

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
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CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING TEMPE HISTORICAL WALK WITH LAUREL HORTON

Saturday 23 March 10.20 am for 10.30 start
(Meet outside Tempe Station (east) for 2 hour round walk. Morning tea at end (\$3). No bookings.)

The suburb of Tempe was named after the house of Alexander Brodie Spark built in the mid 1830s to the design of John Verge on the southern bank of Cooks River. The name comes from the Vale of Tempe in Thessaly, Greece near Mount Olympus. (*Tempe House* has recently been the subject of controversy as it is about to be overshadowed by a mass of buildings, considered by many as overdevelopment of the site.) Spark laid out the village of Tempe and St Peters in the 1840s.



Nelson Lodge in 1939
(*Marrickville Rural outpost to inner city* p 118)

Local historian **Laurel Horton** will take us to Cooks River looking across to *Tempe House*. Other highlights include the Tempe Tram Depot site, *Lymmerston*, *Kriskindl* Guest House, Tempe's public schools, *Hurlingham* and an inspection of the restored c.1858 *Nelson Lodge* (formerly *Milford Haven*, whose story was related in *Heritage 10*) where morning tea will be served.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: MULTICULTURAL MARRICKVILLE BUS TOUR

The theme of Heritage Week (20-28 April) is *Bridging the Divide*. Local celebrations of *Multicultural Marrickville* will include on Saturday 27 April a MHS talk in morning followed by a vintage bus tour at 2 pm organised by Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee to some of Marrickville's culturally diverse locations. Details April newsletter. **Numbers limited. Book soon. Peter 9550 3809 or Nick 9335 2253.**

Nominations for **2002 Marrickville Medal** (Public & Commercial works) close 22 March. Details: Matthew Devine 9356 2955 (weekdays).

HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW IN LIMBO

The Heritage Study Review and the status of the 391 proposed new Heritage Items remains in limbo, with little prospect of the Review being released for public comment in the foreseeable future. The Review cost Council, and therefore its ratepayers, tens of thousands of dollars, which on present indications will be wasted unless its recommendations are advertised, reviewed and implemented.

The majority of councillors are unable to realise themselves or reassure panicked constituents that a heritage listing is not a real estate death sentence that will bankrupt them. One has only to look in real estate agent windows to see that the most valuable properties in the LGA are restored or conserved houses in neighbourhoods that retain their period character.

The rebirth of northern King Street as a desirable precinct arguably dates from the removal of the overhead power lines in the early 1990s to reveal the incredible richness and variety of the Victorian commercial streetscape. South King Street is rejuvenating around the Performing Arts High School and the restored St Georges Hall. Property values and rents on King Street continue to climb as more facades are cleaned and painted. The promotion and protection of heritage in these cases are government initiatives that attract attention and set standards that private individuals and corporations can emulate and even capitalise on.

Marrickville LGA is known for the ethnic and economic diversity of its inhabitants. The waves of immigration and development have left an uncommon, and perhaps unique, legacy of varied buildings from the last 150 years. When residents move on or die, often all that is left to tell their stories are their houses or shops, their schools or churches, or their parks. They are **our** stories and that is what we must strive to protect.

Scott MacArthur

(Note: More Heritage Watch back page)

The Society regrets the disappearance of architecture writer Geraldine O'Brien's weekly **Urban Eyes** column from the Sydney Morning Herald. This statewide Heritage Watch has not only kept us informed of threatened sites and heritage initiatives, but has also encouraged authorities and developers to 'lift their game'. Heritage and historical societies and individual members should lobby the SMH to restore sight to **Urban Eyes**, this important and illuminating column.

OUR LAST MEETING ORAL HISTORY PRESENTATION

Our meeting on 23 February attracted the usual packed house for this well-organised and interesting activity. Angela Phippen and Richard Blair, with Ian Phillips (audio transmission) and Jan Armstrong (overhead projection), gave a brief history of how the Oral History Group (assisted by funding from Marrickville Council) went about the task of recording the memories of volunteers. Copies of the tapes will be lodged with Mitchell Library.

With their printed words on overheads, we heard the recorded voices of Molly Mitchell, the late Dorothy Gaston, Lu Bell, Pat Bruncker, Ada Boes and Harry Stone. We were introduced to five of these participants who added to their stories. Each had their unique interpretation of life as it was in the Marrickville area during their earlier years. These varied from mother's daily routine, the imported 1923 Dodge, horse buses, making ginger beer, the honey man, Girls Brigade and Scouts, delightful ethnic neighbours and recreational pursuits like greyhounds and dancing.

The importance of recording such memories was brought home with the subsequent deaths of participants Les Fairbairn in 2000 and Dorothy Gaston in 2001. Photographs and short biographies of both these members were displayed.

There was a short interval with a quiz from Angela challenging those present with *What year was it* (1930, answered by Shirley Doolan), *Who am I* (Sir Winston Churchill answered by David Blair) and *What am I* (ginger, answered by Shirley Hilyard). The winners were rewarded with pot plants.

At the end of the meeting some members went away reminded of their past while others learnt of how daily life was so different before their time. The Oral History Group has been an outstanding success for our society, but inevitably some members have dropped out of the group. New members would be welcomed so that the work can continue. If our society's first meeting for 2002 is any indication of what is in store for members, then we are in for a dazzling and entertaining year.

Shirley Doolan

(Note: Other OHG members were Marilyn Leeds, Caroll Phillips and Pip Preston. To become an interviewer, do transcriptions or be interviewed ring Richard 9557 3823.)

27 February 2002 was the centenary of the execution by firing squad of Harry Breaker Morant and Lt. PJ Handcock outside Pretoria for shooting Boer prisoners during the Boer War.

The MHS website has yielded at least two new members and a response titled *A Marrickville boy in Blighty* from Barton Guthrie of Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire. Barton grew up around Marrickville, but settled in the UK in the 1960s. A volunteer to go and record Barton's oral history please!

END OF AN ERA: SEYMOUR'S STORE

BBC Hardware, Victoria Road Marrickville has been sold and closed its doors at the end of February leaving Marrickville without a specialist hardware store. It was previously Seymour's Store. HT Seymour Ltd. 'Universal Providers' originally opened on the corner of Marrickville and Victoria Roads in 1900 when it was the biggest suburban store in Australia.



Seymour's Corner (depicted in 1936 Marrickville book) became a local landmark. Ron Sawkins in his *Memories of Marrickville* (Heritage 7, 1992) recalls Seymour's Store as "the place to shop in those days ... We had late night shopping on Friday nights and Marrickville Road would be crowded with shoppers". After it burnt down on 20-21 November 1949, a smaller store was built and established as a hardware store on the nearby corner of Victoria Road and Seymours Lane. It was bought by BBC Hardware in the 1970s.

HT Seymour was a prominent businessman and founding member of Marrickville Bowling Club in 1905. He enlisted in World War I, became lieutenant and later unveiled the war trophy gun at the opening of Marrickville Town Hall in 1922. He was the first president of the local ex-servicemen's group and it was his idea to build a soldier's club. The Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club which opened on 30 July 1921 in Garners Avenue, is the oldest ex-servicemen's club in NSW (source: Cashman & Meader *Marrickville Rural outpost to inner city* 1990 p 163).

I have many childhood memories of going up the road with my late dad Eddie and my sister Christine to buy hardware from Seymours. The shop had an imposing entrance with curved terrazzo steps, large timber counters, men wearing large aprons – no self-service in the 1950s. I especially recall the system where the money and docket were placed in a cylinder and conveyed by pneumatic tube to the upstairs office where it was receipted and the change returned. Christine remembers going with dad in about 1956 to buy a clothes horse for mum for Mother's Day. My daughter Lisa is still using this clothes horse. End of an era in Marrickville's shopping centre!

Diane McCarthy (nee Langley)

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

The first traffic lights in Australia were at the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets Melbourne in 1928. The first in Sydney appeared at Market and Kent Streets in 1933. Where and when did they first appear in the Marrickville LGA? (Richard 9557 3823)

J BURCHAM CLAMP & NURSES' HOME EVERSLEIGH HOSPITAL SITE

The site of the former Eversleigh Hospital, Addison Road, Petersham is once again subject of a Development Application before Marrickville Council. A model depicting the residential development is on display in the council foyer. The society is making a further submission to council on the impact of the DA upon this significant heritage site.

Unlike the previous DA the model indicates that the administration building and garden fronting Addison Road, and the Nurses' Quarters facing Coronation Parade, are to be retained. Last year, these items were all listed as of local heritage significance in the Marrickville LEP. Eversleigh Hospital, formerly known as the Home of Peace for the Dying, was opened c.1907 and administered under the auspices of the Anglican Church (SMH 9/8/1909).

Recent research has revealed that the nurses' quarters were designed in 1912 by architect John Burcham Clamp, and constructed by WS Baker & Son of St Peters (SMH 24/9/1912). It is a two storey, face-brick building that remains largely intact. Its well-proportioned design reflects many of the features of the Inter-War Georgian Revival Style such as classical detailing, symmetry and repetitive fenestration. The façade is graced by a portico with impressive, but simple timber columns.



Nurses' Home, Eversleigh (photo: Richard Blair)

Burcham Clamp trained at Sydney Technical College, later attending lectures at Sydney University. He was the first student admitted to the Institute of Architects NSW in 1889, and became a respected, if not one of its more outspoken members. JM Freeland (ADB 1971:77) describes Clamp as 'something of a trailblazer' especially in his nomination and staunch defence in 1907 of Florence Parsons (later Taylor) as a member of the IANSW. Parsons was finally admitted as an Associate in 1920. Clamp was an active Anglican and, as building surveyor for the diocese, was involved in many projects for the

Anglican Church including St Matthew's Church, Manly and conversion of a house (*Lulworth*) at Rushcutters Bay into St Luke's Hospital (ADB 1981:1).

Acclaimed for his competence in architectural planning, design and construction Burcham Clamp is best known today for his design for *Wyoming* in Macquarie Street, Sydney (1909-11) an early example of multi-storey work in Sydney and purpose-designed as medical suites.

Caroline Plim

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Forced Landing: In [a] Marrickville Park (SMH 13 March 1933)

"The engine of an aeroplane in which two men were flying yesterday failed whilst the machine was passing over Stanmore. The pilot made a forced landing in Henson Park Marrickville and the machine was badly damaged. Both men escaped without injury. Sydney Howard Cheesewright, 32, proprietor of the Stanmore Garage, Stanmore Road Petersham and John Henry Makinen, 18, of 20 Holmesdale Street Marrickville took off from Mascot in the morning with the object of passing over the city and then taking photographs of the harbour.

Mr Cheesewright was piloting his own machine, a de Havilland Gypsy Moth, and when passing over Newington College at a height of about 1500 feet, the engine failed. "I knew I had plenty of altitude" Mr Cheesewright said in describing his experience, "and I could see a fair number of landing places. I chose Henson Park, and circled round to come into the wind. The park looked rather small, and I decided to make a stall landing. Almost immediately after we touched the ground, the undercarriage collapsed, and the machine pitched on to its nose."

Mr Cheesewright said the prospect of a forced landing in a busy suburb did not worry him [as] numbers of parks and empty paddocks could be seen. The propeller, undercarriage and bottom wing of the aeroplane were damaged beyond repair. The fuselage was broken in two places, but the engine was unhurt. Mr Makinen treated the happening as a joke, and his chief regret was that he got so few photographs. The machine itself crashed in the country about two years ago. Mr Cheesewright purchased the wrecked aeroplane and rebuilt it in his own garage."

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 23 MARCH

Tempe walk with Laurel Horton

Details front page

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Bridging the Divide: George Morgan talks on Multicultural Marrickville. Bus tour of multicultural sites to follow (See front page).

SATURDAY 25 MAY

Vintage cinema screening at Mastertouch

Camperdown Cemetery Kangaroo Grassland & Historic Plantings Restoration Project

On Sunday 17 February over 40 people attended the launch of this joint venture of Marrickville Council, Marrickville Heritage Society, Camperdown Cemetery Trust and Greening Australia (details February newsletter). The small area of endangered grassland is all that survives of the majestic Sydney Turpentine Forest that once covered most of Marrickville. Doug Benson, Senior Plant Ecologist, Royal Botanic Gardens, said "We have something very special in Camperdown Cemetery. This is the only pocket of Kangaroo Grassland known in this area and so it is very important that the community work together to protect it."

Council's Manager Environmental Services, Jan Orton, said "that council was thrilled to be part of such an interesting project. The grassland has laid untouched for so long. It was hidden amongst the gravestones and has been protected all these years simply because it was out of the way and hard to get to!" MHS member Danie Ondinea, who initiated the project, led a tour around the cemetery pointing out the remnant vegetation of significance.

Details of two further training sessions for participants to be advised (initial session was on 9 March). For information contact Supervising Bush Regenerator Nikky Greenyer on 0418 413 484 or council's Education Officer Nell Graham 9335 2197 (main source: Marrickville Council's press release).

Adding to the February newsletter list of local streets named around Federation, Mark Matheson cites the **Federal Mills** built in 1896 on the site of Newtown's first railway station in Gladstone Street by Francis Crago (1847-1907, who lived at Woerden Cambridge Street Stanmore in the 1890s). After a fire in 1900 it was rebuilt to the same design. The concrete silos were built in 1936. The heritage-listed mills closed in 1984 and have since been used as dance and artist studios.

To join Marrickville Heritage Society or recruit a friend send a cheque or money order to the treasurer with name(s), address & phone number, or ring vice president Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or more 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 joint concession or individual, \$22 household or organisation. Address front page.

HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

Catherine Macarthur Departs

As noted in the February newsletter, the Society was saddened at the departure of Council's Heritage Architect, Catherine Macarthur. Catherine worked tirelessly to promote and protect the heritage values of Marrickville during her tenure. Council reduced the position to half-time, but maintained a full-time work load for Catherine. She was especially active and effective during the planning and preparations for Heritage Week, which involved hours of overtime work with the community and the Heritage Promotions Committee.

Her main project during her time at Marrickville was the delivery of the Heritage Study Review to council and its presentation to the community. Catherine worked intensively with the consultants, council officers and the Heritage Office to finalise the Review and its electronic database of heritage items. She then door-knocked and letter-boxed the owners of each of the proposed new items, to individually brief them on the ramifications of listing. In spite of her best efforts, the status of the Heritage Study Review remains unclear. Catherine has taken up a position with the Heritage Division of the Department of Public Services, and we wish her all the best of luck.

Full-time Heritage Architect Needed!

Council has yet to advertise for a new Heritage Architect. When work on the Heritage Study Review became most intense, Council engaged another heritage architect, Sue Jackson, to take over some of Catherine Macarthur's load, especially in the processing of DAs. This engagement continues on a limited contract basis now that Catherine has left. Council has advertised for a heritage architect to 'project manage' the preparation and running of the Marrickville Heritage Festival and Medal, but again this is a temporary contract position. **The Marrickville LGA needs a full-time Heritage Architect!**

The 1984-86 Heritage Review identified 236 heritage items and the 1997 Review a further 391! These properties, precincts and items are an incredible resource that needs to be protected and managed for our own enjoyment and quality of life, as well as for succeeding generations. Marrickville Council has proudly accepted plaudits over the years for its leadership in cultural and heritage issues. Council must obtain the services of a full-time Heritage Architect, or the work and money expended by Council and its officers since the ground-breaking days of the early to mid 1980s will be undermined by greed and short-sightedness.

Scott MacArthur

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www.marrickvilleheritagesoc.com.au