

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

*Pearl Skin, Peach Cheeks & Fine Clothes*  
**Coralie Lewin on late 19th century garments**  
**Petersham Town Hall**  
**Saturday 23 November**  
**10 am morning tea for 10.30 start**



In 1865 the Singer Sewing Machine Co. established an agency in Sydney. Ready-made clothes were not introduced into Australia until the late 1890s and could be ordered by mail from catalogues. Our harsh climate sent women to the stores for manicure and vanity sets. Paper was used for powders to make peach pink cheeks. White face powders

were made from real pearl shell.

Coralie Lewin is a member and past president of the Embroiderer's Guild of NSW and member of the Kogarah Historical Society. Coralie will bring a selection of late 19th century garments and treasures from the Carrs Cottage Museum, Carrs Park which she curates.

## RAFFLE TICKETS

The Society's annual Spring raffle with a range of great prizes will be drawn at the Pot Luck Xmas Dinner on 7 December. Tickets 10 for \$10, 5 for \$7, 3 for \$5 or 1 for \$2. Flyer and tickets to accompany newsletter. For extra tickets ring Ian 9888 1409.

## POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

**Saturday 7 December 6 for 6.30 pm**

Our final event for the year will be the annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner to be held in a member's home in Stanmore (near Stanmore Station and on 412 bus route). This is very informal, we **try not** to talk about heritage and the raffle will be drawn. BYO drink. Ring Angela or David (9280 2429 after hours) to get address and advise what food you will bring to share.

*The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality* launched 9 November is \$25 for members + \$7.50 postage and handling. Send order with payment to PO Box.

## OVERDUE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members who have not renewed their annual membership will get a **reminder slip**. Non-renewal will render this their **final newsletter**. Fees (due last June) remain \$10 concession, \$16 individual or joint concession, \$22 household or organisation. Queries ring treasurer Stuart 9560 8070. Address below.

## THANKS TO 2001-02 RUNNERS

In the editor's annual report thanks were given to the runners who deliver the newsletter to local members. This long-established society practice is cost-saving and usually enables receipt of an unfolded newsletter. Regular runners were Lorraine Beach, Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattmann, Glynnis Burnet, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Rosemary Fallon, Tricia Feast, Barbara Gibbons, Monica & Joe Grabowski, Shirley Hilyard, Marilyn Leeds, Valerie McLeish, Mark Matheson, Pat Mullen, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart, Ken Turner, Anne Walter & John Wright.

Pamela Stewart also sends the postals and maintains membership records; Diane McCarthy updates membership lists; Richard Blair and Ian Phillips deliver newsletters to runners. Thanks to all newsletter contributors and to proofreader Shirley Hilyard.

**Richard Blair, Newsletter Editor**

## PROSPECT VILLA REVISITED

Last month's coverage about the recently demolished *Prospect Villa* at 30 Croydon Street, Petersham prompted two members to locate photos of this 1850s cottage taken during the 1995 walk around Petersham North. Thanks to John Edwards and Ed Jones, one of whose photos is reproduced below. It is sharper than the 1984 one in October newsletter and belies any view that the house was not worthy of retention. (Photo: Ed Jones)



The decision by the state government not to proceed with the Callan Park, Rozelle site development is certainly applauded, but one cannot avoid feeling apprehensive about future possible proposals!



## OUR LAST MEETING MOS MOVIE MATINEE



It was an almost full house at the Museum of Sydney Theatre on Saturday 26 October for the MHS & Historic Houses Trust joint outing. After seeing the tremendous Horbury Hunt exhibition we settled down to view some informative, funny and most entertaining old celluloid.

Peter Cousens and MOS put together an interesting package initially being treated to Cinesound newsreels including Lew Hoad being kitted out for National Service at the Addison Road Barracks, floods in the lower lying areas of the Marrickville district, the building of the Gladesville Bridge, the Eastern Distributor, the Cahill Expressway and the Tempe Bridge over Cooks River. All these roadworks were, of course, going to ease traffic flow and allow us to reach our destination much quicker!

The report on the celebrations for the 150 years of white settlement in 1938 was remarkable not only for its commentary (with some remarks that would land the commentator in trouble today) but for the wonderful depictions of how we celebrated. From the re-enactment of Gov. Phillip's landing to the Domain Rally packed with 45,000 people, the Surf Carnival at Manly and Bondi pre beachfront development, the Empire Games, the Harbour Parade (sailing regatta, fishing competitions, ferry floats – not unlike those of New Year's Eve 1999-2000). The floats in the parade in Sydney rivalled those we saw in the Federation Parade last year. The one called "Timber Saved Noah" drew a good laugh.

The original Felix the Cat cartoons were thoroughly enjoyed – very clever and still funny. Born O'Sullivan in Sydney, cartoonist Pat Sullivan moved to USA to help create Felix (Otto Messmer actually first animated him on film). Interval was an historic re-enactment itself (compared with today's cinema experience) and the very welcome Devonshire Tea eased the throats for the discussions on the showings so far. Interestingly, residents at the lower end of Illawarra Road explained ongoing debates and battles to keep development off the flood-prone areas. Some fondly remembered Sunday afternoons in the Domain, packed with people listening to, or trying to outdo, the speakers.

The main feature *His Royal Highness* starring George Wallace was worth waiting for. George certainly could sing and dance and we were treated to some old-fashioned humour. We won't tell you the story or give away the plot just in case you get the chance to enjoy it yourself one day! A highly enjoyable afternoon and thanks to all those who helped make it happen.

Joan Sinclair

### YOUR NEW HIDEY-HOLE

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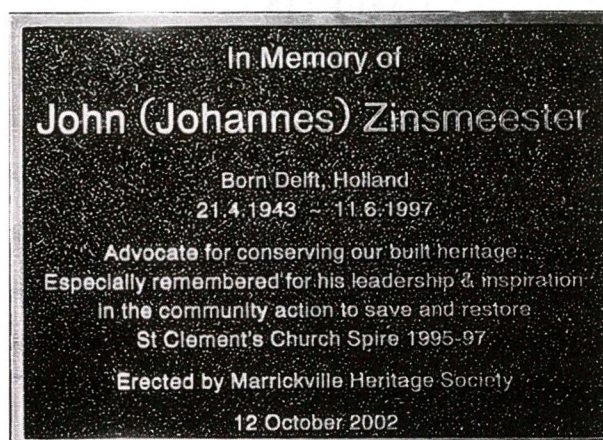
**Kraak café**

293 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville (opp. St Clements)  
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Heritage Society members please say 'Hello'

## JOHN ZINSMEESTER REMEMBERED

On Saturday 12 October over 40 MHS members, friends and parishioners joined John's father Willem, John's sister Ellie and her son Willem for an organ recital and plaque unveiling ceremony at St Clement's Anglican Church, Marrickville.

Resident organist Margaret Hayes played a range of organ pieces including works by Dutch composers Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck and Gelder Van Eyken as homage to John's Dutch heritage. Andy Chan played a Beethoven piano solo.



After a formal welcome by MHS president Diane McCarthy, the Rev. Chris Clerke dedicated and unveiled the plaque in memory of John Zinsmeester (see September newsletter) in the church entrance below the spire and tower. Chris spoke of John's commitment to heritage conservation and commended the Society for honouring John in this way.

Diane McCarthy

## A TRIVIAL AFFAIR

As a new member of the Society, who finally signed up at the Marrickville Festival after many years of meaning to, I was keen to participate in our major fundraiser for 2002 – the inaugural Trivia Night at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville on Friday 18 October.

The friends I brought along weren't entirely convinced this wouldn't be a rerun of an infamous Aussie Rules Trivia Night, where we scored zero in the round that most other tables used to get bonus points. We feared that a few minutes before bed in the preceding week reading the Society's publications wasn't going to serve us well against local history buffs. Luckily, our fears were relieved with the first question, "What is the name of Posh and David Beckham's second son?" Answer: "Romeo". We were in with a fighting chance.



Judges Tricia Blombery, Maureen Salier & David Cass in a less judicious moment: (photo: Richard Blair)



Success at Trivia Nights often depends on the strategic make-up of your table. The people at our table might have thought they had been invited because of our long-standing friendships. This was only part of the reason. We had a mathematician (handy for telling us the very interesting story about why there isn't a Nobel Prize for mathematics – the question was actually about in which fields the Prize is awarded); adventurous world travellers (their recent trip to Kathmandu helped with the Nepalese and Tibetan names for Everest); a retired English teacher (Judith Wright **didn't** write *Five Bells*); a lawyer (surprising us with her knowledge of the names of all of the Brady Bunch children); and some generalists (useful for truly trivial questions).

Nine tables competed for the glory, with Joanna Fielding's team emerging narrowly victorious over placegetters Peter Cousens' and Shirley Hilyard's teams. We had to be content with fourth place. Middle of the pack, and ready to make a burst for the lead next time it is held. See you there!

Cathy Law

**President's Note:** A Minute's Silence was observed in respect of the Bali bombings. Members of the winning team each won a bottle of wine. Prizes donated for the raffle were New Theatre tickets, two book vouchers from the Coop Bookshop, a framed postcard, a picnic hamper, a ticket to opening of Antiques Fair and a boxed set of the David Marr biography and letters of Patrick White. Thanks to all donors and organisers as well as quizmasters Angela Phippen and Richard Blair, judges David Cass, Tricia Blombery and Maureen Salier and greeters/runners Stuart Grigg and Diane McCarthy. Thanks also to Marrickville Council for use of the hall.

## HERITAGE WATCH 15A DICKSON STREET NEWTOWN

The Society believes that the proposal to redevelop the historically significant property at 15a Dickson Street, Newtown has many serious flaws and should not be approved in its present form. The description of the project as being of two storeys is misleading. It is clearly a three storey building with a study/loft/bedroom on the third level. If the proposal is approved we would anticipate a Section 96 Application would soon be lodged to install a dormer or opening skylight to the Dickson Street roof, as otherwise the third storey space will be hot and airless. Such a modification of the Dickson Street elevation would reduce any positive contribution the house could make to the cohesiveness of the streetscape.

The Society's main concern, however, is how the proposed development will affect the remains of the John Verge designed *Holmwood* which undoubtedly are under the proposed building and the impact on the curtilage of the adjoining Victorian Italianate terrace house *The Towers*. The heritage impact statement is appallingly inaccurate for omitting any reference to *The Towers* and for

dismissing the archaeological resources of *Holmwood* in a single phrase.

The author of the HIS states that the history of the site was researched, and yet there is no mention of the fact that the builder of *The Towers*, Josiah Gentle, bought the four adjoining blocks to create a suitable estate for his showpiece mansion, and playground for his considerable number of children, relatives, friends and business associates, befitting the successful owner of the Bedford Brickworks. This curtilage has remained intact for over 130 years. The landmark qualities of the house in its setting on its large block must be maintained.

The HIS also fails to note that the house and its curtilage have been listed by the National Trust as heritage items and have been included in the current Marrickville Heritage Study Review as potential heritage items for inclusion in the Heritage LEP. During the reconstruction of *The Towers*, the owners proudly proclaimed that they had excavated and repaired the cellars of *Holmwood*. There will be further remains of *Holmwood* within the areas that will need to be excavated for the proposed buildings. Under the relics provisions of the New South Wales Heritage Act, an archaeological assessment must be undertaken prior to any building works that may damage or remove archaeological deposits.

The Society urges Council to enforce the provisions of its own LEP and the Heritage Act, and require the preparation of a comprehensive Heritage Impact Statement and an Assessment of Archaeological potential. **The continuing failure of the owners of these properties to truly acknowledge the significance of the sites in their custodianship and to manage them in a way that might engender some respect from the community reinforces the Society's early calls for continuing close supervision of the developers.**

Scott MacArthur

## VALE – MARY PHIPPEN



We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mary Elizabeth Phippen (nee Bruce) of Roselands on 22 October aged 81. Mary grew up in Marrickville and was married at St Brigid's Catholic Church. As well as being the mother of MHS stalwart Angela Phippen, Mary had belonged to MHS for a number of years. She participated in the *Marrickville Remembers* oral history project and along with her sister Joan Bruce always assisted at our Marrickville Festival stalls. Our condolences to Angela, David, Joan and other family members.



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 10.30 am**

*The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality*  
Launch at St Peters Town Hall

**SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 10 for 10.30 am**

*Pearl Skin, Peach Cheeks, Fine Clothes: Style & Dress of the late 1800s with Coralie Lewin*

Details on front page

**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER**

**Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner**

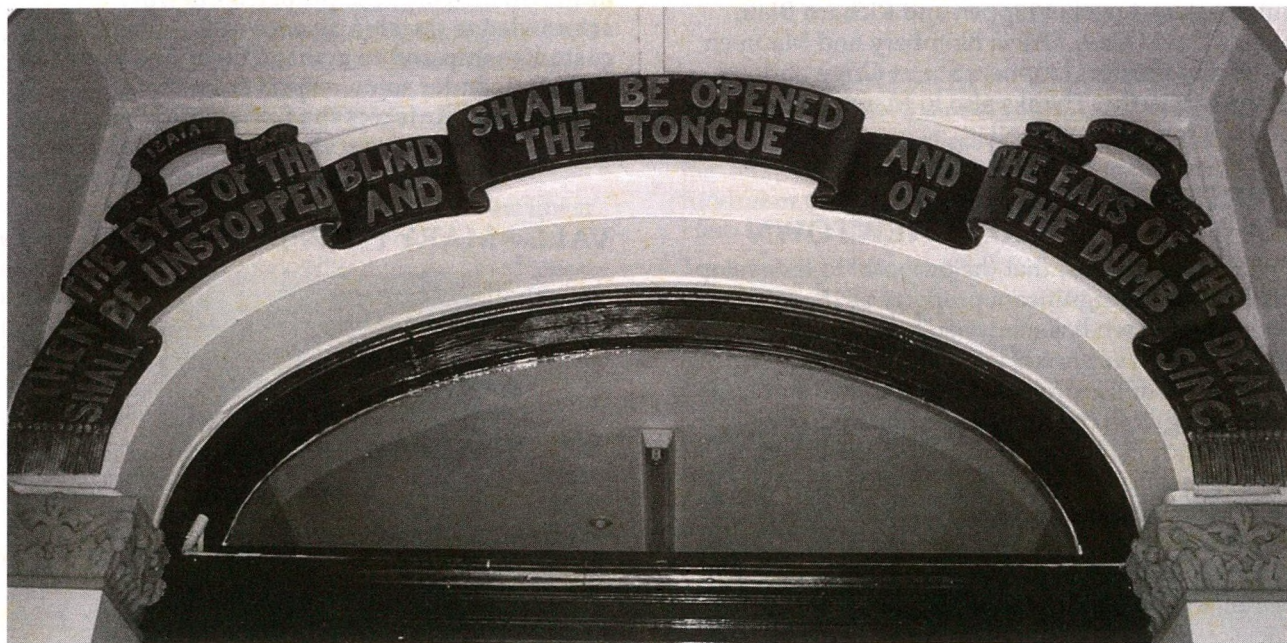
Details on front page

## MASTERTOUCH FOUNDERS' DAY

MHS members and friends are invited to attend the annual Founders' Day on **Sunday 17 November** between 11 am and 3.30 pm at Mastertouch Piano Roll Company, 308 Stanmore Road Petersham. There will be demonstrations of how piano rolls and fancy boxes are made, and film footage of yesteryear's piano roll manufacture. Refreshments will be served.

## SPRING TRIVIA ANSWER

These biblical words from Isaiah 35: 5-6 are boldly carved in stone over the main entrance to the former Deaf, Dumb & Blind Institution, City Road, Darlington. This imposing restored 1872 building is now part of Sydney University. Well done Graeme Napier for giving both correct answers. Photo by Scott MacArthur.



**MHS Member Nancy MacAlpine:** Selected Art Works at Unicorn Gallery 25 Meagher Street Chippendale till 23 November.

**PRESIDENT** Diane 9588 4930

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER** Richard 9557 3823

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

## PICTORIAL HISTORY SOUTH SYDNEY

When Catherine Warne published the first of her pictorial history series of books in the early 1980s, she did not envisage eventually covering the whole of Sydney. The latest in the series covers over 20 suburbs of South Sydney as well as Garden Island, Oxford Street, Moore Park, Victoria Park, Eveleigh and Green Square. The book was inspired by the photographic exhibition *Changes 1901-2001 South Sydney: A Retrospective* which was displayed at libraries in that LGA during 2001.

The range and quality of the photographs is outstanding with superb streetscapes, some contemporary, especially of Oxford Street. Historian Anne-Maree Whitaker's text is succinct and informative. The book sells for \$24.95 but is available to MHS members at discounted price of \$22.

Hot off the press is news that a pictorial history of the Marrickville area is very likely. We await its publication with much anticipation.

**Richard Blair**

**Information is sought by MHS member Catherine Williams** on the Johnston family who lived at *Riverside Estate* Livingstone Road, Marrickville prior to 1900: Alexander Johnston born Scotland died 14/10/1880 buried Rookwood; Unity Johnston born Scotland, 1812, died 3/6/1898 buried Rookwood; children: Mary married Charles James Herring, Duncan, Donald, Jane married Joseph Totterdell, Angus, John, Catherine and Christina married Charles H. Gray. Ring 9477 5581 or write to 178 Somerville Road, Hornsby Heights 2077.

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