

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

National Trust Heritage Festival 24 Apr-2 May

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

HERB GREEDY HALL 79 PETERSHAM ROAD MARRICKVILLE

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 12 FOR 12.30 PM
(AFTER TALK ON OUR BRICK FOOTPATHS)

RSVP DIANE 9588 4930 OR ROBERT 9568 3079
BY WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL

OUR NEXT MEETING Heritage Festival event
History of brick footpaths in the
Marrickville area with Sue Jackson-Stepowski
Saturday 24 April 10 for 10.30 am sharp
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville



Marrickville Council's Engineering Department is to be congratulated for seeking guidance about the remaining brick footpaths of the Marrickville LGA and how to adjust these to changing community expectations. Marrickville has 65 such places. Can you name them and to what era they relate? MHS member **Sue Jackson-Stepowski**, a Heritage Advisor to local government, received a Centenary Medal and a RAHS award for services to heritage and the community; also active with the Haberfield Association and National Trust committees, and on the national committee for Australia ICOMOS. (photo Hillcrest St. Tempe: Diane McCarthy)

2004 Marrickville Medal for Conservation

Presentation for a public, community or commercial project will be on **Sunday 2 May 3-5 pm** at Petersham Town Hall. Guest speaker NSW Government Architect **Chris Johnson**. Photos of all entries on display along with photographic exhibition (more details on back page). Bookings Vince Connell 9335 2250.

WEEK OF EXTENDED ARCHIVE HOURS

To celebrate the 2004 Heritage Festival *Foundations of Tomorrow in the Year of the Built Environment* the Marrickville Council Archival Reference Centre at Petersham Town Hall will be extending its public opening hours. For 26-30 April the ARC hours will be: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 11-1, 2-4; Tuesday 10-1 and 2-4. Free. No bookings required.

What a great opportunity to research the history of your house! For further details contact Council's Archivist, **Natasha Trpezanovski** on 9335 2185.

MHS NEEDS A SLIDE SCREEN

For many years the Society has used a screen from Marrickville Council to display slides at our meetings, but it is time we had our own. Has anyone a fold-up screen they no longer need? Can we make an offer? Ring Diane 9588 4930.

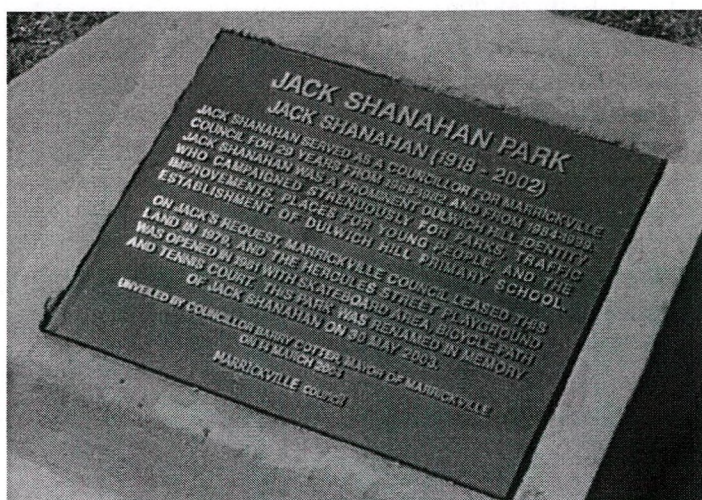
OUR LAST MEETING THIRNING VILLA & PRATTEN PARK

It's perhaps not a unique story in terms of tragedy, but when five children of prominent medical practitioner Arthur a'Beckett and his wife Emma Louisa died in Sydney Town, the family moved to their 11 acre property in Ashfield, where "the air was untainted and the water supply safe and readily available". In 1868 they built *Thirning Villa*, after a manor house where Emma lived as a child.

On 27 March Ashfield and District Historical Society hosted an inspection of *Thirning Villa* in the grounds of Pratten Park by over 40 MHS members and visitors. Victorian Regency in style, the brick house has a wide verandah on the front and side elevations, and is the only surviving two-storey building of its type in Ashfield. In 1999 current owner Ashfield Council approved a conservation management plan, which included removing unsympathetic additions to the original building. There is an Artist-in-Residence program with regular workshops and in November *Thirning Villa* became the headquarters of the Ashfield & DHS.

Pratten Park is named after Herbert Edward Pratten, Ashfield Mayor (1909-1911), whose efforts resulted in the Council acquiring the park, which was officially opened in 1912. Rudder & Grout's 1933 Mediterranean style turnstile has three arched openings with small ticket booths, change windows and turnstile gates. The oval has a 1921 grandstand and has been home to the Western Suburbs cricket and rugby league clubs. An advertisement in The Argus newspaper on 23 October 1930 advertised dirt track racing at Ashfield Autodrome on 'the best banked granite track in Australia'. The Bowling Club is housed in its original Art Deco style 1939 building and the lawn tennis courts date from 1911. Thanks to Julian Holland, Anne O'Donnell, Chris Pratten and other Ashfield & DHS members for hosting our visit and providing morning tea. Chris, who has conducted talks and walks for MHS, is Herbert Pratten's grandson.

Keith Sutton



Jack Shanahan has been remembered in Dulwich Hill both in a picnic area in Johnson Reserve and in the former Hercules Street Playground with its youth oriented facilities. This fitting plaque was recently unveiled (photo: Diane McCarthy).

MAUNDRELL PARK "IMPROVEMENTS"

(In the wake of current "park improvement works" at Maundrell Park it is timely to recall what former town clerk Allan Shepherd wrote in *The Story of Petersham* p 51 in 1949.)

"Situated in a corner of Maundrell Park, the Council has established a plant nursery for propagation of plants, shrubs and trees for use in the various parks, gardens and street plantations under its control. This nursery has proved most economical to the Council in comparison to the former practice of purchasing seedlings from commercial nurseries. The nursery comprises seed beds, hot-house, glass-house, forcing beds, ferneries and fish-ponds . . . The architectural treatment of the buildings comprising the nursery is Spanish and blends in most harmoniously with the foliage in the enclosing park."

Obviously Maundrell Park (named after a former mayor) played an important part in the development of other local parks. However in mid to late March the so-called "park improvement works" commenced and the long extant Spanish style building was almost entirely demolished, with only the brick entrance remaining plus a fountain. The society received no notification of these proposed works, and with this unheralded demolition, council has dismantled part of council heritage and the community's history.

Ted Green recalls the fishponds and other features that helped make this such an appealing park. For many years the society's post AGM picnic lunch was held in this park because it is close to Petersham Town Hall, our former meeting place. Ironically the upgrading works include "restoration of park heritage features". It is hoped the stone tablets opposite Frederick Street with the inscribed words "Sth Kingston Park 1925" and "PMC" will be retained. (The park was under Petersham Municipal Council jurisdiction until 1948.) Last year a portion of Maundrell Park was sold off to developers for units named *Maundrell* in Stanmore Road. No doubt the new-look park will still be attractive, but it's a pity council sacrificed some interesting park architecture and squandered this opportunity to enshrine some council history.

Richard Blair

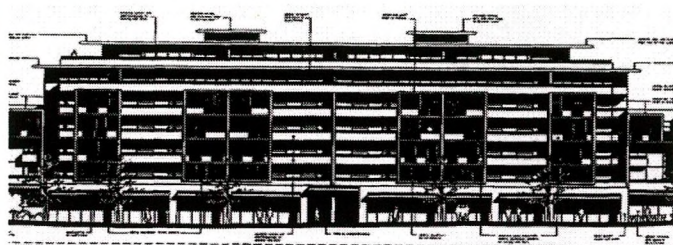
1984 MHS COMMITTEE & FOUNDING MEMBERS AS IN OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

As recorded in June 1984 newsletter our first committee was President, Barbara Little; Vice Presidents, Eve Sharpe & Richard Cashman; Secretary, Chrys Meader; Assistant Secretary, Ari Giovarris; Treasurer, Judy Mackinoly; Members, Anne Carolan, Ken Henderson, Terry Hicks, Gary Nicholls, Geoff Solomon, Ian Tyrrell.

Founding members: Peter Arnett household, Anne Carolan, Richard Cashman, Anne Cherry, Ari Giovarris, Barbara & Geoffrey Little household, Peter Mabey, John & Judy Mackinoly household, Chrys Meader, Laurel Richardson, Gregory Robertson, Verona Rothwell, Raymond Sowden, Wendy Stokoe, Mary Tait, Ian Tyrrell.

HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

* Developers are proposing a 'landmark development' on New Canterbury Road at Dulwich Hill, that underscores the importance of the scuttled Heritage Study Review (HSR) in controlling overdevelopment in our area. The site is currently occupied by a mix of 2 storey flats and commercial buildings on the prominent corner of New Canterbury Road and Herbert Street, that were included in the Dulwich Hill Shopping Precinct Heritage Conservation Area (HCA). Included was a wine bar that some members recall as being a particularly risqué attraction. The buildings range from an 1880s Victorian Filigree commercial terrace with Spanish Mission overlay to the Art Deco *Silverdale* flats. The proposal will see these buildings demolished and replaced with a seven storey mixed commercial and residential ziggurat with 64 apartments.



Part of north elevation of proposed development

A comprehensive Heritage Impact Statement was prepared for the development. It describes the buildings as demonstrating over a century of architectural continuity of development, and that *Silverdale* has individual architectural merit. The report concludes by saying that the HSR and HCAs could well have required the retention of some of the buildings and could have been useful in reducing the height and scale of the development. With the abolition of the HSR/HCAs there are no such constraints on the development. The conclusion of the report is the most telling rebuttal of Council's assertions that extra heritage controls beyond the existing Urban Housing Development Control Plan are not required with the abolition of the HSR and Conservation Areas.

It is also intriguing that the development does not comply with various height, density and zoning provisions of Council's codes. The Society is concerned that a developer could invest the time and money into preparing an obviously non-compliant scheme that in the normal planning processes would have been rejected outright – who advised them that the scheme could be approved? The Society calls for Council to reject this massive overdevelopment and to revisit the Heritage Study Review at the earliest opportunity.

* CURTIS COTTAGE

The sad saga of poor *Curtis Cottage*, 128 Wardell Road Dulwich Hill, drags on. The demolished remains of the fire damaged cottage can still be seen on site, and a new proposal before Council will see the house rebuilt and extended as a residence. The catch is that the property will be subdivided and a two storey

block of flats built between the house and the street. The Society is cheered that some attention is being paid to the plight of the house after so many years of neglect, but is concerned about the subdivision and the design of the flats. The DA gives very little information about the actual works that will occur on the house.

The accompanying Heritage Impact Statement states that salvaged building material will be used, which is a measure that Council should insist on. Council should also require that the flats should not be able to be occupied until the house has been reconstructed. The design of the proposed flat building is desperately ordinary and dwarfs the reconstructed house. It appears to be considerably taller than the Victorian house and modern flats on either side of Curtis Cottage facing Wardell Road. The design of the proposed flats does nothing to enhance or acknowledge the house behind it. The Society recommends that Council advise the developer that a more sensitive design solution should be explored by the project architects.

Scott MacArthur

8 FITZROY STREET NEWTOWN

House of the Week featured in the 28 February Sydney Morning Herald's Domain was *Hurlstone House* at 8 Fitzroy Street Newtown. Built in 1867 and recently restored "it's hard to believe this impeccably presented residence was a run-down wreck ... seven years ago".



It was sold at auction for \$1.6 million. This shows that old, pre-loved cottages are eminently restorable and should not be allowed to fall victim to further neglect and/or developer greed as so frequently happens.

Editor

Shortly after our February newsletter gave a free plug to Alistair Cooke's long-running weekly radio broadcast, Alistair discontinued his *Letter from America* for health reasons. This after 2869 Letters since 1946. He died on 30 March aged 95. The editor takes no responsibility for precipitating Cooke's decline in health! Highlights of *Letter from America* continue to be broadcast on Sundays.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS
SATURDAY 24 APRIL

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

SATURDAY 22 MAY
Hurlstone Park Walk

SATURDAY 26 JUNE
Annual General Meeting

20TH ANNIVERSARY STREET TRIVIA

(A bottle of wine each to Iain and Kimberley for their contributions. If any other members have stories about their street send them in. *Heritage 12* will feature a comprehensive article by one of our members on Robert Wardell and beneficiaries of his estate. – Editor)

1. YELVERTON STREET SYDENHAM

I live in George Street Sydenham which was part of the Grove estate around 1850 to 1900. I know how all the streets of the original Grove estate got their names except Yelverton Street. During my research, I came across an interesting coincidence.

On the 7th of May 1915 the Cunard passenger liner *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-Boat off the coast of Ireland. The ship sank in 20 minutes taking 1200 passengers and crew with it. The captain of the ship William Turner survived. He went on to captain other ships before retiring in November 1919. He and his second wife retired to the village of Yelverton for a short while before moving to Liverpool. Yelverton is on the edge of Dartmoor just north of Plymouth, England. My feeling is that one of the people who subdivided the Grove estate circa 1886 may have come from this village. Perhaps someone in the Society has a better idea of how Yelverton Street got its name.

Iain Carolin

2. WARDELL ROAD DULWICH HILL

My husband Bob and I love living in Wardell Road, named after an eminent local citizen, Robert Wardell, who went from being at the top of colonial society to being one of its most dramatic murder victims.

Dr. Robert Wardell (1793-1834) immigrated to Australia in 1824. He had a huge estate in Marrickville – 2000 acres which stretched all the way from Parramatta Road to the Cooks River. Astounding! One spring morning in 1834 Robert Wardell went riding on his white stallion *Raphael* down to the boundary of his property at the Cooks River. He was ambushed by three men, murdered and his body found the next day.

Kimberly O'Sullivan Steward

PRESIDENT Diane 9588 4930
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL
(all free but bookings required except for brick talk)

Fri 23 April 9-12 noon seminar on *Greek migration & settlement* at Marrickville Town Hall. Bookings
Dimitri Symeonidis 9335 2166

Sat 24 April: *Brick footpaths talk*: see front page

Sat 24 April 2-5 pm *Vintage bus tour of major conservation & redevelopment sites* including Waratah Flour Mills Dulwich Hill, Starkeys site Stanmore & Eversleigh Hospital site Petersham.
Bookings Vince Connell 9335 2250

Sun 2 May 3-5 pm *Presentation of 2004 Marrickville Medal for Conservation*: Details front page

Sun 2 to Fri 7 May *Photographic Display: Tales of the Marrickville built environment*. 2 May Petersham Town Hall; 3-7 May foyer Marrickville Council Admin. Centre 2 Fisher St Petersham. More information Vince Connell 9335 2250

FROM OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER JUNE 1984

* "Some 45 residents met to form the Society on April 28 and we became 'official' on May 26 when the Constitution was adopted. Among other things, the Society will aim to encourage and promote the Heritage, History and Conservation of the diverse cultural heritage of Marrickville. It's an aim of the Society to appeal to all sections of the community so we'll be producing some future material in languages other than English to encourage wide community participation."

* "Mark down in your calendar the fourth Saturday of each month which will be our regular meeting date, 10.30 am the Alderman's Room, Petersham Town Hall. . . . Heritage covers a wide variety of environmental issues. At our second meeting on April 28 (sic: should be May 26), Susan Hoppe informed us that the Heritage Council of NSW not only classifies buildings, but many other aspects of our habitat: plants, trees, ruins, old mines and even shipwrecks."

* "Toothill Street Lewisham acquires its name because the Toot Hill was the point where the huntsman sounded his horn! Prominent citizen Dr Wardell stocked his estate with deer so that the local gentry could enjoy regular hunting parties. It's also said, though not verified, that some of the older houses of Petersham-Lewisham have a small turret room above the roof so that citizens on the hills could follow the progress of the hunt. The deer in the National Park are descendants from Dr Wardell's original stock!"

Note Twenty years later we still meet on the fourth Saturday morning of each month, though since late 2003 we have been unable to meet at Petersham Town Hall. Excerpts from our tenth anniversary newsletter (April 1994) will appear in next newsletter. – Editor