

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

Haberfield Walk with Vincent Crow
Saturday 28 July 2 pm

Meet 1.45 for 2 pm start corner Dalhousie St & Deakin Ave Haberfield. Cost \$5 MHS members, \$8 non members. Bookings Robert 9568 3079.

While the Commonwealth of Australia was established in January 1901, Haberfield was developed from November 1901. In 1979 Haberfield was classified as a conservation area by the National Trust and in 1990 it was listed on the Register of the National Estate. Haberfield is noted for its nationalistic Federation architecture and gardens.



Wilga 1910 (renamed Chilverton)

14 Rogers Avenue Haberfield (photo: Vincent Crow)

To mark the Centenary both of Federation and the foundation of Haberfield, **Vincent Crow** will lead an afternoon walk through Australia's first Garden Suburb including the significant "Stanton" area. Our guide was instrumental in having Haberfield recognised as an important heritage conservation zone and for his services he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1994. Vincent spoke to our Society in October 1998 on the history and character of Haberfield. His book *Haberfield: Distinctly Australian* will be available for purchase.

MULTI MEDIA LAUNCH

On Thursday 14 June **The Multi Media Collection and Publishing Project** was launched at Marrickville Library by State Librarian Dagmar Schmidmaier. This project was funded by a State Government Library Development Grant of \$43,780. We were given a demonstration of the database which will make Marrickville Library's photographic collection more accessible and a valuable resource for researchers. Eventually the library's entire collection of several thousand photos will be digitised, indexed and placed on the database.

Diane McCarthy

OUR LAST MEETING

WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

About 60 members attended our 17th AGM at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 23 June. Member for Grayndler Anthony Albanese MHR presented the Society with an Australian flag and alerted members to federal government plans to scrap the Register of the National Estate. Secretary Joyce Roy read the minutes of the 2000 AGM. President Peter Cousens presented the annual report (see inside). This was followed by reports from the acting treasurer Diane McCarthy, committee convenors Scott MacArthur, Heritage Watch, Angela Phippen, War Memorials Project, Jan Armstrong, Oral History Project, and publication reports from newsletter editor Richard Blair, *Heritage 11* editor Mark Matheson, *Heritage 12* and suburbs publication Graham Hunt, and potteries Robert Hutchinson, and Angela on the MHS Website.

All committee positions were declared vacant. Returning officer was Shirley Hilyard. The new committee is: president Peter Cousens, vice presidents Lorraine Beach and Diane McCarthy, secretary Joyce Roy, treasurer Susan Hicks, committee members Robert Hutchinson, Robyn Johnson, Mark Matheson, Pat Mullen, Angela Phippen and Ian Rumsey, Heritage Watch committee convenor Scott MacArthur, newsletter editor and distributor Richard Blair and membership secretary Pamela Stewart. Diane McCarthy also Public Officer.

Peter then made a presentation to Gwenda and Harold Welsh who are moving to the Central Coast. Since joining MHS in 1994 Gwenda brought the Amy Needham Award project to fruition as convenor of that committee and as assistant secretary handled newsletter distribution for four years. Harold was our treasurer (1994-98), co-edited *Marrickville Remembers*, was our first Public Officer (1997-2001) and a valued runner.

The meeting then moved to the home of Keith Sutton to inspect his Sudan War Murals described in the February newsletter and to be an article in *Heritage 12*. This is the only known mural of that 1885 campaign. Keith is hoping for a grant to assist in the uncovering of more murals and mural conservation. Bruce Woodhouse showed the Sudan War medals belonging to his great grandfather Richard Addison who lived locally whilst Ian Rumsey talked about his picture of the NSW Sudan Contingent at Circular Quay. The day's finale was a champagne picnic lunch in the Petersham Park rotunda with the largest post AGM gathering for years.

Richard Blair

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000-2001

Our year began with a questionnaire being sent to all members seeking feedback for membership details, interests and suggestions for future activities of the Society. We had an excellent response and have used the information to plan this year's activities.

During the year we heard from a range of interesting speakers. Historian Lesley Muir spoke on railways, politicians and the suspicious circumstances surrounding the burning of the Garden Palace. I then gave a short history on the two gardens built on the site of the Palace dome following the fire. Other committee members gave talks: Deborah Edward on the tragic story of celebrated actors Amy and Arthur Dacre; Robert Hutchinson amused a large audience during the Heritage Festival with postcard views from his extensive collection which showed the Marrickville LGA between Federation and the Great War; Scott MacArthur showed us work-in-progress at Sydney Town Hall as painters reproduced the 19th century decorative wall painting in the Grand Staircase.

On reflection it was odd how frequently decorated and painted walls featured in several visits: Megan Jones from Tanner and Associates showed us the newly restored Sydney School of Arts in Pitt Street; Robin Appleton showed us the extravagantly decorated walls and ceilings of her 1874 home *Valetta*, later painted by resident artist/decorator Frederick Atterton. Today we will inspect the recently revealed 1885 Sudan War murals in the home of member Keith Sutton.

Last month we visited the Historic Houses Trust Research Library at Lyndhurst where senior librarian Megan Martin showed some of their large collection of architectural pattern books and trade catalogues for stained glass windows, encaustic tiles and linols, plus some of the cartoons for Signor Lorenzini's wall decorations. The profusely decorated walls and ceilings of *Glenleigh* were studied during our trip to the Mulgoa area.

We also got into the bush and looked at the flora. Doug Benson told us about Missing Jigsaw Pieces of Bushplants of the Cooks River Valley after which Danie Ondinea and Virginia Bear showed us remnants of the Valley. In March Richard Blair and Ted Green introduced us to architectural Gems of Mulgoa Valley where we inspected *Glenleigh*, the ruins of Regentville, The Cottage, Glenmore and the pretty little church of St. Thomas where Joyce and Paul Roy were married in 1963. Lorraine Beach organized a coach load of travellers for a wonderful weekend in early May to Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone.

It seems a long time ago since Sydney hosted the 2000 Olympic Games. MHS member Richard Cashman was one of the runners privileged to carry the Olympic Flame through Marrickville's streets. We had no functions during the Olympics but visited, with the Australian Society, an exhibition of artefacts featuring our State Flower, the Waratah, at the SH Ervin Gallery, and saw a display of Waratahs in flower at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Among our social activities were a "Show and Tell" (including morning tea) compered by Angela Phippen, our annual end-of-year Pot Luck Xmas Dinner held at the Marrickville Medal winning home of Bob Hayes in Tempe and dinner at Parliament House with local Member and Deputy Premier Dr. Andrew Refshauge.

We received lots of positive comments about the seating arrangements and morning tea provided for our Heritage Festival talk so you can all look forward to more of the same in future talks at Peter sham Town Hall. The Society had been looking for larger rooms but the committee decided it is more convenient to continue meeting at Petersham Town Hall. Thanks to Marrickville Council for allowing ongoing use of the hall.

I was pleased to represent the Society on the judging panel for the Marrickville Medal (details in May newsletter), at various official Marrickville Council functions including regular attendance as a guest at Australian Citizenship Ceremonies and on 14 October at the renaming of the Liberty Street Reserve Stanmore to the Eve Sharpe Reserve in honour of our late Patron. The park was landscaped and a large piece of recycled sandstone, beautiful sculpted with Australian flora reflecting Eve's love of horticulture, was unveiled by Eve's niece, Olga Jackson. The idea of a suitable memorial to Eve was originally proposed to Council by MHS member Lu Bell. Lu and I were among those who addressed the gathering and several other members also attended.

On 15 November I attended the opening of Ferncourt Public School's new Heritage Rose Garden with guest-of-honour the Minister for Education John Aquilina. Daughter of Amy Needham and MHS member Verona Rothwell and Richard Blair were also present.

Mark Matheson and Robert Hutchinson represented the Society at the annual RAHS Conference in Yass and received a \$2000 grant towards publication of a history on potteries in the Marrickville LGA to be published later this year. Recently several members attended the launch of the Marrickville Library Multi Media Publishing and Collection Project. We also inspected some new acquisitions by Marrickville Council recommended by MHS members including a silver trowel (spotted by Ian Rumsey at a Sydney antique fair) commemorating the laying of the foundation stone of *Shrublands* in 1873.

Speaking of fairs, the Society again had stalls at the annual Marrickville and Newtown Festivals. Although our stall at Newtown was badly positioned we were still successful in our fund raising. We also ran a stall at the first Dulwich Hill Festival which will hopefully become a regular event on the festival calendar. It is great fun manning these stalls and I hope we can encourage more volunteers to help on these days or make donations of jams, plants, preloved objects etc. for sale.

You may have noticed that the Society has a new painted banner organized by Robert Hutchinson. Lorraine Beach arranged production of our Society Tee-shirt and members are encouraged to buy one. We have established a Society Scrapbook for newspaper cuttings and photographs concerning the Society. If members have interesting articles or photographs etc. they might consider donating them for the Scrapbook or lending them for copying.

The Society is about to go online. The committee had long considered a website with Scott MacArthur doing the initial groundwork. Lisa Angus is designing the site; Angela Phippen and Lisa are coordinating it. Our Homepage will provide an overview of the Society, publicize our goals, activities and merchandise for sale and encourage people to join the Society. It is not designed to accept bookings.

I am happy to announce that *Heritage 11* is almost ready for the printers. Mark Matheson has again done a wonderful job. Three new subcommittees have been established to oversee future journals and new publications on our suburbs. The first one will be *Petersham*.

Finally, it is my pleasure to thank some of the many people who participate, contribute, and keep the Marrickville Heritage Society the vital force that it is. Firstly to the Executive Committee: immediate Past President **Robert Hutchinson**; Vice Presidents **Lorraine Beach** and **Diane McCarthy**; Secretary **Joyce Roy**; Heritage Watch and Classifications Convenor **Scott MacArthur** and his committee; Journal Editor **Mark Matheson**; Newsletter Editor and regular advisor **Richard Blair**; War Memorials Project Convenor **Angela Phippen**; and committee members **Deborah Edward**, **Robyn Johnson**, **Pat Mullen** and **Peter Robertson**. Pat has also done an excellent job finding advertisers for *Heritage 11*.

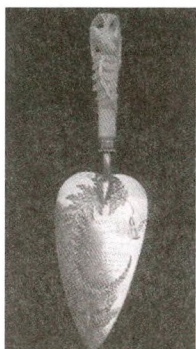
Most of all I would like to say a big thank you to **Diane** for collecting and delivering the mail, and especially for acting as Treasurer having resigned the position at the last AGM but continuing when we couldn't fill the position. Thank you **Harold Welsh** who has recently resigned as our first Public Officer. Diane will take up this position. Thank you to Oral History Convenors **Marilyn Leeds** and **Jan Armstrong** and their committee, **Robin Appleton** for conducting the editing workshop, and **Danie Ondinea** whose media coverage regarding Camperdown Cemetery attracted lots of attention and some new members. Thank you **Shirley Hilyard** who organised the recent Parliamentary dinner, today's flag presentation, dispersed tickets for Newington College concerts throughout the year, and for her continuous help.

Thanks to all members who volunteer their services, and those who attend our functions since it is all of you who make the Marrickville Heritage Society the active body that it is today. If you enjoy your membership please ask a friend to join the Society. If everyone could get just one person to join this year, we could double our membership and put on more activities. A card is being passed around - please put your name down if you would like to become actively involved in some of our groups and have lots of fun at the same time.

Peter Cousens (report abridged)

SILVER TROWEL & SHRUBLANDS

When is a museum object not a museum object? When it's an historical document. Thanks to MHS members Ian Rumsey and Peter Cousens, Local Studies recently bought a silver commemorative trowel whose wording sparked a rush of research to discover more about the family and hopefully, to find out which house it could be.

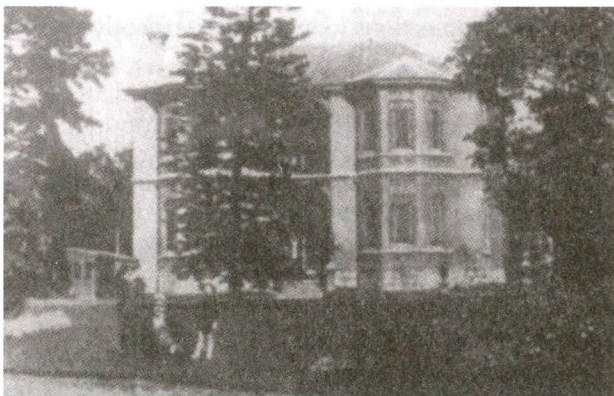


Presented to
Joseph Severne Thomas
by
his parents on the occasion
of the laying of
The Foundation Stone
of their
House in Marrickville
To the Memory of the late
Dr. Joseph Severne
October 1873

(photo courtesy Alan Landis)

The trowel has a bone handle carved with a small bird and fern fronds on both the front and reverse sides. The trowel was originally gilded and is engraved with a bird, butterfly and fern pattern, reminiscent of the motifs on christening gifts.

Joseph Severne Thomas, born 1873, was the fourth of six children. His parents Thomas Thomas and Victoria Sarah Taylor were married around 1866 in Queensland and are believed to have lived in *Arnold House* Piper Street Woollahra from 1867-1873. They lived at *Shrublands* 1873-1879 then moved to Oxford Street Newtown where Thomas died in 1881. His widow was operating a ladies college in Renwick Street Leichhardt in 1882.



In 1915 *Shrublands* passed into the hands of the Passionist Fathers who enlarged and transformed the building into the monastery associated with St Brigids Church. The name *Shrublands* is retained in the adjacent parish hall and bowling club. The evidence of the trowel and this research indicates that *Shrublands* on the corner of Marrickville and Livingstone Roads, Marrickville was built for Thomas Thomas in 1873 and not James Smith in 1888 (Meador & Cashman Marrickville People & Places 1994 p 86). The historical value of this museum object makes this trowel doubly valuable to Marrickville.

Antoinette Buchanan

(Editor's query: So who was Dr Joseph Severne?)

CHARLIE MEADER GATES AT HENSON PARK

A Mayoral Minute read at the Marrickville Council meeting on 19 June stated the late Charlie Meador had worked for Marrickville Council for over 51 years principally in Parks and Gardens. He was groundsman/caretaker of Henson Park, Marrickville for 30 years. His association with Henson Park was so strong it was recommended that the park entrance gates in Centennial Avenue be named **The Charlie Meador Gates** in recognition of Charlie's service to the community. His daughter Chrys is Manager, Marrickville Council Library Services and a MHS life member.

Charlie was an ardent supporter of the Newtown Jets Rugby League team which has recently resecured Henson Park as its home base. An article on the history of the Jets will appear in *Heritage* 11.

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

"I have a dream."

The *I Have a Dream* mural in Wires Away Park on King Street Newtown was painted by Andrew Aitken and Julie Pryor without the building owners' permission in August 1991. The mural depicting Martin Luther King and his immortal words with an image of the world came under threat in 1995 with a proposed extension of the Telecom exchange. Though the Heritage Commission supported the Telecom submission, a strident and protracted resident campaign caused Telecom to retain the mural and park – must be the LGA's smallest park albeit a paved one.

Originally a crowd of people was painted on the lower part of the wall. After being vandalised, this section was replaced by an Aboriginal flag and has remained intact and without graffiti since. August will be the tenth anniversary of this Newtown icon. (Sources: *The Courier* 3/4/95 & *The Glebe* 2/8/95; thanks also to Mirabell Bonnell and MHS member Andy Carr's Newtown scrapbook for inspiring Q&A. No response from members!)

Nadia Wheatley's revised award-winning 1985 book *The House That Was Eureka* was launched by Jack Munday at Marrickville Library on 20 June. Set in present day Newtown the story focuses on Sydney's 1931 anti-eviction battles (including a violent episode at 143 Union Street) resulting in significant new anti-eviction legislation.

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All Herbs, Terracotta Pots, Lattice. Everything to keep your garden healthy

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 28 JULY 2 pm

Haberfield walk with Vincent Crow

Details on front page

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

Brian Nicholls talks on *A Saucepan in the Sky*

Newington Concert Prescott Hall Sun 29 July 2.30 pm

David Saffir (violin) & Phillip Schovk (piano) play
Handel, Beethoven & Bloch. \$20, \$15 concession.

CALLING ALL COMMUTERS

Did you, or someone you know, travel by bus in the Marrickville area prior to 1970? I am researching the history of bus services in this area for an article in *Heritage 12*. I am concentrating on private bus services such as to Rockdale, White Bay, Bondi Junction, RPA and Childrens Hospitals, and any others. I am also interested in government bus routes to areas never served by the trams, such as the 412, the 490 (the 'around the world' route), the 413 (formerly 465) and cross-suburban routes such as the 445.

I am especially interested in passengers' anecdotes no matter how scandalous. There must also be many stories about the 'school specials'. You may also have old photos, timetables or other memorabilia. All help will be acknowledged in the finished article. If you can help, please contact me on 9558 9738 or by letter to 95 Samuel Street Tempe 2044.

Geoff Hassall

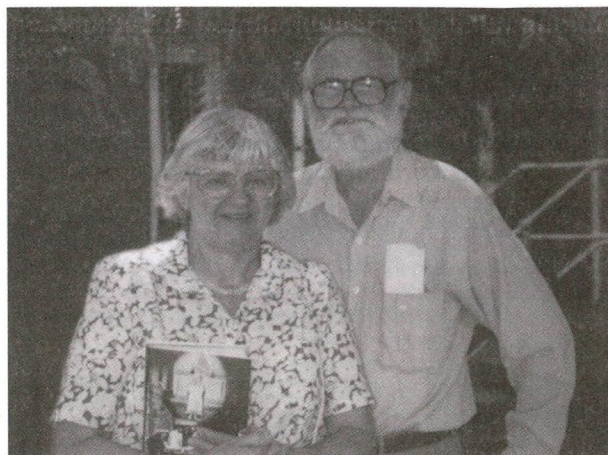
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* The Society congratulates MHS member and Stanmore resident **Nigel Butterley** AM on the recent world premiere at the Opera House of his, *Spell of Creation*. One of Australia's foremost composers and musicologists Nigel has been an MHS member since 1986 and was speaker at the Society's August 1989 meeting on the history of Australian classical music. Nigel is replacing Harold Welsh as a Stanmore north runner.

* We farewell Marrickville Library's Local Studies Librarian **Antoinette Buchanan** who has taken up a position with the Parramatta Heritage Centre. Antoinette's displays at the past two Heritage Festival exhibitions have been outstanding. She will continue to be a MHS member and an article by her is in this newsletter.

Marrickville Council has released the long-awaited 1997 **Draft Marrickville Heritage Study** in three volumes for public comment. It contains 109 new heritage items. Copies are obtainable from Council. Contact Heritage Watch convenor Scott MacArthur (9559 5736) regarding notable omissions or for general information.

Robert Hutchinson's postcards of late 19th century Newtown: 1.30 pm Sunday 15 July Newtown Library, Brown Street for South Sydney Heritage Society.



Au revoir Gwenda & Harold Welsh

MARRICKVILLE, MUDGEES (& MULGOA) CONNECTIONS

On our recent Mudgee weekend members found the following connections:

- 1) In Gulgong Pioneers Museum Pamela Stewart spotted an Art Deco desk set originally in Lewisham Hospital.
- 2) Photo of Joan Francis' forebears also seen in museum.
- 3) Southern Cross windmill and water pump made by Sidney Williams Pty. Ltd. of Dulwich Hill, at Poets Corner Winery: observation by Geoff Francis.
(No connection could be made between Malakoff Towers (1850s) and Malakoff Street in Marrickville with the "Malakoff", an 1869 reservoir behind the Mudgee telegraph office and demolished in 1970. Norman McVicker says the reservoir was so named because it resembled a fortress in Sebastopol known to some Mudgee residents who had fought in the Crimean War.)

Extending connections to include the recently visited Mulgoa area:

- 4) Henry and Harriet Albury were married at St Thomas' Mulgoa in 1845 and their second daughter Louisa was born at Guntawang Station near Gulgong in 1848. After marriage she became Louisa Lawson and spent her final years in Marrickville. A short article on Louisa by Pat Mullen will appear in a future newsletter.
- 5) Anne Walter pointed out that members of the Cox family, a name synonymous with Mulgoa Valley, also lived in Mudgee and some were buried in Camperdown Cemetery.
- 6) Margaret Riley lived for a time with her relatives, the Rileys of Glenmore. Margaret was educated at Bello Retiro, Newtown. In 1861 she married Thomas Browne (alias Rolf Boldrewood) – part of whose childhood was in Enmore House – at St Thomas' Church, Mulgoa. Thomas spent about ten years as Gulgong magistrate and lived with Margaret and family at Guntawang Station.

Richard Blair

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

MEMBERSHIP Diane 9588 4930

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823