

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Ferries of Yesteryear with Bill Allen

Saturday 28 August 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Bill Allen virtually grew up with ferries from an early age as a result of his friendship with a family friend David Ireland who was Works Manager of Sydney Ferries. Since 1950 Bill has been and is still collecting old photographs, historical records and memorabilia of the ferries on Sydney Harbour.



SS Kosciuszko September 1956 (photo: Bill Allen)

Bill will talk on the history of the ferry companies which were instrumental in the development of Sydney and its environs. The talk will be supported by slides. Please bring along any photos you may have on ferries for identification and background information.

STARTLING OMISSION BY COUNCIL

It is understood the **2003/2004 Community Information Directory** was published by Marrickville Council in 2003. It contains a foreword by former mayor Barry Cotter. However it has only been recently seen at Marrickville Library. It is a glossy, well produced 151 page publication covering every conceivable local organisation and service – **with the glaring exception of Marrickville Heritage Society.**

MHS was listed in previous directories. The Society responded to a formal request late last year for relevant data to go into the publication. Apparently this data appears on the web based LINCIS at www.datadiction.com.au from which the directory was produced. This makes the omission all the more bizarre. It is regrettable in that MHS is an organisation which endeavours both to protect our heritage and actively promote the Marrickville area. The Society is formally raising its concern with council.

2004 is the Year of the Built Environment

**Marrickville Heritage Society
& 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 10 am-3 pm
All Saint's Church Hall
325 Stanmore Road Petersham**

The seminar will investigate Marrickville's interesting garden heritage from the indigenous bush, which once covered the area, to the backyard gardening of 'new Australians' who flocked to the area from the late 1940s. Between these periods we will look at some gardens of large 19th century villas; the plant nurseries of Joseph Graham, and John and William Gelding; and the Marrickville Horticultural Society which flourished from 1935 for many years.

Morning and afternoon teas will be provided. Bring your own lunch. During lunch you might care to admire the flower displays, examine the archived horticultural material, have your garden plant identified or tour the newly refurbished Maundrell Park.

Participants are invited to bring a vase of home grown flowers for competition. Prizes will be awarded. If entering the competition or for other information ring Peter 9550 3809.
Payment coupon attached.



*Marrickville Horticultural Society Show
19 March 1938 lower Marrickville Town Hall
Australian Garden Lover August 1938 p 43*

Renewed your membership yet? If not, our treasurer would welcome your cheque. \$28, \$20, \$12. Address below.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003-2004

Looking through our newsletters it is amazing what we have managed to cram into the past year. Our activities have included outings such as *Canterbury Tales & Vales* and a Hurlstone Park Walk with Canterbury & District Historical Society; a tour of *Thirning Villa* with Ashfield & District Historical Society; a coach trip to Campbelltown with Verlie Fowler and a wet day at Gore Hill Cemetery in November (is this the last time it rained?). Our speakers at meetings included Peter Sage on trams, Colleen Morris *Playing the garden detective* and Margaret Wright showing her Graham, Hanney and Wright family memorabilia.

Among special events was a Petersham Promenade to *Trethaway* conducted by Robert Hutchinson during History Week in September. During the National Trust Heritage Festival in April Sue Jackson-Stepowski gave an illustrated talk on brick footpaths of the Marrickville area. We had some seldom seen members who live in streets with brick footpaths. MHS was represented at the October RAHS Conference in Mittagong where Richard Blair was presented with a Certificate of Achievement for ten years as newsletter editor and his contributions to heritage protection. Festival stalls were manned at Marrickville, Newtown, Dulwich Hill and at the Wentworth Park Antiques Fair. Our annual Pot Luck Xmas Dinner in December was at the home of Ken Swinbourne. In August a group had an enjoyable dinner at Restaurant Portugal in Petersham.

Our 20th birthday in April was celebrated in style. A great crowd filled the Herb Greedy Hall with Mayor Morris Hanna and six other councillors from across the political spectrum present. Our first president Barbara Le Maistre and all past presidents except Bob Thompson (who sent greetings from Lismore) came. Speeches made reference to departed friends – former patron Eve Sharpe and John Zinsmeister who was remembered warmly by Chrys Meader. Catering was superbly done by committee members Lorraine Beach, Graeme Napier, Angela Phippen and Ellie Zinsmeister with other member helpers David Cass, Audrey Furney and Ian Phillips. Robert Hutchinson made the beautifully iced cake which crowned the occasion.

After these festivities some stalwarts went on a Heritage Festival Council bus (from Bus & Truck Museum) to industrial sites which were entrants in Marrickville Medal. I was an invited guest at the Medal Ceremony on 2 May at Petersham Town Hall with Deputy Mayor Sam Byrne as MC and NSW Government Architect Chris Johnson keynote speaker. The Medal winner was Starkeys Ginger Beer & Cordial Factory in Stanmore. I addressed the Marrickville Rotary Club in March on the Society.

This is my last day as president having served for two terms. It has not been an easy twelve months but I feel a great deal of satisfaction in what we have accomplished. I would like to thank my hard working committee: Lorraine Beach, vice president and minute taker, Stuart Grigg, treasurer, Scott MacArthur, heritage watch, Peter Cousens, convenor of publications committee, Richard Blair, newsletter editor and coordinator of distribution; Robert Hutchinson, Mark Matheson, Graeme Napier, Angela Phippen, Ian Rumsey (who resigned from committee in March) and Ellie

Zinsmeister. Special thanks to Graeme for auditing the books and to Angela for her splendid coordination of the pot luck dinner. Thanks also to Pamela Stewart, membership secretary and David Cass, honorary solicitor.

In August 2003 we held our last Saturday meeting in Petersham Town Hall but we seem to have made a successful transition to Herb Greedy Hall in Marrickville. Thanks to Marrickville Council for free use of this building for Saturday meetings and for Petersham Town Hall for executive and heritage watch meetings. We continue strong ties with Council Archivist Natasha Trpezanovski, Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader and Heritage Adviser Robin Hedditch. Last, but not least, thanks to my marvellous husband Jamie for his support. Sometimes when I am down people surprise me by ringing or writing to say thank you for the work we do, so that makes it all worthwhile.

Diane McCarthy



Former President Diane McCarthy (left) with incoming President Lorraine Beach in Jarvie Park, Marrickville after 26 June AGM (photo: Robert Hutchinson)

POSTCARD FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

After becoming MHS president **Lorraine Beach** went on a long-planned holiday to San Francisco from where she sent the Society a charming postcard:

"Dear All, San Francisco is very like Sydney, but très hilly! Is 47 square miles, roughly, and have walked 39.75 of them – roughly! This old mission is its oldest building – 1766"

Pictured is an historic 1906 photograph of the Mission Dolores Parish Church, severely damaged by earthquake and fire; alongside, the 1766 Old Mission, – one of the few churches unharmed where services could be held after the earthquake.

OUR LAST MEETING A MARRICKVILLE WALK

A striking feature of the Society's 24 July walk was the adaptive reuse of a number of Marrickville buildings. The Masonic Centre, from where we started, is now a medical centre; *Penston Hall*, the 1910 two storey National Trust classified Federation Queen Ann style house is now the Marrickville Community Health Centre; the Alexander the Great Greek Club was a house *The Laurels*, then the Marrickville Businessmen's Club; and part of the James Barnet Marrickville Post Office is now a café.

Another walk feature was that some service buildings – fire station, police station and town hall – were not the first in the area. The imposing Marrickville Town Hall opened in 1922 and only had council meetings for 26 years before council amalgamation when meetings moved to Petersham. It still houses Marrickville Library and has one of Sydney's finest auditoria. Marrickville Cottage Hospital served its community for 92 years before closing in 1991; it is now partly used by community groups. We saw grand houses, some converted to medical centres or doctor's surgeries. The Health Dept.-owned Federation house *Neston* (built for the Marcus Clark family) at 155 Livingstone Road has alarmingly been approved for demolition. What a travesty!

Churches loomed largely on our peregrination, but time did not permit entry into either the lofty St Brigid's or the majestic St Clement's both on Marrickville Road. Perhaps another time! **Mark Matheson** conveyed the scope of the large Graham Estate and related his theory that the rusticated Marrickville Police Station, known as the 'Lock-up', echoed *The Warren* Mansion which dominated late 19th century south Marrickville. In keeping with the walk's adaptive reuse theme the lock-up is now the May Murray Community Centre. Recently retired from her two year stint as MHS President, **Diane McCarthy** compiled a comprehensive walk demonstrating the wealth of fine buildings in the heart of our municipality.

Richard Blair (who forgot to recruit a walk reviewer)

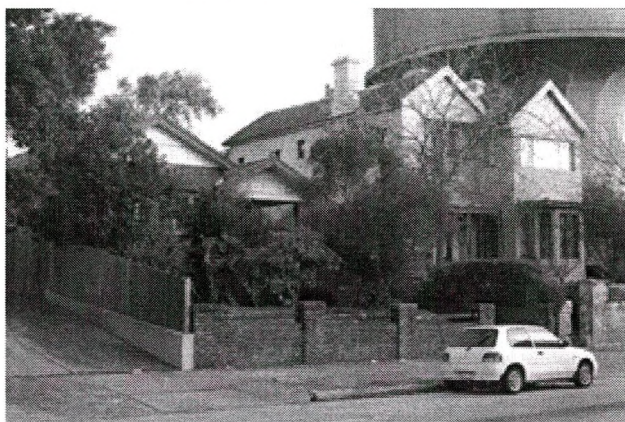
HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

16-18 New Canterbury Road, Petersham

These properties lie between Petersham Police Station to the east along New Canterbury Road and adjoins the Water Tower (Petersham Reservoir) to the west, both of which are listed heritage items. The precinct is part of the Draft Newington Heritage Conservation Area. The owners have applied to demolish the existing house and villa for a three storey (9 townhouse) development with off-street parking.

The adjoining heritage items are both of state significance. Petersham Police Station was built in 1880, and designed by the NSW Government Architect James Barnet. The original underground reservoir of Petersham Reservoir was built in 1887, though it has now been decommissioned. The 1880s perimeter fence survives, as do the two electrical substations on New Canterbury Road (c1920s-1930s) and the present reservoir tower that was built in 1965.

The applicants engaged a heritage consultant to research the history of the properties, and his report finds that both buildings are representative examples of their type, and with medium to high degrees of integrity. 16 New Canterbury Road is a single-storey Californian bungalow, called *Ingleside* and built in 1927. It replaced an earlier residence called *Ingleside* which had been built in c1875. It remains in a highly intact and well-maintained condition. 18 New Canterbury Road is a two-storey, Victorian villa, called *Fernbank* and built in c1878-1880 by builder William Wallace. In the 1920s-1930s it was used as a dentist's surgery and was divided into three flats, with some alteration of the facade. The house remains largely intact as a late Victorian villa with a 1930s front facade (photo: Scott MacArthur).



The Society supports the conclusion of Council's heritage officer that both 16 and 18 New Canterbury Road have local heritage significance in relation to the history and architectural character of New Canterbury Road and the Conservation Area. They are in good condition and substantially intact. They can demonstrate the historical development of Petersham, especially its late Victorian civic and residential character and its later commercial development in the 1920s and 1930s. As such, they can be considered important contributory items within the draft Conservation Area, and should be retained.

The building fails to comply with a number of Council's planning provisions (height, floor space ratios, boundary set-backs). The Society hopes Council will at least uphold our planning controls and reject this development, even if the importance of saving these heritage properties is not apparent to many of our Councillors.

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Gladstone Hall & Petersham Bowling Club

At the last Council meeting, a modified scheme for the new development for **Gladstone Hall**, Dulwich Hill was approved. The concerns of the Society and many of the neighbours were ignored, so that the density of the development, its proximity to the heritage house and the underground carpark are largely unchanged.

Council does appear to have sent the **Petersham Bowling Club** redevelopment back to the drawing board by rejecting the current scheme. The Society hopes the Club will heed the concerns of neighbours as they look for another solution to securing their future.

Scott MacArthur

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 28 August

Ferries of Yesteryear with Bill Allen
Details on front page

Saturday 4 September

**Seminar: Gardening in the Inner West –
A Look at Marrickville's Garden History**
Details on front page – booking coupon attached

Saturday 25 September

Coach trip to Fairfield area

Saturday 23 October

Richard Braddish on tall structures

SATURDAY AT ST PETERS

FREE

**1st Saturday of every month
1.30 to 4.30 pm**

**Inspect historic church & graveyard
Research family history
Sketching group
Music**

**St Peters Anglican Church
187 Princes Highway St Peters (opp. McDonalds)
Enquiries 9558 7504**

• **Friends of Camperdown Cemetery Working Bees**
Saturday 21 August & 18 September 9.30-11.30 am.
Contact Nell Graham 9335 2198 working hours.

• **Marrickville Landcare Group** always welcomes new members. Working group meets fourth Sunday of each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm at various sites. Tools, gloves & morning tea provided. Contact Nikki 0418 413 484.

• **Marrickville Community Nursery** 142 Addison Road Marrickville. Wed. 10-12 & first Sat. each month 10-1. Contact Amparo 0412 435 948. Native plants for sale.

MARY SEEKS KATHLEEN

Member **Mary Cleghorn** (nee Matthews), who left Marrickville on her marriage in 1952, has written to the Society: "I'm 72 years young, born and bred in Marrickville. Loved the place and still do. I've searched without results for an old friend putting ads in so many books, papers etc. Her single name was Kathleen Crawford; what it is now I don't know. I have not seen her for almost 60 years. She came from 269 Victoria Road, I from 261." I later lived at 48 Schwebel Street. Contact c/- MHS.

BEECHAM RECONDUCTED

A line in the (June newsletter) article on Sir Thomas Beecham's visit to Marrickville in August 1940 disappeared at the printers into the ether. The final sentence of the opening paragraph should have read: "The concert was attended by the Governor-General Lord Gowrie and Lady Gowrie."

The ever astute John Edwards pointed out that the conductor Dorati's first name was correctly Antal (not Anton).

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS INVOLVING MHS MEMBERS

1. The **Canterbury & District Historical Society** has produced *Kingsgrove – The First Two Hundred Years* by **Ron Hill & Brian Madden**. It will be launched by Prof. Ian Jack, President RAHS on Wednesday 11 August at 4 pm at Kingsgrove RSL, Brocklehurst Lane off The Avenue, Kingsgrove. The launch marks the 200th anniversary of the land grant dated 11 August 1804 by Governor King to Mrs Hannah Laycock. She called the grant *King's Grove*. The book has 208 pages, 125 illustrations and is \$20 or \$27 including postage. To RSVP or purchase ring 9718 4538.

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2. The most recent journal of the **Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society** is *Mona Vale Cemetery*. The book contains an extensive burial index, two articles on the cemetery and brief biographies of selected burials. Among these are Margaret Vaile, former editor of the Sydney Morning Herald women's pages; William Flick, OBE who owned Australia's largest pest control company until sold in 1986; prominent author Morris West AO, who wrote many works including *The Devil's Advocate* and *The Shoes of a Fisherman*; and legendary footballer Frank Bumper Farrell.

Farrell "first played Rugby League with the Marrickville Juniors and then grade football in 1936 with the Newtown Rugby League Club, *The Bluebags* ... He retired in 1951 the first person to play over 250 grade games for a Sydney club ... He represented NSW in every interstate series between 1939 and 1948" and also played for Australia. *Bumper* was equally famous as a police officer and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1976.

MHS member **Susan Pinson** wrote the biographies of Farrell, Flick, West and others. This handsome book is \$12 (including handling) – cheque or money order to MW&PHS 2/20 Innes Road, Manly Vale 2093.

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER – GERMAINE GREER

Germaine Greer taught English and History at **Marrickville Junior Girls High School**, Chapel Street, Marrickville from 1962 to 1964. She completed her Masters at Sydney University in 1963 and at the end of 1964 went to England to take up a teaching post at Cambridge. One of her English pupils over that time was Lesley Turner (nee Pearce). Lesley describes Germaine as "a wonderful and inspiring teacher; you really loved the subject because of her. She was a wild dresser, wearing lamé and tight-fitting outfits, with no bra which was a bit risqué for the time ... She had striking, dyed red hair, but disapproved if the girls dyed **their** hair red."

Congratulations to John Edwards, Diane Galofaro and Margaret Wright for correct answers and thank you Diane McCarthy and Ian Phillips who both unwittingly prompted the question.

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