

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



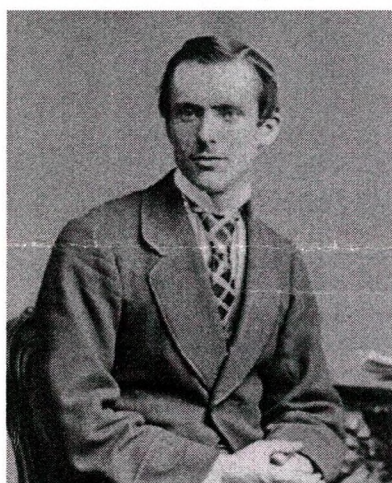
OUR NEXT MEETING

Laurel Horton: Stanley Howard: A Young Man's Colonial Experience

Saturday 26 August 10 for 10.30 am

Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Stanley Howard (1850-1883), after almost completing his degree at Cambridge, became tubercular. In 1872, for the good of his health, he sailed for Australia, arriving in Melbourne. He travelled extensively, before settling in Sydney as curate at St Peters Church, Cooks River and later St Johns Church, Darlinghurst. He recorded his everyday existence — travel, domes-



tic arrangements, meals and medical treatment — in letters to his family in England, providing a unique insight into 19th century Australian life. His wide social circle included both rich and poor. The letters were enhanced by editor's notes from contemporary newspapers.

Laurel Horton is a retired schoolteacher and historian of St Peters Anglican Church, Cooks River, who conducts history walks and talks. Her interest in local history evolved from her family having lived in the district for the past 150 years. Her publications are *Grave Reflections*, a history of St Peters Graveyard, and *St Peters, Cooks River 1838-1988*, co-written with the Rev. Thomas Halls. Her book on Stanley Howard was published in 2005. An MHS member, Laurel's *A Walk Around Tempe* appeared in *Heritage* 12.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY

Send a cheque or money order made out to Marrickville Heritage Society with your name(s), address & phone number(s). Address below. Ring Richard on 9557 3823 for a brochure or further information. Membership includes monthly newsletter, journal *Heritage* and monthly talk or outing. Concession \$12, individual or joint concession \$20, household or organization \$28. Membership renewable June 2007.

**KEEP THE NATIONAL ART SCHOOL
AT OLD DARLINGHURST GAOL!**

PROPOSED HERITAGE ITEMS ABANDONED!

In a stunning move, a recent meeting of Council voted to abandon further consideration of the 195 proposed heritage items identified in the Marrickville Heritage Study Review 2001. Council's officers had proposed a cautious process whereby the current status of the proposed items would be checked by council staff before a heritage consultant would be engaged to revise and update the inventory sheets of each of the items, and devise a strategy for consultation and review with property owners. Instead, Cr Dimitrios Thanos proposed that the heritage items should be abandoned! The final vote was tied — (Crs Thanos [Independent], Iskandar [Labor], Cotter [Lab.], Owen [Lab.] and Hanna [Ind.] for the abandonment; Crs Sharpe [Lab.], Olive [Green], Khan [Green], F Byrne [Green] and S Byrne [Green] against). Cr Thanos, as chairperson, used his casting vote and the motion was carried. Cr Hesse [Green] was overseas, and Cr Macri [Ind.] left the meeting before the vote.

The vote means that literally hundreds of individual items of our built and natural environments have been identified as being of heritage significance, but have no protection under Council's planning codes. Some of those that will be most at risk from redevelopment or even demolition are those that have been the subject of recent DAs, including the Golden Barley Hotel (Enmore), *Ferndale* cottage (Newtown), the former Tresillian Hospital (Petersham), and the Greenway and Banks industrial estate (St Peters).

The Society thanks the councillors who voted to support the protection of our heritage resources. We now face the daunting prospect of trying to convince a majority of councillors to retain our Heritage Conservation Areas in some form as part of the Urban Strategy/Local Environmental Plan review process.

Scott MacArthur

Photo: Jon Graham



OUR LAST MEETING

Freshwater Creek Wetlands Chullora

On Saturday 22 July 40 members and friends enjoyed a very stimulating trip to the **Freshwater Creek Wetlands, Chullora**, where we were met by Gary Blaschke and David, from the **South West Enviro Centre Inc.** Gary introduced us to what he described as a micro version of Kakadu. The wetlands are largely the product of his group's dogged determination and willingness to take on government officialdom to create a unique ecosystem within an industrial area producing noxious substances. With the support of the Water Conservation Department the area was defined as 'off-line wetlands'.

The contaminated area has been regraded and what was mudflat is now a unique system which cleanses and removes the contaminants. The small lakes are clean and inviting to many species; native plants have been planted and are growing. The group's work has resulted in soil quality that has dramatically improved, allowing a 75-80% strike rate of plants. The local Muslim School monitors the water and collects data; TAFE students, specialising in environmental studies, have produced a health report of the water.

Sydney Water is supporting plans for an education centre and observation tower for ornithologists to observe the 70 species of birds. Members of the group have become experts in flora and fauna – frogs, birds, bats and bugs, a diversity of which have been recorded, including six species of frogs, finches and generations of ducks; a unique Albino duck having made himself the pet of the group for some years! The current building of reptile habitats will encourage the return of snakes and a set of steps at the lake allows safe passage for young fish to journey to and grow in the safe haven of the lakes at Chullora Wetlands.

Burwood By Coach & Foot

From Chullora to Burwood where at MLC School our hosts, **Pamela Hatfield** and **Mylee Angelo** provided morning tea and told us that MLC was established as Methodist Ladies College when it became acceptable for girls to be educated. In 1872 Burwood was chosen and in 1885 Kent House was opened with ten students: "The College is situated in an eminently healthy neighbourhood, sufficiently removed from the keen air of the sea, easily accessible by train from Sydney, and commanding a beautiful view for many miles around" (*Sydney Morning Herald* January 1886).

By 1892 Schofield Hall was built as a dining room for boarders. It is now a chapel with a beautiful organ and lovely stained glass windows representing aspects of the school's history. MLC now prides itself on being a modern Australian, multicultural girls school.

Joined by **Cecily Gray** and **John Johnson** of the **Burwood & District Historical Society** we crossed the road to historic Burwood Park. Once a paddock it was dedicated a park in 1884 and laid out in the form of the Union Jack in 1885. Edged with fig trees, our path led to the restored bandstand and nearby memorial, that

was dedicated to Mayor William Paisley, murdered in February 1884 by William Redfearn, his Town Clerk. Nearby stands the Sydney Sandakan Memorial (Borneo), one of several throughout the country.

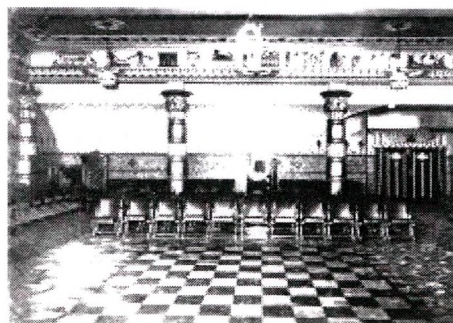
Thanks to the expertise of our coach driver manoeuvring around tight corners, our interesting and enjoyable tour then took in Woodstock (1872-73) where we had lunch, inspection of and talk about St Paul's Anglican Church, Wellings (Burwood's oldest house) with its pretty French style, the Appian Way with its magnificent Federation style houses, Malvern Hill Conservation Area, St Thomas's Anglican Church (1848) and Enfield Olympic Pool, the oldest in Sydney. And much more!

Vivien Wherry

Note: Donations were made to the **South West Enviro Centre** and to **Burwood & DHS**; two MHS publications were presented to MLC. We thank all these groups along with **St Pauls Church** for their hospitality; also Ted Green for his donation of books. The wetlands tour was facilitated by **Lorraine Beach** and the Burwood tour by **Richard Blair**.

HOME FOR EGYPTIAN ROOM PHOTOS

In 2003 Kogarah Historical Society donated to MHS "six large photographs mounted on cardboard showing the Egyptian Room of the Masonic Temple". On the back of one of the photos is the name, "Mrs Jennings of Ocean Street, Kogarah" who was said to be no longer living there. The photographer was Hall & Co. Sydney and the photos are believed to date from the late 1920s. Four of the photos depict the interior of the Egyptian Room from the former Scottish Royal Arch Temple, 22-24 College Street Sydney, based on the design of architect, A Phipps Cole; the sculptor was Rayner Hoff and the decorator, Charles Everett. The other two photos are of a Masonic ball and of the Maccabean Hall, now the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road Darlinghurst.



One of the photographs showing how the Egyptian Room looked in the late 1920s, when in the Scottish Royal Arch Temple, College Street Sydney

When the Sydney Temple was to be demolished, the Grand Superintendent Dr FJ Radcliff found a suitable relocation of the Egyptian Room in the Royal Arch Masonic Temple, Petersham. The Room was re-erected in 1977 by craftsmen from GR Lumb & Sons, the firm that had originally created it. The Room was classified by the National Trust in 1979 and is stunning to behold! MHS visited the Room in 1985 and 1990; later visits were made during Heritage Festivals.

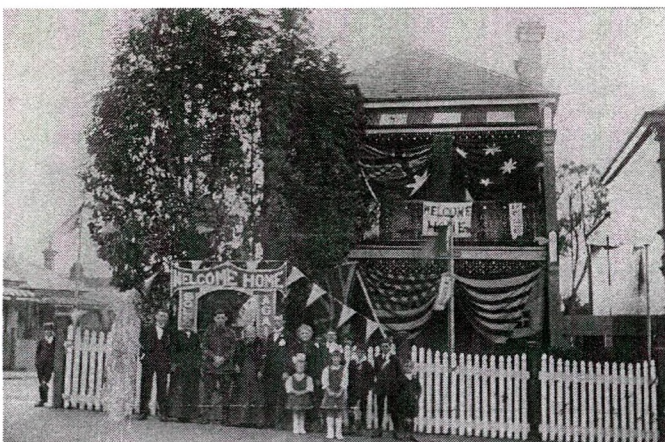
The Masonic Centre in Petersham was not interested in the photos, however a home was found at the Museum of Freemasonry, Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street Sydney. MHS donated copies of the photos to Council's history centre. An article about the Egyptian Room titled *A Hidden Treasure* by Gregory Tillet appears in *Heritage* 3, 1987. Thanks to Peter Cousens and Diane McCarthy for their efforts.

Richard Blair

142 THE BOULEVARDE DULWICH HILL

Readers may be interested in this undated photograph which comes from my wife's family collection. It shows the former Coy family home at 142 The Boulevard, Dulwich Hill, on the corner of The Boulevard and Pigott Street.

The shot was taken by Dulwich Hill based photographer, A Pritchard of *Bon-Noorook*, Riverside Crescent Dulwich Hill. The image clearly shows banners proclaiming 'Welcome Home' and 'Peace', and several large flags (Australia, UK, USA & Italy). The peace banner would suggest that the image dates from just after the end of the war in 1918. A close look at the front of the house shows the old name of the house, which is partially obscured by a flag and pole. My searches in the council archives have been unsuccessful in finding out the original house name.



X

The returning soldier must be the young man in uniform at the front gate. Although not named, the soldier is most likely Francis Joseph Coy (born 1897), who signed up in November 1915. There are over a dozen family members posing in this image, ranging from an old lady to several young children. Every photograph tells a tale and of special interest to contemporary viewers is the unknown story behind the missing figure (see X) on the left of the posed group which has been crudely scratched out at a later date; perhaps a 'black sheep' relative or a spurned spouse?

The house was built in the late 1880s. Early owners (if not the first) were Charles Forsythe and his wife who are listed as owners in 1890. They lived there for over 20 years and sold the house to a barrister named John Mason who quickly sold it on to local printer Samuel Joseph Coy for £800. The Coy family lived there from 1912 until 1934. At the end of the Great War, Samuel died of natural causes and the house continued to be occupied by his widow, Ellen Josephine Coy and their printer son, Lawrence Bernard Coy, who died in 1934.

Ellen Coy's son, Leslie (Les) Samuel Coy was one family member who never returned home from the war in Europe. The 22 year old army private (and older brother of Francis Coy) was killed at the Battle of Menin Gate on 3 October 1917. His name is just one of many carved into the war memorial outside Marrickville Town Hall as well as the impressive Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial in Belgium.

After Ellen Coy died, the house was sold to Amy Honeyfield for £1,200. By the late 1930s James and Constance Goodall were the new owners and converted the two-storey detached building into two flats. At this time the house was given the name *Ka-loola*. In 1949 the house was sold to Agnes Amelia Ward for £1,400. The house (now named *Gunyah*) still survives – unlike many nearby Victorian houses demolished for home units – and is owned today by Agnes Ward's granddaughter. I have given a copy of this photograph to the Marrickville local studies centre as well as the current owner. Do any other members have interesting local old house photographs?

Silas Clifford-Smith

2006 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER REPORT

I'd like to thank all who have sent written or photographic contributions or have written up *Our Last Meeting*. I have as usual been supported fully by the committee. Lorraine Beach has been most accommodating as president, keeping me up to speed on forthcoming events. Scott MacArthur's heritage watch reports continue to be most succinct and compelling. May I also express my appreciation for those long-term hands, who are taking a well-earned rest from the committee. Not only have Peter Cousens, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Angela Phippen and Ali Wright served the society and newsletter extremely well, but they have also been tremendous company to be around.

Diane McCarthy has been an invaluable contributor in many capacities, more recently as secretary. Ever-efficient and cheerful, Diane has done much else behind-the-scenes such purchasing the envelopes, maintaining the master membership lists and delivering things to our homes. I will miss her involvement. Also beavering away in the background is our membership secretary, Pamela Stewart who ensures that newsletters are posted out swiftly and continues to maintain the membership records. Shirley Hilyard, over 12 years, has never missed a monthly proof-reading appointment with me. The newsletter is always an enhanced document after these encounters. Shirley is also an invaluable source of photos, graphics and other material from her extensive collection.

My quest for drivers has resulted in a team of five which means that, on average, their services are only required two or three times a year. Thank you Tony Breinl, Diane McCarthy, Graeme Napier, Pamela Stewart and Keith Sutton. Ian Phillips continues to accompany these drivers in delivering newsletters to the runners, but also assists me in various other distribution tasks.

Here are the runners, who deliver to local residents, the good, and not so good, news each month: Thank you Lu Bell, Richard Blair, Maree Blanchard, John Blattmann, Nigel Butterley, June Cameron, Iain Carolin, Peter Cousens, Fred Ellis, Rosemary Fallon, Joanna Fielding, Audrey Furney, Barbara Gibbons, Shirley Hilyard, Laurel & Bob Horton, Peter James & Joan Sinclair, Mark Matheson, Hillary Morrissey, Pat Mullen, Allan Outlaw, Ian Phillips, Peter Robertson, Pamela Stewart, Keith Sutton, Ken Swinbourne and Ken Turner. My editor's annual award goes to long time runner, June Cameron, all of whose members in her delivery area, had paid their fees within three months of their due date.

Finally, do keep sending contributions. They enhance the newsletter and will mostly get used eventually.

Richard Blair (AGM report abridged)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 26 August

Laurel Horton: *Stanley Howard – A Young Man's Colonial Experience*

Details on front page

Saturday 23 September

Bats & Bricks at Sydney Olympic Park

Saturday 28 October

Paul Storm: *Australiana in Architecture*

MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL'S HISTORY WEEK ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER

Family History Workshops for Beginners:

History Centre, Petersham Town Hall: Monday 18th 11 am-1 pm & Thursday 21st 2-4 pm

Marrickville Library: Tuesday 19th 6-8 pm

Workshops free; limited places; bookings essential on 9335 2287.

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Launch & talk: A Trail of Maps at Stanmore Library
Friday 15th 10 am (bookings 9335 2183). Exhibition of historical maps forming a trail throughout LGA.

Exhibition 18-21 September (no bookings required) at following venues and times:

Petersham Town Hall 10 am-5 pm

Marrickville Library 10 am-8.30 pm

Dulwich Hill, Stanmore & St Peters/Sydenham libraries: Mon. to Wed. 1-5.30 pm & Thurs. 12.30-8 pm

ITEMS OF MARRICKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SOUGHT

In the wake of the 2004 Garden History Seminar that Peter Cousens organised, Peter has turned the talk he gave into an article for our next journal about the Marrickville Horticultural Society, which flourished in the 1930s and 1940s, but had its demise in the early 1960s. He would like to see items associated with that society – certificates, ribbons, trophies, cups, reports, photographs – or hear from anyone who grew flowers for exhibition or attended the flower shows in Marrickville Town Hall. Phone Peter on 9550 3809; email <petercousens@bigpond.com>.



Retiring MHS committee members Peter Cousens, Ali Wright, Angela Phippen, Graeme Napier & Diane McCarthy get a rousing send-off at the Harp Hotel Tempe (photo: Scott MacArthur)

100 WARDELL ROAD DULWICH HILL

A DA has been submitted to substantially modify and extend this run-down villa at 100 Wardell Road, Marrickville. The property was originally known as *Graythorpe* and comprised a two storey late Victorian villa with outbuildings, including a stable. From the 1880s to early last century, the site belonged to the Stokes family, and was the home of Frederick Stokes, co-founder of the Sydney Morning Herald (see May 2006 newsletter).

The house was progressively modified and extended over the years before its conversion to a boarding house (perhaps as early as 1943). However, the stature of the house as a free-standing villa on a generous block with an intact outbuilding was largely retained. The original internal walls and room configurations are still evident in the house, as well as early joinery, including French doors with arched glazed panels. The property is located in the Draft Marrickville Park Heritage Conservation Area.

The proposal to extend the boarding house to accommodate up to 27 residents will involve the demolition of the former stable and most of the internal walls of the main house. The two storey extensions at the front and rear of the house will destroy the remaining traces of the original character of the house as a free-standing villa. The generous front garden space will be replaced with a new building and a garbage enclosure.

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIS) prepared for the works is supportive of the proposal, but it is fundamentally flawed by poor investigation and analysis of the history and fabric of the house. The HIS omits the connection with Frederick Stokes, made more relevant with the Sydney Morning Herald currently celebrating its 175 year anniversary. The HIS also fails to identify the extent of original or early building fabric and spaces remaining in the main house and outbuildings, and makes no comment on the demolition of most of the internal walls of the house and the stable building.

The proposed new painted and rendered two storey extensions are also incompatible with the typology of single-storey, dark face brick bungalows and cottages that has been identified as characteristic of the Draft Heritage Conservation Area.

The Society considers that the proposal does not adequately address the heritage significance of *Graythorpe* or its place in the Draft Heritage Conservation Area, and calls on Council to reject it.

Scott MacArthur

Riverlife free tours on 13 (for kids) & 27 August at 10 am. Ring 9335 2222 for details & bookings.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823