

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

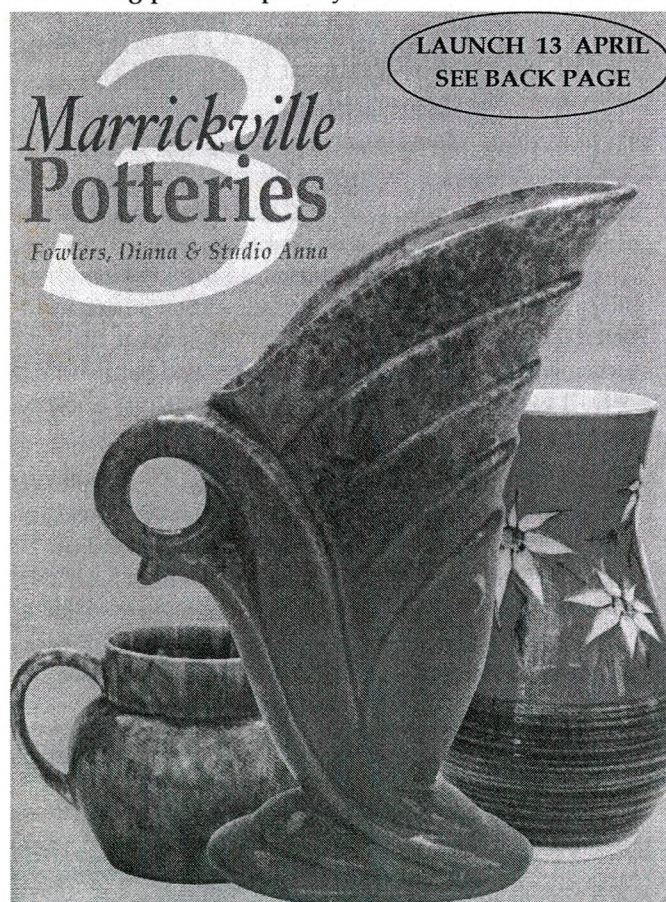
3 Marrickville Potteries

Illustrated talk by Robert Hutchinson

Saturday 23 April 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Robert Hutchinson will give an illustrated talk on the latest MHS publication *3 Marrickville Potteries: Fowlers, Diana & Studio Anna* launched on 13 April. Many of the photos were taken at the Diana factory during the 1950s and 1970s by staff. Historical views of the Fowler factory will also be shown, along with some interesting pieces of pottery from Robert's collection.



Members are invited to bring their own piece (or two) of pottery to show. The publication will be on sale at a discount rate for MHS members.

HERITAGE 12 AVAILABLE

Members should have received their complimentary copy of *Heritage 12* delivered with the March newsletter. The journal is just \$10 should you want to buy one for a friend, neighbour or relative. Available at monthly meetings. Extra \$2 for handling if posted. Queries ring Peter 9550 3809 or Richard 9557 3823.

HERITAGE WATCH

Marrickville Hospital Site

The Society has heard little about the proposed redevelopment of this important site as Council's new main library and administration centre. However, the status of the heritage buildings on the site needs to be clarified before planning is too advanced. Apart from the main hospital building, constructed from 1897 to 1926, there is a fine group of Victorian houses on the site that should be retained and incorporated in any development. Research into the history of these houses and assessments of their potential for conservation and adaptation as part of the overall scheme should be undertaken by Council as soon as possible.

St Mary / St Mina Coptic Orthodox Church

The fate of the former Tempe Park Methodist Church in Railway Road, Sydenham is in the balance. It was opened in 1902 to replace the earlier 1855 Wesleyan Church. When the church was built it represented the growing Methodist congregation in the district. However during the 1950s and 60s the cultural mix of the area changed dramatically, and this was represented by the reconsecration of a number of local churches including this one. In 1968 the first Coptic Orthodox Priest arrived in Australia and the church was purchased and reconsecrated to St. Mary and St. Mina.

As part of the Federal Government's aircraft noise management scheme (resume houses and remove people), the church was purchased and eventually sold to Marrickville Council for \$1. Council has been unable to find a tenant to take on the now vacant and deteriorating building, and spend the necessary money to maintain it. Earlier promises for it to become a community centre seem to have been forgotten. This is a potentially valuable community building that is being allowed to fall apart from lack of simple maintenance while council is dithering about long-term solutions. Simple measures like replacing damaged roof tiles and repairing broken windows should be addressed immediately. These are inexpensive works and they prevent further deterioration while council considers other options, like temporarily 'mothballing' the building, rather than demolition.

Stonehaven 19 Railway Road Sydenham

This Victorian sandstone house near the church seems headed for a similar fate. *Stonehaven* is a large two storey 'Victorian filigree' residence with an unusual stone front facade that reflects its proximity to the local stone quarries. *Stonehaven* has been renovated, though still retains many internal features of a very high quality. The sandstone entry piers and fence posts are particularly fine, and the property is 'a rare example of its architectural style at a regional level' (from the heritage listing in the Marrickville LEP). Council also owns this property and has an artists group as tenants. This satisfactory and sensible arrangement could be jeopardised if adequate resources for basic repair and maintenance works are withheld.

MORE ON BACK PAGE

Scott MacArthur

OUR LAST MEETING PARRAMATTA PURSUITS

In early colonial times it took two days rowing to get from Port Jackson to Parramatta. Now the Rivercat takes less than an hour. MHS members on the Rivercat on Saturday 19 March were not as well attired as racegoers bound for the Golden Slipper at Rosehill, however our eager band enjoyed the Parramatta River experience, some for the first time, passing sad relics of our working harbour like Cockatoo Island – its future unknown. By contrast the splendid Abbotsford House and at Concord Thomas Walker's magnificently restored 19th century mansion.

At Parramatta we visited **Hambledon Cottage** (1824), the home provided for the governess of the three Macarthur daughters – four sons were packed off to England for education. A detailed tour revealed homely treasures and in the grounds a cork tree useful when John Macarthur was bottling his wines. Hambledon is leased to the Parramatta & District Historical Society by owners Parramatta City Council.

Elizabeth Farm (1793) is famed for its collection of exotic plants. Elizabeth Macarthur, highly capable manager, coped with John's bouts of illness and long absences overseas on wool promotion and answering sedition charges. The house has survived thanks to the Swann family, owners for 65 years until 1968. It is furnished with carefully crafted reproductions creating a hands-on experience. Elizabeth Farm is owned and operated by the Historic Houses Trust, who let the seniors amongst us in for free (Senior's Week).

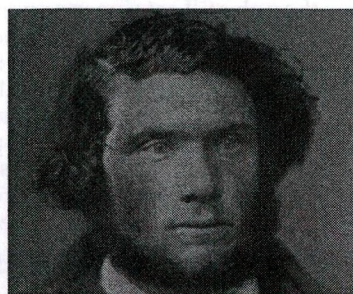
In 1789 convict James Ruse received the first land grant in Australia, a 30 acre property which was called **Experiment Farm** – an experiment in self-sufficiency aimed at producing crops for the struggling colony. Surgeon John Harris (a founding director of The Bank of NSW) built the Indian style bungalow (c. 1835) and his medical books survive. Cedar was used extensively and high quality antiques are showcased in this National Trust property.

Favourite things: monumental four poster bed stuffed high with three types of mattress – straw, horse hair and feathers (Elizabeth Farm); solid sandstone water purifiers (all three). A most enjoyable day, but we didn't get to Old Government House so how about a return visit!

Pam Burden

Editor's Note Greeting us on arrival at the Parramatta wharf was our charming MHS member **Joyce Allen**, who now lives out that way, but spent her entire married life in Audley Street Petersham. Joyce's memories appear in the oral history in *Heritage 9* *A hard life ... but a happy one!* as told to Caroline Plim.

James Johnson, sole survivor of Dunbar, shipwrecked in 1857 off South Head



LYNDHURST SOLD FOR \$3.3M

The future of *Lyndhurst* in Glebe seems secure with its recent sale to a buyer intending to use it as a family home. This superb Regency villa has had a varied history having been built to the design of John Verge in 1837 for the principal Colonial Surgeon in NSW. It has since been a hospital, school, three terrace houses, a laundry, carpenter's workshop, and an ice cream and broom factory. By the 1970s it was in dreadful condition and became a haven for squatters. It survived demolition plans and was rescued by the Wran State Government becoming home for over two decades to the Historic Houses Trust.

This is a win/win as proceeds from the sale will enable the Historic Houses Trust to restore and buy other properties while the new owner plans to further restore the house and open it to the public on occasion. MHS members visited *Lyndhurst* when it opened in October 1988 and again in May 2001.

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER

25 year old Irish seaman **James Johnson** was the sole survivor of the Dunbar shipwreck at The Gap, South Head on the night of 20 August 1857 when 121 passengers and crew perished.

The photo appears in Alan Davies' *An Eye for Photography: The Camera in Australia* (\$69.95) The Miegunyah Press, State Library of NSW, 2004: "This huge [hand coloured] ambrotype was probably taken by Thomas Glaister for advertising purposes, as only wealthy clients could afford to commission portraits before 1860. Glaister had a gallery of famous faces at his studio, which was open to the public, and Johnson's portrait would have attracted citizens curious about the shipwreck."

The stunning exhibition *eye 4 photography* – 125 photographs spanning the 160 years up to the digital era in Australia – finishes at The State Library of NSW on 29 May. Congratulations to **Audrey Furney**, **Shirley Hilyard** and **Jennifer O'Callaghan** for their correct identification. Audrey saw the photo in the exhibition at the State Library which Jennifer helped put together; Shirley did her own detective work!

James Johnson's brother Henry was the first keeper of the Hornby Light when built in 1858. James lived in the Newcastle area for many years and ironically helped rescue the sole survivor of the coastal steamer *Cawarra* sinking at Newcastle in 1866. In 1886 he was described as "a long-serving Assistant Lighthouse Keeper at Newcastle" He married twice and is believed to have had at least two daughters.

So how is James Johnson connected to the Marrickville area? In two ways. The iron fence enclosed Dunbar tomb, containing remains of many unidentified victims, is at Camperdown Cemetery. Two Dunbar anchors were recovered in 1910 and one of these rests with the tomb. The other is on display at The Gap, Watson's Bay. The second connection will be revealed in the May newsletter.

Richard Blair

LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY & THE PRESERVATION REPORT CARD

(Recent letter to editor from long time MHS member Dan Young who spends part of the year living with family in Los Angeles.)

"As you may know I'm a member of a local heritage group in Los Angeles, active in a similar area to Marrickville. I think you may have seen some of our newsletters which I've been pleased to send.

"I'm also a member of another group in LA, the Los Angeles Conservancy, which really covers Los Angeles County, a branch of local government we don't have here. I notice the Conservancy has just come up with an 'evaluation' of the efforts of the 88 cities in LA County and of LA County government. I would guess that LA County and the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area would come close in size and population. As far as I know there isn't any metropolitan wide conservation organization in Sydney. The National Trust of NSW would be the closest in purpose, but really its interests would range way beyond Sydney.

"I wonder if there's not a need and maybe an opportunity to create a loose organization of Sydney's many heritage groups. Your newsletter often mentions other historical or heritage groups. I'm a member of Mosman Historical Society (purposes being similar). If all these groups could form a loose association, they could coordinate a metropolitan interests group and activities. Maybe the enclosed LA Conservancy News could inspire additional thinking by our Society and others."

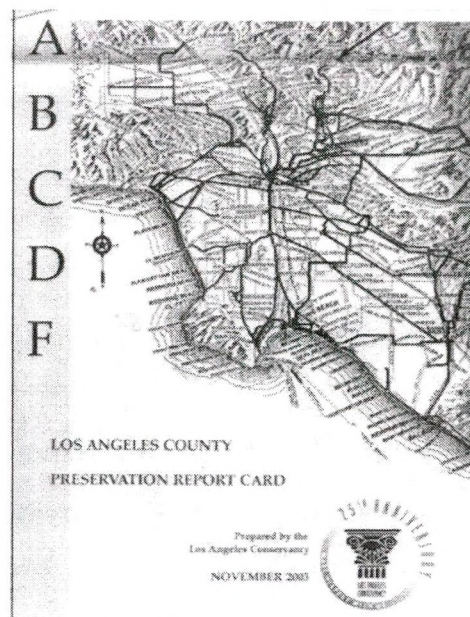
Dan Young

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The mission statement of the Los Angeles Conservancy is "The Los Angeles Conservancy is a non-profit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County." Dan says there is a National Trust of America similar to our National Trust. Here are excerpts from the LA Conservancy News report (Jan/Feb 2004) by Catherine Barrier:

"In November 2003, the Conservancy released its first report card grading the preservation efforts of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County and the efforts of Los Angeles County government. The report card was designed to identify those communities in Los Angeles County that have made preservation a priority by enacting local government protections and incentives, and to encourage others to recognize the importance of conserving their historic resources.

The Report Card issued grades based on specific criteria, including whether the city has enacted an ordinance protecting historic landmarks and districts, considered the most important first step in creating a preservation program. Additional criteria focused on whether the jurisdiction has a dedicated preservation staff and commission, participates in the Certified Local Government program for historic preservation, has a Mills Act program that provides for property tax reductions for owners of historic properties, and has conducted a citywide survey identifying historic resources. Also considered were the number of



protected landmarks and districts within the community and how much power the local government has to protect these resources.

The six cities in the 'A' category (Long Beach, Pasadena, Santa Monica, South Pasadena, West Hollywood and Whittier) boasted the strongest protections for historic resources. Long Beach for example, has more designated historic structures than any other 'A' city ... West Hollywood has six designated historic districts within a very small city ... South Pasadena has an extremely thorough historic resources survey, identifying more than 2,400 individual structures and 74 districts in a town of just more than three and a quarter square miles.

Thirty seven cities in the county received grades of 'B' through 'D'. Glendale ['B'] is to be particularly congratulated on recently enacting both a demolition delay ordinance that triggers environmental review for proposed demolition of historic resources, and an ordinance allowing the creation of Historic District Overlay Zones. The City of Los Angeles ['B'] has a very active historic districts movement and has designated more landmarks than any other municipality in Los Angeles County, but does not participate in the Certified Local Government program and has only a spotty and incomplete inventory of historic resources.

Forty five others failed and were labeled 'preservation truants' because they have no preservation protections in place ... Beverly Hills, a city with a treasure trove of historic architecture, only managed a 'D' on the report card because it has not created any process to protect individual landmarks or historic neighborhoods.

Reaction to the report card has been strong ... A number of cities that scored poorly attempted to justify their low scores by saying they had no historic resources to preserve, although the Conservancy has received calls from residents in a number of these cities with thanks for drawing attention to the preservation challenges they face ... Information used to calculate the report card grades was provided by the cities themselves. The full report card is on the Conservancy's web site at www.laconservancy.org "

* * * *

So what if such an evaluation were carried out in Sydney? Who would do it? Now there's a challenge!

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Wednesday 13 April 4.30 for 5.15 pm Launch of 3 Marrickville Potteries & 6 for 6.30 pm Marrickville Medal presentation (Marrickville Council event)

Saturday 23 April
3 Marrickville Potteries: an illustrated talk
 Details on front page

Saturday 28 May
Ticket to Ryde

Deckers After Dark

Open Day at Night at the Bus & Truck Museum
Friday 29 April from 5 pm

The Bus & Truck Museum will run regular trips up King Street Newtown to City Road, and return to Tempe. Passengers can board in King Street outside Newtown Station in both directions. Watch the crowds of pub, café and restaurant patrons stop and stare as the bus goes past. If you wave, they wave – the enthusiasm is amazing!

The double deckers look magnificent at night with their warm incandescent interior lamps and the flash of silver handrails and radiators.

Back at Tempe there will be available for purchase a warming supper of pastries and cakes, espresso and hot chocolate, after maybe an entrée of pie and peas.

Adults \$7.50, concession or child \$3.50, family \$15. Enquiries David 9144 7366 or email td4@ihug.com.au
 Plenty of off-street parking. Bus & Truck Museum, 1b Gannon Street Tempe.

CAMPERDOWN STANMORE COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTENARY

This church on the corner of Salisbury Road and Cardigan Street Camperdown was known as the West Kingston Methodist Church from 1905 to 1977 and as West Kingston Uniting Church from 1977 to 2000 when they assumed their current name.

They are celebrating their centenary on Sunday 1 May with a special church service at 11 am. There is an informal gathering from 12.30 to 5 pm to meet old friends, view displays and partake of light lunch and refreshments. There will be a short formal time around 3 pm.

MHS members welcome. On 412 bus route. Bookings not required but contact appreciated for catering purposes. Email Allan backtowestkingston@hotmail.com or ring him 9516 1906.

FRIENDS OF CAMPERDOWN CEMETERY

Next three working bees are:

Saturday 16 April
 Saturday 28 May
 Saturday 18 June

9.30-11.30 am
 morning tea provided

Nell 9335 2197 (working hours) or Nikki 0418 413 484

MORE HERITAGE WATCH

Enmore High Annexe, Metropolitan Rd Enmore

The Department of Education and Training has declared this site surplus to requirements and for disposal. The department has applied to council to rezone the site as residential, obviously with a view to maximising the sale value of the site. The school is listed as a heritage item in the Marrickville LEP. It was built in 1887, to a design by William Kemp, who designed several schools for the Colonial Architect's office, the most notable being the Sydney Technical College, Ultimo.

The DA report notes that 'the land is to be sold and the department has no interest in the details of the use of the land.' Perhaps it is this indifference that has led the department and their advisers to seriously underestimate the potential adverse impacts on the building and the surrounding area of a major residential development on this site. Alternative proposals for community uses that will retain this proud building in the public realm must be pursued.

Gladstone Hall, Ewart St Dulwich Hill

Council last year approved the controversial extension of Gladstone Hall and an associated townhouse development over strong opposition from residents. The approval required the developer to modify the scheme by reducing several of the townhouses in size and height, and increasing the setback of some townhouses from the boundary. The developer complied with this, but has now applied to council to essentially reinstate the original scheme. Council's officers are recommending that the changes be accepted.

St Marouns, Wardell Rd Dulwich Hill

In response to community concerns and Council's heritage officer recommending that the scheme be rejected, the architects for the Maronite Sisters' proposed nursing home have revised the building by deleting 2 nursing home beds (!) from the scheme. As the development will still require the demolition of two houses and is over-scaled for this part of the Draft Heritage Conservation Area, it is still unacceptable.

Scott MacArthur



Recent demolition work next to 363 King Street Newtown (just south of Newtown Station) has revealed this old painted sign "Medical Hall W. Mills Chemist" (photo: Richard Blair)

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