

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE & PARTS OF

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
CAMPERDOWN HURLSTONE PARK NEWTOWN



SAVE TEMPE BUS & TRUCK MUSEUM

2004 Year of the  
Built Environment



## JOURNAL LAUNCH POSTPONED

Due to technical difficulties we have postponed the launch of the Society's journal *Heritage* 12. We apologise for any inconvenience. We will advise the new launch date in our February 2005 newsletter.

We look forward to seeing members at our first 2005 meeting on Saturday 26 February at Herb Greedy Hall. Richard Braddish will give an illustrated talk on tall structures. See February newsletter.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rowena Ward, Dulwich Hill; Carolyn Craddock, Peter Dudman, Marg Ludlow & Bruce Taylor, Helen Seaton, Beau Winter, all of Marrickville; Daniel Goodluck & Claus Jorgensen, Alicia Philbey (rejoined), all of Petersham; Richardson & Wrench, Hurlstone Park; Diane Galofaro, Longueville; Clare Sefton, McMahon's Point.

The President Lorraine Beach and the executive committee wish MHS members & their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## OVERDEVELOPMENT FOR BRAIDWOOD!

Many of the 1100 residents of Braidwood are unhappy over a proposed development (Braidwood Heights) and it's easy to see why. Put simply, a developer wants Queanbeyan Council to approve 122 building blocks on about 18 hectares on the outskirts of town providing housing for up to 550 people – a population increase of 50%!

A town meeting in October organised by residents attracted over 200 people. Mayor Terry Bransdon seems to support the proposal. Other supporters cite employment opportunities and a population injection for a town which is not significantly growing. However appropriate development has been happening. Many more spoke against the proposal than for. It is said that the site abuts two items on the Register of the National Estate: John Verge's *Bedervale* and the town of Braidwood. According to Pip Giovanelli, a NSW Heritage Office Consultant, Braidwood is perhaps the last "perfectly surviving" Georgian town plan in NSW. It has a large number of early buildings and a wide main street.

The development would become the focal eyesore vista from the town centre. A town like Braidwood does not have the infrastructure for such a population increase: lack of water, an inadequate sewage system. The proposal will be voted on early in the new year.



Some Show & Tell winners, front: Alex Oonagh Redmond, Shirley Hilyard, Keith Smith;  
back: Lorraine Beach & Angela Phippen (photo: Richard Blair). Story inside.



## OUR LAST MEETING SHOW & TELL

The Society's *Show and Tell* on Saturday 27 November at Herb Greedy Hall provided 25 entries and lots of fun. There were five categories devised and decided by President **Lorraine Beach**. The "bottle o" award went to **Keith Sutton** with two air freshener bottles (one half-full, but aroma lost) found under his historic Petersham home. **Alex Oonagh Redmond's** brass cylinder won the "best mystery" award with a suggestion it could have been for gentlemen's toiletries. The "most entertaining" entrant was **Keith Smith's** still unopened 1944 bottle of Peter Dawson whisky, taken to New Guinea and back in World War II.

The "most audacious" winner was **Geoff Ostling** who had the audience at the window looking out at the unique architectural features of St Clement's Church where his father was rector (1972-81). The fifth winner was **Shirley Hilyard** with her extraordinary cactus, the night flowering *Queen of the Night*. It was in the window box at the flat she moved into in Dulwich Hill in 1950. It had since travelled to Lane Cove and Stanmore. It first flowered last year after 53 years and again miraculously the night before our *Show & Tell*. From an ugly bud a glorious flower emerged at dusk for a one-night stand to die by dawn!

Thanks to **Lorraine**, to our amusing compère **Angela Phippen** and to our lively member participation.

**Pamela Stewart**

**Editor's note** The range of S&T exhibits was certainly eclectic. Not of least interest were **Angela Phippen's** photocopy of a Ticket-of-Leave about which she waxed lyrical, and **Pamela Stewart's** fragment from a shell fired from a Japanese sub in WWII that landed in Balfour Road, Rose Bay.

**Ted Green** produced the original 1808 memoirs by **William Beatty**, ship's surgeon on the HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Beatty tried to save the dying Admiral Nelson, who urged him to tend to other wounded men. The **editor's special award** goes to **Joan Francis** for her father's World War I photo books, which he had signed by his fellow soldiers, many who never returned from the trenches in France. Most poignant.

## 2004 REMEMBRANCE DAY

Representatives from local schools, the RSL and community organisations along with Mayor Morris Hanna attended afternoon tea at Petersham Town Hall on 11 November to mark Remembrance Day..

On display were a range of war-related documents, artefacts, photographs and a Certificate of "Admiration and Appreciation of, and Thanks for, the Gallant Conduct of John HG Maitland who served his King and Country in the Great War, which commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914." It was signed by Petersham Mayor Richard Gendle and Town Clerk D Clifford. Thanks to Chrys Meader and her staff for hosting this commemorative event.

**Richard Blair**

## SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTION

The caption to this 1893 photo in a recent book reads: *Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century polished cedar joinery complemented by cedar furniture was extensively used in government buildings to create a sense of tradition and prosperity. The interior has changed but this local building is still in use by the public. Where is it? Richard 9557 3823.*



(Extract from the 12 March 1889 minutes of the Newtown Municipal Council. Minute book held by Council of City of Sydney Archives. Thanks to **Shirley Doolan** for submitting this item.)

"From the Borough of Marrickville inviting this Council to a conference upon the question of draining the low lying land in the vicinity of Edgeware Road."

"Ald Tye moved that a recommendation be made to the lighting committee to erect a lamp in Stanmore Road, about the middle, at an annual cost of £5.10.0, seconded by Ald. O'Connell and carried."

Member **Coralie Wickers** recalls planting a tree on Arbor Day in brick-paved Canonbury Grove, Dulwich Hill around 1933-34 while attending Dulwich Hill (now Lewisham) Primary School. The trees are still there, but Coralie cannot remember exactly which tree she planted!

## XMAS POT LUCK DINNER

The Society's 16th annual Xmas Pot Luck Dinner returned to Petersham in the intriguing surrounds of **Keith Sutton's** Sudan War murals. Extensive conservation work has revealed additional murals, believed to have been drawn in the 1880s – in addition to images relating to the Sudan War of 1885, are ones reflecting topical icons and ideas. Keith is still trying to locate information about the artist EC Press.

Our raffle winners were **Lois Korendijk** (Nancy MacAlpine painting), **Fay Young** (hamper) and **Pamela Stewart** (dinner-for-two at Vic-on-the-Park Hotel, Marrickville). **Hillary Goldsmith** won the lucky door prize (Robert Hutchinson Xmas cake). All prizes were donated. The food brought by the members was terrific. Thanks to Keith for allowing us into his home and to **Robert Hutchinson** and **John Waterstreet** for coordinating the evening; also to **Joyce and Paul Roy** and their band of kitchen helpers.



## BELGIUM'S ARCHITECTURAL GEM: COGELS-OYSLEI IN ANTWERP

Because there are so many better known places, most visitors to Europe miss Belgium or at best pass through it. Those who do venture there, confine themselves to Bruges, Ghent and perhaps Brussels. Who visits the once wealthy city of Antwerp? I had made several visits there over many years before discovering this wondrous street called Cogels-Oyslei in the district of Zurenborg – a kilometre of breathtaking architectural splendour. One website says about Cogels-Oyslei and surrounding streets: "No place in Europe will you find such a choice of different architectures": Art Nouveau, neo-Gothic, neo-Renaissance, neo-Byzantine, Loire Valley Chateau. It was mostly built in the 1890s. It has a national heritage listing in Belgium and is well worth the detour. (Article and photos by Richard Blair.)



## HEADSTONE VANDALISED – DIGGING UP THE DONNITHORNES!

It is only fitting that so much publicity has been given to the appalling vandalism to the headstone of the Donnithorne family in Camperdown Cemetery on 4-5 November. Whilst some of the reporting was exaggerated – it broke into two or three pieces, and was not 'smashed to pieces' as *The Glebe* of 11/11/04 claimed – the stone is undergoing repair with involvement by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), the Rookwood Anglican Cemetery, the Dickens Society, TAFE students and Marrickville Council. Other remedial work to the cemetery may flow on from this.

Whilst it has taken an act of vandalism to achieve this action, much work has been done over the years by the Camperdown Cemetery Trust in cemetery restoration and Marrickville Council's Kangaroo Grass Remnant Group with its vegetation regeneration program.

The old tale about Eliza Donnithorne's alleged jilting being the inspiration for Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations* has resurfaced. Because of its romanticism this assertion gets stronger with the passing years. Whilst some of the details fit, the timing is problematical. Eliza was born in 1826. Some reports place the proposed nuptials in 1848 (John Godl, RAHS magazine December 1992) while others put them as late as 1856 (*The Glebe* 11/11/04). *Great Expectations* was serialised in 1860-61 before being published as a book in 1861. If Charles Dickens did hear about Eliza's alleged self-imposed seclusion through Caroline Chisholm or one of his sons, Eliza was only in her thirties and was to live until 1886.

*The Dickens Dictionary* by Alex J Philip and Laurence Gadd (1928, republished by Bracken Books, 1989) relates the familiar story about the Donnithorne family on the "Kettle" estate, but qualifies it by saying *no dates have, however, been given of the occurrences referred to, and the only authority is a statement ... in an Australian newspaper. Paper and date unspecified.* This source cites two other similar claims – one for a Mr Nation, jilted by his bride in London and the other, for a Miss Christina Witland of Stockholm.

Then there are websites about Dirty Dick's pub at 202 Bishopsgate, London such as "OE Travelclub: Pubs with a Secret History": *Dirty Dick was the nickname of Nathaniel Bentley, a local 19th century ironmonger who preserved the unused wedding breakfast left over when his fiancée died on the eve of their marriage and spent the rest of his life in squalor. This gave Dickens the idea for the post-nuptial fate of Miss Havisham in Great Expectations.*

Some years ago when Newtown's failed McDonald's was being redeveloped, I was asked by an architect for a suitable name with a local flavour for a trendy pub. My suggestion was ignored and Kelly's-on-King opened shortly afterwards. One day some enterprising entrepreneur may adopt my recommendation and call his establishment *Donnithorne's*. The similarities between the post non-nuptials of Misses Donnithorne and Havisham are more than uncanny. Despite the doubters (myself included), why should Newtown not fully exploit this legend?

Richard Blair





Chelmsford Street Elevation

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

MHS member **John Edwards** has written a biography *Edward Baker Boulton: Australia's Forgotten Artist* – one of our colonial artists. It is anticipated that the book will be launched in early February 2005. The book will be available at a discount price at the launch only. For catering purposes email <norrongpress@hotmail.com> or ring 9558 1327 closer to the time. (Note: An article *Edward Baker Boulton (1812-1895): a watercolourist rediscovered* by John appeared in the August 2004 *Australiana* Vol. 26 No. 3.)

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**Pam Liell** is a historian who collects old photographs and postcards. She addressed MHS in February 1999 on *100 years of postcard messages* and has written two postcard books: *Before the Phone* and *Messages from the War*. She has now written *Dressed in Their Best: 100 Years of Family Photos*. It contains 500 previously unpublished images, mainly Australian, with a detailed caption for each. It is a splendid resource for researchers and will help date family photos. Cost \$30 incl. handling. Send cheque to Pam Liell, PO Box 455 Concord West 2138.

We only belatedly learnt of the death on 17 August of the charming and erudite **Norma Dixon**, 82, after a long illness. Norma had been a member since 1992 and lived in Metropolitan Road Enmore. Our condolences to her family.

## NEWTOWN FESTIVAL

How this festival, held on Sunday 14 November, has grown since the first one I attended in 1983 when it was a fraction of the current size! Stallholders then were typically preschools, schools and other community groups selling bric-a-brac, and there was some multi-cultural entertainment. Now there are the ubiquitous stalls found at all festivals and a vast range of musical talent performing on several stages. Newtown Festival has become one of Sydney's largest annual festivals, most of whose participants are young with little apparent interest in local history.

Nevertheless the Society maintained its long-standing presence and still had good stall patronage. Thanks to helpers Robert, Peter, Ian, Pat, Lorraine, Richard and those who donated goods for the stall.

Richard Blair

## HERITAGE WATCH

A DA has been submitted to Council for a new townhouse development at **46-50 Chelmsford Street Newtown**, in the Kingston Estate Draft Heritage Conservation Area. The proposal will require the demolition of a Victorian terrace that has been so thoroughly modified in the 1960s as to be unrecognisable. Three 3-storey townhouses will be constructed on this site and the adjoining vacant block.

The corner single storey cottage at No. 50, will be restored and an attic room added. The Society is pleased that the owner/developer is retaining and restoring the cottage, but is concerned at the size and style of the new townhouses. The new and existing housing in the street is predominantly only two storeys tall, and the proposed three storey townhouses dwarf the retained cottage. The large openings for aluminium-framed windows and doors on the Chelmsford Street façade is also out of keeping with the character of the buildings in the street.

The Society suggests that the two storey townhouse development under construction just up the street (at numbers 68-70) is a more sympathetic infill solution. This development has large openings in the street façade wall to cater for contemporary light and air requirements, but there is only a single central large opening on each floor, which is trimmed in the traditional way with timber-framed French doors, fixed sidelights and hinged fanlights.

The scale and detailing of this development is much less intrusive to the existing Victorian streetscape than that proposed at 46-50, and the Society hopes that Council can persuade the developer and their architects to revisit their design.

Scott MacArthur

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