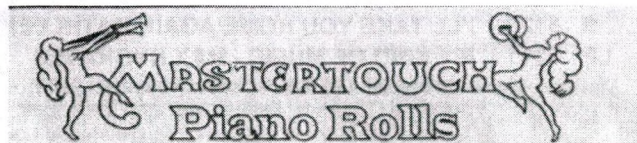


# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN

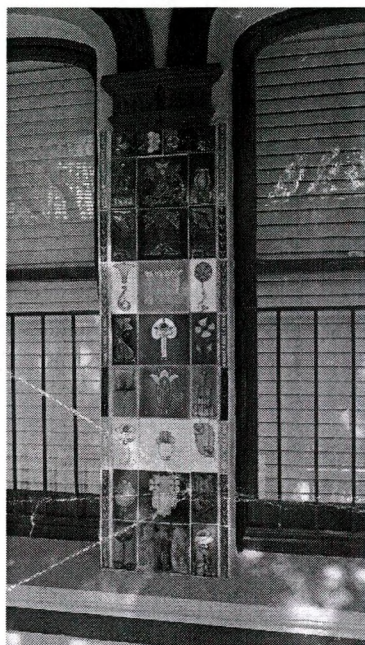


## OUR NEXT MEETING

**SATURDAY 23 JULY 10.30 AM**

**Decorative Tiles walk with Paul Storm**

Meet corner Lennox & Probert Streets Newtown.  
Those without a car will be given a lift. Cost \$5.  
No bookings. Enquiries Peter 9550 3809.



*An assortment of tiles  
featured on the front  
of a house in Lennox  
Street Newtown  
(photo: Peter Cousens)*

Focusing on an architectural or decorative detail can add a whole new dimension to otherwise familiar buildings: doors, paths, windows, fences, glass, gardens, stucco and chimneys. So, welcome to the world of tile-spotting and 'tilology'.

Our tour will start in Newtown, and take us through familiar fields to see tiles used decoratively on stairs, walls and other unexpected places. It is, unusually, a very Sydney thing, and only occurs in pockets scattered through Victorian Sydney. We will combine walking and driving in this tour through Newtown, Stanmore and Petersham. **Paul Storm** is a retired teacher, an 'old house tragic' and a glass and tile enthusiast. **Homework:** Read Willem Irik's *Decorative Ceramic Tiles in the Marrickville Area* in *Heritage* 12.

## HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to the **Marrickville Heritage Society** with your name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Ring secretary 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. Members renewing should remit with purple renewal slip issued in June.

**END OF 85 YEARS! SEE INSIDE**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHO'S WHO ON THE COMMITTEE

Owing to a double booking by council, this year's AGM was held at St Clement's Parish Hall in Petersham Road Marrickville. This historic 1883 building served the parish of St Clements before the fine brick church was built. The renovated church kitchen was much appreciated by mingling members for our post AGM Winter Warmer of soup and chunky bread, most welcome on a wet, blustery day. Special thanks to Rev Chris Clerke for giving us use of the hall.

President Lorraine Beach presented the annual report on the Society's progress during the past year (see inside) whilst treasurer Pat Mullen, Heritage Watch convenor Scott MacArthur and newsletter editor Richard Blair also presented their reports.

All committee positions were declared vacant and the annual elections were held with Shirley Hilyard as returning officer. This resulted in the election of six office bearers and nine committee members – Lorraine Beach, president; Mark Matheson and Ali Wright, vice presidents; Stuart Grigg, treasurer; Diane McCarthy, secretary; Angela Phippen, assistant secretary; committee members: Richard Blair, Peter Cousens, Robert Hutchinson, Scott MacArthur, Sue Miller, Pat Mullen, Graeme Napier, Ian Rumsey and Keith Sutton.

Whilst this was a gratifying outcome, we later realized we had three more committee members than our constitution allows. Our solution is that three of the elected members stood down but will remain as non-voting participants. Our thanks to Peter Cousens, Robert Hutchinson and Pat Mullen.

**Lorraine Beach President**

## THANKS TO DRIVERS

The response to our request for drivers to help deliver the monthly newsletter to runners has been positive. Thanks to those who volunteered or who offered to assist in other ways. Local delivery of newsletters saves the society about \$2000 a year, which is a most significant saving.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004-2005

The Society has enjoyed another successful year, reflected in our stable membership and our healthy financial position. Each of our subcommittee convenors will present their reports to you shortly, and these will cover the activities, triumphs and tribulations of our varied endeavours throughout the year. The focus of the Society's real work is revealed in these activities – in the roles of watchdog and champion for local heritage, the publishing of important articles and collections of articles and books.

The Society has always publicly declared our position of being an apolitical and not-for-profit community organisation. The nature of our core business – heritage in our immediate community – dictates that in order to have a voice, we have to have knowledge. For a long time we have struggled with and been in opposition to local government, not for political reasons, but because quite often decisions taken clashed violently with the Society's care and concern for preservation of our locality's heritage. The past year or so has seen changes that have enabled a growing harmony with our current local government and I would like to think this has been a highlight of the year. All credit goes to our Society's representatives who are directly involved with liaising and communicating at this level, resulting, we believe, in a more open and consultative relationship with council.

Matters of heritage impact and importance are increasingly brought to our attention, giving the Society the ability to react, respond, and contribute opinions in the decision-making processes that impact upon heritage concerns in our community. Of course this is an ongoing endeavour that will probably always be a battle, and some notable exceptions continue to slide through the cracks, but with our mutual efforts and the signs of cooperation and greater fellowship, we are working toward a stage where we have access, a hearing, and more increasingly an opportunity to contribute in matters that are crucial to this Society's reason for being. I am thankful for and will continue to look for ways in which we can nurture our growing relationship of communication with sympathetic ears in local government who are responsive to the values we hold.

Heritage awareness and promotion in the community is something each of us shares as a common bond. That's why we're here today, and it's why the Society will continue to look for ways to involve the community, and to present, we hope, an attractive organisation for people to belong to that allows them to support heritage values at grass roots level. We try to offer an affordable variety of activities for members; throughout the year these have proven popular and successful but we're always open for new suggestions – places to go, interesting speakers, activities you'd like to participate in. We're a Society of nearly 400 people and you can't begin to imagine how much time the little group of 11 committee people put into considering what might or might not appeal to you. Your suggestions would be more than welcome.

The Society's interests are in every respect championed by the executive committee that you, the members, elect each year to represent you. The people who stepped forward at the AGM last year, and have served you since, have individually and collectively guarded your interests, endeavoured to increase the Society's standing in the community and scrupulously administered the Society's members' financial assets. At the same time, we've sat together and plotted and planned over activities that we hoped would appeal to you, entertain you, and give you value for money. I would like to now individually acknowledge the outstanding contributions of each of the people who are your outgoing committee. **Richard Blair's** life is ruled by the timetable of our newsletter production. Believe it or not, he has a life apart from us. He's a sought after author, has been commissioned to write some articles for *Coast & Country* magazine, is an avid movie goer, and gets a bit fidgety when it's film festival time – especially if it coincides with the need to get a newsletter out. He also works for a living in a real job but still finds time to deal with a lot of the enquiries and correspondence, often curious, or just plain quirky, that come our way.

**Peter Cousens** has had a year of incredible output and a steep learning curve in the publishing world. He's chaired the publications committee over the past couple of years, with a lot of input from people present here today, and against all the odds they delivered a fabulous *Heritage 12* that has received gratifying and well-deserved congratulations from numerous sources. Peter organised and chaired the very successful Garden Seminar we held in conjunction with the Australian Garden History Society in September. **Robert Hutchinson** delivered his long awaited *3 Marrickville Potteries* book at a triumphant event that meshed with the presentation of this year's Marrickville Medal. Robert followed up with a marvellous presentation to our April meeting, complete with wonderful photographs and commentary, a display of pottery pieces and the opportunity for members to show their own pieces of local pottery, ask questions and exchange knowledge. **Mark Matheson's** contributions over the year range from publishing advice and assistance, setting up and manning an Australia Day stall at Enmore Park, participation on Council's Heritage Promotions Committee and assisting Robert in the delivery of the potteries book. A bit of a quiet achiever, Mark is often just there, working in the background, but also fostering relationships and keeping his finger on the local government pulse.

**Scott MacArthur** chairs the heritage watch committee – undeniably the most important function of this Society. Scott reviews the Development Applications before council that have likely heritage impact, considers their merits or otherwise, and where warranted, writes the comprehensive submissions to council that are obligatory in order to be considered as an objection in the course of the particular application. Frequently this process involves investigation and consultation at council or attendance at council meetings to address objections to the application. You could be forgiven for thinking that's a full time job – it is – but Scott also works for a living. **Robert, Mark and Scott** also represent us as members of Council's Heritage Promotions Committee.

**Diane McCarthy** reluctantly relinquished her position on the committee earlier this year because of health problems, but not before planning and executing a walk around Marrickville and a great excursion to Fairfield, together with Richard and Ted Green. Diane's in depth knowledge of our financial affairs and her uncanny memory for members' names and faces is legendary, and she's never been far away, despite her retirement, when we've needed her input. I'm very happy to report Diane has indicated she's ready to return to active service for the Society. **Pat Mullen** was already a part of our committee and bravely stepped into the role of treasurer when no-one else was game to tread the path. It's a vitally important position for us, and Pat has exhibited the utmost probity and integrity in her conduct of our financial affairs. Despite battling with some hefty health issues during the year, Pat has soldiered on, but will be standing down, handing on our financial responsibilities at the end of today's meeting in good shape. **Graeme Napier**, one of our two Vice Presidents, might be the dark horse of our past committee, as he's not often in the limelight, but when the chips are down, Graeme rolls up his sleeves and delivers. He's quiet and methodical, and provides the organisation with calm and efficient oversight of our financial affairs and financial reporting.

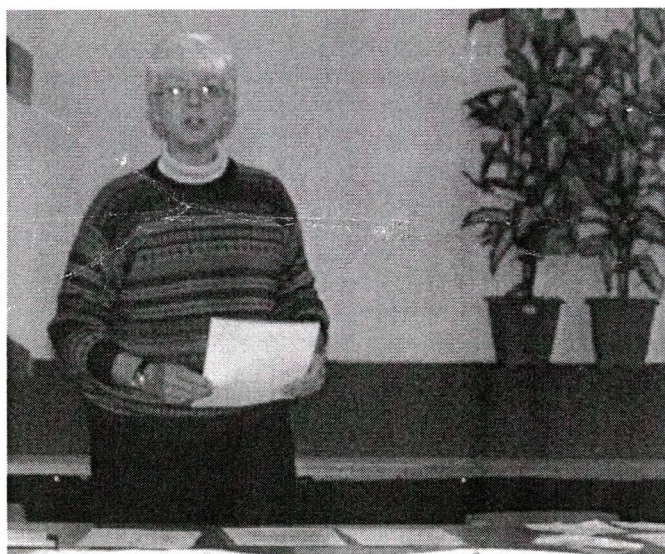
**Angela Phippen**, also a vice president this past year, is a stalwart committee person and MHS member. Whatever is happening, Angela is there, puts up her hand, tirelessly works, and seeks no thanks or recognition. She's a fount of knowledge, always has an opinion and always



keeps us guessing. A great contributor, a great storyteller, and the best master of *Show & Tell* and Pot Luck dinners we've had so far. Angela also arranged one of the best outings of the year – *Ticket to Ryde*. I had feedback from folk who are often in the organising roles who said to me 'first time ever we didn't have to worry about anything; just sit back and enjoy ourselves because it was all arranged.' Ali Wright, our youngest committee member, was elected to the committee last year. She has been an enthusiastic participant in our activities and an active contributor in committee deliberations throughout the year. Ali's commitment to the Society is appreciated at face value, but it's particularly encouraging to know that her interest and involvement, given her youth relative to many of us here today, will carry heritage awareness forward to the next generation.

Apart from the committee, there has always been much behind the scenes support from members – ever willing to bog in, raise a hand, 'can I do anything', or just quietly getting on with moving furniture, setting up, restoring things after our meetings. A special thanks to Pamela Stewart, our membership secretary, who has also volunteered to take minutes of today's meeting. Finally, I want to thank each and every person who has been a member of the committee over the past year. They are the 'professionals' who give their time, energy and expertise to the Society. They make my job easier, I thank them, and I thank all of you, on whose behalf we work.

Lorraine Beach



President Lorraine Beach presents her annual report at Society's AGM on 25 June (photo: Scott MacArthur)

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY PROJECT

On 27 June several MHS members attended the launch of the **Marrickville Aboriginal History Project** at Petersham Town Hall. Following an impressive display of dancing by *Yidaki Didg & Dance*, (including audience participation) presentations were made to oral history interviewees. The exhibition was launched by Lester Bostock, Elder & Chair of the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee and Cr. Colin Hesse. The project was jointly funded by Marrickville Council and the NSW Heritage Office. The exhibition – curated by Council's Chrys Meader and Glenn Wardman – was of historical and contemporary photographs and oral histories of members of the Aboriginal community.

## VALE MASTERTOUCH!

The Mastertouch Piano Roll building – the former Stanmore Fire Station, on the corner of Stanmore Road and Albert Street Petersham – is for sale. The roll making and box making operations ceased on 30 June 2005 when remaining staff were laid off. As some readers may know, there was an eleventh hour appeal in the media for funds to assist the continuation of Mastertouch, but apparently to no avail. At the time of writing it is understood that the doors will remain open a little longer to sell rolls from stock. It is the outcome of a dramatic 12 months for this 85 year old company.

In July 2004 Music Roll Australia (MRA), a non-profit society set up in 1984 to ultimately provide for the survival of Mastertouch as a working museum, assumed management and financial responsibility for its operations under a long term lease agreement with the owner, Barclay Wright (see Sept. 2004 newsletter). The MRA Board included people with business, archival and museum experience at a senior level.

It was an eleventh hour move: unable to pay creditors and wages, Mastertouch was on the verge of closure. Board members provided emergency re-financing out of their own pockets, with interest-free, unsecured loans ultimately totaling \$95,000. When it became clear that annual losses from box-making alone were likely to exceed even this figure and could not be turned around, box operations were trimmed and staff reduced. At the same time, since the lease terms were constraining development of a workable funding and sponsorship base, the MRA Board declined to renew, allowing the arrangement to lapse on 30 June 2005. It sought a new, more practical agreement to succeed it.

However, in February 2005, Barclay Wright unexpectedly announced his intention, for health and family reasons, to sell the building and discontinue operations unless they could be picked up by MRA. The sudden prospect of having to buy the \$2 million building was daunting for a voluntary society, but the Board took the first steps in setting up a trust to do so, and meanwhile checked out potential alternative accommodation, such as the old Marrickville Town Hall. The realities of the situation were communicated to MRA's 500-odd members.

At a long and tense Annual General Meeting on 21 May, an entirely new Board was elected. It comprised mostly current or former Mastertouch employees who had declared that they saw MRA as a support group only. Since its election the new Board has not communicated with MRA members, so its plans are unknown. Whether this means the end of the long Mastertouch story – or, as many still hope, the chance for a new beginning – remains to be seen.

Ray Edmondson (Past President, MRA, & MHS member)

More detailed information is available from the author at ray@archival.info.au. The latest issue of the *Bulletin of the Australian Collectors of Mechanical Musical Instruments* (#129) – [www.acmmi.org.au](http://www.acmmi.org.au) – contains a lengthy perspective by Peter Phillips on the issues.



## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 23 July**

**Decorative Tiles walk with Paul Storm**  
Details on front page

**Saturday 27 August**

**History of the Cooe with Richard White**

**Saturday 24 September**

**Cockatoo Island Tour**

**Saturday 22 October**

**NSW Railways: 150 Years with Peter Sage**

**Sunday 24 July 4.30 pm**

**St Peters Anglican Church**

Winter Concert celebrating 125th anniversary of the Brindley & Foster Organ with Michael Deasey, organ and Christopher Harris, baritone, plus piano trio (Brian Strong, cello, Betty Gubbay, violin and Noel Fenton, piano). Entry by donation incl. light meal after. 187 Princes Highway St Peters.



During the July school holidays the Sydney Bus Museum is running double decker trips with a bus scheduled to leave the museum on the hour every hour from 10 am to 3 pm.

The SBM has introduced a Saturday double decker operation, all year round, to tie in with Marrickville Chamber of Commerce. The route takes the bus hourly from the museum up the Princes Highway to Sydenham Station, around Marrickville and back to the museum.

The SBM website is being significantly revamped: <[www.sydneybusmuseum.com](http://www.sydneybusmuseum.com)>. The museum in Gannon Street Tempe is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 10-3. Contact phone number is 9558 1234.

Recently Society members have manned a stall at the **Wentworth Park Collectables Market** (1st Sunday each month) to promote and sell the Society's new publications *3 Marrickville Potteries* and *Heritage 12*. It's a great opportunity to get to many of the people who will be interested. Strong sales have ensured the exercise is worthwhile. The great pity is that most of us have a look at the other stalls so it can end up being quite an expensive day! Thanks to Peter Cousens, Robert Hutchinson, Pat Mullen, Angela Phippen, Ian Rumsey and Ali Wright.

**Angela Phippen**

**PRESIDENT** Lorraine 9550 6608

**TREASURER** Stuart 9560 8070

**HERITAGE WATCH** Scott 9559 5736

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Richard 9557 3823

## WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER



The woman in this photo is **Noeline Brown** who was raised in a "small brick semi" in Douglas Street Stanmore, just a few doors from Olympic swimming champion Fanny Durack. She attended Fort Street Girls High for a year in 1951 and then had two years at Stanmore Girls School. Noeline worked for some years at Marrickville Library under Frances Charteris\*.

Frances took a keen interest in the Arts and in the late 1950s helped a group of locals form a theatrical society which became the Marrick Players. Noeline joined the radical New Theatre near The Rocks and auditioned for a part with the Pocket Playhouse in Terry Street Sydenham run by "a group of enthusiastic theatre lovers and their dedicated director Norman McVicker". Noeline played the female lead in *The Sleeping Prince* which opened on 15 September 1961. The play was "presented as part of the Marrickville Municipal Centenary Year celebrations." Read more in her recently published autobiography *Noeline:: Longterm Memoir* (Allen & Unwin).

The above photo was in 1956 prior to Melbourne hosting the Olympics. Noeline describes how the Marrickville councillors convened a meeting in the town hall to celebrate the Games in some way. Noeline was asked to represent the library. "The mayor called for volunteers. Nobody offered. I think I was the only young person at the meeting, so it was a case of, 'You'll do'. I was presented with a blue and gold sash, similar to the ones they drape over cattle at the Royal Show, which branded me 'Miss Marrickville Olympics', and given the job of raising money for our local athletes. One night I appeared at a fundraiser at the local RSL club. I was on stage, being introduced as Miss Marrickville by the president, who was wearing a rather fetching fair-isle vest, when I overheard a woman with a head full of rollers remark to her companion, 'She's not so hot'."

In November 1999 Noeline attended the ceremony organised by MHS and Norman McVicker\* to unveil the plaque at the site of the former Pocket Playhouse. Noeline's letter of appreciation appeared in the December 1999 newsletter. Congratulations to **Diane McCarthy**, the only person who correctly identified Noeline. Marrickville RSL was then on the corner of Illawarra Road and Arthur Street before moving over the road in 1968. Diane has ascertained the man on the left is Ian Hocking, the actual president of Marrickville RSL. Perhaps someone can identify the cleric and the man at the mike.

**Richard Blair**

\* Both long term MHS members