

MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



OUR NEXT MEETING

*A History of Place Names in
New South Wales with Dr Peter Orlovich*
Saturday 26th April 10 for 10.30am
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Rd Marrickville

Place names and street names provide a key to unlock the history of a locality when most other evidence of the physical and social fabric has disappeared. This talk will focus on aspects of the evolution of place names in NSW commencing with the charting of the east coast of Australia by Capt. James Cook in 1770 and the foundation of settlement in 1788. Reference will be made to the importance of exploration and survey of the colony in the naming of geographical features, and the policies adopted by the colonial authorities for ensuring that names assigned to places were appropriate and functional. Peter will also examine the work of the Board on New South Wales Geographic Names (1905) and its successor, the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (1966). The talk will conclude with some entertaining accounts of the naming of streets by local government authorities in NSW.



'The Warren' (c. 1870) is long gone, but remembered in Warren Park, Warren Road, Mansion Street and Holt Crescent

Dr Peter Orlovich worked as an archivist with the Mitchell Library Manuscripts Department and the NSW State Archives before inaugurating the first graduate training course for archivists in Australia in the School of Information, Library and Archive Studies at UNSW in 1973. From 2000-2005, he established an archive service at Kogarah Municipal Council before establishing the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation/National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) Archives. Since 1966, he has been a Member of, and is presently a Counsellor of the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales. He has a lifelong interest in the history of Botany Bay.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the proposed talk for 26 April by **Barrie Dyster** has been deferred.

National Trust Festival 5-20 April

NSW Heritage in Crisis

This excellent article by Ian Jack and Carol Liston in the March 2008 *History* magazine of RAHS (pp. 4-5) concerns the recent decimation of the Heritage Office by the state government and the likely threat to the Heritage Council. The RAHS "urges all individuals and members of concerned organisations to write to the national press, their local newspapers and their local members of parliament, state and federal, expressing their views." Too long for reproduction in this newsletter, the article is available on request.

Sydney Morning Herald Editorial 22 March *Sydney: let bygones be bulldozed*

"Anyone wandering down our city's many charming cobbled byways, past the mellowed sandstone pillars and lintels of the hundreds of Georgian-era buildings which have been preserved, will sympathise with the State Government's plan to water down heritage legislation. Heritage is all very well, they will reflect, but things have gone too far. Heritage rules are strangling Sydney. Where are the gleaming skyscrapers? Our drab and tasteless shopping malls? Where are the characterless glass-and-concrete towers that let visitors think they could be anywhere in the world? Why are our streets and parks not overshadowed the way they are in grown-up cities? Why is Australia's only global city condemned to living in buildings better suited to a kinder, more elegant era?

It is time to take a stand. Our developers are too modest and retiring to speak up for themselves, but they deserve a break. It's all about money of course. So let's bulldoze our heritage and throw up something cheap. With a little lack of foresight, we can do anything."

CLIVE LUCAS'S LETTER TO SMH EDITOR *Give us back our heritage*

"Full marks to Elizabeth Farrelly ("The Archangel Gabrielle chainsaw massacre", March 26). Heritage in the state has fallen into the doldrums. Certainly the citizens' organisations do not seem to be coming forward in protest—at least this is what one gathers by looking through the *Herald*. The *Herald* itself could do more in this area, by appointing a heritage reporter. So far as I am aware, since Joe Glascott and Geraldine O'Brien you have not had such a reporter and most of what is happening in this field is never reported to the public." (Heritage Architect **Clive Lucas**, Letters, 28 March, *Sydney Morning Herald*. This refers to Gabrielle Kibble, Chair of the NSW Heritage Council; Archangel reference is biblical; Farrelly article can be googled.)

OUR LAST MEETING

Prince Henry Hospital Nursing & Medical Museum & Randwick DHS Rooms & LGA

Having previously visited the headquarters of both Ashfield and Canterbury DHS, it is a humbling experience to see what we **don't** have in Marrickville. On Saturday 29 March MHS members inspected the rooms of the Randwick & District Historical Society, which are in the Bowen Library (named after former Deputy Prime Minister and local mayor Lionel Bowen) in Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction. The Society pays a peppercorn rent of \$100 per annum for space spread over several rooms, and what a wealth of artefacts! Several splendid early 20th century paintings by Herbert Beecroft of La Perouse Aborigines, an 1885 painting by Louis Frank of Coogee Beach and a possible early Tom Roberts (though the attribution is uncertain); panoramic photographs of local beaches a century ago; two dining chairs from the wreck of the *Malabar* (1931); stained glass windows from the Coogee Aquarium; illuminated addresses; and a showcase of souvenirs from Randwick Racecourse.

There is a large collection of maps, photographs and local history information and a substantial library. Everything has been donated to the Randwick Society, and is additional to the local studies collection owned by the library. The rooms also house the Lebanese Historical Society, whose representative, **Paul Convy** addressed us. The rooms are open to the public on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, but ring first (9349 3572).

Our informative guide, **Ellen Waugh**, led us on a coach jaunt around the district which included a relaxing stroll along the nature trail boardwalk south of Coogee Beach. We lunched overlooking Wedding Cake Island (popularly believed to be named from the effect of bird droppings).

Heading south, we made an impromptu visit to La Perouse, before linking up with **Lyn Smith** and **Billie King** at the Prince Henry Hospital Nursing & Medical Museum, Little Bay. Lyn and Billie gave a potted history of this hospital which dates from 1881 and closed on 31 December 2003. Every conceivable variety of infectious disease was treated here, and successive administrations adapted accordingly. Known as the Coast Hospital for over 50 years, it was so sited because of its distance from the city. Ironically, it was later claimed that the hospital was only 20 minutes drive from the city, a virtual impossibility these days.

This is significantly larger than the RPA Hospital Museum the Society inspected in November 2006 and several specialist wards frozen in time have been faithfully preserved. The clock tower, wishing well and many old buildings have been retained whilst the marvellously located 1982 chapel is very popular for weddings. Landcom is transforming the site into a new suburb. Our tour concluded with a visit to the remote cemetery where only a fraction of the original 2000 graves remain intact.

Two of our group (**Ann Fenton** and **Sally Shand**) had done nursing training at Prince Henry. The museum is open all day Sunday and Monday afternoons. Admission \$5. Many thanks to all our hosts and to **Robert Hutchinson** for organizing this illuminating event.

Richard Blair

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER



(photo: Richard Blair)

Ever notice this fine example of stonemasonry carving in the city? It is at 681 George Street Haymarket, on the southwest corner of Hay Street. It was built as the Savings Bank of NSW (Southern Branch) in 1904. The property, previously the Burrangong Hotel, was "purchased by the Savings Bank of New South Wales from the Municipal Council of Sydney for £6,725. Premises erected by Messrs Harrison & Son, supervised by architects Nixon and Adam for Hoffnungs of Pitt Street Sydney at a cost of £9,100." Stonemason not known. In 1914 it amalgamated with the Government Savings Bank of NSW before merging with the Commonwealth Bank in 1931. It closed in 1984; in 1985 it was sold to the Bank of China which it remains. The 1928 photo below also depicts the adjoining New Haymarket Theatre showing the film, *On Trial*; a Mastertouch Piano Rolls van is parked in Hay Street (source of data and photo: Commonwealth Bank, Documentation & Archives Centre).

MHS member **Pam Burden** (a star of February's Show & Tell) scoured the city and with the help of the RAHS library, located the subject building. Pam provided data describing the Edwardian style building from the Register of the National Estate (1987): "the original main tenant having the company trademark carved in stone above the entrance with the motto 'Garner the fruits of industry'." That "tenant" was actually the building owner, the Savings Bank of NSW. Well done Pam! Apropos the beehive motif, read on.

Richard Blair



Bank in 1928

AUTUMN TRIVIA ANSWER (CONT'D): THE BEEHIVE MOTIF

I have admired this carving (*Garner the Fruits of Industry*) many a time while travelling along George Street. The beehive and motto was, presumably, used as an emblem by the Savings Bank of NSW. The beehive is a fairly common motif for industry. It appears in the first coat of arms adopted by the City of Sydney sometime in the 1850s, and can be seen on the carving on the George Street facade of Sydney Town Hall. It is also worthwhile to note that the rose, thistle and shamrock appear beneath the beehive, as symbols of the English, Scots and Irish. These often appear as external ornaments on the arms of the United Kingdom.

A beehive is particularly apt as a symbol for a bank, with the industry of the bees in gathering golden honey (wealth) and storing it up having obvious connections with the purpose of a bank. Without suggesting any sort of "secret sign" or Masonic conspiracy, the use of the beehive in the Sydney arms and the bank's emblem may have been inspired by the use of the beehive in Freemasonry's "visual vocabulary", again as a symbol of industry. The motto follows fairly naturally from the symbol.

Stephen Szabo (an authority on heraldry, emblems, logos, etc; Stephen is scheduled to be our guest speaker in August.)

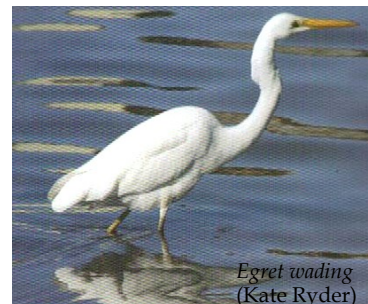
VALE BILL BROWN

Former Test cricketer **Bill Brown**, who died on 16 March aged 95, was held in the highest esteem by the cricketing fraternity. Born in Queensland, William Alfred Brown lived with his family at 12 Robert Street Marrickville between the ages of three and 24. Bill attended Dulwich Hill Primary and Petersham High Schools. He graduated from junior cricket to grade cricket playing for Marrickville first grade by the age of 18 and for NSW by age 20. He later moved back to Queensland. His impressive record as a Test right hand opening batsman for Australia spanned 14 years, with WW2 seriously intervening. He served in the RAAF. Playing against India in 1947/48 Bill was the first Test victim of what famously became known as the Mankad' (named after left arm spinner Vinoo Mankad) where the bowler runs out the batsman at the bowler's end prior to delivery if out of the crease (Sources: Richard Cashman's 1981 interview with Brown, and David Studham, MCG Library).



TWO VALLEY TRAIL PHOTO EXHIBITION

This exhibition which was publicised in our November newsletter was launched at Campsie Library on 3 April by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir. The 70 photographs depict Cooks River and Wolli Creek valleys at



Egret wading
(Kate Ryder)

their best and deserve to be seen especially as all photographers are local. My favourite — Liz Millen's *Dawn Mist* — is truly evocative. The exhibition demonstrates that one doesn't have to venture far from home to see some of our natural beauty. The exhibition moves to the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock Street Camperdown on 7-11 May followed by St Peters and Rockdale Libraries. The five volunteer groups involved are the Cooks River Valley Association, Wolli Creek Preservation Society, Mudcrabs: Cooks River Eco-volunteers, Friends of Ewen Park and Riverlife Interpretative Tours.

The exhibition coincides with the release of the *Two Valley Trail* walking track brochure which contains many of these photos. The official inaugural 13 kilometre walk will take place on 1 June. The Wolli Creek Preservation Society conducts regular walks and a special walk of the Wolli Creek Valley for MHS members is planned for September.

Richard Blair

WELCOME TO SALLY PATFIELD

With the departure of Glenn Wardmann, the Society welcomes new Local Studies Officer at Marrickville Council, **Sally Patfield**. Sally has a Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts double degree with Honours Class I (University of Newcastle) and a Graduate Diploma of Museum Studies (Deakin University). She has worked in the education and public programs departments at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery, in the curatorial department at the Newcastle Regional Museum, and most recently, within the registration department at the National Museum of Australia.

The President of the National Trust, Dr Zeny Edwards, recently announced the resignation of **Tina Jackson** as Executive Director of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) to take effect later this year.



If you haven't been to Italy go and be amazed at Enmore's Little Venice. It is both colourful and functional as the rooms behind the facade are part of TAFE's Sydney Institute Design Centre (formerly part of the grounds of Enmore High School). It is best viewed from the bottom of Metropolitan Road Enmore.
(photo: Hillary Goldsmith)

CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

Saturday 26 April

Dr Peter Orlovich talks on

A History of Place Names in NSW

Details on front page

Saturday 24 May

To be advised

Saturday 28 June

Annual General Meeting

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday 13 April 11am-4pm

Cooks River Sustainability & Arts Festival
Steel Park, Marrickville South

Wednesday 16 April 6pm

2008 Marrickville Medal Presentation

Petersham Town Hall

The Marrickville Heritage Festival recognises and celebrates quality conservation and restoration work. With a record number of nominations this year's Marrickville Medal Award ceremony will also include presentation of the People's Choice Award and a Special Achievement Award, plus an address by Peter Romey, Heritage Architect and Director for Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd Heritage Consultants. Refreshments provided; bookings on 9335 2114.

HERITAGE WATCH

Bunkers at old Pye site, 49 Carrington Road

A DA to develop the site of the old Pye-Technico factory at 49 Carrington Road (bounded by Warren Road and Renwick Street) Marrickville has been before Council to build 28 industrial units, a management office and a cafe. The Society was not notified by Council of the DA, but MHS has recently been advised that World War II concrete bunkers still exist on the site along with "old signage and interesting graffiti from the time". No reference was made to these bunkers in Council's report.

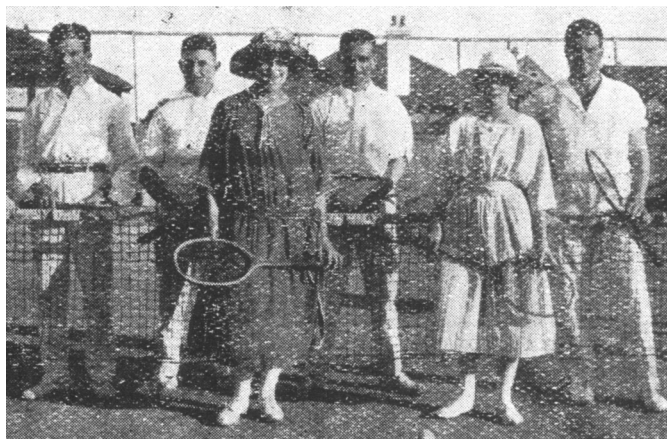
Former Marrickville councillor Ken Holt worked at Rega Products Ltd (47 Carrington Road) during and after World War II and then Pye-Technico for several years. Ken clearly recalls the underground air-raid bunkers built in the war years for all staff in an air-raid. They covered a large area sectioned off into about 10-12 cells and were entered by a stairwell in the middle of the site. After the war they were used for storing documents. The stairwell remains and the bunkers (under the concrete surface) are currently filled with water, but are soon to be emptied. These bunkers may be a rarity and deserve investigation and documentation. Ken is certain General Motors never occupied the site (as claimed by Council), and were always further north on the opposite side of Carrington Road. The DA was refused at Council on 1 April on the grounds of access and traffic issues. It will no doubt resurface. Anyone with further information about the bunkers can ring Scott on 9559 5736 or email the Society at address below.

Richard Blair

Saturday 19 April 10am

Sydenham Stuff-Ups! with Mark Matheson
Meet corner Henry Street & Railway Lane

Sydenham was an excellent hunting ground during the wild colonial days but it has steadily become more and more undesirable. Mark's walk will examine how people coped with Sydney's population boom, typhoid, the 'Yellow Peril', noxious trades, criminality, the politicians' dithering expedience and a pervert. Cost \$5 including illustrated leaflet. Bookings essential on 9559 5502 or 0409 617 778.



This 1922 photo from 'Tennis News' shows six players on one of Sydenham's 16 tennis courts on land east of the highway now used for shipping containers and 'transferring' waste. They were part of the combined Sydenham-Bankstown Tennis Association which began in 1921 and whose combined members, at its peak, numbered 3000 members with 300 courts.

A Wander through Historic North Sydney with Ted Green on Thursday 15 May. Meet at North Sydney Station in Blue Street at 9.30am. Walk is "easy medium". Duration about four hours. BYO lunch and water. No bookings. Enquiries Ted 9405 5040.

Entries for the third annual **Newtown Flicks Short Film Festival** close on 24 April. Looking for all kinds of short films, documentaries, mockumentaries, music clips, phone flicks and everything in between – maximum length 20 minutes. New and aspiring filmmakers especially welcome. Generous cash and film equipment prizes in four categories. Details www.newtownflicks.com.au. Festival on 30, 31 May & 1 June at PACT 107 Railway Parade Erskineville.

Members are reminded of the crucial need to notify the Society by phone if cancelling on a tour for which they have booked. We try to keep our costs for members to a minimum, however ten who had booked for our coach tour of 29 March failed to appear, requiring the Society to make up the shortfall.

PRESIDENT Scott 9559 5736

HERITAGE WATCH Scott 9559 5736

TREASURER Stuart 9560 8070

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