

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

### VISIT TO *THIRNING VILLA*

Saturday 27 March 10.15 for 10.30 am start

(Note: this is Council Election Day)

Meet at *Thirning Villa* 40 Arthur Street Ashfield in Pratten Park. Parking in grounds & Hugh St. Nearest railway station Ashfield. Cost \$5 includes morning tea. Advise if you cancel. Bookings Diane 9588 4930.



Ashfield & District Historical Society will host our visit to their new rooms at *Thirning Villa* (1860s), the only surviving two storey Georgian style house in Ashfield. Built for a prominent doctor, Arthur à Beckett, *Thirning Villa* is now owned by Ashfield Council. Following recent refurbishment, it was opened in November 2003. Architectural Historian & previous MHS speaker **Bob Irving** will talk about the architectural perspectives of the house whilst other A&DHS members will discuss its history and the society's research collection. Also a short walk in Pratten Park, an inspection of the mosaic terrace and the society's research rooms with a photo display of district (photo: Ann O'Connell).

## HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

If you care about our threatened heritage or have an interest in our local history join Marrickville Heritage Society now and receive a bonus of membership to the end of May 2005. Send a cheque or money order made out to **Marrickville Heritage Society** with name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. For a brochure or further information ring Diane 9588 4930. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Members may recruit a friend with a gift membership.

## 2004 is the Year of the Built Environment

### SPONSORS SOUGHT FOR MHS JOURNAL

Our journal *Heritage* 12 is due to be published soon. *Heritage* 12 will contain a lively mix of articles on aspects of local history. We are currently looking for sponsors for the journal: already local businesses have pledged support by way of an advertisement. **MHS members can play a vital part and be a sponsor.** All donations sent to the Society (address below) will be acknowledged in *Heritage* 12.

Public, Community or Commercial projects are eligible for the **2004 Marrickville Medal**. Entries must have been restored, conserved or renovated within last three years; new building projects also eligible. Nominations close 2 April and the Medal will be presented on 2 May. Nomination forms & enquiries Council's Planning Services 9335 2222.

### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Why was your street so named? Can you relate an event of interest or of unusual significance that happened in your street or nearby? Answer one or both questions. Open to members wherever they live. Keep answer brief; 100 words maximum. Selected responses to be published. Write to Editor c/- Society PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475 or fax 9588 4930 or email <marrickvilleheritagesociety@hotmail.com>

Contrary to what some believe this Society is not opposed to development, but we are against unsympathetic or inappropriate development especially in heritage conservation areas or where heritage-listed buildings are concerned.

### OVERDEVELOPMENT FOR DULWICH HILL!

A DA has been lodged for a **seven storey apartment block of 64 flats in Dulwich Hill** where Herbert Street meets New Canterbury Road down to the corner block of Seaview Street. Apart from wanting to demolish an 1887 building and the Art Deco Interwar Seaview Street flats *Silverdale*, the bulk and scale of this development is ludicrous. But given that developers now seem to get virtually whatever they want, it has to be taken seriously. More next newsletter.

Come to the Society's **20th Anniversary Lunch** on Saturday 24 April following our monthly meeting. Details in April newsletter.



## REGISTERED MILK VENDORS

Corner shops are gradually disappearing but fortunately many are recycled into housing though the original use of these buildings is generally still obvious. The building on the corner of Simmons and Margaret Streets, Newtown was still a corner shop in 1983 but closed soon after and was converted into a residence. On the transom window over the corner door the fading words "Reg'd Milk Vendor" are still just visible.



MHS member **Kate Dunbar** spent much of her childhood in corner grocery shops, one at nearby **10 Ferndale Street Newtown**, which is still there (pictured above) though also now a residence. Kate recalls in the early 1930s her mother being charged and fined for illegally selling milk. When asked by the police why she did this Kate's mother said "my customers need to be able to get milk somehow!" She was fined, but being "a stubborn Welsh woman", refused to pay the fine and was put in gaol. However after a few hours she was released with a stern warning. Kate can't recall if her mother became a registered milk vendor, but they later had another shop on the corner of Leicester Street and Edinburgh Road, Marrickville before moving to Woolloomooloo.

## MARRICKVILLE'S WURLITZER ORGAN

The family of Franz Rudolph Wurlitzer made musical instruments for generations in Saxony, Germany before Rudolph migrated to America in 1853 setting up in Cincinatti what became the largest firm in the world making musical instruments. After acquiring the Hope-Jones Organ Company in 1910, Wurlitzer became the generic name for virtually all theatre pipe organs.

From 1917 several Wurlitzers were installed in NSW including, in 1924, one into Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre in Castlereagh Street. Noreen Hennessy and the "mighty Wurlitzer" became synonymous during her 19 years at the Prince Edward. Due to the closure and demolition of the theatre in 1965 the organ was purchased by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia to ensure its preservation and in 1968 was reinstated at Marrickville Town Hall.

Theatre pipe organs were designed to provide the musical accompaniment to the silent movies of the 1920s and include an array of sound effects such as steamboat whistle, auto horn, fire gong, bird whistle, horse hooves, telephone bell, pistol shot and surf.

Concealed behind grilles on both sides of the stage of Marrickville Town Hall are 827 pipes imitating the sounds of flutes, piccolos, tubas, oboes, muted trumpets, clarinets, violins, cellos, fanfare trumpets and the stately tones of the church organ. The pipes range in size from about five metres to around the size of a pencil. Real percussion instruments are installed amongst the pipes and these include xylophone, glockenspiel, marimba, cathedral chimes, tuned sleigh bells, celesta, bass & snare drums, cymbals, tambourine, castanets, wood block and triangle.

The Wurlitzer continues to be owned & maintained by the Theatre Organ Society, which presents regular concerts. The next Marrickville Town Hall concert is on **Sunday 21 March at 2 pm and features Jelani Eddington (USA). Tickets \$25, Pensioner \$22, Students (under 22) \$10. Bookings 9629 2257.**

(Sources: Graeme Rushworth *Historic Organs of New South Wales* 1988 & Neil Palmer, Organ Curator. MHS members are also referred to Frank Ellis' article *Marrickville's World Famous Wurlitzer* in *Heritage* 6 1990.)

## OUR LAST MEETING MARGARET WRIGHT'S MEMORABILIA

Such is the depth of family memorabilia belonging to **Margaret Wright**, that much of the material presented at our first meeting for the year on Saturday 28 February was different to what was shown at last year's AGM. What makes this collection so interesting is that it is closely linked to Marrickville's local history. Nine time Marrickville mayor Joseph Graham built his mansion *Lilydale* on the prime real estate which became the sites of Marrickville Hospital, Town Hall and Fire Station. Graham's fourth wife Rebecca McKay was matron of Sydney Hospital and Margaret has donated a large array of linen to the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation. Curator Elinor Wrobel brought this donated material for display.

Margaret's grand uncle Frank Wright was twice mayor, but in his many years as an alderman worked for numerous local organisations and duly received a MBE (medals shown). The Lionel Neate pictures of floats used in several Sydney street parades in the 1930s were indicative of a bygone age of celebration. Musician and conductor Fred Hanney was prominent in Marrickville's musical heritage (1920s-1940s). His wife and Margaret's aunt, the late Olwen Hanney was not only active in charitable organisations, but recorded local history for many years in *The Guardian* newspaper and for the Marrickville Historical Society. Margaret spoke about her pioneering family and, assisted by Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader, described many of the artefacts. Most of the collection will be on permanent loan to Marrickville Council's History Centre where it will be catalogued and put on occasional display. Thanks Margaret for again sharing this history with our members.

**Richard Blair**



## FROM OUR NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES: PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC AREAS

(This article, from the Society's fourth newsletter in September 1984, was written by our first president **Barbara Le Maistre**)

We are lucky in Marrickville that we can still actually see so much of our past. Some of our buildings have been sadly neglected, even damaged, but our smallest and grandest taken together make us one of Sydney's most historic areas. How is our value recognised? Partly by listings by the National Trust of Australia. St Peters Church and its graveyard have been classified because of their importance in NSW's history. Petersham North Conservation Area has so many 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses remaining that the whole area has been declared historic.

Our Federal and State governments have also passed legislation and set up bodies to actively encourage preservation and recognition of past relics. The Heritage Council of NSW and the Heritage Commission of Australia also list buildings. Recently the Heritage Council passed an order on *Grasmere* in Stanmore Road and the Heritage Commission of Australia has listed the whole of King Street, Newtown for its retail premises.

But what of the fate of buildings that are typical rather than outstanding, and those not recognized? One of this Society's jobs is to spread knowledge and to direct others toward assistance from the National Trust and the Heritage Council when they want to expand or renovate their building.



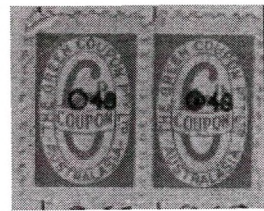
*Grasmere 247 Stanmore Rd Stanmore in 2004*  
(photo: Diane McCarthy)

In preservation of historic areas there is another important influence. Our Society's strength and fate of our buildings are strongly linked with Marrickville Municipal Council. We need the patronage and encouragement of our Council which already helps us in a great many ways such as use of our meeting room and the provision of a bus for outings. The Town Planning Department and building inspectors play an important role in persuading residents, in thousands of houses in this historic area, to retain what is of value and to maintain our unique Municipality. Our Aldermen could do a great deal to encourage restoration in their wards and to assist their professional officers to do their work.

Our incoming Council will have many important decisions to make. It will receive the report of the Heritage Study presently underway. It will decide how we will celebrate Australia's Bicentenary. We hope it will finally establish Marrickville Municipal Archives as the first suburban archives and lead the way for other areas. We would like to see Marrickville known for its outstanding place in our past and take pride in it.



As another King Street Newtown building bites the dust we are afforded (perhaps briefly) a glimpse of the past. On the north side of this 1910 shop at 445 King Street is now revealed **Millinery House Green Coupons given freely**. Who talks about going to a milliner these days? According to a 1941 Green Coupon Collecting Book the Green Coupon System was established in 1898. Coupons were every sixpence were "the old-most valuable discounts". To-lent would be given with spent and est, best and of all day's equiva-Shop-a-dockets and Fly-buys. Their head office showrooms were at 697 George Street Haymarket in a building called Green Coupon House. (The Australian Communist Party occupied the same building.) There was a Green Coupon Institution Plan, a Children's Birthday Club with over 20,000 members and the company had its own brand *Koopen!* Does anyone know when Green Coupons finished? (photo: Diane McCarthy)



**Richard Blair**

## ALL BUILDINGS NOW AT RISK

In the wake of Marrickville Council's recent scuttling of the Heritage Study Review it is more than ever Open Season for developers. We often bemoan the bad old days of the sixties and seventies when councils and governments seemed to have carte blanche to demolish at will and erect buildings and apartments blocks of little or no merit. Well those days seem to have returned and with the surge in building, developers seem to be able to get virtually what they want.

The fact is almost any building is now at risk. Developers can purchase a property, bung in a DA and get it approved with maybe a couple of token conditions. Typically they lodge a DA in excess of what they really want. Councils approve the application but on a slightly modified scale so that affected residents think they've gained concessions, when in fact the developer has got what he initially wanted. Nothing is safe any more. The house next door or across the road may be under threat and be replaced by nondescript, tacky flats barely meeting requisite building requirements. It's a disturbing and ever increasing trend!



# MARRICKVILLE'S LOST HERITAGE 2001-2004

The out-going Council has been a low point for the protection of Heritage values and properties, with many important buildings lost and gone forever.

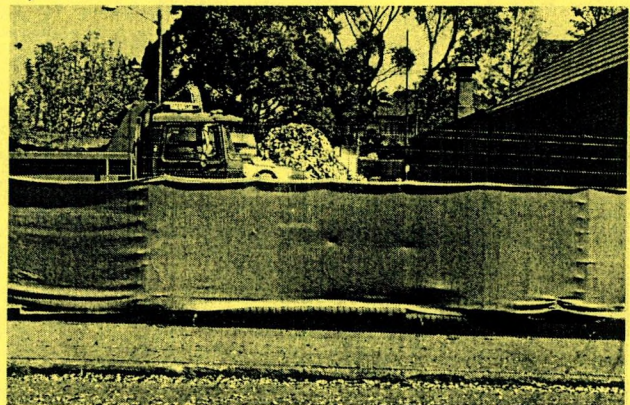
Ask your Council candidate how they voted (or would have voted) for these developments.

What is their vision for Heritage in Marrickville for the next four years?

## Prospect Villa, Petersham



**Before: 150 years old**



**After: demolished for townhouses**

## Baltic Street, Newtown



**Before: early Victorian Ladies School**



**After: to be demolished for townhouses**



## Terrace Road, Dulwich Hill

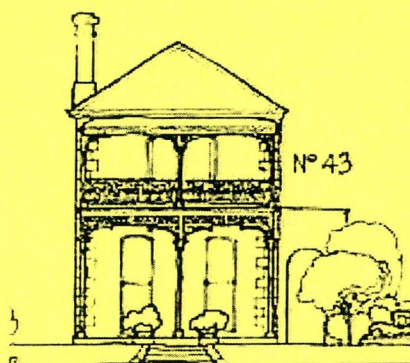


**Before: Federation villa**



**After: to be demolished for flats**

## George Street, Marrickville



**Before: Famous Italianate Victorian villa**



**To be demolished for townhouses**

## Station Masters House, Tempe



**Historic House: restored...**



**...with sensitive infill?**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact  
The Marrickville Heritage Society, Scott MacArthur, p. 9559 5736



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

### SATURDAY 27 MARCH

Visit to *Thirning Villa*  
Details on front page

### SATURDAY 24 APRIL

Sue Jackson-Stepowski: history of local brick footpaths & MHS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch

### SATURDAY 22 MAY

Hurlstone Park Walk

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

This Dedication took place at the Debbie & Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre in Steel Park, south Marrickville on Wednesday 18 February. The new memorial features the David Humphries mosaic *Reflection Pond* and plaques on two sandstone plinths commemorating the 4,000 local service men and women who served in World War II. Included is the restored plaque which was affixed to the memorial gates of the Marrickville Memorial Bowling Club, formerly on the site of the Borgia Centre.

The erection of this memorial was supported by Marrickville Council, Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs, Marrickville Anzac Memorial Club, Marrickville RSL, Newtown RSL Sub-Branch, Petersham RSL & Sub-Branch. Representatives of these bodies, the Air League and official guests from Singapore, Timor, Portugal and the Aboriginal community took part in a moving ceremony where wreaths were laid. MC was veteran Charlie Knighton, who has a long association with Marrickville RSL and music was provided by Newington College. MHS members present were Anne Carolan, Peter Mabey, Fred Ellis, Chrys Meader, Diane McCarthy, Verona Rothwell and Dorothy Skinner.

Diane McCarthy, President

As part of the Heritage Festival the **Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee** will run a Vintage Bus Tour of local culturally significant development sites on **24 April at 2 pm**. Details April newsletter.

**Historic Houses Trust** is conducting four tours *In and Out of the Houses*. The Saturday 22 May tour is *Working with Art*. MHS member Deborah Beck will guide participants around the National Art School in East Sydney and tell of its turbulent history, from gaol to working studios. Then on to Elizabeth Bay House to hear Therese Kenyon, of Manly Art Gallery, on the artists who lived and worked there. Bookings & tour information 9518 6866.

**PRESIDENT** Diane 9588 4930

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

## HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

Further correspondence with Council officers about **Heritage Conservation Areas** has found that they are 'matters for consideration' for DAs. Just how developers and Council planners are to interpret this vague statement is not clear to the Society. Judging by Council's negotiations with recent Petersham developers, there is still uncertainty in both of these camps as well. The Society hopes that the government groups (including the Heritage Office) that will finalise our Heritage Local Environment Plan will be able to remove this terrible uncertainty. After all, wasn't 'uncertainty' one of the reasons cited for the Mayor rushing the Heritage Study Review out to exhibition, and ultimate evisceration?

\* \* \* \*

It seems councillors will not be voting on the **Petersham Bowling Club** DA until after the Council election. The delay may be due to the normal exhibition and report writing timetable being extended after residents forced an extension of the time for comments beyond the Xmas holidays. The Society hopes that Council has also requested changes to the scheme and for the developers to provide a Heritage Impact Statement. The Society encourages Petersham members to quiz their Ward candidates about their voting intentions when this matter does get to Council.

\* \* \* \*

Having had the application to demolish the early Victorian cottage **Hebden 34 Station Street Newtown** rejected by Council after intense lobbying by neighbours, the owner now appears to be hoping vandals or squatters will do the job for him. The back fence is falling down, gates and doors are being left open and the neglect of the garden continues. The Society has joined neighbours in calling for Council action to protect this threatened property.

Scott MacArthur

## DEMOLITIONS IN LONDON STREET

It is not known why demolition work has halted on **6-8 London Street Enmore**. Perhaps it is part of a down-tools ploy leading up to the council election. These are further examples of not only good quality old housing stock being destroyed, but housing with unusual jerkin-head roofing: two of several, including 10 London Street, which also seems destined for demolition.



6 London St Enmore (photo: Richard Blair)