

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 21 NO. 1 JULY 2004
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NOTE: Owing to the forces of evil that bring untimely havoc to computers by way of viruses (despite protection), this newsletter is plain and abridged. However it is on time and contains vital information of interest to members. President's annual report in August newsletter. – **Editor**

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 28 August	Sydney's Ferries with Bill Allen
Saturday 4 September	Seminar: <i>Gardening in the Inner West</i> (see box)
Saturday 25 September	Coach trip to Fairfield area

OUR NEXT MEETING

A Marrickville walk with Diane McCarthy

Saturday 24 July 10.15 for 10.30 am

Meet Masonic Building corner Marrickville & Livingstone Roads, Marrickville. No bookings. Cost \$3 incl. walk outline.

Marrickville owes its name to Thomas Chalder whose estate *Marrick* (named after his village in Yorkshire) was subdivided in 1855. The name Marrickville was adopted in 1861 when it was incorporated into a municipality. With the draining of the Gumbramorra Swamp, from the 1890s Marrickville Road became the focal point. Join us in a walk along Marrickville Road and environs, taking a look at house styles, public and landmark buildings.

OUR LAST MEETING

WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

Around 45 members attended our 20th AGM at Herb Greedy Hall on Saturday 26 June. President Diane McCarthy gave the annual report on the progress of the Society, Graeme Napier the treasurer's report, Scott MacArthur, the heritage watch report, Richard Blair the newsletter report and Peter Cousens reported on the progress of *Heritage 12* which is nearing completion.

After questions, Returning Officer Shirley Hilyard declared all positions vacant. Election resulted in 2004-05 committee: president Lorraine Beach, vice presidents Angela Phippen & Graeme Napier, secretary, Diane McCarthy, assistant secretary Patricia Mullen, committee members Richard Blair, Peter Cousens, Robert Hutchinson, Scott MacArthur, Mark Matheson and Alison Wright. There were no nominations for treasurer, but at the end of the meeting Pat Mullen said she could fill this position, which was unanimously endorsed.

Scott MacArthur and Bill Tarrant took us on a photographic tour of their recent visit to Vietnam. Vietnam has had a long history of conflict and conquest, but the Vietnamese have maintained a tremendous sense of preserving the distant past. At the same time they are meeting the challenge of adapting to the future. Thanks Scott and Bill for sharing these evocative travels. Outgoing president Diane McCarthy was presented with a splendid cyclamen in appreciation of her efforts. Afterwards many members enjoyed a picnic champagne lunch in Jarvie Park, Malakoff Street.

Richard Blair

Gardening in the Inner West – A look at Marrickville's garden history

On 4 September Marrickville Heritage Society and the Australian Garden History Society will hold an exciting seminar. See the attached leaflet for details. Included is a talk on the Marrickville Horticultural Society, which is being researched by Peter Cousens. To recall the spirit of the horticultural society shows, participants are invited to bring a vase of home grown flowers. Prizes to be awarded. More details in August newsletter. For further seminar details or anyone with information on the Marrickville Horticultural Society ring Peter on 9550 3809.

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Marrickville Council is seeking from local residents Expressions of Interest to join the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee. The committee meets on the first Thursday evening of each month at the council chambers. For more information contact Council's Manager Planning Services, Vince Connell on 9335 2250. Expressions of Interest should be forwarded to Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee, Marrickville Council, PO Box 14, Petersham 2049 or by email to msp@marrickville.nsw.gov.au by Friday 30 July and should include details of your previous interest and experience in heritage matters, particularly as they relate to the Marrickville Council area.

CONCERTS

* **Sunday 25 July 2.30 pm** Newington Centenary Hall Royal Australian Navy Band \$20, \$15.

* **Sunday 25 July 4.30 pm** St Peters Anglican Church St Peters – Michael Deasey on organ. Violinist Andrew Baker & Cellist Helen Morrison play Bach, Handel, Mozart & Villa-Lobos.

HERITAGE WATCH – GLADSTONE HALL

The owners of Gladstone Hall, 114 Ewart Street, Dulwich Hill, are proposing an extensive residential development around this important villa, comprising townhouses, an underground carpark and extensions to the villa. The land was originally part of a 700 acre land grant made by Governor King to Thomas Moore in 1803. The existing building was built about 1870 by William Starkey, a soft drink manufacturer (the adaptive re-use of the Starkey Drinks factory in Stanmore won this year's Marrickville Medal). It was built in stone quarried on the property with wooden shutters to the windows and decorative cast iron verandah columns. It is in the style of a Colonial Bungalow rather than the more popular Victorian Italianate of the period.

The site was purchased by the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association in 1958 and opened as a hostel. The change of use reflected the widespread change of occupancy and use which affected the larger villas of Marrickville during the earlier part of last century. The Department of Health constructed the existing brick hostel buildings over the following 20 years and allowed the condition of the house to deteriorate. The property was recently sold by the Department of Health and the new private owner has apparently done extensive repair work on the house.

The proposed development requires the demolition of the hostel buildings and the construction of the new townhouses and extensions to the villa over an underground carpark. The Society is concerned that the applicant and Council have not given sufficient consideration to the impact that the carpark excavation will have on Gladstone Hall and the surrounding properties. The excavation is immediately adjacent to the house and extreme care will be required. The applicant has admitted that geotechnical investigations of the sandstone have not been done, so the safest method of excavating cannot be determined.

Apart from the risk of damage to existing buildings, the Society is concerned that the cost of the excavation may quickly consume the project budget and the promised quality of the proposed buildings and landscaping will not be achieved. The density of the proposed townhouse development is out of character with the area. The Society suggests that a less intensive development, with surface parking (rather than expensive and potentially damaging underground parking) would have fewer impacts on neighbouring properties and the original villa while still providing the owner with a reasonable return on his investment.

Scott MacArthur

TREASURER Pat 9559 6684
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY Inc.
and
AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

present

GARDENING IN THE INNER WEST

a look at Marrickville's garden history

Saturday 4 September 2004, 10 am – 3pm
at All Saints' Church Hall
325 Stanmore Rd, Petersham

Proximity to the city has seen a gradual shrinking of land use since white settlement, from bush, to large estates and private gardens, to market gardens and plant nurseries in the nineteenth century, towards suburban cottage gardening in the twentieth century.

Marrickville Horticultural Society was founded in the interwar period to cater for the interests of garden lovers, while "new Australians" after the second world war brought a change in the use of backyard gardening.

Speakers will include Doug Benson, Mark Matheson,
Silas Clifford-Smith, Peter Cousens, and Mary Ann Hamilton.

flower displays
collections of archived horticultural material
plant identification

morning and afternoon teas will be provided

Bookings: \$40
\$35 members of MHS / AGHS, and concessions.

Send payment to: Marrickville Heritage Society or Australian Garden History Society (Sydney)
PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475 93 Lennox St Newtown 2042

Enquiries: Peter Cousens 9550 3809 petercousens@bigpond.com