

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



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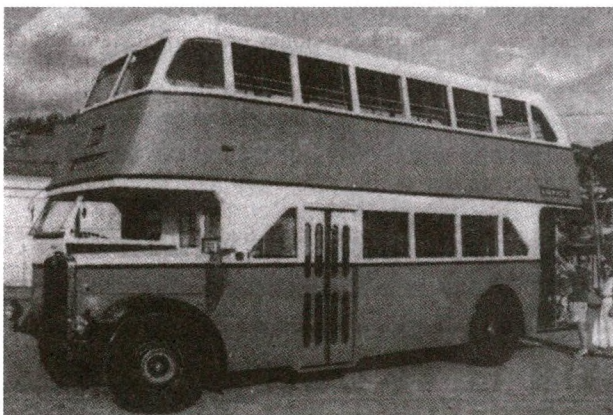
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Bus & Truck Museum, Tempe
Museum Inspection & Bus Tour of
Industrial Sites of Marrickville Area
Saturday 22 September 10.30 am**

(10 am double decker bus pick-up King St Newtown bus stop corner Enmore Rd OR 10.15 am Bus & Truck Museum, Gannon Street, Tempe. Parking in grounds. Tempe Station nearby. 10.30 am guided tour of museum followed by bus tour of industrial sites. Sausage sizzle to follow (\$3). MHS bookings Mark 9559 5502.)

The depot/museum site was part of the original land holding of Michael Gannon whose son Robert operated a horse bus in the 1850s. With Sydney's rapidly expanding population the Tempe Tram Depot was established here in 1912 housing over 100 *Greenlines* trams before closing in 1954, shortly before the demise of Sydney trams. The front of the depot building became a bus depot from 1958. The castellated tram sheds fell derelict until 1986 when the Historic Commercial Vehicle Association began occupation and restoration of the building. The Bus & Truck Museum is the largest museum of its kind in Australia, the earliest exhibit dating from 1924.



As part of the History Week theme *Journeys & Pathways* the Bus & Truck Museum has combined with Marrickville Council and Marrickville Heritage Society to stage guided tours of the museum and vintage double decker bus tours of the industrial sites of the Marrickville area. The exhibition *Industrial Sites of the Marrickville Area* will also be on display. The Bus & Truck Museum is a MHS member.

Note: Morning tours **exclusively** for MHS members. Public tours after lunch: 1.30pm museum; 2.30pm bus tour. Bookings essential Vivienne Larking 9335 2185 in business hours.

Marrickville Festival 16 September. Donate goods & visit MHS stall. Enquiries Angela 9280 2429.

ANNUAL DUNBAR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Shirley Doolan reports that on Saturday 18 August the Rev. Raymond Heslehurst, rector at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown conducted the annual memorial service marking the 144th anniversary of the sinking of the *Dunbar*, at The Gap, south of the entrance to Sydney Harbour, during a fierce storm on 20 August 1857. Camperdown Cemetery contains several memorials to those lost and a special grave for those whose remains were not identified. Memorial services were popular in the 1930s but lapsed during World War Two before recommencing in 1992.

Note: Our 27 October meeting will feature two talks on maritime disasters – the *Greycliffe* by Ken Horler and the *Dunbar* by Chrys Meader – at St Stephen's Church followed by tour of grounds. Details in October newsletter.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Silas Clifford-Smith, Dulwich Hill; Robert & Marguerite Potts, Newtown; Joan Sinclair & Peter James, Petersham; David Fox, Jon Graham, Stuart Grigg, Vanda Licitis, Peter O'Kane, Ludmilla, Ronald & Lachlan Robinson, all of Stanmore; Lisa Angus, Bexley North; Fran Teasdale, Croydon; Marilyn Jessop, Forrest, ACT; Kay, Cadence and Leonora Abrahams, Harbord; Lola Moate, Rockdale.

With 8-10 hectares of the **heritage site of Callan Park** at risk of being sold off by the state government, the Friends of Callan Park invite MHS members to an awareness-raising **heritage tour of the park on Sunday 16 September**. Meet Balmain Rd entrance opposite Cecily St Rozelle for free guided tours at 10 am and 1 pm. Bookings Terrill 0414 911 412.

HOW TO JOIN

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order with your name(s), address & phone number to the PO Box below or ring Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Annual membership \$10 concession, \$16 individuals or joint concession and \$22 households or organisations. Includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage*, and monthly talk or outing. We record the local history and keep an active watch on the built and natural heritage of Marrickville LGA.

2000/2001 NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S & DISTRIBUTOR'S REPORT

Firstly may I pay tribute to all those who compiled newsletters in the days before computers, which we now find indispensable. Although my second hand computer sometimes brought me grief, this was resolved by recently acquiring a new computer. I have one minor gripe concerning increasing difficulty in engaging writers for *Our Last Meeting*, though this is offset by those who volunteer like Gwenda Welsh on the International Women's Day breakfast in March and Diane McCarthy who covered the Mudgee trip. Susan O'Connor has put herself in credit with two recent write-ups.

The newsletter endeavours to maintain a balance of heritage and history and most contributions eventually surface as Anne Walter can attest in the old Whitehorse Hotel Newtown article she gave me some years ago which finally surfaced in the December newsletter. In November Robin Appleton conducted a stimulating one day editing workshop for the Society. Heritage Watch convenor Scott MacArthur furnishes comprehensive but succinct monthly reports. Shirley Hilyard, as always, has been a reliable and astute sub-editor as well as roving reporter along with Diane McCarthy, Ian Phillips, Ted Green, Susan Pinson and Norman McVicker.

Ed Jones and Marina Thiveos at Gopher Graphics continue to provide a good service. Thank you fellow executive committee members especially Peter Cousens for his ongoing support and encouragement. Thanks to Diane who prepares the 150 envelopes for postals and does member lists twice a year. I usually have the newsletters to the runners by the Friday afternoon following the first Monday of each month and urge our runners to get the newsletter out as soon as possible after that. Thanks to the ever cheerful and willing Ian Phillips for assisting with deliveries to runners.

Finally may I thank membership secretary and runner Pamela Stewart who maintains the membership records and sends the postals, and to the other runners who deliver the newsletter to local members: Lorraine Beach, Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattmann, Glynis Burnett, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Barbara Gibbons, Joe & Monica Grabowski, Paul Heath, Shirley Hilyard, Marilyn Leeds, Valerie McLeish, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Ken Turner, Anne Walter, Harold Welsh & Coralie Wickers.

Richard Blair (AGM report abridged)

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SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

Marrickville Council's motif features ten images signifying our diverse multicultural community. Identify the images (prize for best coloured-in correct entry).



DONE OR SEEN BY MEMBERS

- Founding MHS member **Verona Rothwell** celebrated her 80th birthday by attending the opening celebrations of the restored Conservatorium, where she studied. Verona is thrilled with the finished works even though as a Friend of the Botanic Gardens she was originally opposed to redevelopment of the site.
- Long term resident and MHS member **Fred Ellis**, recovering from recent knee reconstruction surgery, has drawn attention to an old painted *Rosella* sign revealed on the side wall of a building on the corner of Keith Street and Wardell Road, Dulwich Hill.
- Another observant member **Ian Phillips** (he with the portable sheltie dog) notes the nondescript units *Bowden Court* 376 Illawarra Road, Marrickville in whose central courtyard grows an enormous palm! It's almost as large as the palm now dominating the Percival Road, Stanmore shopping precinct.
- Apropos the MHS inspection of Keith Sutton's Sudan War murals in June, **Susan Pinson** cites a RAHS journal article (Vol. 38 Part 6, 1952) *Soudan Contingent Memorial Unveiled*. This bronze plaque, unveiled on 21 June 1952, is on the Tarpeian Wall, East Circular Quay. Among the then nine survivors of the Sudan Contingent was George E. Douglas of Marrickville.

MHS NEWSLETTER INDEX UPDATE

The May 1998 newsletter reported that Bob Thompson had indexed the first 12 years of the Society's newsletter to June 1996. In what he regards as a labour of love, Bob has updated this to June 2000 with more entries than before. Bob was the second MHS president (1986-87) and contributed articles to *Heritage* 1, 2 and 4. Formerly of Tempe and Taree, he now lives with his family in Lismore and is studying contemporary music.

Copies will be given to Marrickville Library and Archival Reference Centre. Unbound copies of the indexes are obtainable for a small charge to cover costs of photocopying etc. For a copy ring Richard on 9557 3823.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Australian Heritage Commission is the federal body responsible for compiling and monitoring the Register of the National Estate. This is Australia's only comprehensive, nation-wide database of important heritage items comprising over 12,000 individual sites. It is also the only agency that lists items of heritage significance that are Federal government property. As local and state governments have no control over development on federal properties, these properties are often not registered as heritage items except by the Register of the National Estate.

Listing in the Register gives heritage places some protection through the obligations of Commonwealth agencies under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. It also alerts the community to the presence of heritage values and assists community groups to work within state and local government frameworks to protect their local heritage. If a government agency proposes to do work on a site listed on the Register, it must notify the Australian Heritage Commission, which can then comment on the proposal. The Commission can only advise the relevant agency – the decision to proceed with the proposal is entirely with agency. While this 'toothless tiger' role is not very satisfactory, the present system has been in place for over 25 years and generally has served the community well.

The federal government is proposing significant changes to the Australian Heritage Commission that appear **on the surface to be positive**. A new body called the Australian Heritage Council will develop a new National Heritage List consisting of items of national significance. Items will be entered onto this list with the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, after a process of public consultation and consideration of objections by the Council. The effect of listing will generally mean that development cannot proceed without the consent of the Minister. There will be a separate Commonwealth Heritage List for nationally significant items owned by the Commonwealth for which the Council will have the power to order protection and the formulation of management plans, and will be able to impose penalties for infractions.

There would appear to be **two main areas of concern with these proposals**. Press releases from the federal government stress that the present Register contains many items that are not of national significance, and that these items should be subject to state legislation and local government regimes. Unfortunately, state and local governments are trying to reduce their involvement in the protection of heritage items, and the removal of any level of protection from heritage items is worrying.

The status of items now on the Register, but not deemed to be of national significance is confusing. We have been variously advised that these items

will get increased protection under the new act (AHC Briefing Note, December 2000) or no protection as it will become a non-statutory Register (letter from Bruce Baird MP, 20 July 2001). **Any reduction in protection of Register items must be resisted.**

The changes to the listing process suggest that it will become more difficult to get new items added to the Heritage or Commonwealth Lists, and as federal properties are outside the jurisdiction of state and local governments, a federal heritage property that is rejected for listing will effectively be unprotected. There would appear to be several avenues for objectors to prevent an item from being listed, with the Council being obliged to assess objections to listing and the possibility of an additional independent assessment of objections if required. Powerful groups opposed to a listing, such as government authorities, miners, farmers and developers could use these procedures to lobby to scuttle listings if they were against their financial interests. Final decisions would of course rest with the incumbent Minister.

It is also of concern that the Register of the National Estate and its database will no longer be updated and maintained. The Register of the National Estate is Australia's national inventory of natural and cultural heritage places, which are worth keeping for the future. Much of the information on the database is not readily available by other means. The widespread availability of such a resource is an important way to raise awareness of heritage and prevent the loss of heritage items through ignorance and neglect.

The legislation to enact these changes is currently before parliament. We urge MHS members to write to their local federal member, Member for Grayndler, Anthony Albanese MP and the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Robert Hill (c/- Parliament House, Canberra) to express their concerns. The legislation should not proceed without guarantees that the current level of protection of all heritage items is maintained and extended, and that the Register of the National Estate continues as an active compendium of Australia's heritage.

Scott MacArthur (Heritage Watch Convenor)

(Note: Thanks to Graham Hunt for furnishing copy of his reply from Bruce Baird MP – Editor)

GEORGE VINER WICKS

Apropos the June newsletter item about WWI Richmond airmen, St Clement's Church Rector Rev. Chris Clerke has advised there is a stained glass memorial window in this church which reads "In memory of Lieut. George Viner Wicks killed whilst flying 13.10.1918". It was erected by his parents William and Alice Wicks, both active parishioners. The Wicks' house *Caversham* (1905) 3 Anderton Street Marrickville is described in *Marrickville: Rural outpost to inner city* (p 137).

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Tempe Bus & Truck Museum & bus tour
Details on front page

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER

Maritime Disasters & Memorials: Greycliffe & Dunbar
St Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown

OUR LAST MEETING

A SAUCEPAN IN THE SKY

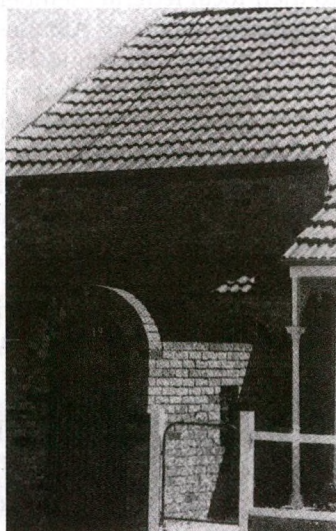
At our meeting on 28 August 60 members were treated to a talk by Brian Nicholls whose book *A Saucepan in the Sky* was recently launched by John Doyle (alias Roy Slaven). Introduced by publisher Sylvia Hale of Hale & Iremonger, Brian gave a charming and hilarious account of his early years as a child in a Petersham household of adults, mostly uncles. Putting on a well-loved hat, he confided that he learned all he needed to know about life and of wearing a hat from his 'Uncle' Stan who figured prominently in his young life as a confidante and friend. Brian's book is a tribute to an innocent childhood and a loving family.

There would have been many nostalgic memories from those in the audience who, perhaps like myself, grew up in a large terrace house in Newtown. We knew everyone in our street and my kind and hardworking parents turned the house into a number of bedsitters and survived both the Depression and War with everyone helping each other as much as possible. Like many of those present, I bought the book and spent the next week dipping into it with many a chuckle of memory and joy.

Pat Mullen

BLUE MURDER LOCAL CONNECTIONS

With the recent finally-screened *Blue Murder* we know of at least three local connections. Warren Lanfranchi attended Enmore Boys High School. Tom Domican worked with Marrickville Council as a garbo. Arthur Neddy Smith once owned and lived at 19 Henry Street Sydenham which disappeared in the federal government initiated mass demolition of Sydenham houses in the mid 1990s, regarded by some as an act of 'blue murder' (photo from *Neddy* by Arthur Smith & Tom Noble). It is not clear whether George Savvas, a Marrickville councillor in the 1980s, featured in the ABC telemovie. Know of any other connections?



RAHS AFFILIATION

Whilst the nation celebrates the Centenary of Federation, the Royal Australian Historical Society is celebrating its centenary. Its latest journal *Much Writing, Many Opinions: The making of the Royal Australian Historical Society 1901 to 2001* (June 2001) is a comprehensive digest of the history of the RAHS. Manager Outreach Services Mari Metzke's article *Affiliated Societies of the RAHS* is accompanied by a list of 445 societies which have affiliated with the RAHS since 1935. 315 are currently affiliated.

Guidelines for affiliation were drawn up in 1933 in recognition of the growing interest in local history by local communities. By 1960, 40 societies had affiliated with the RAHS. The first gathering of affiliated societies took place in History House, Macquarie Street, Sydney in July 1961 and the second in 1964. Since then annual RAHS conferences have been held, alternating between Sydney and country since 1977. Local RAHS annual conferences were in Newtown 1974-76, Enmore 1977 (venues unknown) and the School of Nursing, Camperdown 1997 and 2001 (to be held 3-4 November). Affiliate membership is increasing even though individual membership of the RAHS is dropping.

Listed for 1966 is the Marrickville Heritage Society, though this should read Marrickville & District Historical Society formed in 1963. (This society was started by MHS member Frances Charteris, Chief Librarian, Marrickville Municipal Library 1955-1983, who also formed the Marrickville Art Society in 1959.) The historical society folded in 1981, but "its legacy and its remaining funds were taken up by the Marrickville Heritage Society" (*Marrickville People & Places* p 133) which affiliated with the RAHS on its inception in April 1984. MHS also affiliated with the National Trust on 12 July 1995.

Richard Blair

Marilyn Jessop has written to advise that her mother and long term MHS member **May Jessop**, late of Canberra, died aged 86 on 24 June. She writes: "Mum was in business as a florist at 286 Marrickville Road, Marrickville for over 50 years. When I redeveloped the site I named the building *May* and the design received a Commendation in the Marrickville Medal last year." Our condolences to Marilyn who has now joined the Society.

Members are invited to Marrickvillian's Day at **Marrickville Public School** (1864) Chapel Street Marrickville Friday 14 September from 9.15 am. Information Shirley Clifton 9599 1285.

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

TREASURER Susan 9798 2538

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823