

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

OUR ORAL HISTORY

Petersham Town Hall

Saturday 23 February 10 am (morning tea with 10.30 sharp start)

[In the mid 1930s] ... "My dad got a milk bar down at the old Olympia Theatre which was on Parramatta Road; used to be the Stanmore Twin. The Olympia Milk bar was next door to the old Olympia Theatre just down near Northumberland Avenue; and they managed it for a few years" (Pat Brunker).

"And then there was the iceman who at about five o'clock in the morning would run through the house with the ice wrapped up in a hessian bag and dump it in the icebox. If there was a lazy family the iceblock would be standing on the doorstep like a river. The iceworks were at the top of the street in Crystal Street" (Lu Bell).

"My mother washed on Monday, did the ironing on Tuesday, had Clan days on Wednesday, when all the ladies of the family met in one another's houses for lunch; Thursday she did the housework, Friday her shopping, Saturday her baking. But if anybody came in, she immediately got the 'girdle' (which was a cast-iron flat thing with a handle which she brought from Scotland with her) and she made pancakes; they call them pikelets in Australia ... at Christmas we always had Grandma's cloutie pudding, which my father called plum duff" (Mollie Mitchell).

Oral history records people's perceptions of life as it was. Members of the **Marrickville Heritage Society Oral History Group** will present taped recollections of life in the Marrickville area and some of our informants. This is history everyone can relate to and participate in, so come and share the experience!

WHITHER ST. ANMORE?



With this house name *St Anmore*, a Stanmore household with a sense of humour has offered an alternate theory as to the derivation of the suburban name Stanmore, generally accepted as being named after early settler John Jones' Middlesex birthplace in north London. Perhaps some erudite or imaginative member can proffer further intelligence about this saintly claim!

Launch of Camperdown Cemetery

Kangaroo Grassland & Historic Plantings

Restoration Project Sunday 17 February 11-1

In the MHS Newsletter of May 1998 I wrote about the wonderful remnant of Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest still surviving in Newtown's Camperdown Cemetery. Swathes of Kangaroo Grass, Plume Grass and native lilies flowered around the gravesites and monuments in this much loved and well-used oasis in the inner city.

A group of interested people representing the Marrickville Heritage Society, Marrickville Council, Camperdown Cemetery Trust and Greening Australia have set up a small community project to protect and restore this endangered native vegetation. In April 2001, there was a very positive response to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald and an interview on ABC Radio 2BL about the vegetation and activities to protect it. In June Marrickville Council funded the installation of hardwood stakes to delineate the perimeter of the Kangaroo Grassland's 'No Mow' Zone and some public information signs as well as the preparation of a draft Restoration Strategy.

In September a Natural Heritage Trust Grant of \$5300 was awarded to the project. In October on advice from members of the Cemeteries Committee of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) the project was extended to include the protection and restoration of historic grave plantings existing within the remnant vegetation areas. The aim of the Camperdown Cemetery Kangaroo Grassland and Historic Plantings Restoration Project (what a mouthful!) is to maintain a mosaic of cultural and natural landscapes within the cemetery grounds.

The project will be launched at an Open Day on **Sunday 17th February from 11 am to 1 pm** at Camperdown Cemetery. Everyone is welcome! Doug Benson, Senior Plant Ecologist, Royal Botanic Gardens, will talk, there will be tours of the restoration areas, bush regeneration demonstrations and time for questions and refreshments. You can become a Friend of Camperdown Cemetery and be practically involved in the restoration of these significant heritage areas of native vegetation and historic grave plantings in the heart of Newtown!

For further information, flyers and posters, contact council's Nell Graham 9335 2197 or enved2@marrickville.nsw.gov.au

Danie Ondinea

HERITAGE 11 LAUNCHED

The final MHS event of 2001 was the launch of the Society's journal *Heritage 11* at Petersham Town Hall on Thursday 6 December. After refreshments and some international songs from the Solidarity Choir (two whom are MHS members) MHS President Peter Cousens introduced journal editor Mark Matheson who hosted the evening. Mark spoke about the challenges involved in producing this long-awaited publication and the pleasure in preparing the Waratah article, commending society members for their generous contributions.

Pat Mullen thanked the advertisers; Mark thanked Ed Jones at Gopher Graphics and authors Andy Carr who wrote the history of the Newtown Jets and Mark Maloney who conceived and co-wrote the Stanmore Walk. The ribbon was cut by John Vicars, the last director of our former locally esteemed woollen mill and now a MHS member. A Vicars illustrated testimonial has been beautifully reproduced in the journal.

All society members should have received their journal (if not ring Diane 9588 4930). Members are invited to give feedback on articles and any aspect of the journal either in writing or by phone. Extra copies of *Heritage 11* are available for \$15. Preparation for *Heritage 12* is under way but if you want to contribute an article of local relevance contact journal coordinator Peter Cousens 9550 3819.

Richard Blair

Note: When John Vicars spotted Paul Roy at the launch he instantly recognised him as a former high school colleague!

ON THE GRAPEVINE

- We don't usually give health reports but we make an exception with the ever sprightly **Ted Green** (chair man at meetings) who is recuperating from a recent successful bypass operation. On doctor's advice Ted won't be venturing into the Grose Valley for a while, and is temporarily excused from putting out the chairs, but expects to take his chair at our next meeting!
- Marrickville Council's Heritage Architect since mid 1999 **Catherine Macarthur** has resigned. We wish her the best in future endeavours. The Grapevine has heard she will not be replaced!
- The Society congratulates members **Pam Clay and John Wright** of *Lauraville* Marrickville who won the Large Garden category of Marrickville Council's 2001 Spring Garden Competition. A previous winner **Maureen Salier** of Stanmore won second prize in this category.
- Due to heavy rain our **Dulwich Hill Street Fair stall** on 8 December was cancelled.
- We were relieved to hear that *The Cottage* and *Glenleigh*, which the Society visited at **Mulgoa**

last March, both narrowly escaped the recent **bushfires**, though gardens were damaged. There was damage to the rectory and some headstones in the cemetery at **St Thomas Church**. These were headstones of the Cox family, local pioneers and early landowners. The Herald reported that "Edward Cox Esq. master of *Fernhill* until his 1868 death, aged 63, had inscribed on his headstone 'Behold I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction'. The squire, therefore, may have had the last laugh and nodded approvingly as the flames flickered around his plot." (SMH 27/12/01)

Whilst most members have **renewed their membership** we especially commend the many who are now paid up till June 2003. Some won't need to renew till June 2004 whilst one optimist won't have to bother the treasurer again till mid 2006!

LETTER TO EDITOR WITH LYMERSTON UPDATE & KRISKINDL

Congratulations to the Marrickville Heritage Society on the release of the newest edition of *Heritage*. The articles in it are most interesting.

In the December/January newsletter under *Heritage Watch Lymerston* in Hillcrest Street, Tempe was mentioned as now being privately owned but still used by the Sisters of the Catholic Church. *Lymerston* is privately owned but is occupied by John Lizzio and his wife Marie. The old school (which closed in 1989) next door is now budget priced accommodation run by them. We thought you might like an update on the situation.

Regards, Laurel & Bob Horton



Note: Website information provided by the Hortons includes history of Lymerston and details of Kriskindl Guesthouse (downloaded as above) catering mainly for backpackers (phone 9558 3332 email kriskindl@start.com.au). Kriskindl was "the site of a Cobb & Co. coach house with a huge circular sandstone well under the carpark."

The Society regrets the passing of MHS member **Cathy Boland** of Bondi Junction on 9 January after a long illness. Condolences to her family.

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. CAMPERDOWN

Three respondents took the trouble to convey the origin of the suburb name **Camperdown**. **Susan Pinson** wrote: "Camperdown was named by Gov. Bligh in August 1806 in memory of a naval battle in which he took part in 1797. It was fought off the Dutch Coast and near the town of Kamperduin, 50 kilometres north of Amsterdam. The estate of 240 acres was granted to Bligh in 1806." **Diane McCarthy** added Governor Bligh served with the British Navy in a victory against the Dutch at the Battle of Camperdown (Kamperduin) in 1797. Kamperduin literally means "the Dunes of Kamp" and is a north Holland village near the North Sea. Dutch-born **Christina Penning**, who also proudly answer correctly, was chuffed over the Dutch connection.



1887 Camperdown Town Hall on corner of Parramatta Road & Mallett Street in 1911. Chrys Meader claims this building is still standing though it has been changed beyond recognition (Sharpe Pictorial History of Newtown 1999 p 114)

Camperdown has been notable for several institutions: Camperdown Cemetery, consecrated in 1849, and still partly extant as St Stephens Cemetery; Fowlers Pottery, which thrived in Camperdown between the 1850s and 1919 when it was relocated to Marrickville; the Camperdown Childrens and Missenden Road hospitals (RPA & KGV); the velodrome and Bonds Hosiery with its famous Chesty Bond sign.

The 1882 school is still standing but now has other educational uses whilst Camperdown Park (original site of Fowlers Pottery) remains picturesque. It is not commonly known that Camperdown was also a municipality from 1862 to 1908 when much of it was absorbed by the City of Sydney Council. It is now administered by both Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

2. WHO WAS ALBERT FREDE?

As to the identity of **Albert Frede**, well, we stumped the entire membership. Little is known about the Rev. Albert Frede who was Minister of the 1907 The Warren Methodist Church when he died in 1963. According to the *Free Weekly* (6 June 1963) Albert was so favourably regarded that the

Marrickville Branches of the Old Age & Invalid Pensioners' Association, the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Labour League recommended that the new women's rest centre at 400 Illawarra Road be named after him. Council adopted the recommendation and the Albert Frede Memorial Amenities Centre was opened on 25 September 1965.

The plaque commemorating the opening of the centre was recently removed by Council following sale of the building. Albert will still be remembered in Frede Lane which runs off Grove Street skirting his former home. The church which was on the corner of Illawarra Road and Warburton Street was demolished in the 1960s for unattractive flats and shops. Thanks to roving reporter **Diane McCarthy** for providing this doozie of a question and answer.

Richard Blair

LOCAL FEDERATION STREETS

With celebrations over for the Centenary of Federation, member **Barbara Gibbons** has drawn attention to local streets named around the time of Federation – Constitution Road in Dulwich Hill, Federation Road and Hopetoun Street, both in Newtown near Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. The Earl of Hopetoun was the first Governor-General of Australia. There is also Hopetoun Street in Petersham. According to *Marrickville: From rural outpost* (p 212) Australia Street, Newtown was named after Australia House which once stood there. Are there any others?

POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

For the second year running we joined Bob and Kyle on Saturday 1 December at their Victorian home in Tempe which is ideally suited to such occasions. The setting was perfect as was the weather and the food was up to the usual excellent standard. The festive season raffle was won by Harold Welsh, Richard Blair, Joan Sinclair and Peter James. Thanks to Lorraine Beach for putting those marvellous hampers together. A pot luck dinner raffle had so many prizes hardly anyone seemed to go home empty-handed. Thanks to Ian Rumsey for scouring the district for dinner raffle donations, Angela Phippen and David Cass for coordinating the culinary delights and kitchen activity, and Bob Hayes and Kyle, not only for their delicious sangria, but for again making us all feel very welcome.

SHRUBS AND TUBS GARDEN CENTRE

130-136 New Canterbury Road Petersham • Tel 9560 3884



Old Fashioned Climbers and Roses, Cottage Garden Plants, Camellias, Azaleas, All Herbs, Terracotta Pots, Lattice. Everything to keep your garden healthy

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 10 AM

Our Oral History

Details front page

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

Tempe walk with Laurel Horton

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Bridging the Divide: George Morgan talks on Multicultural Marrickville. Bus tour of multicultural sites to follow.

CHARLIE MEADER MEMORIAL GATES

On 6 December 2001 about 60 people witnessed the unveiling of the entrance gates at Henson Park Marrickville commemorating the late Charlie Meader. Charlie's children Chrys, Charles, Clark, Cheryl and Colin, his grandchildren and sister all attended along with council staff, friends and neighbours. Chrys remembered her father, read some newspaper reports regarding the esteem he was held in by the Rugby League world and thanked Wayne Carter for the idea. With jets flying overhead Mayor Barry Cotter unveiled the gates.



Charlie Meader's grandchildren from left: Stephanie, Kurtis, Callum, Christopher, Patrick, Caitlin, Jessica, Kassandra, Annieka (photo: Diane McCarthy)

The plaque reads: "Named by Marrickville Council in recognition of the work of Charles James Meader (1926-2000). Charlie was an employee in the Parks and Reserves Section from 1943 to 1994. From 1964 to his retirement Charlie was caretaker of Henson Park, home ground to the Newtown Rugby League Football Club (the Bluebags/Jets). Charlie was a life long supporter of the team. His family, friends and work mates remember many happy days spent together in this park."

Historic Trail Plaque 7 funded by the Commonwealth Government (1988) states Henson Park "is the site of Thomas Daley's Standsure Brickworks from 1886 to 1924. Marrickville Municipal Council later purchased and filled in the disused brick pits which had become a dangerous waterhole. Henson Park was opened in 1933".

Diane McCarthy

CAN YOU HELP?

- Melbourne-based member **Les Logan** recently discovered a leather ammunition case (15 cm x 10 cm) for a 303 Vickers light machine gun dated 1944 at the Camberwell Market. It was made by C.E. Bowden & Sons, King Street Newtown. Anyone with information about this company may ring Les at 03 9857 6388 or write to him care of the Society.
- **Linthorpe House** demolished about a century ago was in Linthorpe Street Newtown. If anyone has information on the history of Linthorpe or Owen Friend who once lived there, could they contact Fred Sinfield on 9660 7828 or fredron@telstra.easymail.com.au
- Member **Margaret Sinclair** (renowned for her heritage marmalade) collects used stamps to assist the blind and the disabled. Bring to a meeting or post them to Margaret care of the Society.
- To help raise funds the **Tempe Community Centre** is propagating plants. If you can provide cuttings take them to 691 Princes Highway Tempe weekdays after 10.30 or ring centre on 9559 5557 or Lori after hours 9559 4160.

The **newsletter editor** is holding some articles which are longer than appropriate for newsletter. Fewer than 700 words preferred. Shorter articles likely to get earlier publication.

JOHN PAUL WHO?

The editor saved his biggest blooper of 2001 for the December/January newsletter, though astute members diplomatically refrained from hassling the offending author/editor. Member Kath Peterson was wryly amused to find her famous ancestor was none other than 1970s Australian pop icon John Paul Young whose biggest hit *Something in the Air* was reprised with great effect in *Strictly Ballroom* (filmed largely at Petersham Town Hall) in 1992. Ironically old *Countdown* reruns featuring Young have recently been shown on Rage.

Kath's ancestral pirate was, of course, **John Paul Jones** – not to be confused with the former Led Zeppelin bass player of that name and no connection with 'Paul Jones' the popular 1910s and 1920s dance whose object was to frequently change partners. Kath's John Paul Jones is credited with founding the American Navy in the late 18th century. During a 1779 naval battle when asked if he would surrender, he replied "I have not yet begun to fight"! Ironically both Jones and Young were born in Scotland, albeit 200 years apart.

PRESIDENT Peter 9550 3809

TREASURER Susan 9798 2538

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

www.marrickvilleheritagesoc.com.au