

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



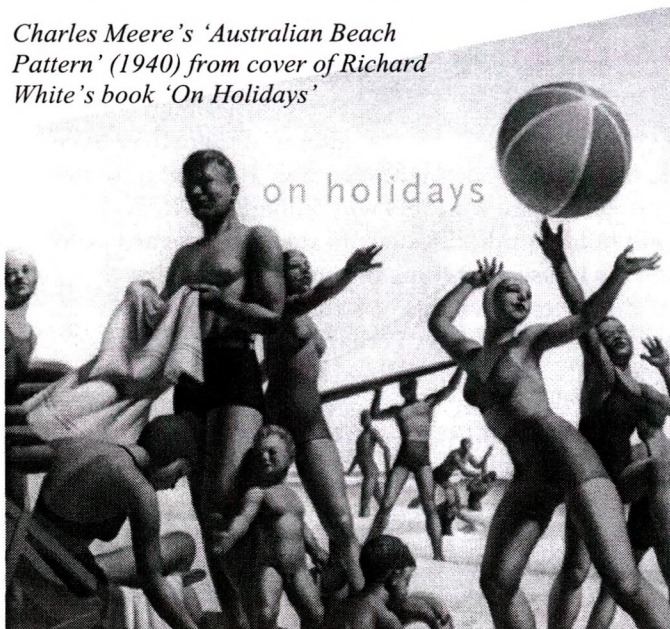
OUR NEXT MEETING

Richard White on *Australians on Holiday*
Saturday 25 February 10 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Australians have long been known as holiday-makers. This talk considers the historical forces in the nineteenth century that created 'the Australian holiday', and the ways it was made available to all as part of 'the Australian Way of Life' in the decades after World War II.

But what has become of 'the land of the long weekend'? In our rush to consume more and more, have we become a nation of timid workaholics? Or has the holiday itself become simply another consumer choice, overwhelmed as we are by holiday possibilities, from tropical resorts to caravan parks, gourmet binges to detox regimes, religious retreats to sex tourism, bushwalking to extreme sports, island paradises to bargain shopping, island cruises to ecotourism? Is the institution we have taken for granted in danger of disappearing altogether?

Charles Meere's 'Australian Beach Pattern' (1940) from cover of Richard White's book 'On Holidays'



Richard White is a MHS member and senior lecturer in the Department of History, Sydney University, who addressed the society last August on the *History of the Cooe*. Some of his co-authors may also attend the talk. His book *On Holidays: A History of Getting Away in Australia* appeared on the *Sydney Morning Herald's* list of 'best books of 2005' where it was described as 'a superb history of how Aussies spend their leisure time'. It will be on sale at Richard's talk.

SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE

A Day Out on the Harbour
Saturday 25 March 10 am sharp
Bookings & prepayment essential

Ferry leaves Man o' War steps east of the Opera House. Cost \$40 per person, \$30 concession, kids 7-15 \$10, kids under 7 free. Cost includes 4-hour cruise, commentary, morning tea and lunch. Bookings essential & prepayment required by 17 March. Lorraine 8565 6511 during working hours.

The ferry to and from Cockatoo Island last year proved so enjoyable we promised to arrange an MHS harbour cruise. Join our private charter for a tailor-made cruise of the harbour and Parramatta River aboard the M.V. *James McCabe*. Expert commentary by author and historian Greg Blaxell, who addressed the Society on the *Parramatta River* in November. Cameo commentary by others may include Joan and Geoff Francis who have spent their lives on the river.

A very special day is guaranteed with our exclusive use of this large, comfortable character-filled vessel, the wonderful sights of our beautiful harbour, morning tea and a hearty lunch to satisfy the hungriest sailor. Pick-ups at other wharves to be advised, returning around 2 pm.

SOCIETY'S 2005 RAFFLE

Congratulations to the winners: **John Blattmann** - \$20 Xmas Box from Rise Bakery, Newtown; **Ken Brock** - meal for 2 at Kelby's Cafe, Marrickville; **Betty Healey** - 2 tickets for New Theatre, Newtown; **Susan Hicks** - gift basket at Stanmore Station Pharmacy; **Pam Horstmann** - gift voucher; **Geoff Ostling** - dinner for 2 at Kafenes Greek Restaurant, Enmore; **Dot Sullivan** - 2 tickets for Dendy Cinema Newtown; **Ros Torrent** - Robert Hutchinson's Xmas cake plus bottle of port.

The Society thanks all donors, those who facilitated the donations and participating members. Thanks to **Ian Rumsey** for organizing the raffle.

Ros Torrent writes inside of her Tempe ancestral home *Rodney*. **Ian Phillips** sighted a house in Warren Road Marrickville with the ambiguous house name *Better Days*. The editor would like to know of other local house name origins or quirky names.

Nominations for 2006 Marrickville Medal & Heritage Promotions Special Achievement Awards close soon - details page 2

NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 MARRICKVILLE MEDAL

The prestigious Marrickville Medal for Conservation awards and celebrates conservation and restoration works that contribute to the understanding and preservation of Marrickville's rich cultural and architectural heritage. The award is the keystone event in the Marrickville Heritage Festival, which forms part of the statewide Heritage Festival organised by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) each April.

Works may be large or small, complex or simple. Entries should be high quality and innovative conservation and restoration works to houses, shops and commercial buildings, public works and industrial buildings. Your project might be a house restoration or extension, or it could involve the adaptive reuse of an old warehouse or factory. You need to demonstrate that the works enhanced the heritage of the building in some way by preserving the original building, reinstating missing details, adding to it in a sympathetic way, or adapting a heritage building to new purposes which give it a new life and future.

Anyone can nominate a project, but the owner must give written permission. A jury of local residents, including heritage consultants, judges the competition.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 HERITAGE PROMOTIONS SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year Council's Heritage Promotions Committee is introducing a new award for special achievement in heritage promotions. If you know anyone who has made an outstanding contribution to helping to maintain, promote and understand Marrickville's heritage, we would like to hear from you. This award is not linked to building works, but could involve activities and achievements related to publishing, archives, writing, collecting, oral history, community activities etc. We want to commemorate all those unsung heroes who have done so much to preserve and understand Marrickville's rich history.

Nominations for both awards close on Friday 17 February 2006. Application forms or further information from Council's Heritage and Urban Design Advisor herud@marrickville.nsw.gov.au or 9335 2114. The award ceremony is on Wednesday 5 April 6-8:30 pm at Petersham Town Hall.

GOWINGS GONE!

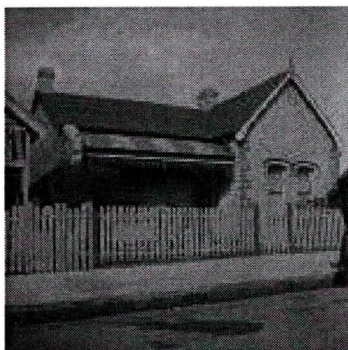
In the wake of substantial financial losses, yet another iconic retail institution has disappeared into history after trading on the corner of George and Market Streets for 138 years. The doors of Gowings closed to the public for the final time on Sunday 29 January. As reported in the Herald on 30 January, MHS member David Cunningham, was there with his trusty camera to photograph the event. Nice one, David!

ANNUAL XMAS POT LUCK DINNER

Keith Sutton's 'mural house' in Petersham once again proved an ideal location for the Society's annual pot luck Xmas dinner on 3 December. The murals are a never ending source of interest and Keith's reward is the likelihood of fresh identifications. MHS member, **Joan Francis**, believes the female figure surrounded by the garland of flowers might be Mary Schleicher, Australia's first deaconess, who was ordained in 1886. Following their leave pass in 2004, the team of **Angela Phippen and David Cass** again smoothly orchestrated the catering whilst the raffle produced several winners (see details front page). Thank you Keith.

HOUSE NAMES: RODNEY

My ancestral home of **21 Terry St, St Peters (now Tempe)** – both bought at the auction of the Marionette Estate on 4 March 1882 and built by my great grandfather, Robert Hill Reeves – was named *Rodney*. Oral history said it was named after Admiral Rodney of Rodney Stoke, a village in Somerset, birthplace of Robert Hill Reeves (1847-1924). Oral history also told of 'Aunt Kitty Reeves', Robert's sister, who was allegedly housekeeper for Admiral Rodney.



*'Rodney' in the 1950s.
Alterations to house since
have been for the worse.
House name
no longer displayed.
(photo: Ros Torrent)*

However Admiral Rodney lived about 100 years earlier than Kitty, although there may have been a Rodney descendant who was 'the one' (research incomplete). One wonders why Robert Hill Reeves would hold Admiral Rodney in such high regard as to name his house after him, as opposed to naming it after the ancestral village of Rodney Stoke, which is a more likely explanation. Perhaps the oral history has become entwined with the real story!

Ros Torrent (nee Reeves; Robert Hill Reeves died in the house he built, in 1924. *Rodney* remained in the family for decades and Ros spent holidays in the house in her younger days. RH Reeves was also great grandfather of MHS member Ian Rumsey.)

Following a request by the Australian Government, the **Productivity Commission** has delivered a draft report on the existing system for the managing of cultural heritage at all levels of government in Australia. In our March newsletter, Scott MacArthur will evaluate this report which raises several issues.

Congratulations to **Marrickville Council** which "won a silver award in the finals of the International Awards for Livable Communities (LivCom) held in Spain. LivCom is backed by the United Nations Environmental Program." (The Courier (3/1/06) .

SUMMER TRIVIA ANSWERS

The answers to the cyptic summer trivia questions are Marrickville, Petersham, St Peters and Lewisham.

a) Let's go to Mary's place - Marrickville. In Richard Cashman's article *A Trip to Marrick, North Yorkshire* (*Heritage* 2, 1985, reprint 1992, page 27): "The village of Marrick was mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Marige' and 'Marrig' which meant 'marsh' or 'Mary's place'."

b) Don't be so stiff - Petersham. Concise Oxford Dictionary 10th edition revised, 2001, defines *petersham* as "a corded tape used in dressmaking and millinery for stiffening. Origin c19: named after the English army officer Lord Petersham." Funk & Wagnall's 1920 dictionary gives an additional meaning: 'a heavy greatcoat of heavy, rough, tufted woollen cloth, introduced by Lord Petersham'.

c) Practise hospitality ungrudgingly to one another - St Peters. 1 Peter 4: 9, Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version.

d) I'd like to go to heaven, but if Jeffrey Archer's there, I want to go to Lewisham: a quote from Spike Milligan, who was clearly not a fan of Archer (source: Google). Presumably he was referring to Lewisham, the London suburb.

Incidentally, a little known aspect of Milligan's life is that he was a local activist. In campaigning to save a building in North Finchley, London he said: "We have to fight the unscrupulous developer and falling standards; but we have broad shoulders and stout hearts, of that I am certain. It has always been the quiet back street citizen who has moulded this island [Great Britain], not the politician, nor soldier, nor scientist. Knowing this, I have every faith in our future. Remember in 100 years time, people enjoying a visit to Terrace Cottage, North Finchley will say 'The Finchley Society saved that and that is our reward'."

Richard Blair

GOOD LUCK CHRIS CLERKE

The Rev. Chris Clerke has been rector of St Clements Church in Marrickville for the past 12 years. Once his long service leave is over, he plans to retire and settle in the Wollongong area where Chris and his wife Marilyn have bought a house. Both have been MHS members since the Society became involved in the campaign to save the landmark church spire, which was under threat of demolition in the mid 1990s through lack of available funds. A successful campaign attracted sufficient donations to save the spire, whose restoration won the Marrickville Medal for the architect Paul Davies in 1998.

The Society thanks Chris for his support over the years (and providing our venue for last year's AGM) and wishes both Chris and Marilyn a happy retirement on the south coast.

STOP PRESS: Congratulations to Cricket's latest Hall of Fame Inductee - Marrickville-born and bred **Bob Simpson**, who played locally, for NSW and Australia.

MARCH 1956 CLAIM FOR AUSTRALIA'S FIRST TV BROADCAST IN PETERSHAM!

Credit for the first broadcast on Australian television generally goes to TCN Channel 9 on 16 September 1956 when Bruce Gyngell said "Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to television".

However, an alternate claim states that "as a result of the co-operation between the Television Corporation Ltd and the college staff, the first television broadcast in Australia by a television station, licensed for public broadcasting, was made from Leichhardt-Petersham Technical College [in Crystal Street Petersham] on the morning of **11 March 1956**". Details as to what was telecast and to where transmitted are not specified. From January to the end of May 1956 the Television Corporation Ltd occupied the college premises before transferring to North Sydney Technical College. The college at Petersham was believed to have been chosen as it was considered the highest point between Sydney Harbour and Penrith. The name of the college was changed in August 1956 to West Sydney Technical College and decades later to Petersham TAFE.

The claim was made in a 1989 thesis on the history of the college by **Roslyn McKinven** for her Bachelor of Education (Technical) at SCAE. Data was provided by MHS membership secretary **Pamela Stewart**, who worked at Petersham TAFE library for many years.

VALE JOY McVICKER

Joy Adeline McVicker (nee Goldsworthy) was born on 25 December 1922 at St Peters where she lived until her marriage to Basil McVicker in 1947, when she resided at the Tempe family home until her sudden death on 3 January 2006 after a short illness.

During World War II Joy assisted with the St Peters Comfort Fund for service men and women. On her retirement, she became a 'pink lady' at Marrickville Hospital and later at King George V Hospital. She also became a surrogate 'nana' for premature babies, often knitting jackets and bonnets for them. When Basil died in 1988 she joined Legacy and the War Widows' Guild. She supported other charitable causes. She sewed, knitted, cooked and crocheted articles for sale on their stalls. Joy turned 83 on

Christmas Day.

(extracted from eulogy by Joy's brother-in-law Norman McVicker. Joy had three children, Marilyn, Peter and Michael. She joined MHS in 1990.)



Joy McVicker at Marrickville Remembers reunion in August 1998
(photo: Richard Blair)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 25 February
Richard White: *Australians on Holiday*
Details on front page

Saturday 25 March
Harbour Cruise
Booking details front page

Saturday 22 April
Ron Ringer: Brickmakers' lives

Saturday 27 May
Darlinghurst Gaol tour by Deborah Beck

Saturday 24 June
Annual General Meeting

60th ANNIVERSARY OF LEWISHAM HOSPITAL PLANE CRASH

At 9.30 am on Thursday 31 January 1946 Royal Navy Firefly Griffon Mark II Reconnaissance Fighter DK480 crashed into the former Lewisham Hospital killing three people – hospital workers Iris May Thompson, 19, of Granville, John Kevin Smith, 17, of Enfield and a serviceman Petty Officer Edmund Mackenzie Butterworth, 25, of Knott-End-on-Sea, near Fleetwood, Lancashire, England. The pilot, Sub-Lieutenant Colin Ratcliffe of Leeds, who parachuted to safety, was exonerated of blame.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the event the Society conducted a ceremony at the crash site – the Maternal Heart of Mary Chapel courtyard – on 31 January 1996. Among the attendees were three MHS members who were present on the day of the crash – Dr Eleanor Nixon (whose family practiced medicine in Fort Street Petersham for over 100 years until 1985), who was doing her residency at the hospital; Sr Maree Loadman, from the Little Company of Mary or Blue Nuns, who lived there; and the late Ada Boes, who encountered the surviving pilot, shortly after his parachute hit the electric train wires near Lewisham station.

On 20 April 1997 a memorial plaque was unveiled in the courtyard in memory of those killed. Marrickville's deputy mayor, Cr Carmel Tebbutt (now State Member for Marrickville) unveiled the plaque. About half of the 70 who attended the ceremony were relatives of Iris Thompson and John (known as Jack) Smith. Relatives of the pilot were located in England and Canada, but were unable to come. The plaque and event were organised by the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee in conjunction with the Marrickville Heritage Society.

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HERITAGE WATCH

Old Marrickville Town Hall

The old Marrickville Town Hall in Illawarra Road is currently undergoing some urgent works to address some of the damage caused by the years of neglect under its present owners, the NSW Department of Housing. The NSW government is paying for a replacement metal sheet roof to make the building waterproof, and removing toxic landfill under the asphalt around the building. They are also paying archaeologists to investigate if there are any remains of an underground stone cistern that is known to have existed on the site.



Marrickville Council is still in negotiation with the Dept. of Housing and the Heritage Office about what repair works should be carried out by the department prior to council possibly regaining control of it. It was sold in 1922 to the Dept. of Education who used it as a school until 1985. Dept. of Housing acquired it in 1988.

415 King Street Newtown

Demolition works to remove the early 20th Century shop from the front of the two storey terrace house behind, have commenced, apparently without Council approval. The masonry parapet has already been demolished. The cladding of the shopfront pillars have been removed revealing two iron columns with decorative rosettes, profiled capitals and advertising signs. Intriguingly, one of the cigarette ads is in Spanish! The origin of the columns is uncertain and they may well have been re-used from another building. Council will be requiring that the shopfront parapet is reconstructed as part of the restoration of the terrace facade.

Scott MacArthur

