MARRICKVILLE **SOCIETY**_{INC.} HERITAGE

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

OUR NEXT MEETING 1930s MOVIE MATINEE AT MOS Saturday 26 October 1-4.30 pm Museum of Sydney on the site of first Government House Bridge & Phillip Streets, Sydney

There are still good seats for our Movie Matinee in conjunction with Historic Houses Trust. Films will include newsreels of the Marrickville LGA, Felix the Cat cartoons and the film record of Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations. Comic vaudevillian George Wallace made his feature film debut in the 1932 burlesque His Royal Highness.

The movies will start around 2 pm but come early to visit the major exhibition John Horbury Hunt Radical Architect. Canadian-born Hunt was an eccentric, irascible and controversial late 19th century architect "renowned for his dramatic and distinctive architecture", much of which survives. Booking and prepayment essential. Cost (incl. Devonshire Tea) \$18; concession or MHS member or HHT member \$15. Bookings Diane 9588 4930. Send cheque or money order to MHS PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475.

MHS TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday 18 October 7 for 7.30 pm sharp start Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Rd, Marrickville

Hurry and book a seat or a table of eight at our fund-raising Trivia Night, detailed in September newsletter. \$10 per head. BYO food & drink/grog. Booking essential: Angela or David 9280 2429.

The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality St Peters Town Hall Saturday 9 November 10.30 am

The Society is pleased to announce the publication of The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality to be launched at St Peters Town Hall, corner Unwins Bridge Road and Swain Street, Sydenham. The book of 150 pages includes photographs, transcriptions of the names from all known memorials and contemporary newspaper reports of their unveiling, and details from a WWI and WWII card index of enlistments. All names are in the extensive index.

Members and friends are invited to this launch where copies will be for purchase. For catering purposes RSVP Angela or David 9280 2429 (ah). MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

newsletter! Due to our mounting concern over ★ Marrickville Council's increasingly poor ★ management of Marrickville's heritage resources we have produced an expanded edition. This was prompted by the recent unforeseen, council-★ approved, demolition of the 1850s house *Prospect* ★ Vīlla in Croydon Street Petersham (see inside). We strongly urge members to lodge their protest * with council over the present situation to effect a ★ real change in Council's attitude to heritage ★issues. Write to The General Manager, Marrickville Council, Administration Centre, ★ Fisher Street, Petersham 2049 or fax 9335 2029. ******

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41-43 George St Marrickville (Morton Herman 1956)

In response to our appeal we welcome our new treasurer Stuart Grigg. Stuart's wife Tricia Blombery joined the executive committee at the last AGM.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

John & Ruth Olip, Thomas & William Shrieve, Dulwich Hill; Susan Topham, Enmore; Julie Van Der Ley, Lewisham; Kerry Benson, Richard Buckland, Trent Driver, Regina Eduardo, Sue Fowell, Joseph Furolo & Su Mariani, Natalie Hitoun, Cathy Law, Julia Mant, Louise Marcroft & Greg Brunner, Jennifer O'Callaghan, Jane Robertson, Kath Seward, Melissa Taylor, all of Marrickville; Maree Clancy, Dianne Considine & Warwick Stanley, Anna Lee, Anthony Mifsud, all of Newtown; Chris Davey, St Peters; School for Leadership Training, Marcia Evans, both of Stanmore; Carolyn Perry & Julian Thompson, Tempe; David Josephson, Bondi; Keith Robinson, Cheltenham; Kieran Hosty, City of Sydney; Pam Burke, Dundas; Susan Daly, Judith Mallett, both of Earlwood; Amanda Faulkner & David Gwalter, Haberfield; Catherine Williams, Hornsby Heights; Christine Erratt, Northbridge.

Marrickville Council's Heritage Crisis

An important house from the 1850s *Prospect Villa*, at 30 Croydon Street, Petersham within the North Petersham Heritage Conservation Area, was demolished on Tuesday 10 September. Because of a most unfortunate oversight, it was not listed as an individual heritage item in Council's LEP and was not included in Council's Heritage Study Review.

Prospect Villa was the only remnant of the farms from the 1850s in the Petersham North Heritage Conservation Area and stylistically may have been built in the 1840s or earlier. It was an outstanding example of Australian domestic architecture in the first half of the 19th century. It contained an elegant cedar staircase and interior joinery. It was in excellent condition in spite of being divided into five flats. It had retained its original path and garden on a large block of land. There were two ancient trees on either side of the central pathway.



Prospect Villa 1984 (Marrickville Council Archives)

Apparently Council officers exercising 'delegated authority' approved the demolition some months ago. The demolition was never discussed at a Council meeting. It was not referred to the Council's heritage architect or to the Marrickville Heritage Society. There was no requirement for archival recording or an archaeological assessment prior to demolition. This contravenes the procedures set out in Council's own LEP and the 'relics' provision of the NSW Heritage Act.

Prospect Villa, its outbuildings, gardens and two more than a century old Cedar trees have gone completely. All that remains is a pile of blocks of local sandstone that had been part of the foundations and cellars, and one miserable tree, amid the dirt. For 150 years or so the whole property had been kept in an almost original condition but demolition only took a day. It seems that none of the cedar joinery or the staircase was saved. The heritage garden was also bulldozed. It is all to be replaced with a block of apartments.

This outrage caps a progressive deterioration in Council's management of heritage issues. Council's Heritage Architect resigned late last year and Council has not seen fit to even advertise the position. What until three years ago was a full-time position is now

filled on a part-time basis by an architect on a short-term contract for one day a week. Marrickville Council pioneered the establishment of full-time staff heritage architect positions and was held up as an example to other Councils.

Council's heritage credentials are being further undermined by the indefinite suspension of the Heritage Study Review. Council commissioned the Review to update its Heritage LEP that dated from the early 1980s. Following the expenditure of \$100,000 on private consultancy fees alone, the encyclopaedic report and its computerised database are ready for implementation. The study identified over 300 new items of heritage significance that only require Council's endorsement to be classified as draft items and subject to full protection under the NSW Heritage and Environmental, Planning and Assessment Acts.

However, loud and effective complaints from owners of potential items about lost development opportunities have halted the implementation of the Review in its tracks. The Review has not been released for public comment, but it appears that developers are identifying these potential items, and are successfully approaching Council for demolition and development consents on the basis that they currently have no heritage status or protection. The Marrickville Heritage Society is pressing for immediate action by Council to prevent a recurrence of the criminal demolition of *Prospect Villa* and reverse the anti-heritage direction of Council's current policies.

There must be an immediate investigation into Council's processes of approval for demolition of all properties in Heritage Conservation Areas, and particularly into the appropriateness of officers being granted 'delegated authority' in these matters. Councillors and the Marrickville Heritage Society must be informed before any approval for demolition of such properties is given. Council must pursue with vigour the appointment of a suitably qualified professional to the vacant Heritage Architect position. Finally, the Heritage Study Review must be endorsed by Council and released immediately for public exhibition and comment.

Dr Scott MacArthur (Convenor, Heritage Watch/Classification Committee) & Geoff Ostling (coordinator, Petersham North Walk)

Notification of Development Applications

Council has a policy of notifying 'affected' owners of properties adjoining sites that are subject of a Development Application. As a long standing courtesy Council has also notified the Society of DAs for items on the Heritage LEP. However, the Society was not notified of the proposal for demolition of *Prospect Villa* because **it was 'only' a building in a Conservation Area**. Following the loss of *Prospect Villa*, Council has endorsed a motion that the Society be formally notified of all DAs affecting any building in a Conservation Area, as well as for Heritage LEP listed items. The Society hopes that this is just a first step by Council towards a more transparent approvals process.

Council's Insensitivity On Heritage Issues

Marrickville Council's inconsistent attitude to heritage issues was never more clearly demonstrated recently when it allowed the demolition of the 1850s *Prospect Villa* at 30 Croydon Street, Petersham.

This demolition took place on 10 September, just four days before Marrickville Heritage Society conducted two North Petersham 'Heritage Walks', which were requested by Council's Heritage Promotions Committee (which administers funds provided by Council for promotion of local heritage). The walks were part of Council's contribution to History Week and was to have included *Prospect Villa*.

Clearly Marrickville Council's heritage procedures need a radical overhaul. Council has suspended implementation of its recent, and very expensive, Heritage Study Review, citing fears of lost development opportunities from owners of proposed heritage items. The appointment of a full-time Heritage Architect should be so patently obvious that it seems astonishing that it has to be mentioned.

It is time for Marrickville Council to heed the concerns and interests of heritage societies and citizens, and institute a rigorous and transparent process for dealing with heritage matters. Just as important is the proposal that demolition of any property within the Marrickville LGA should be prohibited unless it has been certified that there are no heritage matters at issue.

It is simply not good enough for Marrickville Council to allow developers and property owners to ride roughshod over our community's heritage.

Keith Sutton



Council has been approached to allow the demolition of the 2-storey terrace-style house at 43 George Street, Marrickville. The house is part of a significant group of mid-Victorian houses from the 1880s that are vital elements of the streetscape. It is a fine and relatively intact example of this historic housing type.

Concerted efforts by Council officers recently saved the adjoining house at 41 George Street (mentioned in June newsletter) from unsympathetic redevelopment and the resulting restoration should be the standard by which any proposal for the 43 George Street property is assessed. The proposal to replace the house with five 2-storey townhouses is intrusive and completely out of character with the surrounding streetscape.

The row of houses 35 to 43 George Street (#41-43 on front page) was featured in Morton Herman's 1956 book *The Architecture of Victorian Sydney* as unusual intact examples of free standing houses from the same period demonstrating a range of decorative embellishments. This book was one of the spurs to the reappraisal of Victorian architecture in Australia and contributed to the establishment of heritage protection legislation in New South Wales. It is noted that Sir William Vicars, early owner of Vicars Woollen Mill, once lived a few doors up the street.



43 George Street Marrickville

The Society would be appalled if this proposal were to proceed and calls on Council to impose an interim heritage order on the property as a matter of urgency. Proposals for redevelopment can then be more carefully considered without the risk of the property being demolished or irretrievably damaged.

Scott MacArthur

13 FORT STREET PETERSHAM: ANOTHER ONE TO BE DEMOLISHED?

The suburb of Petersham has only five or so Colonial style houses remaining. Behind two giant Camphor Laurels a small single-storey cottage at 13 Fort Street, two streets from *Prospect Villa*, is threatened. Council's archives has no record of its early years. It and *Prospect Villa* are probably the only remnants of the suburb's first subdivision in 1854.

They are reminders of the days when steam trains bellowed through the valley and mobs of sheep and cattle were driven from the station to the pens on Taverners Hill and on to the Glebe Island abattoirs. All the rest have been replaced by narrower Victorian terraces and congested 20th century housing.

Fort Street was then called Norwood Street and its most notable residents were the Barrell family. Scottish-born ex-convict Robert Barrell (1802-1887) owned a number of shops, including a hay and corn store on Parramatta Road. His sons Albert and Robert were shopkeepers and Petersham Council aldermen in the mid 1870s.

The immediate streetscape gains immeasurably from the spaciousness of the house and its trees. The proposed replacement is a set of 2-storey townhouses plus basement (which is 'council-speak' for an overbearing 3-storey blot on the landscape).

Mark Matheson

HUNTING HIDDEN HERITAGE

Prospect Villa was not on the Heritage LEP or recorded by the current Heritage Study Review. Are there any other heritage gems out there that are unacknowledged or unrecorded? Is there a special place or building that needs attention in your street? Please let us know. Or better still, take a photo and send it to us! The collective heritage knowledge that our members have of our area is one of the Society's great resources that we need to tap to counter the developers and their bulldozers.

TERRACE ROAD, DULWICH HILL



Council has received a DA to demolish two houses at 50 and 52 Terrace Road to construct a 2-storey block of flats. The houses lie along the northern boundary of Allison Playground. One of the houses (#50 pictured above) is in excellent condition and has been carefully maintained. It retains its original character and many original features.

The proposed apartment building is another example of the bland and character-sapping multi-storey residential development that is invading Dulwich Hill. Apart from the loss of the houses and their contribution to the domestic character of the streetscape, the height of the new building will considerably reduce the amenity of the adjoining playground by causing extensive overshadowing.

98-106 AUDLEY STREET PETERSHAM PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS FOR NEW MIXED DEVELOPMENT

An application has been lodged with Council for the demolition of this 2-storey mixed commercial and residential row for a 3storey development. As the site is within a Conservation Area and adjoins the proposed heritage item on the corner of Abel Lane and Sadlier Crescent, the Society strongly believes that the proposal is inappropriate. The properties proposed for demolition are stylistically interesting in their own right, with the fenestration and parapet detailing exhibiting Art Nouveau influences. More importantly though is the contribution the largely intact facades make to the character and urbanity of the precinct. Because recent infill buildings in this block have been of low scale and visual impact, the cohesiveness of the row has been retained. The corner house adjoining the rear of the site has been identified in the recent Heritage Study Review as a potential heritage item due to its largely intact 'Gothick' character and prominence within the street.

The proposed new Audley Street façade is a stylistic conglomeration of clashing design elements that have no relationship with the existing forms, shapes and pattern language of the streetscape. The parapet detailing appears to have a Flemish influence that jars with the robust and low-key elaboration of commercial Edwardian and Art Nouveau details common throughout the Petersham commercial precinct. The attempt to squeeze in a 3-storey development that approximates the existing parapet line makes the fenestration of the new façade seem squashed and mean compared to the adjoining buildings. The scale of the development to the rear lane contributes nothing to the character of the precinct and provides an unpleasant setting for the adjoining heritage house.

Adaptation and reuse of the existing buildings that face Audley Street would be a more appropriate solution for this important site. The recent redevelopments of Commercial Row on New Canterbury Road, Petersham and Percival Road, Stanmore are two excellent local examples that should be used as yardsticks for all developments in Conservation Areas. These two developments demonstrate that it is eminently possible to sensitively retain and restore period facades and shop fronts as part of a larger development. The Society calls on Council to reject the application for demolition of these buildings. Council should support the applicant in exploring adaptive reuse options that will provide a viable development and a better heritage outcome for the Conservation Area.

Scott MacArthur



PETERSHAM & COOKS RIVER WALKS

The popularity of heritage walks was again demonstrated by excellent attendances at the two North Petersham walks on Saturday 14 September and the Cooks River walk on Saturday 21 September. The walks were part of History Week. An irony of the Petersham walk was that whilst it was conducted under the auspices of Marrickville Council, one of the homes to have been seen, the 1850s Prospect Villa in Croydon Street, had been demolished with the approval of council only a few days before (see separate articles).

Thanks to those members who coordinated these events - in Petersham, Geoff Ostling, Angela Phippen, Robert Hutchinson, Keith Sutton, the Rev. Greg Smith; and Mark Matheson who shared his stories about Cooks River with assistance from Keith Smith. Similar walks have been written up in previous newsletters.

OUR LAST MEETING SHOW & TELL 28 SEPTEMBER

Our Show & Tell meeting featured items ranging from the rare to the intriguing. Here are six that were of great interest. Sue Miller's Grimwade Australian cut crystal, apparently made in the Goodsell Street, St Peters factory drew favourable comments for both local content and quality. Shirley Hilyard's large framed coloured lithograph of a Banksia speciosa kept members talking the longest. It was from the original drawing by Ferdinand Bauer on Flinders' 1802 circumnavigation of Australia.

Ros Torrent's family wedding certificate was very unusual in that the groom, bride and minister all had the same surname – Reeves: the bride was the minister's daughter. The Rev. Arthur Reeves was one time minister of St Peters Cooks River. Peter McLaren's family history of Robert Crawford of Doonside was memorable in its recurring links with the railway, former Prime Minister Ben Chifley and NSW Premier Joe Cahill, a Marrickville resident.

Ken Swinbourne and his automaton sketch of a ship dated 1830 surprised everyone because it was not done by a human hand, but by a mechanical device. Ian Rumsey showed a rare silver teaspoon (c. 1835) made in Sydney by Alexander Dick, probably the most collectable of colonial silversmiths. Its crest is that of the Allan family. GW Allan settled in Glebe and called his estate Toxteth. He helped reform the legal system and founded the oldest legal firm in Australia.

Adjudicator Diane McCarthy awarded some small prizes and thanked other contributors to this history-packed meeting – June Cameron, Ian Phillips, Richard Blair, Robert Hutchinson, Ellie Zinsmeester, Audrey Furney and Scott MacArthur - as well as compere Angela Phippen who not only showed an unusual old Asian hand puppet, but also brought humour and flair to the proceedings.

Ian Rumsey

TEMPE DEPOT WAR MEMORIAL THREAT



The Bus & Truck Museum at Tempe has notified the Society that both Loftus Tramway Museum and a couple of RSL clubs have expressed interest to State Transit to obtain this World War I memorial behind the Tempe Bus depot, formerly the Tempe Tram Depot. Similar moves were made in 1994 when MHS was part of a strong and successful local campaign to retain this memorial.

We again fully support the retention of

this memorial at the current site. The memorial was built from funds paid by residents and local tramway employees and is very much a part of Tempe. As the letter states "the war memorial is essential to the overall heritage value of the Tempe Depot complex [and] ... as the last remaining tramway installation in Sydney which is reasonably intact [it] should be preserved by the Government in a sympathetic manner."

It is ironic that this memorial is again under threat with the imminent launch of *The War Memorials of St* Peters Municipality which features this memorial. Members are urged to write to the Minister for Transport and the local state member expressing their support for retaining and preserving our memorial. John Ward from the museum can provide further information (4684 3675).

Richard Blair

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CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 3 pm Organ recital & unveiling of Zinsmeester plaque St Clement's Anglican Church Marrickville

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 7 for 7.30 pm Trivia Night Herb Greedy Hall Marrickville

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 1-4.30 pm 1930s Movie Matinee at MOS Details on front page

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER
The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality
Launch at St Peters Town Hall
Details on front page

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER
Pearl Skin, Peach Cheeks, Fine Clothes: Style &
Dress of the 1890s with Coralee Lewin

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

Airs & Graces with Newington College Chamber Choir: songs, madrigals and consort music from the Renaissance & Baroque performed on period instruments Sunday 27 October 2.30 pm Prescott Hall, Newington College. \$15, \$10 concession. MHS members welcome.

VALE – JOYCE ELLIS



Joyce & Fred Ellis in 1997 (photo: Richard Blair)

The Society was saddened to hear of the death of Mavis Joyce Ellis (known as Joyce) aged 84 on 8 September after a long illness. Joyce and husband Fred joined the Society in 1988 and regularly attended meetings and functions. They generously donated to our stalls and Joyce assisted at early MHS Xmas pot luck dinners.

Keenly interested in family history they did headstone transcriptions at Rookwood. Joyce was a volunteer aid and library assistant for years at Marrickville West School. Joyce and Fred lived in Marrickville for over 50 years. Their daughter Betty Healey (formerly Langshaw) is also a MHS member. Our condolences to Fred and his family.

Reduce waste by decreasing plastic bag use. Re-use your plastic bags or take a cloth or string bag to shops.

Unacknowledged photographs in this newsletter taken by Scott MacArthur

MEMBERSHIP GIFT CERTIFICATES

Wondering what to give for a birthday or housewarming present? Christmas is not far away! Why not consider purchasing one of the Society's newly-introduced gift membership certificates? Available at our meetings and stalls or by ringing Diane 9588 4930.

18 NEW MEMBERSHIPS AT 2002 MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL!

On Sunday 22 September the Society operated a stall at the Marrickville Festival selling MHS carry-bags, gift vouchers, books, bric-a-brac and the ever popular marmalades. Of more significance, however, were the unprecedented 18 new memberships taken on the day. We have noticed the steady growth in interest about the Society over the years but this number of new memberships, in one day, was phenomenal. It bodes well for the future growth and strength of the Society.

Special thanks to the following members who worked hard on the day: Richard Blair, Joan Bruce, David Cass, Audrey Furney, Robert Hutchinson, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Ina Penning, Ian Phillips and Mary Phippen. Once again Pat Mullen and Margaret Sinclair provided superb home-made marmalades and jams.

Angela Phippen

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

This ever-growing festival has become one of the largest in Sydney and is on **Sunday 10 November from 10 am**. Come to the festival and visit our stall. We especially welcome donations of jams, pickles, lemon butter as well as plants and bric-a-brac. If you have goods for collection or can help on the day ring Peter 9550 3809.

Thinking of joining MHS? Annual membership is virtually the cost of a single cinema ticket. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or information. Membership includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage* and monthly talk or outing. We keep an active watch on the built & natural heritage of Marrickville LGA and record the local history. Send cheque or money order to Treasurer, Marrickville Heritage Society PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Fees \$10 concession, \$16 ordinary or joint concession, \$22 household or organisation.

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