

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Hurlstone Park Heritage Walk

Saturday 22 May 10.15 for 10.30 am start

Meet at Hurlstone Park Railway Station. Car park in Floss Street. Cost \$5 includes morning tea. Advise if you cancel. Bookings Diane 9588 4930.



Hurlstone Park War Memorial, Euston Reserve
(photo: Gordon Lees)

Lesley Muir and Brian Madden from the Canterbury & District Historical Society (and MHS) will be our guides through some excellent Federation precincts and the sites of two former suburban brickworks. We will look at the building styles of the various builders, many who lived in Marrickville. Morning tea will be served in Euston Reserve where you will hear stories of the World War I experiences of some of the builders of Fernhill, original name of Hurlstone Park.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Alan Jobling, Eva Krynda & José Escoriza, Su & Bob Langker, Mark (rejoined) & Megan Maloney, all from Dulwich Hill; Renee Nightingale, Lewisham; Nicole Guymier & Peter Lightbody, O'Brien family, all from Marrickville; Prue Foreman (Newtown South Main Street Program); Judy McLaughlan, Newtown; Richard Stuart, Petersham; Gloria Muir, St Peters; Winsome Evans, Chippendale; Fay Young, Roselands; Jeff Langsworth, Korumburra, Victoria.

20TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH: 24 APRIL 2004

As far as anniversary celebrations go, this was as good as it gets! Following Sue Jackson-Stepowski's stimulating brick footpath talk (see report inside), most stayed on at the Herb Greedy Hall with glass in hand to view the comprehensive array of photographs, cuttings, old newsletters and scrapbooks or to peruse or acquire books from our stall. Following our delicious smorgasbord lunch, MHS President Diane McCarthy welcomed the gathering pointing out it was ten years ago to the day the tenth anniversary was held at *Trethaway*. Diane gave the apologies and introduced the speakers, largely ex presidents. They spoke about the early heady days of the Society, the highs and lows of heritage conservation and the ongoing achievements and success of MHS.

2004 is the Year of the Built Environment

Inaugural president Barbara Le Maistre reminded us that the Heritage Society was built on the financial foundations of the old Marrickville Historical Society, and acknowledged the contributions of the late Eve Sharpe, vice president for five years and former MHS patron. Richard Cashman said he found it astonishing that MHS is 20 years old and recalled the excitement of the first meeting upstairs at Petersham Town Hall. This after Town Planner Peter Arnett took steps in late 1982 that initiated the Fox Marrickville Heritage Study and the formation of MHS. Heritage was then, as now, *problematic* with the illegal demolition of Rose's Emporium and *Brockleigh* which led to a visit from the then Minister for Planning Bob Carr to a packed meeting at Marrickville Town Hall (see inside story).

Chrys Meader recalled the Society's strong push for the 1988 return of the Winged Victory to outside Marrickville Town Hall and how it became the masthead for the Society. Chrys paid tribute to the late John Zinsmeester who inspired the saving of St Clements spire. She urged the history of the society be written in time for the 25th anniversary.



The

Lunch climaxed with the cutting of the superb 20th anniversary cake made by Robert Hutchinson and handsomely iced. About 90 attended including seven of the twelve councillors, among them new Mayor Morris Hanna. All former presidents came, except Bob Thompson (who lives far away) and the procession of presidents was photographed. Shirley Hilyard thanked Diane and her team for organising this joyful, informal and most memorable day of celebration.

Richard Blair



Three ex MHS presidents Geoff Ostling, Judith Matheson & Lindsay Smyth admiring cake at 20th anniversary (photo: Scott MacArthur)

OUR LAST MEETING

HISTORY OF LOCAL BRICK FOOTPATHS

At the Society's Heritage Festival event on Saturday 24 April at Herb Greedy Hall **Sue Jackson-Stepowski** spoke of the brick footpaths in the Marrickville LGA,. She surprised us by saying there are 65 brick footpaths remaining in the LGA.

Her searches in the council archives, whilst a heritage adviser for Marrickville Council, showed how each householder was required to pay half the cost of the paving laid in herringbone or stretcher pattern to the full width from the boundary to the kerb and guttering. Householders then were keen to keep dust and weeds down as most streets were unpaved. Sue said the footpaths were constructed in phases, with liver-coloured bricks after the Great War on to reddish-coloured bricks during the 1930s.

Were they just part of a Work Relief Scheme during the Depression? Brick paving requires much more labour and skill than asphalt paths and they used good-quality, hard house bricks. The councils clearly wished to subsidise the local brickmakers whose sales were falling as the house-building activity moved westwards and was served by the Government Brickworks at Homebush.

Brick footpaths require good maintenance. Sue told of the problems of motor car traffic, lackadaisical contractors and the 1970s fashion for Melaleucas planted in the footpath rather than the carriageway. She also indicated that the brick footpaths in Ryde, Randwick and Cessnock municipalities have been mostly replaced, thus making Marrickville's brick footpaths worthy of a State Heritage Register listing!

Mark Matheson

In response to the anniversary trivia question on street name derivations member (and MHS runner) **Iain Carolin** was presented with a bottle of wine at our April meeting for his article on Yelverton Street Sydenham in last newsletter. **Kimberley O'Sullivan Steward**, unable to attend, also won a bottle for her Wardell Road item.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

On 24 April, during Marrickville Heritage Festival, Council's contribution was a **vintage bus tour of three major conservation and redevelopment sites** of the LGA. At the former **Eversleigh Hospital** (c. 1907)

Addison Road Petersham, the Nurses Home and administrative building have been valued as honest structures and preserved and converted into apartments and studio dwellings, albeit some very small. Alongside is a multi-storeyed block of apartments in harmony with the old catering for a mobile dweller with underground parking galore. The architect of the Nurses Home was J. Burcham Clamp and, it is thought, of the administrative building as well. But where is the heritage-listed garden fronting Addison Road?

Another site was the converted former **Starkey's Ginger Beer and Cordial Factory**, more recently Aladdin Industries, corner Bridge and Salisbury Roads, Stanmore. Developed by Amitran, Bridge Studios has created 28 small business spaces with 40 tradesmen using recycled material such as rough-hewn ironbark columns and warm timber cladding. We could only marvel at what has been wrought here.

The last site, the former **Waratah Flour Mills**, Terry Street Dulwich Hill was of great interest to MHS as groups had inspected it as a working flour mill in May 1999. The 'Mill', 'Annexe', 'Cottage', and the cluster of six 'Silos' have all been retained and are instantly recognisable from their exteriors.

Unfortunately as they are all occupied we were unable to view any apartments. The 'Silo' with circular walled rooms would be especially exciting. To see how CPG Developments has overcome complex structural, heritage and environmental constraints and adapted these industrial structures to contemporary apartments is breathtaking in its boldness.

All three developments were nominated for the Marrickville Medal. We were conveyed by Leyland double decker buses in original green and cream livery once so common in Sydney by the dedicated team from the Bus & Truck Museum, Tempe who we thank. Of course we did "not speak to the driver whilst the bus was in motion". Thanks to Council's Vince Connell who arranged the tour.

Shirley Hilyard



Ken Turner, Mayor Morris Hanna & ex president Shirley Hilyard at the 20th (photo: Scott MacArthur)

2004 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

There were eight entries in the tenth Marrickville Medal for Conservation for Commercial, Industrial & Public Building Works and the judges were impressed by the high standard of the entries. About 50 attended the Medal ceremony at Petersham Town Hall on Sunday 2 May. On show was an impressive display *Tales of the Marrickville Built Environment* produced by Mark Matheson. Also displayed were the Medal entries. Deputy Mayor Sam Byrne was MC and official guests Chris Johnson, NSW Government Architect and Diane McCarthy, MHS President. In planning for the future Chris Johnson spoke about finding the right balance between the natural and built environment and the importance of good design and adaptive reuse.

Winner of the Medal was **Bridge Road Arts & Industry**



Centre, formerly Starkeys Ginger beer & Cordial Factory in Stanmore. Architects Humphrey & Edwards; developer Amitran. The judges said: "Close attention to detail has achieved the conservation of the original factory structure while sensitive adaptation has resulted in successful conversion to modern uses with extensive use of recycled building materials, new ironmongery and sympathetic modern additions". (photo: Robin Hedditch)

Highly Commended was the Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore – Lahz Nimmo Architects. Judges found "an exciting blend of old and new". Commended were The Palace Pantry, 49 Palace Street, Petersham and the former Waratah Flour Mills, Terry Street, Dulwich Hill.. The judges were architects Darren Graham and Elisha Long and past MHS president Peter Cousens. Thanks to Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee for organising this event.

Richard Blair

NEW COUNCILLORS CONGRATULATED

The Society congratulates the 12 councillors elected to Marrickville Council on 27 March. Incoming Mayor Cr Morris Hanna was first elected to Council in 1995. Cr Hanna migrated from Egypt in 1956, is a local businessman and president of the Marrickville Chamber of Commerce. He succeeds Cr Barry Cotter who had been Mayor of Marrickville since 1991 except for six months when on leave. Former MHS member Doug Pereira served for six months as mayor in 1993-94. Deputy Mayor is Cr Sam Byrne.

FROM OUR APRIL 1994 NEWSLETTER

(Editor: Judith Matheson)

* MHS Celebrates 10 Years

In Heritage Week 1984 a Heritage Study for the Marrickville Municipality was launched. The Study was commissioned by the Department of Environment & Planning and Marrickville Council. At the launch the Chief Town Planner, Peter Arnett invited those interested to meet again to form the Marrickville Heritage Society. That meeting took place on April 28 1984 at Petersham Town Hall and a committee was formed with Barbara Le Maistre as foundation president. The society was affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society. The new society's constitution listed its aims as to protect, conserve and document our heritage – natural, built and cultural.

* **Our Last Meeting** (of 26 March 1994) was headed **Sydney's Face To Smile Again**. **Lindsay Smyth**, then treasurer, later president of MHS (1994-95) reported on the MHS visit to the site of Luna Park: "Our guide was Sam Marshall, architect and a member of the Luna Park Reserve Trust which administers the Luna Park Reserve. ... The Art Deco entrance towers have been rebuilt, and Crystal Palace and Coney Island are well on the way to refurbishment. These three structures have already been painted and give a touch of fantasy to the mostly bare construction site. The highlight of the visit was our tour of Coney Island, which brought back memories for so many of us. One of our members told how the boys would wait to see the skirts of the girls blown up by the blast of air on the 'wonky walk'." (Ironically Luna Park has just recently reopened.)

ANZAC DAY 2004

For the first time in years, the **Tempe Tram Depot World War I Memorial** was the focus of a Dawn Service. The traditional ceremony was well attended by residents of all ages, representatives of Marrickville Council including Marrickville Mayor, Cr. Morris Hanna, the RSL and local community groups. Rev. Tom Halls of St Peters Anglican Church Cooks River, led the prayers in appreciation of the sacrifice of those who served and those still serving. Floral tributes were laid, the Last Post and Reveille were movingly played, Cr. Hanna recited the Ode of Remembrance, and the ceremony closed with the national anthem. Some then adjourned to the tram shed for a warming cup of tea, while others dropped into the local pub for more traditional Anzac Day refreshments.

Lori Short of the Tempe Community Centre has long campaigned to stage a ceremony at Tempe, and the recent drama surrounding the storm damage and restoration of the memorial only increased her determination. Her lobbying of State Transit for permission was only successful at the last moment. That the ceremony was organised and staged at such short notice is a credit to her, the Tempe Bus & Truck Museum volunteers, Marrickville Council, the RSL and St Peters Church. May this ceremony become an annual event!

Scott MacArthur

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 22 MAY

Hurlstone Park Heritage Walk

Details on front page

SATURDAY 26 JUNE

Annual General Meeting

Bill & Scott's Vietnamese Ventures

HERITAGE 12 SPONSORSHIP

The Society has had a fairly good response from members to its appeal for sponsors for our journal *Heritage 12*. However it is not too late if you are still considering sponsorship. All sponsors to be acknowledged in *Heritage 12*. Send cheque or money order to PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Enquiries Shirley 9569 1768.

WHAT'S INVOLVED ON MHS COMMITTEE ?

The 20th Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday 26 June and, as usual, all committee positions will be up for re-election. For anyone considering joining the executive committee there is a 2-3 hour meeting on the first Monday of every month, except January, at 7 pm at Petersham Town Hall. The committee conducts the business of the Society and committee members are expected to assist at our monthly public meetings and other activities as much as possible.

New Treasurer Sought: Our treasurer of the past two years Stuart Grigg has indicated he will not be standing for re-election. This is a vital position on the committee and does not require formal qualifications. If you want more specific information on the role of treasurer or on any other committee position contact our president Diane 9588 4930.

Concert at Prescott Hall, Newington College

Sunday 23 May 2.30 pm

Russian Music (Rachmaninov, Shostakovich etc.) for cello & piano. Susan Blake, cello; Phillip Shovk, piano.
\$20, \$15 concession.

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Concert at St Peters Anglican Church

Sunday 23 May 2004 4.30 pm

Brian & Enid Strong: duets for cello & piano; Karen & Phillip Bolliger: flute & classical guitar. Entry by donation to Heritage Organ Restoration Fund (incl. light meal served afterwards) 187 Princes Highway, St Peters. Enquiries 9557 3795 (ah).

SLIDE SCREEN DONATED

The Society would like to thank members for their positive response to our slide screen search. **Ken Turner** not only generously donated a screen in good condition, but also delivered it. Thanks Ken! Thanks also to Cathy Law, Carol Phillips and Verona Rothwell who also offered screens, but Ken was first.

PRESIDENT & A/TREASURER Diane 9588 4930

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

FROM THE ARCHIVES

MINISTER VISITS MARRICKVILLE

(Following the illegal demolition of Rose's Emporium, Petersham on 24 August 1986 and *Brockleigh*, Marrickville on 13-15 June 1987, a MHS delegation (Richard Cashman, Gary Nicholls & Bruce Welch) met with Bob Carr and Member for Marrickville Dr Andrew Refshauge on 11 August 1987 re these flagrant breaches of the Heritage Act. **Richard Cashman** reported in the October 1987 newsletter on the ensuing visit by Bob Carr.)

"The Minister for Planning & Environment and Minister for Heritage, Mr Bob Carr, MP made an historic visit to Marrickville on 13 September [1987]. Prior to addressing a public meeting Mr Carr was taken on a tour of various heritage sites in the Municipality. Enjoying the delightful spring weather, Mr Carr walked along some important streetscapes and even inspected the interior of a fine Victorian house in Gordon Crescent, Stanmore. The Society hired a minibus so that the tour party could examine individual sites and also get a broader impression of whole precincts.

Addressing a crowd of around 200 at Marrickville Town Hall, Mr Carr announced some sweeping protective measures for Marrickville. **He stressed that there was the opportunity here "to save not just isolated buildings, but whole precincts with historic character"**. He added that the Government is prepared to use the full extent of its powers to preserve "irreplaceable items of our heritage". Mr Carr then announced a conservation package for Marrickville which included:

1. The imposition of Section 130 'no demolition' orders on 28 historic buildings in the Marrickville area.
2. 'A request to Marrickville Council to expedite the preparation of a local environment plan which identifies protective measures for buildings of historic significance'.
3. 'A warning that the Minister is prepared' to exercise his power to alter a local plan to ensure that heritage items are adequately protected.
4. The Minister 'called-in under Section 101 of the Environmental and Assessment Act, all development applications relating to Rose's Emporium'.

Mr Carr stated that the Conservation Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning will be conducting further talks with the Marrickville Heritage Society on the heritage items in the local study. I would like to thank all members of the Society for their support."

* * * * *

Would Bob Carr stand by these pronouncements in 2004, in the wake of the revised Marrickville Heritage Study being recently dumped? – Editor

1880s MURAL ARTIST IDENTITY SOUGHT

Keith Sutton reports that the historic 1880s mural at his Petersham home will feature in an early edition of the forthcoming ABC TV series *History Detectives*. Hopefully, screening the item might shake loose some information on his elusive artist 'E C Press'.