

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

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MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

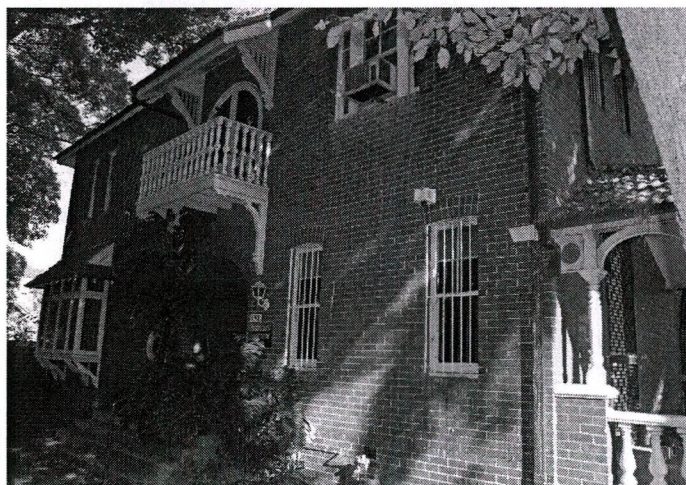
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 25 June 10.15 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

The President invites all members to our 21st Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past twelve months will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, and several committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day.

As a departure from the usual practice the formal proceedings will be followed by a **Winter Warmer** consisting of soups and breads, cake, tea and coffee. There will **not** be our usual morning tea. Stay and mingle with fellow members and the new committee and have an early lunch! Gold coin donation.



Federation house 'Claines' 153A Livingstone Road Marrickville forms part of an endangered precinct. It's neighbour 'Neston' (at right) has just fallen victim to demolishers. How safe is Claines? See more back page.

MHS ANNUAL FEES DUE NOW

Members, whose fees are due, should receive a renewal slip with their June newsletter. Non-receipt of a slip means you have paid ahead or the slip was lost in transit. Please advise if details on slip are incorrect. Send cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your slip to PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

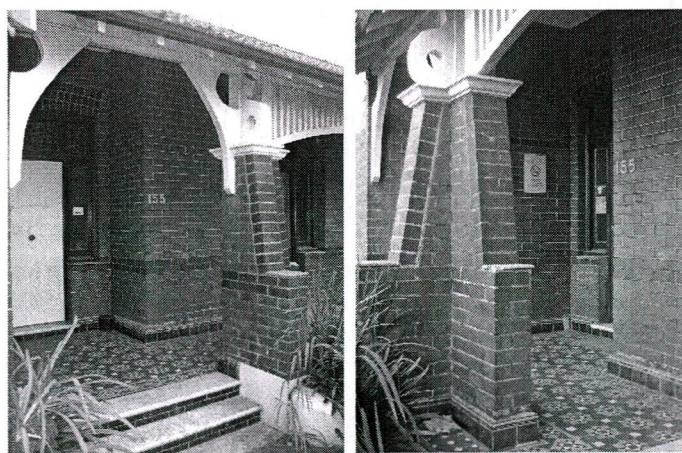
KEEP SYDNEY BUS MUSEUM AT TEMPE

SHAMEFUL DEMOLITION OF NESTON 155 LIVINGSTONE RD MARRICKVILLE

The recent Council sponsored *Walking Tour of the Federation and Bungalow Houses in Marrickville* noted that 159, 155 and 153a [Livingstone Road] form a group of three large Federation houses set within well-treed grounds. Built of red brick with timber detailing, they retain much of their original character.



Tragically, *Neston* (155) has just been demolished under a DA consent from the previous Council. The single storey house was built in 1910 for Sir Reginald Marcus Clark, son of founder of the retailing firm Marcus Clark & Co. Mrs T Clark lived here until 1915. The chimneys are rough cast and the roof is of Marseilles tiles with terracotta ridge cappings. It appeared to be quite intact, despite years of poor stewardship by the Department of Health, with an elegant Art Nouveau leaded stained glass bay window opening onto a tiled verandah.



Sadly, once significant houses are acquired by government agencies, they are at extreme risk of degradation and demolition. Peter James's fine 2003 photos reveal how tragic this loss was.

OUR LAST MEETING TICKET TO KISSING POINT NOW RYDE

Our tour of 28 May, a brilliant Sydney day, took us to explore the land between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, home of the Wallumedgal people. This area was named *Field of Mars* by early marine settlers in 1792. However by 1800 it was called Kissing Point, referring to the furthest point that boats could go before their keels "kissed" the bottom. We now know the area as Ryde where are preserved many of its oldest historic buildings and places.

We were guided by members of the Ryde District Historical Society. To start we visited their headquarters at James Devlin's *Ryde House* (1848) now called *Willandra*. This fine Colonial Georgian house with a wonderful extensive view to the south is two storeyed with balancing service wings and verandahs on three sides. The entrance elevation is distinguished by columns of a single shaft of sandstone and an unusual valance. The cedar geometric stair, joinery and fanlights over front door and in vestibule are especially fine. *Willandra* was saved after many years of neglect and restored by heritage architect Clive Lucas in 1981.

We walked to nearby St Anne's Anglican Church whose origins were in simple chapel schoolhouses. In 1826 the walls of the third such establishment formed the nave of St Anne's today with tower, buttresses and chancel added later. Well known Ryde citizens lie in St Anne's churchyard. This beautiful church on the hill was the centre of the original Ryde village. The old court house, Oddfellows hall, Wesley church and parsonage are of great interest.

On an information-packed tour by coach we called at *Curzon Hall*, a baronial stone pile (architect DT Morrow), Gregory Blaxland's *Brush Farm* Eastwood (1820), awaiting a new use and *Addington*, an early farmhouse with east and west wings added to the original. We saw the site of Granny Smith's orchard where she produced the eponymous green apple; the Ryde Pumping Station's second building supplying water to northern suburbs for over 100 years; and Ryde Police Station (1837, architect Mortimer Lewis) still in use by police, making it the oldest in NSW. Pointed out were the sites of Bennelong's burial and the farm of James Squire (licensee of the Malting Shovel Tavern) where he established Australia's first brewery and planted five acres of hops. And much much more!

We are grateful to members of Ryde District Historical Society and to Angela Phippen who planned the excursion. I raise my glass of James Squire's India Pale Ale to them.

Shirley Hilyard

Note: Our coach also passed an item of dubious heritage namely the nondescript *Elizabeth Court* at 20 Meriton Street, Gladesville. This was the first block of units perpetrated by developer Harry Triguboff who adopted the street name for his brand of mega-apartment blocks! Editor

Leaving for Waterloo

RYDE ENGINEER RESIGNS.

The citizens of Ryde will regret to learn that Mr. Brettell, Engineer to the Council, who has done wonders in the way of permanent construction in the municipality, is leaving our district to go to Waterloo. During his sojourn in Ryde he has been a valuable asset to the Council. Many concrete bridges and culverts stand as monuments of his efficiency and capabilities. Roads have been constructed in an effective manner as witnessed in Lane Cove road, Rydedale road, and last, but not least, Parramatta road. All these roads in their class are second to none in the Metropolitan area. The roads previous to Mr. Brettell's entry into the Council's employ were practically in a rural state of construction. Now we have miles of good main roads, asphalt footpaths and concrete kerb and guttering, which further reflect to his credit as an engineer of merit. Big drainage and easement problems have been successfully tackled by him. Mr. Brettell has pioneered the way for the further progress of this beautiful municipality of Ryde.

Waterloo is to be congratulated on obtaining his valuable services. The "Local News" wishes Mr. Brettell his wife and family long life and happiness in their new sphere of activities. Mr. Brettell will continue as Engineer for another month, when his notice of severance will take effect.

Date of above report unknown but believed to be in the 1920s. Sydney Brettell's engineering works were obviously highly valued. Of added interest is that Our Last Meeting was written by Brettell's grand daughter Shirley Hilyard.

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

This photo was taken in Marrickville. One of us grew up locally and was famous beyond the Marrickville area. Who am I and what was the occasion? Ring Richard 9557 3823.



DONATION OF GRAHAM-WRIGHT-HANNEY COLLECTION

A function was held at the History/ Archive Centre, Petersham Town Hall on Friday 27 May to formally accept the Graham-Wright-Hanney Collection formerly owned by Olwen Hanney and donated by Olwen's niece Margaret Wright. Margaret shared her collection with MHS members both at our June 2003 AGM and at our February 2004 meeting. The loan was accepted by Marrickville Mayor **Morris Hanna**, who expressed his support for the establishment of a local museum to house such material. Donor **Margaret Wright** spoke about the collection's significance and Marrickville Historian **Chrys Meader** described key items in the collection. Council's Director of Community Services **Vicki Munro** gave a Vote of Thanks. The function was attended by friends of the Hanney and Wright families and some MHS members.

Joseph Graham was Mayor of Marrickville nine times between 1870 and 1890, a record which stood for over 100 years. He was a professional seed and nurseryman who built *Lilydale* on his market garden estate which made way for Marrickville Hospital. **Frank Broome Wright** OBE married Graham's daughter Violet Henrietta and was Mayor of Marrickville in 1932 and 1941. Wright established or revived many local organisations and was principal of the new Marrickville Junior Boys Technical School in Illawarra Road.



Margaret Wright's mother Thelma (Olwen's sister) at right on Marrickville Float during sesquicentenary celebrations 26/1/38. Identity of other two unknown. From collection.

Wright's daughter **Olwen** married **Fred Hanney**, a talented musician and conductor of the Marrickville Symphony Orchestra, very popular in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1941 Olwen, due to her mother's ill health, became Marrickville's youngest mayoress. As well as being active in diverse organisations, with her keen interest in local history, she wrote a column *Our Past* for local newspaper *The Guardian* in the 1970s. She was a president of the Marrickville and District Historical Society, which she addressed on numerous occasions. **Olwen Hanney** died in May 2002.

Margaret Wright attended Marrickville Girls High School. She is treasurer of Scot's Presbyterian Church and works as a theatrical costume maker with Opera Australia. Margaret is a member of the Marrickville Heritage Society (biog. material by Chrys Meader).

SHEILA SWAIN HONOURED

This is old news but *Heritage NSW*, the Autumn 2005 newsletter of the Heritage Office, announced 28 volunteers (including four groups) from across NSW honoured for outstanding work in conserving heritage. They received their NSW Heritage Volunteer Awards at a Parliament House ceremony last October from Assistant Planning Minister Diane Beamer.

Among them was MHS member **Sheila Swain**, former mayor of Hunters Hill who was "a driving force behind the purchase and conservation of the National Trust's property *Vienna Cottage*. Her high profile, leadership, media contacts and the respect she engenders have enabled her to make *Vienna* a focal point for heritage and conservation issues well beyond Hunters Hill."

Another recipient was **Leonie Knapman**, known to many members for her promotion of the Southern Highlands, in particular the shale oil heritage of Joadja and Glen Davis. She addressed MHS in May 2003.

Curiously only four recipients were from Sydney. It is unknown whether this reflects adversely on Sydney-based volunteers or is associated with the award process, but it does seem a bizarre imbalance!

JEAN PIPER'S LETTER OF APPRECIATION

"I must congratulate everyone concerned with the very interesting informative heritage book (*Heritage 12*) which I am still reading with great delight. What a treat to see my name in print. The article on the Carmelite Nuns and Miss Day was so absorbing. How pleased my mother would have been to see her letters from Miss Day in print after all these years. So glad I was to be of help."

* * * *

Indeed the Society is indebted to **Jean Piper** for sharing these insightful letters received by Jean's mother in 1912-14. Complete copies of the letters are held by the Society.

EMAILS TO MHS INTO BLACK HOLE!

A reminder that the Society has a hotmail email address which appears at bottom of back page. We recently discovered that there was a period when hotmails sent to this address were not received. These emails get deleted after a certain time so we couldn't access any backlog. We apologise for unanswered emails or inconvenience caused. We are back in business and the box is being regularly checked.

MHS members are welcome to attend Bob Junor's talk *Too many plans - not enough action* concerning the Cooks River Catchment Sunday 19 June at 1.45 for 2 pm at Debbie & Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre 531 Illawarra Road, Marrickville (Steel Park) as outlined in May newsletter. Talk organised by the Wolli Creek Preservation Society.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 25 June
Annual General Meeting
 Details on front page

Saturday 23 July
Decorative Tiles in Stanmore: a walk

Saturday 27 August
History of the Cooe with Richard White

ENDANGERED HOUSES IN LIVINGSTONE & MARRICKVILLE ROADS

The precinct surrounding the intersection of Livingstone and Marrickville Roads Marrickville has an extraordinary variety of high quality private and public heritage buildings, many of which have little or no heritage protection. As indicated on front page the recent Council sponsored *Walking Tour of the Federation and Bungalow Houses in Marrickville* noted that 159, 155 and 153a [Livingstone Road] form a group of three large Federation houses set within well-treed grounds. Built of red brick with timber detailing, they retain much of their original character. 155 has just been demolished for expansion of community health facilities (see front).

Penston Hall (photo below) at 159 was classified by the National Trust following a submission prepared by the Society. It has yet to be listed as a heritage item by Marrickville Council. *This large two-storey brick house in the Federation Queen Ann style was built in 1910 for the Chown family of Chown Bros and Mulholland, galvanisers, tinsmiths, sheet ironworkers, jappanners and steel trunk manufacturers. In 1929 the house was sold to the Marrickville Hospital and used as a nurses home. It has long been the Marrickville Community Health Centre. Recent landscaping to the front garden suggests that it's future is secure for the time being.*



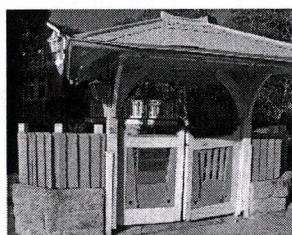
The two-storey house at 153A Livingstone Road (pictured front page) is called *Claines* (1904) and was built on part of James Smith's Shrublands Estate by the estate's Trustees. James Smith was a partner in the firm, Goodlet & Smith. 'Claines' was the first house built in this section on Livingstone Road and was owned by Dr Robert Hardman, MD, from 1909 until the 1920s. It has been used

PRESIDENT Lorraine 9550 6608
TREASURER Pat 9559 6684
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

by successive doctors as a surgery. It is in excellent condition, but the Society is concerned that it too may be scheduled for demolition.

Across Livingstone Road on the former Hospital site are several Victorian villa and bungalow houses that deserve to be retained as part of the redevelopment of the site. The intersection of Livingstone and Marrickville Roads is enhanced by three of the finest buildings of their type in Marrickville: the imposing St Brigid's Church, the solid former Masonic Hall and the beautifully maintained bungalow *Montrose*. The grand civic character that these buildings convey to this intersection will need to be acknowledged and enhanced by any new building on the empty hospital corner block.

West along Marrickville Road are another group of three houses that are worthy of heritage protection. They are excellent examples of the Californian bungalow style and were all built by James Wall, the master builder, on allotments purchased from the Shrublands Estate in 1909. *Gatshead* at 400 Marrickville Road was built by James Wall in 1912 as his family home, to a design by architects Buchanan and McKay. The house occupies a double block and is remarkably intact, with original features including an unusual lychgate with a moulded metal roof.



Above: 398 Marrickville Rd
 Left: Lychgate 400 M'ville Rd

On the adjoining blocks at 398 and 396 Marrickville Road are two other bungalows built by James Wall, *The Gunyah* and *Valdama* (1913). James Wall also built the house across David Street at 406 Marrickville Road in 1915. All three of these houses are in fine condition with many original features intact, further enhancing the rich residential streetscape.

The Society believes that this precinct offers a great opportunity for future development that will enhance a high quality civic precinct in the heart of Marrickville. Unfortunately, vigilance is also required to prevent the loss of any more of these important parts of Marrickville's built heritage.

Report & photos by Scott MacArthur

