

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



2004 is the Year of the Built Environment

OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 26 June 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

The President invites all members to our 20th Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past twelve months will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary and several committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day.

After the formalities **Scott MacArthur** and **Bill Tarrant** will take us on a panoramic journey through Vietnam, a country and a people that are multicultural by war and invasion rather than by immigration. Our post AGM picnic will be held in nearby Jarvie Park, Malakoff Street. Drinks will be provided but bring a few sandwiches to share.



No, not in Illawarra Road Marrickville, but somewhere in downtown Ho Chi Minh City – from Scott & Bill's Vietnam ventures (photo: Scott MacArthur)

ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE

To maintain your MHS membership, please renew soon, submitting your fee with the renewal slip which should accompany your June newsletter. Fees are unchanged: \$12 concession, \$20 individual or joint concession, \$28 household or organisation. Non-receipt of a slip means you have paid ahead or the slip was lost in transit. Queries ring acting treasurer Diane 9588 4930.

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

After graduating from Sydney University I taught in a Marrickville LGA high school in the mid 1960s before going overseas and becoming a household name. Who am I and name the school? (Richard 9557 3823)

LETTER IN THE GLEBE 27/5/04

"The Marrickville Heritage Society would like to reassure members and the general community that contrary to assertions by Councillor Barry Cotter at a recent council meeting, the Society is not a "branch office of the Greens".

Our Society is apolitical and has members from across the full political spectrum, united in their aim to protect and promote the heritage values of the Marrickville area.

The heated and politicised debate last year about the Marrickville Heritage Study reinforced how important it was that the Society remain an advocate for heritage, independent of party politics.

Indeed, members of all the political groups on council attended our recent celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Society. We look forward to working with all of the members of the new council for better management of Marrickville's unique heritage."

Diane McCarthy

President Marrickville Heritage Society

276-278 Marrickville Road Marrickville

Council has been asked to approve yet another 'landmark' building for Marrickville Road, this one on the current **ANZ Bank** and adjoining sites on the western side of Alex Trevallion Plaza. The proposal is to demolish the existing two storey buildings and replace them with a five storey mixed use development that is almost twice the height of the existing buildings along Marrickville Road, and significantly larger than Council's planning codes would normally permit. The architects claim that the larger building will 'book end' the plaza, and 'reinforce the corner'. These abstract rationalisations do not excuse the admitted extra overshadowing of the plaza or the disruption of the existing scale and cohesiveness of the Marrickville Road streetscape.

The Society is also concerned that the height of the building will have a negative impact on the character and amenity of the plaza, which was identified in the Heritage Study Review as a potential heritage item. The Society believes that this proposal is an over-development of a sensitive site, and should not be passed by Council in its present form.

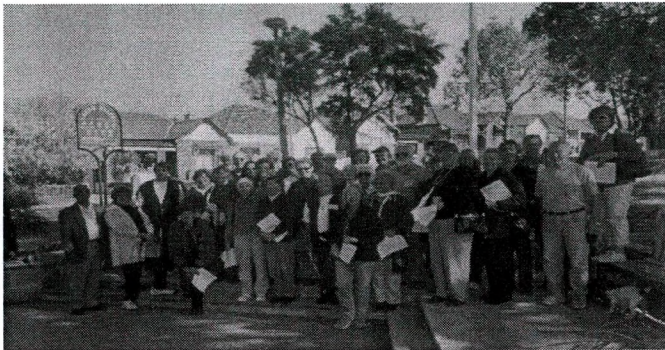
Scott MacArthur

Beecham, Czell, Sargent & SSO in Marrickville: inside

OUR LAST MEETING

HURLSTONE PARK HERITAGE WALK

Thirty five members and friends gathered at Hurlstone Park Railway Station on Saturday 22 May with our hosts MHS members **Lesley Muir** and **Brian Madden** of Canterbury & District Historical Society. Brian spoke of the opening of a new railway station between Marrickville & Belmore in 1895, initially called Fernhill (sometimes written as Fern Hill). In 1911 a local referendum resulted in the name of the suburb being changed to Hurlstone Park, after Hurlstone College (now Trinity Grammar) nearby.



*Hurlstone Park walkers in Euston Reserve
(photo: anonymous male passer-by)*

Lesley led the group up Duntroon Street & Wallace Street pointing out the various types of housing. Nineteenth century land use was mostly brickmaking and small-scale dairy farming. Anthony Blamire, of Crinan Street, who earlier had a brick quarry in Sydenham Road Marrickville, set up another quarry in Fernhill, with the soil being rich clay. Fernhill's real building boom took place at the height of the Federation period. In Melford Street observant members noticed that part of the footpath was brick, though covered by a thin layer of asphalt.

At the 1920 War Memorial in Euston Reserve Canterbury & DHS members provided refreshments whilst Lesley told stories of the "boys" who went to the First World War from the surrounding district, including many of the builders and their apprentices who built the suburb. Thanks to Lesley and Brian for sharing some of the interesting stories of this small neighbouring suburb whose history is not unlike Marrickville's.

Diane McCarthy

Sheer trivia this but the Society's 10th, 15th & 20th anniversary celebrations were all held on 24 April!

Two Randwick/Petersham batsmen had no chance to get on song against Northern Districts at Waitara Oval on Saturday. Both were out c. Nelson b. Eddy (reported in *Sydney Morning Herald* 11/3/2003).

Entry to **Australian National Maritime Museum** at Darling Harbour is now **free**. Open 9.30-5 every day. Current exhibitions include *Sydney's Working Harbour since Colonisation* (to 18 July 2004) and *Scrimshaw: Art of the Whaler* (to February 2005).

LOCAL DOLL & TOY MANUFACTURE

Shirleyanne is assisting author **Marjory Fainges**, of Brisbane in researching the Australian doll & toy industry. Marjory has written a number of books on dolls and toys including *Cyclops Toys Through the Years* and *The Encyclopedia of Australian Dolls* (1993). Shirleyanne is after information on local doll and toy manufacturers of the 1940-1950s.

Shirleyanne wrote: "I am a very keen doll and toy collector and enjoyed my dolls and toys when I was a child. During the Second World War the doll industry struggled and because of the war effort, restrictions were imposed on doll and toy making. Children had very little to play with. So the housewife, mother, doting aunt and grandmother stepped into the breach, with the aid of quickly designed and published paper patterns, and turned their artistic skills and talents to making dolls out of calico, felt and any other material that could be purchased (without clothing coupons of course) to fill the gap. My mother made dolls for my sister and me from any material available. Even mosquito nets were used to make bride dolls outfits and sugar bags to make teddy bears. I still have them and they're in good shape. I love them dearly."

"After the War there was a great influx of migrants looking for work. I suspect the prospective doll and toy makers came to the inner city area because factories or businesses there were not as expensive as the city to rent or buy. David Jones, Farmers, Grace Bros and Mark Foys commissioned many of the doll manufacturers to assemble dolls for them. By the late 1950s and into the mid 1960s doll makers were being forced out of business by the very liberal importing of dolls and toys from the UK, Hong Kong and Japan."



"Sydney doll and toy makers were wide-spread – Balmain, Surry Hills, Waterloo, Bexley, Bankstown, Ingleburn, Strathfield, Epping, Crows Nest, Willoughby, Mosman, Manly and in the city."

Ruth, Shirley & Marie Colbron, Vacluse 1932

Local manufacturers were plentiful: **Blue Bird Toys** P/L 408 King St Newtown (1940-42 & 1948-49) composition & soft dolls, unbreakable dolls heads, sleeping heads, dolls faces; **Cerutti J & Son** Brock Lane Newtown (1947-49) wooden toys; **Conmore Manufacturing Co.** 22 Enmore Rd Newtown (1948);

Globus Manufacturing Co. 33 Marrickville Rd Sydenham (1941-44, 1946-49) unbreakable dolls heads, sleeping heads, composition dolls and soft toys; moved to 60 Neville St Marrickville 1950; **EA Grey** 354 King St Newtown (1954) toys wheeled, wooden & fur, lacquered steel furniture; **Johnston & Webrie** Stanmore (1946); **Julian Art Products** 57 Shepherd St Marrickville (1940-44; 1946-52); **Lindsay Cowboy & Indian Suits** 90 Parramatta Rd Stanmore (1946, 1948-1951)."

"**E Lovelock** 31 Edinburgh Rd Marrickville (1940-44, 1946-52); **D McColl** 35 Juliet St Marrickville (1940-44); **Masco Toys** 11 Cardigan St Petersham (1941-42); **Merry Toys P/L** 31 Shirlow St Marrickville (1941-42); **Mildrite Plastic Models** 94 Layton St Camperdown (1948, 1950-51); **H Morella** 9 Lord St Newtown 1940-44, 1946-52) fur products; **SA Newman** 502 King St Newtown (1940-43); **Playcraft Products** 24 Corunna Lane Stanmore (1947-51) manufacturers "Playcraft" table tennis and shuttlecock equipment; **Wrightward Products** 312 Parramatta Rd Stanmore (1947-48) manufacturers and wholesalers dolls' heads, light and unbreakable masks."

"Close by were **EMCE Doll Co.** 190 Princes Hwy Arncliffe (1946-47) all types of dolls; **L & AA Hughes** 157 Princes Hwy Arncliffe (1941-42); **Model Engineering Products Co.** 23 Grove St Leichhardt (1947-49) "Scorpion" precision models and model fittings; **Olympic Racquets** Trafalgar Lane Annandale (1944-46, 1948-49) "Olympic Toys"; **Peerless Wheel Toys P/L** 51 Flood St Leichhardt (1940-44, 1946-52); **LG Pimblett** 77 Taylor Street Annandale (1946); **F Roebuck** 256 Norton St Leichhardt (1940-42); **Rozelle Wood Products P/L** 126A Flood Street Leichhardt (1940-42, 1947-52); **R Waddel** 726 Johnston St Annandale (1952) manufacturers & wholesale nursery furniture, prams – metal and cane, large range wood and metal toys. Also **Black Swan & Co.** – details unknown but possibly in Balmain area."

Curiously no listings for 1945. The Lindsay company listed above were relatives of Norman Lindsay. **Shirleyanne** can be reached on 9449 1999 or <mckives@ozemail.com.au>

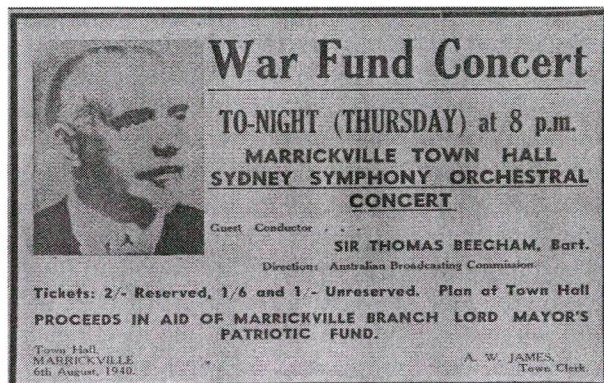
SYDNEY GPO BELLS MYSTERY

Murray Davidson has written "As a member of the Society I thought the following may be of interest. I recently read a 1988 book called *The City's Centrepiece: the history of the Sydney GPO* and found this information about Sydenham. We are all aware that the clock tower was removed from the GPO in 1942 and replaced in time for the Dawn Service on Anzac Day 1964. However a quote from the book reads 'the clock was sent to the Government Store depot at Shea's Creek, Mascot; the bells went to a special store at Sydenham; and the masonry and iron work to the Maroubra Telephone Exchange'" (page 84).

The storage of the bells was mentioned in our February 1998 newsletter apropos the rebuilding of the GPO clock tower. Murray ends his letter "as Sydenham is such a small suburb, where were the bells stored?"

SIR THOMAS BEECHAM & MARRICKVILLE

If you attended Marrickville Town Hall on the evening of Thursday 15 August 1940 you would have seen Sir Thomas Beecham conducting the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. The concert was made possible by the Australian Broadcasting Commission and proceeds went towards the Marrickville Branch of the Lord Mayor's Patriotic & War Fund. Admission was by silver coin. Beecham had "achieved a place all his own in the front rank of the world's conductors." Marrickville would be "the only suburban concert at which Sir Thomas will conduct, therefore seeing this notable figure in the music world is particularly unique". The concert was attended by the Governor-



Neville Cardus, eminent music critic of the Sydney Morning Herald, equally famous as a cricket writer, worked in Sydney in the 1940s. He wrote "Sir Thomas Beecham found a vociferous enough audience at the Marrickville Town Hall last night; we might easily have been at a Promenade Concert in London. The programme was popular in the best sense and a convincing proof to hundreds of people that the real composers, the 'classics', can write the heads off the 'swing' and jazz merchants when it comes to the making of tunes and dance rhythms."

With music by Mendelssohn, Elgar, Schubert, Bizet, Rossini, Grieg, Delius, Offenbach and Johann Strauss, Cardus wrote "this was evidence that the fashionable intelligence of the Sydney Town Hall does not hold a monopoly of sensitive attention. All the music was conducted with Sir Thomas's genius for the felicitously shaped line of song, and for the rhythm that truly dances. The playing throughout was excellent."

Other notable conductors to appear with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at Marrickville Town Hall were George Szell on 27 July 1939, (later Sir) Malcolm Sargent on 4 October 1939 and Prof. (later Sir) Bernard Heinze on 11 July 1940. Anton Dorati conducted the SSO at Petersham Town Hall on 6 June 1940 and Sargent also conducted the SSO at Newtown's Majestic (later renamed the Elizabethan) Theatre on 17 October 1939. Marrickville had its own municipal orchestra (1930-1945) under the baton of Frederick Hanney, but that's another story!

Richard Blair (article sourced from Hanney musical journals, owned by **Margaret Wright**)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 26 June
Annual General Meeting
Bill & Scott's Vietnamese Ventures
 Details on front page

Saturday 24 July
Marrickville Walk with Diane McCarthy

Saturday 28 August
Sydney's Ferries with Bill Allen

Saturday 4 September
Seminar: 'Gardening in the Inner West'
a look at Marrickville's garden history

Saturday 25 September
Coach trip to Fairfield area

The Society only recently learnt of the death on 1 February of **Evelyn Watkins** of Enmore aged 81. Evelyn had been a Society member since 1987 and had served on the executive, heritage watch and social committees. After raising her family she taught Japanese at the Open High School for some years. Evelyn's article *Slate Roofing* appeared in *Heritage* 6 and members had morning tea at Evelyn's Metropolitan Road house on the *Magical Mystery Tour* in April 1990. Ill health prevented Evelyn from attending meetings in recent years. Our condolences to Evelyn's family.

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Professor Joan Kerr, art and architectural historian, who made an enormous contribution to our knowledge of heritage, died late February. She is fondly remembered for her talk to MHS from the pulpit in St Stephens Newtown on Edmund Blacket in November 1992. It was wonderful and endearing to hear this erudite scholar refer to some architectural features as those *sticky-out bits* on the column in question.

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We note the recent passing of musician **Cliff Hanney** who played strings for the Sydney Symphony and Marrickville Municipal Orchestras (1930-45). He was one of the last links with this local orchestra which was founded and led by his brother Frederick.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

(**Shirley Doolan's** searches through the City Of Sydney Archives have revealed further excerpts from the Minutes of Newtown Municipal Council)

"From Mr Marcus Clarke asking permission to erect a small awning in front of his new premises, the late swimming baths in King Street and to lay the footpath with encaustic tiles. Received and the request complied with subject to approval of the Council officers." (Tuesday 11 August 1891)

"Alderman Cox desired that a letter be written to the Metropolitan Transit Commissioners to have an Inspector on the [Newtown] Bridge on Sundays and holidays to prevent the [horse drawn] buses from loitering and racing." (17 November 1891)

PRESIDENT & A/TREASURER Diane 9588 4930
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

HERITAGE WATCH

415 King Street Newtown

The Society is encouraged by this development that is seeking to reveal and reconstruct a mid-Victorian terrace house in the middle of Newtown's early twentieth century commercial rows. The two storey terrace house originally had a balcony and garden frontage to King Street, both of which disappeared with the construction of a single storey shopfront on the alignment of the adjoining commercial terraces.



The proposal will demolish the single storey shop front and reinstate the original building setback, with the courtyard to be an outdoor café. The terrace façade and balcony will be restored and low fencing will be installed at the King Street boundary line. The Society hopes that a sympathetic owner will one day rescue Stanmore House from its similar predicament.

Scott MacArthur

FROM OUR APRIL 1994 NEWSLETTER

By Tranquil Waters: Cooks River 100 Years Ago

(Sydney Long's oil painting *By Tranquil Waters*, reputedly of Cooks River, appeared in this newsletter.)

"In 1894 Sydney Long was just out of Julian Ashton's Art School and exhibiting his painting *By Tranquil Waters* at the annual exhibition of the Art Society of NSW. He was only 23 so it would have been very gratifying for him to have his first important canvas purchased by the Art Gallery of NSW.

Joanna Mendelssohn, art critic of *The Bulletin*, wrote about the painting and the location of the swimmers at Cooks River (although some say it depicts Wolli Creek) in *Heritage* 2.

According to H.E. Badham in *A Study of Australian Art* (1949) it is called *The Bathers*. But the painting is labelled *By Tranquil Waters* and for its centenary it is once again hanging in the old court of the 19th century Australian Art at the Art Gallery of NSW, along with Long's other decorative works. Badham credits the youthful Long's work with "refreshing fantasy, vigorous facility and spirit of adventure."

Shirley Hilyard

Note: Painting reproduced back cover *Heritage* 9 (1995)