

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



## 2002 CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY**

*Our Oral History*

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH**

*MHS Goes to the Movies at Museum of Sydney*

**SATURDAY 27 APRIL**

*Bridging the Divide: Multicultural Marrickville*

## CONTRIBUTORS SOUGHT FOR PETERSHAM PUBLICATION

In recognition of a demand for snapshot looks at our suburbs the Publications Committee decided to first undertake *Petersham*, for which there seems to be the most information. Whilst there is considerable material in MHS and other local publications we need more people to assist in collating it. This is a great way to become involved in your own time with only occasional meetings. For more information ring Shirley Doolan 9599 6593.

The President Peter Cousens and executive committee wish all our members and their families a **Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.**

## HERITAGE 11 IS OUT!

*Heritage 11* with its stunning cover was launched on Thursday 6 December at Petersham Town Hall. Paid-up members should receive their copy of *Heritage 11* with the December newsletter. If your runner cannot deliver it safely, a note may be left for you to arrange collection. Once we receive payment (fees back page) from yet-to-pay members we can get a journal to you. Ring treasurer Susan 9798 2538 with fee queries or Diane 9588 4930 for an additional journal (\$15 each). *Heritage 11* will also be on sale at some local booksellers and other outlets.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

David Gwynn-Jones, Camperdown; Georgia Paraskevaidis, Dulwich Hill; Angelica Steng & Anne McDonald, Erskineville; Jennifer Genion, Marrickville; David Buick, Wendy Myles, Newtown; Barbara & Ken Hodges, Petersham; Lynda Darya, Jan Grieve & Ron Wiebe, Marita McInerney, Georgina Rodd, Andrew Simpson, Brian Treloar all of Stanmore; Karyn & Nick Hemming, Kerry Pocock, Tony Valentine, all of St Peters.

## TEMPE HOUSE SITE: MONUMENTAL DISGRACE OF THE YEAR



Though **Tempe House** (1836) is just out of our LGA across Cooks River it is very much part of our landscape and our history, and gave the name to one of our suburbs. The good news was that \$3 million was allocated to the restoration of Tempe House and the adjacent chapel by Howard Tanner & Associates. This was offset however by the approval of the massive Interciti residential and commercial over-development by Rockdale Council, supported by the Heritage Council. The Society lodged strong objections to the scale, height

and density of the development and the removal of rare remnant trees of the Turpentine-Ironbark forest and much of Mt. Olympus.

Above is engraving of Tempe House & Mt. Olympus by W. Harris from *Australasian Sporting Magazine* November 1850; reproduced in *Memoirs of Mollymook* (sent by member Mick Timmings of Ulladulla. Original owner of *Tempe* A.B. Spark was a land speculator who in 1840 bought much of present day Mollymook.)



MHS was well represented at this year's Local History Conference of the Royal Australian Historical Society held at the Sydney University School of Nursing (formerly the Chesty Bond factory) in Mallett Street, Camperdown on the first weekend in November.

On Saturday afternoon, we inspected the idyllic surrounds and 19th century buildings of the old Psychiatric Hospital at Callan Park. The original Kirkbride buildings, now the Sydney College of the Arts, are superb examples of carved Sydney sandstone and they literally glowed in the late afternoon sunlight. Unfortunately, the whole Callan Park and Broughton Hall site is under threat because of a state government proposal to sell off a considerable area of the grounds for housing developments.



The conference dinner on Saturday night was at the Sydney Writers' Centre, also in the grounds of Callan Park. Originally a large homestead built in the 1840s, it has been changed and extended many times in the last 150 years. We heard about the history of the building from Dr Peter Reynolds (who had conducted the walk) and saw a contemporary approach to conservation that includes all aspects of the building's history in its present-day interiors.

Where on earth has this year gone? A colleague recently said when he was a kid a year seemed to last eighteen months, but now it only seems to last six!

"There are about 640 parks in New South Wales, an average of about five in each State electorate. Marrickville, the third largest electorate in the State, has only one small park and it is not even centrally located" (Enmore Park). Such it was in 1901 when a Council delegation met with the Under Secretary of Lands to determine whether a new park should be approved for Marrickville. It was felt that one park for 20,000 was insufficient and it was recommended that Robert Miller's old brickpit on the corner of Livingstone Road and Frazer Street would be a good site.

Also debated was the restoration of Hatte's Fountain on Newtown Bridge, damaged by a passing tram, and agreeing on where to locate a Federation Fountain; and finally the issue of cows wandering onto railway lines from Brighton Street Petersham and causing a nuisance. The fountains and the cows have long disappeared, but fortunately Marrickville now has an abundance of parks.

## Richard Blair

In election recovery mode MHS had another successful stall at the festival on 11 November and signed up seven new memberships (nine new members). Special thanks to Lorraine Beach for organising the two Xmas hampers for the raffle. Thanks to those who also donated goods – Robert Hutchinson, John Waterstreet, Peter Cousens, Colin Hesse, Ian Rumsey, Sue Miller, Joyce Roy, Angela Phippen, David Cass. Thanks to stall helpers – Christina Penning, Pat Mullen, Sue Miller, John Waterstreet, Richard Blair, Susan Hicks and especially the mainstays Peter Cousens and Robert Hutchinson. It was great to see our neighbour South Sydney Heritage Society have its inaugural stall at this colossal festival.

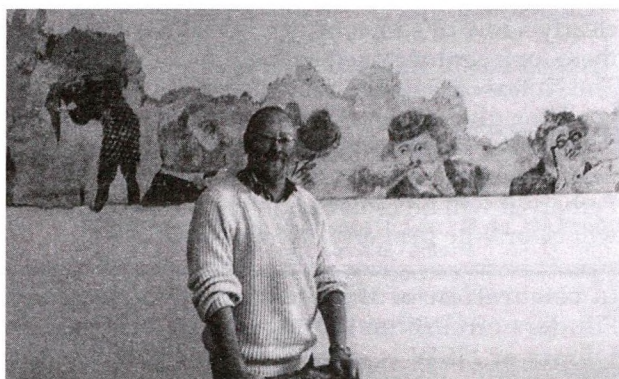


## GRANT DECLINED FOR SUDAN MURALS CONSERVATION

With Australian armed forces currently serving in the Afghanistan crisis it is interesting to reflect that in his new book *The Battle History of the Royal New South Wales Regiment* Major General Gordon Maitland claims the NSW participation in the Sudan War had "a considerable national significance . . . [as New South Wales] became the first self-governing colony in the whole British Empire to raise, equip and despatch its own troops overseas to fight alongside the mother country in an imperial war."

During centenary celebrations of the Sudan War in 1985 former Premier of NSW Neville Wran stated that through this expedition "a pattern emerged which was to influence Australian defence thinking and every military involvement right up to Vietnam."

Unfortunately these views have not been reflected in the Commonwealth Department of Environment & Heritage's decision to decline an application for a grant of \$15,000 to uncover and conserve the Sudan War murals in a Petersham home. The mural extends for six metres on each of two walls. (An article on the murals appeared in our February 2001 newsletter and a comprehensive article will appear in *Heritage* 12.)



*Keith Sutton and the Sudan War Mural (from Sunday Life, Sun-Herald Magazine 23 July 2000)*

In one of the Society's 2001 highlights many members were privileged to visit Keith Sutton's home in June to view his extraordinary murals almost certainly drawn in the mid 1880s. Following the initial discovery, Keith was strongly advised to leave further restoration to expert conservators and to this end applied under the Cultural Heritage Projects Program for a grant of \$15,000.

The application was supported by the heritage architect of Marrickville Council and Emeritus Professor Ken Inglis, an authority on the Sudan War, who had argued that in relation to nomination to the Register of the National Estate "the murals are no less worthy of preservation and protection than any of [a number of] war memorials I have nominated. . . . The murals constitute a remarkable and rare essay in visual popular history." These unique murals have been placed on the Register of the National Estate (www.ahc.gov.au ref. no. 101873)

The application was declined on the grounds that it was not considered sufficiently "urgent" and that the community would have limited access to it.

**Conservation could not be more urgent** as exposure to light of unconserved murals will only hasten deterioration. As for limited public access, how would Environment Australia regard the secrecy surrounding the whereabouts of the Wollemi Pine Forest to which public access is absolutely discouraged. As it is Sutton welcomes anyone or any organisation to inspect the murals (by appointment).

It is to Sutton's eternal credit that he has both refrained from painting over or destroying the works, which many home owners would have done, and from doing further requisite restoration of this room. Sutton was commended by the department for his "dedication to the work on the murals" and efforts in endeavouring to preserve the nation's heritage.

Despite this commendation, it appears the department has ignored both the views of Ken Inglis and the placement of the murals on the Register of the National Estate. After all the application constituted a mere 0.4% of total funds (\$3.5 million) allocated. It is imperative that this decision be reversed and it would do the department credit to double the amount of the grant, such being the importance of this project.

**Richard Blair**

## SERENDIPITY AT METRO

During the April Heritage Festival when I was co-manning the display of the *Industrial Heritage of the Marrickville area* exhibition at Marrickville Metro I was inadvertently the instrument of a marvellous case of serendipity. I was talking to a man called Eric who had lived and worked locally for most of his life. I had just remarked on this fact when Eric said he had lived in Silver Street Marrickville for a long time. Kathleen Peterson (who knew me but did not know Eric) had been viewing the exhibition, overheard this and remarked that she had been researching her family history.

She asked Eric if he knew a family living in Silver Street in the 1940s called Willis. "My name is Willis" whereupon Kath asked "You're not Eric"? It turned out that Kath had been looking for Eric for some time as he and Kath's mother Lorna are first cousins. Eric and Lorna had been in close contact in the 1940s but time and tide had taken them in different directions and they had lost contact. Eric and Kath left for coffee and catch-up but Kath returned saying "on the strength of that I'll join your society". Eric Willis had been mayoral chauffeur to many Marrickville Council mayors.

Incidentally Kath's researches have 'taken' her to the western Scottish isles and the interesting discovery that a distant forebear named Murdoch was a farmer who had the dubious distinction of being kidnapped by a pirate named John Paul Young. Young later joined the American cause in the War of Independence and is credited with founding the American Navy.

**Richard Blair**



## MARRICKVILLE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(The editor recently wrote to Frances Schmitt-Charteris to provide some background as to how the Marrickville & District Historical Society (1963-1981) was formed. Frances had worked at Marrickville Library since it opened in April 1948 and was Chief Librarian from 1955 to 1983, when she retired. Since retirement Frances has lived in Queensland and continues to pursue her hobby of painting, having formed the Marrickville Art Society in 1959. Her reply came in the form of a hand-painted card and the following account, typed on two slips of paper, the size of cards used in Marrickville's local studies collection card file that she started. Once a librarian . . . !)

I'm very vague about dates, but the Marrickville [& District] Historical Society seemed a natural growth out of Ray Sowden's and my interest in our neighbours and their intense interest in the past and their willingness to talk at length about it.\* Ray lived at 62 Warren Road Marrickville across the road from the elderly Barker sisters at 65. I lived next door to them at 67a and the Meale family at 67.

The Barkers were daughters of the architect who designed many of the Italianate houses in the 1880s and 1890s. Ray spent many hours with Katie Barker listening to memories of her youth in Enmore. Ray had been born and grew up in Newtown and had observed the "larrikin pushes" which still existed then.



*Frances Charteris at former Marrickville Children's Library at rear of town hall 17 April 1948 (from Marrickville People & Places)*

My other neighbour, Mrs Lila Meale, was the daughter of Benjamin Richards – eight times Mayor of Marrickville – a very energetic, forceful man, who laid the foundation stone of Marrickville Town Hall. Lila's son is Richard Meale, MBE, composer of the opera *Voss* and other works performed in Paris, Amsterdam, London as well as Australia.

When I started the Library's local history card file, I spent time with members of the Meeks family recording their history and memories of the district. Jan Alcott (nee Armstrong, now a prize-winning poet in WA) was Chrys Meader's predecessor as

Local History Librarian and she prepared monographs on the early history of the district.

For me, two of the most memorable meetings of the historical society were Mrs Cashman's paper on 19th century family health care, and someone from the NSW Dept of Health on the 19th century sanitary conditions (or lack of them) in The Rocks area.

**Frances Schmitt-Charteris**

\* The Ray Sowden Series consisting of numerous historical publications and paraphernalia were donated in 1994 to Marrickville Library by his family after his death in 1991. Ray was first elected secretary of M&DHS and its final president.

## OUR LAST MEETING

### Roy Lumby on 20th Century Architecture

At our meeting on 24 November Heritage Architect Roy Lumby gave our large gathering of members and visitors a comprehensive overview of building styles from World War 1 to the 1970s in Australia and overseas using numerous slides. Roy's historical survey noted the powerful social influences on city and house construction such as the brief period of optimism after 1918 which evolved into Depression by the 1930s. Dramatic changes occurred when the City of Sydney threw off the height restrictions for buildings (previously limited to 150 feet).

Features of classical architecture were enthusiastically included to give solidity and trustworthiness to massive structures such as banks which were often lavishly decorated in Art Deco style with motifs of Australian fauna and flora. One notable example, the British Medical Association building (1930) in Macquarie Street, featured koalas perched high up on the façade. The Archibald Fountain (1932) and War Memorial (1934) both in Hyde Park, were other grand additions to the city. By 1956 the first modern "curtain wall" structure had appeared in the city and anything seemed possible.

Meanwhile house styles became quite varied in the suburbs. The classic Federation House gave way to the larger single storey Californian Bungalow. Blocks of flats began to appear in the inner city suburbs often with Art Deco features and leadlights. Suburban pubs had distinctive Art Deco motifs and seemed to mirror each other in construction design especially on corner sites.

The suburbs became showcases of different architectural styles – Georgian Revival, Art Deco, Mediterranean, Spanish Mission and Nostalgic Colonial. It was out with the old and many precious buildings were destroyed or hideously modernised, while others became a hotch potch of inappropriate additions. Thank you Roy for this elucidating presentation.

**Robyn Johnson**

(Six original Rudder & Grout architectural drawings of Petersham Town Hall were on display courtesy of Marrickville Archives)



## THE WARREN, THE CARMELITES, MARTIN DANAHER & ENMORE PUBS

The Discalced Carmelite Nuns arrived in Sydney from France in July 1885. Against strong advice they purchased Thomas Holt's dilapidated Warren Mansion in Marrickville and took up residence there in January 1886. Unable to prevent the building from further deterioration and to maintain payments they were evicted from *the Warren* in 1900 and many of their belongings were sold. However neighbours and parishioners removed many of the sacred vessels and helped rig the auction and return the goods to the nuns while Cardinal Moran bought the library which was later restored to the nuns.

Among those assisting were Martin Danaher and his wife who offered the 15 nuns their untenanted two storey house at 21 Grove Street Marrickville (extant) where they remained for seven months with Danaher and his wife supplying their provisions. In January 1901 cramped conditions forced the nuns to rent *Graylands* in Warren Road, a property with a large garden stretching from Livingstone Road to Moyes Avenue.

Fifteen months later they moved into *Montlingham* on a seven acre property in Wardell Road Dulwich Hill and remained on this site till 1988 when they relocated to Campbelltown. In 1918 the foundation stone was laid for a chapel and the Carmel of Mary Immaculate Chapel was consecrated in April 1922. The fate of *Montlingham* is unclear though it may have been demolished in the mid 1990s for extra classrooms.

Martin Danaher was a builder who acquired considerable property including houses in Warren Road and Grove Street, Marrickville, the Rugby Hotel and five adjoining shops in King Street Newtown and Danaher's Building (1905) at 163 Enmore Road, Enmore. Danaher died around 1908 at *Graylands* leaving a sizeable estate.



*Martin Danaher Building incorporating Queen's Hotel Enmore Road Enmore (photo: Richard Blair)*

As we near the end of the Centenary of Federation celebrations we should remember that 1901 was also when Queen Victoria died after her long reign. Danaher's Italianate building incorporating the Queen's Hotel (which replaced the earlier 1880 Queen's Head), was originally tuck pointed, but has since been painted. The upper storey façade is decorative moulded plaster with a very high

parapet. In a niche at the top front balanced by a coat of arms is a wonderful white majestic statue of Queen Victoria holding an orb in her left hand and a sceptre in her right. Perhaps she is beckoning her subjects to come inside for a drink!

Just down the road stands the hotel named after Victoria's son Alfred, the Duke Of Edinburgh Hotel (1876) now called The Duke. Up Enmore Road on the corner of Stanmore Road is an 1870 pub built by Patrick Boland whose descendants owned the hotel for over 100 years (Boland is remembered in the adjacent 1924 Boland's Building which housed the Appa Teeza Hamburger Shop). This is the Warren View Hotel, paying respects to the erstwhile mansion and district in the distance.

Richard Blair

## EXCITING INITIATIVES IN MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL'S ARCHIVAL REFERENCE CENTRE

One of the most important recent initiatives of Marrickville Council is the revamping of Council's website. The Archives Collection will be available to be searched on the Internet by credit card payment from 2002. Archival requests for a site or house history will be accessible. Researchers will become fully aware of what records are held in the Archives and what services are offered. The Collection will be gradually made available online. The records of St Peters Municipal Council and part of Marrickville Council – less than one third of the Collection – are now on the database.

More news. The Archival Reference Centre has produced two new brochures: a) an updated "Guide to the Information and Services Available from the Archives of Marrickville Council" and b) "Researching the History of Your House" with additional contact details of other relevant agencies. I can be reached on 9335 2185.

Vivienne Larking, Archivist

Apropos Stan Bales' claims in November newsletter about his late 1930s Stanmore Road hamburger shop, Mick Timmings of Ulladulla writes "there was a hamburger stall right opposite Marcus Clarks Central Store where the trams used to go to all destinations down Broadway. My very first hamburger was bought there by my mother. The bun was toasted and on top they stuck a large pickled onion secured by a toothpick. This would have been about 1933." Can anyone beat that?

## SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. Why was the suburb of Camperdown so called?
2. Because of inadequate fire safety and boundary restrictions, the Albert Frede Memorial Amenities Centre in Illawarra Road Marrickville has been auctioned by Council. Who was Albert Frede?

(Ring Richard 9557 3823)



## HERITAGE WATCH

The owners of **Albermarle** 55-59 Albermarle Street, Newtown have submitted a DA to Council with the aim of restoring this impressive local landmark house to its former glory. This two storey early Victorian villa retains many of its distinguishing features, including its verandah, French doors and iron palisade fence with robust rendered brick piers. The proposed works will involve repairing and restoring house throughout, with some upgrading and extension of previous alterations to improve the amenity of this fine old house for a contemporary family.

\* \* \*

The sorry saga of the **Fraser Park** (Marrickville) gates continues. Shirley Hilyard and Richard Blair recently visited the building site where the remains of the cast iron gates and stone piers had been placed during the railway bridge works. They found that not only had the gates and piers disappeared but workers on a building under construction had no knowledge of them.

Shirley believes the piers may have originally been relocated from the *Lymerston* estate in Tempe which belonged to Richard Way and extended from the Cooks River Road (Princes Highway) along Railway Road to Meeks Road and back to Way Street, covering the area that is now north Tempe, Tillman Park and Fraser Park.

Lymerston Street was the main carriage way to the house from the entrance off Cooks River Road. The land was bought by the government in 1884 as the south coast railway was to pass across it. *Lymerston* was used as accommodation for rail workers until 1909. In 1914 it was sold to the Sisters of Mercy becoming a convent. *Lymerston* is now privately owned but still used by the Sisters.

As Fraser Park was not established until the 1930s, it is possible that the old Lymerston Estate gate piers may have been relocated to Fraser Park at around this time. If the piers **are** from *Lymerston*, then they must be kept in the Tempe area and not dumped or stored for future use at Mortuary Station (their earlier mistaken origin; the original iron gates came from the Mortuary Station, but were later replaced). The Society will continue to pursue State Rail property managers about the current location and eventual reconstruction of the piers and gates.

Scott MacArthur

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If you would like to join the Marrickville Heritage Society or recruit a friend send a cheque or money order with name(s), address & phone number, or ring vice president Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Membership 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. Fees \$10 concession, \$16 individual or joint concession, \$22 household or organisation.

On Sunday 18 November **Mastertouch** (founded 1919) celebrated its annual Founders Day which coincided with 40 years of Mastertouch ownership by Barclay Wright. Mastertouch continues to sell a large range of piano rolls, many recorded decades ago and many yesterday for its dedicated band of enthusiasts. A film evening for MHS members is projected for next year (article on history of Mastertouch in *Heritage* 10).

## NOW WHAT WAS THERE?

Have you experienced seeing a vacant block and wondering "now what used to be there" even though we had seen what was there a thousand times? Along **Stanmore Road Stanmore** opposite the Newington Hotel is such a block that was clearly a row of shops, which would have been there for a century or so serving the community. The Notice of Development attached to the hoarding gives no indication as to what is planned though one suspects housing. Another casualty of this development is a portion of Maundrell Park. Perhaps it will be replaced by greenspace, but it will be private property, not for public use!

In celebration of the Bicentenary of Matthew Flinders circumnavigating Australia the **State Library of NSW** is staging an exhibition *Matthew Flinders The Ultimate Voyage* described as the world's first touring exhibition on Flinders. Highly recommended. Till 13 January. Also on exhibit is *Private Lives: Families of NSW* on the changing nature of the family till 3 February.

\* \* \* \* \*

Who has not enjoyed at some time dressing up? What now seems to be a declining art (except in such splendid displays as the Mardi Gras Parade) was in bygone eras an important part of growing up. In celebration of creativity and imagination is *Fancy Dress* featuring a collection of costumes, artefacts and photographs of the past 130 years. Look out for the Three Pierrettes (Marie, Shirley and Ruth Colbron). Exhibition at **Elizabeth Bay House** Tuesday to Sunday 10am-4.30pm till 12 May.

**PRESIDENT** Peter 9550 3809

**TREASURER** Susan 9798 2538

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

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