

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Peter Sage on Sydney Tramways 1861-1961
Petersham Town Hall Saturday 23 August
10 am morning tea for 10.30 start

Photographer **Peter Sage** has been taking colour slides since 1958. He has recorded his experiences and travels both in Australia and overseas through this medium. Peter's phenomenal collection of colour slides is so vast he has assembled over 50 colour slide programmes which he shows to community groups.



Peter's interest in trams stems from a passion for railways – he belongs to the Australian Railway Historical Society. He will show the history of **Sydney trams** from the horse trams of 1861 through the steam, cable and electric tram eras to 1961. The slides also focus on the built environment as in Peter's 15/11/58 black and white photo of a Double O class tram in George Street opposite Sydney Town Hall. Not much has survived from **that** city streetscape!

It's Summer in Portugal ...

... Escape winter, just for the evening, and savour the culinary delights of **Restaurant Portugal** in Petersham. Enjoy tantalising starters ... *grilled chorico, octopus, calamari*; savour a main course ... *porca alentjana, chicken breast with mushroom sauce*; drool over dessert ... *chocolate mousse, crème caramel* ... and a short black coffee, along with Portuguese or local wines. \$45.



Enjoy the company of MHS friends and, numbers permitting, bring a friend along. 102 New Canterbury Road, Petersham. **Friday 29 August** 7 pm for orders at 7.30. *Bom apetite!*

Bookings essential: Lorraine 0416 224 472

Petersham Promenade to Trethaway
Wednesday 17 September 9.30 am
Meet Petersham Town Hall

Care for a midweek outing with the Society to celebrate History Week? Join this guided tour through parts of Petersham to historic *Trethaway Gardens* (1896). An inspection of the house and gardens will be followed by morning tea. Concession or MHS members \$12, others \$15. Numbers limited, so book early. Bookings essential: Diane 9588 4930.

No launch date as yet for 3 *Marrickville Potteries* but for a foretaste you can attend Redfern Town Hall, Pitt Street, Redfern on Sunday 17 August at 1.30 pm where **Robert Hutchinson** will give an illustrated sneak preview of the book. The talk will be preceded by South Sydney Heritage Society's 10th AGM to which visitors are welcome.

THANK YOU DONORS

A big thank you to all members who have promptly renewed membership. I would especially like to thank members who included a donation. If you have yet to renew, please pay soon – renewal slip with June newsletter. Your ongoing support is important for the continued success of the Society.

Diane McCarthy President

CALLING ALL JAM MAKERS!

With the season of fairs and festivals approaching we advise that a condition of our Public Liability Insurance is that donated edible items become the responsibility of the society. We ask that labels on jars of jams, marmalades etc. show ingredients and date made. Our next stall will be at the Marrickville Festival on 21 September – details next newsletter.

Concerned about our threatened heritage? Want to learn more about the history of the area? Joining the **Marrickville Heritage Society** is inexpensive and simple. For a brochure or further information ring Diane 9588 4930. Cheque or money order payable to **Marrickville Heritage Society** with name/s, address & phone number to address below. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

This is the 100th MHS newsletter produced by our editor **Richard Blair**. His first was in August 1994.

"NOT BAD FOR A TRAM GUARD"! LIEUT. JOHN LYONS REMEMBERED

Among the special guests at the re-dedication ceremony of the Tempe Tram Depot War Memorial on 20 June (see July 2003 newsletter) were Frank Ellis and his wife Joan of Griffith, and their daughter Jennifer Cooper. Frank is the 83 year old nephew of Lieutenant John (known as Jack) Lyons who is the leading name on the memorial. Fortuitously in Sydney, Frank was delighted he could to attend. Not only had he not seen the memorial for over 50 years, he was unaware it had been badly damaged in January. Frank, a World War II veteran, wrote the words about Jack Lyons that appeared in the October 1994 newsletter and were reproduced in *The War Memorials of St Peters Municipality* (2002, page 35).



*Sgt. John Lyons on right spotting with periscope
in trench at Gallipoli 1915, 17th Battalion AIF*

This picture is reproduced from a framed copy of the photo owned by the family. On the back is the service record of Lieut. John Meagher Lyons: "Military Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Military Medal. One of first nine men to enlist in Sydney. Service Record: **New Guinea**: August 1914-January 1915; **Gallipoli**: August 1915-January 1916; **France**: March 1916; July-September 1916 Wounded; March-July 1917 Wounded; Passchendaele, **Belgium**: 9 October 1917 Killed in Action." He was promoted to Lieutenant in France. After the ceremony at Tempe Frank quipped about his uncle "not bad for a tram guard!"

HISTORIC MARRICKVILLE FILM DONATED

Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader advises she recently received a donation from Mrs McGuire of Ballina of two 8 mm films of the 1961 Centenary of Marrickville street parade down Marrickville Road. The films were shot by her late husband, Kevin McGuire, from his shop. Some members may recall the McGuires had the newsagents at 249 Marrickville Road from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. The films are being transferred to videotape. A splendid donation made in memory of Kevin McGuire.

2002/03 HERITAGE WATCH & CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(Presented at our June AGM)

The last year started badly for the Heritage Watch Committee, with demolitions and despair. The destruction in September of 150 year old *Prospect Villa* in Petersham, shocked the Society and even the most jaded of our councillors. A flurry of 'tut tuts' from the Heritage Office and strong lobbying by members of the Society had the immediate effect of forcing Council to again notify the Society of DAs for properties in (draft) Conservation Areas. As it became clear that Marrickville had no Conservation Areas gazetted because of the Heritage Study Review remaining in limbo, the Society agitated for protection of our most significant areas and the proclaiming of the Review. Council responded by committing to listing the King/Enmore Street Precinct and Abergeldie Estate as full Conservation Areas.

The Society may also have lost the battle to save the Italianate Victorian terrace featured in Morton Herman's book at 43 George Street, Marrickville, although there is still the slimmest chance that a new owner and intervention by the Heritage Office may still save the day. The Society was also distressed by the negligence that allowed the façade of the shop row at 89-97 New Canterbury Road, Petersham to be demolished after Council had previously ruled that it was to be retained and restored.

But as the year progressed there were some hopeful signs for Heritage in the Marrickville Area. The Heritage Office stepped in and placed an Interim Heritage Order on *Ferndale* in Newtown, the only surviving structure of the long demolished *Camden Villa*, dramatically stopping its sale at auction. Council had previously ruled a house could be constructed on its driveway. The Heritage Office has commissioned a full assessment of the history and significance of *Ferndale* to determine how it should be managed and protected. We are anxiously awaiting its recommendations.

More heartening news came with the announcement of the long delayed appointment of Council's new Urban Planning and Heritage Officer, Peter Mann. The Society was also happily surprised by Council's unanimous vote to save *Hebden*, the 130 year old sandstone house at 34 Station Street, Newtown from demolition and replacement with two houses. And then the biggest surprise of all was the decision by Council to move to advertise the Heritage Study Review after years of indecision (see separate article).

The Society hopes that these recent events result from a more positive attitude to heritage issues by the majority of councillors. The implementation of the Heritage Study Review will require considerable goodwill and understanding by these same councillors. While the protection of these already identified heritage items and areas is crucial, one of the biggest challenges facing the Society is raising awareness of heritage items that have not yet been identified or listed. Councillors, developers, property owners and Council staff need to be aware that due to limitations in the Heritage Review process, places can still have heritage values and not be on a heritage list. Convincing these groups to respond considerably when a potential demolition/development opportunity turns out also to be a potential item of heritage interest will be an ongoing challenge for the Society.

Thankfully, members of the Society are vigilant and we get many alerts and warnings about threatened properties that are not heritage listed or that Council has not referred to us. But, another bright spot in the year has been the number of members and non-members approaching the Committee about wanting to get their properties investigated and listed as heritage items. We hope this will see the Classification part of our activities become more active. This year our committee members were Wendy Dyson, Mark Matheson, Caroline Plim, John Waterstreet and Alison Wright. I would like to thank them for their time and commitment. Any other member to the Watch committee is most welcome.

Scott MacArthur (Convenor,
Heritage Watch Committee)

OUR LAST MEETING HISTORIC CAMPBELLTOWN & BEYOND

When Alexander Spark of Tempe travelled to Campbelltown and Appin 160 years ago he was confronted with a forest fire, falling trees, runaway horses and his carriage breaking up under him after a rugged descent into a canyon. Fifty two MHS members went there in coach comfort on Saturday 26 July under the expert guidance of **Verlie Fowler**, a member of the Campbelltown & Airds Historical Society and a councillor of Campbelltown Council, which thankfully realizes the importance of its rich convict-era heritage.

We saw the town's early water reservoir (1839), hotels for the carriage trade (where Spark may have stayed), inside St Patrick's schoolhouse, *Richmond Villa* and *Denfield* farmhouse. These last two are small-scale 1830s sandstock brick cottages with detached kitchen. The challenge in all these visits is to imagine the lives of the original occupants through the overlay of a century's rebuilding or redecorating.

St Helen's Park House is a wonderful 1887 Gothic-style mansion with ornamented jerkin-head gables. Our visit was made more poignant in that one of our group is a descendant of its original owner, solicitor George Westgarth; and also in that the house was designed by George Mansfield, who was responsible for our own lost mansion at The Warren.

The other mansion was Sir Thomas Mitchell's country house *Parkhall*. The 1844 design has been added to with extravagant cloisters by Edmund Blacket and a grand but seemingly useless tower. However the view from the tower does emphasize the house's isolation (the pristine sandstone is untouched by city pollution) and its appropriate present use, as *St Mary's Towers* religious retreat. Thanks to the home owners, Verlie and Shirley Hilyard for organising the day.

Mark Matheson

(Note: Thomas Mitchell is buried at Camperdown Cemetery & our host at *Richmond Villa*, Campbelltown was Marie Holmes who belongs to MHS)



A Development Consent was given in 1999 for this property at **25 Grove Street Marrickville**. Whilst not a heritage item, it is of concern that the demolishers carelessly damaged the three old stone front pillars (third one to the left). Surely Marrickville Council has a duty of care to ensure that these pillars are restored in the property works! (photo: Diane McCarthy)

BLANCE'S BLINDS REOPENED!

Further to recent newsletter article *Blance's Blinds are Best* member **Graham Hunt** wrote: "Surprised to read the item in the June newsletter about James M Blance, blind maker. James Menzies Blance was my uncle's father. My uncle, James Thomas Blance, enlisted in World War I AIF on 15 May 1918 as a sergeant and served with the 34th Battalion in France. I have a photo of him taken on 7 April 1919, Blangy, France with a group of warrant officers and sergeants of the 3rd Australian Divisional Headquarters. He had a brother Edmond William Blance, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, who also served in France."

"James T Blance married Elsie Mckechnie (my mother's eldest sister) and lived at 6 Randall Street Marrickville. He was also a venetian blind maker for many years until he retired. The house, which still exists, is on a large lot with a garage/shed at the rear which must have been used as a blind workshop. I had a number of holidays with Uncle Jim and Auntie Elsie and my parents. Small world!"

But wait, there's more! Member **Joy Lewis** of Woy Woy wrote at some length about Mr and Mrs J T Blance: "I was so interested to read about James M Blance. Guess what? [His son] Mr and Mrs Blance lived at 6 Randall Street Marrickville. The Lewises lived at no. 20. My sister and I both remember [them] vaguely. They seemed a comfortable, quiet couple with no children. My vivid memory of them is that frequently outside their home would stand a sort of open van with plenty of room in the open back and *Venetian Blinds* in big letters along the side."

"Something must have raised their names one day with my parents when I must have been about ten (I was born in 1919) and I said they must be very kind and special people. I can remember my parents looking rather surprised and asking me my reason for that opinion and I said they took blind Venetian people for rides – maybe picnics – in their car. This was my first knowledge that venetian blinds were those slatted wooden blinds. My mother controlled herself and explained that though Mr Blance was doubtless a nice, kind man, he had another occupation than taking blind people from Venice and looking after them with rides in his open van."

RIVERLIFE COOKS RIVER FILMS

The recent *Riverlife Cooks River Video* competition attracted around 70 entries with 15 finalists. The winners were announced at a special Dendy screening on 5 June and subsequent screenings of the five minute video finalists have occurred. The common theme was stormwater pollution and keeping Cooks River clean, a seemingly impossible task. Chris Kezelos' winning film, cleverly titled *No Butts About It*, used humour to convey its anti-pollution message, but the overall standard was such that deciding the winner must have been difficult. These videos are recommended and deserve widespread exposure.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS (Details on front page)

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST

Sydney Tramways 1861-1961 with Peter Sage

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

Restaurant Portugal

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Petersham Promenade to Trethaway

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Canterbury/Ashbury walk incl. Beulah Vista



Not merely a collector of Australiana, but also a deft hand with the secateurs, **Robert Hutchinson** tackles the weeds among the Kangaroo Grass at Camperdown Cemetery. Nearby is bush regenerator **Nikky Greenyer**, grassland project supervisor. Scheduled working bees: 16 August, 27 September, 18 October & 15 November 9.30-11.30 am. Enquiries Nell 9335 2197. Penny Clay's photo appears in Marrickville Council's 2003 Our Community Calendar for the current July-September quarter.

LOCAL HISTORY ON COUNCIL WEBSITE

Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader advises that there is now a section on local history in the Marrickville Forum of Marrickville Council's website www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au. Members can send a question to the Marrickville Historian, or post information about the history of the area, or start a dialogue about local history. Chrys, a MHS Life Member, invites the society to post a message about MHS. Now there's an offer!

History Council's 8th Annual History Lecture – Dr. Rae Frances *History of White Slaves/White Australia: Prostitution & the making of Australian Society*. Monday 15 September 6 for 6.30 pm at the Museum of Sydney, Bridge & Phillip Streets, Sydney. Bookings essential: 9385 1070. History Council/Historic Houses Trust members \$35, adult \$40, concession \$30 including drinks & light supper.

HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW

Marrickville Council completed its first Heritage Study in 1986 (Fox Study). It identified 236 individual heritage items which were then listed and protected in the Heritage LEP. The Conservation Areas identified in the Fox Study were only granted draft status. In 1997 Tropman and Tropman Architects were commissioned to undertake a Heritage Study Review with a particular emphasis on identifying ethnic heritage items and rationalising the conservation areas.

The Review took three years and identified a further 391 individual heritage items. It also shrank and consolidated the Conservation Areas, identified areas of potential Archaeological interest and, perhaps most contentiously of all, identified Character Areas throughout the LGA. The Character Areas were defined as precincts that demonstrate the various social and cultural overlays that successive waves of new arrivals contributed to the area.

Council reviewed the document, and resolved only to advertise the new individual items and the Archaeological zones. In the first stage of this process, owners of the affected properties were individually notified that their property was a proposed heritage or archaeological item and their reaction was sought to the listing. The response of owners unhappy with listing was so strong that the rest of the advertising process was suspended. The Review has remained in limbo for the past two years, with proposed items under threat and lacking any protection. The Society's continued lobbying for the implementation of the Review has not appeared to have any results.

However at the last Council meeting, the Mayor of Marrickville, Councillor Barry Cotter, received unanimous Council support to a) advertise "all those recommendations of the Heritage Study not previously advertised"; b) "seek comment from affected property owners, the general community and interest groups"; and c) to provide "appropriate resources within Council to undertake this task within the next three months." Council also voted to "investigate how Council should deal with items that are not included but may rate inclusion in the Heritage Study including a proposed mechanism by which these items can be subsequently considered."

The Society looks forward to the Review finally being available for public comment. The Society will be offering support for the adoption of all of the items and areas identified in the Review, and will be submitting other items. We will pass on to members information on how they can examine and support the review as it becomes available.

Scott MacArthur

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