

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING HISTORY OF JOADJA CREEK Petersham Town Hall Saturday 24 May 10 am morning tea for 10.30 start

In 1974 **Leonie Knapman** "was a tourist officer at Mittagong and was often asked about the shale-mining ghost town of Joadja Creek. No one knew anything about it, so I wrote to every newspaper in NSW asking for help. I did not realise the forthcoming information would consume my life and result in two books and a half-hour video."



1878 marked the start of the Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company, possibly the largest and richest of NSW pioneering industries. The company solved transport problems by building a 61 km narrow gauge railway to Mittagong and introducing large-scale methods producing kerosene, candles, wax, oils and other products previously imported. A village was established and labour shortages overcome by enlisting experienced workmen and their families from mining areas of Scotland.

After arriving in Australia they were taken by horse or bullock team to Joadja Creek, where they retained their Scottish habits and customs. Because of its isolation the village became self-sufficient and was one of the first country areas to have the telephone connected. It seemed this industrial community would achieve lasting success, but by 1911 it was gone. Today only ruins tell of the 2000 people who once lived and worked there.

VALE STAN BALES

Stan Bales died on 29 April aged 92, after breaking his hip in a fall. Stan was born and bred locally and though he lived with his family for the past three years in Elanora Heights, he had resided in Middleton Street, Petersham since his marriage to the late Phoebe Bales in 1938. Stan was one of Sydney's best known Scouting identities. He had a long association with Petersham Group and was NSW Branch Commissioner for Rovers 1955-78. He received Scouting's highest award *The Silver Kangaroo* and was awarded the MBE in 1976. The story of Stan's *Appa Teeza Hamburger Shop, Enmore 1939-1946* appeared in *Heritage* 5 (1989). The society recorded his oral history in 2000. We extend our condolences to son Kerry and his family.

CENTENARY MEDAL

Centenary Medals – announced on 25 April – were awarded to 15,464 Australians for "contributions to Australian society and government in 2001, the 100th year of Federation". The MHS congratulates eight members who received the medal: **Shirley Hilyard** (service to heritage conservation), **John Mara** (community service), **Chrys Meader** (service to history), **Lesley Muir** (community service), **Chris Pratten** (community service), **Ian Tyrrell** (services to study of history), **Ron Wiebe** (community service) and **Beryl Winter** (services to trade union movement and women's equality). Have we omitted anyone?

OUR COSTLY INSURANCE

When the Marrickville Heritage Society was incorporated in November 1997 it became necessary to hold Public Liability Insurance. Whenever we participate in festivals we must lodge a copy of this policy with our application form. There is also the Voluntary Workers (Personal / Accident) Insurance which covers committee and other members who help at stalls etc. or in the day-to-day running of the society. As the Society is affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society, MHS has umbrella coverage arranged by RAHS. Our insurance costs have risen substantially from \$265 in 1999, to \$567 in 2002 and to \$762 for the current year.

Diane McCarthy (Public Officer)

SUBSCRIPTION FEE INCREASE

Renewal of Society fees is 1 June. Our fees have not been raised since 1999. Since then the society has absorbed the impact of the GST introduced in 2000. Standard postage recently increased by five cents. This is not much, but multiplied by 150 monthly postals (to outside the LGA) it adds up. For a range of reasons our insurance has increased (see separate article) by about 288% since 1999 and the society has no option other than to pay insurance. We are also shortly anticipating an increase in the cost of producing the newsletter. The fees will accordingly be increased.

The new rate of fees will be \$12 concession (up \$2), \$20 individual or joint concession (up \$4), \$28 household or organisation (up \$6). Members are reminded that the next issue of our journal *Heritage* (#12) will be available, as always, free to members.

The Society welcomes Marrickville Council's new archivist **Natasha Trpezanovski** who previously worked as an Archives Officer at the University of New England and Regional Archives: Heritage Centre. Natasha completed her archival studies at UNSW in 1999. Archival article inside.

OUR LAST MEETING COOKS RIVER HERITAGE WALK

On Saturday 26 April 63 MHS, Canterbury & District Historical Society and National Trust members joined **Lesley Muir's** walk along Cooks River as part of the Heritage Festival. Because of the large numbers, Lesley's husband **Brian Madden** led half the group. Recent rains had made the river very muddy and the low tide revealed a lot of rubbish.

Starting from the historic sandstone Sugar works (1841), Lesley outlined the colourful history of the site. The sugar refinery closed in 1854, but from the original company grew the still flourishing Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR). The building has since had various uses. Though refurbished in 1979 it closed as a factory in 1983. It was acquired by a developer and in 1996 a suspicious fire caused considerable damage. Apartments have since been built and much of the façade retained. It has several heritage-listings.

The first land grant of 100 acres along the river was made in 1793 to the Reverend Richard Johnson. A section of the river was briefly used as a boat harbour. We heard the Muir/Madden theory about Campbell's Duntroon, Canberra Street (dating from 1870s) and the city name of Canberra being a corruption of the name Canterbury. We heard many other stories relating to the river: the Canterbury Estate, the Petersham Estate, and colourful characters such as Cornelius Prout, Joshua Thorp and Robert Wardell who refused to let people cross the river and was murdered by convicts in 1834. The walk ended in Beaman Park where we toasted our pioneers. Thanks to Canterbury & DHS for providing morning tea and Lesley and Brian for their Cooks River and Canterbury Tales.

Margaret Broadfoot



Lesley Muir on Cooks River walk (photo: Mark Matheson)

The Society congratulates **Canterbury & District Historical Society** for winning the 2003 Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Award for a community group in the print section. Edited by Lesley Muir *Canterbury's Boys: World War 1 & Sydney's Suburban Fringe* was described in the September 2002 RAHS magazine *History* review as a book "which sets new standards for all others that follow". This 470 page book contains biographies of over 1900 men and women who volunteered for service in that war. Enquiries: 9534 4004.

MARRICK-VILLA IN TROPICAL NORTH

Long term members **Wayne Le Clos & Maurice Milliner**, owner of the former nursery *Sydenham Green*, have retired to northern Queensland. Our most northerly MHS members, here are excerpts from a recent email:

"You may like to know that Marrickville is well represented here in the Tropical North. We have named our house *Marrick-villa*. For some reason many of the houses in our area have 'villa' in the name *Villa Marine*, *Aqua villa* etc., so Marrickville to *Marrick-villa* seemed a natural for us. *Marrick-villa* is a high set *Queenslander* right on the beach. The house originally was built for the executives of the Hambledon Sugar Mills at Edmonton in the 1920s, to have beachside holidays.

The grounds have coconut, mango and pawpaw trees, frangipanis and a big old flowering, shady poinciana. We are adding cuttings from the hibiscus and frangipanis we had in the backyard at Illawarra Road. More of Marrickville transplanted to the tropics. We still have contact with all our friends in Marrickville. Please pass on our best wishes to the Society. We look forward as we have in the past to the Society newsletter."

ANOTHER MARRICK CONNECTION

(emailed recently by MHS member **Colin Hesse**)

"I was playing with the mobile yesterday and seem to have found the button that brings up the location of the nearest mobile phone tower. Amusingly enough, given the origins of our suburb's name*, the location comes up as *Marrick*."

* Refer Richard Cashman's article *A Trip to Marrick, North Yorkshire* in *Heritage* 2 reproduced in *Heritage* 1 & 2 (1992)

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL ARCHIVES

(This article reproduced with permission of Marrickville Council. Edited from article by **Vivienne Larking**, MHS member & former Marrickville Council archivist which was in Feb. 2003 No. 11 *Gesta Municipalia* Newsletter of the Local Government Archives Special Interest Group; forwarded by MHS member **Graham Hunt**.)

Marrickville Council received a \$173,000 grant in 1986 from the NSW Bicentennial Council. The Bicentennial Project consisted of two operations: the restoration of the old Petersham Municipal Council chambers on the first floor to its 1930s state for use as a research room, and the conversion of the adjoining Alderman's room* to a safe storage area and the bringing together of the extant pre amalgamation 1949 archives.

Marrickville Council Archives has been operating for over 15 years [at Petersham Town Hall in Crystal Street] but there is still a lot to be done. Since the introduction of the *State Records Act 1998* Council has been working on two main areas: storage and accessibility of records. Marrickville Council has now acquired a large storage area at the Marrickville Council Depot in St Peters, a former Telstra site. This temperature-controlled space contains council's mostly post 1949 archives such as building and development applications, correspondence files, minute books and employee files.

* MHS meeting room 1984 to May 1986

There is also an office, an accessioning room and a semi-current records room. Council has spent about \$200,000 meeting storage needs and State Records standards. Processing of material also takes place at the Depot Repository. Council has over 20 shelf metres of unaccessioned material which has been relocated from the Archival Reference Centre workroom for processing.

The ARC will now revert to its original purpose as a research centre. The pre 1949 records, the later valuation books and heritage reports are stored in the former alderman's room. Most of the pre 1925 valuation and rate books are on CD-ROM and microfiche and are available to researchers. The pre 1949 records repository does not meet all the State Records storage requirements but a submission and request for funds will soon be presented to Council.

We have been working on making our collection more accessible. The Archives is on the Marrickville Council web site www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au under Council Services. Visitors are welcome to use the town hall archives on Tuesday 10-1 and 2-4 or by arranging an appointment with the archivist (9335 2185).

VINTAGE BUS TOUR OF WATER SITES

About 70 people took part in this vintage bus tour on 12 April to two sites connected with the Heritage Festival theme of *Water*. First stop was Tempe Reserve. It was created on top of a mudbank of mangroves (see the back of *Heritage 10*) with Cooks River water on three sides. Leigh Trevitt, from Marrickville Council's Parks Department gave a preview of the new planting – mostly pines and figs – in the reserve, which is due to reopen in October.

Leigh talked about the challenge of building river embankments, aware that those built at 'Fatima Island' in 1901 have eroded and collapsed. The new embankment has a pervious membrane behind the sandstone blocks which is designed to allow water to ebb and flow through but retain the soil behind. Leigh admitted that 'nature does what it wants' so we shall see how this new embankment holds up.

The second stop, the two water reservoirs at 20 New Canterbury Road, Petersham, is at the highest point in the LGA. Ron Thompson, from *Sydney Water*, said the elevated tank was built in 1964 on top of a circular tank, built below ground in 1888. The top one holds one million gallons, the bottom two million gallons; he described them as a 'mushroom growing out of a donut'. He refused to be drawn on whether the precarious-looking tank was a neighbourhood liability or a terrorist target, but did say that it can empty out in 20 minutes.

The tour was organised by Council Planner Nick Fterniatis on behalf of the Heritage Promotions Committee. Thanks to the Tempe Bus & Truck Museum for providing the two double decker buses.

Mark Matheson

Note: Visit to Sydenham Flood Storage Reserve cancelled as presenter indisposed.

2003 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

In Marrickville every year, hundreds of us "do something" to our property – evidenced by the number of development applications processed by Council. The Marrickville Medal is awarded annually to exceptional new or conversion projects. The winner receives the highest commendation from Council through the Heritage Promotion Committee, a group drawn from Council staff, the community and MHS members – individuals willing to forego their spare time to ensure the preservation of our community's cultural and built icons.

The Award alternates between *commercial* and *residential* and this year's Medal was in the category of *Residential*. Judges (Hector Abrahams, Peter Cousens and Caroline Plim) awarded three commendations (Audley Street Petersham, Arthur Street Marrickville and Dickson Street Newtown).

The Medal was awarded to the conversion of a tin shed in a Wemyss Street, Enmore backyard. What a tin shed it is now! This once humble backyard shed, offering no more than its traditional role as a perimeter barrier and storehouse, now provides self-contained purpose-designed accommodation for a family elder, with special features for easy access and effortless living. The winner, Joanna Mendelssohn, credited architect Sam Marshall for the innovative concept of the design and builder Robert Condack for realising Sam's vision and her objectives.



Medal winner (photo: Joanna Mendelssohn)

This annual medal ceremony continues to grow and a diverse audience of more than 80 on Sunday 6 April were treated to delightful entertainment by a string quartet and sumptuous catering. The afternoon was enhanced by Mark Matheson's well received and admired photographic exhibition – *Water Journeys: from baptism to drowning*. Thanks to organiser Council's Nick Fterniatis and MHS President Diane McCarthy in her role as MC.

Lorraine Beach

Committee member Angela Phippen recently attended a citizenship ceremony in Petersham on behalf of the society. During the ceremony a couple dropped in unobtrusively to support a friend – they were the State Governor the Hon. Professor Marie Bashir and her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 24 MAY

Leonie Knapman on History of Joadja Creek

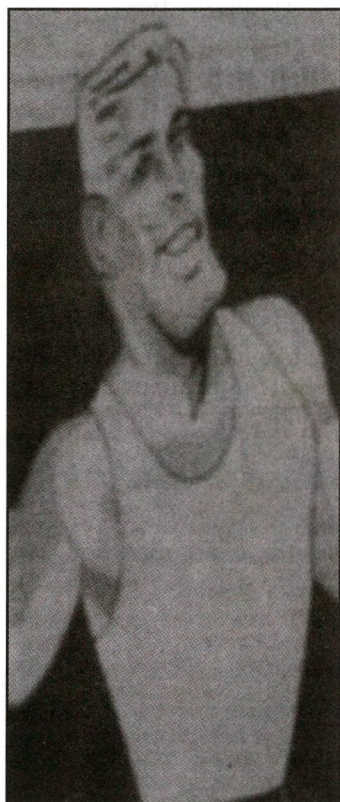
Details on front page

SATURDAY 28 JUNE

Annual General Meeting

THE ORIGINAL CHESTY BOND

Our March newsletter featured an article on the Bonds factories in Mallett Street Camperdown. One of the erroneous claims of the late Tim Bristow, Sydney



Identity and *Newport Arms* bouncer, was that he was the prototype for Chesty Bond. Totally untrue! The character was the creation of Syd Miller & Ted Moloney of the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. As Ted Moloney recalled on Chesty's 40th birthday in 1978 "Bonds wanted an identity for their 2/6d. singlet and Popeye – the favourite cartoon of the time – inspired the idea for Chesty. Popeye had his spinach so Chesty got his strength from his singlet".

Chesty was born on 10 August 1938 and the original model was **Oscar Eckert** of Darlinghurst. From 1940 a cartoon strip

featuring superhero Chesty with his amazing physique and that jaw ran for 20 years with Chesty "continually triumphing over the forces of evil". In the 1950s former Norths & Manly rugby league player Max Whitehead is also alleged to have modelled as Chesty Bond. Even though Bonds left Camperdown around 1990, the heritage-protected Chesty Bond sign on top of the Faculty of Nursing building continues to gaze out over Camperdown Park (sources: unsourced newspaper clipping & the www).

Diane McCarthy

3 MONTH IHO FOR FERNDALE

The Heritage Office has acted in the nick of time to issue a temporary stay of execution for *Ferndale*. Members will recall from the last newsletter that unbeknown to the Society, Council had consented to a DA to build a house on the three metre wide driveway leading to *Ferndale*, the historic teacher's residence of the long demolished Camden College/Villa.

The driveway was about to be auctioned off when the Heritage Office issued its **3 month Interim**

Heritage Order from 28 April, which will allow time "to complete an urgent investigation of the site in order to establish the significance or otherwise of the cottage and associated carriageway". The Society will be making representations to the Minister for *Ferndale* and the driveway to be placed on the State Heritage Register so that Marrickville Council can't sneak through any more bizarre development consents.

SELECTIVITY AT HERITAGE OFFICE !

The Society is cheered that the Heritage Office does still take action to protect 'heritage at risk', but we are concerned that other important items seem to be missing out. The lack of action by the Heritage Office and the Minister in relation to *The Towers* in Newtown and *Prospect Villa* (see October 2002 Newsletter) in Petersham are two particular cases in point. The Society has yet to receive a response to its letters about the demolition of *Prospect Villa*, and the illegal destruction of the archaeological resources that undoubtedly would have been in and around the house.

Similarly at *The Towers* the Heritage Office is only now intervening in the proposed development on the adjoining site to protect the remains of *Holmwood*. The cellars of *Holmwood* were partly uncovered, excavated and reconstructed during the works to *The Towers* apparently **without** an assessment by an archaeologist, with the result that an unknowable amount of important relics and material have been lost. At that time the Heritage Office declined to become involved. The Society hopes that a new Minister and a new Heritage Office Director will mean a better outcome for 'heritage at risk' in Marrickville.

Scott MacArthur

ANZAC DAY EXHIBITION

MHS was well represented at Petersham Town Hall on 24 April to view An Anzac Day Exhibition of material from the Local Studies Collection, Marrickville Library. Some items had never before been on public display. Chrys Meader, Marrickville Library Historian gave a guided tour of the exhibition. Presentations were made by Mayor Barry Cotter to local RSL clubs. Joanna Mendelssohn (recent winner of Marrickville Medal) read a poem written by her mother Dorothy Coleman on the end of World War II. Other contributions were from Lu Bell (1945 Petersham air crash), Angela Phippen (producing St Peters War Memorials book) and Robert Hutchinson (photographs taken at Gallipoli on day of landing) whilst display included Norman McVicker's story on Addison Road Barracks.

Diane McCarthy

The new president of the Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society is **Terry Metherell**, controversial Minister for Education in the Greiner Government. That society has its 80th anniversary next year.

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