

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

*A Saucepan in the Sky* by Brian Nicholls  
Saturday 25 August 10.30 am  
Petersham Town Hall

(Morning tea on arrival and AGM Treasurer's report to be presented)

One day three years ago Brian Nicholls sat down at his kitchen table with a ten year old laptop and began dabbling in memories of his 1940s childhood in Petersham. The result *A Saucepan in the Sky* published by Hale & Iremonger was recently launched by John Doyle (alias Roy Slaven). Brian sees *heritage* as being not only about old buildings, but also about values, ethics, manners and customs. People bring history and places alive. Brian's Uncle Stan certainly brings The Carrington (now the White Cockatoo) alive. It was Uncle Stan's favourite watering hole for more than 20 years; and Uncle Doug roared past Petersham Station in his steam train with whistle blowing.



Uncle Stan & Nan in 1944

Brian's great great grandfather James Cook was a St Peters brickmaker who gave critical evidence to a 1876 parliamentary committee on working conditions of children in brickpits. James' brother Rupert Cook was a prominent brickmaker whose Marrickville yard bricks were used in the construction of Central Station. Brian, a retired ABC producer (*In the Wild with Harry Butler*, *Torque* and *Quantum*) will also talk about techniques of writing from memory and read excerpts from his book, which will be on sale. It was reviewed in June newsletter.

**Malfeasance** is defined in the Concise Oxford as "evil-doing, esp. official misconduct". **Misfeasance** is "transgression, esp. wrongful exercise of lawful authority". **Nonfeasance** is "omission of necessary action". Of greater concern to our new treasurer are **Fees-yet-to-be-paid**. Concession \$10, individual or joint concession \$16, household or organisation \$22. Send cheque or money order to treasurer, postal address below.

The Society congratulates **Barclay Wright** on 40 years ownership of **The Mastertouch Piano Roll Company** this month! Mastertouch started in 1919 (article in *Heritage* 10).

Our early impressions of the **HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW** are generally positive. The addition of so many new heritage items is gratifying. However, prior to the Review's release for community consultation, these new items were not treated as heritage items during the planning process by many of Council's building and planning staff, an unsatisfactory situation that seems to be continuing. We understand that some items may have been damaged or even lost because of this bureaucratic short-sightedness.

The establishment of new Conservation Areas and Character Areas, especially in the south and east of the LGA is very important, and will bring development here under closer scrutiny. I understand Council is about to get new heritage items listed (and thus protected). The Society believes the proposed Conservation Areas and Character Areas should **also** be accorded draft status immediately to prevent further degradation.

An important issue that the report raises is the status of Council's Heritage Officer. It notes that the position is only part-time, which "does not allow sufficient time for an effective administrative and educational role". Whilst Council has recently recognised the enormous workload of the Heritage Officer with some temporary assistance, in the long term this position should be full-time and appropriately funded as the workload will continue to increase with the addition of new heritage items and the implementation of the Heritage Review.

A shortcoming of the report appears to be a lack of recognition of the areas of Remnant Native Vegetation in the LGA. The report asserts that "human intervention . . . has resulted in virtually no remaining indigenous vegetation formation". We will be proposing that areas of Remnant Native Vegetation identified in *Missing Jigsaw Pieces* be recognised as Heritage Items. We hope that as the Society gets more familiar with the Heritage Review, we can further identify any shortcomings to ensure that revised Heritage Schedule gives proper recognition and protection to heritage in the LGA.

Scott MacArthur

With the annual **Marrickville Festival on Sunday 16 September** we ask members for jams, small pot plants and bric-a-brac for our stall. Contact Angela 9280 2429 for collection or if you can help on the day.

The editor urges members not to miss the brilliant doco *Facing the Music* made by Connelly & Anderson (of *Rats in the Ranks* fame) showing at Valhalla Cinema, Glebe.



## MHS WEBSITE REPORT

The MHS Executive has been considering the development of a website for some time. Initial investigations were made by Scott MacArthur whose time and efforts we acknowledge. More recently Lisa Angus (Diane McCarthy's daughter) offered to design the website and this was accepted by the Executive.

Whether you use the Internet or not there are many people interested in the history of Marrickville LGA who are surfing the net and may only get to know about MHS if we have a presence there. We decided on the following website composition: contents of Society's brochure, extracts from previous newsletters, summaries of previous meetings, contents lists of journals, and list of publications available for sale. This basic information can be added to. Perhaps we could include the *Index to Heritage 1-7* or include more source material for the study of Marrickville's history? We have however decided to crawl before we walk.

Importantly it will always be preferable to be a **MHS member** rather than a casual user of our website. I want to assure members who do not have Internet access that they will not be disadvantaged. While we may advertise future events on the website, members receiving the newsletter will have prior knowledge of events and certain activities will be restricted to members only.

We will monitor how effective the site is: do we have increased orders for publications, do we have an increase in membership, how many visits are there to the website? Though we study history we live in the modern world. We can use technology to further the cause of heritage and history and the Internet is one example of this.

Angela Phippen (presented at AGM)

**Note:** Website should be operating soon. Members with website ideas can ring Angela 9280 2429 after hours.

Architects **Stanisic Turner** are joint winners (with The Hudson development at Green Square) of the **2001 RIAA Premier's Award for Architecture for The Domain** corner Marrickville & Victoria Roads Marrickville. Previously the site of the Kings Cinema, Coles and Bi-Lo, Premier Bob Carr described winners as "excellent examples of residential flat design". The Domain was a recent entrant for the Marrickville Medal.



## OUR LAST MEETING

### HABERFIELD WALK 28 JULY

Despite blustery Saturday afternoon winds, 19 hardy, well rugged-up MHS members joined Vincent Crow OAM for a stimulating tour of Haberfield, designed "to give an appreciation of the *Federation* character" of the suburb. Beginning in Deakin Avenue Vincent gave an introduction to the property transactions leading to Richard Stanton's acquisition in 1901 of about 50 acres of land, which he named Haberfield.

Vincent noted three aspects of the area which constitute its heritage significance: its *garden suburb* character, its extant variety of Federation architecture and a particular characteristic of that architectural style, the interior and exterior design details, such as Australian plant motifs, reflecting the Australian nationalism of the period. The plantings in front gardens were mainly annuals and low perennials that would not hide any of the distinctive building details from passers-by.

The concept of a planned garden suburb – a purely residential area with a defined shopping precinct – had been tried in England in the last quarter of the 19th century. Haberfield was the first such 'deviation' in Australia: a single-storeyed house to each block of land – a reaction to the congestion of terrace housing associated with the industrialization of the city.

Besides some really stunning house designs at the intersection of Haberfield and Stanton Roads and in Rogers Avenue, one of the tour's high points (pun intended) was to look from O'Connor Street over the skillion roofs on the backs of the houses in Stanton Road. Among the numerous examples of Federation housing in Haberfield, there are quite a few obtrusive architectural mutilations, described more delicately by Vincent as *modernizations*. In retrospect it seems astonishing that such unsympathetic changes were allowed.

However, the strict rules now governing building alterations in Haberfield are only in place as the result of a campaign led by Vincent himself. The campaign lasted for over a decade from the mid 1970s, culminating in Ashfield Council including the Haberfield Conservation Area in its Local Environment Plan in 1982 and in Haberfield being entered on the Register of the National Estate in 1990. Everyone seemed to enjoy the walk in spite of the weather and we were indeed privileged to have such a knowledgeable guide who provided notes. Was it fortuitous that the tour ended right outside an open café?

Rosemary Fallon & Glynis Burnett

(Vincent Crow's *Haberfield: Distinctly Australian* 1997 still available; *Tours of Haberfield: Past & Present – Part One* to be released by late 2001)



## HERITAGE WATCH

The eagle eyes of several Council officers, including former local studies librarian Antoinette Buchanan, recently noticed a boarding house in The Boulevard, Lewisham being offered for sale in the local paper real estate pages. Some quick research and a check in Matheson's *Victorian Villas* confirmed that this was indeed *Chevy Chase*, a large 1870 Italianate house with a mysterious past, that has been identified in the Heritage Review as being of State Heritage significance.



In spite of some intrusive additions it appears that some of the original fabric survives, and from the exterior, its distinctive architectural character, including the tower and verandahs, remain. The new owners have apparently contacted Council's Heritage Architect Catherine Macarthur for information about the house as they want to regain at least some of its original character. Certainly a prospective project to follow with interest.

\* \* \* \* \*

The current review of schools by the Department of Education has forced the local community into the impossible position of choosing between the closure of either **Marrickville or Dulwich High Schools**. The Society would be concerned at any development that would flow from the closure and sale of either of these public facilities, should public open space and amenity or heritage values be compromised. The buildings of the former Dulwich Hill Public School date from 1893.

**Dulwich High** is socially significant as a major school first established in response to the Public Instruction Act which made education compulsory. The Society believes that it is vital that the educational use of the building continues. The heritage value and significance of any building is best maintained through its continued use by the organisation or people for which it was originally built (see separate report back page).

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The Society has been bluntly told that Council will take no action to require that the **Fraser Park sandstone piers, iron fence and gates in Marrickville** be reinstated after they were removed by Rail Access Corporation for bridge repair works. Council's letter cites the flawed Heritage Study commissioned by the RAC as justification for Council's inaction. The report claims that the gates originally came from Mortuary Station (Central) and suggests that they should at some stage be returned there.

In the March 2001 newsletter the Society pointed out that the Fraser Park piers and fence could not have come from Mortuary Station as the piers are the wrong shape and much larger than the remaining piers at Mortuary Station and that the palisade fence is of a completely different design. The study has apparently been submitted to the Heritage Office. The Society will be approaching the Heritage Office for its advice on how the RAC can be required to restore the gates.

Scott MacArthur

## AUSTRALIAN FLAG 100 YEARS OLD

Happy Birthday! Australia's National Flag 100 years old on 3 September 2001. So it was fitting that Anthony Albanese MP Member for Marrickville presented a flag to MHS at the AGM on 23 June. At Centennial Park on 1 January 1901 where more than a quarter of a million people gathered to witness the birth of a nation, it was the Union Jack that flew over the celebrations.

Once the first federal parliament was sworn in, the Prime Minister Edmund Barton addressed the need for a national flag and announced a competition for its design. The competition with £200 prize money attracted 32,823 entries from people of all ages. The judges looked for a flag that would be representative of the new nation with qualities that included history, heraldry, distinctiveness, utility and cost of manufacture.

On 3 September 1901 a public ceremony was held in the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, and opened by Lady Hopetoun, wife of the Governor-General. Prime Minister Barton announced that five entrants who submitted similar designs were declared the winners and received £40 each – 14 year old Ivor Evans, Melbourne, Leslie Hawkins, Sydney, Egbert Nutall, Melbourne, Annie Dorrington, Perth, and William Stevens, Auckland NZ.

The Union Jack reflected our heritage. The Commonwealth Star had six points for the six states (a seventh added in 1908 to represent the Territories). The Southern Cross stars also changed from various numbers of points to seven for Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and five for little Epsilon not as bright as the others in the constellation. Will there be another change?

Shirley Hilyard

The Society regrets the death of founding member **Judy Mackinolty** of Petersham on 2 August. Judy was the Society's first treasurer in 1984. Our condolences to husband John and family.

## SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

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## DULWICH HIGH SCHOOL: IT MUST HAVE A FUTURE AS WELL AS A PAST

The original school on the Seaview Street site was opened in 1885. In July 2001 the Department of Education and Training announced a three month review process at the end of which a decision would be made on whether or not Dulwich High would cease to exist as a separate entity. Should closure take place, then the community will suffer an irreversible cultural and historical loss. Dulwich High represents a rare creature – it is a site which combines architectural heritage with the same mission statement conceived over 116 years ago: to educate and service the community. A student at Dulwich High today is educated in a living historical site. That student is linked to her/his counterpart from the late Victorian era to the present day.



The main building of Dulwich High is listed on the Register of the National Estate, State Heritage and Classified with the National Trust. The main building (C Block) designed by William Kemp is an important part of a Victorian and Federation complex which contributes so much to the ambience of the suburb. It was erected in 1893 with some additions and alterations made in 1900. It is a fine example of a Late Victorian building of beige brick with red brick contrasting strings. Any closure of Dulwich High would signal its land usage for medium density housing, thereby making it a pseudo historical site – bricks and mortar devoid of soul.

Walk into the library at Dulwich High School and you will see an Honour Roll of past students and teachers who answered the call to arms during The Great War. Proceed to the Front Office and view barefooted assemblies photographed during the Depression. Pick up a copy of *Focus*, the school's magazine, and look at the contribution of Dulwich High students to the 'Flower Power' generation. Other ex students have found fame or continue civic service to the community.

Dulwich has survived 116 years because it is an historical chameleon adapting to the educational needs of the community which still exist. Some examples include: 1885 opens as a public school, 1913 incorporates Domestic Science Department for girls not wishing traditional curriculum, 1948 Junior Technical School for boys created, 1965 Dulwich High co-educational school is born, 1994 Vocational Education introduced and

Saturday language schools have flourished for over a decade.

Change is no challenge to Dulwich High School. However to **impose closure** severs the school from the community. To **impose amalgamation** is to obliterate the spirit which educated and nurtured six generations. Dulwich High is irreplaceable. Please support it by writing to The Hon. John Aquilina MP Minister for Education Parliament House Sydney 2001 & The Hon. Dr Andrew Refshauge Deputy Premier 244 Illawarra Road Marrickville 2204.

**Mary Demovic** (Head Teacher History, Dulwich High School)

**Note:** This was an unsolicited article. MHS opposes closure of Dulwich and Marrickville High schools.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 2000/2001

The Oral History Group has retained almost all of its original members – Jan Armstrong, Richard Blair, Marilyn Leeds, Carol Phillips, Ian Phillips and Pip Preston. I would like to thank the outgoing convenor Marilyn Leeds for her hard work and leadership over the past two years; also to thank past member Angela Phippen for her valuable contribution.

The aim of the group is to collect interesting memories of the Marrickville LGA. We have so far completed twelve interviews and transcriptions and are in the process of finding common themes. We welcome new interviewers – no experience necessary – and prospective interviewees. Our group usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Jan on 9557 1655.

**Jan Armstrong, Convenor** (presented at AGM)

**Spring Flower Festival** at Metropolitan Community Church, 96 Crystal Street Petersham (former Mastertouch Piano Roll Company) 31 August 1 & 2 September 11-7. Adults \$5, children \$1. Information Geoff 9568 3029.

**Changes 1901-2001 South Sydney – A Retrospective** at Newtown Library, Brown Street Newtown daily till 25 August. A wonderful photographic exhibition. Thence to Redfern Town Hall and Paddington Library.

## MARRICKVILLE AREA POTTERIES

We are expanding our Marrickville potteries publication (beyond Fowlers, Diana & Studio Anna) to include some of the smaller and lesser known potteries that operated in the area. These included: Florenz, Hart & Gallagher, SPC (Sydenham Pottery Co.), Brown & Hordern Pty. Ltd., Albaware, Howard Ceramic, JJ Ceramics.

If you know of anybody who may have worked at any of these potteries, or have examples of the wares produced by them, please contact Robert Hutchinson 9568 3079.

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