

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Peter Sage on Rookwood Cemetery**  
**Saturday 23 October 10 for 10.30 am**  
**Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville**

Officially called Rookwood Necropolis, this is said to be the largest cemetery in the southern hemisphere and the largest Victorian cemetery in the world (over 300 hectares). It developed from the need for a large burial ground to serve the rapidly growing population of early Sydney in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the first burial did not occur until 5 January 1867. Over 800,000 people are believed to be buried there and since the first cremation in 1925, over 221,000 have occurred.



*Old section of Rookwood from Illustrated Sydney News 1874 when couples would come by train and promenade on picnic days. The Mortuary Station No. 1 in centre is now All Saints Church, Ainslie, ACT.*

Members will recall **Peter Sage** gave our final presentation at Petersham Town Hall in August 2003 when he showed some of his tram slides. Peter will take us through the history of Rookwood, its layout, architecture, the range of headstone features (motifs, scrolls, candelabra etc.) and its multi-denominational representation. He will share stories of some permanent Rookwood occupants including James Barnet, John Fairfax, Anthony Hordern, Louisa Lawson, Roy Rene, Jack Lang and Sir Hugh Dixon. Peter's comprehensive slide collection has been accumulated over several decades. Not to be missed!

## NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

Come and visit the Society's stall at the Festival on Sunday 14 November from 10 am at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park. Donations of small items welcome. For collection of goods or if you can help on the day ring Peter 9550 3809.

**2004 is the Year of the Built Environment**

## LETTER OF THANKS: GARDEN SEMINAR

(**Stuart Read** from the Heritage Office and the Australian Garden History Society not only participated in the Garden Seminar on 4 September, but won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Flower Show plus the Lucky Door Prize. This letter was sent to "Peter [Cousens] and all at MHS")

Many thanks for a most enjoyable day and for all your careful work to make it so stimulating – the eye, the nose, the mind, the sense of humour – all tickled thoroughly! Sorry to take out the two prizes. How embarrassing. On reflection the waratah will go to dear friends at Ashfield who have a treasured garden and will love it. Shall enjoy all my Marrickville related reading. Again, thanks to all involved.

(Seminar Report on back page)

## MARRICKVILLE FESTIVAL

Threatening clouds and the odd splash of rain failed to dampen attendance at the Festival on Sunday 19 September, and the Society's stall had a busy one. Gratifying to chat with new residents to the area and hear that among the reasons they were attracted to Marrickville, they include the Society's objectives to protect and celebrate heritage and cultural diversity.

The stall owes its success to many who gave their support, their time and some of their 'treasures' to sell on the day. Thanks to Angela Phippen and David Cass for their early morning set-up, and to Pat Mullen, Diane McCarthy, Ian Rumsey, Ali Wright, Ellie Zinsmeester, Lorraine Beach, Ted Green, Ian Phillips and Margaret Sinclair, whose legendary marmalade sold out around lunchtime. Robert Hutchinson, Mark Matheson and Chrys Meader were also involved in *Marrickville Retro*, a vast array of fantastic film footage staged by Marrickville Council's Heritage Promotions Committee. The Festival was interesting and fun and we applaud Council and the many volunteers for its organisation.

**Lorraine Beach**

**Australia's Foremost Working Musical Museum Mastertouch welcomes small or large group tours** of up to 50 people Mondays to Thursdays at 10.15 am or 1.30 pm. Tour only: \$8.25; tour with refreshment \$9.90. Bookings 9569 5128 weekdays 9-5. Mastertouch 308 Stanmore Road (corner Albert Street) Petersham.



## OUR LAST MEETING FAIRFIELD & FURTHER AFIELD

Our coach tour on Saturday 25 September combined learning about colonial and cultural heritage in the Fairfield area. Our first stop was *Linnwood* at Guildford, a once grand house (1891), built by **George McCredie** for his large family. He was a devout Presbyterian and provided for a room to be used as a chapel until the local church was built. Featured are beautiful leadlight windows over the doors, wood marquetry, 'Lincrusta' wallcoverings and a wide hallway. From the 1920s *Linnwood* became a Government-owned school for male truants and then a home for female state wards. Tour guides were the *Friends of Linnwood* who 'help preserve and protect the property'.

Former local MP Gough Whitlam said in 1960 'More people have been naturalised in the Fairfield Municipality than any other part of the Commonwealth and they have brought with them the culture of their lands.' This was demonstrated in the **Fairfield City Museum and Gallery** in Smithfield with its exhibition *Culture & Cultivation: Backyards in Fairfield* (similar to *Marrickville Backyards*) featuring Greek, Iranian, Italian, Samoan, Uruguayan and Vietnamese cultures. There was a separate exhibition of Chilean exhibits and we later visited the Dutch Shop.

We rambled around the original 1913 local council chambers housing local history displays and the historic village including a school room, a slab hut (moved from Cabramatta), working smithy, petrol station and a general store. Centre coordinator **Sue Hutchinson** took us to another slab hut in Smithfield that the Council has recently restored and maintains with management left to the cultural centre. Will we ever see Marrickville Council doing something like this?

Finally to *Horsley* where the mystery Marrickville connection was revealed. Lt-Col. George Johnston (of *Annandale*) was granted 65 acres at *Horsley Park* and left the property to his daughter Blanche who with her husband Capt. George Weston built this colonial Indian bungalow in about 1832 at the top of a rough and narrow driveway. The charming and sprightly owner Helen spoke about the building and her life there since the 1930s.

We did not expect to see inside but the charm of one or two MHS members cajoled her into allowing us to walk through the house which is in good condition. With its distinct design, all rooms open onto the main room, and there are 17 external doors! James Broadbent has described *Horsley* as 'the finest and most sophisticated bungalow built in the colony'.

What a day of heritage! We thank **Diane McCarthy** for planning and organising the day assisted by **Richard Blair** and **Ted Green**. I understand it was Ted who suggested our visit to *Linnwood*!

**Graeme Napier**

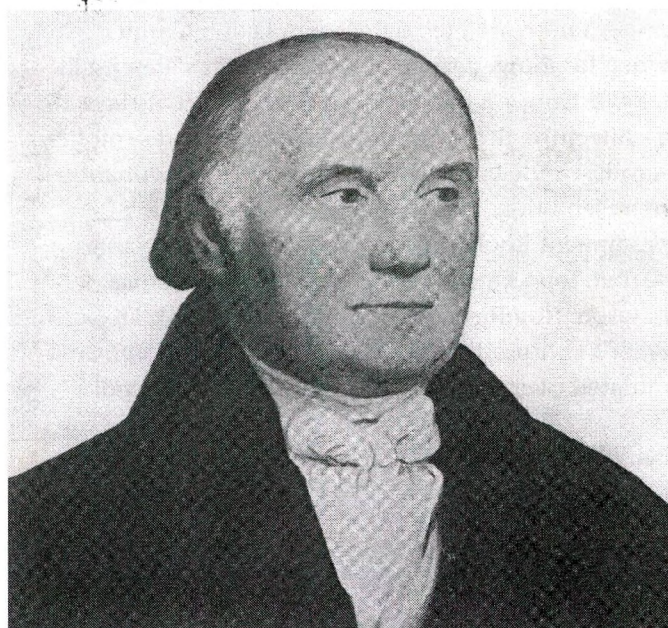
## SPRING TRIVIA ANSWER

The all-time wealthiest Australian is not Rupert Murdoch, Kerry Packer or a Wiggle (one of whom is a MHS member and was offered as an answer). The important clue was "all-time" and the honour goes to a man long dead who was born in the eighteenth century! Known as the 'Botany Bay Rothschild' he was convict-turned-property developer **Samuel Terry** (c. 1776-1838, pictured below). He is estimated to have been worth 3.395 of GDP and amassed an estimated £200,000 which is about \$24.37 billion today, almost four times the wealth of Kerry Packer. By the 1830s he was three times wealthier than his nearest rival in Australia.

On a list of 233 Murdoch is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> and Packer 17<sup>th</sup>. Not a Wiggle in sight! The list has been compiled by William D Rubinstein in the just published 'The All-time Australian 200 Rich List' (Allen & Unwin, \$29.95). Rubinstein is a former professor of social and economic history at Deakin University in Victoria. The criterion for inclusion is that a person 'must be worth 0.170 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) at that time'. Therefore 19<sup>th</sup> century landowners and pastoralists dominate the list. John Macarthur is ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, George Johnston 18<sup>th</sup> and Robert Wardell 78<sup>th</sup>. The highest ranked woman is an ex convict Mary Cooper 98<sup>th</sup>. Rubinstein claims probate records are the most objective barometer of personal wealth. One, of course, might question the reliability of comparing data from different eras.

Samuel Terry's life is covered in a biography by Gwyneth Dow (Sydney University Press, 1974). Terry was an emancipist merchant who owned land everywhere including at St Peters. In 1857 this land was acquired by a grandson, Samuel Henry Terry (1833-87) who built *Marionette* on Cooks River Road (now Princes Highway) between Lymerton and Samuel Streets. It was demolished c. 1910-11 for a Catholic church. **St Terry** was a prominent state and local politician and has three local streets named after him.

**Richard Blair**





## 2004 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORT

Over the past ten years newsletter processes have become more efficient especially with emails, photo transmission, scanning pictures and direct insertion into newsletter. It is now over a year since we moved from having the newsletter printed outside to being fully desktop published in-house with the printing done at a copy centre. The process has become more streamlined, with the newsletter ready earlier and production costs considerably reduced without loss of quality. I'd like to acknowledge specialist assistance from Lisa Angus, Ali Wright and the World of Print in Ultimo.

As this has been the Society's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year we reprinted some articles from earlier newsletters. Usually the issues raised 15-20 years ago were similar to current concerns. Trivia questions covered our local cinemas, a photo ID of a tram outside the former Hurlstone Park Cinema, Manning Clark connections and member contributions on street names submitted by Iain Carolin and Kimberly O'Sullivan Steward. More men did the 'Our Last Meeting' reports, so hopefully the next year it will be 50/50. Special mention to Margaret Broadfoot who did two reports.

At council thanks to archivist Natasha Trpezanovski especially in helping research the houses Bonera in Fisher Street and Lanook which long stood on site of the council car park in Petersham; also Marrickville Historian Chrys Meader for addressing assorted queries particularly in relation to Herb Greedy. Some member contributors were Susan Pinson, Murray Davidson, Rod Cox (birth & death info) and Shirley Doolan with her snippets from the minutes of City of Sydney Council.

I've again had a very supportive committee. In particular thanks to Scott MacArthur for his concise heritage watch reports and photographs. As well as the phenomenal amount of work Diane McCarthy does, she has recently acted a treasurer, draws up the membership lists and keeps me updated with new members. Diane has also given me many photographs and items of interest for the newsletter. Ian Phillips is invariably around to help with delivering to runners and finding new ways to streamline things. Proof-reader Shirley Hilyard continues to be a great source of support and often produces the right image when needed.

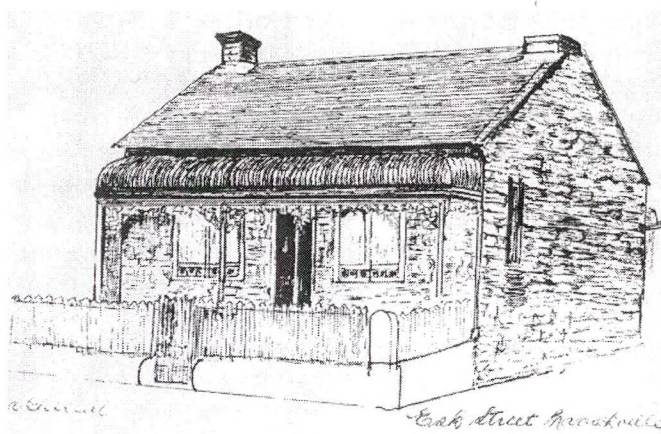
As usual I'd like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our runners. These people go out in all weathers getting the newsletter and enclosures to members. This process saves the society around \$1500 a year in postage. Alphabetically they are Jan Armstrong, Lorraine Beach, Lu Bell, Richard Blair, John Blattmann, Glynnis Burnet, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Joanna Fielding, Barbara Gibbons, Monica & Joe Grabowski, Shirley Hilyard, Laurel & Bob Horton, Peter James & Joan Sinclair, Cathy Law, Diane McCarthy, Hillary Morrissey, Pat Mullen, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart and Ken Turner. Special thanks to membership secretary Pamela Stewart for continuing to maintain the membership records and handle the postals.

Richard Blair (abridged from AGM report)

## FANNY DURACK & INNISCALTRA

It is well known that champion swimmer **Fanny Durack** (1889-1956) lived the last 30 years of her life at 80 Douglas Street Stanmore. But according to an item in Domain, Sydney Morning Herald 18-19 September 2004 (p. 3H) Fanny's Irish father John Durack from about 1910 owned the 1885 sandstone house at 5 Esk Street Marrickville which he named *Inniscaltra*, after an island off the coast of County Down, Ireland.

Given that Fanny did not marry until 1921, it is likely she was still living with her parents around 1910, just two years before becoming Australia's first female Gold Medallist. *Inniscaltra* was the first house in Esk Street and the sandstone is thought to have been quarried from nearby Grove Street. The house was to be auctioned on 5 October. Ironically Fanny's contemporary swimmer Annette Kellermann lived for a time, not long before, in nearby Silver Street Marrickville.



*Inniscaltra*, 5 Esk Street Marrickville  
(sketch by Ann Chessell from  
Cashman & Meader Marrickville 1990, p. 131)

## DEMOLISHED OR NOT DEMOLISHED!

1. **Abergeldie**: A report in *The Inner Western Courier* of 21/9/04 (pp. 6-7) that Marrickville Council nominated *Abergeldie House* for State Heritage listing in May 2004 was a noble thought, **however Abergeldie House in Dulwich Hill was demolished in 1926 to make way for the Abergeldie Estate!** The *Courier* did correctly indicate elsewhere in its report that council had agreed to protect the Abergeldie Estate along with the King Street/Enmore Road precinct.

2. **Ferndale**: It is understandable that a local paper or a newsletter such as ours might occasionally get a glaring fact wrong, but one would not expect an Australian Heritage Commission annual report to make such a blunder. The online 2002-03 AHC Annual Report put out a list of places notified as being lost to the National Estate in 2002-03. Included on the list was *Ferndale*, 31 Camden Street Newtown – Demolished. **Fortunately this heritage-listed building is still very much standing, much to the relief of its owners and current occupants!**



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 23 October**

**Peter Sage on Rookwood Cemetery**

Details on front page

**Saturday 27 November**

**Show & Tell**

**Saturday 4 December**

**Annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner**

(Note: Richard Braddish's presentation on tall structures postponed until Sat. 26 February 2005)

### Organ & Choral Recital & Concert

Sunday 31st October 3pm

St Clement's Church

334 Marrickville Road Marrickville

Concert to celebrate restoration work on the Swell Bourdon & Stopped Diapason treble ranks of the Pipe Organ featuring parish organist Margaret Hayes and visiting organists with a choral group from the choir of St Paul's Burwood. Afternoon tea and historical presentation of *Rules of the Choir* (old choir rules found stuck on a wood panel at back of organ). No charge; donations welcome towards cost of repair work.

### O'DEA RESERVE REVISITED

Since all the hullabaloo regarding the removal of the Camperdown Velodrome, O'Dea Reserve in Camperdown has been fully refurbished. Marrickville Council has done a good job in revitalising this park. Whilst the velodrome looked ancient, it was not, having only been built in 1968. It was not being maintained sufficiently to remain safe and viable. The space has been transformed into a dog exercise green which is flat such that canine breeds are not as challenged as those in the dog reserve off Simmons Street in Enmore.

The removal of the velodrome has opened up the attractive suburban vista with the Hunter Baillee Church in Annandale to the north and the Corunna Road sewer vent, a landmark to the west. Council has installed a range of play amenities and a barbecue area, with plentiful native plantings throughout the park. Perhaps council could affix an inscribed plaque to reflect the park's links with the cycling world.



Garden edging tiles from Bob Fielding's collection on display at Garden Seminar (photo: Diane McCarthy)

## GARDENING IN THE INNER WEST

Marrickville Heritage Society and the Australian Garden History Society (Sydney and Northern NSW Branch) jointly hosted a seminar *Gardening in the Inner West: a look at Marrickville's garden history* on Saturday 4 September at All Saints' Church Hall in Petersham.

MC was Malcolm Wilson, past president of the AGHS. Morning speakers: Doug Benson (Royal Botanic Gardens) on Marrickville's original landscape; Mark Matheson (MHS member) with an introduction to early Marrickville estates and gardens; Silas Clifford-Smith (MHS & AGHS member) shared his research on J & W Gelding's Nursery and Mark continued this theme by discussing Joseph Graham's Nursery. Richard Sage and Lee Trevitt from the Parks and Reserves Department of Marrickville Council showed us the work done at the recently renovated Maundrell Park.

During the break the 30 seminar attendees had a chance to watch a short film on Abergeldie's Garden and browse the archival records of horticultural material, a flower show and the display of garden edging tiles. Both Societies operated book and information stalls. The afternoon included presentations by Peter Cousens on the history of the Marrickville Horticultural Society and by Mary Ann Hamilton on the Marrickville Backyards project. Awards were given for best in the flower show.

There were many positive aspects of this seminar: the cooperation between two Societies, assistance by Marrickville Council in its provision of staff and equipment, and the volunteer effort by many MHS members: Lorraine Beach, Robert Hutchinson, Scott MacArthur, Diane McCarthy, Mark Matheson and Pat Mullen and Angela Phippen. Ian Phillips provided technical assistance with the amplification system and slide presentations. Thanks also to Margaret Wright who allowed precious items of family memorabilia to be displayed.

However, the greatest accolade must go to **Peter Cousens**, member of both MHS and AGHS. He conceived the project but, unlike many people who come up with good ideas, he saw his through: booking the venue, developing the program, contacting the speakers and undertaking research for a paper.

I said I was the wrong person to be asked to do this report because plants and flowers die when I walk into a room. However, by the end of the day I was feeling confident that I'd learned something. As I held a small vase of flowers in my hand I confidently announced to another member of the committee how much I loved gardenias. He smiled politely and said, 'pity they're frangipanis'!

**Angela Phippen**

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823