

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

OUR NEXT MEETING

John Barron on *The History of Glass & Bottle Making in Sydney*

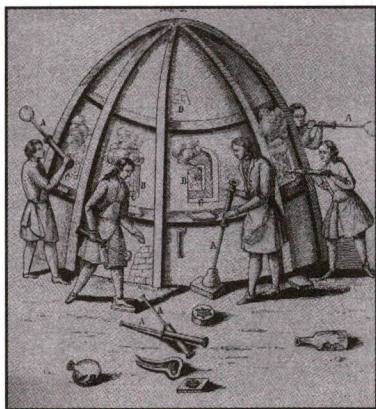
Petersham Town Hall

Saturday 22 February

10 am morning tea for 10.30 start

(Members invited to bring any interesting bottles or glass for a Show and Tell)

Glass is supposed to have occurred in nature from the beginnings of time, but is generally agreed to date from the Phoenicians about 5000 years ago. According to the Ancient Roman historian Pliny it was 5000 BC. For today's historian, glass making is not one of the soft areas of study. Bottle making and glass manufacture were important parts of Australia's industrial development and significant in the industrial history of Sydney's inner suburban areas.



South Sydney Heritage Society member **John Barron** was a Trainee Chemical Engineer at Australian Glass Manufacturers in 1958. John will talk about those times and the history of glass-making. He will show how to learn about the history of different kinds of bottles from their markings and method of manufacture. He will also examine pressed glass, sheet glass, plate glass and lead light glass in Gothic Cathedrals.

(Note: Scheduled Joadja talk postponed till later in year due to double booking by guest speaker)

Congratulations to MHS member **Ruth Saunders** who received an Australia Day Achievement Award Medallion. Ruth was one of ten people at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) so honoured. Ruth is married to member John Edwards.

Tempe War Memorial damaged: see page 2

OUR MARCH MEETING

SATURDAY 15 MARCH

ESTHER ABRAHAMS ON FOOT:

A TALK ON THE TROT WITH MARY HAIRE
(One morning and one afternoon walk)

Esther Abrahams was accused of driving around her Annandale/Stanmore estate "most furiously", but our tour will be at a more leisurely pace. As we visit the few remaining relics of the Annandale Farm, we reconstruct the area from Esther's point of view: her arrival on the First Fleet as a young, uneducated, unmarried Jewish convict with a child, her rise to fame and fortune via her partnership with George Johnston, and her eventual fall from grace at the hands of her children. The Esther Abrahams story is a reminder of Sydney's fascinating, controversial history.

Mary Haire is a performer and writer with an interest in history. Her 1999 play *Dive Divas* about Annette Kellermann and Fanny Durack was presented at Marrickville Council's swimming pools. In 2001 her Esther Abrahams Project was produced by Leichhardt Council at Annandale.

Meet Benton's Real Estate, Parramatta Road & Johnston Street Annandale (opp. Northumberland Ave)

Times 9.45 for 10 am & 12.15 for 12.30 pm

Maximum 20 per walk

Bookings & Prepayment essential. Cost \$10.

Ring Maureen 9564 2726. Members have priority.

Pay at next meeting or send cheque to MHS address below. Please advise if you have to cancel.

34 STATION STREET NEWTOWN

The final date for submissions re the DA to demolish the single storey double front cottage at **34 Station Street Newtown** and erect two 3 storey dwellings was during the silly season. This early to mid Victorian house is in excellent condition. It is in Area 6: Enmore Village as set out in the 1997-2000 Draft Heritage Study Review which has been before Marrickville Council for over two years.

The Review recommends council to "manage [this area] as Important Character Area having historic values" and "maintain Victorian residences". The tragic, senseless loss of *Prospect Villa* in Petersham in September should not be repeated and it is imperative that the Heritage Review be endorsed by council at the earliest opportunity.

Eligible works for the **2003 Marrickville Medal for Conservation** to be residential or domestic in scale. **Nominations close on 14 March.** Medal presentation Sunday 6 April at Petersham Town Hall. For further information see Marrickville Council ad in local papers and for a nomination form ring Council's Strategic Planner Nick Fterniatis 9335 2253.

TEMPE DEPOT WAR MEMORIAL DAMAGED AFTER WILD STORMS

Chrys Meader has advised the Society that the statue of the World War I soldier at the Tempe Depot Site was badly damaged when wild storms battered Sydney on Wednesday 8 January. The statue was apparently knocked down by a falling wattle and is in several pieces, which are being held by the Tempe Bus & Truck Museum.

The head and torso have been separated but are in good condition, the legs and feet sustained more damage while the rifle is in fragments. State government authorities have examined the damage. Chrys, who attended the site inspection on behalf of Marrickville Council on 24 January, has been given an assurance that the statue will be restored and reinstated at the depot site.

However a representative from the museum is unclear about what is planned re restoration of the severely wounded soldier. The issue of ownership of the memorial remains a grey area for although on the site owned by State Transit, the memorial was, as indicated in the MHS October 2002 newsletter report *Tempe Depot War Memorial Threat*, "built from funds paid by residents and local tramway employees". At least it is a relief to discover this is genuinely a result of foul weather and not foul play. Watch this space!

Richard Blair

2002 POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

Immediately you walked in the front gate of Maureen Salier's beautifully restored 1910 Federation Stanmore house, your eyes were met by the immaculate and colourful front garden, which was equally matched by the picturesque back courtyard, and the beautifully restored spacious rooms with high moulded ceilings and leadlight windows. At our annual gathering on Saturday 7 December the members were fascinated to hear about the background of the original and subsequent owners of the house, and to learn about some of the unusual features of the house such as the rosebud motifs.

As they have done for years now Angela Phippen and David Cass did a marvellous job organising the all-important impressive and delicious array of food which the members provided. The raffle and lucky door prizes were drawn (see separate report). It was great to welcome several new members. Thanks to Maureen for sharing her beautiful home with us.

Ros Torrent

Note At the 2001 Marrickville Medal presentations Maureen was awarded a High Commendation by Marrickville Council for "conserving the cultural heritage of Marrickville in this and other local properties".

MHS 2002 RAFFLE

Thanks to all members who supported our very successful late year raffle drawn at our annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner on 7 December. Thanks to Ian Rumsey for his organisation. In terms of winners, it didn't go according to the script as not one of the six prize winners was at the dinner. Nor were any winners male, however, no formal protest has yet been lodged on that score.

The winners were **Jan Armstrong**: oil painting of a Marrickville cottage (painted and donated by MHS member Nancy MacAlpine); **June Cameron**: dozen wine; **Sally Stock**: bottle of Scotch (this and wine donated by Ian Rumsey); **Alison Wright**: hand painted glass (donated by Margaret Rumsey); **Lisa Angus**: glass bowl (donated by Stanmore Pharmacy); **Alma Swanson**: bottle Sauternes (donated by Ken Swinbourne).



Diane McCarthy, Nancy MacAlpine (with her oil painting of a Marrickville cottage) & Maureen Salier
(photo: Richard Blair)

Lucky Door prizes at the dinner were won by Kathy Chapman, Peter Cousens, Joan Francis, Gary Luke, Nancy MacAlpine, Sue Miller, Ina Penning, Keith Sutton, Laurel Young and Ellie Zinsmeester. Thanks to donors Joyce Roy: decoupage plate and two boxes (made by Joyce) with chocolates; Ian Rumsey: perfume; and Ken Swinbourne: diary.

Diane McCarthy

CEMETERY GRASSLAND FIRE

After the December newsletter came out it was advised that the Camperdown Cemetery Grassland was subjected to a fire on 26 November. An emergency site meeting on 11 December decided "to erect temporary fencing around the burnt area both to protect the new and fragile growth of the native grasses, and to protect the gravestones, whose stability has been compromised by the lack of vegetation supporting them, their exposure leaving them vulnerable to being walked on and hence subsiding or headstones falling over". The fence went up on 18 December and by mid January following some rain it was reported the regrowth of the *Themeda* (Kangaroo grass) had been fantastic. The next working bee is Saturday 22 February at 9.30 am. Contacts Nell 9335 2197 or Nikki 0418 413 484.

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SUDAN MURAL RESTORATION GRANT

As reported in the December 2002 newsletter, I have obtained a grant from the Commonwealth Government to uncover the remainder of the Sudan War mural in my Petersham house, and to repair and restore it. There is no question in my mind that without the support of Marrickville Heritage Society (for instance, our then President, Peter Cousens, wrote to the Commonwealth on my behalf), then my application for funds would have been infinitely less persuasive. (See article about one of my unsuccessful attempts for funding (Dec 2001 / Jan 2002 newsletter) and the major article about the mural (Feb 2001 newsletter)

The grant for \$41,818 was made under the Government's Cultural Heritage Projects Program (CHPP) and is one of 64 successful projects Australia-wide. The CHPP supports projects relating to conservation of nationally significant places listed on the Australia Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate. In New South Wales, 19 projects (totalling \$1,280,493) were successful in the 2001-02 round of funding.

The grant that has been provided allows for mural restoration to be undertaken by a professional conservator – International Conservation Services Pty Ltd (ICS) has been selected. ICS is Official Conservator to the National Trust of Australia (NSW Division); so the restoration work is in good hands.

Given that the mural is drawn onto a plaster surface, ICS's Head of Conservation, Cathy Lillico-Thompson, and I have agreed that stabilisation of the existing plaster is essential before any major renovation work begins. ICS uses a technique involving injecting a type of adhesive into the plaster, which then spreads behind the plaster to ensure its stability. Already a small piece of plaster (mercifully not featuring an important part of one of the images) has fallen out and the need for plaster stabilisation has become urgent.

The CHPP grant also provides for replacement of the floor of the room in question – many MHS members and visitors who have already inspected the mural look kindly on this fact. I have been in fear and trembling that inspectees may have been involved in unfortunate events – like falling through the termite-infested floorboards. Happily that did not occur but the obvious danger remained. The replacement floor will be up to exhibition standard, as befitting the proper display of Australia's only known Sudan War mural.

The CHPP grant requires that the restoration project must begin within six months of the date of the letter from the Minister for the Environment and Heritage (Dr David Kemp, MP) announcing the grant. I have received a draft contract and the details are now being studied. Once I have signed the agreement and the Commonwealth has formally signed, the restoration project can begin.

I can assure members that Cathy and I are excited that this project can soon get underway and both of us believe that many more images are yet to be uncovered. One tantalising remark she made was that she would not be surprised if the artist's

signature were discovered somewhere – possibly near ground (skirting board) level. If that is so, and if the artist proves to be someone well known for the era (e.g. cartoonists Livingston 'Hop' Hopkins or William MacLeod), then the mural's existence will take on an importance not yet achieved.

Keith Sutton

JAGGER COMES HOME

During the 1995 Australian tour of the Rolling Stones it was revealed on Radio 2BL that Mick Jagger's mother Eva was born in Petersham and that Mick had cousins living in Sydney. As reported in our April 1995 newsletter "it appears Mick's maternal grandparents, the Scutts, came to Australia in the early 1900s and lived in three houses in the Petersham area before returning to England in 1917, except for Mick's grandfather Alfred who stayed on because of his work at Garden Island as part of our war effort." Where the family lived remains a mystery, although in the 1924 Sands Directory an A A Scutts is listed at 379 New Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill (bearing in mind the numbering in this road has probably since changed).



Enmore Theatre in 1912

(from Meader & Cashman *Marrickville People & Places*)

It is also interesting to speculate whether Eva Scutts ever frequented the much-altered (now Art Deco style) 1908 Enmore Theatre where Mick and his fellow Stones will endeavour to give satisfaction to fans on 18 February.

Richard Blair

DULWICH HILL FAIR

After a great night at the Pot Luck Xmas Dinner some hardy committee members fronted up to the third annual Dulwich Hill Fair on Sunday 8 December. It was a very hot day and the crowd was small but eager to buy and discuss the society's activities whilst the society's publications continue to sell well. Four new members joined MHS. Thanks to Angela, Diane, Ellie, Ian, Peter and Robert. Thanks also to members for contributing bric-a-brac especially Sue Miller who donated some beautiful glass items.

Diane McCarthy

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

John Barron on glass and bottle making in Sydney

Details on front page

SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Mary Haire's Esther Abrahams Walk (2 walks)

(brought forward to avoid 22/3 State Election)

See front page box for bookings

SATURDAY 26 APRIL 10 for 10.30 am start

Lesley Muir's Cooks River Walk

(In conjunction with Canterbury & DHS)

Meet Canterbury Sugarworks. Cost \$5 members of MHS, C&DHS & National Trust; \$7 non members.

Bookings Diane 9588 4930. Part of National Trust Heritage Festival; more details in April newsletter.

HOUSES UNDER THREAT

With the current relentless development around the LGA, unhindered by **bothersome heritage studies or a Council heritage architect**, at least two significant buildings have either sold or are in the process of being sold. **Castle Leap** on the corner of Livingstone Road and Wallace Street Marrickville, was converted 30-40 years ago from a villa into an aged care nursing facility and continues to operate as such. The original building has been substantially altered but the high sandstone boundary wall remains. The "for sale" sign states "Prime Redevelopment Site" with zoning 2C Residential. Auction 5 March. Leaves little doubt about the likely fate of this once substantial house.

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Gladstone Hall, 114 Ewart Street, Dulwich Hill is a large single storey sandstone villa built in 1870 for soft drink manufacturer William Starkey (whose factory was for many years in Stanmore: see August 2002 newsletter). The 1984-86 Marrickville Heritage Study described Gladstone Hall as "one of many villa estates established in this area in the latter half of the 19th century. [It] is in the style of a Colonial Bungalow rather than the more common Victorian Italianate of the period".

From 1958 it was owned and operated by the Civilian Maimed & Limbless Association which added hostel type accommodation to the site. More recently the site was acquired by the Drug & Alcohol Services for Central Sydney Area Health Service. The property, described as "Prime Residential Development Site, zoned Residential 2A", has been sold. **Gladstone Hall** is a rarity in this district and now sold, warrants our closest scrutiny.

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Heritage Watch queries the work under way at the front of **Locke-Haven** 60 New Canterbury Road Petersham. Two previous DAs (1997 and 1998) for a porte cochère, both opposed by MHS, were refused. No notification was received by the society about the current works!

INSTITUTIONS ON THE MOVE

Maya Rose Campbell born 21 November 2002 was the last of around 263,000 babies born at **King George V Memorial Hospital** Missenden Road Camperdown (1938-41 Stephenson & Turner Architects; Sulman Award winner). This maternity facility has moved across the road to larger, state-of-the-art premises at RPAH. After renovations, the KGV building will be occupied by clinics, health service administrators and the nursing museum. The two marble statues *Maternal Affection* and *Maternity*, sculpted by Florentine sculptor Professor G Sarte around 1949-51, have been cleaned and relocated to the new premises.

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Significant drop in membership and financial hardship have caused the **Concordia Club** to sell its premises at 231 Stanmore Road Stanmore. It is relocating to the premises of the former Tempe Bowling & Recreation centre, Mackey Park, Tempe in early 2003. The Concordia Club is one of Australia's oldest multicultural clubs. Established in 1883 in the city, it relocated to Stanmore in 1952 where it has been a strong focus for German-Australian culture. It is believed nearby Newington College has acquired the building. It is hoped the college will retain the two unique ninepin bowling alleys (known as skittles or *kegel* and featured in April 2000 newsletter).

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A 3-4 storey block of units will replace the former **BBC Hardware** in Victoria Road Marrickville, formerly site of **Seymours** (see March & May 2002 newsletters). Diagonally opposite on the corner of Victoria and Marrickville Roads the **council car park** will be replaced by more units. Whilst increased residential population may stimulate a waning shopping centre, how will council compensate for this loss of public parking?

REINSTATE THE SHOPFRONTS!

When a DA is approved by council, conditions are often imposed. The redevelopment of the **1883 Commercial Row 140-152 New Canterbury Road Petersham** was approved in late 1997 despite strong resident opposition and a recommendation by the Council planner to refuse the application.

The works are nearing completion and whilst the façade above the shop awning has been nicely restored, none of the four designated original shopfronts have been reinstated in accordance with the conditions. Instead we have the usual bland shopfronts totally lacking in character. This makes a farce of those conditions if not adequately vetted nor enforced by council.

Summer Trivia Answers held over for lack of space, but we still don't know the identity of *Miss Marrickville*. Do we have any interested researchers?

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