MORE FROM MAUREEN DIEHL ON WT. OFFICER NEVILLE RYAN RAAF

In August 1993 the Society published a letter from Maureen Diehl seeking information about Wt. Offr. Neville Ryan of Calvert Street Marrickville who was buried in the Azores. Our October 1997 newsletter provided fresh information and a photo of Neville. Maureen, who joined MHS and now lives in Florida, has written with a significant update:

"I am still involved with War Graves, although not on location in the Azores. However, you may recall, that in the October 1997 issue, there was an article submitted by Harold Welsh, regarding a young Marrickville airman of the RAAF named Neville Ryan. In 1998, I succeeded in making contact with a surviving cousin of young Neville, Barry Horsley, who lives at Mount Ousley, and so I learned about our hero."

"On Anzac Day 1998, I dressed Neville's gravesite, not only with floral tributes and his National Flag, but also, with framed photos of Neville and his mother, who had died in 1981, not ever having had the opportunity of visiting her son's gravesite. Therefore, I brought mother and son together on that Anzac day. I enclose a photo of the event, which was also my last ceremony at Lajes War Cemetery, Terceira Island, Azores."

The photo is too indistinct for reproduction, but on the back of the photo Maureen has written: "The gravesite of Warrant Officer Neville Vincent Ryan 422812 RAAF Killed 8th March 1945 Age 20. Son of Thomas V Ryan and Amy Z Ryan of Marrickville NSW Australia. Anzac Day 25th April 1998. Photo Maureen Diehl Hon. Sup. War Graves Azores."

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 21 APRIL

Inspection of painted decorations

Details on front page

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

Robert Hutchinson *From Federation to Great War* from Robert's post card archive

Details on front page

FRIDAY 4 MAY TO SUNDAY 6 MAY

Mudgee Trip

SATURDAY 26 MAY

Visit to Lyndhurst: Historic Houses Trust Resource Centre, Glebe

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER

One would have counted on those who were members of the committee for the Centenary of Stanmore Public School (1884-1984) to have recognised the words of the tablet affixed to a Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) in the playground fronting Cambridge Street, Stanmore. The tablet (inscription depicted in March newsletter) was to commemorate this tree planted by Sir Henry Parkes.

A ceremony "Centennial Tree Planting for Public School Playgrounds" took place on Arbor Day 1 September 1888, when 100 trees were planted. It may have been on this occasion that Sir Henry, NSW Premier for the fourth time, planted the Norfolk Island Pine in front of the then four year old school. It has been alleged that he lived just up the street at *The Lodge* 97 Cambridge Street. However, it was not until 3 May 1933 that the Parents and Citizens Association placed the tablet. This piece of trivia especially chosen for the Centenary of Federation gave rise to zero response! Incidentally, the architects for Stanmore School were Blackman and Varney Parkes (son of Sir Henry).

Shirley Hilyard

MARRICKVILLE CONNECTIONS

Both our outgoing Archbishop of Sydney and our new State Governor had associations with the Marrickville area. **Archbishop Harry Goodhew** was born in Dulwich Hill and lived on the eastern side of Livingstone Road Marrickville (near Pile Street) as a child. He attended Dulwich Hill Junior Tech and Holy Trinity Dulwich Hill Sunday School. **Governor Marie Bashir** was Director of the Marrickville Community Health Centre at Penston Hall, Livingstone Road Marrickville in the 1980s.

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

MEMBERSHIP Diane 9588 4930

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH

Gelding Street Dulwich Hill is a remarkably intact urban streetscape of early 20th century single storey bungalows set back from the street behind intact fences and front gardens. The street has continuous sandstone kerbs and mature trees. The National Trust-listed Abergeldie Estate is nearby. **Long time owners and occupants of No. 5, the Salvation Army, are proposing to demolish the existing sound house** and replace it with a two storey project home and double garage with driveway onto Gelding Street. The existing garage in the backyard will apparently be retained. The sandstone kerb will be cut and the street tree removed for the new driveway.

Somewhat unusually, the application for the demolition of the house has been lodged as a separate DA, perhaps to allow development by stealth if this terrible proposal is not accepted by Council. The Society and local residents are appalled at the insensitivity of the owners and are advising Council that the proposal is nothing short of urban environmental vandalism. Council must reject this application for demolition and replacement of an existing house that could be sensitively adapted for the requirements of a contemporary lifestyle, as has been done so many times in this area.

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Following notification by a Society member that parts of the recently-sold **15 Dickson Street Newtown** villa (pictured in last newsletter) were being removed, including the unusual cast-iron lace balustrade, Council was contacted and there being no approval for the work, promptly placed a 'stop work' order on the site. However Council will probably endorse a fast-tracked approval to allow repair and conservation works to proceed. The balustrade is being restored and will be reinstated, part of the owners' intention to retain the house as a private residence after restoration.

Scott MacArthur

PETERSHAM TOWN HALL CLOCK

The recent temporary disappearance of the hands of Petersham Town Hall clock was because of a major mechanical upgrade. Significantly the clock is the only part of the original 1886 town hall that was retained and incorporated in the current 1938 town hall. It was a gift presented to Council by Alderman William Paling who was Mayor of Petersham 1881-82. (A composer and philanthropist, Paling founded the musical business bearing his name which flourished for over a century in Sydney. He built and lived in *Woerden* - named after his Dutch birthplace - in Stanmore in the early 1870s, demolished in 1980 and now Montague Gardens.)

According to *The Story of Petersham* (1948) "the clock was fitted to work electrically and to operate as a master clock . . . after a lapse of 62 years it is still accurately recording the passing hours." That was 53 years ago. The clock's accuracy will now be to 0.001 seconds per year and the clock face will be easier to read.