

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23 June 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 73 Petersham Rd Marrickville

The president invites all members to our 23rd Annual General Meeting. Reports on the progress of the Society over the past year will be presented and all executive committee positions will be declared vacant.

Nominations for president, two vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary and up to six committee positions may be made in advance in writing or on the day. Committee meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (bar January).

For more information about committee or meeting requirements ring Lorraine on 8565 6511 (weekdays).

Members are reminded that they must have paid their 2007-08 membership fees to stand for office, to nominate or second a candidate, or to vote at the AGM.

Fees payable on the day. As last year, the AGM will be followed by a Winter Warmer consisting of soups and breads, cake, tea and coffee. Stay and mingle with fellow members and the new committee.

SAVE HENSON PARK HOTEL

Geoff Ostling would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the Society's **tour of Tasmania 8-18 November**. Details were in May newsletter. Final itinerary will be available soon. Ring Geoff on 9568 3029 or 0425 359 264.

NEW GUIDE TO NOMINATING PLACES

Many of the items listed on the **State Heritage Register** were originally nominated by communities passionate about their special heritage places. The Heritage Office has released a new guideline on making a nomination to the register. The guideline provides step-by-step assistance for filling out the nomination form and explains the level of detail required for a nomination to be considered by the Heritage Council of NSW. To download the new form and guide go to: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/nominating.

MHS ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE

Most members should receive a **renewal slip** (organisations an invoice) with their June newsletter. Non-receipt of a slip means either you have joined recently, paid ahead, or your slip was lost in transit. Please advise on slip if details are incorrect. You may pay at the AGM or send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your slip to PO Box 415 Marrickville 1475. Fees are unchanged – concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organisation \$28.

The renewal slip also asks for members' email address to be added to the list for global notifications, should you not receive these already. Should your email address have changed, you may wish to advise.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Atkinson, Clare Marshall, Jon Moen & Ian Oi, Susan Napier, June West, all of Dulwich Hill; Scott Murray, Enmore; Moya Heinrich, Fran Munro, Wendy Norris, all of Marrickville; Austin Harrison, Phil & Marie Mulhearn, all of Newtown; Di Beckett, Petersham; Mary Armstrong (rejoined), Brighton-Le-Sands; Kathryn Bohdanowicz, Coogee; Fay Sprague, Hurstville Grove; Jennifer Marshall, Mortdale.



See back page for significance of this Newtown semi
(Photo: Diane McCarthy 2004)

A 12 month interim heritage order has been placed on the **Coptic (formerly Tempe Park Methodist) Church, Sydenham**, however the future of the church is far from assured. See Scott's report on back page.

Also inside is the **Winter Trivia Question** and **Leo Schofield's** 2006 report on threats to heritage in **Tasmania** along the Midland Highway, also known as the Heritage Highway, north of Hobart.

OUR LAST MEETING

Written on the Road with Megan Hicks

In last month's newsletter, the editor promised that after Megan Hicks's talk at our meeting on 26 May, *you will never look at the roadway in the same way again*. Nor will we ever.

Megan began by reminding us that the built environment protects us from the natural environment but the pavement separates us from the earth, the Aboriginal land of the Cadigal people. As the colony of New South Wales began to expand in the mid 1830s, local councils were given the task of constructing and maintaining the roads. Unpaved and uneven, dusty in summer and muddy in winter, the roads were a constant source of discontent.

So in 1884, the woodblocking of streets began. Soon all major roads were smooth and evenly wood-blocked, and then were covered with tar and blue metal with a layer of sand on top. Late 19th century illustrations of these new Sydney roads show children playing, people walking, horses, carriages and carts, and stalls and stands selling fruit and vegetables all together on the road. The big change came in the early 20th century with the introduction of the motor car. Soon roads were for only for cars and separate pavements were constructed for pedestrians.

And with the car came road-markings. In 1938 the first machine for painting lines on the roads was purchased from California and these machines were soon used across Australia. At first there were solid yellow lines to separate the oncoming traffic, but these became dotted lines in order to save on paint and double lines were used to indicate dangerous parts of the road. The colour and size of the centre lines were eventually standardized across Australia and pedestrian areas were marked with difficult-to-miss zebra crossings. In 2000 the route of the Sydney Olympic marathon was marked by a single blue line and parts of this line can still be seen seven years later.

There was a further revolution in street marking when cans of spray paint became available. For a time the bodies of people killed on the roads were shown in white chalk outline. There were also additions to the road signs such as *STOP* or *Think before you Cross* or *Cars Kill* or *Get Out and Walk*, and as a reminder to people using stormwater drains for chemicals and rubbish (or maybe to raise the prices of Newtown real estate), *Sydney Harbour Begins in Newtown*.

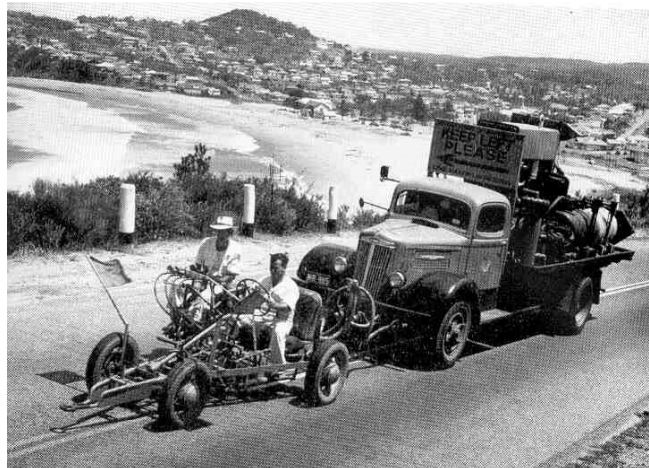
Megan also showed us examples of political slogans, such as *NO WAR*, and other esoteric personal messages on the streets in our local area:

- *I DO Love You* (why would you think I didn't?)
- *RIP Tarky* (who or what was Tarky?)
- *RIP Bingo* (a person or the game?)
- *Kylie is a dog* (not a canine but an outpouring of youthful romantic bitterness!)
- *Yes U Did* (did what? painted in huge, impossible-to-miss letters outside someone's front gate)
- a drawing of a giant pair of white scissors (inviting the viewer to cut along the dotted line painted on Harris Street near Sydney's Powerhouse Museum)

Who took the time and effort to paint these messages on the roads? What do they mean? To whom were they addressed? All are interesting, some amusing, and some slightly quirky but at the same time serious. Having been at Megan's talk, I certainly will never look at the roadway in the same way again.

Geoff Ostling

Note: Megan is Commissioning Producer, Permanent Galleries, Powerhouse Museum and a MHS member.



Centre-line marking unit in operation and truck with beach in background ('Australian Road Practice: An Introduction to Highway Engineering' by HM Sherrard, Melbourne University Press 1965). NSW beach in 1950s not identified. Does anyone know?

POSTCARD CORNER

Member **Mary Cleghorn** has sent the Society a postcard mystery. It's a birthday Tuck's Post Card (made in Saxony and depicting a rustic cottage, floral arrangements and flowery verse) addressed to Miss C (or E) Lamerton of "Mulgoa" Harney St Marrickville. It's from Ethel, Will, Glad, Cyril, Madge, Eily, Phil & Ailsa, but no surname. It has a one penny postage stamp with the head of King George V and though processed by the post office, no date is visible. These stamps were first issued in 1913.

Sands Directory indicates Edmund A Lamerton as listed in Harney Street from 1910 to 1923. In 1921 he is at number 20, and in 1924, he is both there and at Lidcombe. (By 1925 the numbering sequence in Harney Street appears to have changed.) It would seem Miss Lamerton received her multi-signed greeting card between 1913 and 1924.

1450 PUPILS AT LEWISHAM PRIMARY

George Champion was responsible for the restoration of the plaque honouring Pte Ivor Jones (article in April newsletter). Now an active Manly-Warringah local historian, George has written to the Society:

"Strangely enough, the Lewisham-Petersham area is quite well known to me as I spent a number of years with the NSW Dept. of Education in the 1970s. First as a non-teaching Deputy Principal at Lewisham Public School when we had 1450 children and then as Principal of Petersham Public when it re-opened in West Street with about 380 children. Those were the days when the influx of children was continuous, but most of them were well-behaved, thank goodness!"

Hard to believe that just over 30 years ago a local primary school had 1450 children!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT 'TIL IT'S GONE

These days **Leo Schofield** lives in Tasmania. The following is extracted from his article, *Hobbles on the Heritage* which appeared on 14 January 2006 in the *Hobart Mercury*. Notwithstanding the Tasmanian context Leo's views on heritage conservation have a universal application. Having described some mid 19th century buildings – *Woodburn, Marlbrook, Oakwood* and *Wybra Hall* – in their original settings, along the Midland Highway, north of Hobart, Leo continues:

"This wonderful collection of buildings and the landscape in which they have stood for so long, all notable tourist attractions and all highlighted in official tourism publications and on related websites, made a tremendous impact on me when I first pootled by three decades and more ago. How civilized they looked, how well-mannered, with ample room to breathe around each one, elegant punctuation marks in a unique unspoiled stretch of rural land, a thick juicy slice of colonial history. Oh, to have been an observer on this stretch of road in the 1840s or in any subsequent decade. What a rich cavalcade of life one would have seen, what history. This fact is duly acknowledged in its designation as the Heritage Highway, of which this group of Lower Midlands buildings constitutes the entrance portal.

That all have survived, along with other more modest late 19th and early 20th-century dwellings around about, in a relatively uncompromised state is something of a miracle. But they are under threat. Not the historic buildings – for only a fool would propose demolition or unsympathetic redevelopment of these treasures – but from an unnecessary and unsustainable development on the land behind, a miserable and greedy subdivision of rural land into (are you ready for this?) 23 cheek-by-jowl building blocks.

It's a little bit of Bridgewater plonked down in the middle of a remarkable remnant of our colonial past, a banal pro forma suburban plan with zero sense of relationship to the environment and little discernible rationale – other than to maximize a return to the developer. If (perish the thought) this harebrained proposal is endorsed by a supine local council and allowed to proceed, it will forever mar and scar the landscape.

The great Cumberland Plain around Sydney, which was once dotted with colonial buildings, has long since vanished under a tsunami of concrete and brick veneer but miraculously this local, poetic example of the way our forebears built and spaced their homes and places of work is with us still and should remain inviolate.

In expressing these views, I know I will probably be branded by some as a blow-in mainlander who doesn't understand local imperatives. The truth is, I am a battle-scarred warrior in the cause of intelligent conservation. Had my colleagues and I not organized the first major rally to prevent a highway being carved through it, Sydney's historic Paddington and west Woollahra would have fallen victim to the senseless development that plagued that city in the '70s and early '80s. We won that fight, and many more, but developers are a crafty lot and too often authorities buckle under their pressure.

Here, as well as in the rest of Australia, ordinary folk are coming to share Joni Mitchell's view that "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone". At some point in time there has to be a balance between private rights – a couple of brothers' right to log at Recherche Bay, a landowner's right to interpolate nearly two dozen houses into a perfect colonial landscape – against the interest of a broader public and the future, particularly of tourism, in this lovely place called Tasmania."

Editor's note: Does anyone know the aftermath of this DA?

HARBOURSIDE WALK WITH TED

After one of Sydney's heavy morning fogs lifted to usher in another glorious warm autumn day (on Thursday 17 May), the Taronga Zoo ferry delivered a bunch of heritage perambulators who wended their way along the newly formed Taronga Park walkway towards Little Sirius Cove. Tour leader – the never-lost-for-words – **Ted Green**, equipped with Mars Bars for sustenance, maps, info sheets and guide books, including the art works of Sir Arthur Streeton, helped us to identify the very rocks which Streeton painted over a century ago; Ted indicated where these plein-air artists pitched their tents or constructed more elaborate forms of temporary housing. Carved in to one small cliff-face is **CURLEW CAMP 1890**.

Among the numerous visual delights was the picturesque Mosman Bay, where we saw Mosman's oldest building, 'the Barn' built by Archibald Mosman in 1831 as part of his whaling business; since 1925 it has housed Australia's oldest Scout group (1st Mosman). Ted also showed us The Castle, a sandstone harbour-side villa, built 1911-1916 for Mr Cherry Willis and his offspring; the ring bolt rock and the splendid public gardens constructed by Ruby Graham and her husband Lex on the Cremorne side of Mosman Bay.

Assisted by **Keith Robinson**, Ted regaled us with his colourful and informed commentary, corny jokes, a Henry Lawson poem, *Chatswood*, and shouted us a round of coffees at Mosman Wharf, funded by a stray \$50 note Ted spotted on the track. Ted had warned us of the steps, but not of the hills, which were both plentiful. However, the pace was leisurely and the harboursapes superb. Ted says he'd be happy to lead members on others of the many easy, scenic walks around Sydney, but next time, Ted, the coffee's on us!

Richard Blair

Joan Francis advises that in the March 2007 *Descent*, the new premises of the Society of Australian Genealogists at 395 Kent Street Sydney was erected in 1915. One owner was "a spinster", Aimee Louisa Murray of Marrickville.

FROM THE (NOT SO OLD) ARCHIVES



The nine Independent aldermen elected 14 April 1984 to the enlarged, but somewhat short-lived, Sydney City Council. It includes two future Lord Mayors of Sydney, namely Frank Sartor, 2nd from left and Clover Moore, 2nd from right. On the far left (no pun intended) is Jack Munday. Photo from the 'South Sydney Post' (June/July 1984 Issue 20) published by South Sydney Residents' Action Group.

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 23 June

Annual General Meeting

Details on front page

Saturday 28 July

St Peters Walk with Mark Matheson

PLACENAMES IN HOUSE NAMES

House names generally reflect some present or past association of an owner/builder or owner. A series of like names in a batch of adjacent houses is often more fascinating. Last year Diane McCarthy located at 206-216 Unwins Bridge Road Sydenham, adjoining houses whose names were of ships associated with New Guinea, each name starting with the letter M (Sept. 2006 newsletter). Newtown has several series, notably a quartet of floral names at 2-8 Lennox Street (Lilac, Aster, Lily, Tulip); four female first names at 10-16 Pearl Street (Valma, Venus, Vera, Vida) ; and at 91-113 Albermarle Street a dozen terraces, each with a town name starting with the letter B (Sept. 2002 newsletter). (Bianbye is a house name in Hawken Street: perhaps a place conjured by a quirky mind!)

Camden Street has to be the placename capital of Newtown. There is the heritage-listed Camden Villa, at no. 31 and Exeter House (42 Fernbank Street, on the corner of Camden Street). According to the 1903 Sand's Directory, 1-7 Camden Street were named Casula, St Ives, Clifton, St Elmo and nos. 59-69 were Como, Lilyvale, Minto, Kelso, Leura (no. 63 not listed). Only Lilyvale is extant. However there are two sets of extant house names, virtually all NSW town names, each with five letters. At 172-178 Camden Street, near Edgeware Road, stand four single-storey semis: Junea, Cobar, Moree, Cooma.



At 82-92 Camden Street stand six semis: Avoca, Greta, Dubbo, Kiama, Bulli, Cobra, the last five pictured above. Shown on the 2007 National Trust Heritage Festival booklet cover, the photo is marred by the intruding decorative curve. The booklet fails to reveal when the photo was taken, but it preceded street tree planting some decades ago. Avoca (no. 82) appears on the front page of this newsletter. The name Cobra is curious as it is not among the current list of postcodes and it is hardly a typo for Cobar, as Cobar is the name for number 174. Herein lies a mystery. Any theories?

Richard Blair

INTERIM ORDER ON COPTIC CHURCH

The Society applauds the unexpected action of Planning Minister Frank Sartor for stepping in to 'to protect the former Coptic Church in Sydenham from demolition and allow further study into its heritage significance.' A 12 month interim heritage order has been placed on the Church, to prevent any action being taken that may damage or destroy it. The fate of the Church is not assured, however, as Council's engineers have estimated that it will cost \$1.65 million to repair the building, money that Marrickville's mayor, Cr. Morris Hanna, is unwilling to provide. Cr Hanna has been reported as saying that 'If the Government wants to spend the money to save it, of course we will work with them' (*The Glebe*, 24 May).

The Society is relieved that Minister Sartor has finally had the true extent of the threats to heritage in our area revealed to him. We hope that he will now be more likely to intervene in the future to protect threatened heritage buildings and environments in our LGA. The Society has been astounded by the lack of action by the Minister and his Heritage Office after the Heritage Study Review was scuttled by Council last year, removing protection from hundreds of potential heritage items. Similarly, the Minister and his Heritage Office have been unhelpful and silent about the fate of Marrickville's Heritage Conservation Areas that are likely to be abolished when the new Marrickville Local Environmental Plan is enacted in the next two years.

Scott MacArthur

On 31 May 1857 the British clipper *Dunbar* departed from Plymouth bound for Sydney. On 20 August 1857 it was smashed to pieces at the entrance to Sydney Harbour with only one survivor from 122 passengers and crew. St Stephens Anglican Church Newtown is commemorating the sesquicentenary of this tragic event on the weekend of **18-19 August**. Details in our July newsletter.

For the second year the **Mudcrabs - Cooks River Eco Volunteers** - are running **Riverworks: Cooks River Environmental Sculpture Competition** on **Sunday 17 June** from 10 am at Gough Whitlam Park, Bayview Street, Undercliffe. Riverworks involves community members creating on-the-spot sculptures using recycled materials provided free of charge. Cash prizes for different age groups, refreshments, entertainment and community stalls. Riverworks is designed to facilitate discussion, through art, about the Cooks River area and surrounds. All welcome.

WINTER TRIVIA QUESTION

Who founded Australia's first Women's Magazine, when, and what was it called? Richard 9557 3823.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823