

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

**Roy Lumby on 20th Century Architecture
Petersham Town Hall
Saturday 24 November 10.30 am**

Architecture constantly evolves due to changing philosophies and new materials, but understanding and identifying architectural stylistic changes can often confuse the viewer. In a comprehensive analysis of 20th century architecture heritage architect **Roy Lumby** will particularly examine the various styles which distinguish the period between 1914 and the 1960s. Roy's illustrated talk will embrace two significant examples of interwar Art Deco architecture from the Marrickville area – Petersham Town Hall and the Golden Barley Hotel, Edgeware Road, Enmore.



(photo: Judith Matheson 1991)

Designed by Rudder & Grout **Petersham Town Hall** remains largely unaltered. In 1938 *Building* noted that Petersham Municipality deserved the highest praise for its town hall designed with innovation and foresight, which placed them in the forefront of metropolitan councils of Sydney and Melbourne. Hotels were undergoing radical change as old pubs were replaced by streamlined modernist structures such as the 1939 Ocean Liner style **Golden Barley** (Joy & Pollitt) whose form and contrasting colours and textures provided patrons with clean, comfortable and modern amenities. Roy is also an architectural historian who wrote *Spirit of Progress: Art Deco Architecture in Australia*.

FEES – ABSOLUTE FINAL REMINDER

A sticker will be attached to your November newsletter if your annual fees have not yet been paid. To obtain your complimentary journal (*Heritage 11*) you will need to be a paid up member. Fees (due last June) are – \$10 concession, \$16 individual or joint concession, \$22 household or organisation. Should you have any queries ring our treasurer Susan 9798 2538.

POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

Saturday 1 December 6 for 6.30 pm

So much did Bob and Kyle enjoy having members in their beautiful Tempe home for last year's Pot Luck Xmas Dinner, they have agreed to have us back. Plenty of parking. Close to 422 bus and Sydenham Station. We would especially love to see newer members and we certainly don't just talk about matters heritage. BYO drinks. Raffle to be drawn. Book with Angela or David (9280 2429 after hours) to get address, advise what food you will bring to share and if you need a lift.



INVITATION

LAUNCH OF *HERITAGE 11*

Petersham Town Hall

Thursday 6 December 2001 6.30-8 pm

All members are invited to attend the launch of the Society's journal *Heritage 11*. There will be entertainment and light refreshments. Not only is this an opportunity to mingle and meet the authors, but also a time to obtain your copy (provided your fees are paid up) hot off the press. **Mark Matheson**, editor of the previous two issues, has again produced a quality publication. Mark's provocative article on Joshua Josephson and his local influence continues the Josephson story (started in *Heritage 10*) based on research by Elsie Ritchie. Mark has also written articles on Walter Liberty Vernon's local buildings and a comprehensive survey of Waratahs based largely on information and sightings provided by society members.

Those who walked with Mark Maloney around Stanmore in 1998 can now undertake this well-researched walk in a self-guided pull-out tour map. Andy Carr has documented the social history and decline of the Newtown Jets, arguably the first rugby league club formed in Sydney. *Heritage 11* contains other articles, some stunning colour reproductions and 115 graphics and photographs many previously unpublished. *Heritage 11* will be delivered to other members as soon as possible after the launch. Bookings Pat 9559 6684 by 4 December.

Second annual Dulwich Hill Street Fair on Saturday 8 December 10am-4pm in Seaview Street near the threatened Dulwich High School. The Society will run a stall. Another chance to donate some preloved goodies or jams and do some pre-Xmas shopping. Ring Peter 9550 3809 for collection.

OUR LAST MEETING SYDNEY'S MARITIME DISASTERS: GREYCLIFFE TOLD BY KEN HORLER

15 year old **Ken Horler** couldn't believe it. One minute he was chatting with four schoolmates at the stern of the 'school boat', the ferry *Greycliffe*; next minute he was thrown into the water off Bradleys Head as the *SS Tahiti* cut *Greycliffe* in half. *Greycliffe* left Circular Quay at 4.15 pm on 3 November 1927 and about a quarter of an hour later, Sydney Harbour's worst maritime tragedy unfolded. While there were 83 survivors, 42 lives were lost. Ken survived despite a rope entangled around his ankle which dragged him down. Near to drowning, Ken saw a 'vision' of his mother's face. He disclaims newspaper reports that he was a 'hero' who saved 'many lives', though he reluctantly admits that he 'helped one or two others'.

Three official inquiries resulted in different conclusions: A Court of Marine Inquiry concluded that *Tahiti* failed to observe speed regulations and keep out of the way of *Greycliffe*. A Coroner's Inquiry equally blamed *Tahiti's* navigator and *Greycliffe's* captain. A 1930 civil court found *Greycliffe* three-fifths to blame because it was substantially off-course. Ken, who agrees with this conclusion, wryly observes that although he and three of his mates (one drowned) had witnessed the collision and survived, none was ever called to give evidence.

The tragedy was devastating for the small, close-knit Watsons Bay community, where in almost every street a family lost someone. For Ken Horler, and for many relatives of both vessels' crews and passengers, the pain still lingers over the events off Bradleys Head on that calm, clear, fateful day.

Keith Sutton



Ken Horler and other Greycliffe survivors
(Sydney Mail 9/11/27)

Notes The *Tahiti* sank in the Pacific in 1929 with no loss of life. Among the 63 at the talk were Steve Brew (descendant of the Harbour Pilot navigating the *Tahiti*) who is writing the first comprehensive history on the *Greycliffe* disaster and two of Ken's nieces Marie Colbron Conroy and Shirley Hilyard who also introduced us to Ken (whose granddaughter is the actor Sacha Horler). Special thanks to both Ken and Chrys and to St Stephens Church Newtown for use of this most historic church.

Editor

DUNBAR TOLD BY CHRYS MEADER

Local historian **Chrys Meader** related the tragedy of the wreck of the *Dunbar* which occurred on the evening of 20 August 1857 at the end of an 81 day voyage from England. On board were a number of residents returning home after visiting England, including many young people who had been studying abroad.

There was only one survivor James Johnson, who was rescued the next day from a rock ledge at the base of The Gap (he later lived in The Boulevard Dulwich Hill). 121 lives were lost and Sydney was plunged into mourning. It is believed the Captain mistook the black cliffs of The Gap for the entrance to Sydney Harbour.

Some 20,000 people lined George Street for the funeral procession to Camperdown Cemetery where the remains of many of the victims were interred in a mass grave. Just nine weeks later in the same vicinity another sea tragedy occurred – the loss of the *Catherine Adamson*, and five of her victims were also laid to rest in the Dunbar tomb. After the talks Chrys showed us the Dunbar tomb and other notable gravesites.

Anne Walter

IF YOU EVER MISS RECEIVING A NEWSLETTER . . .

consider that it may have been purloined, or be due to a quirk of weather (eg gust of wind) or even to some form of temporary amnesia on your part – one member confessed to wrapping up the meat off cuts in a newsletter as yet unread. Alternatively it may be because of some administrative oversight or because your runner may be behind schedule due to pressing personal commitments or indisposition. Occasionally a printing error may render the inner pages blank. Whatever the case contact Richard on 9557 3823 for a replacement newsletter.

LOOKING FOR DESCENDANTS . . .

of **Thomas and Jemima (nee Camp) Bradshaw** who arrived in Australia 1855 from Hertfordshire, UK with children William, James, George, Mary Ann, Eliza, John Henry Camp, Samuel and Betsey Camp. Settled in St Peters area; brickmakers and carters. John's son John Bradshaw Mayor of St Peters 1915-17. Associated names Edwards, Wilkins, Clewes, McDade, Purdy. Working on a book. Contact **Maxine Gray** (MHS member) on 9785 2286 or email: maxrose@compassnet.com.au

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PETER LAWSON'S THE WARREN

As well as being the son of Louisa Lawson and brother of Henry, **Peter Lawson** (1873-1944) was a piano repairer and tuner and occasional composer who lived with his wife Elizabeth and their nine children in Carrington Road Marrickville, near Louisa. He also studied at the Royal Art Society and is most remembered locally for his c. 1911 painting of *The Warren* and the grounds of that once mighty mansion subdivided for housing.



According to MHS member **Dorothy Skinner** (nee Lewis), Dorothy's paternal grandparents lived on the corner of Carrington and Warren Roads, Marrickville and Mrs Lewis taught piano to Peter's children. Peter Lawson painted the picture looking towards Premier Street and gave her the painting probably as a thank you for piano lessons.

The painting hung on the wall of Dorothy's grandparents for many years and Mrs Lewis always promised the painting to Dorothy. However when Mrs Lewis died the painting was not passed on to Dorothy but was given to Marrickville Council by Dorothy's aunt. For many years it hung in the Albert Frede Memorial Amenities Centre, Illawarra Road, Marrickville before being hung in the Marrickville Council Archival Reference Centre at Petersham Town Hall in 1988 where it remains.

Diane McCarthy

BALE'S BURGERS

One of our members, Rover Scout legend **Stan Bales** MBE, contacted the editor to advise that long before Lee Gordon's beefburger fast food outlet in Parramatta Road Petersham there was the Appa Teeza Hamburger Shop in Stanmore Road, Enmore which Stan and a friend opened in 1939 (subject of an article in *Heritage* 5). During WW2 it employed seven people sometimes selling up to 1000 burgers a night, with the former Stanmore Picture Theatre on the nearby corner of Fotheringham Street. Stan had run another burger shop a year earlier in Hurlstone Park and believes that these (along with Eric's in Randwick) were among the first in Sydney. The Appa Teeza name may soon be revived in a northern beaches café.

The caption to the photo which appeared in the last newsletter should have indicated Lee Gordon's was the first beefburger **drive-in**. Though that photo was taken in 1961 a former patron maintains it was operating by 1959. Anyone know when it actually opened?

RECENTLY LAUNCHED

MHS President Peter Cousens and other members attended the launch of **Ashfield & District Historical Society** *Ashfield at Federation* (\$25) on 18 October at the 1901 Ashfield Fire Station. The journal was most eloquently launched by the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir. This must be one of the most substantial journals ever put out by an historical society (356 pages) helped in no small measure by a \$10,000 grant from Ashfield Council. Articles include several by the editor, the indomitable Chris Pratten (Quong Tart, Ashfield's first 27 mayors, and The Ashfield Town Hall), an alternative view on Haberfield by conservation planner Robyn Conroy and three on significant local women by Anne O'Connell.

* * * * *

Two days later at the Riverwood Community Festival was the launch of **Brian Madden's** long-awaited and well-researched *Hernia Bay: Sydney's Wartime Hospitals at Riverwood* (\$20). This idiosyncratic title refers to the nickname given to the hospitals at Herne Bay during World War II – US Army, Australian Army and Royal Navy. Written as a Canterbury & District Historical Society project Brian's book is the first history of Herne Bay, "probably the largest army hospital outside the United States". The complex was later converted into the Herne Bay Community Housing Centre before being replaced by permanent housing. Ironically the benefits bestowed by this housing settlement were the death knell for the name Herne Bay which became Riverwood in 1958. Brian also belongs to MHS.

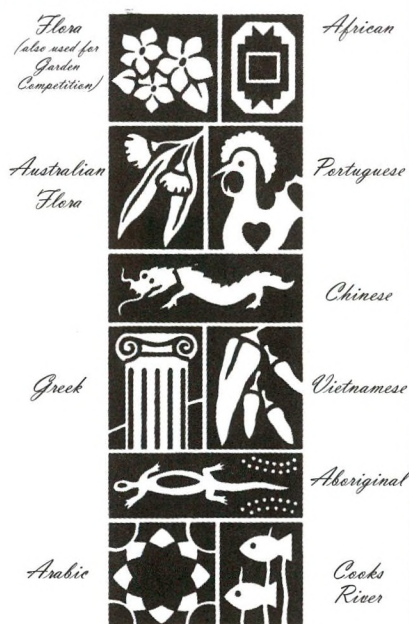
Richard Blair

JIMMY SEEKS RALPH

Jimmy Shaw runs the popular 19 piece *Shawnuff Swing Band* but 1948-1951 he played drums with Hal Carter's Band. Ralph Bain (son of former Petersham mayor Stanley Bain) "looked after the dance at Petersham Town Hall on Wednesday nights". Jimmy (9807 2235) has written asking if anyone knows whereabouts of Ralph.

SPRING TRIVIA ANSWER

Apart from a humorous entry by our resident comic (IP), the only member who responded by colouring in the Marrickville Council logo was Shirley Hilyard. However she could not be awarded a prize because she both devised the question and supplied the answer. Thanks anyway Shirley and also Council's media officer Maria Georgakopoulos for filling in the blanks.



CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Roy Lumby on 20th century architecture

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

Annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER

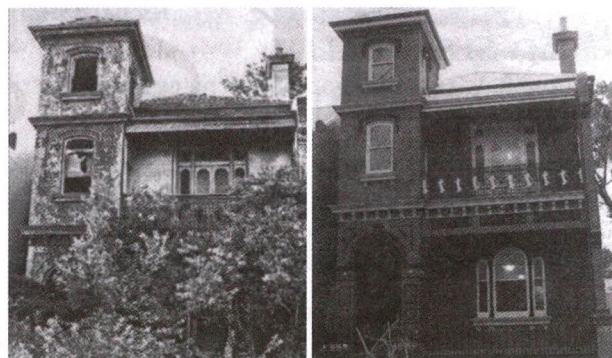
Launch of *Heritage* 11

Details of all the above on front page

HERITAGE WATCH A TOWERING DILEMMA

Visitors to *The Towers* at 15 Dickson Street Newtown during its pre-auction inspections will be rewarded with views into the cellars under the house that have been revealed by the recent renovations. Several vaulted masonry walled chambers and a stairway have been uncovered and are visible through a glass floor. The date of construction of the cellars, and their extent, has yet to be determined, but the bricks certainly pre-date the Bedford bricks from which brickmaker Josiah Gentle constructed his 1890s house.

It is most likely that the cellars are those of William Fanning, a wine merchant, who built the handsome *Holmwood* in the 1840s. The similarities between *Holmwood* and the nearby *Tempe House* of A.B. Spark, lend credence to the proposal by James Broadbent that both were designed by the renowned colonial architect, John Verge. However the cellars under *Tempe House* are not nearly so grand as those that have been uncovered beneath *The Towers*.



The Towers (pre-restoration & now)

After extensive lobbying by Leesha Payor, a descendant of Gentle, the National Trust has recognised the significance of this property and has classified *The Towers* as a heritage item. To date the Heritage Office has declined to grant an interim heritage order over the property.

The house was bought by the current developers with its unique 3 building block curtilage intact. While their renovation works have saved the building from further decay, doubts remain about the faithfulness of the work to the original. They are now proposing to sell the adjoining 'vacant' block of land separately from the house. It is highly likely that further remains of *Holmwood* will be found under this block. There is a grave risk of inappropriate and damaging development to both the potential remains of *Holmwood* and the setting of *The Towers*.



Holmwood Newtown (Mark Matheson's *Victorian Villas of Marrickville/Newtown* 1996)

The property should be listed as an item of State Heritage Significance and Council should support such an application to the State Heritage Office. This must happen before the property is sold so that there can be no claims of ignorance about the status of the property by any new owners.

Scott MacArthur (Heritage Watch Convenor)

Members who visited the **Sydney School of Arts** at 275 Pitt Street in July 2000 will recall being dubious about plans to convert this beautifully restored building into a pub. Well, the reincarnation is about to happen in the form of **The Arthouse** due to open on 29 November. The good news is this will be a pub with a difference – it will be "pokie free, dedicated to arts and music, [have] a gallery and performance space with a hotel license and restaurant attached, plus a library and VIP attic".

Members are always welcome to bring a friend (or friends) to our monthly talks or outings though members have priority where numbers are restricted. We encourage you to introduce new members.

STOP PRESS: A report on the **annual RAHS conference** in Camperdown on 3-4 November will appear in next newsletter. Celebrating its centenary the RAHS has re-established its heritage committee as a result of getting involved in the campaign to save recently-discovered Port Macquarie 1820s Government House foundations. An inspection of the former Callan Park grounds in Rozelle emphasised the importance of saving our precious inner city parklands. Carol Liston has urged affiliated societies to make the RAHS more "bolshie"!

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

TREASURER Susan 9798 2538

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

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