

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

Saturday 24 February

**Heritage Colour Schemes of Houses 1880s-1930s
with Michael McCowage**

Saturday 17 March

Old Lace in old O'Connell Town

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE ITEMS UNDER ONGOING THREAT

Out of the blue last July came the appalling news of the abandonment by Marrickville Council of "further consideration of the 195 proposed heritage items identified in the Marrickville Heritage Study Review 2001" (as reported in August newsletter). The vote was tied, with the chairperson, Independent Councilor Dimitrios Thanos casting the deciding vote.

The draft Marrickville Urban Study (October 2006) indicates "**local heritage is highly valued and adds to the character of the LGA**" (p. 10). This statement seems to be supported in principle in Action 1.7 (p. 42) which is to "**protect heritage from inappropriate development** . . . A number of studies have been undertaken in the past into defining heritage in order to protect these items from inappropriate Development . . . A clear objective is achieving compatibility between existing (historic) and contemporary new development."

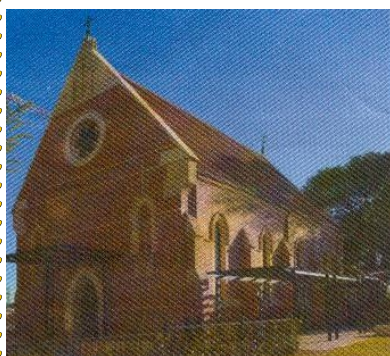
Whilst all this sounds positive, one wonders how this sits with the following, elsewhere in the document (p. 14): "**Heritage is highly valued and presents a development constraint given the desire to retain this value.** Heritage properties are found across the LGA, with significant concentrations in Newtown, Enmore, Stanmore, Petersham and Lewisham. There are 307 lots listed as MLEP heritage items or on the State Heritage Register. **These sites are deemed to be absolute constraints to future development.**"

Submissions to Marrickville Council on the draft Marrickville Urban Strategy are due on 15 December. And it's not just Marrickville - this is a **statewide process** with development clearly the main goal.

Richard Blair

PROPOSED TOUR OF TASMANIA

The Society has for some time considered a heritage tour of Tasmania. With former MHS president **Geoff Ostling** now having the time and expertise, the Society is planning a 10-14 day Marrickville Heritage Society tour in September 2007, likely to include Hobart, Launceston, Port Arthur, the Queenstown to Strahan Railway, visits to museums and historic homes, not normally open to the public, and much more. More details in the new year when Expressions of Interest will be sought. See back page for details of Geoff's privately-run Turkey tour in April 2007.



*The restored 1888
St Magdalene's
Chapel, Wolli Creek
is for sale along with
its more famous
neighbour, the 1836
Tempe House.
See back page.*

SOCIETY STORAGE SPACE SOUGHT

Can anyone help with a storage space for the Society? We haven't yet succeeded in finding premises where we can establish an office, and meanwhile our need for storage has become more urgent. We need the following:

- Clean and dry - concrete or timber floor.
- Secure (our stocks of books, archives etc will be housed there). We need to be able to lock our storeroom.
- Independent access without disturbing or relying on the presence of others.
- A small area is sufficient - size of a medium laundry or quarter size of a single garage would be adequate.

We can't afford to pay commercial rents, but could certainly make a reasonable contribution to cover expenses if required. We could also surely clean up, fix up or adapt an area that may need a bit of work. If you have a space available, or know of a church, or a club or other organisation that might have a suitable area, could you please contact any member of the committee, or drop us a note or an email. All suggestions welcome.

Auction of Donnithorne "find" on back page

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 conc'n \$20, household or organization \$28. Membership valid until end of May 2007.

The President, Scott MacArthur, and members of the executive committee wish all Marrickville Heritage Society members and their families a **Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.**

OUR LAST MEETING: 25 NOVEMBER

1) TROCADERO HALL, NEWTOWN

MHS president and consulting architect, **Scott MacArthur**, conducted a fascinating tour of the restored Trocadero building in King Street Newtown, and glimpses into its history. Around 40 people trudged up and down stairs, marvelling at the scale and design of the building. The exterior restoration was beautifully done, so it was quite a shock to step inside and see the damage caused by neglect, white ants, tenants and the 1999 hailstorm.

The land, originally part of Grose Farm, and later owned by Governor Bligh, was not built on until the 1880s, when two terrace houses were erected on the site. These were bought in the late 1880s by Frederick Ferrier, a city publican, who began building "the grandest roller skating rink in Australia", incorporating the existing terraces. It was completed in 1889 and



named the Trocadero. It was a grand concept, at a time of booming real estate and confidence. It housed the roller skating rink, billiard and reading rooms, Turkish baths, hairdressing salon, and had electric lighting. The foyer was tiled and had a fountain. The skating rink was magnificent, with ornate plasterwork and mirrored walls, a walkway around the walls to view the skaters, and part of the roof opened. The roof trusses are wrought iron, and combine functionality with elegance.

We could see tantalising glimpses of the former glory, in the plasterwork and staircases remaining after the ravages of weather and tenants who used the building more as a factory space – Properts Motor Body Co. Limited operated there from the 1920s to the 1950s, and more recently, a second hand furniture dealer added a mezzanine floor to the skating rink.



Moore College acquired the building in 1974 and presided over a continuing deterioration until community pressure caused it to be listed on the State Heritage Register in 2000, which required the building's condition to be upgraded. Scott encountered a problem unusual in restoring landmark buildings – there was only one illustration of the original Trocadero to be found, and not one photo. Hopefully, now that the exterior has been restored, Moore College will find a tenant, and work can commence on the interior restoration.

Gloria Muir

Note: Interior photos by **Bob Parkinson**: top, in main hall; below, timber ceiling with rose in upstairs room. Thanks to **Scott** who conducted two tours attended by over 70 members, among them, **Harry Stone**, who used to supply parts to Properts Motor Body Co.

2) RPAH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Tucked away in the inner sanctum of the King George V building (winner 1941 Sulman Award for Architecture: see Notes) at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown is the RPAH Museum and Archives. The museum director **Helen Croll**, assisted by archivist **Mair Jones**, both volunteers, walked us through the exhibits of 'lethal' looking surgical instruments, photographs and other assorted nursing history on our tour of Saturday 25 November.

The museum has been in existence since 1933 and recently found a home, after several locations, in the heritage-listed operating theatres of the former King George V Memorial Hospital for Mothers and Babies which was opened in 1941. Its state-of-the-art operating theatres, a first for Australia, were introduced by Sir Herbert Schlink, for many years Chairman of RPAH, who had travelled to Europe looking for a more practical design to overcome contamination problems. The new theatres featured a circular construction with a domed ceiling which enhanced the light source, reducing the risk of infection. Schlink later married the first woman gynaecologist to serve at King George, Margaret Mulvey, whose appointment set a precedent whereby at least one woman gynaecologist was to serve on the staff.

A tantalising peek into the past was the Prince Alfred 1884 Register of Admissions and Discharge Register. A patient, aged 46, whose residence was described as being Newtown Police station, spent 31 days in hospital being treated for alcoholism and a cut head. She was noted as being destitute, so the cost of her hospitalisation, being 3 pounds 9 shillings and 9 pence was presumably written off as a bad debt. From the large number of patients recorded as destitute one wonders if the hospital didn't suffer a funding crisis.

The museum will shortly welcome their first professional curator who will carry on the fine job done by the current group of conscientious volunteers. Thank you Helen and Mair for hosting both tours.

Alma Roberts

Notes Tour proceeds went to the museum which is on the 8th floor of KGV and is usually open to the public on Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm; however the museum will be closed until 10 January. A couple of members remarked on the Sulman Award plaque now missing from the walls of KGV. Thanks to **Richard Blair** and **Sue Miller** for liaising with **Helen Croll** and to **Lorraine Beach** for assisting on the day.

Some members found family connections among the photos, publications and name-embroidered banners. One photo shows Nurses Ellen Julia Gould, Julia Johnston and Penelope Frater outside Ermelo Private Hospital, which Misses Gould and Johnston operated in Woodbury Street, Dulwich Hill for a few years from 1903. They had been stationed in the town of Ermelo in South Africa during the Boer War.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRADMAN LINK TO PETERSHAM OVAL

With Australia's endeavours to regain the Ashes from England under way, we note the 80th anniversary of Don Bradman's first century scored in Sydney grade cricket at Petersham Oval. Playing for St George against Petersham on 27 November and 4 December 1926 Bradman scored 110 and took 3/26 with his spin bowling. A 2002 plaque at Petersham Oval commemorates the feat.

HISTORIC ENMORE BAKERY BUILDING

The 1875 property on the north eastern side of **the intersection of Liberty Street and Stanmore Road**, once 40 Stanmore Road, and **now 27-29 Stanmore Road**, is advertised for sale with 'unlimited potential'. **This property is not protected by a heritage listing.**

FW Johnson opened a bakery in St Peters in 1870 and in 1875 moved to the above site for a purpose-built bakery. The rear of the building, which is seen from Liberty Street, appears much as when it was a purpose-built bakery. The bakery was converted in 1914 to one of Sydney's first specialist vendors of petroleum when the bakery moved to new premises across the road. **The building has both local and state significance for its use in two retail trades in the 19th and 20th century.** It is also important as the portal to the commercial intersection at the corner of Enmore, Stanmore and Edgeware Roads with its substantial former bank and post office premises and hotel.

It has local Marrickville significance showing the financial success of the Johnson family over three generations who catered for local residents over a number of suburbs: FW Johnson 1849-1898 who built these premises; FJ Johnson 1877-1928 who built the premises on the southern side of Stanmore Road, later demolished for flats; WF Johnson, born 1911; Kim Johnson, born 1940, and David Johnson who joined the staff under WF Johnson before it was taken over during the consolidation of bakeries by very large firms.

The building is a physical remnant of past business enterprise in Newtown/Stanmore and has State significance as remaining physical evidence of a successful locally-owned bakery that survived over three generations in a number of locations in the present Marrickville LGA. FW Johnson, who shared in the economic gains from population surge in the 1880s-1893 in the inner west, survived economic conditions that challenged other business people, including bakers.

The 1890s depression, reduced population and demand, with young men overseas fighting World War I, created difficult trading conditions up to 1920; depression after 1927 and strikes after World War II reduced numbers of bakeries, but Johnson's survived and even took over other bakeries until the amalgamation of the bakery trade by a small number of large scale enterprises in the 1950s. The flour mill at [old] Newtown station has survived with reuse as physical evidence of 19th and early 20th century Australian mill ownership. These premises represent local ownership of final processing of flour. Both industries are now dominated by multinational production.



(photo: Richard Blair)

The premises have a second significance from one of its reuses when the corner became Harrison's Motor Garage in 1914 and was so listed in *Sand's Directory* in 1915. The corner elevation to Stanmore Road and Liberty Street shows the modifications made to convert it to a drive-in petrol station. (The building was also partly used by Brightside laundry.) Harrison's Motor Garage was one of the first garages in suburban Sydney when petrol was sold in cans before bowsers became more common after World War I. The garage was later an Atlantic garage.

Barbara Le Maistre (first MHS president & current member Marrickville Heritage Promotions Committee)

IN MEMORIAM

The Society sends its condolences to the families and friends of these people:

- **Ruth May Brown**, formerly of Leichhardt and Summer Hill, died on 2 July aged 74. She was principal at various primary schools including Yagoona and taught drama. After retirement she was actively involved in many organisations including Probus. Ruth was a MHS member from 2000 and regularly attended meetings until overtaken by ill health.
- **Nora Kathleen Peek** who died on 29 October aged 91, was a founding member, president for 12 years and stalwart of the Ashfield & District Historical Society. The ADHS *Journal* No 10, 1993, p. 4 said Nora had "unrivalled knowledge of local history and its sources, her indefatigable enthusiasm for research, her wide contacts, and her dedicated commitment to the goals of the organisation, have made an immeasurable impact on the Society's activities". Nora co-wrote (with Chris Pratten) *Working the Clays: The Brickmakers of the Ashfield District* (1996).
- **Nicholas John (Nick) Vine Hall** late of Belrose, died on 31 October aged 62. He was "author, genealogist, radio broadcaster, publisher and maritime historian ... and wrote *Tracing Your Family History in Australia: A Guide to Sources and of Parish Registers in Australia*." Nick was one of our Society's earliest guest speakers when in October 1984, as Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists, he gave 'a fascinating address on researching family history.'

THE HIGHS & LOWS OF 2006

- The **absolute low** of the year is covered on the front page, however the **saddest** event was arguably the gutting by fire of the 1858 **St Barnabas's Church** in Broadway on 10 May (reported in June newsletter).
- **Achievement:** Congratulations both to **Lu Bell** for receiving the inaugural Special Achievement Award for Heritage from Marrickville Council in April (May newsletter) and to former committee stalwart **Angela Phippen** for her Certificate of Achievement from the RAHS in October (November newsletter).
- **Most significant observation:** At the Marrickville Medal ceremony in April, **Tom Uren** named the four greatest challenges facing our society today – social equity, race and racism, war and peace, but above all, the environment (May newsletter).

NEWTOWN FESTIVAL STALL

Newtown Festival has now reached the sorry state where it needs to be fenced for security purposes. Due to the generosity of St Stephens Anglican Church, the Society conducted its stall on Sunday 12 November in the relative sanctuary of the church grounds, though the clamour and flavour of the festival were more than apparent. Robert Hutchinson assembled an array of old postcards reflecting the surrounds while sales of the Society's stock was brisk. A donation was made to the church in appreciation.

Thanks to stall helpers Robert, Richard, Lorraine, Mark and Gloria with back-up from Sue, Ian, Scott, Stuart, John and Diane. A top team effort. We were also joined by Ann Barron and Matt Murphy from South Sydney Heritage Society who shared the stall.

TEMPE HOUSE FOR SALE

Expressions of Interest have closed for the sale or lease of John Verge's recently restored 1836 Tempe House and the adjacent St Magdalene's Chapel (1888, pictured at front) whose address is given as 3 Magdalen [sic] Terrace, Wolli Creek. An Inner West Courier 28/11/06 ad promoted these icons as "heritage buildings with character", **however no reference was made to Tempe House, Verge, AB Spark, or the age and significance of these fine edifices.** Blurb also indicates "surrounded by over approx. 1000 new residential units". The Property Look website gives brief, but relevant, historical information.



Gallipoli & the historic cities of Turkey April/May 2007 - Expressions of Interest

(tour not being conducted by Marrickville Heritage Society)

Geoff Ostling, former MHS President and recently-retired history teacher, is leading a study tour to Turkey in April/May 2007. It will include the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Anzac Cove and the Australian National Service at Lone Pine, with the opportunity to explore all the major ANZAC battle sites and cemeteries of the Gallipoli peninsula.

Then, for two weeks there will be guided tours of all the major archaeological sites and museums - Istanbul, Troy, Ephesus, Pamakkule, Hieropolis, Antalya, Capadocia, Konya, Ankara and Istanbul. The tour will include economy airfares to and from Istanbul, an experienced English-speaking guide, quality hotels with en suite bathrooms, breakfasts and most other meals, entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums, air-conditioned coach travel, a twilight dinner-cruise on the Bosphorus and several rest days for shopping and exploring.

Although still in the planning stage, the study tour is expected to cost about \$4 000 per person based on a minimum of 15 people. Ring Geoff at 9568 3029 or 0425 359 264 and leave a postal address so Geoff can send tour details.

Following the retirement of **Barry O'Keefe AM QC**, **Professor John Niland** was elected President of the National Trust (NSW) and **Zeny Edwards** Deputy President on 29 November.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736
HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736
TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard 9557 3823

SUMMER TRIVIA QUESTION

There is a thoroughfare in the Marrickville LGA unique insofar as the numbers on either side of the street run in opposite directions - the even numbers run upwards in one direction, whilst the odd numbers across the road run down to one. Thoroughfare contains more than ten houses. Name the street and why might this be so? (Note: there may well be more than one instance of this in the LGA.) Either ring Richard 9557 3823 or email pemell@tpg.com.au .

PICTORIAL HISTORY MARRICKVILLE

As foreshadowed in November newsletter this long-awaited book, published by Kingsclear Books, is now available and retails for \$24.95. The Society will sell the book at a discounted rate.

DONNITHORNE FIND ON AUCTION

At auction in London on 7-8 December (www.grosvenor-auctions.co.uk/action.lasso) is Lot #224: a "1838 (November 1st) Sydney embossed paid envelope, printed to private order, an example with a very fine impression of the embossed seal, sent 1849 (Sept 27th) with red 'FREE/SE *27/1849' circular date stamp. A very rare item, these envelopes and letter sheets were the World's first Postage Paid Stationery". No doubt a collector's philatelic gem, but because the auction is London-based, the description fails to reveal the name of the addressee on the envelope: 'Miss Donnithorne New Town'. The auction takes place after MHS newsletter is out.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Marc Marusic, Enmore; Robyn Marjoram, Ben Reynolds, Marrickville; Alwyne Morgan, St Peters; Catherine Warne, Alexandria; Dorothy Blake, Wellington; Maureen Bailey, Preston West, Victoria.



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