

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

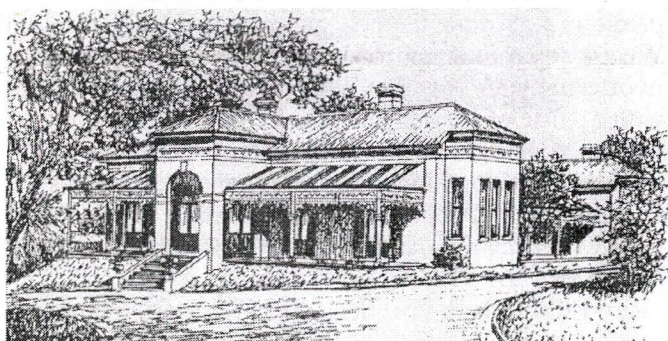
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING
FAIRFIELD & FURTHER AFIELD
Saturday 25 September
Coach leaves 9 am sharp

Petersham Town Hall 8.45 am. BYO lunch.
Cost incl. morning tea. \$30, \$33. Advise if
you have to cancel. Bookings 9588 4930.

George McCredie (1859-1903) and his brother Arthur established a successful firm of architects and engineers whose prominent Sydney buildings included the Burns Philp building in Bridge Street and Mark Foy's. In 1891 he purchased 11 hectares of the *Orchardleigh* estate at Guildford and built a substantial residence (for his large family) which he named *Linnwood Hall*. *Linnwood* was described in the '*Cumberland Mercury*' (2 March 1892) as *one of the most perfectly finished domestic establishments in the Southern Hemisphere – a home that is just a dream of every convenience and comfort.*



After a successful political career and McCredie's premature death, *Linnwood* was leased to the Education Department as the State's only Boys Truant School. It was later bought by the government and until the 1990s was a residential girls school for state wards (respelt *Lynwood Hall*). In 2002 the *Friends of Linnwood* was formed to help preserve and protect the property which was listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in 2003.

The Fairfield City Museum in the old Smithfield & Fairfield Council Chambers has a permanent exhibition of the development of Fairfield City. Nearby, a vintage historic village features a one-room school-house, an original slab hut, Wheatley's general store to name a few. On show at the Stein Gallery is *Culture & Cultivation: Backyards in Fairfield*. A local historian will join our coach to show some highlights of the area before we visit a significant mystery destination, with a Marrickville connection, and if time, the Dutch Shop! (sketch of *Linnwood*: RA Young)

2004 is the Year of the Built Environment

DIRECTORY OVERSIGHT RECTIFIED

Shortly after our August newsletter appeared with a report on the oversight by Marrickville Council in omitting the Society from its 2003-04 Community Information Directory, the Society became aware of two facts. Firstly it was reported in *The Glebe* (5/8/04) that Marrickville Council had "won an RH Dougherty Award for local government excellence in communication"!

Then we learnt that the 2004-05 Community Information Directory had just come out with Marrickville Heritage Society included on page 68. The Society has since received a letter from the acting Manager, Library Services, apologising on behalf of council for the earlier omission. The new edition was brought out to reflect the post March election council changes. Curiously in the ten years prior to 2003 there were three editions of the directory and now in less than a year we have had two. Both directories are of a high quality with comprehensive descriptions of local service organisations. Available at council libraries.

MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL

As always the Society will have a stall at the festival on **Sunday 19 September** along Marrickville Road. Spenders are especially welcome on the day as proceeds help to keep the society going. Donors can bring goods to the stall or if in need of collection ring Lorraine 9550 6608 after hours.

SPRING TRIVIA QUESTION

Name the all-time wealthiest Australian and his/her connection to the local area. (Richard 9557 3823)

A long term MHS member has paid fees till 2009. We do appreciate this expression of optimism in the ongoing success of our Society!

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to **Marrickville Heritage Society** with name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Ring Diane 9588 4930 for a brochure or further information. Membership includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage*, and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28. Members may recruit a friend with a gift membership.

OUR LAST MEETING FERRIES OF YESTERYEAR

On Saturday 28 August **Bill Allen** gave a fascinating account of the history of Sydney ferries to a full house of MHS members. With his extensive collection of slides, Bill was able to give members an insight into the importance of ferries to the expansion of Sydney.

In 1789 the first ferry, the *Rose Hill Packet*, was built on the site where the Customs House now stands. Nicknamed *The Lump*, she was used to transport goods from Circular Quay to Parramatta which was a three-day return trip! It wasn't until 1845 that a regular Sydney Harbour crossing (from Windmill Street to Blues Point) was established. Between the 1850s and 1870s many private ferry companies and cooperatives were established.

These companies adopted themes to name their ferries. The Lane Cover River Ferry Service named all its ferries after the daughters of owner Jules Joubert, (*Rose, Pearl and Lobelia*). The Parramatta River Steam and Tramway Company Ltd named its ferries after birds and the Port Jackson Manly Steamship Cooperative adopted the names of suburbs on the northern peninsula. The *Manly*, which was designed by Walter Reeks in 1896, still holds the speed record for the run between Circular Quay and Manly.

Bill related tales of experimental ferry designs that were commissioned. Of particular interest was the story of the *Kamilaroi* which was built in 1901 to carry horses and carts. The engine was placed horizontally rather than the usual vertical design, creating more room on the ferry platform. Unfortunately, this new engine design resulted in her needing assistance from other ferries to cross the harbour when a strong north-easterly was blowing. Despite this she was still in service until the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1932.

Early in the 20th century, the Sydney Ferry Company bought out many of the other ferry companies, forming one of the finest ferry services in the world. The service was bigger than Hong Kong has today. The company operated 51 vessels and transported 47 million passengers per year. After the Bridge was completed their fleet was reduced to 26. During the 1950s with the introduction of the basic wage, a standard 40-hour working week, and demarcation disputes between 15 unions, the company was sold to the government for £1.

Bill brought us to the present with images of ferries still in service. With such a fascinating topic, it was no wonder that Bill was kept busy answering many questions. If anyone has pictures of ferries Bill would love to hear about them. You can contact him at home on 9868 1906 or work on 9966 0737.

Ali Wright

Note: Bill claims to have initiated the Great Ferry Boat Race held annually on Australia Day. The first in 1981 was won by the *Karrabee*, built in 1913. Bill showed a superb sequence of photos of the *Karrabee* sinking at Circular Quay after coming third in the 1984 race. – **Editor**

MASTERTOUCH ENTERS A NEW ERA: THE WAY AHEAD AT MASTERTOUCH PIANO ROLL COMPANY

(Edited from letter by Ray Edmondson in *Music Notes* Vol. 2 No. 14 July 2004, with permission of author)

From 1 July under a leasing agreement with Barclay Wright, Music Roll Australia (MRA) assumed operational and financial responsibility for Mastertouch's trading activities. This is part of a plan to provide for the preservation of Australia's player piano heritage and to assure continuation of piano roll manufacture in Australia.

An extraordinary general meeting of MRA members on 8 November last approved the plan which has now been put into effect. In legal terms it means that the Mastertouch Piano Roll Company ceases to be a standard commercial business and becomes part of a non-profit public working museum.

It will now become possible for MRA to seek grants, tax-deductible donations and sponsorships to support roll manufacture. Over time such fundraising will cover the operating loss which Mastertouch currently sustains. Asking for money is hard work, but we believe this objective can be reached – and it is the way museums normally operate.

The survival of Mastertouch is important not only to those who enjoy their player pianos. It is a crucial part of Australia's musical, social and industrial history and as an operating entity it is unique in the world. We mean to see it known, admired and celebrated as a precious part of the national and international heritage. We ask for your support – both in financial terms and in offering your voluntary time – as we move forward with a sense of challenge and anticipation. Donations are welcome right now to help sustain operations while we develop longer-term fundraising strategies. Donations are tax deductible. Please make cheques out to *MRA Museum Fund*, PO Box 206, Petersham 2049. Enquiries 9569 5128.

Ray Edmondson President MRA (& MHS member)

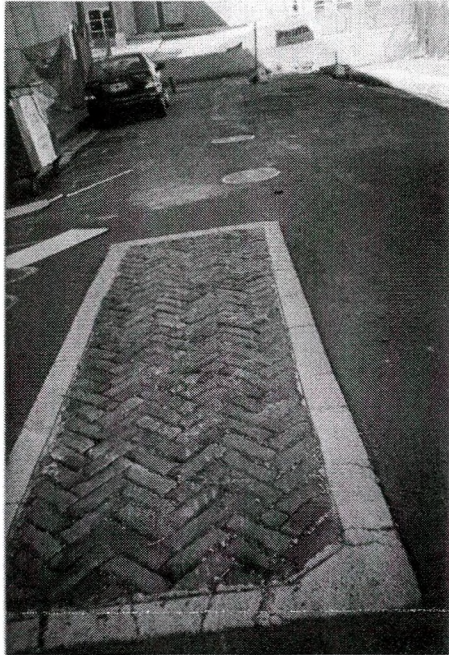
MARCEL CAUX FROM MARRICKVILLE !

It appears that NSW's last surviving veteran of World War One, **Marcel Caux**, who died on 22 August aged 105, came from Marrickville. Caux suffered such physical and mental damage as a result of the war that he changed his name from **Harold Katte** to Caux, a French region where he spent much of the war. Odd in a sense that he chose this name when wanting to distance himself from the War. Such was the mystique surrounding Caux's life that he has also been reported as having been born in Gladesville and Hurstville.

He was born in 1899 and his birth was registered in Marrickville. According to Sands, his father Percy Katte lived in Faversham Street, Marrickville in 1899 and beyond. The births of older brother Victor and younger sister Emily were also registered in Marrickville. He became alienated from his Katte family of origin. Caux never talked about the war nor took part in war-related ceremonies until recent years. In 1998 the French Government awarded him the Legion of Honour. (Thanks to Rod Cox, Chrys Meader, Susan Pinson and others.) – **Editor**

VICTORIA STREET ST PETERS

An item recorded in the 1984-86 Marrickville Heritage Study was "brick road and footpath paving and stone guttering" in Victoria Street [east] St Peters. This short, dead end street now contains just one house, but it once skirted the original 1878 St Peters Town Hall which was demolished in the 1920s for road widening. The study described the street as "an extremely good example of an early road complex ... which includes a partially exposed brick road surface in a herringbone pattern. Timber boarding separates the sandstone guttering from the road. The footpaths have been brick paved ... No other examples of brick road paving have been identified in the municipality."



Since this photo was taken in August 2003 the two bricked strips in a herringbone pattern on the road surface have been asphalted over, perhaps as protection from heavy vehicles. The brick footpaths are gone. Only some of the sandstone kerbing and guttering, and a section at the east end of the street of bricks in the herringbone pattern are now visible. It is unclear whether this is part of the original or laid recently to simulate how it would have looked. Our ever-disappearing heritage! (photo: Diane McCarthy)

Richard Blair

TEMPE HOUSE CEDAR CURTAIN RODS

(This item, submitted by Ian Rumsey, appeared in the *Financial Review* of 1 July 2004 p. 45)

CEDAR RODS WITHDRAWN

Restorers and dealers anxious to secure some of the finest colonial cedar curtain rods ever to appear at auction were disappointed on June 22. The rods, together with a fine set of cedar doors, were withdrawn from the sale, held by Sydney's Raffan and Kelaher, before the auction began. The extraordinary anthemium (Chippendale style) motifs are used by the Australian Furniture History Society in its logo, one of whose members may well have spotted them and linked them to Sydney's *Tempe House*. The auction house confirmed they had been identified as those from the John Verge house, which in 1836 was designed for an arcadian setting and is now being renovated. It is not known how the rods came to leave the house, which will soon be surrounded by 900 townhouses.

MHS NEWSLETTER INDEX 2000-04 PREFACE

This supplementary index to the Marrickville Heritage Society newsletter marks the passing of 20 years since the newsletter's first number appeared in June 1984, just a short time after the formation of the society. That first edition boldly declared itself to be Volume 1 Number 1. That we are now able to present an index to Volumes 17 through to 20 is due to the determination and skill of each of the editors and contributors who have continued to produce a publication of such high quality.

An early decision taken by members was that the Society should be an active organisation, rather than a remote one where members would simply pay their subscription and leave all the work to a committee. Because of its superb program of activities it has become a true 'society'. The resulting comradeship has seen members working together to preserve not only the built environment of Marrickville but, more importantly, our social history as well. The story of Marrickville's people is a vibrant, ongoing one in which each of us continues to play a part. And while members' research will continue to uncover and document our past, the initiatives and activities of Marrickville Heritage Society will ensure its relevance to a wider society, encouraging protection of our heritage into the future.

The newsletter records each of our excursions and the speakers – from within and outside the Society – who have entertained and informed us; the fascinating, the horrifying and the sometimes bizarre in Marrickville's unique story. It documents the awarding of the coveted Marrickville Medal and the achievements of the ever-vigilant Heritage Watch Committee. Indeed, much of what is published in the newsletter will appear nowhere else, so an index to its contents is vital.

As requested, I have included in this supplement the names of new members as they have appeared from time to time. There was a further suggestion that I retrace my steps and include all new members from the Society's beginnings in a "Member's Supplement", but so far time has been against me. I have tried to be consistent with the entry headings and to make cross references meaningful to assist researchers in their adventures.

I enjoy compiling the index. I hope it is useful.

Bob Thompson

(Thank you Bob for this ongoing labour of love. Bob was the Society's second president – 1986-87. Ring Richard 9557 3823 if you want a copy of the 2000-04 Index or the two earlier indexes – 1984-96, 1996-2000. Small copying and handling charges apply.)

Editor.)

DAVID BOYD RETROSPECTIVE

The Passionate Journey – David Boyd's 80th Anniversary Retrospective is having an extended season at the impressive 90 May Street, St Peters Gallery. This extraordinary range of artworks, many rarely shown, is worth seeing – a tribute to this local resident of the illustrious Boyd family. Open Fridays-Sundays only. Phone 9519 0099.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 25 September
Fairfield & further afield by coach
Details on front page

Saturday 23 October
Richard Braddish on tall structures

Saturday 27 November
Show & Tell

Saturday 4 December
Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner

Silent Movie Evenings at Mastertouch

(Admission by donation \$12.50 including refreshments.
Bookings essential 9569 5128)

Saturday 18 September 8 pm

The Romance of Runnibede

1928 film based on an incident in Steele Rudd's novel. Dorothy returns to her parents' cattle station in North Queensland from school in Sydney and is kidnapped by local Aborigines who believe she is their 'Great White Queen' risen from the dead.

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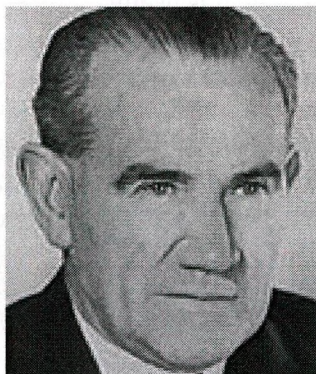
Saturday 9 October 8 pm

For the Term of His Natural Life

1927 adaptation of Marcus Clarke's epic story of a wrongly convicted young man transported to Van Diemen's Land; depicting his hardship and his unrequited love for the daughter of the prison governor. One of Australia's most famous silent productions.

JOE CAHILL BIOGRAPHY IN PROGRESS

Author **Peter Golding** is researching an authorised biography of **John Joseph Cahill**, long-time resident of Marrickville and New South Wales Premier 1952-59. He was born in Redfern and was educated by the Good Samaritan Nuns at St Brigid's Marrickville and the Patrician Brothers at Redfern. Cahill and his wife Esme (nee Kelly) lived at 44 Warren Road on the corner of Roach Street and attended St Brigid's Catholic Church. He worked as a fitter in the Eveleigh railway workshops and was elected to Parliament for the seat of St George in 1925. He was Member for Cooks River from May 1941 until his death in office in 1959.



Peter would like to hear from anyone able to help with his research: email: golding@tech2u.com.au phone 9969 4900, fax 9969 4932 address PO Box 582 Spit Junction NSW 2088. (Notes: Peter is aware of Bob Thompson's article on Cahill in *Heritage* 4. He has also written a biography of John 'Black Jack' McEwen.)

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

HERITAGE WATCH AUSTRALIA STREET CAMPERDOWN

The industrial landscape of Australia Street in Camperdown is currently being transformed with a series of developments and proposals that will change the use and appearance of the heritage-listed precinct. During the 19th century the area was part of the Fowlers Pottery complex, but the current buildings date from early in the 20th century. The Australia Street elevations of continuous, triangular pediments with large semicircular vents combine with the row of plane trees in Camperdown Park to create a striking industrial avenue. The facade and the line of trees are listed as heritage items of local significance by Marrickville Council.

The owner of the northern two-thirds of the precinct, up to Parramatta Road, is proposing to redevelop the site with townhouses behind the retained Australia Street facades, and 'shop top' flats on the current car yard site in Parramatta Road. The current scheme will retain part of the building and roof behind the principal facades, incorporating new housing units, and construct rows of north-facing townhouses on the remainder of the site. The rows of townhouses will be separated from each other and the Australia Street buildings by publicly accessible, green, open space. This will allow public access through the site between Denison Street and Camperdown Park.

The Society believes that the incorporation of the retained facades in the development and provision of public space in the current scheme are excellent initiatives. The scale of the building on Parramatta Road, in relation to the existing single storey terrace row on Denison Street is of some concern, and the impact of the development on Camperdown Park must be carefully managed.

The owner and developer has engaged in a public consultation program with the community, which the Society hopes other developers will emulate.

Scott MacArthur

The 20th Century Heritage Society of NSW & BIKE-Sydney has two easy bike rides in the historic inner east of Sydney. Tour leader **Roy Lumby**. Ride 1 is *Heritage tour of the City's eastern villages* Sunday 26 September 10 am-12 noon. Ride 2 is *Mansions & gardens of Kings Cross* Sunday 17 October 10 am-12 noon. Both rides start from El Alamein Fountain, Kings Cross. For further information, to find out about bike hire or to volunteer as a ride marshall ring Matthew Pitot 9246 7764.

Marrickville Council has a free exhibition the *Brickworks of Marrickville* 13-17 September 10-1 and 2-4 as part of History Week at the History/Archive Centre, Petersham Town Hall, Crystal Street Petersham. For more details see local papers or ring 9335 2287.

Report on Garden Seminar in October newsletter