

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.



DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN

**OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 15 MARCH**  
**Esther Abrahams On Foot:**  
**A Talk On The Trot With Mary Haire**



*Samuel Elyard's Annandale [Farm] 1877*  
(Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW)

**This outing brought forward to avoid State Election.** There are still vacancies for our 10 am and 12.30 pm walks. Details and preamble in February newsletter. Bookings and prepayment essential. Ring Maureen 9564 2726 for booking and information.

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS: HERITAGE WATCH & CLASSIFICATIONS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Society has a small but dedicated group that makes up the Heritage Watch & Classifications Committee. Our committee tries to keep up with development applications and threats to heritage items in the area, and relies upon members to notify us if they hear or see anything that may threaten significant items in the area. The committee has also been very active in the past in identifying heritage items and documenting their history and significance with a view to obtaining heritage listing from bodies like the National Trust and Council. Some buildings Classified by National Trust on MHS recommendation are *Penston Hall* 159 Livingstone Road and St Brigid's Catholic Church, Marrickville; Golden Barley Hotel, Enmore; *Ferndale* off Camden Street, Newtown; and the former bank building on corner of Stanmore Road & Crystal Street, Petersham.

While the Heritage Study Review was under way and then in limbo, these Classifications activities have been quiescent. Following the destruction of *Prospect Villa* and with the continued threat to unprotected items in the stalled Heritage Study Review, the need for research and investigation of new heritage items in the area has become urgent. Our committee now needs all hands on deck to help spot the rocky shoals of Council unreliability and to fend off predatory 'developer sharks'. Our committee meets monthly and all Society members are welcome to attend. Please contact Scott MacArthur or Diane McCarthy for more information (contact numbers back page).

**Scott MacArthur**

**THE NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL** aims to educate the community, celebrate our culture and to develop awareness of the ongoing need to conserve our cultural heritage. The 2003 theme is *freshwater: water, waves & wanderings* and Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee has organised a range of free events.

### 2003 Marrickville Medal for Conservation

Petersham Town Hall

Sunday 6 April 3-5.30 pm

Bookings and enquiries Nick Fterniatis 9335 2253

Presentation of awards will launch the Heritage Festival. Nominations for small scale domestic (residential) works close 14 March. Entries will be on display along with photographic exhibition. Refreshments provided.

### Photographic Exhibition

*Water Journeys: From Baptism to Drowning*

Sunday 6 April 3-5.30 pm Petersham Town Hall;  
7-10 April foyer Council Administration Building,  
2 Fisher St Petersham; 11 April Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre.

A survey of historic photographs depicting the cycle of life in Marrickville from pre-colonial to modern times.

### Vintage Bus Tour of Water Sites

*Waterways & Places*

Saturday 12 April 2-4.30 pm

Petersham Town Hall for bus pick-up & drop-off

Bookings essential Nick 9335 2253

A vintage bus will visit several sites in Marrickville area including Petersham Reservoir, Sydenham Flood Storage Reserve & Pump House and recently completed sea wall and wetlands at Tempe Reserve. A representative from each site to present relevant historical and cultural issues.

### NEW THEATRE PARTY

**Moira Buffini's comic drama *Silence***

**Sunday 30 March 5 for 5.30 pm**

New Theatre 542 King Street Newtown

Booking & prepayment essential

Tricia or Stuart 9560 8070 (leave message)

Cost \$25 includes pre-show drink & nibbles

(Season 21 March to 11 April)

"Based on true events, *Silence* manages to be comic, dramatic, historical and acerbically political. It intertwines a dazzling array of narrative and thematic strands from the tenth century Saxon/Viking conflict, across a love triangle involving both voluntary and inadvertent cross-dressing, to the depredations of Ethelred the Unready as he is transformed from an effete figurehead into a coldly zealous butcher."



## OUR LAST MEETING GLASS AND BOTTLE MAKING IN SOUTH SYDNEY

The chatter preceding John Barron's talk at our 22 February meeting was accompanied by the rustle of plastic bags, as members produced their glass treasures for the display tables. Out came bottles – medicine, milk, vinegar, soft drink and gin; jars – peanut butter and jam; and marbles, dishes, tumblers, jugs and pens. John began his talk with a lightning (or was that volcanic?) history of glass, both natural and manufactured. Our new word for the day was *cullet* – the broken pieces of glass added to sand, soda ash and limestone in the basic formula for glass that still applies today.

Although ancient peoples produced glass, glass-making technology progressed slowly. Glass vessels were still being produced individually until Michael J. Owens in Illinois devised an injection blow moulding process to produce bottles automatically in the 1880s. Until the late 19th century most packaging glass was imported into Australia, with empty bottles being washed and reused many times over.

Eventually the country's increasing population and prosperity saw the demand for glass outstrip the imported supply. The first major Australian manufacturers were the Melbourne pharmacists Felton and Grimwade, who founded the Melbourne Glass Bottle Works in 1872.

John explained how to decode the mysterious marks on the underside of bottles made by Australian Glass Manufacturers (AGM) – later to become Australian Consolidated Industries (ACI) – and concluded with a discussion of the ACI site in South Dowling Street, now closed to glass-making and undergoing adaptive conversion.

John's talk was enriched by Daphne Grange's unique wooden plunger for pressing down the glass marble stopper in a codd bottle and informed comments of other members, including our president, Diane McCarthy, who had worked at ACI during the 1990s. After Diane thanked John for his interesting presentation it was time for members to cluster round the display tables and examine each other's old and not-so-old glass relics.

Megan Hicks

## FROM MHS WEBSITE: FAMILY RESEARCH

Marrickville Heritage Society is not a family history group and we do not have our own premises. If you are interested in a person or family with possible Marrickville connections please note the following.

Collect as much information as possible from original documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates or information from other family members. Search the Births, Deaths & Marriages indexes at major public libraries on either microfiche or computer. Electoral rolls and the Sands Directory (late 1850s to 1932-33) with alphabetical and suburban lists of residents are invaluable resources. Your local library may have these.

Marrickville Library (corner Petersham & Marrickville Roads, Marrickville 9335 2171) has a great local studies collection of books, photographs,

clippings etc. Also try the Society of Australian Genealogists, 120 Kent Street, Sydney 9247 3953 or [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au) where fees apply.

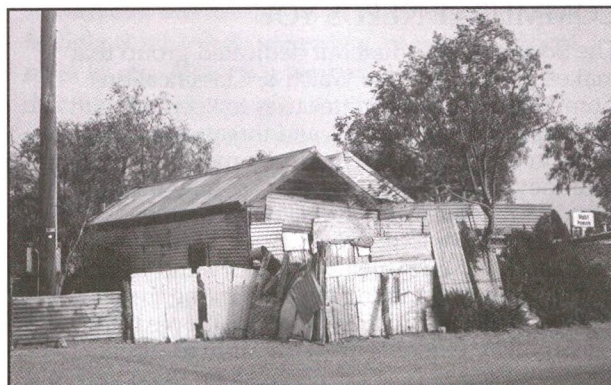
**Note:** The above is edited from information on the MHS website (address on bottom of back page) provided because the Society occasionally receives family history enquiries. Where appropriate such queries may be redirected to Marrickville Library Local Studies or handled by a committee member. A small fee-for-service of \$10 is being levied for basic information accompanied by some details about the society.

Diane McCarthy, President

## UPS & DOWNS OF CORRUGATED IRON

Such is the regard MHS has for corrugated iron as a classic building material that in November 1997 corrugated iron expert Anne Warr addressed our monthly meeting. Long regarded as a cheap and temporary building material, award-winning architect Glenn Murcutt and others have in recent years been at the forefront of a corrugated iron revival. Nevertheless it continues to be more of a rural building material than an urban one.

Consequently it is unlikely that even the most die-hard devotee of corrugated iron would have objected to the demolition of the corrugated iron annexe to the former **Crago Flour Mill, Newtown** in Gladstone Street Newtown. The fine three storey brick building (c1900) and the 1936 silos on the site of the original Newtown Railway Station have been retained in the redevelopment.



House at White Cliffs (photo: Richard Blair)

On a recent trip to western NSW the editor spotted many corrugated iron dwellings in Broken Hill but nothing to match this unique house in the extremely dusty town of White Cliffs – famed for dust, underground dwellings, dust, opals, dust, the birthplace of cricketer legend Bill O'Reilly and ... dust. Note the range of corrugated irons in this splendid house still occupied by one of White Cliff's senior citizens.

Richard Blair

Condolences to family and friends of Society member **Dorothy Hargreaves** (nee Kirby) who died late last year having lived most of her life in the Marrickville area. In recent years Dorothy lived at *Maybanke* in Marrickville.



## BONDS AT 100 MALLETT STREET

American George A. Bond founded his hosiery company in Sydney in 1915 becoming the largest hosiery manufacturer in the British Empire. The Bonds factories in Camperdown date from 1918, and in 1929 Bond went into liquidation. In 1930 Bonds Industries was formed. Bonds relocated to Wentworthville from 1987 to 1990 and all the buildings have since been acquired by Sydney University. The Faculty of Nursing has operated in the larger buildings since 1990. The five storey heritage-listed building at **100 Mallett Street Camperdown** (c1925 Architects Robertson & Marks, Builder RA Crooks, J Porter & Sons) is the last acquisition.



*Children on slippery dip at 1935 opening of Camperdown Park. Behind are Bonds Hosiery and on right building at 100 Mallett Street carrying sign for Peek Freans (Sydney City Council Archives)*

The Society has been contacted by Andrea Mitchell, Project Manager, Sydney University's Brain & Mind Research Institute. It is planned to refurbish 100 Mallett Street for the institute and historical details are sought. The smaller building on the right appears to have been leased in the 1930s to Peek Freans Biscuits. Anyone with information on this building contact Diane on 9588 4930.

**Diane McCarthy**

## SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS WHO WAS MISS MARRICKVILLE?

As often happens with these seasonal trivia questions, more interest is shown in peripheral material than the focal questions. In trying to identify Miss Marrickville (December 2002/January 2003 newsletter) the make of car provoked far more attention. A friend of Ian Phillips suggested the Marquise [or Marquette] whilst a colleague of the president had little doubt it was the Australian Six (Au6) manufactured in Five Dock in the 1920s. Ann O'Connell, who wrote a comprehensive article on the Au6 in the 2000 Ashfield & District Historical Society journal, initially thought it was an Au6, but pointed out that "many cars of the 1920s had extremely similar body shapes and it was impossible to tell for sure without looking at the front radiator and the emblem."

Ann referred the matter to John Cook, a "real authority" on the Au6. He gave comprehensive reasons why it is probably **not** an Au6. "My best

guess would be a Chev", John initially said, adding that he would refer the matter to his next car club meeting for some "professional" opinions. The photo accordingly went before a roomful of experts who "managed to narrow the opinions down to under half a dozen!" The two most popular choices were Chrysler or Oakland (described as a "poor man's Pontiac") which was John's next preference; until he became more than impressed with a "compelling argument" in favour of a 1926 or 1927 Oldsmobile. The amount of data provided on various makes was staggering. John's jury is still out but further queries can be directed to John at [aussie6@smartchat.net.au](mailto:aussie6@smartchat.net.au)

There is no doubt about the location of the photo. It is the western side of Petersham Road, Marrickville just down from Marrickville Town Hall (numbers left to right 77, 75, 73 and 71). The houses have been altered but are still easily identified. Frank Broome Wright\* seen standing beside the car, lived a few doors down in Petersham Road, ironically in the same house as one of our current members. The only correct identifier of the houses was our president Diane McCarthy, but a protest has been lodged over the fact that Diane grew up in lower Petersham Road and worked in Marrickville Library for some years.

**The identity of Miss Marrickville remains a mystery.** We know that Wright was Mayor of Marrickville 1932 and 1941. He was also sometime Chair of the Marrickville Floral Pageant Committee and it is possible one or more Miss Marrickville contests were conducted in conjunction with several gala processions through Sydney streets in the 1930s. Verona Rothwell believes it could have been the legendary Queenie Paul who lived in Marrickville Road in the 1930s. One left-field theory (which would appeal to John Cook and associates) is that Miss Marrickville actually referred to the car, however I'd like to think that the former Miss Marrickville is still with us, but too modest to come forward!

**Richard Blair**

\* Wright was father of the late Olwen Hanney who died in May 2002. Thanks to Olwen's niece MHS member Margaret Wright for permission to use the photo.

## AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

Cooks River was named after Capt. James Cook who ventured some distance up the river. What is the earliest recorded use of the name Cooks River?

## BP STAR FOR ADA BOES

Recently member **Ada Boes** attended the 70th birthday of a man who had belonged to one of Ada's cub packs. In December the Baden-Powell Guild awarded Ada the Guild's highest honour – the BP Star for lifelong services to Scouting. Ada and her late husband Peter were closely associated with Scouts and Cubs in Petersham and Dulwich Hill. MHS is fortunate in having as members at least two stalwarts of Scouting in Sydney: Stan Bales and Ada. Congratulations to Ada who has recently been unwell.



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

### SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Mary Haire's *Esther Abrahams on Foot* (am & pm)

See front page. Other details in February newsletter

### SUNDAY 30 MARCH

New Theatre Party: *Silence*

Details front page

### SATURDAY 26 APRIL 9.45 for 10 am

Lesley Muir's *Cooks River Meanderings*

\$5 members; \$7 non-members. Diane 9588 4930

### SATURDAY 24 MAY

Leonie Knapman on *History of Joadja*

### *The House of Exquisite Memory*

28 March - 16 August

9-5 Monday-Friday 10-4 Saturday

Sydney Records Centre, Globe Street, The Rocks

Entry is free to this State Records exhibition of natural born archivists who engage in their own recordkeeping, collecting, cataloguing, conserving and interpreting practices with the same love and commitment as archive professionals. Included is MHS member **Megan Hicks'** photo documentation of messages inscribed on the surface of inner-city streets and footpaths (also subject of an article by Megan *Flat Chat* from State Records December 2002 Magazine *Vital Signs*).

'So long' to Marrickville Council's archivist **Vivienne Larking** who is now with the Commonwealth Bank Archives. Archivist with the Archival Reference Centre since mid 1999, Vivienne had run several Hunting House Histories workshops – so successful that the ARC was inundated with requests. Vivienne was a member of Council's Heritage Promotions Committee and remains a MHS member. We will miss Vivienne, who assisted many members and the society's publications in numerous research projects. Her replacement begins in late March.

**Join Marrickville Heritage Society now and be paid up till 31 May 2004.** Send a cheque or money order made out to MHS with name(s), address & phone number, or ring president Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Address front page. Membership includes monthly newsletter & journal *Heritage*. Meetings fourth Saturday each month. We record the local history and keep an active watch on the built and natural heritage of Marrickville LGA. Fees \$10 concession, \$16 individual or joint concession, \$22 household or organisation.

**PRESIDENT** Diane 9588 4930

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

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

## COUNCIL VS HERITAGE UPDATE

In February Marrickville Council decided to adopt various strategies to reactivate the implementation of the Heritage Study Review. While Council has fallen a long way short of the full and immediate adoption of the findings of the Review, as requested by the Society, at least there is at last some chance that something may happen . . . sometime. Council has resolved to:

- write again to owners of potential heritage items, explaining the effects of listing and trying to address issues or concerns that owners have raised.
- again approach the Heritage Office for guidance in formulating implementation strategies.
- proceed with the preparation of the necessary documentation for the gazetting of the King Street/Enmore Road and Abergeldie Estate Conservation Areas.

Of course, Council will have the services of an experienced and properly resourced Heritage Architect to co-ordinate this complex series of negotiations between the community, Council and the State Government . . . Well, no, it actually won't. Council still only has a part-time (one day a week) private consultant in the Heritage Architect's position, and looks set to abolish the position completely.

At the same meeting that Council proposed to generate enough work for a full-time Heritage Architect, Council authorised the preparation of a job description for a **combined** Heritage and Urban Design Advisor (H & UDA). No timetable for advertising this new position was provided. **The Society thinks that combining these two critical roles in one office is a very unwise idea.** From discussions with people who have worked in councils with exactly this set-up, the Society believes that the ever increasing pressures of urban consolidation and gentrification will overwhelm the superhuman who accepts such a challenge.

The demand for Urban Design advice from Council and the community will also leave little opportunity for the H & UDA to do more than churn through the constant stream of DAs on heritage properties that should be only part of a Heritage Architect's work. Other councils with a H & UDA have had to employ an assistant heritage specialist so that issues like policy development, education and Heritage Study Reviews can be addressed. When the Heritage Study Review is finally implemented, Marrickville will have more than 300 new heritage items. **Marrickville Council must have a full-time Heritage Architect.**

Scott MacArthur

## CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY LAUNCH

Members are invited to the launch of Stage 2 of the Camperdown Cemetery Kangaroo Grassland & Historic Planting Restoration Project on Sunday 23 March 11.30 am to 1.30 pm at Camperdown Cemetery in the grounds of St Stephens Church, Church Street, Newtown. RSVP Nell 9335 2197.