

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

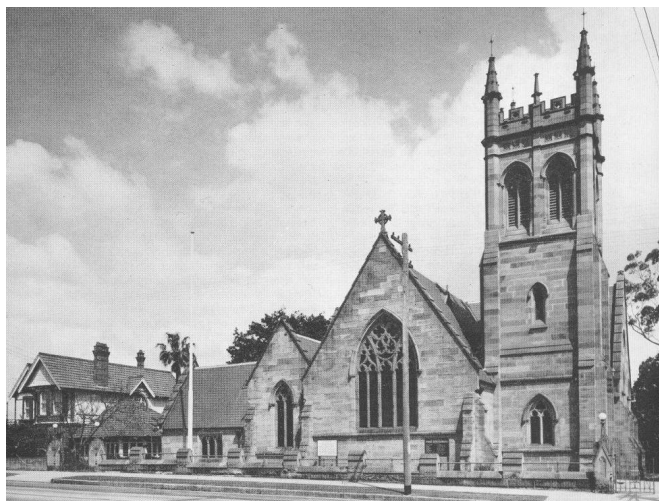
MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING CHULLORA WETLANDS & TOUR OF BURWOOD BY COACH Saturday 22 July 9 for 9.15 am sharp

Meet Petersham Town Hall. BYO lunch. Cost (pay on day) \$20 members, \$25 non members incl. morning tea. Return about 4.30 pm. Advise if you decide to cancel. Bookings essential. Richard 9557 3823.

Stroll through Chullora's man-made Freshwater Creek Wetlands area - the headwaters of Cooks River - accompanied by **Gary Blaschke** whose determination, along with other dedicated folk, has transformed a rehabilitated industrial dump into a self sustaining ecosystem, providing a natural habitat for native flora and fauna. You won't believe you're in Chullora!



St Paul's Church Burwood (1871, Edmund Blacket, architect) & rectory (photo: Rev. Ronald O'Brien)

Nature, then nurture, by way of morning tea at MLC School in Burwood with a brief talk in the school chapel and tour. **Cecily Gray** and **John Johnson** from the Burwood & District Historical Society will host our tour of Burwood which will include Burwood Park, *Woodstock* (built 1872-73 for tobacco merchant Edwin Penfold), St Pauls Church, *Wellings* (Burwood's oldest house), The Appian Way, Malvern Hill Conservation Area, St Thomas's Anglican Church Enfield (1849), Enfield Pool (1933), the oldest Olympic pool in Sydney. Plus much more.

Vice president **Ian Rumsey** lives in the Ryde area and is willing to drive anyone to our meetings if they live along the way. Ring Ian a couple of days before each meeting on 9888 1409.

OUR LAST MEETING WHO'S WHO ON THE EXECUTIVE

48 MHS members attended the Society's 22nd Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24 June at Herb Greedy Hall, Marrickville. **Lorraine Beach** presented her second annual report as president (see inside). This was followed by reports by the treasurer, **Stuart Grigg**; convenor, heritage watch committee, **Scott MacArthur**; newsletter editor, **Richard Blair**; convenor, journal committee, **Mark Matheson**; and convenor, essay competition committee **Keith Sutton**.

The returning officer for our annual election was former committee member (also one-time Commonwealth Chief Electoral Officer for NSW), **Brian Nugent**. All positions were declared vacant and the following were elected: president **Scott MacArthur**, vice presidents **Ian Rumsey** and **Keith Sutton**, treasurer, **Stuart Grigg**, secretary, **Ian Phillips**, assistant secretary **Lorraine Beach**, committee members, **Richard Blair**, **Robert Hutchinson**, **Mark Matheson**, **Sue Miller**, **Pat Mullen** and **Rowena Ward**. We welcome Ian Phillips and Rowena Ward to the committee.

Peter Cousens, **Diane McCarthy**, **Graeme Napier** and **Angela Phippen** did not stand for re-election. All had served on the executive committee for many years and three had been president - Angela, 1997 (acting president), Peter, 2000-2002 and Diane (2002-2004). See president's report for further comment. The meeting concluded with a nourishing lunch of pumpkin and vegetable soups with bread.



Our new president Scott MacArthur takes over the reins from Lorraine Beach (photo: Mark Matheson)

Thank you all members who have renewed their fees so promptly. Treasurer awaits more renewals.

Back page for oral history workshop details!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005-2006

The business of today's meeting is to deliver reports on the past year for the Society and to elect office bearers and a new committee to take the Society through the forthcoming year. The Society has enjoyed another successful year as our membership continues to flourish and our financial situation remains healthy. The Society's position has seldom been more important as governments, both state and local, turned to the community for input into how the future of local communities should be shaped.

Scott Macarthur prepared and delivered the Society's response to Council's request for submissions regarding future directions for our local government area. Of course many diverse interests are likely to be put forward by this invitation, and it was our objective and obligation to ensure that heritage concerns are considered and recorded. We have continued to foster our relationships with Marrickville Council and it is gratifying to enjoy support and consultation with councillors whose sympathies lie with heritage, and with council officers concerned with heritage issues.

We have become increasingly aware of the need for premises that the Society can call home – an office facility to accommodate the files, book stocks, equipment and bits and pieces that have resided for the past 20 years in the garage, spare room or living room of one or another of us. We have written to council asking if they can provide us with premises so the Society can set up its own location. It is not intended to replace this hall as a meeting place; our office requirement is modest, but is becoming more pressing as the need for a central computer, a database, a website and other essentials for modern communication are more evident each year. Although we have not secured premises yet, our efforts will continue, and we are optimistic.

When Stuart, our treasurer, delivers his report you will see that we are more than comfortable financially. The committee have often deliberated over how some of these resources should best be used. We decided upon an Essay Competition – an idea floated by Keith Sutton and enthusiastically and unanimously received by the committee. Keith heads up a subcommittee to formulate the rules and mechanism for this competition, for final approval by the full committee. The competition will offer prize money, guarantee publication in our journal of the winning article and possibility of publication of other articles if deemed appropriate by the journal subcommittee. Our aims for this endeavour are threefold – encouraging writers to research and write about local heritage, promoting the Society through promotion of the competition, and establishing what we hope will become a worthwhile ongoing project for the Society to sponsor.

We have maintained the Society's profile in the community at local festivals, including Riverworks and the Cooks River Festival, both highlighting the health and history of the Cooks River, and Marrickville Festival. These events are an important way of reaching out into the community, making people think about heritage, and helping to increase awareness that the features many of us enjoy about our local area will not be around for future generations unless groups such as our Society are willing to do the work and make the efforts that it takes to ensure their preservation. They are also generally a good way of gaining income, through sales of books and other items.

One of the most significant annual events is the Royal Australian Historical Society's conference – a wonderful opportunity to network with other societies, gain new ideas and enhance the Society's standing in the history and heritage arena. We sent four delegates to the last conference, each paying his or her own accommodation and travel expenses, with conference attendance funded by the Society. Once again we supported council's important Marrickville Medal, providing two judges and turning out in numbers on the presentation night. Scott, Mark Matheson, and Robert Hutchinson represented us on Council's Heritage Promotions Committee, which organises the Medal competition.

Throughout the year we've enjoyed meetings in this hall with a number of excellent and interesting speakers who have entertained and educated us on a variety of subjects. We are fortunate indeed that many such talented and knowledgeable folk continue to support us by giving up their time to attend our meetings and share their topic of interest with us. Our various outings have also once more proven successful, and this is heartening to the people who organise them. We never know, till the bookings come in, whether or not an outing will appeal. We are always open to suggestions of outings or events appropriate for our group, or interesting speakers.

The things I've mentioned to you today are some of the highlights of the Society's busy year, none of which would have been accomplished were it not for the efforts of the individuals who have formed the past year's committee. This has been very much a team effort; the committee environment is a democratic one where ideas and views are aired, shared, created or canned – the deciding factor is always whether it is in the best interests of the Society and its members. The contributions of each committee member have yet again been unselfish and generous. Ali Wright, one of our vice presidents, stood down mid year due to an increasing workload with other commitments but not before some good contributions with new ways to consider marketing and ideas on how to get our website up and running again. Angela Phippen has recorded the minutes of executive committee meetings, was once more responsible for organising the legendary Pot Luck Xmas dinner and always manages to put up her hand where it's needed.

Diane McCarthy, our secretary and Public Officer, well organised and with a great eye for detail, has made sure our correspondence is collected and distributed in timely fashion, mailed out books to fill postal orders, prepared envelopes and labels for newsletter distribution and generally keeps an eye on making sure none of our business commitments are overlooked. Graeme Napier's sensible approach to business and decision-making processes is the hallmark of his presence on the committee. Despite limited availability over the past year due to other commitments, the quality of Graeme's contribution is well appreciated.

Ian Rumsey's enthusiasm for business produced a very successful raffle, direct promotion of our publications to new retail outlets, and valuable assistance with our attendance at venues where our publications are enthusiastically received. Ian is a member of the essay competition subcommittee. Keith Sutton, in his first year on the committee, suggested the idea of an essay competition and is convenor of that subcommittee that will take that idea through to fruition in 2007. He put an enormous amount of work into our submission to Council seeking assistance with premises. Keith's methodical dissection of every task he undertakes produces thorough, detailed and professional results.

Mark Matheson, vice president, took on the important role of convening our publications subcommittee. Mark's expertise and wealth of experience in publishing, as well as his celebrated insistence on quality, ensures our standards remain high. Mark is the third member of the essay competition subcommittee. Pat Mullen has soldiered on and despite some bouts with health issues, her enthusiasm never flags, helping out on stalls and assisting with morning tea. Peter Cousens always finds time to turn up with what we need when we need it. He has continued to store and care for the majority of our publication stocks, prepares the well organised boxes for our stalls, opens his house as a venue for meetings and adds his years of experience and insight to our meetings.

For more than ten years Richard Blair has designed, written, edited, printed and been responsible for delivering our newsletter. The workload associated with production of this publication (which incidentally is the envy of every other Society I've spoken with) is huge and, as Angela once described it, relentless. He has no sooner got one issue out the door than he's working on the next. We take it for granted, and I'm afraid we too often take him for granted as well. Robert Hutchinson's *3 Marrickville Potteries* has enjoyed steady sales and many compliments and, coupled with his wonderful postcard collection, keeps him in demand as a speaker and presenter, where he ably and affably represents the Society and waves our flag.

Scott MacArthur, convenor of the Heritage Watch committee, again worked tirelessly on matters relating to council, development approvals affecting heritage properties, and the recent Urban Strategy. I have no idea how Scott finds the time to keep up with the progress of so much business with council but he does it admirably. Unfortunately for him, few of us have the knowledge to really assist him with this vital

work. Like Richard with our newsletter, it's a huge job of crucial importance to the Society.

Stuart Grigg stepped up to the role of treasurer and has diligently presided over receipts, banking, investments and payments, presenting a written report to the committee and tabling bank statements each month. Sue Miller rejoined the committee last year and has enthusiastically pitched in with festival stalls, morning teas, and helping to look for premises. Sue's work in progress is putting together a jumble sale, planned for later this year.

Regrettably we farewell from the ranks of committee candidates some key people who have played very significant roles over several years but will not be standing for re-election – Angela Phippen, Diane McCarthy, Peter Cousens and Graeme Napier. Our thanks to David Cass, the Society's honorary solicitor and to Pamela Stewart, our membership secretary.

The committee's key responsibilities to meet the Society's objectives, as laid down in our constitution, are 'to foster and promote heritage within the community, to preserve and publish relevant local heritage material and to provide opportunities for our members to pursue these activities in an environment that also offers pleasant social interaction'. We hope you, our members, will agree that we have achieved our goals over the past year and we thank you for entrusting the Society's business to us.

Finally, I would like to offer my personal thanks to all members of the committee for their commitment and hard work. They are extraordinary and talented individuals and I greatly value the support they have given to me in the role of President.

Lorraine Beach

OFFICE STAFF AT DIANA POTTERY



New MHS member **Richard Snedden**, of Charlestown, has located this photograph of the Diana Pottery staff section at 122 Marrickville Road, Marrickville. The photo, apparently taken in the early 1960s, shows Richard's father, Aubrey, in the corner office (left hand side). The woman immediately to the front of Richard's father appears to be using a comptometer – a sophisticated adding machine of its day. The names of the other people in the photo are unknown, but the photo serves as an important record of this part of Marrickville's heritage.

MHS member **Geoffrey Ostling** wrote extensively about Diana Pottery in *Desperately Seeking Diana* which appeared in *Heritage* 8 in 1994. This article was expanded with new photographs for *3 Marrickville Potteries* (Gary Nicholls, Robert Hutchinson, Geoffrey Ostling and Donna Braye, MHS 2005). The book was launched in April 2005 (see May 2005 MHS newsletter). The book is available through the Society for \$20 members, \$25 non members, plus \$2 postage.

Keith Sutton

WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

(Question: When did electric street lighting first come to the suburbs of Marrickville LGA?)

One hundred years ago the streets of Sydney were still mostly lit by gaslight. According to Energy Australia's *Municipal Council of Sydney Electricity Department's* schedule showing dates when electricity supply commenced in various areas of Sydney, electric street lighting commenced in some Sydney city streets in July 1904 whilst in August 1904 private – domestic and business – electric lighting began in parts of several inner city suburbs.

Broomham's *First Light: 150 Years of Gas* (1987, p 96) claims "Balmain became the first of a long list of suburban municipalities who replaced their contracts for gaslighting with others for electricity", however no date is given, nor is Balmain listed in the above-named Energy Australia list.

The Municipality of Newtown was certainly amongst the first (edging out Annandale Municipality by a few hours) with its street lights switched on from 31 December 1910. "The electric light was switched on by his Worship the Mayor for 1910 (Alderman H. Morgan) on New Year's Eve, and a new era was started in the history of Newtown, as far as street lighting was concerned, with the new year of 1911" (*Jubilee Souvenir of the Municipality of Newtown* 1912, p 58). Next was St Peters Municipality on 31 December 1911; Marrickville Municipality on 31 December 1912; and the suburb of Camperdown on 26 February 1913. Petersham Municipality street lights were not switched on until 1 January 1915.

MHS member **Graham Hunt** cited Meader, Cashman & Carolan's *Marrickville: People & Places* (1994, p 61) which states "Electric lighting was . . . finally introduced in Marrickville in 1906." However no source for this information is given and according to Energy Australia data, the date is six years premature.

Many thanks to **Bill Dobbie** (who inspired this question) of Engadine, having been told by his father long ago that King Street Newtown was the first street in Sydney to have electric street lighting – well, maybe the first **suburban** Sydney street to have that distinction! Thanks also to **Gayle Blayney**, Research Analyst, Corporate Strategy & Business Development Energy Australia, Sydney who enlightened us with the answers. When I rang Gayle for this information, she had already responded to three others, including **Shirley Hilyard**, who had been to the source. As for the identity of the other two enquirers, I am still in the dark!

Richard Blair

The Society has replenished its book stock for sale at meetings and festivals. These new but mostly out of print books are offered at discount prices. Members are welcome to sell their own publications, with prior approval, at meetings, usually on the understanding that some discount be offered to members and/or a small commission be paid to the Society.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 22 July

Burwood tour & Chullora Wetlands

Details on front page

Saturday 26 August

Talk at Herb Greedy Hall: to be advised

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

The **Wolli Creek Preservation Society** invites MHS members to attend an oral history workshop on Saturday 19 August 9.30 am-3 pm at Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road Marrickville.

Topics to be covered: introduction to oral history, nature and reliability of memory, interviewing techniques, equipment, documentation, ethical issues, ownership and copyright, transcription and logging, listening to tape excerpts. Workshop notes provided.

The workshop will be conducted by **Rosemary Block**, Curator of Oral History at the State Library of New South Wales; also the national president of the Oral History Association of Australia and president of the NSW branch of the OHAA.

Bookings essential. Workshop is free, but there's a \$10 booking fee refundable at workshop (but forfeited if absent). Tea and coffee provided - bring your own lunch. **Bookings: Judy Finlason** 9559 2821 or <info@wollicreek.org.au> .

Send your \$10 booking fee to Wolli Creek Preservation Society, PO Box 270 Earlwood 2206.

Winter Concert Sunday 23 July 4.30 pm at **St Peters Church**, Cooks River, 187 Princes Highway, St Peters features String Trio: Brian Strong, Paul & Julia Pokorny; plus Rob Smith, songwriter/musician. Entry by donation includes a light meal. Special evening service at 7 pm with guest speaker, Mark Hadley from Anglican Media. Enquiries 9557 3795 (ah).

Another chance to tour the former **Darlinghurst Gaol, now National Art School** with **Deborah Beck** on Saturday 29 July, 10 am-noon. \$20 a head. Must book 9339 8745 in working hours; limited places.



MHS treasurer Stuart Grigg fields questions at the AGM
(photo: Scott MacArthur)

Interested in Joining the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee?

Since 1993, the Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee has been active in organising events and initiatives to raise community awareness and interest in the ongoing need to conserve our local heritage. Events include the annual Marrickville Medal, Marrickville Heritage Festival and History Week.

The committee meets on the first Thursday evening of each month at the council chambers. Councillors and council staff also attend. Participants should be local residents and have an interest and/or experience in heritage matters. For further information, ring Vince Connell at council on 9335 2250.

DICTIONARY OF SYDNEY PROJECT

On 14 June the first stage of this evolving online project was launched. Funded by a \$916,000 five-year Australian Research Council grant, it is being undertaken by the City of Sydney led by historian Dr Shirley Fitzgerald and the University of Sydney led by Professor Stephen Garton. Numerous researchers are expected to contribute. The project aims to include new research, primary sources, images, maps, databases and films illustrating the city's rich past. For further information log on to www.dictionaryofsydney.org .

JULY RIVERLIFE TOURS

(Conducted by Marrickville Council. Free tours; but bookings essential 9335 2222)

Saturday 8 July 10 am-1 pm *A Cycle Tour of the Lower Cooks River:* Focusing on the wetlands, industrial landscape and river history. From Tempe Station Carpark to Brighton-Le-Sands.

Saturday 15 July 10 am-noon *People & the River:* History of human interaction with Cooks River. From the Sugar Mill, Hutton St Footbridge, Canterbury.

Sunday 23 July 10 am-noon *Explore Tempe Wetlands:* How wetland has shaped the history of Tempe & surrounding areas. From Holbeach Ave, Tempe.

Saturday 29 July 10 am-noon *Cup & Saucer Creek, Past & Present:* Find out things you probably don't know about this creek and the old Sugar Mill. From the Sugar Mill, Hutton St Footbridge, Canterbury.

Sunday 30 July 10 am-noon *National Tree Day - Bush Appreciation Tour:* The importance of natural plants and their functions in the environment. From Bardwell Park Railway Station to Wolli Creek Railway Station.

Thoroughly Modern Sydney: 1920s and 30s Glamour & Style exhibition Harold Cazneaux photographs. Museum of Sydney, cnr Bridge & Phillips Streets, Sydney until 15 October. Daily 9.30 am-5 pm.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823