

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Members' Show & Tell**  
**Petersham Town Hall**  
**Saturday 28 September**  
**10 morning tea for 10.30 am start**

Our last *Show and Tell* in November 2000 was so successful we are repeating it compered again by ace moderator Angela Willow Pattern Phippen. Members are invited to bring along an item (or items) of historical, esoteric or sentimental value, quirky family heirlooms, memorabilia, photos etc. It need not have local significance. Prizes will be awarded. So come and join in the fun. Enquiries Diane 9588 4930.

## HISTORY WEEK ACTIVITIES

**Saturday 14 September 10 am & 2 pm**  
**Petersham North Walk**  
**Morning walk fully booked. Bookings essential**  
**for afternoon walk: Robert 9568 3079**  
Details in August newsletter

**Saturday 21 September 10 am**  
**Cooks River Comes Clean**

Meet south side Hurlstone Park station. Wear walking shoes. BYO water & picnic lunch. Entry (incl. historical map) \$6, \$4 MHS members. No bookings required. Enquiries Mark 9559 5502.

As part of History Week Mark Matheson has winkled out many titbits about Cooks River concerning Pemulwuy, Captains Cook and Phillip, Caroline Chisholm, the Henrys Lawson and Kendall, Lord Baden-Powell and Charles Chauvel. It was the scene for picnicking and pugilism, art and oysters, skinny-dipping and murder. We'll also see some good new native plants landscaping. It is a one-way 3-4 hour walk along mostly flat pathways ending at Wolli Creek railway station.

## HUNTING HOUSE HISTORIES

**Petersham Town Hall 107 Crystal St Petersham**  
**Monday 16 September 10-12 am**  
**Wednesday 18 September 6-8 pm**  
**Friday 20 September 6-8 pm**

Marrickville Council's free workshops will show you how to investigate the history of your house using records from Council's archival and local studies collections. 10 people maximum per workshop. Entry free but booking essential: Council Archivist Vivienne Larking 9335 2185. Advise in time if you have to cancel.

## MHS FUND-RAISING TRIVIA NIGHT

**Friday 18 October 7 for 7.30 pm sharp start**

Can you name the Apollo 11 astronauts? Do you know the names of the ships of the First Fleet? If you don't, no need to worry, because these two questions will obviously not be asked at the Society's Trivia & General Knowledge Quiz at the Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville. Questions will be general, so non-locals won't be disadvantaged. Invite your relatives and friends to this night of fun and competition. Tables of eight. Other society members welcome. Everyone will be slotted onto a table. Cost is \$10 per head. BYO nibbles and drink/grog.

This is a major fundraiser for the Society. We cannot fund the work of publishing the newsletter, the journal and our occasional publications from subscriptions alone. Bring some spare cash - we'll have a raffle and lucky door prize and perhaps there will be a chance to bribe a judge! **Bookings essential:** Angela or David 9280 2429.

## BECOME A MARRICKVILLE TREASURE(R)!

Please don't all ring at once but with neither Peter Costello nor Michael Egan available, the Society urgently needs a treasurer - good terms, no experience or qualifications required, free training, ample people contact and excellent dividends in terms of job satisfaction. We're banking on one of our approx. 400 members to lend some time to handle the Society's purse strings. President Diane (9588 4930) will really value your call.

## 2002 MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL

The annual local festival season again kicks off with the Marrickville Festival in Marrickville Road Marrickville on **Sunday 22 September from 10 am**. We invite members to visit our stall. Donations most welcome. For collection of items or if you can help on the day ring Angela 9280 2429 after hours.

## PLAQUE FOR JOHN ZINSMEESTER

An organ recital will be held at St Clement's Anglican Church **Saturday 12 October at 3 pm** prior to unveiling a MHS plaque to heritage advocate and former MHS president, the late John Zinsmeester, especially in recognition for his efforts to help save the St Clement's spire. Details on back page.



## HERITAGE WATCH ANNUAL REPORT

The last year has been a trying time for those concerned about heritage issues in the Marrickville area. Marrickville Council and the State Government have at different times pleased then distressed the Society with their action (or inaction) on heritage issues.

Council's Heritage Officer Catherine Macarthur resigned early this year and has not been replaced. Catherine worked particularly hard on finalising the Heritage Study Review and promoting heritage through the Marrickville Medal and the National Trust's Heritage Festival. Council now has a one-day a week heritage officer and has yet to even advertise a permanent full-time position. The Society is concerned that this delay typifies Council's indifference (at best) to heritage matters, and combined with the fact that the previous architect left for greener pastures will discourage future applicants.

Linked with the lack of a heritage architect is the suspension of the implementation of the Heritage Study Review. After years of delays, considerable expense and enormous effort from Catherine Macarthur, the Heritage Study Review was prepared for a carefully phased release to the community. The first stage was to be consultation with the owners of proposed new heritage properties. The lack of support or even hostility from some of those consulted caused Council to suspend the implementation. The Society is pressing Council to proceed with the granting of draft status to those items for which there have been no objections received or where the owners are supportive. Council is already approving requests for demolition of proposed (and currently unprotected) heritage items identified by the Review.

Council has also been frustrating with its lack of support for the listing of the King Street and Enmore Road Conservation Area on the State Heritage Register, which is being championed by South Sydney Council. The listing of the area on the State Heritage Register would require developments to be approved by the NSW Heritage Council. When South Sydney Council announced their intention to apply for the listing, they were surprised to hear that Marrickville Council would not support the listing. The Society hopes that South Sydney Council perseveres with its proposal.

On the other hand, Council's officers have been of outstanding assistance to the Society in the establishment of the Friends of Camperdown Cemetery Remnant Grasslands. Danie Ondinea and the Society have strived for years to protect the remnant native grasses in the cemetery. With the aid of grants from Council and the Federal Government the Frienders has been established and the protection and fostering of the native grasses and historic plantings in the cemetery is proceeding.

Again in the past year, the value of agitation by members and local residents has been demonstrated, with the successful community campaign to stop the closure of Dulwich and Marrickville High Schools. And the wary watchfulness of a member first alerted

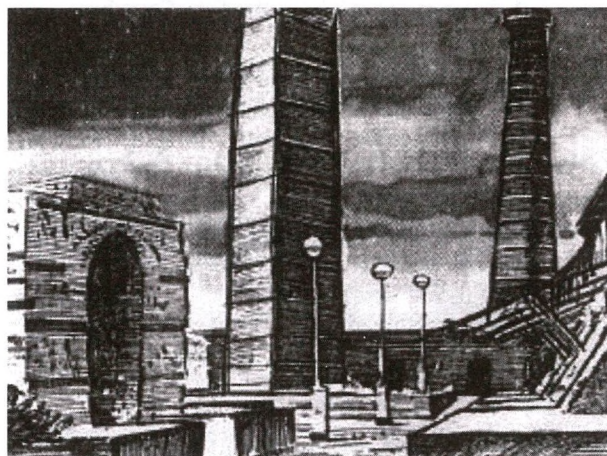
the Society to the unsanctioned work proceeding on *The Towers* in Dickson Street in Newtown, that resulted in a stop-work order being placed on the property until the owners and Council's heritage architect agreed on appropriate restoration works.

Our committee of Mark Matheson, Danie Ondinea, Caroline Plim and John Waterstreet welcomes information, questions and new members. If interested ring me after hours (9559 5736).

**Scott MacArthur (Convenor, Heritage Watch)**

## SYDNEY PARK WALKING GUIDE

South Sydney Heritage Society and South Sydney Council have produced a concise historical walking guide on the 44 hectare Sydney Park, Alexandria opposite St Peters Station. Described as "one of the oldest and most important of Sydney's industrial sites" Sydney Park is listed in the South Sydney City Council LEP Heritage Schedule and is classified by the National Trust. Oddly Gregory's Street Directory lists the park as in St Peters and some adjacent streets are in Marrickville LGA.



Several brickworks were on the site of Sydney Park, most notably Josiah Gentle's Bedford Brickworks. In 1933 the brickworks were sold to the Austral Brick Company which ceased production in 1979. The Historic Brickworks Precinct comprising four chimneys and several kilns survive. In 1981 the state Labor government announced the formation of a park on this abandoned site and Sydney Park has continued to evolve splendidly since with extensive landscaping, planting, lakes and wetlands. Fossil discoveries have been made in the shale resource for making bricks. The park also has the AIDS Memorial Grove, the Alan Davidson Cricket Oval and council nursery and is the venue of the annual Mascon Festival. Guide obtainable from SSHS (Ann or John 9557 7343).

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## OUR LAST MEETING

### Brian Madden talk on Herne Bay Hospitals in WWII

On Saturday 24 August local historian and author Brian Madden gave a very interesting illustrated talk from his 2001 book *Hernia Bay: Sydney's Wartime Hospitals at Riverwood*, for which he obviously did an enormous amount of research. We saw numerous photographs and maps of the area occupied by the various hospitals of the Allies at Herne Bay. These record the buildings from planning stage, erection, occupation, transformation to the first Herne Bay Community Housing and finally demolition to make way for the Riverwood Housing Commission estate.

The site comprised a private golf course owned by James Levingston, land owned by War Service Commission, Intercolonial Investment Land & Building Co. Ltd. and the remainder in private ownership. The US Army 118th General Hospital was formed by doctors and nurses from the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, USA in April 1942. The unit arrived in June 1942. It opened for patients at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in August 1942 and had an annexe at the Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains in September 1942 and again from February to May 1943.

Because it proved impossible to find suitable large accommodation in an existing building in Sydney, the Australian Government built a new hospital of numerous one storey temporary buildings at Herne Bay, and part of this complex was occupied in May 1943. General Douglas MacArthur and Eleanor Roosevelt were among visitors to the hospital.\* In October 1944 the 118th General Hospital left Sydney to be part of MacArthur's invasion of the Philippines. A Royal Naval Hospital for the British Pacific opened in the same buildings in January 1945. Australian Army Hospitals and units used other buildings. Thanks to Brian, assisted by Lesley Muir, for his insights into this fascinating aspect of our WWII history.

Dot Sullivan

\* Extract from Shirley Hilyard's article *Eleanor Roosevelt in Australia* in MHS newsletter September 1992: "I lived in Beverly Hills from 1939 to 1950 and my sisters and I caught the train two stations to Herne Bay (now Riverwood) to see Eleanor when she visited American Servicemen at the US war hospital there [8/9/43]. We threw flowers into her car as she drove by."

## SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped and the tongue of the dumb sing." What is the source and local significance of these words? (Write c/- MHS or ring Richard 9557 3823)

## WEBSITE ANNUAL REPORT

As foreshadowed at last year's AGM the Society has developed a website (address back page). It contains basic information about the Society, extracts from newsletters and details of our publications. We hope to expand the site and include more resources for researchers to use.

Special thanks to Lisa Angus, who in a voluntary capacity devised and maintains the site which includes updates given to her every month by members of the executive committee, especially Richard Blair, who supplies extracts from the newsletters on a regular basis. It provides a point of contact for those people 'surfing the web' and has resulted in new memberships and sales of publications.

Angela Phippen

## THE Bs OF ALBERMARLE STREET

Albermarle Street Newtown has several significant mid to late 19th century dwellings (including Albermarle, Abbotsford, Aylesbury and Wendover). In lower Albermarle Street is a block of twelve two storey terraces numbered 91 to 113. According to the 1909 Sands Directory eleven of these twelve houses (built c. 1908/09) had names starting with the letter "B". From #91 they were named Batavia, Glenferrie, **Blenheim**, **Belmont**, Benalla, Ben Lomond, **Beresford**, **Beulah**, Bombala, Bunderberg (sic), Burrowa, Byerock.

Those in bold are the only names that remain whilst the name of #99 has been changed from Benalla to Babel. It is also interesting that Albermarle Street is bounded to the east by **Baltic** Street and to the west by **Bedford** Street, skirting the railway line. Furthermore, according to Mark Matheson (in his website on Newtown Streets) Baltic Street, "formed prior to 1863, was presumably named by members of the **Bligh** family in memory of an English naval campaign in the Napoleonic Wars".

So why were these houses so named? They are or were mostly Australian town names (with spelling variants). Maybe it was nothing more than a marketing ploy devised by Charles Thomas Richardson, a commission agent, who occupied #113, which is set back from the rest on the corner of Bedford Street. And why did the recalcitrant owner of #93 (Glenferrie) not conform? Perhaps he had a bee in his bonnet!

Richard Blair

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## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 10 for 10.30 am**  
**Member's Show & Tell**  
**Petersham Town Hall**  
 Details front page

**SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 3 pm**  
**Organ recital & unveiling of Zinsmeester plaque**  
**St Clement's Anglican Church, Marrickville**  
 Details this page

**FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 7 for 7.30 pm**  
**Trivia & General Knowledge Night**  
**79 Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville**  
 Details front page

**SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2-4.30 pm**  
**1930s Movie Matinee at MOS**  
 Details and booking information in flyer and August newsletter (Peter 9550 3809). Participants are urged to arrive much earlier to adequately view the exhibition *John Horbury Hunt, Radical Architect*.

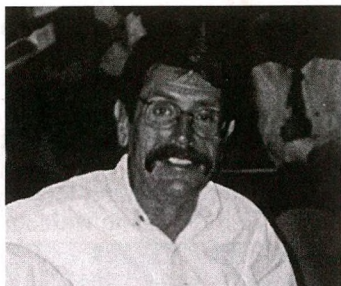
**Jazz with James Morrison & Band with Emma Pask**  
 vocalist at Centenary Hall Newington College,  
 Friday 13 September 7.30 pm \$25, \$20 concession

### VALE JACK SHANAHAN

John Joseph (Jack) Shanahan aged 83, who was tragically killed from injuries sustained while crossing New Canterbury Road when hit by a car on 5 August, was one of the best known people in Dulwich Hill. As long time owner of Shanahan's Newsagency and a councillor with Marrickville Council for 29 years until 1999, Jack was an old style local politician, mainly operating at the grass roots. The suggestion that the bus turning circle in central Dulwich Hill be named after Jack is strongly supported.

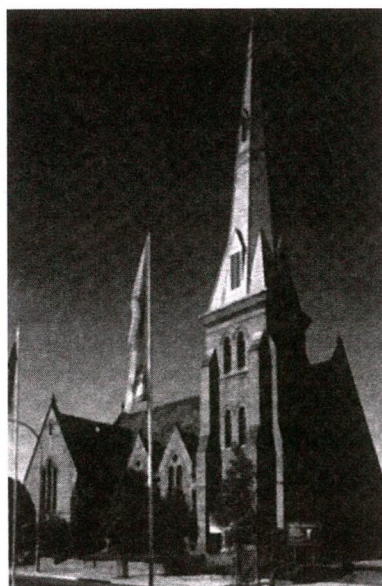
### JOHN ZINSMEESTER REMEMBERED

John Zinsmeester was president of Marrickville Heritage Society (1995-97) and convened the Heritage Watch Committee for over two years until his death on 11 June 1997. For many years John was prominent in the antique world with his extraordinary knowledge of European and Australian antiques and architecture. He became involved with the Society over his concern for the curtilage of the 1840s Stanmore House in Newtown. Though the DA was approved for the land adjoining Stanmore House, the MHS campaign spearheaded by John helped raise community awareness on heritage conservation issues.



*John Zinsmeester in 1995*

John later organised a petition which obtained over 1000 signatures when, through lack of money,



*Spire after restoration*  
 (photo: Brett Boardman)

St Clement's Anglican Church was left with no alternative but to lodge a DA with Marrickville Council to demolish its landmark spire. The spire was saved when Council declined the DA urging public appeals which attracted sufficient funding to conserve the spire. The

conservation work was of such a standard that it won the Marrickville Medal in 1998.

John was a passionate and inspirational heritage advocate who would harangue anyone prepared to listen on his pet issues. Even if you did not agree, you were impressed with his command of facts, force of argument and his convictions. John lived in Marrickville and the Society was indeed fortunate for his brief but significant association. An appreciation of John written by his sister Ellie McKenzie (now MHS secretary) was in *Heritage 10*. Ellie recalls that "the now magnificently-restored spire at St Clement's has an uncanny resemblance to the towers of the Delft Oostpoort [Holland] so beautifully depicted in the paintings of Jan Vermeer and close to our former home on the canal."

Rector of St Clement's the Rev. Chris Clerke got to know John quite well during the community action to save the spire and in John's final days. Chris has facilitated the Society's request to install a plaque in the church in memory of John. An organ recital (to include Dutch pieces) by resident church organist Margaret Hayes will be held at the church on **Saturday 12 October at 3 pm** prior to the formal unveiling of the Society's plaque to John. Afternoon tea to follow.

**Richard Blair**

Marrickville Council is to be congratulated on allowing another fine old house and its Norfolk Island Pines to disappear forever for flats! Go check out the now vacant block, corner Brighton and Wentworth Streets Petersham.

With no regrets well may we overflow with delight as word has passed around that there is again significant movement in the once mighty Snowy River!

**PRESIDENT** Diane 9588 4930

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**PUBLICATIONS CONVENOR** Peter 9550 3809

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

[www.marrickvilleheritagesoc.com.au](http://www.marrickvilleheritagesoc.com.au)