

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW

The HSR went before the Development & Environmental Services Committee Meeting of Marrickville Council on 1 December but the deadline of this newsletter precludes adequate reporting on the committee decisions. This will be covered comprehensively in our February newsletter. Over 1200 submissions were received most opposing the HSR findings.

The Council Officers' report is very negative. Some mistakes have been made such as removing items of State Significance (already listed on the NSW Government State Heritage Register) from the HSR due to owners' objections (44 Barden Street Tempe (remnant slab wall), Cooks River Sewage Aqueduct and Tempe Railway Station Group). Also items specifically nominated by the NSW Heritage Office for listing in the Heritage LEP because of perceived risk to the heritage value from their present owners or developers have been removed from the HSR due to owner objections (eg *The Towers* 15 Dickson Street Newtown).

The admission that the existing Draft Heritage Conservation Areas have already been abolished is outrageous as is the contention that existing planning controls provide sufficient protection for de-listed heritage areas. Given the pattern of demolition and development that the Society has witnessed in and out of listed areas in recent years (43 George Street Marrickville, *Prospect Villa* Petersham, recent proposals for *Trethaway*, Petersham) this proposal deserves only contempt.

The report makes no comment on either the matters raised by the Society in its submission regarding the negative impact of scare-mongering (illegal) propaganda or that Council had no Heritage Advisor throughout the advertising period. As predicted by the Society, the issuing of the original unreviewed Inventory Sheets has cast doubt on the accuracy of the whole HSR process (e.g. Spark period house in Tempe – with slab wall – which Council's Heritage Architect helped get listed on State Heritage Register three years ago: also 2001 Marrickville Medal winner)

The President Diane McCarthy and the executive committee wish all MHS members & their families a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

MEMBERS' POT LUCK XMAS DINNER
SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 6.30 for 7 pm
(Bookings Angela & David 9280 2429 after hours)

PETERSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

According to Meader, Cashman & Carolan *Marrickville People & Places* (1994) the Petersham Choral Society was founded in 1901 and from 1930 was called Petersham Musical Society. In the early 1950s June Bronhill (then Gough) played the leading role in *The Desert Song* at Petersham Town Hall. The magazine *The Amateur Entertainer* Sydney, Monday March 13 1926 Vol. 1 No. 3 described this society as "one of Sydney's oldest societies" and "many from its ranks have found positions among the professionals".



The Belle of New York was to be performed at [the original] Petersham Town Hall on 20, 23, 25 and 27 March and at Burwood School of Arts on 24 March 1926 under musical director Mr V. Peterson. The above picture from *The Amateur Entertainer* is of "Petersham Choral Society's Renowned Ballet". A copy of the Official Program is in the magazine.

ABSOLUTE FINAL FEE REMINDER

Annual membership fees were due in June and a friendly reminder has since been sent. We have stopped delivering newsletters to unfinancial members who joined in 2002, however longer term unfinancial members will receive an AFFR with this newsletter which, we trust, will **not** be their last. Fees \$12 concession, \$20 individual or joint concession, \$28 household. Address below. Queries Diane 9588 4930.

OUR LAST MEETING GORE HILL MEMORIAL CEMETERY

In a tour of Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery on Saturday 22 November led by Garden Coordinator Ron Heather and guide Fred Sinfield 26 hardy MHS members braved constant rain to delve into an earlier world of 14,000 souls buried between 1878 and 1974. It was then handed over to Willoughby Municipal Council to become a park, but fortunately The Friends of Gore Hill Cemetery was formed and saved it from that demise. Ron uses a method of "controlled overgrowth", as he cannot possibly keep the 14 acres in pristine condition.

The design includes a wide bricked and grassed carriageway which runs from the Pacific Highway through to Westbourne Street. There are many wonderful old trees, although some have been lost to the drought. The palm trees were planted in the shape of a giant cross. Although wet, the hundreds of yellow Coreopsis, tall white and mauve Ixias and some old heritage roses looked very beautiful. Forty graves were transferred from Devonshire Street Cemetery, demolished for Central Railway Station.

Many luminaries have been buried there, including William Tunks who founded the cemetery in 1868, architects William Wardell and Sir John Sulman, Harriette McCathie, retailer, Bernard Kieran, champion swimmer who died at 19, James Wilshire, 2nd Mayor of Sydney, David William Gregory, cricket captain, Sisters of St Joseph, ministers of religion and members of parliament. The huge Hordern monument (Hordern Bros and Anthony Horderns) near the northern boundary is circular with a vault bricked in to save it from vandalism.

Far too wet to lunch outdoors, we picnicked in a covered carpark and savoured Xmas cake, made by Robert Hutchinson who coordinated the event. Thanks to Ron and Fred the cemetery became alive to us, revealing a century of life and death on the North Shore.

Margaret Broadfoot

(Note: The President said it was a credit to our members for turning out in such wet conditions. Diane noted one Marrickville connection, Mary O'Brien whose headstone revealed she died at Lewisham Hospital in 1910.)



Early 20th century view of the main carriageway

CLICHÉS OF THE YEAR

We love clichés and every year throws up its fresh contenders: 'would you believe, 'between a rock and a hard place', 'level-playing field' and its sibling 'moving the goalposts'; 'and the winner is' was indeed a long time frontrunner, 'as they say in the classics' often gets an airing whilst a worthy stayer is 'and the rest is history'. 'Read my lips' and 'trust me' had long vogues.

Adolescents and young adults (including university students) seem to confine clichés to a single word. All-time classic: 'cool'. A previous generation found it obligatory to insert 'or something' into every phrase or sentence. A perennial favourite is 'stuff' which seems to refer to all sorts of stuff. 'Awesome' is generally anything but, whilst currently young people have an affinity with the word 'like', though not necessarily in the affectionate sense.

The standout cliché in 2001 and 2002 was "as you do" (or variants). Users became competitive and unexpected insertions often produced much mirth. This year's winner was undoubtedly "I have to say" (or variants). On analysis 'I have to say' conveys absolutely nothing but provides additional emphasis and keeps the listener in suspense.

I wonder what 2004 will produce? Not to put too fine a point on it I have to say take it as read that it's cool and no worries. But hello (upward inflection on second syllable), at the end of the day I'll just pick up my cricket bat and go home as you do, before out of left field someone moves the goalposts!

Richard Blair

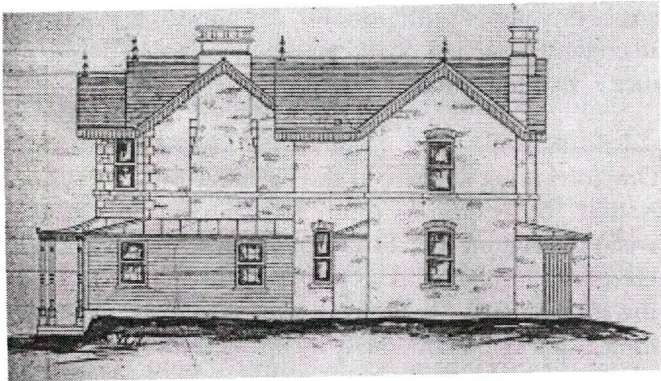
DR KEN CABLE REMEMBERED

The distinguished career of **Dr Ken Cable**, who died on 5 September, has been comprehensively recorded, inter alia, in the latest RAHS journal and magazine *History*. In 1995 when the federal government decided to demolish much of Sydenham, Ken (along with architect Jillian Lye) was commissioned to complete "an historical and architectural study of that part of Sydenham where aircraft noise has prompted acquisition of property." This provided Ken with "an excellent opportunity for an in-depth investigation of a small but significant district" (copy of study in Marrickville Council's Local Studies Collection).

When Tropman & Tropman Architects were commissioned to undertake the Marrickville Heritage Study Review in 1997, Ken researched and wrote the historical reports and appendices. Ken addressed the Society in February 1996 about the Sydenham Study and in June 1997 at our AGM with Lester Tropman about the progress of the HSR. With his keen interest in church history he also undertook research for various local churches. The Society extends its condolences to Dr Cable's family and friends.

HILDAVILLE & BONERA REVISITED

Members will recall the article and poem in our October newsletter relating to the Petherbridge residence *Larnook*, originally *Hildaville*, at 126 Crystal Street Petersham, which stood opposite Petersham Town Hall between the 1870s and late 1950s before being replaced by a service station and later Marrickville Council's carpark. A member has produced an 1887 Water Board map which clearly depicts the location of *Hildaville* and *Bonera*, designed by Blacket & Son around 1880, as almost half a block west along Fisher Street. *Bonera* was owned by solicitor Alfred Ja(c)ques; builder Leggo Brothers.



*Back elevation of House for Mr Jaques (Bonera)
Blacket & Son Architects 6 Dec 1880
(Blacket Papers)*

Research at Marrickville Council Archives and the Land Titles Office reveals that around 1920-22 the land on which *Bonera* stood was subdivided into three lots. An early 1920s Land Titles drawing closely approximates the drawing in the 1887 Water Board map of *Bonera*. A separate dwelling was built on Lot C (now 7 Fisher) and extensive modifications were made to *Bonera*. However there is evidence to suggest that *Fairview* (Lot A, now 11 Fisher Street) is identical with *Bonera* – old masonry at base of building, some window cappings and the remnant signs of original front roof ridge line consistent with old drawings. We await further enlightenment. (Thanks to Council Archives and Michael Egan for the loan of his maps).

Richard Blair

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Chapel Street School 1910 Pupils Reunion (reproduced from *Free Weekly* 22 August 1963)

"The Marrickville Businessmen's Club rang to the laughter touched off by joyful reminiscences of care-free holidays when 21 members of the 6th class (1910) of Chapel Street Public School attended their annual dinner last week.

All members agreed you had to be tough in those days, when it was standard practice to be tossed in to Daly's waterhole (on the site of where Henson Park now stands), or Cook's Waterhole (off Victoria Road), and learn to swim in the process of struggling back to the bank; to qualify for recognition as a true hopper-on of trams – the usual mode of free transport to

school – when it was belting along midway between stops at around 30 m.p.h.; to crawl through small diameter concrete drain-pipes for half a mile and taking chances of drowning in a flash storm just for the fun of it; to stand shivering in the "raw" in a canal waiting darkness to give cover for a dash home after Sneaking Sam, the local police sergeant, had swiped your clothes from the forbidden waterhole; to constitute yourself the school hero by copping a "sixer" every day for a week for cheeking the teacher or slinging ink over your fellow-seekers after knowledge.

They were the days when "Bonzer" Hurd was headmaster; and when that much-loved but long-suffering dominie passed on, the seemingly stern but kindly "Boss" Drummond became his successor; when the danger of being run over by a horse-and-cart was far greater than falling victim to the one-lung De Dions and Brushes and other primitive horseless carriages which any self-respecting kid could give 10 yards in 100 and beat handsomely; when footie was played more often in bare feet than boots and when most youngsters got no more than a "zack" pocket-money per week.*

A surprising proportion of that original class of about 50 are still on deck, though scattered in many towns and states. An almost 50% roll call at the reunion after more than half a century is not bad going. It is hoped by the president Paul Morton and the secretary Charlie Willis that at next year's reunion dinner in early May other ex-scholars of much the same vintage may care to come along."

* five cents

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

MHS had another successful day at this year's Newtown Festival on 9 November. Although we again had the extra stall space and the weather was perfect, our takings were down on last year. This is probably due to the numerous festivals and their changing nature – loss of local significance and tending to always look the same. Stalls from non-profit organizations which add local and individual flavour have almost disappeared. Festival organisers could encourage these groups with specially priced stalls.

Thanks to all members who donated goods, and those who helped on the day: Robert Hutchinson, Ian Rumsey, Audrey Furney and our tenacious raffle ticket seller Ina Penning.

Peter Cousens

SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTION

My father Charles grew up in St Peters and became a minister. My mother was descended from Rev. Samuel Marsden and Rev. Thomas Hassall; her great uncle James Hassall was deacon at St Peters Church Cooks River. As a child I often visited my grandparents in Florence Street St Peters and my aunt at 8 Porter Avenue Marrickville. I was born in Burwood, Sydney and became a household name. Who am I?

HERITAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Susan and I recently went west. On our first night in Katoomba and having stayed at the *Carrington* before, we decided to try something new. We came across an appropriately named *The Mountain Heritage*, built high on a hill looking towards the cliffs of Jamieson Valley. Like all buildings of that era it has quirky features – large sitting rooms with large lounges and fireplaces; when people walked down the hallway the floorboards in our room creaked. To add to the atmosphere the hotel has a large collection of photographs of Sydney in the 1880s.

I was fascinated by the variety of uses the building has had. Herbert Preston, a Sydney businessman and first representative for Nestlé, built it in 1908, calling it (what else for the time?) *The California*. He advertised it as a “coffee palace” – which was another name for **no grog** – a perfect location for honeymooners and ladies. Despite its ‘dry’ nature it evidently attracted many famous stage and screen stars.

During World War II the Department of Interior took it over to provide accommodation for female munition workers at the Lithgow (my birthplace) Small Arms factory. Then after the war it housed British Naval Personnel and their families who were recruited by the RAN to work on the new aircraft carriers HMAS Sydney & Melbourne (wasn't there a closer place than 100 kilometres from the sea?).

It later resumed its use as a hotel, with the ups and downs of Katoomba, while over a ten year period it has been gradually restored. To follow the phases of this hotel and to experience the restoration I found interesting with the fact that it has been used continuously for almost 100 years. It has gone with the flow and survived and isn't this what life is all about?

Graeme Napier (who steadfastly maintains this is not a free plug for the venue and that he and wife Susan paid their own way)

TEMPE RESERVE REOPENED

With celebrations featuring Marcia Hines the refurbished Tempe Reserve reopened on 30 November. Council is to be commended for its remediation work to this 18 hectare site beside Cooks River including the planting of native species and wetland creation. However the recent publicity failed to point out that \$0.6 million was paid to council for remediation of this site as compensation for use of park during construction of the sub-Cooks River rail tunnel.

TO AGING

I've grown accustomed to my deafness
My false teeth I don't mind
I can live with my bifocals
But I really miss my mind!

APOLOGY/CLARIFICATION/BRICKBAT

* Apology to Peter Chinn for omitting a line from paragraph two of his article on Dulwich Hill School in November newsletter. The second sentence should have read “I can still remember the names of many of my classmates though I have seen or heard of scarcely any since.”

* The publication *Interwar Gardens* (mentioned in footnote to November's report on Our Last Meeting) is published by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

* A brickbat to Australia Post for supplying a shonky box of envelopes with poor quality adhesive. We trust all contents reached postal members intact in the sticky-tape reinforced envelopes.

Editor

One intriguing statistic in the Heritage Study Review is that 106 responses (both form letters and otherwise) in relation to **2-14 London Street Enmore** were “received in objection to proposed listing” – **10% of the total negative responses related to ONE heritage item**. Apart from anxiously awaiting DAs for this significant set of like houses this degree of protest over one listing surely skews the overall result considerably! Nor is this the only example.

LOCAL RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS



Judging from the cross on the hat bands this was probably a local group of Red Cross volunteers or a Voluntary Aid Detachment during World War I. They are of all ages and are not uniformly attired. Woman at bottom left was Gladys Cridland (later Hughson), aunt of the late husband of June Cameron. Gladys lived in Thornley Street, Marrickville. Photograph from Frank Paine Studios 119 Enmore Road Enmore. Can anyone shed any further light? (photo from June Cameron Collection)

PRESIDENT Diane 9588 4930
TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823