

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Parramatta Pursuits

Saturday 19 March 9.45 for 10 am
(meeting a week earlier than usual due to Easter)

Meet Wharf 5 Circular Quay for RiverCat. 50 minute trip. One way \$7.40, seniors & pensioners \$2.50. BYO lunch. Return by RiverCat or train. Bookings Lorraine 8565 6511 in working hours.

Despite the extensive urban redevelopment in Parramatta, there remains much of great significance in the built environment. Parramatta is a mine of heritage and history and our visit should include the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre (346A Church Street, next to the historic Lennox Bridge) open 9-5 daily. It has a permanent exhibition *Parramatta: People & Place*.

This excursion is unstructured: do-it-yourself or in small groups – take a self-guided heritage walk, visit Old Government House*, the Dairy Precinct, Elizabeth Farm*, Hambledon Cottage*, Experiment Farm Cottage*, St Johns Cemetery. You can return on the RiverCat at your leisure (1.30, 2.30, 4, 5 or 7 pm) or go back by train. Lorraine will take her car to convey slower walkers between sites if required.

* denotes entry fee

ARTICLES SOUGHT FOR HERITAGE 13

At the launch of *Heritage 12*, editor **Peter Cousens** spoke of the rewarding experience for publications committee members. He invited members to either contribute to future journals or join the publications committee. *Heritage 12* is being delivered this month. For queries or information ring Peter 9550 3809. Story on back page.



Peter Cousens may look like he's just won the lottery but successfully completing Heritage 12 is the next best thing. He is being presented with a Eucharis lily at the journal launch on 3 March
(photo: Richard Blair)

SAVE THE TEMPE BUS & TRUCK MUSEUM

3 MARRICKVILLE POTTERIES LAUNCH Wednesday 13 April 4.30 pm

Members are invited to the launch of Marrickville Heritage Society's new publication *3 Marrickville Potteries: Fowler's, Diana & Studio Anna* at Petersham Town Hall. This is in conjunction with the presentation of the 2005 Marrickville Medal and is part of Marrickville's Heritage Festival.

This book tells the story of three of the major potteries that were based in Marrickville. Their production period spanned over 150 years and employed hundreds of local people, many of them post war migrants with pottery manufacturing skills. The Fowler story by the late **Gary Nicholls** appeared in two parts in MHS journals (*Heritage 1*, 1984 and *Heritage 3*, 1987, reprinted in *Heritage 1 & 2*, 1992), and the Diana story by **Geoff Ostling** in *Heritage 8* (1994). Geoff has rewritten his famous *Desperately Seeking Diana* article, as more information on Diana pottery has come to light.

The Studio Anna piece was written especially for this publication by one-time local studies librarian **Donna Braye**. All articles have many new illustrations and there are eight pages of colour photographs. Most items are from private collections and photographed for the first time. An exhibition will supplement the launch. Enquiries Robert 9568 3079.

DIANE MCCARTHY STEPS DOWN

After several years on committee as treasurer, vice president and president **Diane McCarthy** has resigned for health reasons. Diane has done a phenomenal amount of work for the society and we thank her for all her efforts. She is not only a fount of information, but is also a "people" person who has the uncanny knack of remembering everyone from a single encounter. Diane will still be involved with membership matters, will stay as Public Officer until the AGM and intends to regularly attend functions.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to the **Marrickville Heritage Society** with name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Join now and membership will be paid up to the end of May 2006. Ring Pat 9559 6684 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 HISTORY OF TALL STRUCTURES IN AUSTRALIA OR SIZE DOES MATTER

Richard Braddish, model maker with City of Sydney Council, at our meeting on 26 February examined buildings in Sydney, beginning with those of colonial times up until the 21st century. In separate series of images he discussed chimney stacks, churches and shot and clock towers. In addition, he showed pictures of buildings in Parramatta and Tasmania. Richard has produced detailed diagrams showing, for example, Sydney's tallest buildings chronologically and these, along with his pictures of the models of the CBD and central Sydney churches precipitated much discussion and many questions.

There were several major themes. Firstly, while these buildings were the tallest of their day there was an inevitability that, in the same way that they had surpassed their predecessors, they too would be surpassed.

Secondly, developers and architects have often 'pushed the envelope'. The T & G building (1928), the tallest building in Sydney at the time, was restricted by planning regulations to 150 feet, but the owners were permitted to put towers above that height so long as those towers were uninhabitable. The AWA Tower (1939) was permitted an extra 60 feet of height to house radio equipment only, with the tower above that.

Thirdly, in addition to buildings being the 'tallest', many were the 'first' of their kind. The Nelson Building, a 10 storey office block, was the first to have a steel frame. The Caltex building (1957) was Australia's first all concrete skyscraper.

The historical context for items is vital to understand them, which is probably why the audience gasped at the image of James Hardie House prominently displaying its original name: Asbestos House.

Richard brought some models. He intends to publish his research and we look forward to that publication or, more correctly, publications, because the breadth of his knowledge could not be contained in one volume. I wonder what the *thickest* book would be?

Angela Phippen

TEMPE HOUSE UNPROTECTED!

(This letter to the editor was in the National Trust magazine *Reflections* February-April 2005)

"The destruction of the environs of Tempe House were justified on the grounds that the house would be looked after. Not so. Recently all the six panelled cedar doors and the elaborate cornice poles from this John Verge house appeared in a Sydney auction room. They had been stolen. So we have not only lost the setting but the house is not protected.

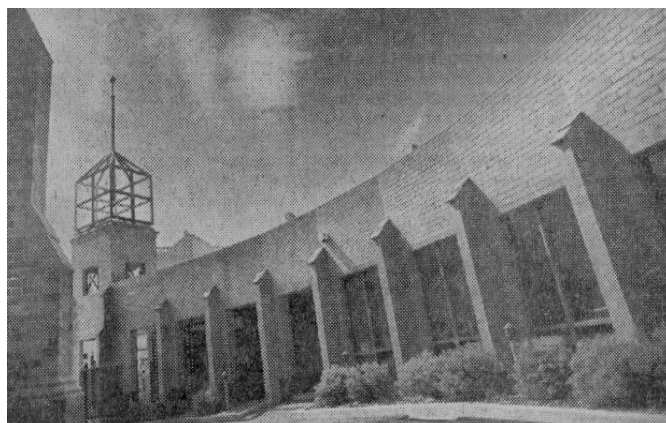
All this, of course, happens under the watchful eye of the New South Wales Government. And *Tempe* is the only really old thing in southern Sydney."

Yours faithfully
Clive Lucas OBE

Note: This theft is in the wake of the report in the September 2004 newsletter of the "some of the finest colonial cedar curtain rods ever to appear at auction" being withdrawn from auction, after being identified as coming from Tempe House!

MARRICKVILLE MEDAL WINNERS 1995-2004

At the first Marrickville Medal ceremony on 8 April 1995 at Marrickville Town Hall, Trevor Howells, senior lecturer in conservation architecture and chairman of the inaugural award jury said: *These awards are about excellence in the conservation of, or additions to, old buildings or in new buildings set in an historic context.*



1995 **St Clement's Parish Centre** Marrickville Road Marrickville (architect: Peter Armstrong). Photo by Kate Callas appeared in a Sydney Morning Herald article (14/4/1995) by Geraldine O'Brien, who was also a Marrickville Medal judge.

1996 **Signum Transheet** Carrington Road Marrickville (architect: Paul Frischknecht)

1997 **1906 brick and slate cottage** in Denison Street Camperdown (design: David Bennett, architect)

1998 **St Clement's Anglican Church** for restoration of spire, Marrickville (architect: Paul Davies)

1999 **'Glenora'** Lymerston Street Tempe (owner: Robert Hayes; design: Nick Powell)

2000 **Mocha Café** King Street Newtown (owner Paul Mannassis; architect: Caldis Cook Group)

2001 **1840s slab hut** Barden Street Tempe (owner: Brian Finn)

2002 **Metropolitan Community Church** Crystal Street Petersham (formerly owned by Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist and Mastertouch Piano Roll Co.)

2003 **Tin shed conversion** Wemyss Street Enmore (owner: Joanna Mendelssohn; design: Sam Marshall, architect)

2004 **Bridge Road Arts & Industrial Centre** formerly Starkey's Ginger Beer & Cordial Factory Stanmore (architects: Humphrey & Edwards)

Since 1997 the Marrickville Medal has alternated between "residential" and "public, community or commercial". The 2005 Medal is "residential" and will be awarded on 13 April (see back page).

CAROL APPLETON (1942-2005)

Carol died on 23 February. After migrating from Great Britain in 1967 Carol worked as a secretary for the Law Society before branching into administration and human resource fields. By her medical retirement in 2003 Carol had acquired considerable computer expertise. She saw her "retirement" as an opportunity to widen her interests and joined the Heritage Society. Carol also initiated and organised the Abergeldie Street Dulwich Hill Christmas Party every year. She will be missed by many.

Jennifer Kent (neighbour, friend & MHS member)

HERITAGE WATCH REPORT

9-11 Silver Street St Peters

A concerted campaign by local residents against a townhouse development has resulted in Council rejecting the application and undertaking to review its 'pro-development' residential design code. The application was for the demolition of the two existing cottages on the sites and to construct a multi-unit residential development on a consolidated site, with a total of 12 dwellings, basement car parking for 15 vehicles and to strata subdivide the premises into 12 lots.

Silver Street is part of the Village of St Peters that was laid out by Alexander Brodie Spark in the 1840s around the church of St Peters Cooks River. St Peters, along with Tempe further south along the Cooks River Road, were the earliest examples in Australia of planned towns for workers housing. Both villages were identified in the Mar-rickville Heritage Study Review as potential Heritage Conservation Areas.

The house at No 9 is a simple brick cottage with a large brick outbuilding which is possibly an early stables or shed. No 11 is a brick, freestanding Federation cottage. The developers supplied heritage and structural engineering reports that supported the demolition of the buildings. However, Council's Heritage and Urban Design adviser convincingly demonstrated in her report that the Federation cottage was important as part of the remaining Victorian and Federation streetscape and that the case against its repair and integration into a development more sympathetic to the area had not been convincingly canvassed.

Concerns about the density of the development and the potential for the car park excavation to damage adjoining houses were other issues that residents identified as not being adequately addressed by the proposal.

Council's current residential planning codes permit the consolidation of single dwelling properties by developers, the demolition of the 'existing improvements' (Council's euphemism for houses) and the construction of medium density housing that is out of scale and character with the surrounding precinct. As with the development in Kroombit Street, Dulwich Hill, in rejecting this development, Council has again undertaken to review its planning codes. Unfortunately, the combination of the Land and Environment Court and the NSW Government's planning department (DIPNR) eventually approved the development in Kroombit Street and frustrated Council's efforts to modify its planning codes. The Society hopes that Council has more luck this time.

Hebden 34 Station Street Newtown

As was briefly noted in the last newsletter, a proposal to develop the ruins of *Hebden*, the 130 year old sandstone house at 34 Station Street, has been lodged with Council, along with letters of opposition and of support from many of the neighbours who had objected to previous schemes for demolition and redevelopment of the site. While at first assessment the proposal to conserve the façade, verandah and garden is a big improvement on previous schemes, there are some very worrying aspects of the development that emerge on closer evaluation.

The original house was of four rooms symmetrically arranged off a central corridor, that opened onto the front verandah. The house was not centred on the block, so that the existing lot boundary is not the centre line of the house façade or the central corridor. However, the proposal divides the original cottage into two unequal portions with a new brick wall through the house and front verandah along the existing lot boundary. This has many implications for the remaining original fabric of the house. Of course, the central corridor, the front doorway and the garden gate are now cut into two unequal slivers that are too narrow to use for circulation within, or access to, either of the new townhouses.

The proposal therefore requires the demolition of the corridor walls and the bricking up of the front door. Access to the townhouses now has to be from the side, so existing walls and windows are bricked up, demolished and cut away as required for two new side doorways. The central front gate, garden path and 'sound cast iron fence and base' are cut up and modified for two side gates. The feature archway that connected two of the internal rooms is infilled with a pair of doors, and the dividing wall between the other pair of rooms is partially demolished for another pair of doors. The rear wall of the cottage and the outbuildings are demolished. Of the remaining original fabric and spaces of the house, only the front two windows emerge relatively unscathed from the proposed works.

The changes are indeed so extensive that the significant heritage value of the house as a free-standing single dwelling cottage will be lost if the development proceeds.

The height and density of the development is another concern. The development is described as two storeys with attics, but clearly reads as a dully conventional contemporary three storey elevation from the rear, which is out of character with this part of the Enmore Heritage Conservation Area. The design resolution of the Station Street elevation, with a new pitched roof behind the original cottage and double pairs of dormer windows, is clumsy and vaguely unsettling.

Other aspects of the development submission and assessment process are also of concern. The copy of the Statement of Environment Effects provided for review by Council on its web site has had all references to the company that prepared it removed – the credibility of such an unattributed assessment is dubious. The development team (designer and owner) is the same as that at 30 Baltic Street, Newtown, that succeeded in demolishing *Rosebank* (built 1882) for townhouses – their heritage pedigree is not inspiring. We also understand that one of Council's senior planning officers is part of the development team, and that this is why the proposal is to be externally assessed. We hope that Council can manage any potential conflict of interest that may arise.

The skin and shards of the original house that this development proposes to retain are overwhelmed and rendered meaningless by the charmless scale and avariciousness of the new building work. *Hebden* deserves better.

Scott MacArthur

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 19 March

Parramatta Pursuits

Details on front page

Wednesday 13 April

Launch of 3 Marrickville Potteries & Marrickville

Medal presentation (Marrickville Council event)

Details of launch on front page. Medal below.

Saturday 23 April

3 Marrickville Potteries: Fowler's, Diana & Studio Anna

Saturday 28 May

Ticket to Ryde

LOCAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENTS

Saturday 9 April 1 to 2 pm

Dead Set: Guided walk through Camperdown

Cemetery 189 Church St Newtown

Free. Bookings essential 9335 2287 or 9335 2152.

Saturday 9 April 3 to 4 pm

Dead Set: Guided walk through St Peters Cemetery

187 Princes Highway St Peters

Free. Bookings essential 9335 2287 or 9335 2152.

(Marrickville Council: both walks)

Wednesday 13 April 6.30 pm

Petersham Town Hall

2005 Marrickville Medal Presentation

This follows the launch of *3 Marrickville Potteries*.

The tenth anniversary of the Medal (see item inside)

will feature photographic displays of Medal entries

and of the history of many local potteries and brick-

works. Locally made bricks and ceramics will be on

show. Refreshments provided. Bookings 9335 2114.

(Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee)

Sunday 17 April 10 am to 3 pm

Tourific - Bus tours of Newtown, Enmore,

St Peters and Tempe. Meet at Tempe Bus & Truck

Museum, Gannon St Tempe. Cost: \$2. Enquiries

9559 8901. (Marrickville Heritage Promotions

Committee and Bus & Truck Museum)

Sunday 17 April 2 pm

Newtown Walk - meet outside Newtown Library

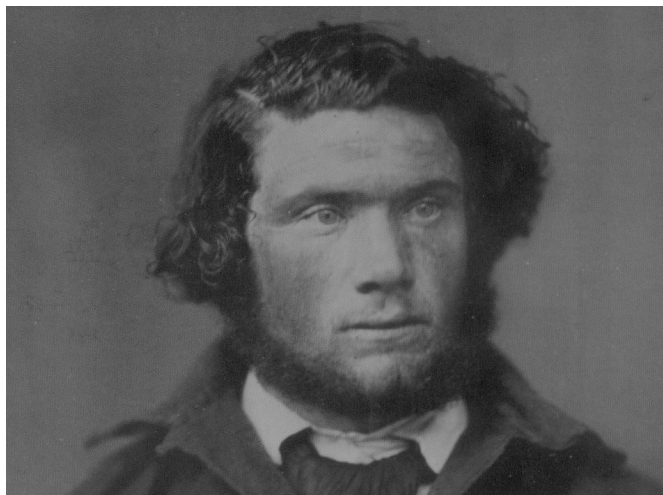
6 Brown Street Newtown. Adults \$2, children free.

Enquiries 9557 7343.

(South Sydney Heritage Society)

AUTUMN TRIVIA QUESTION

Who is this man and what was his connection to the local area? Richard 9557 3823.



HERITAGE 12 IS LAUNCHED

Anthony Albanese MP was upstaged when at our launch of *Heritage 12* he told how he had lived his entire life in the Marrickville area. 'Can anyone match that'? Well two of our more senior members - the two Dorothy's, Skinner and Sullivan - could! Anthony spoke of both the important contribution of societies like MHS and of the voluntary efforts of those running the societies. He said *Heritage 12* reflects the importance of our built environment before cutting the ribbon to the journal.

Journal editor **Peter Cousens** hosted the evening and drew attention to the panoply of past MHS presidents photographed at the Society's 20th anniversary lunch last April. Peter introduced the authors, who all attended except for **Willem Irik**, who lives in England. Four coloured pages of tiles reveal a dazzling feature on many of older houses (photographed by Willem and Peter). **Peter Chinn** wrote his street hawkers article for his grandchildren. Peter's article captures the charm of this long extinct aspect of daily life.

The four Carmelite letters written nearly a century ago provide insights into a nun's thoughts at the time. **Richard Blair** has placed these letters in context. This article is a companion piece to **Ken Swinbourne's** penetrating account of *Montlingham* in Dulwich Hill which was home to the Carmelites for 85 years. **Silas Clifford-Smith** lives close to the site of Gelding's Nursery which occupied much of today's Dulwich Hill and being a professional gardener Silas was most qualified to document this significant aspect of Australia's horticultural history.

Laurel Horton was equally qualified to present the Tempe Walk, having led many members along the route in March 2002. The reality of this often overlooked suburb comes to life in *Heritage 12*. As usual there is a pull-out copy included. **John Edwards** - fresh from launching his biography of E.B. Boulton - continues to glean more data on Dr Robert Wardell and Charles Frederick Priddle, the two major characters in his *A Bloodstained Inheritance*. John has admirably filled a huge gap in our local history.

Shirley Hilyard thanked the journal's advertisers (including our launcher) and singled out Marrickville Rotary who has sponsored most journals since 1984. Shirley also acknowledged the 2003 grant from RAHS. Peter Cousens thanked the other sponsors who are named in the journal and the editorial committee* who contributed many hours in compiling the journal.

MHS president **Lorraine Beach** presented Peter with a pot plant for his sterling efforts and thanked Angela Phippen, Pat Mullen and Ali Wright for their splendid catering at the launch held at the Herb Greedy Hall on Thursday 3 March. A top evening!

Richard Blair

* **Editorial committee** - Peter Cousens (Convener), Richard Blair, Shirley Doolan, Shirley Hilyard, Graham Hunt, Peter Robertson, Keith Sutton. Other MHS members will receive their complimentary journal this month.

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