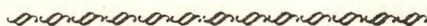




MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 4 September 1985



OUR NEXT MEETINGS (at the Aldermen's Room, Petersham Town Hall).

Friday September 13 at 7.30 p.m.

Chris Pratten of the National Trust will speak on 'Life and Death in the Inner West'.

Saturday September 28 at 10.30 a.m.

Annette Green will be giving a talk with slides on the Marrickville Heritage Study, Stages I and II.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Wednesday October 2

Marrickville Heritage Society Dinner - please see page 3 for details.

Saturday October 26

A visit to the Egyptian Room, Petersham Masonic Temple.

Saturday November 23

Richard Cashman will give an illustrated talk on his trip to Marrick, North Yorkshire. Afterwards there will be a picnic in Petersham Park-all welcome! There will be special fun and games for the children.

CENTENARY OF OLD PETERSHAM STATION

1985 marks the centenary of the old Petersham Station, acclaimed as one of the best examples of Victorian Italianate station architecture in the state.

Controversy surrounds the name of the original station which dates back to 1856. The State Rail Authority claims that the station was always known as Petersham, but Chrys Meader has located maps which show that the original name was Sydenham, it was located in an area known as Sydenham Farms.

The station changed its name to Petersham in 1857 because the residents, who were active then as they are now, didn't like being associated with the low-lying swamps around the present Sydenham. Sydenham Villa stood in that area.

The name Petersham was given to the district by Major Francis Grose, then Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, and was derived from the village of Petersham near Richmond in Surrey, where Major Grose was born. Dating from 1793 the name Petersham, along with Bulanaming, is one of the older names given to the Marrickville area.

A petition from the landowner, William Fisher, and a delegation from residents in 1855 led to the establishment of a 'flag station' in 1856. This meant that the trains, which ran three times a day, only stopped if someone wanted to join or leave the train. A year later Petersham became a 'halt station' with a regular Assistant Station Master. One of the early parties interested in trains were the Stewards of the Petersham Race Course who requested a special race train in 1856.



There have been many significant additions to the old and new stations but the overhead footbridge, erected in 1888, has been classified by the National Trust. Its delicate ironwork is now partly obscured but there is a fine picture of it in the Station Master's Office.

Society Dinner

OCTOBER 2

The first Society Dinner for members of the Society and their friends will be held at the Edelweiss Inn, 88 Audley St., Petersham (near the Post Office) at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

It would be an advantage for us to know the numbers in advance, so please phone Anne Carolan (406-4862) and make your booking. Payment may be made at the September meeting. If you will need transport on the night please let us know when you are making your booking.

The Dinner will cost \$19.50 per person, and this includes soft drinks and table wines. The restaurant's bar will also be open.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY A PLEASANT EVENING AND
A CHANCE TO MIX WITH OTHER SOCIETY MEMBERS.

MARRICKVILLE MYSTERY TOUR

Even some very long-time residents among the 20 adults and 6 children found some real surprises on the excellent tour organised by Peter Arnett and Chrys Meader on Saturday, October 24. For along with some familiar sites such as Gladstone Hall, the Abergelde Estate, the Camperdown Cemetery and Richardson's Lookout, there was the intriguing discovery of Dibble Waterhole, the site of a former brickpit and now a substantial pond supporting considerable bird life: shags, ducks and water fowls. Being some 60 feet deep, it's a dangerous place to swim in. The waterhole claimed the life of a Council employee in the 1950s. A high wire fence now prevents any public access. The Council used to own a boat which was rowed around the waterhole. Maybe they should try and relocate the boat to row out to Fatima Island in the Cook's River. We were also shown the smallest house in the Municipality, 43 and 1/2 Edgeware Road which has a frontage of just nine feet. The front of the house seems to occupy only about seven of the nine feet. All the members of the tour look forward to the next excursion. Perhaps an aquatic excursion up the Cook's River! I'm sure that everyone who went on the tour would like to thank Peter Arnett, Chrys Meader and Robert Thompson who provided a 'back-up bus'.

RECORDING INSCRIPTIONS

Can you help the Classifications Subcommittee record the inscriptions on Petersham Cemetery graves at Rookwood? There are still some 200 inscriptions to record. Please consider joining the Working Party. Meet at the graves at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 12. For directions and further information call Chrys at the Library.

HERITAGE ROSES OF AUSTRALIA

Spring is an ideal time to observe the various species of old European roses. Most of them only flower at this time of the year. The Sydney group of the Heritage Roses of Australia invite you to attend the following:

-Saturday, October 12. A walk through Rookwood Cemetery. Meet at St Michael's Chapel, nearest entrance East Street, Lidcombe, at 9 a.m. Don't forget sturdy shoes, a hat and some lunch.

-Saturday and Sunday, October 19 and 20. A display of old-fashioned roses at Elizabeth Farm.

-Sunday, October 27. Open day at Rumsey's Nursery, Dural. For further information about these functions contact Paula Gard or Bruce Welch (569-9928).



NEW MEMBERS

Mr Leslie Best, Michael and Leonie Fretwell.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

It's only \$7 for individuals, \$10 for households and institutions, \$2 for pensioners and students. In addition, you will receive copies of the monthly Newsletter and **Heritage**, published annually each December. The first issue appeared in 1984 and a few copies are still available at \$2 a copy. Post your subscriptions to Chrys at Marrickville Library, Marrickville Town Hall, 2204. (Phone 560-9333 Ext 282). You don't have to wait until the AGM or the end of the financial year. Our 'rolling membership' enables you to remain financial for twelve months from the time you join.

