

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Ron Ringer *Sydney's brickmakers & Austral Brick Company Limited of St Peters*

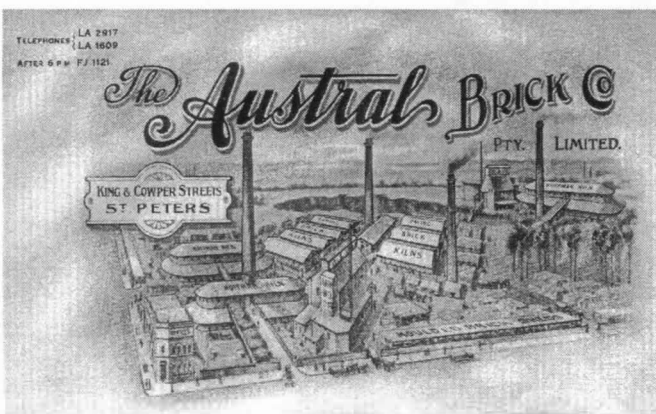
Saturday 22 April 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville
(Heritage Festival event)

Special Note Urban Strategy briefing straight after
guest speaker: see item below right

In late 2004 Ron Ringer was commissioned by Brickworks Limited (BKW) to research and write a centenary history of The Austral Brick Company Limited (Austral Bricks). It was later agreed that a more fitting tribute to the brickmakers of Sydney should include a general history of brickmaking from 1788.

Austral Bricks, a wholly owned subsidiary of BKW since 1950, was incorporated in the opening months of 1908 when a group of prominent Sydney builders and investors met to form a brickmaking business. The pre-war growth of Sydney, especially in the eastern suburbs and across the inner city, presented many an opportunity to service the demand for bricks. From small beginnings, Austral Bricks became the largest and most influential brick manufacturer through the dynamic leadership and influence of brickmaster, William King Dawes who died in 1981.



Letterhead for The Austral Brick Co. (from the archives of Brickworks Limited (BKW) which holds copyright)

Ron's illustrated talk extends beyond Austral to embrace the broader issue of brick and its meaning in the built environment. Ron Ringer is Managing Director of Syntax Business Writing & Design. His degrees include MA in History (UNSW). He was recently admitted to the Australian Society of Professional Historians. He has written nine HSC textbooks and *A History of Elgas* (2004).

A bottle of wine is on offer for the wittiest caption to the cruise photo in column one, page two. Please ring Richard 9557 3823 or email pemell@tpg.com.au

The 2006 National Trust Heritage Festival: *Industrial Heritage: Our Working Lives* runs until 16 April

TOURS OF DARLINGHURST GAOL + ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH D'HURST SATURDAY 27 MAY

Morning gaol tour (meet Forbes St entrance) 9.50 for 10-11.30 am followed by slide show 11.30 am-12.15 pm for both morning and afternoon tours. Afternoon gaol tour (meet Burton St gate by 11.25 am for slides) 1-2.30 pm. Cost (gaol tour only) \$10 members, \$12 non members. Church tours: 10.15 am & 12.30 pm. Bookings for gaol tours essential. Ring Richard 9557 3823. Advise if you decide to cancel.

Deborah Beck, artist, art lecturer and author of *Hope in Hell - A history of Darlinghurst Gaol and the National Art School*, will lead a tour of the site and studios, and show slides of the bushrangers and murderers, politicians and poets who were incarcerated during the gaol period. Learn about the brutal and fascinating history of the buildings in which the National Art School is now housed, and find out about the significant artists who have studied and taught on the site.

In addition is a visit to the 1858 St John's Anglican Church 120 Darlinghurst Road Darlinghurst for a free guided tour and refreshments (gold coin donation). Times above. More details May newsletter.

COOKS RIVER FESTIVAL

Sunday 9 April 12-5 pm

Steel Park Illawarra Road Marrickville

URBAN STRATEGY & LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN UPDATE

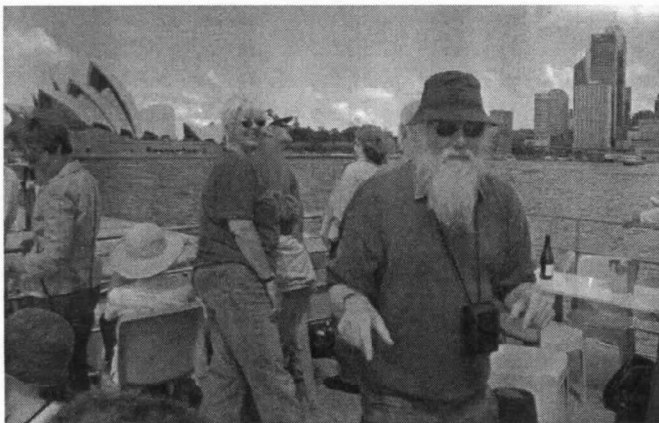
Marrickville Council has been directed by the state government to revise and update its Local Environmental Plan (LEP) within the next three years. As a first step this will involve the development of an Urban Strategy document that is intended to provide guidance for long term strategic planning policies for council. It is intended to address a number of major land use and zoning issues, including heritage conservation zones and medium density housing. As part of council's community consultation process, Planning Services Manager, Vince Connell will provide a briefing after guest speaker on Saturday 22 April. The future of Marrickville's conservation listings and zonings is again under threat and it is very important that all members get involved in this consultation process.

Scott MacArthur

OUR LAST MEETING CRUISING THE HARBOUR & PARRAMATTA RIVER

In lovely autumn sunshine on Saturday 25 March, almost 60 MHS members and friends had a great time cruising Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River from the Opera House to Homebush on board the historic *MV James McCabe*. Our tour guide, Gregory Blaxell (who addressed the Society on *The River* last November) told stories of the river from the early days of settlement.

Fortified by a morning tea break, we learnt how the harbour has changed. Industrial sites which replaced the tribal lands of the Aboriginal tribes, have now given way to open spaces or multi-storied developments – at Gladesville we could see Meriton Street, a name now synonymous with high-rise development. Darling Harbour has undergone complete transformation from dingy wharves to a vibrant complex.



Nancy MacAlpine standing on left, Lorraine Beach, looking back & Robert Hutchinson aboard *MV James McCabe*.
See box on front page (photo: Scott MacArthur)

Greg told of the early land grants and settlers, stories of Goat, Cockatoo and Spectacle Islands, and the history of *Yaralla* and *Abbotsford House* – two of the few remaining grand homes which once lined the river. We saw the convict-built stone steps, all that remains of William Wright's once-beautiful gardens and his home, *Drummoyne House*; old stone wharves used by Lysaghts; Ballast Point, the Putney ferry (the river's only car ferry), and the Balmain coal mine sites. We heard how the Anglican minister's wife and a man named Pope objected to the name *Kissing Point*: this was one of the few times Anglicans and the 'Pope' agreed! We heard of William Searle, the *Clarence Comet*, Dawn Fraser Baths and much, much more.

After lunch – and what a lunch – we turned for home. The ferry might have been named after a Tasmanian bushranger, but we certainly weren't robbed! Good food, good wine, good company and a good speaker were our rewards.

Joan Francis

Note Greg indicated the HQ of the formerly called Parramatta River Yacht Club; because of its acronym, PRYC, the name was changed to Parramatta River Sailing Club. The licensee of our launch is aptly named Margaret Shipp! Many thanks to Greg Blaxell assisted by Joan Francis, and to Lorraine Beach for organising this convivial day. Editor



Scott MacArthur snaps 'Mental Services boat on river!

The Land & Environment Court has once again proved itself as the developer's friend by overturning Marrickville Council's decision to refuse the application for development of 106 units at Warne Place Marrickville.

According to *Jubilee History 1886-1936: A Brief Record of its History* (1936) for St Clement's Church Marrickville, the "first marriage celebrated in the new Church district of Marrickville took place on May 16, 1884. The parties were Walter Henry Fox and Alice Australia Woof, the officiating minister being Rev. W.A. Leech". No details are known about the couple's offspring.

The Society was among a range of environmental and heritage groups to have a stall at the Riverworks Cooks River Environmental Sculpture Competition at Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe on Sunday 26 March. The competition was conducted by environmental group, the Mud Crabs in conjunction with Canterbury Council. The organisers see environmental sculpture as a good way to present solutions to environmental problems. Thanks to Sue, Ian, Richard and Lorraine for running the stall.

The Mud Crabs undertake monthly cleanups along Cooks River usually on the first Saturday of each month. Volunteers are welcome to call Chris 9558 2656.

STS SENIORS PROJECT

Sydenham, Tempe, St Peters: A history is a new project involving seniors of these areas. The STS Community Centre is interested in talking to any seniors who have lived here and hearing about their recollections of living in this unique part of Sydney, what they love about it and how it has changed over time. Contact Shane Higo or Margot Barnett on 9519 6788 Monday-Wednesday to arrange a suitable time and place to meet. Stories from the project will be exhibited at STS Community Centre, in St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters from late June.

We note the passing on 18 February of Heathcote Clifford (Cliff) Mallam aged 96 of Camden. Cliff was Labor Member of State Parliament for Dulwich Hill (1953-1968) and for Wollondilly (1971-1981). Many years ago the area incorporating the former Dulwich Hill Tram Terminus (now 426 bus) loop was renamed Mallam Reserve in his honour.

Marrickville/Enmore Expressway Reservation Abandoned

Great to hear that the state government has abandoned the road reservation on the corridor between Parramatta Road and the Illawarra rail line. It was established with the intention of building a 4-lane ring road between Mascot and Rozelle which would have passed through the National Trust listed Enmore Urban Conservation Area. This would have meant demolition of many significant properties.

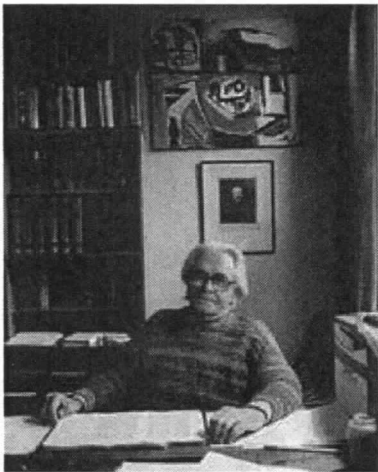
However the RTA has retained the road reservation at some key intersections along the route to allow for any necessary future upgrades!

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER

Though the quotation in our Autumn Trivia Question was written in the third person, it comes from the highly acclaimed autobiography *The Boy Adeodatus: the portrait of a lucky young bastard*, Allen Lane, 1984 by scholar and art historian Bernard Smith. Writing in the July 1985 MHS newsletter, Joanna Mendelssohn describes how Bernard's schooling at Enmore helped shape his career:

"The Special Education Annexe of Enmore High in Metropolitan Road [Enmore] has an especial association for those interested in Australian history and literature. For it was here in 1932 and 1933 the young state ward, Bernard Smith, completed his secondary education."

"The first school building in Metropolitan Road was originally opened as Enmore Public School in September 1887 and until the end of 1912 only provided infants' education. From the beginning of 1913 to the end of 1932 it had both primary and junior secondary departments. For a short time in 1932 it also operated as a domestic science



school. The official Education Department records, however, only show it as a primary school from May 1932 to December 1953. This particular version of Enmore High only lasted for two years, so it is perhaps understandable that there is no record of the building having had this function."

Bernard Smith, born in 1916, grew up as a state ward with a foster family in Burwood. His first three years of high school were at Petersham Commercial Intermediate High School. He became a teacher and artist before launching into a career where he became arguably Australia's foremost art historian. He has held a range of academic appointments and has written numerous works including *Australian Painting 1788-1960*, *The Spectre of Truganini: 1980 Boyer Lectures* and *The Architectural Character of Glebe* (1973 repr'd 1989),

co-written with his wife, the late Kate Smith. It was in this book that "a detailed account of the stylistic evolution of the Australian terrace house was first provided and that the Federation style was first described in detail. It was Bernard Smith who introduced the now commonly used term *Federation* to replace the outdated and misleading term, *Queen Anne*" (Peter Strickland in preface to 1989 reprint).

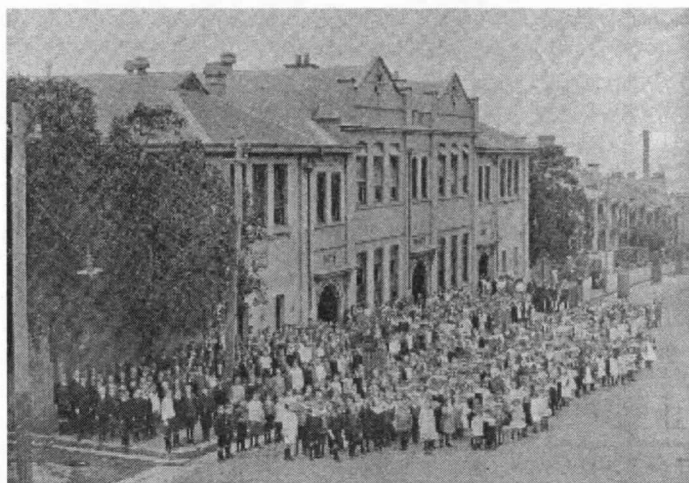
Mendelssohn wrote that "three subjects in particular attracted the young Smith. Economics, together with his comprehensive reading, led him towards socialism. English taught him the 'beauty of well written prose'. History, though, gave him more than knowledge. It gave him: 'a sense of his place in the scheme of things; it was like standing between two mirrors, a mirror of the past and seeing himself stretching away in both directions; a sense of tradition' (*The Boy Adeodatus*)."

"It is this sense of place that has always characterised Smith's work as an art historian. His first and most provocative book was even called *Place, Taste and Tradition*. Smith's idea was that events, objects and words can belong to a particular place and time. It is somehow appropriate that this idea was first understood by him in an old school building in Metropolitan Road."

Richard Blair (with acknowledgement to trivia detectives Shirley Hilyard & Diane McCarthy. *The Boy Adeodatus* is a phrase from St Augustine, *Confessions*, Book ix, ch. 12. The photo below suggests the school was already taking older pupils by 1912.)

Redevelopment of Metropolitan Road Enmore School to Proceed

Marrickville Council decided last month, in a close decision, that this former school (dating from 1887 and built of Flemish Bond brickwork), will be rezoned from special uses (school) to residential (opposed by MHS in April 2005 newsletter) and sold. Though it had not been a school for some years, it was until recently an adult educational facility. One wonders what the socialist Bernard Smith might make of this decision (see trivia answer above)!



Enmore School, Metropolitan Road Enmore
(Jubilee Souvenir of the Municipality of Newtown 1912)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 22 April

Ron Ringer: Sydney brickmakers & the Austral Brick Company Limited of St Peters
Details on front page

Saturday 27 May

Darlinghurst Gaol tour with Deborah Beck & St Johns Anglican Church Darlinghurst

Saturday 24 June

Annual General Meeting

Industries of Marrickville: An Exhibition of Historical Photographs

11-13 April 10 am-4 pm
Petersham Town Hall foyer

2006 Marrickville Medal for Conservation

The Marrickville Medal for Excellence in Conservation was presented on Wednesday 5 April in a ceremony at Petersham Town Hall. All commercial and residential projects that contributed to the heritage values of the area and were completed in the last three years were eligible for nomination.

The Medal was awarded to the adaptive reuse of the Newtown Silos for apartments (formerly Crago Flour Mills) 'for the thoughtful retention and interpretation of significant industrial fabric within the residential adaptive reuse of a landmark structure.'

The judges noted that the project was an 'excellent example of creative and innovative adaptive reuse of a redundant industrial structure. The concrete silos, which are a landmark on the Newtown skyline, have been given a new life

through their successful conversion to apartments.' The judges also congratulated the architects, Tonkin Zulaika Greer, 'for their comprehensive, consistent and creative approach to the adaptive reuse of the buildings and particularly for their creative approach to the interpretation of the former use of the structures' (photo of silos: Scott MacArthur).

Of the projects considered by the judges, six others were considered to be of such a high standard that they were worthy of commendation.

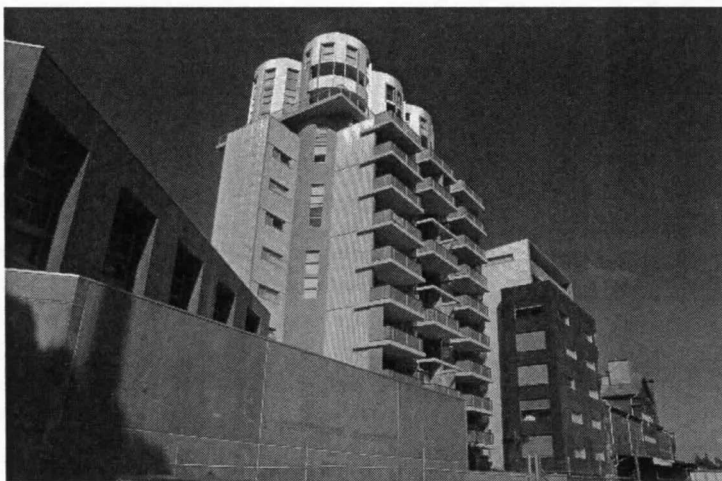
The repair of the vandalized Eliza Donnithorne gravestone in St Stephens Cemetery Newtown was

Highly Commended 'for the rapid response and community-led repair and restoration works that demonstrate best practice in heritage conservation. It indicates 'the very high regard in which both the local and broader community holds Miss Eliza Donnithorne'.

The construction of the Bentonite Leachate Cut-Off wall to prevent contamination of the Alexandra Canal as part of the Tempe Lands remediation was also Highly Commended 'for its innovative, technically sophisticated and visually unobtrusive solution to an environmental problem while protecting the state-significant Alexandra Canal.'

The restoration of the historic shopfront at 417a King Street, Newtown and its adaptive reuse as a home office was Commended. The development had created 'a highly functional and elegant combined living and working environment within a dilapidated heritage building' - a 'terrific example of a building being given a new life'.

The judges Commended a former hostel at 8 Warren Street, Marrickville that was badly mistreated while in government service: timber floors had rotted, the plaster was falling off the walls and none of the original fireplaces remained. What was intended as a quick refurbishment turned into a four-year labour of love, with all family members involved.



The judges also Commended the works to a large Federation style house at 18 Darley Street, Marrickville for a dual occupancy subdivision for three generations of one family. Impressive was the 'sensitive design response to a prominent period house on a corner site to create a discreet and well-disguised dual occupancy'.

A former coach house or stables building at 6 Summer Hill Street, Lewisham has been sensitively transformed into 'a charming modern abode that is stylish yet unobtrusive and sympathetic to its neighbours'. The judges Commended the project as 'a clever infill solution on a small, constrained site to make a positive contribution to the streetscape'.

The judges of the Medal were Catherine Forbes, architect (Design 5-Architects), Lorraine Beach, MHS President, and Scott MacArthur, architect and MHS member. A report on the awards ceremony and the results of the first People's Choice awards and the Special Achievement award will be in our May newsletter.

Scott MacArthur

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HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

A sign outside a Leichhardt church has been spotted topically asking: "Where the bloody hell were you last Sunday?"