

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



Details of *Our Next Meeting* on back

2004 is the *Year of the Built Environment*

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE STUDY REVIEW EVISCERATION

At it's 1 December 2003 meeting, Marrickville Council resolved to defer the listing of all of the **proposed 391 individual heritage items identified in the Tropman & Tropman Heritage Study Review**. Council will discontinue the advancement of all of the proposed Heritage Conservation Areas, with the exception of the Abergeldie Estate and King Street/Enmore Road. Council will also discontinue the proposed Archaeological Sites and the proposed Special Character Areas. Council is to seek comments on all of the deferred individual items from Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor and from the owners and neighbours of privately owned properties. Council will seek comments from neighbours of proposed Heritage Items, even if the owners are in support of the listing! The final disaster for Heritage in Marrickville is that Council has resolved to delete all of the existing Draft Conservation Areas that were established by the first Heritage Study in 1986 (the Fox Study). Council officers are to conduct a detailed public promotion of the current Urban Housing Development Control Plan.

The following Councillors voted for this motion: Pearce, Wilson, Kaiser, Cotter, Owen, Iskandar, Russell, Hanna and Thanos. The following Councillors voted against it: Byrne, Fitzgerald and Hale.

Marrickville Council has eviscerated the Heritage Study Review, that will leave most of the Marrickville LGA without heritage protection, wasting well over \$100,000 of ratepayers money and years of work by Council officers and consultants Tropman & Tropman. The Society has grave concerns for the management of items of Heritage Significance in the LGA. We note that:

1. Items that have been 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, including *The Towers* 15 Dickson Street and *Ferndale* at 31 Camden Street Newtown, still have no formal protection.
2. The contention that existing planning controls can replace the Conservation Areas and provide sufficient protection for delisted heritage areas and unprotected potential heritage items is frightening. 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.
3. The proposal for rejected potential items and new items proposed during the exhibition period to be further assessed by Council's officers is an empty promise. No timetable has been proposed and Council has no staff with the requisite expertise to undertake such a review. Council's Heritage Advisor has resigned from the post after less than six months, and Council has only just re-advertised the position. Prior to this, Council had no Heritage Architect for over a year after Catherine Macarthur resigned.

The final legal step to bury the Heritage Study Review will be Council applying to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to amend the current Local Environment Plan. The Society has called on the Heritage Office to intervene to prevent the proclamation of the amended LEP. The Society has also requested that the Heritage Office proclaim Interim Heritage Orders for all of the Heritage Conservation Areas and potential heritage items identified in the Tropman & Tropman Marrickville Heritage Study Review until such time as a valid exhibition of the Review has been enacted.

The Heritage Office must also issue Interim Heritage Orders for those properties that it has suggested Marrickville Council should consider listing, including 43 George Street, Marrickville, as a matter of priority and urgency. Marrickville Council has shown insulting contempt for heritage values in its own LGA. It has spurned and ignored the government and voluntary institutions that are chartered to protect these heritage values, for this and future generations. These institutions must act now to protect Marrickville's outstanding heritage resources from the calculated neglect of its own Council.

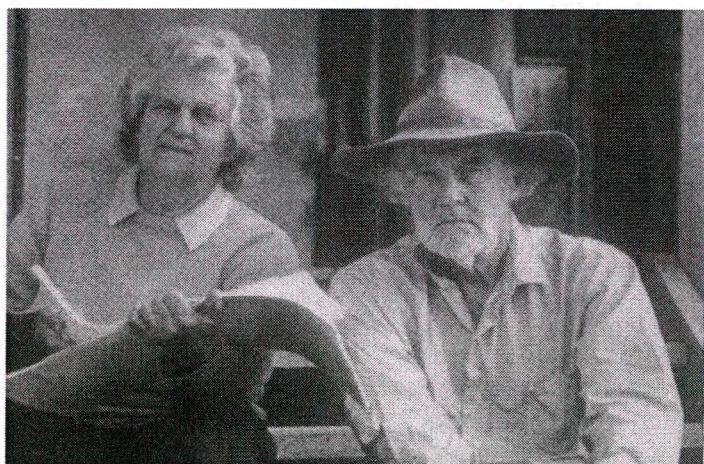
Scott MacArthur (Chair, Heritage Watch & Classifications Committee)

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWER MANNING CLARK'S LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Author of the six volume of *A History of Australia* **Manning Clark** never lived in the Marrickville area but his paternal grandparents and father did. On arriving from London in 1883, Manning's grandfather, a blacksmith and later a builder, bought a house in Brown Street, St Peters. Manning's father Charles "as a small boy was enchanted by the Rev. James Napoleon Manning, the Vicar of the Church of St Peter, Cooks River – a spell-binder in those days when men with such gifts found an outlet for their talents in the pulpit". Charles became a pupil and choir member at St Andrew's Cathedral school and was ordained as a Church of England priest in 1907. He also played cricket for the Petersham second eleven, later bettered by Manning who played for Oxford University.

Manning indicates his name was actually inspired by another Reverend Mr Manning, senior chaplain at a Sydney gaol. His mother Catherine Hope also had a connection with St Peters Church – her great-uncle James Hassall was deacon there soon after the church was built in the 1830s. She was also descended from the Rev. Samuel Marsden. His parents married at St Johns Ashfield and Manning was born in Park Road Burwood in 1915.

During childhood Manning moved with his family to Victoria but occasionally visited his Sydney relatives including his grandparents by then at Florence Street, St Peters. At 12, Manning and his father stayed with his aunt Alice at 8 Porter Avenue, Marrickville*. Alice was married to a German, Herman Heesch. The Heesches continued living there for some decades.



Manning Clark & wife Dymphna (nee Lodewyckx) in 1988

The two volume autobiography *The Puzzles of Childhood* and *The Quest for Grace* are soul-searching works with Manning constantly seeking answers and giving insightful sketches of contemporaries. *Quest* also a great love story. Manning died in 1991 and Dymphna in 2000.

Peter Chinn, who grew up in Stoke Avenue near the Heesches, inspired this trivia question whilst **Geoff Hassall** (no relation) wins the 'scratchies' for his correct answer. We wish Geoff all the best as he departs Tempe for a north coast sea change.

Richard Blair

* DA received to demolish this much altered house

SO WHO WAS HERBERT GREEDY?

With the Society's meetings now being held at the Herbert Greedy Hall many members have asked who Greedy was and why he had a hall named after him. He was a Marrickville Council Alderman from 1962 to 1968 but more significantly was a trailblazer in social justice and rights for the elderly and infirm.

Herbert Greedy was born in 1895 in Gunnedah and married Margaret Brown at Curlewis on 21 August 1915. The family moved to Marrickville in the early 1920s and there were seven children. Greedy worked as a foreman at a local bond store until he retired. Herbert and his four sons enlisted in World War Two, Herbert reaching the rank of Sergeant.

In 1959 Herbert and Council's Aged Services worker William Robb co-founded the Marrickville Old Age and Invalid Person's Association. The hall, formerly a Quaker Church, was opened in 1961. With financial assistance from Marrickville Council the committee purchased the building which was refurbished and reopened in 1963 as the Marrickville Old Age and Invalid Persons Amenities Centre. Sponsors included Marrickville RSL and Millers Brewery.

In June 1964 Marrickville Council purchased the hall but the Committee retained the day-to-day running of the Centre. Herbert Greedy was the President of both the Marrickville Old Age and Invalid Persons Amenities Centre and of the Stanmore Branch of the Old Age Pensioners Association. Margaret Greedy also played a major role in the Marrickville OA&IPA. She died in 1964, aged 68. Herbert died 17 July 1969.

(From material and Council records provided by Marrickville Historian **Chrys Meader**)

Editor's Note: The plaque at entrance indicates hall was opened 25 November 1961 by Mayor J.J. Fitzgerald. The hall was again refurbished in 1996 and an attractive mural was painted on an outside wall by artist Carol Ruff.

DULWICH HILL FAIR was on Saturday 6 December in Seaview Street. Why does Council persist in holding this fair in December when it is always poorly attended? It should be relocated to say autumn when there is no Xmas competition and more stalls can participate. MHS had the Anglican Church and Police on one side and the Communist Party and the Baptists on the other! Thanks to stallkeepers Angela, Richard, Lorraine and Diane and Pamela for donating plants.

When quizzed recently about filmmaking in the local area (*Courier* 5 January) the Mayor of Marrickville said "We have some quite unique buildings in the area and an urban environment that is easy to characterise as an older Australia, partly because of the natural environment and partly because of the nature of the buildings." Couldn't bring himself to use the word "heritage"!

"There are many questions Marrickville's Labor councillors must answer after their decision last week to dismantle most of the municipality's heritage protections. First and most importantly, how do they justify spending thousands of rate-payers' dollars on the preparation of planning rules they were apparently never prepared to support?

"Mayor Barry Cotter was right when he expressed concerns about the sweeping nature of the plans. If he were so concerned, why didn't he seek to modify them? Wouldn't this have been a more constructive use of council time and money?

"Labor has often made loud noises about its sense of history as Australia's oldest political party. Apparently this sense of history doesn't extend to Marrickville's environment."

MHS XMAS RAFFLE

Thanks to all members who supported our successful raffle drawn at our annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner. Winners were Deanna Saffioti, Keith Smith, Shirley Doolan and Jan Armstrong. Lucky door prizes – découpage pieces made and donated by former secretary Joyce Roy – won by Sylvia Hale, Richard Stuart and Richard Blair. Thanks to New Theatre for donating tickets (Stuart & Tricia) and to Angela, Peter, Robert, Ellie, Richard, Diane, Shirley and Ian for donations and organisation.

2003 POT LUCK XMAS DINNER

Our genial host **Ken Swinbourne** welcomed MHS members to his charmingly restored Federation Dulwich Hill home with its lush gardens on Saturday 13 December. Ken's home is near St Maroun's School, formerly the Carmelite Monastery for almost 90 years. (Ken has written an article for the next journal about the history of *Montlingham*, former home of the Carmelites.) Thanks to stalwarts **Angela Phippen** and **David Cass** for coordinating the evening and menu provided by members and to Ken for his hospitality.



Keith Robinson, Christine Cole, Nancy MacAlpine & Ted Green pitch in (photo: Diane McCarthy)

GETTING RID OF GRAFFITI

Whatever one's views on the NO WAR slogan painted on the Opera House last year, at least the anti-war protestors were making a point. Whereas scrawling ugly, meaningless graffiti on walls is usually mindless vandalism, especially if the walls belong to a building with heritage significance.

The photo below shows the appalling state of the **Dispensary Hall** in Reiby Street Newtown on the corner of Enmore Road. The building owners seem impervious to the problem. (Only after council action did the owners remove illegal signage which has damaged the building fabric. Unsightly posters are a further problem.) In some councils, officers are permitted to enter property and remove graffiti at council's expense in order to deter further defacement of buildings. Marrickville Council has no apparent policy on building graffiti removal, although to its credit Council did conduct an educative anti-graffiti program with *Graffiti Solutions* (photo: Richard Blair).



Some graffiti is positive as near some drains
BOTANY BAY BEGINS IN NEWTOWN

HELP NEEDED ON DARLINGHURST GAOL

I am a member of the Heritage Society and am writing a book on the history of Darlinghurst Gaol and the National Art School. The Gaol is near Taylor Square in Darlinghurst, behind the courthouse, and should be known to anyone interested in Sydney's early history.

The Gaol, built 1822-1872, was designed by Colonial Architect, Mortimer Lewis, and was based on the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. It was a gaol 1841-1912, then a military base and internment camp during WW1, and has been the campus of the National Art School since 1921. Seventy nine prisoners were hanged at the gaol, including Captain Moonlight, Jimmy Governor, Henry James O'Farrell, Louisa Collins and the [Mount] Rennie Boys.

I am a lecturer in Drawing at the National Art School, so I know the buildings well, and have been collecting photographs of the gaol and the Art School for over three years. I am keen to interview anybody who went to the Art School (also known as East Sydney Technical College) up to the 1960s. I am still looking for photographs, posters and any documentation. If you can help, contact me on 9519 3793.

Deborah Beck

REDEVELOPING PETERSHAM

Two current redevelopment proposals in Petersham may be the future for a Marrickville LGA without Heritage Conservation Areas. In **Audley Street**, behind the former Eversleigh Hospital Site, a developer has purchased five properties, with four existing single storey cottages and is proposing to demolish them and construct 13 double storey dwellings, with parking for 17 cars. The properties are in the Draft Newington Conservation Area, which Council now advises no longer exists.

The development is supported by a less than rigorous Heritage Impact Statement and a planning assessment that finds that the proposal complies with all of Council's LEPs and DCPs (except in relation to side boundary setbacks). The developers have modified their scheme at the suggestion of Council officers. Council would appear to have no grounds left to reject the development.

Across the railway line the **Petersham Bowling Club** is proposed to be subdivided and redeveloped for a new sunken clubhouse, with a bowling green over and 17 two-storey residences. The site is within the (former) Draft Petersham Park Heritage Conservation Area. The site has been a Bowling Club since 1896. The planning assessments supplied with the application again note that the development largely complies with all of council's requirements, and that it will make a positive contribution to the Petersham locality by providing additional terrace housing in an area where the provision of residential dwellings is close to its limits, and a new Club with up-to-date facilities.

Again, Council may request some minor changes to the heights of the terraces, but the Society believes that Council will be unable to refuse the application. The Society has requested that a full Heritage Impact Assessment be provided for the development, as no formal assessment of the significance of the existing building and site appears to have been done.

The Society notes that despite Council officers' advice that the Draft Heritage Conservation Areas of the 1986 Fox Study (LEP No. 111) ceased to exist at the proclamation of Council's LEP 2001, the professional planners who provided the numerous supporting reports for both of these developments all cited the HCAs as current and applicable planning controls.

These developments may comply with the letter of Council's development codes, but by excluding or rejecting consideration of the existing special character and qualities of these neighbourhoods – in other words their Heritage – they are destroying the unique urban fabric of Marrickville. There is nothing to stop this type of consolidated residential development spreading throughout the Council area. The Society is concerned that without Heritage controls, these developments are the best that Marrickville can hope for: blandly uniform 21st century high density residential living – *fediterraneanised* pastiche architecture à la Cherrybrook.

Scott MacArthur

Still going strong at ninety something the mellifluous voice of the incomparable **Alistair Cooke** can still be heard on Radio National AM 576 on Sundays at 11.45 am and 7 pm.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Herb Greedy Hall

79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Saturday 28 February 10 am for 10.30 start

MHS member **Margaret Wright** will present memorabilia relating to her forebears and former mayors of Marrickville Joseph Graham and Frank Wright, conductor of Marrickville Municipal Orchestra Frederick Hanney and his wife the late Olwen Hanney, who was also a local history writer and a MHS member.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

SATURDAY 27 MARCH

Outing to be advised

SATURDAY 24 APRIL

Sue Jackson-Stepowski's history of brick footpaths & MHS 20th anniversary lunch

SATURDAY 22 MAY

Hurlstone Park Walk

HERITAGE DEBACLE IRONIES

* At the 1 December Council meeting the two Independent councillors voted against the Heritage Study Review. Was this to appease the strong local ethnic vote? The 1997 HSR brief indicated that as well as a review of the 1986 study it was also "an exploration into the ethnic heritage of the area" which was recognised as being significant. The views of many ethnic groups were canvassed. But this was lost with the passage of time and not adequately communicated.

* MHS president recently received an anonymous phone message: "What is the heritage society doing about the demolition of those houses [#6-10] in London Street?" No contact phone number was left.

* Another committee member was phoned by a woman who said she'd rung council enquiring about how to get a heritage listing on an old local significant house. Council referred the woman to MHS!

* 2004 is the **Year of the Built Environment!**

Richard Blair



Two doomed Audley St houses (photo: Scott MacArthur)

PRESIDENT Diane 9588 4930

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823