

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING HISTORIC CAMPBELLTOWN & BEYOND Saturday 26 July Coach leaves 9 am sharp

Petersham Town Hall 8.45 am. BYO lunch, morning & afternoon tea snacks. Tea & coffee provided. \$25, \$28. Advise if you have to cancel. Bookings 9569 1768.

In 1810 Governor Macquarie inspected the district and named it Airds after Elizabeth's home in Scotland. He returned in 1820 and founded Campbelltown, named after his wife's maiden name Campbell.



St Helen's Park (photo: Max Dupain)

Local historian **Verlie Fowler** will take us on a rare visit to some of Campbelltown's historic properties: *St Helen's Park* (1887), *Denfield* (1830s), *Quondong* formerly *St Patrick's School* (1840), *Cransley* (1881). We will see the Queen Street colonial buildings and further afield to *St Mary's Towers* of Douglas Park, built as *Parkhall* (1842) by Surveyor-General Sir Thomas Mitchell. And much more!

TEMPE WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATED

On Friday 20 June the WWI War Memorial at the former Tempe Tram Depot was rededicated after its complete restoration. The marble soldier surmounting this memorial had been severely damaged by a falling tree in January (see Feb. 2003 newsletter). While the damage was unfortunate everything else about this event is a 'good news' story for heritage. The damage had been detected immediately and the damaged parts of the digger statue stored away by members of the Bus & Truck Museum.

State Transit Authority of NSW called a team of 12 Heritage Services stonemasons from the Dept. of Commerce (formerly Dept. of Public Works) with Godden Mackay Logan, Heritage Consultants to restore the statue. STA organised a dignified service involving Marrickville Council, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Marrickville RSL, the Bus & Truck Museum and Frank Ellis, nephew of Lieut. John Lyons. The MHS is critical of government or organisations when it believes they have been derelict in their duty towards heritage. Likewise, it is only too pleased to congratulate them when they get it right.

Angela Phippen

OUR LAST MEETING WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

Around 60 members attended our 19th AGM at Petersham Town Hall on Saturday 28 June. President Diane McCarthy presented the annual report (see inside), Stuart Grigg the treasurer's report, Scott MacArthur the Heritage Watch report, Richard Blair the newsletter report, Peter Cousens the publications report whilst Angela Phippen reported on the successful publication of *The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality*. Ellie Zinsmeester stepped down as secretary, whilst Tricia Blombery and Maureen Salier resigned as committee members.

Shirley Hilyard as returning officer declared all positions vacant. 2003-04 committee: president Diane McCarthy, vice president and secretary Lorraine Beach, treasurer Stuart Grigg, committee members Robert Hutchinson, Angela Phippen, Mark Matheson, Graeme Napier, Ian Rumsey and Ellie Zinsmeester, Heritage Watch convenor Scott MacArthur, publications convenor Peter Cousens, newsletter editor Richard Blair, membership secretary Pamela Stewart.

Diane introduced guest speaker **Margaret Wright**, niece of **Olwen Hanney** who died in May 2002. Olwen was a local historian who wrote numerous articles and weekly columns for *The Guardian* in the 1970s and early 1980s. Her father **Frank Broome Wright**, MBE, Mayor of Marrickville, 1932 and 1941, was an active community worker whilst her husband **Frederick Hanney** was conductor of the Enmore-Marrickville Municipal Orchestra for about 16 years. Olwen's grandfather was **Joseph Graham**, nine times Mayor of Marrickville and a prominent citizen of Sydney in the late 19th century. **Mark Matheson** gave an illustrated talk on Graham's life both in and beyond Marrickville, especially in establishing the Royal National Park. Mark is writing an article on Graham for a future journal.

Margaret spoke about her illustrious family before members viewed Margaret's exhibition of family artefacts – trophies, framed pictures and photographs of floats and the Marrickville Municipal Bands and orchestras, Hanney's baton, books of cuttings, a silver trowel and other memorabilia including donated linen. This had belonged to Graham's fourth wife Rebecca McKay and was brought by Elinor Wrobel from the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation. Thank you Mark, Elinor, Chrys Meader (who brought a framed portrait of Joseph Graham) and especially Margaret for her strenuous efforts in enabling us to view this fine collection. The traditional picnic at Maundrell Park concluded a memorable day.

★ To celebrate 30th Birthday of Sydney Opera House ★
★ we'd love your Home Movies for selection as part ★
★ of a screening at The Anniversary Concert, Concert ★
★ Hall 18, 19 October. Ring Virginia Hilyard 9664 ★
★ 2884 email virginia8@ozemail.com.au by 8 August. ★



Mark Matheson, Margaret Wright & Chrys Meader
at June 2003 AGM (Photo: Scott MacArthur)

This year was the 50th anniversary of the **SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL** – the annual June orgy of some of the best international cinema. The first Sydney Film Festival was 11-14 June 1954 at four Sydney University halls. It was held at Sydney University until 1965-66 when it was based at the Hub Theatre, Newtown. The following year the Rose Bay Wintergarden became the main venue, with some sessions at the Elizabethan Theatre in Newtown. The festival remained at Rose Bay till 1974 when the magnificent State Theatre became the main venue and it has remained there since.

Among several fine documentaries featured this year were three of local interest. Tom Zubrycki's *Molly & Marbarak* examines a year in the life of an Afghan asylum seeker who finds work at a Young abattoir after leaving the detention centre – a poignant film in the climate of the current refugee debate. *Wildness* examines the lives of Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis, who both migrated from Baltic Europe to Tasmania to become two of our best wilderness photographers. Their photographs were largely instrumental in saving much of Tasmania's natural heritage and both died on photographic expeditions. *The Original Mermaid* is about Marrickville-born Annette Kellerman (1886-1975) who through her long distance swimming, aquatic feats, vaudeville and film career became world famous. All three films will be televised later this year.

Richard Blair

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

Members collectively came up with a long list of the cinemas which once graced our local area. Thanks to Joyce Allen, David Blair, Graham Hunt, Shirley Kirkman, Wayne le Clos, Diane & Jamie McCarthy, Norman McVicker and Pat Mullen. **Wayne** wins the scratchies for the most cinemas named. Now living in far north Queensland, Wayne belongs to the Australian Cinema and Theatre Society but cut his cinematic teeth in Marrickville movie houses.

They were Britannia, New Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill; Hoyts, Illawarra Road, Kings, Marrickville Road and the Addison, Addison Road all in Marrickville; Enmore Theatre (Hoyts, Finos) Enmore Road & the Hub (ex Clay's Bridge Theatre) Bedford Street Newtown; Majestic (later Odeon) Theatre, New Canterbury Road & Audley Picture Palace*, New Canterbury Road & Audley Street, Petersham; Stanmore Picture Theatre, Stanmore Road & Fotheringham St, & Olympia (later Stanmore Twin) Theatre, Parramatta Road Stanmore; Sydenham Rex, Unwins ridge Rd Sydenham.

* see March 2001 newsletter

None is still a cinema and of those that remain, only the Enmore Theatre operates as a live theatre. Petersham Odeon became a roller-skating rink, Marrickville Hoyts has changed beyond recognition, Sydenham Rex is a shop, and the Hub has been restored but awaits a revival. The above list is incomplete in terms of early theatres which were often open-air and underwent many name changes.

Graham Hunt recalled Marrickville Hoyts and Kings showing a double feature: "I remember the special features on a Saturday afternoon – 20 cartoons plus the serials like westerns *Tom Mix*, adventure serials like *Hop Harrigan* when the plane flew straight at you at the opening, or mystery serials like *The Shadow* or *Spider Man* when I hid under the seat at the scary bits!" Shirley Kirkman recalled how "the lolly boy at interval walked around with a big tray, leather strap around his neck, selling sweets and ice creams."

Other theatres mentioned were outside the current LGA but are still fondly remembered: Newtown Hoyts (later Burland Hall) King Street, Newtown Majestic (later Elizabethan, destroyed by fire 19/1/80) Wilson Street & Erskineville Road, St Peters Picture Theatre, King Street all in Newtown, Hoyts Hurlstone Park Theatre, New Canterbury Road (later an ice rink). In 1995 some MHS members went on a Newtown walk with the late Kevin Cork, an authority on Sydney's cinemas. Kevin pointed out several sites and details of long forgotten venues, mostly in King Street. Wanted! Someone to write the definitive history of our local cinema.

Richard Blair



Stanmore Theatre (1908) Stanmore Rd & Fotheringham St
showing *Broadway Melodies* 1936. Demolished for a service station (photo from *History of Marrickville* 1936)

The State Library of NSW is showing its **Heritage Collection** "of the rare, famous and most historically significant items from the library's world-renowned collection" over the next ten years. The 2003 exhibition includes Captain Cook memorabilia, nine of the known First Fleet journals, and etchings from the first illustrated book produced in Australia *Birds of New South Wales*. Well worth a visit!

We recently learnt of the sudden death on 18 April of renowned baritone **John Germain**. Born in 1930 he was a teacher before a career as a principal baritone with Opera Australia stretching from 1957 to 1996. He was awarded an OA in 1983 and donated considerable time to charities. Previously a MHS member, John was MC at the society's Bicentennial Pioneers Picnic in March 1988 and lived for most, if not all of his life in Yule Street, Dulwich Hill.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002-2003

2002-03 has been a challenging one not only for MHS but also for other societies – rising costs of insurance, among other things. It was decided by the executive committee that if the Society was to continue and grow an increase in fees was necessary.

We have been entertained and educated by many and varied speakers on such subjects as 19th century fashion with Coralie Lewin; bottle and glass making in Sydney by John Barron; a *Show & Tell* conducted by Angela Phippen which is always popular; a talk on Joadja by Leonie Knapman; and Herne Bay wartime hospitals at Riverwood by Brian Madden. Outings were movies at Museum of Sydney, Esther Abrahams walk through Stanmore and Annandale with Mary Haire, and a Cooks River walk with Lesley Muir & Brian Madden.

As I read through the past newsletters it is amazing what we have managed to cram into the past year. Special events held were the dedication of a plaque in St. Clements Church to honour heritage advocate and MHS past president John Zinsmeester, the launch of Angela Phippen's book *The War Memorials of St. Peters Municipality* which has been well received, a successful fund-raising trivia night; a theatre party to the New Theatre, and our annual Pot Luck dinner at the home of Maureen Salier. Stalls were manned at Marrickville, Newtown & Dulwich Hill Festivals with good sales, promotion of MHS and a record number of new members: 16 at Newtown, 18 at Marrickville and four at Dulwich Hill.

History Week was celebrated last September with two Petersham North walks and *Cooks River Comes Clean* with Mark Matheson. Robert Hutchinson and I represented MHS at the RAHS Conference at Wingham in November. Robert had the honour of being nominated for and accepting one of two County of Cumberland positions on the Affiliated Societies Committee. It was a very informative couple of days with a lot of networking. Some of this year's speakers and outings were a result of this conference.

For the National Trust Heritage Week several MHS members work with Marrickville Council to promote the area with the Marrickville Medal, a vintage bus tour of water sites, including Petersham Reservoir and wetlands at Tempe Reserve and an exhibition with the theme of *Water* organised mainly by Mark Matheson. Peter Cousens and Caroline Plim were two of the judges for the Marrickville Medal. I was honoured to represent MHS as MC for this ceremony with special guest Andrew Refshauge MP.

I would not have been able to do my job as President without a hard working committee to support me. I would like to thank vice presidents Richard Blair and Lorraine Beach, who are always reliable and helpful; Scott MacArthur who chairs the monthly Heritage Watch meeting and writes numerous submissions; Secretary Ellie Zinsmeester who took over from long serving Joyce Roy. This position is really a minute secretary and Ellie did a good job. Treasurer Stuart Grigg came on board in October and has done a splendid job with the books.

Angela Phippen, who is always reliable with special projects, does not hesitate to help out especially with the Marrickville Festival and Pot Luck dinner with husband David Cass. Peter Cousens, immediate past president, has worked hard as convenor of the publications committee. He is also keeper of the MHS stock and filing cabinet for which I am grateful. Robert Hutchinson, another past president, ready to lend a hand at meetings, selling books and giving talks to other societies. Ian Rumsey promotes the Society, helps with our annual raffle and always has ideas on fund-raising. Tricia Blombery, Maureen Salier and Graeme Napier, other committee people willing to help with special projects. Thank you also Pamela Stewart, membership secretary, Barry Simmons, auditor and David Cass, solicitor (especially for his legal expertise at the end of 2002).

I make special mention of newsletter editor extraordinaire Richard Blair, who is a good sounding board for ideas. A person I can truly call friend, meeting him through MHS when I became treasurer in his last term as president. We work well together and he always has the best interests of

MHS and members at heart. His work with the newsletter is invaluable. I speak for all of you when I congratulate him on this publication which is "the voice of the Society". After Gopher Graphics ceased production of the newsletter, Richard went through a steep learning curve to produce the June newsletter and I know it will continue to evolve.

I was thrilled to accompany past president and life member Shirley Hilyard to the ceremony where she received her Centenary Medal, along with other members, from Member for Grayndler Anthony Albanese. It was a very moving morning. Shirley's medal was for "services to heritage conservation through the Marrickville Heritage Society".

Thanks to Marrickville Council for allowing the use of this town hall, not just for our monthly meetings, but Heritage Watch & Executive Committee meetings. We continue to have strong ties with council staff, newcomer Natasha Trepezanovski, the archivist who replaced Vivienne Larking, still a member, and Chrys Meader, life member and foundation member of MHS and now Historian, Marrickville Council; and another good friend and former work colleague of mine. Chrys and I keep each other informed of happenings in the LGA and she promotes Marrickville, our publications and MHS at every opportunity.

As a Society, we try to keep up with the changing times, such as the web site. The Society has continued with this initiative and we have had numerous inquiries from interested people from as far away as England, New Zealand, Western Australia and Queensland doing research. This is a two way street as six people have joined the Society and others have purchased our publications. Thanks to my daughter Lisa Angus, a member, for maintaining this site on a voluntary basis; also for helping with printing of flyers and notices and giving me computer support.

Further, a note was put on the bottom of the fee reminder slips asking if members would like to receive their newsletter via email. So far 19 have responded in the affirmative. I will be in touch with these people to work out the details, but be assured a paper newsletter will always be available.

Diane McCarthy



2002-03 executive committee standing from left Richard Blair, Ellie Zinsmeester, Ian Rumsey, Diane McCarthy, Robert Hutchinson, Angela Phippen, Graeme Napier, Stuart Grigg, sitting Peter Cousens & Tricia Blombery. Absent Lorraine Beach & Maureen Salier.
(photo: Scott MacArthur)

Established in 1916 **Morling Theological College** is Australia's largest and second oldest Baptist theological college. Originally called the NSW Baptist Theological College, from 1922-26 it was located in the Petersham Baptist Church. Information is sought, not about the church, but about those college years for a publication planned for 2006. Anyone able to assist can ring archivist Ron Robb (9636 7330) who has extensive information on local Baptist churches.

Music for Oboe: David Nuttall oboe, Susanne Powell piano, Prescott Hall, Newington College on Sunday 10 August 2.30 pm \$20, \$15. All welcome.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 26 JULY

Historic Campbelltown & Beyond

Details front page

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST

Sydney Tramways 1861-1961 with Peter Sage

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

Restaurant Portugal

Details August newsletter

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

**Petersham Promenade to Trethaway
for morning tea (History Week event)**

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Canterbury/Ashbury walk incl. Beulah Vista

CENTENARY MEDAL PRESENTATION



*MHS members Ron Wiebe, Chrys Meader, Shirley Hilyard, Beryl Winter & John Mara after receiving Centenary Medals from Anthony Albanese (3rd from left) on 10 June at Petersham RSL. See May 2003 newsletter.
(photo: Diane McCarthy)*

NORMAN MCVICKER OAM

The Society congratulates **Norman McVicker** on being awarded the OAM (General Division) in the Queen's Birthday 2003 for "service to the performing arts, particularly theatre, and to the community of Mudgee". Norman formed the St Peters Players in 1947 out of which grew the Pocket Playhouse, one of Sydney's most respected Little Theatres in Sydney from the 1950s to the 1970s. He also established a children's theatre there and was instrumental in giving many well known theatre people their start in the profession. He was a member of the Playwrights Advisory Board and served on several judging panels.

After retirement (as a Qantas auditor) to Mudgee, Norman maintained a strong involvement in young people's theatre. He saved the Eurunderee Provisional School (where Henry Lawson was educated) near Mudgee from demolition and had the site placed on the National Heritage Register. It is now a treasure house of 19th century educational artefacts. He conducted regular local literary and historical walks and bus tours and for years has written a weekly column in the *Mudgee Guardian* about Henry Lawson, literary and local history. He also fostered a better understanding of Aboriginal history by writing a treatise on the large Wiradjuri Tribe. All part of a lifetime of achievement. Well done Norman!

LOSING & WINNING AT COUNCIL

Marrickville Council has appointed **Peter Mann** as its new Urban Planning and Heritage Officer. The Society understands that his background is more in the planning field. While the Society is happy that this is a full time position, we hope that heritage issues will not be swamped by the pressing urban planning issues that are developing in Marrickville.

89-97 New Canterbury Road, Petersham was a two storey row of five shops which had a plain façade with an ornamental parapet. The building was located on a bend in the road and was highly visible, and as such it made a significant contribution to the commercial streetscape of New Canterbury Road. Late in 2002, council approved the demolition of the building for the erection of a shop-top residential development with the heritage façade retained and restored. As the building was not individually heritage-listed, council could not be convinced to require the full retention of the building, and the compromise of retaining the façade was approved.

Unfortunately, during the demolition works, the façade became unstable and the builder/developer returned to council, wishing to *demolish the façade due to concerns that it is not structurally sound and that retention would be difficult and expensive* (quoted from council officer's report). The developer provided three engineers' reports to support this conclusion.

Council sought advice from one of the most respected structural engineering firms in Australia, which completely and scathingly refuted the builder's claims, pointing out that if the builder had installed the temporary propping that the builder's own engineer had documented, the façade would never have become unstable.

Unfortunately, the persuasive powers of the builder and the progressive deterioration of the façade convinced a majority of councillors to accede to his request and the façade has now been demolished. The Society despairs that such blatant flaunting of council's approvals can be so rewarded.

Regretfully it seems **43 George Street, Marrickville** (see last newsletter), the Italianate Victorian terrace featured in Morton Herman's book, is set to meet a similar fate. Council has approved its demolition for a new characterless town house development. With the approved DA bedded down, the developer has put the property back on the market.

And finally, in a surprise move, council unanimously voted to save **Hebden**, the 130 year old sandstone house at **34 Station Street, Newtown** from demolition and replacement with two houses. It would appear that concerted lobbying of the mayor and councillors by local residents and others convinced council of the significance of this property. The thwarted developer has put the property on the market. The Society trusts that assurances given by councillors to concerned neighbours about requiring the owners to secure and maintain the property are pursued. The Society also hopes that the taxi that took away **Hebden's** fireplaces will now return them.

Scott MacArthur

PRESIDENT Diane 9588 4930

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823