

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



TASMANIA TOUR IN NOVEMBER

As indicated in December the Society's tour of Tasmania, organised by **Geoff Ostling**, will take place from **8 to 18 November 2007**. Expressions of Interest are sought. Details on back page.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Written On The Road with **Megan Hicks**
Saturday 26 May 10 for 10.30 am
Herb Greedy Hall 73 Petersham Rd Marrickville

To **you** that mark on the road might be just another Left Turn arrow, a careless paint spill, or piece of graffiti vandalism. To **Megan Hicks** it represents an episode in the history of road usage in NSW. From Australia's first ever road centre lines to the latest in Newtown stencil art, Megan's photographic journey takes us along country highways and down city streets reading the bitumen for evidence, not only of cars and commuters, but also of painters, poets and protesters. Afterwards you will never look at the road-way in the same way again.



Roadworker's message, Glebe (photo: Megan Hicks)

Long-time MHS member, **Megan Hicks** is a gallery producer and former curator at the Powerhouse Museum. She has a passion for messages on the pavement, which she seeks out and reads avidly. Selections of her ground level photographs have been exhibited at State Records NSW and in *Walking the street* in Newtown. Megan's talk is based on a postgraduate project at the University of Technology, Sydney, in which she explored pavement inscriptions as cultural artefacts.

MHS membership fees are due on 1 June.
Renewal slips to accompany June newsletter.

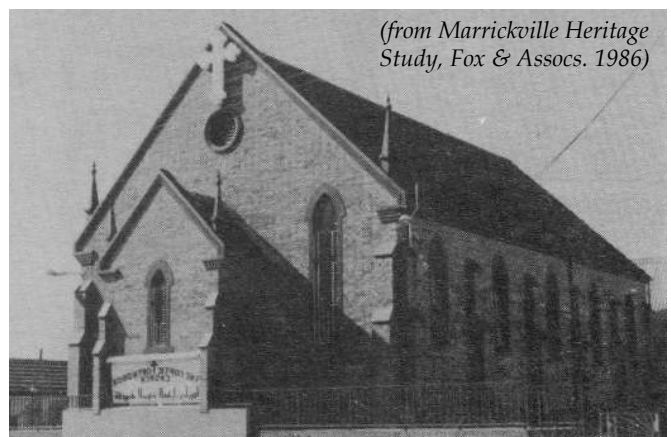
FORMER COPTIC CHURCH IN SYDENHAM UNDER THREAT

The Tempe Park Methodist Church in Railway Road Sydenham was built in 1901 (expanded from an existing building) and flourished until the 1960s. In 1969 it was sold and reconsecrated as the Coptic Orthodox St Mary and St Mina Church – the first Copts parish in Australia and the first Coptic Church purchased outside Egypt. After the Coptic Church relocated to Bexley, the Federal Government in 1996 granted the church to Marrickville Council "for community use" as part of the razing/greening of this suburb following the opening of the airport's third runway (about 195 Sydenham houses and shops were demolished).

The building has remained vacant and mouldering. Council's engineers have consistently argued that the church is in too bad a condition to save, because of damage to the roof tiles and timber framing. It has also been claimed (by our mayor, no less) that the aircraft noise is so severe that no-one stays in the building for more than a couple of hours at a time. These are poor excuses that cannot be used to justify council throwing away a building that has links to diverse cultural and religious groups in our area, and has the potential to become a facility that many more residents could benefit from. The Stone Villa across the road, that council acquired in similar circumstances, has been turned into successful artists studios and there is every reason to see a similar conversion being effective for the church.

As for the aircraft noise issue, the Society notes Mayor Morris Hanna recently presented the Marrickville Medal for Conservation to All Saints Petersham for noise insulation works, funded by federal government grants. Council would no doubt be eligible for the same grants to insulate Sydenham's only church. The Society urges all of our councillors to reject the engineers' recommendations, and save this neglected building for Sydenham, a community that seems to have been poorly serviced by council in the past.

Scott MacArthur



OUR LAST MEETING SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE

Who doesn't get a buzz from a ferry trip on Sydney harbour? This jewel in the crown, this wonderful amalgam of man-made and natural environment. Who hasn't wondered during a commuter trip on our great harbour about those tiny little coves you glimpse tantalizing as we make our way from one destination to another? Marrickville Heritage Society members were privileged on Saturday 28 April to get close up and personal with some of these delightful little spots when we explored the shoreline east of the harbour bridge, up to Middle Head, across to South Head, then back to our departure point.

We embarked on the MV *Walsh Bay* departing from the Man O'War Steps on the eastern side of the Opera House, passing Kirribilli House and Admiralty House, then hugging the northern shoreline. Our journey was accompanied by a well-researched commentary by **Keith Robinson** and the irrepressible **Ted Green**. It is gratifying that a great proportion of this northern shore remains available to public access, a testimony to those who have fought to keep this national treasure from being the private domain of the wealthy and privileged.

We all had a new word to add to our vocabulary as we learnt that Careening Cove, once known as Slaughter House Bay, was named after the process of cleaning the barnacles from the hulls of boats, a process which was once employed there. Further on we passed Cooee Point, named after the practice of summoning a row boat to take visitors, who had alighted at South Mosman Wharf and trekked to this point, to the artists camp (Camp Curlew). It appears that far from living a rustic life, these plein-air artists, among whom were Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts, roughed it in tents filled with opulent rugs and furnishings.

While we enjoyed a delicious lunch and a few vinos we were all in the mood to hear a bit of gossip about some of the affluent folk who reside on the eastern suburbs shore. From the exploitative price of seven shillings paid for a beach front property from an indigenous occupant, to the modern day flaunting of wealth and power at its worst, there probably wasn't one among us who wouldn't mind being a house guest for the weekend!

Returning to our departure point, accompanied by a heavy swell, we were ably assisted ashore by the amiable crew of the *Walsh Bay*. Thanks to Lorraine Beach for organising a truly memorable day and to Keith and Ted for providing such an informative and entertaining commentary.

Alma Roberts

Note Members are reminded of **Ted Green's mid-week harbourside walk on Thursday 17 May** meeting at Wharf 2 Circular Quay at 10 for 10.15 am ferry. This easy walk will go from Taronga Zoo Wharf to Cremorne Wharf via Mosman Bay. BYO lunch. No bookings; just turn up and tag along with Ted.



Cruising along – Lyn Greenwood, Hillary Goldsmith, Geoff Ostling, Robert Hutchinson, Richard Blair, Keith Sutton
(photo: Lorraine Beach)

LETTER ON 'HERITAGE' IN THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD ON 21 APRIL 2007

Don't mention the H-word (heritage) in town planning and development social circles, I was told. It only infuriates them since heritage frustrates their rights to develop. After all, heritage is just a look and aren't all "looks" subjective? In a word, no. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is right to list the 250-tonne hammerhead crane at Garden Island, an heroic piece of World War II industrial heritage whose erection almost cost many sailors' lives after an accident. Today it stands as a silent sentinel to the bravery of those who fought to save Australia during this stygian abyss in our history.

The listing of this horizon-busting titan highlights a crucial point. Heritage is only about one thing: significance. Heritage is not a look; it has no cuteness factor and therefore is not an aesthetic. Neither is heritage history, which is the story of our past. In fact, heritage is what's left from our history that we can feel, see and touch; it's about items with relationships with our past we want to keep for our future.

Heritage is like ice-cream, just as delicious and comes in six primary flavours: industrial, technical, archaeological, historical, social and architecture. So fit an item into one of these types and, whammo! – it may be heritage. The corollary is that if it won't fit, it probably isn't heritage. Developers never grasp this simple point and still cling to their rights to develop anything whether heritage or not. When pressed, they admit their so-called "rights" to develop are tendentious twaddle. There are no rights to develop enshrined in any state or federal constitution, act of parliament, planning rule or regulation anywhere.

Jenner House at Potts Point, a marine villa with its unique 19th-century gardens built for Lebbeus Hordern in 1871 by Edmund Blacket, our greatest 19th-century architect, represents a significant slice of our landscape history and should be conserved. Under threat from a three-swimming pool, double-wing and part-demolition development application, it is being nominated for the National Trust's Top 10 Heritage Most at Risk List to be determined in July, and is a worthy entrant.

Regrettably, it is a truism that the price of heritage is eternal vigilance.

Andrew Woodhouse (Australian Heritage Institute, Potts Point)

DULWICH HILL IN NEW YORK TIMES

After a mention in Column 8 early this year, member **Pamela Stewart** downloaded an article which appeared on page 12 of *The New York Times* on 14 January 2007. The article is *Day Out > Dulwich Hill, Sydney: Finding the World In a Few Blocks* by **Jennifer Gampell**. Here are some excerpts (Australian spelling used):

At 5 am, as clubbers in trendy Sydney neighbourhoods like Darlinghurst and Newtown head home, early-risers in Dulwich Hill are buying fresh loaves of Italian rustico and pugliesi sourdough at Luigi's Bakery. "Bread is our culture," says the owner, Luigi Carrieri, of his predominantly Greek, Italian and Portuguese customers. "They love bread here. It's my kind of area." By 9 am, half his homemade loaves, rings, rolls and other specialties are gone.

Like London, Sydney comprises a loose agglomeration of separate neighbourhoods. Many still retain a strong ethnic flavour, though their demographics shift with immigration patterns and with the flight of prior immigrants to wealthier suburbs. Mr Carrieri and his family arrived in Australia in 1970 as part of the huge influx of southern Europeans who immigrated from the late '50s through the '70s. Middle Easterners and Asians started coming in the late '70s; by the '90s Asians were 70 per cent of new immigrants.

Dulwich Hill, part of the so-called Outer Inner West ... retains a charming Old World simplicity and sense of community long since gone from nearby Sydney neighbourhoods. Among its 12,000 or so residents are Greeks, Italians, Egyptians, Lebanese, Portuguese, Vietnamese and their Australian-born offspring. "All cultures get on; no single group dominates," says Con Kazantzidis, the Greek-born owner of the Last Drop Café. Artists, writers and academics are moving in, he says, but not trendy types. "Newtown draws tourists," he says, "Dulwich Hill is for locals."

* * * * *

Note The second two thirds of the article focuses more specifically on the colourful range of "multicultural merchants" along Marrickville and New Canterbury Roads. The article also refers to Cambodians, Chinese, Thais, Turks, Cyprians, Sicilians and New Zealanders. One might query some of Gampell's information, such as her claim that "four-lane New Canterbury Road is a busy thoroughfare with no street parking," however Gampell portrays Dulwich Hill as a cosmopolitan, but very welcoming and comfortable area in which to live.

COOKS RIVER FESTIVAL

MHS again had a stall at the Cooks River Sustainability & Arts Festival at Steel Park on Sunday 15 April. The Society participated largely as a show of support for other not-for-profit community organisations, predominantly environmental groups concerned with Cooks River and locally-related issues. Marrickville Council is to be congratulated on the quantity and quality of events available for community appreciation and participation, including child-focused activities. Our stall was well received and patronised, and feedback was positive. Thanks to all members who visited the stall and particular thanks to Lorraine, Richard, Sue and Shirley for ensuring the stall's success.

DULWICH HILL TERMINUS UPDATE

Uncertainty remains over the future of the Dulwich Hill bus terminus despite Marrickville Council's opposition to rerouting of buses around suburban streets and the decision by the developer (Parallel Developments) to withdraw his original proposal. The developer claims he is now opposed to buses being rerouted from the bus terminus, however has signalled his alternate proposal to the STA "to redesign and renew the bus turning circle in return for access to the airspace above the turning circle [which] may involve a sale and lease back arrangement."

Meanwhile, the buildings along New Canterbury Road bearing the signage revealed in the April newsletter, have fallen victim to the demolisher's tools of trade so whatever the developer proposes regarding the bus terminus will be incorporated into a substantial development. In the light of previous development proposals in Dulwich Hill shopping centre,



bulk and height issues will require close scrutiny. The recent demolition revealed further signage at the end of the remaining three shops - "Broadbent & Co. The Busy Drapers". Photographer: Tim Alderman.

In this 1936 photo (from Marrickville Council History Centre reproduced in *Pictorial History Marrickville*) tramlines enter the tram terminus to the right of New Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill which heads west. Behold the changing character of the area with most of those buildings on the right now gone. Should this pattern be repeated throughout the shopping centre, there won't be much character left!

Richard Blair



On 1 May 1856, stonemasons working at the University of Melbourne first downed their tools and marched in support of the eight-hour day. Thus the start of May Day rallies in Australia, 151 years ago.

Members are invited to **World Environment Day** presentations at Petersham Town Hall on 6 June starting at 6:30 pm from Laila Bazzi on Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth Climate Change Project" from an Australian perspective (the Gore film won't be shown) and from the Dept of Water & Energy on GreenPower. Free admission but booking is essential for catering. Call council on 9335 2222 or 9335 2068.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Thursday 17 May
Harbourside Walk with Ted Green
More details inside

Saturday 26 May
***Written on the Road* with Megan Hicks**
Details on front page

Saturday 23 June
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 28 July
A St Peters Walk

RIVERLIFE COOKS RIVER TOURS

Free but limited spaces. Bookings essential Marrickville Council 9335 2222 for venue.

Thursday 17 May 8-9.15 pm
High tide by torchlight
Learn about the effect of tides on Cooks River, its plant and animal life. View the Tempe Salt Marsh and Cooks River at high tide at night.

Sunday 27 May 10-12 noon
Cooks River Sweet & Sour history & photo tour
Old photographs compared with current locations.

Sunday 3 June 10 am-12 noon
Bridge to bridge
Discover the advantages provided by local bridges & the social and economic issues behind construction.

Saturday 9 June 3-5 pm
People & places of Cooks River
Discover how various groups have related to the Cooks River and its tributaries over time.

Sunday 17 June 9.30am-1 pm
The Upper Cooks River
Explore parks and planted corridors along the river. and discover some local history.

Saturday 23 June 2-4 pm
Reflections: photography tour
Bring your camera gear, snap away & hear stories as you investigate the natural and built environment.

VALE HELEN DE PAUL NOBLE

Helen de Paul Noble OAM died on 15 April. Born Helen McGoldrick, she grew up in Foreman Street Tempe, and along with her sister Nancy became part of the acrobatic team of The Flying de Pauls appearing with Wirths Circus, the Tivoli and at a Royal Command performance in London. She became a distinguished dancer and singer, and married comedian Buster Noble (who died in 1990). They had two daughters, who both became entertainers – Patsy Ann, later Trisha, and Mandy.

The family lived for some years on the corner of Wardell and Marrickville Roads Marrickville and Helen became a prominent dance teacher; she also taught dance routines to actors for the Pocket Playhouse Children's Theatre in Sydenham. Helen later opened a dance academy in Kogarah and only handed over the reins to Mandy eight years ago. Aged 85, Helen was still teaching dancing in Kogarah. Our condolences to Helen's family.

TASMANIA TOUR DETAILS

The MHS tour of Tasmania will take place from **Thursday 8 to Sunday 18 November**. Originally planned for September, it will be much warmer and won't clash with school holidays. Our itinerary will include historic houses, beautiful gardens in all their spring glory, Port Arthur and other convict sites, National Trust properties and wonderful scenery. The approximate cost of \$2500-\$3000 includes:

- * flights to and from Sydney
- * ten nights accommodation
- * good quality twin-share motel-style rooms with ensuite bathrooms
- * breakfast & dinner daily
- * comfortable air-conditioned coach
- * entrance fees
- * expert commentary
- * single supplement available at extra cost

The final itinerary will be available in the near future, but we need Expressions of Interest now. Please contact Geoff Ostling 9568 3029 or 0425 359 264, Richard Blair 9557 3823 or Lorraine Beach 8565 6511.

To secure your place a \$500 deposit is required (cheque or money order to Marrickville Heritage Society) as soon as possible but no later than 1 September. The remainder of the money will be required one month before departure.

Geoff Ostling (tour leader)

MARRICK PRIORY POSTCARD



This postcard was never written upon but was forwarded to MHS by former Marrickville resident **Joyce Murgatroyd**, who says she obtained it many years ago. The caption reads "**Marrick Priory, Richmond, Yorkshire**". The Priory built in the 12th century on the banks of the Swale has been restored and extended as a residential training and recreation centre for young people." Once the richest nunnery in Yorkshire, it was dissolved in 1539, though later became a parish church. It is in the village of Marrick, which is corrupted from Marr-rigg, possibly meaning 'horse ridge'. Did Thomas Chalder have this in mind when he adopted the name for Marrickville? For more information see MHS journals, *Heritage* 2 and 4.

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