

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
ST PETERS SYDENHAM TEMPE

MARRICKVILLE PETERSHAM STANMORE  
& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

*Heraldry in Australia with Examples from the Marrickville LGA with Stephen Szabo*

**Saturday 23 August 10.15 for 10.30 am**  
**Herb Greedy Hall 93 Petersham Rd Marrickville**

Heraldry has often been called "the shorthand of history" and the striking and colourful symbols used certainly hold the observer's attention. This talk will begin by providing some background on the origins and development of heraldry in Europe from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, with a particular focus on heraldry in the British Isles. Heraldry was part of the cultural heritage brought to Australia, and the talk will include illustrations of heraldic artefacts produced by or for Australians.



*Arms on tomb of James Raymond, St Peters Church Graveyard Cooks River*

Used by all levels of government, by corporate bodies, by families and by individuals in Australia from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, examples can be found in both urban and rural environments, and even within the Marrickville Local Government Area. The talk will conclude with some thoughts on the future of heraldry in Australia.

**Stephen Szabo** is a heraldic scholar and researcher with a particular interest in heraldic use and display in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Australia. He is Hon Secretary of Heraldry Australia Inc. and edits their journal; Heraldry Officer for the Scottish Australian Heritage Council; a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and a member of various heraldry and historic societies. He also works as a heraldic consultant, has written numerous articles and has been involved in the organisation of several exhibitions on heraldry, the most recent being "Crown and Anchor", focussing on the symbols of the City of Sydney, and opening soon at Customs House, Circular Quay.

**STRANDED?** There may be members who would like to attend and participate in the Society's meetings, but find it too difficult to get to Herb Greedy Hall. If transport is an issue or if you have a spare seat and can assist another nearby member on your way, please ring Ian on 9558 2682 for co-ordination; if unanswered, try in the evening.

## HISTORY WEEK 6-14 SEPTEMBER

### DEMOLITION WATCH

Hello Marrickville Heritage Society. I wish to congratulate you on your important work preserving and appreciating the past cultural inheritance in our municipality. I wish to bring to your attention the fact that a very old house in my street, **18 Lincoln Street, Dulwich Hill** is about to be demolished. The house was built before 1902. I have spoken to several people in the street, who have mentioned that the house was originally the main house in the street and other houses were residences of servants for no. 18.

Myself and some other residents in the street think it is a shame that a house such as this is about to disappear. It will be replaced by a new house. Marrickville Council three times rejected plans for the new building but the owner went to the Land and Environment court which has allowed the demolition and new development. The demolition is imminent, scheduled to begin week of 21st July. I am attaching photos for a record of how the house was for historical purposes.



**Paul Hurst** (emailed to MHS 19/7/08; as of 3 August, the house is half-demolished)

Anyone who saw the *Demolished Houses of Sydney* exhibition in 1999 would have been struck by the terrible waste of homes lost to greedy and stupid development in the 1960s and '70s. Will there be another exhibition in 30 years' time, with photographs of unit blocks towering over neighbouring backyards? Of course not. They will all be units – with one parking space each if you are lucky.

(Letter to *The Sydney Morning Herald* 6/6/08 from David Breeze, Dulwich Hill)

### MARRICKVILLE ROAD FESTIVAL Sunday 7 September 11am-5pm

Marrickville Road between Illawarra and Victoria Roads. MHS will have a stall, so if you are planning to go, pop by and say hello.



## OUR LAST MEETING WILBERFORCE & EBENEZER

It was a sparkling morning for our coachload of enthusiastic pilgrims on Saturday 26 July to set out on a quest to the west. We departed Sydney by the faster northern route (the A2 and the seemingly endless Lane Cove Tunnel). Thence up the Windsor Road where the surrounding flat countryside with its rich black soil still serves as Sydney's food bowl.

Our first stop was Ebenezer where Val (the first of our volunteer guides) addressed us about Australia's oldest church (1809, sandstone) originally Presbyterian, now Uniting, and still in use for worship. We heard stories of hard-working Scottish settlers starting from scratch to build a new self-supporting community. A portico was added at the front and a separate vestry built in sandstone later. Some of our folk were able to locate the resting place of forebears buried in the historic graveyard and the nearby schoolhouse (c. 1817) also presented as a small museum. Our Ebenezer hosts welcomed us with a delicious Devonshire Tea.

On to Wilberforce where we stepped back in time to wander through the Australiana Pioneer Village – a reconstructed settlement of old buildings gathered from near and far with names we rarely hear now such as the village smithy, smokehouse, sulky shed and the Beehive shop. How some of the cottages and shops were transported is a hair-raising story!

Both at the Village and at Rose Cottage (1811), we could see how building techniques changed due to the availability of materials and ingenuity, such as shuttered windows to deter bushrangers. Rose Cottage is also unique in still being owned by descendants. The rose garden was in full bloom and has a wide border of brick pavers, each one engraved with the name of a descendant. A nice touch!

After an ample pub hot lunch we moved on to St Johns Anglican Church (Blacket) where we almost became part of a wedding celebration. We had group photos and an informative talk by Paul in the 1820 Macquarie Schoolhouse. Our tour ended at Tizzana Winery with a talk and tastings in this atmospheric stone cavern, built in 1887, but gradually rebuilt after a fire in 1955. Nestled in a valley on the Hawkesbury River with row upon row of grape vines, it was an ideal way to end a memorable day of good fellowship.

**Pam Burden**

**Note:** Special thanks to **Lorraine Beach** for organising this splendid outing where we filled a large coach; ably assisted by **Richard Blair**, **Robert Hutchinson** and **Clara Downey**; thanks also to **Ken Swinbourne** who suggested the Australiana Pioneer Village, officially closed to the public, but open with permission from Hawkesbury Council. The Friends of the Australiana Pioneer Village Society Inc. welcome and encourage groups to visit – PO Box 7223 Wilberforce 2756 or visit website [www.australianapioneervillage.org.au](http://www.australianapioneervillage.org.au). Thanks to all our other guides. Photo by Hillary Goldsmith: most of tour group beside Johns Church, Wilberforce.

What has a book called *Billy Stutt and the Richmond Flyboys: The New South Wales State Aviation School 1916-1918 and beyond* by Neville F Hayes to do with Marrickville? The book focuses on how the NSW Government set up an aviation school on Ham Common at Clarendon, west of Sydney and how aviator and instructor WJ (Billy) Stutt, using mainly US Curtiss Jenny training planes, trained pilots for service in World War I. We learn about these student pilots, their role in the Great War and the politics behind the scenes. After the War, the land and buildings became the Richmond Air Base, the top arm of Aerial Defence in Australia.

Some of these men came from the Marrickville area and were listed in our June 2001 newsletter – Norman Clark, William Cullam, Eric Evans, Russell Isaacs, Edwin Rose, Leslie Sampson, Hector Tiddy, Montague Watts, John Weingarth and George Viner Wicks (whose father William was Mayor of Marrickville in 1925). St Clements Church, Marrickville has a stained glass memorial window to Wicks who was killed while flying on 13/10/1918: it depicts St Michael dressed in medieval armour banishing evil from the world.

Aero historian **Neville Hayes**, regarded as the foremost authority on this aviation school, died aged 56 in 2005. Neville's research was compiled and published in Neville's name by his brother **Barry Hayes**. Thanks to MHS member **Susan Pinson** who helped Neville in his research. To order the book (322 pages, 440 photographs, index, \$33.50 including postage) ring 03 5952 2927 or email [pacdown@nex.net.au](mailto:pacdown@nex.net.au).



## CENTENARIES

- Cricketer **Sir Donald Bradman**, who averaged 95.14 from 338 innings and scored 117 centuries in first class cricket, would have reached his century of years on **27 August 2008**. Bradman set the cricket bar so high that many of his batting achievements should stand indefinitely whilst his iconic Test average of 99.94 demonstrates, as one writer put it, that he was **just** below perfection. This average is memorialised in the ABC's post box address (9994). A plaque at Petersham Oval recalls that playing there for St George against Petersham on 27 November 1926 he scored his maiden century in Sydney club cricket. More esoteric was mention in our March 2001 newsletter that it was mid-wife 'Granny' Scholtz who opened Bradman's long innings by bringing him into the world at her cottage hospital *Irena*, now a museum, in Cootamundra. Her daughter lived in Petersham, where 'Granny' died. The Don died in 2001.

- From **20-27 August 1908** Sydney was visited by the **Great White Fleet**, which circumnavigated the world at the behest of US President Theodore Roosevelt. This 'invasion' created enormous fanfare and unprecedented interest among Australians with estimates of about 250,000 spectators. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported the event pictorially, using photographs for the first time in its 67-year history.

- And where were the **1908 Olympic Games** held? They were scheduled for Rome, but the 1906 eruption of Mt Vesuvius caused the Games to be relocated to **London** where they took place mainly in July and October. Australasia, including New Zealand, competed with sports all-rounder Snowy Baker (from Surry Hills) involved in three separate sports – boxing, diving, swimming – a feat achieved by no other Australian since. London was due to hold the Games again in 1944, but due to the War, they were held there in 1948. London will also host the 2012 Games.

\* \* \*

*MHS member Lu Bell recently did three weeks voluntary work at a wildlife rescue centre in Thailand. Lu's duties at the centre ranged from cleaning the cages of the nocturnal animals to providing food and water to a myriad of exotic and often endangered species. She found it "a fulfilling, and at times heart wrenching, experience." Lu regularly volunteers in the WSPA Australia office (from World Society for Protection of Animals E-News, July 2008).*



## PETER WATTS RETIRES

**Peter Watts** AM is soon to retire as **founding Director** of the **Historic Houses Trust** after 27 years at the helm. He has made the Trust the success story that it is; yet he says it is due to the many people who make up this cultural institution – the Trustees, the Foundation, Members, volunteers, staff, sponsors and donors. But there has to be a leader to inspire. So it was appropriate that Peter has just been awarded the President's Prize at the Australian Institute of Architects NSW Awards for what he has achieved at the Trust. (*The Sydney Morning Herald's* architectural writer Elizabeth Farrelly 21/7/08, described this award as "ironic, in the very year when NSW's heritage apparatus has been effectively disbanded, but Watts, himself an architect, has repeatedly proved that decent architecture depends on intelligent clients, and that heritage and modernism can make the finest bedfellows.")

How would I tell somebody about the Trust with all its facets that encompass exhibitions, events, conservation of 17 properties, acquisitions to enhance these properties, the Endangered Houses Fund, publication of books and school education programs? All this built up under Peter's guidance! On behalf of the Marrickville Heritage Society, also in the heritage industry, we wish Peter a happy retirement.

Shirley Hilyard

## TWO KENT LANES IN NEWTOWN

For over 100 years Newtown has had two Kent Lanes, the northern one between Oxford and Denison Streets and the southern one coming off Camden Street. Both were without postal addresses, but a DA has now created a postal address in the southern Kent Lane.

Council has decided to rename this, Samuel Kent Lane, after the reverend, for whom the lane was named and who was the first principal of Camden College. Not a bad solution, but the new name is now out of kilter with nearby Kent Street. Council has missed an opportunity to introduce a new name, perhaps an Aboriginal one, as suggested by Dr Peter Orlovich (Member, Geographical Names Board).

Congratulations to the **Historic Commercial Vehicle Association** (a MHS member which runs the **Tempe Bus & Truck Museum**) for winning a NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Award. "The HCVA was formed 43 years ago by a small group of enthusiasts with a shared interest in the state's public transport heritage. The volunteers are recognised internationally for their energy and commitment in preserving, maintaining, interpreting and promoting the collection of vehicles, most of which are in good running condition" (from *Heritage NSW* Winter 2008).

Not a MHS member, but known to some members, **Fred Sinfield** of Annandale died aged 69 on 26 July. Fred had a number of articles on silverware published and a short article is likely to appear in our next journal. He also wrote the essay *Two Newtown Identities* for the recent MHS Essay Competition and attended the award ceremony in May. In 2003, Fred co-hosted, with Ron Heather, a tour of Gore Hill Cemetery for the Society.

## CALENDAR OF MHS EVENTS

**Saturday 23 August**

**Stephen Szabo on *Heraldry in Australia*,  
with examples from the Marrickville LGA**  
Details of front page

**Saturday 27 September**

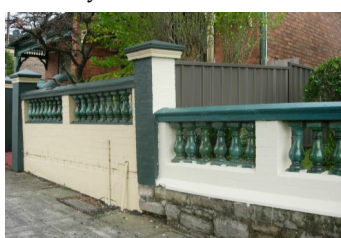
**Wolli Creek & Cooks River walks**

**Sunday 7 & Wed. 10 September 10am-12 noon**

**'The Warren' Walk** from Richardson's Lookout, Holt Crescent, Marrickville. Organised by Marrickville Council as part of History Week. Free, but bookings essential: email [history@marrickville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@marrickville.nsw.gov.au) or ring 9335 2287.

## WINTER TRIVIA ANSWER

These balustrades front adjoining houses at **5** (on the left) and **7 Beach Road Dulwich Hill**, near New Canterbury Road. The balustrades were originally at *Sefton Hall*, owned and occupied



by the notable retailer Henry Marcus Clark (1859-1913; no relation to the writer of the same name).

According to *Bound to Rise: The story of Henry Marcus Clark and Sefton*

*Hall* by Marcia M Clark (Personal Publishing, Sydney 1985; Marcia was Marcus's youngest child), Marcus Clark named his house at Dulwich Hill, *Sefton Hall* after the village of Sefton, near Liverpool, Lancashire where he spent much of his childhood. He came to Australia in 1880 and adopted his middle name Marcus. After droving and working in the country for two years, he found work in a drapery store run by John Kingsbury in Victoria House, 237 King Street Newtown. In 1883 Marcus married one of his co-workers, Martha Day (known as Pattie, and granddaughter of the stonemason John Roote Andrews) and bought Kingsbury's drapery business, which became a business empire.

In 1889 Marcus bought and transformed a brick cottage into *Sefton Hall*, taking occupation in 1891, and lived here with his family until his death in 1913. After bearing five children, Pattie died in 1892, but two years



later Marcus married Pattie's younger sister Georgina May and they had two children.

A letter from Richardson & Wrench in 1891 indicated "The Land is said to have 214 feet frontage to the south side of Marrickville Road near New Canterbury Road and Tram Terminus with a depth of about 450 feet." In the sketch below of *Sefton Hall* the balustrades can be seen on the right. **David McBeath** (Archaeological & Industrial Heritage Conservation Consultant who spoke to MHS in May 1998) believes these earthenware balusters were made by Fowlers (of Camperdown) which commonly used this rich green colour in its glazes.

From 1914 these balustrades were sold and reused in the local area. **Lois Korendijk** (nee Spragg), who grew up near the Beach Road houses, was the only person who knew the trivia answer. Lois said similar balustrades also once fronted **3 Beach Road**; and she advised of the balustrades above the shops at **560-566 Marrickville Road**. Lois believes other examples may still exist in the district. I had long been aware of the balustrades, without knowing their location, until enlightened by **Barbara Forsyth** who learnt about them from her mother.

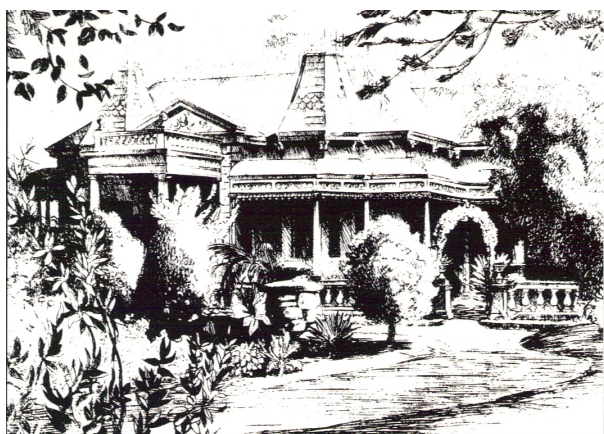


I thank Barbara and **Joy Lewis** (who lent me *Bound to Rise*), a granddaughter of John Kingsbury, who remained lifelong friends with Marcus (the name John Kingsbury and the year 1886 are still visible on the parapet of 223-227 King Street, Newtown). Tragically, in 1906, Joy's aunt Edna Kingsbury (Joy's mother's sister) and Edna's friend Dorothy Gole (niece of Marcus's two wives), both aged ten, tragically drowned in the *Sefton Hall* swimming pool.

Clark built a house at Mt Wilga, near Hornsby, and bought *Balangra* at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains; he renamed this country retreat, *Sefton Hall*, where he died in 1913. His family moved to Mt Wilga and *Sefton Hall* at Dulwich Hill was demolished in 1914.

Pictures clockwise from above: facade 560-566 Marrickville Road, Dulwich Hill (photo: Richard Blair); *Sefton Hall, Dulwich Hill*, possibly drawn from a photograph (Cashman R & Meader C *Marrickville: From rural outpost to inner city* Hale & Iremonger, 1990, p. 133; detail, 7 Beach Road, Dulwich Hill (photo: Tricia Blair); 5-7 Beach Road, Dulwich Hill (photo: Tricia Blair).

**Richard Blair**



The **Sydney Mechanics School of Arts**, founded in 1833, is Australia's oldest surviving School of Arts and is celebrating its 175th birthday.

A fond farewell in TV land to **Peter Cundall** after 19 years at *Gardening Australia* (ABC1); to *Sunday* after 27 years and *Nightline* after 16 years (both Channel 9)!

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